

Every Regiment has a history and the history of the 16th Infantry Regiment dating back to 1798, is made up of many years of faithful and valorous service. Before any Regiment can claim immortality however, credit must first be given to its smaller units. As one of these units, Company C in the following pages presents its contributions to the well earned glory of the 16th Infantry Regiment.

The first day of August 1942, found Company C starting out from Indiantown Gap Military Reservation at 0800 and arriving at Pier No 90, New York City. The men loaded aboard the HMS Queen Mary at 1740, knowing nothing of what the future held in store for them as they pondered that cold army phrase, "destination unknown". The trip itself was rather uneventful, with much of the time being spent in practice air raid alerts and abandon ship drills. After six days on the high seas, the HMS Queen Mary dropped anchor in the port of Gourock, Scotland. The following morning the personnel of C Company were transferred to the shore via a small lighter. Soon after arriving in Gourock, they boarded a train passing through Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle and finally arrived at their destination, Tidworth Barracks, where they were immediately set up in red brick barracks. At its new station C Company settled down to the usual routine of army life, drilling, training, inspection, guard duty etc. Passes for the men were soon available and thus most of the men were given their first opportunity of seeing England. During the remainder of August and most of September the company carried on with its usual details and duties.

On the evening of September 23 however, the company was suddenly alerted and left Tidworth Barracks by train, destination unknown. The following morning, the men arrived at Helensburg. They stayed here for several weeks; most of the time being spent in practice boat landings, demonstration on naval craft, and toughening up exercises. These practice boat landings were frequently made by night as well as by day. During all this time, arrangements were being secretly made for another major embarkation.

This came on October 26, when C Company boarded the HMS Duchess of Bedford, and set sail from England. At sea, the troops were briefed in domestic disturbances and the mission of the combat team. Finally on the eight of November, Co C was to be put to the supreme test along with the other units of the regiment.

The men left the HMS Duchess of Bedford on English assault boats, and at 0100, established a beachhead on the shore of Algeria, North Africa near the town of St. Leu. The towns of St. Leu, Caseme, Port O'Poule and La Macta were soon captured. Heavy resistance was met at La Macta, offered by the French and Arabian troops and civilian guerillas. It was here that Co C had its first man killed in action, PFC Cato. On the following day Co C aided in the capture of the city of Oran. No resistance was met here, and the city was in American hands by 1500. On November 10, the company marched to Fleures where they bivouaced on the outskirts of the town. They remained there for three days and then departed via truck to the airport at Tafarouri, outside the city of Oran. Here the company bivouaced for several weeks. During this period their main duty was providing the guard for the protection of the airport. However



much time was also devoted to tactical training whose order drill military demonstrations and inspections. On the 16 of December, the company again moved to the outskirts of Fleures. While at this location, a similar training program was carried out with somewhat less emphasis on guard duty. During the next few days the mens mind started to remember that it was close to the Christmas holidays. Now they were to find out the feeling of being away from home and a white Xmas. With the timely arrival of the mail and a good Xmas dinner most of the home sickness was forgotten and the men set about to resume their duties.

The new year found us still in Fleures, the company alerted but following a daily training schedule consisting of care and cleaning of equipment, squad and platoon problems, combat firing, calisthenics etc. The days were closed with retreat formations after which the men went to the local towns or spent their time resting in their bunks. Several times when Bn. held a review, Co C was used as the color company. When the opportunity presented itself we managed to have a few shows and on one occassion presented a French Vaudeville show.

On the sixteenth of January, we prepared for probably our longest movement, 761 miles, from Fleures through Affreville, Ousseltia valley, Tunisia where we took up a defensive position on the 26 of January. The following day we were ordered to attack. These attacks continued daily until we had cleared Ousseltia Valley and had taken up a defensive position on 25 Febuary in the southeast portion of Kasserine Pass. Casualties were heavy both in the attacks and on the numerous day and night patrols run from our defensive position.

On the fourth of March we were releived by Co C 47th Inf. 9th Div., and moved by motor convoy eighty miles to a location northeast of Tebessa, Algeria, where we trained for night problems, including platoon, company and batallion teamwork. On March thirteenth, we moved again by motor convoy through Bou Chebka Tunisia, toward Gafsa. On the seventeenth of March, we attacked Gafsa and since there was no enemy resistance moved right into town and occupied a brick hospital, which gave us the opportunity to dry our clothing and equipment which was thoroughly drenched from days of incessant raining.

On the 18th the company moved by foot outside of Gafsa and started a series of short moves from one defensive position to another. Enemy air activity was unusually active and artillery very heavy causing many casualties both killed and wounded. By the first of April we were west of El Guettar occupying high ground, but continually harrassed by mortar and machinegun fire. On the tenth of April we moved back to Gafsa to a bivouac area where we stayed until the fourteenth. Showers, care and cleaning of equipment and movies occupied our time. On the 14 we moved 150 miles to a new bivouac area at Marsott, Tunisia only to move another 128 miles to Le Tarf, then another ninety-three miles into positions east of Beija, arriving on the 20th while the area was under heavy artillery fire, resulting in casualties. We remained there until the 31st when we attacked hill 523. The battle was feirce and enemy losses heavy, especially after trying three times to retake the top of the hill which was by then securely held by A B & C companies. This action enabled the II Corp to advance and take their objectives. II Corp gave us full credit for their success, but in our gain we lost two officers and fifty nine enlisted men. The Presidential Citation was awarded the 1st Bn. as a result of this action.



We remained in position until the fifth, when we moved back to Beja to a new bivouac area. While here on the ninth of May, the Germans surrendered in North Africa. The old cry which was beginning to be heard around quite regular, "Prepare to move out in an hours notice", found us on the 13th of May as we moved via Guelma to El Guettar. General Roosevelt, standing beneath the few palm and fig trees, told us to prepare to remain a month or more, but true to our past experience after plenty of work getting set up, the order came down the next day for another move; this time to Legrand where we participated in organized athletics, inspections, care and cleaning of equipment. On the 25th, we moved to St. Leu and the next day to the Arzew docks where we boarded the USS Chase and immediately started landing operations. Between the USS Chase and the St Leu area the company continued a training schedule, consisting of street fighting, attacking pill boxes, firing at tow targets, assault landings on beaches, night problems and athletics.

On June 13th, the company disembarked from training aboard ship and moved to the new bivouac area in Staoueli Algeria. Here the company continued the training schedule this time receiving more action in swimming and boat landings. The schedule was carried out until July fourth. We left the bivouac area on July 5 and travelled to Algiers by motor convoy where we boarded the USS Stanton and remained on board until the assault landings were made six miles east of Gela Sicily on July tenth. We established a beach head four miles deep and took up defensive positions.

The following morning July 11, the company came under very heavy mortar and artillery fire. The enemy made a strong counter-attack causing the company to withdraw to our secondary defensive position 400 yds to the rear. Again in the afternoon a heavy concentration of artillery fire. The enemy made several more attempts to drive us further back, but that night we pushed forward again to our original line of defence and held from there. More artillery and mortar fire was brought to bear on our positions.

After getting briefed by the Company Commander, the platoon leaders called the squad leaders together and told them that they were to attack Niscemi as our first objective. On July 13 the company moved out and captured Niscemi, and by mid-afternoon had complete control of it. They had captured a few Italian prisoners. By night fall our defensive positions were dug and we settled down for the next two days.

Early on July 16, we left these positions by motor convoy toward Mazzarino. Detrucking took place before reaching the town and we marched through town to defensive positions north of town. This position was short lived as the morning of the 17th found us again on trucks heading for a point four kilometers from Pietroperzia. We made an attack toward the high ground directly north, finally reaching our objective early the following morning. We dug in our defensive positions, but later in the day we moved forward and again dug in. Other elements of the 16th had cleared Enna, so on July 20 we moved to defensive positions west of the town and remained there until July 23. A hike of fifteen miles that day brought the company on its objective north of Villapriolo and we remained there another day.

Motor convoy moved the company thirty-two miles west of Gangi on July 25, to a new bivouac area. The next day another trek of two miles east of Gangi, to the assembly area found us a new resting spot for the next two days. During this time our next objective was studied for possible strong points or any modification in their



defensive set up. The lack of strong mortar fire from the enemy forewarned us that resistance should be light or negligible. When the 28th rolled around the company moved out in the attack on Nicosia by way of Spelizza. No enemy was encountered and we set up defensive positions around the town.

As the sun came up on the second of August, the company pushed forward and seized the high ground to our front. Late the evening of the following day we marched ten miles to new positions, at which we prepared for an attack and just stood by awaiting orders. For the time we were held as the reserve company and did not leave our positions. On August 8th, the time had come for our much needed rest so no one groaned when the order to prepare to move out came through. Back to an area east of Troina, where a light training schedule was carried out. This lasted for a few days till the fifteenth, when we moved to another training area near Randazzo. Another month of training was spent near Licata, which was around 160 miles away. Most of the back mail that was floating around caught up with us here. At least for a while, we didn't have to worry about any mortar or artillery fire. Several new replacements came into the company and were given some good combat tips from the old timers that were still with us. From September fifteenth to twenty-second the company was on special guard duty in the vicinity of Campobello. After its tour of duty the company returned to Licata and resumed training.

The company left the bivouac area October 21, and travelled 130 miles by truck to Port of Augusto. The troops rested in the staging area until late afternoon and then proceeded to docks. They boarded the HMS Maloja after being transported from the dock by LCI. We remained in harbor until October 23, when we sailed in warm clear weather, destination unknown. Even though most of the men had been through most of the fighting and had withstood a lot of shelling, they still couldn't stand the sight of the blue waves and an occasional head was to be seen hanging over the rails. Many a good meal hit the bottom of the ocean that trip. When the sight of land was hailed many guesses were heard as to what was in store. Nearly all of them proved untrue as on the 27th of October after all distinctive insignias were removed, we set sail again westward. Homeward bound, thought a few of the old timers but rumors soon got around killing their hopes.

At 1100 hours, on November 5, the HMS Maloja arrived at Liverpool, England. The troops made preparations to disembark. Early the next morning they disembarked and marched to the trains at Liverpool station. They were carried to Axminster station where trucks awaited to carry them to Lyme Regis, Dorset. The total trip was 3814 miles by sea and 300 miles by land from Port of Augusta Sicily to Lyme Regis. The first few days were spent in getting acquainted with the locality, care and cleaning of equipment and attending church services. Down from Bn. came the old standby of a training schedule, tho quite different from the ones we had been getting over in Africa. We saw from photographs the big difference in the new terrain that we were going to fight on, new methods of combating the enemy on his home ground. All these things we were thinking over in our minds as the end of November rolled around, and the time for the big turkey dinner was near. We had one swell meal that thanksgiving and hoped it would be the last one, that next thanksgiving we would all be home for our meal. The training schedule lasted throughout the entire month of December with let ups for weekend rests. Many packages and a lot of mail was received by the men during the Xmas holidays. Many of the men became acquaint-



ted with the English lass and lassies. Some built up fond remembrances, others were just fancy thoughts. Well what would the New Year bring for Company C, was the main thought as the old year passed on and a new one came into being.

The company started training for events sure to come. Ranks were filled with replacements. Veterans learned more and replacements were trained to act as veterans. This was to be no vacation trip that we were planning for. It was going to be a hard job ahead we could plainly see. Everybody put their heart and sole into the training. The company formed into a combat team that was going to be one of the hardest to hit an enemy position. Our training continued throughout the month of January. Everybody was well pleased with the results of exhaustive tests, which weeded out the weaker ~~links~~ links in the strong chain of coordinated personnel which we were forming. The final thrust would show that all was not in vain. Company C could be relied upon to take and hold whatever sector that they were given. When the Bn. problems were held Company C showed itself as a strong and formidable team. Let us at them was the cry heard among the men on their training problems. They were a hard bunch of fighting men to hold back those months of training in England. Training continued till February 7, whence the pack up and move order came down.

The company left by truck from Lyme Regis on February 8, and arrived at Braunton Camp Devon a distance of eighty miles. Here training became more intensified and specialized with Amphibious and assault training. The troops witnessed firing of every infantry weapon. Assault boats were new to many men, but after vigorous training in loading and unloading and landings they became very efficient. Action was put into the assaults on fortified positions by the use of ball ammunition. All was not work but passes and furloughs were given to the men. Preparation for moving were made on February 25. The following day the company left its positions and returned by motor convoy to Lyme Regis. Training continued with more emphasis on teamwork.

New events came when the company again left Lyme Regis on March 8 for Weymouth, where they boarded the USS Samuel Chase. The following two days were used in cleaning quarters and practice landings. The company loaded in assault boats on March 11 in Start Bay, seven miles at sea and made an assault landing on Slapton sands. A beachhead of seven miles was established before a defensive position was set for the remainder of the day. After the end of the problem the following day, the troops marched to Dartmouth, ferried to Kingswear where they boarded a troop train and traveled to Axminster, and arrived by motor convoy at Lyme Regis on March 13.

Training was again resumed completely covering all previous ideas and newer knowledge of beach landings and obstacles. April first the company was alerted for departure. Preparations for movement ceased the training schedule on April 24.

The following day the company left for secret destination for temporary change of station by motor convoy. Arrival in the vicinity of Martinstown, Dorset was about eleven o'clock. The company resumed its positions and remained alerted until May 1, when they again boarded the USS Samuel Chase at Weymouth. Practice loadings on assault boats was held for the next two days. Another assault landing was made on Slapton sands, and by May sixth the company returned to Lyme Regis.

Two days later on May 8, the company was again alerted for departure. Every phase of assault training was emphasized during the following week. At 1000 hours, May 17, the company left Lyme



Regis by truck convoy or secret destination and arrived that afternoon in the marshalling area in the vicinity of Martinstown, Dorset. Training continued in this area and more replacements were received in the company. Men were briefed on events to come. From the rumors that were going around one could gather that the day of the big push was close at hand. On June 1, the company boarded the USS Samuel Chase and continued training for the next two days.

Co. C landed on Easy Red section of Omaha Beach on the coast of France at H+70 D Day, June 6. The landing was made midway between the points where the second and third battalions had landed. Before hitting the beach the assault craft came under enemy artillery fire, the second boat group receiving a direct hit causing several casualties. On leaving the boats the company encountered heavy enemy machinegun fire as well as encountering water about seven feet in depth. A number of casualties resulted from the firing and drowning. Small arms fire pinned the company down on the beach until a path was cleared through the mine field directly inland from the beach. The company then moved through the mine field and up the cliff to a reorganization area. Several prisoners were taken in this vicinity.

After reorganizing the company moved inland approximately 1000 yards under continual sniper fire. The advance was halted at the Manor house 500 yards west of Colville Sur Mer for another reorganization. While here an enemy artillery and mortar barrage caused additional casualties. The company again pushed ahead but were pinned down by heavy sniper and Machinegun fire. Large numbers of enemy were observed to the south and the company was forced to dig in for the night in this area. At dawn the following day, an enemy machinegun squad was captured by a C Company outpost. Naval artillery was directed on a farmhouse where approximately 200 of the enemy had spent the night. The artillery caused the enemy to withdraw and C Company advanced 1000 yards south to a point just northeast of and overlooking the town of Surrain. Enemy snipers were encountered but were driven back and the company dug in for the night of D+1. Patrols were sent out continuously throughout the night but very little enemy activity was encountered. For its action on D Day, the First Battalion 16th Infantry, received the Distinguished Unit Citation.

The company was in reserve on June 8, but continued advancing against light opposition and by June 13 had reached La Halbrenniere after advancing through Houtteville, La Coudray, Fontenay, La Commune and Sedouet. The regular patrol duty was being carried out. Activity was increased June 15 by frequent strafing by enemy aircraft. However we suffered no casualties. The following day we moved to holding positions near Matruba, but encountered enemy snipers and suffered a few casualties. During the following days motor patrols were sent to our front. Casualties were suffered on these patrols and by enemy shell fire on our positions. The company went into position at Le Haut Digry and continued the motor patrols. We moved to positions north of Cormolian June 24, and again took up a defensive position. Enemy shell fire had been light but continuous with occasional strafing by enemy planes. The company remained in this position until July 2, when we moved northeast of La Crevoniere. Our patrols were continued and a number of casualties resulted. Movement again took the company to Le Haut on July sixth and the same operations continued. We were relieved by the Second Infantry July 13, and as we were leaving the area trucks and positions were strafed by enemy planes but we suffered only one casualty. Our new area was in Colombieres some twenty-five miles away.



The situation was very much relaxed in this position. Men were able to see the movies, and stand inspections. Orders for movement did not come until July 20. The following day we moved to an assembly area southeast of Griegnes. Situation was much the same and was carried out in like manner. July 27, the company left Griegnes for Dupard where at 2145 hours, the battalion went into the attack.

Advance continued and on July 28, the company had reached new positions a half mile north west of La Chapelle, with only one casualty. The following day the attack brought the advance to Courcy, which was taken with little resistance and a number of prisoners. Two days later we left Courcy by truck for St. Dennis Le Gast. On the way the convoy was subjected to strong bombardment by planes and shell fire. We had no casualties. A sixteen and a half mile hike brought us to Le Epain, the next day. From there we travelled by truck to positions southwest of Brece. Enemy planes were again active using anti-personnel bombs.

Le Grand Celland was our next position on August 2 after a three mile hike. The next day we hiked five miles to Le Mesnil-Adelee. Patrol duty continued for the next two days when on August 5, we left by truck for Buois. Movement was fast and the next day the company travelled thirty miles to Les-Randonnieres where the enemy was contacted and a firefight resulted. We had six casualties. Patrols were very active in positions here and numerous skirmishes were had with the enemy during the next number of days. Outposts captured many prisoners. Ten casualties were suffered from enemy artillery. August 13 we left these positions and travelled to a new area at Ruileson via Mayenne, a total distance of 22 miles.

Trucks took the company to La Sauvagere, fifteen miles away the next morning. From there we marched three thousand yards and went into the attack near La Serriere. One tank, two jeeps and several prisoners were captured with no losses inflicted upon us. The next day we remained in position but on August 16, we pushed off into the attack. We advanced three miles to hill 260 our objective where the enemy was engaged and thirteen armored half track and forty prisoners were captured. We suffered no casualties.

The following days the company remained in position on Hill 260, the area turned into a rest area, but still carried out patrols until August 24. The company left its rest area August 25 to Cheptainville by truck, a distance travelled 158 miles. The next day the company arrived at the assembly area near Corbeil after a nine mile hike.

In the attack on August 27 we reached our objective without resistance at Emerainville, some twenty five miles distance from the line of departure. During the next two days the company travelled thirty two miles through Tribardou to Nogeon-Fme without encountering the enemy. Contact was made with the enemy on August thirty, after the company had travelled twenty-two miles to St Pierre-Aigle. Three casualties resulted from shelling by mortar and artillery. During this attack enemy aircraft was more active on our right flank than in our area. Several were shot down by our supporting anti aircraft attachments. In spite of the fierce attacks thrown at us by the enemy, the morale of the men continued to be good.



The enemy was not encountered on August 31 when the company moved twenty-five miles to Bourguignon. The situation remained the same as the company moved four miles to positions near Laon, France. Fast moving was still the emphasis on the breakthrough; so the company left its positions a mile north of Laon at 1530 hours by truck and travelled to the town of Sains-Richaumont where they took up a defensive position. The whole distance travelled was about twenty five miles. During this fast drive the company cooks managed to get the three hot meals up to the men which helped to keep their moral up.

On the third of September the company pulled out of Sains-Richaumont and travelled about fifty miles to Mons Belgium, where they arrived after an eight hour ride. The Franco Belgium border was crossed at 1930 hours. The company engaged the enemy in a fire fight which resulted in two enlisted men being killed. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy and several prisoners were taken. Patrols were very active during the next day. Sixty prisoners were the bag for that day. Patrols continued for two more days, making contact with the enemy, inflicting casualties on them and capturing numerous prisoners.

The company left Mons Belgium, September seventh, and traveled sixty-five miles to Huy Belgium, and took up a defensive position. There was no enemy action but prisoners were taken. Defensive positions were held till September tenth. Motor patrols were very active, capturing many prisoners. Our destination was Hautregard on this trip of thirty-two miles. We encountered enemy shelling along the way but no casualties were inflicted. The company attacked five miles from Hautregard to LaViamerie, Belgium on September eleventh. Our casualties were one enlisted man killed and eight wounded in action.

The following morning the company continued the attack. After an eight mile advance on foot, we crossed the German border and contacted the enemy. The coordinates of where we crossed the border was determined as GS 4416, sheet S/1, scale 1:50:000 F-82.2-38.4 Our objective was reached and we dug in. Enemy shelling was continuous throughout the night. Only one casualty was inflicted on us. September 13, the company remained in contact with the enemy and suffered numerous casualties from small arms fire and shelling. It was the worst shelling this company had received since D Day. Casualties were six killed and 16 wounded in action. That evening we were relieved by elements of the 26th combat team.

The next day we attacked from there at Hidtfeld Germany and gained nine thousand yards. The company came under heavy enemy shell fire. Eight men and one officer were casualties. On September 15, the company pushed off into the attack and advanced 5000 yards to the second line of the Seigfried line. Small arms and shell fire was very intense. One officer and two enlisted men were killed and one officer and three enlisted men were wounded. We remained in position in the Seigfried line the next three days.

The attack was resumed September 18, when we pushed 2000 yds. to the outskirts of Stolberg. Here we were stopped by concentrated small arms and shell fire. One man was wounded and three listed as missing in action. The company remained in position the next day, repulsing a strong counter attack and being shelled heavily. Two enlisted men were killed in action and seven were wounded. We were on the Germans home ground and the going was getting tougher.



The period from 16 November to 19 November 1944 will always live in the memories of the surviving members of this organization, who had lived through the hell that existed during those three long days and nights. It was on the 16th of November that Company "C" was given the mission to take an objective in the vicinity of Hamich, Germany. An objective which presented a serious and difficult problem to officers and men of this company. The objective was a high knoll to the South of Hamich, with a very difficult approach facing the attacking force. All likely avenues of approach were covered by machine-gun and mortar fire and enemy's defensive position showed itself to be a hard nut to crack. However, shortly after the noon hour, Company "C" advanced in the attack in the face of overwhelming artillery, mortar, tank and automatic fire, the company advanced, step by step and yard by yard until the objective was taken three hours later. Casualties in the company in this attack were very high, and the force that prepared to defend the bitterly won ground was pitifully small. Nor did the enemy wait too long before it launched its first powerful counter-attack with a spear-head of heavy tanks and fresh infantry. Despite the fact that the elements of Company "C" had not had sufficient time or opportunity to prepare defensive positions, and although the men had just been through the grueling ordeal of capturing a strongly defended enemy position, the line held fast and the enemy was compelled to withdraw after suffering heavy losses. And this was only the beginning--for the enemy repeated their counter-attacks six times and were repelled each time with staggering losses. The men of the company fought with determination and stubbornness that was born of desperation and the urgent desire to destroy the enemy. Through all these counter-attacks the company held its ground and the enemy was finally forced to abandon their attempts to regain their lost positions.

During this entire action, from the moment of our attack on the enemy positions and through the succeeding counter-blows thrown against the company's front; while our men fought and died and held their objective; throughout this nightmare of battle-- many were the deeds of heroism and courage performed by members of the company. To name but a few: Capt. Briggs- Company Commander- holder of numerous citations for gallantry and courage - killed during the action on the contested ground. He was immediately succeeded by Capt. Lycas (then 1st. Lt.) who carried on ably, efficiently and bravely the task of defending this small but highly strategic bit of ground. Another- T/Sgt. Lindsey, who, when the enemy threw heavy tank forces and infantry at his platoon positions, fought them off with every weapon at his command and, single-handed, beat back group after group of enemy who tried to penetrate his position; and numerous others, including the enlisted medical men, who carried on with their missions of mercy in spite of the storm of shells that battered the area, aiding and evacuating the maimed and wounded, many of whom had been victims of direct artillery hits on their individual shelters. This and other incidents too numerous to mention.

Finally when the enemy had withdrawn to other prepared positions and were being engaged by other allied troops, came the order to withdraw from this hard won ground and to move to rest area not far behind the lines. When the company began its weary way back, after being relieved, a count of noses showed that, out of the original total of about one hundred and sixty men who had gone into the attack, only thirty one officers and men returned. What price victory----

On the 19th of November at about 1500 hours the company moved



to its rest area in a wooded section in the vicinity of Gressenich, Germany, and remained there until the 23rd of November. Here the men were given the opportunity to recondition themselves after their period of combat. Steps were taken to re-equip and re-cloth all personnel and at the same time to reform platoons and squads from the replacements who arrived during this time. It was a monumental task that faced the Company and its Commander. To build a new company from raw and untried material. To construct an organization that would withstand the supreme test of battle. Only the next test would tell how well this organizing had been done. During this short period of rest the company had a Thanksgiving dinner and one and all acclaimed the turkey dinner as one of the best they had ever eaten; with many thanks to the kitchen staff.

The company remained in this position until the 23rd of November, at which time the company was alerted and moved out, in a driving rain, at about 1500 hours and marched to its new position approximately one mile northwest of Hamich and went into Battalion Reserve in the edge of a large woods. The company remained here until the 26th of November on which day it was alerted and moved out at about 1600 hours and arrived at its destination in the rear of the Second Battalion, which was situated on the rear slope of a wooded hill not far from the town of Langerwehe, Germany. The men dug in for the night and did this as quietly as possible under the circumstances, as the enemy positions were only a few hundred yards away from us. Some of the new men were slightly nervous in anticipation of their first fling at combat. On the following morning the company was alerted and all officers and men were briefed on the situation. Our objective was a large estate situated on the other side of the hill on flat, open ground, about three hundred yards from the edge of the woods. It looked as if this open terrain would present a difficult problem of approach during the attack. The company moved out into the attack through the Second Battalion positions at 0600 hours just at the break of dawn. Before the men had moved their nettle. They continued to advance towards their objective and finally closed with enemy. Our men dashed from building to building, gathering up and herding together large groups of German prisoners who had given up all ideas of resistance. The Company Commander immediately consolidated our position and prepared for counter-attacks which, to our relief, did not come. However, the enemy began to lay in a very heavy mortar barrage on our positions and all the men were forced to remain in their hastily dug positions. This rain of mortar shells continued throughout the entire day and occasionally during the night. During the attack on the estate, which was carried out in partial daylight and during which time the enemy laid down a smoke screen, parts of the first and second platoons missed the company objective and continued on to Langerwehe. It was not until the approach of evening that we received information concerning these men. They had reached the outskirts of Langerwehe and had engaged some of the enemy in a fire-fight, capturing a number of houses and about sixty enemy and one half-track. During this engagement our men were counter-attacked by a numerically superior force of infantry and tanks and most of our men were captured. A short time later elements of the 18th Infantry, whose objective was Langerwehe, entered the town and, after a fire-fight, managed to recapture some of our men, of whom a few were wounded. Altogether, in this action, the company took about one hundred and fifty prisoners. A very satisfactory total.

Once again the company prepared for a move and, on the 28th of November, the company moved out to a battalion reserve position about one and a quarter miles to the northwest of Langerwehe. In this area the company placed one platoon on line as an outpost on a small wood-



ed knoll in a large open field. This platoon was reinforced with a section of heavy machine guns. The remainder of the company remained in a reserve position on the other side of the main road. The company remained here for a few days and this gave everyone a further opportunity to rehabilitate themselves in many ways. On 3 December the company was alerted again and moved through Langerwehe and on into the town of Luchem which had been captured that morning by Cos A and B and was now being held by them. The company moved into the town under cover of darkness and again went into a reserve position, with only one platoon on line on the left flank of Co. A. During the night nothing of any importance happened. The company settled itself as comfortably and efficiently as possible., after preparing defensive positions, so as to be prepared to support Co A and B in the event of a counter-attack. On the following day, at about noon, the enemy began to shell the town quite heavily and with increasing tempo until about 1630 hours at which time the enemy began an attack on the town of Luchem. This effort on the part of the enemy brought them disastrous results and the attack was stopped before it was ever fully organized. Every weapon we had opened fire on the German troops, including our anti-tank guns and heavy artillery from behind our lines pitched in and helped to change the enemys' mind about any plans they may have had on taking the town. Most of our small arms, automatic and anti-tank fire was poured into the enemy at pointblank range. That night the entire first battalion was relieved by the third battalion of the 18th Infantry and Company "C" was the first to be relieved at 2100 hours. The company marched to Langerwehe where all the men mounted trucks and were taken to wooded area in the vicinity of Gressenich, Germany. Here we spent the night and on the following morning mounted trucks again and were taken to a comparatively quiet sector of the front, in the vicinity of Lemmersdorf and went into a defensive position. During our stay in this area there were no occurrences of any importance. However, on the day that we were relieved from this position by elements of the 78th Division, our fighter-bombers came over during the afternoon and bombed and strafed the town of Lemmersdorf and caused a number of casualties in the third battalion. This was on the 11th of December. While in this area a number of men were sent to Paris for the purpose of rest and rehabilitation for a few days. Meanwhile other men had had the opportunity to go to another town for showers and clean clothing. On the 11th of December the entire company prepared to move and mounted trucks at 1200 hours and arrived at Herve, Belgium at about 1600 hours. The company moved into a Catholic School immediately on arrival and settled down for the night. On the following day the company arranged the area according to the orders of the Company Commander and installed the cots which had been provided for every man. While in the town of Herve the company had a few inspections by the Battalion and Regimental Commanders and some of our men were decorated with Purple heart and the Bronze Star. Meanwhile our Paris and Vervier furloughs still continued and the fortunate ones whose turn it was most certainly had a gay time. Showers and clean clothes were available to all men and training schedules were put into effect. This rest period of ours however, did not last long. On the 16th of December the entire company was alerted and prepared to move along with the entire regiment. On the following day the company moved out of Herve and arrived in the town of Ovifat, Belgium where the company took up defensive positions on the southern side of the town. All these preparations were made for a purpose. The German Army had made a tremendous thrust through our lines and had pushed forward for quite a distance and one of the enemys objectives was the city of Liege, Belgium. It was while in this town that we first heard of the fact that the Germans had landed parachutists.



in American uniforms, far behind our lines, and whose mission was sabotage. All units were on the alert for these agents. On 20 December the company moved again and arrived at the town of Gueuzzaine, Belgium, where the company went into a defensive reserve position behind Cos A and B. Here the company remained until the 26th of December when the company relieved Co. A which was on the front line in a defensive position. This change was made under cover of darkness. During our stay in this area the company was very active in patrolling; both reconnaissance and combat patrols. These patrols had a few fire-fights with enemy patrols and outposts and inflicted casualties upon the enemy, in addition to bringing back much needed information. Our casualties in this sector were very light and most of them were due to artillery and mortar fire. The combat situation remained static during this period. But in spite of the mild situation the company remained on the alert at all times.

On the 4th of January, 1945, Lt. Haverty led a combat patrol of 24 men to hill 56; ten prisoners, and two machine guns were taken without firing a shot. The next morning they held off a counter-attack of the enemy riflemen, killing approximately 25 enemy soldiers. The enemy had continually harassed these positions with mortar and sniper fire. Both Officers and men suffered greatly from the intense cold because the position was in an isolated spot, and relief could be brought to them only at night. This position was held, with the three rifle platoons rotating from their line positions to this position every 24 hours. Hill 56 was used as the line of departure for company B in the attack on Faymonville.

On the morning of January 15, "A" and "B" companies jumped off in to the attack on Faymonville at 0600. On the approaches of the town both companies ran into intense small arms fire inflicting a high rate of casualties. Company C was held in reserve at Gueuzaine awaiting orders from Battalion Commander to move forward. A and B companies having been pinned down by the small arms fire, until 1200 at which time Company C was to move forward. It being day light the company moved from Gueuzaine to hill 56 (the line of departure) by squads, with three minutes intervals between each squads departure. From hill 56 the second platoon being the leading assault platoon moved into the attack on Faymonville between A and B companies to relieve the pressure on them. The first platoon followed on the second's right flank. Both platoons were pinned down for a short time but with the assistance of attached tanks the enemy was soon forced to withdraw allowing all three companies to advance into the town. During the entire attack the enemy periodically dropped heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire into the area. The three companies worked their way half way through the town against heavy small arms fire and were forced to stop their advance because of darkness. At this point positions were consolidated for the defense during the night. The next morning, the three companies continued their advance through the town; capturing several dispirited German prisoners, and an aid station complete with officer personnel. After cleaning out the town, the three companies consolidated defensive positions on the high ground beyond the town and here made contact with the 23rd Infantry on our right flank.

It was at this point that the company began digging in on the regiment's right flank, using one pound TNT charges to blast a beginning in the frozen ground for their fox holes. When the men had their holes nearly completed, they received the order to move to the Regiment's left flank. This entailed the usual amount of comments brought about by such a move, but the move was soon accomplished and new fox holes were dug. The company lived for a period of one day and two nights in these holes, in knee deep snow and in cold that was nearly unbearable. A number of combat effectives were lost because of trench foot and allied illnesses



caused by such adverse weather. While in this position, an obviously pre-zeroed target, the enemy threw in several heavy mortar and artillery barrages, securing a large number of bursts in the trees which lined our positions along the road.

On the morning of January 18, company C moved into the attack along with company B, which was on our right flank, attacking a small settlement and wooded area about 4000 yards beyond Faymonville. The second and third platoons were the assault platoons. In approaching the objective the company ran into a light artillery barrage, but continued its advance. The second and third platoons in moving into the attack ran into concentrated small arms fire which inflicted numerous casualties. Through the use of fire and movement, the assault platoons (along with the first platoon which was the reserve platoons) moved across open terrain against murderous enemy small arms fire to permanent entrenchments in the edge of the woods, which were the company's objective. Here the company immediately consolidated its positions against an expected counter attack which was not forthcoming. It was here that the men hoped to stay long enough to rest a little from the hard pushing that was behind them. But that night we received the unexpected order to attack at 0700, a wooded hill some 5000 yards away. The next morning, at 0700, the first and second platoons moved into the attack as the assaults platoons, with the third in reserve. In this operation even the elements seemed pitted against us as we faced a hard blowing blizzard in deeply drifted snow. As the company pushed through the blizzard and woods we by passed hastily evacuated enemy positions, and at one time the leading element ran into an enemy patrol. There were a few shots fired, but the patrol escaped. The company moved on to its objective without further resistance, and in the blinding snow, dug in perimeter defensive positions. Here for six days the company sat in a front line position facing the enemy town of Amel.

During its stay in this area the company sent out several reconnaissance patrols to Amel, which ran into frequent fire fights, and brought back much needed information. On the afternoon of January 25th, the company received word through a civilian from Amel that the town had been evacuated by the enemy the previous night. That evening, at 1700, the first platoon was ordered by the company commander to move and occupy Amel, a distance of 2000 yards. The first platoon moved across the open terrain, in the growing darkness in skirmish formation, expecting to meet enemy resistance, of which transpired none. As they began clearing the houses, they radioed back for the remainder of the company to come forward. In this town 35 German prisoners with their last spark of resistance shattered, were taken. Positions consolidated, the company was given a tactical rest, and training was resumed.

On the night of February 4th, the company was alerted and ordered to move at 0800 on the 5th. The company was loaded in trucks, and moved a distance of approximately fifteen miles north to the small town of Bergstein, Germany, which was occupied by the 8th Division and relieved by the 16th Infantry. The company took up positions assigned to it, and remained in position for a period of 48 hours. The regiment was then relieved by the 32nd Cavalry, and moved to Winden, a distance of five miles. The company then took up positions along the Roer river. We remained in this position for a period of 14 days; during which time, the enemy shelled, bombed and also strafed the area. All of the bombing was done at night, and consisted of antipersonnel bombs. Our own aircraft was very active at this time over the company area. They dive bombed and strafed enemy installations on the other side of the river, and kept up these harrassing tactics over a seven day period.



On the 26th of February, the second Battalion made the river crossing and met comparatively little resistance. At this time Capt. Lycas, the company commander, was hospitalized because of illness, and Lt. Sarka assumed command of the company. The first Battalion then crossed on foot bridges, and use the town of Kreousou as an assembly area, spending the night there. The next day, at 1200, the company moved to Drove a distance of approximately 4000 yards to the north east and used this town as a line of departure for the attack upon permanent enemy entrenchments in the woods beyond. At 1430 the company jumped off with the third platoon leading, followed by the rest of the company. Company A was attacking simultaneously on our left flank. As the company advanced through the woods unmolested by enemy artillery and mortar fire they cleared permanent enemy positions, and took 12 enemy prisoners. Most of the enemy forces had withdrawn to hold the town of Grangenheim. Since the wooded terrain offered few and very indistinct land marks on which to guide.

The attacking companies resorted to the use of artillery smoke shells to guide them to their objective. The objective was taken on the edge of the woods looking into the towns of Frangenheim, and Soler Germany, which were some 800 yards away. As the companies moved on the objective they kept up a constant and effective small arms fire on the retreating enemy. Positions were then consolidated and tied in with Company A on our right flank. During the rest of the night the enemy kept up a harassing artillery and mortar shelling. On the following morning the 27th of February, at 0630, the company moved out with the 3rd platoon leading, and took up position in the town of Frangenheim, which was taken previously by company B. At 1330, the company moved out in the attack, with the objective a wooded area 2000 yards south east of Frangenheim. Company B was leading with supporting tanks and TDs. Company "C" moved out after the rear of B company had passed, heading for its objective at the near edge of the woods. During the move across the field we were shelled by mortars and light artillery which inflicted four casualties. Reaching the edge of the woods, the company turned to the right, and with platoons guiding on the right edge of the woods, they moved through the woods, cleaning it up. Our own artillery kept throwing in smoke shells, giving us good concealment, but also acting as a harassing agent to our own troops. The enemy also kept shelling and ten more men were wounded. We had three platoons on line plus one platoon of "D" company machine guns. Everyone dug in and reinforced their fox holes with over head cover. Now we were ready for any thing that the enemy wished to throw at us. Our weak point was the lack of flank protection. The company had no one on our right except the enemy located in Froistheim who were now chalcantly looking down our throats. Our left flank presented a gap of 400 yards between us and Baker company. To cover this gap we maintained a constant patrol between companies. We soon found out what a swamp we had entered when all our fox holes began filling with water, but by using branches and leaves and some straw we made the holes liveable. The first night in this position the company maintained a fifty per cent alert, but nothing happened except the usual mortar and artillery barrage. Though the enemy action was not directed toward us, we could observe enemy movement of both tanks and infantry in the vicinity of Froistheim. We sat in these positions all day with out being molested. To our front, about 75 yards away, was a small patch of woods in which we had an out post with telephone communication. As evening shades were falling we settled down to spend another uneventful night, but about



2200 the communications to the out post went out and two men of the out post went out tracing the line to find the break. The night was pitch black and the men could not see more than a few feet in front of them. The two men from the out post reached a point in the line where it was definitely cut. Repairing this break they moved on to check the rest of the wire. They soon found a second cut, and like a jig saw puzzle the picture was forming, it was a heinie ambush. The trap was sprung and the heinies came up firing their burp guns. One private was killed in this action while the other escaped to alert the company. Immediately a combat patrol was sent out. This mission was given to the third platoon. They formed in a skirmish line covering the entire area of the out post, and as they moved forward the patrol was shooting every step of the way. No enemy was encountered in this action. The remainder of the night was spent with every one very much on the alert. Two more days were spent in this position but every thing was comparatively quiet.

On the 4th of March, the company moved to Vettweis, a distance of about 1000 yards east of the woods. Everyone seemed over joyed to be out of the woods and into the houses of the little town. All available time was spent in making ready for the next move which came as no surprise the next evening at 2300.

On March 5th, the company moved out, in trucks, east to Weilerwist a distance of approximately 14 miles, to relieve the 310th Infantry of the 78th Division. We detrucked at Friesheim and marched in a column of twos to a temporary assembly area at a place known as the "Gut." This Gut was about 1000 yards west of Weilerwist. Company remained at the Gut until 0400, when we marched into town crossing the Erft Canal on a make shift bridge made of house doors. Company took up positions, as directed by the company commander, in the rear of the town with A and B companies to our front. Most of the day was spend in feeling out the town from which the enemy had been driven a few hours before. The company remained on a fifty percent alert status, as it was felt enemy might spring a counter attack. All during our 24 hour stay the engineers were busy neutralizing mines and booby traps in the area.

At 0400 the next morning, the 6th of March, Battalion received the attack order with A and B companys leading off, and company C in reserve. The objective was a wooded area 2000 yards south east of Weilerwist. The company moved upon the objective on platoon column with the 1st platoon leading followed by the 2nd and 3rd, and the Weapons platoon and Headquarters group bringing up the rear. Moving along the signated route, C company was alloted two houses at the edge of town to clear. At this point we picked up two prisoners then moved on to cross the bridge over the swift canal. Engineers were clearing this road and just as the tail end of the column reached the bridge, two engineers lifted out a booby trapped teller mine, killing the two engineers and wounding four of our men. We took up position 400 yards from the edge of the woods, with A and B companys to our left flank. Company dug in and prepared to defend its positions, which were tied in with adjoining companies. The enemy shelled the area with direct fire from tanks and self propelled guns. Hells could be heard zinging through the woods at about a six foot height. The action caused nine casualties, a Sargeant being killed by a direct hit from a AP shell.

On 6th of March all platoons were notified to move by 2400. Because of utter darkness the movement from company assembly area to the line of departure was slow and difficult. Each man held on to the man in front of him to maintain contact and control. Upon reaching the edge of the woods the platoons took a bearing due east and started



out across the fields to the objective, Waldorf, a distance of 6000 yards. The enemy had moved out of the town ahead of us and there was no opposition as we searched the town house by house. The company remained here two days and two nights enjoying the novelty of three hot meals daily and coca cola. The morale was excellent.

On the 8th of March, at 2200, the company moved by trucks to Alfter, a distance of six miles southeast, which was used as an assembly point prior to our attack on the city of Bonn, 4000 yards away. At this point we prepared for the attack and our packs were dropped. This in itself was a great morale factor and also permitted swifter movement once we had reached the houses and buildings of the city.

On 9th March, at 0400, the battalion jumped off in the attack with C and A companies leading the assault. The road from Alfter to Dransdorf was used as a guide. Approximately 300 yards out side of Dransdorf the leading platoon ran into small arms and machine gun fire which was quickly overcome. At this point 73 prisoners were captured and the company moved on toward the objective. From here on into the city, a steady stream of prisoners were constantly being pushed toward the rear. Comparatively little artillery or mortars were used by the enemy, although some fire from self propelled weapons was brought into play. House to house fighting continued every step of the way but still the company pushed on. Moving on from Dransdorf toward Bonn we entered a factory area south west of the railroad tracks. Here the company was held up for a short period of time by machine gun and rifle fire employed by enemy located in bunkers near the railroad tracks. The 2nd platoon out flanked the enemy position and brought in about 16 prisoners.. From there we entered the outer edge of Bonn with 1st platoon leading. The first platoon was traveling fast and neared the center of town before they were stopped by 20mm and machine gun fire. Meanwhile the 2nd and 3rd platoons were being delayed back in the vicinity of the railroad.

About ten o'clock the company was regrouped and began advancing down the streets of Bonn guiding on Baurheim avenue. In the center of town we were stopped for over nine hours. During this time many screaming meemees were thrown at us. Several of our men became casualties due to this barrage. Our flanks being open, it was impossible to advance down the openstreets with so much enemy fire on them. Trying to alleviate the situation, the third platoon crossed the street on which they were held up, under the cover of TD fire. The building they entered had housed a enemy machine gun nest, but after searching the house they found the enemy had withdrawn. They then discovered upon trying to recross the street that they were cut off from the company by a self propelled gun. Also enemy infantry had circled the house from the rear. Our men then awaited night fall to return under cover of darkness. Late in the afternoon a meeting between the company commander and the battalion commander ascertained the next tactical move. The 2nd battalion was to move up on our right, and the Battalion Commander ordered that we would move off in conjunction with the 2nd battalion. We were to move only by order from the battalion commander. That evening under cover of darkness the third platoon returned to the company. The company then reorganized and at 2300, when the order came from the battalion commander, the company moved off with the TDs to resume the attack. No stiff opposition was met and the company reached its objective in good order. We were in Bonn and the company CP stayed in a house which proved to be the birth place of Beethoven. The remainder of the night was spent in clearing houses of the enemy. In the morning positions were consolidated; tying in with company B on our left, and company A on our right.



Checking back with battalion we were notified that 263 prisoners were taken by the company. Two more days were spent in Bonn by the company and on the third day the company entrucked and moved to Alfter, Germany, for a much needed rest.

Our pleasant days at Alfter were soon to a close. Lt. Sarka Assumed command of the company. The night before the company commander had gone to a Battalion meeting, where he got all the necessary details for our next move. Most of the night was then taken up with getting the company packed and ready to move. The kitchen and supply had the most to do to get ready.

At nine O'clock we loaded the company on 5 ton and a half trucks and waited on a side street for A and B companies to pass. "C" company followed B company at a five minute interval. Every one was in good spirets, some of the men were even carrying guitars and harmonicas for future amusement.

The day was warm and comfortable and everyone enjoyed the ride. We reached Winterhausen, Germany early in the afternoon. We detrucked and marched about one block to the point where we were to cross the Rhine river. The men were carrying their bed rolls, but since we didn't have far to walk it wasn't bad at all. The navy came into the picture at this time by having their L.C. V. P. on hand to ferry us across the Rhine river.

Crossing the Rhine we assembled the company and marched to the town of Honnef, Germany. Our first move was to settle the company in some sort of quarters. The quartering party had been late, due to traffic jams on the Remagen bridge, and we had to make a hasty selection of platoon locations. We utilized four buildings for the men, communications were put in soon and we settled down to await hot chow. We spent the night in these quarters, listening to the German 120's whistling over and around the town.

The next morning, March 18, 1945, we learned that one shell had almost landed on the 1st platoon. They showed us several huge fragments of steel that had smashed through the walls of the building into the rooms where the men slept. During the morning company commander went with the battalion commander on an advance reconnaissance party to stuy our next positions. The company meanwhile stripped for action. The supply Sgt. collected the bed rolls and excess equipment, and the men cleaned their weapons and checked each part.

After a hot dinner we moved out at 1530 to releive the 78th Division of part of their sector af advance. Many positions were already dug, but the majority of the men had to dig in for the night.

The next day, the 19th of March, mortar rounds were falling around the area but no one was hurt. All the company officers went forward on a reconnaissance of Ittenbach, the local point for our next move. Incidentally they ran back to the company after their reconnaissance, chased by 88 shells.

We got in some men from the hospital during the day, whom we were all glad to see. We spent some time watching our planes strafe and dive bomb the enemies position. We had heard that there were a lot of enemy tanks around and our planes were really going after them.

At twilight the company moved forward into Ittenbach. This town over looked one of Germanys super-autobahns. And it was filled with German mines that had as yet not been cleared. Before we could settle down we were ordered to go into the attack at two o'clock the next morning.

On the morning of March 20, 1945, with out no one getting very much sleep we moved out under a great display of German anti-aircraft



fire. Many of our night fighters were out and the Krauts threw up one of the most intense flak barrages that we had ever seen. Starting out from Ittenbach the company crossed the autobahn before they even realized it. We made the headlines for cutting the autobahn that day. It was very dark and the secondary roads were numerous. We almost got lost before we reached our first objective. The first objective, Rutsched was a very quiet spot and we took it without firing a shot. From there we moved out for Oberpleis, Germany with B company on our right. We moved along a dirt road in the valley taking a few prisoners on the way. After moving about two thousand yards we ran into the first fire fight at the corner of the town of Ausenbosreth. Two heinies were killed here and five more were captured. Then we turned right along the highway and headed for Oberplies.

German machine gun and tank fire was encountered and the advance was made from house to house. It was bright daylight as we entered the town and we had cleared our sector of the town by ten O'clock. After the platoons were in position the company was subjected to an intense artillery and mortar barrage.

At eleven O'clock the battalion Commander issued the order for the attack on Placerhohn.

We had very little sleep that night, after the initial preparations issuing orders and ammunition, we assembled the company at two AM and moved out of Oberplies towards the high hill, top of which perched Placerhohn.

It was a very dark night and we had a tough time getting the company together. We had heard that some of the enemy had infiltrated into Oberplies and one of B company's men was killed by one of the Heinies. As we moved out of town mortar rounds were falling intermittently around the town. No one was hurt as we left town.

At the edge of Placerhohn we ran into a strong enemy force consisting of approximately one company of infantry and one platoon of tanks. They caught us when we were about three hundred yards from their positions and they opened up on us with machine guns, small arms, 88 fire, and mortars. The first platoon almost reached into the enemy positions on the right flank before they were beaten back. The heinies were firing a continuous line of flares, keeping the area lit up every minute of the ~~time~~ time. The second and third platoons on the left flank suffered two counter attacks and were driven back for a hundred yards. The enemy suffered a higher percentage of casualties than we did, but at that time we could not advance. The company was reorganized on the spot and a stab was made at the enemies left flank, but mortar and artillery fire became so intense around the company that we were forced to reject the attempt. Withdrawing about three hundred yards the company began digging in while a patrol was sent out to explore the enemies right flank. A hurried check of the company disclosed that our losses had not been as heavy as we first anticipated.

One man returned from the patrol telling us that the patrol had entered the first house in the town and was working in deeper. As soon as we received this news the company moved into town, and cleared it completely.

Communications to the platoons was established. We discovered that the Krauts still had observation on us because the main street was covered by machine gun fire and anytime any men moved around they drew fire. Also the C.P. was hit by two artillery shells. It was with a feeling a relief that we received the order to attack the town of Westerhausen, just six hundred yards away. The company commander went out to reconnoiter a route of approach to attack the town and they returned with two prisoners. The Jerries had been lurking not



over 150 yds from town in a clump of woods and they had been the ones who had been covering the road with machine gun fire.

Just as the company moved out into the attack the town was submitted to a heavy bombardment of mortar rounds. Three rounds fell where the third platoon had been standing just a minute ago. The third platoon moved out so fast that the first platoon mounted the TDs to catch up with them. Artillery shells were falling all around us and it was a great surprise to find that only two men had been hit. When the enemy saw us rushing the town they mounted their tanks and withdrew. About thirty prisoners were taken and the company consolidated its positions around the edge of the town.

The first night there we had a counter attack on our left flank by 50 Germans. They got within ten yards of our positions and one T.D. was knocked out by a Panzer Faust. After an hours fight the enemy withdrew. We took two prisoners.

We slept very nicely after the night attack and other than sending two patrols down the valley on our right flank, there wasnt much activity. It was reported that some Germans were digging in along the next ridge. Other than that we just sweated out the rocket shells and artillery shell that kept falling into our little town. Two hot meals were served during the day.

On March 23 the enemy stayed out of sight today but our Air Corp's was out most of the day looking for some good targets. It was still dangerous to go around on the streets since artillery and rocket shells were coming in at regular intervals. During the afternoon B company moved out and took the little town in front of us. And after dark that evening "C" company moved through B company and in conjunction with A company attacked a hill near the town of Machelshohe. As we started up the valley we got all wet crossing a little creek and then we started fighting our way up the hill. One machine gun nest was knocked out by the third platoon right at the bottom of the hill. It was very dark as we passed over the first knoll but this was one time when the 536 radios were working and fairly good contact was maintained between platoons. At one point the first platoon fired on the C.P. group as the C.P. moved to their front. Luckily no one was hurt. Just as we started up the big hill we were fired upon by a couple of tiger tanks and flares were thrown up to illuminate the area for the Germans. Our artillery was called on for a couple of concentrations and the German tanks withdrew. Moving up the hill we collected about a hundred prisoners and C company reached its objective before any other company.

The company set up its defenses with the 2nd and 3rd platoons to the front and the first platoon covering our rear. The weapons platoon remained in a house near the bottom of the hill on the reverse slope. During the next 24 hrs the company suffered one of the most trying experiences ever encountered. 14 counter attacks were made on us that day and twice we were surrounded by enemy tanks and infantry and once the enemy tanks had the company cut off and were roaming around the weapons platoon's area. Each time the enemy was repulsed by heavy concentration of mortar and artillery fire, plus a high rate of small arms and machine gun fire. During the day we suffered a ten percent rate of casualties, but the mens morale was excellent and the enemy couldnt budge us. Thirty five of the enemy were killed in this action.

Early in the morning of March 25th, we were off again. This time the attack was upon the little town of Striefen. The platoon leaders were briefed at three thirty in the morning and the company moved out at four thirty. The route led through a deep valley and then up a steep hill into the town of Buchholz. We met a little resistance before we



reached the town but the enemy drew back into the town so we were able to enter the edge of town. There we stopped for a couple of hours waiting for our tanks to come up. We were dealing with small arms continuously and we could see additional enemy reinforcements entering the far edge of town. When the tanks arrived we organized small assault groups with each tank. And with the tanks breaking through fences and hedges the men rushed headlong for the enemy positions. Many of the Germans were killed in this action and about 25 prisoners were taken along with one self-propelled 75 piece. The town was cleared in less than an hour and "C" company was designated to defend the forward edge of the town.

During the afternoon we watched for enemy activity to our front and several times 7th field was called upon to fire on some tanks moving across our front. We also dropped our rolls in anticipation of our attack on Blankenberg, which was over 7000 yards away.

Now we were getting used to night attacks. On March 26, we moved out of Buchholz at four O'clock in the morning going through the valley and climbing the steep cliffs into the town of Blankenberg. Not a shot was fired in this town and it was more of a sight seeing trip instead of a tactical operation. There was an old castle perched on the top of the cliffs and almost all of the company went through it. From the top towers one could see for miles in all directions.

When the jeeps came up with supper they had no trouble at all but the next morning when we were being relieved two of their jeeps and one T.D. were blown up by German teller mines.

On March 27, the company commander was awakened at twelve midnight to receive orders for moving out at four thirty in the morning. Again no one slept much and at 0430 the company was ready to go. We marched back to a point three miles away where he had a hot breakfast and then entrucked for a town near Ukertseifen. We got there before noon and with B company on our right we moved off into a 7000 yard attack with Ukerseifen as the company objective.

The company had a difficult route to follow. Everything was going by map and terrain features. Sometimes we were in open country and at other times we moved through dense woods. In the woods control of all the platoons was very difficult and at a couple of points the company had to stop and straighten out. At one point we had to cross a 1000 yards of open ground and as we moved out the enemy began shelling us with artillery and rockets. The company reacted beautifully. Everyone ran forward as fast as he could and we were on top of the enemy before he could adjust his fire.

From then on we moved as skirmishers and fired as we marched into the enemy. We inflicted a high rate of casualties upon the enemy in this manner and yet we suffered very light losses. Early in the afternoon we reached Ueckerseifen and the company set up a perimeter defense. Seventh field fired upon one counter attack and broke it up quickly. After dark our outpost fired on a Jerry chow wagon and captured the two Krauts in it. Other than that the night was spent very quietly.

On March 28, the company commander went with the Battalion Commander on a forward reconnaissance and when he returned the company loaded on four trucks and drove to the final assembly area. From there we began marching toward our objective of Wissen, Germany, at about five O'clock in the afternoon. It was a long march and after climbing several hills we reached Wissen after dark. The enemy must have pulled out of town just a few hours before we arrived and the company didn't fire a shot. At first we went through the town breaking down



doors and searching the houses, but after not finding any Heineis when we were half way through the town, we headed directly for the company objective.

We stayed there all night with the enemy sitting across the Seig river from us. In the morning a Recon troop was to relieve us and we were to go to another objective. But as they were coming into town one of their M-100 was knocked out and they refused to come into the town. We were busy most of the morning firing mortars and 7th field at the enemy tanks. Two tanks were knocked out by this fire. Later we pulled out of position without being relieved and followed a path through the valley to get back to the Battalion assembly area. All the way up through the valley we were subjected to harrasing machine gun fire from across the Seig. No one was hurt. Being under observation on top of the hill above Wissen we had to call on the 7th field for a smoke screen to cover our withdrawal. After a long guiding hike we reached Bruchertseifen with a ravenous appetite. Here we had time to clean up our selves and our weapons and we anticipated over our next move.

After the long hikes we rested until four AM and then we mounted tanks and TDs to ride 25 miles to Wurgendorf. We rode until late in the afternoon and passing through Wurgendorf we put the company in a small town near by which had about six houses in it altogether. Nothing happened to disturb our slumber that night.

On March 31, at 8:30 we shoved off again, this time we rode on cannon company's transportation. We arrived in Buren, Germany, and stayed in a beautiful large school building which had been SS troops.

On April 1, which was a beautiful sunday morning, we hadn't even heard a rumor of moving out. So we were settling down to a nice quiet day; getting shaved, preparing for church services and listening to the radio when, at nine o'clock, to our surprise, S-3 dropped in to tell us the Co C would move to the crest of a hill on A Company's right flank to protect the town of Buren. So we packed our stuff and marched off to our new positions. The first and second platoons were digging in on the crest of the hill while the third platoon remained in reserve. Later the Bn. C.O. called for a motorized patrol to go into Steinhausen. The patrol consisted of a platoon, two tank destroyers and two half tracks on the patrol. The next we heard from them was by radio when they said they were cut off in town and they couldn't get out.

The first platoon was then committed to relieve the situation. But after an hours fighting against 20mm cannons and machine guns the second platoon had to be committed. So the whole company and all the TDs were in the fight. We killed and wounded several of the enemy and captured over eighty of the Jerry's. We were then ordered to hold the town against all enemy forces.

No sooner had we arrived in the center of town when our chow jeep rolled up and we began dispensing chow immediately. The citizens were heard to remark about the efficiency of the U.S. Army. Never had they seen a battle terminate and chow feed there after so quickly. we remained in these positions over night.

During the morning of April 2, we were required to send a ten man patrol on two of D company's jeeps, to Eringerfeld. They rode into the town and back out again without a mishap. But on the way back they fired on two heinies entering the edge of woods. One of them escaped and the other was captured. After sending the report in to Bn. on this patrol, the company was ordered to march to Eungerfeld. A and B companies were on line and we were in reserve remaining in houses in Eringerfeld.

So on the mornings of April 3 and 4th we spent most of our time



cleaning weapons and equipment, and writing letters. One platoon was required to cover the battalions left flank and the first platoon got that job. A platoon had to go out and cover the Bn's right flank and tie in with the third Bn. Next day the second platoon went out and relieved the first platoon so they could come into the houses of Eringerfeld and dry out. It had been raining for two days and the weather was miserable.

We stayed in position in Eringerfeld until after noon chow on the fifth of April, and then we were ordered to get ready to go back to Steinhausen. The Co. CO made a reconnaissance of our next area and when he returned the company marched the four thousand yards to Steinhausen. Practically back to the same positions we had left three days ago. We had another nice night rest here.

When the sun started to rise on the morning of April 6, it shone down on us as we prepared to move by truck to a town named Brakel. Again we rode the 7th fields trucks. The ride was long and cold, even tho the sun was shining, and we were glad when we arrived in Brakel and we heard we were going to stay all night. All the platoons were billeted in houses and the whole set up was very comfortable. We even had our company generator working, and we were able to listen to the radio for awhile.

The companies were well scattered out and it took quite some time to get the battalion through its showers the next day. That afternoon on April 7th, the company C.O. went on a reconnaissance and the company prepared to move out. We moved up by truck after dark, into the town of Wehrden on the Wessar River. We spent a hasty night there in windowless houses. The third armored division had spearheaded the drive up to that point and we were to get the job of crossing the Wesser River. The next morning on April 8th, after having a C ration breakfast, we got our stuff together ready to move out. The TDs and tanks were in position along the river ready to open up on any target that presented itself. A and B went across in assault boats, and C company marched down to the river and paddled across. They went across under 20mm and machine gun fire. After landing on the opposite shore the company reformed and passed thru B company to attack the woods and fight their way to the top of the hill. There were some men wounded and a couple killed as we worked our way up through the dense woods. We worked along a highway on top of the hill until we reached a hairpin curve. At that point we dug in and waited for I company of the third battalion to pass through us and attack. When they did this we assembled the company and pulled back into the town of Furstenberg, where A and B company were in defensive position. But just as we were getting ready to pull out, the first platoon suffered a small counter attack on its right flank. They beat off the enemy and the Krauts came in to B company to surrender.

We thought we were going to get a good nights sleep in Furstenberg, but no. The Co. C.O. was called to Bn. C.P. at midnight to receive orders for the attack upon Fuffsen, Germany.

Then at two o'clock, April 9th, in the morning the company moved out for Boffsen. We passed a knocked out tiger tank on the way down, but we investigated it thoroughly. We werent taking any chances. In the dark we almost got lost but we finally crossed the railroad tracks and knew exactly where we were. A small fight ensued on the edge of town but none of our men were hurt. All that morning we were busy rounding up Germans. Before ten o'clock we had over 150 prisoners taken to Bn. H.Q.

Everyone was so sleepy that we cat-napped wherever we could. Two patrols went out to the north and northeast and each one



came back with a few prisoners. All night long we maintained contact patrols with B co., who was over 4000 yards to the east of us.

The next morning April 11, found us fresh and ready to go. We boarded our trusty tanks and TDs, and rode about forty miles to the town of Denkershausen. Beside C company we had Regimental Hq. in town, the TDs and tanks. So outposts were placed at each corner of the town. No enemy was encountered and it had been days since we heard any enemy artillery. It looked like good signs to us, we were traveling fast and meeting very little resistance.

Next day April 12, we moved again by trucks in anticipation of riding all the way to Blankenberg, Germany. But upon reaching Herzberg, we learned that the armored advance had been stopped and the infantry would have to fight its way thru the Harz mountains instead of ride. We started working our way up through the valley and we hadn't gone over five hundred yards when we ran into some Jerry tanks and their fire held us up. We managed to advance slowly for a thousand yards and then due to darkness and strong enemy resistance the company had to stop and dig in. The enemy must have been relatively weak because they never even attempted a counter attack.

Early on the morning of the 13th, we moved out in the attack again with Seigan as the Co. objective. It was a tough fight every hundred yards of the way with the enemy tanks and infantry fighting fanatically. We reached Seigan after dark and set up a perimeter defense around the town.

We didn't stay here very long for early the next morning we were perched on top of a hill overlooking St. Andreasburg. We had ridden part of the way by truck the night before and then we had walked up the steep hills to these positions. We weren't in position very long when the company was pulled back into a suburb of St. Andreasburg and our day became more administrative rather than tactical.

During the next day, the second platoon on TDs made a patrol of over 9000 yds, to contact the 4th Cavalry. They cleared six road blocks on the way and returned boasting twenty captured heinies. Nothing more happened to the company and we were satisfied to set back and relax for that night, with only small local security.

On April 16, the company was bundled into trucks again and were driven to a point about a mile beyond St. Andreasburg. The country was very rough and the third platoon was almost a mile away from the rest of the company at the bottom of a mountain. The C. P. was in a hospital nearby and the weapons platoon were dug in to the rear of the C. P. There wasn't any activity in this area, so the next morning we moved to Hohegeiss taking over from a light tank battalion. Our main job was to put up road blocks and defend the town to the east. All was quiet all day long.

Next morning we moved out in the attack to clear an area of woods, with Rubeland as our objective. Quite a bit of resistance was met along the way and twice we were held up by german fanatics who refused to give up. The riflemen ran into a convoy of trucks and after killing some of the heinies, the trucks were captured. Later as we moved along, one lone heinie in a sedan came speeding down the road parallel to our lines of advance, trying to escape, but was stopped by strong rifle fire. Moving on we ran into scores of unresisting G Germans and when the day was done we had over 500 prisoners to our credit.

Before reaching to Rubeland the Air Corps bombed and strafed the place. From the heights above the town every man in C company fired into the town. The 60 mortars even knocked out a moving vehicle that



day. In town the company set up defensive positions and we remained there overnight.

Next day we moved out of Rubeland following the main highway to Neuwer. It wasn't very exciting but we got a lot of prisoners and a few bottles of Champagne. We held up at Neuwer on April 19 until late in the afternoon waiting for A company to come up on our left flank. We sent out tow patrols on our left flank and they brought in five heinie prisoners on one of these trips.

We then continued our attack in conjunction with A company upon the town of Huttenrode. As we crossed an open field before the town, we suffered about six casualties. But we took the town easily, capturing about 375 prisoners and killing a few here and there. Co. A had a hard time advancing and we directed mortar and artillery fire on the enemy we could observe in front of them. this helped A company materially. Our second platoon suffered some casualties after they were in position, when they were twice counterattacked by two heinie tanks. We managed to hold the town and all the enemy finally gave up or took off.

On the twentieth we were well settled in our little nest at Huttenrode and all we did was sent out a platoon to patrol the woods to our front for 1000 yards toward Blankenberg to flush out any stragglng enemy. The rest of the day was spent in cleaning weapons and vehicles.

Next day another platoon scoured the woods to the north-east and they found six more prisoners. The men got to see a movie, it was the first movie in a mighty long time and we were glad to get the break.

Well we remained in Huttenrode untill 1900 hours at which time we entrucked and proceeded sixty miles to Borstedt, a cold and uncomfortable trip. The company arrived at 2300 hours and proceeded to the billets which the advance party had reserved for them. The quiet country air was punctured by the frequent explosions of the enemy ammunition dumps which the engineers were systematically destroying.

The company remained in Borstedt on the 25th and removed a large portion of the grime accumulated on the trip by enjoying the luxury of hot showers. The weather improved considerably and a training schedule was initiated. The following day found us still in borstedt and life took on a garrison aspect. Inspections were held in ranks and quarters. Life was further enlivened by the advent of a U.S. O. show, which most of the troops were fortunate enough to see.

The 27th of April brought with it an event of so little importance. The companys duties on the First Army front had been brought ~~to a successful~~ conclusion and the division was assigned to the Third Army in the southern sector where some difficult resistance was still anticipated. The company remained in Bornstedt until 1400 hrs and then entrucked for Ash, Czechoslovakia and proceeded on the trip of 160 miles in excellent spirits. The company arrived at 2230 hrs and proceeded to comparatively luxurious quarters in a block of modern apartment houses.

The twenty-eighth of April found the company on the move again. It reached a distance of about 2500 yds. requiring two hour enroute. The company took up posistions there with Company A on our right and Company K of the 26th Infantry on our left flank. Four enemy prisoners were taken and our patrols sent to Horreuth about 200 yds to the east reported about 50 enemy soldiers in the town. Contact patrols were sent out every two hours to A and K companies.



On the 29, of April the company remained in position, quite comfortably situated, which was indeed fortunate as the weather was cloudy with rain and snow. Observers spotted enemy out posts located on the Highway leading into Brambach but little activity was noted. Two patrols were sent as far as Brambach but no enemy were contacted.

The company remained in position until about 1430 hours on the 30th of April then moved out into the attack on Brambach. The objective was about 3000 yds distant across rolling, marshy terrain. A small snowflurry provided good concealment for our move, but it proved unnecessary as the town was taken without firing a shot. The Germans evidently withdrew to avoid endangering the lives of 400 of their wounded who were left behind in the resort hotels and hospitals for which the town is internationally famous. The company was very pleased to effect the release of a British PW who had been working in the town. The company was dispersed in a defensive position. The advent of May found the company still in Brambach. A guard was mounted on the German wounded in the hospitals. Company K on our left repelled a strong enemy counter attack and there was some rifle and machine gun fire to our front but the company took it in stride and our mortars and artillery proceeded to start a pulverized barrage on Plesna.

The second of May, dawned with the company still in position. The second platoon sent a four man patrol to Plesna but encountered no enemy in the town of vicinity. The weather was quite cold and also featured a small snow fall. The company remained in position on the 3rd of May and the day was enlivened by a USO show, a symphonic concert by the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra and five enemy artillery rounds which fell in the company area. The 7th Field artillery and our company D, 81 mortars repayed this discourtesy with interest.

On the 4th of May the company was still in Brambach. The troops were entertained by a moving picture in the morning and also in the evening. Activity was limited to a fierce artillery barrage by our able cohorts of the 7th Field artillery.

The 5th of May proceeded prosaically enough. Company D, Cannon company, and the 7th Field shelled Fleiben constantly. The enemy retaliated with intermitted mortar fire on the first platoon area.

The company remained in position in Brambach until 0600 hrs May 6th and then moved in the attack on Plesna a distance of 5000 yds. Little resistance was encountered, the artillery had done a thorough job on the town. At 0900 the company moved 500 yds to Sneky and relieved A company at 1200 hours. The company subsequently move out in the attack on Klinghart a distance of 2500 yds and after securing this town on to Frauerreuth and additional 2000 yds. Here the company prepared positions and remained over night.

On 7 May 1945, at 0630 the company moved out in the attack from Frauerreuth. Moving along the muddy road and soggy ground, the infantry men passed through a German mine field well marded with the familiar "Achtung Minen". In the clear the company spread over a wide front, some of the men climbing on the tanks, covering a distance of approximately 1500 yards to a small village without apposition the company set up position for two hours. Widespread greeting was received from a large number of Yugoslavs. After a short rest the company moved out in the attack into rugged woody hills. Moving through dense woods, over steep slopes and wading a swift, deep stream the company came out on level ground again and moved forward faster with Plumberg in sight. Entering the town after a hard march over 3000 yards four prisoners were taken, the only traces of the enemy. The company took up position and awaited order to move out again. Some rumors of peace was passing



through the men. With the receiving of orders the company moved out to take Gossengrun, victory almost in sight. Without any trace of the enemy the town was occupied and positions taken.

It was quiet in Gossengrun on May 8th. Germans have been coming to our lines to surrender in small groups, the largest being an ammunition train consisting of 8 horse drawn wagon and 30 men. All morning the men anxiously awaited news from the big boys that all had come to an end. At high noon word was received. It was a quiet and sober celebration of tired doggeys that seen wht it was about. That night at 2300 hours small arms fire and flares were heard on our flank.

All platoons had placed road blocks and were dept busy throughout the day taking care of prisoners who were continuously coming to our lines in small groups. It was a relief to know that they were coming in and would'nt have to be rooted out of the woods and mountains. The company as a whole attended church services in memory of those who had given their lives in this struggle to free Europe. That afternoon the first platoon moved dorward a distance of 8000 yards to establish a collecting point for PWS and to enforce law in the town of Bukavany.

Then on the following day, May 11, the company moved 9000 yards by truck to take positions in Falkenau vacated by the third Battalion. The first platoon remained in their former position. May 12, was the start of noncombatant duties dealing with the civilians, liberated displaced person and numerous prisoners who came to our lines from unoccupied areas to surrender.

From May 13 to June 7 the company remained in position, maintaining road blocks, guarding a concentration camp and taking care of numerous civil affairs. The men now had oppertunities for seeing movies and taking shwoers in near by factories and attending church services. Eighty five points became a joy sign. Men were now going home for re-deployment and discharges. A training program for one platoon brought the first platoon from their duties in Bukavany, on the after noon of May 27. Five days later, June 1, the company assembled to carry out a complete company training and recreational program. Numerous softball games were played with other companies in the regiment. A company movement came with the departure of one officer and two enlisted men to locate new area.

The morning of June 8 brought the long journey by motor convoy into the heart of south Germany. Travel was over narrow good roads and a long stretch of the Reichautobahn. The dream of taking residence in the city of Bamberg was shattered and the company continued to the small country town of Weisendorf to releive a company of the eighth Infantry.

June 9th found the company cleaning the new area and preparing for duties to follow. Two p[la]atoon moved to a Prisoner of War camp for guard duty. The prisoners were awaiting discharges and were doing work for the Battalion and on civilian farms.

A training schedule started with reville on June 10, for the third and weapons platoon.

Organized athletics were stressed in the afternoon. Movies were shown every other afternnon and men were taken to showers in D company area. Training continued until June 15, when the third and weapons moved to a second prison camp to guard 600 ss prisoners who were to arrive that night. The first PW camp was later taken over by A company.