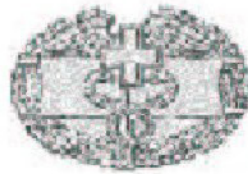




Blood and Fire



Blood and Fire



253d Infantry Regiment Operations Reports for the Period Dec 44- Apr 45

Compiled by Michael Baymor
Hq & Hq Co, 63rd Infantry Division

Scanned and processed by
Fred Clinton, D Co, 254th Infantry
Regiment

When viewing these files please keep in mind that the original files were created under combat conditions and in some cases copies were not as clear as we would like, but considering the conditions under which they were created, their age and the conditions of the Archive files we have done the best we could .

HISTORY OF THE 253rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

for the month of

December 1944

On the 1st of December 1944 the 253rd Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division, was enroute by ship convoy from the New York Port of Embarkation to Marseille, France.

The convoy arrived at Marseille on the 8th day of December. The first ship of the convoy, the USAT "THOMAS H. BARRIE", docked at 0915 and the troops on board; the 1st Battalion, Antitank Company, Regimental Headquarters Company, Service Company, Cannon Company, and the Medical Detachment of the 253rd Infantry Regiment; Service Company of the 255th Infantry Regiment and approximately two thousand (2,000) replacements, began to debark about one (1) hour later. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 253rd Infantry Regiment aboard the USAT "SEA ROBIN" debarked later the same day. The entire Regiment was shuttled to the Delta Staging Area, Camp #2, located about twenty (20) miles northwest of Marseille.

After arrival at the staging area, orders were issued to pitch tents and make preparations for front line duty. The ground was rocky which made it difficult to pitch tents. To add to this discomfort, the weather was cold and rainy and the wind blew continuously over the bare knoll on which the staging area was located.

The time from the 8th to the 15th of December was used for cleaning weapons and equipment, attending to personal hygiene, and obtaining supplies preparatory to moving to the front lines.

The Regiment moved from this staging area north to Camp d'Oberhoffen, about five (5) miles east of Haguenau, France. The majority of the troops were moved by rail, one train leaving on the 14th and the second train leaving on the 15th. The motor column, carrying supplies, crew-served weapons, other equipment, and the remainder of the troops, left the staging area on the 15th of December. The train and motor convoy followed generally the same route which carried them through the following towns, in order; Marseille, Avignon, Valence, Lyon, Macon, Chalon-sur-Saone, Dijon, Epinal, Luneville, Sarrebourg, and then from Sarrebourg to Camp d'Oberhoffen. The trains were unloaded in Sarrebourg and the troops carried by truck convoy to Camp d'Oberhoffen. The Regiment closed into Camp d'Oberhoffen by 0200 on the 19th of December.

The next two (2) days were utilized for cleaning of equipment and attending to personal cleanliness.

At 0200 on the 21st of December an order for movement to a defensive area was received and the day was used for composing combat loads on vehicles and storing excess equipment at Camp d'Oberhoffen.

On the 22nd of December, the Regiment moved by motor and took over position areas on the west bank of the Rhine River where it relieved elements of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Relief was completed by 1900. The defensive line ran generally north and south along the west bank of the Rhine River from Munchausen to Neuhaeusel, France. The period from the 22nd to the 29th of December was used in improving and strengthening defensive positions in this area. The chief enemy activity was by small patrols, snipers, and combat outposts on the east bank of the Rhine River. During this time the Regimental CP was at Soufflenheim, 1st Battalion CP at Roppenheim, 2nd Battalion CP at Soufflenheim, and the 3rd Battalion CP at Leutenheim. The 3rd Battalion CP was moved to Seltz on the 23rd of December. Disposition of the Regiment was 1st and 3rd Battalions on line, 1st Battalion on the right, 2nd Battalion in reserve. The 2nd Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion on the 27th of December. The 255th Infantry Regiment was on the right and the 79th Infantry Division on the left. Units attached to the Regiment during this period were: Battalion Headquarters and Battery D of the 533rd AAW Battalion; 155th FA Battalion (155mm); 131st FA Battalion (105mm); 1st Platoon, Company A, 753rd Medium Tank Battalion; and the 2nd Platoon, 829th Amphibious Truck Company.

On the 29th of December the Regiment was relieved by elements of Task Force Herren, relief being completed by 1930. The Regiment returned to Camp d'Oberhoffen where orders were received attaching the Regiment to the 44th Infantry Division, and to prepare to move the following night to an undisclosed area.

The next day was used for general clean-up preparatory to the move. Motor movement began at 1930 under cover of darkness.

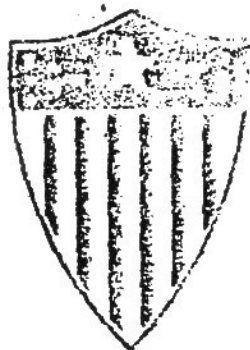
The Regiment closed into camp at Oermingen, France, at 1100 on the 31st of December. Reconnaissances were made and the units of the Regiment marched to position areas on a line running generally east and west from Witting through Siltzheim to Hambach, with the mission of preparing defensive positions to be used by forward elements of the 44th Division provided a retrograde movement became necessary.

The period closed without further contact with the enemy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
3170

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 63d INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 410 US ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

JANUARY 1945

253d INFANTRY REGIMENT



SECRET

14 January 1946

SUBJECT: Roster of Key Officers.

TO : CG, 7th Army, (THRU: CG, 63d Infantry Division

Following is roster of key officer personnel of this unit.

Colonel E. P. Lukert	Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. Ralph O. Lashley	Executive Officer
Major Henry P. Park	S-3
Major George W. Davis	S-4
Captain Richard G Cox	S-2
Captain Walter M. Lee	S-1
Major Norman C. Carison	Regimental Surgeon
Lt. Col. John A. Singletary	C.O. 1st Battalion
Major James D. Beckett	Executive Officer
Captain Bruno J. Savoia	S-3
Captain Bartow Kelly	S-1 C.O. Hq Co
1st Lt Earle A. Johnson	S-2
1st Lt Harry G. Voth	S-4
Lt. Col. John O. Bach	C.O. 2nd Battalion
Major Jack E. Gray	Executive Officer
Captain Robert W. Strauss	S-3
Captain Robert C. Fruit	S-1 C.O. Hq Co
2nd Lt Robert V. Messerli	S-2
2nd Lt Frank A. DiGiacomo	S-4
Lt. Col. John A. Smoak	C.O. 3rd Battalion
Major Thad E. Hummel	Executive Officer
Captain Edward B. Scullion	S-3
Captain James G. Williams	S-1 C.O. Hq Co
1st Lt George C. Wiatt	S-2
1st Lt William G. Murphy	S-4
Captain Jasper H. Ayer	C.O. Hq & Hq Co
Captain Warren L. Kirkland	C.O. Anti-Tank Co
Captain West A. Williams	C.O. Cannon Co
Captain Sidney Z. Ogden	C.O. Service Co
Captain Hubert E. Hancock	C.O. Company A
Captain William F. Gerard	C.O. Company B
Captain Thomas C. Moore	C.O. Company C
Captain Frank J. Tettmer	C.O. Company D
Captain Angelo A. Pilla	C.O. Company E
Captain Carlos W. Heath	C.O. Company F
Captain Melville C. LaForce	C.O. Company G
1st Lt Roland L. StClair	C.O. Company H
Captain Robert H Meade	C.O. Company I
Captain Jack W. Lytton	C.O. Company J
Captain Herschel N. Burton	C.O. Company L
1st Lt Leo E. Juraski	C.O. Company M

HISTORY OF THE 2590 INFANTRY REGIMENT

for the month of

JANUARY 1945

At 0535 on the 1st of January 1945, the Battalions and separate companies were notified of a breakthrough in the sector of the 71st Infantry and were ordered to occupy positions previously reconnoitered in rear of the 114th Division, to which the Regiment was attached. The expected attack was repulsed before reaching this defensive line and the remainder of the day was spent in preparing positions along this line. At 1220 the 3d Battalion was ordered attached to the 71st Infantry and to proceed to the vicinity of Gros Aederching where they were to prepare defensive positions in support of the 71st Infantry. The troops arrived on position at dark and the preparation of positions was begun immediately, without benefit of adequate daylight reconnaissance. At 2000 the C.O. of the 2d Battalion of the 71st Infantry which was in front of the 3d Battalion informed the Battalion that he would probably have to withdraw during the night and at 0030 on the 2d of January, the withdrawal began. The 3d Battalion remained on their positions and at 0730 the enemy launched his first attack on the Battalion left flank. The attack was repulsed. Throughout the day, the enemy continued to make small scale attacks with tank supported infantry. All attacks were repulsed but "L" Company was forced to withdraw to high ground 400 yards to their rear.

During the day, the Regiment, less the 3d Battalion, continued to improve its defensive positions. At 1710, the 1st Battalion was attached to the 114th Infantry but this order was later rescinded. At 1830, the Regiment, less the 3d Battalion, received a warning order to be prepared to relieve the 114th Infantry and preparations for this relief began immediately. Orders were received the following day, the 3d of January, to begin relief of the 114th Infantry at 0800 on the 4th of January, relief to be completed by dark.

At 2600, the 2d of January, the enemy launched an attack against Company "I" with approximately two (2) companies and ten (10) tanks. The attack drove us down in the front line and overran the support position which was located at the head of the draw. Split in this fashion, it was impossible to execute an organized withdrawal as the company had to withdraw in small groups. One (1) group joined the 114th Division, another joined Company "H" of the 3d Battalion and the other group remained under the command of Company "I". Company "I", the reserve company, had enemy patrol posts established in the company's front throughout the day, but all of these posts were destroyed. At 1700, the 3d Battalion received orders to extend its boundaries to the left and relieve the adjoining Battalion and also to push forward about six hundred (600) yards to seize the railroad tracks. The Battalion on the left withdrew before being relieved and without notifying the 3d Battalion. In the meantime, orders were changed and the Battalion was to withdraw prior to 2400. While

C. ASSIFICATION

the withdrawal was in progress, instructions were received to hold the withdrawal until further notice. Some confusion resulted from the multiplicity of orders received. At 0430 the Battalion was ordered to proceed with the withdrawal which was completed at 0730. Troops were dispersed and the men began digging in. At 0830 the enemy, in force, was observed moving towards this position so the Battalion moved to high ground where a new defensive position was started.

The Regiment, less the 3d Battalion, relieved the 114th Infantry and organized defensive positions South of the Saar River extending from Sarreguines through Neunkirchen, France. Relief was completed by 1905. The disposition of the Regiment found the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2d Battalion on the left with the 324th Infantry on the right of the Regiment and the 410th Infantry on the left. The Regimental CP was located South-East of Sarreguines in the grounds of an insane asylum; the 1st and 2d Battalions had their CP's in Sarreguines. The following units were in support of the Regiment: 217th FA (105mm), 814th TD, Company "B" 633 Engineers, and Company "C" 749th Tank Battalion. From the 5th through the 8th, the Regiment, less the 3d Battalion, continued improving the occupied positions.

On the 4th of January, the 3d Battalion was ordered at 1600 to make a night attack with three (3) companies abreast with the mission of capturing three (3) hills to the Battalion's front. The next day's objective, the town of Gros Rederching, was also given in the order. The Battalion started the attack at 1700 and captured the objective at 2000 at which time orders were issued to continue to the objective assigned for the next day but due to a heavy snow storm and a turning movement which involved all companies, the Battalion failed to reach the proper objective so the companies were ordered to return to their original objective. The Battalion moved forward to its assigned objective early the following morning. Shortly after the movement started, the company commander and 4 men from Company "L" encountered a German light tank which they captured with the use of hand grenades. Two (2) enemy crew members were captured and several killed. The tank was later destroyed. The Battalion supported by two (2) platoons of tanks and two (2) tank destroyers recaptured the town of Gros Rederching and occupied a defensive area North of the town. As of 1200, the Battalion ceased to be attached to the 71st Infantry and was attached to the 114th Infantry. The Battalion remained in this defensive position North of Gros Rederching. At 1500 on the 7th of January, the Battalion was attached to the 2d Battalion of the 114th Infantry and Company "K" was ordered to move forward to a railroad about six hundred (600) yards to the front for the purpose of closing a gap between the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 114th Infantry. When Company "K" reached the railroad, the units on the right and left had withdrawn, so the company, being subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire, was ordered to return to its original position. Seven (7) casualties were sustained during this movement. The Battalion was now attached to the 1st Battalion of the 114th Infantry. The Battalion remained in this defensive position

until 1900 on the 9th of January when it was relieved by elements of the 114th Infantry. The Battalion then reverted to control of the 253d Infantry.

On the 9th of January a patrol searched an isolated factory on the South bank of the Saar River but no enemy were encountered; however, a few enemy weapons were found. The factory was held and incorporated into the defensive scheme.

On the 10th of January at 0020, the 3d Battalion closed into its bivouac area in the grounds of the insane asylum South-East of Sarreguemines. The Battalion spent the day making preparations to relieve the 2d Battalion on the 11th of January.

The remainder of the Regiment continued to improve its defensive positions. The 2d Battalion was relieved at 1915 on the 11th of January by the 3d Battalion.

The next two weeks, until the 25th of January, was spent improving defensive positions, digging positions on the rear MLR for the 44th Division and digging positions on the RRL. A number of patrols were sent out, both from the front line Battalions and the Regimental Battle Patrol. A few of the patrols were unable to accomplish their mission but the majority of the patrols completed their mission, capturing a number of prisoners and killing a few enemy. Some casualties were suffered by the patrols.

On the 25th of January, Company "G" was ordered to relieve Company "A" as reserve company of the 1st Battalion. Upon completion of the relief, Company "A" was ordered to Fenestrang as Corps CP defense company.

The 1st Battalion was relieved by the 2d Battalion on the 26th of January, relief being completed by 2030.

The remainder of the month was spent in continuing improvement of defenses, sending out patrols and generally harrassing the enemy.

The month of January was cold with snow flurries continuing throughout the period. At the close of the period, the ground was covered with approximately twelve (12) inches of snow which required patrols to be dressed in white parkas and which necessitated careful movement to prevent detection of tracks and revealing of positions to the enemy.

Outstanding patrol action during the period was a daylight raid on the village of Hamweiler, Germany, during progress of which nine (9) enemy were captured. This patrol was commanded by Lt. H. S. Gendler of Company "E".

During the month, a total of fifty-four (54) combat and reconnaissance patrols crossed the Saar River in rubber boats or pushed up into an isolated stretch of ground in a "U" bend of the river and captured seventy-eight (78) prisoners and killed many others. These forays were the first made by the

6th Division into Germany proper and the outstanding results achieved were the subject of numerous commendations by the C.O. of the 44th Division and the Corps Commander. They were particularly noteworthy inasmuch as the majority of them required the crossing of the turbulent Saar, a major military operation in itself.

At the end of the period the 253d Infantry had captured to date a total of seventy-eight (78) prisoners, killed more than four hundred (400) and had suffered the following casualties:

	Officers	E.M.
Killed in action	2	18
Wounded in action	3	51
Missing in action	0	14

During the month of January two hundred five (205) reinforcements were received by the Regiment. They were given training by officers and non-commissioned officers prior to joining their assigned companies.

ROSTER OF KEY OFFICER PERSONNEL

31 January 1945.

REGIMENTAL STAFF

Colonel	E. P. Lukert O-10220	Commanding Officer
Lt Colonel	R. O. Lashley O-19982	Executive Officer
Capt	Walter M. Lee O-1290266	S-1
Capt	Richard G. Cox O-1290210	S-2
Major	Henry P. Park O-293526	S-3
Major	George W. Davis O-304645	S-4

1ST BATTALION STAFF

Lt. Colonel	John R. Singletary, Jr O-20351	Commanding Officer
Major	James D. Beckett O-24618	Executive Officer
Capt	Bartow Kelly O-456199	S-3
1st Lt	Earle A. Johnson, Jr O-26211	S-2
Capt	Herbert B. Houghtaling O-1292527	S-1
1st Lt	Harry G. Voth O-1317449	

2ND BATTALION STAFF

Lt Colonel	John O. Bach O-353091	Commanding Officer
Major	Jack E. Gray O-303864	Executive Officer
Captain	Robert C. Fruit O-355625	S-1
2nd Lt	Robert V. Messerli O-551070	S-2
Captain	Robert W. Strauss O-448104	S-3
2nd Lt	Frank A. Di Giacomo O-1326320	S-4

3RD BATTALION STAFF

Lt Colonel	John R. Smoak O-304575	Commanding Officer
Major	Thad E. Hummel O-293835	Executive O.
Capt	James G. Williams O-396132	S-1
1st Lt	George C. Wiatt O-408370	S-2
Capt	Edward B. Soullion O-1290144	S-3
1st Lt	William G. Murphy O-504003	S-4

COMPANY COMMANDERS

Captain	Jasper H. Ayer O-562882	Hq & Hq Co
Captain	Sidney Z. Ogden O-1305531	Service Co
Captain	Warren L. Kirkland O-1889746	Anti-Tank Co
1st Lt	Charles N. Yancey O-514027	Cannon Co
Major	Norman C. Carlson O-419721	Med Det.

Rooster of Key Officer Personnel, Company Commanders (cont'd)

Captain	bartow Kelly	0-456199	Hq Co 1st Bn
Captain	Hubert M. Nance	0-1290292	Company A ✓
Captain	William F. Gerard	0-1298853	Company B
Captain	Thomas V. Moore Jr.	0-495702	Company C
Captain	Frank J. Tettmer	0-1290157	Company D
Captain	Robert C. Fruit	0-355625	Hq Co 2nd Bn
Captain	Angelo B. Pilla	0-1290123	Company E
Captain	Carlton W. Heath	0-1299335	Company F
Captain	Melville C. Laforce	0-307200	Company G
1st Lt.	Roland L. St. Clair	0-1323185	Company H
Captain	James C. Williams	0-396132	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Captain	Robert H. Meade	0-423346	Company I
Captain	Jack W. Lytton	0-386336	Company K
Captain	Herschel N. Burton	0-1287473	Company L
1st Lt.	Leo E. Jurasinski	0-1314025	Company M

HEADQUARTERS 253D INFANTRY
APO #410 U.S. ARMY

13 February 1945

CASUALTIES

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
Killed in Action	2	18
Wounded in Action	3	51
Missing in Action	0	14
Captured	0	0

PRISONERS OF WAR

Officers	None
Enlisted Men	78

MATERIEL LOST (own)

1 3/4 ton truck	4 browning automatic rifles
6 1/4 ton trucks	7 sub-machine guns
9 1/4 ton trailers	3 rifles, cal. .30 M1
2 machine guns, M1919A6	1 carbine, cal. .30
	4 pistols, automatic, cal. .45

CAPTURED MATERIEL (enemy)

2 75mm guns
2 machine guns, light

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HEADQUARTERS 253^d INFANTRY
APO 410 U.S. ARMY

10 March 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 63d Infantry Division.

ATTENTION: Division Historian.

1. Enclosed find History of the 253d Infantry Regiment for the month of February.

For the Commanding Officer:



WEST A. WILLIAMS, Jr.
Capt., 253d Infantry,
Regimental Historian.

HISTORY OF THE 253^D INFANTRY REGIMENT
for the month of
FEBRUARY 1945

On the 1st of February 1945 the 253^d Infantry Regiment was in defensive positions South of the Saar River on a line running generally East and West from Sarregueminas (Q5057) through Neudkirchen (Q5298) France. The 1st Battalion (less Company A, at IV Corps as command post guard) was in reserve, 2nd Battalion on right, 3rd Battalion on left. 253rd Infantry was on right of regiment and 70th Division on left. Supporting the regiment at this time were the 220th Field Artillery (105mm), Company "B", 248th Engineer Battalion and Company "B", 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion. During the day, the film "Your Job Inside Germany" was shown to officers and enlisted men and select personnel from Company "B", 248th Engineer Battalion gave instruction in the Regimental Mine School.

At 0400A, one platoon from "L" Company, under command of 2nd Lt. Louis R. Dettola, ASN O-556044, went into enemy territory at Q509578 with the mission of killing or capturing all enemy found in this vicinity. The patrol returned at 0830 after killing eighteen (18) enemy.

At 1830A a patrol under command of S/Sgt John Mellon, ASN 33290529, went to Q505575 to establish a listening post and kill or capture any enemy in the area. This patrol returned at 020630A with a negative report.

On the 2nd of February orders were received to relieve elements of the 253rd Infantry Regiment by the 1st Battalion, relief to be completed by 032200A February 45. Orders were also received to discontinue patrol activity across the Saar River due to high waters caused by the thaw.

Company "A" was relieved as IV Corps command post guard at 031000A February 45 and returned to 1st Battalion. 1st Battalion relieved elements of the 253rd Infantry Regiment, relief was completed by end of period except for "B" Company. 1st Battalion took command of the sector at 040615 February 45.

At 041930 a reconnaissance patrol under command of Sgt Edward J. Thomas, ASN R250122, crossed the Saar River at Q 506572 to reconnoiter buildings in the town of Harseller, Germany (Q5057). At 2300 a combat patrol was sent to patrol woods in the vicinity of Q505599 with the mission of killing or capturing any enemy encountered. Patrol was commanded by T/Sgt William E. Hamble, ASN 2001-4499. This patrol returned at 050300 after meeting enemy resistance at edge of woods (Q5353598a). Several casualties were suffered from enemy fire and anti-personnel mines. The reconnaissance patrol set up a listening post at Q504914, returned at 060330 with a negative report. Attachment to the 44th Division ceased at 1200 and the 63d Division gained control of the Regiment. The 220th Field Artillery (105mm) was relieved by the 861st Field Artillery (105mm) at 1200; Company B, 248th Engineer Battalion was relieved by Company "A", 248th Engineer Battalion at 1200.

Company "B", 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved by Company "A", 622d Tank Destroyer Battalion at 1200

At 070600 a combat patrol from "L" Company, consisting of one (1) rifle platoon with a section of light machine guns, crossed the Saar River and raided buildings in Harweiler, Germany (Q5057). The patrol returned at 071315 after capturing thirteen (13) prisoners. The patrol was under the command of 2d Lt Martin C. Mathis, ASN O-926238. S/Sgt John Mallon, ASN 33290529, commanded security squad.

A reconnaissance patrol from "L" Co crossed the Saar River at 080500 with the mission of observing the houses in Harweiler, Germany (Q5057) to see if enemy returned to the area. The patrol was led by 2d Lt Jerome J. Rich, ASN O-555213. After crossing the River, the patrol lost its boat due to the strong current of the swollen river. Seeing that the patrol was stranded, the Ammunition and Pioneer platoon of the 3rd Battalion, under command of 2d Lt Earl C. Stunk, ASN O-557144, effected a river crossing and by use of ropes strung across the river, rescued the patrol.

The 436th AAA AF Bn furnished aircraft warning and protection in the area during this period.

The 1st Battalion of the Regiment was relieved by the 2nd Battalion, 255th Infantry Regiment. Relief began at 091900 and was completed at 100135. The 1st Battalion then moved by foot and motor marching to the sector occupied by the 3rd Battalion. The 3rd Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion, relief being completed by 100800 at which time the 3rd Battalion reverted to Regimental Reserve and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of the insane asylum, (Q528558) Southeast of Sarreguemines.

Defensive positions were improved, with no patrol activity, until 14th of February 45 when a four (4) man reconnaissance patrol, commanded by S/Sgt Abraham Miller, ASN 3371399, was sent to Auermacher, Germany, Q5060, for the purpose of obtaining information of enemy installations and personnel. No enemy were encountered until the patrol reached Rilchingen, Germany, Q4950, on its return when it was fired on by enemy. There were no friendly casualties but it is believed that two (2) enemy were wounded. The patrol's report was negative except for the enemy encountered at Rilchingen, Germany.

The Regimental Battle Patrol organized a combat patrol of 1 Officer and eight (8) enlisted men under command of 2d Lt Alfred W. Peshel, ASN O-553274, with the mission of crossing the Saar River at Q515583 at 151930 to search woods, Q5259, capture prisoners and determine enemy strength.

The patrol returned at 160015 with five (5) Prisoners of War. A combat patrol of one (1) rifle platoon under command of 2d Lt Lafave K. Hamilton, ASN O-547654, left vicinity of Q503574 at 152130 on a foot-bridge built by Company "A", 263d Engineer Battalion with the mission of raiding Hospital area Q498584, and houses in Rilchingen, Germany, Q4958.

The patrol returned at 160100 with the report that no enemy were encountered. A raiding patrol of one (1) rifle platoon under command of 2d Lt Norman D. Zellner, A9K Q-555596, crossed Saar River at Q503574 at 160620 with the mission of raiding Hamweiler, Germany, Q5057, and clear out all enemy located in that vicinity. The patrol ran into heavy mortar and Machine gun fire and suffered around fifty (50) percent casualties. A second patrol of one (1) rifle platoon was sent to reinforce the first patrol. With these reinforcements the patrol successfully accomplished its mission and captured thirty-six (36) enemy. Strong combat outposts were established by the patrol in Hamweiler prior to returning from the raid, with the mission of preventing enemy infiltration into the town.

On the 11th of February, warning order was received from the 63d Division that the Regiment would attack on D plus 2 (D day to be announced) with the mission of seizing and holding high ground running from Kleinlitterdorf, Germany, Q4962, Northeast to Northern tip of Kleinlitterdorf woods, Q510640, Southeast to Eliegersweiler, Q5261, then East to Elies River, Q540610, then South along River to Q540602, limiting point between 253d Infantry Regiment and 255th Infantry Regiment. The regimental staff discussed the possibilities and limitations of numerous plans before making a decision. The plan was submitted to G-3 of the Division and with slight changes, the plan was approved. D day was set as the 15th of February. The approved plan was as follows:

2nd Battalion on right to attack D plus 2 at 0200, using artificial moonlight furnished by 1 platoon, 353d Search-light Battalion, and capture Eliegersweiler woods, Q5360, continue attack at daylight and capture high ground between Eliegersweiler, Q5261, East to Elies River, Q540610, then South along River to Q540602. 1st Battalion, less 1 Company, to cross Saar River at 0400, on footbridge constructed by Company "A", 263d Engineer Battalion, attack due North in column of Companies to Auerbacher, Q5060. Leading Company to by-pass Auerbacher, Germany, Q5060, and seize the hill 1000 yards Northeast of Auerbacher. 2nd Company to seize the high ground 500 yards South of Auerbacher and then to clear out the town of Auerbacher. The Company which seized the hill Northeast of Auerbacher to be attached to 3rd Battalion on order of Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion. 3rd Battalion to cross Elies River at Q540610 on assault boat and footbridge at Q503574, to advance North through Linden woods to Q5261 then Northeast to Kleinlitterdorf woods which it would seize and hold by daylight. Battle Patrol to cross river on footbridge at Q503574, advance through Hamweiler, Q5057, North to Barkers Settlement, Q5157, clear the building in the settlement and prepare to clear Linden woods on order. The 81st Field Artillery (104mm), 802nd Field Artillery (105mm) in direct support and 493rd Assault Field Artillery and 718th Field Artillery to reinforce fires of 81st Field Artillery. Company A, 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion to be prepared to smoke high ground which had observation on routes and objectives and to supplement fires of artillery. The 263rd Engineers to support the attack by constructing foot and vehicular bridges, assault crossings, clearing roads of mines and roadblocks and assisting in the organization of defensive positions. Company A, 682nd Tank Destroyer Battalion to support attack from positions initially on South side of Saar River and then to displace across River and protect against attack from North and Northeast.

One (1) platoon, 830th Amphibious Truck Company to be prepared to carry essential vehicles, guns and ammunition across the Saar. Six (6) DUKWs held in mobile reserve for emergency use.

This plan was given to all units concerned and preparations were made for the attack.

On the 17th of February at 0230, the 2nd Battalion, using Company "G" and one platoon of Company "E" launched the attack and with the aid of artificial moonlight, captured its first objective after meeting only scattered resistance. 1st Battalion completed crossing of Saar River at 0450 and advanced rapidly toward its objective with "B" Company leading and "A" Company following. At 0445 the artillery in support of the Regiment placed a concentration on the North side of the Saar River at Q523589. This concentration lasted until 0900 at which time the artillery began "walking" a barrage through the woods from that point Northwest to Q519596, barrage lifting at 0545. Immediately following the 15 minute concentration, Company "I" crossed the river in assault boats and consolidated a bridgehead to protect the building of a footbridge to aid the crossing of the remainder of the 3rd Battalion. After crossing, the Battalion continued to advance along the planned route, meeting increased resistance from small arms and mortar fire. Despite this fire, the Battalion pushed forward and reached its objective at 1315. The companies immediately dug in and prepared to repel enemy counter-attacks.

At 0637 Company "G" launched the attack in its sector to capture the two wooded hills between Eliesgerweiler, Q5261, and the Elies River at Q540610. Considerable resistance was met but all objectives had been taken by 1234. Digging in was very difficult due to heavy and accurate mortar fire falling on all occupied positions. "B" Company reached its objective at 0745 and began digging in for all-round defense. By 0905, Company "A" had reached the high ground 500 yards South of Auermacher and was preparing to attack the town. At 2200, Company "A" was ordered to withdraw to the high ground South of Auermacher and maintain constant patrolling of the town during the hours of darkness.

At 1700 the enemy launched a counter-attack from the vicinity of Eliesgerweiler on the left flank of Company "G", Q530609. It was estimated to be 200 men supported by one tank. The attack overran one (1) section of heavy machine gun and two (2) squad areas of Company "G", but the Cannon Company, forward observer, Lt Edward L. Stewart, ASN O-132215, massed artillery fire on the attacking enemy. This action, along with reinforcements of two (2) squads of Company "E", repulsed the counter-attack. Massed artillery fire was again placed on the retreating enemy and by 1830 the reorganization of the unit had begun.

Regimental Battle Patrol passed through Harweiler with no enemy encountered and advanced on Workers Settlement, Q5159. An enemy strongpoint was encountered in the Workers Settlement and the patrol was subjected to heavy machine gun and mortar fire which caused it to withdraw. Tank Destroyer fire was directed on located enemy strongpoints.

At 1035 Company "C", less 1 platoon, and elements of 1st Battalion Ammunition and Pioneer platoon was ordered to assist the patrol in clearing the Workers Settlement and Huhlen woods. After an artillery preparation the attack was launched against the Workers Settlement and after a fierce battle the settlement was cleared by 1700. Sixty (60) Prisoners of War were taken from strong-points within the settlement.

During the afternoon, vehicular bridges had been constructed across the Saar and essential vehicles, weapons and equipment were moving into Germany. This attack was the first launched into Germany by elements of the 63d Division.

During the night, enemy infiltrated into the woods occupied by the 3rd Battalion. The Battalion had occupied positions on the edge of the woods which left the center of the woods unoccupied. As the enemy infiltrated, they gathered in the unoccupied part of the woods. When this was discovered at daylight, an artillery concentration was placed on this enemy pocket and then a patrol was sent into the area to clean out any remaining resistance. Several small counter-attacks were repulsed during the day and at 181340 a counter-attack of Infantry supported by tanks was launched at Q517641. The attack was successfully repulsed with heavy enemy losses at 1500. It was later learned from Prisoners of War that these attacks were made with three (3) rifle companies supported by 4 or 5 Self-propelled guns. Four (4) 57mm Anti-tank guns under the command of 2d Lt James B. McIlwee, ASN O-550357, were placed in positions on the West edge of Auermacher. At 1530 this position was attacked by three (3) Self-propelled guns and a company of Infantry. The Anti-tank guns knocked out one Self-propelled gun and inflicted damage on another before one gun was destroyed by fire from a Self-propelled gun. It became necessary for the Anti-tank guns to withdraw due to lack of rifle protection. The Self-propelled guns and Infantry entered the town of Auermacher, threatening the left flank of the Regiment. A request for additional artillery support was granted and all available artillery was placed on this attack. This action prevented a break-through.

At 181900, the 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry was attached to the Regiment. At 2010 orders were issued for the Battalion, less Company "C", to relieve Company "A" on position and to support by fire, the attack of Company "A" to regain Auermacher. The relief was completed around 190300 and at 0550 Company "A", plus 1 platoon of Company "C", launched its attack after a 10 minute artillery preparation. The mission was completed by 1150, after fierce house-to-house fighting took place, and block was established at Q497612. The Company set up defense of the town. Company "C", 254th, remained in mobile reserve in "General Schultz Barracks", Q521575. At 190655, Company "C" was ordered to clean out Huhlen woods and then occupy defensive positions at Q5161. This mission was completed against slight opposition.

At 1215 one platoon of "F" Company, with one section of light machine gun and one 60mm mortar attacked the town of Eilegersweiler, Q5261, after a 3 minute artillery concentration. By 1345 the town had been completely occupied and reorganization was in progress. The platoon withdrew after dark, but two combat patrols were left in the town to prevent enemy infiltration.

At 191400, Company "B" launched an attack to clean out the town of Kleinblittersdorf, Q4962. Considerable small arms and artillery fire hindered the rapid advance of the Company, but by 1825 the town had been cleared and a road block was being established at Q490628. With this action, the Regiment attained its assigned objective.

On Division order, the 2nd Battalion, 254th Infantry, relieved 2nd Battalion, 253d Infantry. Relief was completed at 210618 and 2nd Battalion, 253d moved to assembly area at Neunkirchen, France, Q5358. Suggested plan for seizure of high ground from Bubingen, Germany, Q4964, East to Q525645, then South-east to Bliesranbach, was submitted to Division for approval.

On Division order, on 22d of February, 1 platoon of Company "B" was sent to establish combat outpost at factory, Q459644. Platoon under command of 2d Lt Clarence O. Grogan, ASN O-558788, moved to vicinity of factory at 1348 where it ran into heavy Machine gun fire. Artillery fire was placed on the enemy positions and the platoon moved forward and captured its objective. After taking the factory, the platoon was surrounded and captured by the enemy, one (1) Officer and twenty-nine (29) Enlisted men. Four Enlisted men were left outside the factory for protection and these four men were the only ones that escaped. At 230100, 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry was released to control of the 254th Infantry.

At 240637 attack was launched as per plan which was submitted to Division on 21st of February. Company "A" attacked due North from Q5164 to Q510645 and than swing West and captured the high ground at Q506649. The objective was taken by 0845. Company "B" launched its attack on the town of Bubingen at 1220. The attack was launched from vicinity of Kleinblittersdorf and proceeded due North. Objective was captured by 1500, road block established vicinity Q492648. One platoon of Co "C" cleaned out the draw at Q4963.

One platoon of Company "L" followed Company "A" from Q5164 but instead of turning West, the platoon continued North to Q510648 where it established a strong-point. This position was secured by 1000. Following this platoon of Company "L", was the 2nd Battalion in a column of Companies, in order "F", "E" and "G". Leading Company crossed Line of Departure at 0710 and followed due North to Q510645, at which point the attack turned to the East. By 1200 Companies "E" and "F" had secured their position, Company "E" in vicinity of Q524644 and Company "F" in vicinity of Q516647. By 1530 Company "G" had taken its objective in vicinity of Q515640. Between 1300 and 1600, three (3) enemy tanks made three (3) attacks from Northeast against 2nd Battalion positions and caused some casualties. The last attack was suppressed by an estimated fifty (50) enemy and overran 2nd Battalion positions. Some men were driven out of their positions but heavy weapons and the remaining riflemen drove off the counter-attack and restored the original lines.

At 1315, Company "K" launched an attack against the town of Bliesranbach, Germany, Q5283. After reducing some scattered resistance, the town was secured at 1530.

Anti-tank and Tank-destroyer guns were moved into positions along the front for protection against armored attack. At 252100 "L" Company relieved "E" Company in position.

Boundary between 253d and 254th Infantry changed to run just North of Eliesranzbach, effective 262400. Elements of 254th Infantry made relief of Company "K" which was in Eliesranzbach, relief being completed by 2400. Company "C" relieved Company "E" in town of Bubingen, Germany, 04964, relief being completed at 272300 February 45. A small counter-attack was repulsed by Company "A" at 270600. Company "F" also repulsed a counter-attack in its sector at 0615. At 270830 an attack of approximately 70 enemy, supported by two (2) Self-propelled guns was launched against Company "L". The enemy was beaten off — enemy casualties were heavy. Twenty (20) Prisoners of War were captured.

At 280200 an estimated enemy platoon strength patrol attempted to infiltrate through Company "L" but were driven back by observed artillery fire. Effective 281200, 63d Division relieved from attachment XV Corps and attached to XII Corps.

During the month a total of 72 raids and patrols were conducted by the Regiment. A total of 818 Prisoners of War were taken and an estimated 550 were killed.

Casualties for the Regiment were as follows:

	Officers	Enlisted Men
KIA	6	47
WIA	15	313
MIA	1	54

The successes of the Regiment were due to the careful, thoughtful planning of the staff and the faithful execution of orders by all units concerned.

NOTE: For all map references use Saargemund, Germany, 1:25,000. Sheet No. 6806 (colored).

1 March 1945

CASUALTY REPORT

Company A

Sgt	Wilbert T Braithwaite 39933468	Pfc	Glen G Foster 39338737
Pvt	John D Fleming 32636986	Pvt	Samuel E DeHaven 35834012
	Alvan D Reynolds 35208561		Joe Angiro 39935530
	James McNerney 36453365		Robert Richey 32956071
Pvt	Randolph Alallo 38618366	Pfc	W F Hawkins 34973681
Pfc	Fred Stanco 35596781	S/Sgt	John G Ruzze 33150367
Pvt	James F McNerney 36457365	Sgt	Donald R Schafer 37692949
Pvt	Lion R Camire 31430887	Sgt	Peter S Mangold 12144825
Pvt	William J Brennan 11061680	Pfc	Johannes Iverson-39180175

1st Sgt Glenn A Brandon

Company B

S/Sgt	Paul Culbreth 34679126	S/Sgt	Wallace B Danielson 36830802
Pfc	Howard P Hamilton 37691093	Pfc	Robert J Amoe 17001585
Pfc	LeRoy V Jacobs 38666465	Pfc	John S Kellison 13010958
Pvt	Patsy Garruto 42186085	Pvt	Joseph A Piccolo 31412618
Pvt	Alfred P Loessel 42103280	Pfc	William E Burton 37693006
Pvt	Dan Rouhas 36784184	Pvt	Franke E Faurte 37734829
Pvt	Don R Hymas 39919815		

Company C

Sgt	Robert C Wright 31350106	Sgt	Magnus L Groberg 12221284
S/Sgt	Raymond Rutledge 38425308	Sgt	John R Gardner 35632570
S/Sgt	Jacob Mesches 12168727	Pvt	William A Lang 42088467
Pfc	Seymour H Kline 42121875	S/Sgt	Warren F Neumann 19185362
Pfc	Jean Perez 38491561	2d Lt	Harry J Taft Jr 02006076
Pfc	Harry S Jaszozuk 36978262	Pfc	Richard L Noble 35902257
Pfc	Samuel I Beers 33850017	Pfc	Robert Marbow 10191510
S/Sgt	Philip Cinemilla 33345885	Pfc	William C Cypher 37363762
T/Sgt	Thomas J Murphy 36724869	Pvt	Clarence E Overholt 35236315
Pfc	John J Komahrens 39008497	Pfc	James Kyangelo 4207539
S/Sgt	Sherwood E Egan 34663518	1st Lt	James Gates 013108943
S/Sgt	Elmer L Kischer 33702522		Warner Keenault 38651302
Pfc	Herbert H Thomas 31458742	Pfc	Donald E Hace 37692946
Sgt	Willard F Stodd 37692886	2d Lt	Norman D Zellner 0555596
Pvt	Rupert I Dunlap 34703666		John J Haffey 33614527
S/Sgt	Vernon A Altberg 37703046	Pvt	Grover D Vanette 35575644
S/Sgt	John A Smith	Pfc	Maurice A Gibeault 31410558
Pfc	Joe F Chaves 38584435	Pvt	John H Cipponeri 37639739
Pfc	Dayton W Floyd 34848644	Pfc	Oscar W Blair 34923606
Pfc	Edward F Croiniaga 39242287	Pfc	Jean Perez 38491561

Company D

Sgt	Harold G Stearns 37730605	Pfc	Paul V Labik 35939168
Pvt	George E Weiland 36978328	Pfc	Mathew T Lacey 3393584

Hq Co 1st Bn

2d Lt William E Taylor 01045278 Capt. Thomas V Moore 0495702
 1st Lt James D Beckett 024618

COMPANY E

Egt	Richard V Halsey 36003228	Pfc	George L Bailey 35902115
Pvt	Eugene Langie 37588217	Pvt	Calvin R Carter 37594247
Pfc	Donald W Smith 34961378	Pfc	William Joyce 34711016
Sgt	Emmit R Kenney 6931907	S/Sgt	John Main Jr 34402154
Pvt	Joseph L Rivard 31448860	Pfc	Robert E Biggins 35560079
Pfc	Tony Corriere 39003401		Charles Elrod 12804440
	Norman Blumenthal 18228038		William Garsidona 42187015
	Russell Moore		Glenn Washworth 35240480
Pfc	George L Bailey 35902115	Pfc	Glenn D Best 37553372
Sgt	Herbert R Hills 31460096	Pvt	Carl C Cowington 36918711
Pfc	Frank Osborne 39286649	Sgt	Lloyd D Boyce 38431010
Sgt	William R Egan 17001510	Pfc	Felix V Bosco
Sgt	George Borges 11064002	Sgt	Carl F Miller 33702867
T/Sgt	Lawrence Barry 31241236		

COMPANY F

Pvt	Joseph Bivona 42178899		Roger Moore 35814379
2d Lt	Lawrence M Castleberry 0550349	Pvt	Glenn S Speare 34961210
T/Sgt	William G Smith 35135809	Pfc	Robert J Scott 35242407
Pvt	Peter Metcalf 31433857	Pfc	Michael A LaRay 32609068
Pvt	Francois A Kassick 42105563		Ralph Hadeisty 37836951
	Sam Burdette 34848712		Allan Baer 32314616
	Gen Wadler 23237617		Joseph Provatear 65925372
	Fred Bass 34883380		Norvin Bower 20527821
	Sam Vasdano	1st Lt	Frances Spiesbach 01020343
	Donald Farrington 31460375	Pfc	Kenneth W Browning 35244406
	McCombs Murphy 35648732		Raymond Fowler 34966346
	Edward Derman 33876343	Pfc	Roy D Fulk 15541638

COMPANY G

2d Lt	Leo R Leavitt 02007032	Pvt	Bill R Richards 36322133
	Frank Berst 36845530	S/Sgt	Jacob Maschee 12166777
2d Lt	Charles D Rhodes Jr 0557736		Amadeo Petrogola 35221567
	Mario DePaul 35925340	Pfc	Eric W Mendez 12221110
Pvt	John L Balch 35249984	2d Lt	George Hankin 05508899
Sgt	Arthur Heringway		William Robinson
Pvt	Clyde Elliot 317178028	Pfc	Steve Greovich 35571533
Sgt	Edwin E Randall 36874739	Pfc	Joseph M Reesor 35691466
Pfc	Harold I Briggs 36903306	Pfc	Carl B Kissler 33920763
Pvt	Lyle E Spencer 36935181	Pfc	Knoch Yurkas 33920683
Pvt	Robert Doughty 34965408	Pfc	Herbert H Thomas 31458742

COMPANY H

Pfc	Soto Crespin 20848187		Alex Wilson 34934083
	Allvander Clayman 7032020	Pfc	Andy Pearson 15086798
	David M Dillion Jr 32960029		

Casualty Report (cont'd)

Hq Co 2nd Bn

Pfc Joseph F Sottak 31293115 Pfc Carl E Wert 35839840
 Pfc John C Each 0253001

Company I

2d Lt Theodore R Lilley 0555068	Pvt Robert G McKinley 37710162
Pvt Carl L Davis 37751388	Sgt George Marquin 35575383
S/Sgt Louis Kavelaras 35927567	1st Lt Thomas L Peters 0554159
Pfc Oscar J Sommer 36731500	Pfc Stephens B Yuchasky 42129831
Pfc William P Randi 31429565	Pfc Ruben O Ortega 39725190
Pvt Eugene Rhodes 34178033	Sgt Eugene B Atkins 35799772
Pvt Owen W Sharp 39932953	T/Sgt John F Buxtendorf 36400309

Company K

S/Sgt Oswald W Czek 35309426	Pfc James I Wallace 15338262
Pvt Robert E Wolfgang 33711420	Tec 5 Elmer Maiden 7041149
Pvt Guy W Shaffer 35779528	Pfc James L Womack 38526792
Capt Jack W Lytton 0386336	S/Sgt Jack W Ainslie 32835365
Pvt Maurice G McGee 31448870	S/Sgt Joseph F Pacella 42002399
Pfc Richard E Shephard 37474580	1st Lt William A Kirchoff 0116074
Ed Lt Joe T Mason Jr 0550356	Tec 5 Arthur H Stevens 31398613

Company L

Pfc Eugene M Zies 33412879	S/Sgt Alfred A Dumais 31430962
Pfc Andy Marcus 33144951	Pfc Roland B Wheeler 42021737
Pfc Edwin A Daniel 3499906	Pfc James F Steighner 33938078
Pfc James O Grigaby 34976404	Pfc Willy Osborne Jr 33686811
Carl Mitchell 33687036	Pfc Robert Looper 33931391
Joseph Wilson 13128359	Pfc Edward Leeird 31457825
Thomas Mann 34933551	Pfc Charles Meyerhoff 42185656
Kenneth Meyerhoff 42185659	Pfc William Kyere 33843313
Ora Atkins 35782172	S/Sgt Donald C Meeker 42001877
Wilbert Whitehurst 37068732	Pfc Fred E Birch 34966177
Harshel N Burton 01287473	Pvt Edward S Montemurro 39149701
Martin O Mathis 0926236	Pvt Thomas H Knobloch 31434493
Pfc Adolpho I Rodriguez 39725146	Pfc Anselmo Villarrea 35855552
Pfc George Letoff 36268731	

Company M

T/Sgt Dale Gilbert 15055768	Sgt Robert O Brown 14119211
Pfc Stephen Carnevale 33434501	Pvt Lucas Bautista 35579501
Pvt L I Sulacchetano 41286052	Pvt Joseph W Abel 33767076
Pvt Lonley Halstead 45202928	Pfc Michael J Vignale 31397011
Pfc Walter L Hall 36778913	

Hq Co 3rd Bn

Ed Lt Shelton D Miller 01170868	T/Sgt George W Herrmann 32834476
Capt Edward B Scullion 01890144	Pfc James Kiroua 36688001
Pvt Robert J Hrdlicka 36934721	Tec 4 Jack Hager 12130440
Pfc Alexander W Killey 37827314	Pvt Robert A Lina 36827969
Pvt Wilbur I Huss 37692801	Pfc Cecil H Sheldon 35447216
Sgt Donald F Sweeney 34937904	

1 March 1948

AWARDS and DECORATIONS (Bronze Star)

Sgt	Bryton D Jones, 38042368, Co A	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Hert D Hildebrand, 39935831 Co C	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Louis F Mathews, 37018147, Co E	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	James E Foresth, 31456879, Co E	GO #18, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Leon E Garbardin, 31605011, Co F	GO #18, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Jerome J Gildan, 37631821, Co F	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Robert E Dick, 38821908, Co G	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Math R Barto, 37086421, Co I	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	James C Moriarity, 42041330, Co I	GO #18, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Ernest E Burton 01881473, Co I	GO #18, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Merrill W Gore, 39839055, Co L	GO #14, 63d Div., 22 Feb 45
Sgt	John E Smith, 0304575, Hq 3d Bn	GO #17, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Richard C Cox, 01290210, Hq Co	GO #15, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Edward P Lohert, 010230 Hq Co	GO #18, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Lawrence J King Jr, 31351971 Med	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Howard J Dispenhorst, 36878308, Med	GO #14, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Joseph J Szarkowicz, 31378141, Med	GO #14, 63d Div., 22 Feb 45

SILVER STAR

Sgt	Thomas V Moore Jr, 0495702, Hqs 1st Bn	GO #21, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Fredrick W Snyder, 36875483, Co E	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Theodore K Swine, 36575526, Co E	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Paul W Koblarchick, 01173334, Co G	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Kenneth F Lunn, 32588641, Co H	GO #14, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Merrill W Gore, 39839055, Co L	GO #14, 63d Div., 22 Feb 45
Sgt	Howard J Dispenhorst, 36878308, Med	GO #14, 63d Div., 21 Feb 45
Sgt	Joseph J Szarkowicz, 31378141, Med	GO #14, 63d Div., 22 Feb 45
Sgt	Lawrence J King Jr, 31351971, Med	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45

SOLDIER MEDAL

Sgt	Robert B Joseph, 33511923, Hq Co	GO #15, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Donald L Wilson, 30240033, Hq Co	GO #15, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45

PURPLE HEART

Sgt	John D Gallione, 35225221, Co C	GO #4, 63d Div., 18 Feb 45
Sgt	Robert J Friedrichsen, 38160371, Co C	GO #4, 63d Div., 18 Feb 45
Sgt	Richard R Inosh, 12241534, Co C	GO #6, 63d Div., 18 Feb 45
Sgt	Everette E Inosh, 38471153, Co C	GO #6, 63d Div., 18 Feb 45
Sgt	J Gallione, 12241534, Co C	GO #4, 63d Div., 18 Feb 45
Sgt	John E Smith, 0304575, Co C	GO #17, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	John Jones, 3011021, Co C	GO #11, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	James Carter, 010230, Co C	GO #11, 117th Av, 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Stephen E Linn, 3211077, Co C	GO #11, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Richard L Miller, 3011021, Co C	GO #11, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	James E Jones, 3011021, Co C	GO #11, 63d Div., 25 Feb 45
Sgt	Leon E Garbardin, 31605011 Co K	GO #1, 63d Div., 6 Feb 45

Awards & Decorations (Purple Heart) (Cont'd)

Pvt	Frederick W Snyder, 36876483, Co EGO	#3, 63d Div., 6 Feb 45
Pfc	George borges 11064002 Co E	GO #3, 63d Div., 6 Feb 45
Pvt	James H Forsyth 31458379 Co E	GO #3, 63d Div., 6 Feb 45
T/Sgt	William K Kanuba 20014499 Co E	GO #40, 5h GH., 15 Feb 45
Sgt	Clarence B Gerity 16112520 Co E	GO #4, 63d Div., 12 Feb 45
S/Sgt	Lawrence A Barry 31241236 Co E	GO #18, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Pfc	Felix V Bosco 31410517 Co E	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Pfc	Edward J Oerman 33875343 Co F	GO #12, 127 GH., 27 Feb 45
Ed Lt	Paul W Koblarohick 01173334 Co G	GO #3, 63d Div., 6 Feb 45
Sgt	Arthur B Hemingway 31461566 Co G	GO #11, 127 GH., 22 Feb 45
Pfc	William B Robinson 20933737 Co G	GO #11, 127GH., 22 Feb 45
Pfc	Harold R Briggs 36903306 Co G	GO #12, 127 GH., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Amedeo Patrongolo Jr 33811367 Co G	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Conrad R Bucien 42013070 Co G	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Pfc	Andy Pearson 15086798 Co H	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pvt	Carlton P Hunt 31457863 Co I	GO #4, 63d Div., 12 Feb 45
Pvt	Howard W Shoemaker 33654441 Co K	GO #11, 2 GH., 12 Feb 45
E/Sgt	Jack W Ainslie 32835365 Co K	GO #12, 127 GH., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	George J Metoff 36268731 Co L	GO #12, 127 GH., 27 Feb 45
Ed Lt	Martin C Mathis 0926238 Co L	GO #12, 127 GH., 27 Feb 45
Pvt	Lucas Bautista 38579205 Co M	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pvt	Joseph Abel 33767076 Co M	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Walter J Hall 36778913 Co M	GO #13, 117 GH., 23 Feb 45
Pfc	Alexander W Hiller 37627514 Hq Co	GO #38, 23 GH., 27 Feb 45
Capt	Charles VanLeeuwen 0410371 Sv Co	GO #38, 23 GH., 27 Feb 45
Sgt	Oreion P Trielen 36807222 A-T Co	GO #38, 23 GH., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Louis Vargo 35070801 A-T Co	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Ed Lt	James B McIlwee 0550357 A-T Co	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Pfc	Norman T Hoover 37485201 A-T Co	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Capt	Warren L Kirkland 01289746 A-T Co	GO #16, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Tco 5	Michael Jugan 33690183 Med	GO #14, 36 GH., 16 Feb 45
Pfc	Achille E DeKever 35558694 Med	GO #12, 63d Div., 20 Feb 45
Tco 4	Henry L Flaine 13138538 Med	GO #1E, 63d Div., 24 Feb 45
Pfc	Charles H Chaves Jr 31372023 Med	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Albert Lange Jr 36977330 Med	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45
Pfc	Joseph J Szarkowicz 31376141 Med	GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45

Oak Leaf Cluster

Sgt George Borges 11064002 Co E GO #20, 63d Div., 27 Feb 45

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

Following is number of men in companies indicated that were awarded Combat Infantryman Badge during month of February 1945:

Anti-Tank Co	153	Hq Co 2nd Bn	116
Cannon Co	80	Company E	94
Hq & Hq Co	98	Company F	184
Service Co	98	Company G	148
Hq Co 1st Bn	119	Company H	133
Company A	156	Hq Co 3rd Bn	19
Company B	186	Company I	84
Company C	179	Company K	32
Company D	153	Company L	56
		Company M	71

28 February 1945

KEY OFFICER PERSONNEL AS OF 28 February 1945

Regimental Staff

Col.	K. P. Lukert	0-10220	Commanding Officer
Lt Col.	R. O. Lashley	0-19982	Executive Officer
Capt.	Walter M. Lee	0-1290266	S-1
Major	Richard G. Cox	0-1290210	S-2
Major	Henry P. Park	0-293562	S-3
Major	George W. Davis	0-304645	S-4

1st Battalion Staff

Major	Bertrand F. Lurie	0-301757	Commanding Officer
Major	Robert K. Leiding	0-362750	Executive Officer
Capt.	Herbert B. Houghtaling Jr	0-1292527	S-1
1st Lt.	Ray A. Harralson	0-425228	S-2
Capt.	Frank J. Tettear	0-1290157	S-3
1st Lt.	Harry G. Voth	0-1317449	S-4

2nd Battalion Staff

Major	Archie E. Christiansen	0-366280	Commanding Officer
Major	Jack E. Gray	0-303664	Executive Officer
Capt.	Robert C. Fruit	0-355625	S-1
1st Lt.	Robert V. Messerli	0-551070	S-2
Capt.	Robert W. Strause	0-446104	S-3
2nd Lt.	Frank A. DiGiacomo	0-1326320	S-4

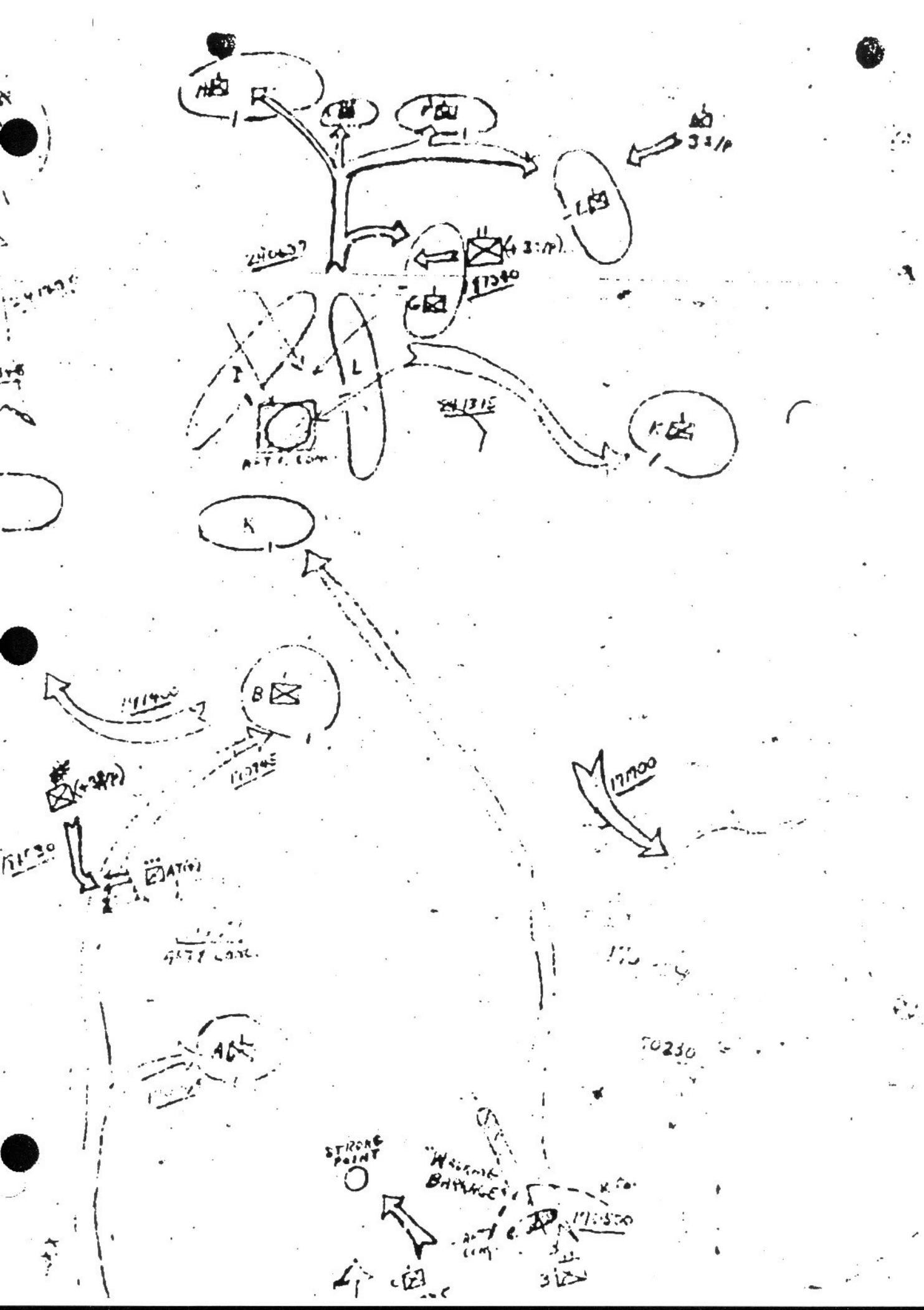
3rd Battalion Staff

Lt Col.	John E. Speak	0-304575	Commanding Officer
Major	Ward L. Hummel	0-293525	Executive Officer
Capt.	James G. Williams	0-366132	S-1
1st Lt.	George C. Whitt	0-406570	S-2
Capt.	Edward B. Scullion	0-1290144	S-3
1st Lt.	William G. Murphy	0-504003	S-4

(Key Officer Personnel cont'd)

COMPANY COMMANDERS

Capt.	Jasper H. Ayer	0-382882	Hq & Hq Co
Capt.	Warren L. Kirkland	0-1289746	Anti-Tank Co
1st Lt.	Charles N. Yancy Jr.	0-514027	Cannon Co
Capt.	Edmund C. Fritzsche	0-1283405	Service Co
Major	Norman C. Carlson	0-419721	Medical Det.
Capt.	Herbert B. Houghtaling Jr	0-1292527	Hq Co 1st Bn
Capt.	Hubert M. Nance	0-1290292	Company A
Capt.	William F. Gerard	0-1298553	Company B
1st Lt.	James Gates	0-1306943	Company C
1st Lt.	Earle A. Johnson Jr	0-26211	Company D
Capt.	Robert C. Fruit	0-355625	Hq Co 2nd Bn
Capt.	Angelo K. Pilla	0-1290123	Company E
Capt.	Carlos W. Heath	0-1299335	Company F
Capt.	Melville C. LaForce	0-307200	Company G
1st Lt.	Roland L. St. Clair	0-1323185	Company H
Capt.	James G. Williams	0-396152	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Capt.	Robert H. Meade	0-423346	Company I
Capt.	Jack W. Lytton	0-386356	Company K
Capt.	Herschel N. Burton	0-1287473	Company L
1st Lt.	Leo E. Juraskinski	0-1314025	Company M



HEADQUARTERS 253D INFANTRY
APO 410 U.S. ARMY

10 April 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.
TO : Headquarters, 7th Army.
ATTENTION: Historian

1. Enclosed find Unit History of the 253d Infantry Regiment for the month of March, 1945.

Edmund C. Fritzsche
EDMUND C. FRITZSCHE,
Capt., 253d Infantry,
Historian.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
and may be
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 27X 20046


SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 253D INFANTRY
APO 410 U.S. ARMY

10 April 1945

Regimental Commanders Critique for Operations
for the month of March 1945

Two deficiencies in training were developed during this period, the proper use of tanks with infantry and artillery, and the proper technique in execution of a motor march. Considerable valuable training and experience were gained in both. Further, the rapidly moving situation developed the need for streamlining men and individuals of unnecessary impediments. Some progress was made along this line during the period. Considerable facility was developed in the use of organic and attached units transportation in shuttling foot troops. However, as the period wore on two disadvantages of this practice developed; (1) constant use and some necessary overloading of vehicles increased greatly maintenance requirements on vehicles and underlined the need for assistant truck-drivers for all vehicles; (2) supply needs tended to suffer as trucks were used to haul personnel.


N. O. EDWARDS
Lt. Col., 253d Inf.,
Commanding.

History of the 253d Inf. Regt. for the month
of March 1945

On the 1st of March 45, the Regt. occupied defensive positions from Bubingen, Germany, Q4964, then east along north edge of Hunterwald to Hill 367, Q5264, then south to Elicersrucksbach, Germany, Q5263-1st Bn. on the left, 2nd Bn. in center and 3rd Bn. on right - 254th Inf. was on the right of the Regt. and 175th Inf. 70th Div. was on the left. (Overlay) Regt. CP was at Kleinblittersdorf, Germany, Q4962. 1st Bn. CP was at Kleinblittersdorf, Germany, Q4962, 2nd Bn. CP was at Wintringerhof Farm, Q51561. 3rd Bn. CP was at Kleinblittersdorf, Germany Q4962. Units attached or supporting the Regt. at this time were: Co. "A", 263d Ingr., 861st FA Bn. (105mm), Co. "A", 822d TD Bn., Co. "A" 99th Cal Mort. Bn.

The 1st day of the month was quiet with little activity of the part of the enemy or the Regt. Regt. continued to improve defensive positions.

At 021200Z March 45, 1st Bn. 255th Inf. was attached to the Regt. for the purpose of making the main effort in a proposed attack to capture the rock quarry, Q5065, and the high ground Q4966, southeast of Gudigen, Germany, Q4866. At 1515, Co's I and L switched positions. Co. "A" 263d Ingr Bn. blew down two smoke stacks on a factory in Bubingen, suspected enemy artillery registration points. Co. "A" 749th Tank Bn. attached to aid in operation.

At 031410Z March 45, the proposed attack was launched with Co. "A" 749th Tank Bn. attacking to the north from the west edge of the woods at Q50645. 1st Bn. 255th Inf. followed the tanks with the mission of capturing the high ground southeast of Gudigen. The tanks were taken under fire by enemy AT guns and all (3) tanks were disabled. The remainder of the tanks withdrew from the woods, reorganized and then moved to a "shell-down" position from which they set up a base of fire for the attacking infantry.

The 1st Bn. moved out at 031410Z March 45, in a column of companies with "A" Co. leading, followed by Co. "C" and then Co. "B". Bn. attacked north from west edge of woods, Q501650, and Co. "A" proceeded against enemy resistance and captured its objective, the high ground southeast of Gudigen, by 043400Z. Lt. Co. "C"

reached the northwest edge of the rock quarry, it was hit by heavy artillery and small arms fire from the woods to the front and from the north and of the quarry which caused numerous casualties, necessitating a withdrawal in order to reorganize. Co. "B" was ordered to attack and hold the objective of Co. "C", the high ground north of the rock quarry. Co. "B" launched its attack at 032350A but was held up by strong enemy patrol action in woods Q501661 at 040020A. Co. "B" then attempted to move around to the right of the woods but enemy fire refused them passage and they were forced to withdraw. Meanwhile, Co. "O", 255d Inf. attacked the rock quarry at 1410A. The quarry, about 800 yds long and 600 yds wide with sheer rock walls, was well fortified and the neutralization was difficult. The enemy placed continuous, accurate mortar and artillery fire into the quarry and this, coupled with small arms fire and the type of objective caused the attack to move slowly forward. Several strongpoints found in the quarry caused considerable difficulty before they were reduced. Fighting in the quarry continued throughout the night and at 2102A, "O" Co. was in possession of the quarry. Some of the strongpoints were not completely cleared and during the night these were reinforced which caused another fight to take place the following day. At 032145A The Battle Patrol was sent to clear the houses along the road leading from Babingen north to Gudingen. The patrol encountered enemy MG's at Q492655 and were forced to withdraw.

At 041150A March 45, Co. "I" was ordered to relieve Co. "B" and relief was completed at 1715A.

Co. "A", 255th repulsed a counterattack in the early morning hours which consisted of four (4) enemy S/P guns and some infantry. Another counterattack of approximately fifty (50) infantry launched against the north edge of the quarry was repulsed at 0715A. Co. "A" sent a platoon to the vicinity of Q492660 to protect road block which Co. "H" 283d Engrs. was to construct. Co. "A" arrived at this point, it was found that the Germans had blocks a center in the road and it was decided to improve this and turn it into a road block. Co. "A", which, continued throughout the day to capture the right half of the woods at Q4926, but were held by heavy enemy fire most time. Co. "B" and "C" were then organized into one company and ordered to seize and hold the southwest edge of the woods at Q492661. Co. "B", 255d Inf. was ordered to move to a position between the quarry and southeast edge of woods at Q492661 and block in that position, and to attack around the left edge of the woods and take the right half of the woods from the north.

At 041200A, Co. "A" 749th TMM Bn. was released from control of the Regt. During the day, Co. "C" continued clearing out the

quarry.

At 060540A, the combined "B" and "G" Co's. of 255th were in position and digging in and at 0620A, Co. "B" 253d Inf. launched its attack as previously planned. Immediately after entering the woods, strong opposition caused the Co. to withdraw and place artillery fire on the objective-prior to attacking. By 1210A, the objective had been taken after a successful attack against E/F guns and infantry. Approximately 18 PW's were taken. At 1325A Co. "B" was attached to 1st Bn. 255th Inf. for operations. Co. "C" continued the attack in the quarry and by 0823A had reduced all opposition and occupied defensive positions.

At 061023A March 45, a platoon from Co. "A", 255th Inf. attacked enemy strongpoints in vicinity of Q490669 and reduced them. These positions were then occupied by a platoon from Co. "G", 255th. This operation was completed by 1210A.

A platoon of Co. "A" 253d Inf. was sent to clean out enemy strongpoints on northeast edge of quarry. The strongpoint was reduced by 1455A. Co. "L" was ordered to relieve Co. "C" in the quarry, relief was completed at 1850A. Co. "L" was attached to 1st Bn., 255d Inf.

On 7th of March 45, defensive positions were strengthened along the Regt. front. 1st Bn. sent a raiding party into the town of Feckingen, Germany, Q5166, under the command of Sgt. Samuel A. Fortune, Jr., ASN 54961124. Rifle grenades were fired into building containing troops and supplies and the patrol withdrew and called for pre-arranged artillery fire. Patrol returned at 2400A.

Elements of Co's. "G", "F", "H", "E", "I" and "K" were relieved by elements of 255th Inf. All reliefs completed by 2039A. New regimental boundary went into effect.

The 6th of March 45 was spent in reorganizing the Regt. defensive position and regrouping the Co's into Bn. sectors. Co. "A" relieved Co. "D" by 0950A. Co. "F" relieved Co. "B" at 1600A. Co. "H" relieved from attachment 1st Bn. 255th Regt. at that time. Co. "K" relieved Co. "E" at 1100A. Co. "I" relieved Co. "G" by 1241. 2nd Bn. relieved 1st Bn. 255th Regt. at 1830A and 1st Bn. reverted to control of 255th Regt. All companies began improving their new positions.

At 161645A March 45, Co. "B" relieved Co. "A" on position and "F" Co. began work on positions.

Co. "O" relieved Co. "I" in Bubingen at 111530A March 45.
Co. "I" relieved Co. "E" in position at 1700A. Personnel of
Regt. attended lecture given by M I team entitled, "What to do
if Captured."

At 0610A on the morning of 12 March 45, a rifle platoon of
Co. "X" commanded by 2nd Lt. Nevin L. McCartney, ASR 0-588731,
reinforced with a section of MG entered woods at Q503673 with
the mission of capturing prisoners, holding woods and supporting
by fire a subsequent raid on the town of Fechingen, Germany,
Q5166. It was necessary for the patrol to eliminate three (3)
enemy MG installations in order to capture woods. A counterattack
from the north estimated strength of forty (40) enemy was re-
pulsed at 0725A. Several counterattacks from north, northeast and
east were repulsed during the morning but the platoon was forced
to withdraw at 1245A due to shortage of ammunition, and lack of
supply route into the position. 1st Bn. conducted training dur-
ing the day and 3rd Bn. improved defensive positions.

On 13th March 45, assault teams from 1st Bn. were trained in
"Assault Team Technique" preparatory to expected attack on Siegf-
ried Line. 63rd Recon. Troop (-) was attached to 1st Bn. at
2100A. Co. "A" relieved Cos "I" and "K", Co. "B" relieved Co. "F"
and Co. "G" relieved Co. "C", all reliefs completed by 2230A.
63rd Recon. Troops (-) relieved elements of Cos "I" and "C".
2nd Bn. reverted to Regt. Res. (overlay)

All Bns. trained "Weasel" drivers on the 14th March 45, and
the 2nd and 3rd Bn. assault teams received the same training as
1st Bn. teams on previous day. New Regt. CP opened in Bubingen
Germany, Q4964 at 1300A. All assault guns of the 70th Tk Bn.
attached to Regt. at 141245A March 45.

At 150100A March 45, Regt. launched an attack to the north-
east from north end of rock quarry, Q5065 with 2nd Bn. on left,
3rd Bn. on right in direction of Fechingen, Germany, Q5166 with
mission of capturing high ground between Fechingen and Escheld,
Germany, Q5467. Both Bns. attacked in a column of Cos. 2nd Bn.
in order, "G" "F" and "E" and 3rd Bn. in order "I" "J" and "H".
Co. "C" sent a diversionary raid into woods, Q503673, at 0100A.
This group was forced to withdraw under heavy opposition at 0200A.
1st Bn. remained in position to block any counterattack coming
from northwest. Co. "A" attached to 2nd Bn. followed the attack-
ing Bn. into Fechingen where it set up defenses of that town.
Attack progressed rapidly against slight opposition and all ob-
jectives were held and being organized by 0645. Bns. sent patrols
to clear out their areas. A line platoon and Engrs. cleared
roads of mines. Engrs. constructed "treadway bridges" in Fechingen.
A-T Co. established A-T defense of Fechingen by 0630A. Regt. CP
moved to Wintringerhof farm, Q51641, new CP opening at 2010A.

Other GPs remained the same. (overlay)

On the 16th of March, Co. "K" and Co. "I" withdrew from positions into mobile assembly area in Eschringen, the remainder of the Regt. continued to improve defensive positions in the sector. Plans and reconnaissances were made for possible employment of the Regt. in the zone of the 254th Inf. which was attacking the Siegfried Line.

At 170805A, 1st Bn. (Co. A) with attached 63d Recon. Troop (-) was relieved by the 116th Cav. Recon. Squadron. The 63d Recon. Troop (-) was relieved from attachment on completion of relief and Bn. (-) moved to assembly area in Eschringen. Co. "A" was relieved by Co. "K" in Eschringen. At 1230A Bn. was ordered to assembly area in Eschheim and move was completed by 1630A. 2nd Bn. (-Co. "E") was relieved in position by 2103A, 101st Cav. Recon. Squadron relieving Cos "F" and "G" and 63d Recon. Troop (-) relieving Co. "K". The Bn. then moved to assembly area in Eschringen Qb365, move being completed by 2330A. Co. "K" relieved attachment 2nd Bn. at 2100A and attached to 101st Cav. Group. Co. "K" received a counterattack of 25 or 30 enemy which was repulsed by MG mortar and artillery fire at 1530A. Co. "I" was ordered into Eschringen, move being completed by 1730A. Plans were completed for attack through zone of 254th Inf.

2nd Bn. moved to assembly area in Eschringen, move being completed by 182945A. 3rd Bn. (-) moved from Eschringen to Orschheim where defensive positions were set up.

~~At 1911 ~~1911~~ ~~1911~~ Regt. was alerted and told to be prepared to move on order. ~~At 1911 ~~1911~~ ~~1911~~ Regt. was alerted and told to be prepared to move on order. ~~At 1911 ~~1911~~ ~~1911~~ Regt. was alerted and told to be prepared to move on order.~~~~~~

At 0600, after being informed that the 254th Regt. had reached objectives in the 1st belt of the Siegfried Line, the 253d Regt. prepared to attack through the remaining fortifications of the Siegfried Line. The regimental objective was the high ground north and northeast of Ober Wurzbach. (Q5671)

The 1st Bn. 253d Regt. was given the mission of taking the high ground at Q56723 in order to protect the movement of the remainder of the regiment. At 060130A the 1st Bn. led by Co. "E" jumped off. The advance was rapid. "E" Co. reached the objective at 0627. All elements of the 1st Bn. were in position on the objective at 0615.

At 0615 the 2nd Bn. 253d Regt. advanced on its first objective at Q555718. "G" Co. reached the 1st objective at 0636. "F" Co. reached the objective at 0700. At 0720 Co. "C" was attached to the 2nd Bn. All elements of the 2nd Bn. reached the 1st objective at 0755. Patrols were sent toward the next objective at Q568732. The 2nd Bn. reorganized and prepared to attack their next objective. This attack was coordinated with an attack by the 254th Regt. At 0945 th 2nd Bn. advanced against light resistance, 8 PW's were taken and a four (4) gun battery of enemy artillery was captured. At 1120 Cos' "F" and "G" were on their objectives. The 2nd Bn. was on its objective and digging in at 1214. Light artillery fire was received during the attack.

At 0545 the 3rd Bn. 253d Regt. followed the 2nd Bn. in column with the mission of passing through the 2nd Bn. and taking the high ground at Q576730. Co. "K" was relieved from attachment to the 101st Cav. Gp., and reverted to 3rd Bn. control at 0926. The 3rd Bn. making good progress, the CO, 3rd Bn. requested permission to pass on the right of the 2nd Bn. Permission was given by Regtl. Comdr at 1114. The 3rd Bn. reached its' objective at 1316. Numerous pill boxes were taken.

At 1336, CO 3rd Bn. was ordered to move into and occupy Hassel (Q5874) with the size force necessary. At 1425 Cos' "I" and "L" were on their way to Hassel. Other units of Bn. following. Co. "K" remained in position north of Ober Wurzbach.

At 1410 after the 1st Bn. 253d Regt. had cleared the last belt of pill boxes of the Siegfried Line, one troop of the 101st Cav. Sq. passed through the positions of the 1st Bn. to reconnoiter the routes into and in the vicinity of St. Ingbert (Q5475).

At 1440 Cos. "I" and "L" entered Hassel, having penetrated last fortifications of the Siegfried line. The remainder of the 2nd Bn. entered Hassel at 1515. Elements of the 6th Arm'd Div. passed through 3rd Bn. positions in Hassel at approximately 1530.

At 1400 the 2nd Bn. was ordered to move to and occupy St. Ingbert (Q5475). Co. "C" reverted to 1st Bn. control at 1536.

At 1500 the 1st Bn. was ordered to occupy positions in St. Ingbert (Q5475)

Co. "I" was placed in regimental reserve in the vicinity of Reichenbrunn (Q5573)

Co. "A" closed in on Rentrish and established a road block at 1811. The remainder of the 1st Bn. closed in at St. Ingbert at 1945. The 2nd Bn. closed in at St. Ingbert at 2000.

The regimental command post closed at Ensheim Q5467 and opened at Reichenbrunn at 2110. The regiment was alerted to be ready to move on division order.

The 253d Inf. Regt. executed its mission in a speedy and precise manner, exploiting the break through to St. Ingbert and Hassel, and enabling armored and cavalry units to further exploit the breaching of the Siegfried Line. Many prisoners and much enemy materiel were taken as a result of this operation.

On March 21, 1945 the 253d Regt. less the 1st Bn. was put in division reserve as of 210400. Regt. was to advance to the north-east to an assembly area vicinity of Q5981. 1st Bn. 253d Regt. was to contact elements of the 70th Div. and to block any enemy movements from west.

3rd Bn. moved by motor from vicinity Hassel Q5874 closed into vicinity Homburg, Germany Q6981 by 1230. 2nd Bn. marched from vicinity St. Ingbert Q5475 closed into vicinity Homburg, Germany by 1612. 1st Bn. moved by shuttling from St. Ingbert closed into Homburg by 1830. A-T Co. moved from vicinity Ensheim, Germany closed into vicinity Homburg by 1800. Cn. Co. moved from vicinity Reichenbrunn Q5573 closed into Homburg, Germany by 1830.

253d Regt. moved against no opposition and closed into assembly area by 1830A. New command post opened at Homburg, Germany Q704814 at 1830A. Regiment was alerted 2345 to move to rear area following day when Div. passed to Corps Res.

On March 22, 1945, the 253d Regt. received orders to move into an assembly area in the vicinity of Ludwigsthal, Germany Q6301. The order was received at 0930. The 1st Bn. moved by motor and marching from Homburg Q6981 closed in vicinity of Ludwigsthal, Germany Q6281 by 1545A. The 2nd Bn. moved by motor and marching from Homburg closed in vicinity of Riedbaxbach, Germany Q6581 by 1500A. The 3rd Bn. moved by motor and marching from Homburg and closed in vicinity of Riedbaxbach, Germany by 1530A. The A-T Co. moved by motor from Homburg and closed in vicinity of Ludwigsthal, Germany. Cn. Co. moved from vicinity of Homburg and closed in vicinity of Bruchmeierhof, Germany Q6380.

The regiment moved by motor and marching approximately seven and one half miles. The new regimental command post opened at Ludwigsthal, Germany Q633914 at 1445A.

On 23d March 1945, the Div. remained in IV Corps Reserve. The Bns. and separate companies utilized the day by cleaning weapons and equipment, personal hygiene and general reorganization. Major General Louis E. Hibbs, Div. Comdr. addressed officers and enlisted men of the regiment and made a presentation of awards to certain members of this command.

On 24th March 1945, the Bns. and separate Cos. of the 253d Regt. conducted training to increase the combat efficiency of the regiment. At 241050 the regiment received a warning order of an impending move to an assembly area, vicinity Langweil M1007. The Div. remained in IV Corps Reserve.

On 25th March 1945, the 253d Regt. moved to the vicinity of Langweil, Germany M1007. The 1st Bn. moved by motor vicinity of Ludwigsthal Q5281 and closed in at vicinity Munchweiler M1005 at 1400. The 2nd Bn. moved by motor from vicinity of Niederbach, Q6581 and closed in at vicinity Genbach M1205 at 1245. The 3rd Bn. moved by motor from vicinity Heidbaxbach and closed in vicinity Sippersfeld M1406 at 1230. The A-T Co. moved by motor from Ludwigsthal and closed in at vicinity Sippersfeld at 1245. The Cn. Co. moved by motor from vicinity Ludwigsthal and closed in at Sippersfeld at 1245.

The new regimental command post opened at 1200. Plans and reconnaissance for training were made. Div. remained in IV Corps Reserve.

On 26th March 1945 the 253d Div. remained in IV Corps Reserve. Training and reorganization of units were conducted. At 1800 the Div. received a warning order for a move across the Rhine River. Preparations and plans for proposed move were completed. The move was cancelled at 2145A by higher headquarters. Plans were then made to continue training and rehabilitation of the command.

On 27th March 1945, one platoon of Co. "A" 263d Regt. was attached to 253d CT reverted to the control of its parent unit. Regiment continued in reserve reverting to III Corps Reserve. Bns. and separate Cos. conducted training programs, including Infantry Tank tactics and prepared themselves for future operations.

On 28th March 1945, at 1055A 263d Regt. was alerted to prepare to cross the Rhine River at about 1800. At 1230 Co. "A"

822nd TD Bn., one platoon "D" Btry 436th AAA AW Bn. were attached to the 253d Regt.

The 1st Bn. moved by motor from Lünchweiler M1005 closed in vicinity Viernheim, Germany M6104 at 2220. 2nd Bn moved by motor from Gonbach, Germany closed in vicinity Viernheim, Germany, M5904 at 2200. The 3rd Bn. moved by motor from vicinity Sippersfeld M1406 closed in vicinity Viernheim M5804 at 2130. "K" Co. closed in at 290315A. Cn. Co. moved by motor from vicinity Sippersfeld closed in at vicinity Viernheim M5904 at 2200. A-T Co moved by motor from vicinity Sippersfeld closed in vicinity Viernheim M5904 at 2200.

The 253d Regt. moved approximately 40 miles by motor from vicinity Sippersfeld to vicinity Viernheim crossing the Rhine River in the vicinity of Rhein-Durkheim M4522 over a heavy pontoon bridge. The Regt. CP opened vicinity Viernheim M603048 at 1830.

On 29th March 1945 the 253d Regt. made plans to relieve the 114th Regt. of the 44th Div. These plans were later cancelled and other plans were made for an attack in the direction of Heidelberg, Germany and the high ground to the southeast. All units of regiment moved into bivouac at German barracks M580028. 3rd Bn. closed in at barracks area at 292147. A-T Co. closed in barracks area at 292359. 1st and 2nd Bns. and Cn. Co. closed in at barracks at 300130.

On 30 March 1945, 253d Regt. attacked southeast in the direction of Heidelberg.

The 2nd Bn crossed the Neckar River at Neuenheim M673907. All units of the 2nd Bn. except 2 platoons of "G" Co. had crossed the river at 1400.

The 3rd Bn. crossed the Neckar River in the vicinity of Ladenburg, M627974. All units of the 3rd Bn. had crossed Neckar River at 1330.

The 1st Bn. remained in the barracks area at M580028 awaiting orders to move to the southeast.

At 1435 the 253d Inf. received orders from higher headquarters to cease the operation. The 1st Bn. remained at their assembly area. The 2nd Bn. began to assemble in the vicinity of Neuenheim. The 3rd Bn. assembled at Ladenburg. This involved recrossing to the north-bank of the Neckar River.

The 1st Bn. moved from barracks area to Regt. assembly area M7698 at 1630.

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At 1830 the Regiment reverted to VI Corps control and was ordered to resume original attack to southeast. The 1st Bn. was recalled from Heilighrieizsteinach and ordered to move by motor across Neckar River at Mannheim and prepare to attack to the southeast from Heidelberg. The 2nd Bn. recrossed the Neckar River by assault boat into Heidelberg. The 3rd Bn. prepared for a motor movement to Heidelberg.

At 310200 the 1st Bn. closed assembly area vicinity of German barracks and reached Edingun R6394 at 0440. The Bn. attacked at 0730 and advanced rapidly against light resistance and at 312400 had reached positions in and south of Neckargmund R770889.

The 2nd Bn. left its assembly area at Heidelberg at 0735 moving toward the high ground to the east. At 1200 the village of Kohlhof R727880 was secured. Co. "C" occupied Kohlhof. By 1600 Waldhelzbach, R750837 was secured and organized. The 2nd Bn. CP moved to Waldhelzbach at 1730. "E" Co's forward elements were at R763892.

The 3rd Bn. left Ladenberg at 310107. At 0327 forward elements were in Rohrbach R695870. At 0705 Co. "K" was in Eppelheim R690895. "L" was sent to Kirnheim R675860. Elements of 3rd Bn. were relieved by elements of 255th Regt. 3rd Bn. continued advances to east. At 2400 Co. "I" was at R753846. Co. "K" 759844. Co. "I" was at Garberg 7385.

253d Regt. advanced rapidly to east on 31 March 1945. Numerous towns were secured and cleared. Preparations were made to continue the attack 010400 April. Regt. CP opened at Heidelberg at 0615.

During the month of March the 253d Infantry Regiment made an advance of approximately 80 miles eastward into Germany. During the advance the regiment breached the last belt of the Siegfried Line, exploited and enabled armored units to exploit the breakthrough. The Rhine and Neckar Rivers were crossed. A total of 994 prisoners of war were taken. Casualties for the Regt. were as follows:

	0	81
KIA	-	1
WIA	13	235
MIA	0	30

The willing spirit and the ability of the officers and enlisted men of this command enabled the regiment to execute all its missions in an exemplary manner.

1 April 1945

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
(Purple Heart)COMPANY A

Pfc Johannes O Iverson 39180175	GO #37-21 GH- 2 Mar 45
Sgt Peter B Mangold 12144825	GO #36-21 GH- 1 Mar 45
Pfc Claude O Gardner 32355402	GO #34-63d Div- 13 Mar 45
E/Sgt John G. Ruxkes 33150387	GO #34-63d Div- 13 Mar 45
Pfc Lionel R Canine 31430887	GO #18-2 GH- 10 Mar 45
P/S Walter Y Parcel 37692911	" " " "
Pvt William O Brennan 11061680	GO #10- 3 GH- 6 Mar 45
Sgt Donald R Schafer 37692949	GO #18- 36 GH - 6 Mar 45
Pfc Glen O Boster 39838737	GO #43- 23 GH- 8 Mar 45
Sgt Alfred H Brackhamer 33409940	GO #43- 23 GH- 8 Mar 45
Sgt John F Fleming 32636968	GO #42- 21 GH- 13 Mar 45
Sgt Joseph J Leako 32092996	GO #42- 21 GH- 13 Mar 45
Pvt Alva D Reynolds 35208561	GO #42- 21 GH- 13 Mar 45
Pfc Alfred O Brumhmer 42075354	GO #19- 127 GB- 15 Mar 45
Pvt James F McKerney 36457565	GO #49- 63 Div- 19 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph Castillo 38264393	GO #43- 24 GH- 15 Mar 45
Pfc Karl Johnson 37692863	GO #59- 63 Div- 27 Mar 45
Pfc James F Gilreath 34985868	GO #49- 21 GH- 20 Mar 45
Pfc Lawrence Rawitzer 42056417	GO #58- 21 GH- 23 Mar 45
Sgt Glen W Hollaway 38452578	GO #23- 36 GH- 24 Mar 45

Company B

Pfc William E Burton 37693006	GO #29- 63 Div- 9 Mar 45
Pfc Alfred F Loessel 42103280	GO #29- 63 Div- 9 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph A Piccolo 31412618	GO #15- 35 SB- 4 Mar 45
Sgt Lloyd D Boyce 38431010	GO #34- 63 Div- 13 Mar 45
Sgt Edward Carter 6958797	GH #34- 63 Div- 13 Mar 45
Sgt Paul Culbreth 34679126	GO #34- 63 Div- 13 Mar 45
Pfc Laurel P. Baker 34859003	GO #25- 117 KB- 11 Mar 45
Sgt Maynard Stephenson 37267688	GO #11- 3 GH- 9 Mar 45
Pfc Everett H Campbell 33554869	GO #40- 23 GH- 15 Mar 45
Pvt John E Podes 33564379	GO #18- 23 GH- 15 Mar 45
Pfc Hal E Barnes 39208830	GO #23- 51 KB- 16 Mar 45
Pfc William L Dalig 33876487	GO #19- 23 GH- 15 Mar 45
Pfc Phillip D Lamm 33927239	GO #19- 23 GH- 16 Mar 45
Pfc William G Lamm 33928415	GO #30- 23 GH- 17 Mar 45
Pvt Thomas F Logan 33945019	GO #20- 36 GH- 18 Mar 45
Pfc Robert R Barber 32209381	GO #29- 63 Div- 19 Mar 45
Pvt Archie J Bayer 12169611	GO #19- 63 Div- 19 Mar 45
Pvt Stanley I Becker 36912535	GO #19- 63 Div- 19 Mar 45
Pvt William B Clarke Jr 44036499	GO #19- 63 Div- 19 Mar 45
Pvt Edward H Doyle 31265888	GO #44- 21 GH- 17 Mar 45
Pvt Gerald V Kenny 19051051	GO #59- 63 Div- 27 Mar 45
Pfc Hal E Barnes 39308831	GO #21- 2 GH- 21 Mar 45
Pvt James F Agin 44037010	GO #33- 23 GH- 22 Mar 45
Pvt Robert V Burch 44035885	GO #33- 23 GH- 22 Mar 45

T/Agt Raymond K Waite 42008920	00 #7	10 FH	9 Mar 45
Pvt Eugene M Arnett 38732000	00 #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Mangus L Proberg 12221284	.	.	.
Pfc Kenneth D Holacher 12229307	.	.	.
Pvt William A Lang Jr 42068467	.	.	.
Pfc Donald T Bennett 38726355	00 #28	117 KH	11 Mar 45
Pfc Maurice Gibeault 31410558	00 #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt John J Cipponeri 37659739	00 #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Joe F Chavez 38564435	00 #15	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Pfc Oscar W Blair 34923608	00 #11	3 GH	9 Mar 45
Pfc Herbert E Thomas 31458742	00 #11	3 GH	9 Mar 45
Pvt Grover D Vanette 35575644	00 #11	3 GH	9 Mar 45
T/Agt James W Patrick 35697951	00 #41	21 GH	11 Mar 45
1st Lt James S Kady 0447248	00 #42	21 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Edward S Coine 35811231	00 #42	21 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Donald M VanCamp 37555354	00 #42	21 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Colquitt C Fennell 34833696	00 #49	23 GH	16 Mar 45
Pfc Mathew Dunoon 35087625	00 #50	23 GH	17 Mar 45
Pvt Thomas B Iyle 33410632	00 #50	23 GH	17 Mar 45
Pfc Homer D Wilson 36927748	00 #50	23 GH	17 Mar 45
Pfc Charles I Crowder 34965929	00 #18	127 GH	13 Mar 45
Pvt Thomas J Gallery 12102343	00 #20	36 GH	13 Mar 45
Pvt Thomas K Davis 34858958	00 #20	36 GH	13 Mar 45
Sgt Melvin W Kerr 36673219	00 #20	36 GH	13 Mar 45
Sgt Tom F Thomas 35094782	00 #20	36 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Joe K Ramirez 38246574	00 #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Pfc Salvatore T Panico 42071704	00 #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
1st Lt Arthur F Ferrella 01050031	00 #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Pvt Stanley R Souerville 35174559	00 #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
T/Agt Edward L Wamoth 34968270	00 #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
T/Agt Joe L Clarkson 34976400	00 #43	21 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt John K Godala 33925179	00 #43	21 GH	15 Mar 45
T/Agt John K Smith 32579670	00 #12	3 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt Eugene K Cattantini 32846213	00 #52	23 GH	20 Mar 45
Pvt Lee M Leavitt 02007032	00 #52	25 GH	20 Mar 45
Pvt Walter J Selby 01048182	00 #51	23 GH	19 Mar 45
Pvt Roland I Costure 20148994	00 #45	21 GH	18 Mar 45
Pvt George F Baker 41865538	00 #5	59 EH	24 Mar 45
Pvt John E Dasher 3460916	00 #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pvt Walter J Kelly 42001917	00 #21	2 GH	21 Mar 45

Company D

Pvt John L Brackley 37694401	00 #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Raymond J Lisle 33510466	00 #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Edwin E Lippert 35012105	00 #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Harry Tate 31408115	00 #15	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Pvt Hugh C Hunt 37648201	00 #16	2 GH	16 Mar 45
Pvt Henry F Ulick 35894624	00 #49	23 GH	16 Mar 45
Pvt James E Lane 35335004	00 #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45

Co C 1st Bn

Pvt Thomas V Moore 0495702	00 #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Pvt Adrian B Knolitz 36973229	00 #41	21 GH	11 Mar 45

Company K

Pvt Vernon A Blumenthal 18228036	00 #14	34 EH	8 Mar 45
Pvt George J Bailey 25002116	00 #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45

Company A Cont'd

Pfc Gerald M Bigler 35070432	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Donald W Smith 34961378	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Glenn M Ashworth h 35240480	GO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Pfc Tony Correro 30003401	GO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Sgt Carl F Miller 33702967	GO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Robert K Biggins 35560079	GO #18	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Pvt Thomas L Baden 13189075	GO #43	23 GH	8 Mar 45
Pfc Alan M Baer 32834018	GO #50	23 GH	17 Mar 45
Pvt John A Bartow 38571990	GO #50	23 GH	17 Mar 45
Sgt John H McVeigh 19097725	GO #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Capt Angelo E Pilla 01290123	GO #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Pfc John Zawacki 33037370	GO #12	23 SH	19 Mar 45
Pvt Robert LCarr 37637466	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pvt Harvey Goode 38253722	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pvt Norman K Katz 37731909	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pfc Russell L Moore 35761925	GO #52	21 GH	22 Mar 45
Pfc Paul V Schad 32939523	GO #17	2 GH	20 Mar 45
Sgt Lt Nevin F McCartney 0558781		127 GH	21 Mar 45
Capt Henry M Houseman 36146540	GO #55	21 Gh	23 Mar 45
1st Lt Francis J Spiessabach 01080243	GO #10	23 SH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Ralph C Hadeisty 33836951	GO #15	35 SH	4 Mar 45
Pfc Kenneth W Browning 35244408	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Ed Lt Lawrence M Castleberry 0550349	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt William A Michaelson 42185665	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt McKoos J Murphy 35848732	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt Clark D Richards 35461290	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Donald R Woods 38538361	GO #34,	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Francis A Messick 42105563	GO #24	117 KH	10 Mar 45
Pfc Edward B Kissinger 35071059	GO 24	117 KH	10 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph M Bivona 42178899	GO #39	21 GH	8 Mar 45
Sgt Donald C Donahoo 35629476	GO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Sgt Fred P Bass 34883320	GO #18	36 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt Peter R Metcalf 31433857	GO #18	36 GH	6 Mar 45
Sgt William G Smith 35135609	GO #15	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Sgt Samuel J Burdette 34848712	GO #15	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph Provatsare 35927992	GO #15	127 GH	5 Mar 45
Pfc Ross E Moore 35814378	GO #45	23 GH	11 Mar 45
Pvt Eugene E McKeon 42106873	GO #19	127 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt Glenn A Spenser 34961210	GO #43	21 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt Earl J VanCamp 35042940	GO #12	3 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt Clark D Richards 35461290	GO #44	21 GH	17 Mar 45
Pvt Donald R Farrington 31640275	GO #12	23 SH	18 Mar 45
Pvt Stanley E Swank 12180679	GO #13	23 SH	23 Mar 45
Pvt John Zito 38650647	GO #22	36 GH	20 Mar 45

Company G

1st Lt Donald D Dowd 02007030	GO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Pfc Amadeo J Sanchez 35676830	GO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Pvt Robert Markowitz 10191212	GO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt Bill H Richards 38524323	GO #18	36 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt Paul V Luky 35198707	GO #46	23 GH	12 Mar 45
Sgt Leo J Squillacote 31410443	GO #46	23 GH	12 Mar 45
Pvt Dale A Wright 35093062	GO #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45

Company H

1st Lt Charles D Rhodes Jr 0557736	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pvt Alec Wilson 34834033	GO #15	36 SH	4 Mar 45

Company H (CONT'D)

Pfc Rocco Pezula 31390441	GO #43	23 GH	8 Mar 45
E/Bgt John B Best 18743061	GO #43	21 GH	15 Mar 45
Pfc Francis J Durkey 33935169	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
<u>Hq Co End No</u>			
Pfc Arthur Henderson 38608660	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Joseph J Zintak 31156698	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Louis O Myers 35895030	GO #45	23 GH	11 Mar 45
Ad Lt Carleton H Togstad 0549915	GO #48	23 GH	15 Mar 45
Pvt John W Morrison 15359800	GO #20	36 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Kenneth A Hicks 20155757	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45

Company I

Sgt Eugene B Atkins 35779772	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
2/Bgt John F Buytendorp Jr 36400309	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pvt Owen W Sharp 39932953	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pfc Ruben G Ortega 39725190	GO #10	23 SH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Stanley J Bochonek 36831399	GO #41	23 GH	3 Mar 45
Pvt Carl L Davis Jr 37731385	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
2/Bgt Louis Kavelaras 35927576	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Donald King 35844102	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt George S Marquis 35575383	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Robert G McKinley 37710162	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
1st Lt Thomas I Peters 0554159	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Eugene Rhodes 34178033	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Oscar J Mosser 36731500	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Ad Lt Theodore E Lilley 0555068	GO #24	23 GH	9 Mar 45
Pvt Frank Rapps 31041044	GO #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Pfc Elden A Swanson 37591624	GO #39	63 Div	27 Mar 45

Company K

Pvt Robert J Hrdlička 36904725	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Capt Jack W Lytton 0386336	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
2/5 Elmer Maiden 7041149	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pvt Maurice G McGee 31448870	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
S/Sgt Joseph F Poelle 42009399	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Sgt James L Kowack 36024799	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Sgt Raymond F Cook 33909066	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Theodore F Czapiel 31417230	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Garrett B Minbrell 34980773	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
1st Lt William A Kirchhoff 0118074	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt Edward L Pictor 31445396	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Richard D Shepherd 37474580	GO #39	21 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt James J Wallace 15308261	GO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Sgt James J Ciles 38991493	GO #43	21 GH	10 Mar 45
Pvt Albert L Sobok 15140472	GO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pvt Edward J Tansley 31261122	GO #48	21 GH	20 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph J Hagan 36655609	GO #14	236 GH	29 Mar 45

Company L

Capt Hazel H Barton 01287473	GO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pfc James O Grigby 34976104	GO #10	23 SH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Andy Marcus 31141931	GO #33	21 GH	4 Mar 45
Pvt Carl L Atkins 35725199	GO #14	35 SH	2 Mar 45
Pvt Robert Cooper 38931391	GO #45	5 GH	7 Mar 45
Sgt Eric J Hrough 3109410	GO #21	190 GH	6 Mar 45
Pvt Donald E D'Amico 34989906	GO #15	23 SH	4 Mar 45
Pvt Frank E Myers 13001216	GO #46	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt Vera K Reed Jr 36974336	GO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45

Pfc Albert Whitehurst 37066732	CO #18	2 GH	10 Mar 45
S/Egt Joseph Wilson 13126354	CO #15	127 GH	8 Mar 45
Pvt Edward B Montemurro 32849702	CO #11	3 GH	9 Mar 45
S/Sgt Thomas F Banaban Jr 11072778	CO #47	23 GH	13 Mar 45
Pfc Herman L Carlson 35401430	CO #16	2 GH	16 Mar 45
S/Sgt John R Nelson 39295407	CO #10	10 FE	18 Mar 45
Pfc Warren A Stewart 20325412	CO #12	23 SH	19 Mar 45
Pfc William K Hill 44046695	CO #73	27 KH	24 Mar 45
S/Sgt Philippe V Beaudoin 31460258	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
2d Lt Augustus S Crovo Jr 02007029	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
1st Lt Albert S Fossier 01795885	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pfc Fletcher D Hall 34899425	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
S/Sgt Donald C Meeker #2006277	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
1st Sgt William C Younger 14026767	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Sgt James W Summers 38140382	CO #14	23 SH	26 Mar 45

Company K

Sgt Robert O Brown 14117212	CO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pfc Alexander Byako 36876507	CO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Pfc Stephen A Carnovale 33434501	CO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
S/Sgt Charles R Hanson 36831151	CO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Sgt Robert O Brown 14117212	CO #52	21 GH	22 Mar 45

Hq Co 3rd Bn

S/S Walter Plummer 35092918	CO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
Capt Edward B Soullion 01290144	CO #29	63 Div	9 Mar 45
S/S Jack Hager 12135640	CO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
S/Sgt George D Herrmann 32536478	CO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
1st Lt Shelton B Miller 01170868	CO #34	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt Robert A Lias 35927967	CO #11	3 GH	9 Mar 45
1st Lt Edward A Huseher 0558785	CO #49	63 Div	19 Mar 45
Pfc Edward Osowico 36775257	CO #8	59 KH	24 Mar 45
Pfc Robert D Croy Jr 35774925	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45

Hq & Bq Co

Pvt Wilbur L Boas 37692961	CO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
S/S Anthony M Gerbino 42009566	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pfc Harry E Kelly 36673945	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45

Anti-Tank Co

Pfc John S Shauer 35686177	CO #24	63 Div	10 Mar 45
Pfc Robert E Gilmore 35602230	CO #16	2 GH	10 Mar 45
Pfc Gene Ferrell 35050104	CO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Eugene A Alexander 36950710	CO #16	23 GH	12 Mar 45
Pfc Herman Hall 14031031	CO #41	21 GH	11 Mar 45
Pfc Stanley J Kojan 35022685	CO #41	21 GH	11 Mar 45
Pfc Earl Wittinger 36682502	CO #12	3 GH	16 Mar 45
Pfc K J Bissett 32651096	CO #16	21 GH	19 Mar 45

Ordnance Co

Cpl Jay C Raigh 36737400	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
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Medical Detachment

Pfc Frederick Tammn 31956551	CO #54	21 GH	1 Mar 45
Pfc Wood F Childers 14101003	CO #54	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Bernard Friedman 42033831	CO #54	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Marvin A Linne 36975883	CO #54	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pfc Hazel O'Neil Jr 31926350	CO #59	21 GH	6 Mar 45
Pfc William F Abbott Jr 36767755	CO #10	3 GH	6 Mar 45
Pfc Joseph Lanzetta 36729891	CO #16	127 GH	2 Mar 45
Pfc P Dyer 34886533	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pfc [Name] 32143275	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45
Pfc [Name] 31405661	CO #59	63 Div	27 Mar 45

T/4 Frank W Stewart 42031512 Company E 63 Div 13 Mar 45

First Oak Leaf Cluster for Purple Heart

S/Sgt Paul Oulbreth 34879126 Company E 63 Div 19 Mar 45

Pvt Chester T Dean 36868985 Company G 117 KH 14 Mar 45

2d Lt Lewis G Mantzos 02007034 Company G 127 GH 21 Mar 45

Pfc James L Wozniak 3852 4799 Company K 21 GH 11 Mar 45

Pfc Charles H Chaves 31372023 Medical Detachment 63 Div 9 Mar 45

Company K (Cont'd)

Pvt Robert R Kruse 57452831	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Paul L Longberry 55220918	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Lowell B Lynn 39700874	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Raymond M Katz 57749970	05 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Maurice C McGee 31448870	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Lawrence Meyer 31448870	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Roland J Moreau 21435731	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph A Morgan 33293347	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Robert L Palmer 15235585	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Arthur V Petrazzolo 6142093	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Lester U Plain 23580680	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Richard A Rothowski 32231558	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Richard B Shepherd 57274580	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt William C Terry Jr 24355756	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph H Bennett 6947959	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Justice E Harrison 32900443	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Edward K Richard 31430958	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Albert L Babok 13140478	00 288	63 Div	29 Mar 45
Pvt Lt Harvey S Genden 01179406	00 288	63 Div	30 Mar 45
Pvt Ira B Stepp 34922775	00 288	63 Div	30 Mar 45

Company L

Pvt George M Wason 36085297	00 285	63 Div	17 Mar 45
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Company M

Pvt Lt Leo K Jurzakinski 01314025	00 285	63 Div	7 Mar 45
Pvt Capt Leon Gilbert 15085768	00 287	63 Div	29 Mar 45

Hq Co 3rd Bu

Pvt Thad E Hummel 0293855	00 288	63 Div	14 Mar 45
Pvt Walter Elumbar 35092918	00 285	63 Div	23 Mar 45
Pvt Lt Earl C Sturm 0557144	00 272	63 Div	31 Mar 45

Hq & Hq Co

Pvt Henry F Park 0293582	00 285	63 Div	4 Mar 45
Pvt (CH) John T Fournie 0550268	00 286	63 Div	7 Mar 45
Pvt Walter M Lee 01290266	00 29	63 Div	7 Mar 45
Pvt Capt Ralph G Lashley 019982	00 28	63 Div	7 Mar 45
Pvt John F Waisness 0551072	00 55	63 Div	23 Mar 45
Pvt George G Gallo 33602813	00 60	63 Div	26 Mar 45
Pvt James H. [unclear] 23582400	00 60	63 Div	28 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 42155417	00 60	63 Div	28 Mar 45
Pvt John P [unclear] 33614887	00 60	63 Div	28 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 20024444	00 60	63 Div	28 Mar 45

Anti-Aircraft Co

Pvt [unclear] 06007222	00 27	63 Div	14 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	14 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	13 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 30485281	00 28	63 Div	13 Mar 45

Quartermaster

Pvt Edward L Stewart 01326249	00 41	63 Div	14 Mar 45
Pvt Joseph A Gauder 35812625	00 44	63 Div	16 Mar 45

Medical Detachment

Pvt [unclear] 37516535	00 62	63 Div	23 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 31002246	00 64	63 Div	28 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 35684494	00 64	63 Div	28 Mar 45
Pvt [unclear] 02949597	00 65	63 Div	29 Mar 45

Medical Detachment (Cont'd)

S/Cpt	Worse	G Archer	17036215	GO 70	63	DIV	31	Mar	45
T/5	Charles	H Chaves	31372023	GO 70	63	DIV	31	Mar	45
				<u>Service Co</u>					
Maj	George	W Davis	0304645	GO 28	63	DIV	7	Mar	45
1st Lt	William	G Murphy	0504003	GO 28	63	DIV	7	Mar	45
1st Lt	Harry	G Voth	01317449	GO 60	28	Mar	45	63	DIV

First Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze Star Medal)

Co A Co B Co C

1st Col	Morris	O Edwards	019541	GO 28	63	DIV	7	Mar	45
Maj	Richard	G Cox	01299210	GO 38	63	DIV	14	Mar	45
				<u>Company I</u>					
Capt	Erschel	N Burton	01287473	GO 38	63	DIV	14	Mar	45

1 April 1945

Rooster of Key Officer Personnel as of 31 March 1945

REGIMENTAL STAFF

Lt. Col	M. O. Edwards	019041	Commanding Officer
Lt Col	R. O. Lashely	019982	Executive Officer
Capt	Walter M. Lee	01290266	S-1
Major	Richard G. Cox	01290210	S-2
Major	Glyn W. Pohl	0365065	S-3
Major	George W. Davis	0304645	S-4
<u>1st Battalion Staff</u>			
Major	Bertrand F. Lurie	0301757	Commanding Officer
Major	Robert K. Leiding	0362730	Executive Officer
Capt	Hubert B. Houghtaling	01292527	S-1
1st Lt	Ray A. Harralson	0425228	S-2
Capt	Frank J. Tettner Jr.	01290157	S-3
1st Lt	Henry G. Voth	01317449	S-4
<u>2nd Battalion Staff</u>			
Major	Ancher E. Christensen	0366280	Commanding Officer
Major	Jack E. Gray	0303864	Executive Officer
Capt	Robert C. Fruit	0355625	S-1
1st Lt	Robert V. Kesslerli	0551070	S-2
Capt	Robert W. Strauss	0448104	S-3
1st Lt	Frank A. DiGiacomo	01326320	S-4
<u>3rd Battalion Staff</u>			
Major	Henry P. Park	0293562	Commanding Officer
Major	Thad E. Hummel	0293835	Executive Officer
Capt	James G. Williams	0396132	S-1
1st Lt	George C. Wyatt	0408370	S-2
Capt	Edward B. Soullion	01290144	S-3
1st Lt	William G. Murphy	0504003	S-4
<u>Company Commanders</u>			
Capt	Hubert B. Houghtaling	01292527	Hq Co 1st Bn
Capt	Hubert M. Nance	01290292	Company A
1st Lt	W. Scott Brown	01031060	Company B
1st Lt	James W. Dodd	0114266	Company C
1st Lt	Earle A. Johnson Jr	026211	Company D
Capt	Robert C. Fruit	0355625	Hq Co 2nd Bn
Capt	Angelo E. Pilla	01290123	Company E
1st Lt	Frank Schaeffers	01081173	Company F
Capt	Melville C. LaForce	0307200	Company G
Capt	Roland L. St. Clair	01323185	Company H
Capt	James G. Williams	0396132	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Capt	Robert H. Heade	0423346	Company I
Capt	Jack W. Lytton	0366336	Company K
Capt	Herschel N. Eurlon	01257473	Company L
1st Lt	Leo E. Jurasinski	01314025	Company M
Capt	Warren L. Kirkland	01289746	Anti-Tank Co
1st Lt	Seth C. Postrows III	0520898	Cannon Co
Capt	Jasper H. Ayer	0362882	Hq & Hq Co
Capt	Sidney Z. Ogden	01303363	Service Co.
Major	Norman C. Carlson	0419721	Medical Detachment

HEADQUARTERS 253D INFANTRY
APO 410 U.S. ARMY

1 April 1945

Transfers and Assignments

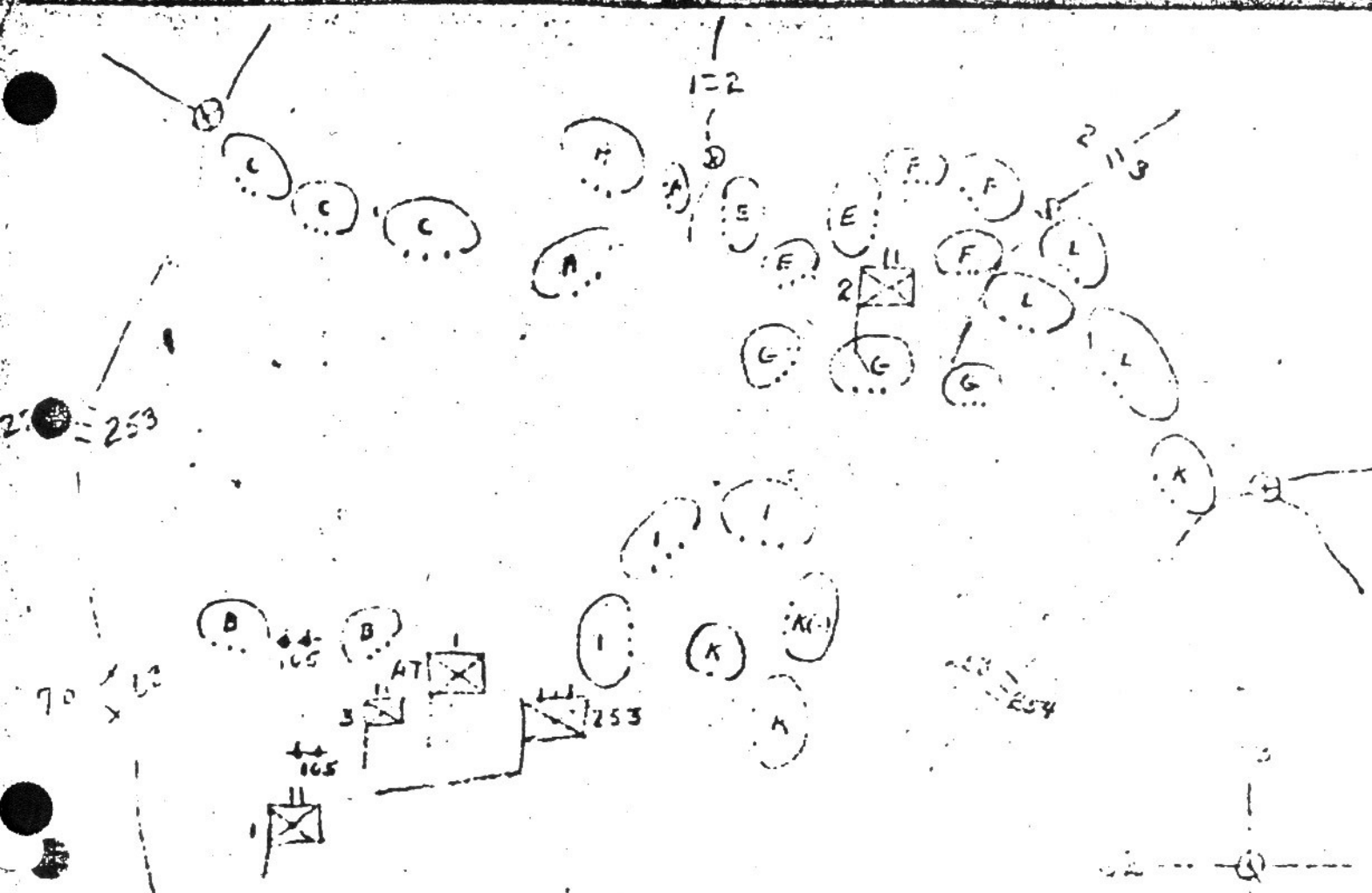
Lt Col M! O. Edwards 019041 trfd to 253d Inf as Regt'l CO from Hq 63d Inf Div. RDCMR 8 Mar 45.

Col E. P. Lukert 010220 reld asgt and duty with 63d Inf Div and asgd Ground Force Reinf Comd APO 887. RDCMR 9 Mar 45.

Major Glyn W Pohl 0365065 trfd to 253d Inf as S-3 from GSC with Troops Bq 63d Inf Div. RDCMR 23 Mar 45.

Lt Col John R Smoak 0304575 trfd to 255th Inf. RDCMR 23 Mar 45.

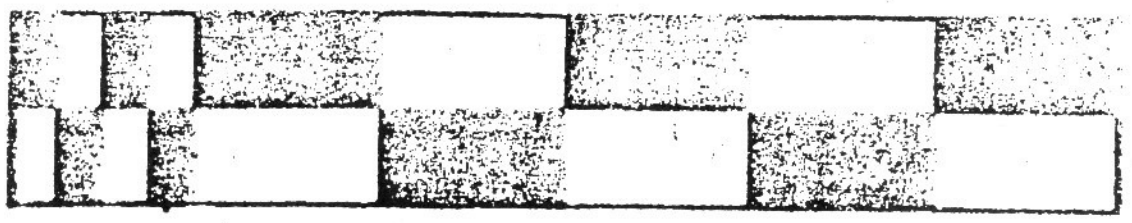
Major Henry P Park 0293562 reld S-3 253rd Inf, takes Comd 3rd Bn 253rd Inf. RDCMR 26 Mar 45.



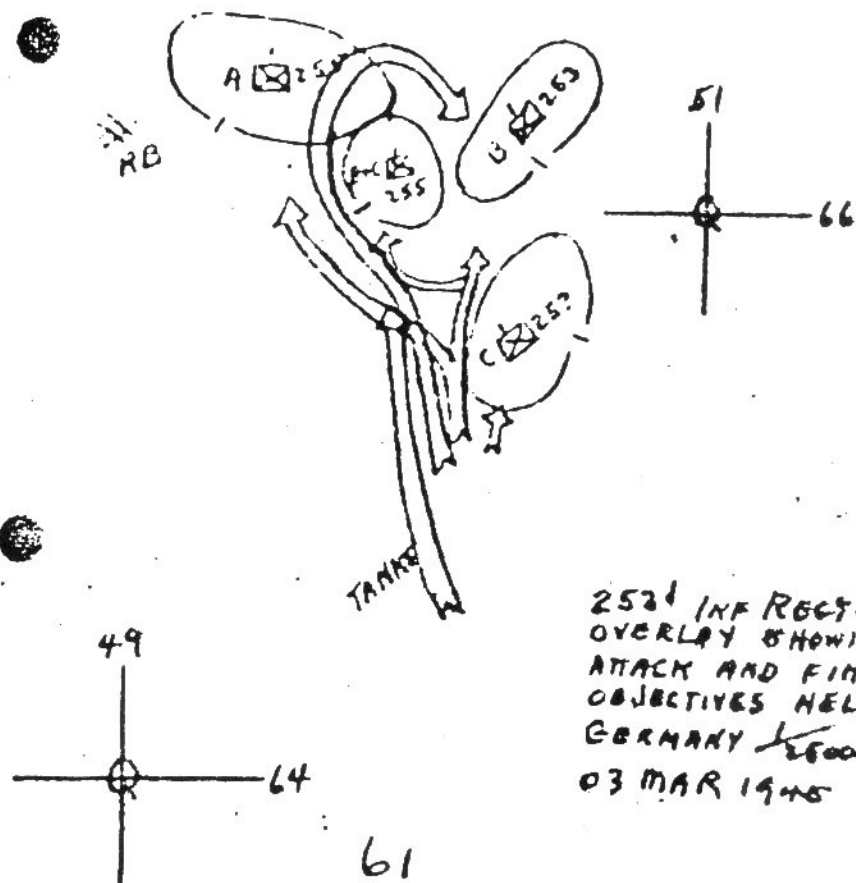
253 INF REGT.
 OVERLAY SHOWING
 DISPOSITION OF TROOPS
 1 MARCH 45
 GERMANY $\frac{1}{25000}$

165

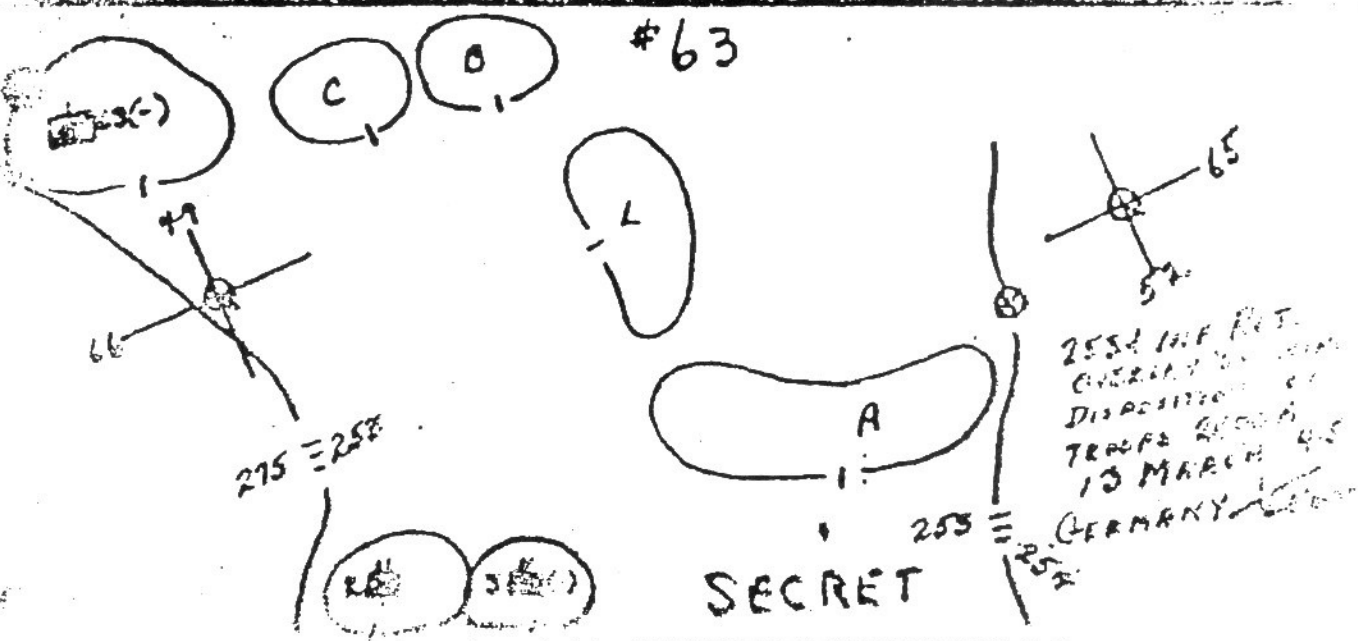
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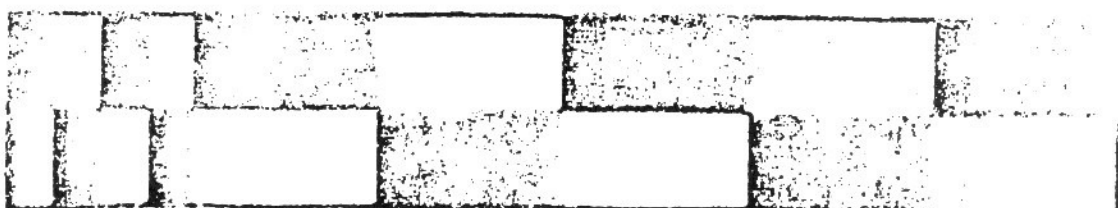
252^d INF REGT.
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 OBJECTIVES HELD
 GERMANY ~~15000~~
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252^d INF REGT.
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 GERMANY ~~15000~~

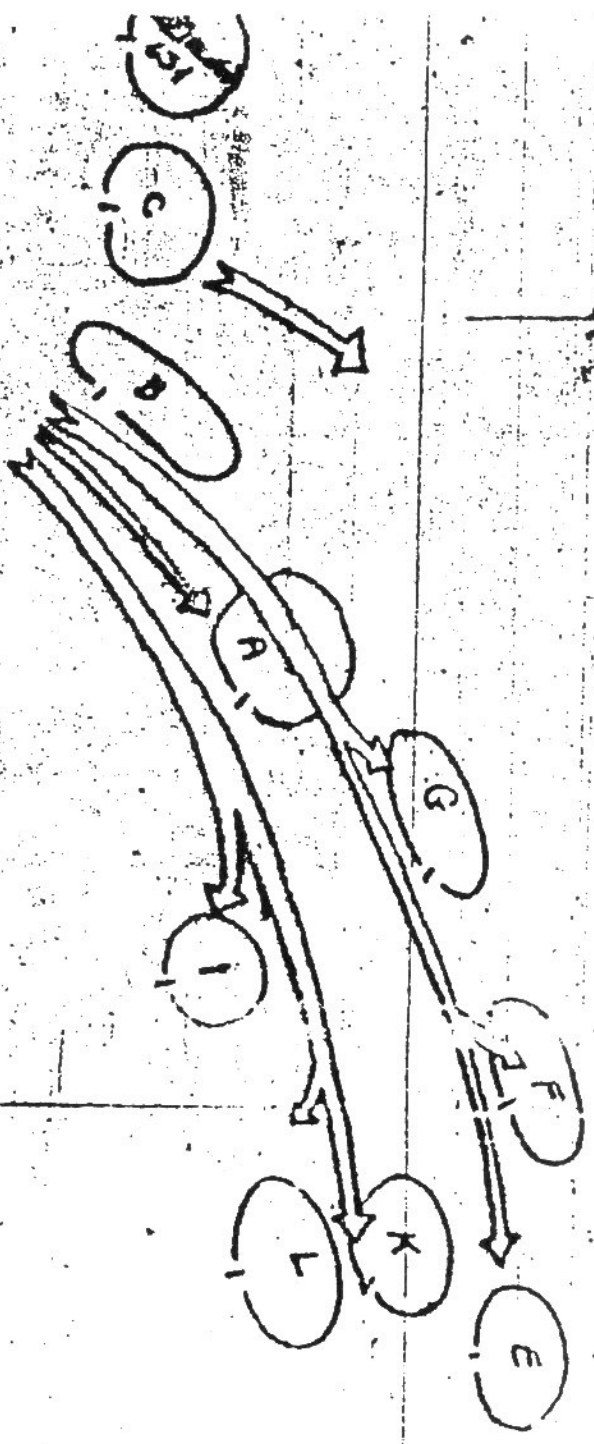
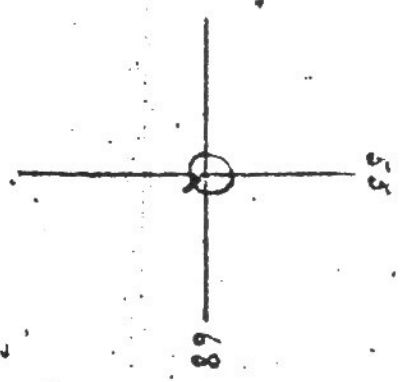
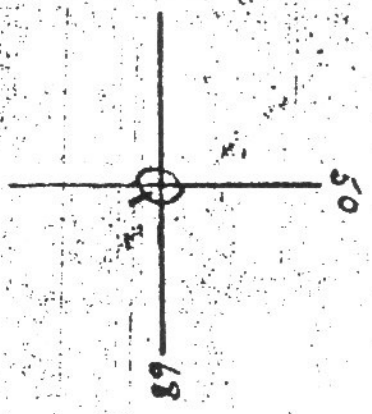
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P 7



2534 INF REGT
 OVERLAY TO SHOW
 PLAN OF ATTACK AND
 FINAL DISPOSITION
 OF TROOPS 15 MARCH 45
 N.W.G. GERMANY 18000
 INSETS 0101 AND 0801

253

1 May 1945

HISTORY OF 253RD INFANTRY FOR APRIL 1945

On the first of April the 253rd OT, reinforced, was advancing to the south and east of Heidelberg. The regiment had reached a line roughly south of Neckargemund (R7785) running through the Untererstaub wald R764886 to R758875 to R763862 to vic of Bannental R760844. The 3rd Bn was on the right, the 2nd Bn in the center and the 1st Bn was on the left. The 250th Inf was on our right and the 63rd Recon Trp on our left. Units attached or supporting the regiment at this time were 861st FA Bn (105mm), Co "A" 822nd TD Bn, Co "C" 753rd Tk Bn, and Co "A" 263rd (c) Engr Bn.

The regiment was to continue the attack to the east. One platoon each of the Cannon Co, A-T Co, Co "A" 822nd TD Bn, Co "C" 753rd Tk Bn and Co "A" 263rd Engr were in direct support of each battalion.

At 0245 elements of 1st Bn had reached Neckargemund R760885. At 1118A elements of the 1st Bn had reached Merckenloek (R816893) and high ground vic (R816893). At 1515 forward elements of the Battalion were at stream (R640901). At 1830 plat of tanks were released and put in support of the 3rd Bn. At 2400, 1 April 1945 "A" Co was in vic of Neckarwimmersbach (R6096). "B" and "C" Co were in vic of Schwanheim (R9090).

The 2nd Bn started their advance at 0400. The Bn advanced rapidly. At 1755 Bn was ordered to move to vic of Aglosterhausen, to protect it and prepare to move south. On 2 April at 2400 Bn was at Oberhaag R8789 on their way to Aglosterhausen. Plat of Cannon released to 3rd Bn.

The 3rd Bn moved rapidly to the east seized towns of Wiesenbach R7785, Dilbergerhof R8087, and Langenzell R8085. At 2400 "E" Co was at Waldhilsbach R7566, "I" Co at Wiesenbach and "L" Co at Langenzell. Cannon Co was placed on DS of the 3rd Bn at 2315. At 1950 1 plat Med Tanks were released by 1st Bn to DS of 3rd Bn.

New Regimental CP opened on Neckargemund R764885 at 1135A. At 2300 orders were issued to attack to the south east at 0300 2 April 1945.

At 0200A 2 April 1945 clocks were moved one hour forward to 0300B.

At 0515B the 3rd Bn 253rd OT moved from vic Waldwimmersbach (R8387) by truck to a detrucking point. Co's "I" and "K" crossed the Neckar River in the vic of Dredeheim (R9884) at 0715 using assault boats. Other elements of the Bn followed. At 1225B Co "L"

had taken Mosbach S0284 and was mopping up the town. At 1500 Co "I" was advancing toward Sulzbach S0784. Co "I" was in Mosbach and Co "L" was in Diedesheim. At 1600 Co "L" was in Sulzbach. Co "L" then advanced toward Billigheim S1084. At 1610 Co "L" was in Billigheim and Co "K" was moving to Sulzbach. The Companies occupied the above towns and prepared to continue the advance the next day.

The 2nd Bn moved by motor from vic of ~~Elglasterhausen~~ ^{Wald} to detrucking area at Haffenhardt R9777. Bn crossed Neckar River in the vic of Hassmersheim S0278. Crossing was made under automatic weapon and rifle fire by using commercial and assault boats. The Bn advanced against light resistance and seized the high ground in the vic of Dornbach S0400 and advanced to the south and east against slight resistance.

The 1st Bn moved by shuttling from vic of Schwanheim RW090 at 1200. Closed in at detrucking area vic of Hassmersheim at 1700. The Bn crossed the Neckar River in assault boats by 2220 and then closed into an assembly area vic of Gundelsheim S0377.

The 23rd CT made a rapid advance of approximately 15 miles into Germany crossing the Neckar River. The Regimental CP was enroute to a new location in the vic of Mosbach S0284.

On 3rd April 1945 the 253rd CT was to advance generally south and east, to cross the Jagst River and seize any bridges left intact.

The 1st Bn moved from vic Gundelsheim by foot and motor. The Bn closed into an assembly area vic Hochtsberg S0877 by 1630.

The 2nd Bn, with the mission of crossing the Jagst River vic of Untergriesheim S0875 advanced against increasing resistance. At 1130 "E" Co reconed Obergriesheim S0875 and was receiving rifle and machine gun fire from across the Jagst River. The fire from the east bank increased. Mortar and flax wagon fire was being received. The bridge across the Jagst River was found to have been demolished. An engineer detail with assault boats came under enemy fire. The assault boats were destroyed. At 2220 the 2nd Bn was ordered to cross the Jagst River at 040500, more assault boats being furnished by the 263rd Ingr Bn. All elements of the Bn were in the vic of Obergriesheim.

Units of the 3rd Bn advanced rapidly, had cleared a number of towns. At 0555 "I" Co held Waldmühlbach S123007, "K" held Hiltelbrunn S100935 and Siegelboch S160825 and "L" Co held Billigheim S105848. At 1020 the Bn was ordered to take Mookmühl S1761 and Reigheim S1686. As "L" Co advanced beyond Siegelboch. It received moderate mortar and SP fire. The resistance increased as "L" Co advanced on Mookmühl. Elements of the 3rd Bn were halted on the high ground north and east of Mookmühl by heavy enemy fire. Co "I" advanced rapidly, took Reigheim by 1835.

The Regiment made good progress in its attack. New Regimental CP opened at Mosbach at 0225B.

On 4 April 1945 the 253rd CT renewed the attack to the east and southeast.

The 1st Bn 253rd CT cleared Neuderan S1178 at 0100. The raid was made by Co "B".

At 0535 the 2nd Bn began crossing the Jagst River in assault boats in the vic of S074755. "K" Co crossing first took the high ground S093740 southeast of Untergriesheim S0875 at 0730. Enemy resistance increased. "K" Co came under fire from tanks, Machine guns, and rifleman. At 1035 "G" Co had crossed the river. "E" Co continued to receive heavy fire including mortar and artillery fire and could not advance. At about 1200 an enemy counterattack by 5 tanks and infantry was repulsed by artillery fire. All elements of the 2nd Bn had crossed the river at this time.

At 1110 the 1st Bn started crossing the river. "G" Co first then "B" Co followed by "M" Co. At 1250 Co's "B" and "G" were across the river and moving east. "A" Co received heavy artillery fire while crossing. At 1310 all elements of the 1st Bn were across the river. At 1607 Co "G" had advanced east along road to S090756 meeting heavy resistance. Following the Southbank "B" Co reached and seized Herbolzheim S1176 "C" Co occupied woods along the river S1075. While "A" Co occupied Untergriesheim.

At 1535 Co "G" had moved up on high ground to the left of "E" Co. Both companies were receiving heavy fire both a/a and artillery. The companies could not advance and at darkness prepared to defend for the night. Co "F" occupied position southeast of Untergriesheim at S083759.

Elements of the 3rd Bn launched an attack on the town of Mockmuhl. Heavy resistance stopped all attempts to take the town. Plans were made to attack from a different direction the following day.

The 1st and 2nd Bns made a successful crossing of the Jagst river against enemy resistance. The towns of Untergriesheim and Herbolzheim were taken while meeting heavy resistance. Regimental CP opened at Tiefenbach S0872 at 0925.

On 5 April 1945 the 253rd CT continued to attack.

At 0700 Co "C" attempted to advance but was stopped. Heavy small arms and mortar fire was received by "C" Co.

Plans were then made to launch a coordinated attack by the 1st and 2nd Bns.

At 1935 Co "C" had left the woods and moved east to vic of S1037 53. Bn was moving to the ridge (S1075).

At 1800 Co "K" had reached the high ground (S06073) and "C" Co had reached the reverse slope at (S093743). Continuing the advance the forward elements of the Bn came under enemy fire which slowed the advance. Two friendly tanks were put out of action at 2015. Attack was stopped and preparation made to renew attack at 063700.

At 0855 the 3rd Bn renewed the attack on Mockmuhl S1881 at 1025 Co "I" crossed the Jagst River using a footbridge at (S177844). At 1132 Cos "I" and "K" had entered Mockmuhl encountering light opposition. After entering the town heavy mortar and artillery fire was received. Elements of the 255th Inf relieved the 3rd Bn in position. Relief was completed at 1930. The 3rd Bn then moved to and occupied the town of Obergriesheim S0674 and the surrounding high ground.

The 253rd CT continued the attack on 6 April 1945.

At 0720 Co "A" advanced against heavy opposition taking Hill 268.7 (S130763) at 1100. Forward elements of them reached the high ground (S135763) at 1315. At about 1700 Co "B" was attached to the 2nd Bn. Co "A" seized Kressbach (S1478) and Co "C" had taken the high ground (S142765) 500 yards to the southwest of the town at 1900. The 1st Bn then dug in and organized defenses for the night.

The 2nd Bn resumed the attack at 0720 "F" Co leading, followed by "G" Co. Co "E" remained in position covering the right flank. At 1200 Co "F" and "G" were on the high ground at S1174. Co "F" then seized Buchhof, S1174 against determined resistance. An enemy counter attack was driven off at this time. At 1725 the enemy launched a heavy counterattack preceded by heavy artillery shelling on Buchhof. Co "F" was forced to withdraw to high ground 600 yards to the west of the town. At 1900 "B" was attached to the 2nd Bn and moved into position between "F" and "G" Cos. The 2nd Bn then prepared positions and organized defenses for the night.

At 0930 the 3rd Bn was alerted to prepare to be committed. A task force was to be made up composed of "L" Co, tanks, SP TDS and 1 squad of engineers. The mission was to secure a bridgehead across the Kocher River. At 1537 "L" Co, reinforced, moved out. At 1900 "M" Co was ordered to move into position between "C" Co and "E" Co. The remainder of the Bn moved into an assembly area at Herbolzheim.

The 253rd CT advanced against heavy opposition. Advances of 3 kilometres were made. The Regiment prepared to renew the attack. Regiment opened CP in Untergriesheim at 2030.

On April 7th the 253rd CT maintained defensive positions. The battalions reorganized and improved positions. Co "I" was relieved in position by elements of the 398th Inf and took up a defensive position in the 2nd Bn sector. Co "E" reverted to control of the 1st Bn. Plans were made to continue the attack.

On April 8 1945, the 253rd CT attacked to the east with three battalions in line.

The 1st Bn advanced at 0633 with Cos "A" and "B" abreast. "A" Co met little resistance. "B" Co advanced meeting moderate resistance. At 1040 "A" Co was south of road (S155771). "B" Co was 600 yards south of "A" Co (S157765). "C" was 600 yards west of "B" Co (S157761). Bn was ordered to hold and organize positions. AT Co reinforced was attached to 1st Bn to hold a part of the defensive sector.

The 2nd Bn launched an attack at 0630 with Cos "E" and "G" abreast. At 0745 "E" Co had reached a point 300 yards west of woods S1275. After passing the woods "E" Co was held up at S127765 by s/a and rocket fire at 0825. Our supporting tanks were forced to withdraw. At 1010 "G" Co had reached a road at S136754 and was meeting increasing s/a fire. Co "E" was put into the attack between Cos "E" and "G". At 1600 Co "A" 263rd Engr Bn was attached to the 2nd Bn to be used in the defense of the Bn sector. The Bn organized and prepared defensive positions.

The 3rd Bn attacked at 0625, "I" Co in the lead followed by Cos "K" and "L". Enemy resistance was light at the start of the attack. Zinglingen S1479 was taken without opposition. Co "I" reached south edge of Zuttlingen (S1478) and was held up by rifle and machine gun fire. At 1120 "I" Co had entered the town, meeting heavy resistance. At 2225 the 3rd Bn had cleared Zuttlingen and "I" Co was continuing the advance meeting small arms and machine gun fire. 3rd Bn organized defenses at 2400.

The 253rd CT advanced in the face of heavy resistance. The Regimental CP opened at Herbolzheim.

On 9 April 1945 the 253rd CT resumed the attack.

The 1st Bn reorganized and improved its defensive positions. Active patrolling was carried on. At 1425 the Bn was ordered to resume the attack to the southeast. Co "C" reached south edge of woods at S1675. Co "B" reached south edge of woods at S1775. Co "A" reached the south edge of woods at S1874. Cos prepared defensive positions. Opposition was moderate during the advance.

The 2nd Bn remained in position and improved the defenses. Contact was maintained with the 100th Inf Div on the right.

The 3rd Bn attacked to the east at 0800. At 0830 the leading elements of the battalion were making good progress against slight opposition. At 0945 contact was made with elements of the 255th Inf at crossroads S196789. After this contact had been made the direction of attack changed to the south. Good progress was made to the south. Enemy opposition increased as the attack continued. At 1830 Co "I" had reached Lampoldshausen S2175. The enemy stubbornly resisted "I" Co's efforts to clear the town. At 2400 "I" Co had cleared the town. Co "I" occupied Lampoldshausen. Co "E" was in position on ridge S205748, Co "L" was on ridge at S200747.

The AT Co was reorganized to be used as a rifle company. One AT squad and one 81mm mortar section were attached to AT Co from each battalion.

The regiment made good progress against varying opposition on a wide front.

At 0210 10 April 1945 the 253rd CT received orders to cease attacking and to actively defend the present positions. The 253rd CT was to relieve the 3rd Bn, 255th Inf on position.

The 1st Bn improved its defensive positions. Co "A" 253rd Engr (-) was attached to 1st Bn at 1800. The 63rd Recn Trp was attached and relieved the 2nd Bn in position. The relief was completed by 1610. One platoon of Co "A" 253rd Engr was attached to the 63rd Recn Trp. The 2nd Bn relieved the 3rd Bn, 255th Inf in position in the vic and east of Buchhof S2476. Relief was completed by 1900. The 3rd Bn consolidated its positions. At 1800 a light enemy counterattack was driven off by Co "I". This was followed by a strong counterattack on Co "I"'s positions. The counterattack was driven off with heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

The regiment organized and improved a long defensive sector. Regimental CP opened at Zuttlingen S1578 at 0940.

On 11 April 1945 the 253rd CT improved and maintained its positions. Contact was maintained with the 255th Inf on our left and the 398th Inf on our right. Patrols maintained contact with the enemy. At 0650 Co "K" repulsed a 15 to 20 man counterattack with the aid of artillery. The enemy approached from the vic of draw (S22207418). The regiment made preparations to attack.

On 12 April 1945 the 253rd CT continued to maintain its defensive positions. At 0210 an enemy counterattack in strength was broken up by the combined fires of mortars, cannon and artillery in draw S222741. At 1145 the regiment was ordered to advance to the Kocher River by higher headquarters. The 2nd and 3rd Bn battalions were to attack while the 1st Bn was to cover the right flank and aid the attack by fire.

The 2nd Bn attacked at 1500 with the high ground north and northwest of Moglingen S2373 as its objective. "F" Co advanced against light opposition gaining its objective, the high ground 2474 at 1600. Co "E" advanced until it was held by enemy s/a fire along road S235752 at 1600. After a fire fight the company advanced and seized its objective the high ground S2374 at 1730. Both companies came under mortar fire as they organized their positions. Co "G" remained in position protecting the left flank. The battalion made preparations to continue the attack.

The 3rd Bn attacked at 1500 with the high ground north and northwest of Kochersteinsfeld, S2172 as its objective. "K" and "L" Co's advanced followed by Co "I". All companies advanced against artillery and heavy mortar fire. Co "L" came under s/a and machine gun fire from high ground (S1973). At 1710 Co "I" had taken its objective, the road at S210741. "K" Co was being held up by machine gun fire from the high ground north of Moglingen. At 2050 Co "K" seized its objective the nose (S2174). Co "L" seized its objectives, the high ground at (S1973 and S2073) at 2100. Both "K" and "L" companies advanced against a determined enemy defense. The battalion prepared

to attack the following day.

The regiment gained approximately a mile against determined enemy resistance.

On 13 April 1945 the 253rd OT attacked to the southeast across the Kocher River. The 1st Bn was in the right with the mission of protecting the right flank by seizing a number of towns on the right flank, the 3rd Bn was in the center, the 2nd Bn was on the left.

At 1047B one platoon of Co "B" seized Hoffelenshof S189744 against slight opposition. At 1200 elements of the battalion entered Gochszen S1872 after receiving light s/a fire. At 1230 Co "A" 253rd Engr was relieved from attachment to 1st Bn and reverted to control of its parent unit. At 1415 Co "E" forded the Kocher River in the vic of Gochszen ~~Langberitingen~~. At 1830 Co "O" in position at Neuenstadt. At 1935 Co "C" moved toward Schwoellbronn S2589 by shuttling. Co "A" seized Brettaoh S1970 at 1930. Co "B" occupied Langberitingen S2269 at 2045. Co ~~CF~~ was moving toward Schwoellbronn at 2400. Resistance during 13 April 1945 in the Bn zone was generally light.

At 0745 one platoon of Co "E" moved to and secured Moglingen S2373. At 1215 Co "E" crossed the Kocher River using assault boats in the vic of Ohrnbuerg S2573. At 1240 Co "E" had taken the high ground at S247728. At 1445 Co "F" had crossed the river. At 1545 "E" Co had taken the hill S244724 and "F" Co had taken high ground west of stream S2573. "G" Co crossed river and took hill 306.4 (S2772). At 1850 Co "G" had taken high ground southeast of Ulrichsberg (S2872). Co "E" had taken Obermassholderbach S2871 and Co "F" had taken Friedrichsruhe S3072 at 2216. Bn had taken all objectives against light resistance.

At 0635 the leading element of the 3rd Bn crossed the LD. Co "I" entered Kochersteinfeld (S2172) and cleared the town by 0745. At 1245 elements of the 3rd Bn began crossing the Kocher River using assault boats. At 1715 Cos "I" and "L" were across the river advancing to the south and east. Co "E" crossed the river riding tanks at 1727. At 1810 Co "I" was at high ground S2420 and Co "L" was on high ground S2571. At 1950 Co "E" had taken over "L" Co's position. Co "L" seized Badelbronn S2770 at 2130. Co "I" entered Obtingen S2800 at 2042, Co "L" entered Obtingen at 2230. The Bn had taken all its objectives against slight resistance.

The regiment advanced approximately 6 kilometers against light opposition taking all its objectives. Regimental CP opened at Lampoldshausen at 1515.

The 14th of April 1945 was spent in consolidating the gains of the 253rd Inf and in occupying additional sectors.

At 0450 Co "A" made contact with elements of the 100th Inf Div south of Brettaoh. Co "C" closed into Schwoellbronn at 0925.

At 0020 the leading elements of the 1st Bn left for an assembly area at Neuanstein S3468. The Bn closed into the assembly area at 2210.

The 2nd Bn relieved elements of the 255th Inf, Co "E" in Oberohrn S3048, "F" Co in Neuanstein, "G" Co in Unter Sollbach S3267. Relief was completed at 1800.

The 3rd Bn (-) relieved elements of the 255th Inf in Ohringen. "K" Co entered and occupied Cappel S3068 at 0857.

Co "O" 753rd Tank Bn was released from attachment. The 63rd Ron Trp was released from attachment at 1200. Regimental CP opened at Ohringen at 1215. The regiment prepared to resume the attack to the south east at 0900 15 April 1945.

On the 15th of April 1945 the 253rd OT attacked to the southeast. The three Bns were abreast, the 2nd Bn on the right, the 1st Bn in the center and the 3rd Bn on the left.

At 0900 Co "A" crossed LD. Co "A" seized Eschelbach S3567 at 0924. Co "O" crossed LD at 0940 and seized the high ground at S350656, at 1236. Co "B" advanced to Eschelbach and mopped up the town against light resistance. Co "A" advanced and seized high ground to left of "O" Co at 1250 against moderate resistance. Cos "A" and "C" advanced against increasing resistance at 1500. The high ground at S355640 was secured at 1950B. Co "B" moved to the positions of "A" and "O" Co. Bn then organized defenses for the night.

Elements of the 2nd Bn crossed the LD at 0900 Co "G" seized the high ground at S3366. "F" Co followed Co "G" and came under artillery fire. At 1110 Cos "F" and "G" advanced toward high ground S325650 meeting heavy fire. After being repulsed Co "G" seized Michelbach S3265 against moderate resistance. "E" Co had reached crossroads S327645 at 1145. At 1920 Co "E" was held up by enemy resistance at Unterhofen S3164. "G" Co was at S327645 and "F" Co was at S341639. Both companies were advancing toward high ground at S326635.

At 1000 elements of 3rd Bn advanced by 1630 the leading elements had reached Kesselfeld S3766. At 2300 the Bn was organizing for the night on forward slope at S3666.

Regiment advanced approximately 5000 meters and seized Michelbach against moderate resistance. The regiment prepared to continue the attack. Regimental CP opened at Obersollbach S3367 at 2120.

On 16 April 1945 the regiment continued the attack to the south-east.

At 1330 Cos "A" and "O" attacked to the south. The companies attacked over extremely difficult terrain. Enemy fire was extremely

heavy. Both companies were forced to withdraw to their original positions. Co "E" was attached to 2nd Bn and later reverted to 1st Bn control and organized in the 1st Bn sector.

All food ammunition and litters had to be carried by carrying parties. These carrying parties were ambushed and met enemy small arms fire.

At 2100 Co "A", "C" 263rd Engr were attached to 1st Bn.

At 1130 Co "F" was disengaged and reverted to Corps control. At 1600 Co "F" followed by Co "B" attacked toward hill S3263. Both companies received very heavy s/a and a/w fire. Part of Co "B" was cut off by an enemy attack. Cos "F" and "B" (-) overcoming stubborn enemy defenses seized ground vic S342640. Co "B" then reverted to 1st Bn. Cos "A" and "C", 263rd Engr relieved Cos "F" and "G" on position at 2310. 2nd Bn (-) reverted to Corps control at 2359.

The 3rd Bn attacked at 0700, advancing toward the Engertschlag S3864, Co "I" advanced under heavy machine gun fire. At 1315 "K" Co was at Sagdhaus S370643, "L" Co was at S370655 and "J" Co was at road S385647. Advancing against heavy fire and a stubborn defense the Bn reached the vic of Tommelhardt S3864. I Co took Tommelhardt at 1600, "K" Co held at S370643 and "L" Co was between "I" Co and "K" Co at S377643.

The regiment gained about 2000 meters against stubborn defenses and difficult terrain. Plans were made to continue the attack.

On the 17th of April 1945 the 253rd CT (-) resumed the attack.

The 1st Bn advanced at 0830. The resistance was lighter than in the previous day. At 0950 Cos "A" and "C" seized high ground at S355646 against light resistance. Cos "A" and "C" then changed direction moving east and took the high ground at S327635 at 1100. Bn was then ordered to move by motor and seize Buchelberg S364. The Bn started its movement and secured Buchelberg with no opposition. Casualties for the day were light. 2 KIA and 8 MIA.

The 3rd Bn jumped off at 0850 and advanced rapidly against light opposition. At 0905 Co "I" was at S3762. At 1130 Co "K" had reached S3831. Co "L" then cleaned out and secured Obersteinbach S3763 against light s/a fire. Co "I" continued to advance against growing resistance, reducing road blocks that were defended and aiding elements of the 19th Armored Div to advance. At 1600 "I" Co was in the vic of Seilach S3961. All companies moved forward rapidly. "I" Co reaching Gradenthal S3950, "K" Co the vic of S3860 and Co "L" the vic North of Neunkirchen S382600. Casualties were light, 2 KIA and 11 MIA.

The regiment advanced 4 kilometers against light to moderate resistance. The Regimental CP opened at Obersteinbach S3763.

On 18th of April 1945 the 263rd CT (-) continued the advance.

The 1st Bn received orders to place "C" Co in direct support of elements of the 10th Armored Div. Co "C" proceeded to Neunkirchen S3759 on foot. Co "C" then moved mounted on vehicles of CC"A" and moved south passing through Witzmannsweller S3858 and Blindheim S3857. Co "C" dismounted and preceded the armor to clear road blocks. Co "C" again mounted the armored vehicles at road junction S389559 again moved south clearing road blocks until they entered Sittenhardt S3952. At this point Co "C" was attached to the 3rd Bn. The Co then moved to Sanzenbach S4253 where it reverted to 1st Bn control. The 1st Bn (-) advanced behind elements of the 10th Armored Div meeting no opposition. When the Bn reached crossroads (S400542) the Bn moved east to Bittersfeld S4255. The Bn then moved to and assembled at Starkholzbach S4055. Bn cleared numerous roadblocks (undefended) during the day.

The 3rd Bn advanced at 0745. Co "L" ran into AT mines at Neunkirchen S3759. Co "L" cleared and passed through Neunkirchen at 0825. At 1016 Co "L" was in vic S3858. "K" Co was at Hedge of woods S3959 and Co "I" was advancing against light resistance (a/a fire) at east edge of woods S4059. At 1710 the Bn objectives were taken. "E" Co was at Riedar (S4453), "L" Co was at Utterhoffen (S452543) and "I" Co at Utterhoffen (S455545). Bn had advanced against slight resistance clearing road blocks.

The regiment advanced 6000 meters against slight opposition. Enemy mine fields and road blocks impeded the advance. Regimental CP opened at Witzmannsweller (S3858) and then moved to Michelfeld S4159 opening at 1830. Cos "A" (-) and "C" (-) 263rd Engr reverted to control of their parent units. At 1945 orders were received that we were to be relieved by elements of the 44th Inf Div and in turn to relieve elements of 255th Inf and 117th Cav Sqd on the ~~right~~ ^{left} flank of the 63rd Inf Div.

On 19th of April 1945 the 263rd CT was relieved by elements of the 44th Inf Div then moved to the vic of Gerbronn S0974 and relieved the 117th Cav Sqd and elements of the 255th Inf.

The 1st Bn was relieved by elements of 44th Inf Div by 0600. Cos "A" and "B" moved riding attached tanks and TDs at 0630. Cos "A" and "B" closed into Hessebau S590705 at 1515. Co "C" and the remainder of the Bn moved by motor from Starkholzbach to Hessebau and closed into Hessebau at 1515. The Bn received orders to relieve elements of the 117th Cav Sqd and continue the attack to the south and east. Co "B" attacked at 1645 and moved thru Eichenau S6170 without meeting any resistance. Landriedel S6259 was seized at 2050 against no resistance. The 117th Cav Sqd was relieved by 1800. Co "B" prepared to attack high ground at S633675. Co "A" minus 1 platoon and Co "B" followed "B" Co into Landriedel. 1 platoon of Co "A" secured town of Landriedel. Co "C" sent a patrol into Kirchberg S6389 after observing enemy in town the patrol withdrew. Co "C"

prepared to launch a night attack on Kirohberg with one platoon, using one platoon as a covering force. Artillery prepared to support the attack.

The 3rd Bn was relieved by elements of the 44th Inf Div at 0600. The Bn moved by motor to vic of Dunsbach S664704. Bn advanced thru elements of 255th Inf relieving 255th by 1910. Co "I" ~~advanced~~ ^{advanced} thru ~~Dunsbach~~ ^{Dunsbach} ~~S664704~~ - Cos "I" and "K" advanced rapidly to the southeast against light resistance. Co "I" had cleared Grossalmerspan S6066 and "I" Co had reached and cleared Kleinallmerspan S6166 at end of period.

The 253rd CT advanced about 4000 meters meeting no real resistance only light delaying forces. The Regimental CP opened at Gerrebrenn at 1130 then moved and opened at Dunsbach at 1345. 63rd Recon Troop was attached to regiment at 1800.

On the 20th of April 1945 the 253rd CT continued the attack to the southeast.

Co "C" entered Kirohberg S6369 at 0530. No enemy resistance was met. At 1130 Co "B" attacked from high ground at S6268 toward Herboldshausen S6366. No resistance was met. Co "B" passed through the town and entered woods (S6365). Co "B" launched an attack on Triensbach S6465. Enemy resistance was heavy but supporting artillery fires helped neutralize the resistance. At 1700 Co "B" seized Triensbach. Co "B" reorganized and continued to attack at 2130 toward Saurach S6364. Co "C" attacked from Kirohberg at 1230 with Erkinbrechthausen (S66666) as their objective. As the company approached the town it came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire. After being aided by a heavy artillery preparation "C" Co seized and held the town at 1850. Co "C" continued to advance into woods south of Erkinbrechthausen. The company met heavy resistance, halted its advance and dug in. The Bn had 1 KIA and 17 WIA on the 20th of April.

Co "K" had closed into Dunsbach at 2300 the previous night. The Bn attacked at 0800 with the woods at S6163 as its objective. Cos "I" and "K" met only slight resistance. Co "I" ran into heavy heavy gun fire and machine gun fire from Bush S6266. At 1200 Co "I" had cleared Hartshausen S6063. After meeting only slight resistance Co "I" had taken Oberschmerach at 1710. Co "I" entered the town at 1725. At 1900 "I" Co was at woods at their objective. At 1940 "I" Co reached the woods and at 2130 "K" Co had reached the woods. The entire Bn was digging in at their final objective, the north edge of woods (S6063-S6163). The Bn had 10 WIA and took 41 prisoners.

The regiment advanced 3000 meters against light to moderate resistance. Numerous towns were taken. The 2nd Bn reverted to regimental control and closed into an assembly area vic Kirohberg at 2200. Regimental CP opened at Grossalmerspann at 1315. 63rd Recon Troop maintained contact with the 22nd Inf on our left.

On 21 April 1945 the 253rd CT continued the attack putting the 2nd Bn on the left of the regimental zone.

The 1st Bn attacked at 0800. The Bn advanced rapidly against slight opposition. Elements of the 1st Bn cleared Heinkenbusch S6363 at 1230 and Oberapelbach S6359 at 1700. Banzenweiler S6358 and Stetten S6356 were also taken. At close of period Cos "A" and "B" were digging in, in the vic Hellmannshofen S6484.

The 2nd Bn attacked at 0800 with "K" Co on left on "Q" Co on the right. The Bn advanced rapidly against light resistance. The progress was impeded by road blocks and demolitions. Rossfeld S6762, Onolzheim S6759 and Bachhof S6756. At close of period the Bn was digging in, "K" Co at S6655, "F" Co S6756 and "Q" Co at S6656.

The 3rd Bn attacked at 0825. The Bn advanced rapidly against light resistance. The greatest obstacles were enemy road blocks which delayed the progress of the Bn. At close of period, Co "L" was at Heckenshofen S6154, Co "I" at Branzenbach S6355 and Co "K" at Spat-obbuhl S6156.

The Regiment gained about 10 kilometers against light enemy resistance. Numerous towns were taken. Regimental CP opened at Onolzheim (S6759) at 1630. 63rd Recon Trp patrolled to left and front.

On 22 April 1945 the regiment attacked with the mission of seizing Buhler S6342 where regiment was to be pinched out.

The 1st Bn attacked at 0730 in a column of companies, "B" Co leading, followed by Co "A" with "C" Co in reserve. The following towns were seized, Herschhof (S6452), Belzenhof S6451, Wille S6550, Eolanstran S6149, Kammerstoff S6248, Spatzenhof S6347, Mangoldshausen S6246, Schonbronner S6245, Sanzenberg S6045 and Stocken S6243. At 1315 the Bn was halted and assembled at Schonbronn. At 1626 after receiving orders, the 1st Bn attacked to the south. Using organic and attached vehicles, TD's, tanks and regimental AT trucks, the Bn was motorized. The Bn advanced toward Hinterbucheldburg, S6240. Bn dismounted and assembled in vic of Hinterbucheldburg as no possible roads could be found.

The 2nd Bn attacked at 0730. Rapid progress was made against no opposition. Bn took all objectives reaching and assembling in Honhardt S6354.

The 3rd Bn attacked at 0745 using 2 motorized companies. Co "I" was reinforced by, 1 sec TD's, Bn AT plâ, 1 sec HMG and 2 squads of engineers. Co "K" was reinforced by 1 sec tanks, regimental AT plâ, 1 sec HMG, A & P plâ and 1 squad of engineers. The advance was fairly rapid, no enemy being encountered but road blocks had to be cleared. Bn reached all objectives. Assembling in Buhlerzell S6447 and Eichberg S6047 where Co "L" assembled. Co "L" followed the remainder of the Bn on foot.

The regiment took all its objectives and continued to south toward new objectives. 25 kilometres were gained during the day.

Regimental CP opened at Hellmannshofen S6455 at 1140 and then moved to and opened at Schannbronn S6245 at 1945.

On 23 April 1945 the 253rd CT continued the attack to the south with the mission of seizing Moggingen S6327 and a bridgehead across the Reims River.

The 1st Bn continued its advance on foot after being dismounted in the vicinity of Hinterbuchelburg at 0700. "B" Co was in the lead followed by Co "A" with "C" Co lost. A crossing of the Kocher River was made at Reichertshofen S6235. Bn advanced to Hohenstadt S6135 where it assembled and awaited orders. No enemy opposition was met but numerous abatis were removed.

The 2nd Bn was motorized and moved out at 1400. Bn passed thru elements of 1st Bn at Hohenstadt. Bn halted on order in the vic of Henchlingen S6130, and assembled there.

The 3rd Bn was motorized and given the mission of making a wide sweep to the south and west, hitting the objective from the west. The Bn advanced via Schwabisch Hall and Schwabisch Gmund reaching Moggingen at 1445 with out meeting any resistance. A strong patrol consisting of one platoon of "L" Co and 2 tanks, reached Lautern S6424 and captured 21 prisoners at a strongpoint on the northern edge of the town.

The regiment advanced about 13 kilometres meeting no opposition, all objectives were taken. The 63rd Recon Trp was released from attachment at 1300. Regimental CP opened at Moggingen at 2000.

On April 24, 1945 the 253rd CT received orders to continue the attack to the south, securing crossings of the Danube River. Plans were made to shuttle the battalions, the battalions leap-frogging each other. The Company Commander, AT Co was in command of the AT Co and Service Co vehicles, which were to be used to carry troops. The 2nd Bn was to be on the left and the 3rd Bn on the right, initially. 2 platoons of Cannon Co were attached to the 3rd Bn, one of which would revert to the 1st Bn after the high ground southeast of Moggingen S6324 was secured.

The 3rd Bn attacked to the south at 0800 meeting unexpectedly light resistance. The 2nd Bn was then ordered to continue by motor to Lauterberg S6424 before detrucking and not to launch a coordinated attack with the 3rd Bn. The 3rd Bn seized high ground at S6225 meeting some scattered a/s fire, continued to advance reaching woods S6221. The Bn was then assembled at Lauterberg S6424. The Regimental I & K Platoon, 1 plt of "C" Co, 99th Cal Mort Bn and 1 plt of light tanks, Co "C" 753rd Tk Bn were attached to the 3rd Bn. At 1900 the Bn moved south meeting road blocks and disorganized enemy elements. At 2400 the Bn was on road at S745043, moving south.

The 2nd Bn advanced by motor from an assembly area at Harschingen 86130 at 0800 dismounting at Lautenburg. Bn seized Bartholomae 86019 and assembled there. Bn continued advance to the southeast following the 3rd Bn.

The 1st Bn moved by motor at 1115 from an assembly area at Hohenstadt 86130 detrucking at Bartholomae. Bn advanced through elements of the 2nd Bn and reached Sohnstetten 86010 where it assembled. Co "A" assembled at Rublingenhof 87205. Enemy resistance was light.

The 253rd CT advanced about 25 kilometres against light enemy resistance. The AT Co trucks were used to transport troops as there were no expectations of meeting any enemy armor. Regimental CP opened at Bartholomae at 1425 and then followed elements of 3rd Bn to southeast. CP was on road at rear of 3rd Bn at end of period.

On the 25th of April 253rd CT continued the attack.

The 1st Bn moved by motor from an assembly area via Sohnstetten 86010 at 1700. Bn closed into an assembly area in woods X8683. Preparations were made to cross the Danube River.

The 2nd Bn was advancing by motor and closed into an assembly area via Niederstotzingen X8496 at 1300. At 1700 the Bn received orders to effect a crossing of the Danube River. Co "K" crossed the Danube River on foot at 1910. A partially demolished bridge was found at X883883. The bridge permitted passage of foot troops but not vehicles. At 1950 "K" Co was in Gunzberg X8786. Meeting resistance from s/a and s/w fire which it overcame. "F" Co was at highway X864868, "K" Co found enemy infantry and 2 tanks at south end of Gunzberg. Bn continued to advance to southeast toward objective at Dinzingen X8865 and east of Dinzingen.

The 3rd Bn continued its drive toward the Danube River. Co "K" leading the attack riding on tanks overcame and surprised enemy resistance in Bettingen, 87608, Bissinger X8099 and Niederstotzingen X8496. Bn patrolled to north bank of Danube River and then the Bn assembled in woods X8883 preparatory to crossing river. The Bn was to effect a crossing of the river by assault boat at 1800. Due to the speed of the current (6-10 miles per hour) the crossing could not be made by assault boat. Bn moved to 2nd Bn crossing site and prepared to cross there. The Bn took 386 prisoners during its rapid advance.

The regiment advanced approximately 15 kilometers crossing the Danube River. The regiment took 14 officers and 646 EM prisoners. One of the captured officers when interrogated, stated that German intelligence had informed him not to expect our troops until late in the afternoon of the 25th. The prisoner was taken in the early morning. Regimental CP opened at Niederstotzingen at 0900.

On the 26th of April 1945 the 253rd CT was ordered to expand its bridgehead to cross the Danube River.

The 1st Bn crossed the Danube River on foot at Y833883. Cos "A" and "B" went into defensive positions west of Gunzberg, I8786. Co "C" remained in Gunzberg. The Bn received orders to seize Rastbach I9367 and the ground east of Harthausen I9365. The Bn advanced at 0830 against light opposition. Co "B" seized Rastbach and Co "C" took the high ground at I920865. At 1830 Co "C", relieved elements of the 12th Armored Div in Harthausen. The Bn was motorized and prepared to follow elements of the 12th Armored Div to secure crossings of the Wertach River on order. 1 platoon of Co "A" 263rd Engr and 1 platoon of Co "A", 753rd Tr Bn, 1 platoon Co "D" 822nd TD Bn, and 1 platoon Co "C" 99th Cal Mort Bn were attached to the 1st Bn for this mission.

The 2nd Bn was ordered to take Duffingen I8985 and Leinheim I9185. At 0900 the Bn advanced against light opposition taking their objectives. The 2nd Bn was relieved by the 1st Bn 255th Inf on position. The 2nd Bn then assembled south of Gunzberg I8956. The 2nd Bn was motorized using vehicles of the 561st FA Bn, attached TD's and tanks and of Service Co 253rd Inf. The following units were attached to the 2nd Bn; 2 platoons Co "A" 753rd Tr Bn, 2 platoons Co "A" 822nd TD Bn, 1 platoon Co "D" 753rd Tr Bn (light), 1 platoon Co "C" 99th Cal Mort Bn, Regimental I & R platoon and Co "A" (-), 263rd Engr Bn. The 2nd Bn was to move to the southeast and seize and secure a crossing of the Wertach River.

The 3rd Bn crossed the Danube River on foot at I833883. All elements were south of the river at 0300. At 0700 the Bn had taken its objective the high ground I8927 south of Reisenberg and the road junction I89568. The Bn met only slight opposition. At 0800 the Bn attacked with Offingen I9490 and the high ground running south to Rastbach I9397 as its objective. At 1232 the Bn had secured these objectives meeting scattered small arms fire. The Bn received orders that it would go into regimental reserve the following day, assembling at Offingen I9091 prepared to move on order.

The 253rd CT established and enlarged its bridgehead across the Danube, gaining about 4000 meters against ineffective resistance. Regimental CI opened at Reisenberg I8985 at 1800.

At 0618 elements of the 1st Bn advanced following elements of the 12th Armored Div. Progress was rapid as no enemy resistance was met, the only delay was caused by road blocks and demolitions. At 1315 the Bn had secured the bridges across the Wertach River from Brecht and Jantsch River in the vic of Hertenfingen I2305. This enabled the 12th Armored Div supply lines being kept open.

The 2nd Bn advanced at 0832. Road blocks impeded the progress. The Bn reached Schwabmünchen Y2457 at 1700. Bn (-) then went into

an assembly area in the vicinity of Kloster Y2900, Co "K" remained at Schwabmunchen, guarding bridges in that area. Co "L" was attached to 2nd Bn.

The 3rd Bn moved by motor to X0780. Bn cleared the woods north of there and then assembled in the vic of Y0779.

The 253rd OT advanced about 45 kilometers by motor and secured bridges at Haldenfingen protecting the 12th Armored Div supply lines. Regimental CP opened at Schwabmunchen at 1815.

On April 28, 1945 the 253rd OT was to be relieved by elements of the 141st Inf and move to an assembly area in vic of Tauberbischofsheim N3915. On 28 April 1945 all attachments were to cease upon relief.

The 1st Bn was relieved by elements of the 141st Inf at 1000. The 1st Bn moved by motor from vic Hiltensfingen and at end of period was on road to an assembly area vic of Taubergischofsheim.

At 0135 the 2nd Bn received orders to seize and secure a railway bridge across the Lech River at Y355476. The Bn sent a patrol to reconnoiter the objective. The patrol found units of the 12th Armored Div had secured the bridgehead and that roads leading to that area were closed by vehicles of the 12th Armored Div. The 2nd Bn remained at Kloster. The Bn was relieved by elements of the 141st Inf at 1000. The Bn cleared Kloster by motor at 1554. At end of period Bn was on road to an assembly area vic of Lauda N4209.

The 3rd Bn cleared Gabelbach at 1915 by motor. At end of period Bn was on road on way to an assembly area vic of Lauda.

Cannon and Anti-Tank Cos remained in position as their vehicles were used to transport the battalions.

The Regimental Command Group left and closed CP at Schwabmunchen at 1530. The Command Group was on the road enroute to Tauberbischofsheim at end of period.

On April 29, 1945 the 253rd Regiment less Cannon and Anti-Tank Cos closed into assembly areas in the vic of Tauberbischofsheim and Lauda at 1615. Their personnel were rested and plans made for re-organization, rehabilitation and training. The regiment was to aid Military Government to maintain order by posting security guard in the regimental zone and by guarding various installations. On the 30th of April the 1st Bn 65th Inf Regiment was attached for operations. The Bn was maintaining a security guard in the regimental zone. The Regimental Commander accepted responsibility for the zone 0780 on the 30th of April. The Anti-Tank Co closed into the vic of Mit-tigheim N4014 at 1930.

30 April 1945

ROSTER OF KEY OFFICER PERSONNEL AS OF 30 APRIL 1945

RESIDENTIAL STAFF

Lt Col	M. O. Edwards	0-19041	Commanding Officer
Lt Col	R. O. Lashley	0-19932	Executive Officer
Capt	Walter M. Lee	0-1290266	S-1
Major	Richard G. Cox	0-1290210	S-2
Major	Glyn W. Pehl	0-365068	S-3
Major	George W. Davis	0-304645	S-4

FIRST BATTALION STAFF

Major	Robert K. Lieding	0-362730	Commanding Officer
Capt	West A Williams Jr	0-366364	Executive Officer
Capt	Herbert B. Houghtaling	0-1292527	S-1
1st Lt	Robert W. Selton	0-36678	S-2
Capt	Frank J. Tettemer	0-1290157	S-3
1st Lt	Harry G. Voth	0-1317449	S-4

SECOND BATTALION STAFF

✓ Major	Ancher E. Christensen Jr.	0-366250	Commanding Officer
Major	Jack E. Gray	0-303864	Executive Officer
Capt	Robert C. Fruit	0-355625	S-1
1st Lt	Robert V. Messerli	0-351070	S-2
✓ Capt	Robert W. Strauss	0-448104	S-3
1st Lt	Frank A. DiGiacomo	0-1326320	S-4

THIRD BATTALION STAFF

Major	Henry P. Park	0-293562	Commanding Officer
Major	Theo E. Hummel	0-293855	Executive Officer
Capt	James G. Williams	0-396132	S-1
1st Lt	George O. Wiatt	0-402370	S-2
Capt	Edward B. Soullion	0-1290144	S-3
1st Lt	Sam E. Brown	0-1320820	S-4

COMPANY COMMANDERS

Capt	Jasper E. Ayer	0-362882	Hq & Hq Co
Capt	Warren L. Kirkland	0-1288746	Anti-Tank Co
Capt	Beth C. Peatross III	0-520898	Cannon Co
Capt	Sidney Z. Ogden	0-1303531	Service Co
Major	Norman C. Carlson	0-418721	Medical Det.
Capt	Herbert B. Houghtaling	0-1292527	Hq Co 1st Bn
1st Lt	Ray A. Harralson	0-425228	Company A
1st Lt	W. Scott Brown	0-1051060	Company B
1st Lt	Arthur F. Parsala	0-1050031	Company C
1st Lt	Earle A. Johnson Jr.	0-28211	Company D

Officer Roster (Cont'd)

Capt	Robert C. Fruit	0-355625	Hq Co 2nd Bn
1st Lt	Eugene F Pietrowski	0-1314024	Company K
2nd Lt	Richard Holmes	0-2007031	Company F
2nd Lt	Frank C. Rose	0-2007037	Company G
2nd Lt	Joseph V. Olindo	0557752	Company H
Capt	James G. Williams	0-396132	Hq Co 3rd Bn
Capt	Robert H. Meade	0-423346	Company I
1st Lt	William A. Kirchoff	0-1108074	Company K
Capt	Herschel N. Burton	0-1287473	Company L
Capt	Leo K. Jurawinski	0-1314025	Company M

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS, 63RD INFANTRY

OAK LEAF CLUSTERS TO BRONZE STAR

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Lt Col	Lashley, Ralph O.	019032	1st per GO#95, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
Lt Col	Morris, Edward O.	019041	3rd per GO#95, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 63RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	Drueger, Ralph H.	36802036	per GO#78, Hq 63rd Inf Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945
T/S	Bengel, Rudolph J.	32956442	per GO#111, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 20 April 1945.

PURPLE HEART

T/4	Scott, Walter H.	17091871	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, Dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Martin, Adelbert A.	31447797	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

CANYON COMPANY, 253RD INFANTRY

BROOKLE STARS

RANK
Sgt Kneisel, Jerry A.

ASN
37418721

AUTHORITY
per GOS 75, Hq 253rd Inf Div.
APO 410, dtd 3 April 1945.

A-T COMPANY, 253RD INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS

RANK
Pfc Belcher, Archie V.

ASN
35560480

AUTHORITY
per GOS 31, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp.
APO 515, dtd 16 April 1945.

SERVICE COMPANY, 63RD INFANTRY

BROCKE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1st Lt	Schmidt, George H.	01289334	per GO#114, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 21 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pvt	Lee, Donald K.	87440244	per GO#75, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#338, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Derring, George H. Jr.	33854611	per GO#75, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#416, dtd 1 April 1945.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 83RD INFANTRYBRONZE STARS

<u>REF</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
T/5	Kalleoac, Keith A.	39358846	per GO#75, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
Pfc	Green, Abraham L.	31404984	per GO#99, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
Pfc	Phillips, Sherman E.	34890385	per GO#101, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
Capt	O'Sullivan, Ward D.	0441894	per GO#101, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
T/5	Morrow, Adin R.	32998024	per GO#102, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Baker, Cledith E.	33658379	per GO#105, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Proctor, Robert E.	37742956	per GO#105, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Shier, William J. Jr.	36978188	per GO#105, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 17 April 1945.
T/5	Smith, Harry W.	39467695	per GO#105, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 17 April 1945.
1stLt	Kramer, Donald E.	02047030	per GO#114, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 21 April 1945.
T/3	Stephens, Edward E.	14009035	per GO#114, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 21 April 1945.

SILVER STARS

Pfc	McKellar, Henry J.	34966418	per GO#77, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 4 April 1945.
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PURPLE HEART

Pfc	Brockley, Norman P.	31400305	per GO#75, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
T/5	Campbell, Van	35682820	per GO#108, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Carlson, Carl V. Jr.	38552108	per GO#31, Hq 38th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
T/4	Farley, Frank Jr.	15081308	per GO#108, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 285KD INFANTRYPURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pfc	Don, Raymond F.	57476035	per GO#96, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 13 April 1945.
1stLt	Jordan, Lawrence W.	2049897	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
T/5	Kalcese, Deith A.	39338646	per GO#54, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 15 April 1945.
T/5	King, Lawrence J. Jr.	31351971	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Neely, Richard B.	36947029	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Oreomarso, Dominick F.	42075192	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Opl	Phillips, Sherman E.	34890385	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Postill, Frank E.	16128471	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Rodriguez, Roberto F.	38422400	per GO#77, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
Sgt	Ross, Golden D.	38072735	per GO#108, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

Pfc	Hurney, Francis J.	20118787	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1ST BN., 80TH INFANTRY

BROWNE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Major	Lurie, Bertrand F.	0301757	per GO#110, Hq 80th Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 19 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Winford, Raymond W.	5581474E	per GO#38E, Hq 117th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 8 April 1945.
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COMPANY "A" 63RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Sgt	Creamer, Robert	31320878	per GO#76, Hq, 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
Pvt	Gorham, Thomas G.	38661194	per GO#76, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
Sgt	Cardella, Sebastian J.	31345306	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Sgt	Kiska, George A.	33414475	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Sgt	Martin, Sidney L.	38582737	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Wutt, Glen G.	39344327	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
S/Sgt	King, James P.	32648318	per GO#83, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Ross, Guss D. Jr.	34471064	per GO#94, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 13 April 1945.

SILVER STARS

Pfc	Cardella, Sebastian J.	31465392	per GO#77, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 4 April 1945.
Pfc	McGowan, Francis	31466392	per GO#79, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 4 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pvt	Abernathy, Dan C.	38692341	per GO#22, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 10 April 1945.
2nd Lt	Wicks, Guy W.	02006055	per GO#21, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pfc	Allen, Lorrin D.	39287684	per GO#22, Hq 189th Hosp. Center. APO#513, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pvt	Barotti, John J.	42180275	per GO#36, Hq 23rd Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Erickles, George M.	35782183	per GO#21, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 9 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Brown, Horace M.	35751793	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

COMPANY "A" 858th INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

T/Sgt	Carpenter, Charles G.	32943297	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Cole, James R.	36984434	per GO#22, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 24 April 1945.
Pfc	DeCordova, Francis R.	37745646	per GO#22, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Ellerton, Claire R.	37078728	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Faus, Kenneth M.	36515346	per GO#35, Hq 235th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Gentry, Fred	34927773	per GO#26, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pvt	Greer, Warren W.	36849881	per GO#23, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Henry, Joseph A.	42186816	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Hooper, Claude A.	14073933	per GO#35, Hq 235th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 16 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Hooven, Edmund W.	33796308	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Jettelson, Julius	12227686	per GO#38, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#373, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Lorenz, Michael J. Jr.	42009169	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Sgt	Martin, Sidney L.	38562637	per GO#23, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Morrison, Robert G.	33769116	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Newman, Wiley	34990142	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
T/4	O'Donnell, Robert C.	31214817	per GO#26, Hq 21st Evac. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 13 April 1945.
Pvt	Prothero, Clarence R.	39625629	per GO#70, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#373, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Ross, Guss D. Jr.	34971054	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Smith, John A.	12051400	per GO#38, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#373, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Stevens, Gill S.	36530377	per GO#36, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#514, dtd 25 April 1945.
1st Lt	Tierney, Robert J.	1044130	per GO#35, Hq 235th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Yuskavich, John F. Jr.	36635979	per GO#21, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#332, dtd 18 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Newman, Wiley	34990142	per GO#120, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 25 April 1945.
Pfc	Ross, Guss D. Jr.	34971054	per GO#36, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#756, dtd 27 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Buzze, John G.	33150337	per GO#22, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 10 April 1945.

COMPANY "B" 83RD INFANTRY

SILVER STARS

1stLt	Brown, Wilbur S.	01031680	per GO#97, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.
T/S	Fedak, John H.	33868378	per GO#97, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Masterson, Edward K.	39421231	per GO#97, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Cole, Marshall G.	37744867	per GO#83, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 11 April 1945.
1stSgt	Ader, Jacob	32616354	per GO#34, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Ball, James O.	31417198	per GO#45, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#571, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Becker, Stanley L.	36912538	per GO#45, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Bibeau, Kenneth D.	37773588	per GO#22, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#571, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pvt	Bruno, Joseph F.	42180584	per GO#27, Hq 127th Gen. Hosp. APO#667, dtd 2 April 1945.
Pvt	Bucca, Anthony	33815888	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	Cary, John R.	37693011	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.
Opl	Condello, Anthony	32233560	per GO#25, Hq 8th Evac Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Darr, Charles E. Jr.	33910163	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Dockery, James K.	34734183	per GO#34, Hq 235th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Herrmann, Emil O.	42182031	per GO#23, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 11 April 1945.
T/S	Kropf, Henry	33514758	per GO#11, Hq 19th Gen. Hosp. APO#515, dtd 25 April 1945.
Pfc	McCoy, Arthur C.	38568542	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Norman, James T.	62151987	per GO#63, Hq 254 Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 4 April 1945.
Pfc	Norwick, John C.	31433901	per GO#17, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.
Sgt	Ottinger, Roy A.	37584127	per GO#32, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Powell, William R.	20529054	per GO#62, Hq 51st Evac Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Sgt	Fyaka, Steve J.	32251839	per GO#22, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Sgt	Raith, Clemens F.	33699988	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Roberts, Lucius B.	31431054	per GO#35, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.

COMPANY "B" 838D INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pvt	Saldana, Mamigio	38553827	per GO#38, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#813, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Schleicher, Arthur L.	39348498	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Sharen, John K.	35070982	per GO#103, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Sgt	Skools, Richard G.	39469686	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pvt	Smith, Harold D.	44042009	per GO#50, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 23 April 1945.
Pfc	Van Dyke, Herman J.	42190340	per GO#50, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 23 April 1945.
Sgt	Warren, Donald L.	37232332	per GO#76, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

Pvt	Becker, Stanley L.	36812656	per GO#55, Hq 836th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.
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COMPANY "C" 263RD INFANTRYBRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	Gallione, John D.	35595221	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Miller, Paul G.	35559205	per GO#99, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
Sgt	Backus, Rodman P. Jr.	31433444	per GO#111, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 20 April 1945.
Sgt	Holmes, Emberton	32928894	per GO#111, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 20 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pvt	Bacon, Oliver O.	42107229	per GO#94, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pvt	Carr, Lowell W.	12150030	per GO#21, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pfc	Cason, Elmer L.	34971092	per GO#79, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Furukawa, Hiroshi	39922450	per GO#16, Hq 3rd Gen. Hosp. APO#425, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Gutierrez, Carlos G.	38672778	per GO#27, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#360, dtd 8 April 1945.
Pfc	Hart, James F. Jr.	38731674	per GO#21, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Hitchcock, Hilliard P.	38180675	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. dtd 16 April 1945.
Emd Lt	Megowan, Frank E.	519763	per GO#25, Hq 182th Gen. Hosp. APO#313, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Rylant, Lawrence E.	38606563	per GO#24, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 15 April 1945.
Pvt	Schafe, Millard E.	33219348	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#313, dtd 16 April 1945.
Emd Lt	Tirelli, Louis D.	02007058	per GO#103, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

Pfc	Fredericksen, Robert J.	35430251	per GO#33, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 8 April 1945.
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COMPANY "D" 263RD INFANTRYBRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
S/Sgt	MacIntyre, William B. Jr	32968263	per GO#75, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Cooper, William H.	31198238	per GO#80, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
1stLt	Marine, Anthony M.	01297065	per GO#95, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Collins, John P.	36874611	per GO#99, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
Pfc	Hamett, Dursay D.	39051598	per GO#100, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
1stLt	Hanson, Norman M.	0550933	per GO#100, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
Sgt	Pelletier, Paul V.	6544522	per GO#101, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Smith, Herman F.	39338440	per GO#102, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Van Horn, Thomas J.	33903035	per GO#102, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
1stLt	McGuire, Gerald	01049265	per GO#110, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 19 April 1945.
2ndLt	Raffensperger, Bruce W.	0555071	per GO#116, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 22 April 1945.

SILVER STARS

Sgt	Dunn, Hugh C.	37245202	per GO#97, Hq 63rd, Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.
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PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Beard, Shirley	35815787	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#768, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Behm, Emil E.	36303289	per GO#32, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Bolton, Donald G.	36978965	per GO#93, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#768, dtd 11 April 1945.
Sgt	Grossi, John J.	32563755	per GO#21, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#731, dtd 11 April 1945.

COMPANY "D" 883RD INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

LCPL	Johnson, Earle A. Jr.	0-25811	per GO#108, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Mann, John E.	13968963	per GO#46, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Mank, John O.	34981366	per GO#108, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Bromley, Norman P.	31400305	per GO#73, Hq 83rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.

BRONZE STARS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	House, Louis S.	32947629	per GO#76, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
Pfc	Diacoal, Jeremiah E.	32521650	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Fisher, Joseph H.	37391141	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Gallagher, John C.	32523492	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Haas, Henry R.	37679326	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Kriletich, Matthew	39050225	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pvt	Meyers, Louis C.	35893030	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Vieyra, Carmen B.	39169826	per GO#81, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Capt	Strauss, Robert W.	0448104	per GO#102, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
1stLt	Messerli, Robert V.	05521070	per GO#111, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 20 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Block, William F.	37662875	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Brown, William E.	34581754	per GO#58, Hq 117th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Gordon, Hardy O.	34988479	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Egt	Greutzner, William P.	33720919	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Lamphere, William A.	41182299	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
2ndLt	Pennline, Henry M.	0-555999	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Capt	Strauss, Robert W.	0-448104	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Zasimovich, Stephen F.	31410521	per GO#78, Hq 5th Gen. Hosp. APO#5B, dtd 14 April 1945.

COMPANY "E" 863RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	Karnest, Lawrence A.	36835008	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pvt	Atkinson, Daniel E.	36843813	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Saliba, Larry J.	36893539	per GO#98, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pvt	Adams, Polk A.	44040874	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pvt	Adkins, Robert E.	34140890	per GO#23, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Atchison, Harley E.	38572462	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Bevin, Arthur S.	31301941	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#786, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pvt	Blagg, Clayton L.	20835958	per GO#89, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Bonsar, Ernest F.	33836687	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Brewer, Gordon J. Jr.	33566447	per GO#69, Hq 23 Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	Broad, Donald R.	12206657	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Cannon, Charles G.	42187135	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Cavitt, Darrol	36984437	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Chamberlain, Donald E.	37637148	per GO#32, Hq 176th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pvt	Cimarolli, Gino E.	36984604	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
T/5	Collucci, Philip A.	31329329	per GO#31, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
2nd Lt	Conway, Stephen	02006058	per GO#75, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Farmer, Arthur S.	39424335	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Fore, Walter W.	17007475	per GO#103, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Ginn, William L.	39052142	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Griffiths, Evan J.	6886188	per GO#106, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Sgt	Halsey, Richard V.	36003228	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Heinen, Gerald F.	38711383	per GO#74, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#352, dtd 13 April 1945.

COMPANY "H" 83RD INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pvt	Benigian, Michael	3209120	per GO#25, Hq 8th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
E/Sgt	Jensen, Roy J.	17016981	per GO#75, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Jones, Robert J.	35471955	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Kline, Seymour H.	42121875	per GO#79, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 1 April 1945.
E/Sgt	Knowlton, Oscar E.	35848704	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Lane, John B.	12228590	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO #410 dtd 18 April 1945.
T/Ag	Mangan, John P.	31414455	per GO#35, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	McGarry, Robert A.	32994757	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pvt	Monson, Maurice A.	37579754	per GO#25, Hq 8th Evac. Hosp. APO# 758, dtd 9 April 1945.
E/Sgt	Munn, Howard J.	42008719	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	O'Ellock, Joseph	35281457	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	O'Connell, Robert W.	38427885	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Sgt	Reed, Robert R.	33845089	per GO#31, Hq 36th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Ryans, Gordon	12150053	per GO#77, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
Sgt	Sears, Everett H.	31450051	per GO#77, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pvt	Szymczak, Walter J.	32683664	per GO# 93, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 11 April 1945.
Sgt	Tully, Bernard W.	36398841	per GO#78, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
1st Sgt	Webb, James D. Jr.	34235050	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Wolf, Elmer L.	33497427	per GO#31, Hq 26th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

Pvt	Forsyth, James	31453379	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Capt	Pilla, Angello E.	01290123	per GO#35, Hq 236th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 17 April 1945.

BRONZE STARS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
2ndLt	Freece, Arnold W.	02011512	per GO#75, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
2ndLt	Peschel, Alfred W.	0553274	per GO#98, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.

SILVER STARS

1stLt	Splessback, Francis J.	01080243	per GO#79, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 4 April 1945.
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PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Aguzzi, Joe	44045128	per GO#22, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Atchison, Owen E.c	37731215	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Barr, Carl C.	6381897	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
T/4	Bennett, Robert F.	36680884	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Cpl	Exilla, Edward S.	35288487	per GO#69, Hq 23d Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 19 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Bradley, John E.	35927799	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	DeSanctis, Mario	33474420	per GO#31, Hq 38th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Sgt	Fatigante, Joseph F.	13067904	per GO#69, Hq 23d Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 19 April 1945.
Pfc	Fernow, Albert	35841722	per GO#34, Hq 238th Gen. Hosp. APO#745, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Hall, William C.	37773533	per GO#81, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Hardin, Steve O. Jr.	14027982	per GO#74, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#312, dtd 13 April 1945.
Pfc	Hastings, James R.	34931380	per GO#31, Hq 38th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Janz, Don P.	38725117	per GO#63, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pfc	Johnson, Eugene E.	37691188	per GO#63, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 11 April 1945.
Sgt	Keating, Curtis O.	37627722	per GO#38, Hq 23d Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 19 April 1945.
Pfc	Labdik, George F.	13159006	per GO#31, Hq 38th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Mannion, Thomas B.	12206566	per GO#87, Hq 51st Evac Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.

COMPANY "F" 853RD INFANTRYPURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pfc	Medeiros, George	51495126	per GO#32, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 20 April 1945.
Pvt	Maggert, Frank E.	13196968	per GO#32, Hq 23rd Gen. Hosp. APO#577, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Missynski, Theodore J.	36465211	per GO#32, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.
Pfc	Moociai, Theodore R.	33418542	per GO#83, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#756, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pvt	Nicodemus, Meredith Z.	38208420	per GO#22, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 10 April 1945.
Sgt	Rino, William S.	13200554	per GO#77, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#382, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Rosinsky, Harvey A.	36226487	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Capt	Schaafsma, Frank	01061173	per GO#77, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Stegemeyer, Gerald B.	36817453	per GO#32, Hq 178th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 17 April 1945.

COMPANY "O" 863RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

RANK	NAME	ASN	AUTHORITY
S/Sgt	Cinarella, Phillip M.	33506800	per GO#76, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 3 April 1945.
Pfc	Bucien, Conrad R.	42013070	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Sgt	Herzberg, Frederick I.	12110995	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
1stLt	Fagenstrom, Richard L.	0550931	per GO#99, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.

SILVER STARS

2ndLt	Mankin, George R. Jr.	0550509	per GO#97, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 14 April 1945.
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PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Atkinson, Hildred R.	54950853	per GO#91, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Baldwin, Robert D.	31460233	per GO#22, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Bryon, Thomas E.	34990444	per GO#37, Hq 117th Evac. Hosp. APO#755, dtd 7 April 1945.
Pfc	Carroll, Wilbur W.	37751598	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Sgt	Cormier, Emile	38491556	per GO#21, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 11 April 1945.
Pfc	D'Amico, Bart H.	33275849	per GO#37, Hq 23d Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 14 April 1945.
1stLt	Fagenstrom Richard L.	0-550931	per GO#106, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Grabowski, Stephen J.	31403607	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#755, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Gulliana, Dominick E.	35322723	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Huggins, James E.	42125412	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Jones, William R.	37490194	per GO#31, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 16 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Kasner, Roy A.	35227604	per GO#79, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#382, dtd 17 April 1945.
2ndLt	Leathco, Clarence H.	02011514	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Leharbe, Robert	36897933	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Lennon, Philip J.	35927933	per GO#37, Hq 23rd Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 14 April 1945.

COMPANY "G" 858RD INFANTRYPURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pfc	McCann, John S.	58651787	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pfc	Montoux, Edgar J.	42008491	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Opatowsky, Joseph	36888649	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 9 April 1945.
Pvt	Pitts, James E.	44033052	per GO#25, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 8 April 1945.
2ndLt	Rintoul, Malcolm F.	02011658	per GO#19, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 6 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Robinson, Robert E.	6731555	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Rogalewicz, John E.	12021247	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
1stLt	Seavey, Harold V.	01314066	per GO#106, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Seclau, Harold F.	42093408	per GO#92, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pvt	Spencer, Lyle H.	36905181	per GO#16, Hq 30th Gen. Hosp. APO#423, dtd 6 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Stitely, Karl J.	33503901	per GO#23, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 11 April 1945.
Sgt	Utley, Clark D.	36875479	per GO#25, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	Walker, William R.	34966155	per GO#20, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#371, dtd 8 April 1945.
2ndLt	Yonkers, Souvenir	02011657	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.

COMPANY "H" 263RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Capt	St Clair, Roland L.	01323185	per GO#101, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Skular, Robert L.	34981079	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.
Capt	St Clair, Roland	01323185	per GO#80, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#368, dtd 17 April 1945.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2ND BN., 263RD INFANTRY

BRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pvt	Lsherwood, Robert J.	35079056	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

1st Sgt	White, Felton H.	22018574	per GO#106, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
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COMPANY "I" 885TH INFANTRYBROWNIE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pvt	Hunt, Carlton F.	31457863	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Sborna, Samuel A.	15015443	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Sgt	Wodkman, James L.	6662653	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Bryson, Billy J.	38681109	per GO#99, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
T/Sgt	Lechner, Benjamin	32351158	per GO#100, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 15 April 1945.
Pfc	McGuire, Frank B.	37640187	per GO#102, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Murtaugh, Edward J.	19043000	per GO#101, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 16 April 1945.
2ndLt	Mellon, John	02011511	Per GO#110, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 19 April 1945.
2ndLt	Lilley, Theodore R.	0555068	per GO#111, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 20 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Ahearn, John	31430814	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Bonifield, Dayle E.	35632515	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Desautel, Raymond J.	31445812	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Galley, Clarence F.	31450215	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Horn, Arthur	32812907	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Rentz, Hughes	44039641	per GO#29, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 20 April 1945.
Pfc	Lopez, Manuel R.	19050106	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Cpl	MacDonald, Richard E.	6979605	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Mattingly, Reginald I.	37642600	per GO#26, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.

COMPANY "I" 863RD INFANTRYPURPLE HEARTS CONT'D

Pvt	Moire, Carl W. Jr.	48023333	per 60#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Moore, Kenneth O.	37643884	per 60#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Mushlenbruch, Otto F.	20624385	per 60#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
T/S	Olsen, Lloyd O.	37575985	per 60#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pvt	Potts, John G.	38657419	per 60#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Rodriguez, Abie	39587382	per 60#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Running Horse, Peter	37152716	per 60#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Verdich, Holger	37590220	per 60#26, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Pfc	Volk, John A.	36978115	per 60#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

Sgt	Atkins, Eugene B.	35779772	per 60#26, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 13 April 1945.
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COMPANY "K" 63RD INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	Binette, Robert	31459337	per GO#118, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Blair, Alvin F.	38608504	per GO#97, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Cash, Louis L.	44005615	per GO#97, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Curran, Robert F.	32658184	per GO#45, Hq 2nd Conv. Hosp. APO#471, dtd 18 April 1945.
Opl	Graham, James E.	34989828	per GO#72, Hq 51st Gen. Hosp. APO#562, dtd 13 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Jacko, Andrew	36124417	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Jewett, Axel L.	39381557	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
2ndLt	Le Jeune, Sterling W.	0-557727	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Loudin, Arthur R.	35205245	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Moyer, Lawrence J.	35236981	per GO#32, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 18 April 1945.
T/S	Morgan, Joseph A.	33203367	per GO#26, Hq 9th Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 10 April 1945.
Sgt	Pittman, Winford G.	38681015	per GO#24, Hq 189th Gen. Hosp. APO#513, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	Plain, Lester U.	35580680	per GO#97, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Soranno, Carmine	42075886	per GO#80, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#392, dtd 17 April 1945.
S/Sgt	Terry, William G. Jr.	34834756	per GO#78, Hq 21st Gen. Hosp. APO#362, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Weakland, Charles K. Jr.	15377200	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
Pfc	Wells, Elton L.	35839272	per GO#84, Hq 230th Gen. Hosp. APO#748, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Whistley, Harold K.	38868429	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSKLE TO PURPLE HEART

S/Sgt	Crothers, William F.	18075435	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Opl	Graham, James E.	34989828	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.
1stLt	Kirchoff, William A.	0-118074	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
T/S	Stevens, Arthur H. Jr.	31398613	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.

COMPANY "L" 83RD INFANTRYBRONZE STARS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
Pfc	Casey, John J.	33342377	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.
Pfc	Morrison, Eugene O.	35070097	per GO#82, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 6 April 1945.

PURPLE HEARTS

Pfc	Cramer, Charles R.	37211251	per GO#97, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.
Sgt	Grishkevich, Aleck	32585441	per GO#31, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp. APO#515, dtd 16 April 1945.
Pfc	Norby, Norman	37887010	per GO#32, Hq 2nd Gen. Hosp. APO#515, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pfc	Pileggi, Antonio D.	12227367	per GO#94, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 12 April 1945.
Pfc	Porterfield, Bert	19097708	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
Pvt	Salazar, Fred L.	37364489	per GO#97, Hq 51st Evac. Hosp. APO#758, dtd 14 April 1945.
Pfc	Stirneman, Kenneth W.	36475544	per GO#65, Hq 23d Gen. Hosp. APO#377, dtd 8 April 1945.
Pvt	Woods, Talmage R.	15102583	per GO#73, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 1 April 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO PURPLE HEART

SND	Crovo, Augustus S. Jr.	0-2007029	per GO#108, Hq 63rd Inf. Div. APO#410, dtd 18 April 1945.
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COMPANY "M" 883RD INFANTRY

PURPLE HEARTS

NAME
PT

Woods, NAME
Thomas O.

ASN
33858130

AUTHORITY
per GOWNS, Hq Dist Evac. Hosp.
APO 758, dtd 11 April 1945.

1 May 1945

CRITIQUE APRIL

1. This month witnessed the most severe fighting in the history of the regiment thus far. Fighting was severe because of the tenacity and strength of the enemy, his naturally strong defenses on high ground behind two parallel rivers (the JAGST and KOCHER) and the great frontages involved. Several lessons became apparent:

- a. Some Infantry must be specifically detailed to protect tanks, especially in towns, in woods and at night.
- b. An SOP organization for defense of towns must be set up immediately if they are to be held.
- c. Very small towns exposed to the enemy's observation should not be occupied; they present too good a target and too little protection for occupying troops.

2. This month was also characterized by some extremely rapid advances in pursuit of a defeated enemy. Several lessons evidenced themselves:

- a. Necessity for SOP on emergency motorization where no additional motors are furnished. Two expedients were used successfully.

(1) Where all three Bns were advancing simultaneously, along parallel routes, some trucks were made available to each. Generally, each Bn had a platoon of tanks and a platoon of TDS upon which it rode its advance guard (companies at reduced strength). The other two companies were shuttled by motor and marching.

(2) Where two Bns were advancing simultaneously on parallel routes, one Bn was given two-thirds of the armor and a few trucks, the second Bn being given its platoon of tanks and TDS plus the bulk of the organic trucks available. While the Bns operated at reduced strength it was possible to motorize two Bns by greatly overloading all vehicles - both attached and organic and including use of trailers. The 3rd Bn was moved forward as transportation became available.

(3) On longer advances in column of Bns, the leading Bn was constituted as a task force, giving it the bulk of the armor and trucks. The second Bn rode on the artillery, (one light and one medium) and the third was moved as and when the trucks which carried the leading Bn became available.

- b. Necessity for a sizeable route marking and guide party on motor marches. In general, signs were all right for daylight but unsatisfactory at night. In the absence of radio active markers, it is very necessary to make extensive use of guides, preferably to be dropped off in pairs.

- c. When working with an armored division it is extremely necessary to have liaison, or at least communication, not only with the combat command concerned but directly with whatever task forces scheduled to operate in the Infantry zone of advance.

GENERAL ORDERS

WAR DEPARTMENT

No. 44

WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 13 May 1946

DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS—Award	Section I
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LEGION OF MERIT—Awards	III, IV
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DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS—Posthumous award	VI
BRONZE STAR MEDAL—Awards	VII
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TYPHUS COMMISSION MEDAL—Award	IX
AIR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER)—Correction in general orders	X

I. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy was awarded by the War Department to the following-named individual: *Virginia Hall*, an American civilian in the employ of the Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, entered voluntarily and served in enemy occupied France from March to September 1944. Despite the fact that she was well known to the Gestapo because of previous activities, she established and maintained radio communications with London headquarters, supplying valuable operational and intelligence information. With the help of a Jedburgh team, she organized, armed, and trained three battalions of French resistance forces in the Department of the Haute Loire. Working in a region infested with enemy troops and constantly hunted by the Gestapo, with utter disregard for her safety and continually at the risk of capture, torture, and death, she directed the resistance forces with extraordinary success in acts of sabotage and guerrilla warfare against enemy troops, installations, and communications. Miss Hall displayed rare courage, perseverance, and ingenuity. Her efforts contributed materially to the successful operations of the resistance forces in support of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in the liberation of France.

II. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the distinguished-Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services in the performance of duties of great responsibility during the period indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officer:

Colonel *Fred G. Sherrill*, O236194, Corps of Engineers, Army of the United States, September 1942 to October 1945. (So much of sec. II, General Orders 15, 1946, as pertains to the award of the Legion of Merit to Colonel *Sherrill*, for services from September 1942 to October 1945, is rescinded.)

III. LEGION OF MERIT.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, WD Bul. 40, 1942) and Executive Order 9230, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, WD Bul. 54, 1942), the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the periods indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers:

Brigadier General *Addison D. Davis*, O2651, United States Army. April 1941 to February 1946.

Lieutenant Colonel *Benjamin P. House*, O20080, General Staff Corps

outstanding services during the period indicated was awarded to him by the War Department under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, WD Bul. 40, 1942) and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, WD Bul. 54, 1942). The citation is as follows:

Colonel *Clinton B. Allsup*, O-40906, Signal Corps, Army of the United States, August 1943 to May 1945.

VI. DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (WD Bul. 8, 1926), a Distinguished-Flying Cross for heroic achievement while participating in aerial flight during the period indicated was awarded posthumously by the War Department to the following-named officer:

Second Lieutenant *Harold E. McComb*, O777529, 452d Bombardment Group, Air Corps, Army of the United States, displayed heroism while on a mission over Germany on 6 February 1945. When the aircraft in which he was copilot encountered heavy antiaircraft fire, one of the first shells tore through the cockpit and severed his leg just below the knee. Lieutenant *McComb* applied a tourniquet to his leg and rendered invaluable assistance to the pilot in extinguishing dangerous engine and cockpit fires. He then took over the controls while the pilot performed other necessary duties, remaining there until he became unconscious. After crash landing, the entire crew was captured and Lieutenant *McComb* died a few hours later in a German hospital. His courage and devotion to duty, despite his mortal wounds, were of material assistance in saving the lives of his fellow crewmen.

VII. BRONZE STAR MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1944), a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious services in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the periods indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers and individual:

General De Division *Marcel Allard*, French Army. 4 September 1944 to 15 January 1945.

Group Captain *Hubert H. Chapman*, Royal Air Force. February 1944 to January 1945.

Brigadier *Bryon T. Godfrey-Faussett*, British Army. September 1943 to March 1944.

Brigadier *Harold Arthur Hounsell*, British Army. July to December 1944.

Lieutenant Colonel *Albert F. Moe*, O-4161 (then major), United States Marine Corps. April to August 1945.

Harrison D. Straub, American Red Cross. January to May 1945.

VIII. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 21, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citations of the following units in the general orders indicated are confirmed under the provisions of section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation read as follows:

1. *Company C, 253d Infantry Regiment, 63d Infantry Division*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 3 to 5 March 1945 at the rock quarry northeast of Bublengen, Germany. This quarry, the dominant terrain feature in the area and the last main enemy defense before the Siegfried Line, with its sheer cliffs, maze of tunnels, piles of loose rock, and covered routes of approach which greatly favored the defenders, was assaulted at 1400 on 3 March 1945 by *Company C* in conjunction with an attack by the 1st Battalion, 253d Infantry, attacking on the left to secure the woods northeast of the quarry. While attempting to seize the northern end of the quarry, they were halted for 2 days and nights by concentrated enemy mortar and machine-gun fire and suffered tremendous losses. At the same time, two companies on their left had been unable to advance because of the overwhelming fire power directed at them from the northern end of the quarry. On the night of 4 March, reconnaissance patrols from *Company C* succeeded in locating some of the well-camouflaged machine-gun positions. Later that night, the company, with less than one-quarter of its original strength and the men exhausted by 2 days and nights of violent action, renewed the attack. With great valor, skill, and determination, the assault was pressed home and the final heights were carried. The extraordinary courage, fidelity, and tenacity of purpose in pressing the attack and capturing this vital enemy position reflect the highest credit on the officers and men of *Company C, 253d Infantry Regiment, 63d Infantry Division*, and the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 73, Headquarters Seventh United States Army, 16 March 1946, as approved by the

GENERAL HOSPITAL—Designation	Section I
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MEDAL OF FREEDOM—Awards	VIII
BRONZE STAR MEDAL—Correction in general orders and supersession of award	IX

I. GENERAL HOSPITAL.—The general hospitals situated at the locations indicated are named as follows:

Name	Former designation	Location
McCornack General Hospital (named in honor of Brigadier General Condon Carlton McCornack, United States Army).	Army Service Forces—Pasadena Area Regional Hospital.	Pasadena, Calif.
Murphy General Hospital (named in honor of Private First Class Frederick C. Murphy, Medical Department, Army of the United States).	Army Service Forces—Waltham Regional Hospital.	Waltham, Mass.
Pratt General Hospital (named in honor of Colonel Fabian Lee Pratt, Medical Corps, United States Army).	Army Air Forces—Regional and Convalescent Hospital.	Coral Gables, Fla.

[AO 800.05 (8 May 46)]

II. DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress—approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the Distinguished-Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services in the performance of duties of great responsibility during the period indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officer:

Major General Harry H. Johnson, O172820, Army of the United States. 28 January to 24 September 1945.

III. LEGION OF MERIT.—1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, WD Bul. 40, 1942) and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, WD Bul. 54, 1942), the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the periods indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following-named officers:

Colonel John B. Coolcy, O11603, Adjutant General's Department, United States Army. January 1945 to January 1946.

Major James C. Hermann, O925130, Army of the United States. July 1943 to November 1945.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (sec. III, WD Bul. 40, 1942) and Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 (sec. I, WD Bul. 54, 1942), the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated was awarded by the Commanding General

VII. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9306 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citations of the following units in the general orders indicated are confirmed under the provisions of section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citations read as follows:

1. The *3d Battalion, 63d Infantry Regiment*, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on Luzon, Philippine Islands, during the period 23 February to 1 March 1945. The *3d Battalion, 63d Infantry Regiment*, on 22 February 1945, was assigned the mission of securing the high ground northeast of Montalban, Rizal Province. This objective was a key position in the formidable and strongly defended Shimbun Line east of Manila. The objective was studded with Jap pillboxes and cave and tunnel positions, whose approaches were covered with artillery and heavy mortar fire, and was defended by skillful and determined Jap Infantry. On 23 February, the battalion moved under cover of darkness across the Marikina River Valley, overran the Jap outpost line in a vicious night attack, and by dawn had stormed and taken its initial objective, a small hill to the south of the final objective, only after a fierce attack with bayonets and grenades. By late afternoon, the final objective had been taken, despite intense enemy artillery, heavy mortar, and small-arms fire. From 24 February to 1 March, the enemy attempted to retake the hill with eight determined Infantry night counterattacks, supported by massed artillery and mortar fires from weapons ranging up to 155-mm guns and 150-mm mortars. Twice the enemy reached our dug-in positions, but were hurled back in bitter hand-to-hand fighting. At no time did the battalion give an inch of ground. The seizure of this objective cut off the main Jap line of communications through Montalban and bottled up the enemy in the Marikina River Gorge. Headquarters and communications personnel were subjected to direct attack to the same degree as were front line troops. Medical and chaplain personnel frequently carried out their duties under heavy fire. Because of the intensity and accuracy of enemy artillery and heavy mortar concentrations, all supply and evacuation had to be accomplished under cover of darkness over routes which were constantly being attacked by enemy night infiltration and demolition parties. Jap casualties during the period were 210 counted killed in the objective area. Friendly casualties were 12 dead and 37 wounded and injured. The magnificent esprit de corps displayed in this engagement by every officer and man of the battalion distinguished this unit to an extraordinary degree. The courage and unswerving devotion of duty of all members of the *3d Battalion, 63d Infantry Regiment*, reflected great credit on the Army of the United States. (General Orders 180, Headquarters 6th Infantry Division, 13 August 1945, as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

2. The *3d Battalion and Companies A and B, 253d Infantry Regiment*, are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 17 to 24 February 1945, near Kleinblittersdorf, Germany. These troops were given the mission of leading the reentry of Seventh Army troops into Germany by effecting a crossing of the Blies and Sarre Rivers and attacking a well-organized and partially fortified enemy position. With gallantry and determination, the objective was quickly secured with very light casualties. The enemy then literally attacked from all directions with armor and infantry and, at one time, succeeded in penetrating the main line of resistance to dig in. By great courage, fortitude, and cohesion of the personnel of the *3d Battalion and Companies A and B*, this and all other enemy counterattacks were eliminated. On the night of 18

February, the enemy succeeded in reaching Aermacher, thus cutting off the *3d Battalion and Companies A from B*. The attacking enemy forces were stopped by *Company A* and eliminated by determined fire from the *3d Battalion and Company B*, combined with that of *Company A*, while attempting to penetrate further south toward the bridge over the Sarre River. During this action, 120 Germans were killed, an unknown number wounded, and 210 were taken prisoner, at a cost to these units of 15 killed and 45 wounded. The outstanding courage, skill, and devotion to duty displayed by the officers and men of the *3d Battalion and Companies A and B, 253d Infantry Regiment*, reflected the highest credit on the United States Army. (General Order 10, Headquarters Seventh United States Army, 7 January 1946, as approved by the Commanding General, Seventh United States Army.)

3. The *26th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in the Philippine Islands on 22 March 1945. At that time, the Sixth Army, hammering at the fanatically resisting Yumashita line on

CREWS, JOHN R.

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, United States Army, Company F, 253d Infantry, 63d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Lobenbacherhof, Germany, 8 April 1945. *Entered service at:* Bowlegs, Okla. *Birth:* Golden, Okla. *Citation:* He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 8 April 1945 near Lobenbacherhof, Germany. As his company was advancing toward the village under heavy fire, an enemy machinegun and automatic rifle with rifle support opened upon it from a hill on the right flank. Seeing that his platoon leader had been wounded by their fire, Sergeant Crews, acting on his own initiative, rushed the strongpoint with two men of his platoon. Despite the fact that one of these men was killed and the other was badly wounded, he continued his advance up the hill in the face of terrific enemy fire. Storming the well-dug-in position singlehandedly, he killed two of the crew of the machinegun at point-blank range with his M1 rifle and wrested the gun from the hands of the German whom he had already wounded. He then with his rifle charged the strongly emplaced automatic rifle. Although badly wounded in the thigh by crossfire from the remaining enemy, he kept on and silenced the entire position with his accurate and deadly rifle fire. His actions so unnerved the remaining enemy soldiers that seven of them surrendered and the others fled. His heroism caused the enemy to concentrate on him and permitted the company to move forward into the village.

*ROBINSON, JAMES E., JR.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, Battery A, 861st Field Artillery Battalion, 63d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Untergriesheim, Germany, 6 April 1945. *Entered service at:* Waco, Tex. *Birth:* Toledo, Ohio. *G.O. No.:* 117, 11 December 1945. *Citation:* He was a field artillery forward observer attached to Company A, 253d Infantry, near Untergriesheim, Germany, on 6 April 1945. Eight hours of desperate fighting over open terrain swept by German machinegun, mortar, and small-arms fire had decimated Company A, robbing it of its commanding officer and most of its key enlisted personnel when Lieutenant Robinson rallied the 23 remaining uninjured riflemen and a few walking wounded, and, while carrying his heavy radio for communication with American batteries, led them through intense fire in a charge against the objective. Ten German infantrymen in fox holes threatened to stop the assault, but the gallant leader killed them all at point-blank range with rifle and pistol fire and then pressed on with his men to sweep the area of all resistance. Soon afterward he was ordered to seize the defended town of Kressbach. He went to each of the 19 exhausted survivors with cheering words, instilling in them courage and fortitude, before leading the little band forward once more. In the advance he was seriously wounded in the throat by a shell fragment, but, despite great pain and loss of blood, he refused medical attention and continued the attack, directing supporting artillery fire even though he was mortally wounded. Only after the town had been taken and he could no longer speak did he leave the command he had inspired in victory and walk nearly 2 miles to an aid station where he died from his wound. By his intrepid leadership Lieutenant Robinson was directly responsible for Company A's accomplishing its mission against tremendous odds.