

Co History

Co B

June 42 to

May 45



ETO HISTORY
COMPANY "B" 16TH REGIMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I
NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

Chapter II
SICILIAN CAMPAIGN

Chapter III
TRAINING FOR INVASION OF EUROPE

Chapter IV
BATTLE OF FRANCE

Chapter V
BATTLE OF GERMANY

Chapter I

NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN



August 1, 1942. Company "B" left Indiantown Gap Military Reservation at 0800 hours by train, arriving at New York City, New York, at 1630 hours. Here the company boarded the British transport "Queen Mary."

August 2. Aboard British transport "Queen Mary." Left New York harbor at 1100 hours.

August 3-7. At sea enroute to England. Transport docked at Goorock, Scotland, at 2100 hours.

August 8-9. Disembarking at Goorock, Scotland, at 0600 hours, Company "B" entrained at 0900 hours for Tidworth, England. Distance traveled; seven hundred miles.

August 9-10. Company "B" stationed at Tidworth Barracks, England. Area policed and cleaned. Garrison training schedule and regular duties carried on.

August 11-20. Regular garrison duties. Known range and combat firing practiced extensively. Conditioning exercises and hikes.

August 21-31. Company continued training schedule. Intensive instruction upon all weapons and their practical use.

September 1-15. Regular garrison duties.

September 16. Company "B" had a march of twenty-five miles in nine and one-half hours.

September 17-22. Regular garrison duties.

September 23. Company "B" entrained at Tidworth at 1730 hours and arrived at Craigendoran, Scotland, at 1000 hours on the 24th. Distance covered; six hundred miles. Embarked on British transport at 1330 hours for landing operations practice.

September 25. Talk by British officer's aboard H.M.S. Glengyle.

September 26. Beach landings from ship H.M.S. Glengyle.

September 27-28. Company "B" stayed aboard ship all day, cleaning equipment and preparing for practice landings at night. At 0230 hours, the company participated in a beach landing at 0300 hours, marching nine miles inland to an assembly area, and then marching another eighteen miles into a sham attack. Company returned to boats at Hunter's Curry and from there, the assault boats carried the troops back to the H.M.S. Glengyle.

September 29-30. Troops stayed aboard ship resting. A few men went ashore to a nearby town on pass.

October 1. Shore problems at 0900 hours to 1300 hours after which Company "B" went aboard ship; the company was paid.

October 2. Men received passes from 0900 hours to 0800 hours.

October 3. Company practiced night beach landings from H.M.S. Glengyle, loading on the beach at 0200 hours; then marched eleven miles to attack town of Dumoon at 1000 hours. Arrived in the attack at Dumoon at 1000 hours. After completion of the problem, the men were returned to the ship by tank lighters.

October 4. Company "B" spent the day cleaning equipment.

October 5. Troops received lectures aboard ship.

October 7. Company left H.M.S. Glengyle to board H.M.S. Strathmore at 1400 hours.

October 8-12. Company aboard H.M.S. Strathmore. Lecture given on the identification of German army uniforms. Men were given passes for the last time.

October 13. Company "B" was transported to the battleship Duchess of Bedford. Fire drill practiced.

October 14-31. Aboard ship Duchess of Bedford. Care and cleaning of equipment occupied the men's time. On the 26th the ship sailed for an unknown destination.

November 1-7. Company "B" practiced boat drills and physical training aboard ship.

November 8, 1942. Orders were received to attack the North African coast. Company "B" left the ship in assault boats at 1400 hours, landing on White Beach at 1520 hours. The company's objective--La Cata--was taken without difficulty. Company "B" then marched against the town of Oran, which was captured without firing a single shot! Established defensive positions in town.

November 11. Company "B" left Oran at 1000 hours in order to guard Valmy Airport where General Doolittle was.

November 12-December 17. Company still on guard at Valmy Airport.

December 18-23. Company "B" moved by truck convoy from Valmy Airport to guard the Nouvian Air Base. Distance traveled: forty-eight miles.

December 24-28. Company "B" was alerted at 0900 hours because of the assassination of Admiral Darlan in Algiers. Alert ended on the 28th.

December 29-January 14. Company "B" in same position guarding air base.

January 15. Leaving Nouvian Air Base by motor convoy at 1600 hours, Company "B" joined the rest of the First Battalion at Fleurus at 1900 hours. Distance traveled, forty-five miles.

January 16. Company "B" prepared for departure for unknown destination.

January 17. Company left Fleurus by motor convoy at 0753 hours arriving at Affrevill at 1700 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and thirty-seven miles.

January 18. Moving from Fleurus by motor convoy at 0753 hours Company "B" arrived at Bouira at 1900 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and twenty-eight miles.

January 19. Leaving Bouira at 0700 hours, Company "B" moved by motor convoy to St. Arnaud at 1700 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and thirty miles.

January 20. Company left St. Arnaud by motor convoy at 0700 hours and arrived at Guema at 1800 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and fifty-seven miles.

January 21-22. Remained in defensive positions at St. Arnaud.

January 23. Leaving Guema at 2400 hours by motor convoy, Company "B" arrived at Maktor, Tunisia at 2100 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and fifty miles.

January 24. Front line orders received. The company left Maktor at 2100 hours and arrived at El Agraine and was placed in reserve.

January 25. Attack orders were rescinded when it was learned that the enemy had withdrawn from his positions. Defensive positions were maintained.

January 26. El Agraine. Company "B" attacked a pass leading to a vital road junction. However the armored forces drove the enemy out before the infantry could reach the pass.

January 27. Company "B" moved to Oussettia, Tunisia. From here the company marched ten miles to the front and established defensive positions.

January 28. El Glib Hill, Tunisia. Combat squad was ambushed at 0800 hours. Company "B" attacked hill positions, but after an hour of fighting, was forced to withdraw. Five enlisted men were killed; six were wounded; and four were missing in action.

January 29. El Blib Hill, Tunisia. Company "B" was ordered to withdraw ten miles to the rear. Leaving positions at 2100 hours, the company arrived at bivouac area at 0130 hours.

January 30. Company "B" remained in position east of Ousseltia.

January 31. Still in defensive positions awaiting further orders.

February 1. Company "B" was alerted and made preparations to move.

February 2. Company "B" moved from defensive positions and established new positions six miles up a valley.

February 3-17. Company "B" was still in defensive positions.

February 18. The company left by motor convoy to establish new positions at Oussetia Pass, Tunisia. Distance traveled: twenty miles.

February 19. Leaving Oussetia Pass at 1315 hours by motor convoy, Company "B" moved to Kalat Djerda at 0600 hours, where it served as rear guard for the division. Later the company was relieved of its positions by elements of the French Army.

February 20. The company left its positions at 0830 hours by motor convoy to join the other units of the First Battalion at Bou Chebka, Tunisia, arriving at 1100 hours. Distance traveled: fifty-three miles.

February 21. Company "B" moved to a front-line sector, arriving at new positions at 0430 hours. Distance traveled: thirty-seven miles. The second platoon was ordered to guard a pass and the rest of the company was placed in battalion reserve.

February 22. Company "B" moved from Djel Hairara Pass to Du-Bou-Rhanem, El Guidim Hill. Defensive positions established overlooking a valley. Enemy artillery fire registered upon the positions of the company.

February 23. Company moved back to the old defensive positions, as the new positions had already been occupied by the 39th Infantry. Distance traveled: sixteen miles. Road block placed upon cross-roads.

February 24. Company moved by motor convoy to an assembly area at 0600 hours and remained here until 1130 hours, when orders were received to attack.

February 25. Company "B" jumped off in the attack at 0630 hours, reaching its objective at 0950 hours. Enemy positions were destroyed. The infantry units cleared the high ground while the armored force swept the low ground. Company "B" guarded the pass leading through the mountains. The company hiked seventeen miles at night; then the men marched back to the battalion area and remained for the night.

February 26. Kasserine Pass, Tunisia. Company "B" was placed in battalion reserve with one platoon on line. First Battalion was ordered to guard the pass. Defensive positions established. The 16th Regiment relieved the 19th Engineers and the 34th Infantry.

March 5. El Meredj, Tunisia. The 16th Regiment was relieved by the Ninth Division and billeted in a rest camp.

March 5-12. Company still in rest area.

March 12. Company left rest camp at 1800 hours by truck convoy and arrived at Bou Chebka at 0360 hours. Preparations made for large scale offensive.

March 16. Orders were given to move up to Hill 900. Heavy hail storm impeded progress of the men. The company moved out by truck convoy, then detrucked, and started up the mountains. Distance traveled: seventy miles. The men reached Hill 900 about 0230 hours, having hiked about eight miles.



March 17. The company moved from Hill 900 to attack Gafsa. First Battalion cleared the high ground along the march--twelve miles of mountains. Enemy held strong positions outside of Gafsa. Air corps bombed and strafed the enemy before the infantry moved into the attack.

March 21. First Battalion was placed in reserve; established defensive positions three miles outside of Gafsa.

March 24. Gafsa, Tunisia. Company attacked the mountain east of El Guettar. Moving out at night at 1030 hours, the company discovered once again that the enemy had withdrawn.

March 27. El Guettar. Company "B" pushed off into the attack and marched twelve miles up the valley.

March 28. Continuing their march, the men ran into machine gun fire about 0530 hours. In this narrow gully, the company commander and half of the company were trapped and pinned down by enemy fire for fifteen hours. The remainder of the company withdrew to the battalion assembly area. Again the German positions were attacked, but the battalion was forced to withdraw a second time. A third attack was launched by the battalion. Heavy casualties were inflicted by machine gun, mortar, and tank fire. Evacuation of the wounded was impossible so intense was the enemy fire. The company was pinned down the entire day. Under cover of darkness, the rest of the company withdrew to the battalion area.

March 29. Company "B" was reorganized. Heavy shelling continued.

March 30. Another attack was launched against El Guettar and this time the objective was taken along with a few prisoners.

March 31. Still in position on El Guettar; heavy shelling continued to fall upon the company's positions.

April 1. El Guettar. Pushing forward in the attack, the company gained some more high ground.

April 3. Once again the order to attack was given and the company jumped off. The objective was taken and the men dug in.

April 4. The company was relieved and sent back to the town of El Guettar. Two crack units of the German Army--the 10th and 20th Panzer Divisions had been severely beaten by this week of bitter fighting.

April 14. Morsatt, Algeria. Company "B" left for a rest camp. The entire First Battalion left El Guettar by motor convoy and traveled a distance of eighty miles.

April 17. Company "B" left Morsatt at 1030 hours by motor convoy, traveling a distance of one hundred and twenty-nine miles. Remained here for two days. The company then moved to Le Tare, Algeria--just thirty miles from the front lines.

April 20-22. Still in position at Le Tare. At 1430 hours, the company left Le Tare; at 0200 hours the battalion moved into the attack with the company in reserve.

April 23. Beja, Tunisia. Company "B" arrived at the front lines after walking two hours. The company left the assembly area at 0200 hours and went into position on a nearby hill. Reached objective at 0400 hours without any resistance.

April 24. Left Hill 200 and attacked another nearby hill. The company was held up by machine gun fire and was forced to dig in. Ten prisoners were captured and four machine gun nests were wiped out. At 1500 hours the company moved into position on Hill 394. Enemy artillery shelling very heavy. Casualties: five enlisted men were shell-shocked; four enlisted men were wounded in action; and three enlisted men were missing in action. Distance traveled; four miles.



April 25. Still in position on Hill 394. Artillery barrage laid by our forces at 0330 hours, losing one hour's time. The company was forced to vacate its positions until the barrage was lifted. Two enlisted men were wounded. Company was relieved by the Third Battalion at 1900 hours and withdrew to the battalion assembly area. Company "B" moved out at 1400 hours to the initial point. From here another attack was launched at 1600 hours upon a high hill. The company reached its objective, encountering no opposition from the enemy. Defensive measures were taken. Distance traveled; one and one-half miles.

April 26. Still in defensive positions on hill.

April 27. Orders were received to move out at night to the battalion assembly area. Company was formed at battalion assembly area to move out at 2400 hours.

April 27-May 31. Company "B" and major portion of the First Battalion were captured by the enemy during battle. Totally surrounded and outnumbered, the men of Company "B" were taken as prisoners and placed in a prisoner of war camp. Later the men were put aboard prisoner of war ships headed for Italy. During the crossing to Italy, American airplanes strafed and bombed the prison ship. Taking advantage of the confusion and casualties reigning among this group of guards, the prisoners were able to overpower them and steered the ship back to port on the North African coast. From here the units of the First Battalion were able to re-establish contact with their command.

June 1-July 3. St. Leu Algeria. Company "B" ran regular training schedules and special training was instituted. Mine demonstrations, classes in street fighting, combat problems, the attacking of pill-boxes, and tow-target firing were given to the men. Company "B" moved by truck and ship in practice of land and sea operations from St. Leu, Algeria to Staoueli, Algeria. From here the men boarded a ship for the invasion of Sicily.



The following men were killed in action in the North African Campaign:

Carrano S/Sgt. El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Weksvitch, Alexander S/Sgt. 6974084 Beja, Tunisia 29 April 1943
Frazier Cpl. El Glib Hill, Tunisia 28 January 1943
Vavrinec Cpl. El Glib Hill, Tunisia 28 January 1943
Levy Tech. Cpl. El Glib Hill, Tunisia 28 January 1943
Baker, James J. Pfc. Beja, Tunisia 30 April 1943
Bogre, Andrew Pfc. 35011515 El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Campion Pfc. El Glib Hill, Tunisia 28 January 1943
Fowler Pfc. 9 November 1942 La Macta, Algeria
Keilen Pfc. El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Nightway, Chester A. Pfc. 33099447 El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Chandler, Marion Pvt. 34357510 Beja, Tunisia 29 April 1943
Gibson, Pvt. El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Krueger, Bernard D. Pvt. 36525296 Beja, Tunisia 1 May 1943
Lotsie Pvt. El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Manak Pvt. El Glib Hill, Tunisia 28 January 1943
St. Clair, Charles D. Pvt. 6562116 El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Watnoski Pvt. El Guettar, Tunisia 28 March 1943
Fugera, Frank Pfc. La Macta, Algeria 9 November 1942

Chapter II
SICILIAN CAMPAIGN

July 10, 1943. Sicilian Invasion! Another historical date to remember. American forces, once again, were closing in with cool efficiency on the well-prepared and determined German enemy. The Sicilian beach would soon collect unto itself the arms and equipment of the American amphibious forces who, at this very moment, were moving rapidly towards its unmarred, unlittered sands--too soon to become a vicious battlefield of wounded, dying, and dead--and the stage of the ever fighting living units of the First Division, all tested and tried on the hot African Continent. In that massive invading fleet, riding the enemy waters proudly, was the U.S.S. Stanton and inside of her proud metallic structure, proud, tense, well-trained men of the 16th Regiment, Company "B." Well understood and ably commanded by Captain Joseph F. Berry, nothing was left to be desired but the complete destruction of their firmly entrenched, fanatical enemy who lay in wait in defense of Sicily for the glorified fatherland--Germany!

Picked as an assault company, Company "B" moved off the U.S.S. Stanton onto assault craft and headed towards the beach-head unchallenged, as yet, by the enemy. Rapidly, with deliberation and without that over-bearing confidence that can easily spell defeat, the assault troops, with full equipment, moved off the assault boats as soon as they reached the beach water. Once again American troops planted firmly, with grim determination, their feet upon enemy soil! The second invasion was well underway. Equipment and men soon flooded its barren stretch of sands and none were there who didn't strain to the utmost in its remarkable establishment.

Enemy fire from various positions began its deadly work and American steel screamed back its bold challenge. Too surprised and amazed beyond action of any great magnitude, the enemy found itself engulfed. Pill-box followed pill-box in quick succession, individuals and groups of the enemy were quelled and broken--while troops advanced to and beyond their defensive positions. Hour after hour, yard upon yard, fatigue dragging their heels, they swept on and on, meeting light resistance. Then, just six miles south of Niscemi, near a road junction, a man-made hell broke loose! The enemy was surprised, but he continued to give strong resistance. Tanks, artillery, and infantry met with full force the American invaders. So intense became the shelling of artillery and tanks, so effective was the infantry's fire, that Company "B" was forced to withdraw to new positions two hundred yards to the rear. During this withdrawal the company's commanding officer, Captain Joseph F. Berry, was killed. Immediately, Lieutenant Briggs took command of the company, withdrawing his troops and digging defensive positions. Night fell.

July 11. The company moved out, advancing one thousand yards, meeting, as the day previous, fierce resistance. Withdrawing from position, the company took up new defensive positions two hundred yards back, holding this position for another day.

July 12. Starting off in early darkness, Company "B" advanced six hundred yards. Digging in, they held their position until daybreak. Finding themselves in an open orchard under what was to be the third day's enemy heavy concentrated machine gun, mortar, and tank fire, they once again withdrew to advantageous positions of defense as of July 11.

July 13. Not daunted by enemy action, they advanced. This time they did not fail. Niscemi fell. Proceeding about three miles east of Niscemi, Company "B" dug in in defensive positions.

Lt. Stowell assumed command of the company at this time.

July 14-15. The company was holding in defensive position.

July 16. Moved by truck to approximately eight miles south of Mazzarino, dismounted, and then proceeded by foot through Mazzarino to a position about one mile east of the outskirts of the town. Stayed here for the rest of the day and night.

July 17. Moved once more by truck about fifteen miles. The company, after dismounting in an olive grove, began a footmarch to an assembly area. Here they established positions which were occupied until 2200 hours. At 2200 hours another attack opportuned itself.

July 18. Meeting resistance at daybreak, Company "B" continued the attack full force until the enemy was cleared completely from their positions on the hill, wherein they had entrenched themselves. Taking fourteen prisoners during this attack, Company "B" became separated from the battalion and made its way back to an assembly area about two miles in the rear. After a brief rest it again moved, this time to a position three miles up.

July 19. Remaining in this position until 1400 hours, the company then made another advance to new positions upon an extremely high, advantageous hill. The capture of this hill prevented the enemy from utilizing it as an observation post for artillery and troop movements. While in position, enemy artillery, sporadic and ineffective, fell about the company's positions. Here it remained in position during the rest of the day and night.

July 20. Another footmarch. This time toward the town of Enna. After ten miles of marching, the company was moved by trucks through Enna and assembled two miles outside of the town.

July 21. Remained in assembly area, checking equipment and in general, resting the troops.

July 22. Leaving the previous day's assembly area at 2100 hours, the company marched fifteen miles, where, upon arrival at the designated position, they immediately dug in to remain for the rest of the day near Rosa Villa.

July 23-24. Remaining on the defensive, the troops checked and cleaned their equipment. Both days the troops saw no action against the enemy.

July 25. Called upon to relieve the 26th Infantry Regiment, Company "B" moved rapidly by truck to the assembly area and established defensive positions near Gangi. Remained in position.

July 26. Holding position of the previous day until 2100 hours, the company marched to a bivouac area two miles out of Gangi.

July 27-28. The company's positions received light enemy artillery fire. At 2100 hours the company moved out on foot. The march was continued until it arrived at its destination; no enemy opposition was encountered. Remaining at the designated area for two hours, the company then proceeded through the town of Sperlinea, where the men mounted trucks and headed for Nicosia. Before reaching Nicosia, the company was forced to dismount and enter the town on foot. Enemy action was met and defensive positions were established.

July 29. Two miles outside of Nicosia, the company fought a hard battle for Hill 870, driving the enemy from their positions. Continuing their hard drive they succeeded in pushing the enemy once again from Hill 893. Thirty prisoners were taken.

July 30. Still advancing ahead of the rest of the battalion, Company "B" marched without contacting the enemy onto Hill 818. Taking defensive measures on Hill 818 where light artillery fire was encountered, the company dug in in an all around defensive circle.

July 31-August 1. Defensive positions were maintained. An appreciative rest was had by the troops. Battalion was in reserve.

August 2. Remained in reserve position until 1930 hours. Then the company moved to advanced positions three miles forward.

August 3. Called upon to relieve a battalion of the 39th Infantry, Company "B" moved out at 1200 hours, advancing approximately three miles to an assembly area. At 2100 hours the company advanced another three miles, establishing a defensive position. Spasmodic, light enemy artillery fire was encountered during the day.

August 4. Moving out again in the attack against Troina, the company at 0600 hours began its advance. Advancing approximately one thousand yards, it went into the defensive, encountering on the way artillery and small arms fire which inflicted no major harm on the men. Moving once again at 2100 hours, Company "B" met with heavy machine gun fire before they could reach their objective--Hill 851. However this advance enabled the company to direct artillery fire upon enemy positions. Combat patrols were sent out to contact the enemy, while the rest of the men dug in.

August 5. Company remained in position the entire day, receiving artillery and small arm's fire. Patrols did not contact the enemy, indicating that it was very likely that the Germans had withdrawn once more and fallen back to previously prepared lines.

August 6. Moving out at 0700 hours, the company advanced into Troina, meeting no resistance. Company "B" was the first company in the battalion to reach the town of Troina, where it contacted Company "L" of the 16th Regiment. Here the company remained the rest of the day.

August 7. The company remained in the battalion assembly area outside of Troina, where it had moved in the early part of the day.

August 8-13. The company was given a few days of rest. Hot chow was served daily. Arms and equipment were checked and cleaned. Classes were given in care and cleaning of weapons, and the use of the light machine gun. All weapons were fired. The company was paid. Close order drill, mountain climbing, and organized athletics were given along with the classes.

August 14. Leaving Troina by truck at 1700 hours, the company headed for a bivouac area approximately twenty miles east of Randazzo, arriving at the bivouac area at 2230 hours.

August 15. The company had the day off, as it was Sunday, and memorial services were held for the men who had been killed in action. Movies were shown to the men.

August 16-19. Routine duties were performed daily. All of the privates in the company fired the light machine gun. Non-commissioned officers and officers attended a school in British battle fighting tactics for the purpose of a more thorough and varied instruction.

August 20. Moved by truck to Licata, arriving at 1900 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and sixty miles.

August 21. The entire day was spent in building camp and cleaning the area.

August 23-29. Still in position in Licata. Routine duties and training schedule filled the days of the company.

August 30. A battalion retreat parade and the presentation of medals highlighted the day's routine activities.

August 31-September 1. Constant training and routine duties.

September 2. Company was paid.

September 3-4. Routine duties and a battalion parade.

September 5-7. Routine duties and training continued; otherwise a continuous period of rest and peace for the company.

September 8. Moved by foot from Licata at 2030 hours. Distance traveled; eight miles. Arrived at destination (Licata Airport) at 2300 hours. Defensive measures taken.

September 9. Defensive positions maintained. No enemy activity. Patrols sent out on routine schedule.

September 10. No change in position. Patrols continued.

September 11. Leaving Licata Airport by truck at 1300 hours, the company headed for Gela Airport. Arrived at destination at 1600 hours, having covered approximately thirty miles. Observation posts were maintained during day-light hours. Motor patrols continued during the night.

September 12. Nine enlisted men were taken back to battalion base camp for the purpose of guard duty.

September 13-20. Defensive positions were maintained. Routine duties, training, patrols, and observation posts occupied the troop's time. No enemy activity reported.

September 21. On the move once again, the company at 1600 hours departed from Gela Airport to base camp at Licata, arriving at 1700 hours.

September 22-26. Company performed routine duties and participated in scheduled training.

September 27. Routine duties, hikes, night problems, firing of rifles supported by mortars, going through gas chamber, and company inspection. Light machine guns and the 60 mm. mortars were turned in to ordnance. Company witnessed a firing demonstration.

October 1-13. Routine duties. Company was paid. Firing of rifles on the range.

October 13-15. Routine duties. Showdown inspection of clothing and equipment. Close order drill and calisthenics. Attendance of a firing demonstration on Range Eight by the Third Battalion.

October 16. Battalion attended a formation at which time the regimental commander--Brigadier-General George Taylor--delivered a speech to the regiment.

October 17-20. Routine duties. Preparation for moving. Care and cleaning of equipment. Physical inspection.

October 21. Company moved from bivouac area near Licata at 0030 hours by truck convoy, arriving at Augusta, Sicily at 1000 hours. Here the troops boarded the ship H.M.S. Majola at 1700 hours.

October 22-25. Aboard ship H.M.S. Majola. Company practiced boat drills. Routine duties. Company arrived in Bay of Algiers on October 25.

October 26. All insignia and markings were ordered removed from the men's clothing and helmets.

October 27. Company attended a school on the Browning Automatic Rifle. Left Bay of Algiers aboard H.M.S. Majola at 1630 hours. Destination unknown.

October 28-November 4. Aboard ship H.M.S. Majola. Routine duties, including boat drills, calisthenics, schools for the M1 Rifle, Browning Automatic Rifle, .45 pistol, and the light machine gun. Classes were also conducted in military courtesy, blinker code signals, and the manual of arms.

November 5. Company arrived at Liverpool Harbor, England at 0830 hours. Distance traveled by water since October 28; three thousand, eight hundred and fourteen miles.



The following men were killed in action in the
Sicilian Campaign:

Berry, Joseph F. Captain O-365491 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Feeney, Martin F. Sgt. 6142581 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Pepe, Orlando A. Sgt. 6886586 Nicosia, Sicily 29 July 1943
Bradshaw, Ivy D. Cpl. 14054640 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Cruccio, Thomas Pfc. 32264304 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Kuchar, Frank J. Pfc. 36509770 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Lowe, Romey E. Pfc. 33092019 Nicosia, Sicily 29 July 1943
Cook, William J. Pvt. 1219Lo58 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Miles, Howard C. Pvt. 39457511 Gela, Sicily 11 July 1943
Parise, Michael S. Pvt. 32288738 Troina, Sicily 5 August 1943
Slone, Fred Jr. Pvt. 35676933 Nicosia, Sicily 29 July 1943

Chapter III

TRAINING FOR INVASION OF EUROPE

November 5, 1943. England! With another successful campaign behind them, a campaign that would go down in the ever-lasting historic pages of America, the men of Company "B" stood proud as ever before, smiling with that known satisfaction of men who have faced a deadly enemy, conquering him and, in conquering, strengthening their own truths that the might of a nation lies in its free peoples and their unfailing determination to hold on to those truths, come whatever threats may to disprove or destroy them. Never losing sight of the fact that the enemy still stood firmly before them in other lands, they willingly, by their very gallant nature, set themselves for severe tasks yet to come. Here in England was the very undenied proof of their unfailing spirit--American troops of two campaigns, hardened, battle-wise, and ready!

Military history proves, time and time again, that even the best professional troops, in spite of their battle experience and knowledge, must undergo rigid training. And so--in England--that proof was forthcoming.

November 6. Debarked from H.M.S. Majola at 0500 hours for permanent change of station. Station unknown. Boarded train at Liverpool Station and arrived at Axminster, England, at 1800 hours. From Axminster truck convoys moved the company to Lyme Regis, England, where troops were assigned to quarters.

November 7. Church services were held for troops by local clergy in the morning. Routine duties and special training in effect.

November 8-December 1. Routine duties and special training. Training classes were conducted in the following courses: care and cleaning of equipment, map reading, military courtesy, calisthenics, close order drill, hikes, squad combat drills, extended order drill, Browning Automatic Rifle, reading of compass, manual of arms, preliminary weapons instruction on the M1 Rifle, carbine, and .45 pistol. Inspection of the company area, men, and equipment was conducted. Company was paid November 20. Thanksgiving Day was recognized as a day of rest. Further instruction given in street fighting tactics. Platoon problems were frequent in connection with gas mask drills and night problems.

December 1-January 2. A continuance of routine duties and special training. Mortar instruction, bayonet fighting, light machine gun instruction, training films and other aids; knowledge of regimental and division officers stressed. Hikes were continued. Heavy emphasis placed upon care and cleaning of equipment. Special forum discussion was held on December 11, topic being the Battle of the Atlantic. December 25 and 26 declared as rest holidays for the troops. December 29 presented the men with a twenty-five mile hike. Company was paid December 31. Additional training included tank identification, detection and identification of war gases, interior guard duty, grenade instruction, arm and hand signals, the functioning and nomenclature of infantry weapons. January 1 and 2 declared holidays for the men.

January 3-February 1. Routine duties and special training. Calisthenics, lecture on chemical agents, sand table combat problems, patrol problems, mortar section gun drill, night problems; attack and occupation of a position at night; gas mask inspection, and one thousand inch range firing. Mortar section gunner tests were given. Lecture; grenade--types and assembly; anti-tank grenade--technique of fire. Light machine gun drill, care and cleaning of equipment. Platoon in the attack and reorganization, manual of arms, close order drill, bayonet instruction, and night problems. Speed marches, air-plane identification, training films, review and examination of chemical agents, garrison inspection and inspection in ranks. Lecture; Traditions of the British Army, treatment of prisoners of war, first aid for gas casualties, Browning Automatic Rifle Inspection. The company was shown a movie of unusual interest concerning the organization and recognition of the German Army. Street fighting was given a practical test in Weymouth, England. January 14 the company went on another speed march of sixteen miles, completing the march within four hours. On January 14 the entire regiment attended a formation at Bridgeport, England. A small group from each platoon was sent to an engineer school. Instruction continued in unarmed defense, one thousand inch range firing, bazooka, blinker practice; identification of armored vehicles. Inspection of clothing and individual equipment.

February 1-4. Battalion problem; Defense of Lyme Regis against a sea borne invasion. Company "B" was selected as the attacking force. Fortified positions were attacked by thirty man assault teams.

February 5. Company attended a battalion formation for the presentation of awards by Brigadier-General Wyman at 0930 hours.

February 6. Routine duties and special training continued as of January 30, 1944.

February 7. Company prepared to move.

February 8. Company left Lyme Regis, England, at 0830 hours by truck convoy for an assault training school in North Devon, England. Arrived at Braunton Camp at 1400 hours. Distance traveled; eighty miles. The company spent the remainder of the day policing the area and getting the camp set up.

February 9. Company practiced boat loading formations from 1300 hours to 1700 hours.

February 10-13. Practice of boat drill formations, boat drill instructions, and dry run firing by school instructors. Company participated in amphibious landings in battalion formation.

February 14. Company worked as an assault group in firing the light machine gun, the Browning Automatic Rifle, rifle grenades, demolitions, and flame throwers.

February 15. Company still functioning as an assault group. Practical firing of mortars and wire cutting classes.

February 16. A tactical landing made by the battalion. Company worked as an assault team in attacking pill-boxes. Dry run lasting from 1300 hours to 1700 hours.

February 17. Company attacked pill-boxes in assault groups, through mine fields and booby traps. Dry run.

February 18. Continued in attacking fortified positions on the beach. Hedgehog tactics in dry runs. Company devoted the latter part of the day to the care and cleaning of equipment.





February 19. Company marched to the beach, where, as an assault group, the men practiced boat loading. Landing in the assault, they encountered numerous pill-boxes and entanglements. Company set up a defensive position one thousand yards in from the shore.

February 20-23. Mine field demonstration, hedgehog fighting, and care and cleaning of equipment filled the three day's schedule.

February 24. Company participated in regimental landing operation from 0630 hours to 1700 hours, acting as part of the reserve in the battalion landing operation.

February 25. The entire day was devoted to the breaking of camp and the policing of the area.

February 26. Company left Braunton Camp by motor convoy at 1120 hours and arrived at Lyme Regis, England, at 1530 hours. Distance traveled; eighty miles.

February 27-29. Routine duties and training. Inspection of men and equipment. Company was paid.

March 1. Company and first platoon as the lead assault team attacked fortified positions. The company carried out the attack well.

March 2. Battalion problem. Troops ate in the field.

March 3. Routine duties and training.

March 8. Company left Lyme Regis, Dorset, England, by motor convoy at 0530 hours; traveled thirty miles to Weymouth, England, and there boarded "Y" boats at the pier. From the pier the troops were taken aboard the U.S.S. Samuel Chase at 1130 hours.

March 9-13. Amphibious tactics and operations practiced. Company practiced boat landings. The company loaded on assault boats from U.S.S. Samuel Chase in Start Bay off the coast of England, approximately seven miles out at sea and moved onto Slapton Sands. Moving inland about seven miles, the troops established defensive positions, holding these positions the remainder of the day. Problem ended the next day at 2140 hours, and the company moved to the bivouac area. The company then marched about seven and one-half miles to Dartmouth, England, to be ferried to an awaiting troop train at Kingswear, England. Arrived at Kingswear Railroad Station and loaded on the train at 0315 hours, traveling seventy miles to Axminster, England. The company was then taken to Lyme Regis, England by motor convoy and arrived at 0730 hours.

March 14. Lyme Regis, England. Company spent the day in assault training, physical inspection and rifle inspection.

March 15-31. Routine and intensive drill in all phases of amphibious training--operations and landings. Drill and instruction on all weapons, ammunition and booby traps. Pay day. Alerted for departure.

April 1-6. Alert continued. Routine training. Showdown inspection.

April 6-May 1. Alert continued. Continuous and final intensive training preparatory to the invasion of the European Fortress. On April 25, the company moved to a temporary station in the vicinity of Martinstown, Dorset, England, at 1130 hours.

May 1. Company left camp in the vicinity of Martinstown, Dorset, England, by motor convoy at 0354 hours, arriving at Weymouth about 0530 hours. Here the men embarked on the U.S.S. Samuel Chase at 0700 hours. The remainder of the day was spent in getting settled in new quarters aboard ship.

May 2-3. Inspection of quarters and boat drills.
May 4. Company unloaded on Slapton Sands about 0900 hours. Moved inland approximately four miles and established defensive positions. Remained in position for the rest of the day.
May 5. Still in defensive position, the company marched two miles to wait until a tank and infantry demonstration was completed, whereupon they moved to their original position, and filled in their foxholes. Another march of three miles was completed; the company ate supper here and camped for the night.
May 6. Leaving camp area at 0230 hours, the troops marched about two miles; then they moved by motor convoy to Dartmouth, England, from where they were ferried to an awaiting troop train at Kingswear, England. They arrived at Axminster, England, at 0910 hours, proceeding from here by truck convoy to Lyme Regis, England.
May 7. Holiday--Sunday. Alerted for departure.
May 8. Showdown inspection. Payday for company.
May 9-16. Lectures and training continued with frequent inspections of equipment and quarters.
May 17. Company left Lyme Regis, England, at 1040 hours by motor convoy for D-4 marshalling area near Dorchester, England, arriving at 1330 hours. Distance traveled; twenty six miles. Remainder of the day spent in setting up camp.
May 18. The company attended a formation at which time the division commander, Brigadier-General Clarence Huebner, gave the men an address. All equipment was checked, and gas masks were adjusted and tested in the gas chamber.
May 19-31. Continuous, intensive, and thorough training in assault landings and operations, hardening exercises, lectures on enemy material and captured enemy weapons, and recognition of enemy aircraft.
June 1. Company prepared for departure. Left D-4 staging area at 1600 hours by motor convoy to Weymouth, England, and boarded the U.S.S. Samuel Chase at 1730 hours. Distance traveled; eleven miles.
June 2-5. Care and cleaning of equipment. Chapel services were held on June 4, just two days before the actual invasion.



Chapter IV
BATTLE OF FRANCE



June 6, 1944! 0540 hours! Troops of Company "B", 16th Infantry Regiment, were lowered from the U.S.S. Samuel Chase. Beyond Easy Red Beach, waves of troops lay pinned down by vicious enemy fire which constantly swept its now littered shore. Mistakes were made, yes; that was why a hellish holocaust played its grim game upon that aggressive stretch of beach. But come what may, hell or high water, a beach-head must and would be established--the grim reason for the unceasing stream of men and equipment, in spite of heavy losses, that snaked itself towards the beach. At 0750 hours, amidst incessant heavy artillery and small arm's fire, Company "B" struggled onto Omaha Beach. Again and again, direct enemy artillery hits and small arm's fire took their steady toll of men and ships and landing craft, even before some could be beached, and, too, far out from shore, the sea grew rougher each minute by Nature's and man-made agitations. The coast of France near Colleville-sur-mer (Easy Red, Omaha, and Fox Green, as indicated by the military code names) was well defended by a long prepared, fanatically determined, and powerfully emplaced enemy who had seen to it, with deadly technical satisfaction, that this invading enemy would not find it an easy approach by any means. Preparing against just such an invasion action, the German military employed every conceivable device known to their morbid intelligence to defeat or delay an allied invasion of any magnitude. What they did not calculate rightly was the tenacious determination of the Allied Invasion Command and not the size of its mass of troops and equipment. It was proven now how wrong the German militaristic and psychological defense was! For even as Company "B" moved onto Easy Red Beach, American troops of the first few landed waves were inching their way up the seven yard beach-head, shoulder to shoulder, digging in and fighting furiously against the enemy while preparing, as best they could, a measure of some protection and defense against the never-ceasing enemy fire or a sudden attack which was well expected. Moving in a forceful military manner, Company "B," never once out of enemy fire, made its way up the beach, suffering casualties and loss of equipment in the mad living dream of war.

During the landing the company headquarter's LCVP received two direct hits and began sinking just as it beached upon the shore line. The company suffered a loss of key personnel, just as other companies did. Men, leaderless and scattered now, individually and in small groups fought their way up the beach-head, blocked from advancing by mine fields, wire-fields, and annihilating fire. Organization repeatedly wavered and many times it was lost entirely in this chaotic life and death drama. The situation took on grim propositions, as men, wounded, tired, momentarily confused as to objective purposes, tried to establish, in a desperate sort of manner, a striking cohesive force that would lead to some definite action and end such a heady, costly, confusion.

Contact with battalion headquarters became impossible when the SCR 300 radio set operator was wounded and his radio lost in the mêlée. Unshaken by losses, Company "B" made its way slowly up Omaha Beach, running repeatedly into minefields, machine gun, and sniper fire. As soon as one minefield was crossed, another field took its share of men in casualties which mounted higher and higher. The medics worked unceasingly, but so great were the number of casualties that it was necessary for combat men to help administer aid to the wounded men who were sprawled on the shore line and beach-head, risking all for their own who lay helpless before the murderous and devastating enemy fire. Here and there in groups and individually, the men of Company "B" performed acts of unbounding merit that belied any such statements which propaganda of the enemy tried to degrade in its pseudo-conception of the American evaluation of the fighting man as a soldier. Very soon--even now--the enemy would realize the falsities of his own belief of the inferiority of the American soldier, as human land markers, tempting death at every moment, guided the advancing troops through the mine fields, with a smile upon their pained faces. How can men be beaten who smile at the pain of wounds and in the face of death? Even the stoical German mind could not answer this question, much less disregard its terrible meaning! No historian could possibly textualize the story of these human sacrifices! It lay beyond the grasp of all human comprehension. Fighting furiously, Company "B" breached the wire, unmindful of the multiple dangers and with fierce resourcefulness, it fought inland for a distance of a mile and a half. Reaching a point near Colleville, the company was held up by enemy small arms fire. Meeting stiffening resistance after so long a day of hard fighting, it was decided that the company should dig in for the night. Enemy activity was strong throughout the night and small enemy groups tried to penetrate the company's positions. During the assault on the beach and advance forward, the company suffered the following casualties; one enlisted man killed in action, nine enlisted men lightly wounded in action, and three enlisted men missing in action during the assault on the coast of France, one mile north of Colleville-sur-mer.

June 7. The company continued the advance about four miles southwest of Omaha Beach against slight enemy opposition which consisted mostly of snipers and machine-gunners. The enemy strong point was neutralized about 1030 hours, during which the 18th Infantry Regiment moved up to Company "B's" right flank. The company established defensive positions on the right flank of Company "C." Patrols and listening posts were continued throughout the night. Troop's morale was very good.

June 8. Company advanced approximately three miles, meeting no enemy opposition, and then set up defensive positions. Patrols and listening posts were established.

June 9. The battalion was placed in reserve. At 1600 hours, the company moved to new defensive positions near Tours En Bessin. Listening posts and patrols were in effect continuously. During a patrol one enlisted man was killed in action and another one seriously wounded by friendly troops.

June 10. Moving once again, the company established defensive positions near Fontenay. Patrols and listening posts kept a vigilance during the night. Battalion still in reserve.



June 11. Company moved again to defensive positions near La Tullerie and sent out patrols and established listening posts.

June 12. Moving five miles up to new defensive positions near La Fayel, Company "B" established listening posts and sent out patrols. Battalion in reserve for third consecutive day.

June 13. With battalion still in reserve, the company was ordered to move to the vicinity of Caumont at 0800 hours and establish defensive positions and listening posts. Patrols kept on alert. Enemy artillery, light in effect, fell upon the company's positions during the night.

June 14-15. Company resting temporarily. Patrols and listening posts maintained. No enemy activity around vicinity.

June 16. Company moved to the vicinity of La Jamarie at 2200 hours, digging defensive positions, establishing listening posts, and sending out patrols. No enemy activity.

June 17. Positions maintained as of June 16. No enemy activity reported.

June 18. Company moved from positions near La Jamarie to new defensive positions in vicinity of Cormalain at 2130 hours, occupying these positions for the day. Patrols and observation posts were maintained.

June 19-23. Still in defensive position near the vicinity of Cormalain, the company continued to send out patrols.

June 24. Company "B" left its defensive positions at 1930 hours and relieved Company "K" from its positions north of Cormalain.

June 25-31. Still in defensive positions north of Cormalain, the company continued to send out patrols and maintain observation posts. No enemy activity reported.

July 1. Moving from positions one-half mile north of Cormalain, Company "B" advanced to new positions about three thousand yards south-southeast of Cormalain. A patrol of eight enlisted men and two officers was sent out to take prisoners. Spending most of the night behind enemy lines, they failed to capture any of the enemy, but did obtain valuable information. During the night, a two man outpost shot a German soldier at 0400 hours.

July 3. Company's patrols were active during the day. Engaging the enemy about 1800 hours, they killed several Germans with automatic rifles and 4.2 mortar fire. Two enlisted men on this patrol were wounded in action.

July 4-5. Still in the same defensive positions. Company "B" sent out patrols and maintained observation posts. No enemy activity was reported.

July 6. Company moved again, this time to Le Balbois, to establish a new defensive line one-half mile east of Cormalain at 1330 hours.

July 7. Company maintained the same position of defense as of July 6. Patrols encountered none of the enemy.

July 8-12. Company still in defensive positions one-half mile east of Cormalain. Observation posts in effect.

July 13. Leaving defensive positions in the vicinity of Cormalain, Company "B" moved by truck convoy at 1960 hours, arriving at Colombieres, France, at 2100 hours. Distance traveled; about twenty-five miles. The motor convoy was not attacked or harassed by the enemy.



July 15. This day was spent in care and cleaning of equipment, payment of the men, showdown inspection in the afternoon plus calisthenics and athletics and a physical inspection. The regimental band performed for the troops and church services were held. A movie was shown in the evening.

July 16-20. Company executed a dry-run in an attack on hedgehog positions. A Red Cross Show, serving of coffee and doughnuts by the Red Cross Clubmobile, and routine duties completed the day's schedule.

July 21. Company left area one mile southwest of Colombieres, France, at 0045 hours by truck, arriving at a position one and a half miles southeast of Graignes, France, at 1040 hours. Distance traveled; fourteen miles. The remainder of the day was spent in constructing defensive positions and preparing for the night.

July 22. Defensive positions as of July 21. The men dried their clothes and equipment. A false gas alarm was welcome, as it broke the monotony of the day.

July 23-25. Company remained in defensive positions as of July 21. Care and cleaning of weapons, a two hour march, orientation on coming engagement, and the alert for movement forward filled the day's schedule.

July 26. Alerted for movement at 0700 hours, the company remained in the same area for the day.

July 27. Leaving the bivouac area at 1400 hours, the company arrived at the assembly area in the vicinity of Dupard, France, at 1500 hours. Distance traveled; eight miles. Leaving the assembly area on foot at 1530 hours, the troops marched through Geursnay, France, at 2345 hours.

July 28. At 0230 hours, the company arrived at the bivouac area one-half mile south of La Chevalerie, France. Contacted enemy, capturing seven prisoners about 0300 hours. The entire battalion was thrown into the attack at this time. Enemy artillery and small arms fire was encountered, and the company went into defensive positions at 2100 hours. Patrols and observation posts were maintained during all hours. Casualties; one officer and two enlisted men seriously wounded; seven enlisted men lightly wounded and later evacuated.

July 29. Observation posts and patrols made contact during the morning hours with the enemy, taking two prisoners. One enlisted man was lightly wounded on an observation post. The company moved one-half mile northwest of La Cousnaire, France, at 1600 hours and established defensive positions. Patrols and observation posts were established.

July 30. The entire day was spent in defensive position. No enemy activity was reported by patrols and observation posts. Company "B" prepared for a night movement.

July 31. Leaving area at 0145 hours, Company "B" moved by motor convoy to a bivouac area one-half mile south of La Lande, at 0600 hours, traveling a distance of nine miles. The remainder of the day was spent in digging defensive positions.

August 1. At 0015 hours, the company was bombed by enemy personnel bombs. Casualties; one enlisted man seriously wounded; one officer and three enlisted men lightly wounded. Company left bivouac area one-half mile south of La Lande at 0730 hours on foot. Arrived at new area one mile west of L'Epine at 1430 hours. Distance traveled by foot; four miles. From here, the company moved by motor convoy at 2000 hours to take up new defensive positions one mile west of Brece, France.



August 2. Company moved at 1600 hours to new positions of defense one mile northeast of Le Grande Celland, France, arriving at 1730 hours. Distance traveled: two miles. Patrols encountered none of the enemy.

August 3. Moving from defensive positions one mile northeast of Le Grand Celland at 2100 hours, Company "B" hiked five miles to new positions about three-fourths of a mile southwest of Le Mesnil Adelee and arrived at 2400 hours. Defensive measures were taken.

August 4. One of the observation posts captured two prisoners at 1130 hours as of 3 August.

August 5. Company left area three-fourths of a mile southwest of Le Mesnil Adelee, arriving at 1700 hours in a new area two miles northeast of Buois, France. Distance traveled: twenty miles.

August 6. Once more on the move, Company "B" moved by motor convoy at 0700 hours, arriving at new area one and one-half miles northeast of Mayenne, France, approximately at 1230 hours. Distance covered: thirty-two miles. Observation posts and patrols in effect. Enemy artillery fell at 2330 hours. Four enlisted men lightly wounded.

August 7. Company "B" was attacked by enemy infantry and tanks. One tank was knocked out. Enemy troops withdrew. Casualties: two enlisted men lightly wounded. Enemy artillery effected light damage at 2100 hours.

August 8. One and one-half miles northeast of Mayenne, France. Observation posts and patrols and road blocks in effect. One road block at cross-roads was set up, and one squad guarded an anti-tank gun. One enlisted man lightly wounded in action.

August 9. Enemy tank fire fell on company positions approximately 2200 hours. A German observation post was sighted by a patrol. No other enemy action was encountered.

August 10. Heavy enemy artillery shelling of company positions. One German soldier surrendered to observation post at 1230 hours.

August 11. No enemy shelling during the entire day.

August 12. A patrol observed a German food truck about 0600 hours. A combat patrol was sent out at 1800 hours and found abandoned enemy supplies. No contact was made with the enemy.

August 13. Company left area one and one-half miles northeast of Mayenne, France, at 0730 hours and proceeded by foot to Mayenne, where the company boarded trucks and moved to a new position about nine miles north of Mayenne in division reserve. Leaving by truck again at 1930 hours, the company arrived at another area three miles northeast of Lassay, France, at 2200 hours. Distance traveled: eighteen miles.

August 14. Arrived at new position one mile north of La Sauvagere, France, at 2200 hours. Distance traveled: twenty miles.

August 15. Positions as of August 6. One platoon at 1300 hours to screen movements of the 18th Infantry Regiment in their advance. Opposition was met by the enemy, and in the ensuing fire-fight, one enlisted man was lightly wounded in action and eight prisoners were taken.

August 16. The company moved from positions into the attack at 0700 hours, capturing forty-five prisoners, one German car, and one motorcycle. A gain of several hundred yards was made during this attack. One German officer was wounded and later died. The company dug in one mile southeast of Le Mesnil Briouze, France, for the night. Patrols, road-blocks, and observation posts were established.

August 17. Company on the defensive. Patrols and observation posts saw no enemy action.

August 18-24. Company area was designated nontactical and changed into a rest area. Pay-day, showdown inspection, showers, USO Show, church services, movies, Red Cross serving of coffee and doughnuts, rifle inspection, washing of clothing, hikes, and organized athletics rounded the day's schedule.

August 25. Company "B" moved in the early morning by motor convoy to the vicinity of Cheptainsville, France, covering about one hundred and fifty-eight miles.

August 26. Moving once again by motor convoy for a total distance of eight miles, Company "B" located itself about four miles west of Corbeil. Remained in position for the rest of the day and night.

August 27. Company moved out on foot covering nineteen miles, whereupon they were picked up by trucks and were transported seven miles to vicinity of Emerainville, France. The troops were in very good spirits.

August 28. Moving by foot and truck convoy for a distance of twenty miles, the company took up positions in the vicinity of Charny, France.

August 29. From Charny, France, Company "B" moved to the vicinity of Acy-en-Multien by truck and tank convoy. Distance traveled: sixteen miles.

August 30. Left previous day's area at 1000 hours by truck convoy and established new positions at 1530 hours. This position was the old regimental command post in World War I. Remained in this position until late in the afternoon.

August 31. The company moved once again by truck convoy to an area one-half mile southeast of Challvet, France, a distance of twenty-five miles and established defensive positions.

September 1. Moving from vicinity of Challvet, France, by truck convoy, Company "B" headed for Laon, France, where upon arrival defensive positions were immediately established. Guards were posted in defense of the main roads and Laon Railroad. No enemy action encountered.

September 2. Company left Laon, France, by tank and truck convoy at 1530 hours, arriving at a new area one-half mile northeast of Sains Richaumont, France, at 1830 hours. Civilians reported enemy activity in the area upon which basis a combat patrol of five light tanks and a platoon of infantry was sent out. No contact was made, however, with the enemy.

September 3. At 1000 hours Company "B" left Sains Richaumont and proceeded to Manbengi, where troops began a foot march. Enemy activity had been reported in the vicinity. Marching through Bersilles, the company crossed the Belgium border at 1945 hours. Trucks picked up the troops once again, and the company moved to Mons, Belgium. Here they established a defensive line in a city park. Distance traveled: fifty miles.

September 4. Holding positions as of September 3. A platoon was sent to the 7th Field Artillery for guard duty. Patrols and road blocks maintained. A combat patrol made contact with the enemy, resulting in the capture of twenty-four prisoners and the killing of three more. No casualties inflicted on the patrol.

September 5. Company moved from defensive positions to relieve Company "F" of the Second Battalion one-half mile south of Mons.



The platoon attached to the 7th Field Artillery continued its guard duties. Company established outposts and sent out combat patrols.

September 6. New positions were maintained. Company enjoyed hot showers. Two combat squads sent out with express purpose of taking prisoners. No contact was made with the enemy, however.

September 7. Leaving Mons, Belgium, by motor convoy at 0900 hours, the company arrived at new positions three-fourths of a mile east of Leumont, Belgium, at 1700 hours. Trip was uneventful. Distance traveled; sixty-six miles.

September 9. Company still in vicinity of Leumont. No contact with the enemy was established by the patrols or outposts. Company was alerted for movement.

September 10. Left area at 0745 hours by truck convoy, arriving at new destination three-fourths of a mile south of Bettice, Belgium, at 1130 hours. Distance traveled; thirty-two miles. Outposts and combat patrols maintained.

September 11. Moved from vicinity of Bettice into the attack. Company "B" was in the battalion reserve. No contact with the enemy was made during the forward movement to the new positions one-fourth mile west of Henri-Chapelle at 2000 hours.

Still in battalion reserve, the company moved ahead into a new attack, crossing the German border and establishing a defensive position six miles southwest of Aachen, Germany, an advance of approximately ten miles. Enemy small arms and artillery fire fell during the night without inflicting any casualties.

The battalion's purpose for such rapid, repeated moves as affected Company "B" was to seal off and destroy by flanking movements the enemy columns that were racing desperately from just such an Allied trap towards the Siegfried Line and a new defense which could only be brought about by a badly needed re-organization of their troops. Never resting nor giving the enemy a chance to recover or rest, the American troops were transported by every conceivable means to press their present advantages to the fullest degree. Using tank destroyers, overloaded trucks, and other motor powered vehicles, all of the First Battalion, with tenacious determination, drove headlong in pursuit of their retreating, tired, desperate enemy. This drive would mean the complete destruction of the enemy on northern French soil and the initial penetration of the long-prepared Siegfried Line.

Flanking German columns the 16th Infantry Regiment attacked with new vigor, speed, and aggressiveness, killing and capturing many of the enemy. Continuing their speed advances in a northern flanking movement, they succeeded in sealing off the enemy, blocking all escape routes to the Siegfried Line. Enemy tanks, ammunition carriers, guns, half-tracks, horse-drawn guns, and carts were forced to double-bank, even triple-bank, only to find that their main escape route had become cut off by the racing armor and infantry units. Hence the Germans became helpless, fixed targets for the attacking air corps and the deadly field artillery. The enemy column became masses of wreckage and blazing markers of defeat.

From Laon to Manbenge-Mons, the battalion's drive meant more than just a series of battles successfully fought. It foreshadowed the final assault upon Germany Proper itself.

The following men were killed in action in the
Battle of France:

Rogers, Walter M. 1st Lt. O-390722 Mayenne, France 6 August 1944
Graham, Wilson A. S/Sgt. 12014062 Mayenne, France 6 August 1944
Wilde, William W. Sgt. 32264298 Mayenne, France 6 August 1944
Curtis, John L. Pfc. 37543523 Tour En Bessin, France 9 June 1944
Rancour, Ernest J. Pfc. 37544224 Le Barbois, France 3 July 1944
Smith, Edward A. Pfc. 32599192 Mayenne, France 6 August 1944
Burkeen, William T. Pvt. 34723773 Mayenne, France 7 August 1944
Coan, Raymond J. Pvt. 32665247 Mayenne, France 6 August 1944
DeSavage, Joseph Pvt. 12021791 La Groudiere, France 28 July 1944
Iaconelli, Jerry J. Pvt. 33779514 Near Colleville-sur-mer 6 June '44
Inverso, Elia D. Pvt. 33779157 La Groudiere, France 28 July 1944



Chapter V

BATTLE OF GERMANY

German Soil! This was it; the penetration of the mythically impregnable German Fortress! Here, at long last, American troops proved, along with their allies, the pseudo-truth of the German defensive might in the Siegfried Line. The Dragon's Teeth had felt the first powerful blows of American might--and they crumbled almost too readily to its direct assault. The Siegfried Line, which consisted of a solid, intricately, fashioned front of strong points comprised of specially dug anti-tank ditches, mined areas, natural and artificial obstacles, fortified houses, sheds, and garages; well-concealed concrete installations of pill-boxes and emplacements, dug in tanks and tank turrets used as stationary pill-boxes; trenches, fox-holes, slit-trenches, and large open emplacements for machine gun nests, "88" mm. artillery guns, anti-tank guns, automatic weapons, and heavier artillery pieces. This, the Siegfried Line, was confronting American troops--and the German High Command knew what this meant as they issued the order that every town and village in Germany would be defended to the last man by fanatical resistance.

September 13. Company "B" still held defensive positions in the Aachen Forest. Artillery barrage in the afternoon inflicted three casualties; one officer lightly wounded and two enlisted men lightly wounded. Company moved out of defensive position at 1800 hours and was relieved by the 26th Infantry Regiment. The company then moved back to an assembly area in the vicinity of Hergenrath, Belgium, where the night was spent.

September 14. Moving out of the assembly area near Hergenrath, Company "B" took new defensive positions at 1000 hours. At 1600 hours, the company crossed the German border once again, penetrating the first row of the well-known "Dragon's Teeth." A heavy artillery barrage inflicted three casualties; one enlisted man was seriously wounded; two enlisted men were lightly wounded. Small arms fire was encountered, and two prisoners were taken when the enemy was contacted. Company established strong outposts during the night, one and one-half miles east of Brand, Germany.

September 15. The company moved out once again in the attack at 0730 hours. The attack carried the men through Brand, Germany, and then towards Eilendorf. Small arms fire registered on the company about one thousand yards from the battalion objective. Breaking through the tank obstacles, Company "B" cleared a road block for passage of the tanks. Twenty pill-boxes were cleaned out and thirty-two prisoners were taken without a single casualty! Later in the day, Company "A" and "C" moved up to position in line with Company "B." Three men were lightly wounded by artillery fire.

September 16. Remaining in defensive position until the afternoon hours, Company "B" was relieved by Company "F" of the Second Battalion. The company then moved approximately one thousand yards to the right in the rear of Company "A." During this move two prisoners were captured. One-half mile west of Stolberg, Germany, the company established defensive positions.

September 17. The company remained in the same positions, along with the remainder of the battalion, which was still in reserve. In the afternoon, Company "B" was called upon to screen an attack by an armored division and was ordered to move into position eight hundred yards west of its position. However, the attack did not occur, and the company moved back to its former positions. One enlisted man was wounded by shrapnel.

September 18. Launching an attack on Munsterbusch and Stolberg, Germany, Company "B" found itself under heavy enemy artillery, tank, and small arms fire six hundred yards short of its objective. So intense was the resistant fire that the company was forced to hold up for the night. Seven enlisted men were killed and several more were wounded, including one officer. Company "B" suffered the heaviest casualties since the invasion of the European continent.

September 19. A counter-attack by the enemy at 0630 hours was repulsed at 0830 hours. In this counter-attack, the enemy was allowed to come within one hundred and twenty yards of the company's positions. With the small arms fire and mortar fire which the company had at its disposal, the Germans were stopped in their drive and heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy. Another attack was begun, and this time the company moved forward for another six hundred yards and established defensive positions for the night. Outposts and patrols were operating during the night. One enlisted man was killed and another died of his wounds later in the day.

September 20. Moving into the attack once more, Company "B" reached the town of Munsterbusch and savage house-to-house fighting was carried on. The company had advanced another one thousand yards in this attack, which carried them to the outskirts of Munsterbusch, where the men dug in for the night. One enlisted man was killed by enemy tank fire.

September 21. Company "B" moved forward once again in the attack. This time the troops advanced eight hundred yards during the day. One enlisted man was killed and one was seriously wounded by small arms fire in the attack. Several prisoners were taken.

September 22. Fighting in a forward drive, Company "B" sent out contact patrols and prepared strong outposts. Periodic enemy artillery shelling was the only indication of the enemy's presence.

September 23. Company "B" remained in position, sending out contact patrols.


September 24. Maintaining the same defensive positions, the company received sporadic enemy artillery fire. One enlisted man was seriously wounded and evacuated while he was setting out trip flares.

September 25. Company "B" maintained regular outposts and patrols. Mortar and artillery fire was registered upon the company's positions.

September 26. Still in defensive positions near Stolberg, Germany, and receiving periodic enemy artillery and mortar fire. One enlisted man was lightly wounded by shrapnel at 0400 hours. Regular outposts and patrols were maintained. No contact with the enemy was made.

September 27. No change in position or intensification of enemy activity. Twenty-one replacements arrived in the company, augmenting the depleted strength of the company. Outposts and patrols were active.

September 28. No change in positions. Periodic enemy artillery and mortar fire upon company's positions.



September 29. Enemy artillery and mortar fire hit company positions without inflicting a single casualty.

September 30. Situation and position the same as of 29 September.

October 1. Still in the same position. Hot showers were provided for the troops.

October 2. Situation remained normal until 2330 hours, when a heavy artillery barrage was launched to stop an enemy counter-attack! Showers for the troops again.

October 3-4. Situation the same. On October 4, four enlisted men were given forty-eight hour passes to Herve, Belgium.

October 5-6. Situation the same until 1700 hours 6 October, when an artillery barrage fell upon the company's positions. No casualties resulted from this shelling.

October 7. Regular outposts and patrols were maintained. Enemy artillery and mortar fire inflicted slight damage, hitting one tank and damaging a jeep. No casualties inflicted.

October 8. Usual night outposts and contact patrols were maintained. Spasmodic enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on Company "B's" positions. No casualties resulted.

October 9. Usual outposts and patrols maintained. Enemy artillery barrage fell near the Third Battalion at 2200 hours. No casualties inflicted. Forty-eight hour passes were issued to Herve, Belgium.

October 10-11. Situation the same as the previous day.

October 12. One patrol was sent into the woods north of the company's positions. One German soldier was killed by the patrol. Fourteen reinforcements joined the company.

October 13. Usual outposts and patrols. Enemy artillery and mortar fire started falling again at 1200 hours. During the night Company "B" was bombed ineffectively with personnel bombs. More men were issued forty-eight hour passes to Herve, Belgium.

October 14. Everything normal until 1900 hours when, again, Company "B" came under a bombing raid. No casualties resulted.

October 15. Company positions did not undergo any bombing. Very spasmodic artillery and mortar fire hit company's positions.

October 16. Company enjoyed a very quiet day. No enemy artillery or mortar fire.

October 17. Day very quiet. Five reinforcements joined the company. Two squads of the Third Battalion were sent to relieve one platoon of Company "G" in the vicinity of Eilendorf. Passes were again issued to men for Herve, Belgium.

October 18. Regular outposts and patrols maintained. Two enlisted men were issued four day passes to Paris, France. Four enlisted men were wounded in action in Company "G" near Eilendorf. A quiet day was had by Company "B."

October 19. Situation very normal. A sporadic amount of enemy artillery and mortar fire fell upon the company's positions. Passes to Paris and Verviers, Belgium, were issued.

October 20. An artillery barrage fell at 1900 hours. No casualties were inflicted by this action. One enlisted man was issued a pass to Paris.

October 21-28. Company "B" enjoyed a relatively peaceful week. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued to fall intermittently upon the company. Patrols and outposts were maintained. Passes continued to Herve, Belgium, and to Paris.

October 29. The First Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, was cited by the War Department for heroic action. Dates for these citations were: 29 April 1943 and 10 July 1943.

October 31. Outposts and patrols maintained. Company "B" expended a large amount of mortar shells during this defensive stalemate period.

November 1. Usual outposts and patrols. A small mortar shell fell through the roof of a house where troops were located. It failed to explode but inflicted wounds on one enlisted man. On October 31, the company was relieved by Company "I" of the Third Battalion at 1800 hours, moving to Brand, Germany, in regimental reserve.

November 2-8. In reserve at Brand, Germany. The company completed a training schedule. Entertainment was furnished by movies and by USO Shows. Typhus shots were given to the men. Rifles were inspected and given a thorough cleaning. Company was paid. Church services were well attended on Sunday.

November 9. The company left Brand, Germany, by truck convoy at 0740 hours and arrived at a new assembly area one mile south of Bressenich at 0915 hours. The remainder of the day was spent in digging defensive positions. The first snow of the year fell making the men extremely cold and their fox-holes very muddy.

November 10. Company "B" moved again from the assembly area to Schevenheutte, Germany, at 0400 hours. Company "B" was placed in the battalion reserve in preparation for a large attack as soon as weather conditions permitted.

November 11-12. The company was billeted in buildings, giving all of the men an opportunity to dry their clothing and clean their equipment. Six enlisted men joined the company as reinforcements.

November 13. Schevenheutte, Germany. Rain and snow fell steadily; six more reinforcements arrived in the company.

November 14-15. More rain and snow. Enemy artillery barrage fell upon the town during the day.

November 16. Company "B" moved into the counter-offensive at 1530 hours in support of Company "A" and "C" as they moved up. Two enlisted men were wounded in an artillery barrage. The third platoon encountered a German patrol and killed most of its members. One enlisted man was killed by small arms fire in this engagement. The first platoon was ordered to attack the town of Hamich, Germany, and was able to reach the first group of buildings when they were met by fierce enemy fire, which forced them to return to the edge of a wooded section to join the company and establish defensive positions for the night.

November 17. A heavy enemy counter-attack was beaten back in the early morning, resulting in the death of one enlisted man and the capture of two enlisted men. Company "B" suffered heavy casualties from concentrated enemy artillery and mortar tree-bursts. The shelling continued heavily throughout the day, preventing the evacuation of the wounded by the litter bearers. A great many of the wounded were carried to safety by the men themselves. Many of the wounded were carried to safety by the men themselves. Many of the wounded were forced to crawl back to the rear. All water, rations, and ammunition had to be carried in under cover of darkness.

November 18. One of the heaviest mortar barrages of the battle fell in the early morning hours, followed by another enemy counter-attack, which was repulsed by rifle grenades, small arms, mortar fire, and artillery fire. Several casualties resulted from this operation.

November 19. At dawn a third counter-attack, supported by tanks, came within two hundred yards of the company's positions. Hamich was captured by other units of the regiment, and the enemy was forced back.



Company "B" left its positions south of Hamich at 1730 hours and moved to an assembly area one mile south of Bressenich. Casualties were extremely heavy during this bitter three day battle for Hamich. Only one officer and thirty enlisted men escaped being casualties in this action.

November 20. In assembly area one mile south of Bressenich, Germany. Here the company received fifty new reinforcements and reorganized and re-equipped itself.

November 21. Still in assembly area, the company received another group of reinforcements--twenty-six enlisted men and two officers, the latter being from the Second Battalion.

November 22. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by a hot turkey dinner and religious services. Fifty more reinforcements joined the company.

November 23. Company "B" left the assembly area one mile south of Bressenich at 1600 hours and moved by foot to Heistern, Germany, arriving at 2130 hours. Distance traveled: five miles. Established defensive positions and set up road blocks.

November 24. Company "B" was still in position at Heistern, guarding continuously all road approaches into the town. Light artillery and mortar fire fell on the town.

November 25. Leaving Heistern, Germany, at 1600 hours, Company "B" moved to the battalion assembly area one-half mile northwest of Hamich. Remained there for the night.

November 26. The company went through a training schedule. Shelters were constructed.

November 27. Company "B" moved out of the assembly area to a new assembly area one mile southwest of Langerwehe, arriving at 1800 hours. Distance traveled: three miles.

November 28. Moving from assembly area one mile southwest of Langerwehe, Company "B" moved to new positions one-half mile west of Langerwehe at 1730 hours. The third platoon was attached to Company "A" for line duty. Distance traveled: one-half mile.

November 29. Company was still in battalion reserve with the third platoon attached to Company "A." No activity reported.

November 30. Still in position as of November 28. Spasmodic enemy artillery and mortar shells fell upon the company.

December 1-2. Company "B" was still in same position as of November 28 and third platoon still with Company "A."

December 3. Company "B" jumped off into the attack at 0630 hours. The objective of the third platoon was the buildings to the left of the main road. The first and second platoons objective was the high ground to the left of the town. Company "B" took its objective without much difficulty, capturing one hundred prisoners with the loss of three enlisted men killed and twenty-seven enlisted men wounded during the attack. Positions were consolidated and strong outposts were maintained during the night. Enemy artillery and mortar fire fell upon the town.

December 4. Enemy patrol tried to penetrate positions during the early morning hours, resulting in the killing of one German and the capture of another. An enemy counter-attack was launched at 1600 hours, which was broken up by small arms fire, mortar, and artillery fire. One officer and one enlisted man were wounded by shrapnel. Company "B" was relieved by the 18th Infantry Regiment at 2200 hours and moved to another assembly area one mile south of Bressenich by motor convoy, covering a distance of ten miles.



December 5. Leaving the assembly area at 1000 hours, Company "B" moved southeast by motor convoy to relieve Company "F" of the 60th Infantry Division at 1400 hours. Established outposts and sent out contact patrols during the night.

December 6. Company "B" had a very quiet day. No enemy activity reported. One enlisted man sent to the States on a thirty day leave.

December 7. Company moved from positions one mile southwest of Lammersdorf at 1400 hours to new positions two miles northeast of Lammersdorf in reserve of the Third Battalion. Distance traveled; five miles. Thirteen enlisted men given showers at Eupen.

December 8-10. Still in same position. Outposts and patrols maintained. Rain and snow fell steadily. Showers provided for the men. Passes issued to Paris and Verviers.

December 11. Company "B" relieved of defensive positions two miles northeast of Lammersdorf, Germany, by the 78th Division and left by truck convoy for Herve, Belgium, at 1500 hours and arrived at 1700 hours. Distance traveled; thirty-two miles. Company assigned to quarters for the night.

December 12-16. Company "B" in rest camp at Herve, Belgium. Inspections of clothing and equipment, movies, and showers. Passes issued to Verviers and Paris. A speech was given by the company commander on December 12. Presentation of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart Awards by the battalion commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Driscoll. Close order drill and manual of arms were emphasized in the training schedule. On December 16 General Huebner presented awards to the men.

December 17. Company "B" was alerted and left Herve at 1720 hours by truck convoy to establish defensive positions one mile north of Ovifat, Belgium, at 2330 hours. Distance traveled; twenty-five miles.

December 18-19. Company "B" remained in the same position in battalion reserve. Patrols and outposts maintained.

December 20. Moving from positions near Ovifat at 0700 hours. The company established new positions near Bruyeres, arriving at 0800 hours. Distance traveled; four miles.

December 21. Moving again from positions at Bruyeres, the company moved one mile north of Walmes at 1700 hours.

December 22. Same position as of December 21. Company spent the day laying trip flares and mines and wire entanglements. Two German soldiers were killed by an outpost.

December 23. Still in same position. More wire obstacles were laid in front of company's positions. Light artillery shelling.

December 24. Same position. Sporadic enemy shelling.

December 25. Christmas Day was celebrated by a turkey dinner, pie, and cake. More anti-tank mines were laid in position.

December 26-28. Company still in same position. Outpost shot two German soldiers, killing one and wounding the other. One enlisted man slightly wounded in action.

December 28-January 1, 1945. Still in same position. Outposts and contact patrols maintained.

January 2. Company "B" was placed in battalion reserve, but was later relieved by Company "A" at 1900 hours. The company then moved three miles to the town of Gueuzaine, Belgium, a distance of three miles. Here the men were billeted in buildings. Contact patrols maintained with Company "C."



January 3. Company "B" still in battalion reserve. Three hot meals served to the men. One mortar squad was sent to Company "C" at 0800 hours to participate in a demonstration.

January 4. Company remained in Gueuzaine. Troops had an opportunity to dry and thaw out their equipment for the first time in two weeks. Showers were had by the men at 0830 hours. Two road blocks maintained and a continuous contact patrol to Company "C" was put in effect.

January 5-9. Company still in battalion reserve. Patrols, road blocks, and outposts maintained. Radio and wire school at battalion headquarters for communication personnel. Church services, passes to Herve. Movies.

January 10. Company "B" received orders to move up and relieve Company "C" at 1900 hours. First platoon established strong outpost one-half mile east of Faymonville.

January 11. Company still in same position. Three hot meals served daily. Radio school attended at battalion headquarters. Passes issued to Herve.

January 12. Company sent three enlisted men to Herve on pass. Radio school continued.

January 13. Enemy mortar shells fell upon company. No casualties. First platoon pinned down by small arms fire while out on patrol. Two enlisted men wounded and evacuated.

January 14. Company still in defensive positions. Final preparations made for the attack on Faymonville.

January 15. Company "B" moved into the attack in the early morning. It was hit by small arms fire after reaching the first few buildings. Eight enlisted men were killed and two more were wounded. Two enlisted men were injured in action. At 1600 hours another attack was launched, but again it was forced to hold up for the night and establish defensive positions, still short of its objective. Large numbers of prisoners were taken in this action.

January 16. Again the company moved out into the attack at 0700 hours against light opposition and took the remainder of the town by 0900 hours. Defensive positions were established for the day. No casualties in this engagement. Four men had to be evacuated for trench foot.

January 17. Company "B" remained in defensive positions on the outskirts of Faymonville during the day. Enemy artillery fire seriously wounded one enlisted man and lightly wounded three others.

January 18. Company jumped off into the attack at 0700 hours, advancing approximately one thousand yards before enemy small arms fire and accurate sniper fire held up the company's advance. Four enlisted men were killed, one was missing in action, and sixteen enlisted men were wounded in action. With the aid of tanks, Company "B" was able to move seven hundred yards forward, gaining their objective without a single casualty. Defensive measures were taken.

January 19. At 0300 hours, a cook and driver with a supply of "C" rations set out to find the company, but they became lost behind enemy lines and the driver was killed by small arms fire and the cook was missing. Company "B" moved into the attack again at 0700 hours to clear a section of woods. Five German soldiers were killed and twelve more were captured. One enlisted man was lightly wounded in action. Hot meal was served to men.



January 20. Company "B" remained in position one-half mile north of Eibertingen. Enemy artillery fell upon company's positions.

January 21-25. Still in defensive positions. Outposts and patrols continued. Sporadic enemy artillery fire on positions. Pyramidal tent was set up in the woods, in order that the men might dry their clothes and thaw out their frozen feet.

January 26. Company "B" moved into Amel, Belgium, at 1400 hours and the platoons were billeted in buildings and communications were installed. Hot meal was served for supper.

January 27-February 5. Company remained in Amel, resting, training, and reorganizing. Schools in radio and demolitions were established. Troops fired the bazooks and anti-tank grenades. Special problems devised for platoons and squads. Showers for the men in Spa, Belgium. Passes issued to Herve and Eupen. Red Cross Clubmobile served hot coffee and doughnuts to the men. Movies for the company.

February 6. Company "B" was alerted for move in the early morning and left Amel at 0800 hours by truck convoy to a forward assembly area. Distance traveled; forty-seven miles. At the assembly area troops were unloaded and walked approximately four miles to Bergstein, Germany, into defensive positions.

February 7. Still in position at Bergstein.

February 8. Company in same defensive positions. Outposts and patrols in effect. Heavy mortar and rocket fire fell on company's positions, wounding two enlisted men. One enlisted man killed by artillery fire.

February 9. Company "B" was relieved by the 14th Cavalary Battalion and moved by truck to establish on the Roer River a defensive position one-fourth of a mile northwest of Kufferath, Germany. Here the company relieved a cavalry battalion about 0600 hours. Distance traveled; nine miles. Enemy activity observed across the river.

February 10. Company had brisk skirmish fight with German positions just across the river. Scattered enemy artillery and mortar fire fell upon company's positions during the day. No casualties. Food was brought in by weasel.

February 11-17. Company still in position on Roer River. Artillery fire registered on company's positions during the day. Two enlisted men were wounded by booby traps and one was evacuated. Passes were issued to Herve, Belgium. One enlisted man sent on a seven day furlough to the United Kingdom.

February 18. During the early morning hours, two boats, each with six enlisted men, tried to cross the river to test the enemy's strength. One capsized in mid-stream, while the other made the crossing successfully. Two enlisted men missing from the boat which capsized and one enlisted man wounded and evacuated.

February 19. Company still in position along banks of Roer River. Passes issued to Herve, Dijon, and Huy, Belgium. Enemy artillery active across the river.

February 20. Regular outposts and contact patrols to the Eighth Division. One boat made successful crossing of Roer River. Passes issued for enlisted men to Paris and Herve.

February 21-22. Routine duties carried out by the company.

February 23. Company still in same position. One enlisted man wounded by artillery fire. Another enlisted man was killed by mortar fire while carrying food rations.

February 24. Company positions were bombed and strafed. No casualties inflicted. Passes issued to Herve.

February 25. Company "B" was alerted for the crossing of the Roer River. At 1500 hours the company moved across a foot-bridge constructed by the engineers. Continuing to advance, the company moved one-half mile south of Kreuzau to a high hill. During this action, enemy artillery killed two enlisted men and wounded one other enlisted man. One officer was killed and eight enlisted men were wounded by enemy mines. Twelve prisoners were captured.

February 26. Company remained in defensive position until 1300 hours and then moved to an assembly area at Drove, a distance of two miles. At Drove the company was notified to stand prepared for another move.

February 27. Moving from Drove at 0030 hours, the company arrived at Stoller at 0200 hours, where Company "B" jumped off into the attack on Frangenheim. The town was captured and the company consolidated its positions. The crew of one tank was captured and the tank set on fire. One enlisted man was killed in this action and two were slightly wounded. At 0900 hours, the enemy launched a counter-attack which was repulsed by small arms fire and a platoon of tank destroyers. One German tank was knocked out and twenty prisoners were taken. In the afternoon, Company "B" moved into another attack to cut a vital road junction leading to Vittweiss. One enlisted man was killed and two enlisted men were lightly wounded.

February 28. Company "B" remained in position in the woods with the road blocked. Enemy artillery fire fell upon the company's positions. Hot meals were brought in by jeep and served to the men.

March 1. Company remained in position as of February 27. Light artillery fire fell upon the positions of the company.

March 2. Company "B" moved into Vittweiss at 0800 hours and the men were billeted in buildings. Equipment was checked and showers were provided for the men.

March 4. Still in Vittweiss. Ordnance and ammunition check was made. Shortages were brought to date. An alert was given in the afternoon.

March 4. Leaving Vittweiss by truck convoy at 0030 hours, Company "B" moved out and detrucked at Freisheim, Germany, and proceeded by foot to Weilerwist, Germany, to relieve Company "A" of the Seventy-Eighth Division. At 1800 hours, one platoon was detailed to clear a section of houses across a railroad track. Seven prisoners were taken during the day. Outposts and patrols were established and maintained.

March 5. Company "B" moved into the attack at 0430 hours minus one platoon and attached machine gun platoon from Company "D." After crossing the Erft Canal, the company engaged in a fire fight; one enlisted man was wounded. The company reached its objective at dawn and established defensive positions. Enemy tank fire and artillery guns resulting in the death of one enlisted man, registered towards the company's positions. Ten enlisted men were wounded.

March 6. Attacking again at 0030 hours, Company "B" moved through Hemmerich and Wardorf, meeting with no opposition. Here Company "B" shot up two enemy motorcycles and two volkwagons, taking fifteen prisoners and killing several more. Remained in position for the rest of the day and night.

March 7. Company "B" moved out of Waldorf at 0415 hours and proceeded to Tripplesdorf to relieve the Third Battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment. Later, orders were received to move once again at 1300 hours by foot back to Waldorf. The company then moved by truck to Alftair at 2045 hours, detrucking about five hundred yards northwest of Alftair. Distance traveled: four miles.

March 8. Moving out of Alftair into the attack at 0530 hours, Company "B" was placed in the battalion reserve. Company "B" transported large numbers of prisoners to the rear. At 1600 hours, the company was placed on line five hundred yards west of the Rhine River.

March 9. Company "B" moved to the edge of the Rhine and was ordered to clear a section of Bonn. Fifty prisoners were captured during this action. One enlisted man wounded from small arms fire and four enlisted men lightly wounded from enemy artillery shelling. One enlisted man received a pass to Brussels.

March 10. Company "B" was relieved of positions at Bonn, Germany, by the 18th Infantry Regiment at 1300 hours and moved by truck convoy to Alftair, Germany to remain billeted for the remainder of the week. Equipment was checked and cleaned.

March 11. Company "B" enjoyed Sunday as a day of rest. Church services were held, and the remainder of the day was spent in formulating a training schedule. Forty-two enlisted colored men and one enlisted white man were assigned to Company "B" as an additional rifle platoon.

March 12. Company "B" instituted a training schedule. History of the 16th Regiment was read to the company. In the afternoon the men were paid for the month of February and a movie was shown at 2000 hours.

March 13. Training schedule continued. Classes were given in the use and function of the automatic rifle and in map reading. Money orders were taken in the afternoon. Regimental band concert was given in the evening.

March 14. Morning drill started out with inspection in ranks. Close order drill, preliminary weapons instruction, shell reports, organized group games, and map reading. One enlisted man issued a seven day furlough to the United Kingdom.

March 15. Usual morning inspection and weapons instructions. Organized athletics, saluting, regulations governing civilians, practical work in laying of communication lines, map reading, and bazooka instructions filled the day. Showers for the men.

March 16. Usual training schedule. Presentation of Silver Star by General Taylor and Purple Hearts by Lieutenant-Colonel Driscoll.

March 17. Moving out at 0930 hours, Company "B" left Alftair by truck convoy, riding to the Rhine River, where the company was ferried across on assault boats. After crossing the river, the men walked with their individual equipment to Honeff. Here the company spent the night in buildings and was placed in the Division Reserve.

March 18. Company "B" remained in Honeff until 1530 hours, at which time it moved out on foot to Elsteroth, Germany, at 1900 hours, digging defensive positions for the night.

March 19. Company "B" remained in defensive positions all day. At 0115 hours the fifth platoon sent out a contact patrol to Boseroth reporting upon return no enemy activity.

March 20. The company pushed off into the attack against Boseroth, where the men captured eighty-five prisoners, one half-track, and two light tanks.



Company then attacked Oberpleis, capturing forty-five more prisoners. Casualties: three enlisted were killed and fifteen enlisted men were wounded in action by enemy tank fire.

March 21. Company "B" attacked again at 0330 hours, advancing six hundred yards before enemy small arms fire held them down. Enemy resistance was broken, resulting in the capture of fifteen prisoners. The company then moved into the attack at 1000 hours and reached Pleiserhorn, Germany, where Company "B" was again pinned down with small arms fire until 1630 hours, at which time they moved forward into the attack on Westerhausen, Germany. The first platoon took the wrong route and succeeded in taking Company "A's" objective. Fifty prisoners were taken. Five enlisted men were wounded.

March 22. Remaining at Westerhausen, Germany, until the afternoon, the enemy counter-attacked the company's positions, but the attack was successfully repulsed. At 1500 hours Company "B" attacked Hafen, capturing twenty-seven soldiers and one officer. Pvt. Simon J. Robinson of the fifth platoon wounded while cleaning out a machine gun nest, captured nineteen prisoners and killed seven others.

March 23. Company "B" remained in defensive positions at Hafen. Rockets and artillery fire registered upon the company's positions. Lt. Stricklin assumed command of Company "B."

March 24. Jumping off into the attack from Hafen, Company "B" crossed a small stream and reached its objective at 0600 hours, capturing sixty-five prisoners. Three enlisted men were killed and twelve enlisted men wounded in this attack. Company headquarters and the weapons platoon became separated from the company and encountered several German tanks supported by infantry. This group was then split into two and one section ended the early morning's fighting with twenty prisoners.

March 25. Attacking once again at 0400 hours, the company fought toward its objective--a high hill one-fourth of a mile southeast of Adscheid. The company gained its objective at 0600 hours. Two enlisted men were killed and one officer and four enlisted men were wounded in this action. Heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was directed on the company's positions.

March 26. Patrols were sent to Adscheid at 0001 hours. No enemy encountered in the town. The company moved into the town at 0200 hours, capturing thirty-four prisoners in the attack without firing a single shot. One enlisted man killed by direct artillery fire.

March 27. The company left Adscheid at 0500 hours, moving by foot one thousand yards south to an assembly area, where a hot meal was served. Loading onto trucks, the company moved to the vicinity of Hasselbach, where Company "B" moved into the attack. No enemy action was encountered until the company reached Olsen, after passing through Weryerbusch, Marerbach, and Ringach. At Olsen, there was very little opposition, and the town was captured at 1400 hours. Three prisoners were taken.

March 28. Leaving its positions at Olsen at 1330 hours, the company moved by foot one thousand yards and mounted tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks and were transported to Seelbach, Germany. Dismounting here, the company moved into the attack on foot through Hohensayn, Thal, Weiclacker, Paffrath, Hottingen, and to Wissen, Germany. No enemy encountered and no casualties. The remainder of the night was spent in Wissen, Germany.



Company "B" was relieved of its positions at 0900 hours at Wissen by the 24th Cavalry Battalion and returned to Thal, Germany, where it established defensive positions for the night.

March 30. Moving by truck convoy from Thal, Germany, at 0400 hours, the company arrived at Holghausen, Germany, at 0800 hours and established defensive positions for the day and night. Distance traveled; twenty-five miles.

March 31. Company "B" left its positions at 0900 hours by motor convoy and went through fifteen towns during the day, finally arriving at Buren, Germany at 1830 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and ten miles.

April 1. Easter Holiday. Company enjoyed three hot meals and a very quiet day. No sign or report of the enemy.

April 2. Company moved from Buren at 1400 hours, meeting no resistance in the move and capturing ten prisoners. Located itself in defensive positions near a Nazi airfield.

April 3. Company "B" remained in defensive position near the airfield. Woods to the company's front were cleared.

April 4. Outposts and patrols while in position near an airfield.

April 5. Moving from defensive positions near Eringerfeld, at 1400 hours, the company moved to Steinhausen, Germany. All men billeted in buildings. Hot meal was served at 1700 hours.

April 6. Leaving Steinhausen, at 0745 hours by tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks, Company "B" arrived at Brakel, Germany at 1330 hours. Men were billeted in buildings. Distance traveled; forty-three miles.

April 7. The company moved again from Brakel, Germany, at 2000 hours by truck convoy to Wehrden, arriving at 2130 hours. Positions established. Distance traveled; eight miles.

April 8. Jumping off into the attack across the Weser River at 1500 hours on assault boats, the company captured Furstenburg, and without a single casualty. Went into position cutting roads leading into the town.

April 9. The company left Furstenburg at 0620 hours in the attack on Tottmunde, taking objective and twenty-six prisoners.

April 10. Company "B" remained in defensive positions.

April 11. Leaving Tottmunde, Germany, at 0800 hours by truck convoy, the company arrived at the assembly area and at 1200 hours the men loaded on half-tracks and trucks and moved to Denkerhausen, Germany. Distance traveled; forty miles.

April 12. Leaving Denkerhausen by truck convoy at 1225 hours, the company arrived at Herzberg, where the men detrucked and went into the attack at 1600 hours, advancing three thousand yards. One officer was lightly wounded in action. Eight prisoners were taken. Distance traveled; twenty-three miles.

April 13. Company "B" left area one and one-half miles northeast of Herzberg at 1700 hours and attacked in a northeastern direction, advancing three thousand yards. One enlisted man was killed and four enlisted men were wounded in this attack.

April 14. Leaving Seiber at 0800 hours, the company attacked again, moving four miles to Silberhutte. Three enlisted men were seriously wounded and three more were lightly wounded.

April 15. The company left Silberhutte and advanced one thousand yards to establish positions in St. Andreasberg, Germany.

April 16. Company "B" remained in defensive positions. Men cleaned weapons. All arms and ammunition were checked.

April 17. At 0700 hours, the company moved out on trucks and later detrucked at Benneckstein, where defensive positions were established. Three hot meals were served here.

April 18. Company "B" left its positions and attacked at 0700 hours. Objective was to clear main highway and woods from Benneckstein to Rubeland. Lt. Stricklin, Company Commander, was killed in one of the fire fights. Defensive positions were set up. Eight hundred prisoners were taken during the day's fighting. Casualties; one officer and one enlisted man killed; one enlisted man lightly wounded in action.

April 19. At 0700 hours, Company "B" was given the objective of clearing the high ground and wooded area surrounding the town of Rubeland. Four and hundred twenty-nine prisoners were taken; seven two and one-half ton trucks were captured, two officers cars, one motorcycle and large stores of tires, tubes, gas, and oil. At 1000 hours the company was ordered to take the town of Huttenrode. Overcoming enemy opposition, the company took sixty-four more prisoners. Casualties; three enlisted men lightly wounded, one enlisted man seriously wounded, and one enlisted man killed in action. Defensive measures taken.

April 20. The troops swept the woods northeast of Huttenrode and returned with ninety-five prisoners. Three vehicles were captured and five vehicles were destroyed. No casualties.

April 21. Still in same positions. Twenty-nine prisoners captured. Hot meals served to the men. Cleaned and inspected arms and ammunition. Clothing washed and issued.

April 22. Company "B" was billeted in Huttenrode. Seventy-five men sent to movies. Both Protestant and Catholic services were well attended. Fifth platoon took three prisoners during the day. Hot meals for the men.

April 23. Still in same positions. Two more prisoners taken. Men were issued new socks. Movies were attended by the company. Preparations made for moving.

April 24. Company "B" left Huttenrode at 1915 hours and arrived at Bornstedt, Germany, at 2305 hours. Distance traveled; sixty miles. Men cleaned and checked equipment. Presidential Citations presented to the new men.

April 25. Company cleaned all weapons and vehicles. Clothing checked and washed. USO Show for men in the evening.

April 26. Company had a full field inspection to check on shortages. Close order drill, manual of arms, saluting, hike, movies, and athletics filled the day.

April 27. Leaving Bornstedt at 1345 hours, the company arrived at Asch, Czechoslovakia, at 2230 hours. Distance traveled; one hundred and forty miles.

April 28. Leaving Asch at 1000 hours by foot, the company arrived at Rommersreuth at 1430 hours. Contact patrols active. One prisoner taken. Hot meal served for supper.

April 29. Patrols sent out to contact friendly troops on each flank. Men attended Catholic and Protestant services. Leaving at 1715 hours, Company "B" arrived at Salerberg at 1815 hours.

April 30. Patrols active in front and flanks of company. Five prisoners taken by second platoon. A large store of ammunition and mines were found and destroyed.

May 1. Still in defensive position. Patrols active. Fifteen prisoners taken by fifth platoon. Movies for the company. Hot meals served in company area.

May 2. Still in defensive position. Care and cleaning of equipment. More enemy munitions destroyed in the afternoon. Patrol work carried on; no enemy activity reported.

May 3. Patrols sent out every three hours. Two prisoners taken by fifth platoon. USO Show and movies for the company.

May 4. Four prisoners taken by the second platoon. Patrols contacted flank elements. Platoons had a demonstration in use of new German hand grenades.

May 5. Still in defensive position. Patrols active without meeting enemy activity. Alerted for moving.

May 6. Company "B" moved into the attack at 0600 hours. Attack carried the company through Vildstein without meeting any opposition. Two thousand yards east of Vildstein, however, the company engaged the enemy in a fire fight. Still advancing forward, the company took Bor after a brief fire fight and also Horka, Czechoslovakia. One officer and three enlisted men were killed and seventeen men were wounded. The company arrived at Horka at 2000 hours and set a defensive line. Distance traveled; nine miles. Thirty prisoners were taken during the day's fighting.

May 7. Company "B" jumped off into the attack at 0630 hours, arriving at Hradek, Czechoslovakia, at 0845 hours. Orders came at 0930 hours to stop all forward movements. At 1230 hours the announcement was made that the war was over. Company "B" set up all around defense of the town and sent out contact patrols every two hours.

May 8, 1945. Men ate three hot meals and were paid. Company "B" jumped off from Hradek, Czechoslovakia, at 1830 hours, arriving at Josefendorf, Czechoslovakia, at 2030 hours. Distance traveled; three miles. Four prisoners of war were taken in this move. Morning and afternoon spent in cleaning clothes and checking equipment and weapons.

V-E DAY IN EUROPE!



The following men were killed in action in the
Battle of Germany:

Stricklin, Lawrence W. 1st Lt. O-1318941 Rubeland, Germany 18 Apr '45
Barker, Elton 2nd Lt. O-1330895 Horka, Czechoslovakia 6 May 1945
Lauder, Clifford R. 2nd Lt. O-1322238 Hamich, Germany 17 November '44
Wheeler, Howard F. 2nd Lt. O-Lo56011 Kreuzau, Germany 25 February '44
Goddard, Mahlan C. T/Sgt. 39164422 Kreuzau, Germany 25 February 1945
Kitts, Frank F. Jr. T/Sgt. 13023730 Hamich, Germany 17 November 1944
Graves, Jeremy H. S/Sgt. 12067534 Hamich, Germany 16 November 1944
Reibs, John H. S/Sgt. 33411401 Faymonville, Belgium 15 January 1945
Robinson, William L. S/Sgt. 36003451 Stolberg, Germany 18 Sept. 1944
Anderson, Harry A. Sgt. 36722275 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. 1945
Haskins, George Sgt. 33630596 Horka, Czechoslovakia 6 May 1945
Johns, Richard W. Sgt. 7021679 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. 1945
Sorbe, Luverne W. Sgt. 37300435 Adscheid, Germany 24 March 1945
Gregory, John W. Tech Cpl. 35254499 Eringerfeld, Germany 31 March '45
Svojger, Joseph Jr. Tech Cpl. 38036090 Faymonville 19 January 1945
Allen, Shirley J. Pfc. 34524663 Stolberg, Germany 18 Sept. 1944
Baker, George E. Pfc. 34549145 Adscheid, Germany 25 March 1945
Baker, Joe D. Pfc. 34366798 Stolberg, Germany 20 September 1944
Blackwell, Vincent J. Pfc. 15344120 Hamich, Germany 17 Nov. 1944
Bland, Edward Pfc. 36385074 Oberpleis, Germany 20 March 1945
Bloomfield, Dale E. Pfc. 39213536 Faymonville, Belgium 18 Jan. 1945
Bullock, Robert L. Pfc. 33903103 Horka, Czechoslovakia 6 May 1945
Carter, Johnie F. Pfc. 38668892 Adscheid, Germany 24 March 1945
Cawley, Edward E. Pfc. 33456622 Adscheid, Germany 24 March 1945
Chesnut, Robert A. Pfc. 37212533 Oberpleis, Germany 20 March 1945
Clark, John J. Jr. Pfc. 33629633 Huttenrode, Germany 19 April 1945
Cook, James D. Pfc. 35670646 Stolberg, Germany 19 September 1944
Desch, Calvin D. Pfc. 33137383 Faymonville, Belgium 19 Jan. 1945
Fleming, Arville S. Pfc. 33526852 Hamich, Germany 17 Nov. 1944
Goines, James W. Pfc. 38496358 Adscheid, Germany 25 March 1945
Grochowski, John Pfc. 42030236 Silberhutte, Germany 15 April 1945
Guerra, Guillermo Pfc. 38248997 Horka, Czechoslovakia 6 May 1945
Hackert, Donald J. Pfc. 36694730 Hamich, Germany 17 November 1944
Hicks, James B. Pfc. 33432221 Seiber, Germany 13 April 1945
King, Delmer Pfc. 34735106 Faymonville, Belgium 18 January 1945
Legg, Joseph F. Pfc. 33830571 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. 1945
McFarland, Martin J. Pfc. 42115572 Bergstein, Germany 8 Feb. 1945
Meyers, Arthur J. Pfc. 33930852 Froitzheim, Germany 27 Feb. 1945
Nielsen, Paul E. Pfc. 39316108 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. 1945
Olstad, John F. Pfc. 12221190 Hemmerich, Germany 5 March 1945
Robertson, David G. Pfc. 33380440 Stolberg, Germany 18 Sept. 1944
Shayatovich, George J. Pfc. 36751947 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. '45
Shortt, Ward M. Pfc. 33216779 Stolberg, Germany 18 September 1944
Siomion, Edward J. Pfc. 32535338 Bressenich, Germany 17 Nov. 1944
Simmons, Clarence E. Pfc. 33216744 Stolberg, Germany 22 Sept. 1944
Thomas, Joe Pfc. 34270452 Huttenrode, Germany 19 April 1945
Tong, Robert F. Pfc. 38517992 Hamich, Germany 20 November 1944
Yankura, George T. Pfc. 33667176 Faymonville, Belgium 15 Jan. 1945
Yeager, Gustave F. Jr. Pfc. 33399176 Stolberg, Germany 18 Sept. '44
Bauman, LeRoy Pvt. 33500588 Luchem, Germany 4 December 1944
Broussard, Clarence Pvt. 38490127 Faymonville, Belgium 18 Jan. 1945
Carlisle, Burnis Pvt. 38666063 Faymonville, Belgium 18 Jan. 1945
Chaffee, Oliver H. Pvt. 35338640 Stolberg, Germany 18 Sept. 1944
Dunlap, Charlie W. Pvt. 34679631 Oberpleis, Germany 24 March 1945
Eaton, William J. Pvt. 42096400 Kreuzau, Germany 25 February 1945