

RECORD OF EVENTS

CO. "I" - 275th INF. - 70th Div.

SEVENTH ARMY

PARTIAL REPORT

- December 6, 1944 - Left U. S. at 4:00 P.M. out of Boston, Massachusetts aboard the West Point; no convoy as we travel too fast.
- December 7, 1944 - On the high seas.
- December 8, 1944 - On the high seas.
- December 9, 1944 - Men seasick first few days out,
- December 10 - Plenty of P.K. supplies
- December 11 - Men roamed the decks or
- December 12 - had plenty of bunk
- December 13 - fatigue. Off. Crowded in
- December 14 - cabins; 6 in. V-3c. Lots of fun with nurses aboard,
- December 15 - Saw Gibraltar in all its glory.
- December 16 - 0800 - Arrived at Marseilles harbor; really looked good to everyone.
- December 17 - 02.20 landed by using landing barges and then trucked to staging area, (c.p. #2) Slept on ground until daylight and then set up a tent city of pup tents.
- December 18 - Rain, mud, etc. So this is "Sunny France!"
- December 19 - First passes to Marseilles.
- December 20 - Seeing France's misery and corruption.
- December 21 - Still in Pup tent city.
- December 22 - Troops left for the front, by train. Very crowded and cars were airy.
- December 23 - Motor convoy left for the front. Stayed at St. Lambert, train at Lyon.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve. Convoy stopped at the public park of Dijon - no passes, no fires, snow. Slept in truck. Merry Christmas!! Train stopped at Nancy.
- December 25 - Christmas Day. Traveling on. Convoy at a French Barracks at Baccaret - not good but not bad.
- December 26 - Company arrived at brickyard at Gries, in Alsace-Lorraine. Convoy arrived at Gries and spent the night.
- December 27 - Executive Officers moved companies to front by companies - 11 miles march to 1000 yards of the Rhine. The march was rough - arrived at 8:30 P.M. - Wanzenu, France.
- December 28 - Co. C.P. in Farm house.
- December 29 - Quiet front.
- December 30 - Motor convoy from front to school house at Schirrhuffen.
- December 31 - Captain Long forward on recon. Executive Officers took convoy at night to a foundry at Neederbronn.
- January 1, 1945 - Capt. Long not heard from. Lt. Turner marched company up, when Germans made a counter-attack, so we dug in. Capt. Long returned and the orders came to move up. Darkness found us on the road and we ran into an enemy ambush. We withdrew, dug in and beat off the enemy counter-attack.

*REVISITED NEEDERBRONN
FOUNDRY WHERE
WE SLEPT & SPENT NEW YEARS
EVE. ON MY RETURN TO EUROPE
FOR THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF
WW II. I RECALL THE COLD
BARREN CONCRETE FLOOR*

Results of action:--
K.I.A.

- McLeron, Robert R., T-5 - Bar.
- Neller, Virgil E., P.F.C.
- Boeve, Homer E., P.F.C.
- Wounded in action:
- Rutter, Cecil A., P.F.C.
- Conwells, Henry J., S/Sgt.
- Kleinhans, Clare E., P.F.C.
- Senser, Rudy M., P.F.C.
- Crawford, Robert L., Pvt.

Missing in Action: - 14 men.

- January 2, 1945 - Occupied a hill north of Phillipsburg (No. 30) Artillery caught Lt. Brendinges, evacuated, Bina brought up ammunition, withdrew towards town. Germans counter-attacked and we were cut off with no communication. Artillery terrific and constant. No food. Missing in Action: Biven, George and Fridley.
- January 3 - No food, little water, snow and no fires. Killed one German and capture another, who told us he had found William C. Schaefer in a house with a face wound, had given him an injection and evacuated. "The eyes were all right," he said. He also said they found 8 men dead on the road.
- January 4 - No food, little water but plenty of Artillery. Pfc. Martin, Elmar wiped out a 4-man O.P. radio. Picked up a map case and burp gun. One man wounded, treated by aid man.
- January 5 - Men very weak from lack of food, water and sleep. Feet in bad condition Artillery fire heavy and Germans withdrawing. Patrol hit by our Artillery. Glass, Martin and McDuffee wounded; contacted "A" Co., 274th Inf. and got food, water and took off our wounded. Castle wounded himself in foot.
 Captain Long went after rations and in returning his jeep hit a mine. He went to hospital with head injury and shock. We withdrew from the hill at 01:00 to the sawmill.
- January 6 - 99 men went to hospital with frost bite and trench foot. Company of 33 men and 3 officers moved up again to protect cannon company.
- January 7 - Guarded cannon company. *WAS ONE OF THE 33*
- January 8 - Cross wounded in head by Artillery.
- January 9 - W.I.A.
- January 10 - Moved to front line positions between K & L Companies with 42 men and 3 officers. Life in foxholes again. Lt. Cannon "I" Co. C.O.
- January 11 - Strength fluctuating but
- January 12 - never more than 44 men
- January 13,14 - Company left the foxholes and slept from 0100 until 0730, then moved back to sawmill. We moved by motor convoy (at 1 P.M.) to a villa near Lembach and stayed in a pillbox or bunker. Quiet front.
- January 15 - No breakfast. At 0930 we loaded on to 2½ ton trucks (with no canvas) and travelled 90 miles. Towns we hit were Woerth, Reichshoppen, Mertzwiller; Pfaffenhoffen, Bankwiller, Steinbory, Saverne, Mittelbroun, Ranwiller, Mittersheim, Dierze, Kreutzhoff, Hillimer, Dieklingin, Hundlingin, Nuswiller, Kadenbroun. The temperature was near zero, so the ride was not pleasant. We arrived at Kadenbroun 1830. As a side note, one truck went to Saarburg and that truck load of men had a hot meal at noon. Still on the front, but living in houses instead of fox holes.
- January 16 - No change, 36 men 30 off. Pretty nice set-up here.
- January 17 - Marched 1½ miles over the barren, snowy hills of France in a snowstorm to occupy a position (practice run, but march did no good.) This is Reorganization center, 59 men 3 off.
- January 18 - Assigned strength 129 men 5 off, total left 59 men and 3 officers.
- January 19 - First man to receive Purple Heart - Cross, Howard R., Bvt. 4 men return to duty from hospital. Company moving to Wentelingen, all excess baggage of men and the kitchen today, we move tomorrow. Men worked at cleaning cut foxholes on En. R. L.
- January 20 - C.P. T/Sgt. Skeen's men moved from Kadenbroun at 0750 for Tentelnigen, where we joined Lt. Moller and T/Sgt. Scott's men. 3 off, 6 men. Effective P. for duty.

Record of Events, Co. "I", 275th Inf., 70th Div., 7th Army

- January 21, 1945 - 3 men receive the Purple Heart: 3 men transferred to "B" Company. Co. "B" was wiped out near Phillipsburg - 27 men survived. We picked up a Sgt. and 4 men who survived, came into our hill position. Sgt. Evans, "A" Co. also joined us - reported to Lt. Scoby and Windenman, a rifle squad and a machine gun squad wiped out.
- January 22 - 3 men return from Division rest camp, say it's a good deal there. Christmas packages start arriving.
- January 23 - Reinforcements arrive. The ages average from 19 to 24, some or few are older. These men have had up to 4 years of service and none less than 19 months. All come from Ord. Transportation Corps and A.A. Units. They got 15 days of Infantry training before coming here.
- January 24 - Formed the 2nd and 3rd Plat. with 3 seven-man squads and a M. G. section with 5 men each. Strength 77 men 3 off. We will have an off head Patrol in a couple of days. Moon on the snow makes the nights as light as the days.
- January 25 - Left for Officers Commission: Patton, Eugene, Sgt. (Assigned to Co. 111 men and 3 off. Effective - 75 men and 3 off.
- January 26 - Reinforcements, more come to the company just as young as the others. Men right out of I.R.T.C. in the States and look like good men. Company worked on defense work all day. Morning outside Tentelingen, afternoon north of Ibringen. Snow, cold and plenty of drifts.
- January 27 - Defense work and preparation for patrol. They left at 2 P.M. for Wilferding (I.P. in E. Co. Area) We left town at 0200 and completed crossing the Saar River in 2-man assault boats at 0400 - two buildings were searched when we ran into some Nazis in a cellar. One Kraut said "Halt" and let out a round, we opened up. Believed to be a German O.P. group holed up for the night. Patrol returned at 0600, 15 men, off 1 and we all enjoyed the nights' party.
- January 28 - Routine work - most men went to church, worked on defense positions and training of new men.
- January 29 - Two men awarded Purple Heart. Defense work and Infantry continue some patrols going out to some Area. No action, no enemy, or vica versa. Company alerted and occupied defensive position from 2000 to 0500. Cold as H---
- January 30 - Still at Tentelingen. Normal training and work. 4 men back from the hospital. Four old men really look good to us and I guess the old outfit looked good to them, even though not many are left.
- January 31 - Normal work in morning. Four Plat. came into being and moved into new billets - 3 rifle Plat. with 6 & 7 more squads and weapons Plat. with 2 M.G. squads to 260 M.M. squads. Off for the afternoon. Sleet, fog and wet snow, but the Co. took off at 1900 for a hill. Just south of Bushback to dig in defensive positions within sight of the enemy (at Forback). Sgt. Fager and myself worked on administrative work at C.P. Plat. rosters and check of weapons. Recommendation for awards, training schedule for new men and promotions. They returned at 4:30 P.M. wet, muddy and miserable. Breakfast - pancakes hot off the griddle.
- February 1, 1944 - Pay day. Away on Recon and picked up payroll and Co. rested after the night's work.
- February 2 - Routine work. Men being paid. Patrol of 8 men went out, S/Sgt. Luoto in charge. P.X. rationed issued.
- February 3 - Day to clean equipment. Carr took a patrol out tonight & Shaffer went on a raid to gather information for us. Men on sick call and are evacuated are dropped from roll 24 hours later. All men paid.
- February 4 - Sunday - Carr leads a patrol for the 3rd night in a row. New arrivals assigned to "I" Co. 10 men and 1 officer. Promotions come through to 1 T/Sgt.. 9 S/Sgts., and one Sgt. Payroll returned. Thank Heavens! P.X.

Record of Events, Co. "I", 275th Inf., 70th Div., 7th Army

February 5, 1945 - Big doings in the offing. Men worked on holes all morning, cleaned weapons and rested in the afternoon. Big Pow-Wow in C.P. in evening.

Reinforcements received.

17 men received. One bird Pvt. Westerberg, Walter E. arrived 1800 was evacuated 1900 and won't be back. He was really fit for general duty. About 2345 Lt. Schwager steps outside, stumbles in the dark, shoots himself in the toe and is evacuated. He won't be back either. Seemed like a nice guy, from what we saw of him. Sometimes it seems the hardest part of this whole business is the waiting. Mighty little sleep tonight.

February 6 - Up at 0300, breakfast. Company pulls out at 0400 for Cadenbronn then North to cross L.S. at 0600 for attack on Lexing, town said by 62 is supposed to be held by 25 Germans, mostly Poles, yearning for a chance to give up. No news during the day, 2 men rejoin company, 3 new medics join "I" Co. from Med. Det., 3rd Bn. aid station: Pfc. McCoy, James R., Pfc. Kirkese, Fred S., Pfc. Stewart, William H. These men have been with us a long time but orders so slow in catching up with the situation and they are doing a very good job. About 2100 T/Sgt. Skeen and S/Sgt. Nelson staggered into C.P. on verge of collapse. Nelson has a slight flesh wound on upper arm but otherwise alright. Their reports are not clear, rather incoherent, but sufficient to show that the Co. has run into another death trap. About 2300 Lt. Cannon comes in and rest of survivors begin to trickle in. As night wears on the picture slowly develops as follows: 13 men F.I.A. on the Co. Aid man Stewart. One officer and all are evacuated, 23 men M.I.A., 3 men wounded, treated but not evacuated.

REVISITED LIXING ON
RETURN TO EUROPE
I PLACED THE
MEMORIAL WREATH
AT THE MONUMENT
WE DEDICATED IN
MEMORY OF THOSE
KILLED -

February 7 - Sad process of checking up and reorganizing continues, 6 more men transferred to Hq. Co.

February 8 - Men wounded on 6th dropped from roll. Following men rejoin Co. from hospital: S/Sgt. Schieck, Pfc. Turner. Medics promoted to T-5 are McCoy and Stewart. Two men returned from M.I.A. to duty. They hid out all day of the 7th and finally succeeded in getting out with Pfc. Maggard, who was shot through both feet. Ulrich did a wonderful job and is recommended for the D.S.C. Pvt. Stout turned up in a N.P. center. The shock was too much for him. Walt Snyder goes to hospital and is dropped from roll.

February 9 - Lt. Cannon is relieved of C.O. and Lt. Donahue from "K" Co. is assigned and takes over as C.O. Someone had to take the rap so the C.O. was transferred. More reinforcements join Co., 9 men, 18 men M.I.A. from 6 Feb. at Lexing are dropped from roll. Company - C.P. move from Tentilingen to Naussviller. Es go into Bn. reserve for reorganization and transferring of reinforcements.

February 10 - Reorganization and training continue. One man to hospital (battle fatigue).

February 11 - Reorganization and training continue; one man returns from hospital.

February 12 - Two men rejoin Co. from hospital. One man to hospital for minor operation. Training and reorganization continue. Lt. Donahue and T/Sgt. Scott take small patrol over near the Brendenbusch Forest; all men return safely.

February 13 - Six men rejoin Co. transferred from Hq. Co., 1 man back from hospital. Reorganization and training continue just like back in the States. The poop really piles up.

February 14 - 31 more reinforcements join Co. Fred Kirkese promoted to T5 from Pfc. Training & reorganization continues - Lt. Donahue and S/Sgt. Schieck take Recon. patrol up toward Brendenbusch again. Engage in small fight with single man listening post and fill him full of lead. All return safely.

February 15

- 1 man transferred to Ser. Co., 2 men rejoin Co. from hospital. Promotion becomes effected. Training and reorganization continues, saw movies. 2nd Lt. Bell assigned and joins Co. Patrol hits Brandenbusch for recon. again. S/Sgt. Schieck is wounded and lost on way back. Reported M.I.A. and dropped from rolls after 72 hours.

February 16

- Some training in morning, Co. alerted in afternoon and spent most of day getting ready. Co. pulls out 2000, move to Ruhling via Cadenbronn and jump off for Brandenbusch at 2200 with heavy artillery support. Co. "I" and Co. "L" on line enter Brandenbusch about 2400 and dig in. 1 man hurt and is evacuated. Company C.P. moves from Naussviller to Ruhling.

February 17

- Company with 3 other outfits on line move through BRANDENBUSCH-FOREST to point over halfway through woods. Casualties light, mostly from own artillery, which despite a few unavoidable short rounds is doing a magnificent job. Co. takes 23 prisoners and kills beancoup Krauts. 1 man killed by own artillery. S/Sgt Schrapf (L.I.A.) falls in rock quarry and breaks hand, 3 men return from Div. rest camp, 1 man rejoins Co. from hospital, 1 man (W.I.A.) "not evacuated."

February 18

1 led patrol →

- Company continues to drive on through BRANDENBUSCH FOREST and takes Etzling in afternoon in about 45 minutes. Casualties still are light. Take 40 prisoners including 1 officer. Sent out patrol to make contact with 274th Inf. on left and patrol comes back with 6 more prisoners, 1 an officer. Secure position and men get some sleep in town, 1 man (N.B.I.) evacuated due to old injury, 2 men (L.W.A) evacuated. (Good men, not hurt bad, hope they will be able to come back.) 2 men (L.W.A.) not evacuated.

February 19

- More reinforcements, 13 men and 1 Medic.- Gilbert O. Apodoca. During afternoon company attacked high ground north of Etzling and takes some assaulting with fixed bayonets. Casualties not so light this time, combination of own artillery and enemy mortars, artillery and snipers. Dig in looking down the throats of anybody staying in Spicheren and throw back one counterattack. Artillery continues to give Heinies hell. K.I.A. S/Sgt. Fulcher, (snipers got him. This is where it really begins to hurt.) 12 men evacuated (L.I.A) (L.W.A) (S.I.A) Good men, all of them. If we're lucky they'll come back. (W.I.A) but not evacuated, 2 men, 1 off. Lt. Donahue, S/Sgt. Brown, Pfc. Simmons.

MY Assist. Platoon SGT. WAS BESIDE HIM WHEN HIT →

February 20

VISITED HIS FAMILY ON RETURN TO STATE'S

- Jury counterattacked at dawn and threw everything he has at Etzling and the boys in the trenches. One shell or mortar round catches forward C.P. at Etzling and some of the reinforcements that just arrived don't even get to fire a shot. Counterattack is thrown back with artillery doing another swell job and our own mortars helping. Intermittent exchange of snipers and mortar fire all day. Kraut's artillery gives some trouble but ours makes Kraut's look a little sick. Ground in front of trenches littered with good Krauts (the dead kind). Prisoners trickle in during the day. Final count - 11 Krauts. 3 men rejoin Co. from hospital, K.I.A. - 4 men, two by snipers; W.I.A. - 7 men (all evacuated); W.I.A. - 2 men (not evacuated); C.P. moves from Ruhling to Etzling.

WE WERE REALLY LUCKY. HAD JUST AWAKEN ALL THE MEN WHEN THEY HIT US. THEY WERE

February 21

ALMOST IN OUR TRENCHES WHEN WE LET THEM HAVE EVERYTHING WE HAD. I THINK THERE WERE 14 KILLED, PLUS

- Company continues to hold positions overlooking Spicheren without intermittent exchange of snipers, mortar and artillery (our) pounding unmercifully. About 1400 Lt. Donahue takes 6 man patrol, walks into town and takes over, capturing about 25 prisoners, including some wounded and medics. The 274th Inf. muscles into town but we damned well know who took it. In evening the company is relieved and pulled back into town for hot chow and a little rest. (Etzling.) K.I.A. - 1 man - own artillery; W.I.A. - 1 man (evacuated) (L.W.A) Lt. Paton assigned and rejoined Co. (Formerly Sgt.)

Record of Events, Co. "I", 275th Inf., 70th Div., 7th Army

February 22, 1945 - Company up at 0400, chow, moves out at 0600 in Bn. reserve for attack on woods and high ground north of Spicheren and Alsting running fight continues all day, artillery and tanks doing their share. Attack moves north and then west. We control the situation but resistance is stiff. Two men rejoin Co. from hospital (K.I.A.) Pfc. Swagel (Schumine) (W.I.A.) T/Sgt. Scott (L.W.A.) "evacuated", 2 men evacuated (N.B.I.)

February 23 - Attack continues, moving from "Bois de St. Arnecal" through "le Paffenwald", into "le Cefertwald" and "Hauteners de Spicheren" which Company occupies, looking down into SAARBRUCKEN. (W.I.A.) S/Sgt. Shaffer (own artillery), (W.I.A.) Pfc. Griffin, (not evacuated.).

*Doesn't cover our March Engagement
at Saarbrücken or to finish off our action.*

CODE NAME - 275th (WRECKER)

" " 274th (WYOMING)

*3RD BATTALION WAS ATTACHED TO WYOMING
ON FEB. 19TH, JUST BEFORE SPICHERN HTS. BATTLE
Co. I, K, L, 275th.*