

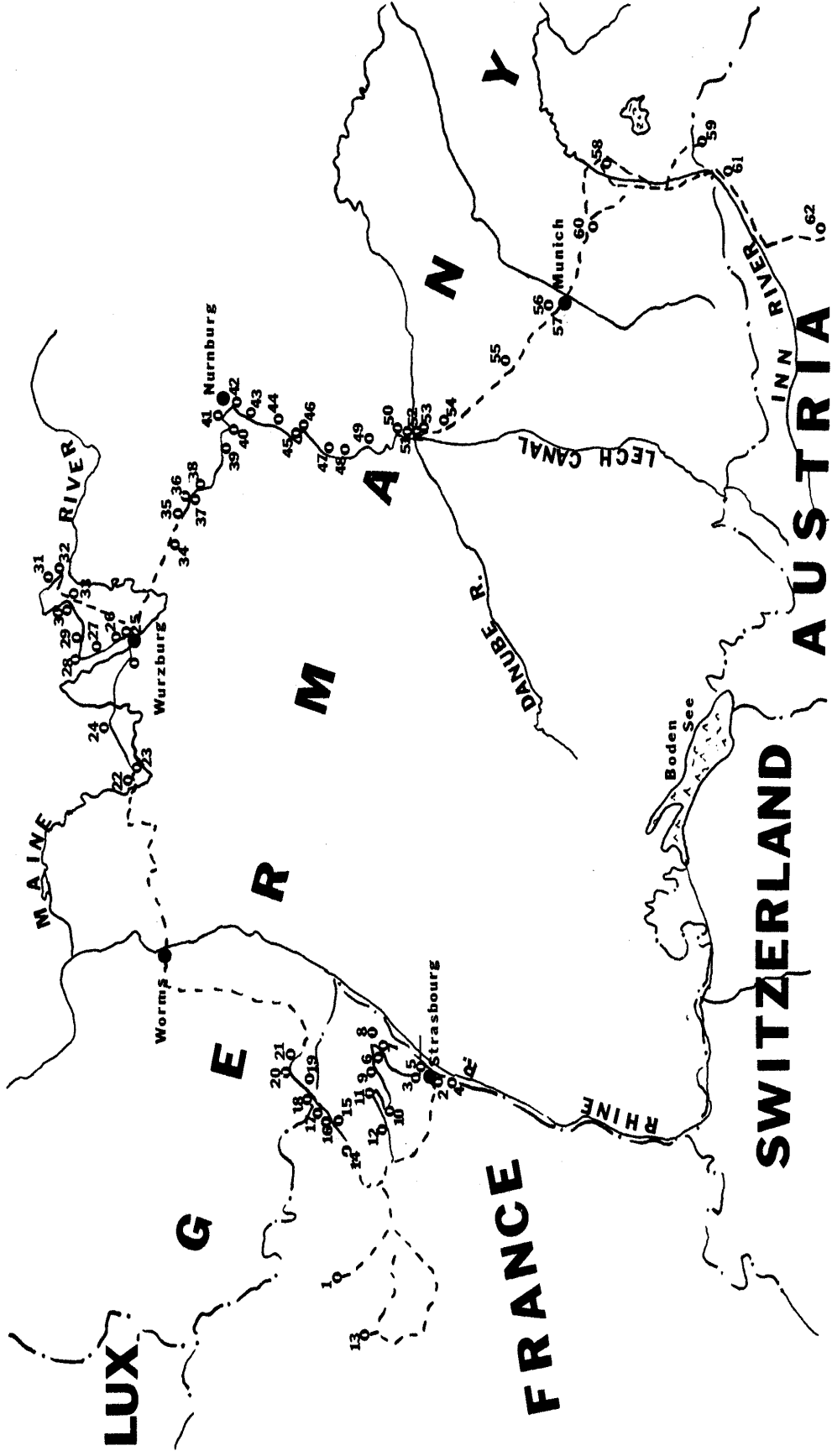
WORLD WAR II  
HISTORY  
JAMES "PETE" PETTUS  
ORIGINAL 1945  
REWRITTEN 1994

2ND PLATOON CO. K, 23RD INFANTRY  
42ND "RAINBOW" DIV.

**3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION COMMAND POST LOCATIONS FROM DECEMBER 22,  
1944 THROUGH JUNE 7, 1945**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bermerning, France 12/22            | 31. Hambach, Germany 04/11         |
| 2. Strasbourg, France 12/23            | 32. Dittlebrunn, Germany 04/12     |
| 3. Fort Ney, France 12/24-27           | 34. Obach, Germany 04/13           |
| 4. Strasbourg, France 12/28            | 35. Langenfield, Germany 04/15     |
| 5. La Watzenau, France 12/29-01/07     | 36. Diebach, Germany 04/16         |
| 6. Camp Oberhoffen, France 01/08       | 37. Neustadt, Germany 04/16        |
| 7. Shirrhoffen, France 01/09-18        | 38. Remhaven, Germany 04/17        |
| 8. Souflenheim, France 01/19-20        | 39. Cadolzburg, Germany 04/14      |
| 9. Hagenau, France 01/21               | 40. Leichendorf, Germany 04/18     |
| 10. Bossendorf, France 01/22-24        | 41. Gerbersdorf, Germany 04/19     |
| 11. Ohlungen, France 01/25             | 42. Reichelsdorf, Germany 04/20    |
| 12. Grassendorf, France 01/26          | 43. Gutzburg, Germany 04/20        |
| 13. Gremecy, France 01/27-02/16        | 44. Durrenmungenau, Germany 04/21  |
| 14. Reipertswiller, France 02/17-03/15 | 45. Beerbach, Germany 04/22        |
| 15. Hill 403, France 03/16             | 46. Absberg, Germany 04/22         |
| 16. Phillipsbourg, France 03/17        | 47. Dittenheim, Germany 04/23      |
| 17. Neunhoffen, France 03/17           | 48. Degersheim, Germany 04/23      |
| 18. Fischbach, Germany 03/18           | 49. Nussbuhl, Germany 04/24        |
| 19. Ludwigswinkel, Germany 02/19-20    | 50. Daiting, Germany 04/25         |
| 20. Dahn, Germany 03/21-22             | 51. Leitham, Germany 04/26         |
| 21. Darstein, Germany 03/23/31         | 52. Bassernhammer, Germany 04/26   |
| 22. Rollbach, Germany 04/01            | 53. Rain, Germany 04/27            |
| 23. Oberaltenbach, Germany 04/01       | 54. Riedham, Germany 04/28         |
| 24. Bischbrunn, Germany 04/02          | 55. Schwabhausen, Germany 04/29    |
| 25. Forest Assembly area 04/03         | 56. Obermuning, Germany 04/30      |
| 26. Wurzburg, Germany 01/05-06         | 57. Munich, Germany 05/01-07       |
| 27. Unterdürrbach, Germany 04/06-07    | 58. Schonstett, Germany 05/08-12   |
| 28. Thungen, Germany 04/08             | 59. Walchsee, Austria 05/13-19     |
| 29. Altbessingen, Germany 04/09        | 60. Marktgrafing, Austria 05/20-25 |
| 30. Kutzberg, Germany 04/10            | 61. Kirchbuhl, Austria 05/26-06/06 |
| 31. Hambach, Germany 04/11             | 62. Mayrhofen, Austria 06/07-?     |

3RD BN., 232ND REG. 42ND DIV. C.P.s WWII



# Co K Positions December 1, 1944 Through May 31, 1945

Date	Location
December 1-9, 44	SS Edmond B. Alexander
December 10-18, 44	CP 2, 2 Miles NW of Calas, France
December 20, 44	Enroute to Bensdorf, France (40 & 8s) *6 EM went by truck
December 21, 44	Bensdorf, France
December 22, 44	Roc Range, France
December 23, 44	Strasbourg, France
December 24,-27, 45	Fermede Bussierre, France (Chateau de la Robertsau)
December 28,-30	La Colonbay, France
December 31,-January 7, 45	LaWantzenau, France
January 8, 45	Oberhoffen, France
January 9-19,45	Schirrhoffen, France
January 20, 45	Enroute to Souffleheim, France, Enroute to Haguenau,
January 21, 45	Enroute to Haguenau, France, Enroute to Bossendorf,
January 22-24, 45	Bossendorf, France
January 25, 45	Ohlungen, France
January 26, 45	Grassendorf, France
January 27, February 17, 45	Gremecey, France
February 19, March 16, 45	Lichtenberg, France
March 17, 45	Phillipsburg, France
March 18-21,45	Ludwigswinkel, Germany
March 22, March 30,45	Darstein, Germany
April 1-3, 45	Enroute to Wurzburg
April 4-6, 45	Würzburg, Germany
April 7-10, 45	Thungen, Germany
April 11,45	Dittelbrunn, Germany
April 12-13, 45	Obbach, Germany
April 14-15, 45	Hellmitzheim, Germany
April 16, 45	Neustadt, Germany
April 17-18, 45	Cadolzburg, Germany
April 19, 45	Stein, Germany
April 20-21, 45	Gutzburg, Germany
April 22, 45	Absburg, Germany
April 23, 45	Doekingen, Germany
April 24, 45	Wending, Germany
April 25, 45	Daiting, Germany
April 26, 45	Brenner, Germany
April 27, 45	Rain, Germany
April 28, 45	Riedheim, Germany
April 29, 45	Deutenhausen, Germany then Rossbach, Germany
April 30, 45	Outskirts of Munich, Germany
May 1-7, 45	Munich, Germany
May 8-16	Amerang, Germany
May 17-19, 45	Durcholzen, Austria
May 20-27, 45	Assling, Germany
May 28-31, 45	Angath, Austria (May be here longer, end of records)



**SECOND PLATOON COMPANY K, 232<sup>ND</sup> REGIMENT, 42<sup>ND</sup> RAINBOW DIVISION  
ROSTER NOVEMBER 1944**

**PLATOON HEADQUARTERS  
PLATOON LEADER, 2<sup>ND</sup> LT. DAVE ZILLMER  
PLATOON TECH. SERGEANT, WILLIAM STOFT  
PLATOON GUIDE, STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT H. SMITH  
PLATOON MEDIC, PFC. JOHNSON  
PLATOON MESSENGER, SAM MARRARI**

**FIRST SQUAD**

**Sqd. Ldr. Staff Sgt. Norman Usher  
Pfc. Kenneth Hoch  
Pfc. Gerald Begin  
Pfc. James Pettus  
Pfc. Julian Hood  
Pfc. Algie Pennington  
Pfc. Clarence Suchow  
Pfc. Laymon Baker  
Pfc. Robert Marikle  
Pfc. Leo Fuchs  
Pfc. Frank U. Babtise  
Ast. Sqd. Ldr. Sgt. Dennis Sullivan**

**SECOND SQUAD**

**Sqd. Ldr. Staff Sgt. William Mountford  
Pfc. Francisco Guardiola  
Pfc. John Sutphin  
Pfc. Holly Thornall  
Pfc. Keith Wright  
Pfc. Herbert Busby  
Pfc. Eugene Falcheck  
Pfc. Arlen G. Bjork  
Pfc. Kermit Anderson  
Pfc. Loren Shepherd  
Pfc. Alexander Czcinski  
Ast Sqd. Ldr. Robert Gates**

**THIRD SQUAD**

**Sqd. Ldr. Staff Sgt. Harold Slinker  
Pfc. Frank Peeler  
Pfc. Robert Stevens  
Pfc. Charles Koenig  
Pfc. Stephen Turner  
Pfc. Max Collins  
Pfc. Earnest McKissack  
Pfc. Joseph S. Lejman  
Pfc. Harold Countryman  
Pfc. Richard North  
Pfc. Roderick Berry  
Ast. Sqd. Ldr. Sgt. Knocker**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON MEN KILLED**

**Frank Peeler  
Robert Stevens  
Loren Shepherd  
Algie Pennington  
Alexander Czcinski**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON MEN CAPTURED**

**Robert Gates  
Francisco Guardiola  
John Sutphin  
Holly Thornal**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON MEN WOUNDED**

**Usher, Hoch, Begin, Johnson, Baker, Sullivan, Falcheck, Hood, Babtise , Fuchs,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLATOON MEN TRANSFERRED FROM K COMPANY**

**Babtise, Marikle, Countryman, Lejman, Shepherd, North, Pennington, Koenig.**

## **PROMOTIONS IN THE SECOND PLATOON, COMPANY K**

**Dave Zillmer to Company Commander**

**Bill Stoft to 2nd Platoon Leader**

**Norman Usher to 2nd Platoon Sgt.**

**Robert Smith to Platoon Sgt. (After Usher was wounded)**

**Pete Pettus to Asst. Squad Leader then Squad Leader**

**Dennis Sullivan to Squad Leader then Platoon Guide**

**Kermit Anderson to Asst. Squad Leader then 2nd Lt.**

**Kenny Hoch to Asst. Squad Leader**

**Suchow to Asst. Squad Leader**

**Keith Wright to Asst. Squad Leader**

**Alexander Czcinski to Squad Leader**

**Herbert Busby to Squad Leader**

**Ernest Mc Kissack to Squad Leader**

**Robert Clark to Squad Leader**

**Clinton Childress to Asst. Squad Leader ( At war's end)**

**Thomas Hennessey to Asst. Squad Leader ( At war's end)**

**Van Tyree to Squad Leader ( At war's end )**

## **PROLOUGE**

A few weeks after V E day, I decided to write of my wartime experiences while they were still fresh in my mind. We were at Bischofshofen, Austria at the time. I had help from several men from my platoon. There must have been eight or ten of us in the room and we managed to remember where we were on every day from the time we landed at Marseille until the war was over. We did not remember many small town names but when I was able to obtain a document showing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. CP's and maps of France, Germany, and Austria I was able to fill in all the places.

The following history is mostly limited to the Second Platoon, Company K. We were in the 232nd Regiment of the 42nd Rainbow Division. The platoon members were usually together as a unit. At times we would not see men other than our platoon for several days at a time. Because of this, I decided to not try to cover the entire company's history.

Keep in mind that this document is from my perspective and as seen through my narrow window of the whole picture. It is believed by me that many of the opinions expressed here are reflective of all the men that I knew. For example, I know for a fact that all of the enlisted men in the company felt contempt for men that were not front line troops. We had a special name for them, "rear echelon". When we talked about the rear echelon we felt that they were inferior to us. This is not to say that most of us would not have welcomed the chance to trade places with them. From this observation, I feel that all or certainly the large majority of front line men everywhere felt the same way as we did.

The original document was typed in June, 1945 on a scroll of vellum paper which I obtained from who knows where. I still have the original, but it is very fragile and brittle now.

Several years after returning home, I used the vellum to hand write the history, adding as much additional detail as I could remember at that time. I went back to Europe in 1976 on the "Trail of the Rainbow Tour". There I obtained good maps of all the area that we were in during the war. Using these maps and the original writings I was able to pin point our locations for every day of combat. I also had a map of our Battalion Command Posts, which some one from Battalion HQ had given me shortly after the war ended. A revised copy of that map is included in this history.

Included as recently as the year 2000, is recently acquired Co. K Morning Report Data. I have also added photos etc. from trips to Europe in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

In this writing, I included quotations from our Rainbow History book, and many other pertinent publications.

**James R. Pettus**

*"The Rainbow Division, the most famous fighting organization of World War I, was reactivated July 14, 1943. This was the anniversary of the battle of Champagne and veterans of the Rainbow who had stopped the last great offensive of the Kaiser's army in that battle were on hand to see their unit reborn.*

*Here was history repeating itself. Once again there was a Rainbow Division in the army and this time, even more than before, it was a division, which would represent all America, made up of Men selected from each state of the Union in proportion to its population.*

*The first Rainbow Division was composed of National Guard units from 27 states and it was this collection of men, which inspired General Douglas Macarthur, its most famous member, to declare. 'The 42nd Infantry Division stretches like a Rainbow from one end of America to the other.'*

*Major General Harry J. Collins, then Brigadier General, recalled the words of General Macarthur on that activation day when he told the veterans of the old Rainbow and the cadre men of the new: 'The Rainbow stretches across the land and represents the people of our country. This Division can not fail because America can not fail.'*

*The unit-training period was begun on January 9, but shortly thereafter the entire Division training program was disrupted by repeated instructions that men qualified for overseas shipment be transferred to other units.*

*Most seriously affected by these transfers from the Division were the three infantry regiments, which shipped out more than 5600 men in the period from the beginning of the Unit Training Program until the first week in April. During the months which followed more and more men were transferred from the Rainbow and they were replaced with men from army specialist training schools, from the air forces and from branches of the service other than infantry. Some of these replacements had no sooner been given short refresher courses in basic training than they too were transferred.*

*During the period from early January to the first of September the Rainbow transferred out and received as replacements more than 15,000 men, a number equal to the strength of the Division.*

*In July the Division received assurances that it would not be called upon for more replacements. Instead it was informed it must begin an intensive training program, which would prepare it for shipment overseas in 26 weeks. Everything must be completed in that time, basic training, unit and combined training, maneuvers, post-maneuver training and even packing and crating. This meant that what was normally a year to a year and a half's work must be done in six months.*

*Then came a further change. Infantrymen were needed in Europe immediately. Twenty-six weeks was too long. At four o'clock on October 14, 1944 there was a call from Washington to General Collins.*



*'Stop all other training,' the General was instructed. 'Get your three infantry regiments ready to go overseas. Every man must complete all POM requirements. Spend the next three weeks on squad problems and make them realistic. The men will be using this training very soon.'*

*On November 13 the long train of Pullmans and troop-sleepers began backing onto the sidings near the shacks of Braggs, Oklahoma and the men marched on quietly while the Division band played the 'Rainbow Song' and 'Mountain Dew'.*

*Despite all the attempts at secrecy there was hardly a man who did not know that he was going to Camp Kilmer, NJ, and this, of course this meant Europe. Many a foxhole strategist pointed out that this was just a case of the War Department getting its orders crossed. Anyone knew, they claimed, that the war in Europe was practically over. The Seventh Army was on the Rhine, the Third was only a few miles away, and the Germans were ready to quit. It looked like the Rainbow Division was being sent over to occupy."*<sup>[1]</sup>

*On November 23, 1944 part of the 42nd Rainbow Division set sail for France from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. We had been at Camp Kilmer for a week. We came there by train from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, where we had been in training for from weeks, for some, too months for others.*

**We kept busy at Camp Kilmer doing the following types of things. We climbed up and down rope netting on a 40-foot high wooden wall. We had close order drill, ran obstacle courses, had bayonet drills, practiced boarding and getting off of a simulated train. Presumably the train boarding practice was so we would be able to board our train from Kilmer to the Pier. The fact that we had just rode fifteen hundred miles from Gruber to Kilmer on a train, was not considered to be enough practice, I supposed.**

**Many of us got weekend passes while at Kilmer and went to New York City. It was my first time there. I went with three others and we saw the Empire State Building, Radio City Music Hall and the usual other places that tourists see. We ate dinner at a restaurant, which I thought was overly expensive. As we wandered around looking for some place to eat, we kept finding places that all four of us could not agree on. Finally after this went on for too long, we agreed that the next restaurant we came to was going to be the one, no matter what. We came to this ritzy looking place and in we went. The meal cost me over six dollars and I was not too happy about that. Our pay was about \$50.00 per month then.**

**"Double Time Jones", Company K commander, seemed to be very happy and eager to go to war. Some of the men made comments that Jones only lived a few miles from Kilmer, but did not go on pass to see his family while we were there. I don't know if this was true or not. At any rate, the insinuation was that he was so eager to get to war that he didn't have time to think about any thing else.**

**When we boarded the train for the ride to the ferry, Jones strode up and down the aisles grinning from ear to ear and saying, "this is it men; this is it; this is what we have been waiting and training for these many months". No one else, that I knew, was sharing his**

intense enthusiasm for going overseas to fight a war. Most of us would have been more than happy to remain in the states and train until the war was over.

The following incident will give you an idea how thorough Jones was. As preparation for leaving Kilmer, we had been given a list of everything we were to take with us overseas. At a designated time, one evening, we were to place our duffel bag by our beds and place all of the items of the list on our bunks. Captain Jones would be there at the appointed time, to see that we put all the items that were to go with us, in our duffel bags.

He appeared at the time designated and as he read from the list, an item at a time, we were to pick the item off the bunk and place it in the bag. After calling several items, he called out "One pair of long underwear". I had two pair lying on my bunk, because against company regulations, I was not wearing a pair. From the far end of the barracks, where he was standing, and with 50 or 60 men reaching for their underwear at the same time, he saw that what I was placing in my duffel bag looked like more than one pair of long johns. He came striding down the floor and said, "Pvt.. Pettus how many pair of underwear did you just put in that duffel bag?" I answered "two Sir". He then said, "Does that mean that you are not wearing any?" I said "Yes Sir" to which he replied "and you just made Pfc. recently didn't you". I thought, well there goes my one stripe, which I have been over a year getting. Nothing further however was said on the subject and I did not lose my stripe.

Captain Jones got his nickname "Double Time Jones" because at Camp Gruber he was out of bed very early every morning double-timing around the base. He was considerably older than most of us and, I supposed, wanted to make sure he stayed in condition.

(I have seen Jones at many Rainbow reunions and he is still affectionately called " Double Time". The first time I saw him, after the war, was at the 1982 Tulsa reunion. At a business Meeting he was called to the Podium for a report and he double-timed to the stage.

Keith Wright and I ran into him, soon after arriving, and he immediately informed us that he had a detail for us, and to report to him at 7 a.m. the next morning. The next morning we were there bright and early for our detail. We went with him to Muskogee and helped prepare for the dedication ceremony of the Rainbow Memorial, which was to be held the next day.

Keith and I participated in the dedication ceremony and we placed the wreaths, to the memory of our fallen comrades, on the stone monument commemorating the dedication of the memorial amphitheater to the city of Muskogee. This ceremony was filmed by the TV show "Real People" and shown on TV several months later.)

The time for leaving for Europe rolled around all too soon, for most of us, and when we boarded the real train, there were no mishaps. Someone remarked sarcastically, no doubt it was because we had practiced getting on and off the dummy train so many times. We rode for about an hour before arriving at the ferry pier, from which we boarded a large ferryboat, which was to take us to our ship.

We soon arrived at the Ferry and boarded it for our trip to the Ship dock. Pfc. North, from Harlem County, Kentucky wondered out loud, "Why don't they assign us to our bunks so we can get some rest?" We all got a big laugh out of this and never let him forget this incident the rest of his days. Unfortunately his days were not very long, as he was killed in the first few weeks of combat. He had transferred out of the Rainbow by then.

North was probably the only man in the company whose home county I have remembered to this day. He could tell almost unbelievable tales about what went on in Harlem County. Once when he came back from furlough, he was telling us how he had to go through posted moonshine guards and be recognized before he was allowed to proceed. I remember another tale in which he talked about "Old black Martha" She was some sort of witch, he believed.

On the Ferry Pfc. Louie Zecchini, a very accomplished musician entertained us with his accordion. (I often wondered what happened to him. After we got overseas, I never saw him again. When the Rainbow book, published by Turner Publishing Co. came out in 1987, I noticed a picture and article about James F. Horan and he mentioned that he performed with Zecchini , in a 36-town tour in Austria after the war was over.

Horan was a very good amateur magician. I was in the same company with him when I was first transferred from the Air Corps to the 42nd Division. He entertained us often with his magic. I remember once when he was gone from the barracks I picked up some of his magic rings, which were lying on his bunk, to see if I could figure out how he did his tricks with them.) In 1999 I found Horan's address and wrote him about Zecchini. He said he had been in contact with Zecchini, for many years after the war and Zecchini had been with several big bands. He had a nervous breakdown several years ago and Horan visited him in a music store where he was working and at that time Zecchini informed him that he did not want to see him anymore.

After a ride of an hour or two, we arrived at the pier and fortified with a chocolate bar and a couple of doughnuts, courtesy of the Red Cross, we climbed the gangplank of the USS Alexander. The Alexander had been a cruise ship, which was converted to a troop carrier for the war.

In the late afternoon of November 23, 1944 we boarded the ship and were soon assigned our bunks. Company K was several decks down in the ship. Soon most of us were asleep.

The next morning, November 24th, we were all out on deck to watch the New York City skyline fade away as we slowly moved toward open sea. We gazed at the Statue Of Liberty and pondered our fates. Before the statue was completely out of sight, I was beginning to have a queasy feeling in my stomach and decided to head for my bunk. When I got there Sgt. William Stoft was already in his sack and feeling worse than me. We were both very sick for nearly the entire trip.

Every day we had boat drills, exercises, bayonet practice etc. That is, those who were able did. Our buddies, on orders from Jones, carried Sgt. Bill Stoft and me up to the top deck. The weather was beautiful, with a clear blue sky and calm water. But even the gentle rise and fall

of the ship was enough to keep me so sick that I thought, as I laid there, if we would come to a small island, I would gladly just get off and stay there the rest of my life. Gradually, I begin to feel a little better and while I never got back to normal, I did begin to feel like I wasn't going to die.

For those who felt like it, there was considerable free time to play cards, watch movies, have boxing matches, etc. General Lindon, who was a fanatic on bayonet practice, had us doing Bayonet drill on the top deck of the ship. I thought it was extremely foolish to have us making a long thrust, short thrust and a butt stroke on the rolling deck of a ship. I overheard one man whisper that he wished the ship would lurch just right when some one was making a long thrust, so as to accidentally spear "old Henning". During combat, I heard many a man say that the only way he was ever going to use a bayonet was when his last round of Ammunition was gone and he was trapped with no place to run.

On December 8th we arrived at Marseilles, France and the gangplank went down. With full field packs on our backs, we double-timed down the gangplank to the pier. We received these packs at Camp Gruber just a few weeks before leaving for Kilmer. They were enormous in size, compared to our old packs. They would hold far more than anyone was capable of caring for any great distance, and of course completely useless for combat. I don't remember how or when we parted with them after landing.

Now, with everything that we were supposed to need in the packs, we started marching toward CP II. We had a cook in the company by the name of Frank Meller. He was also older than most of us and seemed to be in pretty poor shape. From the start of our voyage, Captain Jones was worried that he would not be able to do the marching we would have to do, especially with a full field pack. For this reason, Jones had him marching around the deck with a loaded full field pack an hour or two every day, to try to get him in condition. Ironically, he made the six-mile trip to CP II all right, but shortly after getting to the front, a cook stove blew up and seriously injured him. We never saw him again.

We marched for an hour or so then took a ten-minute break. Then we marched for two more hours. We covered about six miles. It was very difficult marching, because of the heavy field packs.

After this ordeal, we welcomed the sight of some trucks, which were approaching, and we were told we would ride the rest of the way. The truck drivers had probably made this trip hundreds of times and they drove like it. We were standing in the trucks, as many as could be packed in. Pfc. Kenneth Hoch was standing against the tailgate and was pressed against a rope that was tied across the bed about waist high. Suddenly as we rounded a curve, The rope broke and he fell over backwards, hanging on the tailgate by his knees, with his pack dragging along on the road. Fortunately, Sgt. Usher saw him and immediately held him up enough to keep him from falling completely out. Usher yelled for help and several other men reached down and managed to pull him to safety.

We had no idea what CP 2 was. We knew on the ship that we were going to CP 2 at Marseilles and that was all we knew. We surmised that it was some sort of staging area for



troops going to the front. We envisioned some sort of barracks, or at the least permanent tents. When arrived, we were in for a real shock. (I had no idea where CP2 was until I saw on the recently acquired Morning Reports, that it was 2 miles NW of Callas, France)

*"No man of the Rainbow Division who passed through CP 2 will ever forget it. It was a rude introduction to Europe and an indication of the miserably cold days and nights, which lay ahead. It was a far different world than these men had left only 10 days to two weeks before. Here the war seemed very close. At night there was blackout and occasionally a German plane over the area and the anti-aircraft guns of the port of defense barked at it. Training continued and now, more than ever, there seemed a purpose in It." \*[2]*

When we arrived at our destination, to our extreme disappointment, there was nothing there but a barren rocky hillside. Orders were give to get out of the trucks and line up in tent pitching formation. We dug down in our packs, got out our shelter halves, pegs; ropes etc. and begin to try to get our tents pitched. In the frozen rocky ground, it was quite a job just to get the tent pegs pounded in.

Company K was fortunate that it was still light when we arrived. All night we could hear men pounding tent pegs in and using the language appropriate for such an endeavor.

Each of us had a mattress cover and two blankets. Someone thought of the idea of making a kind of sleeping bag by folding the blankets in half and lapping them over each other. We then rolled them up, placed them down in the bottom of the mattress cover and holding the bottom of the blankets through the bottom of the mattress cover, we unrolled them to the open end of the cover. This turned out to be a pretty good idea, except for one major drawback. The pup tents were barely longer than the mattress covers, so that when we pulled them into the tent, we had very little space at the back end of the tent to maneuver into the open end of the makeshift sleeping bags. Because the pup tents were open on one end, we wanted our feet at the open end.

As difficult as this operation was, it wouldn't have been too bad if we only had to go through it once or twice a night. However, trying to sleep on the cold hard ground with only two Thin layers of blanket between the ground and us, was more than our kidneys could stand. Most of us had to get up every hour or two to go to the latrine. As bad as this seemed at the time, we were soon to learn that under combat conditions, for much of the time, we would have loved to have the luxury of such sleeping accommodations.

*"The war news was important now for up north the Germans were opening what was later to be known as the 'Battle of the Bulge.' Everyone realized that this supreme effort on the part of Von Rundstedt was going to affect him. The American forces were being pushed back, the Third Army was moving northward to smash the flank of the German penetration and attempt to cut off the attackers. The Seventh Army was forced to take over more territory, extend its lines to fill the gap left by the third." \*[3]*

During the days we spent our time doing a new drill, called Basic Battle Drill. (I don't remember how it differed from the old close order drill, but at least it had a new name.) We thought it was a pretty foolish exercise for troops about to head for the front lines. After we

were in combat, we would occasionally remark about the Basic Battle Drill and how useless it was.

During our free time, we roamed far and wide in search of wood for campfires. Because CP 2 had been a staging area for so long, and thousands of soldiers had been here before us, each new group had to range farther and farther to find a few twigs. We managed to always find some, however, and during the evenings we would sit around small fires, three or four to a group and heat water in our canteen cups to make coffee, tea, or anything else hot to drink.

Some of our K rations contained packages of bullion powder and it tasted very good for a change from the usual fare. Many of us wrote home and told our folks to send bullion cubes. By the time we got them we were so sick of bullion we could not stand the sight or smell of it.

The only way we had of heating the water was to hold the canteen cups with our gloved hands over campfires until the water was hot. By the time we were ready to leave CP 2, all of the fingers of our gloves were burned back to about the second knuckle and our bare fingers were sticking out. Unfortunately it was weeks, after we went to the front lines, before we got any gloves. When the gloves did begin to dwindle in, a few pair at a time, we would draw straws to see who got them.

While we were at CP 2, most everyone who wanted to, went into Marseilles for recreation, sight seeing or whatever. I went one time and was amazed at the streetcars. They never seemed to stop completely. They just slowed down a little and people jumped on. The people inside would grab the ones trying to get on and pull them in.

We were warned, before we went to town, that there were plenty of natives that would gladly slit our throats for as little as the boots we were wearing. We were advised to stay in large enough groups to avoid this. I was content to just walk around with a few buddies and sight see.

There were portable showers available at CP 2 and we were allowed one or two showers during the time we were there. The showering was done a company at a time. The entire company went and everyone lined up to wait his turn. Since we had only saltwater showers on the boat, showering now was especially refreshing. We didn't know it, at the time, but it would be a long while before we would have another chance to bathe.

Thinking about what was ahead for us, when we got to the front lines, made us pretty content with our lives at CP 2 and most of us were not anxious to leave it. Because only part of the Division had arrived, we thought we would not head for the fighting until the artillery, which was the main unit that we were lacking, caught up with us. General Collins was still in Gruber and we were sure we wouldn't go to the front without him.

What we didn't figure on was that Hitler was making another last ditch effort at an offensive, as he told his generals, "to push the allied forces back into the sea." This offensive, the famous "Battle of the Bulge" was underway.

*"The infantry regiments of the Rainbow Division were needed in this fight. Assigned to the Third Army, the regiments left CP 2 in trucks and on 40 and 8 boxcars for an assembly area near Bensdorf, France on December 18 and 19. While they were enroute their orders were changed and 'Task Force Linden' was assigned to the Seventh Army and directed to relieve elements of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the vicinity of Strasbourg.*

*Two days before Christmas the Rainbow infantrymen arrived in the vicinity of Strasbourg and were billeted in old French forts and in schoolhouse. Here they had running water and a place to sleep inside a building. Those things were more important at the moment than the fact that soon they would be in combat and that Christmas was only a few hours away.*

*Back at Gruber the remainder of the division also had little time to think about Christmas for they were either enroute or boarding trains for Camp Kilmer. Christmas Day to them was going to mean either a small tree set up in the aisle of a train, or processing at the staging area. No one knew that in France the men of 'Task Force Linden' were about to go into action.*

*On the day before Christmas and on Christmas Day the infantry regiments of the Rainbow moved into front line defensive positions along the Rhine River and 'Task Force Linden' was placed under control of the 79th Division.*

*The regimental fronts extended for approximately 19 miles, with the 232nd Infantry on the left, or north flank above the city of Strasbourg, the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry in the city and the 242nd Infantry on the south.*

*Across the river were the Germans. They too were on the defensive and it was Christmas and they were content with firing only an occasional burst of automatic weapons fire into our Positions. When they were answered with a fusillade from an entire company they soon became discouraged and quit. Once, a patrol made a half-hearted, effort to cross the river, probably looking, for a prisoner so as to identify the new unit, which had moved into the lines. Two machine guns opened fire at the enemy and they turned their boats around and made for cover."*  
\*[4]

**On the 19th of December, we awakened to a cold, rainy morning and were informed that we were leaving for the front lines that day. We were ordered to strike our pup tents and get ready to go. Because of the rain, there was no way to neatly take down the tents and fold them properly. All we could do is just wad them up in a wet muddy mess. This we proceeded to do. By the time we finished breaking camp, the trucks were waiting for us and we loaded up for the trip to the railroad siding, where the train was awaiting our arrival.**

**This was the day we came to learn what a "forty and eight" was. The European train lines were narrow gauge and the boxcars about half the size of American ones. On each car was painted "40 Homes, 8 Equis". In other words, the capacity was 40 men or eight horses. It looked and smelled like more horses had been in them than men.**

**We rode for several miles and disembarked from the trucks at a railroad siding with a string of boxcars standing by. We were assigned a boxcar to each platoon and climbing out of the**

three inch deep mud, climbed into the cars and began to clean out the dung and dirty straw as best we could. We hung our equipment on nails, which had been driven in all four walls. (I don't remember what happened to our wet shelter halves.) We may have still had them with us or they may have been placed in a supply car.)

Luckily, for us, the second platoon was put on a detail of passing out the food rations for the entire train. I don't remember how many units were in the trainload. We probably had at Least, a Battalion present. At any rate, we put double rations in our boxcar. This was Usher's suggestion and everyone in the second platoon concurred. This was the first time we had received "10 in 1 rations". They were just large cans of ordinary canned goods like you would find in a grocery store. We had such things as fruit, peas, corn, green beans, beef with gravy, etc.

We were also issued some Coleman Pocket Stoves, one per squad. This was the first time we had seen these small gasoline stoves. They were about 5 inches in diameter and 8 or 10 inches high. They were single burner. As soon as we got in the boxcars each squad fired their stove up and we begin to heat our food.

This operation worked very well as long as we were not moving. We learned quickly, the hard way that it did not work well when we were. The first time we were cooking while moving, all of a sudden the train engineer slammed on the brakes, for some reason, and the can of peas that the first squad was heating went flying. There were peas scattered all over the floor. Usher then suggested each Squad Leader designate a cook to hold the food, a man to hold the stove and a couple of men to hold the cook and the stove holder. This worked well, showing how quickly we could adapt to our food needs in the "forty and eights".

Other problems quickly cropped up though. With a whole platoon in a car when everyone tried to sleep, except for a guard at each door, we were so crowded together that we all had to face the same direction. This meant that when one man decided to turn the other way, everyone had to do the same or have your nose right up against the next man's nose. We adapted to this also.

During the first night, a lantern hanging on a nail jarred loose and fell hitting Sgt. Robert H. Smith, our platoon guide, squarely on the forehead. He let out a yell that could be heard four cars away. He had a big goose egg on his head for several days but did not require medical treatment.

At one time when the train was stopped, for a while, one of the "GI's" stole the trainmen's signal lantern. When the train got ready to go and the Frenchmen couldn't find it, they refused to move the train. It wasn't anyone in our boxcar that took it and we thought it quite amusing. We really were not too concerned about how long it was taking us to get to the front lines anyway. The highest officer on the train issued orders that the lantern was to be brought forth immediately. It still didn't show up. By this time the culprit or culprits were undoubtedly afraid they were going to be in serious trouble and were afraid to come forward. Finally the officer in charge issued a statement, to be passed down to all the men, that if the lantern showed up back in the Frenchmen's possession by a certain time nothing further would be said on the subject. This worked and soon we were on our way again.

The morning after our first night in the "40 and 8's" some one, who had been sleeping near the doors, said. "It must have rained last night." Someone else declared that it was a bright



night and no sign of any rain. The first man then said it must have rained because he felt drops of water hitting him in the face several times during the night. One of the men who had been on guard duty at the door, said, "That wasn't rain, that was just the men taking a leak out the door and the wind blowing it back in your face." From that day on everyone tried to get as far away from the door as possible when it came bedtime.

We never knew when the train was going to stop and when it did how long we would be stopped. The first time or two that the train stopped, those that needed to would jump off, move a few feet from the tracks and go to the toilet. Maybe we would only be stopped for a minute or two and without warning the train would jar to a start. It was quite a sight to see men trying to pull their pants up and run for the train as they did. So we learned quickly that when the train stopped, and you needed to go, you ran several hundred feet down the track in the direction the train was traveling. Then if the train started up you had a little time to get prepared and catch in on the way. It never moved very fast anyway and took quite a while to get up to full speed.

We were on the train three days and nights and on Dec. 22 arrived at the end of our train journey. There were trucks waiting for us and we rode several miles to a small French village named Bensdorf. It was our first experience of being in a small French village and we were overwhelmingly unfavorably impressed.

There was one main dirt street about equal to a couple of city blocks in length. The street was fairly wide and there were houses close together on each side. The houses were combination house and barn, which as we came to see later all through rural France and Germany, was the norm. There was a large entryway in the middle front of the building and both the farm animals and the residents used it to enter from the street. Once through this entry way the people went either right or left, depending on which side the barn was, and the animals the other way. The structures had dates above the entry dating back to the fourteen hundreds.

We were told that the French occupants would be sharing their homes with us and we were assigned billets. The people were very gracious toward us and made us feel welcome. We stayed in groups of four or five to a home and the people made places on the floors for us to sleep and in some cases provided additional bedding to go with our meager supply. In the home that I was billeted, the occupants spoke fair English. We had a good time talking to them for some time, before we hit the sack for the night.

To get back to the village description, the following will relate why we were so critical. In front of each home there was a concrete lined pit about 15 feet, or larger, square and several feet deep, which was a manure storage pit. Each pit had a hand cranked pump from which the rainwater-diluted manure could be pumped into a horse drawn container. Then it was taken to the fields, a spigot opened, and the contents drained out to fertilize the fields.

The containers were made of long wooden barrel staves and were about three or four feet in diameter and 12 or 15 feet long. They were given the name, long before us, "The little stinker".

The odor of the pits was bad enough but when it was pumped out it was absolutely overwhelming. We could not figure out why they didn't put their pits behind the homes instead of in the street. We joked about how it was probably because it was their prized Possession and they wanted to show it off. From that time on as we passed through countless villages that looked like this one, we would make remarks about who must be the most

important family in the village, because of the biggest manure pit in town. Some one might say, "That must be the Burgomeister's house, look at the size of that shit pile."

From this first village, which we named "Shitville", on through the many more that we passed through, we gave them all names and all the names included the just mentioned four-letter word. We normally did not know what the real name of the village was, so we gave it a name as we referred back to the place in our conversations, as we moved on. After the war we could still remember many of these names. The only other one I can remember now is "Horse Shit Hollow". This was the name given to Bossendorf, France. (If I, later, had not been able to get a map of the Battalion Command Posts with all the town names, right after the war ended, I would not have ever known the correct names for most of the tiny villages that we were in.) (Morning Reports shows we trucked to Roc Range, France for the night of Dec. 22)

Early on the morning of December 23rd, we boarded trucks for what was to turn out to be the most miserable day in my entire life. Nothing had ever equaled it before or has since. I had worse days later, as far as being scared or seeing buddies wounded or killed, nearly being killed my, self or all the other horrors of war, but nothing was quite like this day for sheer misery. It was bitterly cold and we were packed into uncovered trucks, in a standing position, as many as could possibly be squeezed in. We rode this way for ten hours with the rushing sub zero air cutting us to the bone. We only stopped a couple of times and were allowed to de-truck for a ten-minute break. We were so cold and stiff that we felt we would break in two climbing in and out of the truck bed.

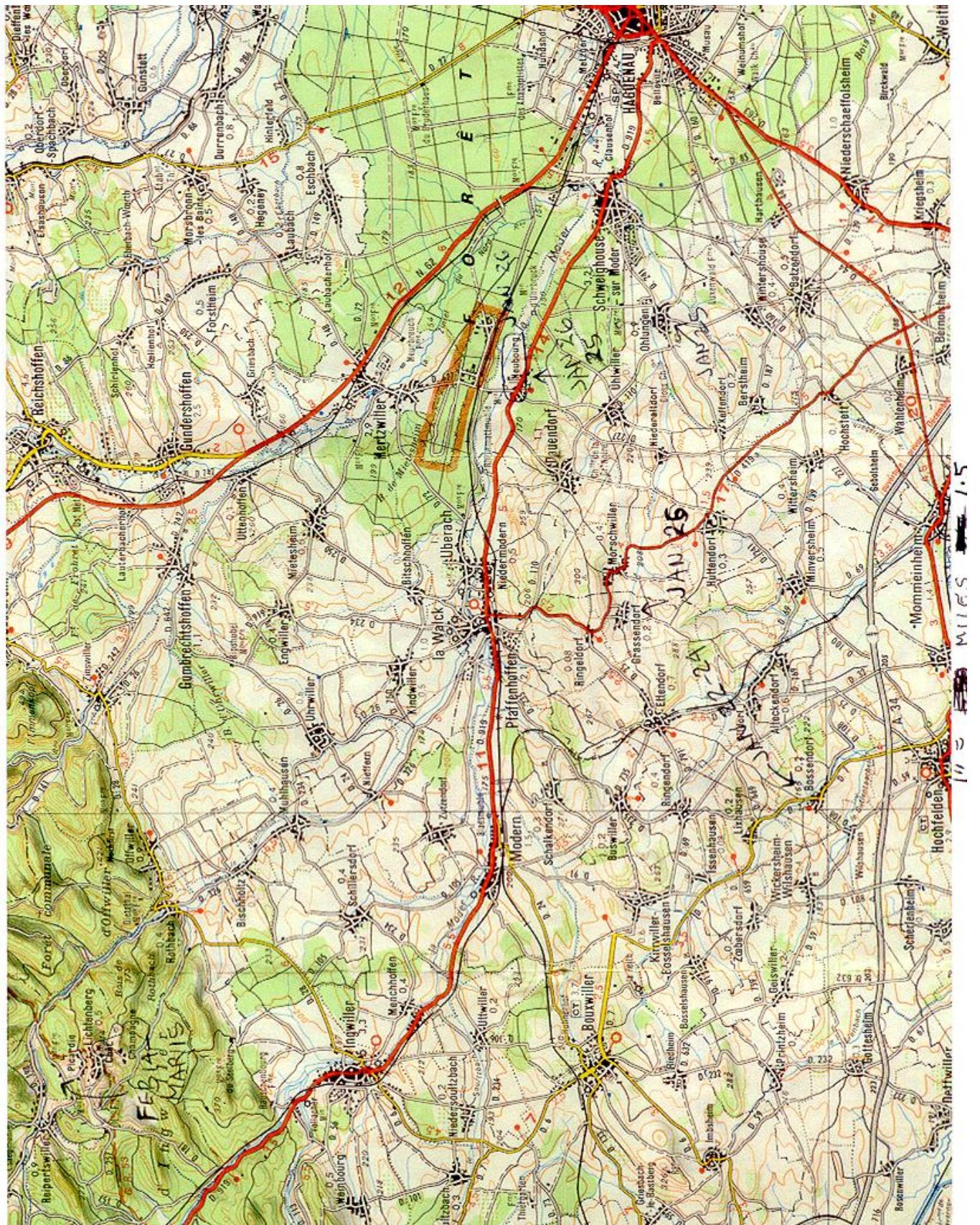
To make matters worse, it was apparent that at times we were lost, because we backtracked several times. Captain Jones kept stopping the lead truck, getting out of his jeep, looking at his maps and gazing at the terrain etc. Stories quickly circulated among us that the truck drivers had probably been all over this area many times and if left alone could have gotten us where we were supposed to go in half the time it was taking.

After we had stopped several times and retraced a previous route, loud mutters of protest could be heard coming from men, packed like sardines, in the trucks. Some strong name-calling was directed toward Jones from men deep within the truck beds where they couldn't be identified. Jones either didn't hear them or more likely pretended not to.

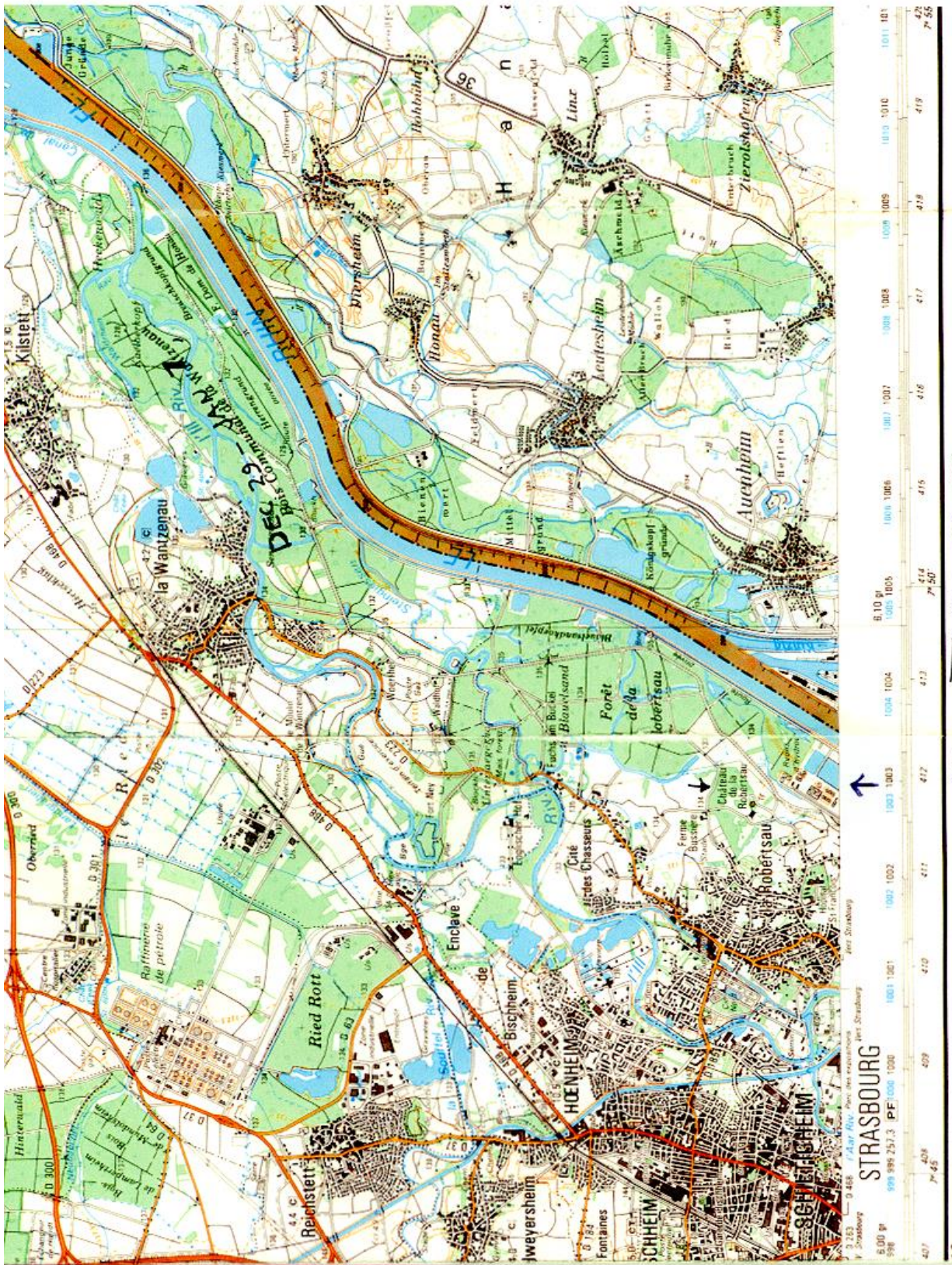
At 9:30 p.m. we arrived in Strasbourg, France and when the trucks stopped, Jones gave orders for us to stay put until he found out exactly where we were to go. By this time everyone was too miserable to pay any attention to him and we all began to pile out to the ground. We were at an abandoned French Cavalry Camp. We were soon assigned billets in the old stone buildings and immediately spread our blankets on the floors and fell into an Almost, immediate stupor. If there were any beds available, the officers must have got them because none of the enlisted men knew of anyone that slept in a bed that night.

Before we went to bed, we were told that early the next morning, which would be Christmas Evening, we would be on our way to the front lines. I thought what a hell of a Christmas present this is. We didn't talk much about it but it was obvious that most everyone had the same opinion. We were very quite and subdued that evening. All of us were wondering

















This house in Kilstett, France is the last house on the road from Kilstett to Gamsheim, as it was in 1945. Ted Johnson of Co. H, 232 ran a patrol to this location because it was thought that the Germans had crossed the Rhine River at Gamsheim and they wanted to observe in the direction of Gamsheim which is only a mile from this house. They broke the back door down and went upstairs to look out a window toward Gamsheim. There were no windows on that side. They attempted to cut a hole through the ceiling and roof, but gave up on that project.

Several years after the war Ted dreamed that he went to this house and knocked on the back door and

a lady came to the door and he told her that he had broken her door in during the war and that he was sorry about it. She invited him in and her daughter, who was baking cookies, invited him to have some tea and cookies, which he did. Several years later Ted did go to Kilstett and did go to this house and every thing he saw in his dream happened exactly the way he dreamed. This is the daughter who was baking the cookies and her granddaughter. Between them is a painting, she has had since the war, painted by an American soldier. It shows an American soldier holding Hitler under his left arm and spanking him with his other hand. Photo by Pete Pettus, April, 1997.

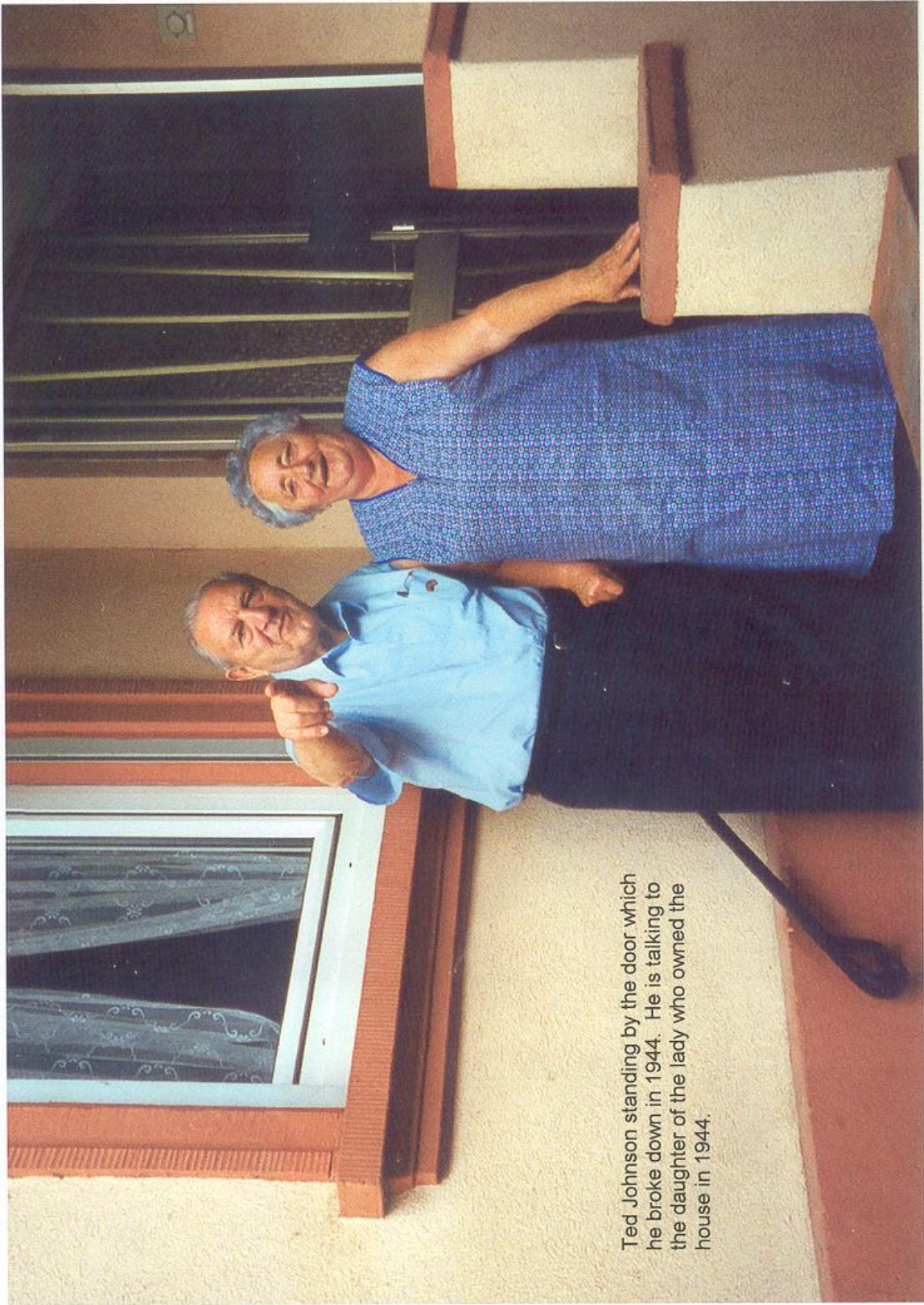


*CHATEAU DE LA ROBERTSAU (Photo 1997 J. Pettus)*

CO. K, 232 SPENT ITS FIRST NIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES, CHRISTMAS EVE., 1944  
AT THIS CHATEAU ON THE MAGINOT LINE.







Ted Johnson standing by the door which he broke down in 1944. He is talking to the daughter of the lady who owned the house in 1944.

About what it was going to be like at the front? My impression was that we would move by trucks up to within 3 or 4 miles of the front lines, then de-truck and march until we got close enough to hear the shellfire. I thought we would then cautiously walk until the last few Hundred feet, then crawl under fire to our defense positions. I assumed there would be foxholes already dug and we would hurriedly flop into them when they were reached.

We were given orders to make up our full field packs, with our blankets, raincoats, and such things as toilet articles. Everything else was to be left in our duffel bags, which supposedly would catch up with us a few days later. (I left such things as writing paper and other things that I would not have left had I known that the duffel bags would not catch up with us until the war was over.) For some reason, I had a padlock in my possession and I put it on my duffel bag before leaving it behind. When we did get them back, unlike most of the other duffel bags, everything was still in it. Most of the bags were completely empty.

While we were awaiting transportation, I kept thinking about the men of our Division in the states, who I had heard say so many times, "This Division will never see combat". Now here we were only a few miles from the front and ready to go.

About noon on the 24th of December, 1944, a convoy of "Ducks" arrived and we were given orders to climb on them. When I started to climb up on the side of the Duck my left knee gave way and I pitched off backwards on to the ground. With help I got back up rested a few minutes. With help, I managed to climb up on the second try and we were off to the front.

We rode through Strasbourg for some time and soon arrived at a place where we were told to get off the ducks. We were on the grounds of a huge mansion, which I later learned, belonged to an aristocratic French Colonel. It was called "Chateau de la Robertsau". It had dozens of elaborately furnished rooms, with fireplaces in each room. (SEE MAP 1)

We could not believe our eyes and ears when we were told that this would be Company K's Command Post. Everything was quite, We heard no gunfire, no artillery, or "bombs bursting in air." The company CP was set up and the platoons assigned positions. The First, Third and Weapons Platoon proceeded to the fields and woods nearby and occupied existing fox holes near the Rhine River. For once, the Second Platoon was lucky, we were assigned guard duty at the CP. We found ourselves rooms with beds and looked forward to a good night's rest.

Since we were in reserve, we were sent out in small 5 or 6 man reconnaissance patrols every few hours. From the bank of the Rhine we could see the Germans occupied huge pillboxes on the other side, which we could see (we called them pillboxes) They were actually concrete bunkers and could be as small as 12 feet in diameter to several times that big.

Several men from my squad, while on patrol, encountered a small enemy patrol on our side of the Rhine. As our patrol came up over the top of a dike they met the German patrol coming up the other side. Both groups were so startled that they jumped down their respective sides of the dike and quickly made tracks away from the dike. We believed that this was the first encounter with the Germans, by Company K.

While in these positions, we had our first casualty. After dark, on Christmas Eve. Pvt. Newcomb accidentally killed Sgt. Reiger of the weapons platoon. Newcomb, in his foxhole, heard a noise and saw something moving in the brush behind his position. It is surmised that Reiger had gone back behind the positions to relieve himself and was on the way back to his foxhole when Newcomb heard him. According to Newcomb, he was challenged to give the password and when he didn't respond, Newcomb thinking he was a German, opened fire killing him. The news spread very quickly that Reiger had been killed, and of course this was a major shock to us. Not only was it our first casualty but also even worse, caused by one of our own.

It was also here that we had our second casualty. The cook Sgt. Frank Meller, that I mentioned doing the marching on the ship, was the victim. One of the kitchen stoves blew up seriously injuring him. (He apparently recovered because he is not on the 232nd Killed list)

We were in these positions for several days. The Second Platoon never did have to go out on the line positions. We wandered all about the Chateau and marveled at its splendor. Many of us couldn't resist taking some war souvenirs. I picked up a few small pieces of delicate, beautiful and colorful china. I threw my gas mask away and used the cover to transport it when we left the Chateau. Needless to say, it got broken in a few days and I discarded it. Star West "Double Time Jones" told me at one of the Rainbow reunions that he was called in by the top brass and questioned because the owner of the Chateau was unhappy about its condition after we left. He claimed that the condition described was the result of the troops that had been there previously and that seemed to take care of the matter.

In 1976 I went to Europe with group of Rainbow veterans and their wives. The Tour was called "The Trail of the Rainbow. At that time I would have given any thing to find the Chateau, but had no idea of how to go about it and did not even remember the name.

I bought maps of the area and when I got home and was looking closely at the Strasbourg area map I saw that the Chateau was marked on the map, thus I could have gone there, if I had only looked closer at the time. On this tour we followed the general route of the Rainbow Division. ( In 1995 Norman Usher and Myself went to France and found the Chateau.)

While we were here at the Chateau, several men of Co.K were transferred out.

( Pfc. Babtise, Merracle, North, Shepherd and Koenig went to the 90th Division. We received the word some time later that North and Shepherd had been killed. I remember them especially well because of the reasons before mentioned on North and because Shepherd was from Neosho Missouri. He and I had spent many hours at Camp Gruber talking about home, as lonely people are apt to do when they meet someone from their state.) (According to the MR's Olma Green, Morran Harris, Dale Maxwell, Richard North, Sanford Roy, Julius Schildkraut, James Vint, Roderick Berry, Marvin Cole, Milton Collins, Henry Friedrich, Richard Hall, Earl Martin, Seymour Meltzer, William O'Conner, Edmond Patrick, William Rivister, Leo Thomas, Ed Welch, and Richard Wheeler also shipped to the 90<sup>th</sup> Div. In 1998 I was square dancing in Phoenix when I saw a lady with the name Schildkraut on her badge. I told her about knowing a Schildkraut in the army and it turned out she was his brother's wife. I told her that he did not go overseas with us and a I always wondered what happened to him. She told me he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. In the MR's I saw where he did go over with us, but was transferred out.)

*"On December 26 there began a period of movement and shifting of positions which was to continue for 10 days. Up north a fierce battle was still raging in the Bulge. Generals were*

*grabbing the nearest units to fill gaps, to open holes. There were plans to withdraw all along the Seventh Army front of the Vosges Mountains and let the Germans regain Strasbourg. The Seventh Army line was being spread ever more thinly as units were pulled out and rushed Northly. \*[5]*

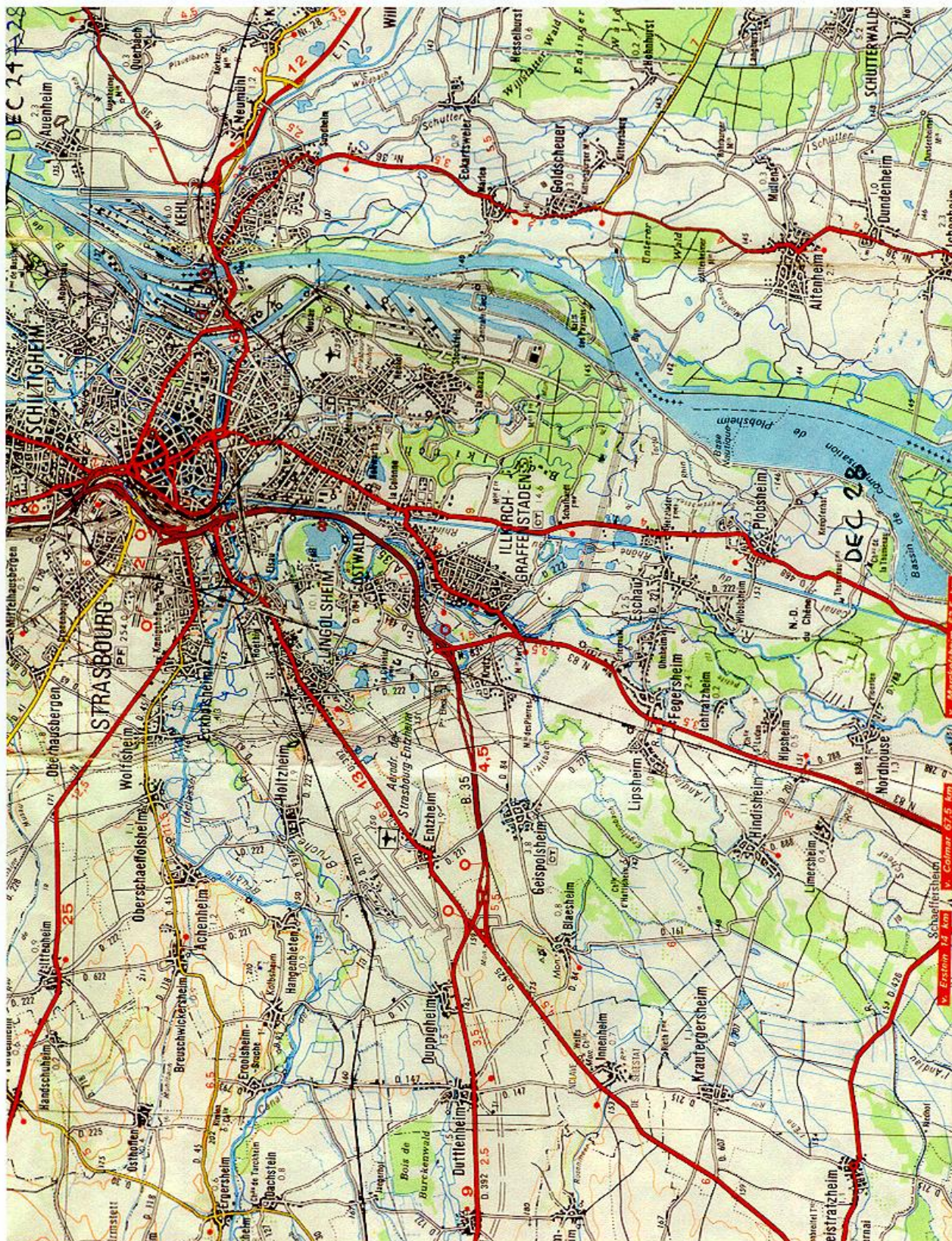
On the 28th of December, 1944 we left the positions at the Chateau and moved about a mile south of Strasbourg. We were here only one night then moved to La Wantzenau. (SEE MAP 2) The Second Platoon was assigned an area a couple of miles northeast of the town, where we were told to expect an enemy attack from La Wantzenau. Our positions were only a few hundred feet from the Rhine River. We kept two squads in foxholes on the line and one in a farmhouse nearby. Thus we could be two days and nights on the line and one day and night at the farmhouse. (MR's shows Co. K at La Colón bay on 28<sup>th</sup> December)

While we were in this area Usher and I were out of the farmhouse walking around one day and saw a small pond with a bunch of ducks on the pond. We couldn't resist the temptation to try to shoot a few. So we each blasted away with a few rounds. Just about that time a jeep came along and screeched to a halt. It was our Battalion Commander, Major Galloway. He proceeded to chew us out about wasting ammunition. Quick as a flash Usher said, "But Sir this is old ammo which we found and we would not trust it for combat." Galloway said "Oh" And, then as an after thought said, "did you get any ducks?" We said "Yes Sir" and he drove on.

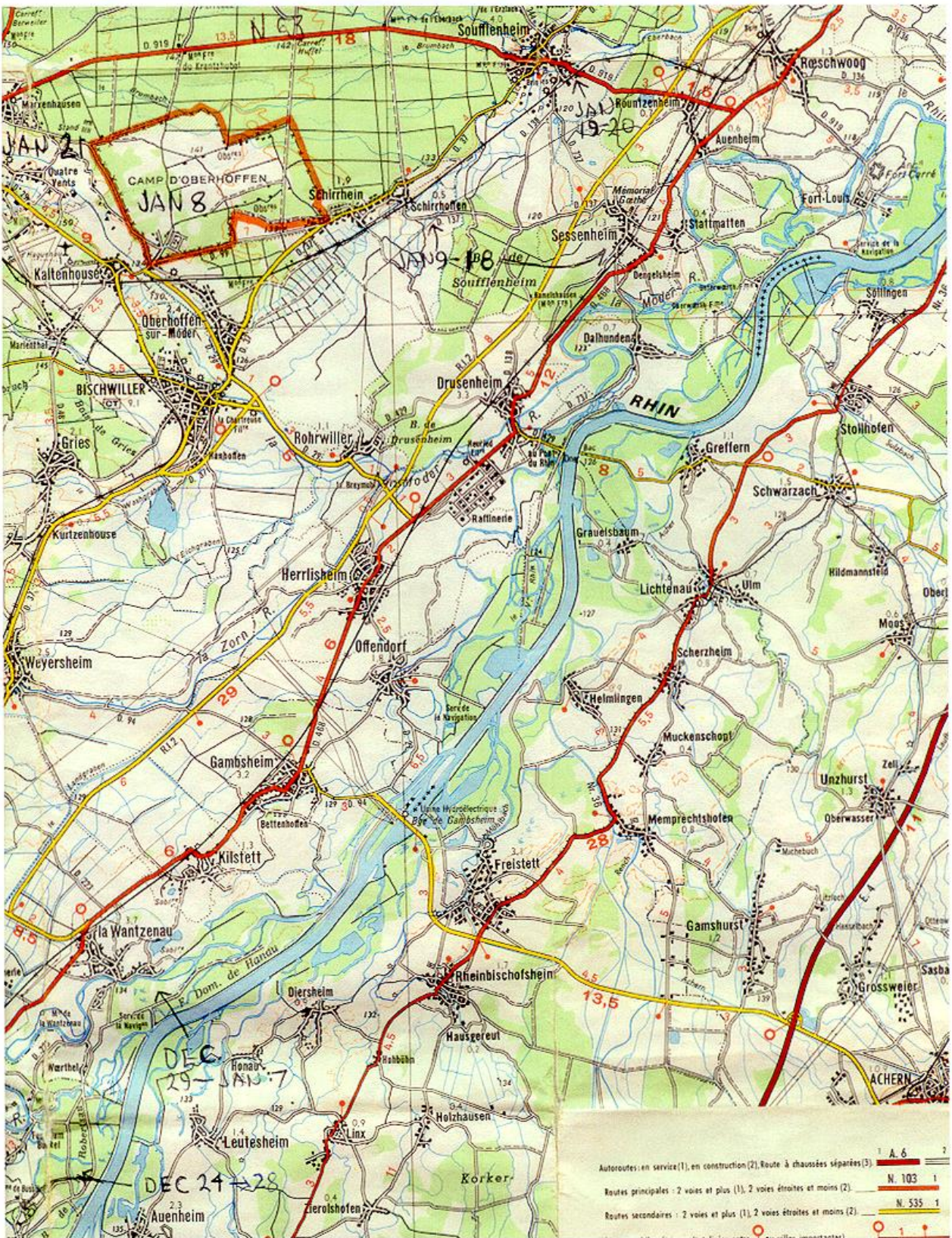
Our lines were very thin here, our foxholes being three or four hundred feet apart. While I was in a foxhole at this position, a young French boy about 12 or 14 years of age, came out of a nearby house, maybe four or five hundred feet away, and brought me a bucket of live coals to put in my foxhole to help thaw out my half frozen feet. (For that reason I can still remember to this day that particular place and foxhole.) The hole was in a field not far from a patch of woods, and I knew that the Rhine River was fairly near, even though I did not see it. The young lad replenished my supply of hot coals several times during the couple of days and nights that I was in that position. I really appreciated this consideration, but had nothing to reward him with except a K ration. I don't remember digging the hole, so it must have already been here. This area had been fought over back and forth enough in the last few months that there were all kinds of foxholes around.

I thought about people who think they are lonesome in ordinary times and decided that they don't know what lonesome is unless they have been in a cold, damp, foxhole in the dark of the night, facing enemy lines with no contact with their nearest buddy, who is several hundred feet away. We were in this general area from Dec. 29, 44 until Jan. 6, 45. One day while sitting in my foxhole and munching on a K ration, a reporter happened by and interviewed me. He sent the article to my hometown newspaper, It was published in the The Daily Journal of St. Francois County Missouri. My Mother and Father were very happy to see the article









1" = 1.5 MILES



*"Meanwhile, the threat of an attack from the south remained and to meet it the 222nd Infantry was moved on the night of January 2 into the positions just east of Strasbourg which had been vacated by the 242nd. Spread even more thinly, the 232nd Infantry took up the entire defense of 19 miles of the Rhine with the Second and Third Battalions on the line and the First just behind them in reserve in the town of Souffel-Weyersheim, about a mile and a half north of the outskirts of Strasbourg.*

*The war of movement was continuing, however, and the following day this First Battalion of the 232nd was moved northward by the 79th Division to relieve elements of the 274th Infantry in the towns of Soufflenheim, Stattmatten and Drusenheim, small dots on the map along the Rhine River where the men of the Rainbow were to do some of their most fierce fighting. The 232nd Regimental line was now 33 miles long.*

*Meanwhile, big decisions had been made. Winston Churchill had conferred with France's General De Gaulle. The French wanted to hold Strasbourg.*

*It was agreed French troops would take over the city and the area immediately north of it and American troops would hold the line along the Rhine River. The withdrawal to the Vosges positions would be a last resort and the Germans would have to fight for every mile they gained.*

*January 3 was bitterly cold, the roads were icy and refugees were streaming out of Strasbourg. They believed the Americans were about to abandon the city to the Germans and were fleeing back into liberated France. On Jan 4 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry took over the positions in Strasbourg that Company G, 232nd Infantry, had held and that company was moved into the town of Offendorf, occupying a gap between the First and Third Battalion of the 232nd Regiment. " \*[6]*

**On New Years day we heard that a German force, complete with tanks, had crossed the Rhine and were driving toward our positions. Company K reserves moved out of La Wantzenau at this time and strengthened our Platoon positions. With the additional men, our foxholes were not so far apart and we were also in a patch of woods, which we much preferred to the open fields.**

**Sgt. Stoft, the Second Platoon Sgt. asked for some volunteers on the night of Jan 4. He wanted us to run a reconnaissance patrol down to and along the banks of the Rhine River for several hundred yards. Stoft, Usher, Smitty and I went. I had learned in my earliest days in the army to never volunteer for anything, but Usher had asked me if I would go and I agreed. I thought so much of Usher and his judgment that I would have done anything he asked of me. He was so protective of his men and would argue with the higher ups, when he thought we were getting a raw deal that we gave him the nickname "Mother Usher" which stuck with him the rest of his days in Company K. (I might add here that he gave me the nickname "Pete" short for Pettus, which has stuck with me by all of my army buddies from that time on).**

**The four of us walked to a dike, which ran parallel to the Rhine River, then walked for several hundred yards along the dike. Stoft kept whispering to Usher, Tell Pete to make less noise, though it seemed to me that they were the ones making noise and I was being as quiet as**

possible. We didn't see any enemy or any evidence of any enemy activity. We returned to our positions and Stoff made a report to Lt. Zillmer. We learned the next day that there were Germans in the area and we had been deep in their territory while on the patrol. I guess I must have been quiet enough.

*"The following day, January 5, was one of the most eventful in the history of the Rainbow. Early that morning the First French Army began taking over Strasbourg and the area immediately north and south of the city, relieving the Second Battalion, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, the Second Battalion, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, and Companies I and K of the ...232<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Possibly knowing of this movement, possibly merely fortunate in selecting a time for their attack, the Germans crossed the Rhine River north of Strasbourg during the darkness of the morning of January 5 and at 0745 launched an attack against the towns of Gamsheim, Offendorf, Herllischeim, and Kilstett. They could not have selected a better time. " \*[7]*

Hitler's last desperate attempt to win the war was in full swing now. Operation "Nordwind" had begun on New Years day 1945.

*"Our people are resolved to fight the war to victory under any and all circumstances. We are going to destroy everybody who does not take part in the common effort for the country or who makes himself a tool of the enemy...The world must know that this State will therefore never capitulate...Germany will rise like a phoenix from its ruined cities and this will go down in history as the miracle of the twentieth century. I want therefore, in this hour, as spokesman of Greater Germany, to promise solemnly to the Almighty that we shall fulfill our duty faith-fully and unshakably in the New Year, in the firm belief that the hour will strike when victory will ultimately come to him who is most worthy of it, the Greater German Reich." \*[8]*

On Jan 5, we were given orders by the Company Commander to send several three man patrols down to the same area that the four of us had been the night before. These were to be daylight patrols. Hood, Begin and I went on the first patrol. We saw no Germans nor any sign of them. On the way back to our defensive positions we met Sullivan, Fuchs, and Baker on the way to the same area from which we had just been. We reported to our platoon leader that we had heard and seen nothing unusual. A few minutes later Sgt. Sullivan, who was the First Squad Assistant Squad Leader, was running back, bleeding profusely from the chest and said that Fuchs and he had been hit by Kraut fire. He said that Fuchs was hit in the upper leg and was unable to make it back. He had left Baker with Fuchs. Lt. Zillmer ordered a jeep sent to get Fuchs. (Fuchs shown in MR's WIA on Jan 5)

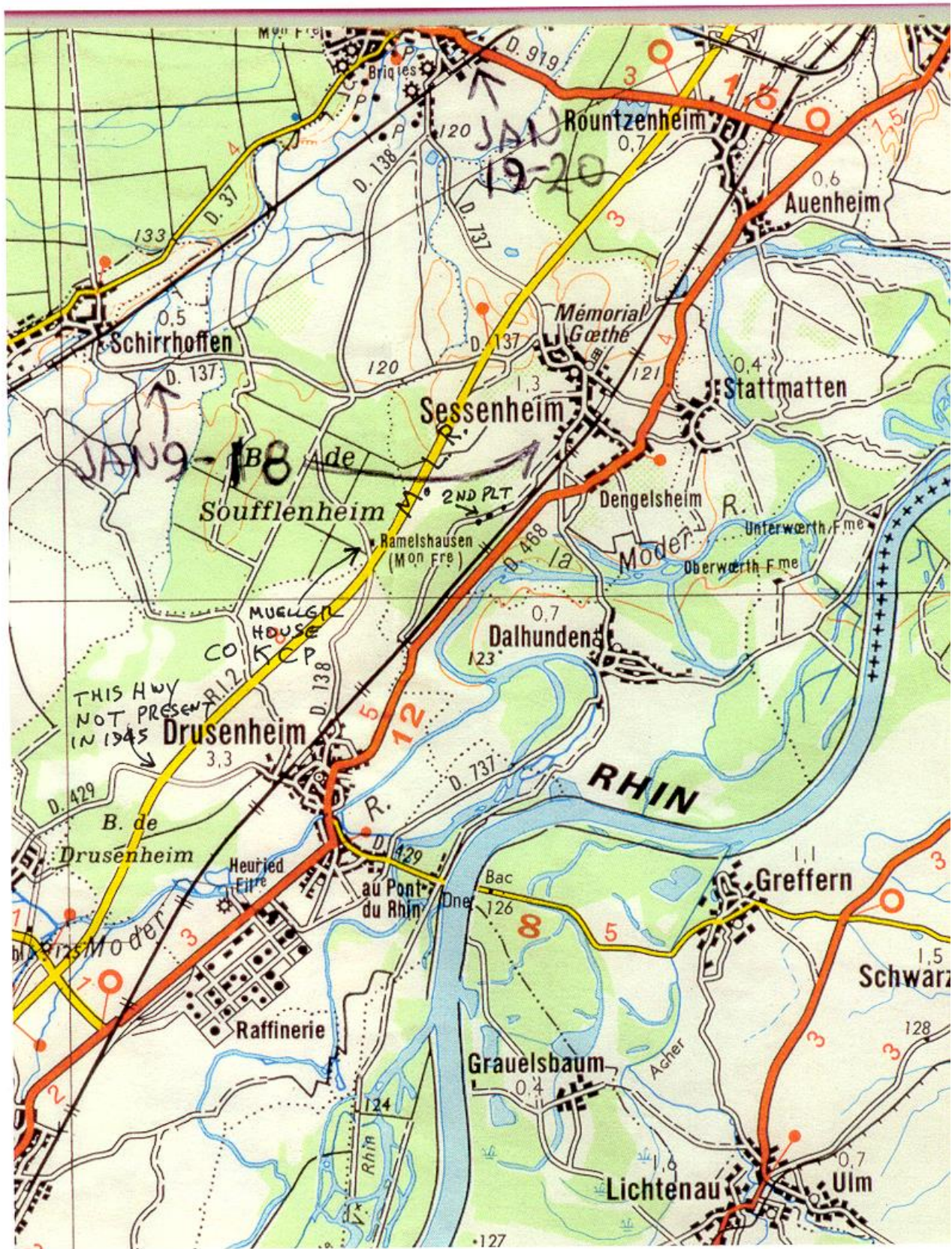
The Kraut patrol took off as soon as they recovered from their surprise encounter. Fuchs and Baker were found, and Fuchs was brought back to the Company K area. He was sent on back to the rear for treatment and we never saw him again, but heard that he recovered. Sullivan was treated at the nearest aid station and returned to duty immediately. The bullet had plowed a furrow all the way across his chest, which when healed left an inch wide scar six or eight inches long.





1" = ~~15~~ MILES  $\frac{3}{4}$





**"Sully" explained that he, Fuchs, and Baker were walking along near the river, when suddenly they ran face to face with three or four Krauts. One of the Krauts was looking down the sights of his rifle at Sullivan when he saw him. He instinctively turned sideways as the German fired. The bullet hole in "Sully's" sleeve was in the center of the sleeve. We were amazed that he wasn't drilled through the center of his body. Apparently, as he turned, the sleeve twisted enough for the hole to be in the center whereas the bullet only creased his chest. Though Fuchs upper leg bone was shattered, he had managed to move about a mile back before he could go no further. (Morning Reports) Jan 2, Perry, Berger, Lawrence Smith transferred to Bn. HQ)**

**Sullivan was thus the first man of Company K to be wounded by the enemy. Incidentally, he was the last one to get the Purple Heart. (Morning Reports shows Walter Neal Wounded in action on Jan 5)**

**A few hours later Staff Sgt. Gilson, Lt. Twombe and Sgt. Sailor all of the Third Platoon were killed, as they were moving across a field near Kilstett. (SEE MAP 2) These were the first, second and third Co. K men killed by the enemy. (Morning Reports shows Gilson WIA only)**

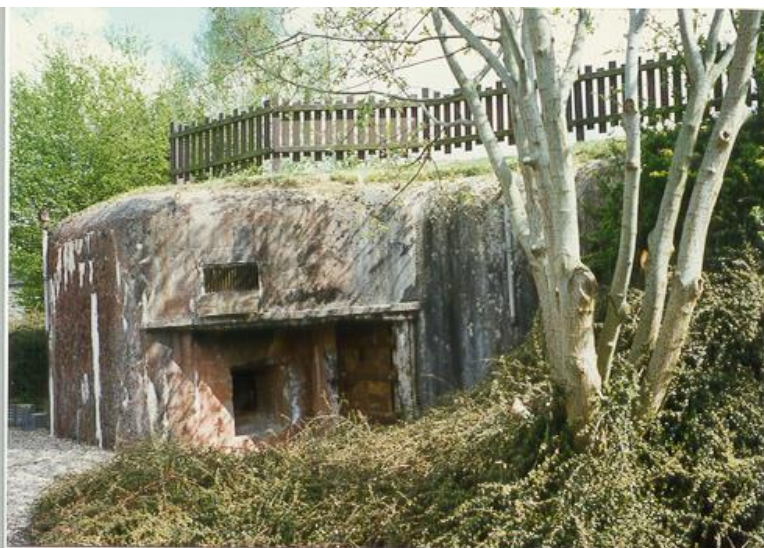
**On Jan. 6, Captain Jones gave orders for a company strength combat patrol to be run in the area where Sullivan and Fuchs were wounded. We were moving in a northeast direction, parallel to the Rhine, in very thick underbrush, between a dike and the Rhine. Pfc. Suchow and myself were on the right flank several yards closer to the river than the rest of the company. Suddenly I broke out of the dense underbrush into a cleared path about four or five feet wide, running parallel to the river. In the direction we were advancing, I could see a long way down the path. As I looked to the northeast, to my great surprise, I saw four or five Krauts enter the path about a hundred yards from me. I quickly raised my BAR, took careful aim and fired. Unfortunately it did not fire on automatic. However, I did get off several quick single shots before the Krauts disappeared into the brush.**

**Usher was yelling at the top of his voice, "who the hell is firing and why?" Suchow, who was behind me in the path, and I were the only ones who had seen the Germans. I made my way back into the brush and found Usher and told him why I was shooting.**

**Realizing now, that the enemy was close and not knowing how strong a force was present, we advanced very cautiously to the northeast, staying in the underbrush just far enough to sneak a peek down the cleared path every few seconds. We saw no more enemies and soon arrived at the area where I had seen them. We found some blood on the ground and surmised that one or more, had been hit by my fire. (I believe this to be the first Germans shot at by Co. K.)**

**After proceeding a few yards further, a single German came out of a hiding place with his hands held high. He motioned that there was another man nearby, so we started yelling "Kom hier mit der hande hohe" (Come here with your hands above your head) Suchow was of German descent and I think he was the one doing the yelling. Despite our orders, the Kraut stayed hidden, so we lobbed a grenade or two in the direction that the captured German had indicated some one was hiding.**





## *BUNKER AT KILSTETT, FRAN*

IN MAY OF 1995 THE RAINBOW DIVISION  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION PLACED THIS  
BRONZE PLAQUE ON THIS BUNKER IN A  
CEREMONY ON MAY 6.. THERE WERE MANY  
MEMBERS OF THE RAINBOW ASSOCIATION  
PRESENT, INCLUDING NORMAN AND I.

THE PLAQUE IS INSCRIBED :

JANUARY 1945

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE  
AMERICAN 7TH ARMY SOLDIERS  
AND THEIR FRENCH COMRADES  
WHO FELL DEFENDING FREEDOM  
DURING THE "NORDWIND" ATTACK  
HITLER'S LAST GREAT OFFENSIVE

Dedicated by the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans

This 50th Anniversary year,

In Honor of TASK FORCE LINDEN.

MAY 1995



## *ON TOP OF THE BUNKER*

FRENCH CHILDREN PLAYING

About this time, a Second Lt. Anti Tank Company made his way up to where we were. The Anti Tank Co. was supposed to accompany us on this particular patrol, but had not shown up in time to start with us. Now they had apparently caught us. The Lt. had heard us yelling for the Kraut to come out and had seen us throw the grenades. He politely asked Usher, who was standing nearby, if he could fire his carbine in the direction of the supposed enemy. Usher said, "I don't give a damn." Fire all you want." The Lt. pointed his carbine toward where he had seen us throw the grenades and after fooling with it a while, fired a round. He then thanked Usher and made his way on back to the rest of his group. We were not too happy about the Anti Tank men not showing up when they were supposed to, at the start of the patrol. Soon after this, the German came out, waving his little green cap, his hands over his head, ready to surrender. All of the Krauts that we captured always discarded their steel helmets, and brought out what we called their "surrender caps"

We believed that these were the first Germans captured by the Rainbow Division. The Rainbow History book gives B Company of the 232nd credit. The date was the same though, so it was just a matter of the time during the day. In the next few minutes we captured a total of nine prisoners. "Double Time Jones" was nearly overcome with joy. Pfc. Crosset captured the first German.

A few moments after the last of the prisoners had been ushered on toward our rear lines, we ran into heavy machine gun fire. This was our first experience with more than just isolated rifle fire. We hit the ground and prayed. (Over all my years, I can still see the weeds being clipped off all around us and the whine of the bullets doing the clipping.)

By this time it was getting dusky and having achieved our objective, we withdrew a few hundred feet for reorganization. While we were all gathered around in a group talking excitedly about our first real combat experience, and the Krauts that we had captured, we saw a little bright red flare on a tiny parachute come floating down in our midst. We were wondering where it came from and why, when 88 shells began to rain down on us.

We scattered like a covey of quails. We were lucky that in this barrage, our first aid man was the only casualty. We knew from that time on what to do if we ever again saw a red flare come floating down from the sky. Somewhere near was a Kraut who was observing us and had fired the flare to direct Kraut artillery.

It was now almost dark and as our mission was completed, we headed back to the Company defensive position. We made it back without further mishap. We posted all around security and those not on the first shift of guard duty tried to get some sleep.

It had begun to snow and was bitterly cold. This early in the war, most of us still had a blanket and a raincoat. We tried to get some sleep by pooling our resources. Two men would place one raincoat on the snow-covered ground, then one blanket on top of the raincoat. Then the two men would lie down and cover with the other blanket and finally the other raincoat. The only time I remember having a shelter half after we left CP 2 was the night before we attacked Wurzburg in April of 45 and I have no idea how we came to have it then. We were usually so short handed that we were on guard duty at least half of the time. The usual shift



was two hours on and two hours off. We were lucky if we could sleep for two hours under these conditions anyway.

On this particular night, Jan. 6, 45, there was only time for a couple of hours rest, because at midnight we were given orders to move out to the town of La Wantzenau. We were told that we would be guarding it from an expected German armored attack. We were back in the town in an hour or so and after posting guards around the perimeter of the town, those lucky enough not to be on the first shift of guard duty, found billets and got some sleep.

*"On the morning of January 6 Company B of the 232nd Infantry launched an infantry-tank attack on Statmatten, routed the enemy from the town and captured several prisoners. An attack by the 314th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Division relieved the pressure on Company A, in Drusenheim and the German efforts to expand northward were stopped.*

*Now after two days of bitter fighting, the Rainbow men, engaged in their first battle, had contained the enemy bridgehead across the Rhine. The Germans had struck at what was for them the best possible time. They were numerically superior in at least the initial phases of the engagement. They had armor and artillery support and yet they had been unable to advance. While they continued to hold their bridgehead, they could not expand it and were forced to go on the defensive the same afternoon that they made their crossing.*

*Northward, however, the enemy was exerting steady pressure along the other regimental fronts. His aim was to force a withdrawal. He wanted Strasbourg and he wanted Haguenau and he certainly knew that if the Allies were forced to withdraw they must go back to the Vosges, which would give him both his objectives, and perhaps, force American reinforcements to this front from the vital Bulge area.*

*On January 6 strong German patrols probed both the First and Third Battalions of the 222nd Infantry, but were driven off. The following day another patrol hit the outposts of the Third Battalion, but was driven off." \*[9]*

Most of the time, when we were in towns this close to the front, the civilians had left the area and we had the homes to ourselves. It was uncanny how the civilians knew when to abandon the area and we learned to be wary any time we approached a town and the civilians were nowhere to be seen and white flags were in the windows.

Early on the next morning, which was Jan. 7, we moved out to the edge of town on the main road leading out of town, the direction it was thought the enemy armored attack would come from. We were given orders to dig foxholes along the sides of the road and be ready to defend our positions. (Morning Reports shows Lawrence Smith & Lt. Harry Knecht Wounded in action on this date).

My buddy Hoch and I dug a four or five foot deep foxhole on the left side of the road facing the direction of the expected enemy attack. The ground was covered with snow. We were on the road, leading north out of La Wantzenau to Kilstett. We then found some wooden boxes and built a fire. The expected attack did not materialize. After only a few hours, orders were

given that we were moving out. Trucks appeared and we climbed aboard and headed for Camp Oberhoffen. We didn't know where we were headed. I supposed the Company officers did, or at least the Company Commander knew. All we knew, was that we were on the move again. This was the pattern over and over for the entire war. We seldom if ever, had any idea why or where we were going. We just followed orders like good soldiers are supposed to do.

When we arrived at our destination, we found that we were in the abandoned French Army Camp D'Oberhoffen, (SEE MAP 3) complete with habitable buildings, including bunks. Rumors started immediately, that we were going to get several days rest here. The bunks had straw mattresses, so we were praying that the rumors were true.

This was the best accommodation we had seen since the "Chateau de la Robertsau". We were assigned buildings, secured bunks and got ready, we hoped, to spend a long time here. It was here that we received our first packages from home since leaving the States. All kinds of goodies came pouring out and everyone was very unselfish in sharing with those unfortunate souls who got no packages. I got as many letters and packages as anyone and was very glad that I did.

There were several men in the Company, who never received any mail, much less packages. I sure felt sorry for them. Most of them would gather around at mail call, hoping against hope that this would be the time and trying not to show their feelings when none came.

As usual, the several days rest rumors, turned out to be just rumors, and we only stayed there one night. No matter how many times this happened to us, we were always ready to believe the next rumor of good tidings.

While we were here at Camp Oberhoffen, we received, back in the Company, former Sgt. Dan Riley, now Private Riley. Riley was the First Platoon Sgt. when we left the states for France. He was an old career army man, tough as nails, loved wine, women and song, especially wine, as the old saying goes. He had been reduced in Rank from Sgt. to Private no telling how many times in his career. He was always promoted back in a short while and was a Platoon Sgt. all the time I was at Gruber. (Riley was reduced on 12-13-44 and 4-27-45 according to the MR's)

When we arrived at CP 2, he got a pass into town and, as usual, got roaring drunk. When he returned, still not quite sober, and got into an argument with Captain Jones, he was "busted" (Reduced to Pvt.) by Jones and sent back to Regimental Headquarters. We had not seen him since.

On Jan 9th we moved out of Camp Oberhoffen by truck. Riley climbed aboard a truck, and announced that he had left Regimental HQ without telling anyone. He said he was tired of being in the "rear echelon" and wanted to be back in a front line company. He soon had his stripes back. (I presumed Jones called Regimental HQ and reported his being back with the company and requested they officially transfer him back.)

(This might be a good time to explain to those readers who were not in a front line combat unit what the term "rear echelon" meant to us who were. If you were in a line company and

in a line squad of a line platoon, "rear echelon" meant anyone who was not in the same category as you. Thus everyone who was not likely in the normal course of duty to get any closer to the actual fighting front lines than a couple of hundred yards was suspect. In a line company we "true front liners", felt that even the men in Company Headquarters were the "rear echelon" of the Company, and certainly if you were any farther back, such as Battalion HQ you were in no uncertain terms "rear echelon"

The farther back you were the more "rear echelon" you were. When we real front line men spoke the words it was always with considerable contempt and the farther back a "rear echeloner" was the more contemptuous we were.

It used to really gripe me, after the war, when I talked to civilians, who thought that all servicemen overseas were in the same amount of danger. Unless you were there, you just couldn't know how it was. We knew that our chances of staying alive were immensely improved for every yard away from the front line positions that we were. )

We felt that even if you were in Hq. of a line company your survival chances were many times greater than ours and if you were in Battalion HQ you were as safe as a Sunday driver back in the states. Any further back such as Regimental HQ, Division HQ, all the specialized outfits you were as safe as a babe in its mother's arms. Of course we all knew that occasional accidents did happen to "rear echeloners".

*"The Germans were looking for a place to attack and on January 9 they selected the town of Hatten. Once again they made a mistake.*

*Defending the town of Hatten was the First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry. Behind them, only a mile away in the town of Rittershoffen, was the Second Battalion of the same regiment which, had just moved up after its engagements at Gambsheim. On the other side were elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and the 21st Panzer Division. Used in the battle against the 242nd men were about 1,050 enemy troops, all combat veterans and recognized as among the best in Hitler's army. They were equipped with 30 Mark V tanks and 10 self-propelled guns.*

*At 0500 on the ninth of January the Germans launched their first attack and the men of the First Battalion began the defense, which was to win them a Presidential Unit Citation. The first assault, made by white-clad infantry and with white-painted tanks, penetrated the lines of Company B, but these men who were fighting their first real battle didn't think of retreat. Instead, they let the Germans pass and then Company C launched a counterattack, which restored the original line.*

*A new assault was then launched against Company A, which had taken up positions in Maginot Line pillboxes, and Germans bypassed them. The enemy then made their way into Hatten and began a furious house-to-house battle with the men of Company C. In this fighting and that, which had preceded it, every Company C officer was a casualty and the first sergeant temporarily took charge of the company.*

*Shortly after 11 o'clock 18 enemy tanks followed by 18 to 20 personnel carriers, Attacked Company B, penetrated their lines and surrounded a large Maginot pillbox, which a number of men of the company were defending. Still the men held their ground.*

*The original orders had been to hold their positions at all costs and they held.*

*Now, however, the enemy was well into Hatten, but they could not advance. Anti-tank mines had been laid across the streets of the town and the men of the 242nd Infantry were covering these with fire. By now everyone was in the battle. Cooks and clerks and Battalion Headquarters personnel were operating machineguns and manning rifles. "*

*(As you can see by the above incidents "rear echeloners did get into serious trouble at times. This did not change our perception, because we felt, rightly or wrongly, that we were in Trouble, most of the time, instead of once in a while.)*

*"At the headquarters of the First Battalion, Pfc. Bertoldo was waging his 48-hour defense of the Command Post which won him the Congressional Medal of Honor. When the Battalion CP was attacked by a German tank with its 88-mm gun and machine gun fire, Bertoldo remained at his post and with his own machine gun killed the occupants of the tank when they tried to remove the mines which were blocking their advance.*

*When its headquarters was blasted by an enemy assault gun, the Battalion Command Post moved two buildings to the west only to be attacked there by a Mark V tank.*

*Meanwhile another German attack, launched about 1300, broke around Hatten and penetrated to Rittershoffen. The Second Battalion of the 242nd Infantry, supported by tanks, launched a counterattack and drove the enemy back into Hatten. There Company G took up positions in the west end of town.*

*Back and forth, moved the battle throughout the afternoon and night with the Germans trying desperately to drive the stubborn defenders from the town. At midnight, however, the 242nd held more than half the community and both sides were preparing to launch fresh attacks at dawn.*

*At daybreak the German tanks and infantry attacked from southeast of Hatten to gain the town and met an attack by men of the 242nd, which stopped them cold. At 1030 the enemy tried another attack, this time from the north and northeast, with the intention of cutting the Hatten-Rittershoffen road. Once again they were repulsed, this time by the Second Battalion of the 315<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which had just been committed by the 79th Division.*

*Throughout the day the enemy continued to assault and throughout the day the First and Second Battalions of the 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry stopped the attacks. At 1730 the Second Battalion of the 315<sup>th</sup> was ordered to relieve the battered First Battalion of the 242nd, but not until 0200 on January 11, was the relief accomplished.*

*These men had staged a magnificent defense, but it had cost them heavily. The battalion began the battle of Hatten with 33 officers and 748 enlisted men. Fifty-two hours later it had an*

*effective strength of 11 officers and 253 enlisted men. All others, were either, killed, wounded, or missing in action.*

*The Second Battalion of the regiment, now a veteran of two fierce battles, was relieved shortly after the First Battalion and withdrew to Rittershoffen to reorganize.*

*Once again the Rainbow infantry men had stopped the Germans and the Germans had not thought it possible." \*[10]*

After marching several miles on the snow-covered road toward Sessenheim, we came to a deserted house. We later learned, that a man named Mueller, who was the chief forester of the district normally lived here. This was on January 9, 1945. (SEE Map 5)

(Included on the following page is a sketch drawn by Norman Usher a few years after the war was over. Using this sketch and the map of the area that I obtained in 1976, I have pinpointed our exact defensive positions on the map. The inaccurate scale of the sketch makes it difficult to see any resemblance to the actual map. )

The Mueller house was made the front line Command Post. The Second Platoon was on the left side of the house as we faced southeast toward the enemy lines. The First Platoon was on the right side. We dug foxholes in the edge of a field every thirty or forty feet apart just on the southeast edge of the woods. The field stretched out a long way from northeast to southwest and was two or three hundred yards wide, in the direction of the supposed enemy. Across the field was a heavily forested area.

We were told that this was to be, a mainline defense position that we would be here for several days or maybe even weeks, depending on when the expected German attack would come. Because of this knowledge, we prepared much better foxholes than usual. In fact a lot of them were down right elaborate. We dug square holes about six or maybe even eight feet square and several feet deep. We were told to dig them big enough for at least four men to a hole. We then cut down trees, six to ten inches, in diameter and trimmed them up into logs, with which we made a roof over the hole. We left an opening about a foot high on the side facing the enemy between the ground and the roof. This was to observe and shoot from. Over the logs we placed small tree branches and put a foot or so of dirt on top of the roof.

We had a considerable amount of free time while in this position. We used a lot of it to improve our foxholes. Suchow, Hoch and I shared one hole. I have forgotten the fourth man, or if there was one.

I scurried far and wide looking for things to make our life more comfortable. I found a couple of lard cans, which I made into a stove. I found some discarded radio batteries and rigged them to a light bulb for an emergency light.

As soon as we got a good fire going in our hole, we discovered we had a major problem. Because of the heat, the frozen walls began to thaw and the mud kept slaking off the sides and making a real mess. We went to a nearby barn and carried large quantities of straw to our

position and lined the sides of the foxhole with the straw. We then cut small poles from tree limbs and lined the walls with them to hold the straw in place. We then made a bed of deep straw covering most of the bottom of the hole. We left enough room to stand at the enemy facing side of the hole and the rest was for a sleeping area.

When I say "we" in the above paragraph, I don't mean to say everyone in the entire company was as industrious in this effort as I was. Some men were content with a lot less than I was. But many others copied our idea of lining the walls with straw. We covered the shooting slot in the front with an old shelter half that we found somewhere. This was the best living conditions we had for a long time.

While we were here, our first few pairs of new mittens began to arrive. The first shipment contained enough pairs for maybe one pair per squad. We drew straws to see which man in the squad got them. The lucky winners threw their fingerless gloves away and rejoiced. The mittens were much warmer than gloves. In the next couple of weeks enough mittens came in for everyone.

During the night, one man, per 4-man hole, was on guard duty and the others slept or ran patrols etc. We had to run several patrols per night along our defensive line, contacting each guard to see that all was well. During the days one man at a time could leave the foxhole and go to the Company CP. There we could write letters, wash up with some water heated on the stove, and just loaf for a while. (The Co. CP is listed as being at Shirrhoffen in the Morning Reports.

Because we were not on the move, the Company Kitchen prepared a couple of hot meals a day and we ate K rations for the other one. (The kitchen was in Shirrhoffen also)

While we were here I got a package from home that among other things contained a can of tuna fish. Any food out of our ordinary fare was, of course, very prized indeed. Lt. Zillmer came by our foxhole about the time I opened the can, so I handed it to him and offered him some. While attempting to get some tuna out, he dropped the can and it landed upside down on the ground spilling most of it. He was very sorry and embarrassed about it. (I don't Remember, if any of it was salvaged or not. I probably waited until he was out of sight and retrieved and ate most of it.)

During the next week or so there was no Kraut activity in this area as far as we knew. On Jan. 16th a patrol consisting of Sgt. Digioviani, Pfc. Busby, Pfc. Czcinski, and Pfc. Gubitosi was sent out to a bridge several hundred yards to the right front of our positions. They saw a Kraut sentry on the bridge. They returned without having revealed themselves and reported what they had seen. Aware now that the Germans had the bridge guarded, the next patrol was prepared and captured a Kraut Lt. He was wounded during the capture. He was taken back to intelligence to be questioned about the enemy positions and strength.

On January 17th the First and Second Platoons were given orders to move toward the supposed enemy positions and advance as far as possible. We moved forward in a southeasterly direction for about 15 hundred yards, before running into heavy enemy fire.

We then withdrew, a couple of hundred yards, to the top of a dike running parallel to the Rhine River and dug foxholes in the dike. We were in the heavily wooded area that we could see from the other edge of our Main Line of Resistance.

Sgt. Usher was now our Platoon Sergeant. Stoff had been sent back to the rear for officers training. Sgt. Sullivan was promoted to Squad Leader of the first squad and Pfc. Hoch to Assistant Squad Leader.

The dike, in which we were digging our foxholes, ran parallel to a railroad track about two hundred yards distant. The Kraut fire had come from beyond the railroad tracks. We could not see the Rhine from our positions but figured it must be somewhere beyond the railroad track. There was an open field between our dike and the railroad tracks. Behind the railroad track, more woods. The pillbox that Red Reed was in, was hit by American tank fire and he was severely wounded. He died in the Hospital later.

During the early evening an American tank destroyer came up to our area and knocked out two German tanks that were apparently attempting to outflank our positions. They were crossing an open field off to the left of the direction our foxholes were facing. I was surprised that they burned all night. I just would not have considered that something with as much metal as a tank could burn like that. Of course it was the fuel that was burning.

The ground was frozen about six inches, making the digging of foxholes very difficult. It took several hours of digging to break through the crust. Once it was penetrated the rest of the digging was in sandy soil and the going was easy. By dark, we all had good deep one-man holes and were preparing to spend the night in them. About dark, a K Company jeep arrived with a welcome supply of blankets, sleeping bags and overcoats.

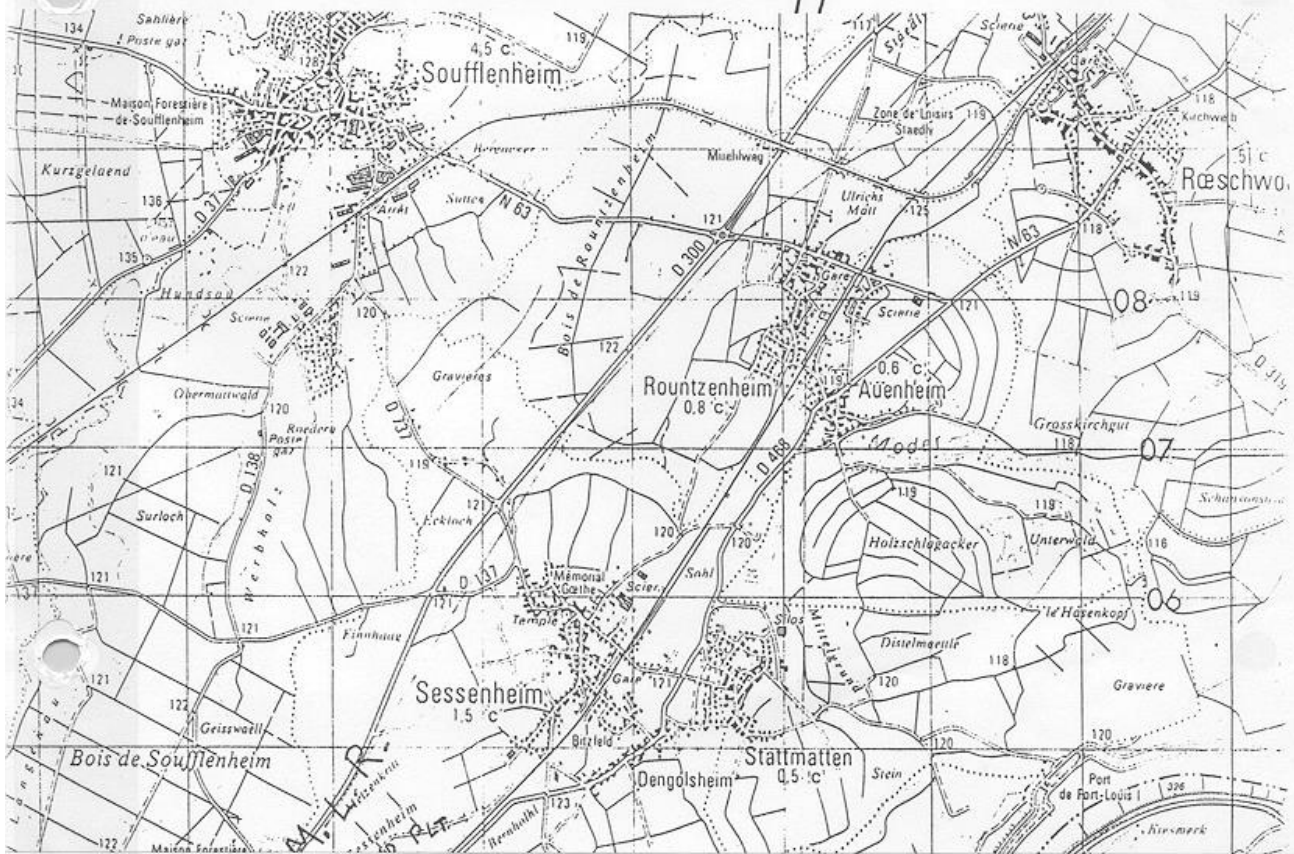
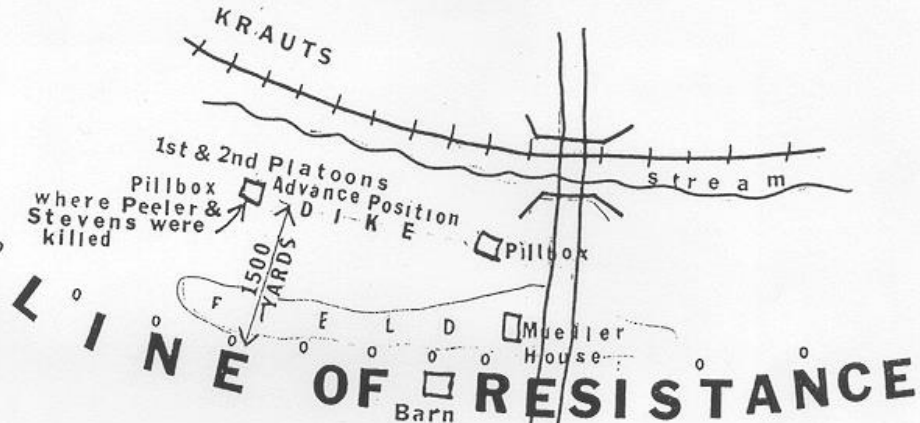
On the end of the dike to the left of my foxhole, a few hundred feet distant was a pillbox. After I finished digging I walked along the dike to the pillbox and visited with the three men who had been assigned by either Lt. Zillmer or Sgt. Usher, (I don't remember which), to occupy it as their defensive position. The men were Peeler, Stevens, and a medic named Smith. There was a stove in the pillbox and they had a nice warm fire going and the whole place was warm and comfortable. I was envious of them and thinking how I would have much rather had their place than my cold, damp foxhole to spend the night. Their fire was concealed and of course there was no way we in the foxholes could have a fire as it would have been spotted in a second by the Krauts.

Early the next morning, Jan. 18, just about daylight, we heard a loud explosion and a few minutes later the word came down the dike from foxhole to foxhole that the pillbox had received a direct hit. We assumed that it was an 88 shell that hit it. Speculation later was that it might have been a satchel charge or a mortar shell. (I believed that it was an artillery shell and that the Krauts had zeroed in on the pillbox before we ever arrived in the area.) At any rate the steel door of the pillbox took a direct hit and was blown off and Peeler and Stevens were killed instantly and Smith very severely wounded. There were several men who

SESSENHEIM

MAIN

SKETCH OF 1945





This house is on the location of the Mueller house and is still the Chief Forest Ranger's home.



went to look at the carnage; both Peeler and Stevens were decapitated, but I had no desire to see it. However, I did feel guilty about being envious of them the night before.

A few hours later while Pvt. Pennington was walking along the dike he called down to Usher, who was in the woods at the bottom of our side of the dike, "Usher do Krauts wear white suits and white helmets?" Usher said, "Hell yes they might, why are you asking?" Pennington said, "Well I see a whole bunch of men near the railroad tracks dressed like that". Usher quickly told him to get the hell down in his foxhole before he got his head blown off.

Pennington was scared to death of everything in the dark, but not the least bit cowardly in daylight. On one of the previous positions that we were in, he locked himself in a pillbox one Night and refused to open the door or give any sign that he was inside. Finally after much persuasion he did open the door a crack and peaked through the crack, when he became convinced that it was our men and not the enemy at the door.

Pennington transferred out not long afterwards and we heard later that he was killed by enemy fire while riding on the top of a tank, moving from one position to another. (I remembered him very well because I had taken him to Tulsa one weekend. I had received a letter from my girl friend, back in Missouri, saying that her father, who I had never met, was coming to Tulsa on business and if I could get a pass would like to meet me and have dinner together. His brother was coming from Texas she also said. I told Pennington about my invitation and he asked me if he could go along. He appeared to be very lonely and I agreed. We had a nice evening with my future Father-in-Law and his brother. )

Apparently, because the ground had until the last day or so been covered with snow, the Krauts were wearing white in a camouflage effort. When they came out of the woods into the open, they were easily seen now. This is the first time, since we got to the front, that we had seen them thus clad.

(The following excerpt is from John Mc Govern of B Company 232nd Regiment. B Co. was in Sessenheim, about a mile two from our positions, on our left flank as we faced the Enemy.)

*"Early on the 16th, I was at the north window on the second floor, watching the houses and streets in that direction. Don Tuttle, a member of our squad, was on the left side of the south Window, above the 57mm antitank gun and Lou Redmond was on the right side of the window. Suddenly, there was a noise like a handful of rocks hitting the house and, after a second, it was repeated. The German machine gun had fired from a great distance and at an extreme angle. Lou reacted to the first burst by straightening up, and the last round in the second burst (top of the spread) went through the sill at an acute angle and struck Lou to the right of the groin. Don Tuttle kept saying in a kind of wondering tone, "Right in the gut". Lou was in shock as we carried him back to the hallway and thought Tuttle was saying something else. He was in pain, but gritted his teeth until Green, one of our medics, showed up and gave him a shot of morphine. When the ambulance pulled away, we had made our last contact with friendly troops. Shortly after Lou Redmond was taken away, six German tanks came up the road leading northwest from the south end of Dengolsheim and passed about seven hundred yards directly in front of the 57mm gun emplacement. The gun sight was broken, so Tuttle and I called the*

*shots from the window above. We quickly zeroed in on the lead tank and started bouncing shells off its armor. The 57 mm crew fired about twenty rounds and scored six or seven hits. There was no indication that the tanks were damaged, but they didn't like getting hit and backed into Dengolsheim. Weldon Randall and his mortar squad of the first floor kept the German infantry away during this time, killing several in the process."*

*There was an isolated house about one hundred yards to our right front and a group of Germans made a run for that and a few succeeded. Some time during the day, we were fired on from a house to the north of us, indicating that the Germans were roaming free. Early on the 17th, two German tanks left Dengolsheim following the same path as the original six, but when they were directly in front of us, one turned and came directly toward us. The gun crew did not challenge these tanks and they continued moving rapidly toward us. Looking out the second floor window, Tuttle and I decided to give them one shot and then look for another wall. When the lead tank was at 350 yards and I had just told Tuttle it was time to move, the tank was hit and exploded, seeming to jump into the air. Apparently a Tank destroyer behind the railroad embankment had hit the German tank almost directly in the front.*

*The second tank used the smoke from the burning tank to check for survivors. The TD could not see him but we could see the outline of the second tank in the smoke. Tuttle and I had another discussion, this time on whether to prevent the rescue by firing at the tanks. We could probably have fired a couple of bursts and got out of the way before an 88 mm came back, but we decided to be humanitarians, or at least prudent. The way the tank was burning did not suggest that there would be survivors in any case.*

*Tuttle and I were getting 'window fatigue', having been on watch or patrol for over two weeks and full time after Lou was wounded, so Sgt. Wirick took the watch while we went to the first floor and chatted with Randall. We rushed back up when Wirick emptied a belt at some Germans he saw along the railroad track. A short time after, at least two German tanks came up the street north of our house and in back of the antitank gun. They were only fifty yards from my window and in easy bazooka range, but I couldn't even find a rifle grenade. As I watched them, the lead tank was hit on the front by a bazooka round. It was fired by James Archey, from the weapons platoon, who we did not realize was at the street corner. I also did not know until later that the 57 mm squad leader had taken his squad out an east door in the basement and dispersed them when he heard the tanks. However, when the tanks appeared almost at arms length, the bazooka man dropped his weapon and went back to the basement. After Archey fired, the second tank fired an 88 mm shell through the window he fired from. Fortunately, he had leaned to the side to reload and escaped.*

*It was very cold the night of the seventeenth (we had lost the windows on the sixteenth) and when the mortar fire continued for some time in our area, we decided about ten o'clock to get warm (I didn't realize my feet were already frozen). When we got to the basement, there was a fire in a pot-bellied stove and the room was packed with civilians and soldiers. We lay by the stove and I was asleep before my rear touched the floor." \*[11]*

*"The 232nd Infantry had taken 37 prisoners from the 2nd Bn., 21 Para Regiment (Regt Hardegg). The infantrymen had been commanded by an officer belonging either to the 21st*

*Panzer or the 25th Panzer Grenadier Divisions. Their six to eight assault guns also belonged to a unit engaged in the battle of Hatten. The 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment had 440 men. The 6th Company had led the attack on Sessenheim. It originally had 90 men, but it withdrew with 55 men left. The 5th Company had lost 15-20 men out of the original 85. The 7th Company had not taken part in the attack. Other participants were the heavy weapons company with six machine guns and six 80 mm mortars, and a company of engineers who were to lay minefields west of Sessenheim after the town had been secured.*

*All questions regarding a possible employment of the 25th PGD in conjunction with the 19th and 21st Regiments in a combined attack to join the bridgeheads remained unanswered. Officer POW's only knew, they said, what they had heard on the radio and they had been assigned to a mission of capturing Sessenheim. The POW's were well indoctrinated in "all the good Nazi ideals", and they were fairly young. Their morale was exceptionally high, even after capture.*

*An attack on Dengolsheim with two platoons of B/232 accompanied by tanks was cancelled: the first USS shells aimed at the western part of the town fell short, killing B Company Commander's orderly and wounding several men. Besides, only one tank moved up to the line of departure.*

*The enemy shelled Sessenheim heavily during the evening. The building in which the kitchen had been set up and where the supplies were stored was destroyed by a direct hit and everything was lost. The enemy infiltrated during the night." \* [12]*

We ate our usual K ration for breakfast, staying mostly in our foxholes, because there was an occasional round of German artillery coming in. As we looked out across the field in front of us and beyond the railroad tracks, we could see a white clothed Kraut dart about in the edge of the woods every now and then. We didn't attempt to shoot at any of them. We were hoping that they did not know exactly our position.

About noon while we were eating our K ration, the Kraut artillery shells began to come in thick and fast. Small arms fire began to rain in on us also. The shells were landing on the dike, in front of it and behind it. The small arms fire was mostly clipping the branches out of the trees high above our heads.

The Germans were using a lot of small machine guns, which we called "grease guns". They were a very cheaply made, stamped out of metal, smaller than our Thompson sub-machine guns and they fired at the very high rate of five or six hundred rounds per minute. Because they were so light and fired so rapidly, the tendency was for the barrel to start upward as soon as the trigger was pulled. They might have been satisfactory for very close fighting but at any distance were of very little danger to us.

On the other hand, our Browning Semi-automatic rifles were another story. They were to be fired in bursts of two or three shots at a time and used in this way and fired from the shoulder, they were extremely deadly. They were issued with a pair of adjustable legs near the muzzle so that they could be used like a light machine gun. All of the BAR men that I knew, including, myself, threw the bipods away and used the weapon just like a rifle.



(Back at Camp Gruber I made the mistake, at the rifle range, of firing the highest score of the third Battalion with the BAR. For this feat, I was rewarded by being made a BAR man. I tried every way I could think of to get rid of it and go back to being a rifleman. I only weighed 122 pounds and the weight of the BAR compared to a rifle was quite a burden to me. As bad as I hated to carry it during training, I loved it during combat. It gave us a much greater sense of security than a rifle. Within the first few weeks of combat, we were trying to obtain as many per platoon as we could. (48 years after the war, I visited with our former First Sgt. Stanley Rains for the first time and he still remembered how much trouble I gave him back in the states in trying to get rid of the Browning Automatic Rifle.)

The artillery and small arms fire got so intense, that I just crouched down in my foxhole and prayed that a shell wouldn't land in the hole with me. This heavy shelling lasted for about a half hour or so and all of a sudden it stopped and it became deathly quiet. It took a minute or so for it to soak in that the barrage might be over. When I looked up, I saw a sight to strike terror like I had not known before. There were hundreds of Krauts moving across the open field toward our position. It seemed like thousands, but I suppose hundreds is more accurate. We had about thirty or forty men on the line. The Krauts had discarded their white coats but still had on the white helmets.

I glanced to my right and left and saw no one. I looked to the rear and saw that someone had apparently broken for the rear and everyone else was following. My extra BAR ammunition was hanging on a tree limb near my foxhole only a few feet from my fingertips. I decided it was too late to reach for it. I knew that the Krauts were almost upon our position and there was a couple of hundred yards of open ground back to the next dike, beyond which would be the first cover I would have. As I ran toward that dike I kept feeling like the Krauts would be coming to the top of the dike which I had just left and would have clear shooting. I hunched my shoulders as I ran, thinking I would be receiving enemy fire any second. I wanted to peek over my shoulder to see if they were coming but was afraid it might cause me to lose my stride. I made it back to and over the 20 feet high dike apparently before the Krauts got to the top of the former one. Usher was holding everyone at this dike and reorganizing us for another stand. PFC.s Cheek and Mathews poured seventy rounds of 60 mm mortar fire on the Krauts from here.

Lt. Zillmer was angry as hell because we had withdrawn from our position without orders. Later, two Non Coms of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon were reduced to the rank of Pvt. Because the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon pulled out of the positions before the shelling started, leaving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon without support. The Morning Report shows S/Sgt Corey and Sgt. Nocker being reduced to Privates. On Jan. 22, 45. It was assumed it was because of the above incident.

My thoughts, however, were if we had stayed any longer we would have all been captured, or killed. After all, we were only an advance guard, whose purpose was to warn the Main Line positions some 15 hundred yards behind us when a major enemy attack was coming. We had achieved that objective and stalled the enemy long enough for the MLR to be aware that a large attack was probably coming. As I had time to reflect upon the fact that we did not stay in our positions longer and at least make an effort to fire at the approaching Germans, which would have slowed them, I came to the conclusion that there were several factors that caused

our failure to do so. First the Platoon Sgt. and Platoon Leader were not present at the time so we were without leadership. They were back behind the second dike having a conference. Secondly we were also completely green as this was our first attack by a German Offensive. We could have certainly held the enemy up and caused many casualties though they would of course have stopped their direct attack and out flanked us very quickly and if this had taken place we would have all been captured or became casualties.

Soon we began to catch fleeting glimpses of Krauts darting between trees and we began to shoot their direction. There was one tank destroyer at this position with us but when they began to see Krauts in the woods, the TD commander told Lt. Zillmer, " We are getting to hell out of here, we ain't gonna sit around and get hell blowed out of us by a Kraut bazooka." That was the last we saw of the TD.

Once while I was checking my BAR magazine to see how many shells I had, I saw about eight Krauts coming over a dike to our left and before I could get the magazine back, they were out of sight. I warned Lt. Zillmer what I had seen, and that we were apparently being outflanked and he sent Usher and five or six of us out that direction to protect the platoon flank.

I was sitting on the ground with my BAR across my lap when all of a sudden a huge German burst through the underbrush about twenty five feet in front of me. We saw each other at the same time. I had a distinct advantage, however, because I was seated and stationary and he was upright and moving. As he started to bring his rifle around I quickly got the BAR to my shoulder and squeezed off a burst of three rounds. He went down immediately. I saw him move and thought he was probably reaching for a potato masher (German hand grenade) so I fired another burst of three. He made no further movement after the second burst.

As much of a hurry as I was to get him before he got me, I never once considered not firing from the shoulder (Later, in Wurzburg, Germany an incident occurred which reaffirmed my judgment on this matter.) This incident follows later.

I glanced over at Usher, who was eight or ten feet to my right, and he held up his index finger and thumb in a circle to show that he had seen what had happened and approved. We expected to see more Krauts at any second, but apparently that one man was well out ahead of the rest, or my fire had caused them to draw back.

Zillmer decided that if we stayed any longer we were going to be surrounded, so he gave the orders to withdraw back to the Main Line of Resistance. He led the rest of the men to the area where Usher, myself and three or four others were and then we hightailed it for the MLR. We knew that we would have to cross a several hundred yards wide-open field before reaching our defensive positions. We ran as fast as we could across the field. I had to stop and rest about half way across. I flopped down on the ground and tried to make as small a target as possible. I rested for a few seconds and was up running again. Artillery shells were descending on us as we crossed the field with our former positions now in sight.

When we reached the MLR, I headed for the safety of the formerly described foxhole, which I had worked so laboriously on for several days. When I got to it, I found there were several men from the 103rd and 79th Divisions occupying my hole. Capt. Jones came by about this

time and told the bunch of us that had just arrived from the advance position, to dig more holes and expect a German attack at any time. Pfc. Ronck and I were standing side by side when Jones gave those orders.

As soon as Jones was out of sight, I said to Ronck, “to hell with that, I spent too much time digging this hole to abandon it now.” I started to climb down in to the hole. Someone said, “There is no room in here, we already have 10 men in this hole.” I said, “I dug this hole and I am coming in.” Then the occupants told me, in that case they could squeeze one more in, which they did. One man in our foxhole was looking out the rifle slot and said he could see Krauts darting about in the edge of woods, that the Second Platoon had just come from. He fired a few rounds at them and we heard a yell in German for a medic. They were about a thousand feet away and because the Kraut artillery fire was getting heavier, most of us were willing to just hunker down in our foxhole and pray. (MR shows Ronck to Hosp on Jan. 19)

For about a half an hour the Krauts threw the most intensive barrage of artillery that we had ever experienced. (I don’t remember another equal to it for the remainder of the war.) Because there were many of our men still trying to dig foxholes, we had many casualties. Rounk, the man who was standing beside me when Jones told us to dig foxholes, was hit and I never saw him again.

After the heavy shelling subsided, we discovered that four men from the Second Platoon had not made it back to the MLR. None of us had any idea what had happened to them. Their names were Sgt. Gates, Pfc.s Guardiola, Sutphin and Thornhall. (These were the only men, from Company K, that were captured during the war.

About one hour after darkness fell, we were given orders that Company K was moving out and leaving the position to the 79th and 103rd to defend. As we moved out I saw, the Mueller house, our Company Command Post, was nothing but a pile of smoldering rubble. Fortunately all of our people got out of the house and into foxholes before the shelling started. The barn, where I had found the straw to line my foxhole, was destroyed also.

The Company casualties were now becoming so numerous that I was losing track of them and did well, from this time on, to remember those in the 2nd Platoon. I did remember that Sgt. Hopkins, of the Third Platoon, got burned badly when a bullet or shell fragment hit a white phosphorous grenade, which he was wearing in his collar buttonhole. Most of us had the habit of hanging a grenade of one kind or another on our collars. After “Hoppy” was so seriously burned, most of us quit this habit. “Hoppy” had borrowed ten dollars from me only a day or two before he was hit. ( I can’t imagine now why anyone in combat needed money, but I had it, so I gave it to him.) I decided after he was carried off the battlefield it was probably a bad idea to loan money to anyone again. I don’t remember anyone else ever asking me to loan them money.

The Morning Reports show what a disaster this day was for Company K. Men killed were Peeler, Stevens, Weed, Laye, Brightham, Kinsie, Gawrlyczik and Jahr. Men wounded were Hopkins, Robertson, Neef, Blanchard, Coffey, Davis, Berube, Wessell, Fedork, Falchek and Ronck. There were several men listed as missing in action. Some of them later showed as killed. The four men that were captured, from the Second Platoon never showed up on the MR’s. We only learned about their capture after the war was over and Sgt. Gates was liberated in Munich and we talked to him.

The following account is by Walter Neef in reply to a letter I wrote him asking exactly how Lt. Laye was killed.

*"On January 17, 1945 Lt. Laye and I had spent the night dug in together in a foxhole behind a Heavy 30 cal. Machine Gun Position of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division. On the 18<sup>th</sup> Lt. Laye went back Behind the lines to get rations for the Platoon. While he was gone we began to receive mortar Rounds on our positions. There were also some 88's coming in. When he got back I told him That we had been under fire while he was gone*

*He was standing next to our foxhole looking around when I heard mortars being fired. I said "Lt. there are more rounds coming in". He just stood there looking around and one landed about 20 feet in front of our foxhole. I had just my head and shoulders out of the hole and was eating a "K" ration. It felt like a sledge hammer hit me in the shoulder. I thought for sure that my arm was blown off. I turned around to see Lt. Laye lying on his back and gasping for breath in a death rattle. Soon a medic came and gave me first aid and said that Laye's body was peppered with shrapnel and he presumed he was dead. Pfc. Davis was on his way over for a ration at the time and he was wounded with a shell fragment in his leg. The medic sent me and Davis back to the CP where we were evacuated to a hospital. The road we took to the rear was lined with 79<sup>th</sup> Division troops.*

*The medic (Smith) that was wounded in the Pillbox where Peeler and Stevens were killed was also going back with us on the jeep trailer. He was screaming the whole way, "My legs, my legs". The men of the 79<sup>th</sup> just gapped at him and looked scared.*

*Before I went back, I called the CP from the 79<sup>th</sup> position and they informed me that Lt. Laye was dead.*

*I wound up in a hospital close to the front lines. We could hear artillery being fired. They kept me there 10 days and then sent me back to an area near Paris, France. The Dr. probed for but could not get any more fragments. So he sewed me up and said we will send you back to your unit in ten days. But the wound became infected and was opened up again. I was then sent by plane to England.*

*After I healed up we had four weeks of training and were organized into a company with officers just like a rifle company. All the men from many different Divisions were going to be sent back to their divisions. We were on a ship at South Hampton, England when a big celebration started in town. (May 7, 45) We were restricted for a day then we returned to France, rode in trucks, on trains, and what ever else they had and arrived in Munich. I don't remember exactly what date I got back to the company, but it was near Salzburg and we were moving around a lot. I went back to my same squad but there were none left of my former members except Cameron. He was squad leader. In October he had enough points to be sent to an artillery Bn. and was made chief cook in Service Battery. Those guys really had it made. I arrived in New York on January 18, 46, one year after being wounded. I was discharged On Jan. 23. If it had not been for the extreme cold I could have bled to death when hit."*

**By dark the Kraut artillery had slacked off to just a round now and then. Company K moved out through the woods toward the town of Schirrhoffen. (SEE MAP 4). After marching for a few miles, we were told to dig in on the side of a hill. We could see a town burning in the distance. The ground was more rock than dirt and as we attempted to dig, sparks were flying from the shovels striking the flint rock. I kept thinking about the sparks, which looked like hundreds of fireflies, and the noise we were making, and thought for sure it was going to bring Kraut fire in on us.**

**Hoch and I were attempting to dig a hole. One of us would dig a while, then the other. We were digging more to keep warm than for any other purpose, because we could see that the ground was too hard and rocky for us to do any good. To make matters worse, it was drizzling rain. We were cold, damp and generally miserable. After a while, we decided that one of us**

should try to get some sleep while the other one dug. We had nothing for shelter except a raincoat each. I spread his raincoat on the ground and covered myself with mine and dozed for an hour or so. Then he did likewise. We alternated this way for the rest of the night.

The next morning dawn broke very quickly, while I was sleeping. Hoch woke me up and said “get up, we are moving out”. I looked at the hole, which we had been digging, all-night and got a good laugh. We had managed to dig a hole about the size of one of our helmets. As it began to get lighter, we could see that we were in a very poor position. There was no cover of any kind, and we could be seen for hundreds of yards.

We pulled out so quickly that I didn’t get my pack on half way and was dragging my gear along for a while, until I managed to do so. Two men in our Platoon, including Hoch, discovered when it got light, that their rifles had been disabled by the shellfire the evening before.

The gas chamber was gone from Hoch’s rifle and Begin’s was too damaged to operate also. They had both leaned their rifles against trees back at the Main Line of resistance, while they were digging foxholes. They agreed that they would not make that mistake again. They turned the damaged rifles in and got new ones as soon as we were where it could be done.

We arrived in Schirrhoffen about noon on January 19. We got the first hot meal we had received for several days. We even got an orange each. This was the first one we had seen since leaving the states. (I remembered for years how good it tasted. I also remembered that some of the men gave their oranges to French civilians. They were really grateful; I expect it had been years since they had eaten anything like that.) We also were issued fur liners for our jackets while here. The First Squad, Second Platoon, found a nice clean barn loft and we got some sleep.

Usher got a package from home, and wildly anticipating some real goodies, tore open the package ready to share it with the rest of us. When he got it opened, it contained only writing paper and some socks. He was so disappointed that he gave the contents away.

About 4 p.m. we marched out toward the town of Soufflenheim. (SEE MAP 4). We arrived there about dark and found some billets. As we came into town, the Germans threw a few rounds of artillery in amongst us, but we suffered no casualties. My squad was in a house occupied by French Civilians. They tried to get us to come down in the basement to sleep, as they said it would be safer. We decided that the very occasional round of artillery that we heard coming in did not warrant not having the nice wood floors, instead of the damp, hard cellar floors, so we stayed put.

I got a package from home, containing some red cherry like candy and passed it around among the squad. We had been issued fur jacket liners, sleeping bags, and new gloves the day before and were in the best shape to get some sleep than we had been for days. The ones of us that didn’t get the first shift of guard duty, rolled out our sleeping bags on the nice warm floors, and slept like logs.

The next day, January 20, we just fooled around, some wrote letters, some napped, some chatted etc. We were looking forward to spending another night here but it was not to be. Just about a half an hour after getting in our sleeping bags, we got the word that we were moving out with due haste. We hurriedly rolled up our bags, packed our gear and headed out.

We marched 15 to 20 miles, on a road covered with ice, to the city of Haguenau. (SEE MAP 3). We were given no rest stops for the entire march. Of course we were mad as hell about this. No explanation was given to us as to why we were in such a hurry. The ice was very slick



and everyone fell numerous times. We were going through the “Black Forest” and it was almost pitch black as we marched along. The men, who carried heavy weapons, the Weapons Platoon for example, were faring the worst. When they went down with a machine gun across their shoulders they really fell hard. I held my BAR by the muzzle and just dragged the butt along on the ice, hoping to maintain my balance better. I still fell dozens of times, as did most everyone else.

Major Galloway, the Third Battalion Commander, 232nd Regiment, kept riding up and down the road in his jeep ordering us to move faster. Everyone was cursing him under their breath. It was weeks later that we found out why we were in such a hurry. Germans surrounded us, on three sides, and this was the only way out. If this situation had been explained to us, we certainly would have not minded trying to hurry as fast as possible. Galloway, was a little runt of a Major that hardly anyone could tolerate. I only saw him two or three times during the war. (After the war, Wesley Johnson, a member of Company, found out where he resided and once when Wesley was in his area, decided to pay him a call. When Wesley knocked on his door, Galloway opened it an inch or two and said, “What do you want?” Wesley explained that he had served in the 3rd Battalion of the 232nd under Galloway. Galloway then said, “I don’t have anything to say to you” and closed the door.) We marched the entire night and arrived at Haguenau at 8 a. m. on January 21.

We were led to an old abandoned religious hospital building and told to try to get some rest. There was very little furniture in the building and the floors were bare concrete. The windows were all gone and it was a sorry looking place for billets. Of course it was better than being out on the ground, so we made the best of it. We broke up what little wood furniture there was and made fires on the floor with it. The smoke soon got so bad that we had to put the fires out. We were always so dead tired that we could sleep, for a while under, about any conditions. So we laid down on the floors, covering with what ever was available, probably no more than a raincoat, and went to sleep. (No one has ever forgotten this march and all talk about it yet)

The 232nd Regiment did not take part in the defense of Haguenau.

*“Instructions were received that the 79th Division with Task Force Linden would withdraw (from the Hatten Sector) to the Moder River near Haguenau and set up new defenses there. The plan provided that immediately after leaving the main Line of resistance the regiments of Task Force Linden were to be placed under the direct control of the 79th Division. The 232nd Infantry was to go into corps reserve with its command post at Bossendorf. The 222nd Infantry was to continue on the 79th’s left flank and take up positions behind the Moder River and northwest of the city of Haguenau. The 313th Infantry of the 79th Division was to defend Haguenau and the area on either side of it while the 242nd Infantry would be on its right, southeast of Haguenau. To the right of the 242nd Infantry would be the 315th Infantry of the 79th, occupying the right flank of the division. Left of the division was the 103rd Infantry Division and on the right the 36th Infantry Division.*

*At darkness on January 20 the withdrawal began. The weather conditions could not have been worse. The weather was cold, with the temperature below 20, and it was snowing heavily, but worst of all, the roads were covered with ice. They were so bad that it was difficult for a man to walk more than a few yards without falling down. Even when proceeding slowly, trucks and tanks and artillery pieces would start to slide and end up with a crash into a ditch or plunge over a bridge into a stream or ravine.*

*The men were tired from days and nights of almost constant moving and fighting. There was a curse now and then as a man slipped and fell, but he would pick himself up and trudge on. ‘I bet I fell ten times a mile,’ declared one man later.*

*The roads were lined with traffic and although it would have been an excellent opportunity for the Germans to attempt an attack the withdrawal apparently took them by surprise. A few times their patrols contacted the rear guard, but they made no effort to advance.*

*On January 21 the regiments moved into their positions and began to organize and strengthen their defenses. The 242nd Infantry took up a position with the Third Battalion on the left and the Second Battalion on the right and the remains of the First in reserve. The 222nd Infantry used exactly the same formation with the two battalions covering a front of 7500 hundred yards, three times the normal frontage for a regiment in defense.*

*Not until the morning of January 23 did the 222nd make contact with the enemy. Throughout that day and the next, however, patrols reported that the enemy was building up strength across the river. Later it was learned that the enemy was moving 2,000 men into position for an attack. These men were from three units. There were two battalions from the 47th Volksgrenadier Division, three battalions from the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and three battalions from the Parachute Division.*

*Below Haguenau a slightly smaller force, estimated later at 1,200, was moving in opposite the 242nd Infantry. This force was composed of two battalions from the 21st SS Regiment and two battalions from the 22nd SS Regiment, both units part of the 10th Panzer Division, one of the crack outfits in Hitler's army. As armored SS troops these men had the priority of equipment as well as manpower and they had been regrouping for more than a month.*

*Haguenau was the objective for these two forces, and it was an important one. The town itself jutted out as a salient into the German lines. Capture of the city and a successful breakthrough would make the excellent road net and rolling tank country to the south available to the Germans and would force a withdrawal to the Vosges.*

*Indeed, the withdrawal was already being considered and plans were being made. Had it not been for the brilliant defenses of the 222nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments these orders would have been issued.*

*It snowed again on January 24th and it was now a foot deep on the ground. The temperature was well below freezing and many of the men occupied foxholes half filled with water and with a crust of ice forming on them.*

*The attack on the 242nd began just before dawn on the 25th of January when the enemy (SB troops of the 10th Panzer Division) smashed into the areas occupied by Companies K and managed to break through.*

*Throughout the day the battle continued. The brunt of the enemy attack was against the Third Battalion on the left of the regimental sector and fighting centered around a factory just across the Moder River, which the enemy had captured. At 1600 that afternoon Company L, supported by tanks launched an attack to drive the enemy back across the river. In the face of this attack, the enemies broke and ran and fire from the tanks and infantrymen cut them down as they raced for the river. They poured out of the factory and back across the Moder with the infantry in pursuit. Here, however, the Germans had tank support and the Rainbow-men withdrew to their original positions.*

*Once again the enemy had been defeated and again his casualties were high. It is estimated that the Third Battalion killed 400 Germans, 131 of them falling before the 1st Platoon of Company K alone.*

*Thus it was that the Rainbow infantrymen repulsed what later proved to be the last offensive action ever launched by the German army on the western front. The Germans had hoped to regain Alsace, but he had failed. Plans for the withdrawal to the Vosges positions were put aside and never did the enemy take Haguenau.*

*For one month the Rainbowmen had been fighting bitter battles. They had lost equipment and they had lost 50 per cent of their riflemen and they were tired. Now, came a welcome order to withdraw to the vicinity of Chateau Salins, near Nancy, for a period of reorganization during which it was hoped that the remainder of the division would arrive.*

*On January 27th the regiments were relieved from their positions on the line, again placed under the control of Brigadier General Linden, and they moved 60 miles back to a position in Seventh Army reserve.” \*[13]*

*(The following is an excerpt from Dee Eberhart of Co. I 242nd.)*

*“As a rifleman, my perspective of the Haguenau Battle was obviously limited, but this is the way I recall it. The badly depleted three squads of our 3rd Platoon occupied an L shaped line (formed by two roads which intersected at a right angle) at the eastern side of Haguenau, with the Moder River to the front (north) of the long leg of the L and the platoon CP across a paved road, near but behind the angle of the L. K Company’s left flank was somewhere in the far distance beyond our right flank, easternmost, two foxholes, which Biwyn Cole, Walt Keeler and I occupied. Pete Compton and Mike Kondroski had a BAR position about 30 yards to our left (west) in an old zigzag short trench which we inherited from some past diggers, probably German. West of Pete, Mike, and Jack Parry were a few more foxholes owned by Ted Simonson (BAR), John Nicoli, Herb Grassman, Pop Lawson, and Karl Wagner. Jim Birdsill ‘s squad held positions in front of a row of houses along the short leg of the L.*

*New snow was on the ground; it was overcast and extremely cold. If weapons were brought into the semi-warm platoon CP and then taken outside again there was a tendency for them to freeze up. In addition, to our platoon leader, sergeant, medic and runner, there were also some cannon company people with their gun and truck in the CP. Following the machine gunning of our CP, all riflemen moved to foxholes in the light woods across the road, in anticipation of attack. Before dawn heavy firing broke out in the K Company sector to our right and the full force attack was underway. Since there were huge gaps between our positions, our main line, which was more of a series of outposts than a line, was soon breached.*

*Civilian refugees were reported on the road between our foxholes in the woods and our platoon CP. This added to the confusion, when the German assault force arrived, some with snow camouflage capes and some without. The attack against the platoon CP was prolonged, but those inside, including Jim Freetly (Platoon Sergeant) and Joe Dorsey (our squad leader), successfully defended the fort. Lt. Poggi, platoon leader, was shot in the chest early in the attack, but survived the war after being wounded seriously again, by shrapnel, near Schweinfurt. Ted Simonson, John Nicoli and Herb Grassman with a frozen BAR, were pinned down in a shallow ditch on one side of the road by a party of Germans on the other side of the road who were spraying machine gun fire and tossing percussion grenades at them, until Pete Compton drove them off with M-1 fire. As the fighting progressed a dense fog rose from the Moder, obscuring both friend and enemy.*

*As it began to grow light, and targets through the mist became more visible, the German attack slowed. The enemy was firmly established in the wedge between K and I companies. Artillery and mortar fire was intense, coming and going in both directions. No enemy tanks had crossed the Moder in this sector, and the German infantry began going to ground in patches of woods, the factory, and in isolated buildings. The two squads of I Company’s 3rd Platoon which had been facing north, pivoted back to the line of Haguenau houses facing east and facing the*

*right flank of the attacking Germans. Since the platoon CP was isolated and could no longer function as a command post, the platoon sergeant, Jim Freetly, waited for a break in the blanket shelling and sent out the cannon company truck and equipment, with the wounded Lt. Poggi on board, and the rest of the men on foot at a dead run, so to speak. At the moment the last man cleared the open field, enemy shells completely blackened the field where the run-for-your-life contest had been held seconds earlier.*

*It was the enemy that was now pinned down. In the early afternoon, a skirmish line of Americans moved northward toward the Moder, counterattacking the German salient. This was probably L Company or units of K Company. Shortly thereafter, Jack Parry crawled across the road to a ditch in front of our line of houses and fired a rifle grenade through the window of the German occupied house just beyond our former platoon CP. The results were wondrous to behold. Out came a white flag; then out came a dozen or so of Hitler's finest, although none of us knew at the time that they were SS troops. After a couple of us ran the prisoners to the rear, inside Haguenau, we swept the attack area for enemy stragglers and on the following morning permanently re-occupied our former positions. At that time we discovered a wounded German soldier under some boards outside one of the houses that they had captured the previous day. He had been shot through the chest at least 24 hours earlier, a small clean, blue hole, front, and back, with virtually no bleeding (we were using armor piercing cartridges), he had lain outside all night in bitterly cold weather without food, blankets or any medical treatment, and seemed to be in remarkably good health. Our aid man, Pat Kennedy, patched him up, and I gave him a can of K ration Cheese and a K ration cigarette and then took him to the rear. A few days later Jim Freetly told me that I had caused a serious problem for our interrogator, Captain Dietrich, and that a direct order had been issued that in the future there would be no more food or cigarettes given to enemy prisoners by front line troops. As I recall my reply, it was, 'But Jim, it was only a Chelsea cigarette.'*

*Although we didn't realize it then, that was the German army's last offensive on the Western front. Within a few days, we were relieved by the 101st Airborne, and headed to the rear for refitting, replacements and our first shaves and showers in the no longer new year of 1945. \*[14]*

The next morning, which was the 22nd of January, we moved out of Haguenau to the village of Bossendorf, (SEE MAP 6), which was immediately nicknamed "Horse Shit Hollow." We agreed that the manure bins in this town were especially prosperous looking. The Second Platoon was assigned a barn for billets and we felt the same old resentment because the Company HQ people had a nice warm house to billet in. I received a Methodist Youth Fellowship Church newsletter, while here. I enjoyed reading it very much, even though it made me quite homesick. We were in this town for three days and that was a wonderful rest period, even if we were quartered in a barn. We were each on guard about 1/3 of the time and off 2/3rds, which was much better than usual.

While we were in this area, the 242nd Regiment came under heavy attack from the German forces and we were ordered to make haste to come to their aid. On the morning of the 25th of January we moved out and after a long grueling march, which took all day, we arrived at the village of Oliungen. (SEE MAP 6). We stopped near the outskirts of the town and started digging foxholes. The Second Platoon was assigned a house and we posted all around security.

Just about the time the first 2 hour shift of guard duty was over, we got orders that we were moving out. We marched three or four miles to the town of Neubourg. (SEE MAP 6). Company K HQ was established in a house on the edge of town and the rest of the troops



Stoft, Hoch & Slinker



Norman Usher



Surrender Flag in window



Usher in Paris

48 A





Jerkins, Renouf, & Hennessey



Hines, Hennessey, Baker, Begin, Hood



German Convoy



German Prisoners

headed out to a patch of woods a few hundred feet from the Company CP. Here we were told to dig foxholes and prepare to spend the night. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

Hoch and I found an existing foxhole, which we surmised had been dug by the Germans. The reason we believed this, was because there was a dead Kraut about six feet from the hole. We paid no attention to him, and he paid us no heed either. Hoch and I took turns in this hole, one trying to sleep and the other on watch. It was bitterly cold and we had only our overcoats for warmth and I didn't sleep a wink that night.

At dawn on the 26<sup>th</sup>, we were given orders to assemble at the Company CP. There we were told to form a skirmish line and move toward the Moder River, which was about a half mile distant. After a heavy artillery barrage by our forces, we moved to the river with no mishap, except that a tank that was accompanying us hit a land mine and a tread was blown off. When we heard the explosion, we thought it was incoming artillery so we scattered and hit the dirt fast. At the river's edge we were told to dig in for a defensive position.

We hardly got started digging when orders were changed and troops from the 79th Division relieved us and we moved out. We headed back to Neubourg. As we were marching along we heard the whine of an incoming shell and could tell from the whine that it was going to hit very close by. By now it was instinctive to scatter to the sides of the road and hit the dirt. We barely did so when the shell landed. It hit about 10 feet from Pfc. Busby, but fortunately it was a dud. Otherwise, no doubt, several of us would have been killed. A few minutes later an 88 shell landed squarely in the middle of an American jeep and blew it to pieces.

When we reached Neubourg, Captain Jones told the platoon leaders that there was some extra space in an Anti-tank Company for a few men and the platoon leaders were supposed to pick a few men from each platoon to ride. He suggested that if anyone was sick or not feeling well they should be given preference. Since no one in our platoon fell in that category, Usher decided that the men with the heaviest weapons could ride. Therefore, the BAR men were picked. The chosen ones were then instructed to follow Jones where he would give us more instructions. This we did.

(I can still hear and see "Double Time" saying "Sick Call follow me".) He marched us a short distance from the rest of the troops and told us to march on through town and wait on the outskirts for our transportation. We headed off that direction and Jones returned to the rest of the Company and they headed out the opposite direction.

There was supposed to be room for about 30 men. Jones showed us the street we should take to reach the trucks that were supposed to be waiting for us. When we got within a hundred yards or so of the trucks we saw them pull out and head away from us. We yelled at them but no one heard us. There were many vehicles passing by, some of them Rainbow, so everyone just started hitchhiking and soon most everyone was gone.

A jeep pulling a trailer came by and I decided to climb on the trailer. The driver slowed down but did not come to a stop. I threw my BAR on the trailer and my buddy (I have forgotten who he was) climbed on. The time it took for me to throw my BAR on was too much for me to be able to make it on the trailer myself. The driver didn't look back, assuming that we were both on. The man that did make it had laryngitis so bad that he could not make the driver hear him yelling "stop".

I didn't want to let go of the chain on the trailer, that I had managed to grab. The thought of losing my BAR and being weaponless, in what might well be Kraut territory, made me hang on as long as possible. In a very short time the vehicle was going faster than my legs could travel and I was now lying flat on my stomach holding on to the chain and sledding along on

the snow covered road. (I can still remember the singing noise my clothes made as I slid along on my belly.) I soon begin to worry that my clothes would be worn through and I would be sliding along on my bare skin, so I let loose and rolled and slid to a halt.

I got to my feet, and there I stood all by myself on the edge of the road. I had no knowledge of where the nearest enemy was or where the nearest friendly troops were. After standing on the side of the road for a few minutes, an ambulance came along and I motioned wildly for him to stop. I climbed in the front seat and explained to him the predicament I was in. After we had traveled a few miles, we came to a cross road and he asked me which way I wanted to go. I told him I didn't have the faintest idea.

As he started to make his turn, I saw a Tommy Howell, a Co. K man, standing on the side of the road, so I said "let me out here, there is one of my buddies". I got out and joined Tommy. He was one of the bunch who were supposed to ride the trucks from Neubourg. Tommy was a member of the Weapons Platoon, and had a 45 pistol, so we weren't completely defenseless. After we stood there talking out situation over for a few minutes we saw a Rainbow vehicle coming and we flagged it down. It was a First Battalion 232nd vehicle. We rode for six or eight miles and then came to the area where the First Battalion was quartered.

Since we were in the First Battalion area, I begin to look for my buddy Stuart Larratt, a Company B, man. He and I had been in every outfit together since our basic training in the coast artillery at Camp Wallace, Texas. He was from Wisconsin. We had decided at Wallace to take the Air Force exam and had done so. When our basic was completed we transferred to the 84th Division Infantry in Camp Claiborne, La. We then were called into the Air Force and when the Air Force decided, after we were there only 9 weeks, that they no longer needed us, we were transferred to the 42nd Division. We were both in Company F when we got to Camp Gruber but soon after he went to Company B and I went to K.

I soon found Larratt and told him what had happened and he took Tommy Howell, and I to the First Battalion Commander. We explained that we were separated for our company and how it came about. He said he didn't know where our outfit was and for us to secure some billets for the night and he would find out the next day where our company was and arrange for us to get back to it. We tried to find billets with Larratt's company but there was no room to spare. We just kept going from house to house asking if there was room for a couple of men until we found some one who said yes.

We wound up with a group of cooks from the 103rd Division. They each had a nice cot with a big thick mattress, which they carried with them from place to place. There was no cold hard ground sleeping for them. They really had compassion for us, because we were front line men, so they gave us good beds for the night. A couple of the men volunteered their beds saying they got plenty of good sleep and they knew how rough we had it and they could make do for the night.

The next morning, when we awakened and looked out the window, there was not a Rainbow vehicle in sight. We frantically inquired of the 103rd men as to when the Rainbow had left the area. One of the men said, during the night, some Second John from the Rainbow stuck his head in the door and asked if any Rainbowers were billeted here, because the Rainbow was moving out. We told him there is no Rainbow men in here, because we wanted you men to get a good night's rest for a change."

At first we were appalled, but the more we thought about it the more we begin to like the idea of the situation we were in. It was no fault of ours that we were here. We were thinking we could sure stand a lot of the kind of duty these men had.



About 8 a.m. the next morning, Jan 27. I walked out on to the porch of our house and coming down the road was a Rainbow jeep with Company K First Sgt. Lawson in it. Lawson saw me and told the driver to stop and the jeep came to a screeching halt. By this time Tommy had also appeared on the porch. Lawson said, "What the hell are you men doing here." We explained the whole chain of events that led us here and he said that he was on the way to Gremecy, France to find billets for Company K. He told us to get in the back seat, which we did. Unlike the front, which was covered the back was open. We rode for about 60 miles and stopped once at a French home where we made some coffee from some K rations that Lawson had with him.

We arrived at Gremecy about 2 p.m. and Sgt. Lawson told us to make ourselves useful getting some billets ready for the rest of the Company, who would be arriving sometime that evening. The town was the sorriest looking sight we had seen yet. It had been entirely abandoned by the local residents. This area had passed back and forth several times between the German and Allied forces and the houses that were still standing had been turned into virtual pig sties by the occupying troops.

I picked out a house and Tommy picked another and we went to work. After choosing what I thought was the best room in the house, I started cleaning it up. There was about a foot of straw with cans, bottles, and every sort of filth on the floor. I found a broom and shovel and started to work on it. After I got all of the trash out, I hunted around over the village and found a stove small enough to transport to the room. With a rope I managed to drag it up the stairs to the room.

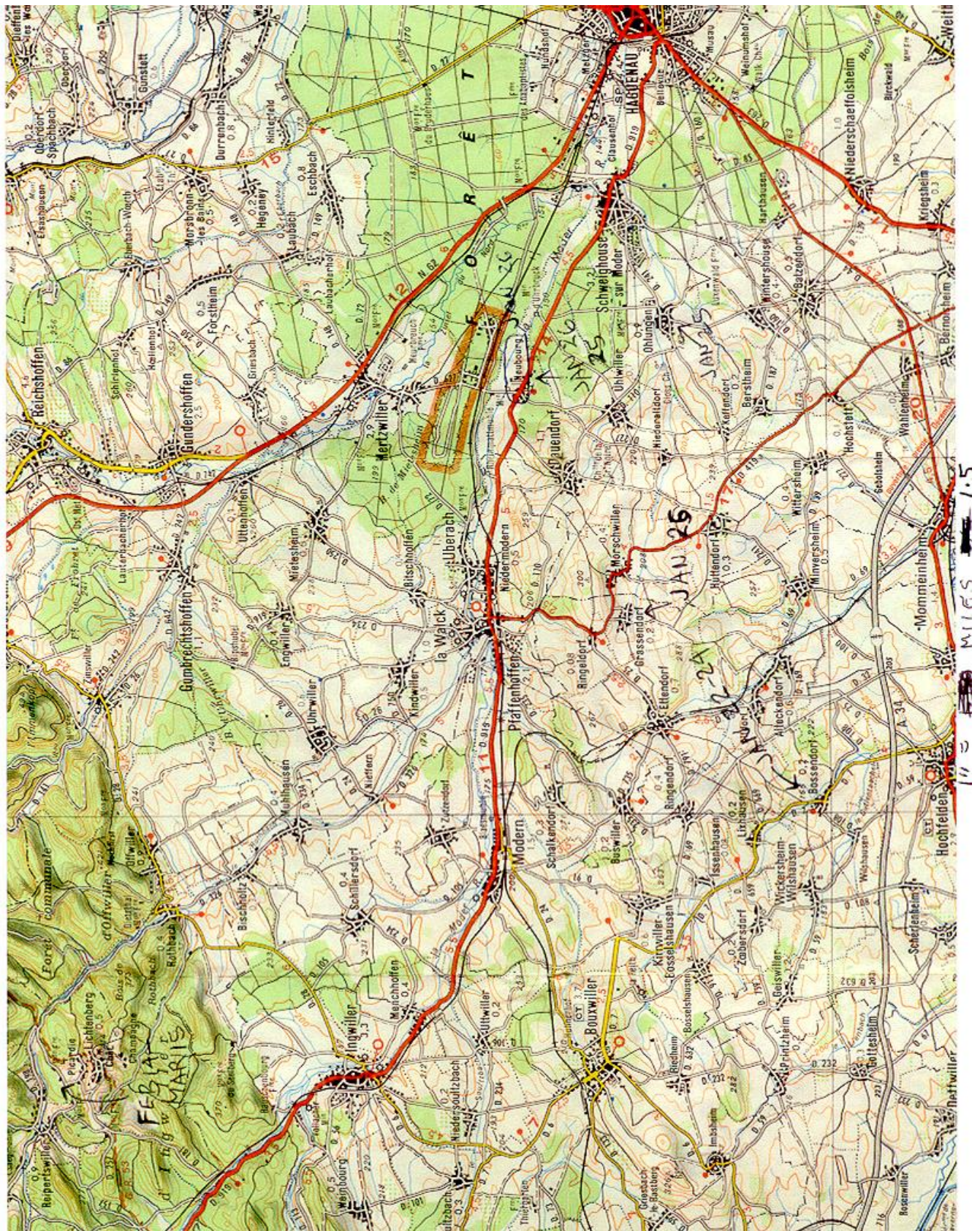
A flue passed through the room from below but there was no opening for a stovepipe in it. So I proceeded to knock the bricks out with a large hammer, which I had found, until I had a hole big enough for the stovepipe. I got a good warm fire going and by this time it was about time for the company to arrive. I knew this one room was not going to do much for the whole Second Platoon but it was the best I could do in the time I had available. At least it would be a place they could take turns warming until other rooms were cleaned up.

Just about dark the company arrived and I went outside to greet them. Lt. Zillmer was surprised to see me and wanted to know what had happened to me. I gave him the whole story. The man, who had managed to get on the jeep trailer, took my BAR off when he got off and gave it to Usher, so I had a weapon again. Everyone in the platoon wanted to hear my story, especially Usher. I told them about how the 103rd rear echeloners lived and how Tommy, and I decided we would like to stay with them as long as possible, but that our plans were thwarted when Lawson came along. Everyone agreed that would have been the thing to do. They were all glad that we had not been captured, wounded or killed, as feared.

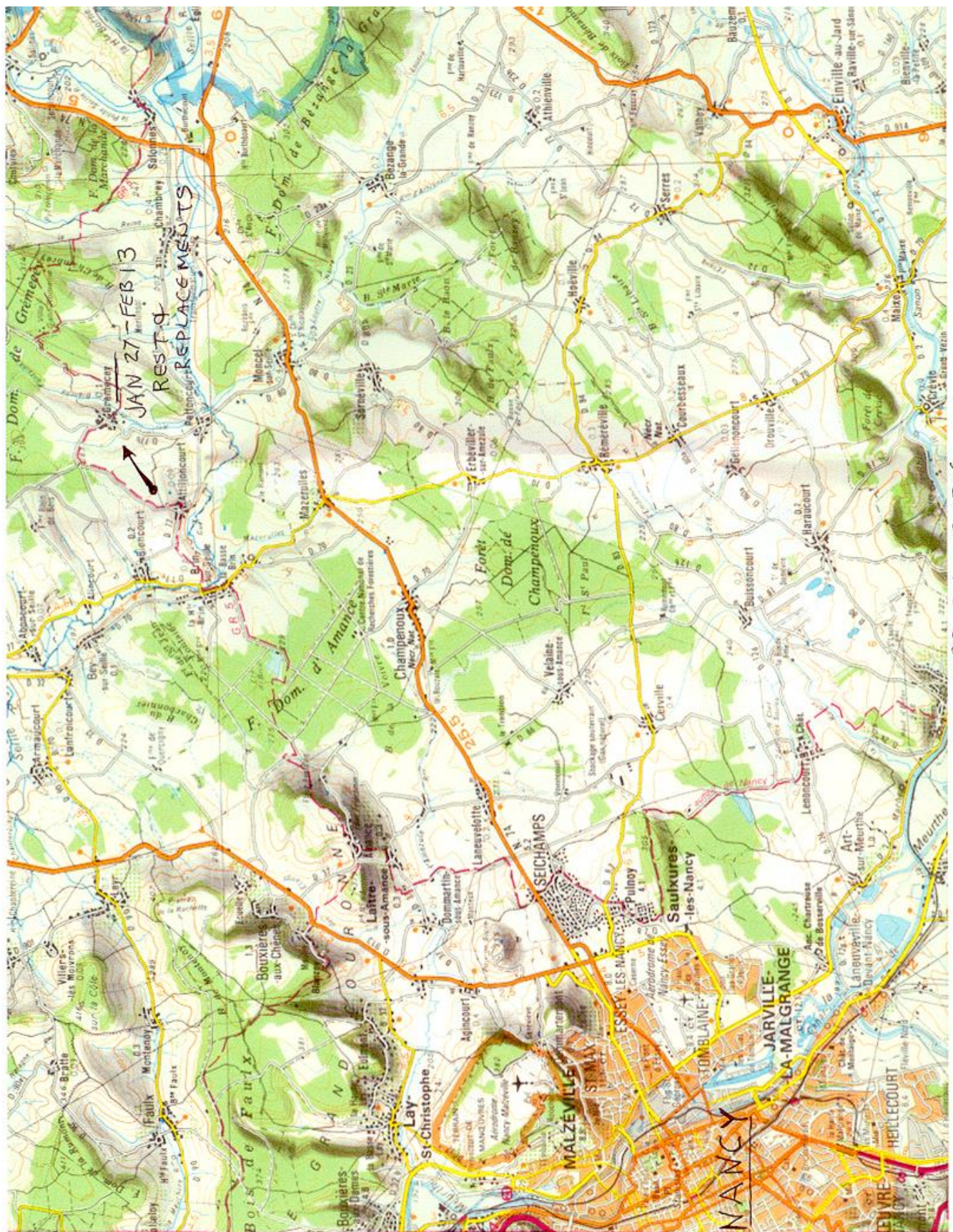
There was plenty of griping about the miserable facilities that we were supposed to use as billets and since the room that I had cleaned up was only big enough for one squad, Usher had the Squad leaders draw cards to see who got the room. (Usher was now Platoon Sgt. Stoft was in Paris to become an officer.) I was preparing to be very unhappy about this card drawing because I thought the chances of the First Squad getting the right card was only one in three. Usher then said because I had cleaned the room, I could stay in it regardless who won the draw. As it happened Sully, who was now First Squad Leader drew the right one so there was no question about where I would be.

*"By this time the balance of the Rainbow had arrived in France, having landed in Marseilles in January 18, and were now at Command Post 2 drawing equipment and preparing to move north to join the regiments. CP 2 had not changed since the infantrymen had been there. It was just as bare and just as windy and even a little colder. Everyone was anxious to leave.*











*The towns into which the infantrymen now moved were battered shambles in a war-shattered area. There had been heavy fighting there and the majority of the tiny communities were deserted or inhabited by only a few old people and young children. In some towns not a single building had a roof or a pane of glass in a window.*

*Nevertheless it was better than living in foxholes and sleeping on the ground and the men went to work to make themselves as comfortable as possible. Digging among the ruins they found stoves. They boarded up the windows and turned the town taverns into mess halls. They washed their clothes or perhaps had someone wash them for them. For the first time in a month they were warm and dry and able to eat hot meals. Just sleeping on the floor in a warm room was a luxury.*

*Now replacements begin coming in and a training program got under way. Emphasis was placed upon tactics of small units and tank and infantry coordination. Recent experience had shown the importance of these things. The war seemed very close and the men were serious about the training.*

*They were busy all the time. Training was conducted on the basis of an eight hour day, seven days a week, with a minimum of 16 hours spent in night operations. In the free time there were movies or shows which the men put on themselves or perhaps an opportunity to get a ride to a nearby shower unit for a bath. The last was probably the most welcome.*

*By February 10 the balance of the Division had arrived in the area and they too joined in the training program. The 42nd Infantry Division was now officially in France. Task Force Linden had been dissolved on February 6. \*[15]*

**We spent three wonderful weeks in Gremecy getting a much-needed rest. We also received many replacements for the men we had lost in the fighting. Company K was only at about half strength when we arrived at Gremecy. Captain Jones had been transferred back to Regimental HQ and Lt. Zillmer was now Company K Commander. Stoft arrived back from Paris and was now the Second Platoon Leader. Former First Sgt. Rains was also back and now Company Executive Officer. Sgt. Slinker and Pfc. Mc Kissack left Company K to join the newly formed Rainbow Rangers. The replacements that I can remember coming into the Second Platoon were Hood, Childress, Hennessey, Hines, Hoard and Pace. Blackie Bolton and Pfc. Butler came in some time later.**

**Because we were settled in one place for such a long time, a lot of mail caught up with us. Most everyone received several letters and packages. Lt. Stoft had a package waiting for him when he arrived back from Officers training school, and to show us that he was still just one of the boys, he brought the package unopened to our room. As he started to open it he declared that there should be some good stuff for all of us.**

**The first thing that popped out when he opened the package was a little plastic “musical sweet potato”, fastened to a card that said, “Send this to your lonely serviceman overseas to while away his lonesome hours.” Stoft’s face turned scarlet red and he muttered something about how the damn fool civilians knew nothing about what went on in a war, or what men needed.**

**While we were at Gremecy, a couple of truck loads of men were allowed to go to Nancy, France, each day, for recreation. There wasn’t much to see or do there, except the Red Cross did maintain a refreshment facility, where hot coffee and doughnuts could be had. You can’t imagine how good those doughnuts were after all the army chow we had been eating for weeks. We could only get two each time we went through the line. I managed to go through the line 11 times the day I was there. Of course I did not eat quite all 22 doughnuts that day. I took some back to Gremecy.**

By far, the best thing about Nancy was that we were able to take a bath. My long woolen underwear came off for the first time in over a month. There was a heated indoor swimming pool and my buddy and I spent the afternoon soaking in it.

We heard a rumor that some men were going to be allowed to go to Paris for a few days. This was one of the rare times that the rumor proved to be true. It was decided by the high command how many total men could go and it added up to two per battalion. (A battalion contained 7 or 8 hundred men as best as I can remember.) At Third Battalion HQ all the men's names in the Bn. were put in a pot and two names were drawn out. We didn't even know there was a drawing until Lt. Zillmer called Usher and I in and informed us that we were the lucky winners. We could hardly believe we were hearing Zillmer right when he told us that we were the only two men out of the entire Bn. and both of us from the same platoon and formerly same squad would be going to Paris.

A few days later, we met with the other winners and boarded a truck for our trip. The passes were for three days. When we were within 30 or 40 miles of Paris, we came to a barricade in the road with a sign saying the bridge ahead was washed out from flood waters. The driver got out his maps and chose an alternate route.

After traveling on this road for about an hour we came to another closed road this time with an American military man standing guard. He told us the road was impassible and we would have to find another way. After we tried several more roads with the same result, the driver announced there was only one more possibility left. We tried it and soon came to an MP on guard duty who informed us the same thing that all the others had said. Our driver begged him to let us through and explained that we were front line combat men who had just been through weeks of sheer hell and we deserved to get to Paris. The MP finally relented and closed his eyes while we drove on. It gave us great satisfaction to see that he refused to let the truck behind us, that was filled with Air Corps men, through.

Usher and I wore our nearly new fur liners with the fur on the outside and thought we looked pretty good for a couple of men who had only recently had a bath for the first time in weeks. We were approached several times by young French ladies who would feel of the fur and say, "Ooh la la". We thought this was a good sign. We had a nice hotel room with a bath, real beds, and all the luxuries we had become accustomed to doing without. We soon learned how to get all around Paris on the subway system.

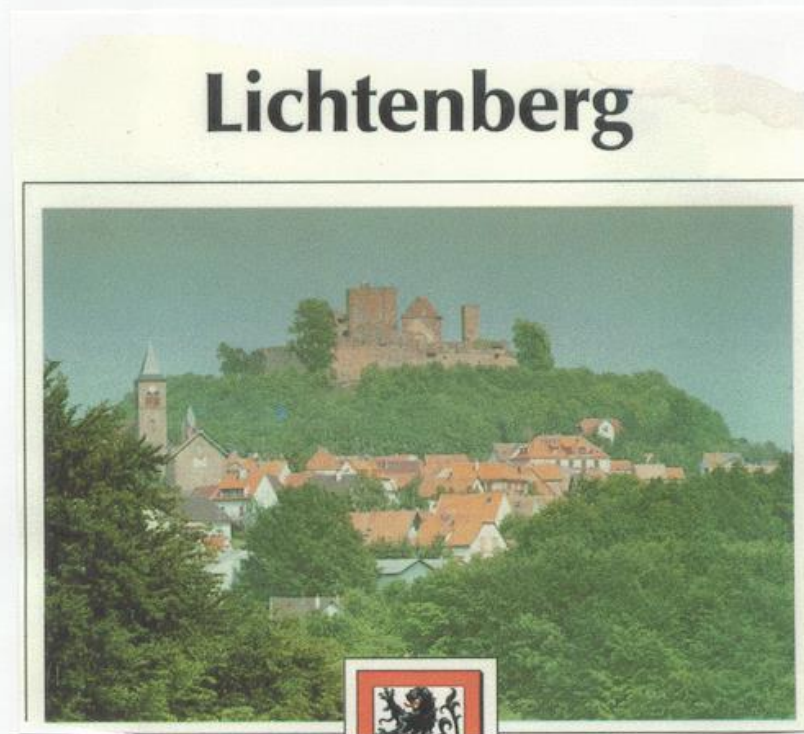
We saw the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, and went to see the Bastille. When we got to the place it was supposed to be and saw nothing of it we asked a Frenchman where it was. He said it was destroyed in the French Revolution so we were a few hundred years too late. Usher had a camera and we took one roll of pictures. At the USO club we could drink the first coca cola we had since leaving the states. (It is hard to imagine how much we missed the little things in life until you don't have them.)

At night we visited the nightspots, Follies and so forth, the three days zipped by so fast we could hardly believe it. When we got back to Gremecy everyone in the company gathered around us and drooled while we laid it on heavy about all we saw and did.

We got right back in the old routine of running training exercises of various kinds. Despite having to spend most of the day out in the woods in the cold, we knew we had a good warm floor to return to for the night and we were very happy and satisfied to be there and not at all anxious to leave.

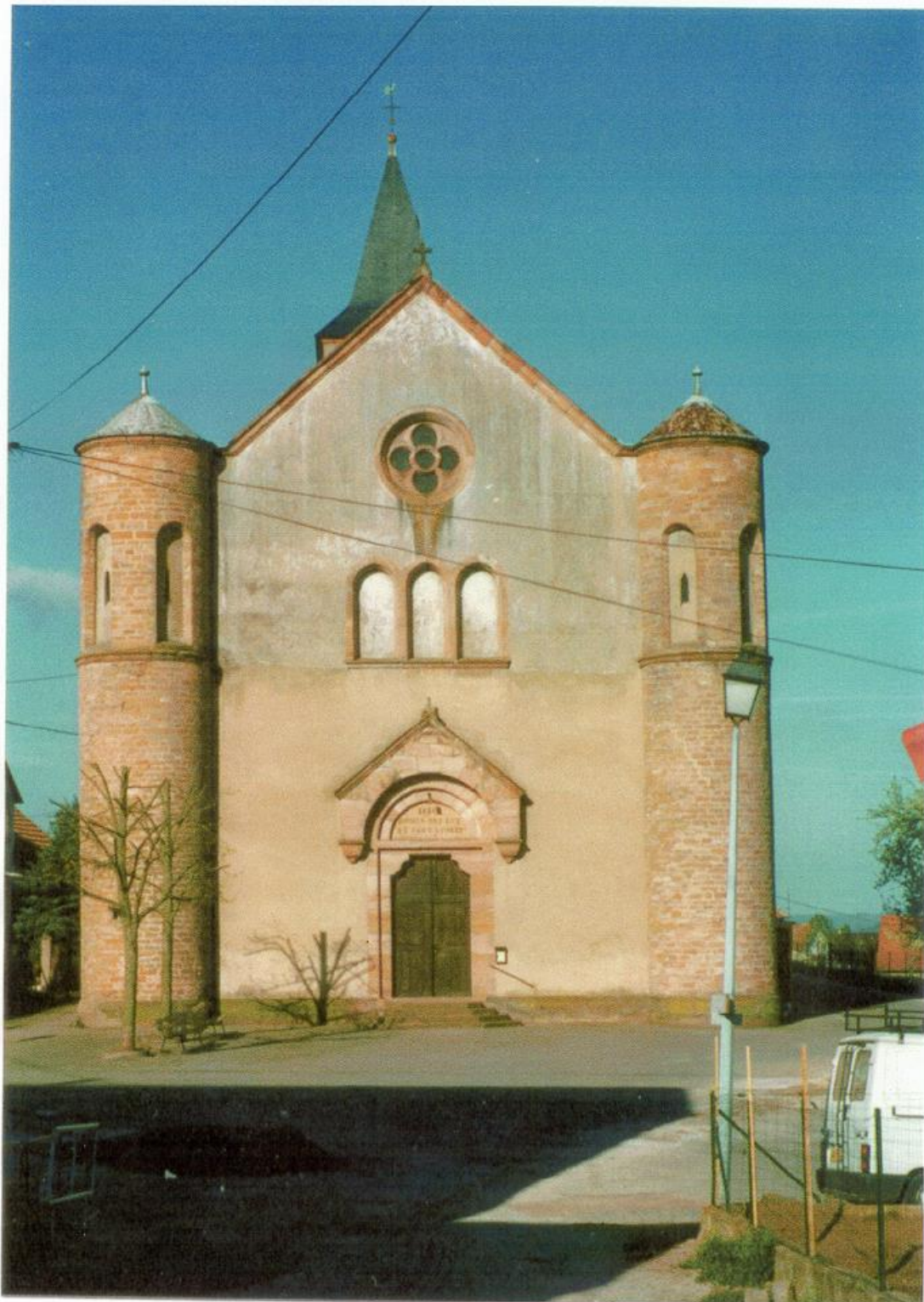
This Castle at Lichtenberg, France was used as our observation point while we were in a defensive position for three weeks, from Jan 27, 45 until March 14 when we started the final big offensive of the war. I visited the Castle on the 1976 "Trail of the Rainbow Tour" and in 1995 when I was in France, Germany, and Austria with about 100 members, including family members, celebrating VE day. Norm Usher and I rented a car and travelled back to all the places we were in during the war. Albrecht and I also visited Lichtenberg in 1997.

During the war we occupied engineer dug fox holes here each about 6 or 8 feet square with log roofs over them.



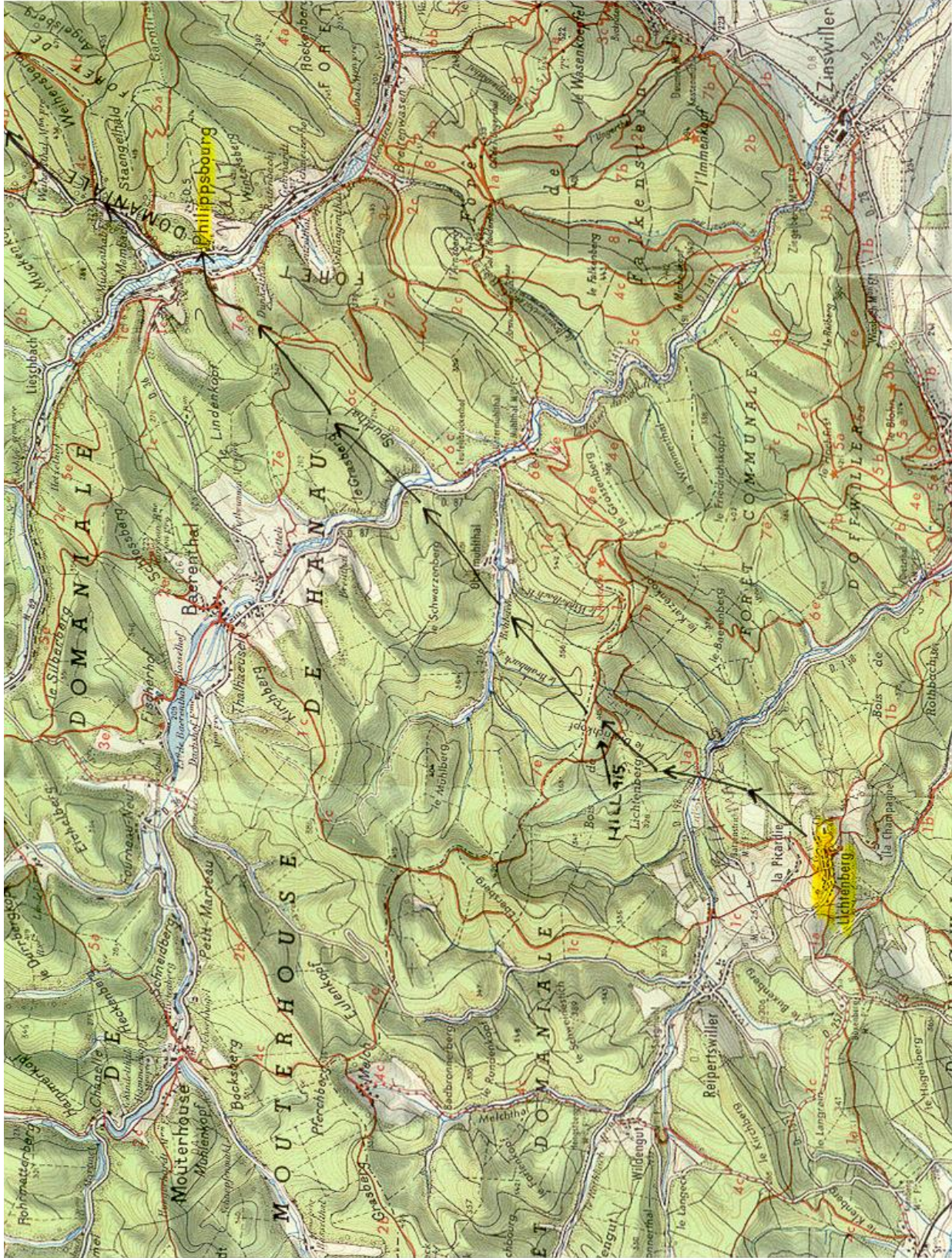
58A





LICHTENBERG, FRANCE





BIG PUSH STARTED MAR 15 1" = 1.5 MILES







On the 17th of February, we loaded up in trucks and headed for the Vosges Mountains. We rode most of the day and when we got within a few miles of Lichtenberg, France (SEE MAP 7), we had to de-truck, because the road leading into the town was in plain sight of the enemy positions, which were in the mountains nearby. We marched the last few miles under the cover of a smoke screen laid down by our forces. The plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was that two companies would be out in the woods in a defensive position and the other one back in the town of Lichtenberg in reserve.

Luckily, Company K got reserve duty first. The plan was for each company to rotate with four days in reserve then eight days on the line. The defense line was about a mile or so from the town. While in town we got hot meals and we secured billets in the civilian homes. The First Squad found some potatoes in the cellar of the house we were staying in and someone found some grease to fry them in. The result of eating them was that everyone had the GI's all night. Some made it all the way to the outhouse and others barely made it outside the door of our living quarters. The Second Platoon billets were about two blocks from the Company K kitchen. We walked up to the kitchen, filled our mess kits and usually brought them back to the house to eat.

One day after getting my mess kit filled with food, I started walking back to our billets to eat. We had to carry our weapons at all times, when we were out of our billets. As I walked along holding my mess kit by the handle, my rifle slipped off my shoulder and as the sling struck my forearm the mess kit folded up and the food went flying up in my face.

As I was standing in line for chow one day, a jeep with a small trailer behind it came in to our kitchen area loaded with food and supplies. The trailer had an open stake body with the top covered with canvass. I could see through the sides what looked like a 10 pound bag of sugar. When I got back to our billet, I told the men of the second platoon that if we could come up with enough chocolate and powdered milk from our pooled K rations, I would steal the bag of sugar and make some home made fudge. Everyone thought this was a splendid idea and we soon had collected enough chocolate and milk. As soon as it got dark I made my way up to the kitchen and to the trailer parked behind it. I reached in between the slats and gradually, with some difficulty, succeeded in getting the bag through the crack and hurriedly made my way back to the house. When I got back to the light of our house, we were very disappointed to see that what I thought was sugar was a bag of salt.

At the peak of the highest mountain near Lichtenberg was a 700-year old castle which the Rainbow Division was using as an observation post. I walked up the trail to the castle a couple of times while we were the reserve company. I could see for several miles in most directions. The town of Reipertswiller was plain to see off in the distance. (On "The Trail of the Rainbow Tour" of 1976, we visited the castle again. With the maps I had with me I could see where our defensive positions were during the war. )

After we finished our 4 days and nights in town it was time for us to relieve a company on the line. The date was February 21, 1945. We made our way past the castle to the crest of another mountain and occupied well-constructed engineer made foxhole positions. Across the valley, about four hundred yards distant, the Krauts were dug-in similar facilities.

*"By February 10 the balance of the Division had arrived in the area and they too joined in the training program. The 42nd Infantry Division was now officially in France. Task Force Linden had been dissolved on February 6.*

*On February 14 the Rainbow received its orders to move into the front lines and relieve the 45th Infantry Division in an area near Wimmenau and Wingen in the Hardt Mountains northwest of Haguenuau. Two days later the Division began its move into the lines and it was completed*

*without incident. At midnight on February 17 the command of the sector passed to Major General Harry J. Collins and the Rainbow Division began its first day of combat as a unit in World War II.*

*The Division had been assigned a defensive mission. The 222nd Infantry was assigned the left of the Rainbow sector and the 232nd was placed on the right. The 242nd Infantry was put in reserve. On the 232nd front the Second Battalion was placed on the right, the Third Battalion was assigned the center and the First Battalion was put on the left. The 222nd Infantry placed the First Battalion on the right, the Second in the center and the Third on the left.*

*The entire Division front covered a distance of approximately eight miles, with this divided equally between the 222nd and the 232nd regiments. On the right of the Division was the 103rd Infantry Division and on the left was the 100th Infantry Division. On the Moder River the infantrymen had fought on the right of the 103rd Division. Now they were on its left.*

*Attached to the Division were the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 191st Tank Battalion, the 83rd Chemical Battalion (minus Companies A and B) and the 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. In direct support was the 431st AAA AW Bn., which was to remain with the Rainbow throughout its period of combat and become almost a regular unit of the Division.*

*Immediately upon moving into the area the Division began a vigorous program of patrolling and raids to determine enemy strength, dispositions and identifications. It also had another purpose. General Collins wanted his Division to be aggressive. He was afraid another period of defensive fighting would have a bad psychological effect upon the men. (Here is 'Hollywood Harry' our nickname for Collins, fresh from the states without a day of combat experience worrying about bad psychological effects on men who had just been through hell for six weeks, because we were not in hell at the present time.)*

*Now the front line infantrymen set up housekeeping in foxholes, although the majority of other men lived in houses, billeted in French homes or in buildings, which had been evacuated.*

*Opposing the Division when it moved into the line was the German 6th Mountain Division, an experienced unit that had been stationed for some time in Norway and was trained in fighting in the woody and mountainous terrain, which the Rainbow was now occupying.*

*Although the Division was superior in numbers, the enemy had well prepared defenses and had laid thousands of mines along the front. The majority of these were Shu-mines, a small mine intended for use against personnel which could be set off by the weight of a man. The explosion of such a mine would usually smash a foot or the lower part of the leg. Patrols came to have more respect for them than for enemy fire.*

*The Division's defenses also included mine fields and before the front line foxholes men rigged up booby traps and trip wires to ensnare enemy patrols.*

*Only a few patrols ever crossed into Rainbow territory, however. For the most part the enemy was kept too busy with our excursions into his lines to be making any attacks himself. As an indication of the amount of patrol activity conducted by the Rainbow, from February 18 to February 28 the infantry carried out a total of 139 reconnaissance and combat patrols. These patrols ranged over the entire Division front, penetrating the enemy lines up to a distance of 2000 yards and determined the strength and location of enemy installations.*

*Of the total number of patrols, the 222nd Infantry Regiment conducted 32 reconnaissance patrols and 34 combat patrols. These patrols killed 32 Germans, wounded four and captured four*

*prisoners. Their losses were five men killed, 19 wounded and two men missing, with the majority of casualties caused by enemy mines.*

*The 232nd Infantry conducted 38 reconnaissance patrols and 26 combat patrols, during the same 11-day period. In these patrols two men were killed, 16 wounded and two were missing, while the known enemy casualties totaled 12 dead and three wounded. Here again mines caused the majority of the regiment's casualties.*

*The 242nd Infantry conducted nine combat patrols during the same period in which it killed 30 Germans, wounded 15 and captured four. Its losses totaled 4 men killed, 10 wounded and 7 missing.*

*Supporting the patrols were the Division Artillery and elements of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion, which would rain down death upon the enemy when he opened fire upon our patrols.*

*'The artillery was so bad that we would rather retreat than fire upon your men when we saw them coming,' a prisoner said. 'It got so bad that we were afraid to fire, for if a machine gun opened up you would locate the position and blast it with your terrible artillery.'*

*During this time the artillery began its first use of the then secret shells, which contained a radar device in the nose and would explode at a pre-determined distance above the ground.*

*The constant patrolling and the shellfire shattered the morale of the Germans and several of the enemy deserted their units and surrendered to our troops. To encourage this tendency to quit, the Division on February 28 conducted a psychological warfare program which, which included a 15-minute preparation by artillery and mortars, the firing of leaflets urging the enemy to surrender and a broadcast to them to give up.*

*In addition to the front line activity the Division also conducted an extensive training program throughout the period it remained in its defensive positions in the mountains. The 242nd Infantry trained on an eight—hour day, seven—day week basis. At the Division administrative center a five—day training program was conducted for all reinforcements received. A school for snipers was conducted and company officers and non-commissioned officers received instruction from the Division Artillery on the methods of adjusting artillery fire.*

*At the same time units were learning how to make themselves as comfortable as possible even though men were living in dugouts and foxholes. Most companies served a hot breakfast and a hot supper and usually hot soup to supplement a cold dinner. All clothing became community property and shower units and clothing exchange centers were established immediately behind the front lines. Men would go back to them, shower and turn in their dirty uniforms for clean ones. All sox were turned into a company pool where the men on KP washed them and clean sox were brought up each day with the food. Mess kits were also turned in and were passed out for each meal and then taken back to the rear and washed. Even PX rations occasionally made their way into the front lines and twice each man was given a couple of cans of beer. There were also movies shown in some barn or battered theater.*

*(Although we had a pretty easy life while on the line, I don't remember any showers or mess kits being washed etc. I think our units must have missed out on these luxuries. In fact we received no hot meals of any kind while on the line we ate only C rations. In our sector the only road to us could be seen for miles by the enemy and therefore was used very little by our vehicles.)*

*In the north the Allies had started their attack and the Germans were on the run. By the first week in March the Third Army was moving and the Seventh was sure to start pushing soon.*



*On March 10 the 242nd Infantry was ordered to replace the 222nd Infantry on the line and the following day the relief began. It was completed on 0730 on March 12. In this relief the First Battalion of the 242nd took over the positions of the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry, and the Second Battalion of the 242nd relieved the First Battalion of the 222nd while the two Third Battalions exchanged positions. The 242nd Infantry immediately resumed the aggressive patrolling which had characterized the defense of the 222nd Regiment.*

*Meanwhile, the enemy had changed his forces opposing the division. On the night of February 27 Germans laid down a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire and under this the elements of the 6th Mountain Division were withdrawn and replaced by the 221st Volksgrenadier Regiment. In the brief period this unit had been in the line it had come to respect the Rainbow and fear its patrols and raids.*

*'Is your Division a part of Roosevelt's SS?' asked one German when captured. The remark was passed along and men kidded each other about being in the Rainbow SS.*

*On March 13 the Division received instructions that the Seventh Army would advance on the 15th and preparations were begun for the attack--the first attack by the Rainbow Division in World War II and one which was not going to stop until the Division reached the border of Austria at the end of the war." \* [16]*

By this time in the war, we were beginning to get the new C rations. The old ones consisted of only three varieties. There were beans, hash and stew. By this time, the only ones most of us would eat were the beans. When we received new cases of C rations we would immediately discard the stew and hash away and pass out the beans. The stew and hash looked like dog food and tasted about what I imagined dog food would taste like.

The new C rations consisted of several varieties of canned foods and we liked them much better than the old.

We soon found out how lucky we were because K Company had drawn the first reserve positions. It was several days before Collins gave orders for the reserve units to conduct combat patrols against the enemy positions. Now the Company that relieved us when we went to the front line defensive position was ordered to run these patrols. The combat patrol consisted of about 50 men. Unlike a reconnaissance patrol, whose mission was to sneak in undetected, if possible, see what was going on and report their findings when they got back to our lines, a combat patrol was to actively seek the enemy and engage them in a fight when they were found.

This was supposed to test the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy. When a force of 50 men engages a well-fortified Main Line Defensive position in direct combat you can well figure who, is going to get the worst of the deal. (Despite the statistics quoted from the rainbow history of our casualties versus theirs, I have my serious doubts if these statistics reflect the true picture.) We believed, at the time, of the 50 man patrols it was fortunate if a dozen or two made it back unscathed.

Men who were seriously wounded came crawling in to our positions for hours or even a day or more after the combat patrol was over. Often we could hear moans coming from the direction of the enemy lines and surmised that it was some of our men still trying to get back. We had the area in front of our lines so heavily mined and booby trapped that we dared not venture out to try to investigate the moans we heard. Several Rainbow men made it nearly back to our positions only to get killed by these mines and booby traps.

Company K was on the line eight days and then we headed back for Lichtenberg thinking about little else except that it would now be our turn to run the hated combat patrols. This was the only time in combat where we would have much preferred to be on the line than back in reserve. The first day back in town the Second Platoon was not called on for a patrol. The First Platoon was. Sgt. Ross led the patrol. Sterns was killed Galowski and Koval were wounded. Nitzel, Griffith, Koval, Parrish, Urban, Heller, and Nicholson got pinned down but finally made it back to our lines.

March 1, 45 the second day of our stay in reserve the Second Platoon was scheduled to start out at 4 a.m. on our combat patrol. We were up and ready to go when we got orders that the patrol was cancelled. What a relief this was!

After our four days in town Company K returned to the defensive positions. The date was March 5. We were sent to a different area than before. This time we were on the left side of the line instead of the right. We had lots of time to kill while there. There was only sporadic shellfire coming in from the Krauts. We were too far from them for small arms fire.

We spent our days placing more booby traps in the area in front of our foxholes. We used mines until we ran out, and then started using hand grenades. We would fasten them to a tree about waist high with wire. Then we would fasten one end of a thin green wire to the pin and the other end to another tree or bush about 10 to 20 feet away. The pin was straightened so that the slightest pull on the wire would bring it out, setting the grenade off.

Hoch and I were working together and he seemed to be so clumsy at it that I was scared to death he was going to stumble over an existing wire and get us both killed. I made a sketch of all the mines and booby traps in front of our foxhole, in case we needed to get through the area in the dark. I would have hated to have to try to do so, but figured it would be better than nothing if we did have to.

For several days in the evenings at about 7 p.m. American trucks with public address systems with huge speakers would broadcast to the Krauts that their situation was hopeless and suggested that they should make their way over to our side and surrender. The broadcasts lasted about 15 minutes. They were told they would have a grace period to surrender after which they would be severely shelled. After the time was up the barrage started. We threw every bit of shellfire we could muster from Company mortars to Corps Artillery. This fire lasted about 15 minutes and was the heaviest we had ever witnessed.

After the barrage was over there would usually be a few enemy troops that would take heed and make their way over to our positions to surrender. I don't know how they managed to get there without blowing them themselves up. They must have been instructed how to proceed in order to make it over safely.

Sgt. Sullivan got a package from home one day, containing among other things some tea bags. He passed them around to everyone that said they would like to have a cup of hot tea. Pfc. Hood, from Louisiana, apparently had never seen a tea bag before, because he heated his water then tore the tea bag open and poured the contents into the water. It was many days before we tired of telling of this incident to each other and not letting him forget it either.

On the 14th of March we were told that the next day we would be heading through the enemy lines. We moved back into Lichtenberg to get ready to push of f. For some unknown reason to us, the Second Platoon was assigned to Company I for the initial push. We were told we would be traveling very light. We were ordered to take no packs. We were to take weapons,

ammunition and gas masks only. Former Sgt. Kermit Anderson arrived back as Platoon Leader of the 3rd Platoon with his new 2nd Lt. Bars.

The gas masks were a source of constant friction between most of the troops and the officers. We were supposed to have them with us at all times. The way they were fitted the straps crisscrossed with the other equipment straps with the effect that they felt as if they were cutting us in two. There was a very small minority of men who were afraid enough of being gassed to put up with the extreme discomfort. The rest of us thought the chances of the Krauts using gas were too slender for us to take the torture of the gas masks. I was with the majority.

Every few weeks we would get a new shipment of gas masks and one would be issued to everyone who didn't have one. The issuing officer would usually proclaim that this was the last time that they were going to be issued and if we lost this one, dire consequences would result. I don't think the officer thought for one minute that anyone was going to pay any attention to this proclamation but felt it his duty to try.

*"The original mission of the Division in that first assault was to capture the high ground in the vicinity of the town of Schonau (SEE MAP 9) and to uncover the Siegfried Line. It was then to push on and smash through the West Wall.*

*The 222nd Infantry was to assemble in the vicinity of Lichtenberg, pass through the 232nd Infantry and attack through the mountains to the northeast to clear the vital Bitche-Haguenau road and continue its drive to reach the high ground north of the Fallenstein River, while the 242nd Infantry was to clear the Bitche—Haguenau road in its zone and then continue the attack to capture the high ground north of Ludwigswinkle. The 117th Cavalry was directed to support the attack by fire initially until uncovered by the 242nd Infantry and then conduct reconnaissance in its zone with particular attention to the west flank and the routes toward Pirmasens, the largest city in the area.*

*Also formed for the attack was Task Force Coleman, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frederick W. Coleman III, which consisted of the Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry, motorized, a platoon of tanks, a platoon of tank destroyers, and engineer platoon, a Battery of armored field artillery and a platoon from the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop. It was organized as a fast moving striking force prepared to exploit any breakthrough.*

*Now came the time when all the patrolling and raids were to pay dividends. The continual thrusts into the enemy line had determined the strong points and the weaknesses in his defense. They had also determined the locations of the minefields. Now when the Division advanced it would be into an area, which it knew well and it would move over routes, which its patrols had charted. That constant patrolling, unpleasant as it had been, was to be repaid in lives saved.*

*One of the greatest problems, which faced the Division, was supply. The advance was to be made into an area in which there were few, if any, roads. Those, which existed, would be either mined or blocked with craters and fallen trees. This difficulty had long been foreseen and on the 26th of February the 513 Mule Pack Company had been assigned to the Division. Infantrymen had been trained in mule—skinning and included in the preparations for the attack was the loading of equipment on the mules.*

*The area over which the Division was to advance was probably the most rugged on the entire front. It was entirely wooded and the mountains were high and steep. Just walking through them on a hiking trip would be difficult. To fight through them loaded down with weapons and ammunition and radios and medical equipment was a task, which would require the utmost in courage and physical stamina.*



*At 0645 on March 15 the Rainbow attack began and the men of the 242nd and 222nd Infantry Regiments smashed into the prepared defenses in the Hardt Mountains in an assault which began without an artillery preparation and which took the Germans by complete surprise.*

*After moving forward with almost no initial opposition the 222nd Infantry met heavy resistance about 2,000 yards in front of its former lines at Hills 384 and 402. For five hours a stubborn enemy held up the Regiment's advance but a flanking maneuver and an assault finally overcame the enemy and the advance continued. The 242nd Infantry encountered extensive minefields and also received small arms and mortar fire, which slowed its advance in the early stages of the attack. It continued to move ahead steadily, however, and by nightfall had captured the town of Baerenthal. (SEE MAP 7) Both regiments made total gains of approximately 6,000 yards that first day. When uncovered by the 242nd Infantry, dismounted elements of the 117th Cavalry advanced 1,000 yards on the Division's left flank but mounted units were unable to push forward as all roads were blocked by mines, trees or craters.*

*On March 16, the 222nd Infantry advanced against heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire and cut the Bitche-Niederbronn road. Early enemy who attempted to cut it off attacked the same day the First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry, which was in the rear of the Regiment's advance. The attack was repulsed with heavy enemy casualties and approximately 115 prisoners were captured. The attack cut communications, but they were restored quickly and by 0800 all units of the regiment had resumed the advance. During the day the enemy resistance was light, but progress was delayed by the mountainous, densely wooded terrain and by mines and booby traps. Despite this, the Third Battalion of the 242nd Infantry crossed the Bitche-Niederbronn road late that afternoon, the Second Battalion captured the high ground south of the road and the First Battalion seized the dominating terrain south of Mouterhouse. (SEE MAP 7)*

*Meanwhile, the 232nd Infantry on March 15 out-posted the entire division front and at the start of the attack Company B with a platoon of Company A had jumped off and captured Hill 302, 500 yards northeast of Reipertswiller, (SEE MAP 7) a shambles of a town which was located in the middle of what had been no-mans land. Enemy dead had lain unburied amid the rubble for several weeks and the town gave off a stench that few men will forget. With the town and the hill behind it captured, the same force then pushed on and took surrounding high ground. \* [17]*

*At four a.m. on the morning of March 15, the Second Platoon joined I Company for our advance toward the enemy. As we marched off, my gas mask straps were already getting extremely uncomfortable. I managed to get a pocketknife out of my pocket and begin to saw away on one of the straps. After a few minutes of sawing with the knife I did get a strap cut. I then pulled the gas mask off and let it slide to the road. As it hit the road I heard someone say, "there goes the first one". Within a few minutes dozens more had joined it on the road.*

*We marched toward our previous line positions and on through them. We then proceeded down the steep mountainside, through the woods of the valley then up the mountain toward the Kraut lines. We were heading in a northeast direction toward the town of Phillipsbourg, France. (SEE MAP 7) We made our way slowly through the heavily timbered area. It was hard to believe the damage that our artillery had done to the timber in this the enemy lines.*

*I was simply awe stricken and wondered how in the world anyone could have survived this kind of bombardment. While we were in the defensive positions near Lichtenberg I had picked up a few pieces of shrapnel that had struck the trees near my foxhole. The pieces were about the size of my hand had extremely sharp jagged edges. They made sounds that would strike terror into you, as they passed through the trees cutting off limbs and embedding*

themselves in the larger timber. (I still have a couple of pieces that I brought home as souvenirs.) The timber at our positions had suffered nothing like we saw now.

We slowly advanced and encountered dozens of American servicemen's bodies lying as they had fallen in this "no mans land". This was the first time we had encountered a situation like this. Previously our dead were taken care of quickly enough that we did not see large numbers of them. Now there were too many and we were too close to major German lines to have them quickly taken care of. There were many American weapons beside the bodies also. We began to collect the weapons especially the BARs. In this one day we found enough BARS so that the Second Platoon could have three to a rifle squad instead of the intended one.

We pushed onward over mountain and down valley all day and late that night were told to dig in on the top of the mountain. We dug foxholes and tried to get some sleep. Since we had no bedding, of any kind, it was almost impossible to do so. Because we were so bone tired, we did try to get some sleep. We would lie down on the frozen ground and maybe doze off for a few minutes. Then we would wake up so stiff and cold that we had to get up and move around to try to warm up.

The night finally passed and we fought our way onward all day. This was March 16, 1945. We had no food for 24 hours. Late in the afternoon the Second Platoon Rejoined Company K. We now received some K rations and as little as we liked them, they tasted pretty good now. We swapped tales with the other men of Company K about what we had been doing since we parted, and listened to what they had to tell.

The rest of Company K pushed off from Lichtenberg over hill 415. (SEE MAP 8) (On this scale map it is a couple of inches due north of Lichtenberg. (The mountains got their names from their elevation above sea level. Thus this one was 415 meters above sea level.) The valleys in this area were about 250 meters elevation. So this made the highest hills about 5 or 6 hundred feet higher than the valleys. This doesn't seem like a lot but they were very steep and difficult to climb. Our supplies had to be brought to us by mules because there were few roads over these mountains.

We learned that while we were separated from the Company that Miron, Griffith and Gunteroth had been wounded during the first day of attack. (Morning Reports) agrees this date)

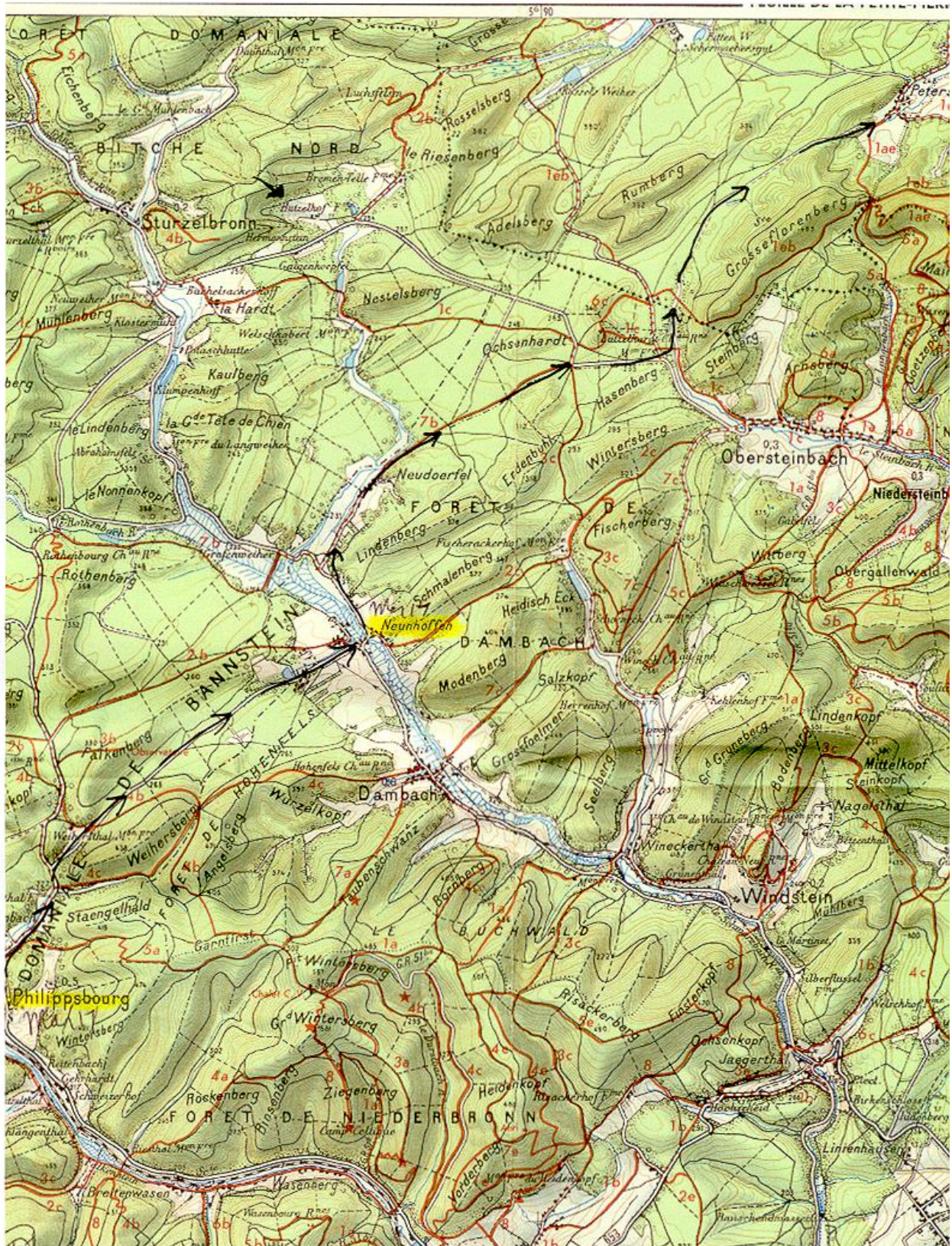
After eating and resting a half hour we pushed off again. We moved onward until midnight. We then stopped and dug in on the top of a hill and tried to get some sleep. We still had no blankets, raincoats, or heavy coats so we got very little sleep. We were also so short handed that we were pulling guard duty with two hours on and two hours off.

Early the next morning the 17th of March, we pushed off again. By now the entire Division was through the German defensive lines and we were fanning out and securing company and platoon objectives. So far we had been strictly in the woods as we advanced through the Kraut lines. Now we were on our way to the town of Philippsbourg, (SEE MAP 7) our next Company objective. By noon we had taken the town. We encountered moderate resistance with some small arms fire and some 88 artillery fire.

*"On March 16 the units out posting the front were assembled and the 232nd Infantry advanced in the center of the Division sector with the 222nd Infantry on its right and the 242nd on the left. Composed of only two battalions, the Second having been assigned to Task Force Coleman, the regiment advanced with them abreast and captured all high ground south of Baerenthal before nightfall.*







1" = 6 MILES 1.5



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*On the Division's left flank efforts continued to clear roads of mines so that the 117th Cavalry could strike northward toward Pirmasens. To accomplish this Task Force Coleman was directed to attack and clear the enemy from the Division's left flank to the Althorn—Mouterhouse road. Although it met no enemy resistance, the task force was able to advance only very slowly through the dense woods and mountains and it was not until the following day that the unit reached the town of Mouterhouse. (SEE MAP 8) Meanwhile, A and B troops of the cavalry unit attacked northeast to Mouterhouse on foot. Patrols entered the town, but were met by small arms and mortar fire and withdrew to high ground southeast of the city.*

*On the following day, March 17, all regiments continued their advances and scored gains of up to 10,000 yards against little enemy opposition but over terrain, which demanded the maximum physical effort of every man.*

*This battle through the forest and mountains was an engineer's war as well as an infantryman's and men of the 142nd Engineer (Combat) Battalion, supported by other Engineer units were working feverishly to clear roads of mines, haul away or saw off the hundreds of huge trees that the retreating Germans had felled across every road and trail, and to fill in craters. These roads were desperately needed for supplies and over them the artillery must advance.*

*As the 232nd Infantry cleared road from Reipertswiller to Baerenthal, which was to be the main supply line for the Division, the engineers repaired it and on the 17th, traffic was rolling forward on this narrow, twisting trail. The fact it had been cleared and patched so quickly was an engineering miracle.*

*By nightfall on the third day of the advance the 222nd Infantry had pushed forward more than 5,000 yards to the high ground overlooking the town of Dambach (SEE MAP 8) and had taken its initial objective. Just to the left of the 222nd the 232nd Infantry had captured the town of Neunhoffen. (SEE MAP 8) and two companies from that regiment entered and seized Dambach. At daylight on the same day Company C of the 242nd Infantry advanced to Mouterhouse prepared to engage the enemy who had been defending the town but they met no opposition. In the town of Bannstein the Second Battalion of the same regiment met opposition from an enemy rear guard, but captured the town and 16 prisoners. The entire regiment then continued the advance and by 2000 it reached its initial objective in the vicinity of Stuzelbronn.*

*Following the clearing of Mouterhouse and the removal of mines from the Mouterhouse road the 117th Cavalry advanced up the road to the Neunhoffen, Dambach, Windstein road, where it was held up by a blown bridge and road blocks.*

*On March 18 the Division began its attack at 0500 with the weary doughboys once more clawing their way up mountains and along ridges. On this day they were to score two firsts. They were to be the first unit of the VI Corps into Germany and the first unit of the Corps to reach the Siegfried line. Considering that the advance the Division had made was through the most rugged terrain confronting any unit in the entire army, this was indeed a remarkable feat.*

*The first unit of the Division across the German border was the First Platoon of C Troop of the 117th Cavalry, which entered Germany as it reconnoitered the route in front of the 242nd Infantry on the way to Ludwigswinkel, key position in the Siegfried Line. Which Infantry unit was the first across the border is a matter of dispute. Both the Third Battalions of the 242nd and the 232nd Infantry Regiments claim the honor. On the basis of their own claims the Third Battalion of the 232nd won the race by four minutes for it reported crossing the German Border near the town of Husselkopf at 1434 while the corresponding battalion of the 242nd says it crossed the border at 1438. Meanwhile the 222nd Infantry was making an advance of 10,000 yards on the right and it seized the high ground northeast of Schonau." \*[18]*



We secured the town in about one hour and moved on towards Germany. The next objective was the town of Neunhoffen, France, (SEE MAP 8), about three miles northeast of Phillipsbourg. We began to encounter sniper fire as we approached the town and a reconnaissance group, not from our company, a few hundred feet in front of us, hastily got behind us when the firing started.

We moved through the woods in a skirmish line and after wiping out the snipers advanced to Neunhoffen. We secured billets and stayed in town for the night. We got the first good rest we had since we left Lichtenberg. We posted our usual all around security with two hours on and two hours off for the night.

The next day, which was March 18, 1945, we headed for the German border, which was about half way between Neunhoffen and Ludwigswinkel. We were now very close to Germany. All this time, up to now, we had been fighting the Krauts in France. Now we were getting close to actual Kraut territory. This gave us a psychological lift and we felt the war was really going our way now.

After pushing forward about three miles we crossed the German border at 6:05 p.m. We saw a sign at the border, nailed to a post that said, "You are now entering Germany courtesy of the 117th Cavalry reconnaissance Battalion." We all got a big laugh out of the sign. We knew from much experience that the recon outfits had a habit of rushing into territory where they encountered no resistance then rushed out declaring, "all is well no enemy in sight". Usually the enemy just laid low when they saw them and waited for the main attack force before showing their positions with gunfire. We figured the recon outfit had stayed in their vehicles, sped across the border, stuck the sign on the post and hauled ass back.

(I don't know if Company K was leading the battalion or not, so I don't know which unit of the Third Battalion actually crossed the border first.)

The first town we took after entering Germany was Fischbach. (SEE MAP 9)

We continued on Southwest toward the town of Ludwigswinkel. As we marched along I spied three or four blankets neatly folded up in the Drivers seat of an empty jeep. I quickly reached out as I passed by and lifted the top blanket off without even breaking my stride. I was thinking that I needed that blanket to keep from freezing to death a lot worse than he needed it to sit his big butt on. We didn't have a whole lot of use for troops that spent all their time on their butts anyway.

I swore an oath to myself, that come hell or high water, sniper fire, artillery fire, or anything else, I was going to hang on to that blanket the rest of my combat days.

The Second Platoon was in the lead of Company K and Company K was in the lead of the 3rd Battalion as, we felt, we usually were. We were marching directly toward the Siegfried line and didn't have the slightest idea that we were. I am sure that the higher officers of The Division knew that Ludwigswinkel was practically at the Siegfried. But I don't know if our Company Commander knew it or even if our Battalion Commander knew it. (In 2005 I asked Dave Zillmer if he knew we were approaching the Siegfried line and he said yes he knew it and told all the officers. It was just the enlisted men who did not know where we were going.

The Siegfried line was made up of fortifications that the Germans had been building and strengthening for years. Each fort on the line linked with the others. Trees were cleared in front of the positions, though the forts themselves were well camouflaged and concealed. The

fallen trees were left in place interlocked to make approach more difficult. Massive pillboxes were present every few hundred feet. The line was on the high ground across the valley of the Saarbach River. On the following page compare the sketch, which I drew in June 1945, with an actual map of the area.

We marched through the edge of Ludwigswinkel in a northeast direction. When we rounded the bend at the northeast end of town we were on the road heading directly toward the Siegfried. When the lead men of the Second Platoon were almost to the Saarbach River all hell broke loose. The Krauts opened up with machine guns from their well-concealed positions high up on the mountainside.

Only the Second Platoon was on the road in plain view to the Krauts. When the firing started the rest of the Company and the other companies behind just stopped and stayed in the town and sought cover. We didn't mind that, as it would not have helped us to have more men in the same predicament that we were in.

We were immediately pinned down and there was no cover. The terrain was flat with marshy fields on either side of the road. I hit the dirt, in a plowed field, along the right side of the road and taking my shovel out and laying flat on my belly began to dig a trench in the ground. I knew that if machine gun fire was raining down from the side of the mountain, artillery fire would not be long in coming. I barely got a shallow hole dug and rolled over in it when the 88's began to come in.

Usher, as Platoon Sgt., was in the lead of the platoon and was nearly all the way down to the river when the Krauts opened up. The rest of us were strung out from there to half way back to the town. I was one of the more fortunate ones, being fairly near the back end of the platoon positions.

Finally, after what seemed an eternity, orders were passed from Lt. Zillmer, who was back in town, for us to withdraw back to town. We were so strung out and with the noise from the gunfire it was hard to get the word passed from man to man but it did finally get done. When we got the word, we got up one at a time and high tailed it back toward town. We ran and zigzagged and prayed.

I watched each man that ran before me and saw the dust from the machine guns bullets kick up around him as he ran. When it got to be my turn I was not about to hinder my progress by picking up the recently acquired blanket and taking it back with me. I left it on the ground and ran as fast as I could toward town. I ran until I thought I could go no farther and spying a log on the side of the road, I dived behind it for a minutes rest. As I peeped over it I could see that it was of no value as a shield so I gathered all my remaining strength and jumped up and ran on back to town.

Amazingly enough, the whole platoon made it back with only one casualty and he was wounded by his own rifle going off as he tried to get out of the foxhole to make his way back. He was holding his rifle by the barrel end with his hand over the muzzle and some how, in getting out of the hole, it went off shooting him through the hand. His name was Pvt. Pace.

When I got back in town Lt. Zillmer asked me how the rest of the platoon was making it. I was furious, because it was obvious that we had been sent in into a major trap in broad daylight. Could have gotten us all killed. I said was "who was the stupid S O B who sent us into a trap like this. Zillmer didn't lose his cool he just kept

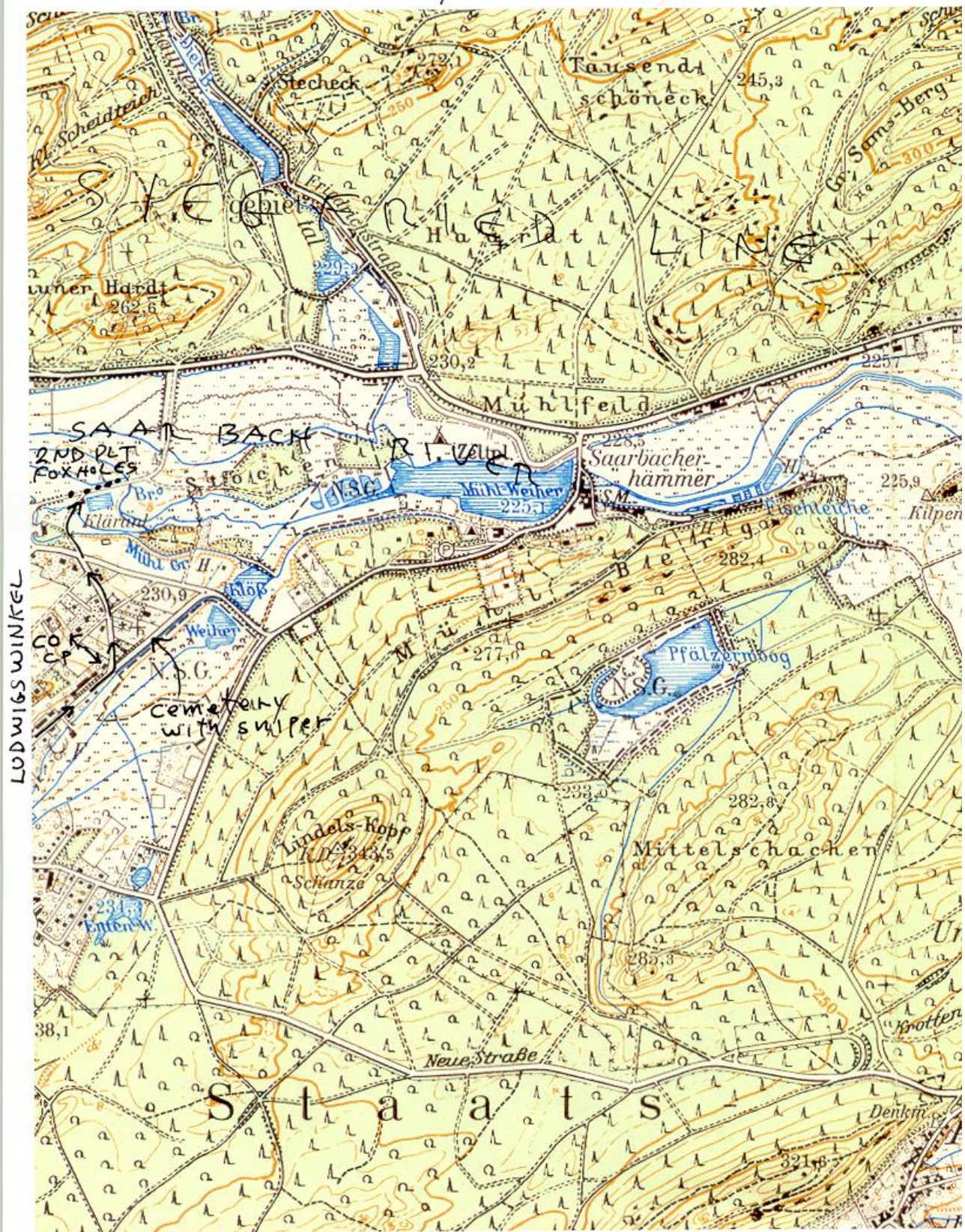




1" = ~~1.5~~ MILES ~~1.5~~



1" = 3/16 MILES







*ALBRECHT*

AT THE FRENCH GERMAN BORDER

THIS IS NEAR THE PLACE WE CROSSED INTO GERMANY DURING THE WAR ON MARCH 18 AT 6:05 PM



*J.R. PETIUS*

AT THE FRENCH GERMAN BORDER

These pictures were taken in April 1997. To the left is my good friend Albrecht Treuheit, a former German soldier. He is the author of "Der Niedergang der Hohenzollernveste, Cadolzburg am 17 April 1945. (The Destruction of the Royal Castle, 4-17-45) I wrote him after reading the book and we have become fast friends. He invited me to visit him in Cadolzburg and speak at the annual ceremony held on April 17 to remember the destruction of the Castle. I did so and had a wonderful time there.





### *SIEGFRIED LINE*

LUDWIGSWINKEL, GERMANY  
THIS IS THE ROAD WHICH WE  
ADVANCED UNKNOWNLY  
TOWARD THE FAMOUS  
SIEGFRIED LINE ON MARCH  
19, 1945. THE SECOND PLT.  
WAS LEADING THE ENTIRE  
BN. AND WE GOT ALMOST  
TO THE SAARBACH RIVER  
BEFORE THE KRAUTS OPENED  
UP WITH MACHINE GUNS.



### *FOX HOLE POSITIONS*

THE SECOND PLATOON WAS  
PINNED DOWN HERE FOR ALL  
DAY ON THE 21ST OF MARCH  
ON THIS SMALL ROAD JUST IN  
THE CENTER OF THE PICTURE.  
TO THE LEFT WAS THE RIVER.  
LATE IN THE AFTERNOON THE  
GERMAN POSITIONS WERE  
BOMBED AND THE DUST GOT  
THICK ENOUGH THAT WE  
COULD GET OUT OF OUR  
SHALLOW HOLES FOR AN  
HOUR OR SO. AT ABOUT 7 PM  
222ND REG. TROOPS MOVED  
THROUGH US AND BREACHED  
THE FAMOUS SIEGFRIED LINE.



### *SAARBACH RIVER*

(NOW ONLY A GRASSY MEADOW.)

THE SIEGFRIED BUNKERS AND  
GUN EMPLACEMENTS WERE NEAR  
THE MOUNTAIN TOP.



saying "Calm Down Pvt. Pettus Calm down." I suspected that Galloway was the culprit and told him so. I finally did get calmed down, however, and I went up to the second floor of the house and searched the mountainside with binoculars trying to see the Kraut positions. They were too well camouflaged for me to see anything. (In 1999 I visited Dave Zillmer at his home in Cherry Hill NJ and I asked him if he was aware that we were approaching the Siegfried Line on this occasion and he said "Certainly".)

About an hour after all of the Second Platoon men arrived back in town we were given orders to pull out and we went the opposite way from which we had just come. We headed out southwest. As we moved down the main street, the Krauts begin to shell the town heavily. They really had this street zeroed in. Whole buildings collapsed around us as we hastily made our way out of town. Pfc. Pittman and Lt. John Leonard were wounded. Pittman was taken to the hospital. (He is listed in the 232nd men killed group but the MR shows him back in Co K in May of 1945)

We moved through the town to a steep mountain facing the Kraut positions and dug in. (From my present maps I believe we were on Hill 368 (SEE MAP 9) As soon as it got dark the First and Third Platoons were ordered to go back to the Ludwigswinkel and take the same route that the Second Platoon had taken that morning and establish a bridgehead at the Saarbach River. Usher had seen and told us of an intact bridge over the Saarbach, when he got back to town, after being pinned down. We were amazed that the Krauts had not destroyed it long ago.

The two platoons made it, under the cover of darkness, to our former positions without any trouble. There were four tanks accompanying them. The tanks spread out about a hundred feet apart on the road and the men dug foxholes.

The Second Platoon remained in the defensive positions on the mountaintop. That night, March 19, as I was in my foxhole position on guard duty, I heard a loud noise coming from somewhere and as I looked toward the Kraut positions, I saw two figures on a road down in the valley. They were dragging something behind them as they moved hurriedly down the road. It took a few seconds for it to sink in that they were probably Krauts. About the time that I decided maybe I should shoot at them, they had disappeared. It probably would not have been a good idea anyway because we had patrols out between the Krauts and us.

On March 20, the next day the Second Platoon Leader, Bill Stoft, called me at my foxhole position on the phone to come down to the Company CP, which was down in the valley a few hundred yards away. He told me that he wanted me to go on patrol as BAR man. I shouldered my BAR, left my foxhole, and made my way down toward the CP. I tried to jump across a small creek and my bad knee collapsed throwing me to the ground. I landed with my BAR underneath me and the stock was completely broken in two. The knee begin to swell immediately and I hobbled on to the CP. When I got there the knee was already visibly swollen and Lt. Stoft saw that I was not be able to go on the patrol. He told Pfc. Gregorio Rodriguez to take my place, which he did. During the patrol Rodriguez stepped on a land mine and both of his legs were blown off. He was evacuated and we never saw him again. (The MR's show him wounded on Feb. 27 while we were at Lichtenberg, France, therefore I was wrong about the time and place of this patrol.)

I thought a lot about it for the next few days. Would I have been in exactly the same place at the same time so that it would have happened to me had I have been on the patrol? I was glad that I wasn't on the patrol but could not help but feel somewhat guilty about not being there. Meanwhile, the First and Third Platoons were dug in on the south bank of the Saarbach River directly across the river from the Siegfried line. They were all right during the night. They could get out of their foxholes and move about quietly and did not draw any enemy fire.

As soon as daylight came, which was on the morning of March 20, all hell broke loose. They stayed in their foxholes and prayed.

As soon as it got dark the Second Platoon was given orders to relieve the First and Third. They had dug foxholes the night before, but because the water table was only about a foot under the surface of the road, we were instructed to take sand bags with us, to fill and place around the holes for more protection. We took a large number of sand bags and spent most of the night filling them and putting them around the existing holes.

As it was with the other two platoons, we had no problems while it was dark. We knew what to expect, however, as soon as daylight came.

We were dug in on a narrow road with no cover of any kind except the four tanks that were over four foxholes. The river was between the Krauts and us and behind us was marshy ground. Because of the water table problem, we had to dig wide, long and shallow holes. Two men occupied each hole and we spent most of the time in them lying flat on our backs.

I thought at the time that the eight men who were under the tanks were better off than the rest of us. However later Usher, who was under one, said the concussion from the tanks firing almost ruptured their eardrums each time they fired. They may have been a little safer but it was certainly not a pleasant experience for them either.

There was absolutely nothing we could do, after daylight came, but lie on our backs and take what ever came our way. The Krauts fired a few bursts of machine gun fire at us as soon as it got light enough to see that we were still there. But they could see that they were not going to harm us as long as we remained in our holes so they soon quit the small arms fire and concentrated on artillery fire. The smallest movement above the sandbags would bring instant machine gun and rifle fire, showing how well they could see us. Once I stuck a K ration box a few inches above my hole and sure enough they opened up immediately.

I had a few unread letters, that I had not had time to read, in my pocket and I read them. We had K rations with us so we were able to eat. We used the K ration boxes to urinate in and pour the contents over the side of the sandbags. Other than those activities, about the only other thing we could do was pray.

While I was reading a letter, I came the nearest to getting killed yet. An 88 shell landed within three feet of my head, blowing the sandbags on the corner of our hole to bits and covering my face with sand. A bandolier of ammunition, which I was resting my head on, was half blown away. Hoch who was in the hole with me was afraid to look at his feet, which were on the end of the hole where the shell landed. He said later that he knew there was no way that I could be alive. He believed that I had received a direct hit. Lt. Stoft said later that he thought Hoch and I were both goners when he heard the shell land.

For the rest of the day I felt that every round coming in was going to be the one that would land directly on us. I prayed and prayed that this would not happen. The Krauts kept up the shelling all day. We were very fortunate that they apparently did not have time fire shells, but only those that went off upon contact. Our artillery was firing at the Kraut positions from way back in the distance, somewhere, and some of these rounds were falling short and landing on our positions also. Many of the Kraut rounds were landing in the river and when they exploded they sent a geyser of water a hundred feet high, which poured down on us and kept us soaking wet the entire time.

About 4 p.m., this was on March 21, four American p 51 planes came in over our positions and began to strafe and dive bomb the German lines. What a welcome sight this was.

The Krauts quit all firing activity, and the dust got so thick that they could not have seen us anyhow. We were able to get out of our holes, for the first time since before daylight, and walk around. We stood and watched the hillside reverberating and cheered the planes on. We saw that, as yet, we had suffered no casualties and were very happy about that.

The plane attack only lasted a few minutes but the heavy dust obscuring us from the Krauts and vice-versa lasted for about an hour. As soon as the dust began to disperse the Krauts started firing again and we hurriedly got back in our holes.

At about 7:45 p.m. the 222nd Infantry Regiment moved through our bridgehead and begin the attack on the Siegfried line. It was dark, by this time, and they slowly advanced on past us for several hours. As they advanced to the German pillboxes, explosive experts, who were waiting behind, were brought up to blow up the pillboxes. They were blown up as soon as possible so that if the Krauts made a successful counterattack we would not have to flush them out of these pillboxes a second time.

*“Across the Saarbach River when the Division arrived were two small bridges, both of them intact. Seeking to capture these bridges and take advantage of the enemy’s confusion, an attack was launched against them at 0400 on March 19. These two bridges, both commanded by fire from huge Siegfried fortifications, led to the only good road northward through the Division zone.*

*Selected for the task of assaulting the bridges were F and G Companies of the 232nd Regiment supported by a platoon of the 142nd Engineers. Advancing under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from positions in the Siegfried, the first and second platoons of Company G crossed the east bridge shortly after 0400 and took up positions on the north side. Two platoons of Company F seized the west bridge. At 0930 the enemy counterattacked Company G with a superior force and the two platoons, after suffering serious casualties, withdrew to positions south of the bridge. Some of the men withdrew underneath the structure and were there when it was blown away by the enemy. All were killed.*

*Despite intense fire and an enemy counterattack, Company F maintained its bridgehead throughout the day, but at 0430 on March 20 a superior enemy force counterattacked the company, inflicted heavy casualties, and drove it back across the river.*

*While the battle for the bridgehead still raged, other units of the Division closed into position and plans were made for a more deliberate attack on the fortifications. Patrols sent out to probe weak spots in the line met with stiff opposition and received enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire and obtained little information. Enemy artillery also fell on battalion and regimental command Posts.*

*Apparently the enemy was going to try to put up a fight, even though he was in a most precarious position. North of the Seventh Army the Third Army had broken through the Siegfried and was racing for the Rhine. Armored units were turning south and would soon be able to smash into the rear of the fortifications. It is doubtful if the enemy knew this, however. He was disorganized and communications had been almost completely destroyed.*

*On the afternoon of March 20 the order for attack of the Siegfried Line was issued. It provided for the 232nd Infantry to outpost the entire Division front with three Battalions on the line. From assembly areas in the vicinity of Niedersteinback the 222nd Infantry was to attack through the 232nd Infantry in the vicinity of Ludwigswinkel and secure four hills across the Saarbach River,*



*hold each with the equivalent of one rifle company, and then continue the advance to seize the secondary Siegfried defenses. The 242nd Infantry was given a mission of attacking through the 232nd Infantry to the west of Ludwigswinkel at a reported weak spot in the line, and then to proceed northward to capture the secondary defenses. If necessary, the 242nd Infantry was to swing in a semicircle to the east to assault the west Wall pillboxes from the rear in the 222nd Infantry area should that regiment be unable to overcome them. As it developed, this was not necessary. The attack was to be opened by the 222nd Infantry on March 21 and to be followed by the 242nd Infantry just prior to dawn the following morning.*

*At 1900 on March 21 close support aircraft, P-47's, dive-bombed and strafed the fortifications in front of the 222nd Infantry and that was followed by a half-hour artillery preparation. Men sat and crouched in their foxholes and watched the planes and artillery poured their fire into the Siegfried and prayed that the bombing and the shelling would at least so stun the Germans that they would put up little fight. Artillery shells had little effect upon the forts but the bombs put cracks in them and certainly the men inside would feel that every minute would be their last.*

*At 1945 the bombing and shelling stopped and the men of the 222nd Infantry began their advance. They were tense and nervous and they had every right to be. Some of the forts were damaged, but many others were still intact. If the enemy manned the guns they could still put up a terrific fight. But the Germans didn't fight. Some of them had already started to run. Some cowered in their pillboxes and quickly surrendered. There were a few snipers and a couple of machine guns opened fire but they didn't even delay the advance*

*The 222nd made its attack with the First Battalion on the left and the Second on the right. The Third Battalion followed the Second. The four hills overlooking the Sarrbach River were captured without difficulty and the regiment raced ahead through the night to its secondary objective.*

*Following a half-hour artillery preparation the 242nd Infantry attacked across the Saarbach River and at 0430 the following morning with the First and Third Battalions abreast and the Second in reserve. By 1045 the regiment had advanced to Hill 542 and entered the secondary defenses of the Siegfried. It found them unoccupied and then swung its attack to the northeast and east with an objective to take the high ground immediately north of the town of Dahn. Now the Germans were on the run and here was the opportunity to catch them on the roads and in the mountains and cut them off before they could make their escape.*

*This was the day when the 42nd Division Artillery came to the fore. Enemy troops and vehicles were jamming the roads. Horse—drawn enemy artillery was attempting to escape. The Germans were fleeing in trucks and cars and carts.*

*Over them buzzed the planes of the Division artillery air section, locating targets and directing fire not only of the Division guns but also of the entire VI Corps artillery. In addition, they located targets beyond artillery range and directed P-47's to them.*

*Throughout that day and night the guns of the artillery poured death upon the Germans. Never before had they fired so many observed fire missions and never again did they equal the record. They wiped out whole columns of Germans and littered the roads with dead men and horses and vehicles, wagons and equipment. Four enemy 105-mm artillery battalions together with all equipment were totally destroyed. One of them was hit on the road and the others smashed while still in position.*

*Infantrymen who experienced German shelling saw the destruction wrought by our own guns and knew that the Nazis had nothing to compare with our artillery.*

*Pursuing and capturing the Germans were the infantrymen. The First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry was motorized and it raced after and then through the fleeing enemy. Elements of the regiment engaged in a brief firefight in the town of Salzwoog, but quickly cleared resistance and pushed on. The 48th Tank Battalion supported by Company F, 232nd Infantry, mounted on tanks, moved out of Ludwigswinkel at 1430 after roads had been cleared of mines by the engineers and attacked north to Salzwoog and then southeast along the Ninterweidenthal-Busenbergroad, clearing the towns of Dahn and Busenberg. In the latter town it captured more than 800 prisoners.*

*Assembled after it was passed through by the other two regiments the 232nd Infantry pushed forward through the mountains with the 222nd Infantry doing the same. The 42nd Reconnaissance Troop rushed forward along the right flank.*

*Now the Division was pinched off just past Dahn by the units on its right and left and on the morning of the 23rd of March, the regiments reached the limits of the Rainbow's sector and began the job of rounding up and digging out all the Germans which had been by-passed in the whirlwind advance.*

*Everywhere there was enemy surrendering. They threw down their arms and walked into town and gave themselves up. They came pouring out of the hills. In the 24 hours after its break through the Siegfried, the Division took more than 2,000 prisoners and in that same length of time advanced 15 miles through the Hardt Mountains.*

*Now the regiments retraced their steps and for the next seven days they were engaged in combing the area north of the Siegfried for enemy hiding in the forest and hills. Engineers began the gigantic job of blowing up all the Siegfried fortifications so that never again may they be used by Germany in waging war.*

*At Dahn, the Division held a ceremony in which decorations were awarded and the flags of the 48 states were planted for the first time on German soil." \*[19]*

After the 222nd Regiment moved through our bridgehead, we pulled back into the town of Ludwigswinkel and got a few hours of much needed rest. The next morning which was the 22nd of March, we moved out of town back the direction that we had come from a couple of days before. At noon we stopped in a patch of woods and were told that we were going to get some fresh meat for our noon meal. We assumed that it would be cooked but we were wrong. Everyone was handed a piece of steak and it was left to us to figure out what to do with it. We soon collected wood and built many small fires and three or four men to a fire attempted to cook it by hanging the steak on small green sticks and holding it over the fire. The sticks would soon burn into and the meat would fall into the fire. A lot of us, including me, gave up after this happened several times and just forgot about it. Several of the either more persistent or hungrier men managed to finally get theirs cooked enough to eat it. We joked that it was probably horsemeat anyway.

While we were there Sgt. Usher informed me that he was recommending me for Assistant Squad Leader of the First Squad. I was to assume the duty immediately. Sullivan was the First Squad Leader, (I don't remember who I was replacing.)

That afternoon we moved out and headed for the town of Darstein. (SEE MAP 10) We marched all afternoon, all night and all the next day, which was March 23. We encountered a wrecked German convoy of every imaginable sort of conveyance. American planes had apparently strafed the convoy. Most of the vehicles were horse drawn carts. There were a few automobiles, however. As soon as we had time we began to look in the wagons for loot. We didn't find much worth looting. Many of the wagons and vehicles were loaded with every sort

of household goods. We figured these belonged to fairly high ranking German officers who were fleeing with their wives when they were strafed.

German troops were now streaming out of the woods from every direction giving, themselves up. It had finally began to get through to them that the war was about over for them and that their situation was hopeless. There were so many surrendering that we just pointed with a jerk of our thumb toward the rear and paid no further attention to them. About dark the Third Battalion arrived at Darstein. Major Galloway said that the town was too small to billet the entire Battalion, so as usual the rear echeloners got the town and the fighting troops got the woods. We did manage to get some canvass from the wrecked German convoy and used it to make some crude shelters. (MR's say, "attacked thru Mts. Took several prisoners)

There were scores of dead horses all over the place. There were also many live horses wandering around everywhere. Many of us decided to get ourselves a horse to carry any loot that we might find. We figured if we didn't find any loot we could always use them to carry whatever gear we had. We spent a lot of time looking through the wagons and I found a half a dozen cans of sardines, which we opened and ate. I shared them with anyone who wanted some and they were eagerly devoured.

Pfc. Hoard found a motor scooter, which had apparently been in the convoy, and managed to get it started. The clutch was not working so he would put the rear wheel up on the stand and then start the motor and someone would push him off the stand and away he went. I don't remember how he stopped it, but he didn't get injured while riding it so I guess he figured out a way.

We stayed in Darstein for seven wonderful days. Even though we were camped in the woods, it was a very welcome respite from the fighting and continuous marching that we had been doing for many days. Because the Krauts were retreating so rapidly, at the end of the seven days we were a long way from the front lines. (Higher Noncoms. & Officers billeted in town)

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945 we headed out for the front lines. We were told that we would be going to the town of Dahn where we would join the main convoy headed north. Trucks were sent to Darstein to haul us to Dahn. There were only enough trucks to carry about half of the Battalion so after the half was loaded, which did not include Company K, Double Time Jones decided that if we marched as fast as we could toward Dahn it would save the trucks a few miles when they came back for us.

Orders were given to start marching and we followed them. We managed to cover several miles before the trucks returned. They went right on by us with Jones yelling for them to stop. Everyone but him knew that the trailers they were pulling had been left at Darstein when the first men were loaded. So of course they had to return to Darstein to get them before picking us up. We were not too happy about having to march that far and fast for no reason.

The trucks reached Darstein, hooked their trailers up and then caught up with us. We loaded up and proceeded to Dahn. There we met the main convoy and we headed for the Rhine River. (SEE MAP 12) After riding for several hours we crossed the Rhine at Worms. This was the first time we had seen the Rhine since leaving the Strasbourg area in January. We rode for several more hours then found billets in the town of Oberaltenbach and spent the night.

Early the next morning, April 2, we started marching again. We went cross-country, staying off the roads. We proceeded up the hills and down the valleys through the woods. I threw the latest gas mask away that was issued to me a few days ago, (I believe that was four that I had disposed of since arriving overseas.)



After marching all day (April 2) we were told that we were approaching enemy positions and Company K was assigned the town of Bichbrunn to capture. (SEE MAP 13) It was about midnight before we took the town. In one building we captured about a dozen sleeping Krauts. Pfc. Toni Collins (real name Max) drew the first shift guard duty and was told to take the prisoners to a nearby cellar and guard them. Tom was the kind of man who would start off the day singing and happy until he got out of sorts and then he would begin to curse the Krauts for causing him all this misery and say what all he was going to do to the next bunch he encountered.

Because of this we all wondered what would happen to that bunch of Krauts with Tom guarding them. The next day we talked to the man who relieved Tom and asked him if any of the Krauts were still alive.

The man said listen to this story. "When I got close to the cellar on the way to relieve him, I heard all this laughter and singing etc. When I opened the cellar door Tom and a bunch of the prisoners were grouped in a circle singing at the tops of their lungs with their arms around each other. Tom was right in the middle of the bunch. There was an empty wine keg at their feet. One German had Tom's BAR over in the corner examining it."

When we kidded Tom about it after hearing this story, he said he had bragged to the Krauts, when they wanted to see his BAR, how many Germans he had killed with it. Fortunately none of our officers ever found out about the "Tom Collins incident" as we referred to it from that time on.

We spent the night in the town of Bichbrunn, and found several bottles of champagne in the cellar of the house that the Second Platoon was billeted in. There were a lot of men that were pretty well looped before the night was over. I wasn't a drinker but I did decide to take a bottle along when we moved out, just because it was so available, and everyone else was taking some.

The next morning, April 3rd, we were ordered to load up on waiting trucks. I climbed in the truck with my bottle of champagne and about the time we were ready to depart, Lt. Stoft came out of our billet with a rifle in his hand and said, "Who is the stupid S.O.B who left his rifle behind". I looked down and there was the bottle of champagne and no rifle. I ashamedly reached out and took the rifle. All I could think of was how stupid a trick that was, especially since I had just been promoted to assistant squad leader a few days before. Stoft didn't say anything more; I guessed that he could see how ashamed I was. (MR shows Marion Cox wounded on this date. He later was listed in them as KIA)

We rode all day and about dark stopped in a forest just north of the town of Hettstadt, (SEE MAP 13) and were told that we would be spending the night there. We were in a large pine forest with a thick bed of pine needles everywhere. For some unknown reason we even had some shelter halves and blankets with us. I thought to myself, with the shelter halves, blankets and all those pine needles we can be very comfortable here for the night. My buddy and I got our shelter halves fastened together, and got the tent set up and begin to bring armloads of pine needles in for our beds. Just about the time we got everything set and were ready to bed down, the words that we had learned to hate so much were heard. "Get ready we are moving out".

We started marching and at first were proceeding very slowly, sometimes stopping entirely for a few minutes. Soon however, we began to move faster and faster till many men began to

complain that they couldn't keep up, especially the weapons platoon, who carried the heaviest weapons.

We passed by a field artillery unit of the Rainbow with pup tents pitched and they were listening to portable radios. We had not heard a radio for so long we didn't know what they sounded like. To us, it seemed they were living the life of Riley and we wished that we were rear echelon and had that kind of life. (After the war I saw statistics that it took seven to ten men in the rear to keep one man at the front. I always wondered why I was unfortunate enough to be the one in ten at the front.)

We marched cross-country, off the roads and it was really tough going. Many men were capable of sleeping as they walked. Sullivan was the best of any that I knew of. If the man behind him would just reach up and gently nudge him when he started to veer right or left, from the direction we were going, he could sleep all night. I was pretty fair at it too. I didn't get into as deep a sleep as Sullivan but I was at about half way there.

Tom Collins was doing his usual bitching and claiming that he couldn't keep up. He was now a member of the first squad, and as assistant squad leader, it was my job to stay at the rear of the first squad and keep the stragglers going. I had to be on him most of the time to keep him on track.

We marched all night and just at dawn on April 4th, we came to the Main River at Wurzburg. Even though by this time we were almost completely exhausted, we proceeded to hurry across the Ludswigs Bridge. The Krauts had destroyed the other two bridges across the Main River, and had tried to blow this one. Fortunately for us, the center section was the only one to collapse. Rainbow engineers had constructed a Bailey bridge across this span, thus making the bridge available for crossing.

Tired as we were, we hurried as fast as possible to get across the bridge, realizing that while we were on it we were fair game to the enemy. A smoke screen had been laid down over the bridge but that did not make us feel much safer. When we got to the far end we stopped in a patch of woods and regrouped.

(The city map of Wurzburg, which I purchased on the "Trail of the Rainbow Tour", shows a wooded strip like park that runs all the way from the Ludwigs Bridge through the center of the city and to the northeast edge. As I stood at the top of the castle on the hill across the Main River, on this tour, and with this map, I could see exactly where we were in Wurzburg during combat.)

We soon moved out of the woods and into the city streets. We spent the rest of the day searching the rubble of the buildings for Germans. There were very few buildings standing. (Our Wurzburg guide on the 1976 tour of Wurzburg told us that only 12 buildings in the entire city of 250,000 were intact when the war ended.)

Sgt. Robert Smith, our platoon guide, and I were together searching the remains of a building and as Smitty stepped out of a doorway into an alley, a young armed Kraut came out of the doorway of a building directly across the alley. There they were facing each other and ten feet apart. Smitty wheeled his rifle around and fired a round from the hip. The boy, who was no more than a teenager, fell to the ground, as if he were dead. Then as Smitty and I watched









and motioned for him to get up, he slowly put his hands behind his head and stood up, leaving his rifle on the ground.

He was unharmed. Smitty had missed completely. We kidded Smitty about this for the rest of the war. It certainly reinforced the idea that I had always said, that if you are going to shoot a rifle at someone, take careful aim from the shoulder if you expect to hit them.

By about 4 p.m. we had the area free of snipers and were taking a short break and eating some K rations along the edge of the wooded park. Company B of the 232nd Infantry moved through us and I saw my buddy Larratt, who I had not seen since the time I got lost, and spent the night in his bivouac area. We got to chat a few minutes before B Company moved on by us. About a half—hour later we heard intense enemy machine gun fire and assumed that they had encountered Krauts.

(The next time I saw Larratt was in Salzburg, Austria after the war was over. I asked him about what happened after B Company moved through K and he told me the story of their experiences in Wurzburg. I asked him about the machine gun fire we had heard. He said yes they had run into a machine gun nest in a cemetery and they were pinned down until they were able to destroy the machine gun and crew.

He also told me the story that I have heard many times since, by First Battalion men of 232<sup>nd</sup> Regiment at the Rainbow Division reunions, of how the entire First Battalion was housed in one large building near the cemetery where the Kraut machine gun nest had been knocked out.

He said that during the night 400 SS troopers had moved back into Wurzburg, from their positions in the surrounding hills. They surrounded this building completely and demanded that the occupants of the building surrender. Larratt said their artillery observer called for artillery and they ringed the building with fire. They refused to consider surrendering and the krauts that weren't killed by the heavy artillery fire soon gave up the fight and fled.

While on the “Trail of the Rainbow Tour” in 76, I talked to Alvin Squires, the Company B Commander during the later part of the war, and told him what Larratt had told me and he confirmed Larratt's story and said he sure wanted to try to find that building while we were in Wurzburg. I said that I had a Wurzburg city map and that I believed that we could find the building. There was only one cemetery showing in the Wurzburg City limits and it was the direction that I thought Company B was heading during the war.

So we followed the map and walked to the cemetery. Then we started to circle around the area and soon came to the building. I had not seen it during the war so I had no idea if this was the correct one or not. But after we had gone all the way around it several times, Al proclaimed, “This was it for sure”.)

*“Now there was a change in the manner of living of the men of the Division. No longer were they fighting through liberated country, but through a conquered land and a land in which the people were fearful and hostile and dangerous. The non—fraternization regulations which had been taught since the Rainbow went into its defensive position in the Hardt Mountains were put into effect. It was forbidden to speak to Germans except on business matters and no social contact with them was allowed.*

*Steeped in Nazi propaganda, the people expected to see an army of movie gangsters and jitterbugs. They expected to be looted and robbed for they knew their soldiers did that in the countries they conquered. They were fearful and amazed when they were treated firmly but courteously. Rainbowmen soon found the farmers and villagers pleasant and eager to please.*

*Their homes or towns had not been destroyed by bombs or shells and they wanted to give the impression that the American army was liberating them from the terrible yoke of Nazi tyranny, which they themselves were constantly fighting.*

*The people in the larger cities, which the Division was to capture later, had a different attitude. Their homes and buildings had been destroyed and they were more sullen, less cooperative, more inclined to blame the Americans for the entire war and their own personal misfortune.*

*No one was a Nazi, however. Everyone denied sympathizing with the Nazi party. They all hated Hitler, but not because he had started the war, but because he was losing it.*

*'To hear these people talk, Adolf Hitler must have been the greatest man in the world,' one soldier remarked. 'All by himself he organized this country, made it produce war materials and then made everyone fight. All the time he was doing this everyone was against him. How can these Germans expect you to believe that?'*

*Men took to asking Germans if they were Nazi party members just to hear their vehement denials of 'Nicht , Nicht Nazi.'*

*No longer were men forced to live in public buildings and in bombed out houses. If there were houses in a town, which were undamaged, they were requisitioned and the civilians were moved out to live with friends while the soldiers moved in. If there was time the Germans were instructed to put clean sheets on the beds and tidy up the house before they left. In the drive through Germany that was soon to follow there is probably not a man in the Rainbow who did not get to spend at least a couple of nights in a German feather bed with its huge 'Bolster' which replaced blankets. In many instances the beds were too short, but they were beds and a luxury after sleeping on floors and the ground.*

*While the Rainbow Division was clearing out the area in the vicinity of Dahn and the Siegfried, units of the Third Army created and expanded bridgeheads across the Rhine and the Seventh Army did the same at Worms. It was originally intended that the Rainbow would exploit the Seventh Army bridgehead once it was established, without difficulty and the same units that created it were able to enlarge it against only light to moderate opposition.*

*The next mission of the Division, therefore, was to pass through the bridgehead to the Main River and then drive eastward to Wurzburg, a key city in the German defenses and one which the Nazis were to defend with fanatical fury.*

*On the last day of March, Easter Sunday, the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments were loaded in trucks and began the movement across the Rhine, and into position near the Main River just east of Wertheim, a distance of approximately 125 miles. (The date of March 31, is an error in the Rainbow History book. The actual date was Easter Sunday, April 1, 45.)*

*The crossing was made over a pontoon bridge, which stretched across the swift-flowing Rhine only a few yards from the wrecked permanent structure in the heart of the city of Worms. While passing through the city itself Rainbowmen had their first glimpse of the damage that could be wrought upon a large city by the Air Force. Hardly a house in the entire city possessed a roof, rubble was piled high in the streets and civilians were busy looting a huge wine cellar. Whole blocks of buildings were completely leveled. All these sights were to become familiar to every man in the Division before the month of April, with its marching and fighting from one large city to another, was over.*

*Division convoys sped ahead to reach the new positions against a rapidly withdrawing enemy over roads, which were jammed with traffic. Trucks and tanks and jeeps had been pouring over*



*the Rhine bridges at Worms in a never—ending stream for three days. Truck after truck and convoy after convoy roared through tiny German villages all day and all night. Villagers stood outside their homes or leaned out of windows and gaped in amazement. Never had they seen anything like this. Never had they believed it possible that one army could have so many vehicles. The German army that was to stop this terrific machine was fleeing on foot or with horses and battered trucks barely able to run. Now they knew the war could not last much longer. Nothing could stop this power of the Americans.*

*Actually, American supply lines were stretched long and thin. Because of a shortage of trucks the 242nd Infantry Regiment remained in an assembly area near Dahn until April 1, when it began its move across the Rhine with the First and Second Battalions moving with their organic transportation and captured German vehicles and the Third Battalion remaining behind to await the return of the trucks.*

*The Division moved into the front line with the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments abreast, the 222nd on the right and the 232nd on the left, both units relieving units of the 12th Armored Division. The Rainbow was assigned to the XXI Corps. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division was on the left and the 4th on the right.*

*Attached to the Division was the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, which had joined the Rainbow just prior to the March 15 jump-off and had already proved itself a worthy fighting mate. In the month of fighting which lay ahead the infantrymen and the tankers were to be welded together in a mutually supporting companionship, which greatly aided the swift advance of the Division.*

*The first objective of the 222nd Infantry was the capture of Wertheim. Moving with the First and Second Battalions abreast, the regiment shuttled with its motors until it nearly reached the city. There opposition stiffened and the troops dismounted and moved ahead. Although a Nazi rear guard force waged a short battle the troops had no difficulty in entering and clearing the town by 2100 on April 1. Both the First and Second Battalions then continued to advance on foot and the Third Battalion was motorized and directed to move rapidly northeast to join Task Force 1 of CCA on the 12th Armored Division in Hettstadt, a small town about five miles west of Wurzburg.*

*Meanwhile the First and Second Battalions of the 232nd Infantry on the Division left flank were advancing toward Markt-Heidenfeld with the Third Battalion organized as Division reserve. The leading elements of the 232nd encountered strong enemy resistance in the vicinity of the Hasslock River and the advance was slow and difficult over mountainous terrain and a poor road net.*

*The Second of April was a day of movement into position for the assault on Wurzburg which was to follow. It was now clear that the enemy was retreating across the Main River, which wound back and forth through the Division's path, to Wurzburg, one of the oldest cities in southern Germany and a center of art and medical schools. There, apparently, he planned to stage a defense with a collection of German soldiers who had fled into the city and a well-organized and fanatical Volksturm commanded by the city's chief of police, a retired army colonel.*

*Combat Command A of the 12th Armored Division had pushed to within a few miles of the city and the entire 222nd Infantry Regiment was attached to that unit with the hope it would drive ahead quickly, capture Wurzburg, and then race on for Schweinfurt.*

*The balance of the Rainbow was to continue eastward in its zone, crossing and re-crossing the Main and sweeping all enemy before it until it reached the Main River north of Wurzburg. If CCA and the 222nd Infantry were then having difficulty assaulting Wurzburg the 232nd Infantry*

would feint a crossing just north of the city and the 242nd Infantry would cross near Retzbach and assault the defenders from the rear.

*On the extreme left flank of the Division was placed the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop, which was assigned to clear and patrol the flank and a huge area along the Main River.*

*On the night of April 2, the 222nd Infantry and CCA reached the Main River opposite Wurzburg and found that the three bridges across the river had been blown. The city itself lay in a valley with high ground to the north of it and on the west side of the river, where towered the huge Marienburg Castle. Across the front of this the Nazi's had carefully painted the words "Heil Hitler"!" Soon these words were to be replaced by rainbows and the inscription '42nd Infantry 'Rainbow' Division.' This was the first of thousands of Rainbow signs, which from that time on were to mark every city, town or village the Rainbow captured or occupied.*

*When the 222nd Infantry reached the Main there was a choice of either attempting to continue its assault or to pause there until engineers could bring up assault boats and then make the attack. It was decided not to wait.*

*Shortly before dawn a group of Rangers of the Second Battalion commanded by 2nd Lt. Dixon Rogers and Platoon Sergeant Michael Wargok, a staff sergeant, found a rowboat along the river and part of the platoon got in and rowed across. The boat was then rowed back and another group made the crossing.*

*Not a shot was fired during these two crossings although the Rangers later took 29 Germans out of two strong-points which commanded the river where the boats had crossed. Perhaps these men had failed to see the Americans crossing, but more likely they had mistaken them in the darkness and in an ordinary rowboat for fleeing German troops entering the city.*

*With two boatloads of Rangers across, the Second Battalion now had a small bridgehead and by this time the engineer assault boats had arrived. These boats, manned by men from Company A, 142nd Engineer Battalion, were to ferry the entire battalion over the river before the day was over.*

*The first assault boat, loaded with 11 infantrymen and 3 engineers, was in midstream when the Germans opened fire on it with rifles and 20-mm anti-aircraft artillery. Fortunately the Germans did not seem to be able to depress the anti—aircraft fire far enough to bring accurate fire on the boats, but despite this and the strong current the engineers got the men across.*

*A floodwall along the riverbank protected the first troops to enter the city and from this the Rangers sent out patrols, which expanded the bridgehead and destroyed a machine gun which had the crossing site under direct fire. By nine o'clock squads from Company E had crossed the river and had won an area about 200 yards deep between two of the Wurzburg bridges. The Germans sent two tanks to counterattack this force but a bazooka man from Company E knocked out one of the tanks and the other stopped. Company G then crossed the river and the bridgehead was further enlarged, until by 1530 it was six blocks wide and seven blocks deep. Back at the river the engineers had constructed a ferry and were bringing jeeps with radio equipment across the river.*

*The First Battalion of the 222nd Infantry then crossed the river and the bridgehead was secured. Engineers now began the construction of a Bailey bridge across a blown span of the main bridge over the river.*

*In the meantime, the 232nd Infantry, which had reached the river north of Wurzburg during the day, was moved by motors to the vicinity of Marienburg and marched to the Main River, prepared*

*to cross the river the moment the bridge was completed. The 242nd Infantry moved to the Main approximately 10 miles north of Wurzburg and patrolled the area north from the Bronn River to Ansbach. As the river line was further reconnoitered by the Reconnaissance Troop for possible crossing sites enemy resistance was encountered and overcome at Laudembach and Muhlback and Karlburg.*

*The Bailey bridge was complete enough before dawn on the morning of April 4 to permit foot troops to cross it and all the foot troops of the 232nd Infantry regiment marched over before daylight and moved into the area which had been cleared by the 222nd Infantry. Both regiments prepared to renew the attack.*

*The plan now was for the 222nd Infantry to clear the southern portion of the city while the 232nd Infantry cleared the northern portion and as dawn broke they began their attacks. Now the Rainbow met what was perhaps the most bitter resistance encountered while it was fighting as a complete unit. Civilians joined military personnel in battling the attackers. City firemen and policemen joined in the defense of the city. Nearly every house and building contained snipers and panzerfausts were lobbed like mortars into our lines. the city streets, were networks of underground tunnels and the defenders retreated into these and th Beneath en came up behind the Rainbowmen and attacked them from the rear.*

*Supported by excellent artillery fire the infantrymen advanced against this opposition, however, and by nightfall the 222nd Infantry had cleared 45 additional blocks of the city and the 232nd Infantry had cleared 55 blocks. These gains brought the two regiments to a main railroad line which circled the city and there met a line of enemy entrenched in foxholes. There the regiments stopped their attack for the night, maintaining the formation they had used throughout the day with the First Battalion, 222nd Infantry, on the right, the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry left of it and then the Second, First and Third Battalions of the 232nd Infantry from right to left.*

*During the night the enemy again attempted to infiltrate through the Division lines and return into the city through the tunnels, but the infiltrating forces were discovered and wiped out. At 0515 on April 5 the Nazis launched a counterattack from the north portion of Wurzburg with approximately 200 men in a fanatical attempt to reach and destroy the Bailey bridge which was not completed and also a treadway bridge which had been constructed.*

*The Third Battalion of the 232nd Infantry.1 supported by elements of the First and Second Battalions, met the attack and stopped it after it had penetrated to within 100 yards of the Bailey bridge. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 80 prisoners were taken. After reorganizing, the Third Battalion, 232nd Infantry, attacked and crossed the railroad in the northeast portion of the city and cleared the remaining buildings to the north. The First and Second Battalions of the same regiment continued the attack to the east and cleared the remaining portion of the city in their zones against strong resistance. The 222nd Infantry continued its attack and reached the high ground on the eastern outskirts of Wurzburg. The 242nd Infantry now entered the city and systematically began a search of all buildings, cellars, tunnels and areas for by—passed enemy resistance.*

*The battle for Wurzburg was now over and the Division was ready to strike northward along the Main River for Schweinfurt, the center of the Nazi ball-bearing industry and one of the most important industrial cities in Germany. Some of the defenders of Wurzburg had fled there, although more than 2,500 had been captured in taking the city.*

*As the Rainbow started on its next mission hardly a jeep or a truck left Wurzburg that did not contain a case or at least a few bottles of champagne, which had been discovered in the battered cellars of the city. Since the first troops had entered the city champagne had actually flowed like water. In fact, it was easier to obtain than water as all the water in the town had been cut off by*



*either bombs or shells and the river was the only source. Champagne was plentiful. Men took all they could carry, which was usually one or two bottles, and they drank it as they would water and even brushed their teeth in it. The champagne in Wurzburg will probably be remembered long after the details of the fighting are forgotten.*

*On April 6 the Rainbow moved out of Wurzburg and started northward with the 222nd Infantry on the right flank, the 232nd Infantry on the left and the 242nd Infantry in the center, following CCA of the 12th Armored Division. The Division itself remained the left flank unit in the XXI Corps with the 4th Division on the right and the 3rd Division on the left.*

*Ahead of the Division the enemy had prepared a town-by-town defense of the area. Groups of retreating enemy were being assembled together and placed in each community of any size with instructions to remain there and fight until the last. Very few groups actually did this, but all put up a fight and all were intent on delaying the march of the Division. I' \*[20]*

*(The following information is from the publication, "The Setting of old Wurzburg" by the German author MAX Domarus. The fourth edition was published in Wurzburg in 1978. The material came to the attention of a Company B, 232nd Infantry man, Richard Dick Steeno. It came to his attention through a friend, Kurt Ebner, Chief of the Archives Section in Frauenfeld Switzerland whose interests lies in the military, current and historical. The translation was graciously provided by Hermann Graeff who is the teacher of German at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas. )*

***"SIX DAYS OF FIGHTING OVER THE RUINS OF WURZBURG, THE ORDER TO DEFEND, GENERAL BORNEMANN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES.***

*The Hammelburg incident of March 27th had motivated infantry general Weisenberger, who was the commander of Army Corps Area XIII, to move all of his reserve troops from Passau, Regensburg, Ansbach etc. to lower Franconia or else to northern Wurttemberg.*

*raids and other reasons, however, not all of them reached their destinations, but despite that, the Because of air Commander in chief West was unable to establish some sort of defense line from Heilbronn-Crailsheim to Wurzburg-Schweinfurt.*

*The section (defense area) Sommerhausen-Wurzburg-Karlstadt was under the jurisdiction of army commander General Bornemann who was stationed in Wurzburg. This Austrian officer was a rather nervous, vacillating man.*

*But with regard to the blowing up of the bridges, he was uncompromising and feared for his life. For all of that he wasn't aggressive enough for the young officers who had appeared in Wurzburg with the "powers of authority granted by the Fuhrer."*

*It was without a doubt a misfortune that the headquarters for the western front was in the Rhein which placed the officers in Wurzburg under constant close scrutiny.*

*When on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, the first American artillery rounds hit the Zellerau, Bornemanns 'battle stand', which had been in the former fortifications on the left bank of the Main River, was transferred to the right bank to the safety of the concrete bunker at Letzen Hiev, where the Gaulleiter (district leader) and other civil officials were still present.*

*On Easter Sunday, it seemed at first that the hopeless defense of Wurzburg would not be undertaken and the front moved back to a line on the Steigerwald, but in the evening hours an order arrived containing the dismissal of General Bornemann and the appointment of Colonel*

*Wolf as the new combat commander. The latter, decorated with the 'Ritterkreuz', had lain in a military hospital in Giebelstadt.*

*After General Bornemann, with tears in his eyes, had said goodbye, he had been transferred to the 'Fuehrer' reserve as it had been called in such cases. Colonel Wolf assumed the supreme command in Wurzburg, which included the civilian departments of the city.*

*Thereupon, the Lord Mayor resigned to join the "Volksturm". The district Gauleitung command, however, following an order by Reichsleiter (governor) Bormann, moved its location on Easter Monday to Untermerzbach near Ebern, to the eastern-most corner of the district.*

*At no time did the Gauleiter have the military supreme command in Wurzburg. While General Bornemann had been the city commandant, the Gauleiter had tried to support the moving of supplies and had offered to be helpful in other ways, but the Gauleiter had refrained from such amateurish offers once Colonel Wolf had been named the combat commander. The defense of the city was now a definite resolve of the high command.*

*Thus the civilian population was ordered to evacuate the city immediately on Easter Monday. Some unpleasant situations occurred, since various people including officers of the SS, who had lain in military hospitals before joining the Volksturm or other units, tried rather rudely and waving their firearms to force the civilians to leave.*

*Despite these tactics, there were no serious incidents anywhere in the city such as the hanging of soldiers etc. Many people in Wurzburg, especially on the left bank of the Main River, not withstanding all threats, remained in the city. The alien work force, however, was partially evacuated.*

*If the destruction of Wurzburg on March 16, 1945 was a catastrophe unexcelled in the whole allied aerial warfare against the big German cities, the six days of fighting between German and American troops in the ruins of the city, from April 1st to April 6th, 1945 was also an unusual event at this stage of the war. In no other German city east of the Rhine did the Americans find such resistance as in Wurzburg. In the German East, with the exception of Breslau, Kinigsberg and Frankfurt on the Oder River, longer lasting street fighting was rare also.*

*Even the fight for Berlin, the capital of the Reich in which Hitler himself resided, where adamant resistance could have been expected, hardly lasted longer than the taking of Wurzburg. 'Wurzburg' was a key point defended fanatically by the embittered Germans that stopped the American army for a full seven days stated the American annals of the war.*

*There can be no doubt that the defense of Wurzburg was senseless, but after all the whole war was senseless since Germany from the very inception of the war had no chance of winning it. The individual officer and soldier cannot be blamed for this as long as the general rules of war were observed.*

*Military reasoning follows its own rules: there is no room for considerations of whether an ordered battle makes sense or not. The supreme military and political leadership make these decisions.*

*The high command of the German army had decided to defend Wurzburg. The following considerations may have been decisive:*

*1. On March 23, 1945, Hitler had appointed Field Marshall Kesselring, who was known for his severity, as commandant in chief West. The latter established his headquarters on a special train near Bischofsheim in the Rohn. Wurzburg was then within view of his headquarters and formed*

*the center for its effectiveness or else for the possibility to build up a new front after the loss of the one along the Rhine.*

*2. On March 19, 1945 Hitler had issued the order to destroy all military traffic, communications, industry and provisioning installations. With this order, considerable nervousness prevailed in the corps of higher officers since Hitler had several officers shot who allegedly had not destroyed the Rhine bridge at Remagen as ordered.*

*3. In view of Wurzburg's destruction, which had already occurred on March 16th by aerial raids, and because the population had mostly been evacuated, the German military leadership decided to make the city a battle-ground. Indeed, the damage caused by artillery fire and fighting in Wurzburg was minor since partial ruins were turned further into ruin.*

*On March 23, the Third American army (General Patton) and three days later the Seventh American Army (General Patch) had crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim and Worms and were moving rapidly toward Lower Franconia.*

*The high command of the First German army named infantry Colonel Richard Wolf, who had been decorated with the Ritterkreuz, as the new commander of Wurzburg. He assumed this duty on April 1st and this included executive power over the civilian population as well. Some of the military departments had opted to leave Wurzburg before the fighting started. The SS-Section IX, stationed in Wurzburg, also chose to leave Wurzburg at the right time.*

*The Americans often overrate the significance of the Volksturm in the fight for Wurzburg also. To be sure, the Volksturm had been called up but because of the city's destruction, only a relatively few men had reported for duty and even some of those were sent home again. With others from Lower Franconia, who had been pushed back, the Volksturm battle group of Wurzburg altogether consisted of about 100 men. Colonel Wolf told the author of this history that 'As far as numbers were concerned, the strength of the Volksturm was of little importance.' Numerically it was about company strength together with police units that defended the sector along the railroad from Gneisenau Street via Waither street-Vogel weiderweg to the southern railroad station.*

*Individual Volksturm men were used as guides by infantry units due to their intimate knowledge of the area. From stocks in the Faulenberg barracks, the Volksturm received gray uniforms and steel helmets so that they could pass as regular troops as far as international law was concerned.*

*Of the units in Wurzburg, the following were deployed: Landesschutzen (local defense units), Reserve Battalions 11/13 (Hindenburg barracks) and 819 (Faulenberg barracks); the army Flak Reserve-Battalion 47; the Motor Vehicle Reserve unit 50; the Medical Reserve unit 13; The Engineer Reserve company 173 and a few police units including fire-fighters and air raid police. In addition there was an infantry reserve battalion from Bayreuth, the Military Academy Doberitz and smaller tank units (manned by cadet officers attending courses from Erlangen, Bamberg and Grafenwohr:) this included tanks of older and newer models. Al totaled there were bout 3500 men according to Colonel Wolf.*

*This also tallies with available American information, which stated, "that about 2500 prisoners were taken at Wurzburg". Nearly 1000 German soldiers were killed within the walls of the city. During the military operations, the German fighting force was initially under the command of Army Corps LXXXIII, then under the command of Tank Corps XIII and finally under that of Group "M".*



*The American Seventh Army along with the XV Corps (General Haislip) and the XXI Corps (General Milbourn) had crossed the Rhine at Worms on March 26. Moving via the Odem Forest, they moved within four days and without significant fighting, the area west of the city of Wurzburg. They were very surprised when they suddenly met with battle resistance. The 12th Armored Tank Division, belonging to the XV Corps stood near Hettstadt on Easter Saturday, March 31st and received German flanking fire, from the direction of Waldbuttenbrunn.*

*But the 42nd Rainbow Division from the XXI Corps advanced from Tauberbischofsheim and on Easter Sunday, April 1st occupied the Katzenberg and Heidingsfeld. This infantry division under the command of Major General Harry J. Collins consisted of the 222nd, the 232nd, and the 242nd Infantry Regiments plus four field artillery battalions, which were of great significance in the capture of Wurzburg, especially since the Germans had only a few anti-aircraft guns at their disposal. The American artillery firing (155mm caliber) began on April 1st around 11 o'clock and initially directed their fire on the Sellaau and then widened this fire to the eastern part of the city. Under this pressure, the German army units fell back to the right bank of the Main River. The bridges at Heidingsfeld were destroyed by German engineer officers on Sunday evening and then the three city bridges on Monday.*

*During the day Monday April 2nd, the 42nd Infantry Division captured the part of the city situated on the left bank of the Main River and later painted in white '42nd Infantry Division' on the wall below the Furstengarten of the fortress where previously the words 'Heil Hitler' could be seen: but the real battle for the city lay ahead.*

*American attempts to cross the Main at Heidingsfeld were already foiled Easter night by members of the Military Academy Doberitz who were stationed there. Monday night, April 3rd, two American patrols found some rowboats. They used them to cross over from the Burkarder Canal, which at that time was still connected with the Main River and offered good cover. Without being noticed, they made it to a stand of trees on the Mainkai where they established a small bridgehead. At dawn, units of the 222nd Infantry Regiment started to cross the Main at the same place in assault boats. The first full boat, with 13 infantrymen and 3 engineers, was hit by German 2-centimeter anti-aircraft fire and sank. The other boats were barely bothered. More and more units of the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments crossed over and penetrated the ruins of the city. At nine o'clock the bridgehead was still relatively small, but at 15:30 it was already six blocks wide and seven blocks deep. At that time a German counterattack supported by tanks was repulsed. American engineer units including the Engineer Battalion 2755 began to repair the Ludwigs Bridge, which had lost only one arch during the German demolition.*

*These engineers built a pontoon bridge below the Old Main Bridge connecting it to the Holztor. By daybreak on Wednesday April 4th the bridges were passable and more units of the 222nd and 232nd Regiments moved into the bridgehead under heavy artillery cover. Tanks of the 12th Armored Division also rolled across the Ludwigs Bridge. In the southern part of the city, the 222nd advanced and reached the southern railroad station after moving across the Sanderring. At attack across the railroad tracks was halted by the police and Volksturm units. The 232nd Regiment attempted to take the downtown area adjacent to the Main River but they encountered strong resistance and their progress was slow especially since some German troops were entrenched in the sewers.*

*By the evening of April 4th, the 222nd Regiment had taken 45 blocks, the 232nd Regiment 55 blocks. The German combat commander whose command post was first in the bunker at the Letzten Hieb and later at the airfield, thought that the time was now right for a broad counterattack. During the early hours of Thursday April 5th, three assault groups were formed, consisting of relatively well-equipped foot soldiers. From the North, South and East they were supposed to penetrate the American lines, push them back to the Main River and if possible then destroy the two bridges.*

*Lord Mayor Memmel and Alderman Schmidt served as Volksturm guides for the Southern group which advanced before daybreak via Edel Street-Kant Street toward Randersackerer Street but from the very beginning of the attack, they came under such heavy enemy fire that the attack had to be given up with heavy losses.*

*The second group, who had the lord mayor's son as a guide who was later missing, advanced via Rottendorfer Street- 'Klein Nizza' but got only as far as the Courthouse.*

*The Northern group began at 5:15 to advance along Beethoven Street/Ludwig Street and they were initially more successful. According to American statements, this group came within 100 yards of the pontoon bridge at the Holztor. Then however, it collapsed under the fire of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 232nd Infantry Regiment, except for 80 men who were taken prisoner.*

*Now the American commander moved the 242nd Infantry Regiment across the Main River to break this German resistance. By evening, the downtown area was securely in American hands. As early as 14:00 hours tanks of the 12th Armored Division managed to break through Neuberg and Keesburg toward the airfield. The remnants of the German troops retreated to the north. On Friday April 6th, the very first pockets of resistance in Grombuhl and on the northern hills had to be abandoned. The combat commander left for Rimpf; he then became combat commander of Nurnburg.*

*The battle for Wurzburg was over. It had been very costly for both sides.*

*Special service troops on the American side took the dead to Bensheim-Fehlheim, where they were buried in individual graves at a newly constructed military cemetery. More than 1700 German soldiers who fought in Franconia are resting there, most of them perished in the Battle of Wurzburg. An even greater number of Americans who were buried there were exhumed in 1946.*

*The identification of the German casualties was very difficult since the German identification tags most regrettably bore no names but only numbers for which necessary documentation was scarce. This was especially the case for those soldiers drafted in January or February of 1945 since these identification numbers could not be reported anymore to the central office in Berlin. Family members who were killed in the battle of Wurzburg experienced much grief.*

*The battle for the city had been conducted in a fair manner. Aside from an incident at Heidingsfeld, where a German motor ambulance was carrying bazookas, the international rules of war were observed. The wounded Americans crossed the river on a special ferry from the Ludwigs quay to the Hugelsbad, the wounded Germans were taken to the military hospital in Monchberg by ambulance whereby at a special horn signal, both sides stopped their fire.*

*Despite these humane gestures, the Battle for Wurzburg was a tragedy. Fate had truly placed a tremendous scar on the city. The aerial bombardment of March 16th, 1945 had apparently not been enough; more blood had to flow in the streets and ruins before the shooting finally stopped. The chalice of misfortune literally had to be drained to the absolute bottom. “\*[21]*

**On April 4th at about five or six p.m. we secured billets and then Lt. Stoft gave us the bad news that the Second Platoon would be getting up at 3:00 a.m. with our mission being to take the hill north of the city. The platoon leaders of Company K had drawn straws to see who got this job and Stoft had lost. We rolled out of our beds at 3:00 and were relieved to hear that it had been decided, that it was felt, the job required more than a platoon, so the entire**

HEADQUARTERS 42ND (RAINBOW) INFANTRY DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

18 November 1945

CITATION

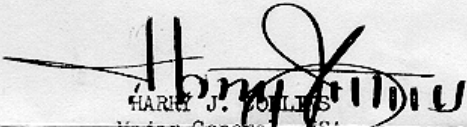
AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

JAMES R. PETTUS, JR.

37 617 986, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company K, 232nd Infantry for heroic achievement in action on 4 April 1945 at Wurzburg, Germany.

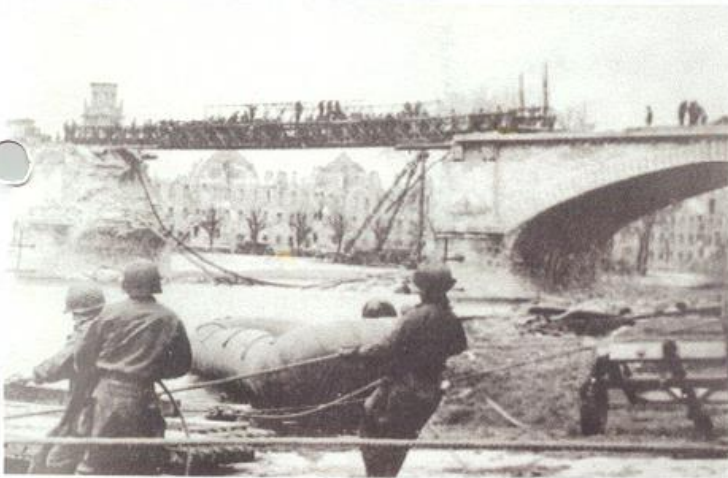
Private Pettus, an automatic rifleman, constantly exposed himself to enemy fire in order to destroy enemy sniper positions in Wurzburg. Entering a basement where three snipers were hiding, he courageously advanced and killed all of them before they could fire. Private Pettus' extreme courage and disregard for his safety were important factors in the successful completion of the day's engagement. Entered military service from Bonne Terre, Missouri.

  
HARRY J. COLLINS  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



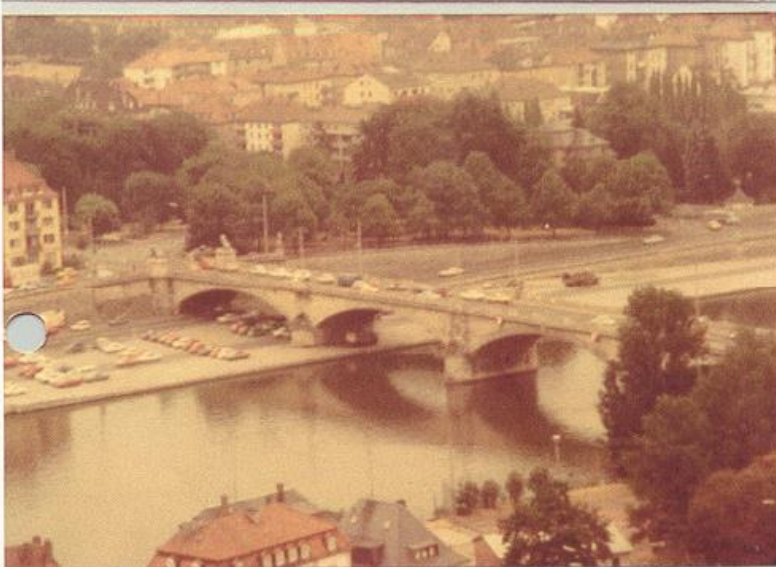
**Pete is awarded the Bronze Star, Bichoschofen, Austria, November 1945**





#### *BAILEY BRIDGE WURZBURG*

On April 4, 1945 Company K marched over this engineer constructed bridge over the center span of the Ludwigs Bridge. The Germans attempted to destroy the bridge but only the center section blew. This picture also shows troops of the 42nd crossing in rafts.



#### *THE LUDWIGS BRIDGE 1976*

Photo by Pettus on the "Trail of the Rainbow Tour in July of 1976.



#### *HILL NORTH OF WURZBURG*

Co. K went up through this vineyard on April 5, 1945 and secured the top of the hill. We captured 125 German soldiers. We dug in on the top of the hill. We marched down the far side of the hill on April 6 and took the town of Unterdurbach.

100 A





#### *WURZBURG INTERSECTION*

On April 4, 1945 Company K stopped here to rest and eat lunch. Company B moved thru us and I talked to my good buddy Stuart Larratt for a few minutes.



#### *WURZBURG CEMETARY*

Company B ran into heavy machine gun fire from this cemetery.



#### *1ST BN. BILLETED HERE*

The entire first Battalion stayed in this building on the night of April 4. German SS troopers attacked and surrounded the building. This was one of the very few buildings standing in 1945 after the fall of Wurzburg.



Company would be involved.

It was still pitch dark at 3:00 a.m. on April 5th, when we formed up for our mission. We moved north across several sets of railroad tracks, in the rail yard. There were boxcars sitting on the sidings. We moved up a steep hillside through a vineyard. (On my 1976 Rainbow tour it was easy to pinpoint the exact place from my observation point at the Marienburg Fortress.) We captured over 100 Krauts without a fight. They were asleep on the top of the hill. (The Morning Report shows 104 captured)

We found out later that as we went up the hill 400 SS troopers came down only a few hundred feet away in an effort to retake the city. They are the ones that surrounded the First Battalion building and demanded that the Battalion surrender.

We secured the top of the hill and began to dig foxholes, and prepared to stay for several days. It was still dark when I finished digging a foxhole and I was ready to try to get some sleep. I remembered seeing a dead Kraut on our route as we made our way up and also remembered that he had an overcoat on. I decided that I needed the coat worse than he did and I made my way back to where he laid and removed the coat from him. It was a good heavy coat and very welcome as I tried to get some rest.

After it got daylight I borrowed a pair of field glasses from someone and began to scan the woods north across the valley from our positions. At first I didn't see anything unusual but all of a sudden I saw a flash of light like a reflection of the sunlight off a mirror. I quickly zeroed the binoculars in on the spot I had seen the flash of light and saw a line of Krauts standing with their mess kits in their hands awaiting chow. As I watched, the mess kits reflected the sun to me several more times.

I excitedly called Lt. Brown, our field artillery observer, over and showed him what I had seen. There was a camouflaged house, which was apparently the kitchen immediately behind the Kraut line. Lt. Brown called for artillery fire and I watched as the first round landed right on target and destroyed the house and I saw bodies flying through the air also.

Pfc. Marion Cox was killed and Pfc. Kenneth Hoch was wounded from sniper fire while we were on this hilltop. As there had been sporadic sniper fire ever since it got daylight we decided that a likely spot for it to be coming from was a farm house about a hundred and fifty yards in front of our positions. Lt. Brown called for rounds to try to hit the house. Just as the first rounds were on the way, an old man and woman came running out waving a white flag. Several rounds hit all around them and they disappeared in a cloud of dust. The house was completely demolished as we watched. (Morning Reports) shows Raymond Lunning, Gerard O'Brien, Ward Emons, WIA during April 5 battles.

(An interesting thing happened while on the 1976 tour. When we got to Wurzburg, the men of the Rainbow pointed excitedly when they saw the Marienburg Fortress and I said that I did not remember seeing it during the war and did not know there was such a place. Rex Luna, the tour organizer, said to me, how could you have missed any thing as big and prominent as that castle. He said "don't you remember the rainbow and the 42nd Division sign that was painted on it." I said no. None of the other men of the Rainbow on the tour could believe that I didn't remember it either. Later when I got home and reviewed my second platoon history I figured out why I had not seen it. We passed by it before daylight, moved across the Ludwigs Bridge, fought in the ruins of the city all day, and then moved out up the hill before daylight the next morning and never were back in the city again.)

On the morning of April 6, the Second Platoon ran a patrol toward the town of Unterdürnbach (SEE MAP 14), which was only about a half a mile distant. The patrol soon ran into Kraut sniper fire and spotted a house that we could e close to hitting the house. We then made our way back to our hill top positions.

In the afternoon of the same day, Companies. K and I were given the task of taking the town of Unterdürnbach. We moved down the steep hillside toward the town under a heavy barrage of Kraut 20 mm shellfire coming from the area where we had destroyed the camouflaged Kraut kitchen the day before. Pfc. Julian Hood, who had been transferred from K Company to I Company was wounded by this shellfire. We took the town by about dark and captured a large number of Germans and we herded them into a church, posted guards and held them until they could be sent to the rear.

We posted all around security around the town and after dark a group of about 300 Krauts managed to form up from somewhere and march out of town right through one of our roadblocks. By the time the men manning the roadblock figured out they were enemy, it was deemed better to just let them go. Lt. Anderson who was in on the road block assignment said later that when they first approached he assumed they were Americans and by the time he saw they were not he decided that there was nothing to be gained by a half a dozen or so GI's challenging them. So they just pretended to the Krauts that they thought they were Americans and let them pass on through.

About 10 p.m. we got orders that we were moving out. The night was absolutely pitch black. We literally could not see our hands when placed right in front of our faces. We were in a single line column and just followed the man in front. Every time the man in front of you would slow down or stop you would bump into him. I have no idea how Lt. Zillmer, who was leading the company, knew where he was going or how he managed to lead us there.

About 2 a.m. on the morning of April 7, we stopped and dug in the woods on top of a hill. We posted all around security and rested until daylight. As soon as it was light, we moved on. We marched until sometime in the afternoon then loaded on some T D's and rode into the town of Thungen. (SEE MAP 15) When we arrived at the town we climbed off the PD's and started marching again. We were all bone tired and started bitching about having to go on through the town instead of stopping and spending the night there. We marched for a couple of miles then suddenly the orders were changed and we turned around, marched back to the town and secured billets for the night. We pulled our normal two hours on two hours off guard duty that night.

The next morning April 8th, we headed toward Schweinfurt. This city was the main center of the German ball bearing industry. It was expected that it would take a major effort to dislodge the enemy from here. Our Air Force had run into the heaviest antiaircraft fire of the war here time after time. During the morning as we crossed an open field several rounds of 20mm shells from anti-aircraft guns were directed toward us. (I will never forget the dozens of puffs of black smoke as the shells exploded all around us.) We broke into a dead run and got across the field into the woods as soon as possible.

That afternoon we came to the town of Buchold (SEE MAP 16) and from the top of a hill watched our dive-bombers hitting the city of Schweinfurt. In the evening we moved out across a railroad embankment and across a field. Then we dug in on a hilltop and posted security. Pfc. Clinton Childress and Pfc. Gerald Begin were on a reconnaissance patrol and saw a large

bunch of Krauts coming toward them. They hid in a ditch and said they were almost stepped on as the Krauts went by.

On the morning of April 9th we backtracked across the railroad tracks and the entire Battalion assembled in the town of Buchold. Just as I was preparing to eat a can of C rations we had a mail call. I received a package from home with a can of soup in it. I immediately threw the can of C rations away and ate the soup instead. It really tasted good compared with the usual fare. (Morning Reports) shows William Parker WIA on this date in attack on Thungen)

We rested in this town until about 4 p.m. then we marched until about 10 p.m. We then dug foxholes in a patch of thick woods. We were near the town of Kutzburg (SEE MAP 16). Even though our foxholes were only 20 or 30 feet apart, Pfc. Kowalski and Pfc. Holly got lost going from one position to another, while on patrol, and they wandered around for several hours before finding their way back to our positions. Later that night our forces shot up a German patrol and we could hear them moaning the rest of the night.

On the morning of April 10th, we pushed toward Kutzburg. We took the town and stayed there that night. On the 11th we took the town of Hambach. On the 12th we pushed on toward Dittelbrunn. Dittelbrunn was as close as Company K got to Schweinfurt.

We were just a couple of miles north of Schweinfurt. The Third Platoon took a hill near the town and the Second Platoon took the town. Pfc. Phillip Rizzo was wounded and Pfc. Mulch was killed. We captured some Germans and took them along with us and when we encountered the enemy soon after, the Krauts fired on us even though they could see we had Kraut prisoners with us. Fortunately none of us, including the Krauts, were hit. We fired back immediately and the Germans quickly disappeared.

Dittlebrunn was a reasonably large town and we could see there were plenty of nice homes and we envisioned we would be securing some nice billets and be spending the night there. After we captured the town and disposed of our prisoners we fanned out and picked out our billets. Just about the time we were ready to go inside, along came the Third Battalion Executive officer Capt. Mc Collum and he gave orders for his men to occupy the billets the Second Platoon had picked out. I was so furious at this turn of events that I went right up to him and said, "Wouldn't that beat the hell out of you, as soon as the fighting men take a town the rear echelon moves in and takes over".

Capt. Mc Collum said Sgt. "Give me your name, rank and serial number, I will have you court-martialed for talking to an officer like that." I just turned around and melted away, figuring he would not pursue it any further, which turned out to be the case.

(As the years went by I forgot what officer was involved but I never forgot the incident. When I went on the 1976 Trail of the Rainbow Tour, Former Capt. Mc Collum was on the tour also. I had not re-read my platoon history for many years and I did not remember that I ever knew him. We became the best of friends and when we got to Munich we paired up to try to find the area around the Braun Haus because we had both been there near the end of the war. We found the exact places where we had been. It was not until I got home and was reading my history that I realized that this was the same Capt. Mc Collum who threatened to have me court-martialed.

By this time all of the houses were occupied and we had to look elsewhere for billets. The best we could come up with was a church. We slept there as best as we could. Some of us slept in the pews and the others on the floors.



*“The original plan was to send the 12th Armored Division racing from Wurzburg to Schweinfurt and quickly capture the city but the opposition of the Germans in the towns forced this plan to be abandoned and on April 7th the CCA of the 12th Armored was placed under the control of the Rainbow and the Division directed to take the ball-bearing capital.*

*“Now the plan was for the infantry to drive straight north for the city. CCA was to cross the Main River north of Wurzburg and then race northward to prevent the enemy escaping to the east.*

*Chief obstacle to be overcome in taking the city would be the rings of 88-mm guns, which defended it. These guns were originally placed as anti-aircraft defenses to guard the ball-bearing factories, and they had made the city one of the most costly targets ever attacked by our air force. Now these same guns could be used as a defense against ground troops.*

*Despite determined enemy resistance, CCA and the 242nd Infantry advanced eight miles in the center of the Division zone on April 7. The 232nd Infantry captured the high ground north of Wurzburg after heavy fighting and the 222nd Infantry advanced 10 miles on the right and seized ferry sites near Volkbach on the Main.*

*The following day the 232nd Infantry Second Battalion met stiff resistance in the town of Arnstein, defended by young fanatics, some of them not more than 17 years old. The battalion, aided by the First Battalion, which had enveloped the enemy's left flank, finally cleared the town. The 242nd Infantry fought with CCA -against stubborn resistance and cleared the key towns of Werneck, Mulhausen and Etteben. The 142nd Engineer Battalion then constructed a trestle bridge across the Main River at Nordheim, 15 miles south of Schweinfurt so that CCA could cross the river and cut the escape routes to the east from Schweinfurt.*

*Town by town the Rainbow advanced toward Schweinfurt, moving forward against fire from 88-mm guns and automatic anti-aircraft weapons as well as infantry defenses. In the city itself the SS commander issued his usual field orders directing the 5,000 defenders of the city to fight to the last man and then he and his staff fled. Before they left, however, they hanged three men who wanted to surrender to the Americans. Their bodies were still hanging when Rainbow troops entered the city.*

*By April 10th the Division had fought its way through the outer defenses of the city and was ready to make its assault on the town. To reach it the infantry had to attack across a flat open area, which offered no protection against the 88-mm fire. If the German artillery remained intact it would be a difficult task to take the city, and a costly one.*

*It was decided first to completely circle the objective. To accomplish the 232nd Infantry was sent on a 10-mile march at night over rugged terrain with no roads, to the north of the city, so that it could then turn south and seize the high ground which was immediately north of Schweinfurt. In the meantime, CCA had been waging a fierce battle on the east of the Main, but had been able to get a few forces as far north as the Schweinfurt—Bamberg road and thus cut that escape artery.*

*Now air power was called in to smash the German artillery defenses. This time it was not the P-47's, which usually fly all close support missions, but medium bombers supplied close support for ground units.*

*The bombers flew three raids on the city and a total of 192 planes dropped their bomb loads on its defenses. When the 88-mm guns opened fire on the planes our artillery opened fire on them and effective counter battery fire destroyed many of the installations, which would have checked the Rainbow advance. Despite the counter battery fire, 15 planes were damaged.*

*In addition to its counter battery fire, the 42nd Division Artillery poured shells on all roads leading out of the city and prevented any mass flight of enemy troops from the city.*

*‘Your artillery fire was terrible,’ said a member of a headquarters staff who fled the city, but was captured later. ‘I was a member of a corps intelligence section and with the corps intelligence officer I tried to leave the city during the day on a motorcycle. We tried to move in short dashes along the road, thinking that you would not fire at us, but your liaison planes saw us and directed artillery fire. Finally we stopped and waited until darkness. Then we managed to escape.’*

*‘It was possible for one or two men to escape that way by dashing from place to place, but it was suicide for a column of men to try to march down a road.’*

*On the night of April 10 patrols from the 242nd Infantry moved across the table-top plain in front of Schweinfurt and discovered a means of entering the city by advancing through an area in which the 88-mm guns had been either abandoned or destroyed. These patrols then returned, and at three o’clock in the morning began guiding the 242nd Infantry Regiment to the city.*

*The plan now was for the 232nd Infantry to strike south from the high ground north of the city and capture the upper half of Schweinfurt. The 242nd Infantry was to take the center of the town and the 222nd Infantry was to move in from the south. Thus the enemy was completely encircled, for if he moved eastward out of the city he would be cut off by the 12th Armored Division.*

*In the meantime, both the 222nd and the 232nd Infantry Regiments were meeting stiff opposition on the outskirts of the city. On the north the enemy was trying desperately to keep open the Schweinfurt-Bamberg escape route and although the 232nd Infantry cut the road, it had difficulty entering its section of the city and the 242nd, which was meeting only occasional sniper fire, moved into the area.*

*In the southern outskirts of the city a group of young fanatics were staging a last ditch stand along a railroad track and before an airport. They were probably the most zealous of the city’s defenders, selected to hold off the Rainbowmen in the hope that their companions could escape to the north. Even when they knew they were surrounded they continued to fight, but when an attack was launched from their rear they either surrendered or were killed and the regiment then moved into the city.*

*As they entered Schweinfurt the Rainbowmen saw a city almost entirely destroyed by bombings and artillery fire, yet the famed ball-bearing factories were still operating. True, their production was only about 30 per cent of capacity, yet despite the bombings they were in operation, with the factories manned by slave laborers. As the infantrymen captured these plants husky Polish and Russian women workers came out of the bomb shelters and hugged the liberators.*

*‘I thought one girl was going to break my back she squeezed me so,’ said a rifleman.*

*Certainly the thousands of slave laborers were joyous, but just as they showed their happiness the people of Schweinfurt demonstrated their hatred of their conquerors. They had pledged a fight to the death, yet were bitter because the Americans had bombed and shelled the city. That first day the streets of Schweinfurt were deserted. The people were fearful of the American troops. The mayor of the city committed suicide by jumping from his office window rather than carry out the instructions of the military government officers. Twenty-four hours later all appeared forgotten as the same people poured out of their homes, jammed the streets and stood in long lines for food. Already they were willing to join the winning side.*

*Rounded up in the city and its outskirts were 3,000 prisoners, which made a total of 6,680 German soldiers captured by the Rainbow since it left Wurzburg. During the same time the Division cleared 100 square miles of Nazi territory and captured 50 towns and villages.*

*(On April 10, 11 men were assigned to Co. K. Donald Ostland, Henry Rowell, Kenneth Poole, Robert Bohn, Joseph Lejman, Lloyd Rosenbach, William Bissonette, Junior Herzet, Alfred Kaplan, Lloyd Kearney, Peter Lukachyk, Lino Masino, Arthur Romanoff, and Stanley Wilk. Harry Mulch was KIA in the attack on Dittlebrunn,. Phil Rizzo WIA. 103 Germans captured) (April 12 John Bolles, Phillip Scuchman, Morris Wetnight, Neal Bolton and Chas Braden joined Co. K.*

*On April 13, while the 222nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments were still mopping up in Schweinfurt and the 232nd Infantry was assembling north of the city word was received of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Throughout the Division, chaplains held memorial services for the President and at Schweinfurt men of the 242nd Infantry gathered amid the rubble and prayed at a brief service for their Commander-in-Chief. It was a strange gathering in which those weary infantrymen participated. The backdrop was a bomb-blasted theater, before which stood the flags of the 48 states. In all windows and the surrounding rooftops riflemen were posted to guard against sniper attacks. The Division chaplain said a prayer and General Collins spoke.*

*'Both the Army and the nation has lost a great leader,' he said. ' We feel that we have lost a friend and mourn that he will not be with us to see the final victory which is near.' \* [22]*

On April 13th we moved out by truck to Obach. (SEE MAP 16) Pfc. Neal Bolton and Pfc. Butler arrived as replacements for the Second Platoon. It was here that we received news of President Roosevelt's death. We left Obach and moved by truck back through Wurzburg and proceeded southeast about 25 miles to Hellmetzheim. (SEE MAP 14). Here we dug foxholes in a patch of woods between Hellmetzheim and Kitzenheim. We posted all around security. Lt. Anderson accidentally shot himself through the hand while fooling around with a captured German pistol. It was not serious enough to require hospitalization. (I don't remember if he missed any time away from the company or not.) Lt. Zillmer was very upset over this incident. It would have been bad enough for an enlisted man to do something this foolish, but for an officer to do it was really exasperating for Zillmer. We spent the night in the woods and then on the morning of the 14th of April we moved to the town of Kitzenheim where the Company Kitchen was preparing a meal of hot cakes. We were near enough to smell them and were really looking forward to a treat. Just as we were about ready to begin eating the Second Platoon was given orders that we were being sent on a special mission and we would not have time to eat. We were to go on a reconnaissance patrol to see if there were any Krauts in the area. (Co. K CP listed in MR's as Hellmitzheim)

We were driven in trucks for several miles and when we came to a destroyed bridge we de-trucked and started marching toward the town we were supposed to scout. We crossed the stream on a couple of weak looking springy boards and made our way to a hillside overlooking a town. We could see from our observation point that the town was crawling with Krauts, so we headed back to the Company HQ and reported what we had seen.

Company K then moved out and went back to the area where the Second Platoon had observed the town full of Krauts from. We dug foxholes on the hill overlooking the town but out of sight of the Germans. About the time we finished digging our foxholes orders came down that we were moving out. We then proceeded to march to the town of Diebach (SEE MAP 17). We were now on the route to Nurnburg.





DIEBACH, GERMANY APRIL 15, 45

This was the small village where Hood ate Usher's berries.  
See page 110 for the details. From this day on when we  
spoke of this nameless village, we described it as "the place  
where Hood ate Usher's berries".



Photo taken by Pettus in 1995

110A



Pvt. Billy Hood  
From Louisiana.  
He came into the  
Rainbow at  
Gremecy, France  
as a replacement  
along with many  
others, including  
Hines,  
Hennessey,  
Childress,  
and Hoard

Billy Hood in the Braun Haus cellar



We started to go right on through Diebach but stopped when we came to a blown bridge on the edge of town. We turned around and went back to the center of the town, secured billets and prepared to spend the night there. As usual we scrounged around hoping to find something better than army rations to eat. Usher found a fruit jar full of black berries and was delighted at his good fortune. He found a bowl, poured the berries into it and got some sugar from a K ration package and poured it on the berries. He was all set to dive into them when he was called to the Company CP on official business. He was only gone a few minutes and when he got back Pfc. Hood, a member of the Second Platoon, had just lapped up the last of the berries and was leaving the room. No one else happened to be in the room at the time that Hood first saw the berries or, I am sure, they would have told Hood in no uncertain terms that those berries did not belong to him. Usher came into the room with his mouth watering and all he saw was an empty purple stained bowl sitting in the middle of the table. He yelled out, "Who the hell ate my berries?" Hood weakly replied that he ate them and he didn't think they belonged to anyone. Usher said, "How the hell do you think they got out of the jar and got the sugar poured on them?" From that time on the town of Diebach was referred to as the "town where Hood ate Usher's berries."

We found a lot of fresh eggs in the town and fried them and ate them as fast as we found them. The first German we learned, when we arrived in Germany was "Haben Sie Eire" (Have you any eggs.)

The next morning, the 16th of April, we were told that the Krauts were expected to try to retake the town and we were to move out to the outskirts and dig in and prepare to defend it. While we were in this town one of the German women wanted to know if Pfc. Begin, who was very swarthy and had a heavy black growth of beard, was a Negro. Everyone but him was very amused at her question. He let her know in no uncertain terms that the answer was no. Just about the time we finished digging our foxholes the orders were changed and we moved toward the town of Neustadt. (see map 17) (MR says we moved from Birkenfield to Neustadt)

At this stage of the war the Germans were retreating so swiftly that if we rested a few hours we would be miles behind the front lines. This suited us fine. When we got to Neustadt, it was already full of rear echelon troops. We passed on through the city and dug in on a hillside at the edge of town. We got a hot meal and some Combat Infantry Badges. Though we were all entitled to them, there was not enough to go around so as usual we drew straws to see who got them.

Chaplain Potter had a religious service on the hillside while we were there. At dark we got orders to move back to the town and secure billets. We did so. We found good clean floors to sleep on, as all the beds were taken. The floors were so superior to the ground that we were not too concerned about not having beds.

As was the case about 90 per cent of the time, no sooner had we settled down when orders were given that we were moving out. Because there were so many rear echeloners in the town, we assumed we were a long way from any enemy and figured if we moved out it would be by truck. As usual, our assumptions were wrong and we moved out on foot. Our next objective was the town of Cadolzburg.

On the afternoon of the 17th of April as we approached the town from a wooded area enemy fire rang out and we all hit the ground. A few minutes later the news came that Sgt. Norman Usher and Sgt. Digiovanni had both been hit. The informers did not know how bad they were hit. All they knew was they were carried off the battlefield. The news that Usher was hit was a big shock to all the men in the Second Platoon. This was "Mother Usher" who was now gone and I had no idea how badly he was wounded. I had been in his squad since first arriving at

Company K in Camp Gruber. Then as he was promoted from First Squad Leader to Platoon Sgt. I had been promoted to assistant squad leader still under his leadership.

This was the worst blow of the war to me. (I don't remember when we found out about his condition. Surely we must have heard something within a few weeks, but I have no recollection of it. At any rate I wrote him either before coming home from Europe or shortly afterwards. We have kept in close contact all the years since then. Ruth and I first visited he and Doris in 1954. They came to see us in 1959. From that time on we saw each other every year or two and the last few years he and I go to Arizona to spend the winters. We purchased a mobile home in a park in Chandler, where we stay about six months each year. )

(Norm spent 14 months in the hospital. He had been hit in the right leg above the knee by four bullets. The bone was completely shattered and most of the muscle torn away. He still has one full bullet in the leg and pieces of another. He got over it remarkably well and we walk 18 holes of golf while in Arizona.)

We made our way out of the woods into town and came to the city tower. I instructed Pfc. Hennessey and Pfc. Hines to climb the tower and use it as an observation point to see if any enemy could be spotted. The tower had a circular staircase on the inside that led to the top.

When they got to the top of the tower, they cautiously peeped out and were seen by a Tank Company Lt., not a part of the Rainbow Division. He thought they were Krauts and immediately ordered his tank to open up on the top of the tower. When the first round hit the tower, Pfc. Begin ran over to him and chewed him up one side and down the other for firing at the tower. He said, "You damn fool don't you know those are our men up there." The Lt. didn't have much to say except that he was sorry.

Hennessey and Hines came down uninjured except both were groggy from the slight concussion from the shell explosion. (When Hennessey got home and needed some extra points to help him obtain employment in the postal service he wrote me and asked me if I remembered the incident and that he would appreciate it if I would send him a notarized affidavit stating the circumstances, which I did. He worked for the postal service from that time until he retired a few years ago.)

We spent the night in Cadolzburg and moved out the next morning. We marched several miles and then boarded trucks and proceeded onward. We rode quite a distance and then de-trucked in the town of Leichendorf. (SEE MAP 17). We found a good barn with a good hayloft and got some well-deserved rest for a few hours. (Pfc. William Butler into K Co.)

(In 1995 Usher and I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the victory in Europe's end. After all the ceremonies were over in Germany, we drove back to France for the final several days of activities. We stopped at all the places we were in during combat. I had been to Cadolzburg in 1976 and knew exactly where Usher was wounded so I took him to the spot. We stayed the night in Cadolzburg and ate dinner in a restaurant near our motel. The owner seemed to be about our ages so we asked him if he was a WWII German veteran and he said yes. I pointed to Usher and said, "He was wounded near this town on April 17, 1945. The man got up quickly from the table and hurried back to another room and came back with a small book with a picture of a large burning building on the cover and the date underneath the photo was April 17, 45. He indicated that this book was a gift for Norm because he was wounded on this date. When I got home I translated the book and found it was the story of the events that took place on April 17, 45. The building was the 1000 year old Royal Castle. I was not aware that there was a castle there. I puzzled over this for a long time, because I knew that Company K had taken the town about four p.m. and had spent the night there. According to the book the castle had started burning about 8:00 p.m. and burned all night.

I finally figured out that because we had been marching for a long time before we captured the town and were very tired we simply turned the usual search mission over to the black Infantry Rifle Company that was with the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and came into the town about the time the fighting was over, and found billets and sacked out. The next morning we moved out before daylight. The author of the book was Albrecht Treuheit. It was written after fifty years to try to explain what caused the destruction of the castle. Because the fighting had been over for several hours before it burned it was thought by many people that the American forces sabotaged it. Other town people were just as sure that the German defenders sabotaged it. I wrote Albrecht and told him that I was with the Company that took the town and he was overjoyed to hear from me. We began a regular correspondence and have become close friends. The castle is in the process of being restored and by 1995 the outside had been finished. The inside is still being worked on. The mayor of Cadolzburg invited me to come over and give a talk about what I knew about the events of the day at the annual "Remembrance Ceremony" which is held on April 17. I did go there in 1997 and had a wonderful time visiting with Albrecht and his wife Regina and being royally welcomed by the town officials and people. When I went over in 1998 for the French 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the end of WWI, Albrecht came to Kilstett, France and spent the day with the group I was traveling with. In 2001 I will be returning to France and will be involved as National President of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, in placing a plaque honoring the WWI Rainbow Veterans at Chateau Thierry. Albrecht will join us in Kilstett for a day and then the group will go to Cadolzburg and spend two nights and a day.)

On the next day, which was, the 19th of April, after a good breakfast of liberated eggs, we moved out toward the city of Stein (SEE MAP 17) which was only a few miles from Nurnburg. This was the largest city we had been in for some time. There were antitank blockades consisting of railroad ties etc. blocking all the major streets. The city had electricity, which was very unusual. This was the first city we had been in where there was a working electrical system. All of the small villages that we had been in did not have electricity and the large cities like Wurzburg had lost their power from the bombing and shelling. I was really amazed to see a working refrigerator in the first house I went in.

After we took the city we searched all the houses and building for enemy troops. We also looked for loot. I found a camera and liberated it. Frank Brooks found an even better one, which he did not know how to use. It was too complicated for him so he traded me even for the one that I had. (I took many dozens of pictures with it in Munich and later all over Austria, and used it many years after returning to the states. I still have it as a souvenir, although it has not been used for many years. )

We liberated something else here far better than anything we had liberated before. It was a Polish women's prison camp. The ladies came swarming out hugging and kissing us and laughing and crying all at the same time. We thought to ourselves what a time we were going to have if we stayed in Stein for the night.

We were given orders to proceed onward in the city, which we did. When we got to the Regnitz River there was an undamaged bridge across the river. We started forward toward the bridge and when we were only a few hundred feet away, the Krauts blew it sky high. Pfc. Keith Wright and Pfc. Wesley Johnson were the closest to it when it went and they were both knocked unconscious by the concussion.

While they were lying on the ground some German nurses who, were gathering up wounded German soldiers, saw them and tried to roll Wright on to a stretcher. About the time they were rolling him on he came to and saw what was going on. He begin to say "Nein, Nein~ and waved them away. (He said later he could just imagine himself being taken to a hospital full of enemy soldiers and what might happen to him there.)



After we saw that no one was seriously injured by the blowing of the bridge, we were happy that it was blown. We thought, now that our way is blocked, we would surely stay in this town for at least the night. Since we could not get across the river, we were given orders to search the rest of the city.

There was one large factory near the river, which we approached and found it locked. It was a Faber pencil factory. We found the manager and demanded that he open the place up. He claimed he did not have a key, so we broke the door down and made a thorough search of the building.

We found no enemy troops inside and nothing worth looting either. The only thing available was thousands of pencils. Since there was nothing else to loot I couldn't resist grabbing a handful of colored pencils. I put them in my shirt pocket. A few days later when we were in a heavy rainstorm the pencils turned into a gooey mess and the colored dyes ran all the way down my shirtfront. I then threw them away. (William Rosser & Austin Christian wounded in action)

It began to get dark with, as yet, no orders to move out and we begin to dream about staying in this town for the night. We were all thinking about all those poor liberated ladies who sorely needed comfort.

Alas it was not to be. Just after dark trucks arrived and we moved out and rode for several hours. The truck drivers tried many roads looking for a way to cross the Regnitz River before finding one. When we finally did find a crossing we used it and then drove for several more hours. About midnight we de-trucked and then marched for several hours. (I can still remember how tired we were and each time we got a break everyone flopped down on the road and immediately fell asleep for the break time.)

Soon we noticed that we were right across the river from the pencil factory that we had searched several hours before. We all thought how happy we would have been to just stay in the town that night and swim across the river when our Company got to where they were now.

At one of the breaks Wright found a cache of Lugar pistols. They were a prized possession and the GI's around him quickly grabbed them up at the time. (Wright still has his after all these years. )

We kept on marching until about 2 a.m. and then we stopped in the small town of Gerbersdorf (SEE MAP 17), on the outskirts of Nurnburg. There we spent the rest of the morning. Nurnburg fell to American forces on this day. We could see it burning from way off in the distance for the last many hours. It had been fire bombed a few days before by the Allied Air Forces.

We moved out of Gerbersdorf in a southwest direction to a small village named Gutzberg. (SEE MAP 17). We spent the night in this town. The Second Platoon was unusually lucky here. We billeted in a house that had a working refrigerator and there was even some champagne in it. It disappeared quickly. We also found bacon and eggs and there was even some hot cakes made while we were there.

On the morning of April 20th we moved out early and the Second Platoon rode on some Tank Destroyers. After riding about 15 miles it began to rain and we were all soaked to the skin. I don't think anyone had a raincoat by this time in the war. About 6 p.m. we got off the TD's and started marching again. We were glad to be marching because we were so wet and cold.

We left the roads and headed out through the woods. Soon we came under Kraut rifle fire. We hit the dirt and fired back in the general direction that we thought the Kraut fire was coming from. Evidently there were only a few men there because that was the last of their fire and they were nowhere around when we passed on through the area they had fired from.

About 9 p.m. we came to a town and secured billets. I was lucky in that I did not draw the first round of guard duty, and was soon standing in front of a stove, stripped down to my long underwear and holding my wet outer garments in my hands to try to dry them out. There was a circle of men around the stove. We were there only a few minutes when the orders were changed and we were told to hit the road. ( I can still remember how bad it was to have to put the soaking wet garments back on; it would have been far better to never have taken them off if we had only known that we would be moving out so quickly.)

We marched another five or six miles and at 2 a.m. we stopped in the town of Reichelsdorf (SEE MAP 17). The Second Platoon's billets were a beer hall. We posted all around the town security and those that weren't on guard duty pulled off their wet clothes and hit the sack. We hung the clothes anywhere we could to let them dry out.

The next morning the 21st of April we were up at dawn. We had time to fry a bunch of liberated eggs and then were off on the march again. After we had marched several miles through the woods we headed down a road and saw a Kraut convoy coming our direction on another road parallel to the road we were on. (Morning Reports shows Gutzburg as Co. K CP April 21)

We immediately hit the dirt and commenced firing every thing we had at them. They stopped the trucks and came piling out with their hands held high. The First Squad of the Second Platoon was sent over to round them up.

When we got to them there were several wounded Krauts and one who was lying on the ground with a very severe head wound. The First Squad Leader, Staff Sgt. Alex Czcinski, decided when he saw that the man's brains were oozing out through his skull, that he had no chance to live, so he shot him to put him out of his misery. Later he wondered out loud if he had done the right thing. We all agreed that he had and that the Kraut had no chance of living with an injury like that. Little did poor Czcinski realize that in two days he would be killed.

We marched several more miles and came to a small town where we had hope, as always, that we would stop and rest and spend the night. we went right on through, however, and marched until noon. This was the 21st of April. At noon we stopped for an hour's rest then marched on until just before dark. We then came to the town of Durrenmungenau. (SEE MAP 18) We were told we would be spending the night here so we posted security and those who weren't on the first shift hit the sacks.

*"That same day (April 13th) the Division received orders from XI Corps directing that it turn southeast and attack the city of Furth, the western third of the Nazi shrine city of Nurnburg. The Rainbow was to assist the XV Corps in the capture of Nurnburg. This was the city that was the stronghold of Nazism. Here if anywhere it was believed that the Germans would put up a fight. Although the Nazi party was born in Munich, it was in Nurnburg that it grew. The city of Furth, which normally has a population of about 100,000 adjoins Nurnburg as is as much a part of it as is the Bronx a part of New York City.*

*To capture these dual strongholds of Nazism a five-division attack was planned. The Rainbow was to attack from the west against Furth, The Third Infantry Division was to strike from the north, the 45th Infantry Division from the east and the 4th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Division from the south.*

Der Niedergang  
der Hohenzollernveste  
» CADOLZBURG «  
am 17. April 1945



STUDIE  
von Albrecht Treuheit  
1995

Reconstructed Castle 1995



The Aussichtsturm  
(observation  
Tower) April 17, 45

Same tower 1995







Photo by Walter Smith, Co. K, 232 taken on April 17, 1945. "Cadolzburg burning in the distance. There is fighting to gain control of the castle. It is burning because of the snipers firing at the tanks. Our men are in the fields and woods.



We have been held up because of mines in the road. Col. Coleman has gone to investigate. Lt. Custer is standing. Cannon Co. guns are on the side of the hill. Two of our jeeps were blown to bits, just ahead of us. (Walter Smith)



This picture was taken in 1945 from the same view-point as the one above taken in 1997 by Pettus.

Note the arrows showing the same buildings. Note the extreme left arrow, on the lower photo, only the tower of the Castle remains. Picture was taken after it was burned.

Norm in 1995 picture near the spot where he was wounded on 4-17-45. near



*LUTHERN PARSONAGE*  
CADOLZBURG, GERMANY



*RECONSTRUCTED CASTLE*  
CADOLZBURG, GERMANY



*RECONSTRUCTED CASTLE*  
CADOLZBURG, GERMANY







### *AUSSICHTURM*

THE OBSERVATION TOWER  
CADOLZBURG, GERMANY

QUOTE ON BACK OF PICTURE BY SMITH  
"LT. GUNTEROTH AND COWAN HIS DRIVER  
I TOOK THIS AT CADOLZBURG. MY PACK  
JEEP. END OF BEDROLL STICKING OUT OF  
SEAT. IN THE DISTANCE IS THE TOWER IN  
WHICH CAPT. HOUSER HAD C P'S TO WATCH  
FIGHTING UP AHEAD. SIDE OF THE TOWER  
WAS KNOCKED AWAY BY OUR TANK FIRE.  
MY RIFLE STICKING OUT OF SEAT.



### *AUSSICHTURM*

THIS PICTURE IS 180 DEGREES  
FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE  
WW II PICTURE.. THE RED ROOF  
BUILDING IS THE SAME ONE  
ON THE OTHER PICTURE

### *SAME HOUSE NOW*



### *REGIMENTAL CP*





James R. Pettus, late in 1945, Salzburg Austria





### *STEIN, GERMANY*

REDNITZ RIVER BRIDGE.

WE APPROACHED THE BRIDGE FROM THE FOREGROUND OF THE PICTURE. THE BRIDGE WAS BLOWN UP BY THE GERMANS JUST AS WE GOT NEAR IT. KETH WRIGHT AND WESLEY JOHNSON WERE KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS FOR A FEW MINUTES. WRIGHT TOLD ME RECENTLY THAT HE REMEMBERED LOOKING UP JUST BEFORE THE BRIDGE BLEW AND 'SAW A MAN LOOKING OUT OF A 'SECOND STORY WINDOW. HE 'MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE BUILDING ON THE RIGHT JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE. HE FIGURED THIS WAS THE MAN THAT PUSHED THE PLUNGER.



### *FABER PENCIL FACTORY*

WE SEARCHED THIS BUILDING FOR ENEMY AND I TOOK A HANDFULL OF COLORED PENCILS AND PUT THEM IN MY JACKET POCKET. A DAY OR TWO LATER IT RAINED HARD AND THE PENCILS MELTED AND STAINED MY JACKET AND SHIRT AND EVEN DOWN TO MY PANTS. SO I NEVER FORGOT THIS INCIDENT.



### *FABER PENCIL FACTORY*

THIS IS THE BUILDING WE SEARCHED AND WHERE I LIBERATED THE PENCILS.



8 Uhr-Blatt

# Abendzeitung

N Ü R N B E R G

1,20 Mark

Freitag, 18. April 1997

Nr. 89/16 · J 1028 · Postfach 4252 · 90022 Nürnberg

0911/2331-0



Farbstift-Fan und Ex-US-Sergeant James Pettus kam nach 50 Jahren wieder zu Faber-Castell in Stein. Foto: Thomas Langer

## Er stürmte das Bleistift-Imperium

Colored Pencil-Fan and Ex USS Sergeant James Pettus  
comes again after 50 years.

## He stormed the Pencil-Empire

50 years ago and freed the city of Stein  
now he sweeps back.

*Now the Rainbow was to advance into the holy ground of Nazism. It was to strike quickly, before the Germans had a chance to rally a defense, with its axis of advance along the broad, straight Wurzburg-Nurnburg road.*

*The Division now moved south from Schweinfurt and again crossed the Main River, this time at Nordheim. It then spread out on a 25-mile front and advanced with the 222nd Infantry on the left of the Wurzburg-Nurnburg road and the 232nd Infantry on the right. The 242nd Infantry was in division reserve. The 42nd Reconnaissance Troop conducted motorized patrols on the Division left flank and maintained contact with the 3rd Infantry Division.*

*Loaded on trucks and jeeps and trailers and with patrols screening the area before them the two regiments raced ahead without contact with the enemy until they neared the town of Neustadt on the Aisch River, a historic strong-point in the defense of Nurnburg. Here the enemy had decided to put up his fists to fight for the shrine city.*

*The enemy had strength in Neustadt, not sufficient to stop a Division advance, but enough to delay it and inflict casualties. General Collins had the choice of either ordering a direct assault on the town, which would save time but cost lives, or encircling it and forcing it to fall with little opposition. To gain the objective with the absolute minimum of casualties was always his policy and once again he chose to surround the enemy.*

*To accomplish this the First Battalion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry moved to the north of the town. At 1200 on April 16 the Second Battalion, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, seized the high ground south of the town and CCA of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division moved up to join in the assault. At 0530 the Second and Third Battalions of the 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry attacked across the Aisch River against light opposition and elements of CCA moved into the town. The enemy, realizing they were surrounded on three sides and had no hope of victory, either withdrew or surrendered.*

*The Division again pushed forward and on the same day advanced six miles past Neustadt. The 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was now brought forward and moved into the line between the other two regiments. Higher Headquarters now changed the plan of attack of Nurnburg slightly. Instead of heading directly to the city, the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division were directed to swing more to the south and strike out for the Danube River and Munich. The 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was directed to move to the south of the city and cut the Nurnburg-Munich road. The 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry and the 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiments were to make the final assault on Furth.*

*At dawn on April 17<sup>th</sup> the Rainbow renewed its advance with a three-regiment front. The 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry attacked at 0400 with the Second Battalion on the left, the First Battalion on the right and the Third Battalion in reserve. Against light opposition the regiment raced ahead and reached the Regnitz River north of Furth and near the town of Vach. There the Second Battalion forced a crossing against enemy small arms fire and established a firm bridgehead. The First Battalion captured a large airfield north of the city and aggressive combat patrols were sent out by the regiment during the night to probe the enemy defenses of Furth.*

*In the meantime, the 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was advancing with the Second Battalion on the right, the Third on the left and the First in Reserve. Initially the advance met no resistance, but as the regiment neared Furth it began to receive mortar and small arms fire. On this day the regiment captured the tiny farm community of Cadolzburg, where the Nazi Jew-baiter Julius Streicher had a farm. Streicher himself had fled only a few hours before the Rainbow men arrived. In the center of the Division attack the 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was also advancing with the First and Second*

*Battalions abreast and the Third in Reserve. By nightfall patrols had reached the Regnitz on the western outskirts of Furth.*

*Now the Division stood poised for the assault on Furth. To the north, moving southward on the city, was the Second Battalion of the 222nd. on the western outskirts and advancing toward the city were the First and Third Battalions of the same regiment. The 242nd Infantry was moving east toward the southern portion of the city and the 232nd Infantry was driving to cut all southern escape routes from Nurnburg.*

*In the city itself there was confusion. This was no small town, but a city crowded with refugees and with a population of more than 150,000. In it were approximately 7,500 troops consisting of miscellaneous army units which had been fleeing before the Division's advance, stragglers from units which had been destroyed and Volkstrum who had been training for years in the defense of their city. Civilian authorities wanted to surrender, the army did not. The military plan was for the soldiers to stage a stubborn defense of the approaches to the city and then withdraw into Nurnburg for a last ditch fight there. While these defenders lacked artillery, they had small arms and automatic weapons and quantities of ammunition.*

*Road blocks had been prepared throughout the city. Street cars had been derailed and dragged across the streets. Barriers had been built with logs and huge pieces of scrap iron and steel. All bridges had been blown.*

*The order had been issued for the German withdrawal. They were to defend until nightfall of April 19 and then they were to retreat to Nurnburg. With 7,500 men from Furth the Nazis would be able to stage a strong defense in Nurnburg.*

*The Rainbow was to spoil their plans, however. They had counted on an attack on April 19, but the Division advance had been faster than the enemy had believed possible and on the morning of April 18 the Division struck.*

*Supported by artillery-fire, which had been pouring into the western limits of the city during the night, the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry crossed the Regnitz River, which flowed along the northern outskirts of the city, and entered Furth. At the same time Company K of the 222nd Infantry led elements of the Third Battalion over the twisted steel girders of a blown bridge and entered the northeastern portion of the city. Now the defenders battled fanatically to prevent the enlargement of these two bridgeheads, but the Rainbowmen pushed ahead and cleared cleared building after building so that by midnight they occupied six square blocks of the city.*

*Moving now with its three battalions abreast over a wide front the 242nd Infantry reached the Regnitz in force and the 232nd Infantry cut all southern escape routes from Nurnburg.*

*At three o'clock on the morning of April 19 the Third Battalion of the 242nd Infantry crossed the Regnitz River near Dambach and with the First Battalion following, entered Furth. Now the 222nd Infantry pushed forward and early that morning the burgomeister of Furth surrendered the city to the officers of Company K, 222nd Infantry. Placed in a jeep he then rode through the city's streets shouting to the people to lay down their arms and hang out white flags.*

*The 222nd and 242nd Regiments now moved into the city and began the task of rounding up prisoners. The city had fallen before the time ordered for their retreat. Dazed and confused, 5,000 surrendered. Had their plan of withdrawal been effective they would have been able to stage a fierce defense amid the rubble of Nurnburg, already well defended by SS troopers.*



*Rainbowmen advancing through the city found the attitude of the people in sharp contrast to that of the citizens of Schweinfurt. So eager were they to please their conquerors that they immediately began tearing down the roadblocks they had erected only a few hours before and guide vehicles into the town. An order was issued to turn in all guns and they rushed to obey. Not only did they turn in weapons, but also anything else, which they thought, might identify them with the German army. Uniforms, gas masks, helmets, Nazi party arm—bands were thrown on the huge piles before the city hall. People rushed up and down the streets intent on some minor mission whom they seemed to think must be done immediately. Women seeking firewood descended on the ruins of houses hit by shells and began hauling timbers away. They seemed to take no interest in the fighting still raging in Nurnburg. These same people who had cheered Hitler were now ready to cheer the armies who destroyed him.*

*They had seen it before, but here again Rainbowmen saw how completely the people ignored their own men who were being marched through the streets as prisoners of war. They didn't cheer them, as might have been expected, not did they jeer because they had failed to defend the city. They seemed to take no notice of them. They gazed in curiosity upon the Americans, but for their own troops they had hardly a glance. Here and there a woman waved, but there were few tears as these men marched off to prison camps.*

*Perhaps they thought them fortunate, for so many other men had died. They at least had a chance to return to their homes.*

*Now the Rainbow was attached to the XV Corps and no sooner had Furth fallen than the Division received orders to advance to the south and 'seize and hold crossings of the Danube River, and be prepared for a further advance south on Corps order.' On the right of the Division was the 12th Armored. On the left was the 106th Cavalry Group.*

*The route of the Division's advance led directly toward the famed German 'Redoubt' area in the Alps where Hitler would supposedly make his last stand and where the SS were to fight to the last man. In this Redoubt the spirit of Nazism was to be kept alive and here Der Fuehrer was to reorganize his army and continue the war.*

*Against the American army advancing toward this area the SS had organized a rear guard action intended to check the Allies until they could hole up in their retreat. Slave laborers and townspeople all along the roads and on all strategic high ground had dug foxholes. SS men and officers were ranging back and forth across the country gathering together stragglers from various German army units, organizing them into squads, platoons or companies and ordering them to defend this town or woods or crossroads. If they failed to fight, promised the SS, they would be shot in the back, or killed by the Storm Troopers when they returned. More than one man fired a machine gun from an exposed position with a SS man hidden 200 or 300 yards behind him with a rifle trained on his back. So feared were these 55 men that many people actually looked upon the American soldiers as saviors and were fearful that if the Americans went on after capturing a town the SS would come back and kill them.*

*Shortly after one small town was captured the Burgomeister rushed up to the company commander and pleaded that he send some men over to a nearby community and capture it also. 'Those are my people there, too,' he said. 'If you don't send men the SS will kill everyone in it.'*

*Troops were sent to the neighboring town and so grateful were the townspeople that they wanted to give a banquet for the Americans.*

*Although many times welcomed by the Bavarian farmers, the Rainbow was nevertheless to receive some stiff opposition from groups of SS and the men they forced to fight. At Donauworth, a small city on the Danube and a key to the Redoubt defenses, they were to fight a fierce battle.*

*Into this area the Division moved on April 21 with the 232nd Infantry on the left of the Division zone and the 242nd Infantry on the right. Advancing by shuttling with their motors the two regiments moved approximately 16 miles that first day, meeting and overcoming spotty resistance. Many men walked all the way and there were many infantrymen who had walked ever since the Rainbow de-trucked after crossing the Rhine. The Division had been advancing and fighting day and night and the men were tired. Yet they continued to push ahead. It didn't seem possible that the war would last much longer.*

*The following day the Division advanced another 10 miles, brushing aside all resistance and captured two bridges intact across the Aitmuhi River. So swift had been the advance that the enemy did not have time to blow them. With the 222nd Infantry continuing as division reserve the other two regiments maintaining their rapid advance on April 23 and made gains of up to 15 miles. On that same day the Rainbow was given the mission of crossing both the Danube and Lech Rivers near Donauworth and the 27th Tank Battalion of the 20th Armored Division was attached to the Division.*

*Now as the Division moved ever nearer to the Danube and Donauworth it became evident that the Germans were going to stage a fight in that city, which had a bridge across the river and was one of the outposts of the Redoubt defense area.*

*The roads in front of the Division were mined and the First Battalion of the 232nd Infantry had a stiff fight in capturing the town of Dockingen against artillery and small arms fire.*

*Advancing over poor roads and through difficult terrain the Rainbow continued to push ahead with a speed which stretched supply lines to the limit. Trucks of the 42nd Quartermaster Company were now hauling supplies from dumps 200 miles to the rear and regimental and artillery supply elements were relaying them forward. So well did all service units do their job that not once was the Division delayed because of a lack of fuel, ammunition or food.*

*The communications problems were tremendous. Men of the 132nd Signal Company were working day and night laying wire and maintaining wire and radio communications. The Division Command Post was constantly moving, not just once a day, but two and even three times a day, and all other command posts were doing the same, or moving even more frequently. No sooner were communications installed in one post than the crews moved ahead to put wire into the next.*

*Engineers of the 142nd Engineer Battalion were sweeping roads for mines, filling in craters, repairing bridges. Both the combat infantrymen and the men in the Rainbow's service elements went for two days or more without sleep and then would get perhaps a few hours rest and return to their jobs.*

*The Division was advancing swiftly, but as it moved forward it remained a unified, complete fighting machine because every man did his job even though he sometimes neared exhaustion. “  
\* [23]*

**The next morning, the 22nd of April, we proceeded onward and moved through the town of Beerbach, (SEE MAP 18), and headed southwest toward Dittenheim. (SEE MAP 18) We crossed the Altmuhl River on a bridge which the Krauts had apparently not had time to blow up. (MR's show Absberg as Co. K location this date) (Rushton, Sizemore, Tryee into Co. K)**

**We were heading toward the city of Donauworth, which was strategically located on the Danube River. It was thought that the Krauts would make a major effort to hold**

this city as long as possible. We stopped in Gegersheim (SEE MAP 18) where we posted security and acquired billets for the night.

I was on guard duty with a buddy in a foxhole on the 10 p.m. to midnight shift. A few minutes before 12, I told my buddy that I would go wake up our relief men. He was to stay until they relieved him. I proceeded back to town, a ten-minute walk, and woke up Gerald Begin and Laymon Baker to begin their shift. Baker complained that neither one of them had a watch and how were they going to know when their time was up. I gave my watch to Begin and told him to take care of it because there weren't many men with watches in our platoon.

I found a bed and hit the sack. (This is one place I remember where I had the big feather bed and bolster described earlier in the "Rainbow History." I slept like a log and did not know anything until morning. (Morning Report) shows moved to Doekingen on 23 April)

Upon awakening the next morning I was told that both Baker and Begin were wounded on the way to their post and were on their way back to a hospital. I asked how were they hit and was told the story. They had only proceeded a few hundred yards from our billet when they were challenged by a green replacement from M Company who was standing guard in front M Company HQ. When the man saw them approaching, and they were at least a block away, he yelled at them to give him the password. Then he fired two shots with his carbine, from the hip, before they had time to even begin to answer his challenge. They were both hit, one in the leg and the other in the arm. Both wounds were the "million dollar kind" that everyone always talked about getting. That is where they do no permanent damage but get a person out of the rest of the war. Both were flesh wounds, bad enough to keep them out of the rest of the war and not serious enough to disable them in any way. They both returned to Company K after the war and the first thing I asked Begin was "Where is my watch?" Begin said he had given it to Frank Brooks to give to me before he was carted off to the hospital. Brooks denied ever having received it so I was out a watch. (MR-moved from Beerbach to Wending on 24<sup>th</sup>)

On the morning of April 24th we moved on toward the town of Nessbuhl. (SEE MAP 19) The 2nd Platoon was riding on the tops of Tank Destroyers. We rode for about 15 miles and arrived at the city outskirts. We disembarked and spent about an hour in a barn resting. When we emerged from the barn we watched some German planes being chased by some American fighter planes. This was one of the few times we saw Kraut aircraft during the war. We boarded the PD's and continued onward and rode them until dark. Then we moved on by foot. As we approached a town we could see flames from a burning building. When we got to the town we marched by the burning house, which was on a corner of the block. (As we talked about our war experiences later, not knowing the name of this town, we always referred to it as the "town with the burning house on the corner.")

A few miles further down the road with the Second Platoon in the lead of Company, as usual, our advance guard, which consisted of Keith Wright, Clinton Childress, Bjork and Hood, ran into heavy machine gunfire. Lt. Zillmer ordered the First Squad of the Second Platoon to proceed forward to investigate the area where the fire had come from. With the First Squad Leader, Sgt. Czcinski in the lead and myself bringing up the rear we made our way cautiously toward the enemy position.

Apparently, Czcinski got close enough to the machine gun position to learn what he needed to know and was on his way back to confer with me about what action to take. The rest of the squad was spread out for 50 or 60 feet, sitting on the ground awaiting his return. I saw him coming back in a low crouch and moving quickly toward me. When he was about 30 or 40 feet away a shot rang out and he dropped. I realized immediately that the shot came from Pvt. Butler who was only a few feet to my left.



Butler was saying, "I got him, I got him". I turned to him and said, "Shut up Butler, you have just shot Czcinski. I then went over to where he had fallen and saw that Max Collins was holding him in his arms as he gasped his last breath I decided that I had better get the squad back to the Company area as I feared the noise of the shot had alerted the Krauts to our position. (MR shows Czcinski KIA on 22<sup>nd</sup> and Marino on 25<sup>th</sup>, should be 24<sup>th</sup>)

I collected the squad and we made our way back to the Company area. I reported to Lt. Zillmer what had happened and he asked me if I could find my way back to bring Czcinski back. I said, "yes" and he told me to take four men and do so. On the chance that he might still be alive, Zillmer said he would send our Platoon runner back to the rear to request an ambulance. I led the four men back and we carried Czcinski back to the Company.

As Pfc. Harry Marino, our platoon messenger, was on the way, on foot, a man in the Third Platoon of Company K shot him in the shoulder. Thus there were three men wounded and one man killed from the Second Platoon Company.1 by friendly fire in one 24-hour period.

Early on the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup> we were on our way again. After marching a few miles we came to the town of Daiting. (SEE MAP 19) We rested a couple of hours and then moved out and dug foxholes in the forest just outside of the town. We were told we would be spending the night there, but as usual, about the time we were dug in, orders were changed and we moved on. We marched about four miles to the town of Leitheim (SEE MAP 19), where we rested for two hours. (MR shows attacking from Wending to Daiting on this date)

At daylight on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, we marched the few remaining miles to the Danube River. We crossed the river in assault boats just south of the town. We were a few hundred yards west of the conjunction of the Lech canal with the Danube. We still had the canal to cross. It was as wide as the Danube and much swifter. We were very apprehensive about being on this narrow piece of land with a major river behind us and another in front of us. There was no place to go if we came under Kraut fire.

We were there all day and in the early evening we crossed the Lech Canal on a, just finished, engineer built bridge. We were very happy to get across that bridge. Not long after crossing the canal we stopped and spent the night in a forest. (MR- Chas Thomas trfd to Serv. Co.)

Early the next morning, the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, we headed toward the city of Rain. (SEE MAP 19) After we captured the city we started our usual house-to-house search looking for German soldiers. I was now Squad Leader of the First Squad and Keith Wright, who I had requested as my assistant, was Assistant Squad Leader. (Morning Report)-Riley reduced to Pvt. (also shows Co. K in attack under heavy fire on the way to Rain, no casualties)

We were assigned a street to search and I took half of the squad and gave Wright the other half and told him we would go the length of the block with my group searching the left side and his the right side of the street. I told him we would meet at the end of the block. When my half got to the end of the block we stopped and waited for Wright's group. We waited and waited and waited. Finally I began to worry. I thought maybe they got ambushed or something. I decided there was no way it could take this much longer to search the same number of houses that we had searched. I then told my group to go two to a house, starting at the last house on Wright's side and work their way back up the street.

About the third house from the end of the street we found Keith and his men seated at a kitchen table eating ham and eggs and instructing the German women of the house to "Bring on more food". I said to him, "We thought you had all been killed and here you are feeding

your faces.” He replied, “well we haven’t had anything to eat since yesterday and we were hungry.”

We stayed in Rain the rest of the day and we ate everything in sight. Keith and I cooked bacon, eggs, and made hot cakes for the First Squad. We were hoping we would be there for the night because of all the good food supplies we had found. We had no such luck however, about dark we moved out riding on TD’s for about five miles. We then disembarked and dug in. As usual as soon as we finished digging foxholes we were told that we were moving on. We marched another 5 miles and came to the town of Riedheim, (SEE MAP 19). The date was now April 28, 1945. We spent the night here. Tom Collins found some barber scissors here and went into the barber business. He gave everyone that wanted one, a free haircut. Most everyone wanted one and everyone certainly needed one. No telling how long it had been since we had a haircut. (MR shows Joseph Zajack WIA on this date. Ray Lunning back to Co. K)

On the 29th of April, we were notified that Company K was going to the Division Headquarters to be on guard duty for 24 hours. We moved out by truck to the town of Schwabhausen, (SEE MAP 20) which is just a few miles northeast of Munich. We had good duty here and enjoyed being rear-echeloners if only for one day.

The next day, April 30th we headed for Munich. We stopped in a small town on the way and Childress and I caught a chicken we spied running loose in the yard of the house we were in. It was very soon in the frying pan. Lt. Zillmer happened by while we were in the process of frying the chicken and asked us how we came by the chicken. Quick as a flash Childress said the chicken had got its head caught in the yard gate and hung itself so we decided to cook it. We offered Zillmer some when it was cooked but he politely declined.

*“On this morning of April 25 the Rainbow launched its assault on Donauworth, reported to be defended by about 700 Germans, the majority of them SS troops. To capture the city a special task force was organized under the control of the commanding officer of the 27th Tank Battalion, and Donauworth, reported to be defended by about 700 Germans, the majority of “On this morning of April 25 the Rainbow launched its assault on them SS troops Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Downard, Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry, was named executive officer. This force consisted of Companies B, C, and D of the Tank Battalion, Companies E and F of the 222nd Infantry, Company G of the 242nd Infantry, two platoons of Company A, 142nd Engineers, and two platoons of Company A, 692nd Tank Destroyer Division.*

*The plan was to launch a two-pronged attack upon the city with one column of tanks ridden by infantry striking from the north along the road leading into the city and the other column driving eastward to the Danube River and then west along a river road and into the city. This second column, commanded by Colonel Downard, would prevent the enemy escaping to the east.*

*The attack began at 0700 and caught the Germans by surprise. They had expected a slower advance by infantry on foot. When the tank column under Colonel Downard reached the road paralleling the river they found the enemy on the far side of the Danube fleeing across an open plain. With infantrymen firing their rifles and the machine guns of the tanks blazing the column roared along the road toward Donauworth, leaving the open ground opposite it littered with enemy dead.*

*reached the city almost simultaneously, but as they neared the outskirts the Nazis set off a series of charges, which destroyed the bridge across the river. All others in the Division zone had been blown previously and now the Germans north of the River had no choice but to fight. The two columns*

*The men left behind to battle for this key town were picked troops, experienced and determined. They knew they could do no more than delay the Rainbow's advance, yet they had no thought of surrender. With the roads mined, the Germans battled the tanks and infantrymen. The tankers were fighting their first battle and in the first five minutes of the fight huge mines destroyed three tanks. Protected by the infantrymen, the (remaining) tanks nevertheless, pushed forward and for six hours house-to-house fighting raged. For the Germans and the Rainbowmen it was a battle to the death. When the fight was over and the task force had captured the city it took only 17 prisoners.*

*By nightfall that same day the Second and Third Battalions of the 242nd Infantry had reached Donauworth, the First Battalion of the same regiment had reached the river just to the east of the city and the Second and Third Battalions of the 232nd Infantry were at the river near the towns of Leitheim and Leitheim. The First Battalion was just slightly to the rear of them and the 222nd Infantry was in Division reserve.*

*Although it had advanced against the heaviest opposition and through the poorest road net in the Corps Zone, the Rainbow Division was the first unit in the XV Corps to reach the Danube. It immediately began its crossing and the drive for Munich, the birthplace of the Nazi Party.*

*With the artillery pouring fire across the river the 242nd Infantry began its crossing at 0045 on April 26. Crossing in the first assault boats, manned by men of Company C, 142nd Engineers were elements of the First Battalion. There was no resistance and the First Battalion rapidly expanded a bridgehead. The Third Battalion next made the crossing, passed through the First and headed for the Lech River. The Second Battalion remained behind in Donauworth.*

*East of the spot where the 242nd Infantry made its crossing the 232nd Infantry was also making a bridgehead. This regiment began its attack at 0300 with the men of the Second Battalion riding in assault boats manned by Company B, 142nd Engineers. The first company crossed the river in 12 minutes and the remainder of the Battalion followed rapidly. The Third Battalion then followed and behind it came the First. The Battalions pushed south for two miles and then turned and raced for the Lech, four miles away. (This disagrees considerably with my account of being only a few hundred yards from the Lech. I have no doubt that the battalion was spread out for a long way, in the crossing, and Company K was much closer to the junction of the two rivers and therefore had only a short distance to the Lech.)*

*At daylight the Germans began shelling the crossing sites, but despite this ferries were constructed and vehicles were taken across the river. Working under a smoke screen, engineers of the 109th Engineer Battalion began construction of a treadway bridge across the river. Late that afternoon the bridge was completed, but the first tank over it crashed through the far end into the river and it had to be repaired and strengthened. By nightfall, however, traffic was rolling across it.*

*By this time the infantrymen had reached the swift-flowing Lech River, where they found all bridges destroyed. Here, too, the river was so swift that a crossing in assault boats was impossible and the enemy was resisting on the other side. Fortunately, however, the Germans had not accomplished the destruction of all the bridges with their usual thoroughness. Immediately east of the town of Genderkingen patrols of the Second Battalion of the 232nd Infantry found that a large steel bridge had dropped to the water but could be made passable for foot troops if assault boats and planking were placed in two places where it was under water.*

*Under enemy fire, the men of Company B, 142nd Engineers, moved out on the bridge and began the job of repairing the structure. Although several were wounded, the others remained at their posts and working in the darkness completed the job before midnight. Troops of the Second Battalion*



*then crossed the river to force the Rainbow's second major crossing in 24 hours. Once across the battalion met stiff resistance and was forced to turn south to eliminate it rather than continue on to its initial objective of the town of Rain. The Third Battalion closely followed the second across the river, however, and moved east and captured Rain. The First Battalion crossed the bridge before morning and swung northward to establish that side of the bridgehead. During*

## CROSSING THE DANUBE RIVER EARLY IN THE MORNING OF APRIL 26, 1945

As the assault boat I was in crossed the river, I leaned over the side and took this picture of this boat returning to get another load of Rainbow men.



124A



1995 Photo of confluence of the Danube River & the Lech Canal. The Lech flows off to the left near the center of the picture and the Danube goes to the right. In 1945 we crossed the Danube just a few hundred feet to the right of where the rivers split.



*the day engineers constructed a treadway bridge beside the original structure and the balance of the Division moved across.*

*The Rainbow Division was now headed directly south for Munich with the last serious obstacle overcome. The right boundary of the Division was the autobahn leading into the city and on the other side was the Third Infantry Division. On the Division's left was the 45th Infantry Division and the boundary led through the famous Nazi concentration camp of Dachau.*

*That word, Dachau, is one, which few men of the Rainbow will ever forget. They had heard of Nazi concentration camps and believed or half-believed the stories of the SS atrocities and brutalities conducted in them. Soon they were to see the most famous of all German horror prisons. The oldest such camp in Germany, its very name was feared. Men and women who entered those massive stone gates, as prisoners never came out. Inside them was practiced systematic murder. Men who had seen friends die and witnessed all the horrors of war were to turn pale and sick at what they saw at Dachau.*

*From the time it crossed the Lech River the Rainbow was actually engaged in a race with the 3rd and 45th Division to reach Munich. Resistance had now nearly ceased. There were reports of an uprising in Munich and the greatest obstacles in the Division advance were blown bridges and inadequate roads.*

*Just after crossing the Lech the Division received instructions that the 20th Armored Division was to pass through it and lead the attack to the south. The Rainbow was directed to follow the armor closely with one regimental combat team motorized. The 222nd Infantry passed through the 232nd Infantry and led the Division southward.*

*On April 28 the 20th Armored Division passed through the Rainbow, but units of the Division continued to advance, with the 242nd Infantry advancing on the right and the 222nd Infantry on the left. Blown bridges and cratered roads made it impossible for the armor to race ahead as fast as planned.*

*At 0500 on April 29 regimental combat teams were organized in order to speed the Division advance and at 0635 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry, motorized, drove ahead behind the armor for Munich. The First Battalion followed the Second and the Third Battalion moved through the regimental zone and cleaned up by-passed enemy resistance. The 242nd Infantry adopted a similar formation with the Third Battalion motorized, the First Battalion following it and the Second Battalion cleaning up the area. The 232nd ~Infantry advanced behind the CCA of the 20th Armored and then went into an assembly area as XV Corps in reserve.*

*At 1300 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry reached Dachau, but preceding it into the camp was a small group of 222nd officers and men led by Brigadier General Linden. As this party entered a representative of the Geneva Red Cross who turned the camp over to him met the Camp General Linden. A young German lieutenant who had been brought to the camp from the Eastern Front only two days before them formally surrendered it to the General.*

*Now came the men of the Second Battalion to move in and wipe out SS guards who had refused to surrender and who were directing sniper fire at the advancing Americans.*

*Close behind them came men of the 45th Division who attacked the camp from the east. As the first American entered the prison the 33,000 inmates went wild with joy and at the same time joined in the battle against the SS, some of whom had changed into prisoners' striped uniforms in an attempt to escape.*

*The first hysterical group to see the Americans rushed and was pushed into an electrified fence, which surrounded the principal enclosure, and several of them were killed. As the Americans entered the enclosure they rushed to them and tried to throw their arms around them. They grabbed at the soldiers, tried to get them to sign autographs and shouted words of welcome in every language in Europe.*

*Others rushed out of the enclosure and with clubs and stones set out to hunt down the men who had starved and tortured them for years. Some SS men were beaten to death, some were thrown in the moat, which surrounded the camp and shot them with their own weapons. Life to these men who had seen so many people die meant nothing. They wanted to kill every SS guard, every man who had participated in the murders of their families and friends.*

*Finally to halt the violence and in an attempt to restore order the Rainbowmen were forced to fire over the heads of the crowd. They quieted slightly then and the men of the Second Battalion began moving through the camp. Everywhere they saw sights, which filled them with horror.*

*Drawn up on sidings outside the camp itself they found 50 boxcars, each one filled with about 30 men who had either starved to death in these cars or had been killed by the machine guns of the guards when they tried to escape. Many of the bodies were naked, the men who survived the longest having stripped them in an effort to keep warm. The 1,500 men in these cars had been shipped without food from the concentration camp at Buchenwald to Dachau. When they arrived there was no room for them in the prison; the SS guards were struck with terror at the approach of the Americans so they were forced to remain in the cars until they died. Only one man was found alive.*

*In the camp itself there were bodies everywhere. The majority of the guards had fled the night before the Rainbowmen arrived, but before they left they had roamed through the camp killing important prisoners or persons, against whom they bore a grudge. If a man got in the way he was shot. If he walked across a street in front of a guard he was killed. Then the guards decided that this method was too slow and they turned their machine guns on the inmates. Before they stopped and fled they had killed more than 2,000 in an orgy of murder.*

*Inmates of the camp had gathered these bodies into piles, stacking them up like cordwood.*

*Until just a few days before the Americans arrived the Nazis had been busily engaged in their occupation of systematic murder. Prisoners who could no longer work, who had committed some minor infraction of a camp regulation or who did nothing other than fail to satisfy some whim of a guard were stripped of their clothing and herded into the gas chambers to die. Their bodies were then tossed into an adjoining room to await cremation. Thousands of men, women and children died this way in Dachau. Sometimes as many as 200 were killed in a single day and the camp had been established since 1933.*

*Toward the end, however, the Nazis had run out of coal and had no way to cremate the bodies, but still the business of murder by gas continued and hundreds of others died of starvation. These bodies the Rainbowmen found dumped into open graves or thrown into the moat until they dammed the water.*

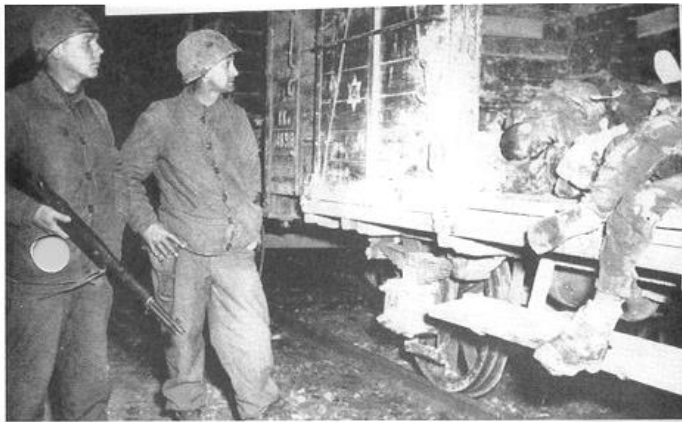
THE LIBERATION OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP BY THE 42ND DIV. 4-29-45



DACHAU: The very name of this camp means horror. Inside these gates thousands who opposed Hitler were tortured and murdered.

This is the Main entrance gate to Dachau in April 45. The museum has a picture showing the former prisoners pullint this hated Nazi eagle down with many people pulling on dozens of ropes. This entrance has been closed for many years.

Two men look at bodies in a railroad car



Bodies were stacked everywhere. There were 50 boxcars of bodies on the railroad siding just outside the camp when the Rainbow Div. liberated the camp on April 29, 45. The majority of the guards had fled the night before the Rainbow men arrived, but before they left they had roamed around through the camp killing important prisoners or those against whom they bore a grudge. There were 33,000 inmates in the camp at its liberation.

Out of the 50 carloads this one man was the only one alive.





The 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp April 29, 1945. The Rainbow Division Veterans Association have been invited to attend.



The Museum Building



2,000 former inmates were invited to participate in this celebration. This is some of the nearly 2,000 who attended.



Former inmates

*The Stench of the camp was nauseating and in the huts in which the inmates lived the odor was overpowering. Beaten, tortured and starved by the guards, some of these people had become little more than animals.*

*In the hospital the odor was the same. This was not a place where patients were taken for cure, but a building where they went to die. Some were lying on bare board 'beds' while others were on the floor. As the first walked through the building and down the aisles some of them struggled to sit up or wave a hand and a few who knew English muttered, 'Oh, thank you, God, thank you!' Many of these people never lived to enjoy their freedom, however, for even as the Americans moved through the hospital and camp many of the inmates died. Liberation had come too late for them.*

*Only a few hours after the camp was liberated doctors and nurses moved into the camp to attempt to nurse the prisoners back to health. Food was rushed to the inmates and the work of burying the dead began.*

*'Now I know why we were fighting,' man after man said. "The Nazis who conceived such a place as that were madmen and those people who operated it were insane. We cannot live in the same world with them. They are beasts and must be destroyed."*

*Even while Dachau was being liberated the Rainbow continued to advance. After clearing Dachau of enemy resistance the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry pushed forward and Company E crossed the Amper River and at nightfall entered the outskirts of the city of Munich and thus became the first American unit to enter the capital of Bavaria.*

*The 242nd Infantry, racing down the autobahn, also advanced to the Amper River, moving 30 miles during the day.*

*Now the Rainbow was up with the 20th Armored Division and the advance was being built across the Amper for the armor to continue its advance. Infantrymen and jeeps could cross the narrow river without difficulty and General Collins requested that the Corps Commander order the armored unit to halt and get off the roads and let the Rainbow pass through.*

*This permission was given and on the morning of April 30 the 222nd and the 242nd Infantry Regiments passed the 20th Armored Division and entered Munich. Although on the east of the city the 45th Division was meeting scattered opposition the enemy offered no resistance to the Rainbow. The 3rd Division on the right likewise met no opposition and entered the city.*

*Which division first entered the city in force is difficult to determine. All entries were made almost simultaneously, but it was the Rainbow, which captured the center of the city, including such famous places as the Rathaus, the beer cellar where Hitler had organized the Nazi party and the Koenig Platz in which the party held its huge annual rallies.*

*Munich was a wild city when the first Rainbow men entered it. A manufacturing center, more than a quarter of its population of 800,000 were slave laborers who greeted the Americans as Liberators and saw an opportunity to revenge themselves on some of the Nazis who had profited by their work.*

*These workers, plus a number of Allied prisoners of war, had headed for the wine cellars and the food warehouses as soon as it became apparent that the German army was not going to fight in the city. Germans joined them in their looting and soon it appeared that half the people in the city were trying to loot wine or food from some cellar or warehouse.*

*Roaming through the streets and sometimes marching in formation were groups of German soldiers seeking a place where they could surrender. Citizens were busy hanging white flags from their windows. Although the uprising in the city two days before had failed, there had been little law and order in Munich since and the army had failed even to blow the bridges across the Isar River. The general feeling now was that the war was over and the people of Munich were celebrating it.*

*Bombs battered the city itself and the streets were choked with rubble. The railroad yards were almost completely destroyed and the station was only a skeleton of twisted steel. American prisoners of war who were working on repairing the tracks had been forced to remain in boxcars in the yards during the bombings.*

*The first job of the Rainbowmen as they moved through the city was to restore some semblance of order. Men were sent to drive the looters from the food warehouses and establish guard on them. Others began rounding up prisoners and Rainbow military police took charge of the traffic now pouring into the city.*

*With this accomplished, the infantrymen pushed ahead and continued the drive to the east and the border of Austria. Behind them the other units of the Division entered Munich and some men grabbed an opportunity to get a couple of bottles of wine from the famous Kaiserstuben Hotel cellars or see the sights in this city in which the Nazi party was born.*

*Every man with a few minutes to spare headed for the famed beer cellar where Hitler began his beer hall putsch, which ended with his arrest and the slaying of 13 of his followers. They were surprised to find in an unpretentious building, large, but completely bare. The owner of the cellar explained that the original building had been destroyed in a bomb attempt on Hitler's life, but had been completely rebuilt so as to duplicate the original building. Because of the war and a shortage of materials it had never been quite furnished, however, although he had hopes of opening for business in about six months.*

*Behind the cafe was the huge hall where Hitler held his meeting with the original party members. The hall was now filthy, piled with party records and long unused. There was a bomb hole in the ceiling, but the bomb, which made it, failed to explode. It was the only bomb to hit the buildings, which otherwise were undamaged.*

*At the Koenigs Platz, where the annual ceremonies were held honoring the original Nazis and those killed in the putsch, soldiers found the parade ground littered with rubble and a narrow gauge railroad running through it. The railroad replaced streetcars in the city when the electric power plant was destroyed. On one side of the Platz were the shrines erected to the men killed in the first party demonstration. They were undamaged, but just behind, Hitler's Braun Haus. An early party headquarters was completely destroyed by a direct bomb hit. In a few months men of the Rainbow Division were to parade in this platz before Germans who once had watched the SS march there. The occasion was the return of a drum, recovered by the Seventh Army, to the Fifth Battalion Gordon Highlanders who had lost it at Dunkirk.*

*Although its windows were shattered and its walls were bomb-scarred, the Rainbowmen found the famous Munich Rathaus virtually undamaged. Military government officers moved into the building and took over from the Burgomeister who surrendered the city.*



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And there you have the story of two porcupines necking.

WAC Dept.: "I hear that WAC married a very rich man."  
"Oh! Really!"  
"No. O'Riley."

Sez Lt. W. A. Backus: A wife is a great comfort during all those troubles a bachelor never has.

Apologies to Winchell. Marriage is a ghastly public confession of a strictly private intention.

And then there was the wolf who knew all the ankles.

Unhappy thought. If there's a depression after this war, ex-U.K. Joes will be on street corners saying, "Brother, can you spare a jit for a cuppa tea."

Cpl. Syd Kermisch tells us that members of a certain bomb group over here sweat out missions by playing a new game called "Quiz-tionnaires." Here's a few samples of the type questions which make up the latest craze: What kind of a chance do you tell a Chinamen he hasn't got? Where do people in Hades tell each other they can go to?

Once upon a time we ran a gag about a guy on the home front who had a 4-F body and a 1-A mind. Today from a field artillery outfit somewhere in Germany comes word that they have a guy with a 1-A body and a 4-F mind. Could be!

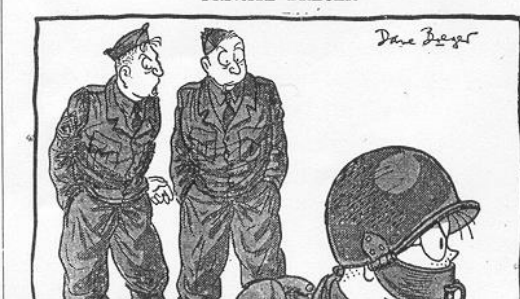
Heard at Rainbow Corner's boxing matches. Prizefighter: "Have I hurt my



opponent yet?" GI manager. "No, but keep swinging—the draft might give him a cold."

Today's Daffynition. Dentist—the greatest Yank of them all.

#### PRIVATE BREGER



**TOKEN OF TORGAU:** Lt. William Robertson, of Los Angeles, and Pvt. Frank Hoff, of Washington, Pa., are shown with the home-made American flag they fashioned to inform Soviet troops at Torgau that U.S. troops were on the west bank of the Elbe and prepared for the historic link-up.

Another Monument to Hitler **STARS & STRIPES**  
WED MAY 2, 1945

## Dachau Cheers Its Liberation From Horror of Living Death

By Peter Furst

DACHAU, Germany, Apr. 29 (Delayed)—American soldiers and reporters were mobbed, kissed, thrown into the air and carried on shoulders through a sea of weeping, cheering, laughing prisoners at the notorious Dachau concentration camp late today in one of the maddest and most heart-rending liberation scenes of the war.

Thousands of political prisoners of all nationalities—some of them Germans in camps for 13 years—screamed with joy as doughboys of the 42nd Div. herded the surviving SS guards outside the iron camp gates.

A Polish Catholic priest, deputy to

## May Abandon Bombers Here

NEW YORK, May 1 (ANS)—Rep. Carter Manasco (D-Ala.), in the ETO investigating disposal of surplus war property, predicted during a recent visit to London that the U.S. would abandon thousands of four-motored bombers in Britain after the war.

"The cost of flying home outmoded ships would be more than we could realize from the sale of the planes," said Manasco, co-author of the present war surplus legislation.

The Congressman was gloomy over American prospects for defraying a large portion of the war debt through the sale of surplus war equipment. He said, "We've been led to believe we would get 100 billion dollars back out of planes and guns and tanks and other war equipment. But after investigation of the situation here and on the Continent I believe that ten or 15 billion will be the best we can do."

Manasco said there was no feasible commercial use for either big bombers or fighters, adding, "You could give a four-motored bomber to a commercial air line and they couldn't afford to operate it."

Cardinal Blond, Archbishop of Posen, grabbed, hugged and kissed the first American to enter the crowded square inside the gate, and then realized that it was a woman—and a pretty, young woman at that.

Marguerite Higgins, 23-year-old blonde war correspondent for The New York Herald Tribune, was the first person to announce to the prisoners that the Americans had arrived. She shouted the glad tidings in German, French and English to the prisoners, who crowded around her with tears streaming down their worn and bearded faces.

Official surrender of the camp came late this afternoon as Miss Higgins and this reporter drove along the road toward the camp's main outer gate past boxcars filled with hundreds of stinking corpses of Buchenwalde prisoners who had died of starvation on the way from that camp to Dachau. An SS lieutenant and a man who said he was an International Red Cross representative marched toward us with a white flag. The SS said: "I was sent here last night to surrender the camp and its 33,000 prisoners and remaining guards to you."

Then a guard opened the gate to the camp, where some of the greatest brains of Germany and Europe had suffered for years at the hands of SS officers whose favorite sport was the "genickschuss" (neck shot) on a small enclosure behind the crematorium where 1,500 emaciated corpses were still piled up because the SS did not have time to burn them. Within 18 hours after their liberation 135 former Dachau captives had died because of illness and starvation.

Gustave Eberle, the famous "Gustei," a member of the International Brigade during the Spanish civil war and a captain in the Spanish Republican Army, said that "only the iron discipline of the political prisoners had prevented a horrible mass slaughter here."

The Dachau commandant, Martin Weiss, and his assistant had escaped. Before they fled they had ordered the murder of thousands of prisoners.

The extent of the horror at this camp is beyond description. There is no way to put into words the stench of thousands of corpses lying 50 to 100 deep in three large rooms in the crematorium or the death chamber. Buchenwalde had just one block where 50 to 100 men died each day. Dachau has six of these blocks.

On the day of liberation 32,315 political prisoners of 30 nationalities still were alive.

Only yesterday several thousand prisoners were killed by the SS and thrown into a water-filled ditch behind the camp. An undisclosed number of SS men had died in various ways, but none of the living dead here shed any tears for them.

### AFN Radio Program

1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc.  
218.1m. 219.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.1m.  
Wednesday, May 2  
1200—News: Duffie Bag 1900—News: Sports  
1900—Sports: Duffie Bag

in Germany.

"To supplement electric power in liberated areas, thus saving transportation, we should seek exports of electricity from Germany. Highest level decisions must be made immediately regarding the use of productive capacity and the extent to which it should be restored for the benefit of all countries."

Since German mines on the Belgian land and in adjacent hamper restoration of agriculture and fishing, the report urges peace terms require Germany to close these mines.

Stressing the urgency of these matters, the report points out that the U.S. economy will be deeply affected unless northwest Europe resumes in the international economic picture. It also states that "a hungry Europe is not fertile ground in which stable and friendly government can be reared."

The report suggests that steps for providing a substantial share of the civilian supplies required by liberated nations will rest on the U.S. It urges a "stream-lined" method of allocating such supplies, and suggests that the U.S. should make allocations would probably cut American consumer's supplies. It also suggests a campaign to inform the American public of the gravity of the needs of Europe.

## Let's Watch 7th Army Crack

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 7TH ARMY ON THE ROAD TO MUNICH, Apr. 29

—Some of the boys on the front feel slighted by the press without reason. They cannot understand why everything they do, however small, seems to have played second fiddle to the accomplishments of other units.

About the only thing that puts the boys on the high side of the 3rd Division who think they're going to take soon—(Ed. note: And did Monday)—is the nasty suspicion that some other Army may get in on whatever happens. (They think the 3rd Division had a tough fight after they'd taken the town so

## Ike Congratulates 7th Army on Munich's Capture

SHAEF, May 1—Gen. Eisenhower has issued this Order of the Day to the "every member of the Allied Expeditionary Force."

"The whole AEF congratulates the 7th Army on the seizure of the cradle of the Nazi beast."

radio and press credited the capture with its capture.)

They're beginning to feel that their Army is something more than a child faced with the hopeless task of competing with favored sons. They all the more because many of the boys are veterans of the Meuse campaign who know their business and know it well.

This is more than the "forgotten" of bygone Italian days. Lines were static and the 5th Army was sweating it out in the mountains and mud and rain. The men of the 7th Division have never been crying. They don't ever expect to be. But the boys say as one man that they're tired of finding themselves confused with the 3rd Army by the British and British radio and press. It's the same with the 12th Division which, in the opinion

The statement that Marguerite Higgins was the first person to announce to the prisoners that the Americans had arrived is completely false. There were many, according to eyewitness accounts, Rainbow soldiers in the Camp before she or General Linden arrived. When they did arrive Lt. Cowling was the first to enter the camp, of the Linden Party. Lt. Col. Donald Downard, CO of the 2nd Bn. 222 states he and his men were in the camp before Linden arrived. See "Dachau 29 April 1945, The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs", edited by Sam Dann, published by Texas Tech University Press and "Surrender of the Dachau Concentration Camp 29 April, 45 by John H. Linden, Sycamore Press. An original copy of this Stars and Stripes is owned by James R. Pettus and proves that the 42nd Division was indeed the liberators of Dachau.



Exhibit 2-13. General Linden Quieting Inmates at Jourhaus Gate

weapon at the ready, scanning the area in his usual role of protecting the safety of General Linden. SS Lt. Wickert is shown at the far left of the photograph. By about 5:50 pm, General Linden had restored order at the Jourhaus Gate and the Inmates Compound was secured by two companies, Companies A and F of the 222nd Infantry Regiment.

**42nd/45th Division Areas of Responsibility.** About 5:50 pm, Lt. Col. Sparks arrived at the Jourhaus Gate to join his Company I outside the Inmates Compound along the western fence line. There he ran upon General Linden who asked what forces Sparks had with him. Lt. Col. Sparks replied that he had his battalion that had been fighting Germans in the SS Administrative and Training Camp and that he had that area under control. General Linden knew that two companies of the 222nd Infantry Regiment, which he had dispatched to man the Guard Towers, were in place securing the Inmates Compound.

THE RAINBOW INFANTRY

# World News

Vol. I.

TUESDAY, 1 MAY 1945

No. 43

## Dachau

By Tec. 3 James W. Creasman

DACHAU is no longer a name of terror for hunted men. 32,000 of them have been freed by the 42D Rainbow Division. The crimes done behind the walls of this worst of Nazi concentration camps now live only to haunt the memories of the Rainbowmen who tore open its gates and first saw its misery, and to accuse its SS keepers of one of the worst crimes in all history.

When Infantrymen of the 42D Division fought their way into Dachau against fanatical SS troops who met deserved violent deaths along the moats, behind the high fences and in the railyards littered with the bodies of fifty carloads of their starved victims, these hardened soldiers expected to see horrible sights.

But no human imagination fed with the most fantastic of the tales that have leaked out from the earliest and most notorious of all Nazi concentration camps, could have been prepared for what they did see there.

The keen descriptive powers of a score of ace correspondents who entered the camp while the battle of liberation was still in progress, and through whose eyes the whole world looked upon that scene, could not do justice to this story. Seasoned as they were by long acquaintanceship with stark reality, these trained observers gazed at freight-cars full of piled cadavers no more than bones covered with skin and they could not believe what they saw with their own eyes.

Riflemen accustomed to witnessing death had no stomach for rooms stacked almost ceiling-high with tangled

human bodies adjoining the cremation furnaces, looking like some maniac's woodpile.

And when an officer pressed thru mobs of the forgotten men of all nations inside the electric barbed wire enclosure and entered a room where lay the dying survivors of the horror train, he wept unashamedly as limp ghosts under filthy blankets, lying in human excreta, tried to salute him with broom-stick arms, falling back in deathly stupor from which most would never rouse.

Ten days before the arrival of the Rainbow Division fifty carloads of prisoners arrived at Dachau from the Buchenwald concentration camp in a starving condition after 27 days without food. When Buchenwald was threatened by advancing American troops the Nazis hurriedly crowded about 4,000 of their prisoners into open flatcars unfit even for cattle. 27 days later -- days of exposure to freezing weather without anything to eat, a trainload of human suffering arrived at Dachau only to be left to die in the railyard leading into this extermination camp.

In those stinking cars were seen the bodies of these prisoners too weak even to get out. A few tried, and they made a bloody heap in the door of one of the cars. They had been machine-gunned by the SS. A little girl was in that car.

In another car, sitting on the bodies of his comrades, his face contorted with pain frozen by death, was the body of one who completed the amputation of his gangrenous leg with his



own hands and covered the stump with paper. Underneath was one with a crushed skull. "He's better off now" was the comment of one newsman. Close by was one who had been beaten until his entrails protruded from his back.

But most of them had simply died in the attitudes of absolute exhaustion that only starving men can assume. Curled up with their faces resting in fingers tipped with blue nails. With naked buttocks angling up to pivot on a skeletal pelvis. Or twisted over to show an abdomen stretched drum-tight against the spine with ribs making an overhanging bulge.

Some of the cars had been emptied and the bodies carted to the crematory. In one room adjoining the furnace-room on the left they were neatly stacked. The stripped corpses were very straight. But in the room on the right they were piled in complete disorder, still clothed.

With the help of a husky Yugoslav inmate who worked at the furnaces and who told that all four of them had been going "tag und nacht"..."day and night" with a capacity of 7 bodies each, the explanation was partially unfolded. The straight neat ones had probably been brought in alive, showered in the "Brausebad" or shower-room, then gassed or hanged from hooks on the rafters in front of the furnaces. Those on the right were just as they were dumped out of the freight cars where they had died of starvation.

It was incredible that such things could happen today, but there was the visible proof.

It was unbelievable that human beings

were capable of perpetrating such unspeakable atrocities, but there were the men who did it. The SS.

At least 25 and perhaps 50 were beaten to death by inmates who struck with all the fury of men who suddenly release years of pent-up hate.

One was lying beside his own bloody artificial limb with which his brains had been exposed.

Someone said there were 14 in the canal.

One in a railroad car had no face left.

These once-swaggering Hitler-worshippers would pocket no more of the profits from the hair-oil, shoe-polish, thermos bottles, notebooks, stationery, brushes, porcelain works of art, and cigarette paper manufactured there by men and women from all of Europe who slaved until starvation and disease made them worthless and then they were burned.

Now the SS guards were dead. But their deaths could not avenge the thousands dead and dying there in Dachau.

Those tortured dead can only be avenged when our world is aroused so much by what the 42D uncovered at Dachau and by what others have found at all the other Dachaus scattered throughout Germany, that never again will any party, any government, any people be allowed to mar the face of the earth with such inhumanity.

zum Beispiel Dachau

**Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
zur Erforschung der Dachauer  
Zeitgeschichte e.V.**

**THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP**



**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY VISIT TO  
MUNICH, DACHAU AND SALZBURG**

**BY RAINBOW VETERANS,  
APRIL 26 TO MAY 1, 1995**

130 B

## SUMMARIES

### Chapter 1.

*This describes the truly inhuman conditions in the Camp one hundred days before the liberation. Extreme cold, Typhus epidemic, almost no food. Of those alive on January 20, 1945, many will not see the Americans arrive. The inmates have described these last 100 days as the worst of their time in the camp.*

*US Forces are still 500 kilometers from the camp.*

### Chapter 2.

*It is 16 degrees F and getting colder. No heat, because the transportation infrastructure, which used to bring coal, has been totally interrupted. No heat in the hospital barracks. Every day new arrivals, evacuated from camps overrun by the Allies or the Russians. All of them bring lice and fleas. The disease spreads. Daily death toll is close to 4000.*

*US Forces are still 375 kilometers from the camp.*

### Chapter 3.

*The food ration, if such is not actually an exaggeration, is drastically reduced. A soup consisting almost only water. Ten ounces of bread per day. Effective April 5, only 5 ounces of bread per day. This applied to all inmates, those that were sick and those that still were considered healthy enough to work. US Forces are still fighting west of the Rhine.*

### Chapter 4.

*The inmates are hoping that a US airborne attack will liberate them. No one knows how this thought got started. But it was widespread enough to have reached the SS guards. They are becoming concerned, afraid of the healthier inmates. Concrete bunkers are built into the ground with the firing slits facing the barracks.*

*US Forces are still 300 kilometers from the camp.*

### Chapter 5.

*On the advice of two individuals on his staff, Himmler starts negotiations with Count Bernadotte of Sweden, about the release of all Scandinavian inmates of any Concentration Camps in Germany. By April 22, the last of 6,000 of them is home again.*

*The Rainbow Division is fighting near Worms on the Rhine.*

### Chapter 6.

*There were 1478 catholic priests and protestant ministers interned in Dachau. As one inmate wrote in his secretly kept diary: "The largest and strictest cloister in Europe". In February 1945 all of these men are put into two barracks. A chapel is surreptitiously set up in the room. Of the 318 "German priests and ministers, 173 are released by April 11*

*US Forces take Aschaffenburg, the first Bavarian City to be liberated*

### Chapter 7.

*On April 7 the SS searches each barracks for hidden weapons in the middle of the night. None were found, because there were none. But it is a clear demonstration that the SS was afraid of a possible uprising. They had known for some time of secret organizations, associations, formed by the inmates. But they could never succeed in getting more information that just that such existed.*

*After having taken Würzburg, The Rainbow reached Bergtheim on April 7.*

### Chapter 8.

*Himmler orders the murder of Georg Elser. In November 1939 Elser had attempted to kill Hitler during a speech in the Bürgerbräukellerr in Munich. He had been kept alive in Dachau, because*



*Hitler wanted, in case of his victory, to start an international, public trial, linking Elser to the British Secret Service. The order to kill Elser is proof that Himmler knew there would never be a victory.*

*On April 9, the 242nd Regiment reached Stettbach, near Schweinfurt.*

#### *Chapter 9.*

*Dachau, like all other camps, had many sub-camps, where inmates were housed while they had to work in nearby factories. Some of these workers were also used for any other "civilian" work. For example a group of Dachau inmates was working on the Munich airfield near Riem. During an air raid, guards as well as inmates were killed. Other groups of inmates had to defuse unexploded bombs*

*On April 10 the Rainbow Forces reached Schnackenwerth.*

#### *Chapter 10.*

*On April 19 the SS murders the French General Delestraint. He had been the head of the "Secret Army" in the French resistance. He was captured in June 1943.*

*By April 18, The Rainbow reached Senkendorf.*

#### *Chapter 11.*

*By April 23, the daily report on the number of inmates, in the Dachau camp and all of its sub-camps, registers 65,746 inmates. Of this 22,076 are Jews. On that day 311 have fled. The daily requirement of reports also included one on the strength of the SS complement, which was 3,850.*

*On 23 April the Rainbow reached Hechlingen.*

#### *Chapter 12.*

*Himmler thought he could eliminate any traces of the inhuman policies of the Nazis by moving Concentration Camp inmates out of the camps, south into Austria. Those that could not be moved should be killed. Many of these marches of thousands of inmates started on 26th of April. Three groups left Dachau, heading south. By the time American troops overtook them, some 3,000 had died on the way.*

*On April 26th the 242nd Regiment reached Zirgesheim.*

#### *Chapter 13.*

*In many camps medical "tests" were conducted. Instead of animals, inmates were used. How much cold could a human being take before dying. Many other "tests", too horrible to describe, were carried out. Dr. Rascher was in charge of these tests in Dachau. When Himmler found out that Rascher's wife had kidnapped several babies, he ordered that Rascher be sent to the Buchenwald camp. When that was evacuated, most inmates were sent to Dachau. There, on Himmler's orders, Rascher was executed.*

#### *Chapter 14.*

*More and more evacuations of inmates took place. A fear that the Americans might not get to the camp in time spread throughout the camp. So, a few decide to risk escape to try and reach US Forces, to tell them about the urgent need to get to the camp. One of these escapees, Karl Riemer, reached the American CO of a unit in Pfaffenhofen on the 29th of April. He promised to help the same day that the camp was liberated.*

#### *Chapter 15.*

*As the Allies advanced from both West and East, more and more sub-camps were evacuated, as well as Camps ~~was~~ not at all involved in the fight. This took place on April 28, a day before the Rainbow reached the camp.*

*like Buchenwald and others. Train after train arrived in Dachau, in some cases after a three-week journey. After attacks by Allied air-forces. Only a fraction of inmates arrive, technically alive, but practically almost dead.*

#### **Chapter 16.**

*News of the proximity of the Americans causes a group of inmates to organize committees, which should do anything to delay further evacuations and to threaten the remaining guards. At the same time, two residents of the Dachau city, themselves former inmates, organize resistance in the City to keep it from being destroyed by fighting. In the last minute, when these men already thought they had achieved their purpose, SS troops attacked. Seven of the men in Dachau are executed across the street from the City Hall, including one man who just happened to pass that point, but*

#### **Chapter 17**

*The second battalion of the 222nd Regiment of the Rainbow Division reached the camp. Brigadier General Henning Linden and a couple of officers met in the camp with the SS Commandant and a representative of the Red Cross. Although the SS had raised white flags on the guard towers, they suddenly started to fire on the American troops. Return fire quickly stopped that.*

#### **Chapter 18.**

*Postwar authentic research established that at least 206, 000 persons from 27 nationalities were interned in the Dachau camp since its opening in 1933. 31,000 deaths were officially registered in the files of the City of Dachau. However, the hundreds of thousands who died in sub-camps, on marches, in trains, of those only God knows the number.*

*Meanwhile, in the center of the city Germans were again marching over the same route on which Hitler had led his followers in his beer hall putsch. This time they were German prisoners of war, marching with their hands on their heads past the beer hall and the Rathaus and through the town to a PW enclosure on the northern outskirts of the city. More than 3,000 men and a few women, members of the German army, marched in this column. They were a dejected, beaten lot who wanted no more of war and their attitude seemed to reflect that of the entire German forces in the south. Gone now was the dream of a Redoubt. The Americans had advanced so swiftly it was impossible to make an orderly retreat into the Alps. As far as the ordinary German soldier was concerned the war was over with the fall of Munich.*

*Nevertheless, the Rainbow continued to push ahead. Just before leaving Munich the Second Battalion of the 242nd Infantry uncovered a large airport, about 8 miles southeast of the city. There, 1,000 men and 500 women soldiers surrendered and 100 planes and three anti-aircraft batteries were captured. The next day the Division advanced 18 miles beyond the city.*

*Now the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop was moved out ahead of the regiments and directed to reconnoiter to the Inn River and the infantry followed close behind.*

*Surrendering Germans began to line the roads and instead of gathering them together the leading elements of the Division merely directed them to the nearest assembly point, where they were collected. Entire German companies were found assembled in towns' taverns celebrating the end of the war, although no armistice or peace had been signed. Company officers were discovered signing discharges for the men of their command and telling them to go home or to go and surrender to the Americans. Entire German companies drove in their vehicles to surrender points, and generals and staff officers arrived in their cars.*

*A car driven by a German private and with two colonels as passengers was proceeding along the road when it blew a rear tire. The driver got out and surveyed the flat with disgust. A colonel leaned out the window and shouted at him to fix it. Slowly the driver returned to the car, gathered up his pack out of the front seat and walked away. He was through taking orders.*

*The German army was breaking up and the human debris it scattered on the roads and throughout the towns slowed the Division's advance about as much as if they had been putting up a resistance.*

*On May 3 the Rainbow crossed the Inn River and then moved ahead toward the Austrian border. The formation, used since leaving Munich, was with the 222nd and 242nd Regiments abreast and the 232nd Infantry in reserve. There was no resistance now, but only the tremendous job of rounding up prisoners and evacuating them to the rear. Shortly after noon on May 4 the leading elements of the Rainbow reached the Austrian border north of Salzburg and patrols crossed it. Orders were then received for the Division to move into assembly areas along the border. The end of the war was now only a few hours away. \*[24]*

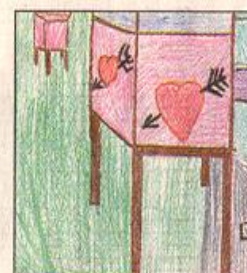
*On April 30th, the entire company climbed aboard trucks and headed for Munich. When we reached the outskirts of the city we stopped and disembarked. Lt. Zillmer got all of the Non Commissioned together to tell us what our mission would be in Munich.*



SAT FEB 13 99

# Chandler

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Valentine Hotel, by Brandon

COMMUNITY EDITION

**DON'T  
MISS!**

EV  
6

**Scene**

**Mixed-media artist  
melds two cultures into artwork**

EV  
13

## Ex-Rainbow warriors recall Dachau

### Reunion renews special bond forged amid horror

By Bob Petrie  
The Arizona Republic

MESA — Most know the World War II images of Nazi concentration camps through grainy black-and-white newsreels.

The men of the 42nd Rainbow Division saw the death firsthand in Dachau, in living color.

About 150 Rainbow veterans are in Mesa this week to reunite, tell stories, but most of all to rekindle friendships and perpetuate their legacy as the men who opened the camp gates and helped end the Holocaust.

What these soldiers saw were bodies stacked inside the camp like cordwood. Boxcars

containing the remains of other prisoners who froze or starved to death on the trains, before the Nazis could incinerate them.

"You don't forget the smell, and you don't forget the sight," said Sam Platamone, 72, of Thousand Palms, Calif. He was among the American soldiers who helped liberate the surviving Jewish POWs from the Dachau concentration camp in southern Germany on April 29, 1945.

Of the 33,000 prisoners in camp, about 3,500 were dead.

— Please see **VETERANS**, Page EV11



Michael Meister/The Arizona Republic

World War II veteran Gil Koehler of Tempe organized the reunion at the Dobson Ranch Inn along with his spouse, Beverly.

# Veterans recall horrors of Dachau

— VETERANS, from Page EV1

"I walked along those tracks and looked into those boxcars," said John Carr, 74, of Plant City, Fla. "It's hard to talk to people, because they can't believe it. One person couldn't do that to another person."

During the war, there were 15,000 Rainbow Division troops. Today, about 2,400 Rainbow Division veterans are still around, most in their mid-70s.

The Rainbows meet twice a year, summer and winter. This is the fifth time the winter meeting is in the Valley.

"We're infantry, artillery, medical, Signal Corps and engineers, but everyone had to work together over there," said Gil Koehler of Tempe, who organized the reunion at the Dobson Ranch Inn along with his spouse, Beverly.

"There aren't many of these military things (reunions) that go on forever," Koehler said. "But since 1917, we've been going all the time."

Koehler, along with many Rainbow troops, trained at Camp Gruber, a small Army post in eastern Oklahoma in 1943. Some were transferred to the Pacific theater, his unit was shipped to Europe for combat.

Koehler was 18 years old, and very green. And scared.

"You wonder what's going to happen to you," the retired postal worker said. "The first thing you know that's going to happen is you lose some of your buddies."



Michael Meister/The Arizona Republic

"We were disgusted at what was done there (Dachau)," says veteran Ted Johnson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Several of his friends died early on, four of them when their Jeep hit a land mine. Koehler remembers a friend from camp named Don, who played guitar.

"He got killed, too."

Some veterans made friends with former enemies. Don Carner of Sun City, Calif., corresponds regularly with a German soldier he nearly shot in 1945 in Wurzburg.

"I shot at him, and fortunately, I missed," Carner said.

After years of exchanging letters and photos, he and the soldier, Rudolf Decker of Munich, met for the first time a few years back in Salt Lake City.

"He's not an enemy anymore," Carner said.

The feats of the Rainbow Division have been chronicled in a book, *29 April 1945, Dachau, Rainbow Division Memories*. The Signal Corps photos at Dachau are extremely graphic, showing the

rail-thin corpses piled in stacks because the Nazis ran out of coal late in the war to fire up the crematorium.

"At that point, everything changed," said Ted Johnson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"It was very good the war (in Europe) ended on the eighth of May, because it so angered everybody to find out what the Germans had done. We were disgusted at what was done there."

Johnson, a retired lawyer, said it's the Rainbow Division's mission to keep the story alive, so it would never happen again. Besides that, the division endows about 30 college scholarships a year.

Johnson also speaks regularly about Dachau to school audiences, and returned to the concentration camp for the 50th anniversary of the liberation in 1995.

"None of us take any claim or credit," Johnson said, "but we do think the ethic that existed there is something worth pursuing."

That's one of the real reasons Johnson says the Rainbow Division keeps gathering, year after year, to celebrate each other, and what they did.

Another is, they still retain that true feeling of kinship, forged in battle.

"Every guy trained with you, went overseas with you, fought with you," Johnson said. "I would still die for anyone in this group here. It was that kind of bond."

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# Echces of the Holocaust: 'On my second birthday, I was 14 years old'

By Si Frumkin

I celebrate my other birthday on April 27. I wasn't born on that date — just reborn. The death sentence that I had lived with for four years was lifted. My name was no longer "Inmate 82191." All that ended on that clear and warm April day. I was 14 years old on this, my second birthday.

When people ask me what camp I was in, I say "Dachau."

Actually it was

*Arbeitslager*

*Kaufering No. 1.*

Administered by

Dachau, it was about

50 miles away.

Dachau is well

known, but most

people never heard of

Kaufering. A friend

of mine, who was in

the camp with me,

went back to

Germany as a tourist

a few years ago. He

drove to Kaufering and asked for directions

to the concentration camp. The people

looked at him as if he was crazy. "A camp?

Here? There was never a camp near here,"

they said. Exasperated, he went to the police

station. The cops were polite. "There was

never a camp here. You must be mistaken,

sir," they said.

HE DROVE AROUND the countryside for

a while, and eventually found the

underground factory that he and I and

30,000 other Jews built. It still stands. It's a

German army warehouse now. They let him

look around, but the camps are gone. Real

estate developments have replaced the

guard towers and the barbed wire.

There were 10 Kaufering camps,

numbered 1 through 10, with about 3,000

inmates in each. We all worked on the same

giant project — building an enormous

aircraft factory. Work went on 24 hours a

day, seven days a week — never a day off,

never a holiday. It wasn't a death camp. We

were there to work, not to be murdered, but

we worked 12-hour shifts plus time to

March to work and back, time to stand

around and be counted and recounted until

the numbers came out right. They never

came out right the first time; people died in

the night and barracks, and latrines died in

be searched for the missing bodies. And so

we had little time left to sleep and what

with the schedule and starvation diets,

people died.

Every few weeks they brought in more

people from all over Europe — Jews from

Poland and Hungary and Czechoslovakia

and France and even Greece. We were

cheap slaves. Better than cheap, we had no

value at all. We cost nothing and there was

an inexhaustible supply of us.

Toward the end, we knew the war wasn't

going well for the Germans. American

planes flew over daily — shiny bombers,

covering the sky, moving majestically,

unhindered, unstoppable. They would drop

aluminum chaff to confuse German radar

and we would pick it up at first, trying to

fathom what it was for. (Were these secret

messages for us?) But no one could figure it

out and we stopped bothering with it.

Once in a while, someone would overhear

a news broadcast that a guard listened to or

see a piece of paper someone had dropped.

This was how we knew Allied troops were

moving toward Germany, toward us. We

knew things were changing when we got

Red Cross packages, the first and only time

in four years. They were individual

packages but we got just one for four people

— luxuries beyond belief — a box of sugar

cubes, condensed milk, chocolate, a can of

sardines and cigarettes. My father, who had

given up smoking years before, exchanged

his sugar for more cigarettes. Maybe he had

a premonition and wanted to have a final

little pleasure. He died a few weeks later, on

April 7, just 20 days before my liberation.

Around the end of April, they started

emptying the other Kaufering camps and

bringing the inmates to camp No. 1, my

camp. The people would be assembled into

columns and marched out, away from the

front.

I didn't want to go, so I hid under the straw in one of the barracks. They didn't search that day or the next as more people were brought in and marched out again. I had made up my mind that if I was taken out, I would try to escape into the forest and wait for the Allies. And then, as I lay hiding, quietly, I thought it was quiet outside, unusually quiet — no yelling of orders, no movement. I looked out the door. The camp was empty. There were a few bodies here and there but no guards, no inmates, no one. I made my way to the kitchen. There was no food. A few inmates who had been left behind came straggling in through the night.

**"Once in a while, someone would overhear a news broadcast that a guard listened to or see a piece of paper someone had dropped. This is how we knew Allied troops were moving toward Germany, toward us."**

In the morning, we walked to the gate, opened it and walked out. We went across a great empty field, when we heard machine gun fire and bullets whistled overhead. I dropped to the ground. "The Germans have come back," I thought. And then one of us jumped up and screamed incoherently, dancing, pointing at a line of tanks coming toward us.

**I THOUGHT** he had lost his mind but then I looked, and there were white U.S. stars on the sides of the tanks.

It was April 27, 1945. I was 14 years old on this, my second birthday.

*Si Frumkin of Studio City, Calif., is chairman of the Southern California Council of Soviet Jews.*



Si Frumkin



# American soldiers turned Hitler's headquarters into a hotel



Nancy Engebretson / Staff photographer  
William Stoft bought this pencil sketch of himself from a homeless young man in 1945. Price: a package of cigarettes.

By William E. Stoft Jr.  
Guest columnist

William E. Stoft Jr. of Sun City was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Company K, 232nd Regiment, 42nd "Rainbow" Division. He received a battlefield commission and was promoted to second lieutenant.

Late in the war, Stoft's unit was assigned to occupy and post guard at Hitler's Braun Haus, the infamous Nazi Party headquarters building.

This is his story:

My combat experience started out as a "dog face" foot soldier. Later I was commissioned a "second John" with a battlefield commission on Jan. 18, 1945. My platoon fought through parts of France and Germany from late

December 1944 to late April 1945. We started at Marseilles, France, and entered the "shooting war" in Alsace-Lorraine, just north of Strasbourg along the Rhine River. By the time we reached the suburbs of Nuremberg, we were very tired and beginning to run out of steam.

We had just crossed the Lech River, just north of Munich, when orders came through that our battalion, along with some others, was to join units of the 45th, 3rd and 20th armored divisions in the race to Munich. On the way into the city, the 222nd Regiment came upon and liberated the infamous concentration camp at Dachau, just northwest of Munich, uncovering all the horrors there.

In the meantime, K Company paused just north of Munich for a briefing. My platoon was then loaded onto trucks and given the mission to, under the cover of

Further exploration revealed concrete-lined tunnels leading off in several directions, going mostly to several multistory buildings around a big square. These were all party headquarters office buildings which formed around the square area called the "Koenig Platz."

This paved central "platz" had been used as a fancy parade ground for military functions. Strewn around in the tunnels and office buildings, we found all types of discarded weapons, huge amounts of ammunition and many other items.

On May 1, 1945, my company in the Braun Haus until shortly after the war ended on May 7, 1945. As infantry soldiers we hated to leave the Haus in a way because, for a while at least, we had a good place to sleep.

In April of 1995 our 42nd Division (Rainbow) Veterans Association organized a 50 year reunion to be held in Munich, Dachau and Salzburg. I flew over, accompanied by my daughter, Mrs. Jane Berg.

We arrived in Munich, which has been amazingly restored after almost total destruction during the war.

In this once-again beautiful city,

## Memories ★ IN THEIR OWN WORDS

darkness, occupy and post guard at Hitler's Braun Haus (Brown House), the Nazi Party headquarters building. We had been shown recent photographs of it and it looked as if it was still mostly intact.

When we finally found the location of the Braun Haus in the dark, we learned that it had been demolished by a direct hit from a bomb.

Searching around in the rubble, however, we found a stairway leading down to a series of basements, all in pretty good shape. The electric power was still working and one of the basements even had some fairly decent beds. What a break.

commander, Lt. Zillmer, and I took a jeep out to Dachau to see the concentration camp firsthand.

A horrible stench still hung over the camp. We saw several trains of railroad boxcars still loaded with bodies — hundreds of them. They had been shipped from other camps in Poland and elsewhere just ahead of the Allied advances. Most of the people had died of hunger or disease; only a very few survived. We learned that several thousand people were still alive in the camp itself. The race across Germany by the Allied troops had been in time to save these few.

My platoon remained on guard

we were treated royally by the German government. They hosted many beautiful banquets and receptions for us, including the equivalent of a White House state dinner in the beautiful historic Kaisersaal (Emperor's Hall).

We also returned to the concentration camp at Dachau — now a hauntingly and starkly beautiful memorial to those who suffered and died there. We joined other veterans groups and many former prisoners and their families from all over the world in observing the ceremonies of the 50th anniversary of the camp's liberation.



William E. Stoft Jr. was a sergeant when this picture was taken in 1944.

*Doctor Danny Fischer's Speech at Luncheon, City of Dachau April 29,1995*

*I feel honored that I am among you, and after all this time I can say thank you to my liberators. Make no mistake about it, It's not the first time that I said it, but perhaps it's the first time to you the liberators.*

*You have gone through hell, 50 years ago, to fight your way to Dachau, only to find something that was worse than hell, we were those barely living creature of that hell and for those of us still alive, you came just in the nick of time. But how can I thank you for 50 years of life, a whole lifetime, for giving me a chance to grow to adult-hood, to have a wife and children, to have a career in medicine, to be an American. And I want to thank you for someone else, for my mother, because you proved her right once more, unfortunately for the last time.*

*My mother was 39, My father was 49, his mother-my grandmother 75 and my brother was 13 when we arrived at Auschwitz on that day at the end of May in 1944. My mother helped her mother-in-law get in line with the women. I was 15 years old as we stood there in line with my father and brother.*

*Parenthetically I must tell you that my father's brother went to medical school in Paris. and on his visits over the years he became my role model and when I was 13, I announced that I too wanted to be a Doctor just like my uncle, and it was understood that this would be so.*

*As we stood in line, my mother left her place and walked to us, stopped in front of me, clasped my face in her hands and said "you are going to survive this, to be a doctor.*

*In retrospect, I believe my mother understood, then and there, the horrible reality of our fate, the inevitable end of her entire family, and in spite of that, found the strength and dignity to look to the future.*

*I thank you for giving my mother and some other mothers a future.*

*On the 1995 trip to Europe to celebrate VE day, members of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association were invited by the city of Dachau to a luncheon and a ceremony to remember the six people who were killed there by the Nazis the day before we liberated the city. The city of Dachau is several miles from the concentration camp location.*

**At the luncheon Dr. Danny Fischer, a former inmate of the Dachau Concentration Camp gave a very stirring speech. Norm and I had met he and his wife at our hotel in Munich and have remained friends with them since. They also attended our reunion at Little Rock in 1996.**

**(Danny came to Dachau from Auschwitz only a short time before he was liberated)**

Friday Nov. 14, 1997

# Nazi camp liberator dies

Gazette staff report

Death has claimed one of the first liberators of the World War II Nazi death camp at Dachau.

Henry DeJarnette, 76, of Cedar Rapids, died Wednesday at his home following a short illness. (See obituary, page 2B.)

DeJarnette was one of the first U.S. soldiers to see the horrors at Dachau, where thousands of Jews were killed.

Two people DeJarnette helped rescue were hit hard by news of his death.

"We just got stunned. I didn't expect this. Not in my wildest dreams that he would go that early," Ann Gilbert said Thursday from her Los Angeles home.

Gilbert, 74, and her husband, F.R. Gilbert, 76, are former residents of Cedar Rapids. They were liberated from Dachau by DeJarnette and other members of the U.S. Army's Rainbow Division on April 29, 1945.

DeJarnette, of 1207 31st St. NE, was only 24 and was one of the first soldiers through Dachau's gate. He could not believe the horrors he saw, DeJarnette said in a November 1981 Gazette inter-

## CEDAR RAPIDS

view. "Believe me, I have been hugged and kissed by living skeletons," he said, recalling the starving people at the camp.

DeJarnette said the Rainbow troops discovered a Nazi "death train" at the edge of the camp. Of the 1,500 to 2,000 people packed into the boxcars, only one man was alive. Some had been shot, others starved to death, he said.

Some 32 years later, in 1977, DeJarnette found the Gilberts and they became friends. In 1985, DeJarnette and the Gilberts returned to Dachau as guests of NBC's "Today Show." Gilbert said she and her husband didn't know each other in Dachau, but met shortly after liberation. They came to Cedar Rapids in about 1949 then moved to Los Angeles in 1987.

Gilbert said they received a message about DeJarnette's death on Thursday from his wife, Myrna. "She left a message on the phone that Hank, before he passed on, his last words were, 'Call the Gilberts and let them know.' "

Lt. Zillmer said that we would go in small groups, mostly as squads, to specific targets where Nazi documents might be stored and guard the places until further notice. When it came to my assignment, he gave me maps and a couple of jeeps and showed me on the map where we would be heading. We were to seize the "Braun Haus" which according to intelligence reports was supposed to be intact. He said that we should secure the building, seal off the entrances, post 24-hour security and allow no one to enter until we got further orders from him.

The First Squad loaded up in the two jeeps and using the map that Lt. Zillmer had given me I instructed the driver of the jeep I was in how to proceed and we soon were at the location of the target. There was no standing building on the site. There was only a large pile of rubble. We sent the jeeps on back to the Company CP and started searching the area.



Soon we found a cellar door that seemed to lead under the rubble pile of the Braun Haus. (The Braun Haus was the Nazi party headquarters building.) It got its name from the early followers of Hitler who wore brown shirts as a part of their uniforms. Thus from brown shirts which was the nickname of these men to Braun Haus was a natural progression.)

We opened the door and proceeded cautiously down the stairs to find several rooms that looked as if they had recently been occupied. There were no beds in the area directly under the Braun Haus, however, and so we sent scouts out to look for beds. Soon they came back with a couple of cot size beds, which they had found in a nearby hospital site. With a couple of men posted as guards the rest of us went to the hospital and brought back enough beds for the entire squad.

As we explored further we found there was an extensive network of underground tunnels and rooms leading several directions from the basement that was under the Braun Haus. As we searched through these areas we found everything from bare air—raid shelters to elaborately furnished Nazi headquarters rooms. From these rooms we took all of the furniture and other items we needed to set up housekeeping at our quarters.

In one room I saw a huge radio—phonograph in a beautiful walnut cabinet. It was too large to move and we had found plenty of small radios to use in our quarters anyhow. We brought such things back to our place as typewriters, German Nazi uniforms, flags, armbands, helmets etc. We also discovered a large banquet area with loads of silverware, serving platters, cream pitchers, etc. with the initials A H and the Nazi swastika engraved on them.

We helped ourselves to as much as we wanted. We did not know that the war was going to be over in a few days and we would not be traveling by foot, as we had most of the time for months, or we would have really loaded up on this loot. I took only a handful, (eight pieces), which I still have.

Our meals were brought to us by jeep three times a day while we were here in the Braun Haus. We used the fine Nazi china that we had liberated to put our food on. We sat outside on a nearby wall most of the time, to eat our meals. When we finished we sailed the dirty plates across the street and for the next meal brought out a new stack of plates.

Once when a buddy and I were out walking in the area we saw a group of 20 or 30 Germans gathered around a horse in a small grassy area not far from the Braun Haus. We noticed that someone had a bucket of water and a brush and appeared to be washing the horse. We wondered what they were doing but were not curious enough to ask anyone. When we returned sometime later we noticed that the only thing left of the horse was the hoofs and a few odds and ends. We then realized that they had butchered the horse for food.

The people in the large cities were much worse off than in the small villages. They had practically no food, whereas in the small villages there were farms close by where the farmers had chickens, eggs and home canned goods to live on. When we ate our meals in the areas where civilians were the children always came to us with containers and asked for food. Most of us gave them part of our meals.

Another story that might help to illustrate how bad things were follows. Three buddies and I were out one late afternoon looking for hidden underground tunnels that we suspected were present but had not been in yet. We came across a gaunt looking German woman of about 30 years of age and asked her if she knew of any. She nodded and

indicated we should follow her. As we were making our way through some tunnels she spied a sanitary napkin lying on the floor. Without a moments hesitation she swooped her hand down and picked it up and stuffed it down her dress. We presumed she would take it home, wash it and use it.

Later when we were gone from the area many more American soldiers found the area and looted all of the remaining items. I talked to one Ex Captain who has 100 pieces of the silverware.

While I was here one of the men in the squad reported that he had found a camera store nearby and while there were no cameras in it he had found a large supply of film. I showed him the camera that I had got from Brooks and asked him if there were any glass plates that would work in this camera. He went back and found and brought me several dozen plates. I took many pictures from this time on.

While we were here at the Braun Haus, who should come strolling down the street one day, but Sgt. Robert Gates. We had last seen him on the dike near Sessenheim where he and three others from the Second Platoon were missing after we withdrew back to the Main line of resistance. He told us the story of how they were captured.

He said that after the tremendous artillery barrage they waited too long to look out of their foxholes and were completely surrounded by the enemy. There was nothing to do but raise their hands and surrender. He said that they were hauled off to the Kraut rear and questioned. He said that Pfc. Francisco Guardiola later said to him, "I f-----up I f-----up". Gates said what do you mean and then Guardiola explained that when they questioned him he forgot all about that he was only supposed to give his name, rank and serial number and answered all sorts of their questions. Gates told him not to worry about it the Krauts probably knew everything he told them anyway.

Gates said that soon after their capture the Germans separated them. He said it was the practice of the German army to not allow Non Coms and Privates to be held together. So he had no idea what happened to the other three. I took a photo of him standing out in front of the Braun Haus rubble and he was soon on his way back to the states. Rainbow men who entered the Dachau camp will never forget what horrible things they say there.. We did not realize how evil Hitler and the Nazi regime was until we saw this evidence. There were boxcar loads of bodies awaiting the furnaces when the Rainbow arrived there. (In recent years many other army outfits have tried to claim they were the liberators of Dachau. We claim to have indisputable proof that the Rainbow men were the first American soldiers in the place. )

Not very far from the cellar door of the Braun Haus was one of the two famous temples erected by Hitler to commemorate the memory of the 16 followers of his who were killed in the famous "Beer Hall Putsch" of 1923 when he and his rowdies tried to seize control of the German government. The other temple was only a few hundred feet, or less away. During the Nazi regime there was a 24-hour honor guard that walked around the temples. I had someone take a picture of me sitting on one of the cast iron caskets in one of the temples.

(Shortly after the wars end the temples were destroyed by the Allied Forces. We heard rumors that the caskets would be melted down and cast into peace bells, but I have no idea if that came to pass.)

On May 1, 1945 the First Squad got the joyous news over our liberated radios, while in the Braun Haus Cellar, that Hitler had committed suicide. Later, I thought how

appropriate to hear this news while in the cellar of the Nazi Party Headquarters. Of course with this news we thought that was it; the war was over. Then we heard the news that Admiral Donitz was in power and he said that the Germans would fight on.

On May the 7th while still in the Braun Haus we got the word that the war was officially over. (I don't remember anyone in high authority ever coming around to look for the important documents that we were supposed to be guarding) We moved out shortly after the war ended and spent the rest of our time in Austria as occupation forces.

*"When the actual surrender came on May 7 and the German Army Group surrendered to the Sixth Army Group there was little celebration on the part of the Rainbow men. They had been marching and fighting and working without rest since March 15. They were tired and they wanted most of all to sleep. Then they wanted a chance to clean up and eat a hot meal and go to sleep again.*

*The day the surrender was formally announced the chaplains of the Division held services and the men gave thanks that they were alive and well and they said a prayer for their friends who had died in making the victory possible.*

*'It just doesn't seem like there is anything to celebrate, 'said an infantryman.' I'm glad it's over and that we will get a chance to rest, but we still have to go to the Pacific--and it is going to be just as tough over there.*

*When the war in Europe ended the Rainbow had compiled an enviable record. It had completed 114 days of combat, during which time it had waged a heroic defense of Alsace and advanced 450 miles from the Hardt Mountains of France to the border of Austria. In its path it had captured the key German cities of Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth and Munich. It had been the first unit in its corps to enter Germany, the first to penetrate the Siegfried line, the first to reach and the first to cross the Danube and the first into Munich. It had captured 51,000 prisoners and always taken its objectives with a minimum number of casualties. It ended the war a first-class fighting team, fit to meet any enemy and destroy him. \*[25]*

We immediately began intensive training for the Pacific war. At Mayrhoften, Austria, General Linden arrived unannounced for a surprise inspection. He ordered the Company to perform a bayonet drill, which was his favorite sport. He was so displeased with the kitchen inspection and the bayonet drill that he relieved Lt. Zillmer of his command and reduced him in rank. We were all shocked and angered by his stupidity. To our way of thinking, Lt. Zillmer was an extremely good officer and the very best in combat-leadership. (I never will forget the bayonet drill.) Linden had a couple of little second Lts. stand in front of us, each with a cardboard sign on a stick with a Jap's face painted on the signs. We were lined up in two lines and as each man's turn came he was supposed to look at the Jap's faces, make a long thrust, short thrust, and a butt stroke and growl ferociously as we advanced

If you had any kind of a smile on your face as you went through this exercise you were flunked by Linden, who was standing behind the two Lts. With a jerk of his thumb he was designating two different directions for the men to proceed as they performed the drill. Those that passed went to the left, those that flunked to the right.

Unfortunately, I was in the flunked group. I tried to keep a straight face but right in the middle of my ferocious growl I burst out into an uncontrollable laugh. I was one of the first non-coms through and after me, all of the rest of the non-coms had enough control to not smile or laugh and they passed.

When it was over Lt. Zillmer said, "Sgt. Pettus form these men up and proceed down to the lower field where General Linden will talk to you." I did as he said. When we reached the area Linden gave me orders to form the men in a circle around him. There must have been about 50 of us. I did as he ordered. Then he began to lecture us. He strutted around in the center of the circle beating on his chest and telling us what a soldier he was and what pieces of s—— we were. All the while we were thinking that we had just come through months of sheer hell in combat and doubted if he had ever been within several miles of any enemy troops.

From that time on most of us hated Linden with a passion. We had very little use for him before this but now we had even less respect for him.

After VJ day life became much easier for us. Discipline eased somewhat and we had free time to travel. There were army-sponsored trips to France, England, Switzerland, and Italy. I went on a weeklong trip to Italy and Switzerland. We still had guard duty to perform and company inspections, close order drill etc. Soon men began to ship out for home. We were chosen by a point system, which length of service, being married and the most children gave the most points.

In March of 1946 I had enough points to head for the states. We shipped out of Austria in the forty and eights. We did have crude bunks that had been built in them for this purpose. So we traveled more comfortably than when we were in them the first time.

There were several men from Company K that shipped out with me. We went to Le Harve, France and from there caught a ship home.

## HISTORY OF THE "BEERHALL PUTSCH" NOVEMBER 9, 1923

*After the end of World War I, conditions in Germany were very ripe for revolution. Inflation was working in favor of Hitler and his Nazi party. As of October 23 It took over 6 million marks to equal one mark before the war. By December a five hundred million-mark note was stamped over as a 20 billion-mark note. This would have been about 800 dollars US.*

*By Mid October Hitler had almost 35,000 new members in the party. He was convinced that the country was ready for revolution. In Bavaria the pressure exerted by Hitler's rousing, hypnotic speeches made Commissar von Kahr's task, despite his dictatorial power as head of the Bavarian State, an impossible one. Called upon to restrain Hitler violence, he was under pressure from a large segment of the Bavarian leadership to go easy on him. While many people regretted Hitler's crude tactics and violent language, they shared his dream of a strong, rejuvenated Germany.*



*The head of the army in Bavaria, General von Lossow, was also resisting demands from Berlin to curb Hitler and to ban his newspaper. In the face of Lossow's continued defiance, he was dismissed, an act so infuriating to the Bavarian government that it assumed command of all Reichswehr units in the state.*

*Commissar von Kahr himself attacked the federal government in print and called for an overthrow of the new government of Chancellor Gustav Stresemann.*

*A few days later General von Lossow still in command of his troops despite dismissal by the Weimar Republic-was reported to have made a speech declaring that there were only three possibilities: going on as usual "in the old jogtrot way" seceding Bavaria from the Reich, or marching on Berlin to proclaim a national dictatorship. Hitler was dedicated to the last proposal.*

*A plan was hatched by Rosenberg and Scheubner-Richter to kidnap Prince Rupprecht, former Crown Prince of Bavaria, and Kahr at the German Memorial Day. Several hundred of Hitler's storm troopers would seal off the alley near the Feldhernhalle and Hitler would then politely inform the prisoners that he had seized the government to prevent a communist takeover.*

*By now the Bavarian government was being run, under the supervision of Minister President von Knilling, by a triumvirate of Kahr, Lossow and Seiser, chief of the Bavarian state police.*

*Meanwhile on November 6, Hitler met with his advisors in the apartment of Scheubner-Richter to draft their own plan of action. They agreed to stage a full-fledged Putsch on Nov. 11. Final arrangements were adopted: The major towns and cities of Bavaria would be controlled with the seizure of railroad stations, telegraph offices, radio stations, public utilities, and police headquarters. Later that evening Hitler called a second meeting to discuss a development that called for a drastic change in plans. Commissar von Kahr had unexpectedly announced he was holding a mass "patriotic demonstration" at the Bürgerbräukeller the next night. Hitler argued that it was a heaven sent opportunity. The triumvirate as well as Minister President Knilling and other government officials would all be there. Why not simply escort them to a private room and either convince them to go along with a coup d'etat or, if they were adamant, imprison them? At 3:00 am on Nov. 8, everyone accepted the plan, some reluctantly.*

*About 8:00 p.m. the group headed for the beer hall in two cars. This hall could hold about 3000 at its sturdy round wooden tables. When they arrived the front entrance was blocked by a phalanx of policemen. Hitler persuaded the police to leave and make room for his troops, which were expected shortly, then led the way through the beer-hall door which, Hess held open. Hanfstaengl figured that Hitler would fit more naturally into the scene if he too had a beer and so he went to the serving counter and bought three beers for 3 billion marks. Soon armed Nazis surrounded the building.*

*Hitler set aside the beer, pulled out his Browning pistol and, as the storm troopers shouted "Heil Hitler" he started into the hall with Graf, Scheubner-Richter and his faithful servant Hanfstaengl, and Rudolph Hess. Brown shirts set up machine guns and Hitler climbed onto a chair and waved his pistol. "Quiet!" he shouted and when the tumult continued, he fired a round into the ceiling. He announced, "The national revolution has broken out! The hall is surrounded"*

*Hitler assured the triumvirate and the audience that everything could be settled in ten minutes. The three men and two aids followed Hitler to a side room. "Please forgive me for proceeding in this manner," he said "but I had no other means." He told them that ex-Police President Pöhner was going to be the new Bavarian Minister President and General Ludendorff would assume command of the new national army based on the radical right Battle League, and lead the march on Berlin.*

*When the three failed to respond Hitler drew out his pistol. "There are five rounds in it," he said hoarsely, "four for the traitors, and if it fails one for me." Hitler then handed his pistol to Graf, who already was armed with a machine pistol. Hitler did not then seem to know what to do. He apologized to Kahr, and charged out of the room. There was an uproar going on in the hall by now. This did not faze Hitler. He pushed his way up to the platform ignoring the catcalls and insults. He raised his pistol and shouted angrily, "If silence is not restored, I will order a machine gun placed in the gallery!" He then began to speak with an oratorical masterpiece. He made it appear as if the triumvirate was about to come around as he assured the audience that Kahr had his full trust and would be Regent of Bavaria. He promised that Ludendorff would assume leadership of the army; that Lossow would be Army Minister and Seisser Police Minister.*

*General Ludendorff arrived and shook hands with Kahr, Lossow and Seisser. Frantic applause broke out from the audience.*

*There was also high emotion across the Isar River at the Löwenbräukeller. Esser, who had dragged himself from a sickbed, mounted the podium. He was to wait for the word that Hitler's coup had succeeded. In the middle of his speech, at 8:40 p.m. he received a cryptic message "Safely delivered". Röhm strode up top the platform and interrupted Esser. The Kahr government, he shouted, had been deposed and Adolf Hitler had declared a national revolution. Röhm shouted for everyone to march on the Bürgerbräukeller. With shouts and cheers they headed out. Near the head of the column was a fervent young nationalist by the name of Himmler.*

*At the beer-hall Hess was rounding up "enemies of the people" as hostages. At the Bürgerbräukeller Hitler was in a state of euphoria with the police under control and district headquarters occupied by Röhm. Then came a report from the engineer barracks: the Putschists were having an argument with the engineers. Hitler made a snap decision to leave his command post to straighten out the matter in person. It was to be a grave tactical error, followed by a second: placing General Ludendorff in charge. No sooner than Hitler had left the building, then General von Lossow said he had to go to his office and issue orders. This seemed reasonable to Ludendorff, who allowed Lossow to march out of the beer hall with Kahr and Seisser not far behind. Hitler was turned away at the gate of the engineer barracks. He returned to the beer-hall appalled to find that the triumvirate had been allowed to escape. He assailed Ludendorff. How could have he done such a thing? Now Lossow could sabotage the revolution! The general looked frostily down his nose at the former corporal. A German officer, he said would never break an oath!*

*Lossow went to the center of the regimental barracks and ordered a counterattack on the Putschists. Things were also not going well for the Putschists at the headquarters of Commissar von Kahr. He was so confident with his mission that he walked into the Police directory with a single companion and was immediately arrested. By this time Hitler, Ludendorff and the staff were on their way back to the beer hall, leaving Röhm and his followers to hold the military district building. At dawn someone announced that the triumvirate had publicly denounced the revolution and the army would participate. Ludendorff announced that he would never again trust the word of a German officer.*

*At the beer hall the rebel leaders were in dispute. Col. Kriebel, who had served in the war on Ludendorff's staff wanted to withdraw to Rosenheim on the Austrian border where they might win over the local right radicals. Goring seconded this. "The movement cannot end in the ditch of some obscure country lane," was Ludendorff's sarcastic retort. The discussion dragged on until late morning.*

*Ludendorff was convinced that army troops would not impede a march, and that neither army or state police would fire on them. About noon the straggling column moved off. In fifteen minutes the 2000 men reached the Ludwig Bridge and a small force of state police. The police commander stepped forward as the Putschist skirmishers slowly advanced, called out to halt or be fired upon, then turned to his men and told them to load with live ammunition. AS he spoke a bugle blasted, and selected Putschists suddenly converged on the police with bayonets leveled, shouting "Don't shoot at your comrades!" The police hesitated and before a shot could be fired were overrun. The column continued across the bridge and marched straight ahead. Bystanders begin joining the parade. The marchers broke into their favorite "Storm song". In another 15 minutes they were into the Marienplatz, still festooned with swastika banners from the rallies. The Nazi flag still waved atop the City Hall and a large crowd was singing patriotic songs.*

*There was only enough room in the Street for eight abreast. Hitler locked arms with Scheubner-Richter in preparation for trouble but Ludendorff touched no one, still supremely confident that no one would fire on him. Directly ahead was a cordon of State Police under First Lt. Michael Freiherr von Godin. Faced with the oncoming mob, Godin called out, Second Company, double time march." The state police jogged forward but the Putschists did not break, standing off the enemy with leveled bayonets and pistols. Godin used his rifle to parry two bayonet thrusts. All at once a shot rang out, it killed a Sgt. Then Godin's people opened fire and panic broke out as marchers and bystanders scrambled for safety. One of the first to fall was Scheubner-Richter-shot in the lungs. Another was Graf, who had leaped in front of Hitler to take the half dozen bullets meant for him. In falling he clutched Hitler, yanking him down so sharply that Hitler's left arm was dislocated. Eighteen men lay dead in the street: fourteen followers of Hitler and four state police. Ludendorff marched through the police cordon and into the arms of a lieutenant who placed him under arrest.*

*Hitler managed to escape in all the confusion. He headed by auto toward the Bürgerbräukeller to see what was going on. But at the Marienplatz they came under heavy machine-gun fire and had to change directions several times. Since it was impossible to get to the beer hall they headed south towards Salzburg. Goring lay on the pavement with a bullet in his upper thigh. Frau Isle Ballin, found him bleeding profusely. With the help of her sister, she dragged the heavy burden indoors. When Hitler's car was some 10 miles from Munich he announced that he must have been shot in the arm. Dr. Schultze examined it and found it severely dislocated but was unable to set it properly in the car without assistance. He fastened it to his body with a kerchief, then suggested they flee to Austria. Hitler vetoed this and they kept driving south. On nearing Murnau, Hitler remembered that the Hanfstaengl villa in Uffing was only a few miles away. He ordered the driver to hide the car, then started on foot with the Dr. and first aid man toward Uffing.*

*They walked to the Hanfstaengl villa arriving about 4:00 p.m. The Dr. managed on the second try to set his swollen arm. Then Hitler went to bed. The next day Helene Hanfstaengl told Hitler that the police were coming and soon be in the villa. Hitler exclaimed 'Now all is lost-no use going on!' He snatched his revolver from a cabinet. Helene grasped his hand and took the revolver from him without a struggle. The police arrived soon after and he was taken to the Police Station then to the Landsberg Prison. He was given four and one-half years but served less than a year. Here he wrote Mein Kamphf. In 1934 when Hitler came*



*into power one of his first acts was to have the Nazi shrines erected to house the coffins of the fanatic followers who were killed in the abortive Putsch. \*[26] (See photos)*



## ADOLF HITLER

### Austrian Retreat

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The son of Alois ?? and Maria  
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He narrowly escaped death  
numerous times in WWI  
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He was gassed On Oct. 14,  
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No other human disrupted so  
many lives or stirred as much  
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Friday Nov. 14, 1997

# Nazi camp liberator dies

Gazette staff report

Death has claimed one of the first liberators of the World War II Nazi death camp at Dachau.

Henry DeJarnette, 76, of Cedar Rapids, died Wednesday at his home following a short illness. (See obituary, page 2B.)

DeJarnette was one of the first U.S. soldiers to see the horrors at Dachau, where thousands of Jews were killed.

Two people DeJarnette helped rescue were hit hard by news of his death.

"We just got stunned. I didn't expect this. Not in my wildest dreams that he would go that early," Ann Gilbert said Thursday from her Los Angeles home.

Gilbert, 74, and her husband, F.R. Gilbert, 76, are former residents of Cedar Rapids. They were liberated from Dachau by DeJarnette and other members of the U.S. Army's Rainbow Division on April 29, 1945.

DeJarnette, of 1207 31st St. NE, was only 24 and was one of the first soldiers through Dachau's gate. He could not believe the horrors he saw, DeJarnette said in a November 1981 Gazette inter-

## CEDAR RAPIDS

view. "Believe me, I have been hugged and kissed by living skeletons," he said, recalling the starving people at the camp.

DeJarnette said the Rainbow troops discovered a Nazi "death train" at the edge of the camp. Of the 1,500 to 2,000 people packed into the boxcars, only one man was alive. Some had been shot, others starved to death, he said.

Some 32 years later, in 1977, DeJarnette found the Gilberts and they became friends. In 1985, DeJarnette and the Gilberts returned to Dachau as guests of NBC's "Today Show." Gilbert said she and her husband didn't know each other in Dachau, but met shortly after liberation. They came to Cedar Rapids in about 1949 then moved to Los Angeles in 1987.

Gilbert said they received a message about DeJarnette's death on Thursday from his wife, Myrna. "She left a message on the phone that Hank, before he passed on, his last words were, 'Call the Gilberts and let them know.' "

Lt. Zillmer said that we would go in small groups, mostly as squads, to specific targets where Nazi documents might be stored and guard the places until further notice. When it came to my assignment, he gave me maps and a couple of jeeps and showed me on the map where we would be heading. We were to seize the "Braun Haus" which according to intelligence reports was supposed to be intact. He said that we should secure the building, seal off the entrances, post 24-hour security and allow no one to enter until we got further orders from him.

The First Squad loaded up in the two jeeps and using the map that Lt. Zillmer had given me I instructed the driver of the jeep I was in how to proceed and we soon were at the location of the target. There was no standing building on the site. There was only a large pile of rubble. We sent the jeeps on back to the Company CP and started searching the area.

Soon we found a cellar door that seemed to lead under the rubble pile of the Braun Haus. (The Braun Haus was the Nazi party headquarters building.) It got its name from the early followers of Hitler who wore brown shirts as a part of their uniforms. Thus from brown shirts which was the nickname of these men to Braun Haus was a natural progression.)

We opened the door and proceeded cautiously down the stairs to find several rooms that looked as if they had recently been occupied. There were no beds in the area directly under the Braun Haus, however, and so we sent scouts out to look for beds. Soon they came back with a couple of cot size beds, which they had found in a nearby hospital site. With a couple of men posted as guards the rest of us went to the hospital and brought back enough beds for the entire squad.

As we explored further we found there was an extensive network of underground tunnels and rooms leading several directions from the basement that was under the Braun Haus. As we searched through these areas we found everything from bare air—raid shelters to elaborately furnished Nazi headquarters rooms. From these rooms we took all of the furniture and other items we needed to set up housekeeping at our quarters.

In one room I saw a huge radio—phonograph in a beautiful walnut cabinet. It was too large to move and we had found plenty of small radios to use in our quarters anyhow. We brought such things back to our place as typewriters, German Nazi uniforms, flags, armbands, helmets etc. We also discovered a large banquet area with loads of silverware, serving platters, cream pitchers, etc. with the initials A H and the Nazi swastika engraved on them.

We helped ourselves to as much as we wanted. We did not know that the war was going to be over in a few days and we would not be traveling by foot, as we had most of the time for months, or we would have really loaded up on this loot. I took only a handful, (eight pieces), which I still have.

Our meals were brought to us by jeep three times a day while we were here in the Braun Haus. We used the fine Nazi china that we had liberated to put our food on. We sat outside on a nearby wall most of the time, to eat our meals. When we finished we sailed the dirty plates across the street and for the next meal brought out a new stack of plates.

Once when a buddy and I were out walking in the area we saw a group of 20 or 30 Germans gathered around a horse in a small grassy area not far from the Braun Haus. We noticed that someone had a bucket of water and a brush and appeared to be washing the horse. We wondered what they were doing but were not curious enough to ask anyone. When we returned sometime later we noticed that the only thing left of the horse was the hoofs and a few odds and ends. We then realized that they had butchered the horse for food.

The people in the large cities were much worse off than in the small villages. They had practically no food, whereas in the small villages there were farms close by where the farmers had chickens, eggs and home canned goods to live on. When we ate our meals in the areas where civilians were the children always came to us with containers and asked for food. Most of us gave them part of our meals.

Another story that might help to illustrate how bad things were follows. Three buddies and I were out one late afternoon looking for hidden underground tunnels that we suspected were present but had not been in yet. We came across a gaunt looking German woman of about 30 years of age and asked her if she knew of any. She nodded and



indicated we should follow her. As we were making our way through some tunnels she spied a sanitary napkin lying on the floor. Without a moments hesitation she swooped her hand down and picked it up and stuffed it down her dress. We presumed she would take it home, wash it and use it.

Later when we were gone from the area many more American soldiers found the area and looted all of the remaining items. I talked to one Ex Captain who has 100 pieces of the silverware.

While I was here one of the men in the squad reported that he had found a camera store nearby and while there were no cameras in it he had found a large supply of film. I showed him the camera that I had got from Brooks and asked him if there were any glass plates that would work in this camera. He went back and found and brought me several dozen plates. I took many pictures from this time on.

While we were here at the Braun Haus, who should come strolling down the street one day, but Sgt. Robert Gates. We had last seen him on the dike near Sessenheim where he and three others from the Second Platoon were missing after we withdrew back to the Main line of resistance. He told us the story of how they were captured.

He said that after the tremendous artillery barrage they waited too long to look out of their foxholes and were completely surrounded by the enemy. There was nothing to do but raise their hands and surrender. He said that they were hauled off to the Kraut rear and questioned. He said that Pfc. Francisco Guardiola later said to him, "I f-----up I f-----up". Gates said what do you mean and then Guardiola explained that when they questioned him he forgot all about that he was only supposed to give his name, rank and serial number and answered all sorts of their questions. Gates told him not to worry about it the Krauts probably knew everything he told them anyway.

Gates said that soon after their capture the Germans separated them. He said it was the practice of the German army to not allow Non Coms and Privates to be held together. So he had no idea what happened to the other three. I took a photo of him standing out in front of the Braun Haus rubble and he was soon on his way back to the states. Rainbow men who entered the Dachau camp will never forget what horrible things they say there.. We did not realize how evil Hitler and the Nazi regime was until we saw this evidence. There were boxcar loads of bodies awaiting the furnaces when the Rainbow arrived there. (In recent years many other army outfits have tried to claim they were the liberators of Dachau. We claim to have indisputable proof that the Rainbow men were the first American soldiers in the place. )

Not very far from the cellar door of the Braun Haus was one of the two famous temples erected by Hitler to commemorate the memory of the 16 followers of his who were killed in the famous "Beer Hall Putsch" of 1923 when he and his rowdies tried to seize control of the German government. The other temple was only a few hundred feet, or less away. During the Nazi regime there was a 24-hour honor guard that walked around the temples. I had someone take a picture of me sitting on one of the cast iron caskets in one of the temples.

(Shortly after the wars end the temples were destroyed by the Allied Forces. We heard rumors that the caskets would be melted down and cast into peace bells, but I have no idea if that came to pass.)

On May 1, 1945 the First Squad got the joyous news over our liberated radios, while in the Braun Haus Cellar, that Hitler had committed suicide. Later, I thought how

appropriate to hear this news while in the cellar of the Nazi Party Headquarters. Of course with this news we thought that was it; the war was over. Then we heard the news that Admiral Donitz was in power and he said that the Germans would fight on.

On May the 7th while still in the Braun Haus we got the word that the war was officially over. (I don't remember anyone in high authority ever coming around to look for the important documents that we were supposed to be guarding) We moved out shortly after the war ended and spent the rest of our time in Austria as occupation forces.

*"When the actual surrender came on May 7 and the German Army Group surrendered to the Sixth Army Group there was little celebration on the part of the Rainbow men. They had been marching and fighting and working without rest since March 15. They were tired and they wanted most of all to sleep. Then they wanted a chance to clean up and eat a hot meal and go to sleep again.*

*The day the surrender was formally announced the chaplains of the Division held services and the men gave thanks that they were alive and well and they said a prayer for their friends who had died in making the victory possible.*

*'It just doesn't seem like there is anything to celebrate, 'said an infantryman.' I'm glad it's over and that we will get a chance to rest, but we still have to go to the Pacific--and it is going to be just as tough over there.*

*When the war in Europe ended the Rainbow had compiled an enviable record. It had completed 114 days of combat, during which time it had waged a heroic defense of Alsace and advanced 450 miles from the Hardt Mountains of France to the border of Austria. In its path it had captured the key German cities of Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth and Munich. It had been the first unit in its corps to enter Germany, the first to penetrate the Siegfried line, the first to reach and the first to cross the Danube and the first into Munich. It had captured 51,000 prisoners and always taken its objectives with a minimum number of casualties. It ended the war a first-class fighting team, fit to meet any enemy and destroy him. \*[25]*

We immediately began intensive training for the Pacific war. At Mayrhoften, Austria, General Linden arrived unannounced for a surprise inspection. He ordered the Company to perform a bayonet drill, which was his favorite sport. He was so displeased with the kitchen inspection and the bayonet drill that he relieved Lt. Zillmer of his command and reduced him in rank. We were all shocked and angered by his stupidity. To our way of thinking, Lt. Zillmer was an extremely good officer and the very best in combat-leadership. (I never will forget the bayonet drill.) Linden had a couple of little second Lts. stand in front of us, each with a cardboard sign on a stick with a Jap's face painted on the signs. We were lined up in two lines and as each man's turn came he was supposed to look at the Jap's faces, make a long thrust, short thrust, and a butt stroke and growl ferociously as we advanced

If you had any kind of a smile on your face as you went through this exercise you were flunked by Linden, who was standing behind the two Lts. With a jerk of his thumb he was designating two different directions for the men to proceed as they performed the drill. Those that passed went to the left, those that flunked to the right.

Unfortunately, I was in the flunked group. I tried to keep a straight face but right in the middle of my ferocious growl I burst out into an uncontrollable laugh. I was one of the first non-coms through and after me, all of the rest of the non-coms had enough control to not smile or laugh and they passed.

When it was over Lt. Zillmer said, "Sgt. Pettus form these men up and proceed down to the lower field where General Linden will talk to you." I did as he said. When we reached the area Linden gave me orders to form the men in a circle around him. There must have been about 50 of us. I did as he ordered. Then he began to lecture us. He strutted around in the center of the circle beating on his chest and telling us what a soldier he was and what pieces of s—— we were. All the while we were thinking that we had just come through months of sheer hell in combat and doubted if he had ever been within several miles of any enemy troops.

From that time on most of us hated Linden with a passion. We had very little use for him before this but now we had even less respect for him.

After VJ day life became much easier for us. Discipline eased somewhat and we had free time to travel. There were army-sponsored trips to France, England, Switzerland, and Italy. I went on a weeklong trip to Italy and Switzerland. We still had guard duty to perform and company inspections, close order drill etc. Soon men began to ship out for home. We were chosen by a point system, which length of service, being married and the most children gave the most points.

In March of 1946 I had enough points to head for the states. We shipped out of Austria in the forty and eights. We did have crude bunks that had been built in them for this purpose. So we traveled more comfortably than when we were in them the first time.

There were several men from Company K that shipped out with me. We went to Le Harve, France and from there caught a ship home.

## HISTORY OF THE "BEERHALL PUTSCH" NOVEMBER 9, 1923

*After the end of World War I, conditions in Germany were very ripe for revolution. Inflation was working in favor of Hitler and his Nazi party. As of October 23 It took over 6 million marks to equal one mark before the war. By December a five hundred million-mark note was stamped over as a 20 billion-mark note. This would have been about 800 dollars US.*

*By Mid October Hitler had almost 35,000 new members in the party. He was convinced that the country was ready for revolution. In Bavaria the pressure exerted by Hitler's rousing, hypnotic speeches made Commissar von Kahr's task, despite his dictatorial power as head of the Bavarian State, an impossible one. Called upon to restrain Hitler violence, he was under pressure from a large segment of the Bavarian leadership to go easy on him. While many people regretted Hitler's crude tactics and violent language, they shared his dream of a strong, rejuvenated Germany.*

*The head of the army in Bavaria, General von Lossow, was also resisting demands from Berlin to curb Hitler and to ban his newspaper. In the face of Lossow's continued defiance, he was dismissed, an act so infuriating to the Bavarian government that it assumed command of all Reichswehr units in the state.*

*Commissar von Kahr himself attacked the federal government in print and called for an overthrow of the new government of Chancellor Gustav Stresemann.*

*A few days later General von Lossow still in command of his troops despite dismissal by the Weimar Republic-was reported to have made a speech declaring that there were only three possibilities: going on as usual "in the old jogtrot way" seceding Bavaria from the Reich, or marching on Berlin to proclaim a national dictatorship. Hitler was dedicated to the last proposal.*

*A plan was hatched by Rosenberg and Scheubner-Richter to kidnap Prince Rupprecht, former Crown Prince of Bavaria, and Kahr at the German Memorial Day. Several hundred of Hitler's storm troopers would seal off the alley near the Feldhernhalle and Hitler would then politely inform the prisoners that he had seized the government to prevent a communist takeover.*

*By now the Bavarian government was being run, under the supervision of Minister President von Knilling, by a triumvirate of Kahr, Lossow and Seiser, chief of the Bavarian state police.*

*Meanwhile on November 6, Hitler met with his advisors in the apartment of Scheubner-Richter to draft their own plan of action. They agreed to stage a full-fledged Putsch on Nov. 11. Final arrangements were adopted: The major towns and cities of Bavaria would be controlled with the seizure of railroad stations, telegraph offices, radio stations, public utilities, and police headquarters. Later that evening Hitler called a second meeting to discuss a development that called for a drastic change in plans. Commissar von Kahr had unexpectedly announced he was holding a mass "patriotic demonstration" at the Bürgerbräukeller the next night. Hitler argued that it was a heaven sent opportunity. The triumvirate as well as Minister President Knilling and other government officials would all be there. Why not simply escort them to a private room and either convince them to go along with a coup d'etat or, if they were adamant, imprison them? At 3:00 am on Nov. 8, everyone accepted the plan, some reluctantly.*

*About 8:00 p.m. the group headed for the beer hall in two cars. This hall could hold about 3000 at its sturdy round wooden tables. When they arrived the front entrance was blocked by a phalanx of policemen. Hitler persuaded the police to leave and make room for his troops, which were expected shortly, then led the way through the beer-hall door which, Hess held open. Hanfstaengl figured that Hitler would fit more naturally into the scene if he too had a beer and so he went to the serving counter and bought three beers for 3 billion marks. Soon armed Nazis surrounded the building.*

*Hitler set aside the beer, pulled out his Browning pistol and, as the storm troopers shouted "Heil Hitler" he started into the hall with Graf, Scheubner-Richter and his faithful servant Hanfstaengl, and Rudolph Hess. Brown shirts set up machine guns and Hitler climbed onto a chair and waved his pistol. "Quiet!" he shouted and when the tumult continued, he fired a round into the ceiling. He announced, "The national revolution has broken out! The hall is surrounded"*



*Hitler assured the triumvirate and the audience that everything could be settled in ten minutes. The three men and two aids followed Hitler to a side room. "Please forgive me for proceeding in this manner," he said "but I had no other means." He told them that ex-Police President Pöhner was going to be the new Bavarian Minister President and General Ludendorff would assume command of the new national army based on the radical right Battle League, and lead the march on Berlin.*

*When the three failed to respond Hitler drew out his pistol. "There are five rounds in it," he said hoarsely, "four for the traitors, and if it fails one for me." Hitler then handed his pistol to Graf, who already was armed with a machine pistol. Hitler did not then seem to know what to do. He apologized to Kahr, and charged out of the room. There was an uproar going on in the hall by now. This did not faze Hitler. He pushed his way up to the platform ignoring the catcalls and insults. He raised his pistol and shouted angrily, "If silence is not restored, I will order a machine gun placed in the gallery!" He then began to speak with an oratorical masterpiece. He made it appear as if the triumvirate was about to come around as he assured the audience that Kahr had his full trust and would be Regent of Bavaria. He promised that Ludendorff would assume leadership of the army; that Lossow would be Army Minister and Seisser Police Minister.*

*General Ludendorff arrived and shook hands with Kahr, Lossow and Seisser. Frantic applause broke out from the audience.*

*There was also high emotion across the Isar River at the Löwenbräukeller. Esser, who had dragged himself from a sickbed, mounted the podium. He was to wait for the word that Hitler's coup had succeeded. In the middle of his speech, at 8:40 p.m. he received a cryptic message "Safely delivered". Röhm strode up top the platform and interrupted Esser. The Kahr government, he shouted, had been deposed and Adolf Hitler had declared a national revolution. Röhm shouted for everyone to march on the Bürgerbräukeller. With shouts and cheers they headed out. Near the head of the column was a fervent young nationalist by the name of Himmler.*

*At the beer-hall Hess was rounding up "enemies of the people" as hostages. At the Bürgerbräukeller Hitler was in a state of euphoria with the police under control and district headquarters occupied by Röhm. Then came a report from the engineer barracks: the Putschists were having an argument with the engineers. Hitler made a snap decision to leave his command post to straighten out the matter in person. It was to be a grave tactical error, followed by a second: placing General Ludendorff in charge. No sooner than Hitler had left the building, then General von Lossow said he had to go to his office and issue orders. This seemed reasonable to Ludendorff, who allowed Lossow to march out of the beer hall with Kahr and Seisser not far behind. Hitler was turned away at the gate of the engineer barracks. He returned to the beer-hall appalled to find that the triumvirate had been allowed to escape. He assailed Ludendorff. How could have he done such a thing? Now Lossow could sabotage the revolution! The general looked frostily down his nose at the former corporal. A German officer, he said would never break an oath!*

*Lossow went to the center of the regimental barracks and ordered a counterattack on the Putschists. Things were also not going well for the Putschists at the headquarters of Commissar von Kahr. He was so confident with his mission that he walked into the Police directory with a single companion and was immediately arrested. By this time Hitler, Ludendorff and the staff were on their way back to the beer hall, leaving Röhm and his followers to hold the military district building. At dawn someone announced that the triumvirate had publicly denounced the revolution and the army would participate. Ludendorff announced that he would never again trust the word of a German officer.*

*At the beer hall the rebel leaders were in dispute. Col. Kriebel, who had served in the war on Ludendorff's staff wanted to withdraw to Rosenheim on the Austrian border where they might win over the local right radicals. Goring seconded this. "The movement cannot end in the ditch of some obscure country lane," was Ludendorff's sarcastic retort. The discussion dragged on until late morning.*

*Ludendorff was convinced that army troops would not impede a march, and that neither army or state police would fire on them. About noon the straggling column moved off. In fifteen minutes the 2000 men reached the Ludwig Bridge and a small force of state police. The police commander stepped forward as the Putschist skirmishers slowly advanced, called out to halt or be fired upon, then turned to his men and told them to load with live ammunition. AS he spoke a bugle blasted, and selected Putschists suddenly converged on the police with bayonets leveled, shouting "Don't shoot at your comrades!" The police hesitated and before a shot could be fired were overrun. The column continued across the bridge and marched straight ahead. Bystanders begin joining the parade. The marchers broke into their favorite "Storm song". In another 15 minutes they were into the Marienplatz, still festooned with swastika banners from the rallies. The Nazi flag still waved atop the City Hall and a large crowd was singing patriotic songs.*

*There was only enough room in the Street for eight abreast. Hitler locked arms with Scheubner-Richter in preparation for trouble but Ludendorff touched no one, still supremely confident that no one would fire on him. Directly ahead was a cordon of State Police under First Lt. Michael Freiherr von Godin. Faced with the oncoming mob, Godin called out, Second Company, double time march." The state police jogged forward but the Putschists did not break, standing off the enemy with leveled bayonets and pistols. Godin used his rifle to parry two bayonet thrusts. All at once a shot rang out, it killed a Sgt. Then Godin's people opened fire and panic broke out as marchers and bystanders scrambled for safety. One of the first to fall was Scheubner-Richter-shot in the lungs. Another was Graf, who had leaped in front of Hitler to take the half dozen bullets meant for him. In falling he clutched Hitler, yanking him down so sharply that Hitler's left arm was dislocated. Eighteen men lay dead in the street: fourteen followers of Hitler and four state police. Ludendorff marched through the police cordon and into the arms of a lieutenant who placed him under arrest.*

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*into power one of his first acts was to have the Nazi shrines erected to house the coffins of the fanatic followers who were killed in the abortive Putsch. \*[26] (See photos)*



## ADOLF HITLER

### Austrian Retreat

Hitler was born April 20, 1889  
The son of Alois ?? and Maria  
Anna Schicklgruber.

He narrowly escaped death  
numerous times in WWI  
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Reserve Regiment

He was gassed On Oct. 14,  
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Between Sept. 1943 and Feb.  
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On July 18, 1944 a bomb hidden  
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No other human disrupted so  
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**December 1, 44**  
**Location: SS Edmond B. Alexander En Route**  
**Shepherd, Loren O. 377433301 Pvt**  
**DY to SK Ship's Hospital (LD-Yes)**

**December 4, 44**  
**Location: SS Edmond B. Alexander En Route**  
**Shepherd, Loren O. 377433301 Pvt**  
**DY to SK Ship's Hospital (LD-Yes) to DY**

**December 5, 44**  
**Location: SS Edmond B. Alexander En Route**  
**Hazlip, Glyn L 38687534 Pvt**  
**DY to SK Ship's Hosp (LD-Yes)**

**December 7, 44**  
**Location: SS Edmond B. Alexander En Route**  
**Hazlip, Glyn L 38687534 Pvt**  
**SK Ship's Hosp (LD-Yes) to DY**

**December 9, 44**  
**Location: 2 miles NW of Calas, France**  
**RECORD OF EVENTS**  
**Enroute from Debarkation to SS Edmond B.**  
**Alexander 1300 9 Dec 44 to (SA) Marseille, France.**  
**Arrived 1600 9 December 44.**

**December 13, 44**  
**Location: 2 Miles NW of Calas, France BT 4528**  
**Riley, Daniel F. 6859166 T/Sgt.**  
**Cameron, George H. 36209775 Sgt.**  
**Above two Enlisted Men reduced to grade of Pvt.**  
**Per Par 1, SO 268 Hq's 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf.**  
**Martin, Earl H. 3690185 Pvt.**  
**Confined to quarters to dy**

**December 17, 44**  
**Location: 2 Miles NW of Calas, France BT 4528**  
**Golowski, Joseph S. 33931781 Pvt.**  
**Dabbs, William H. 34982397 Pvt.**  
**Riley, Daniel F. 6859166 Pvt.**  
**Above 3 Enlisted Men attached to HQ this Orgnization**  
**For Rations and Quarters and Administration**  
**Yarincik, John 31382368 Pfc.**  
**Henderson, James 36114284 Pfc.**  
**Anderson, Kermit D. 20739123 Pfc.**  
**Countryman, Harold S. 32508642 Pvt.**  
**Scott Lien E. 36979826 Pvt.**  
**Above 5 EM DY to attchd to Service Co. This**  
**Orgn. for Rations, Quarters, and Administration**  
**3 men from medical detachment this Regt, attchd**  
**for rations and quarters only.**

**December 19, 44**  
**Location: En Route**  
**RECORD OF EVENTS**

6 Officers and 175 EM departed (SA) 2 miles NW of Calas BT 4528 1400 December 1944 Enroute by rail. 6 EM remained for truck convoy.

December 20, 44

Location: En Route

RECORD OF EVENTS

6 EM departed (SA) 2 miles NW of Calas BT 4528 20 Dec. 44. enroute by truck convoy.

December 21, 44

Location: En Route

Method, William 35087454 Pvt

DY to SA 5<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp Toul, France (LD)

RECORD OF EVENTS

6 Officers, 174 EM arrived By Train at Bensdorf, France 1930, Dec 21,44

December 22, 44

Location: En Route

RECORD OF EVENTS

Departed Bensdorf, France by truck convoy 0915 22 Dec. 44. 6 Officers and 174 EM arrived Roc Range, France 1015, 22 Dec. 44. 6 EM arrived Roc Range, France by truck convoy 1900 22 Dec, 44

December 23, 44

Location: Strasbourg, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Departed Roc Range, France 1400, 23 Dec. 44.

6 Officers and 180 EM by truck convoy arrived Strasbourg, France 2150 Dec. 23, 44

December 24, 44

Location: Fmede Bussierre, France 047015

1 EM attchd to Service Co for Rations & quarters only.

RECORD OF EVENTS

6 Officers and 179 EM departed Strasbourg, France by truck convoy 0915, arrived present location 1000.

December 25, 44

Location: Fmede Bussierre, France 047015

Rieger, Joseph T. 32973395 S/Sgt.

Killed (Non Battle Casualty) at Fmede Bussierre, France (047015)

December 26, 44

Location: Fmede Bussierre, France 047015

Greene, Olma D. 34775449 Pfc.

Harris, Morran D. 17064583 Pfc.

Koenig, Charles M. 37704360 Pfc.

Maxwell, Dale L. 37726299 Pfc.

North, Richard 35268882 Pfc.

Roy, Sanford R. 17162160 Pfc.

Schildkraut, Julius ?2043343 Pfc.

Vint, James R. 35206855 Pfc.

Baptiste, Frank U. 37696234 Pfc.

Berry, Roderick M. 31467368 Pfc.

Cole, Marvin 34927110 Pvt.

Collins, Milton 12226858 Pvt.

Friedrich, Henry 36979455 Pvt.

Hall, Richard J. 35088315 Pvt.

Marikle, Robert J. 31466159 Pvt.

Martin, Earl H. 36901085 Pvt.

Meltzer, Seymour H. 31467463 Pvt.

O'Conner, William O.	35839510	Pvt.
Patrick, Edmond	35088938	Pvt.
Rivester, William J.	36825309	Pvt.
Shepherd, Loren O.	37743301	Pvt.
Thomas, Leo J.	36981671	Pvt.
Welch, Edward E.	35839994	Pvt.
Wheeler, Richard K.	32579372	Pvt.

Above 24 EM relieved from asgmt. & trfd. To 90<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Per VOGG 7<sup>th</sup> Army (par 2 SO 268 Hq. 232d Inf.

December 28, 44

Location: La Colonbay

Meller, Frank M. 20702189 Tec 4

Dy to Sk 132d Ev Hosp. (LD) as of 25 Dec. 44

Ashby, William M. 35707870 Sgt.

Dy to Sk Ev Hosp. (LD) & reld fr asgmt & trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A as of 26th Dec., 44 (Sec IC Cir. 694G ETO USA

Hastings, Marvin E. 39706886 Tec 5

Dy to Sk 95 Ev Hosp. (LD) & reld fr asgmt & trfd to Det. Of Pats tth A, as of 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 44. SPCII Cir 69 HQET USA

December 31, 44

Location: La Wantzenau, France 071065

Meller, Frank M. 20702189 Tec 4

Reled from asgmt & trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army

Per section III ETO USA Cir# 69 as of 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 44

January 1, 45

Location: La Wantzenau, France 071065

Smith, Walter R. 35694403 Pvt.

Suckow, Clarence H. 36981664 Pvt.

McKissack, Earnest W. 38669009 Pvt.

Turner, Stephen E. 36642194 Pvt.

Wright, Jule K. 36978884 Pvt.

Collins, Max 36982045 Pvt.

Hood, Julian P. 38687937 Pvt.

Baker, Laymon L. 38700674 Pvt.

Rosser, William F. 35089077 Pvt.

Micu, Eli D. 35839208 Pvt.

Cox, Charles W. 36979684 Pvt.

Singleton, Revelle 35088766 Pvt.

Zebrowski, Raymond 36982321 Pvt.

Hazlip, Glyn L. 38687534 Pvt.

McCormack, James H. 35839387 Pvt.

Campbell, John W. 36981676 Pvt.

Carlson, Ralph G. 36981919 Pvt.

Kinsie, William W. 37743726 Pvt.

Neal, Walter E. 35839390 Pvt.

Above 19 EM aptd Pfc. Per CO # 1

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

6 Officers & 151 EM departed location ½ mile

East of Strasbourg, France 1330 28 Dec. 44 by truck convoy. Arrived LaColonbay, France 1530, 28 Dec, 44

6 Officers & 151 EM departed LaColonbay, France 1330 29 Dec, 44 by truck convoy. Arrived Fort Ney, France 1440 29 Dec., 44.

3 Officers and 100 EM departed Fort Ney, France 0530, 30 Dec. 1944 by march, Arrived at LaWantzenau, France 0630, 30 Dec., 1944 by march. Arrived LaWantzenau, France 1400, 30 Dec. 44.

1 Officer and 39 EM departed Fort Ney, France 0945 , 31 Dec. 44 by march, Arrived LaWantzenau, France 1045  
31 Dec. 44

January 2, 45

Location: LaWantzenau, France 071065

Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt.

Berger, Andrew 3 Jr. 39421647 Pvt.

Smith, Lawrence J. 31467236 Pfc.

Above 4 EM Dy to atchd to Hq & HQ Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. this regt for Rations, Quarters and Administration

January 5, 45

Location: LaWantzenau, France

Sailor, Robert W. 35629970 Sgt.

Killed in action

Gilson, Floyd W. 36109373 S/Sgt.

Fuchs, Leo A. 37312336 Pfc.

Neal, Walter E. 35839390 Pfc.

Above 3 EM Dy to Sk 393<sup>rd</sup> Clearing Co.

(Wounded in Action)

January 6, 45

Location: LaWantzenau, France

Twombly, Richard W. 0549791 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Killed in Action

Knecht, Harry G. 0553265 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Dy to Sk 393<sup>rd</sup> Clearing Co.

Wounded in Action.

Pawenski, John P. 35243642 Pfc.

Dy to Sk 393<sup>rd</sup> Clearing Co.

Wounded in action.

Gilson, Floyd W. 36109373 S/Sgt.

Neal, Walter 35839390 Pfc.

Above 2 EM relieved from assignment & transferred to (116 EH per Clearing Stat 304<sup>th</sup> Med. Bn., 79<sup>th</sup> Div.

Admission & Disposition Report) Det. Of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army per Sec II Cir 69

ETO USA. (Sic

Sick to transferred)

January 7, 45

Location: La Wantzenau, France 071065

Smith, Lawrence J. 31467236 Pfc.

From Rations & Quarters & Admin. HQ & HQ Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. atchd this Regt to Dy to Sick 393<sup>rd</sup> Clearing Co.

(wounded in action)

January 8, 45

Location: Oberhoffen, France

Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt.

Berger, George J. 42141301 Pvt

Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc.

Above 3 EM from atchd Adm, Rations & Quarters HQ & Hq Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. this Regt to Dy.

2 Officers, 51 EM from Co. L this Regt. Atchd for rations only.

RECORD OF EVENTS

4 Officers and 140 EM departed LaWantzenau, France by truck convoy 1145, 8 Jan., 45. Arrived Oberhoffen,  
France 1330 8 Jan. 45

January 9, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen, France WR 1322



Knecht, Harry G. 0553265 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Seriously wounded in action at LaWantzenau, France. Dy to Hosp. To trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (136 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 7 Jan. 45.

Pawenski, John P. 35243642 Pfc.  
Seriously wounded in action at LaWantzenau, France. Dy to Hosp. To trf Det. Of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95EH) per Sec. II Cior 69 ETO USA as of 6 Jan. 45. (Hosp to trfd.)

Smith, Lawrence J. 31467236 Pfc.  
Seriously wounded in action at LaWantzenau, France. Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army(96EH) oer Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 7 Jan. 45. (Sick Hosp to trfd.)

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

4 Officers, 129 EM & 3 medics attached left Ft. Oberhoffen by truck convoy at 1315, Arrived 1430 Schirrhoffen, Mission has been started.

January 11, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen, France WR1322

Weeks, Harold F. 36482513 Pfc.  
Dy to Abs Sick 891<sup>st</sup> Clearing Co. (Slightly wounded in action)  
2 EM atchd to H3b This Regiment for Dy, Rations and quarters.

January 12, 45

Location: Shirhoffen, France WR 1322

Miller, Carl L. 0389485 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Relieved from asgmt & primary duty as Executive Officer and is asgd to Co. I this Regiment per Letter O HQ, 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf.

January 13, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen WR 1322

Berube, Leo F. 31432169 Pvt.  
Berube, Philippe A. 31432174 Pvt.  
Bjork, Arlen G. 37595592 Pvt.  
Blanchard, Frank J. 31403137 Pvt.  
Falchek, Eugene A. 33463431 Pvt.  
Peiffer, Mark N. 33941219 Pvt.  
Pennington, Algie L. 38668894 Pvt.  
Pittman, John Jr. 38668198 Pvt.  
Ravey, Clayton 38656367 Pvt.  
Riser, Donald W. 35085789 Pvt.  
Sutphin, John W. 36979393 Pvt.  
Williams, Johnnie L. 38677640 Pvt.  
Stearns, Charles E. 18249316 Pvt.  
Above 13 EM aptd Pfc. From Pvt. Per CO#2 as of 1 Jan 45.  
Szcurek, Albin F. 36765962 S/Sgt.  
Promoted to grade of T/Sgt. per SO#2 this Regt.  
Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 Sgt.  
Promoted to S/Sgt. per SO#2 this Regiment  
Huckaby, Virgil L. 39574178 Cpl.  
Fedorko, John 32509269 Cpl.  
Pomeroy, Robert M. 17145300 Pfc.  
Above 2 EM promoted to grade of Sgt. per SO #2 this regiment.  
Weeks, Harold F. 36482513 Pfc.  
891<sup>st</sup> Olg Co. to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH)  
per Sec II Cir. 59 ETO USA as of 12 Jan 45.

January 17, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen, France WR 1322

Leonard, John B. 32355827 T/Sgt.

Stoft, William E., Jr            35235201 T/Sgt.

Above 2 EM Honorable Discharge to accept commission.

Hopkins, Alson                37227405 Sgt.

Slightly wounded in action France to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army A (116 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 15 January, 45.

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

##### Defensive Position

January 18, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen, France WR 1322

Robertson, Charles Q.        38668977 Pfc.

Slightly wounded in action France dy to hosp to trf Det Of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (132 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 17 Jan. 45

Weed, Charles M.              32843061 Pfc.

Seriously wounded in action France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (57 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 17 Jan. 45

January 19, 45

Location: Schirrhoffen, France WR 1322

Fuchs, Leo A.                37312336 Pfc.

Sk 393<sup>rd</sup> Clg Co. to (slightly wounded in action France) trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (236 Gen Hosp) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 11 Jan, 45

Neef, Walter G.                36524406 Pfc.

Slightly wounded in action, France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 18 Jan. 45.

Davis, Ezra J.                38488118 Pfc.

Berube, Philippe, A.        31432174 Pfc.

Above 2 EM slightly wounded in action France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (116 EH) per Sec II cir 69 ETO USA as of 18 Jan. 45

Wessel, Charles D.            33262584 Sgt.

Fedorko, John                32509269 Sgt.

Above 2 EM seriously wounded in action France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 18 Jan 45.

Breitgham, LeRoy A.        39467459 Pfc.

Garguilo, Thomas J.        31466657 Pfc.

Gates, Robert A.            35279449 Sgt.

Guardiola, Francisco        38460581 Pfc.

Jahr, Werner A.            37310540 Pfc.

Kinsie, William W.        37743728 Pfc.

McKaskle, G. W.            38656511 Pfc.

Peiffer, Mark, N.            33941219 Pfc.

Phipps, Charles M. Jr.       11083264 Pfc.

Pomeroy, Robert M.        17145300 Sgt.

Sutphin, John W.            36979393 Pfc.

Thornal, Holly Q.            38143345 Pfc.

Above 12 EM missing in action as of 18 Jan. 45.

Blanchard, Frank J.        31403137 Pfc.

Seriously wounded in action France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (116 EH) as of 18 Jan., 45 per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA.

January 20, 45

Location: Enroute

1 EM med det this regt relieved from attached for rations & quarters as of 14 Jan., 45

1 EM med det this regt relieved from attached for rations & quarters as of 18 Jan., 45

Rains, Stanley V.            20730387 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.

Honorable discharge to accept commission.

## RECORD OF EVENTS

2 Officers & 110 EM and 3 medics atchd departed Shirrhoffen, France 1630 19 Jan., 45 by truck convoy.  
Arrived Souffleheim, France (157-259) Selts 5 & 6 1:25000) 1715 19 January 1945.

2 Officers & 110 EM & 3 medics atchd departed Soufflenheim, France 2230, 20 Jan., 45

January 21, 45

Location: Bossendorf, France WQ 8619

Coffey, Joel L. 34775446 S/Sgt.

Slightly injured in action France dy to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (117 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA

Breitgham, LeRoy A. 39467459 Pfc.

Garguilo, Thomas J. 31466657 Pfc.

Gates, Robert A. 35279449 Sgt.

Guardiola, Francisco 38460581 Pfc.

Jahr, Werner A. 37310540 Pfc.

Kinsie, William W. 37743728 Pfc.

McKaskle, G. W. 38656511 Pfc.

Peiffer, Mark N. 33941219 Pfc.

Phipps, Charles M. Jr. 11083264 Pfc.

Pomeroy, Robert M. 17145300 Sgt.

Sutphin, John W. 36979393 Pfc.

Thornal, Holly Q. 38143345 Pfc.

Above 12 EM missing in action since 18 Jan, 45 dropped from rolls.

## RECORD OF EVENTS

2 Officers, 109 EM & 3 medics atchd arrived Haguenau, France 0500 21 Jan 45 by march. 2 Officers, 109 EM & 3 medics atchd departed Haguenau, France 1300 21 Jan, 45 by truck Convoy. Arrived Bossendorf, France 1630 21 Jan. 45.

January 22, 45

Location: Bossendorf, France

Falchek, Eugene A. 33463431 Pfc.

Slightly wounded in action France Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11 EH) per Sec. II Cir 69 ETO USA  
as of 19 Jan., 45

Ronck, Francis N. 38076783 Pfc.

Slightly wounded in action France Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA  
as of 19 Jan. 45

Laye, Henry M., Jr 0552664 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Missing in action since 18 January, 45 dropped from rolls.

Gawrlyoczik, Raymond C. 42141332 Pfc.

Missing in action since 17 Jan. 45 dropped from Rolls.

Peeler, Franklyn H. 20454934 Pfc.

Stevens, Robert H. 33390096 Pfc.

Above 2 EM missing in action since 18 Jan. 45 dropped from rolls.

Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pfc.

Dy to Sk to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) per  
Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA.

Hipp, William A., Jr. 34813925 Pfc.

Newcomb, Robert F. 35548926 Pfc.

Riser, Donald W. 35085789 Pfc.

Hood, Julian R. 38687937 Pfc.

Turner, Stephen E. 36642194 Pfc.

Pennington, Algie L. 38668894 Pfc.

McIntosh, James O. 34772918 Pfc.

Carlson, Ralph G. 369819169 Pfc.

Cook, Kenneth D. 35296229 Pfc.

Thompson, Rufus M. 36982899 Pvt.

Berger, George J. 42141301 Pvt.

Crosset, Walter B. 35147141 Pfc.  
Above 12 EM to trf to Co. L this regiment per Par 2 SO 10 dtd 22 Jan 45 this Hos.  
Frady, Orval D. 39620873 Pfc.  
Dy to Sick 304<sup>th</sup> Med. Bn

January 23, 45  
Location: Bossendorf, France WQ 8619  
1 EM atchd to Adm Center (Regt'l Pool 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Div.  
1 EM atchd to H3B for dy, rations & quarters this regiment.  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Corps Reserve

January 24, 45  
Location: Bossendorf, France  
Lawson, Viril L. 35204201 S/Sgt.  
{Promoted to gr of 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt per par 3 SO 10 this regt as of 22 Jan., 45  
Haynes, Emory G. 33732361 S/Sgt.  
Ross, Max G. 37072741 S/Sgt.  
Usher, Norman C. 37048719 S/Sgt.  
Above 3 EM promoted to grade of T/Sgt. per par 3 SO 10 this regiment as of 22 Jan., 45  
Cameron, George H. 36209775 Pvt.  
Huckaby, Virgil L. 39574178 Sgt.  
Micu, Eli D. 35839209 Pfc.  
Sullivan, Dennis F. 32862761 Sgt.  
Above 4 EM promoted to grade of S/Sgt. per par 3 SO 10 this regt as of 22 Jan 45.  
Riley, Daniel F. 6859166 Pvt.  
Promoted to grade of S/Sgt. per par 3 SO 10 this regiment as of 22 Jan 45 (atchd to Hq Co this regt for adm, rations and quarters.  
Anderson, Kermit D. 20739125 Pfc.  
Promoted to grade of Sgt. per par 3 SO 10 this regt as of 22 Jan 45 (atchd to Service Co. this regt for Adm, rations and quarters.  
Anderson, Ralph W. 39979684 Pfc.  
Cox Charles W. 36979684 Pfc.  
Busby Hubert H. Jr. 14063660 Pfc.  
Frady, Orval D. 39620873 Pfc.  
Hoch, Kenneth W. 37388414 Pfc.  
Above 5 EM promoted to grade of Sgt. per par 3 SO 10 this regiment as of 22 Jan. 45.  
Orbin, Louis T. 32997643 Tec 4  
Promoted to grade of Tec 5 per par 3 SO 10 this regiment as of 22 Jan 45  
Bass, George 32207980 Pfc.  
Joyner, William A. Jr. 34734972 Pfc.  
McCloskey, James R. 33692119 Pfc.  
Above 3 EM promoted to grade of Tec 5 per par 3 SO 10 this regt as of 22 Jan 45.  
Corey, Elias J. 31178819 S/Sgt.  
Nocker, Woodrow W. 38029806 Sgt.  
Above 2 EM reduced to grade of Pvt. W/O prejudice per par 5 SO 10 this regt as of 22 Jan., 45

January 25, 45  
Location: Ohlungen, France  
Moore, George R., Jr. 33907312 Pvt.  
Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pvt.  
Mulch, Harry J. Jr. 42083795 Pvt.  
Munch, James L. 37600210 Pvt.  
Myers, Charles P. 33907306 Pvt.  
Myers, John R. 33907348 Pvt.  
Nassoiy, Eugene F. 42095923 Pvt.



Nelms, Oscar D.	34839130	Pvt.
Nevins, George E. Sr.	33907143	Pvt.
Nicholson, William R.	36469107	Pvt.
Nitzel, Paul E.	36469104	Pvt.
Nolan, Alfred M.	35840826	Pvt.
O'Brien, Gerard J.	39622564	Pvt.
O'Hagan, Charles V.	42190142	Pvt.
Okum, David M.	42190085	Pvt.
Oldroyd, Carl M.	33616128	Pvt.
Oldt, Forrest R.	33837451	Pvt.
Oles, Albert H.	42122901	Pvt.
Oliwa, Walter J.	31412454	Pvt.

Above 19 EM trfd from Hq 2<sup>nd</sup> Repl Dep. & asgd per Ltr O 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div. 300, 4/8 (GnMHI) (X-220.33) jd Co Race white.

January 26, 45

Location: Grassendorf, France WQ9223

Walker, William J. 31237853 Pfc.

Slight Gun shot wound to Right Thigh Jan 19

NBC France Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 19 Jan., 45

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

2 Officers, 85 EM & 3 medics atchd departed Bossendorf, France by march 1100 25 Jan, 45.

Arrived Ohlungen, France 1700 25 Jan., 45 Defensive position. 8 EM remained with Regimental train bivouac.

2 Officers, 82 EM & 3 medics atchd departed Ohlungen, France by march 1600 26 Jan., 45 Arrived Ohlungen, France by march 1900 26 Jan., 45. 8 EM remained with Rewgimental train bivouac.

January 27, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ 0223

Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 T/Sgt.

Reduced to grade of Pvt. W/o prejudice & promoted to grade of Sgt. (Temp) per par 6 SO 10 as of 22 Jan 45 & amended per par 9 SO 15 dated 27 Jan 45.

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

2 Officers, 82 EM & 3 medics atchd departed Grassendorf, France by truck convoy 1500 27 January 45, arrived Gremecey, France 2000 27 Jan., 45. 8 EM from regimental train bivouac arrived Gremecey, France 2200 27 Jan. 45

January 28, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ 0223

Neal, Walter E. 35839390 Pfc.

Assigned & jd Co fr 3<sup>rd</sup> Repl Bn per par 44 SO 27 Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn (casual) Race White

2 EM (Medics) atchd for dy, rations & quarters.

January 29, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ 0223

Method, William 35087454 Pvt.

Abs Sick 5<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp, Toul, France to Duty

Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt.

McWhorter, George B. 35839391 Pfc.

McCormack, James H. 35839387 Pfc.

Above 3 EM missing in action since 26<sup>th</sup> Jan., 45 dropped from Rolls.

DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pvt.

Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pvt.

Grissim, Walter J. 34913228 Pvt.

Hennessey, Thomas F. 31418039 Pvt.

Houghtalin, Philip B. 42123273 Pvt.

Jeffers, Delmar A. 37771202 Pvt.

Kowalski, Bernard E. 35238830 Pvt.  
Above 7 EM assgd & jd Co fr 3<sup>rd</sup> Repl Bn APO 776 per par 4 Ltr O 300.4/11 (GNMHI) (X-220.31) Hq. TFL  
Race white.

January 30, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 0223

Anderson, Kermit D. 20739123 Sgt.

From atchd Serv. Co this regiment for rations, quarters & admin.

Oldt, Forest R. 33837451 Pvt.

Atchd to Serv Co this regt for rations, quarters & Administration.

Greene, Jack B. 34999534 Pvt.

Griffith, Burlen D. 38679012 Pvt.

Guess, Roy R. 38633579 Pvt.

Gust, Roy P. 37749608 Pvt.

Hall, James M. 39346058 Pvt.

Hansen, Arthur J. 39479952 Pvt.

Hardgrove, Robert B. 38039114 Pvt.

Heller, Jack J. 39599166 Pvt.

Hess, Harley C. 37750074 Pvt.

Hill Roger C. 39596697 Pvt

Hood, Billy K. 38525764 Pvt.

Hughes, Lee F. 38680707 Pvt.

Hulsey, Raymond R. 38571391 Pvt

Huncovsky, Keith D. 37750903 Pvt.

Hunt, George W. 39599384 Pvt.

Above 15 men asgd & jd Co fr 71<sup>st</sup> Repl Bn.

All MOS 745

AFO 776 par 1 Ltr O 300.4/14 (GNMHI) (X 220.31) Hq TFL Race White

January 31, 45

Location: Greamecey , France WQ 0223

3 EM atchd to Adm Center (Regt. Baggage Detail)

Holcombe, Clark P. 34813871 Sgt.

Hoch, Kenneth W. 37388414 Sgt.

Above 2 EM Dy to DS Mine & Booby trap School

Stoft, William E. Jr INF 02006224 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Leonard, John B. INF 02006213 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Steffe, Robert F. INF 02006219 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Above 3 Officers commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. AUS

(Battlefield Apt.) 18 Jan 45. Date of Rank 18 Jan., 45/ Reported AD 18 Jan., 45. Assgd & joined Co. 18 Jan 45.

per par 4 SO 26 Hq 7<sup>th</sup> Army. Race W.

Comp AUS Prim dy Platoon Leaders. Dy to DS 2<sup>nd</sup> Repl Dep Thaon, France effective 21 Jan 45. DS 2<sup>nd</sup> Repl Dep Thaon, France to duty.

Rains, Stanley V. INF 02006333 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt AUS (Battlefield Apmt)

21 Jan 45. Date of Rank 21 Jan., 45. Reported AD 21 Jan, 45. Asgd & joined Co. 21 Jan, 45 per par 4 SO 26 Hq 7<sup>th</sup> Army. Race W. Comp AUS Primary duty Platoon Leader. Duty to DS 2<sup>nd</sup> Repl Dep. Thaon, France ell 21 Jan 45. DS 2<sup>nd</sup> Repl Dep Thaon, France to duty.

Jones, Star West INF 01285249 Capt.

Relieved from assignment & prom duty as CO and is asgd to Hq Co. this regiment.

Correction of 26 Jan 45.

Walker, William J. 31237853 Pfc.

SWA France Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11EH) per Sec II Cir 69ETO USAAs of 19 Jan., 45 NBI-Slight GSW right thigh acc 19 Jan., 45.

Should be

Walker, William J. 31237853 Pfc.

SWA France Dy to Hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11EH) per Sec II Cir 69ETO USAas of 19 Jan., 45 as of 19 Jan., 45

February 1, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

De Gannaro, Anthony 32096570 Pvt.

Asgd and joined Co. from Repl APO 776

(not legible)

(Name not legible)

Riley, Daniel F. S/Sgt

Attached to Regimental HQ for Dy, rations & quarters.

February 2, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Childress, Clinton A. 33857909 Pvt

Chishelm, William F. 33712499 Pvt.

(10 non legible names follows)

(These were more replacements for CO. K.

February 3, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt.

McCormack, James H. 35839387 Pfc.

McWhorter, George 35839391 Pfc.

Above 3 EM MIA since 26 Jan. 45 (Dropped from Rolls on Jan 29) returned to Duty this date.

CORRECTION

Laye, Henry M. Jr INF 0552664 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Missing in action since 18 Jan, Killed in action Jan 18, 45

February 4, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Weed, Charles M. 32843061 Pfc.

Seriously wounded in action France duty to hosp to trf Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (57 EH) per Sec II Cir 69 ETO USA as of 17 Jan 45.

Weed, Charles M. 32843061 Pfc.

From Dy to hosp (57<sup>th</sup> EH) as of Jan 17, 45

February 5, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Rains, Stanley W. INF 02006333 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

From pres Dy Plat Ldr to prim dy Ex Officer

1 Pvt. Atachd to HQ Co this Regt for rations Qrs and adm only.

February 6, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Steffe, Robert F. INF 02006219 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Trfd to Co. L this Regt per par 1 SO 19 Hq. 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf.

February 9, 45

Location: Greamecey, France WQ 02223

Holcomb, Clark P. 34813871 Sgt.

Hoch, Kenneth W. 37388414 Sgt.

Above 2 EM relieved for atchd Army Mine School to Duty.

1 EM (Pvt.) reld from atchd to Hq Co. this Regt.

Setar, Joe V. 35914028 Sgt.

Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 Sgt.

Above 2 EM prom to S/Sgt. per par 1 SO 20 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf.

Guntheroth, Harry W. Jr. 38471107 Pfc.

LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Pfc.

Lake, Craig J. 39918902 Pfc.

McCormack, James H. 35839387 Pfc.

Simmons, Griffen S. 37061054 Pfc.

Zajack, Joseph B. 33430317 Pfc.

Zobrowski, Raymond 36982321 Pfc.

Above 7 EM promoted to Sgt. per par 1 SO 20 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf

14 EM (Race White) asgd & joined Co. from 71<sup>st</sup> Re INF Bn per par 7 SO 39 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Copy attached.

February 12, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ0223

Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Pfc.

Trfd to Det of Pats 23<sup>rd</sup> Gen Hosp per par 7 SO 33 Hq 23<sup>rd</sup> Gen Hosp APO 377

Davis, Ezra J. Pfc.

Race White (Casual) asgd ??? fr Re Inf Dep per par A9 SO 37 Hq 2d Repl Depot.

Robertson, Charles O. 38668977 Pfc.

Race W. (Casual) Asgd & joined Co fr Re Inf

Depot. Per par 25 SO 39 Hq 2d Re Inf Depot.

February 13, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ0223

26 Pvt.s promoted to Pfc. As of 7 Feb.

Copy attached.

February 17, 45

Location: Gremecey, France WQ0223

Meister, Joseph 12184756 Tec 5

Attached to Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn this Regt for rations, duty admin as of 12 Feb 45.

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Company moved with Bn by truck convoy to Lichtenburg, France Departed Gremecey 0910 arrived Lichtenburg 1700. Company in reserve.

February 19, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Riley, Daniel F. 6859166 S/Sgt.

Promoted to T/Sgt. 16 Feb 45 per par 6 SO 23 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf.

February 20, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Zecchini, Louis L. 32984286 Pfc.

Dy to Hosp Unknown LD7

February 21, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

10 EM Race White Asgd & joined Co. from

ReInf Depot per par 3 SO 12 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div copy attached

February 22, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

????? 0450667 Capt.

Assgd & joined Co from Co L this Regiment per par 7 SO 24 24 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf Race W comp OWC to duty Co Actual Duty Asst Para Officer

February 23, 45



Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Cameron, George H. 38209775 S/Sgt.  
WBI Trenchfoot Dy to 122<sup>nd</sup> Med Bn LD

February 24, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Robertson, Charles Q 38568977 Pfc.  
NSC-Self Inflicted GSW 24 Feb, 45 Dy to 122<sup>nd</sup> Med Clr Co (LD7)  
Woods, Perry D. (INF) 0550370 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
Race White Comp ORC Asgd & joined Co Fr Co H this Regiment per par 9 SO 25 Hq 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf primary duty unknown

February 25, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Countryman, Harold S. 32508642 Pvt.  
Oldt, Forrest R. 33837451 Pvt.  
Scott, Lien E. 36979826 Pvt.  
Above 3 EM to Pfc. Per CO 3 eff 13 Feb, 45 (attached to Serv Co this Regt.)  
25 EM promoted to Pfc. Per Co #4 effective 21 Feb, 45 Incl No 1 atchd.

February 26, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Pace, Charles D. 37748686 Pvt.  
HEC-SFW Perf W left ft .30 cal rifle 26 Feb, 45 Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETO USA (132d EH)  
Chisholm, William F. 33712499 Pvt.  
SWA France Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (11<sup>th</sup> Fld Hosp) Auth: Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETO USA  
Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt.  
Race W Casual, Reasgd & joined Co per par 1 SO 53 Hq erd Re Inf Depot.  
Robertson, Charles Q. 38668977 Pfc.  
HBO-Self Inflicted GSW 24 Feb 45, France  
122d Med Clr Co (LD?) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A Auth Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETO USA

February 27, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
CORRECTION  
Pace, Charles D. 377478686 Pvt  
SHOULD BE  
Pace, Charles D. 377478686 Pfc.  
Rodriguez, Gregorio L. 39228145 Pfc  
SWA France Duty to 122d Med Hq (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (132 EH) Auth: Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETO USA  
Anderson, Ralph W 39726034 Sgt.  
Kaminski, Joseph A 35318462 Pfc  
Above 2 EM duty TO VI Corps Rest Center Nancy France  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
18-27 Feb, 45 Usual Org Duties

February 28, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
CORRECTION 25, Feb, 45  
Meyers, Charles P. 33907306 Pvt.  
Meyers, John R. 33907348 Pvt  
Above 2 EM promoted to Pfc. Per CO 4 eff 21 Feb, 45  
SHOULD BE  
Myers, Charles P. 33907306 Pvt  
Myers, John R. 33907348 Pvt

Above 2 EM prom to Pfg. Per CO 4 eff 21 Feb, 45  
Terry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn LD off 27 Feb, 45  
Berube, Phillippe A. 31432174 Pfc.  
Race W CASUAL, Reasgd & jd Co per par 6 SO 57 Hq 3d ReInf Bn APO 776

March 1, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
DiGiovanni, Joseph H 20435634 Sgt.  
Anderson, Kermit D. 20739123 Sgt.  
Above 2 EM prom to S/Sgt per par 8 SO 26 Hq 232d Inf.  
Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pvt  
Trfd to Serv Co this regt per par 8 SO 26 Hq 232d Inf.  
McWhorter, George B 35839391 Pfc  
Trfd to Hq Co 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn 232d Inf per par 13 SO 26 Hq 232d Inf  
Branch, Johnny D. 3843476 Pfc.  
Race W Asgd & jd Co France Hq Co 3d Bn this regt per par 14 SO 26 Hq 232d Inf  
NBI-Trenchfoot ac bila- dy to 122d Med Bn (LD)  
Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt  
Sk 122d Med Bn LD to duty

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Co. K relieved on the front lines by Co I.  
All positions were changed by 1800 and men moved to billet area.

March 2, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Golowski, Joseph S. 33931781 Pvt  
SWA France Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (11<sup>th</sup> Fld Hosp) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA  
Koval, Walter 6805178 Pfc  
LWA- Dy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (95<sup>th</sup> EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Attacked in Lichtenburg Forest with one Platoon. Contacted 3 enemy Machine Guns. 2 men wounded 1 man missing in Action. Killed 5 Germans and captured 2.

March 4, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Pfc  
Race W- Casual- Reasgd & joined Co per par 1 SO 60 Hq 3d ReInf Bn APO 776  
Anderson, Ralph W. 39726034 Sgt  
Kaminski, Joseph A. 35318462 Pfc  
Above 2 EM TD Nancy France to dy

March 5, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Pfc  
Duty to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD)  
Stearns, Charles E. 18249316 Pfc.  
MIA since 2 Mar 45 Dropped from rolls

March 6, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France  
Wessel Charles D. 33262584 Sgt.  
Race W CASUAL Reasgd & joined Co per par 2 SO 63 Hq 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn APO 776

March 7, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Cross, James E. 18125379 Pfc.  
 Rd to Pvt. Per CO #5  
 Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Pfc  
 Sick 122<sup>nd</sup> Med Bn (LD) to dy as of 6 Mar 45  
 Correction 22 Jan. 45  
 Peeler, Franklyn H. 20454924 Pfc.  
 MIA since 18 Jan 45 dropped from rolls  
 Should be  
 Peeler, Franklyn H. 20454924 Pfc  
 KIA France, 18 Jan 45.

March 8, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
 Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt.  
 Sick 122<sup>nd</sup> Med Bn (LD) to duty.  
 Correction 1Feb 45.  
 DeGannaro, Anthony J. 32096570 Pvt.  
 Should be  
 DeGennaro, Anhony J. 32096570 Pvt.  
 Correction 15 Feb, 45  
 DePelecyn, William 36845548 Pvt.  
 Should be  
 DePelecyn, Willilam E. 36845548 Pvt.  
 Correction 3 Feb 45  
 Cameron, George H 36209775 S/Sgt  
 McCormack, James H 35839387 Pfc  
 McWhorter, George B. 35839391 Pfc  
 Should be  
 Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt 745  
 McCormack, James H 35839387 Pfc 745  
 McWhorter, George B. 35839391 Pfc 745

March 9, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135  
 Pawlica, John L. 42096293 Pvt 745  
 NBI-Perf W rt hand (accidental) 9 Mar 45.  
 Dy to 122 Med Bn (LD) Trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA  
 Marino, George S. 20904444 Cpl 745  
 Race W Asgd & jd fr 2d ReInf Depot per par 1 SO 27 Hq ReInf Depot per par 1 SO 27 Hq 42d Inf Div  
 20 Pvs promoted to Pfc per Co 6 Incl No 1 attached.  
 Co K, 232d Infantry  
 APO 411 U.S. Army, 9 March 45  
 Company Order Number 6  
 Under the provisions of AR 615-5, the following named Privates are promoted to Privates First Class:  
 Childress, Clinton 33857909  
 Corey, Elias J. 31178819  
 Greene, Jack B. 34999534  
 Gust, Roy P. 37749608  
 Hardgrove, Robert B. 38039114  
 Hennessey, Thomas F. 31418039  
 Hines, Robert Y. 33857370  
 Hinkley, Leon E. 31401692  
 Hoard, Edward F. 33857196  
 Hood, Billy E. 38525764  
 Hoovler, Earl F. 33712706  
 Hughes, Lee F. 38680707

Jacobsen, Ralph S.	36470805
Jerkins, Calvin C.	34999387
Kowalski, Bernard E.	35238830
Johnson, Wesley L.	33908623
Williams, Johnnie E.	34817269
Miron, Lionel C.	31469693
Urban, Lawrence F.	37751309
Whitfield, Harold	38701061

March 10, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt

Duty to Hosp Unknown (LD)

March 13, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty

Zillmer, David (Inf) 026722 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.

Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt date of rank 1 Mar, 45

Auth Ltr ofrder WD dated 1 Mar, 45 Ltr O AG 210.2 Hq 7<sup>th</sup> Army

Anderson, Kermit D. 20739123 S/Sgt

Honorable Discharge to accept commission

March 14, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Anderson, Kermit D. (Inf) 020107787 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Comm 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt AUS (Battlefield Apmt) Date of rank 14 Mar 45

Rept'd AD & Asgd & jd Co 14 Mar 45 per VOCC 7<sup>th</sup> Army Race W Prim duty unknown.

Zecchini, Louis L. 32984286 Pfc

Hosp unknown to dy (LD)

March 16, 45

Location: Lichtenburg, France WQ 8135

Gunteroth, Harry W. Jr. 38471107 Sgt

LIA France Dy to 122d Med Bn. (LD)

Nitzel, Paul E. 36469104 Pfc

LWA France dy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11<sup>th</sup> EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Miron, Lionel C. 31469693 Pfc

Griffith, Burlen D. 38679012 Pfc

Above 2 EM LWA France dy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (116 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Paul, John W. 44036000 Pfc

LIA France not hospitalized

Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pvt.

Duty to Hosp unknown (LD) as of 30 Jan 45

Frady, Orval D. 39620873 Sgt

Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (Hosp Unknown) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (Fr Hosp unknown to trfd).

March 17, 45

Phillipsburg, France WQ8742

Williams, Johnny E. 34817269 Pfc

Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (NLD AR 35-1440)

Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pvt

Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (Hosp Unknown) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (Hosp unknown to trfd)

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved from Hill 415 to Phillipsbourg, France No contact with the enemy.



**March 18, 45**

**Location: Ludwigswinkel, Germany WQ 9553**

**Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc**

**Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc**

**Above 2 EM NBI- Trenchfoot Dy to 122d Med Bn (LD)**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Moved from Phillipsburg, France to Ludwigswinkel, Germany**

**March 19, 45**

**Location: Ludwigswinkel, Germany WQ 9553**

**Munch, James L. 37600210 Pfc**

**Nelms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc**

**Above 2 EM NBI-Trenchfoot – Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (745)**

**Nocker, Woodrow W. 38029806 Pfc**

**NBI Trenchfoot – Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Leonard, John B. (INF) 02006213 2dLt**

**LWA Germany Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Hoovler, Earl F. 33712706 Pfc**

**LWA Germany Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11 EH) Sec ii Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Williams, Johnnie E. 34817269 Pfc**

**Sk (NLD) AR 35-1440 122d Med Bn to Dy**

**Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc**

**Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc**

**Above 2 EM NBI – Trenchfoot \_ Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132d EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (745)**

**March 20, 45**

**Locatio: Ludwigswinkel, Germany WQ 9553**

**Larschan, Lawrence 32191546 T/4**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD)**

**Bisone, Angelo 36979179 Pfc**

**Nevins, George E., Sr. 33907143 Pfc**

**Above 2 EM LWA Germany Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (66 Fld Hosp) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Heller, Jack J. 39599166 Pfc**

**SWA Germany Duty to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (66 field Hosp)**

**Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Anderson, Kermit D. (INF) 02010787 2d Lt**

**From primary duty unknown to primary duty Platoon Comander (1542)**

**March 21, 45**

**Location: Ludwigswinkel, Germany WQ 9553**

**Guntheroth, Harry W. Jr. 38471107 Sgt**

**Hosp (122d Med Bn) (LD) to duty**

**Pittman, John Jr 38388198 Pfc**

**LWA Germany Duty to 122 Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Christian, Austin J. 39622646 Pvt**

**Promoted to Pfc per Par 2 SO 33 Hq 232d Inf**

**Zecchini, Louis L. 32984286 Pfc**

**Trfd to Hq Co this Regt pp1 SO 33 Hq 232d Inf**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel**

Officers-0 WO-0 EM 12 Total 12

March 22, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany WR1062

Geteles, Isidore H. 32411173 Pfc

Duty to Sick (Hosp Unknown) (LD) as of 16 March 45 SK Hosp Unknown (LD) to duty

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

RECORD OF EVENTS

Attacked through mountailns, took several prisoners, enemy action light, (snipers)

March 24, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany WR1062

Hill, William C. 44040565 Pfc

Non Battle Injury-Hernia inguinal rt chr 24 Mar 45 Fy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (132 EH) Sec II Cir 69 ETOUSA

Singleton, Revelle 35088766 Pfc

Promoted to Sgt. Pp 2 SO34 Hq 232d Inf

CORRECTION 19 MARCH 45

Nocker, Woodrow W. 38029806 Pfc

NBI Trenchfoot – Dy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95<sup>th</sup> EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (745)

SHOULD BE

Nocker, Woodrow W. 38029806 Pfc

Promoted to Sgt as of 9 March 45 pp 8 SO 34 Hq 232d Inf. NBI Trenchfoot – Dy to 122d Med Bn (LD) to trfd Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95<sup>th</sup> EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (745)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

March 25, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany

Larschan, Lawrence 32191546 T/4

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty

DeGennaro, Anthony J. 32096570 Pvt

Relieved from atchd to Hq Co this regt

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

March 27, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany

DeGennaro, Anthony J. 32096570 Pvt

Duty to TD (POW Guard Enroute to U.S.) to TD Reception Sta # 2 Fort Dix, NJ (for 45 days rest & recuperation) per par 5 SO 37 Hq 42d Inf Div.

Asgd Limited asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

March 29, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany

Yarincik, John 31382368 Pfc

Relieved from atchd to Serv Co this Regt NBI-Celluitis as L/3 rt leg (a/I LW Duty to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (117 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

March 30, 45

Location: Darstein, Germany

Hazlip, Glyn L. 38687534 Pfc 745  
NBI-FS Lwr 1/3 rt radius-fell-30 Mar 45 (LD) Duty trfd tgo Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (EH unknown) Sec II Cir  
69 Hq ETOUSA  
Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 1, 45

Location: Enroute

Micu, Eli D. 35839208 S/Sgt

Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn. (LD)

CORRECTION 30 MARCH 45

Hazlip, Glyn L. 38687534 Pfc 745

NBI-FS Lwr 1/3 rt radius-fell-30 Mar 45 (LD) Duty trfd tgo Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (EH unknown) Sec II Cir  
69 Hq ETOUSA

SHOULD BE

Hazlip, Glyn L. 38687534 Pfc 745

NBI-FS Lwr 1/3 rt radius-fell-30 Mar 45 (LD) Duty trfd tgo Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (51 EH)  
Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt

Sk Hosp Unknown (LD) to duty as of 13 March 45.

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

RECORD OF EVENTS

Attacking

April 2, 45

Location: Enroute

Larschan, Lawrence 32191546 T/4

Duty to TD Reception, Sta No 2 Ft Dix NJ (45 days rest and recuperation)\_ per par 1 SO 38 Hq 42d Inf Div.

Assgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 3, 45

Location: Enroute

Cox, Marion J. 35129912 Pfc

LWA Germany Duty to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD)(11AD Hosp) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Assgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 4, 45

Location: Wurzburg, Germany WN 5935

Lunning, Raymond O. 37097643 Sgt 542

LWA-Germany Duty to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (51 EH) Sec II Cir 69 ETOUSA

Assgd Limited Asgmt Personnel

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

RECORD OF EVENTS

Company left Darstein Germany 31 March 45. Arriving Wurzburg Germany 3 April 45.

April 5, 45

Location: Wurzburg, Germany YN 5935

Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 S/Sgt

Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD)

Hoch, Kenneth W. 37388414 Sgt.

SWA Germany Duty to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD)(51 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

O'Brien, Gerard J. 39622564 Pfc

LWA Germany Duty to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (51 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Emmons, Ward W. 32585010 Pfc  
LWA Germany Duty trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (11 Field Hosp) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA  
Assgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Attacked Hill 286 outside of Wurzburg, took the objective capturing 104 PWs

April 6, 45

Location: Würzburg, Germany WN 5935

**CORRECTION APRIL 3, 45**

Cox, Marion J. 35129912 Pfc

LWA Germany Duty to Trfd to Detachment of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (11 AD Hosp) Sec II  
Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

**SHOULD BE**

Erroneously entered

Cox, Marion J. 35129912 Pfc

LWA Germany Duty to Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (11 Fld Hosp) as of 5 April 45 Sec II Cir 69 Hq  
ETOUSA

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 7, 45

Location: Thungen, Germany WN5251

Woods, Perry D. INF 0550370 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.

Trfd to Co H this Regiment per par 9 SO 39 Hq 232d Inf as of 1 April 45

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Company moved from Würzburg to Thungen, Germany. Met light opposition

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 8, 45

Location: Thungen, Germany WN5251

Maino, Albert A. 31389152 S/Sgt

Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 S/Sgt

Above 2 EM reduced to Pvt per par 4 SO 39 Hq 232d Inf as of 1 april, 45

McCormack, James H. 35839387 Sgt

Zebrowski, Raymond 36982321 Sgt

Gunteroth, Harry W. Jr. 38471107 Sgt

Nicholson, William R. 36469107 Pfc

Above 4 EM promoted to S/Sgt per par 8 SO 39 Hq 232d Inf as of 1 April 45

Neal, Walter E. 35839390 Pfc

Promoted to Sgt. Per par 8 SO 39 Hq 232d Inf as of 1 April 45

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Attacking

April 9, 45

Location: Thungen, Germany WN5251

Parker, William B. 44016081 Pfc

LWA Germany not hospitalized

**CORRECTION 6 APRIL 45**

Cox, Marion J. 35129912 Pfc

LWA Germany Duty to Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (11Fld Hosp) as of 5 April 45 Sec II Cir 69  
ETOUSA

**SHOULD BE**



Cox, Marion J. 35129912 Pfc  
LWA Germany Duty to Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (LD) (11Fld Hosp) as of 5 April 45 Sec II Cir 69  
ETOUSA (DOW 6 April 45)  
Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Attacking

April 10, 45  
Location: Thungen, Germany WN 5251  
Ostland, Donald T. 36738015 Cpl 745  
Rowell, Henry 34683625 Cpl 745  
Poole, Kenneth E. 35740826 Cpl 745  
Above 3 EM Race W assgd and joined From  
(21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776) per par 1 SO 41 Hq 42d Inf Div.  
Bohn, Robert 10600573 Pfc 745  
Lejman, Joseph S. 32683665 Pfc 745  
Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc 745  
Bissonette, William F. 31404369 Pfc 607  
Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pvt 745  
Kaplan, Alfred 42184026 Pvt 604  
Kearney, Lloyd W. 44013879 Pvt 604  
Lukachyk, Peter 33893703 Pvt 607  
Nasino, Lino 32728005 Pvt 745  
Romanoff, Arthur 36869938 Pvt 745  
Wilk, Stanley E. 36847624 Pvt 607  
Above 11 EM Race W Asgd & jd per par 7 SO 65 Hq 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776  
Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 10, 45  
Location: Thungen, Germany WN 5251  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Attacking

April 11, 45  
Location: Dittelbrunn, Germany WN 7767  
Mulch, Harry J., Jr. 42083795 Pfc 745 M1  
KIA Germany  
Rizzo, Phillip M. 42141493 Pfc 745 M2  
LWA Germany (LD) Dy to Trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq  
ETOUSA  
Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Attacking Dittelbrunn met heavy resistance. Enemy machine gun and rifle fire killed one man and wounded one man. Enemy PWs 103.  
Enemy casualties were light.

April 12, 45  
Location: Obbach, Germany WN6866  
Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 S/Sgt  
Sick 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty  
Hoard, Edward F. 33857196 Pfc  
Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD)  
Carrillo, Eugene J. 38529806 Tec 5 521

Johnston, Harold D. 36414585 Tec 4 745  
Bolles, John 31135652 Pfc 745  
Schuchman, Phillip 32640238 Pvt 745  
Wetnight, Morris F. 35580384 Pvt 745  
Bolton, Neal 38474466 Pfc 745  
Branden, Claude W. 38507069 Pfc 745

Above 7 EM Race W Asgd & joined from 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn pp 3 SO 44 Hq 42d Inf Div (amended by par 8 SO Hq 42d Inf Div)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved from the town of Dittelbrunn to Obbach, Germany

April 14, 45

Location: Hellmitzheim, Germany WN8821

No Change

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved from Obberbach to Hellmitzheim, Germany by motor. Outposting the town of Hellmitzheim.

April 15, 45

Location: Hellmitzheim, Germany

Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 Pvt

Duty to Sk (LD) Hosp Unknown

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Company moved from Obberbach to Hellmitzheim, Germany to secure high ground around town.

April 16, 45

Location: Neustadt, Germany WQ 0713

Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 Pvt

Sk Hosp Unknown (LD) to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved from Birkenfield to Neustadt. No enemy opposition.

April 17, 45

Location: Cadolzburg, Germany WQ 2500

Usher, Norman C. 37048719 T/Sgt 745 M2

DiGiovanni, Joseph H. 20435634 S/Sgt 604 M2

Above 2 EM LWA Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA

Bohn, Robert Jr. 10600573 Pfc J1

Trfd to Hq Co this Regt par 13 SO 41 Hq 232d Inf.

Ehrhart, Abraham G. 33860901 Pvt 604 A1

Butler, William B. 33860901 pvt 604 A1

Giantomaso, Raymond 33838243 Pvt 604 A1

Above 3 EM Race W asgd & jd fr 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776 par 2 SO 46 Hq 42d Inf Div

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Co in the attack from Neusdtat to Cadolzburg, Germany met small arms resistance on the outskirts, killing 3 enemy and taking 60 prisoners. Two EM wounded in this company

**April 18, 45**

**Location: Cadolzburg, Germany WO 2500**

**LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt 745 J4**

**Duty to Sk (LD) to trfd to Detachment of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Nelms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc 745 A1**

**Pace, Charles D. 37748686 Pfc 745 A1**

**Above 2 EM Race W Casuals Reasgd & jd pp 33 SO 70 Hq 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776**

**Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pvt SI71**

**Duty to AWOL 0001 hrs 13 April 45. AWOL to duty 2030 hrs 23 April, 45**

**Orbin, Louis T. 32997643 Tec 4 SI71**

**Duty to AWOL 0001 hours 13 April 45 to duty 0600 hrs 14 April 45.**

**Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 Pvt**

**Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty.**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**April 19, 45**

**Location: Stein, Germany WT 3795**

**Rosser, William F. 35089077 Pfc 745 M2**

**Seriously wounded in Action Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (1) Fld Hosp) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Christian, Austin J. 39622646 Pfc 745 M2**

**LWA Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7 A (9EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Attacking from Cadolzburg to Stein Germany. Several PWs were taken and 2 EM wounded. No action enroute from Cadolzburg to Stein.**

**April 20, 45**

**Location: Gutzburg, Germany**

**Munch, James L. 37600210 Pfc**

**Atchd & jd fr 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776**

**(Pending Reasgmt)**

**Barnes, John P. 38200831 S/Sgt**

**ASN changed to 38310822 per ltr WD 9 April 45**

**Oliwa, Walter J. 31412454 Pfc**

**Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD)**

**Koval, Walter 6805178 Pfc 745 A1**

**Race W. Casual Reasgd & jd per VCCG 7<sup>th</sup> A as of 15 April 45.**

**Micu, Eli D. 35839208 S/Sgt**

**Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Moved from Reichelsdorf to Gutzburg, Germany. No action.**

**April 21, 45**

**Location: Gutzburg, Germany WT 3493**

**18 Pvs promoted to Pfc. Per par 1 SO 43 Hq 232d Inf (copy atchd)**

**CORRECTED 17 MARCH 45**

**Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pvt**

**Trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (Hosp Unknown) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (Hosp Unknown to trfd)**

**SHOULD BE**

Trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (Hosp Unknown) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (Hosp Unknown to trfd) As of 30 Jan 45.

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

Headquarters 232d Inf APO 411 US ARMY  
Number 43 EXTRACT 21 April 45

Up Of AR 615-5 the following named EM of Co K are promoted to grade of Private First Class.

Bissonette, William F.	31404369
Cross, James E.	18125379
Dabbs, William H.	34982397
Hendrix, Morris H.	34608686
Herzet, Junior P.	39129822
Holley, Thomas E.	38631518
Kaplan, Alfred	42184026
Kearney, Lloyd W.	44013879
Kochetta, Joseph	32509431
Maino, Albert A.	31589152
Masini, Lino	32728005
Perry, Ralph	38668986
Romanoff, Arthur	36869938
Tuma, John C.	36992258
Warner, Billy H.	35845035
Wilk, Stanley E.	36847624
Schuchman, Philip	32640238
Wetnight, Morris F.	35580384

By order of Colonel McNamee;  
Melvin L. Mould Capt. 232d Inf Adjutant.  
Official David P. Weston Captain, 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf  
Asst Adjutant.

April 22, 45

Location: Absberg, Germany

Rushton, Marion R. Jr. 34658078 Pvt 745 A1  
Sizemore, Delbert R. 35785209 Pvt 745 A1  
Tyree, Van B. 35815380 Pvt 745 A1

Above 3 EM Race W asgd & jd fr 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776 Per par 2 SO Hq 42d Inf Div

CORRECTION 17 APR 45

DiGiovanni, Joseph H. 20435634 S/Sgt 604

LWA Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA  
SHOULD BE

DiGiovanni, Joseph H. 20435634 S/Sgt 604

Promoted to T/Sgt as of 16 April 45 per par 8 SO 45 Hq 232d Inf LWA Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to  
Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (95 EH) Sec II Cir 69 Hq ETOUSA (SSN 604)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell  
Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

April 24, 45

Location: Wemding, Germany WT 1935

Munch, James 37600210 Pfc 745 A1

Race W Casual Atchd fr 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn to Reasgt & jd per par 32 SO Hq 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776

Oliwa, Walter J. 31412454 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty as of 22 Apr 45

Begin, Gerald, A. 32494109 Pfc 745 J5

LWA Germany, Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (9 EH) Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA



Baker, Laymon L. 38700674 Pfc 745 J5

LWA Germany Duty to Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (11 EH) Sec. I 33 Hq ETOUSA

Czcinski, Alexander P. 31281402 Pfc 745 M1

KIA Germany

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

22 April 45- Attacking from Beerbach, Germany to Absberg. Scattered enemy resistance. Attacked enemy convoy killing two and wounding four. Captured 25 PWs; 4 Perswonnell Carriers; and Miscellaneous artillery pieces and small arms.

23 Apr 44- Moved to Doekingeng Germany in reserve of 2d Bn. Enemy resistance-light.

24 April, 45 Attacking in reserve of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Enemy resistance light. Moved to Wending.

April 25, 45

Location: Daiting, Germany WT 3226

Lunning, Raymond O. 37097643 Sgt.

Atchd & jd fr 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf APO 776 (pending reasgmt)

Marino, Harry A. 33837152 Pfc M2

SWA Germany duty to hosp to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (66 fld Hosp) Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA (SSN 745)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Attacking from Wuemding, Germany to Daiting, Germany with slight enemy resistance.

April 26, 45

Location: Brenner, Germany WT 3218

Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pvt 745 A1

Race W Asgd & jd fr Sv Co this Regt per par 1 SO 45 Hq 232d Inf.

#### CORRECTION 24 Apr 45

Czcinski, Alexander P. 31281402 Pfc

KIA Germany (SSN 745)

SHOULD BE

Czcinski, Alexander P. 31281402 Pfc

Promoted to S/Sgt as of 18 Apr 45 per par 8 ASO 46 Hq 232d Inf KIA Germany (SSN 745)

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Attacking under heavy mortgar and small arms fire. One man wounded by machine gun fire.

April 27, 45

Location: Rain, Germany

Riley, Daniel F. 6859166 T/Sgt

Reduced to Pvt per par 2 SO 45 Hq 232d Inf.

Cox, Charles W. 36979684 Sgt

Clark, Robert E. 35158255 Pfc

Above 2 EM prom to S/Sgt pp 6 SO 45 Hq 232d Inf

Pettus, James R. Jr. 37617986 Pfc

Parsley, Warren W. 37734888 Pfc

McKissack, Earnest W. 38669009 Pfc

Above 3 EM promoted to Sgt. Pp 6 SO 45 Hq 232d Inf.

Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell

Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

Co still in the attack from Daiting meeting heavy resistance, mostly F A and mortar fire. Little small arms fire and several air raids. Arrived in Rain at 0900 with no casualties.

**April 28, 45**

**Location: Riedheim, Germany WT 3218**

**Zajack, Joseph B. 33430317 Sgt**

**LWA Germany 26<sup>th</sup> April 45 Dy to hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> Army (93 EH) as of 26 April 45 Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA (607)**

**Lunning, Raymond O. 3740 643 Sgt**

**Race W CASUAL Atchd from 21<sup>st</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn to Reasgd & jd per par 26 SC 82 Hq 21 Hq 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Company moved from Rain Germany to Riedheim Germany**

**May 1, 45**

**Location: Munich**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

**29 Apr 45- Moved from Riedheim in Bn Convoy to Deutenhausen. Sent to the rear to Rossbach to guard Div C.P.**

**30 Apr 45 -Co relieved of Div. C.P. Guard at 1800 and returned to Bn control at 2000 hours in outskirts of Munich.**

**1 May 45 - Co moved deeper into Munich & went on duty as Guards. Mission to hold important buildings for investigation by CIC**

**May 2, 45**

**Location: Munich, Germany WY 8557**

**Stein, Aaron 32696878 Tec 5 745 A1**

**Herndon, Theodore C. Jr. 20453659 Pfc 745 A1**

**Harris, Garland W. 37137951 Pvt 745 A1**

**Above 3 EM Race W asgd & jd fr 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn APO 776 par 1 SO Hq 42d Inf Div**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**May 3, 45**

**Location: Munich, Germany WY 8557**

**Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc J4**

**Non Battle Injury FS Coccys Fell AI LD Dy to hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats 7<sup>th</sup> A (116 EH) as of 30 Apr 45 Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA (607)**

**Mountford, William J. 34678620 S/Sgt**

**Reduced to Pvt per par 7 SO 47 Hq 232d Inf**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**May 8, 45**

**Location: Amerang, Germany WZ4142**

**Leonard, John B. (INF) 02006213 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt 1542 A1**

**Race W Comp AUS CASUAL Reasgd & jd per par 2 SO 117 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn Pdy Plat Comdr**

**Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc 745 A1**

**Race W CASUAL Reasgd & jd par 18 SO 117 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR: 6 May 45**

**LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt 745 A1**

**Race W CASUAL Reasgd & jd par 20 SO 88 Hq 21<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn**

**Nocker, Woodrow W. 38029806 Sgt 745 M1**

**Miron, Lionel C. 31469693 Sgt 745 A1**

**Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc 803 A1**

**Above 3 EM Race W CASUALS Reasgd & jd par 3 SO 117 Hq ReInf Bn**

### **RECORD OF EVENTS**

**7 May 45- Co relieved of duties in Munich by members of the 45<sup>th</sup> Div.**

**8 May 45- Co moved from Munich, Germany to Amerang, Germany. Billeted in the town of Amerang waiting orders.**

**May 9, 45**

**Location: Amerang, Germany WZ 4142**

**Coffey, Joel L. 34775446 S/Sgt 745 A1**

**Race W Casual Reasgd & jd par 7 SO 120 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn**

**Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt 745 A1**

**Race Indian Casual Reasgd & jd per par 18 SO 117 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR 6 May 45**

### **RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Co processing German Prisoners and civililans and Guarding the town of Amerang, by the use of Road blocks and patrols.**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**May 10, 45**

**Location: Amerang, Germany WZ 4142**

**Chase, Nathaniel G. Jr. (INF) 02016848 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt A!**

**Race W Comp AUS Asgd 7 jd fr 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn per par 5 SO 58 Hq 42d Inf Div EDCMR: 8 May 45 pdy-(plat comdr 1542)**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**May 12, 45**

**Location: Amerang, Germany WZ 4142**

**Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pvt 745 A1**

**Race W Casual Reasgd & jd par 10 SO 122 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR: 11 May 45**

**May 16, 45**

**Location: Amerang, Germany**

**Smith Robert H. 34882548 S/Sgt 11**

**Zebrowski, Raymond 36982321 S/Sgt 11**

**Above 2 EM prom to T/Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf**

**Pettus, James R. Jr. 37617986 Pfc Neal, Walter E 35839390 Sgt**

**Above 2 EM promoted to S/Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf**

**Parsley, Warren W. 37734888 Pfc**

**Wright, Jule K. 36978884 Pfc**

**Corey, Elias J. 31178819 Pfc**

**(Atchd to Hq Co this Regt\_**

**Above 3 EM promoted to Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

**May 17, 45**

**Location: Durcholzen Austria WZ 4103**

**Ayers, Arthur L. 6854778 S/Sgt**

**Reduced to Pvt par 14 SO 51 Hq 232d Inf**

**Robertson, Charles Q. 38668977 Pfc 745 A1**

**Race W CASUAL reasgd & jd par 4 SO 127 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn**

**Asgd Limited Asgmt Personell**

**Officers-0 WO-0 EM-12 Total 12**

### **RECORD OF EVENTS**

**Company moved by motor to Durcholzen, Austria 17 May 45**

**Location: Durcholzen, Austria WZ 4103**

Hoard, Edward F. 33857196 Pfc  
Sick 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty as of 12 May 45

**CORRECTION**

Pettus, James R. Jr. 37617986 Pfc  
Promoted to S/Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf  
**SHOULD BE**

Pettus, James R. Jr. 37617986 Sgt  
Promoted to S/Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf  
**CORRECTION**

Parsley, Warren W. 37734888 Pfc  
Promoted to Sgt as of 10 May 45 par 13 SO 49 Hq 232d Inf  
**SHOULD BE**

Deleted

L.A. Personnel EM 12 Total 12

May 19, 45

Location: Durcholzen, Austria WZ 4103

Giantomaso, Raymond 33838243 Pvt

Duty to AWOL as of 8 May 45 Fr AWOL to duty as of 1300 9 May 45

L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

May 21, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841

Larschan, Lawrence 32191546 T/4

DeGennaro, Anthony J. 32096570 Pvt

Above 2 EM fr TDY to trfd to Recp Sta 2 Fort Dix NJ per Ltr AG 210.453 US PERS Hq 7<sup>th</sup> Armyk ETOUSA  
??????

Koval, Walter 6805178 Pfc

Trfd to Recep Sta 7 Ft. Sheridan, Ill per LO 55B AG 220.8 Hq 42d Inf Div

Cox, Charles W. 36979684 S/Sgt

Hughes, William D. 44031262 Pfc

Ile, Elmer F. 33890139 Pfc

Romanoff, Arthur 36869938 Pfc

Marino, George S. 20904444 Cpl

Above 5 EM duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 19 May 45

L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Company moved from Durcholzen, Austria to Assling, Germany 20 May 45

May 22, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841

Cox, Charles W. 36979684 S/Sgt

Hosp (LD) to trfd to Det of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (93 EH) as of 19 May 45 Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA (745)

Marino, George S. 2090444 Cpl

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty

L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

May 23, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841

Ile, Elmer F. 33890139 Pfc

Romanoff, Arthur 36869938 Pfc

Above 2 EM Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to duty

Butler, William B. 33860901 Pvt

Ehrhart, Abraham G. 33876531 Pvt

Giantamaso, Raymond 33838243 Pvt



Harris, Garland W. 37137951 Pvt  
Mountford, William J. 34678620 Pvt  
Riley, Daniel F. 5859166 Pvt  
Rushton, Marian R. Jr. 34658078 Pvt  
Sizemore, Delbert R. 35785209 Pvt  
Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pvt  
Tyree, Van B. 35815380 Pvt  
Ayers, Author L. 6854778 Pvt  
Above 12 EM promoted to Pfc par 5 SO 52 Hq 232d Inf as of 20 May 45

May 24, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841  
Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Pfc  
Collins, Max H. 36982045 Pfc  
Above 2 EM duty to TD XV Corps Rest Center Nancy France (4 days)  
L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

May 25, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841  
Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pfc  
Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 24 May 45  
CORRECTION  
Hoard, Edward F. 33857196 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to duty as of 12 May 45  
SHOULD BE  
Hoard, Edward F. 33857196 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to SK 606 VD Center (LD?)  
L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

May 26, 45

Location: Assling, Germany WZ 1841  
Yarincik, John 31382368 Pfc 345 A1  
Race W Casual Reasgd & joined pp 6 SO 136 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR 25 May 45  
Cox, Charles W. 36979684 S/Sgt  
Race W Casual Reasgd & jd pp 5 SO 137 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR 26 May 45  
L.A. Pers Off & WO none EM 12 total 12

May 28, 45

Location: Angath, Austria BE 2688  
Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn to Duty (LD) as of 26 May, 45  
Hernandez, Jesus X. 36472156 Pfc  
Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 27 May, 45  
Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pfc  
Duty to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 25 May 45 (NBI-Poss finger left hand) Skk to duty (LD) as of 27 May 45  
Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Pfc  
Collins, Max H. 36982045 Pfc  
Above 2 EM to duty  
3 EM (1 T/5; 2 Pfc) reld from atchd to Co for rations and quarters.  
8 EM (1 Sgt; 1 Cpl; 1 T/5; 5 Pfc) reld from atchd to other org for rations and quarters.  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Moved from Assling, Germany to Angath, Austria 27 May 45 and Relieved Cannon Co 222d Inf of Guard of Bridge. Company awaiting further orders.

L. A. Persnnel Officers and WO None EM 12 Total 12.

May 29, 45

Location: Angath, Austria BE 2688

Bisone, Angelo 36979179 Pfc 745 A1

Race W Casual Reasgd & joined pp 2 SO 138 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR 27 May 45

Pittman, John Jr. 38688198 Pfc 745 A1

Race W Casual Reasgd & jd pp 6 SO 139 Hq 71<sup>st</sup> ReInf Bn EDCMR: 28 May 45

Hernandez, Jesus X. 36472156 Pfc J4

Hosp (LD) to trfd to Detachment of Patch's 7<sup>th</sup> Army (112 EH) as of 27 May 45 Sec I Cir 33 Hq ETOUSA (745)  
NBI-GSW Perf W Knee rt AI pistol-27 May 45

May 31, 45

Location: Angath, Austria

Hughes, William D. 44031262 Pfc

Hosp (LD) to duty as of 30 May 45

August 1, 1945

Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582

Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 , Pfc

Saari, Tauno N. 31108128, Sgt

Busby, Hubert H. Jr. 14063660, Sgt

Above 3 EM Dy to furlough (7 days)

Coffey, Joel I 34775446, S/Sgt 745

Oliwa, Walter J. 31412454, Pfc 604

ASR 36 iner to 41

Above two men were awarded Bronze Star

Medal per Sec II Co#124 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div

Dated 21 July 45.

Micu, Eli D. 35839208 S/Sgt 745

ASR A5 to 50

DePelecoyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc 607

ASR 23 to 28

Smithman, Le Roy K. 33794109 607

Continuation August 1, 45

Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582

ASR 37 to incr to 42

Grissim, Walter J. 34913228 Pfc 604

ASR 25 incr to 30

Above 4 EM awarded Bronze Star

Medal per Sec I Co #125 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div

Dated 11 July 45

Cramer, George 16174425 Pfc 607

ASR incr to 44

Lake, Craig J. 39918902 Sgt 606

Nolan, Alfred M. 35840826 Pfc 745

ASR 61 incer to 66

Above 3 EM were awarded Bronze Star

Medal per Sec II Co# 127 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div

Dated 25 Jul 45

Aug 5, 1945

Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Correction 6 July, 45  
19 Pvts. Promoted to Pfc per Company Order  
#5. Co K 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf 9copy atchd as of 3 Jul, 45  
Should be 19 Pvts prom to Pfc Company  
Order # 7  
Co. K 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf (copy atchd) as of 3 Jul, 45

Aug 6, 45  
Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pfc  
NBI – Sprain rt ankle mod sy to 122d  
Med Bn (LD) as of 3 Aug 45  
Setar, Joe V 35914028 S/Sgt  
Enroute to Jn to Jd as of 4 Aug, 45  
Rushton, Marion R. Jr. 34658078 Pfc  
Dy to DS SSO Sect Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div PP4  
So 117 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div  
Correction 31 July, 45  
Station Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Should be Saalfelden, Austria WE 8582

Aug 7, 45  
Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Miron, Lionel C. 31469693 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn. To dy as of 4 Aug, 45 (LD)  
Lejman, Joseph S, 32683665 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn. (LD) as of Aug 6, 45  
Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn. (LD) to Sk 32d EH as of Aug 4, 45  
McCormack, James H. 35839387 S/Sgt  
Dy to TDy Hq 42d Inf Div (Troop Ldr Sch)  
Zell Am See, Austria (Duration Unknown)  
Bisone, Angelo 36979179 Pfc  
Rizzo, Philip M. 42141493 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Dy to TDy Genoa, Italy as of Aug 5, 45 (To secure food stuffs for II Corps) (Duration 2 weeks)

Aug 8, 45  
Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Reese, Everett B. 32805523 Pvt  
AWOL to Sk 4345<sup>th</sup> USAHP to AWOL as of Jul 5, 45.  
Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc  
Saari, Tauno N. 31108128 Sgt  
Busby, Hubert H. Jr. 14063660 Sgt  
Above 3 EM fur (7 days) to enroute to jn.

Aug 9, 45  
Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Reese, Everett B. 32805523 Pvt  
AWOL TO abs conf Mil Auth (707<sup>th</sup>) Mf Bn.  
Brussels, Belgium) as of 2115 hours Aug 1, 45

Aug 10, 45  
Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582  
Lejman, Joseph S. 32683665 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn to Dy (LD) as of Aug 8, 45

Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Aug 8, 45  
Bisone Angelo 36979179 Pfc  
Rizzo, Philip M. 42141493 Pfc  
Above 2 EM TD to Dy as of Aug 7, 45  
Howard, Wilfred A. 34585632 T/5  
Dy to DS 42d QM Co as of Aug 7, 45  
SO #119 Hq 42d Inf Div

Aug 11, 45

Location: Saalfelden, Austria RE 8582

Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pfc

Sk 32 to Dy (LD) as of Aug 9, 45

Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc

Sk 122d Ned Bn to Dy (LD) as of Aug 9, 45

Cheek, Janos 37522225 Pfc

Dy to DS Army Univ, Center No 2, Biarritz, France per Ltr O AG300.4/133 Hq 42d Inf Div

Berube, Leo F. 31432169 Pfc

MOS 521 changed to 745

Berube, Philippe L. 31432174 Pfc

MOS changed from 521 to 745

Adams, Everett P. 37445252 Pfc

MOS changed from 065 to 055

Gunteroth, Harry V. Jr. 38471107 S/Sgt

MOS 746 changed to (745)

Aug 12, 45

Saalfelden, Austria WE 8582

Nelms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc

Dy to Enroute to fur

Nusbaum, Ralph W. 15122130 Pfc 607

ASR 37 decr to 36

Okum, David M. 42095923 Pfc 607

ASR 48 decr to 47

Munch, James L. 37600210 Pfc 745

ASR 25 decr to 24

Nassoiy, Eugene 42095923 Pfc 745

ASR 48 decr to 36

Myers, John R. 33907348 Pfc 745

ASR 48 decr to 47

Ostlund, Donald T. 36738015 Cpl 746

ASR incr to 33

Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc 745

ASR 24 decr to 23

Above 7 EM'S ASR scores were erroneously computed

Aug 12, 45

Continuation

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582

Brvant Jennings (INF) 01296314

ASR 84 incr to 89 Awarded Bronze Star

Medal Co 127 Hq 42d Inf Div

Aug 13, 45

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582

Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pfc



Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 11 Aug 45  
Howard, Wilfred A. 34585632 T/5  
DS 42d Inf Div Qm Co to Dy as of Aug 10, 45  
Hines, Oscar L. 35920242 Pfc 745  
Klettlinger, Frank Jr. 35853631 Pfc 745  
Mitchell, George F. 35853557 Pfc 745  
Cwick, Walter J. 13147142 Pfc 745  
Cochran, Elmer 35887997 Pfc 745  
Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc 745  
Lamontagne, Maurice A. 31472588 Pfc 745  
Above 8 EM ASR decr to 7 Br Sv Star  
For Campgn Germany prev credited not  
authorized

**Aug 14**

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582  
Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn to Dy (LD) as of Aug 13, 45  
Cross, Charles W. 35781129 Pfc 745  
ASR 17 decr to 12  
Krizan, Emil J. 36991244 Pfc 745  
ASR 18 decr to 13  
Finochiaro, Salvatore A. 37649972 Pfc 745  
ASR ASR 11 decr to 6  
King, Bern A. 35853600 Pfc 745  
Above 4 EM Br Sv Star for Campgn Germany  
Prev credited not auth

**Aug 15**

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582  
Krizan, Emil J. 36991244 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Aug 13, 45  
Helms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc  
Enroute to fur (7days)  
Oles, Albert H. 42122901 Pfc 607  
ASR 23 incr to 24  
Branch, Johnny D. 38493476 Pfc 405  
ASR 40 incr to 41  
Above 2 EM ASR scores were erroneously computed

**Aug 16**

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582  
Krizan Emil. J. 36991244 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to dy as of Aug 14, 45

**Aug 17**

Saalfelden Austria WE 8582  
No change

**Aug 18**

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921  
Krizan, Emil J. 36991244 Pfc  
Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt  
Ellis, Wiley L. 44012846 Pfc  
Hess, Harley C. 3750074 Pfc  
Miron, Lionel C. 3146993 Pfc

Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc  
Parish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc  
Munch, Jame L. 37600210 Pfc  
Neef, Wallter G. 36524406 Pfc  
Kaplan, Alfred 42184026 Pfc  
Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc  
Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
Singleton, Revelle 35088766 Sgt  
Above 13 EM dy to TDY Hq 42d Inf Div  
(Trp Ldr Sch) Sell Am See, Austria as of  
15 Aug, 45 (duration unknown)

**Aug 19**

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921  
Casper, Erwin D. 37266225  
Promoted to Tec 5 per SO Hq 232d Inf  
15<sup>th</sup> August 45- Company moved from Salfelden  
Austria to Salzburg Austria, arrived in  
Salzburg at 1300. Mission guarding German  
Prisoners of War.

**Aug 20**

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921  
Hardgrove, Robert B. 38039114 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 17 Aug 45  
Saari, Tauno N. 31108128 Sgt  
Busby, Herbert H. Jr. 14063660 Sgt  
Above 3 EM enroute to Jp to Jd as of 19 Aug, 45  
Marino, George S. 20904444 Cpl 745  
ASR 69 incr to 74 Awarded Bronze Star  
Medal per Sec II CO #138 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Stein Aron 38296878 T/5 745  
ASR 52 incr to 57 Awarded Br Sv Star for  
Homeland Campgn per Ltr (2) AG200.6  
HqETO dtd 1 Jul 45 (not prev credited)  
Griffith, Burlen D. 38679012 Pfc 746  
ASR prev unknown now 37 Phy Cl "Q"

**Continuation Aug 20**

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

Aug 11 to 20/45 incl usual company duties

**Aug 21**

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921  
Lunning Raymond O. 37097643 Sgt  
Jeffcoat, Edward L. 34932814 Pfc  
Jeffers, Delmar A. 37771202 Pfc  
Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
Above 4 EM dy to TDY as gds to escort  
Pw's to Bruck, Austria as of 19 Aug, 45  
CORRECTION 18 Aug 45  
Station: Salzburg, Austria WZ 9921  
SHOULD BE Salzburg, Austria WX 9921

**Aug 22**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Kelms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc**

**Pur (7 days) enroute to Jn**

**Aug 23**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**No change**

**Aug 24**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Busby, Hubert H. Jr. 14063660 Sgt**

**Sgt from to S/Sgt par 1 SO 96 Hq 232d Inf**

**Aug 25**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Hardgrove, Robert B. 38039114 Pfc**

**Sk 122d Med Bn to Dy as of Aug 22, 45**

**Hines, Robert Y. 33857370**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Aug 23, 45**

**Aug 26**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**No change**

**Aug 27**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Howard, Wilfred A. 34585632 T/5**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Aug 25, 45**

**Zillmer, David (Inf) 1<sup>st</sup> Lt 026722**

**Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pfc**

**Above off & EM Dy to Tdy to escort PW's to**

**St. Marion, Austria as of Aug 24, 45 (duration 6 days)**

**Hines, Robert Y. 33857370 Pfc**

**Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Sk 106 EH as of Aug 24, 45**

**McKissack, Ernest W. 38669009 Sgt**

**Dy to enroute to fur as of Aug 25, 45**

**Helms, Oscar D. 38669009 Pfc**

**Enroute to Jn to Jd as of Aug 25, 45**

**McCormack, James H. 35839387 S/Sgt**

**TDy to Dy as of Aug 26, 45**

**Continuation Aug 27**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Stoft, William E. 02006224 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt**

**Tumring, Raymond O. 37097643 Sgt**

**Above Off & EM Dy to Tdy to escort PW's tp St. Marion, Austria as of Aug 26, 45 (duration 6 days)**

**Aug 28**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**No change**

**Aug 29**

**Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926**

**Anderson, Kermit D. (INF) 02010787 2d Lt**

**Dy to Tdy USFA APO 777 Dy with 0 of AC of S**

**G-2 eff Aug 25 (duration unknown)**

Zillmer, David (INF) 026722 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
 Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pfc  
 Above O & EM TDy as of Aug 24, 45  
 Stoft, William B. Jr. 02006224 2d Lt  
 Tumring, Raymond O. 37097643 Sgt  
 Above O & EM TDy to dyas of Aug 27,45

Aug 30, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926

Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt  
 Singleton, Revelle 35080766 Sgt  
 Munch, James L 37600210 Pfc  
 Parrish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc  
 Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
 Kaplan, Alfred 42184026 Pfc  
 Hess Harley C. 37750074 Pfc  
 Miron, Lionel O. 31469693 Pfc  
 Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc  
 Neef, Walter G. 36524406 Pfc  
 Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc  
 Krizen, Emil J. 36991244 Pfc  
 Ellis, Wiley L. 44012846 Pfc

Above 13 EM TDy Tr Ldr Sch to TDy I & E

Sec 42d Inf Div (Rainbow Univ) Bad Gastein, Austria as of Aug 29, 45 (duration unknown)

Continuation

Aug 30

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926

McKissack, Earnest W. 38669009 Sgt  
 Enroute to fur (7 days)  
 Bisone, Angalo 36979179 Pfc  
 Prom to Sgt. as of Aug 29, 45 SO #98 Hq 232d Inf

Aug 31, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926

Hines, Robert Y. 33857370 PFC  
 Sk 106 EH to Dy (LD) as of Aug. 25, 45  
 Smith, Robert H. 34882548 T/Sgt  
 Sk 112 EH to Dy (LD) as of Aug 29, 45  
 Whitfield, Harold 33701061 Pfc  
 TDy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) As of Aug 29, 45

Sep 1, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926

Kochetta, Joseph 32509431 Pfc  
 TDy MP Plat IICorps to trfd to 601<sup>st</sup> FA to  
 APO 403 par 1 SO #134 Hq 41d Inf

Sep 3, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926

Nolan, Alfred M. 35840826 Pfc  
 Dy to DS Hq UK Base TSFET (WartonAmer Tech  
 Sch) par 5 SQ 135 Hq 42d Inf Div

Sep 4, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926



Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 S/Sgt 745  
 ASR 49 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Houghtalin, Phillip B. 42123273 Pfc 746  
 ASR 35 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Bisconotte, William F. 31404369 Pfc 745  
 Jacobsen, Ralph S. 36470805 Pfc 745  
 ASR 49 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Above 4 EM race W asgd& jd fr Hq, 3<sup>Rd</sup> Bn  
 This regt as of 3 Sep par 5 SO 100 Hq 232d Inf  
 Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc  
 Sk 122 Med Bn(LD) to Dy as of sep 2, 45  
 Johnston, Harold D. 36414585 S/Sgt  
 Hendrix, Morris H. 34608686 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM Dy to Tdy USFA (G-2 Sec)  
 Hallien, Austria (duration unknown)  
 Continuation  
 Bryant, Jennings F. (Inf) 01298814 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
 Dy to trfd to 601 TD APO 403 per 1 SO  
 #136 Hq 42d Inf Div  
 King, Vern A. 35853600 Pfc  
 Sk 122d EH (LD) totrfd to Det of Pats  
 A361 USAHP APO 513 par 4 SO 195 Hq 28<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp EDCMR: 22 Aug, 45 (SSN 745)  
 Wessel, Charles D. 33262584 Sgt 745  
 ASR 58 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Kearney, Lloyd W. 44013879 Pfc 745  
 ASR 14 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Masini, Lino 32728005 Pfc 745  
 ASR 53 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Morgan, Henry 35067734 Pfc 745  
 ASR 26 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Robertson, Charles Q. 38668997 Pfc 745  
 ASR 33 Phy C1 "Q"  
 Above 5 EM asgd not jd (TDy Genoa, Italy  
 Fr Hq Co 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn this gegt as of Sep 3, 45  
 Par 5 SO #100 Hq 232d Inf

Sep 5, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt  
 Ellis, Wiley L. 44002846 Pfc  
 Hess, Harley C. 37750074 Pfc  
 Miron, Lionel C. 31469693 Pfc  
 Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc  
 Parrish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc  
 Munch, Walter R. 37600210 Pfc  
 Neef, Walter G. 36524406 Pfc  
 Kaplan, Alfred 42184026 Pfc  
 Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
 Singleton, Revelle 35088766 Sgt  
 Above 11 EM TDy to Dy as of Sep 3, 45  
 Angevine, Robert C. 12228084 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 3, 45  
 Hill, Roger C. 39596697 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 3, 45

Sep 6, 45

Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 Zillmer, David (INF) 026722 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
 FR PDY & T/O Asgmt Ex Off to PDY & T/OAsgmt CO as of Sep 4, 45  
 Stoft, William R. Jr. 02006224 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt  
 Fr PDY & T/O Asgmt Rifle Plt Ldr to PDY &  
 T/O Asgmt Ex Off as of Sep 4, 45  
 Hill, Roger O. 39596697 Pfc  
 Sk 122 Med Bn to Dy as of Sep 4, 45 (LD)  
 Howard, Willifred A. 34585632 T/5  
 Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Sep 2, 45  
 McKissack, Earnest W. 38669009 Sgt  
 Fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn  
 Oldroyd, Carl W. 33616128 Pfc 746  
 ASR 23 incr to 28  
 Jeffers, Delmar A. 37771202 Pfc 745  
 ASR 23vincr to 28  
 Above 2 EM Awarded Bronze Star Medal per  
 Sec III 00 153 Hq 42 Inf Div dtd Sep 1, 45

Sep 7, 45  
 Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 Bisone, Angelo 36979179 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 5, 45  
 Setar, Joe V 35914028 S/Sgt 604  
 ASR 37 incr to 42 Awarded Bronze Star  
 Medal per Sec III (b) CO 152 Hq 42d Inf  
 Div dtd Aug 31, 45

Sep 8, 45  
 Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 Angevine, Robert C. 12228084 Pfc  
 Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Sep 6, 45

Sep 9, 45  
 Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 No Change  
 Brooks, Frank W. III 33794015 Cpl  
 Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM Dy to enroute to fur as of Sep 9, 45  
 Greene, Jack B. 34999534 Pfc  
 Trfd to Hq Co 3d Bn this regt as of Sep 8, 45  
 Bisone, Everette B. 328055523 Sgt  
 Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Sep 9, 45  
 Reese, Everett B. 32805523 Pvt  
 Abs Conf Brussels, Belgium to AWOL as of Sep 2, 45  
 Wessel, Charles D. 33262584 Sgt  
 Kearney, Lloyd W. 44013879 Pfc  
 Manini, Lino 32728005 Pfc  
 Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pfc  
 Robertson, Charles Q. 38669977 Pfc  
 Above 5 EM Tdt to Dy

Sep 10  
 Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 Heck, Robert R. 02018515 2d Lt  
 Huckaby, Virgil L. 39574178 S/Sgt

Angevine, Robert C. 12228094 Pfc  
 Cramer George A. 16174425 Pfc  
 Finocchiaro, S. A. 37649972 Pfc  
 Herzet, Junior P. 39129822 Pfc  
 Kaplin, Alfred 42184025 Pfc  
 Gust, Roy P. 37749608 Pfc  
 Hardgrove, Robert R. 38039114 Pfc  
 Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
 Johnson, Wesley L. 33908623 Pfc  
 Ehrhart, Abraham G. 33876531 Pfc  
 Hanson, Arthur J. 39479952 Pfc  
 Horton, Lee R. 34865076 Pfc  
 Hess, Harley G. 37750074 Pfc  
 Oatland, Donald T 36738015 Pfc  
 Above Off and 15 EM tro Paternion, Austria  
 (duration 3 days)

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

1 TO 10 Sep 45 usual co duties  
 Shultz, William 32996707 Cpl  
 Prom to Tech 4 par 2 SO 105 Hq 232d Inf

Sep 11, 45  
 Location Salzburg, Austria WZ 9926  
 No Change

Sep 12, 45  
 Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
 Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pfc  
 Sk 6 conv Hosp To (LD) as of Sep 10, 45  
 Bisonel, Angelo 36726034 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of SEP 10, 45  
 Brooks, Frank M. III 33794015 Cpl  
 Moore, George R. Jr. 38907312 Pfc  
 Above EM enroute to fur for (?days)

#### CORRECTION sep 10, 45

EM Strength Section Pfc TDy 20 Total 25  
 Should be Pfc TDy 19 TotL 24

Sep 13  
 Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
 Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
 SDy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 11, 45

#### CORRECTION

Bisone, Angelo 36726034 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 122 NMed Bn (LD) as of Sep 10, 45  
 Should be  
 BISCONE, Angelo 36979179 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 112 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 19, 45

Sep 14, 45  
 Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
 Childress, Clinton A. 33857909 Pfc  
 Sk 112 EH (LD) to trfd to Det of Pats US  
 Army as of Sep 7, 45 Sec I Cir 33 Hq  
 ETOUSA (SSN 745)  
 Finochiaro, Salvatore A. 37649972 Pfc

NBI-LW hand Lt Sv STW GSW Pistol AT Dy  
To 112 EH (LD) as of Sep 12, 45  
Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to dy as of Sep 12, 45

Sep 15, 45

Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Lawson, Virl L. 35204201 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt  
Busby, Hubert H. Jr. 14063660 S/Sgt  
Cameron, George H. 36209775 S/Sgt  
Lnning, Raymond C. 37097643 Sgt  
Saari, Tauno N. 31108128 Sgt  
Marino, George S. 20904444 Col  
Howard, Willford A. 34585632 T/5  
Begin, Gerald A. 32494109 Pfc  
Kaminski, Joseph A. 35318462 Pfc  
Above 9 EM trfd to 813 TD Bn APO 777 per  
2 SO 145 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Hernandez, Jesus X. 36472156 Pfc  
Sk 122 EH (LD) to reld fr asgmt & trfd to  
4388 USAHP APO 513 pp 3 SO 189 (US) Gen  
Hosp AAPO 513 EDCMR Sep 9, 45  
McKissack, Eranest W. 38669009 Sgt  
Enroute to Jn to Jd as of Sep 14, 45

Sep 16, 45

Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
No change

Sep 17, 45

Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Grissim, Walter J. 34913228 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 16, 45  
Carriker, Carroll V. 44019039 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 112 EH (LD) as of Sep 14, 45

Sep 18, 45

Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Tesch, Iver J. 37574698 Pvt  
ASgd & Jd fr 132d Sig Bn pp 9 SO 145 Hq 42d Inf Div. EEDCUR Sep 16, 45 C1 "Q"  
LaBomBardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt  
Dy to Tdy (10 days duration plus travel time  
Effective Sep 17, 45 to visit Rome Italy  
Heck, Robert R. (INF) 02018515 2d Lt  
Ile, Elmer F. 33890139 Pfc  
Hinkley, Leon E. 31401692 Pfc  
Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc  
Neef, Walter, G. 36524406 Pfc  
Above Off & 4 EM Dy to TDy to escort DP's  
To Vienna, Austria (Dratation 4 days)

Sep 19, 45

Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Brooks, Frank W. III 33794015 Cpl  
Moore, George F. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
Above 2 EM fur (7days) to enroute to Jn



McKissack, Earnest W. 38669009 Sgt  
Prom S/Sgt per SQ 110 Hq 232d Inf as  
Of Sep 8, 45  
Suckow, Clarence H. 36981664 Pfc  
Angovino, Robert C. 12226084 Pfc  
Above to EM prom Sgt par 8 SQ 110 Hq 232d Inf as of Sep 18, 45

Sep 20, 45  
Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Tesch, Iver J> 37574698 Pvt  
Dy to TDy 42d Inf Div Hq (duration 30 days)  
as of Sep 19, 45  
Cimpl, Richard F. 36825899 Pfc  
Cramer, George A. 16174425 Pfc  
Holley, Thomas E. 38631518 Pfc  
Above 3 EM Dt to TD Rainbow Univ (duration  
Unknown) as of Sep 14, 45  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Rb 11 TO 20 Sep 15 Usual Co duties

Sep 21, 45  
Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Grissim, Walter J. 34913226 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to dy as of Sep 20, 45  
Childress, Clinton, A. 33857909 Pfc  
Race W Rensd & jd \*cssull per JOCD  
USFA as of Sep 5, 45 ASR 31 Phy C1 "Q"

Sep 22, 45  
Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Brooks, Frank M. III 33794015 Cpl  
Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd

Sep 23, 45  
Location Alm, Austria WE 8980  
Angevine, Robert C. 12228084 Sgt  
Neal, Walter E. 35839390 S/Sgt  
Above 2 EM Dy to to enroute to fur

Sep 24. 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 21 Sep. 45  
Heck, Robert R. (INF) 02018515 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt  
TDy (DP escort to Dy as of 22 Sep 45  
Haynes, Emory G. 33732361 T/Sgt  
Slinker, Harold C. 37537846 S/Sgt  
Orbin, Louis T. 32997643 T/4  
Above 2 EM trfd to 232<sup>nd</sup> fd Bn APO 579  
Guntheroth, Harry W. Jr. 38471107 S/Sgt  
Pro T/Sgt par 16 SO 112 Hq 232d Inf as of 22 Sep 45  
Singleton, Revella 35088766 Sgt  
Prom S/Sgt par 16 SO 112 Hq 232d Inf as of 22 Sep 24, 45  
Munch, James L 37600210 Pfc  
Prom Sgt. Par 16 SO 112 Hq 232d Inf as of 22 Sep 24, 45

Continuation Sep 24, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
CORRECTION 22 Sep 45  
Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to Jd SHOULD BE  
Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to AWOL  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
Company moved from Alm, Austria to Bischoshofen, Austria

Sep 25, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Berube, Philippe A. 31432174 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 24 Sep, 45  
Angevine, Robert C. 12228084

Sgt  
Neal, Walter E. 35839390 S/Sgt  
Above 2 EM enroute to fur to fur (7 days)

Sep 26, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
No Change

Sep 27, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Anderson, Kermit D. (Inf) 02010787 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt  
TDy(G-2 USFA) to Dy as of 25 sep, 45  
Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to dy as of 26 Sep, 45  
Berube, Phillippe A. 31432174 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to dy as of 26 Sep, 45  
Munch, James L. 37600210 Sgt  
Okum, David M. 42190085 Pfc  
Oles. Albert H. 42122901 Pfc  
Pace. Charles D. 37748686 Pfc  
Campbell, John W. 36981676 Pfc  
Hennessey, Thomas F. 31418039 Pfc  
Kowalski, Bernard E. 35238830 Pfc  
Rizzo, Philip W. 42141493 Pfc  
Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc  
Hess, Harley G. 37750074 Pfc  
Above 10 EM Dy to Tdy ET Tour (Duration 9 days)  
CONTINUATION  
Stoft, William S. Jr (Inf) 02006224 2d Lt  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 26 Sep, 45  
Wassel, Charles D. 33262584 Sgt  
Prom to S/Sgt par 4 SO 113 Hq 232d Inf as of 26 Sep, 45  
Rizzo, Philip M. 42141493 Pfc  
ASR score 40 incr to 45 Awarded Bronze Star Medal CO #171Sec I Hq 42d Inf Div dtd 25 Sep, 45  
Barnes, John P. 38310822 S/Sgt  
MOS 824 changed to 821

Sep 28, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

McCorkle, Ralph E. Jr                    34824272 Pfc  
 Trfd to 505 MP Bn APO 58 par 7 SO 154 Hq 42d Inf Div  
 Pittman, John Jr.                        38688198 Pfc  
 Trfd to 202 MP Co APO 77 par 8 SO 154 Hq 42d Inf Div  
 Spratlin, William R. (INF)    02017916 2d Lt 1542 Race W. Comp AUSAsgd & jd fr US Staging Area Cp Top  
 Hat APO 562 par 1 SO 154 Hq 42d Inf Div Duty 1542 EDCMR: 18 Sep 45  
 ASR 69-No-Phy C1 "Q" Eff-upky  
 Reagan, Wayne A. (INF)            02007036 2d Lt  
 Race W Comp AUS ASgd & jd fr US Staging Area Cp Top Hat APO 562 par 1 SO 154 Hq  
 42d Inf Div Duty 1542 EDCMR: 18 Sep 45  
 ASR – 49-No-40.0-Phy C1 "Q"

Sep 29, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Anderson, Kermit D. (INF)            02010767 2d Lt  
 Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 27 Sep, 45  
 Guntheroth, Harry W. Jr.            38471107 T/Sgt  
 Prom to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt par 3 SO 115 Hq 232d Inf  
 Lake, Craig J.                        39918902 Sgt  
 Smitheman, Le Roy K.                33794109 Sgt  
 Above 2 EM prom to S/Sgt par 3 SO 115 Hq 232d Inf Div  
 Cranmer, George A.                16174425 Pfc  
 Brandon, Claude W.                38507069 Pfc  
 Howell, Melvin C.                36684617 Pfc  
 Above 3 EM prom to Sgt. Par 3 SO 115 Hq 232d Inf  
 Huckaby, Virgil L.                39574178 S/Sgt  
 Prom to T/Sgt par 3 SO 115 Hq 232d Inf  
 Johnston, Harold D.                36414585 S/Sgt  
 TDy (USFA G\_@ Sec) to Dy as of sep 28, 45

Sep 30, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 No Change  
**RECORD OF EVENTS**  
 21 to 30 Sep incl Usual Company Duties

Oct 1, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Spratlin, William R.                02017916 2d Lt  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Sep 25, 45  
 Giantomaso, Raymond            22838243 Pfc  
 Trfd to Hq Co 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn this regt par 2 SO 113 Hq 232d Inf  
 McCormack, James H.            35839387 S/Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 29 Sep, 45  
**CORRECTION 22 Sep 24, 45**  
 Moore, George R. Jr.                33907312 Pfc  
 Enroute to Jn to Jd  
**SHOULD BE**  
 Moore, George R. Jr.                3907312 Pfc  
 Enroute to Jn to AWOL  
**SHOULD BE: Deleted**  
**CONTINUATION**  
 Ile, Elmer F.                        33890139 Pfc  
 Hinkley, Leon E.                    31401692 Pfc  
 Matthews, Andrew S. Jr.            39421647 Pfc  
 Neef, Walter G.                    36524406 Pfc

Above 4 EM TDy (D. escort Vienna, Austria) to Dy as of 22 Sep, 45.

Oct 2, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Warner, Billy H. 35845035 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Oct 1, 45

McCormack, James H. 35839387 S/Sgt

Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 29 Sep, 45

Angevine, Robert C. 12228084 Sgt

Neal, Walter E. 35839390 S/Sgt

Above 2 EM fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc

Casper, Erwin D. 37266225 T/5

Above 2 EM Dy to enroute to fur

Stoft, William E. Jr. (Inf) 02006224 2d Lt

Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 29 Sep, 45

Spratlin, William R. (Inf) 02017916 2d Lt

Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 1 Oct, 45

Oct 3, 45

No Change

Oct 4, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 2 Oct, 45

Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc

Casper, Erwin, D. 37266225 T/5

Above 2 EM enroute to fur to fur (7 days)

LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt

TDy (Rome, Italy) to Dy as of 2 Oct 45

Warner, Billy H. 35845035 Pfc

Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 2 Oct. 45

Oct 5, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Griffith, Burlan D. 38679012 Pfc

Prom to Sgt par 6 SO 118 Hq 232d Inf as of 4 Oct, 45

55 EM asgd & jd fr 263d Inf 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 par 1 SO 234 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Race W Pjhy C1 Q (Incl No. 1 atchd)

See attached sheet for names and info on above

Oct 6, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Rosenbach, Lloyd d. 37708454 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 3 Oct 45

Spratlin, William R. (Inf) 02017916 2d Lt

Dy to TDy (I&E Sec, Rainbow Univ) as of 3 Oct 45 (Duration Unknown)

Elia, James V. 33920361 Pfc 745

Race W Asgd & Jd fr 263 Inf par 1 SO 234 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Amended by par 1 SO 239 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div as of 5 Oct, 45 ASR 34 Phy C1 "Q"

CORRECTION OCT 5, 45

Soodik, Isidor 32872761 S/Sgt 745

Whitescarrer, Paul S. 42119424 Pfc 745

SHOULD BE

Soodik, Isidor 32872764 S/Sgt 745



Whitescarver, Paul S. Jr        42119424 Pfc 745

Oct 7, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Huckaby, Virgill L.	39574178	T/Sgt
Ross, Max G.	37072741	T/Sgt
Johnston, Harold D.	36414585	S/Sgt
Wessel, Charles D.	33262584	S/Sgt
Parsley, Warren W.	37734988	Sgt
Wright, Jule Keith	36978884	Sgt
Bass, George	32207980	T/5
Carrillo, Eugene J.	38529808	T/5
Joyner, William A. Jr.	34734972	T/5
Owen, Hilton E.	34261142	T/5
Stein, Aaron	32896878	T/5
Berube, Leo F.	31432169	Pfc
Collins, Max H.	36982045	Pfc
Herzet, Junior P.	39129822	Pfc
Hill, Roger C.	39596697	Pfc
Ile, Elmer F.	33890139	Pfc
Lejman, Joseph S.	32683665	Pfc
Manini, Lino	32728005	Pfc

Oct 8, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

McCormack, James H.        35839387 S/Sgt

Sk 61 FH (LD) to Dy as of Oct 5, 45

Carriker, Carroll V.        44019039 Pfc

Davis, Ezra J.        38468118 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Oct 5, 45

Angevine, Robert C.        12228084 Sgt

Enroute to Jn to Jd

Fluker, Thomas R. Jr (Inf)    0415855 Capt 1542

Race W Comp ORC-Asgd & Jd fr 263d Inf 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Par 1 SO 234 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Duty CO (1542)-  
ASR-58-Hq 40.0 Phy C1 "Q"

Oct 9, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Heck, Robert R. (Inf)        02018515 2d Lt

Dy to TDy (I & E Scjh) Duration 6 days as of Oct 7, 45

Oct 10, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Lybarger, James W.        33019853 Pfc

Trfd to 3325 SIAM Co APO 150 Par 2 So 164 Hq 42d Inf Div

Neal, Wqlter E.        35839390 S/Sgt

Enroute to Jn to Jd as of Oct 9, 45

Rosenbach, Lloyd D.        37708454 Pfc

Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Oct 9, 45

Oct 11, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Bisone, Angelo        36979179 Sgt

Sk 112<sup>th</sup> EH (LD) to trfd to Dat of Pnts 98<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp APO 403 par 8 SO 199 Hq 98<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp EDCIR: 4 Oct,  
45 (SSN 745)

Warner, Billy H.        35845035 Pfc

Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 7 Oct, 45  
Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 7 Oct, 45  
Matthews, Andrew S, Jr. 39421647 Pfc  
Casper, Erwin D. 37266225 T/5  
Above 2 EM fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

Oct 12, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Sgt  
Guess, Ray R. 38633579 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Dy to enroute to fur  
Tuma, John C. 36992258 Pfc  
Trfd to 693d FA In APO 578 par 1 SO 166 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Branch, John D. 38493476 Pfc  
Trfd to 6824<sup>th</sup> Hq & Hq Co par 10 SO 165 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Sergeants Present 10 TD 1  
SHOULD BE  
Sergeants: Present 11 TD 1

Oct 13, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Zillmer, David (INF) 026722 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
Fr PDy & T/0 asgmt CO to PDy & TO asgmt Exec O as of Oct 5, 45

Oct 14, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
28 EM Asgd & trfd fr 263d Inf 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Par 1 SO 242 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Race W. Phy C1"Q" (Incl No 1 attchd)

Oct 15, 45  
Anderson, Kermit d. (INF) 02010707 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt  
SK 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 12 Oct, 45  
Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Sgt  
Guess, Roy R. 38633579 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to fur to fur (7days) as of Oct 13, 45  
Casper, Erwin D. 37266225 T/5  
Matthews, Andrew S. Jr. 39421647 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd as of 14 Oct, 45  
Singleton, Revell 35088766 S/Sgt  
Dty to Tdy RS#6 Cp Atterbury, Ind (30 days Rest & recuperation) par 3 SO 73 Hq USFA as pf 10 Oct, 45  
Lamontagne, Maurice A. 31472588 Pfc  
Dy to TDy 5<sup>th</sup> Semi-Brigade (French) Kitzbuhel, Austria (Duration 7 days)  
CONTINUATION  
Coffey, Joel L. 34775446 S/Sgt  
Prom to T/Sgt par 3 SO 123 Hq 232d Inf as of 13, Oct, 45  
Bolton, Neal 38474466 Pfc  
Prom to Sgt par 3 SO 123 Hq 232d Inf as of 13 Oct 45

Oct 16, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
CORRECTION 14 OCT, 45  
Brenner, Everett H. 31446692 Pfc  
Beudefeldt, George M. 35299405 Pfc  
Best, William E. 36912621 Pfc  
SHOULD BE

Brenner, Everett H. 31446692 Pfc  
Beudefeldt, George M. 35299405 Pfc  
Best, William E. 36912621 Pvt

Oct 17, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Heck, Robert R. 02018515 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt

TDy (I & E) to Dy as of 14 Oct, 45

CORRECTION 14 Oct, 45

Chyman, Yu Q. 42057762 Pfc Race White

SHOULD BE

Chyman, Yu Q. 42057762 Pfc

Race Chinese

Oct 18, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Thilbodeauxm Ray J. 38414156 Pfc

Dy to TDy 5<sup>th</sup> Semi Brigade (French) Kitzbuhel, Austria (Duration 7 days) as of 15 Oct 45

Falato John S. 33815402 Pfc

Dy to TDy 888<sup>th</sup> Rest Ctr (Duration 3 days) as of 16 Oct, 45

Tesch, Ivor J. 37574698 Pvt

Prom to Pfc fr Pvt per Co#8 as of Oct 15, 45

Arnold, Richard D. (INF) 0532742 1<sup>st</sup> Lt 1542

Race W. Comp ORC Asgd & Jd fr 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div as of 14 Oct 45. Duty Plat Cmdr (1542) ASR67 No-Eff 37.8 Phy C1 "Q" Yr Born 1922

James, Wakyland H. (INF) 01081775 1<sup>st</sup> Lt 1542

Race W Comp AUS Asgd & Jd fr 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Par 1 SO 242 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div

CONTINUATION

As pf 14 Oct. 45 Ditu {;at Cp,dr (1542) ASR 54 Mp-Eff 40.0 Phy C1 "Q" Yr born 1917

Coffey, Joel L. 34775446 T/Sgt

Barnes, John P. 38310822 S/Sgt

Poole, Kenneth E. 35740826 Cpl

Hendrix, Morris H. 34608686 Pfc

Marrara, Sam N. 35315730 Pfc

Romanoff, Arthur 36869938 Pfc

Above 6 EM trfd to 250<sup>th</sup> FA Bn APO 578 Par 1 SO 124 Hq 232d Inf

CORRECTION 16 OCT 45

Best, William E. 36912621 Pfc

SHOULD BE

Best, William E. 36912621 Pfc

SHOULD BE

Deleted

Oct, 19, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

No Change

Oct 20, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Crocker, Ruel R. 37613088 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 18 Oct, 45

Rinocchiario, Salvatore A. 37649972 Pfc

Sk 112 EH (LD) to Dy as of 18 Oct, 45

Rains, Stanley V. (INF) 02006333 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt

Anderson, Kermit D. (Inf) 02010787 2d Lt

Above 2 0 trfd to 26<sup>th</sup> InfDiv APO 26 par 3 SO 172 Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div as of 19 Oct 45.

Lovato, Elmo J. 38121528 Tec 4 017  
Race W Asgd & jd fr 263d Inf 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 par 10 SO 251 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div ASR-54 Phy C1 "Q"  
Stoft, Williem E. Jr. 02006224 2d Lt  
Dy to Sk 122Med Bn (LD) as of 17 Oct, 45

CONTINUATION

McCormack, James H. 35839387 S/Sgt  
Thomas, Charles F. Sr. 33670422 Pfc  
Above 2 EM trfd to 101st Inf Regt APO 26 par 1 SO 172 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Nicholson, William R. 36469107 S/Sgt  
Szczurek, Albin F. 36765962 S/  
Sgt  
Jacobsen, Ralph S. 36470805 Pfc  
Neef, Walter G. 36524406 Pfc  
Above 4 EM trfd to 975<sup>th</sup> FA Bn APO 587 par 1 SO 125 Hq 232d Inf  
Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Sgt  
Guess, Roy R. 38633579 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

RECORD OF EVENTS

11 TO 20 Oct 45 incl: Usual company duties.

Oct 21, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

No Change

Oct 22, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Crocker, Ruel R. 37613088 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 20 Oct, 45  
Brewwater, Henry M. Jr. 34931532 Pfc  
Johnson, Luther E. 33908655 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Dy to enroute to fur as of 21 Oct, 45  
Zillmer, David (INF) 026722 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
Dy to DS Hq 42d Inf Div (Rainbow Univ) par 11 SO 173 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 17 Oct 45  
Nassoiy, Eugene F. 42095923 Pfc  
Dy to DS 42d Inf Div SSO Sec par 7 SO 172 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 17 Oct 45  
Shenk, Ralph W. 33501628 Pfc  
Goyette, Romulus L. 31288465 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Dy to DS (Rainbow Univ) par 11 SO 172 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 17 Oct 45

Oct 23, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Johnson, Luther E. 33908655 Pfc  
Brewster, Henry M. Jr. 34931532 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to fur to fur (7 days)  
Thibodeaux, Ray J. 38414156 Pfc  
Lamontagne, Maurice A. 31472588 Pfc  
Above 2 EM TDky Kitzbuhel, Austria to Dy  
Cheek, James 37522225 Pfc  
DS (Biarritz American Univ) Biarritz, France to Dy as of 22 Oct 45  
Martucci, Nick J. 36763408 T/4  
McCloskey, James R. 33692119 T/%  
Above 2 EM trfd to 280<sup>th</sup> FA Bn APO 541 Par 1 SO 126 Hq 232d Inf  
McKinnon, Norman J. (INF) 00326334 2d Lt 1542  
Race W Comp AUS Asgd & Jd fr 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Par 10 SO 251 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div as of 20 Oct 45 Duty Plat  
Comd 1542

CONTINUATION

ASR 56 No Eff 40.0 Phy C1 "Q" Yr born 1911

Rhodes, Charles D. Jr. (INF) 0551028 2d Lt 1542

Race W Comp ORC Asgd \* Jd fr 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div as of 20 Oct, 45 Duty Plat Comd 1542 ASR 44 No Eff 31.7 Phy C1 "Q" Yr Born 1922.

Ridinger, George R. (INF) 0555070 2d Lt

Race W Com ORC Asgd & Jd fr 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Par 10 SO 251 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div as of 20 Oct 45 Duty Plat Comnd 1542 ASR 43 No Eff 40.0 Phy c1 "Q" Yr Born 1922

Oct 24, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Hood, Billy E. 38525764 Pfc

Dy to

Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 22 Oct 45.

Davis, Ezra J. 38488118 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 22 Oct 45

DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc

Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 22 Oct 45

Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 22 Oct 45

Falato, John S. 33815402 Pfc

Tdy 88<sup>th</sup> Inf Div Rest. Ctr to Dy

Oct 25, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Cochran, Elmer 35887997 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 23 Oct 45

Reese, Everett B. 32805523 Pvt

AWOL to Conf hands mil auth Hq Brussels Area Guard House Cpm Z ETO APO 562 as of 2200 3 Oct 45. Fr conf Brussels Area to Cenf Central Straggler Collecting Point APO 887 Munich Germany and to arrest in quarters 24 Oct 45 (awaiting trial).

Oct 26, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Dowling, Edward J. Jr 35795383 S/Sgt

Halas, Edward C. 33601547 S/Sgt

Above 2 EM Prom to T/Sgt par 5 SO 128 Hq 232d Inf as of 25 oct 45

Walker, David V. 39474173 Pfc

Dy to enroute to fur

Oct 27, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Stoft, William E. Jr. (Inf) 02006224 2d Lt

Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 25 Oct 45

Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 25 Oct, 45

Webb, James A. 35441612 Pfc

Trfd to Hq Co 42d Inf Div par 10 SO 178 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 26 Oct 45

Walker, David V. 39474173 Pfc

Enroute to fur to fur (10 days)

Crocker, Rual R. 37613088 Pfc

Dy to enroute to fur

Ridinger, George R. (Inf) 0555070 2d Lt

Bolton, Neal 38474466 Sgt

Rain, Jack L. 38697410 Pfc

Cassidy, Edward N. 36728695 Pfc

Baker, Layman L. 38700674 Pfc



Hiser, William R. 39908420 Pfc  
CONTINUATION  
Peveler, Clarence N. 35813033 Pfc  
Above 0 & 7 EM Dy to TDy to escort Pw's to Rosenheim Germany as of 26 Oct 45 (Duration unknown)

Oct 28, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Farriah, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc  
Dy to enroute to fur

Oct 29, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Bryant, Homer D. 34651172 Tec 5 055  
Race W Asgd & Jd fr 263d Inf 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div APO 454 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div par 25 SO 254 Hq 66<sup>th</sup> Inf Div ASR 44 Phy  
C1 "Q"

Oct 30 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Parrieh, Josep R. 44011305 Pfc  
Crocker, Rual R. 37613088 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to fur to fur (7 days)  
Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 28 Oct, 45  
Cochran, Elmer 35887997 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 27 Oct, 45  
Brewster, Henry M. Jr 34931532 Pfc  
Johnson, Luther E. 33908655 Pfc  
Above 2 EM fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

Oct 31, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Hood, Billy E. 38525764 Pfc  
Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 28 Oct, 45  
Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 29 Oct, 45  
Stark, Wilbur C. 37556504 S/Sgt  
Werkheiser, Kenneth L. 33836832 Pfc  
Panczykowski, Ernest A. 42140118 Pfc  
O'Brien, Thomas E. 31466173 Pfc  
Hiser, William R. 39908420 Pfc  
Above 5 EM Dy to TDy to escort SSPats to Hartburg Germany (Duration 16 days) as of Oct 30, 45  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
21 TO 31 Oct 45 incl: Usual Ord Duties

Nov 1, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Rodonger. George R. (INF) 0555070 2d Lt  
Bolton, Neal 38474466 Sgt  
Bain, Jack L. 38697410 Pfc  
Cassidy, Edward N. 36728695 Pfc  
Baker, Laymon L. 38700674 Pfd  
Riser, William R. 39908420 Pfc  
Peveler, Clarence 35813033 Pfc  
Perez, Alex 36977072 Pvt  
Above O & 7 EM TDy Rosenheim Germany to Dy as of Oct 29, 45  
Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Fy as of 30 Oct, 45

Nov 2, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Howell, Melvin C. 36684617 Sgt

Guess, Roy R. 38633579 Pfc

Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd as of 31 Oct, 45

Judy, Allen E. 33958185 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 31 Oct, 45

Jeffers, Delmar A. 37771202 Pfc

Dy to enroute to fur

Nov 3, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

O'Hagan, Charles V. 42190142 Pfc

Dy to enroute to fur

Ballard, John T. 34931750 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 1 nov, 45

Spratlin, William R. (Inf) 02017916 2d Lt

TDy 42d Inf Div Hq (I & E) to sk 122d med

Bn (LD) as of 1 Nov, 45

Nov 4, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

No Change

Nov 5, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Tabor, John B. 39412595 PFC

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 2 Nov 45

Klettlinger, Frank Jr. 35853631 Pfc

Cochkran, Elmer 35887997 Pfd

Hood, Billy E. 38525764 Pfc

Above 3 EM to TDy Army Rest Ctr Rome Italy (Duration 5 days) as of 4 Nov, 45

Walker, David 39474173 Pfc

Fur (10 days) to enroute Jn

O'Hagan, Charles V. 42190142 Pfc

Jeffers, Delmer A. 37771202 Pfc

Above 2 EM Enroute to fur to Fur (7 days)

Cheek, James 37522225 Pfc

Dy to DS 42d Inf Div Band par 13 SO 185 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 1 Nov 45

Buedefeldt, George W. 35299405 Pfc

Trfd to 132d Sig Co par 17 SO 185Hq 42d Inf Div as of 4 Nov, 45

Nov 6, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Ballard, John T. 34931750 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 3 Nov, 45

Parrish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc

Crocker, Rual. R. 37613088 Pfc

Above 2 EM Fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

Brewester, Henry M. Jr. 34931532 Pfc

Johnson, Luther E. 33908655 Pfc

Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd as of 3 Nov, 45

Nov 7, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Miller, Chrls P. 32740949 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 5 Nov, 45

Nov 8, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Parrish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc

Crocker, Rual R. 37613088 Pfc

Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd as of 7 Nov, 45

Mountford, William J. 34678620 Pfc

Dy to Ds TSF Uk base Sec par 12 SO 187 Hq 42d inf as of 3 Nov, 45

Nov 9, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Miller, Charles P. 32740949 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 7 Nov 45

Tabor, John B. 39412595 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 6 Nov, 45

Perez, Joe Jr. 38676081 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d MKed Bn (LD) as of 7 Nov, 45

Nov 10, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Rhodes, Charles D. Jr. (Inf) 0551028 2d Lt

Trfd to Sv Co this Regt par 4 SO 138 Hq 232d Inf as of 9 Nov 45

Nelson, Wayne L. 37754479 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 8 Nov, 45

#### RECORD OF EVENTS

1 to 10 Nov 45 incl usual company duties

Nov 11, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

No change

Nov 12, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Jeffers, Delmar A. 37771202 Pfc

O'Hagan, Chkarles V. 42190142 Pfc

Above 2 EM Fur (7 days) to enroute to Jn

Nov 13, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Suckow, Clarence H. 36981664 Sgt

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 10 Nov, 45

Nelson, Wayne L. 37754479 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 10 Nov, 45

Francis, Oscar A. Jr. 39412640 Pfc

Hays, Donald C. 39337048 Pfc

Cressel, Leon F. 31242194 Pfc

Above 3 EM Dy to DS 250 FA Bn par 4 SO 190 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 7 Nov, 45

Klettlinger, Frank Jr. 35853631 Pfc

Cochran, Elmer 35887997 Pfc

Hood, Billy E. 38525764 Pfc

Above 3 EM TDy to Rome Italy to Dy

Nov 14, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc

Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 11 Nov, 45  
Bausman, Lawrence D. 37696802 Pfc  
Dy to TDy RS 7. Ft Sheridqn ILL 930 days Rest & Recuperation) as of 10 Nov, 45  
Perez, Joe Jr. 3867 6081 Pfc  
Suckow, Clarence H. 36981664 Sgt  
Above 2 EM Sk 122d MKed Bn (LD) to Dy as of 12 Nov, 45  
Sharkey, Herbert E. 31342215 S/Sgt  
Pace, Charles D. 37748686 Pfc  
Above 2 EM Dy to Honorable Disch to inlist in RA, AR 615-365 & WD Cir 310 (1945)

Nov 15, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Cramer, George A. 16174425 Sgt  
Holley, Thomas E. 38631518 Pfc  
Above 2 EM TDy (Rainbow Univ) to dy as of 12 Nov 45  
Stark, Wilbur C. 37556504 S/Sgt  
Werkheiser, Kenneth L. 33836832 Pfc  
Panczykowski, Ernest A. 42140118 Pfc  
O'Brien, Thomas E. 31466173 Pfc  
Hiser, William R. 39908420 Pfc  
Above 5 EM TDy to Dy as of 12 Nov, 45  
Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
Dy to enroute to fur  
Sharkey, Herbert E. 31342215 Pfc  
ASR 49 Phy C1 "Q" Race W  
Pace, Charles D. 37748686 Pfc  
ASR 31 Phy C1 "Q" Race W.  
Above 2 EM Atchd Unasgd by enlistment  
CONTINUATION  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
In RA par 1 SO 142 Hq 232d Inf

Nov 16, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Whitfield, Harold 38701061 Pfc  
Trfd to 693 FA Bn APO 578 par 6 SO 195 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 13 Nov, 45

Nov 17, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
Enroute to fur to fur as of 15 Nov, 45  
Peveler, Clarence M. 35813033 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 61 FH (LD) as of 14 Nov, 45  
O'Hagan, Charles V. 42190142 Pfc  
Jeffers, Delmar, A. 37771202 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Hn to Jd as of 16 Nov 45  
Jones, Wayland H. (INF) 01081775 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
Dy to TDy Hq 71<sup>st</sup> Inf Div

Nov 18, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
No Change

Nov 19, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Dowling, Edward J. Jr. 35795383 T/Sgt  
Dy to enroute to fur (7 days) as of 18 Nov, 45  
Klettlinger, Frank Jr. 35853631 Pfc  
Dy to DS 742d Ord Co (LM) par 14 SO 194 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Shank, Ralph W. 33501628 Pfc  
Dy to TDy Nurnburg, Germany as of 15 Nov 45  
Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
Enroute to fur to fur (10 days UK)  
Tussey, Arthur E. 39415168 Pfc  
Dy to TDy Rome Italy

Nov 20, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Nolan, Alfred M. 35840826 Pfc  
TDy Warton Amer Tech School, Warton England to Dy as of 17 Nov, 45  
Shenk, Ralph W. 33501628 Pfc  
Dy to TDy Nurnburg Germany as of 15 Nov, 45  
SHOULD BE  
Shenk, Ralph W. 33501628 Pfc  
TDy Rainbow Univ to TDy Nurnburg, Germany as of 15 Nov, 45  
Schmoker, Paul L. 37740390 Pfc  
Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
Above 2 EM dy to enroute to fur as of 19 Nov 45  
Walker, David V. 39474173 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to jd as of 10 Nov 45  
Halas, Edward C. 33601547 T/Sgt  
Soodik, Isidor 32872764 S/Sg  
Dooley, Joseph J. 33621009 S/Sgt  
Causey, Joseph M. 34916229 Pfc  
Mitchell, George F. 35853557 Pfc  
Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pfc  
Above 6 EM dy to honorable Discharge to enlist in RA, par AR 615-365 & WD Cir 310 (1945)  
RECORD OF EVENTS  
L1 to 20 Nov 45 incl: usual company duties

Nov 22, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Schmoker, Paul L. 37740390 Pfc  
Enroute to fur to fur (7 days Paris)  
Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
Enroute to fur to fur (10 days Riveria)

Nov 23

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Jones, Wayland H. (INF) 010081775 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
TDy Hq 71 Inf Div to dy as of 22 Nov, 45

Nov 24, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Munch, James L. 37600210 Sgt  
Dy to Sk 1222d Med Bn (LD) as of 21 Nov, 45  
Gust, Roy P. 37749608 Pfc  
Mo in Sv 13  
Myers, John R. 33907348 Pfc



Mo in Sv 13  
 Okum, David M. 42190085 Pfc  
 Mo In Sv 13  
 Above 3 EM Trfd to 250 FA Bn APO 578  
 Par 2 SO 2 SO 147 Hq 232d Inf  
 Serrtage, Wilfred G. 36967057 Pfc  
 Williams, Earl E. 35083916 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM Trfd to Hq Co 42d Inf Div par 8 SO 200 Hq 42 Inf Div as of 22 Nov, 45  
 Salem John D. (INF) 0551698 1st Lt  
 Race W. comp ORC asgd & Jd fr Hq Co 3rd Bn par 4 SO 147 Hq 232d Inf Duty Plt Comdr (1542) ASR 47 No Eff  
 Unknown, PhyC1  
 CONTINUATION  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 "Q" Yr born 1922  
 Burr, Donald f. (INF) 0554643 1st Lt  
 Race W cop ORC asgd & Jd fr Co L par 5 SO 147 Hq 232d Inf Duty Co (1542) ASR 59 No Eff Unknown. Phy C1  
 "Q" yr born 1922

Nov 25, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 No Change  
 Nov 26, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Alletson, Glenn H. 31466734 Pfc  
 Dy to enroute to fur as of 24 Nov, 45  
 Rosenbach, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 124th Gen Hosp (LD) as of 23 Nov, 45  
 Soodik, Isidor 32872764 S/Sgt  
 Mitchell, George F. 35853557 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM Atchd unasgd Trfd to 6903 re Inf Depot Cp Herbert Tareyton Le Harve, France par 2SO148 Hq  
 232d Inf  
 Perry, Ralph 38668986 Pfc  
 Atchd Unasgd Trfd to 6903 /reinf Depot Cp Herbert Tareyton, Le Harve, France par 4 SO 148 Hq 232d Inf  
 Wells, Boyden 36895157 Pfc  
 Whitescarver, Paul S. Jr. 42119424 Pfc  
 Perez, Alex 36977072 Pvt  
 CONTINUATION  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Above 3 EM Trfd to Co B this Regt par SO 148 Hq 232d Inf  
 ??anbooyer, Geral E 38574238 Pfc  
 ??an, Lawrence F. 37751309 Pfc  
 Crocker, David V. 39474173 Pfc  
 Perez, Anthony 42019778 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM dy to honorable Kisch to enlist in RA par Ar 615-365 & WD Cir 310, 1945  
 Berube, Philippe A. 31432174 Pfc  
 Hardgrove, Robert B. 38039114 Pfc  
 ??che William D. 44031262 Pfc  
 ??sell, Hershel N 34349646 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM Trfd to 280 FA Bn APO 541 par SO 149 Hq 232d Inf

Nov 27, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Rosenback, Lloyd D. 37708454 Pfc  
 Sk 124th Gen Hosp (LD) to dy as of 23 Nov, 45  
 Cwik, Walter J. 13147142 Pfc Finocchiaro, Salvatore 37649972 Pfc  
 Moore, George R. 33907312 Pfc

Griffith, Burlen D. 38679012 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM Dy to TDy Rainbow Univ as of 23 Nov, 45  
 Risenhoover, Gerel E. 38574238 Pfc  
 ASR Phy 22 C1 "Q" Race W  
 Torrez, Anthony 42019778 Pfc  
 ASR 36 Pjhy C1 "Q" Race W  
 Urban, Lawrence F. 37751309 Pfc  
 ASR 30 Phy C1 "Q" Race W  
 Walker, David V. 39474175 Pfc  
 ASR 30 Phy C1 "Q" Race W  
 Above 4 EM Atchd Unasgd to enlistment in RA par 2 SO 150 Hq 232d Inf

Nov 28, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Altherr, Joseph A. 35657014 Sgt  
 Enroute to fur to Fur (10 days UK)  
 Dowling, Edward J. Jr 35795383 T/Sgt  
 Fur (7 days Switz) to enroute to jn  
 DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc  
 Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to dy as of 24 Nov 45  
 Crabtree, William E. 44041932 Pfc  
 DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc  
 Gooch, Lewis D. 33862009 Pfc  
 Sorrell, Harold H. 35829656 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM dy to honorable Disch to enlist in RA per AR 615-365- & WD Cir 310 (1945)  
 Reese, Everett B. 32805523 Pvt  
 Arr in Qtrs to Conf 42d Inf Div Stockade as of 27 Nov, 45  
 Micu, Eli D. 35839208 S/Sgt  
 Trfd to 975 FA Bn APO 578 par 1 SO 204

Nov 29, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Tesch, Ivor J. 37574698 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 26 Nov, 45  
 Halas, Edward C. 33601547 T/Sgt  
 Dooley, Joseph J. 33621009 S/Sgt  
 Causey, Joseph M. 34916229 Pfc  
 Above 3 EM (attchd Unasgd) trfd to 6903 Reinf Bn Cp Herbert Tareyton, Le Harve, France par 4 SO 150 Hq 232d Inf  
 Sloan, Phillip G. 39581325 Pfc  
 Brenner, Everett H. 31466692 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM tfd to 132d Sig Co par 6 SO 201 Hq 42d Inf Div  
 Crabtree, William E. 44041932 Pfc  
 DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc  
 Gooch, Lewis D. 33862009 Pfc  
 Sorrell, Harold B. 35829656 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM all Race W Atchd Unasgd by enlistment to Hq par 1 SO 152 Hq 232d Inf all Phy C1 "Q"  
 Schmoker, Paul L. 37740390 Pfc  
 Fur (7 days Paris) to enroute to Jn  
 Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
 Fur (10 days UK) to enroute to Jn  
 Forshaw, Robert J. 42123279 Pfc  
 Paul, John W. 44036000 Pfc  
 Ellis, Wiley L. 44012846 Pfc  
 Nolan, Alfred M. 35840826 Pfc  
 Thibodeaux, Raky J. 38414156 Pfc

Morgan, Henry 35087734 Pfc  
 Hood, Billy E. 38525764 Pfc  
 Johnson, Wesley, L. 33908623 Pfc  
 Derar, Juan J L 39857696 Pfc  
 Kaplan, Alfred 42184026 Pfc  
 Above 10 EM Trfd to Co I this Regt par 10 SO 150 Hq 232d Inf as of 27 Nov, 45  
 CORRECTION 28 NOV 45  
 Altherr, Joseph A. 35657014 Sgt  
 Enroute to Fur to Fur (10 days UK)  
 SHOULD BE  
 Alle(tson, Glenn H. 31466734 Pfc Enroute to Fur (10 days UK)

Nov 30, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Anderson, Ralph W. 39726034 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 27 Nov 45  
 Elia, James V. 33920361 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 27 Nov 45

Dec 1, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Davis, Ezra J. 38488118 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 28 Nov, 45  
 Hill, Robert A 42120760 Pfc  
 Panczykowski, Ernest 42140118 Pfc  
 Schmitz, Earl J. 16157764 Pfc  
 Above 3 EM dy to Trfd to Hq Co 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Div  
 Par 20 SO 205, Hq 42d Inf Div KDCMR 30 Nov 45.  
 Robertson, Charles Q. 38668977 Pfc  
 Dy to enroute to Fur  
 CORRECTION 29 NOV 45  
 Dooley, Joseph J. 33621009 S/Sgt.  
 Attchd Unasgd to 6903 Reinf Bn CP Herbert  
 Tareyton, Le Harve, France par A SO 150 Hq 232d Inf SHOULD BE DELETED  
 Arnold, Riochard D (Inf) 0532742 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
 Dy to Ds 3d Bn Linz Austria par 12 SO 206 Hq  
 42d Inf Dty as of 28 Nov, 45

Dec 2, 45  
 Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
 Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
 Fur (10 days Riviera) to enroute Jn

Dec 3, 45  
 Childress, Clinton A. 33857909 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 29 Nov, 45  
 Moore, George R. Jr 33907312 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of 29 Nov, 45  
 Tussey, Arthur E. 39415168 Pfc  
 TDy Rome Italy to Dy as of 1 Dec, 45  
 Dowling, Edward J. Jr. 35795383 T/Sgt  
 Enroute to Jn to Jd as of 1 Dec, 45  
 Shumaker, Paul L. 3774 0390 Pfc  
 Enroute to Jn to Jd as of 2 Dec, 45  
 Tussey, Arthur K. 39415168 Pfc

Dy to DS TSF UK Base Sec par 18 SO 207 Hq  
 42d Inf Div as of 2 Dec, 45  
 Eisenhower, GERAL E. 38574238 Pfc  
 Torrez, Anthony 42019778 Pfc  
 (Aschd Unasgd) Trfd to 6903d Reinf Bn Cp  
 Herbert Tareyton, Le Harve France par SO  
 154 Hq 212d Inf (on the Above 2 EM  
 Holcombe, Clark P. 34813871 Sgt  
 Dy to Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) as of 30 Nov, 45  
 CORRECTION 1 DEC, 45  
 Robertson, Charles Q 38668977 Pfc  
 Dy to enroute to Fur Should be deleted.

Dec 4, 45  
 Bischofsheim, Austria XA 1383  
 Klia, James V. 33920361 Pfc  
 Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 29 Nov, 45  
 Nusbaum, Ralph W. 15122130 Pfc  
 Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 1 Dec, 45  
 Young, Nelson 35082187 Pfc  
 Houghtalin, Phillip B. 42123273 Pfc  
 Above 2 EM dy to enroute to Fur  
 Spratlin, William R. (INF) 2017916 2d Lt  
 Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to TDy Hq 42d Inf  
 Div (I & E) as of 27 Nov, 45  
 Fluker, Thomas A. Jr (INF) 0415855 Capt  
 Dy to TDy MG Det H, 1. R. as of 23, 45

Dec 5, 45  
 Bischofsheim, Austria XA 1383  
 Nusbaum, Ralph W. 15122130 Pfc  
 Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 2 Dec, 45  
 Holcombe, Clark P. 34813871 Sgt  
 Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 2 Dec, 45  
 Tesch, Ivor J. 37574698 Pfc  
 Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 2 Dec, 45  
 Creager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc  
 Dy enroute to Fur

Dec 6, 45  
 Bischofsheim, Austria XA 1383  
 Munch, James L. 37600210 Sgt  
 Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 3 Dec, 45  
 Bolibrzuch, Joseph 42140116 Pfc  
 Mellett, Elmer F. 32599467 Pfc  
 Tabor, John B. 39412595 Pfc  
 Above 4 EM trfd to 524 MPBn APO 777 par 9  
 SO 209 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 5 Dec 45  
 Jones, Wayland H. (INF) 01081775 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
 Trfd to 524 MP Bn APO 777 par 9 SO 209 Hq 42d Inf Div as of 5 Dec, 45  
 Ridinger, George H. (INF) 02555070 2dLt.  
 Dy to enroute to Lv  
 Graben, Henry F. 440334326 Pfc  
 Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Sgt  
 Williams, Johnnie L. 38677640 Pfc  
 Lake, Craig J. 39918902 S./Sgt

Above 4 EM Dy to enroute to Fur

Dec 6, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Urban, Lawrence F. 37751309 Pfc  
(Atchd Unasgd) trfd to 6903 Reing Bn Cp 156 Hq 232d Inf.

Dec 7, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Moore, George R. Jr. 33907312 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of 4 Dec, 45  
Heck, Robert R. (INF) 02018515 2dLt  
Trtfd to Sv Co this Reg par 7, SO 157 Bn 232d Inf as of 5 Dec, 45  
Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to Jd as of 5 Dec, 45  
Williams, Norman 16175734 Pfc  
Trfd to Cp Herbert Taryeton Le Harve France  
Par 1 SO 211Hq 42s Inf Div  
Creager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (7 days Paris)  
Young, Nelson 35082187 Pfc  
Houghtalin, Philip B. 42123273 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Fur to Fur (10 days Riviera)  
Jerkins, Calvin C. 34999387 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to Jc as of 5 Dec, 45  
Robertson, Charles Q 38668977 Pfc  
Dy to enroute to Fur  
Paveler, Clarence M. 35813033 Pfc  
Sk 61<sup>st</sup> FH (LD) to Dy as of 4 Dec, 45

Dec 8, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Whipkey, Warren R. 33402610 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of 6 Dec, 45  
Ford, William A. Jr 33887514 Pfc  
Dy to Ds 34 PRS par 18 SO 211 Hq 42d Inf Div  
As of 4 Dec 45  
O'Hagen, Charles V. 421901142 Pfc  
Trfd to Hq Cp 3d Bn this Regt par 5 SO 158 Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 7, 45  
Gunn, Edward F. Jr. 33595030 Tec 5  
Trfd to Co I this Regt par 5 SO 158 Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 7, 45  
Schultz, William 32996707 Tec 4  
Trfd to Hq Co this Retg par 5 SO 158 Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 7, 45  
Graber, Henry F. 44034326 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (10 days Riviera)  
Ridinger, George R. (INF) 02555070 2dLt  
Enroute to Lv to Lv (10 days Riviera)  
Alletson, Glenn H. 31466734 Pfc  
Fur (10 days UK) to Enroute to Jn

Dec 9, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383

Brooks, Frank M. III 33794015 Cpl  
O'Brien, Thomas E. 31466173 Pfc  
Warner, Billy H. 35845035 Pfc  
Above 3 EM trfd to MP Plat 42d Inf Div par 2 SO 212 Hq 42d Inf Div



Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Sgt  
Williams, Johnnie L. 38677640 Pfc  
Lake, Craig J. 39918902 S/Sgt  
Above 3 EM enroute to Fur to Fur (7daysSwitz)  
CORRECTION 29 NOV, 45  
Sgt Present for Duty 14 Sick 1 Should be Sgt present for Duty 13 Tdy 1 sick 1

Dec 10, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Whipkey, Warren R. 33402610 Pfc  
Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) to Sk 124 Gen Hosp (LD) as of Dec6, 45  
Walker, David V 39474173 Pfc  
Crabtree, William K. 44041932 Pfc  
Gooch, Lewis D. 33865548 Pfc  
DePelecyn, William E. 36845548 Pfc  
Sorrall, Harold R. 35829656 Pfc  
Above 5 EM (attchd undgd) trfd to 6903 Bn Inf Cp Herbert Tareyton Le Harve, France par 1 SO 159 Hq 232d Inf  
Burr, Donald F. (INF) 0554643 1stLt  
Trfd to Co L this Regt par 7 SO 159 Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 8, 45  
Cheek, James 37522225 Pfc  
DS 42d Inf Div Band to trfd to 42d Inf Div Band 13 AO 213 Hq 42d Inf Div.  
RECORD OF EVENTS 1 To 10 Dec, 45 incl usual company duties

Dec 11, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Nelms, Oscar D. 34839130 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn NBI FS Nasal bone, Lac over eye, Fight. LD pending as of Dec 8, 45  
Robertson, Charles Q. 38668977 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to fur (7 days Swiss)

Dec 12, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Crocker, Ruel R. 37613008 Pfc  
Dy to Sk 122 Med Bn (LD) as of Dec 10, 45  
Sullivan, Dennis F. 32862761 Sgt  
LaBombardi, Joseph A. 32867523 Sgt  
Casper, Irwin D.  
Above 3 EM trfd to 302d Inf 94 Inf Div par 7 SO 158 Hq 232d Inf  
Davis, Ezra J. 3848118 Pfc  
Gelsthorpe, Leland L. 36672615 Pfc  
Above 2 EM trfd to 280 FA Bn APO 541 par A SO  
161Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 11, 345

Dec 13, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Troub, Leland E. 36978747 Pfc  
Trfd to 42d QM par 12 SO 216 Hq 42d Inf Div as of Dec 12, 45

Dec 14  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Bryant, Homer D. 34651172 Tec Sgt  
Trfd to Hq UsFA (AG Sec ) par 9n SO 216 Hq 42d Inf div  
Reager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc  
Fur (7 days Paris to enroute to Jn.  
Crocker, Ruel B. 37613086 Pfc

**Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Dec 13,45**

**Dec 15, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**Vieira, James 31430884 Pfc**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Dec 13, 45**

**Dec 16, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**No Change**

**Dec 17, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**Much, James L. 37600210 Sgt**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Dec 13**

**Vieira, James 31430884 Pfc**

**Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Sk 124<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp  
(LD) as of Dec 13, 45**

**Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Sgt**

**Williams Johnnie L. 38677640 Pfc**

**Lake, Craig J. 39918902 S/Sgt**

**Above 3 EM Fur (7 days Swiss) to enroute to jn**

**Creager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc**

**Enroute to Jn to Jd**

**Young, Nelson 35082187 Pfc**

**Houghtalin, Philip B. 42123273 Pfc**

**Above 2 EM Fur (10 days UK) to enroute to Jn**

**Nassoiy, Eugene F. 42095923 Pfc**

**Ds 42d Inf Div (SSO) to trfd to Cp**

**Herbert Tareyton Le Harve France par 1 SO 213 Hq 42d Inf Div as of Dec 10, 45**

**Dec 18, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**Creager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc**

**Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Dec 15, 45**

**Robertson, Charles Q. 38668977 Pfc**

**Fur (7 days Swiss) to enroute to Jn**

**Graben, Henry F. 44034326 Pfc**

**Fur (10 days Riviera) to enroute to Jn**

**Ridinger, George R. INF 02555070 2d Lt**

**Ord Lv (10 days Riviera) to enroute to Jn**

**Alletson, Glkenn H. 31466734 Pfc**

**Enroute tgo jn to Jd**

**Dec 19, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**Butler, William B. 33860901 Pfc**

**Dy to Enroute to Fur**

**Lake, Craig J. 39918902 S/Sgt**

**Williams, Johnnie L. 38677640 Pfc**

**Refling, Jack G. 16153004 Sgt**

**Above 3 EM enroute to Jn to Jd**

**Dec 20, 45**

**Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383**

**Chyman, Yu Q 42057762 Pfc**

Dy to enroute to Fur  
Leach, Charles V. 33887454 Pfc  
Dy to Tdy Rome Italy as of Dec 17, 45  
Mountford, William J. 34678620 Pfc  
Tussey, Arthur E. 39415168 Pfc  
Above 2 EM DS TSF Uk Base to Dy as of Dec 13, 45

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

11 to 20 Dec 45 incl usual company duties

Dec 21, 45

Robertson, Charles Q 38668977 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to Jd  
Neal, Walter E. 35839390 S/Sgt  
ASR 58. AsR inv=creaded fr 53 awarded BSM Sec II Gen O #212 Hq 42d Inf Div as of Dec 17, 45

Dec 22, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Creager, Daniel C. 35917128 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Dec 20, 45  
Owens, Dewey A. 33887410 Pfc  
Dy to Tdy Rome Italy as of Dec 20, 45  
Ford, William A. Jr. 33887514 Pfc  
DS 34 PRS to trfd to 34 PRS Salzburg Austria par 7 SO 224 Hq 42d Inf Div  
Tracy, Thomas J. (INF) 02010788 2d Lt  
Comp AUS Dy 1542 YB 22 ASR 65 Mas 33 PQ  
Race White EDCMR 21 Dec Asgd & Jd fr Co I this Regt par 1 SO 167 Hq 232d Inf as of Dec 21, 45  
Butler, Willilam B. 33860901 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (7 days Paris)

Dec 23, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Graben, Henry F. 44034326 Pfc  
Enroute to Jn to Jd  
Ridinger, George R. (INF) 02555070 2d Lt

Dec 24, 45

Hanshaw, William B. 35085369 Pfc  
Dy to enroute to Fur  
Falato, John S. 33815402Pfc 745  
ASR 36  
ASR increaded fr 36 Awarded BSM Sec I Gen O #245 Gq 42d Ubf /duv as if /dec 18m 45

Dec 25, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
No Change

Dec 26, 45

Chyman Yu Q 42057762 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (10 days Riviera) as of Dec 24, 45  
**CORRECTION**  
Falato, John S. 33815402 Pfc  
ASR 36  
ASR inc fr 31 awarded BSM Sec I GQ 215 Hq 42d Inf Div as of Dec 18, 45

Dec 27, 45

Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Nelms, Oscar F. 34839130 Pfc

Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Dec 24.  
Childress, Clinton A. 33857909 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn to (LD) Dy as of Dec 23,45  
Mc Kissack, Earnest W. 38669009 S/Sgt  
Dy to Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) as of Dec 24  
Davis, Ezara 38488118 Pfc  
Sk 122d Med Bn to Dy as of Dec 11,45  
Spratllin, William R. (INF) 02017916 2dLt  
Ds Rainvbow Univ to Dy as of Dec 25, 45  
Young, Nelson 35082187 Pfc  
Houghtlin, Philip B. 42123273 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Jn to Jd as of Dec 23,45  
Keusch, David L. 11132978 Pfc  
Perez, Joe Jr 38676081 Pfc  
Above to EM enroute to fur

Dec 28, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
CORRERCTION  
Chyman, Yu Q. 42057762 Pfc  
Dy to enroute to fur  
SHOULD BE  
Deleted  
CORRECTION Dec 26, 45  
Chman, Yu Q. 42057762 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (10 days Riviera)  
SHOULD BE  
Deleted  
Bain, Jack L. 38697410 Pfc  
Trfd to Hq Co this Regt par 1 SO 171 Hq 232 Inf as of Dec 27, 45  
Parrish, Joseph R. 44011305 Pfc  
Dy to Tdy RS #4 Ft Bragg NC (30 days rest and recuperation)  
Hanshaw, William B. 35085369 Pfc  
Enroute to Fur to Fur (17 days Swiss)  
Peveler, Clarence M 35813033 Pfc  
Dy to Tdy Rome Italy

Dec 29, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Stetzler, Grant F. 33830665 Pfc  
Dy to Tdy Hq 42d Inf Div (AG Sec) as of Dec 23, 45  
Hess, Harley C. 37750074 Pfc  
Hulsey, Raymond R. 38571391 Pfc  
Above 2 EM enroute to Fur  
Butler, Willilam B. 33860901 Pfc  
Fur (7 days Paris) to enroute to Jn  
Mc Kissack, Earnest W. 38669009 S/Sgt  
Sk 122d Med Bn (LD) to Dy as of Dec 27, 45

Dec 30, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
No Change

Dec 31, 45  
Bischoshofen, Austria XA 1383  
Leach, Charles V. 33887454 Pfc

**Tdy Rome Italy to Dy as of Dec 28, 45**

**Perez, Joe Jr. 38676081 Pfc**

**Enroute to Fur to fur (10 days Rievera))**

**EDWARDS, Joseph D. (INF) 01339256 2d Lt 1542**

**Com AUS Dy 1542 YB 26 ASR 10 MAS 10 PQ**

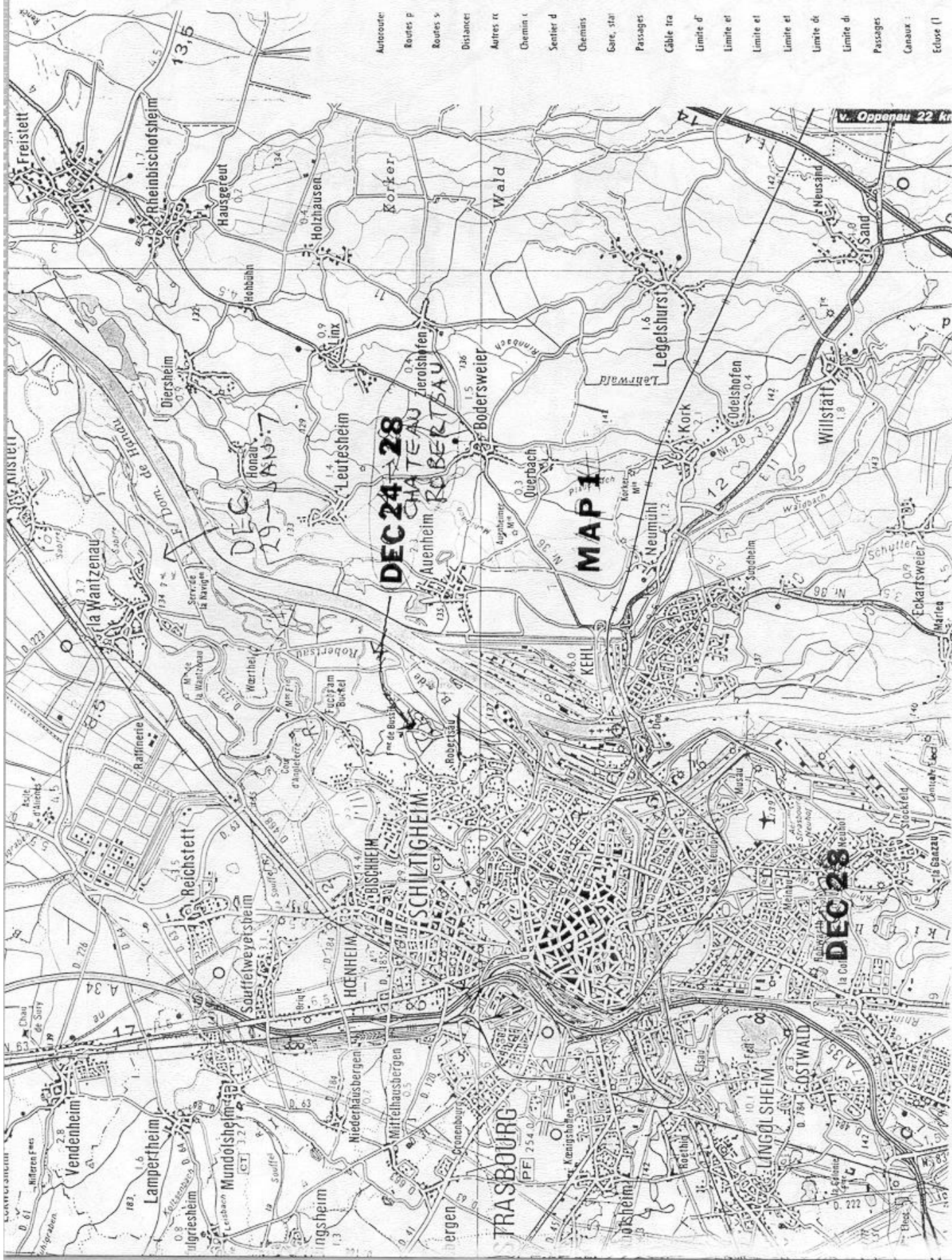
**Race W EDCMR Dec 28 Asgd & Jd fr 48 Inf Bn 17 ReInf, Depot APO 873 par 5 SO 299 Hq 42d Inf Div**

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

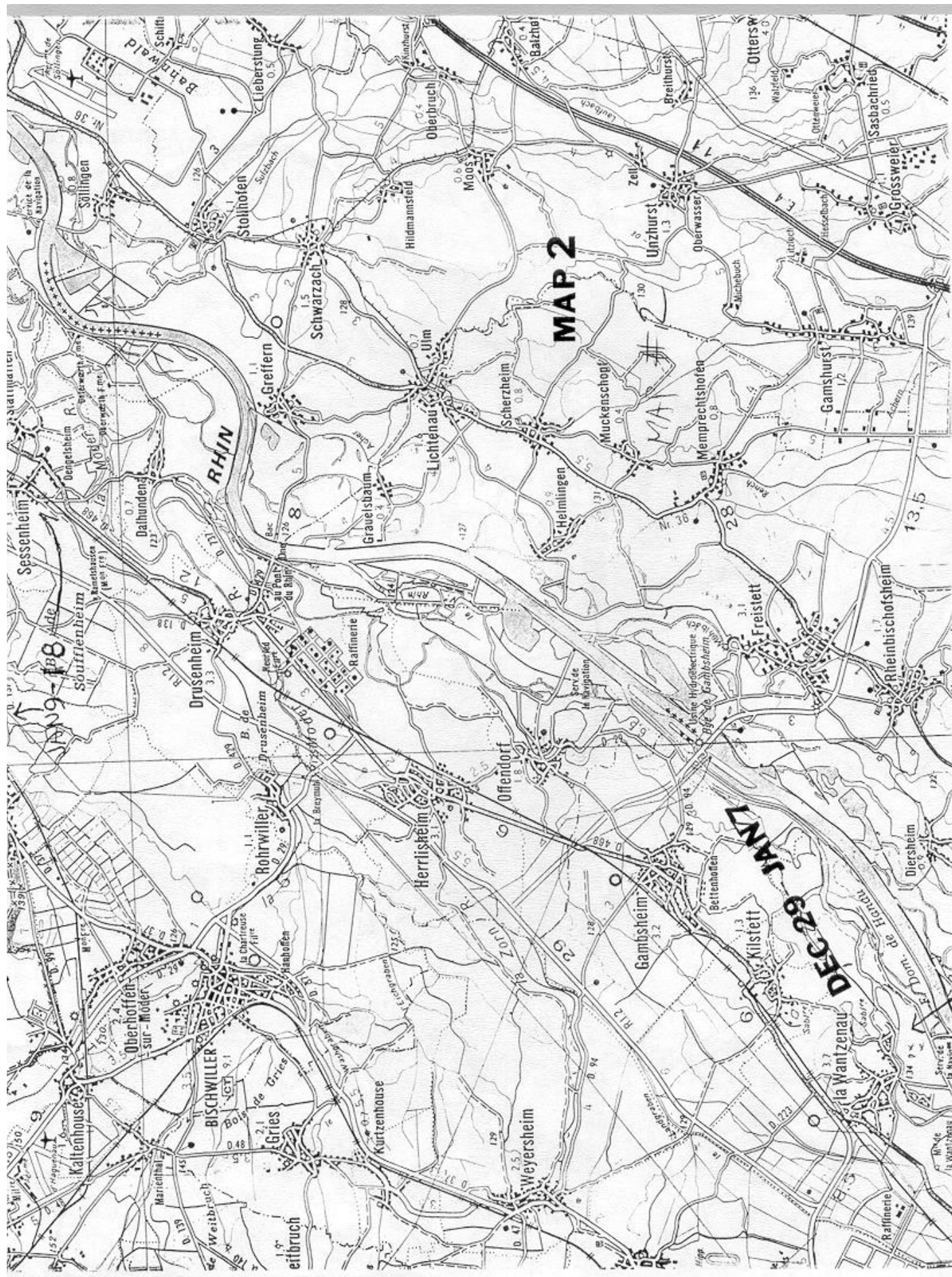
**21 Dec 45 to 31 Dec 45 Usual Orgn Duties**







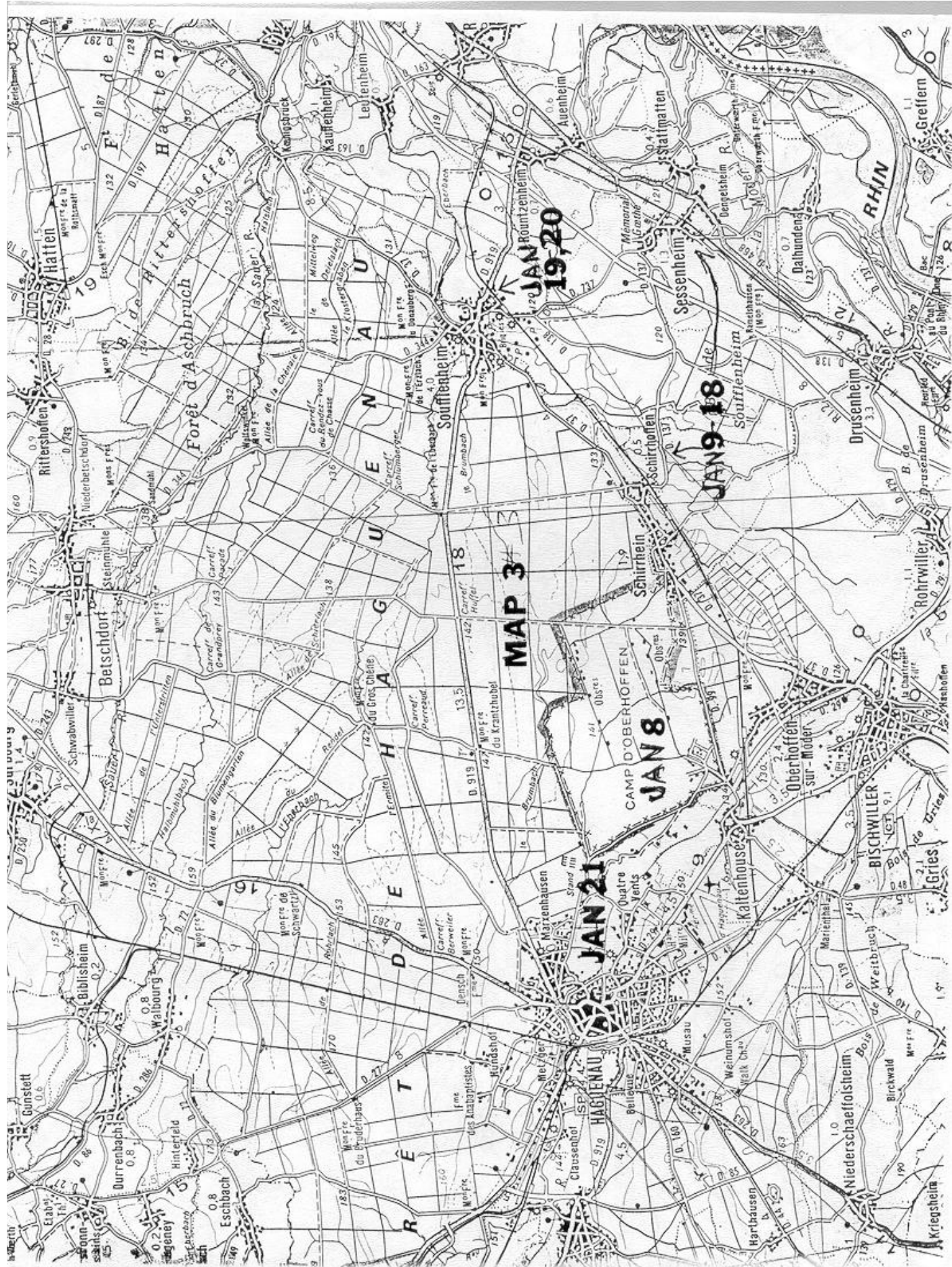
Autoroute  
Routes p  
Routes v  
Distances  
Autres r  
Chemins  
Sentier d  
Chemins  
Gare, stat  
Passages  
Câble tra  
Limite d  
Limite et  
Limite et  
Limite et  
Limite de  
Limite de  
Passages  
Canaux  
Écluse (1)



MAP 2

DEC 29 JAN 7





MAP 3

JAN 21

JAN 8

JAN 9-18

JAN 19-20

