

+++++HISTORY+++++

+++++ANTITANK COMPANY 16TH+++++

+++++INFANTRY+++++

+++++1 August 1942++9 May 1945+++++

CHAPTER I

TRANSIENTS

On 1 August 1942, following many weeks of preparation for the move, the Company left Indiantown Gap, Penna, headed for an unknown destination. We were rather a sad and downcast lot for we knew that we would soon be saying "So long" to Lady Liberty.

At 2100 hours the same day we boarded Army Transport No. 250, which was none other than the famous "Queen Mary". At 1300 hours 3 August we raised anchor and were under way. We had an uneventful crossing with only a few cases of seasickness. It was truly a swift journey the entire trip taking only five days. We disembarked at Saurock, Scotland at 0900 hours 8 August, and after being subjected to the horrors of English tea and pork pies for our first time, we immediately entrained for our final destination, Tidworth, England.

Garrison life and its string of exacting duties started in full swing once more. Our garrison duties lasted until 22 September during which time we often heard that eerie wail of the air raid sirens and saw the long fingers of the search lights probing the sky for enemy raiders. It was a new and exciting experience for us all. A foreign country, new types of training, new places to see, but always in the back of our minds was the question, "What is our mission over here and when will we start performing it?"

A partial answer to the above question was forthcoming when we were moved to Roseneath, Scotland, where we went through extensive training in amphibious landings. During the stay in Scotland we were plagued by the ever present rain and thick fogs. In addition to the above mentioned training we went through a program of hardening exercises; long hikes and training, which brought us to top physical and mental condition at which time we boarded another British ship HMS Dutchess of Bedford and took leave from the United Kingdom. The Drunken Dutchess, as she was known to us, was to be our home until we left her on the North African shores bound for our first combat mission. Little did we know as we boarded the Dutchess that North Africa was our destination. As is the usual case during a military troop movement the rumors flew thick and fast as to our ultimate destination. Visions of the snows of Iceland, the fiords of Norway, the temples of India, and the warm breezes of South America, and even a few thoughts of the promised land America were built up in our minds through continuous bull sessions during our idle hours. Eventually we were told that our mission was to make an amphibious landing on North Africa. Then began all the work of briefing, intense map studies, plans laid down to the smallest degree, schedules made out, and the hundred and one odd things that are connected with invasions.

We were nineteen days on the drunken Dutchess, and I think that without an exception, every person was glad to see the shoreline of Africa even though the impending landing would mean, well who knew just what it would hold in store? We wanted to feel the solid ground under our feet again. And so we come to 8 November 1942 from whence starts the second chapter in this summary of action of Antitank Company, 16th Infantry. The beginning of another brilliant chapter of the contribution of the 16th Infantry to the peace of the world and the second chapter in the summary of action of Antitank Company, 16th Infantry.

CHAPTER II

NORTH AFRICA

On 8 November 1942 the company landed at H plus 8 hours and 45 minutes on the beach in the vicinity of Arzew. We proceeded to a picked road junction and there awaited orders. The following day our guns came ashore, and on 10 November one platoon was attached to the second battalion which moved through to Le Fraud. At Fleuaus they joined the advance guard and knocked out an enemy observation point which was located between Assi-Ameer and Oran. On 11 November the second and third platoons entered the town of Oran with the leading elements of the second battalion. A rousing ovation was given to the liberators by the civilian populace. Wine, women and song were plentiful.

On 12 November the company moved to a permanent bivouac area near St. Louis. We thought it would be a permanent area until a flash flood took us completely by surprise. We moved to higher ground outside of town and were quartered in a winery. There we spent Christmas and New Years. The local people gave us a New Years party that will long be remembered. Christmas Eve, we were pleased to have a large mail shipment of packages arrive.

From 20 January to 27 January we were constantly on the move. An every days run being from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles. During the entire period we moved a total of approximately nine hundred miles. Enemy aircraft was very active during the entire journey. At the end of the journey we found ourselves to be on the fringe of the Osseltia Valley from which the Regiment was to move on the attack. During these days much enemy air activity was noted. On 28 January the third platoon and mine platoon were attached to the third battalion and made a dawn attack. The battalion was surprised at dawn by a heavy and accurate mortar barrage and was forced to withdraw. The platoons had four casualties during this particular barrage. Several tires were blown out on the vehicles. So first blood had been drawn in the company. On 29 January we moved to the other side of the valley. More enemy air activity, it was not an uncommon sight to see a couple of Spitfires take out after a flock of enemy fighters only to be forced down or to withdraw. Our thoughts and prayers at that time were directed toward having an air force to combat the seemingly overwhelming odds of the enemy. While the commanding officer and the reconnaissance officer were out forward and enemy plane strafed the area wounding the reconnaissance officer. On 31 January we received report from the first platoon that one of the men had been missing for 48 hours and that no trace could be found. Later we received word that he had been captured by an enemy patrol and had been recaptured by an American patrol.

11 February he returned to the company with quite a story. We were beginning to see more and more Allied planes. On 17 February 1943 we moved from this area to a bivouac area in vicinity of Tebessa and on 26 February we arrived at our new area in a cactus field in the vicinity of Kasserine Pass. In this pass was the most extensive mine field that had ever been seen to that date. On 4 March we were relieved by elements of 9th Division and we moved to a rest area. We remained in this area until 13 March. On 14 March we arrived in Bau Chebka after a 75 mile trip. On 16 March we moved forward to an assembly area northwest of Gasfa and on the following morning the Regiment launched an attack on Gasfa only to find that the enemy had withdrawn to the hills. On 1 April after being subjected to direct fire across the valley the company was forced to withdraw five hundred yards to a new assembly area. Two casualties were suffered at this time. No sooner had we arrived at the new assembly area than a spitfire was shot down and landed in the center of the company area. The pilot was killed instantly. Then the reconnaissance jeep was hit by a bomb and demolished. Heavy concentrations of artillery and bombings were frequent, our gun positions were frequently subjected to bombing and strafing. On 7 April it was learned that the enemy had withdrawn and contact had been made with the British and another phase of the campaign was completed. We moved to a bivouac area near El Guettar and began the irksome task of salvage. On 14 April the company moved to Morsatt where men received new clothes and equipment. On 18 April the company made another night move to La Torf. While at this area the men had the opportunity to take a swim in the Mediterranean Sea.

On 22 April while on reconnaissance Captain Carlson the company commander was wounded, and Lt. Brooks took over his duties. The began the battle of the hills. On 25 April a command car hit a mine and two men were killed and three wounded. Most of the moves were made by night and by the end of April this phase was finished.

Now followed another period of training and reconditioning near Azrew. After staying here for a couple of weeks we returned again to Tunisia in the vicinity of Algiers. In this area we received our 57 mm antitank guns. We had just enough time to receive a smattering of instruction in the use and nomenclature, when they had to be waterproofed and loaded aboard ship.

CHAPTER III

SICILY

On 10 July the company landed at 1745 hours on Green Beach in the vicinity of Gela. It is in this area that both men and guns had a workout. On 11 July the 1st platoon went into position. At 1100 hours they knocked out two enemy self propelled guns and one truck. One of our guns and a 3/4 ton truck was knocked out by enemy fire. At 1030 hours the second platoon was subjected to direct self propelled gun and machine gun fire and was forced to withdraw. From the new position the second platoon returned the fire of the self propelled weapon and a tank, and though heavy casualties were suffered they held the position and knocked out the tank. At 1300 the third platoon attached to the second battalion in attempting a daylight move lost two prime movers and one gun to enemy action. At 1630 the second platoon knocked out a Mark VI German tank, hitting and killing two of the crew and capturing four. At 1900 they surprised two cyclists killing the passengers. During the days action the company suffered one man killed and seven missing. 12 July, 1943 we received a severe counterattack by tanks and Infantry. Five Mark VI tanks and two personnel carriers came down Victoria road block established by the second platoon. Two tanks were destroyed and the others were forced to withdraw. The personnel were taken prisoner.

On 14 July Lt Fish takes command of the company in the vicinity of Mayzarino. In this position third platoon had a point of vantage from which the attack by the Canadians could be watched in detail. The Germans could be seen retreating and blowing the bridges. Finally on 28 July the company moved to Garza then to Nicosia. On 31 July the first platoon returned to the company, and moved to the northside of Nicosia. While in this area the company was in Regimental reserve. 2 August the 1st and 3rd platoons went forward into positions near the Carmi River bed. The moving was very difficult since most of the bridges had been blown. On 4 August the company was still in Regimental reserve in vicinity of Nicosia. Considerable enemy air activity including bombing and strafing. The next day one squad of the mine platoon went forward to clear the road of mines.

6 August 1943 the company moved forward to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Troina. On 7 August the 9th Division relieved the 1st Division for a rest in Troina until 13 August. On 14 August the company left Troina and arrived in Randozza, stayed there until 19 August. On 20 August the company went back to Licata.

CHAPTER IV

ENGLAND

On 5 November 1943 the HMS Maloja dropped anchor at 0300 hours in the Mersey River, England. Pulled up anchor at 0730 hours and moved up the Mersey River. The ship docked at Mersey River, Liverpool, England. The company spent the day making the necessary preparations to disembark. On the 6th of November the company disembarked and boarded train for Bridport. The company was quartered in various buildings for the night prior to moving to their permanent destination. The company left Bridport on the 7th for Beaminster, England, and arriving there the company was quartered in different billets throughout the town. Being in Beaminster we had our regular camp duties.

Air raid warning on the 12th of November. Garrison duties went on as usual, and on the 23rd of November the company received six 57 mm antitank guns and ten one and one-half ton trucks. For the next month the company trained and performed their regular company duties. Christmas and New Years were celebrated in the traditional fashion.

On the 12th of January 1944 Spinal Meningitis broke out among the civilians in the town and all public buildings were placed off limits. The next day the Mine Platoon was placed under quarantine for two days.

On the 16th of January the company left Beaminster by truck to attend lecture by General Montgomery, which was given near Bridport. No duties for the next day by order of the commanding officer. The next two weeks the company had its regular training, and on the 31 January moved to Kimmeridge Range for a three day problem. The 2nd of February the company returned to Beaminster and spent the day cleaning equipment.

We left Beaminster on the 8th February and went to Braunton Camp, Devon, England. At Braunton Camp the gun platoons water proofed their guns and vehicles and carried out practice landings. The mine platoon was given instructions in mine laying.

On the 26th of February the company returned to Beaminster, and training was carried on as usual. The company left Beaminster and boarded the USS Chase on 7 March. For the next four days the company carried out regular ship duties. On 11 March the company landed and went into an assembly area. After de-water proofing their guns and vehicles, the guns went into position. The company CP was set up near Regimental Headquarters near the town of Strete. The maneuver ended the next day and the company left for Beaminster on the 13th of March. On the 28th of March the drivers went to Salisbury, England to draw nine half-tracks. On 2 April 1944 the company had no training

and we were alerted for departure. The company left Beaminster on 25th April for a secret destination. Arriving at temporary station in the vicinity of Martinstown, Dorset, England, the company carried out exercises and care and cleaning of equipment. On 27 April the company was issued sailing rosters and maps.

On 1 May 1944 the company departed the marshalling area and arrived at the embarkation point. Arriving at the embarkation point two officers and six enlisted men boarded the USS Samuel Chase, and the remainder of the company boarded other boats.

On 4 May the company landed and from the beach marched two and one-half miles inland to Friedescombe. Guns were deployed and the company dug in. The maneuver ended the 5th of May, and arrived back in Beaminster on the 7th of May.

On 17 May 1944 the company left Beaminster, England for marshalling area. On the 28th of May the company was arranged in boat loading groups. Company Headquarters in D-4, the remainder of the company split between D-12, 11, and 8. On the 1st of June the company departed from the marshalling area and upon arriving at the embarkation point boarded the predesignated crafts. Company CP was established in the USS Samuel Chase. In the next few days the last phase of water proofing of equipment was carried out.

On 4th June the ships convoy left port and put out to sea. The sea was rough and the weather cloudy. The ships convoy returned to port by order of the Fleet Commander. "D" day has been postponed twenty-four hours. The next day Allied aircraft was active overhead. Messages from the Force Commander were read to the troops.

CHAPTER V

FRANCE

The leading elements of the company landed on 6 June with the Second and Third Battalions of the 16th Infantry Regiment at 0745 hours on Fox Green and Easy Red Beaches in the vicinity of Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Both beaches were under heavy artillery, small arms, and mortar fire at the time that the above mentioned platoons landed on the beach.

Shortly after the landing of the above platoons, company headquarters landed on easy Green Beach and was met with heavy artillery and small arms fire. This group moved along the beach in an easterly direction for about six hundred yards, and then moved south and set up the initial Company CP. While moving laterally along the beach two gun squads who had already landed joined the company headquarters group. On this landing the company suffered the loss of two one quarter ton trucks and one three-quarter ton truck, but the guns were salvaged by the excellent work of the gun crews. Some casualties were experienced at this time.

At 0845 hours an element of the Antitank Company attached to the Second Battalion made the first contact with the enemy. Throughout the day the process of unloading from the landing crafts took place and it was 1600 that afternoon before a complete reorganization of the company took place. A CP was established, and an all around defense set up for the first night on the continent. During the first night enemy snipers were active throughout the beachhead area, and enemy aircraft dropped numerous bombs on the beach and the entire Regimental Area adjacent to the beach. For the period H-hour to 2400 hours 6 June 1944 the officers and enlisted men of this company performed many heroic acts such as salvaging equipment, taking wounded men from the sea, and pushing forward in their task as antitank men in securing the beachhead for the Regiment. During the time of the initial beachhead action the company suffered the loss of 2 enlisted men believed killed, one officer and thirteen enlisted men missing in action, four enlisted men wounded and evacuated, and two officers and six enlisted men wounded and not evacuated.

On 7 June snipers and enemy artillery were very active. a reconnaissance was made and the gun platoons were placed in defensive positions. The following day another reconnaissance was made and the company moved forward to Belle-Fontaine, France. Two gun platoons went into position supporting the Second and Third Battalions. On the 9th the gun platoons went into position in the vicinity of Tour-en-Bessin, and the company followed the next day. At Tour-en-Bessin the gun platoons were placed in position in defense of the Regimental area. The platoons were fired upon by snipers. On the 12th of June we arrived at a point one mile west of La Malinerie, France, and remained there for

about a week. In this position the enemy artillery was very active, and their planes dropped several bombs in this area. The gun platoons remained in position with the rifle battalions, and fired indirect fire on the enemy positions. On the 22nd of June the company moved to a point one and one-half miles north Cormolain, France. While the gun platoons remained with the rifle battalions, the mine platoon worked with the different gun platoons maintaining road blocks. Enemy artillery and aircraft were very active in this area.

For the period 7 July to 13 July the platoons remained in support of the forward advance of the battalions and Company Headquarters was located in the vicinity of Corhomain, France. The CP area was subject to many artillery and mortar barrages, but enemy air activity was limited. Allied aircraft seemed very effective in using rocket and machine gun fire against the enemy fortified positions.

The platoons were very active in support of the battalions during this period of initial assault and consolidation. On the 14th of July the company moved to a bivouac area near Columbieres and for the next week the company carried out extensive reorganization. The 57 mm guns were inspected, cleaned, and painted, the men received complete showdown inspections and all shortages in equipment were reissued, all men were given the opportunity to take a shower. An extensive program of athletics, drill, and road marches were carried out, and on a whole the men were given an opportunity for a rest following the initial phases of the battle.

On the morning of 21 July the company left for a new area which was to be located near St. Jean De Daye. The company was put on its first gas alert at 1945 hours on the night of the 21st. The all clear was given at 2005 hours and it was later learned via the rumor route that the gas alarm was given by an MP who mistook cordite fumes for suspected gas. Validity of the report as to how the alarm was given was later received from Regimental S-2. Shortly before noon on the 22nd of June the commanding officer, after a visit to the battalions returned to the company area with Lt. Colonel Denholm, the colonel a former officer of the regiment and one time company commander, talked of fighting in Italy and lessons learned concerning the 57 mm antitank gun from combat experience, many times following the colonel's talk with the company commander the company met with situations such as described in the employment of the 57 mm gun in combat. It is felt that through the Colonel's advice that the Antitank Company was helped materially in meeting many difficult combat problems.

The company met its first concentrated action during the break through at St. Lo. The company's antitank guns supported the flank of the Third Battalion as this unit moved through the breach in the German lines. From the 26th of July until the 11th of September the company was continuously on the move, as

was the entire Regiment. The antitank guns continued to function in support of the various battalions. It was during this period that the problems of combat were being ironed out and the company was welded into a fighting unit.

During the period from the 11 September to 10 October the Antitank Company did not function as a company. The first and second platoons were attached to the first and second battalions. Company Headquarters, the mine platoon, and the third platoon were attached to the Third Battalion. On the 11th of September there was considerable enemy and allied air activity near the company area. 'And this continued until the 1st of November. During this period many "dog fights" were witnessed and many enemy planes were seen shot down. The planes were shot down by both Allied aircraft and ground antiaircraft units. Enemy artillery also seemed more active during the above mentioned period and many rounds dropped in the company area. The long awaited move across the border of the country of the super men came on the 14th September when the company cleared an assembly area near Housset, Belgium, and took up positions near Aachen, Germany. The company CP was to be located in Brand, Germany. Two miles from Aachen for the next two weeks the company remained in defensive positions as the resistance became stiffer, and enemy artillery continued to pound our positions, in spite of heavy counter battery, by our attached artillery units. It was in this territory that the mine platoon did very extensive work in blasting obstacles and clearing roads for the advance.

The situation became very static at this point, and the company received numerous barrages from the enemy artillery. Day and night the shells fell into the area. The gun platoons were very active in supporting the Battalions in the defense, and remained so until Aachen fell. On 9 November our long stay in Brand, Germany ended and we moved to a new CP location near Gressnich. The gun platoons continued in support of the battalions. The company left Gressenich on 30 November and made two moves to Northberg and Rotgen, before moving back to Dison, Belgium for a rest on the 11th of December.

Life in the company area assumed a happy atmosphere. The gun platoons arrived back from the battalions, and the men were issued folding cots and quartered in different buildings. The company settled down anticipating a good rest. Every man was issued a Distinguished Unit Badge in recognition for the work the 16th Infantry did on D day. On the 16th of December a company formation was called and forty men were presented with the Bronze Star Medal or the Purple Heart Medal. It was on this day that the company first started to sweat out the buzz bombs. On the 16th the breakthrough of the Germans took place and the company was alerted to move tactically on six hour notice. The next day the alert was changed to one hour notice and the next day the three gun platoons were attached to the rifle battalions and the company CP moved to its new location

at Sourbradt, Belgium. Numerous enemy aircraft and flying bombs were observed during the move, and one gun was hit by fire from an enemy tank. From this date until the 1st of the new year we were in for another siege of buzz bombs, artillery, and anti-personnel bombing. The mine platoon was very active during this period, laying mines for the second and third rifle battalions.

On the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of December Allied aircraft were very active in our area, bombing and strafing enemy emplacements. Buzz bombs continued to fly overhead. Our artillery continued to fire counter battery day and night. The year ended with another day of buzz bombs, artillery, and enemy aircraft.

1 January 1945 the gun platoons remained in support of the rifle battalions. Allied and enemy aircraft and artillery were active throughout the day and night. On the 3rd of January the second platoon had a gun knocked out and the third platoon lost a jeep through enemy artillery. Things remained the same until 14 January, but then the next day the third platoon moved forward with the attack. The first platoon remained awaiting orders to move. The second platoon remained in position. On 16th January the company CP moved to Weywertz, Belgium while the gun platoons moved forward to support the rifle battalions as they moved to new positions. Aircraft was active during the day. Enemy flying bombs were active throughout the day and night. The next few days things remained the same and the company was issued snow suits. On 19 January the third platoon moved forward during the morning hours. Heavy blizzards throughout the day. On 20 January the company remained in Weywertz, Belgium and the third platoon moved into new positions in town of Schoppen, On 22 January the second platoon moved back to Faymonville and the first and third platoons remained in position supporting the rifle battalions. On 27 January the company CP moved from Weywertz to Weimes Belgium. The gun platoons remained in position supporting the rifle battalions. The following day the gun platoons came out of position and joined the company. The company spent the next few days carrying out the care and cleaning of equipment especially weapons and vehicles. The company made preparation to move out on 6 February to Kleihau, Germany, the first, second, and third platoons moved out with their respective battalions and relieved the positions of the 8th Division. Enemy artillery active was active in our forward area. On the 8th of February the second and third platoons remained in positions supporting their respective battalions. And the first platoon prepared for a forward move. Three days later the gun platoons were relieved from positions supporting their battalions. The gun platoons at the company area carried out the care and cleaning of their individual equipment and maintenance of guns and vehicles. The company CP remained in Kleinhau, Germany until the 25th February. At that time the company moved to Kufferath into an

assembly area. Arriving into the assembly area, the gun platoons moved across the Roer River and joined their respective battalions. The next day the company command post group moved across the river with the mine platoon to Kreuzon, Germany. On the 27th of February the company moved to Drove while the gun platoons moved forward with the rifle battalions that they were supporting. Enemy artillery was active in our area during the day, the next morning the company left Drove for Vettweiss left the gun platoons moving forward in support of the battalions and set up a command post in Vetweiss. On 1 March the company arrived in Kettenheim and the gun platoons remained in positions supporting the battalions until after dark. After darkness they returned to company control and the antitank platoons from the battalions were billeted in the same area. Enemy planes and artillery were active throughout the day. For the next few days the company remained in Kettenheim, and the troops worked on their individual equipment. On the 3rd the platoons received orders to join their battalions. On 4 March the company broke down and left the old CP in Kettenheim and arrived at new CP in Friesheim. The mine platoon went into town first with the mine detector teams marking mines. The gun platoons remained with the battalions. The following day the company left Friesheim for Weilerswist and the mine platoon assisted the engineers in clearing roads. The gun platoons moved with the rifle battalions and remained in position supporting their advance. On the 7th of March the company moved to Hemmerrich. The second platoon captured 23 prisoners while going into position. During an enemy artillery barrage Cpl. Krich was hit and killed instantly. A buzz bomb flew over in the afternoon. This was the first in several days. On 9 March the company moved to Bonn and the gun platoons returned to the company area. The next day the company moved from Bonn to Roisdorf. Remaining in this area for a few days, the company worked on the maintenance of the guns and vehicles. Enemy planes and artillery were active throughout the stay in Roisdorf. On 17 March the gun platoons were alerted to move out to the battalions. The remainder of the company is alerted to move with Cannon Company. The company minus the gun platoons moved to Honnef, Germany and crossed the Rhine River on the 18th of March. Upon arrival at the new CP it was learned that the area had been shelled by enemy heavy artillery. One enlisted man was wounded and evacuated. The gun platoons moved forward with the rifle battalions. The third platoon fired at an enemy half track it was hit three times. On 20 March the company arrived at new CP, one mile southeast of Ittenbach, Germany. The mine platoon sent out mine detector teams to clear some of the roads forward of the CP. Enemy aircraft and artillery were active during the early morning hours. The company moved to Heisterbach-errott and the gun platoons moved forward with the battalions.

On 22 March one squad from the first platoon fired at two enemy tanks forcing them to withdraw. Another squad of the first platoon was subjected to an attack by an enemy tank and one self

propelled gun plus infantry troops. The enemy advanced to within fifty yards of the gun position. The squad attempted to man their gun but they had three missfires using sabot ammunition. By that time the squad was forced to disperse and engage the enemy with small arms fire. The Infantry troops of the enemy were driven away by the small arms fire and the squad leader directed our artillery on the tank and self propelled gun. Four men were wounded and one evacuated. On 25 March the company moved to Oberpleis and the gun platoons moved forward with the battalions. The third platoon destroyed a Mark V German tank. There were three other enemy tanks but the antitank fire from the third platoon guns forced them to withdraw. The gun platoons remained in position with the battalions and the CP moved to Hasselbach, Germany on the 27th of March. The next day the company moved to Marenbach and the mine platoons cleared the roads of mines forward of the battalions. Enemy artillery was quiet for the day. On the 29th March the company moved to Holzhausen, and remained there for a few days and then moved to Buren, Germany. There was no sign of enemy activity in this area.

On 6 April the company moved to Brokel, Germany. On the 8th the company moved to Ottberger, and one squad from the mine platoon joined the third battalion to clear their sector of mines. Early the next morning the gun platoons started across the Weser River and the company went to Boffzen. The company remained in Boffzen until the 11th of April. They then moved to Holtensen, Germany on 11th April. The company left for Andreasburg on the 15th of April. The gun platoons remained with the battalions and went into position supporting the battalions. On 17th of April the company moved to Benneckenstein, while the gun platoons moved forward with the battalions. While in this area Captain Sylce fired at enemy infantry on his way to the battalions. Moving from Benneckenstein to Konigshutte on the 19th then to Rubeland on the 20th. The gun platoons took a number of prisoners. The company then moved to Liedesdorf on the 24th April. In this area the company unloaded all vehicles and checked equipment, and a training schedule was carried out. The company then moved to Selb, Germany. The 1st and 2nd platoons were in position in Czechoslovakia supporting the rifle battalions. The front was very quiet at this time. On 30th the 3rd platoon returned to the company and moved back to the battalion on the 5th of May. The mine platoon sent out three detector teams to the second and third battalions. On 6 May we arrived in Kynsperk, Czechoslovakia. The platoons left the battalions and joined the company. The company is now in position protecting the town. We were in this town for two days when Captain Sylce announced that the war was officially over.

As this announcement came to us it was hard to realize that the sweating out days were over for the present. From

North Africa to Czechoslovakia we had travelled. True we had our trying times, but we always managed to move forward and help our unit to complete our mission. A review of the company roster shows only a few of the men who had first stepped on the shores of North Africa in 1942. We look back with pride to our accomplishments of the past 2 1/2 years. It gives us great pride to know that we of the Antitank Company have contributed in part to another glorious chapter in the accomplishments of the 16th Infantry Regiment.