

S/Sgt Donald Behm

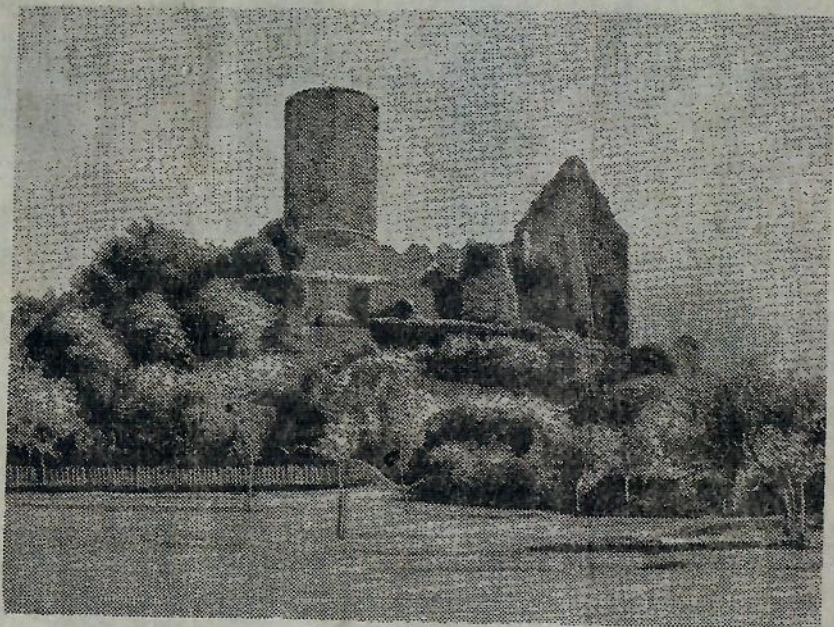
Co. L - 276TH Inf.

MARCH '44 - July '45

Company History

70th Infantry Division

Company "L", 276th Regiment



Burg Gleiberg.

Company History

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Company "L", 276th Regiment



HOME STATION: Camp Adair, Oregon and Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

HISTORIAN: Pfc P. D. O'Keefe.

December 6th, 1944 the "TRAILBLAZER'S" leave Camp Miles Standish by troop train for Boston, Massachusetts. This is no dry run for we are greeted at the Pier by the Red Cross women, who serve every G. I. with the customary "doughnuts and coffee" and minutes later we file past the loading checker who calls out the last name and climb the gangplank of our seagoing barrack. Our Transport is the USS WEST POINT, the former luxury liner SS AMERICA and now manned by the United States Navy Department.

For a great many this is the first time on a ship of this size and as the men make their way to the assigned quarters for "L" Company, GI's are filled with wonder and amazement at the beauty of the interior and furnishings of the ship. Our quarters in Hold H-3 are cramped, bunks are hung five high and in rows of four, and the steel mattress does not look too inviting for sleep. Naturally, we expect to sail as soon as the troops are loaded, but tons of supplies have to be stored below and it is several hours later before we leave Boston Harbor . . . Destination . . . Unknown!

Regardless of how close the allotted space, the GI's will always find enough room to indulge in that all-American past-time and it is not long before the dice are rolling and poker games are in progress. There is no worry here about going into combat. In the days following, our worse trouble was minor cases of seasickness, and some of the men did not eat for days and dare not even go close to the mess hall, where those who made it were fed two meals a day. The food was both good and plentiful. Enlisted men were allowed to go anywhere on deck except for a small section reserved for Officers and Nurses. Movies were shown and PX rations were purchased from the Ship Store. Some of the men must have heard that ice cream would be scarce on the other, side of the pond, and they ate it by the gallon. Boat drills were a part of the daily program, but for the most part, time was our own. We expected to be in a convoy and were amazed when allowed on deck the second day out; we discovered ourselves very much alone on the ocean.

On the fourth day German and French books were passed out and our destination was officially mentioned as Marseille, France. The troops were altogether disappointed, since the majority figured on England. Every morning we were awakened by a whistle and a voice over the public address system and it was a bit of a novelty to hear "Up all Hands" instead of "Hit the Floor".

The crossing was accomplished without incident and several days later we passed the "Rock of Gibraltar" and at this location we picked up a destroyer escort that remained with our ship until we sailed into Marseilles Harbor on December 15. Because of the danger of running into the sunken French Fleet, we were forced to put ashore in barges. A short time on the shore and we entrucked for our first overseas bivouac. The Delta Base Sector.

It was dark when we arrived and tents were pitched in haste for the night. With morning our supplies began to arrive and all personnel were kept busy unloading the trucks, erecting a shack to house our Orderly Room, Supply Room and kitchen, all in one. Our first morning and a few hours after arriving on foreign soil, we were ready for business.

Certain phases of training were performed during the days following and hikes were made to nearby villages. Our money was converted into French Francs which might be o'k, but nothing can replace the good old American dollar, that long green stuff with the short future.

Passes to Marseille were allowed and here we learn the condition of the French civilians. Actually they are starved for food, but money (francs) is plentiful due to black market activities. The American dollar will bring twice the amount offered by the Army channels. Cigarettes, candy and soap seem to be the main items that the civilians offer to purchase from the GI. Cigarettes at one dollar per pack and similar prices for the other items. Our so-called comfort was short lived, for the following five days it rained and it was safe to say that every man shared his tent with 'ole man river. Our entire bivouac area was a maze of mud and it was a relief to leave that location. On 23 December we entrucked for the railhead and our troop train, the famous French 40 & 8 boxcars. We travelled sardine fashion this trip; some cars hold thirty and others twenty-four men and with duffle bags and full field packs- there is hardly room to move. During the night it was plenty cold and the inability to stretch caused more discomfort. Feeding was accomplished by small cook stoves and the ten in one ration used. Daytime travel was enlightened by the train stops at small villages and towns where we were able to speak with the natives and exchange candy bars for wine and French bread. Wholesale bombing seems to have been the style here. Rail terminals were blasted to the ground as well as factories and homes.

It is startling to see the sanitary conditions that exist for there is no evidence of urinals or stools and the conveniences are primitive and unhealthy. The sight of a man relieving himself right where he happened to be did not cause any embarrassment to women passing by. Christmas Day was spent on the train which made a stop in the morning and the chaplains held field services.

We arrived at our destination on 26 December, that is, our rail destination, for we proceed about eight miles afoot in tactical formation to the town of Bischweier where we billet in a bombed and partially ruined textile factory. Several of the men had fallen out on the march, but are subsequently picked up and returned to the company. However, one man, Corporal Olson, remains missing. His rifle and equipment are found along the route and it isn't until 7 January, that we learn he is in a hospital, later being transferred out of the unit.

Afer a night's rest the men are ready for the assignments that follow, namely guard duty and Military Police duty. The following day we are allowed passes to visit the town and find that for the most part the natives speak German, although a small fraction speak French. This town of Bischweiler has changed from French to German control so many times that the people don't seem to give a damn under which government they exist. Children continue to beg the GIs for chocolate and "cigarettes for Papa". The few stores that are open have only black bread and Sauerkraut to sell, neither of which appeal to the GIs' taste.

In the night the Artillery fire seems darn close to our billet, which has been previously shelled and bombed by the Allies. Enemy patrols are active and that night a 20 man Nazi patrol is captured in the area.

Our chow continues to be the 10 in 1 rations until a day later when the company kitchen truck arrives and from then on we receive good hot chow from our Mess Sergeant, Kenneth Stanley, who with his mess personnel of Carl Wagner, Wiley Johnson, Robert Cook, Louis Mattison, and Oddie Athey, will always manage to get the chow to the men, if any chance exists. Later at Letchenburg Forest his chow truck was subject to baptism by the Kraut's 88s.

At 1200 hours on 29 December the company began the eight mile march to Soufflenheim and upon arrival were instructed about the constant threat of enemy patrol in this particular sector. Our Commanding Officer, Captain Anthony Eger, reminded the men of the 100% blackout restrictions and stressed the necessity of proper security. Curfew for the 19 civilians remaining in the town was 1700 and passes were required for those out on the streets after this time.

We billeted in a former German Military Academy where for the first time on this side of the ocean, the luxury of steam heat and bunks with mattresses and hot showers is ours for the asking. The Command Post was set up in the same building and occupied by Captain Eger, 1st Lt Fillerup, 1st Sergeant Leon Davis and the clerk, Pvt Peter D. O'Keefe. Private rooms were enjoyed by Lt Te Selle, Lt Zich, and Lt Weller. Our kitchen was set up in the same building which also was large enough to house the personnel of "I" Company.

Our first night's stay and our first contact with the enemy. With the second platoon standing guard duty, Privates Sciandrone and Simpson were posted at the gate entrance to our billet, where a German soldier surrendered to them. Company "I" is alerted to move out of town and Captain Eger is given additional duty as Provost Marshall (Assistant) of the town. He is responsible for the safety of the town as well as the soldiers garrisoned therein. Thus we usher in New Year's Eve in Souffleheim.

January 1st 1945, Captain Eger learns from Battalion that we are expected to move out within six hours and at 1215 the company loads onto "Ducks" and proceeds to Camp Oberhoffen, where our stay is limited

to one day. We leave out on the morning of the 2nd to strengthen a line being held by an Armored unit and where the enemy has broken through south of Bitche, France, about 50 miles north of this present location. After several hours via truck convoy, we arrived at Rosteig and took our position in the hills overlooking the town. Foxholes were hastily prepared that night and dug in further the following morning. Outposts were manned and security established and we remained in this position until January 4, at which time Captain Eger was ordered to reconnoiter Wingen, about three miles from Rosteig.

On 4 January 1945, at 11:40 hours, Company L, 276 Infantry, was ordered to retake Wingen, France, from two battalions of the 12th Regiment, 6th SS Mountain Division. Making a forced march from the town of Rosteig, three miles distance, the company arrived at the outskirts of Wingen shortly after 1200 hours and prepared to move into the attack while waiting for Company B, 781st Tank Battalion, less one platoon, to arrive. The company was divided into three combat units and at 1400 hours moved into the attack after brief artillery preparation by the tanks. The first combat unit consisting of the second and weapons platoon, moved into the hilly, wooded area to the north of Wingen, and stormed the heights above the town. By a determined and prolonged fire fight they drove the enemy from a highly stratadic position that commanded the greater part of Wingen proper.

The second combat unit, consisting mainly of the third platoon with three tanks attached, launched an attack that was coordinated with the first combat unit's push and moved through the greater half of Wingen proper before the enemy could gather sufficient strength to push back their determined attack. The tanks met with such ferocious anti-tank fire that they were forced to withdraw, leaving the unit to face the enemy alone. It reflects great credit upon the men that they did not abandon the whole of Wingen in the face of such tremendous odds, for contact had been lost between this unit and the remainder of the company.

At nightfall the remnants of the first combat unit together with a section of heavy machine-guns from Co M, formed a perimeter defense to hold their gains to the north. The second combat unit continued to hold one fourth of Wingen with such determination that it was not lost in subsequent actions. The following day the ground lost by Combat Unit One was regained by them. The third combat unit was given the task of eliminating the snipers and machine-gun nests to the south of Wingen. A squad of 60MM mortars was attached from Company I, to bring the unit strength to twenty men. Meeting opposition from a captured American halftrack and an numerically superior force in dug-in positions, they formed a skirmish line and advanced in the face of heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. In a brilliantly executed and courageous bayonet attack

SGT. BEAN, STEINBICKER, BENOERSIN, CAPT. EGGER, KILLED
MOREAN, GUNNINGHAM, ASH, BAST, LT. FRANK }
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they sent the enemy fleeing in disorder, killed 23 and wounded an undetermined number of others.

In their first contact with the enemy Company L met the elite of the German Army and through unexcelled courage had forced a numerically greater force back in an offensive action. Through two and one-half days the company had gone without supplies of food and water, and stood the bitter cold weather without blankets or heavy outer garments. The company had pressed forward and stood its ground without a unit or individual falling back unless actually being ordered to do so, even in the face of seemingly impossible odds. By cutting two of the German's main escape routes, by taking positions that made the defense of the western and greater half of Wingen by the enemy difficult or impossible, and by driving the Germans from commanding positions and inflicting heavy casualties and disrupting the enemy's strategy, Company L, through its sacrifice of 15 killed and 18 wounded, aided immeasurably in the fall of Wingen.

Meanwhile the 1st Platoon, left in the hill position at Rosteig under the supervision of 1st Lt Fillerup, moved up into Wingen. Their positions at Rosteig were under fire of enemy 88's, as was the Battalion CP. Headquarters Personnel set up a CP in Wingen and the company dug-in in the woods. Both positions received enemy artillery fire on the night of the 6th, but it was ineffective and of short duration.

1st Lt Francis M. Fillerup had assumed command of the company on 4 January 1945. Leaving the town in the control of the 45th Division our company departed from Wingen, France, for Zinsweiler between Niederbronn and Bitche, France, arriving there at 1645 January 8th, a distance of 25 miles by truck convoy. Here we left our packs and excess equipment in company piles and marched five miles up into the mountains of the Litchenburg Forest, where the battalion was ordered to counter-attack the left side of the German Bitchel Bulge. Here again "L" Company moves into battle, but this time we are exposed to the enemy's heavy 88 fire and our positions on the hills are under constant shelling. Our losses are heavy but the objectives are secured and we are relieved from this position on January 14th by the 45th Division. *SVD BARR M.I.A. CLEAR 10/1/45*

Our company strength is now 94 Enlisted Men and three Officers, and we receive orders to proceed to Lembach, France, where the company maintains outposts in the Maginot Line. This position is occupied for only one day and the following night finds us in the town of Wuerth. Lt. Fillerup, our Company Commander, was not with us on this move, having received orders to perform a reconnaissance mission in another sector. The move is under the supervision of 1st Lt Zich. The company billets in another of those bombed buildings that are everywhere in France, and the following day we draw PX rations that include beer, our first since the Delta Base Sector. The morning is spent replacing equipment and

cleaning rifles. That afternoon we leave by motor convoy and arrive at Emmersweiler, Germany. The 276th Infantry Regiment is moving fast, December 6th, The United States . . . December 15th, France, and January 16th, 1945 . . . Germany.

After a few days, arrangements are made for the entire company to take showers and get a change of underwear and clothing. Needless to say, both of these are more than welcomed by the men and Officers. At this time each man of the company was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. The odd feature of our position in Emmersweiler was that while we were on German soil, our fire was directed toward France.

During this period a small amount of men are taken to the rear for rest periods of four days and the quietness and lack of very much action at this location, gives us an opportunity for Dental and foot inspection. General Herrin inspected the company's positions and withdrawal plans. During this period we were the only rifle company of the Seventh Army occupying German territory.

On the night of the 21st a patrol consisting of S/Sgt Nunes, Sgt Nemes, Cpl Roemer, Pfc Hudson and Pvt Ancil, is assigned to enter enemy lines. Scouting and patrolling continue together with outpost duty. *Roemer wounded*

The civilians were completely evacuated from Emmersweiler and all platoons had outposts which were alerted 24 hours a day. The Germans were located in Forbach and Marineau, the nearest point of which was 100 yards distance from our outpost. Snipers caused some trouble and about 3 to 12 rounds of mortar fire fell in our area daily. On one occasion it wounded some of our men, among them Lt Fillerup, who was evacuated to the hospital on 29 January, Lt Roger L Conarty became acting Commanding Officer in his place, on February 6th. *PACCOY K COMPANY*

Our men did constant patrol work and extreme cold and snow added to the discomfort. Men going on patrol wore improvised snow capes for camouflage. Sgt Voigt of the weapons platoon accepted a battlefield commission and was made 2nd Lt; Sgt Doyle was assigned as Supply Sergeant.

Constant with the "devil may care" attitude of our men, the weapons platoon formed an orchestra; a five piece affair using instruments they had liberated. Nightly the tunes of the "Beer Barrel Polka" and "Hail Hail, The Gang's all Here" were echoed over our sound phones to all platoons. The Germans in the valley could also hear this Love Company jazz band, and probably wondered at this type of modern warfare.

The first large scale raid on the enemy was conducted from this position by forty men from L Company, on February 4, under Lt Conarty. The raid was conducted at 0200 and the object was to test defensive set up of the Germans in Marineau. The operation was a success without any casualties. The second but this time an air raid occurred on February 13th. Twenty P-47 fighter bombers came to blast the factory area in Marineau.

This was the first time the men of Love Company had seen the Air Force in action and our position for observation was like a ringside seat at a championship bout; a complete knockout. Lt Conarty had a personal interest in this performance since his and a classmate's efforts were responsible for the target and bombing.

On February 15 we left Emmersweiler at 2400 and hiked two miles with full equipment to Rosbruck. Some of the men made the short distance in bikes, motorcycles, and even in carts. We arrived at 0110 and were treated to good billets with lights, running water, and as an extra luxury — — radios — — the first time we had heard one since we left the states. Our stay was only overnight and we left the following afternoon at 2030 hours; this time we were transported by trucks three miles to Remsingerhof Area, and our quarters here was a burned out barn.

The night of February 17 was dark as ink and at midnight the company moved out to begin the attack through the woods and over the hills in the direction of Oetingen, France. The company remained in reserve on the hill that night. Morning came and with it the tree bursts from the enemy 88's. A few men were wounded and the aid men took immediate care, administered emergency aid and effected evacuation to the rear. At daylight the company was committed on the right of the Battalion. The 3rd Platoon, reinforced, was kept in Battalion reserve protecting the battalion's left flank. The company advanced and paths had to be cleared through mine fields; in steep hills progress was slow. Enemy defenses consisted of an elaborate mine belt around concertina barbed wire entanglements. Enemy resistance centered around automatic weapons emplaced in the elaborate trench system along the top of the ridge and in the first houses of Oetingen. The 2nd Platoon pushed to the top of the hill entering the trench system, while the 1st Platoon moved to the right. During this attack the Mortar Section was firing at a range of 100 yards at the enemy machine guns on-top of the hill.

Toward late afternoon the company was ordered to enter Oetingen and tie in its right flank with B Company of the 1st Battalion, who was reported to have completely taken the town. The 2nd Platoon extended to maintain contact with I Company on the left while the 1st Platoon moved up the bare valley towards Oetingen. Immediately it became apparent that the Germans still held the town and a good portion of the high ground to its right. The platoon received heavy fire from the town and this high ground, making it impossible to completely enter the town with only one platoon. It knocked out the foremost machine gun position with bazooka fire and was then ordered to remain in a trench system and tie in with the 2nd Platoon and LMG Section for the night.

It had been raining and the German Prepared trenches were filled with mud and water and the almost freezing weather compared with the

horror of the 88's and mortar fire the Germans had been throwing at our platoons all afternoon. During the night our Artillery poured tremendous concentrations of fire on Oetingen and at dawn 1st Platoon, Love Company, making contact with Baker Company, moved into town after placing rocket and rifle grenade fire on machine gun emplacements. Second Platoon attacked through the backyard of the town, maintaining contact with Item Company. Our men moved through town at a rapid pace, L Company working and clearing the left side of the street; B Company the right. About 15 POWs were taken.

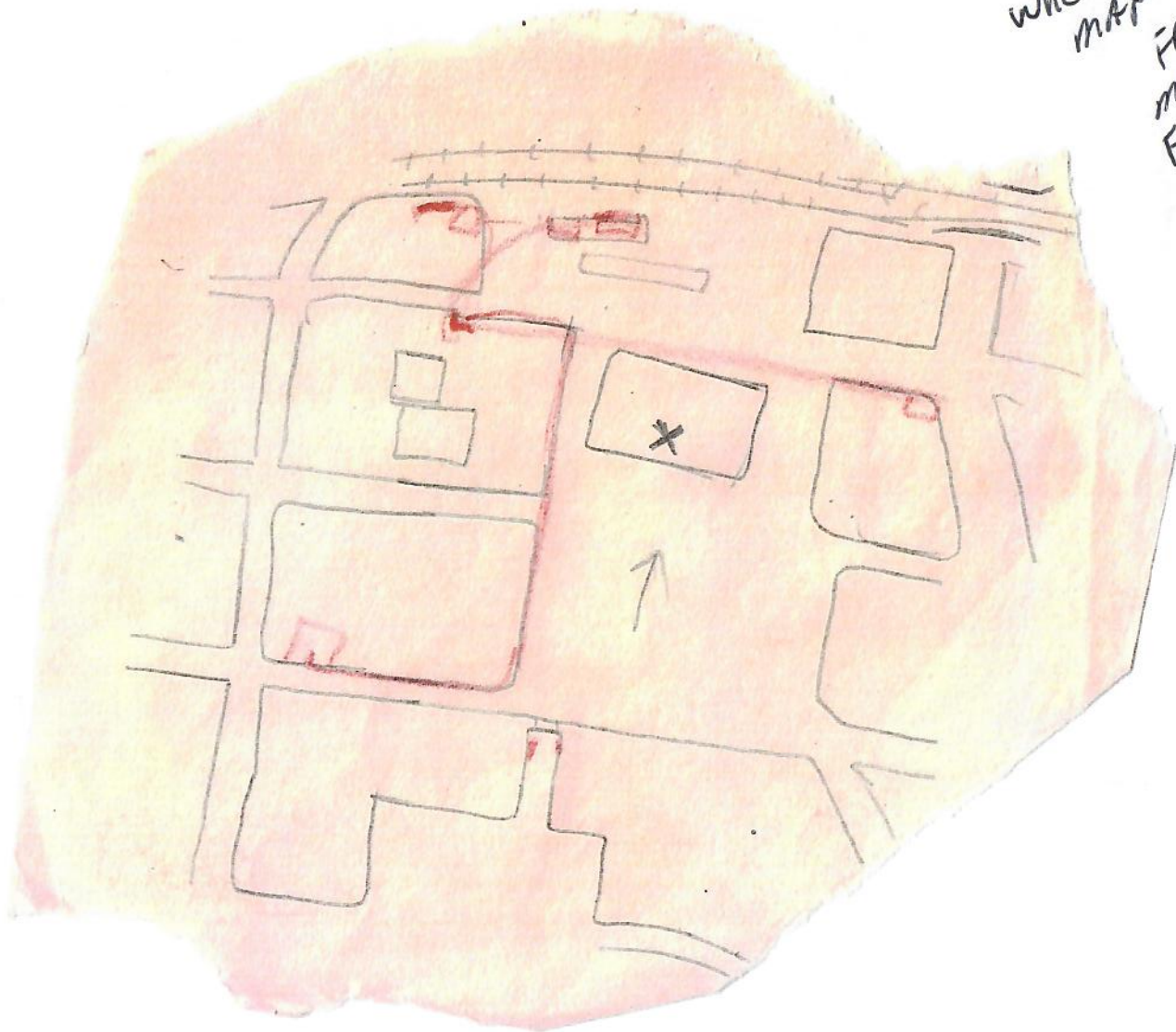
With no desire for sleep we kept driving through the hilly, wooded area, handicapped by constant rain, toward Forbach. The men eliminated opposition without stopping and at dusk we dug in under direct fire of a German tank. Mortar and 88 fire came in at increased tempo during the night. Everyone was wet and cold. The following morning the company pushed forward to the wooded heights overlooking Forbach, receiving heavy small arms and machine gun fire from the houses. During the afternoon two squads of the second platoon cleared out a German barracks area after receiving extremely heavy machine gun and mortar fire. The only approach to the barracks was a locked gate in a high stone wall which extended from it, and which was under machine gun fire. These two squads shot the lock off the gate with a rifle grenade and infiltrated single file through it into the barracks area. This gate later proved to be the key to Forbach. The two squads then returned to the company. At this time the 3rd Platoon rejoined the company and later that evening was attached to the First Battalion. On the following day received orders to attack with the 1st, 2nd and Weapons Platoons.

King Company was ordered to attack through Company L. The First Battalion on the right had been held up for a day attempting to enter the city. Company K was unable to enter the town. About 1400 Company L was ordered to attack. Covering all the nearby houses with machine gun fire the company infiltrated single file through the gate, broken open the previous day by 2nd Platoon, circled to the right and continued its attack laterally along the enemy's flank and rear capturing or killing all the enemy holding up Co K and the left flank of the 1st Battalion. By evening against heavy machine gun fire the company had captured 3-½ blocks of its own battalion area and one block of the First Battalion Area. This was the first actual entry into Forbach by troops of our Regiment.

Early the following morning, 21 February, the 3rd Platoon still attached to the First Battalion, attacked the city hall in the edge of Forbach, killing five or six and capturing nineteen enemy; it then rejoined Love Company. In this period of twelve hours, the company killed nearly 10 and captured 41 of the enemy.

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On the following day, 22 February, the company continued its attack through the most heavily housed district of Forbach, the 3rd Platoon reaching the Regimental phase line 2, the railroad embankment, ahead of any other units in the Regiment. Lt. Te Selte and T/Sgt Winland spotted what they believed were some high-ranking Nazis with long dark coats, and in short order had their subjects captured. The prisoners turned out to be four German priests.

It was here that Lt Conarty received "Good News" from two sources. First he was promoted to Captain and then received the news that he had become the father of a daughter. Lt Te Seile was promoted to 1st Lt, and his men celebrated the occasion by drinking Herr Wolf's Champagne.

Lt Armstrong and T/Sgt Smith had their moments about artillery fire. Smitty claimed the stuff was falling so close to his position, he wanted Lt Armstrong to notify him before firing. To add to his discomfort Sgt. Smith raised cane with S-Sgt Cooke. It seemed that Cooke's mortar shells were dropping on Smitty's house too. Lt Voigt returned to the company and became Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon. This is where we heard our first screaming meemies and plenty of heavy artillery. In spite of all the enemy fire S/Sgt Stanley and his cooks continued to roll in with hot chow for the boys in the "front line". From the 22 February to 3 March, the company sat along the railroad embankment in Forbach.

On the 3rd March the Battalion commenced the attack across the railroad embankment to capture the remainder of Forbach and the town of Marineau. Company L was in reserve initially; during the day the company received continued heavy caliber artillery and mortar fire. In the evening we started toward Marineau under artillery and limited small arms fire with orders to go through Item Company and capture Marineau. Positions were secured in building at the edge of Forbach and plans were drawn for an assault on Marineau the following day. Artillery fire continued throughout the night.

The attack began at dawn, the 1st Platoon moving through an anti-tank ditch to the left and attacking the barracks area, from there going down to the center of town. The 3rd Platoon went through Co I and entered Marineau on the main street. Initially resistance was light, although the 3rd Platoon received stubborn machine gun fire from the upper street. By noon the company had reached the main intersection in town and one squad of the 1st Platoon and the entire 3rd Platoon turned to the right, attacking towards the Marineau school house. On making the turn the 1st Platoon's squad, which was on the left, ran into stubborn resistance from houses on the other side of the creek. Fire from this enemy strong point was also reaching the 3rd Platoon. After losing two men killed, the 1st Platoon's squad charged the first building, capturing five enemy; then with the 3rd Platoon continued to the Marineau school house capturing all the enemy in this sector of town.

We were relieved by the French Forces during the night and returned to our former billets in Forbach to prepare for another attack which was begun March 5th at 0910 hours. As the company moved through the Lisch Forest no small arms fire was encountered and very little artillery fire. We dug in on the heights overlooking Petite Roselle, but were unable to get sleep because an order came down that we were to be relieved; and we returned to the University area to spend the rest of the night.

After a hot breakfast on the morning of the 6th, we moved into the Forbach Forest for about 800 yards, under heavy artillery fire. No further advance was possible without extreme casualties, for in front was a deep anti-personnel ditch which rose sharply for 40 feet on the opposite side. The plain was dominated by an elevated railroad embankment into the sides of which the Germans had dug pillboxes. We formed a line with other companies on the right and left and dug in for the night. In the morning we improved our positions as artillery fire came in at an increased pace. Snipers were active on the opposite side of the ravine. First Platoon traded rifle grenades with Heinies throughout this time. We continued to hold this position and began sending a few men at a time back to the University area for hot coffee and dry socks. Sgt Doyle was promoted to 1st Sergeant and on March 12th, we left the forest and went by trucks to Rosbruck to enjoy the luxury of hot showers, clean clothes and a night's sleep. On the morning of the 13th we motored to a point on the Saar where an exhibition crossing was made, and to prepare Love Company for a crossing.

On March 18, Lt Fillerup returned to the company at Petite Roselle as company commander, and Captain Conarty was assigned as Battalion S-3. On March 20, the company motored to Schaffhausen, de-trucked and crossed the Saar on pontoon bridges and cut through the main part of the west wall without opposition, up the side of a mountain and through Volkingen and into Puttlingen. The Chief of Police came to meet us to say that the town was ours, and the surrender was complete for white flags were everywhere. Some of the older women were crying, but the children were having a field day, running after the soldiers shouting "choclat, schoclat".

We took over our houses for the night and the next morning cleared Puttlingen and the wooded area and bunkers to the east. On 22 March, training started and at the same time the company outposted the town, until the 25th, when we left by motor and went to a small farming town of Jettenbach. Road blocks were set up and we moved into houses. When picking out houses for our billets, an attempt was always made to locate the homes of the former high Nazi Party members, run them out and put our own GI's into their homes. The training program was begun, together with guard duty assignments and on 28 March, the civilians of

Rosenbach, Essweiler, Rothselberg and Rutsweiler were evacuated to make room for Displaced Persons.

We left Jettenbach on 1 April and traveled 49 miles to Weiler. The entire Third Battalion was assembled that night in the town. In the morning we left by shuttle system and arrived at Trechingshausen at 1130, established a CP and set up road blocks in the town and men were sent to the nearby town to do same. From April 3 to 16 we continued to outpost the town and maintain road blocks. Guards posts were set up at Rheinstein and another castle. The company collected boats on the Rhine and went into the surrounding area several times to clean out the woods.

Training continued and a company team was entered in the Third Battalion Softball League. Sgt Rufus Upton received a Battlefield Commission as 2nd Lieutenant on April 9th. This brought to three the number of battlefield commissions in the company; Lieutenants Smith, Voigt, and Upton. Lt Noll obtained his bar in another company. Sergeant Winland was attending an OCS in Paris at this time.

Dinner was served at 1015 on the 17th of April and two hours later we were on our way to Somburg via Mainz and Frankfurt. Every bit of available land was utilized for agriculture, adding to the beautiful scenery of the land. In contrast to Mainz and Frankfurt, small Farming communities were untouched by war. Arrived at destination at 1700 and has a hot chow at 2000. After rifle inspection the next day, the men prepared to move again and departed a few minutes after noon. Twenty-seven men and equipment plus their K Rations were loaded in each truck. Although they had to stand up the whole trip, the men enjoyed observing the ruins of the German Air Force along the road. The first elements arrived at new CP, Arheilgen, at 1700.

Upon inspection of the post, the Officers decided to move the company to Darmstadt, three kilometers away. A shuttle movement was started and the company was on move all day. Finally on the 20th, the CP moved to Darmstadt and acquired beautiful quarters with hot running water, lights, and other conveniences. Guard was difficult on account of the size of the new area and the number of posts to be maintained. Thirteen thousand Allied Displaced Persons were in our area. Battalion once more changed plans, and we moved back to Arheilgen.

Love Company Headquarters under Lt Fillerup went to a Russian DP Camp on April 21, and searched occupants of Room Six for weapons. Two knives, a bayonet, and a pistol were taken from the former German slave laborers. The next few days we posted and patrolled Arheilgen and Langen. Bicycle patrols were set up to supplement motor patrols. Other towns under our control were Wixhausen, Erzhausen, Bayersich, and Sprindlindgen. In the latter town vast quantities of good champagne was found and it was put into immediate use. Once more the company

returned to Darmstadt after being relieved by Easy Company and Item Company. We were to guard 17,000 Allied Displaced Persons. Forty-two men on each relief, giving men three hours on and five off. In the next two days re-enforcements came in. We saw a movie "Meet the Girls". After coming under control of Military Government, we were allowed to make purchases with Marks.

With the present strength of 218 Enlisted Men and Officers we moved and arrived at Lohr at 1300, 28 April. Two platoons were stationed in two towns for guardpost. Patrol outposts were set with different towns for each platoon. The following three days we had a continuous rain and it was somewhat chilly. Traffic control was established and guards were placed on a new DP Camp. Other Guardposts were on MSR's underpasses, railway bridges, and ships on Main River. At this time the Softball League is commenced.

Second Platoon is relieved by 629 T. D. and the other platoons by the 393rd Infantry on the 11th and 12th; then we proceed to Niederniesen, a distance of 124 miles. Originally, we were to billet in Diez, but Division Headquarters and Third Battalion of our Regiment beat us to it. The next day a training schedule is set up for the company less third platoon, who are guarding a highway overpass, guard details, and the security of a POW Camp. Special Services put on shows and the men were given an opportunity to visit the Red Cross Club at Wiesbaden weekly. Two Officers and 20 EM were placed on DS for train guard duty concerned with Displaced Persons. Our athletic program was stepped up and softball and baseball played a major part, paying off when Company L won the Third Battalion softball championship. The company enjoyed a full holiday on June 6th in Remembrance of D-Day.

Training continued with demonstrations of river crossing and an attack on fortified areas. Services in memory of former members of the 276th Infantry Regiment killed in action was held at St. Goarshausen on 15th June, and was attended by all members of the Regiment. This also marked the second year the 70th Division had been activated.

In Diez, on the afternoon of the 25th, the entire company attended the Battalion Athletic Meet and won several events including the Relay race.

The company began rehearsal to stage a Gala Show and a dance for the opening of their GI Tavern, "Lovers Lore", and on the evening of July 3d, presented a rip roaring affair named "Stuff About Love" with "Mother" Doyle acting as MC. Special guests included the Regimental and Battalion Commanders with their Staff. Dancing followed the show and a gala time was had by the entire company plus about two-hundred guests, among them seventy-five Russian and Polish women from a nearby Displaced Persons Camp.

Our Division has been placed in Class IV in the Re-adjustment Program and on 6 July, the actual breakup of the Division begins, and 24 men are transferred from Love Company to the 78th Division.

In closing our History, a word might be said for the men who took part in the various carrying parties that were so very essential to our success in battle. To them and our Supply Personnel, we express our sincere gratitude for a job well done.

KILLED IN ACTION

Captain Anthony Eger
1st Lt James W. TeSelle
1st Lt Harold W. Zich
2nd Lt Yvo L. Ernst
2nd Lt James T. Ruble

Sgt Harold J Bean
Sgt Thomas H Steinbicker
Sgt Otto K Dalley
Sgt Michael A Nemes
Cpl Samuel C Henderson
Cpl Harry A Krotoszynski
Cpl Charles L Reid
Pfc James J Cunningham
Pfc Melvin Morlan
Pfc Thomas J Bast
Pfc Barney E Wilkerson
Pfc Earl H Bongle

Pfc Salvador Enriquez
Pfc Paul H Klotz
Pfc Carl R Carlson
Pfc Hood E Cole
Pfc Ross A Schletzbaum
Pvt John T Reynolds Jr
Pvt Sherman Schuck
Pvt James W Wills
Pvt Eugene A Mosley
Pvt Elkton G Wheeler
Pvt Aron Yielding
Pvt Albert Marchesano

MISSING IN ACTION

Pfc Sidney F. Barr
Pfc Clarence O. Tucker

RAMP §

Pfc Arthur R. Walton
Pvt Amos L. Daniels

§ Recovered Allied Military Personnel.

WOUNDED IN ACTION §

Cpl Cox, Collin W	Pfc Zuber, Lawrence W
S/Sgt Burtner, Eugene	Pvt Holovics, Alexander B
Pvt Newton, George S	Pfc Davis, Clarence
Pvt Marchand, Betrand M	Pvt Brogan, James J
Sgt Anderson, Ray D	Pfc Sullivan, Kenneth P
Pfc Papernik, Eugene	Pfc Kowalski, Eugene J
Lt Weller, Victor C	Pvt Harris, John K
Cpl Garetz, Charles (Med)	Pfc O'Keefe, Peter D
Pvt Boettcher, Earl H	Pvt Howard, Hillsman R
Sgt Collins, William	Pfc Mickeal, James J
Pvt Proctor, Hansel E	Pfc Graybill, Otis R
Pfc Staley, Jackson M	Pfc De Sarno, Anthony J
Pvt Jodik, John	Pvt Masawey, Lewis
Pfc Anaya, Alfredo	Pvt Sakowitz, Robert R
S/Sgt Wildt, Neil A	Pvt Garren, Henry E, Jr
S/Sgt Hufstetler, James E	Pfc Simpson, Robert F
Pfc Johnson, Earl H	Pfc Kimbrough, William B
Pfc Amundson, Vernon W	S/Sgt Sawyer, William B
Pfc Sciandrone, Joseph C	Pvt McLain, Jim
Pfc Cox, A. B.	Pfc Ancil, Glen
Pfc Trudeil, Ambrose J	Pvt Schmidt, Arnold J
Pfc Quinones, Joseph A	Pfc Hudson, Grover C, Jr
Pfc Closson, Almer D	Pfc Chavez, John
Pvt Davis, James F Jr	Pfc Mattison, Lewis C
Pfc Dutra, Joseph B	Pvt Smelser, Hubert K
Pfc Roth, Phillip R	Pfc Solvason, Lawrence W
T/Sgt Drackert, Robert G	Pfc Weir, Eton C
Pfc Bohanan, Earl A	Pvt Villafranco, Jose
Pfc Sparks, Orion F	Pvt Penrose, Robert
Sgt Klimaszewski, Walter F	Pvt Robertson, Claude A
Pfc Cryer, Dale	Pfc Wilson, Edgar D
Pfc Moore, William B	S/Sgt Wright, Willard A
Pfc Secor, Thomas B	Cpl O'Brien, Daniel J
Cpl Roemer, Henry	Pfc Braun, Rudolph R
Pfc Bryant, Ola	Pvt Martinez, Gilbert R
Lt Fillerup, Francis	Pvt Smith, Marion C
Pvt Bowman, Howard L	Pfc Wells, Robert

§ In order of occurrence.