

COMPANY "L" 16TH INFANTRY
A.P.O. No. 1, U. S. ARMY

HISTORY OF COMPANY "L", 16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT COVER-
ING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2 AUGUST 1942 UNTIL 12 MAY 1945

On 2 August 1942 the H.M.S. Queen Mary sailed from the New York Port of Embarkation with approximately 17,000 troops aboard. The 17,000 troops consisted of the United States First Infantry Division which was the first complete United States Infantry Division with attached units to sail for foreign waters. Company "L" of the 16th Infantry Regiment was a part of the First Division. Their destination was unknown, but every man aboard suspected that they were being transported to the United Kingdom.

As the Queen Mary had never been called upon to accomodate such a large number of men, every bit of available space had to be converted into sleeping quarters. The troops were bunked in shifts of twenty-four hours alternating from above to below deck. Twenty-four hours were spent above deck and twenty-four hours were spent below deck in staterooms.

During the voyage the troops busied themselves with the usual ship's duties which consisted of kitchen police, manning anti-aircraft posts and various clean up details. In their spare time they learned the value of English currency and the rates of exchange.

The voyage lasted for seven days. On 8 August 1942 the Queen Mary docked at Gourock, Scotland. The troops were put on small boats and ferried to the railroad station where they were met by a military band. Hot tea and sandwiches were served after which the company boarded trains and immediately moved from the station. At 1100 hours on the following morning, after traveling all night and covering a distance of three hundred miles, the troops arrived at the Tidworth Barracks. The quarters were in very poor condition and required much cleaning which took one complete day and part of the night.

During the stay at Tidworth Barracks the company spent most of their time in preparing for the coming months which no doubt would be combat. Hardening exercised commenced immediately on the 14th with a twelve mile hike on which the men carried full field equipment. With but few exceptions the men stood the hike very well. Those who were not fit for endurance marches were placed on limited duty status and later transferred from the organization to fill vacancies in limited service units.

On 23 September 1942 the company received orders to move to Scotland. The troops boarded trains at Tidworth Station at 1830 hours and traveled approximately five hundred miles to the vicinity of Roseneath, Scotland where they boarded a transport ship and practiced boat-landing maneuvers.

On the 26th October 1942 the transport sailed for destination unknown. The entire trip was made without mishap or extraordinary incidents. The men were kept busy with the usual ship's duties, and also by running through the various alerts. Most of the alerts were dry runs, but submarines and enemy reconnaissance planes were sighted on at least two occasions.

During the entire voyage the troops were unaware of what their duties were to be when the trip was completed. Most of them suspected combat, but none were sure. On the next to the last day of the voyage secret orders were opened which revealed that the company was to participate in the invasion of North Africa. Preparations for the actual landing were made and dry runs were instigated. The Troops were in excellent condition, and although excited and on edge for their first action, were quite confident.

Serials began to form at eleven o'clock on the seventh of November of 1942 and were moved to their battle stations. Light off shore could be seen. They proved to be the guiding lights for the assaulting forces. After traveling 3150 miles, the troops began to disembark from the ship at Warwick Castle.

At 0010 hours on the morning of 8 November the company as part of the assault wave started toward shore in assault boats and landed on the beach one and one half miles east of Arzew after traveling a distance of six miles. The company reorganized and began moving inland at 0215. At R.J.H., four miles east of St Cloud, the 1st and 4th platoons proceeded via St. Cloud to Fleurus under command of Lt. Stevenson. The 2nd and 3rd platoons proceeded south from R.J.H. four miles east of St. Cloud via Legrand to Fleurus. The company reached Fleurus at 0855, thus far having met no enemy resistance and remained in position at Fleurus until 1530 when it moved to high ground 1300 yards southeast of Assi Aneur. At 1900 hours the company received orders to move to R.J. two miles north-east of Assi-Ben-Obka. While the 2nd platoon remained at Assi-Ben-Obka, the rest of the company moved to R.J. two miles northwest of Assi-Ben-Obka, knocked one enemy machine gun out of action and held R.J. for the night after hiking 22 miles during the day.

On 9 November at 0730 hours the company moved north to assist the 18th Inf. in the capture of St. Cloud. At 0900 heavy machine gun and artillery fire was encountered at Dme-De-La-Mgme-Des-Lions which succeeded in pinning down the third platoon. The company held the high ground south of that town until 1700 hours at which time it received orders to proceed as an advanced guard for the battalion to Oran. In the meantime, the 2nd platoon had been moved from Assi-Ben-Obka to join the company. The march toward Oran began at 1730. At Arcole heavy machine gun fire was encountered from rooftops. With the aid of a half-track, however, the 2nd platoon knocked out the machine guns and captured 10 prisoners. One man was killed in the action and five were wounded.

The company passed through Arcole on the 10th of November at 0130 hours going toward Oran. At 0245 the company was directed to turn south to allow the 18th Infantry to use the main route to Oran. As the battalion was placed in regimental reserve for the attack on Oran which began at 0730; they took up positions five miles to the east of Oran. At 1215 the company with the battalion moved to an assembly position three miles east of Oran in the vicinity of Fme-Jean-Baptiste where it remained for the rest of the day. The first and second battalions captured Oran at 1330.

During the morning and until 1300 hours on the 11th of November the company remained in the assembly area three miles east of Oran while the men were fed, watered, and rested. At 1300 hours the entire battalion began moving back to the hills. They located 4 1/2 miles east of Legrand in the vicinity of R.J. 94 assembly area at 2000 hours after traveling a distance of 13 miles.

From the twelfth of November 1942 until the eleventh of January 1943, the company remained in this assembly area and performed the usual duties. Supplementary training programs were followed and various demonstrations were given. Entertainment in the form of shows was brought to the area, and passes were issued occasionally. On several occasions during this period the company was alerted. Finally at 1400 hours on 11 January the company left the Caserne Neuve Barracks and arrived at the new bivouac area two miles northwest of Assi-Ben-Obak at 1455 hours.

At the new bivouac area at which the company stayed until the twenty-fifth of January, the company followed a rather stiff training schedule. Hardening exercises and hikes were accented. Classes were conducted concerning various squad and platoon problems and weapons were fired with emphasis being placed on the firing of the machine gun and anti-tank grenade.

On 18 January at 1300 hours the company left the bivouac area by truck and traveled 35 miles to Ste-Barba-Du-Tuelat where they entrained for Guelma. They arrived at Guelma, after traveling a distance of 975 miles, on 24 January, and moved out of Guelma on trucks to the battalion bivouac area which was five miles to the southeast. On 25 January 1943 they left the bivouac area by truck and moved to a defense position 35 miles east of Mactar where they relieved one company of motorized infantry.

At 0100 on 27 January the company left the defense position and moved east seven miles to a new position in which they did not remain owing to the fact that they had been misplaced directly under enemy mortar fire. However, in their new position they were forced back by enemy artillery and occupied another defensive position three miles to the northwest. On 28 January the company moved to a new defensive position which was ten miles south of the old position.

From 28 January to 2 February the company remained in this position receiving considerable artillery and mortar fire and suffered three casualties--one man was wounded, one was shell-shocked, and one was killed. On the second of February they moved four hundred yards north and occupied K Company's position in addition to our own. Enemy artillery continued to fall in their area, but there were no additional casualties.

The company left the defensive position on 5 February and went into battalion reserve two miles west for six days. While in reserve quite a few enemy planes were overhead and several air-raid alarms took place. The company supplied local security for the battalion. They used the leisure hours in policing and relaxing.

On February 11, the company left battalion reserve and traveled two miles, relieved K Company at which position they remained until 18 February. During this time many patrols were sent out, and some artillery was received.

Leaving their position by truck at 0345 hours on 18 February the company went into battalion reserve twelve miles east of Mactar. On 19 February they left their reserve position by truck, moved a distance of 160 miles and arrived at the bivouac area 50 miles southeast of Tebessa. They were alerted at 0400 hours, but their orders were changed at 0615 hours and they remained in the bivouac area for the remainder of the day. On the morning of the twenty-first of February they left the bivouac area and traveled eight miles to a defensive position one mile east of the bivouac area. On the following day they left their defensive position and moved six miles to battalion reserve which was north of their defensive position. Leaving battalion reserve on the twenty-third they returned to their old bivouac area which they left the following day for a battalion assembly area two miles northwest of Kasserrine Pass.

On the morning of February 25 at 0640 the company attacked Dj-Zemzaumet-Asst which was taken without resistance and then returned to the battalion assembly area.

During the seven days from 25 February until the fourth of March at which date they moved to the regimental assembly area at El-Meridj, the company moved from defensive positions to assembly areas. At the assembly area at El-Meridj the company was re-equipped and re-clothed and for eight days went through a period of unit training, care and cleaning of weapons, and the usual camp duties. On the thirteenth of March they moved to a new battalion assembly area two miles west of Bou-Chebka and remained there until the sixteenth at which date they re-occupied a defensive position eight miles north of Gafsa.

At 1000 hours on the morning of March 17, they left their defensive position, were held in battalion reserve and captured Gafsa at 0100. Then they walked to a new position eight miles northeast of Gafsa and went on the defensive on Gafsa Bouziel Road. They remained in position until the nineteenth and then left, moving forward five miles and the company went into battalion reserve on Gafsa-St Bouziel.

At 1130 hours they left this position and withdrew one thousand yards on Gafsa-St-Bouziel Rd, and then went into a new defensive position one mile north of Gafsa-St-Bouziel Rd.

On 20 March, minus their first and third platoons, they moved to another position. The first platoon went toward the front two miles and went into position with Co K, and the third platoon went forward and into position with I Co.

March 21 found them moving from one position to another. They left one position at 0745 hours by truck and took up a new position one mile west of Gafsa on the Gafsa Mdilla Road. They rode nine miles and arrived at 0915. At 1000 hours they entrucked and rode to the battalion bivouac area one mile west of Medilla. They left the bivouac area at 2345 hours by truck and were transported to a defense position two and one half miles southeast of El Guettar.

For the next five days they strengthened and improved this position. On the twenty-third they were attacked by an enemy tank force; enemy infantry and air attacks followed, but all were repulsed and no casualties were sustained. On the 24th considerable enemy artillery fire was received but again no casualties were sustained.

On 28 March the company took up a new position five miles away from the old one. They received heavy artillery and mortar fire during which two men were killed and thirteen wounded. The company left this position, withdrew eight and one half miles and dug in. On the day of 29 March to 1 April the company moved into three different positions which they held for the short period. During this time they suffered several casualties which consisted of ten men being wounded, three missing in action, and one killed.

For the next nine days time was devoted to patrols to the front and to keeping in contact with the units on their right and left plus the usual front line duties. All battle casualties were dropped from the rolls, approximately twenty-five men. From 9 April until the following twenty-third the company passed through six assembly areas. They were, during this transition period, re-equipped and re-clothed.

At 0100 hours on 23 April the company left the Battalion assembly area and arrived at a point one mile northeast of the battalion area at 0300 hours. They attacked at 0400 and captured their first objective. Their second attack started at 1600, but it failed to take the objective. At 2000 hours they withdrew one mile southwest and remained there for the night. Casualties for the day were quite heavy. Three men were killed in action and six were wounded.

They left this position at 0300 and went into battalion reserve; then on to Hill 274 on the twenty-fourth of April which at 2100 hours they left for a position two miles northeast of Hill 274. On the twenty-fifth and the twenty-sixth in the early morning hours they received considerable enemy fire, and two men were killed and five were wounded.

Company B of the 26th Infantry was relieved on Hill 501 by the company on 27 April. But the company left Hill 501 on the 28th and moved to Hill 428 which was northeast of 501. On the 29th and 30th they received enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and rifle fire, however, casualties were slight. They left Hill 428 on the first of May and went into the attack with tanks on Hill 476 at 1600 hours. At 2000 hours the company reformed and went into a defensive position in a gap between the first and second battalions on Hill 476 in which they stayed for the remainder of the day receiving some enemy artillery fire, but sustaining no casualties.

May 2, 1943 found the company on the move again. They moved to Hill 525 from which they were relieved on 3 May by Co B of the 168th Infantry and went to Hill 523, which they left at 1600 hours

by truck for a point fourteen miles northeast of Mateur at which they stayed until the twelfth resting and relaxing. The peace treaty was signed 8 May 1943 at 1115 hours.

On the thirteenth they entrucked for a new bivouac area at a distance of 170 miles which was located a few hundred yards northeast of Guelma. On the fourteenth they entrucked again for another area eighty miles away in the vicinity of Ain M Lila. From the fifteenth to the eighteenth they traveled via truck and train a distance of 790 miles to a bivouac area one mile west of St. Louis. The company rested here for several days and passes were issued to Oran and Sidi Bel Abbas. On 25 May Captain A H Smith relieved Captain White as Commanding Officer, and 1st Lt. Montague and 2nd Lt. Monteigh were assigned to the company. The company moved at 1335 hours to the battalion training area which was located one mile southwest of Arzew.

On 26 May 1943, training was started and it continued until 9 June. Loading and landing operations were stressed, but various other problems were taken up and worked out. The tenth of June was devoted to breaking camp and making the final preparations for the coming trip.

At 1330 hours on 11 June the company left the bivouac area via truck and moved to the beach west of Oran where they boarded the USS Thurston. The ship docked in Algiers on 13 June and the company entrucked sixteen miles to the battalion bivouac area.

For eight days the company stayed in the bivouac area performing the usual camp duties. Some problems were conducted. There was a full field inspection by the Battalion Commander, which the company passed with flying colors. Also there were two ten-mile conditioning hikes.

A division combat problem began on 22 June, which consisted of loading and landing problems. The company moved by truck from the battalion assembly area to the dock at Algiers, boarded the LCI 235, sailed all night, were loaded into assault boats, and hit the beach. The problem lasted four days and ended by the company returning by truck to the bivouac area west of Algiers.

On the 26th of June traveling via truck and foot the company reached the docks of Algiers and were loaded on LCI 235. They had two air-raid alerts. On the twenty-seventh the LCI left the dock and moved out into the bay. The men were allowed to go swimming. After the swim the anchor was raised and the LCI moved out of the bay at 1330 hours. They sailed east all day with a destination that was unknown. On the twenty-eighth they were at sea, and on the twenty-ninth of June at 1428 hours the company docked at Tunis. They marched through Tunis were loaded on English Torries and rode about seven miles to the battalion assembly area.

From 30 June until 5 July the customary bivouac area routine was followed. On the 30th the whole company was on guard, and the whole battalion was under strict confined orders in the assembly area. For the next three days the company took a two hour conditioning hike each morning and performed the usual camp duties during the day. On July fourth, Independence Day, the entire company had a party, and wine was purchased. On the fifth they broke camp, left the assembly area by truck, and rode to Knome, where they boarded the LCI 235 in sailing list order. They left Knome on the sixth of July and sailed to Souse at which they stayed for two days aboard ship.

On the morning of 9 July when the company awoke they learned that the ship had left port sometime during the night. When they were quite far out to sea, they were informed as to the coming situation which was to be the invasion of Sicily.

They "hit the beach" at 0810 hours on the 10th of July, assembled and moved inland until they reached the battalion assembly area where they reorganized and moved forward to a new assembly area. They posted local security and began to dig in.

Everything was quiet at dawn on the 11th, but at 0800 the company was subjected to a tank attack on their left flank. The situation was quite desperate, but with the aid of the artillery, cannon companies, and the excellent shooting of the naval guns off shore, the attack was repulsed and many enemy tanks were knocked out of action. The company had one man killed.

They moved forward two miles on 12 July into a battalion defensive position. At 1030 hours it was discovered that the enemy had almost succeeded in enveloping the company's right flank with tanks and infantry. They held their position, however, and withstood that attack. Costly damage was inflicted on the enemy by the cannon company and our artillery. Later, for a period of twenty-five minutes, the company was subjected to a severe artillery barrage, but only one man was wounded.

On the thirteenth they left for defensive position and advanced through Nicema to a point three-fourths of a mile east of the town and took up a defensive position. During the 14th and 15th numerous contact and reconnaissance patrols were active, but they did not contact the enemy. At 2145 hours on the 15th, the company left the defensive position by truck and traveled 17 miles to another assembly area where the company ate its first hot meal in Sicily.

They left the assembly area on the 16th on trucks and rode to Mazzirino where they detrucked and took up a defensive position. They left the defensive position and moved to an assembly area and prepared for a night attack, but the attack was called off.

On the 17th the company hiked five miles north and west to the town of Barafranca. There they halted and reformed the company in preparation for an attack. A battalion of infantry, one company of light tanks, and two medium tanks was selected for the attack. They crossed the line of departure and attacked north and west along the road between Barrafranca and Pietraperzia. The company's mission was to secure and hold the road junction approximately three miles east of Pietraperzia. The mission was accomplished without the company sustaining any casualties. Upon gaining their objective they sent a motorized patrol into Pietraperzia, met no resistance, but rounded up fifty-two Italian prisoners.

On the following day they left their defensive position and moved into an assembly area in preparation for a night attack. They moved into the attack at 0019 hours. Their mission was to secure and hold the high ground on the north side of the valley. They accomplished the mission without a casualty.

The 19th found them hiking ten miles east where they established a road-block. On the 20th they moved forward to Enna encountering no resistance. Upon their arrival they set up a defensive position around the city, but on the 22nd they moved forward to an assembly area. The men were having considerable difficulty with their feet owing to the long hikes they were making. They stayed in various assembly areas until 26 July at which date they prepared for an attack.

At 0315 hours on the morning of 27 July they crossed the LD in a night attack upon Hill 962. They accomplished their mission and then withdrew to the reverse slope in order to prepare to defend it. At 2200 they moved forward and occupied the rear slope of Hill 800, dug in, and prepared to defend the hill against a possible enemy attack. On the 28th they were ordered to take Hill 715. They occupied the hill, but found only one German. From Hill 715 they moved into and occupied Sperlinga. They held their defensive position at Sperligna until the last day of July, and then rejoined the battalion, which had moved ahead to Nicosia.

The company stayed in the bivouac area in Nicosia until the second of August. During the two days the men cleaned their weapons and equipment. Captain Alfred H Smith Jr., the Commanding Officer, joined the

Third Battalion Headquarters Company. First Lt. Edward T. Montague took over the duties as CO, and First Lt. Robert R. Cutler took over the duties of the Executive Officer.

On 3 August the company crossed the Line of Departure in a night attack on Hill 1040. They reached their objective, but only succeeded in getting on the hill because they were unable to force the enemy to withdraw from his position. The enemy counter-attacked at 1145 hours, but was driven back after a very desperate fight in which our artillery played a very important role. The attack on Hill 1040 was continued at 2020 hours, and the company succeeded in clearing the hill entirely of enemy troops.

They held a defensive position on Hill 1040 on the fourth of August and successfully beat off two enemy counter-attacks during which Lt. Montague was wounded and Lt. Cutler assumed command of the company. They moved forward at 2115 hours and passed through Co. I in preparation for an attack on Hill 1044. Three sergeants were killed during the move.

Hill 1044 was attacked at 0315 hours on the fifth of August. Resistance was encountered from enemy machine guns. The company withdrew reorganized, and immediately moved forward and cleared out the enemy positions. They took up a fine defensive position and held their half of the hill. They had forced through the enemy lines, but the enemy was behind them and on both flanks. An enemy tank opened fire from the right flank, and the enemy to the rear opened fire with their 81 mm mortars. Some of the enemy even managed to crawl close enough to throw a few "potato mashers". The enemy counter-attack was fought off and withdrew to the rear.

On the morning of 6 August a strong patrol, reinforced by LMG section, was sent into Troina. They met light resistance from machine guns and snipers. About 1000 hours a formation of medium bombers dropped a load of bombs on the town. The dust raised from the explosion lasted for thirty minutes. They returned to let loose another load of bombs. Some P-51's came over to bomb the enemy, but dropped their bombs quite close to the ~~XXXX~~ company's lines, one of which--fortunately a dud--fell very close to the CP. Immediately following the bombing raids the division artillery went into action and for approximately twenty minutes the air was filled with 105 and 155 mm shells. At 1115 the patrol which had been sent into the town accomplished its mission, and the whole battalion moved into and occupied the town.

After the fall of Troina, the 39th Infantry moved through us to continue the attack against the enemy. The company moved from the outskirts of Troina to a battalion bivouac area about two miles to the rear of the town.

From the 7th of August until the 21st of October the company moved to several bivouac areas in the vicinity of Randazzo, Agrigento, and Licato. The customary training programs were followed with special emphasis being placed upon hardening marches. Finally on the 21st of October they moved to Augusta where they boarded HMS Maloja. On the 23rd the ship headed out into the Mediterranean Sea and sailed to Algiers. On the 27th the ship left Algiers -- destination unknown.

On the morning of the fifth of November 1943 the company arrived in the Port of Liverpool aboard the H.M.S. Maloja after traveling a distance of 3814 water miles from Augusta, Sicily. On the sixth they disembarked from the ship and traveling by train and truck were transported to the Long Bredy Barracks in Dorset, England.

On the tenth of November a regular training schedule was instituted which was followed until the first of June 1944. Leading and landing operations were emphasized, and many other phases of training which were of value to combat men were practiced.

The company entrucked from Long Bredy Barracks on the first of June to Weymouth from which point they boarded H. M.S. Empire Anvil. Finally on the fifth of June the ship weighed anchor and sailed from Weymouth Bay at 1740 hours. Their destination was the coast of France.

" Company L landed on the coast of France in the vicinity of Colleville Sur Mer, at approximately 0700 hours on the morning of June 6, 1944. H-hour was scheduled for 0630 hours but heavy seas and poor visibility caused assault waves to land 30 minutes late. All naval shelling had ceased and there was no supporting fire on the beach defenses when the company landed. Supporting tanks were also late - landing several minutes after the assault waves.

"The company consisted of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th assault sections, and company Hqs. section. The 4th assault sections' craft had capsized in the heavy sea shortly after debarking from the transport.

"The assault landing craft touched down just short of several rows of underwater obstacles - element C, tetrahedrone and hedge hogs - and the personnel waded ashore before crossing 200 yards of open beach under intense enemy machine gun, rifle, mortar, artillery and anti-tanks weapon fire. This brought the company into the comparative shelter of a vertical cliff where section leaders quickly re-organized their sections. The company losses at this stage were very high - one entire assault section (the 4th) was missing, its landing craft having capsized. The landing craft carrying the first section had been hit by artillery fire and nineteen men of the section were missing. Five men of the second section were wounded, ten from the third and four from Company Headquarters. These losses reduced the company strength from 187 men to 123.

"On the beach company aid men Tec 5 Louis Iorio, Pfc. John L Ryan, and Pfc John C. Willford distinguished themselves by their cool, effective treatment of wounded while under fire from beach defenses.

"The assault on the beach strong points was begun immediately, and the company began to push inland from the beach around the west edge of the cliff. The Company Commander, Capt. John R. Armellino, was seriously wounded when he repeatedly exposed himself to direct tank fire to support his company's advance. Lt. Cutler, executive officer at the time, assumed command.

"The second assault section under Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith, was ordered to push up a small draw and engage pill boxes on the left strong point which was our original mission and one we could not carry out. The third section was to advance on the right of the second with the fifth following it. The first section passed around the right flank and made contact with elements of the 116th Inf. and assaulted the right strong point. In this phase of the assault, the first section fought a separate action out of contact with the remainder of the company. Individual section actions progressed as follows:

"The first section, under Lt. Klenk, had been reduced to twelve men by losses incurred when its landing craft suffered two direct hits. Men were forced to go over sides and wade ashore in shoulder deep water. Lt. Klenk and S/Sgt. McKinney reorganized the remainder of the section under fire in a highly creditable manner. In accordance with the company plan the section moved along the beach for 200 yards to take the east strongpoint under fire. Here Lt. Klenk contacted two lost assault sections of the 116th Infantry and combined them with his section in building up a fire line at the edge of a dune line which supported the advance of Co. "L" and "K". Their fire was masked by smoke from a grass fire shortly thereafter and Lt. Klenk moved the section by orders back down the beach to assault the left strong point elements which were still in action.

"Lt. Klenk then sent out a scout patrol of five men from the 116th led by Pfc. Joseph Likevich of Co. "L", to clear mine fields and barbed wire obstacles. They pushed forward making steady progress until they became involved in a hand grenade exchange with Jerries in positions to their left flanks. S/Sgt. Paul Mansfield came to their assistance with Pvts Thomas E. Cates, James H. Jordan, and Pfc. Micheal H. Rilko. This group was joined by Lts. Godwin and Kimp of "I" Co and held their ground until tank and 60mm mortar fire could be brought to bear on the enemy position. A destroyer then picked up the fire, and the group closed in and cleaned out the position. Fifteen prisoners were taken, sixteen wounded, and several killed.

"At this point the first section of Co. "L" and Co. Hq. under the

"At this point the 1st section of Co. "L" and Co. Hq. under the command of Lt. Cutler moved forward as planned. Sgt. Monroe emplaced his LMG squad to cover the advance and Lt. Monteith enlisted and directed the support of two tanks. Under cover of this fire and that of the 1st and 5th sections Sgt. Wells worked his squad forward and led them through two mine fields and three bands of wire. S/Sgts. Griffin, Freck, and Holmberg performed in outstanding fashion in this action. At the head of the draw the section took up hasty defensive positions and covered the advance of the 5th section and Co. Hq. Two open emplacements were silenced by BAR and Rifle fire during the advance up the draw.

" Meanwhile the 3rd section was moving up the right slope of the draw and led by Lt. Williams, advanced through anti-personnel mine fields clearing a path for the following sections. Lt. Williams and S/Sgt. Rulong showed a fine and aggressive spirit in moving through mined areas, and Sgt. Cama, who blew lanes in the wire also did excellent work. The section was receiving scattered small arms fire from snipers and machine guns which harassed it but did not slow down its progress.

"Having reached the first high ground Lt. Williams had his section take up a hasty defensive position and made contact by runner with the 2nd section on the left. The two sections advanced together, crossed a heavily mined road and again took up defensive positions to await orders of the Company Commander.

"The 5th section in this action worked forward through the mine fields and wire obstacles along with the 2nd section - gaps were blown by Pfc. John V. Griffin and Pvt. Joe Vase, and the section made steady progress until it came under MG fire from its left flank. Pfc. John Griffin worked around to the flank of the position and effectively silenced it with his BAR. The section then moved into position on the right of the 2nd section and set up a hasty defense.

"Company Headquarters moved from the beach to the 1st defensive position following 2nd and 5th sections. First Sergeant Waddell set up the first Company CP 600 yards inland at point 62, 500 north east Cabourg- contact was made with Battalion by radio and the company situation was reported. Time 0900 hours. Under Lt. Cutler's direction perimeter defense was set up on initial high ground. The 5th section was assign the mission of securing right flank and patrolling to Babourg. The 3rd section covered left flank patrolling to Le Gd Hameau and cutting main lateral highway between Colleville and St. and St. Hammeau. The 2nd section in reserve protecting company rear. A heavy machine gun section under Lt. K. Booth and two light machine guns squads under Sgt. Lopuhovsky and Sgt. Monroe arrived at this time and were placed in position- time 0930 hours. The company was under constant small arms fire.

"A patrol from the 5th section was sent to Cabourg at this time but failed to return. It consisted of Pfc. Mailander, Pvt. Butt and Pvt. O'Dell. The members of the patrol were captured at Cabourg when surrounded by 52 of the enemy. Pvt. Butt was wounded. Later Pfc. Mailander talked the Germans into surrendering and took them prisoners turning them over to the 2nd Bn. of the 18th Infantry. A patrol from the 3rd section under Sgt. Burton Davis was sent to cut the main road between Hameau and Colleville preparatory to the company attacking its first objective. The patrol reached the vicinity of Le Gd. Hameau near the road and encountered enemy resistance from the town. A fire fight ensued in which our patrol killed one German, but from which they were forced to withdraw.

"Sgt. Davis was again sent out with a patrol to reconnoiter a route to Le Gd Hameau.

"At approximately 1300 hours a small enemy counter attack of about 1 platoon supported by light mortars and machine guns developed against our left flank and rear. This threat was met by heavy fire from the 2nd section, Co. Hq. and Lt Stumbaugh's section and decisively repulsed. Thirteen enemy were killed or wounded and 2 men were killed and four wounded from our own forces.

Lt. Montanari, who in a large measure was responsible for our effective defensive, was killed while exposing himself to direct effective fire against the counter attacking forces. T/Sgt. John B. Worosbyt assumed command of the second section.

"On the return of Sgt Davis with his second patrol, Capt. Richmond decided to send a strong combat patrol to Le Gd Hameau and follow it with the remainder of his combined force which totaled 104 men of which 84 men were from Co L and the remainder from K, K, and M Companies. Lt. Williams volunteered to take this patrol out and succeed in entering the town with his entire section. He set up a strong defense in the outskirts and put outposts into town. A German scout car approached the town, was halted and one man taken prisoner. The second was killed while attempting to escape. Later two German staff cars and one scout car approached the village and were taken under fire by Pfc Hodge with a light machine gun. One prisoner was taken, but two others escaped. Numerous military papers and maps and a complete radio set was captured with these vehicles.

"Elements of K Co moved into Hameau following up our third section. The remainder of Co L moved into town at approximately 1600 hours.

"A patrol under Lt. Marincic was sent up the main road to reconnoiter Cabourg. It encountered heavy opposition en route and was unable to force its way into the town. S/Sgt Madoux was killed in this action.

"At 2100 hours the company preceded by a small covering patrol under T/Sgt Worosbyt took up defensive positions in orchards 600 yards south west of Le Gd Hameau with the mission of protecting the right flank.

"During the night enemy infiltrating parties were encountered and driven off at dawn the next day (June 7). Small enemy groups were mopped up behind our position by the fifth section. The fifth section took one officer and four men prisoners and killed or wounded eight to ten more. The second section wiped out a three man recon patrol. Snipers were active, but were cleaned out."

On the seventh of June the company held a defensive position in an orchard 600 yards southwest of Le Gd Hameau. At dawn several enemy positions were mopped up behind their positions. Snipers were active but were dealt with before any serious damage could be done. Later in the morning the first section and the remainder of the company came up. Lt. Kerekes, who had charge of the remainder of the company, came up; he then took command of the second section. Several Germans were killed, wounded and taken prisoner. At noon the company received orders to mop up beach defenses in the vicinity of Ste Honorine Des Pertes. They moved forward and ran into resistance at a strong point near Ste Honorine Des Pertes. The first section deployed and moved forward under the supporting fire of the platoon of heavy machine guns that were attached to the company from M company. Sgt Klukoske moved in close with his BAR and Sgt. Leonard came in close with his rifle grenades and effectively pinned the enemy down. The rest of the section closed in with the enemy and commenced a hand grenade exchange. In this action the company had one man killed and one man wounded. The enemy lost one man killed, one wounded and nineteen captured. This action reduced the strongpoint and the company moved into Ste Honorine without meeting further resistance. They stood by in Ste Honorine for orders. Finally they arrived and the company hiked into Huppain and set up a defensive position around the edges of the town. The second section sent a patrol down along the cliffs toward Port En Bessin to contact the British. About 800 yards west of the town the patrol ran into an enemy position and could not get through. One private received a direct hit on his right leg from a German rifle-grenade and had to be evacuated in a hurry, so the patrol brought him back and failed to contact the British.

The company left Huppain on the eighth of June and hiked to Villiers Sur Port where they took up a defensive position behind the 26th Infantry. In the afternoon the company moved forward again and

occupied Mt. Cauvin which was their final objective for D-Day. The second section had a little trouble with three riflemen after they were in position, but after Sgt. Giffin killed one the other two took off. The first section was sent to contact the 231st British Brigade in Escures and to set up an OP on Hill 72. The section contacted three British medics from the "Devons" but was fired on from the town and from Hill 72. The section was forced to withdraw to the west of the town. At 1530 hours a platoon of the enemy appeared on the left flank of the first section, having infiltrated and immediately were taken under fire. They returned the fire with rifles, machine pistols and machine guns and wiped out an engineer patrol of four men. The first section supported by Lt McCarthy's mortars and a platoon of heavy machine guns counterattacked and killed or captured about twenty-five of the enemy and drove off the rest.

They held their defensive position on Mt Cauvin until the ninth of June and then over to clean out any pockets of resistance that might have been left behind the 26th Infantry. No resistance was met, and the company moved into St Anne and set up a defensive position.

On the morning of the tenth of June the company hiked about five miles to an assembly area at Foutenay, and then moved forward to Ranchy, Subles and LaChappelle in the vicinity of the towns they remained until the 21st of June. Numerous contact patrols were sent out while the company was at La Chappelle. On one, a motorized patrol which consisted of four men and a jeep, the patrol was strafed by four planes bearing allied markings which were believed to be P-51's and one man was killed with two wounded.

On 21 June we left La Chappelle and took up a defensive position in La Vallerie, which they occupied until the 24th and then moved up to relieve F Company in a position 2000 yards southwest of Cormolain, Numerous contact patrols were sent out while they were there. On the twenty-ninth, however, at 2030 hours there were fire fights with three burp-gunners which lasted for about an hour, during which they received excellent support from the cannon company and Lt. McCarthy's mortars. On July first the company left their position at Cormolain and hiked to Le Haut Digry where they took over positions which had been occupied by G Company. Their mission was to remain alerted waiting for a counter-attack in case the enemy succeeded in breaking through our lines. Two men, S/Sgt Wells and Sgt Griffin were presented with the DSC by General Eisenhower on the second of July for heroic action against the enemy during the initial assault on the beaches of Normandy.

Until the 13th of July 1944 the company remained at La Varrelie. Various problems were discussed and solved. Equipment was cared for and cleaned. On the morning of the 13th the company was informed that the division was being relieved by the Fifth Division and that the First Division was going into reserve. At 2025 hours the company left La Vallerie and moved into a bivouac area in the vicinity of Colombiers at which they remained until 20 July and then moved to an assembly area seven hundred yards east of Le Mesnil Argot where they remained until the 26th of July when they entrucked to a defensive position 600 yards north of La Chappell, France. En route to La Chappell enemy planes shelled and strafed them, but there was only one casualty.

The company was holding a defensive position east of Le Groudiers on 28 July. At 0500 hours they were alerted and began to move forward. At 0530 hours one squad of the first platoon became involved in a grenade duel with four Germans. As a result of the duel two of our men were wounded and two Germans, including one officer, were killed. Also one American prisoner, who had been captured by the Germans on the previous night, was released. With tanks the company continued to move forward using the main highway as the axis of the advance. The highway was also the boundary between L and K Companies with L co on the left. Only spotty resistance was encountered--a machine gun at one point, and a few snipers at others--until they reached a point 700 yards east of Le Groudiere. At this point they ran into three Mark V Tanks that were

on the road and enemy infantry, who were deployed along the sides of the road and were supported by machine guns. The company and tanks were forced to deploy. The third platoon was the advance guard for the company and deployed just to the left of the road. Owing to the excellent positions of the enemy tanks our tanks were unable to return the fire so the platoon opened up with small arms fire forcing the tanks to close their embrasures. When they were closed, Pvt. James was able to move forward and take up an effective firing position with his bazooka. He disabled the first tank and the crew abandoned it. At this time the second tank pulled along side the first and opened fire. Pvt James was unable to bring fire to bear on this tank and the squads laid down covering fire while he moved to the right side of the tank and took up a firing position. Pvt. Ward of the first platoon moved forward and joined James, and between the two of them they completely destroyed the second tank with the bazooka fire. The third enemy tank took off before fire could be brought to bear upon it. At this time the third platoon with supporting tanks moved forward about 300 yards and took up a hasty defensive position to await further orders from the company commander. When the third was forced to deploy, the first platoon was deployed on the left of the third. It moved forward along with the third, and effectively engaged enemy machine guns and riflemen while the third was dealing with the tanks and forced the enemy to withdraw after a very heavy fire fight. After the enemy withdrew, the first platoon was ordered to establish positions on the left of the third maintaining physical contact. About this time enemy mortar and artillery fire became so intense that the tanks that were attached to the company were forced to withdraw to the rear. As the men had not dug in, the casualty list was mounting fast. As soon as the tanks had withdrawn, the second platoon, which had been the support, was moved into position on the left of the first to protect the company's left flank. The CP was set up on a sunken road just to the rear of the company, and the wounded were collected and moved into a farm house to be attended and await evacuation. Intermittent shelling continued throughout the afternoon, but as the company was dug in and set up for it, the fire was ineffective. As soon as the fire had lifted, jeeps were sent in to evacuate the wounded. The company remained in position until 2300 hours and then it withdrew about 300 yards and established a defensive position on line with and the left of K Company. Casualties for the day amounted to two EM killed, one officer and twenty-three EM wounded and evacuated.

While in a defensive position east of Le Groudiere the company was given the attack order and at 1100 hours moved out. They reached their final phase line which was the highway running into Contances at 1420 hours without encountering any resistance. At 1500 hours they moved forward again and took up a defensive position south of Laubriere where they remained until the 31st of July and then entrucked to an assembly area 1000 yards northwest of St Denis Le Gast.

The company left the assembly area near St Denis Le Gast on the first of August and hiked sixteen miles to another assembly area northwest of L Epine. During a heavy early morning air raid one man was wounded in both legs by bomb splinters. On the second they moved to a forward assembly area near Bracey and then moved into the attack with the mission to secure all the right flank of the Division. They attacked for five and one half miles encountering no resistance and took three prisoners. On the fifth the company was assembled and loaded on tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks and moved up fourteen miles to what was supposed to have been a defensive position, but which had become an assembly area by the time they arrived.

On the sixth of August the company loaded on tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks and rode for thirty miles to a defensive position 800 yards southeast of Mayenne. At 1400 hours the second platoon became involved in a small arms fire fight and were still battling when the company received orders to move out to the rear. They were relieved by the Second Battalion and rode by truck to an area 2000 yards northwest of Mayenne where three men who had been wounded by shrapnel were evacuated.

At 0230 hours the company moved to a defensive line along the river about 1500 yards north of Mayenne. On the eighth they moved to

a company assembly area in the vicinity of Mayenne at which they remained until the 12th when they were informed that the regiment was going into division reserve behind the 18th and 26th Inf. Regiments.

Captain Cutler (promoted from Lt to Capt on the ninth of August) received the attack order on the 14th, and at 1650 hours the men loaded on tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks and moved to a point 1200 yards west of La Ferte Mace. At this point the company unloaded, and with one platoon of light tanks and the third platoon as advance guard, moved to their objective without meeting any resistance. They captured twenty-one prisoners, including one female collaborator. Two of the prisoners were killed while attempting to escape.

On the 16th of August the company moved to a bivouac area 200 yards north of La Moliere, France, at which they stayed until the 24th. On that date they were in a position near Courcourennes. At 1030 hours the company began to hike. They hiked for sixteen miles. During that time the people in the towns around Paris lined up along the road to kiss the men or shower them with fruits and wines. Some even hiked down the road with the column, carrying the rifles and the packs of the men. Finally after hiking sixteen miles, the company was halted. They fell over to the side of the road to await transportation. At 1745 hours the company loaded on one-half ton trucks and M Company's jeeps and rode to a position 1000 yards east of Emerainville.

The company moved into a defensive position in the town of Monthyon on the 28th. Civilians reported that the enemy had just left town, so a patrol was sent to a group of buildings about 1000 yards to the front of the town. A few of the enemy were detected, but they withdrew upon learning from the civilians that the Americans were moving in. About an hour later Sgt Wells reported seeing a half-track and about a platoon of infantry move into the buildings to the front. Immediately the first platoon with two medium tanks was sent out to destroy them. Evidently the enemy discovered the troops and did not care to fight, for when the first platoon arrived to the buildings, the enemy had departed. Heavy forces of enemy bombers flew over the company's positions during the night, but no bombs were dropped.

For the next few days the company moved from position without contacting the enemy. Finally they took up positions west of Lavaquereuse. At approximately 2000 hours three men, members of the FFI brought in five German medics whom they had captured on the previous day. One of the prisoners, a master sergeant, volunteered to go into the woods and bring back fifteen more of the enemy. Lt. Klenk took a patrol and escorted the German sergeant to the edge of the woods and then sent him in to bring out the German soldiers who were supposedly hiding therein. After waiting for a half hour, Lt. Klenk took a patrol back to the company, thinking that the German had given him a "snowjob". Thirty minutes later, however, the German sergeant returned with the story that he had been unable to locate his comrades. Patrols from the company were kept in the town all night, but no contact with the enemy was made. At 2200 hours, however, four more Germans approached the company's position and surrendered.

On 3 September at 0920 hours the company was loaded on trucks and the half-track and started for Mons, Belgium, which was their objective for the day. At 1340 hours they had reached a point two-hundred yards north of Maubeuge when the column was halted and orders came down from the battalion for the company to unload and disperse to the immediate vicinity and hold what they had while the battle in which the 26th Infantry was involved developed. At 1420 hours the company received orders to entruck and move back into town as fast as was possible. They arrived back in town in record time, detrucked and formed for an attack. As they moved farther into town they began a systematic search of all the houses and buildings on the north side of the town. During this operation the company captured over a hundred prisoners and killed one of the enemy. At 1730 hours the company

was assembled, loaded on trucks, and started for Mons. As the column neared the Belgium border it became involved in a very strange situation. The road ran parallel to the front line, and was as straight as an arrow. The company's motor column travelled down the road leisurely and serenely as if it was on a pleasure trip. In the ditch on the left side of the road the 26th Infantry had built up a firing line and were busily battling away. Literally hundreds of dead Germans were laying about the fields to their front attesting to the enormity of the battle they were waging. On the right side of the road the kitchens of the 26th were set up and the cooks had their fires going and were cooking supper. The company's column continued on its way down the road and arrived at Mons where it was forced to halt for about an hour. It was a very welcome pause, for the civilians showered the troops with kisses, fruits, souvenirs, and beer. After the pause the company moved to Nimy, a suburb of Mons, where they detrucked and set up a line.

The company remained in Nimy until the seventh of September, and then entrucked for Huy, Belgium, a distance of seventy-six miles, where they remained until the tenth of September, at which date they moved to an assembly area 1508 yards southeast of Herve. On the twelfth the company moved to another position about 5000 yards southwest of Aachen, Germany in the Sigfried line where they held a defensive position until the thirteenth. Captain Cutler issued the company order at 1015 hours, and the company moved out to take their objective, which was Point 161.

Sgt Palek's squad was the point for the company and the Second platoon was the advance guard. At about 1050 hours just as Sgt Palek's squad was nearing the concrete anti-tank dragon teeth that was the forward border of the Sigfried Line; it was fired on by MG and rifles. Pfc Hollowbush and Beddow were hit and neither very badly. Sgt. Palek's squad immediately took cover behind the dragons teeth, and the rest of the second platoon deployed on the right and left of them.

It was evident by the amount of enemy fire power the company was going to be forced to deploy so Capt Cutler ordered the third platoon to deploy to the left and a little forward of the second. The third deployed and moved out and met no opposition until they reached the German-Belgium border. Here they were fired on by small arms. The third immediately took cover. Reconnaissance proved that there were two pill boxes, three anti-tank guns, and a strong force of enemy infantry in positions about two-hundred yards to the front of the third platoon. Lt. Messuri asked for tank support. Capt Cutler requested two tanks from Battalion. While awaiting the tanks the LMG section was detached from the second platoon and attached to the third. The mortars were set up in battery in the rear of the company positions. Two TD's arrived from Battalion and the company commander decided to use them for divert support while the first platoon tried to move into and clear out the woods in which there was a long the woods. While the TD's were moving into position the first was deployed and prepared to move forward. The first Platoon jumped off at 1410 hours supported by the two M-10's and a platoon of HMG's from M Co. Sgt. Mansfield's squad moved out in a skirmish line and Sgt Leonard's squad protected his right flank with fire and Sgt Reardon's squad protected his left flank. When Mansfield's squad got to within about fifty yards of the dragon's teeth it was fired on. They halted temporarily while the remainder of the platoon was committed. Pfc O'Dell took a patrol around to the left to try to find an open flank, and Sgt. Reardon's BAR team went around the right to try to bring fire on the enemy from the flank and support Sgt Mansfield's squad's advance through the tank obstacles. The BAR team had not gotten around the flank before it came under MG fire from a pill box to their right and were forced to withdraw to cover. O'Dell and his patrol around the left flank had not proceeded far until it came under fire of MG's from a pill box to their front. The two leading men of his patrol were killed and the rest forced to withdraw. After taking a quick estimation, Lt. Kilgore decided on a frontal assault so the platoon had a quick reorganization and moved forward. They succeeded

in coming to within twenty-five yards of the enemy's pill box line of defense when the enemy fire became so intense that the platoon was forced halt and seek cover. By this time enemy was pounding our line with intense artillery, mortar, and anti-tank weapon barrages and a heavy volume of small arms fire. The first platoon remained where they were and threw hand grenades and fired bazookas at the pill boxes to their front but pill boxes can't be knocked out with hand grenades, and the first platoon was running too many casualties, so the company commander ordered them to withdraw to their old positions which offered them a little cover.

During this battle, the company destroyed two pill boxes, knocked out three anti-tank guns, and three MG emplacements and three trucks. The M-10's accounted for two boxes and three trucks. In spite of this, the company was unable to advance, so they dug in and held their positions for the remainder of the day.

On the 14th the company was still holding its defensive position five thousand yards south of Aachen, Germany. On the 16th they were in a defensive position on the north side of Brand. Command Posts were set up in pill boxes, and the men were deployed in open emplacements around them. At 1100 hours the company was assembled, moved out, and positions 1800 yards west of Stolberg were taken up in a small village called Munsterouch. There numerous patrols were active and were constantly in touch with the enemy. Considerable enemy artillery fire was received, and not a day passed without a mortar barrage being received. On three or four occasions at night enemy planes flew over the positions of the company and dropped bombs. Several men were wounded by shrapnel.

The company was relieved by G Company on 27 October and moved back to Brand where they bivouaced in houses. They remained at Brand until the first of November. The men took showers, had movies, and one USO show. On the first of November they moved out of Brand and relieved C Co which was dug in near the position which the company had formerly occupied west of Stolberg. On the 8th of November they moved back to Brand where they stayed for the night. On the following morning they were loaded on trucks and transported to an area 2000 yards north of Zwiefall. On the morning of the 10th they hiked three and one-half miles to a new bivouac area east of Vicht where they remained until 16 November at which date they took up a position near Gressenich. On the 18th they hiked two miles to Company A's position where they organized in preparation for the attack on Hemich. At 0800 hours they hiked approximately they hiked two miles and jumped off and succeeding in slugging their way into the town. Casualties were so heavy that the attack was halted, before the town was even completely occupied. At 2100 hours the enemy counter-attacked with tanks and infantry. The tanks overran the company's position; they were forced to yield three houses before the attack was stopped. During the attack enemy casualties were very high, and two of their tanks were destroyed. The enemy also lost two tanks out on the road leading into Hemichby. The company had twenty-eight men wounded, four missing, and nine killed.

On 19 November the company attacked and cleared out the north side of the town without encountering very much opposition and sustaining no casualties. They reorganized and attacked Point 57 which was the high ground 1200 yards north of Hemich. They met slight resistance, but both attacks were beaten off. A hand grenade duel followed the attacks and continued off and on during the night. Owing to the artillery fire, hand grenades and sniper fire casualties were quite high consisting of three men killed and thirteen wounded.

The company moved from Hemich on 23 November to an assembly area at Heistern. At 0630 hours they moved to another assembly area which they left at 0730 hours in an attack on high ground. The attack progressed rapidly until 0900 hours at which time the company was in sight of its objective. At this time a small arms fire fight took place which halted the company. Enemy artillery began to register on the company's position, and owing to casualties, it became impossible to continue the

attack. The Company Commander ordered the company to withdraw to about 300 yards while the artillery worked over the enemy's positions. Before the men succeeded in digging in, enemy artillery registered and inflicted several casualties, one of which was the Company Commander. The executive officer was the only officer left in the company and he immediately assumed command. As soon as the enemy fire lifted slightly, Lt. Klenk reorganized the company into one platoon of two squads and the company moved forward into the attack, but again the company was pinned down. Tanks were brought up and combined infantry and tank assault was launched. The assault was successful and the company took the objective and began to organize a defense. At 1800 hours, before the defense had been established, the enemy counter-attacked. The attack was stopped just short of the company's position with heavy losses to the enemy. At 2100 hours the enemy again attacked with tanks, moved into the company's position, and succeeded in pinning down the company, but divisional artillery was brought down on this position and it prevented the enemy infantry from moving in and forced the enemy tanks to withdraw. Casualties for the day were high, consisting of seven men killed, twenty-one wounded, including two officers.

Until 26 November the company remained in position on Point 104. On 24 November 1st Lt. Arthur J. Bouchard took command of the company. On the 26th the relief for the company arrived and the men were placed on trucks and driven for five miles to a bivouac area.

They remained in the bivouac area until the 30th of November. Many replacements arrived, and several men returned from the hospital. The company was reorganized, and on the 30th they hiked seven miles to Hucheln, where the men were billeted in a block of apartment houses. At 1300 hours the company left Hucheln by truck and traveled fifteen miles to an assembly area about 2500 yards southwest of Lammersdorf. At 1700 hours they relieved C Company of the 60th Regiment, 9th Division.

On 11 December the company left their positions at Lammersdorf, Germany and via truck moved to a rest area in Dison, Belgium. First Lt. Arthur Bouchard was accepted Captain as of December 8, 1944.

For six days the company remained in Dison, and during that period the customary rest area duties were performed. On the 17th the company was alerted and at 1630 hours assembled and loaded on trucks. At 2258 hours, after traveling about twenty-six miles they arrived at Robertsville, Belgium. They hiked four miles on the following day and set up a position north of Weywartz. On the 19th they moved to a position 1000 yards south of Weywartz. Platoons immediately set up defenses from east to west along the main highway. At 1900 hours a German patrol of ten men slipped through the third platoon outposts and into the platoon's defense area and shot one tank man. After a brisk fire-fight, things quieted down and defenses were reorganized. One enemy was killed and one captured. Enemy planes bombed during the night, but there were no casualties.

On the morning of the 20th of December at 0600 hours the enemy attacked with approximately three companies of infantry troops. A very strong fight ensued during which the company held their position. When daylight arrived they began to gather prisoners. Forty-three of the enemy were captured and about the same number were killed. After dark the enemy became very active with patrols. The third platoon cornered one patrol and killed one man.

At noon on the 21st of December a company of the enemy came marching down the road towards the company's position. When they got into the area the third platoon opened fire. They killed twelve of the enemy, wounded four or five, and captured two. The enemy retreated, but shortly after the withdrawal, they opened fire with tanks, artillery, and mortars and pounded our positions. After dark the enemy tried to sneak a patrol through the third platoon, but the

patrol withdraw after four of its men had been killed. The 3rd platoon sent two patrols 1000 yards to our front. The first returned without incident, but the 2nd ran into a house containing enemy troops. They ripped it apart with a rocket gun and a BAR. During the night all platoons planted anti-tank mines and strung wire.

On the morning of the 22nd a large force of the enemy approached the company's line. When daylight came the mortar section fired over 250 rounds into the enemy position and many direct hits were made. After this group of enemy troops was cleared out, the front became quiet. Occasionally an artillery or a mortar barrage would come in, but casualties were slight.

The company remained in a defensive position south of Waywertz until the 24th of December when they were relieved by K company and went into reserve in the town of Waywertz in which position they remained until the 30th of December. During this period regular nightly patrols were sent out. On a patrol which went out Christmas night Lt. McLaughlin was shot and believed to be killed.

At 1700 hours on the 30th of December the company hiked about one and one half miles to a position south east of Gueuzaine at which they remained in a defensive position until the 15th of January, 1945.

On the morning of the 15th of January 1945 the company moved to an assembly area near our outposts and jumped off in the attack at 0615 hours. The first objective was 1500 yards to the front across open fields covered with 18 inches of snow. The 2nd platoon their objective, but managed to infiltrate through enemy lines and occupy houses. After reaching their objective they began mopping up enemy machine guns on their left which were holding up the 1st and 3rd platoons which made it possible for the 1st and 3rd platoons to move up to their objective and set up a defensive position. The company suffered high casualties having six men killed and twenty-two wounded, but enemy casualties were much higher.

Until the 19th of January the company remained in a defensive position about 1000 yards northeast of Faymonville. Contact patrols were sent out nightly.

At 0720 hours on the 19th the company jumped off on the attack for Schoppen, Belgium. They had four M-10 TDs for support. However, one of the TD's got stuck in a snowdrift, another was knocked out, and another was damaged. When the company arrived at Schoppen, they had only one TD with them. During the attack there was a blinding snow storm which made it impossible to see farther than fifty yards. They reached their objective at 1030 hours and took 27 prisoners and killed or wounded about the same number. At 1045 hours the enemy counter attacked with a company of infantry and 3 S.P. guns, but the attack was beaten off. The casualties for the day amounted to eight wounded, six missing and one officer killed.

On the 25th of January the company was ordered to attack Mirfeld, Belgium. They moved out on tanks and tank destroyers. Resistance was very light, and they gained their objective without encountering any difficulty. One squad was sent forward to clear two houses and met with heavy small arms fire. One man was killed in the fire fight.

During the morning of the 28th of January the Company Commander, one officer from the 7th Field Artillery and the first platoon of the company attacked the town of Valender. The attack was very successful and resulted in the killing of many enemy infantry troops and the capture of fifteen prisoners.

The company remained in a reserve position in Mirfeld until the 6th of February. Passes were issued to Herve, Belgium. A movie was shown at I Company which was attended by most of the men. The men went to showers. Various classes were held. The bazooka men and the grenadiers practiced firing their weapons.

On the 6th of February the company was loaded on trucks and rode about fifty miles to the Hurtgen Forest where they detrucked and hiked 4 and 1/2 miles to the town of Gey, Germany. Getting settled in Gey was rather difficult because most of the buildings liveable.

On the 8th of February the company hiked about 3 miles to the town of Winden, which was on the banks of the Ruhr. It was quite a difficult hike because the roads were miry and the hike was made after dark. Consequently, the men slid all over the road. On the 11th the Company Commander went to a forward O.P. and directed artillery upon the enemy across the river. On the 15th of February the company moved to another reserve position in Kufferath, Germany which was only a short distance from the Ruhr. The company stayed at Kufferath until the 25th of February. During that time considerable enemy artillery came in, but there were no casualties. One night the company was strafed and bombed, but "Bedtime Charlie" did not succeed in hurting any of the men.

The company left Kufferath and jumped off in the attack at 1200 hours on the 25th of February. Contact with the enemy was made at 1315 hours. The company came under direct fire from a German tank. Six men were wounded and evacuated. Progress was very slow owing to the thick woods. Combat patrols were sent out, but they failed to contact the enemy. The company dug positions and remained in the vicinity of Stockheim.

On the 27th enroute to Vettweiss while crossing open terrain the company was subjected to direct fire from an enemy tank, but owing to good dispersion no one was hit. A vigorous assault was made on the town of Vettweiss, our objective, and the company succeeded in cleaning it out and holding it. Five prisoners were taken. Only one casualty was sustained.

The following morning at 1200 hours found the company mounted on tanks, trucks and jeeps attacking the town of Gladbach. They had to cross a mile and a half of open terrain under heavy artillery fire in order to get into the town, but the town was taken in two hours. Many Germans were killed and many were taken prisoner.

At 2000 hours on the same day which was the 28th of February the company jumped off in another attack on the town of Luxheim. Their objective was reached and taken at 2200 hours. Fifteen prisoners were taken. The platoons were assigned areas and security was set up. During the early morning hours the platoons cleared the town of stragglers. Eight more prisoners were taken. The kitchen and supply moved up and the men had their first hot meal in three days. The mortar section fired on the enemy crossing a stream with very good results. In the early hours of the morning the O.P. reported hearing voices in positions across the stream, and the cannon company worked the positions over. At about 0800 hours a two man patrol went across the stream to investigate and counted fifteen enemy dead.

On the fourth of March the company left Luxheim at 0800 hours on trucks and traveled about three and a half miles to the town of Freisheim. On the following morning at 0500 hours the company moving in tactical formation jumped into the attack. While proceeding to their objective they had to wade a canal. On the other side of the canal they crossed a mine field which resulted in the Company Commander's being wounded and nine enlisted men. First Lt. Kenneth J. Klenk assumed command of the company which proceeded along to its first phase line on schedule. At 1400 hours the company continued on to its next objective which was to clear the woods in the vicinity of Weilerswist. Platoons were assigned definite defense areas and dug in, but not for long. Orders came down for the company to move to the next objective which was a town that was to be taken in a night attack. While moving out of the woods, the company was subjected to small arms fire which was silenced immediately by the killing of two of the enemy and taking three prisoners. The town of Roseberg was then cleared without sustaining any casualties. The company set up defensive positions and kept the town patrolled during the night.

The company moved into the attack at 0500 hours in the sixth and by 0700 hours the whole town of Merton was taken. Two more nearby towns were also taken without too much opposition. During the night the company rested. On the morning of the seventh of March, assisted by tanks and tank destroyers they attacked and entered Bonn. Immediately upon their entrance they were subjected to small arms fire. The platoons were assigned various portions of the city, and proceeded to clear out their sections, encountering heavy resistance every foot of the way, but they reached their final objectives at 1145 hours. Numerous German soldiers were killed and 148 prisoners were taken. The company had two enlisted men wounded. They were promptly evacuated. When they reached their objective, the company set up defensive positions and awaited further orders. On the eighth the company continued with mopping up operations. Thirty-seven more enlisted men and two officers were taken prisoner. A combat patrol was sent forward with tanks to the river. There was an exchange of fire, and several of the enemy were killed. The patrol gathered the information it desired and withdrew to a defensive position.

The company was relieved and withdrew from its position in Bonn on the ninth of March. After assembling the company traveled about eight miles by truck to the village of Rosburg. The platoons were served hot food and assigned to billets.

On the eleventh of March, a training schedule was prepared, but was not followed because on the following morning at 0630 hours the company hiked about six miles to the town of Wesseling and relieved I Company of the 26th Infantry. Small arms fire and mortar fire was received intermittently during the day, and at night heavy artillery fire came in. But there were no reported casualties. Contact patrols were maintained all night with adjacent companies.

During the afternoon of the thirteenth, the company was relieved from the position and returned to Rosberg to a reserve position. They remained in Rosberg until the seventeenth of March. During their stay at Rosberg they test-fired their weapons on several occasions and cared for and cleaned their equipment.

They moved out of Rosberg by truck, traveled approximately seven miles to the Rhine, dismounted and crossed the river by foot over a bridge which had been constructed by the engineers. At Rhinebriet Bach, Germany they entrucked again and moved up to Ittenbach where they detrucked and relieved units on line. The officers and the sergeants were briefed on the procedure of the attack which was to take place on the following morning, but which for some reason was called off.

Morning of the 19th of March at 0245 hours found the company again in the attack with four phase lines for the objectives. The company jumped off at H-hour and surprised the enemy at the first objective where a number of the enemy were killed and wounded. Continuing on to the next phase line, which was reached on schedule, the company captured more of the enemy. When dawn came, however, the opposition became more stiff and the company was subjected to intense small arms fire which resulted in four of the men being wounded and evacuated. However the enemy was routed and the company effected a successful assault across open hilly terrain and took the position. The company moved on to the next objective which was a small town, Bennert, and took it without much opposition. The company was then ordered to hold the town and reorganize. A total of 110 prisoners were taken for the day. At 2200 hours units from the 3rd Armored Division relieved the company, and the company went into reserve for a well earned rest in the town of Bennert.

Operating under constant enemy observation and exceptionally heavy artillery fire and intense small arms fire, the company relieved units of the 1st Battalion on the 20th of March. Combat patrols were sent forward to engage the enemy and returned with several prisoners. This action took place in the vicinity of Braicllauser.

The company jumped off at 0200 hours and encountered small arms fire. The first phase line was reached after killing several of the enemy and forcing the rest to retreat. The company reorganized and pressed on to the next objective where they ran into a heavy artillery and rocket barrage which resulted in one man being wounded. They reached their final objective by 1145 hours and dug in and set up positions in preparation for a counter attack. Enemy artillery was particularly heavy in the area and very accurate. Many of the enemy were killed and 45 were taken prisoner.

On the 23-rd of March in the face of direct fire from enemy artillery, ~~ack~~ ack and tanks the company moved a few hundred yards forward toward the town of Bierth, Germany which was the company's next objective. They started a vigorous assault over uncovered terrain, gained their objective and held it. The company took 51 prisoners and killed quite a few of the enemy in this encounter. Shortly after the company gained this objective the enemy launched a counter-attack. Two tanks succeeded in overrunning the company's position and enemy infantry brought intense small arms fire to bear upon the positions of the company. The company's anti-tank weapons knocked out the two tanks and called for artillery and mortars which succeeded in stopping the counter attack and killed and wounded unnumbered enemy infantry. The second platoon of the company occupied the most forward position and in determination to stop the counter-attack called artillery fire in upon their own positions. A 45 minute barrage was laid upon the positions occupied by the 2nd platoon which resulted in many of the men from the 2nd platoon being wounded, but which succeeded in halting the attack. At 2300 hours the company again moved forward five hundred yards and relieved "I" company which was holding a defensive position. Casualties for the day amounted to one enlisted man being killed and eighteen enlisted men being wounded.

At 1030 hours the company entrucked and traveled a distance of approximately eight miles to a battalion assembly area in the vicinity of Werkhausen. On the following morning on the 26th of March the company moved into the attack at 0400 hours. All phase lines were reached without suffering casualties. Sixteen prisoners were taken. The company set up positions under light artillery fire.

On the 30th of March the Regiment and Battalion organized for the action which was to take place in conjunction with the 3rd Armored Division. They mounted trucks and tanks and traveled approximately 125 miles to the vicinity of Buren, Germany. Enroute to Buren they encountered enemy tanks which was responsible for a detour and a few hours of delay. The trip took place without incident except for one enlisted man who was injured. The company went into reserve and settled for a good night's sleep.

A report reached the company on the 1st of April that large enemy forces had been sighted. The company moved out on trucks and tanks, made a fast move and arrived in the zone of action at 1800 hours. The platoons moved forward through a wooded area for about five hundred yards and captured 187 prisoners.

On the 2nd of April, after clearing the woods, the company was ordered to take an airfield which was several miles away. The mission was completed and 19 prisoners were taken. Defensive positions were set up, and the day being wet, the men made shelters. There were no known battle casualties for the day.

The company was alerted for another attack on the 6th of April, mounted trucks, and again following elements of the 3rd Armored, left Buren, Germany and traveled approximately 41 miles in an easterly direction. No incident was encountered during the trip, but it was a wet and miserable day.

Until the 10th of April the company moved from one town to another, from one position to another without encountering any action. Finally on the 10th they moved to the town of Salzderhelden where they joined the 4th group of the 4th Cavalry. They mounted tanks and at 0930 hours moved to the town of Einbeck.

On the 11th of April the squadron moved to the town of Munchhof. Many Russian, French and Polish prisoners were freed. In the railroad station several boxcars of political prisoners were found. Some of them were dead, and the rest were skin and bones. They had been in boxcars for several weeks and had had nothing to eat. Numerous prisoners were taken, including a German General. At 1500 hours the squadron moved to the town of Bad Grund where approximately 100 prisoners, most of them SS Troops were captured.

At 1030 hours on April the 13th the company moved to the town of Clausthal Zellerfeld about 6000 yards east of Bad Grund. The town had been partially cleared by the 26th Infantry. A, B, and C, troops cleared the rest of the town after a heavy fire fight. Troops set up defense positions around the town. A few rounds of enemy artillery fell into the town. It was the first sign of organized resistance the company had encountered for several days. During this period most of the prisoners consisted of SS troops. One enlisted man was killed in action and two were wounded and evacuated.

On the 14th of April the company was relieved from their positions and moved back into an assembly area in the town of Clausthal Zellerfeld. They moved out of Clausthal Zellerfeld on trucks and proceeded through the town of Ellirch, a distance of about 40 miles. At 2000 hours the company jumped off in the attack on the town of Benneckenstein. The 1st platoon entered the outskirts of the town at 2400 hours after a foot march of 7000 yards. One officer and one enlisted man was wounded.

The attack on Benneckenstein was delayed because of a change of orders. Companies "K" and "I" launched an attack. Opposition was light and the town was cleared by 0930 hours. Company "L" captured 20 German naval officers, 15 army officers and 10 enlisted men. The company was ordered to hold the northwest half of the town and to await orders. At 1900 hours the company was briefed for an attack upon Serge. They marched 2 miles to the outskirts of Serge where they met tank and infantry opposition. The Company Commander called for artillery and the troops went into Serge against light resistance. One enlisted man was killed and three were wounded.

The company set up defensive positions around Serge. There was little activity, but the company captured 26 prisoners. At 1800 hours the company received orders from the battalion to take and hold the road junction 2400 yards west of Serge. They jumped off at 2030, and supported by four medium tanks, met and attacked a strong enemy patrol. After a heavy fire fight the enemy withdrew and the company continued toward its objective. One enlisted man was wounded and evacuated.

At 1600 hours the company received orders to proceed to Tanne. Company K was to relieve "L" company. The company started for Tanne on foot. They arrived at Tanne at 1100 hours and were met with stiff enemy sniper fire. Captain Cutler assigned each platoon to a specific sector of the town and gave them orders to clean it out. The platoons moved in and cleared out the enemy. Two enlisted men were killed and eight were wounded.

On the 18th of April the battalion moved into the attack with the objective of taking Rothshutte which was approximately 5000 northeast of Tanne. Company "L" was on reserve and was to mission of securing the main supply route for the battalion. The day the company established 3 road blocks and 49 prisoners taken. As the battalion approached the town company "L" was to take and hold 1/3 of the town. This was accomplished at

oners were taken in the process. No known battle casualties were sustained.

The company was given the mission of taking and holding the northwest half of Elbingerode which was about 3000 yards northeast of Rothehutte on the 19th of April. One platoon of Medium tanks was attached to the company. They jumped off at 0500 hours and met no resistance. The enemy was completely disorganized and the town was cleared by 1000 hours. Four hundred and twenty-five prisoners were taken. There were no known battle casualties.

Until 25 April the company remained in Elbingerode. During this time the men cared for and cleaned their equipment and rested. At 0819 hours they loaded on trucks and moved to Bischofrode where the men were billeted in the Hitler Jugend Barracks.

On the 28th of April the company arrived in the town of Schonwald at 0100 hours and was billeted in a school house. The company was given the mission of patrolling the woods extending from Buchwals Germany to Libstajn, Czechoslovakia. Lt. Klenk had the third platoon mount two anti-tank half-tracks and four M Company jeeps. This motorized patrol took two prisoners and discovered the two mine-fields. The rest of the company proceeded to Selb on foot. There no known casualties for the day were encountered.

For the next few days the duties of the company were more or less routine. On the 5th of May, however, the company moved out of Selb, Germany on five service company trucks and arrived in Cheb, Czechoslovakia where they were quartered in a schoolhouse. Hot chow was served and the company was briefed and given the order of attack for the following morning. On the following morning they jumped off for their objective which was Sabina, Czechoslovakia. Resistance was light and the company had no trouble in taking their objective. Forty-eight prisoners were taken.

A defensive position was maintained around Sabina until 1800 hours at which time the company was ordered to move to Falknov which was approximately five miles northeast of Sabina. The move was completed by 1930 hours. Six road-blocks were established, and a guard was posted over civilians to make them bury the dead slave laborers. The road blocks proved invaluable in handling German convoys that were surrendering.

On the 12th of May the company moved to Hory, Czechoslovakia, which was in the vicinity of Carlsbad. It was at this town that physical contact was made with the Russians, and in so far as the company was concerned, the war in the ETO was finished.