

# Company I

## 410th Infantry Regt. 103rd Infantry Division



THE BATTLE AT EGLISE St.-GILLES, HOHWARTH  
ALSACE, FRANCE, 28 November 1944

1944 - 1945



**Company I**

**410th Infantry Regt.**

**103rd Infantry Division**

**Edited By Robert D. Quinn**

**This Book Is Dedicated To  
Those In Our Company  
Who Gave Their Lives  
In The War.**

**“They All Deserve Some Form Of Immortality.”**

Company I 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regt. 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division,  
Edited by Robert D. Quinn

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Cover Picture: An Oil Painting by Jean Suard, Gagny France, through the courtesy of Will Alpern. Jean Suard served with the Chasseur Afrique, a Moroccan Colonial Division, that fought on our right flank going through the Vosges Mountains. His outfit was called: Combat Command 5, Cinquième DB, Première Régiment, Chasseurs d’Afrique.



## Preface

For 45 years I carried around memories of the war by myself. During this time I was in touch with only one Company I soldier, John Wagner. In 1990, trying to put these memories into perspective, I returned to France, Germany and Austria with my wife Marian and retraced my way to a few places that I remembered from forty-six years before. I visited St. Dié, Nieffern, Strasbourg and the U.S. World War II Lorraine cemetery at St. Avold.

I crossed the Rhine to see Heidelberg and Ulm, revisited Oberammergau and Garmisch and had a delightful visit to the Austrian mountain resort town of Mutters, finding the same Austrian family that Company I had been billeted with in 1945 !

With Wagner and his wife Bea, I went to the 1991 dedication of the 103rd Division's Monument at Pfaffenhoffen, Alsace and stayed for a week in Uhrwiller with the Kern family. I brought home a book, *The Fighting in the Val de Moder*, by Lise Pommois, relating the events in Alsace in 1944 and 1945, but made no connection between the town of Uhrwiller and Company I's battle there.

In summer 1993, Wagner called me to say he had heard that the 103rd Division Association was meeting in suburban Chicago and that we should try to be there. What an occasion to meet men with whom we had shared many wartime experiences. I shall never forget that reunion.

Many there agreed that the living members of Company I should do something to honor those who had died in the war. In Spring, 1994, two Memorial Plaques were placed in the Alsatian towns of Hohwarth and Uhrwiller where the Company had fought and lost many members.

Carroll Webster had kept a list of our casualties. 'Bear' Walters related how he had kept a small notebook, which he later sent to me, a record of day-by-day events during the war. He also sent a full-page copy of the 'Cactus Route'—map from the *Report After Action* book published in June, 1945. Arnie Marzullo contributed some records he had obtained from the National Archives.

These, together with information gathered while coordinating the Memorial Plaques project, amounted to enough material to fill a book to be shared with other Company I members, their children, and the families and next-of-kin of those who had lost their lives in 1944-45.

Through all of this, the person who was the greatest help in keeping the Company I Book project alive was Will Alpern, who kept sending bits of information, maps, and pictures he had researched and collected. Many members had sent to Alpern their own recollections of the war, and Will passed them on to me.

Carroll Webster proved to have the best memory, retelling many otherwise forgotten incidents. John Landolfi sent his recollections with excerpts from his wartime letters about Camp Howze and the battlefields our company had fought in France and Germany. Anthony Cava described events when the Germans were trying to break through our lines.

Neal Ross wrote a moving account about Gene Wise who sacrificed his life so that others would live. Recently Myron Klimkowicz and Bob Schultz added some memories of their own.

John Wagner sent his recollections of the battle at St. Gilles Church near Hohwarth. The recent photo of the church, following page 20, was sent by Gilbert Meyer, an American who lived in Illinois until he retired and returned to his grandfather's hometown of Hohwarth. The photo of the Lutheran Church in Uhrwiller, following page 44, was taken by Carroll Cook when he and Arnie Marzullo attended the dedication of Company I's Memorial Plaque there.

There are many sources about World War II history which I have consulted and cite in this book. *When The Odds Were Even* by Keith E. Bonn provided a view of the Infantry's role in the Seventh Army's Vosges campaign from the command officer's point of view. Daily news events for this book were taken from *2194 Days Of War*, published by Barnes & Noble, while the Strasbourg story is taken from a paper: "Policy versus Strategy: The Defense of Strasbourg in Winter: 1944-1945" by Franklin L. Gurley.

The U.S. Army's history of the Seventh Army, *From the Riviera to the Rhine* by Smith and Clarke, provided additional evidence of how the 103rd Division fought in collaboration with many other American divisions in the Vosges campaign.

Most helpful was the background provided in *Report After Action*, the 1945 book written by Jerry Turk and Ralph Mueller about the history of the 103rd Division, with Bill Barker as illustrator. Madame Pommois' book *The Fighting in the Val de Moder* is the source for the events in Bitschhoffen as related by Charles Dauger.

I am indebted to the National Archives of the United States for all the Battle Narratives of the 3rd Battalion, 410th Infantry; Lists of Casualties for Company I; and Award Citations for Silver and Bronze Stars that were given to men of our Company. The archivists at both the Suitland and College Park, Maryland branches of the Archives were most cooperative in my recent final review of Company I records.

The maps found in this book come from these sources: the American Map Service, 1944 (AMS), the Michelin Motoring Atlas-France and the Ravenstein Auto-Atlas Deutschland.

A word of thanks to Bob John for the phrase quoted in the dedication of this book. I am grateful for all material that has been sent to me and apologize for any name I may have overlooked in giving credit. My aging memory has led to misplaced papers, names and phone numbers. I regret any errors that appear in this book, and urge you to send updates and corrections.

Bob Quinn

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'Cactus Soldier' – An oil painting by Jean Suard, Gagny, France. Courtesy of Will Alpern.

Safe Conduct Pass for German Soldiers–Dropped by the Air Corps – Signed by Eisenhower

Photos Of Members Of Company 1



*At Camp Howze*

**Camp Howze** lies in the extreme north central section of Texas, just a few miles from the Red River and the Oklahoma border. The camp is seven miles northwest of Gainesville, the nearest city.

In all phases of work and training carried on here since activation day, August 17, 1942, Camp Howze has typified the spirit of America in this war. This huge new infantry division training camp is the result of America's determination to win in the quickest possible manner. Its fighting units have been trained to enter battle with the same "hurry up" attitude.

Camp Howze is a temporary cantonment, designed for immediate utility and built in a hurry. But the natural desire of men to have pleasant surroundings is apparent. Everywhere, units have laid neat sidewalks of gravel, and

Notes from John Landolfi  
Company I

May 17--I arrived at the camp. I was transferred from the 63rd Infantry Division.

May 20--We went to a theater and met the Commanding General. We also were issued our rifles. I also went to Gainesville for the first time.

June 7--I returned from furlough. I was 8 hours late with the company due to a delay in N. Y. I saw Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building. I saw Charlie Spivak and Tony Bennett in person. I missed going on bivouac.

June 8--I went on pass. The company was still out on bivouac.

June 9--I went through the "Hitler Village." I shot my rifle in the afternoon. I threw live grenades.

June 10--I hiked 8 miles.

June 11--Learned to carry a buddy on your back.

June 12--We got up at 4:00 a.m. and went on a 25-mile hike. We did it in less than 8 hours.

June 13--I fired the M-1 and then turned it in for a carbine in the 4th squad. Also I was issued a trench knife and saw a film on censorship.

June 14-15--Our 2-day problem started as we rode on trucks for 5 miles; then hiked 5 miles into a woods. My mortar squad, led by Lt. [Joseph] Keough became guide for a patrol at night. We also ate rations in the dark.

We put something on our hands and feet to repel mosquitoes and chiggers. We slept in a raincoat and used blanks in our rifles. We needed water to drink, but didn't have any.

Notes from Bob Quinn  
Company I

April 15--Well I arrived here yesterday at 1 o'clock. This place is HELL! All the boys were put in rifle companies, buck privates in the infantry. We are in the 103rd Division which is, it has been rumored, to be shipped on maneuvers. It is 16-month old outfit and is ready for overseas. The furlough deal is also very bad here. I might not get one until June.

We will be going out to the field pretty soon. They are sending 2,500 ASTP to the 103rd Division, which is understrength. I will be a rifleman in the rear rank. We live in a coal-heated, one story, black building. We have an outside latrine. It was very cold last nite. I about froze.

So much for the bad news, except don't worry about the APO number. It is because it is an activated division. There are two things that I do want. Keep the letters and the paper and the boxes coming. This is the most desolate place in God's forsaken land of Texas.

May 15--We got to Chicago about 15 minutes early. I got the Parmelee [cab] and ate at the Dearborn station. I was near the front of the line at Gate 4, waiting for the 'Kansas Cityan.' And then there was an announcement that servicemen would be at Gate 3. I hopped up to the door, 2nd in line. There was a mob of servicemen at the Gate.

I ran when they opened the Gate. I ran too far and passed up the Fort Worth car, but I ran back and got a seat, about the last open one. We set sail from Chicago and followed the Illinois Canal a very long way.

**Camp Howze**--well-tended plots of grass surround orderly rooms and mess halls. Actual construction of the railroad siding, wells, and roads for Camp Howze began in April, 1942.

By September, barely more than five months later, the first soldiers moved in to begin their duties while carpenters and electricians continued to work around the clock completing barracks and other buildings.

Much of the colorful history of the West was made on ground now covered by barracks or used for artillery ranges here. Where jeeps, half-tracks, and scout cars roll through Black Hollow in the range area, desperadoes once ambushed stage coaches and robbed the passengers. The north reservation along the Red River a year ago was still

## Landolfi

Sgt. let us get some from a running stream and said it was safe to drink. We later went through very tall grass, a foot over our head.

June 18--I was due for a pass and the company clerk messed up and didn't leave it for me. Sgt. made me type my own pass out.

June 19--I saw a circus in town.

June 20--We had a field inspection and were told to ship home extra clothing in the afternoon; we had a class in the mortars. Some PFC was demoted for sounding off to a Sgt.

June 21--Practiced with the mortar; later went under live machine gun fire.

June 23--Rumors we were to go to the South Pacific; in the CQ at night again.

June 27--I was assigned to 'Paint' detail with 5 other buddies; none knew how to paint. We would paint later at night (9-1:00) and were allowed to skip reveille and sleep until 11:00 a.m. Sgt. McCella [Earl W. Cellan ?] forgot the first morning and woke me up at 5:15 a.m., and my buddies tried to stop him. Too late! Later I was issued a pass to go to town. While in town, some woman had a wheel come off her baby carriage. I fixed it for her.

June 28--Had C.Q. for the night. Rumors were we were going to ship out in September.

June 29--I was still on painting detail.

June 30--We had a physical; also walked through a gas chamber. That night we finished the paint detail. We had a ball! We fried some steaks, potatoes and helped ourselves to cold canned

## Quinn

We had some soldier from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin who was a bit inebriated, and who kept the car pretty much alive. There were about 6 women on the car besides the soldiers. One was a young mother with her 5-month-old child, who kept crying all the time.

Many of the soldiers would ask to hold him, until one soldier who could hold the baby without crying was found; he held the baby most of the way thru Missouri and Kansas.

It sure was sad to be going back to Camp Howze. I ate a lot on the train, as usual. I slept all night from Ponca City, Oklahoma to Gainesville, Texas, [where we arrived] at 5:37 a.m., 30 minutes late. I stayed in town to noon and then went to the Service Club. I reported back at 4:00 p.m. after 13 glorious days.

The training surely was rough, after having such a soft life for so long. The saddest story of song or pen is that I had K.P. my first night back!

[Late May]--I am in Dallas for the weekend. Monday we start 3 weeks of basic training. They are to be rough. For the first time since I have been in the Army, I have met another Quinn. He is [John E. Quinn] from Cleveland.

They have lots of dances at Howze. There is the largest women's college in the U.S. about 30 miles away and there are lots of women. It is Texas State College for Women at Denton, a very nice place.

Everything is pretty good. There are about 55 ASTP men in our company. They are swell fellows. I am in Dallas with Jim Bauman, Harvard



**Camp Howze**--the country of Western novels. Now some of that cattle country serves as an artillery shell impact area. Other land gives infantry soldiers excellent maneuver area. The country is a great deal like that in which Major Gen. Robert Lee Howze first saw service. General Howze, for whom the camp is named, was a veteran of two major wars, 1) The Indian campaigns, and 2) The Phillipine Insurrection.

He was twice cited for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Born in Overton, Texas on August 22, 1864, General Howze died at Columbus, Ohio, September 19, 1926. The same type of rolling plains which gave General Howze his first taste of action now are giving soldiers the basic training they need to defeat their enemies. Now over the many thousands of acres of Camp Howze, hundreds of men are learning the rugged profession of the modern soldier.

## Landolfi

fruit and cold drinks. Mess Sgt. never found out.

July 1--I got a pass to Gainesville. I rode a horse for the first time and also went swimming.

July 2--We all had an appointment with a 'shrink'.

July 3-I had Guard Duty and was classified as an assistant gunner.

July 4--I had Guard Duty.

July 5--I got off Guard Duty.

July 8--I got off Field Duty and took an 'expert infantry' course and passed. I received 3 shots in the arm.

July 9--My arm is still sore.

July 10--I had K. P. duty.

July 11--The rumor is that we are going to ship out to California or Fort Devens, Mass.

July 13--I was awarded the Good Conduct Medal by the company.

July 14--I went to the dental clinic, and had 4 teeth fixed. The temperature was 100 degrees.

July 17--I had a pass to Gainesville, and had a steak dinner.

July 18--We hitchhiked into the woods. Our company went on bivouac. I used a shovel for a frying pan. We slept in [a] half-sheltered tent and used a raincoat for a mattress.

I got a sunburn. The temperature was 110 degrees.

July 20--We ran out of water. We got some from a creek.

July 21--We cooked rations.

## Quinn

'45 and Bill Alpern, Brown '46, both of whom were in the Air Corps. I don't need anything really bad but could use some undershorts-army style. I hope every one is fine.

Wed.[Late May]--Well it rained here today. And when I said it rained, I mean it. We were caught out in it, and we got pretty wet. I got the cake today and also your letter. I do hope you feel better.

I am getting a partial lower plate. I will have it in the next few days. We are having a gold-bricking good time with our basic training.

The officer we have in charge is Lt. O'Connor from Brooklyn. He is as Irish as the days are wet. He is really a good Joe, as rough and as "don't give a damn" as they come.

We are having a little trouble because the officers cannot tell us anything that is not completely true, without an ASTP man telling him his error.

[Next morning]--I am leaving for the field till Sunday morning. We are not doing very much of anything except 'bunk fatigue.' They are shipping out a lot of men for overseas replacement on June 6. They are to be replaced with Air Corps men who with us ASTP men and cadre will make up the 103rd Division. What an outfit !

I saw a very good show last night in "Show Business", with Eddie Cantor. From my letters, you will no doubt realize that I see a lot of shows, which I do. [Seeing movies] and going to the Service Club to get some books, and spending

**Camp Howze**--Two divisions which served the country in World War I have already made use of the excellent training terrain here.

This immense Army Ground Forces training area is directed by the Eighth Service Command with headquarters in Dallas. The Camp Commander is Col. John P. Wheeler. The 1885th Service Unit operates the camp's headquarters, supply, service and police sections.

**Service Clubs** are reserved solely for enlisted men. Service Club One and Two on Polk Avenue between 12th Street and Anderson Avenue serve men of the Divisions and Station Complement. Service Club Three on 1st Street is for Colored [sic] troops.

## Landolfi

July 22--I applied for OCS. It was cancelled because the 103rd Division was on 'alert.' The captain read us the Articles of War.

July 23--I went on pass to Dallas.

July 24--I returned from pass.

July 25--The Articles of War are read to us again.

July 28--We set up mortars and had a ball firing them. Also, my name was in the papers for qualifying for the Expert Infantry badge.

July 29--I had guard duty.

July 30--The rumor is we are to get airborne training.

August 1--We were baptized under artillery fire. We had to mail non-government issue [clothing] home.

August 2--The major talked to us about allotments.

August 3--This you wouldn't believe, just like the 'dirty dozen'. The machine gun and the mortar squads went on combat patrol. We were wearing red [arm]bands. Someone stole blue ones from supply and when we entered enemy territory, we switched bands.

We went through their lines and caught 35 men and took them and searched them and got wallets and a lot of information from their letters.

Our boys were smart, we left everything behind. If we were caught, we didn't have anything on us.

We used 500 rounds of blank ammo [ammunition.] We woke a Colonel up and also raided their kitchen.

## Quinn

money at the P.X., is just about all I do. I haven't received the radio, but I think it will arrive before I get back Sunday morning. It will surely be an improvement in this barracks.

Monday [Late May]--I just got off K.P., and had my shower. We had an easy time in the field. I would like to know if you can get me a razor and a stamping pad with 'Q1340'. I had a piece of steak today about the size of a dinner plate. Boy, was it good !

There is a cool breeze tonight which makes this place livable. [John] Bruce was telling me that in all his letters the people are so optimistic about the end of the war by November 1st. This is baloney!

I will probably leave here sometime in the fall. This is a mass movement overseas going on right now.

Tuesday [Late May]--I received the radio today and does it sound fine ! I wish to thank everyone for sending [me] such a fine present. It will be fine for such a dead barracks! I do hope that the radio you have, works as well. I do hope that Dad is well satisfied.

## Remembering Back To 1944

By Bob Schultz, Company I

June 6—We were up to Lake Murray near Ardmore, OK, taking what I would call amphibious training—that is trying to float our machine guns and mortars in our shelter halves, and also trying to float our jeep in a tarp off of a 2 1/2-ton truck. The chaplain visited us and we said our prayers for the men in the invasion, also thanking God we weren't there, I'm sure.

**Camp Howze**--The Polk Avenue clubs are open from 0800 to 2200 daily except Saturdays when closing time is 2300. The two main clubs offer dances, variety shows, games, camp radio programs, good reading, or just a place to relax and write letters home.

Cafeterias operate in connection with each club, as well as complete soda fountains. Long distance telephone offices are located on the balconies of the clubs.

**Libraries**--Reading for pleasure and education is offered on the well-stocked shelves of two camp libraries, open to all military personnel. Located in the south wings of the two main Service Clubs, each library operates just like the one at home. Books may be drawn for two weeks on regular library cards. The libraries are open from

### Landolfi

August 4--Big Show--Down inspection. We are to get glider training.

August 5,6--K. P. Duty.

August 7--I was in the kitchen and fried chicken and potatoes.

August 8--[In training] I carried mortars that weighed over 35 pounds.

August 9--We were issued [our] dog tags.

August 10--I started to learn how to play chess.

August 11--The temperature was over 102 degrees for the 22nd straight day.

August 12--We had a class on booby traps. (Later on it came in handy in the enemy bunker's overseas.) I also won my first game in chess. I got a pass to go to Dallas.

There are rumors we are going to ship out Sept. 15, headed for France. We will get 3 days and 2 nights of airborne training.

August 15--I mailed my civilian shoes home.

August 16--We made a 9-mile forced hike and fired live ammunition.

August 17--We had 'Gun Drill' and we were in a parade.

August 20--We were put on alert. I wrote to Lottie saying she may not hear from me for about 6 weeks. We saw our overseas bag, our pistols, and combat boots.

August 21--The Sgt. came in with a quart of whiskey. We all had a few shots. Later on we had a class on foreign maps.

### Quinn

The war seems to be going well these days. Some thoughts about the army : The men in this outfit don't know anything about the war and the different warfronts. The lack of knowledge even goes up the ranks to some of the most unintelligent officers.

D-Day does not seem so far away. About June 15-30, if not sooner. Men are going to England in even greater quantities. If we go to the field this week, this will be the last letter for about 4 days.

[Early June]--Well everything is pretty hot down here now--(about 100 deg.) I am really ready to go overseas rather than spend another summer in Texas. Already the heat is almost unbearable.

Through some mixup, they have me taking basic training over again. I don't mind because I have come to the place where I am just putting in time waiting for this war to end. That's the attitude of everyone around here.

We have about 50 new men in our company to replace those being shipped to England. That means that the company will be ASTP, Air Corps, and 4-Fs. This all makes for a fine outfit ! The funny thing is that we have 15 [men] who cannot get discharged [as 4-Fs.] They have been designated as Section 8, but they are still here.

Sunday, June 19. We are having regimental outdoor inspections about every three days. This means we are about set to move someplace.

One rumor is that the 103rd Division will police up [after] the battle of Normandy. I bet a lot of the guys I know are in the invasion. It must be hell over there.

**Camp Howze**--1200 to 2200 daily, and open at 0900 on Sunday.

**Theaters**--Six War Department theaters provide the latest Hollywood productions in camp. Two large theaters are located in each of the Division areas, and smaller houses serve the Station Complement and Special Detachment.

Single admission to all theaters is 15 cents. Coupon books good for 10 admissions cost \$1.20.

The theaters are used in the daytime to show troops training films. USO Camp Shows play there in the winter season.

## Landolfi

August 22--We had more airborne training.

August 24,25--We had 2 days and 3 nights of airborne training.

August 26--We completed airborne training.

August 28--We had a class on message writing, and also saw a movie on 'war errors'.

August 30--We are certain to go overseas!

August 31--I had Guard Duty. There will be an inspection of all clothes. The rumor is that we are headed for New York.

September 1,2,3--We leave for P[ort] O[f] E[mbarkation] in 2 weeks. I got a 3-day pass to visit Fort Worth.

September 4--We guarded our trains. We were issued live ammunition.

September 5--We were issued new boots and clothes.

September 6--We acted as 'umpires' for 3 sergeants who were trying to qualify for the Expert Infantry badge.

September 8--I was called to the personnel office to get [my] records checked out. I remember waiting two hours in line.

September 9--We went on a Problem Test [in the field] with live ammunition. One soldier got hurt from a fragment from a grenade.

I helped the machine gun squad load belts with ammunition.

## Quinn

We are being plagued with chiggers. Chiggers are insects about the size of a pinhead who bore into your skin and then start scratching your skin away. Some guys have them from head to toe. I only have a few.

I saw "The Adventures of Mark Twain" last night. Today I will see "Double Indemnity" and "Bathing Beauty."

I think that I will be out of the country by September 1. We [103rd Division] will never go into combat as a unit, because we are no good as far as fighting.

Do you know why you should use only 239 beans in soup? Well, if put one more in, it would be 2 4 0 ! (Joke !)

This is Father's Day and I hope Dad is in really good health. His picture looked as if he were gaining weight.

[Mid August]--In the field last week, I had an accident in which a 10-ton amphibian boat fell on three fingers of my right hand.

Having my fingers bandaged, gets me out of a lot of work. The war will be over before October 15.

[Mid August]--Well, I am still financially embarrassed. A man in our hut is now home on furlough, and he was gone when I left on mine. So I should get a furlough by the 15th of August. We are going into the field Monday for a week.

This will be the last letter for a week. If you haven't sent any money when you get this, I will not need [it] until next Saturday.



**Recreation Buildings**--Everything from basketball to Regimental dances takes place in the Huge Recreation Buildings along the camp's main streets. One building is provided for each Regiment, one for Division troops, and one for Division artillery. Indoor athletics, stage shows, dances and other special service activities are held in the buildings.

**Outdoor Theaters**--On the parade ground of each Division area is a red, white, and blue-painted Outdoor Theater, scene of colorful USO-Camp Shows in the summer season. Camp variety shows are presented there, and thousands of GIs cluster around the footlights for band concerts and informal programs.

## Landolfi

September 11--I had a pass to Dallas. We came by a drunken Lt. and brought him back to his hotel. We stayed at the Savoy [Hotel] and later had a spaghetti dinner at the Band B Cafe.

September 12--[While in] Dallas, we went swimming at Fair Park. [We] went roller skating, then went swimming again at the Y.M.C.A. pool.

September 14--[We were] back at camp. The weather was 85 degrees.

September 15--We had a very big parade.

September 18--[I] met the squad leader in the Service Club.

September 22--[I was a] latrine orderly.

September 23--My letter was censored somewhere in [the] New England Coast. [While at the] P.O.E. in New York, [my] folks and girlfriend came to see me.

[End of Landolfi's Notes]

\* \* \* War News \* \* \*

September 28--The American XX Corps (3rd Army) begins to attack the forts at METZ.

October 1--Marshal Petain and Pierre Laval, former leaders of the VICHY government, are taken [by the Germans] from BELFORT to SIGMARINGEN in Germany.

October 14--In the southeastern sector of the front, where General Devers' 6th Army Group (Patch's Seventh Army and the 1st French Army under Gen. De Lattre de Tassigny) is operating, the 3rd Algerian Division reaches CORNIMONT.

## Quinn

It is unbearably hot down here now. I am very lucky so far. All the talk down here is --when is this war going to be over, so that we can go home. We are beginning our training to be civilians.

My plan is at present to standby for my furlough and then I might try for the paratroopers. A lot of the boys are going to try, just to get out of company I. This place is so destructive to anyone's morale.

I saw a good show yesterday. It was "Christmas Holiday" with [Deanna] Durbin and {Gene} Kelly. Two other good shows are "Hail The Conquering Hero" and "Whitecliffs of Dover."

I have about 100 chigger bites and am I scratching. Don't worry about a thing.

[Early September]--Hello! I left the station [in Gainesville], caught a cab, and was sleeping by 3 a.m. I am writing this letter on Guard Duty at the Service Club. Everything here is just the same as it was when you were here, [Mother.]

I haven't got the check cashed, but I hope to do so soon. I so enjoyed your visit [to Camp Howze], that the Army seems livable again. It is nice and cool these days with no rain.

I hear that they are changing our orders. All men who are physically sick are being transferred out of our outfit. We expect to leave within 10 days.

[Late September]--Here are some papers and some [Cactus] patches. We are not allowed to wear them. We leave here in September.

[End of Quinn's Notes]

**Camp Exchanges**--Everything essential to the soldier, from a new toothbrush to an ice cream soda, can be bought in Camp Exchanges. Commonly called the PX, the Exchange across the street from the Orderly Rooms sells everything at prices much below "outside" rates.

Twenty Exchanges serve soldiers here, with dry cleaning and barber services offered in Exchanges serving troop areas. PX 19 is the camp clothing store. PX 20 is the cafeteria. Both are located near the Camp Laundry on Lincoln Avenue. All the PX counters sell soft drinks, beer, and ice cream. During warm weather the soft drink sales are outdoors in beer gardens. Mobile PX units serve troops in bivouac areas. Profits from Exchange sales are divided equally among units which patronize them.

FROM THE *Report After Action*

*THE STORY OF THE 103RD INFANTRY DIVISION*

Everyone liked Denton with its ample stock of beautiful college girls. Dallas had everything. Even the Service Club dances in camp had sufficient girls to leave a few over for wallflowers. In the months at Howze many romances had time to blossom into military weddings in the unit chapels. Howze was generally kind to the married soldier.

Almost every home in nearby Gainesville took in an Army wife, with or without kitchen privileges. The 103rd had many hundreds of contented family men who went "home" every free night to domestic comforts and returned to the Army by the 4 a.m. buses every morning.

Gainesville had less to offer the footloose GI. There were good steaks at the Turner Hotel coffee shop, Ellen's, Curtis', and the Eat O'Bite. But the town was bone dry, and the two USOs were tame fare, compared with Denton and Dallas and Ardmore and Fort Worth and Sherman on the bus lines.

Little D [Denton] had both TSCW [Texas State College for Women] and NTSTC [North Texas State Teachers College] with their girls, dances, green campuses and swimming pools in a pleasant, sleepy little town.

For the Cactus men, Big D [Dallas] started out with its hotels--the Baker, Adolphus, White Plaza. Night spots included the Plantation, Abe's and Pappy's and the Century Room.

At the time the Division prepared to leave

Camp Howze, General Charles C. Haffner, Jr., a prominent Chicago businessman and sportsman in civilian life was Commanding General, with Col. Henry J. P. Harding, Jr. the Regimental Commander of the 410th Infantry Regiment.

The final weeks at Howze were rushing ones as the Division brought its equipment up to quota, fulfilled POE requirements and packed to move. The ranks of the 103rd had been bolstered in the past year by droves of young soldiers whose careers in the ASTP or the Air Corps had been unceremoniously lopped off by the Infantry's sudden and compelling need for manpower.

It was rough on the men from the Air Corps, but it was rougher on the young gentlemen from the colleges.

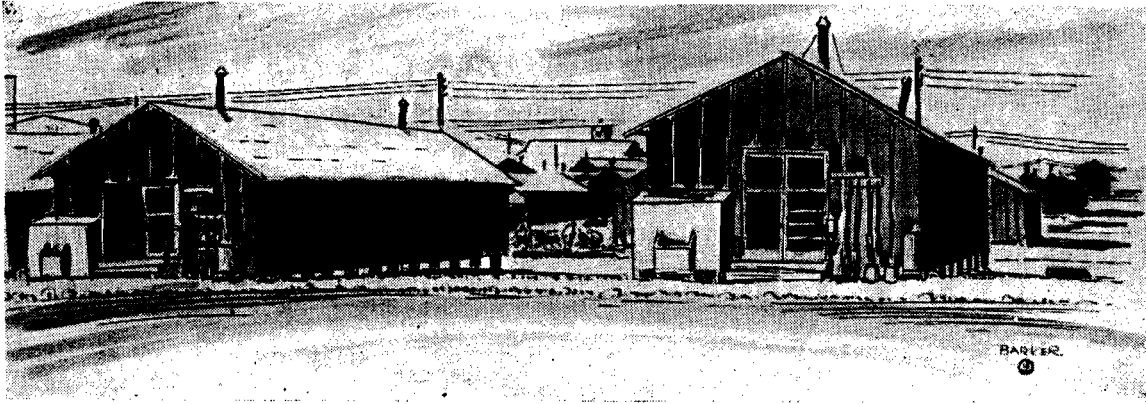
You could see it in the faces when the big buses whirled them into dusty, barren Camp Howze and they trundled their duffel [bags] into the primitive barracks.

Gone were the dormitories with maid service, gone were the spacious cafeterias with civilian food, gone were the carefree student days.

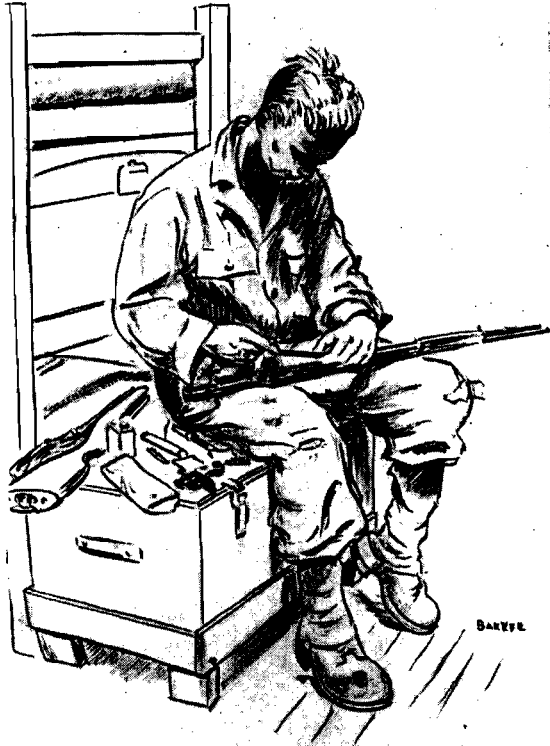
It was a shock, but their gripes became healthy Infantry gripes; and the men became an integral part of the Division.

The Army had found out that all your Armor, all your Air Force, all the new-fangled instruments of war, didn't alter one basic fact: you had to have a man with a gun out there to take the ground and hold it.

Infantry was still the 'Queen of Battles', and the infantryman was the man of the hour. They were called "foot-slogging infantrymen," and soon



*Typical Howze Barracks Scene, Inmate's-eye View*



*He Wishes He Were A Civilian*



*Chowline. See The Happy Faces*

Sketches Are By PFC Bill Barker Of Denver, From Company I, 410th Infantry  
Taken From *Report After Action : The Story Of The 103rd Infantry Division*



*Scene on the General Brooks, looking from officers' to enlisted men's deck*

Sketches Are By PFC Bill Barker Of Denver, From Company I, 410th Infantry

Taken From *Report After Action : The Story Of The 103rd Infantry Division*



**Religion**--The soldier's spiritual welfare concerns the Army equally as much as his physical well-being. Chaplains of all faiths and denominations conduct weekly services in 11 camp chapels and in addition are ready to give individual consultation and advice.

Chapels, of standard design, are the only buildings of their type in the Army. They are equipped to serve Protestants, Catholics, and Hebrews.

A schedule of services in all camp chapels is published weekly in *The Howitzer*. Religious services are conducted in the field for all troops who cannot return to camp on Sunday.

**Transportation**--Camp Howze is served by two bus lines. Dixie Trailways uses Gate One, Gainesville

### *Report After Action*

someone had written a song in his honor. The Cactus Infantryman was a bit bewildered by his new assignment. He didn't notice much difference. He still pulled as much KP.

And he never could figure out just when he had stopped walking and started this new business of slogging. He was proud, however, of his Expert Infantryman badge, and there were still people left, who didn't know what the Good Conduct medal was for.

For once the rumors had it right. The Division itself was frank enough about the approaching overseas movement, even though the Gainesville grapevine had announced it several weeks earlier.

But the rumor artists had it down pat about where the Division was headed. Only New York was mentioned as a port of embarkation, and there was unanimity about France as a destination.

\* \* \*

On Friday, September 15 the division held a final review at the Camp Howze parade grounds. Hundreds of civilians were on hand to watch 'their' division's last ceremony before going off to fight.

After the review lucky pass-holders rushed off for a final week-end fling in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Ardmore or Denton.

\* \* \*

The first unit to leave boarded the train on the Camp Howze [railroad] spur on Wednesday, Sept. 20. The others followed, taking a variety of routes.

[Company I's train passed along Lake Erie's shores, and stopped to change train crews near the stadium in downtown Cleveland, where the Indians

### *Report After Action (Cont.)*

were playing a night game—Bob Quinn lived 30 miles south in Akron.] At the end of the journey was Camp Shanks, N. Y., a well-oiled assembly line for final processing of human fighting material to fill the ocean transports that docked 20 miles away [ in New York harbor.]

In Camp Shanks, near the Hudson Valley, the Division was in mountains for the first time in nearly two years of training. The barracks here varied from the dull, black tar-paper of Howze to the faded shades of red, brown, and green. Most Cactus men were fortunate about New York City.

Many had three or four excursions to the big city. Buses from camp dropped the men at 169th and Broadway, near the Medical Center. The Eighth Avenue Express shot them down to 42nd Street. With the familiarity of soldiers on pass, they were soon talking of Manhattan, its streets, its sights, and its night spots like old-timers.

A lot of them went up the Empire State building and got the 'big picture.' Some went to see plays [like *Brigadoon*], and almost all went to the night clubs. But probably the most popular place was the telephone center on Times Square where they made the last calls to the folks at home.

Every man went to the city properly briefed on military security. Cactus patches had been called in at Howze, and every man was mum about his outfit and Camp Shanks.

They couldn't help but chuckle when they stole out of the city on a bus prominently marked "Camp Shanks ! "

Bus Lines travels through Gate Two. Both bus lines cover the entire camp and terminate in Gainesville. Fare to Gainesville is 15 cents. Fare within camp is five cents.

From Gainesville, connections may be made on three bus lines, the Santa Fe and MKT railways. Soldiers may obtain furlough rates on inter-city fares.

**Communications**—A large dial telephone exchange, adequate to meet the needs of a fair-sized city, provides the official telephone service for Camp Howze. In addition to dial equipment, Camp Howze has a modern switchboard at which three or more operators may be on duty to handle incoming calls, outgoing official long distance calls and furnish assistance on calls.

### *Report After Action*

The day for moving out to the ships came while everyone was still itching for another visit to New York. But passes were snapped off. Companies were restricted to their areas. Company commanders assembled their men between the barracks, tensely explained how they'd get to the pier. Duffel bags were lined up in the street in the same order as the shipping roster. Each man stood behind his duffel. Shipping numbers were chalked on the bag and on his helmet. The bags were left lying to be hauled to the train by truck and placed on each man's seat. The men took formation.

Each wore ODs, tie, helmet and field jacket. He carried his rifle, full field pack, overcoat and small sack of personal belongings. In addition to all the usual items, the pack contained an extra set of ODs, fatigues, long-handled underwear, wool socks and an extra blanket. The latter was carried in a horseshoe roll.

The ensemble was finished by a gas mask and full canteen of water which no one was to drink until he got on the boat.

The ship carrying the 410th Infantry was the U. S. S. General Brooks. The last of the 103rd troops came aboard the night of October 5, 1944.

About 0900 the next morning, the soldiers, held below decks, heard the noises that meant the ship was underway. Movement was almost imperceptible in the quiet [Hudson River] channel.

Finally allowed to go above, quite a few of the men had to gulp hard when the 'old gal with the

### *Report After Action*

torch' slipped by to starboard. Out of the [port] the convoy worked into position.

Other men were released from the murky compartments. The convoy stretched around the General Brooks in the bright sunlight, a double row of ships with destroyer escorts plunging far out in a sort of perimeter defense. There was a sense of might and grim purpose . . .

...Men on the General Brooks ate three times a day, except when the storms cut the non-stop mess line down to two meals. But all that was for the men whose stomachs would let them eat. A good percentage didn't go near the mess compartment after rough weather set in . . .

On the Atlantic, as usual, the 103rd ran into the foulest weather the old-timers could remember. The storm didn't come up suddenly, but worked up to its worst on the seventh day out of New York. [See Map.] By noon the decks became perilous for the GI landlubbers. They were herded below. You could feel the nose of your ship climb a wave, then crash down to meet the next. You wondered how long the rivets could take it.

Almost suddenly the violence of the storm wasted away. By noon the sun was out. Loudspeakers crowed the welcome news: "We've passed through the worst of the storm. You are permitted to go on deck !"

The voyage was stretching out now. The aircraft carrier [in the convoy] was gone one morning. She's left to head for Casablanca, the word went around. A rammed tanker, still burning, was the next change of scenery.

"Sure that's land ! Can't you tell ! Clouds don't look like that !"



*Map A : The North Atlantic Ocean From New York To Marseille*

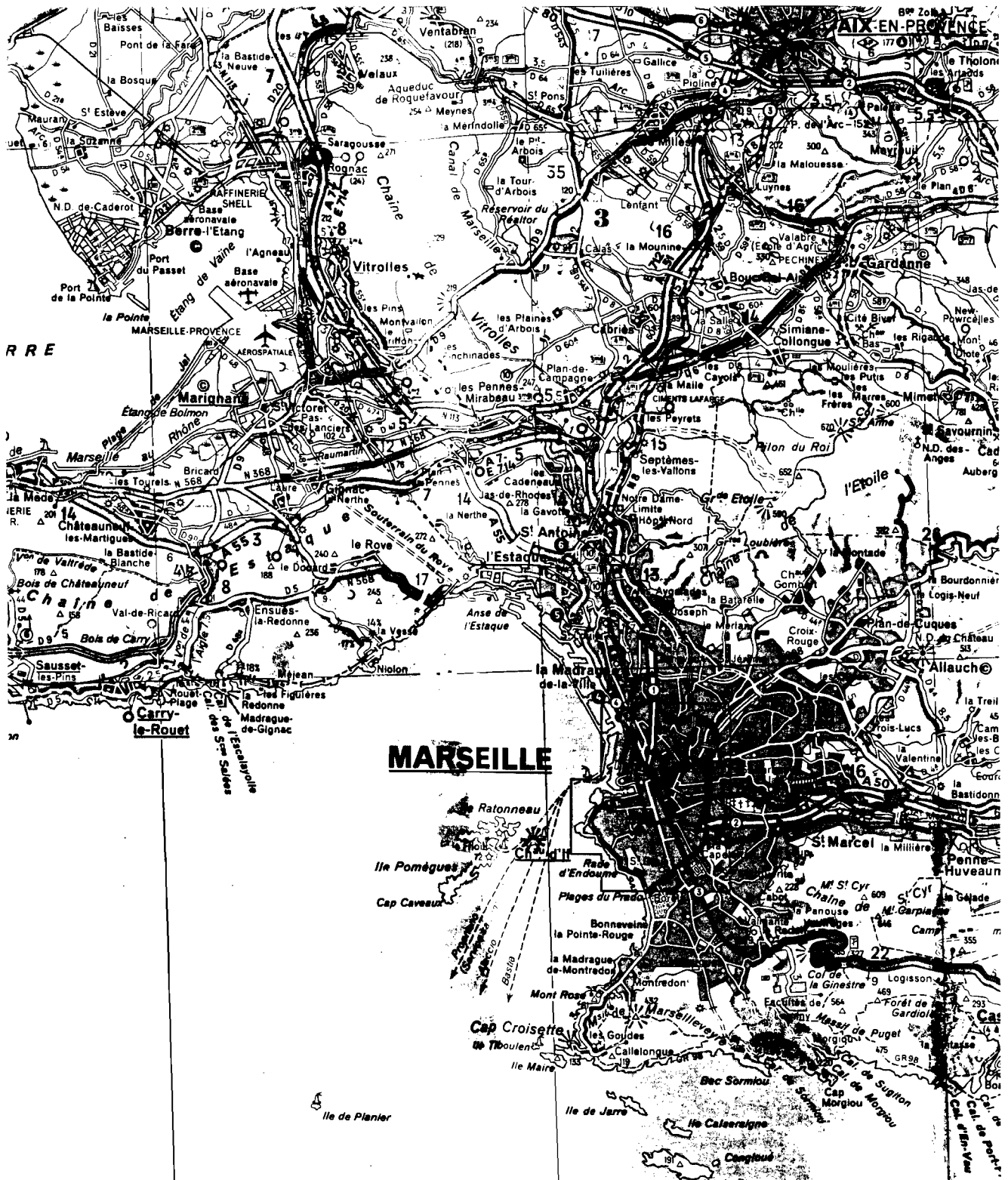


*Below, Men Were Shoehorned Into Compartments That Would Make A Sardine Wince*

Sketches Are By PFC Bill Barker Of Denver, From Company I, 410th Infantry

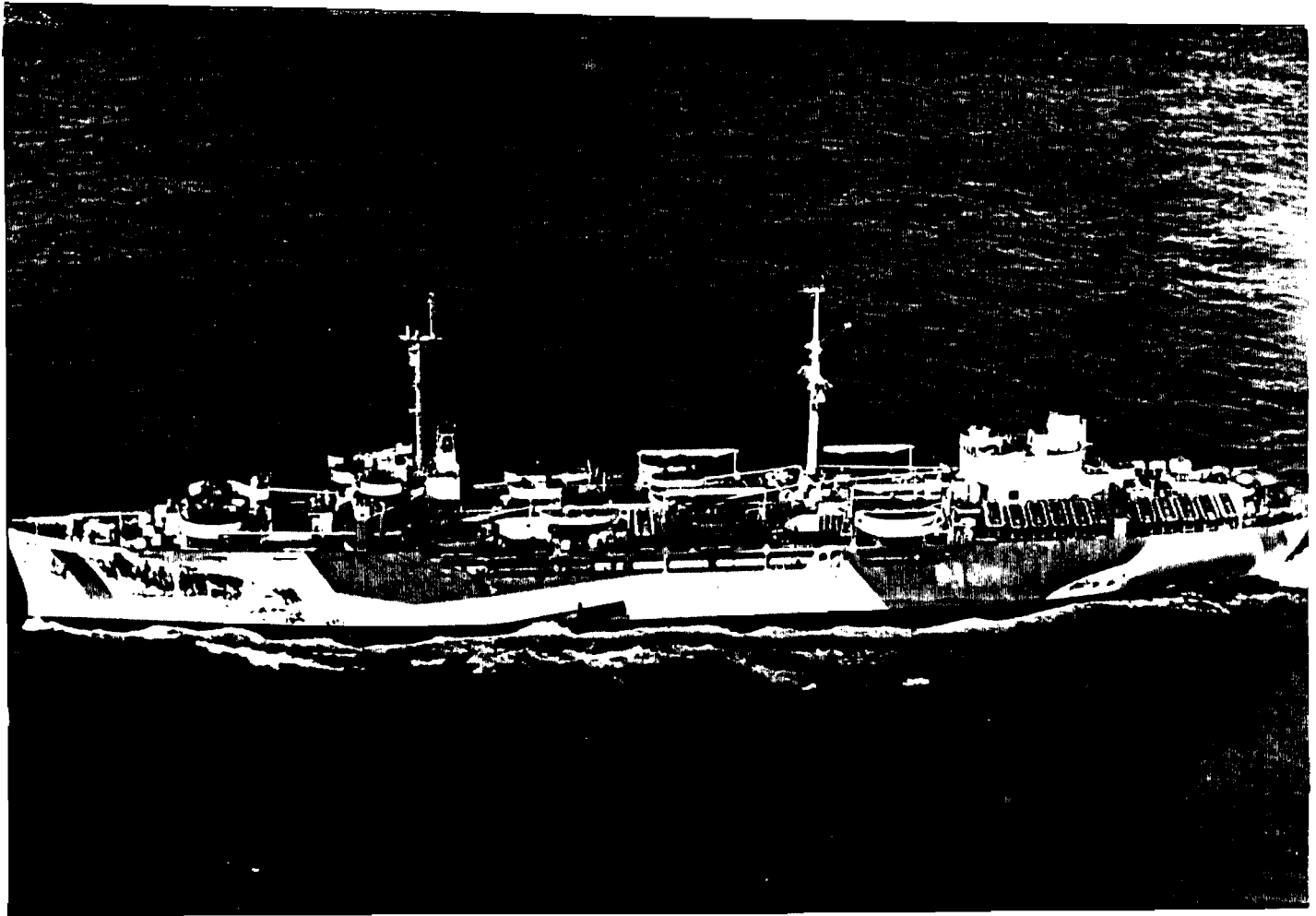
Taken from *Report After Action : The Story Of The 103rd Infantry Division*

## Map B : Marseille



Map Index :

1. Approach To Harbor From TOULON
2. Port Area
3. Bivouac Area Near CALAS
4. Ancient Roman City — AIX-EN-PROVENCE



The General J. R. Brooke (AP-132) was laid down under a Maritime Commission contract 29 June 1942 by the Kaiser Co. Inc., Yard # 3, Richmond, California. It was acquired by the Navy on 10 December 1943 and converted into a transport by Matson Navigation Co., San Francisco, Calif. The General J. R. Brooke was commissioned 20 January 1944 at San Francisco with Captain David L. Nutter in command.

( 9,877 tons.; 523 ft.-long; 71.5 ft.-beam; dr.-26.5 ft.; Speed-16.5 knots; trp.-3,444; crew-471)

On her maiden voyage, General J. R. Brooke sailed from the West Coast on 24 February 1944 with more than 3,600 troops, mostly Seabees, for Pearl Harbor and returned to San Francisco 8 March. From 19 March to 23 April she made a round-trip voyage out of San Francisco to bring 3,600 men to Noumea and Espiritu Santo. Following her return, the ship sailed again on 12 May for New Guinea to debark 3,400 troops at Oro Bay, and steamed thence to New York, where she arrived 3 July 1944.

Convoyed by ships and planes and under constant threat of submarine attack, the General J. R. Brooke operated in the Atlantic throughout the remainder of the war. In her unflagging efforts to insure an even flow of men from the United States to the European theater, she made 12 trans-atlantic voyages from 26 July 1944 to 5 September 1945. She brought to the United States countless German prisoners of war.

John Rutter Brooke was born in Montgomery County, Pa., on 21 July 1838 and was educated at Freeland Seminary. He served in the Army briefly at the start of the Civil War, was mustered out, but returned as a Colonel in the 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry. Colonel Brooke fought in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, earning a reputation as an exceptional commander. He was appointed Brigadier General 12 May 1864, was severely wounded at Cold Harbor and returned to duty with the Army of the Shenandoah. Entering the regular Army after the war, Brooke rose to the rank of Major General in 1897, and served in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War. After the Armistice, he was military governor of both Puerto Rico and Cuba before returning home to take command of the Department of the East. General Brooke died in Philadelphia on 5 September 1926 after a long and distinguished career, at the age of eighty-eight.



*The Staging Area Was Wind-swept And Rain-sogged*



*Goodbye, Marseille -- Hello Somewhere ! "*

Sketches Are By PFC Bill Barker Of Denver, From Company I, 410th Infantry  
Taken From *Report After Action : The Story Of The 103rd Infantry Division*

**Telegraph**--Through the Camp Signal Office at Polk Avenue and 12th Street soldiers send and receive telegrams. The office is open 24 hours a day, and has both Western Union and Postal Telegraph circuits. Telegraphed money orders cannot be cashed at the camp office, but must be taken to Gainesville. Western Union is at 312 E. California St., open from 0730 to 2200. Postal Telegraph is in the Turner Hotel, open from 0800 to 1900 on weekdays. Soldiers must have "dogtags" or a pass for identification when cashing a money order.

**U. S. Mail**--Soldier and civilian postal workers handle the mail through four branch post offices located in Camp Headquarters, Station Hospital, and Division Headquarters. Money orders and stamps may be purchased

### *Report After Action*

Leeward rails of the ship were jammed. There was a faint smudge on the horizon. Now you saw it. Now you didn't. Slowly the smudge solidified and became mountains. The slopes changed to green. Towns took shape hugging the shores.

Tenseness heightened at the word Gibraltar would be reached by nightfall. Near the entrance to the straits, two empty freighters scudded past, gaudy in their neutral paint. The Rock of Gibraltar hove in sight as scheduled, but it was twilight when the convoy pulled abreast.

The ships pushed east along the [North] African coast in some of the mildest weather of the trip, and by the time the course was switched to the north, the GIs could say they had seen Tangiers, Tetuan, and Oran.

Then the Mediterranean began to look just like the Atlantic. Skies grayed. The wind blew itself into another storm. It wasn't as bad as the first, but it was no bargain. By the time the bad weather lifted France was in sight.

[The first port we were close to was the naval base at Toulon.] The port of Marseilles was entered about 1300 on Friday, October 20, 15 days out of New York.

Men of the 103rd saw the destruction of war for the first time. They were the first troops landing directly into this port where the Germans had put up a stout defense. What airpower could do, was spread before them. Capsized hulks bloating out of the water. Piers smashed apart!

The General Brooks anchored out in the harbor. The men of the 410th Infantry crawled down rope ladders. Duffels bags plummeted the

### *Report After Action*

ship's height to landing barges. It was a slow job. GIs looked nervously at the sky.

The port area was bounded by silvery defense balloons and long cables to keep attacking bombers high.

On the Marseilles pier the confusion of unloading the Division reached its peak. Companies formed, and marched into the city. The transition from America to France was very abrupt. After the French signs around the port area probably the first things you noticed was the kids. The youngsters tagged along the columns.

They closed in during the breaks, begging for "bonbon" and "cigarette pour Papa". Like soldiers all over the world they couldn't resist the children and cheerfully parcelled out their last bit of chocolate and "choon gum".

After the docks were left behind, the route through Marseille curved up a steep hill.

At first the soldiers had eyes and shouts for everything—girls on bicycles, working men trudging along with wine bottles under their arms, bombed or bullet-pocked buildings, German prisoners, girls leaning out of windows.

Before long the march settled down to hard work.

Before many breaks had gone by they had to meet the old 25-mile-hike problem of getting to your feet after stretching out on the road shoulder to rest.

It was all up hill now, up to a high plateau that dipped to the ocean in a vast curve.

"It can't be much farther now." The hopefuls who kept saying that, were wrong by fifteen miles.



at all post offices.

**American Red Cross**--When a soldier has financial or family troubles, the American Red Cross field service men are ready to help. The Camp Red Cross is at the corner of Anderson and Polk Avenues. The Red Cross will help soldiers in obtaining emergency furloughs by verifying an emergency at the soldier's home. Loans will be made in case of emergency.

The Red Cross also operates a recreation and welfare service at the Service Hospital, which includes the Red Cross building and lounge. Games and magazines are provided to patients.

[Booklet about **Camp Howze** prepared by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company--a part of AT&T.]

### *Report After Action*

On the plateau the double files of weighted soldiers, sweating and swearing again, plodded cross country in the growing darkness. A line of high-tension power poles marked the course.

Few companies reached the bivouac area before midnight. They were still dragging themselves through the scraggly underbrush and pitfalls. Men stumbled and fell in the blackness.

Some outfits gave it up and spread blankets between the rocks for the night. Some pushed on and reached the bivouac area in a fever of exhaustion. Only a few pitched tents. It rained.

No one noticed it. Morning came grayly. You could see where you were. The hump of a broad plateau, ringed by mountains except toward the sea. Barren except for scrub growth and trees in the hollows. Mostly this morning it was mud. Everything you owned was wet. When you pitched your pup tent the stakes splintered on hard limestone a few inches below the surface. A diet of C rations started.

[In time] the Cactus men made the most of Marseille, a multi-lingual stew of humanity boiling over with the lid off. The Germans were gone.. Everyone from the gendarme to the mousey girl walking up and down by the MP parking lot were making up for lost time.

The GIs, also feeling freedom, were glad to help. Probably every kind of Allied soldier in the world walked the streets.

The bars of Marseille were well stocked with drinks new to the Cactus men. Common practice was to sample them all. By the time you had put cognac on wine, anisette on watery beer,

### *Report After Action*

Armagnac on vermouth, you couldn't taste the difference anyway.

Everyone came away from Marseille with the conviction Frenchman didn't give a damn about their lives.

Wood-burning cars, bicycles, motorcycles, streetcars and pedestrians charged blindly across intersections.

You looked unbelievably at first at the open-air comfort stations for men, an aspect of French public habits that kept you continually startled. They were nothing more than a latrine trough partially shielded by a screen from knee to shoulder so that you could tip your hat at a friend in the street while going about your business. They were always stationed at the busiest intersections.

Even this was too much formality for the average Frenchman, who stopped when the fancy moved him to the nearest wall.

There was also the public restroom where you paid for the privilege, dropping a franc or two in the hand of the woman custodian. It was all very new and interesting.

Back in the bivouac area near Calas the big question was : When do we go into combat? [The answer] came quicker than expected. One morning, [Nov. 1, 1944] tents began to come down. This is it.. And it was. By train and by truck, the men of the 103rd Division began a 500-mile trip [up the Rhone valley] that ended at Docelles, near Bruyeres. Trucks brought us part-way into Mortagne Forest. Then we walked. For Company I, the war was soon to begin. We prayed!



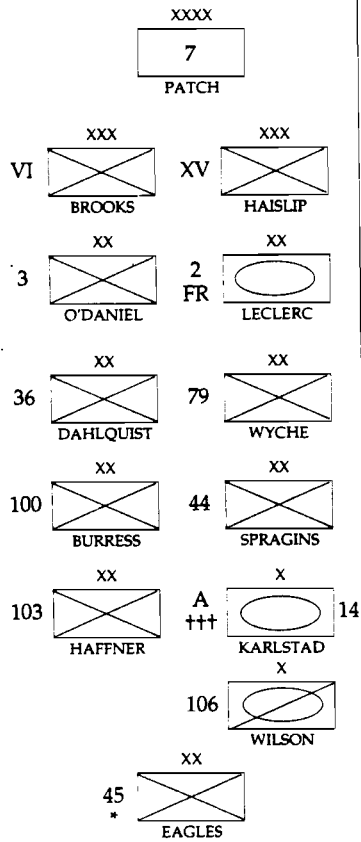
*Up one side of a hill, and down the other*

Sketch is by PFC Bill Barker of Denver, From Company I, 410th Infantry  
Taken From *Report After Action : The Story Of The 103rd Infantry Division*

# ORDER OF BATTLE

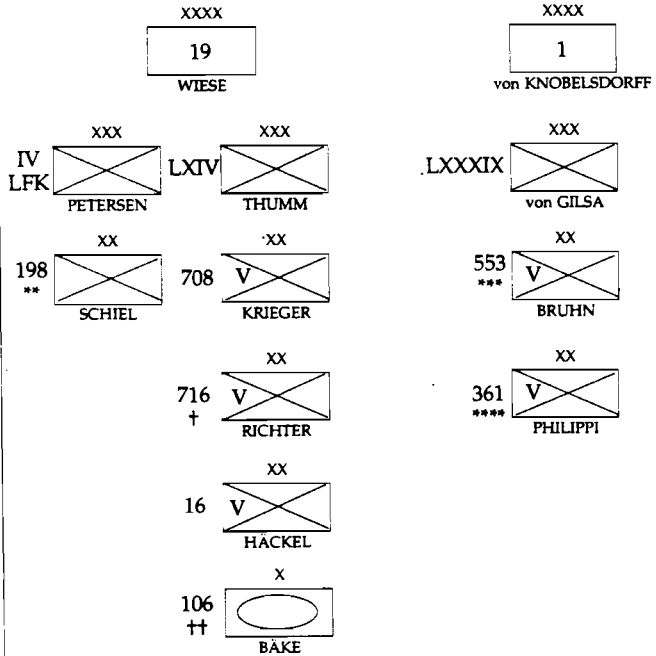
12-26 NOVEMBER 1944

## U.S. SEVENTH ARMY *Attack of the Vosges Winter Line*



\* Seventh Army/SHAEF reserve  
+++ Attached to VI Corps 26 November

## GERMAN ARMY GROUP G *Defense of the Vosges Position*



\*\* To Belfort Sector 21-22 November  
\*\*\* To 19th Army 16 November; back to First Army 19 November  
\*\*\*\* Part of division committed in U.S. XII Corps sector (Third Army); part detached to 708th Volksgrenadier Division  
† Reinforced with 360th Cossack Regiment  
++ Attached to LXIV Corps 25 November

### KEY

X	Combat Command or Group	FR	French		Infantry
XX	Division	LFK	Luftwaffe Feld Korps		Armor/Panzer
XXX	Corps				Mechanized Cavalry
XXXX	Army				Armored Infantry/Panzer Grenadier
					Volksgrenadier

Chart Showing The Order Of Battle

U. S. Seventh Army

Lt. General Alexander Patch

12-26 November 1944

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 7 November 44, the Command Post (CP) of the 410th Infantry was located at CHARMOIS, Lorraine, France. [Six miles east of Epinal.] The 410th Commander [Col. Henry J. P. Harding] issued instructions to effect the relief of the 30th Infantry Regiment [of the Third Division] as ordered by the Commanding General (CG) of the U.S. Sixth Corps, [Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks.]

A motor march was conducted as ordered and 30th Infantry Regiment elements were relieved as expeditiously as the tactical situation would permit. [The front line extended from HERBAVILLE at the north, through the Mortagne Forest, to a point near where highway N420 crossed the Taintrux River. See Map.] The relief was completed during the night of Nov. 11, 1944, [exactly 26 years after the Armistice was signed ending the fighting in World War I.]

## Baptism To War

By John Landolfi, Company I

[Bois de la Madeleine, 2 mi. West of St. Die], Nov. 12—On Nov. 11, our company relieved the 30th Reg. of the 3rd Div. We were shipped up by trucks from Marseille. Later we hiked up to the front line in the dark. When we relieved the individual squads, we were told by them that this was the front line.

I remember that we got into a big foxhole, [large] enough to hold 10 men. It was covered by very big logs, and covered by dirt. It could stand a direct hit. We heated some coffee on the squad stove and talked to the men that we were relieving.

The foxhole was in back of a steep hill and I remember that a brook ran through it. The very next day we were baptized to war. Our observer called for fire on some targets that were 'zeroed in' by the 3rd Div. [men.] The observers spotted 20 men from an enemy patrol. The first squad gunner was Alan Bradley and ass't gunner was [Henry] Galasso; the second gunner was Bud Webster and yours truly; the third gunner was Raymond Voss and assistant Harold Fornell.

We let all hell loose with our mortars and must have fired over 100 rounds in a small period of time. After a half an hour or so, we were told to 'cease fire.' [Later] we were told that we had killed an enemy patrol of 20 men and that we killed all 19, [and] they couldn't find the other Kraut at all.

We also learned that [Richard B.] Corman Lloyd was killed. He was the first man in our outfit to be killed. He was, I believe, the 1st runner for the machine gun section. [Lloyd had joined the Army from Vancouver, Washington.]

[Going back to our voyage over from the

States, there were four men who were together for our journey to Hell; myself, Anthony Cava, Norman (Arthur) Lapedes and Lloyd. He (Lloyd) said that he would be the first one killed. Little did he know he was right.]

## *WHEN THE ODDS WERE EVEN*

*The Vosges Mountains Campaign*

*October 1944 – January 1945*

By Keith Bonn

The OKW, [the German General Staff,] ordered the 1st and 19th Armies to defend the western slopes of the Vosges "under all circumstances." This order was a Fuhrer Befehl (Hitler's personal order) meaning that the Vosges positions were to be held to the last man. Successful resistance was to persist until at least April 1945 to allow the Westwall to be restored to effectiveness.

The German armies were to hold positions that would prevent American forces from proceeding through the Vosges passes onto the Alsatian Plain, which would then allow them to envelop the German forces holding the Belfort Gap against the First French Army.

Even if many of the German army units involved in the construction of the Vosges defensive positions were ordered into the [front] line as the American 7th Army broke through at BRUYERES, improvements to the Vosges defensive positions continued. Alsatian and German civilians, penal battalions, and labor units composed of Russian prisoners persisted in their efforts. Under the auspices of Organisation Todt, they continued to construct positions and obstacles, such as roadblocks, pill boxes, and camouflaged trenches.

Fortunately, the terrain and conditions present in [Alsace] was optimal because they had

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—Upon entry into combat, the strength of the 410th Infantry was 158 officers and 3024 enlisted men. The CO of the 3rd Battalion, [Companies I, K, L and M] reported that CHALLET had been occupied on the 11th of November. On the 12th of November, [the Regiment] had its first contact with [enemy] tanks. During the day, four tanks were observed and neutralized by artillery fire. On the 13th of November 44, the 3rd Bn reconnoitered the Taintrux River and reported that foot troops could cross the river 400 yards south of the village at CHALLET. On the 14th of November 44, the 3rd Bn sent a patrol to the village of LES MOITRAISSES and reported finding enemy dead in the village, but no enemy resistance. Also they reported six large unoccupied buildings in the center of town, as well as many land mines. The Taintrux River was reconnoitered to a point 300 yards NE of the town.

### WHEN THE ODDS WERE EVEN

only to occupy and defend static positions, with good observation and fields of fire.

The attacking Americans were forced to suffer in the open. The increasingly cold and wet weather caused [vast] increases in the number of trench-foot cases as the [Vosges] campaign progressed. Even less mobile soldiers, such as those in the artillery and other rear-echelon units, found only limited shelter in some sectors because of the German "scorched earth" policy.

There were certain basic flaws in the German operational plans. Once cut off in mountainous terrain, defending units experience great difficulty regaining contact with withdrawing friendly elements.

Yet Hitler's personal order made it impermissible even to plan for withdrawal or delaying operations. Thus if the attacking Americans were to achieve multiple breakthroughs through the Vosges passes, defending German commanders could expect the wholesale encirclement and destruction of their units.

Still, the Germans had history on their side. *No attacking army had ever forced a crossing of the Vosges.* Although retreat to the stripped Siegfried line positions and the Rhine was unacceptable to Hitler, it would not have mattered if the Fuhrer had permitted a withdrawal. The Germans had removed heavy weapons from the Siegfried line for reinforcement of the Atlantic Wall fortifications between 1940 and June 1944. A resolute stand at the Vosges barrier was therefore an edict.

[Keith Bonn is an infantry officer serving in Ft. Lewis, WA and is a 1978 Graduate of West Point.]

### Company I Casualties

[From The National Archives]

- PFC **Richard (Corman) Lloyd**, KIA. Killed by an artillery burst, 12 Nov 1944 from Vancouver, WA.
- PFC **Frank Postupak**, KIA, killed by a tree burst of an artillery shell, 17 Nov 1944, from Watervliet, NY.
- SGT Eugene T. Dombrowski, WIA, from Detroit, MI.
- PVT Alfred Galgano, WIA from Bronx, NY.
- PFC David B. Carr, WIA from Ogden, UT.
- PFC Roger Grant, Jr. WIA from Burlington, NC.
- PVT Ben Kristjancen, WIA from St. Thomas, ND.
- S/SGT Thomas C. Stigall, WIA from Chicago, IL.
- PFC William S. Dawson, WIA, from Pawnee, OK.

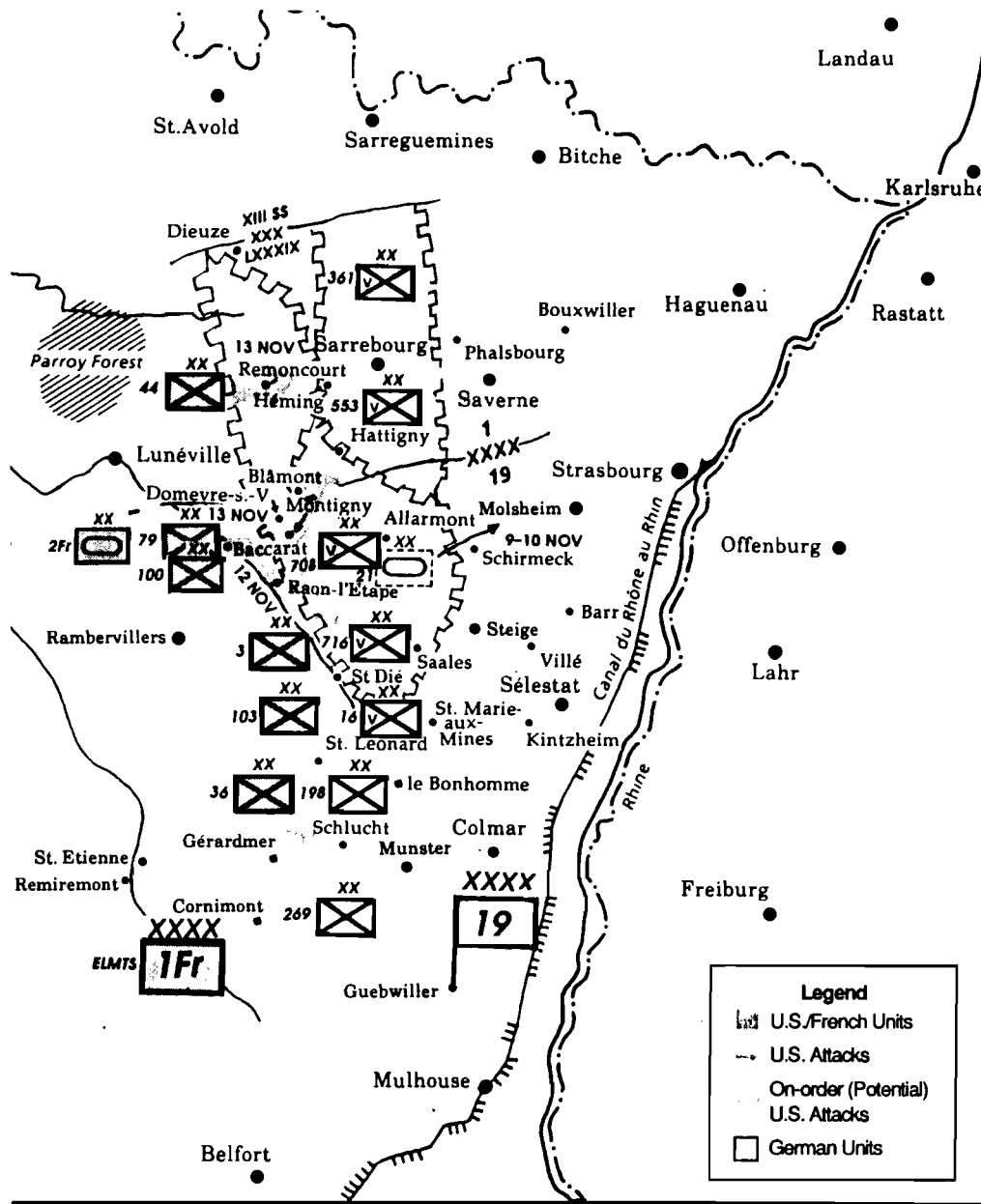
### The First Fifteen Days Of Combat

By Carroll Webster, Company I

Nov. 11—2200 hours. Company was assembled in woods well behind the MLR. On a blanket lay all types of tobacco products. At the end were cases and cans of ammunition. The men were given six packs of cigarettes and all the ammo they wished to carry. Weapons were loaded and bolts and slides slammed closed and safeties clicked on. [We] marched about 2 or 3 miles in pitch darkness. [We] were led to our respective positions by men of the 30th Reg. of the 3rd Division, to where we relieved [them] at 2400 [hours.]

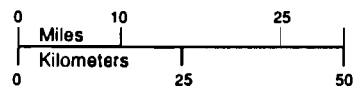
Nov. 12—Sunday. [It was barely daylight due to wartime double daylight savings time.]

Map C : Military Situation – 12 November 1944

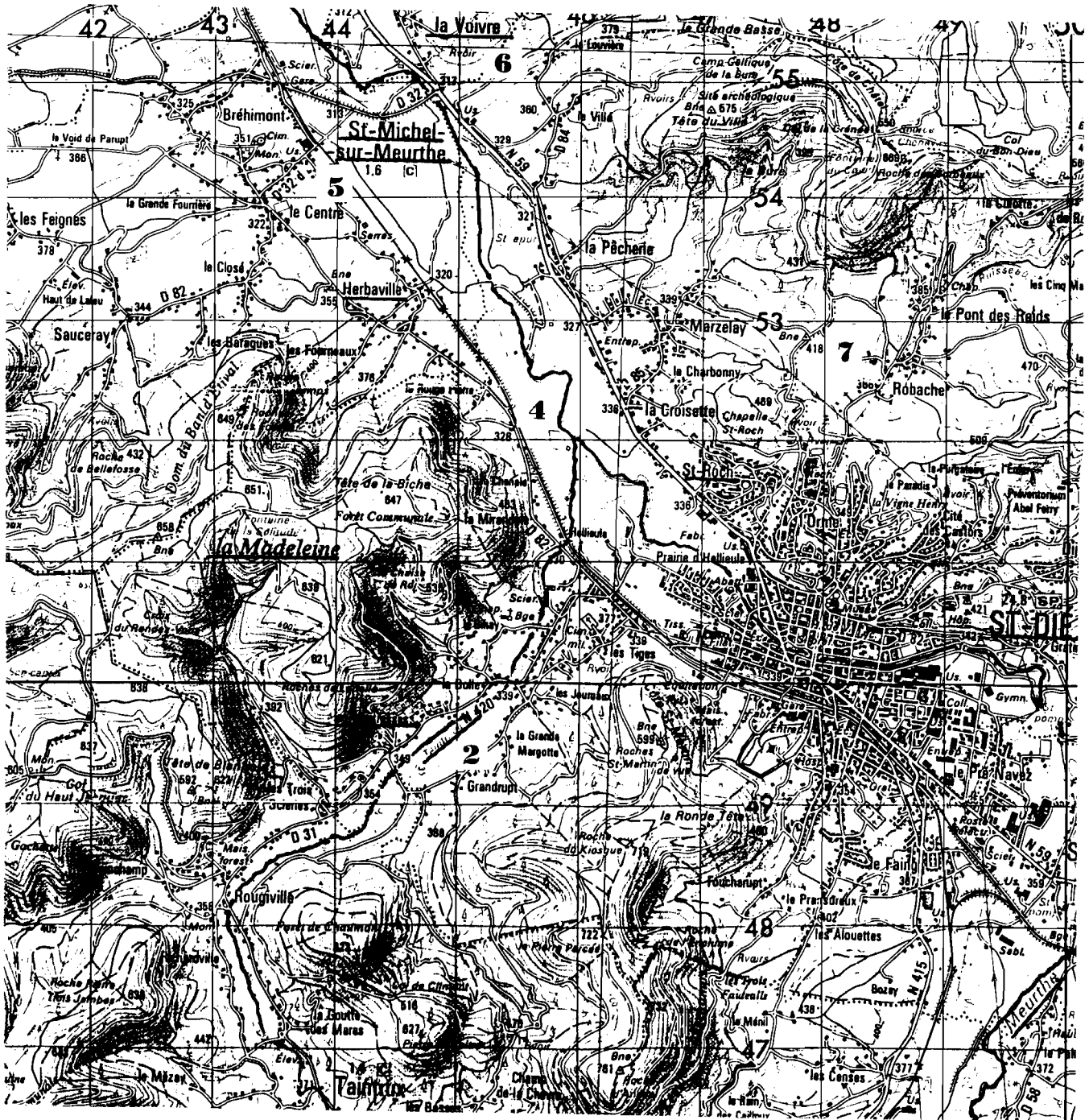


SITUATION, 12 NOVEMBER 1944

Note: German prepared fortifications only shown in Vosges and approaches to Saverne Gap.



Map D - St. Dié

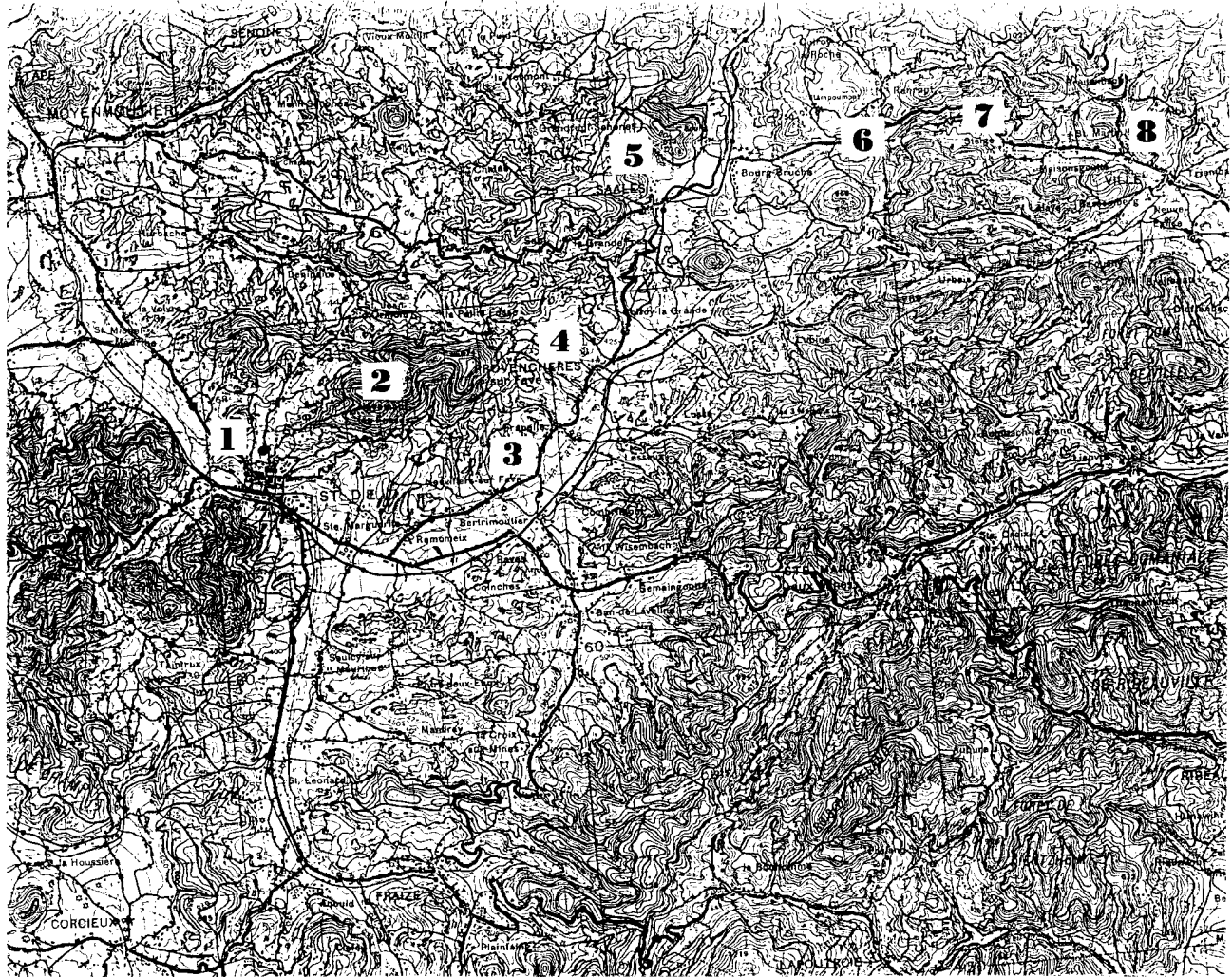


Map Index :

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bois de la Madeleine | 5. St. Michel-sur-Meurthe |
| 2. Taintrux River       | 6. La Voivre              |
| 3. Les Moitriasses      | 7. Robache                |
| 4. Muerthe River        | 8. St. Dié                |



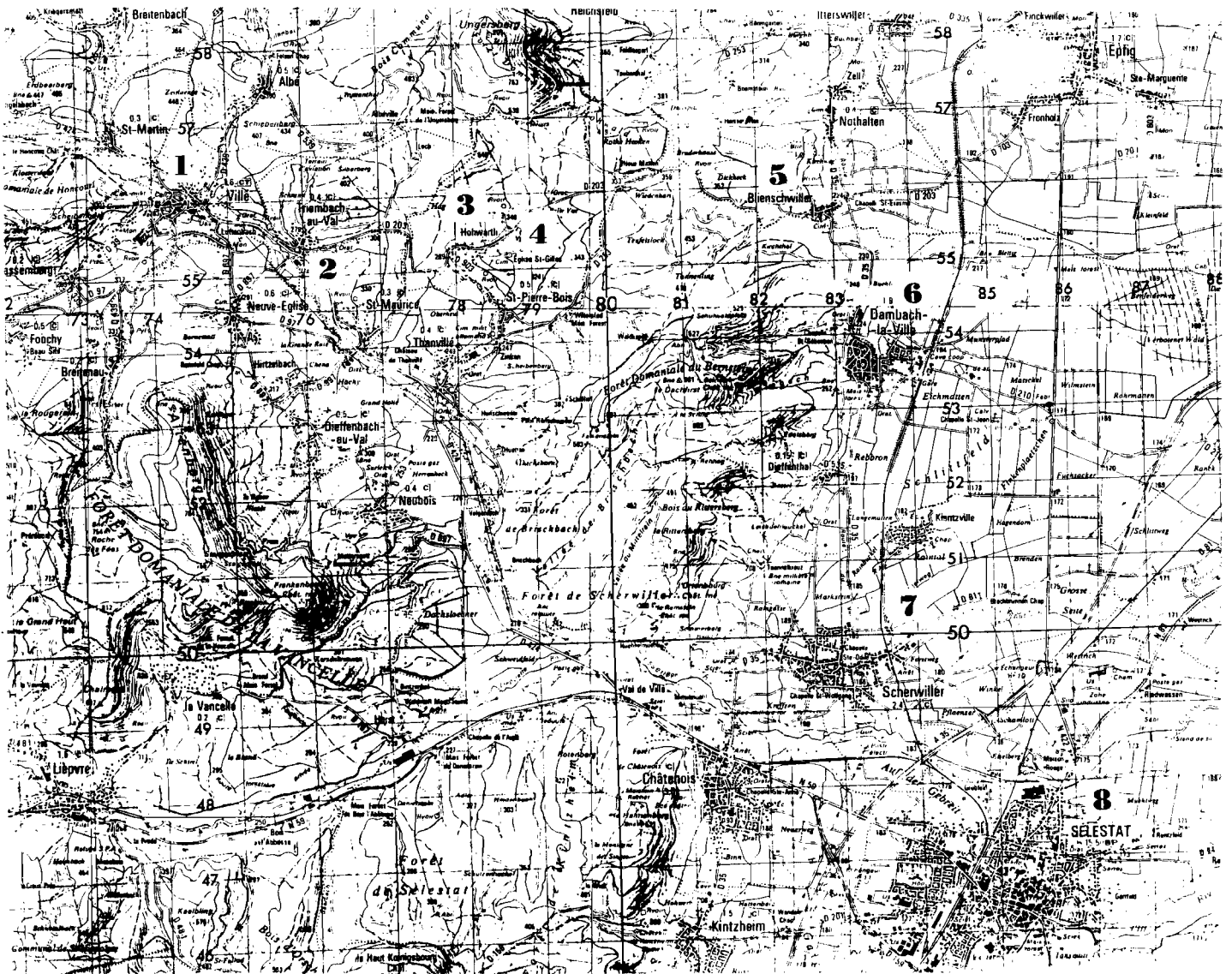
*Map E – From St. Dié To Ville*



Map Index :

- |                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. St. Dié                   | 5. Saales      |
| 2. Nayemont                  | 6. Saales Pass |
| 3. Frapelle                  | 7. Stiege      |
| 4. Provencheres – sur – Fave | 8. Ville       |

Map F – Ville To Selestat



Map Index :

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ville                | 5. Blienschwiller       |
| 2. Triembach – au – Val | 6. Dambach – la – Ville |
| 3. Hohwarth             | 7. Scherwiller          |
| 4. Eglise St.–Gilles    | 8. Selestat             |

**THE BATTLE NEAR HOHWARTH, ALSACE, FRANCE. 29 NOV. 1944**

**By Harold G. Brock, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, I Company, 410<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 103<sup>rd</sup> Division**

**In the late afternoon of 29 November, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was advancing to the east just outside of the town of Hohwarth. Company L was in the lead when a roadblock and scattered artillery fire stopped the advance. Company I was then directed to go around the roadblock on a cart trail on the right.**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of Company I was in the lead on this march. We were moving through a heavily wooded area in double file down this crooked cart trail with our rifles "at the ready" and taking all precautions not to step on any land mines. Leading this advance were the four riflemen on the "point." The two scouts in the lead were Murray Bloom and Frank Dominianni, followed at about 20 yards by John Porter and myself (Harold Brock).**

**Having traversed about a quarter mile of heavily wooded terrain, the cart trail entered a large open meadow with about 400 yards visible ahead and about 100 yards of clearing on each side. Immediately, Bloom and Dominianni advanced across the center of this meadow with Porter and myself not advancing until the first two scouts were about 50 yards ahead. Porter and I then followed the lead of our first two scouts. When Porter and I were out in the meadow about 50 yards from the woods, the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and I Company were following at a 5 to 10 yard distance between men.**

**Suddenly a whoosh from artillery fire passed within inches of my head, and exploded behind me in the woods. Immediately, I hit the dirt and rolled over twice to my right. I noticed that Bloom, Dominianni and Porter were also trying to take cover. The Krauts were firing 88 artillery at us point blank from the far end of the meadow! About half a minute would elapse before the next shell screeched overhead to explode behind me in the woods and beyond.**

**I pulled out my entrenching tool and started to shovel dirt while in the prone position. After about 10 minutes, when the shelling suddenly stopped, I had a slit trench deep and long enough to protect my head and body. I kept on the lookout, expecting to see a German tank coming out of the woods on the far side of the meadow, but everything was quiet except for faint cries of "medic" coming from the woods behind me.**

**All four of us scouts were O.K. and we held our ground in the middle of the meadow. Finally, after about 10 minutes, I heard Lt. John Neely who was crouched down at the edge of the woods. He yelled at us to "pull back." I relayed his command to Bloom and Dominianni and they jumped up and**

ran back to the trail through the woods. Porter and I held our positions until the lead scouts were safe in the woods, then we followed.

I got back about 50 yards into the woods when I found Howard Schwenden who was crumpled up next to a tree. Schwenden was unconscious and gasping for breath. I laid him down and started to remove his cartridge belt and backpack when he gave his last gasp. A few yards away, our squad leader, Sgt. Carl Minnear, lay dead. I then heard a yell for help. It was Alsey Milburn our new medic that had just replaced Darrel Elliot who was shot the previous day before we took the town of Hohwarth.

Milburn, our medic, was badly wounded. His left arm was almost severed at the elbow and his left leg was profusely bleeding. I yelled and got John Porter to help me apply a tourniquet to Milburn's arm and a compression over his leg wound. Thankfully, Milburn had already given himself a morphine injection, and he helped direct his own first aid. We then jammed our rifles through the armholes of a raincoat and made enough of a litter so that we could carry our wounded medic on our retreat through the woods.

Still on the cart trail and with our medic on the litter, two German soldiers suddenly jumped out from the bushes right in front of us. They yelled "comrade-comrade" with their hands held high overhead. Quickly we motioned for them to march ahead of us toward the main road to Hohwarth. Porter and I were lucky that our rifles were hidden under the litter and that the big red crosses on the medic's helmet and chest prompted the enemy to surrender to an unarmed American medical team.

It was getting dark when we got to the main road and met some help from our own outfit so we could get a jeep for the wounded Milburn and have someone else handle the two Kraut prisoners. Porter and I finally found our platoon taking defensive positions at the houses at the edge of town facing the enemy. We were informed that Raymond Voss from the 4<sup>th</sup> heavy weapons platoon was killed and Joseph Jeffries ~~was~~ wounded. Also, our 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon had three wounded: Arthur Crossan, Jewel Stingely, and Walter Schneider. Later that evening, John Porter was injured when enemy mortar fire blew him off of his lookout position in the loft above the house.

A couple of tanks from the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division pulled up in the road outside of our house to cover us and provide defense for the night. We pulled our usual two hours of guard shifts with four hours off for sleep. We were all thankful for an end to a tragic day, and that we had survived.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—A patrol [of the 410th Infantry] reported the Taintrux River to be 10-15 feet wide and 2-4 feet deep; approaches marshy; banks muddy; rate of flow-very swift. The patrol reported that the bridge at LES MOITRAISSES was apparently not mined and that foot troops could ford the river.

On 14th Nov 44, the 3rd Bn was ordered to place a combat outpost at positions to cover the bridge to prevent its demolition by [German] troops.

On 16 Nov 44, it was reported that the attack of the 411th Infantry across the Taintrux River was held up by an enemy machine gun in a house. Artillery fire was laid down and the attack progressed. [During the attack many men of the 410th Infantry were dug in west of the river, behind Company I.]

### The First Fifteen Days Of Combat

Nov. 12. Word was received by field phone that PVT. Richard B. Lloyd, runner for the MG section was KIA at dawn by an enemy artillery fragment. Company mortars set base stakes and zeroed in on a road junction, and other likely targets at a range of 1700 yards. [These rounds may have been the first rounds fired into enemy lines by the 103rd Division.]

SGT. [Donald] Calfee served as forward observer. The enemy answered our zeroing rounds with artillery fire which fell 200 yards or more short, and struck the Company CO. They hit the area every time the mortars were used.

Nov. 13. Monday. No change

Nov. 14. Tuesday. Light snow fell during the night. SGT. Calfee spotted a German patrol, dressed in white, in a wooded area along the MLR. Second mortar squad zeroed in with three rounds then all three guns fired for effect with three rounds each. Calfee said over the field phone, "I can hear them screaming!" Perhaps it could be said that Lloyd's death had been avenged.

Nov. 15. Wednesday. 0900. The entire 7th Army and then some, launched a frontal assault on all German positions along the front. The sky was filled with shells of every caliber passing over our position. The 411th Regiment advanced through our position in a straight, sweeping line.

A young LT. was seen fingering some mud, from a tiny rill by our mortars, and smearing it on his shining gold bars. [Didn't blame him a bit.] When the order was given, our mortars delivered covering fire for the attacking 411th as they advanced toward St. Die. Our three guns surely fired about 100 rounds of HE shells into German lines. The 3rd Div. boys left behind a very ample supply of 60 mm shells.

### The First Fifteen Days Of Combat

Nov. 16. Thursday. [We] were called upon to share our snug, little ravine with M Company's 81 mm mortars. They set-up by our fancy holes, [with canvas roofs, mud paths, covered with MG belts, and portable phones.] much to the consternation of our ear drums. [I bet they were all discharged with severe deafness, poor bastards.] PFC Frank Postupak was KIA this date by a tree burst, apparently from a long-range gun.

Nov. 17. Friday. No change of position. While standing guard at 0300, a monster shell, perhaps one of our 8-inchers, passed over and exploded soon after. [I hope it reached the enemy lines and not ours.] It sounded like a freight-train coming in. [All during the siege of St. Die, SGT. Walters kept an eye on a recently departed Kraut lying along the roadside. On the ring finger was a very attractive ring. About this date he noticed it was missing, or was it an entire finger? He said to himself, "NOW, THEY ARE READY!"

Nov. 18. Saturday. [We] withdrew to [the] rear area at 0900. [We] travelled about 2 or 3 miles. [We] exchanged our heavy, now damp, overcoats and damp, muddy blankets for new state-of-the-art "Mummy Bags", which were less warm, not waterproof, but much lighter, and equipped with zippers.

[We] were given cold, 30-second showers with a short rinse cycle which left most of the soap in place. [I suppose the soap helped combat any 'cooties' present.]

A few tank boys were there also, and tried to persuade us into trading our light-weight .45 pistols for their 11-lb. Thompsons. No Way. [We] changed our long-johns and bootsocks, which were getting a bit ripe. [We] had a hot meal that night complete with chocolate pudding.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 17 Nov 44, the 3rd Bn was alerted to be prepared to move back. Plans were prepared to assemble the Bn to move northeast to ST. DIE. The reports were that the 411th Infantry were moving ahead steadily with little opposition.

On 18 Nov 44, Division ordered that aggressive reconnaissance be made on the east side of the Meurthe River that night. One patrol reported that the hill near ST. ROCH [See Map] was occupied by Germans and that they had actually seen 29.

On 20 Nov 44, the 3rd Division was successful in forcing a crossing of the Meurthe north of ST. MICHEL-sur-MEURTHE, thus penetrating the prepared enemy defenses on the east bank of the river.

### The First Fifteen Days Of Combat

Along about 0200, many of us were frantically fighting those damn zippers on the new Mummy-bags to make it to the latrine on time. Enteritis and/or dysentery, or perhaps "the Alsatian runs" had hit the company and would take a heavy toll. A very nervous SGT. [Donald] Calfee brought back the word that "we were going into the attack that day."

Nov. 19. Sunday. [We] boarded 6x6s and motor-marched several miles. [We] unloaded near an unknown town, perhaps St. Michel-sur-Meurthe, crossed the river on a pontoon bridge. [We] entered another village, perhaps Marzelay, about 0700. A B.A.R. man fired at a suspected Kraut seen fleeing on a bicycle.

Nov. 20. Monday. [We] continued eastward through mountain woods, trails and backroads. We were shelled in a wooded area with a small rill running through a low area. I remember that PFC [Henry] Galasso and I were running for a bank on the stream, I was crouched over in the water and Galasso was lying on the ground about ten feet away. A shell hit a few feet away from me, but above the protective bank. Galasso cried out that he had been hit, and screamed, "My foot is on fire!" I looked at his right foot and blood was showing from a hole in the ankle of his boot. The Achilles tendon had been cut. [I ran into him stateside about a year later and he was still limping.]

Nov. 21. Tuesday. We continued on a mountain hike. Farmers dressed in leather caps and coats stood on the road in front of their farms holding out their humble, but much appreciated offerings of cheese, round bread, calvados, and those damn little green apples, (which probably contributed to the Alsatian "runs.") We dug-in six times this day and exhausted ourselves. We entered

### The First Fifteen Days Of Combat

the village of FRAPELLE at dusk. [We] were well greeted by the cheerful inhabitants. We were the first Americans they had seen. The church bells rang and many French tricolor flags were anchored to the windows and doorways. By Golly Moses, Company I had liberated its first town, but we were too tired to care. We were billeted in houses with windows blacked-out with blankets. Enemy MG rattled on into the night, but without effect. No rations. The French had little to offer other than a bowl of chicory, 'cafe.'

Nov. 22. Wednesday. We left the village early. We attempted to trick the enemy MG into revealing his position. We set up own own MG and mortar behind railroad embankment near a blown up bridge. We fired bursts of MG into the opposite hillside, but the Kraut MG was long gone. We advanced down a gravel road. We found the body of a dead Kraut with a bullet hole between his eyes. (Perhaps he had been executed by his own officer.) He looked so at peace.

Nov. 23. Thanksgiving Day. The company mess truck met us at the edge of a village. They served us turkey sandwiches with tasty trimmings. We ate like the starving men we were. We kept up the advance about 1300 down the same road with a high ridge on the right flank. Suddenly, and with little warning a 155 mm shell came over the ridge and hit 50-75 yards beyond.

I just managed to duck before it hit. [PVT Gilmer H.] Danielson, who was directly opposite my position on the road, let out a yell. He was lying on his side with a stunned look on his face. He had been carrying his carbine stock over his shoulder. Good thing he did so because that stock was shattered by a fragment. He was mad as hell. His left shoulder was badly bruised, if not broken.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The VI Corps ordered the 103rd Division to prepare to cross the Meurthe [River] immediately. The 410th Infantry was ordered to motor march to assembly areas near LA SALLE. While enroute the 410th CO received orders to have his entire unit cross the river by 0200 on 21 Nov 44, in order to attack in a southeasterly direction at dawn. The purpose of this order was to relieve elements of the 7th Infantry (3rd Div.) pushing forward in the vicinity of LA VOIVRE, [See Map] so that the 7th Infantry could rejoin their division driving eastward.

The 410th Infantry successfully effected a crossing of the Meurthe River during the hours of darkness and attacked to the east and southeast on the morning of 21 Nov 44. At 1230 on Nov 22 the 3rd Bn was 3500 yds east of ROBACHE. By 1645 it had reached a line in the woods east of NAYEMONT. The Bn had met stiff resistance.

### Incidents Near Ville

By Carroll Webster, Company I

Nov. 24. Friday. We continued through mountain terrain. Fired on without effect. Feels good. Company still plagued with sickness.

Nov. 25. Saturday. Continued a winding course. That night we dug in in a wooded area along a trail. A challenge of "Halt! Halt!" was shouted. A German patrol had walked right into our position. Eight surrendered without a fight and were secured for the night.

VILLE was a road-hub and, I believe, a railroad center, also. Nearby was a battery of 155mm guns firing in the general direction of the town, but I do not feel they were actually firing into the town, but beyond it. The company proceeded northwards but bypassed the village to the western edge.

About 4 or 5 Kraut "screaming meemees" were striking the center of the town. Our platoon approached the village from the south or southwest. We crossed a log bridge over a very fast stream. [Harold A.] Fornell slipped off and into the cold water. He was obviously sent to the aid station and did not return for some time.

We marched to the west and northwest edge of town and billeted in a farmhouse which was perhaps deserted. We entered and exited by the windows. As I recall more than one platoon was billeted there. It was very crowded. [There was] no place large enough to lay down.

After dawn the company advanced eastward on a gravel road cut into the side of a hill at the north side of the village. About thirty feet below the road was the village proper and a church with very high, slim steeple. As the head of the column approached the eastern stretch of the road,

### Incidents Near Ville

it [took] rifle fire, followed soon by artillery from a distant gun. The rifle fire wounded two of our men: Darrell D. Elliott and Jackson T. Gould.

Elliott was the medic for the third platoon with red crosses in five different places, a non-combatant, and hardly a 'legal' target. The rifle fire came from the church steeple [according to some, but I personally believe it came from the stone house at the end of the road and at a somewhat lower level.] The artillery rounds were landing above the road cut, and were no problem at the time. I could see the flash of the field piece on the horizon to the east about 1 to 2 miles away.

A call was given for bazooka fire to counter the snipers in the house. The bazooka man came up from behind the 4th platoon and shuffled low to the head of the column. Two rockets were fired into the stone house and [the] Germans within, promptly surrendered. I have heard that there was a threat made to execute them on the spot for shooting Elliott, but it did not happen.

### Casualties: November 22-27

From The National Archives

PFC Henry Galasso, WIA from Pueblo, CO,  
Wounded near Frapelle

PVT Robert L. Gage, WIA from Lincoln, NB,  
Wounded near Frapelle

PFC Lawrence E. Cook, WIA from Walthiel,  
Nebraska, Wounded near Frapelle

PVT Gilmer H. Danielson, WIA from  
Crookston, MN, Wounded near Frapelle

PFC Darrell D. Elliott \* WIA from Arvada, CO  
Wounded at Ville

PFC Jackson T. Gould, WIA from Denver, CO  
Wounded at Ville

\* Awarded Bronze Star For Heroism

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**--On 23 Nov 44 the [3rd] Bn occupied NAYEMONT with little opposition and occupied FRAPELLE at 1600. [See Map.] During the night the Bn crossed the Fave River, and continued the advance, occupying the entire 410th zone. LUSSE was bypassed

The Commanding General ordered that the 410th Infantry take VILLE on 26th Nov 44 and that it try to take prisoners. On 27 Nov 44, the 3rd Bn occupied high ground northeast of VILLE. On 28th Nov 44, the Bn moved eastward and met heavy enemy resistance in the woods. The Bn engaged the enemy at a roadblock north of TRIEMBACH-au-VAL. At 1913 in the afternoon, HOHWARTH was occupied. On 29 Nov 44, a strong enemy counter-attack threw Company I back from a road junction [east of HOHWARTH] and into the woods.

### The Battle At Hohwarth

By Carroll Webster, Company I

After the fight at VILLE, our company moved eastward by the road towards TRIEMBACH-au-VAL and HOHWARTH. [See Map.] I do remember seeing a small pile of black-painted 77mm German projectiles stacked along the road and wondered at the time if this wasn't the location of that gun that was firing on us at VILLE.

The narrative above says the 3rd Bn entered HOHWARTH at 1913 hours. Frankly, I do not recall the time. I do remember the billet. It was the 3rd house from the east side of town, and was occupied by an old Germanic woman, whose son was in the German Army and whose husband had been killed while serving in the German Army, [perhaps it was the other way around.]

We had a peaceful night's rest in the barn as well as the house. The lady obviously did not appreciate our being there. [S/SGT Harry R.] Zunker tried to make peace with her by giving her a can of corned beef.

The next afternoon, late on the 29th Nov, we started advancing very slowly across the open terrain east of town. I am sure that most of the 3rd Bn was with us in that line. Company I was 'on point' it seems. PFC Raymond Voss and I were together because the mortar section was badly depleted by illness and we had only enough men for two squads. As I and Voss entered the tree and brush line at the east end of the field, we decided to open a can of C-rations. [The column was moving slowly.]

No sooner had we finished our cold hash, when the front of the column was being raked by artillery fire. We hit the dirt and a small brown puppy came to me and promptly knocked off my

### The Battle At Hohwarth

helmet. It was like a damn dream! Here we were being shelled and this stupid puppy wants to play!

About this time word was passed back to 'retire' back to the village, [HOHWARTH], now about 800 yards to the west. Voss shouldered the tube of the mortar, and I the mortar and ran like a scared person in a cemetery at midnight. The shelling continued in the woods behind us and rolled towards the village. I thought to myself, "I never thought this outfit would turn to such flight over a few shells in their area."

I was getting more angry every minute--and winded--by being ran like that. Finally I came to [the] conclusion that maybe the whole freaking German Army was hot in pursuit. SGT [Earl W.] Cellan caught up with me and offered to take the 42-lb. mortar the last lousy 100 yards.

I took his M-1 [rifle] and handed him my .45. Now that was smart, we both had 8 rounds each. I stopped at the edge of town by a tree stump, sat down on the ground and panted, while looking back over the ground we had all just covered. I was looking for any flashes in the distant tree line. For a few seconds I watched hoping to see a target, but only saw our own men trailing in. Since prudence is the better part of valor, since your panting like a 'winded horse', and have eight rounds to zero in at 800 yards, I gave up my 'heroic' stand, turned and headed for the road.

At the very edge of town, I heard another shell coming in. I saw a two-wheeled cart on the south side of the road and slid in under it just as the shell hit the road. As I got up, I noticed a gash in the road blacktop measuring 2' by 4'. I did not look to my right where the blown-up body of Raymond Voss was scattered against the barn door of the second house from the east end of town.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 30 Nov 44, two German tanks raided the Command Post (CP) of Company C, 410th Infantry, and took some prisoners--approximately 40. The town of REICHSFELD was liberated and the 410th Infantry was continuing the attack towards their objective. Company I was assigned the occupation of the town of BLIENSCHWILLER but due to heavy enemy resistance, dug in for the night and [prepared] to move into the town. The first of December found the 410th Infantry continuing to drive closer to the Vosges foothills leading to the Rhine River plain. Company I cleaned out BLIENSCHWILLER by 1103, while other units were cleaning up NOTHALEN [one mile north.] The Third Bn CP moved to DAMBACH at 0850 on 2 Dec 44. The 410th Commander, [Col. Henry Harding] returned from Division HQ at 1030 with the order that the 410th, less the 3rd Bn, was now attached to the French Army.

### Company I Casualties

November 28-30

From The National Archives

S/SGT **Carl Minnear**, KIA, killed by an artillery shell burst, from Gainesboro TN  
PVT **Howard I. Schwenden**, KIA, killed by an artillery shell burst, from Alhambra, CA.  
PFC **Raymond Voss**, KIA, killed by an artillery shell burst, from Bennett, Iowa.  
CPL Walter Schneider, WIA, from Chicago, IL  
PFC Arthur B. Crossan, WIA,  
from Philadelphia, PA.  
PFC Jewel V. Stingely, WIA,  
from Frankfort, IN.  
PFC John P. Porter, WIA  
PVT Franklin J. Cookingham, WIA,  
from Rhinebeck, NY.  
SGT Joseph F. Jeffries\* WIA, from Dayton, OH  
PVT Aley Milburn, WIA, from Dearborn, MI.  
\* Awarded Bronze Star for Heroism

### The Battle At Hohwarth

When I arrived [back] at the billet, Cellan and others were trying to get in, but the old woman had locked the door. Cellan was really beside himself and started to shoot the lock, with my .45. I stopped him for fear of ricocheting back on us and started to break the glass instead. But then the old gal came and opened the door for us. *She was laughing at us.* Damn bitch. We went inside to the barn to await orders. [SGT.] Cellan collapsed against the wall, his bum leg shaking. I was not surprised. The poor guy was cracking up. All of us knew fear, but some more than others.

\*\*\* War News \*\*\*

November 28—The French 2nd Armored Division reaches ERSTEIN, near the Rhine River.

### The Battle At Hohwarth Church

By John R. Wagner, Company I

Arriving in this small village about dusk, we occupied several houses at the easterly end and prepared to settle down for the night. However, hardly an hour had passed when we were roused with, "The Germans are coming back, a counter-attack along the ridge! Get up the hill and hold the church!"

Getting packs together again, we hurried up the hill along a path or cart road, with others of the platoon and a machine gun section. The church yard was a cemetery surrounded by a high stone wall with an opening at the end and several steps to the road level. The machine gun was placed on the top of the wall with the 1st squad to dig in to the front, but outside the wall. The 2nd squad was placed along the left side, but outside the wall.

The ridge top was more or less open, but bordered by woods on the down-hill side. The woods ended about 20-30 yards from the church and then were scattered trees, like an orchard, on the down-hill side.

I only managed to dig a shallow depression in the hard dry dirt, when the machine gun opened up on the Germans advancing along the edge of the woods. It was dark by now but with bright moonlight. The Germans replied in kind, because I remember hearing the bullets splatter on the front of the [stone] wall. Then the Germans ducked into the woods.

After some 15-20 minutes of quiet I saw three figures emerge at the edge of the woods, but about 30 yards down the hill. I considered throwing a grenade down there, but reconsidered after thinking about it bouncing back from a tree limb. Instead, I decided to wait until they started up the

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The Second French DB, commanded by [ the legendary liberator of Paris, General Jean-Pierre] LeClerc, was now moving south along the Rhine River—the attachment of the [410th Infantry] was to be effective 3 Dec 44 at 0800. The Third Bn was to remain as a separate unit under Division control as Division reserve. The rest of the Regiment was to be assembled in the EPZIG-STATZHEIM-ST. PIERRE area.

The 3rd Bn left DAMBACH late in the afternoon of 2 Dec 44 to march to a position northeast of SELESTAT. Task Force Selestat called for the 3rd Bn to protect the left flank of the 409th Infantry. The 3rd Bn's mission was to take the northeast edge of SELESTAT and the woods NE of SELESTAT. On the evening of 3 Dec 44, they attacked and captured 1100 yards of open ground to take Phase Line R. The 3rd Bn now protected the left flank of the Division.

### The Battle At Hohwarth Church

hill towards the church where I could just roll it down. Suddenly, there was an explosion high up in a tree near them and they ducked back into the woods. Apparently they retreated as it was quiet from then on.

After an hour or so we all moved inside the wall, and into the church. [I] do remember the great feeling of relief at being inside the wall instead of outside, although we were probably as safe outside as confined inside.

In the church, we rounded up all the candle stubs, in order to heat up our beans and coffee. [I] even managed to get a couple hours of sleep on the floor or [pews] before moving on the next day.

### The Night In The Church

By Bob Quinn, Company I

Our platoon scrambled up the hill and found that the parish church and cemetery was surrounded by a stone wall about four feet high, and we quickly deployed behind the wall. There was one opening in the wall nearest to the church tower and the main front door, and while near this opening everyone moved at double-time. As I remember this night from 49 years of fading memory, there are many things which stand out very clear. The church was intact, no artillery shells had crashed through the roof.

The second platoon was divided into two squads, those who would be on guard duty outside if the Germans came back, and the other half who would take shelter and rest in the church. There were no lights [allowed], but there was a bright moon that night.

What a luxury to stretch out on the wide pews! Those who were inside chose their pew as if they were selecting a luxurious army cot. Helmets

### The Night In The Church

became pillows. Everyone was quite dead tired. Many were suffering from diarrhea, as I was. What a choice to make? To use the church as a latrine, or to go outside, where there was danger, to use the spaces around the tombstones. As a Catholic, I had the greatest respect for churches, especially for the sanctuary where the most sacred ceremonies took place.

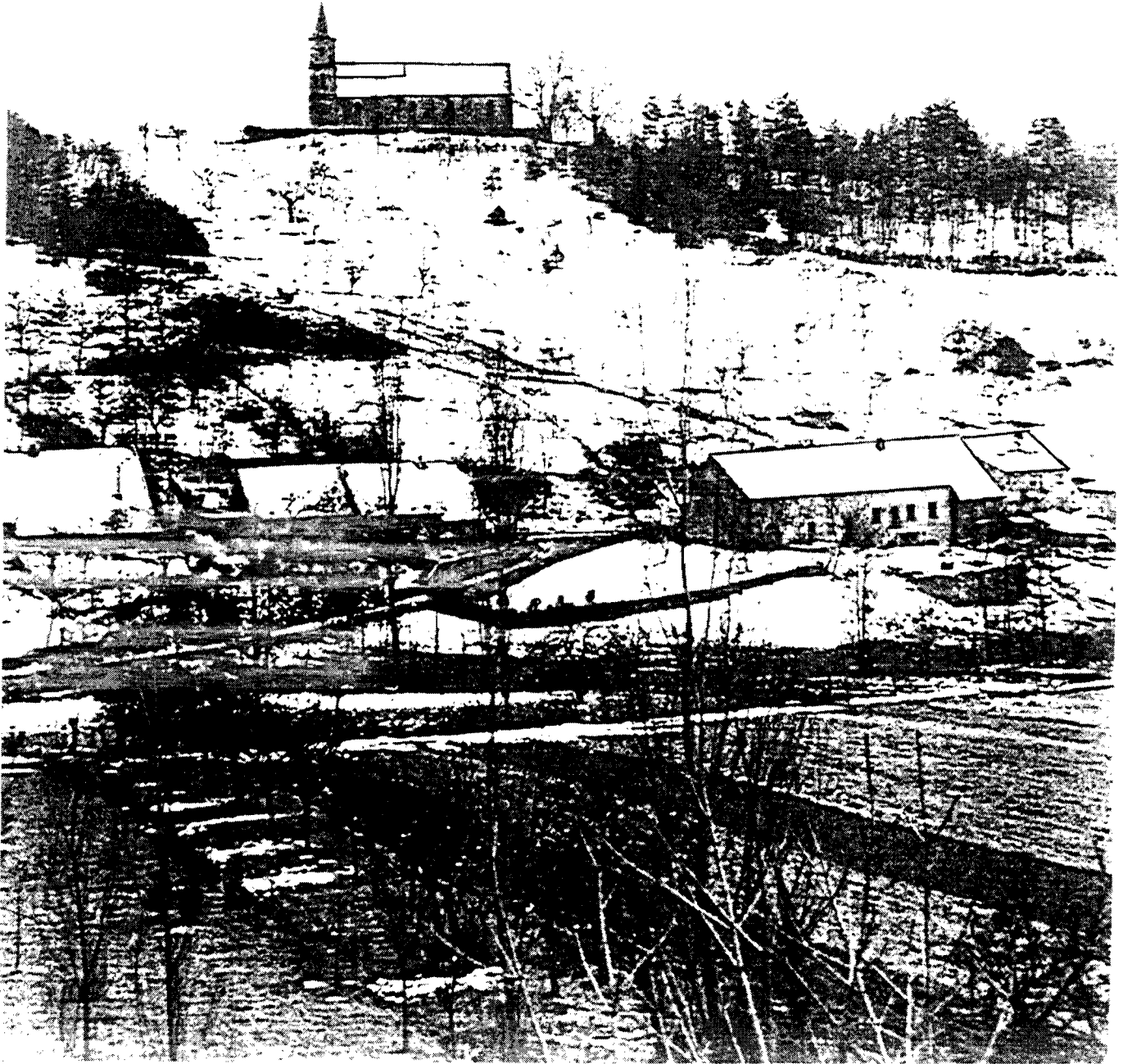
I knew that the original meaning of the word *sanctuary* came from the middle ages as a place of refuge, where pilgrims and peasants could feel safe from all oppressors and armies. It was good to know that all of my fellow soldiers had respected the sanctuary [of the Church of St. Gilles.]

I had to 'go'! I made the choice to leave the church, no matter what! I got up quietly from my pew bench, grabbed my rifle, crept towards the side of the church, and went to the church door. I knew the 'password' to use to get back in, but outside it was so dark. I found a rather flat tombstone by feel, dropped my pants and drawers, and then quickly retreated back to the church door.

When I got back inside the church, I realized that I could have been shot while taking care of my condition, but I have always thought that my respect for any church building, made me take the risk.

In addition, I was just twenty years old, and had survived many consecutive days of at least one German 88mm artillery shell 'whoosing' over my head, and I had a feeling of indestructibility.

When next morning our breakfast was surprisingly delivered, I ate the toast and confidently marched down the path from the church and continued through the town. I thanked God I was safe, and prayed that no one had been injured.



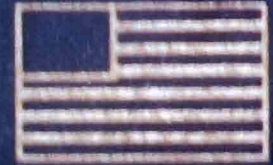
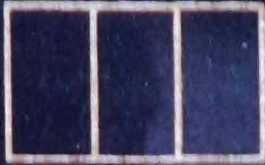
*PAROISSE CATHOLIQUE S. GILLES*

*SAINT PIERRE - BOIS / HOHWARTH*

*67220 HOHWARTH FRANCE*

(Overleaf :) *COMPANY I PLAQUE*





EN MÉMOIRE

Libération de HOHWARTH 28 Nov 1944

Carl Minnear  
Howard I. Schwenden  
Raymond Voss

Libération d'ALSACE 1944-1945

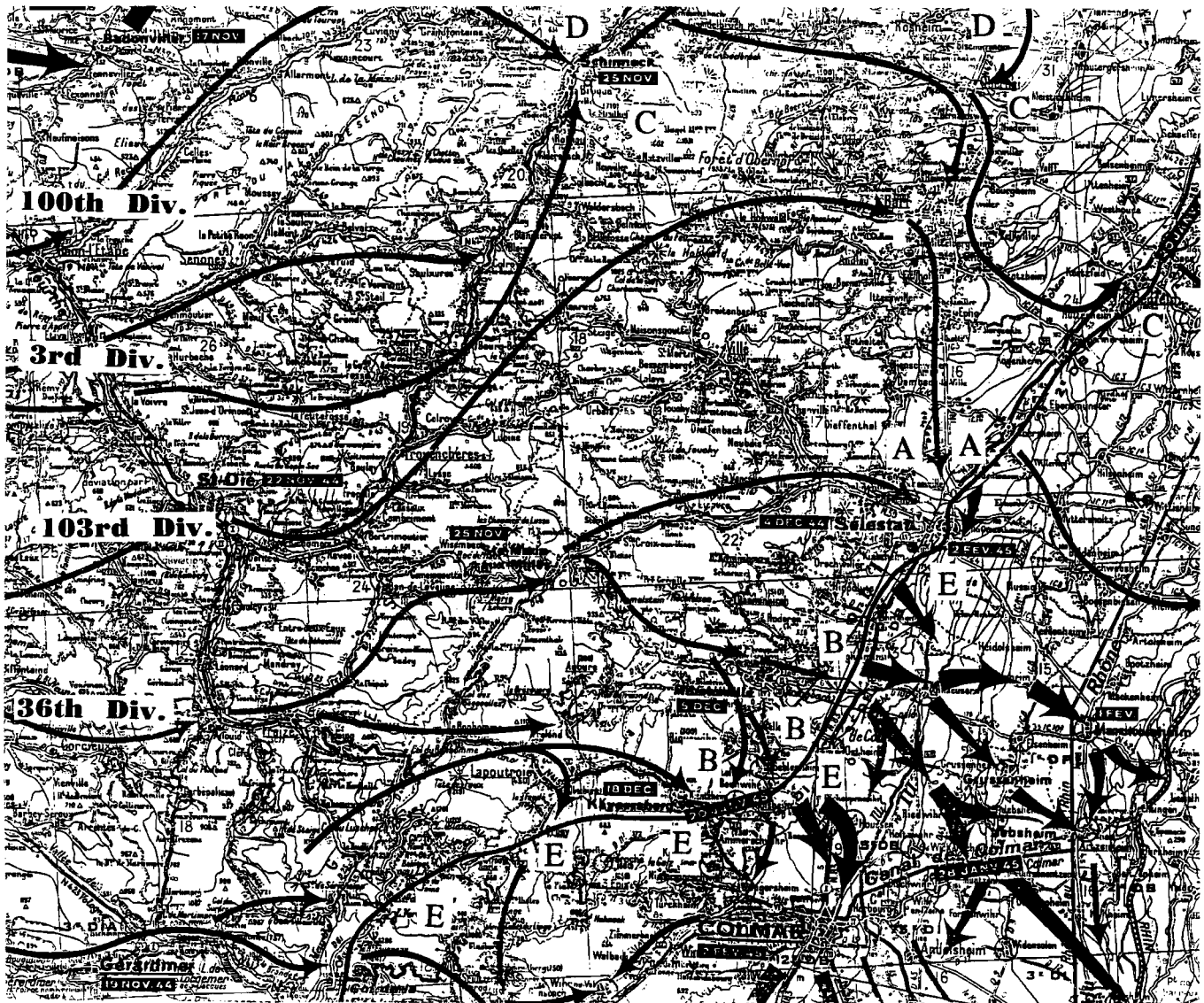
Hale R. Burnham  
Theodore S. Ciezki  
Charles W. Heard  
Francis M. Passaro  
Francis B. Postupak  
Romolda Natt  
Robert B. Higbee  
Richard B. Lloyd  
Gene Wise



Co. I, 410th Inf., Division 103

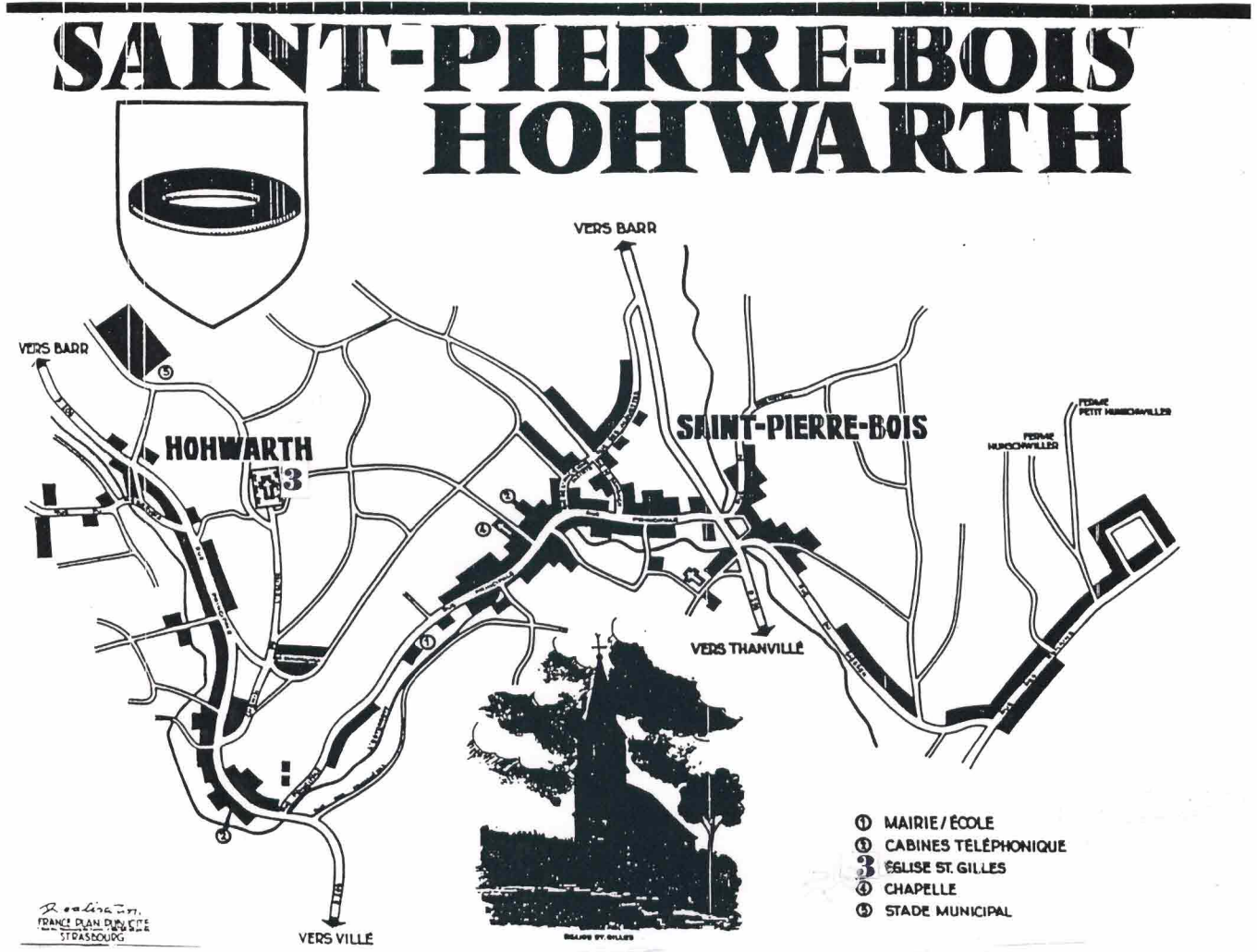


*Map G: Seventh Army Captures The Vosges Mountains*



Notes :

- A. The 103rd Division captured the city of SELESTAT on 4 – 5 December.
- B. The 36th Division captured the Rhine Plain south of SELESTAT on 5 December.
- C. The 3rd Division captured the town of OBERNAI and BENFELD on 4 December and liberated the German Concentration Camp at STRUTHOF —the only 'Death Camp' in France.
- D. The 100th Division captured the town of SCHIRMECK and MOLSHEIM on 4 December.
- E. The 'COLMAR Pocket' remained intact under German control until 2 February 45.



Plaque Honoring The Company's War Dead Inside Eglise St. Gilles



Rev. Paul Dietrich, Pastor of St. Gilles, reads the names of those who died near Hohwarth, and the names of all from Company I who gave their lives in the liberation of France.

**1ST SGT. A. R. WALTER'S NOTEBOOK—26 Nov 44.** 8 prisoners captured. 27 Nov 44 Above VILLE. Sick Book(SK). [CPL Jack E.] Flynn. [PVT Jerome E.] Leahy. [PFC Wesley G.] Halle. [PFC Ernest M.] Casey. [PVT James A.] Curtis. [PVT Gerald A.] Walsh. [PVT Gaetano T.] Ficca. [PFC Henry D.] Krusinski. Moved into bivouac above VILLE.

28 Nov 44. Billeted in HOHWARTH. Encountered sniper fire leaving bivouac, deployed to left and in afternoon took town of HOHWARTH and billeted for night. 8 prisoners captured. [Medic Darrell D.] Elliott-WIA. [PFC Jackson T.] Gould-WIA. [S/SGT Gerald W.] O'Connell-Aid Station-SK. [PFC Louis T.] Wilson-Aid Station-SK. [PFC John ] Landolfi-Aid Station-SK.

## Incidents Near Blienschwiller

By Carroll Webster, Company I

We left HOHWARTH early the next afternoon, Nov. 30th. This time, the company used the road, instead of winding its way across the fields and woods. Late that afternoon, almost dark, the head of the column came to a farmhouse that was located just beyond an old rock quarry. We were either fired upon from the house or a [Browning Automatic Rifleman] B.A.R. tried to enter the house, and was fired on.

In any event two enemy soldiers were killed in the exchange of fire and six others surrendered. No sooner was it over, when a [German] 20mm all-purpose cannon cut loose with a stream of tracers into the air. (Probably to let the German forces to the rear know that contact had been made.)

The 4th platoon was back up the road adjacent to the quarry. I saw the 20mm let fly with the tracers, and thought I could tell where the 'burst' came from even in the now dark terrain. It wasn't long before the prisoners passed by us, carrying a wounded (or dead) *kamerad* on a litter.

At that time a field artillery observer was asking us if we saw the 20mm fire. As usual I spoke up. I never learned and the next thing I knew, we were climbing the east grade of the hill, [that] the rock quarry was excavated into. The FA man removed his raincoat for cover and we both got under it.

He asked to point out the location of the 20mm and I pointed to the side of the hill beyond the house. He then covered us over with the coat, lighted his flashlight, and studied his map. He then used his walkie-talkie to call in the fire call. As I recall, about four rounds were fired in each salvo.

## Blienschwiller / Webster

So Help Me, God. Those 105s passed over our position so close to our hilltop that I could almost swear [that] I could feel the breeze off of them. The 105s HE [High Explosive] gave only a dull red burst on impact. No indication of a hit on the gun. Twice again he called for fire in a slightly different location. Again, no indication of success. Then, in the silence of the night we made out the sound of a horse-drawn vehicle of some kind. The 20mm was getting away!

(Years later I learned that some tracer elements of some types of ammo, do not light up until the projectiles are well clear of the gun. Therefore, I could have been in error as to the exact location of the 20mm cannon.) In any event, why didn't the crew direct any 20mm fire on our road position ?

As I recall, the company entered BLIENSCHWILLER about mid-morning, Friday, Dec. 1st. I seem to recall that this was the place where a young Frenchman motioned to a few of us to follow him to a house near the west side of town. We were directed to a lower level where several huge casks were located. He took our canteens and filled them with white wine. I would have rather had safe water, but there did not appear to be any in all of Alsace.

The 4th platoon was billeted in a very modern house on the left-hand side of the street near the far end of town. The house had hardwood floors, glass French doors, and a bathroom. Behind the house was a upward slope covered with a well-kept vineyard. The occupants had fled. A bucket of eggs packed in waterglass (sodium silicate) was found in the basement. Several of the platoon cooked those eggs and became ill. I did not for

**1ST SGT A. R. WALTER'S NOTEBOOK**—29 Nov 44. Retreated back to HOHWARTH. [PVT Robert L.] Gage, returns from MIA. [PVT Neal] Ross, returns from AWOL. [PFC John E.] Biscanek, returns from AWOL. [PFC Howard N.] Hansen, returns from AWOL. [S/SGT Clyde F.] Graber, to Aid Station. [PVT Edward C.] Harmon, to Aid Station. **[S/SGT Carl] Minnear-KIA. [PFC Raymond] Voss-KIA. [PVT Howard I.] Schwenden-KIA.** [SGT Joseph F.] Jeffries-WIA. [CPL Walter F.] Schneider-WIA. [PFC Arthur B.] Crossan-WIA. [PFC Jewel V.] Stingely-WIA. [PFC Alsey H.] Milburn-WIA.

Moved from HOHWARTH, encountered roadblock covered with [machine gun] MG fire, raked by artillery fire, retreated back to HOHWARTH.

### Blienschwiller / Webster

some reason.) Also [we] found and liberated a jar of cherry jam. That I did spread on my C-ration crackers and truly enjoyed the rare 'feast' with the white wine of earlier [mention.] We actually had a rarely pleasant night....until 0300.

The company 'fell out' in the street, but not correctly so. The 4th platoon was at the end of the column, instead of the HQ platoon. I distinctly remember SGT [Donald] Calfee warn us that we were heading into an area that probably contained minefields. So what do you do, at night, except follow the guy ahead of you and hope for the best.

We headed eastward or was it southward, and in the clear of the night I soon noticed that we were on a flat plain, with the Vosges mountains behind us. I asked myself if this is good or bad? The terrain was wide open except for the trees lining the road in true French fashion. I am not sure how long we marched but after a while we stopped for a break. I sat down on the mortar and rested.

It was then I heard the faint sounds of tanks, an armored column, in the still night air. I asked myself, "Whose tanks, ours or theirs?" The more I listened, the more they seemed to be coming from behind. I noticed to my right, another smaller road, entering our road to form a 'Y' intrsection.

We then continued down the road for some time, then the head of the column left the road, going down the left shoulder and into a somewhat marshy field. The column went at right angle to the road for about 150-200 yards, then turned right and paralleled the road for another 300 yards, before turning to the right again towards the road. A small distant explosion was heard well from the rear. Apparently someone in a company following

### Blienschwiller / Webster

ours had triggered a mine. At this point, for some reason, I removed my glasses.

Just as I approached the road embankment, I heard someone on the road challenge a few figures on the other side. I looked up and saw someone actually running on the other side!(Years later I was told it was that crazy soldier [PFC Lawrence E.] Cook.)

At that moment there was a blinding red flash before me. My ears rang intensely. I heard no explosion, only the ringing. At first I thought it was a hand grenade thrown across the road. I also realized that [SGT Robert T.] Schultz, and others, were just as close as I. My left eye felt like it was on fire. I only felt the eye wound. I screamed in pain and fell over backwards. I tried to ask Schultz how he was, but only strange babble and blood came out of my mouth. Then I passed out. [ This story continues on page 58. ]

### Behind the Lines

By Will Alpern, Company I

(December 1, 1944)—While working night patrol with Bill Simpson and PFC Don Hall, we infiltrated the German lines to establish the first contact by Seventh Army forces coming east through the Vosges Mountains, with the French 2nd Armored Division ( Deuxième Blindée—DB ) forces which were led by Major General Henri Leclerc, the liberator of STRASBOURG. The French forces were moving south from SAVERNE and STRASBOURG, while we were moving north of SELESTAT.

**1ST SGT A. R. WALTER'S NOTEBOOK**—30 Nov 44. Bivouaced 1/2 mile from BLIENSCHWILLER. Sick Book—[CPL Fred P.] Sykora. [SGT Earl W.] Cellan. [PVT Anthony L.] Cava [CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca, Aid Station to DY (Duty). [PFC John P.] Porter-WIA.. [PFC Gordon F.] Dickson, To Aid Station. [PVT Gilmer H.] Danielson, To Aid Station. S/SGT Lewis C.] Korody, on SK from 17 Nov. [PFC William E.] Gray , DY to SK. [PFC Francis J.] Dominianni, DY to SK. [T/SGT Cecil C. (Pop)] Sommers, DY to SK as of 27 Nov.

Moved out from HOHWARTH toward BLIENSCHWILLER, encountered enemy patrol 1/2 mile from BLIENSCHWILLER. Bivouaced for the night.

Six prisoners captured. Two enemy known killed.

### *From The Riviera To The Rhine*

By R.R. Smith and J.J. Clarke

For the November push, the 103rd Division deployed the 411th Infantry on its right wing, while concentrating the regiments which crossed the Meurthe over 3rd Division bridges during the night of 20-21 November, immediately spreading out east and southeast and clearing high ground north and northeast of ST. DIÉ against light, intermittent resistance. On 22 November, elements of the 409th Infantry, coming in from the north, entered ST. DIÉ unopposed.

Meanwhile the division's motorized task force, TF Haines, circled around north of ST. DIÉ on back roads, securing much of Route N-420 from ST. DIÉ to PROVENCHES-sur-FAVE. PROVENCHES fell on the 24th. The 103rd Division passed many unmanned German defensive works and abandoned stockpile of military supplies.

In accordance with new VI Corps orders, the 103rd Division now advanced in a more easterly direction toward VILLE, a road junction town deep in the mountains about ten miles east of SAALES. The division's ultimate objective was BARR, on the Alsatian plains eight miles northeast of VILLE and an equal distance south of MUTZIG.

Heavily mined roads, well-defended roadblocks, some stubborn pockets of resistance built on incomplete defensive installations, and sporadic artillery and mortar fire slowed progress, as did time-consuming marches along muddy mountain trails to outflank German strongpoints.

By the afternoon of 26 November, leading elements of the 103rd Division cleared VILLE, but were still five miles short of the plains.

### *From The Riviera To The Rhine*

Although the American VI Corps attack had finally succeeded in breaking through the High Vosges, the offensive had begun in a somewhat *confused and uncoordinated* manner. Perhaps overestimating the German linear defenses along the Meurthe River, Brooks had initially tried to outflank them instead of penetrating through the scattered German strongpoints.

Given the initial weaknesses of the German line, however, both the 3rd and the 103rd Divisions probably could have crossed the Meurthe earlier than the 20th, thereby threatening the German forces and starting the drive east almost immediately. Of course, the full-scale offensives in the Belfort and Saverne Gap areas also helped the VI Corps' drive, making it impossible for the Germans to throw in reinforcements this time around.

Brooks' decision to begin the pursuit early in the offensive was correct, but the forces were probably unprepared to make the transition on such short notice; and many, like the 14th Armored Division, were too inexperienced. Nevertheless, Brooks had seen some daylight and wanted to push his forces as far as he could before outrunning his supply lines or becoming mired in the difficult terrain and weather.

With STRASBOURG taken by the XV Corps, Brooks found himself shifting the direction of his attack from the northeast to the east. He sent the 103rd Division to SELESTAT. In the final effort, the VI Corps' advance was less focused and more opportunistic; its success would depend greatly on the ability of the French to make commensurate progress toward COLMAR from the South. General Patch would soon decide!

**1ST SGT A. R. WALTER'S NOTEBOOK**—1 Dec 44. Moved into BLIENSCHWILLER. [PVT Murray] Bloom-DY to SK. Moved from BLIENSCHWILLER. 23 prisoners [taken.]

2 Dec 44. Sick Book : [PFC Harold A.] Fornell. [SGT Charles A.] Dorner. [PFC John L.] Vidrine. [PFC Edward J.] Nestor. [PFC Lloyd F.] Bohnencamp. [S/SGT Ralph J.] Medina. [PVT Kenneth R.] Jewett. [PFC Charles W.] Heard. [S/SGT Harry R.] Zunker. [SGT Robert T.] Schultz-SW (Slightly Wounded.) [PVT Carroll M. Webster-SW. [PVT Willard W.] Glover-SW. [PFC George] Strohl-SW. [PFC John H.] Boss-RTU. [PFC ]Krasowski-Special Duty-DY. Received four replacements. [PFC John C.] Osmund-DY to SK.

3 Dec 44. [PVT Blair] Reeves-DY to SK. [PVT Murray] Bloom-SK to DY. [S/SGT Gerald W.] O'Connell-RTU.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

By Franklin L. Gurley

On November 22, 1944, the French Parliament in Paris, commemorated the 26th anniversary of the entry of French troops into STRASBOURG in 1918. No one present dreamed that the following day French tanks would again liberate the graceful city on the Rhine where the Marseillaise had first been sung in 1792.

The next afternoon, November 23, 1944, the Parliamentary President Maurice Schumann interrupted the debate to make this motion :

"At the moment when French soldiers, led by General Leclerc, liberated STRASBOURG, after achieving the liberation of PARIS, the Provisional Consultative Assembly addresses them the grateful salute of the nation. She welcomes enthusiastically into the French Community the capital of freed Alsace and renews, in the name of the country, the oath to avenge the martyred and loyal provinces, in sparing them forever the return of the scourge."

General Charles de Gaulle declared "the nation again free and still glorious, maternally gathers up liberated Alsace and Lorraine."

Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower went to Alsace-Lorraine the day after Strasbourg's liberation to discuss future moves with 6th Army Group Commander, Lt. General Jacob L. Devers.

Devers received Eisenhower and 15th Army Group Commander, Lt. General Omar N. Bradley, at his headquarters at VITTEL in the Vosges mountains.

Eisenhower found no time to congratulate Devers or to commend his army commanders, Lt. General Alexander M. Patch and French General

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

Jean de Lattre De Tassigny, for their lightning liberation of Alsace. Instead, he said he would like to borrow some of Devers' divisions to help Lt. General George Patton's stalled offensive against the Saar region on Devers' left. Devers, who believed that the Allies should now strike beyond the Rhine rather than bother with German forces on the west bank, made a proposal that startled the visitors.

Patton's offensive should be abandoned, Devers said, and Patton's army moved to Alsace under Devers' command. Devers proposed sending Patch's 7th Army across the Rhine for a northward push on the far side of the river while Patton made a parallel drive on the near side. The objective, Devers said, would be to roll up the enemy's entire rear and cause him to abandon the Rhine's west bank all the way up to Holland.

Bradley did not like the idea of Devers trying to remove Patton from his command. But Eisenhower did not even want Devers' forces to cross the Rhine, with or without Patton. This struck Devers as bizarre since crossing the Rhine was part of 7th Army's formal mission, established by Eisenhower himself.

But Eisenhower made no apologies and did not explain why he was changing 7th Army's mission. He simply informed Devers he must abandon any idea of crossing the Rhine and instead support Patton's right flank in the offensive against the Saar. Eisenhower also stressed that Devers must eliminate the enemy bridgehead on the Rhine's west bank around COLMAR, south of STRASBOURG, in the 1st French Army's zone.

When Eisenhower and Omar Bradley left, Devers took stock. The only point he had won was



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The 410th Infantry was instructed to prepare to move on three hours notice after 04 0600 December 44 for motor movement to a new assembly area. When the 409th Infantry took SELESTAT on 5 December 44, the 3rd Bn, [including Company I] was relieved and closed into their assembly area via WALTENHEIM at 05 1630 December 44. The 410th Infantry now rested, took showers, got clean clothes and caught up on letter writing.

New orders came in on the 7th December 44. The 103rd Division would relieve elements of the 45th Division. The new 410th CP opened in the vicinity of NIEDERMODERN at 1800. The 410th Infantry began laying plans to recapture the eastern half of the town of MERTZWILLER, which is divided into two sections by the Zinsel River. The 45th Division had captured the town, but then lost the eastern half of the town through a German counterattack.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

in persuading Eisenhower not to take away some of his divisions for Patton. But it was now clear that Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery would continue to have absolute priority in the race for BERLIN, even though Devers' men had reached the Rhine and Montgomery had not. Equally clear was the fact that Omar Bradley's Group enjoyed a secondary priority with Eisenhower.

Patton and Bradley's other armies, the 1st under Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges, and the 9th under Lt. Gen. William Simpson, were regularly receiving the lion's share of U. S. troop replacements and supplies, while Devers' armies ran short. Devers' armies had broken through the enemy's winter defenses while Monty and Brad had failed to keep pace.

In early November, Eisenhower had ordered Montgomery, Bradley's 1st and 3rd Armies and Devers forward in a multi-pronged offensive towards the Rhine in a bid to end the war by Christmas. However, Hodges' and Patton's armies soon bogged down in the mud of Huertgen [Forest] and Metz, while Montgomery, convinced that there should be only one offensive effort (his own) rather than several, refused to attack at all.

In the south Devers had been instructed to break through the enemy's winter line in the Vosges and cross the Rhine, but no one at Allied Supreme Headquarters really expected much of Devers' armies. Then, to everyone's amazement, de Lattre de Tassigny's 1st French Army had penetrated the Belfort Gap defenses near the Swiss border and reached the Rhine within a week, on Nov. 19.

Four days later another French General, Jacques Leclerc, operating within the U. S. 7th Army's XV Corps sent his 2nd Armored Division

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

through the narrow waist of the Vosges at SAVERNE to complete history's first wintertime crossing of the Vosges. Leclerc's tanks broke into the Rhine plain and seized STRASBOURG before German officers could finish their morning *cafe-au-lait* in the city's cafes.

George Patton, who had fervently believed that he (rather than De Lattre or Patch) would be the first man at the Rhine bank, wrote to his wife that Devers' forces had "made a monkey out of me."

The 7th Army accepted its new mission with its usual enthusiasm and professionalism. With the XV Corps on the left and VI Corps on the right, 7th Army pushed northward along a 50 kilometer front between ROHRBACH and the Rhine. By mid-December they had reduced the enemy's Maginot Line defenses and crossed the German border north of STRASBOURG to penetrate the first belt of Siegfried Line defenses in the Rhine plain above WISSEMBOURG and LAUTERBOURG. In the southern zone between COLMAR and MULHOUSE the 1st French Army had less success, failing in its efforts to eliminate the 'Colmar Pocket' after the enemy reinforced its bridgehead with fresh troops ferried across the Rhine River.

This was the situation in Devers' sector of the front on December 16, 1944, when the Germans launched their offensive against the 1st Army in the Ardennes region of Belgium. The initial reaction among Devers' staff were chuckles and satisfaction that their rival Omar Bradley was in trouble. Devers felt that if the 7th Army could press northward rapidly enough, it could "loosen up" the enemy's rear and cause him to pull back.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 8 December, the Third Bn made a motor march from WALTENHEIM and closed into their area in the vicinity of GRASSENDORF-MORSCHWILLER ( 6 miles W of HAGENAU) at 1730.

On 9 December 44, preparations and reconnaissance continued for the attack to recapture all of MERTZWILLER. The 3rd Bn made a night march to the vicinity of UBERACH, and spent the night there in a former German work camp.

The attack to recapture MERTZWILLER jumped off at 0530 on 10 December. The weather was rainy and visibility was limited. After meeting heavy resistance, eighteen men of the 45th Division who had been captured by the Germans, were liberated by men of Company C, 410th. They had been living on apples for a week. The Third Bn CO was instructed to try to clear the woods northeast of MERTZWILLER this night. It was now snowing !

### Company I Casualties

November, 1944

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

PFC Ernest M. Casey, from Marshalton, Iowa.  
PVT Anthony L. Cava, from Brooklyn, NY.  
SGT Earl W. Cellan, from Soda Springs, ID.  
PVT Allen W. Coffman, from Puyallup, WA.  
PVT William G. Corbett, from Centerville, IA.

PVT James A. Curtis, from West Chester, NY.  
CPL Jack E. Flynn, from Sherman, TX.  
PVT David Goldman, from Jamaica, NY.  
S/SGT Clyde F. Graber, from LaSalle, MI.

PFC William E. Gray, from Caruthersville, MO.  
PFC Wesley G. Halle, from Fond de Lac, WI.  
PVT Edward C. Harmon, from Dover, KS.  
PFC John Johancen, from Baltimore, MD.  
PFC Henry D. Krusinski, from Chicago, IL.

PVT Arthur Lapidés, from Rochester, NY.  
PVT Gerald E. Leahy, from Guttenberg, NJ.  
S/SGT Gerald W. O'Connell,  
from Spring Valley, WI  
PVT Edward Reitz, from Riverside, IL.

T/SGT Cecil C. Sommers,  
from American Falls, ID.  
CPL Fred P. Sykora, from St. Johns, MI.  
PVT Gerald A. Walsh, from St. Paul, MN.  
PFC Louis T. Wilson, from Glasgow, KY.

\* \* \* War News \* \* \*

December 3—45th Division takes the town of ZINSWILLER. [See Map.]

December 5—The U.S. 7th Army opens a general attack northward with two corps.

### 1st Sgt. A. R. Walter's Notebook

4 Dec 44. Billeted at DORNBACH. [S/SGT Floyd] Donaldson-DY to SK. [PFC William J.] Alpern-SK to DY. [PFC Blair] Reeves-SK to DY. [PFC Edward J.] Nestor-SK to DY. [S/SGT Harry R.] Zunker-SK to DY. [PFC Charles W.] Heard-SK to DY. [PFC David B.] Carr-SK to DY. [PFC John] Johancen-SK to DY. [PVT Harold G.] Brock-SK to DY. Kunde-SK to DY. [S/SGT Lewis C.] Korody-SK to DY.

5 Dec. 44. Billeted in WALTENHEIM[-sur-ZORN.] Number on line : 1st [Platoon]-28; 2nd [Platoon]-32; 3rd [Platoon]-21; 4th [Platoon]-17.

6 Dec 44. Remained in WALTENHEIM.

7 Dec 44. [PVT Allan A.] Coffman-DY to SK as of 3 Dec. [S/SGT Floyd] Donaldson-SK to DY. Remained in WALTENHEIM.

8 Dec 44. Moved by motor march from WALTENHEIM to MORSCHWILLER. Distance—15 miles."

9 Dec 44. Foot march from MORSCHWILLER to vicinity of NEUBOURG-5 miles. [CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca, AWOL to DY as of 27 Nov. [PFC Gordon F.] Dickson, AWOL to DY as of 27 Nov.

[PFC William] Kochevar, AWOL to DY as of 27 Nov. [PVT John R.] Wagner-DY to SK. [S/SGT Floyd] Donaldson, DY to SK as of 8 Dec. Received 1 replacement. [PFC Lawrence E.] Cook, MIA to DY as of 29 Nov.

[ P V T J o s e p h ] M r o s k a and [PFC] Krasowski-Tr. to Head. Co., 3rd Bn, as of 29 Nov.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—At 1725 the 3rd Bn met resistance 500 yards inside the woods northeast of MERTZWILLER, but overcame it, and advanced, while still meeting resistance. With MERTZWILLER recaptured, the new 410th Infantry CP opened there at 2300 [on Dec 10 44.]

On 11 December 44 came orders to clean out LAUBACH, seize HEGENEY and WALBOURG. [See Map.] The 3rd Bn, after an artillery preparation which lifted at 0815, moved in and cleared LAUBACH by 0830, and cleared HEGENEY by 1215.

Orders for 12 December 44, included protection of the Division's right flank. The 410th Infantry made ready to continue the attack on BIBLISHEIM. The 3rd Bn crossed the [Halbmuhlbach] river enroute to BIBLISHEIM, entered

### 1st Sgt. A.R. Walter's Notebook

10 Dec 44. Remained in bivouac [near NEUBOURG, 5 miles west of HAGENAU, on the Moder River.]

[PFC Gene] Wise-KIA.

[SGT George F. ] Moran-WIA.

[CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca-DY to SK.

11 Dec 44 [Sunday]. Moved into and billeted for the night in DURRENBACH. [5 miles north of HAGENAU.]

[1st LT. Edward G.] Murphy-WIA-DY to SK.

[PFC William J.] Alpern-DY to SK.

[PFC Carroll C.] Cook-WIA-DY to SK.

[S/SGT Harry R.] Zunker-DY to SK.

12 Dec 44. Took town of HOELSCHLOCH and occupied hill 1000 yards beyond and bivouaced for night.

[PVT Ernest] Staples-DY to SK.

[PFC Tom] Mannone-DY to SK.

13 Dec 44. [PFC Melbourne A.] Metcalf-WIA-[Hit by shell fragments.]

[SGT Robert L.] Nye-WIA-'Burned by WP [White Phosphorus] grenade.

[PVT Talford L.] Schubert-WIA.

[PFC Stanley W.] Webber-DY to SK, possible trenchfoot or frostbite.

[PFC Pat R.] DeLeo-DY to SK, possible trenchfoot or frostbite.

Remained in a defensive position throughout the day, subject to light artillery fire.

Moved into HOELSCHLOCH and billeted for [the] night.

### Notebook

14 Dec 44. Moved by foot-march to KUTZENHAUSEN-le-HAUT. Distance [travelled]—2 miles.

[PFC Sam M.] Gentile-DY to SK.

[PVT Stewart G.] Jelkins-WIA.

[PFC Pat R.] DeLeo-SK to DY.

Moved by foot-march from KUTZENHAUSEN to MEMMELSCHOFFEN, [2 miles northwest of SOULTZ], and billeted for the night. Distance covered—5 miles. 410th Reg. placed in Division Reserve.

15 Dec 44. Moved from MEMMELSCHOFFEN to CLIMBACH and billeted for the night. Distance covered—4 miles. Encountered rear defenses of [the] *Maginot Line*.

[PFC John J.] Zahara-DY to SK.

Received 30 replacements. Remained in Division Reserve.

16 Dec 44. On line strength, Officers and Enlisted Men : 1st [Platoon]- 30; 2nd [Platoon]-30; 3rd [Platoon]- 32; 4th [Platoon]-27. Total-137. Remained in CLIMBACH in reserve.

17 Dec 44. Remained in CLIMBACH in reserve.

18 Dec 44. Remained in CLIMBACH.

[S/SGT Ralph J.] Medena-SK to DY."

\* \* \* War News \* \* \*

16 December—In the south, VI Corps (7th Army) sends its divisions forward towards the German border.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**–the town at 0934 and then began to occupy the high ground near the town. Company I took HOELSCHLOCH at 1428, while Company L took SURBOURG at 1500.

The 410th Infantry, on 13 December 44, prepared to assemble as fresh Division reserve. The 3rd Bn moved off at 150630 [6:30 in the morning on 15 December 44] toward CLIMBACH to contact the 411th Infantry. One of its companies set out to clear the underground passages of a series of Maginot Line [forts] in the Hochwald Forest, which had been bypassed by other units. About 100 civilians were found using them as a shelter.

Division Operating Instructions # 32 called for the 410th Infantry to move by 0800 on the 16 December 44 into the zone of either the 409th or 411th Infantry and to plan to counterattack in the direction of WISSEMBOURG.

### Notebook

19 Dec 44. Moved by foot-march from CLIMBACH to bivouac area in the vicinity of WISSEMBOURG, [at the French-German border.] Distance-3 miles.

[PVT Chauncey J.] Martin-DY to SK.

[PVT Neal ] Ross-DY to SK.

[PVT Murray] Bloom-DY to SK.

20 Dec 44. Moved by foot-march from bivouac to Line, [Front Line], relieving the 1st Bn of the 411th Infantry.

21 Dec 44. Relieved from Line by 45th Division [soldiers] and moved by foot-march to bivouac at CLIMBACH. Distance-6 miles.

[T/SGT Ottis W.] Jacobs-DY to SK.

[PFC Myron A.] Klimkowicz-WIA.

[PFC John E.] Bicanek-WIA.

22 Dec 44. Moved by Motor-March from CLIMBACH to BITTERINGEN, [west of the city of SARREGUEMINES in Lorraine.] Distance-85 miles. Billeted for night in BITTERINGEN. On Line strength [of Company I] : 1st Platoon-28; 2nd Platoon-30; 3rd Platoon-28; 4th Platoon-31; Hqtrs-19. Enlisted men-131. Officers-3. MIA-1.

23 Dec 44. Remained in BITTERINGEN. Received two Officer replacements.

[PFC William S.] Dawson-SK to DY as of Dec. 16.

[SGT Laverne] Williamson-DY to SK.

[T/5 John C.] Acres-DY to SK as of Dec 20.

### The Supreme Sacrifice Of Gene Wise

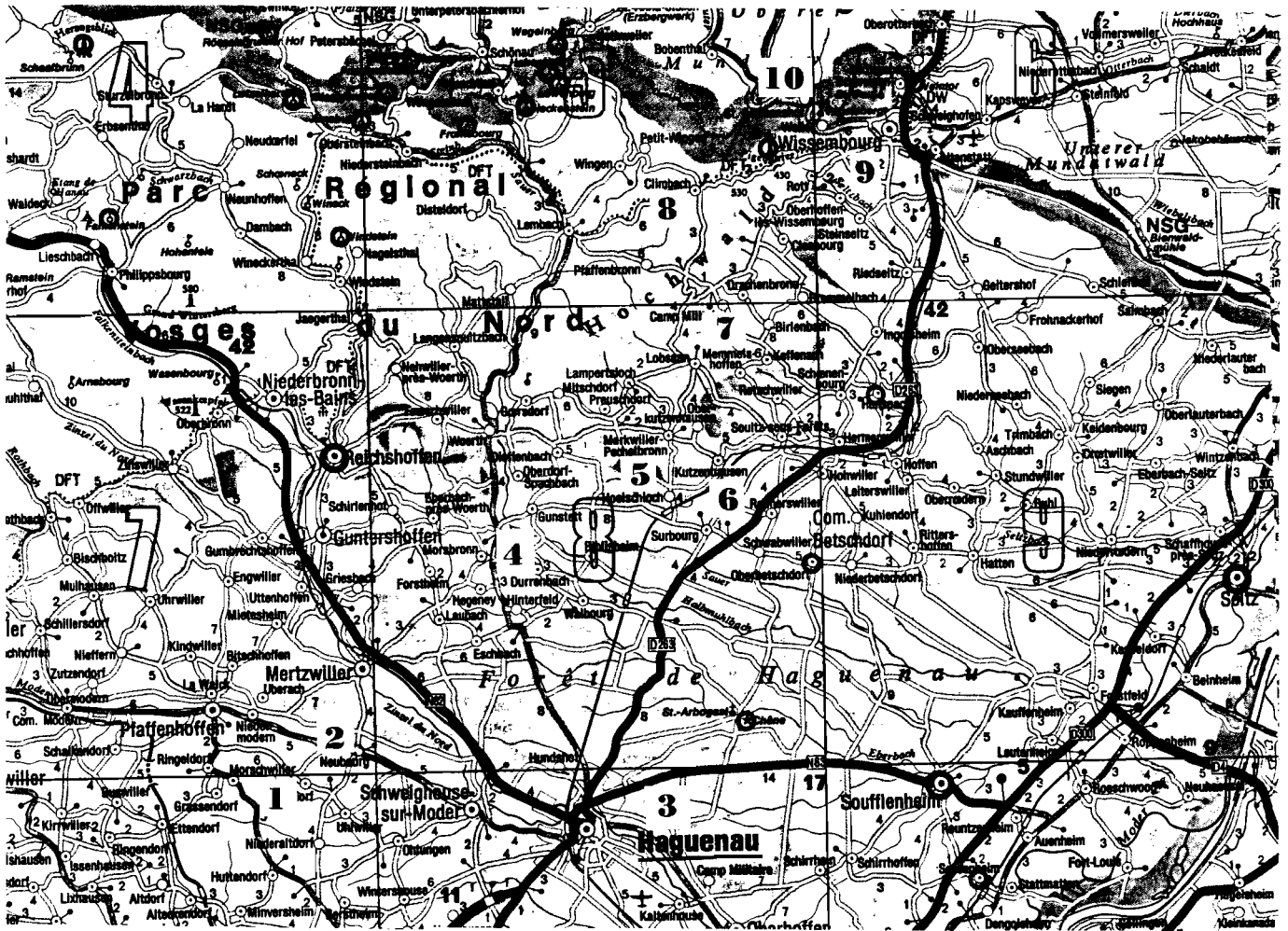
By Neal Ross, Company I

On the night of December 10, 1944 our unit was billeted in a warehouse-storage building near the village of Neubourg, [Alsace] France. As darkness fell we slowly drifted to the outer walls of the building as there were no walls or partitions on the gravel floor and it would give us a place to lean our rifles and place our equipment. Since combat actions in the area had cut off electrical power, the only source of illumination were GI or German Army candles and a few flashlights. Some of the men were already asleep and the rest were in the process of removing ammo bandoliers, grenades, and rifle belts from their jackets or in quiet conversation before sacking out for the night.

Some men carried their grenades in their jacket pockets, while others would attach them to their jackets either by the handles or the pin rings. Gene was in the act of removing the grenade from his jacket when the terrible unexpected happened; the pin slipped through the handle and the next thing we heard was the hammer striking the fuse cap, followed by Gene's frantic cry of "Grenade!", as he threw himself upon it and smothered the explosion with his body.

At his warning cry, we hit the dirt and seconds later heard the muffled explosion and realized only then what a brave and heroic thing Gene had done; he made the 'SUPREME SACRIFICE' for a bunch of guys, some of whom he hardly knew. There were only two other men wounded in this incident; were it not for Gene's heroic action and given the close proximity of the men in that building, the results could have been deadly. I've often wondered if Gene was ever recommended for a decoration. He deserved it!

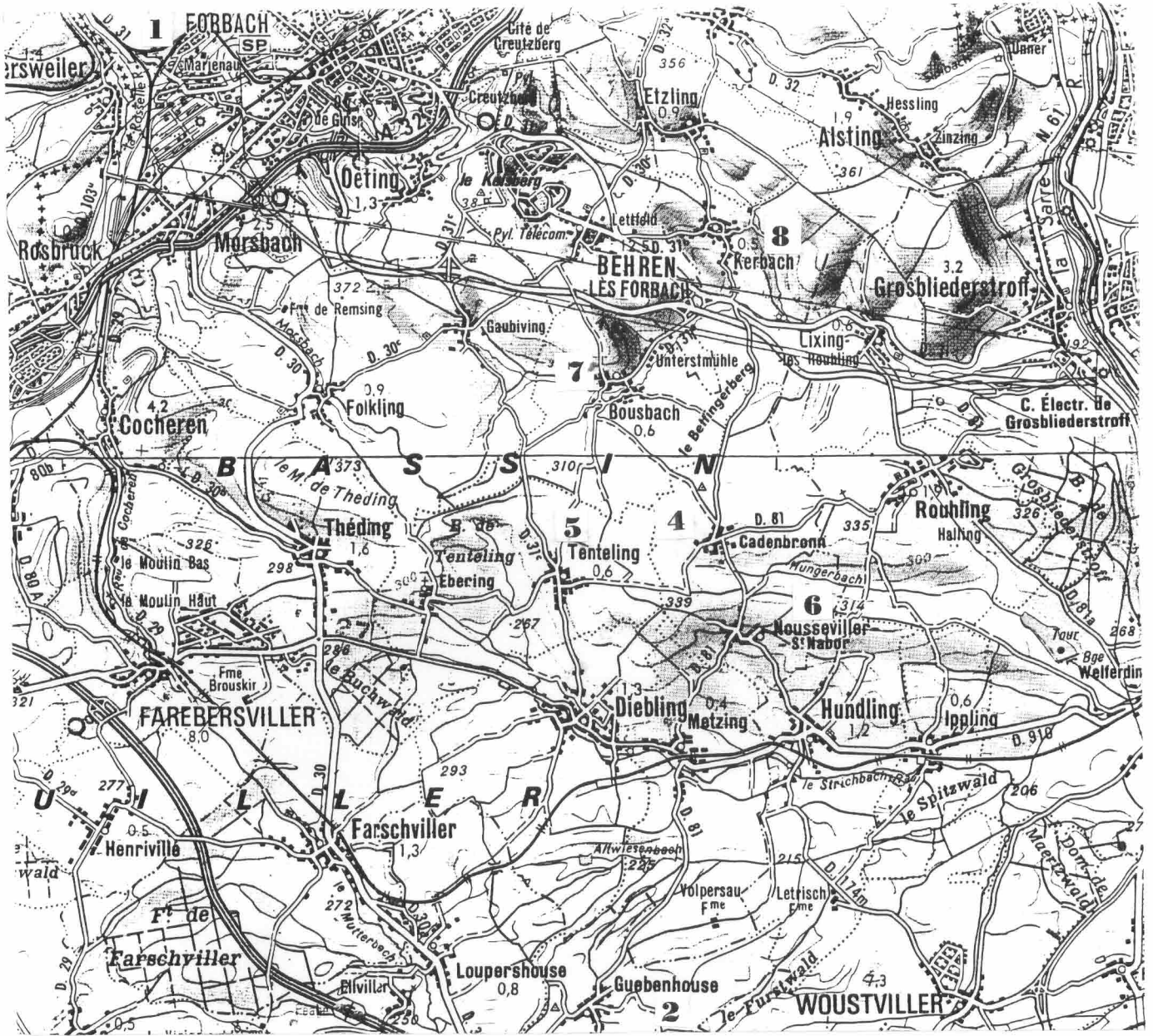
Map 1 – Haguenau - North



Map Index :

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Morschwiller | 6. Kutzenhausen    |
| 2. Neubourg     | 7. Memmelshoffen   |
| 3. Haguenau     | 8. Climbach        |
| 4. Durrenbach   | 9. Wissembourg     |
| 5. Hoelschloch  | 10. St. Germanshof |

Map J - Forbach



Map Index :

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Forbach     | 5. Tenteling    |
| 2. Guebenhouse | 6. Nousseviller |
| 3. Diebling    | 7. Bousbach     |
| 4. Cadenbronn  | 8. Kerbach      |

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—With the 410th Infantry now approaching the *Siegfried Line*, after crossing some of the most difficult terrain yet encountered, battalions began to review training on "Assault Of Fortified Positions" with the *Maginot Line* [fortifications] being used for dry runs. On 17 December 44, the 410th Infantry remained in the same position. Intensive training continued during 18 December 44 on the "attack of a fortified position."

At 0730 19 December 44, the 410th Infantry started movement to new positions. The 410th CP opened in OBERHOFFEN. [See Map.] The Third Battalion moved into German soil this date. Moving from CLIMBACH it closed in at 1000 in the area near GERMANSHOF, almost four kilometers into Germany. At 0130 20 December 44 came a memo from Division making the mission of the 3rd Bn to relieve the 1st Bn of the 411th Infantry. The relief was done

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

By Franklin L. Gurley

General Eisenhower called a conference for December 19 at VERDUN. He showed the strain of the enemy's massive breakthrough only three days before, and insisted that there be only cheerful faces at the conference table. Eisenhower explained that there had been a serious failure of Allied intelligence to predict the enemy's attack, and an equally serious failure of SHAEF's part to establish reserves that could have been moved up to block further enemy penetrations.

Eisenhower emphasized that Bradley and Devers must now pull back and shorten their lines wherever feasible in order to create reserves that could be used to regain the initiative in the Ardennes battle. Eisenhower explained that Patton's 3rd Army would be displaced northward to attack toward BASTOGNE, and Devers must extend 7th Army's lines westward 40 miles to ST. AVOLD.

Devers returned to PHALSBOURG, in Alsace, in a somber mood. The Seventh Army was now being called upon to extricate Bradley's Army Group from the serious position in which Bradley's and Eisenhower's own shortcomings had cast them.

Signs began appearing of enemy preparations for an offensive against Patch's newly thinned-out lines. Devers was shown an ULTRA intercept of a German radio message indicating Hitler was expressing a personal interest in restoring self-propelled artillery guns to divisions in Devers' zone without delay.

On December 26, Eisenhower sent Maj. General Harold Bull to inform Devers that his Army Group must pull back immediately from the Rhine plain to the defensive shelter of the Vosges Mountains. Bull explained that "Ike" considered

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

VI Corps' position in the Siegfried Line salient in the Rhine plain too precarious. Bull explained that Eisenhower had determined Devers' new line personally from a study of the Situation Map.

From the Maginot Line city of BITCHE in the north, the "Eisenhower" Line would descend due south to INGWILLER and SAVERNE, then along the eastern edge of the Vosges all the way to the Swiss border.

Devers had been prepared to pull back his forwardmost positions by a few kilometers. But to withdraw from the Siegfried salient beside the Rhine to BITCHE on the west side of the Low Vosges would mean a retreat of nearly 60 km. Devers could not recall a single instance in modern warfare of a voluntary retreat of such magnitude in the absence of a serious enemy menace.

When Devers returned to PHALSBOURG, General Patch and his 7th Army staff had already been summoned for a briefing on the new Eisenhower directive. Devers liaison officer to the 1st French Army, Major Henry Cabot Lodge, warned that the French would be "chagrined" by such a withdrawal, which he said would be a "political disaster" for the French Government.

Devers said he would go see Eisenhower to try to get the order rescinded or at least modified. In fact, however, Eisenhower's decision that Devers must pull back had nothing to do with Omar Bradley at all. The "villain" was Montgomery, who had always bitterly opposed the advance of Devers' forces through the Vosges and into the Rhine plain.

After the VERDUN meeting on the 19th, Eisenhower had put Montgomery in charge of all U. S. forces on the north side of the enemy's

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—by 1830 20 December. On 21 December the Third Bn sent out strong patrols for reconnaissance. By 1100 on this date, the Bn had perfected plans to knock out its objective, a strong Siegfried Line fort. However at 1400 the 3rd Bn was told it would be relieved by elements of the 180th Infantry [45th Division] by 0800 22 December 44.

The 410th Infantry's CO received orders to assemble his troops at HUNDLING, [about 75 miles west of its present location.] The 3rd Bn was relieved at 0430 22 December 44, and moved back to CLIMBACH. A motor march brought the Bn to DIEBLING, [ten miles south of SAARBRUCKEN which was still in German control.] Division Orders # 36 called for the 103rd Division to relieve the 6th Armored Division and prepare to assume the defensive in its sector.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

Ardennes penetration but he refused to launch an offensive. On December 25, Bradley sought a showdown with Montgomery, insisting that he attack at once. Montgomery replied that conditions would not be right for three months and that Patton's forces before BASTOGNE and Devers' forces along the Rhine in the south should be pulled back and placed in a defensive posture.

The next morning, December 26, Eisenhower adopted the Montgomery strategy. He send General Bull to tell Devers to pull back his lines immediately and put two divisions in SHAEF's reserve. Patton, when informed of Eisenhower's pullback order by Bradley, declared that "this is disgusting and might remove the valor of our army and the confidence of our people."

Patton added that Devers' withdrawal would have "tremendous political implications and probably condemn to death or slavery, all the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine, if we abandon them to the Germans."

On the evening of December 26, Patch and Devers travelled to SAVERNE to brief Haislip and Brooks on the withdrawal order. Both were upset at Eisenhower's order that their front lines must be pulled all the way back to the line BITCHE-SAVERNE.

Devers assured everyone that he would do his best to persuade Ike to reconsider the order. Although trying to exude confidence in front of his subordinates, Devers confided to his diary that night that "all our plans have been knocked into a cocked hat!"

Early on December 27, Devers closed down his Forward Command Post at PHALSBOURG, then flew back to his CP at VITTEL, where he met with General de Lattre de Tassigny, and discussed

### Company I Casualties

December, 1944

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

**PFC Gene Wise, KIA,**  
near NEUBOURG.

PFC John E. Bicanek, WIA,  
near CLIMBACH.

PFC Carroll C. Cook, WIA,  
near NEUBOURG.

PVT Willard W. Glover, WIA,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.

PVT Stewart G. Jelkin, WIA,  
near KUTZENHAUSEN-le-HAUT.

PVT Kenneth R. Jewett, WIA,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.

PFC Rabb T. Kimmel, WIA,  
near KUTZENHAUSEN-le-HAUT.

PFC Melbourne A. Metcalf, WIA,  
near HOELSCHLOCH.

SGT George F. Moran, WIA,  
near NEUBOURG.

1st LT Edward G. Murphy, WIA,  
near DURRENBACH.

SGT Robert L. Nye, WIA,  
near HOELSCHLOCH.

PFC John P. Porter, WIA,  
near MORSCHWILLER.

PVT Neal Ross, WIA, near NEUBOURG.

PVT Talford L. Schubert, WIA,  
near HOELSCHLOCH.

SGT Robert T. Schultz, WIA,  
Near BLIENSCHWILLER.

PFC George W. Strohl, WIA,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.

PVT Carroll M. Webster, WIA,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—During 25 December 44, the 410th Infantry continued its organization for the defense of its sector. A *Junkers 88* crashed at 0440 on 26 December 44, and the pilot and its passenger were believed to have escaped. Only one parachute was found. All units of the 410th were warned to be on the lookout. On 27 December 44 the Third Bn while continuing construction on the 410th Reserve Line, reconnoitered for positions south of the DIEBLING-METZING and HUNDLING-IPPLING lines to provide for an all-round defense. [See Map.]

Attached tanks began to fire at KERBACH at 1710 from high positions. An unsuccessful attempt was made to knock down the church steeple. Night patrols continued the morning and evening of 28 December 44. Gas masks were to be carried at all times. Orders were received from Division at 1300 29 December that during the period we

### Company I [Non-Battle] Casualties

December, 1944

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

TECH/5 John C. Acres, near CLIMBACH.  
PFC William C. Alpern, near DURRENBACH.  
PFC Howard E. Anderson, near CLIMBACH.  
PVT Murray Bloom, near CLIMBACH.  
PFC Lloyd Bohnencamp, near DAMBACH

PFC Pat R. DeLeo, near HOELSCHLOCH.

PFC Gordon F. Dickson,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.

PFC Francis J. Dominianni,  
near BLIENSCHWILLER.

S/SGT Floyd Donaldson, near DAMBACH.

PFC Phillip P. Donenfeld, near DIEBLING.

SGT Charles A. Dorner, near DIEBLING.

CPL Gaetano Ficca, near DURRENBACH.

PFC Harold A. Fornell, near DAMBACH.

PFC Sam M. Gentile, near KUTZENHAUSEN.

PFC Richard A. Hiltunen, near DIEBLING.

PVT John W. Hyer, near DIEBLING.

T/SGT Ottis W. Jacobs, near CLIMBACH.

PVT Perry A. Jones, near DIEBLING.

S/SGT James S. Kerns, near DIEBLING.

S/SGT Lewis C. Korody, near CLIMBACH.

PFC John Landolfi, near DAMBACH.

PFC Tom Mannone, near HOELSCHLOCH.

SGT Arnold T. Marzullo,  
near MORSCHWILLER.

S/SGT Ralph J. Medena, near DAMBACH.

PVT Ronald D. Miller, near NEUBOURG.

2nd LT John P. Neely, near DAMBACH.

### [Non-Battle] Casualties

PFC John C. Osmund, near DAMBACH.  
PVT Ernest Staples, near HOELSCHLOCH.  
CPL Malcolm M. Viau, near DAMBACH.

PFC John L. Vidrine, near DAMBACH.  
PVT John R. Wagner, near NEUBOURG.  
PFC Stanley W. Webber,  
near HOELSCHLOCH.

SGT Laverne Williamson,  
near BITTERINGEN.

PFC John J. Zahara, near CLIMBACH.

S/SGT Harry R. Zunker, near DURRENBACH.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

the Eisenhower directive,[ which clearly had one objective : leave STRASBOURG !]

After noon on Dec. 27, Devers flew in a heavy storm, to PARIS. Soon after arriving at SHAEF in VERSAILLES, he met with Ike and his Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Bedell Smith. [Eisenhower was guarded by a large contingent of Special Forces whose mission was to avoid assassination attempts by enemy soldiers believed to be masquerading as Americans.] Devers argued that he and his subordinates were confident of being able to hold off the enemy in their present positions.

Devers argued that the withdrawal should be handled discreetly in four stages, because the "French would never obey such an order" to withdraw immediately. Devers conferred with his Corps' commanders, Haislip and Brooks, both of whom objected to giving up such hard-won ground.

Devers planned to take no action, unless specifically prodded by Ike. Meanwhile, French liaison officers had passed the word back to their

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—were temporarily on the defense, we were to impress the enemy by aggressive patrolling and that 'No Man's Land' belonged to the 410th. The 410th was ordered to conduct three raids per week, in addition to patrolling. Each raiding party was to consist of not less than one rifle platoon, reinforced by heavy weapons and tanks and TDs when feasible. There was to be a specific mission, which would include the capture of prisoners.

The Division's Chief of Staff informed the 410th at 1530 that two Panzer divisions and three German Infantry divisions might counterattack on 30 December at daylight. The 410th was to man all gun positions by 0530 30 December 44; all AT mines, and ammunition were to be checked. Patrolling continued during 30, 31 December 44. One company captured a Russian laborer who had been working in SAARBRUCKEN, digging defensive positions.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

superiors in PARIS about General de Lattre's meeting with Devers. On the 28th General Alphonse Juin, Chief of Staff of National Defense, went to VERSAILLES to try to find out what was going on. Juin was received by General Smith who confirmed that two divisions were being removed from the 7th Army, and consideration was being given to a withdrawal from Alsace. Smith added that no decision had been made yet.

This was, of course, nonsense. Smith had attended the Eisenhower-Devers meeting and [knew of Eisenhower's clear decision on the matter.] Why had Smith tried to mislead General Juin in this way? Perhaps the American staff wished to keep De Gaulle ignorant of their intentions for as long as possible!

Jun hurried back to PARIS to report to General De Gaulle. "Nothing really certain," he said, "but certain symptoms, an intuition based on the reticences of the Americans, as soon as one raises the question [of Alsace] with them...They are up to something!"

Meanwhile at French Army headquarters at MONTBELIARD, near the Swiss border, Gen. de Lattre drafted a secret memo to Devers in which he attacked the withdrawal scheme, warning it would later make it necessary to recapture all the same ground over again at a considerable cost in lives.

De Lattre on December 30 issued orders which made no reference whatever to a withdrawal but instead placed great stress on the necessity of holding their existing front-line positions come what might. Thus de Lattre, like his superior, Devers, had secretly resolved to resist Eisenhower's withdrawal plan, until absolutely forced to do it.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

On December 30, SHAEF received another visit from General Juin, who urged Eisenhower not to abandon STRASBOURG. Juin offered three FFI divisions to help defend the city. Juin received Ike's approval to send a special envoy to Devers and de Lattre to explain the French Government's concern.

The special emissary that De Gaulle selected was General Touzet du Vigier, the presently Military Governor-Designate of the STRASBOURG district. Du Vigier's division had been the first Allied unit to reach the Rhine on November 19, 1944. Devers realized he must soon report something to Eisenhower about the implementation of the withdrawal plan. Devers estimated that it would be another two weeks before 7th Army could establish the new positions along the Vosges' edge.

Ike's temper rose that New Year's Eve as he read Devers' report. Eisenhower decided to review this serious act of disobedience at his staff meeting the next morning and to take necessary action to see that Devers execute his orders promptly.

General du Vigier met de Lattre in MONTBELIARD who confirmed the rumors that "the Americans have effectively envisioned an evacuation of Alsace." Juin called De Gaulle. The next morning, January 1, De Gaulle decided that Eisenhower must be put on formal notice that if the Germans attacked, STRASBOURG must be defended!

He warned Eisenhower that the "French Government could obviously not allow STRASBOURG to fall again into enemy hands, without making every effort to defend it!"

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The month of January began with the 410th Infantry remaining on the alert for possible enemy attack. On the morning of 1 January 45, the Germans hit the left sector of the 106th Cavalry on the [Division's] left flank and 44th Division positions on the [Divisions's] right flank, but did not take offensive actions against our positions. The 44th Division met another German attack during the morning of 3 January 45, but, again, no attack was made against our positions.

Regimental Orders # 13, on 3 January 45 directed Company I to relieve Company A on the MLR (Main Line of Resistance.) During 5 January 45 night patrolling continued actively. When they requested passage through our lines, eight young male civilians were picked up at 0155 on 6 January 45. Questioning revealed they possessed

### Notebook

24 Dec 44. Moved from BITTERINGEN to GUEBENHOUSE by motor march. Designated as Regimental Reserve and moved by foot march to DIEBLING and billeted for the night. Company covered two road-blocks. [PVT James A.] Curtis-SK to DY. ONLS = 5 Officers, 128 EM-7 Others.

25 Dec 44. In DIEBLING. [PVT John W.] Hyer-DY to SK (Cancelled); [PFC Phillip P.] Donenfled-DY to SK (Cancelled); [SGT Charles A.] Dorner-RTU; [PFC Francis J.] Dominianni-RTU; [PFC Howard E.] Anderson-RTU; [SGT Eugene T.] Dombrowski-RTU; [PVT Allan W.] Coffman-RTU; [PVT Chauncey J.] Martin-RTU; [PVT Anthony L.] Cava-RTU.

26, 27 Dec 44. At DIEBLING. No Change.

28 Dec 44. No Change. Platoons: 1st--29; 2nd--30; 3rd--34; 4th--31; Hdqts--21; (Total = 145.)

29 Dec 44. No Change. [CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca-RTU; [PFC John J.] Zahara-RTU; [S/SGT Thomas C.] Stigall-RTU; [PFC John C.] Osmond-RTU; [CPL Jack E.] Flynn-RTU; [CPL Fred P.] Sikora-RTU.

30 Dec 44. No Change. Relieved from Reg. reserve area and assigned to Reg. Line to prepare Defense Line. [PVT James A.] Curtis-RTU; [PFC Gordon F.] Dickson-RTU; [S/SGT Lewis C.] Korody-RTU; [PFC Phillip P.] Donenfled-SK to DY; [PFC Ernest M.] Casey-RTU; [PVT Jerome E.] Leahy-RTU; [SGT Charles A.] Dorner-DY to SK.

### Notebook

31 Dec 44. [PFC Richard A.] Hiltunen-DY to SK; [PVT Perry A.] Jones-DY to SK.

ON-LINE-STRENGTH (ONLS); 1st [Platoon]-33; 2nd [Platoon]-32; 3rd [Platoon]-35; 4th [Platoon]-34; Hdq [Platoon]-20; Total = 150. In DIEBLING.

1 Jan 45. [PVT David] Goldman-RTU; [SGT Laverne] Williamson-RTU; ONLS = 148.

2 Jan 45. [PVT Robert L.] Gage-MIA to DY as of 29 Nov 44; [PFC Neal ] Ross-RTU as of 1 Jan 45.

3 Jan 45. Reverted to Battalion Control and relieved 1st Bn on MLR. Moved by foot-march from DIEBLING to CADENBRONN.

1st Platoon occupied town of TENDELING; 2nd Platoon occupied town of NOUSSEVILLER as Bn CP Guard. ONLS = 149.

4 Jan 45. [ ] Lewandowski to Special Duty. ONLS = 148.

5 Jan 45. [PFC Fred] Catron to Special Duty. ONLS = 147.

6 Jan 45. 2nd Platoon conducted raid on enemy strongpoint, supported by light Machine Gun section.

PFC [William L.] Kochevar, slightly wounded by enemy hand grenade, not evacuated. 2 enemy Enlisted Men killed; captured 1 corporal and 4 privates. Remained in CADENBRONN.

7 Jan 45. No Change. [CADENBRONN]

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—knowledge of the enemy dispositions. The 3rd Bn completed a successful raid against an enemy outpost, located 1 mile west of LIXING at 1740 on 6 January 45. The patrol gathered 5 prisoners.

A Company I raiding party entered KERBACH at dusk on 11 January 45 but drew no fire and found no enemy. A reconnaissance patrol returned in the early morning hours of the 12th to contact civilians to ascertain when the enemy left town. The patrol heard the sound of foot troops and withdrew. A third patrol then was dispatched to the town and saw figures in the trenches in the southern part of the town. A fourth patrol of 5 men, which entered KERBACH still later, was fired on when examining a house.

Later the Division Liaison Officer brought new instructions that would transfer the 410th from GUEBENHOUSE

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

[On 1 January 1945, General] De Gaulle wrote to General De Lattre formally instructing him to take over the defense of STRASBOURG from the occupying Americans in case U. S. forces withdrew.

General Eisenhower was extremely nettled over General Devers' slowness in withdrawing [7th Army] forces. But German forces had attacked Devers' forces in the Saar Valley and around BITCHE, as he had predicted, and he was busy defending his front. General Devers received another call from SHAEF asking about the French Army talking about defending STRASBOURG to the end and making it another STALINGRAD !

On 2 Jan. 1945 French General Du Vigier reached Dever's CP at VITTEL with a personal letter from General Juin urging Devers to defend Alsace. Du Vigier expressed to Dever his "stupefaction at seeing the American command take such a grave measure without even attempting resistance." He described "how much the evacuation of Alsace and STRASBOURG would bring reprisals on the part of the Germans and that STRASBOURG is a symbol for France, its loss or abandonment would have incalculable moral consequences and the French people would not understand or accept the attitude taken by our allies."

Du Vigier flatly accused the Americans of cowardice !

He and American Colonel David Barr, Dever's Chief of Staff, flew to PARIS to try to get Eisenhower to change his plans about withdrawing from the Rhine plain and permitting the Germans to retake STRASBOURG. Reaching PARIS, Barr dropped Du Vigier off at Gen. Juin's office, and proceeded to Versailles to see Eisenhower.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

Dramatically Du Vigier announced to Juin, "The Americans are pulling out! They are evacuating Lower Alsace! Their withdrawal movement will be carried out in four nights!"

Juin and Du Vigier hurried to De Gaulle's office and Du Vigier repeated his story. "This can't be serious!", General De Gaulle exploded. He was particularly incensed by the fact that Eisenhower had lacked the elementary courtesy of informing him of this inadmissible withdrawal of American troops from the sacred soil of Alsace-Lorraine.

De Gaulle told Juin to send a telegram to De Lattre repeating the order that he must defend STRASBOURG if the Americans withdrew. He next told Juin to go to SHAEF immediately and "shake up" the Supreme Commander. "You will explain to him that in my capacity as Head of the French Government, I have taken the decision to defend Alsace, that I, of course, wish to have the French Army defend it with the aid of the Allied Armies, but that because of the importance of STRASBOURG, I have decided to defend it, if necessary, with only the French forces!"

Juin replied, "I understand perfectly and you are completely right, but this is not possible! The Americans will accept with difficulty that De Lattre goes against the orders which he has received. If you go around them, they will cut off our supplies and gasoline."

"That's so," De Gaulle responded, "we are dependent on them, but inversely they are dependent on us!"

If they did that, I would deny them use of our railroads and our ports! So make a *rendez-vous* with Eisenhower, and try to get him to go back on his decision !"

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—to the vicinity of REICHSHOFFEN, [south of NIEDERBRONN-les-Bains. See Map.] The Division's Operating Instructions # 50 received at 151620 ordered the 410th to be prepared to defend their assigned sector. The 3rd Bn occupied the MLR in the vicinity of JAGERTHAL, with Company L on the left, Company I in the center, and Company K on the right by the end of 17 January 45.

Meanwhile the 3rd Bn continued ground reconnaissance in its sector during 18 January 45 in conjunction with counter-attack plans. The 3rd Bn received 8 rounds of artillery fire close to the bridge near the CP. On 19 January the 3rd Bn sent a recon party to survey new MLR positions along the Moder River in conjunction with the withdrawal of the entire VI Corps from its present positions. A verbal order [to withdraw] was received from the Division CO at

### The Day

By Anthony L. Cava, Company I

Our regiment, the 410th, was holding ground at the point of a bulge in the line. The 411th, on our left flank, was under constant attack whereas our scouts could not find any enemy in front of us. It appeared the Germans were trying to cut us off from the main forces.

Under the cover of darkness on the morning of the 22nd, we made a "strategic withdrawal" to straighten out our line.

Our walk of thirteen kilometers over a rutted, ice-covered road [and] took all night. We arrived in the small town of ZUTZENDORF, France and were assigned to buildings for living quarters.

The next day, we were told to "dig-in" because we had to "hold" no matter what the costs. We were the last line of defense! The ground was frozen, making it impossible to dig a hole for the mortar gun placements. The engineers came by and blasted three holes for our mortars.

The blasting panicked the refugees who were streaming back for safety from the advancing Germans. At first light, on the morning of the 25th, my assistant gunner, Funk, and I were in the hole with the gun and three hundred rounds of ammunition, when the Germans began their attack.

For three hours we fired the mortar continuously, except for a time when the base sank deep into the hole floor and our mortars were almost vertical, cutting down our range of fire.

The engineers had used too much dynamite and we had shovelled dirt and snow back into the holes to make them shallow enough for the guns. And for a time, which seemed like an eternity, all three guns were out of service.

### The Day

About eight o'clock, the Germans withdrew, and we ceased firing our guns. We had stopped them and prevented a breakthrough. Funk and I were relieved and we went back to town [ZUTZENDORF] for breakfast.

At eleven o'clock, we went back to the gun position and noticed that we had ringed the hole with black shell containers which had been tossed out of the hole while firing the gun. It looked like a black "bulls-eye" on the white snow.

When I inspected the mortar I found the barrel coated with carbon and I realized that if a shell got stuck in the barrel, I would be responsible to remove the shell. This would require that I would have to disconnect the mortar barrel knob from the base plate and raise it until the shell fell out of the open end. The shell could be "live" if that last safety pin had been released. Playing catch with a live shell was not my type of fun game, so I decided to clean the mortar.

Not having a cleaning rod, I called over to the gun emplacement on our right, which was the closest to the road. They didn't have one either, so I asked the crew in the hole about 50 yards in front of us and they did have one. I climbed out of the hole and began to walk uphill towards their hole which was just behind the crest of the hill. I could see the church steeple of the town in front of me, which was held by the Germans.

When I was about ten yards away from the hole a shell exploded on the road. I turned and began running towards the hole. With ten feet to go, I dove for the hole. I heard the "swish" of the shell as it was coming in. There was an explosion and a black puff of smoke two feet left of the hole, which I saw out of the corner of my eye. When I hit the ground I had a bad ache in my left leg.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**--1200 on 20 January. The 3rd Bn, [in retreat], moved to the vicinity of OBERMODERN on 21 January 45. Work continued on defensive positions during 22 January 45.

The enemy hurled a powerful attack against the 410th Infantry on the 25th of January 45, but before the next 36 hours had elapsed, our men had thrown back the crack SS troops, caused heavy casualties and helped to severely shatter the enemy hopes for a full-scale Alsatian breakthrough. The 3rd Bn's left flank was attacked at 0443. Enemy infantry, reinforced by two tanks, closely followed up the artillery barrage. The Germans had penetrated SCHILLERSDORF in the left sector of Company K by 0455. At 0505 Company K had committed its support and the 3rd Bn had committed its reserve to block further penetration. The Company I MLR had not been penetrated!

### The Day

The bombardment continued and swept through our town. I crawled up to the edge of the hole and Funk pulled me in by the shoulder epaulet of my jacket.

Funk slit my left pants leg and long-johns to the knee. I had been hit in the left kneecap. There was little bleeding. Funk applied sulfa-powder and bandaged the wound. He then, also, slit my right pant leg, since there was a larger hole in the other pants leg, but not through my underwear. He continued to slit the pants leg up to my crotch, since the crotch of my pants was missing. I didn't even have a scratch in the two areas!

As the shelling continued, I asked Funk to go out and look for my pipe, since I had dropped it when I hit the ground. But for some reason, (it must have been the need to survive!), he refused to leave the hole.

When the shelling stopped, two men from the 37mm Anti-Tank company picked me up on their jeep, since they saw me get hit. They drove me back to town and their company headquarters. There the medics gave me a shot of morphine, which made me very sick.

An ambulance picked me up and drove me to Battalion [Medical Aid Station], where the shrapnel was removed and a full length cast was put on my leg. The last thing I remember about January 25th was my discussion with the surgeon (Captain), about how my wound would affect my ability to dance. Then the anesthesia took over and I was "out" for the night.

\* \* \* War News \* \* \*

Jan. 25--In the south the 19th German Army presses its offensive against the 103rd Division, which is driven out of KINDWILLER.

### Notebook

8 Jan 45. [S/SGT James S.] Kerns--RTU as of 6 Jan 45. [Remained in CADENBRONN.]

9 Jan 45. Moved from CADENBRONN to BOUSBACH, distance travelled-2 miles. Relieved Co. K. on MLR. Relief completed at 1600. ONLS = 149.

10 Jan 45. In BOUSBACH. Remained in position on MLR.

11 Jan 45. In BOUSBACH. ONLS = 155 1st Platoon-33; 2nd-33; 3rd-33; 4th-34; Hdq.-22 (147 Enlisted Men, 3 Medics, and 5 Officers.)

12 Jan 45. [PFC Charles W.] Heard-KIA.

[PFC Vernon E.] Gabioud-WIA. Company sent 3 patrols into KERBACH between 0130 and 0630.

13 Jan 45. Remained in position on MLR. [PFC John R.] Wagner-RTU; [PFC Myron A.] Klimkowicz-RTU; [PVT Benedict H.] Kristjancen-RTU; [PFC Carroll C.] Cook-RTU; [PFC Arthur D.] Lapidés-RTU; [PVT Murray] Bloom-RTU.

14 Jan 45. Remained in position on MLR. [PFC John] Kenneally-Transferred. [2nd. Lt. Charles J.] Koehler, [S/SGT Harry A.] Schweikert, and [S/SGT Thomas C.] Stigall-Sent to Regiment for Instruction.

15 Jan 45. Relieved of position on MLR by C. Co. of 276th Infantry Regiment. Moved by Foot-March to DIEBLING-Distance travelled-2 miles.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—By 0900, the enemy penetration had been contained in SCHILLERSDORF. The 3rd Bn struck at NIEFFERN at 0640 but withdrew to the MLR upon meeting heavy resistance. In the early afternoon Company I received heavy attacks on its left flank.

On the night of 25-26 January 45, from left to right on 410th's MLR were squads from Company E, Company G, Company F, Company B, 2nd Bn of the 411th Infantry, and then, Company I.

A 3rd Bn patrol reached within 300 yards of UHRWILLER at 0045 on the 27th of January 45 and heard no movement in the town. NIEFFERN was burning, the patrol reported, and there were some fires in KINDWILLER. Artificial moonlight was being used to help pick out the foe.

## Notebook

16 Jan 45. Entrucked for motor march at DIEBLING ( 0330 ), moved by motor to JAEGERTHAL [See Map.] March completed at 1230. Distance travelled-80 miles. Took up defensive positions held by B Co., 275th Inf. Relief completed at 1330. Company CP established in vicinity of JAEGERTHAL, (located north of NIEDERBRONN-les-Bains.)

17 Jan 45. CP in same location. [SGT Alvin] Cohen-DY to SK. [SGT Laverne] Williamson-DY to SK.

18 Jan. 45. No change.

19 Jan 45. Friday. No change.

20 Jan 45. No change.

21 Jan 45. Company withdrew from MLR in vicinity of JAEGERTHAL to ZUTZENDORF and established a new MLR. Withdrawal movement [retreat] made by foot, distance travelled-10 miles.

[PFC Tom] Mannone-RTU. [PVT Kenneth R.] Jewett-RTU. [PVT Willard W.] Glover-RTU. [PFC John L.] Vidrine-RTU. ONLS = 156. (144 EM, 4 Regt., 5 O's, 3 Med.) The new MLR was just north of ZUTZENDORF.

22 Jan 45. ZUTZENDORF. No change.

23 Jan 45. No change. [PFC John] Landolfi-RTU.

24 Jan 45. EM by Platoons: 1st-31; 2nd-29; 3rd-31; 4th-35; Hdq.-18 . [PFC John J.] Zahara-DY to SK.

## *The German Re-Occupation Of Bitschhoffen*

By Charles Dauger

22.1.45 There is great commotion in the village. About half the inhabitants flee across the Moder [River] where the Americans have established their positions. At 1400 the last American patrol is seen in the village. At 1800 the man in the lookout in the church steeple leaves, as it is getting dark.

23.1.45 At 0200 the first German patrol enters the village. At 0700 the bulk of the troops, coming from ENGWILLER, occupies the village. At noon they withdraw, leaving only about twenty men in BITSCHHOFFEN. KINDWILLER is [also] in German hands. At 1230 the first shells fall on the village, hitting first the house of Mr. Léon Kabs. Several shells fall on to the center of the village, and on to the house of Mr. Eugène Waechter. At the same time the house of Mr. Maurice Dauger is destroyed. Then the firing abates and mortars fall only sporadically.

24.1.45 Everything is quiet. It snows all day long. At the close of the day white phosphorus shells set ablaze the house and other buildings of Mr. Maurice Krumhorn, on Church Street.

25.1.45 A few shells explode in the village. The house of Mr. Joseph Singer is on fire. The snow lies thick on the ground.

26.1.45 Mortar and artillery fire continues. The Germans receive reinforcements of mortars. They settle in and no door resists them.

[BITSCHHOFFEN is one mile north of UBERACH, a village on the north bank of the Moder river. PFAFFENHOFFEN on the south bank remained in American hands. See Map.]

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—Company K, [410th Infantry], supported by four tanks, raided NIEFFERN at 1530 on the 29th of January 45 and captured ten prisoners. The patrol met with heavy mortar, artillery and SP fire.

The 410th Infantry was shifting its right boundary to the northwest. This move was to be concluded by the 2nd of February 45.

The new regimental CP opened at INGWILLER [See Map] at 1145 on 1 February 45. A German deserter revealed he was from the 3rd Bn of the 12th SS Mountain Regiment, the same outfit driven out of SCHILLERSDORF by the 410th Infantry. The prisoner stated that his battalion had lost all but sixty of the original 360 soldiers who attacked there, and was being replaced by a Volks Grenadier division.

### Notebook

25 Jan 45. [SGT Robert B.] Higbee-KIA; [PFC Charles B. (Denny)] Dennard-WIA; [PFC Tom] Mannone-DYtoSK; [PVT Anthony L.] Cava-WIA; [PVT George W.] Jackson-WIA; [PVT Clarence J.] Savoie-DY to SK; [PFC John] Landolfi-RTU. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons withdrew from NIEFFERN and took positions on the MLR [North of ZUTZENDORF, 1/2 mile south of NIEFFERN.]

26 Jan 45. No Change. Remained on MLR. [PVT Jerome E.] Leahy-DYto SK; PFC Jose M.] Escamilla-DYto SK; [PVT Ivan M.] Hanover-DY to SK; [PVT Harold G.] Brock-DY to SK.

27 Jan 45. No Change. [PFC Clarence E.] Byerly-DY to SK; [PFC Donovan A.] Hall-DY to SK; [PFC John C. (Jr)] Osmond-DY to SK; [PVT John J.] Scott-DY to SK; [PVT Benedict H.] Kristjansen-DY to SK.

28 Jan 45. Sunday. [PFC Wilmer M.] Borgen-WIA. Company remained in position.

29 Jan 45. Fired supporting fire for Company K's raid on NIEFFERN. S/SGT [Lewis C.] Korody and PFC [Robert D.] Quinn and PFC [John E.] Quinn and [PFC Anthony A.\*\*] Bravata rescued 6 wounded men from NIEFFERN after the raid. [PFC L. D.] McFee and [CPL Fred P.] Sykora were transferred. [\*\* Awarded Bronze Star.]

30 Jan 45. Company remained in position on the MLR. Company mortars fired harassing fire on NIEFFERN.

31 Jan 45. Company remained in position on MLR. [PVT John C.] Smith-Transferred from kitchen to 3rd Platoon.

### THE GERMAN RE-OCCUPATION OF BITSCHHOFFEN

By Charles Dauger

27.1.45 More shells fall on to the village, causing fires which the inhabitants keep under control, like at Mr. Michel Lickel and Mr. Auguste Kirschner's houses. At Albert Batt's house the flames just die out.

28.1.45 No Change. Artillery fire increases in the evening and during the night.

29.1.45 It's a rather quiet day. It is cold and there is thick snow on the ground.

30.1.45 The H.Q. of the [German Army] regiment orders all inhabitants [of Bitschhoffen] to be evacuated on February 3. They decide to stay, and they can do so at their own risk.

1.2.45 The village is shelled everyday.

2.2.45 Candlemas [Day]. Most people hope it will be over soon, but in vain.

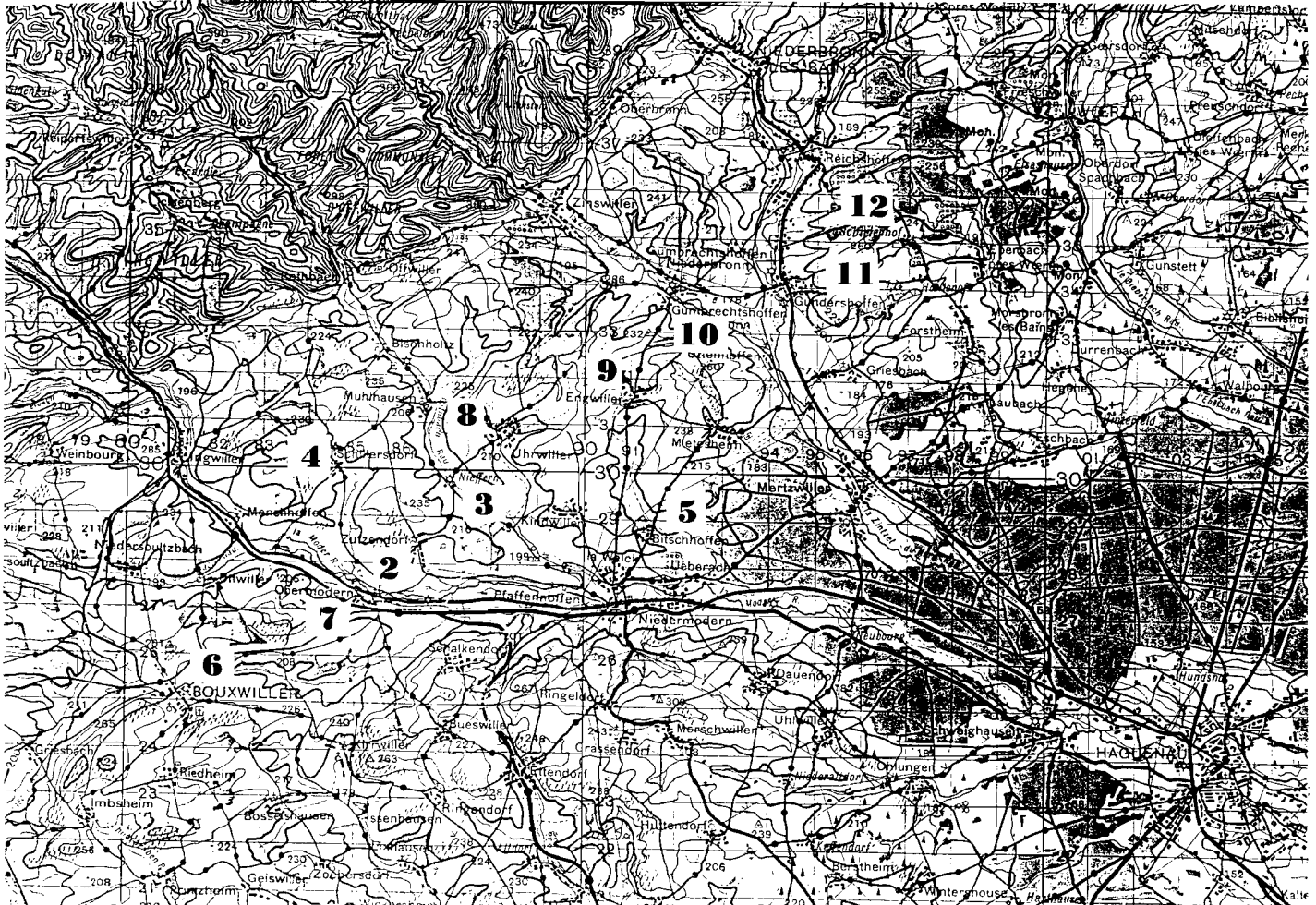
3.2.45 All roads leading into the village are shelled. Some [farm] animals are commandeered.

4.2.45 A family who had taken refuge at Mr. Emile Arth's house leaves the village with their go-cart and cows. The weather is cloudy.

5.2.45/10.2.45 No Change. Tanks fire at the church steeple.

11.2.45 Carnival Sunday [before Lent.] At 1400 an artillery concentration falls on to the village. Again white phosphorus shells start fires at Mr. Antoine Weiss' and Mr. Maurice Bastian's houses, as well as in the [church's] vestry. Everything is ablaze within a few minutes.

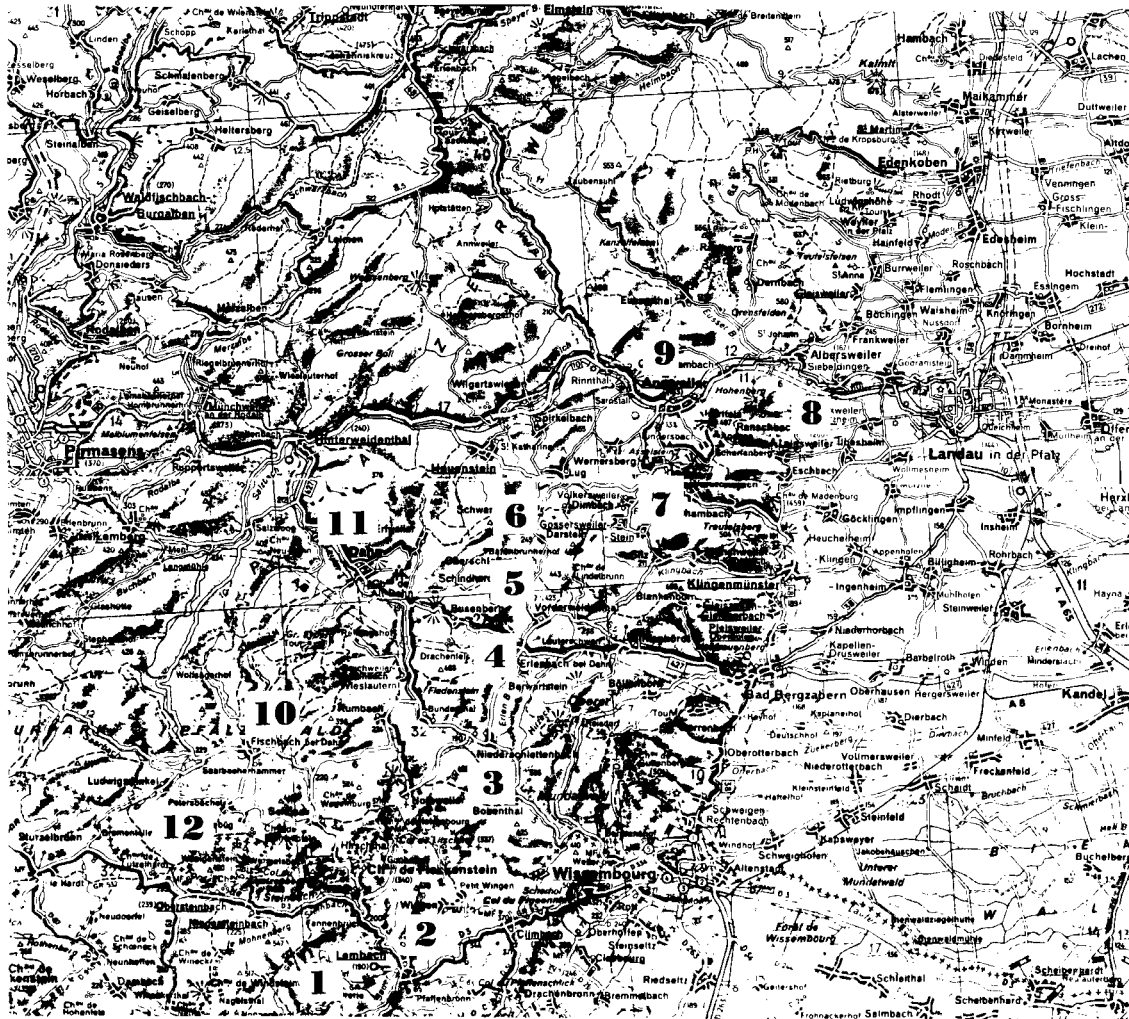
Map K – Moder River



Map Index :

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|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jagerthal     | 7. Obermodern        |
| 2. Zutzendorf    | 8. Uhrwiller         |
| 3. Nieffern      | 9. Engwiller         |
| 4. Schillersdorf | 10. Gumbrechtshoffen |
| 5. Bitschhoffen  | 11. Gundershoffen    |
| 6. Bouxwiller    | 12. Schirienhof      |

Map L – Landau-in-der-Pfalz



Map Index :

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Lembach            | 7. Volkersweiler |
| 2. Wingen             | 8. Leinsweiler   |
| 3. Bobenthal          | 9. Annweiler     |
| 4. Erlenbach–bei–Dann | 10. Fischbach    |
| 5. Vorderweidenthal   | 11. Dahn         |
| 6. Gossersweiler      | 12. Petersbächel |

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—Elements of Company K relieved elements of Company I on the MLR at 2015 on the 3rd of February 45. Company I was now in Battalion Reserve in SCHILLERSDORF. On the 6th of February 45 at 1930, Company I relieved elements of the 409th's 2nd Bn. The 3rd Bn's CP opened at OBERMODERN at 1825.

The 410th Infantry now prepared to be relieved in position by the 411th Infantry. The move was to be completed by 8 February 45. The 3rd Bn assembled in the vicinity of OBERMODERN and marched to BOUXWILLER, closing there at 2345 on 7 February 45.

From 8 February to 20 February inclusive, the regiment remained in Division Reserve. During the period, Battalions conducted scheduled training in firing, mine detonation, demolition, village fighting, and squad tactics.

### Company I Casualties

January, 1945

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

**T/5 Theodore S. Ciezki-KIA,**

Near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Charles W. Heard-KIA,**

near KERBACH.

**SGT Robert B. Higbee-KIA,**

near NIEFFERN.

**PFC Wilmer M. Borgen-WIA,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Anthony L. Cava-WIA,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Charles B. Dennard-WIA,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Vernon Gabioud-WIA,** near KERBACH.

**PVT George W. Jackson-WIA,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

### Company I [Non-Battle] Casualties

January, 1945

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

**PVT Harold G. Brock,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Clarence E. Byerley,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**SGT Alvin Cohen,** near JAEGERTHAL.

**PFC Jose M. Escamilla,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Donivan A. Hall,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Ivan M. Hanover,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Benedict H. Kristjansen,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Jerome E. Leahy,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PFC Tom Mannone,** near NIEFFERN.

**PFC John C. Osmond, Jr.,**

near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Bernard Rosenthal,** near ZUTZENDORF.

**PVT Clarence G. Savoie,** near NIEFFERN.

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### Company I [Non-Battle] Casualties

(Continued)

**PVT John J. Scott,** near ZUTZENDORF

**PVT Albert L. Sherwood,** near NIEFFERN.

**SGT Laverne Williamson,** near JAEGERTHAL.

**PFC John J. Zahara,** near NIEFFERN.

### *The German Re-Occupation Of Bitschhoffen ( Continued )*

12.02.45 The village looks sinister. During the night the bridge over the Landgraben is blown. The explosion is very loud.

13.02.45 Sporadic artillery fire.

14.02.45/ 15.02.45 No Change.

16.02.45 Quiet morning, no explosions.

During the afternoon at 1530 the village is suddenly strafed and bombed by fighter-bombers which drop 24 bombs. A third of the village is completely destroyed. The barns of Mr. André Bienfat and Mr. Emile Arth are on fire.

17.02.45 The village is a pile of rubble. Fortunately there are no civilian casualties.

18.02.45/20.02.45 Fairly quiet.

21.02.45 Usual artillery fire. In the evening, a fire which had started burning the day before, destroys the house of Mr. Albert Gerling.

22.02.45/26.02.45 No change. Night patrols.

27.02.45 During the day artillery fire scores direct hits on the church steeple. In the evening at 1900 a tremendous artillery concentration falls on the village. A fire starts at Mr. Léon Kabs, but is soon under control. Three shells fall on the cellar of Mr. Heckel and cause the death of one person and three civilian casualties.

28.02.45 Intense artillery fire during the day. Night patrols.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The entire Regiment witnessed a demonstration of the new M4A3 tank, and attended the training film, "Your Job in Germany."

On 12 February 45, per Division order, Company I was designated as a 'motorized company' and was placed on 30-minute alert.

The 45th Division, which was on the 103rd Division's left, was relieved by the 42nd division at 2200 on 16 February 45.

The 410th Infantry moved back on the MLR during the night of 21 -22 February 45, and relieved parts of the 409th Infantry and parts of the 411th Infantry. Company A, 614th TD Battalion and 1st Platoon, Company C, 781st Tank Battalion were attached to the 410th Infantry on 21 February 45.

### *The Defense of Strasbourg*

Marshal Juin, head of the French Military forces, [while General de Gaulle was head of the French Provisional Government,] told General Touzet du Vigier, "Be ready to leave for STRASBOURG. You will defend her toward and against everyone, and if required, house by house. If necessary we will make of her a French **Stalingrad !**"

De Gaulle told Juin that if Ike refused to change the withdrawal plan, that Juin should make an appointment for De Gaulle to have a face-to-face meeting with Eisenhower. De Gaulle wired personal appeals for support to President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

The situation in STRASBOURG was deteriorating rapidly. Rumors swept the population that American troops in the Low Vosges were fleeing before enemy onslaughts along the national Highway from NIEDERBRONN to STRASBOURG.

French Army Colonel Quignard reports, "The population does not hide the terror it feels at the idea of the possibility of a withdrawal of [American] forces. It fears the vicissitudes of the fighting might momentarily permit the Germans to occupy portions of liberated Alsace."

"It supposes that in this case the German Army would consider the local populations as German citizens, traitors toward their country, and that the reprisals would be pitiless."

Mayor Charles Frey of Strasbourg, who was the last official to leave the city at the end of the Six Weeks War in June, 1940, declared "that Strasbourgers would prefer seeing their city destroyed, but defended, rather than abandoned to the enemy."

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

A second Strasbourg official ready to rise to the occasion was the Acting Military governor, General Schwartz. Rumors reach Schwartz to the effect that Patch's 7th Army CP had pulled out of nearby SAVERNE to a location west of the Vosges. Schwartz dispatched Col. Rougier to SAVERNE to confirm whether the 7th Army CP was still there or not.

He also sent a trusted Alsatian FFI officer to NIEDERBRONN to see how far down the BITCHE-STRASBOURG highway the enemy had progressed. The two officers returned "to put an end to the comedy" of conflicting rumors. The 7th Army CP had indeed been moved to LUNEVILLE, and that NIEDERBRONN was indeed in friendly hands, but the Moder valley towns of INGWILLER and WINGEN had been vacated by the Americans even though no enemy forces had yet appeared in those areas.

A young French officer, Lt. Darmstetter, came to Gen. Schwartz with the astounding information that the American high command had been operating under a "secret plan", calling for the abandonment of STRASBOURG and the Rhine plain in the event of a German attack.

On 2 January, Marshal Juin told Gen. Bedell Smith, Ike's deputy, about the need to change the 7th Army's plan. The same evening, Juin argued with Bedell Smith for five hours and finally produced a letter from General De Gaulle stating that the French would withdraw their forces from the Allied command and defend STRASBOURG alone if the Americans declined to do so. General Smith displayed great irritation and said there was no point in discussing it further. They agreed that Ike and De Gaulle would



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—During the night of 26-27 February, a company C patrol went into NIEFFERN and encountered an enemy minefield. One squad reached the first house on the east side of town and met heavy MG fire. Due to heavy enemy pressure, the patrol was forced to withdraw without prisoners. Two wounded men left in the minefield were believed to be dead. However, the next morning, 27 February 45, outposts reported seeing one man move in the minefield. Division approved the sending of a volunteer mission of six medics and two unarmed riflemen to rescue the wounded man. The rescuers carried two Red Cross flags. All friendly activity halted during the rescue. The mission was not molested by the enemy and brought back the wounded man.

The situation remained unchanged on 28 February 45.

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

have to thrash out the issue personally the next afternoon, January 3. After Marshal Juin left, aides urged Gen. Smith to do his utmost to persuade Eisenhower to cancel the withdrawal order. Juin's "disobedience" had so infuriated Smith that at the next staff meeting Smith declared, "If he had been an American, I would have socked him in the jaw!"

General De Lattre sent a telegram to De Gaulle that he had been ordered by General Dever to pull his lines back to the Vosges by January 5, whereas De Gaulle had ordered him to defend STRASBOURG. Gen. De Lattre said the decision to defend the city could have such effects upon the overall strategy that the decision must be made in concert by the French Government and the Supreme Allied Command.

De Gaulle was furious! He reminded De Lattre that his sole duty was to his country, France. The defense of STRASBOURG in no way depended on the consent of the Allied High Command!

At first light in STRASBOURG that January 3, General Schwartz was still up and hard at work. The fog of American duplicity had finally been lifted. He was planning the evacuation of the city and the adjacent areas of the Rhine plain.

The Military Railroad had promised several "navettes" with 1,000 passenger capacity starting at 1500 (3 o'clock.) As Schwartz prepared for the abandonment of the city, he resembled the captain of a great ocean liner waiting to be engulfed by a typhoon.

"The news of the abandoning of the city spread like a powder fuse and caused a general panic. Thousands of persons, especially men who

### *The Defense Of Strasbourg*

were mobilisable, tried to leave STRASBOURG, but most were stopped at the gates of the city for lack of a valid travel pass."

Mayor Frey appealed directly to General De Gaulle by official telegram, "PROTEST WITH LAST ENERGY AGAINST WITHDRAWAL MEASURES PLANNED BY AMERICAN COMMAND. CONTEST RIGHT TO SACRIFICE TOTALITY POPULATION. REQUEST DEFEND STRASBOURG AT ANY PRICE. REQUEST FRENCH TROOPS."

As Patch's right wing in the Rhine plain pulled back voluntarily in accordance with Eisenhower's order, his left wing and center continued to be under heavy pressure from the enemy's "NORDWIND" force of three attack corps and ten divisions.

Meanwhile back at SHAEF's Headquarters at VERSAILLES, General De Gaulle entered the conference room with General Juin a few steps behind. They shook hands with Eisenhower and Smith and their guests, Prime Minister Churchill and Field Marshal Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial General Staff. They seated themselves in large armchairs placed in a circle, in the center of which was a large Situation Map at floor level.

General Eisenhower began with explanation of the exposed position of Dever's VI Corps in the Rhine plain and the need for reserves in the Ardennes. General De Gaulle responded that Alsace-Lorraine was an extremely sensitive issue with the French, who would never accept its being abandoned to the enemy without a fight. Such a withdrawal could lead to civil unrest and overthrow of the French Republic's Provisional Government.

**Other War News in February, 1945**—Feb. 1—On the right flank the 36th Division, continues to advance toward the Rhine, crossing the Moder River, and attacking in the direction of OBERHOFFEN, [three miles east of HAGENAU] The other units in the VI Corps stand firm for the whole month of February, confining themselves to defending their positions and putting in an occasional attack beyond the Moder River.

Feb. 9—The French 1st Army completes the elimination of the Colmar pocket. The west bank of the Rhine River south of STRASBOURG is completely liberated. The battered units of the German 19th Army have been withdrawn across the river, where they dig in for the final battle. The operations in this sector have cost the French and Americans 18,000 casualties, killed, wounded and missing against German losses of double that number.

### Notebook

1 Feb 45. [PFC Arnold C.] Kunde-SK as of 31 Jan. Relieved from position on MLR in the vicinity of ZUTZENDORF. Went into position and set up perimeter defense in vicinity of SCHILLERSDORF. Distance travelled by foot-march-1 1/2 miles. [PVT Harold G.] Brock-RTU. [SGT Laverne] Williamson-RTU. [PVT Clarence J.] Savoie-RTU.

2 Feb 45. Remained in position in SCHILLERSDORF.

3 Feb 45. [PVT William F.] Ridsdale-DY to SK.

4 Feb 45. [PVT Harvey D.] Barker-DY to SK. [PFC Ernest M.] Casey-1st Platoon to Kitchen.

5 Feb 45. [PFC Arnold C.] Kunde-RTU. [PFC] Gant-RTU. Moved by foot march from SCHILLERDORF to ZUTZENDORF, relieved 2nd Bn, 409th Inf. on the MLR. Relief completed by 2000. Distance travelled-1 1/2 miles.

6 Feb 45. PFC Boyd R.] Mays-DY to SK. [PVT Chauncey J.] Martin-DY to SK. Company remained in position on MLR.

7 Feb 45. Relieved by F Co., 411th Inf., moved by foot-march to BOUXWILLER as division reserve. Relief completed at 1954[ hours.] Distance travelled-3 miles. [PVT Earl J.] Moore-DY to SK as of 3 Feb. [PVT Alfred D.] White-WIA.

8 Feb 45. In BOUXWILLER. Co. remained in Division Reserve. [PVT Ivan M.] Hanover-RTU. [PFC Richard A.] Hiltunen-RTU. [PVT Earl J.] Moore-RTU. [PFC Jewel V.] Stingely-RTU.

### Notebook

9 Feb 45. [PVT Guy P.] Riddle-DY to SK.

10 Feb 45. [SGT Alvin] Cohen-RTU. [PVT Clarence J.] Savoie-WIA.

11 Feb 45. No Change.

12 Feb 45. [PFC Robert] John-DY to SK. [PFC Richard.] Hiltunen-DY to SK. [T/SGT Donald] Calfee-DY to Special Duty.

13 Feb 45 / 16 Feb 45. No Change.

17 Feb 45. [PVT John J.] Scott-RTU.

18 Feb 45. [PVT John J.] King-RTU.

19 Feb 45. Received 9 Replacements.

20 Feb 45. [PFC Frank C.] Witmer-DY to SK. [PFC John H.] Boss-DY to SK. [PFC Tom] Mannone-RTU. [PVT Benedict H.] Kristjancen-RTU.

21 Feb 45. [S/SGT Ralph J.] Medena-RTU as of 18 Dec 44. Regiment relieved as Division's reserve in BOUXWILLER. Bn assigned duties as Regiment's reserve in OBERMODERN. [See Map.] Company arrived in OBERMODERN 1635 [hours.] Distance travelled by foot-3 miles.

22 Feb 45. [PVT Robert L.] Gage-DY to SK. [PFC John H.] Boss-SK to DY. Company stays in position.

23 Feb 45. No Change.

24 Feb 45. [PFC Blair] Reeves-DY to SK as of 23 Feb. [S/SGT Tilman C.] Fudge-DY to SK. [PFC Harry B.] Haas-DY to SK. [PFC Walter J.] Gevrie-DY to SK.

25 Feb 45. No Change.

26 Feb 45. [PVT Willard W.] Glover-DY to SK. Company remained in position.

27 Feb 45. [PFC Nicholas] Dietz-DY to SK as of 26 Feb. [PFC Harold A.] Fornell-DY to SK. 9 replacements. Remained in position.

**Feb. 13-14**—"RAF] Lancaster bombers begin one of the most ruthless raids of the whole war, dropping their two-ton bombs and thousands of incendiaries on the undefended city of DRESDEN. Crowded with a flood of refugees from Silesia, fleeing from the Russians, the city's industrial suburbs had already been bombed twice. The historic residential center had been spared and the citizens had come to think that the city was the object of a sort of agreement : The Luftwaffe would spare Oxford, if the Allies would spare Dresden. After the first bombing, the RAF sent another 550 bombers in the second wave. The effect was that the bombs destroyed the old city, while the incendiaries unleashed the most catastrophic fire storm seen in the whole war. At midday on Feb. 14, 450 B-17s of the USAF, finished off the city already razed to the ground. There were 130,000 casualties, more than suffered at Hiroshima. It was the most pitiless raid, and the hardest to justify, of those carried out."—2194 DAYS OF WAR.

### *The German Re-Occupation Of Bitschhoffen*

01.03.45 At 0600 Mrs. Heckel is buried. Then intense artillery fire and mortar fire during the whole day. During the afternoon the barn and the stables of George Krumhorn are set ablaze. At night at 2200 the whole house of Auguste Zaepfel is gutted out. The barn of Joseph Waechter which had started burning, was saved. Again [German] patrols go about in the streets.

02.03.45 Intense artillery fire during the morning. The afternoon is quieter. No explosions during the night. The Americans fire white phosphorus shells once more. Fortunately they spare the village. The [nearby] village of MIETESHEIM is strafed and bombed several times by fighter-bombers.

03.03.45 Artillery fire during the morning. Again quieter in the afternoon. Patrols at night. A few explosions during the night.

04.03.45 Quiet morning. Some small arms and artillery fire during the afternoon. At night sporadic artillery fire, then fairly quiet.

05.03.45 Sporadic artillery fire during the day and the night.

06.03.45 No change except for mortar fire.

07.03.45 /08.03.45 A fairly quiet day, it is raining.

09.03.45 / 10.03.45 Intense artillery fire during the whole day.

11.03.45 Except for patrol clashes during the morning, the day and the night are quiet.

12.03.45 No explosions, either during the day or the night.

### *The German Re-Occupation Of Bitschhoffen*

13.03.45 The morning is quiet. At noon artillery fire hits the village. The barn of Oscar Weiss is burnt down. Some time later, another series of explosions, then quiet again. No civilian is allowed to be outside.

14.03.45 Fairly quiet, apart from a few shells.

15.03.45 At dawn begins an intense artillery barrage. Immediately a fire is started in the house of Albert Arth. At eight o'clock, the first doughboys enter the village and capture all the German soldiers.

[Soldiers from the 143rd Infantry, 36th Division re-liberated BITSCHHOFFEN on March 15, 1945. **Operation Undertone** had begun.]

### *Narrative Of Operations*

[From The **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**]

The 410th Infantry sector was quiet as the month of March began. On 3 March 45, all elements of the Regiment, less the units on the front lines, conducted inspections of individual men, quarters, and weapons. On 6 March 45 mortar fire coming from NIEFFERN fell in the 3rd Bn sector at 1111 [hours.] Company I moved to ZUTZENDORF.

On 14 March 45, orders # 27 and # 28 were issued and the Regiment made ready, in secrecy, to attack on D-Day, H Hour (**0645 on 15 March 45.**)

The plan of action called for the 103rd Division to attack on the axis BISCHHOLTZ-BOBENTHAL to capture the high ground in the

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**-vicinity of CLIMBACH and the vicinity of BOBENTHAL (Germany), to uncover and penetrate the Siegfried Line in its zone, to capture the high ground in the vicinity of DIMBACH, and north of BERGZABERN, and to prepare to continue the attack to the East and/or Northeast. [This completes the objective of the 103rd Division in OPERATION UNDERTONE.]

The immediate objective of the Third Bn, to which was attached the 1st Platoon, Company C, 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was to attack NIEFFERN with one company, Company K, which upon the capture of the town would revert to Regimental Reserve. The remainder of the Bn was to capture UHRWILLER, be prepared to seize the high ground northwest of ENGWILLER, and capture ENGWILLER on Regimental order; also to maintain contact with the 411th Regiment on the left. The 3rd Bn was to revert to Regimental Reserve upon capturing ENGWILLER.

### Notebook

28 Feb 45. [PVT Bernard] Rosenthal-RTU as of 27 Feb 45. 2nd LT[Carl G.] Nichols-Trfd to Co. F. 410th Infantry; [T/4 Clarence F.] Williamson-DY to SK; [PFC Donovan A.] Hall-RTU. Company remained in position [in OBERMODERN.]

1 March 45. [PFC Clarence E.] Byerly-RTU; [PFC John C.] Osmund-RTU; [PVT Jerome E.] Leahy-RTU; [PVT Bendict H.] Kristjancendy to SK.

2 March 45. [PFC Val A.] Loper-DY to SK. No Change.

3 March 45. [PFC Val A.] Loper-SK to DY. [CPL Laurence G.] Mills-RTU.

4 March 45. [PVT Chauncey J.] Martin-RTU.

5 March 45. No Change.

6 March 45. [PFC Charles B.] Dennard-RTU.

7 March 45. 25 men for rations.

8 March 45. No Change.

9 March 45. [SGT Arnold T.] Marzullo-RTU; [PVT Guy P.] Riddle-RTU; [PFC Jackson T.] Gould-RTU; Relieved Co. L at MLR-[ north of ZUTZENDORF. See Map.] Relief completed at 1900. Distance travelled by foot-one mile.

### List of Battle Casualties

February, 1945

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

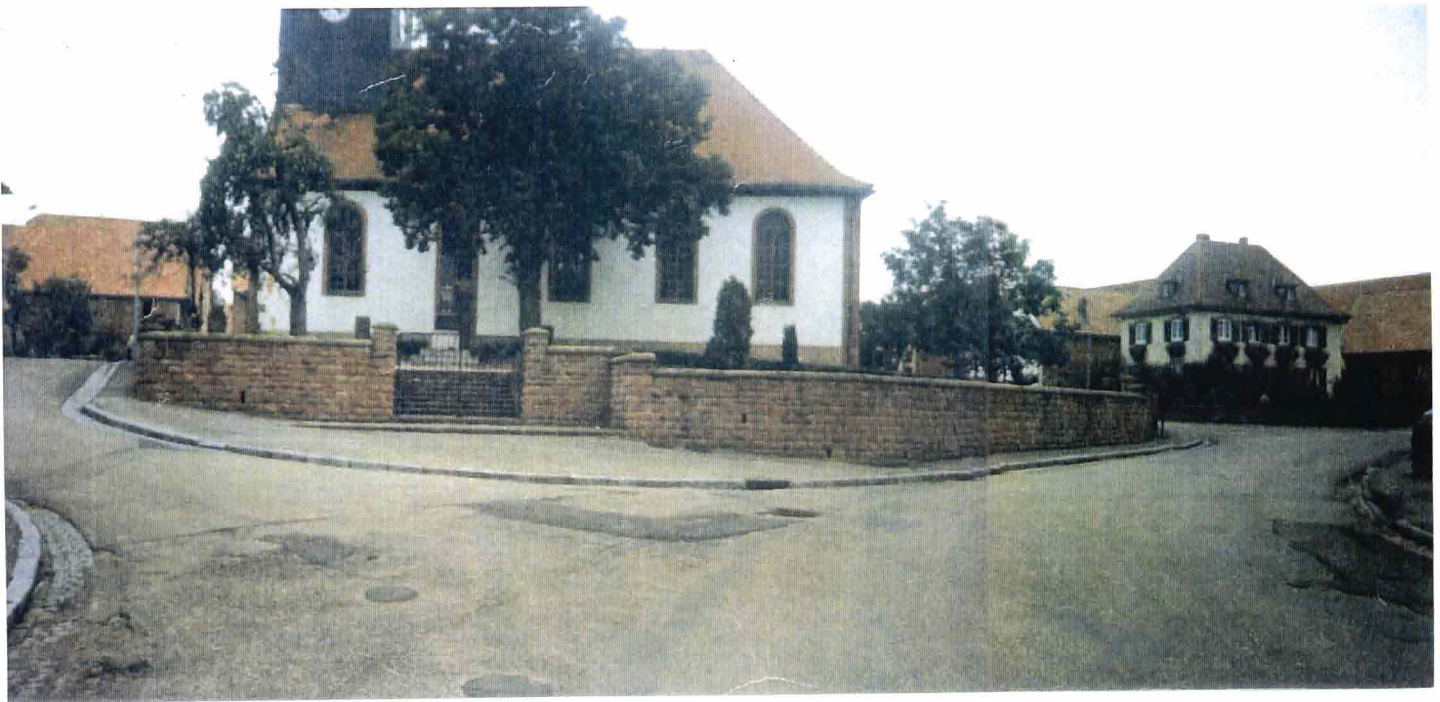
PVT [Alfred D.] White, wounded Feb. 6 near ZUTZENDORF.

### List Of Non-Battle Casualties

February, 1945

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

PVT Harvey Barker-Feb. 4 near SCHILLERSDORF.  
PFC Nicholas Dietz-Feb. 27 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Harold A. Fornell-Feb. 28 near OBERMODERN.  
S/SGT Tilman C. Fudge-Feb. 24 near OBERMODERN.  
PVT Robert L. Gage-Feb. 22 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Walter J. Gevrie-Feb. 24 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Willard W. Glover-Feb. 26 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Harry B. Haas-Feb. 24 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Richard A. Hiltunen-Feb. 12 near BOUXWELLER.  
PFC Robert L. John-Feb. 12 near BOUXWILLER.  
PFC Robert J. King-Feb. 18 near BOUXWILLER.  
PFC Arnold C. Kunde-Feb. 1 near SCHILLERSDORF.  
PVT Chauncey J. Martin-Feb. 6 near ZUTZENDORF.  
PFC Boyd R. Mays-Feb. 6 near ZUTZENDORF.  
PVT Earl J. Moore-Feb. 3 near SCHILLERSDORF.  
PFC Frank B. Reeves-Feb. 23 near OBERMODERN.  
PVT Guy P. Riddle-Feb. 9 near BOUXWILLER.  
PVT William F. Ridsdale-Feb. 2 near SCHILLERSDORF.  
PVT Clarence J. Savoie-Feb. 10 near BOUXWILLER.  
T/4 Clarence F. Williamson, Jr.-Feb. 28 near OBERMODERN.  
PFC Frank Witmer, Jr.-Feb. 20 near BOUXWILLER.



*PAROISSE EVANGELIQUE LUTHERIENNE D'UHRWILLER*

*67350 UHRWILLER, FRANCE*



*(Above) Company I Plaque On Church's Wall*

*(Overleaf :) COMPANY I PLAQUE*





EN MÉMOIRE

Libération de UHRWILLER 15 Mars 1945

Francis M. Passaro

Hale R. Burnham

Libération d'ALSACE 1944-1945

Theodore S. Ciezki

Charles W. Heard

Francis B. Postupak

Howard I. Schwenden

Carl Minnear

Romolda Natt

Robert B. Higbee

Richard B. Lloyd

Raymond Voss

Gene Wise



Co. I, 410th Inf., Division 103

*Final Push*

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—A tremendous artillery barrage signalled D-Day, H-Hour. Poor visibility from the smoke screen held up the 3rd Bn's capture of UHRWILLER. Company L reported zero visibility at 0910. By 1050, Company L had two platoons in UHRWILLER and one at the rear of town. Company I also had two platoons in town. The town was quickly cleared. [Note: Company I suffered three casualties, two KIA, and one WIA, in the recapture of the town of UHRWILLER.]

The Regimental Commander then ordered the 3rd Bn to seize the hostile positions in and near ENGWILLER. Companies I and L hit ENGWILLER at 1830. The 3rd Bn CP opened at UHRWILLER at 1915. Company I finished clearing out its portion of ENGWILLER shortly after 1930. [The advance covered about 5 kms, about three miles.]

Notebook

10 March 45. No Change.

11 March 45. [PFC John H.] Boss-DY to SK.

12 March 45. Monday. Two prisoners taken.

13 March 45. [PVT David ] Goldman-DY to SK.

14 March 45. [PVT George E. (Jr.)] Wade-WIA as of 13 Mar. [No Rank/Name] Johnson-WIA as of 13 Mar.

15 March 45. LT [Francis M.] Passaro-KIA in town of UHRWILLER; [PFC Hale R.] Burnham-KIA by mortar fire in town of UHRWILLER; [PVT Robert E.] Savory-WIA by small arms in the town of UHRWILLER. 47 prisoners [taken.] Regiment crossed the L[ine] of D[e]parture at 0645. 3rd Bn followed the 1st Bn. Co. I and Co. L took town of UHRWILLER. Co. I captured 26 prisoners. 1 Officer and 1 EM killed, 2 EM wounded. Reorganized and with Co. L's assistance took ENGWILLER. [See Map.] Captured 21 prisoners and [had] no casualties [ in ENGWILLER.]

16 March 45. [PFC Donovan A.] Hall-WIA; [PFC Arthur D.] Lapidus-WIA; [CPL Laurence C.] Mills-WIA; [PVT Harvey D.] Barker-RTU.

Moved out from ENGWILLER at 0700, advanced 3 km. to GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN, following Co. L in assault of the town. Captured 2 prisoners, had 3 EM wounded by mines.

Meeting General McAuliffe

By John Landolfi, Company I

March 21, 1945[near BOBENTHAL, Germany.]Our outfit and other companies had a meeting with General McAuliffe. (I can see him now, standing up in his jeep.) He told us that we were going to return to Germany to end the war. We were to stay in Germany, one way or another. DEAD OR ALIVE.

I later remember being in a bunker of the Siegfried Line. Upon entering the bunker, it was dark and I had a funny feeling about it. I flashed my flashlight and saw a German grenade, triggered by a cord or wire. I don't remember who was with me, but I told him to get a long branch. I then pulled the cord or wire with the branch and set the booby trap off. Lucky Me!

Notebook

17 March 45. PFC [John C.] Osmund-DY to SK. T/5 [John C.] Acres-DY to SK. PVT [Chauncey J.] Martin-DY to SK. PFC [Clarence E.] Byerley-DY to SK. T/4 [Clarence F.] Williamson-RTU.

Regiment went into Div. Reserve. Co. moved from GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN to GUNDERSHOFFEN, to the vicinity of SCHIRLENHOF. [See Map.] Total Distance travelled—six miles. Reached last assembly area at 1630.

18 March 45. PFC [Charles O.] Reynolds-DY to SK. Moved from SCHIRLENHOF to vicinity of WINGEN. [NE of LEMBACH.] Total Distance travelled—8 miles by foot.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The second day of the attack, 16 March 45, began with Phase Line B as the initial objective. At 0700 the 3rd Bn jumped off from the vicinity of ENGWILLER to seize GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN. [See Map.] After a five-minute Cannon Co. preparation, the Battalion jumped-off into town at 0920. Company I and Company L hitting the north portion of the town and Company K the south. The Battalion repulsed a counter-attack at 1405 from the nearby woods. By later in the afternoon, the Bn had cleared the town. The day ended with the 3rd Bn remaining in the town.

During the afternoon of 17 March 45, the 410th Infantry was placed in Division Reserve. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions moved to the vicinity of SCHIRLENHOF. On 18 March 45, the 3rd Bn closed into an assembly area north of FROESCHWILLER. On 19 March 45, the 3rd Bn closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of WINGEN at 1930.

### Notebook

19 March 45. PFC [Shirley J.] Van Scooter-DY to SK. PVT [Guy P.] Riddle-DY to SK. PFC [Fred L.] Jais-DY to SK. PFC [Charles O.] Reynolds-SK to DY. Remained in Reserve bivouac area. Calfee-Returned to DY.

20 March 45. 2nd LT [Thomas C.] Stigall-formerly S/SGT in Company I, was transferred to another Company.

21 March 45. PFC [Frank C. (Jr.)] Witmer-RTU-SK to DY. PFC [Howard] Farrand-Temporary Duty to DY. PFC [Edward J.] Nestor-TD to DY. PFC [Harold A.] Fornell-RTU-SK to DY. PFC [Charles H.] White-RTU-SK to DY. Company moved by foot from bivouac area in vicinity of WINGEN to bivouac area in vicinity of BOBENTHAL, Germany. Distance travelled by foot-2 miles.

22 March 45. Moved from vicinity of BOBENTHAL by foot to relieve, B Company, 411th Infantry. Relief completed at 0345. Distance travelled by foot-4 miles.

**PFC [Romolda] Natt-KIA.** PVT [Earl J.] Moore-SIW. 2 enemy captured. 7 enemy killed. Company remained in Bn Reserve and captured four pillboxes, [Siegfried Line.] PFC Natt was killed by enemy gunfire. PVT Moore-a self-inflicted gunshot wound in foot. Company was billeted in ERLNBACH-bei-DANN, Germany.

23 March 45. PFC [Charles O.] Reynolds-DY to SK as of 21 March.

### Notebook

23 March 45.-Cont. CPL [Gaetano T.] Ficca-SK as of 22 March. PFC [Charles O.] Reynolds-SK to DY. Advanced by foot from ERLNBACH to LEINSWEILER, [Between ANNWEILER and LANDAU-in-der-PFALZ,] in pursuit of enemy. Captured 15 enemy EM.

24 March 45. Remained in LEINSWEILER. [North of ESCHBACH]

25 March 45. PFC [Jesse V.] Cox-DY to SK. PFC [Howard N.] Hansen-DY to SK. Remained in LEINSWEILER. [South of RANSCHBACH.]

26 March 45. PFC [Frank C.] Witmer, Jr.-DY to SK. PVT [John C.] Smith-DY to SK. Remained in LEINSWEILER in Corps Reserve.

27 March 45. 2nd LT [Leon E.] Baker assigned to 3rd. Platoon. PFC Lopez-Temporary Duty to DY. PFC McDuffie-TD to DY. S/SGT [Charles W.] Orth-DY to SK. Remained in LEINSWEILER. [West of ILBESHEIM-bei-LANDAU.]

28 March 45. PFC [John H.] Boss-RTU. PFC [John J.] Zahara-RTU. PFC [Francis J.] Dominianni-Bn detail. PVT [John W.] Layton-Bn detail. PFC [John L.] Vidrine-TD. PFC [Charles H.] White-TD. PFC [Edward J.] Nestor-DY to SK. Left LEINSWEILER at 1930 by motor march to WALDSEE-20 mi. Thence by foot to ALTRIP-3 mi.. [See Map.] Relieved elements of 71st Division. ALTRIP was on the Rhine River.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 19th and 20th March 45, the Regiments remained in the same positions, in Division Reserve. The Regiment was still in reserve as 21 March 45 began, but the Division Commander verbally ordered the Regimental CO to start the movement of the Battalions to assembly areas in the woods southeast of BOBENTHAL, Germany to prepare for the relief of the 411th Infantry. The 3rd Bn moved over the German border at 1000 and was located one mile south of BOBENTHAL. This was the first time that all the Regimental front-line elements were in Germany together. [In late December, 1944 some units of the 410th had penetrated a few kilometers into Germany, before withdrawing.]

Division Order # 72, dated 21 March 45, at 2000, ordered the 103rd Division to continue the attack on the axis BOBENTHAL-LANDAU, capturing LANDAU, and securing the Rhine River crossing in the vicinity of GERMERSHEIM.

### Company I Casualties

March, 1945

[ From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES ]

**PFC Hale R, Burnham, KIA,**  
in UHRWILLER.

**2nd LT Francis M. Passaro, KIA,**  
in UHRWILLER.

**PFC Romolda Natt-KIA,**  
near ERLENBACH.

PFC Clarence E. Byerley, WIA,  
near GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN.

PVT Allan W. Coffman-WIA,  
near UHRWILLER.

PFC Donivan A. Hall-WIA,  
near ENGWILLER.

PFC Arthur D, Lapidés, WIA,  
near ENGWILLER.

PVT Chauncey J. Martin-WIA,  
near GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN.

CPL Laurence C. Mills-WIA,  
near ENGWILLER.

### Notebook

29 March 45. No Change. Remained in ALTRIP. Manned positions along the Rhine.

30 March 45. PFC [Jethro] Holley-TD to DY. Remained in ALTRIP.

31 March 45. PVT [Chauncey J.] Martin-RTU. PFC Calfee-RTU as of 20 March 45. PFC [John L.] Vidrine-RTU as of 21 January 45. Remained in ALTRIP.

### Company I [Non-Battle] Casualties

March, 1945

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

T/5 John C. Acres, at GUMBRECHTHOFFEN.  
PFC John H. Boss, near ZUTZENDORF.  
PFC Jesse V. Cox, at LEINSWEILER.

PFC Stephen C. Danel, Jr. near ZUTZENDORF.  
PVT Gaetano T. Ficca, near ERLENBACH.  
PFC Walter J. Gevrie, near BOBENTHAL.

PVT David Goldman, near ZUTZENDORF.  
PFC Howard N. Hansen, at LEINSWEILER.  
PFC Fred L. Jais, near WINGEN.

PVT Benedict H. Kristjensen, OBERMODERN.  
PFC Val A. Loper, in OBERMODERN.  
PVT Earl J. Moore, near ERLENBACH.

PFC Edward J. Nestor, Jr., at LEINSWEILER.  
S/SGT Charles W. Orth, in LEINSWEILER.  
PFC John C. Osmund, Jr., GUNDERSHOFFEN

PVT Guy P. Riddle, near WINGEN.  
PVT John C. Smith, in LEINSWEILER.  
PFC Shirley J. Van Scoter, near WINGEN.  
PFC Frank C. Witmer, Jr., in LEINSWEILER.

\*\*\* War News \*\*\*

30 March—Fighting goes on around MANNHEIM between the US 7th Army and the German 1st Army.

31 March—During the night General De Lattre de Tassigny, Commander of the French 1st Army, opens an offensive across the Rhine in the area of GERMERSHEIM.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—[The plan for the final battle was this :] The 410th Infantry was to attack through the 411th Infantry to seize Phase Line S, an east-west line through LANDAU, capturing the city. Thereafter the 410th Infantry was to be prepared to attack to the Rhine River.

The 3rd Army and the 7th Army were moving so swiftly in the forging of the SAAR trap that plans could not be made far in advance. The 410th's mission of capturing ERLLENBACH was to close the jaws on the trapped enemy. The 3rd Bn of the 410th and the 3rd Bn of the 411th jumped off at 0800 22 March 45 to drive through the West Wall, through the mountains to the open country, and then race to the Rhine. Slowly at first, and then more rapidly, the troops by-passed and smashed the bunkers of the Wall. At 1645, the 3rd Bn of the 411th captured ERLLENBACH. At 2030 the 3rd Bn of the 410th closed in the vicinity of the town after cleaning up hills and forts on the flank.

## Narrative Of Operations

Third Bn, 410th Infantry

103rd Division

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

Verbal orders through the Chief of Staff (Division) received at 0740 on 23 March 45 called for the 410th's CO to move out his leading foot troops without delay in pursuit of the disorganized enemy.

The 3rd Bn, hand-carrying its heavy weapons, moved out at 0950 towards VORDERWEIDENTHAL heading towards GOSSERSWEILER. At 1245 the 3rd Bn captured an entire German artillery Bn, with four 155mm howitzers, all personnel and equipment.

At 1435 the regimental CO ordered the 3rd Bn to make its destination LEINSWEILER and to block all roads to the rear.

March 23 ended with the 3rd Bn at LEINSWEILER, having captured about 500 prisoners. The Battalion had cleared VORDERWEIDENTHAL, GOSSERSWEILER and VOLKERSWEILER. [See Map.] This day marked the complete demoralization of the enemy. All during the day Germans were surrendering in small and large groups. German towns had white flags waving from the windows as American troops raced through and around them. Troops were advancing so rapidly that it was a common sight to see German POWs walking back to POW cages without guards. Rear echelon units were capturing prisoners. A group of 54 Germans was taken by one soldier of the 3rd Bn who dropped out of the column to rest.

On 24 March 45 the 410th was alerted as Task Force to cross the Rhine River at GERMERSHEIM if the bridge there was still

intact. But when word came that the bridge was out, the task force was dissolved. Company I and the 3rd Bn CP remained in LEINSWEILER. The day was spent in care and cleaning of equipment, maintenance of vehicles, cleaning up of roads, and surveying all the captured and destroyed enemy equipment.

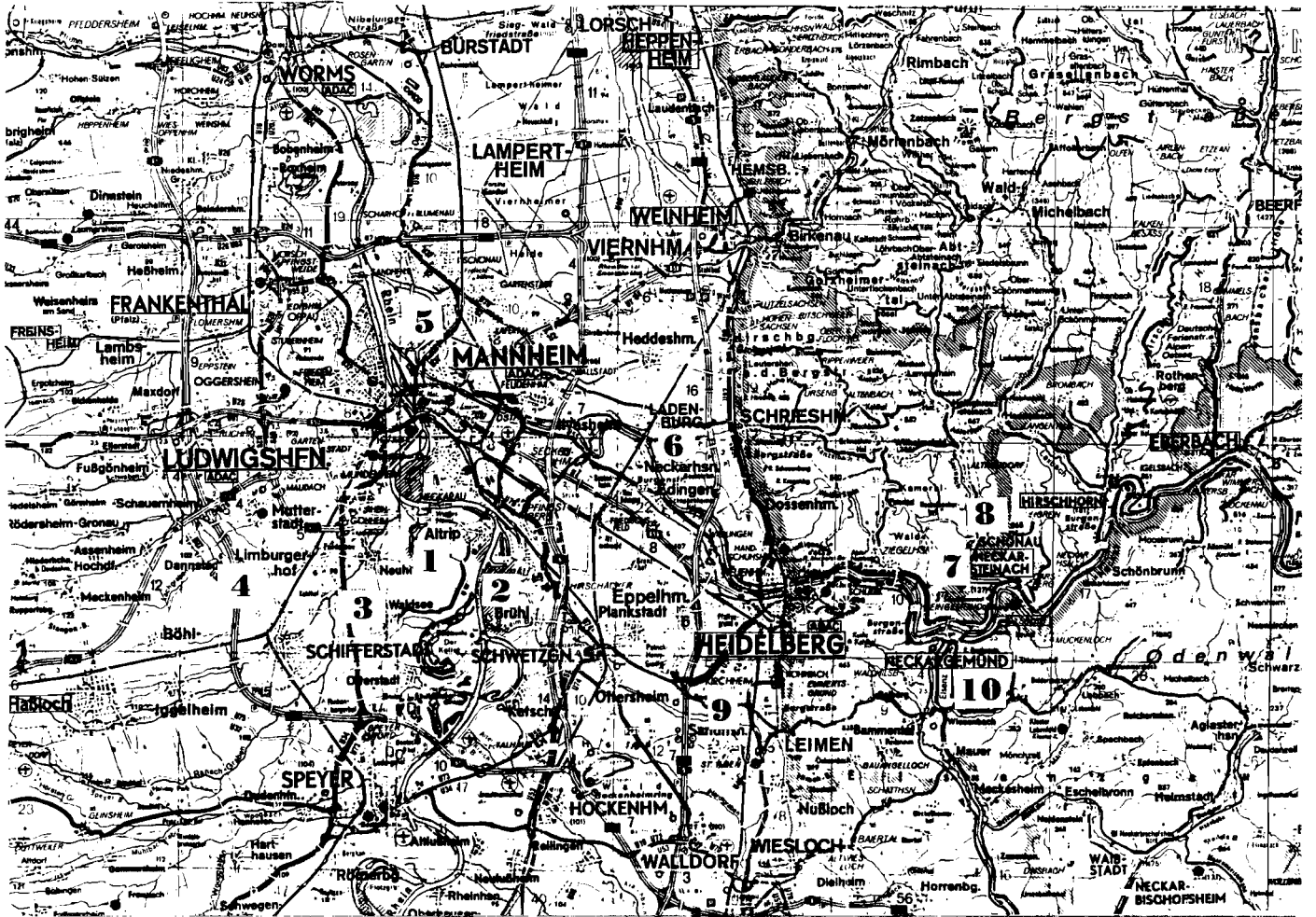
During 25th and 26th March 45, the Regiment was still in reserve, and serving as protection for supply lines in the sector. Enemy troops, hiding in the hills, were still giving themselves up. Patrols enforced non-fraternization rules. 410th personnel were being billeted in houses in a segregated part of the towns in which they were located. Curfew hours were established for civilians.

On 28 March 45 the Regiment made preparations to relieve part of the 71st Division along the Rhine. After completion of the relief by 1200 on the 29 March 45, the 410th was to defend its sector with minimum forces, maintaining a maximum of reserves. Each front-line battalion was to conduct one patrol per night across the Rhine River.

The 3rd Bn with its CP at WALDSEE, closed in its new area by 2345. Companies I and K were on line, [along the river at ALTRIP.] [See Map.] Ten rounds of enemy artillery fire landed in Company I's area at 1300. A patrol consisting of seven men crossed the Rhine at midnight in an assault boat to determine enemy occupation of the east side of the Rhine. The patrol found enemy entrenchments unoccupied.

As the month of March ended, the Regiment continued outpostting the Rhine River, and conducted searches of buildings in its zone for enemy personnel, arms and equipment.

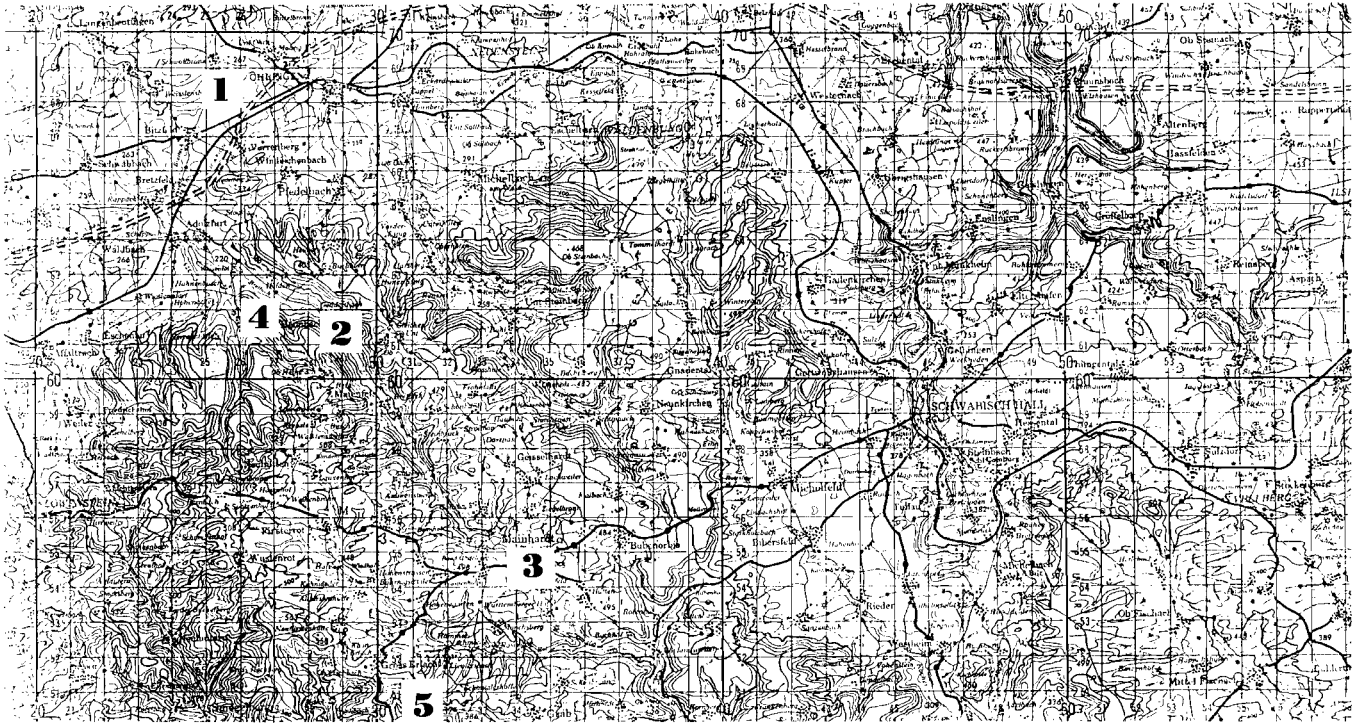
Map M – Heidelberg



Map Index :

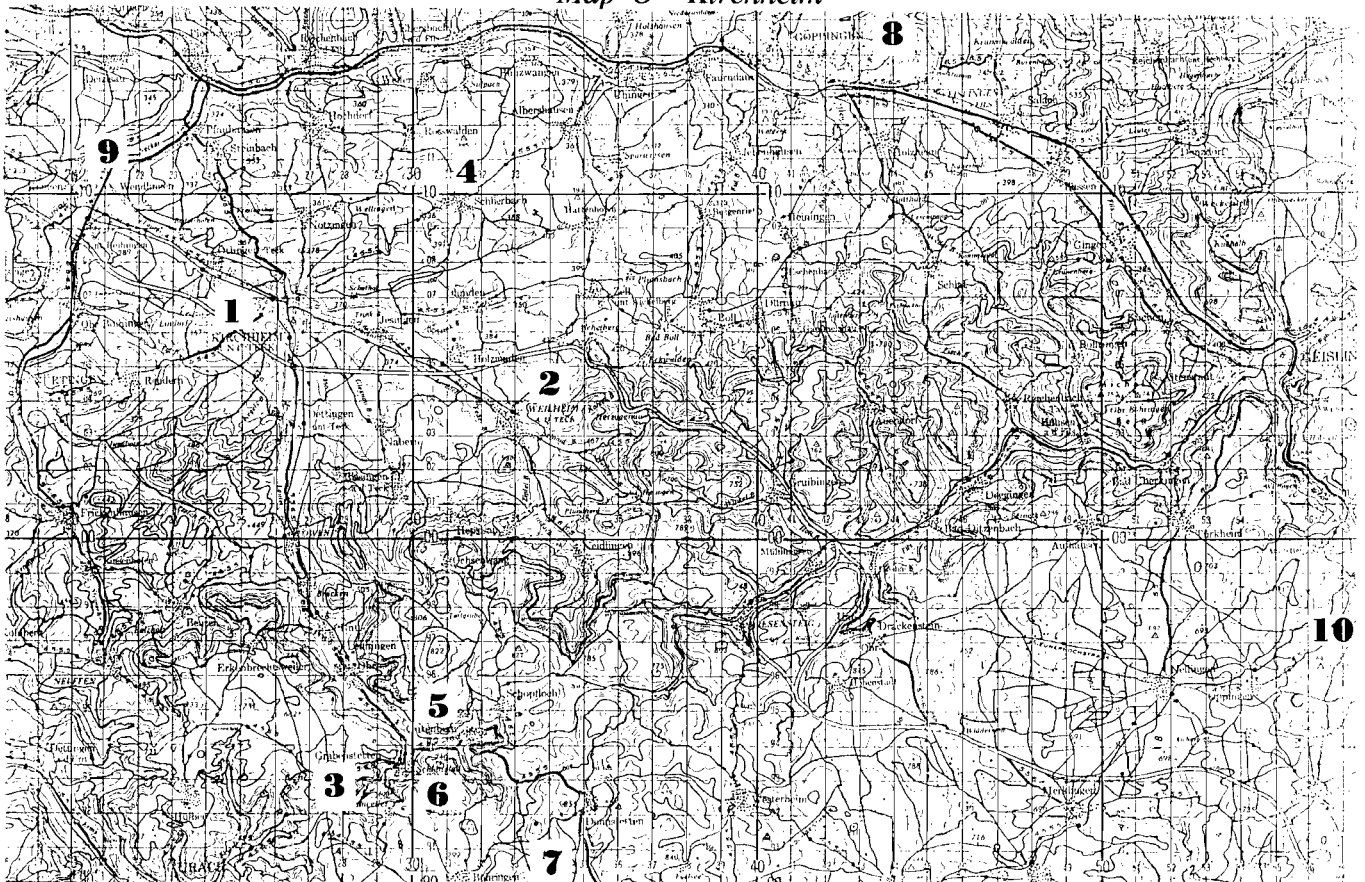
- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Altrip       | 6. Neckar River        |
| 2. Rhine River  | 7. Neckarsteinach      |
| 3. Waldsee      | 8. Schönau             |
| 4. Limburgerhof | 9. Kirchheim-am-Neckar |
| 5. Mannheim     | 10. Neckargemünd       |

Map N – Öhringen



Map Index : 1. Öhringen 2. Geddelsbach 3. Mainhardt 4. Brettach River 5. Nach Kirchheim

Map O – Kirchheim



Map Index : 1. Kirchheim 2. Weilheim 3. Grabenstetten 4. Schlierbach 5. Gutenberg  
6. Schlattsall 7. Böhringen 8. Göppingen 9. Neckar River 10. Nach Lonsee

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—As the month of April 45 opened, the Regiment continued outposting the Rhine River. Plans were made on the 1st of April 45 for movement to new areas in accordance with plans which called for the 103rd Division to prepare to garrison, police, and support Military Government in its area.

The Hollywood star, Marlene Dietrich, entertained troops of the 3rd Bn during the morning of 2 April 45. On the same morning, time was moved forward one hour.

Elements of the 410th Combat Team began a movement to the new area at 1400. The 410th CP was at ANNWEILER. [See Map.] The 3rd Bn CP was at DAHN; Company I's CP was in FISCHBACH; Company K's CP was at DAHN; Company L's CP was at BUNDENTHAL; and Company M's CP was at HINTER WEIDENTHAL. Civilian passes were left to the discretion of Battalion Commanders. Screening of civilians commenced.

### Narrative Of Operations

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

Houses were searched. Curfews were set. Road blocks were posted. Enforcement of all provisions of Military Government began.

On 3 April 45, a platoon of the 410th investigated Castle Trifels on a hill overlooking ANNWEILER. This famous castle was Richard the Lion Hearted's prison for 12 years on his return from the Crusades, and also served at the [repository] for the Crown Jewels when Germany had Emperors—[The Holy Roman Empire.]

The 3rd Bn reported at 1830 that the schoolhouse at DAHN was full of [German] Army blankets and rations. The 410th's Ammunition Officer reported that anything above the size of 20mm German ammunition was not to be moved. The same applied to TNT and hand grenades.

On 6 April 45 orders were issued for the 103rd Division to move across the Rhine commencing 7 April 45 to garrison, police and support the [American] Military Government (AMG) in its new area.

A 410th Combat Team (CT) moved across the Rhine to begin garrison operations in an area in the 7th Army's rear.

The route of travel was HAFFLOCH-MACHENHEIM-MUSEENSTADT and across the river at MANNHEIM, [See Map.] The 410th CP was at SCHRIESHEIM, the 3rd BN's CP was at SCHONAU, while I Company was in NECKARSTEINACH; Company K was in HIRSCHHORN; Co. L was in OBER-FLOCKENBACH and Co. M was in WILHELMSFELD. [ See Map .] Part of Company I was ordered to guard HEIDELBERG !

### Excerpts From Letters-April, 1945

By John Landolfi, Company I

(April 1)—"I was on a jeep patrol with SGT [John E.] Mack and we were shot at by a sniper. In order to find the sniper we kept circling to draw his fire again until a bazooka buddy saw him in a church steeple and blew him up."

(April 2)—"We were in a reserve or rest area again and we saw a U.S.O. show and saw Marlene Dietrich in person."

(April 4)—"We were on the line again and it was quiet on the front. The SGT spots some sheep and calls for mortar fire to chase the sheep around. CRAZY! My letter that day was missing three pages, probably destroyed or censored by LT [Joseph] Keough. That night I drew post duty 8 miles from the town we were in."

(April 5)—"While on line SGT Mack and I had a close one. A shell landed very near to us and blew debris at us but we weren't hurt. Later on at night, SGT Mack and I were relieved [from duty] and returned to our house to eat. I remember giving a little girl some of our rations and candy."

( April 6-7)—"How are you all feeling? As for me, I'm doing O.K, except I'll be busy again. I left the place I was about two days ago, and I am now on the other side of the Rhine. We took over a castle to sleep in last night. A baroness owns it and was living in it, but our first sergeant had her move out.

The castle is 300 years old or better. I saw some old paintings and a very old chair like you see nobles sit in, in the movies. I also saw very old swords and guns. This morning I was in the high tower in the castle. It gives you a nice view of the valley around the castle."

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 9 April 45 at 1615 there was a riot in HEIDELBERG between Displaced Personnel (DPs) and German civilians. Company G was sent to quell it, but reported everything under control shortly after arrival on the scene.

The CO of Company F captured a Doctor Walter in the hospital at WEISLOCH, [13 Km. South of HEIDELBERG-See Map.] Papers found in a locked pedestal proved him a high-ranking Nazi in charge of 'sterilization and race culture' for this district of Germany. A list showing the doctors in charge of the other eight districts was unearthed also. The doctor was turned over to the Civil Affairs authorities. On 10 April 45 the 3rd Bn reported finding a shoe factory with thousands of pairs of shoes. Owing to the lack of facilities for handling the large number of DPs who could not be evacuated immediately, the 410th maintained supervision over housing and feeding them.

Guarding The Records  
At The University  
Of Heidelberg  
By Bob Quinn, Company I

Each morning our platoon reported for 'Guard Duty' at the Registrars' Office of the University of Heidelberg. Our mission was to guard the historic records of all the students who had attended classes here since its founding dating back to 1386. It was the oldest in Germany.]

Above the doorway chiselled in the reddish sandstone was the word; "*Universität*", and it was our duty to stop anyone who came up the four or five steps, and tried to enter the building. Our orders were simple, "Only those with Ike's written permission could enter !" These orders had to be on S.H.A.E.F. stationary and have Eisenhower's signature and specifically mention that permission was granted to inspect the 'records of the university.'

What concise orders to give a group of privates and PFCs ! Were the orders carried out with precision and respect ? Were there many funny looks given by Captains and Colonels to the 'turn-down' of their request to pass the guards and enter the building ?

These were some of the most pleasant experiences of my Army days. The Army expression of R.H.I.P. (Rank has its privileges) came to a complete halt. As a former member of the ASTP program, before being assigned to the Infantry, I took great pleasure in 'putting in their place' many high-ranking officers who were turned down from showing fellow officers around the old buildings of the University.

Guard Duty  
At The Castle  
At Neckarsteinach

By John Landolfi, Company I

April 11-12--I was on Guard duty outside of the castle when I saw a moving light in a cellar opening. Lo and behold, I saw SGT. Walters getting bottles of wine from a huge wine rack. This made me smack my lips. When SGT. [John E.]Mack came to check on me, I told him what I saw.

We then decided to have our party but there were two bars on the window. The SGT. got a Jeep and a chain, he put the Jeep in 4-wheel drive and we pulled the bars out. The SGT. then left to get two more men from the squad. We helped ourselves to many bottles of wine and rum and we passed most of it among the Company and buddies. We certainly didn't feel any pain after that! Oh, Yeah !

I looked up [PFC Joseph] Zammerelli who was from Providence, my home city, and gave him some bottles for him and his buddies. Joe was a replacement in the 2nd platoon. We had become close friends since a week after I was wounded. He read my name on the casualty list and looked me up the first chance he could.

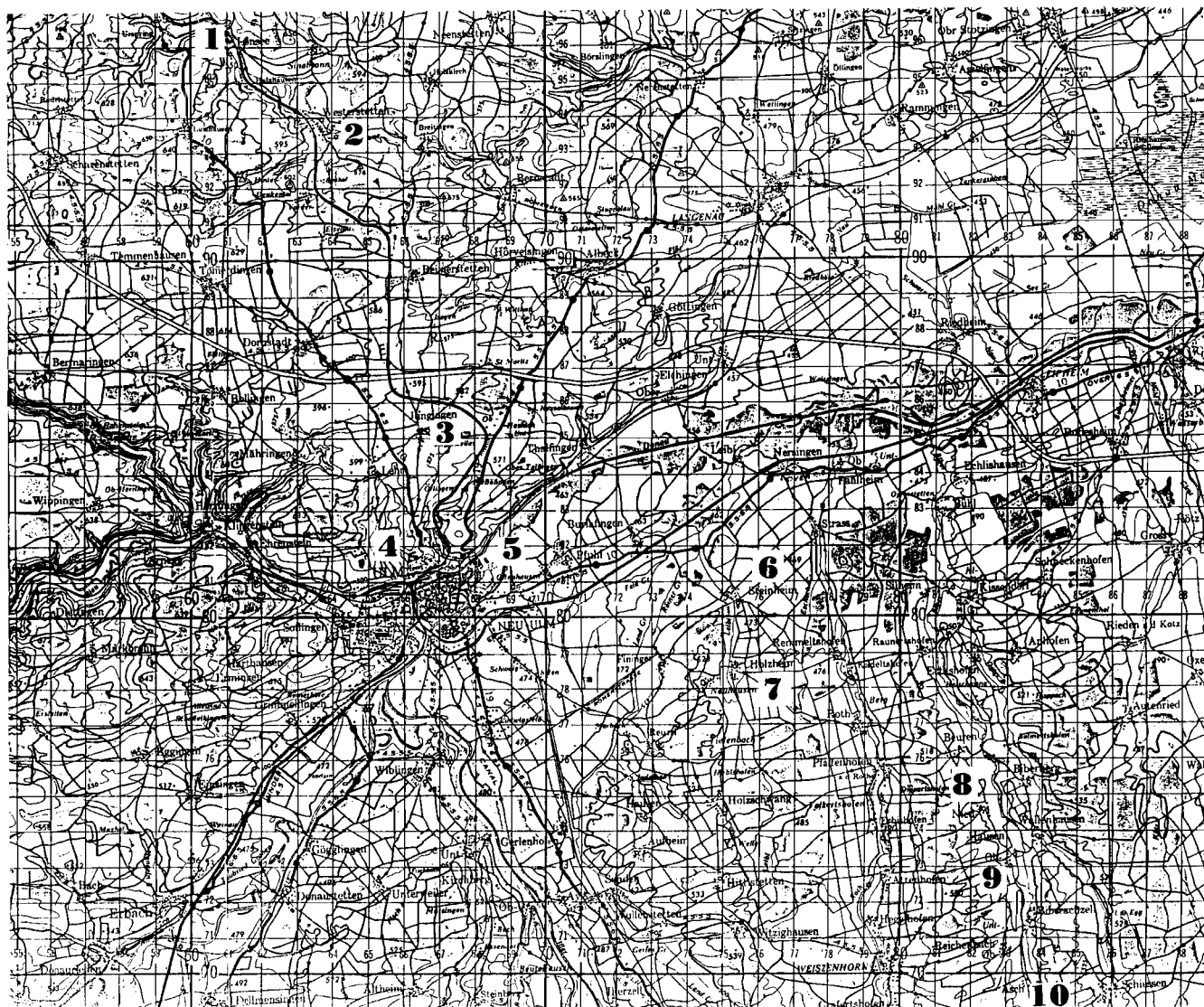
After exchanging a few words I found out he was a brother of a classmate of mine. We used to check on each other after any fight. I believe that night there, we had a new president, [Harry Truman.]

[Joe Zammerelli died in 1990.]

[The castle is part of the Vierburgenstadt complex, called the Schadeck, which dates from the 12th Cent., and is owned by a German baron.]



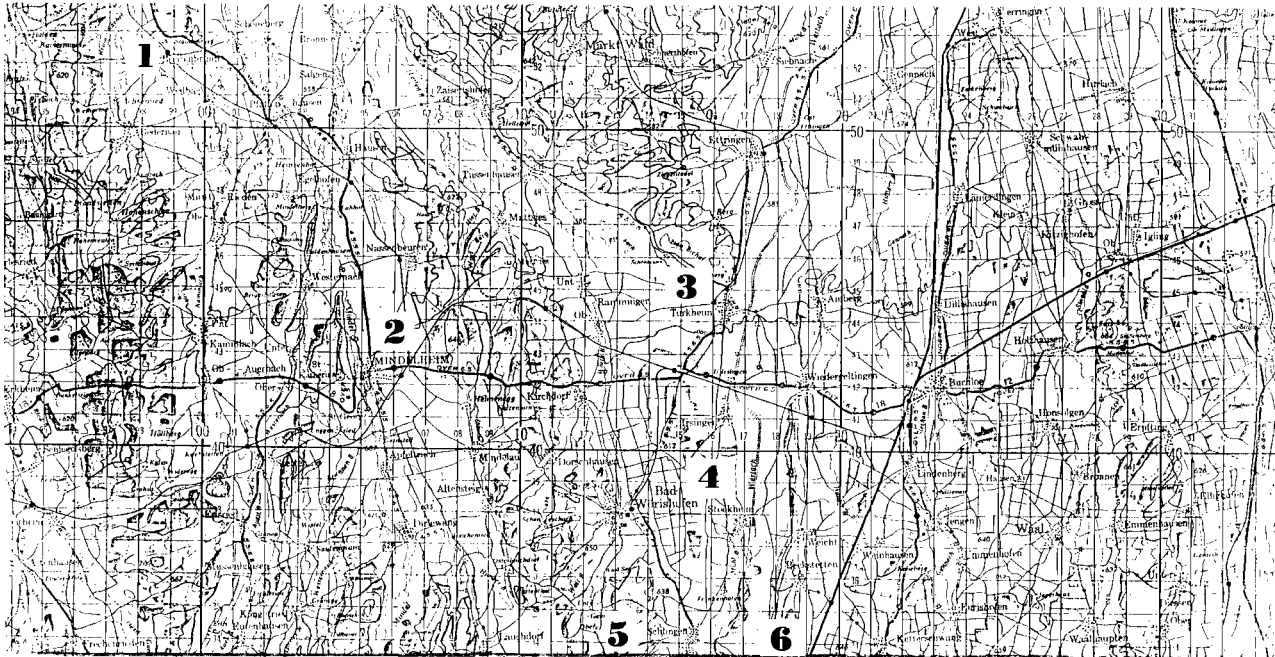
Map P - Ulm



Map Index :

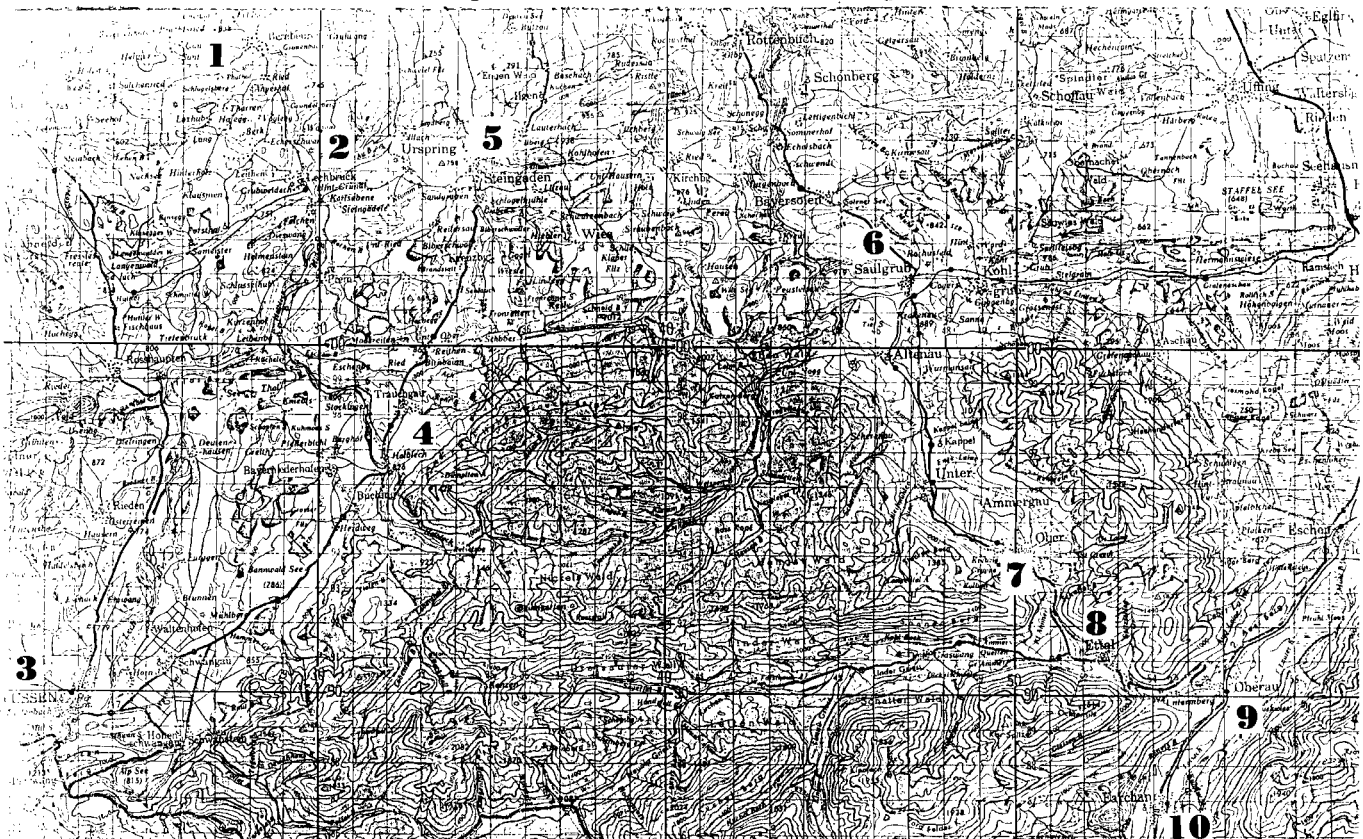
- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lonsee        | 6. Steinheim          |
| 2. Westerstetten | 7. Holzheim           |
| 3. Jungingen     | 8. Niederhausen       |
| 4. Ulm           | 9. Oberhausen         |
| 5. Danube River  | 10. To Bad Wörishofen |

*Map Q – Bad Wörishofen*



Map Index : 1.Breitenbrunn 2.Mindelheim 3.Turkheim 4.Bad Wörishofen 5.Slingen 6. To Lechbruck

*Map R : Lechbruck – Oberammergau*



Map Index :

1. Bernbeuron 2. Lechbruck 3. Füssen 4. Trauchgau 5. Steingaden  
 6. Saulgrub 7. Oberammergau 8. Ettal 9. Oberau 10. To Garmisch-Partenkirchen

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—There was no change in troop dispositions on 11 April 45 and 12 April 45. The 410th continued the garrison, police and support of the Military Government. Company I checked all barges on the Neckar River in their area.

On 13 April 45 plans were made to carry out the protection of supply installations, security railroads, main supply roads, petroleum pipe lines, and critical signal installations. The 410th was to gather into a Displaced Persons Center, all DPs who were migrating or disorderly, or were security hazards. The disarming and policing of civilians as requested by the Military Government would be conducted.

During the early morning of 14 April 45, two bombs were dropped by an enemy plane in the vicinity of the bridge site between HEIDELBERG and NEUNHEIM. At 2315 another plane fired MG bursts at the same location.

### Notebook

1 April 45. Sunday. [PVT Willard W.] Glover-RTU. [PFC Charles] Reed-DY to TD. [PFC] Hennessey-DY to TD. [PVT William G.] Corbett-RTU. Remained in ALTRIP.

2 April 45. Relieved by F Co., 410th Inf. at 0830. Left ALTRIP and travelled by truck to LIMBURGERHOF-[See Map-9 km. South of LUDWIGSHAFEN.] Distance covered—3 miles.

3 April 45. Moved from LIMBURGERHOF to FISCHBACH and occupied towns of SCHÖNAU and FISCHBACH. [Company] patrolled towns of HIRSCHTHAL, GEBÜG, PETERSBÄCHEL, and LUDWIGSWINKEL. Distance travelled—35 miles. [See Map. Towns are north of France-German border.]

4 April 45. In FISCHBACH.

5 April 45. [PFC Charles H.] White-TD to DY. [PFC John L.] Vidrine-TD to DY. [PFC] Fudge-RTU. Replacements: [PVT John J.] King; [PVT Ernest A.] Carroll; [PVT Lloyd C.] Burkhardt; [PVT Stanley J.] Rosenberg; [PVT Carroll H.] Latham; [PVT Irvan] Sollanek; [PVT John T.] Rostock. [PFC Edward] Stachura-DY to TD. [SGT Stanley I.] Anderson-DY to TD.

6 April 45. In FISCHBACH. No Change.

7 April 45. Saturday. [PFC Charles] Reed and [PVT Pat] Hennessey-TD to DY. Company left FISCHBACH at 1600.

### Notebook

8 April 45. Company moved by motor march to NECKARSTEINACH. Distance travelled—60 miles. [See Map, located East of HEIDELBERG.]

9 April 45. No Change. [T/5] Dwight-DY to TD. [PFC] Roberts-DY to TD.

10 April 45. No Change. [T/4 Roy V. Jr.] Erwin-DY to SK.

11 April 45. [PFC Clarence E.] Byerley-RTU. [CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca-RTU. [PFC Fred L.] Jais-RTU. [PVT Guy P.] Riddle-RTU. [SGT Stanley I.] Anderson-TD to DY. [PFC Edward A.] Stachura-TD to DY.

12 April 45. [T-4 George C.] Steele-Medic assigned.

13 April 45. [PFC] Daubert-DY to TD. [PFC Addison C.] Funk-DY to TD. [2nd. LT Leon E.] Baker--DY to TD.

14 April 45. No change. Remained in NECKARSTEINACH.

15 April 45. [PFC] Roberts- TD to DY. [PFC] Dwight-TD to DY.

16 April 45. Left NECKARSTEINACH at 0900 and moved by motor march to KIRCHHEIM. Arrived at this town and assigned mission of guarding military installations, designated by American Military Government.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—On 16 April 45, the 3rd Bn CP moved to NECKARSTEINACH. Company I relieved the MP platoon at the library in HEIDELBERG. There was no change in troop disposition on 17 April 45. Division Orders of 18 April 45 ordered the 103rd, upon relief from its present security mission, to move to an assembly area south of ÖHRINGEN to prepare for commitment to action. [ÖHRINGEN was 20 km. NE of HEILBRONN. See Map.]

The 410th received word at 1200 that the Division was back in the 6th Corps. Verbal orders were received from Division at 2140 18 April 45 that the 410th would move at 1400 on 19 April 45. Sixty 'ducks' were to be supplied for the move. There would be 10 minutes between march units. The route would be across the bridge at HEIDELBERG, then east to NECKARGEMUND, then south to SINSHEIM. Division order # 82, stated the 410th Infantry was to pass through elements of the 44th Division in its zone.

### Notebook

17 April 45. No Change. [Remained in KIRCHHEIM.]

18 April 45. Received 10 replacements. [PFC] Haas-RTU. [PFC Arthur B.] Crossan-RTU. [PVT William F.] Ridsdale-RTU. [S/SGT Harry R.] Zunker-RTU. [CAPT Charles H.] Thompson-DY to TD.

19 April 45. [PFC] Funk-TD to DY. [PFC] Daubert-TD to DY. Left KIRCHHEIM at 0530 and moved by motor march to GEDDELSBACH. Distance travelled—50 miles. [See Map. GEDDELSBACH is 10 km. SE of ÖHRINGEN on the Brettach River.]

20 April 45. Left GEDDELSBACH at 1600 and moved by motor march to WEILHEIM. Distance travelled—25 miles. [See Map. WEILHEIM is 10 km. SE of KIRCHHEIM.]

21 April 45. [PFC Clarence E.] Byerley-DY to SK. [PFC] Kasten-DY to TD. [PFC] Klahr-DY to TD. Left WEILHEIM and moved by foot to KIRCHHEIM. Set up perimeter defense around town. Distance travelled—7 miles.

22 April 45. [PFC] Fudge-DY to SK. Self-Inflicted Wound—SIW. Left KIRCHHEIM and moved by motor march to SCHLIERBACH. Distance travelled—5 miles.

23 April 45. [PFC Lawrence E.] Cook-AWOL as of 22 April 45. [PVT Arnulfo G.] Reyna-WIA. Left SCHLIERBACH at 0630 and moved by motor march to GUTENBERG and

### National Archives

The initial attack was in the vicinity of PLUDERHAUSEN, and then the 410th was to be prepared to attack in the vicinity of KIRCHHEIM. The 410th CP opened at WEILHEIM at 2100 on 20 April 45.

The 3rd Bn moved out of its CP at GEDDELSBACH at 1600 to push with utmost speed. As the day ended the Bn was moving by motor from LORCH towards UHINGEN. All elements of the Combat Team (CT) were moving by motor as far as possible with plans to continue the attack after detrucking. The 103rd Division, which was to clean up after the 10th Armored Division, was pushing forward with utmost speed because of reports of infiltration behind the 10th Armored.

The 3rd Bn CP opened at 0400 at UHINGEN and started for KIRCHHEIM where the CP opened at 1820. There the Bn relieved elements of the 10th Armored Division and established positions protecting the Division's right flank. At 1920 a column of German [troops] five miles long was reported closing in on KIRCHHEIM. Allied airpower was called for and wreaked havoc with the enemy column. By the end of the day the BN had advanced 10 km. in the sector against light opposition. The day brought hundreds of [the enemy] into POW status.

On 23 April 45 the 3rd Bn moved by motor to GUTENBERG. [See Map.] At 1345 the Bn pushed on to clear the road from GUTENBERG to GRABENSTETTEN, sweeping the woods north of SCHLATTSTALL. After meeting resistance in the woods, the Bn held up against an enemy counter-attack. It was revealed that OCS candidates fighting in their own maneuver grounds were opposing the Battalion.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—Late in the day of 23 April 45 the 3rd Bn pulled back in the vicinity of GUTENBERG. During that same day Congresswoman Claire Boothe Luce, NY, [wife of Henry R. Luce, publisher of Time and Life magazines,] visited the 410th CP in GUTENBERG.

On 24 April 45, the 410th Regiment continued to advance toward the southeast against light opposition. The 3rd Bn moved out of BOHRINGEN at 0515 to attack MUNSINGEN from the west. During the early part of 25 April, the RCT was moving to an assembly area southeast of GEISLINGEN. The 3rd Bn left GUTENBERG at 0200 and opened at LONSEE at 0445, the Bn CP moved to WESTERSTETTEN at 0930. [See Map.]

At 1200 the Bn started a foot movement, capturing JUNGINGEN at 1705. From there the 3rd Bn sent out patrols to cover the north side of the Danube River.

### The Blue Danube

By Bob Quinn, Company I

I first saw the Danube River from the last seat on the right side of a 6x6 truck. I could see the ULM cathedral out the back, the tallest church in Germany and could peer around the canvas to see the pontoon bridge and the 'brownest river'—not the Blue Danube. [In 1990 I retraced this trip and found out the ULM MUNSTER was a Lutheran, not a Catholic Church.]

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The RCT crossed the Danube on 26 April 45. The 3rd Bn moved out at 1230 to cross the [pontoon] bridge. Among the towns it cleared were STEINHEIM and HOLZHEIM. The Bn's CP was at NEIDERHAUSEN. At the close of the day the units had advanced 18 km. against light opposition.

103rd Division orders dated 27 April 45 called for the Division to continue the advance southeast, passing through elements of the 10th Armored Division in the direction of SAULGRUB. The RCT was to continue its present mission, seizing the initial [6th] Corps objective in the zone : the mountains east of OBERAMMERGAU and to block roads in the vicinity of GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN.

The 410th Infantry continued to attack southeast on 27 April 45 with the 1st Bn leading, the 2nd Bn following on the right and the 3rd Bn on the left. The 3rd Bn was motorized and moved out at 0300. In the vicinity of BAD WÖRISHOFEN the 3rd Bn captured an enemy hospital including a medical Bn and 4000 wounded enemy soldiers. As the day closed the 3rd Bn CP was at SCHLINGEN. [See Map.]

### Notebook

23 April 45. (cont.) prepared to attack SCHLATTSTALL. Distance travelled by motor—20 miles. [See Map. Located 13 km. NE of BAD URACH.]

24 April 45. Withdrew from SCHLATTSTALL at 0100 to vicinity of SCHLIERBACH. Left there at 0520 and moved by foot march to BÖHRINGEN. Distance travelled—5 miles.

25 April 45. Left BÖHRINGEN at 0100 and moved by motor march to LONSEE. [See Map.] Distance travelled—65 miles. Left LONSEE at 0830 and moved by foot march to WESTERSTETTEN. Distance travelled—2 miles. Left WESTERSTETTEN at 1345 and moved by foot march to JUNGINGEN. Distance travelled—9 miles. [CAPT Charles H.] Thompson-TD to DY. [PVT Carl E.] Sams-DY to SK.

26 April 45. [PVT Salvatore ] Prevete joined Company. Moved into attack from JUNGINGEN at 1245. Crossed Danube River on pontoon-bridge at ULM, and continued attack to NIEDERHAUSEN. Captured 17 prisoners. Distance travelled by foot—15 miles.

27 April 45. [2nd LT Robert J.] O'Leary-DY to SK. [PVT] Dingler-DY to SK-1 gunshot wound. Left NEIDERHAUSEN at 0300 and moved by foot march to OBERHAUSEN. Distance covered—2 miles. Moved into attack in motorized column at 0500 and continued to BAD WÖRISHOFEN. [See Map.] Distance travelled—50 miles. Captured 162 EM and 4 officers.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—The Regimental Combat Team (RCT) continued its southeasterly attack on 28 April 45. The Lech River was reached at LECHBRUCK and found both bridges in the zone out. Reconnaissance during the day brought in more than 500 prisoners, but revealed no site at which the river could be crossed. The 3rd Bn advanced to BERNBEUREN.

At 1135 on 29 April 45 the 410th started movement across the Lech River. The 3rd Bn closed into TRAUCHGAU at 1600. The 410th CP opened at PREM at 1630. The quartering party captured a brigadier general and his staff of officers in PREM. On the 30th of April 45 the 3rd Bn conducted reconnaissance on forward routes [to GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN] but found none through the mountains. German planes strafed towns in the area. The 3rd Bn remained in the TRAUCHGAU area on 30 April 45.

### Notebook

28 April 45. Left BAD WÖRISHOFEN and moved into attack in motorized column at 0330. Travelled to BERNBEUREN. Distance travelled—50 miles.

29 April 45. [PVT Albert G.] Quick-DY to SK, as of 28 April. Left BERNBEUREN at 1215 and moved into attack to TRAUCHGAU. Distance travelled—7 miles. [See Map.]

30 April 45. No Change. Company remained in TRAUCHGAU.

1 May 45. Tuesday. [PVT Harold G.] Brock-DY to SK, as of 24 April. [PVT Harold G.] Brock-SK to DY. Left TRAUCHGAU at 1600 and moved by motor march to OBERAMMERGAU. Distance travelled—19 miles.

2 May 45. [PFC Addison C.] Funk-DY to SK, as of 1 May. Left OBERAMMERGAU at 1700 and moved by motor march to GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN. Distance travelled—15 miles.

3 May 45. Left GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN at 1130 and moved by motor march to MITTENWALD. Distance travelled—12 miles.

4 May 45. [PFC Robert] Peifer-DY to SK-SIW. Left MITTENWALD and moved by motor march to INNSBRUCK. Distance travelled—25 miles. CP, 1st and 4th platoons left INNSBRUCK by motor march for MUTTERS. Distance—6 miles.

### The Capture Of Oberammergau

By Bob Quinn, Company I

About 3 kilometers north of OBERAMMERGAU, the trucks that brought Company I from TRAUCHGAU stopped and the 2nd Platoon was called out and was 'selected' to be the point of the advance down the twisted mountain road to the division's objective. My squad was selected to be the 'point' of the platoon and I had my Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) slung low and directed straight ahead.

Every curve in the road brought heightened anxiety to everyone in the platoon. Would we be involved in the last ambush of the war? Why were we walking down the middle of the road? What would happen? After about an hour of quietly advancing, [and praying,] the first houses came into view. Every house displayed a white sheet! Company I had captured OBERAMMERGAU, home of the *Passionsspielhaus*.

### Company I Casualties

April, 1945

[From The NATIONAL ARCHIVES]

PVT Arnulfo G. Reyna—WIA on April 24 near SCHLIERBACH.

PVT Harold G. Brock—(Non-Battle) on April 24.

T/4 Roy V. Erwin, Jr.—N/B—On April 10.  
PFC Bobby G. Graggs—N/B—On April 4.

S/SGT William Jacobie—N/B—On Apr. 5.  
1st LT Robert O'Leary—N/B—On Apr. 27.  
PVT Albert C. Quick—N/B—On April 29.  
PVT Carl E. Sams—N/B—On April 26.

**Report After Action**—The 409th Infantry pressed eastward from INNSBRUCK to the Inn River town of WORGL. The 411th RCT raced more than 40 miles south to seize BRENNER PASS at 0150 on 4 May 45 without opposition. Continuing south into Italy contact was made with the Fifth Army's 88th Infantry Division at COLLE ISARCO, about eight miles south of BRENNER, at 1051.

On 5 May 45 history-making news again broke in the Division's area. In INNSBRUCK the German 19th Army surrendered unconditionally that afternoon. With a flick of his pen, scowling LT. GEN. Erich Brandenberger put into Allied hands the provinces of Tirol, Vorarlberg, and Allegau, and a portion of the Salzburg province. Gen. Brandenberger signed first. MAJ. GEN. Edward H. Brooks, VI Corps commander, followed. The terms read that at 1800 hours, May 5, all firing would cease.

## The End Of The War

By John Landolfi, Company I

May 5—(Austrian Alps.) We were on the frontline, and would you believe it, we had open fires and the Germans were surrendering to us all night. In my letter home I told Lottie [that] the war was over in Europe. As you know it was officially over at 0001, on 9 May 45.

## Notebook

4 May 45. (Cont.) 3rd Platoon left INNSBRUCK at 1130 and moved by motor march to NATTERS. [See Map.] Distance travelled—5 miles. 2nd Platoon left INNSBRUCK at 1130 and moved by motor march to GÄRBEBACH. Distance travelled—1 mile.

5 May 45. No change. CP, 1st and 4th Platoons remained in MUTTERS. 2nd Platoon outposted in NATTERS. 3rd Platoon outposted to GÄRBEBACH.

6 May 45. No Change.

7 May 45. CP, 1st and 4th Platoons moved to ZEUXENHOF and set up one road block. 2nd Platoon moved to MUTTERS. Distance travelled—5 miles. 3rd Platoon remained in GÄRBEBACH.

8 May 45. [PFC John C.] Smith-RTU. [PFC John C.(Jr.)] Osmond-RTU. [PVT Earl J.] Moore-RTU. [PVT George E. (Jr.)] Wade-RTU. [PVT Robert L.] Gage-RTU.

9 May 45. [PFC Jesse V.] Cox-RTU.

10 May 45. [PFC Melbourne A.] Metcalf-RTU. [PFC Stephen C.(Jr.)] Danel-RTU.

11 May 45. [PFC Bernard] Browne-DY to TD. [PFC Anthony A.] Bravata-DY to TD. [S/SGT Leonard A.] Pitner-DY to TD. [PFC Phillip P.] Donenfeld-DY to TD.

## Notebook

12 May 45. [PVT David] Goldman-RTU. [PVT Carl E.] Sams-RTU. [LT Carroll C.] Cook-TD to DY. [Battlefield Commission.]

13, 14, 15 May 45. No change.

16 May 45. Tuesday. 3rd Platoon moved from NATTERS to LENZENHOF by truck. Distance travelled—3 miles.

17 May 45. [T/5 James R.] McCullister-DY to SK. [PFC] McIntosh-DY to TD.

18 May 45. [SGT Robert T.] Schultz-RTU. [PVT Albert C.] Quick-SK to DY. [PFC Lawrence E.] Cook-AWOL to DY. [PFC John] Landolfi-DY to SK. [PVT Kenneth R.] Jewett-DY to SK.

19 May 45. [S/SGT Charles W.] Orth-RTU. [ ] Dietz-RTU. [PVT John J.] Scott-DY to AWOL.

20 May 45. [PVT John C.] Malone-DY. [PVT Kenneth L.] Gumpert-DY. [PVT Bronislaus] Matulonis-DY. [PVT Ray A.] Marchano-DY. [S/SGT Leonard A.] Pitner-TD to DY. [PFC Phillip P.] Donenfeld-TD to DY. [PVT John J.] Scott-AWOL to DY.

21 May 45. [T/5 James R.] McCullister-SK to DY.

22 May 45. [PFC George W.] Strohl-RTU. [PFC Arthur D.] Lapidis-RTU. [PFC Jose M.] Escamilla-RTU. [PVT Clarence J.] Savoie-RTU. [ ] Johnson-RTU.

23 May 45. [PVT Dale L.] Bucher-DY to TD. [PFC Howard E.] Anderson-DY to TD. [ ] Kunde-DY to TD.

24 May 45. No Change.

25 May 45. [ ] McIntosh-TD to DY. [1st SGT A. R.] Walters-DY to TD (Riviera.) [S/SGT Gerald W.] O'Connell-DY to TD (Riviera.)



**Order Of Battle—U. S. Army—World War II—103rd Infantry Division—**The Division arrived at MARSEILLE France on 20 Oct 44 and relieved the 3rd Inf Div at CHEVRY 8-9 Nov 44. It attacked toward St.DIÉ in the Vosges Mountains 16 Nov 44 and fought through strong opposition to clear the hill mass below the town, crossed the Meurthe River 20-21 Nov 44, and took the evacuated objective of ST. DIÉ the next day with the 409th Inf. The Division then outflanked Steige Pass 23-24 Nov 44, and followed in the wake of the 14th Armored Division towards SÉLESTAT which it helped to clear in house-to-house fighting 2-4 Dec 44. The Division crossed the Zintzel River at GRIESBACH 10 Dec 44 as it fought the battle of MERTZWILLER, overcame rearguard resistance at CLIMBACH, and crossed the Lauter River into Germany on 15 Dec 44.

The Division was the relocated to the SARREGUEMINES area to defend against the German Ardennes Counteroffensive which never reached its sector. On 14 Jan 45 the Division moved to REICHSHOFEN to take over the zone of Task Force Herren (70th Inf Div) along the Sauer River which was accomplished 17 Jan 45. A limited attack by the Division at SOUFFLENHEIM was repulsed 19 Jan 45, and in view of German force concentrations, it withdrew to the Moder River.

The German attacks of 22 Jan 45 forced the Division from OFFWILLER, and the next day the Division was pushed back past ROTHBACH. Further German attacks on BISCHOLTZ and MULHAUSEN were defeated 24-25 Jan 45 and by 26 Jan 45 the Division had cleared SCHILLERSDORF and restored its lines. The division then took over the zone of the 101st A/B Div 5 Feb 45.

### Notebook

26 May 45. [PFC Sam W.] Gentile-RTU [PFC Frank C.(Jr.)] Witmer-RTU. [PFC Charles] Reed-DY to SK. [CPL James (Jr.)] Holt-DY to SK.

27 May 45. [PVT John J.] Scott-DY to Confinement in Regimental Guard House.

28 May 45.[PFC John]Seubold-DY to SK.

29 May 45. [PFC John J.] Zahara-HQ-SP to DY. [PFC John J.] Seubold-SK to DY.

30 May 45. [PFC Donald] Westfield-DY to TD. [S/SGT Floyd] Donaldson-DY to TD. [PFC Clayton] Richardson-DY to TD. [SGT Earl] Cellan-DY to SK. [PFC Charles] Reed-SK to DY.

31 May 45. [PFC Arnold C.] Kunde-TD to DY. [PFC Charles] Anderson-TD to DY. [PVT Dale L.] Bucher-TD to DY. [PFC John] Landolfi-RTU. [PVT Harvey D.] Barker-DY to SK. [PFC Wade W.] Snyder-DY to SK.

1 June 45. [T/5 John] Acres-RTU. [PFC Edward ] Nestor-RTU. [S/SGT William E.] Jacobie-RTU. [PVT Carl E.] Walston-DY to SK.

2 June 45. [PFC Bernard] Brown-TD to DY. [PFC Anthony A.] Bravata-TD to DY.

3 June 45. No Change in positions.

4 June 45. [PFC Tom] Mannone-DY to TD. [LT Leon E.] Baker-DY to TD

5 June 45. Received 2 replacements. [PFC Wade W.] Snyder-SK to DY. [PVT John J.] Scott-Confinement to DY.

### Notebook

6 June 45. [SGT Floyd] Donaldson-TD in Nancy, France (R & R) to DY. [PFC Clayton L.] Richardson-TD in Nancy, France (R & R) to DY. [PFC Donald A.] Westfield-TD in Nancy, France (R & R) to DY.

7 June 45. Company moved by motor to town of ST. LEONHARD at 1045. En route, left the 1st Platoon to billet in WIESE. [Both towns located South of IMST in the PITZAL valley. See Map.] Distance travelled by Company—55 miles.

8 June 45. [PVT Carl E.] Walston-SK to DY. [T/4 Roy V. (Jr.)] Erwin-RTU. [PFC Howard N.] Hansen-RTU.

9 June 45. No Change.

10 June 45. [1st SGT A. R.] Walters-TD to DY. [S/SGT Gerald W.] O'Connell-TD to DY. [PFC Robert] Piefer-RTU. Received 2 replacements. [PFC Charles O.] Reynolds-DY to TD. [PFC Robert E.] Hemminger-DY to TD. [PFC Joseph] Zammerelli-DY to TD. [PVT Dale L.] Bucher-DY to SK. [ ] McDuffie-DY to SK.

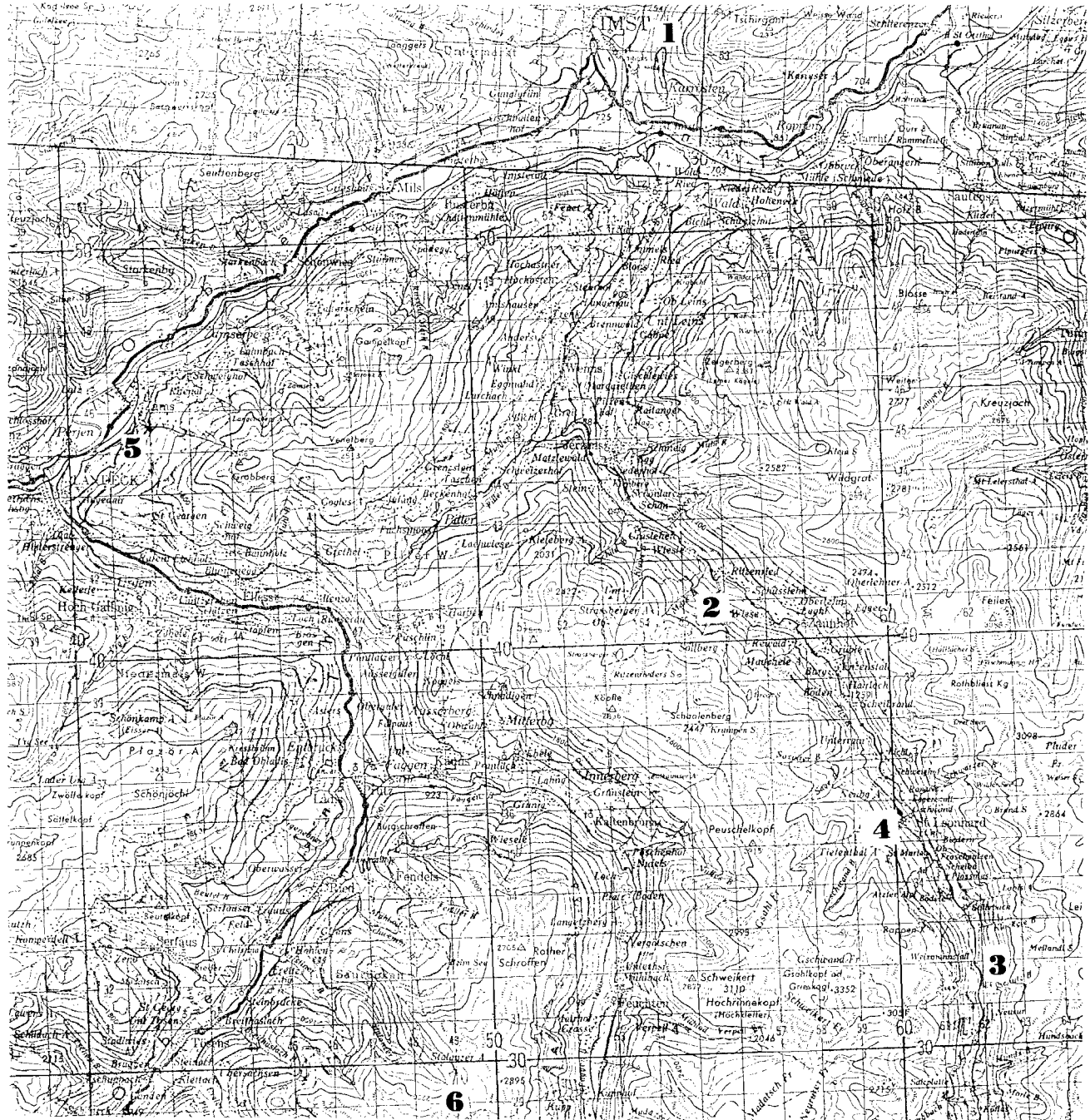
11 June 45. [ ] McDuffie-SK to DY.

12 June 45. Received reinforcements.

13 June 45. [PFC Wilmer M.] Borgen-SK in Hospital to DY. [2nd LT Leon E.] Baker-TD in Nancy, France (R & R) to DY.

14 June 45. [ T/SGT] Slamenski-TD to Division Headquarters. [Last Entry.]

## Map U – Imst To St. Leonhard



### Map Index :

1. Imst

4. St. Leonhard

2. Wiese

5. Landeck – German Headquarters  
When Innsbruck Surrendered.

3. Pitzal Valley

6. Site Of Recent Discovery Of Skeleton Of  
Prehistoric Man – ca. 4000 B.C.



# Waffenstillstand

EGÜLTIG FÜR EINEN ODER MEHRERE ÜBERBRINGER.

Der deutsche Soldat, der diesen Passierschein vorzeigt, bringt ihm als Zeichen seines ehrlichen Willens, sich zu ergeben. Er ist zu entwaffnen. Er muß gut behandelt werden. Er hat Anspruch auf Verpflegung und, wenn nötig, ärztliche Behandlung. Er wird so bald wie möglich aus der Gefangenschaft entlassen.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
Oberbefehlshaber  
der Alliierten Streitkräfte

English: Übersetzung nachstehend. Sie dient als Anweisung an die alliierten Streitkräfte.

# SAFE CONDUCT

(VALID FOR ONE OR SEVERAL BEARERS)

The German soldier who carries this safe conduct is using it as a sign of his genuine wish to give himself up. He is to be disarmed, to be well looked after, to receive food and medical attention as required, and to be removed from the danger zone as soon as possible.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
Dwight D. EISENHOWER  
Supreme Commander  
Allied Expeditionary Force

# Kriegsgefangenenrechts

(Laut Haager Konvention 1907, Genfer Konvention 1929)

1. Vom Augenblick der Übergabe an gelten deutsche Soldaten\* als Kriegsgefangene und unterstehen dem Schutz der Genfer Konvention. Demgemäß wird ihre Soldatenehre vollstens respektiert.
2. Kriegsgefangene haben so bald wie möglich zu Sammelstellen gebracht zu werden, die weit genug von der Gefangenschaft entfernt sind, um ihre persönliche Sicherheit zu gewährleisten.
3. Sie erhalten dieselbe Verpflegung in Qualität und Quantität wie Angehörige der alliierten Seeere und werden, falls krank oder verwundet, in denselben Lazaretten behandelt wie alliierte Truppen.
4. Ehrenzeichen und Wertpapiere sind den Kriegsgefangenen zu belassen. Geld kann nur von Offizieren der Sammelstellen abgenommen werden, wofür eine Empfangsbescheinigung ausgestellt wird.
5. In den Kriegsgefangenenlagern haben Schlafräume, Raumberteilung der Unterkunft, Betten und sonstige Anlagen denen der alliierten Garnisonstruppen gleichwertig zu sein.
6. Laut Genfer Konvention dürfen Kriegsgefangene weder Gegenstand von Repressalien, noch der öffentlichen Neugierde preisgegeben werden. Nach Kriegsende werden sie so bald wie möglich nach Hause zurückgeführt.

\* Als Soldaten gelten auf Grund der Haager Konvention (IV, 1907): Alle bewaffneten Personen, die Uniform oder ein von Weitem erkennbares Abzeichen tragen.

## REGELN FÜR DIE GEFANGENNAHME:

Um Missverständnisse bei der Gefangennahme auszuschließen, ist folgendes angezeigt: Waffen weglegen, Helm und Koppel herunter; Hände hochheben und ein Taschentuch oder dieses Flugblatt schwenken.

US/GB-ZG 90-1945

Safe Conduct Pass To All German Soldiers  
Dropped By The Air Corps. (April, 1945)  
(From Armie Marzullo)

## *Final Push*

**103rd Division**—The Division went on the offensive 15 Mar 45 and the next day took ZINSWILLER and OBERBRONN and reached the outskirts of REICHSHOFFEN which fell 17 Mar 45. The Division fought the Battle of NIEDER-SCHLETTENBACH 18-20 Mar 45 and the Battle for REISDORF 19-21 Mar 45. The Division reached KLINGENMUNSTER and mopped up west of the Rhine River from 22 Mar 45 until it relieved the 71st Inf Div along the Rhine from OPPAU to south of SPEYER 28-29 Mar 45. It then engaged in occupational duty until returned to the front.

The Division started its offensive from KIRCHHEIM on 21 Apr 45 as it followed the advance of the 10th Armored Div and cleared bypassed resistance. By 23 Apr 45 it had closed the German escape routes southeast from STUTTGART, and reached the Danube River northeast of ULM on 25 Apr 45 which it crossed the next day. Continuing to follow the 10th Armored Div, the 411th Inf took LANDSBERG, the 410th Inf reached the Lech River at LECHBRUCK, and the 409 Inf cleared SCHONGAU on 28 Apr 45. The Division began negotiations for the surrender of INNSBRUCK on 2 May 45 as the 409th Inf continued on to reach the Inn River at TELF and ZIRL the following day. On 4 May 45 the Division accepted the formal surrender of INNSBRUCK, as the 411th Inf moved to the Brenner Pass and effected junction with Fifth Army forces from Italy. All hostilities ceased in the Division's sector on 5 May 45 with the surrender of German forces in southern Germany.—[Short history of the Division taken from : **Order Of Battle, U. S. Army, World War II**, published at The Presidio, by Shelby L. Stanton.]

### Three Incidents I Remember Well

by Myron Klimkowicz, Company I

We were well on our way after jumping off March 15, when we were told to dig foxholes at the base of a side road. A German tank pulled up and fired 2 shots point-blank down on us. No one was hit but Reyna couldn't find his foxhole. Maybe it was because I was a few years older than most of the guys, that I kind of looked out for them. [When I realized his danger,] I pulled him down in mine. He was shell-shocked and we never saw him again.

The war was over, and we were in the outskirts of INNSBRUCK. We had to carry our rifles, but had no live ammunition. The company's mail clerk got some and asked me to go hunting with him. I shot a roebuck deer. We tried to load it on a horse, but ended up dragging it back. Later we saw some kids playing and one boy said his mother would cook it. We took it to an apartment house, came back and ate some that evening. It wasn't all that good, not like my mother cooked it, had not been marinated at all. Later we heard that a German General was captured at that same house.

After leaving Innsbruck SGT Walters and I, as his interpreter, began to look for billets for the officers and men. IMST was the place. We found two large stone homes next to each other.

Sarge said, "Tell the occupants to move. The first house agreed, but at the second house the woman said, "The priest lives here!" I told Sarge. Sarge said, "Tell him to move!" The woman said, "But all the birth certificates, baptismal records, First Communion and Confirmation records are in this house."

So Good Old Sarge said to me, "Get that big house across the street instead!" With that, we had billets for the officers and the big house for the men. Later we got a large building for the Mess Hall and Company Headquarters. Corporal Dorner and I slept in a room adjacent to the Mess Hall.

### The Day Robert Higbee Died

By John Landolfi, Company I

We used to take turns to go back to the house to cook ourselves meals from our rations, and go back two or three men at a time. When it was my turn, Higbee and I went back to the house and went upstairs to the second floor. We could see a good view of the field to where we were dug in. I had received a package from home, from my mom, which contained a can of Spam.

Just as I stooped over to light the squad stove, a mortar shell hit into the sill and window. We didn't hear a thing! When I came to, [I don't remember how long I was out], I saw Higbee with

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—1 May 1945—The 3rd Bn will move at 1530 to OBERAMMERGAU. Its route is through STEINGADEN and then across country to the main road, then SE to destination. 2 May 1945—At 1300 an alert for movement to PARTENKIRCHEN. There is a call for quartering Parties for each company. It is reported that there are 250 SS troopers in the area.

3 May 1945—An alert to all companies for move to MINTELHEIM is given at 0925. At 2050 it is announced that a probable move to INNSBRUCK tonight. Trucks may have lights on as far as the N.-S. road. At 2252 it is announced that lights may be used all the way to INNSBRUCK. 4 May 1945—At 0430 the 3rd Bn CP opens in INNSBRUCK. It is ordered that no civilians are to pass roadblocks without pass signed by CIC or AMG. At 1920 it is ordered that lights may be used throughout the town of INNSBRUCK.

## The Day Robert Higbee Died

a hole in his back. I took my sulfa pack and spread it on the wound. I lifted him on my back and carried him downstairs to the cellar and laid him on a bed of potatoes and ran out under heavy fire to find the medics, not realizing that I was wounded also. I returned with George Jackson and a medical team.

They put him on a stretcher and carried him away. The medical LT treated me there and that was when the sergeant came to get me and tell me our mortars were knocked out and [he] needed me. The LT didn't want me to leave because of my concussion and wounds. The Lt remarked that I was a crazy and brave kid to return to the front. The SGT and I ran back to the fields and we each took a gun and just fired our mortars to help repel the Germans. I never knew [until later] that Higbee had died within an hour.

## When I Was Near Death

By Carroll Webster, Company I

When I became conscious after the explosion, I realized I was laying on a litter. I could feel no pain whatsoever, and was so thankful that I had not been abandoned by the Company. I could not move, nor speak, but despite the ringing in my ears, I could hear people talking. Two men, probably medics, picked me up and carried me some distance.

By then the armored outfit that had been following the company was there. I heard someone, probably Sgt. Calfee, ask one of the truck drivers if he would transport some wounded to the Aid Station. The driver quickly agreed. I did not know how many of the wounded were on  
Page 58

## When I Was Near Death

litters, but from the direction of the voices I assumed that I was the only one. This indicated to me that the others were not too badly hurt. [I learned many years later that the truck was an ammo truck and that my litter was resting on cases of tank gun shells].

While I lay near death on the truck I prayed to live twenty more years, so that I could marry my high school sweetheart and raise a family. At that point I could feel blood clogging my windpipe. I tried my best to speak the word, "Air!:" and hoped that other medics would know enough to turn me on my side, so the blood could drain. But to no avail. I gave up and passed out.

*I found myself in a strange, cool tunnel-like structure. The walls were of layered natural flat stones, as was the floor. To the left was darkness. To the right and front was an alcove with two stone steps leading up to it. On the right side of the alcove was a post lintel opening. Beyond I could only see dark blue night sky. Through the portal was a ray of warm bluish light shining diagonally over the stone floor in front of the portal. There was no sound, no voices, no music; and I was alone. I decided not to go up the two steps and through the portal.*

When I regained consciousness again I could breathe much better, even though both lungs were punctured, and I had lost 1500 cc of blood. I could see the first light of dawn.

Furthermore, the Good Lord has seen fit to grant me not twenty years, but fifty years. So, apparently I made the right decision not to go up those two steps and into the light.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**—5 May 1945—At 1402 a message is sent to 410th CP that 3rd Bn has a 'Kraut general' here. At 1811 it is announced that lights may be used anywhere with the Division's zone. 6 May 1945—At 0053 a loaded bus drove through a roadblock, but did not stop. It was headed north towards INNSBRUCK. The CO wants other roadblocks to intercept this bus and capture if possible. At 1814 it was announced that there would be civilians on the street tonight as auxiliary police. They will be identified by white armbands. At 1850 it was announced that 3 caves have been found and one is full of food and liquor. Russians and other DPs are looting the cave.

7 May 1945—At 0840 it was announced that the 'cerise' panels were to be taken off all vehicles. At 1850 it was announced that the men in the parade were to wear 'clean clothes' and would practice tomorrow with the band. 8 May 1945—Close order drills was ordered to begin today. No BARs were to be permitted in the parade, only rifles and carbines. 9 May 1945—Plans were made to have one battalion, composed of various companies of the Regiment, participate in the Division V-E Day Parade in INNSBRUCK. At 1600 the parade was held with the VI Corps Commander, Major General Edward H. Brooks, reviewing.

## Citations Received By Soldiers From Company I, 410th Infantry

### From The **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

RANK	NAME	ASN	HOMETOWN	ACTION	ORDER #
<b>SILVER STAR</b>					
S/SGT	Carl Minnear (Posthumous)	34495763	Gainesboro, TN	29 Nov 1944	# 50 12/10/44
<b>BRONZE STAR</b>					
PFC	Robert D. Quinn	35231340	Akron, OH	16 Nov 44	#64 12/15/44
SGT	Joseph F. Jeffries	35626009	Dayton, OH	28 Nov 44	# 64 12/15/44
T/5	Darrell D. Elliott	37244667	Salina, KS	28 Nov 44	# 64 12/15/44
SGT	Joseph F. LeBeau	36549556	Detroit, MI	29 Nov 44	# 58 12/13/44
CAPT	Charles H. Thompson	01296451	Vienna, VA	29 Nov 44	#47 12/9/44
S/SGT	Charles W. Orth	37411347	St. Louis, MO	6 Jan 45	#50 2 Feb 45
PFC	Anthony A. Bravata	32111524	Jamaica, NY	6 Jan 45	# 33 14 Jan 45
PFC	William R. Kochevar	37566576	Hibbing, MN	6 Jan 45	#33 14 Jan 45

## HEADQUARTERS 103rd INFANTRY DIVISION

Office of the Commanding General

APO 470, U. S. Army

15 December 1944

(GENERAL ORDERS)

(NUMBER - 64)

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL :

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded the following named individuals :

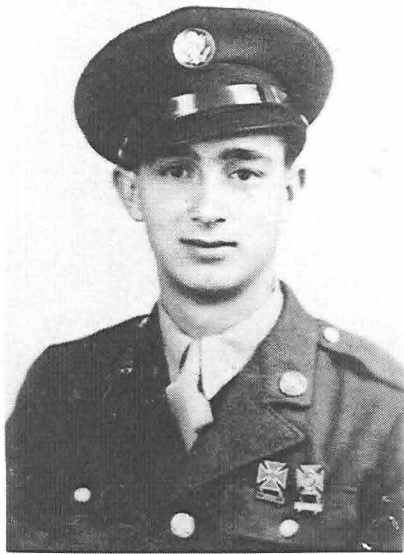
Private First Class Robert D. Quinn, 35231340, Infantry, Company "I", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. Throughout the day of 16 November, 1944, on a cold rain-swept mountain side in the vicinity of (St. Dié,) France, Private Quinn exposed himself with utter disregard of his life, to save the lives of his wounded comrades. On four different occasions he courageously exposed himself to heavy small arms and mortar fire from the enemy held heights to evacuate his comrades from the ceaseless and nerve-wracking enemy fire. His undaunted courage and skillful evacuation of patients undoubtedly saved the lives of many wounded comrades. Residence : Akron, Ohio.

Sergeant Joseph F. Jeffries, 35626009, Infantry, Company "I", 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. On the night of 28 November 1944, in the vicinity of (Hohwarth), France, Sergeant Jeffries and his entire company was pinned to the hilly and open ground by intense enemy machine gun and sniper fire. With undaunting courage, Sergeant Jeffries ran through the entire length of the company column in the dark mist to obtain rifle grenades and bazooka ammunition. Again, with utter disregard for his life, Sergeant Jeffries ran over the exposed terrain to a firing position and personally silenced enemy machine guns. Sergeant Jeffries' heroic action enabled the company to proceed on to its mission and at the same time probably saved the lives of many of his comrades. Residence : Dayton, Ohio.

Technician Fifth Grade Darrell D. Elliott, 37244667, Medical Department, Medical Detachment, 410th Infantry Regiment. For heroism in action. During the night of 28 November 1944, in the vicinity of (Hohwarth), France, Technician Elliott, a medical aid man attached to Company "I", was pinned down by fierce enemy machine gun fire when his company engaged a strongly entrenched enemy. Hearing a wounded man's cry, he courageously left cover to give aid. With utter disregard for his own life, he heroically advanced to within twenty feet of three enemy machine guns to his wounded comrade, showing deep devotion to duty. Amid a hail of enemy fire, he coolly administered first aid. While carrying the wounded man out of this fire-swept terrain, he was wounded by machine gun fire, but nevertheless brought his wounded comrade to safety. His courageous deed, accomplished in the face of strong enemy fire, was an inspiration to all the men about him. Residence : Gypsum, Kansas.

By command of Major General HAFFNER





Gene C. Wise

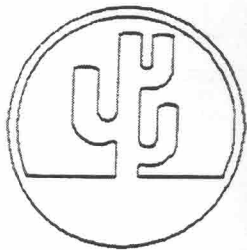


Richard B. Lloyd



Francis Postupak

Francis P. Postupak



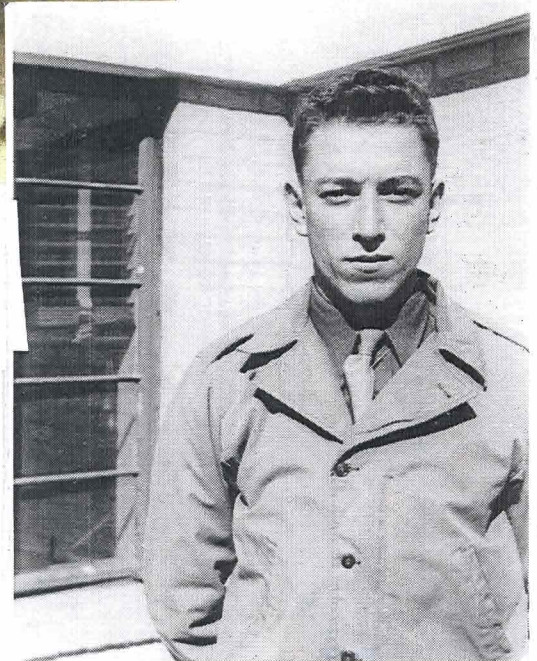
**Mrs. Nora Woods, New Liberty, holds the medals earned by her brother, Raymond Voss, who was killed in action in France in 1944. With her are Bill Corbett, Tipton, VFW commander and Mike Hogan, Durant, American Legion district vice-commander.**



Front Row : ( L. to R.) John Johancen, Arnold Kunde,  
and Frank Dominianni,  
Back Row : (L. to R.) Dale Bucher, Murray Bloom,  
Jewell Stingely and J. D. McDuffie.



J. R. (Hans) Wagner - 1945



Neal Ross - 1944



## 3 WWII vets want to repay act of bravery

Regrets have a long shelf life. They sneak into your memory years later: The girl you never kissed, the score you couldn't settle, the kindness you didn't repay.

Will Alpern of Green Farms, Conn., knows about regret. So do Neil Ross of Bozeman, Mont., and Audrey R. Walters of El Paso, Texas. Their collective regret involves a St. Joseph man who died a half-century ago, and what they seek is not a personal absolution but a measure of justice for a long-dead buddy.

Pfc. Gene Wise served in the U.S. Army's 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division during World War II. On Dec. 10, 1944, in a front-line combat position near the village of Newburg, France, Wise would perform the ultimate selfless act: He threw himself on a hand grenade to save his fellow soldiers.

Despite what seems like war-movie bravery, Wise never got a medal. The story, related by the aforementioned veterans, is stickier than that.

Problem was, the grenade Wise covered was his own. Company I was billeted for the night in a rail warehouse. As soldiers settled in, Wise inadvertently pulled the safety pin from a grenade while removing his equipment. Realizing the hazard he had caused, he yelled "grenade" and rolled his body on top of the explosive. Wise, then 20 or so, was the only soldier killed in the crowded area.

While the men of Company I recognized the valor of Wise's act, the company commander, a West Virginia captain named Charles Thompson, had other things weighing on him. In the previous month, two men in his command suffered self-inflicted wounds, bringing on him the wrath of the battalion executive officer. Thompson declined to recommend Wise for a decoration. While Walters says Thompson later changed his mind, the war in Europe was rushing toward its conclusion and the crush of events superseded the recommendation being submitted.

Ross, who suffered an eye injury in the explosion and probably would have died if not for Wise's quick action, remembered Wise's act recently and got an idea. Alpern believes Wise's case should be reconsidered and that a Soldiers Medal should be forthcoming. Walters wants "an appropriate award commensurate with similar heroic acts awarded to the family of Pfc. Gene Wise."

The problem for the men is finding the family. Fifty years makes for a long trail. No Wise shows up on the *News-Press* list of local men killed in the war. A look through city directories of the time provided no clues, nor did calls to people named Wise listed in the current phone directory. I chatted with folks at the local VFW posts and looked over cemetery charts with local military historian Frank Fletcher.

It could be that Wise has no family remaining in this area, or that Wise was from elsewhere and merely enlisted in St. Joseph. If a reader recognizes the name, call me at the newspaper and I'll pass along the information to the men who want to see his act recognized.

Five decades is a long time to carry along unfinished business, but three men from far-flung locations feel there is a World War II mission they have yet to complete. While nothing compels them beyond honor and conscience, they want to see a debt paid.

## Hero's friends, family emerge to tell stories

Gene Wise had friends in the U.S. Army. They remain in his debt more than 50 years after

he rolled himself onto a live hand grenade and saved the lives of fellow soldiers in France during World War II. They call him a hero and want to get him a posthumous medal.

Gene Wise also had friends in St. Joseph, his hometown and a place where a number of folks remembered him last week as response to what was written in this column.

Three of Wise's Army buddies believe his valor was overlooked. A superior officer, they say, wrongfully decided that Wise did not deserve a medal because the grenade he smothered was his own; it dislodged inadvertently when Wise was removing his equipment.

His pals say Wise paid for his mistake and saved others, including them. After a half-century of stewing about this, the veterans now want the act of courage rewarded, at least for the sake of Wise's descendants.

Problem was, they were having trouble finding descendants, or for that matter any information about Wise.

People in St. Joseph knew him. After the column a week Wednesday, several called to fill in the gaps about Gene Wise's life.

Beverly Taylor graduated from Benton High School with Wise in 1943 and said he was the only one in the class killed in the war. She even saved a program from his funeral in 1948. This was four years after his death; during that time, he had been buried in a military cemetery in France.

Ray Baker and Charlie Kovac called. Both were South Siders and played with Wise as youngsters. Bill Reese, a Benton classmate, called to say he had been a Wise pallbearer.

Burt Thomas, a retired detective, lived next door to Wise on Rudy Street. He remembered that Wise's father, Orville Wise, worked at the Armour plant and was killed along with more than 14 others in an explosion there in 1930. Orville and his wife, Golda, had only one child, Gene, and Golda lost him in the war.

According to Elizabeth Huyett, Golda married Mark Whiteaker in the years after the Armour explosion. Whiteaker, who hailed from Mound City, had a barber shop on Hyde Park Avenue for years.

Removed from the grave in France, Gene Wise rests now in St. Joseph Memorial Park. Tom Anderson, general manager of the cemetery, showed me to the plot, which is on a gentle slope looking down on American Legion Post 359. Next to the grave are buried Mark and Golda Whiteaker, who died in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

The graves are decorated each Memorial Day by Helen Lanoie, Golda's niece and Gene's cousin. The St. Joseph woman said she knew Gene "from a tiny baby" and lived close to him much of his life.

There are other cousins, Katherine Pilling of Newton, Kan., who remembers Wise living with her family for a time and working at a mercantile store in Hutchinson, and Ilene McDaniel of Princeton, Mo., whose maiden name, Brownawell, was the same as Golda's.

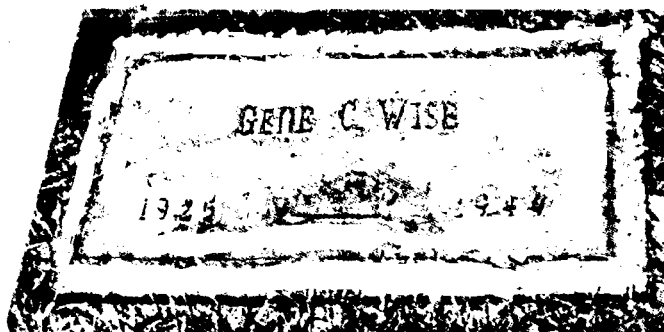
Mark Whiteaker Jr., who lives in Trenton, Mo., was Wise's stepbrother and, already in the service when Gene was in high school, met him only once.

It doesn't take Frank Capra to make the point that one man's life touches many others. For the soldiers in Company I of the 410th Infantry Regiment, Gene Wise represents a life lost and many lives saved. For his kin, who may one day accept a medal of valor in his stead, he represents a closed chapter of family history that may yet be rewritten.

For the rest of us, it's maybe enough to know that acts of heroism aren't easily forgotten.

Ken Newton's column is published in Wednesday's News-Press

MAY 31, 1995



## A Memorial Day ceremony in France today will remember a Vancouver GI and his comrades

Richard B. Lloyd did not have a chance to become a World War II hero.

He did not live long enough to fight.

His death, when it came, was not in a battle whose name, decades later, would be as familiar as Omaha Beach, Okinawa or Iwo Jima.

For Richard Lloyd there would be no hard-won campaigns, no celebration at war's end, no triumphant homecoming.

There would be none of the comradeship that would last his surviving brothers-in-arms a lifetime.

For Richard Lloyd, age 19, World War II would mean a simple grave, space B-36, in a cemetery deep in the heart of France.

He would not be alone. On the rows of markers around him would be the names of 5,254 other American soldiers. Plus 424 others whose identities were lost in the horror of combat.

Pfc. Richard Lloyd was a Vancouver boy, one whose name is among those cast in bronze on a memorial at the Courthouse steps.

Clark County's tribute, like those in countless cities around the world, honors those who gave their lives in war. Like those plaques and statues, pedestals and sculptures, Clark County's slabs of bronze are largely unnoticed by those who walk by.

Among the Memorial Day ceremonies around the world today will be the placing of a plaque, bearing Lloyd's name and 11 others, at a church in France.

The passing of a half-century has done nothing but reinforce the memories held by his closest surviving relative, his sister-in-law.

### War's tragic telegram

Vivian Lloyd, now living in Yakima, laughs and remembers the teen-ager "who used to take me out and teach me how to drive, even though I don't think he knew how to drive."

She has the flag that draped his coffin. His Vancouver High School graduation picture. His medals. Photographs of her sons, then serving in the Army, visiting Lloyd's grave.

Vivian Lloyd still has the telegram bearing

the worst possible news about the fate of the young man who played the piano at her wedding in Vancouver.

His parents, George B. and Elizabeth Lloyd, received that telegram in Vancouver in early December 1944. The Dec. 8, 1944, *Columbian* carried his graduation photograph at the top of page one, above a 32-word caption.

The headline could hardly have been more succinct: "Gives life."

Vivian Lloyd married Richard's older brother, George B. Lloyd Jr. The ceremony was at the state School for the Deaf, where George Lloyd Sr. was superintendent. That was in 1940.

Richard Lloyd died in November 1944. Robert D. Quinn does not remember Richard Lloyd, but he remembers the night Lloyd died.

Like Lloyd, Quinn was an infantryman with the 103rd Division's 410th Infantry, Company I. The company was ordered into combat on Nov. 10, 1944, near the French village of St. Die. The 103rd was relieving the war-weary 45th Division in mountainous area.

German artillery was shelling the forest. Ordnance hit the 100-foot-tall trees, exploded and sent shrapnel onto the soldiers below. The troops had a name for them: "Tree bursts."

"We were all very, very nervous," said Quinn, now a retired school teacher in Westlake, Ohio.

Just two days after the activation order, Lloyd was killed by a rain of shrapnel. A dozen Company I soldiers would die by war's end, three in the liberation of the town of Hohwarth, and nine more in other areas of France's Alsace region.

In 1993, surviving Company I veterans set out to remember their fellow GIs.

Quinn took on the job of raising money and finding survivors.

"There were people who said, 'You'll never get it,'" said Quinn. "And then the checks started rolling in."

Even more than that, he said, "Then, we were young and we were foolhardy. And now all of us are old and so thankful."

In searching for Lloyd's survivors, Quinn had little to go on. Lloyd's father had died in the late 1940s. Lloyd's mother died in 1968. His sister, a longtime School for the Deaf teacher, died in 1980. His brother died in 1987 in Yakima.

### Finding a GI's relatives

In a letter to *The Columbian* this month, Quinn asked for help finding relatives.

Old Vancouver city directories and microfilmed newspaper obituary notices led to George B. Lloyd Jr.'s widow, Vivian, 73.

Today, a black granite plaque bearing the gold-leaf names of Lloyd and his fellow soldiers is to be placed at the Church of St. Gilles, near the town of Hohwarth.

French and American flags, a cross, the Star of David and the 103rd Division's cactus insignia decorate the plaque's edges. Quinn sent *The Columbian* a photograph of the memorial; it was forwarded to Vivian Lloyd.

"That makes me feel real good," Lloyd said upon hearing about the plaque. "I don't know why I get so choked up about it now."

That is certainly understandable, especially from the woman who has carefully guarded the few remaining personal effects and memorabilia of the teen-aged Vancouver GI who died 50 years ago.

Among those items was a phonograph recording of Lloyd's voice, one he had made in New York City and mailed home just before he shipped out for Europe.

On it, Lloyd tells his parents he loves them and sings a song.

The record did not arrive until after his death. It was a voice from a grave half a world away.

The Columbian, Monday, May 30, 1994  
**CLARK COUNTY, WASH.**

# WWII survivors to remember fallen friend from Watervliet

By Richard Crist  
The Record

**WATERVLIET** — He died in combat decades ago, young and far from home.

But because of the efforts of his comrades who survived World War II, Francis Postupak will be remembered in the land he died in nearly 50 years ago.

Postupak's name is included on two plaques being dedicated in the French countryside, with members of the unit he went to battle in present for the ceremonies.

A Watervliet native, Postupak was a private in his early 20s when he went overseas to fight Nazi forces that had taken control of Europe. About one

month after landing in France, he was dead, killed in his first week of battle.

"He was very likeable. He has friends from here who still talk about him," said his sister, Irene Salo, who lives in Watervliet.

The plaques that include Postupak's name give his comrades in arms a chance for healing. Will Alpern, a Connecticut resident who was in the foxhole next to Postupak when he died, said survivors have never forgotten their fallen friends.

"It gave us a feeling that we remembered our buddies. There were always unconscious guilt feelings about why them and not us," said Alpern.

## Survivors to remember fallen friend

When members of Company I landed in southern France in the fall of 1944, they were young, green and scared.

Many of the soldiers in the company, attached to the 410th Regiment of the 103rd Division, were about 19 years of age, heading for their first combat in the months after D-Day.

Among the men in the company was Postupak, only months out of basic training and his classes at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He had expected to be a member of the Class of 1945.

Shortly after landing in Marseilles, Postupak and the company made their way into Vosges Mountains, where they encountered stiff resistance from well-entrenched German infantry. For most of the company it was their first brush with combat.

On a pitch-black November night, members of the company relieved front-line troops from another unit. When the company awoke in the morning, they arose and found the bodies of German soldiers around their positions, apparently killed by members of the previous unit.

Shortly after taking those positions, the unit came under heavy mortar fire from German positions. One mortar shell hit a tree

above positions held by soldiers in the company.

Sitting in a foxhole below the tree, Postupak was killed by the shrapnel from the shell burst.

Some of the young troops had embarked for their tour of duty with a sense of adventure, members of the unit now recall. But Postupak's death on Nov. 16, 1944, was one of the first reminders to the young troops in Company I of the deadly nature of the war.

Salo said news of her brother's death hit especially hard at home and in the community. Within three months, three members of St. Nicholas parish in Watervliet, where the Postupaks attended church, were killed in combat overseas.

Her brother had been interested in photography and swimming and had hoped to become an aeronautical engineer. Before he could fulfill that dream, he was drafted.

"He was very easy to get along with, had a lot of friends," his sister remembered.

Both Alpern and Robert Quinn of Ohio have similar memories about their comrade.

"We went through training together. We were all about 19. He was tall, lean and affable," remembers Alpern, now a stockbroker in New York City.

"When we went into France, we had just gotten out of training. We were scared. We just hoped we didn't get killed," said Quinn.

Alpern said he and Postupak had first become friendly during basic training in Texas.

To remember Postupak and other members of their unit, Alpern, Quinn and others from Company I pooled their resources together to purchase two black granite plaques. Both plaques include Postupak's name in gold leaf, along with other members of the company killed during the campaign in France.

One plaque was dedicated this past week in the French community of Uhrwiller, with the other to be dedicated on Memorial Day in the Church of St. Gilles near the town of Hohwarth. Other members of the company had been killed in bitter fighting near Hohwarth.

Members of the unit plan to be on hand for the dedications, said Quinn.

Postupak is now buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery near Epinal. His sister says she plans to visit the gravesite when she and her husband Joseph, also a World War II veteran, journey to Europe this fall.

"It means a lot, when I hear his friends still remember him," said Salo.

# Honor Bennett Soldier Killed In World War II

A Bennett serviceman who was killed in action in World War II has been honored by surviving members of I Company, 410 Regiment, 103rd Division, with a plaque on a church near the spot where he died.

Raymond Voss was killed by shrapnel from an artillery burst Nov. 28, 1944 near the Church of St. Gilles, close to the Vosges mountain town of Hohwarth, France. The shellburst occurred in a forested area near the church.

Voss was also recently honored in Tipton, when the medals he earned were given to his sister, Mrs. Norma Woods, in a ceremony in the supervisors' room at the courthouse March 8.

Robert Quinn, who served with Raymond Voss in France, said last week that the name of PFC Raymond Voss was engraved on a plaque that was placed on the church on Memorial Day.

Surviving members of the 410th Regiment of the 103rd (Cactus) Division thought the 50th anniversary year was the time to honor those who gave their lives in the liberation of France.

Father Paul Gilbert, pastor of St. Gilles, gladly accepted their offer of a memorial plaque to be placed in the hilltop church now being restored by the efforts of his parishioners and the French government, Quinn said.

The plaque is made of black granite, with names in gold leaf. Members of Company I paid for all expenses of carrying the plaque and its delivery to Hohwarth May 18.

PFC Raymond Voss is buried in the U.S. Military cemetery in Epinal, France. His grave number is A-41-8.

Quinn said members of his company landed in Marseilles, France (on the Mediterranean) and moved north through Dijon, then northeast toward Epinal.

The town of Hohwarth is located south of Strabourg and north of Colmar west of the Rhine River.

A story in the Dec. 28, 1944 issue of

The Tipton Advertiser said the parents of Raymond Voss, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Voss received a telegram from the war department telling them of their son's death.

PFC Voss entered the service Dec. 24, 1942 and had been overseas since October 1943.

In the awards ceremony held March 8 in Tipton, Mrs. Nora Voss received all of the medals her brother earned in World War II.

Bill Corbett, Tipton, commander of the VFV post in Tipton, served with the 103rd and knew about Voss' death. The effort began to see that the family received his awards, but it was a difficult task.

Voss' military records, along with those of thousands of others, were destroyed in a fire at a depository in St. Louis, Mo. and the information had to be reassembled.

The work was done by Corbett, the 103rd Division veterans and, according to Mike Hogan, Durant, vice commander of the Iowa American Legion, assistance from the office of Rep. Jim Leach.

The awards were given to Mrs. Woods in an informal meeting arranged by Rosalyn Moeller, Cedar county director of veterans affairs. She also helped in the effort to get the medals.

The awards consist of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Combat Infantry badge, the European-Middle Eastern campaign medal with one bronze (campaign) star, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal.

In making the announcement of the plaque installation in France, Robert Quinn said Company I was honoring those who gave their lives for their country.

Quinn said Raymond Voss is survived by 3 sisters and a brother: Mrs. Norma Woods, New Liberty; Dorothy Voss Titus, Durant; Mrs. Fred Edler, Durant and Waldo O. Voss, Davenport.

## Pfc. Raymond Voss of Bennett, Reported Killed In France

Killed in action in France, November 28th, according to a telegram to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Voss, from the war department. Pfc. Voss entered the service December 24th, 1942, and had been overseas since last October.

Bennett, Iowa—Private first class Raymond Voss, of Bennett, was

Tipton, Iowa Thursday, Dec. 28, 1944

## Sister Receives Medals Awarded Raymond Voss

Forty-nine years after he was killed in action in France, the medals Raymond Voss earned were given to his sister, Mrs. Norma Woods, New Liberty, in a ceremony in the supervisor's room at the Cedar county courthouse March 8.

Voss, a member of I company, 410 Regiment, 103rd Division, was killed by a German mortar shell Nov. 29, 1944 while the division was fighting in the Alsace, in southeastern France.

A short time later, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Voss, Bennett, were notified of his death. A story on the front page of the Tipton Advertiser of Dec. 28, 1944, said that "Pfc. Raymond Voss, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Voss, was killed in action in France, according to a telegram his parents received. Pfc. Voss entered service Dec. 24, 1942, and had been overseas since October, 1944."

The family received a letter of condolence on their loss from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and members of his family have visited his grave in a military cemetery in southern France.

It was not until recently, at a reunion of veterans of the 103rd (Cactus) Division, that the question as to whether relatives of those killed while fighting with the division had received the medals awarded to their son and brother.

William (Bill) Corbett, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Tipton, who served with the 103rd, knew about Voss' death and the effort began to see that his family received his awards. It was difficult. Voss' military

records, along with those of thousands of others, were destroyed in a fire at a depository at St. Louis, Mo. and the information had to be reassembled.

It was done by the work of Corbett, the 103rd Division veterans and, according to Mike Hogan, Durant, vice commander of the Iowa American Legion, the assistance of the office of Rep. Jim Leach.

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The awards consist of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Combat Infantry badge, the European-Middle Eastern campaign medal with one bronze (campaign) star, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal.

They are mounted and enclosed in a wooden frame.

Corbett, who has lived in Tipton since 1948, did not realize that a sister of one of the men in his division who had been killed in action, lived only 16 miles away.

For many years Mrs. Woods has wondered about what medals and honors her brother had been awarded during the time he was in France. She said she didn't know anything after the letter from President Roosevelt.

Pfc. Voss was killed near Hohwarth at the time that the 103rd Division was taking part in the liberation of Alsace from the German army and occupation.



## War Hero Honored With Memorial Plaque

PFC Romolda Natt of Fortuna is being honored 49 years his death near the French-German border during World War II.

His name is engraved on a plaque that will be placed on Memorial Day, May 30 in the church yard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the village of Uhrwiller in northern Alsace, France.

Natt was killed by snipers near the town of Erlenbach on March 22, 1945.

Surviving members of Company 1 of the 410th Regiment of the 103rd (Cactus) Division thought this anniversary year was a time to honor those who had given their lives in the liberation of France.

Pastor Patrick Werrn of Uhrwiller gladly accepted their offer of a memorial plaque to be placed in the church yard next to the village's two memorial plaques honoring its own dead from 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.

The plaque is made of black granite with names in gold leaf. Members of Company 1 paid for all expenses of carving the plaque and its delivery to Uhrwiller on May 18.

Natt is buried in Sunset Memorial Park in Eureka. His widow, Florence Natt Simms, lives in Klamath. His brother, Sandy Natt, and his son, Donald Natt, live in Fortuna. His daughter, Lillian Natt Griffiths, born two months before her father's death, lives in Hoopa.

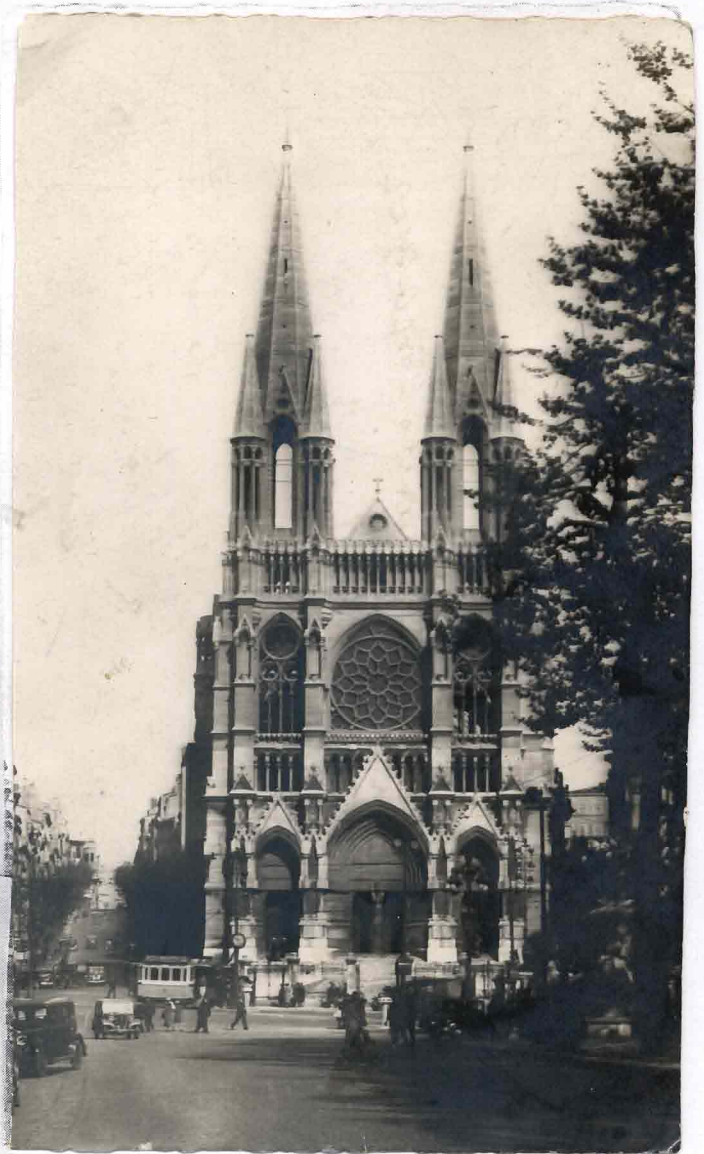
**M**EMORIAL DAY IN Fortuna is special this year because one of our own will be honored in a small French village where he died nearly five decades ago.

PFC Romolda Natt of Fortuna was killed by snipers near the French town of Erlenbach on March 22, 1945.

It is individuals such as PFC Natt who have always selflessly answered the clarion call to duty, to the unknown, throughout America's history.

The women and men who have served and are serving are the backbone of this nation. They made and continue to make the U.S. military the strongest and most capable in the world.

It is because of them that the United States of America remains free, that this nation stands out among the civilized nations of the world.

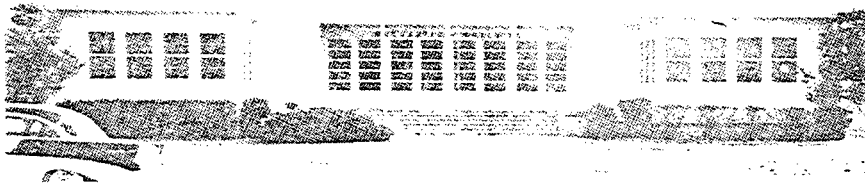


Eglise St. Vincent de Paul, Marseille, France - 1944

America, a land of many peoples, stands as a beacon of hope to a world that is torn apart by diversity, instead of being united by it.

These men and women, including PFC Natt, left jobs, educational opportunities and even their families behind.

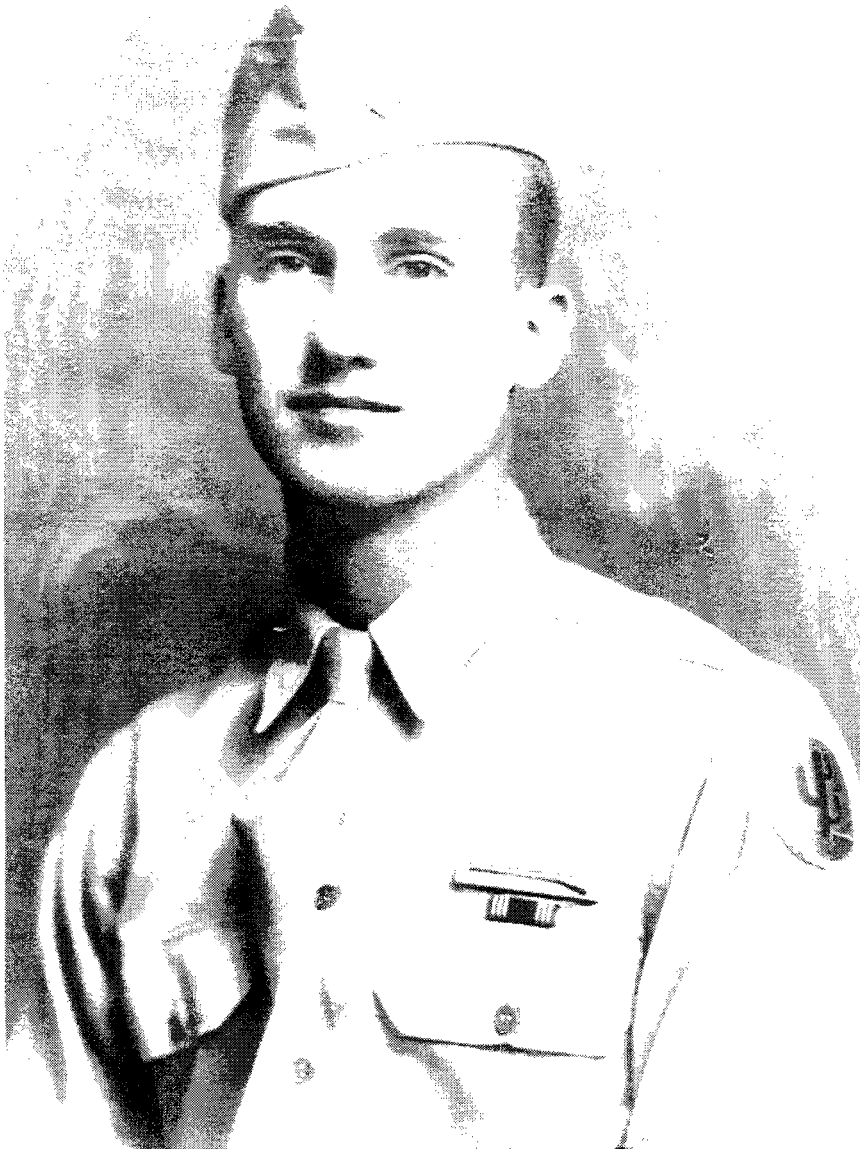




Camp Howze USO Building - 1944



Earl Cellan, taken in Austria, 1945



Carroll M. Webster ( Aug., 1944 ) - 410th insignia on hat was crafted by Richard Lloyd.



Melbourne ( Aussie ) Metcalf 1945

**Memories from the battle at HOHWARTH.** It was a moonlit night in the Vosges mountains back in November of 1944. PFC Bill Alpern and five other infantrymen were in an open field. Suddenly a platoon of 50 German soldiers began to emerge from the woods ahead of them.

With no cover between them and the enemy, the Yanks threw themselves to the ground and opened fire. As the Germans deployed to attack, CPL Carroll Cook from Texas shouted to the trapped squad to stay down! Behind them, Cook lifted his .30 caliber machine gun to the top of a church wall and fired over the Yanks' heads at the approaching Germans, saving all his buddies.—Bill Alpern, 1989

## Earl Cellan Remembers

### Writes About Wartime For His Family

In 1941 on Dec. 7, I was in Cokeville, Wyoming when Pearl Harbor was attacked. President Roosevelt declared war on Germany, Japan and Italy. I was drafted in the war and left on April 21, 1942 for Fort Douglas, Utah and later on was sent to The Presidio, San Francisco, CA., where I took military police training. I helped to guard prisoners on work details.

In August 1942, I was transferred to Fort Harrison in Helena, Montana, where I was [placed] in the Military Police. I pulled 'town duty' plus 'main gate' and interior guard at the Fort. I made PFC at Helena and was transferred to Camp Claiborne, LA as [part of a] cadre to train troops. We all took infantry training for 90 days. I made CPL in 1943 after Basic Infantry Training and was a squad leader in the mortar section.

In the winter of 1943 I was transferred to Camp Howze, TX. There I made 'Buck' SGT and was in care of troop training. Our division was sent overseas, except for [us] non-commissioned officers. The Division was now filled up with new recruits. It was at [Howze] that I met Carroll Webster, the best friend I ever had.

We departed from New York on my mother's birthday, Oct. 5, 1944. It took us 13 days to come across the ocean. Many boys got seasick. We hit a bad storm. It turned the ship, the U.S.S. General J. R. Brook, every way but loose and lasted one day and night.

I was in the 103rd Infantry Division, 410th Regiment, 3rd battalion, Company I, 4th Platoon, Mortar Section, 2nd Squad leader. Carroll Webster was my gunner, John Landolfi, assistant gunner, and Arthur Lapedes, and Anthony Cava were ammunition bearers.

Our division was sent to Marseille along with two other divisions. We took rifle practice [on a] rifle range and had many marksmen from it. We were camped at Marseille and I was 3/4 of a mile from a close friend and didn't know it. I wrote to him and he never got the letter until six months later. We were the first troops to dock in Marseille and it was a tragic affair from there on out. Nobody ever knows the fear and hell that soldiers go through..

We went into combat at St. Dié in the Vosges Mountains. If you think the Rockies are high, you should see the Vosges. We relieved the 3rd Division, which was rated the best division ever known in Europe. We were assigned to the Seventh Army under General Patch.

After the Vosges campaign we pushed through France to the Maginot Line. These were large concrete pill boxes made years ago to protect the country from invasion. Of course they didn't work. Our general was Gen. Haffner, Division Commander. Our Company Commander was Captain Thompson, who was a brave man.

The Germans had an artillery piece called the 88. It was very effective and dangerous. It could shoot straight and also overhead fire. They used it on our tanks and troops. A person can't realize the fear there is in an artillery barrage or to be pinned down by machine-gun fire. It isn't hard to pray whether you know how or not.

We were driven back into France on the German's last stand. We held up in ZUTZENDORF and was in defense for two weeks. The Germans hit us with all they had, but we held them back. We went into attack again and had to cross the Rhine another time. That was the worst I ever saw. We crossed on pontoon rafts after dark under enemy fire.

**Memories from the Battle at NIEFFERN**—My daughter married the son of Jack Smith, who served in Battery C of the 501st Armored Artillery of the 14th Armored Division, which fought in northern Alsace along side the 103rd Division during late January, 1945.

Over the years at family celebrations, I would talk over the war with Jack Smith, and remark at the many similar towns we had been in or near. In fact both divisions were in the same convoy that reached MARSEILLE in October, 1944. Now 50 years later, and looking at maps of Alsace together, we have determined that his unit of the 14th Armored served as the artillery backup for Company I in the critical battle of NIEFFERN and the defense of ZUTZENDORF. How did this come about? Read the story at the right below to find out—J.R.(Hans) Wagner.

We fought all the way across Germany into Austria and linked up with the Fifth Army in Italy. In June 1945 when the war was over there was more commotion than we had ever seen. Some German troops who had lost contact with Hitler didn't know the war was over. There were lots of casualties because you didn't expect to run into them.

After that was cleaned up, I sprained my ankle playing basketball on the company team.. I was sent to the General Hospital at NANCY. I was supposed to get a medical discharge and a pension. I never got neither one. I was reclassified and sent back up. Our division was broken up and part of them were sent to Japan.

I was put on a train crew as 1st SGT to haul troops back to Marseille to come home. Later I was Provost Marshall in a Military police attachment. A point system came out, it took 60 points to get discharged. By December, 1945, I had enough points to get out. I was offered a 1st SGT rating to stay in, but turned it down.

It took 13 days to come across the ocean. We got to New Jersey. The United States and the Statue of Liberty are the most beautiful sight you can ever see. No more shells—was all we hope.

I was sent to Fort Douglas, Utah. I was discharged with an honorable discharge. I am very proud of this document.

France was nearly destroyed, in complete ruins after the war. Their buildings were laid flat by aircraft and artillery. Germany prolonged the fighting as long as they could in their country, but [in the end] they tasted destruction too. Thank God it's all over, we hope that we don't ever have that again. This story is to anybody concerned and I pray that my son never sees the Hell I've been through.

Earl Cellan-1964

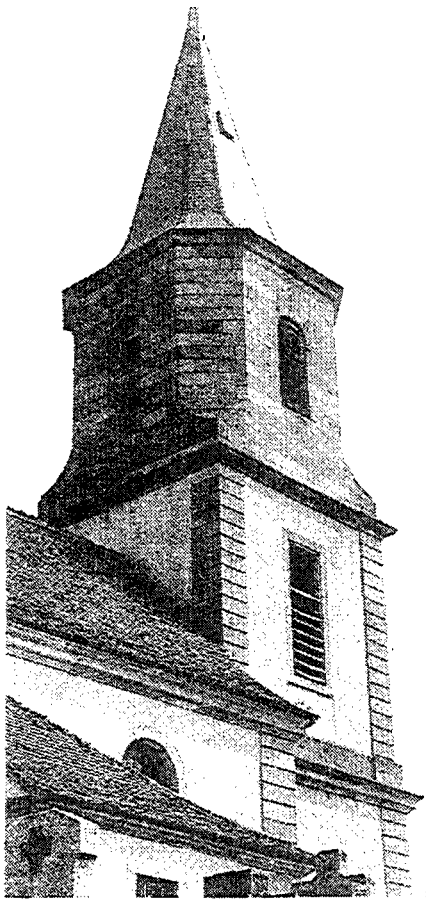
When Company I moved from DIEBLING, back to JAGERTHAL, Alsace on 16 January 1945, the 501st Artillery was near ZINSWILLER, just south of NIEDERBRONN-les-Bains, supporting the 103rd Division front.

On 20 January 1945 the Seventh Army ordered withdrawal to a line along the Moder River, which was to be held as Main Line of Resistance. This resulted in Company I walking back to ZUTZENDORF and NIEFFERN through cold and snow over icy roads full of sliding vehicles. This withdrawal of about 10 miles gave Company I three days to prepare a defensive position—a line of foxholes along a ridge just north of the Moder River and immediately behind the village of NIEFFERN. The holes were dug by first chipping a small hole through the frozen ground which was then enlarged and deepened by a friendly help of a half pound of TNT as a starter. The 501st moved back to ETTENDORF to support Co. I.

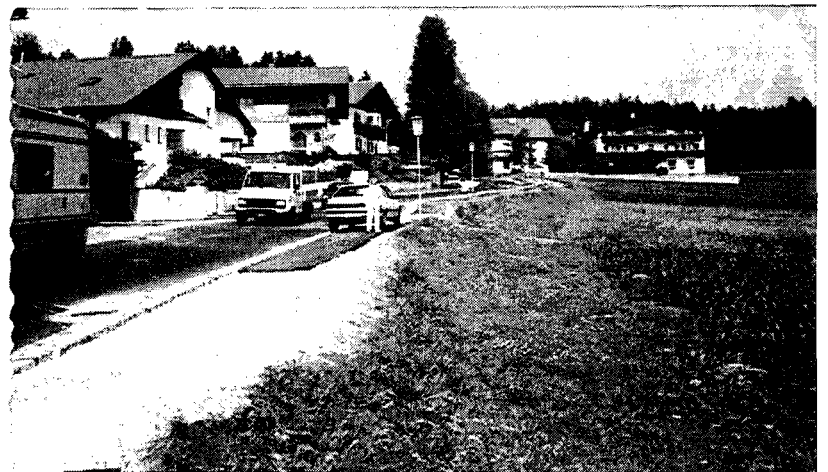
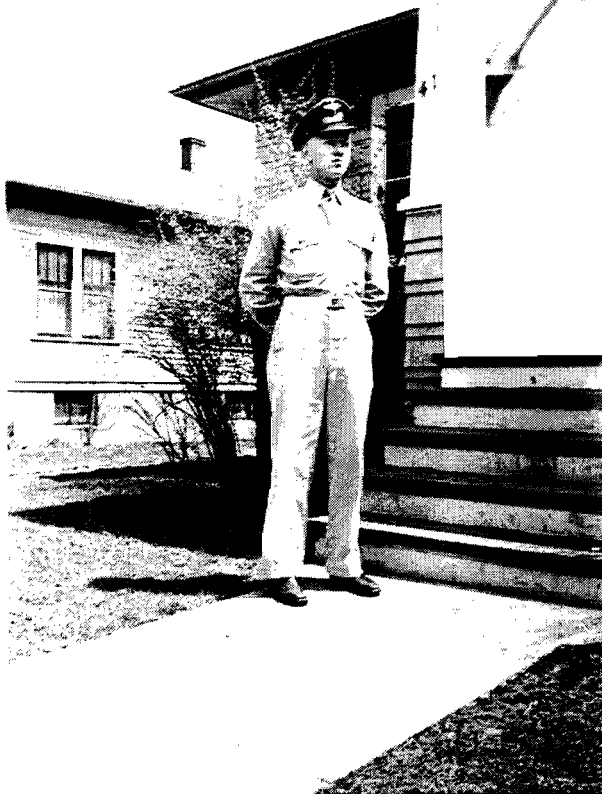
The attack by elements of the 6th SS Mountain Division came just before daylight on 24 January 1945, from the direction of UHRWILLER. After the initial battle of NIEFFERN, Company I moved back up the ridge to the prepared holes and requested artillery fire on the town. We didn't mind having shells falling 150 yards away, passing so closely overhead we could hear that distinctive "whoosh." SGT Anderson and I, with one of the Company's .50 caliber machine guns, were able to see over NIEFFERN and cover the road to UHRWILLER. We confined the enemy to the town and prevented anyone from entering or leaving, (except for an ambulance,) for the entire day.

Company I held the enemy at this point. The 501st Artillery supported the 103rd division from late January through the spring offensive in March, 1945.

John Landolfi In Austria, 1945



St. Gilles Church, 1994  
John Wagner, 1944 - below  
Mutters, Tirol, Austria, 1991 below





Germany March 20, 1945

Sketch Of Frank Dominianni, by Leo Baker



Charles ( Denny ) Dennard 1946



Company I Quarters,  
Mutters, Austria, May, 1945



Harold (Hal) Loughrie 1945



Front Row : ( L. to R.) John Johancen, Arnold Kunde,  
and Frank Dominianni,  
Back Row : (L. to R.) Dale Bucher, Murray Bloom,  
Jewell Stingely and J. D. McDuffie.



J. R. (Hans) Wagner - 1945



Neal Ross - 1944





Front Row : (L. to R.) : John J. King, Harvey D. Barker, Arnulfa Reyna, Raymond Lehner, and Perry Weathers,  
 Rear Row : (L. to R.) : Nicholas Sobol, Clem Kolodziejczak, Leonard Pitner, and Myron Klimkowicz.  
 Kirchheim am Neckar, April 1945.



Left Side of Road : 1. Neal Ross 2. Art Manney 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 Charles Reed 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Right Side of Road : 7. Mike Lebeda 8. Pat Hennessey 9. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ 11. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_  
 1st Platoon, Company I, 410th Infantry

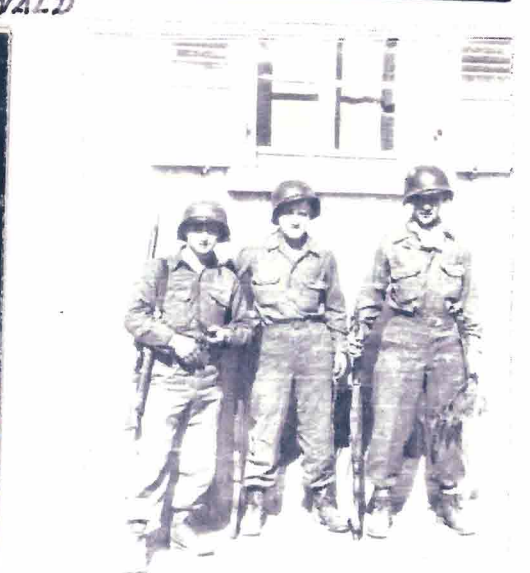




Will Alpern - 1944



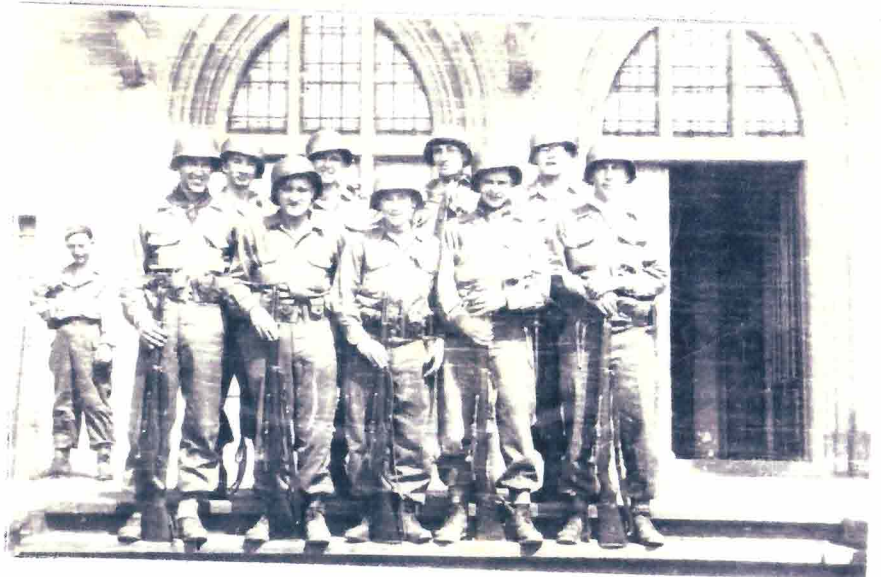
MITTENWALD



Howard Farrand (L) and Phil Donenfeld (R)  
(Kirchheim am Neckar, April, 1945)

1st Platoon, Company I  
At right above. (L. to R.)  
Clem Kolodziejczak, Mike Lebeda, and  
Pat Hennessey.  
(Obermodern, Alsace-Feb., 1945)

1st Platoon, 2nd Squad, Company I  
Front Row (L. to R.): Jack Flynn,  
Mike Lebeda, Ernest Carroll, Pat Hennessey,  
and Charles Reed.  
Back Row (L. to R.): John Boss,  
Art Manney, Rudy Fusco and Irvan Sollanek.  
Background: Ernie Casey  
(Kirchheim am Neckar, April, 1945)





Bill Corbett and Arnie Marzullo, 1944



Joe Jeffries  
Waco, Texas, 1943



( L. to R. ) : Arnie Marzullo, Jerry O'Connell,  
John Johancen, Joe LeBeau, and Tom Stigall. 1944





Bob Quinn - 1944



Carroll Cook and Arnie Marzullo  
In UHRWILLER, France, 1994



Bob Quinn still guarding the door at  
Heidelberg University in 1990



Ed Nestor (L.) and Howard Farrand (R.)  
Wiese, Austria June, 1945

### Is This A Picture Of Company I ?

This photo printed in Newsweek Magazine, October 21, 1946, was the favorite picture of Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and was kept on his desk. His reason: the facial expressions of "these typical American fighters," the winter equipment, and the hot meal. Patterson had served in the AEF in World War I as an infantry soldier.



Picture was originally found by Alastair Ross

Possible Identifications : First Six on the Left Side : 1. With Spoon : ? 2. ?

3. Wagner 4. Ficca / Casey 5. Dorenfeld / Kolozieczak 6. Seated: SGT Walters

Standees in Line : 7. Püner 8. Daniel / Hayes 9. Ross 10. Stachura / Hennessey

11 Flynn 12. Kolozieczak 13. Kochevar 14. ?

## COMBAT

103rd Infantry Division  
410th Infantry Regiment  
Company I

Company Commander	Capt. Charles [H.] Thompson
Executive Officer	1st Lt. Edward [G.] Murphy
1st Platoon Leader	T/Sgt. John Metcalf
2nd Platoon Leader	2nd Lt. [Donald E.] Paulson
3rd Platoon Leader	2nd Lt. John [P.] Neely
4th Platoon Leader	1st Lt. [Joseph L.] Keough

### Third Platoon

Platoon Leader	2nd Lt. John [B.] Neely
Platoon Sgt.	T/Sgt. [Ottis W.] Jacobs
Platoon Guide	S/Sgt. [Thomas C.] Stigall
Platoon Runner	PFC [Val A.] Loper
1st Squad Leader	S/Sgt. [Gerald W.] O'Connell
Asst.	Sgt. [Joseph] LeBeau
2nd Squad Leader	S/Sgt. [Carl] Minnear
Asst.	Sgt. [Eugene T.] Dombroski
3rd Squad Leader	Sgt. [Arnold T.] Marzullo
Asst.	PFC [John A.] Johancen

11 November 1944  
Vosges Mountains, France

We climbed down the ship in landing nets into landing craft, and went ashore in complete darkness. We then boarded trucks and took off to somewhere with full battle gear and our guns loaded. This was the beginning of never knowing where we were or where we were going. We drove for several hours up into the Vosges Mountains and began to hear artillery fire. Then we left the trucks and continued on foot, single file up the mountain side in complete darkness.

Soon, Company I met Capt. Thompson and Sgt. Stigall who are to lead us to our position on the front lines. I find that my position is to relieve an entire company. It is Company F of the [30th Infantry Regiment.] Sgt. Stigall and a Sgt. from Company F lead my platoon up in the darkness.

We leave the small road and continue up the mountain. We are going single file, each man holding onto the rifle of the man in front of him. In the darkness, we have no idea where we are or where the enemy is. Our column breaks many times in the darkness and we waste a lot of time regaining contact.

11 Nov. 1944 (Cont.)

We are also making a lot of noise which the Germans must hear. Some artillery goes over our heads, our first experience, and we don't know if it is ours or theirs. So we hit the ground every time a shell goes over. The guides have lost their way in the darkness, and we are having a tough time. I don't know where we are, and everybody is getting short-tempered. Finally we hit a road and come to a house that is F Company's command post.

Stigall and I go in and there is the captain of F Company and his platoon leaders and sergeants. He sends one man from each of his platoons to guide my squads to our area. He has only 34 men and two officers, counting himself, left in his company. I figure he must have had about 70% casualties. Something for me to look forward to. (In a few weeks our rate will be higher than that, but we do get replacements.)

The captain orients me somewhat, but I am still plenty confused. I am surprised to learn that this house is out in front of our own lines and in plain view of the enemy. I ask the captain if there isn't danger of the enemy shelling it, and he says there is, but he was willing to take that risk to have a few comforts of living in a house instead of a foxhole, so I decided to stay there also.

The captain and most of his men have had cases of trench foot and can hardly walk. They, also, have plenty of German equipment, field glasses, pistols, etc. We have a telephone to the company command post, but I have no idea where it is. Before the captain and his company pull out, he gives me some battle tips, and then leaves.

I sure feel low tonight. My squad leaders report that they are in position. I don't know what is on my flanks. I finally get Capt. Thompson at the C.P., and he gives me the coordinates of a point on the map where Colonel [Harold H.] May wants a patrol sent to look around. It's absolutely dark outside, and it's impossible to see a foot in front of you, but it's an order!

I tell Sgt. Stigall he has to go, and feel like a murderer sending him out. He comes back in about an hour and reports he saw nothing which I can well believe. I call Capt. Thompson and tell him. It is now about 2400 [hours] and Lt. Paulson

finally gets on the phone and makes contact with Capt Thompson. It helps some to be able to talk to him. Sgt.[Ottis W.] Jacobs, PFC [Val A.] Loper, Sgt. [Thomas C.] Stigall and I go to sleep for the night. It was a long day. Later I find out that there is a Frenchman and his wife sleeping downstairs in the cellar.

12 November, 1944

I slept through the night all right on a straw pile on the floor. We kept one man on the phone all night. The Frenchman and his wife come upstairs and seem very friendly. They built a fire and cooked us some potatoes. We find that in part of the house they keep a cow, chickens, dogs and rabbits. The house is really filthy like most French houses. The front window of the house overlooks a valley where the town of LA CHALET, about 300 population, lies and on the other side of the valley is a small creek and the mountains start again, where the Germans are.

Our house is in full view of them and sure looks like a dangerous place to stay. I don't understand why their artillery hasn't blown up the house yet. We can't decide whether to stay here or go back in the hill behind the house where my platoon is dug in. To get out of the house and get back to the hill where the platoon is, you have to run about 30 yards over open ground before you hit the woods. The captain whom I relieved said a sniper got one of his lieutenants who didn't run fast enough; so we really 'put out' when we leave the house.

[Sgt. Thomas C.] Stigall and I go up to look for the troops. The platoon covers a front of about 400 yards. Directly in the rear of the house is [Sgt. Arnold T.] Marzullo's squad and on [Sgt. Carl] Minnear's right is [Sgt. Gerald W.] O'Donnell's squad. We walk around and see all the boys who are in pretty good spirits.

There is all kind of equipment lying around, both German and American. We are pretty careful about picking up things because of booby traps. Our platoon is directly in the center of the Division area and we overlook the town and have a beautiful view of the enemy's hills. They have a similar view of ours. One platoon of Capt. [Clifton H.] Whipps' Company M is in position down in the town; really a hot spot.



About 400 yards to our left is [Lt. Donald E.] Paulson's platoon. I don't like the big gap. I have a section of heavy machine guns on each flank. Our mortars are back in the company C.P. Our light machine guns are with Lt. Paulson. On the right of my platoon is the 411th regiment. We have made contact with them. [Sgt.] Stigall and I have taken over one of the foxholes in [Sgt.] Marzullo's area behind the house, so that we will have a place to go if artillery comes in on us.

The trees are plenty scarred by enemy artillery bursts, and all of the foxholes that the 30th Regiment men left us have heavy log roofs on them to protect from tree bursts. About 1000 hours, the Germans sent in a concentration of artillery right on top of us. [Sgt.] Stigall and I really hug the bottom of the foxhole. It sure is a good feeling to be in the bottom of a foxhole at a time like this.

We soon learn not to do any unnecessary moving around because the artillery always comes in. Later we find out that PFC Richard B. Lloyd of the 4th platoon was killed in the shelling. In the afternoon, Stigall and I go over to [Lt.] Paulson's 2nd platoon to see him. In his area are a bunch of dead Germans all frozen, as well as one G. I. They must have had a fight before we took over.

Later in the day we got another concentration, but we are all in the house and go down in the cellar. I don't feel as safe in the house as I did in the foxhole. I still don't understand why the Germans don't shell the house. At 1600 hours Stigall gets a detail to go back to the C.P. for rations. The Germans must have seen them for they send over some shells, but the detail makes it O.K. We decide to sleep in the house again tonight in spite of the danger because of the cold weather outside.

13 November, 1944

They really shelled our area and Paulson's during the night. We had to get up once during the night and go down in the cellar with the Frenchman and his wife, when the shells were hitting close to the house. We picked up an extra telephone today, and ran a line from the house observation post to [Sgt.] Marzullo's C.P., so that we can have better communication with the platoon from the house. A Lt. from our supporting artillery and his radio

man came in today to set up their O.P. They have a good field artillery radio and good maps. Sgt. [Donald] Calfee and one of his men also came down here to set up an O.P. for their mortars. It's really getting crowded in the house now and more dangerous. Every time someone runs from the house, the German observers drop a few shells near the house. I expect them to put one right on top of us soon. If it weren't for the comfort of living in a house, I would move back into the foxhole.

When I go back to look at the platoon, I discover that they have found two Browning Automatic Rifles to add to our complement which will come in handy. We fire them to see how they work, and the company C.P. calls down and wants to know if there is an attack. Sgt. [Eugene T.] Dombrowski is sick today so we send him back to the aid station. They say he has appendicitis and that is the last I see of him.

We get a lot of enemy artillery on our position today, and the company C.P. calls down to see if we have any casualties. The company C.P. is back only about 300 yards, but they receive very little artillery. I begin to see where only a few yards make a lot of difference in how rough it is. The house is more crowded tonight but we all find a place to sleep in the straw on the floor. There is a nice bed in the house, but we are afraid the Germans who were here before us may have left booby traps in it. We get the usual amount of artillery during the night.

14 November, 1944

Today when I went to check on the men, I brought Cpl. [Walter F.] Schneider as runner in addition to [PFC] Loper and to be a general handyman for anything that comes up. Lt. [Joseph L.] Keough, Lt. [Edward G.] Murphy, and [1st] Sgt. [Audrey R.] Walters came down to the house this afternoon to visit and look around. The usual amount of artillery is coming in and this being the first time that these three have been this close and under fire, they jump each time a shell hits close, while we battle-hardened veterans of four days just laugh and ignore the shelling. One hits about 100 yards away from the house, and [Lt.] Murphy takes off for the cellar while we all laugh at him.

14 Nov, 1944 (Cont.)

About 5 minutes later, a shell hits right outside and blows the remaining glass windows in on us, so we all decide it's time to go to the cellar. We take a telephone down with us so that we can talk to [Sgt.] Marzullo up on the hill. For about 30 minutes, the Germans really give us a shelling, and we really sweat it out. One shell clips off a corner of the house. The shells hit up in our platoon area and on all sides of the house. I swear that I'll never stay in the house again. [Sgt.] Marzullo and I talk and joke to each other on the phone during the barrage, and he asks if he can have a furlough, and I tell him he will have to come down to the house to have me sign the papers. He says, "No thanks !"

As soon as the barrage ceases, [Lts.] Keough and Murphy and [Sgt.] Walters go back to the company C.P. and don't visit anymore. Then our own artillery comes over going the other way, and the Germans catch it for a while. It's a good feeling to know what they are getting. In a few hours, we forget about the shelling and decide to stay in the house again tonight.

The Frenchman cooks us the usual potatoes for supper, but we are getting tired of them, and of our K rations also. There is a big glow in the sky of a fire off to our left through the hills, and they say it is the Germans burning the town of ST. DIE which is supposed to be one of our objectives.

14 November, 1944

I wrote a letter home today and didn't do much of anything else. During one of our daily German artillery barrages, a shell hits outside the backdoor which is open and a small piece of schrapnel came in and hit Sgt. Jacobs in the leg. Nothing serious, it just drew a little blood. We all want 'Jake' to get the Purple Heart but he doesn't want it for something so small. [PFC John] Johancen has been sick for the last few days, so we send him back to the aid station. Sure hate to lose him, he is a good soldier. [There are] the usual artillery duels which we watch from the front window of the house. Tonight, the ST.DIE fire is still going and makes a big glow on our left.

15 November, 1944

Sgt. Stigall and I go out and look at the men. We go up to [Sgt.] Marzullo's foxholes and talk to him. The artillery is coming in every once in a while. Marzullo and Stigall take off to go down and see [Sgt.] O'Connell. In about five minutes, Marzullo comes running back to tell me that Stigall got hit from schrapnel from a tree burst. He is not hurt badly but they took him to the aid station. That is the last I see of Stigall, and I sure hate to lose him. He is one of the best men I had.

I have the G.I.s (dysentery) pretty bad today and don't feel any too good. I guess it is from the French food and water down at the house.

Two Germans came over into [Lt.] Paulson's area today and surrendered, and tell us that there are plenty other men who wish to surrender, but that their officers won't let them. We are not doing anything much, just staying in our holes and keeping our weapons clean. I guess we will make an attack soon. All of the companies should be pretty well organized by now. The attack will be a rough one with the big open valley to cross.

We had a pretty good barrage this afternoon and [PFC Frank] Postupak in [Lt.] Paulson's platoon was killed. Tonight the fire in ST. DIE is still going strong. When we do take the town, there won't be much left.

16 November, 1944

This morning the news finally came. The attack will be tomorrow. I thought that since we had been sitting here for several days, and we were used to the artillery, and knew the ground pretty well, that the 410th [Infantry] would lead the attack. However, it is to be the 411th on our right and the 409th passing through us, who will make the attack. Tomorrow morning there will be a big artillery barrage by us at 0845 and lasting to 0915 after which the attack will jump off.

All of us are quite relieved that we don't have to make the attack. After the attack we are supposed to go back to a rest area. If the 411th is held up, I guess we will be committed, so I make up plans for us to attack and give them to my squad leaders. I hope we don't have to use them however.

16 Nov., 1944 (Cont.)

Sgt. Walters called up and wants me to zero in our mortars on a coordinate he gives me on the map. After about an hour, I get them zeroed in. It takes a long time because there is a lot of other fire out in the valley, and we don't know which burst is ours. We fire smoke shells for identification, but so does someone else, and that confuses us more. So we have to fire two mortars at the same time so that we can identify our bursts. Finally we get the mortars on the spot, a road junction. In case of a counter-attack tomorrow, we can set up a quick concentration. We all get to be excited with thoughts of the coming attack.

17 November, 1944

We get up early this morning to be ready for the attack. Calfee, Jake, and the artillery forward-observer are going to stay in the house while I am going to be back with the phone by Marzullo's foxhole. We have instructions to give any small-arms supporting fire that is necessary for the advance of the 411th. The men of the 411th are now mixed with us and are waiting the order to attack. They sure look unhappy and I don't blame them!

At 0845 the barrage starts, and I have a perfect view of it. It is really something! It is bigger than anything I have ever seen in training. 8 inch, 240 mm's, everything is going over. At 0945 the barrage stops, and the 411th starts its attack through the open valley. We are having a good time firing all of our ammunition over their heads into the far hill where the enemy is.

We now hear the rapid cyclic rate of German guns as they fire on the men advancing. A German mortar shell lands right on a leading scout of one of the platoons down in the valley. Germans have machine guns set up in some of the houses in the village, and are giving the 411th some trouble. The valley is now filled with men of the 411th, with the exception of some of the men of Company E, 411th, who are held up by machine gun fire and are suffering heavy casualties. The men are scared to death of artillery fire which we are used to. The 409th Infantry on our right has gotten across their part of the valley and into the hills.

Part of Company E has been trapped in the creek on the far side of the valley, and the rest of the company has returned back to our side of the valley. Their captain is missing and the 1st Sergeant has taken over. It is really messy.

Things have become more quiet, and I go down into the house. The artillery forward-observer is trying to adjust his guns on a house where a German machine gun is, but can't get a direct hit. The shells hit on all sides, and cracks the walls, but the house still stands.

Part of Company E is still up in our area, so I guess we won't leave tonight. The medics are bringing back plenty of wounded, and leave some of them in our house for awhile.. We sleep in the house tonight. I am plenty weak from this dysentery, and don't feel very good.

18 November, 1944

We get up early this morning to continue the attack. The remainder of Company E, [411th] is still up in our area. They again attempt to cross the valley, and there is no fire from the enemy position. The Germans evidently withdrew during the night. Company E gets to the far hills O.K., and we begin rolling our packs getting ready to move back. I call Capt. Thompson, but he doesn't know yet when we will withdraw.

Col. [Donovan P. Yeuell], C.O. of the 411th, comes down to the house to observe the results of the attack. Brig. Gen.[John T.] Pierce calls him to find out how things went, and to say that he will be down to the house soon. Gen. Pierce and his staff arrive in about half an hour, and come down to the house to look things over. They soon leave and Capt. Thompson calls and tells me to bring the platoon back to the C.P.

We go back and drop our packs which will be brought to the rear by our jeeps. We start out of the mountains back to our rest area. It is a really tough climb up. The snow is melting, mud is everywhere. Our shoe packs sure are no good for marching. We have to stop about every half hour to rest because of the steep climb.

18 Nov., 1944 (Cont.)

My dysentery is really giving me trouble, and I am very weak. Finally about 1600 [hours], we get to the rest area which is a mud hole on the side of a hill. Sgt. [Slamenski], the mess Sgt. is there with the kitchen, and Cpl. [Albert L.] Sherwood, the mail orderly, with a bunch of packages. I get a couple of packages and letters from home and also a small pocket stove and some heat tablets. We have a pretty good meal and I go sleep in the hospital tent, worn out by my G.I.s. I am not the only one who has them and most of us are up all through the night with them.

19 November, 1944

I really spent a rough night; up every half hour or so with the G.I.s. Today we get issued dry, clean clothes and new sleeping bags. We have turkey for dinner, and it is pretty good. The word comes down that we will be prepared to move out in an attack and river-crossing by 0400 tomorrow morning. We are all disappointed since we thought we would be here for three or four days at least.

About supper time, three-fourths of the men are sick with food poisoning from the turkey we had for dinner. This makes my dysentery much worse, and I am really sick along with almost everyone else. We go to bed, and try to get some sleep before we move out.

20 November, 1944

We finally move out by truck this morning at 1000. Most of the men are still pretty sick from the turkey we had yesterday. All we know is that we are going to ride for about 10 miles, and then go to an assembly area to prepare for a river crossing or an attack of some sort. We ride over rough cord roads and finally get to our detrucking area to march a short distance to a bivouac area where we eat and dig in. It starts to rain and we are wet and cold and muddy and sick. Everyone is feeling very low.

The Capt. is called to the C.O.'s meeting and soon returns and gives us the dope. We are to cross the [Muerthe] River, and from then on, no one knows anything. We put on our packs and

begin the approach march. It is still raining and the ground is very muddy. We march through ground that is full of shell holes. Finally, when are ready to drop, we go up a hill into a woods and bivouac and await further orders.

We eat our rations and dig in. The ground is very wet, and all of our foxholes fill up with water. It is getting dark and raining hard. We hear the river is flooded and the bridges are washed out, so we will have to wait until morning to cross. It sure is a terrible night--cold and wet and we are expecting enemy fire at any time.

21 November, 1944

At about 0700, we start off for the river. [See map before page 15.] It is still raining and cold. We march on foot for a short distance, and find that the engineers do not have the bridge up yet. Lt.Col. [Harold H.] May, Bn. C.O., goes to a town on the edge of the river to regimental H.Q. to a meeting and takes me with him. I wait downstairs in a house for about two hours while the meeting is going on. I get a chance to dry out some of my clothes, heat my K rations and get a little warm and feel much better.

When the meeting is over, we go back to the battalion, and I go to my company. The Col. tells the company commanders that while the bridge is being built, our battalion will carry ammunition from the supply point to the edge of the river. We all make a few trips back to carry the ammunition up. The trail is muddy and very slippery and much of the ammo is dropped on the ground.

The bridge is finally fixed, and the 411th crosses first. As soon as they get across, we follow. The ground all around is very soggy, and we sink in. After we get across the bridge, we continue on not knowing where we are.

We come to a German defense area where they had pill-boxes and barbed-wire. The Germans had already been knocked out, and the dead ones are all lying about. We march up a steep hill and everyone is pretty tired out. We now go through a mine field, and the engineers are blowing up the mines. I have to hit the ground right in a big mud hole when one of the mines goes off near me.

We continue on up a very steep mountain, and it is really a tough climb, but almost everyone makes it. I am really tired. We finally get to the top of the mountain where there is a park. The Germans have been here and left a wonderful underground command post, all reinforced by logs. We have lost contact with Battalion and the other companies, and, of course, our radio is out. We finally get wire strung back down the hill and contact Battalion. They tell us to stay here for the night.

The supply jeep can't get up the hill, so we will not get any rations. We have had nothing to eat since yesterday, and I am really hungry. Lt. Keough has one box of K ration supper, and he shares it with me. I get my platoon placed O.K., and it's raining again. I sleep in the log C.P. and at least keep dry. It is a terrible night again. We find out from Bn. that Lt. [Judson E.] Baldus has been relieved as Bn. S-2, and Lt. [Peter R.] Shamboro has taken his place.

22 November, 1944

We get up early as usual and start down the other side of the mountain. After we reach the other side, we march across the fields for about two miles, and then enter a town which we learn is ST. DIE. It sure is beat up and still burning some. A big bridge across the river has been blown, and we see the turret of a U.S. tank sticking out of the water of the river.

As we are marching along each side of the road, a jeep comes down the road from the opposite direction, and a friend of mine from Ft. Benning days is sitting on one of the front fenders. I am too tired to even wave to him or shout at him, even though I want to.

We continue to march outside of town, and see the elaborate trenches and barbed wire that the Germans have set up. We go on past these for about five miles, and finally reach a bivouac area as it is getting dark. We all go to sleep without digging foxholes since we are so tired.

23 November, 1944

About 0500, one of the boys from Co. Headquarters, wakes me up and says there is a meeting at Co. C.P. right away, so I crawl out. The Capt. says we are going into the attack at 0600, so we

wake up all the guys, and we make our rolls and move out. As we move on to the road, we drop our rolls and pick up extra ammunition from the jeep. We march on a road for about four miles and the Capt. points out an assembly area for my platoon.

It is still raining, and this is the second day we have gone without food. I leave the platoon and go to the Co. C.P. for an orientation of the next move. The Capt. says we are not in the place where we are supposed to be, and that we will move to the correct position when it gets a little lighter. I go back to the platoon to await for the movement order.

As it begins to get light, we see that we are in a small cabbage patch, and it doesn't take us long to find and eat all of the cabbages, mud and all. We get the order to move, and go a few hundred yards down hill into another area and we wait again. We all sit around in the rain, and are low in spirits.

Finally someone builds a fire to heat some water to drink, and before long there are quite a few fires going and a good deal of smoke from them. Keough, Paulson and I are standing together by a creek bed talking when the first mortar shell comes in--very close. We all jump into the creek bank and begin digging in. Another shell hits very near us. Paulson doesn't have his shovel with him, so he digs his hole with his spoon, and does a very good job too.

A third shell hits no more than 25 yards from us and to our right, and we are really sweating. We continue to dig into the bank of the creek. This was the last shell and only one man [PFC Henry Galasso] from the 4th platoon was hit. (I see him later as he is passing through the 215th Replacement Center.) All of us put the fires out now, and we continue digging foxholes.

A runner comes down from the Capt. and tells us to be ready to move out in 10 minutes. We go back to the cabbage patch where we were earlier in the morning and wait some more. Five of our tanks go up a nearby road. The Capt. tells us we are going to cross an open field under enemy observation and artillery fire. We take off at 20-yard intervals between men and cross a field of

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about 1000 yards. We continue on to the next mountain and up a road. As usual no one knows where we are going. An artillery shell comes in close to us, and I dive for a pile of logs, and make myself a little house to take cover in. Just like I used to do when I played with Lincoln Logs.

We continue on off the road and finally stop. The Capt. tells us he does not know where we are, and we are going to establish a defense for the night. Our company radio is out as usual, but we have the Forward Observer's radio, and the Capt. gets Col. May who tells us to wait until morning before moving.

24 November, 1944

About 0200, there is a commotion in Paulson's area, and 8 Germans are captured. They are a combat patrol and equipped with 'Burp' guns and plenty of ammunition. We relieved them of everything of value. We go to sleep with our security out and on the alert.

About 0700, we are off again, and go back down the road along the side of the mountain that we came up yesterday. We approach the outskirts of a small town and wait on each side of the road for further orders.

A shell goes overhead and hits somewhere nearby, but we don't pay much attention to it. The next minute, as I am picking an apple from a tree, an 88 shell comes in like a freight train and explodes right by us. No more shells come in, and we come out and see a big hole in the field about 30 yards directly opposite my platoon's position.

A boy about 200 yards down the road in the 4th platoon was hit by a piece of shrapnel, but no one else was scratched. Finally we got our rations and a big box of turkey sandwiches. We eat these and then down the road again. Before we leave, [PFC Wesley G.] Halle goes to the rear with a bad stomach. (I see him next at the 2nd Replacement Depot at Thaon in January, 1945.) We bivouac for the night somewhere and dig in.

25 November, 1944

We start off for an attack on a village about 0800 today. We are supposed to clean out everything within certain boundaries between us and this

village we are to take. The woods and brush are very thick, and we go forward two squads abreast in a skirmish line. We lose our direction and it takes us about two hours to reorganize and continue on.

Finally we come into sight of the village, and we are all so tired and hungry and cold that we are happy to attack in order to have a place to sleep and get warm. However, the Capt. says this is not the village, so we go around it. We continue single file along a trail, and as we come near a home, Sgt. LeBeau goes to the head of the column to act as an interpreter.

We get to the house and search it, but the French tell us that the Germans left about two hours ago. We continue on and come to another house. The French people come out and look at us suspiciously. We tell them that we are Americans, and they jump around and shout and cry. They have been under German occupation for almost five years. They pass along our columns with wine and fruit, and are very glad to see us. They tell us that the Germans have just left their house.

We continue on up the trail to the next house where they bring out bread, butter, apples, and *schnapps*. We stop while the Capt. tells that the town we are to take is just over the next hill. My platoon is to lead the attack, and we start off. We enter the edge of the town, and encounter no resistance. We can see people peeping at us from behind their curtains. We go to a house, and tell them we are Americans and ask where the Germans are. Again they are very glad to see us and cry. They tell us that the Germans have just left the town, (I think the name of the town is FRAPELLE.)

We continue down the street into the main square where the usual monument to the dead soldiers of World War I stands. The word has spread all over town that we have arrived. Just as we get to the middle of the town square, a frenchman runs up to me and shakes my hand and kisses me on both cheeks. All the boys give me the laugh for that. Everyone is having a big time. All of the French are out in the street with food, and inviting us into their houses.

I feel uneasy because there may still be Germans in town, so I keep the boys going until we reach the far edge of town, and have seen nothing of any Germans. The Capt. tells me to take a cer-



tain section of town, and occupy the houses, which I do. We are very tired, so we try to find a good house where there is food and beds. All of the French are very hospitable. [Sgt. L.C.] Snyder, Loper and I go to the house of a French woman who is very glad to have us.

She cooks us a very good meal, and fixes a fire for us to dry our clothes. The woman tells us that the town has had a very hard life under the Nazis and have been mistreated. She tells us that we are the first Americans to come by. She says that her husband was shot by the Germans for being a spy. She has three daughters. One is 16, and the others are 4 and 5. We talk for a while longer, and show her on a map where our forces have been, and where the Russians are. She has heard no news of the war except what the Germans have told her.

She is very happy when we tell her that the French First Army has taken the Belfort Gap. We go upstairs to bed. Loper and I sleep together in a big feather bed with a big comforter, sheets and pillows. I go to sleep at once, and dream about sleeping all day tomorrow. About 2300, a runner from Co. H.Q. wakes me up and says to get the platoon ready to move out at once, and for me to report to the Co. C.P.

26 November, 1944

The Capt. tells me that the Regt. is going to attack somewhere and must cross a bridge which he shows me on the map. It is my duty to take my platoon and secure the bridge and the surrounding houses, and hold them so that the Regt. can cross. I am to fall in with Company I as they go by. I have about 1/2 hour to go two miles and take the bridge, and my men are still asleep and rations must be issued to them.

In about 20 minutes, we all assemble in the street out front. I orient the squad leaders and rations are issued and we take off. We get to the bridge O.K. and encounter no resistance, I station my squads in some of the houses around the bridge. I set up my C.P. in a barn, and of course, out comes the Frenchman with a bottle of cognac for us. It is now about 0100, and the Regt. is just beginning to cross the bridge. My platoon falls in behind the Company, and I learn that our Bn. is to break off from the Regt., and attack something or somebody.

We continue to march down a road, and it is very dark. Finally we halt and are told that there is a booby-trapped bridge ahead, and we must wait for the engineers to clear it. We wait for about an hour, and it is now 0300 and no engineers. We continue forward, and go around the bridge, and up over the roadbed of a railroad and through barbed wire.

It is pitch dark, and we can't see a thing. We march on through a railroad station and see no one. We continue up on the road with the march order : Company L, Company I, Company K. It is now about 0500, and our Bn. is on the road, one column on each side.

A shot is fired and a bullet sings over our heads. It is a sniper somewhere. We all dive into the water-filled ditches on either side of the road. More shots ring out, and we can't see a thing. Someone to our rear opens up with a machine gun, and we can see the tracers passing close over our heads in the darkness. We get the order to continue forward.

The sniper fires at us again, and the bullet whizzes by. We hit the ditches again. I hear Col. May and Capt. Thompson talking close by. We stay in the ditch about 1/2 hour, and I go to sleep. We are on our feet again, and now leave the road to the left. It is about 0630 and beginning to get light. We cross over a field and up over the roadbed of the railroad again, but in a different spot. We are outlined against the sky, but we are following the Col. orders.

We climb down the other side of the roadbed on our right and 25 yards to our left is a flooded stream. This area is about 150 yards long. Here we find the rest of the entire Regiment. What a spot for the enemy's mortars and artillery ! But luckily nothing comes in, and we get out O.K. We are now on a road going into town. All at once, a German machine gun opens up on us from the rear. Everyone takes off in all directions. Most of us run for the nearest hill which is never far away.

As we are running up the hill we are fired upon by some Germans who are entrenched there. We overrun them so quickly that they are taken completely by surprise. As the Germans open up with their guns, I hit the ground, and turn to see a

man lying next to me. We look each other in the eye, and he is German. He could easily have killed me, but he surrenders, and I am so surprised that I can hardly take his gun away from him. I also take his raincoat since I left mine behind somewhere.

We take a few other prisoners, but most of the other Germans have taken off. We then clear out the neck of the woods we are in. The area is very elaborately entrenched, and would have been hard to take if the Germans had fought.

Sgt. O'Connell sees a German entering some woods 400 yards away, and gets him with his M1 rifle. A really beautiful shot!

It is now about 1000, and we establish a temporary defense in the German positions. I look around and the Germans have left most of their equipment. Some very good bicycles with hand brakes and all of their packs.

I open up one of the packs and find a big pocket watch with dials showing the year, month, date of month and a moon that moves according to the time. I also get a good black leather jacket which I wear.

I set up my C.P. in an underground dugout made by the Germans. About 1600 we get orders to move out. We have been on the move for over 24 hours with no sleep, but I don't feel tired. We march on through a town with Jake [Sgt. Jacobs] on a bicycle which he soon discards. We head for some distant mountains where the Germans are supposed to be. It is raining again, of course.

We spread out in a wide formation going over the plain and reach the mountain we are supposed to secure. I take one-half of the mountain and Paulson takes the other half. He finds Germans on his half, but there are none on mine.

We dig in for the night and Snyder, Loper and I dig a foxhole and put pine boughs in the bottom and tin roofing and logs over the top.

Lt. [Robert W.] Lamkin has his heavy machine guns attached to me. It rains all night, but we sleep pretty good.

I find that Lt. Keough and a few others have stayed in the town where we were last night. He is not so dumb !

Late November, 1944

At 0800 a messenger wakes me up, and says we are to be ready to move out at 0830. Paulson leads with me second as we go up another road to somewhere. The entire Regt. is now together with all of its vehicles. It is raining and freezing cold. I am soaking wet and my fingers are frozen, but there is nothing much to be done about it. Sgt. [Cecil C.] "Pop" Sommers is sick, so he goes to the rear. (I see him later at the 2nd Replacement Depot.)

Now we hit a road block and the column is held up. In comes the German artillery right on top of us and in heavy concentrations. It looks like the Colonel would wise up soon about these road blocks and artillery. A shell hits very close and we all dive for the side of the road, and I see Lt. Col. May and Col. [Henry J.P.] Harding, [410th's C.O.] under their Jeep. We move on past the road block, and down the mountain road. We march a long way, and pass quite a few road blocks, made of felled trees. It is now dark, and we are all dead tired and hungry.

We turn off the road at a house and take a narrow, steep trail down into a large valley. The column is stopped, and Capt. [Howard T.] Walpole, Co. L, comes down and tells me to get a some messengers, and come with him. I get Loper and Snyder, and we follow the Capt. back up the hill to the house. My feet are beginning to give some trouble, and all of this climbing sure makes them hurt. The house is the Regt. C.P., and all of the staff are there. Col. May is giving Capt. Walpole hell about something. The four of us take off again down into the valley.

Walpole says we are to find K Co., who failed to stop when the rest of the column did. We go down into the valley about two miles and finally find them. The Capt. says that is all, and I can rejoin I Co. again. There is a house nearby, but a company out of the 1st Bn. has taken it over, and is all bedded down for the night.

I go in, though, and get a cup of coffee and a glass of schnapps. We now get the order to move on to some town and we are to clear it and then sleep there. I Co. is to take the town and part of M Co. is attached. We come to a town, but Lt. Murphy doesn't think this is the right one.

We go on about 1 1/2 miles to another town. It is now about 2200. We enter the town, and go to a house to see if it is any good to stay in. A couple of people come out, and one of them tells us he is the mayor and is very glad to have us. We are now in Alsace-Lorraine, and the people speak a mixture of French and German, and some of them are not at all friendly. Many of them consider themselves to be German, and are sympathetic with the Nazis.

The mayor gives us the usual story that there are no Germans in the town anymore. I place my squads down the street while I investigate. Just then, a German machine gun begins to fire. The mayor runs into his house, and slams the door in our faces leaving us outside. We break the door down and get in, in a hurry. There is more firing outside, and some women in the house are afraid of us, and start crying and the mayor wants us to leave.

The firing stops and I go out to find that we shot a couple of Germans trying to get out of town on bicycles. I then place my men in the house which is quite large, and it looks like we might get some sleep. The word comes from Capt. Thompson that we have taken the wrong town and withdraw back to the one we just passed through. We are all disgusted, but we return to the first town. Company I goes into a big house, with my platoon up in a hayloft with plenty of hay to sleep on. Sgt. [Gerald W.] O'Connell is pretty sick, and I send him back.

27 November, 1944

At 0700 in the morning, my platoon is sent up a hill outside the house to defend in case of an attack. At about 1000, 19 Germans come down from an adjacent hill to surrender to K Company on our right. They were right by the road where we came last night. At 1200, Capt. sends me to another house about 700 yards to the rear of the first house to defend until we move out a short time later. The people in the house seem friendly enough, although they speak German.

I try to shave myself with a straight razor, but have a hard time, so Loper finishes up for me. We sit around and dry our clothes and eat apples

until 1500 when we get orders to move out.

We leave the town and march down a paved road. We go through a town that has been shelled up quite a bit. The civilians stand around and watch us, but don't seem very happy. Our artillery is not very far off, and they are setting a terrific barrage on a town about 2 miles away, where the Germans are, and where we are heading.

The town is in flames, and the road is jammed with vehicles bringing back the wounded. One jeep comes speeding back with stretchers on the front and rear, each carrying boys who are unconscious and bloody--very hard on our morale.

We enter the edge of the town just as it is getting dark. Many of the buildings are in flames from the artillery fire. The Germans have left, and their artillery is now falling on us in the town. It is now completely dark, and our battalion is dispersed in a field just outside of town.

All at once, there is the most terrifying sound I have ever heard. It seems like someone speeding down a street about 70 miles per hour, and suddenly jamming on the brakes full force and skidding, multiplied about a million times. These are the famous German "SCREAMING MIMIS" or [88mm artillery shells.] I had never heard anything like it before, and in the dark field, surrounded by flaming buildings, it is startling.

We cross a small stream, and go up the side of a mountain. We march quite a long ways, and then come to a road on the other side of the town. We halt several times and Sgt. Walters comes up forward to see what is the matter.

It seems that all the company commanders are at a meeting at battalion and someone put some sergeant in charge of leading the battalion to an assembly area. The Sgt. doesn't know where to go and neither does any one else.

Finally Capt. Thompson comes up, and we get going again. We turn off the road to the left and go up another hill into the woods. We stop in a spot and bivouac for the night.

We dig a hole and cover it with logs, and go to sleep. It is very cold, and we are all wet and hungry as usual. The Infantry is not the easiest branch to be in !

28 November, 1944

At 0400 a company runner wakes me up and says to prepare for an attack at once. I wake up the squad leaders, and issue rations. It is really cold, and the water and lemon juice in my canteen is frozen. I find Capt. Thompson and he says the Bn. is going to attack something with I company leading the attack.

My platoon will be leading the company. It is pitch dark in the woods, and we start off single file to a trail nearby. Part of the column breaks off, and it is lost, so we wait about an hour until we find them. We come to a small road, and go down it, one column on each side. It is still very dark and we can see nothing.

Suddenly a shot from a sniper rings out somewhere to our left. After a few more shots, we hit the dirt on either side of the road. The Capt. comes up and tells me to take some men and find the sniper. I take a squad, and we crawl on our stomachs in a skirmish line through a vineyard to try and locate him. We go about 100 yards and don't run across anything, so we come back.

The column now goes forward as it begins to get a little lighter. We can make out a few houses in a town we are coming to. All at once we are under heavy fire from a house about 10 yards away. The Germans are firing machine guns and rifles and [throwing] hand grenades.

We all dive into ditches by the road. A few boys are hit. The soldier right in front of me gets hit, and I call back for the medics. Everyone thinks I am the one who was hit, since I am calling for the medic, and for days later people are surprised to see me because they thought I was shot.

The Germans are shouting orders to one another and they are very close. My platoon is the only one in the fight as everyone else is back down the road and out of the way. I take all of the men with grenade launchers that I can find, and tell them to direct their fire at the house.

We crawl up very close to fire our grenades into it. Several of the grenades are duds and don't go off. I also bring up the bazooka, but all of the shells are duds and won't fire. We have been carrying them for some time and they are probably pretty wet.

We do get a couple of good grenades into the windows of the house. But the German fire continues. I crawl back to the road and run into Col. May and Capt. Walpole deep in a ditch of about 4 feet deep. They are surprised to see me as they thought I had been hit. By now we had captured a few Germans who were in the foxholes on the side of the road.

As I am lying beside the road, a German grenade is thrown out of the house and it lands right beside me. I don't have time to do anything, but fortunately it is a dud and doesn't explode. I am glad that we are not the only ones that have bad ammunition at times.

Now T/5 [Darrell D.] Elliott, my medic, is shot dead-center in the chest, right through his Red Cross Badge. He really looks bad as he is carried to the rear. [Note the Bronze Star citation on p. 60.] Another of my men has a bullet hit his helmet, and it lodges there, and does little damage to him.

We now get the order to withdraw to a hill in the rear. Things are really "snafu" now, and everyone is mixed up. Finally most of my men get together, and we dig in on the hillside. The prisoners are here and also the wounded. German machine guns from another hill are firing on us, but we can't locate them due to their smokeless powder. We have a tough time getting the wounded to the rear because the mountains are so steep. We make the German prisoners carry our wounded back for us.

The Capt. tells us to move out to the next hill to our front. We run across an open space to a small wooded area, and take cover there. The hill we are supposed to go to is covered by enemy artillery fire, so I hold up, but the Capt. says to go on, which we do. After a walk of about a mile over open ground, we get to the hill and find L Co. there also, so we dig in.

My feet are worse and giving me a lot of pain, so I see one of our company's medics. I take off my shoes for the first time in three weeks, and my feet are very white and wrinkled and bloody. The medic says I have trench foot, and should keep my feet warm and dry and stay off of them. I remind him that I am in the Infantry, and he says, "Too Bad!"

As I am putting on my shoes and socks, a shell hits right by us. Four of us dive for a foxhole. I get in all but my legs, and the shells are falling fast all around us. I wait for the pain to come in my legs, but it doesn't. The shelling lets up so we prepare to move out. I later find that the artillery was our own, and they thought the hill was occupied by the Germans.

We are now going to take another hill so we start off. We go through some tall grass over our heads, and reach the hill and start up. It is very high and steep, and my feet are really taking a beating. As we are half way up, we see a German taking off down in the valley we just came from. When we get to the top, Capt. Thompson tells me my platoon is to lead on to the next hill and secure it.

Col. May and the Bn. forward-observer are now up here. After we secure the edge of the woods, K Company under Capt. [Daniel E.] Halpin is to pass through us and take the next town. I lead off down a small mountain trail with the rest of the company behind me in a single file. When we reach the base of the hill we are to take, we make a 90-degree turn to the right and go next to the hill for 400 yards.

I then halt the column and pass the word for all men to face the left and advance up the hill. This gives us a skirmish line all around on our side starting up at the same time. We get to the top O.K. and establish a defense on the edge of the woods, and wait for K Co. to come through us. The boy who got hit in the helmet early this morning, now realizes what happened and has a delayed reaction and emotionally breaks down, and has to be sent to the rear.

About 1830, just as it is getting dark, K Co. attacks the town. They evidently get in O.K. after driving the Germans out, but German tanks shell the town and K Co. comes back out. So both companies now advance into the town under heavy artillery fire, but meet no enemy opposition. The Capt. tells me to pick a house, so I grab a large one for the platoon, and we enter it. It is really a good house with several good bedrooms and plenty of food.

There is a picture of Hitler in one room, and a lot of German papers around, so we don't

hesitate to take anything we want. In the kitchen are all sorts of jellies and canned fruit and, of course, Cognac. We eat all we can hold and go to bed. I take off my shoes and some of my clothes and get into a big, feather bed.

29 November, 1944

For a change, nothing happens all night except for a little artillery, and I sleep until about 1000, but keep waking up earlier expecting the Capt. to call. The woman whose house we are in returns and she is very nasty and doesn't like us at all. We really tore up her house. I have learned how to handle these people now, and order one of my men to take her out and shoot her, (not really, of course,) and we have no more trouble from her. I got a new medic to take the place of Elliott.

We get word that the 411th is going to pass through us sometime today and to go on to the next town, and that we are going to follow them. About 1600 the 411th passes through and we fall in behind them. As we march out of town, the people place apples and bottles of wine in the middle of the street for us to help ourselves to as we pass by.

Our battalion leaves the road and the rest of the regiment and cuts across country to our left. The march order is Company L, Company I, and then Company K. The head of the column hits a road block on the trail we are following. It is decided that we will cut through the woods to our right, and go around the roadblock. There happens to be a trail just where we want to go, so we follow it in a 'column of files'.

Scattered artillery is falling, but not enough to cause undue alarm. There is now firing ahead and the column stops. Word is passed back that Company L in the lead has hit another roadblock, protected by German machine guns. The word is passed back for all bazooka men to come forward. Lt. [Leon J.] Sachleben and Lt. [Joseph F.] Adamski come back for something. We talk and joke for awhile, and then they go forward again.

I am talking to 1st Sgt. Walters when WHAM ! A German shell comes right in on us. Everyone hits the ground as another shell hits just down the column from us.. Already there are cries for the "Medic !" as the shells fall up and down our

30 November, 1944

column really raising hell. Some of the shells hit so close to me that I am jarred clear off the ground. Walters and I are digging holes, but the ground is full of roots and so many shells are coming in that we can't get out of the prone position at all. Consequently we don't get much of a hole dug. The word comes back to withdraw back to the town we just came from.

As I am going back to let everyone know we are withdrawing, I see Sgt. [Carl] Minnear lying on the ground and blown to a bloody mess. There are some other boys hit, but they are being taken care of. Cpl. [Walter F.] Schneider was hit in the arm and is being treated. Our platoon really took a beating. I run into Lt. Lamkin on my way back and we stick together until we hit town.

In town there is plenty of confusion, and a few shells land in the streets. One shell hits right in front of me and I dive for the nearest doorway. I enter a pitch black room, and back into something alive and wet. It turns out to be a cow, it sure scared me. After the shelling lets up, I go out onto the street again. I find Capt. Thompson who tells me to gather my men and defend the edge of the town nearest the enemy against a counter-attack.

I manage to find all of my men, and take over the last house in town. An old man is the only one living there. I also put half of my men across the street in another house. We have six casualties in my platoon alone. They are Staff Sgt. [Carl] Minnear - dead, Pvt. [Howard I.] Schwenden - dead, the new medic, [Aalsey H. Milburn] - an arm blown off, and Schneider and one of my B.A.R. men and another private - all wounded slightly.

My platoon strength is down to about 21 men now. It has gotten dark and I post my men outside. Two medium tanks pull up outside to coordinate their defensive fire with us. Sgt. [Joseph] Le Beau on the right side of the road, reports that he sees men out to his front, but we hold our fire for fear they might be some of our own men.

Lt. Paulson is defending a church on a hill to our right rear, and we can see far across his front. There is some shooting from his area, and a rocket is fired at the church. It is too dark, and we are too far away to take a chance on firing. One of my men falls through a hole in the roof while he is observing from a window and sprains his arm and is sent back. We try to get a little sleep.

In the morning we reorganize the platoon and take care of the dead. I get a .45 automatic pistol off one of the men in the 4th platoon, [PFC Raymond Voss], who was killed yesterday.

We get word that we are to be prepared to attack at any time. I decide to make [PFC Rabb T.] Kimmel my runner in place of Loper, who becomes a rifleman. About 1600 we take off down the same road we started on yesterday, but do not turn off as we did before. The Capt. says our company alone is to capture a town, [BLIENSCHWILLER], and we may have tanks to help us.

As we are marching down the road, a big explosion about 100 yards in front takes place. When we get to the spot, we see one of the men from the 4th platoon lying in the road where he had stepped on a shoe mine and blown his foot off. His face and body was splattered with his blood from the explosion. From then on, none of us gets off the road onto the shoulders. The word is passed back that mines are placed everywhere alongside the road.

It is getting dark fast and we haven't got in sight of the town yet. We continue down the road with the 2nd platoon leading, with machine guns attached. It is now dark, but there is a bright moon, and we can see pretty well. German machine guns now open on us from somewhere to our front, and we all hit the ground. We set up a hasty all-around defense. The tracers from the German guns are coming right over our heads, and are pretty in the dark.

All at once, several Germans walk right into my platoon, and we capture them. One of the Germans is very scared and starts to run, so we let him have it. He is not killed, but he is in great pain, so we give him a shot of morphine, and send him to the rear. We capture about five of them and send them back.

One of my 18-year olds is so scared he can hardly talk and is about to cry. The German fire continues, and we decide to blow them out with our 105 [mm] cannon. Lt. [Thomas W.] Jones is with us to adjust the fire. My platoon withdraws about 200 yards, and the 2nd platoon withdraws back through us, leaving us at the front.

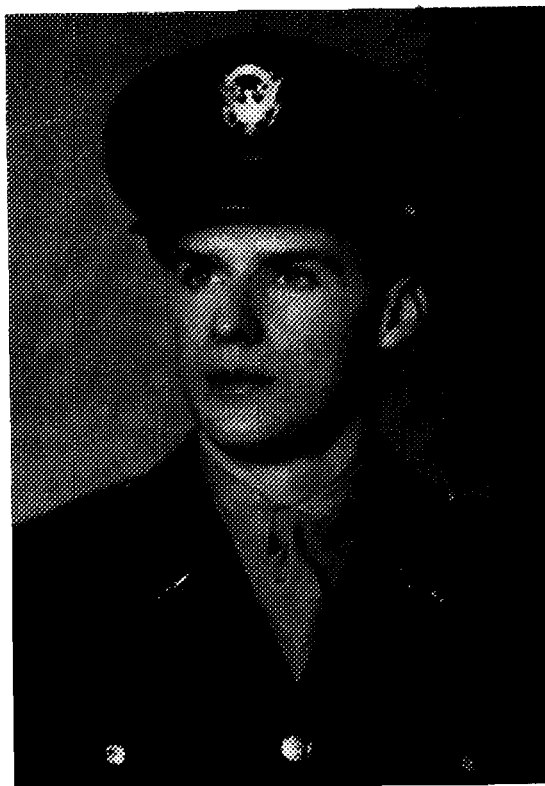


Kimmel and I go the rear of the platoon area, and sit down on the side of the hill and eat K rations while we wait for the cannon to start. The first shells now sing over and fall short--right in front of our defensive area. Several more shells fall short in the area, so we move back about 300 yards more, and go back to find Lt. Jones, and tell him his shells are too short. We continue to fire a good concentration into the general area, but I don't think it will do much against the dug-in troops.

The Capt. decides to wait until dawn to make an attack. So the Company forms a circular defense, and we dig in for the night. During the night our artillery fires a terrific concentration into the town we are to take in the morning.

1 December, 1944

We get up at dawn and get ready to attack the town. We now have several tank destroyers and some men to help us. We get word that another outfit will pass through us and take the town while we support them by fire from our present positions.



*2nd Lt. John P. Neely- Ft. Benning, Ga.- 1944*

Our company moves up on the hill a little higher, so that we can fire over the heads of the attacking troops into the town. Some tank destroyers go down the hill into the town followed by some men. We get the word to move into the town and clear it. The Capt. tells me to clear out a big church in the town, so we take off. As we enter the town, we see that it has really been shelled a lot. No one is in sight, but we know that the French are in their houses hiding.

My trench foot is giving me a lot of trouble again, and I am having much trouble walking. In the back of the Catholic church is a cart with two dead Germans in it. We enter the church and examine it from top to bottom and find no one. It is really a very pretty church and fairly large.

I pull a rope and ring the bells in the steeple just for the fun of it. A priest comes out and greets us, and tells us how rough the Germans treated him when they were here, and says they all left last night during the shelling. The church is a wreck with no roof and is burned up inside. A runner from the Capt. comes and tells us to clear all the houses down to the main street. The French are beginning to come out now, and we search the houses, and find no Germans. Some are captured in another part of

the town. As we go to the main square, there are French everywhere offering the usual food and drink. The Capt. tells us to find a house and take a break. I place my men in three houses and go in one of them for a rest. The people are very friendly and offer to cook us a meal. We ask for fried chicken but they have none, so I send out a couple of boys, and they bring back four chickens from somewhere. The meal is very good. It is now about 1500. We still don't know if we are going to stay here all night or not, but we sure want to as we are very tired. A line of German prisoners,

about 200, marches by to the rear. We get word that an Armored Force unit is coming through soon, which they do. There is quite a large number of them.

The Capt. calls me down to the Bn. C.P. and says we are to move on and take a town or something. We are all tired and it is getting dark, so we feel bad. Company K and Company L are already attacking, and we are to follow them up. General Pierce is running around and giving his "Keep Pushing" talk. Company I takes off about 1700 with the 2nd platoon leading. It soon gets very dark and we can see little. We follow the road and then turn off down a narrow trail, single file. We enter a darkened town, DAMBACH, and go to the far edge of it.

## COMBAT

The Capt. takes a house for the Company C.P. and I take one across the street for my platoon. I knock on the door and a man and woman open it. I try to tell them in French that we are Americans and that we want to stay in the house for the night. The man tells me, in perfect English, that he lived in Brooklyn for ten years and please come in. In the house are the man and his wife and two children. The man and woman used to live in the U.S. until the man's doctor sent him back to Europe for his health.

They are very nice and give me their bedroom. The two of them sleep in the basement, and I suspect that they have been sleeping there since the fighting started. We are all exhausted and go to sleep. At midnight, a company runner wakes me up, and tells me to be ready to move out at 0100. I go back to sleep.

2 December, 1944

The Co. runner comes back at 0100 and says that everyone is waiting for my platoon. But I don't even recall him waking me up at midnight to tell me. We take off in an attack or something down a road at 0200. We march a long way and go over a bridge and turn left off a road and enter a field. Col. May decides we are not in the right place, so we go back to the road, and over the same bridge and turn down a different road.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons got over the bridge, but as the 4th platoon goes over, there is a big explosion. Some of the men in the machine gun squad have stepped on "Bouncing Betty" mines, and are taken to the rear. We continue down the road, and a shot is fired on us from close range.

Up front I hear Sgt. Walters cussing out some man from Company L who fired on us. We go down the road and dig in on both sides and wait until morning. I count my men and there are nineteen, including myself and Tech. Sgt. Jacobs.



*Lt. John P. Neely - France, 1944*

This is out of 50 men we started with. Sgt. LeBeau is the only other Sgt. left. At this point, my feet have completely given out on me and I can't put any weight on them. Walking is impossible. At 1000, I see Colonel May in his foxhole beside the road, and he orders a jeep and driver who take me to a hospital to treat my feet.

Subsequently I am sent to a replacement depot, and later assigned as Personnel officer for the army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes* in Paris. Later we get moved to Altdorf, Germany, and then to Le Havre for shipment home.

I was in the Army for 3 years, 9 months, including 1 year, 10 months

overseas. I found out the difference between Peace and War is :

In peacetime, sons bury their fathers, and in wartime, fathers bury the sons.

# The Rememberers of Company I - 410th Inf. - WWII

Winter, 1999

## **PFC GENE WISE AWARDED THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL**

In a surprising announcement, the United States Army, through the Office of the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Togo D. West Jr., has awarded The Soldier's Medal to Private First Class Gene Wise, ASN 37531848, from St. Joseph, Missouri. PFC Wise was a member of Company "I", 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division. The action took place late on a Sunday afternoon, December 10, 1944, near Neubourg, (Alsace) France.

The award will be presented by the U.S. Army from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, posthumously to PFC Wise's next of kin at a ceremony Feb. 12, 1999 at 3:00 pm in the National Heritage Military Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri. Gene lived in St. Joseph and graduated from Benton High School in 1943.

### **The Citation For The Soldier's Medal**

Private First Class Gene Wise, ASN 37531848, Infantry, Company "I". 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division. For Extraordinary Heroism in Action, not involving conflict with the retreating German Army.

On 10 December 1944, the 1st Platoon of Company "I" was assigned to get some rest in a storage room of a large building next to the railroad track in Neubourg, France. About thirty members of the 1st Platoon were in the room.

At approximately 1745, Private Wise was heard to scream, "Grenade!", and every soldier flattened out on the gravel floor of the building. A tremendous explosion occurred. Realizing the danger the accidental removal of the safety pin, while removing a hand grenade from his lapel, posed to his fellow soldiers, Private Wise had made an instantaneous decision, after shouting out a warning, to fall on the grenade himself. He was killed.

His undaunted courage saved the lives of many members of the 1st Platoon and possibly the wounding of all present in such a confined space.

*Narrative of Operations, 410th Infantry Regiment,*  
Dec. 1944, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

"New orders came on the 8th of December. Division Operational Instructions stated that the 103rd Division would relieve elements of the 45th and 79th Divisions, and would be prepared to attack northeast."

"The Third Battalion made a motor march from WALTENHEIM and closed into their area in the vicinity of GRASSENDORF MORSCHWILLER at 1730."

"On 9 December 44 the Third Battalion made a march to the vicinity of UBERACH and spent the night there in a former German work camp."

"Company I made a foot march from MORSCHWILLER to the vicinity of NEUBOURG." [From notes taken contemporaneously by 1st Sgt. Walters.]

"The attack to recapture MERTZWILLER jumped off at 0530 on 10 December 44. The weather was rainy and visibility limited. Under heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire the First Battalion crossed the Zinzel river. Company A, on the left, received some mortar fire. At 0615 Company C moved into MERTZWILLER receiving practically no fire. Company C dug in and prepared to clean out the town."

"The Second Battalion crossed the river at 0730 with the two leading companies meeting only slight resistance. The Third Battalion remained in reserve."

p. 200

Declassified *SECRET JOURNAL*  
*THIRD BATTALION, 410TH INFANTRY*  
DATE: 10 December 1944  
PLACE: NEAR MERTZWILLER, FRANCE

1745 — Sgt Walters breaks in — Accident at I Co — grenade exploded — wants medics — thinks one man dead — may be able to save one.

1900 — Item 6 in CP — reports one man killed from grenade in company building. Man saved many lives by falling on grenade. One other man slightly wounded.

10 Dec 44. Remained in bivouac [near NEUBOURG, 5 miles west of HAGENAU, on the Moder River.]

[PFC Gene] Wise — KIA.

[SGT George F.] Moran — WIA.

[CPL Gaetano T.] Ficca — DY to SK.

Company I Book

Notarized Letter from  
AUDREY R. WALTERS Sr. to  
The Honorable Togo D. West Jr.  
Secretary of the Army  
Department of Defense, The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Sir:

In the late afternoon of Sunday December 10, 1944, after having completed a five mile march from MORSCHWILLER (Alsace), France to the vicinity of NEWBURG (Alsace), France, Company "I" 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division was assigned billets in a densely wooded German rail warehouse storage area. Being an active fluid front line combat position, each Platoon was assigned billets in separate warehouse buildings. These warehouse buildings were approximately one hundred feet long and twenty feet wide, without windows and with a gravel or cinder floor. Each building had two large doors at each end and a single railroad track running through the center of the building.

At approximately 1730 hours, as the personnel were settling into their assigned area for the night, a loud explosion was heard. Upon investigation I discovered Private First Class Gene Wise, ASN 37531848, St. Joseph, Missouri, a member of the First Platoon, had while in the process of removing his equipment, accidentally removed the safety pin from a fragmentation hand grenade. Realizing the hazard he had caused, called out "Grenade" and not having anywhere to dispose of the grenade, rolled his body on top of it to protect other members of his platoon in the building from harm. The succeeding detonation of the grenade took the life of Private First Class Gene Wise. Due to PFC Wise's quick action and heroic decision to give his life for his comrades, only two other persons were injured, Sergeant George F. Moran ASN 38132086 was deafened by the explosion and Private First Class Neal Ross ASN 39616449 was hit by a piece of shrapnel but was not evacuated, no other lives were lost. There were no indications or evidence that PFC Wise acted with intent to take his own life or the life of any other person. After my investigation of the incident, PFC Wise was reported Killed in Action as of December 10, 1944.

1st Sgt. Walter's Letter — [continued]

The Platoon Leader of the First Platoon to which PFC Wise was assigned, Myself as the Company First Sergeant and several non-commissioned officers assigned to the First Platoon made recommendations to Captain Charles H. Thompson, Vienna, Virginia (now deceased) the Company Commander, that PFC Wise be awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic action.

Captain Thompson, an outstanding Commander and Officer, had commanded the Company through unit training in the United States before deployment to Europe, and within the first thirty days of combat lost several men to the rigors a new unit confronts entering combat; the weather, battle deaths and wounds from both combat action and self-inflection. Company "T" had experienced the misfortune of having two men whose wounds were self-inflected.

It was Captain Thompson's belief at the time, that to recognize PFC Wise's action with an award would in some way degrade the intent of the awards system and promote more self-inflected wounds. Additionally, the Battalion Executive Office, after the two earlier self-inflected wounds suffered in Company "T", spoke with Captain Thompson regarding the necessity of using extra caution with persons prone to self-injury. As a result of Captain Thompson's view plus the expressions of his superiors, he overruled the recommendations and no recommendation for an award was submitted.

As the war progressed Captain Thompson and I gained more combat experience and insight into heroic actions and bravery, we often discussed the matter of PFC Wise's heroic action, and later during some of the discussions Captain Thompson changed his views regarding an award for PFC Wise, but due to the fast movement of the war, reassignment of personnel and realignment of units, no recommendation for an award was ever submitted to recognize PFC Wise for his heroic act.

*The split second decision of PFC Gene Wise to give his life to protect his friends and comrades demonstrated a degree of Honor and Heroism possessed by few men. PFC Wise's unselfishness and devotion to duty brought great credit to the U. S. Army, Company "T", 410th Infantry Regiment, to himself and his next of kin.*



Gene Wise - 1944

During World War II, Combat troops in the European Theater were required to carry Fragmentation hand grenades while engaged in front line combat. No equipment was available, or safety policy existed prescribing a safe method for carrying such ordnance. It was standard practice to hang grenades, land mines, and such other explosive ordnance from clothing, belts and/or makeshift carrying devices.

It is difficult for persons new to combat to make sound judgments regarding heroic acts, to this I can attest with some degree of authority from my service with an Infantry rifle company of the 103rd Infantry Division through Europe, followed by combat service in Korea with the Second Infantry Division at KUNU—RI when the Chinese Fourth Field Army entered the war on behalf of the No. Koreans which involved considerable combat action by the Division resulting in a report that the Division had been annihilated, and again on 12 Feb 1951 at CHIPYOWG-NI, South Korea, commonly known as "Massacre (or Death) Valley".

*In my extensive combat experience I have never witnessed a more heroic act than was displayed on December 10, 1944 in a remote wooded area of a foreign land by an American Soldier who gave his life, without hesitation to save his comrades. There can be no greater act of heroism. Over the years I often recall the unselfish bravery of this one Soldier. I am honored to have known Private First Class Gene Wise.*

## Testimony of Neal Ross, 1st Platoon

On the night of December 10, 1944 our unit was billeted in a warehouse-storage building near the village of NEUBOURG, Alsace, France. As darkness fell we slowly drifted to the outer walls of the building as there were no walls or partitions on the gravel floor and it would give us a place to lean our rifles and place our equipment.

Since combat actions in the area had cut off electrical power, the only source of illumination were GI or German Army candles and a few flashlights. Some of the men were already asleep and the rest were in the process of removing ammo bandoliers, grenades, and rifle belts from their jackets or in quiet conversation before sacking out for the night.

Some men carried their grenades in their jacket pockets while others would attach them to their jackets by the handles or pin rings. Gene Wise was in the act of removing the grenade from his jacket when the terrible unexpected happened; the pin slipped through the handle and the next thing we heard was the hammer striking the fuse cap followed by Gene's frantic cry of "Grenade!", as he threw himself upon it and smothered the explosion with his body.

At his warning cry, we hit the dirt and seconds later heard the muffled explosion and only then realized what a brave and heroic thing Gene had done; he'd made the "Supreme Sacrifice" for a bunch of guys, some of whom he hardly knew. There were only two other men wounded in this incident; were it not for Gene's heroic action and given the close proximity of the men in that building, the results could have been deadly.

*I often wondered if Gene was ever recommended for a decoration. He deserved it.*

Neal Ross

PFC, ASN 39616449, I Co. 410 Inf. Regiment

P.S. I did not suffer an eye injury from the explosion, but was struck mid-forehead by a grenade fragment which became infected and later was surgically removed at an Army Hospital in MUTZIG, France.

## Testimony of Edward J. Nestor, Jr.

To Whom It MAY Concern :

Re : Death of PFC Gene Wise

PFC Wise was a member of 1st Platoon, Company I, 410 Infantry Regiment. I was a member of the same platoon and had shared many assignments with him both in Camp Howze, Texas and in Europe. He was regarded by me and everyone in the platoon as an efficient and dependable soldier.

On the night of 10 December 1944, the 1st platoon (as well as other elements of Co. I) was billeted in what appeared to be a railroad trolley shed near Newberg, Alsace. It had a cinder floor and we spread our sleeping bags at intervals. I was about 20 to 25 yards from Gene Wise. It was very dark in the shed and shortly after I laid down for the night I heard Gene Wise yell "grenade". This was followed by a loud grenade explosion. We rushed to the area and found Wise's body. He had thrown his helmet over the grenade and placed his body over the helmet.

No one knew exactly how the grenade got loose, however, there was no question that Gene Wise's act of heroism saved several of us from death or injury. His body took the full impact of the explosion and was riddled with shrapnel. To my knowledge no other person was wounded. This is a complete and accurate description of the events of that night as I can recall after 50 years.

*I would be happy to answer any further questions about this matter, since I regard Gene Wise as a true hero and deserving of recognition even at this late date.*

Edward J. Nestor, Jr.

PFC, 1st Platoon, Co. I, 410th Inf. Regt, 103rd Infantry Division, ASN 37616709

Completion of letter of  
1st Sgt. Audrey Walters, Sr.

Request the circumstances and actions surrounding the death of PFC Gene Wise be evaluated and an appropriate award commensurate with such exceptional act of bravery be awarded posthumously to his next of kin.

Audrey R. Walters, Sr.  
Former 1st Sgt., Co. "T", 410th Inf. Regt.



## Testimony of Howard Farrand

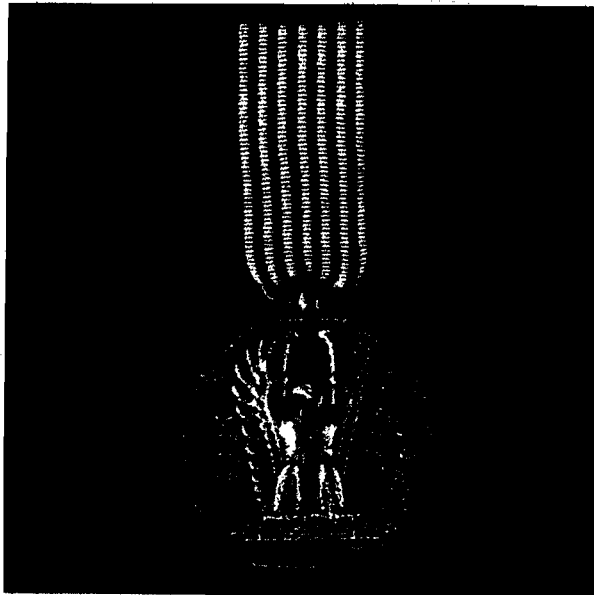
### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On the night of December 10, 1944, we were billeted in a warehouse type building near Newbourg (Alsace) France. I was only ten to twenty feet from Gene Wise when I heard him yell, "Grenade". I laid on my stomach, face down and wondered if this was IT. After the grenade exploded and I did not feel any wounds, all around us were in shock. It was later when we found out Gene had laid on the grenade.

We can only surmise, the pin was dislodged from the grenade as Gene was preparing for bed. He was a good soldier, a wonderful person and a joy to be around. He certainly deserves an award.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Farrand  
Company I, 410th Infantry Regt.,  
103rd Infantry Division.



### The Soldier's Medal

The medal is octagonal. An eagle, wings upraised, perched on a fasces, the obverse side has six stars and a spray of leaves above on its right and seven stars on its left. The reverse of the medal has in its center a shield paly of thirteen sections, with the letters "U.S." on the largest. To the left of the shield are sprays of laurel and to the right sprays of oak, joined by a scroll that passes behind the shield. The upper edge of the medal is inscribed "Soldier's Medal." Near the bottom are the words "For Valor" above a plaque for Gene Wise. The ribbon consists of alternating narrow white (7) and red stripes (6) in the center flanked by a wide blue stripe at either edge.

## Testimony of Carroll C. Cook, Sr.

### To Whom It May Concern:

This is an endorsement and certification of the facts about the death of PFC Gene Wise, ASN 37531848 of St. Joseph, Missouri. At the time and place of the referenced incident, I was present, serving as a machine-gunner in the 4th Platoon, Co. I, 410th Infantry Regiment.

My platoon was engaged in digging fox holes inside the car barn adjacent to the barn where Wise was located. I heard the explosion, investigated to see what had happened and who had been involved. I knew Wise fairly well and Neal Ross, who was with him and injured at the same time.

Frankly, I was appalled at the guts it took for Wise to fall on his own grenade, even though the accident wasn't unique when you had to carry and use the grenades — usually in a hurry.

Even though I later received a battlefield commission and took over the 4th Platoon, it never occurred to me that Wise would not be put up for some sort of recognition.

Knowing him, he did what he felt he had to do to protect his comrades; he sure didn't do it because he wanted out.

At this late date, I strongly endorse 1st Sgt. Walter's recommendations. Capt. Thompson was a fine man and a very capable company commander, but sparing in issuing medals. He was off-base this time, re: not nominating Wise.

I want to commend all those bringing this incident to the Army's attention and trust this will generate appropriate recognition for PFC Wise's heroism.

Yours truly,

Carroll C. Cook, Sr.

(Formerly 2nd Lt., Co. I  
410th Inf., ASN 02010661)

### The Soldier's Medal

This medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in the United States Army, shall distinguish himself by "heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy." The act of heroism must have meant personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life.

## In Memory of Jack Flynn

Jack Flynn, 75, of Corsicana, passed away Saturday, June 13, 1998, at his residence.

Services were at First Methodist Church. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery.

Mr. Flynn was born in Corsicana on Dec. 15, 1922. He attended Corsicana schools graduating in 1940. He retired from Southern Pacific Railroad in 1984 after 42 years. He was a World War II veteran serving in France, Germany, Austria and Italy in Company I, 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division as Staff Sergeant and was a life member of VFW Post 3366.

He was a member of First Methodist Church and the Friendship Sunday School Class. He had served on the Administrative Council, Board of Trustees and currently served on the Board of Trustees for the Central Texas Conference. He was also a volunteer driver for American Cancer Society Road to Recovery Program.

Mr. Flynn is survived by his wife, Peggy Flynn of Corsicana; son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Judy Flynn of Houston; daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Mike Jennings of Kerens; grandchildren, Jana and Jeremy Flynn of Houston and Shelly and Bryant Jennings of Kerens; and brothers, Eugene Flynn of Houston, Paul Flynn of Waco and Bill Flynn of Dallas.

*"Jack was sick only about 3 months (he had liver cancer). . . Thank you for helping to bring back some of his old army memories. . . He really enjoyed reading the book. . ."*

*Sincerely,  
Peggy Flynn*

Many Thanks to : Rep. James Leach, Rep. Pat Danner, Bill Alpern\*, Bill Corbett\*, Carroll Cook\*, Howard Farrand\*, Ed Nestor\*, Ken Newton, Neal Ross\*, and "Bear" Walters\*, Beverly Taylor, Ray Baker, Charlie Kovac, Bill Reese, Burt Thomas and Elizabeth Huyett.  
From : Bob Quinn, Company I, 410th Infantry (\*)

# This brochure about Gene Wise for the Award Ceremony is courtesy of KINKO'S.

## Gene Wise's Next - of - Kin

Mrs. Helen V. Lanoie

Mrs. Ilene Mc Daniel

Mrs. Kathryn Pilling

Mrs. Mildred Stamfer

Gerald Brownawall



Map of Alsace, France

A = Neubourg  
B = Uhrwiller - Site of Co. I, 410th Inf. Plaque  
C = Pfaffenhoffen - Site of 103rd Div. Monument

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo C /
Acres	John C.	T/5	31134001	1st Pl./p.	28,31,45,47,56			
Adkins	Reuben L.	PFC	15066756					
Alpern	Will J.	PFC	11112139	2nd Pl. /p.	Preface, 3, 22, 26, 27, 31			
Alvarado	M.L. "Mickey"	PFC	39580525	2nd Pl.		Deceased		
Anderson	Howard E.	PFC	38307621	3rd Pl. /p.	31, 33, 55, 56			
Anderson	Charles			3rd Pl. /p.	56			
Anderson	Stanley I.	SGT	37568624	2nd Pl. /p.	51			
Baker	Leon E.	2nd LT		3rd Pl. /p.	46, 51, 56			
Baker	Leo	SGT		4th Pl.				
Barger	Alfred T.	PFC	34493000					
Barker	Harvey D.	PVT	38542324	1st Pl. /p.	42, 44, 45, 56			
Bates	Herman W.	CPL	34705207	4th Pl.				
Beck	Emil			1st Pl.				
Bicanek	John E.	PFC	36969039	1st Pl. /p.	22, 28, 30 (Found 1997)			
Bircham	Glen			3rd Pl.				
Blankenship	Lloyd J.	PVT	33665097					
Bloom	Murray	PVT	36546117	3rd Pl. /p.	24, 28, 31, 33, 36			
Bohnencamp	Lloyd F. "Bo"	PFC	16162455	4th Pl. /p.	24, 31			
Borgen	Wilmer M.	PFC	37568568	2nd Pl. /p.	38, 39, 56	ca. 1967		
Boss	John H.	PFC	37531698	1st Pl. /p.	24, 42, 45, 46, 47			
Bradley	Alan S.	PFC		4th Pl. /p.	13			
Bravata	Anthony A.	PFC	32111524	2nd Pl. /p.	38, 55, 56, 59			
Brock	Harold G.	PVT	39705667	3rd Pl. /p.	26, 38, 39, 42, 54			
Brown	Bernard	PFC		1st Pl./4th Pl. /p.	55, 56			
Bucher	Dale L.	PVT	36983947	3rd Pl. /p.	55, 56			
Burkhart	Lloyd C.	PVT	44013900	1st Pl. /p.	51			
Burnham	Hale R.	PFC	39461174	Head. Pl.-Company Bugler /p.	45, 47	KIA-3/15/45		
Byerley	Clarence E.	PFC	39927737	3rd Pl. /p.	38, 39, 44, 45, 47, 51, 52			
Calfee	Donald	T/SGT		4th Pl. /p.	15, 16, 22, 42, 46, 47, 58	ca. 1982		
Carr	David B.	PFC	39916358	/p.	14, 26			
Carroll	Ernest A.	PVT	33957451	1st Pl. /p.	51			
Casey	Ernest M.	PFC	37446233	1st Pl.-Company Cook /p.	21, 26, 33, 42			
Catron	Fred			1st Pl. /p.	33			
Cava	Anthony L.	PVT	42124445	4th Pl. /p.	13, 23, 26, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39			
Cellan	Earl W.	SGT	39827424	4th Pl. /p.	2,18, 19, 23, 26, 56	ca. 1981		
Ciezki	Theodore S.	T/5	36361330	/p.	39	KIA-1/26/45		
Coffman	Allen A.	PVT	39217253	3rd Pl. /p.	26, 33, 47			
Cohen	Alvin	SGT	12125089	3rd Pl. /p.	37, 39, 42			
Collett	Gordon R.	2nd LT	01329565	4th Pl.				
Cook	Lawrence E.	PFC	37465601	/p.	17, 22, 26, 52, 55			
Cook	Carroll C.	PFC	18201602	3rd Pl./4th Pl. /p.	27, 30, 36, 55			
Cookingham	Franklin J.	PVT	42089026	4th Pl. /p.	19			
Corbett	William G.	PFC	37683608	3rd Pl. /p.	26, 51			
Cox	Jesse V.	PFC	37635034	1st Pl. /p.	46, 47, 55			
Crossan	Arthur B.	PFC	13185789	3rd Pl. /p.	19, 22, 52	ca. 1990		
Curtis	James A.	PVT	42061297	4th Pl. /p.	21, 26, 33			

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo	C /
Dancker	Paul	PFC	32920527	3rd Pl.					
Danel	Stephen C. (Jr)	PFC	39420478	1st Pl. /p. 47, 55					
Danielson	Gilmer H.	PVT	39217437	4th Pl. /p. 16, 17, 23					
Daubert				/p. 51, 52					
Dawson	William S.	PFC	38591971	4th Pl. /p. 14, 28					
Day	Paul L.	PVT	37649481	2nd Pl.					
DeLeo	Pat R.	PFC	42041261	1st Pl. /p. 27, 31					
Dennard	Charles B.	PFC	34972421	2nd Pl. /p. 88, 89, 44		Deceased			
Dickson	Gordon F. (Jr)	PFC	32815906	/p. 23, 26, 31, 33					
Dietz	Nicholas	PFC	32905389	/p. 42, 44, 55					
Dingler				/p. 53					
Dobinson	Gerard W.	T/5		1st Pl.		4/15/1997			
Dombrowski	Eugene T.	SGT	36101992	3rd Pl. /p. 14, 33					
Dominianni	Francis J.	PFC	32812102	3rd Pl. /p. 23, 31, 33, 46					
Donaldson	Floyd	S/SGT	6828570	4th Pl. /p. 26, 31, 56					
Donenfeld	Phillip P.	PFC	42069924	1st Pl. /p. 31, 33, 55					
Dorner	Charles A.	SGT	36716280	Company Clerk /p. 24, 31, 33, 57					
Doty	Clarence A.	PVT	35888059	2nd Pl.		Deceased			
Dwight	Charles	T/5		3rd Pl. /p. 51					
Dwyer	Gerald P.	PFC	32584871	2nd Pl.					
Elliott	Darrell D.	T/5	37244667	3rd Pl.-Medic /p. 17, 21, 59, 60					
Emery	Robert J.	PVT	33893659						
Erwin	Roy V. (Jr)	T/4	14100290	2nd Pl. /p. 51, 54, 56		Deceased			
Escamilla	Jose M.	PFC	38560620	3rd Pl. /p. 38, 39, 55					
Farrand	Howard	PFC		1st Pl. /p. 46					
Farrell	Lawrence A.	PVT	37776666	2nd Pl.		Deceased			
Ficca	Gaetano	CPL	32759748	/p. 21, 23, 26, 27, 31, 33, 46, 47, 51					
Fillipi	John M.	CPL	33588973	1st Pl.					
Fitzpatrick	John F.	PVT	31479512	2nd Pl.		Deceased			
Flynn	Jack E.	CPL	18213715	1st Pl. /p. 21, 26, 33 (Found- 1997)					
Fornell	Harold A.	PFC	39692214	4th Pl./3rd Pl. /p. 13, 17, 24, 31, 42, 44, 46					
Fudge	Tilman C.	S/SGT	6374908	1st Pl. /p. 42, 44, 51, 52					
Funk	Addison C.	PFC	3929554	/p. 35, 36, 51, 52, 54					
Fusco	Rudolph J. (Jr)	T/5	32972070	1st Pl.		Died in 1987			
Gabioud	Vernon E.	PFC	36965166	/p. 36, 39		Died in 1982			
Gage	Robert L.	PVT	37738885	/p. 17, 22, 33, 42, 44, 55					
Galasso	Henry	PFC	37705907	4th Pl. /p. 13, 16, 17					
Galgano	Al(fred)	PVT	34854173	/p. 14					
Gant				/p. 42					
Garza	Raul T.			3rd Pl.					
Geiger	LaVern B.	SGT		2nd Pl.					
Gentile	Sam M.	PFC	36649301	/p. 27, 31, 56					
Getzik	William B.	PFC	33777724						
Gevries	Walter J.	PFC	31240082	/p. 42, 44, 47					
Glover	Willard W.	PFC	38514954	/p. 24, 30, 37, 42, 44, 51					
Gochenour	Ralph P	PVT	33862003	4th Pl.					

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo C /
Goldman	David	PVT	32806808	/p. 26, 33, 45, 47, 55				
Gould	Jackson T.	PFC	17087569	1st Pl. /p. 17, 21, 44				
Graber	Clyde F.	S/SGT	36550658	/p. 22, 26				
Gragg	Bobby G.	PFC	38567662	/p. 54				
Grant	Roger (Jr.)	PFC	34777513	/p. 14				
Gray	William E.	PFC	37413751	/p. 23, 26				
Gumpert	Kenneth L.	PVT	18090050	2nd Pl. /p. 55				
Haas	Harry B.	PFC	42142995	3rd Pl. /p. 42, 44, 52				
Hall	Donivan A.	PFC	35552337	2nd Pl. /p. 22, 38, 39, 44, 45, 47				
Halle	Wesley G.	PFC	36298753	3rd Pl. /p. 21, 26		Died in 1992		
Hanley				Head Pl.				
Hanover	Ivan M.	PVT	37641371	/p. 38, 39, 42				
Hanson	Howard N.	PFC	34973688	/p. 22, 46, 47, 56				
Harmon	Edward C.	PVT	37248114	/p. 22, 26				
Heard	Charles W.	PFC	18164793	2nd Pl. /p. 24, 26, 36, 39		KIA-1/12/45		
Hemminger	Robert E.	PFC	33510812	2nd Pl. /p. 56				
Hennessey	Vincent (Pat)			1st Pl. /p. 51				
Higbee	Robert B.	SGT	18160140	2nd Pl. /p. 38, 39, 57, 58		KIA-1/25/45		
Higgs	Forest	PVT	35819645	3rd Pl.				
Hiltunen	Richard A.	PFC	36964527	/p. 31, 33, 42, 44 (Found - 1997)				
Holley	Jethro			4th Pl. /p. 47				
Holt	James (Jr)	CPL	31311197	3rd Pl. /p. 56				
Hyer	John W. (Jr)	PVT	37744613	/p. 31, 33 (Found - 1997)				
Jabol	Nick			1st Pl.				
Jackson	George W.	PVT	34950952	4th Pl. /p. 38, 39				
Jackson	John W.	CPL	37501704	2nd Pl.				
Jacobie	William E.	S/SGT	32662776	3rd Pl. /p. 54, 56				
Jacobs	Ottis W.	T/SGT	34575386	3rd Pl. /p. 28, 31				
Jais	Fred L.	PFC	36981467	4th Pl. /p. 46, 47, 51				
Jeffries	Joseph F. (Jr.)	SGT	35626009	/p. 19, 22, 59, 60		Died ca. 1993		
Jelkin	Stewart G.	PVT	37697830	/p. 27, 30				
Jewett	Kenneth R.	PFC	39049593	/p. 24, 30, 37, 55				
Johansen	John	PFC	33560966	3rd Pl. /p. 26 (Found - 1997)				
John	Robert L.	PFC	37567991	3rd Pl. /p. 42, 44				
Johnson	Lowell R.			1st Pl. /p. 45, 55				
Jones	Perry A.	PVT	34921420	1st Pl. /p. 31, 33				
Kaplowitz	Karl	PVT	13142163	2nd Pl.				
Kasten				/p. 52				
Kecskes	Stephen	PFC	32920527					
Kenneally	John	PFC		2nd Pl. /p. 36				
Keough	Joseph L.	LT	01308238	3rd/4th Pl. /p. 47		ca.1980		
Kerns	James S.	S/SGT	34492936	2nd Pl. /p. 31, 36				
Kimmel	Rabb T.	PFC	18111114	/p. 30				
King	John J.	PVT	33957424	1st Pl. /p. 51				
King	Robert J.	PFC	39209598	1st Pl. /p. 42, 44				
Kirk	Edward T.	T/5	36664274	3rd Pl.				

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo C /
Klahr					/p. 52			
Klimkowicz	Myron A.	PFC	35282694	1st Pl.	/p. 28, 36, 57			
Koch								
Kochevar	William L.	PFC	37566576	2nd Pl.	/p. 26, 33, 59	ca.1991		
Koehler	Charles J.	2nd Lt.	02005958	1st Pl.	/p. 36			
Kolozieczak	Clem	PFC		1st Pl., 1st Sq.				
Korody	Lewis C.	S/SGT	36714501		/p. 23, 26, 31, 33, 38 (Found - 1997)			
Kraemer	Robert H.	LT	01296710	Company's Exec. Off.				
Krasowski					/p. 24, 26			
Kristjancen	Benedict H.	PVT	39185675		/p. 14, 36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 47			
Krusinski	Henry D.	PFC	36712856	4th Pl.	runner /p. 21, 26			
Kunde	Arnold C.	PFC	35584676	3rd Pl.	/p. 26, 42, 44, 55, 56			
La Parr	Robert I.	PVT	42166834	2nd Pl.				
Ladd	Charles W.	PFC	36985500	4th Pl.				
Landolfi	John	PFC	31384302	4th Pl.	/p.1-7,13, 21, 31, 37-38, 45, 49-50, 55-58			
Lapides	Norman Arthur	PVT	32737812	4th Pl.	/p. 13, 26, 36, 47, 55			
Latham	Carroll H.	PVT	33861158	Head Pl.	/p. 51			
LaVerne								
Layton	John W.	PVT	35908475	2nd Pl.	/p. 46			
Leahy	Jerome E.	PVT	32774044	3rd Pl.	/p. 21, 26, 33, 38, 39, 44			
LeBeau	Joseph	SGT		3rd Pl.	/p. 59			
Lebeda	Mike			1st Pl.				
Lechtanshi	Edward J.	PVT	42160787	2nd Pl.				
Lehner	Raymond	PFC		1st Pl.				
Levy	Earl S.	PVT						
Lewandowski					/p. 33			
Lloyd	Richard B.	PFC	39333746	4th Pl.	/p. 13, 14, 15	KIA-11/12/44		
Loper	Val A.	PFC	31313688	3rd Pl.	/p. 44, 47			
Lopez	Refugio	PVT		3rd Pl.	/p. 46			
Loughrie	Harold G.	PVT	35783437	2nd Pl.	/p. 44 (Found - 1997)			
Lovell	Alvin T.	PVT	35887991					
Lover	Robert M.	PVT	33665832					
Mack	John E.	SGT	33146456	4th Pl.	/p. 49			
Malone	John C.	PVT	15074280	2nd Pl.	/p. 55	Deceased		
Manney	Art	PFC		1st Pl.				
Mannone	Tom	PFC	36642971		/p. 27, 31, 37, 38, 39, 42, 56			
Marchand	Raymond A.	PVT	31374963	3rd Pl.	/p. 55			
Martin	Chauncey J.	PVT	39587330	3rd Pl.	/p. 28, 33, 42, 44, 45, 47			
Marzullo	Arnold T.	SGT	36766190	3rd Pl.	/p. Preface, 31, 44			
Matijevich	Nicholas	PVT	35783445	3rd Pl.				
Matulonis	Bronislaus M.	PVT	42044100	1st Pl.	/p. 55			
Mays	Boyd R.	PFC	13016937		/p. 42, 44			
McCallister	James R.	T/6	36547549		/p. 55			
McCray	Grover F.	PFC	35848263					
McDuffie					3rd Pl. /p. 46, 56			
McFee	L. D.				1st Pl. /p. 38			



Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo [ /
Medena	Ralph J.	S/SGT	36410264	1st Pl. /p. 24, 27, 31, 42				
Metcalf	Melbourne A.	PFC	36411620	4th Pl. /p. 27, 30, 55				
Milburn	Aley H.	PFC	36548628	Medic /p. 19, 22		Died in 1987		
Miller	Ronald D.	PVT	36964848	/p. 31				
Miller	Leonard J.	PVT	42181504	2nd Pl.				
Miller	Edward	PVT	44031785					
Mills	Laurence G.	CPL	06575836	4th Pl. /p. 44, 45, 47				
Mimick	Alex P.	T/5	37256133	Head Pl.				
Minnear	Carl	S/Sgt	34495765	1st Pl. /p. 19, 22, 59		KIA-11/29/44		
Moore	Earl J.	PVT	39587167	3rd Pl. /p. 42, 44, 46, 47, 55				
Moore	Fred M.	PVT	34644494	1st Pl.				
Moore	Richard	PFC		Co. Cook				
Moran	George F.	SGT	38132086	1st Pl. /p. 27, 30				
Mroska	Joseph			/p. 26		ca. 1980		
Murowski	Frank J.	PFC	42137557	3rd Pl.				
Murphy	Edward G.	1st LT	01296068	/p. 27, 30				
Nanoski	George	PFC	33904997	4th Pl.				
Natt	Romolda	PFC	39053135	2nd Pl. /p. 46, 47		KIA-3/22/45		
Neely	John P. (Jr)	2nd LT	0537274	3rd Pl. /p. 31 (Found -1997 )				
Nestor	Edward J. (Jr)	PFC	37616709	1st Pl. Runner /p. 24, 26, 46, 47, 56				
Nichols	Carl G.	2nd LT	0547994	2nd Pl. /p. 44				
Nye	Robert L.	SGT	34464857	4th Pl. /p. 27, 30				
O'Connell	Gerald W.	S/SGT	36288950	3rd Pl.		3/10/90		
O'Leary	Robert J.	2nd LT	01289475	1st Pl.				
Orth	Charles W.	S/SGT	37411347	2nd Pl.				
Osmond	John C. (Jr)	PFC	18232434	3rd Pl.				
Passaro	Francis M.	2nd LT	01321241	3rd Pl.		KIA-3/15/45		
Paulson	Don	LT	0545592	2nd Pl.				
Peacock								
Pepelinski				4th Pl.-Medic				
Perez	Maccardo	PFC	38678342	Head Pl.				
Piefer	Robert	PFC	35147565					
Pitner	Leonard A.	SGT	39333685	1st Pl. (Found - 1997 )				
Porter	John P.	PFC	18232585					
Postupak	Francis P.	PFC	12171378	2nd Pl.		KIA-11/17/44		
Prevete	Salvatore	PVT	42181339	Head Pl.				
Quick	Albert C.	PVT	44036857	4th Pl.		12/25/1996		
Quinn	Robert D	PFC	35231340	2nd Pl.				
Quinn	John E.	PFC		2nd Pl.				
Reed	Charles	PFC		1st Pl.				
Reeves	Blair	PFC		2nd Pl.				
Reeves	Frank B.	PFC	18201237					
Reitz	Edward	PVT	36744193					
Reyna	Arnulfo G.	PVT	38680420	(Found - 1997)				
Reynolds	Charles O.	PFC	33821404	2nd Pl.				
Richardson	Clayton L.	PFC	35834863	4th Pl.				

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo C /
Riddle	Guy P.	PVT	33822032	1st Pl.				
Ridsdale	William F.	PVT	39421328	1st Pl.				
Riha	Rudolph			1st Pl.				
Roberts								
Rosenberg	Stanley J.	PVT	12227256	Head Pl.				
Rosenkrans	Harvey W.	PVT	33352134	3rd Pl.				
Rosenthal	Bernard	PVT	42144214	2nd Pl.				
Ross	Neal	PFC	39616449	1st Pl.				
Rostock	John T.	PVT	06863296	4th Pl.				
Sams	Carl E.	PVT	44040800	2nd Pl. (From Tenn.)				
Savoie	Clarence J.	PVT	38656278	3rd Pl.				
Savory	Robert E.	PVT	39149788	1st Pl.				
Sawyer	Milton	PVT	33524332	2nd Pl.				
Schleusner	Rudolph-"Ole"			4th Pl.		ca. 1993		
Schneider	Walter F.	CPL	36311542					
Schubert	Talford L.	PVT	38561767					
Schultz	Robert T.	SGT	36410697	4th Pl.				
Schweikert	Harry A. (Jr)	S/SGT	02005977	Returned as 2nd LT				
Schwenden	Howard I.	PVT	39724028			KIA-11/29/44		
Scott	John J.	PVT	38467038					
Seubold	John J.	PFC	35705478	1st Pl.				
Sherwood	Albert L.	T/5	37246820	Head. Pl.				
Sikora	Fred P.	CPL	7030077	1st Pl.				
Simpson	William							
Slamenski		T/SGT		Mess Sgt.				
Smith	John C.	PFC	31391628					
Snyder	Wade W.	PFC	35389465	(Found - 1997 )				
Snyder	L. C.	SGT		Co. Supply SGT.				
Sobol	Nicholas W.	PVT	36951421	1st Pl.				
Sollanek	Irvan	PVT	20343122	1st Pl.				
Sommers	Cecil C.(Pop)	T/SGT	39830977	2nd Pl.				
Springer	Dale M.	PVT	37646713	4th Pl. (Found - 1997 )				
Stachura	Edward A.	PFC		2nd Pl.				
Staples	Ernest	PVT	31463562	3rd Pl.				
Steele	George C.		34128658	Medic				
Stigall	Thomas C.	S/SGT	36714175	3rd Pl.				
Stigall	Thomas C.	2nd LT	02005978					
Stingely	Jewel V.	PFC	35097875	3rd Pl.				
Strohl	George W.	PFC	33827907	Head. Pl./ 1st Pl.				
Tecca				Jeep Driver				
Thompson	Charles H.	CAPT	01296451	Company Commander				
Turchek								
Van Scoter	Shirley J.	PFC	42144443	2nd Pl.				
Viau	Malcolm M.	CPL	39045739	(Found - 1997 )				
Vidrine	John L.	PFC	39860756					
Voss	Raymond	PFC	37447941	4th Pl.		KIA-11/29/44		

Last Name :	First Name :	Rank :	A S N :	Platoon	Page in Book	Date:Death	WIA N B	Repo C /
Wade	George E. (Jr)	PVT	38582339	1st Pl.				
Wagner	John R. (Hans)	PFC	36293784	2nd Pl.				
Walsh	Gerald A.	PVT	17155600					
Walston	Carl E.	PVT	38152019	2nd Pl.				
Walters	Audrey R.	M/SGT		1st SGT				
Weathers	Perry S.	PVT	44035293	1st Pl.				
Webber	Stanley W.	PFC	36547659	4th Pl.				
Webster	Carroll M.	PFC	17176428	4th Pl.		Aug. 8, 1995		
Westfield	Donald A.	PFC	42144322	4th Pl.				
White	Charles H.	PFC	38562414	Head Pl.				
White	Alfred D.	PVT	42142138	Head Pl.				
Willeford	Paul	SGT		4th Pl.				
Williamson	Laverne	SGT	34089406	3rd Pl.				
Williamson	Clarence F.	T/4	20757360	4th Pl.				
Wilson	Louis T.	PFC	35106903					
Wise	Gene	PFC	37531848	1st Pl.		KIA-12/10/44		
Witmer	Frank C. (Jr)	PFC	33514747					
Wivelstad	Cliff O.	PFC	36983231	Head Pl.		7 /15 / 1995		
Wunrow	Lester			3rd Pl.				
Yori	John P.	PVT	36470886					
Zahara	John J.	PFC	37542335	4th Pl.				
Zammarelli	Joseph	PFC	31470165	2nd Pl.		Died in 1988		
Zunker	Harry R.	S/SGT	36224229	4th Pl.				

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## Postscript

The principal reason for re-publishing the book was the research done by David Gilbert of Winston-Salem NC on personnel from Company I. David is the son-in-law of Earl G. Hayes, who served in Company I during WWII. He has been able to find many other veterans of Co. I, through his persistence using the Internet.

Among the families he has found have been those of two of the twelve men who lost their lives in Europe while liberating France. I refer to the families of Lt Francis Michael Passaro, KIA on March 15, 1945 and Pvt Howard Irving Schwenden, KIA on Nov. 28, 1944, I have tried for many years to find them, but without success. Dave found each of them recently and I asked Arnie Marzullo to call the the Passaro family and explain to his son how his father (Lt. Passaro) had died in the town of Uhrviller 62 years ago.

In addition I asked Harold Brock to call the brother of Pvt. Schwenden and explain the circumstances of the battle 63 years ago near Hohwarth. Neither family had known anything of the battle in which their kin had died. The telegram from the War Department was the history each family had. Both were pleased to know that Company I had a book covering the History of Company I in wartime.

Robert D. Quinn  
Westlake OH 44145

2008





