

# **Company B, 25<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineer Battalion Unit History**

*The unit history was found in the National Archives and retyped by Jared Opalinski, grandson of Dewitt Green, 25th AEB. At this time the identity of the original authors/editors is unknown.*

# August, 1944

- 17<sup>th</sup>:** Arrived in bivouac 2 miles North of Arzano. Attached to Column D
- 18<sup>th</sup>:** N/C
- 19<sup>th</sup>:** N/C
- 20<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon with Task Force Brown to capture garrison at Carcaneau. Captured 90 prisoners.
- 21<sup>st</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon returned to Company
- 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Reconnaissance party with Task Force Brown to Carcaneau
- 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Received replacements
- 24<sup>th</sup>:** Attached to 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. Relieved 1 Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry outpost East of Caudan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon attached to 69<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion
- 25<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**26<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**27<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon rejoined company. Extended outpost line West of Caudan.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** 1 casualty evacuated. Lt. Nutter assigned and joined

**29<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**30<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**31<sup>st</sup>:** N/C

# September, 1944

**1<sup>st</sup>:** N/C

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** 3 casualties evacuated. N/C

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** 2 casualties evacuated. N/C

**4<sup>th</sup>:** 2 replacements joined company. N/C

**5<sup>th</sup>:** 2 casualties evacuated. N/C

**6<sup>th</sup>:** 1 replacement joined company. 1 casualty evacuated

**7<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**8<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**9<sup>th</sup>:** N/C

**10<sup>th</sup>:** 4 casualties evacuated. Pvt. Scott died before reaching hospital from shrapnel wounds. CP with 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved to Caudan.

- 11<sup>th</sup>:** N/C. 3 EM returned from hospital
- 12<sup>th</sup>:** 2 EM evacuated to hospital. N/C
- 13<sup>th</sup>:** 2 EM returned from hospital. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon relieved from outpost duty.
- 14<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Rouse wounded and evacuated. 2 replacements assigned and joined. N/C
- 15<sup>th</sup>:** N/C
- 16<sup>th</sup>:** Company together at Caudan, relieved from outpost duty by 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry.
- 17<sup>th</sup>:** N/C
- 18<sup>th</sup>:** Moved bivouac to 7636, 3 miles south of Plouay.
- 19<sup>th</sup>:** Preparing for move to vicinity of Orleans. En route to Colombey.
- 20<sup>th</sup>:** Arrived in the vicinity of Colombey.
- 21<sup>st</sup>:** South of Colombey

Company complete in bivouac with HQ & HQ Company preparing for move to vicinity of Gremacy. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon (Lt. Bodell) left bivouac 1930, 20<sup>th</sup> September with mission of reinforcing existing timber trestle bridge at Pettoncourt. Company left bivouac area at 1130, arrived at Gremacy Woods at 1800. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon at Pettoncourt with 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Bridge reinforced by adding bents and lateral bracing to hold division loads. Hauled gravel to improve approaches.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Gremacy Woods

Disposition of Platoons. No Change. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon with guard posts at bridge near Pettoncourt captured 17 prisoners after short gun fight. Sgt. Starke responsible for the efficient manner in which the capture was affected. Bridge maintenance continues.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon closed in Company bivouac in Gremacy Woods at 1500. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon remained at Pettoncourt after being relieved of maintenance duties. Mission to secure bridge in event of attack. Company in bivouac with situation unchanged. Rain has hampered any movement.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Mission and disposition unchanged. Rain continues.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Disposition unchanged. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon maintaining roads from Pettoncourt to RJ North of Gremacy. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons maintaining roads through Gremacy Forest. Traffic too heavy to haul materials in so drainage and brush in bad places is all that can be done. Company left bivouac at 1800 enroute to Brin-sur-Seille to build bridge across Seille River. Closed in Brin at 2100. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon outposting Company area and bridge site. Enemy situation unknown. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon with 10 trucks left Brin at 0930 for Engineer dump in vicinity of Hanaucourt to load and haul Bailey Bridge.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Disposition no change. Reconnaissance shows 160 spans necessary to bridge river. Building site very small.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Disposition and mission, no change. 160<sup>th</sup> T/D Bailey Bridge open for traffic at 0200. 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and attachments were first troops to cross. Relieved of responsibility for maintenance at 1300. Company left Bren to join Battalion in Division Assembly area in vicinity of Nancy at 1330. Joined Battalion on Nancy Airport (Tombaline) at 1500. Moved to billet 2 miles South of Tombaline at 1600.

- 28<sup>th</sup>:** Billets in 2 barns. Very unsatisfactory. Clean up and maintenance started. No engineer work done. 6 replacements received. 20 men volunteered as blood donors when daily blood bank did not arrive at field hospital.
- 29<sup>th</sup>:** Company left billets to move to new billets in Malzeville at 1500. 1 squad of each platoon filling craters and repairing road from Saulxures les Nancy to Tombaline. Closed in new billets at 1800.
- 30<sup>th</sup>:** Disposition and mission, no change. 1 squad per platoon continued road maintenance.

# October, 1944

- 1<sup>st</sup>:** Maintenance personnel and equipment stressed. No engineer work done
- 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Disposition no change. Maintenance of equipment continued.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Disposition no change. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Glasscock assigned and joined from Company C. 1 replacement received. Classes designed to give basic engineer work and knowledge held by platoons.
- 4<sup>th</sup>:** No Change. Training and maintenance continued during day. 1 platoon filled crater at entrance of Division Ordinance area.
- 5<sup>th</sup>:** 2 replacements assigned and joined. Training continued during the morning. Notices on soldiers voting day posted. Voting by Federal Ballot will be on 7 October.
- 6<sup>th</sup>:** No Change. 1 replacement assigned and joined.
- 7<sup>th</sup>:** No Change. Only one soldier voted by Federal Ballot. Sgt. Lund and Sgt. Clement went with mine roller platoon for engineering reconnaissance. Company attached to CCA at 1300. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon attached to TF Duvall. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon with TF McCarrison. Company (-) with CCA reserve (TF Wolfe).

- 8<sup>th</sup>:** Left billets at 0630 to CCA Assembly area near Leyer, closed at 1000. CCA supporting attack by CCB. CCA to attack through CCB in the morning. No engineer work done.
- 9<sup>th</sup>:** Attack started at 0630. Lt. Bodell on road reconnaissance to Chenicourt ran into German outpost. He and driver slightly wounded. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon followed leading elements of TF McCarrison in attack. Pvt. Schroeder KIA. Sgt. Pickerell LWA. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon with TF Duvall followed attack to objective, was responsible for 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division capturing 20 prisoners without firing a shot. Platoon outposts pinned down Germans from the rear, in foxholes while 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry troops overran their position from the flank. Company and TF moved to new position 1 mile South of Arroye-et-Han at 1100. TF returned to original assembly area South of Leye at 1900 after all objectives of the division had been secured. 1 replacement received.
- 10<sup>th</sup>:** CCA remains in the field as alert CC of the Division, with mission as Corps counter attack force. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon attached to TF Godfrey, Company (-) attached to TF Duvall. Started compiling data on defenses put in by 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
- 11<sup>th</sup>:** Moved company vehicles to best possible locations, put in phone to CCA. Set up kitchen in the field, layed out, repaired and opened routes to and from bivouac. Platoon leaders established liaison to respective TF. Tactical mission, no change. Engineer work, compilation of information secured from 35<sup>th</sup> Division.
- 12<sup>th</sup>:** Improved bivouac area, secured straw for bedding. Issued replacements clothing and equipment. Rehabilitation men, vehicles and equipment. Platoon officers made route reconnaissance of assigned sector. Tactical mission, no change. Continued compilation of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division information.

- 13<sup>th</sup>:** Made floors and walkways for kitchen CP at new location and moved them. Improved drainage in area. Checked Bridge Ot roadblock at DoniWartin. Typhoid shots given by Battalion Medics. Tactical mission no change. Engineer work, compiled information from 35<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Divisions given to TF commanders and relieving company commanders, A Company, 25<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineer Battalion.
- 14<sup>th</sup>:** Attached to CCA. Alerted Corps Reserve. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon attached to TF Godfrey, Company (-) attached to TF Duvall. Compiled information on friendly obstacles on probable front to be used by Combat Command. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work.
- 15<sup>th</sup>:** Compilation of information on friendly obstacles continued. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work done.
- 16<sup>th</sup>:** Compilation of information on friendly obstacles continued. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work done.
- 17<sup>th</sup>:** Compilation of information on friendly obstacles continued. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work done.
- 18<sup>th</sup>:** Relieved from attachment to CCA. Company attached to CCB. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon on attachment with TF Duvall. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon attached to covering force, to be used to cover TFs if and when moved to assembly areas. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon attached to TF Godfrey. Company HQ attached to TF Britian. CCB has mission supporting CCA in event of employment as Corps Reserves in this sector. Moved to billets at Lat St. Christophe. Rehabilitation of men, vehicles and equipment, improvement of existing billets. Check for French curfew violators. French persons violating blackout regulations were corrected. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work done.

- 19<sup>th</sup>:** Platoon officers made reconnaissance of individually assigned sectors. Received, compiled and gave information picked up on reconnaissance. Civilians causing suspicion near billets were checked for proper identification cards. No change in tactical mission. Engineer work, Platoon officers checked bridges in their assigned sectors.
- 20<sup>th</sup>:** Company maintenance section repaired movie generator for Special Services. Capt. Wolfe picked up abandoned jeep belonging to 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Tns and turned in to Battalion HQ, 25<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineer Battalion.
- 21<sup>st</sup>:** Dump trucks on gravel haul. Beautifying Division HQ. Coal secured for Company use. No change in tactical mission. No other engineer work.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Company officers checked flying bomb explosion area approximately one mile SW of Lay St. Christophe. Investigation of questionable civilian, civilian turned over to CIC for further investigation. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Trucks on gravel haul beautifying Division HQ. Kitchen walks and floor graveled in Company billet area. Tactical mission, no change. No other engineer work.
- 24<sup>th</sup>:** Trucks on gravel haul beautifying Division HQ. Walks graveled in Company billet area. Inspection by Maj. Johnson of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Red Cross Mobile Tulsa served the company. Installed and checked blackout blinds.
- 25<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Assumed responsibility for maintenance of the following bridges at 1600: Timber Trestle Bridge at 846175, 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved to that location, Timber Trestle Bridge at 820194, Double single Bailey Bridge at 848163, Timber Trestle Bridge at 858129. Lt. Nutter made reconnaissance for placing poles for electric lines to Division HQ.

Company B, 25th Armored Engineer Battalion Unit History

- 26<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Bridge maintenance continued. Electric poles placed 1000. 2 trucks hauling for Division HQ. Civilian problems and arguments occupy the orderly room most of the time. Starting 27<sup>th</sup> reveille at 0800 following by one half hour calisthenics, breakfast, parks and current events orientation period.
- 27<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Relieved of bridge maintenance by Company A. 2 trucks hauling for Division HQ.
- 28<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon experimenting the construction of treadway bridges using trailers to haul pontoons and soldiers already assembled from covered areas to the area. 2 trucks hauling for division HQ. Officers attended Division Officers meeting at the airport in Tombaline 1400.
- 29<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon building treadway bridge.
- 30<sup>th</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon building treadway bridge. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon on 5 mile hike.
- 31<sup>st</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Pay Day. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon building treadway bridge. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and HQ platoons on 5 mile hike.

# November, 1944

**1<sup>st</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Company on 5 mile hike. Pvt. Baker killed, non battle casualty. No engineer work done.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** No change in tactical mission or location. Company on 5 mile hike.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** No change in location. Company attached to CCA. Company on 5 mile hike.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** No change in location. Flame Throwers tested and riffled. Inventory take on all expendable equipment. No engineer work done.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** A large number of men attended the Catholic services in the church at Lay St. Christophe. After the service they all walked to the cemetery where a short liberation service was held and followed by a speech given by the Mayor of the town.

15 men under Lt. Nutter tested all of the flame throwers in the company. The afternoon was spent cleaning them and preparing new mixtures.

Protestant services were held in the afternoon in the first platoon room.

16 men of the 997<sup>th</sup> Treadway Bridge Company under Sgt. Grey joined us at Lay St. Christophe. The boys were very happy about getting into buildings after living in the rain and mud.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** The men were all issued the new GI bedroll. All the platoons had classes in the new type of German mines and booby traps. The rest of the day was spent checking over the Platoon equipment. In the evening 30 men attended the movie at Malzeville.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** 4 men from Battalion HQ and a water point joined the company. 50 men from the Company went for showers at Custines. The Company moral seems to be very low because the mail has been slow in arriving. Very little mail has come in during the past week. The Company Commander, Lt. Nutter, and Lt. Bodell spent most of the day at meetings preparing for the coming final drive on Germany.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** After reveille the Company was briefed on the campaign. This was the first time any of the men were told of the big drive that is to end the war before Christmas.

The morning was spent in final loading and preparations to leave our comfortable home at Lay St. Christophe. We left our billets 0900 in the morning and moved to 500 yards east of Eulmont. It rained during the short and uneventful march.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons left us at this point going to their respective task forces. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon under the command of Lt. Bodell went to TF Daniel. The 1<sup>st</sup> under Lt. Nutter went to TF Godfrey.

Lt. Hoffman from the 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion joined us as liaison officer for their Company B.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** The various task forces left the area after spending the night there. The company did not leave here until noon. The march went very slow and came to a halt in Leyr. We spent the night in this village. The river crossing at Clemery was flooded over and made the stream some 200 feet wider than was expected. This caused the delay in our first days operation.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The Company left Leyr at approximately 0900 and was to arrive at Nomeny by 1000 but due to the slow rate of march we arrived at 1200 that afternoon. The crossing at Nomeny was put in by another unit during the night of our stay at Leyr. The Company continued its march through Maily and Secourt. Just East of Secourt we bivouacked in the field for the night.

No word had come from the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had very little work until this evening when Lt. Bodell made a reconnaissance of the bridge site.

Company B of the 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion joined us today. They have been assigned as direct support of our company. Captain Slover is their Company Commander. Their duties will be to take over various bridges that our Company builds and other engineer tasks. Lt. Hoffman is liaison and has joined us several days ago.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon out in a 48 foot span of Treadway at Tragny. The platoon had some difficulty launching such a long span.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon until this time did not have any engineer work to do. They had been on the receiving end of some German artillery.

The morning Lt. Nutter, the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon leader was called forward to make a reconnaissance of the bridge at Han-sur-Nied. Sgt. Lukart, Tec 4 Geringer, Cpl Massingill, and Tec 5 Cunningham went with him. Arriving at the bridge the Lt. found it prepared for demolition. Lt. Nutter and Tec 5 Cunningham cut all the wires on the charges. After finishing this they began their way back across the bridge to the friendly side. The Germans fired on them with small arms and Lt. Nutter was hit and killed. Tec 5 Cunningham carried him across the bridge. Lt. Nutter and Tec 5 Cunningham will be recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Company left their bivouac area around 1200 and arrived in Luppy at 1500. The column was met by a short artillery barrage. We bivouacked just a short distance east of this town. Three more artillery shells landed in the area of the 248<sup>th</sup> Engineers. One man was killed and three others injured. Their 4 ton truck was hit. Pfc. O'Neal and Pfc. Smith were both evacuated to the 76<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion for treatment of shrapnel wounds.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon completed a 36 foot treadway bridge just south of Baudrecourt at 0900. Another job was in sight and the platoon moved north.

Company was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and stopped columns just East of Baudrecourt. The resistance both ground and artillery was too heavy to move to the bridge site.

While stopped at this point 8 shells landed within 5 feet of Captain Wolfe, Lt. Macklin of Company C, and Lt. Bodell of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Tec 5 Jackson, the company commanders peep driver was killed by these shells. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon remained in this position until night.

Lt. Schlenk took over the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. With their squads, Sgt. Balls and Powell finished the removal of a mine field which was gapped by the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon on the day before. They removed about 130 Regal mines. Sgt. Gilbert also of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon checked the bridge at Han-sur-Nied for anymore mines and for time bombs.

The Company stayed in the same area East of Luppy.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** Last night the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon built three bridges between Baudrecourt and Vatimont. There was occasional artillery fire. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon did not have any engineer jobs. They had been under artillery fire during most of the day and five men were evacuated as battle exhaustion cases. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon has been hauling rock on the bypass where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had erected their third bridge. Two squads of Company B, 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion took over the maintenance of these bridges.

The Company left their bivouac area East of Luppy at 1100. We moved into the village of Vatimont where the company set up its HQ for the night.

The Company received mail for the first time since the start of our drive.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon built another bridge this afternoon. A short span of about 15 feet. This bridge is between Vatimont and Arraincourt. After completing this bridge the third platoon returned to our billets in Vatimont and remained there for the night.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** The morning one squad of Company B, 248<sup>th</sup> Engineers removed the bridge between Vatimont and Arraincourt and installed a culvert in its place. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon hauled rocks and gravel for this culvert.

The company moved into the village of Arraincourt this noon along with five trucks of the 997<sup>th</sup> Treadway Bridge Company.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon rejoined TF Daniel, with them went one truck from the bridge company. They are in the village of Suisse.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon went to Mane and changed over to halftracks. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon returned to the Company area at Arraincourt.

The artillery has been set up very close to us. It is very noisy. There have been a few shells from the other end too.

We received our PX Rations today. Lt. Macklin and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of Company C joined our company this evening.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** The Company remained at Arraincourt for the second night. The artillery is still near us and just as loud. They still throw a few in our direction.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is removing road blocks and filling in shell craters between Arraincourt and Vatimont.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon took over outpost duty at the edge of Suisse and are guarding some prisoners. Pfc. Newkirk was hit by shell fragments this morning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is outpostting the town of Many. Three more trucks of the 997<sup>th</sup> Bridge Company today, we now have 8 trucks with us.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** The Company remained in the same village today. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon hauling rock filling in the road between Arraincourt and Suisse.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon remained in the Village of Many. Lt. Schlenk went along with TF Forest in his attack today. The men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon like their area very well. They were making cookies yesterday.

3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is still with TF Duvall, they took over outpost duties in the town of Londroff. Tec 5 Stamm was hit today by a shell fragment.

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of Company C, joined us today. Lt. O'Connor is the Platoon leader. They are billeted in the same village that we are in.

The morale of the Company had a great boost today. Seven bags of mail arrived with some of the first Christmas parcels. Everyone seems to be answering letters this evening.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Company HQ is still at Arraincourt. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon still working and maintaining the roads between Arraincourt and Suisse. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still at Mane. They must like it there except when the 88s start coming in.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is outpostting the town of Londroff, one more man was hit by shrapnel.

Word just came in that Company B, 248<sup>th</sup> Engineers are to leave our Company. Lt. Hoffman, their liaison officer, left for Lucy to contact their Battalion.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of Company C, which joined us yesterday is also helping the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon maintaining the road between Arraincourt and Suisse.

Three enemy aircraft were over today. Everyone opened up on them, no hits and only one run, must of been a lot of errors, however they did not return.

Capt. Wolfe was just out to make a reconnaissance of bridge South of Brulange. A combat command is expected to cross there in the morning.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** We are still in Arraincourt, seems to suit us fine, but we're wondering how long it will last. The kitchen truck was brought up from trains, tomorrow morning will be our first meal. Tis rumored that we will have hotcakes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is still maintaining road between Arraincourt and Suisse, they also have bridge to maintain at Suisse.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon came home to company today. They have a new assignment. They join TF Brown in the morning.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also came back to Company. We are all set to have a little reunion.

Two enemy aircraft was over again today, one of them was shot down, another was shot down a few minutes later. Two hits for today and no errors.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** A very quiet day was spent by the entire company with the men working on their vehicles and weapons. Protestant services were held with a large number of men attending.

The day was very warm, one of the nicest days we've had since we started on our drive, our Air Force was out today having the first opportunity in days.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was attached to TF Forest. They are to move out tomorrow morning. Lt. Schlenk reported to TF CP this evening.

Sgt. Welch and Wright, the reconnaissance section from Battalion HQ left Thursday morning (16<sup>th</sup>) on some road reconnaissance. They have not reported back as yet. Doubt rises in our thoughts whether they are prisoners or not.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe was appointed the Reserve Task Force Commander, Lt. Eide was also appointed Provost Marshall of the town of Arraincourt, his main duties are to keep the vehicles dispersed in this town.

Lt. Johnson and two men of his platoon checked the bridge at Brulange and the road between Arraincourt and Suisse.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon having early chow left to join TF Forest. They are under CCB.

We have the kitchen with us now, fresh eggs this morning, but alas they had to be scrambled.

A little mail came in this evening. Pvt. Hayduk making a special trip to get it delivered to the Company, a few more Christmas packages arrived.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have again been alerted. They will join TF Brown in the morning.

**21<sup>st</sup>:**

There was a little change in plans this morning. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon instead of joining Brown's TF, joined a small reconnaissance force consisting of Company D, 68<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 1 platoon Infantry and the tank dozer with Lt. Collins in charge. Everything went fine until reaching Hemering where first bridge was demolished. The platoon started work immediately. Some artillery was thrown in at the men. No casualties so far. Hope this luck holds out.

No word has been received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

One platoon of Company C is again attached to us. Lt. O'Connor is the leader of this platoon.

Special Service brought in some PX Rations, Lt. Ramsey being the SSO, has quite a time finding all the platoons.

The mail situation is still the same, very little mail is coming in.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:**

The platoon of Company C left early this morning for the area that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is in. There is a lot of engineer work to be done in this vicinity. One bridge is already built, a crater to be filled, a mine field to be cleared, a strip of road where trees have been layed and also another bridge to be built. Word has just come in that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have attempted to put this bridge across, but with little success. They were met by mortar and small arms fire. Cpl. Zandt was killed today and Kinnaman seriously wounded. Three others were hit but not seriously. They had to abandon some of their equipment.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon has taken a lot of artillery the last two days they are in the town of St. Jean Rohrback. They were attached to TF Le Grew. Sgt. Gilbert's squad pull outpost duty, guarding one of the bridges on the outskirts of this village.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon joined TF Duvall again today, seems like he can't along without the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. The 68<sup>th</sup> Tankers really think a lot of this Platoon. They are in the town of Frebouse.

Thanksgiving dinner was a little quiet today with only the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and HQ Platoon enjoying the dinner put out by our mess Sgt. Glosenger. Turkey was saved for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and was taken up the next day. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon rejoined TF Forest today in the town of Leyviller. Lt. Ramsey of Special Service was here again today, he was unable to locate 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon so left their rations with us.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon have run into some mine field clearing jobs. Three men were evacuated from the platoon today. Sgt. Ball, Player and Lash.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon have had it pretty easy the last couple of days, mostly like HQ Platoon just writing letters. A headache for censors.

We have a new attachment with us tonight, a platoon of engineers from the 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineers. They are in direct support of us.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:**

The Company minus 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is still in the town of Arraincourt. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is attached to TF Britton, they are moving out in the morning.

Cpl. Guyader was into the Company today bringing news that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had taken a lot of artillery fire the last two days. They are in the town of St. Jean Rohrback.

The Company HQ started to move this morning to Hemering but was turned around at Suisse as plans were changed. We returned to our CP at Arraincourt.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved out at 0800 this morning joining TF Britton. Bad luck has again hit the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Lt. Johnson and Sgt. Nisivoccia were both injured by shrapnel near the town of Leyviller. Sgt. Catanzaro and Tec 4 Gerringer again delivering the sad news driving down to Arraincourt through the rain.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still with TF Forest at Leyviller, a heavy shelling was carried out by the Germans with no casualties to this platoon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is still at Frebouse with Duvall. They filled in a crater, taken up a mine field and also laid another mine field for a road block during the night.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon also had a job of clearing a road block. A Captain leading Sgt. Gecan's squad and showing him where it was located was shot by a sniper.

They had to outpost this section during the night. The boys didn't like this very much.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The Company HQ moved along the route of Burlonge, Suisse, Londroff into the town of Gros Linquin where we now have our CP.

Lt. Eide returned with Sgt. Catanzaro today relieving Lt. Eide of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Lt. Eide returned to the Company CP.

We have a new vehicle in the Company known as the Weasel, Sgt. Kitchel going down to Battalion to drive it back to the Company. This is to be Capt. Wolfe's transportation, turning over his peep to Sgt. Starke who is liaison to CCA.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Today has been a pretty quiet day except for the noise of some of the artillery that is set just behind us. The Platoon also had it pretty easy today for a change with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon checking the roads for mines and clearing one road block. Lt. Bodell has been in a couple of times today wondering if he will have to use his platoon to help outpost the line North of Fernstriff. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon remained in their billets at Leyviller.

The platoon of 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineers here work on the road between Gros Tenquin and Leyviller.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** The platoon of 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineers have been released from us, and left for their Company this morning.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon joined the Company this morning. They were served a hot breakfast from the kitchen. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also joined the Company at noon today. We now have the entire Company together, the first time for quite awhile. It's the second time the Company has been together since Lay St. Cristophe.

The men have been busy cleaning the equipment and listing their shortages. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had two trucks hit by artillery Saturday and the trucks were returned today.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon traded vehicles with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. They now have their half tracks back. They were called out to join the TF at Fregbouse. They are checking the roads from Fregbouse to Lixing and other bypass for mines. They also found two craters. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was called up to fill these in. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon billeted at Lixing for the night and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon returned back to the Company.

The morale is pretty high today, a large number of letters came in, but Cpl. Ezelle still didn't get his letter, his morale is different – low.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved out this morning to join task forces. The 2<sup>nd</sup> joined TF Britton and the 3<sup>rd</sup> joined TF Kennedy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is still with TF Duvall. They all have had plenty of engineer work today. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon clearing roads for mines and clearing debris on the road East of Lixing. They have checked all the roads around Lixing, Vahl, Soning, and cleared the road South of Loning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon put in a treadway bridge and checked the roads around Biding for mines, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon repaired a culvert North of Leyviller and also put in a bridge just South of Cappel.

Company HQ moved their CP from Gros Tenquin to Leyviller, they are billeted in what looks like a PWE. Sgt. Glosenger, our mess sergeant had the misfortune of having a piece of glass fall out of a window and cutting a tendon in his wrist.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon along with TF Duvall moved into the town of Leyviller, they were over to the Company for chicken dinner, good chicken too. Sgt. Catanzaro along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad checked the culvert just South of town for demolition, it was reported that charges had been placed there during the night.

The engineer section is clearing the shoulders of debris North of town and also filling a crater just South of Cappel. They also put in a treadway bridge South of Altrippe last night. They also took the ring mounts up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon.

The maintenance section have been pretty busy repairing the platoon vehicles, putting new brakes and fixing flat tires, which is a very common thing around here.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is giving it fairly quiet in Barst. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is at Cappel. Lt. Bodell is making a reconnaissance of a crater Southeast of Hoste Bas.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon maintained the approaches East of Barst and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon filled in a crater and maintained the approaches of the treadway bridge that they built yesterday.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Company HQ and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon still here in Leyviller. The engineer section being out and clearing some roads of debris. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon have been checking up on mine reports and blowing mines, there is quite a few mines along some of these roads, they have been blowing them in places.

Cpl. Ezelle has been around to all the platoons getting payroll signed. The mail situation has improved considerably, even Ezelle has finally received some mail.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon have been repairing and putting ring mounts on the trucks with the aid of the maintenance section. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon removed some bombs which had been reported in their area and also made a reconnaissance of a road block North of Cappel which was also removed.

# December, 1944

**1<sup>st</sup>:** We are still in our billets at Leyviller. The maintenance is still busy fixing the vehicles of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. They have had a lot of trouble since three of the trucks have been hit.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon have been applying first echelon on their vehicles and tools and also keeping Lt. Peterson busy censoring their mail.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have had more road blocks to clear. They have been finding a lot of mines along the roads. They have been checking the roads East and Northeast of their billets.

The Company Commander held a meeting of all the officers, discussing little points that we have been slipping up on. Lt. Bodell just had orders to clear another road block in the road NE of his billets. Capt. Wolfe was up to CCA and on his return had a flat. I guess he will stick to the weasel from now on.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Company HQ and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon are still in their billets at Leyviller. There has been little work to do except for the maintenance section. They have been plenty busy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon doing first echelon work on their equipment. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon having been released from TF Duvall are now attached to TF Brown.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon traded vehicles again with Company C. They now have Company C's half tracks. The day was mostly spent in getting the tracks loaded and equipment issued out to the squads. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon having been released from TF Britton have now joined TF Wold.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have had more road blocks to clear, Northeast of their billets in Cappel.

They had a little incoming mail. Pvt. Dykstra was lightly wounded by shrapnel. This is the first that they have had in this town for two or three days.

The morale of the Company is very good as the mail is coming in very good now. The Company has received quite a few replacements the past week, they have been assigned to the various platoons.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Company HQ and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon remaining in the town of Leyviller. The Company maintenance are about the only ones that are really busy. Flat tires is the order of the day. They also received their 2 ½ ton truck. We hope that this will be large enough for them. PX Rations arrived from battalion today, they have been broken down to the Platoons.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is busy at first echelon work on their vehicles and equipment. They are also preparing to move out in the morning. Lt. Peterson, the platoon leader, attended a meeting at TF Brown's CP at Hilprich. Col. Brown is moving his CP to Henriville this afternoon. Lt. Peterson was to attend a meeting during the early evening at Henriville. The artillery had him a little worried, but made it OK. There was quite a bit of incoming stuff at Henriville during the evening.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is at Barst, also preparing to move out in the morning. They are joining TF Wall.

One new replacement and three of the older men rejoined us today.

This has been the first day the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have had it fairly easy. Most of the day was spent on cleaning their equipment. Lt. Bodell was down to the Company CP this evening. More engineer tasks were assigned to him for the next day. He is to check our various roads behind the two Task Forces.

**4<sup>th</sup>:**

The Company moved their CP via the route of Vallute, Cappel, Henriville into the town of Farschviller.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved out at 0530 and joined their task force at Henriville. They then moved out cross country, clearing a underpass of mines Southeast of Farebersviller and also cleared and swept the road leading East of Farebersviller and then South to Farschviller, few mines were encountered.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon moved out and joined their task force at 0600 this morning. They moved eastward toward Farschviller and Diebling, where they stopped for the night. They found very few mines but found most of the bridges mined. They cut all the wires leading to the charges. They cut the wires on one bridge in Farschviller and two in Diebling.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon followed along the road leading from Henriville to Farschviller, finding one crater just West of Farschviller. This Crater had quite a few S mines in the area. They swept a path to let the vehicles by until the crater was filled. A platoon of engineers from Company C relieved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and finished filling in the crater. One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon removed the bombs on the bridges where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had cut the mines. They joined the Company in the town of Farschviller.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Company HQ are pretty well set up in Farschviller. The kitchen served hot breakfast this morning for the HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons. Battalion HQ also joined in for dinner. They will continue to eat with us until they have their kitchen set up.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was relieved of TF Brown last night and joined TF Britton this morning. They moved to the town of Diebling. Have no reports on what this platoon has done today. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is also in the town of Diebling. They are still attached to TF Wall. No reports from this platoon have reached us today.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have swept the road for mines from Farschviller to Louperhouse and also made a reconnaissance of the road along the railroad tracks leading to Diebling. Lt. Bodell took two loads of rocks to the vicinity of Cadenbronn to fill in a crater.

Reports just came in from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon that they checked the roads of mines from Diebling to Ippling. They also removed the charges from the bridges of Ippling. They also checked the roads from Metzging North of Nauseviller, then South to Hundling. No reports of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon yet.

**6<sup>th</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon joined the Company for breakfast this morning. They have been working on their equipment. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is with TF Wall. They are checking the roads for mines between Ippling and Welferding.

Capt. Wolfe and Lt. Bodell made a little reconnaissance over looking the Saat River and Sarreguemines.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon run into a little trouble Southeast of Rouhling, having their half track knocked out and abandoning all of their equipment. One man was injured and another is missing. One squad and Lt. Schlenk are still in that area. The other two squads returning to the Company. On the way in they tipped the trailer over and another man was injured. The two squads arrived at 1700 today.

Sgt. Clement, engineer section leader, was out posting the towns of Cadenbronn, Mussviller, and Ippling today.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon having it very easy today. They were called out to put up a treadway bridge South of Metzging, but the order was cancelled again before they left the area. A lucky break.

**7<sup>th</sup>:**

The Company is now all together, the 2<sup>nd</sup> joining us last night. We are now under Battalion again having been released from CCA.

Sgt. Clement of the engineer section, was out again posting signs for the villages that are in our sector. They were stopped for a short while from enemy artillery fire on one road but made it through OK.

The maintenance section are still busy fixing flats and also busy working on the M-2.

All three of the platoons have been idle for the day. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon going for showers in the morning and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon going in the afternoon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon have been doing 1<sup>st</sup> echelon on their vehicles and weapons. One squad is short everything they have as it was all left on their vehicles that they had to abandon. No attempt as yet has been made to get their equipment.

Company B has orders to have a demonstration of the M-1 bridge equipment putting it across anti-tank ditch South of Loupershouse, Sgt. Clement is in charge. This demonstration is for all the NCO's and officers of the battalion.

The officers of the Company had a little meeting tonight, talking over happenings and the purpose training schedule and future road maintenance, each platoon was given a stretch of road to check each day and maintain.

Lt. Bodell and 4 men of the Company were picked to go to Paris on pass. They left this afternoon for Battalion HQ Company where they will spend the night. Tomorrow night will be at Division Admin. Center and will leave for Paris the next day.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** All three of the platoons left to check on various roads that have been assigned to them, and also to check all culverts and bridges in their area for demolition only. Only one squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was working on roads today. The other two squads left to take showers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have been hauling gravel and rock all day repairing the roads in their sector. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon constructed a treadway bridge on the road between Ipling and Welferding. The enemy threw in a few shells at them. No one was hurt and they got the bridge up in good time.

The NCO's of the Company minus those who was on detail went down to see the demonstration of M-1 Bridge. A little trouble was encountered as there was a bad approach and the ground being soft made it hard for the recovery vehicles to maneuver. The vehicles mired once tipping the bridge off. Another attempt was made which succeeded in getting the bridge in place.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** A very enjoyable hour was spent in getting our booster shots this morning. The platoons all left this morning to make their checks on roads and culverts. One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon swept shoulders of the road between Ippling and Welferding checking over the bridge they built yesterday. Lt. Macklen, who now is the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon leader made a reconnaissance of the bridge that is blown North of Welferding also finding a anti-personnel mine field just South of Welferding.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon hauling rock and gravel filling in the holes along the road in their sector. They had one large crater to fill in.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon removed an enemy road block North of the town of Rouhling. Also booby trapped some of the area in front of the infantry position.

This brings to a close another week of combat, which gains have been made against the enemy and with a large amount of engineer work done by the platoons.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons all made their morning reconnaissance of the roads in their sectors. One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon filling in small shell holes and Lt. Macklen making a further reconnaissance of the bridge that is blown just North of Welferding.

Lt. Schlenk along with his reconnaissance, checked on the half track that Sgt. Powell abandoned near Welferding. They were met in the town square by a mortar barrage. No one was hurt.

One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and Sgt. Steedle made their reconnaissance and also hauled rock and gravel on the road between Cadenbronn and Rouhling.

Lt. Schlenk, Lt. Macklen, Cpl. Guyader, Pvt. Melvin made a little reconnaissance of the half track that was abandoned. They made the trip successful, bringing back all of the mens sleeping bags. All the muzzette bags have been ripped. Most of the personal items are missing.

The equipment was pretty well scattered around over the bottom of the track.

Catholic services were held in the church in Farschviller. A large number of soldiers attended the services. Protestant services were held in the building joining our kitchen. This is the first Sunday the men have been able to attend services.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is still in their billets at Farschviller. The only engineer work to be done is maintaining the roads in various sectors. Each platoon sends out reconnaissance in the morning checking the roads and bridges and culverts for demolition. The platoons have all made their reconnaissance. One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is repairing the roads between Metzging and Dubling, filling in craters. Lt. Macklen making a further reconnaissance of the anti-personnel mine field just South of Welferding. He also found a anti-tank mine field, most of the information came from civilians in the town of Welferding.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon making their morning reconnaissance. No work was required on their roads, most of the day was spent working on equipment.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had one squad working on the roads in that sector.

18 men of the Company was instructed in the functioning and use of the rifle grenade, each man had 3 round of grenades for practice firing.

Two showings of the movie, Barvara Coast Gent, starring Wallace Berry, was shown in the Company area. A large attendance was at both showings. It's the first show since the Company left Ley St. Christophe, except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, which had seen the show while billeted in the town of Barst.

PX rations arrived again today, with Sgt. Deasy in charge of breaking them down to the platoons. Our five packs is still the weekly limit.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** All three of the platoons sent out their morning patrols to check the roads in the Company zone.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon sending only one squad to work on their roads. They are in good condition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon sending Sgt. Powell's squad and also a patrol grader to work on platoon's sector. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon made their check and all roads were OK. Lt. Col. Williams made a inspection of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon this afternoon. Everything was in fine shape.

The men returned from their trip to Paris. All seemed happy and say that Paris is quite a city.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons all made their morning reconnaissance and check roads, bridges and culverts in the Company zone. No work was done on the roads today.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon reconnaissance picked up one suspicious person near the town of Welferding. Friendly troops had reported a flare shot near this area. This area had been receiving some mortar and artillery fire.

PX rations was received from Lt. Ramsey, the SSO. Tec 5 Brantley has charge of the sale of these items.

A check was made by all platoons for individual clothing shortage.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was inspected by Maj. Luetzelschwab, remarks of the inspection were excellent, a surprise? Not at all.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** All platoons made their morning reconnaissance and check of all roads, bridges and culverts in the Company zone. No other work has been done today.

Lt. Col. Williams inspected the HQ Platoon checking all vehicles in the HQ section.

The maintenance section have been busy checking over all the peeps, checking all wheels and putting on new brakes. Sgt. Golden has checked all radios and all were in working order.

Lt. Macklen left us today going back to a hospital to have a operation, he will probably be gone for at least three weeks. We hope it won't be long before he is back with us again.

The maintenance section has a little more work to do with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon having an accident with their peep. No one was hurt except the peep. It is not wrecked too bad and they will soon have it going again.

We have a movie again tonight. The name of the show is "Laura," starring Gene Teirney. The first showing has a full house.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** The Company had their first formation since leaving Ley St. Christophe. The occasion being that Tec. 5 Cunningham received the Distinguished Service Cross. He is the first one in this Battalion, and the second one in the Division.

Lt. Nutter was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously. Tec. 5 Cunningham aided Lt. Nutter in cutting wires on the bridge, then after seeing Lt. Nutter wounded, carried him across the bridge to safety.

All the platoons made their check of the roads, bridges and culverts in the Company zone. One squad of each of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon having been working on the roads repairing some of the worst places.

Another show was held in our area this evening, showing the Falcon in Mexico. This was not as good as the other two shows held in the area. Capt. Wadsworth of Division HQ furnished the generator for the show. With our special service furnishing the projector and films.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons made their morning reconnaissance and check of the roads in the Company zone. The 3<sup>rd</sup> squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, hauled rock and drained water from the roads near Tentling and Cadenbronn. One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been hauling gravel at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division shower point.

The Company dozer returned today after having a armored cab put on by Battalion maintenance.

About 15 men went to Rechiling to take showers. This shower has a very good system of having a change of clean underwear and socks for the men.

This is the end of another week with the Company having it fairly easy, with maintaining the roads in the Company zone and inspection carried out by a member from the Battalion staff.

The morale has greatly increased the last few days as a lot of the delayed mail is now getting to us now, we hope it continues this way.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Both Catholic and Protestant services were held in the church in Farschviller and Protestant held in the village square.

All the platoons made their morning reconnaissance and checked roads, bridges in the Company zone. Tec 5 Piehi is still hauling gravel for the improvement of the walks around the shower point in Richeling. None of the squad did any work on the roads, all are in good condition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon held a conference discussing the latest pop out from the higher units of non-fraternization, of the German people, battle experiences and some of the latest mines used by the Germans that we have encountered on the fronts. Also different subjects to cover for the new men of the unit.

We had another show last night, the name, Hail The Conquering Hero. It was a very good film and enjoyed by everyone in the Company.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon held a half hour conference on non-fraternization with the German people. Also on censorship and a short quiz on mines.

On the Saar River we did do anything had a little class on MG. Each man stripped the three types of MG. This was dictated by Lt. Schlenk of the activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons all madder their morning reconnaissance and check of the roads in the Company zone. No other work was done on these roads. One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon checked the shoulders along the road leading from Theding North of the village of Faickling. No mines were encountered. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon held

squad lecture and machine gun function. This is a review for the old men and teaching the new men, the uses and function of the various types of weapons that we have. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been doing the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. HQ section has not been too busy outside of the maintenance section. They are checking over the vehicles.

PX rations arrived last night and were broken down to the platoons today. Our usual 5 packs were given to each man plus 3 Hershey bars, which is something we haven't seen for quite some time.

The Company enjoyed another show last night, the name, The Hairy Ape, a very good show and enjoyed by all. There is always a large attendance as units billeted here also enjoy the show we have.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The morning started off with the usual duties of all platoons making their morning reconnaissance and check of roads and bridges and culverts in the Company zone. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon continued their mission of checking the shoulders for mines of roads leading from Theding into Morsback all these are clear now. The 1<sup>st</sup> Squad uncovered a large bomb in the road block just South of Foickling. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad neutralized two booby traps found near the road about a half mile NW of Theding.

Some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon went to the showers South of Richling. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon sent one squad to repair a shell hole in the road between Cadenbronn and Rouhling. Also had more instruction in different types of enemy mines.

A USO show from 12<sup>th</sup> Corps was here in the afternoon having two performances. Company B and Company A took in the first show. The main feature being an exhibition of table tennis by Ruth Ewing and Pvt. Garrett. Miss Ewing is 4 times national champion and twice world champion table tennis player. Pvt. Garrett is also world champion. They put on a very fine exhibition.

**20<sup>th</sup>:**

There was little more activity in the Company today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon clearing the road South of Ippling of road blocks. They also found another mine field. The road is all cleared from Ippling through the woods. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon work on the road from Eberling to Cadenbronn. The engineer section also helped work on this road. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had a very quiet day today. All of the platoons made the check of their roads, bridges and culverts in the Company zone.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is outpostting the town of Farschviller, they have their outpost on the Southside while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is outpostting on the road leading North.

Lt. Eide left this morning for Nancy to purchase beer for the Company. Four barrels were brought back. We hope this is plenty. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went to Richling for showers today.

The Division Post Exchange gave the Company the first issue of Coke today. We received 90 bottles. They will be sold at three francs a bottle.

**21<sup>st</sup>:**

No special work was done today except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon completing clearing the road and shoulders of mines and the road leading South from Ippling, both Rigal and S mines were encountered. All platoons made their check of roads and bridges in the Company zone. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon going for showers in the afternoon and working on their equipment during the forenoon.

The Company held their beer party in the room joining the mess hall. An orchestra was here from Division SS to provide music. The party started about 1830 lasting until 2200, a very good time was had. It was a little cold for drinking beer, but the boys didn't mind the chills. Comments were made that the beer was good beer. The Coke was given to those who didn't care for beer. There is a few who don't drink yet. It all turns out well, with everyone having as much as they wanted. The orchestra playing some of the popular songs that are the latest hits. The orchestra stayed with the Company and will return to Lixing tomorrow.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** All the platoons made their morning reconnaissance and check of the roads, bridges and culverts in the Company zone. None of the platoons have any work for today. All of the having to work on their equipment during the forenoon.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon took over the outpost that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had on the road just North of town. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon joining CCR and moving to the village of Metzting. Where they will have an outpost there. The 1<sup>st</sup> Squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon still have their outpost South of town. Lt. Schlenk and Sgt. Powell have been on reconnaissance on various bridges in this area. Capt. Wolfe left this afternoon for Malzeville. Also returning the empty beer kegs to the brewery at Chimpjninlles. He will return tomorrow. Capt. Kron also accompanied Capt Wolfe to Malzeville. Hope they have a good time.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Company started the day with the usual activities, with the platoons making their morning reconnaissance and check of all the roads, bridges and culverts. Orders came from Battalion to start preparations for setting up two barriers in the reserve area.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon having the road from Diebling to Welferding. They now have all the bridges culverts prepared except for putting in the charges. Various other road blocks also are prepared and ready to be put into effect if necessary.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is working on the road going through Farschviller, Loupershouse to Pultelange. They did not complete their work on the various bridges. They have been working most of the day preparing holes for the charges. They have been using the air compressor to help break through the hard surface on the roads.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon being with CCR have been busy burning the crements left by various artillery battalions which were set up near Metzting. They are still outpostting the town of Metzting.

Word came in about 1630 to move out. There was a rush getting ready and we left Farschviller about 1830. The whole Battalion moved out and finally billeted in the Old OCS building at Metz.

The trip was rather cold as this is the coldest weather we have encountered so far. The ground was frozen enough to carry the vehicles. It was a very beautiful night with the sky clear and a nice moon shining. The column was able to travel a good rate of speed. We arrived at Metz about 2330 hours. It didn't take the Company long to find a place to bunk, so after a short while were asleep.

This brings to close another week for Company B. Not much work was done during the first of the week. The end bring on more work and plans to put up a defensive barriers in case of a counter offensive by the enemy. Saturday bringing on the trip from Farschviller to Metz, where we are billeted now; for how long, well that's another story.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** This brings the first morning in our new billets, biggest part of the morning was spent in reconnaissance of our area. Nothing much of interest was found until one of the men thought he had located a time bomb. A little more investigation found that it was some type of thermostat used by the Germans for their cooking units.

Immediately after dinner the Company loading up again, moving about three miles to some apartments which were assigned to us for billets. We have some pretty nice rooms and hoping we stay awhile.

Sgt. Pizzi received the Christmas menu of turkey today and is beginning preparation for our Christmas dinner. It looks like we are going to have another swell meal, this time the Company will be together.

Christmas Eve, in France, Christmas carols can be heard from the adjoining rooms, being sung by members of the Company, who have gathered together in small groups bringing the feeling of Christmas is here. Even though we are here in France. The hopes and prayers of all the men that next Christmas we may all be home to enjoy the holiday that they are missing this year. May there be peace on Earth and goodwill toward men.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The Company took a holiday today by starting the day with fresh eggs, sunny side up. What a treat for the men, and an apple for each man. A large number of men attended the services held in one of the churches here at Metz.

The dinner was served with turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, asparagus, cranberry sauce, peaches, raisin bread, coffee, cream and sugar on the menu. It was a very fine dinner and enjoyed by the entire Company. The doughnut wagon was also here and two of the Red Cross girls were invited to have dinner with us.

Cold turkey sandwiches were served at 1830 with hot coffee. We also had a show in the Company area showing Conflict, starring Humphrey Bogart. A very quiet day was enjoyed by the men with no work being done, except by the kitchen personnel who were busy preparing the dinner, our thanks go to them.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** The Company has been checking over the squad and platoon equipment. Also picking up their combat load of gas and rations. No other work has been done today and most of the men have been recuperating after yesterday's dinner. Three new replacements came in today, this puts our Company up to full strength.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** The morning was spent by some of the men going for showers, the rest of the morning was spent in preparing to move. No one seems to know just where we are going. The Company had early dinner and we started moving at 1230. Leaving Metz we headed North through Thoinville, then on to Luxemburg, into a small village of Gunderange.

The trip was uneventful, but everyone was on alert for any enemy air craft that might be around. We arrived at Gunderange at 1500, a few billets had been reserved but most of the boys had to find rooms. All got pretty well fixed except the kitchen, which moved into the fire house.

There was quite a few comments on the city of Luxembourg. The city is quite modern and looked a lot cleaner than some of cities we have passed through. The country is very beautiful and in this section, with the forest and all the surrounding field bring very clean appearance. There was a lot of difference in the highways in this country. They were a lot wider and better surfaced.

The weather is a little colder here than what we are used to. With a little snow and chilly weather it was pretty cold. The skies have been very clear and very bright moonlight nights which has given our aircraft to really go to work.

A new officer, Lt. Zwieg, joined our Company today, taking over the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon who have not had an officer since Lt. Macklen left.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The Company spent most of the forenoon getting situated, with some of the squads finding better rooms and also the kitchen finding a better place to cook in. Also the platoons spent some time in checking over their equipment setting up all the Fifty Cal machine guns for anti aircraft protection.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was alerted to help Company A put in some barriers along their zone, word came in later that they did not have to go out.

Capt. Wolfe made a couple trips to Division HQ, picking up a little information in regards to engineer work being done.

Word has been received that we would be moving in the morning to a new location. The Company received one bag of mail last night, mostly packages and a few V-mails. The mail is dropping off again, very little seems to be coming in to the Company.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** The Company started preparations for moving out this afternoon, as orders we changed from moving out at 0830 to 1545, most of the morning was spent in checking and getting equipment loaded.

Lt. Schlenk, Cpl. Guyader, Pvt. Melvin and Pfc. Frahm left at 0900 to find billets for the Company at St. Marie which is our destination.

The Company started moving out at 1540 with Battalion HQ leading the column. We followed the route through Bourglinster, Imbingen, Larenzweller, Mersch, Arlon, Vance, Eatalle and arrived at St. Marie at 1915. The ride was a little cold, with the skies clear and bright moon shining to which helped a lot in driving.

It didn't take the Company long to get settled as the billeting party had done a swell job in finding rooms for all of us with plenty room left.

We are now in Belgium, crossing the border shortly before arriving in the city of Arlon. We were met by the Belgium hospitality, something we haven't seen since in Brittany campaign. Their country is very beautiful even at the time of the year and it is well kept, which shows the pride the Belgians have for their country.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is pretty well set up and taking it pretty easy, mostly checking equipment and dispersing the vehicles and setting up the guns for anti-aircraft protection. No enemy planes were over today, but one did some flying around last night.

The dozer crew was alerted and proceeded to the town of Bastogne to clear the debris from the highways in the city. Upon arrival found that other engineers had already cleared the roads. They pulled back into the town of Longlier, where they are staying for the night. Sgt. Stark and Tec. 5 Bentley came down giving us their location.

Capt. Wolfe has made various trips on the different roads which the various combat commands expect to travel on. Two squads are alerted to haul sand to spread on any places where the road might become slippery and endanger traveling. Lt. Bodell is sending out reconnaissance to check on these roads this evening.

Guards have been placed on all roads leading into the Company area. The guard will be on duty both day and night stopping all vehicles at night and any suspicious vehicles during the day.

This brings to close another week which the Company has done quite a bit of traveling. From France into Luxemburg then to St. Marie in Belgium. This week has also brought on colder weather leaving behind all the mud we have been wading through the past two months.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons were both called out this morning to sand the roads where they had become slippery from the snow that fell last night. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon sanding a cut off linking the two highways East of Neafchateau. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon worked on the road between Etalle and Neafchateau. Lt. Zweig made a reconnaissance of the road leading to Bastogne from Arlon.

Catholic mass was held at 1000 in the village church with a large number attending. Protestant services were held in a vacant building at 1500. Both were largely attended by the men in the Company.

Tonight brings to close another year at war. A pleasant New Years was expected. We received orders at about 2200 to be prepared to move at 0330. Preparations were started immediately getting the chains and getting them put on vehicles. All will be ready for an early departure.

# January, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:** The Company awakened at 0300 and were ready to move at 0330. We left St. Marie at about 0400 following the route through Etalle, going North to Habay La Neuve leaving the highway at Anlier and going through the town of Louftemont, Winviller, Farvillers. Leaving this road and going to Remoiviller then North again to the village of Remichampagne. We arrived at about 1200 at Remichampagne. The trip was pretty cold and a lot of time was spent running around getting warm whenever the column halted. A lone enemy plane cut across our column twice during the night. He was low enough to be recognized as the German JU 88.

The kitchen set up immediately upon arriving and was serving turkey dinner by 1500. This was the only meal the kitchen served today.

The Company is fairly well set up, though it has not been as good as some of the places we have been. The men are all sleeping in hay lofts with the vehicles parked in the fields out of town. We are looking for better billets.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Everything is quiet this morning after the bombing last night. None fell in the town where the Company is billeted, though they did hit some of the units nearby.

The platoons are having it pretty quiet. Mostly first echelon on vehicles and equipment being in pretty bad shape had to be cleared up. Being in the reserve for the first time, there doesn't seem like there's very much to do except catching up on their correspondence so the censors have been fairly busy.

This morning is the coldest morning we have had yet. Rather hard to crawl out of our sacks but we made it. It was about 10 above. We are hoping it doesn't get below zero. At least one of our boys has his fingers crossed. Florida must be a nice state. This being Cpl. Ezelle's home state and his first experience with snow.

A large amount of mail was received today. This lot containing a large amount of letters, Christmas packages. We have also received a large amount of Christmas packages the past few days.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** This has been another day with very little activity. There being no engineer work to be done.

All the French Francs were turned in today for exchange to Belgium Francs. The money was turned in to Lt. Silver who will take it to the Division finance to make exchange. We will receive the Belgium Francs in a few days.

Lt. Eide completed reading the Articles of War to HQ platoon and to the others who had missed hearing them in the platoons.

The weather has warmed up quite a bit today with a little snow falling occasionally making the roads slippery again. We're expecting a little work for tomorrow sanding some of the roads in our area. Capt. Wolfe just returned from Battalion HQ with plans for a barrier system if the Germans should start another counter offensive in this area. Each of the officers is to make a reconnaissance of the planned roadblocks and reconnoiter for any other possible sites.

The officer has quite a time during the evening making fudge with Lt. Schlenk as chief cook and Lt. Bodell as bottle washer. The first three batches turned out fine, then Capt. Wolfe took over to show his results as a maker of fine candies. All of the ingredients were furnished by the kitchen so in turn gave them one batch of out delicious fudge. A good time was had by all.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** There was not much engineer work done during the day. The platoon leaders with the platoons mostly hauling sand on the various roads. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon hauled sand on the roads from Bastogne East to Neiffi and on the other highway leading from Bastogne towards Marnie, which is a small town off the main

highway. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is hauling sand and cinders from Bastogne piling it in small stacks along the road from Bastogne to Assenois. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon built a small drag and scraped the snow off the road from Assenois to Bastogne, then threw the sand and cinders which 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had put in stacks along the road.

The Company took over all the engineer responsibility that belongs to A and C Companies as these two companies have been committed as infantrymen. The platoon leaders were sent out on another reconnaissance checking the roads in Company A and C's sector for any slippery spots along the roads.

Capt Wolfe just returned from CCA with a job for the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon putting in two mine fields. One on the highway 3 miles East from Bastogne and the other just South of Mariue. The platoon left Remichampagne about 2230 and started laying the mines immediately. Lt. Zweig took Sgt. Gecan's squad to put in the mines field South of Mariue. Lt. Eide took the remainder of the platoon and layed the mine field on the main highway. They returned about 0330. After returning to Remichampagne we were told that breakfast would be at 0630 as the Company was moving out at 0830 to a new location. This left very little sleep for the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Better luck tomorrow night. The platoon took the nights work in stride, even if things were scary out in front of our friendly troops. There was very little activity during the nights. Some artillery going over head, also had the chance to see one of Jerries bus bombs at night. Some .50 Cal MG opened up on it but they failed to bring it down.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was waked for breakfast at 0600 and was ready to move at 0800. We left Remichampagne at 0830 following the reserve command. We are now billeted at about 400 yards North of the village of Assenois in a large grove of pine trees. It's a little chilly for pup tents. There is a few shacks left by the Jerries which we occupy for a CP and kitchen. Most of the morning was spent in digging fox holes.

Lt. Bodell and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon were alerted to move out in the front lines to relieve Lt. Canade's platoon from Company C. The platoon left the Company area about 2000. Lt. Canade leading them to where the exchange is to take place. There hasn't been any engineer work done today. The men have been busy mainly in fixing up the area, making lean toes and making themselves comfortable.

A little accident occurred this evening as Pfc. Kerschner was handing the machine gun up to Pvt. Short on the truck. Somehow the gun fired the bullet. The bullet passed through Kerschner's hand. Full details is not known yet. He was taken to the Battalion Medics.

Capt. Wolfe was called out again last night to report to CCA. Some how the message was mixed up by another unit. No sad news this time.

**6<sup>th</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and HQ Platoons were paid this morning. The men were paid in Belgian Francs.

Lt. Col. Williams and Lt. O'Connor were here at the Company. Another platoon was alerted to relieve O'Connor's platoon. The 1<sup>st</sup> was the one given this mission. Lt. Zweig and Lt. O'Connor went up to reconnoiter the position the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was to occupy. Lt. Zweig returning shortly after dinner and taking the platoons up to the front.

S/Sgt. Ringo returned to the Company today. He was injured while in the Company when the Company was on outpost guard at the city of Lorient. After traveling through various hospitals in France then England now joining the Company again in Belgium.

So far no word has been received from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. We hope that all is well. Tec. 5 Gish was one of the honored men today, being the lucky one to get a furlough back to the States. They took up a little collection in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and gave to Gish. We hope he has a swell time while at home.

This brings to close another week in Belgium, with some engineer work being done, mostly sanding and keeping the roads clear of any slippery spots. The latter part of the week leaving the engineer work and taking up the role of infantry. We hope this will not last too long as the men don't like being infantry. The weather has been pretty cold, warming up a little the latter part of the week.

**7<sup>th</sup>:**

Two of the platoons are still on the line. They are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still with the Company bivouac in the woods North of Assenois. Everything has been quiet this morning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon left at 1030 to relieve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon returned to the Company at 1300. The boys are pretty tired and cold, being on the front for two nights and one day.

The Company minus the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon moved back to the village of Remichampagne where we had some men holding various buildings for us.

Tec. 5 Brock brought word down that the enemy had broken through the lines and that everything was in a riot. Sgt. Gecan and Pvt. Murphy were hit by shrapnel. One squad had pulled out and brought the track back to the Company. Capt. Wolfe checking on the situation, found out that the enemy had broken through but were stopped again about 300 yards back of our front line position.

Lt. Eide returned with the tracks and with 12 men up to the front again. Sgt. Ringo took charge of these men and getting them in position for the attack in the morning. The situation was not as bad as it sounded when Brock had brought word down to us.

**8<sup>th</sup>:**

Everything seems to be back to normal again today. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is being returned to the Company today. A platoon of Company C is relieving them. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has a lot of stories to tell this evening. Eleven men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> squad had stayed in their positions along with Lt. Zweig and Sgt. Catanzaro. They were surrounded by Jerries and later on Corp artillery was called in on the woods occupied by the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. They say our artillery is terrific. They pulled back to the line held by the infantry just before our infantry attack started in the morning. Our artillery had made the Germans withdraw from the position they had taken during their attack. The 1<sup>st</sup> squad pulled back to the area occupied by the light tank company and gave their protection for the night. The 2<sup>nd</sup> squad had pulled back along with the infantry when the German's attack started. Some of the men of this squad returned to the Company last night, but were taken back to the front again.

The engineer section was called out to help dig in some artillery pieces. They were also called out during the night to scrape the snow off the road where the drifts had become so deep that vehicles were unable to get through. They have one more battery to dig in tomorrow.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon rejoined the Company this morning at 0930 being relieved by a platoon from Company C. The kitchen saved breakfast for them so they had a hot meal this morning. The Company is now all together in Remichampagne all having billets in various buildings in town.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was alerted to begin hauling sand on the roads leading East of Bastogne. They are also using the trucks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. They have quite a trip to make, having to go almost to Arlon where there is a shovel working for the sand.

The engineer section left early this morning to finish digging in the remaining battery of artillery. They returned from clearing snow drifts at 0230 this morning.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon relieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of hauling sand on the roads. They are using the trucks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons. They are sanding four of the roads leading East of Bastogne. The roads are in pretty good shape now with very few slippery spots on them.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons haven't been very busy today checking over their equipment in the morning and catching up on their correspondence.

The engineer section finished digging in the artillery emplacements and are back with the Company this evening. They had a few enemy shells land in the area that they were working in.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** 18 men of the Company went for showers this morning. This being about the coldest morning we have had. It was a cold ride.

None of the platoons are out on any engineer work today. Most of them just taking it easy and enjoying the cold weather.

Word was just brought in that we might have a job tomorrow helping to build shelters for the men on the front lines. A small shelter where the men may come in from the fox holes to get warm will help a lot.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left early this morning to start hauling sand on the roads East of Bastogne that were getting slippery. Lt. Schlenk made a reconnaissance of other roads. These roads were still in good shape. The rest of the platoons had meetings discussing the 7 orders of non-fraternization with the German people.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon left at 1700 hours to pick up the mine fields that they had layed about a week ago. In one field they picked up 90 mines where they only layed 44. They picked up 54 mines in the other field. Three mines were not found in this field. Sgt. Lund also picked up the six anti-personnel mines.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Bodell and Lt. Schlenk went out this morning to check over the roads in our sector. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon went out this morning to scrape the snow off the roads from Bastogne to Brsery and to put sand on the slippery places. All the other roads are in good shape.

Lt. Zweig and Sgt. Lukart went back to check over the mine field to see if they could find the three mines that were missing last night. They found them under about 4 feet of snow. So that field is all picked up again. All the mines that this Company has laid in the vicinity of Bastogne have been picked up.

This brings to close another week where the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon having a little action in their sector while outposting part of the front lines. Sgt. Gecan was hit by shrapnel and Pvt. Murphy and Pfc. Findlay are still missing.

Sgt. Gecan was located in an evacuation hospital.

Most of the engineer work this week has been clearing and sanding the snow covered roads in this area.

The weather in this vicinity has been cold with snow falling at various times.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is now attached to CCA, relieving Company C, who have been with CCA for quite awhile and deserves a little rest. All three of the platoons have been assigned to various task forces. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is with TF Brown.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is with TF LeGrew. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been assigned to TF Britton but is to remain with the Company as a reserve platoon and is to work on the roads following the task forces.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon joined their task force East of Bastogne. They had to make their billets out in the field. It was pretty chilly during the night. In the morning they moved back to Bastogne. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon also joined their task force. They had to help outpost the front line. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon stayed with the Company and will move to Bastogne in the morning. Company C is moving back into Remichampagne, occupying the buildings we have. Two platoons have already moved in taking over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon areas.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe, Sgt. Kitchel with three men left early this morning for Bastogne to look for billets for the Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. The Company moved out at 1100 hours arriving at our new billets at 1130. The Company went to work immediately cleaning up and moving in, the kitchen set up and started preparing supper.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had pulled back to Bastogne but moved out again later in the afternoon for Margaret where they again camped out in the field. The artillery has ruined most of the buildings in the villages so it's even hard to find a building for a CP. Neither the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon have done any engineer work.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been pretty busy hauling coal on the road between Margaret and Benonchamps. During the night they were again called out as supply were having trouble getting to the outpost. The engineer section with the dozer were also called out. After arriving to the designated place, they found they were not needed.

A few shells came in tonight landing in the center of town. None came close to where our Company is located. This city takes a shelling each evening.

PX rations came to the Company today. Sgt. Deasy broke them down and sent them out to the various platoons. It is rumored that more PX rations is at Battalion waiting for us to pick them up. These will be sold to the men upon arrival.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved out early this morning to build a small bridge over the creek just West of Benonchamps, and hauling more coal on the roads. During the afternoon they hauled on the roads North of the town of Benonchamps. The engineer section also worked on these same roads with the dozers scraping the snow off the roads.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons rejoined the Company again today. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon came in about 1300 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon came in about 1730. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon picked up two mine fields today. One East of Morive and a field that a platoon of Company C had layed. They were unable to find three mines. A detail will be making another check tomorrow.

PX rations arrived today from Battalion. They were divided up and given out to the platoons to be sold.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon after staying with the Company one night prepared to move out again. There is a little different arrangement this time. Instead of a platoon being with a task force, one squad was sent to each of the three task forces, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons in direct support. The 1<sup>st</sup> Squad with Sgt. Lukart as squad leader in charge went to TF LeGrew. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad with Sgt. Busher in charge is in with TF Brown. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad with Sgt. Stark is with TF Britton. All three of the squads left the Company about 1330. Lt. Zweig, the Platoon leader, taking each of the squads to their respective task forces.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons have both been busy hauling coal and cinders on the Bastonge-Longvilly road and on other roads in the combat command area.

The engineer section scraped the snow off the ground making an alternate route for the Combat Command MSR. Later on in the day Company C's dozer helped in widening the route.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons moved out early this morning to haul sand and salt the roads, also filling in the shell craters along the roads. During the afternoon Lt. Schlenk and Lt. Bodell made a reconnaissance of road blocks for a barrier system in the Combat Command zone.

No word has been received of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Two of the squads are still in Margaret and the other in Mont.

The engineer section was out again working on the road between Margaret and Longvilly.

Capt. Wolfe just returned from Battalion HQ, bringing more PX rations which is to be sold to the men in the Company.

Word just came in that one squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon will return to the Company this evening.

The weather seems to be taking a turn to the worse. It is snowing quite hard and with a high wind. Looks like there will be lots of work for us tomorrow.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The weather is really bad this morning with a high wind and plenty of snow drifts.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons left at 0700 this morning to start clearing the drifts off the roads. The engineer section also went out this morning. Company C's dozer arrived in the afternoon to help scrape the roads. They were to come during the morning but were delayed. HQ Company's snow plan also had trouble getting here. The roads were really in bad shape this morning, but all are still open for traffic in the Combat Command area.

Something has gone wrong with the mail again. There hasn't been any mail the last couple of days and is rumored no mail for another seven days. Here goes my morale. We hope the rumor is wrong and it starts coming in soon.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons have again been pretty busy today. Also the dozer from Company C scraping the snow drifts off the roads from the storm that we had again last night. All the roads are in good shape this evening. This afternoon Company C's dozer and crew which is attached to our Company, cleared an air strip for Divarty. The frequent snow storms and high winds has made a lot of work for the engineers. They have done a good job in keeping the roads open for traffic.

Tonight brings to close another week of cold weather in Belgium. All the work has been keeping the roads open for traffic. Most of it has been hauling sand and scraping the snow drifts off the roads. We hope the following week will be better weather.

**21<sup>st</sup>:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons were called out early this morning, also the engineer section to clear the roads of snow drifts from Longvilly through Moinet to Troine then on to Haffelt. These roads were also swept for mines. The two platoons returned to the Company for the noon meal. The 2<sup>nd</sup> went back to clear the road from the highway West of Allerborn then North to Troine. They returned to the Company about 1800. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left again at about 1500 to check the road from Winchrang to Troine then on to Haffelt for mines and snow drifts. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was assisted by the dozer crew to clear the road between Winchrang and Troine. There were no drifts along the road from Troine to Haffelt. They finished this mission about 2200 and then returned to the Company.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was again called out at about 2000 to help the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon clear the road and pick up a minefield in the vicinity of Tullonge. They completed their mission and returned to the Company at 0200 the following morning.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has been busy checking roads for their task forces. They checked the roads leading from Moinet to Boragues. De Troine then North to Troine, finding mines scattered throughout the various villages. Several vehicles have been knocked out by mines along alley ways and next to buildings.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is checking the roads North and West of Haffelt finding mines along the roads between Haffelt and Massen. They didn't get to Massen as the enemy began to shell the road just before getting into Massen. They found one mine road block along the road. This was cleared and the platoon returned to Weiller where they stayed for the night.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and 3<sup>rd</sup> did not go out this morning. At 0800 the Company received orders to move to Barague De Troine. The billeting party was unable to find any billets. We stopped and billeted in the woods during the day. During the early part of the evening Lt. Bodell found some buildings in Hinterhazel. The Company moved to this village at 1800.

Lt. Eide was called out for a reconnaissance going along with a patrol to check North of Massen. Lt. Eide returned to the Company at 0630 the following morning.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was called out at 0200 to put in a bridge South of Asselborn. They finished putting the bridge up and were held in Asselborn for any other mission that might be required. A bridge had been blown in Massen so the platoon was held for this job. They stayed there the whole day and returned to the Company at 1800.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was alerted and moved out at 1700 to put in a bypass to get across the creek in Massen. Lt. Eide taking the platoon up to Massen, a dozer from the 178<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion was already on the job. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon just improved the approaches and the places along the rail road tracks. They returned to the Company at about 0300 the following morning.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon have checked all the main streets through Massen and Troisvierges and to the farthest infantry outpost. They found a lot of mines in these villages. The Germans have done a good job of mining the streets and requires a lot of checking, especially in the villages.

**24<sup>th</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has been checking other roads and streets for mines in the villages of Massen and Troisvierges. Also checking the buildings for more mines and booby traps. Pvt. Palmer was injured from a mine, also one civilian. We don't have all the details of just what happened but the mine exploded injuring two persons.

The rest of the Company have had a rest today. The Company moved to the village of Weiler this afternoon, arriving about 1630. We are all settled and ready to go to work again. We hope we don't get called out tonight. The fog is so thick we almost have to cut our way through it.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** All is quiet this morning in our new area. No details to go out on and the platoons are taking it easy except for the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon which is still with the task force.

The Company received word that billets could be found in Troisvierges. A billeting party was sent out immediately. They found some pretty fair places and the Company moved shortly after dinner. We are all set up again in our new billets.

The engineer section was called out to clear some roads of snow drifts East of Troisvierges. They returned to our area at 1800.

Sgt. Gilbert took half of his squad to check on some demolition in the vicinity of town. One charge containing about 600 lbs. of explosives was found. They also investigated other reports of mines and booby traps in this area.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Eide was sent out on a billeting detail this morning to Derenbach for the Company. Seems like we make a move a day now. It's not so bad as long as its away from the front lines.

The Company left Troisvierges at 1130 and arrived at Derenbach at 1230. The Company is pretty well set up and is ready to start checking over equipment. One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is still out with TF Brown. They should return to the Company tonight.

There was no engineer work done today. Last night the dozer crew and two squads were called out to help the infantry cover fox holes and to clear a road so casualties could be evacuated. One unit was unable to get vehicles through. They returned about 0230 this morning.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Everything has been quiet today. No engineer work to do. The platoons have all been busy checking over their equipment and cleaning everything up in general. Sgt. Gilbert with his squad picked up a load of 3412 lumber near Weiler.

Yesterday along with CCA, the Company went into Division Reserve. We were figuring on a little rest, but today we were detached from CCA and to go back under Battalion control. We hope they don't find too much work for us to do now. The past week has been a busy week for us.

The beginning of the week we had some of the worst weather encountered with a heavy snow fall followed by high winds which drifted across all the roads. We had the job of clearing the roads for CCA and sanding them. As the week passed mines layed by the Jerries in the snow proved troublesome. This made additional work for us. Most of the mines were found in the villages of Massen and Troisvierges. The Germans have tried almost every way possible to lay these mines and to conceal them. In some cases they had done a very good job of it. Our move from Troisvierges to Derenbach brings to close another week for us here in Luxemburg.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is settled down pretty well in new billets. We are in the village of Derenbach, Luxemburg.

The three platoons have been busy checking over their equipment and doing 1<sup>st</sup> echelon work on all equipment including weapons, tools and other personal equipment. As yet, we haven't located a shower unit.

The engineer section was called out to clear the roads East and North of Clervaux to Hupperchange and Heinersheid. They returned at 0230 the following morning.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** The engineer section was called out again this morning to continue work on the roads Northeast of Clervaux, the roads in this section drifted pretty much and requiring a lot of work on them. They returned to the Company about 2000 this evening.

The rest of the Company haven't had much to do today. Mostly working on their vehicles and equipment. We have been wondering if we had a place where we could show movies, but the buildings are shot up so much that there is no place suitable for movies.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Company received a call this morning about nine bombs in the village of Nuilerwompack. Lt. Schlenk was given the mission to check on these bombs, which turned out to be two cans of nitro mine and two 88 shells.

The engineer section was called out again at noon to help clear some debris from the underpasses on the road South of Clervox. There was quite a bit of debris and took a little longer than expected. Lt. Eide took a relief crew out to them at 1800 and returned about 2200. Outside of getting stuck in a snow drift, all went well.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had a call to put up a treadway bridge just East of Bvevange where Battalion HQ is billeted. This was not much of a job as it only required 12 feet of bridge to span the ditch. They returned to the Company about 1600.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Today has been another quiet day for the Company. The platoons have mostly been catching up on their correspondence. A large amount of letters came in this morning and evening so the men will be busier than ever.

Capt. Clark, formerly ADE of this Battalion, who has been missing since the Division started their drive on Brest came over and gave us a short talk on some of his experiences being a prisoner. He was held on the island of Jersey. He had been a prisoner for about 5 ½ months and then on January 19<sup>th</sup> made his escape. He came up to Battalion for a short visit before going back to the States.

# February, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Today has been another quiet day for the Company. All that has been done is work on the individual tools and equipment. The shower unit was located today so about 40 men went to take showers. They returned this evening a little late for the show but felt a lot cleaner. The shower unit is about 12 miles from here near the village of Bouigne.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** The morning the Capt. made a short inspection of the tools and equipment in each platoon making a few remarks for the coming inspection by a member of the Battalion Staff.

Capt. Wolfe along with three men of the Company left this afternoon to go to Paris on pass.

The Company was paid this afternoon and Anderson is busy taking up money orders. The rest will probably be exchanging hands a few times.

The Company went for showers again this afternoon in Bouigne. They returned just in time for supper tonight.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** One squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon assembled and disassembled the ml bridge today. They are checking over to see if any of the parts are missing and to see if the parts are in good shape.

Another group of men left this afternoon for showers, this takes care of practically everyone in the Company.

We have been working on a show today but haven't had much success so far. Sgt. Deasy picked up the generator from Battalion and the projector and crew from SS office.

They have been having trouble to start the generator, so looks like a hopeless case for a show tonight.

This brings to a close another week of very little engineer work done. Platoons have been checking over and cleaning the equipment and vehicles and getting ready for our next move.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Protestant church services were held this morning for the Company. This is the first time in about three weeks the Company has had a chance to attend services.

The Company had is east today not doing any work, but word was brought down there would be work for us tomorrow. One job is to help Battalion HQ to police up the area assigned to them and to start burying the animals in our area.

Civil Affairs were over checking on some sick civilians that has been reported. Both civilians wanted transportation to get a Doctor from Wiltz. Everything is taken care of and all is quiet tonight.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** The Company started to work again today though some of the jobs were a little disagreeable.

Two squads of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon reported to Capt. Miller to help police up the area of all quartermaster, ordinance and signal equipment that has been left by troops. The rest of the platoon with the help of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon began collecting the dead carcasses around the town of Derenbach. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon policed up around in this general area all equipment. Three truck loads were found left by other troops.

The engineer section was sent to Obrawampach to bury the animals that had been collected at one point. They returned to the Company in the evening with more work for the next day in Nuderwampach and Schinpach.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** The engineer section left this morning to finish their job of burying the animals in Nuderwampach and Schinpach. The rest of the Company was busy cleaning up the town and then received word that we would have to move out. Trains were moving up taking over the town that we occupied.

Lt. Eide was called to Battalion HQ and received orders that we would have to build a Bailey Bridge over the Our River as soon as the infantry had secured a bridgehead. Lt. Bodell made a reconnaissance of the Bridge but didn't get to the main bridge. There has been quite a bit of discussion as to whether there is a 15 foot gap or a 85 foot gap. I guess in time we will find out.

The Company just received word to move to the town of Winchreng in the morning.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Eide left early this morning for Reserve Command HQ. Lt. Zweig also left early this morning to start sweeping the road from Kalborn to the river. They swept the entire road except for 200 yards from the bridge site. They spotted a few Germans across the river so they stopped work until the infantry got their bridgehead.

Lt. Bodell led the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons picking up the erection unit set at Battalion HQ and the Bailey Bridge trucks at Clervaux and brought them up to the vicinity of the Heinerschied where they waited the whole day being on the alert ready to put the Bailey Bridge up.

The situation hadn't improved at 1800 today so the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons went back to the town of Hupperdange to find billets to stay in for the night. The bridge trucks also going back to the same town.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon returned to the town of Heinerschied for the night.

During the evening different plans were made, turning the bridge building job over to 178<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon were made up into assault teams to go along with the infantry in attacking some pillboxes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon being attached to TF Brown and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to TF Britton. S/Sgt. Steedle with two squads was also attached to TF Brown to clear the road of mines from the river to the top of the hill. They moved out at 1800 today.

Lt. Bodell went back to the Company area to pick up some bangalore and flame throwers and Lt. Zweig went to Company A and C to pick up some flame throwers. They returned at 2400.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved out early this morning with the infantry to move across the footbridge and to gain a bridgehead so work could be started on the bridge. S/Sgt. Steedle and his two squads left the bridge site at an earlier hour and did get to the bridge site. They settled down in a small dugout the Germans had left.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon did not move out today. They are in the town of Hupperdange waiting orders.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon having it pretty rough with the Germans throwing plenty of artillery and mortars in their area. One pillbox was encountered. The flame throwers failed to work and they didn't capture this emplacement. Two men were killed in this operation by small arms and artillery. One man was injured by an S mine. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon stayed in the area all night.

Capt. Wolfe returned from his pass in Paris.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon moved out from Hupperdange early this morning and joining the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry across the river in Germany. They did not attack so the platoon found some dugout left by the Jerries and settled down again.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was relieved and pulled back to Heinerschied to rest up again. S/Sgt. Catanzaro returning and taking over the platoon. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also was relieved and they are also in this town.

The Company moved from Winchrage to Heinerschied this afternoon arriving at 1400.

The whole Company minus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon are now in Heinerschied.

The engineer section was called out to work on the road between Urspelt and Fishbach. This road is quite muddy and peeps were having trouble getting through

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons are in getting some rest. They are also checking over their equipment.

The engineer section was called out again to work on the road between Urspelt and Fishbach, and beyond to the river crossing. They received quite a bit of artillery fire East of Fishbach on their way back from the river. They were also called down to the Bailey Bridge site. During the morning a mortar shell had hit the bridge and shortly after a tank dozer had tried to go across. The bridge buckled in the middle. A platoon of Company C was to finish demolishing the bridge so a new bridge could be built. Lt. Canada tried all evening to blow the bridge till we sent a detail down to help him out as his men were getting tired.

The Company has been quite busy this past week and quite a bit under rough conditions but have come through pretty good considering all they went through.

The weather has changed considerably this past week, melting all the snow so the maintenance is busy again fixing flats as the roads are covered with shell fragments. The fragments cause a lot of tire trouble.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was relieved from TF Britton and returned to the Company at Heinerschied after spending two days and nights in fox holes on German soil. They are taking it easy getting a little rest from being out so long.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon are checking their equipment and getting organized again. Tec 5 Muschla is working on the flame throwers getting them all in working order. Sgt. Catanzaro went down to the foot bridge site and picked up some of the equipment left there by the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon.

The Company was given the mission this evening of making trails for peeps so that units can haul supplies to the units across the river. So far they have had to carry all their supplies and the terrain being in rough condition makes it a job of supplying their units.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Sgt. Ringo left this morning to make a reconnaissance of the existing trails across the river. He returned just before dinner. Lt. Bodell with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was given the mission of making these trails wide enough so peeps could travel along them.

Lt. Schlenk has the mission of putting in some booby traps for an engineer battalion that is on the line as infantry. Lt. Schlenk with two of his men attempted to go down the trail leading from Fishbach to the river crossing. This trail is covered by machine gun fire and mortar fire. One peep was hit with shrapnel and had four casualties. Lt. Schlenk returned to find a new route to this area. He returned to the Company just before dark and plans to leave early in the morning to finish his mission.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon went out again this morning to finish up the work on the trails. There's quite a bit of work to be done. Sgt. Ringo made another reconnaissance to see if these trails can be connected with the lower bridge crossing site.

Lt. Schlenk left early this morning with two men to install some booby traps for the other engineer unit. They returned about 1400 after installing 15 booby traps.

Lt. Zweig also made a reconnaissance for another unit about installing some booby traps. They returned later after talking the unit into that no booby traps were needed in that area.

Everybody returned this evening tired. Seems like tramping over these hills and woods is pretty rough job in itself. The terrain around here is very rough. The Germans are getting most of the roads zeroed in so a person almost has to run a gauntlet of fire to get from one place to another.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** More work was done on peep trails on the East side of the Our River today by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Sgt. Ringo made another reconnaissance on the South flank. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoons were cleaning equipment and giving the men a much needed rest. Although this is a frontline town, and the view of the German lines is excellent, we have been bothered very little by German shelling. The chow has been exceptionally good, although they are a little irregular in their schedule of feeding. Seems almost like a rest. The morale of the men at this point is hard

to define. I suppose you would say it is very good, although they are physically and mentally tired. Everyone is in need of a good shower and some relaxation outside of the sights and sound of war.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** The road from Heinerschied to Hupperdeny is in very bad shape, so the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and 2 squads from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon went to work before noon today, draining and hauling rocks on the worst places. Before evening a noticeable improvement had been made and about 40 truck loads of rock had almost disappeared in the mud and ruts. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also checked another trail to complete linking up all bridges on the South CCB sector.

One troop of the 86<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance has movies in this town now with 2 shows each night. It doesn't do us much good as the space is too small for many to get in.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Work continues today on roads. In addition to the road we worked on yesterday. We started work on the Urspelt, Fishbach road today. The engineer section has worked on all of these roads before and today they are widening the road in and around some places. This type work improves morale and is really a rest for the men even though they work from daylight to dark. Movies again tonight, but still only a few could get in. Mail going out is very heavy now. The men are relaxing a bit, that is always a good sign.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Still we are working on roads. Not much new along that line. However, we now know that a new assault on the Siegfried Line will be made and that as before, we will furnish engineer support to the assault parties. Effective strength in the platoons is low for this operation, but already headquarters has been drained of all personnel that could help the platoons. Each platoon is going with an infantry battalion and will furnish the necessary work of engineers. The time we do not know, but there is plenty of checking and preparations being made. This will almost complete the cycle of combat engineer work that can be done. Now we have done everything. May this be as successful as most of our work.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons have been busy all day preparing and getting their assault teams organized. All three of the platoons are forming small assault teams of about six to eight man teams. They are to be ready whenever their task force commanders call them.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is attached to the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is attached to the 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is attached to the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

There has been a little change in the officers of the Company. Lt. O'Connor is platoon leader of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and Lt. Downey platoon leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Church services were held for the men in the Company.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The platoons are all ready to move out at any time their task force commanders call for them.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon didn't have long to wait. They moved out just before the noon meal to join TF Brown. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also joined their task force.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon continued getting their assault teams organized and their charges prepared.

Extra beehives, flame throwers, Bangalore and demolition were gathered together to establish a small engineer dump just across the river. Two men from HQ Company were sent up to join us and to guard and maintain the dump.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Sgt. Ringo left early this morning with the two men from HQ Company with the truck loaded with the supplies for our engineer dump. Sgt. Ringo returned to the Company before our artillery barrage opened up starting our attack on the pill boxes.

The attacks were more successful than the first attacks were. There was quite a few men injured during the day's attack. Sgt. Steedle and T/5 Mullis his peep driver, were injured when their peep hit an anti-tank mine along the road.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved out at 2100 this evening joining TF Ward of the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Lt. Eide and three EM returned from their trip to Paris.

**21<sup>st</sup>:** All three platoons are out with their task forces. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> have hit quite a few pill boxes. Some of them being easy to take and others a little more difficult. In one box 13 Germans held out for the night. Lt. O'Connor tried several charges but failed to get them out. During the morning a group of men from Company C finally got them out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon stayed in the town of Dahnen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon returned to the Company while the 1<sup>st</sup> found billets in Reipeldingen.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon left early this morning to help work on the road through Dasburg. There were quite a few bomb craters in the streets and the Germans have done a lot of demolition work, blowing craters and building road blocks.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons returned to the Company just before dinner. One squad if the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon left again to put in a treadway over a crater on the road between Dahnen and Daliden after completing the first one they also found another crater further on. So another bridge was sent up to them.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon are checking their equipment and getting some rest.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had two squads go out late last night and sweep the road from Deluden to Irrhausen for mines. They returned to Heinerscheid early this morning. The other squad left this morning to sweep the road from Dahnen to Deluden. A large S mine field was found about midway between the two towns.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon left this morning to fill in a crater between Dahnen and Deluden and also put in a treadway bridge over the second crater. They had the road open at 1500 in the afternoon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon also left early this morning to relieve the platoon of Company C who have been with us, of sweeping the roads. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was later regrouped and joined TF Duvall, who attacked South of Jacken along the road to Karlschousen and Neuserburg.

The Company moved shortly after noon today to the town of Dahnen. This is in Germany. We've been close to the German border at various time, but this is the first we've ever been inside of Germany.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** One squad (1<sup>st</sup> Platoon) went back along the road from Dahnen to the bridge blowing all the demolition and mines that have been removed from the roads and various mine fields. The other two squads left to sweep the roads from Kickerhousen to Karlschousen for mines.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon has been checking their equipment and also went to Clervaux to take showers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon remained with their task force until this evening when they were relieved and returned to the Company. One squad having trouble finding our new home. They finally made it about 1800 after going back to Battalion to find out location.

The Platoon of Company C that has been with us were relieved this afternoon to return to their Company.

This ends another week with plenty of work for the Company of checking roads for mines, building bridges, filling craters and repairing roads. Also bringing the Company into Germany.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The Company had things pretty easy today, mostly checking over their equipment and getting a little rest. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went to Clervaux for showers and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon went in the afternoon.

The special service sent up a movie for us this afternoon and we also sent back for another film so we had a double feature this evening. The best one was the National Barn Dance featuring Lulu Bells and Scotty and the Hoosier Hot Shots.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** All three of the platoons have been busy today and all leaving early this morning. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon put in a 48 foot span of treadway on the road between Delaiden and Karlschousen. They didn't get started working as there were two craters in the road before coming to the bridge. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had the job of filling in all these craters. They finished their job about 1500 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon returned about 1830. The road is now open for traffic.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been working on the Division MSR filling in shell holes and clearing all the debris off the road. They also filled in a small crater on the far shore from the bridge that the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon constructed.

The engineer section has also been helping on these craters, using the dozer to push the rock in and smoothing the road over these craters.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** All three of the platoons have again been busy all day, leaving about 0900 this morning. The Company moved from Dahlen to Olverhof early this morning and the platoons left for some work shortly after arriving in the new home.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon put in tow culverts and cleared a underpass of debris. This is on the road between Zweifeldschud and Ammeldingen. They had the road open for traffic by 1800 today. They also worked on improving the road from Karlschousen to where this road junctions into the Division MSR.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon continued improving the Division MSR filling in small shell holes and clearing the road of small debris.

The engineer section was also out helping the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons put in two culverts.

One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon relieved the Company C squad on maintaining and guarding the bailey bridge on the Kalborn and Dahlen Road.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left early this morning to continue work on the Division MSR. There is quite a few shell holes along this route that require filling. They are also picking up some of the shrapnel and debris trying to lessen the amount of flat tires.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was called out later this morning to work on the road from Lichtenborn to Kopsheid. One squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was sent down to take over maintenance of the bailey bridge that the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineers had constructed the night before. The dozer and crew was also sent out to help the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has been resting today. They are ready to go out on any calls that might come in. That call came at 1710 this evening. The platoon has to help the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineers build approaches for the treadway. The bridge they are building is at Luneback. We don't know how long this job will last. The platoons are hoping it won't last tonight.

# March, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon returned to the Company after finishing their job on the Luneback bridge. They got in about 0100 this morning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was called out last night to clear the road from Waxviller to Luneback on the far side of the Prum River. The dozer crew also went along with them. They also had two craters to fill on this road. They returned to the Company at about 0830 this morning. They had breakfast then got some shut eye.

The entire 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is out maintaining two bridges. The bailey bridge and the treadway bridge at Luneback.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has also been resting after their job last night.

The Company minus the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was paid this evening. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon will be paid tomorrow, when they get back to the Company.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:**

The Company left at 0720 and moved to Olmscheid. We are a little closer to our work and closer to Battalion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon dropped off from the column and went to relieve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of maintaining the two bridges.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon after unloading their tools left to work on the approaches on the Bailey Bridge. One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon returned to the Company this morning while the other two continued work on the bridges and approaches. They returned to the Company at about 1600 this afternoon. The Company Commander completely paid the men this evening.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Two squads were relieved by the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineers of maintaining the bridge at Luneback. They returned to the Company just before dinner. The other squad is still maintaining the Bailey Bridge between Kopscheid and Pintesfeld. Hot chow has been sent out to them at various times so they could have a couple of hot meals during the day.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon have been called out to work on the road from Lichtenborn to the bailey bridge. Later in the day two more roads required work. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was sent out to check and repair the road from Luneback to Pronsfeld. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon sent out to check and repair the road from Luneback to a road junction. At this time the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has returned to the Company and two squads of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon are still working on their mission. One squad has returned to the Company.

The Company has a movie tonight starring Frank Sinatra in "Step Lively."

This brings to a close another week with a lot of work being done by the men in the Company. The Germans have been doing a very good job of demolition work in this area. This requires a lot of work. Also a lot of mines have been found requiring a lot of road sweeping. So ends a very busy week on German soil.

**4<sup>th</sup>:**

The entire Company is now in billets at Olmscheid except Sgt. Policay's squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. They are still maintaining and guarding the bailey bridge which crosses the Prum River just East of Kopscheid. The Company has been taking it easy today, their first day of rest for quite some time.

The Company Commander held a meeting of all the platoon leaders discussing the work for the coming week. Work will consist of cleaning all our personal equipment and first echelon work on all the platoon and squad equipment including vehicles.

Seven reinforcements joined the Company this evening. Pvt. Greathouse and Pvt. Huggins were assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Pvts. Giesler, Dolph, Fagg and Frey went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. Pvt. Rivers went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. Catholic

mass was held this afternoon at 1630 in the church at Olmscheid. The Protestant Chaplain was in making arrangements for Protestant services to be held this morning. Lt. Downey left for Paris Pass.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Sgt. Policay and squad returned to the Company late last night. His squad is taking it easy for the day.

Protestant services were held at 1030 this morning in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon building. A nice service was held from the report from the Chaplain.

The whole Company is busy today. They have started to clean up their equipment and first echelon maintenance on all vehicles. All extra equipment is to be returned to Sgt. Deasy, the Supply Sgt.

Capt. Martin from the engineers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division has been visiting the Company today. He was formerly the Company Commander of Company A, this Battalion while at Camp Chaffee. He came up to get some information on the methods we used in assaulting the Siegfried Line. Capt. Wolfe and Capt. Martin went over the ground and showing him the pillboxes that we had assaulted.

There was a Company Commanders meeting this evening at Battalion HQ. Capt. Wolfe left about 1745 to attend.

Sgt. Starke returned to the Company after a short stay in the hospital.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe had another short meeting this morning going over the points that was brought up in the Commanders meeting of last night.

The entire Company is busy working on their equipment and vehicles. There's lots of work to be done as the vehicles are getting old and require more maintenance. Also the Spring mud is another thing to contend with.

There was another meeting at Battalion HQ today. Capt. Wolfe left shortly after lunch to attend. He returned to the Company by 1600 bringin the weeks PX rations to be sold to the men.

Lt. Eide went out on a short reconnaissance to locate where we can test fire the machine guns. A place was found on the military road between Olmscheid and Deluden.

Major Luetzelschwab and Capt. Sargent were visitors in the Company last night. A very enjoyable evening was spent playing bridge. Lt. Schlenk and Capt. Wolfe making up the foursome.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe held an inspection of the Company this morning. He started with HQ Platoon and following the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons. Everything looked pretty well. There is still a lot of equipment that requires some work.

The machine gunners did not go out this afternoon as the weather is a little on the rainy side. We're hoping for a little better day for firing.

Capt. Wolfe made a short trip to Battalion HQ this afternoon just returning in time for supper.

Capt. Rothman paid the Company a little visit this afternoon checking over the sanitary conditions of the Company. All is fine so the good Captain reports.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Three trucks were unloaded this morning so that we could send the men to the showers. About 60 left at 0830 this morning for Clervaux. Arriving there they found the showers all ready loaded and ready to move out to a new location. The men returned to the Company about 1300 this afternoon.

Capt. Wolfe had a short Company conference after dinner. He complimented the men on the excellent work they had done during our last campaign, the assault of the Siegfried Line. Shortly after this Capt. Wolfe left for Battalion HQ for another meeting of Company Commanders at 1400.

During the rest of the day the men continued to work on their equipment and first echelon maintenance on their vehicles.

This evening Capt. Wolfe contacted SSO for a movie for the Company. We were lucky and got a show: "Strike Up The Band" and it was a very good movie.

A collection was taken up in the Company for the purchase of beer for a little beer party while we are resting. Lt. Ramsey made the purchase but was unable to buy more than one barrel. We are planning on a party a little later when we can get a larger quantity of beer.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe held another Company Conference at 1200 today giving the men the news that we were no longer with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army under General Patton. We had been assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Army under General Patch. Giving the men the secrecy instructions and to being loading and prepare to move out early in the morning.

All the automatic weapons and the men who had fired the weapons were taken out and test fired. Lt. Eide was in charge. All the machine guns were in good firing order.

This evening Capt. Wolfe gave the platoon Sgts. And Car Commanders their instructions and the route we would travel. We are to be ready to move at 0545. Breakfast is to be served at 0445. The kitchen truck if not ready to leave by this time will join the column at Detkrich or Ettlebruch.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was up at 0415 this morning which had breakfast at half past 0400. The Company moved out of Olmscheid at 0550, joining the rest of the engineer column on the highway between Jucken and Arzfeld. We followed the route of Jucken, Karlschousen down into Detrich to Ettlebruck on into the city of Luxembourg. From there we followed N 53 Pont a Mousson, then going East and crossing some of the ground that we had taken in our drive to Saargumines. We traveled through Chateau Salins. We reached our destination which is the small village of Morville about 1700. The Company is pretty well settled now. The kitchen is already set up and served a hot supper at 2000. We are all set for a good night's rest.

The Company maintenance has a little trouble also Sgt. Powell's squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon getting into the Company about 2030. Lt. Schlenk and the ford truck got in about 2200. Everyone is in and settled down.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The entire Company seems to be pretty well settled this morning except where the CP is located. With a little scouting we found a better building and hastily moved into it.

The men are all busy working on their equipment and vehicles after the long road march that we just completed. Some are busy cleaning out a room in the school house where we can hold a movie and some are wondering if they will get a chance to go to Nancy on pass.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** It seems like we are in for a short rest. The men not having too much to do, mostly checking their equipment and bothering Sgt. Deasy for some new stuff. The men are mostly catching up on their correspondence in spite of the fact that there isn't any mail coming in. The past two weeks there has been very little mail coming in and changing to the 7<sup>th</sup> Army doesn't seem to help any either.

The evening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left for Battalion with five empty trucks to pick up some bailey bridge equipment. A platoon from Company A also went along. After finding that only one platoon was needed the two platoons flipped a coin and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon lost so they had to go after the bridge parts.

We are all set up now for a movie if we can get special service to send us one. No luck for tonight though.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon returned this morning after bringing the bailey bridge parts up to the site in Vic-Sur-Seille where Company C will construct the bridge.

We received word from Battalion HQ that we can send eight men to Nancy on pass. The passes begin at 0900 this morning until 2100 in the evening. Lt. Eide has a case of the hives, cause undetermined. He was evacuated to the 76<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion this morning.

We finally got a show over here but the results were not so good, as something was wrong with the speaker. Only one showing was held.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was assigned to CCA with two of the platoons assigned to task forces. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon with LaGrew of the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> with Col. Britton of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Both platoon leaders have contacted their various units for instructions for our next move. All preparations are being made now for resupplying the platoon in whatever is needed. All platoons are carrying 6-7 days rations so it looks like we'll be without our kitchen for awhile.

Lt. Eide rejoined the Company this morning. A very short stay at the 76<sup>th</sup> Medics. He is feeling somewhat better. This afternoon he went out on a road reconnaissance of the route that CCA is to travel in moving to their assembly area. He returned about 1800 this evening finding one weak bridge along the way at Deinze. The rest of the route being okay.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is busy getting ready for the next drive and also the bowl formation to be held this afternoon.

The Company minus the kitchen force left this afternoon at 1230 for the formation arriving at 1410 at the bowl. A spot had been picked out where we started our drive to Saareguemines. Memorial services also held honoring our fallen comrades. General Grow gave a very good speech also giving our mission for our next drive. The Rhine River. The Company returned at 1700 just in time for supper.

Capt. Wolfe left for Battalion HQ shortly after supper and Lt. O'Connor going down to the village of Lezey to find some billets where we can move into in the morning.

We received an M-8 scout car this afternoon.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** The Company moved this morning from Morville to Lezey leaving about 1030 and arriving at Lezey at 1100. The Company is getting a little smaller now as the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon left this morning and joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon also left and joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

Everyone is pretty well set for the expected drive we are to make even waiting for any word of the Infantry division and their success. Latest word was that one division was going so good so we expect to spend the night in Lezey.

Lt. Downey and Lt. Schlenk were down to the Company this evening. They picked up the mail for their platoons. Capt. Wolfe left shortly after supper for Battalion HQ.

The Company received their little booklets this evening of the Divisions account of six months in action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. We received enough for two books per man.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Haven't received any word yet for moving out so maybe will spend another day in Lezey. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon the only platoon left with us now. There is nothing much left for them but writing letters and resting.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is still with the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and report from Sgt. Catanzaro they didn't expect to move today. No one has been down from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon as yet.

Two of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon trucks are getting ready to take some of the men into Battalion to take in a show. Trucks will leave at 1930 so that they arrive for the 20000 show.

We have a reconnaissance section from Battalion HQ with us now. Lt. Fleischer, Sgt. Spring and Jack Vanderscheur, the driver.

This end a week of very little activity except for preparations for our next mission which will take us again into Germany.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The Company minus the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons were up early this morning ready to leave to our next assembly area. We left Lezey at 0645 this morning and arrived at Kalhausen at about 1200. We followed the route through Deieuse, Vergaville Moriment, Nebing, Serralbe, Oermingen on to Kalhausen. The Company is bivouacked in the field just South of town. This is the first time since last November that we have stayed in the field.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons are with their task forces and are also living in the field. Lt. Downey and Lt. Schlenk were both over to the Company area this afternoon to reconnoiter two routes forward to our forward assembly area. They returned about 1700 this afternoon.

Capt. Wolfe went down to Battalion HQ this evening with the reports of the reconnaissance and also to CCA for any more plans on our future operation.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** During the night the Company was put on three hour alert.

There is a small portable shower unit set up in town and a few of the men have been going down and taking showers.

Four men from the Company left for a four day pass at the rest center in Nancy. Sgt. Policay, Sgt. Dagan, T/4 Boots and T/4 Diamond are the lucky ones.

The Company received orders this afternoon to be ready to move at 1645 this afternoon. A early supper was held and we were ready to move. We didn't move until 1800. We arrived at our new area at 2200 just a short ways into Germany.

Lt. Schlenk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Leader, was in shortly before noon today. Lt. Downey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was in this evening after we had arrived in our new area. His platoon is just a short ways from the Company.

Shortly after getting in our new area, Capt. Wolfe and Capt. Kincaid of a TD Company left for CCA HQ. They returned at 2400.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Everything was quiet this morning. The kitchen truck was brought up from trains. They started to cook a hot dinner but at 1200 word came in to be ready to move at 1300.

The Company left the area at 1345 this afternoon. The march started very slowly until later in the afternoon. We passed through two belts of the Siegfried Line which had been breached by infantry troops. The Company followed the route to Bliesranback, Eschringen, Hassil turning off the highway going to Lensvack, circling North and then coming down through Hombary.

Midnight found us through the city. A little trouble was encountered.

The kitchen trailer overturning a little ways East of Hassel. The Brockways had some trouble of getting through two underpasses, a short ways North of Homburg. Somewhere along the way the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had gotten on another road. The maintenance section dropped out to help Sgt. Lukart of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon who was having motor trouble. At this time our Company column is pretty small. We are to travel all night and reach our objective.

**21<sup>st</sup>:** We are still on the way following the main highway from Homburg into Londstuhl then turning North to Missenbach then East to Mackenbach, between Machenbach and Weilerbach the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon rejoined our column. One Brockway of the 1014<sup>th</sup> Engineers was reported missing. The maintenance is still behind.

CCA regrouped at Weilerbach and after an hours halt started out again going North from Weilerbach to Herschborn, East of Kalzweiller then North again to Schalodenbach to Schneckenhausen to Imsweiller. We then turned East again following the highway to Dreisen turning South to Gelhum, to the East to Biedesheim where we are now bivouacked in the field on the outskirts of town.

Capt. Wolfe returned at noon today after being with some of the leading elements of the command. Lt. Downey was down this afternoon and he was short one squad. Lt. O'Connor was sent back to see if he could locate any of our missing vehicles. We are short one Brockway and the maintenance section. The maintenance section pulled in about 1600 with Sgt. Lukart's squad. That leaves our Brockway still missing. Lt. O'Connor returned this evening with no luck of finding any of the vehicles.

A message was received that Lt. Schlenk's peep had overturned during the night's march. His driver was injured and was evacuated through the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Medics. No other word had been received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon are all together again.

There has been quite a bit of air activity both friendly and enemy. Two bombs were dropped about 500 yards to the left of our area. Also the enemy has been strafing some of our columns.

This evening we moved down into the village and all are pretty well settled.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** The morning silence was shattered by enemy planes and the ackack boys giving them a pretty hot reception. After breakfast Capt. Wolfe went down to CCA to find out the location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. From reports they are down in Durkheim near the Rhine River. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is in Kinderhum. During the night Battalion HQ moved and are now near the village of Ebertsheim. They had picked our last Brockway up. Sgt. Hutta and Sgt. French left right after dinner to go back and check on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon peep that had overturned the night before last. Capt. Wolfe also left to find the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon.

Capt. Wolfe returned to the Company about 1700 this afternoon. He still hadn't contacted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon at Durkheim. Lt. Downey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was in this evening, bringing the outgoing mail in and taking the incoming mail back to the platoon. They are with the 15<sup>th</sup> Tankers near Kinderheim.

Capt. Wolfe made a short trip to Battalion HQ this evening.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Lt. Fleischer and Sgt. Spring left early this morning to make a reconnaissance of some roads leading to and along the Rhine River between Worms and Durkheim and back again. They had some trouble with their peep and maintenance had to go out after it.

Capt. Wolfe left us this forenoon again to locate 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. They are still with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry and near the town of Durkheim. Everything is fine with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. They had found a lot of German mines and all pretty happy today. All is fine with the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, they're just as happy.

The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved their location out in the field a short ways North of Beidesheim. This evening some of the men took in the show that the 76<sup>th</sup> Medics held in their area.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe left for CCA this morning to see if there was any new information regarding our next mission. Nothing seems to be very different. Lt. Eide payed the Battalion a short visit this morning. He found that we had received our first beer ration today from the 7<sup>th</sup> Army. We received two bottles per man. American beer tastes pretty good. Lt. Eide left shortly after dinner taking the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's share up to them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had moved and are now South of Weshofen. They had picked up a Ford car and were trying to make it run.

A few of the men went up to the show but they returned as it was crowded.

Capt. Wolfe returned from CCA with orders that we would be moving in the morning at 0700. We are to move forward to our new assembly area, gas the vehicles then cross the Rhine River at Oppenheim where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army has made a bridgehead.

This week ends with making one long drive and preparations for another.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The Company left their bivouac area at 0700 this morning arriving at our assembly area at 1030 near the village of Dalhum. The Company regassed at this point.

Sgt. Stark also left early this morning to pick up five bridge trucks of the 996<sup>th</sup> Treadway Bridge Company at Dexheim. This same Company was the company that was with us during the elimination of the Bastogne Bulge.

Capt. Wolfe left shortly after dinner and joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Tanks and to follow them on their route of march.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon are with their task forces and the same area as we are.

The task forces started moving shortly after dinner. The Company didn't start until 1500. We crossed the Rhine River at Oppenheim at 1600. We continued through Greshum, Trebur, Nauheim. The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon bivouacked just South of Morfeldon. No word has been received of either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons. Capt. Wolfe called in about 2200. Everything was okay in his vicinity.

Sgt. Hyler's squad relieved a squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon on maintaining a bridge just a short ways from Morfelden. They were later relieved by supporting engineers.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** The HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons left their area at 1000 this morning going around a large airport South of Frankfurt. Capt. Wolfe just called and needed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and the dozer. They left immediately for the bridge site. They have run into a little trouble. This bridge is only partially destroyed and the Germans are keeping it under fire by both direct and indirect artillery. The Bridge truck of the 996<sup>th</sup> Bridge Company was hit and it burned. Reports are that some of our vehicles also have been hit. So far we don't know to what extent they have been damaged.

During the evening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has tried to clear the debris from the bridge but artillery has been holding them up. Company B of the 166<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is to construct a bailey bridge as soon as the debris is cleared.

Five more bridge trucks were brought over to the Company and Sgt. Spring of Battalion HQ Reconnaissance section led them over to another site.

Lt. Fleischer and Sgt. Stark were sent out on a reconnaissance of a ferry site. As yet we have received no report from them.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoons are still at the bridge site. They completed clearing the debris from the bridge. Attempts were made to construct a bailey bridge but the continuous shelling made this almost impossible. The 166<sup>th</sup> Engineers are in charge of the construction.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still with their task force and are billeted in the town of Geldstein. The night before Lt. Schlenk and Sgt. Gilbert, Tec 5 Skerczak and Pvt. Brown along with some of the HQ of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry made a short trip to the other side of the Main River. They found a cable used for a ferry and pulled themselves across the river. On the other side a motor boat was found and that was used for transporting. Sgt. Gilbert and T/5 Skerczak were wounded from bazooka fire. 3 Germans were killed and 6 taken prisoner.

Lt. Fleischer and Sgt. Stark returned this afternoon after a night filled with excitement. They started out on a reconnaissance mission of a ferry site. Upon entering a town, supposedly cleared of the enemy, a machine gun opened up on them. Lt. Fleischer was thrown from the peep. Sgt. Stark stopped and picked him up and then trying to find an exit from the town. Unable to do this they had one of the civilians hide them for the evening. The next morning they were led to friendly troops by 3 civilians. During the evening the Germans took their peep. Medics of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry brought them back to the Company area. Lt. Fleischer was later sent back as he had injured both his knees in his fall from the peep.

Capt. Wolfe has made various trips to the bridge site but progress is very slow. They do have it open for some traffic.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** More attempts were made at construction of the Bailey Bridge. No more progress was made the night before. During the evening there is almost a constant shelling of the bridge site. At any time during the day there is activity at the bridge it will draw more artillery.

Pfc. Stewart of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was wounded this morning by a shell fragment. He was later evacuated by the medics.

Preparations are being made for moving out this evening across the bridge that has been constructed in the 90<sup>th</sup> Division zone.

The maintenance has been busy the last two days patching all the tires and gas tanks. We have four vehicles hit by the shelling. We have them almost ready to roll though some of them are still short a wheel or two.

Finally orders were received and the Company is alerted to move at 1700. The kitchen was brought up and a hot supper was served.

The Company left at 1700 going across the pontoon bridge in the 90<sup>th</sup> Division Zone. The Division was given 6 hours to cross it going through Offenbach, Mucklein and bivouacking just a short ways beyond the town of Wechenbucken. This is on the 90<sup>th</sup> Division front lines.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was up and left the area at 0545 this morning. Following the route through Rendel, Bruckenbrucken, Assenheim, Weckesheim, Berstadt, Reckenberg, Griedel, and finally on one of the German's famous super highways.

The Company pulled off the road with CCA and are bivouacked on the outskirts of Oppenrod. We will stay here for the night. Lt. Schlenk was to the Company CP this evening. He picked up mail for the platoon. No word of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon or their activities during the day. They are still attached to the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion.

Sgt. Stark was sent out to find the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon also taking their mail out to them. He met them along the road just getting ready to pull out in the bivouac area. Everything is fine with them.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Company pulled out of their area at 0715. They started the march to the city of Kassel which is about 80 miles away. The column was held up for a short period while the infantry cleared out the town of Ansfeld. The leading elements were bombed and strafed by enemy aircraft. The route took us through the town of Neidergenzbach where a camp of American, British, Russian prisoners were liberated. Another camp was liberated near Homberg. This camp contained mostly Belgian Congos.

The column was halted on the outskirts of Unshausen where the leading units were held up by artillery and antitank fire. We found billets in the town of Unshausen for the night. We are expecting to move out again at about 1000 hours in the morning.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** The Company was alerted to move out at 1000 this morning, but the orders never arrived telling us to move out. Most of the bridges have been destroyed in this area so there's been some difficulty in finding a bridge intact.

This afternoon the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was alerted to move out and construct a bridge over the Eder River. They moved out with a Battalion of Infantry of the 65<sup>th</sup> Division. Lt. Saunders of the Reconnaissance section was sent out to reconnoiter a couple of bridges to our North. One was intact and the other was blown. A Company of the 176<sup>th</sup> Engineers are to construct a bridge at this site.

Lt. Downey was sent out to pick up three bridge trucks from Company A to be used on this job. We are having quite a time to get enough bridge equipment for all the bridges that are to be built tonight.

Capt. Wolfe has spent most of the night at the bridge site. This ends another week and also another month with lots of ground covered. We are well into German territory and are wondering how much more of this the Jerries can stand, also hoping it is over soon.

# April, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:** The Company was alerted this morning for moving out, but that was about all that did happen.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved out at noon today after Capt. Wolfe had made a quick reconnaissance of the railroad bridge South of Enelsungen. The bridge had been partially destroyed. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was sent out to repair the bridge enough to get some vehicles across. They repaired the bridge enough so that one squadron of the 86<sup>th</sup> reinforced was able to cross. The engineer section also went along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon on this job.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon took it easy today. They are in the field near the town of Hebel just South of the town we are in.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still with their task force and are billeted in the town of Kappel. Lt. Schlenk made a reconnaissance of the bridge are Marlich. It was blown and too much of a job for the platoon. It was turned over to the 179<sup>th</sup> Engineers which are supporting us on this mission. The 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is attached to had quite and experience during the evening. The column was traveling along the road when three of Jerries Tiger Royal Tanks joined their column. One of the tanks drove over a jeep knocking over one of our TD's tank, and then pulling out across the field. The other two were unable to get by so the crews of the other two tanks abandoned their vehicles.

The kitchen was brought up this morning and began serving hot meals. This will probably be the last hot meals until the completion of the mission. We're hoping it isn't too late.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** The Company left this morning at 0800, crossing the Fulda River over one of the bridges in CCB's area, passing along through Melsungen. A short distance East of there the column was stopped. We pulled off into the field until about 1800 when the column started out again.

During the day a few Jerries planes were over. No damage was done but a lot of lead was thrown at them.

We traveled all night until 0400. During the night traveling was very slow. A lot of it was through some thick woods and being cloudy made it pretty dark. It was almost impossible to see where one was going.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon also arrived in the same town that we are in. They arrived here in Vocherde at 0304. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon stopped at Redebach but later moved out into the field near Germerede. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had two casualties yesterday. Cpl. Frahm was hit by a falling bullet that was probably fired by our own troops at the planes that were over our column. Pfc. Cox had his foot smashed when the trailer pole was smashed on his feet. Everyone else is OK.

The Company is billeted in the town of Vocherde. Most of the men are sleeping in the hay lofts.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** The Company was alerted for moving this morning but as usual we just waited. The bridge was blown across the Wehrs River and most of the day was spent reconnoitering for other bridge sites. One bridge was still intact until about 1630 when a task force attempted to make an assault on the bridge. The Jerries blew it at 1630.

Lt. Schlenk and Lt. O'Connor made a reconnaissance of the bridge that had been blown to see if it was possible to construct another bridge at this site. Results were that it would need a lot of work done before a bridge could be built.

Word was received this evening that CCB had gotten a bridge and was crossing it and that CCA would begin crossing as soon as CCB had finished crossing. It is planned that we will move about 0430 in the morning.

**4<sup>th</sup>:**

The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was waked and ready to go at 0630 this morning but did not move out until 0745. Shortly after moving out three planes came over. One was shot down, the other two pulled up in to the clouds.

Lt. Downey was in this morning just returning from yesterday's reconnaissance. His platoon had pulled out with the 15<sup>th</sup> Tanks earlier this morning. The 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon is still with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry. They will be following CCA a little later.

The route took us through Abterode, Widenhausen, going South along the Wehrs River crossing the river a short ways South of Huheneiche going East through Dutterode, Lautenbach, Burschla, Heldra, Diedorf. We pulled into the field a little ways North of Diedorf to let the infantry pass us so that they can start their attack on Mulhausen. About 1700 we moved into the town of Bickenriede going through Elgenrieden and Struth on the way.

The Company billeted in the town having two buildings to ourselves. One a cigar factory and the other a beer parlor. We don't know just the location of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons tonight. They are still with their task forces. It is reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon cleared a road block in the outskirts of Mulhausen.

**5<sup>th</sup>:**

There's not much happening this morning as far as we are concerned. We are just taking it easy. This afternoon we got orders to move on. About 1400 we packed up and started for the town of Grossengottern. We passed through the town of Hollenbach, Mulhausen, Hongeda after getting mixed up in one of the streets of Hulhausen and watching different dog fights we arrived at about 1600. We are all set up again and have pretty good billets.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons are both on the outskirts of Lancensalza. Sgt. Ringo payed them a little visit taking the mail down for them. Sgt. Clement went to pick up a couple of men at Battalion HQ this evening. Six men and an NCO have taken over the guard of a large warehouse that the Germans had left. One squad of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is helping out at the PWE guarding prisoners.

**6<sup>th</sup>:**

Everything is quiet this morning in Grossengottern. The kitchen was sent down to the large warehouse here in town to pick up some rations that has been stored there by the Germans. They also picked up chicken soup, wieners, vegetables

and all kinds of canned goods. They also picked up a few cases of liquor that was rationed out. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons had to check the air field that was captured yesterday. It was reported that the Germans possibly mined their fields so it had to be checked. No mines were found so everything is OK.

Lt. Eide went back to Battalion this afternoon to pick up some PX rations that Lt. Ramsey had gotten for us. He also picked up the payroll so I guess we'll pay the men one of these days.

About 1600 we received orders to move again. Just a short ways this time. We are now at Lancensalza. We arrived there about 1800. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is staying at the air field and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the town of Grumback.

**7<sup>th</sup>:**

Capt. Wolfe left early this morning to find the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons and see how they were fixed up. Everything seems to be fine with them. Lt. Eide started paying the men of HQ Platoon and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon this morning. During the evening he went down and paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. The PX rations were divided up and taken out to the platoons.

During the day the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon had to go out and clear civilians out of the railroad yards. There was quite a few and they were almost rioting trying to loot all the box cars which contain flour, jam, etc. in them.

During the evening Col. Harris and Capt. Findlay of CCA were down to the Company. We have running water in the house so they enjoyed a long awaited bath.

The Jerries planes have been pretty busy during the early evening. Three came over. They did some strafing. No damage was done.

This ends another week, a week that took us a long ways into Germany with some work for us to do but still not too busy.

**8<sup>th</sup>:**

Seems as if the whole Company is taking it easy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon have been relieved on their outpost in the town of Kirchielingen. They were expecting a little trouble, but the situation eased up when the air corps and artillery were called in on an enemy concentration of troops along the road to the East.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon came in this morning and took a hot shower. We are lucky enough to have running water and in one building a small shower. Enough to take care of four men at a time. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and HQ Platoon occupied the showers yesterday afternoon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been busy chasing the civilians out of the railroad yard and warehouse. We have captured quite a few large warehouses lately and the civilians are trying their best to get what they can of it. A few shots fired over their heads make them scatter.

**9<sup>th</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon began drifting in this morning to take showers. They are staying out in the field on the outskirts of town so they are only a short distance from us now. They are taking it easy and also working on their equipment.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is doing likewise. Things have eased up a little waiting for the rest of the army to catch up to us. We need rest.

Lt. Schlenk has been over a couple of time today telling about different things happening. A plane was shot down close to their area last night. There isn't much left of the plane.

HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons have been pretty quiet today. There doesn't seem to be much work to be done. The roads are all in pretty good shape and there is not to many bridges that have been blown that makes it less work for us engineers.

Capt. Remetta was down to the Company today. He had just returned from the hospital and so he was telling us all about getting back to the Battalion.

**10<sup>th</sup>:**

Nothing much happened today. Everybody seems to be taking it easy.

Lt. Downey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was over to the Company today. Some of the men came over for showers. He also sent two of his tracks up for an inspection. The one half track is needing new tracks.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still at Greembach taking it east also. Lt. Schlenk came over during the evening. Maj. Luetzelschwab and Capt. Sargent also spent the evening with us. The evening was spent in bridge until Capt. Wolfe was called over to a meeting at CCA HQ.

Maj. Dankin and Maj. Burges of CCA also were here this evening. Capt. Wolfe returned shortly after 2300 and gave the low down on what was going to happen next. The Company was alerted to be ready to move out at 0800 in the morning. Lt. Schlenk took a bridge truck back with him and Lt. Downey picked up his truck at 2330.

Well here we go, hope somebody has notified the Russians that we are coming.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was up and served breakfast at 0630 this morning. We left our comfortable home at 0800 following CCA as usual. The Company traveled about fifty miles today passing through some of the large towns of Grafentonna, Dullstadt, Waschlbe, Eckstedt, Neumark, Buttelstedt, Fhustadt, on into Comburg where the Company had their CP. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons also stayed in this town. The HQ Platoon bivouacked in the field just outside of Sch mud Hausen.

The Germans attempted to blow the bridge at Comburg but only one of eight charges went off. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was to repair the bridge but were held up by sniper fire. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was called down to finish the work while the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon cleaned out the snipers. The bridge was completed at 2000 this evening.

The march up here today was more or less uneventful, making good time in spite of the various halts when we had to pull out into the field. We traveled some cross country. The terrain being so rolling we can travel most anywhere we please. At about 1900 two enemy planes came over. No damage done and plenty lead thrown at them. Not any were shot down.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and the M2 section joined CCA's column in Comburg having left there about 0800 this morning; the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Tankers about an hour later. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon constructed a treadway across the river at Comburg. Both Platoons kept men at the bridge for maintenance and guarding the bridge. One squad, Sgt. Pickerell's squad was left behind to guard the bridge until relieved by the 86<sup>th</sup> for guard and the 245<sup>th</sup> Engineers for maintenance.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon pulled into bivouac about midnight last night near the town of Schmutzhausen.

The column did not travel as fast today as yesterday. The leading elements had more resistance and was slowed down quite a bit. The Company traveled about sixteen miles today going through the towns of Sieglitz, Molau, Ave, Casckirschen, Utenbach, Haardorf, Roda, finally moving into billets at 2100 in the town of Wiecklesdorf.

No work was done by any of the platoons. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went further ahead and no word has been received of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon on the mission or their whereabouts.

**13<sup>th</sup>:** The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons moved back out into the field this morning. During the night there was quite a bit of discussion on building a bridge across the Elster River. One bridge was found intact and part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion did get across the bridge before the bridge was blown. Lt. Schlenk found a possible site for a floating treadway.

The Engineer Section left around noon today with the dozer to work on a ford across the river. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was alerted to work on some railroad crossing that the 15<sup>th</sup> Tanks had found.

Capt. Wolfe made a personal reconnaissance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> site and is also going down to the site the 15<sup>th</sup> have located. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is taking care of this job. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is taking care of the ford site with the help of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and the Engineer Section.

The Company HQ left the field they were in and moved down to the town of Wissenborn where CCA moved into billets. We were met here by Capt. Wolfe who had already found billets for the Company in the town of Weitterwiltz. This town is near the ford site. While we were moving to this town three enemy planes were over and dropped one bomb near the ford site. No damage was done.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left the town of Weitterwiltz at 0745 this morning. We didn't travel very far before we pulled off into the field. The 15<sup>th</sup> Tankers ran into a tough situation. They destroyed 35 anti tank guns this afternoon.

No word has been received from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon whether or not they have had any work to do today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon haven't any work so far.

We left the field we were in about 1900 this evening. But hadn't gone very far until the column turned around and came back again. We are now located just outside of the town of Dossdorf. The infantry beat us to billets tonight.

This brings to close another week well done with some engineer work and a lot farther into Germany.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left our bivouac area on the outskirts of Dossdorf at 0700 this morning. We traveled about five miles when we pulled into the field as the 15<sup>th</sup> Tankers were again held up by 88 fire. The air corp was called in and they put on a nice show. They destroyed 20 guns in no time at all. Shortly after this they moved in and captured the remaining guns. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has been pretty busy destroying the captured guns. During the last two days approximately 65 guns have been destroyed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry coming in on the South flank of these gun positions.

The Company resumed the march around noon and began making good time. We traveled through the towns of Godern, Machern by passing the city of Attenburg, going through Modelevitz, Lohma, Neiderhain, Aberhain, Elsdorf, crossing the Zwichauer Mulda River at Lunzenair, then to Goritzhain, Zschoppelshain, Thalheim and about 2000 pulled in the field near Frankenau.

There was very little enemy activity once we started rolling. There was only one time that any enemy aircraft was over any of our column. They dropped one bomb about midway in the main body of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry column. Thirteen civilians were killed by this bomb.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon pulled in the bivouac near Frankenau. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is in the village of Mittweida. The 9<sup>th</sup> had captured three bridges across the Zschopu River so the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was kept as bridge guards.

The HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon stayed in the field for the night on the outskirts of Frankenau.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Things are a little quieter this morning, now that we have taken our objective. Capt. Wolfe left early this morning for CCA to get any new information. He returned shortly and CCA is moving back a short way going into the reserves. Lt. Eide left to find some billets in the same town that CCA is planning on moving into.

The Company left early in the evening from Frankenau and arrived in Biesern about an hour later. The Company HQ and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moved into one large building that was formerly a beer hall. Still no beer.

Word was received tonight that we are now under Battalion control again. We're planning on having the Company all together again tomorrow.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe left this morning to contact the 15<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to bring the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons back to the Company. Sgt. Stark also left early this morning for Division Trains to pick up our kitchen. The kitchen truck has been busy the last few days hauling gasoline. The kitchen truck got in about 1030 this morning with the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon arriving about 1100 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1200. This is the first time the Company has been together since leaving from when we were with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army.

Six new reinforcements arrived this morning. They are Pvt. McPherson, Callis, Chace, Nicel, Parker and Ashcroft. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was alerted and moved out last night. They are to take care of the three bridges that we have across the Zchopau River in case that they have to be blown. They left around 2300.

During the afternoon the whole Company has been busy cleaning up the tools and vehicles. Col. Williams was at the Company CP this forenoon.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The HQ and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons are still working on their tools and vehicles. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is still at the bridges with one squad at each bridge. There is a shower unit set up at Rochlitz and the men have been making good use of them today.

Four new reinforcements arrived today. They are Cpl. Mercier, Pvt. Smith, Roberts, Schmulbach. Sgt. Kitchel brought in one more from Division this afternoon who had been on DS to Division Trains.

Capt. Wolfe left for CCA this morning and plans on spending the night there.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe returned this morning from CCA. On his return he stopped at Battalion HQ. He brought down the orders to alert the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon to take over the security guard of the main highway bridge and the two rail road bridges at Rochlitz. Lt. Downey and Sgt. Catanzaro left to make a short reconnaissance of the bridges and their location and to find places for the squads to billet in. The platoon left shortly after dinner to take over the bridges.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon is still at the bridges at Mittweida. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is still with the Company.

At 1500 this afternoon the Company was alerted to move into their area for maintaining law and order.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was relieved of their bridges so they joined the Company at 1700. The Company left Biesern at 1830 today arriving at Kohren-Sahlis at 1930. We traveled through the towns of Rochlitz, Geithain, Bruckheins, Ossa, Walditz, on into Kohren-Sahlis.

Capt. Wolfe left again this afternoon for CCA returning to the Company about 2000.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was sent out to three different places as a security guard and traffic control. One squad went to each point.

**20<sup>th</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was called out early this morning to take over the three bridges at Rochlitz. The three squads left at 0530 this morning leaving the HQ section here with the Company.

The HQ Platoon, the only platoon with the Company, was divided up into three groups, the engineer section having an outpost on the outside of the village that we are in. The maintenance section have a guard among the vehicles and the HQ section maintaining the guard around the Company CP.

Capt. Wolfe has been pretty busy today attending a meeting at Division HQ at 0900 this morning then spending the rest of the day visiting the various burgmeisters in the various towns in our area. He gave them orders that they are to follow during our occupation.

A group of about thirty German soldiers in civilian clothes were picked up in this town. They were sent back to our PW cage in Rochlitz.

**21<sup>st</sup>:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was relieved late last night of the bridge in Rochlitz. They returned to the Company during the night. This morning they were given three outposts to take care of as traffic control points.

Capt. Wolfe was called to another meeting this morning at 1000 at Battalion HQ. On his return a meeting was held with all the Company officers.

During the morning Lt. Eide and Tec 5 Zimmerman went over to the towns of Gmandstun, confiscating all the weapons and picking up five people who had been in the German Army. They were sent on to the Battalion PW cage. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon also brought in two that they had picked up on one of their outposts. There were seven sent down to the Battalion PW cage with the rations trucks.

During the afternoon Capt. Wolfe has continued his work of checking with the Burgmeisters of the various towns in our sector.

This closes another week with the Company traveling about 75 miles the first few days and then settling down in Kahren-Sahlis maintaining Law and Order.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe left shortly after breakfast this morning to continue his check of villages in our sector. He was also at the Division Civil Affairs Office to get a few passes for civilians that need them.

Sgt. Ringo was to the Company this morning, his platoon is still at the three bridges in and around Mittweida. Everything is fine there with the platoon. They have been cleaning up their vehicles. They found an old fire hose and have been making good use of it in washing the vehicles.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons are still on their outpost and bringing quite a few prisoners. Seven German PW's were picked up today.

Approximately 250 Ex Prisoners of war were picked up today, starting them on the road home. They were picked up in the various villages in our section. They were taken to Battalion where they were sent on to the Corps Collecting Point. Four trucks were used from our Company to transport these PW's to Corps Area.

Lt. Schlenk and Lt. Downey have both made tours through the Company area checking the roads and villages seeing that the civilians are obeying the orders given to them.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Lt. Schlenk and Lt. Downey left early this morning checking on utilities and any German equipment in our area. Lt. Downey returned just before dinner with three more prisoners. Lt. Schlenk also returned shortly after with 2 Russians who had held up a German family demanding Schnapps. Lt. Downey found quite a few prisoners – Ex Russian prisoners, still roaming around. The same was found on Lt. Schlenk's tour.

Sgt. Ringo was down to the Company again today, taking a truck with him and sending back a truck to Battalion for repair. Sgt. Stark was also in today. No more news on whether CCA had made any contact with the Russians.

Nine Prisoners of war were picked up in our sector today, two of them being officers of the German Army. Like most of them they had destroyed their uniforms and dressed in civilian clothes.

Quite a few civilians have been in today trying to get passes to travel between towns. Not too many of them have been given passes so far only those that require them to travel have been given passes.

Col. Williams and Maj. Johnson payed the Company a little visit this evening and also having supper with us.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** The day started off as usual with Capt. Wolfe leaving early to continue his check with the burgemeisters of the various towns in our sector. Lt. Schlenk and Lt. Downey also left about 0900 this morning. Lt. Downey checking the North part of our sector and Lt. Schlenk the South. Lt. Downey took the Russian Major, an ex prisoner, along with him, giving him instructions to tell all the Russian ex prisoners to stay in town. These prisoners have been roaming around almost at will.

Sgt. Powell brought in a couple of PW today after his tour of checking on the outpost of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. Sgt. Catanzaro also brought in five from one of his outposts. Two PW's were picked up in Kohren this morning.

Capt. Schippler visited the Company for a short while this afternoon. He was formerly our Medical Officer while stationed in England.

Late this afternoon we received orders that we would also move into our new area. Lt. Eide was sent out as a billeting party. We were given the town of Popschen.

The Company left Kohren this morning about 1900 this evening. Arriving at Popschen about 2030. We traveled through Gmandstein on through Bocha into Popschen. The Company is billeting in one building. We are a little crowded but will find more room tomorrow.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was relieved this evening. They moved back to the town of Lunzenan, but were called out again to go back to the bridges.

Capt. Wolfe left again this evening to visit the Burgmeisters of Kohren and Grandstein. So far he has not returned. Lt. Schlenk was also with the captain.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Capt. Wolfe and Lt. Schlenk returned early this morning. We moved our CP into another house this afternoon making a little more room for the other platoons in the building that we occupied.

Sgt. Stark was into the Company this morning. Also again later this afternoon. CCA HQ has moved back into the town of Lunzenan.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon has been relieved of their mission at the three bridges. They rejoined the Company at 1500 this afternoon.

Capt. Wolfe was at Battalion HQ this morning. Also again this evening trying to get some information on what we are to do or what's going on. No one seems to know. Some of the men went up to Battalion to a movie this evening. Not too many of the men went to the show.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is all together again and pretty well settled down with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon moving down to the outskirts of Bocha. All the platoons are busy cleaning up their vehicles and equipment.

Capt. Wolfe held a Company conference this morning telling the Company's past history and a few things to be looking forward to in the near future. He also held a meeting with the Platoon officers and sergeants and the section leaders. We have to start a check on all the Company and to get out Company property books in order.

Capt. Wolfe and Lt. Schlenk were at Battalion HQ last night. Everyone enjoyed a quiet evening of bridge. Capt. Wolfe returned about 1000 and Lt. Schlenk a little later.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** The Company has been busy today checking over the equipment and starting to get the Company books in order. Sgt. Deasy has been the busiest of all. Lt. Downey has the job of checking over the Company property and Lt. Eide

checking the men's individual forms 32 & 33. During the afternoon the men continued working on their vehicles and equipment. Most of the equipment is in pretty good shape.

The maintenance section have been busy checking all the vehicles for their 6000 mile check. They will finish the checking tomorrow.

Capt. Wolfe was at Battalion HQ for a short while this evening.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The Company continued its work on their vehicles and equipment.

Col. Williams and a Col. from the Inspectors General was at the Company this afternoon.

Sgt. Policay's squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had the job of destroying some German equipment. The squad was busy the whole day returning about 1800.

Sgt. Powell of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon took the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry tracks that they loaned to us for two of our cargo trucks. Sgt. Powell brought back our two cargo trucks. This first exchange had taken place some time ago to give us two armored platoons. Each of these platoons have been with task forces during the past six weeks.

About 40 men of the Company went over to Attenburg this afternoon to a movie. Two trucks went to the Battalion this evening to a movie.

This ends another week with little activity in the Company except for a short move from Kohren to Popschen. The Company has spent most of the week in rehabilitation.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Downey left early this morning taking most of the men in the Company to Penig where the shower point has set up. A new issue of clothes was in store for the Company but very few were able to get any. The Company must be hard to fit. The first group returned about 0900 this morning and the second group left shortly after.

About twenty men went to Catholic mass in Altenburg this morning for the 1000 services. A small group went this afternoon to Battalion HQ to the Protestant Services.

The Company has taken it pretty easy today being the first Sunday we have had off for quite some time. During the evening about ninety men went over to Altenburg to the show. CCB has a very nice theater and is showing movies at 1400 and 1900 every day. Lt. Schlenk also went up to the show. Capt. Wolfe went to a meeting at Battalion HQ.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Company started the day off with reveille at 0730 this morning. The Company has started off on a training schedule for a four weeks period. This is to teach the new men that have joined the Company that have no engineer experience and also to take up some of the idle time.

Maj. Johnson was here at 0900 giving the Company the first inspection the Company has had where it was inspected by a member of the Battalion Staff. The results, well it was fair, but as a whole we can do some improving. During the afternoon the Company held a two hour parks formation with all the Company busy working on the tools and vehicles.

This evening three trucks were dispatched to take the men to the show in Altenburg. Capt. Wolfe and Lt. Schlenk also went up to Battalion then on to the show.

# May, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:** The Company held reveille fifteen minutes later this morning starting the day off at 0745. The training schedule starts at 0930 this morning with close order drill for a half an hour. Following this Lt. Schlenk held a class in demolitions. After a short lecture the Company was divided into smaller groups with the NCO's showing the proper ways in preparing charges and how to use the demolitions equipment in the demolitions chests. During the afternoon a half hour of manual arms and an hour and a half of care and cleaning of equipment. Two hours of athletics with the platoons playing against each other. Each platoon is forming a volley ball team. Also soft and foot ball teams. The HQ section played the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon in a softball game. It ended in a 6-6 tie. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon winning 3 games, HQ Platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon winning 2 games out of three with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. As yet we didn't have scores of the touch football games.

Capt. Wolfe left at 1830 this evening to a Summary Court to be held in Company A's area. After the trial a meeting was held at Battalion HQ.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** We started the day with reveille at 0745 and after breakfast the Company began preparing for the inspection of tools and vehicles. Col. Williams did the inspecting this morning. The equipment was in pretty good condition. Rust on the automatic weapons being the biggest drawback of being a good inspection. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was complimented on being the best of the three platoons in this inspection. Also in the inspection that was held Monday by Maj. Johnson.

The afternoon was spent in care and cleaning of equipment. For the men, Lt. Eide held a class in Bailey Bridge reconnaissance and laying of the bridge site.

The balance of the afternoon was spent in playing volleyball, and softball. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon beat the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon by a score of 8 to 0. The volleyball scores were a little complete with the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon winning 5 games out of 6 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon also beat the HQ Platoon in touch football by a score of 18-0.

Three trucks were dispatched to take the men to the show in Altenburg.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** The training schedule still carries on with reveille at 0745. With a class at 1000 in the use of the mine detector. Lt. Downey was in charge. The practical work was turned over to the NCO's in the three platoons giving the new men actual work in the setting and use of the detector. A few German toft mines was used to show the reading and the method to detect these mines even though they are a non metallic mine.

Lt. Schlenk held a class for the NCO's and demolition men. The different formulas and best methods in breaching obstacles and other types of demolition were taken up.

The rest of the day was spent out on the athletic field. The final results. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon won the softball game over HQ Platoon by a score of 7-1. Not to good for HQ. Quite a few of the men went to Altenburg to the movies this evening.

Lt. Schlenk went over to a nearby town this evening where a civilian was having a little trouble. He returned in time to go to the show in Altenburg.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** The morning started off with the usual activities. Reveille, breakfast then at 0930 a half hour of calisthenics. At 1000 the Company had a class in .30 and .50 cal machine guns. Lt. Eide was to be in charge but had to go to a meeting at Battalion HQ at 0900 this morning. Lt. Downey took charge in his absence. Lt. Eide returned at 1100.

The Company fell out this afternoon at 1345 and marched down to the area where Battalion has picked for a parade ground. The entire Battalion had a retreat formation. We returned at 1600 this afternoon.

This evening Battalion has a show in their area so the men will go there tonight in place of Altenburg.

The Battalion surgeon gave the Company a short physical. This is the first we've had in quite some time.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at 0745, calisthenics, and a Saturday morning inspection. It really looks as if we are back in a garrison life with a Saturday inspection. The inspection was pretty good in spite of the rain, which made it very bad.

Company C called for a ball game this afternoon but due to they rain they called the game off. The men took it easy this afternoon. Just like we used to do back at Camp Cooke.

A new reinforcement was assigned to the Company today. He is temporarily attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon until the Company Commander can assign him to a platoon. Another reinforcement arrived a couple of days ago. The two are Cpl. Crocker and Cpl. Garbrough.

Two trucks took men to the show in Altenburg. Lt. Downey also went this evening. Lt. Schlenk went over to Company C this afternoon for a little visit.

Lt. Fleischer from Battalion HQ was down to the Company this afternoon.

This ends our first week in what is considered garrison Army life again with training periods, parades, inspections and what have you.

No matter what comes up, the news seems to be the biggest controversy. Lt. Downey is keeping his ear to the radio and his nose to the map so our situation map is pretty well up to date. Everyone is looking for the end of the war in this theater most any day. So here's hoping.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** No reveille this morning and the men really stick to their sacks. A lot of them missed breakfast.

Catholic services were held at 100 this morning at Altenburg in the 69<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion area. Quite a few of the men attended the services. Protestant services were held in our own Battalion area at 1300 this afternoon.

A couple of truck loads of men went into Altenburg to the show. Another truck went in with the men with the men doing what they wanted to, which was mostly writing letters.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** The morning started off as usual, reveille, breakfast, and calisthenics at 1000. Lt. Downey held another class in mines. The different types, anti tank, anti personnel, and the engineers' responsibility. This class was for the whole Company.

During the afternoon a half hour of close order drill, following with an hour of care and cleaning equipment. At 1430 the Company marched to the athletic field. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon played the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon winning by a score of 8-0. HQ Platoon played the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and HQ Platoon losing 18-0. All four of the platoons had their Volleyball team. We don't have the scores of these games at this time.

Two trucks went to Altenburg to the movies this evening.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** There wasn't much done today. The usual morning routine instead of a class from 1000-1130. The Platoon sergeants made another inventory of all engineer equipment and turned the results into Sgt. Deasy, our supply sergeant.

During the afternoon we had the usual hour for care and cleaning of equipment, following with athletics for the balance of the day.

There was a meeting of the court at 1400 at the Company CP this afternoon. It adjourned at 1530. All of the officers going over to Company C to play softball. The EM of Company C beat the officers by a score of 7-2. No scores were turned in of the game in the Company this afternoon.

Two truck loads of men went to the show in Altenburg this evening.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** The Company started the day with the usual activities with a class at 1000 of special weapons. Lt. Eide had charge of this class for the entire Company, minus the necessary guards and administrative personnel. This class concerned the two types of bazookas that we have in the Company. Three rounds were fired but all failed to detonate. Cpl. Rice of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon took care of the duds. At 1100 a half hour of close order drill was held with the platoon sergeants in charge.

During the afternoon we had another inspection by Maj. Johnson. Inspecting the equipment and vehicles. Everything looked pretty good today. The balance of the day was spent in athletics. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon playing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon in softball. We don't have the score but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon won another game. No scores were turned in of the volleyball games.

Two trucks went into Altenburg this evening to the show, but returned shortly as there wasn't any show there this evening.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** The Company had a half day holiday this morning celebrating the Victory Day.

The afternoon was spent with an hour of Company drill and the balance of the day in athletics.

There was another meeting of the court this afternoon. The court adjourned at 1600.

Battalion had a show in their area this evening, some of the men attending this also some going into Altenburg to the movies.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with the usual routine, the main class this morning was demolition with Lt. Schlenk in charge. He took up the proper method in preparing charges, letting the new men make up charges, both electric and non electric and letting them set them off. A half hour class of close order drill followed the period.

There was a retreat parade scheduled for the afternoon, but was cancelled. Capt. Wolfe was called up to Battalion HQ for a Company Commanders meeting. Capt. Wolfe held a Company conference on his return from Battalion HQ giving the men the necessary information.

The Company fell out at about 1430 for athletics. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon beat the HQ Platoon by a score of 6-0. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon beat the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon by a score of 11-10. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's first defeat.

Two trucks went to Altenburg to the movies.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille was held at the usual time this morning. This was the only formation held in the Company. The balance of the morning was getting ready and loading the vehicles for our move this afternoon.

The Company left Poppaschen at 1410 traveling through Altenburg, Gera, Jena and into bivouac just East of Apolda. The whole Battalion is together. Everyone is living in tents. Almost like the time we were in the desert.

We arrived here about 1900 and by 2100 everyone was pretty well set up. We had supper and the beer kegs were opened up. The beer tonight was free. The other beer was sold to the men and the profits were used for having this beer free.

This ends another week in Germany. The week we've looked long and hard for. May 8<sup>th</sup> was Victory Day. The latest discussion is CBI or the States. Also adding up their points for possible discharges. Everybody is doing a lot of wishing and hoping. Who isn't?

**13<sup>th</sup>:** The Company began getting settled in their new area. A number of details were started working, building mess tables, getting poles for our lighting system, others digging garbage pits, latrines and numerous other details. Practically everybody is busy to improve the Company area.

Catholic mass was held in Company HQ area. Quite a few of the men attended the services.

A beer garden was opened this afternoon for the men in the Battalion. This afternoon there isn't many men left in the area. This is the first opportunity that the men have had a chance to buy beer. Occasionally there was a beer party but those times were long and far between parties.

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at the usual time 0745. The Company continued their work on improving the Company area. The engineer section was called out to knock down the tall grass with the dozer.

Sgt. Stark left this morning to return to our old area to pick up some stuff that had been forgotten in our move. He returned about 1500 this afternoon.

Capt. Wolfe made a little trip up to Camburg to CCA. This is one of the towns that we passed through on our advance through Germany. Lt. Downey and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had to clean the town of snipers before work could be started on the partially destroyed bridge. Everything is OK up that way.

Lt. Downey made a little reconnaissance trying to find some light sockets bring back 18 of them so I guess we'll have lights if someone can run the generator.

There is a show in one of the theaters in town, playing Meet Me in St. Louis, starring Judy Garland. The men were marched to the place for the first time, mostly in getting the places located.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** The Company continued with their work of improving the Company area. A detail of 10 men from each platoon with a NCO in charge left the Company to work on a bridge in Darndorf. Sgt. Catanzaro was to work on a bridge with his platoon with Lt. Schlenk in charge of the mission. From the reports the demolition men messed things up a little. After setting off their charges, they sunk their bridge. They are working with a German pontoon bridge. There is another show in town this evening. So far we don't know the name of it.

Lt. Schlenk returned with his platoon at about 1900 this evening. They still have a little work to do for the morning.

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Schlenk left at 0900 this morning to continue the work on the bridge at Dorndorf.

Four men from the Company left at 1800 this evening for a three day pass in Paris. The lucky ones this time are: Tec 5 Simpson, T/5 Wojcik, Pvt. Cardinal, T/5 Park. Company A furnished the transportation to the SSO.

The Company has been busy with details around the Company, plus being busy checking the number of points they have.

Sgt. French left this afternoon with a coal hauling detail. Each Company furnished a truck. They are going to a town about 10 miles on the other side of Lutz. They returned at 0100 the following morning.

The Company took in the show, "Two Down and One To Go," this afternoon. Showing the soldiers how he would be discharged under the point system.

Another show in town showing Brazil. A few of the men who hadn't seen it in Altenburg went over. We are provided transportation to these shows.

**17<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Schlenk went out again this morning to finish their job on the bridge. He was called in early yesterday so that the men could see the show Two Down and One To Go. They finished their job and was back at 1400 this afternoon.

Most of the men went to Jena to the showers this morning. The balance have been going as they finished their work details. Also we have been going over to the school building in Apolda where the examination team are giving the men in the Battalion their physical examination.

Lt. Downey was giving the detail of finding a flag pole in town to make for the Division. He is making arrangements with the Burgmeister in Apolda for the material.

**18<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with reveille at 0745 and breakfast at 0800. The Company started their schedule today with calisthenics at 0930 and close order drill at 1000. An hour of parks was held from 1030 to 1130 in the motor park.

Sgt. Gilbert took over the coal hauling detail from Sgt. French. They are hauling coal for the generator, which supplies the electric power for the city of Apolda.

The afternoon was devoted to athletics on the ball field, Company B, playing two games, one with HQ Company and one with Company C. We won the first game with HQ Company by a score of 10-3. We lost the second to Company C by a score of 6-3. Both games were well played with plenty of support from the sidelines.

Two trucks were dispatched to take men over to the show in town. "Women In The Window" was the movie for the night.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with the usual activities, following by an inspection at 0900 by Maj. Luetzelschwab. The inspection was fair this morning. Checking the area was the main item. Four new replacements arrived in the Company yesterday morning. They are Pvt. Anderson, Parker, Perkins and Stetler.

Two details were sent out in the afternoon, one to pick up some more lumber to complete work projects that we have started in the Company. The other detail is leaving with Maj. Johnson to work with Civil Affairs.

The Company is holding a party for the four men that are leaving the Company Tuesday. These four men have the highest points and are starting on their homeward journey. The four men that are leaving are S/Sgt. Ringo, Catanzaro, Pvt. Wilson and Pvt. Fesczhak.

Sgt. Gilbert left early this morning on his coal hauling detail.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** Today was a day of leisure for the men, most of them writing letters and helped celebrate the going away party for the men that are leaving us.

Catholic services were held at the administrative center and Protestant services held in a church in Apolda, Company C furnished the truck to take the men to the Protestant services while we furnished a truck to take our men and Company C men to the Catholic services.

One truck was dispatched to take men to the movie this afternoon.

**21<sup>st</sup>:** Reveille was held at the usual time this morning. At 0900 we had a half hour of calisthenics, following this the platoons began preparation to take over the security guard from Company A. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon moved out at 1500 taking over the different guard posts in Apolda. 30 men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and 20 men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon took over the five outposts in the Battalion area. We also have four roving patrols that cover different routes, visiting the Burgmeister in all the towns and checking on any violations of orders. There has been a few little disturbances, nothing serious.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** S/Sgt. Catanzaro, Ringo, Pvt. Fesczhak, Wilson left this morning at 0700. They are now on their way home. We all wish them the best of luck on their homeward journey.

T/5 Bobbitt returned from his furlough on the Riviera at noon today. He left immediately to join his platoon in Apolda. Three men were to leave tomorrow but all passes and furloughs have been cancelled until further notice.

The four patrols left at 0900 this morning, covering their routes and again after curfew this evening checking on civilians to see if they are obeying the curfew regulations.

One truck was dispatched to take what men that is here to the movies.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The day started with the usual routine with what men of the Company that are present. After the four patrols leave to cover their routes. The balance of the men left are busy working on details to improve the Company area. Most of the work has been building frames for the pyramidal tents. So far nothing serious has been reported through our outposts and patrols. Lt. Downey is kept pretty busy at the city jail. His big problem is that his jail is overflowing and no place to park the extra vehicles that have been picked up.

The afternoon is a day off but most of the men continued with their details. One truck was dispatched to take what men wanted to go to the movie during the afternoon. Also one for the evening performances.

Sgt. Kitchel returned today from his furlough in the U.K. Everything is fine there according to him.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** The details have been about the same today. We are adding a few more tables to our set that we already had constructed.

The patrols left at 0900 this morning covering their regular routes, checking with each Burgmeister in each town. They are also visiting all the outposts along the Battalion boundary.

Sgt. Dagen has a small detail with inventorying warehouses in the vicinity of Apolda. He has Tec 5 Zimmerman with him to do the inventory.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is still on security guard. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon being very busy in town doing nothing but filling the jail with civilians, causing Lt. Downey more headaches. The patrols made two trips today, covering their regular routes. One trip was made after the curfew hour.

Capt. Wolfe, Lt. Eide, Sgt. Kitchel were called as witnesses at the trial held this morning.

The men that are still in the Company area are still working on the frames for the tents. We are practically completed now. The maintenance is the only one that don't have a frame for their tent.

A truck was dispatched this evening to take men to the movie in town.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille was held at the usual time this morning followed by a police of the area. No inspection was held by the Company today as most of the Company is still in the field. There was a Red Cross doughnut wagon in the Battalion area today. This is the first time they have been with us in quite a while.

The patrols left as usual this morning covering their regular routes. Another outpost was sent out this morning to cover the main gates at the displaced persons camp at Bad Sulsa.

Movie trucks left as usual this evening.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Today was a day of leisure. Most everyone writing letters and resting up. Catholics services we held at the administration center and Protestant services was held in a church in Apolda.

We furnished the trucks for Catholic services and Company C furnished trucks for Protestant services. We had a very good attendance at both services.

Capt. Wolfe left at 1300 to spend a 7 day leave in the U.K.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is still out on security duty. We were relieved by security duty around 1500. It was late when everyone got in and settled.

What was left in Company had police call and parks. Whole trucks left at 1830. The patrols left out of the Company area around 0900 and returned around 1200. 1300 the patrols left out to show Company C the routes before they relieved us.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille was held as usual this morning at 0745. At 0900 we had a half hour of calisthenics and a half hour of close order drill. HQ Platoon went to Buchenwald. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had a class on the new flame thrower with Lt. Downey in charge. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had a lecture on orientation by Lt. Schlenk. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon took charge of all details in the Company area. Tec 5 Gallaher and Verbosh were on detail hauling displaced persons. Cpl. Rice is in charge of 3 trucks hauling displaced persons. They were hauling them to Chemnitz.

Late in the afternoon a surprise formation was held for S/Sgt. Bob Martin who was presented with the Bronze Star. Sgt. Martin left the next morning to catch a plane that is to leave for the States on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. He is a native of California and will receive his discharge in that state. Show trucks left at 1830.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** Today the Company spent a half day holiday. Although it was supposed to be a holiday all day the Company had a show down inspection.

2 trucks left this morning to haul displaced persons. The drivers were Tec 5 Verbosh and Gallaher.

The Company softball team with Sgt. Dagen in charge played Company A. We lost by a close score of 1-0. Just our luck.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** No reveille this morning on account of heavy rain. Company fell out at 0830 for police call at 0900. HQ and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon went to the show returning to Company area at 1030. At 1100 the Company had another police call. 4 trucks left this morning to haul displaced persons. The drivers were Tec 5 Gallaher and Verbosh. At 1300 the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons went to the show. HQ and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon are policing the area. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon are now policing the area. It should be clean by now. After 6 or 7 times going over it. 1500 we were paid by Lt. Eide. At present he is acting Company Commander. This is one formation that most everyone will stand. Retreat formation at 1700. Show trucks will leave at 1830.

# June, 1945

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Reveille at usual time – 0745. Trucks left at 0730 to haul displaced persons. Tec 5 Gallaher and Pvt. Verbosh were drivers. We had three trucks report to military government.

General Grow is the Commanding Officer of the Division again as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Company is preparing for inspection tomorrow. About 50 men went to Apolda to see a stage show. PX rations were sold today.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Reveille at usual time – 0745. 2 trucks left at 0730 to haul displaced persons. Police call was held at reveille. At 0900 we had inspection of personal equipment and weapons and motor park. Maj. Luetzelschwab, the inspecting officer was very pleased with the inspection.

Company received 145 quarts of whiskey today. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Today is a leisure day. Everyone is sobering up from yesterday. Some are writing letters and playing ball. Lots of headaches. Chow was served at the regular time – 1200. We have a show truck and a truck taking men swimming at 1400. Show trucks left at 1830. Several men left for Brussels on a pass.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** New schedule today. Reveille has been changed to 0700. Two trucks will leave for displaced persons. The drivers are Tec 5 Gallaher and Owens.

6 trucks are leaving on detail at 0815. 7 squads are on detail working on rifle range. They are hauling lumber from Bad Salsa to Isserstedt and Dorndorf. Capt. Wolfe returned from leave today. Company started working on rifle range.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at usual time at 0700. Chow was served at 0730. 1 truck left the area to work on the new rifle range. Lt. Downey and 2 squads of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons, Sgt. Policay and Lukart, air compressor are also going out. Lt. Schlenk is in charge of the MI range. Lt. Downey is in charge of 1000 inch range. Pfc. Stultz left today for a 10 day furlough in the U.K.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at usual time. Most of the Company went to the range this morning. The remainder of the Company worked on details in the Company area. S/Sgt. Powell is in charge of MI range under Lt. Schlenk.

Sgt. Lund left today for the good ole USA for discharge. Sgt. Lund before leaving received a Bronze Star Cluster.

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at usual time – 0700. Company went to range again today. We lost several men today. Cpl. Mercier, Tec 5 Bielski, Pfc Francis, Wolfe and Tec 5 Eglaston.

These men were transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division.

Cpl. Crocker had a misfortune today. He accidentally caught his finger on the tip of an airplane wing which was up against another vehicle. When the tip of the wing hit the other vehicle it cut his finger off.

Sgt. Clement left for the French Riviera for a 7 day furlough.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Most of the Company are back on the range again today. A few ratings were given to the men today. The promotions are from Pfc. to Tec 5. The men are: Melillo, Moyer, Rivers. One man was promoted to Pfc. – McPherson.

Two men returned to Company today from General hospital in England. Pfc. Kerschner, Selittle and Cpl. Benton also returned from a hospital somewhere in England.

Tec 5 Cosgrove returned from a 10 day furlough in the U.K. He said everything was OK back in England. He also visited a brother while there.

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille was held at the usual time – 0700. Company is out on the range again today. Cpl. Lane was putting his gun together when it accidentally went off. He was shot in the foot.

The Company has the evening off.

**10<sup>th</sup>:** Today is another day of leisure. Everyone is resting up and writing letters and playing ball.

Catholic Mass and Protestant services were held for the men in Apolda. There were quite a few of the men that attended.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** We are starting a new week out in good form. Reveille at the usual time. All the Company left to work on the range at 0800. Bad day for Slowinski. He left for Delta Disciplinary Training Center. There he will serve a sentence of 6 years.

Several of the sergeants were promoted to Staff Sergeant today. The lucky guys are: Pickerall, Deasy, Lukart. There were also several other promotions in the Company to,

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Company is continuing construction of the rifle range. Today several men left the Company for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division. They are: Tec 5 Melillo, Moyer, Rivers, Wiseman and Pfc. McPherson. We got some new men assigned to us also. They are mostly high point men.

- 13<sup>th</sup>:** Company is continuing construction of the range. Very few left the Company area for details. Pfc. Burton left today for a 10 day furlough to the Riviera. Anderson left for a 7 day furlough to the same place.
- 14<sup>th</sup>:** Reveille at the usual time at 0700. Company finished the range today. It is a pretty good range too.
- There hasn't been much mail into the Company today. The morale of the men is getting pretty low.
- 15<sup>th</sup>:** After reveille formation we had police call to police the area thoroughly. Since we aren't going to work on the range we are having calisthenics and close order drill. We also have a motor park formation cleaning up all the vehicles and equipment in the motor pool.
- 16<sup>th</sup>:** There was not inspection today so the day started with the usual activities, with calisthenics and close order drill with parks formation starting at 1000 hours for the rest of the morning.
- Sgt. Powell took a small detail with him to finish a few minor details at the range. They returned at 1130 hours. Another detail went out to finish hauling gravel for the walks in the Company area.
- The men received a liquor ration today of a bottle per man. The truck left for the movies at 1830 this evening.
- 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Company was alerted this morning to take over the security guard in our area. Lt. Schlenk is in charge of the platoon that is stationed in the court house. Sgt. Pickerell is in charge of the outpost at Bad Salsa. These outposts are made up of the men who have over 70 points as the low point men will have to take rifle marksmanship. They will fire on the range at a later date.
- 18<sup>th</sup>:** Four patrols were formed this morning consisting of four men each, with one NCO and an interpreter with each patrol. Each patrol has a designated route to cover twice daily with an occasional trip after curfew hours.

The balance of the men left in the company area are taking rifle marksmanship with Lt. Downey in charge.

Two trucks were dispatched to take some Russian displaced persons to Chemnitz. Lt. Eide was in charge. They left for Bad Salsa at 0745 this morning and returned to the Company at 1500 this afternoon.

All the officers except Lt. Eide who had not returned yet attended the meeting at the school house where they had their first I and E lecture given by Lt. Bracken.

Show trucks left at 1800 this evening.

**19<sup>th</sup>:** There's nothing new happening today. The patrols left this morning at 0830 to cover their respective routes.

Tec 5 Belcher went to the hospital this morning after finding out he had a broken jaw. Tec 5 Bobbitt also had an accident this evening of accidentally shooting his toe with a pistol he had just cleaned. He was sent to an evacuation hospital at Jena.

The men left in the area had a half hour calisthenics and half hour close order drill. The balance of the morning was spent working in the motor pool.

**20<sup>th</sup>:** The day started as usual with calisthenics and close order drill. Lt. Downey had another class this morning in rifle marksmanship. He did not have too good of attendance as quite a few of the men were out on various details.

Pfc. Bagetis was evacuated today to the 76<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion.

Show trucks left at the usual time this morning.

**21<sup>st</sup>:** Sgt. Hyler left this morning with three trucks to haul displaced persons. They hauled about 350 Yugovlavs from the camp at Bad Salsa to DP Camp 63 at Jena. There's still a few left at the camp at bad Salsa but they will be picked up at a later date.

Sgt. Penton left the Company this morning to go back to the States. He was only in the Company to leave at this date. He had 122 points so he expects a discharge after arrival in the States.

There was a little disturbance in one of the towns during the night. Three GI's had broken in the same house and stealing some articles. A check up was conducted this afternoon but not too much information was given by any of the civilians except for the articles stolen.

Lt. Downey held another class this morning in rifle marksmanship. A better attendance was had this morning.

The final class was held this afternoon for officers attending the I and E School given by Lt. Bracken.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Another robbery was committed last night. According to all reports from Cpl. Frahm all indications is that it was the same group as the night before. The house was broken into but nothing had been removed from the results of the investigation. Everything seems to be quiet on the other routes. Everything seems to be going along good in Lt. Schlenk's department, an occasional violator is picked up and brought in for punishment.

Pfc. Bagetis returned to the Company after a couple of days with the 76<sup>th</sup> Medics.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Sgt. Hyler was given the detail to complete the hauling of displaced persons from the camp at Bad Salsa. They have all of them out from there now. There is still some displaced people at the various towns and who are a little undecided as what they want to do. Stay in Germany or returned to their homeland.

An inspection was held at 1000 this morning with Col. Williams making the inspection. The weapons were in good shape but not quite so the area.

The patrols made their morning run. No reports of any robberies during the night. There were no other details the rest of the day. Except the patrols making a trip after curfew this evening. Trucks were dispatched for anyone wanting to go take a shower. The show truck left at 1830 tonight for the 1900 showing.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** The patrols made one trip today. Making it during the morning. Also a message was sent out to the outpost at Bad Salsa to return to the Company area. Sgt. Pickerell brought the men in just before the show this evening.

A show truck left at 1330 and again at 1830 most of the men just taking it easy.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with the usual activities. The Company being on security guard for the week. Also as Company C has not finished firing on the rifle range. Lt. Downey had another class in rifle marksmanship at 1000 this morning.

The patrols left as usual this morning making another trip this afternoon. No reports of anything unusual happening on any of the routes during the night.

The show truck left again at the usual time at 1800.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with the usual activities with calisthenics at 0900 and close order drill at 0930. At 1000 there was another parks formation in the motor park for the balance of the morning.

The patrols left at the usual time with an outbreak of robberies on one of the routes. Three towns were hit last night on Cpl. Rice's route. This time it was through three GI's and two Polish men with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton and two motorcycles. More stuff was taken this trip. Pfc. Dubas returned from the 76<sup>th</sup> Medics while Pvt. Kanzler left this morning to the medics.

A USO show was held in the town this afternoon with quite a few men attending. A very good show was put on. A show truck left at 1800 for the movie.

**27<sup>th</sup>:** Lt. Downey held another class in rifle marksmanship after the usual calisthenics and close order drill. The afternoon was free time and for what necessary details the men had the afternoon off.

During the last night groups of two or three men were dropped off at every town to try and get any information or catch the people that are doing all the robbing. Everything was quiet and no reports on any violences during the night.

The patrols left at the usual time and also notifying all the burgmeisters to have all the displaced persons collected by the following morning so they could be picked up and taken to the various collecting points.

Show trucks at the usual hour.

**28<sup>th</sup>:** The patrols left at 0830 this morning to make their regular trip and to start picking up the displaced people in the various towns. A few were brought to the Company to be put on other trucks where they'll be hauled to the various collecting points. The trucks continued to haul during the afternoon. Tec 5 Kincaid making the last trip after supper.

Calisthenics and close order drill with the balance of the morning was spent in the motor pool cleaning up their equipment.

Another USO show was held in town this afternoon with Hal McIntyre and his band providing entertainment. A very good show. The trucks left for the movies at the regular time this evening.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** The day started with the usual activities, calisthenics, close order drill and another class in rifle marksmanship by Lt. Downey. This will be the last one as we just received word that forty of the low point men would move out to the range this evening to start firing in the morning.

The patrols left at 0900 this morning to make regular trips visiting each of the Burgmeisters in the various towns. Everything seems to be quiet. No robberies, no shooting, no nothing.

The afternoon was spent in preparing to move out to the range. Preparations were also made for Company C to relieve us of our security guard in the morning.

The show truck left at the usual time this evening. The forty men picked to commence firing left for the range at 2230 this evening.

**30<sup>th</sup>:** There wasn't much of an inspection this morning. The area was all that was inspected. Part of the Company started firing this morning on the rifle range. Lt. Eide made arrangements to start firing on the tommy gun and machine guns tomorrow. The rest of the Company is planning on moving out at 2300 tonight. Oh no we're not either. Word was just received that we would move out at 0400 in the morning that's awful early.

The afternoon was spent in getting our equipment loaded and to be ready to move out in the morning. This looks like a different camp now. Its 2100 now, and there's only five tents left belonging to a Platoon of Company C who are remaining behind for a few days. Everybody is ready to go.

So ends a month and our first move on one homeward journey.

# July, 1945

- 1<sup>st</sup>:** The Company started rolling out at 0300 this morning. They were served hot coffee by Sgt. Glosenger. The area was policed once more and at 0400 the leading vehicles started moving, leaving the town to the Russians. After traveling about 12 miles we hit one of Hitler's super highways which we followed almost to Frankfurt-am-Main. We arrived at our new area at about 1600. The Company immediately went to work putting up the pyramidal tents – we are still in the field. Sgt. Glosenger had supper ready for us at 1800. The men continued working after supper, completing the tent erection. By 2100 almost everyone was in bed and doing some real sleeping.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>:** We had reveille at the usual time this morning. There was a little change from the usual activities as the Company was given the detail of building latrine boxes for the Division. The men started at 0830 but the rain slowed us down some and by 1700 we had only nine constructed. Capt. Wolfe and three trucks returned to one old camp site to pick up more of the lumber that we had left behind; they will return sometime tomorrow. Sgt. Clement arrived about 1700 today bringing in one load of lumber from another camp site. The SS Officer provided a little beer this evening that was sold for a half mark per canteen cup – it didn't take long to empty the five kegs.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The men continued to work at the same details that they had worked on yesterday, they are all wondering why they have to build these for everyone else. It rained again this morning and it continues to slow us down, but the work continued and by night we had constructed 52 of them which is a little better than yesterday's work. Sgt. Powell returned from Apolda at 1600 today with the last of the lumber that had been left behind. Capt. Wolfe also returned at the same time – with orders awaiting for him. He is being transferred to Assembly

Area Command at Rheims. He will leave for France tomorrow. As of yet there are no facilities set up for shows and the men are just walking around the area. We hope that something will happen pretty soon.

**4<sup>th</sup>:** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and still not a holiday, we have to complete our work on the latrine boxes this afternoon, so it is just another day for us. We have just received word that the men leaving for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers are to be ready to leave at 1230 tomorrow so these men were given the day off to clean up and get packed. Men from the 23<sup>rd</sup> are due to arrive here at 1100 tomorrow morning. Capt. Wolfe left at 0730 this morning. He took his driver, T/5 Kinnison, with him but he will return to the Company as soon as he has taken Capt. Wolfe to Reims. We worked hard this morning and took the afternoon off and so we had a short holiday at last. During the evening the field artillery units provided the fireworks for the occasion. Lt. Titterington has arrived from Apolda and is taking over the Company.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** The big transfer that was to take place today was cancelled for some reason or other and has been delayed for the time being. We are now on another detail building boxes for the AG. Some of these were built in the other area but were left behind. Sixty men went to take showers this afternoon in the 99<sup>th</sup> Division area. Word came through again for the transfers to be ready tomorrow – I guess we might make the grade yet.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** The transfer of 82 men from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers took place this morning at 1100. These men all have 85 points or better. At 1230 this afternoon 82 of our men left to join the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers. Lt. Eide left to make a reconnaissance of billets. He took T/4 Zimmerman along as an interpreter. Only one place was found that would hold the Company and this was in the town of Soden. The carpenter and old men of the Company continued to build boxes for the AG. They piled the lumber in 15 different piles so that each Battalion in the Division will get a share of the lumber that is left. A truck was dispatched this evening to take men to the show held in the town of Schweinheim. This is the first show that we have seen in this area.

- 7<sup>th</sup>:** Everything is pretty quiet today. The new men are adjusting themselves to the Company – we have a different table of organization than they are used to. There was no inspection today because of this recent transfer. Everyone took it pretty easy this afternoon except for Lt. Titterington who went along with Lt. Zweig to check on some billets in Klein Wallstadt. There are some large buildings in this town and it looks like it will be our town in the near future. A truck took some of the men to the show this evening.
- 8<sup>th</sup>:** Catholic and Protestant services were held in the 86<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance area and quite a large number of our men went to attend them. The rest of the day was spent in loafing around and taking it easy. This is a dull pastime but it is the favorite occupation in this Company. There was another show in Schweinheim during the evening.
- 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Company is preparing to move out of here and into the new billets in Klein Wallstadt. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon left at 0900 to get the billets cleaned up a little. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon left at 1215 after having an early dinner. The kitchen took dinner to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and then returned to load up their equipment. HQ Platoon took off at 1345 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon followed them at 1415. We sent three trucks back after some of the lumber and boxes that we had to leave in the old area. Everybody is busy getting straightened around in the new quarters, so there is no time to think about a show tonight.
- 10<sup>th</sup>:** We are still busy fixing up our new billets and we are using 12 German prisoners of war to help us. Lt. Eide went to Miltonberg again to check up on the beds that are being made in the factory there. Lt. Titterington went to Frankfurt and Lt. Hogerson went to Darmstadt. Both returned in the evening about 1700.
- 11<sup>th</sup>:** We continued to beautify the billet area. The most work was done around the kitchen where we spread gravel and put up tents and so on that we might eat in comfort. Some of the men took a truck over to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers to visit their old buddies; some of the 23<sup>rd</sup> came over here too. Special service brought the Company a little beer which was the first that we have had in this place. The

Company has another Division detail – we are to make signs for them. We only have to paint the backgrounds because the other companies are furnishing the painters for the lettering. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon will do the work on these signs.

- 12<sup>th</sup>:** The men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon are still busy painting signs today, they are supposed to have five welcome signs painted by this evening. Lt. Hogerson received word that he is to be transferred to Company A. They are losing one officer who has enough points. The supply section is busy taking inventory and getting their books in order. Special service brought more beer today and will be drunk this afternoon. There are no shows for us yet.
- 13<sup>th</sup>:** Today is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon are still making signs. At the rate they are asking for them we shall be making them for a month. Lt. Schlenk and Sgt. Spillers returned from Paris where they have been on a pass. Four men left this morning for a furlough to the Riviera. Some men went by truck for another visit with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers and returned this evening.
- 14<sup>th</sup>:** The Company had an inspection by Maj. Hoover this morning. The billets and the area was inspected and found in good shape. The painters are still working in the signs and orders for them still come in – two more to be completed by tomorrow afternoon. The lettering men from the other companies were called back on the job so that we could get them done in time. Everybody took it easy in the afternoon and in the evening we went to the show at Obenberg.
- 15<sup>th</sup>:** Two trucks left this morning to take men to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers, seems like the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> are doing a lot of visiting lately. Catholic services were held at 1400 at a church here in town. Protestant services were held at 1700 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon building. There was a good attendance at both services. Most of the day was spent in leisure; some of the men slept, some wrote letters, and some walked around. A swimming pool has been opened in the town just South of us and quite a few men went there for a dip. There was another show in Obenberg.

**16<sup>th</sup> –  
22<sup>nd</sup>:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon continued work on painting signs for the Division. Five men from the 68<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion came over to help us on the painting. C Company, A Company and Battalion HQ are also furnishing men for this detail.

The carpenters started to build TAT boxes for the packing of gas masks and weapons. More boxes will be built for packing equipment that will travel with us on our next moves.

The supply section has been busy during the week picking up and turning in to the BSO the excess equipment that we have. There was a show down inspection of all quartermaster issue that the men have and all excess was turned in. The motor pool also has been busy turning some of our vehicles. Two dump trucks and three cargo trucks have been turned in so far.

Sunday morning 14 men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon with Lt. Eide in charge conducted a shakedown of civilian homes in the town of Eschau. This search was to see if the civilians are complying with the orders published for civilians.

On Saturday morning Company B played Company A in a game of softball. It was a very good game lasting for eight innings. Company B won by the score of 1-0.

Show trucks have been leaving each evening to take men to the movie at Obenberg. Show trucks also left to take the men to a show in Aschaffenburg.

On Sunday morning Lt. Titterington and six enlisted men left to be transferred to another unit. That evening another quota of men to be transferred was received. These were all low point men. Lt. Schlenk is now taking over the Company.

**23<sup>rd</sup> –  
31<sup>st</sup>:**

The Company is still working on the painting detail for the Division. Six men from other units from the Division came over to give us a hand on so that we could finish the painting this week. By Saturday night only three signs remained to be painted.

Two officers joined our Company this week in the transfer of men with the 69<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. They are Lt. Mathison and Lt. Weingartener. Six men of the Company were transferred to the 69<sup>th</sup> and six men from the 69<sup>th</sup> joined our

Company. We now have a mixture of all units of the Division in our Company. Lt. Weingartener left for the States on the 31<sup>st</sup> along with six other men of the Company. They are flying home.

Quite a few of the men are taking advantage of the various passes to Metz, Nancy, the Riviera, and the U.K. We also have one man on furlough in Switzerland.

The Company enjoyed two days of rest from details in the Company by going to the carnival put on by the Division. Each Battalion had various concessions and a full sports schedule was conducted. A good time was had by all.

The 31<sup>st</sup> of July concludes the history of the Company. Beginning at the time of the breakthrough at St. Lo to our present location at Kleinwallstadt with occupational duties. The past year the Company has traveled many miles over France, Luxemburg, Belgium and Germany. This bringing to a close another chapter in the history of the U.S. Army.