

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
THIRD BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY
APO 1 U S ARMY

25 July 1945

C O M P A N Y H I S T O R Y

August 1942

to

July 1945

Company History
Hq Co 3rd Bn
Aug 42 to
July 45

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
THIRD BATTALION 16TH INFANTRY
APO 1 U.S. ARMY

15 July 1945

SUBJECT: Company History from August 1, 1942

TO : Commanding Officer, 16th Infantry

On 1 August 1942 the "Hq" Company left Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania by train for New York, where later in the day ship was boarded. The Company left New York harbor aboard the Queen Mary on 1 August with the entire Division aboard and the destination unknown. On 8 August the unit disembarked in Scotland after an uneventful trip. On 9 August it arrived at Tidworth Barracks, England after a rail trip of some 300 miles. There the Company underwent strenuous conditioning exercises and night problems for a period of 44 days.

On 23 September the Company left Tidworth Barracks and boarded trains for Craigington, Scotland and amphibious landing exercises. There three full scale amphibious problems and numerous landing exercises were staged for a period of 33 days.

On 26 October 1942 the "Hq" Company left Scotland aboard HMS L-3 for an unknown destination.

On 8 November 1942 after 16 days at sea the Company loaded into assault boats at 0340 and left for White beach near Arzew, Algeria shortly after. "Hq" Company landed unopposed on the beach about 0420. After the Company formed it marched about 1/2 mile to the RR station at Demesne where an initial Bn. CP had been established after the landing of the early assault forces. During the confusion of these earlier assault landings the wire and radio groups had been lost with the result that no communication other than runner existed during the first phases of the battle. On the march "Hq" Co. observed MG fire near its right flank in the 18th Infantry area, but this fire had no effect on our Company.

The first displacement of the Bn. CP was to a farm, Fme Breton Mere, and "Hq" Co. marched the 2 1/2 miles arriving at about 0515. This CP at Fme Breton Mere was closed about 0700 and HQ Co advanced about 15 miles along the axis of signal communication and established a new Bn. CP about 1300. This CP was closed by 2000 while the Company marched about 40 miles to a RJ about 3 miles north of Assi-Ben-Obka. A new Bn. CP had been opened here about 1700. During this advance to the vicinity of Assi-Ben-Obka, Algeria the Company marched a total of 28 miles in 26 hours.

On 9 November T/5 Fred Johnson was the first casualty of HQ Co. with gunshot wounds in the left leg and thigh. A short time later Pvt. C. Hall got an injured back due to enemy action. Both casualties occurred near Fleurus. An enemy motorcycle patrol, consisting of two French soldiers, were the first enemy killed by HQ Co. These men killed by rifle fire, were believed to be the cause of T/5 Johnson's wounds.

The Bn. CP was closed about 1800 of 9 November and the Company marched about 7 miles toward Oran. While on the march orders were received about 2030 from Division to turn back and move on Oran by way of Assi-Ameur and Assi-Bou-Nif. HQ Co. marched all night.

The Company was held up about 1/2 mile west of Arcole from about 0100, 10 November to 0300 by MG and mortar fire. At 0300 HQ Co. formed and marched about 3 miles to a CR where the Company was held up by rifle fire coming from a hill 400 yards to the right and also from a house only 100 yards away. As the 2nd Battalion took over the attack at daybreak, HQ Co. formed at 0600 to march to the 3rd Bn. Aid station for rations and water.

The town of Oran surrendered while the 3rd Battalion was still in Regimental reserve on 11 November, 1942. That day HQ Co. left the Bn. Aid Station at 1200 and marched about 1 mile to a bivouac area. On the 12 November HQ Co. left the bivouac area at 0840 and marched to a new bivouac area near Fleurus.

The next month HQ Co. spent in the same bivouac area near Fleurus, Algeria performing conditioning exercises and guard duty in Oran. On 24 November T/5 Johnson and Pvt. C. Hall became the first men of the Company to be awarded the Purple Heart. On 16 December HQ Co. moved by motor to a new station at Caserne Neuve, Oran, Algeria, a distance of 21 miles. The Company remained here doing training and guard duty until 11 January 1943 when it moved by motor to Montaque de Lions, Algeria, a distance of 25 miles.

On 20 January the HQ Co. traveled 30 miles by truck to the RR station at St. Barge-de-Tlate, Algeria. It entrained and left station about 0415 21 January, en route to Guelma. 23 January 1943 the Company arrived at Guelma at 2200, a rail trip of 300 miles. The company left by truck for a bivouac area 6 miles distant and arrived there at 2320.

At 1210, 24 January 1943 the HQ Co. left this area by truck for Maktar. By 0400 January 25 the Company reached a bivouac area 11 kilometers south of Maktar, after a ride of 240 miles. HQ Co. left this bivouac area at 2330 26 January

and traveled 26 miles by truck to a new bivouac area, which was reached about 0400 27 January. At dusk orders were received to move on foot to new positions in the front lines. This move on foot was made without benefit of daylight reconnaissance and with only one poor map of the area for the entire Battalion. The positions taken were subsequently found to be too far to the fight. HQ Co. made several moves, one under artillery fire, before taking up a defensive position near El Jarouil, Kairovan Pass, Djebel Sert sector at 0400, 29 January. During this time there was warning of a possible attack by a battalion of Italians and a report of enemy along the base of a hill south of battalion lines. By 30 January S/Sgt. Burnell and Pvt. Mordiano of HQ Co. who had not returned from a reconnaissance mission became listed as MIA!

Extensive enemy air patrolling over our positions commenced 30 January and continued thru February while we remained in this area. On 3 February at 1930 an enemy plane flew over dropping leaflets urging Frenchmen to leave the Americans and join the Germans. The same day the bodies of Sgt. Burnell and Pvt. Mordiano, who had previously been reported MIA, were found shot thru the head. On 4 February Pvt Paulette was slightly wounded while in defensive action. Although enemy mortar fire was received daily and artillery fire occasionally the month of February brought no new events until February 17 when the division got orders to withdraw to new positions on the west side of the Ouseltia Valley. The 3rd Battalion became division reserve and HQ Co. moved into a new bivouac area at 0635 on 18 February 1943. The 3rd Battalion and HQ Co. moved again during the nights of 19 and 20 February until 0247 of 22 February found the 3rd Battalion in CT reserve not far from O-el-Gardjoun.

After a successful attack by Companies "I" and "K" at 1530 of February 22 which drove 200 Germans off high ground north of O-el-Garduoun and recaptured 105mm howitzers and AA guns lost earlier in the day, the Bn. CP and HQ Co. displaced forward. On the afternoon of 23 February the battalion moved to the rear into bivouac. At 1115 on 24 February the battalion and company commanders left for reconnaissance and returned at 1545. During the night of 24 February HQ Co. moved with the entire battalion to new positions preparatory to attack. In the morn the objective was attained without resistance after a 15 mile march in which a 3000 foot climb up a mountain was made. The time until 4 March was spent in the usual camp duties. At 1040 that day HQ Co. arrived by truck at an assembly area near El Merit whence the Company traveled 180 miles to a bivouac near El Merie, arriving at 1700. HQ Co. left this area by truck 13 March

at 1800 on route to Bou Chebka. It arrived 14 March at 0128 in Bou Chebka, a distance of 60 miles. On March 16 at 1830 HQ Co. left an assembly area by truck for front line positions. It arrived in the vicinity of Gafsa after a trip of 60 miles at 0610 on 17 March 1943. The company remained in this position until 21 March. At 0745 HQ Co. left by truck and traveled 9 miles to position 1 mile east of the Gafsa-Adilla road. At 0930 the company left by truck in route to El Guettar. It arrived at a position southeast of El Guettar at 2355 of 21 March after a ride of 10 miles. The Bn. CP which was set up here did not move during the heavy fighting centering about the repulse of 4 attacks of the 10th German Panzer Division by CT 46 on 23 March. But on 29 March HQ Co. moved 4 miles to establish a new Bn. CP 2 1/2 miles southwest of El Guettar. On March 31 5 men of HQ Co. were wounded in action and 1 man was killed during the assault near El Guettar, Tunisia. Also a man reported MIA earlier was found KIA.

On 1 April 1943 S/Sgt. Brennan was wounded by a bomb dropped by an enemy plane in the kitchen area. The Bn. CP and HQ Co. displaced forward several times between 1 and 2 April as the 3rd Battalion passed from attack to reserve. Enemy artillery continued to hit in the vicinity and some enemy was bypassed in one of the night moves. On 2 May the CP had to be moved to higher ground in the NW. During 3-6 April HQ Co. continued to receive artillery fire from the enemy at intervals. On 7 April HQ Co. received notice from hospital that S/Sgt. Brennan had died of wounds. On the same day the Bn. CP moved forward, and on 9 April it moved again to El Guettar area as the battle ended. HQ Co. remained in bivouac until 14 April when it was entrucked at 0900 for Dj Bou Kadra. It arrived at Dj Bou Kadra at 1530 after a trip of 128 miles. The three days, 14-17 April, that were spent at this rest area were occupied in rest, recreation and rehabilitation. The men were given every possible opportunity to bathe and get their clothing and equipment in proper shape. Through the efforts of the Special Service group motion pictures were shown each evening, reading material was provided and all had the opportunity to write home to their families and friends. During this rest period the battalion received 85 replacements.

On the morning of 18 April the battalion was ready to move by truck and left at 1100 for La Calle. HQ Co. arrived at its new bivouac area, 7 miles south of La Calle, at 0030 the morning of 19 April, having traveled a distance of 150 miles. The battalion and company commanders left to go on reconnaissance to a sector northeast of Beja at 0600 the same morning. The battalion was supposed to

reilieve elements of a British unit that was in the line.

The next morning orders were received relative to the motor movement to the new assembly area, and at 1400 HQ Co. left La Calla. It arrived at the new assembly area at 0030 on 21 April, a distance traveled of 125 miles. On the morning of 22 April the 7th FA Bn. provided a reconnaissance plane and the Battalion CO and Exec. Officer had the opportunity of reconnoitering from the air the ground over which we were going to operate. These officers went to Regt. HQ that afternoon at 1630 to receive the plan of attack for the following dawn. During the night of 22 April 3rd Bn HQ Cp. followed the battalion from the assembly area to a position for attack near Dj el Djdaou, arriving at 0200, and established a CP!

As the battalion fought forward the Bn. CP was moved forward at 0125 24 April to a point in the rear of Djebel-ed- Diess, a move of 3 miles. The Bn. CP remained stationary while the battalion staged successive enveloping attacks for hill 394. HQ Co. maintained an OP on hill 374 from which the ground to the front of hill 394 could be observed. This Bn. OP was later moved forward to hill 394. On 25 April the Bn. CP and HQ Co. area were shelled continuously from 0300 to 0400. Pvt. Martin of HQ Co. was KIA and 14 others were wounded, including the Bn. CO.

On 26 April in the morning the Bn. CP and HQ Co. moved forward 2 1/2 miles to a position at hill 508. During the afternoon of 27 April HQ Co. and the Bn. CP moved forward 500 yards to a new defensive position on Djebel-Douar. The BN! S-2 section established an OP on Djebel-as-Mdalla. 28 April at 0428 HQ Co. set up a Bn. CP at Kef-el-Guehili (hill 418). after an enemy counter attack on 30 April, estimated at 2 battalions, was broken up by artillery causing the enemy to retreat northeast, HQ Co. set up a Bn. Cp on 1 May in the rear of hill 428. At 0438 on 3 May the battalion was relieved from its front line positions by the 168th Infantry.

At 1630 HQ Co. moved by motor to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Dj-as-Mdalla, at a distance of 3 miles. CT 16 was now in division reserve, and between 5-7 May the entire HQ Co. moved by truck into a reserve position. When the African Campaign officially ended as of 1115 9 May, the 3rd Battalion was in an assembly area about 15 miles southwest of Mateur, Tunisia.

The battalion stayed in the same bivouac area, performing the usual camp duties, until May 13 when it moved by motor to a bivouac area 1 mile west of Guelma, a distance of 171 miles. On 15 May a portion of the battalion left with the organic transportation in a motor convoy to the vicinity of Oran while the rest entrained at El Guerrah to proceed to the same destination. Early in the morning of 18 May the train convoy reached St. Barbe du Tlelat and the battalion traveled by truck to a rest area at St. Louis, Algeria. The rest of the day was spent in setting up the camp. From 19 to 24 May HQ Co. performed the usual camp duties and the men were given passes to visit the city of Oran.

On 25 May HQ Co. with the rest of the CT moved by motor convoy to a new camp area near St. Leo, Algeria, where a course of instruction at the 5th Army Invasion Training Center was undergone. Although the basic idea of the training program was good, the instructors assigned to the school had had no combat experience and therefore many of the ideas that they tried to instill were disbelieved by the veteran soldiers of the battalion because the latter knew that such ideas were impractical and oftentimes foolish in actual combat. During the instruction at the Invasion Training Center, the battalion spent one day aboard the USS Samuel Chase practicing loading and landings in LCV's. One night landing was made from this ship by the battalion. Then training was conducted on LCI's for a period of one day. So much difficulty was experienced in making landings during the day, due to the rather heavy, swift undertow, and gradual gradient of the beach, that the contemplated night landing operation was called off.

On 11 June 1943 the battalion boarded the USS Thurston at Mers-el-Kobir and the following morning sailed for Algiers. At 1145 on 13 June the ship docked at Algiers where the battalion disembarked and proceeded by motor to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Staouli, Algeria. HQ Co. remained in this area for approximately 2 weeks performing the usual camp duties, conducting hardening exercises and training for future operations, and obtaining supplies and new equipment. During this period all vehicles were tactically loaded and waterproofed. The entire division participated in one landing operation which simulated so nearly as possible the actual landing to be conducted at some future date. For this operation, the battalion was loaded on 5 LCI's the same craft which were to be used in the actual operation.

Life on the LCI's was found to be quite comfortable. Although accommodations were slightly cramped, the officers and men preferred this type of craft to the large transports. Whenever the LCI's were at anchor, swimming parties were arranged by the craft commander and even temporary diving boards were constructed. Generally, speaking, the morale of the men on board was high.

On 26 June the battalion boarded the LCI's and the next day sailed for Tunis. The battalion reached port at La Goulette, Tunisia, after an uneventful sea voyage. Here the troops disembarked and moved to a concentration area run by the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division in the immediate vicinity of the port. Sanitary conditions in this area were far below the standards of this battalion. The rations issued to the companies were quite insufficient to feed the men properly. At this time the morale of the battalion was probably at its lowest since our arrival in North Africa. No attempt was made by the Camp Commander or the Commander of the First Division troops in that area to alleviate these conditions.

On 6 July, the companies re-embarked on their landing crafts and the ships sailed the following morning for Sousse and reached it 7 July. The battalion remained in this port 2 days but the troops were allowed ashore only once during that period under company control to stretch their legs.

On 9 July 1943 the ships left the port of Sousse for the Sicilian Invasion. Upon leaving the shelter of the port extremely rough weather was encountered. The frail landing crafts pitched and rolled so violently that nearly everyone aboard was sea sick. The weather grew worse off Malta and much doubt was expressed by everyone as to whether a landing was possible in such weather. However, about 2300 the sea became comparatively calm although a heavy surf continued to pound on the beach where the battalion was to land.

At 0630 of 10 July 1943 HQ Co. hit the beach 37, Green 2 for the invasion of Sicily. Despite 100 feet of rough surf the unloading of the LCI's was completed by 0715. Rubber boats were used to bring personnel and equipment ashore. At this time no enemy resistance was encountered other than light harassing fire to the right front. At 0750 HQ Company assembled at an organization point 500 yards inland, at 0815 arrived at the battalion assembly area. At 1145 HQ Company marched 3 miles inland and established a CP. Pvt. Trotter was hit in the right shoulder by shrapnel from naval AA fire and evacuated to a hospital ship. At 2139 HQ Co. marched 1 mile north and formed a new Bn. CP.

July 11/43: At 1300 HQ Co. was joined by its anti tank platoon, which was immediately placed in position.

July 12/43: At 0345 the advance Bn. CP moved 1 1/2 miles NW and opened at 0605. At 2100 the rear CP joined the advance CP. HQ Co. learned that Lt. Katz, its AT officer attached to Co. "I", was MIA after an enemy night assault.

July 13/43: At 0840 HQ Co. moved to a Bn. assembly area 5 miles NE. Arrived at 1115. At 1330 HQ Co. marched to a new CP east of Niscemi. Arrived at 1545 and set up a defensive position.

July 16/43: HQ Co. left Niscemi at 0130 by motor for a Bn assembly area 18 miles distant. At 0730 HQ Co. moved to a new Bn. CP 6 miles north of Mazzarino.

July 20/43: Bn. Cp and HQ Co. moved north to Enna by motor, arriving at 0500 after a trip of 12 miles.

July 21/43: HQ Co. remained in a bivouac area 1 mile north of Enna, Sicily. The rolls caught up and the men changed to fatigues.

July 22/43: HQ Co. moved on foot 9 miles to a new Bn. CP at Villa Prilolo, arriving at 0100 on 23 July. Men got to rest a little, wash and shave.

July 24/43: HQ Co. left Villa Prilolo, Sicily enroute to a new bivouac area 1 mile east of Gangi, Sicily. Arrived at 0400 on 25 July after a motor trip of 27 miles. Although the 3rd Bn. was still in reserve, its OP's were busy all day directing artillery fire.

July 26/43: After a hot meal HQ Co. left the bivouac area east of Gangi at 0300 for a new bivouac area 3,000 yards east.

July 27/43: HQ Co. remained in the same position. Blankets had come up and all kinds of tents were used for shade from the intense sun.

July 28/43: At 1300 HQ Co assembled and moved forward by motor 15 miles to town of Nicsia, Sicily and set up a Bn. CP.

From July 29 to 1 August HQ Co. remained in the same position at Nicosia, Sicily while the battle for Troina took place. The fighting was over such rough terrain that mules were used to supply front line troops.

August 2/43: At 1330 HQ Co. moved to a Bn. assembly area, then marched 9 miles to establish a new command post 3 miles west of Troina, Sicily at 1930.

August 3/43: At 0100 Command Group moved to offensive position on hill 910. Sgt. Kump received shrapnel wounds in both legs from enemy fire at 1600.

August 4/43: Rear CP moved 1000 yards west to an advance CP on hill 910. Pvt. Nelson was KIA on hill 1043 by enemy mortar fire at 1100 while repairing a wire line to Co "L". Capt. Altomerianos and Pvt. Piccinis were KIA by enemy mine at

2100 while moving forward in an "M" Co. jeep on hill 7045. Cpl. Hornacek received burns on left hand and Pfc. Frese on both hands in attempting to rescue Capt. Altomerianos and Pvt. Piccinis from the burning vehicle. HQ Co. remained in the same position on 4 and 5 August.

August 6/43: At 0936 HQ Co. marched 5 miles forward into Troina, Sicily and established a new CP and defensive position by 1245.

August 7/43: At 0900 HQ Co. was relieved of its defensive position and moved to a Bnl bivouac area 3 miles west of Tronia as the 47th Infantry, 9th Division passed through. HQ Co. remained in the same bivouac area a week resting, recuperating, and replacing equipment while the Division was Corps Reserve.

August 14/43: HQ Co. left this area by truck at 1130 for a new bivouac area 32 miles away 3 miles west of Randazzo. Here it enjoyed such luxuries as 3 hot meals a day for nearly a week.

August 20/43: At 0712 HQ Co. left by truck enroute to a new bivouac area 150 miles distant near Licata, Sicily. The next days were spent in the preparation of the camp and recreation. On August 27 HQ Co. attended a Division formation to here a speech by Lt. General Patton at 1030. The Co. stood retreat.

On 3 September HQ Co. stood a Bn. Retreat Parade at which time Decorations and Awards were presented by the CG 1st U.S. Inf. Division, Maj. General Clarence R. Huebner. During the next week HQ Co. rested, except that everyone zeroed his weapon.

On September 8 HQ Co. moved by motor 18 miles to Agrigento Airport, where a Bn. CP and OP were established. HQ Co. set up at protection and communications around the airport.

On 11 September, HQ Co. left Agrigento airport by motor and traveled to the old bivouac area near Licata, Sicily, a trip of 18 miles. The usual camp duties followed. On 13 September the company had PRI and 14 September the whole company fired on the range. On 16 September HQ Co. stood a Command full field inspection for the Commanding General, II Corps.

On 27 September HQ Co. left the bivouac area for a recreation trip to Palermo, Sicily. The company arrived there at 1500 after a ride of 130 miles.

28 September was spent in recreation at Palermo. On 29 September at 0900 HQ Co. started on the trip back to the bivouac area near Licata.

On 7 October HQ Co. made a 20 mile hike. On 8 October the company staged a night problem 1000 yards southwest of camp which ended at 2200. On October 13 the company stood a showdown inspection in the afternoon. Much time was

spent getting all equipment in first-class shape. 16 October HQ Co. commenced packing and crating all equipment in preparation for departure. On 18 October HQ Co. completed packing and crating of T/O equipment for shipment. 20 October HQ Co. prepared for and stood inspection by the Bn. CO with packs and rolls made for the forthcoming move. On 21 October at 0100 HQ Co mounted trucks and at 0945 arrived at Augusta, Sicily. 21 October at 1945 HQ Co. went aboard HMS Maloja. 22 October HQ Co. stood boat drills, inspections of arms and calisthenics. The ship sailed 23 October. 25 October the ship arrived at the port of Algiers, Algeria at 17.00. 26 October HQ Co. stood Action Stations and Boat Drill. The ship hoisted anchor and moved from anchorage outside the port of Algiers at 1550. At 1000 October 28 the ship's bell sounded Action stations. All men came below while the ship's crew and the infantry gun crews practiced firing the ship's weapons. The days following included these activities: Calisthenics, manual of arms, inspection of quarters, classes and lectures, boat drill, cleaning and inspection of rifles, etc. On 5 November 1943 HMS Maloja docked at Liverpool, England after a voyage of 3,814 miles.

HQ Co. went ashore at 0330 on 6 November and received coffee, doughnuts, and cigarettes from American Red Cross girls. Then HQ Co. marched 1 1/2 miles to the RR station and boarded trains for Dorchester, England. After a rail trip of 300 miles HQ Co. boarded trucks for Litton Cheney, Dorset County. Upon arrival, the company received a hot meal and were assigned to huts.

The following 7 months in England were busy with intensive training and preparation for the invasion of Europe. Rifle marksmanship, street fighting, river crossings, anti-aircraft and night fighting: long marches, close order drill, instruction in chemical warfare, radio communications, identification of aircraft and armored vehicles, and waterproofing: CP exercises, hardening exercises, amphibious warfare- all were stressed. But there were diversions and recreation as well. On week-ends truck convoys took the men to Weymouth or to Bridport for recreation. On 16 January HQ Co. heard an address by General Bernard Law Montgomery at Bridport. Selected men attended the British Battle School at Woolacombe, England. On 8 February 1944 HQ Co. moved 80 miles to Branton Camp, Devon where intensive amphibious training took place. From there HQ Co. sent recreation convoys on week-ends to Barnstaple, Exeter and Ilfracombe. 26 February HQ Co. moved back to its camp at Litton Cheney, Dorset. It left there 7 March for a practice landing near Portland, England from the U. S.S. Barnett (LCT) and returned to camp in Litton Cheney on 13 March.

HQ Co. was alerted for departure 31 March 1944. On 2 April the company stood a formation for interview by General Eisenhower. Training and recreation convoys continued thru April. 11 May HQ Co. boarded the HMS Empire Anvil at Weymouth for a practice landing operation on the Devon coast. By 8 May HQ Co. was back in camp at Litton Cheney. On 17 May HQ Co. moved to a marshalling area in the vicinity of Long Bredy, Dorset. The company heard an address by the Division Commander, Major General C.R. Huebner 19 May. 26 May platoon sergeants were briefed on coming operations. HQ Co. boarded HMS Empire Anvil by LCA's at Weymouth, England on 1 June at 1445. The next days saw practice emergency fire and lifeboat drill and practice debarkation station drill. The ship left port at 1755 on 5 June 1944

As the convoy assembled the men learned that tomorrow is D-day and H-hour is 0630. Pamphlets were distributed to the men containing the following message: "You are about to embark upon a Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you....."

Signed: GEN. EISENHOWER

The LCM carrying the Wire Section, Intelligence Section, Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon and part of the Battalion Medical Section hit Fox Green Beach below the village of Colleville Sur Mer in Normandy, France, at about 0715 hours, 6 June 1944, and grounded about forty yards off the water line, coming under direct enemy machine gun, small arms, mortar and artillery fire. The men made their way forward to a small ledge of shale about ten to fifteen yards off the water line, where the assault troops of "I", "K" and "L" Companies were still pinned down. Our tanks were receiving heavy fire and because of their close proximity, we tried to move to either flank but were harassed by sniper and machine gun fire continually. All the company officers of the battalion tried to reorganize their companies under the most trying conditions. Many of the weapons and much ammunition had been lost when several of the landing craft were hit by mines and enemy shelling.

The communications officer and the ammunition and pioneer officer organized as many men of Headquarters Company as they could find and led them laterally to follow the assault troops to the initial battalion C.P.

"I" Company's first objective was still manned by the enemy. The company commander of Company "I" with twelve men crawled through the barbed wire and mine fields to neutralize this strong point. Snipers to the left immediately opened fire on the group and as they neared the top of the hill the enemy group began to throw hand grenades over the top. At the same time Naval gunfire opened up on the strong point and scored three direct hits, knocking out the 105mm gun which had been firing direct fire at the landing craft. Members of Headquarters, in the meanwhile, had climbed up a ledge and brought rifle fire in the vicinity where the sniper fire was coming from and neutralized it. The "M" Company SCR-300 radio set was attached to the CP group and liaison was maintained with the companies, S-5 and S-6. As soon as the assault sections had reached the ridge line, the ammunition and pioneer section swept and taped a lane through the mine field and the first battalion CP was established just 300 yards short of the draw previously selected. Radio contact was made with the regular CP group which was landed from an LCVP and which was pinned down in the 2nd Battalion area, and also with the Free Boat carrying the Battalion Commander and his group, who were still aboard their craft away from the beach.

The temporary CP was disclosed to the Battalion Executive Officer who picked another 200 yards further north. A heavy W-110 wire line was laid laterally across the beach to the Regimental CP. When radio communication be-

gan to fail as the forward troops reached the outskirts of Le gd Hameau, another heavy W-110 wire was laid to them. Regiment had lost most of its radio equipment, and communication depended on runners and the wire line which was continually out by shell fire and the movement of friendly tanks and vehicles off the beach. Men were sent to the beach to retrieve all the ammunition, weapons, signal equipment, etc, that were still serviceable and a small dump was established near the battalion CP. Three German prisoners were turned over to the Shore Engineers.

The Battalion Commander and his group landed early in the afternoon under heavy artillery fire. The Battalion Commander always had radio communications with Regiment and with the companies while on board the landing craft.

"D" Day ended with the assault troops dug into a strong defensive position around Le gd Hameau until the next morning when the offensive was resumed.

TRANSPORTATION -- ANTI-TANK PLATOON

At about 0830 on 6 June 1944, the LCT carrying ten pieces of transportation, fourteen enlisted men and the Battalion Motor Officer, of Headquarters Company lowered its ramp on the invasion beach of France, below the village of Colleville Sur Mer in Normandy. The tide was high, the beach crowded with men, tanks, and half-tracks mounting anti-aircraft guns. Obviously the unloading of 1/4 ton vehicles at the time was unfeasible and tactically unwarranted as there were no means by which transportation could reach the assault battalions. The LCT was ordered to discharge its cargo. Due to the high tide and the meagerness and steepness of the gravel beach, it was arranged with the beach engineers (Company "B", 37th Engineers) on board to have his tractor with track trailer attached pull the first two 1/4 tons trucks behind it in case they were drowned out. As the tractor rolled into the water, a convoy of half-tracks (AA) partially submerged in water, came laterally from the left side of the beach and stopped in length in front of the tractor path. All vehicles were stuck in the water as a result of this action. No one on the beach made any effort to prevent this. It could have been avoided. The battalion motor officer and four men waded ashore. After a gap was made between the half-tracks (AA), an angle-dozer and trailer pulling the battalion medical jeep and trailer made the gravel beach. The beach was too crowded. The LCT was ordered to stop unloading and take on the wounded. For about one hour, the men of this company remaining on board the craft engaged in bringing on board forty one wounded men. During this time enemy artillery was strafing the beach. The men on the beach were pinned down and activity was at a minimum. The remaining vehicles of the LCT were unloaded

without mishap at about 0800 hours the next morning. The motor officer and six men, including two men from the medical section repeatedly tried to obtain assistance from the various beach parties on the beach to drag the two vehicles ashore without any success till early in the afternoon. In the meanwhile these vehicles were abused by craft landing close to them. Constant reconnaissance was made on the beach for vehicle exits and location of the battalion. As much equipment as could be carried ashore from the vehicles was manhandled to a place on the beach. The group engaged in assisting and evacuating the wounded and medical equipment brought ashore with them was invaluable. One of the men was wounded by shrapnel and evacuated. When the vehicles were pulled on the gravel beach, the men proceeded to put them in serviceable condition. That portion of the beach came under artillery fire and one of the jeeps caught on fire and exploded. As no engineering assistance could be obtained to drag the other jeep on the other side of the gravel beach, it was repeatedly submerged in water during high tide. These two vehicles became completely lost to the company.

About 1400 hours the LCT carrying the four company half-tracks hit the beach. That portion of the beach was being severely shelled. Three half-tracks reached the shore safely. The fourth (A.T.) sank as it plunged into deeper water as a result of the craft pulling away prematurely due to the shelling. The driver and assistant driver swam ashore. The three half-tracks were moved to the beach motor pool where they awaited the arrival of the guns and crews.

The Anti-tank Platoon with men and 57mm guns loaded in Amphibious DUKW's unloaded from an LST at about 1700 hours on D-Day. An unsuccessful attempt was made to land at H plus 2 hours on Fox Green Beach where the Battalion landed. However, enemy heavy caliber direct fire weapons were still in operation against the beach and all craft which reached shore were sunk or damaged by hits. Four shells were fired on the platoon when 200 yards from shore. The platoon finally landed on East Red Beach under heavy artillery fire. Many vehicles were blown up by direct artillery hits while trying to leave the beach by exit one. However, the platoon left the beach by that exit with no casualties and no losses in equipment and proceeded to the vehicle transit area about 200 yards east of the village of St. Laurient. On the way to the transit area, the half-tracks which had been assembled at the beach emergency motor pool by the motor officer, followed behind us. In the transit area, the dewaterproofing of the vehicles and guns was intensively carried on. The amphibious DUKS's were released to their organization. The half-track of the ammunition and pioneer

platoon replaced the one lost by the Anti-tank platoon. It was impossible to join the battalion that night as there were no routes in our hands on which vehicles could travel. The Anti-tank officer was at the Battalion CP at about 0900 D plus 1. The platoon joined the rest of the battalion at about 1300 hours on the same day.

About 2000 hours the motor maintenance group and several drivers with their vehicles and equipment were landed by an LST in the vicinity of exit one while the beach was under heavy artillery fire. Under the leadership of the motor sergeant they crossed the beach and within an hour they were in the vehicle transit area where dewaterproofing and checking of vehicles was given priority.

The company sustained the following personnel casualties. The Company Commander was wounded and reported as missing in action. One enlisted man is missing in action. Twelve men were wounded in action and evacuated. Two men were wounded by not evacuated. On "D" plus 3 one man was killed in action.

7 June 44: At 1400 hours Hq Co moved to Le gd Hameau and established a Bn CP. At 1630 hours the company moved to a position 200 yards south of St. Honorine-des-Pertes and established a new CP. 1 EM LWA 1 mile north of Colleville-Sur-Mer while on MP duty.

8 June 44: Hq Co moved to the vicinity of Huppain and established a new CP by 1500 hours. 1 EM KIA. 2 EM SWA.

9 June 45: At 0605 hours Hq Co moved to Neuville Fe and set up a new Bn CP. At 1405 the company moved to the vicinity of Chau le Pt Sally and established a new CP. 1 EM LWA not evacuated.

10 June 44: Hq Co moved 300 yards east of Fontenasy and established a new CP. At 1036 hours the company moved to the vicinity of Ranche and established a new CP and defensive positions.

11 June 44: At 2210 hours Hq Co marched to a new position south of Les Roquelles and established a new CP and defensive position.

12 June 44: At 1456 hours Hq Co moved to a new position southeast of La Bagne and set up a CP and defensive position.

13 June 45: At 0630 hours Hq Co moved to the vicinity of Flambarriere and established a new CP. 13 EM and 1 Officer joined the company as replacements.

14-21 June 44: During this week Hq Co remained in the same location 1,000 yards southwest of Flambarrier, improved its defensive position, and recuperated. Bedding rolls arrived, men changed into fatigue clothing, and cleaned up. The kitchen furnished two hot meals daily. British armored elements rested in the same area.

21 June 44: At 1300 hours Hq Co moved 4 miles to a new defensive position near la Bucaille, France.

22 June 44: At 1815 hours Hq Co left la Bucaille and moved 3 miles to a position 1,000 yards southwest of Chemin de St Lo, France. The company remained in this defensive position until the end of the month.

1 July 44: At 1430 hours 2Hq Co moved to a reserve position 200 yards northeast of le Haut Digry, France. It remained here until the 3rd Battalion relieved the 2nd.

6 July 45: The company moved back into defensive position near la Bucaille and stayed there for a week until relieved by the 5th Infantry Division.

13 July 44: Hq Co left la Bucaille by truck enroute to a Bn bivouac area 30 miles away near Colombieres, France. During the week spent here the company dug in, washed clothes, cleaned equipment, went to a portable shower unit, a movie of our own, and a Red Cross Cinemobile show. July 18 Hq Co beat the Bn Medics 6-1 in a softball game.

20 July 44: At 2330 the Hq Co left Colombiers in trucks and arrived at an assembly area 17 miles distant at 0734 hours 21 July. The company remained in this area 2 miles west of St. Jean de Daye nearly a week during which time the companies attended a tank demonstration, practiced riding on tanks, and everyone received briefing on a coming breakthrough operation.

27 July 44: At 0735 hours Hq Co left the area near St Jean de Daye and traveled by truck 8 miles to a point near Marigny. At 1735 hours Hq Co advanced on foot 8 miles and established a CP 2 miles east of la Chapelle, France. July 28 at 0930 hours Hq Co advanced 2 miles and established a CP 100 yards northwest of la Chapelle. At 1630 hours Hq Co marched 2 miles and established a new CP 400 yards west of Loubriere.

1 August 44: At 0740 Hq Co mounted trucks in an assembly area and moved 17 miles to another assembly area $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Bournenolles. August 2 at 0625 hours Hq Co left this area in trucks for another assembly area 6 miles away near la Telleries. At 1535 hours Hq Co left this assembly area for a trip of 8 miles to another assembly area 700 yards east of le Grand Celland. By 1420 hours August 3 Hq Co arrived at an area 100 yards west of Les Monts where the company remained August 4-5.

5 August 44: At 1400 hours Hq Co moved by motor 12 miles to an assembly area at Buais. At 0630 hours August 6 Hq Co traveled by motor 30 miles to a position near Mayenne whence the company advanced on foot 1 mile to a Regimental reserve position at Parigne-sur-Bray. Hq Co remained in the Regimental Reserve position at Parigne-surBray until August 12. At 2100 hours the company moved by motor 6 miles to an assembly area 400 yards east of la patronniere.

1 EM Lwa not evacuated.

13 August 44: At 1830 hours Hq Co left by motor enroute to an area 11 miles away near l'Aubrier, France. At 1615 hours August 14, Hq Co moved 12 miles by truck to le Riderel. From there Hq Co. marched to a point 500 yards southwest of le Riderel, where a Bn CP was opened by 1900 hours.

15 August 44: Hq Co remained in position 500 yards southwest of le Riderel. On August 16 at 1150 hours, Hq Co moved 1,000 yards on foot to a position north of St. Maurice du Desert. At 1645 hours, moved 1500 yards to le Mont d'Here. Two EM MIA.

17 August 44: At 1020 hours Hq Co moved by motor to a rest area 1 mile south of le Mesnil de Briouze, where it remained a week, resting, cleaning up, attending movies, and church. Combat Infantry Badges were presented at a formation.

25 August 44: At 0530 hours the company left on trucks for an assembly area 156 miles away near Lardy, France and arrived at 1715 hours. On August 26 at 1700 marched 12 miles from this area to an assembly area, near Courcouronnes, and arrived at 2200 hours. August 27 at 1030 Hq Co moved by motor 25 miles to an area near Monthyon. On August 29 at 0830 hours the company moved by motor 16 miles to an area at Betz, France. On August 30 at 0930 hours the company moved by truck 21 miles to Missy-aux-Bois, France. At 1730 hours on August 31, Hq Co moved 23 miles to Laval, France.

1 September 44: Hq Co remained in position at Laval. The company attended church services. At 1345 hours on September 2, Hq Co moved by motor 42 miles to Rue Herpenne, France. September 3 at 1000 hours Hq Co left by motor for Mons, Belgium, 42 miles distant. While enroute, the Battalion was held up at 1345 hours by an enemy Command Post established at Maubeuge, Belgium. At 1830 hours the Battalion continued the advance and arrived at Mons, Belgium, at 2100 hours. Hq Co remained in position at Mons until September 6. September 7 at 1630 the company arrived northeast of Huy, Belgium where the company stayed until September 10. At 0945 hours that day, Hq Co moved 34 miles by motor to Bruyeres, Belgium.

During this period Headquarters and Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion 16th Infantry in conjunction with other elements of the Battalion moved against the enemy from Bruyeres, Belgium, broke through the outer and inner defenses of the Siegfried Line in a direction south and east of Aachen, Germany, and occupied a defensive position at Freund, Germany. While thus engaged, the company was almost continuously under severe and heavy artillery fire and constantly subjected to enemy bombing and strafing. Despite these murderous and

harassing fires the personnel of this company carried on with their duties under the most difficult conditions.

On the 12 September 1944, the Anti-Tank Platoon attached to Company "I" came under terrific fire from friendly heavy artillery, when it reached the town of Eynatten. When the artillery fire was finally lifted through the efforts of the Battalion Commander, the platoon had suffered five casualties: four men who received light wounds were not evacuated and the Platoon leader who was evacuated. The Platoon Sergeant took command of the platoon. After reorganizing, the platoon moved near Hauset, Belgium, where it remained for two days due to heavy rain and mud. On 15 September 1944 it rolled into Brand, Germany, and was ordered to give anti-tank support to Company "L" which had taken a defensive position in the northern outskirts of Brand. From 16 September to 25 September 1944 the Anti-Tank Platoon was attached to Company "K" in order to provide anti-tank defense for the town of Eilendorf, Germany, where Company "K" had taken defensive positions. During this period the men were constant artillery and mortar fire and enemy planes harassed them daily. Several times the platoon found it necessary to fire on enemy planes with their 50 cal machine guns. On 18 and 21 September 1944, in the late evening, enemy patrols attempted to infiltrate through their positions but were repulsed by heavy small arms and mortar fire. On 20 September 1944 an enemy OP was spotted in a building 700 yards from where the second squad had its gun position. The gun commander opened fire with his 57mm AT gun while the platoon sergeant observed from another window and covered the enemy OP with machine gun fire.

The Battalion Commander on the 25 September 1944 ordered the Platoon to move to the outskirts of the western part of Stolberg to support Co. "L". After a cold and rainy night, over muddy, slippery roads, it reached its new positions and occupied former enemy pill boxes. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued to plague the platoon. On 10 October 1944 increasingly accurate enemy fire compelled them to change two of their gun positions. At 2300 hours on 29 September 1944 in an effort to recapture its pill-boxes, the enemy laid a thrundering artillery and mortar barrage. Their attacking infantry supported with flame-throwers and half-tracks were severely repulsed with heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. The enemy lost four half-tracks in this attempt. Under the leadership of one of the gun commanders, indirect fire with one 57mm gun was directed on suspected enemy mortar positions and on the town of Atsch on the 2, 3, and 4th of October. One man was lightly wounded by mortar shrapnel, but was not evacuated.

The Communication Platoon functioned superbly during the period. At no time was the battalion without communication with other subordinate or superior Commanders. On the move the radio section maintained vital control under the most adverse conditions. Late in the afternoon of 13 September, the Communication Officer and a wire laying team were following Company "I" which was attacking in the woods about 1200 yards from Hauset, Belgium. A guide who was directing them to Company "I's" CP lost his way and drove them into the enemy lines. The A.P. shells fired at them knocked several pine trees down in front of the jeep. After engaging the enemy with small arms fire, they were taken prisoners. They eventually talked ten Germans into going over to our lines where they turned them over to an officer patrol from Company "I". One wireman was evacuated due to combat exhaustion. From 15 September to 25 September 1944 the wire section layed and maintained lines to the companies and attached units under the most hazardous conditions. The Bn sector was under constant heavy artillery barrages and the wire lines were continuously in need of repairs. In order to keep wire communications on an efficient basis, a forward switchboard was installed despite the enemy shelling. On 19 September 1944 one of the forward switchboard operators was evacuated due to combat exhaustion. The message center made numerous trips daily to the Regimental CP over roads exposed to enemy observation and shelling. Late in the afternoon, 25 September 1944, the wire section worked all day and night to lay double wire lines to the companies at their new positions in the outskirts west of Stolberg. The heavy enemy artillery and mortar barrages in this sector made this imperative. This later proved to be a life-saving expedient as this ground was open and exposed to enemy observation. Night and day members of the wire section risked their lives to maintain their wire lines, despite nerve wracking enemy shelling. Early in the morning of 10 October 1944, enemy artillery began to pound furiously the ground around out battalion CP at 30 minute intervals. One wireman was repairing some lines which were cut by a direct hit by an artillery shell. A shell struck nearby and stunned and deafened the wireman. He recovered himself and carried on with his work. The entire communications platoon functioned during this period with the same spirit and devotion to duty as was displayed on this occasion.

On the 11 and 12 and 13 September 1944, the M.P's in addition to their regular duties as Battalion CP guards and local security acted as road guides for the advance of the Bn CP. On the 11 September 1944, the Belgian Underground turned one German prisoner over to the M.P's to be taken to the Regimental PW Cage. On the 13 September the M.P's on the advance of the Bn

CP came under heavy artillery fire. The M.P's carried on their duties efficiently under the heavy shelling. On the 14 September 1944 the M.P's with the Bn Intelligence Section crossed the German border and searched an enemy Gestapo barracks and placed a guard around it for the night. On the 15 September they rejoined the company and recrossed the German border into Brand, Germany. They checked up on enemy civilians in the area and posted their regular guards. The company remained in position at Brand, Germany till 25 September 1944 during which time the M.P's made numerous trips to the Regimental PW Cage and the roads were under almost continuous artillery fire. On the 25 September 1944, the company moved to new positions at Freund, Germany, where the M.P's posted the usual guards and local security and checked on the civilians in the area. From the 25 September to the 10 October 1944, the M.P's carried out all their duties with the highest efficiency under heavy artillery fire and enemy air activity.

When the Battalion received orders to proceed against the Siegfried Line the Ammunition and Pioneer platoon prepared pole and pack charges and the flame-throwers for the rifle companies. On the night of 12 September during a thick fog, the demolition squad checked the roads and bridges in advance of the tanks and vehicles which were to follow behind the troops. They repaired roads exposed to enemy artillery, which had been cratered by bombs and shells. When Company "I" took the woods about 1200 yards east of Hauset, Belgium the A & P Platoon blasted the dragons teeth on the main road leading to Aachen. While the Battalion engaged the enemy south and east of Aachen, the A & P Platoon destroyed German ammunition dumps, repaired roads, and swept the roads for mines. The ammunition squad hauled ammunition to the front continuously since the break into Germany, at all hours of the day and night and in all kinds of weather.

On 11, 12, 13 September 1944, the movement of the Battalion was too rapid to establish OP's. On the night of 14 September 1944 the Intelligence Section was used to guard a German garrison building containing German Army equipment and supplies. The following evening Hq Co moved to Brand, Germany and on the 15 September 1944 an OP was established at Eilendorf in Company "K's" sector and another in Company "L'" sector in the outskirts of Brand, Germany. Visibility from their OP's was good and during the first days of the operation, these points did not draw a great deal of enemy fire. Later the enemy placed heavy fire on the, but despite the enemy shelling, the OP's were maintained until 25 September 1944 when the company moved to Freund. The section established an OP in Company "C's" Sector in the vicinity of Stolberg, but as the concentration

of enemy artillery and mortar fire increased, it was impossible to have continuous observation. A new OP was selected in the town of Brand, Germany and this was maintained despite intense enemy artillery and mortar fire.

On the 15 September 1944 the Hq Co kitchen under the control of the Battalion S-4 crossed the border into Germany. On 21 September it moved into Brand, Germany, where it was subjected to constant enemy artillery fire. Despite the shelling and inclement weather, the kitchen personnel performed their duties in an exemplary manner.

Hq. Co. remained in defensive position at Freund, Germany until October 27, 1944. During this time enemy artillery barrages and night bombing became SOP. Telephone communications were destroyed repeatedly but always repaired. The A & P platoon strengthened Battalion positions by constructing foxhole covers for "I", "K", and "L", laying mines, and concertina wire. The A-T platoon and S-2 sections underwent frequent shellings. Men were sent to the Division Rehabilitation Camp a few at a time for 24 hours rest. The cigarette situation finally improved. October 26 Sgt. Hall was killed while removing the pin from a personnel mine he was setting. On October 27 Hq. Co. moved 1 mile to a regimental reserve position at Brand, Germany for a 5 day rest period. Night bombing and enemy barrages continued here but the only loss was a half-track destroyed by artillery fire. The company attended movies, a USO show, and received cigarettes and PX rations.

Nov. 1, 44: At 1400 hours Hq. Co. moved $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to a defensive position near Stolberg, Germany. The company attended church services and a movie. The company remained in this defensive position until it was relieved by a battalion of the 415 Regt., 104th Infantry Division. During this week the only casualties were 3 EM slightly wounded and another half-track knocked out.

Nov. 9, 44: At 1220 hours Hq. Co. moved 8 miles by motor to Zweifall, Germany. The next day it traveled 9 miles to an assembly 2 miles southwest of Schevenhutte, Germany. The entire area was covered with mud. Enemy artillery landed in the kitchen area and motor pool but no casualties were sustained. At 1600 hours on November 16 the Bn. CP and Communication Platoon, less Message Center moved to a forward CP in Schevenhutte, Germany. At 1115 hours 2,000 U.S. and Allied bombers flew over and hit enemy positions for 1 hour and 30 minutes before H-hour(1245). Hq. Co. was alerted.

Nov. 17, 44: Three jeeps were hit by enemy mortar shrapnel. At 1935 hours Hq. Co. moved 2 miles to a new position at Gressenich, where it remained until November 19. On that day the company moved $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Hamich. The rear CP remained behind in Gressenich. At 1935 hours the A-T platoon attached to Co. "L" was hit by an enemy mortar barrage. 2 EM LWA & Evacuated. On November 23 Hq. Co. had plenty of turkey for Thanksgiving supper in the shell torn town of Hamich during a heavy rain storm. On November 24 the A-T platoon returned to the company at Hamich after having been attached to Co. "L". On November 26, Hq. Co. shuttled by motor to a regimental reserve position southwest of Schevenhutte. The company

remained in this area several days cleaning weapons, equipment, and vehicles. On November 30 the company moved 7 miles by motor to Hucheln, Germany. 21 EM from the rifle companies joined Hq. Co.

Dec. 5, 44: Hq. Co. left Hucheln by motor and traveled 16 miles to Lammersdorf. Upon reaching the vicinity of Lammersdorf the company infiltrated to position by dispatching vehicles at 15 minute intervals. The S-2 section manned 2 OP's, one with Co. "I", the other with artillery forward observers. At 0700 hours December 11, the company left Lammersdorf and traveled 26 miles by motor to a rest area at Dison, Belgium. Upon arrival the company was assigned quarters by sections and platoon in 2 school building. Folding cots were issued to each man. The company was paid for the months of September, October, and November. 50% of the EM were allowed on pass in Dison each evening, the mornings were spent in care and cleaning of equipment, and showers and movies occupied the afternoons. December 16 Hq. Co. stood a full field inspection. The supply room, kitchen, and vehicles were also inspected by the Bn. CO. The 3rd Battalion Stood a formation at which General Huebner spoke and presented the Bn. CO with a decoration. The Bn. CO presented Purple Heart and Bronze Star ribbons to the officers and men of the Bn. The Bn. was notified that it was on 6 hours alert.

Dec. 17, 44: At 1600 Hq. Co. left Dison enroute to a Bn. assembly area 22 miles away at Robertville, Belgium, arriving at 2250 hours. A Bn. CP was located at Robertville, Belgium and the Intelligence Section established an OP nearby. The A-T platoon was attached to Co. "L", furnishing anti-tank protection. The Bn. CO and his driver while on reconnaissance in Weismes, Belgium at 1130 hours spotted a German officer and EM with pistols drawn and about to evacuate personnel and equipment from a U. S. Army Field Hospital. The driver opened fire and the enemy fled. A friendly AA Bn. later went into position to guard the hospital.

Dec. 19, 44: At 1545 hours Hq. Co. left Robertville enroute to Weyertz, Belgium, 5 miles away to establish a defensive position. While enroute about 12 enemy aircraft bombed the road but the company suffered no casualties. During that night and all of December enemy mortar and artillery shells continued to land in the company area but no casualties were sustained by Hq. Co. December 20 the S-2 section established a Bn. OP in the sector of Co. "L". Communications wires were cut repeatedly by shellfire. The company still found opportunity to stage movies, attend church services, and send men to Eupen for showers.

Jan 1, 45: While the company remained in position at Weywertz, Belgium about 20 enemy planes were sighted over the area of which 3 were shot down. An average of 7 EM daily went to Eupen, Belgium for showers and change of clothing while 2 EM went to Division Rehabilitation Camp for 24 hours. January 11 at 2200 hours a robot bomb landed in the area and most of the windows were shattered but there were no casualties in the company. On January 15 a forward CP was established in the vicinity of Elsenborn for a short time which came under heavy shell fire. Lt. Parker while on reconnaissance for A-T gun positions was wounded in the leg and while returning for medical treatment was wounded in the arm by artillery fire. On January 16 the Bn CP and HQ Co. moved to a new position 1 1/12 miles southwest of Weywertz, Belgium, which also received regular shelling.

Jan 19, 45: Hq Co. moved 3 miles by motor to Faymonville, Belgium. 1 EM IWA & EVAC. January 23 at 1350 hours the forward CP moved 2 miles to Schoppen, Belgium by motor. It came under heavy artillery fire at which time Pfc Yates was wounded but not evacuated. January 25 at 1700 hours the forward CP moved 2 1/12 miles from Schoppend to Moderschied, Belgium and the rear CP moved 2 miles from Faymonville to Schoppen, Belgium. On January 26 HQ Co. left these positions and moved 5 miles to a new position at Amel, Belgium. During the week following an average of 4 men daily went to the Division Rehabilitation Camp for 24 hours. Movies and occasional church services were held. On February 5, 60 men were sent to Spa, Belgium, for showers. At 0945 hours HQ Co. moved from Amel, Belgium 58 miles by truck to Grosshau, Germany.

Feb. 6, 45: At 1700 hours the forward CP moved 2 1/12 miles from Grosshau, Germany to Strass. During the night of February 8, the A & P platoon removed numerous enemy box type mines which were in front of the Bn, forward position and under direct observation by the enemy. At 1800 hours on February 9, HQ Co. left Grosshau and traveled to Strass. At 1830 hours the forward CP group moved 2 1/2 miles to Bingheim, Germany. During the night the A & P platoon removed numerous enemy mines from the roads in the battalion area. February 12, at 1830 hours the forward CP moved 1 mile from Bingheim, Germany, to a new position at Windem. The S-2 section established a CP at Bingheim and another at Winden.

Feb. 14, 45: At 1940 hours the forward CP moved 2 miles from Winden, Germany to Kufferath. HQ Co. remained in position at Strass, Germany. It sent 25 EM to Vicht, Germany for showers on February 17 and 25 more on February 18. The latter day enemy artillery shells landed in the vicinity of the company area. Also on February 19. February 21, 25 EM were sent to Zweifall, Germany for showers. February 24 while HQ Co remained in Strass, Germany, enemy planes bombed

and strafed in the vicinity of the forward CP at Kufferath. On February 25, the forward CP made several short moves and ended at Kreuzau, Germany while the rear CP located at the southern edge of Niederau. February 25, while the forward CP moved 3 miles to Drove, the rear CP moved from Neiderau to Kreuzau. February 27, the rear CP moved to Drove, while the forward CP advanced 1 1/2 miles from Drove to Soller.

Feb 28, 45: At 0430 hours the forward CP moved 2 1/2 miles to Vettweiss, Germany. At 1130 hours the forward CP advanced another 3 miles to Gladbach. The rear CP advanced to Soller at 1000 hours and to Vettweiss at 1250 hours. The A-T platoon while enroute from Soller to Vettweiss exploded an enemy Teller mine. The A-T gun was destroyed and 4 men EM LWA. Hq Co. came under heavy artillery fire during the day but no casualties were sustained from it.

Mar. 1, 45: At 0410 hours the forward CP advanced 1 mile to Luxheim, Germany. By 2000 hours the rear CP arrived at Luxheim as well. March 4 at 0930 hours Hq Co. moved 8 miles by motor to Friedheim, Germany where enemy artillery shells landed in the company area. At 2100 hours Hq Co. advanced 3 miles by motor to Weilerswist. March 5 at 1845 hours the forward CP moved 2 1/2 miles by motor to Lobshleiderhoff. March 6 at 0615 hours the forward CP moved 3 miles forward to Burg Rosberg, where it was joined by the rear CP by 1430. March 7 at 1100 hours the forward CP advanced 3 miles to Bornheim, and at 1800 hours the forward CP moved 1 mile further to Reisdorf. By 1345 hours the rear CP had advanced to Borheim, where a large artillery barrage landed inflicting 1 casualty. 1 EM LWA.

Mar. 8, 45: At 1900 hours the forward CP arrived at a new position at Bonn and at 2205 hours the rear CP arrived at Reisdorf. March 9 while the advance CP stayed in position at Bonn the rear CP remained at Reisdorf. No casualties were sustained although enemy artillery landed in Hq Co. area. At 1000 hours on March 10 the forward CP left Bonn arriving 25 minutes later at the new location of Hemmerich. The rear CP left Reisdorf and was established in Hemmerich at noon. Later in the afternoon the forward CP moved to Merten, 1 1/2 miles northeast. Hq Co. received 6 replacements who were assigned as follows: A-T platoon 3 men, A&P platoon 3 men. The company remained at Hemmerich until the 18 of March, most of the time being spent in rest and relaxation although some instruction and drill was given by platoons. Movies were shown several times during the stay and cigarette and candy rations were distributed as well as 2 bottles of Coca Cola per man. Doughnuts and coffee were made available by the Red Cross and beer was provided by the company.

On March 17 preparations were made for crossing the Rhine and an advance detail of 3 officers and 17 EM departed. The following morning at 0220 hours the forward CP and battalion organic transportation left Merten and arrived at Rheinbreitbach, 35 miles distant, at 0610. The remainder of the company departed from Hemmerich at 0520 hours and joined the forward group at 0900 hours. The forward CP was moved 8 miles to Ittenbach at 1900 hours and two hours later the rear CP was established in a large villa at Margarethenhof. These positions were held until March 20, when the forward CP was advanced to Busch and the rear CP moved up to occupy the position vacated by the forward group. Enemy artillery fire landed in the area, causing no casualties.

The next several days saw a series of short moves as the Bn. CP followed the rifle companies as they advanced against a stubbornly resisting enemy. On March 20 the CP was located at Ittenbach while the forward party was located at Busch. The following day the forward CP was established in one of the few farm houses located in the tiny village of Eisbach. The rear CP moved to Oberpleis. Difficulty was encountered by the quartering party when it attempted to find billets. The 1st Engineer Bn., which had entered the town at approximately the same time as Hq. Co., had reserved most of the available buildings in the town and placed their signs upon them. Eventually accommodations were found and the company settled down and remained here until the 24th of March. During the period the Hq. Co. was located here, enemy artillery and rockets fell in the area and while no casualties were inflicted upon company members civilian casualties were reported.

Upon leaving Oberpleis the company established the rear CP at Westerhausen. The forward CP, which was at Werterhausen for a few hours, was established at Bucholtz. Enemy artillery shells, landing in the area of the forward CP injured 2 men who were evacuated. The entire following day, Hq. Co., in the same positions, was shelled sporadically. On 26 March the CP's were consolidated at Bucholtz. The following day a 10 mile move was made to Werkhausen. The following days saw short moves with CP's located at Kratzhann and Mittl Irsen.

Elements of the 3rd Armored Division pushed through the 3rd Battalion on 29 March, after the enemy immediately to the front had been softened by dive bombing and strafing by the Air Forces. This marked the start of a race behind the 3rd Armored spearhead to encircle the Ruhr and trap the huge German force

holding that area. Breaking out of the bridgehead, the road was lined for miles with enemy vehicles caught by the strafing planes. The armored spearhead of the drive also suffered and the company passed over a score of our light and medium tanks and half-tracks knocked out by the enemy. The race to spring the trap continued and the last day of March found Hq. Co. located at Buren, Germany after a trip of 107 miles.

The company remained at Buren until April 6. On 2 April a forward CP was established 3300 yards south of Geseke and remained in operation until 5 April when the advance party returned to Buren. The week's stay at Buren came as a welcome respite to Hq. Co. Men had an opportunity to clean up and relax from the strenuous days of the bridgehead battle and the long trips made in the encirclement moves. By 6 April the area had been cleared of the enemy and Hq. Co. moved for a 2 day stop at Brakel. Continuing its eastward advance in pursuit of the retreating Germans, the company moved to Amelunxen on 8 April and the following day to Neuhaus.

The company was attached on 10 April to the 4th Cavalry Recon. Group to form a task force with the mobility necessary to pursue the Germans who were fleeing to a retreat in the Harz Mountains. A short stop at Olderhausen on 11 April was followed by a move the next day to Osterode, which was entered while the armor and rifle companies were still battling stubborn resistance in portions of the city.

Swinging southeast the Bn. entered the Harz mountains in hot pursuit of the enemy and cleared the area around Ellrich, where the Bn. CP was established. The next day the company doubled back and established a CP at Benneckenstein. Captured here was Lt. Col. Haverman and his entire staff. Having been charged with the defence of Ellrich, Sulzhayn, and Benneckenstein, he had assembled 2 battalions but had only 60 men left to surrender as his command.

The following days saw several small towns fall as the push to clear the area took the 3rd Bn. from Benneckenstein through the wooded area to Sorge, where a forward CP was established on 16 April. The next day while on reconnaissance in an area supposedly cleared of enemy the A-T platoon officer, together with his 3 squad leaders and driver, was ambushed. The officer, seeing that they were outnumbered and their position hopeless, attempted to surrender. As the men stepped from the jeep the enemy opened fire wounding the officer and killing four EM.

On 18 April the rear CP was moved from Benneckenstein to the site vacated by the forward group. The forward group left in tactical formation and accompanied the battalion rifle companies in the attack on Konigshof. Snipers, fighting a delaying action, held up the attacking column for a few hours but Konigshof was taken later in the afternoon. Members of the various sections, looking for billets captured a number of prisoners hiding in the cellars of several houses.

On 19 April Hq. Co., traveling in organic transportation went $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, mostly over fields and small roads, since the main route was still under enemy observation, and arrived at Elbingerode. The company remained in Elbingerode until 25 April. During this time the mission was to clean up the last remains of enemy resistance in the Harz Mountains. Over 2,000 PW's taken by the Bn. were guarded by the MP's placing quite a burden on that section. Although the rifle companies were engaged in cleaning up straggling enemy units, Hq. Co. was not kept too busy and had a chance to relax a little. A German theatre was taken over and movies were shown daily. Church services were held on Sunday, Catholic services being held at the theatre while protestant services were held in the local church.

Leaving Elbingrode on 25 April the company traveled 63 miles, the first leg of its southern journey to the Third Army area, and established a Bn. CP at Birschefrode. Plans apparently called for a long stay here because a training schedule was organized and training by platoon given, reveille formations were held, and a baseball diamond was constructed by the A & P platoon. If the plans called for an extended stay at Bischofrode, circumstances must have altered them for on 27 April Hq. Co. left this area and after a trying trip of 137 miles to the southeast arrived at Schoenwald the next morning at 0045 hours. After the ten hour trip, much of it through heavy rain, even the poor facilities offered by the large pottery factory at Schoenwald were welcome. The entire Bn. moved in here, remaining long enough to get some rest and hot food and the following day completed the journey, arriving in Selb, 4 miles away by 2055 hours.

The stay at Selb, which lasted until May 5, was one of the most pleasant experienced by Hq. Co. A large modern theatre, comparable to many of the newer theatres at home, was obtained and two showings were held daily. Also, a Belgian USO camp show played for the company. The supply rolls, which had been in a dump at Hemmerich, west of the Rhine, were sent for and distributed to the men---for some the first change of clothing since crossing the Rhine. Beer and liquor were obtained and a tavern located in the theatre building was reopened by Hq. Co. as a night club for the battalion. However, recreation was not the

only concern during this period. Training by platoons and sections was given. Tragedy also struck during the time. After having fought with the company all the way from Africa, T/Sgt. Kutch and Sgt. Merrill, platoon leader and squad leader, respectively of the A & P platoon, were killed and another man wounded by the explosion of several Riegel mines which the platoon was removing.

The company added a new country to its list of travels on May 5, when it crossed the Czechoslovakian border and established a Bn. CP at Eger (Cheb). After an overnight stay in the building which formerly housed the German educational offices, Hq. Co. again moved out, this time in support of the rifle companies which were again on the attack. That evening the CP was established at Kynsberg, Czechoslovakia. By now reports of the German surrender in Italy and the Netherlands had begun to come in and the reaction in the company was varied. Some men believed that while the enemy might have surrendered in other areas it would be too much to expect on a First Division front, since the division usually was in an area where trouble was expected. Others who were later proved to be correct, held that the final surrender of the enemy was only a matter of hours, or at best days.

On the morning of 7 May the advance elements of the Bn. were again on the attack. At 0840 hours the Bn. CO, directing the attack on Falknov from a CP position at Goldorf, received word by radio from Regimental Hq. that all forward movement was to cease. Eventually the story of the German surrender came and the men of the company, many of whom had come all the way from the initial landing at Arzew, knew that they had reached the end of a long and hard road. However, for the men who had earned the victory it was just another day. When the forward CP group returned to Kynsberg on the morning of 7 May the company merely continued to perform its usual duties. These who were able to find a bottle of liquor and the time to drink it sat around the billets in small groups and discussed such things as home, D-Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and various war experiences but there was no celebration. Over the victory in Europe loomed the shadow of the war in the Pacific.

To better handle the job of administering the area during the surrender and the readjustment that must follow, Hq. Co. moved to Falknov and established the CP there. The month that followed was marked by long periods of work under trying conditions and by some of the best periods of relaxation the company had seen since D-Day. The first days after the surrender were spent in directing the "endless" German convoys to the PW concentration areas in the area. Apparently every German within traveling distance was making his way toward the

battalion area. The convoys were composed of every conceivable means of transportation, including huge army transports, buses, trucks, bicycles, pushcarts, horses, motorcycles, and anything on wheels. Jammed into every available space and clinging to the roofs and fenders of these vehicles, were Wehrmacht soldiers, SS troops, woenem auxiliaries, renegade Russian troops, and German civilians. Those who could not find transportation walked. As the parade of PW's began to dwindle another "convoy" appeared to fill the gaps, a convoy of displaced persons. For the next several days displaced persons from every nation in Europe passed through the company's camps. A camp for DP's was established at Locket, and another, for Italians, near Falknov. Hq. Co. was kept busy directing DP's to the camps and operating the camps. Difficulty was often encountered because the lack of any universal language made understanding difficult. One of the main duties during this period and perhaps the one done most willingly was the feeding, housing and evacuation of hundreds of Allied prisoners of war who came through the company area.

On 12 May Hq. Co. moved to Locket(Elbogen), 7 miles from Falknov. Here it performed the same duties it had in Falknov. Notable among the "guests" of this period was German General Osterkamp, complete with adjutant and Mercedes-Benz touring car. Also, a group of about 15 Russian officers and 25 EM visited one day and posed for pictures and had a meal.

On 18 May Hq. Co. returned to its former location in Falknov and the CP, platoon, and sections were re-established in their former buildings. There were respites from work and opportunities for relaxation and entertainment. A German theatre in the basement of the Kreishaus in Falknov was operated by Hq. Co. as the Battalion theatre. For the first time men of the companies brought "dates" to the show, girls who lived in the DP camps being OK'd for legal fraternization. All sections had at least one barrel of beer on hand most of the time. Although the kitchen received very little food to prepare, the cooks managed to prepare three hot meals a day and ice cream was available several times weekly.

Toward the end of May the flow of PW's had about ceased and most of the DP's and allied PW's had been evacuated and work declined quite a bit. Training was begun on 29 May, when Hq. Co. and the rest of the Bn. spent the day preparing for Memorial Day exercises. The preparations went on the following day but on Memorial Day the exercises were cancelled due to rain. A Bn. dance

was held by the French DP center on the evening of 31 May and was attended by members of the Hq. Co. Beer and sandwiches were served. Morale of the troops was running high at this time.

The days following were spent in training and the care of equipment. The A-T platoon cleaned and painted their guns. Hq. Co. was given PRI, a firing range was set up in an open coal mine pit, and the men had a chance to zero their weapons.

An advance party left for Bamberg, Germany on June 5th with the mission of finding billets for the company. The next day a group of men went by truck to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia to attend a concert by Grace Moore and Nino Martini. Other men of Hq. Co. enjoyed a USO show at the 1st Bn. theatre. The day was a holiday in memory of D-Day.

After a briefing by the company commander on 7 June the company moved on the next day to Hirschaid, Germany to take up duties as occupational troops. Arriving at this location south of Bamberg after a trip of 112 miles, the company effected the relief of the Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 8th Regt., 4th Infantry Division, which was scheduled for redeployment.

Hq. Co. duty here consisted mainly of guard duty, civilian control, road blocks, and similar occupation duties. The communication section spent much time and effort policing the 77 mile wire system and maintaining communications in spite of evidences of sabotage where wire lines were found cut.

Recreational facilities were made available in accordance with army directives. A large reserve water tank in the back of the factory area in which Hq. Co. was billeted was converted into a swimming pool by PW labor. Athletic equipment was obtained and a sports program instituted. A theatre was established in the billet and nightly showings held. A day room serves beer nightly with pretzels available several times weekly and stronger drinks when obtainable.

Hq. Co. took on a new appearance on 5 July when 41 men, all having over 85 points were transferred to the 395th Infantry, 99th Division. Replacements from that organization arrived the same day. Two days later 11 more men were transferred to the 18th Regiment of the 16th Armored Division and 12 men received from them on 9 July.

Training for the company was started shortly after the new arrivals were oriented. It included physical training, close order drill, lectures on the care of arms and equipment, inspections, etc. Plans were made to establish

schools in accordance with the army educational program and applications accepted from members of Hq. Co. for educational opportunities offered by several civilians colleges and the army university center.

William J. Dwyer
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Commanding