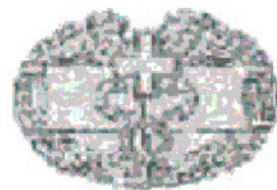




*63d Infantry Division
Blood and Fire*



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History of The 254th Infantry Regiment 63d Infantry Division In World War II

*Scanned and processed by
Fred Clinton D/254th Inf*

254th INFANTRY REGIMENT

63rd INFANTRY DIVISION

This Binder Contains:

1. Extracts: Report of Operations, 3rd Infantry Division:
Pertaining to the 254th Infantry Regiment,
31 December 1944 - 9 February 1945.
2. Extracts: Report of Operations, 254th Infantry Regiment,
63rd Infantry Division,
January 1945 - 25 May 1945.

MICHAEL BAYMOR

HQ & HQC 63rd DIV,

1-1038

~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS 254TH INFANTRY
APO 17827 US ARMY

5 February 1945

REPORT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1945

- I SUMMARY OF OUR OPERATIONS
- II SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS
- III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD
- IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL
- V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

I SUMMARY OF OUR OPERATIONS

Maps: GSGS France 1/50,000: GERARDMER, SELESTAT, COLMAR.

1 January to 9 January 1st Bn, Antitank Company, I and R platoon attached to 30th Infantry vicinity of KAYSERSBERG; Second Battalion, Service Company, and Cannon Company attached to 7th Infantry vicinity of LAPOUTROIE V5850; Third Battalion and Regimental Headquarters attached to 15th Infantry vicinity of BERGHEIM V7256. Principal mission during this period was occupation of defensive positions. Regimental Command Post in RIBEAUVILLE. 9 January Second Battalion (minus Company E), Third Battalion, Regimental Headquarters and Cannon Company released to Regimental Control vicinity of RIBEAUVILLE at 1000 and Regiment assumed control of sector vicinity BERGHEIM V7257 to vicinity of MITTLEHHR V6950; attachments, 1 platoon of Company B, 756 Tank Battalion; 1 platoon of Company A 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion; and 1 platoon Company C 99th Chemical Battalion. 10 January Antitank Company and Company E released to Regimental control; defensive positions improved and road blocks established at V722565, V722567, and V731563; additional attachments: 1 platoon 756th Tank Battalion, 1 platoon 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and 1 platoon 441st Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons. 11 January First Battalion released to Regimental control and held in RIBEAUVILLE as Regimental Reserve. Third Battalion relieved units of 1 DMI and extended boundary North to vicinity V7558. 12 January improved defensive positions and prepared Battalion switch position vicinity BERGHEIM V715570 to prevent enemy penetration from the north. 13 January Regiment continued to hold and improve defensive position and aggressive patrolling was maintained. 14 January all units of Regiment continued to improve their defensive position and maintained aggressive patrols. 15 January Regiment continued to hold and improve defensive position and maintain aggressive patrols. 16 January First Battalion and Antitank Company 254th Infantry attached to 30th Infantry vicinity V630505; Third Battalion (minus Company L) relieved by First Battalion of 15th Infantry; First Battalion 15th Infantry attached to 254th Infantry; 1 platoon of 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion released from attachment to 254th Infantry; Regiment continued to hold and improve front line defensive positions. 17 January First Battalion and Antitank Company released to Regimental control and Regiment assumed control of sector occupied by those units extending area South to vicinity of ALLERSCHALER V6647. Third Battalion (minus Company L)

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(Report of Operations for the Month of January 1945)

attached to 7th Infantry vicinity KAYSERBERG, Company L relieved by Company C 16th Infantry. Attachments increased by 3 platoons 441st Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons and Company B 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion. Regiment continued to improve defensive position and aggressive patrolling was maintained. 18 January 1 platoon Company C 756th Tank Battalion released from attachment. Regiment continued to hold and improve front line positions. 19 January First Battalion 15th Infantry released from attachment. Company C 16th Infantry relieved on position by elements of 1 DLI. North boundary of Regimental sector adjusted to BERGHEIM to GUELMAR inclusive. Second Battalion extended its defensive area to include BERGHEIM and OSTHEIM. 1 platoon of Company B 756th Tank Battalion released from attachment. 3 platoons of 441st Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons released from attachment. Regiment continued to hold and improve defensive positions of sector from ABERCHENNER to GUELMAR inclusive. 20 January First Battalion relieved on position by 112th Regiment and assembled in BEBLEHEIM area. Third Battalion relieved on positions and moved to BEBLEHEIM assembly area. Regiment continued to hold sector from HITTLECHER to GUELMAR inclusive with Second Battalion and continued to improve positions. 21 January First Battalion (minus Company C) and Third Battalion (minus Company I) in BEBLEHEIM area undergoing training for future operations. Second Battalion with Company C and Company I attached continued to hold and improve front line positions. 22 January First Battalion and Third Battalion remained in concentration areas in BEBLEHEIM undergoing training. Second Battalion continued to hold and improve its defensive position. Regimental Command Post moved to BEBLEHEIM. 23 January Second Battalion continued to hold and improve defensive positions. The Regiment (minus Second Battalion) launched a successful attack on Hill 216 vicinity V70485 and at 1200A had almost reached its initial objective. 24 January Regiment continued its attack on Hill 216 vicinity V70485 and South to WEISS RIVER. At 2010A Regimental objective was reached. Numerous Anti-personnel and Scharnau mines were encountered on Hill 216 and South to WEISS RIVER. Second Battalion was relieved on position by passage through its lines by 7th Infantry and 39th Infantry. Second Battalion moved to RIBBAUVILLE BATTION and attached to 15th Infantry. 25 January elements of Regiment continued to hold WEISS RIVER line vicinity V689478 to vicinity V703473 until relieved by Third Battalion 112th Infantry. Regiment (minus Second Battalion) moved to assembly area in COLMAR FOREST vicinity V7651. Second Battalion released from attachment to 15th Infantry and reverted to Regimental control. 26 January attachments: 1 platoon of 756th Tank Battalion, 2 platoons (minus) 441st Tank Destroyer Battalion, 1 platoon of 441st Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion and 1 platoon of Company A 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion. Regimental Command Post moved from BEBLEHEIM to COLMAR FOREST vicinity V76507. The Regiment attacked toward JERSHEIM vicinity V8147 at 1600A. The attack was temporarily halted at the Northern exits of the town at 270300A by small arms fire and self propelled weapons fire from woods vicinity V790475 and from Northwest tips of JERSHEIM. Hasty defensive positions were prepared along the stream line from V793488 to vicinity of JERSHEIM HILL at V798439. Regiment reorganized and prepared to continue the attack. 27 January the Regiment resumed its attack to seize JERSHEIM and "SUIS de JERSHEIM" and secure canal crossings over COLMAR CANAL in its zone. The First Battalion and Second Battalion resumed their attack at 171530A to seize JERSHEIM - 2 battalions

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abreast, First Battalion on the right. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered by First Battalion from a pillbox located 500 yards North of JEBSENHEIM. Concrete pillbox was approximately 7 feet high with 18 to 24 inch concrete walls and top and manned by 12 men. It was reduced and the advance continued. After a 15 minute artillery barrage, the Second Battalion entered JEBSENHEIM at 2355 followed by the First Battalion. House to house fighting continued throughout the night, and the following morning. At 271200A all but the South tip of JEBSENHEIM was in our hands. At 281200A the Third Battalion moved to KIEDER with the mission to attack Southeast to clear "BOIS de JEBSENHEIM" and then to assist in capturing JEBSENHEIM from the South. The Battalion started its attack at 1750. Enemy strong point was encountered at V792486. A prepared enemy position was located along the stream line from V797476 to V798473. At 271200A the Battalion had reached the South tip of "BOIS de JEBSENHEIM." An enemy strong point along the stream line in vicinity V797474 had been by-passed and preparations were being made to reduce it. Total Prisoners of War through Regimental Prisoner of War Cage during this operation (up to 271200A) was 86. Captured material undetermined. 28 January the Regiment (less Third Battalion) continued mopping up in southern part of JEBSENHEIM and started establishing defensive positions in its sector. Heavy self-propelled weapons fire from the BOIS de la HAUTE, East of JEBSENHEIM, prevented supporting Tank Destroyers from reducing enemy strong points. At 281200A mopping-up was still continuing. Third Battalion completed its mission of clearing the BOIS de JEBSENHEIM and South in its zone to the COLMAR CANAL. Enemy strong points along stream line from V797476 to V798433 by-passed during initial attack were reduced. Defensive position was established and outposts sent forward to vicinity of canal. Contact patrols between Third Battalion and Second Battalion were discontinued for the night due to enemy action in JEBSENHEIM. Aggressive patrols were maintained throughout Third Battalion zone to check possible enemy infiltration from direction of JEBSENHEIM. Defensive positions were improved. 29 January the Regiment (less Third Battalion) continued its attack from JEBSENHEIM towards the COLMAR CANAL and East to the junction of the COLMAR-RHONE CANALS. Fighting in the Southern part of JEBSENHEIM continued throughout the night. A counterattack launched by the enemy from the South at 290555A was repulsed. Prisoners captured to date for this operation 224. Third Battalion continued to improve its defensive positions in BOIS de JEBSENHEIM vicinity and pushed outposts to the canal. Aggressive patrolling was maintained throughout the night. At 291100A Company I and Company L left their assembly areas and attacked to the Southeast with the mission of cleaning out all enemy West of JEBSENHEIM-KUNTZENHEIM road and prevent infiltration of enemy forces into JEBSENHEIM from the South. 30 January the Regiment continued its attack in the South part of JEBSENHEIM South to the COLMAR CANAL and East to the junction of the COLMAR-RHONE canal. At 291415A enemy reinforcements were seen North of the COLMAR CANAL moving North on the JEBSENHEIM-KUNTZENHEIM road. Village street and house to house fighting continued throughout the day. At 1030 the Third Battalion was relieved of its responsibility in the BOIS de JEBSENHEIM sector by the 15th Infantry and moved to JEBSENHEIM to assist the First Battalion and Second Battalion. At 292100A the Regiment had reduced all enemy resistance South to the COLMAR canal and approximately 800 yards East of JEBSENHEIM. At that time the Regiment prepared defensive positions for the night preparatory to

continuing the attack to the East the following day. Approximately 400 enemy Prisoners of War were captured during the period 291000A to 292100A. At 300930A the First Battalion with Company F in reserve attacked East toward the COLMAR-RIEON Canal junction. By 1200 slight progress had been made. 31 January the First Battalion with Company F attached continued its attack East from JEB-SHEIM toward RIEON CANAL in conjunction with CGC. Heavy automatic fire was received from COLMAR CANAL and woods vicinity V845430. The battalion continued to advance and at 1200 had reached the line 832454-831483. The enemy staged a counterattack vicinity 832454. The counter-attack was broken up and the battalion held their line, establishing defensive positions vicinity V825453 North. Third Battalion established defensive positions on the left of First Battalion vicinity V823456 extending North around JEB-SHEIM to and including JEB-JESIL-GRUSSENHEIM road. At 1900A First Battalion was relieved on position by Second Battalion and First Battalion reverted to Regimental Reserve vicinity V800477.

II SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

a. Period 1 January 1945 through 091000A: The units of this regiment were attached to other elements of the Division. See reports of 7th Infantry, 15th Infantry, and 30th Infantry for summary of enemy operations during this period.

b. Period 091000A through 230700A: Elements of the 748th Volksgrenadier Regiment and 760th VGR (both members of the 708th VCD) held a line along the ILL RIVER from the lower finger of the ILLWALD V7756 to ILLHAUSEN V7753, in the western part of the FORET COMMUNALE de COLMAR, in the part of OSTHEIM V7251 East of the PECHT RIVER, along the Eastern bank of the PECHT RIVER to include strongly fortified positions at the CHATEAU de SCHOPFENBERG V7248 and along the stream southward, well dug in positions on the North and South sides of Hill 216 V6948 and along the South bank of the WEISS RIVER. Activity during this period was limited to patrolling with several large patrols attacking our outposts on various nights at 752567, 721507, 703491 and 719497. During this period, the enemy maintained a continuous program of mortar (mostly medium, with some heavy) and artillery (mostly light, with some medium, but no heavy) fire generally on our forward positions, with the towns of GUMMACH, OSTHEIM, SIGOLSHEIM, and ABERESCHWIER receiving the bulk of the fire, and the roads to these places receiving considerable interdiction.

c. Period 230700A to 250700A: The Second and Third Companies of 760th Infantry supported by elements of the 14th Company resisted our attack on Hill 216 from dug-in positions North and South of that hill which included wire and numerous Sahu-mines. The attack was also met by considerable small arms and mortar fire from East of the PECHT RIVER vicinity trestle at 719497, CHATEAU 7248, and the woods along PECHT and WEISS Rivers. Considerable light artillery also fell on our forward positions during the attack.

d. Period 251600A to 312400A: The battle of JIBENHEIM VU048 and the BOIS de JIBENHEIM V7846, and the BOIS DE LA HARDT V8345, met with fierce resistance with the enemy throwing in many troops and a number of tanks and tank destroyers in an effort to maintain a bridgehead North of the COLMAR CANAL. All three battalions of the 130th Mountain Regiment, two battalions of the 137th Mountain Regiment, part of DO HORST, part of 82d Engineer Battalion, and Bicycle Company Second Battalion (Reconnaissance), were all identified in this and neighboring

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sectors. The enemy also used several heavy tanks and a number of heavy armored self propelled guns, along with the usual light and medium artillery pieces. Strong defenses were met in the BOIS de JESSHEIM, along the RIGOLE de WIDENHOLEN from the MOULIN de JESSHEIM V792409 to an area Southwest of JESSHEIM; in the town of JESSHEIM itself from house to house, especially in the southern part, along the JESSHEIM - MONTBHEIM road, and along the western edge of BOIS DE LA HARTE V8345 and within the woods itself. Enemy defenses were of the foxhole and weapon pit type, many with overhead cover, some old concrete emplacements and shelters, and reinforced houses in the town. By the end of the period the enemy had been almost completely driven out of the area North and West of the COLMAR and REIMS-REIMS Canals.

•• 586 enlisted Prisoners of War and 12 Officers passed through the Regimental Cage during the month, all of whom were captured during the period 26 January through 31 January.

III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

Regiment occupying defensive position (see attached overlay).

IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL

a. Personnel.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
Present (1 Jan 45)	152	5	2769	2926
Absent (1 Jan 45)	1	0	34	35
Assigned (1 Jan 45)	153	5	2803	2961
Battle casualties evacuated	28	0	379	407
Battle casualties non-evacuated	2	0	30	32
Non-Battle Casualties evacuated	7	0	396	403
Non-Battle Casualties non-evacuated	0	0	194	194
Missing in Action	2	0	44	46
Killed in Action	9	0	31	40
Returned to Units	3	0	68	71
Reinforcements received	0	0	374	374
Present (31 Jan 45)	114	5	2375	2494

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Absent (31 Jan 45)	13	0	3	16
Assigned (31 Jan 45)	127	5	2578	2510

2. Materiel.

- a. Vehicles lost as result of enemy action during month of January:
 14 trucks, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 4x4, G&R
 2 trucks, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 6x6 cargo
 3 trailers, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 2 wheel trailers
- b. Enemy vehicles captured intact or serviceable:
 1 truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 4x2, cargo, 1940 Dodge
 1 truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 4x2, cargo, Styr-Daimler
- c. Status of major items of Ordnance 31 Jan 45:

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
Bayonet, M1, w/soabbard	1447
Carbine, Cal. 30 M1	756
Knife, bayonet, M4, w/soabbard	1203
Launcher, rocket, M9A1	95
Launcher, Grenade, M7	419
Launcher, Grenade, M3	94
Pistol, Automatic Cal .45 M1911A1	282
Projector, Pyrotechnic, M9	69
Rifle, Cal .30 M1903A4	27
Gun, AT, 57mm M1, w/carriage M1A2	18
Howitzer, 105mm, M3, w/carriage M3	6
Binoculars, 6x50, M13 or substitute	358
Circle, aiming, M1	7
Clinometer, MG, M1917	24
Compass, M6	5
Finder, range, M9A1	2 (4 not desired)
Quadrant, gunners, M1	24
Telescope, obs M43	5
Mount, Truck, pedestal, M24A2	24
Mount, Truck, pedestal, M51	14
Mount, Truck, pedestal, M57	9
Mount, MG, Cal .30 M43	33
Mount, Truck, M50	9
Gun, Machine, Cal .30 M1917A1	21
Gun, Machine, Cal .30 M1919A4	2
Gun, Machine, Cal .30 M1919A6	34
Gun, machine, cal .50 HB M2	35
Gun, machine (Sub) Cal .45 M3	75 (12 on MR)
Gun, submachine Cal. 45 M1	42 (on MR)
Mount, tripod, M1917A1	21
Mount, tripod, Cal .30 M2	33
Elevator, cradle AA .50 Cal M1	18
Mortar, 60mm, with mount	26
Mortar, 81mm, with mount	13

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Truck, 1/2 ton, C&R	136
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4x4 with winch	11
Truck, 3/4 ton, 4x4 without winch	4
Truck, 1 1/2 ton, 6x6 cargo	8
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6x6 cargo w/w	33
Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6x6 cargo w/o/w	25
Trailer, 1/2 ton, 2 wheel cargo	81
Trailer, 1 ton, 2 wheel cargo	28

Notes: Items shown at less than T/2 strength reflect battle losses on which battle loss certificates have been filed through the proper supply channels.

e. Status of Signal materiel, 31 Jan 45:

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
Detector Set, SCR-625	9
Maintenance Equipment, MZ-40	7
Radio, SCR-300	35
Radio, SCR-536	55
Radio, SCR-694	10
Reel Equipment CR-11	104
Reel Equipment RL-31	7
Switchboard BD 71	4
Switchboard BD 72	2
Telegraph Set, TG-5	7
Telephone, EE3	42
Test Equipment TE-17	4

f. Status of C&S materiel, 31 Jan 45:

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
Alarm Gas, M1	19
Apparatus, decontaminating, 1 1/2 qt. cap. M2 (including those mounted in vehicles)	226
Kit, vapor detector M9	12
Kit, repair, gas mask	19
Mask, gas, service, lightweight	2400
Respirator, dust, M1, M2, M3 or CT	452

g. Since the unit went into action 2 January 1945 supply procedure as followed by the Third Infantry Division have been followed insofar as practicable in this unit, and replacement and replenishment has been found prompt and in sufficient quantity.

V. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In village fighting houses once taken must be thoroughly searched and garrisoned until all surrounding area is cleared and searched; otherwise small enemy elements by-passed in the advance will infiltrate back into the houses after our troops have passed on. Avenues of enemy infiltration into

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the village should be occupied early, and the village surrounded if possible, to prevent enemy reinforcement of his troops defending the village. Under local protection of foot troops armor should be pushed well forward where it can fire directly into enemy occupied buildings and strong points. All personnel should carry extra pairs of dry socks at all times and daily changes should be carefully supervised. If feet of men become wet in cold weather, for any reason, such as unavoidable passage through water, all socks should be changed immediately on reaching cover.

JOSEPH H. WARREN,
Colonel, 254th Infantry,
Commanding.

21 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: 1st Bn less Co C remained in BEBLLENHEIM undergoing training program. Co C remained in RIBEAUUVIL attached to 2d Bn as Bn reserve. The 3d Bn less I Co remained in BEBLLENHEIM undergoing training program. Co I was in RIBEAUUVILLE attached to 2d Bn as Bn reserve. The 2d Bn continued to improve their defensive positions by laying additional wire and improving overhead cover. Contact was maintained with adjacent unit

22 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: 1st Bn (less C Co) remained in an assembly area in BEBLLENHEIM undergoing training. Co C was released from attachment to 2d Bn and reverted to 1st Bn control at 220900A. At 2205A, and again at 2255A Co D fired approximately 100 rds of 81mm mortar at enemy patrol observed NORTH of Hill 216. Enemy patrol withdrew to SOUTHEAST slope of hill and could be heard digging in there. The 2d Bn continued to hold and improve its front line defensive positions. At 2310A G Co outpost at V719497 was attacked by enemy patrol of approximately 35-40 men. Enemy used MG and mortars; outpost checked the attack and called for mortar and arty concentrations, causing enemy to withdraw. The 3d Bn (less Co I)

23 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: Regimental CP closed at RIBEAUUVILLE and opened at BEBLLENHEIM 1500A. The Regt launched attack at 0700 NORTH of Hill 216 to isolate and capture Hill 216. 1st Bn assault Bn, A Co on right and B Co on left, C Co in Reserve. Attack was preceded by 15-minute arty preparation. Companies A and B encountered heavy machine gun and mortar fire after crossing LD. Both Companies continued to advance and at 1200A Co A approached the top of Hill 216 and B Co was in the Vic of V710487. Well dug-in positions protected by AP mine Schu mines and booby traps were encountered. 2d Bn continued to hold and improve its front line defensive positions. 3d Bn in Regt's reserve in Vic of BEBLLENHEIM.

24 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: The Regt (less 2d Bn) continued its attack on Hill 216 and SOUTH to the WEISS River with 1st Bn as assault Bn. Co A on the right and Co B on the left and C in reserve. At 1045A Co B was pinned down along line V703484 to V708495. Co C was committed around B Co's left flank at 1210A. At 1230A the 1st Bn had seized all of Hill 216. The Bn continued to advance SOUTH to road generally along V692482 to V705484 where their advance was halted by fire from Vic of WEISS River. At 1800A 3d Bn (less I Co) was committed around the 1st Bn right flank. At 2010A 3d Bn reached the WEISS River and held the river line to the juncture of the FECHT and WEISS Rivers at V703473. At this time the Bns reorganized and dug-in for the night. At 240940A Co C started out with the mission to mop up along LA FECHT River from junction of LA FECHT and WEISS Rivers to stream crossing at V717483 and established contact with the 7th Inf. At total of 44 prisoners were captured during the period. During the night of 23 Jan the 2d Bn was relieved from position by passage through their lines by 7th Inf and 30th Inf. 2d Bn moved to RIBEAUUVILLE STATION where they were attached to 15th Inf at 0220A.

AFTER ACTION REPORT EXTRACTS
3rd INFANTRY DIVISION

25 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: The regiment less 2d Bn continued to hold WEISS River line from power line Vic V689478 to junction of LA ECHT River Vic V703473. Co I and Co K received S/A fire and mortar fire from the SOUTH. Co C received heavy S/A and mortar fire from SOUTH of WEISS River line. At 14154 a patrol from I Co knocked out an enemy position at bridge V687479 killing 10 and capturing 1. Elements of regiment were relieved on position by 3d Bn 112th Regt. Relief was completed 240700A and command of sector passed to CO 3d Bn 112th Inf. Regiment less 2d Bn moved by shuttling from BEBLENHEIM to an assembly area in COLMAR Forest Vic V7651, and closed in to assembly area 241200A. 2d Bn released attachment 15th Inf 241020A and reverted to Regt's control Vic V7651.

26 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Infantry: Regt's CP moved from BEBLENHEIM to COLMAR Forest (V756507) at 1500. The Regt attacked toward JEBSHEIM at 1600. The attack was temporarily halted by intense enemy S/A and MG fire from woods Vic V790475 and from NORTHWEST tip of JEBSHEIM. Hasty defensive positions were prepared along stream line from V793483 to Vic JEBSHEIM MILL at V798489. The Regt reorganized and prepared to continue the attack.

27 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: The Regt resumed its attack to seize JEBSHEIM and BOIS DE JEBSHEIM and secure canal crossings over COLMAR canal in its zone. The 1st and 2d Bns resumed their attack at 1630. to seize JEBSHEIM, 2 Bns abreast, 1st Bn on the right. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered by 1st Bn from Pillbox located 500 yds NORTH of JEBSHEIM. Concrete pillbox was approximately 7 feet high and 18 to 24 inch walls and top manned by 12 men. It was reduced and advance continued. After a 15-minute arty barrage, the 2d Bn entered JEBSHEIM at 2355, followed by the 1st Bn. House to house fighting continued throughout the night, and the following morning. At 261200, all but the SOUTH tip of JEBSHEIM was in our hands. At 261200, the 3d Bn moved to RIEDWIHR with the mission to attack SOUTHEAST to clear BOIS DE JEBSHEIM from the SOUTH. The Bn started its attack at 1750. Enemy strong point was encountered at V792486. Prepared enemy position was located along the stream line from V797476 to V798473. At 271200, the Bn had reached the SOUTH tip of BOIS DE JEBSHEIM. An enemy strong point along stream line in Vic V797476 had been by-passed and preparations were being made to reduce it.

28 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Inf: The Regt (less 3d Bn) continued mopping up in S part of JEBSHEIM and started establishing defensive position in its sector. Heavy S/R fire from the BOIS DE LA HARDT, E of JEBSHEIM, prevented supporting Tds from reducing enemy strong points. At 281200A mopping up was still continuing. 3d Bn completed its mission of clearing the BOIS DE JEBSHEIM and S in its zone to the COLMAR Canal. Enemy strongpoints along stream line from V797476 to V798433, by-passed during initial attack were reduced. Defensive position was established and outposts sent forward to Vic of Canal. Contact patrols between 3d Bn and 2d Bn were discontinued for the night due to enemy action in JEBSHEIM. Aggressive patrols were maintained throughout 3d Bn zone to check possible enemy infiltration from direction of JEBSHEIM. Defensive positions were improved.

29 JANUARY 1945

(4) 254th Infantry: The regiment (less 3d Bn) continued its attack from JEBSEIM towards the COLMAR Canal to the Junction of the COLMAR - RHONE Canals. Fighting in the S of JEBSEIM continued throughout the night. A counterattack launched by the enemy from the S at 290555Z was repulsed. Prisoners captured to Crt for this operation 224. 3d Bn continued to improve its defensive position in BOIS DE JEBSEIM vic. and pushed outposts to the Canal. Aggressive patrolling was maintained throughout the night. At 291100Z, Co's I and L left their assembly areas and attacked to the SE with the mission of cleaning out all enemy W of JEBSEIM - MUNTZENHEIM road and prevent infiltration of enemy forces into JEBSEIM from the S.

30 JANUARY 45

(4) 254th Inf: The regt continued its attack in the SOUTH of JEBSEIM SOUTH to the COLMAR Canal and EAST to the junction of the COLMAR - RHONE Canal. At 291415Z enemy reinforcements were seen NORTH of the COLMAR Canal moving NORTH on the JEBSEIM-MUNTZENHEIM road. Fierce house to house and street fighting continued throughout the day. At 1630Z the 3d Bn was relieved of its responsibility in the Bois de JEBSEIM sector by the 15th Inf and moved to JEBSEIM to assist the 1st and 2d Bns. At 292100Z the regt had reduced all enemy resistance SOUTH to the COLMAR Canal and approximately 800 yds EAST of JEBSEIM. At that time the regt prepared defensive positions for the night preparatory to continuing the attack to the EAST the following day. Approximately 400 enemy PWs were captured during the period 291200Z to 292100Z. At 300930Z the 1st Bn with F Co in reserve attacked EAST toward the COLMAR - RHONE Canal junction. By 1200Z slight progress had been made.

31 JANUARY 45

(4) 254th Inf: The 1st Bn with Co F attached continued its attack EAST from JEBSEIM toward RHONE Canal in conjunction with CC6. Heavy automatic fire was received from COLMAR Canal and woods Vic. V845430. The Bn continued to advance and at 1200Z had reached the line V829454 - V831463. The enemy staged a counterattack Vic V832454. The C/A was broken up and Bn held line, established defensive positions Vic V825453 NORTH. 3d Bn established defensive position on the left of 1st Bn Vic V823466 extending NORTH around JEBSEIM to and including JEBSEIM - GRUSSENHEIM road. At 1900Z the 1st Bn was relieved on positions by 2d Bn and 1st Bn reverted to Regt's 1 reserve Vic V805477.

ing many casualties and proving instrumental in forcing a complete German withdrawal. Then the clouds closed in once more.

During the struggle a number of enemy entered the woods from the east and got behind 2d Battalion positions. A hurriedly-gathered task force of doughboys, with a Flakwagon in support, was organized, and the enemy was put to flight after a stiff engagement.

The 254th Infantry jumped off at 1630 in resumption of its attack toward Jebnheim; 1st Battalion was

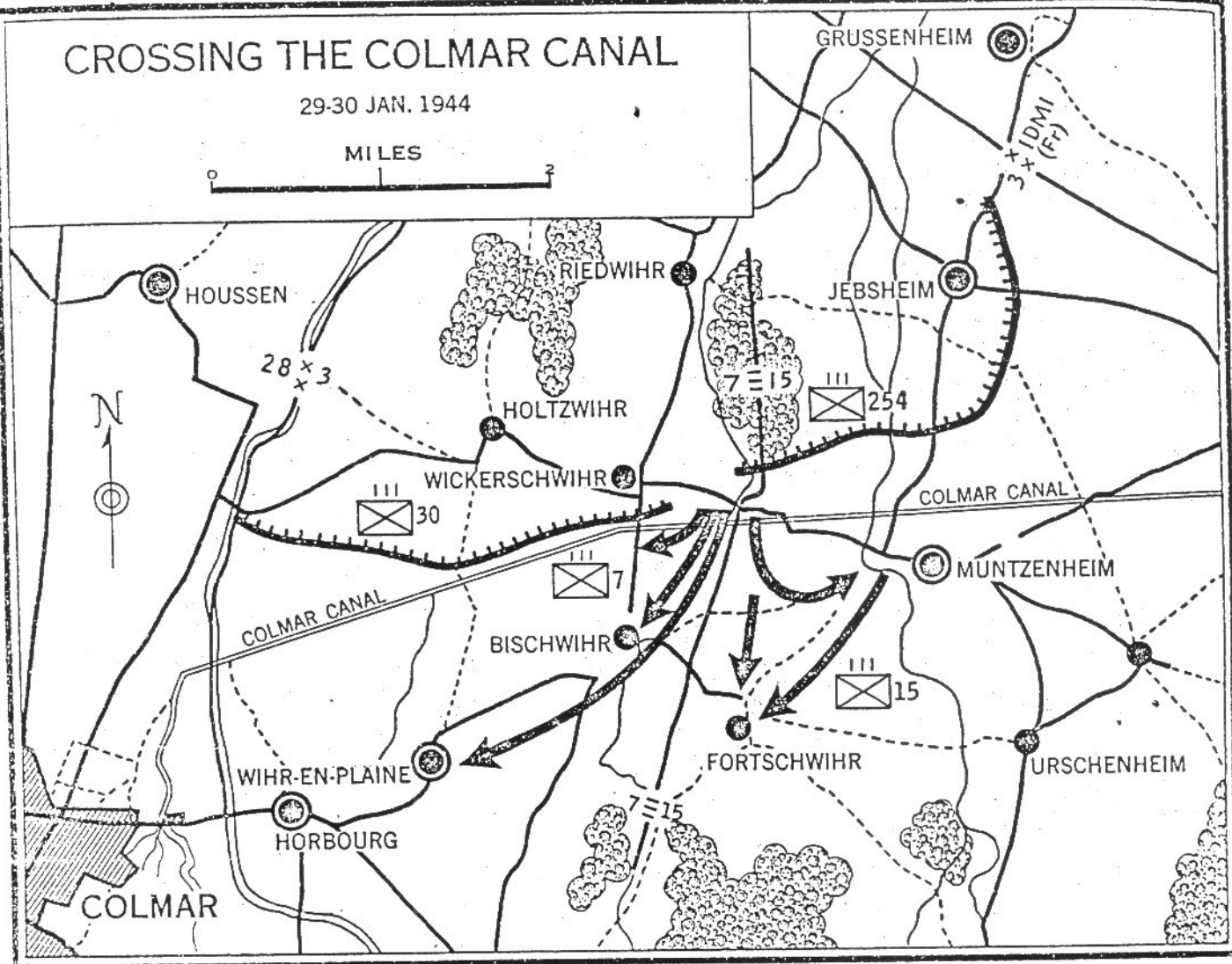
on the right, 2d Battalion on the left. The 1st Battalion encountered strong enemy resistance from a pillbox 500 yards north of Jebnheim, which was seven feet high and manned by twelve men. Following its reduction the advance continued. The 2d Battalion entered Jebnheim at 2355, following a 15-minute artillery barrage, and 1st Battalion followed. Stiff house-to-house fighting lasted through the night and into the morning.

The 3d Battalion, 254th Infantry, attacked at 1750

CROSSING THE COLMAR CANAL

29-30 JAN. 1944

MILES



January 26, with the mission of advancing southeast and clearing the Bois de Jebnheim from the south. Prepared enemy positions were encountered along a stream line and the advance was slow, likewise continuing throughout the night into the next day.

The 7th Infantry's 1st and 2d Battalions made local attacks during the afternoon of the 26th to improve their positions preparatory to relief. The 3d Battalion, following artillery preparation, attacked south from Brunnwald woods at 1300, with the Battle Patrol attacking east of Houssen. This got away at 1300 with the purpose of clearing some enemy who were well-intrenched between a dike and the Ill River on the left flank. Company I was particularly successful in its mission, although it was a very bloody small attack. During the night 28th Division's 109th Infantry elements relieved 7th Infantry, which went into Division reserve after having attacked continuously since the night of January 22.

The morning of January 27th saw a reorganized, vengeful 30th Infantry in the fight once again. The

2d Battalion left its assembly area at 0445 in an attack toward the Colmar Canal which was coordinated with French units on its flank. The 1st Battalion moved out, crossing its line of departure and clearing across the road leading southwest from Riedwihr to an area in the vicinity of west of Wickerschwihr by 0510. The 3d Battalion blocked east of the Ill River. By 0845 Company E reported the east side of Holtzwihr clear. Company F, after losing a tank to enemy bazooka fire, withdrew to its line of departure to reorganize, and attacked again, to report the remainder of Holtzwihr clear by 0950. The 1st Battalion cleaned out Wickerschwihr by noon.

The Division Commander later praised the 30th Infantry for its rapid reorganization and resumption of the offensive. In his own words: "It took a fighting regiment to make the gains you made on January 22-23. but it took a great regiment to come back after the reverses you suffered and kick hell out of the kraut at Holtzwihr and Wickerschwihr."

By noon of the 27th all but the southern tip of

Jebsheim was reported clear by the 254th Infantry. Elements of 5 DB moved in to take charge of the southern part of the town, and strong German elements infiltrated back in. The task of clearing them out the French then handed back to the 254th because of their lack of infantry. Fierce fighting continued in that small tip for two more days and it was nearly midnight of January 29th before the 254th Infantry could finally and authoritatively report Jebsheim free of Germans. The regiment, new to combat prior to joining the 3d in the Colmar Pocket, acquitted itself with distinction, first in clearing troublesome Hill 216 and then mopping up in Jebsheim, taking a total of nearly 1,000 prisoners in three days. (The importance of Jebsheim was that it was one of a string of fortified towns on the enemy's main north-south communication artery.)

It now remained for the 15th and 30th Infantry regiments to clear out a few scattered German elements north of the Colmar Canal and the next large phase of the operation was ready to be initiated. During that two-day period, thorough preparations were made to slam across the canal in force, and to move far and fast. This time there was to be no repetition of the

grinding battle of attrition which had characterized the fighting so far.

Patrols to the Canal reported that it was about fifty feet wide and five feet deep, its steep banks being some twelve feet high and about eight feet wide at the top and fifteen at the bottom. The water was slow-moving, but not frozen.

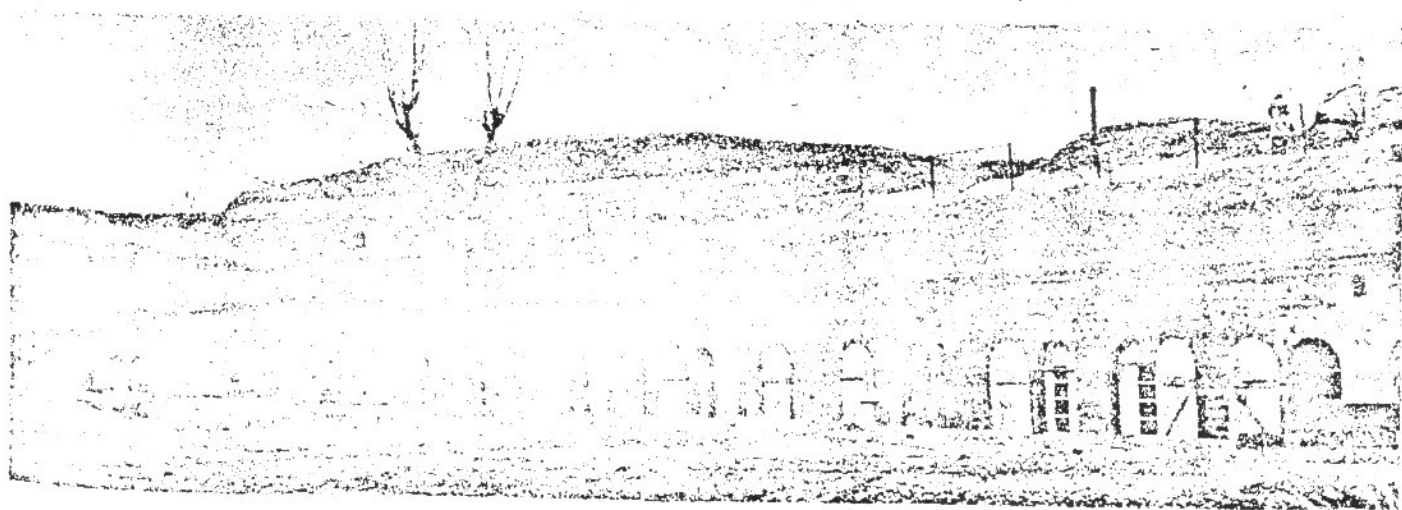
At 2100, January 28, the 3d Infantry Division passed from control of II French Corps to control of XXI American Corps, which was commanded by Maj. Gen. F. W. Milburn.

Reconnaissance along the north bank of the Colmar Canal was continuous during the hours of darkness January 28-29. Huge trucks hauling engineer bridging equipment clogged the roads behind the forward areas.

The entire French 5 DB was attached to the 3d Division as of 1635, January 29.

That evening, with the coming of darkness, 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments stole to the edges of the Colmar Canal with engineer rubber boats, and waited.

Heavy concentrations of preparatory fire of all weapons broke loose just preceding the crossing. During a 24 hour period beginning at 1800, the artillery



Within the walls of Neuf-Brisach these bunkers provided shelter to the enemy and citizens against our bombing and artillery.

FEBRUARY

NARRATIVE

The opening moments of February found the regiment in position at Jébsheim ready to resume its part of the clearing of the Colmar pocket. Each man was acutely aware of the fact that he had two enemies - the weather and the Germans - and many wondered which was the most formidable. Nevertheless, at 0100 the third battalion jumped off, having as its mission the seizure, clearing and occupation of the Bois de la Hardt woods east of Jébsheim. The other two battalions continued to hold and improve their positions just outside of that city.

The battalion, in a column of companies, advanced into machine gun fire almost as soon as it left the line of departure; it was not until three hours later that the left flank, L Company, reached the edge of the woods. Here they built up a base of fire to their front and right so strong that I and K Companies were also able to gain the woods line less than two hours later. With this objective reached, the most difficult part of the mission was accomplished, for the enemy's strongest defenses were at this woods line.

By 0630 the battalion was about 400 yards into the woods advancing with L on the left, I in the center, and K on the right. The advance had been partially slowed by the number of prisoners that all three companies were taking. It was at this time that word was received from the 15th Infantry that elements of that organization were held up by some strong points in the third battalion area. However, the battalion took only an hour more, till 0733, to reach its objective. Immediately K Company, still on the right flank, received a strong counterattack, which was repulsed with such ferocity that a platoon from F company had to be sent to the Third Battalion to handle prisoners. The final count on PW's for the day was 165 including 4 officers.

Meanwhile, the French DB 2 was attacking Artzenheim and I Company sent a reinforced platoon to guard the bridge that led across the canal into that city.

By noon all that section of the Bois de la Hardt woods between the Colmar Canal and the Jébsheim-Artzenheim road was in the hands of the third battalion. All afternoon this unit spent in preparing hasty defensive positions and sending combat patrols of platoon size through the entire area. One of these patrols established a block in the Bois de la Hardt north of the Jébsheim-Artzenheim road to prevent the enemy from interfering with our use of this highway.

A series of fast movements marked the next day, February 2d for the entire regiment. Early in the morning orders were received that the

regiment was to establish blocks along the Rhine River from Artzenheim to Biesheim as the 7th Infantry uncovered the Rhine on its advance south. The Second Battalion was immediately alerted and moved out at 0400 to follow the 7th Infantry with the mission of protecting the rear and flank of the regiment while on the way to outpost the Rhine from Artzenheim to the vicinity of Baltzenheim. The First Battalion then moved to Kunheim and outposted the Rhine River from Baltzenheim to the vicinity east of Kunheim.

The Third Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Kunheim while the Regimental CP shifted to Durrenentzen. Later that day the Third Battalion followed elements of the 7th Infantry in its attack and also established outposts on the Rhine River extending from Biesheim north to the junction of the Rhine-Rhone Canal.

In addition to this, the Battalion, with C Company attached, was also given the mission of clearing out an enemy pocket between the east branch of the Rhone-Rhine and the Rhine River south to the vicinity of Biesheim. At 1030, February 3d, C and L Companies began their attack. They encountered such extensive minefields that in the southwest portion of the Bois Boulay that the attack was temporarily halted. Finally the minefield was skirted to the west and the attack was resumed by C Company. L Company, which was on the right, was pinned down before it could jump off.

With the first platoon on the left, the second on the right, and the third in reserve, C Company began its advance at 2100 with two TD's attached to each platoon. Almost as soon as the line of departure was left, before they had advanced a hundred yards, the company was stopped by heavy concentrations of 120mm mortar and machine gun fire apparently coming from the cemetery to their right front. The tank destroyers, after withstanding a barrage of 88mm antitank fire, were forced to withdraw. Thus C Company was left without any armored support and withdrew to the line of departure where L Company had already begun to dig in on their right. By this time it was 0630 of the 4th of February. The rest of the regiment continued holding their dug-in positions along the Rhine while C and L Companies improved their hastily built defenses. The next morning elements of the 15th Infantry passed through the Third Battalion defense lines and continued the attack to the south. Following the advance of that unit, the Third Battalion established additional outposts along the Rhine as far south as the Canal bridge near Biesheim.

These positions were held by the regiment until February 6th, on which date the entire regiment was relieved by the 7th and elements of the 30th Infantry. The relief was completed by 2000 and all companies were billeted in Jobsheim by 2300 preparatory to further movement. A few hours later, the regiment began a truck march to Menthron. Upon arrival the regiment was attached to the 100th Infantry division as division reserve, relieving the 274th Infantry.

The following day, February 10th, the battalions were sent to different towns still as reserve for the 100th Division. The First Battalion remained in Montbronn, the Second in Enchenberg and the Third in St Louis as regimental reserve for the 398th.

The main mission at this time was organizing and improving secondary defense lines in the division sector. Elements of the First and Third Battalions were posted as guards on all critical bridges. Antitank Company relieved the Antitank Company of the 274th Infantry in Soucht while Cannon Company reinforced Division Artillery.

Plans for the defense of Montbronn and counterattack plans were drawn; those units not engaged in preparing secondary defenses were receiving training stressing small unit tactics, weapons training, village fighting, area defense and combat drill. Particularly stressed were the after-battle critiques and corrections of errors noticed.

On February 11th orders were received from the XV Corps that the regiment should furnish one rifle company to guard that Corps CP at Fenetrang. In compliance with this the Company Commander of C Company left for Fenetrang to report there at 0900 February 12 and later that day the entire company made a truck march to carry out that mission.

On the 13th of February Colonel Warren received a letter of commendation from the Commanding General, Major General John W O'Daniel, of the Third Infantry Division. The letter said, in part, "The 254th Infantry has been attached to the Third Division for the past six weeks. During this period the division has engaged in some of the most strenuous combat that it has experienced and, as an immediate result of this combat, the former Colmar pocket has been eliminated. The 254th Infantry has played a very important role in this successful operation. Every mission assigned to the regiment by the division has been accomplished. The regiment has fought with outstanding gallantry and perseverance.

"The Third Division salutes all members of the 254th Infantry as worthy comrades in arms. We are proud to have been associated with you and we regret your departure."

Another commendation came two days later when the Commanding General of the Seventh Army, Lieutenant General Patch and members of his staff, as well as Major Generals Haislip, Keyes and Burress, visited the Regimental CP and commended Colonel Warren on the regiment's performance in helping the Third Division clean out the Colmar pocket. General Patch said that he came all the way down to Montbronn to tell Colonel Warren that the 254th Infantry did as good a job as any of the regiments of the Third Division and they were veterans of a lot of experience. He said he was "mighty glad to have us."

Until the 11th of February the regiment continued acting as reserve for the 100th Division. During this time the First Battalion in Montbronn

started preparation on counterattack plans to repel hostile penetrations and restore battle positions near Petit Rederching, Aleinsmuhl, Welschoff Clausenberg, Goetzenbuck and Meisenthal. While the Second Battalion in Enchenberg prepared positions around Reyerswiller, Hottsviller and Urbach both battalions were prepared to occupy defensive positions in Maginot Line in the vicinity of Petit Rederching and blocking positions north-west of Guisberg.

The Third Battalion in St Louis meanwhile began preparation on counterattack plans to repel hostile penetrations near Sarreinsberg, Lemberg, and Reyerswiller. In addition this Battalion furnished guards for critical bridges and prepared craters in the 398th Inf sector.

The regiment remained assigned to the 100th Division until the 17th on which date they were released with the exception of Third Battalion and moved by motor to Wilerwald. Upon arrival in this town the 254th Infantry reverted to control of the 63d Division.

The First Battalion was immediately attached to the 253d Infantry and moved to the vicinity of Auersmacher while the 2d Bn was placed in Division reserve in Steinbacher Hof.

The Regimental CP moved to Sarreguemines and at 2115 initiated the relief of elements of the 253d and 255th Infantry. Only the Second Battalion remained under regimental control at this time, for the First Battalion was still assigned to the 253d Infantry while the Third Battalion remained in St Louis attached to the 100th Division.

The most important happening of the day was the awarding of the Croix de Guerre with Palm by General de Tattre de Tassigny, Commander in Chief of the First French Army, to Colonel Joseph H Warren, Lieutenant Colonel James E Hatcher, Lieutenant Colonel Donald E Matheson, Lieutenant Colonel William J Bryan, and Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Robert E Tucker in Colmar.

It was not until the 23d that the First Battalion rejoined the regiment which resulted in the regiment taking over a larger sector. At this time two patrols operated from the Second Battalion. One, a patrol from E Company of squad size, was sent to reconnoiter Bliesschweyen and determine enemy strength and automatic weapon position in that vicinity. This patrol met no resistance and located no enemy. At daylight the patrol assembled in the southern end of the town, established an OP, and remained there.

The other patrol, patrol "Smuck", left F Company with the mission of crossing the Blies River, entering Bliessmengen, destroying enemy installations, capturing PW's and returning. This group, which was of platoon size reinforced, entered Bliesschweyen at 0045 on the 23d. The patrol encountered no enemy but received heavy mortar fire. Civilians in the town reported that the enemy had withdrawn during the past few days. This patrol withdrew at 0115.

On the 24th, the 63d Division continued its attack to the north. Coordinating with 253d Infantry on the left, Company B seized Hill 240 without opposition. As diverting raids, two patrols "Brill" and "Jones" were sent to make thrusts at Bliesbolchen and Bliesmengen respectively. The two patrols crossed the Blies River in rubber boats at 0515, "Brill" entering Bliesbolchen from the south and "Jones" entering Bliesmengen from the north. "Jones" advanced 200 yards into town without drawing fire; suddenly the enemy opened up with heavy machine gun and small arms fire. At 0730 the patrol withdrew from town and recrossed the river under machine gun and small arms fire.

Meanwhile, "Brill" had moved 250 yards North through the town and opened fire to create diversionary action. This patrol also withdrew to the river at 0730 and recrossed under heavy machine gun and small arms fire. Several rubber boats were destroyed by mortar fire in the return crossing. Our casualties consisted of one enlisted man killed, one officer and four enlisted men wounded. Known enemy casualties were two killed and one wounded.

The last four days of the month were spent in improving the sector that the regiment already had. As February ended the regiment was in position east and north of Sarreguemines with the 253d on the left and the 255th on the right.

SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the period, the enemy had been cleared out of Jobshain (V8845) and the area south to the Colmar Canal and driven east to the Bois de la Hardt. At this time he prepared positions on the western edge of the woods generally along the 833 easting from the Colmar Canal north to include the northern woods (V8847). Here he also utilized many previously prepared earth and log weapons pits and several large shelters within the woods, two of which were large reinforced concrete structures of the Maginot fortifications. An estimated 600 enemy organized that part of the defenses north of the Colmar Canal consisting mainly of remnants of the 136th Mountain Regiment which had incorporated within its ranks remnants of 88 Hurst; first battalion of the 137th Mountain Regiment; elements of the 703th Fusilier Bn which was in the process of relieving parts of the 180th Regiment; and several small miscellaneous groups. In support were also two or three armored vehicles, possibly Panzerjaegers (MK V chassis mounting 75mm or 88mm high velocity gun). Artillery support consisted of several batteries light artillery emplaced around Artzenheim. From his positions, the enemy resisted our attack toward the Bois de la Hardt at 010100 with small arms, mortar and artillery fire and some tank fire but was driven out of the woods by 010730 and his counter-attack immediately thereafter promptly repulsed. Our attack resulted in many enemy casualties including 21 PW's (5 of whom were officers), of which number 42 were evacuated through medical channels. After this action, the enemy abandoned all attempts at keeping a foothold north of the Colmar Canal and west of the Rhine-Rhone Canal and withdrew all his forces east of the latter over the Artzenheim bridge (V849435), which he later destroyed. At this time contact was lost with the enemy until elements of the regiment were thrown in to clear out some strong points northeast of Biesheim (V8557) at 031030 where several hastily organized units, including one made up of remnants of the 136th and 137th Mountain Regiments, a ground air force unit (GAF Brigade Oberrhein), an unidentified engineer unit, held a line within the Bois Boulay (V8733) and a strong point at the cemetery (V884383) which fiercely resisted our attack with rifle, machine gun and mortar fire. Contact was lost again on 5 February when the 18th Inf passed through our lines. From the 5th to the 6th of the month we outposted the Rhine River from vic Artzenheim (V8546) to vic Biesheim (V8537) with no enemy activity except some scattered harassing artillery fire.

From the 8th to the 20th of the month, elements of the regiment were attached to other units for operations and there was no contact with the enemy by the regiment.

From the 20th of the month to the end of the period, while the regiment held a defensive position generally northeast of Sarreguines (Q5156), the enemy adopted a strictly defensive attitude, making no show of force against our lines and not molesting any of our patrols except the raid directed at the towns of Eliczenon (Q5460) and Elicbolchen (Q5461) on the night of 24 February which he resisted with rifle, machine gun, and mortar fire. Units in contact during this period were the following elements of the 19th Volksgrenadier division: 2d Battalion and 9th Company of the 74th VGR, 2d Company of the 119th Engineer Battalion, one or more Alarm Companies, with a combined strength of between 300-400. In reserve were several more Alarm Companies, the 2d Battalion of the 73d VGR, also part of the 19th VGD.

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DD Form 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1953

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His positions at this time consisted generally of weapons pits and foxholes with many shelters with overhead cover with strong points in the buildings at Kartungshof (Q5364) and at Grafenthal (Q5562). In support were some mortars and artillery and several self-propelled guns. His lines included the Kartungshof buildings and woods, gravel pit and vicinity (Q53629), and high ground from Q539625 to Q546626, possible positions in Elsmengon-Polchen (Q5461) and generally north of the Elbe River to vicinity Q550605. At the end of the period, he was content to hold this line and harass our forward positions with small arms, mortar and artillery fire. During the period the regiment took 247 prisoners (5 of them were officers); of this number 173 were processed through our regimental cage, 42 were evacuated through medical channels, and 32 were evacuated through other channels when elements of the regiment were detached from the regiment.

SUPPLY

During the month of February 1946, the supply of the Regiment has been fairly satisfactory although difficulties have arisen due to the following reasons:

- a. Regiment has been attached to various units during the month including the 3d Division, 100th Division, and finally being returned to parent unit.
- b. Large losses in Colmar action which were not able to be replaced while unit was engaged in that action. Units had to be brought back up to full organizations while relieved from action.

Operations for the Period:

- a. Normal Supply. Ration supply has been good with a good, but less than adequate, supplement of bread, fresh meat, eggs, and butter being issued with the hard rations. Gasoline (V-80) has been available as required. Ammunition of certain types has been rationed by Army and supply has been very critical.
- b. Special equipment. Regiment is fairly well equipped with essential items of winter clothing. In the defensive position which the Regiment has been occupying for the most of the month, large amounts of tactical wire had to be laid and supply through normal channels has been very light. Regiment has searched surrounding area and has picked up all the wire which is no longer a part of the defensive setup.

Battle Losses:

Ordinance

- 15 pr. Binoculars, M3 or M3 w/case, carrying
- 75 ea. Carbine, cal. 30, M1
- 3 ea. Gun, machine, cal 50, Browning, M1919A6
- 5 ea. Gun, submachine, cal. 45, M3
- 1 ea. Gun, submachine, cal. 45, Thompson, M1
- 117 ea. Knife, bayonet, M4 w/scabbard, M2
- 57 ea. Launcher, grenade, M7, complete
- 15ea. Launcher, grenade, M3
- 7 ea. Launcher, rocket, 2.36", M9A1
- 2 ea Mortar, 60mm, M2 complete
- 10 ea. Mount, tripod, cal 30, M2
- 1 ea Mount, tripod, cal. 50, M3
- 27 ea. Pistol, auto., cal. 45, M1911A1 w/holsters
- 9 ea. Projector, pyrotechnic, hand, M9
- 5 ea Rifle, auto., cal. 30, Browning, M1918A2
- 2 ea Sight, mortar, M4
- 1 ea Tube, mortar, M2 (60mm)
- 7 ea. Watch, wrist, 7-9 jewel
- 2 ea. Watch, wrist, 15 jewel

Signal

- 1 ea. Antenna, AE-131
- 1 ea. Chart, Fo-5
- 3 ea Crank, CG-15
- 1 ea. Detector Set, SCR-625
- 81 ea Flashlights, TL-122
- 4 ea Handset, TS-9
- 7 ea. Emdcot, TS-10-K
- 2 ea. Lantern, elec., port., hand
- 1 ea Maintenance Equipment, ME-123
- 3 ea. Panel Set, AP-50-A
- 16 ea. Radio, SCR-538
- 8 ea. Radio, SCR-300

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DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1953.
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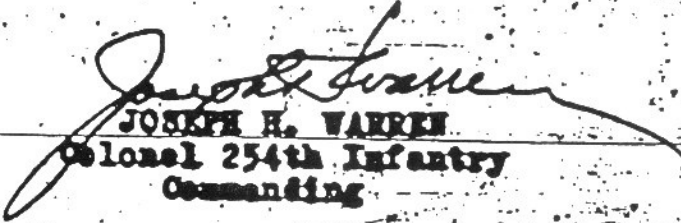
HEADQUARTERS 254TH INFANTRY
APO 410 U. S. Army

UNCLASSIFIED

9 April 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Monthly Unit Report of Operations
TO : Commanding General, 63rd Infantry Division,
APO 410, U. S. Army

In compliance with Memorandum No. 6, Headquarters
63rd Infantry Division, dated 13 February 1945, transmitted
herewith, monthly Unit Report of Operations for the month
of March 1945.


JOSEPH H. WARREN
Colonel 254th Infantry
Commanding

Incl: Rpt in Quint

COMMANDING OFFICER'S CRITIQUECOMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Raids on steel-concrete pillboxes:

Raids to be successful must be carefully planned; all personnel to participate must be briefed and if possible shown the ground. When this plan was followed the objective was reached without trouble, complete surprise having been gained.

2. Known mine-fields must be marked and removed as soon as possible. We have had men lost in known mine-fields.

3. Towns were raided one night and entered without resistance. However, the attempt to occupy the same town the following night would meet with stiff resistance. A unit must never remain assured that a town or enemy position is clear only because he has found it undefended at one particular time.

4. The most effective use of the Bangalore torpedo on concrete pillboxes was found to be the dropping of these charges down the smokepipe; if this was inaccessible, the doorway could also be used with somewhat lesser results.

5. In attacking a deliberate defense avoid using the floor of the valley. German artillery is well registered on these and the use of the side of the slope will produce fewer casualties.

6. Many times radios are operated for extended periods away from the source of supply. Be sure that plenty of batteries are carried and make sure also that these are not discarded. When the SCR 300 does not perform in one location moving it a matter of several yards will restore communication.

7. Bazookas can be used effectively from inside a house, preferably from the second story, in order to conceal the treacherous flash.

8. Troops that closely follow on the heels of an artillery preparation suffer less casualties than when they watch a five minute preparation from an LD or from a distance of normally of 600 yards.

9. Artillery preparation fire on known or suspected targets is more effective than general target area fire.

SUMMARY OF NARRATIVE

The first two weeks of the month were spent in holding defensive positions to the east of Sarreguimines across the Saare River. During this period the regimental activity was confined to combat and reconnaissance patrols and one diversionary raid.

The attack on the Siegfried Line by the Regiment began on the fifteenth of March. This assault was divided into three phases, each battalion having one of these assigned to it. The first phase consisted of the seizure of that territory east of the line of departure to the concrete emplacements of the Westwall; this included taking the tiny village of Hartingshof as well as the two towns of Eschringen and Ensheim. The second phase was the gaining and holding of the high ground in the Siegfried Line directly east of the Ensheim-St Ingbert Highway. The final phase was the breakthrough itself, effected on both sides of this highway, in order to allow the armored forces through the dragon's teeth.

The breakthrough was completed on the twentieth of March, with this Regiment the first unit in the Seventh Army to completely penetrate the fortifications. The problem of the regiment then became one of seeking the enemy in order to defeat him. The situation remained so fluid all during this final period that there were never any definite friendly lines just as there were never any static enemy lines.

As the period closed, the regiment was still driving in a generally eastern direction in the vicinity of Mannheim with extremely light enemy resistance.

NARRATIVE

Quiet and routine were the first several days of March as the regiment continued to hold its defensive position across the Saar River to the east of Sarreguemines. The 253d Infantry held the sector on our left while the 255th Infantry controlled the ground on our right flank. On the first day of the month the Third Battalion relieved the First Battalion as part of the new "six days on line, three days in" system. The reserve troops were billeted in Muenkirch where shower facilities were made available for them. Movies were also shown to these members of the resting battalion.

During this entire period enemy action was restricted to intermittent harassing shelling by mortar and light artillery. The only thing at all unusual was the amount of flares fired in all sectors by the Germans. One interpretation was that a large component of the forces facing us, mainly elements of the 74th Volksgrenadier division, were anxious to give themselves up; others of the enemy were supposedly using their pyrotechnics not so much to detect our patrols, but to assure themselves that none of their troops were infiltrating through our lines to surrender.

On March third, by divisional order, a diversionary raid was made on Hartingshof, a small settlement due east of Bliesransbach, enabling the 253d Infantry to make an attack to the north. (See appendix--"Report on Hartingshof Raid.") Meanwhile, the main activity of the regiment continued to be night reconnaissance and combat patrolling. With the Second Battalion's forward observer adjusting fire on it, a self-propelled gun was reportedly eradicated by "Cannon Company" around 1900 on March 4.

The Second Battalion on the seventh relieved elements of the 253d Infantry which put all three battalions on line; with this accomplished, the reserve system was no longer in effect. The "I & R" platoon made a reconnaissance patrol to Bliesbolchen where they reported no enemy presence in the southern sector of the town but drew rifle fire from the northwest section of that village.

Until the end of the first week of March the enemy had been content to maintain a passive resistance; however, on the night of March ninth a patrol with an estimated strength of 10 or 12 attempted to infiltrate the Second Battalion line through Company "E". One German soldier cut the concertina in front of a position belonging to "H" Company. Because of the blackness of the night, he was able to crawl within 15 feet of the emplacement before he was seen and shot at by the gunner. Both 60 and 81mm mortars were used to throw illuminating flares as well as high explosive. A 105mm barrage was called in order to protect the right flank since there was a great deal of uncertainty as to whether or not this was a patrol or an attack. Mortar fire, some of it coming within 75 yards of our lines, and flares kept the patrol pinned down until almost daybreak when the remnants made their escape taking at least two wounded with them and leaving five dead.

The First Battalion sent twenty men and one officer from Company "B" to reconnoiter that town for possible enemy presence and weapons positions. The patrol suffered two casualties in a mine field a hundred yards west of the town and returned without entering Bliesbolchen. That afternoon, the 12th of March, elements of the 114th Infantry Regiment relieved the First Battalion on position.

This unit moved to Rilschingen where the troops were placed in billet. Here they continued for two more days undergoing training while the other two battalions remained on line.

Field Order Number Four of the 254th Infantry, which was issued on March 14th, read in part, "....will assault and penetrate the Siegfried Line positions in its zone of action." The Regiment was to have the 253d Infantry on its left and the 255th Infantry on its right throughout this attack while the 63d Division was to be flanked by the 70th and 45th Divisions. The artillery support of the Regiment consisted of the 862d FA Battalion, the 18th FA Battalion, Company "A" (-) of the 99th Chemical Battalion, as well as Company "A" of the 70th Tank Battalion.

The attack easily divided itself into three phases--the First Battalion taking all that territory to the Siegfried Line including the towns of Ensheim and Eschringen in the first phase, the Third Battalion taking and holding the high ground to the east of the Ensheim-St Ingbert highway in the second phase, and the Second Battalion making the breakthrough of the line in the third and final phase.

The assault group, consisting of the First Battalion, left its line of departure at 0100A March 15 from the positions held by the Second and Third Battalions in the vicinity east of Bliesransbach. In the initial phase of the attack "C" Company was to take Hartingshof, move through the Hartingshof woods and join Company "A" in Eschringen ready to help "B" Company with Ensheim. "A" Company was to skirt Hartingshof to the left and capture Eschringen so swiftly

that the enemy would have no time to destroy the two bridges over the Eschringen River. "B" Company was to move through that town with Company "A" of the 70th Tank Battalion attached and take Ensheim before daylight. "C" Company, with the second platoon of "AT" Company, jumped off from the vicinity of Bliesransbach and rushed the small village of Hartingshof. Although the resistance was heavy for a short time, the Company was able to overrun the automatic weapons positions and the two pillboxes in that town with only a few losses. The prisoners taken were sent to Bliesransbach while the units advanced through the Hartingshof woods to the east of the town under light resistance from machine gun and small arms fire.

"A" Company moved swiftly through the Bois de Bliesransbach woods and took the town of Eschringen. The first platoon secured the northernmost bridge, the second platoon secured the southern bridge, and the third platoon cleared out the town between these two structures. This was accomplished by 0330.

"B" Company moved up through the ground to the left of Bliesransbach and entered Eschringen approximately an hour later. Immediately it moved through the town and headed toward Ensheim; however, instead of taking the road to the north they took the highway which ran northeast toward Omersheim. Advancing in a column of platoons, they met their first resistance in the form of a machine gun and an antitank gun. They were able to eliminate these by the use of grenades and then proceeded to the outskirts of Nußweilerhof under rather heavy small arms and machine gun fire. At daybreak, when the company began to dig in,

platoon-sized combat patrols were sent out.

Since the unit was without communication, two men were sent to the rear for a radio and the order was received to hold that ground the Company already occupied. They were relieved at about 1500 by "F" Company. of the 255th, this town originally being a 255th Infantry; "B" Company then pulled back to Eschringen to aid "F" Company in holding.

The Regimental Commander had realized soon after "B" Company launched its initial drive that that unit was headed for the wrong team. Since Ensheim was the objective and "C" Company had already arrived in Eschringen, he decided to commit that Company against Ensheim. This organization, with "A" Company of the 70th Tank Battalion, attacked Ensheim in a line of platoons at about 1045. No resistance was encountered until they passed the first roadblock; after this there was scattered house to house fighting as well as fire from enemy tanks which remained there. This fight lasted all that morning and most of the afternoon. "A" Company was relieved by "K" at 1230 and by 1300 were helping "C" Company clear out the town. All resistance had ceased in Ensheim by nightfall and the two companies prepared to defend the town.

Meanwhile, the Third Battalion was assembling in Ensheim preparing to begin the second phase of the regiment's attack on the Siegfried Line. Up until this time, their mission had been to follow the First Battalion ready to be committed if necessary and also to wipe out any small pockets of resistance left by the First Battalion as it proceeded in the attack. "I" Company had moved into the Hartingshof woods to eliminate any enemy resistance remaining there after "C" Company's attack early in the morning. "K" had been the leading element

of the Third Battalion in its reserve status, and it was that unit which came into Eschringen to relieve "A" Company at 1230.

The Second Battalion, which was in reserve, was stationed in the town of Bliesransbach, having left its position early in the morning after the First Battalion had passed through. With "E" Company emplaced in front of the town, "C" Company holding the village itself, and "F" Company back on Hill 240, the Battalion was ready to move forward on regimental order.

At the close of the first day, the Regiment had taken 262 enlisted men prisoners as well as 1 officer; our own casualties consisted of 8 killed and 35 wounded.

The following day the second phase of the cracking of the Siegfried Line began. The Third Battalion had as its mission the gaining and holding of the high ground west of the Ensheim-St Ingbert Highway, which was approximately two miles northwest of Ensheim. The hill which the Battalion was to capture was studded with pillboxes and as the organization pushed off at its appointed time, about 0300, there was only light artillery fire.

The battalion moved out with "K" Company as the assaulting unit, "I" Company following at 400 yards, and "L" Company was held in reserve just outside of Ensheim. "K" managed to get two of its platoons on the southeast side of the hill in the Trichenberg woods before the enemy realized that an attack-in-force was being made. When this was discovered, about 1000, an intense barrage of light and heavy artillery as well as some automatic fire was brought to bear on

the rest of the battalion. The 2d platoon of "K" Company was forced to remain in the draw at the foot of the hill. However, one assault team from "L" Company had moved up with the first elements of "K" and this group was used to clear out the pill boxes to the extreme right of the sector. By eleven-thirty, "K" had managed to reduce 3 pillboxes and had learned that the best method of doing this was to work one or two men up to the top of the emplacement under cover of automatic weapon and small arms fire. This fire kept the enemy well "buttoned up" and as soon as the man was able to reach the roof of the emplacement he could drop a Bangalore torpedo down the chimney of the pillbox. The terrific concussion caused by this charge was usually enough to make the Germans give up with no more resistance.

In two more hours the remaining pillboxes in their sector had all been reduced. In this operation alone the two platoons and assault teams captured 30 prisoners and killed 8. Since the intensity of the enemy artillery barrage had decreased somewhat during this time, the remaining platoon was able to rejoin its unit. By the time a reorganization was effected it was 1400 and the company began its advance again, still through heavy artillery fire. The direction of their attack was northwest and at 1530 they arrived at Hill 386, approximately 2000 yards from the group of pillboxes they had just taken. A few minutes after they had arrived on this position, and before any of the men had had a chance to dig in, a strong counter-attack firmly supported by artillery hit them from the north and west. It was not until two hours later that this attack was successfully repulsed and at that time, 1800, there were several wounded who needed immediate medical care. Because of this,

and because he wanted to find out why the other two companies in the battalion had not advanced, the company commander and two of his men made an attempt to establish contact with the battalion back at the pillboxes which "K" Company had originally cleared. At the same time a strong counterattack was being repulsed by the rest of the units and the 3 men were not able to get through the line. The unit was cut off all that night also, the Germans having sent strong patrols to operate the territory between this isolated unit and other elements of the battalion. Meanwhile, the company was completely out of communication since they had advanced too rapidly to lay assault wire and the company radio would not work. Even the artillery forward observer failed to establish contact.

All that night heavy enemy forces attempted to come through the perimeter defense that the company had established, but they were never allowed to enter.

The following morning, the 17th, the artillery radio was repaired. The company received the battalion order to withdraw so that the lines could be consolidated. While friendly artillery screened their action, the company began to withdraw using one entire platoon to aid the twelve wounded men. Advancing very slowly, the company came in behind the heavy counterattack on the Third Battalion positions. "I" Company was bearing the brunt of this attack. When the company got within 75 yards of their own artillery, they deployed for an assault, had the artillery lifted, and charged into the bewildered Germans. The result of this one charge was approximately 70 enemy killed and 2 prisoners.

The battalion was then reorganized with "I" Company

taking the northern sector, "L" Company covering the western group of pillboxes, and "K" Company occupying the eastern group. This position remained static for 3 days and acted as a western block for the operations of the rest of the regiment.

Meanwhile, at about the same time the Third Battalion was repulsing the counterattack, the Second Battalion was preparing to begin the third phase of the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line. At 0930 of the 17th this unit moved from the positions that they had obtained by following the Third Battalion the previous day. These were almost due north of Ensheim at an approximate distance of a thousand yards along the unimproved road running somewhat parallel to the Ensheim-St Ingbert Highway.

Early in the morning, in a line of companies, the battalion had moved to an assembly area 500 yards southeast of the Third Battalion's position. It was not until they had received word that the counterattack had been repulsed that the unit moved toward its objective. Their mission at this time was to clear out all enemy positions at the intersections of highways 2 and 3.

The Battalion began its attack in a column of companies with "E" Company as the assault group. "G" Company followed a short distance behind and "F" remained in reserve. The direction of attack was approximately straight north in an attempt to reduce all those pillboxes which commanded the main highway to the defense line. By 1200, "E" Company had taken two concrete boxes and levelled two bunkers. Although one platoon was pinned down by fire from one of the positions, the other two platoons swung to the right to take three large pillboxes on the left side of the road. They then began to head south in an attempt to take from the rear the positions that were protecting

the dragon's teeth. Meanwhile, "G" Company had been committed, attacking to the north to take the group of pillboxes in the draw.

Just as "G" Company was coming abreast of "E" Company at about 1800, a large counterattack, later reported by PW's to be composed of two infantry companies and two platoons of tanks, hit "E" Company from the direction of the draw to the east. The forward observer's radio was out of order, and it was impossible to get the proper artillery barrage on the Germans before they were within such close range of "E" Company's troops that no artillery could be fired. The reserve Company, "F", could not be committed because the pillboxes in the draw kept that unit pinned down. All the ammunition the other companies in the battalion could possibly spare was sent to "E" Company to help it drive off the enemy who by now was within handgrenade throwing distance; finally, however, the ammunition problem became so acute that the company was ordered to withdraw to the positions they had occupied along the unimproved road the previous night. This withdrawal began at approximately 2000, and was greatly aided by the terrific barrage placed on the enemy by our artillery.

The battalion reached its area at about 2130 and stayed there that night and almost all the rest of the following day. It was not until a reorganization began in "E" Company about midnight that it was discovered that 18 men had been left in pillboxes when the unit had withdrawn. This immediately called for a change in plans, for there was a good chance that these men still held the pillboxes they were in. This meant that the regiment held much more territory in the Siegfried Line than they formerly thought.

The next day, which was the eighteenth, two squads were sent out from "B" Company to take over the pill-boxes and to guard the litter bearers on their way to the wounded. Of the eighteen men in the emplacements, 10 of them were wounded; these were carried back to "Weasels" which were parked along the unimproved road where the Second Battalion had its position. A little later that afternoon a platoon from "C" Company relieved the two squads in the pillboxes.

Meanwhile, two task forces were organized in conjunction with the continuance of the attack by the Second Battalion on the Siegfried Line. Task Force Number One, with Captain Tunsion commanding, consisted of the First Platoon of "A" Company, a platoon of tanks, a platoon of TD's, and an engineer team. The platoon from "A" Company started from the road north of Ensheim at about 1500 with the mission of taking a covering position north of the dragon's teeth where it could protect the team of engineers as they prepared a crossing of the mined water in front of the obstacles. The tanks and tank destroyers proceeded along the Ensheim-Stankfelkappen Road to provide protection against an armored attack as well as to insure close-in artillery support. Very little resistance was met until they came within 200 yards of their objective at which time the team was pinned down by artillery and small arms fire. Nevertheless, they were able to accomplish their mission by 1930.

Task Force Number Two, commanded by Lieutenant Miller, was to approach positions from the draw in the vicinity of Alment Woods by way of Gehrle Woods and Kinkelbach Creek and to attack the small village of Ensheiner Hof under the protection of close-in fire by tanks and tank destroyers. This group left their line

of departure at 1430A, and by 1600 they had taken their objective under very light resistance from enemy artillery. The tanks and TD's then went back to Ensheim while the platoon from "A" Company outposted the village they had just taken.

Meanwhile, the Second Battalion was going back for another try at the pillboxes from which they had been forced to retreat the evening before. This time Company "F" was in the assault, moving out at 1615 in an attempt to reduce the pillboxes which occupied the high ground in the immediate vicinity of the crossroads of highways number 2 and 3. That afternoon they were able to clear three of the largest boxes in this sector as well as several smaller ones. Because of darkness they were unable to advance any farther, so the battalion dug in and waited for the light of day to continue its attack.

The following day, with "E" and "G" companies blocking, "F" Company continued to assault the pillboxes in its sector. This unit finally reached the Battalion objective at 1900.

"C" Company, meanwhile had been committed at 1115 to reduce the pillboxes on the east side of the crossroads. At the time that "F" Company had reached its objective, "C" Company had reduced 5 pillboxes in its sector as well as an AT position. Almost an entire company as well as a battalion commander were captured in this area. At 2200 "C" Company launched its attack again and at 2330 had reached its objective.

With this accomplished, the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line was completed. The 254th Infantry was the first unit in the Seventh Army to blast through these fortifications. Throughout the entire Western

Front enemy resistance had weakened so much that there was almost a general rout. The problem of all organizations in the Seventh Army became that of seeking the enemy in order to defeat him. From this time until the close of the month, the situation was so fluid that there were no more definite enemy lines just as there were no more static friendly lines.

By 0400 the next morning, the 20th, "F" Company had captured 7 pillboxes and 10 prisoners. The Second and Third Battalions were alerted for an early offensive action and a platoon-sized combat patrol, the third platoon, from "A" Company was sent to Ober Wurtzbach. At 0900 Company "A" sent its remaining two platoons on combat patrols to reconnoiter the 12 remaining pillboxes in the regimental area. All these positions were found to be unoccupied.

The third platoon of Company "A" had reached Ober Wurtzbach by 0800 and had taken that town as well as 40 prisoners with very light resistance. Immediately the Second Battalion was sent to Ober Wurtzbach to secure that town and the high ground to the north of it which had been the original regimental objective.

At 0945 they crossed the line of contact and at 1215 they had taken this with little resistance from a now badly beaten enemy. It could easily be seen at this time that all German defenses were crumbling, and hasty plans were made in an attempt to catch him at his rapid retreat.

The Regimental Commander received a telegram from the Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division which read, "Congratulations from the officers and men of the Third Infantry Division."

At 1400 the Third Battalion was alerted to assemble in Ensheim without delay and the First Battalion was

given the mission of holding the entire regimental sector. At 1600 the Third Battalion was attached to Task Force Harris and at 1900 the regiment less that battalion was alerted for early movement.

Task Force Harris began a motor march at 2100 through St Ingbert all the way to Nuenkirchen, where they arrived at 0600 the following morning. They stayed in this town until about 1000 in the morning and then left for Erbach, north of Homburg, where they outposted the town that night after clearing the village of enemy.

Meanwhile, the regiment began its 16 mile march which led through Speisen, Nuenkirchen, Kohlhof, Niedbexbach, Nitfol-Bexbach, and Klein-Ottweiler to a regimental bivouac area in the woods north of Klein-Ottweiler. The leading elements crossed the line of departure at 0815 and at 1240 the Second Battalion was ordered to clear Nuenkirchen and await further orders there. The First Battalion closed in the bivouac area at 1700. No enemy resistance was encountered at this time.

Task Force Harris was dissolved at 1900 and the Third Battalion reverted to Regimental control at Erbach.

The Regiment marched to its assembly area at Kinkel the following morning, and closed in that town at 1545. Company "L" proceeded to Zweibrucken to act as guard company for the XV Corps Headquarters. At this time the regiment reverted to Corps reserve.

The following two days were spent in an attempt to improve battlefield efficiency by conducting training and holding orientation sessions. On the 24th, Major General Louis E Hibbs, Commanding General of the 63d Division, presented the following members of this organization with Silver Stars after the Regimental Adjutant, Captain P K Bailey, read the citation of each to the assembled troops:

Lt Col William J Bryan 0294945 Hq 2d Bn

Lt Col Donald R Matheson 021213 Hq 3d Bn

Capt Frank L Piontek Jr 01292939 Co "D"

S Sgt Leon Robinson 38672305 Co "E"

Cpl John D Erhardt 15402204 Co "M"

Pfc Allen A Baldwin 37692822 Co "G"

The Bronze Star was awarded to Captain John P Brown, 0420462 Co C. The first oak leaf cluster to the Bronze Star was presented to Colonel Joseph H Warren, 012451.

Beginning the following day, the regimental activity consisted of a series of moves with the express contemplation of attempting to maintain contact with the enemy and to secure all that territory which the rapid advances had made possible to obtain.

The regiment moved by motor to the vicinity of Emsbach on the 25th. The leading elements crossed the IF at Homburg at 1220A, and the trip was made via Surchhuthaen, Landstuhl, Siegelbach, Otterberg, Mahlinger, Lohnsfeld and Langmel. At this time the Regimental CP was located at Emsbach, the First Battalion at Jokobsweiler, the Second Battalion at Langmel, and the Third Battalion at Winnweiler. During this period the regiment conducted training, particularly stressing the loading of personnel on tanks.

On the 27th, Company "L" reverted to its parent unit at 1200A from the 15th Corp Headquarters Guard. This battalion moved by motor from Worms to Winnweiler where they arrived about 1700. The rest of the regiment carried on training and rehabilitation. During this period, too, there were occasional prisoners taken by the various units, many of whom turned themselves in. There was little resistance, wither by units or by individuals.

The regiment moved across the Rhine River for the first time on March the 28th; they moved into an assembly area near Jaigerhaus. From there they moved the following

✓ Rohrhoff, and Bruhf. Resistance was very light except heavy SP and small arms from the woods southeast of Rheinau.

As the month ended the Regiment continued mopping up in their sectors of operations. The enemy had no established lines and there was only scattered resistance throughout the area.

REPORT ON THE HARTINGSHOF RAID

March 3, 1945

The most important action of the day was a thrust by "C" Company of the reserve First Battalion against the town of Hartingshof. Attached to the company as reinforcing elements were machine gun sections from both "D" and "A" Companies and one section of 105mm assault guns from the 749th Tank Battalion. The purpose of this diverting raid was an attempt to keep the enemy in doubt as to which was the attack-in-scale, the "C" Company raid or the actual push being made by the 250rd Infantry.

The plan of attack was to take Hartingshof early in the afternoon, hold it, and then withdraw under the cover of darkness. According to aerial reconnaissance reports the Germans had armor in the town, so extra bazooka teams were drawn from "A" and "B" Companies and plans were made to soften the town by bombing and strafing. Further intelligence information placed the number of Germans defending the town as between 50 and 60.

At 1215, exactly on schedule, a flight of P-47's from the XII Tactical Air Command began their bombardment of the town; a five minute artillery preparation began at 1300. The company left its line of departure at 1305 and advanced steadily through medium machine gun and small arms fire and light artillery and mortar fire. The first platoon was sent around to flank the town on the right and form a block in the woods to the east along the line YY. (See sketch) As they began their movement through a draw to the east of the town, the leading squad hit a minefield and the platoon was temporarily

stopped. Four men had stepped on Schu-mines; one of them, Sgt Carlos B. Burdett, 54895566, lay with his foot off and his leg completely shattered returning fire on a machine gun that was covering the minefield.

Realizing that the enemy would have the mined area forced in by machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, the platoon leader, 2nd Lt Edward W. Biehl, 02007041, called for his men to follow him as he double timed through the minefield into the edge of the woods where the platoon was met by startled Germans who threw up their hands in surrender at this unexpected maneuver.

Meanwhile, the third platoon was skirting the town to the left toward the 88mm SP which was firing at them from the woods which the platoon was supposed to clear. The assault guns in position back in Blesiansbach fired at the SP, but it was the attached "A" Company bazooka team that knocked it out. As the platoon rushed forward to assault the gun, a medium tank, probably a Mark V, appeared from the woods and hooked on to the powerless vehicle. Once again the bazooka team fired. A direct hit was made on the tank, but the rocket was a dud and before anymore effective fire could be brought to bear on it, the tank with the SP attached retreated out of sight and range.

The second platoon advanced into town through fire from two pillboxes made of concrete and one constructed of steel; they returned this fire with small arms, mortar, and assault gun fire until the emplacements were reduced. However, they were unable to crack the strong defenses of the reinforced position at the north corner of the

Continued

large L-shaped building which was later learned to house the enemy's battalion CP.

Fighting continued all that afternoon, with the members of the company using each house as an improvised fortress as soon as they were able to drive the enemy from it. Orders were received at 1930 to begin evacuating the wounded; this order was passed all the way to the furthest point by the only means of communication now available--shouting from man to man. When this order was received by the extreme point, both Pvt Morris J Russo, 42074257, and Pvt Otto F Metzger, 41100502, were practically out of ammunition and had one wounded man with them. Other members of their squad threw their ammunition as they took turns running into the street to catch it. They then took turns carrying the wounded man and returning the heavy fire they were receiving from small arms and machine gun. They successfully reached the rest of the platoon and the withdrawal was started on schedule at 2000.

Hartingshof was evacuated by 2015 and the company passed through the lines of the Third Battalion on their way back to join the rest of their own battalion in Nuenkirchen. Unfortunately, another minefield was encountered between Hartingshof and Blierslabach and four more men fell when they hit booby-mines. A squad from "L" Company, which occupied Blierslabach, was sent to bring the wounded in from the mined area. This squad worked until 0800 removing the men, one of whom was dead.

Enemy dead as a result of the raid were estimated as between thirty and forty while forty enlisted men

and one officer were taken prisoner. "C" Company casualties consisted of twenty-seven men wounded and twelve missing or killed.

The following day word was received from the 25th Infantry that its large scale attack was advancing on schedule.

EMPLACEMENTS
MAY BE FOR MORTARS



3-SP GUNS SEEN
IN VICINITY ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS

WEAPONS
PITS

LT. ARTY OR
MORTAR
POSITIONS

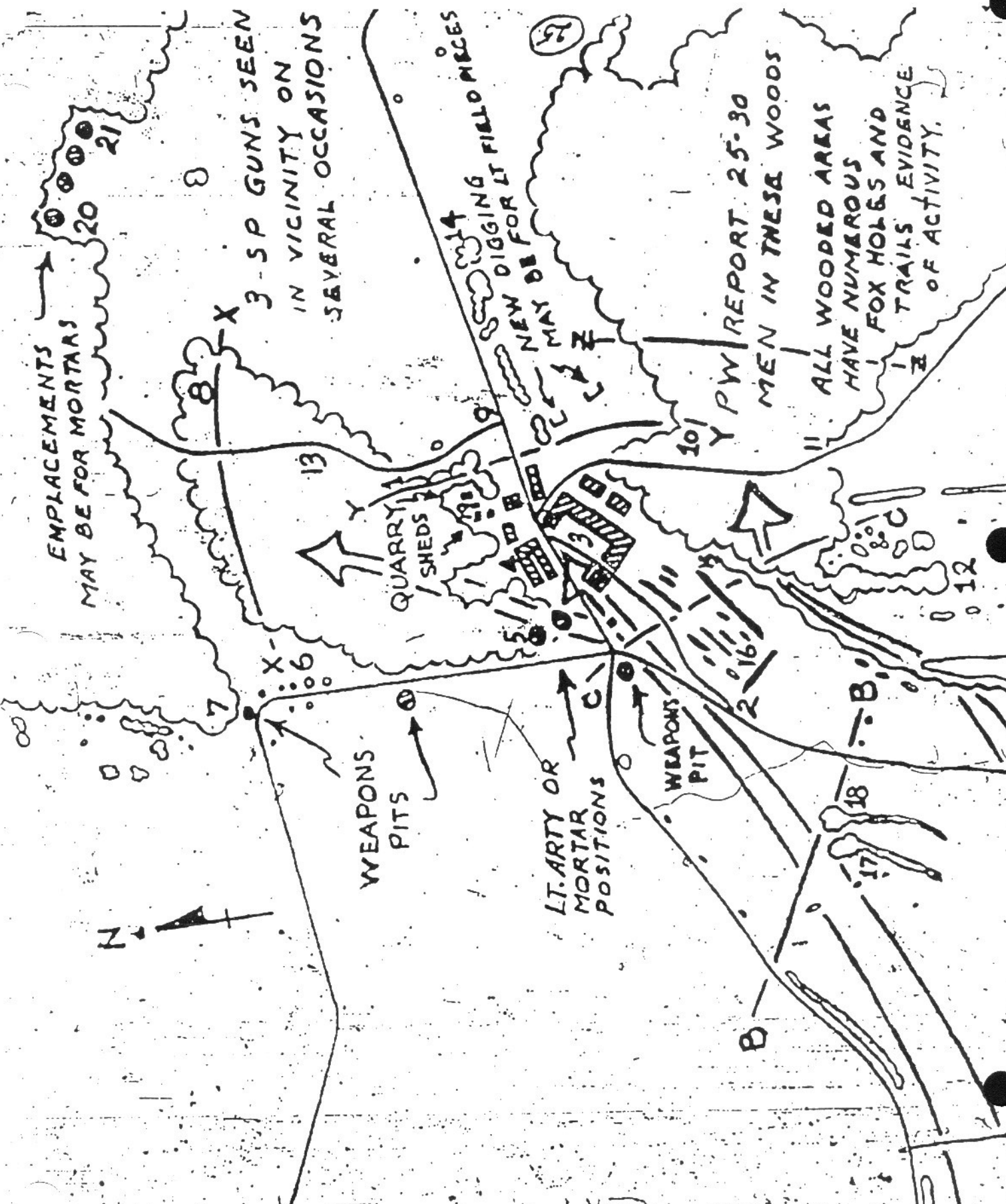
WEAPONS
PIT

QUARRY
/ SHEDS

NEW DIGGING FOR LT FIELD PIECES
MAY BE FOR

Y PW REPORT 25-30
MEN IN THESE WOODS

ALL WOODED AREAS
HAVE NUMEROUS
FOX HOLES AND
TRAILS EVIDENCE
OF ACTIVITY.



APPENDIX II

While this regiment maintained a fairly static defense line across the Saar River east of Sarreguemines, the enemy was very deliberate in his nonaggressive action. The positions occupied and maintained by the enemy, consisting principally of the 74th Volksgrenadier Division, were in buildings at Hartingshof (Q5364), Grafenthal(Q5562), the Hartingshof woods(Q539629) and the high ground generally north of the Blies River. The only enemy activity was harassing fire with occasional small arms, mortar and artillery.

The enemy's defense pattern made extensive use of the mine fields planted north of the Blies River; Schu-mines were predominant with occasional "S" and antitank mines. F

From the 7th to March the 15th, the date upon which we began our assault on the Siegfried Line, there was a noticeable increase in the number of flares fired by the Germans in all sectors. As our attack started on this line the enemy resisted with small arms, automatic weapons, antitank, artillery and rocket fire. On that day, 263 prisoners were taken.

The following day, the second day of the regiment's attack on the westwall, contact was made with two new units, the 10th Company of the 112th Fortress Regiment and the 3d Company of the 1462nd Fortress Battalion. The enemy did not resist our initial probing of the Siegfried Line, but later in the afternoon resistance stiffened to a stubborn defense; just after dark the biggest counterattack was launched at our front lines but it was repulsed.

On the third day of the attack, the 17th, the enemy launched three counterattacks. The first, begun

at 0745 and was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy; a second counterattack ran along the entire regimental front about 1635; and a final counterattack was repulsed just before midnight.

On the eighteenth most of the enemy resistance was concentrated in a few pillboxes, the remainder of the pillboxes having been found empty. When the breakthrough occurred on the twentieth, the problem of the regiment became one of seeking the enemy in order to fight him. During this entire time no contact with organized resistance by units larger than a company was reported.

As the month ended, the greatest part of our contact with the enemy consisted of taking prisoner those who voluntarily turned themselves in, and in some cases, the processing of those who had returned to civilian clothing.

APPENDIX III

SUPPLY

1. During the month of March 1945, the supply of the Regiment has been very satisfactory, in most branches showing a marked improvement over the previous month.

a. Rations have been available as requested on the daily telegram, with the exception of the last few days of the month, when no "B" rations were available East of the Rhine river when the troops were in position to consume same.

b. Many items of Class II and IV which were not available at the beginning of the month have become obtainable. However, due to the rapid advances made during the latter part of the month there has been an increased time lag between Army and Division so that demands upon Division have not been filled as promptly as desired.

c. Regiment has maintained a Class III dump of approximately 2700 gallons (V-80). Demand has been filled completely. Ten day replenishments of lubrication oils and greases fails to meet sudden demands on transportation, but emergency requisitions have been filled promptly.

d. Basic load of ammunition has been maintained at all times, despite excessive expenditures for short periods.

BATTLE LOSSES:

Ordnance:

9 pr Binoculars, M3 or M1s w/case, carrying
72 Carbines, Cal 30 M1
4 gun, machine, Cal 30 M1919A6
8 gun, submachine, Cal 45, M3
1 gun, submachine, Cal 45, M1
61 Knife, Bayonet, M4, w/scabbard
54 Launcher, grenade, M7
30 Launcher, grenade, M8
15 Launcher, rocket, 2.36", M9A1
2 Mortar, 81mm, M1, w/mount
1 Mount, truck pedestal, M31
1 Mount, ring, 50 cal
9 Mount, tripod, Cal 30 MG, M2
1 Mount tripod, Cal 50 MG, M3
24 Motorcycles, Cal 45, M201A1

28

Signal:

1 Antenna, AN-131
37 Flashlight, TL-122C
2 Lantern, Electric Port, Hand
2 Radio Set, SCR 536
1 Radio Set, SCR 300
10 Tool Equipment, TE-33
2 Reel Equipment, CE-11
1 Reel Unit, RL-39
1 Switchboard, BD-72
4 Telephone, KE-8
1 Wire Pike, MC-123

Replacements of materiel expended in action, and otherwise, has been prompt and complete.

The following ammunition was expended by this unit during the month:

Carbine	70,475	Rocket, M6A3	1,720
.30 Ball 5/clip	0	Rockets, Smoke	279
.30 Tracer 5/clip	10,200	Grenade, (R) M9A1	1,425
.30 AP 5/clip	25,120	Grenade, (R) WP	820
.30 AP 8/clip	220,436	Sig A/C Asstd	196
MG Cal .30	256,050	Sig Grd asstd	424
Cal .45 Ball	58,700	Flare (T) M48	98
MG Cal .50	35,840	105mm M3, M48A1	5,042
57mm AP M70 & M86	272	105mm How, M3 WP	220
57mm HE	265	Adapter, gren	360
60mm Illum	249		
60mm HE	2,420		
60mm WP	435		
81mm Light	5,361		
81mm Heavy M33F	776		
81mm Heavy M32F	62		
81mm Smoke	578		
Grenade, frag	6,135		
Mines, AT HE	225		
Mine, MK V Br	390		

CASUALTIES

HQ CO 1ST BN

Huber, Joseph F S	Sgt	19042570	
Post, Paul E	Pvt	35906977	D1s
McCabe, Howard M	Tec 4	33920949	D1s
Clarke, Francis J	Pvt	33848610	D1s
Rowan, Paul J	1st Lt	0545694	D1s
Davis, Larnie	Pvt	38276585	D1s
Cole, Fate A	Pfc	33906285	WIA
Tucker, Robert E	Lt Col	019938	WIA
Cain, Edward E	Pvt	39088358	WIA
Wonoloski, Casimer	Pfc	13138707	WIA
Wolfscale, Charles M	Pfc	35893548	D1s
Goodier, Robert E	Pfc	32953783	D1s
Bombard, Vernon E	Pfc	31457531	D1s
Carlini, Brund M	Pfc	32773546	D1s
Bradshaw, J S	Tec 4	36400967	D1s
Fisher, Robert D	Pvt	42143873	D1s
Oakley, Norman B	S Sgt	42010327	D1s

COMPANY A

Hayden, James R	Sgt	35839187	WIA
Braunsreuter, Raymond	T Sgt	42009210	WIA
Ripper, Howard S	Sgt	37742498	WIA
Garza, Sam	Pfc	39280205	D1s
Wiggington, Wyckliffe	S Sgt	36875737	D1s
Kennedy, Leslie L	Pfc	37734255	D1s
Anderson, Earl T	Pfc	36844476	D1s
McCarty, John B	Pfc	37641935	D1s
Hudson, James O	Pfc	34999490	WIA
Beatty, Richard G	Pvt	33907376	D1s
Quick, Arnold L	33615094	Pfc	WIA
Schmidt, Stanley F	S Sgt	32706115	WIA
Shorecki, Adam	31451977	Pvt	WIA
Curry, Hugh R	Pfc	31417239	D1s
Lavacca, Dominic	Pfc	42032535	HBI
Restani, Raymond	1st Lt	01043472	WIA
Fennessey, Joseph T	Sgt	42008284	WIA
Burns, J E	Pfc	37693624	WIA
Schroeder, Alfred	Pfc	39033984	WIA
Carroll, Joseph	Pfc	34839680	WIA
Brouin, Edward	Pfc	31150322	WIA
Weber, Ralph H	Pfc	36978140	WIA
Ekberg, William	2d Lt	02007062	WIA
Hulst, Douglas H	Pvt	42187137	WIA
Cordeiro, Joseph A	Pfc	31370980	WIA
Schultz, Carl	Pfc	33841312	WIA

Stunkle, Thomas W	Pfc	35070342	WIA
Curry, Hugh R	Pfc	31417239	WIA
Eckler, John H	37400343	Pfc	WIA
Fligger, Miles W	Sgt	33702948	WIA
Fennelly, Frank A	31410534	Pfc	WIA
DeBliss, Albert G	8 Sgt	33916604	WIA
Deprez, Alexander	2d Lt	01327119	WIA
Green, Arthur	Pfc	13000019	WIA
Baldwin, Donal W	Pvt	36900973	WIA
Bruschi, Ubert A	Pfc	32507211	WIA
Zlydaszyk, Casimer	Pfc	36965804	WIA
Byrd, Sherman M	Pfc	35902454	WIA
Hudson, James O	Pvt	34999490	WIA
Kuster, Edward O	Pfc	36844946	WIA
Irisarry, Frank	Pfc	32794126	Dis
Anderson, Lyndon V	Pfc	36096422	Dis
Maguire, James	Pvt	42122847	NBI
Halferty, Daniel J	Pvt	42073276	NBI
Anniller, John H	Pfc	33907304	Dis
Johnson, Willard J	Pvt	36844969	NBI
McCarty, John B	Pvt	37641935	NBI
Litchfield, Arthur D	Pvt	35840680	NBI
Geminetti, Louis	Pfc	33292519	Dis
Bruschi, Eubert A	Pvt	32507211	NBI
Parello, Frank J	Pvt	42076777	NBI
Traverso, Alexander	Pvt	31455030	NBI
Hammond, Davis L	Pfc	32250740	Dis
Anderson, Earl T	Pfc	36844476	Dis
Liberato, Vincent P	Pvt	36912242	NBI
West, J D	Pfc	38244163	NBI
Gill, Raymond D	Pfc	42027773	Dis
Taylor, William G	Pfc	34925441	NBI
Wallace, Jack M	Pfc	14073880	NBI
Hall, Lewis E	2d Lt	02006251	Dis
Wendell, Ralph O Jr	Pfc	32753531	Dis
Ireland, John F	Pvt	35906450	Dis
Hughes, J D	Pvt	44030424	BI
Grets, James	Pvt	35759590	NBI
Hale, Albert F	Pvt	20231777	NBI
LaVacca, Dominic J	Pfc	42032535	Dis
McCarroll, William E	Pvt	39660940	Dis
Traverso, Alexander	Pvt	31464030	NBI
Gilpin, Albert E	Pvt	19091477	Dis

COMPANY B

Hall, Thomas F	Pfc	33857650	Dis
Bresenski, Joseph B	Pfc	32592722	Dis

Collette, Jack M	S Sgt	20710921	Dis
Strom, Ralph W	Sgt	36786032	Dis
Hayden, Pershing L	Pfc	37637165	Dis
Cronin, Daniel F	Pvt	35782467	Dis
Chesser, William T	1st Lt	0551015	Dis
College, Raymond F	T Sgt	20527168	Dis
Detomaseo, Dominic	Pvt	36473237	Dis
Lapolla, Joseph	Pfc	42000550	Dis
Laguerre, Marcel	Pvt	42137240	Dis
Hensely, Bert F	Pfc	6931879	Dis
Saumer, William A	Pfc	33357531	NBI
Reid, Arthur T	Sgt	38661171	VIA
Jones, John H	Pvt	35782033	VIA
Childress, Larry B	Pfc	33907456	VIA
Beeve, Robert E	Sgt	42109910	VIA
Messer, Lewis L	Pvt	24547409	Dis
Resmond, Norland M	Pvt	38423942	NBI
Sykes, Dillo G	2d Lt	02007040	NBI
Boudrie, Charles G	T Sgt	36875888	VIA
Bocchicchio, Anthony	Pfc	42186375	BI
Deprey, Edward	Pfc	36845705	VIA
Hohn, James S	Pfc	33424643	VIA
Lee, James R	Pfc	34838808	VIA
Moshides, Albert J	Sgt	34911981	VIA
Mordholm, Joe A	37139728	Sgt	VIA
Dale, Jack R	Pfc	39598357	VIA
Eller, Ernest J	Pfc	33663213	VIA
Levine, Laurence	Pfc	12233163	VIA
Scruton, Robert B	Capt	01319142	VIA
Zlotnick, Leon	Sgt	33805527	VIA
Hayden, Pershing L	Pvt	37637165	Dis
Zentner, William	Pvt	17169564	Dis
Benner, Thomas B	Pvt	32597680	NBI
Hourigan, Aloysius J	Pfc	33593600	VIA
Herold, Francis W	Pfc	37423325	VIA
Lawhead, Edward C	Pvt	19109716	Dis
Johnson, Burford	Pvt	36953181	Dis
Hore, Edward G	Pvt	42178455	Dis
Roberts, Charles H	Pfc	36830930	NBI
Farley, Hunter G	Pfc	35782918	Dis
Hensley, Bert F	Pfc	6931878	Dis
Burkin, Willie	Pvt	38652914	NBI
Reioux, Donald C	Sgt	17118564	Dis
Jedlicka, Joe	38097499	Pvt	Dis
Jordan, Lewis W	Pvt	38549588	Dis
Ingari, Frank A	Pfc	33652097	Dis
Jacobson, Alvin	Pvt	37699669	VIA
Grant, Walter G	Cpl	31218554	VIA
Gutridge, Richard T	Pvt	33686651	Dis

Jarrett, Willie A	Pvt	37638869	WIA
Hitt, Crawford L	Sgt	34839283	Dies
Lee, Roy A	Pvt	44030603	Dies
Colley, Emory L	Pvt	6931613	Dies
Liberati, Anthony J	Pvt	42178388	MBI

COMPANY C

Clair, Gordon A	Sgt	32840470	WIA
Kliger, Murray W	Pvt	42180311	WIA
Underwood, Calvin C	Pvt	33887640	WIA
Bennett, Donald T	Pfc	39726355	Dies
Harley, Bernard L	Pvt	31321976	WIA
Sheloff, Ellsworth G	Pfc	36844951	Dies
Maita, Frank J	Pvt	42136211	MBI
Jones, Arthur E	Pfc	31264027	BI
Levine, Joseph	Pfc	42177361	MBI
Cheranie, Lawrence F	Pvt	38618383	BI
Amnesia, Albert V	Pfc	39596813	Dies
Davis, Harle L	S/Sgt	32943275	Dies
Eubberdge, Philip	Pfc	44005485	WIA
Wilmesherr, Elmer	Pfc	37636858	WIA
Hall, James E	Pfc	37731653	WIA
Mayer, Truman	S/Sgt	6006658	BI
Plaig, Louis E	Sgt	35683144	WIA
Noakes, James	Sgt	35683782	BI
Adler, James L	Pfc	36544766	WIA
Neumann, Wm P	Pfc	42057246	MBI
Conn, Harvel L	Pfc	44045109	WIA
Pacholoni, Victor J	Sgt	36342276	WIA
Wilson, Jerry D	S Sgt	39694336	WIA
Hardini, Albert	Pfc	42-75840	MBI
Kirkpatrick, Keith H	Pfc	34925966	BI
Meusburger, Edward	Pvt	42180638	Dies
Magness, Fielding H	Sgt	35560092	WIA
Kurkandall, Mac H	Pvt	37710870	Dies
Metager, Otto F	Pfc	42180502	Dies
McGuckin, Matthew M	Pvt	42180507	WIA
Lyons, Eugene	Pvt	44036908	Dies
Morales, Nicolas	Sgt	37594197	WIA
Salgado, Ernest M	Pfc	5583082	BI
Luck, Louis	Pfc	42189246	WIA
Mitchell, Laurel C	Sgt	6154124	WIA
Hall, Lewis E	2d Lt	02006251	WIA
Martin, Morace	Pfc	34839935	Dies
Wood, Lawrence F	Pfc	35262452	WIA
Sproul, Gerlad L	36108913	Cpl	WIA
Lahrman, David	Ufo	38546763	WIA
Diehl, Edward W	1st Lt	02007041	WIA
Zoerhof, Donald J	Cpl	36186854	WIA
Madden, Clifford H	Pfc	42180481	BI
Hood, Lester F	Pvt	38582774	WIA
Marquis, William J	Pfc	42180533	WIA

Name	Rank	Number	Category
Mallon, James J	Pfc	12097240	VIA
Dabroski, Eugene A	2d Lt	026608	VIA
Prokop, John P	Pvt	33942772	NBI
Katusik, Stanley	Pfc	36905733	VIA
Whalen, Joseph	S/Sgt	32577131	VIA
McLean, Ralph H	Pvt	38633032	VIA
Kaczanowski, Paul	Pfc	33997391	VIA
Marinaccio, Tony F	Pfc	42320522	VIA
Buneul, Hery A	Pvt	39853157	VIA
Devitt, John C	Pfc	39147326	VIA
Colwell, Mose	Pfc	35843636	VIA
Wilkenstein, Karl R	Pfc	12033025	Dis
Tancuzzi, Vincent S	Pvt	42165085	VIA
Smith, Richard F	Pvt	35869226	VIA
Call, Alton L	Sgt	39467450	VIA
Sullivan, Norbert S	Pfc	31410432	VIA
McRoberts, Robert L	Pfc	38166985	VIA
Taylor, Larry L	Pfc	36283093	VIA
Knight, Elsa F	Pvt	35903103	Dis
Downs, James V	S/Sgt	37225999	Dis
McCauley, Frederick	Pfc	36473786	VIA
Jacobson, Jerome L	Pfc	36944762	VIA
Garman, Charles R	Pvt	37843448	Dis
Passo, Morris J	Pfc	42074237	VIA
Long, J C	Pfc	34818529	Dis
Harbrough, Ervin A	Sgt	34981648	VIA
Hartley, Bernard L	Pvt	31321976	Dis
Atkinson, Robert	Pvt	3683316	VIA
Brink, Theodore	Pfc	36488356	VIA
Zanewitzky, Herman	Pvt	42175576	NBI
Scharren, Carl J	Pfc	33899436	BI
Herrices, Floyd D	Sgt 3	35070146	VIA
Maldonado, Leofredo	Pvt	37363345	Dis
James, Homer R	Pvt	34022954	NBI
Hardini, Albert	Pvt	42187344	Dis
Flynn, Elden L	Pvt	36486608	Dis
Rodgers, James R	Pfc	35807618	Dis
Stiets, William W	Pvt	35106262	BI
Castoria, Daniel L	Pfc	42076185	NBI
McNullee, Brady	S-Sgt	6272384	Dis
Taylor, Larry L	Pfc	36283093	NBI
Garman, Charles R	Pvt	33343448	Dis
Beaufort, Joyce D	Pvt	34869391	VIA
Johnson, Ellis	Pvt	34966561	NBI
Passi, August C	Pfc	33255561	BI
Marquis, William J	Pvt	42180543	BI

COMPANY C

Martin, Horace F	Pvt	34839935	VIA
Kupirovich, Miley	Pvt	33923406	NBI
Joyce, Beaufort D	Pvt	34869391	VIA
Nielson, Waldo J	SSgt	12153765	VIA
Frans, Duane L	Pfc	36978238	VIA
McCary, Jos E	Pvt	33814486	VIA
Lowther, John P	Pvt	42180317	BI
Lane, Arthur D	Pfc	36561816	Dis
Holerbrook, Densel A	Pfc	35781714	VIA
Marsenison, T J	Pvt	42180557	VIA
Livernois, Norman S	Pvt	36473897	VIA
McFall, Patrick E	Pvt	37771566	BI
Rudolf, Richard H	Pvt	42010502	VIA
Duncan, Melvin A	Pvt	38632404	VIA
Kennos, Israel	Pvt	31040654	VIA
Landergoot, Howard M	Pvt	36844320	VIA
Masor, Ernest E	Pvt	42187173	VIA
Morehouse, Leon W	Pvt	42028658	VIA
Lohrmann, Winfred G	Pvt	36473074	VIA
Knisely, Jessie J	Pvt	36844710	VIA
Brown, Chester, B	Sgt	32678766	VIA
Apell, Raymond	Pfc	37089288	VIA
Kemp, Dale L	Pvt	37710443	VIA
McGee, Edgar	Pvt	44035921	VIA
Milton, David	Pvt	37699302	VIA
Miller, J D	Pvt	44025340	VIA
Kieg, Charles	Pfc	34032380	VIA
Kreaner, Francis	t/4	7070851	VIA
Machtan, Raymond A	Pvt	36990812	VIA
Kepford, Norman E	Pvt	33769909	Dis
Murphy, Doandl	Pfc	42026536	Dis
Newton, Reginald F	Pfc	31376374	NBI
Kupinovich, Miley	Pvt	33923405	NBI
Johnson, Millis	Pvt	34966596	NBI
Pratt, Farley P	Pvt	39932376	NBI
Hanks, Leonard E	Pfc	34961222	NBI

COMPANY D

Bundick, Edward H	S Sgt	36809638	Dis
Clark, Daniel F	Pfc	39041874	Dis
Cosgrove, John P	Sgt	33837342	Dis
LeGuanec, Paul E	Sgt	38309853	Dis
Loucke, Howard J	Pfc	31460237	Dis
Risdal, Robert E	Pvt	37773502	NBI
Pankey, Arthur L	1st Lt	0550359	Dis
Maxwell, Louis A	Sgt	36978329	NBI
Kerns, Eugene	T/4	13014226	Dis
Melligan, George R	S/Sgt	33452488	Dis
Stewart, Charles A	Sgt	12015319	Dis

COMPANY D

Crow, Weldon M
Kueler, James D
Lipman, Harold
Smith, Clarence
Salway, Clement S
Bushchman, Chas.
Redden, Austin
Burney, Ronald D
Sinclair, Fred
Foster, Amos M
Hammond, Paul
Lazarowitz, Stenlep
Shaver, George
Strong, Wilfred
Shillmeyer, William J
Lazar, Ralph N
Anderson, Lawrence L
Savin, Oliver M
Maxell, Luis
Ferguson, Leon B
Maloney, Edward R
Burns, J E
Malone, Herbert E
Carnace, Robert F
Pederson, Walter F
Gloocer, James K
Melligan, George R

Pfc 38435121
Pfc 35882030
2d Lt 01059859
Sgt 38474413
Pfc 37772923
Pfc 37643709
Sgt 37153333
Pfc 38570745
Pfc 31640515
S/Sgt 37267747
Pfc 34999870
S/Sgt 36831112
Pvt 34162421
Pfc 31040415
Pfc 35361051
S/Sgt 36349670
Pfc 39761590
Cpl 36685415
Sgt 36978829
Pfc 34976208
Pfc 36679944
Pfc 37693624
S/Sgt 17013953
Cpl 38592456
Cpl 37581800
Pfc 37726505
S/Sgt 33432488

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HQ CO 2D BN

O'Connor, John E
Thorpe, Luther C
Adair, John E
Kirkland, Elras A
Williams, William H
Baron, Nick M
Payne, Jack

Pvt 33848610
Pvt 700010
Pfc 37052811
T/4 38308233
Pfc 34176292
Pvt 36679456
Pfc 15362299

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COMPANY E

Karceyhek, Joseph J
Willson, Roy E
Enig, Dawson H
Simpson, Earl G
Kings, Rolland F
Beto, Amos G
Colts, Abraham
Vargo, George T
Wright, Daniel O
Davis, Thomas B
Martin, Horace A
Monts, Woodrow

Pfc 36308475
Pfc 36850939
Pfc 33875422
Pfc 35249103
Pvt 39823945
Pvt 37771920
Pfc 42075083
Pfc 42090165
Pvt 20469016
Pvt 44036538
Pfc 38665201
Pfc 34920780

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COMPANY E

Laguerre, Marcel	Pvt	42183723	Dis
Laggerre, Marcel	Pvt	42183723	Dis
Ammerman, Walter F	Sgt	32155176	VIA
Whitney, John C	2d St	00200785	VIA
Pradon, George	Pfc	36777647	VIA
Coll, William	Pfc	42075324	VIA
Mullaney, William C	Pvt	42189891	VIA
Bergstrom, Leonard H	Pvt	37749481	VIA
Amberger, Leonard H	Pvt	37749481	VIA
Stevens, Raymond C	Pfc	37732073	VIA
Martens, Eugene H	Pvt	38472417	VIA
Bleich, Rudolph C	Pvt	42098237	VIA
Riley, Merlin E	Pfc	36680047	Dis
Tavarressi, Albert J	Pfc	31457645	VIA
Olson, Phillip H	Sgt	32879371	VIA
McCain, Jack	T/Sgt	37151628	VIA
Seania, Frank E	S/Sgt	36316981	VIA
McGonless, Samuel F	T/Sgt	34255651	Dis
Hunes, Natividad	Pfc	38579681	VIA
Rice, Aaron H	Pvt	44031642	VIA
Worrell, Johnnie H	Pfc	35814464	Dis
Day, Francis M	Pfc	34966543	Dis
Miles, Albert	Pvt	33815973	Dis
Hughes, Clyde F	Pvt	35816337	VIA
Rauch, Francis E	Pfc	33530302	VIA
Fish, Russell H	Pfc	33841511	VIA
Mallory, Thomas E	Pfc	33857355	VIA
Rodericks, Charles M	Pfc	31430211	VIA
Bell, Edward F	Pvt	36910941	VIA
Husband, Norland W	Pvt	30432943	NBI
Grhanchi, William E	Pfc	33341813	Dis
Dilts, William M	Pvt	42187342	VIA
Hogrete, Ardel WF	Sgt	6859556	VIA
Lawhead, Edward C	Pvt	19109716	Dis
Brown, Robert A	Pvt	7022186	BI
Nowlin, Freddie G	Pvt	33939661	VIA
Doreo, Anthony C	Pvt	36113060	VIA
Held, Stanley S	Pfc	42057048	Dis
Forder, George H	2d Lt	02007047	Dis
New, Charles E Jr	Pvt	39146671	Dis
Grassi, Frank	Pfc	35242720	VIA
Marino, Charles M	Sgt	42031577	VIA
Wood, Alexander	Pfc	35287805	VIA
Traveroek, Arnold	Pvt	17025817	VIA
Benedict, Charles M	Pvt	36474550	VIA
Dankel, Lucius	Pfc	31011983	VIA
Walser, Claude	Pfc	32190779	VIA
Knoch, Robert W	Sgt	39565318	Dis
Colte, Abraham	Pfc	42075033	Dis
Richardson, Charles	Pfc	37694418	BI
Mofringer, Holland	Pvt	39828945	NBI
Ray, Arthur	Pvt	38642158	Dis

COMPANY E			
Dixon, James R	Pvt	36474499	Dis
Jarrett, Willie A	Pvt	37638869	VIA
Comeau, Henry D	Pvt	31411840	Dis
Montgomery, Girthel J	Pvt	35904293	VIA
Olive, William H	Pvt	42076504	Dis
Faircloth, Edward J	Pfc	34857710	NBI

COMPANY F			
Armstrong, R E	Pfc	31466941	Dis
Testerman, Lester	Pfc	37742196	Dis
Reichart, Eldon	2d Lt	02007044	VIA
Zakas, Eugene	S/Sgt	36339947	VIA
Elliott, Dewitt	Pfc	34961238	Dis
La Crosse, Harold E	Sgt	35243620	Dis
Parry, James L	Pvt	38678274	VIA
Ferney, Harry R	Pvt	42187230	VIA
Steele, John P	Pvt	19204445	Dis
Childton, Lloyd D	Pvt	35560602	Dis
Dorn, Harold A	Pfc	36973337	VIA
Alexander, William	S/Sgt	21209188	Dis
Davis, Kenneth E	Pvt	35922572	VIA
Beto, Amos G	Pvt	37771920	VIA
Golts, Abraham	Pfc	42075083	VIA
White, George B	S/Sgt	34871596	VIA
Filer, Donald J	T/t	33830334	VIA
Sutorius, Paul L	S/Sgt	42007863	VIA
Dalke, Otto R	Pvt	31440127	VIA
McAnis, Francis	Pvt	34937960	VIA
Lowhorn, Nelson	2d Lt	02011518	VIA
Rogers, James L	Pfc	38561273	VIA
Cox, Erbin A	Pvt	38571964	VIA
Davis, Rex E	Pfc	36972406	VIA
Askins, Darrel K	Pfc	35800886	VIA
Woolsten, Richard H	Pvt	33815320	VIA
Dain, Francis L	Pfc	36258230	VIA
Wheeler, Lernaie	S/Sgt	37403628	VIA
Doerring, Lowell A	Pvt	36472417	VIA
Hunt, Gordon A	Pvt	38372458	VIA
Morris, Arthur W	Pvt	36297184	VIA
Stechmal, John S	S/Sgt	33309973	VIA
Lenes, William	Pvt	36984244	VIA
Hayes, Billy J	Pvt	38633320	VIA
Freineburg, Ray W	Pvt	42187340	VIA
Duquette, Clayton D	Pvt	31404055	VIA
Hanlen, John D	Pfc	12228593	VIA
Mathews, Randall D	Pfc	37741456	VIA
Arlborn, Eugen W	2d Lt	01326669	BI
Smith, Harold A	Sgt	34961481	VIA
Allen, Donald L	T/Sgt	30760787	NBI

COMPANY F

Forsythe, William R
Fullerbaum, Louis
Pease, Homer L
Ferrara, Louis
Duty, James W
Bennett, Arthur J
Brennan, Daniel J Jr
Dochnahl, Harold
Markley, William C
Kusiel, Henry
Persan, Chester
Stunkel, Thomas
Terehan, Donald L
Cotter, Edward K
Davis, Orval L
Barton, Silas
Harris, Alliston
Cyr, Walter J
Kretovich, John P
Van Winkle, John D
Hurt, Carson A
McMahon, John F
Dalke, Otto R
Green, Joseph A
Hanlon, John D
Ahlborn, Eugene W
Alexander, William J
Lockwood, Milton J

Pvt 47187199
Pvt 42180433
Pvt 44040763
Pvt 42187207
Pvt 35655301
Pfc 42119275
2d Lt 0422570
Pvt 42180519
Pvt 33923663
Pvt 36984623
Pvt 42131389
Pfc 33070349
Pfc 38408399
Pvt 31435219
Pfc 34898617
Capt 0422570
Pvt 35817122
Pfc 31460255
Sgt 33241115
Pvt 38562350
Pvt 33372458
Pfc 35127807
Pvt 31440127
S/Sgt 20360752
Pfc 12228593
2d Lt 01325659
S/Sgt 31209188
Pvt 31461552

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COMPANY G

Kinley, Carroll L
Stocker, Leon R
Molin, Louis W
Mapolitano, A R
Evensen, Edward M
Ricci, William A
Adams, Carl W
Leblanc, Elya
Owens, John
Osborne, Harold F
McCoy, Grady M
Owens, Sidney J
Lindennuth, Henry T
Schenk, William A
Ford, Fred C
Klein, Howard A
Barrios, Sidney J

Sgt 34015801
Pvt 42097498
T/S 37097980
Pfc 32914787
Pvt 6915135
Pfc 33810222
Pvt 37633615
Pvt 38617360
T/Sg 6249472
S/Sgt 34766332
Sgt 34898600
Pvt 33802906
Pvt 33926781
Pfc 35827007
T/4 15353597
Pfc 12226898
Sgt 34078878

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COMPANY G

Maciokowski, Chester W.	Pvt	31660390	VIA
Short, Monroe C	Pfc	33662384	BI
Shearer, Joseph B	Pfc	35927782	VIA
Highsmith, James A	Pvt	34033387	Dis
Murphy, Donald	Pfc	42026630	NBI
Logan, Francis M	Pvt	37595562	VIA
Hinton, Claude	2d Lt	01182601	VIA
Giles, Robert T	Pvt	35817286	VIA
Cook, Marvin V	Pfc	34921633	VIA
DeCicco, Anthony	Pvt	42177063	VIA
Sielinski, Edward W	Sgt	36875192	VIA
Socie, Walter J	Pvt	31410351	VIA
Lunde, Leland A	Pvt	37600556	Dis
Darcey, Alfred G	Pfc	38651234	BI
Loomis, Daniel M	2d Lt	02006196	VIA
Miller, Roger P	Pvt	36600672	VIA
Kruger, Ervin P	T/5	36209951	VIA
Condy, Peter J	Pvt	36912453	VIA
Leichtman, Tony F	Pvt	37600460	VIA
Faykish, Emory H	Pfc	37567174	VIA
Mayer, William O	Pfc	35216332	VIA
Murphy, Albert R	S/Sgt	35394011	VIA
Marin, Horace	Pfc	34859935	Dis
Gould, Wilbur K	Pvt	37692783	VIA
Botcher, Kenneth A	Pvt	37772137	VIA
Bundle, Peter P	1st Sgt	7021868	VIA
Shaughnessy, Wm J	Pfc	31430680	VIA
Santoro, Nicholas S	Pfc	36561764	VIA
Clanton, Miller P	Pfc	18082047	VIA
Merricks, Floyd D	Sgt	35070185	VIA
Peterson, Frank L	Pfc	37692820	Dis
Stoddard, Glenn M	Pfc	37693163	Dis
Stuebgen, Dean V	Pvt	38060231	Dis
Delia, John J	T/Sgt	13053384	VIA
McCallen, Brady	S/Sgt	6282384	Dis
Davis, Alvin L	Pvt	42123666	Dis
Cornwell, Curtis F	Pvt	38634126	VIA
Evenson, Edward M	Pvt	6915135	Dis
Kale, Alexander	Pvt	6920265	Dis
DeSalvo, Joseph N	Pvt	38611836	VIA
Byrne, Thomas J	S/Sgt	32610202	VIA
Kinley, Carroll L	T/4	34015301	Dis
O'Toole, Lawrence J	Pfc	37633599	Dis
Murphy, Donald P	Pfc	42026536	Dis

COMPANY H

McDonald, Robert	Pvt	35601376	Dis
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Garzone, Anthony
 Perkins, Daniel A
 Halinski, Charles
 Newman, Arthur C
 Settineri, Jim S
 Dooley, John J
 Hoffenstadt, Arthur E
 Landerberger, Albert
 Penney, Norman H
 Murray, Johnnie J
 Christofierson, Daniel
 Misula, William E
 Richardson, Seburn
 Sperry, Garland
 Hard, Alfred C
 Christenson, Earl H
 Jackson, Thomas H
 Evielys, Stanley
 Dobreyneki, Henry H
 Flanagan, Vernon A

COMPANY H

Pfc 35727683
 Pvt 35781842
 Sgt 38248806
 S/Sgt 20624397
 2d Lt 02006851
 S/Sgt 33609957
 Pfc 37742486
 Cpl 3796301
 Pfc 42065332
 Pvt 35782023
 E Pvt 3773393
 Pfc 37773570
 T/Sgt 38396088
 Pfc 35085861
 Pfc 12092345
 Pfc 19112698
 Pfc 36768420
 Pfc 33926355
 S/Sgt 4200969
 Cpl 42180260

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Mawoll, Ceryl C
 Bender, Robert A
 Laurene, Andres H
 Thornley, Rex
 Cridelli, Robert J
 Ratliff, David R
 Lewis, Walter E
 Zeller, Miles T
 Friedman, Raymond M
 Rice, Elton
 Eckman, Edwin B
 Dishner, Robert
 Clark, Sidney F
 Bolton, George S

HQ CO MD RM

36820955
 T/5 35593205
 Sgt 32594191
 Pfc 10128472
 Pfc 31431017
 Pfc 37203518
 Pvt 14179690
 Pvt 36914215
 T/5 42055546
 Pvt 44036621
 Pfc 32956022
 Pfc 33988513
 Pfc 36630136
 Pfc 6831862

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COMPANY I

Mason, Zeb T
 Sakewicz, Frank
 Rye, Hubert
 Reynolds, James R
 Peri, Anthony J
 Fox, Ralph G
 Dodge, Harold A
 Rye, Robert
 Raught, Richard F

Pfc 3496196
 Pfc 33797992
 Pfc 35560673
 Pvt 42187235
 Pvt 42134881
 Cpl 35144067
 Pfc 31463890
 Pfc 35560673
 Pvt 35850067

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COMPANY I

Testa, Anthony J	Pfc	32038172	Dis
Blum, Robert	Sgt	32826873	Dis
Pack, Lloyd	Pfc	18080718	Dis
Rakowski, John M	Pvt	33616445	Dis
Kramer, Johnny W	Pvt	38680324	Dis
Soldano, Joseph	Pvt	42180496	Dis
Wilson, William L	Pfc	34837874	BI
Psychoyos, Stacy	Pvt	12225599	WIA
Davenport, James E	T/4	38068561	Dis
Koski, Lauri J	Pvt	36845171	WIA
Reilly, Walter R	Pvt	42180297	WIA
Hernandez, Louis	Pfc	39286260	WIA
Truckenbrodt, Lawrence J	Pfc	20624934	WIA
Sacco, John G	Pvt	33618772	Dis
Willain, Otis	Pfc	34035671	Dis
Smith, James M	Pvt	44030462	WIA
Gunter, Wilburn E	Pfc	34954919	WIA
Urch, Wellington T	Pfc	16175653	WIA
Wells, Virgil M	T/Sgt	36076667	WIA
Kerkella, Franklin D	Pfc	34966560	WIA
Zorester, Leo	Pfc	31431011	WIA
Grose, James E	Pvt	36912572	WIA
LaBorde, Ellis J	Pfc	38485601	WIA
Green, Edward H	Sgt	31390010	WIA
Prescott, Reuben D	Pvt	44046530	WIA
Poff, Anne H	Pfc	33888740	WIA
Martinez, Edgar E	Pvt	34985350	WIA
Shinner, Raymond F	Pvt	38633402	WIA
Hawkins, Walter J	Pvt	44905675	WIA
Kelly, Miles J	Pvt	42143606	WIA
Perkins, James G	Pvt	33821575	WIA
Fortien, Gilbert F	Pvt	31467144	Dis
Martha, William T	Pvt	32901816	Dis
Gentile, William	Pfc	32508742	WIA
McCormick, Claude P	Pvt	37699214	WIA
Myers, Clyde O	Pvt	35238165	WIA
Ank, Richard L	Pfc	39210104	WIA
Fowler, Jesse B	Pfc	18050705	WIA
Riley, Glenn H	S/Sgt	15016812	WIA
Lovett, Glenn	S/Sgt	38602693	WIA
Forbush, Reed	Pvt	36844812	Dis
Pickle, William A	Pfc	34981163	BI
Peak, Irving H	Sgt	12226958	WIA
Hins, Jackson V	Pvt	34999452	WIA
Dyar, Marion J	Pfc	34965878	WIA
Oregehak, Andrew	2d Lt	02007045	WIA
Swanson, Elden A	Pfc	57591624	WIA
Singer, Ralph W	Pfc	33939952	NBI
Nicholson, Willar	Pfc	6468501	BI I
Smith, Dillard J	Pvt	35843683	NBI
Shellhammer, Harry L	Pfc	33888575	Dis
Sotelo, Elizardo I	Pvt	39582216	Dis

COMPANY I

Sleamon, Robert A	Pvt	35473355	D1s
O'Dierno, Louis J	E/Sgt	42030983	NBI
Tippit, James	Pfc	24910075	NBI
Rooney, John P	Pfc	32188523	WIA
Porter, Leonard	Pvt	44031145	WIA
Pearson, Ellsworth C	Pvt	37595583	D1s

COMPANY K

Herman, Donald	2d Lt	01728623	D1s
Olserwski, Walter T	S/Sgt	31460297	D1s
Liner, Glenn B	T/Sgt	14129841	D1s
Lyons, Roy J	Pvt	44036645	D1s
Carothers, Richard R	Pfc	33920933	D1s
Hankell, Harold G	Pvt	42180439	D1s
Raspa, Michael G	S/Sgt	33795354	D1s
Johnsch, Woodrow	Pvt	44005612	D1s
Gernaley, Harold H	Pfc	39370384	NBI
Helinski, Charles	Sgt	38840806	D1s
Coley, Charles	S/Sgt	38471505	D1s
Inman, William H	Pvt	34837316	D1s
Williams, Enoch J	Pfc	36787775	D1s
Blasen, Leonard A	Pvt	37750191	WIA
Dominguez, Fernando	Pfc	37200677	WIA
Haywood, Henry M	Pvt	38059511	WIA
Quibby, Charles C	Sgt	31376331	WIA
Jones, John M	Pfc	35244005	BI
Sornitz, Robert E	Pvt	37697807	WIA
Blaich, Rudolph G	Pvt4	42187375	WIA
Miller, Thomas H	S/Sgt	34723837	WIA
Cooper, Herbert A	T/Sgt	20958479	WIA
Crawford, James Sr	Sgt	38653065	WIA
Raspa, Michael G	S/Sgt	33795354	D1s
Lee, Clinton J	Pvt	34966260	WIA
Garcia, Filomena C	Pfc	28462396	WIA
Lanning, Glenn E	Pfc	13057367	WIA
Wicks, Herman M	S/Sgt	6577056	WIA
Sadler, Floyd W	Pvt	35931149	WIA
Joyce, Kilton R	Pfc	31401437	WIA
Oax, Paul O	Pfc	38664428	WIA
Householder, James R	Sgt	35603323	WIA
Sanson, Edwin L	Pfc	42096346	WIA
Crivelle, Anthony J	Pvt	33907302	WIA
Shadwick, Clifford E	Pfc	24882408	WIA
Potts, Lawrence E	Sgt	15305973	WIA
Morton, James F	Pfc	34990123	WIA
Gurley, John W	Pvt	38572460	WIA
Romaine, Charles O	Pvt	42137244	WIA

COMPANY K

Scanlon, Thomas H
Blanton, McAllister
Daub, George H
Florian, Dean E
Dean, Florain E
Ferry, Rensay
Willey, Dale E
Wolff, Elmer R
Harney, Leo G

Pvt 37751260
Pfc 33546274
Pfc 31416125
Pvt 35883555
Pvt 35880556
Pfc 35203173
Pfc 37692874
Pfc 36650835
Pvt 42180356

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COMPANY L

Black, William W
Sarakas, Peter A
Coley, Charles
Champion, John L
Archer, Robert L
Keith, Dewey
Curnutt, William
Stile, Dominick
Greiner, Louis E
Shane, Wilmer H
Pardo, William
Murphy, Richard J
Horowitz, Herbert H
Ostrov, Joel
Pack, William
Kelley, Harry J
Griffin, William L
Odoe, Elwood W
Wildfeuer, Bert L
Gilbraith, Bernard J
Kondarski, Victor
Wayner, Fred J
Kusmanic, Frank M
Gauthier, Faise A
Marccone, Daniel J
Worrall, Harry
Torpey, Leo
Peniken, Helmuth
Szpara, Edward A
Sassaman, Joseph A
Haxlett, Tribert H
Pine, Julius
Peniken, Walter
Westhoff, Vincent
Landry, Achille R
Newton, Robert
Walsh, William
Pittengur, Charles

Sgt 33703309
Pfc 42112679
S/Sgt 38471505
Pfc 34826763
Sgt 35141266
Pfc 6006302
Pfc 35814364
Pvt 4205541
Pfc 32773571
Pfc 36634609
Pvt 42180587
Sgt 39273246
Pvt 42180257
Pvt 42187375
Pvt 39933454
Pvt 35903917
Pvt 3398880
Pvt 44036683
Pvt 37098360
Sgt 7070266
S/Sgt 31350313
Pfc 20327049
Pvt 36912221
Sgt 38616146
2d Lt 02027053
Pvt 33696646
Pfc 39144335
Pvt 42187237
S/Sgt 33733206
Pfc 3774211
Pfc 20528698
Pvt 42180670
Pvt 42187240
Pfc 37139792
Cpl 14002234
Pvt 38000411
S/Sgt 33687532
Pvt 35204333

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COMPANY H

McGaffio, Charles T	Pfc	33716220
Keith, Algernon J	S/Sgt	35708291
Marek, Jerome J	Pvt	37773410
Sydemstricker, Eldridge M	Pfc	
Ball, Charles N	1st alt	0550343
Woods, Lanzo H	Sgt	38552963
Reiche, Robert C	Pfc	35922826
Mikesh, George R	Pfc	37692814
Stricker, Marcus N	Pfc	37638317
Murphy, Wilbert D	Pfc	34704935
Patterson, Lloyd A	Pfc	38683024
Keppman, Marvin W	Pvt	36975556
Murphy, Wilburt D	Pfc	34704935
Ryan, John J	Pfc	12042129
Garzone, Anthony	Pvt	35027683
Stapledon, Athur C	Pfc	36888181
Bird, Robert	Pfc	33938420
Brown, Frank	S/Sgt	6662446
Cummings, Eric J	Pfc	33933691
Leader, Kenneth F	Pfc	36842600

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MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Picozzi, Joseph J	Pfc	33777391
Burnett, Cornelious	Pfc	42008704
Szozsch, Steve	Pfc	36901620
Secesch, Steve W	Pfc	36901020
Airt, Fred H	Pfc	36763687
La Borde, Ellis	Pfc	38385601
Burgess, Dwight R	T/5	35551135
Schoff, John E	Pfc	37311030
Engelhardt, John P	Pvt	31453757
Berg, Vernon E	Pfc	36663120
Rosen, Nathan	Pfc	31405004
McClyne, Thomas F	Pfc	33700132

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ANTITRUST COMPANY

Otto, Clifton L	Tc	18073025
Creswell, Thomas C	Pvt	39420871
Siebert, Arthur F	T/5	37624377
Lellis, Lawrence E	Pfc	34965622
Businek, Stanley	Pfc	33710109
Hancock, Jack M	Pfc	19004066
Holding, Arthur J	Pfc	36972220
Tirtchen, Adam W	S/Sgt	32066675
Rosen, Bernard L	1st Lt	01080320
Sturry, John F	Pfc	33704686
Browning, Cris A	Pvt	34948575
Stodumire, Snapper	Pfc	34946171
Vineleaf, Gus	Pvt	36978819

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Grigg, Peyton W	Pfc	34835551	Dis
Best, Charles	Tec 4	35893051	NBI
LaChance, Raymond	Pfc	42120634	Dis
Kramir, Harry	Pfc	32949505	Dis
Barnes, George	Sgt	13123600	VIA
Lanes, Robert J	Pfc	32565914	VIA
Hopcraft, Donald	Pfc	42056103	VIA
Kirkland, Elroy	T/4	38308233	VIA
Barg, Raymond J	Capt	01290186	VIA
Capasso, Robert	Cpl	31111882	VIA
Kitcher, George	Pvt	32045029	VIA

SERVICE COMPANY

Heath, Leslie B	Tec 5	39702039	Dis
Corona, James D	Tec 5	36830813	BI
Miller, James	Tec 4	14008863	BI
Pace, James F	CWO	33134437	BI
Smith, Joseph E	WOJG	W2132059	Dis
Filippine, Rudolph C	Pvt	42106084	Dis
Leong, Albert P	Pvt	30110702	Dis

CANNON COMPANY

Keeffe, John P	Pfc	31256940	VIA
Lathan, Kenneth	Pfc	33805203	VIA
Daubert, Warren	Tec 4	328888683	VIA
Robertson, Raymond W	Pvt	35572441	Dis

KILLED IN ACTION

Charles D Dalton	34373219	Pfc	Co A
Kenneth C McKinney	38681061	S Sgt	Co B
Daniel J Dennehy	12226881	Sgt	Co C
Salvatore Farrugio	42069858	Pfc	Co C
Donald L Merritt	37749774	Pfc	Co C
Leon C Biser	33908988	Pvt	Co B
Girtheil J Montgomery	35204293	Pvt	Co E
Thomas Grantonic	35080822	Pvt	Co G
Karlo P Pytlik	12151208	Sgt	Co I
David F Francisco	36845428	Pvt	Co L
Lawrence P Lollis	34965622	Pfc	AT Co
Steve P Karwacky	36410536	Pfc	Cn Co

MISSING IN ACTION

Loyd Miller	34095818	Pvt	Hq Co 1st Bn
Michael J Isolda	42143350	Pvt	Co A
Frank J Parello	42075777	Pvt	Co A
Charles M Stauble	19013061	S Sgt	Co A
Julius Whittington	6271979	T Sgt	Co B
Homer M Altherr	42096684	Pvt	Co C
Carlos D Burdett	34896366	Sgt	Co C
Donald W Harper	20702569	T Sgt	Co C
Joseph M Hartley	34961289	Pfc	Co C
Robert W Hoffman	42101434	Pfc	Co C
Joseph R Johnson	37710430	Pfc	Co C
Jack K Jones	39169728	Pvt	Co C
Walter A Losee	6803374	Pvt	Co C
James P McLaughlin	42186281	Pvt	Co C
Curtis L Nabors	44046474	Pvt	Co C
R C Payne	38506562	Sgt	Co C
Ralph A Sheeler	33813758	Pvt	Co C
George F Klinger	33489622	Cpl	Co D
John L Fillo	37634012	Pfc	Co E
William A Knightly	33026372	S Sgt	Co E
John P Osug	35158439	Pvt	Co E
Antho Barbergiovanni	35309301	S Sgt	Co F
Bobby J Cozart	38633965	Pvt	Co F
Julius P Dargenio	32725141	Sgt	Co F
Allen W Dillow	35846287	Pvt	Co F
Charles B Edwards	38631923	Pvt	Co F
Alliston Harris	35817122	Pvt	Co F
Raymond F Karwel	33611137	Pvt	Co F
Vincent P Kelly	31102498	M Sgt	Co F
Everett B Olson	36829205	Cpl	Co F
Carroll H Ryerson	36262916	Sgt	Co F
John W Studer	35243377	S Sgt	Co F

MISSING IN ACTION (Contd)

James T Conley	37646116	Pvt	Co G
Abe W Enns	37729358	Sgt	Co G
Thomas R LaFrance	42072221	Pvt	Co G
Edward L Steckelberg	36906227	Pvt	Co G
Alto J Tindell	44035690	Pvt	Co G
Norman H Penney	42065338	Pfc	Co H
Boleslaus Stryelczyk	36350912	Pfc	Co H
Floyd T Carr Jr	37633991	Sgt	Co I
Robert Gray	39926137	Sgt	Co I
Fred J Helmes	33146716	S Sgt	Co I
Robert S McDuffie	31431794	Pfc	Co K
Jessie L Teal Jr	34678307	Pfc	Co K
Darrel C Schmidt	37771452	Pfc	Co K
William E Campbell	35752891	Sgt	Co L
Thomas V Grillo	32682739	Pfc	Co L
Clark E Madden	35560351	Pfc	Co L
Harold J Maty	36912688	Pvt	Co L
Anthony Perrucci	42186848	Pvt	Co L
Ted Polansky	35931089	Pvt	Co L
Peter S Psomas	42187307	Pvt	Co L
Dennis Weaver	39725004	Pvt	Co L
LeRoy J Willems	37098570	Pfc	Co L
Melvin M Wilt	33256893	Pfc	Co L
Lloyd A Patterson	38683024	Pfc	Co M
Bernard Phillips	36874757	Tec 5	Sv Co
Heinz O Heimpold	15115584	Tec 4	Med Det
Charles A Karnik	37600587	Pfc	Med Det
Walter F Wasik	36685022	Pfc	Med Det

			<u>Officers</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Present	0001 1 March 1945		145	5	2883	3033
Absent	0001 1 March 1945		18	0	201	219
Assigned	0001 1 March 1945		163	5	3084	3252
Battle Casualties	Evacuated		19	1	377	397
Battle Casualties	Not evacuated		3	0	12	15
Non Battle Casualties	Evacuated		7	1	288	296
Non Battle Casualties	Not evacuated		0	0	42	42
Missing in Action			2	0	22	24
Killed in Action			0	0	51	51
Returned to Unit			12	1	210	223
Reinforcements received			11	0	392	403
Present	2400 31 March 1945		150	4	2854	3008
Absent	2400 31 March 1945		8	0	75	83
Assigned	2400 31 March 1945		158	4	2929	3091

PRISONER OF WAR REPORT

Prisoners captured during period.....13 officers and
1417 enlisted men

Prisoners processed through Regimental cage....13 officers and
1377 enlisted men

Prisoners evacuated through Medical channels...40 enlisted men

Total.....1430 POW's

Also see IPW reports in Regimental Journals for the following
dates:

1 March 1945	19 March 1945
4 March 1945	23 March 1945
7 March 1945	24 March 1945
12 March 1945	27 March 1945
14 March 1945	31 March 1945
18 March 1945	

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>COLONEL</u>				
Warren, Joseph H	012451	Regtl Hq	CO	
<u>LIEUTENANT COLONEL</u>				
Bryan, William J	0294945	Hq 2d Bn	CO	
Hatcher, James E	0186357	(Regtl Hq)	(Ex O)	Trfd to 255th Inf 22 Mar
Matheson, Donald E	021213	Hq 3d Bn	CO	
Schewe, Marion W	0250195	Regtl Hq	Ex O	Jd regt 21 Mar
Tucker, Robert E	019938	Hq 1st Bn	CO	Prom Lt Col 1 Mar
<u>MAJOR</u>				
Adams, Thomas P	0270921	Hq 3d Bn	Ex O	Prom Maj 1 Mar
Christensen, Ancher E Jr	0366280	Hq 1st Bn	(Ex O)	SD with 253d Inf
Glatzer, Abraham	0424498	Med Det	Regtl Surg	
Schaaf, Clarence, W	0283816	Regtl Hq	S-3	
Wilson, Thomas R	0325637	Sv	S-4	
<u>CAPTAIN</u>				
Albert, James E	01290178	Sv	Man O	
Bailey, Herbert H	01321566	Hq Co	S-1	
Mailey, Paul K	01290183	1st Bn		
Barbour, Gerald M	0476283	Regtl Hq	S-1	
Barg, Raymond J	01290186	Med Det	--	RTD 9 Mar; trfd 363d Med 14 Mar
Barton, Silas R	0429570	(Regtl Hq)	(Asst S-3)	BO 16 Mar
Berry, Louie B	0332450	(F)	(CO)	BO 8 Mar
Bessinger, William L	0366333	Sv	Pers O	Jd regt 2 Mar
Black, Nicholas C	0373426	L	CO	
Brown, John P	0420462	Hq	Comm O	
Brick, William E	01321286	C	CO	Prom Capt 16 Mar
Creal, James C	0425937	Sv	I & E O	
Farrar, Alexander J	01694290	Regtl Hq	Liaison O	HTD 28 Mar
Farrell, Robert E	0447704	Med Det	DC Hq Sec	
Frederick, Willie J	0350996	Hq 2d Bn	S-3	
Hamblen, Archelaus L	026187	Hq 1st Bn	S-3	
Horlock, Fred E	01290604	(Hq 3d Bn)	(S-3)	LWA 16 Mar
Hughes, Paul O	0303035	H	CO	
		Regtl Hq	Liaison O	

CAPTAIN Contd

Hyde, James R	01315173	K	CO	Prom Capt 1 Mar
Johnson, Clarence R	0369232	Sv	CO	
King, Charles R	01297210	Sv	Motor O	
Lonig, Lawrence E	01312240	G	CO	
McClure, John B Jr	0390585	Cannon	CO	
Mounts, Warren C	0543379	Regtl Hq	Chaplain	
Mysliwiec, Felix N	0499680	Regtl Hq	Regtl Ch	
Orloff, Morris P	01841850	Med Det	3d Bn Surg Jd Regt 14 Mar	
Piontek, Frank L Jr	01292939	D	CO	RTD 23 Mar
Pleskow, Adrian J	0438931	Med Det	2d Bn Surg	
Rogerson, George E	01292762	Hq 2d Bn	--	RTD 28 Mar
Rustemeyer, Frank C	0550731	Regtl Hq	Chaplain	
Schaller, John H	0319857	Regtl Hq	SD as div PX Off	
Scruton, Robert A	01319142	(B)	(CO)	BO 15 Mar
Seabrook, Paul D	0414412	Hq	CO	
Spangler, Samuel G	0467867	Hq Co	S-1	
		3d Bn		
Taitz, Emanuel	01290155	(Regtl Hq)	(S-2)	LWA 15 Mar
Van Auken, Edward W	0475448	Med Det	1st Bn Surg	
Walsh, Martin J	01695148	Med Det	Asst Regtl Surg	
Wilcox, Howard S	0423347	Hq 2d Bn	Ex O	
Wright, Albert H	01307609	Hq Co	S-1	
		2d Bn		

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Arches, Joseph	01326353	Hq Co	Mtr O	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
		2d Bn		
Armstrong, Billy J	0550341	H	Plat Ldr	RTD 26 Mar
Ball, Charles E	0550343	(M)	(CO)	BO 17 Mar
Blake, Fred S	01715473	Med Det	Hq DC	
Brace, Robert A	01057365	M	CO	RTD 13 Mar
Bracy, Lewis E	0550347	H	Plat Ldr	
Bruce, John G	01321568	Regtl Hq	Liaison O	
Carrow, Harvey H	0554141	A	Ex O	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
Coberg, Wallace H	01051081	Cannon	Plat Ldr	
Drake, Edgar	0154678	Med Det	Asst Surg	
			3d Bn	
Dulac, Xavier J	01080278	Sv	2d Bn S-4	
Eberbach, Walter	0317781	Hq 3d Bn	S-2	
Edsall, Floyd L	0555952	C	Ex O	
Frierson, Byron W	0550351	H	Ex O	SD with Regtl Hq
Fuller, Irwin L	0291967	Cannon	Ex O	
Gandler, Jacob E	0926244	Hq Co 3d Bn	Mun O	Prom 1st Lt 1

FIRST LIEUTENANT Contd

Goldschmidt, Lawrence C	01080284	Sv	SSO	
Goldt, Fred B	01183522	Sv	Trans O	
Gorup, William S	01320522	K	--	SD as CO Co F
Gunson, Robert A	0417310	AT	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 16 Mar
Hansen, Mons L	0551437	Regtl Hq	S-2	RTD 2 Mar
Heppler, Alfred J	01183879	Cannon	Plat Ldr	
Hurt, Leslie C	0435374	Cannon	Plat Ldr	
Hutchins, Lyman M	01326241	M	Ex O	
Johnson, John G	0557132	H	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 16 Mar
Jordan, James F	01182611	Hq Co	Mun O	
		1st Bn		
Kelly, Thomas R	01326243	Sv	3d Bn S-4	
Krings, Frederick C	0550610	Hq Co	Plat Ldr	
Kroesen, Frederick J	0555086	2d Bn		
		E	CO	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
Kuczynski, Henry	01546705	Med Det	2d Bn	
			Asst Surg	
Larson, John G Jr	01297056	Hq Co	Mtr O	
		1st Bn		
Lawrance, William B	0306213	AT	CO	
Lee, Bernard F	0496628	B	CO	
Lehman, Robert H	01320955	Hq Co	Comm O	
		2d Bn		
Lookabaugh, Frank H	0557134	D	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
Lundberg, William D	0550936	AT	Plat Ldr	
Martin, Robert O	0551442	AT	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 16 Mar
Maybee, Orrin S	01326247	Cannon	Plat Ldr	RTD 3 Mar 45
Mayhaw, John R	01312476	AT	Liaison O	
McKee, Elmer S	0550426	D	Ex O	
Meyers, Bernard	01056808	(Hq Co	(Mtr O)	BC 15 Mar
		3d Bn)		
Munari, Arthur J	01181048	(AT)	(Plat Ldr)	Trfd to 7 A 26 Mar
Pagano, Clifford E	01172207	M	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
Perkinson, Julian E	01289791	(Sv)	(Pers O)	Trfd XXI Corps 13 Mar
Pierce, Harold K	01045211	I	CO	
Reeves, Seab E A	01544596	I	Ex O	
Restani, Raymond	01043472	A	CO	BC 19 Mar; RTD 21 Mar
Rittenberg, Ellis	02049370	Med Det	1st Bn	
			Asst Surg	
Rosen, Bernard L	01080321	AT	Ex O	
Rosenbloom, Charles	01044083	G	Ex O	
Seay, John H	0551030	Hq 2d Bn	S-2	Prom 1st Lt 16 Mar
Seltzer, Milton	0549754	Sv	1st Bn S-4	
Shell, Mitchell R	0549678	M	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 1 Mar
Sherrwin, George R	0551277	L	Ex O	
Smithson, Albert E Jr	0403367	F	Ex O	SD Regtl Hq
Smuck, Adolfo F	01326346	Hq	I & R	Prom 1st Lt 16 Mar
			Plat Ldr	

Stratton, Earl V	0557143	H	Plat Ldr	Prom 1st Lt 16
Straub, Albert F	0284513	(Sv)		Trfd Delta Base
Thiel, Herman E	0546878	Hq Co	Comm O	Section 11 Mar
Williams, Walter H	01314356	1st Bn		Prom 1st Lt 1 E
Gordon, Raymond L Jr	026870	D	Ex O	
SECOND LIEUTENANT		Regtl Hq	Liaison O	Prom 1st Lt 1 I
Ahlborn, Eugene W	01328659	(F)	(Plat Ldr)	MIA 19 Mar
Beck, Robert E	02005989	I	Plat Ldr	
Berman, Donald	01328323	(K)	(Plat Ldr)	NBC 30 Mar
Brennan, Daniel J Jr	0555106	(F)	(Plat Ldr)	RTD 4 Mar
				NBC 18 Mar
Gaywood, William C	0548319	M	Plat Ldr	
Chesser, William T	0551015	(B)	(Plat Ldr)	NBC 21 Mar
Childs, Lawrence A	02007056	B	Plat Ldr	
Clark, Francis C	02011519	Regtl Hq		BB 9th Regt Dep
Connolly, John F	02007042	M	Plat Ldr	Jd Regt 16 I
Cottrell, Marion F	02011522	O	Plat Ldr	Jd Regt 13 Mar
Coulter, Tollton E	01328125	C	Plat Ldr	
Davis, Claude J	01327118	E	Plat Ldr	
Deprez, Alexander J	01327119	C	Plat Ldr	
Diehl, Edward W	02007041	(O)	(Plat Ldr)	BC 15 Mar
Dobyns, Benjamin F	0558791	C	Plat Ldr	
Donovan, Francis J	01053562	E	Ex O	
Duval, Gerald D	02011520	H	Plat Ldr	Jd Regt 13 Mar
Eckberg, William H	02007062	A	Plat Ldr	BC 19 Mar;
				RTD 27 Mar
Fodor, George H	02007047	(E)	(Plat Ldr)	NBC 13 Mar
Franklin, Gerald F	02011691	I		Jd Regt 23 Mar
Freas, David A	0549617	Hq	Gas O	
Goss, George W	01057444	K	Plat Ldr	
Hagan, Charles F	0557687	D	Plat Ldr	
Hagemann, Robert G	02007043	Hq 3d Bn		
Hall, Lewis E	02006251	(O)	(Plat Ldr)	LWA 15 Mar
Harger, Clyde J	0357725	L	Plat Ldr	
Hinton, Claude A	01182601	(G)	(Plat Ldr)	BC 18 Mar
Howcroft, William T	01328815	L	Plat Ldr	
Hurwitch, Robert A	01328491	D	Plat Ldr	Actng 1st Bn S-2
Ireland, Oscar E	02007042	F	Plat Ldr	
Kelch, Earle K	02011523	A	Plat Ldr	
Kile, William S	01061757	K	Plat Ldr	
Lanfrit, John	0553213	Hq Co	Mun O	
		2d Bn		
Larmon, David J	02006276	Hq	Plat Ldr	
Lawhorn, Nelson C	02011518	(F)	(Plat Ldr)	Jd Regt 13 Mar
				BC 19 Mar
Lipean, Harold	01059859	D	Plat Ldr	BC 19 Mar; 28 Mar

Linscott, Donald W	0546899	B	Plat Ldr
Loomis, Daniel M	02006196	(G)	(Plat Ldr) BC 18 Mar
Madden, William T	01328053	I	Plat Ldr
Maffitt, Theodore S Jr	0926240	Hq	Plat Ldr
Mancini, Kenneth R	02007061	G	Plat Ldr
Marcone, Daniel J	02007053	L	Plat Ldr
Martin, John V	02011524	(F)	(Plat Ldr) Jd Regt 13 Mar MIA 19 Mar

Mastrobattista, Attilio J	02007060	G	Plat Ldr
Mathews, Earl B	02007057	D	Plat Ldr
McConnell, Edward J Jr	01328726	D	Plat Ldr
McIntyre, Tom S	01826347	Hq Co	Plat Ldr
		1st Bn	
Miller, Howard P	01327644	Regtl Hq	TD Hq 63d Div
Miller, John P	01326765	A	Plat Ldr
Morin, Carl A	01328625	I	Plat Ldr
Olsen, Lyle S	01060913	(E)	(Plat Ldr) NBC 21 Mar
Oreschak, Andrew	02007045	(I)	(Plat Ldr) BC 15 Mar
Pankey, Arthur F	0550359	(D)	(Plat Ldr) NBC 25 Mar
Pancsyk, Theodore	02011523	A	Plat Ldr Jd Regt 13 Mar
Pappas, John B	01328926	K	Plat Ldr
Pirro, Geoggo E	02007048	A	Plat Ldr
Reichert, Eldon M	02007044	(F)	(Plat Ldr) MIA 30 Mar
Rocap, Benjamin A	02011690	B	Plat Ldr Jd Regt 23 Mar
Rowan, Paul J	0545694	(Hq Co)	NBC 28 Mar
		1st Bn)	

Settineri, James S	02006851	(H)	(Plat Ldr) BC 20 Mar
Shumate, Jack B	0926348	D	Plat Ldr
Smolin, Edwin M	0554880	A	Plat Ldr
Sykes, Dillo G	02007040	B	Plat Ldr
Tennent, Harry Jr	02007063	M	Plat Ldr
Tisher, Oscar W	02007058	Hq Co	Plat Ldr
		1st Bn	

Sweeney, Earle F	02011521	L	Plat Ldr Jd Regt 13 Mar
Van Bockern, Donald D	02007046	B	Plat Ldr
Whitten, George E	02007039	E	Plat Ldr
Whitney, John C	02007039	E	Plat Ldr BC 19 Mar
Witta, Arthur	02005965	G	Plat Ldr
Williams, Claude Jr	0927593	L	Plat Ldr
Williams, John D	02007059	M	Plat Ldr

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Mayo, Perry F	W2124454	Hq	Asst Comm O
Pace, James P	W2124457	Sv	Asst Mtr Trans O
			BC 18 Mar; RTD
			21 Mar

WARRANT OFFICER JUNIOR GRADE

Hagg, John R	W2112021	Sv	Asst S-1
Rosenblum, David H	W2124464	Sv	Asst Supply O
Smith, Joseph E	W213082	(Sv)	(Asst Mtr O NBC 13 Mar

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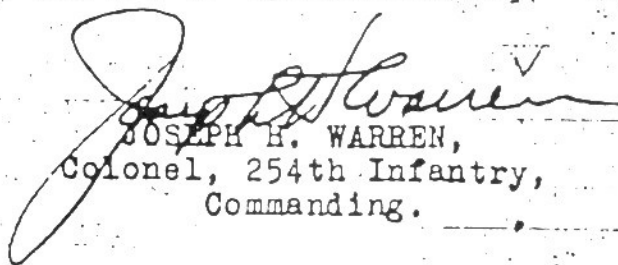
HEADQUARTERS 254TH INFANTRY
APO 410 U S Army

10 May 1945

Subject: Transmittal of Monthly Unit Report
of Operations.

To : Commanding General, 63d Infantry Division,
APO 410, U S Army.

In compliance with Memorandum No 6, Headquarters
63d Infantry Division, dated 13 February 1945, trans-
mitted herewith, monthly Unit Report of Operations for
the month of April 1945.



JOSEPH H. WARREN,
Colonel, 254th Infantry,
Commanding.

Incl: Rpt in Quint

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COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Tanks - both medium and light - have played a very important part in our Infantry-Tank-Artillery Team during the past month. It was found in the attack of towns and villages that the Infantry attacked aggressively when their action was supported by tanks. This requires close coordination. The Infantry wants the tanks right with them and contrawise the tanks need the Infantry for close-in protection. It is found that the Infantry-Tank operation is most successful when the same Tank-Infantry teams work together continuously for periods of time.

2. It was found that due to the rapidity of the advance that the I & R platoon was not sufficiently armed and protected. To overcome this either a Recon element should be assigned as a tactical part of the Regiment or the I & R platoon should be equipped with armored cars.

3. It is felt that the AT and Cn Companies, as such, should be eliminated from the Infantry Regiment. To replace them, tanks and self propelled TDs should be assigned each Infantry Regiment as an organic part of the T/O & E.

4. Radio communication proved invaluable during the past month. Due to the rapidity of advance and extended frontages, it was impossible to install and maintain wire. Radio relay stations were used to the utmost advantage.

5. Air Support. This Regiment received excellent air support from the "Fighter-Bomber" type aircraft. Woods and towns containing known enemy emplacements and columns were bombed and strafed. This contributed to the disrupting of the enemy's supply lines; harrassing and confusing him in his attempts to withdraw. Thus he was never able to "get set" and was kept off balance most of the time. Arrangement for this air support was coordinated through Division.

6. Close Engineer Support. It was found necessary to keep the Engineer Company Commander with the Regimental CO. An Engineer platoon was attached to each battalion. Their mission was the clearing of road blocks, mine removal, preparation of fords, and erecting bridges over the numerous small streams that had to be crossed in our area. Assault boats were kept at or near the

Regimental CP and dispatched to the battalions when necessary for foot troops to cross streams when bridges are not available. It is felt that an addition should be made to the A & P platoons, making a complete Pioneer platoon and also a complete Ammunition platoon; the reason being that a complete Pioneer platoon is needed in each battalion to augment the Engineer platoon. The rapid expenditure of ammunition requires additional personnel to adequately supply the battalion's needs.

7. Weasels should be included in the TO & E of the Medical Detachment and ammunition section. Because of their construction they are able to ford many streams impassable to $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, and also operate over swampy-boggy terrain as well as hilly ground.

8. Artillery. It was found necessary to organize Battalion Combat Teams consisting of 1 platoon of Tanks, 1 platoon of TDs, battalion of Infantry, platoon of Engineers and 1 battery of Artillery. Included in the Artillery were 2 SP assault guns, making a 6 gun battery. The use of artillery in this type unit was very effective.

N A R R A T I V E

- April, chilly but dry, found the 254th Infantry Regiment still continuing its relentless, unfaltering drive to help end organized resistance in southern Germany. During the entirety of the initial period, the only defense met was in and around the towns in the regimental sector. Some elements of the German army were still attempting to rally some sort of a static defense line, but due to the rapidity with which the entire Seventh Army was moving, this was impossible and the result was a sporadic and usually light resistance as the main forces of the enemy kept constantly retreating. Many of the prisoners being taken by our forces consisted of 15 and 16 year olds, members of the Hitler Jugend, and old men who had been rapidly drafted from the ranks of the often mythical Volksturm.

In the opening minutes of April the 63d Division was assigned to the VI Corps and with this new assignment came orders that the Regiment would be relieved by elements of the 100th Division and move immediately to an assembly area in the vicinity of Schriesheim to replace elements of the 4th Division in that sector.

In accordance with this order the First Battalion left at 0830 April the first and arrived in this village at 1015. The Second Battalion remained in Mannheim attached to Cadet Target.

Here a combat team was assembled ready to begin any attack that higher headquarters commanded. This combat team consisted of the Regiment (minus the Second Battalion), the 862d Field Artillery, Company "A" of the 753d

Tank Battalion, Company "B" of the 263d Engineers, and Company "B" of the 363d Collecting Company. At 1300 the Combat Team moved from Schriesheim to Eberbach, where it arrived at 1730A. Immediately two companies were sent to relieve elements of the 10th Armored Division in the valley towns which were located on the main roads leading into Eberbach. "A" Company, reinforced with one platoon of tanks, one platoon of HMGs, and one AT platoon moved by truck to Oberdiehlbach and Unterdiehlbach; "K" Company, reinforced in the same way, rode to Waldd Katzenbach and Antonschust to outpost those towns.

Operations Instructions Number 24 from the 63d Division were received at about 2000, and shortly thereafter Task Force Tucker, composed of the First Battalion and 1 platoon of tanks, moved by motor attacking in a southeasterly direction to Lohrbach with the mission of reducing resistance on the lines of communication, seizing that town and patrolling south to Mosbach. Upon completion of this immediate mission, the Task Force was to coordinate with elements of the 10th Armored forces and move closely behind them to the division objective of Bittelbronn.

Task Force Tucker left Eberbach at 2330, and a few minutes later the Regiment, as part of Combat Team White Minus, followed, moving east toward the Regimental objective, which was the intersection of the two main highways at Oberschefflenz.

The Third Battalion (the only unit of infantry still under direct regimental control) gained its objective, Oberschefflenz, at approximately 0600, encountering no enemy opposition while enroute.

Plans were immediately formulated to take the town of Osterburcken, and "L" Company, with one platoon of tanks

was sent as to make a reconnaissance in force of that town. This unit moved without resistance until it was just a few hundred yards northwest of Adelsheim. At 1400, the company was halted by severe sniper fire as well as artillery generally coming from the small town of Sennfeld to the south. This opposition was overcome and a few minutes later, at 1420, the company encountered about 40 enemy entrenched in the western outskirts of Adelsheim supported by four 88's. "L" was able, against moderate resistance, to enter the town, which was completely cleared by 1800. Four SP's were discovered fleeing eastward out of Adelsheim toward Merchingen and one of them was destroyed by the attached tanks from the 753d Tank Battalion. The company was then instructed to hold the town that night, and the unit immediately began to dig in for all-around protection. All of this had been accomplished with only one casualty to the company, a walking wounded.

Meanwhile, a patrol had been sent from I Company to investigate the railroad tunnel which was about 500 yards northwest of Adelsheim. (S189912). This patrol discovered 3 locomotives, 10 boxcars of ammunition-including 20mm, 105mm, mortar and other large caliber projectiles, and 3 cars mounting 20mm guns. A guard from Co B of the 263d Engineers was placed at both sides of the tunnel, awaiting proper disposition by Division Ordnance.

At 1735 "X" Company moved out of Oberschefflenz by motor to attack and capture Osterburken. A little less than two hours later they had cleared Schlierstadt without resistance on the way to their primary objective. It was not until the company had completely taken the western portion of Osterburken that they met the enemy. Here they

found that all bridges leading across the Seckach River, which divided the town in half, had been blown; the Germans were defending the eastern half of the town by rifle and automatic weapons fire. Because the stream was impassable to tanks and motor vehicles, the company dug in on the western bank of the river to await further orders the following day.

Task Force Tucker, meanwhile, had moved to Lohrbach and then had cut south with "A" Co spearheading the drive. At about the same time that "K" Company was digging in on the west bank of the Seckach River, "A" Company was just a few hundred yards north of Bernbronn engaged in a minor fire fight with a few isolated enemy soldiers. The rest of the battalion at this time was in the town of Sulzbach. "A" Company entered Bernbronn at about 0500 April the third and left that city riding vehicles of the Reserve CC of the 1Dth Armored Division driving toward the village of Hochtsberg which they entered with light resistance. "A" Company then moved up the bank of the Schefflenz River, but just as the company arrived at the bridge, this structure was blown. Therefore the unit moved back into its position in that town.

The remainder of the battalion continued to advance southward and by 0200 had taken Tiefenbach, overcoming moderate resistance, and two hours later had cleared the high ground northeast of that town. In all, 46 prisoners were taken in this one locality. At about 1500 the battalion minus "A" Company was relieved by elements of the 253d Infantry and an hour later was on its way to the division objective at Bittlebronn, arriving in that town at about 1930.

Immediately upon arrival, companies "A" and "C" were

sent to Reigheim, which "I" Company of the 253d was in the process of clearing.

Just after daylight of this same day, "K" Company again made preparations to cross the Seckach River, but again this was made impossible by the small arms and automatic weapons fire from the eastern portion of the town. It was then decided to call for artillery fire and several rounds were fired at the town in order to register in. Just as the artillery was about to fire for effect, a white flag was flown from the church tower across the river. A townsman who spoke English came across in a small boat and told the company commander of "K" Company, Captain James R. Hyde, 01315173, that all the German soldiers had left the town to take up positions on Hill 361 to the east of Osterburken and that our troops could cross the river into the town without opposition. The company waded the river while the tanks went through the water and up the stone wall on the other side. Osterburken was completely cleared by 1700 and "K" pushed on to clear the area surrounding the town.

"I" Company, which had been in battalion reserve in Oberschefflenz, moved to the high ground east of Osterburken while the attached tanks cleared the area to the south of the town. "L" Company remained in Adelsheim, continuing to mop up that village.

That night a bridge was constructed by Company "B" of the 263d Engineers across the river in Osterburken. Complying with Regimental Operations Instructions number 32, Task Force Ticker was dissolved at 0745, when elements of the 255th Infantry relieved the First Battalion on

position in the towns they held. Trucks were immediately sent to Bittlebronn to pick up "B" and "D" and to Roigheim for "A" and "C" Companies. The Battalion CP moved into Schlierstadt with "B" Company; "A" Company was sent to Botsheim while "C" Company went to Osterburken.

At 1000 "K" Company initiated an attack on the high ground to the east of Adelsheim from Osterburken. No resistance was encountered, and the unit reached its objective by noon.

The attack to the east was again started at 1600, with both the First and Third Battalions pushing. The Third Battalion left the vicinity of Osterburken with "L" on the left, "I" on the right, and "K" in reserve. Because of the fear of mines, the infantry led the tanks in this drive. The First Battalion pushed off with "C" Company on the right in the sector just north of Osterburken while "A" Company moved out from the woods east of Rosenberg. "B" Company was in reserve, clearing out the woods in the vicinity of Schlierstadt.

At 1800 "I" Company and attached tanks were at the edge of Merchingen moving into that town without resistance while "K" and "L" Companies had cleared the woods to the north also finding no enemy.

This town was cleared at 1830 by "I" and "L" Companies; "I" immediately sent a patrol to Hungheim. This patrol, consisting of the Second Platoon reinforced, received some small arms fire in the town but managed to wipe out all existing resistance in an hour.

Meanwhile, the First Battalion was also attacking to the east; "A" Company moved through Rosenberg and at 1800 had reached its objective, Bronnacker, without resistance. At the same time that "A" Company was advancing

to Bronnacker, "C" Company was moving up behind them to hold Rosenberg after it had been passed through by the leading unit. Both Companies placed outposts in the high ground to the east of their respective towns and awaited further orders the following day.

The 5th of April was spent in garrisoning the towns taken in the previous days activities. The only happening of prime importance was the receipt of orders releasing the Second Battalion from attachment to Cadet Target. This became effective at 0200, and soon after this the battalion began a motor march from Mannheim to Hirschlanden and Sindolsheim. "F" and "G" Companies were billeted in the former town while "Headquarters", "E" and "H" Companies were billeted in the latter village. By divisional order at 1430, this unit was placed in reserve, being committed only on orders from that headquarters.

The following morning, the 6th, the Regiment continued its drive according to the orders contained in Operations Instructions Number 33. The First Battalion with two platoons of Company "A" of the 753rd Tank Battalion and 1 platoon of the 822d TD Battalion was to clear Boxberg and Bobstadt. As soon as this was accomplished, the battalion was to attack to the south and seize the towns of Rengerhausen, Ailringen, Hollenbach, Zaisenhausen, Mulfingen, Ebarbach, Herrentierbach, and Ober-Ragenbach. Upon completion of the capture of these towns, the battalion was to institute active reconnaissance to Amlishhagen.

One platoon of tanks and one platoon of TDs were attached to the Third Battalion. The mission of this unit was to seize the towns of Dorzbach, Hohebach,

Weldingsfeld and Nitzenhausen. Upon completion of this, the Battalion was also to be prepared to institute active reconnaissance to Ambishagen.

The Second Battalion remained in Regimental reserve, to be committed on Division Order only.

Company "C" pushed off from Rosenberg at 0800, spearheading the drive of the First Battalion and reached Boxberg without resistance at 0945. By this time Company "B" had taken Windischbush and the remainder of the Battalion was in Schwabhausen, having taken these two villages without a fight.

Immediately upon entering these towns, the Battalion again drove South and East. An hour later, 1045, "A" Company had entered Assamstadt, "B" Company had taken Bobstadt, and "C" Company held the tiny village of Seehof. Both "A" and "B" Companies were dispatched to Rengerhausen at about 1130 while "C" Company was sent from Seehof to Assamstadt, to which town the Battalion C.P. was also moving.

The units driving to Assamstadt reached their objective by 1400 and "A" Company entered Rengerhausen approximately an hour later. However, "B" Company met moderately heavy resistance from machine gun and small arms about a mile north of Rengerhausen along the Mergentheim - Dorzbach highway. The Company was able to eliminate this in twenty minutes and proceed into Rengerhausen.

The Regimental Commander then ordered the First Battalion to halt its attack and await further orders. "B" Company was given the one further mission of joining elements of Troop "A", 117th Reconnaissance Squadron to seize and hold Stuppach, which controlled the network of roads coming into

the Battalion area from the East and North. Upon arriving in Stuppach, again without resistance, "B" Company held that position ready to continue the attack the following morning at 0800 with "A" Company departing from Rengerhausen and "C" Company moving out from Assamstadt.

Meanwhile, the Third Battalion had been attacking in its sector. At 0845B the Battalion began to move directly eastward in a line of companies with "K" Company leading the drive. Less than an hour later the unit had cleared Ballenburg and was heading northeast to Neunstetten. This town was taken with no enemy action and the Battalion placed its C.P. there at about 1000. "K" Company moved southward quickly to take Krautheim, which was cleared by 1238, but there was heavy resistance from the hill east of the village across the Jagst River. The bridge had been blown; the Company had no means of making a crossing that day, so preparations were made to defend the town until the attack could be resumed the following morning.

Staying on the north side of the Jagst River, "I" Company moved into Klepsau with little resistance while "L" Company and the Battalion C.P. drove to Laibach and were defending that town ready to move into the attack the next day.

The Second Battalion, still located at Sindolsheim and Hirschlanden, continued to be division reserve, but moved to Merchingen that morning. At 2130B, on division order, the unit was motorized with Regimental organic transportation and placed on a two hour alert.

At 0815 the following day, the 7th, the regiment resumed its attack to the east and south. The First Battalion sent "C" Company southeast from Assamstadt to take

the town of Ailringen while "B" Company moved from Stuppach to the high ground about 1000 yards north of "C" Company's objective. After completion of the missions of these two units, "A" Company was to attack Hellenbach from Rengerhausen.

Moderate resistance was encountered when "C" Company arrived at their objective, Ailringen, at about 1000. An hour after this organization had cleared the town, it received orders from the Regimental Commander to cross the Jagst River at Ailringen and hold the high ground south of that town in order to block for the rest of the battalion as it complied with orders to clear the Krautheim - Hollenbach road from Hohebach to Hollenbach.

While "C" Company was making preparations for the crossing, "B" was moving toward its objective and "A" had been dispatched from Rengerhausen immediately upon receiving word that Company "C" had cleared Ailringen. At 1545 "B" arrived on its position while "C" began the crossing of the river. With all personnel of the unit across the Jagst, and with the receipt of the news that "A" had arrived in Hollenbach with only light resistance to protect the left flank of the regiment, "C" Company swung west to take positions on the high ground west of Hohebach. This being completed, the battalion awaited daylight to continue the attack the following day.

The Second Battalion had remained on a two hour alert in Division reserve in the vicinity of Merchingen.

The Third Battalion resumed its attack at 0900 with "I" and "K" Companies attempting to effect a crossing of the Jagst River at Krautheim while "L" Company, still on the north side of that river, launched a drive on Dorzbach from Laibach.

Artillery preparations for the crossing was begun about 1100 when enemy positions were definitely located on the high ground east of Krautheim and in Alt Krautheim. An hour later the crossing began in assault boats with "K" leading followed by "I". Light mortar fire harrassed the troops of the assault company as they moved across the water, but they were able to advance under fire and moved eastward from Krautheim. "I" advanced on Alt Krautheim, meeting very heavy resistance from mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. This unit finally took its objective at 1400, taking 28 prisoners, all of them from an Engineer OCS unit.

Dorzbach fell to "L" Company after putting up light resistance. While moving toward the Krautheim-Hohebach highway to clear that road to grid line 44, (or Sheet V "K" became involved in a stiff fire fight south of Klepsau at about 1700 but managed to overcome this resistance and moved to the high ground 1000 yards southwest of Dorzbach, arriving there about 1930. As the battalion's attack halted for this day, "L" held Dorzbach, "K" had the hill south of this town and "I" remained to hold Alt Krautheim.

The regimental sector was extended the following morning when orders were received from Division at 0910 to envelope the region bounded by the line from Erlench to Kunzelsau. In conjunction with this, the Second Battalion reverted from Division reserve to Regimental control and was assigned the mission of taking this sector. Shortly after these orders were received the Battalion moved from Merchingen by motor to Krautheim. Here they crossed the Jagst River by ford, all elements having completed this by 1400.

"G" Company spearheading, the battalion advanced to the southeast, finding both the town of Gemmersdorf as well as the woods to the south of that town clear of enemy. By 1800, Marlach was in the hands of "F" Company, "E" was moving on Sindeldorf, and "G" Company was preparing to attack Dorrenzimmern. "E" moved swiftly through Sindeldorf with moderate resistance and captured Diebach at 2000 without firing a shot. "G" Company, meanwhile, had attacked Dorrenzimmern from Gommersdorf, encountering scattered resistance from the woods to their north. The village of Eberstal, which they took on their way to the main objective, offered no resistance.

Early in the morning of this same day, the eighth, it became apparent that there was a strong enemy force holding Hohebach and the surrounding ground. Because this village controlled the main highway running north of the Jagst river, the only good supply route into Hollenbach and the Third Battalion, it was essential that this town be cleared immediately.

The order was therefore given to "C" Company, which was dug in in the high ground to the northeast, to take the town. This organization moved into the attack at about 0600, and managed to get the first platoon into the outskirts of the village. The resistance was then so extremely heavy--resulting from mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, that the platoon was forced to withdraw. While artillery pounded the town, "B" was sent from the vicinity of Ailringen as support for a new attack.

A TOT was called for to last until 1140 and at that time, after firing 96 rounds of HE and WP in this one barrage, "C" Company attacked again. Although the resistance

was fairly strong, the town was cleared at 1253. The companies then turned southward with "C" taking Siedelkingen under small arms fire from the woods north of that village and "B" clearing Hesselachshof under moderate resistance from the woods north of that town.

The Third Battalion continued its attack also; leaving one platoon from "I" Company in the vicinity of Alt Krautheim and one platoon from "K" Company at Dorzbach, the battalion began its drive to the southeast. Company "I" moved into Messbach at 1430 with "K" Company clearing the woods southeast of that town. An hour later "K" joined "L" in Messbach and "I" cleared Oinsbach. When the other platoon from "K" joined its parent unit, this organization moved out to clear Ober Oinsbach without resistance. At 1615, the "I" Company platoon which had been left in Alt Krautheim rejoined its unit also, and the organization moved to the edge of the woods southwest of Messbach. "L" Company moved down to Wendischenhof to meet light resistance in the woods west of that village; this was overcome, however, and the town was cleared by 2000.

The following day, which was the 9th of April, the Regiment resumed its advance to the south. The First Battalion moved Company "A" toward Hoherot and "C" Company thru the woods southeast of Siedelklingen. "A" Company arrived at Hoherot at 1035 and continued on just as did "C" Company without resistance. Around noon, the latter unit encountered a moderate defense in the woods east of Weldingsfeld and took 10 prisoners.

At approximately 1330 the entire battalion met very stubborn defense pocket; "A" Company was receiving heavy

small arms fire from the east of Hesselachshof, and "C" Company was encountering heavy small arms fire in the woods east of Weldingfeld. About 1700 the resistance began to weaken and "A" and "C" were moving ahead slowly with moderate resistance, while "B" was on the hill above Jagstburg. Railhof was captured by "C" Company about 2000 and "A" Company took up defensive positions in the vicinity of Hohenrot.

The Second Battalion had resumed the attack at 0800 with "E" and "G" leading the attack and "F" Company remaining in reserve. Very slight resistance was encountered in Eberstal and was soon overcome. By 0945, "E" had cleared Diebach and "G" Company had taken Dorrenzimmern. Both Companies then continued advancing to the south; at 1430 "G" held the woods south of the town that they had just taken and awaited tanks while "E" Company proceeded without resistance. Ingelfingen fell to Company "E" while "G" Company advanced to the woods northeast of that village. Here they encountered ~~bunkers~~ strongly manned with machine and bur guns. The Company was forced to halt and wait for armor to help reduce this resistance. At 1600 "F" Company took Belsenberg and continued southward to the edge of the woods. About this time, 1740, "F" Company received a very fanatical counter-attack which was later estimated at about one company. These fanatical youths were armed with automatic weapons and inflicted 19 casualties in "F" Company in one hour. Seven members of "F" Company were captured and evacuated to Belsenberg, which in the meantime had been taken by "G" Company. The prisoners were there liberated and their guards captured.

The Third Battalion had resumed its attack with "K" Company and "I" moving on Stachenhausen and "L" Company on Weldingsfeldon. At 1030 Company "I" had cleared Stachenhausen and Company "L" had met very stubborn resistance in Weldingsfeldon. Company "I" was therefore sent around to the right flank of "K" Company and by 1430 had fought their way into the southern end of that town. The village was cleared at 1610 by the combined efforts of "I" and "L" Companies. "K" Company meanwhile had entered Eschenhof; the companies here re-organized and pressed on, "K" moving to Hermuthausen and Companies "I" and "L" moving thru the woods southeast of Weldingsfeldon. The advance was continued until dark at which time the Battalion stopped and organized for the night; "L" Company was in the southern edge of the woods, "I" Company to the front and to the flank of Hermuthausen and "K" Company held in mobile reserve in that town.

The regiment continued to ~~clear out its~~ sector to the Kocher River the following day, which was April 10th. The First Battalion did little except improve its positions in the vicinity of Railhof and Jagstberg. At about 1030 Company "B" entered Jagstberg from the high ground to the west of that town with only light opposition.

The Second Battalion, however, actively continued its mission. The entrenched enemy in the woods south of Dorrenzimmern attempted a withdrawal just after dawn, but "E" Company had flanked this woods to the right the night before, and the result was an interception of those retreating. Forty-seven prisoners was the result of this one maneuver. "F" Company, which had been in position in

front of this group of Germans, then advanced through the woods and cleared them by 1000.

"E" Company meanwhile, had advanced southeast toward Nagelsberg and was receiving both small arms and high angle fire from the woods southwest of that town. The Company was able to enter Nagelsberg about 1600, although they were still receiving some fire from the same location. Lipfers-berg and the woods in the vicinity of the town was bombed and strafed a half hour later, after which all fire ceased.

"G" Company had pushed southeast from Belsenberg and had in turn cleared the town of Siegelhof at 1400, Steinbach at 1500 and Amrichshausen at 1630 without opposition.

Company "F" continued its advance and entered Gornberg about 1700. The battalion C.P. then moved to Siegelhof and preparations ~~were~~ made to defend their portion of the objective.

The Third Battalion resumed its attack and at about 0900 "L" Company contacted elements of the 10th Armored Division in the vicinity of Berndshausen. With "L" on the left and "K" on the right, the Battalion swept southward. "K" Company entered Ohrenbach about 1000 without resistance while "L" Company took Nitzenhausen at 1200 and "I" Company captured Bodenhof at 1120. "K" then moved from Berndshausen to Kuglhof, where they arrived at 1830.

The following day, April 11, the regiment again took up the attack, with the First Battalion acting as the assault element and the Second Battalion supporting it by fire. The objective, according to OI No. 30, Hq 63d Division, was to force a crossing of the Kocher River.

just south of Ingerflingen. The First Battalion moved by motor to an assembly area in the woods northwest of the town from which they began moving into Ingerflingen at about 1200.

After being delayed somewhat by elements of the 10th Armored Division, "A" Company began to cross the river as the leading element of the battalion. The first two platoons of the unit made the crossing without resistance, but the Third platoon met heavy machine gun and rifle fire when it attempted to cross. Very heavy artillery and mortar fire then began falling on the crossing and in Ingerflingen. All of "A" Company finally managed to make the crossing by 1700 and began immediately to scale the hill toward Lipfers-berg. "B" Company had started to cross also, but progress was very slow because the bridge was zeroed in and there were several snipers to the right of the crossing. "C" Company assisted in this by setting up a base of fire on the north bank of the river.

Both artillery and air support were called in to assist in the crossing, and after planes of the XII TAC had bombed and strafed the enemy positions, resistance decreased materially. By 2045, "B", "D" and most of Headquarters Company had followed "A" across the river. After "C" Company had completed its crossing at about 2300, the Battalion took up defensive positions on the high ground a few hundred yards north of Lipfers-berg.

The Third Battalion during this action had remained in the defensive positions they had taken the day before, remaining ready to capture their objective on regimental order.

In the opening minutes of the 12th of April, Company "F" in Gomburg received an emissary from the Burgemeister of Kunzelsau with a letter stating that he wanted to surrender his town. He further wrote that all soldiers, including Hitler Youth, had left. The Company Commander, 1st Lieutenant Gorup, advised the emissary to have the Burgemeister display white flags from each house by daylight.

At 0620, when there was enough light to see the Company found the city of Kunzelsau dotted with white flags, but waited until elements of the First Battalion had taken the high ground to the west of that city before they entered. Having seen elements of this battalion on Bald Hill, they entered Kunzelsau shortly after noon with no resistance at all. After clearing the town, they were ordered to hold it until further orders were received. "E" Company was then sent through Kunzelsau to take Hill 398, which they reached at 2020, digging in there with preparations to continue the attack the following day. "G" Company was moving from Adrichshausen to Morsbach. At 1830, the Company was receiving very heavy mortar fire as well as strong small arms fire, but with the help of the attached tanks, the Company managed to enter that town at 1910.

The Third Battalion had received orders to leave "L" Company in its present position and have "I" Company take Mausdorf and Schloss Stetten while "K" took Kocherstetten. Neither Company encountered any resistance as "I" went through Mausdorf at 1820 and Schloss Stetten at 1900 and "K" captured Kocherstetten at 1955.

Only the First Battalion met much resistance this

day as they fought their way under constant enemy harassment from Lipfers-berg along the west side of Highway 19 to the south of Kunzelsau. "B" Company received fire from Gaisbach but managed to clear that village and take Oberhof to the south. "A" and "C" Companies were able to get to the outskirts of Kunsbach and Haag respectively, but neither was able to enter its objective that night.

The next morning the 13th, however, at 0830, Company "C" took Haag, but found no enemy in this town. "A" Company then passed thru them and at 1230 had captured Kubach while "B" Company was sweeping the woods in the vicinity of that town. Patrols were immediately sent to Fessbach and Rublingen. Before they could return, the Burgomeister of Kupferzell sent word to the First Battalion Commander that he wanted to surrender his town. When the patrols returned, they reported both Fessbach and Rublingen void of enemy, so the Battalion Commander at 1930 sent "A" to Kupferzell with one platoon of tanks and one platoon of TD's, "C" to Fessbach with two platoons from Anti-tank Company and "B" to Rublingen. These three companies guarded these towns that night.

The Second Battalion had also continued the attack with "E" Company easily occupying Etzlinweiler while "G" Company advanced from Morsbach to clear the woods south of that town. "F" Company still in Battalion reserve, moved from Kunzelsau to Morsbach. The Third Battalion remained in the positions gained the previous day.

With this accomplished, the regiment had captured its portion of the division objective, and the following day was spent in improving positions already gained. Patrols were sent to the south of each of the battalions, but only

the First Battalion groups made any contact at all.

Before H-hour, 0900, "B" Company received a small but fierce counter-attack in Rublingen. The enemy force was 39 men and according to later IPW reports consisted of picked men from the 1st Company of the 119 VGD as well as a TD squad armed with "Panzerfausts". Their mission was to get a prisoner, but in their fierce two hour fight they failed.

The First Battalion, with its attached units, pushed off at 0900. "C" Company, headed for Gogenbach, received heavy small arms fire from the draw west of that town. After placing mortar fire on the enemy, the company again advanced but was stopped once more, this time in the woods northwest of Gogenbach. They overcame this fire and entered the town at 1227. Immediately upon clearing Gogenbach, a heavy barrage of 88 as well as some mortar fire fell on them, this continued all afternoon. About 1800, "C" Company made an attempt to reach the next village south, Eschenthol, but the defense was so intense that the unit later pulled back to Gogenbach to hold that town until continuing the attack the following day.

"B" Company also met strong resistance on their drive southward from Rublingen to Dottingen. The unit was able to overcome small arms resistance and enter the town about 1300, but when it began a further push to cross the Kocher River, the Company became engaged in a fire fight south of the village. The resistance encountered here included "time fire", and after being subjected to this until 1620, the Company withdrew to Dottingen to hold that town.

Company "A" also found resistance heavy. As "A" Advanced through the woods toward Ruckertshausen, the unit

encountered enemy in a series of entrenched positions. As one line would become too difficult to hold, the Germans would simply fall back to the next line of defense. In addition to this heavy small arms opposition, "A" was receiving high velocity fire from the vicinity of Eschenthal. The unit was able to reach the high ground north of Ruckertshausen by 2030, at which time they dug in to hold that position.

The Third Battalion had also jumped off at 0900, and in the initial phase of the attack met no resistance. Lassbach was quickly captured by "L" Company, "I" swiftly took Voglesberg, and "K" overran Summerberg and Weillersbach with no opposition.

"I" Company then proceeded southward toward Zettishoffen, which they cleared at 1330 under fire of "screaming mimis". "L" Company pushed through the woods to Nesselbach, arriving at the outskirts of the town about 1430, receiving heavy small arms and mortar fire from the village. "L" fought its way into the town by 1800, but it was not until five hours later that the entire town was cleared.

"K" advanced through the woods on Steinkirchen and attacked the town from the east at 1445. This Company, too, met heavy resistance from small arms and automatic weapons. At 1800, however, the village was cleared and the unit continued on to Jungholzhausen arriving there at 1825 and clearing it after a very bitter fight with a company of 70 SS troops. In the two hour fight, 48 enemy were killed as well as 18 captured.

The Second Battalion meanwhile had been motorized with organic transportation in accordance with OI No. 31 of the 63d Division and had orders to follow the left attacking battalion, which was the Third. After "L" Company had taken Lassbach, the battalion moved into

that town as well as into Mausdord to establish security for the night.

- The attack was continued the following morning by the First and Third Battalions. "B" Company crossed the Kocher River at 0530 west of Dottingen, but the attached armor was unable to follow at that time for fear of throwing a track. The engineers were therefore called for. A bulldozer and the tanks crossed the river at 0845. Company "B" then advanced down the wooded draw from Dottingen and secured Braunsbach without a fight at 1345.

"A" Company, which had been dug in on the high ground north of Ruckertshausen, entered that town at 0845 with no resistance, the enemy having retreated under the cover of darkness. The company then proceeded to the south to attack Amsdorf, they became engaged in a heavy fire fight, the enemy using small arms, automatic weapons and Panzerfausts fire from the woods to the attacking force's left. After an almost six hour fight, the company finally entered Amsdorf at 1500, although they continued to receive sniper fire from the woods Southeast and Northwest of the town.

Meanwhile, "C" Company had maneuvered to the left from Goggenbach and had attacked Eschental under heavy opposition, this town was secured at 1145. "C" then moved out toward Reisachshof. A few hundred yards south of Eschental they encountered entrenched enemy on the high ground there, and it was not until 2130 that they were able to overcome resistance from small arms, artillery, machine gun and panzerfaust and enter Reisachshof. Only light resistance was encountered in the town itself and this was crushed by 2230.

The Third Battalion also resumed its attack at 0800. "I" and "K" moved from Zottishofen and Jungholshausen, respectively, to enter Orlach without resistance. "I" advanced to Nieder Steinaach, cleared the town at 1415 and moved to Windisch-Brachbach under very light resistance, clearing it by 2130. Sollhof was taken with some resistance when "L" Company came down from Nesselbach and "K" Company attacked east from Orlach at 1745. "K" was left to secure that town while "L" moved on to attack Ob Steinbach. Here they were met with small arms, automatic weapons and time fire from SP guns north of the town, but managed to enter Ob Steinbach and clear it by 2130.

The Second Battalion had been ordered to move from Sassbach to Kupferzel and be prepared to follow elements of the 10th Armored Division to Schwabisch Hall in accordance with an order received from Division at 0830.

The following morning, the 17th, the attack was resumed by the First and Third Battalions, the Second Battalion still following elements of the 10th Armored to Schwabisch Hall.

Reickertsbronn was quickly overrun by "A" Company without resistance as that unit pushed toward Hergeshof. Entrenched enemy were found in the ridges west of that town and it was 2045 before the Company could advance through heavy small arms and artillery fire to capture the town.

As "B" Company moved south through the woods from Braunsbach toward Elzhausen, they met moderate resistance, overcame it, and entered Elzhausen at 1410. From there the Company continued south to take Altenberg at 1815.

"C" crossed the Kocher River and swung south the woods toward Geislingen, receiving some artillery and mortar fire from the center of that village. In an all day fight this opposition was reduced and town cleared at 1915.

Although "I" Company received small arms, anti-aircraft weapons and 88 fire from the super highway to the north, the unit entered Sandelsbronn at 1200 and then moved south to attack Horlebach. Overcoming heavy resistance the company cleared this town seven hours later.

"L" Company met little opposition as they moved through Dunsbach to Ruppertshoffen, but upon leaving the former town at about 1700 they met heavy artillery and mortar fire and were forced to draw back to Dunsbach.

The prize catch of the day was made by Colonel R. Matheson when he entered Lantum from Hassfeld. "K" Company. He entered one of the public buildings, the troops, and as they began to clear the lower part he went upstairs to check that portion of the place. He found the Battalion Commanding Officer of the 1st Regiment Rosenheim, as well as three members of his staff. After sending the PW's back for interrogation, they proceeded to Hassfeld, which they entered at 2000.

At 0900 the next day, April 18, the regiment renewed its attack. "A" Company had little trouble as the unit entered Hohenberg with light resistance and then pushed on to Hopfack which was cleared by 1930.

The woods between Altenberg and Wolpertshausen were easily cleared by "B" Company on their push to take the village, but they met very determined resistance just a few hundred yards north of that village. After an artillery concentration lasting almost an hour, the small air

automatic weapons, SP and mortar fire was eliminated to such an extent that "B" Company, assisted by fire from "A" Company, captured that town by 1300.

There was also some difficulty in taking Croffelbach. "C" Company had begun the attack of that town at 0900, and it was almost 1400 before the company finally cleared it of enemy troops. "C" then moved on to Wolpertsdorf, overrunning that town with little trouble at 1930.

At 0620, "L" Company continued its attack on Ruppertshofen; once again the main resistance came from the vicinity of the superhighway NW of that town. The village was entered at 0930, but some resistance, mostly sniper fire, continued the rest of the day.

"I" and "K" Companies attacked toward Ilshofen and Rudelsdorf, respectively. "K" managed to enter its objective at 1605, but "I" Company was never able to move from their position in the woods east of Horhbach due to the rugged defense made by the enemy.

The Second Battalion still remained attached to the 10th Armored Division in the vicinity of Schwabisch-Hall.

The following morning at 0001, the Regiment, with its parent unit, passed to the control of the XII Corps and six hours later the Second Battalion reverted to Regimental control. A new zone of attack was given to the regiment in accordance with OI No. 36. The regiment was to attack in this new zone and the First Battalion was to proceed in its attack until pinched out, whereupon it would revert to regimental reserve.

With three companies abreast, the regiment began its attack at 1300. The First Battalion patrolled the Ramsbach, and finding it void of enemy occupied it with "C" Company

minus one platoon, which remained in Wolpertsdorf. Company "B" advanced through the woods to attack Otterbach and evidently caught the defenders by surprise. The company captured 79 prisoners, including 2 officers. Company "A" during this day blocked for the rest of the battalion by digging in on the high ground to the east of Otterbach.

The Second Battalion had returned to the regiment at assembly areas in Hassenfelder and Altenberg by 1000. The attack of this unit also began at 1300 with "G" and "F" Companies leading and "E" in reserve. Remsburg was attacked by "F" Company, but this unit was pinned down north of the town by artillery, mortar, small arms, and automatic weapons fire. Artillery was placed on the town and "E" Company was called out of reserve to attack from the east. After a lengthy fire fight the town was entered by "F" at 2100. "G" Company on the left, attacked Steinbachle and overcame heavy resistance to capture the town by 1800.

In the Third Battalion zone, "K" Company attacked and took Ilshofen at 1615 with "L" Company blocking to the east for them and "I" holding the woods to the west.

The next morning, the 20th, all three battalions continued their attack to the south. Early in the morning, at 0245, Company "A" had entered Unter Schefflach without resistance. At 0830 "B" moved down to Matheshorlibach without resistance. "A" Company then moved to that town to provide a block to the west for the battalions operations. Both "B" and "C" then drove south to take Sulzdorf after a fairly heavy fire fight. This village was entered at about 1600 but it was not until almost

three hours later that the two companies managed to clear it. After this was accomplished, "C" sent patrols to Hohenstadt and Jagstoot and found them clear.

The Second Battalion continued the attack at 0900 with "F" clearing the woods to the east and the area south of Remberg; "E" moving south toward Ober Aspach; and "G" advancing on Unter Aspach. "G" entered its objective at 1130 with only light resistance while "F" started down the draw toward Ob Schofflach, overcame resistance from small arms and mortars, and captured that town at 1330. "F" then advanced southward and after cracking a particularly rugged defense at 1800, entered Stadel and advanced to the high ground south of that town after "G" relieved them in Ob Schofflach.

"E" Company advanced on Gross Altdorf, but was stopped about 600 yards north of the town by S/A, Automatic weapons, 20mm and SP fire from the town as well as by very heavy barrages of artillery and Nebelwerfer fire which continued throughout the afternoon. Unable to advance any further, a heavy barrage of artillery was fired on the town, leaving it in flames, that night.

In the Third Battalion's attack, Company "I" cleared Ober Aspach without resistance and "K" Company shortly thereafter cleared Gaugehausen after a moderate fight. Attempts were made to advance throughout the afternoon but each effort was halted by intense artillery, rockets, and mortar fire from the southeast of Gross Altdorf.

The 20th of April saw the crumbling of the remaining enemy resistance in the regimental sector.

The First Battalion sent Company "A" into Lorrenzimmern, and the company entered this town without resistance around 1100. The unit then pushed on the Herlebach which was also captured without firing a shot at 1150. Although some shelling was received from the woods south of Hausen, Company "A" advanced to Ob Fischbach and took that town, again with no resistance.

At 0345 "B" Company was motorized and went through Herlebach, Ob Fischbach, and on to Rappoltschhofen encountering no enemy. Company "C" then advanced to Rappoltschhofen and joined "B" there.

By 0455, Company "E" had entered Dorrenzimmern without resistance, and when the battalion continued its attack at 0800 "F" moved through Rappsolden, Buch, Talheim, Vellberg, Eschenau, and Unter Sontheim. "G" captured Stockenberg and passed through Vellberg on its way to Hausen, where the unit was temporarily stopped by artillery fire. After taking Hausen with very light resistance, "G" Company became involved in a fire fight south of that town. They were able to overcome this and cleared Mittel Fischbach. Company "E" was motorized and after encountering difficulties with road blocks and stream crossings moved to Hausen.

The Third Battalion continued the attack at 0900. Previously, at 0400, "L" Company had entered Lorrenzimmer without difficulty. "I" and "L" moved south through the woods, clearing the towns of Steinhag, Schneckweiler, and Merselbach and capturing Ober Sontheim without resistance. Company "K" was motorized shortly after noon and moved to Ober Sontheim.

At 1230 the First Battalion of the 255th Infantry Regiment was attached, and this unit advanced to the vicinity of Entendorf (S4849) without resistance.

The "Race for the Danube" began the following morning with the First Battalion as the assault element in the Regiment's attempt to reach that important river as rapidly as possible. Attached to the First Battalion was the same armor which had fought with them throughout the campaign, and the troops themselves were motorized with organic transportation. Enzelhofen was cleared without difficulty as the unit sped southward, but soon after leaving the town numerous roadblocks as well as some Anti Tank mines and anti-personnel mines were encountered which forced the Battalion to detruck and proceed on foot. Throughout the advance to Brunst and Sulzbach, no enemy were seen, but two of the attached Tank Destroyers were disabled by anti-tank mines. Upon arriving in Sulzbach at 1700, the Battalion halted their attack for the night and prepared to defend that town until the assault could be continued by daylight the next day.

The Second Battalion, also a motorized tank force, advanced to the south and found the roads blocked by mines just as the First Battalion left. After leaving Mittel-Fischbach, it was impossible to continue the advance in trucks, so the troops dismounted and advanced on foot, leaving some personnel to clear the roads in order that the trucks might follow. The battalion advanced in a column of companies "E", "F", and "G", through Unter-Fischbach, Geifertshofen, Imburg, Wurzelbuhl, Gantenwald, Immersberg, Kohlwald, Hohenberg, Grauhofle, Wegsetten on into Unt-Groningen at about 2000. During this entire march, there

was no defense of any of these villages, but several German soldiers gave themselves up when they saw that they were facing innumerable odds.

The Third Battalion, motorized in the same way as the other two, proceeded rapidly from Ober-Sontheim to Buhlertann; however, between that village and Kottspiel one Tank Destroyer was damaged by an anti-tank mine. The road was immediately checked and the column advanced through Geifertshofen, Buhlerzell, Heilber, Senzenberg and Buhler. In this last town they received small arms and light artillery fire from a small group of soldiers there, but after killing one and capturing two of them, the remainder fled. The unit then turned through the woods and captured Hinterbuchelberg after overcoming resistance in the form of small arms and automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of Strassdorf. From here the unit attempted to go southwest to the Kocher River, but upon finding abatis on the road, they were forced to dismount and proceed to the vicinity of Waldenholden where they stayed that night.

The First Battalion of the 255th was still attached to the regiment and this unit proceeded from Eutendorf to Winzenweiler and Gaildorf on foot. No enemy was encountered, but numerous mines and road blocks impeded their progress throughout the day.

The happenings of the following day, April 23, were merely a continuation of those of the previous day, except that this time no enemy resistance at all was encountered. The First Battalion moved from Sulzbach to Iggenen via Unt Groningen, Burren, Eschach, Goggingen, and Leinzell. Iggenen was reached about 1830.

The Second Battalion advanced from Unt Groningen to Unt Bobingen through Burren, Buchhof, Ob Groningen, Eschach, Goggingen, and Schonhardt. Unt Boningen was reached about 1730, at which time the battalion halted to rest for the night ready to advance again the following morning.

The Third Battalion proceeded from Wohlenholden to Zimmern, going by way of Unt Groningen, Barren, Buchhof, Ob Groningen, Schechingen, Horn, Schornhardt, and Iggingen.

The motor elements of the regiment had crossed the Kocher River on an improved railway bridge at Unt Groningen after being held up by a road block at Buhler which was reduced by the attached engineers at 1430.

Although combat patrols were sent out to contact the enemy only one patrol, from the Second Battalion, found any German soldiers. This patrol captured two who were manning a roadblock at Buhler; one other patrol from the Third Battalion reported that Buch was clear.

At 2200 that night a meeting of Battalion Commanders as well as the regimental staff was called at regimental headquarters and it was decided to try a new system of shuttling in order to reach the Danube River in as short a time as possible. A series of phase lines was set up and each battalion was to walk from one to the next one, then ride for two phase lines, and walk one more. In this way all available transportation would be utilized to the furthest extent possible and the essential speed would be gained.

At daylight on this day, the 24th, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon was sent along the Heubach-Beuren road to ascertain whether this highway was in useable condition. However at Beuren the I & R platoon was

engaged in a fire fight with a group of Germans armed with small arms, automatic weapons, and panzerfausts. A motorized detail from the Second Battalion, consisting of two platoons from "E" Company, was sent to help reduce this resistance, and at 1130 the town was completely clear.

Meanwhile, the Second Battalion, which was motorized at this time, proceeded to Heubach, but upon discovering that the road had been blocked with craters and abatis, allowed the foot troops of the Third Battalion to precede them. The Third Battalion passed through Aussere Kitzing, Kitzinghof, and halted in Bohnenkirchen at about 2030, with the Second Battalion following them to Kitzinghof.

The First Battalion, which was also motorized, waited until the roadblocks had been eliminated about 1600 by elements of Company "B" of the 263d Engineers and then proceeded south through Heubach, Beuren, Aussere Kitzing, Kitzinghof, Rotenbach, Bohmenkirchen, Gussenstadt and towards Gerstetten. About one mile North of that town on the high ground to the west, reconnaissance elements of that battalion contacted an enemy outpost consisting of three men. The reconnaissance force managed to kill one and capture another, but the remaining soldier managed to escape. Upon developing the position, a large number of enemy were found entrenched in the high ground north of the town. The defenders used small arms, automatic weapons, and panzerfausts in an attempt to keep the First Battalion from entering the town. However, with the aid of artillery, "A" Company managed to get in and start the mopping up at 2130.

While this was taking place, the Battalion received a message from "B" Company of the 862d Field Artillery that that unit was having difficulty with enemy infantry estimated at the size of one company. "C" Company was immediately dispatched to that town in order to come to the aid of the men who so often had helped them out of "Tight spots". Hinchstitten was cleared by 2200 and "C" stayed there to guard that town the rest of the night.

Orders were received from Division at 1930 to Seize and hold immediately a bridgehead over the Danube River, but because the Regiment was meeting resistance in Gerstetten and in Hinchstitten at that, permission was asked and granted that the move not be started until 0600 the following morning.

A few minutes before seven, the First Battalion, motorized, began to spearhead the attack to gain the last few miles which led to the Danube River. Passing through Heldenfingen and Heuchlingen without resistance the unit was stopped for a short time at Hausen, but the enemy was soon cleared and the advance progressed again at 0900. The Second and Third Battalions were following the First Battalion alternately walking and leapfrogging ahead in trucks.

The First Battalion was meantime advancing by way of Setzingen, Ollingen, Rammingen, and Reidheim to the Danube River, arriving at this liquid Barrier at 1500.

Here they were amazed to find that the bridge which crossed the river was still intact; immediately, therefore, troops from "A" Company began to pour across the structure. However, only one platoon had made its way

over the bridge and into the town of Leipheim when the crossing was blown. The demolition job had not been a thorough one, however, and by placing several boards across the remaining uprights, it was possible to continue the advance.

With "B" and "C" Companies building up a base of fire on the near bank, "A" managed to get all of its troops on the other side by 1630 under moderate fire from small arms and flak in the vicinity of the airport south of town. The rest of the Battalion also came into the Leipheim and were all in that town by 1900.

An hour later a counter-attack later estimated as two companies and three tanks hit the left flank of the town, which was being held by "B" Company. It was not until almost four hours later that this attack was completely repulsed with heavy losses on both sides. "B" Company alone had twenty-four casualties.

The Second Battalion was called to help the First Battalion, and this reinforcing unit had completed the crossing of the Danube by 2215.

The following morning at 0600 another counter-attack was thrown at the two defending battalions, again from the vicinity of the airport. This time the enemy was repulsed after a very stiff fight before they were able to reach the town. The FO of "B" Company saw a reserve force of Germans in the woods to the southeast of the town and after calling down a heavy barrage which lasted for almost two hours many of the Germans who had been putting up this heavy resistance came in as prisoners. In the two day period of 24 and 25 April, the regiment took 698 prisoners, the largest of any two day

bag in the Regiment's history.

Early in the afternoon of this same day, the Third Battalion passed through the First and Second and drove on to Bubesheim which was captured without resistance at 1540. The Battalion remained in this town ~~that~~ night and the following morning, with "I" Company leading, the Battalion attacked the town of Gross Kotz at dawn and entered that village without resistance by 0630. The Battalion then received orders to stay in Gross Kotz until relieved by elements of the 253rd and 409th Regiments.

Meanwhile, the other two battalions were assembling in the vicinity of Reidheim preparatory to complying with orders that would send them away from the front lines for the first time since the beginning of January, 1945.

Upon arriving in Rothenburg, the Regiment relieved elements of the 5th AAA Group and took over the guarding of targets as well as the conducting of training, rest and rehabilitation.

For four months the Regiment had stayed in combat areas; now as the month of April ended, the unit began a well earned rest.

MISSING IN ACTION

Collins, Arthur H	31354518	Pvt	Med Det
McGowan, Jerome T	36672264	Tco 5	Hq Co 1st Bn
Howland, William A	31304050	Tco 5	Hq Co 1st Bn
Kavana, Tony S	15015048	Pfc	Co A
Barrett, Ernest H	18180359	Sgt	Co B
King, Albert L	13073036	Pfc	Co C
Martin, Rural V	33858649	Pfc	Co C
Pones, Walter H	33007359	Tco 4	Co C
Collette, Jack M	20710921	S Sgt	Co B
Benzick, Anthony M	37000273	Pvt	Co C
Castoria, Daniel V	42076185	Pfc	Co C
Clark, Arthur H	35240509	Pfc	Co C
Greene, Donald L	32843075	Pfc	Co C
Mayer, Truman	7006648	S Sgt	Co C
Moore, Robert S	33712968	Pfc	Co C
Mell, Thomas L	36904916	Pfc	Co C
Rutkoski, James A	33615121	Pfc	Co C
Hagler, Sherman L	37644240	Pfc	Co D
Redwine, Randolph G	35122713	Pvt	Co D
Staples, Linwood C	31401809	Pvt	Co G
Martinez, Nash	18001565	Pvt	Co I
Gillis, John G	31296817	Pfc	Co K
Poppa, Emil	35906151	Pvt	Co L
Olson, Arthur R	37771557	Pvt	Co L
Lambdin, Charles E Jr	44005835	Pvt	Co L
Gracy, Edward T	34688022	Pvt	Co L
Boegle, Charles Jr	39114353	Tco 5	Co M
Hagan, Charles P	0557687	2d Lt	Co D

KILLED IN ACTION

Adamson, George M	34710322	Sgt	Co K
Axton, Gerald B	39594178	Pfc	Co F
Barrios, Sidney J	34078878	S Sgt	Co G
Beem, Max H	36055470	Sgt	Co F
Beireis, James H	37692818	Sgt	Co I
Bernstein, Theodore	42177220	Pfc	Co A
Blumstein, Stanley V	37771808	Pfc	Co F
Broadhead, Matthias A	34807035	Tco 5	Med Det
Cipriana, Peter	33615067	Pfc	Co F
Cogar, Annis E	39049708	Pfc	Co D
Cole, Robert F	36451082	Pfc	Co B
Curry, Hugh R	31417239	Pfc	Co A
Cutler, Donald L	39603009	Pfc	Co E

KILLED-IN ACTION Contd

Daie, Jim K Jr	38550979	Bvt	Co B
Damato, Andrew V	42075870	Sgt	Co B
Davidson, Charles W	33795086	Tec 4	Med Det
Dawida, Michael	33419836	T Sgt	Co I
De Lion, Thomas E	37490647	Pfc	Co F
Dellivenneri, Nicholas	42177529	Pvt	AT Co
Demario, Frank J	33085400	S Sgt	Co L
Dennehy, Daniel J	12226881	Sgt	Co C
Desjardins, Joseph R	31350560	Pvt	Co L
Dingle, Hugh	33939398	Pvt	Co B
Dolin, Joseph	13122436	Pfc	Hq Co 1st Bn
Flanagan, Louis M	42180260	Pvt	Co F
Fullenbaum, Louis	42180433	Pfc	Co F
Gaffney, John H	42105780	Pfc	Co F
Garner, James L	36915122	Pvt	Co C
Gelston, David M	36468370	Pfc	Co B
Gentile, Dominick N	33086163	Tec 5	Sv Co
George, Harvey C Jr	33841582	Pvt	Co F
Gibson, Robert G	42008771	Sgt	Co F
Gierlock, Thomas F	36874902	S Sgt	Co E
Grigsby, Lenly C Jr	34999429	Pfc	Co B
Hales, James F	44048074	Pvt	Co B
Hammer, Ned E	33256947	Pfc	Co A
Hathaway, Wilmer E	20432033	Pfc	Co F
Hattman, Robert L	33420686	Pfc	Co B
Hohn, James S	33424643	Pfc	Co B
Holley, Quentin S	35264356	T Sgt	Co A
Howe, Joseph D	32826244	S Sgt	Co K
Hubbard, William O	6928102	1st Sgt	Co K
Hughes, Harold C	32956182	S Sgt	Co I
Iddijgs, Arthur H	31435113	Pfc	Co K
James, Roy	35648021	Pvt	Co F
Jones, Raymond W	31381706	Tec 5	Co B
Joseph, William N	42187142	Pfc	Co A
Kaufman, Harry	32817804	Pvt	Hq Co 2d Bn
LaPointe, Rene J	31297586	Pfc	Co C
Linett, Aaron I	31404973	S Sgt	Co F
Mallon, Daniel D	36874350	S Sgt	Co F
Marchisen, Nicholas	69878914	Pvt	Co B
McGhee, Roy C Jr	39467334	S Sgt	Co L
McGowan, Lawrence J	33331216	S Sgt	Co A
McNabb, Fred R	34937824	Pvt	Co D
Messer, Richard E	20139941	S Sgt	Co B
Meyer, Charles T	35067711	Sgt	Co A
Miller, Glenn A	33849404	Pfc	Co A

KILLED IN ACTION Contd

Mills, Charles T	39108106	S. Sgt	Co A
Mullins, Carvel	33662261	Pfc	Co K
Munger, Charles E	16082312	Pfc	Co A
Nelson, Roy J	38570992	Pfc	Co K
Nicolai, George H	37749910	Pvt	Co I
Nordholm, Joe A	37139728	Sgt	Co B
Oatman, Wilburn I	37140630	Tec 5	Co I
Odom, Elwood W	44036683	Pvt	Co L
Olson, Everett B	36829205	Cpl.	Co F
Owensby, Eddie	34685013	Pfc	Co B
Perry, Rensay	35203173	Pfc	Co K
Placenti, Joseph	42063621	Pvt	Co B
Price, James E	33210068	Pvt	Co B
Quick, Wilson B	42123918	Pvt	Co L
Rowley, Peter G Jr	42187313	Pfc	Co K
Schulaski, Francis D	42180475	Pvt	Co I
Sheppard, Thomas E	35070076	Pfc	Co F
Shimek, Robert	38546160	Pfc	Co A
Sorrell, James E	33857300	Pvt	Co G
Theiss, Charles H	33857310	Sgt	Co B
Travis, George W	31436731	Pvt	Co E
Van Winkle, John D	38562350	Pvt	Co E
Wieda, Severin A	38188518	Sgt	Co C
Wishnatsky, Ernest	34911376	Pfc	Co F
Woolverton, Other C	34887871	S. Sgt	Co C
Worrell, Isaac L Jr	33838166	Pvt	Co F
Wright, Warren W	33836960	Pfc	Co F
Goss, George W	01057444	1st Lt	Co K
Hagg, John R	W2112021	WOJG	Sv Co
Sweeney, Earl F	02011521	2d Lt	Co L
Sykes, Dillo G	02007040	2d Lt	Co B

PRISONER OF WAR REPORT

Prisoners captured during period.....	49 Officers
	2707 EM
Prisoners processed through Regimental cage..	49 Officers
	2285 EM
Prisoners evacuated through medical channels..	117 EM
Prisoners evacuated through other channels...	305 EM
Total.....	2756 POW's

For further information see daily IPW reports in the
Regimental Journal.

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>COLONEL</u>				
Warren, Joseph H	012451	Regtl Hq	CO	
<u>LIEUTENANT COLONEL</u>				
Bryan, William J	0294945	Hq 2d Bn	CO	
Matheson, Donald R	021213	Hq 3d Bn	CO	
Schewe, Marion W	0250195	Regtl Hq	Ex O	
Tucker, Robert E	019938	Hq 1st Bn	CO	
<u>MAJOR</u>				
Adams, Thomas F	0270921	Hq 3d Bn	Ex O	
Bereuter, Robert L	024451	Regtl Hq	SD 3d Bn	RTU 6 Apr
Christensen, AnchercE Jr	0366280	(Hq 1st Bn)	(Ex O)	Trfd 253d Inf 7 Apr
Frederick, Willie J	0350996	Hq 1st Bn	S-3	Prom Maj 16 Apr
Glatzer, Abraham	0424498	Med Det	Regtl Surg	
Schaaf, Clarence W	0283816	Regtl Hq	S-3	
Wilcox, Howard S	0423347	Hq 2d Bn	Ex O	Prom Maj 16 Apr
Wilson, Thomas K	0325637	Sv	S-4	
<u>CAPTAIN</u>				
Albert, James E	01290178	Sv	Mun O	
Bailey, Herbert H	01321566	Hq Co	S-1	
Bailey, Paul K	01290183	1st Bn		
Barton, Silas R	0429570	Regtl Hq	S-1	
Berry, Louie B	0332450	F	CO	RTU 29 Apr
Bessinger, William L	0366333	Sv	Pers O	
Blake, Fred S	01715473	L	CO	NBO 20 Apr; RTD 30 Apr
Black, Nicholas O	0373426	Med Det	Hq DC	Prom Capt 1 Apr
Brown, John P	0420462	Hq	Comm O	
Brick, William E	01321286	(O)	(CO)	BO 12 Apr
Coss, J. Clement	01330671	Sv	I & E O	
Oreal, James O	0425937	Hq 3d Bn		RTU 23 Apr
Farrah, Alexander J	01394290	Regtl Hq	Liaison O	
Farrell, Robert E	0447704	Med Det	DC Hq Sec	
Horlock, Fred H	01290604	Hq 2d Bn	S-3	
Hughes, Paul O	0303035	H	CO	
Hyde, James R	01315173	Regtl Hq	Liaison O	
Johnson, Clarence R	0369232	(K)	(CO)	BO 15 Apr
King, Charles R	01297210	Sv	CO	
Lenig, Lawrence E	01312240	Sv	Mtr O	
		G	CO	

McClure, John B Jr	0390585	Cannon	CO	
Mounts, Warren C	0543379	Regtl	Chaplain	NBC 15 Apr; RTU 29 Apr
Mysliwiesc, Felix N	0499680	Regtl	Chaplain	
Orloff, Morris P	01841850	Med Det	3d Bn Surg	
Pinotek, Frank L Jr	01292939	D	CO	
Pleskow, Adrian J	0438931	Med Det	2d Bn Surg	
Restani, Raymond	01043472	A	CO	Prom Capt 1 Apr
Rogerson, George E	01292762	(Hq 2d Bn)	==	NBC 9 Apr
Rustemeyer, Frank C	0550731	Regtl	Chaplain	
Seabrook, Paul D	0414412	Hq	CO	
Spangler, Samuel G	0467867	Hq Co	S-1	
Taitz, Emanuel	01290155	Regtl	S-2	RTU 19 Apr
Van Auken, Edward W	0475448	Med Det	1st Bn Surg	
Walsh, Martin J	01695148	Med Det	Asst Regtl Surg	
Wright, Albert H	01307609	Hq Co	S-1	
		2d Bn		
<u>FIRST LIEUTENANT</u>				
Arches, Joseph	01326353	Hq Co	Mtr O	
		2d Bn		
Armstrong, Billy J	0550341	H	Ex O	
Brace, Robert A	01057365	M	CO	
Bracy, Lewis E	0550347	H	Plat Ldr	
Bruce, John G	01321568	Regtl	Liaison O	
		Hq		
Carrow, Harvey H	0554141	K	CO	
Coberg, Wallace H	01051081	Cannon	Plat Ldr	
Coulter, Tollton E	01328125	(O)	(Plat Ldr)	NBC 5 Apr; RTU 8 Apr; BQ 26 Apr; Prom 16 Apr
Drake, Edgar	0154678	Med Det	Asst Surg	
			3d Bn	
Dulac, Xavier J	01080278	Sv	2d Bn S-4	
Eberbach, Walter	0317781	Hq 3d Bn	S-2	
Edsall, Floyd L	0555952	O	CO	
Fraser, Byron W	0550351	H	==	SD with Regtl Hq
Fuller, Irwin L	0291967	Cannon	Ex O	
Gandler, Jacob E	0926244	Hq Co	A & P	
		3d Bn	Plat Ldr	
Goldschmidt, Lawrence O	01080284	Sv	Asst S-1,	
			K & H O	
Goldt, Fred B	01183522	Sv	Trans O	
Gordon, Raymond L Jr	026870	Regtl	Liaison O	
		Hq		
Goss, George W	01057444	(K)	(Plat Ldr)	XIA 15 Apr; Prom 1st Lt 16 Apr

Gunson, Robert A	0417310	AT	Plat Ldr
Gorup, William S	01320522	K	SD as Ex O Co P
Hansen, Mons L	0551437	Regtl	Asst
		Hq	S-2
Harger, Clyde J	0557725	L	Plat Asst Bn S-3
			Ldr
Heppler, Alfred J	01183879	Cannon	Plat Ldr
Hurt, Leslie C	0435374	Cannon	Plat Ldr
Hutchins, Lyman M	01326241	M	Ex O
Johnson, John G	0557132	(H)	(Plat NBO 19 Apr
			Ldr)
Jordan, James F	01182611	Hq Co	A & P Plat Ldr
		1st Bn	
Kelly, Thomas R	01326243	Sv	3d Bn S-4
Kile, William S	01061757	K	Plat Ldr Prom 1st Lt 16 Apr
Klecynski, Frank B	01319624	I	Ex O Jd Regt 20 Apr
Krings, Frederick C	0550610	Hq Co	AT Plat Ldr
		2d Bn	
Kroesen, Frederick J	0555086	E	CO
Kuczynski, Henry	01546705	Med Det	2d Bn Asst Surg
Larson, John G Jr	01297056	Hq Co	Mtr O
		1st Bn	
Lawrance, William B	0306213	AT	CO
Lee, Bernard F	0496628	B	CO
Lehman, Robert H	01320955	Hq Co	Comm O
		2d Bn	
Lookabaugh, Frank H	0557134	D	Plat Ldr
Lundberg, William D	0550936	AT	Plat Ldr
Martin, Robert O	0551442	AT	Plat Ldr
Maybee, Orrin S	01326247	Cannon	Plat Ldr
Mayhew, John R	01312476	AT	Plat Ldr
McKee, Elmer S	0550426	Hq 1st	S-3
		Bn	
Miller, John F	01326765	A	Ex O Prom 1st Lt 16 Apr
Vagano, Clifford E	01172207	M	Plat Ldr NBO 11 Apr; RTU 29 Apr
Pierce, Harold K	01045211	(I)	(CO) BO 17 Apr
Reeves, Seab E A	01544596	I	CO
Rittenberg, Hillis	02049370	Med Det	1st Bn Asst Surg
Rosen, Bernard L	01080321	AT	Ex O
Rosenbloom, Charles	01044083	G	TD 7th Army
Seay, John H	0551030	H	Plat Ldr
Seltzer, Milton	0549754	Sv	1st Bn S-4
Shell, Mitchell R	0549678	(M)	(Plat BO 9 Apr
			Ldr)
Sherwin, George R	0351277	Hq 2d Bn	S-3
Shumate, Jack B	0926348	D	Plat Ldr Prom 1st Lt 1 Apr
Smithson, Albert L Jr	0403367	F	SD Regtl Hq
Smuck, Adolfo F	01326346	(Hq)	(I & R NBO 10 Apr
			Plat Ldr)

Stanton, William P

01309809 Hq Co
3d Bn

AT Plat Ldr

Stratton, Earl V

0557143 H
0546878 Hq Co
1st Bn

Plat Ldr

Thiel, Herman E

Comm O

Williams, Walter H

01314356 D

Ex O

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Beck, Robert E

02005989 I

Plat Ldr

Bennis, Warren

01332460 L

Plat Ldr Jd Regt 20 Apr

Berman, Donald

01328323 K

(Plat Ldr) RTU 14 Apr; NBC 20 Apr

Brennan, Daniel J Jr

0555106 F

Plat Ldr RTU 16 Apr

Carpenter, Ronald E

01329561 K

Plat Ldr Jd Regt 20 Apr

Caywood, William C

0548319 M

Plat Ldr

Childs, Lawrence A

02007056 B

Plat Ldr

Clark, Francis C

02011519 K

Plat Ldr

Connolly, John F

02007042 M

Plat Ldr

Cottrill, Marion F

02011522 (C)

(Plat Ldr) NBC 16 Apr; RTU 19 Apr; BC 26 Apr

Davis, Claude J

01327118 E

Plat Ldr

Dempsey, Ralph P

02011723 D

Plat Ldr Jd Regt 3 Apr; NBC 9 Apr; RTD 28 Apr

Deprez, Alexander J

01327119 C

Ex O

Diehl, Edward W

02007041 Regtl Hq==

RTD 18 Apr; now on DS 9th Repl Depot

Dobyns, Benjamin F

0558791 OY

Plat Ldr

Donovan, Francis J

01053562 E

Ex O

Duval, Gerald D

02011520 (H)

(Plat Ldr) DOW 17 Apr

Eckberg, William H

02007062 (A)

(Plat Ldr) BC 17 Apr

Franklin, Gerald F

02011691 I

Plat Ldr

Freas, David A

0549617 Hq

Gas O

Gray, Harold Jr

02014889 E

Plat Ldr Jd Regt 26 Apr

Hagan, Charles F

0557687 (D)

(Plat Ldr) MIA 9 Apr

Hagemann, Robert G

02007043 Hq 3d Bn Comm O

Howcroft, William T

01328815 L

Plat Ldr

Hurwitch, Robert A

01328491 Hq 1st Bn S-2

Jones, Charles O L

02007030 (F)

(Plat Ldr) RTU 9 Apr; NBC 11 Apr

Kelch, Earle K

02011523 A

Plat Ldr

Lanfrit, John

0553213 Hq Co

A & P

Larmon, David J

02006276 Hq

Plat Ldr

Lincoott, Donald W

0546899 B

Asst Comm O

Lipman, Harold

01059859 D

Ex O

Loomis, Daniel M

02006196 C

Plat Ldr

Madden, William T

01328053 I

Plat Ldr RTU 8 Apr

Maffitt, Theodore S Jr

0926240 H

Plat Ldr

Mancini, Kenneth R

02007061 G

Plat Ldr

Mastrobattista, William J

02007060 G

Plat Ldr Asst Bn S-3

Mathews, Earl D

02007057 D S 3

Plat Ldr

N A R R A T I V E

(From 1 May 1945 to 10 May 1945)

The 254th Infantry Regiment had been relieved from front line duty on the 26th of April, and as the month of May arrived this organization was engaged in guarding target areas in the region centered around Rothenburg, Germany. In assuming this new assignment, the regiment relieved elements of the 7th Army Security Command as well as the VI and XXI Corps troops on security missions in this sector.

In addition to the guard assignment, all subordinate units were instructed to conduct a program of rehabilitation and training. This training was to stress care and cleaning of equipment and emphasize military courtesy, hygiene and sanitation, and physical training, including marches and organized athletics.

During the period, the regiment controlled 46 targets, finding practically no unusual activities although some arrests were made in conjunction with the CIC Detachment.

		<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Present	0001 1 May 1945	135	4	2784	2923
Absent	0001 1 May 1945	9	0	149	158
Assigned	0001 1 May 1945	144	4	2933	3181
Battle Casualties		0	0	0	0
Non Battle Casualties - Injuries		0	0	14	14
Non Battle Casualties - Diseases		2	0	41	43
Non Battle Casualties - Not Evacuated		0	0	6	6
Missing In Action		0	0	0	0
Killed In Action		0	0	0	0
Returned To Unit		10	0	220	230
Reinforcements Received		5	0	4	9
Present 2400 10 May 1945		125	4	2802	2931
Absent 2400 10 May 1945		31	0	261	292
Assigned 2400 10 May 1945		156	4	3063	3223

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 42

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 7 May 1946

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I. GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL.—By direction of the President, the commanding officer, 29th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Special Troops, First Army, is empowered, pursuant to the eighth article of war, to appoint general courts martial.

[AG 250.401 (6 Apr 46) I]

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 Joseph V. Hodgson, O475398, Judge Advocate General's Department, Army of the United States. May 1944 to April 1946.

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, in the Degree of Commander, 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:

Major General Sir Donald Banks, British Army Director General, Petroleum Warfare Department, Ministry of Fuel and Power. March 1943 to November 1944.

Major General Alan Colquhoun Duff, British Army. January to September 1945.

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the Legion of Merit, in the Degree of Officer, awarded by the War Department to Colonel John N. V. Duncan, as published in WD General Orders 40, 1946, a second Legion of Merit, in the Degree of Officer, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of 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 John N. V. Duncan, Royal Engineers, British Army. December 1944 to May 1945.

IV. LEGION OF MERIT (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER).—By direction of the President, in addition to the Legion of Merit awarded by the War Department to Brigadier General Vincent J. Esposito, as published in WD General Orders 97, 1945, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of 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:

Brigadier General Vincent J. Esposito, O18053, United States Army. June 1943 to March 1946.

V. BRONZE STAR MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9410, 4 February 1944 (sec. II, WD Bull. 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 individuals:

General of Division Umberto Cappa, Italian Air Force. 9 September 1943 to 5 June 1944.

Colonel G. R. Codrington, British Army. April 1942 to August 1944.

Brigadier Sydney Thomas Divers, British Army. September 1943 to June 1944.

Divisional Admiral Emilio Ferreri, Italian Navy. 9 September 1943 to 5 June 1944.

David E. Mitchell, American Red Cross. July 1944 to May 1945.

Doctor Lauriston S. Taylor, American civilian. June 1943 to May 1945.

VI. BATTLE HONORS.—As authorized by Executive Order 9306 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), citation of the following unit in the general orders indicated is 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 reads as follows:

The 2d Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63d Infantry Division, is cited for outstanding performance of duty during the period 25 to 29 January 1945, in capturing the heavily fortified and defended stronghold of Jébsheim, France, in the Colmar Pocket. Attacking in subzero weather through fierce winds and deep, numbing snow, the 2d Battalion met stalwart, determined resistance from machine guns in pillboxes, small-arms fire, and heavy artillery fire. It was apparent that the Germans were stubbornly determined to hold this last stronghold in the Colmar Pocket, the key city of their well-planned defensive arc. The men of the 2d Battalion fought their way to the Blind River and waded the icy, swift-flowing stream under a devastating barrage. Slowly and grimly the men advanced, though suffering heavy casualties in the intense fire coming from three directions, took the concrete bunkers with the aid of tank destroyers, and eliminated the resistance before the town which had previously turned back entire regiments. Penetrating the flaming town, the men fought bitterly against the desperate and determined defender, neither giving nor asking quarter. In 2 days of house-to-house, floor-to-floor, and room-to-room fighting, the town was lost and regained three times. While enemy 88-mm guns from the woods to the east poured fire on the unit, the exhausted and frozen men fought violently to gain the last portion of the city still held by the enemy. So fierce and determined was their attack that the enemy marched out of their strongpoints and surrendered. The fierceness of their resistance lends credence to their statements that Jébsheim was being used as a corps headquarters. With the fall of Jébsheim to the 2d Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment, the hub of German resistance in the strong Colmar Pocket was broken and another vital portion of France was liberated. The indomitable courage, fortitude, determination, and zeal of the men of the 2d Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63d Infantry Division, are a shining example to their fellow countrymen and reflect the highest credit on them and the armed forces of the United States. (General Orders 83, Headquarters United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main), 25 March 1945 as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, European Theater (Main).)

VII. MEDAL OF FREEDOM.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9538, 6 July 1945 (sec. II, WD Bul. 12, 1945), the Medal of Freedom for meritorious service which has aided the United States in the prosecution of a war against an enemy during the period indicated was awarded by the War Department to the following named individual:

Doctor Joseph Stokes, Jr., American civilian, rendered meritorious service in the Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operations from October to December 1944, as director of the Commission on Malaria and Mumps, Army Epidemiological Board. Possessing a broad knowledge of the diseases of man and animals, he was instrumental in the discovery of the mumps virus and in the development of a vaccine against the disease.

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 41

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 6 June 1945

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I. GENERAL COURTS MARTIAL.—By direction of the President, the commanding officer, Continental Air Forces, is empowered, pursuant to the eighth article of war, to appoint general courts martial.

[AG 250.4 (12 May 45)]

II. MEDAL OF HONOR.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), a Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty was awarded posthumously by the War Department in the name of Congress to the following-named officer:

First Lieutenant *Jack L. Knight*, O1031954, Cavalry, Army of the United States, near Loi-Kang, Burma, on 2 February 1945, led his cavalry troop against a heavy concentration of enemy mortar, artillery, and small-arms fire. After taking the troop's objective and while making preparations for a defense, he discovered a nest of Jap pillboxes and foxholes to the right front. Preceding his men by at least 10 feet, Lieutenant *Knight* immediately led an attack. Single-handed he knocked out two enemy pillboxes and killed the occupants of several foxholes. While attempting to knock out a third pillbox he was struck and blinded by an enemy grenade. Although unable to see, he rallied his platoon and continued forward in the assault on the remaining pillboxes. Before this task was completed, he fell mortally wounded. Lieutenant *Knight's* gallantry and intrepidity were responsible for the successful elimination of most of the Jap position and served as an inspiration to the officers and men of his troop.

III. MEDAL OF HONOR.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), a Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty was awarded by the War Department in the name of Congress to the following-named enlisted man:

Staff Sergeant *Henry E. Erwin* (Army serial No. 14135542), 52d Bombardment Squadron, 29th Bombardment Group, Army of the United States, was the radio operator of a B-29 airplane leading a group formation to attack Koriyama, Japan, on 12 April 1945. He was charged with the additional duty of dropping phosphorous smoke bombs to aid in assembling the group when the rendezvous point was reached. Upon entering the assembly area, antiaircraft fire and enemy

west. In a masterful maneuver characterized by audacity, high courage, and resistless speed, the 2d Armored Division, French Army, operating over terrain which was considered almost impassable to armor and against carefully prepared and strong enemy defenses, converged on the eastern exit of Saverne in columns from both north and south. The defenses of Montbronn were rapidly reduced, the fortifications of Phalsbourg neutralized, the enemy garrison of Saverne captured, and the northern entrance to the Alsace Plain secured by the seizure of the strategic Saverne Gate. Ordered to attack Strasbourg, the Division, scarcely pausing overnight, struck in multiple columns on 22 November over a distance of 50 kilometers in a swift, stunning attack which occasioned the fall of the city in 48 hours. In the course of this magnificent operation, the 2d Armored Division, French Army, destroyed the combat effectiveness of four enemy divisions, opened the gateway to the Alsatian Plain, liberated the capital of Alsace, and contributed greatly to the success of Allied arms.

2. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), the following unit is cited by the War Department for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period indicated, 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 reads as follows:

The 3d Infantry Division with the following attached units:

- 254th Infantry Regiment,
- 99th Chemical Battalion,
- 108th Chemical Smoke Generator Company,
- 441st Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion,
- 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP),
- 756th Tank Battalion,
- IPW Team 183,

fighting incessantly, from 22 January to 6 February 1945, in heavy snow storms, through enemy-infested marshes and woods, and over a flat plain crisscrossed by numerous small canals, irrigation ditches, and unfordable streams, terrain ideally suited to the defense, breached the German defense wall on the northern perimeter of the Colmar bridgehead and drove forward to isolate Colmar from the Rhine. Crossing the Fecht River from Gueimar, Alsace, by stealth during the late hours of darkness of 22 January, the assault elements fought their way forward against mounting resistance. Reaching the Ill River, a bridge was thrown across but collapsed before armor could pass to the support of two battalions of the 30th Infantry on the far side. Isolated and attacked by a full German Panzer brigade, outnumbered and outgunned, these valiant troops were forced back yard by yard. Wave after wave of armor and infantry was hurled against them but despite hopeless odds the regiment held tenaciously to its bridgehead. Driving forward in knee-deep snow, which masked acres of densely sown mines, the 3d Infantry Division fought from house to house and street to street in the fortress towns of the Alsatian Plain. Under furious concentrations of supporting fire, assault troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber boats during the night of 29 January. Driving relentlessly forward, six towns were captured within 8 hours, 500 casualties inflicted on the enemy during the day, and large quantities of booty seized. Slashing through to the Rhone-Rhine Canal, the garrison at Colmar was cut off and the fall of the city assured. Shifting the direction of attack, the division moved south between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Rhine toward Neuf Brisach and the Brisach Bridge. Synchronizing the attacks, the bridge was seized and

Neuf Brisach captured by crossing the protecting moat and scaling the medial walls by ladder. In one of the hardest fought and bloodiest campaigns of the war, the 3d Infantry Division annihilated three enemy divisions, partially destroyed three others, captured over 4,000 prisoners, and inflicted more than 7,500 casualties on the enemy.

XIV. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TYPHUS COMMISSION MEDAL.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9255, 24 December 1942 (sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1943), and section V, WD Circular 142, 1944, the United States of America Typhus Commission Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in connection with the work of the Commission was awarded posthumously by the War Department to the following named individual:

Lieutenant Stafford M. Wheeler, 145710, Medical Corps, United States Naval Reserve, in Egypt during December 1944 and January 1945, and later in Yugoslavia, displayed special fitness for the work of the United States of America Typhus Commission. With other officers, Lieutenant Wheeler was sent by the Commission to Yugoslavia in February 1945 to assist in organizing and operating a typhus control program for that country. In difficult situations, under campaign conditions, he performed his duties with a high degree of intelligence, initiative, and efficiency until killed at his work by the explosion of a land mine.