

C O M P A N Y H I S T O R Y

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

275th INFANTRY REGIMENT

70th DIVISION

"TRAILBLAZERS"

370-1INF(275)5-0:1

Master

The Anti-Tank Company of the 275th Infantry Regiment was originated in the plans of those responsible for planning the defeat of Nazism, Fascism and Barbarism in our civilized world. The military minds decided an infantry division would be created, known as the 70th. So in paper organization the AT Co. was born, as a T/O required a company in a regiment to protect it against mechanized attack by the enemy.

On June 15, 1943 the AT Co., was organized by personnel, known as a cadre, becoming names on a roster and assembling at one location in the great Camp Adair, Oregon. Camp Adair was located equi-distant from Corvallis and Albany, Oregon, being 10 miles from either town. Independence was close by and the state capitol of Oregon, Salem, was 25 miles away. Portland, the largest city in Oregon, was 76 miles to the north of Camp Adair.

The cadre, our nucleus, was comprised of the following men:

Marion E. Randolph	1st Sergeant
Morris E. Bell	T/Sergeant
Keith W. Marshall	T/Sergeant
Earle W. Larson	T/Sergeant
Marvin L. Cassell	Warrant Officer
Warren P. Risley	S/Sergeant
Elmer R. Wilson	S/Sergeant
R. M. Stroup	S/Sergeant
James E. Elliott	Sergeant
Thomas E. Griffiths	T/4
Allan R. Peters	T/Sergeant

The original officers were:

Captain Earle K. Newcomer  
Lieutenant Stanley A. Williams  
Lt. Frank A. Lindquist  
Lt. James G. Fulgham  
Lt. Perry  
Lt. Caldwell

Raw recruits from civilian life representing every State in the Union began pouring into the Company from Reception Centers down through assignment channels at the Camp. The fillers were assigned to platoons of which there were five: 3 gun platoons, a mine platoon and a headquarters platoon. Thus the Company was born in spirit as the platoons became organized and the men became acquainted through the hard work of training; on the common ground of living and playing together.

The new men received two weeks of filler training --where you received your 'fill' of Army life in only two weeks after removal from civilian life! Those first days of Physical Training which left every muscle aching --wasn't really rough, it was bringing into play some of those unused muscles one forgot he owned. An enforced quarantine of two weeks enabled us to become acquainted with the Camp after our arrival.

The new way of life with its drills, lectures and marches was ever so strange and we were homesick, lonesome and blue, we learned what Mail Call really meant to men in the service. Now we know that the mental process of adjustment required us to train as fillers in preparation for entering the ranks and training as a Company. The full company strength in numbers was soon reached and the Division had its 'Activation Day' on Sept. 11, 1943 which meant we were set to officially commence our basic training.

Our first class together as a Company was on military symbols, taught by Lt. Lloyd J. Ogren. The place was in D area known as Bradley Bowl --a grassy, sloping hillside of 10 acres which levelled off at the small stream running through the area. We trained so much in that area, we almost wore the grass off --and it almost wore our --- off! Rain, sleet, mud, heat, cold, wind, day nor night did not keep us from our training flight. So called because we mentally flew from one subject to another: gas, marksmanship, grenade throwing, hand signals, scouting and patrolling, mines, first aid, sanitation, military courtesy and discipline, map reading, aircraft identification, nomenclature and functioning of individual arms and the 37 mm AT gun, bazooka, rifle grenade, assembly and disassembly of weapons. These subjects and many more were given us over and over in conjunction with training as gun squads on the 37 mm.

In October and November 1943 we qualified with our individual weapons on the firing range. It rained and rained the entire time we were on the range. Such backaching marches to and from the range! Then it happened: the POM chart! or the various items of training one must particularly be credited with in his 'preparation for overseas movement'. With this schedule came the 25 mile marches, the 9 miles in two hours; the physical fitness tests of push-ups, 300 yard run in 45 seconds, the 70 yard zig-zag, piggy-back, obstacle course THEN the 4 miles in 50 minutes with full field pack! Thus is how the term: 'Oh, my aching back!' was originated. All of this ~~for~~ 14 weeks constituted our basic training which ended on December 18, 1943.

Now we were individual soldiers and our next training step was as a unit in tactics involving field problems with our AT guns and mine laying.

We dug enough gun emplacements and foxholes which would have made Oregon look like another glacier had hit if we had not been made to fill them back up on the completion of our problems. We 'played war' and took Prune Ridge, Coffin Butte and the Soap Creek area ever so many times from the Germans and Japs which were not there. These problems required us to function as a Company would in combat and soon we were having combat exercises with the entire regiment. This training is indelible in our memories because of living in the mud, rain and cold. There were infiltration courses covering crawling through barbed wire while under machine gun fire. We were gradually becoming a fighting unit.

Our first ratings came on November 15, 1943 when a number of Pfc's. were made from the rookies who began to reflect qualities of leadership. Three corporals were made: Till, Arnold and W. O. Johnson, being men with previous army experience. After completion of basic and a 30-day probationary period all acting noncoms were made corporals and finally sergeants and staff sergeants by February 1944. Thus we became a fully organized company with the following lineup: CO: 1st Lt. Stanley A. Williams; Exec. Officer, 1st Lt. Lloyd J. Ogren; Recon. Officer, 2d Lt. John Lewis; Platoon Leaders, 2d Lts. Shirley, Randall, Phillips, Goldberg; 1st Sgt. Marion E. Randolph; Supply Sgt., S/Sgt. Marvin L. Cassell; Platoon sergeants, T/Sgts. Marshall, Bell, Larson, Pierson; Squad Leaders, S/Sgts. Frye, Farmer, Hunter, Byerley, Stroup, Haraughty, Baldrige, Till, Hess, Sgts. Robinson, Howell, Poitras.

The demands of the war required individual soldiers as replacements in various Divisions ready for shipment overseas. Our Division was called on to supply men. Shipping lists began to be the scourge of our organization and the first one hit us on February 10, 1944 when four men were shipped to another division. Our strength dwindled rapidly thereafter as list after list came and took its toll from our ranks. One remembers such men as Bishop, Bowman, Clemson, Marlett, Podpeskar, Thieme, Carson and ever so many others as well remembered. The officers went one by one too and Capt. Donald C. Pence became our CO on May 18, 1944. The depletion gradually continued until May 1944 when replacements came from the discontinued programs of ASTP and Aviation Cadets. Training continued and as each replacement came his qualifications were checked with the POM requirements. If lacking in one item or another the replacement was given the required training.

On July 13, 1944 our supply sergeant, Marvin L. Cassell, was promoted to Warrant Officer and transferred to the Service Company. S/Sgt. Russell M. Epprecht became supply sergeant.

So went our viscissitudes of army life at Camp Adair, Oregon until July 22, 1944 when we boarded the train at 1600 for Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, a permanent change of stations.

The route of our rail trip took us through Pocatello, Idaho, Denver, Colorado, Genesee, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri. As we detrained at our new station at 1500 on July 26, 1944 the band greeted us with the Division's theme song, 'Oh Susanna'.

Fort Leonard Wood was located in southern Missouri 65 miles from Jefferson City, the state capitol, 89 miles from Springfield, 148 miles from St. Louis and 205 miles from Kansas City. Many enjoyable week-ends were had by the men in visiting these cities. To the men who lived in Missouri and vicinity the new location was indeed a morale booster as many were able to visit their homes, families and friends.

Fort Leonard Wood became our preparation center for overseas movement. As we were not at full T/O strength additional replacements were assigned, a few men were shipped elsewhere, some received medical discharges. Training continued as the 'wrinkles were ironed out'. Lts. Carl E. Lines and Charles Ellsworth left us via the POE list while here. Lt. Nichols was transferred to the 1st Bn. to become their MTO. On August 27, 1944 Lt. Basil D. Spaulding became our CO temporarily when Capt. Donald C. Pence was transferred to Regiment. September 4, 1944 Capt. R. M. Berls became our CO.

At Fort Leonard Wood we received new 57 mm AT guns to replace the British 6 pounders we had used in our training. The latter having been issued to us at Camp Adair in February 1944 replacing the 37 mm AT gun. At this station we packed and crated our equipment for overseas shipment, loaded our guns on flat cars and departed for Camp Miles Standish, Mass. on November 18, 1944. Our exact destination was unknown to us at the time even though our equipment had been labeled "POE Boston, Mass.". We arrived at the Camp on November 20, 1944. Camp Miles Standish was located near Boston and Providence, R. I. Some men also remember well the nearby cities of Taunton and Brockton, Mass.!! --plus the sweating out of those long lines at the bus stations. After a few days of preparation we were granted 24-hour passes on a quota basis. Those passes are shining gems among the jewels of our memory of the United States, being our last taste of the American way of life --for some forever and for others, seemingly forever! Our life at the camp was one of hustle and bustle in last minute preparation for departure.

Finally on December 6, 1944 we arose in the wee morning hours, boarded a train in camp and departed for our Port of Embarkation, Boston, Mass. Heavily clothed, carrying our weapons and duffle bags, helmets numbered in sequence for train seating, we presented a mournful appearance on our trek to the train in the dark before dawn. Our hearts were as burdened as our backs but that you could not see, as we were trained fighting men in a Company that had a spirit, anxious to fulfill our unpleasant task so we could the sooner get back to our loved ones.

The train pulled in at the dock in Boston about 0800, our discharge was orderly and we formed quickly in the arranged order. The American Red Cross served us hot coffee and doughnuts. After an hour of waiting, it was our turn to load and up the gangplank we went -- too late now to ask ourselves or anyone else if the trip was really necessary! One by one we disappeared into the bowels of that big ship tied up at the dock. The ship was the former luxury liner America converted into the troop transport, USS West Point. Crowded were our quarters in compartment Upper 15! At 1600 on December 6, 1944 we sailed for 'destination unknown' other than a permanent change of station outside of the continental United States. The ship sailed alone, we were not in a convoy.

Our officer personnel was as follows: CO - Capt. R.M. Berls; Exec.O. - Lt. Basil D. Spaulding; Recon O. - Lt. George W. Meyer; 1st Platoon Ldr. - Lt. James E. Tinder; 2d Platoon Ldr. - Lt. Charles Andres III; 3rd Platoon Ldr. - Lt. Peter J. Carroll; Mine Platoon Ldr. - Lt. John H. Hickey.

The trip was uneventful from a standpoint of encountering any enemy craft. Seasickness, crap games and abandon ship drill were the highlights to say nothing of the poker games! The fifth day out we sighted the Azores Islands to the north of us and on the seventh day we saw Africa for the first time. Then came the Straits of Gibraltar where we could see Africa and Portugal or Spain and finally the Rock of Gibraltar. All of our imaginations of geographical study were now revealed literally as concerned the Straits. After nine days of mostly smooth sailing we anchored in the harbor at Marseille, France at 1300. Sunken ships from war passing through prevented us from docking. Disembarked at 2000 on barges and were taken to the beach where we traveled by trucks to staging area, CP No. 2, a desolate and barren section in the hills approximately 20 miles outside of the city of Marseille.

Here we set up our pup tents in the night, making corrections in alignment the next morning. Our guns arrived the next day and we proceeded to take them out of cosmoline. Rain and cold made our bivouac very uncomfortable, we lived in a veritable sea of mud. Well we remember the lack of shower facilities and no clothing changes --but hell, the dirt helped keep us warm! A tour of the immediate countryside revealed wine sources where wine, red but impotent, was purchased with a pack or two of cigarettes or what have you, for a bottle.

On December 22, 1944, ninety men left CP No. 2 at 1300 via rail for the new destination, the balance of the Company left by motor convoy on December 23, 1944. It was cold, the introduction to the '40 et 8' was some initiation. The box-car element of the Company arrived at the destination 6 miles out of Weyersheim, France on Christmas Day. Their Christmas Gift was the termination of the ride and the six-mile hike to Weyersheim!

The motor convoy went from Marseille to Aix, Avignon, Orange, Montelimar, Valence to St. Rambert and bivouaced. Thence to Vienne, Lyon, Chagny, Dijon bivouacing in the City Park of Dijon. It was dark and cold, no fires were permitted because of danger from enemy aircraft. The convoy departed 0500 Christmas Day to Longeau, Langres, Montigny, Meuse, Martigny, Contrexville to Epinal where it bivouaced in a French army barracks. Christmas dinner consisted of cold C rations, eaten as we stopped for an hour by the roadside. December 26, 1944 took us through Nancy and we arrived at Weyersheim at 1000.

We were now beginning to feel the proximity of combat, anti-aircraft opened up at night occasionally and artillery located nearby was firing heavily. The front was at the Rhine, approximately two miles away.

At Weyersheim we had no battle mission and further preparation was our activity. We departed at 0900 on December 31, 1944 and arrived at Sessenheim, France at 1000. The new location was only 10 miles distant, we had travelled parallelling the front. Our stop here was only long enough to place all of our nonessentials in our duffle bags and turn them in --we were getting ready for combat! Our regiment was part of Task Force Herren which was created November 6, 1944 and that Force had been in daily contact with the enemy since December 26, 1944.

We had bunked down on the floor of an abandoned school house and were no more than asleep when we were told we had to move out. At 0235 on New Year's Day, January 1, 1945, we departed for Reichshoffen, arriving there at 0600. Our billeting area was a woodworking factory, the windows had been blown out, it was very cold inside or out and the concrete floor mattress did not add warmth. American artillery was letting plenty go at the Krauts from nearby, the building shook from each blast and occasionally a window would break from the concussion. We slept well in spite of the noise as we had become accustomed to it in the past week.

At 0500, January 2, 1945, most of us awakened as the 2d Platoon was alerted and moved out for the front to provide AT protections for the 2d Bn at Barenthal, France. They saw action quickly, as their three guns had no more than settled into position when the 2d squad encountered 6 enemy tanks on the road coming out of Barenthal, accompanied by German infantry. In the face of the tanks' murderous fire our rifle troops were forced to withdraw. The squad led by S/Sgt. Byerley, did not forget their mission and remained in position opening fire on the tanks. They knocked out the second tank of the group with the 57 mm and Pfc. Tallman, out in a bazooka position, knocked out the leading tank. Krauts were killed as they attempted to escape, Tallman emptying his carbine into one tanker who attempted to make trouble.

The squad's position was extremely dangerous and they were forced to withdraw while doing the 'mortar hop' --a new dance step quickly learned! They again put the gun in action and continued to fire and again the mortars found them. By this time the advance of the tanks was halted but one tank had maneuvered into the woods in hull defilade and as the gun crew was pulling

away an 88 mm ripped through the undercarriage of the truck. It tore completely through the frame braces, underneath the front seat and floor board, getting a direct hit on the motor. Pfc. Martin Zimonick, the driver, lost part of his right foot, Sgt. Colucci suffered a broken leg but S/Sgt. Byerley who was also riding in the cab was uninjured. The momentum of the vehicle carried them around a curve and provided cover. The tanks withdrew and the counterattack was repulsed! For the action, S/Sgt. Byerley, Cpl. Clark Wix and Pfc. Tallman were awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

In the meantime the 1st Platoon had been called into defensive positions near Phillipsburg on January 2, 1945. The Company moved two miles closer to the front, bedding down in a factory at Niederbronn. The 3rd Platoon was in reserve and the Mine Platoon was guarding the Regimental CP. January 3, 1945 the 3rd Platoon moved out to replace the 1st Bn AT Platoon which had lost its guns in action at Phillipsburg. The entire Company was getting plenty of artillery and mortar fire and continued to receive it. Life was hell, snow a foot or two deep, wind and cold --we will never forget those Alsation or Vosges Mountains!

In spite of our constant exposure to shellfire, our casualties were kept to an utter minimum. On January 4, 1945 we were subjected to strafing and bombing by P-47's. Our T/Sgt. Joseph J. Brown was killed when a bomb made a direct hit on a bridge under which he had taken cover. Two planes, supposedly manned by Germans, attacked the gun position of the 3rd squad of the 3rd Platoon at Phillipsburg. One bomb hit 75 yards in front of the gun and directly opposite the bazooka position occupied by Pfc. Eugene Lewandowski. He came out of the smoke and fallen trees unharmed but a closer shave, he'll never have! We had learned to dig in well! The other bomb fell 75 yards to the rear of the gun, this inaccuracy convinced us Krauts were at the controls! Mortar fire, sw-oo-osh! and the gr-rr-r whine of 88's and 76's constantly harrassed us night and day. Our men learned to pray and we thank God now for his continual protection.

The Mine Platoon had their difficulties too, blowing a road block to stop tanks at Barental and laying mine fields at Phillipsburg. Their work was extremely hazardous as these activities necessarily had to be done in front of our lines -- and the enemy was always just across the way.

On January 11, 1945 Pfc. Maher and Pvt. Saunders were wounded by shrapnel. The 1st Platoon relieved the 2d at Barental and the Company moved to Zinsweiler, France. The 3rd Platoon was relieved by the Bn AT guns of the 274th Inf. We billeted in a factory again --we thought it paradise compared to what we had slept in the past two weeks!

Although the AT guns were withdrawn we had to leave men in a bazooka position at Phillipsburg. They were spotted and caught plenty of fire, lost all of their equipment in the final get away. Cpl. Kelley, Pfc. O'Blenis and Pfc. Lawrence Smith remember the details!

The factory at Zinsweiller was a target for some of Jerry's long range artillery and he wasted some more ammunition on us. Our trucks received shrapnel 'wounds', Pfc. Dunbar's sling was cut in two as he was standing guard when he failed to hear one coming in.

On January 14, 1945 the entire Company moved to Lampertsloch, France. The 2d Platoon went into positions near Lembach and the 3rd Platoon near Climbach. That night we withdrew, stayed overnight at Lampertsloch and moved 90 miles the next day to Hundlingen, France. An extremely cold and seemingly untermineable ride, arrived at destination at 2200. Lt. Spaulding was now our CO, Capt. Berls having been transferred to Regiment on January 10, 1945.

There was no rest for the wicked as immediately after our arrival the 1st Platoon moved into positions near Kadenbronn and the 3rd Platoon moved into positions at Buschbach, France. The Regiment relieved the 103rd Division in this sector. The 2d Platoon was in reserve in Hundlingen, later moving to positions in Wolferding and Ipling. These were strictly defensive positions, Jerry was always just over the hill and we received our share of mortar and artillery fire, went to sleep bz the tune of his burp guns. We remained in this set up with constant position changes until February 20, 1945.

The Mine Platoon was kept busy digging alternate and supplementary positions for the gun platoons plus the laying of mine fields, and trip flare installations. The weather remained cold, the snow became hip deep, then sloppy slush and mud, water-filled foxholes and dugouts. Field conditions were rough.

On January 21, 1945 Capt. Donald L. Sowers became our CO, Lt. Spaulding went to I Co. on January 28, 1945 and Lt. Geo. W. Meyer became our Exec. Officer. Lt. Carroll went to B Co. on Feb. 2 and Lt. Tinder was transferred to the 1st Bn AT Platoon on Feb. 4. T/Sgt. Keith W. Marshall and S/Sgt. Clarke E. Hess became acting platoon leaders of the 3rd and 1st platoons respectively. Feb. 3, 1945 Task Force Herren was dissolved and all of our Division was now in this sector.

We received an increase in pay on January 25, 1945 when our Combat Infantrymen Badges were awarded. The highlight of action during this period, humorously speaking, occurred when T/Sgt. Solomon, S/Sgt. Hess, T/Sgt. Larson and Sgt. Poitras had a 'bull session'. This involved moving S/Sgt. Frye's gun from under the enemy's nose at night without him discovering us. The mud and soft ground made it impossible to move by truck to say nothing of the give away noise. Two native oxen with a driver were pressed into service and the gun was moved silently but not until after Jerry laid in a 15 round barrage of 88's. He apparently observed the oxen and 'sight-seeing group' coming over the hill. Pfc's. Clay and Cox were splattered with mud but no one was injured.

Lt. Howard J. Fallis joined our ranks on February 13, 1945 as 3rd Platoon Leader.

February 16, 1945 the Regiment attacked and move we did! The platoons supported their respective battalions, 1st, 2d and 3rd. The advance took Lixingen, Zingzingen, Alstingen, Grossblittersdorf, Etzlingen, Spichern and the high-ground above Saarbrucken. We had entered Germany! The CP moved to Kadenbronn on February 21 and thence to Grossblittersdorf, France on February 23, 1945.

The Company captured several prisoners but the highlight of such activity was performed by Capt. Sowers when he single-handedly captured eight Krauts after going out on reconnaissance a little too far!

Fighting for the high ground above Saarbrucken was terrific, each platoon was constantly subjected to artillery and mortar fire. Again fate was with the Company and we escaped serious casualties. Capt. Sowers and Lt. Andres were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained. The 1st Platoon was positioned in the woods out of Alstingen on the hill above St. Annual. The 2d platoon was in Unner, Germany and the 3rd Platoon was on the hill out of Spichern. This high-ground was continuous in our sector and we occupied it from the Saar to Spichern.

After the attack, we were subjected to one major tank counter-attack which was stopped by bazookas and 57's. Direct fire missions were accomplished by the 2d Platoon in firing on pillboxes and suspected buildings near the dragon teeth of the Siegfried Line which was all along our front. As the Battalion positions were stabilized we were able to withdraw the 1st Platoon to reserve at Grossblittersdorf for a much needed rest, then it replaced the 3rd Platoon which became reserve. Throughout this siege on the hill we all had so many close shaves it is a wonder we yet have to shave!

Regiment operated a rest camp at Grossblittersdorf and as the Company CP was located there a few of us got to see a movie or two --our first entertainment since having left the States.

Jerry never ceased firing his mortars and artillery at our positions in this Gilbertwald on the hill and everyday we were sweating out the cracking of the Siegfried Line which was our next logical step. Alstingen, Spichern, Unner caught heavy artillery fire intermittenly and even the cooks recall that caught by Grossblittersdorf, so we were never at ease.

The Mine Platoon had been subjected to machine gun fire in its mine laying and detedting activities around Etzlingen, but fortunately came through unscathed in spite of being caught in one of Jerry's counterattacks. Their luck did not last however when they mined a road coming up the hill from St. Annual to the 1st and 2d Bn positions. On the night of February 28, 1945 just as they completed their road mining, two machine guns opened up on them at approximately 40 yards. Lt. John H. Hickey was killed but the rest were able to crawl back to the safety of our lines.

At Grossblittersdorf two of our T/Sgts., Clarke E. Hess and Bruce Q. Solomon received battlefield commissions and were assigned to their respective platoons, the 1st and Mine, as platoon leaders on March 11, and 14, 1945 respectively.

On March 13, 1945 the Mine Platoon moved from Gross-blittersdorf to Unner, Germany to assist the 2d Platoon in holding the town against possible enemy action.

March 20, 1945, the Regiment attacked Saarbrucken and found Jerry had pulled out early that morning. Lt. Hess, T/Sgt. Larson and Pfc. Richards were the first of our Company to enter Saarbrucken. They were out on reconnaissance and found that Jerry had gone so they made their way to the Saar River, with rifle elements of the 274th Inf.

March 21, 1945, the entire Company moved to Saarbrucken, Germany staying overnight in a large, but 'kaput', steel mill. What a sight Saarbrucken was, thrilling to all of us to view its utter destruction and desolation rendered by our aircraft and artillery. It was the first German city we saw and we knew they asked for and deserved the destruction we beheld.

Jerry had withdrawn so fast, the Division was unable to maintain contact so firing ceased and for the first time in 85 days we were able to draw an easy breath. Sleeping was undisturbed, no more nervous tension, we were quite relaxed. The reaction after combat was somewhat like that of a child with a new toy. We were happy from our relief and Saarbrucken was our toy! Into the kaput buildings and vacated homes we went, coming out riding motorcycles, bicycles, cars and bedecked in long-tailed coats and stiff caties. Such a conglomeration! we looked like any and everything but soldiers.

After one night in the factory we moved to some unoccupied houses and proceeded to live like kings comparatively speaking. Wine flowed freely after discovery of a wine cellar in the downtown section. This old wine cellar contained thousands of bottles of various kinds of wine, cognac, brandy, apertif, etc., which the Germans had confiscated in France. Not only our Company but the entire regiment was able to supply themselves from it.

In a day or two after our letdown we began to return to normalcy, looting and plundering ceased. All of us amused ourselves with the musical instruments and vehicles acquired.

Our next move was to Linden, Germany on March 25, 1945 where we occupied the town. White flags indicating surrender were hanging out of every window. Here we had our first experience in having the Krauts provide us with houses in which to live. They asked us here but we are the type of guest who doesn't want the host around so we gave them an hour or two to grab personal belongings and gave! Our duties were occupational, enforced the curfew which permitted the civilians to be out of their homes only four hours a day. Non-fraternization was the order for us and our conduct was governed by the Special Orders for German-American Relations.

Linden was a country town in a beautiful setting, nestled as it was in a valley surrounded by high wooded hills. The open fields presented a scenic pattern because of their regular outline and careful cultivation. Each platoon had a sector of the area and we combed the woods for stranded or hiding soldiers and ammo dumps. A supply of dynamite and German automatic weapons was discovered, otherwise our stay was uneventful as far as any 'Werewolf' activity was concerned. Cpl. Walter S. Dinkleman was accidentally shot in the foot by one of our men in cleaning a .45 cal. pistol. He was evacuated to the Detachment of Patients for the 7th Army.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, the Company moved from Linden to Partenheim, Germany. Our duties covered patrolling of the town and Military Supply Route protection. Civilians were not allowed to pass on the highway without proper identification or passes. T/Sgt. Francis R. Byerley was sent to the hospital from Partenheim on April 3, 1945 on account of illness. He was evacuated. Five men were reduced in grade and three were court-martialed for infraction of the non-fraternization rules.

April 5, 1945 we moved to Dromersheim, Germany, locating the CP and Mine Platoon there while the 2d Platoon went to Ockheim. The 1st Platoon set up their quarters in Ingelheim, the 3rd Platoon went to Gaubickleheim. Our mission was to protect critical points easily subject to sabotage on the railroad running from Bad Kreuznach to Ingelheim. Our guard posts were bridges, culverts, switch houses, stations and the railroad tracks. A railroad motorcar was obtained for patrolling purposes and it was quite a thrill when we toured the track along the Rhine River. No unusual incidents occurred at any of our posts. The roads were jammed with American military convoys moving supplies and equipment to the front. Overhead the C-47's dotted the sky all day long --more supplies for our fast moving armies. Scores of B-17's daily roared over too and we wondered why Jerry wanted to keep piling misery on himself in continuing the fight. The people were ever so impressed with our military might --may the impression be as indelible in their minds as it is in the material destruction as a result of it!

Our first opportunity to see a USO show came to us at Dromersheim. There were only four girls in the show, but even if they had possessed no talent the show would have been a success. They could speak our language and were just beautiful American girls!

While at Dromersheim we received the commendation given the 70th Infantry Division for the capture of Forbach, Styring Wendel, and Saarbrucken and the crossing of the Saar River. We recalled our regimental sign when we crossed the Saar: 'We came, We Saar, We Crossed!' We were justifiably proud of the part we played as a unit and individuals in the completion of this mission. The letter of commendation was dated April 1, 1945 and signed by F.W. Milburn, Major General, Commanding the XXI Corps.

On April 12, 1945 we moved to Frankfurt on the Main, a city with a pre-war population of 800,000. The scene of destruction was great. Our mission was to guard two bridges our engineers had reconstructed over the Main River, a R.R. overpass, main arteries leading into Frankfurt and maintain security posts. A Kraut supply train which had been stilled by our aircraft required guarding to prevent civilian looting. A good supply of cognac (German) kept our spirits from getting too low --well, at least until the next day!

Viel frauleins of the schön type and their 'come-on' looks made non-fraternization a difficult rule to uphold --many men were continually asking themselves the \$65 question!! The civilians were law-abiding and no difficulty was encountered. A few Kraut soldiers, posing as civilians were apprehended. Our constant vigil on the river to detect floating mines as a sabotage possibility revealed no attempts. A searchlight was installed to provide night visibility as further security. Its bluish colored beam playing on the destroyed bridge upstream, with the shells of buildings in the background presented a ghostly, but beautiful, scene at night. The Germans told us 7,000 people were killed on the first air raid.

April 18, 1945 we moved from the South side of the Main River in Frankfurt to Eschersheim, a suburb. The 1st Platoon located in Heddernheim another suburb of Frankfurt which bordered on Eschersheim. The 3rd Platoon moved to Praunheim just beyond Heddernheim. The Mine and 2d Platoons quartered in Eschersheim not far from the CP. Ours was still a guard and security mission involving main intersections, bridges, another supply train, a factory and a Polish Refugee sector where 3,300 Poles, all displaced personnel, were quartered.

Our new locations involved a lot of work. We confiscated over 300 bicycles being ridden without the rider having an official American Military Government pass. Sob stories fell on deaf ears, the people always attempted to play on the supposedly soft-hearts of the American soldier. The Poles were a constant problem to all of us as they raided the surrounding farm towns of foodstuffs. Murders, shootings, robberies or beatings were the order of the day. Considering the plight of the displaced peoples of all nationalities, their respect for American law and order and the American soldiers was very good.

Many Nazis guilty of committing war crimes and other acts of oppression were apprehended in various platoon raids. We never encountered any resistance and seldom ever missed getting our man.

Our men had a superior knack for uncovering hidden cameras, films and pistols --also other sources having supplies to benefit the Company, such as the champagne factory in Wiesbaden. On a basis of American comparable cost it was computed we spent approximately \$20,000 for champagne in our month's stay in Eschersheim. Of course we didn't drink it all ourselves having cut some of our friends in on it. The cost to us was 6 marks or 60 cents a bottle.

Lt. Charles Andres III went to Cannon Co. on May 12, 1945. Lts. Thomas M. Lacey and John H. Free joined us on April 30, 1945, Lt. Lacey became Reconnaissance Officer and Lt. Free became platoon leader of the 2d Platoon on the departure of Lt. Andres.

V-E day came on May 8, 1945 during our stay in this location and we were extremely happy and relieved although little celebration was done, because war will not terminate for us until we cross our individual thresholds into the arms of those we love. So we just switched from sweating out re-entry into combat in Germany to shipment home, occupation, or going direct to the Pacific. V-D day came to some few, too, during our stay in Eschersheim! The Company started learning German under the tutorship of T/5 Wm. H. Otto and Pfc. Edward Dunbar. Only one accident marred our record here, Cpl. Walter H. Dimitruk was wounded in the abdomen by the accidental discharge of an M-3 'Grease Gun'. He was evacuated and rapid recovery was expected.

May 19, 1945 terminated our occupation of Frankfurt and suburbs and Florsheim, Germany became our headquarters town. The Company was assigned a large area so the platoons located their CP's in the towns most advantageous to the control of their areas. The 1st Platoon was in Eddersheim with S/Sgt. Frye's squad locating in Sossenheim, 15 miles distant. The 2d Platoon went to Wallau about 10 miles from Florsheim. The 3rd Platoon occupied Marxheim and T/Sgt. Larson's squad located in Kriftel. The Mine Platoon was the farthest removed from the CP town locating in Naurod. T/3 Grace's squad was in Miederbach and later to Nieder-Reifenberg where they guarded a flare dump. Sgt. Robinson's squad went to Auringen and later to Kelkheim.

Our mission involved guarding critical points against sabotage, maintaining law and order and generally supervising the area in conjunction with the American Military Government. Each Platoon had 12 or more towns for which they were responsible. We all messed in Florsheim so we were kept quite busy with our duties plus traveling to and from our chow. Softball and 'other sports' were engaged in to provide exercise and entertainment. An Engineer outfit invited us to attend their movies in Florsheim which was a treat for our men. We again uncovered more war criminals, Nazis and SS Troopers, making arrests of them and delivering them to the Counter Intelligence Corps in Frankfurt, 20 miles distant. We also 'uncovered' a champagne factory in Hochheim, a 2d Platoon town, as a result we continued to 'uncork' a few! Maybe this discovery was responsible for the 2d Platoon moving from Wallau to Hochheim??

The point system of discharge was announced to us at Florsheim, for a time observers thought the entire Company deaf and dumb as the men began counting their points on their fingers! This comment is practically 'pointless' as most of us found ourselves to be. Out of the 167 of us, six were found not wanting: Pfc. Mitchell topped the list with 107, S/Sgt. Till had 102, Pfc. Glazebrook 97, 1st Sgt. Randolph 90 and Pfc. Stade 87. Mitchell departed our ranks on June 8, 1945 for transfer to the Separation Center Fort Devens, Mass.

Regiment instituted a training program so in order for us to comply we were relieved of our occupational duties and the Company moved to Nieder-Reifenberg, Germany on June 7, 1945, our present location. The entire Company quartered in 22 private homes, so the Krauts had a field day in moving when we moved in. Here we train four hours in the morning, standing Reveille at 0800, although chow is served at 0700. Organized sports occupy our afternoons, we attend movies and USO shows at Konigstein in the evenings. We have several movies at the Mess Hall through the Corps Movie Team and Regiment's. Touring 'home talent' shows from the Battalions give us good entertainment and we enjoy these exceptionally fine efforts.

We have come a long way in our two years of activity as an Anti-Tank Company of the 275th Regiment of the 70th Infantry Division. As Trailblazers we have left our marks. The Company is in the XIX Corps, 7th Army at the present time, June 30, 1945. We were in the 7th Army originally, then transferred to the 3rd, then to the 9th, then back to the 7th. The classification of troops in the ETO places our great Division in Category IV, so there is a possibility of dissolution, by transfer of all personnel to other units. Should this occur it may mean the end of our Company officially but ever will it live in the folds of our memories. A definite fondness through pride in our accomplishments and functioning as a unit of All-American civilians who became SOLDIERS exists in our minds and hearts. Many men have filtered through our ranks in the vicissitudes of their Army life but not one was left untouched to his advantage from his contact with our group.

The intangible, yet real, 'esprit de corps' which our Company has developed and maintained was contributed to by all of the officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men. Our officers always kept the individual soldier informed of all poop that concerned the Company which originated from above. This policy was just one of the little things which developed the standard of excellence in morale, fighting spirit, and discipline always so evident in our Company. Effective and applied leadership from the date of organization is another reason for our record --from officers and noncoms alike.

A tribute is paid to our First Sergeant Marion E. Randolph, the only 1st Sgt. in the Regiment who was originally with the same Company from its organization until now. His good judgment and effective leadership has been an excellent gyroscope for holding the Company on an even keel.

We were fortunate in having outstanding Company Commanders. Capt. Sowers and Lt. George W. Meyer our Executive Officer, were untiring in their efforts during our combat period and have functioned extremely efficiently in their leadership of our Company.

The present roster as of June 30, 1945 of our Company is listed on the pages following.

ANTI TANK COMPANY, 275TH INFANTRY

HEADQUARTERS PLATOON

Sowers, Donald L.	Captain
Meyer, George W.	1st Lt.
Lacey, Thomas M.	1st Lt.
Randolph, Marion E.	1st Sgt
Davis, Ora J.	S/Sgt
Epprecht, Russell M.	S/Sgt
Baldrige, Alvin O.	S/Sgt
Holober, Herbert C.	Sgt
Jessce, Richard V.	Sgt
Elliot, James G.	Sgt
Griffiths, Thomas E.	Tec 4
Coleman, Roy A.	Tec 4
Greco, Antonio	Tec 4
Modde, Leo	Cpl
Christianson, Roy M.	Cpl
Otto, William H.	Tec 5
Hendricks, Calvin	Tec 5
Logue, Martin R.	Tec 5
Ault, Daniel E.	Tec 5
Schwartz, Sol	Tec 5
McAlpine, Claude E.	Pfc
Ridener, Harold	Pfc
Wilson, Mardis G., Jr.	Pfc
Loding, William A.	Pfc
Clark, Robert J.	Pfc
Nolan, Allen	Pfc
Henderson, Stewart M.	Pfc
Murphy, Emer R.	Pfc
Webb, Samuel E.	Pfc
Hunt, William E.	Pvt
Davis, Carl G.	Pfc

ANTI TANK COMPANY, 275TH INFANTRY

FIRST PLATOON

Platoon Headquarters:

Hess, Clarke E.	2nd Lt.
Kelley, Ernest C.	Pvt
Stickney, James R.	Pfc
Horstman, Robert A.	Pfc

1st Squad

Frye, Roger H.	S/Sgt
Smith, Allen R.	Pfc
Harris, Thomas Q.	Pvt
Cadwallader, Warren H.	Pfc
Brieding, Franklin C.	Pfc
Wright, Edwin H.	Pfc
Coffey, Ira Jr.	Pfc
Schrot, John J.	Pfc
Ormsby, Edward A.	Pvt
Morris, Robert J.	Pvt
Geisel, Roy J.	Tec 5

2nd Squad

Richards, John F.	Pfc
Schwartz, Stanley M.	Pfc
Miller, Quinten D.	Pfc
Ehring, Robert G.	Pfc
Zgroddek, Charles A.	Pfc
Johnston, Vincent H.	Pfc
Wray, Leon L.	Pvt
Wright, Elmer C.	Pvt
Dalian, Joseph C.	Pfc
Box, James J.	Pfc
Crosby, Emmett	Pfc

3rd Squad

Farmer, Donald G.	S/Sgt
Carnutt, Ralph R.	Cpl
Bruski, Julius L.	Pfc
Greene, John H.	Pfc
Anderson, Raymond J.	Sgt
Perry, Ralph R.	Pfc
Chetirkin, Nicholas	Pfc
Powell, Walter W.	Pfc
Bahmler, Richard P.	Pfc

## ANTI TANK COMPANY, 275TH INFANTRY

## SECOND PLATOON

Platoon Headquarters

Free, John H.	2nd Lt
Bieger, Floyd E.	S/Sgt
Carper, Walter H., Jr.	Pfc

1st Squad

Daubert, Dale S.	S/Sgt
Sabuda, Thaddeus J.	Pfc
Casey, John M.	Pvt
Garr, Jerome R.	Pfc
Edgar, Joseph T.	Pfc
Cunningham, Thomas	Pfc
Pantaleo, Joseph T.	Pfc
Bowers, Gary J.	Pvt
McNulty, John J.	Pfc
Joadwine, Ira J.	Cpl
Hupp, Milton R.	Pfc

2nd Squad

Wix, Clark	Pfc
Stade, Herbert L.	Pfc
Klejch, La Verne J.	Pfc
Utz, Jack M.	Pfc
Giordano, Russell A.	Pfc
Tallman, John C.	Pfc
Philbrick, Emmons E.	Tec 5
Aspen, James H.	Pfc
Stuart, James T., Jr.	Pvt
Gleason, Kenneth E.	Tec 4

3rd Squad

Stroup, R. M.	S/Sgt
Underwood, James L.	Pfc
Smith, James W.	Pfc
Kinnunen, William R.	Pfc
Coles, Jack	Pfc
Glazebrook, Thomas L.	Pfc
Kishpaugh, Harry	Pvt
Derouchie, Paul K.	Pvt
Deford, Earl	Pvt
Guilbert, Raoul A.	Pvt
White, Firth, J.	Pfc

ANCI TANK COMPANY , 275TH INFANTRY

THIRD PLATOON

Platoon Headquarters

H. J. Fallis	2nd Lt
Marshall, Keith W.	T/Sgt
Sylvester, Harold B.	Pfc
Allen, Forrest R.	Tec 3

1st Squad

Larson, Earle W.	T/Sgt
Shuster, August A.	Cpl
Spier, Bertrand Jr.	Cpl
Dunn, Edgar, E.	Pfc
Smith, Lawrence L.	Pfc
Smith, George A.	Pfc
Burdette, O. L.	Pfc
Hackett, Gene L.	Pfc
Field, Thomas J.	Pfc
Fredenberg, Lyle A.	Pvt
Shireman, William S.	Pfc

2nd Squad

Smith, James M.	S/Sgt
Blaylock, Melvin M.	Cpl
Langston, Verl	Cpl
Davis, David W.	Pfc
Underwood, Homer T.	Pfc
Conerton, Joseph P.	Pfd
Kochkodonski, Henry J.	Pfc
Williams, B. C.	Pfc
Fisher, William F.	Pfc
Knutson, J. R.	Pvt
Kamin, William P.	Tec 5

3rd Squad

Hansen, Reo M.	Pfc
Latona, Michael	Sgt
O'Brien, John H	Pfc
Lewandowski, Eugene A.	Pfc
Gaudette, Norman A.	Pfc
Moffett, John J.	Pfc
Buoy, Benjamin	Pvt
Gulliver, Arthur L.	Pvt

ANTI TANK COMPANY, 275TH INFANTRY

MINE PLATOON

Platoon Headquarters

Solomon, Bruce Q.	2nd Lt.
Poitras, Milton E.	T/Sgt
Jung, Hom M.	Tec 5
Clay, Robert E.	Pfc
Veranda, Walter M	Pfc
Larghe, Leslie I.	Tec 5
Hellman, Paul W.	Pfc

1st Squad

Robinson, Allen D.	Sgt
McFerlin, John W.	Cpl
Russell, Gilbert E.	Pfc
Fant, Wayne	Pvt
Cole, Richard F.	Pfc
Dailey, Lloyd	Pfc
Spears, Winfield Jr.	Pfc
Burkhalter, James	Pvt
Clark, Frank S.	Pvt
House, Leslie J.	Pvt

2nd Squad

Johnston, Harry V.	Sgt
Dunbar, Edward	Pfc
Benson, John	Pfc
Armstrong, Charles E.	Pfc
Carrasco, Alfred L.	Pvt
Cassidy, Jerome	Pvt
Gill, George L.	Pvt
Calhoun, William J.	Pvt
Allen, Leland M.	Pvt
Meadowcroft, William	Pvt

3rd Squad

Grace, Thomas J.	Tec 3
Lolling, Alfred H.	Pfc
Cox, Charles W.	Pfc
D'Eufemia, Maurice	Pfc
Jenkins, James E.	Pfc
Hall, Charles R.	Pfc
Catena, Rudolph	Pvt
Meyer, Jacob J.	Pvt
Campbell, Clifford G.	Pvt
Franceses, Mario	Pvt