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H-57 6258

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMORED DIVISION
A. P. O. 24 U. S. ARMY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

19 October 1945.

SUBJECT: Submission of Historical Material to Theater Historian.

TO : Theater Historian, Headquarters USFET, (Rear), APO 887, U. S. Army.

Inclosed is the combat history of the 4th Armored Division covering the period 17 July 1944 to 9 May 1945.

For the Commanding General:

Lowell A. Spires
LOWELL A. SPIRES,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. General.

1 Incl:
Combat history.

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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Paul M. Zirble Maj. AGP 25 June 46
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

Master

Colonel Miller
U.S. Army (Retired)

~~Div 100~~
Dunn

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COMBAT

HISTORY

4TH ARMORED DIVISION

17 July 1944 - 9 May 1945

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COMBAT HISTORY
4TH ARMORED DIVISION

17 July 1944 - 9 May 1945

17 July 1944:-

Orders were received transferring the Division to First U.S. Army and VIII Corps. We had been ordered to take over the line now held by the 4th Infantry Division by 2400 today. The line is about five miles north of Periers. General Wood, General Dager, Colonels Clarke, Withers and Storck immediately went to the new area to make personal reconnaissance.

CC "B" with all the Infantry and Artillery, the TD and two troops of the 25th and service echelons began movement to new area at 1100.

18 July 1944:-

The 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Jaques was the first unit of the division to see action, taking the front from units of the 4th Infantry Division during the night of 17 - 18. They remained in the line for about thirty hours. The first losses were sustained as a result of a reconnaissance in force by an estimated one hundred Germans infiltrating up the left flank of the line. The attack was driven off and the 53rd was replaced by the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion. Lt. James Duffv of the 53rd was the first battle casualty of the division, but ironically it is believed he was killed by his own men when he passed through their line of fire.

Casualties:

	Wounded	
Officers - 1		EM - 24
	Killed	
Officers - 2		EM - 4
	Missing	
Forty EM, 29 of which were later returned to duty.		

The enemy opposing us in this section has been identified as the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 6th Para Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, 3rd S.S. Regiment.

Lt. Col. Clay Olbon, attached to G-3, has been attached to CC "B" as Executive Officer replacing Major Charles F. Latimer who is returning to his former job of Assistant G-3.

Lt. Col. Thomas D. Gillis was relieved from attachment to Division Headquarters and attached to the Tank Command replacing Major Theodore L. White who was attached to Division Trains with duties as Rear Echelon Headquarters Commandant for the Administrative Center. (Par 1,2,3, &4, SO 129, Hq 4 AD cs)

19 July 1944:-

July 44 - 1

The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, fresh in the line, pushed our lines forward about four hundred yards to a line through Lonzueville La Maugerie which was in advance of the original line held by the 4th Infantry Division. After dark all but one company of the 10th was relieved from the line and Company "A" 53rd A.I. Battalion and a Company of the 51st A.I. Battalion took over. Company "C" of the 10th A.I. Battalion advanced well ahead of the line during this action and for a time was cut off but by skillful use of artillery concentrations they were extricated with small loss. The losses sustained for the Battalion were six killed, forty-six wounded, and seven missing.

The Civil Affairs Section actually began functioning by organizing nearly thirty male civilians as a burying detail to dispose of dead livestock. This project is very necessary due to the larger number of animals in the bivouac areas which constitute a menace to the health of the command.

20 July 1944:-

Orders were received from ETOUSA promoting 22 officers of the division to higher rank including Chaplain Joseph J. Bowman, Assistant Division Chaplain, who was promoted to Major. (Par 1 & 2, SO 197, Hq ETOUSA, 15 July 1944)

The fact that the division is in France has been released for writing home. Although the majority of the division has been in France for over a week, security reasons have made it necessary to restrain from hinting that we have moved from our former station in England. After the sharp patrol activity of the previous night the front has settled down and there is very little action beyond sporadic artillery and mortar fire with occasional small arms fire which is inflicting considerable casualties.

Casualties:

	Wounded	
Officers - 1		EM - 115
	Killed	
Officers - 3		EM - 32

This is the heaviest yet.

21 July 1944:-

A heavy general rain turned the fields into a deep mud. This was the first taste of what French mud was like for the division. Action on the front was very limited due to the heavy rain. Only occasional artillery, mortar and small arms fire was evidenced. Casualties evacuated during the period were:

	KIA	Wounded
Officers	0	0
Warrant Officers	0	0
Enlisted Men	4	73

Twenty-eight of these casualties were non battle, mostly fatigue. Twenty-two EM and three officers were received as replacements.

22 July 1944:-

Although the rain has stopped the fields are still seas of mud and little action has taken place. One occasion of the use of the cold German ruse of waving the white flag and then trying to cut down our men with machine guns when they try to take them was dealt with in reverse.

Casualties for the period are:	KIA	Wounded
Officers	0	0
Warrant Officers	0	0
Enlisted Men	2	97

No prisoners have been taken by the division to date. Purple Hearts were awarded to eighteen members of the division for wounds received in action. (GO #9. Par 1, Hq 4 A/D, 22 July 1944).

23 July 1944:-

Troops on the front line have been practically inactive on both sides but with a partial clearing of the skies which have been cloudy for two days, the air cover was out in force, mainly F-47 Thunderbolts. The planes made an almost constant procession over the area during the afternoon.

Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was the main action of the day. Casualties evacuated during the day are:

	KIA	Wounded
Officers	0	0
Warrant Officers	0	0
Enlisted Men	2	97

24 July 1944:-

There was no change in our front throughout the day. There was sporadic artillery, mortar and small arms on the front line. It was announced that today was "D" Day for First Army and that "H" Hour would be at 1100 for VII Corps on our left. "H" Hour for VIII Corps of which the division is apart will be at 0530 tomorrow.

Detachments from the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), 24th Armored Engineer Battalion and 704th T.D. Battalion (S.P.) took over as bridge guards at two bridges in the sector of the division on our left flank (83rd Infantry Division) to free their men for the attack.

One hundred sixty-nine EM and two officer replacements were received and assigned to the infantry battalions. General Wood gave the men an orientation talk before they left for their units and welcomed them to the division.

Sixteen Purple Heart Awards were made today to men of the division for wounds received in action against the enemy. (Par 1, GO #10, Hq 4 A/D)

25 July 1944:-

Beginning early this morning and lasting well into the day the division witnessed for the first time a demonstration of the aerial might of the Allies. The

planes numbering over a thousand roared overhead and dropped their bombs and returned. The earth could be felt shaking as much as five miles back from the front lines under the terrific blasting. Coupled with this the artillery began almost continuous firing which lasted nearly all day. Thursday began the assault by the VIII Corps. Our division's mission was to hold a small sector between the fronts of the 83rd Division (left flank) and the 90th Division (right flank) while they pushed forward and pinched off a pocket on our front which we were then to clean up. Our artillery supported the attack together with the assault guns and mortars and the T.D. Bn guns making roughly five battalions of artillery in action under the control of the Division Artillery Officer. A new device designed to remove the hazards of the many hedgerows in Normandy is being prepared by our ordnance battalion. The device, called a hedgerooter or rhinoceros, will make it possible for a tank to charge directly through a hedgerow without stopping, such as a large bulldozer would do. Battle fatigue cases are showing a marked decrease and the division psychiatrist has been able to return nearly 50% of these cases to duty in a short time. The battle casualties which now are practically from shell fire included: 6 EM and 1 officer wounded.

26 July 1944:-

Only small successes on the Corps front and no change in the division front line. A very quiet day and one in which casualties were very light, one man killed and one man wounded. Material replacements are being made but the supply of 60mm mortars and "bazookas" is critical.

Casualties have been running about 40% from small arms fire and 60% from shell and mortar fire. The first prisoner taken by the division was a deserter who had come through the swamps during the night and surrendered to a detachment of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion.

Our artillery again supported the attack of the adjoining infantry division while our front line remained static.

27 July 1944:-

Our men have learned much about the enemy which is facing us in the last few days. They have learned caution with aggressiveness and for the first time a day has gone by without casualty. At 1300 our front lines were ordered forward to clear the sector of any enemy. At 1800 with this mission completed, the division reverted to Corps reserve to await orders. Casualties were light with only five EM being wounded and no one killed. Total casualties for this holding action which began 18 July are:

Killed	Wounded	Missing
82	295	17

Replacements received were 5 officers and 189 Enlisted Men.

28 July 1944:-

At 0300 this morning the division received orders to attack south through Periers and Coutances, pressing through the 90th Infantry Division and seize and

hold Cerences (La Jourdarriere) (GO #3, Hq 4 A/D, 28 July 1944). CC "B" launched its drive at 0500 and in spite of mines on roads reached Coutances by noon where they have been held up by numerous mines and demolitions. By 1800 the city of Coutances was ours ~~except~~ for mopping up, and we were in contact with leading elements of the 3rd Armored Division which is advancing south from St. Lo. A total of 202 prisoners have been captured and more are expected to follow. Seventy-nine enlisted infantry replacements were received and assigned and the first group of division wounded have returned, numbering four, to duty.

29 July 1944:-

Renewing the advance south of Coutances this morning CC "B" drove on toward the objective at Cerences and occupied that town in the late afternoon after a total advance in two days of over forty miles. Three hundred fifty-four prisoners were captured today. The 8th Tank Battalion captured 40 Germans without a shot when they wandered into the bivouac area waving a white flag.

The Silver Star was awarded to Captain Frank Allen, Dental Corps Officer with CC "B", for his gallantry in action under heavy fire treating wounded without regard for the fact that he also was wounded. This is the first Silver Star Award made in the Division. (Par. 1, GO #11, Hq 4 A/D, cs)

A total of thirty-nine Purple Heart Awards were made today to officers and men of the division who have been wounded in action recently. (Par 2, GO #11, Hq 4 A/D cs)

Major Alexander E. Newton, long the S-2 for Division Trains, was today killed by a mine explosion. He is the first field officer casualty of the Division.

30 July 1944:-

At daylight this morning an outpost of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion observed an enemy column withdrawing from Avranches. Pvt William H. Whitson, although without other support, opened fire on the column and inflicted heavy casualties in the enemy before being killed in action. He was awarded the D.S.C. for this action. (GO #65, Hq TUSA cs)

CC "A" having reached the division objective together with the Reserve Command followed behind in two columns and cleaned out the scattered pockets of resistance which were brushed aside by the rapid advance of CC "B". During this mopping-up period an estimated 1500 prisoners were taken. Prisoners streamed to the rear by truck and on foot, some without guards others being marched back by armed Frenchmen.

At 2130 this evening Company "C", 126th Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion advancing southward through Sartilly was ambushed in the town by approximately a company of Germans supported by at least two 88 mm guns. In what started as a running fight, the head and tail vehicles were knocked out and the column was brought to a halt. With the Germans firing and throwing hand grenades at them from the housetops, the company commander ordered the company to scatter in groups and make their way out of the trap. With the help of some French resistance fighters a majority of the company was able to extricate themselves and later reassemble. The casualties totaled twenty-three, including missing, captured and killed.

Moving through the northeast edge of Avranches to capture Tirepied, the 8th Tank Battalion encountered a column of German horse-carts, light reconnaissance vehicles

and AT guns. The entire column was destroyed in an all out battle., which lasted until 2022 next morning.

The enemy is retreating so rapidly that large quantities of vehicles, guns, and stores are being left by the sides of the road in their flight. Horses of horse-drawn units are either dead by the side of the road or wandering loose over the country-side.

After being in the front lines ~~ten days with~~ the infantry troops which he had trained, Colonel Louis J. Storck, Reserve Commander, was killed along with his driver and radio operator when his 1/4-ton C&R car struck a mine in the city of Coutances which was then far behind the lines.

31 July 1944:-

After a fierce fight CC "B" captured Avranches. The issue was in doubt for a while when an enemy counter-attack threatened to engulf the combat command headquarters. General Dager personally organized and led a counter-attack implemented by the personnel of his headquarters and broke the German resistance in this area and caused the fall of Avranches which resulted in the capture of 2000 prisoners. He was awarded the D.S.C. for this action. (GO #60, Hq TUSA cs)

With the clearing out of the division zone of action completed. CC "A" and CC "B" are now advancing to the south to secure and hold crossings over La See and La Selune Rivers preparatory to continuing the advance to the south. Enemy now being contacted are mainly rear echelon troops of divisions routed farther north and now seeking means of escape from the trap which has snapped on them and secured an estimated total of 1000 prisoners.

The number of prisoners taken in the capture of Avranches totaled over 4000 and it was necessary to secure Army assistance in controlling and evacuating them.

A battery of the 489 AAA Battalion, protecting a bridge at Pont Le Gilbert, knocked out an entire horse-drawn Field Artillery Battalion which was passing their position, after waging an all night fight against tank and infantry counterattacks aimed at destruction of the bridge. The bridge was held in spite of the ferocity of the German assault and lack of any support for the battery.

Throughout the advance, elements of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion were continually in the fore, repairing roads and bridges, removing mines, clearing debris from roads and removing road blocks under fire to further the rapid advance of the columns.

An 8th Tank Battalion task force captured Tirepied and secured the vital river crossings there. A sharp fight with infantry supported by tanks and heavy artillery resulted in the capture of 200 prisoners.

The official casualties for the period 28- 30 July were 71 killed, 155 wounded, and 36 missing. Replacements received during this period were 79 enlisted men.

July 44 - 6

1 August 1944-

At 0001 this morning the division and the VIII Corps, to which we have been assigned since entering action, were assigned to the Third United States Army under Lt General Patton, the army having become operational at this time. At 0500 CC "A" struck south through Avranches with the mission of capturing Rennes, the key to the Brest Peninsula. Moving southward in an overwhelming burst of power, the drive carried to the outskirts of Rennes by the following morning. CC "B" followed CC "A" one hour later. The Forward Echelon, having travelled all night, reached Les Portes, north of Avranches at 0800, remaining in bivouac only long enough to catch its breath and receive a visit from the new Army Commander. The division CP closed at Les Portes, at 1600 and moved south through Avranches to St James and were the first Americans to enter that city. Passing through they stopped alongside the road west of the town for the night. Little opposition was given by the enemy other than short, sharp delaying actions which were rapidly crushed by the speed and drive of the attack.

In the advance while passing through the hills above Avranches the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion was bombed and strafed but suffered no casualties. On reaching Ducey there was a sharp fight with a retreating enemy column which had been overtaken and the 51st destroyed 4 enemy tanks and two half tracks, while capturing 216 prisoners. Their losses amounted to 3 half tracks knocked out.

2 August 1944:-

The speed of the drive of CC "A" carried them to the outskirts of Rennes, which they reached at approximately 0600. Here strong resistance was met in the form of converted anti-aircraft defenses. The division CP opened at St Aubin d'Aubigne at 0600. Meeting strong resistance to our frontal attack, both combat commands encircled the city to the west to cut all lines of communication from the west and south. In the meantime, a regimental combat team of the 13th Infantry, supported by the 5th Field Artillery Group, moved up on foot at first and later on trucks provided from our trains, to continue the attack from the north. The 2nd Cavalry Group, attached, circled to the east of the city to prevent escape in that direction. Little enemy air activity was evidenced, but 10 FW 190's strafed our area causing no damage. Four Mark III tanks were destroyed and 106 prisoners were captured in the encirclement of Rennes. Lt Col Watt became Chief of Staff, Col Bigby having been appointed Reserve Commander to replace Col Storck. Col Blanchard assumed duties as Trains Commander.

3 August 1944:-

CC "A" and CC "B" reached their objective, Bain de B-Derval, south of Rennes this afternoon and began a coordinated attack on the city from the north and south at 1600. The advance was slowed by isolated elements of resistance, principally defended road blocks. Evidence indicates that the enemy is retreating from the city to the east with most of its armor. Strong resistance was encountered in the vicinity of the airfield south of Rennes. 99 prisoners were taken today.

August 1944-1

4 August 1944:-

The attack on Rennes continued throughout the night and enemy resistance diminished considerably until our troops finally entered the city proper without resistance at 1215. The troops which had been in the city, 500 in number approximately, had largely filtered out in small sniper groups into the surrounding countryside, and many patrols were sent out to hunt them down. It is inadvisable for individuals or unarmored vehicles to travel on the roads unescorted. Major Friedman, S-4 of CC"A" was killed by a sniper group while trying to bring supplies to his troops. After the fall of the city, a German prison hospital was found in which numerous captured wounded American and British soldiers were being treated. A search of the hospital located 9 members of the division who had been captured 5 days previously. 116 prisoners were taken today, 72 of them by CC"B" units who also captured intact 1 - 75 mm gun and two trucks, while destroying 4 other trucks. Losses in the division during the operation against Rennes were 44 killed, 158 wounded and 32 missing. Six officer replacements were received.

5 August 1944:-

After cleaning out the scattered pockets of resistance near Rennes, the division turned west toward Vannes, moving in two columns, CC"A" on the south. CC"A" moved west through La Gacilly and Rochefort, capturing Vannes at 2145. The 25th Cavalry Rcn Sq (Mecz) protected their left flank all the way. CC"B" moved southwest to capture Redon at noon, then circled north and east behind CC"A" to move on Lorient through Nessac, Maure and Floermel. 249 prisoners were taken today. The local FFI in Vannes rendered valuable assistance in mopping up isolated packets of enemy, and outposted the town. Enemy resistance came from the 56th Security Regiment and the 281st Cavalry Battalion.

6 August 1944:-

The division CP moved from Bain de B to a position 5 miles east of Vannes this date, opening at 1500. CC"A" sent task forces to the north and west of Vannes, mopping up enemy resistance, destroying a number of anti-tank guns and liquidating a light anti-aircraft battalion. The enemy appeared very confused and numerous Germans, dressed as civilians, attempted to filter through our lines. CC"B", moving slowly on Lorient, encountered little resistance but was delayed considerably by road craters and blown bridges. A few defended road blocks encountered enroute were quickly reduced by B Troop, 25th Cavalry which was providing reconnaissance. They reached Baud where they bivouaced for the night. 312 prisoners were taken today and it is estimated that at least a like number were killed.

7 August 1944:-

CC"B" again took up the march on Lorient at 0500, moving north to strike the city from the northwest through Pont Scorff, which town was captured at 1100. They were halted south of Pont Scorff by concentrated artillery fire. CC"A" moved on Lorient at 0600 through Auray which was seized at 0700. They pushed

rapidly northwest, fighting a running battle with the retreating enemy, until they reached Hennebent where the enemy destroyed the bridge over the Blavet River before they could cross. A task force of a company of tanks and infantry struck north to seize the bridge at Lochrist and enabled the combat command to cross to the northwest and strike south towards Lorient, reaching Caudan at 1940. Both combat commands began to develop and test the enemy defenses which in this area were very strong, consisting of anti-aircraft defense positions, anti-tank ditches and heavy artillery, including naval guns. Prisoners captured today total 1506. French sources indicate majority of troops in Lorient are ready to surrender, but strong pressure and iron discipline prevent them. The division will not attempt an assault on the city without reinforcements. Because of a long communication line, arrangements for hospitalization have been made in Vannes in the case of emergencies. 241 enemy vehicles have been destroyed or captured since launching the attack from Avranches. Our losses were 15 tanks and 11 other vehicles. 536 replacements were received today; the majority of them infantry riflemen. Shortly after moving into position near Lorient, CC"B" was subjected to a heavy shelling by mortars and artillery. The fire was well directed and the casualties amounted to 12 killed, 70 wounded, 4 half trucks and 2 jeeps destroyed and numerous others damaged. Major Lloyd O. Smith, air support officer since the division entered operations, was killed in the shelling. A troop laden supply train attempting to enter Lorient was caught at Queven, 4 miles outside of Lorient, completely destroyed, killing and estimated 350 Germans.

8 August 1944:-

Heavy fighting is in progress with all elements engaged. A development of the outer defenses of Lorient is proceeding satisfactorily. Our artillery has destroyed several anti-aircraft and large calibre artillery positions in the outer defense perimeter. Many combat patrols were utilized in this day's operation and 394 prisoners were taken.

9 August 1944:-

Owing to a threat of enemy attack from the south in the vicinity of Nantes, CC"A" was relieved from its mission at Lorient and returned to the vicinity east of Vannes to prepare to march on Nantes. CC"B" continued the mission of containing Lorient until relieved by elements of the 6th Armored Division which is to take over the assault of the city. The 25th Cav Regt Sq (Mech) patrolled to the southeast towards Nantes as far as La Roche Bernard. Many attempts to supply food and clothing to their besieged garrison in Lorient were broken by CC"B" and enemy trains destroyed. The enemy continued shelling the besieging forces and made local counter attacks nightly. 122 prisoners were taken today.

10 August 1944:-

CC"A" moved from its bivouac near Vannes at 0900 proceeding east across the Vilaine River then south on Nantes. By 1600 CC"A" had covered approximately 80 miles and destroyed or driven into the city all opposing enemy forces.

August 1944-3

CC"B" continued to receive heavy shelling from the big guns at Lorient and was finally forced to move north to a new position west of Pont Scorff, which was out of range of the enemy artillery. The long supply line which the division must depend upon has been relatively cleared of enemy by constant patrolling action of the Cavalry. Although propaganda leaflets have been distributed over Lorient by plane and artillery shells, very few of the enemy are availing themselves of the safe conduct which they afford. It is understood that the garrison wishes to surrender but is being compelled to fight by the officers.

11 August 1944:-

Patrols of CC"A" reached the northern edges of Nantes early this morning and throughout the day continued protecting and exploring the enemy defenses. During the night explosions in the city indicated that the enemy was destroying supplies and installations in preparation for a withdrawal across the Loire River. CC"B" continued to contain the city of Lorient while Cavalry patrols flushed small groups from their hiding places along the coast and others drove into Lorient from the south. 218 prisoners were taken today.

Refugees have become a problem but rapid evacuation from the area occupied by troops is being practiced as a security measure.

12 August 1944:-

Operating with FFI patrols which cleared mines from routes into Nantes, CC"A" stormed the city and subdued all resistance north of the Loire by 1450. (See letter from Prefect of Loire at Nantes in file) The enemy had destroyed all bridges over the river. The situation at Lorient is unchanged with little activity other than sporadic artillery fire and reconnaissance patrols from both sides. Enemy patrols numbering approximately 150 men attacked the area at night but were repulsed. Prisoners were captured armed with a new weapon, similar to our bazooka which had been issued the previous day. Their mission was to hunt down tanks. The French patriots in this area are extremely active and cooperative. They have secured much valuable information on the enemy defenses and their patrol activities have been responsible for destroying numerous isolated groups and bringing in a number of prisoners. 94 prisoners were taken today.

The Administrative Center in a Chateau in Cuvey had visions of becoming front line soldiers when the Germans attempted a counter-attack to capture Avranches and cut off our break-through into Brittany. French reports put the enemy very close but patrols sent out returned to report that fears were groundless. The Germans were beaten back but bombing and strafing in the area made things hot for the clerks temporarily.

13 August 1944:-

The division and all attached units were relieved from assignment to VIII Corps and reassigned to the XII Corps, (letter Hq TUSA, Subject: "Troop Assignment", this date). We are to be relieved of the siege of Lorient by the 6th Armored Division and move east to an assembly area near Vendome, for an assault on Orleans. Liaison Officers arrived to make arrangements for relief of our troops; the exact date of relief is as yet unknown. For the division, the campaign of Brittany was practically at an end. Since breaking through at Avranches,

August 1944-4

we have captured 4653 prisoners and killed nearly twice as many.

Attempts at maintenance and checking of vehicles have begun, to insure preparedness for the long march to the east. Little can be done before beginning the march due to the extended supply line. Late today information was received that the 6th Armored Division would begin arriving tomorrow to effect relief from our present mission. "CC"A" was ordered to prepare to move tomorrow morning, leaving the Cavalry to patrol the river near Nantes. Several German transport planes have been seen flying from the Lorient area at night indicating the enemy may be evacuating key personnel. Artillery fire has been unusually light, but enemy patrols continue to operate. Propaganda shells were fired into the city, marking our first use of this type of warfare.

14 August 1944:-

CC"A" was relieved at Nantes by the 2nd Cavalry Group and moved eastward to assembly area at 0800, followed by the 25th Cavalry, Reserve Command and Division Headquarters.

CC"B" is being relieved by the 6th Armored Division and will move when the relief is complete. The move east was made quite rapidly considering the fact that the latter part of the journey was made without maps. Considerable difficulties were evidenced enroute and the need for considerable maintenance was evident as numerous vehicles of all types dropped from the column for needed repair.

In the operations in Brittany our losses were 63 killed, 153 wounded and 10 missing. Three officer and 438 enlisted replacements were received.

15 August 1944:-

After a 22 hour road march, CC"A" arrived at St Calais and was immediately ordered to move on Orleans and seize and hold the city in conjunction with the 35th Infantry Division. Although their vehicles were in need of maintenance, the men tired from an all night march of 167 miles, CC"A" after refueling, moved on Orleans and seized the airport at Ormes northwest of the city. During the night, the enemy evidenced his intent of pulling out by blowing ammunition and gasoline stores in large quantities.

Relief having been effected by the 6th Armored Division at 0600, CC"B" began its march to Vendome. A task force from the 37th Tank Battalion was dispatched on Corps order to blow all bridges over the Loire River between Blois and Tour. On arriving there it was found that all the bridges had been previously destroyed a considerable time before. However, the trip was not without profit. Observing an enemy convoy proceeding along the opposite side of the river, the task force opened up and broke up the convoy, destroying several armored vehicles and routing the remainder of the force. The enemy were so surprised that they did not counter a single shot. Division headquarters having closed at Vannes at 1300, marched nearly all night, arriving at St Cerotte near St Calais at 2100.

16 August 1944:-

CC"A" attacked Orleans at first light this morning in two columns commanded by Lt Col Bailey and Lt Col Oden. Col Oden's task force struck east

August 1944-5

through Ormes to hit Orleans from the north; Col Bailey's force struck southeast from Ormes to strike Orleans from the east. By 1500 they had reached the center of the city, and mopping up continued until the 137th Combat Team relieved them at 1800. CC"A" then pulled out of the city to bivouac near Saran northwest of Orleans. The 708th Infantry Division offered the resistance in Orleans. (See letter from Mayor Of Orleans in file).

After being relieved at Lorient, CC "B" assembled in the vicinity of Baud and marched to the new division assembly area southwest of Vendome, arriving at 1545 after a march of 264 miles in 34 hours. The 25th Cavalry continued to patrol the Loire River from Tours to Orleans. 75 prisoners were taken today. Our casualties were 4 killed and 17 wounded. Replacements received numbered 5 officers and 223 enlisted men.

After three days on the road Division Headquarters reached Ambley and opened there at 1700 having halted overnight near Pouance and St Calais enroute.

17 August 1944:-

The entire division concentrated on much needed maintenance. Little activity or contact with the enemy except for small combat patrols.

18 August 1944:-

CC"A" remained in bivouac north of Orleans preparing to counter any thrust of the enemy. CC"B" moved north to La Loupe to prepare to meet a German thrust, or attack to the east. General Wood temporarily assumed command of XII Corps when General Cook became ill. The need for maintenance was evidenced in the move of CC"B" by the number of vehicles which were forced out on the march, necessitating emergency repairs.

19 August 1944:-

All units remained in bivouac performing needed maintenance to vehicles and weapons preparing for further move to the east or northeast.

20 August 1944:-

CC"B" was ordered to return from La Loupe to their former bivouac in the vicinity of Prunay but was immediately ordered to move northeast again to the vicinity of Binas near Orleans in preparation for an attack to the east. Division Headquarters and the Reserve followed CC"B" and camped near Lierville La Folletiere, closing at 2100.

21 August 1944:-

With CC "A" leading, followed by CC "B", Division Headquarters and Reserve Command, they moved in column through the outskirts of Orleans on Sens. (See letter from Mayor of Sens in file au Prefect of Sens) Little opposition was encountered and CC "A" reached Sens before dark, arriving just in time to capture a full train of German gasoline arriving in Sens. This prize lifted some of the burden from the lengthening supply line. Division Headquarters camped along the road near Lorcy, 10 miles west of Montargis after advancing 72 miles, closing

in bivouac at 2200. Large quantities of foodstuffs were captured in a German warehouse building on the side of a cliff overlooking Sens. CC"B" held the bridge at Souppes after CC"A" had crossed and prepared to clean out the area to the southeast the following day. Losses during the operations against Sens were very light. We lost only 7 men wounded. Replacements received included 7 officers and 98 enlisted men.

22 August 1944:-

CC"A" pushed on to the east as a task force under Lt Col Oden, wiping out an SS Brigade concentrated near Villeneuve LSA, capturing 262 prisoners, killing an estimated 200 and destroying 18 armored vehicles. A task force from CC"B" under Lt Col Maybach moved southeast from Souppes and captured Courtenay at 1520 then turned back west on Montargis, meeting heavy resistance in the vicinity of Paucourt where they were held up overnight. With the area at Courtenay cleared, Division Headquarters moved to the outskirts of Courtenay.

23 August 1944:-

CC"A" encountered little enemy activity but 15 enemy aircraft attacked their bivouac at 1415 attempting to strafe but caused no damage. The attached anti-aircraft accounted for 7 planes while our Air Corps knocked down three more. The 51st Armd Inf Bn cleaned out Montargis in cooperation with the 320th Infantry (35th Division), then turned north along the Loing river to seize Ferriers. After cleaning out the town, they continued northeast to Bazoches.

24 August 1944:-

CC"A" continued patrolling actively to the east, destroying numerous isolated groups and capturing 105 prisoners. CC"B" completed the cleaning out of the area around Montargis, taking 250 prisoners, then secured the left flank of the division by holding Sheroy. Preparations were made for further advance to the east on Troyes.

25 August 1944:-

CC"B" forced a crossing of the Yonne River at Villeneuve Sur Yonne, protecting the southern flank of the division, and reached its objective at Auxon - St Florentin area. They arrived here at 1630, having encountered no enemy resistance.

CC"A" moved from its bivouac east of Sens in 2 columns, commanded by Lt Col Oden and Major West with the mission of forcing a crossing of the Seine River, ~~seizing~~ **seizing** Troyes and establishing a bridgehead for further advance. By noon **task force** Oden had reached the Seine river and began bridging it at Savieres under **artillery** fire from the 51st SS Brigade. Major West's force reached its attack position northwest of Troyes at noon. The attack was delayed due to the extensive bridging operations required for Col Oden's task force. Finally the plan was changed and Major West's task force attacked the city alone. Jumping off at 1700 in a powerful, fast moving attack, they forced their way rapidly into the center of the city through an intense artillery barrage, over anti-tank ditches in a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile drive across open ground before reaching the perimeter

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defenses of the city. (See letter from Prefect of Aube, Troyes, in file) In the attack our losses were 15 killed, 45 wounded with 3 vehicles knocked out. The enemy losses were: 352 known dead and an additional 100 estimated killed with 124 prisoners. 53 enemy vehicles, 72 machine guns and 8 artillery pieces were destroyed. The total losses for the period 22-25 August were 17 killed, 50 wounded and 4 missing in action. Replacements received amounted to only 18 enlisted men.

26 August 1944:-

Task force Oden, having completed bridging of the Seine during the night, reached the high ground northeast of Troyes at 0230. From this vantage point they were able to control all the routes of escape of the German garrison which had been routed from the city. At first light task force West began an attack to mop up all enemy remaining in the city and had cleared a route for contact with the remainder of CC "A" by 0800. Mopping up activity continued through the day but Major West's force was relieved at noon by the 53rd Armd Inf Bn. The systematic destruction of the escaping enemy continued. Air missions destroyed an estimated 100 vehicles and an unknown number of personnel by bombing and strafing of the escape routes, while task force Oden accounted for many more. CC"B" continued clearing out the area south of Troyes to the Seine River. The 25th Cavalry continued under Corps control protecting the southern flank of the Corps along the Loire River.

Telegraphic congratulations to Colonel Bruce C Clarke, Commandant CC"A", for his superb work were received from Major General Eddy, Commanding General, XII Corps. The telegram read: "Heartiest congratulations. Another job well done. So far your command has been the spearhead of this Corps which today is leading all other Corps in its advance to the east." (See file for letters from liberated cities)

27 August 1944:-

All of CC"A" except the 53rd Armd Inf Bn remained in bivouac northeast of Troyes, while the 53rd continued mopping up isolated resistance groups in the city until relieved at 2000 by elements of the 35th Infantry Division. They then moved to the combat command assembly area. Total statistics for the Troyes operation are: 557 prisoners captured, 533 killed; vehicles destroyed, exclusive of air, 64 vehicles captured, 20 weapons captured or destroyed, 2 88mm, 4 105mm, 1 20mm and 5 machine guns. CC"B" remained in the vicinity of Auxon southwest of Troyes and furnished a task force under Col Conley to assist the Cavalry in protecting the south flank of the division. The 25th Cavalry reverted to division control and moved into bivouac in the vicinity of Montgreux.

28 August 1944:-

CC"A" attacked northeast at 0700 in two task forces, commanded by Lt Col Abrams west column and Lt Col Jaques east column. Task force Jaques forded the Marne River north of Vitry and seized the heights northeast of the town. No attempt was made to attack the city. Only minor resistance was encountered enroute. Task force Abrams forded the Marne River near Mairy, bridged the canal at St Germain and went into position on the high ground east of Chalons in the vicinity of Marson, cutting all roads east and northeast from Chalons. A number

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the **original**.

of enemy vehicles were destroyed when they attempted to flee the city. No attempt was made to attack the city. Enemy casualties inflicted by CC"A" were: 123 prisoners, 101 killed, 10 wounded and 27 vehicles destroyed. CC"B" moved east in two columns crossing the Seine River in Troyes and south of it at St Julian, to a position in the vicinity of Piney to protect the flank and rear of CC"A" and prepare to force a crossing of the Aube River toward Brienne. Only minor resistance was encountered. 2 anti-aircraft guns and 2 searchlights were destroyed. The Cavalry continued to patrol the south flank as far as Bar Sur Seine. Our personnel losses in the operation against Chalons and Vitre le Francoise numbered 12 killed, 42 wounded and 5 missing. Nine officer and five enlisted replacements were received.

29 August 1944:-

No enemy activity was encountered during the night by CC"A". Task force Jaques attacked Vitry, encountering only light resistance, the enemy having largely evacuated during the night. The city was completely cleared by 1300. Task force Abrams attacked Chalons from the northeast while elements of the 80th Infantry Division attacked from the southeast. The city fell at 1100 without event, having been also largely evacuated. 83 prisoners were taken by these two task forces. 1 tank, 2 armored cars and 9 other vehicles were destroyed. CC"B" continued its mission of protecting Corps right flank along the line Bar Sur Aube St Dizier. Little activity was encountered. (See letter from Prefect in Chalons, in file)

30 August 1944:-

CC"A" moved on St Dizier at 0700 in one column of 2 task forces unchanged, task force Jaques leading. Some small arms fire was encountered enroute but the head of the column reached St Dizier about 0930 where they encountered strong resistance in the form of anti-tank and artillery fire. An assault of the town with tanks leading reduced the resistance and the town was cleared by 1230. Sporadic artillery continued to fall in the town and a detachment of tanks was sent to clear out the woods northwest of St Dizier (See letter in file), flushing many dismounted troops that retreated leaving equipment and dead behind. Two anti-tank guns were destroyed in the attack with the loss of one tank. A large first-class airport which had been prepared for demolition was captured intact. 140 prisoners were captured, 15 enemy wounded and 85 killed. One tank, 28 other vehicles and 24 large caliber weapons were captured or destroyed. Three airplanes were captured on the ground. CC"B" cleared the wooded areas to the south between the Seine and the Aube rivers to the line Bar Sur Seine to Bar Sur Aube, then marched east crossing the Aube River, establishing a position east of Brienne, arriving there at 1900. Plans were made for an attack to the east by both combat commands at first light the following morning to seize and hold the crossing of the Meuse River at Commercy and Vaucouleurs.

31 August 1944:-

Both combat commands commenced their advance at 0700. CC"A" moving in one column as far as Ligny, then splitting; CC"B" moving in two columns. At

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Ligny, CC"A" found the bridge over the canal mined and ready for demolition but the speed of their advance had caught the enemy off guard, enabling them to capture the bridge intact. Task forces Abrams moving on the south flank of the combat command drove all resistance before it, reaching Commercy at 1135, crossed the Meuse River, took up position on the high ground in Bois de Vignot east of the city. (See letter from Prefect at Commercy in file). Task force Jaques pushed to Lerouville reaching there at 1330 but found the bridge blown. Following the river south, they found a bridge intact and crossed to join forces in Bois de Vignot. At Lerouville a troop train attempting to escape was shot up and the enemy scattered. A large number of railroad cars and locomotives were captured. Enemy casualties were 120 captured, 140 killed, 3 armored cars destroyed, 20 other vehicles destroyed, 10 large caliber weapons destroyed, 50 railroad cars and 3 locomotives captured or destroyed. CC"B" moving in two parallel columns encountered considerable enemy resistance in the vicinity of Bully and Verul. Crushing this resistance aside, they reached the Marne River at 1630 but were held up pending repair of road and bridge over the river. 63 prisoners were taken and 9 enemy killed. 1 staff car and 2 machine guns were destroyed.

Our losses in the advance from Troyes and Vitre were 6 killed, 1st wounded and 3 missing, while replacements received amounted to 6 officers and 152 enlisted men.

Since breaking the German line in Normandy the division has advanced the axis of the army in excess of 700 miles, and has continually led the fight of the leading corps in the army. The majority of the combat vehicles travelled in excess of 1,500 miles, while many supply vehicles have travelled over 3,000 miles, in furnishing supplies to the division in quantities which insured that every element of the division was completely supplied at all times. Total prisoners captured in our eastward drive amount to 3581: our losses were 52 killed, 87 wounded and 28 missing. Enemy units met and defeated by the division in this advance included: 5th Para Div., 17th SS Panz Gren Div., 2nd SS Pz Div., 77th Inf Div., 213 Inf Div., 353rd Inf Div., 709th Inf Div., 265 Inf Div., 116th Pz Div., 13th A.A.A. Div., 343rd Inf Div., 266th Inf Div., 91st Inf Div., 6th Para Regt. known enemy material captured or destroyed to date: 17 tanks, 49 large caliber artillery pieces, and 659 miscellaneous vehicles. In contrast the division lost: 5 light tanks, 25 medium tanks, and 4 artillery pieces, 157 miscellaneous vehicles.

1 September 1944:-

After spending the night bivouacked along the road near Wassy, Forward Echelon moved out early in the morning to the intended bivouac at Houdelaincourt. The Reserve Command followed from the vicinity of Guindrecourt to bivouac near the Forward Echelon, closing the bivouac at 1800.

The 25th Cavalry moved from a bivouac in the vicinity of Ferrieres, east across the Marne River at first light, with the mission of reconnoitering and screening the zone, Chaumont, Neufchateau, Mirecourt. Contact was maintained with the enemy throughout the day. Just before night-fall however, the enemy elected to take a stand. The cavalry in a double envelopment attack either captured or destroyed the entire force, the first company of a Fortress Engineer Battalion. In the action 111 Germans were captured, 40 killed, 22 wounded, 6 enemy trucks and 6 staff cars were destroyed without casualty to our forces.

CC "A", having established a bridgehead across the Meuse, continued to hold the high ground east of Commercy with two task forces assisted by an attached battalion of the 319th Infantry. The Germans continued to shell their position and heavy artillery fire was received during the afternoon. Also in the afternoon their positions were attacked by a force of 25 enemy planes, strafing and firing rockets. The focal point of the attack was the anti-aircraft defenses and the fire direction center of the 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, where Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, the Battalion Commander, was wounded, 6 men killed and 57 others wounded. Nine of the planes were shot down. Late in the day the enemy started withdrawal and artillery fire was brought on them, breaking their columns and subjecting them to losses estimated at 100 killed, 150 wounded, 84 prisoners taken, 5 tanks and 12 miscellaneous vehicles destroyed.

CC "B" marched from bivouac in the vicinity of Brienne, crossed the Marne River at 0830, reached and crossed the Meuse at 1715. Only slight contact with the enemy was made during the day, but considerable evidence could be seen that they were not far behind the retreating Germans.

2 September 1944:-

Although the enemy continued to withdraw, lack of gasoline prohibited our active pursuit; however, the division continued to assemble in the area of Commercy-Vaucouleurs-Houdelaincourt. Plans were submitted for the crossing of the Moselle River and seizing the high ground east of Nancy. Slight patrol activities in the division area resulted in the capture of 88 prisoners. Shelling of the retreating German columns resulted in the destruction of 5 enemy tanks and 12 miscellaneous vehicles.

3 - 10 September 1944 (inclusive):-

The shortage of gasoline precludes any large scale activity and conservation for an emergency has made it necessary that all movement be restricted to the minimum. The operation of all non-essential radios has ceased in order to conserve the gasoline. For the first time since entering battle the Special Service Section was able to contact frontline troops and present movies. The troops resting during the static situation took full advantage of the facilities of a Quartermaster Shower Unit, while others elected to bathe in the Meuse River. Maintenance

activities were concentrated on to insure that every vehicle would be ready to move when the word came.

On checking the railroad yards at Commercy, CC "A" discovered 100,000 gallons of petrol and 20 cars of munitions. Third Army is testing the gasoline to determine whether it can be used. The 25th Cavalry, with a small supply of gasoline, continued patrolling activities on the southern flank, seeking out enemy defenses and installations. After finding Neufchateau unoccupied but being unable to enter the town in sufficient force, they withdrew and next day found that the enemy had returned in considerable force and had built road blocks to defend the town on the north. Evidence of the enemies' realization of their own critical situation was found in reports that they were blowing road bridges and destroying large amounts of ammunition stores. Little attempt was made by the enemy to contact our forces and our own activity being restricted there was little contact during this period.

On 7 September, Lieutenant Colonel David A. Watt Jr. was relieved as Chief of Staff replacing Colonel Wendell Blanchard who became Deputy Chief of Staff. Colonel Ernest A. Bixby, formerly Division Artillery Commander, became Chief of Staff. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Graham, formerly Commanding Officer 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, became Division Artillery Commander (General Order #26, Headquarters 4th Armored Division C.S.)

On September 10th, 1944, a limited portion of the division was privileged to witness a performance by Bing Crosby and a U.S.O. Troupe. The publication in the Stars and Stripes, of an article concerning the operations of the division was received with great appreciation by all ranks. During this period the casualties amounted to 16 killed, 59 wounded. Ten officers and 152 enlisted men replacements were received. Five hundred and thirteen prisoners were taken in the period 3 September to 10 September inclusive. The enemy opposing us during this period were the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division supplemented by a Home Guard Training Battalion, a Bicycle Training Battalion and the Eleventh Marine Administrative Battalion. On the tenth of September, in preparation for the projected move against Nancy, the Div Hq and Reserve Command displaced forward across the Meuse River to Punerot closing in bivouac at 1300. Personnel losses during this period were 16 killed and 59 wounded. Ten officers and 152 enlisted replacements were received.

11 September 1944:-

With orders to establish a bridgehead across the Moselle River, south of Nancy, CC "B" moved at 0630 from bivouac near Vaucouleurs to force a crossing in the vicinity of Bayon. Advance elements of tank and infantry moving in two columns under command of Colonel Withers (s. column) and Lt Col Conley (n. column), had preceded them the night before and reached the river in preparation for an attack at 0700.

Engineers were unable to construct a crossing for the tanks of the north column in the time allotted and the infantry which had forced the initial bridgehead needed the support of tanks. Realizing the gravity of the situation First Lieutenant Marshall of the 8th Tank Battalion decided to construct his own crossing. After one unsuccessful attempt he brought his tanks up to the canal and by firing into the walls broke them down sufficiently so that a ramp could be constructed from railroad ties and rails which had been collected by his platoon in the vicinity. After several tries one tank succeeded in crossing the canal and mounting the steep incline on the opposite bank. This tank in turn towed the

remainder of the platoon up the incline. With this major obstacle surmounted the tanks pushed forward and forced the four separate streams making up the Moselle River and by their daring offensive stormed the high ground overlooking the crossing and secured the town of Bayon. 1st Lt Marshall has been recommended for the D.S.C. for his work at this crossing. The fierce aggressive action of this task force permitted the engineers to complete their bridge without interruption although the enemy continued its stubborn but fruitless resistance to the advance. The south column comprised mainly of the 51st Infantry supported by a company of tanks and tank destroyers, some artillery and a platoon of engineers was assigned to a mission of forcing a second crossing of the Moselle at Bainville. The infantry moved forward to cross the river on foot and established a bridgehead so that the engineers might repair a bridge that had been blown by the Germans. After a delay, waiting for the engineers to bring boats, which did not arrive, a ford was found and a crossing made by one company without opposition. Other companies seeking to cross elsewhere encountered strong enemy opposition and were forced to withdraw, and later under cover of darkness, crossed at the ford to reinforce the bridgehead.

Two troops of the 25th Cavalry continued their reconnaissance in front of the Combat Commands. "B" Troop with Combat Command "B" reached the vicinity of Laneuville where they met with considerable enemy artillery fire. The remainder of the squadron continued to patrol the southern flank of the division.

The enemy is expertly retreating and only one prisoner has been reported captured today.

12 September 1944:-

With the completion of the bridge over the Moselle River at 1415, the remainder of CC "B" crossed the river to continue the enlargement of the bridgehead. The enemy repeatedly launched determined counter-attacks against the growing bridgehead with artillery and tanks, but by fierce aggressive action, tanks of the 8th Tank Battalion countered the enemies' blows and inflicted heavy losses. The infantry crossing at Bainville, though well established, was making little progress and was ordered to withdraw across the river and follow the tank crossing at Bayon.

In the CC "A" sector efforts of the engineers to bridge the Moselle River at Pagny were fruitless and the operation was postponed for 24 hours to bring up heavier bridge equipment. As a result CC "A" was ordered to cross the river to the south at Dieulouard through a bridgehead established by the 80th Infantry Division. "D" Troops of the 25th Cavalry was to lead the attack and reached the bridge at Dieulouard at 1745 but was refused permission to cross.

Lt Col Roth, Commanding Officer of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion and Division Engineer was severely injured in a peep accident and had to be evacuated from the vehicle. His loss is deeply felt.

Colonel Ernest A Bixby, C/S, was transferred to the 90th Infantry Division, to become artillery commander and Walter A. Bigby became D/S again. Colonel Wendel Blanchard, who had been acting as deputy C/S became Reserve Commander in place of Colonel Bigby. Colonel Clayton J. Mansfield, formerly a member of this division was attached unassigned by Third Army and assumed the duty of Deputy C/S (par 1, 2, and 3, GO 30 Hq 4/AD cs).

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Today's action resulted in the capture of 102 prisoners and an estimated 145 wounded, 200 killed, 6 enemy tanks, 6 half tracks, 2 anti-tank guns, 2 motorcycles and 22 mortars were destroyed and 4 machine guns captured.

13 September 1944:-

"D" Troops of the 25th Cavalry was given permission to cross the Moselle at 0700 by which time the 80th Division Bridgehead had been considerably reduced by heavy German counter-attacks. The Cavalry fought its way into St. Genevieve after driving the enemy infantry off one of the bridges, but was stopped here and was forced to follow back to the reverse slope of the hills overlooking the town. The main body of CC "A", moving in two task forces in single column, started across the Moselle at 0900. (See overlay for detailed route) The leading task force, commanded by Lt Col Abrams, immediately attacked St. Genevieve in support of the Cavalry which had been forced to partially withdraw and successfully beat off the enemy counter attacking force and enabled the 80th Infantry to recover its abandoned positions. Continuing the attack to the northeast this task force captured Benicourt threatening Font a Bousson and forcing its evacuation. Task force Abe then turned east to attack successfully Homeny, Aulnis, Lemoncourt, and Fresnes, and established a combat command assembly area therein.

Task force Jaques, following, encountered no resistance but came under light artillery and mortar fire for a short time during the advance. A few groups of enemy attempting to escape, were captured during the march.

CC "B" continued its attack to the northeast in two columns to effect a junction with CC "A" in the vicinity of Arracourt, thus surrounding the city of Nancy. Task force Conley, moved through Chamois to force a crossing of the Meurthe River at Blainville Sur L'Eau. The enemy had strongly fortified the town with a ring of anti-tank guns. While one force forded the river to attack from the rear the remainder conducted a frontal assault on the town with such speed and audacity that the entire garrison was either killed or captured with negligible losses to themselves. Task force Withers, paralleling the other column, moved northeast to effect a crossing at Mont Sur Meurthe, but was held up at Lenath for four hours waiting on a bridge. One company of infantry was forded over the river on tanks to set up security for engineers who were building the bridge. The remainder of the task force elected to cross in the morning. Little opposition was encountered other than sporadic small arms and mortar fire.

The 25th Cavalry crossed the Moselle at Bayon and continued to cover the division flank to Vallois.

A total of 395 enemy were captured and 238 killed, at least 12 tanks were destroyed along with 1 half track, 1 motor cycle, 6 command cars and 85 miscellaneous vehicles; 9 anti-aircraft guns and 5 large caliber guns were likewise destroyed.

14 September 1944:-

Reserve Command followed by Division Headquarters moved from its location near Punerot to a bivouac north of Crantenoy, opening there at 1400.

The rapid drive of CC "A" through the enemy lines has so disrupted the enemy forces that small groups have been apprehended wandering, almost aimlessly, through their bivouac areas. The combat command, after crossing in its assembly area at 0300, resumed its advance southward toward Arracourt at 1200 with task force Abe. Reaching Arracourt over back trails and secondary roads, they surprised and destroyed the rear echelon of the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division and continued on to

Valhey to destroy there a portion of the forward echelon of the division. The destruction of this nerve center of the enemy forces defending the Nancy sector caused such great confusion in the enemy forces that the fall of Nancy is a matter of a short time. These operations by CC "A" resulted in the capture of 409 prisoners and the killing of 252 enemy: 8 tanks, 18 armored cars or SP guns, 136 miscellaneous vehicles and 10 88mm guns were destroyed with a loss of only 2 killed and 12 wounded and 2 M4 tanks destroyed.

CC "B" continued to push northward toward a junction with CC "A". The numerous water hazards, each one defended by the enemy, precluded a rapid advance. The bridge at Mont Sur Neurthe was completed and task force Withers continued its advance through the Foret de Vitrimont mopping up disorganized enemy resistance in that area. Task force Conley completed crossing the Meurthe at Damelevieres and also attacked through the Foret de Vitrimont and engaged the enemy armored attack near Authelput, destroying 2 Tiger tanks, 11 personnel carriers, 7 - 37mm anti-tank anti-aircraft guns and prime movers, killing 100 and capturing 40 enemy. Our losses in establishment of the bridgehead were 24 killed, 93 wounded and 8 missing. Replacements received were 9 officers and 76 enlisted men.

15 September 1944:-

Although CC "A" had pierced beyond the 80th Infantry Division's bridgehead three days ago, the 80th Infantry has been unable to push the bridgehead further and it was necessary for CC "A" to send part of its force to assist them. A task force under Major Kimsey, composed of an Infantry battalion and a company of tanks escorting combat command trains with approximately 600 prisoners, pushed back toward St. Genevieve to assist the 80th Division mopping up of small isolated groups and this proceeded throughout the day. 293 prisoners were captured, 35 enemy killed; 4 armored cars, 158 other vehicles and 3 large caliber weapons were captured or destroyed. A majority of these losses were inflicted by catching enemy columns escaping Nancy and bringing them under fire. Our losses were four wounded and two tanks lost. A convoy of ambulances carrying American and German wounded which followed Major Kimsey's task force, is presumed to be captured as none of the casualties ever reached an American Hospital, nor did the vehicles return.

An SS Colonel captured by CC "A", when interrogated, paid tribute to the division by remarking, "I would be pleased to know the commander of this particular division and I am sure it must be part of General Patton's Third Army. General Patton is for the American Army what General Rommel stands for in the German Army, but to know the commander of this Armored Division would explain to me how this Army managed to achieve such spurt of advance, which, in many instances, caught us completely unprepared." (See I.P.W. report in file).

The task force of CC "B", after heavy artillery barrage, commenced an assault to secure crossings of the Marne Rhine Canal at Orenic and Maixe. The enemy defending from the opposite bank with heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, together with sniping prevented the establishment of a bridgehead at both points. One platoon from the 8th Tank Battalion, aided by elements of the 35th Infantry Division, secured a crossing and established a bridgehead at Sornenviller, 2 miles to the west. During the night engineers constructed bridges at this point in preparation for a large scale crossing tomorrow.

Although there was little enemy activity to the south the 25th Cavalry continued to patrol and screen between the Moselle and Meurthe Rivers south of the line Bayon, Gerberviller.

16 September 1944:-

CC "A" sent a task force under Lt Col Abrams to the vicinity of Maixe to assist CC "B" in effecting a crossing over the Rhine Marne Canal in that vicinity. The task force encountered only small resistance from approximately 7 anti-tank guns and 200 Infantry. The anti-tank guns were knocked out and the Infantry swept aside in a rapid attack which reached the canal at Maixe, then turned north to reach Lezey through Arracourt, making a complete circle.

Task force Kimsey, which had been halted at Nomeny in its drive to retake St. Genevieve and made contact with the 80th Division, pushed forward to its objective at 1300. The combat command trains returned to the bivouac area near Arracourt, having been unable to accompany the task force through the enemy lines. In reaching its objective, task force Kimsey lost 2 men killed, and 10 wounded, while destroying 7 enemy tanks, with the loss of three of their own, and taking 150 prisoners. The remainder of the combat command continued to block the escape routes from Nancy and shell all enemy columns which were attempting to escape. The total of 433 prisoners were captured, 200 enemy killed, and 1 tank, 53 miscellaneous transport vehicles and 9 large caliber weapons were destroyed.

With the area to their front partially cleared by CC "A", CC "B" crossed the canal and entered Haracourt against only slight resistance. Driving on toward Courbesseaux, CC "B" encountered more determined resistance. Advance elements met with small arms and anti-tank fire and were forced to give ground. After an artillery preparation a company of medium-tanks, supported by Infantry, assaulted and captured the town. 21 enemy guns ranging from 20 to 88mm were destroyed in the vicinity of Remerville alone. 65 prisoners were captured and a large but undetermined number killed without loss to the attacking force.

The Reserve Command, consisting of the 10th Infantry, 35th Tank Battalion, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 696th Field Artillery, moved from Grantenoy at 1430 with the mission of seizing and holding Luneville. The city was reached and entered without resistance at 2000. The town was outposted and contact made with the enemy to the Northeast in the Foret de Barroy area.

17 September 1944:-

Division Headquarters moved from Grantenoy at 0900 across the Moselle at Bayon and moved to a new location near Anthelput there at 1300.

There was little activity in the CC "A" sector. The 53rd Infantry spotted an enemy column in retreat and fired on it. Some artillery fire was returned but the 21 vehicles comprising the column were destroyed, 98 enemy were captured and 10 killed. Preparations are in progress for a move to the northeast which is scheduled for the 19th.

CC "B", in preparation for the coming attack, assembled in the vicinity of Courbesseaux. Considerable enemy resistance was encountered in this area consisting of mines and defended road blocks with artillery and mortar support. Patrol activity in this area was at a peak and on at least one occasion friendly patrols met and fired on each other by mistake. The entire area north of Courbesseaux to Mazerulles and Moncel was cleared of the enemy in a small running fight which cost the enemy 2 Mark VI tanks, 5 trucks, 10 miscellaneous vehicles, 9 40mm towed guns, 4 37mm anti-aircraft guns, 6 anti-tank guns, 16 80mm mortars, 125 men captured and an estimated 200 killed and wounded.

Remnants of the 15th Panzer Division attempted to dislodge the Reserve Command from Luneville. The attack was beaten off by the 35th Tank Battalion after destroying two half tracks and 3 anti-tank guns; the enemy lost 75 killed and 18 captured. The 35th lost 2 men killed and 15 wounded and one medium tank.

18 September 1944:-

Division Headquarters moved from Athelute across the canal to Haraucourt, closing in bivouac at 2000 hours.

There was little activity in the CC "A" sector during the day. About noon, on Division order, a task force of a company of tanks, a company of infantry, a battalion of artillery and a platoon of tank destroyers under command of Major Hunter moved to Luneville to assist the Reserve Command which was receiving a heavy tank attack. The only other activity in the CC "A" area occurred about 2300 when an outpost of the 37th Tank Battalion reported an unidentified column approaching and pulling into bivouac in their immediate front. A foot reconnaissance revealed the column to be German. The 94th Field Artillery Battalion brought a concentration on the area destroying 10 vehicles and killing 2 enemy. 65 prisoners were captured in the flight.

CC "B", still comprised of task forces Conley and Withers, moved north on Chateau Salins and Fresnes preparatory for the projected attack on Saarbrücken. On reaching Chateau Salins, task force Withers encountered a series of defended road blocks. The enemy fire was heavy and resistance spirited. Although almost dark, the infantry elected to assault the town and under extremely heavy enemy fire they entered the outskirts of the town. The vigor of the attack caught the enemy off balance and resulted in a speedy victory and few casualties. The enemy continued pressure on the city but were unable to dislodge our troops. Task force Conley reached the bivouac near Fresnes at 1405 without incident. At daylight the enemy attacked Reserve Command's positions in Luneville from the southeast with a force of about 15 tanks and 200 supporting infantry. They forced their way into the southeast portion of the town but the Reserve Command continued to hold the remainder. At 1600 task force Hunter arrived to reinforce the sector. Reinforcing fire from the 183rd Field Artillery Group aided the augmented Reserve Command in driving the majority of the Germans from the city and repulsing all later counterattacks. The 25th Cavalry, relieved of its screening mission on the south, crossed the canal at Maixe and moved to an assembly area north of Arracourt to prepare for a new mission of reconnoitering the Corps Zone towards Sarreguemines. During the operation to join the two bridgeheads our losses in personnel were 19 killed, 54 wounded and 19 missing.

19 September 1944:-

Division Headquarters moved from Haraucourt through Athienville, but after receiving some artillery and mortar fire the Headquarters returned to a position just west of Athienville.

Attacking from the southeast through fog and morning mist, 56 Mark V Tanks of the 113th Panzer Brigade attacked CC "A" positions in the Lezey-Arracourt area. The enemy thrust down the main road from Bourdonnay toward Mayevic was halted by the 37th Tank Battalion. The enemy then attempted to by-pass Lezey to the south in small groups attacking first at Bezange la Petite then Rechicourt then attempting

to circle further south. Direct fire was brought to bear on the attacking tanks and by 1015 ten of them had been knocked out but the attack continued. The first and third platoons of the "C" Co., 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion were moved into the line southwest of Lezey. These platoons, which constitute the armored reserve of the command, were ordered into action to prevent the encirclement of Co. "C", 37th Tank Battalion which was holding the line in that area. The approach march was made through thick fog and the first encounter was at a range of 50 yards. The leading destroyer accounted for two tanks before being disabled. The remaining destroyers withdrew to high ground 350 yards to the rear. The enemy then attacked their right flank, and in the battle which lasted until 1500, cost the enemy 19 tanks, while only three Tank Destroyers were knocked out, one man killed and four slightly wounded. (See report of TD Comdr in file).

"A" and "B" Companies of the 37th Tank Battalion were used in mobile action during the latter stages of the battle and circled to the rear and around to the right to strike the enemy from the flank. The Germans had attacked without noticeable infantry support. Had it not been for the timid employment of the enemy tanks, the attack would probably have resulted in a breakthrough to Nancy, however, the determined resistance of CC "A" resulted in the destruction of 43 of the attacking tanks with the loss of 8 of our own. The remaining tanks withdrew under cover of darkness (See situation map in file "1")

Task force Withers continued to be heavily engaged in Chateau-Salins and was unable to withdraw because of the intensity of the action. The contact in the town was so close that at times it was difficult to employ artillery support.

The remainder of CC "B" held its position near Fresnes and prepared to assist in the attack in Chateau-Salins on order.

The Reserve Command continued to hold the greater part of Luneville in spite of heavy artillery fire. Lt Col Bill A. Bailey, Commanding Officer, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was killed by enemy mortar fire while directing his unit's operations and Major Henry P. Heid, formerly S-3 of CC "A", assumed command. CC "A" of the 6th Armored Division, on arrival at 1800, relieved Reserve Command in this area. Throughout these operations Division Trains have maintained exceptionally close support for the division. Today they bivouacked 2 miles northeast of Nancy at an abandoned German air-field and were so close that they were able to observe infantry skirmishes taking place only 800 yards distant.

20 September 1944:-

In the early morning fog which reduced vision until about 1000, the enemy seemed to have withdrawn with the exception of a few tanks. CC "A" moved out to the northeast at 0900 toward Sarreguemines to begin the assault of the Siegfried defenses. At 0930, the 113th Panzer Brigade resumed its attack from the south toward Arracourt threatening the rear of the advancing columns. On division order, task force Abrams and Oden returned to their original areas after having reduced the line Dieuze-Harpon. A defensive position was established utilizing the 320th Combat Team from the Reserve Command which was moving in to take over their position. A counter-attack was planned and two task forces moved to clear out the area to the south between Moncourt and Eures but was halted by dug-in Tiger Tanks which were inaccessible because of extremely long fields of fire. Task force Abe, striking Ley from the northeast, drove the enemy back to Moncourt, fighting all the way. Although darkness was falling this task force attacked and took Moncourt against heavy opposition. Leaving an outpost in the town the remainder of the force re-

turned to their original positions. This attack resulted in knocking out 25 more tanks with the loss of six of our own.

A portion of task force Conley, composed of a company of tanks reinforced, attacked the outskirts of Chateau-Saline as a diversionary measure to assist task force Withers in withdrawing from the city. The town was intermittently under heavy shell fire and was becoming untenable in view of the fact that the forward thrust of the division was temporarily halted. 15 prisoners were captured and an estimated 250 enemy killed.

21 September 1944:-

Operations during the morning were restricted by fog which lifted about noon and task forces from the 35th and 37th Tank Battalions again launched sweeping attacks to the south through Coincourt and Bures to the canal. The enemy forces encountered were not as large as expected, the enemy having withdrawn to the south across the canal. 68 prisoners were taken and 50 enemy killed, 2 tanks, 1 vehicle and a large caliber gun were destroyed. Action in the CC "B" sector was slight with only intermittent artillery fire which was countered by the 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Attempts made by the enemy to infiltrate dismounted patrols under cover of darkness were thwarted.

22 September 1944:-

The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (mec), in position at Juvelize, was attacked at 0945 by tanks and dismounted infantry of the 111 Panzer Brigade coming from the northeast and forced to withdraw after a loss of 7 light tanks, 1 half track, and 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck.

The 37th Tank Battalion, supported by the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and artillery, attacked at 1100 to halt the enemy's advance. With accurate, well observed fire, the enemy tanks were picked off as they advanced. The supporting enemy infantry was driven off and moved into Marsal where the air support bombed and strafed them, causing many casualties. As a result of this action 94 prisoners were captured, 311 enemy killed, 17 tanks and 11 other vehicles destroyed. Our losses were 7 light tanks, 1 medium tank, one half track and one $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck.

CC "B" remained in position near Fresnes with all units alerted for possible enemy attack. Heavy intermittent artillery fire continued to harass the entire area. The 25th Cavalry, although forced to withdraw from its position near Lezey by heavy losses, continued to engage the enemy in spite of their lighter armor. A large loss in light tanks resulted from the gallant stand made by "F" Company, commanded by Captain Farmer. They elected to engage the heavier enemy tanks in order to allow the squadron's lighter elements to withdraw and accounted for the destruction of a considerable amount of the attacking tanks while engaged. (See situation map #3 in file)

During this four day tank battle our personnel losses totaled 57 killed, 142 wounded and 10 missing. One officer and 150 enlisted men were assigned as replacements.

23 September 1944:-

CC "A" had little activity during the day. There was slight patrol activity and some artillery fire, which was countered with fire from our artillery. Evidence

of an impending enemy attack was observed, indicating that the enemy was preparing to hold in this area.

CC "B" continued to hold the line Xanreynoncel. Artillery fire on the area began to increase and the companies were alerted for a possible attack the following morning.

Lt Col Richard B. Siler, Commanding Officer of the 126th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion, left the bivouac to return to Omaha Beach in order to secure replacement of tanks. This will necessitate a 1200 mile round trip and if the tanks are brought forward under their own power, it will be necessary to install new engines and change the tracks on arrival. The problem of transportation of tanks has extremely handicapped replacement.

A severe shortage of radio operators is developing, because of an inability to secure high caliber replacements in this category.

24 September 1944:-

At 0545 the enemy began the expected attack after a heavy artillery preparation. The attacking force consisted of about 2 battalions of infantry supported by 30 tanks. CC "B"'s artillery firing direct fire and aided by fighter bombers bombed and strafed the enemy tanks and troops. Our own tank and infantry teams worked admirably together to throw the attack back in disorder. 194 enemy were captured and an estimated 300 killed, 500 wounded and 21 tanks destroyed. Losses to CC "B" were one tank destroyed, 13 men killed and 102 wounded. The intense enemy shell fire made it necessary for the Combat Command Headquarters and nearly all of the units to change location. The majority of the casualties inflicted on CC "B" resulted from the heavy artillery fire received. The commander of one artillery Battalion, whose CP had been heavily shelled, instead of moving to escape the shelling, radioed the information to the Headquarters and made a request for permission to attack.

The accuracy of our artillery and the destruction it can cause are exemplified when the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Cavalry Group, screening to our front, encountered a large concentration of enemy infantry and requested artillery support. The observer with the 2nd Cavalry Group said that the target seemed to go up in smoke and disintegrate when all the rounds struck at once.

CC "A" sector showed no activity other than sporadic artillery fire on the forward units and counter battery fire was employed against this. Movement in the enemy lines indicates that a new attack against this sector may be facing possibility by the 11th Panzer Division which has been reported in this sector.

Limited visibility, due to fog and continued rain, made the ground so soft that all movement is greatly restricted.

25 September 1944:-

The 11th Panzer Division, using the same tactics as previously, attacked CC "A"'s positions throughout the day. During the morning, infantry, supported by a small number of tanks, drove in the Cavalry outposts and contacted the 10th Infantry.

The 37th engaged these tanks and repulsed the attack. Shortly after noon another force of infantry and tanks attacked the position of the 166th Engineers but was driven back. Still later, infantry, supported by artillery and mortar, attacked the 10th Infantry positions but were repulsed. The enemy also attacked in the area of the 25th Cavalry and the 53rd Infantry, coming from the north in the vicinity of Moyenvic. These small nuisance attacks by the enemy were well beaten off. The objective of the attack is not clear due to the fact that there appeared to be no coordination between them. A steady rain through the day hampered visibility and

operations. Ten tanks and two other vehicles were destroyed in these attacks and an estimated 300 enemy were killed while five prisoners were taken.

CC "B" is being relieved in its sector by the 320th Infantry Regiment which is taking over. The front now held by CC "A" will be divided so that all elements may secure some rest.

After the enemy attacks have been beaten off the 37th made a limited attack to the north and east at dusk to effect a disengagement and then reverted to the division reserve. The enemy continued to harass our front lines by artillery fire from the heights to the front which they control. Their observation is good and they have been able to inflict considerable personnel and material losses to our troops.

26 September 1944:-

Division Headquarters moved from bivouac near Athienville to a new location on the western edge of Remereville, opening there at 1755. Activity on the front during the day was limited to an exchange of artillery fire, with one exception. CC "A" was relieved of responsibility of the front south of the line Lezey-Arracourt by CC "B". The 10th Infantry and the 25th Cavalry reverted to CC "B" in position and the 8th Tank Battalion took over in a position vacated by the 37th Tank Battalion.

While on the march, elements of CC "B" were attacked by an enemy column of half tracks and other vehicles, but accurate artillery concentration broke up the attack at its inception, destroying 3 tanks and 3 armored cars.

Major Ernest R. Eaton, Jr. was transferred from CC "B" to Division Headquarters to become Assistant G-3 for air. Captain Warren G. Fee, formerly acting as G-3 for air, was assigned to CC "B" to replace Major Eaton. Captain William A. Ender, who has long been an aide to General Wood, was assigned to the Reserve Command as S-2 (GO 38, Hq 4/AD cs).

27 September 1944:-

During the forenoon, CC "A" observed considerable enemy infantry activity in the Lezey-Xanray area and a task force under Lt Col Oden, consisting of tanks and infantry, made a thrust through Xanray, under cover of smoke screen, to clear out this enemy pocket. The mission was completed and all units returned by 1700, having killed about 135 enemy infantry with a loss of 2 tanks by mines. The enemy continued his tactics of trying to infiltrate through our lines with large patrols. Accurate and timely air support which aided our tank, tank destroyer and artillery fire, repulsed the new determined efforts of the enemy. In general, activity along the front has diminished, especially during the day, now that the visibility and weather have improved.

A report from Major Earl W. Bericle, Division Psychiatrist, shows that the combat exhaustion incidence is rising rapidly. A total of 71 cases were admitted today to the Division Rest Center. This trend is due to numerous causes, among which are: length of time in combat, extensive rain, little rest, lack of hot food and a feeling that they are not fitted for a holding mission.

The rest center has proven its merit by early treatment of combat exhaustion cases which has benefitted the command in returning to duty within a few days more

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than 50% of the men received. (See reports of Division Psychiatrist in file)

28 September 1944:-

Considerable enemy movement of infantry and tanks has been observed behind the lines, especially in the area near Moyenvic. No actual attack was materialized although artillery fire has been received all day. The enemy continued some patrol activity in the vicinity of Bures-Coincourt and CC "B" shelled the area extensively.

Enemy losses inflicted in the CC "B" area during the last 48 hours are: 12 tanks, 6 armored vehicles, 2 armored cars, 2 half tracks, 4 anti-aircraft guns, one artillery battery complete, at least 2 mortars destroyed, and a number of other artillery batteries were believed destroyed in the vicinity of Parroy. An estimated 150 enemy were killed, 600 wounded, and 48 captured.

The enemy's effort to break through our lines with night patrols, have been repulsed by the 25th Cavalry Group which is screening the front, performing both reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance missions.

On instructions from 12th Army Group and Third Army, our CIC Detachment has been reduced to a strength of 2 officers and 5 men. Efforts have been made to bring this detachment back up to strength and if possible, secure some augmentation, as it is felt that the need for this detachment will be considerably greater when we reach Germany. (SO 168, par 1 and 2, Hq 4/AD cs)

29 September 1944:-

No activity was encountered on the CC "A" sector. In the CC "B" sector the enemy made a determined drive to seize the high ground known as Hill 318. In a bitter Infantry duel the enemy captured this point but lost it almost immediately when counter-attacked by the 10th Infantry. The intensity of the battle was augmented by heavy air and artillery support. The air-tank team, working together, flushed and knocked out a number of enemy. As a result of this sharp action 23 enemy tanks, 2 half tracks, 19 trucks, and 3 other vehicles were destroyed and an ammunition dump blown up. The artillery neutralized two heavy gun emplacements. 50 prisoners were captured and an estimated 400 killed and wounded.

Company "D" of the 86th Chemical Battalion has been attached to the division and moved into the line. (Ltr orders, Hq XII Corps, 19 Sep 44) The effectiveness of the enemy artillery observation was seen when this company was shelled almost on arrival in their area before they had been able to dig in.

30 September 1944:-

Enemy activity in the CC "A" area was light and the volume of artillery fire showed a marked decrease. A company of tanks from the 35th made a thrust east near Xanrye to relieve the pressure on the 53rd and 10th in that area. The 37th was re-assigned to CC "A" and moved to a position near Joncel to cover a possible break through near Chambray. In the CC "B" area, the enemy shelled intermittently throughout the day. Our artillery fired some counter-battery and set fire to the towns of Bezange and Lezey. The troops continued to consolidate their positions on Hill 318 and 320, and the cavalry moved out to clear the enemy from the woods to the front and reported it clear at 1630. Movement in the enemy rear continued, but no attack developed.

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The morale of the troops has decreased to a certain extent due to the wet weather, unrelenting enemy shell fire, and the lack of movement to which they have been accustomed. Remaining in fox holes in a static line does not appeal to our infantrymen.

The 24th Armored Engineer Battalion, supported by the 995th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company constructed 11 bridges during September for the division. This included one floating bridge 168 feet in length over the main channel of the Moselle River at Bayon. The bridges ranged from 24 to 60 feet in length.

The work of the engineers in mine tactics and clearing and laying of defensive mine fields, removing of booby traps and road blocks, and road repair and construction has been outstanding and has contributed much to the speed of our advances. The engineers have worked under fire on all occasions and, when necessary, fought as infantry to defend their position while accomplishing their work. During the rapid armored thrusts on 19 to 22 September, elements of our engineer battalion fought in the front line as infantry with elements of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion.

The non-fraternization policy directed by Theater Commander has been received and published to the command. (See file)

Decorations awarded during the month of September were 97 Silver Stars, 299 Bronze Stars, 2 Soldier Medals, 6 Air Medals, 13 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, 144 Purple Hearts and 6 clusters. The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Major General John G. Wood and Brigadier General Holmes E. Payer for extraordinary heroism at Coutances and Avranches respectively. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded posthumously to Captain Frances W. Tieri, 24th Armored Engineer Battalion and Private William Whitson, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion.

Our material losses during the month were: 41 medium tanks, 7 light tanks, and 20 miscellaneous vehicles including half tracks, 2½ ton trucks and ¼ ton trucks.

During the month of September there were 64 promotions from 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt., 12 promotions from 1st Lt. to Captain and the following officers were promoted to field grades:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Arthur L. West Jr.	CO 10th Armd Inf Bn.
Henry P. Heid	CO 704th Tank Destroyer Bn.
Lloyd W. Powers Jr.	CO 24th Armd Field Artillery Bn.

MAJOR

Henry A. Crosby	Exec Off 53rd Armd Inf Bn.
John J. Shea	Exec Off 10th Armd Inf Bn.
Fred T. Hammer	Anti-tank Off Division Artillery
Yeul H. Havens	S-2 Hq Combat Command "A"
Silvio J. Giovale	Surgeon Hq Combat Command "B"

Battlefield appointments as Second Lieutenant, APO, were made to 6 Infantry, 4 Tank, 3 Artillery and 1 Cavalry enlisted men during the month. One of these, Lt Raymond J. Bell, 10th Armored Inf Bn, has already been recommended for promotion to 1st Lt.

Replacements received during the month were 41 officers and 602 enlisted men. Battle casualties of the division were 225 killed, 648 wounded, and 74 missing.

Enemy units contacted during the month included the 15th Pz Gren. Div., 11th Pz Div., 553rd Infantry Div., 559th Infantry Div., 11th Pz Brigade, and the 113th Pz Brigade.

1 October 1944:-

The division maintained its static defense line with a front along the north edge of Forêt de Bozange, then southwest to Xanrey-Bozange la Petite-Rechicourt-Bures to the Marne-Rhine Canal near Hunsbach. The south boundary of the division zone coincided with the XII-XV Corps and Third and Seventh Army boundary along the Marne-Rhine Canal. The boundary to the north between the division zone and the 35th Infantry Division ran between Château-Salins, Moncel and Champeaux. CC "A", composed of the 35th Tank Battalion, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion supported by the 166th Engineers, 191st Armored Field Artillery Battalion. A/25, A/46, A/126, B/24, D/489, hold the north portion of the division sector. CC "B" comprised of the 8th, 10th, 51st, 24(-), 995th, 25th (-), with the Second Cavalry Squadron attached. The 22nd, 691st TD, 177th FA group (-), B/46, B/126, C/489 holds the south portions. The boundary between the combat commands was the line Athienville, Lezey with CC "B" responsible for Lezey and CC "A" for Athienville.

There was little enemy activity at any point on the front. Sporadic artillery fire fell at various points along the line. The artillery fired harrassing fire on call, as well as firing on reported gun positions. Fighter-bombers of the air support bombed Moyenvic and vicinity. Strengthening the defense line continued with engineers laying mines and booby traps in potential areas of approach. CC "B" was forced to move its CP because of registered artillery. Division Artillery fired 45 missions during the day neutralizing two enemy artillery batteries, destroying one Mark VI Tank. The enemy had apparently lost his desire or power of attack in this area as no attempt was made to break through our lines. However, the men remained on the alert throughout each day and night.

The 194th Quartermaster Gas Supply Company which has supported the division throughout its advance to date was relieved from its attachment and reverted to Third Army control.

Wire teams of the Division Signal Officer report that telephone wires are being cut frequently, possibly by enemy agents residing in this area. The CIC Detachment made a check of the civilian population to find the source of this trouble.

Lt Col Edgar T Conley Jr., Commanding Officer of the 8th Tank Battalion, was relieved from assignment to the division and transferred to XX Corps to become Corps G-4. Lt Col Henry P. Heid of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion was assigned to command the 8th Tank Battalion and Major Len C. Lewis of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion was transferred to and assumed command of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

2 October 1944:-

The entire division front remained quiet with the exception of infrequent enemy artillery fire. The 37th Tank Battalion was relieved from CC "A" and attached to the Reserve Command. "D" Company of the 86th Chemical Battalion, which had been attached to the division, was placed in the line to support the 166th Engineers holding the left flank. The daily patrol of the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion into the towns of Xanrey and Moyenvic reports only slight enemy patrol activity in that area encountered, with the result of 5 enemy being killed.

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The receipt of a number of replacements by front line units eased the tension of the men holding these positions but did not relieve entirely, the worn out, let down feeling which was prevalent. Rumors that the division was soon to be relieved acted as a great buoyant to the men in the foxholes. The reduction in the volume of enemy fire was quite marked and was undoubtedly due to the fact that clear weather permitted the supporting P 47's to bomb and strafe all known and suspected enemy positions.

Reconnaissance reports of suspected rocket launching sites tend to confirm reports that the enemy is using rockets on this area. The Second Cavalry Squadron and the 126th Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion have both reported rockets falling near their bivouac.

The status of equipment showed that the division was short 37 medium tanks, 18 half tracks and a few miscellaneous vehicles. Supplies of extra clothing and blankets were coming up rapidly. The need for two extra blankets per man, apparent with the increasingly cold weather, had been recognized and authorization for issue had been granted.

Lt. Gen Patton visited the division for a conference with General Wood. He told General Wood that, "I consider the 4th Armored Division the finest Armored Division in the United States Army".

3 October 1944:-

The front line situation remains generally unchanged. CC "B" attempted to move forward on their right flank in order to shorten their front line. The 25th Cavalry and 51st Infantry patrols moved forward beginning at noon but were soon pinned down by mortar, artillery and small arms fire. They held their forward positions until dark, then returned to their original position. The venture resulted in knocking out two enemy guns, one pill box and one mortar position, and killing an estimated 81 enemy with the loss 1 killed, 21 wounded, and 1 missing from the division. CC "A" artillery continued to fire missions on suspected enemy installations and appeared to hit an enemy ammunition dump in Moyenvic which blew up with great force causing an estimated 100 enemy casualties.

Although enemy activity was at a low ebb, division units were not idle. This lull period was used for maintenance work, rehabilitation and further training of recent replacements. Units brought up their field kitchens and began to serve hot meals for the first time since entering battle almost three months ago.

The maintenance Battalion began replacing 105mm gun tubes and checking artillery instruments in order to insure that the artillery can operate at maximum efficiency when the next attack comes.

4 October 1944:-

Little enemy activity was evident on the division. The artillery continued to fire counter battery on enemy artillery locations reported by sound flash. Patrols along the front continued and the air support harassed the enemy force by bombing and strafing.

Preparations are being made for the reception of the 26th Infantry Division which is scheduled to relieve the division in the near future. Initial bivouac areas were chosen by the Reserve Command.

A local enemy counter-attack in the 10th Infantry area at 1000 with one tank and a platoon of Infantry withdrew under small arms fire on hearing the tank destroyers and tanks which were moved up. Due to heavy shelling in the area, civilians from the town of Rechicourt were evacuated to Saint Nicholas by the Civil Affairs Officer in preparation for the drive into Germany. German speaking MII teams were being formed and two German speaking officers from attached IPW teams had been ordered to return to MIS-ETOUSA to form MII teams. After returning, these officers with their teams will be assigned to the division when the French teams are no longer required.

5 October 1944:-

Little activity on the front other than artillery fire. German heavy artillery searched our area for our artillery. Counter-battery fire destroyed one enemy battery at Moncourt. Just before dawn an enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate into the front lines of the 51st Infantry but were driven off by small arms and artillery fire. As soon as the enemy patrol withdrew the Germans let a heavy artillery concentration fall in the area of the action. Morning revealed two enemy dead and evidence of a number of others wounded. The division artillery and tank destroyers laid down heavy barrages on the enemy lines throughout the day. After dark there was evidence of considerable vehicular movement to the eastward which possibly indicates that the enemy is withdrawing. Artillery fired on the roads and road junctions to disrupt the movement.

450 civilians were evacuated from the town of Arracourt which is also in the danger zone of artillery fire. This lull period is being utilized to pay the division. The majority of the money is being turned back to the Finance Officer as PTA's.

A USO Show, arranged for by the Special Service Officer, presented two performances daily in the theater at Dombasle; each unit in the division had a quota for attendance.

Lt Col Herbert F. Krucker, Assistant C/S-G-4, was evacuated from the division and Lt Col Bernard G. Knestrick, formerly Division Quartermaster became G-4, Major Gerald E. Miller succeeded Colonel Knestrick as Division Quartermaster, (GO 45, Hq 4/AD cs) Major Harold J. Abrams became Asst G-4 and Major Marshall H. Pelgram succeeded him as S-4 for the Reserve Command. Major Everett S. Stewart, formerly Asst G-4 was assigned to Trains to replace Major Pelgram, (SO 172 Hq 4/AD).

The Germans directed a propaganda attack against CC "A" from a sound truck in the area between Moyenvic and Vic sur Seille, telling our troops to surrender as they were fully aware of our situation.

Staff Officers of the 26th Infantry Division arrived in the area for orientation, preparatory to taking over this sector.

6 October 1944:-

The front was again relatively quiet. Scattered enemy patrols and vehicular activity were evident during the day and night. Elements of the 26th Infantry Division began to arrive throughout the day. Battalion, Company and Platoon Commanders moved up to our front line CP's to familiarize themselves with the situation in preparation for taking over the sector.

The serious shortage of radio operators is gradually being dispelled. Men with any radio experience have been assigned to the 144th Signal Company to give them training as operators in order to furnish the best possible men to the units of the division.

A considerable number of captured vehicles operated by units of the division have been picked up and impounded by higher headquarters as being unauthorized. Efforts to secure authorization for retaining the vehicles have been made but to date without result. It has been advised that even captured German ambulances, in use, will be picked up by Army if not registered.

Lt Col Lloyd W. Powers, Commanding Officer, 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, was evacuated to a hospital for a non-battle sickness. Major Robert M. Parker assumed command of the battalion.

Four pilots from the 19th Tactical Air Command visited the front lines and were outspoken in their praise of the cooperation the division gives its air-support. The 104th Infantry Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division moved into position in the CC "B" area after dark. Division units will remain on the line with them for at least 24 hours for the purpose of seasoning these new troops before leaving them on their own.

7 October 1944:-

Units of the 26th Infantry continued to infiltrate into the front line. The 101st Infantry Regiment moved into the CC "A" sector to relieve the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion and part of the 166th Engineers. The 26th Division is arriving without any of its supporting echelons. All of its troops except the infantry regiments proper had been left at the beach to come up later. For this reason, while this division was not actually in the line it must continue to furnish support to the 26th with artillery, tanks, anti-aircraft, tank destroyer, engineer and medical troops. Our Combat Command Commanders and our Division Commander retained responsibility for the sector until the Commanding General of the 26th Division was ready to accept command of the sector and is so ordered by Corps after notifying them of his readiness.

Under the supervision of Train Headquarters, the duffle bags of the division which have been stored at Vaucouleurs have been moved forward to Nancy for use during the period of relief so that the men may get out their winter clothing. The new storage place is located on Dumast Street just off Poincare Rue Place on the square just north of the railroad in the center of Nancy.

The 10th Infantry, having been relieved by the 104th Infantry, began moving from its sector to a bivouac at Haracourt by individual vehicle at ten minute intervals in order not to attract enemy attention. The 51st Infantry also relieved by the 104th Infantry began withdrawing from the lines by platoons at nightfall and moved to a bivouac near Serres.

8 October 1944:-

The 53rd and 35th less a medium and light company withdrew from the lines to a bivouac in the vicinity of Bezange la Grande after being relieved by the 101st Infantry Regiment. The 8th Tank Battalion was also relieved by elements of the 26th Infantry Division and withdrew from its position in the vicinity of Arracourt to bivouac at Serres. All elements of the division relieved from the line continue in a support status in case of enemy attack against the 26th Division. The

division artillery and attached artillery continued to furnish artillery support in the sector under division control. Their fire being supplemented by the Tank Destroyer guns when necessary. The combat commanders continued to command their sections. (See operational instructions No. 1, Hq 4/AD, 7 Oct 44).

Staff Sergeant Edward P. Mallon, "D" Company, 37th Tank Battalion, was selected from the Division to serve as an honor guard for General George C. Marshall, C/S, U. S. Army, during his visit to this area.

Quartermaster supplies were beginning to come in rapidly. One extra blanket has been issued to each member of the division and a second will be issued shortly. The first quota of combat boots has been received and broken down to the Infantry Battalions and Cavalry Squadrons.

9 October 1944:-

The front line situation remained unchanged. Spradic artillery and mortar fire fell on the front lines and the division artillery continued to fire harassing and interdictory concentrations as well as counter-battery fire.

All units now are enjoying movies and other recreational facilities arranged for by the Special Service Section. All Red Cross Clubmobiles in the Corps are now servicing our units dispensing doughnuts, coffee and cheer.

Lt Col Arthur L. West Jr., Commanding Officer of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, was presented the DSC for extraordinary heroism at Troyes, France, 25 August 1944 by Major General John Wood in the presence of his assembled battalion.

The 126th Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion, performing work ordinarily done at an Ordnance Base Section, worked constantly to bring the division to T/E strength in vehicles, exchanging entire tank turrets, replacing gun tubes and even rebuilding 5 tanks. The division is now 100% equipped on half tracks and shipments of tanks, and other vehicles are being received daily.

10 October 1944:-

No change in the troop assignment or status. There is very little activity on the front with the exception of artillery fire. Division Artillery continued to fire on targets located by reconnaissance and patrols.

Preparations are being made for intensified Special Service activities during the coming rest period. A Quartermaster Shower Unit is now in operation near Serres. Arrangements have been made for a Quartermaster Laundry Service for the troops.

11 October 1944:-

The majority of the units of CC "A" have been relieved and attached to the 26th Division for support until the remainder of the division arrives. Scattered enemy artillery fire fell during the night. The Second Cavalry Group, covering the right flank of CC "B", pushed forward supported by heavy artillery preparation and occupied the high ground around Parroy and Coincourt. Enemy infantry in strength, with mortars forced CC "B" units off Hill 265 near Bezange la Petite but the quickly organized counter-attack recaptured the hill. In order that companies attached to the 26th Division may each have some rest the engineers, cavalry, TD's, and tank battalions are rotating their companies on the line.

General Wood, in a speech to the 51st Infantry, spoke of their outstanding achievements and those of the division and stated that not only he, but the Army Commander, felt that this division was an outstanding one in the United States Army. He told them that this division could not be stopped by the Germans and that any delay was not the fault of the division but of those behind us.

12 October 1944:-

The Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, was relieved of responsibility of the sector at 1200 today. The Commanding General of the 26th Infantry Division assumed command of the sector. The combat commanders were relieved of command of their sectors and CC "A" moved to a rest area in the vicinity of Eberviller while LC "B" move to Haracourt. This was the first relief from combat of the division since its entry into action on the 17th of July. The division had participated in 87 consecutive days of combat. The relief, however, was not complete, our artillery, engineers, TD's and tanks continued to support the 26th Division while the remainder of the division filled the role of reserve. Although the city of Nancy remains off-limits at present, arrangements have been made for convoys to that city for scheduled Special Service Activities, showers and swimming.

Casualties for the period 23 September - 12 October were: 111 Killed, 331 wounded and 49 missing. Replacements received during the same period were 41 officers and 1026 enlisted men. Totals since the division was committed to action are

<u>Casualties</u>		<u>Replacements</u>	
Killed	526	Officers	103
Wounded	1555	Enlisted men	2573
Missing	193		

Enemy captured during period 1 - 12 October 1944 number 43.

13 October 1944:-

The restriction on passes to Nancy has been released and passes up to 5% of the strength are now permitted for the period 1200 to 2000 hours. As a part of the intensified entertainment program during the rest period the division band toured the units giving concerts, enlivened with jive sessions.

Due to the unceasing efforts of the Division Quartermaster Section, the clothing status of the men in the division has been considerably improved and there were very few shortages. With company kitchens now in operation a very pleasant change from the K and C rations in the form of fresh meat and vegetables was served to the troops.

14 October 1944:-

Recreation facilities of all kinds were made available to the troops. U.S.O. shows, motion pictures, Red Cross Clubmobiles, showers and swimming in Nancy and laundry facilities contributed greatly to the improvement of the morale.

Three Me 109's strafed the bivouac area of the Division Artillery. One was knocked down and the other was smoking when last seen.

15 October 1944:-

Although recreational activities continued at a high pitch, the work of rehabilitation of clothing, equipment, vehicles, and individual weapons was being carried on. Guns, vehicles and equipment were being cleaned and repaired into first class shape in order that the division may be prepared for its part in the next push.

The Division Chaplains worked night and day to see that every member of the division had the opportunity to attend the religious services of his choice. All units took advantage of the rest period to have formal ceremonies for the presentation of the awards and to discuss the achievements of the unit and the division, for the benefit of the newer members of the organization and to instill a justifiable pride.

16 October 1944:-

Supporting elements of the 26th Division gradually came up and the 35th Tank Battalion was entirely relieved from the line. The artillery command, 37th Tank Battalion, 704 TD Battalion and the 24th Engineers continued to support them.

17 October 1944:-

The Forward Echelon of the Division Headquarters moved from its tent offices in a field which had become almost a swamp due to the recent continuous rain, into a chateau on the edge of Remerville. They were the last to seek shelter from the elements, the Division Commander being of the opinion that so long as his troops were in the field he and his staff would remain there also.

A new flotation type grouser for tanks was issued and installed on the tanks of the division. It is a definite change from the old type grouser in that it increases the bearing surface of the track and buoys it up on soft ground but does not interfere with movement on hard surface roads. Only 75% coverage is available at this time.

20 October 1944:-

The 37th Tank Battalion conducted a demonstration of the new type flotation grouser for our tanks. The continued rain for the past ten days has turned the ordinary solid ground into a swamp providing excellent basis for a test of the new grouser which considerably improved the maneuverability and traction of the medium tanks in the mud.

The widened track was also tested on the M2 engineer treadway bridge and proved its ruggedness by supporting the weight of the tank when it climbed the edge of the treadway. General Wood adjudged them to be a success. All units continued individual training, firing where possible, and crew training to keep the high standard of efficiency and to break in new replacements who have been received during the rest period.

Planning has begun for future operations during the rest period, and a photo analysis of the Siegfried Line on the front is being prepared. The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion has constructed a mock-up of the Siegfried Line for practice of the assault of a fortified position.

21 October 1944:-

Lt Gen George S. Patton Jr, and Lt Gen Carl Spaatz visited the division to observe another demonstration of the new tank grouser.

22 October 1944:-

Lt Gen Alexander M. Patch, commander of the Seventh U. S. Army visited the Division Commander.

A quota of 40 passes for enlisted men and leaves for three officers for a period of two days to Paris has been allotted to the division starting today. The first quota went to the Infantry Battalions. On subsequent two day periods the Tank Battalions, Artillery Battalions, Engineers, TD's and Cavalry and Headquarters Units in that order will be allotted quotas. In view of the very small quota, considerable rivalry is evident for the privilege of a pass to that far-famed city. In the evening General Wood and his staff entertained the unit commanders at a dinner party. Plans for future operations were discussed at a meeting of the staff prior to their dinner.

23 October 1944:-

Colonel Dayton of the 12th Armored Group gave a talk to selected officers of the 4th Armored Division explaining the salient features of the Siegfried Line defenses.

Training continues throughout the division while recreation facilities remain available, the most popular of those is the movies with a number of quite recent pictures being available for showing. Units of the division supporting the 26th Infantry Division continued to fulfill their missions. The artillery being regularly employed and the 704th TD Battalion supplementing their fire from time to time. The 37th Tank Battalion disposed to meet any enemy threat which might develop.

24 October 1944:-

Combat Infantrymen Badges, long awarded to the majority of the infantrymen, were received and distributed today to the deserving infantrymen.

25 October 1944:-

The 126th Ordnance Battalion has begun to install armor plate shields for the front of 24- $\frac{1}{4}$ ton trucks of the 25th Cavalry to replace the glass windshield which are quite impractical for reconnaissance work.

26 October 1944:-

The 8th Tank Battalion was relieved from CC "B" and attached to the front 26th Division relieving the 37th Tank Battalion which reverted to CC "A". The 8th was to support the 26th Division in case of a counter-attack and remained alerted in its bivouac area near Haracourt.

27 October 1944:-

The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion conducted a demonstration attack to the fortified position followed by a lecture and inspection of the replica of a section of the Siegfried Line which they have constructed. Officers and non-commissioned officers were taken on tactical work through the mock fortification.

The hours of pass to Nancy have changed to 1000 to 1800 daily instead of 1200 to 2000. This will permit the men to have more daylight hours in town and be able to return to the bivouac area during daylight.

Efforts are being made to secure additional bull dozers, dozer blades, and mine exploders for attachment to tanks. These items are considered essential for the assault on the Siegfried Line.

28 October 1944:-

Elements of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion supported by Company "A", 35th Tank Battalion again conducted a problem on the mock up fortified position while officers from other units observed. Assault groups practiced with pole charges, bee hives and flame throwers.

29 October 1944:-

All units conducted training in assault of a fortified position, as well as instruction courses in bazooka and machine gun firing and vehicle driving to give them experience to new replacements. A three day ration reserve has been replenished for all units in preparation for the impending assault.

30 October 1944:-

The entire Division Artillery moved north to a position northwest of Armaucourt in the 35th Infantry Division sector to be in position to support the coming attack.

31 October 1944:-

Action has been taken to secure sleeping bags for all members of the division. These bags have now become available for issue and it is expected that at least one half the division will soon be equipped with them.

Colonel Bruce C. Clarke, who has commanded CC "A" for the past year, and who previously served as Chief of Staff for the Division, was relieved from assignment and assigned to the 7th Armored Division to command a combat command there. His transfer is a severe loss to the division but it is with pride that division sees him go for it will undoubtedly mean a full deserved promotion for him. Lt Col Creighton W. Abrams who has commanded the 37th Tank Battalion assumed command of CC "A".

The 489th AAA Battalion, which has furnished anti-aircraft support for the division, throughout France, has been until recently the outstanding battalion of its type in the Third Army, having the highest record of losses inflicted. During the month they were in action five times against enemy aircraft, and although no planes were shot down in any of the engagements they prevented any damage or casualties in division installations or troops.

Decorations awarded during the month were 116 Silver Stars, 479 Bronze Stars, 1 Soldier Medal, 3 Air Medals, 8 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal and 382 Purple Hearts. The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Colonel Bruce C. Clarke and Lt Col Arthur L. West Jr., for extraordinary heroism in action at Troyes, France.

October 44-9

During the month there were 47 promotions from 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt., 21 promotions from 1st Lt. to Captain and the following officers were promoted to field grades:

MAJOR

Conrad G. May	Executive Officer	46th Medical Battalion
Harold Cohen	Executive Officer	10th Armored Infantry Bn.
Charles P. Damon	Air Officer	Division Artillery
Elmer G. Holland	Asst Div Sig Off	144th Armd Signal Co.
John R. Scotti	Combat Command Surgeon	Combat Command "A"
Warren C. Fee	S-3	Combat Command "B"
Edward W. Markey	S-4	Combat Command "B"

Battlefield appointment as 2nd Lt, AUS, were made to 7 Cavalry, 8 tank, 3 Infantry, 4 Tank Destroyer and one Engineer enlisted men during the month. Personnel casualties during the rest period which were actual battle losses were: 3 killed, 17 wounded while 10 officers and 77 enlisted replacements were received.

Our losses for the month of October were 2 medium tanks, one light tank, and 7 miscellaneous vehicles.

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original.**

1 November 1944:-

Elements of the 4th Armored Division continued in their supporting defense position in the XII Corps zone.

The various units of the division continued to enjoy the rest period. Each man was afforded the opportunity of attending religious services and hot shower facilities were available. Time was also allotted for the cleaning and repairing of equipment. Eight hour passes to Nancy continued to be in effect and a rotation system was being used to afford equal opportunity for this privilege.

2 November 1944:-

The division was placed on a two hour alert status, ready to move on call in case of suspected enemy attack. Extensive studies were made of terrain and enemy installations in preparation for future activities.

The new flame throwers were distributed among units of the division and their usage was demonstrated and the nomenclature explained. The 24th Armored Engineer Battalion conducted demolition demonstrations.

The men continued to devote much time to maintenance, rest, and personal hygiene. Rainy weather caused care and maintenance of equipment to be a daily necessity.

3 November 1944:-

Fortunately the expected German attack did not materialize and the units of the division were able to continue their recreational privileges of the past several days. Considerable time was also spent in training replacements on the various weapons which they might use in future operations.

The 126th Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion was busy manufacturing duckbill track and connectors to be used for traction devices for the tanks to facilitate movement in the mud.

4 November 1944:-

Explicit plans for the coming offensive were set forth and the division objective was to be Morbange. The 8th Tank Battalion was released from its supporting role with the 26th Infantry Division.

Most of the units held informal ceremonies for the presentation of awards merited in previous actions.

The training and recreational program for both officers and enlisted men continued.

5 November 1944:-

The commanding officers of the various units of the division assembled their staffs and company commanders to discuss the plans for the coming offensive.

After several days of intermittent rain the weather finally became clear which did much to help the morale of the troops. All men who wished to attend religious service were given the opportunity to do so. There was no training schedule this day and passes to Nancy, movies, and sports provided the men with recreation.

6 November 1944:-

A visit by Lieut Gen George S. Patton, Jr., Third Army Commander, accompanied by Major General Gaffey, Major General Eddy, and Major General Crow, highlighted the events of the day. Lt Gen Patton addressed the division commanders at the division control point. Outstanding statements from his speech are as follows:-

"The division has excelled the 'March of the 10,000'."

"The accomplishments of this division have never been equalled. And by that statement I do not mean in this war, I mean in the entire history of warfare. There has never been such a superb fighting organization as the Fourth Armored Division."

He closed with this quotation: "The first shall be last and the Fourth shall be first."

Lt Col David A. Watt, Trains Commander, was promoted to full colonel.

More of the new type of bed rolls were received and distributed to units of the division.

7 November 1944:-

For the officers of the units most of the day was spent in briefing and preparing for the coming moves of each individual unit of the division.

The rainy condition of the weather hampered the training and recreational activities of the men in the bivouac area although the pass policy to Nancy was still in effect for the chosen percentage.

Elements of the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Macz) were relieved from the bridge guarding details in Nancy, St. Nicholas, and Lancuville.

8 November 1944:-

The Commanding General conferred with the Chief of Staff and other staff officers on last minute preparations prior to the attack.

It was quite evident that the Third Army attack was under way as a heavy artillery barrage could be heard and there were many fighter bombers overhead. Our artillery units moved into general support of the XII Corps area.

The commanding officers of the units of the division gave final orientation instructions to their troops. In this orientation the troops were informed of their primary objective which was Norhange and of possibilities which might lie ahead.

9 November 1944:-

At 0645, CC "B" of the Fourth Armored Division moved out from the vicinity of Haracourt to attack through the 35th Infantry Division. CC "B" was composed of the 8th Tank Bn, 51st Armd. Inf. Bn., 22nd Armd. FA Bn., 177th FA Group, 253rd FA Bn, 179th FA Bn., C/53, A/704, C/37, 24(2), B/126, B/46, C/489, C/25, and a section of the 995th. It was further broken down into a left and right column with Major Churchill commanding the left column and Lt Col Maybach commanding the right column. The advance through the 35th Inf. sector took the columns through the villages of Erbeviller, Mazerulles, Aboncourt, and Manhoue. At Manhoue the column separated with the left column advancing toward Malaucourt and the right column proceeding toward Jallacourt. Friendly infantry of the 137th Regt. of the 35th Infantry Division were in contact with the enemy at these two villages. Our forces took these two places against light enemy opposition. After capturing these towns the left column moved toward Lemoncourt while the right column headed

9 November 1944:- (cont)

for Oriocourt. The muddy condition of the terrain forced both columns to travel on the roads. The left column encountered many mines, road blocks, and anti-tank guns between Malaucourt and Lemoncourt but our flanking movements together with excellent air support were successful in reducing these obstacles. The Churchill column surrounded Lemoncourt and proceeded to take the town against slight enemy resistance. After passing through the village this column was delayed for some time by mines on the road and a concrete road block. These obstacles were reduced and the column proceeded against slight resistance, taking Viviers with very little trouble and bivouacked for the night in the vicinity of Hannocourt. The right column encountered enemy resistance from the woods south of Oriocourt in the form of machine guns, mortars, and an anti-tank gun. The enemy knocked out one half track and an assault gun and the column was forced to deploy one section of tanks and three squads of infantry to neutralize the enemy. The column was confronted by a road block at Oriocourt but bypassed this obstacle and entered the village. Many Germans in the town surrendered and were sent toward the rear to be picked up by the 35th Inf. Div. Two enemy anti-tank guns were knocked out beyond Oriocourt but not before they had knocked out the lead half track and an assault gun. The column proceeded on to Lancerville-en-Saulnois and succeeded in overrunning two enemy field guns before the enemy could remove the covers.

As the right column of CC "B" descended the hill before entering Fontony it was met by withering fire from depressed 20mm anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank guns, and mortars. Enemy tanks appeared on the left flank and together with the other guns succeeded in knocking out eight of our half tracks. Tanks of Company "C", 37th Tank Battalion, were deployed to clear the enemy but three of them were knocked out and the others were bogged down in the mud. Darkness was setting in and it was decided to withdraw to the reverse slope and regroup for the night. During the day this column destroyed nine anti-tank guns and three prime movers, as well as capturing one half track and fifty-seven prisoners. The column lost ten half tracks, three assault guns, three medium tanks, and twelve tanks were mired in the mud.

CC "A" was closely following the movements of CC "B" and was assembling in the vicinity of Eberviller in preparation to moving out.

Enemy contacted during the day included the 559th and the 48th Infantry Divisions. Casualties:

Killed
22 EM
1 Off

Wounded
54 EM
2 Off

Missing
None

10 November 1944:-

The following changes occurred in the organization of the columns: the full Squadron the 25th was attached to CC "B", while the 8th Tank Battalion was ordered to give full support to the south column of CC "B" at Fontony.

In the left column sector of CC "B", infantry of the 35th Division had not followed up closely our march through Viviers, consequently the enemy reentered the town at night cutting off the supply route for the Churchill column. Elements of the 22nd Armored FA Bn in Viviers were trapped and entirely cut off from the rest of the column. The enemy infiltration consisted of infantry, artillery and

armored cars. A platoon of the 8th Tank Battalion was dispatched to relieve the 22nd which already had several casualties and had one of its ambulances captured by the enemy. Five enemy tanks were dispersed by the 8th Tank Battalion and towards evening doughboys of the 35th Infantry Division, together with our tanks, succeeded in driving the enemy infantry out of the village.

The remainder of the left column of CC "B" which had bivouacked in the vicinity of Hannocourt was forced to take refuge in the woods (Bois de Serre) southeast of Hannocourt because of intense artillery fire from both their front and rear. The left column did not move at all today.

The right column of CC "B" was forced to stay in the area south of Fontony due to heavy enemy concentrations of artillery and a withering fire from depressed 20mm anti-aircraft guns. The column was also waiting for the 35th Infantry Division to clear the Forêt de Château-Salins. In this sector the enemy was using a weapon which skipped along the ground exploding as it went. The weapon caused no material damage but was designed as a psychological weapon.

Combat Command "A", which had been alerted to move yesterday, was composed of the following units: 37th (c), 35th (B&D), 10th, A/53, D/25, Div Arty., 94th, 66th, 191st, A/24, C/704, D/489, Sect/995, A/46, A/126. The left column was commanded by Major Hunter and the right column was led by Lt Col Oden. The left column was given the order to move out from Eberviller and attack through the 26th Inf. Div. which was in contact with the enemy around Morville. The route of the Hunter column took it through Sorneville, Moncel sur Seille, and Vic Sur Seille. Here the column swung north and headed toward Morville where they encountered their first enemy resistance which consisted of direct fire from anti-tank guns and infantry outposts. One anti-tank gun was destroyed and Morville was taken with ease. Just beyond Morville the column was held up for approximately three hours waiting for the engineers to fill large bom craters in the road. The soft condition of the soil made it impossible to by-pass these obstacles. After this delay the column proceeded on to Hamont where only light outpost resistance was encountered. The column proceeded through the village and bivouacked for the night in the Bois de Haboudange. Heavy artillery fire was received by the column during the night.

The original plan called for both columns of CC "A" to advance to Obreck and then branch off toward Conthil and Château Voué but the slowness of movement due to the condition of the roads forced a change in plans. The Oden column did not move and remained in its initial assembly area near Bozange la Grande.

During the day's operations the following enemy losses were reported: 1 tank, 21 other vehicles, 2 anti-tank guns, 2 - 105mm guns, 1 - 20mm gun destroyed, 189 PWs and 378 killed.

Our casualties were:	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	28 EM	64 EM	6 EM
	3 Off	5 Off	2 Off

A prisoner of war captured during the day possessed a circular which accurately described our armored vehicles.

11 November 1944:-

Enemy resistance appeared to be stiffening throughout the 4th Armd Div sector. Unfavorable weather conditions favored the defensive tactics of the enemy and also prevented our columns from receiving much needed air support.

11 November 1944:- (cont)

Both columns of CC "B" were heavily engaged all day - the left column in the vicinity of Hannocourt and the right column near Fonteny. In the left column sector, the 8th Tank Battalion reported an enemy counter-attack developing near Cron. Our Artillery and Corps Artillery immediately took this concentration under fire. In driving off the counter-attack the 6th Tank Battalion knocked out 1 Mark VI tank, and 14 anti-tank guns. The 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion fired almost continually all day and together with the supporting Corps Artillery succeeded in silencing five enemy artillery batteries. This column remained in its same position as on the previous night with orders to move at 0700 the next morning. The right column of CC "B" received heavy artillery and mortar fire on its right flank coming from the Foret de Chateau Salins. The enemy was using this barrage to cover his withdrawal of infantry, tanks, and horse-drawn artillery from the Foret de Chateau Salins toward the town of Morhange. The column resumed its assault on Fonteny but enemy direct fire was too intense. Company "C" of the 51st Armored Inf Bn together with two companies of the 134th Regiment of the 35th Inf Division attacked the town on foot and by darkness managed to clear the south half of the town. The going was tough and the fighting was from house to house. During the day's action the column knocked out one Tiger tank and captured 14 prisoners with the loss of one half track. Lt Col Alfred A Maybach, commander of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, the leader of the right column of CC "B" in this attack, was mortally wounded while observing the attack near Fonteny. Colonel Maybach died the following day. Major Van Arnam assumed leadership of the right column of CC "B". The Hunter column of Combat Command "A" moved out at 0700 from its bivouac in the Bois de Haboudange north of Obreck to continue the march along the Obreck-Conthil road. The column was immediately fired upon by enemy artillery from positions north of Burlioncourt. Tanks of the 11th German Panzer Division also augmented the artillery fire and most of the column was ordered to withdraw. In spite of heavy losses, Co. B and the Bn command section of the 37th Tank Battalion pushed through on the original route toward Conthil. In this action the 37th Tank Battalion lost one medium tank, 3 light tanks, 2 half tracks, and two peeps. The bulk of the column went back to Obreck and took a more easterly route toward Conthil. This route took them through Dedeling and Riche. Conthil was attacked and captured against light, rear-guard opposition. The column went on to take the high ground south of the railroad between Conthil and Rodalbe where they bivouacked for the night. During the day this column accounted for 12 anti-tank guns, 1 Mark V tank, 6 light vehicles, 166 prisoners, and an estimated 328 killed.

The Oden column of CC "A" moved out from its assembly area at Bazange la Grande and passed through Chateau Salins reaching Harpont toward evening where it bivouacked for the night. This task force did not contact the enemy today.

Our casualties:	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	36 EM	29 EM	None
	10 Off	10 Off	

12 November 1944:-

The left column of CC "A" moved out from its bivouac area in the vicinity of Cenihil with orders to move up through Rodalbe and Bermering to cut off the main escape route of the enemy east of Morhange. The column captured Rodalbe without much difficulty but found all roads leading out of the city impassable because of mines, blown bridges, and the muddy condition of the roads. While awaiting orders to move, the column became the target of enemy artillery and anti-tank fire. An enemy force of infantry and tanks of battalion strength attacked the column from the vicinity of Pfaffenforst Woods and a heavy fight ensued. The 37th Tank Battalion suffered heavy personnel and vehicular casualties in this engagement as the soft condition of the terrain prevented proper deployment of vehicles. They lost one 105mm assault gun, three medium tanks, and two other had to be destroyed. Other vehicles were bogged down but these were rescued under cover of smoke. The column was forced to withdraw and bivouacked for the night near Lidrezing in the Bois de Cenihil where they were subject to artillery fire throughout the night. Two companies of the 26th Infantry Division also suffered heavy losses in Rodalbe.

The right column of CC "A" was divided into two task forces. Lt Col Oden was in command of the larger group and Lt Col West was in charge of the smaller force which consisted of D/25, Plat C/704, A/35, assault guns/35, B/10, and Hq/10. The column moved out from its bivouac area near Hampont to attack along the route leading to Obreck, Chateau Voue, Sotzeting, and Lidrezing. The task force led by Lt Col West moved out ahead of the rest of the column and its objective was to seize the high ground, Hill 337, east of Chateau Voue and south of Lidrezing. The west task force went about its mission methodically and succeeded in taking its objective against light opposition. The force attacked the hill in a mild snow storm evidently taking the enemy by surprise. The remainder of the column coming up to consolidate the gains made by the west task force was attacked by ten enemy tanks north and east of Chateau Voue. This enemy action cut off the task force from the main body for approximately six hours. Co. "C" of the 35th Tank Bn succeeded in driving off the enemy after destroying one Mark IV tank. The column then joined the task force on Hill 337 southeast of Lidrezing where they bivouacked for the night.

The right column of CC "B" with two companies of the 35th Infantry Division continued its attack on Fonteny and soon after daybreak succeeded in taking the town. The enemy withdrew his artillery and anti-tank guns under cover of darkness but left a rearguard infantry unit to delay the progress of the column. In this action at Fonteny, the 51st Armd Inf Bn captured six medics who were identified with the 110th Grenadier Regt. of the 11th Panzer Division. Three Mark VI tanks were found near Fonteny that had been abandoned because they had run out of gas. The column was delayed for sometime at Fonteny as the bridge that spanned the river on the outskirts of the village had been prepared for demolition by the enemy and it was necessary for the engineers of Company "C" of the 24th Armd Eng Bn to clear it. The column then proceeded on to Faxe where the enemy opposition consisted of a few tanks and small arms fire. After knocking out two Mark VI tanks the column succeeded in taking the village.

12 November 1944:- (cont)

In the meantime the left column of CC "B" moved out from its bivouac area near Hannocourt and in conjunction with elements of the 137th Regt. of the 35th Inf Div succeeded in driving the enemy from the Bois de Serres. Both columns of CC "B" then coordinated their drives on Cron and captured the village against slight enemy opposition. The left column of CC "B" remained in Cron for the night. The right column continued on toward Chateau Brechain but a blown bridge impeded their progress and they were forced to bivouac near Chateau Brechain for the night.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq Mecs was relieved from CC "B" and given the task of maintaining contact with the 2nd Cavalry Group in the vicinity of Rechicourt.

Brig Gen Dager notified G-1 that 448 prisoners had been taken during the day and turned over to the 35th Infantry Division.

The incidence of Trench Foot seemed to be on the increase as there have been 44 cases reported in the past four days.

Our casualties for the day were as follows:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
5 EM	45 EM	2 EM
1 Off	1 Off	2 Off

Forward Echelon left its old bivouac area near Remerville at 1115 and closed in Chateau Salins at 1430.

13 November 1944:-

At 0715 the right column of CC "B" moved out from its bivouac area east of Chateau Brechain with orders to move on toward the objective which was Morhange. The engineers worked all night to repair the blown bridge which had halted the progress of the column. The column entered Chateau Brechain and found no enemy opposition but found another wrecked bridge on the outskirts of the village which held them up for several hours. After the bridge was made passable the column continued and entered the town of Brechain. Progress was slow because of the muddy condition of the roads and the fact that the enemy had planted many mines on the road. By the time the bogged vehicles were relieved and mines were cleared from the road's darkness had begun to set in and the column was forced to halt for the night. The column bivouacked for the night on high ground immediately north of Achain on the Brechain-Baronville road. No direct contact was made with the enemy although several rounds of artillery fell in the vicinity of the column. Weather was still playing an important role against both vehicles and personnel. Twenty-four cases of frost-bite were reported by this column today.

The left column of CC "B" moved out from Cron and first made contact with the enemy northeast of Villers-sur-Nied. This contact consisted of anti-tank, mortar, and small arms fire which was coming from a position north of Marthville. A task force composed of the light tanks of Company "A" of the 8th Tank Bn was dispatched to reduce this enemy concentration. Considering the condition of the terrain and unfavorable weather, the results of the attack were excellent. The tanks out-flanked the enemy guns which were set up on commanding ground overlooking the road between Villers-sur-Nied and Marthville and took them completely by surprise from the rear. The guns were captured before the enemy had time to turn them in the direction of our approaching tanks. The loot consisted of 7 - 88mm and 11 - 75mm

13 November 1944:- (cont)

guns which were taken intact along with a plentiful supply of ammunition. The remainder of the column then moved on through Marthville toward Destry but numerous road blocks and mines forced the column to bivouac for the night north and east of Marthville. Most of the mines were of the box type and the engineers worked into the night clearing the roads for the passage of our vehicles.

The left column of CC "A" which suffered heavy losses at Rodalbe yesterday spent the night regrouping northeast of Lidrezing. The 37th Tank Bn had lost several vehicles and was held in reserve until more could be procured. During the night the enemy recaptured Rodalbe and succeeded in driving friendly infantry from the town of Conthil. The enemy appeared to be well organized in the vicinity of Rodalbe. The left column did not move today because Company "C" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn and Co "A" of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn were heavily engaged in protecting our right flank as the enemy was counter-attacking positions of the 26th Inf Division in that sector.

The right column of CC "A" bivouacked on Hill 337, northeast of Lidrezing, which they had taken the previous day and orders came through to lend support to friendly infantry who were attacking to recapture Conthil and at the same time to form a line of defense along the northern edge of the Bois de Koecking. Elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn were placed in defensive positions along the edge of the woods with the 35th Tank Bn protecting both flanks. A reported enemy counter-attack from the direction of Wuisse was thwarted by the 26th Inf Div so our defensive positions were not in contact with enemy. The bulk of the column bivouacked in the vicinity of the Bois de Koecking for the night.

A task force from the right column of CC "A" under command of Major McKone, S-3 of the 35th Tank Bn, and composed of C/35, A/10, D/25, and a platoon of C/704 was sent to drive the enemy from Conthil. The enemy had not reentered Conthil in large numbers and the task force easily drove them from the village. A counter-attack from Rodalbe was expected so Major McKone used the TD's to block roads leading north out of town, placed the tanks south of the town, and placed the cavalry and infantry in and around the Bois de Conthil. The threat did not materialize so he assembled his force and started moving in the direction of Rodalbe. Numerous road blocks constructed of stone, timber and farm machinery impeded the progress of the task force and they were forced to bivouac northeast of Conthil for the night. Their position received enemy artillery fire throughout the night.

Enemy losses for the day included: 10 - 88mm guns, 11 - 75mm guns, 6 mortars, 5 prime movers, 4 half tracks, 2 trucks, 1 ambulance, 1 self-propelled gun, 4 - 40mm anti-aircraft guns, 100 killed and 50 prisoners.

Our casualties for the day were:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
6 EM	34 EM	5 EM
0 Off	4 Off	0 Off

14 November 1944:-

The right column of CC "A", the main force of which had spent the night on Hill #337 and in the Bois de Koecking and the McKone task force which had held defensive positions between the Bois de Conthil and Zarbeling, was divided into two task forces for the day's operations. One force was led by Major McKone and was composed of A/10, Hq/10, C/35 and D/25. The other force remained under the leadership of Col West and was comprised of A/35, Hq/10, B/10 and a platoon of C/704. The objectives of the forces were the high ground in the Bois de Marimont and Benestroff. The route of the attack included the villages of Guebling, Burgaltroff, and Bedestroff.

Col West's task force moved out from the vicinity of Lidrezing and soon came in contact with three enemy Mark V tanks in the vicinity of the Kurtzeling Farms. Lt Sell of A/35, who had taken command of the company after Captain Brady had been wounded, ordered his tanks to cover the flanks and he attacked the three tanks with his own tank. He succeeded in knocking out two of the enemy tanks before his tank was hit and he was wounded. The tanks on the tank easily destroyed the third enemy tank. The task force then continued its march around the east edge of the Bois de Kerperch to coordinate with the other task force in its assault on Guebling. On the outskirts of Guebling the force found another group of Mark V tanks lying in ambush waiting for our approaching column. On discovering this information, the tanks of the task force were deployed in a brilliant flanking maneuver which resulted in the knocking out of seven enemy tanks without loss to the column. The maneuvering and battle lasted nearly six hours. Five of the enemy tanks were knocked out by Company "A" of the 35th Tank Bn while two were knocked out by the bazooka fire of Co B of the 10th Armd Inf Bn. In the meantime Lt Col West's force had moved up and both columns began laying a withering fire into the village which succeeded in driving out the remaining enemy. The force started to move into the village but was delayed by extensive mine fields and the destruction of a small bridge. By the time a treadway bridge was built darkness was setting in and it was decided to spend the night in Guebling. Considering the heavy rain and snow, the success of this force in the day's operations was excellent.

In conjunction with the movements of McKone's task force, Major Carpenter, Div. Arty. liaison pilot, knocked out an enemy half track by firing bazookas which he had attached to the wings of his club plane.

The route of Lt Col West's task force took it down Hill 337 and through the Bois de Kerperch to Guebling. In passing through the woods the force encountered much difficulty from three sources; mud, mines, and small arms fire. Elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn dismounted and quickly captured or killed the rear guard of the enemy but the mud and mines made progress extremely slow. The force finally reached the outskirts of Guebling and together with McKone's forces fired many rounds of all sizes of ammunition into the village. Both forces spent the night in Guebling and everything seemed to be peaceful until the enemy began to drop shells into the village from high ground on three sides of the town. Several of our vehicles were struck and temporarily knocked out.

The left column of CC "A" which had spent the night in the vicinity of Conthil was given the task of forming a defense line protecting the left flank of CC "A" on a line from Conthil to Zarbeling and Lidrezing. Several enemy patrol actions were dispersed in the vicinity of Hill 270, northeast of Zarbeling,

14 November 1944:- (contd)

otherwise, the day was quiet.

The right column of CC "B" which had bivouacked on the high ground north of Achain continued on in the direction of Baronville. The column had no more than started when the lead tank struck a mine and was disabled. This halted the entire column as the tank blocked the road and the terrain in that area was too soft to go around the tank. The column encountered many more mines during the morning which were of the wooden box type and didn't register on the mine detector. The column also received direct fire from two enemy tanks and entrenched infantry, but the TD's of the column knocked out one tank and one self-propelled gun and the infantrymen were either captured or dispersed. A short distance west of Baronville the column received heavy artillery fire from the direction of Baronville and Morhange which forced it to halt. A platoon of Co. "C" of the 37th Tank Bn was dispatched to aid elements of the 35th Inf Div in fighting in Baronville. In going over a ridge on the edge of the village two of the tanks were stopped by mines and as darkness approached the others returned and with the rest of the column established a defense line a short distance west of Baronville.

The left column of CC "B" moved out from its position southeast of Destry and passed through the village of Destry without opposition. From Destry the column turned south toward Baronville to coordinate its efforts with those of the right column for the attack on Baronville. On the road to Baronville, the column was halted numerous times by mines, road blocks, and artillery fire from the direction of Baronville and Morhange. The column joined with the right column and the 35th Inf Div in establishing line running north and south immediately west of Baronville. The column commanders, during the operations of the day, found it better to travel cross-country even though their vehicles often bogged down as the roads were heavily mined and caused them great damage and delay.

Enemy losses for the day included 9 tanks, 1 half track, 1 field gun, 52 killed, and 59 prisoners of war.

During the day our columns had eleven tanks knocked out but nine of these were recoverable. Our personnel losses included:-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
<u>1 Off</u>	<u>3 Off</u>	<u>None</u>
13 EM	63 EM	

15 November 1944:-

During the day the left column of CC "A" continued to hold its defense positions on a line from Conthil to Zarbeling. This position was established to guard against any enemy counter-attack which might come against the left flank of CC "A". There was little change in the position of this force throughout the day as no enemy attack materialized.

The right column of CC "A" was under enemy artillery fire practically all night. Toward morning when the fire ceased, the gasoline trucks moved into Guebling to service the vehicles and tanks but the movement of these trucks attracted the attention of the enemy and the artillery fire began pouring into the town once again. Three of the gasoline trucks were hit as was a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck. When the artillery fire slackened a bit, the column moved north from Guebling and headed in the direction of Bourgaltruff. A short distance north of Guebling the column underwent the heaviest artillery attack it had ever received. Poor

15 November 1944:- (cont)

visibility grounded our artillery observation planes and the column had no immediate means of directing its fire on the enemy positions. After suffering heavy vehicular and personnel losses the column was forced to halt and withdraw to positions that were more tenable in the vicinity of the Kutzeling Farms. The column was also heavily shelled during its withdrawal.

The left column of CC "B" which had spent the previous night holding a defensive line between Destry and Baronville by-passed Baronville and elements of the 51st Arm'd Inf Bn captured the small village of Lorraine against rear guard's enemy resistance. The force waited in this village for the right column, delayed by mines and mud, to clear Baronville. While in Lorraine heavy enemy artillery fire was received from a position in the vicinity of Harprich. Units of the 5th Tank Bn shelled this enemy position and in the meantime the rest of the column withdrew to the vicinity of Baronville where they spent the night.

The right column of CC "B" together with the left column of CC "B" and units of the 35th Inf Div had held a defensive line southeast of Destry to southeast of Baronville. The column moved out through Baronville and immediately ran into an extensive enemy mine field. In trying to by-pass the mines the vehicles bogged down in the mud and the column was delayed for several hours. The enemy was placing the mines in the tracks made by their vehicles as they retreated. After the mines had been cleared and the vehicles pulled out of the mud, the column continued toward Morhange where they supported the 35th Inf Div in capturing the town. The column proceeded through Morhange and received artillery and anti-tank fire from enemy positions in the vicinity of Harprich. The column bivouacked for the night on high ground just east of Morhange. Enemy units encountered in the vicinity of Morhange were identified as being from the 11th Panzer Division.

Because of the great number of mines encountered the past few days, both Combat Commands were instructed to have rollers installed on their mine exploding tanks and one of these tanks should be ahead of each column.

During the day's operations the 25th Cav Ren Sq was used to maintain contact between the 4th Arm'd Div and the 26th and 35th Inf Divisions.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 5 Mark V tanks, 1 armored car, 2 trucks, 50 killed, 18 prisoners of war and 20 wounded.

Our casualties included:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
0 Off	3 Off	0 Off
11 EM	104 EM	3 EM

Our columns also lost 4 medium tanks, 4 half tracks, 4 - 2½ ton trucks, 1 - ton truck, and 1 armored car.

16 November 1944:-

Both columns of CC "A" bivouacked for the night in defensive positions on a line from Conthil through Zarbeling and Liebrezing to high ground in the vicinity of Kutzeling Farms. Orders were received by CC "A" to make no further attacks but to consolidate their positions with those of the 26th Inf Div. During the morning hours they received considerable artillery fire from the vicinity of Rodilbe but little damage resulted from the fire. In the afternoon orders were received to

16 November 1944:- (cont)

withdraw to rear division areas to receive supplies, reorganize, and make ready for future operations. The detached companies of the battalions which had been under control of the columns of the Combat Commands were to revert to individual battalion control for this movement to the rear areas. The 10th Armd Inf Bn withdrew to Morville; the 35th Tank Bn moved back to Futtigny; the 37th Tank Bn moved to the vicinity of Vaxy. The artillery units of the Combat Command remained in their positions to support the operations of the 26th Division. Co "C" of the 704th TD Bn was ordered to join the 6th Cavalry Group, but prior to this junction moved back to Lubecourt. After eight days of exposure to all kinds of weather and strong enemy resistance the officers and men were grateful for the opportunity to sleep in buildings and to dry their clothing and equipment.

The two columns of CC "B" remained in their positions between Baronville and Morhange. With the exception of a few exchanges of artillery fire the day was quiet and the situation was unchanged.

A letter was received today from Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, announcing that the 4th Armored Division, together with the attached units, 489th AAA (AW) Bn and 704th TD Bn, had been awarded battle credit for the Normandy campaign. This announcement authorizes the eligible members of the division and attached units to wear a bronze star on their theater ribbon.

17 November 1944:-

The units of CC "A" which had withdrawn from the front lines to rest areas spent the day in cleaning up their quarters and caring for their equipment. The 94th and 66th Armd FA Bns remained in supporting positions for the 26th Inf Div. The men of the units in the rest area underwent a foot inspection as the increasing amount of Trench Foot made it necessary to use preventive measures. The men were issued clean, dry socks and were instructed on proper care of the feet to prevent Trench Foot. The CP of CC "A" was located at Corbecourt.

The columns of CC "B" received sporadic artillery fire during the night and morning and at 1100 they were alerted for movement to rear areas. All units were to move with the exception of the 22nd Armd FA Bn and other attached artillery units which were to remain in positions and support the 35th Inf Div. At 1545 the units of CC "B" moved out and their route took them through Baronville, then south and west to Gerbecourt, Chateau-Salins, Vic-Sur-Seille, Bezange la Grande, Hoeville, and Courbessieux. The CP of the command was set up at Courbessieux and the 51st Armd Inf Bn bivouacked at Bezange la Grande. The trip was very difficult as the weather was bad and visibility was very poor. Several vehicles ran off the road and bogged down in the mud along the sides of the road.

18 November 1944:-

Most of the units of the two combat commands remained in the same positions as on the previous day. The men were enjoying the rest period and taking this advantage to get themselves and their equipment in first class condition. Church services were made available to the men and in some of the villages where the troops were billeted, movies and showers were set up for the convenience of the men.

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image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

18 November 1944:- (contd)

The 126th Ord Maint Bn and the service companies of the various units were kept busy putting the vehicles back into good condition. New equipment was also drawn to replace that which had been lost or destroyed.

During the day the 8th Tank Bn moved from the vicinity of Morhange to Serres and followed the same route used the previous day by the other units of CC "B". The 25th Cav Ren Sq moved from the vicinity of Conthil to Haraucourt-sur-Seille via Burlioncourt and Hampont. Co C "C" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn was given the task of guarding bridges at Vic-sur-Seille and Moyenvic.

In a message from XII Corps, the division was warned of an imminent air raid and the units of the division were immediately alerted to disperse their vehicles and to avoid congestion in case such a raid should materialize.

Colonel William P Withers was released from his temporary duty as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Cavalry Group and was announced as the Commanding Officer of CC "A" relieving Lt Col Creighton W. Abrams who returned to the 37th Tank Battalion as Commanding Officer.

Lt Col Creighton W. Abrams, commanding officer of the 37th Tank Bn, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism against the enemy near Arracourt, France on 20 September 1944.

19 November 1944:-

CC "A" was divided into two columns and was alerted to move out on division order. Lieutenant Colonel West was in charge of the right column which was composed of C/10, Hq/10, B/37, C/24, 66 and Btry 191. Lt Col Abrams was in command of the left column and the units in his column were A/37, Hq/37, B/10, A/24, B/704, 94, Btry/191, D/25, E/37 and Division Artillery. C/37 and A/10 were to march behind the left column as the rear guard. The left column moved out from the vicinity of Gerbecourt at 0700 and passed through the villages of Vaxy, Puttingy Hamont, Obreck, Haboulange, and Conthil. First contact with the enemy was made at Rodalbe and consisted of a few anti-tank guns dug in on the outskirts of the town. One of these guns was knocked out by our tanks and the column captured Rodalbe at 0930. Numerous mines in the vicinity of Rodalbe forced the column to halt for several hours. The engineers removed an estimated 911 mines in this area. North of Rodalbe the column was forced to halt once again while a blown bridge over a railroad was repaired. The column then proceeded on to Bernmering which was taken without any opposition. At Virming, the first enemy resistance of any strength was encountered and this consisted of tank and mortar fire coming from north and south of the village. Virming was captured with the loss of one tank destroyed while the enemy lost four tanks. With darkness coming on the column bivouacked on the outskirts of Virming for the night. Most of the village was ablaze from shell fire as the column moved out to its bivouac area.

The right column of CC "A" was alerted to move out through Dieuze as soon as it was cleared by the 26th Infantry Division. The 26th did not succeed in taking Dieuze so the right column of CC "A" did not move today.

The columns of CC "B" were alerted to move on two hours notice and at 1115 were ordered to move out as soon as the 26th Infantry Division had cleared Dieuze.

19 November 1944:- (cont)

The objective of CC "B" was to be Hittersheim. The 26th Infantry Division encountered much difficulty in taking Dieuze and CC "B" was ordered not to move today. The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion was temporarily attached to the 328th Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division to assist it in taking Dieuze. The 51st moved from its area at Bozange-la-Grande through Vic-sur-Seille, Moyenvie, Salival, Wuisse, Bois de Koecking and bivouacked for the night in the vicinity of Kerprich-les-Dieuze. They spent the night guarding the left flank of the 26th Infantry Division and prepared to aid in the attack the next morning.

Enemy losses for the day included: 4 Mark V tanks, 1 mortar, 2 anti-tank guns, 10 killed, and 12 prisoners of war.

Our casualties were:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
5 EM	13 EM
1 Off	1 Off

Captain Arthur C. Anderson, Headquarters 4th Armored Division (GWS), left to attend the Information-Education Staff School, Cite Universitaire in Paris.

20 November 1944:-

The left column of CC "A" which had bivouacked for the night west of Virming, moved out through the village in the morning. North of Virming the column was held up for some times by road blocks and bad road conditions. The column passed through the village of Obrick without meeting any opposition. At the approaches of Francaltroff intense mortar, artillery and rocket fire forced a withdrawal to more tenable positions southwest of the town. The artillery units of the column, 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and a battery of the 191st Field Artillery Battalion laid a barrage on the town and B and C Companies of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion made a coordinated assault on foot. The artillery fire had forced the enemy to withdraw and the infantry companies met only scattered enemy resistance. Between Francaltroff and Lening the column was forced to halt because of a wrecked bridge. Enemy artillery fire from the vicinity of Mantlilier was zeroed in on the bridge and the engineers could not rebuild it. Darkness was setting in and as the area between Francaltroff and Lening was flooded it was decided to withdraw the column to the vicinity of Obreck to bivouack for the night. Enemy units contacted at Francaltroff were identified as being from the 11th Panzer Division.

The right column of CC "A" moved out from its area in the vicinity of Gerbecourt and followed the same route as taken by the left column on the previous day. The column moved into a position south of Bermoring for the night. There was no contact with the enemy today. The 66th Armored FA Bn with the right column moved into position near Rodalbe. Co. "D" of the 37th Tank Bn which had moved with the right column was placed in reserve and was replaced by Company "C" of the 37th. The 25th Cav Recon Sq was given the mission of protecting the right flank of CC "A" and reconnoitering as far as the Saar River.

CC "B" moved out from its area at Courbesseaux and by the time it had reached Vic-sur-Seille the units which were to be attached to this command had joined the

20 November 1944:- (cont)

column. These units had been enjoying a short rest period in villages in the vicinity of Courbesseaux. From Vic-sur-Seille the column passed through Moyenvic, Mulcey, Dieuze, Vergaville, Bidestroff, and the head of the column stopped for the night one mile west of Dornon-les-Dieuze. The rest of the units of the column bivouacked along the road in the most suitable places as the head of the column was at Dornon-les-Dieuze and the rear of the column was near Mulcey. Some of the units were in Dieuze clearing debris from the road and filling craters to make passage easier for the rest of CC"B". No contact was made with the enemy during the day. The 51st Armd Inf Bn rejoined the column after aiding the 26th Infantry Division in taking Dieuze. After putting up a stiff resistance yesterday the enemy withdrew from the town during the night and not much resistance was encountered in taking Dieuze.

Forward Echelon moved from its old bivouac area at Chateau Salins (Salzburgen) at 1325 and closed in the new area at Haboudange 1415.

Our casualties:

Killed
0 Off
5 EM

Wounded
4 Off
22 EM

Missing
None

21 November 1944:-

CC"B" was divided into two columns for the day's operations. The left column was commanded by Lt Col Jaques while the right column was led by Major Churchill. Troops in the left column included 53, B/8, C/25, Sec/24, Sect/704, Btry/489 and 253, while troops in the other force included 8, Sec/24, 22, and 179.

The left column moved out from the vicinity of Dornon-les-Dieuze passing through Lestroff, Guinzeling, and was halted two kilometers south of Torcheville without encountering the enemy. On the way to Munster the column received enemy fire from the Forêt dom D'Albestroff. This opposition consisted of a 20mm gun, machine guns and small arms fire from entrenched infantry. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn dismounted from their vehicles to clear this enemy opposition from the woods and were making good progress when a division order came through that the 26th Infantry Division was to relieve the force led by Lt Col Jaques and a new order of attack would be forthcoming. The left column withdrew from the Forêt dom D'Albestroff and outposted the town of Torcheville for the night.

The right column of CC"B" was first ordered to remain in Corps Reserve at their present position between Moyenvic and Dieuze. This order was later rescinded and the force was ordered to proceed to Penrance via Mittersheim to seize crossings over the Saar River wherever possible. Movement was extremely slow as the enemy had destroyed nearly every bridge over the many streams between Dieuze and Mittersheim. The force found that time was saved in finding by-passes instead of waiting for the bridges to be repaired. By nightfall the head of the column was immediately east of Loudfrefing and the remainder was in the vicinity of Cutting. They bivouacked in these respective areas for the night.

The right column of CC"A" moved out from the bivouac area in the vicinity of Bermering with orders to pass the left column and lead the attack in the direction of Lening. Northwest of Lening the force was halted while a blown bridge was repaired. They proceeded on toward Lening and on the outskirts found another bridge destroyed and defended by artillery and small arms fire. The artillery fire was coming from the village of Lening. Troop "D" of the 25th Cav Recon Sqdn

together with units from the 35th Inf Div by-passed the bridge, entered the village and soon wiped out the rear guard left by the enemy. The remainder of the task force then moved into Lening, where it was found necessary to repair two more bridges and clear a tank barrier. The time spent in construction of bridges forced the column to bivouac in Lening.

The left column of CC"A", waiting in Obrick for the right force to clear the many blown bridges which delayed their progress through Lening, remained in the vicinity of Obrick for the night. The flooded conditions in the lowland areas made movement very difficult.

A letter was received today by the Division Commander from Lt Gen George S. Patton, Jr., Commander of the Third US Army, pertaining to the serious menace of trench foot. He said that the responsibility for the prevention of trench foot rested with both officers and men. Gen Patton also made some sound recommendations to be followed to decrease the incidence of the disease.

Enemy losses for the day included 50 wounded, and one 20mm and one 40mm gun destroyed.

Our casualties were:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
3 Off	0 Off	None
3 EM	8 EM	

22 November 1944:-

CC"A", with the exception of the artillery, on order, withdrew from its positions and assembled in the area Rodalbe-Contuil-Zarbeling in preparation to move on a new mission. Forward elements of CC "A" were in Lening and immediately began moving to the new assembly area. The route taken by CC"A" took it through Francaltruff, Obrick, Bermering, Virming and Rodalbe. All units closed in the assembly area at 1350. The artillery units remained in their previous positions to support the attack of the 26th Inf Div. The following changes took place in the units with CC "A": the 37th Tank Bn was assigned to Reserve Command in the vicinity of Riche and the 35th Tank Bn assigned to CC"A" in its place; the 51st Armd Inf Bn replaced the 10th Armd Inf Bn which went in Reserve Command. Units of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqn screened and maintained contact between the 35th and 26th Inf Divisions. The troop list of CC"A" was as follows: 35, 51, 25(C), A & C/24, B/704, D/489, Det/995, A/46, and A/126.

The left column of CC"B" moved out in the morning from bivouac areas in the vicinity of Cutting and Ludrefing. About halfway between Ludrefing and Mittersheim a destroyed railway overpass had covered the road with debris and it was necessary to clear the road before they could continue. As the column approached Mittersheim it was met by machine gun fire and fire from depressed 20mm anti-aircraft guns. The guns of the 8th Tank Bn opened up on these enemy positions and forced the enemy to flee. The 8th was now leading the column as it entered Mittersheim and the firing of this battalion forced the enemy tanks in the town to leave hurriedly. In Mittersheim the bridge leading across a canal had been destroyed and Co "B" of the 24th Armd Eng Bn did a very rapid job in repairing it. They laid a thirty-six foot treadway bridge in one hour and fifteen minutes. The large dam west of Mittersheim which held back the water to form the Grand Etang de Mittersheim was checked for possible demolitions but none were found. Higher headquarters was notified of the dam and it was suggested to them to investigate for more complex demolitions. The column left Mittersheim and proceeded toward

Fenetrange at 1400 but were immediately through under enemy artillery fire from the north. The force halted while the 8th Tank Bn reconnoitered the area north of the road. The tanks encountered heavy fire from hidden enemy positions and were forced to withdraw. In the light of this information the column outposted Mittersheim and bivouacked there for the night. Sporadic artillery fire fell in the town throughout the night. Enemy units contacted here included the 1st Co. of the 815th Super Heavy Machine Gun Bn. The left column of CC "B" remained in the vicinity of Torcheville throughout the day assembling to move out on order. There was no contact with the enemy today.

Our casualties were:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
0 Off	0 Off	None
1 EM	2 EM	

23 November 1944:-

The left column of CC "B" waited in Mittersheim until the 22nd Armd FA Bn displaced their guns in that area. With the 8th at the head, the left column moved out of Mittersheim at 0845. Approximately two kilometers east of the town they ran into small arms fire from enemy outposts, but machine gun fire from our tanks neutralized the enemy fire. The force reached Fenetrange at 1000 where they encountered enemy resistance composed of infantry rear guard action with artillery firing into the town from across the Saar River. Fenetrange was cleared of the enemy by 1110 and Troop "C" of the 25th Cav Recon Sqn was dispatched to inspect bridges spanning the Saar River at towns south of Fenetrange. This patrol found a suitable crossing at Remelfing and Gosselming but a 125 foot bridge was needed at Berthelming. Flood waters were reported at Gosselming with the river still rising. The patrol also crossed the river at Gosselming and entered the town of Bettborn without any resistance. At Fenetrange the engineers were working on a 90 foot Bailey Bridge. The left column outposted Fenetrange and remained there for the night. The 25th Cav Recon Sqn Mecs had the honor of having the first US Troops across the Saar River.

The right column of CC "B" was ordered to move out from its assembly area near Torcheville to follow the left column. Bad road conditions prevented the force from going farther than Lostroff where a bivouac area was established for the night.

Both columns of CC "A" remained in their assembly area in the vicinity of Redalbe, Conthil and Zarbeling awaiting the order to move. The 66th and 94th Armd P. Bns who had remained in the vicinity of Wirming to support the 25th Inf Div were ordered to move to support CC "B", and by nightfall had reached Vergaville, where they bivouacked for the night. Troop "D" of the 25th Recon Sqn, which had been with CC "A", was ordered under division control to proceed to Mittersheim. No units of CC "A" were in contact with the enemy.

The 191st Field Artillery Bn which had been attached to the 4th Armored Div all through France, left today to become attached to the 6th Armored Division.

Five squads of Co "A" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn, now attached to Reserve Command were guarding bridges at Meyenvic and Vic-sur-Seille, three squads were at Meyenvic and two at Vic-sur-Seille.

The 130th Panzer Lehr Div was reported moving westward toward the Saar River to halt the advance of the 4th Armored Division.

The spirit of Thanksgiving was not entirely forgotten as a turkey dinner was available to every man of the division and church services were held wherever possible.

Enemy losses during the day included 25 killed, 11 prisoners of war, 12 prisoners of war deserters, and 3 artillery pieces destroyed.

Our casualties were:-

Killed
0 Off
3 EM

Wounded
0 Off
4 EM

Missing
0 Off
0 EM

24 November 1944:-

CC"A" was ordered to move into position to be ready to follow CC"B" across the Saar River. The units of CC"A" moved from their bivouac areas in the vicinity of Conthil, Radalbe, and Zربولing via the Conthil-Dieuze Road to small villages in the vicinity of Dieuze. Following are the villages in which the units bivouaced: 35th Tank Bn in Zommange; D/489 and B/704 in Didestroff; C/24 and A/24 moved to Bois Brule and Providence Farms south of the highway between Dieuze and Loudrefing; A/46 in Lindre-Haut; A/126 in Gusbestroff. The 66th and 94th Armd FA Bns moved from Vergaville to Mittersheim to assist CC"B" in crossing the Saar River. The command was divided into two task forces for the march with Lt Col Oden and Major Van Arnam in command of the two columns. Oden's force was composed of A/25, 35(-BC) A/51, 66, A/24, and B/704. Van Arnam's column included platoon A/25, C/35, Section B/704, B/51, Squad C/24, Hq 51, 94, D/489, and Div Arty. During the afternoon a task force led by Major McKene was sent from the vicinity of Dieuze via Loudrefing, Mittersheim and Fenetrance to Niederstinzeln to protect CC"B"'s left flank. This force was composed of B/35 and A/51 and was under control of CC"B". They encountered artillery fire between Fenetrance and Niederstinzeln and withdrew to high ground northwest of Fenetrance.

The right column of CC"B" led by Major Churchill moved from its bivouac area at Fenetrance and began crossing the Saar River at Romelfing at 0830. By 0950 the force had reached Postroff and had seized the high ground west of the town where they were to wait for the force led by Lt Col Jaques to meet them from Baerendorf. They received intermittent artillery fire from northeast of Postroff. The 22nd Armd FA Bn which had displaced its guns in Fenetrance was subjected to a heavy artillery barrage soon after the columns of CC"B" had crossed the Saar. The 22nd moved across the river to a position directly east of Romelfing.

The left column of CC"B", commanded by Lt Col Jaques, left its assembly area at Lestroff and moved via Loudrefing, Mittersheim, Fenetrance, and Berthalming to Cosselming where it crossed the Saar River. By 0930 the force had reached Helling and entered the village without opposition. Then they moved northward to Kirrberg which was heavily mined. Enroute from Kirrberg to Baerendorf the column was met by artillery, anti-tank and machine gun fire from the vicinity of Baerendorf. The approaches to the village were heavily mined and Co. "B" of the 8th Tank Bn had two tanks disabled when they ran over mines. The bridge over a small stream southwest of Baerendorf had been destroyed and flood conditions made bridge construction difficult. This condition did not halt the 53rd Armd Inf Bn as they made a human chain and succeeded in fording the stream. Baerendorf was surrounded by high ground on three sides and the taking of this ground was very important in taking the town itself. Tanks of the 8th Tank Bn were deployed to give the infantry protective artillery fire as they assaulted the high ground. The speed of their assault quickly overcame the enemy positions and the force held the high ground on three sides of the town. At 1340 infantry supported by tanks began its attack on Baerendorf and the enemy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire was intense. The fight for Baerendorf was a house to house struggle and it was not until 1630 that the enemy was driven out. The enemy defending Baerendorf consisted of two companies of the 1st Battalion of the 902nd Panzer Grenadier Regt, who had instructions to hold the town until the 130th Panzer Lehr Division arrived. After taking the town the high ground around it was outposted for the night. At 2305 a German patrol attempted to infiltrate

our lines but was discovered and the attempt was repulsed.

Enemy losses for the day included 3 tanks, 11 AT guns, 60 killed, 20 wounded, and 140 prisoners.

Our casualties were:-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
<u>1 Off</u>	<u>2 Off</u>	<u>0 Off</u>
11 EM	33 EM	2 EM

25 November 1944:-

The left column of CC "B" led by Major Churchill moved from its position on high ground east of Postroff into the town itself. The force received concentrated artillery fire from northeast of the town. Orders came through for both columns to move forward and coordinate attacks on the towns of Wolfskirchen and Eywiller. The left force moved northward from Postroff but heavy artillery fire from the north-east forced them to halt. They established a defense line north of Postroff for the night.

The right column of CC "B" which had outposted Baerendorf received a strong enemy counter-attack from the east at 0445, 200 to 300 infantry and a platoon of tanks from the strong 130th Panzer Lehr Div spearheaded the attack. The battle was fought immediately east of Baerendorf near a bridge across a small stream. Our forces could hear the tanks approaching but darkness prevented seeing them. Our tanks of Co "B" of the 8th Tank Bn did not fire on the enemy until they were at close range for fear of disclosing their positions. In the meantime, the enemy infantry had driven between the 8th Tank Bn and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn cutting them off. The situation was grave and the small arms and mortar fire was heavy. Our engineers had prepared the bridge for demolition in case the column was forced to withdraw, but B/8 knocked out two of the enemy tanks and withering fire from dug-in machine gun positions cut heavily into the ranks of the enemy and forced them to retreat. Co B of the 8th lost one tank during the engagement and were forced to abandon two others which were later recovered. Both sides lost heavily in personnel. Sporadic artillery fire was received throughout the day from enemy tanks which would appear on the ridge east of Postroff, fire a few rounds into the town and then withdraw. Preparation was made to move toward Eywiller but heavy artillery fire from that direction forced them to remain in the vicinity of Baerendorf.

The task force commanded by Major McKene from CC "A", but now under control of CC "B", reinforced by a company of infantry from the 10th, prepared to attack Niederstinzeln from their position in the Bois de Fenestrang northwest of Fenestrang. They assaulted the town on foot and by 1130 succeeded in clearing most of the town, but constant artillery fire from the north forced them to withdraw to their original position.

The 51st Armd Inf Bn which had been with 2nd Command was ordered to support CC "B" and was given the mission of attacking the Bois de Milsch northeast of Fenestrang on the east side of the Saar River. The battalion moved from its assembly area near Dieuze via Loudrefing and Mittersheim to Fenestrang. They dismounted and crossed the bridge over the Saar on foot. The 22nd Armd TA Bn fired a preparatory barrage into the woods before the 51st moved in. The enemy shelled the woods and these bursts proved very costly in personnel but by 1630 the 51st had cleared the woods. In this attack the 51st captured 22 prisoners, killed 15, and destroyed 5 machine guns, 2 - 40mm guns, and 1 - 20mm gun. All division artillery was ordered to support CC "B".

The CP of CC "B" received enemy artillery fire at Mittersheim in the morning from enemy positions to the north as the 26th Inf Division had not completely cleared the enemy from the Bois de Hammersbiel. In the afternoon the CP moved to Fenestrang and along with B/24 and a section of the 995th who were working on a bridge received heavy artillery fire from the north and east.

Nov 1944 - 19

The units of CC "A" were not in contact with the enemy but there was considerable preparation and regrouping in progress. The 10th Armd Inf Bn was attached to CC "A" and moved from Lidrequin via Kerperch-les-Dieuze and Dieuze to Forbach. The 35th Tank Bn and 1/70th moved from Zommange through Louvrefing, Mittersbach. The 35th Tank Bn and 1/70th moved from Zommange through Louvrefing, Mittersheim, Benetrange and Romelfing to Bartholming to protect the bridge across the Saar River. The rest of the units of CC "A" remained in their bivouac areas but plans were being made to regroup on the east bank of the Saar. The CP of CC "A" moved from Lidestroff through Cutting and Louvrefing to Mittersheim, closing in at 1600. Forward Echelon moved from Haboundange at 1115 and closed in the new area in Louvrefing at 1345.

The 409th Armd Inf Bn was authorized a new TO and E effective today. Under the new organization the unit is authorized 37 officers, 2 warrant officers and 664 men. Enemy losses for the day included 6 Mark IV tanks, 3 Mark V tanks, 1 other tank, 1 assault gun, 3 anti-tank guns, 7 self-propelled guns, 5 staff cars, 2 trucks, 5 machine guns, 47 prisoners, 133 killed and 150 wounded.

Our casualties for the day were:-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
0 Off	3 Off	0 Off
15 EM	49 EM	9 EM

26 November 1944:-

The right column of CC "A" which repulsed a heavy counter-attack at Eschendorf moved from that area with orders to assault Eywiller. The 53d Armd Inf Bn moved on foot from the vicinity of Eschendorf and seized the high ground, Hill 307, northeast of Eschendorf. This route was not suitable for the vehicles of the column because of the terrain conditions and there was also a bridge out. The vehicles moved from Eschendorf to Postroff, which had been captured by Major Churchill's forces, and then northeast toward Eschwiller. The force moved into Eschwiller at 1535 and seized the town without opposition. Continuing northward they ran into heavy artillery fire between Eschwiller and Eywiller. It was also necessary to repair a bridge and clear much debris from the road so the force was delayed for some time. The column bivouacked for the night on high ground west of Eywiller on the edge of the Bois d'Eywiller.

The left column of CC "B" which had set up a defense line immediately north of Postroff and in the Bois de l'lech was ordered to move towards Wolfskirchen. Co "C" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn which had been with Major McKone's task force was ordered to rejoin its battalion. The attack jumped off at 0730 and by 0910 the column had reached a stream just south of Wolfskirchen. The bridge over the stream was intact but heavy artillery and mortar fire from Wolfskirchen prevented the crossing of the stream. The 22nd Armd FA Bn retaliated and kept the enemy under heavy artillery fire. They bivouacked on the south bank of the stream for the night. A patrol from C/51 was sent out to see if the bridge at Niederstinzeln was intact. The bridge was found to be out, but on the way back the patrol encountered an enemy patrol and captured six members of this group. During the night an enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate our lines to destroy the bridge across the stream south of Wolfskirchen. Small arms fire from our outposts drove the enemy away before they could accomplish their mission.

The units of CC "A" which had bivouacked in small villages on the road from Dieuze to Mittersheim were ordered to move via Benetrange and Romelfing to an assembly area in the vicinity of Kirrberg. The light vehicles crossed the temporary bridge at Benetrange and moved to Kirrberg while the heavy equipment crossed the permanent bridge at Romelfing. Major McKone's task force which had been attached to CC "B" in the vicinity of Niederstinzeln rejoined CC "A" at Kirrberg. The 94th Armd FA Bn moved from Mittersheim to Bartholming through the Bois de Benetrange and then to Romelfing

where they emplaced their guns. The 35th Tank Bn which had moved to Berthelming the previous day joined the column of heavy vehicles and crossed the Saar River at Romelfing. Companies "A" and "C" of the 24th Armd Eng Bn moved from Zommange to Kirrberg via Guermange, Bisping, St. Jean-de-Bassel, and Romelfing. By 1100 the units of CC"A" had reached the assembly area at Kirrberg. The Combat Command was divided into two task forces, one led by Lt Col West and the other by Lt Col Oden. West's task force included the 10th Inf less "B" and "C", C/35, and a platoon of B/704. Oden's force consisted of 35th Tank Bn less "A" and "C", C/10, A/25, A/24, and B/704 minus one platoon.

At 1300 both columns moved out from Kirrberg with the Oden column in the lead. The right (Oden) column moved south from Kirrberg through Hellingering and Coerlingen to Rauwiller and then east to Schalbach. The left column waited in Kirrberg until the right column had cleared Rauwiller and then followed them from Raumiller to Schalbach. At Schalbach the columns split with the left column proceeding north through Weyer to Drulingen. They bivouacked on high ground north of Drulingen. The right force went from Schalbach to Metting, Siewiller and Ottwiller. They took up positions north of Ottwiller for the night. Neither column encountered enemy resistance during the day although sporadic artillery fire was received at night. C/24, A/35, and B/10 which were in CC"A" reserve moved from Kirrberg to Weyer during the night.

The 37th Tank Bn which was with Reserve Command moved from Riche via Conthil and Dieuze to Rorbach.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were: 50 killed, 125 wounded, 30 prisoners, 5 88mm guns, 1 Mark IV tank, 2 half-tracks and 2 machine guns destroyed.

Our casualties were:	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	0 Off	0 Off	0 Off
	5 EM	19 EM	0 EM

27 November 1944:-

Both combat commands received very heavy artillery fire throughout the day but their close coordination in attacks enabled them to progress. The famous enemy 130th Panzer Lehr Division and its component elements were beginning to weaken from the relentless pressure of the 4th Armd Div.

The right force of CC"B" which had consolidated high ground west of Eywiller received heavy artillery fire from the woods northwest of the town. Enemy infantry and tanks of the 130th Panzer Lehr Div were in Eywiller in a position to halt the attacks of our forces. This enemy pressure was relieved by the left force of CC"A" capturing Gungwiller, northwest of Eywiller. Air support rendered by the XV Corps was also influential in aiding our forces in taking Eywiller. They flew one mission in the morning and another in the afternoon bombing and strafing targets in the town and in the woods northwest of the town. With this support the force launched an attack on Eywiller and by 1730 had driven the enemy remnants from the town. The column outposted Eywiller for the night. The 71st Combat Team of the 44th Inf Div arrived in the evening to support the attack of CC"B".

The left column of CC"B" which had bivouacked on the south bank of a stream south of Wolfskirchen received heavy artillery fire from the woods east of Wolfskirchen but at 1010 launched an attack on the town. The 51st Armd Inf Bn in coordination with the 8th Tank Bn outflanked the town by taking the high ground to the northeast. Elements of the 102nd Panzer Brigade in the town saw that their position was untenable so they hurriedly fled from the town. When our forces moved in they found 7 machine guns, 2 mortars, and 7 rocket launchers that had been left by the enemy. Heavy artillery fire from the north forced the column to remain in the vicinity of Wolfskirchen for the night.

The right column of CC"A" moved out at 1100 from its position north of Ottwiller to attack Durstel. The town was well defended by infantry and artillery but

by 1315 our forces were fighting in the outskirts. The 35th Tank Bn encountered four enemy tanks and after knocking out one the other three fled. The town was heavily mined and booby trapped and the 35th lost two tanks due to mines. Enemy artillery also knocked out two other tanks. Three of these tanks were later recovered. Our tanks and infantry inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and by 1750 Durstel was cleared. The column withdrew to more tenable positions southeast of Durstel and this proved to be a wise move as the enemy unleashed a terrific artillery barrage on Durstel after our forces had withdrawn. During the battle for Durstel the check point list was captured by the enemy. All units were notified of this and were told a new list would be forthcoming.

The left force of CC"A" moved from its position north of Drulingen at 1315 to attack Gunswiller. Prior to the attack the 94th Armd FA Bn and the 704th TD Bn fired several hundred preparatory rounds into the town. In moving to the attack Co "A" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn rode on the tanks of Co "C" of the 35th Tank Bn. Just short of the town the tanks were deployed on one side of the town and the tank destroyers on the other with the infantry attacking in the center. This coordinated attack drove most of the elements of the 130th Panzer Lehr Div from the town but many enemy infantry had to be routed from cellars with grenades and flame throwers. Drulingen was taken by 1430 and the column bivouacked on high ground to the north.

Troop "D" of the 25th Cav Recon Sq was doing dismounted patrolling through the Bois de Bonnefontaine while Tr "E" seized Diedendorf without opposition. During the day the Reserve Command CP moved from Haboudange to Mittersheim; CC"A" CP and Trains moved from Dieuze to St. Jean de Bassel; the 94th Armd FA Bn moved to Veckerswiller to be in a position to support either combat command.

Enemy losses during the day were as follows: 122 killed, 138 wounded, 72 prisoners of war, 2 tanks, 5 artillery pieces, 16 mortars, 2 machine guns and 7 rocket launchers.

Our casualties were:	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	1 Off	5 Off	0 Off
	8 EM	59 EM	1 EM

28 November 1944:-

The right column of CC"B" which had bivouacked on high ground west of Eywiller, together with elements of the 71st Combat Team of the 44th Inf Div, moved out at 0800 with Berg as the objective. The 71st Combat Team cleared the woods east of Eywiller while CC"B" cleared the Bois de Wolsthof northwest of Eywiller. Little opposition was encountered in the woods and by 1100 the force had occupied high ground, Hill 355, northwest of Gungwiller. The column proceeded on toward Berg and with no opposition took the town at 1630. All bridges in the town were in good condition indicating that the enemy had left hurriedly. Some enemy artillery rounds fell in Berg from Hill 278 to the north but the 22nd Armd FA Bn silenced these guns with artillery fire. The force passed on through Berg and took Hill 278 north of Berg where they bivouacked for the night.

The left column of CC"B" waited in Wolfskirchen until the right force had cleared the Bois de Wolsthof east of Wolfskirchen. A message was received that the woods had been cleared and they moved out at 1300 to attack Burbach. Co C of the 51st Armd Inf Bn proceeded ahead and took the high ground northeast of Wolfskirchen to cover the march of the rest of the force. The column moved north from Wolfskirchen along the edge of the Bois de Wolsthof. They entered Burbach without opposition but soon afterwards the enemy laid a heavy artillery barrage in the town from the north. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn and the 8th Tank Bn moved on through Burbach to occupy high ground overlooking the Saar-Union-Drulingen highway.

The left column of CC"B" waited until CC"B" had taken Berg before they moved. At 1300 word was received that Berg had been taken so the force moved out toward Bottwiller. There was no opposition in Bottwiller and the column moved on rapidly

to Rexingen. Although there were no enemy forces in Rexingen the town was heavily mined and booby trapped and four bridges had been destroyed in that vicinity. The Engineers spent most of the night working on the bridges and cleared mines and booby traps.

The right force of CC "A" led by Lt Col Oden remained in their bivouac area in the vicinity of Asswiller. There was no activity in their area during the day. The 66th and 94th Armd FA Bns fired several barrages during the day in support of the 114th Inf Regt on the right flank of CC "A".

Forward Echelon moved from Loudrefing at 1100 through Mittersheim and closed in Fenetrange at 1150.

4th Armd Div Casualties were:-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
0 Off	0 Off	0 Off
11 EM	15 EM	0 EM

29 November 1944:-

The left column of CC "E" was ordered to attack Rimsdorf. At 0830, with B/51 riding on the tanks of A/8, the leading elements moved out of their bivouac area north of Furbach. B/51 and A/8 moved through the Bois le Geisbusch and emerging from the woods were met by heavy opposition of enemy tanks and infantry from a ridge southeast of Saarewerden. The rest of the column began moving on a direct route to Rimsdorf but heavy artillery fire from the vicinity of Rimsdorf forced them to halt. Some reconnaissance elements reached Rimsdorf but were driven back by strong opposition and the entire column bivouacked on high ground north of Furbach. Burbach received intermittent artillery fire throughout the day and night.

The 71st Combat Team from the 44th Inf Div was released from attachment to the right column of CC "E" and returned to its organization. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn remained in Berg and took advantage of the opportunity to care for vehicles, equipment and personnel needs. The rest of the force moved out at 1100 from north of Berg and headed for Thal. Forward elements reported a blown bridge in Thal so plans were made to bypass the town. In trying to find an alternate route the column encountered artillery, anti-tank and small arms fire. Fog was heavy and it was difficult to ascertain the direction of the enemy artillery fire so our artillery could direct their fire. After several attempts the force found a passable road and with B/8 leading, succeeded in taking Hill 357 north of Thal at 1405. Jacques' force bivouacked for the night in that area.

The left column of CC "A" which had outposted Bexingen was forced to remain in that area. Most of the day was spent in constructing bridges and removing booby traps and mines. Heavy artillery fire was received from the direction of Mackwiller and most of the artillery of CC "A" returned this fire. Poor visibility made it impossible to discern the success of the barrage.

The right force of CC "A" moved out from their position north of Asswiller and passed through Durstel which they had cleared the previous day. They proceeded on to Adamswiller and took the town against weak enemy rear guard action. The plan was to divide the force into two columns and advance on both sides of the Bois de Todtenberg to attack Mackwiller. They found four bridges destroyed north of Rexingen and repaired three of those but heavy artillery fire from Mackwiller prevented construction of the fourth. During the day the column removed 108 box type mines from its path. E/10 replaced A/10 and outposted

29 November 1944:- (cont)

Pexingen for the night while A/10 went back to Drulingen to rest.

During the day Troop "B" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn and the 22nd Armd FA Bn fired continuously for fifteen minutes on Saar-Union. After this barrage Troop "B" moved into the city from Harskirchen and received heavy artillery and small arms fire. They withdrew to the vicinity of Saarewerden. The 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn reported 10 enemy killed and one 75mm gun destroyed.

The Administrative Center moved from one mile west of Toul to Chateau Salins. Our casualties during the day were:

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
0 Off	0 Off	0 Off
3 EM	25 EM	3 EM

30 November 1944: -

Both columns of CC "E" held their present positions in preparation for the coming attack on Saar-Union and the high ground surrounding it. This attack was made in coordination with the 26th Inf Div. The left column was assembled north of Burbach while the right force had bivouacked on the high ground., Hill 357, north of Thal. Both forces received sporadic artillery fire and several enemy patrols were dispersed by small arms fire.

The right column of CC "A" remained in the same position as on the previous day, in the vicinity of Pexingen. Co. "E" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn moved up to join the left force of CC "A". The left force moved out from the vicinity of Pexingen at 1500 to take the high ground southeast of Mackwiller. An artillery barrage prior to the attack caused the enemy in that area to flee. The high ground was taken without a single shot being fired from our advancing forces. The purpose of this assault was to put the force in a better position for the coming attack. During the night the column received sporadic artillery fire and several enemy patrols were driven off.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq in patrol activities in the vicinity of Saar-Union reported fifteen enemy killed and one anti-tank gun destroyed.

The 37th Tank Bn moved from Rorbach via Loudrefing to Mittersheim.

November Summary:-

The activities of the Fourth Armored Division for the month may be divided into three phases:

1. The thrust to the Conthil-Rodalbe area threatened the enemy in the vicinity of Morhange to a degree that forced him to withdraw from the Chateau-Salins forest and Delna Ridge area.

2. The forty-eight hour battle in the vicinity of Guebling consumed strategic reserves of the enemy west of the Saar River.

3. The drive north from Kirrberg and Schalbach to high ground in the Gungwiller-Durstel-Mackwiller area enabled the infantry divisions on the left and right of the 4th Armd Div to advance against minimum opposition.

November Summary:- (cont)

The fanatical resistance of the enemy coupled with bad weather and soft terrain conditions hindered the advances of the division. Artillery barrages laid down by the enemy were the heaviest encountered by the division during the battle of France. Numerous road-blocks, mine-fields, and well concealed anti-tank guns materially delayed our progress. Enemy units engaged in November included the 11th Panzer Div, 130th Panzer Lehr Div, 25th Panzer Grenadier Div, and the 559th Grenadier Div.

November Statistics:-

A. Equipment.

1. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed during the period 9 November to 7 December 1944:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. 5 Mark VI Tanks | g. 25 - 88mm Towed AT Guns |
| b. 5 Mark V Tanks | h. 21 - 75mm Towed AT Guns |
| c. 6 Mark IV tanks | i. 21 AT Guns (various cal.) |
| d. 45 Tanks (type unknown) | j. 10 - 40mm AA Guns |
| e. 8 SP Assault Guns | k. 4 - 75mm Towed How. |
| f. 6 - 75mm SP AT Guns | l. 19 artillery pieces (Cal unknown) |
| r. 1 - 20mm AA Gun | t. 5 Prime Movers |
| n. 1 Heavy Bazooka | u. 29 Vehicles (type unknown) |
| o. 10 Mortars | v. 5 Staff Cars |
| p. 9 Half Tracks | w. 2 Motorcycles |
| q. 10 Machine Guns | x. 1 Bus |
| r. 2 Armored Cars | y. 3 Horse-Drawn Carts |
| s. 10 trucks | z. 3 Pillboxes |

2. Vehicles lost due to enemy action by the 4th Armored Div and attached units from 1 November to 30 November 1944:

- a. 36 Medium Tanks
- b. 10 Light Tanks
- c. 2 Motor Carriage 105mm, How. M7
- d. 3 Motor Carriage 75mm, How. M8
- e. 2 Motor Carriage 76mm, Gun M13
- f. 33 Personnel Carrier, Half Truck
- g. 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Truck, 4x4
- h. 3 Weapons Carriers, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton
- i. 6 Ambulances, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4x4
- j. 1 Truck, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 6x6
- k. 14 Trucks, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 6x6
- l. 13 Trailers, 1 ton, 2 wheel
- m. 2 Trailers, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 2 wheel
- n. 7 Ammunition Trailers, M10

F. Casualties, Battle:-

1. Enemy:
 - a. Killed - 1575 (estimated)
 - b. Wounded - 939 (estimated)
 - c. Prisoners of War - 1095
2. 4th Armd Div:
 - a. Killed - 22 Officers, 198 EM
 - b. Wounded - 47 Officers, 758 EM
 - c. Missing - 5 Officers, 33 EM

G. Casualties, Non-battle:-

- a. 29 Officers, 1108 EM
 - (1). There were 425 cases of Trench Foot and 399 of Combat

Exhaustion.

D. Returned to Duty:-

1. From battle casualties: 11 Officers, 197 EM
2. From non-battle casualties: 9 Officers, 207 EM

E. Replacements:

1. 95 Officers, 836 EM

F. Strength, Division (30 Nov 1944)

1. 616 Officers, 51 WO, 9841 EM

G. Promotions, Field Grade:

1. To Colonel
 - a. Watt, David A., Jr. - Trains Commanding Officer - Hq 4th Armd

Div Tns.

2. To Lt Colonel
 - a. Van Wagener, James H. - Chief Civil Affairs Officer - Hq 4th

Armd Division (CA)

3. To Major
 - a. Johnson, Elmer G. - Asst Div QM - Hq 4th Armd Div (CA)

H. Promotions:

1. To Captain -4
2. To 1st Lieutenant -6

I. Battlefield Promotions:

1. To 1st Lieutenant-6

J. Battlefield Appointments (2nd Lieutenant)

1. 8th Tank Bn - 1
2. 704th TD Bn - 2
3. 53rd Armd Inf Bn - 1

K. Awards:

1. Distinguished Service Cross
 - a. Lt Colonel Creighton W. Abrams - Commanding Officer, 37th Tank

En. For extraordinary heroism against the enemy near Arracourt, France on
20 Sept 1944.

Warrior Statistics:- (cont)

2.	Silver Star - 52; 9 Oak Leaf Clusters	
3.	Bronze Star - 290; 11 Oak Leaf Clusters	
4.	Air Medal - 1; 3 Oak leaf clusters	
5.	Purple Heart - (Awarded by 4th Army Div) - 204.	
L.	Ammunition Expenditure (November)	
1.	105mm Howitzer	43,577
2.	76mm Gun	1,746
3.	75mm Gun	10,054
4.	75mm Howitzer	1,354
5.	57mm Gun	332
6.	37mm Gun	2,040
7.	81mm Mortar	1,937
8.	60mm Mortar	2,398
9.	2" Mort Smk Bomb	90
10.	Rocket 2.36"	3,320
11.	Grenade, Hand Asst	2,742
12.	Grenade, Rifle, Asst	1,470
13.	Mines, Asst	365
14.	Signal, Pyro Asst	1,008
15.	Adapt Grd Proj M1	912
16.	Cart Grd Carb M6	2,700
17.	Fuze, CPT 105	500
18.	Torpedo, Bangalore	20
19.	Carbine	165,000
20.	Cal..30 Asst	983,288
21.	Cal..45 Ball	131,400
22.	Cal..50 Asst	122,075

1 December 1944:-

The Fourth Armored Division began a coordinated attack toward Saar-Union and the high ground northeast of it.

The left column of CC "B" which had bivouacked north of Burbach moved to the attack at 0800 with the high ground east of Rimsdorf as the first objective. Co "B" of the 51st Arm'd Inf Bn rode on the tanks of Co "C" of the 8th Tank Bn. The CC "B" attack was parallel to and in coordination with the attack of the 101st Regt of the 26th Inf Div to the west of Rimsdorf. The force found Rimsdorf unoccupied and immediately moved toward the woods northeast of Rimsdorf. By 0845 they had taken this objective and consolidated their position to wait for the right column to move into the woods from the right. At 1220 an enemy counterattack of infantry and tanks was repulsed when Co "C" of the 8th Tank Bn knocked out four enemy tanks without losing one. Major Van Arnam, commanding officer of the 51st Arm'd Inf Bn, was wounded during the attack and Captain Rockafeller assumed command of the battalion. The force in its bivouac area northeast of Rimsdorf received heavy artillery fire at night from the north.

The objective of the right column of CC "B" was Hill 318 northwest of Mackwiller. They left their bivouac area north of Thal at 0800 to attack the objective. The advance elements were pinned down by mortar, small arms, and anti-aircraft fire from Le Faessbusch. Elements of the 25th Panzer Division and the 130th Panzer Lehr Division were well entrenched in the woods. The right column was ordered to hold its position and the Oden Force of CC "A" was ordered to move over to aid them in the assault on Hill 318. The air support for CC "B" destroyed one locomotive, 30 railroad cars, 2 tanks and 2 armored cars. There was considerable tank activity in the CC "B" area but mostly out of range of our guns.

The right column of CC "A" led by Lt Col Oden which had bivouacked in the vicinity of Rexingen was ordered to advance on Dondessel, seize the town and establish a bridgehead over the stream there. The left column of CC "A" was to support this with artillery from its position north of Rexingen. At 0700 the battalion commanders moved forward to the front lines to make a reconnaissance of the ground to be covered in the attack. Two German machine gunners on patrol opened up on this group and wounded Lt Col West, Major McKone, and Capt Grice. This action caused a delay in the original plan of attack. Major Cohen was placed in command of the left column of CC "A". In the meantime the right column of CC "B" had been halted by the enemy and Oden's force was ordered to assist them. He moved his troops through CC "B" at 1200 with B/10 mounted on the tanks of B/35. They proceeded nearly to the crest of Hill 318 where the medium tanks rired down. A task force commanded by Major Cohen and composed of A/35 and C/10 moved to protect the flanks while the medium tanks were being pulled from the mud. By 1425 the combined forces had captured the hill and forced the enemy to withdraw to Le Faessbusch. All units received sporadic artillery fire during the night. Several enemy patrols were also driven off.

Enemy losses for the day were 75 killed, 100 wounded, 23 prisoners of war, and 5 tanks destroyed.

Our casualties were:

Killed
3 Off
14 EM

Wounded
9 Off
57 EM

Missing
0 Off
0 EM

December 44 - 1

2 December 1944:-

Enemy artillery was very active throughout the day and night. The advance elements of the combat commands received concentrated artillery fire.

In the left column sector of CC "B" northeast of Rimsdorf, the 51st Armd Inf Bn repulsed an enemy counter-attack at 0800. The attack came from the vicinity of Domfessel but was driven off by mortar and small arms fire. In preparation for attacking to the north, the 22nd laid down an artillery barrage at 0800. The attack began at 0900 but received heavy machine gun fire on the right flank from Le Freywald. Four light tanks were sent out to overcome this resistance and soon silenced the enemy guns. They continued to move north toward the Saar-Union-Domfessel highway and by 1125 advance elements of the 51st Armd Inf Bn were crossing the road. Sixteen enemy light tanks were reported in this vicinity but no contact was made with them. By 1500 the 51st and 8th had forced the enemy to withdraw from Hill 332 in the vicinity of Schlosshof Farms and were consolidating their position. They also assisted the 101st Inf Regt to clear Le Bochwald just west of Hill 332. The column bivouacked in the vicinity of Hill 332 with plans to continue the attack in the morning to seize the high ground southwest of Dehlingen. During the day the CP of the 51st Armd Inf Bn at Rimsdorf was shelled by the enemy. Enemy patrols were active at night but were driven off by our outposts.

The right force of CC "B" resumed its attack at 0900 with Hill 309 southwest of Domfessel as the objective. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn led the attack supported by the 35th Tank Bn. The column moved from Le Faessbusch, east of Rimsdorf, to Rimsdorf and then followed the Rimsdorf-Domfessel road. They encountered an enemy tank-infantry team south of the objective but the enemy fled and the column seized the hill at 1400. They were ordered to hold this position for the night.

The Oden force of CC "A" was ordered to hold its position in the vicinity of Meckwiller and to be prepared to support CC "B":

The left column of CC "A" reported an enemy counter-attack at 0300. The enemy force consisted of five tanks and a detachment of infantry. The attack was repulsed and the enemy was reported moving toward Meckwiller. Air support was asked for and the planes bombed and strafed the enemy force near Meckwiller. This mission together with others flown during the day resulted in 12 enemy tanks destroyed. The towns of Domfessel, Diemingen and Meckwiller were also bombed and strafed. B/10 and B/35 which were supporting CC "B" pushed through the woods east of Rimsdorf and occupied Hill 337. The movements of the task forces were for short distances and most of the time was spent in clearing the wooded areas east and north of Rimsdorf.

Troop "B" of the 25th Cav Recn Sq maintained contact between the 4th Armd Div and 101st Inf Regt which was attacking Saar-Union.

Major Dan C. Alanis was released from duty with the 704th TD Bn and was named as commanding officer of the 51st Armd Inf Bn. Major Charles L. Kimsey was appointed commanding officer of the 704th TD Bn.

Captain Lewis E. French, Hq 4th Armd Div (G-3), and 1st Lt Furman Allen, 144th Armd SignCo left to attend a six day course of instruction at the Information Education Staff School, Cite Universitaire, Paris.

Enemy losses included 4 Mark V tanks, 3 - 80mm mortars, 1 heavy bazooka, 55 killed, 100 wounded and 21 prisoners of war.

Our casualties were:-

Killed
0 Off
13 EM

Wounded
4 Off
44 EM

3 December 1944:-

Major General Hugh J. Gaffey, Third Army Chief of Staff, was placed in command of the Fourth Armored Division relieving Major General John C. Wood who was placed on temporary duty in Paris. Brig Gen Herbert I. Earnest also joined the division and assumed command of CC "A".

Only local advances were planned for the day as the 4th Armd Div was waiting for the infantry units on the flanks to advance. Patrols were sent forward to reconnoiter for the continued attack to the north.

Weather conditions prevented the use of air support during the day.

The columns of CC "B" were prepared to attack their objective which was the high ground northwest of Voellerdingen. The 101st Inf Regt on the left flank encountered heavy counter-attacks at Saar-Union so CC "B" was ordered to hold its position along the Saar-Union-Domfessel highway. The 22nd Armd FA Bn supported the 101st by firing several barrages in the vicinity of Saar-Union. At 0830 the 8th Tank Bn received mortar and small arms fire from Le Hochwald and was ordered to clear the enemy from this woods. By 0945 the enemy had been driven from that area and the woods was outposted to prevent infiltration. One enemy tank was knocked out by artillery fire from Le Burbusch, north of the Saar-Union-Domfessel road, as enemy tanks attempted to push out from the woods. The 8th knocked out four of these enemy tanks with direct hits. Elements of the 11th Panzer and 130th Panzer Lehr Divisions were believed to be assembling in Le Burbusch. Corps artillery directed its fire on this area and continued to fire barrages throughout the night.

In the CC "A" sector the enemy had infiltrated into Le Faessbusch and Le Furstenwal east of Rimsdorf and most of the day was spent in clearing the enemy infantry from this area. Stronger outposts were set up along the northern edge of the woods to prevent another infiltration. Elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Div had made the infiltration. The 37th Tank Bn was attached to CC "A" from Reserve Command and A/37 was sent to assist the 26th Inf Div in its assault on Saar-Union but made no contact with the enemy. The company bivouacked south of Sarrewerden for the night.

Troop "B" of the 25th Cav Recn Sq which was supporting the 26th Inf Div was forced to withdraw from Saar-Union when the enemy counter-attacked the city in strength.

Major Thomas G. Churchill was released from duty with the 8th Tank Bn and was assigned to Hq Reserve Command. Major John G. Hughes was assigned to Hq 4th Armd Div Trains from the 53rd Armd Inf Bn.

Enemy losses included 50 killed, 125 wounded, 13 prisoners of war and 4 tanks destroyed.

Our casualties were:	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	0 Off	2 Off	0 Off
	6 EM	32 EM	4 EM

4 December 1944:-

The 10th Armd Inf Bn was attached to CC "B" and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn was attached to CC "A".

A task force from CC "B" led by Major Irzyk and composed of the 9th Tank Bn and the 10th Armd Inf Bn was ordered to attack Voellerdingen and seize the high ground in that vicinity. After a thirty minute artillery preparation the force moved from the assembly area in the vicinity of Schlosshoff Farms at 0930. Very

light opposition was encountered until they reached a position immediately south of Roederwald Woods. In this vicinity they received heavy anti-aircraft and small arms fire from the woods. Elements of the 10th entered Roederwald Woods and Le Burbusch and by 1130 had cleared the enemy from those areas. The column continued the attack and by 1300 the 8th had tanks on Hill 284 overlooking Woellerdingen, from the south, and fired an artillery preparation into the town. Ten enemy tanks appeared on the left flank and after a short battle in which two enemy tanks were knocked out the others withdrew. At 1425 Irzyk's force began to move cautiously toward town because of enemy tanks threats from the left. They received artillery fire from north of Le Grand Bois but by 1615 one company from the 8th and 10th were in the town. They received direct tank fire from the vicinity of the railroad underpass out the rest of the column was moving in and consolidated its position. The bridge across the Eichel River was intact but the high waters made the roads practically impassable. By 2035 seven tanks and an infantry platoon had crossed the stream and thwarted an enemy patrol attempting to destroy the bridge. The other units of CC "B" remained in the area along the Saar-Union-Domfessel road.

A task force from CC "A" led by Major Crosby and given the mission of taking Domfessel. The force was made up of the 53, 35, A/24, and C/24. A patrol from the 25th reconnoitered Domfessel at 0430 and reported it to be lightly held. After a thirty minute artillery preparation moved to attack the town at 0930. By 1010 they had reached the town and began clearing the snipers from their hideouts. There were many snipers and the process was a slow one. There was much engineering work to be done as the streets were covered with debris, there were large craters in the streets, the one bridge in town was destroyed, and the railroad overpass had been blown up. While the mopping up was in progress artillery fire fell on the town from the northeast. Lt Col Oden reported that it would take at least the balance of the day to complete the repair work to continue the attack through Domfessel. A patrol reported that the bridge over the Eichel River north of Domfessel had also been destroyed. The 24th Armd Engr Bn put in two 36-foot treadway bridges in Domfessel while the enemy continued to shell the town. The 35th lost five tanks from artillery fire and two others that struck mines. At 1835 C/24 together with elements of the 53rd outposted Domfessel for the night and A/24 moved north to construct an 80-foot floating bridge over the river.

The 101st Inf Regt recaptured Saar-Union during the day and moved northeast to coordinate its position with that of the 4th Armd Div. The enemy had infiltrated into Saar-Union during the night. A/37 which was attached to the 101st was attacked by three enemy tanks and knocked out one. This company was returned to battalion control late in the day. The rest of the 37th remained in reserve and had no contact with the enemy.

The division artillery was attached to the 33rd Field Artillery Brigade and was to receive its firing orders from there.

Enemy losses included one Mark V tank, 1 pillbox, and one self-propelled gun destroyed; 131 prisoners of war, 50 killed and 83 wounded.

Division casualties were:-	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
	1 Off	4 Off	0 Off
	13 EM	35 EM	0 EM

CC "A" and CC "B" had a total of 8 tanks knocked out, but three of these were reported to be recoverable.

5 December 1944:-

Troop assignments for the combat commands:

<u>CC "A"</u>	<u>CC "B"</u>
35	8
37	51
53	10
A/24	B/24
25 (-C, 2/B)	C/25
B/704	C/704
D/489	C/489
A/46	B/46
A/126	B/126

The Division objectives were the towns of Rimling and Bining in the heart of the Haginot Line and at the gateway to the Siegfried defenses. Bad weather conditions hampered the combat commands as it rained steadily throughout the day. No air support was received.

The objective of CC "A" was Bining. A/24 had completed all the construction work at Domfessel and the 35th and 53rd prepared to move toward their objectives. These objectives were Hills 332 and 356 northeast and southwest of Dehlingen. They began the attack at 1015 with the infantry riding on the tanks. Light opposition was encountered and the high ground around Dehlingen was soon taken. The 37th Tank Bn, commanded by Lt Col Abrams, was then ordered to attack through the positions of the 35th and 53rd toward Bining. The 37th followed the same route as the other units from Domfessel to Dehlingen and then struck north from Dehlingen toward Bining. Soft terrain conditions forced the tanks to remain on the roads most of the time and they were subject to intense artillery and direct fire from both flanks. The artillery fire from Bining forced the column to leave the road and tried to flank Bining from the west. Several of their tanks were knocked out but they continued the attack and drove to a point one kilometer northwest of Rorbach-les-Bitche. At 1200 the 51st and B/704 moved out from the vicinity of Domfessel to support the 37th but progress was very slow because of the condition of the roads. In the meantime the 37th received heavy artillery fire on Hill 334 northwest of Rorbach-les-Bitche and with no artillery support were forced to withdraw to a more tenable position. They had bivouacked in an area northeast of Schmittviller and southwest of Etting. The 51st and B/704 proceeded as far as Schmittviller and outposted the town for the night. The CP of CC "A" moved from Berg to Rinsdorf.

The 8th Tank Bn and the 10th Armd Inf enlarged their bridghead over the Eichel River at Voellerdingen and prepared to move toward their objective which was the town of Rimling, north of Bining. With the 10th riding the tanks of the 8th they started to move cross-country in the direction of the objective. It was necessary to clear away rear guards from Michelbusch woods northeast of Voellerdingen as fire from that direction harrassed the column. This action coupled with the slow cross-country travel forced the column to halt for the night at Langerwald Farms southwest of Schmittviller. Plans were made to continue the attack at first light the next day.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq was protecting the right flank of CC "A" and maintaining contact with the 44th Inf Div to the east of the 4th Armd Div.

Enemy losses for the day include 1 killed, 69 prisoners of war, 1 half track, and 1 pillbox destroyed.

CC "A" had 14 tanks knocked out during the day of which four were recoverable.

Our casualties were:

Killed
1 Off
13 EM

Wounded
2 Off
17 EM

Missing
0 Off
0 EM

December 44 - 5

6 December 1944:-

The first objective of CC "A" was the high ground northwest of Rohrback; Rohrback was the second objective and Bining was the ultimate objective. At 0900 the 37th Tank Bn with the 51st Armd Inf Bn riding on the tanks moved out from their bivouac area in the vicinity of Schmittviller toward the objectives. As the force approached their first objective they received heavy artillery fire from the vicinity of Singling and were unable to advance. Singling was one of the CC "B" objectives, but CC "B" had not advanced rapidly enough to be in a position to deal with the town. In order to relieve the situation and to permit his force to continue to attack Lt Col Abrams ordered B/51 to attack Singling. The 94th Armd FA Bn fired a smoke and artillery preparation on Singling before the two companies attacked. Two companies of infantry (some in pillboxes), three tanks and five assault guns of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division resisted strongly and stubbornly in Singling. B/37 and B/51 assaulted the town and by 1300 had cleared two thirds of it, taking 60 prisoners and knocking out two assault guns. Most of the enemy infantry and tanks withdrew from the town leaving well-hidden snipers and a few machine guns. At 1315 the enemy laid a heavy artillery barrage on the town from the north. The two companies held Singling until CC "B" arrived to take over at 1530. While the attack on Singling was taking place, the remainder of the 37th and 51st received concentrated artillery fire in the vicinity of Bohrback. The 1st Bn of the 328th Regt of the 26th Inf Div which was attached to CC "A" for the attack on Bining and moved up from the vicinity of Rahling and entered the southern outskirts of Bining. By 1900 the 37th and 51st had resumed their attack toward Bining and soon afterward entered the outskirts of the town. They outposted the town for the night with the plan to continue clearing it the next day. The 35th Tank Bn and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn, led by Lt Col Oden, left their bivouac area west of Dehlingen and moved through Dehlingen and Rahling to a position on Hill 343, southwest of Bining. There they set up a base of artillery fire to support the assault on Bining. The enemy artillery fire in the vicinity of Bining was the heaviest received by the division since the operations around Quebling.

With Singling as its first objective the 8th Tank Bn and the 10th Armd Inf Bn of CC "B" left the bivouac area in the vicinity of Schmittviller at 0825. The crosscountry march was slow because of fog and soft terrain conditions. They made no contact with the enemy during the march. Since CC "A" was already fighting in Singling the 8th and 10th attempted to flank the town but heavy artillery fire from the northwest prevented this maneuver. They relieved CC "A" in Singling and were ordered to establish strong outposts around the town for the night. Most of the force withdrew to a position on Hill 346 southeast of Singling.

Late in the day orders were received to secure present positions but to make no further attack as the division was to be relieved by the 12th Armd Div.

Enemy losses incurred during the day included 156 prisoners of war, 60 killed, 10 wounded, and 1 tank, 2 self-propelled guns, 1 - 30mm mortar, and one heavy machine gun destroyed.

The 37th had six tanks knocked out during the day, while the 8th lost two.

Fourth Armd Division casualties:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	1	0
EM	13	25	1

December 44 - 6

7 December 1944:-

All division units were ordered to hold their present positions and make no further advances. The 12th Armd Div began moving into the 4th Armd Div sector at 0700 and immediately went into defiladed positions behind our units. Both combat commands received sporadic artillery fire throughout the day at their positions, in Singling and Bining. Actual relief from front-line duty did not come until 2100.

Plans were rapidly formulated at Division Headquarters for movement of the Division to rear assembly areas. A temporary assembly area for CC "B" was established northeast of Saar-Union while a similar area for CC "A" was in the vicinity of Thal. Plans were also being made for billets for each unit in towns west of the Saar River.

Because of the late hour of relief, extreme darkness, rainfall and bad road conditions, most units were ordered to wait until the following morning to move. The 35th Tank Bn, in the vicinity of Hill 343 southwest of Bining, was ordered to move and followed a route which took them through Rahling, Lorentzen, Diemeringen, Mackwiller, and Thal. They left at 1700 and closed in the bivouac area at 2400.

The artillery of the 12th had not moved into position and our artillery was ordered to support them until their artillery was ready. B/107 also was ordered to support the 12th Armd Div.

Advance Forward Echelon moved from Domfessel to Fenetrengé.

8 December 1944:-

Most of the units began moving from front-line positions early in the morning to temporary assembly areas. The units attached to CC "A" moved to an assembly area northwest of Thal via Rahling, Lorentzen, Diemeringen, Mackwiller, and Thal. The battalions of CC "B" moved south from Singling to Schmittwiller, west to the Eichel River, and south through Voellerdingen to an assembly area northeast of Saar-Union. From the temporary assembly areas, the units proceeded to Burbach and crossed the Saar River at Diedendorf and then moved on to the towns assigned as billets for the rest period.

Following is a list of assignments of units to towns.

35, A/126	--Angviller
37	--Bittersheim
53, A/46	--Bisping
51	--Biestroff
24, 995	--Guinseling
25	--Niederstinzel and Diedendorf
B, C/704	--Rorbach
S, B/126	--Dorron-les-Dieuze
10	--Bassing
489, 704(-B,C)	--Fenstrange
94	--Langniberg
22	--Fribourg
66	--Assencourt

Preparations were being made for training, maintenance and cleaning of vehicles, weapons and equipment, Division Special Service was also arranging for a pass system to Nancy, motion pictures, USO Shows, and other recreational facilities.

9 December 1944:-

Maj Gen Gaffey held a meeting of all unit commanders at Division Headquarters in Penetrance at 0900. He explained his policies and told the officers just what he expected during the rest period.

Division Artillery, 22nd Armd FA Bn, 94th Armd FA Bn and B/704 were relieved and moved to rest areas. Div Arty was billeted in Desselting; 22nd at Fribourg, 94th at Languimberg; B/704 at Rorbach.

All men were billeted in buildings and kitchens were preparing to serve the men three hot meals daily.

A division pass and leave program was instituted to be effective during the rest period. Three systems were made available to the units.

1. Each unit could send 5% of its command on daylight passes to Nancy between the hours of 1000 and 1800.
2. The division was allotted 50 men to use the XII Corps rest center at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Nancy. These passes were good for a period of four days. At the end of this period 50 more men could use the rest center.
3. The division was allotted a quota of 56 men for forty-eight hour passes to Paris.

Each unit selected its men for these passes and there was much enthusiasm among the men for the pass privilege.

The 46th Armd Med Bn initiated classes in first aid for all of its men to give them additional training and to advise them of new techniques and procedures.

10 December 1944:-

Under the Army's rotational system the 4th Armd Div sent its first quota of 60 enlisted men and 5 officers to the United States for 30 days of rehabilitation, recuperation, and recovery. (Par 1, SO 211, Hq 4th AD cs)

The daily quota of passes was issued and the rest of the men began a training program which consisted of extended order drill, crew drill, and the firing of basic weapons. Much time was also spent in servicing vehicles and the care and cleaning of equipment. Typhus immunizations were also given.

The ARC Clubmobile visited the units during the day and served doughnuts and coffee. In the evening movies were shown and USO Shows were presented.

The 704th TD Bn moved from Penetrance and closed in Guermange at 0900. "B" and "C" companies had moved to Guermange the previous day.

Lt Gen H. G. Martin, military adviser for the London Daily Telegraph, visited CC "B" Headquarters and the 8th Tank Bn.

11 December 1944:-

Lt Gen George S. Patton, Jr., Commanding General, Third United States Army, visited CC "B" Headquarters and the 8th Tank Bn during the day.

Maj Gen Gaffey and Brig Gen Earnest visited the 25th Tank Bn and presented the officers and men with awards that they had earned in recent engagements.

The 51st Armd Inf Bn moved from Bidestroff to a new Bivouac area at Gelucourt. Authority was granted the 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn to use the M-25 Tank transports on the roads to recover disabled tanks left by the division. The roads had been congested with traffic moving to and from the front.

Trucks were made available to the units to transport the men to Mittersheim for hot showers.

12 December 1944:-

Captain Julian H. Burns, Hq CC "A", and Captain William R. Morrison, Hq CC "B", left to pursue a six day course of instruction at the Information-Education Staff School, Cite Universitaire, Paris.

The infantry battalion built temporary firing ranges to give the reinforcements an opportunity to become better acquainted with their basic weapons. Crew drill, cleaning of weapons and equipment, and maintenance of vehicles occupied much of the time in the daily program.

Passes to Paris and Nancy continued and movies were shown to the men each evening. Church Services were made available to every man in the division.

13 December 1944:-

The Commanding General approved the wearing of the 4th Armored Division shoulder insignia for the 704th TD Bn, 489th A.A.A.W. Bn, 995th Treadway Bridge Co, 3804th QM Trucking Co, 444th QM Trucking Co, and the 1st platoon of the 16th Field Hospital.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq and B/704 were alerted to proceed to Guising and screen the right flank of the XII Corps. They were also to maintain liaison between the 87th and 44th Infantry Divisions. A/704 was assigned to CC "A" to replace B/704.

Co. "A" of the 37th Tank Bn was also notified that it was attached to support the 87th Infantry Division and was alerted for movement.

The regular training and recreational program continued for the remainder of the division.

14 December 1944:-

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq, B/704, and A/37, which were to support and maintain liaison between the 87th and 44th Infantry Division, were ordered to move to Lorentzen. The 25th moved first from Diedendorf through Niederstintel and Saarunion to Lorentzen. B/704 left Guerange and travelled through Loudrefing, Mittersheim, Fonetrange, and then followed the same route as the 25th. A/37 joined B/704 at Mittersheim.

Maj Gen Caffey and Brig Gen Tager visited the 37th Tank Bn and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn presenting the officers and men with awards they had earned in recent engagements.

The daily program included test firing of new weapons and films showing the close coordination between air and ground forces. A dental check of each man was instituted.

The recreational program of passes, movies, showers, and USO Shows continued.

15 December 1944:-

Major Charles E. Carpenter, Hq 4th Armd Div, left to attend the Information-Education Staff School, Cite Universitaire, Paris.

Lt Col Clarence O. Brunner was appointed Commanding Officer of the Administration Center and assistant to the Chief of Staff for rear echelon activities.

Troops "A" and "B" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sq established radio liaison with 87th Inf Div and CC "A" of the 12th Armd Div. The 25th CP was set up at Guising and a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fell in that sector. The 25th was engaged in patrol activities in advance of the 12th Armd Div and at the same time maintaining liaison between the 12th Armd Div and the 87th and 44th Infantry Divisions.

A/37 joined the 346th Regt of the 87th Inf Div and was given the mission of attacking Hill 378 northwest of Erching. The force took the objective with the loss of one tank from artillery fire. The remainder of the 37th Tank Bn was alerted to support the 87th Inf Div and immediately prepared to leave the bivouac area at Littersheim.

A Mark 7 Tank was taken on a tour of the unit areas for the purpose of showing its vulnerable spots to the men and demonstrating the best way of attacking it.

16 December 1944:-

There was a meeting of all infantry battalion commander and combat command officers at the headquarters of the chief of staff in the afternoon.

Co "A" of the 37th Tank Bn was attached to the 345 Regt which had replaced the 346th. By the use of direct fire on enemy targets that arose, A/37 supported the attack of the 345th on the woods north of Erching. As the infantry cleared the woods the tanks followed them in a supporting role. Upon its entry into Baumbusch Woods north of Erching, A/37 became the first unit of the division to enter Germany. The rest of the 37th Tank Bn moved from Littersheim through Fenetrange, Niederstinsel, Pistorf, Sarrewerden, Saar-Union, Derrmingen, Kalhausen, Achen, Woelfing, and went into an assembly area northeast of Woelfing. C/37 relieved A/37 at 1500 and B/37 was attached to the 347th Regt.

The training program continued for the other units with emphasis placed on the firing of individual weapons and the use of the bazooka, flame-thrower, and mine detector.

The Division Band made a tour of the bivouac areas presenting a program that was well received by the officers and men.

17 December 1944:-

CC "B" was placed on a one hour alert to be ready to move north to the 35th Infantry Division sector in anticipation of an enemy counter-attack. Eleven German Divisions attacked in the XII Corps area. A report from XII Corps that enemy paratroopers had been dropped in the vicinity of Nancy caused all units to double their guards.

Co "B" of the 37th Tank Bn, which was supporting the 347th Inf Regt, was ordered to lay an artillery barrage on Walsheim while the infantry attacked. The attack was successful and B/37 moved in and outposted Walsheim for the night. They received heavy artillery and mortar fire which caused casualties of one killed and seven wounded. "C" Company of the 37th assisted the 345th Inf Regt to clear the woods north of Erching. This operation was not very suitable for tanks so the company limited its activities to reducing enemy machine gun positions and evacuating the wounded.

A/704 was released from CC "A" and along with the rest of the battalion was attached to the 87th Inf Div.

Major Cohen presented awards to officers and men of the 10th Arm'd Inf Bn who had distinguished themselves in recent engagements.

Religious services were made available to all men of the division.

18 December 1944:-

At 0100 the 4th Armored Division was ordered to patrol its area and to be on

the alert for enemy paratroopers. CC "A" patrolled the area south of the Dieuze-Mittersheim road; the LP platoon patrolled the area from Niedendorf to Fenstrange to Mittersheim; CC "B" had the area north of the Dieuze-Mittersheim road; the 704th guarded that area; between Bidestroff and Dieuse. At 0330 the 53rd Armd Inf Bn and Div Arty were attached to CC "A" for patrol duty and the 704th was relieved. All patrol duties were cancelled at 1045.

The 740th TD Bn was ordered to move to the 87th Inf Div sector and followed a route from Guermange through Zommerange, Loudrefing, Mittersheim, Fenstrange, Niederstinzeln, Pistorf, Sarrewerden, Saar-Union, Oermingen, Kalhausen, and Achen to Cross Redercking.

At 1045 CC "B" was placed on a one hour alert to be ready to move north into the 35th Inf Div areas. This order was later cancelled at 1700. The division was alerted at 2030 to move to the III Corps zone to assist in stopping the strong German counter-attack in that sector.

The 37th Tank Bn remained in the same positions as on the previous day and received intermittent artillery and mortar fire. Troops "A" and "B" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn were ordered back to division control with Troop "A" attached to CC "A" and Troop "B" assigned to CC "B".

19 December 1944:-

The following troop assignment was made for movement to the III Corps zone. The 4th Armd Div had been relieved from XII Corps and assigned to III Corps.

<u>CC "A"</u>	<u>CC "B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>	<u>Trains</u>
35	8	D/489	I26 (-A,B)
51	10	25 (-A,B)	C/46
53	A/489	704	144
B/489	B/24	24 (-A,B)	444
A/24	Plat/995	3804	C/489
Plat/995	B/25	37	1st Plat/16th FH
A/25	22		
Div Arty	B/46		
66	B/126		
94			
A/46			
A/126			

Both combat commands were ordered to move from their present positions to an area in the vicinity of Longwy, France. CC "B" moved out first and left Cutting at 0030. CC "A" received orders at 0300 to be ready to leave at 0900 and the appointed hour left Loudrefing to follow the same route taken by CC "B". Both columns followed a route from Cutting through Lornange, Luppy, Fort a Mousson, Chambley, Briey, Audun, Aumetz, and Longwy. The units of CC "A" bivouacked in towns in the vicinity of Arlon, Belgium, and the CP was located at Turpange. CC "B" proceeded on through Arlon and Neufchateau and set up the CP at Vaux-les-Rosieres. The units of CC "B" bivouacked in surrounding towns. The journey covered approximately 160 miles and took about 21 hours. It was the first time the division had entered Belgium. The latter part of the trip was covered in blackout but the roads were well marked and there was no confusion. No enemy contact was made during the

march but all bivouac areas were heavily outposted in the event of an enemy attack.

Forward Echelon moved from Fenetrange at 1215 and closed in Norry, France at 1900.

20 December 1944:-

Both combat commands were on an alert status throughout the day and there was a general shifting of troops to bivouac areas west of the Longwy-Arlon highway. The movement was made to make room for the 26th Inf Div which was also in this area. (See overlay, 19-20 December 1944, for location of unit bivouac areas.)

At 0300 two patrols from CC "B" were ordered to patrol and guard the roads southwest of Bastogne. These patrols consisted of two platoons from Co "D" of the 8th Tank Bn and two platoons from the 10th Armd Inf Bn. No contact was made with the enemy. A task force (C/10, A/8, C/22) from CC "B" led by Capt Ewell, was ordered to move to Bastogne and make contact with the 10th Armd and 101st Airborne Divisions, learn the situation and render support if necessary. After reaching Bastogne the force received a division order to withdraw and made no contact with the enemy. At 1400, CC "B" was released from attachment to III Corps and was assigned to VIII Corps. The general situation in the vicinity of Bastogne was confused and there was a constant shifting of troops to meet the German juggernaut which was advancing toward Bastogne.

A task force from CC "A" composed of C/51, D/35, assault guns/35, and platoon A/24, commanded by Captain Rockefeller, was ordered to block all the main roads north and northeast of Arlon. They were instructed to be on the alert for enemy soldiers wearing American uniforms, but no threat of the kind arose during the day.

The 37th Tank Bn moved from Bittersheim via Hornange, Pont a Moussen, Conflans, and Longwy to Miex-le-Tige. At 0730 the 25th Cav Recn Sqdn moved from Diedesdorf through Fenetrange, Chateau Salins, Nancy, Pont a Mousson, Etain, Spincourt, Longuyon, Longwy, Arlon, and closed in France at 1730. C/704 marched with the 25th while the remainder of the battalion moved with the 27th.

Forward Echelon left Norry, France at 0800 and closed in the new bivouac area at Arlon, Belgium at 1600.

21 December 1944:-

During the night of the twentieth and the morning of the twenty-first, the Germans driving to the west, had flanked Bastogne on the north and south. The two enemy forces met west of Bastogne thus completely encircling the town. The 101st Airborne together with elements of the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions were trapped in Bastogne. Road blocks and demolitions were set up to halt the rapid advance of the enemy. Estimated enemy strength in the Bastogne area was placed at one panzer and one infantry division. Plans were made to counter-attack and relieve the troops that were trapped in Bastogne. The 4th Armd Div, in conjunction with the 26th and 80th Infantry Divisions, was ordered to attack to relieve the encircled troops. Orders were issued at 2000 that Hour would be at 0600 the following day. Both combat commands were to attack abreast with CC "A" on the right. Reserve Command was to follow CC "A" and be prepared to reinforce either combat command or repel counter-attacks from the flanks. Complete radio silence was to be maintained until actual contact was made with the enemy.

CC "A" assembled in the vicinity of Wolkrange and Toernich in the afternoon and then under cover of darkness moved to the attack position at Quatrovents, north of Arlon. Troop assignments for CC "A" were 35, 51, 66, A/24, A/25, A/704, B/489, and the 274th Armd FA Bn.

The units of CC "B" moved at night to an assembly area in the vicinity of Babay-la-Neuve in preparation to move out the next day. The unit assignments to CC "B" were 8, 10, 22, B/704, B/25, A/489, B/24, B/46, B/126, and the 253rd Armd FA Bn.

Reserve Command was composed of 37, 53, 94, 704, (-A,B), 24 (-A,B) and 489 (-A,B).

When they arrived in the assembly areas the units busied themselves in preparing weapons, vehicles and other equipment for the attack.

The Legion of Merit was awarded posthumously to Colonel Louis J. Storck for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 10 September 1943 to 30 July 1944.

22 December 1944:-

CC "A" was divided into two task forces for the attack toward Bastogne. Lt Col Oden was in command of the right column and the troops in this force were 35 (-D), C/51, Plat A/24, Plat A/704, and 66. At 0600 CC "A" moved out from the assembly area in the vicinity of Quatrevente. Poor visibility, heavy snow, and ice on the roads hampered their movement. The right column passed through Bonnert and Oberpallen but were stopped by a blown bridge at Niedercolbach. Extensive demolitions employed as barriers north of Niedercolpach forced them to change their route. From Niedercolpach they went to Grendel, Nothomb, Parette, and then merged with the left column on the Arlon-Bastogne highway. At Nonscheid the Oden force left the main highway and proceeded east through Perle and the north to Wolwelage. Their mission was to block all roads leading east from Martelange and set up a base of artillery fire for Alanis' assault on Martelange.

Major Alanis was in command of the left column of CC "A" and units under his command were 51 (-C), D/35, A/24, A/704, and the 274th Armd FA Bn. They left Quatrevente at 0600 and proceeded north along the Arlon-Bastogne road. In the vicinity of Attert a huge crater in the road forced them to halt until the crater was bridged. The force then followed the highway and prepared to attack Martelange. The right column placed heavy artillery fire on Martelange but the left force had to alter its attack because the bridge over the Ore River was blown and vehicles could not cross. One company of the 51st crossed the river on a bridge that had been blown but remained slightly above the water. They received heavy machine gun and small arms fire from a hill west of the main southern street. The clearing of the town was a slow process not completed until morning due to the fanatical resistance of elements of the 5th Paratroop Division who were ordered to hold the town at any cost.

At 0600 CC "B" moved out in a single column from the assembly area in the vicinity of Babay-la-Neuve. The column proceeded north and by 0340 had reached a position just north of Fauviller after passing through Anlier. Patrols were sent out to the northeast to reconnoiter for possible enemy strong points. The patrols returned at 1000 and reported no enemy contact, so the column continued the advance through Hotte and Menfontaine. The bridge over the Rou du Beulet south of Burnon had been destroyed and Com "B" of the 24th Armd Eng Bn prepared to span the stream. While the bridge was being constructed units of the column received artillery and

small arms fire from Burnon. Direct fire from A/8 silenced this resistance and units of the 10th Armd Inf Bn forded the stream at 1700 and outposted the town. Orders were issued at 2100 to continue moving all night and by 2300 the engineers had completed the bridge over the stream allowing vehicles to cross. Heavy artillery fire was received from the woods northeast of Burnon and the column could not advance. Elements of the 5th Paratroop Div. and 408th Arty Corps comprised the resistance around Burnon. The 776th FA Bn was attached to CC "B" to give more fire power with 155mm howitzers.

Reserve Command moved from Adange to Quatrevents and at 2300 they received orders to move at first light the following day to Holtz for an attack on Bigonville.

The 25th Cav Recon Sq maintained liaison with the 26th Inf Div and reconnoitered ahead of the combat commands. Vigorous reconnaissance by A/25 pushed small enemy groups from Holtz and Perle. A/25 proceeded as far north as Flatzbourn of Station where they ran into heavy small arms fire and were forced to withdraw to the vicinity of Wolwelage. They picked up 80 stragglers from units that had been cut off by the enemy attack and took 10 prisoners of war.

23 December 1944:-

CC "A" fought all night from house to house to clear elements of the 5th Paratroop Div from Martelange. By 0300 the enemy was driven from the town and the Oden column, which had supported the assault with artillery fire from Wolwelage, joined forces with the left column led by Major Alanis to continue the attack toward Bastogne. Lt Col Oden was in command of the combined forces. At 0600 CC "A" moved north from Martelange but soon was forced to halt because of a blown bridge just north of town. The engineers immediately began constructing the bridge but were harrassed by artillery and mortar fire from enemy positions on high ground north of Martelange. During the construction work on the bridge an enemy plane dropped a bomb in the vicinity but fortunately it was a dud. At 1435 the 90-foot Bailey bridge was completed and the attack resumed, toward the high ground north of Martelange. The column attacked the dug-in infantry and replaced anti-tank gun on the high ground with such speed and fury that the enemy had no time to retreat. The position was overrun and the personnel were either killed or captured. Three kilometers north of Martelange the force received anti-tank, mortar and small arms fire on the right flank from the direction of Warnach. A task force of light tanks and infantry was sent to Warnach to reduce the opposition which imperilled the right flank of CC "A". The task force attacked Warnach after the 66th Armd FA Bn had laid a barrage on the town. The enemy was driven into the woods north of Warnach and when the woods was attacked the enemy infiltrated back into the town. Darkness prevented another attack on the town so the force held its position surrounding Warnach. The main force of CC "A" continued moving along the Arlon-Bastogne highway north of Warnach but progress was slow because of unfavorable weather conditions. By 1935 they had reached a position 13 kilometers south of Bastogne. CC "A" inflicted the following casualties on the enemy: 20 killed, 1 wounded, 24 prisoners, and captured 4 US C & R vehicles, 2 US 2½ ton trucks and destroyed one anti-tank gun. The Germans were using many of the vehicles that they had captured. CC "A" lost a ¼ ton truck and an ammunition trailer.

At 0330 CC "B" resumed the attack toward Chaumont from its position north of Burnon in spite of heavy small arms fire from the woods to the left of the road.

By 0855 the columns had advanced to a position $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers south of Chaumont where the enemy counter-attacked with artillery, tanks, bazookas, and small arms fire. The attack came from Chaumont but CC "B" continued driving forward and forced the enemy to withdraw. CC "B" lost one light tank but knocked out one self-propelled gun and inflicted heavy losses of personnel on the enemy. By 1200 CC "B" had captured the high ground southwest of Chaumont and were preparing to attack Chaumont. With elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn riding on their tanks, B/8 attacked the town after A/8 had fired an artillery barrage into the town. Enemy artillery, anti-tank and small arms fire was received from the high ground northwest of Chaumont but the attack was successful and the town was soon in our hands. While the force was regrouping to continue the attack toward Bastogne the enemy counter-attacked from the north, east and west of Chaumont. It was one of the heaviest counter-attacks received by CC "B" and consisted of between 20 - 25 tanks supported by artillery and infantry. The attack came with such rapidity that CC "B" was forced to withdraw from the town and the 8th Tank Bn abandoned eleven tanks, some of which were slightly damaged. Six of these were later recovered. As the column withdrew Chaumont was left in flames with scarcely a building undamaged which gave evidence of the intensity of the enemy attack. Our forces outposted the high ground south of Chaumont and were regrouping to hold their positions. B/8 was left without a tank after the counter-attack. The 8th Tank Bn reported shooting down 2 Focke-Wulfe 190's during the afternoon. Other enemy losses included one Mark V tank, 2 Mark IV tanks, 50 killed and 47 prisoners. CC "B"'s loss of material included 11 medium tanks, 1 light tank, 2 TD's and one C & R vehicle.

Reserve Command moved from Holtz at 1005 through Perle to attack Bigonville but the icy condition of the roads made progress slow. South of Flatzbourhof the force encountered anti-tank and small arms fire but our tanks knocked out the enemy guns and the infantrymen were either killed or captured. Enemy captives wore white helmets and white capes. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was riding the tanks of the 37th Tank Bn and this team drove the remaining enemy from Flatzbourhof, then proceeded on toward Bigonville. The 53rd with fixed bayonets moved through the woods south of Bigonville and killed 30 Germans and captured 15. The 94th Armd FA Bn fired a preparatory barrage on the town before the tanks and infantry began moving in. The approaches to the town were heavily mined and the 37th had two tanks disabled from these mines. Two more of our tanks were knocked out by anti-tank fire. One enemy tank and a half track were destroyed as A,C/53 and A,C/37 fought to enter the town. Our artillery fire was forcing the enemy to withdraw from Bigonville but darkness and extensive mine fields prevented Reserve Command from taking the town. They consolidated their positions surrounding the town and prepared to capture it the next day. During the night the enemy attempted to reinforce its troops in Bigonville but these attempts were thwarted by constant artillery fire. The 94th was supplemented by the 177th FA Bn which had 155mm howitzers. The enemy was using captured American tanks and our force knocked out one of these. Other enemy losses were 1 self-propelled gun, 1 half track, 3 bazookas, 5 machine-guns, 333 killed and 30 prisoners.

The 25th Cav Ren Sq in its reconnaissance missions during the day knocked out 1 75mm gun, 1 truck, took 17 prisoners and killed 40.

A kitchen truck from 4th Armd Div Trains were strafed near Arlon but there were no casualties.

Throughout the day the forward elements of the combat commands could see C/47 transport planes dropping supplies to the surrounded troops in Bastogne.

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Total enemy losses for the day were 4 US C & R cars, 2 US 2½ ton trucks, 2 self-propelled guns, 1 75mm gun, 5 machine guns, 3 bazookas, 1 half track, 1 truck, 1 Mark IV tank, 1 Mark V tank, 2 Focke-Wulfe 190's, 443 killed, and 118 prisoners.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	3	6	2
EM	14	86	21

24 December 1944:-

CC "B" remained on high ground south of Chaumont and were reorganizing after the strong enemy counter-attack. Plans were made to continue the attack toward Bastogne on the following day. Throughout the day enemy bazooka patrols attempted to infiltrate the positions of CC "B" but were repulsed by elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn and the 25th Cav Rcn Sq. Enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun, and small arms fire was received from the woods southeast of Chaumont and on the right flank of CC "B". At 1230 eight P 47's bombed and strafed the woods and succeeded in silencing most of the enemy guns. Patrols from the 10th mopped up the remaining enemy in the woods and by 1430 it was cleared.

In the evening both the 8th and 10th received heavy artillery fire from enemy positions northeast of Chaumont. At 2100 the 2nd Battalion, 318th Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division was attached to CC "B" to strengthen the attack. CC "B" reported enemy losses as 46 PW's, 3 tanks and 1 anti-tank gun destroyed.

CC "A" moved north along the Arlon-Bastogne highway until 0600 when they stopped northwest of Warnach to regroup and receive supplies. Enemy patrols infiltrated into the woods north of Warnach and were harrassing the column with small arms and automatic weapons fire. At 1300 a three-pronged attack began to clear the enemy from the Bois de Morieval, Shock, Busch, and to recapture Warnach, as the enemy had infiltrated back into the town. B/35 and B/51 cleared the main force from Warnach after receiving sharp small arms fire. A few snipers remained in the town but our forces drove through and proceeded as far as Tintange where darkness and untenable positions forced them to withdraw to Warnach during the night but were repulsed before they could inflict any damage. The other attacking forces routed enemy infantry from the Bois de Morieval and Shock Busch. At 2115, the 1st Bn, 318th Regt of the 80th Inf Div was attached to CC "A" for the attack toward Bastogne. This battalion was only 40% up to strength. CC "A" inflicted the following losses on the enemy: 160 killed, 40 wounded, 135 prisoners, destroyed 2 Mark V tanks, 2 self-propelled guns, captured 1 US 2½ ton truck, 1 US armored car, 1 3-inch gun, 800 rounds of 30 cal ammunition, 500 rounds of 75mm ammunition, and 100 rounds of mortar ammunition. The 51st lost 2 half tracks and 1 M5 light tank.

Companies "A" and "B" of the 37th Tank Bn and "A" and "B" of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn attacked Bigonville at 0800 after an artillery concentration on the town by the 94th Armd Ft. Bn. The 94th also fired on Arsdorf, northeast of Bigonville. Stiff enemy resistance in and north of the town consisted of small arms, artillery, bazooka, mortar, and anti-tank fire. As our forces would clear one section and begin work on another the enemy would infiltrate into the former section. However, Bigonville was cleared by 1600 and the 37th and 53rd pushed on to take the high ground north and east of the town. At 1500 Reserve Command received orders

to be ready at 0300 the following day to move to the left flank of the Fourth Armd Div for an attack on Bastogne. The 26th Inf Div relieved Reserve Command around Bigonville at 1900. During the day P 47's with US markings bombed and strafed our troops around Bigonville. Reserve Command captured 258 prisoners and rescued 39 enlisted men and three officers whom the Germans had captured in their counter-attack. Some of the prisoners proved to be German women dressed in men's uniforms and fully equipped with weapons and ammunition. Equipment captured or destroyed included 2 40mm AA guns, 20 machine guns, 3 bazookas, 4 80mm mortars, 1 2½-ton truck, 1 1½-ton truck, and 2 ¼-ton trucks. The 704th TD Bn lost 1 M18 TB and Div Arty lost an observation truck.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sq reported 35 enemy killed and one prisoner taken during its reconnaissance activities for the day.

Total enemy losses were: 195 killed, 40 wounded, 540 prisoners, 2 40mm AA guns, 1 75mm gun, 2 self-propelled guns, 4 80mm mortars, 1 3-inch gun, 3 bazookas, 200 machine guns, 100 rounds mortar ammunition, 800 rounds 30 cal ammunition, 500 rounds 75mm ammunition, 1 US armored car, 22½-ton US trucks, 1 1½-ton US truck, 1 ¼-ton C & R, and 5 Mark V tanks.

Our casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	8	1
EM	34	137	2

25 December 1944:-

Acting on Division orders received yesterday Reserve Command left Bigonville at 0100 and closed in an assembly area between Molifaing and Berchoux at 0630. This move took them to the rear of CC "A" and CC "B" and to a position on the left flank, or the 4th Armd Div. They followed a route through Perle, Meinstert, Habay-la-Neuve, Leglise, Offaing, and Longlier. After regrouping and receiving supplies at the assembly area B/53, D/37 and C/704 began an attack toward Vax/les/Rosieres. They had to remove a road block at the entrance to the town but there was no resistance in the town and the column proceeded on through to Petite Rosiere. Only small arms fire was encountered at Petite Rosieres and D/37 and C/704 moved through without stopping and took the high ground to the north east while B/53 cleared the town. Sixty-five prisoners were taken in clearing the town. A/37 and A,C/53 followed the other three companies to Petite Rosieres where they turned east for an attack on Nives. A/37 and C/53 proceeded on to attack Cobreville after A/37 and A/53 had cleared Nives of light outpost opposition. The opposition in Cobreville consisted of small arms fire which was quickly wiped out by the tank-infantry team. Between Cobreville and Remoiville a bridge had been destroyed leaving a large crater in the road. A bulldozer from the 37th Tank Bn remedied this situation by pushing a nearby stone wall into the crater thus allowing the column to pass. Remoiville was strongly held by the enemy and the resistance consisted of artillery, mortar and small arms fire from well concealed positions. In a well coordinated attack the 37th and 53rd moved to take the town at 1515. C/37 and C/53 took the high ground west of Remoiville while A/37 and A/53 drove into the town with all the guns firing. C/37 fired direct fire into the town in support of this attack. Flame-throwers were used to rout the enemy from cellars and dug-in positions and by 1800,

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when the town was cleared, over 300 prisoners had been taken. Reserve Command posted the high ground north of Remoiville for the night. The 94th Armd Fl Bn supported the attack on Petite Rosieres, Nives, and Cobreville from Massul and then moved to Jusserot to fire artillery support for the attack on Remoiville. At 1900 orders were received for the attack on Remichampagne, Clochimont, and Assenois the following morning. Enemy contacted by Reserve Command included the 5th Paratroop Division and the 408th Volks Artillery Corps. During the day Reserve Command killed 25, wounded 6, took over 400 prisoners and captured 60 machine guns. An unidentified plane strafed the prisoner of war cage at Bercheux during the night and during this action some of the prisoners attempted to rush the guards and seize a machine gun. They were unsuccessful and in the attempt 10 were killed and 22 wounded.

CC "B" outposted the high ground south of Chaumont and at 0850 Co "C" of the 8th Tank Bn and elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn attacked Lambat Chenet woods to their right flank to clear out enemy snipers and machine gun positions. At the same time the 2nd Bn of the 318th Regt attacked the woods south of Chaumont but were pinned down by machine gun fire. Light tanks from A/8 went to the rescue and knocked out these enemy positions. Both woods were cleared by 0955 and CC "B" started an attack to take Chaumont and the high ground northeast of the town. A/8 and 2/318 made a frontal assault on the town while C/8 and the 10th attacked to flank the town on the right. Both attacking forces received heavy artillery and mortar fire from Chaumont and Remoiville. By 1340 the force attacking to the east had a platoon of tanks across the stream northeast of Chaumont but the 318th was meeting considerable resistance in the town. Chaumont was completely cleared of the enemy at 1915 and the right force held a position east of Grandrue. These positions were outposted for the night and plans were made to continue the attack the next day. Seven of the eleven tanks abandoned by the 8th Tank Bn in Chaumont were recovered. CC "B" reported the following enemy losses: 67 prisoners, 60 killed, 200 wounded, destroyed 3 88mm guns, 1 Mark IV tank, and 2 75mm guns.

At 0800 CC "A" started a three-pronged attack to drive through heavy enemy resistance in their area. Major Alanis led B/51 and A/35 in an attack on Strainchamps; Lt Col Oden continued driving north along the Arlon-Bastogne highway with the remainder of the 35th and 51st; the 1st Bn of the 318th Regt moved from Warnach to attack Tintange. Major Alanis' force moved through Strainchamps against light oppositions and halted at a position just south of Hollange. The 318th received heavy mortar and small arms fire in the vicinity of Tintange and repulsed an enemy counter-attack of approximately 80 infantrymen. Tintange was heavily occupied but excellent air support permitted the 318th to enter with little opposition. In Oden's column B/35 and C/51 were driving along the left side of the highway while C/35 and A/51 proceeded along the right side. They met stiff opposition on either flank and progress was slow. D/35 was sent to clear the Bois de Melch and in this operation captured over 200 prisoners. Major Alanis received air support in his attack on Hollange which made the taking of the town a much easier process. The units of CC "A" consolidated their positions in the vicinity of Hollange, Tintange, and along the Arlon-Bastogne highway north of Warnach for the night. Enemy losses inflicted by CC "A" included 250 prisoners, 50 killed, 250 wounded, destroyed 2 mortars, 4 trucks, 4 tanks, 4 machine guns, 1 half track, captured 3 US half tracks, 3 1/2 ton trucks, 1 1-ton truck. The 35th Tank Bn lost 4 M5 light tanks, 1 medium tank, and 2 machine guns. Co "C" of the 30th Chemical Battalion was attached to CC "A".

The 25th Cav Ren Sq reported 11 enemy killed and 26 prisoners captured for the day.

Three P 47's bombed and strafed the 66th Armd FA Bn and A/51 causing slight damage to those units. It was presumed these planes were flown by the enemy.

During the day, Lt Gen George S. Patton, Jr., visited the CC "1" CP and forward elements of the combat command. Correspondents from leading newspapers and magazines awaited the breakthrough to the troops in Bastogne.

Wherever possible the officers and men were served a Christmas turkey dinner but some units had to postpone the dinner until a later date.

In the period from the 22nd to the 25th of December 1008 enlisted men and 18 officer replacements were received. This was the largest number ever received by the 4th Armored Division.

Total enemy losses for the day included: 146 killed, 743 prisoners, 456 wounded; destroyed 2 mortars, 4 trucks, 5 Mark IV tanks, 64 machine guns, 1 half track, 3 88mm guns, and 2 75mm guns. The following US equipment was recaptured: 3 half tracks, 3 4-ton trucks, and 1 1-ton truck.

Our casualties for the day were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	1	0
EM	8	55	1

26 December 1944:-

At 0925 the 94th Armd FA Bn and the 177th FA Bn opened up an artillery barrage on Remichampagne and the Bois de Cohet west of Remichampagne. Simultaneously, C/37 and C/53 moved out from Remoiville to cover Remichampagne from the west. B/37 and B/53 moved to attack the town from the south and as the artillery barrage lifted C/37 supported their attack with direct fire. The attack was well coordinated as the artillery completely worked over the town and woods and P 47's bombed and strafed targets ahead of the attacking force. Remichampagne was cleared by 1055 and our advance was so rapid that the enemy had not blown the bridge in the town. B/37 and B/53 moved to a position southwest of Clochicourt and A/37 moved to the high ground northwest of Clochimont to cover any attack from the vicinity of Sibret. After an artillery preparation C/37 and C/53 entered Clochimont against light enemy small arms opposition. Lt Col. Abrams and Lt Col Jaques met in Clochimont to formulate the plans for the final drive toward Bastogne. C/37 and C/53 were to attack Assenois with B/37 protecting the left flank and A/53 and A/37 in reserve at Clochimont. B/53 was to follow the attacking companies and hold Assenois. At 1610, C/37 and C/53 moved to attack Assenois and within sight of the town called for the prearranged artillery fire. It came immediately and with great accuracy. At the outskirts of the town the attacking force called for the artillery fire to cease but proceeded into the town without waiting for the fire to stop. The continuation of the artillery fire caused two of our tanks to become confused and were separated from the rest of the column. One of our half tracks was hit but the enemy was even more confused and didn't fire a shot at the attacking force. C/37 and C/53 proceeded through the town without stopping but the confusion caused a break of approximately 300 hundred yards in the column. Lt. Boggess' tank was at the head of the column followed by Lt. Wrolson and a third tank. Three-hundred yards behind these three were an infantry half track, a tank, and Capt. Dwight's tank. The enemy took advantage of the gap in the column by throwing Teller mines on the road

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and the half track hit one of these mines and caught fire. Capt. Dwight dismounted from his tank and with the aid of uninjured members from the half track hurled the mines from the road. The tanks then moved toward Bastogne with their machine guns spraying the wooded area on both sides of the road, and at 1645 the head tank made contact with the 101st Airborne Div. Enemy infantry and bazooka teams were so astonished at the sight of the tanks that very few shots were fired at them. However when the infantry half tracks followed the tanks three of them were knocked out by bazooka fire. A/53 advanced through the woods on foot to widen the path to Bastogne to allow waiting ambulances and supply trucks to move safely through to the 101st. At 1830 Reserve Command took up perimeter defense positions around Bastogne to be in a position to halt any enemy counterthrusts. B/53 continued mopping up operations in Assenois and captured 428 prisoners. An enemy regimental and battalion CP had been located there and the commanding officers of both were taken prisoners. C/53 lost five half tracks in the vicinity of Assenois (1 by our artillery in Assenois, 1 due to a mine, and three knocked out by bazookas along the Assenois-Bastogne road). Enemy casualties inflicted by Reserve Command included 100 killed, 20 wounded, and 592 prisoners.

In the CC "A" area the 1st Bn of the 318th Regt supported by C/35 moved out from the vicinity of Tintange to attack Honville to the north. This town was fiercely defended by enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire but direct fire from C/35 coupled with the house to house attack of the infantry overcame the enemy defenses. The 35th (-C) and the 51st attacked Hollange after seizing the high ground to the north. They received heavy direct artillery and small arms fire but air support knocked out several enemy gun positions in the town and the column seized and outposted Hollange for the night. A/35 lost three tanks due to direct fire in the assault on the town. During the day the 51st was strafed by three P 47's but little damage resulted. For the night CC "A" held and outposted positions on a line from Hollange to Honville. Enemy losses inflicted by CC "A" were 100 killed, 400 wounded, 315 prisoners, one anti-tank gun and 1 88mm gun destroyed. They also recaptured 1 US half track and 1 US 6x6.

The 2nd Bn of the 318th Regt supported by tanks from the 8th Tank Bn attacked Grandrue from positions on high ground surrounding it. Small arms and artillery fire were received but the town was quickly captured and the force moved north to attack Hembre. The enemy was well dug-in and had well concealed anti-tank guns which made progress very slow. Excellent air support, which knocked out eight enemy gun positions, aided materially the progress of the force. By 1630 they had taken the road intersection west of Hembre. At 1030 elements of the 10th Armd Inf. Bn attacked the woods east of Grandrue and by 1200 had cleared the enemy from that area and were proceeding toward high ground in the vicinity of Hembre. Enemy resistance consisted chiefly of small arms fire and mines with an occasional artillery shell falling on their positions. Both forces outposted high ground around Hembre for the night. Plans were made for an all out drive on Bastogne the next day to aid Reserve Command which had already broken through. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy by CC "B": 100 killed, 196 prisoners, 150 wounded, 2 machine guns, 2 half tracks, 4 88mm guns, 1 Mark V tank, and captured 1 US 57mm gun and 1 US half track.

December 44-20

Co "A" of the 9th Armored Division was attached to the 4th Armd Div for the operations around Bastogne.

Total enemy losses during the day were: 300 killed, 1103 prisoners, 570 wounded, 2 machine guns, 2 half tracks, 5 8mm guns, 1 Mark V tank, and 1 anti-tank gun. Our forces also recaptured one US 57mm gun, 2 US half tracks, and 1 US truck.

Enemy units encountered by the 4th Armd Div in the fighting around Bastogne were the 5th Paratroop Division and the 26th Volksgrenadier Division.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	1	3	0
EM	24	68	2

27 December 1944:-

Co "A" of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn advanced from Assenois towards Bastogne clearing the enemy from the wooded areas along the Assenois-Bastogne road to make it safe for convoys of ambulances and supplies to reach the 101st Airborne Div. By 0300 they had widened the corridor and soon afterwards a convoy of 70 ambulances and 40 trucks went into Bastogne. Co "D" of the 37th Tank Bn patrolled the highway throughout the day. Companies "A" and "B" of the 37th remained in defensive positions north of Clochimont to protect the division's left flank against possible enemy counter-attack. The remainder of the 37th Tank Bn remained in Bastogne to aid the 101st. No enemy counterattacks developed during the day although sporadic artillery fire fell on Reserve Command's positions. The CP's of the 37th, 53rd, 94th, and Res Comd moved to Bastogne. Enemy planes bombed Bastogne during the night but there was no damage to the 4th Armd Div. When the 53rd cleared the woods along the Bastogne-Assenois road they found the following equipment presumed to have been knocked out in yesterday's drive: 8 88mm guns, 4 105mm howitzers, 2 75mm guns, 300 grenades, 40 bazooka rounds, 8 machine guns, 20 rifles. Enemy losses inflicted today by Reserve Command were: 15 killed, 15 wounded, 300 prisoners, 1 40mm gun, 27 machine guns, 11 bazookas, 5 105mm howitzers, 4 88mm guns, 2 reconnaissance vehicles, 2 Mark IV tanks, 3 half tracks, 2 trucks, and 2 37mm guns.

The mission of CC "B" was to secure the high ground northeast of Assenois, establish contact with the 101st Airborne Division and to aid in keeping the secondary road into Bastogne open. The 10th Armd Inf Bn took the ground southeast of Assenois against light enemy opposition and by 1500 entered the Rue de Bechu. Companies "B" and "C" of the 8th Tank Bn supported the 10th in this operation. The clearing of the woods was difficult as enemy infantry were dug in and there were well concealed machine gun and anti-tank positions. However by 1900 the force reached the north edge of the woods and contacted the 101st in the vicinity of Bastogne. The 2nd Bn of the 318th Regt attacked Hompre from key positions surrounding the town and by 0815 had driven the enemy rear guard from the town. Co "A" of the 8th Tank Bn supported the 318th. The force moved north from Hompre and entered the Bois de Hazy simultaneously with the other force entering the Bois de Bechu. Sniper and machine gun fire made the clearing of the woods a slow process but by 1900 they also reached the northern edge and took up defensive positions to aid in keeping the road into Bastogne clear. The 22nd Armd Pa Bn moved from Burnon to Crandruc during the day. Enemy casualties inflicted

December 44-21

by CC "B" included: 50 killed, 75 wounded, and 118 prisoners. Enemy equipment destroyed included 4 75mm guns, 2 88mm guns, 2 150mm guns, and 4 half tracks.

Both columns of CC "A" attacked at 08 0. The 1st Bn of the 318th Regt and C/35 seized Livarchamps against moderate enemy resistance consisting of small arms and automatic weapons fire. The column advanced beyond Livarchamps but was held up by enemy who were retreating from Sainlez. The left column moved out from the vicinity of Hollange to attack Sainlez. Slight resistance was encountered between the two towns but Sainlez was strongly defended. Infantry of the 51st could not enter the town until the 35th had encircled it and fired an artillery barrage into the town. This barrage forced most of the enemy to withdraw and the 51st quickmopped up the remainder of the enemy in the town. Enemy losses inflicted by CC "A" were: 262 prisoners, 63 killed, 250 wounded; destroyed, 2 self-propelled guns, 5 20mm guns, 11 mortars, 18 machine guns, 7 6-barreled mortars, 6 half tracks, and 4 prime movers. They also captured 1 3/4-ton US truck and 2 peeps.

CC "A" of the 9th Armored Division which was attached to the 4th Armd Div had the mission of protecting and widening the area north of the Assenois-Bastogne road and during the day captured the town of Sibret.

Total enemy losses during the day were:- 128 killed, 340 wounded, 680 prisoners; destroyed, 1 40mm gun, 45 machine guns, 11 bazookas, 5 105mm howitzers, 6 8mm guns, 2 37mm guns, 4 75mm guns, 2 150mm guns, 2 self-propelled guns, 5 20mm guns, 11 mortars, 7 6-barreled mortars, 2 reconnaissance vehicles, 2 Mark IV tanks, 13 half tracks, 2 trucks, and 4 prime movers; captured, 1 US 3/4-ton truck, and 2 1/2-ton trucks.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	3	0
EM	19	81	4

28 December 1944:-

Reserve Command maintained its position in Bastogne and along the road between Assenois and Bastogne. They kept the corridor into Bastogne open and remained in a position to repulse enemy counter-attacks. During the night Bastogne was bombed and strafed by enemy planes and some casualties and damage to equipment of Res Comd resulted. CC "A" of the 9th Armd Div and CC "B" of the 4th Armd Div gained contact with friendly elements in Bastogne. This union gave further protection to the highway into Bastogne and added more support to the perimeter defense to the town. Enemy patrols infiltrated into the woods north of Assenois. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn attacked the woods and by 1600 had captured or killed the enemy in that area. The units of Reserve Command received small arms fire from scattered enemy patrols throughout the day but only sporadic artillery fire was received. A platoon of the 467th AAA Bn was attached to the 37th Tank Bn to give support against the nightly enemy air attacks on Bastogne.

At 0800 the 51st Armd Inf Bn and the 35th Tank Bn attacked north from Sainlez and entered L'Ardoisiere-au-Calvaire. The woods was lightly defended but during the advance the force received anti-tank, mortar, and small arms fire from the vicinity of Lutrebois. The 51st and 35th advanced to a position just south of Remoifosse where they held positions for the night. The 1st Bn of the 318th

Inf Regt remained in its position north of Livarchamps. The strength of this battalion had dwindled to 90 rifleman and morale was low. At 1700 the 3rd Bn of the 134 Regt, 35th Inf Div, relieved 1/318 but no attack was made after the relief. In the evening orders were received from Corps that the CC "A" boundary line had been moved to the west and was now parallel to and 800 yards east of the Bastogne-Martelange road. The 35th Inf Div was to take over the positions now held by CC "A" east of the new boundary line. Enemy losses inflicted by CC "A" during the day were 40 prisoners, 16 killed, 67 wounded, 5 half tracks, 1 truck, 1 ammunition car, 5 staff cars, 2 anti-tank guns, 1 150mm gun, 2 20mm guns, 1 80 mm mortar, and 5 machine guns destroyed.

In the CC "B" area the 8th Tank Bn and the 10th Armd Inf Bn along with the 2nd Bn of the 318th Inf Regt held defensive positions along the north edge of the Bois de Hazy and Bois de Bechu northeast of Assenois. Their positions tied in with those of Reserve Command and the 101st Airborne Division, forming a line from Bastogne to Assenois. During the day the 8th Tank Bn received seven of the new type medium tanks (M4A3). This tank was equipped with a 76mm gun with muzzle brake, a horizontal volute spring suspension, and a steel track 23 inches wide. All units of the division were notified of these new tanks for the frontal appearance greatly resembled a German tank. CC "B" captured 14 prisoners during the day.

Word was received by the division that Corps anticipated an enemy counter-attack in the Bastogne area. Gen Gaffey met with his staff to outline his plans in case of a counter-attack. The enemy attack was believed to be of division strength and was to come from the north or northeast. All three combat commands were immediately alerted for the impending attack. The attack did not materialize so the combat commands held their positions awaiting orders.

Heavy fog restricted visibility and made operations for the day difficult. Forward Echelon moved from Arlon at 1015 and closed in Bodange at 1130.

Total enemy losses for the day were, 16 killed, 67 wounded, 44 prisoners, 5 half tracks, 1 truck, 1 ammunition car, 5 staff cars, 2 anti-tank guns, 1 150mm gun, 2 20mm anti-aircraft guns, 1 80mm mortar, and 5 machine guns destroyed.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
EM	19	31	4
Off	0	4	0

29 December 1944:-

Reserve Command continued to protect the supply route leading into Bastogne and was alerted for the possibility of an enemy counter-attack. However no contact was made with the enemy during the day. At 1900 Bastogne and the surrounding area received an enemy bombing attack. The 94th had one man killed and several wounded while both the 94th and 37th suffered damage to equipment. There were five other bombing attacks during the night and three enemy planes were shot down. During the day the CP's of the 37th and 53rd moved from Bastogne to Assenois. In preparation for the prospective enemy counter-attack the units of Reserve Command assembled in the following areas: 37 Tank Bn in an area north of Assenois; the 53rd south of Assenois; the 94th, west of Hompre; C/24 in the vicinity of Remichampagne; C/704, near Remoiville; C/25 near Grand Rosieres. Enemy losses inflicted by Reserve Command for the period 27-29 December are as follows:

December 44-23

90 killed, 10 wounded, 40 prisoners, destroyed, 5 trucks, 3 passenger cars, 14 anti-tank guns, 2 artillery pieces, 1 personnel carrier, and 40 bazookas. Companies "B" and "C" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn, supported by D/35, attacked Rembifosse at 0800 from positions just south of the town. They encountered heavy automatic weapons fire and fought from house to house before they succeeded in capturing the town at 0950. At 1045 contact was made with CC "B" and the 101st Airborne Div. The 51st then consolidated on a line approximately 800 yards east of the Bastogne road to protect the right flank of the 4th Armd Div until the 35th Inf Div advanced on the right. A/25 patrolled the left flank of CC "A" while A/704 patrolled the right flank. Only occasional artillery fire was received during the afternoon. The 3rd Bn, 134th Inf Regt moved from Livar-champs to attack Lutrebois with A/51 supporting the attack on the left flank. The force received heavy fire from depressed anti-aircraft guns from the woods on their right flank. They seized the high ground surrounding Lutrebois and held that position for the night. The CP of CC "A" moved from the vicinity of Wernach to Salavcourt during the day. A/24 was consolidated and alerted as an infantry reserve in case of an enemy counter-attack. Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 30 killed, 120 wounded, 27 prisoners; destroyed, 10 machine guns, 1 20mm anti-aircraft gun, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks.

The units of CC "B" consolidated their positions with those of the 101st Airborne Division on the left and CC "A" on the right to form a more secure defensive line around Bastogne. The 2nd Bn of the 318th Regt of the 26th Inf Div was relieved from attachment to CC "B" and elements of the 8th Tank Bn and 10th Armd Inf Bn absorbed the positions left by the withdrawal of this unit. CC "B" had no contact with the enemy during the day.

Enemy losses during the day (excluding the three-day report of Reserve Command) were: 30 killed, 120 wounded, 27 prisoners, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, 1 20mm A. gun, and 10 machine guns destroyed.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
EM	6	44	1
Off	1	1	0

30 December 1944:-

At 0500 a counter-attack of at least infantry battalion strength supported by self-propelled guns and from 20 to 30 tanks developed in the 35th Infantry Division sector. The strength of this attack drove the 3rd Bn of the 134th Inf Regt from their positions surrounding Lutrebois. Enemy infantry clad in US uniforms infiltrated into L'Ardoisiere-Au-Calvaire and threatened the road leading into Bastogne. Units of CC "A" were shifted to the 35th Inf Div sector to aid in stemming this enemy drive. A/51 was moved to the north edge of L'Ardoisiere-Au-Calvaire facing Lutrebois while B/35 occupied commanding ground north-east of L'Ardoisiere-Au-Calvaire also facing Lutrebois. Companies "B" and "C" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn counter-attacked south through the woods and cleared out the enemy patrols which had infiltrated into that area. Later in the day it was necessary to sweep back north through the woods as more enemy patrols had entered the woods. At 1100 six tanks from B/35 engaged 13 Mark VI tanks northwest of Lutrebois and destroyed eleven of them without the loss of a woods west of the highway and one platoon to cover B/35 against ground attack. By 1400 the counter-attack was completely broken up and the lines were again consolidated. Good visibility permitted the air force and artillery to coordinate with the ground forces in breaking up the counter-attack.

The planes knocked out seven enemy tanks while the artillery broke up enemy troop concentrations. After the attack had been repelled the units of CC "A" remained in positions between Lutrebois and Recifosse while CC "B" shifted over to occupy positions vacated by CC "A". Enemy losses inflicted by CC "A" included: 32 prisoners, 120 killed, 150 wounded; destroyed, 11 tanks, 2 half tracks, 1 truck, and 3 self-propelled guns. Air support destroyed seven tanks and artillery four.

CC "B" was alerted at 0640 to be ready to go to the aid of CC "A" in case the counter-attack could not be stopped by them. CC "A" was successful in aiding the 35th Inf Div to halt the enemy thrust and it was not necessary for CC "B" to assist. In the afternoon one company from the 8th Tank Bn and one from the 10th Armd Inf Bn took over the gap left by CC "A"'s shift to the right. CC "B" made no contact with the enemy during the day.

In the Reserve Command area the 37th Tank Bn and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved to Chaumont from positions in the vicinity of Bastogne and Assenois. This move placed them in a position to be able to aid either combat command in case the enemy drive was stronger than anticipated. Reserve Command had no contact with the enemy during the day.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn reported a peak of 96 vehicles in its shops for repair work. Eleven other vehicles had been evacuated for fourth echelon repair.

CC "A" of the 9th Armd Div was released from attachment to the 4th Armd Div. Our casualties during the day were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
EM	28	64	4
Off	1	4	1

31 December 1944:-

Contact with the enemy in all three 4th Armd Div sectors was limited to patrol activities. Several enemy patrols attempted to infiltrate our positions but such attempts were repulsed. All units were on the alert for these enemy patrols who were attired in American uniforms. Sporadic artillery fire fell on positions of the forward elements, causing some casualties.

The combat commands remained in the same positions they had assumed on the previous day and improved and strengthened these positions after yesterday's counter-attack. More firm contact was made with the 101st Airborne Division on the left and the 35th Inf Div on the right. Another enemy attack was expected as it was reported that they were regrouping in the Terre dol'Hesse east of the 4th Armd Div positions. The artillery battalions fired continually during the day on this area and the anticipated attack did not materialize. The 37th Tank Bn was strafed by a lone plane but the damage done was negligible.

All units of the division were receiving the new M4A3E2 tank as replacement for tanks they had lost in combat. Diagrams of this new type tank were sent to all units so it would not be confused with enemy tanks which had a similar frontal appearance.

Enemy casualties, mostly from patrol activity, were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
EM	10	28	3
Off	0	1	0

December 44-25

Summary for December:-

Operations of the 4th Armored Division for the month of December may be divided into four periods. From the 1st to the 9th the Division was in action east of the Saar River. This was a continuation of the attack which started in November. Just prior to entering Germany the division was pulled out of action and remained in a rest period from the ninth to the nineteenth. The units utilized this period for necessary maintenance and training of reinforcements. Recreational facilities were provided and passes to Nancy and Paris were in effect.

The third phase of activities dealt with the long road march from Cutting, France to the vicinity of Arlon, Belgium. The eleven Division German counter-attacks in the VIII Corps area caused many units in the XII Corps area to be shifted northward to aid in halting the offensive. The division moved from XII Corps to III Corps. The 150 mile march was covered in approximately nineteen hours. This was very good time considering that most of the march was made at night and road and weather conditions were unfavorable.

The final phase of activities for December concerned the attack toward Bastogne, its subsequent relief, and the holding action to keep the supply roads leading into Bastogne open.

All three combat commands attacked toward Bastogne on the 22nd but enemy resistance was fierce and there were numerous counter-attacks. A shift of Reserve Command to the division right flank to the left flank proved to be the deciding factor in the relief of the 101st Airborne Division, as Reserve Command drove through to open up a supply route on the twenty-sixth. The combat commands spent the remaining five days in protecting this supply corridor against enemy counter-attacks and expanding and strengthening their position.

December Statistics:-

A. Equipment

1. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed from 7 December to 31 December 1944.

a. 7 - 75mm guns	n. 151 - machine guns
b. 14 - 88mm guns	o. 8 - Mark IV tanks
c. 5 - 105mm howitzers	p. 7 - Mark V tanks
d. 2 - 37mm guns	q. 11 - unidentified tanks
e. 3 - 150mm guns	r. 24 - half tracks
f. 8 - 20mm AA guns	s. 15 - trucks
g. 3 - 40mm AA guns	t. 4 - prime movers
h. 5 - 80mm mortars	u. 2 - reconnaissance vehicles
i. 13 - mortars	v. 1 - ammunition car
j. 7 - 6-barrelled mortars	w. 8 - staff cars
k. 7 - bazookas	x. 100 - rounds mortar ammunition
l. 18 - anti-tanks guns	y. 800 - rounds .30 cal ammunition
m. 11 - self-propelled guns	z. 500 - rounds, 75mm ammunition

2. US Equipment captured from the enemy.
 - a. 1 - armored car
 - b. 5 - half tracks
 - c. 5 - $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton trucks
 - d. 8 - $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks
 - e. 1 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck
 - f. 1 - 1-ton truck
 - g. 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck
 - h. 4 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks
 - i. 1 - 57mm gun
3. Vehicles lost due to enemy action by the 4th Armored Div and attached units.
 - a. 49 - medium tanks
 - b. 1 - medium tank - 105 mm how.
 - c. 11 - light tanks**
 - d. 1 - motor carriage - 105mm how., M7
 - e. 7 - motor carriage - 76mm gun, M18
 - f. 1 - tank recovery vehicle, M32
 - g. 21 - personnel carrier, H/T, M3A1
 - h. 35 - truck, $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, 4x4
 - i. 5 - truck, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton weapons carrier
 - j. 1 - ambulance, $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton
 - k. 1 - cargo trailer, 2 wheel, $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton
 - l. 2 - ammunition trailer, M10

B. Casualties, Battle.

1. Enemy
 - a. Killed - 1433
 - b. Wounded - 1606
 - c. Prisoners - 3236
2. 4th Armored Division
 - a. Killed - 16 officers, 247 EM
 - b. Wounded - 58 Officers, 851 EM
 - c. Missing - 4 officers, 49 EM

C. Casualties, Non-Battle.

1. 1419 officers and enlisted men.
 - a. Of this total there were 702 cases of combat exhaustion and 139 cases of frostbite.

D. Returned to Duty.

1. From battle casualties
 - a. 17 officers, 221 EM
2. From non-battle casualties
 - a. 114 officers, 257 EM

E. Reinforcements.

1. 38 Officers, 1598 EM
 - a. 18 officers and 1008 EM were received in the period 22-25 December.

F. Strength, Division (1 January 1945)

1. 575 officers, 52 WO, 9921 EM

G. Promotions.

1. Field Grade
 - a. To major - Don T. McKone - Communications Officer - 35th Tank Bn.

2. To Captain - 8
3. To 1st Lieutenant - 18
4. Battlefield Appointments
 - a. 8th Tank Bn - 1
 - b. 25th Cav Recon Sq - 2

H. Awards.

1. Legion of Merit
 - a. Posthumously awarded to Colonel Louis J. Storck, Commanding Officer Reserve Command, for meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services from 10 September 1943 to 30 July 1944.
2. Silver Star - 34; 8 Oak Leaf Clusters
3. Bronze Star - 165; 6 Oak Leaf Clusters
4. Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal - 8
5. Purple Heart - 365; Oak Leaf Clusters - 25

I. Ammunition Expenditure.

1.	105mm howitzer	54,807
2.	76mm gun	3,261
3.	75mm gun	11,247
4.	75mm howitzer	411
5.	57mm gun	100
6.	37mm gun	1,100
7.	81mm mortar	3,213
8.	60mm mortar	1,374
9.	2-inch mortar smoke bomb	306
10.	Rocket, 2.36-inch	1,168
11.	Grenade, hand, asst.	7,200
12.	Grenade, rifle, asst	1,690
13.	Adapt. Grd. Proj., M1	144
14.	Cart. Grd. Carb. M6	300
15.	Fuze, C. P. T. 105	364
16.	Carbine	82,200
17.	Cal. .30 asst	1,614,711
18.	Cal. .45 ball	63,000
19.	Cal. .50 asst	110,390

December 44-28

1 January 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division received a letter of praise from Lt Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., Commanding General, Third U. S. Army, summarizing the accomplishments of Third Army. General Patton wrote the letter on the occasion of his receipt of the second Oak Leaf Cluster to the DSI. He stated, "This award was bestowed on me not for what I have done, but because of that what you have achieved."

During the day the 6th Armd Div, moved through our positions to attack north and east of Bastogne.

At 2100 the following troop assignments went into effect.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
53	8	37
35	10	C/25
51	22	C/24
66	B/24	D/489
B/489	B/25	C/704
A/704	B/704	
94	A/489	
A/24	B/46	
A/46	B/126	
A/126		

CC"A" continued to support the 134th Regt of the 35th Inf Div in holding the Bastogne corridor open. The 35th Inf. Div. was to attack to the north to relieve the enemy pressure in that area. Heavy enemy artillery and rocket fire fell on CC"A" positions during the day as the enemy tried to prevent the 35th Inf Div from advancing. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was shifted from Res Cmd to CC"A" reserve to be in a position to stop an enemy counter-attack on the right flank of the 4th Armd Div. The 37th Tank Bn remained in Reserve Command but moved from Assenois to the vicinity of Chaumont to be in strategic position should a counter-attack develop. A/25 was released from CC"A" and reverted to squadron control.

CC"B" maintained contact with CC"A" to the south and the 101st Airborne Division to the north. They strengthened their positions and tied in more closely with the flanking units to be prepared for an enemy attack. There was no contact with the enemy during the day. An enemy plane crashed in the area of the 8th Tank Bn south of Bastogne and the two occupants of the plane were taken prisoner.

All division artillery fired on positions of the enemy in support of the attack by the 35th Inf Div. The troops of Reserve Command remained in a reserve position to support either combat command in the event of an enemy counter-attack from the direction of Lutrebois. Enemy planes were active throughout the day strafing positions of the 4th Armd Div. One bomb was dropped in the 37th Tank Bn area killing one and wounding eleven.

Most of the units enjoyed a turkey dinner but some of them had to delay this meal until a later date.

2 January 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division was released assignment to III Corps and was assigned to VIII Corps.

CC"B" assembled in the vicinity of Fauvillers to be prepared to move on orders from VIII Corps. There was no order so the combat command remained in the vicinity of Fauvillers. They had no contact with the enemy during the day.

Company "A" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn aided F/124 in cleaning out a small pocket of German resistance near Lutrebois. The enemy resistance consisted of small arms and machine gun fire. F/124 captured 40 prisoners in this operation. The rest of C "A" remained in position holding the Bastogne corridor open and were also in a position to thwart a prospective enemy counter-attack from the woods east of Lutrebois.

Troop "C" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn was released from attachment to Reserve Command and reverted to squadron control.

Division Artillery supported attacks of the 35th Inf Div and fired on call during the day.

Train Headquarters was strafed by a lone plane but no damage was done.

Enemy artillery fire fell on various units during the day causing 26 casualties. This fire appeared to be directed on the Arlon-Bastogne highway.

New enemy units identified in the VIII Corps area included the 167th Volks Grenadier Division and the 2nd SS Panzer Grenadier Regt of the 1st SS Panzer Division.

Several units of the division enjoyed a belated New Years turkey dinner.

3 January 1945:-

The following troops assignments became effective at 0900.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
8	53	D/704
35	37	D/489
10	22	24(-A,B)
51	C/25	
94	B/704	
66	E/24	
A/24	A/489	
A/704	B/46	
B/489	B/126	
A/46		
A/126		

The mission of CC"A" was extended to include the holding of the entire right flank against possible enemy counter-attacks. Sporadic enemy artillery and rocket fire fell on the units of CC"A" during the day and night inflicting six casualties.

The situation of CC"B" remained unchanged with most of the units assembled in the vicinity of Fauviller and VIII Corps reserve. This position enabled them to move in any direction in the event of enemy counter-attack. Troop "B" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn was released from attachment to CC"B" and reverted to squadron control.

4 January 1945:-

CC"B" was placed on a one hour alert to be prepared to repel enemy counter-attacks in VIII Corps area. An enemy counter-attack had developed north of Bastogne in the vicinity of Longchamps. The 101st Airborne Division reported this attack was in division strength. Co "C" of the 704th TD Bn was sent to the 101st to assist in repelling this attack. At 1115 the 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved from Sainlez to an assembly area in the vicinity of Chaumont.

CC"A" was alerted at 0500 and three task forces were set up to expedite the CC"A" mission of defending the right flank of the Bastogne corridor. The 8th, 10th (-B), and a platoon of A/704, under command of Col. Withers, were given the mission of defending the north half of the corridor. Major Alenis led a force composed of 51, A/35, and a platoon of A/704 which was to protect the southern half of the right flank of the Bastogne corridor. The 35th (-A), B/10, and A/704 (-2 platoons) were to be a mobile reserve for the other two task forces. Lt Col. Oden commanded this latter force. Co"A" of the 24th Armd Eng Bn had the dual mission of road maintenance and acting as an infantry reserve. CC"A" made no contact with the enemy.

Division Artillery remained on call to support the 25th Inf Div and fired several barrages during the day. Enemy artillery and rocket fire fell on units positions throughout the day.

More snow fall made the roads increasingly slippery, adding to the peril of vehicular movement.

5 January 1945:-

There was little change in the disposition of 4th Armd Div troops and no contact was made with the enemy during the day. Co "C" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn and Co "A" of the 8th Tank Bn shifted to a position east of the main highway and south of Marvis to tie in close with positions of the 6th Armd Div which had fallen back to defensive positions east and southeast of Bastogne. The enemy counter-attacked 6th Armd Div positions in the vicinity of Marvis but the attack was repulsed without committing units of the 4th Armd Div. Division Artillery fired in support of 6th Armd Div Artillery in dispersing enemy troop concentrations. Sporadic artillery fire fell on division units during the day and night.

One platoon of C/51 was pulled out of the line for a twelve hour rest giving them an opportunity to dry their clothing and clean up. The other companies planned to follow the same procedure on successive days.

The 53d Armd Inf Bn remained in CC"B" mobile reserve in the vicinity of Chaumont. All companies were engaged in the maintenance of vehicles and weapons and in firing rifles, bazookas, and machine guns on a range near Chaumont.

Following is a list of C's of the combat commands: CC"A", south of Sibret; CC"B", north of Burnon; Reserve Command, north of Remichampagne.

Considerable difficulty had been encountered in the past operation of tanks sliding from the icy roads. The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn invented a method of reducing this hazard. Two-inch calks were cut out from steel grousers were welded to the steel track of the tanks. They ran parallel to the long axis of the track and were welded on every fifth block.

6 January 1945:-

An apparently authentic report from a prisoner of war stated that the enemy prepared to attack from the vicinity of Lutrebois at 0400 the next day, CC"A" was alerted and prepared to meet this enemy attack. C/35 moved to a position southwest of Remoifosse and west of the position of C/8 to be in a reserve position in the event of an attack. C/8 was attached to the task force commanded by Colonel Withers. Division Artillery concentrated its fire on positions known to be assembly areas of the enemy. Results of these barrages could not be obtained as poor visibility forced all aircraft to be grounded. A/24 sanded the icy roads in case of a possible movement by CC"A".

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn remained in the vicinity of Chaumont and continued maintenance of vehicles and equipment. Troops also fired the 81mm mortar on the range.

Brig Gen Earnest visited the CP of the 35th Tank Bn at 1500 and discussed plans to be used against an attack by the enemy.

An MP control point to handle division supply traffic was established at Salvacourt.

The weather was overcast and foggy but the temperature had risen.

7 January 1945:-

The enemy counter-attack scheduled for 0400 failed to materialize and a prisoner stated that our artillery caught the enemy in their final assembly area, inflicting heavy casualties and preventing an attack. Later reports from friendly sources verified this information. C/35 moved south to its former position north of Sainlez and reverted to battalion control.

CC"A" of the 6th Armd Div received an enemy attack of 700 infantry and from 10 to 12 tanks in the vicinity of Marvis. That attack came from the direction of Wardin and Benonchamps and first reports told of enemy penetrations. All units of CC"A" of the 4th Armd Div together with Co "A" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn were alerted for immediate movement to support the 6th Armd Div. No further orders were given and by 2100 the 6th Armd Div had halted the enemy attack and the 4th Armd Div was not committed.

The 53rd and 37th fired the new .50 and .30 caliber machine guns of the small arms range and were given a demonstration of the new flash-hider.

At 1945 a report was received from a friendly CP in the vicinity of Marvis of a peculiar odor which resembled gas. Tests, however, established the fact that the odor was not gas.

Under the rotation system for return of officers and enlisted men to the United States for 30 days rest and recuperation, another group of 36 enlisted men and 3 officers departed from the division (Par 1, SO 3, Hq 4th Armd Div cs).

8 January 1945:-

An order was received from III Corps that 4th Armd Div troops were to be withdrawn from positions along the east flank of the Bastogne corridor by 090800. CC"A", which held positions along the corridor, was alerted for movement to an assembly area west of the Arlon-Bastogne highway.

Heavy snowfall followed by high winds hampered the units in their operations during the day.

The following troop list went into effect at 2130.

CC"A"	CC"E"	Reserve Command
10	53	51
35	37	8
66	22	94
D/25	C/25	704(-A,B)
A/24	B/24	D/489
A/704	B/704	24 (-A,B)
B-489	A/489	
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	

Jan 45 - 4

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original.**

Maj Gen Gaffey and Brig Gen Dager conferred with the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne on coordination of the two divisions in an attack north to Noville. CC"B" was to be on call to support the 101st whose attack was to begin 9 January. At 1600 there was a meeting of all unit commanders at the CC"B" CP to discuss the plans for this operation. The CC"B" assembly was in the vicinity of Assencis. The 36th and 53rd moved from Chaumont to Assencis and both units had closed in the assembly area by 2245.

Enemy contact in the CC"A" sector was confined to sporadic artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. Approximately 20 rounds fell in the C/10 area wounding two men while several rounds struck near the 51st CP knocking out the headquarters maintenance truck. Brig Gen Earnest visited the CP's of the 10th, 51st, 8th, and 35th during the day to discuss coming operational procedures, and the possibility of securing reinforcements. B/35 replaced A/35 in support of the 51st and A/35 reverted to battalion control. The 66th Armd FA Bn moved from Strainchamps to Hette and remained for the night.

Reserve Command received orders to assemble in the vicinity of Chaumont to be in a position to support the attack to the north or to go to either flank of the Bastogne corridor in case of an enemy counter-attack. Division Artillery was to support the attack of the 101st toward Noville. At 0930 Reserve Command was ordered to reconnoiter a route to two objectives in the vicinity of Luxembourg and make a study on and about these objectives so the division could formulate plans for emergency counter-attack purposes. Elements from the 24th and 704th were sent out on this mission. Approximately five bombs were dropped in the vicinity of C/126 at Chatmelle, Belgium, at 1030. It was not known if the bombs were dropped by the enemy or by a friendly plane in distress. There were no casualties from this attack. Welders were sent out by the 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn to weld calks on the tracks of division replacement tanks at Etain, Franca.

9 January 1945:-

The 101st Airborne Division did not attack toward Noville and CC"B", which was to support this attack, was relieved from attachment to the 101st at 1900. CC"B" received orders to move from their assembly area northeast of Assencis to an assembly area northeast of Bastogne and to be prepared to attack the following morning. This movement took place while enemy artillery shelled the roads in the vicinity of Bastogne, but by 1900 all units had closed in the assembly area. The CC"B" CP moved from Assencis to a position northeast of Bastogne. Unit commanders received the plan of attack and the division objective was the town of Bourcy. The 101st and the 6th and the 4th Armored Division were to attack abreast.

The units of CC"A" were withdrawn from positions protecting the right flank of the Bastogne corridor and at 1600 had closed in an assembly area northwest of Sainlez. CC"A" then moved to a position southeast of Bastogne with all units closed in at 1830. Preparations were made for the attack toward Bourcy at 0900 the following day. CC"A" was to attack parallel to and on the right flank of CC"B". Some artillery fire fell on the positions of CC"A" during the day but no casualties or damage resulted. Major Cohen, commanding officer of the 10th Armd Inf Bn was evacuated for illness and Captain Young assumed command.

Reserve Command was alerted to move at 1400 to follow CC"A" but the orders were changed and Reserve Command was not to move until the following day.

10 January 1945:-

Both combat commands moved out from their assembly area in the vicinity of

Bastogne at 0600 to attack toward Bourcy. After an artillery preparation by the 6th Armd Div they crossed the line of departure at 0900.

In the CC"A" sector Captain Young led a task force composed of A/10 and B/35 in the attack while Lt Col Oden was in command of the other companies of the 35th and 10th which were held in reserve. Troop "D" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn maintained contact between the two combat commands. Initial resistance consisted of scattered small arms fire and the force advanced approximately 1000 yards and cleaned out a woods of enemy infantry. As the force reached open ground beyond the woods, enemy artillery opened up on them from the north and east inflicting 41 casualties on A/10 in less than an hour. B/35 started with eleven tanks but after the attack had only two as four were knocked out by the enemy and five others had encountered difficulty with tracks on the ice and had to be repaired. The task force was forced to withdraw into the woods where they dug in to hold their gain. CC"A" received orders to break off the attack and remain in position until relieved by units of the 6th Armd Div. C/10, B/35, and C/35 were relieved at 1800 and together with the other units of CC"A" moved to the original assembly area south of Bastogne. All units had closed in by 2200.

Troop "C" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn maintained contact between 101st Airborne Division and CC"B". By 1000 the units had reached a position approximately 600 yards beyond the line of departure. They encountered only small arms fire in the first part of the advance. At 1235 they encountered direct fire and mortar fire from the north. The 37th Tank Bn succeeded in knocking out one anti-tank gun and two self-propelled guns. At 1350 orders were received to break contact with the enemy and move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Assensis. All units closed in the assembly area by 2050.

Reserve Command remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of Sainlez and was alerted to go to the support of either combat command. The CP of Res Cmd moved from Martelange to Hompne.

Orders were received that the 4th Armored Division was released from VIII Corps and placed in Third Army Reserve and was to prepare for immediate movement to positions in the vicinity of Luxembourg City.

Enemy units contacted during the day included the 340th Volks Grenadier Division and the 388th Volks Artillery Corps.

The artillery section of B/126 changed the recoil oil stuffing box packing, changed the oil and adjusted the rear head of a 105mm howitzer which had been firing defectively. This was the first time this type of operation was performed by the company.

Our casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
EM	17	47	12
Off	0	1	0

Enemy losses during the day included 83 killed, 75 wounded, 184 prisoners, 1 anti-tank gun and 3 self-propelled guns destroyed.

11 January 1945:-

At 0500 orders were received by the division from Third Army that shoulder patches were to be removed and vehicular insignia was to be obliterated. Radio silence was to be maintained until further notification.

Maj Gen Gaffey held a meeting of all unit commanders at 0800. Orders were issued at this time for movement of the division to a general position south of Luxembourg.

The first Units moved at 1600 and by 120600 all units had closed in the new assembly area. Cold weather, icy roads, darkness, and heavy traffic of other divisions impeded movement of the division but the march was made without casualties.

Following is a list of the disposition of units of the division in the new assembly area.

10th Armd Inf Bn	Gandren, France,
51st Armd Inf Bn	(vic) Roussez le Bourg, France
53rd Armd Inf Bn	Hassel, Luxembourg
8th Tank Bn	Boust, Luxembourg

12 January 1945:-

All units of the division had closed in their assigned areas by 0600 and all men were in billets. Most of the day was spent in maintenance of vehicles, cleaning weapons, personal cars, and camouflaging vehicles. An order was received that vehicles would be whitewashed to blend with the snow.

Brig Gen Earnest reconnoitered routes and studied the terrain of two possible areas which Third Army considered the division might have to counter-attack if the reported enemy build up in that area consummated in an attack. The two areas were those held by the 4th Inf Div and the 2nd Cav Group in the XII Corps zone.

The 66th Armd FA Bn moved from Himeling, France to a position in the vicinity of Buver, Luxembourg with the mission of supporting the 4th Inf Div. The 94th Armd FA Bn moved from Frisange, Luxembourg to Wecker, Luxembourg to reinforce the 255th FA Bn of the 2d Cavalry Group.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn established a security road patrol between Hassel, Luxembourg and the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn which was located in Contern, Luxembourg, units were on the alert for possible enemy paratroopers.

Forward Echelon closed in Rodemack, France at 0530 after an overnight march from Rodange, Belgium.

13 January 1945:-

The division received an order from Third Army to move to an area generally west of the Thionville-Luxembourg highway. An enemy counter-attack was expected in that area and the division was to be in reserve in the event the counter-attack occurred. Officers from the various units were ordered to reconnoiter for billets at this new position and by 1400 all had reported finding suitable billets.

Units of Reserve Command moved first with CC"A" and CC"B" to follow on division order. The 8th Tank Bn left Boust, France at 1500 and closed in Mondercange, Luxembourg at 2000. The route of march was through Hettange Grande, Kanfen, Volmerange, Dudelange, Kayl and Esch. The distance covered was approximately 18 miles. The 51st Armd Inf Bn was alerted for movements at 0830 the following day.

Other units of the division completed whitewashing their vehicles and continued maintenance operations. Church services were held and shower facilities were made available.

14 January 1945:-

Col. William P. Withers was released from assignment with CC"A" and was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff.

The units of CC"A" moved to the new assembly west of the Thionville-Luxembourg highway. The 35th Tank Bn moved from Aspelt, Luxembourg at 1130 and closed in Hagen and Basse, France at 1330. At 0900 the 10th Armd Inf Bn received orders to move to the new area. They moved out from Fixem and Gandren, France at 1145 and closed in Frisange, Luxembourg and Evrange, France by 1430.

Reserve Command CP moved from Dodenhoven and closed in Kayl at 1500. The 51st Armd Inf Bn moved from the towns of Evrange, Briestroff la Grande, Roussy la Bourg, and Roussy le village, France at 0830 and closed in Bergen, Neertrange, Pent-Pierre, and Schifflange, Luxembourg at 0946.

The units of CC"B" remained in position and continued the maintenance of vehicles and cleaning of weapons and equipment. Red Cross Clubmobiles visited the battalions and movies were shown. The men were also taken for showers.

The 66th and 94th Armd FA Bns continued to support the 2nd Cavalry Group and the 4th Inf Div.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn reported that all company shops were crowded with vehicles for maintenance repairs. This day was the peak for the month with 54 vehicles of the division inoperative in the battalion shops.

15 January 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division and attached units were assigned to XII Corps in a reserve capacity.

Forward Echelon moved from Rodemack, France at 1230 and closed in Dudelange, Luxembourg at 1400.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn left Hassel, Luxembourg at 1430 and closed in Dudelange, Luxembourg at 1515. The 37th Tank Bn moved from Itzig, Luxembourg and closed in Dippach, Reckange, Limpach, and Bettange, Luxembourg. The distance covered was approximately 30 kilometers.

The 35th Tank Bn gave driving instructions and crew drill to reinforcements. The 51st Armd Inf Bn was engaged in range firing. The other units continued maintenance of vehicles and cleaning of weapons and equipment. The men were afforded the opportunity to take showers and attend movies.

Plans were issued to the units of the division for countering and enemy airborne landings.

16 January 1945:-

Maj Gen Gaffey visited various units of the division during the day and commended them for their operation in the fighting around Bastogne. Units visited included the 8th, 37th, 51st and 53rd. He presented Lt Col Abrams with a second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star and awarded Lt Col Jaques with the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for their action which opened the road to Bastogne.

Brig Gen Dager visited the CP of the 37th Tank Bn to discuss the subject of camouflage and plans for use against a possible enemy counter-attack.

At 1920 G-3 directed CC"B" to alert one battery of the 22nd Armd FA Bn and a company from each of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn and the 37th Tank Bn. A company from each of these units was to be kept on an alert status at all times. A/22, A/53, and D/37 were immediately placed on an alert status.

Brig Gen Earnest visited the CP's of the 10th Armd Inf Bn and the 35th Tank Bn and ordered them to place one company on an alert status. The companies alerted were to be rotated at the end of each day. B/35 and B/10 were the two companies alerted.

Acting on orders from Reserve Command, the 51st Armd Inf Bn placed B/51 on the alert for possible employment against an enemy airborne attack.

The 144th Armd Sig Co held daily classes for the training of radio men who had recently joined the division as reinforcements. The infantry battalions constructed firing ranges and the men received further training in firing the rifle, mortar and machine gun. Maintenance and rehabilitation continued with all men given the opportunity to take showers and attend church and movies.

17 January 1945:-

One combat command of the division was placed on an alert status until further notice. CC"A" and CC"B" were to rotate daily beginning with CC"B" at 0830. The new situation had no effect on the previous order which alerted a tank and infantry company from each battalion. These companies were to be alerted on the days when the combat command to which they were attached was not alerted. The following troop list went into effect at 1530.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
10	53	51
35	37	8
A/25	C/25	D/25
A/24	B/24	C/704
A/704	B/704	D/489
B/489	A/489	C/24
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	

At 1400 there was a meeting of unit commanders at Division Headquarters in Dudelange. Plans were discussed as to the operation of the division in the event of an enemy counter-attack. Training plans for the rest period were also outlined in case the division was not committed to action.

The units continued training and maintenance work. Rangers were constructed for small arms weapons and tanks. The men enjoyed the hospitality of the people of Luxembourg as some of the units were billeted in private homes. Each unit could send 5% of its strength on pass to Luxembourg City and a quota was established for passes to Paris.

18 January 1945:-

There was no change in the mission of the 4th Armd Div. The division was to be ready to counter-attack in the XII Corps zone or to repel an enemy counter-attack in the area southwest of Luxembourg City. Plans were drawn up for the defense of towns in which the division was billeted in the event of an airborne landing or an enemy counter-attack. The senior officer in each town was placed in charge of the defense plan and was to coordinate his plans with those of other troops billeted in the town.

The 704th TD Bn was released from tactical attachment to the 4th Armd Div and tactically attached to XX Corps.

The 22nd Armd FA Bn moved from Bivange, Luxembourg to Wecher, Luxembourg to relieve the 94th Armd FA Bn which was supporting the 2d Cav Group. The 22nd followed a route from Bivange through Itzig, Sandweiler, Niederanven, and Berg.

The units of the division continued their training program and vehicular maintenance. Movies were shown to all units and passes to Luxembourg City and Paris were available.

19 January 1945:-

The 94th Armd FA Bn which had been relieved by the 22nd Armd FA Bn moved from Wecker through Luxembourg City, Bettenbourg and Kayl to an assembly area in the vicinity of Rumelange, Luxembourg.

Brig Gen Dager visited the 53rd Armd Inf Bn and presented awards to officers and men who had distinguished themselves in recent engagements.

Personnel who were not employed in security measures participated in company training and schedules. The 10th Armd Inf Bn fired the 81mm and 60mm mortars on the range. Other units fired the rifle and machine gun while the tank battalions were engaged in crew drill and driving instructions.

The recreation and rehabilitation program continued with church services, movies, passes to Luxembourg City, showers and visits by the Red Cross Clubmobile. The Division Band began a tour of the units to entertain the troops. Major Edward H. Meyer, S-3 of Division Artillery, was transferred to the 66th Armd FA Bn, where he was appointed executive officer. Major Andrew D. Pickard, executive officer of the 66th Armd FA Bn was transferred to Div Art as S-3.

20 January 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division received a letter of commendation from Lt Gen George S. Patton, Jr., for the superior performance of the division in the relief of Bastogne. Following is the first paragraph of Gen Patton's letter: "The outstanding celerity of your movement and the unremitting, vicious and skillful manner in which you pushed the attack, terminating at the end of four days and nights of incessant battle in relief of Bastogne, constitute one of the finest chapters in the glorious history of the U. S. Army."

The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Staff Sergeant Clyde E. Workman, 10th Armd Inf Bn, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy for many heroic acts which distinguished him as an outstanding, courageous soldier.

Will Lang, representing Time and Life magazines, and Ernest Hauser of the Saturday Evening Post visited G-2 to obtain information for stories on the relief of Bastogne.

21 January 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division received a letter from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force relating the attitude of the Germans toward this division. Following is an extract from the letter: "The 4th Armored Division is both feared and hated by German front-line troops because of its high combat efficiency. Some American PW's who could speak and understand German were told by enemy soldiers, and officers that the 4th Armored Division has gained a reputation amongst the Wehrmacht of being a crack armored unit dangerous to oppose."

A representative from III Corps visited G-1 to gather information from the after-action reports of the Bastogne battle. He stated that III Corps wanted to use this information to submit the division for a Presidential Citation.

Major Rucksfeller of the 51st was appointed temporary commanding officer of the 10th but returned to his original unit when Major Cohen returned to the 10th from the hospital.

22 January 1945:-

Brig Gen Earnest was released from duty with the 4th Armd Div and was appointed Commanding General, of the 90th Infantry Division.

Col. William F. Withers was released from duty with the 4th Armd Div and was assigned to command the 17th Armd Group.

Col. Hayden A. Sears, formerly with the 4th Armd Div as commanding officer of the 35th Armd Regt. and more recently the commanding officer of the 17th Armd Group was assigned to the 4th Armd Div and was appointed commanding officer of CC"A".

At 1500 all units of CC"B" together with the 51st Armd Inf from Res Cmd was alerted for movement to the 5th Inf Div sector in the vicinity of Diekirch, Luxembourg in the event of an enemy counter-attack. Intelligence reports showed that the 2nd Panzer Division was in the vicinity of Vianden. At 1900 orders were received not to move but the units continued on an alert status.

Maj Gen Gaffey visited the 10th Armd Inf Bn and presented Maj Cohen with the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star. Col Blanchard visited the 51st Armd Inf Bn and presented awards to the Officers and men who had distinguished themselves in recent engagements.

An anti-sabotage team from Third Army presented a demonstration for the 10th Armd Inf Bn showing sabotage methods used by the enemy and how to counteract them. The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn sent a tire inspection team to the units of the division to inspect and correct deficiencies in tire and tube maintenance. The 46th Med Bn conducted classes in first aid for its members showing new methods and giving training to reinforcements.

Movies were shown by the units and passes to Luxembourg City and Esch continued.

23 January 1945:-

The following troop list went into effect at 0830.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
51	53	10
35	37	8
A/25	C/25	D/25
A/24	B/24	D/489
E/489	A/489	C/24
A/46	B/46	
A/126	E/126	

At 0930 the following changes in troop assignments were announced. The 10th Armd Inf Bn was transferred to CC"A" and the 51st Armd Inf Bn was shifted to CC"B".

The units of CC"B" were alerted for movement to an assembly area in the general vicinity of Lintgen. The 53rd left Laudelange at 1415 and closed in Rollingen at 1600, covering a distance of 15.8 miles. The 51st moved out from towns in the vicinity of Esch at 1625 passing through Betterbourg, Luxembourg City, Beggen, Beraldange, Wolderdange, and closed in Heisdorf. Service and Headquarters Companies remained in the vicinity of Esch. The 37th left Dippach at 1610 and closed in Reckange-les Mersch at 1800. C/25 moved from Altzingen to Beringen with the mission being prepared to lead CC"B". The 94th moved from Rumelange to Lourentzweiler to support CC"B" if they were committed. A party from each of these units remained in the towns formerly occupied by the units to hold the billeting areas in case CC"B" was not committed.

CC"A" was alerted to move to an assembly area between Luxembourg City and Arlon but no movement order was issued. The units of CC"A" continued their training schedules but passes were discontinued because of the alert. The 10th Armd Inf Bn conducted an NCO school to orientate the NCO on his duties in battle. The Third Army anti-sabotage team visited units of the division and presented demonstrations.

24 January 1945:-

Maj Gen Eddy, Commanding General of XII Corps, visited CC"B" headquarters and plans were drawn up for the commitment of CC"B" in the 4th, 5th, or 87th Inf Div sectors in the event of an enemy counter-attack. Officers from CC"B" contacted the 4th Inf Div and made overlays of routes and terrain in that zone.

CC"A" remained on the alert and billeting parties reconnoitered the proposed assembly area northwest of Luxembourg City. Units of CC"A" continued their training schedules which included firing on the range, crew drill, and road marches.

The 66th and 22nd Armd FA Bns continued to support the 2nd Cavalry Group and the 87th Inf Div.

G-1 received a call from XII Corps that the 4th Armd Div had a quota of 20 enlisted men to work their way home on a hospital ship for a ten day furlough at home.

25 January 1945:-

CC"A" remained on an alert status throughout the day but no orders for commitment were received. At 1900 a meeting of unit commanding officers was held at the CC"A" CP to discuss training schedules in the event the combat command was not committed.

Commanding Officers of the units of CC"B" had a meeting at the Combat Command CP. They discussed the possibility of replacing the light tanks with medium tanks with the exception of those used by the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn. Training schedules, discipline and types of uniform were also subjects for discussion.

Col Blanchard called a meeting of unit commanders of Reserve Command to brief them on the present situation and to outline operations if the units should be committed to action.

Col Earnest A. Bigby, former member of the 4th Armd Div but now serving with the 90th Inf Div, was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 12 September 1944 to 24 October 1944.

Pilots of P 47's from the 9th Air Force visited the 94th Armd FA Bn and discussed air-ground cooperation, the covering of flak targets and the use of smoke. The 27th Tank Bn began holding a daily formation to read the latest war news to the men and to give them pertinent information that might be helpful in combat. The 35th Tank Bn fired the assault gun on the range and Col Sears witnessed the practice. The 10th Armd Inf Bn conducted a driving school to familiarize all men with the vehicles used by the battalion.

26 January 1945:-

Twenty enlisted men from the division left today for a ten day furlough in the United States. They were placed on temporary duty with the Channel Base Section for return to the Zone of Interior as non-medical attendants on a hospital

ship and were sent to the 15th Replacement Command Depot for transportation. (Par 1, SO 20, Hq 4th AD cs.)

The 10th, 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns were alerted to take over a portion of the 4th Infantry Division sector until that division was relieved by the 80th Inf Div. Officers from the infantry battalion ~~reconitered the proposed combat zone~~ to study available routes and terrain features. Maj Gen Gaffey visited the CC"B" CP and observed this proposed committal in the 4th Inf Divn zone.

The units continued their training programs and those which were not alerted attended a USO show at Basse, Luxembourg.

27 January 1945:-

Each infantry battalion turned in its three motor-carriages - 75mm howitzer M8, and was issued 105mm howitzer mounted on M4 tank, increasing the fire power of the infantry assault guns. Considerable time was spent on the range firing this new weapon for familiarization.

New winter clothing in the form of wool mittens with leather covering, scarfs, and show pacs was issued to units of the division.

The three infantry battalions remained on the alert for movement to the 80th Inf Division sector but no orders for this move were received. The 80th Inf Div had relieved the 4th Inf Div the previous night.

Training programs and maintenance work were continued by the units and movies were shown to the officers and men in the evening.

28 January 1945:-

At 1500 orders were received for the three infantry battalions to be ready to move the following day to relieve elements of the 80th Inf Div on the line in the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg.

Major Yeul M Havens was relieved from assignment as S-2 with CC"A" and was assigned to duty with the 35th Tank Bn. Captain Harry C Dunton was released from the G-2 Section and was announced as S-2 of CC"A". Captain Joseph A. Costello was released from duty as executive officer of the 35th Tank Bn and was assigned to 4th Armd Div Headquarters.

Each rifle company of the division was authorized 18 BAR's to increase their small arms fire power.

The units that were not on an alert status were authorized to resume passes to Luxembourg City and Esch on a 5% basis.

In a G-2 special report it was stated that the Germans had been using a device known as a "Troublemaker". This device imitated the noise of machine guns and was set up in woods to resemble a strongly held position.

29 January 1945:-

CC"B" was attached to the 80th Infantry Division and was ordered to relieve the 319th Regt. The 319th Regt was attached to the 4th Armd Div for operational control. The 10th Armd Inf Bn was transferred from CC"A" to CC"B" at 0830 and the shift placed the three infantry battalions with CC"B".

The 10th Armd Inf Bn moved out of Frisange at 1530 and closed in Mastroff at 1930. They relieved the 1st Bn of the 319th Regt with "A" and "C" Companies going on the line and "B" Company in reserve. The 51st Armd Inf Bn moved out from Heisdorf at 1600 passing through Bofferdange, Lorentzweiler, Rollingen, Mersch,

Crutchen, Schronweiler and Gilsdorf. Company "A" went to Fohren; Company "B" to Longsdorf; Company "C" assembled at a position along the Niederberg Ridge east of Bittersdorf; all companies were in position by 2200. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved from Rollingen at 1400 and arrived in Bettendorf at 1600 to relieve the 2nd Bn of the 319th Regt. The 53rd was to remain in a reserve position and be prepared to go into the line to support the 10th or 51st. Troop "D" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn moved from Beringen to Diekirch with the mission of maintaining patrols and outposts in the rear of the 5th Infantry Division.

Maj Gen Gaffey visited the CP of the 94th Armd FA Bn and presented awards to officers and men who had distinguished themselves in the fighting around Bastogne.

The tank battalions were engaged in rewhite-washing vehicles as rain and an improper mixture had caused the first coat of camouflage to come off.

Units which were not in the line or on the alert were permitted to send men on passes to Metz and Luxembourg City.

The following troop assignment went into effect at 1700.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
35	10	8
3/319	51	1/319
66	53	D/25
A/25	C/25	D/489
A/24	E/24	C/24
B/489	A/489	
A/46	E/46	
A/126	E/126	

2/319 and the 37th were under division control.

30 January 1945:-

Sergeant Paul Porter, Company "B", 53rd Armd Inf Bn, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy during the action in the capture of Domfessel, France.

The 10th, 51st and 53rd held positions on the front line in the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg. Enemy pillboxes and dragon's teeth were clearly visible from their front line positions and enemy soldiers could be seen in the distance. There was little enemy activity and the infantry battalions received occasional small arms and mortar fire.

The 94th Armd FA Bn moved from Laurentzweiler to the vicinity of Euver and Wecker to relieve the 66th Armd FA Bn in support of the 2nd Cavalry Group. The 66th moved to an assembly area north of Hellenge and the CP was located at Peppange.

The 1st and end Bns, 319th Regt of the 80th Inf Div, which was attached to the 4th Armd Div, closed in assembly areas at Kehlen and Rollingen.

31 January 1945:-

The 10th, 51st and 53rd sent out night patrols to reconnoiter in front of their positions, locate pillboxes, and check for possible crossings of the Our River. The river was found to be unsuitable for crossing because the melting snow had caused it to rise and flow swiftly. Prisoners of war captured by the patrols were identified from the 2nd and 7th Companies, 915th Regt of the 352nd Volksgrenadier Div. Some small arms fire was received from the vicinity of Heesdorf during the day. Troop "C" of the 5th Cav Rcn Sqdn patrolled behind the front line of the infantry battalions.

The 3rd Bn, 319th Regt., 80th Inf Div moved from the front line and assembled in the vicinity of Heisdorf.

The 37th Tank Bn installed a flame thrower on one tank and experimented with its use on the range. First trials with the flame thrower were successful.

Summary for January:-

During the first nine days of January the 4th Armored Division protected and improved the corridor south of Bastogne. In the action around Bastogne the division was assigned to III Corps but on the 2nd was assigned VIII Corps. The division was constantly on the alert for enemy counter-attacks against the corridor, for there were reports of heavy enemy tank activity northeast and east of Bastogne. Enemy air activity was prominent during the first part of January and several units were bombed and strafed.

On the 10th of January the 4th Armd Div and the 101st Airborne Division counter-attacked to the north of Bastogne and made good progress but orders were received late in the day to halt the attack and move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Assenois.

The division was ordered to move to an assembly area south of Luxembourg on the 11th to be in a position to stop a prospective enemy counter-attack in that sector. The division was released from VIII Corps and was placed in Third Army Reserve. This move to Luxembourg was made in secrecy as there was radio silence and vehicular markings and shoulder insignia were removed. On the 13th of January the units moved to an area west of Thienville-Luxembourg highway as an enemy counter-attack was expected in that area. The division was assigned to XII Corps in a reserve capacity on the 15th and during this period in Army and Corps reserve training, maintenance, and rehabilitation were carried on. The combat command rotated so that a daily alert was in effect against airborne landings or counter-attack.

On the 29th the three infantry battalions, which were assigned to CC"B" were attached to the 80th Inf Div and moved to the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg, to take up defensive positions along the Our River.

January Statistics:-

A. Equipment.

1. Enemy equipment destroyed
 - a. 1-anti-tank gun
 - b. 3-self-propelled guns
2. Vehicles lost by the 4th Armd Div due to enemy action
 - a. 2-tanks, medium
 - b. 1-tank, light
 - c. 1-car, armored, M8
 - d. 1-carriage, motor, 105mm how., M7
 - e. 9-trucks, $\frac{1}{4}$ ton, 4x4
 - f. 2-trucks, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton weapons carrier
 - g. 7-trucks, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6x6
 - h. 3-trailers, 1-ton, 2 wheel cargo
 - i. 1-trailer, ammunition, M10
3. 4th Armd Div vehicles worn out through fair wear and tear and replaced during the month.
 - a. 23-tanks, medium
 - b. 3-tanks, light

- c. 1-carrier, personnel, half Track, M3A1
 - d. 6-trucks, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4x4
- B. Battle Casualties.
- 1. Enemy.
 - a. Killed - 83
 - b. Wounded - 75
 - c. Prisoners - 184
 - 2. 4th Armored Division.
 - a. Killed - 32 EM
 - b. Wounded - 9 Off, 219 EM
 - c. Missing - 17 EM
- C. Non-Battle Casualties.
- 1. 475 EM, 19 Off
- D. Returned to Duty.
- 1. From battle casualties
 - a. 276 EM, 13 Off
 - 2. From non-battle casualties
 - a. 221 EM, 7 Off
- E. Reinforcements.
- 1. 645 EM, 40 Off
- F. Strength, Division (1 February 1945)
- 1. 610 officers; 51 warrant officers; 10,082 EM
- G. Promotions.
- 1. Field Grade
 - a. Major to Lt Colonel
 - Robert M. Parker, commanding officer, 94th Armd FA Bn
 - Dan C. Alanis, commanding officer, 51st Armd Inf Bn
 - Albin F. Irzyk, commanding officer, 3th Tank Bn
 - b. Captain to Major
 - Lawrence E. Fleischman, S-4, Division Artillery
 - Donald W. Hatch, Executive Officer, 24th Armd Eng Bn
 - 2. To captain - 9
 - 3. To 1st Lieutenant - 17
 - 4. Battlefields Appointments by unit
 - a. 10th Armd Inf Bn - 1
 - b. 25th Cav Recon Sqdn - 2
 - c. 489th AmAW Bn - 1
 - d. 8th Tank Bn - 3
 - e. 22nd Armd FA Bn - 2
 - f. 53rd Armd Inf Bn - 3
 - g. 35th Tank Bn - 1
- H. Awards.
- 1. Distinguished Service Cross
 - a. Awarded to Sgt Paul Porter, 53rd Armd Inf Bn, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy during the action in the capture of Domfessel, France.
 - b. Awarded to S/Sgt Clyde E. Workman, 10th Armd Inf Bn, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

2. Legion of Merit.
 - a. Awarded to Col. Ernest A. Bixby, former member of the 4th Armd Div., now serving with the 90th Inf Div, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 12 September 1944 to 24 October 1944.
3. Silver Star - 85; Oak Leaf Cluster - 19
4. Soldier's Medal - 4
5. Bronze Star - 272, Oak Leaf Clusters - 40
6. Air Medal - 3; Oak Leaf Cluster - 6
7. Purple Heart - 358; Oak Leaf Clusters - 108

I. Ammunition Expenditure.

1.	105mm howitzer	42,969
2.	76mm gun	1,806
3.	75mm gun	1,282
4.	75mm howitzer	1,195
5.	37mm gun	940
6.	81mm mortar	712
7.	60mm mortar	90
8.	2-inch Mort, Smk. Bomb	198
9.	Recker 2.36-inch	630
10.	Grenade, Hand Asst	2209
11.	Grenade, Rifle Asst	200
12.	Adapt. Grd. Proj., M1	480
13.	Carbine	40800
14.	Cal. .30 Asst	296448
15.	Cal. .45 Ball	50600
16.	Cal. .50 Asst	27815

1 February 1945;-

The 4th Armd Div received a letter of commendation Maj Gen Maxwell D. Taylor Commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, for reopening communications to Bastogne which permitted vital supplies to reach the 101st. Following is a quotation from the letter: "It has been an honor and a privilege for this division to serve alongside the 4th Armored Division. If we are ever in a tight spot again it is our hope that the 4th Armd Div will be sent to set us out."

The 10th, 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns, which were holding defensive positions along the Our River in the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg reported little activity on the line. An enemy attempted to infiltrate positions of the 10th Armd Inf Bn but was driven off by small arms fire. Rain and melting snow had raised the Our River to flood stage causing activity in that area to become static.

CC" "remained on a one hour alert status for counter-attack purposes in case of an enemy attack and penetrate along the line from Kickirch southeast along the Saar River to the Moselle River, or in the event of an airborne attack in the vicinity of Luxembourg City.

Other units of the division spent considerable time in training reinforcements and getting vehicles and equipment in good condition. The 37th Tank Bn gave more demonstration and additional training with the flame thrower which they had recently installed on one of their tanks.

Six-hour passes to Luxembourg City continued for the units which were not alerted and shower facilities were available for the officers and enlisted men.

2 February 1945;-

The 10th Armd Inf Bn attacked from Mostroff toward Hoesdorf, Luxembourg at 2200 but was soon forced to halt because of anti-personnel mines.

Prisoners of war captured by the 51st Armd Inf Bn from an enemy patrol were identified as being from the 6th and 7th companies of the 915th Volks Grenadier Division.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn sent out several crews to weld chicken wire on the front, sides, and turret of medium and light tanks for inserting natural camouflage material.

The 22nd and 94th Armd FA Bns continued to support the 2nd Cavalry Group and the 76th Infantry Division. The 704th TD Bn supported the 94th Inf Div in the XX Corps zone in the vicinity of Ober-Perl, Germany.

The tank battalions fired the 37mm, 75mm, and 76mm guns on the range. Other features of the training schedule included mounted and dismounted road marches, orientation on the current war situation and movies.

3 February 1945;-

The 10th Armd Inf Bn captured the town of Hoesdorf, Luxembourg early in the morning against rear guard small arms resistance. Several rounds of artillery fell in the town at 0730 but little damage resulted.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was alerted at 2100 for movement to the vicinity of Beaufort, Luxembourg to relieve the 3rd Bn, 318th Regt of the 80th Inf Div. At 1745 the 37th Tank Bn was alerted to move from Reckange-IeslMersch to their former assembly

area at Dippach. The 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn was alerted to move from Diopach to Schiff-
lange to make room for the 37th Tank Bn.

The 1236th Armd Ord Maint Bn sent several welding crews to a demonstration
by Third Army Ordnances on welding the armor plated fronts of salvaged medium tanks
hulls on the front of medium tanks to give added protection. The demonstration also
included the welding of armor plate on the sides of the tank.

Unit of the division received a quota of officers and enlisted men to go on
to Paris.

4 February 1945;-

The 319th Regt of the 80th Infantry Division was released from attachment to the
4th Armored Division at 0800. The 10th Armd Inf Bn was released from attachment to
the 80th Inf Div and reverted to division control at 2400. The 51st Armd Inf Bn was
attached to the 319th Regt of the 80th Inf Div and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn was attached
to the 318th Regt.

The 10th Armd Inf moved out of Hoesdorf on the front line at 1900 and closed
in an assembly area in the vicinity of Frisange, Luxembourg, shortly after midnight.
The 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved from Battendorf at 0800 and closed in an assembly area in
the vicinity of Beaufort, Luxembourg at 1100. The distance travelled was approxi-
mately 14 miles. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn relieved two companies of the 3rd Bn, 318th
Regt. of the 80th Inf Div. The 37th Tank Bn moved out from Reckange-les Mersch at
0800 and closed in Dippach, Luxembourg at 1000. Troop "D" of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn
moved from Dippach and closed in Schifflange at 0945. The 35th Tank Bn was alerted
to move to the vicinity of Sandweiler.

CC"A" reported that a flying bomb landed southeast of their CP near Preische at
0512. There was no damage military equipment.

5 February 1945;-

The following troop list went into effect at 1200.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
35	37	8
10	C/25	D/25
A/25	B/24	D/489
A/24	A/489	
B/489	B/46	
A/46	B/126	
A/126		

66th - supporting 5th Inf Div
94th - supporting 2nd Cavalry Group
51st - attached to 80th Inf Div
53rd - attached to 80th Inf Div
C/24 - attached to 1135 Engr Group
995th - attached to 1103 Engr Group
704th - attached to XX Corps

The 51st Armd Inf Bn captured seven prisoners who deserted, swam the Our River,
and made their way into our lines.

The 94th Armd FA Bn moved from Bover to Herborn, Luxembourg, to reinforce the
775th FA Bn, which was supporting the 2nd Cavalry Group. The 66th Armd FA Bn moved

from the vicinity of Peppange and Bivange at 0900 and closed in an assembly area north of Consdorf Luxembourg at 1145 to support the 5th Inf Div and reinforce the 46th Pz Bn. The 35th Tank Bn moved from Hagen, France at 0900 to Sandweiler, Luxembourg closing in at 1100.

The 37th Tank Bn gave a demonstration of the thrower mounted on a tank for officers of the division, including Maj Gen Gaffey and staff officers.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn began welding additional armor plate on the front and sides of the medium tanks. Their equipment proved inadequate for this operation so welders and tanks were sent to Third Army Ordnance to complete the work. Capt. Quilliam J. Harrn, 704th TD Bn left to attend the Information-Education school for officers in Paris.

White camouflage suits were collected and turned in as the rain and mild weather had caused the snow to disappear. The white camouflage had also been washed from the vehicles by the rain.

6 February 1945;-

A group of fifteen enlisted men from units of the division were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Replacement Depot and further temporary duty to the Reception Stations in the United States for thirty days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 25, Hq 4th AD cs).

The 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns which were attached to the 80th Inf Div, received instructions for the attack of the 80th on the following day. The 53rd, which was located in the vicinity of Beaufort, Luxembourg, received orders to fire all its guns at enemy targets across the Our River. This operation was assigned to create a disturbance in the vicinity of Beaufort to divert the attention of the enemy from the proposed crossing of the Our River by the 318th Regt, south of Dellingen. The 51st was to support the 319th Regt with fire from all its weapons.

The 4th Armd Div received an order from XII Corps that men and vehicles would not congregate in large groups. This order caused the units to alter their training schedules which had originally called for road marches and firing on the range.

A meeting of battalion commanders was held in Division Headquarters at 1530 for briefing of future XII Corps operations and possible employment of the division in these plans.

Interrogation of prisoners of war disclosed that the enemy was using naval and air corps personnel in the infantry with no additional training.

7 February 1945;-

The XII Corps attack to cross the Our River began at 0100. The 53rd and 51st Armd Inf Bns supported the 80th Inf Div with artillery and small arms fire. By 1245 the 318th Regt had two companies across the river and had established a bridgehead 600 yards wide and 300 yards deep. In conjunction with the attack of the 80th Div the 51st Armd Inf Bn advanced from the vicinity of Gilsdorf and seized the Our River town of Bettel, Luxembourg. They received considerable artillery fire from across the river and encountered many anti-personnel mines.

Company "C" of the 704th TD Bn was released from attachment to XV Corps and reverted to division control. The company moved from the vicinity of Ober-Perl, Germany, and closed in Bettembourg, Luxembourg at 1300. The company was assigned to CC "A".

The 35th Tank Bn conducted a school for officers at the battalion CP. The subject of the course was "Counter-Intelligence".

8 February 1945;-

A meeting of all battalion commanders was held at division headquarters at which time it was disclosed that the next objective of the division was Bitburg, Germany. After the 5th, 80th and 76th Infantry Divisions had crossed the Sauer, Our, Prum and Nims Rivers, the 4th Armored Division was to pass through their positions in a drive on Bitburg.

The 53rd and 51st Armd Inf Bns held positions along the Sauer and Our Rivers near the junction of the two streams. At 1600 a platoon from B/53 relieved Company "K" of the 318th Regt across the Our River. The 51st received intermittent shelling during the day, otherwise the situation remained unchanged. A/51 was in a position under direct observation from enemy pillboxes across the river. Their movement was restricted so as not to draw enemy fire. A squad from Co "C" of the 305th Engr Bn was attached to the 51st to remove mines from the roads in the vicinity of Bettel to facilitate the movement of supplies. While they were working an enemy high explosive shell struck a pile of mines they had removed and the subsequent explosion killed one of the squad and wounded several others.

The 66th Armd FA Bn, in the vicinity of Consdorf, laid down a smoke screen for the 10th and 11th Regts of the 5th Inf Div to cross the Sauer River in assault boats. Four assault guns of the 8th Tank Bn were ordered to move to support the 5th Inf Div attack in the vicinity of Echternach.

The 10th Armd Inf Bn was placed on a 1½ hour alert to go to the support of the 51st and 53rd, but they continued to hold classes on psychological warfare and training in the assault of a fortified position. The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn furnished two officers and 39 enlisted men to drive replacement vehicles from Paris for the 70th Army Ordnance Group.

The division was removed from the secret list and markings and insignia were repainted on the vehicles.

The tank battalions removed the steel-cleated blocks from the tracks of the tanks as they were tearing up the roads since the snow and ice had disappeared.

9 February 1945;-

The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to 1st Lt Frank R Kutak, 53rd Armd Inf Bn., for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in an attack on Remoiville, Belgium.

The 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns, attached to the 80th Div., continued to hold positions along the west bank of the Our River in the vicinity of Beaufort. They received sporadic shelling throughout the day and night. The platoons were rotated in the line to give the men an opportunity to get warm meals and dry clothing.

At 0800, four assault guns from the 8th Tank Bn, were dispatched to assist the 5th Inf Div with added fire power in their attack across the Sauer River.

The Administrative Center moved from Morfontaine, France to Esch, Luxembourg.

10 February 1945;-

Major Harry R Van Arnam, former commanding officer of the 51st Armd Inf Bn, and four enlisted men were placed on temporary duty in the Zone of Interior for approximately sixty days to participate in a production incentive tour and will report to the Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. for further instructions.

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the **original.**

There was no change in the positions of the 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns along the Our River. The 10th Armd Inf Bn remained on a 2½ hour alert to be prepared to relieve one of the battalions along the Our River.

The other units of the division continued their training schedules and re-painted unit markings on their vehicles. Movies were shown in the evening and passes to Luxembourg City and Esch were in effect.

The Division Signal Officer procured code practice oscillators for issue to units to train radio operators in code and net procedure.

11 February 1945;-

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was relieved from attachment to the 80th Inf Div and reverted to CC"B" control. The battalion moved from front line positions in the vicinity of Beaufort, Luxembourg at 0930 and closed in the vicinity of Rollingen, Luxembourg at 1125.

The assault gun platoon from the 8th Tank Bn was relieved from attachment to the 5th Inf Div and returned to Mondercange at 1130.

The 66th Armd FA Bn moved from Censdorf to the vicinity of Berdorf and continued to support the operations of the 5th Inf Div.

Other units of the division continued maintenance and rehabilitation schedules. Church services were well attended and trucks were available daily to transport the men to showers. Movies were shown in the evenings and visits by Red Cross Club-mobiles were welcomed.

12 February 1945;-

Thirty-four enlisted men and three officers were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return for further temporary duty to reception stations in the United States for thirty days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 30, Hq 4th Armd Div cs).

Captain Eugene R Berky, 35th Tank Bn, was placed on temporary duty with the 38th Reinforcement Bn, to give orientation lectures to reinforcements.

The 144th Armd Sig Co dispatched a radio crew with half track to each the 5th and 80th Infantry Divisions for liaison duties.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved from Rollingen at 1000 and closed in Ludelange at 1115. The battalion was placed in CC "B" reserve.

Orders for relief of the 51st Armd Inf Bn were cancelled and they were alerted for a possible enemy counter-attack.

13 February 1945;-

Lt Col William L Nungesser, former executive officer of the 24th Armd Eng Bn in England, rejoined the division and was named commanding officer of the 24th, relieving Major Alonzo A Balcom Jr., who was assigned to the 168th Combat Engr Bn.

At 1930 the 51st Armd Inf Bn received a heavy concentration of machine gun and small arms fire but artillery and mortars retaliated with a barrage that pinned the enemy down and silenced the small arms fire. However the battalion remained on the alert throughout the night for a possible enemy counter-attack.

The 22nd and 94th Armd FA Bns continued to support the 2nd Cav Group and the 76th Inf Div. The 94th knocked out three enemy six-gun batteries which had been

firing on troops crossing the Sauer River. This observation was made by a pilot from the 775th FA Bn.

The 10th Armd Inf Bn emphasized in their training schedule the assault of a fortified position and the use of stached charges and bagalore-torpedoes. The battalion remained on a 2½ hour alert status.

Small quantities of new type winter clothing were issued to several units of the division to test the durability and practicability of this apparel

The 37th Tank Bn had a meeting of company commanders to stress the importance and explain the method of preparing the efficiency reports which were to be made out on all officers.

14 February 1945;-

The 144th Armd Sig Co began a three-day instruction course for all artillery operators in the division on the nomenclature, tuning and operation of the SCR 506. The artillery battalions were in support of adjacent units so the instructors conducted the classes under difficult conditions.

Total casualties of the division since 17 July 1944 reached the 5000 mark on this date. This casualties figure included 1085 killed, 3624 wounded, 5 captured, and 286 missing.

The units of the division continued their training programs in preparation for future operations. The training consisted of assaulting fortified positions, mounted and dismounted road marches, and firing large and small calibre weapons on the range.

Convoys took the men to shower points and to Luxembourg City on passes. Church Services were held during the day and movies were shown at night.

15 February 1945;-

The following troop list went into effect at 0900.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
35	8	37
10	53	D/25
A/25	C/25	D/489
B/489	B/24	
C/704	A/489	
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	

Attached to Other Units

51st to 80th Inf Div
A & C/24 to 1124th Engr Group
995th to 1103rd Engr Group
704th(-C) to XX Corps
22nd supported the 2nd Cav Group
66th Supported the 5th Inf Div
94th supported the 76th Inf Div

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn sent crews to ordnance collecting points to obtain serviceable 76mm gun tubes from salvaged tanks to equip all of the 40 ton medium tanks in the division with 76mm gun instead of the 75mm.

The 144th Armd Sig Co reported that they had recovered approximately 32 miles

of wire during the past week.

The 10th and 53rd Armd Inf Bns alternated daily on a 2½ hour alert status with the 53rd alerted on this date.

The 37th trained in firing the bazooka and used knocked out German tanks as targets.

16 February 1945;-

A group of five officers and three enlisted men from the division were placed on temporary duty for ten days with the 394th Bomber Group to observe and study the correlation between the air force and the ground forces. This group included Lt. Col Harry E Brown, G-2 Major Ernest R Eaton, Asst G-3 for Air, and Major Thomas G Churchill, executive officer of Reserve Command. (Par 11, SQ 34, Hq 4th AD cs)

The 51st Armd Inf Bn received occasional artillery fire in its position along the Our River in the vicinity of Beaufort. The platoons of the battalion were rotated daily on the front line so the men would not be subjected to unfavorable weather condition for a long period.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn received 5000 of the new adjustable carbine sights and began installing them on the carbines of the division.

The other units continued their training programs in preparation for future operations. Calisthenics, target practice and road marches were included in the training schedule.

17 February 1945;-

A letter of commendation was received by the division from Lt Gen George S Patton, Jr., commanding general of the Third US Army, commending troops of the III Corps for the speed, energy, skill, and persistency with which pressed their attack for the relief of Bastogne.

Lt Charles Kollin, 704th TD Bn, and Lt John A Whitehill, 37th Tank Bn, were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by command of Lt Gen Patton for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Lt Kollin received the DSD for action in the vicinity of Bezange la Petite, France, and Lt Whitehill for action near Bastogne. These awards were made by Major General Gaffey.

The 51st Armd Inf Bn was relieved of its front line position by the 28th Cavalry Squadron. All companies withdrew from the lines under cover of darkness to the vicinity of Gilsdorf in preparation to moving to Schiffflange.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn made a reconnaissance of routes leading to the front lines in the vicinity of Beaufort to be prepared in the event the battalion should be committed to action.

The 10th Armd Inf Bn conducted classes on the nomenclature and operation of the .30 and .50 calibre machine guns.

Passes to Luxembourg City continued to be in effect and movies were held nightly by the units.

18 February 1945;-

The 35th Tank Bn was alerted at 1000 to be ready to support the attack of XX

Corps in crossing the Moselle River into the Saar-Moselle triangle. The battalion moved from Sandweiler at 1700 and took up positions in the vicinity of Costingen with orders to commence firing at 0400 the following morning. The 35th was to support the 94th Inf Div with indirect fire.

The 66th Armd PA Bn moved from Berdorf, Luxembourg at 1015 and crossed the Sure River to the vicinity of Ferschweiler, Germany, supporting the attack of the 5th Inf Div. The 66th was the first unit of the division in recent operations to enter Germany.

The 51st Armd Inf Bn left its assembly area in the vicinity of Giladorf at 0800 and moved to town in the vicinity of Schifflange, Luxembourg.

The 37th Tank Bn began training in indirect fire problems in the event the battalion should have a mission similar to that of the 35th. Many of the men who were familiar with indirect firing were no longer with the battalion.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn furnished roadside vehicle spot inspection teams to record deficiencies in first and second echelon maintenance of vehicles in the division.

19 February 1945;-

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was attached to the 319th Regt of the 80th Inf Div and was alerted to move to a front line position. The battalion moved out of Dudelange at 1215 and closed in Armeldingen at 1620, travelling a distance of approximately 40 miles. By 2115, A and "C" Companies had relieved two companies of the 319th in defensive positions along the Our River. "B" Company guarded five bridges at the junction of the Our and Sauer Rivers in the vicinity of Niedergegen.

Units of the division spent considerable time on the firing range zeroing in the carbines with the new adjustable sight. The 37th Tank Bn continued to conduct classes in indirect fire problems.

Several showings of a USO Show were presented at Bettembourg for the benefit of 4th Armored Division Troops. Passes to Esch and Luxembourg City continued to be in effect.

20 February 1945;-

Fifteen enlisted men from units of the division were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot and further temporary duty with reception stations in the United States for thirty days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO, 37, Hq 4th Armd Div cs).

The 35th Tank Bn remained in the vicinity of Costingen and continued to support the attack of the 94th Inf Div with indirect artillery fire.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers to better positions along the Our River. No opposition was encountered in this operation and 15 prisoners of war were captured.

The 8th Tank Bn conducted classes on indirect fire problems in case the battalion should be sent on a mission similar to that of the 35th. The 10th Armd Inf Bn training schedule included demonstrations on telephone and radio procedure, mine detection, security, and orientation on the latest war news.

The 4th Armd Div Band visited units of the division and presented a program which was well received.

21 February 1945;-

Maj Gen Hugh J Goffey temporarily assumed command of the XII Corps in addition to his other duties.

By command of Lt Gen Patton, the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Capt. James H Leach, 37th Tank Bn, and Lt John J Prenata, 704th TD Bn., for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Captain Leach received the award for action in the vicinity of Bigonville, Luxembourg, and Lt Prenata for action near Bezange la Petite, France.

The 53rd Armd Inf Bn attacked at 0600 from positions along the Our River with both Obersiegen, and Gontingen as the objectives. A mortar and artillery barrage on pillboxes and gun emplacements preceded the attack. By 1425 the three objectives were seized against minimum opposition consisting of small arms and mortar fire. At 1530 the battalion was relieved by elements of the 80th Inf Div and was ordered to move to the vicinity of Niedersiegen and Seimerich, Germany.

The 35th Tank Bn was relieved from the mission of supporting the attack of the 94th Inf Div at 0900 and returned to Sandweiler at 1345.

The following troop list went into effect at 1200.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
35	10	37
A/25	51	D/25
B/489	53	D/489
A/46	8	
A/126	94	
	C/704	
	C/25	
	B&C/24	
	A489	A/24 -attached to 1124th Engr Group
	B/46	995 -attached to 1103rd Engr Group
	B/126	704 -((C) - attached to XX Corps
		66 - supporting 5th Inf Div
		22 - supporting 2nd Cav Group

The units of CC"B" were alerted for movement to positions in support of the XII Corps attack through the Siegfried Line. Officers from the units made a reconnaissance of routes leading to the general assembly areas just east of the Our River.

The medical detachments of the division began giving typhoid booster shots to all men in the division.

22 February 1945;-

CC"B" was attached to the 80th Inf Div and the units of the combat command moved from their respective billeting areas in Luxembourg to an assembly area in the vicinity of Lehr, Germany. The general route of march was Ludelange, Bertrange, Mamer, Kehlen, Keispelt, Scharfels, Mersch, Angelsburg, Fels, Medernach, Ermsdorf, Reisdorf, Dillingen, Niedersiegen, Seimerich and Obersiegen. The order of march was C/25, 10, 51, 94, 8, C/704 and a platoon of the 995th. The 53rd was already in the vicinity of Niedersiegen. The units left their billeting areas in Luxembourg at 0600 and had closed in the vicinity of Lehr, Germany, by 1530. The distance traveled was approximately 40 miles. CC"B" was ordered to attack at 2400 with

Sinspelt and the high ground surrounding it as the objective. Prior to the attack the units received sporadic artillery and small arms fire from the north.

The CP of Reserve Command moved from Kayl at 1400 and closed in Saeculs, Luxembourg at 1600.

The 35th Tank Bn moved from Sandweiler at 1310 and closed in Gruchten, Germany at 1700.

The movement of CC"B" into Germany was the first movement of division troops into Germany.

The 37th Tank Bn moved from Dippach at 1300 and closed in Brouch, Luxembourg at 1415.

The Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded Lt. Col. Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy into the beleaguered city of Bastogne 26 December 1944; the presentation was made by Major General Gaffey.

23 February 1945;-

First Lieutenant James H Fields, 10th Armd Inf Bn., was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in a ceremony held at the division command post in Dudelange, Luxembourg. Lt Gen George S Patton, Jr., Third Army Commander, made the presentation. This was the first award of its kind in the 4th Armored Division as well as the Third United States Army. Excerpts from his citation are as follows: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life, above and beyond call of duty at Rechicourt, France. His eagerness and determination to close with the enemy and destroy him were an inspiration to the entire command and are in the highest tradition of the armed forces."

CC"B", acting under orders from the 80th Inf Div., attacked at 222400 from the vicinity of Lehr, Germany with Sinspelt as the objective. The 10th Armd Inf Bn supported by Company "A" of the 8th Tank Bn., were to make a frontal assault on Sinspelt from the west while B/8 and the 53rd were to outflank the town from the south. The 51st Armd Inf Bn was held in reserve in the vicinity of Obersiegen. A/8 and the 10th encountered only sporadic artillery and small arms fire until they reached Niedergeckler at 1200. Here they encountered enemy tanks, artillery and infantry, and the 10th, which was in the lead, was forced to withdraw. Another assault on the town with A/8 leading succeeded in driving the enemy from the town. A/8 knocked out eight enemy tanks and the force accounted for 60 enemy killed and 200 prisoners. The two forces advanced rapidly on Sinspelt, capturing the town and a bridge over the Enz River by 1800. Light enemy rear guard resistance was encountered in Sinspelt. Air support was good with planes knocking out pillboxes and road blocks ahead of the advancing forces. Forward Echelon moved from Dudelange at 1445 and closed in Mersch at 1330.

Officers from Reserve Command reconnoitered routes from Saeculs, Luxembourg to CC"B" in the event they should be committed.

The 22nd Armd Inf Bn., which had been supporting the 2nd Cavalry Group, rejoined the division and was assigned to CC"B". The battalion moved from Wecker, Luxembourg, to Lehr, Germany.

The 35th Tank Bn., attached to CC"A", remained in the vicinity of Gruchten, Luxembourg, servicing their vehicles after the previous day's march.

Enemy equipment destroyed included 8 tanks, 1 assault gun, and 1 motorcycle

and truck. Enemy casualties were 85 killed, 170 wounded, and 375 prisoners.

Fourth Armored Division casualties were:-

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Off	1	2	3
EM	20	105	0

24 February 1945;-

CC"A" resumed its attack at 1230 with a two-pronged drive north and east of Sinspelt. The 51st Armd Inf Bn., supported by "B" Company of the 8th Tank Bn., attacked toward Outscheidl at 1230. Soon after the force left Sinspelt, the lead tank struck a mine which disabled the tank and left a huge crater in the road. They by-passed the crater and continued the attack. Outscheid was captured late in the afternoon against light rear guard opposition and was outposted for the night. Company "B" of the 37th Tank Bn relieved B/8 at 1630 and B/8 reverted to battalion control in the vicinity of Brimingen.

The 10th Armd Inf Bn., supported by companies "A" and "C" of the 8th Tank Bn., jumped off from Sinspelt at 1400 to attack toward Brimingen but impassable roads forced the column to proceed cross-country. Progress was very slow as the route for the column was picked out by dismounted reconnaissance across steep and wooded terrain. Several enemy bazooka teams were knocked out by machine gun fire east of Sinspelt. As the force approached Brimingen heavy artillery and direct fire were received from enemy positions south and east of the town. The 8th had two tanks knocked out by direct fire. The two tank companies deployed in defiladed positions on high ground northeast of Brimingen, and fired a barrage into the town. Following the barrage, the 10th entered Brimingen and by 1900 had cleared the town in stiff house-to-house fighting. Brimingen was out-posted strongly for the night. Elements of the 2nd Panzer, 9th Volksgrenadier, 276th Volksgrenadier and 352nd Infantry Divisions were encountered by CC"B" at Outscheid and Brimingen. The 9th Armd Fa supported the attack of the 8th, 10th and 51st from positions in the vicinity of Niedergeckler. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn remained in CC"B" reserve in the vicinity of Sinspelt.

The 37th Tank Bn was attached to CC"B" at 0850 and moved from Brouch, Luxembourg closing in Obersgegen, Germany, at 1315. The route of march was through Mersch, Angelsberg, Schoss, Fischbach, Heffingen, Christnach, Waldbillit, and Niedersgegen. The distance covered was approximately 32 miles. At 1810 the battalion (-B) moved to Outscheid.

The 25th Tank Bn was alerted at 2230 to be ready to move the following morning. The 24th Armd Engr Bn was released from attachment to the 1124th Engr, Group and reverted to division control at 1800.

Known enemy equipment destroyed included 3 tanks, 1 self-propelled gun, 1 half track, 2 prime-movers, 6 trucks, 5 staff cars, and 2 motorcycles. Prisoners of war totalled 128.

Our casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	2	0
EM	6	46	2

25 February 1945;-

The following troop list went into effect at 1200:-

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
10	51	53
8	37	35
94	22	D/489
C/24	177th FA Group	
A/25	C/704	
B/489	B/24	
B/126	C/25	
A/46	A/489	
	Plat/995	
	B/126	
	B/46	

Brig Gen Holmes E Dager assumed command of the 4th Armd Div. Lt. Col. Creighton W. Abrams was appointed commander of CC"B", Major Hunter was named commanding officer of the 37th Tank Bn.

The 8th Tank Bn and 10th Armd Inf Bn, attached to CC"B", attacked toward Baustert at first light. The force received direct fire from the woods northeast of Brimingen but the 94th Armd FA Bn placed TCT fire on these positions, knocking them out. B/8 and E/10 entered Baustert and captured the town against enemy rear guard resistance. C/8 and A/10 bypassed Baustert and drove toward Feilsdorf. The town was defended by artillery and mortar fire but a barrage from our tanks silenced this opposition and the town was taken by 1330. At 1200 the 8th and 10th were attached to CC"A". Both forces were then ordered to attack east toward Erecht to try to capture the bridge over the Prum River. At 1645, as the columns approached Erecht, the enemy destroyed the sole bridge over the river. Enemy infantry remaining in the town were cleaned out from houses and cellars by 1800. Bridging operations were impossible because material was not available and the river was too deep to ford. A/25 was sent south along the river to reconnoiter for a narrow place in the stream to build a temporary foot bridge. A suitable place was found at Oberweis. An enemy patrol was encountered there and driven off after a short skirmish. A hasty foot bridge, constructed of telephone poles, was built and at 2400 the 10th Armd Inf Bn was ordered to cross the stream and establish a bridgehead. Engineers worked all night constructing a Bailey Bridge for vehicular traffic.

CC"B" was released from attachment to the 80th Inf Div at 242400. At 0715 CC"B" attacked northeast from Otscheid toward Niederweidingen. The 22nd Armd FA Bn fired an artillery and smoke preparation into the town after which B/37 and B/51 entered without opposition. Weidingen was also captured with A/37 holding the high ground to the northwest. C/37 and C/51 passed through B/37 and B/51 and took Altscheid against enemy rear guard resistance. A/37 and A/51 drove from Weidingen to Koosbusch which was defended with anti-tank guns. A/37 lost one tank from this direct fire before the anti-tank guns were destroyed. B/37 and B/51 attacked Hermesdorf after an artillery preparation on the town and captured the town and a bridge over the Prum River. The bridge was not strong enough for vehicular traffic so the infantry crossed on foot while the vehicles forded the stream. C/37 and C/51 moved toward Rittersdorf and shelled the town from positions surrounding it while P 47's bombed and strafed fleeing enemy troops. A/37 and A/51 cleared Rittersdorf of the remaining infantry and had established a bridgehead over the Wims River

northwest of Bitburg by 1820. The objective for the following day was to cross the Kyll River and attack Badem.

The 35th Tank Bn moved from Cruchten, Germany and closed in Korperich, Germany, at 1030. They left Korperich at 1800 and closed in Brimingen at 2000. The 66th Armd FA Bn, which had been supporting the 5th Inf Div., reverted to division control at 1200 and moved from the vicinity of Shankweiler at 1400 and closed in Brimingen at 1655.

Interrogation of prisoners of war disclosed that the swiftness of the 4th Armd Div attack overwhelmed the enemy and that they had instructions to fight a delaying action to allow the main body to escape.

Known enemy equipment destroyed during the day included 6 Mark V tanks, 1 Mark IV tank, 2 tanks type unknown, 5 self-propelled guns, 6 105mm guns, 3 88mm guns, 2 75mm guns, 3 large calibre guns, 10 half tracks, 3 prime movers, 4 trucks, 2 staff cars, 2 peeps and 3 miscellaneous vehicles. Enemy casualties were 380 killed, 300 wounded, and 984 prisoners. Trucks were kept busy all through the night evacuating prisoners from Rittendorf.

Fourth Armored Division casualties were;-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	3	0
EM	1	21	2

Major Sidney Klein, 489th A.A.A.W. Bn left to attend the Army Information Education staff school, Cite Universitaire, Paris.

26 February 1945;-

The three rifle companies of the 10th Armd Inf Bn completed the crossing of the Prum River on the temporary foot-bridge by 1030 and proceeded to Rittersdorf where they were attached to CC"B" until rest of CC"A" could cross the river. Engineers worked all night constructing a 90-foot Bailey Bridge over the Prum River and completed it at 1300. The vehicles of A/25 immediately crossed on the bridge and were followed by the 8th Tank Bn. The column was delayed after crossing the river because of bomb craters in the road, but suitable by-passes were made and the units closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of Rittersdorf. All troops of CC"A" had completed the river crossing by 1800. No enemy resistance was encountered during the day's operations, but the force captured 90 prisoners and some enemy equipment. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn was transferred from Reserve Command to CC"A" 1300 and moved from Brimingen to Rittersdorf, closing in at 1700. Rittersdorf was outposted for the night and the following plans were given for the next day; C/8 and the 10th were to attack the high ground south of Rittersdorf while A/8 and the 53rd attacked the town of Matzen.

At 0600 Companies "B" and "C" of the 37th Tank Bn and "B" and "C" of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn moved across the Nims River at Rittersdorf to join A/37 and A/51 who had established a bridgehead on the previous day. Shortly crossing the river B/37 received direct fire from the woods to the south which knocked out three of their tanks. Companies "B" and "C" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn., supported by B/37, attacked toward Eppendorf but met heavy resistance in the form of artillery and machine gun fire from the high ground northwest of Matzen. The infantry was pinned down until B/37 came up and relieved them. Under cover of smoke, the infantry withdrew to more tenable positions. B/37 had one tank destroyed by direct fire in this action.

Direct fire by the 37th drove the enemy from the high ground north of Matzen and this position was strongly outposted for the night. The 22nd Armd FA Bn marched all night from Neuhaus through Outscheid, Altscheid and Kossbusch to the vicinity of Hermesdorf to support the attack of the 51st and 37th. Orders for the following day were for the 37th and 51st to proceed from their positions north of Matzen and attack the towns of Nattenheim and Fliessem.

Captured enemy equipment included 1 Mark VI tank, 2 personnel carriers and 3 miscellaneous vehicles. Two half tracks, 2 88mm guns, 4 tanks and 1 truck were destroyed. Enemy casualties were 85 killed, 277 captured and 150 wounded.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	2	0
EM	17	50	1

Forward Echelon moved from Mersch, Luxembourg at 0930 and closed in Obersiegen Germany at 1045. They left Obersiegen at 1445 and closed in Oberweis at 1700.

27 February 1945:-

Rain and fog caused poor visibility and the attack of CC"B" was delayed. At 0840 A/37 and A/51 moved out from high ground north of Matzen to attack Nattenheim. The 22nd Armd FA Bn fired an artillery preparation on the town and when the attacking force entered at 0900 they found no opposition. B/37 and B/51 proceeded through Nattenheim but were held up by direct fire from the woods to the northeast. B/37 fired on these enemy positions and destroyed several large calibre guns. This force high ground north of Nattenheim and captured 20 prisoners in the operation. The town and the surrounding high ground were strongly outposted for the night. C/37 and C/51 moved into position occupying the high ground overlooking Fliessem. From this position they fired a barrage into the town and then entered it at 1100. Only light rear guard resistance was encountered. C/37 and C/51 outposted Fliessem and the surrounding high ground for the night. Resistance encountered during the day by CC "B" was generally light with occasional artillery and mortar fire. The 37th Tank Bn did not suffer a casualty in the day's operations.

A/8 and B/53 moved to attack Matzen at first light from positions east of the Wims River in the vicinity of Rittersdorf. A/8 received direct fire from east of the Kyll River and one tank was destroyed by this fire. Moderate small arms resistance was encountered at Matzen and the town was cleared by 1015. Defensive positions were set up and outposted south of the town. The attacking force accounted for 45 prisoners, 26 killed and 2 tanks destroyed in this operation. Companies "B" and "C" of the 8th Tank Bn relieved the 10th Armd Inf Bn from defensive positions across the Wims River, southeast of Rittersdorf. A patrol from D/8 was sent toward Bitburg to learn the situation and to see how the 5th Inf Div attack on the city was progressing. Contact was made in the vicinity of Stahl as the 5th had not entered Bitburg. A/25 maintained contact between CC"A" and CC"B". The 10th Armd Inf Bn was transferred from CC"A" to Reserve Command at 1500.

Orders were received from Third Army to advance no further than the Kyll River and to clear up enemy positions west of the river.

Almost every prisoner of war interrogated the past few days remarked of their acute gasoline shortage. They stated that many vehicles had to be abandoned and burned because of this shortage.

Enemy losses during the day included 4 half tracks, 13 large calibre artillery pieces, 2 tanks, 5 trucks, 2 staff cars, and 20 crates of mines destroyed, 70 killed, 102 wounded, and 177 captured.

Fourth Armored Division casualties were;-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	1	0
EM	8	19	1

28 February 1945;-

The operations of CC"A" during the day were confined to patrol activity. A patrol of light tanks from Company "D" of the 8th Tank Bn was again sent toward Bitburg to contact elements of the 5th Inf Div, and learn the situation. The patrol proceeded cautiously into Bitburg and contacted a platoon of the 5th Inf Div. The patrol returned without meeting enemy resistance and captured 21 prisoners in the operation. Patrols of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn and the 24th Armd Bn reconnoitered the west bank of the Kyll River from Irsch to Erdorf to determine enemy activity along the river and to search for possible assault or bridge crossing sites. No bridges or fords were found nor were there any suitable bridging sites.

The units of CC"B" received no orders until 1030 so the first few hours were spent in much needed maintenance and cleaning of vehicles and weapons. At 1030 orders were received to attack the towns of Sefferweich and Melbergweich and the surrounding high ground. C/37 and C/51 remained in reserve and outposted the high ground north of Nattenheim. B/37 and B/51 attacked north from Nattenheim at 1330 but were halted by anti-tank fire from the woods covering the main road north of Nattenheim. The force by-passed the woods to the northeast and seized high ground south-east of and overlooking Sefferweich. A/37 and A/51 moved out on the same route and came under artillery fire from the woods. They followed the main north south road through the woods but were halted when three tanks of the column were disabled by mines. While the force waited for the tanks to be pulled from the road and the mines cleared away, artillery and mortar fire were received causing several casualties to A/51. After the road was cleared the column proceeded through the woods and took up positions alongside B/37 and B/51 south of Sefferweich. This position was outposted for the night.

Enemy casualties were 34 killed, 156 captured and 30 wounded, destroyed, 1 Mark VI tank, 1 truck, 1 75mm gun, and 1 Volkswagen.

4th Armd Div casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	1	0
EM	4	23	0

The 10th Armd Inf Bn received a letter of commendation from Maj Gen H L McBride, commander of the 80th Infantry Division, for the capture of Hossdorf, Luxembourg during the night of 2 - 3 February. The 10th did not lose a man to enemy fire in the operation although several casualties resulted when the battalion crossed an unmarked minefield.

Summary for February;-

From the first to the twentieth of February the 10th, 51st and 53rd Armd Inf Bns, were alternately attached to the 80th Inf Div and rotated in holding positions along the Our River in the vicinity of Bettendorf, Luxembourg. Only local attacks were made to improve their positions. Several division units were attached to other organizations. The 704th TD Bn was attached to XX Corps while the 66th and 94th Armd FA Bns supported the 5th Inf Div and 2nd Cav Group, respectively. Units of the XII Corps crossed the Our River the night of the 8th while the enemy's attention was diverted by the 53rd Armd Inf Bn., who fired their assault guns from a position farther north along the river. On the 20th, the infantry battalions were relieved from attachment to the 80th Inf Div., and assembled in towns in the vicinity of Luxembourg City. Units that were not in action conducted training schedules and spent considerable time in the maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

CC"B" was attached to the 80th Inf Div on the 22nd and moved from Luxembourg to an assembly area in the vicinity of Lehr, Germany. CC"B" attacked on the 23rd with elements of the 80th Div. Little opposition was encountered and progress was good. CC"B" reverted to division control on the 24th and with CC"A" began a drive toward Bitburg on the 25th. The attack went well and by the end of the month the division had seized high ground north of Bitburg and occupied the west bank of the Kyll River. The advance was so rapid that many Prisoners were captured and a large amount of equipment was taken.

February Statistics;-

A. Equipment

1. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. | | |
| b. | Tank, Mark VI - 1 | j. Personnel carrier - 2 |
| c. | Tank, Mark IV - 1 | k. Motorcycle 03 |
| d. | Tank, Mark V - 6 | l. Self-propelled gun - 6 |
| e. | Tank (type unknown) - 19 | m. Assault gun - 1 |
| f. | Miscellaneous vehicles - 8 | n. 75mm gun - 2 |
| g. | Staff car - 7 | o. 88mm gun - 5 |
| h. | Truck - 17 | p. 105mm gun - 6 |
| i. | Prime mover - 5 | q. Large calibre weapon - 16 |
| | Half track - 17 | r. Hens - 20 crates |

2. Vehicles lost by 4th Armd Div due to enemy actions.

- a. Tank, medium - 9
- b. Truck, $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, 4x4 - 4
- c. Trailer, 1-ton, 2 wheel cargo - 2

3. 4th Armd Div vehicles worn out through wear and tear and replaced during the month.

- a. Tank, medium - 13
- b. Tank, light - 3
- c. Carrier, personnel, half track - 1
- d. Truck, $\frac{1}{4}$ ton, 4x4 - 9

B. Battle Casualties.

1. Enemy

- a. Killed - 639
- b. Wounded - 752
- c. Captured - 1990

2. 4th Armd Div casualties

- a. Killed - 8 Off; 72 EM
- b. Wounded - 18 Off; 325 EM
- c. Missing - 1 Off; 13 EM

C. Non-Battle Casualties

1. 4th Armd Div

- a. 18 Off; 361 EM

D. Returned to Duty.

1. From battle casualties

- a. 14 Off; 244 EM

2. From non-battle casualties

- a. 8 Off; 205 EM

E. Reinforcements.

- 1. 14 Off; 141 EM

F. Division Strength.

- 1. 618 Off; 50 Warrant Off; 9993 EM (1 March 1945)

G. Promotions.

1. Field Grade

- a. Major to Lt Colonel
Gerald E Miller, Div Quartermaster, Hq 4th Armd Div
- b. Captain to Major
Robert D Franks, Executive Officer, 94th Armd FA Bn.
Berte P. Ezell, Executive Officer, 8th Tank Bn.
Gilbert J Chaisson, Asst G-1, Hq 4th Armd Div.
Charles H Gillens Jr., S-3 94th Armd FA Bn.
Frank S. Diuguid, Jr., S-3 8th Tank Bn.
Luther I Keller, Executive Officer, 53rd Armd Inf Bn.

2. To Captain - 12

3. To First Lieutenant - 30

4. Battlefield appointments by unit

- a. 35th Tank Bn - 1
- b. 94th Armd FA Bn - 2
- c. 10th Armd Inf Bn - 1
- d. 37th Tank Bn - 2
- e. 66th Armd FA Bn - 1
- f. 704th TD Bn - 2
- g. 22nd Armd FA Bn - 1

H. Awards.

- 1. The Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to 1st Lt James H Fields, 10th Armd Inf Bn., "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life, above and beyond call of duty at Rechicourt, France. His eagerness and determination to close with the enemy and to destroy him were an inspiration to the entire command and are in the highest tradition of the armed forces." This award was presented by Lt Gen George S Patton, Jr., at a special ceremony at Division

Headquarters, Dudelange, Luxembourg, 23 February 1945. It was the first award of its kind in Third Army.

2. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to the following officers for "extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy."

- a. 1st Lt Frank R Kutak, 53rd Armd Inf Bn.
Romeville, Belgium, 25 December 1944
 - b. 2nd Lt Charles Killin, 704th TD Bn.
Bezange La Petite, France, 22 October 1944
 - c. 2nd Lt John A Whitehill, 37th Tank Bn.
Bastogne, Belgium, 26 December 1944
 - d. Capt James H Leach, 37th Tank Bn.
Bigonville, Luxembourg, 26 December 1944
 - e. 1st Lt John J Prenate, 704th TD Bn.
Bezange La Petite, France.
3. Silver-Star - 52; Oak Leaf Cluster - 6
 4. Soldier's Medal - 1
 5. Bronze Star - 177; Oak Leaf Clusters - 38
 6. Air Medal - 2
 7. Purple Heart - 141; Oak Leaf Clusters - 61

I. Ammunition Expenditure.

1. 105mm howitzer M2	3,603
2. 76mm gun	1,493
3. 75mm gun	1,902
4. 75mm howitzer	300
5. 37mm gun	1,020
6. 81mm mortar	2,270
7. 60mm mortar	790
8. Rocket, 2.36-inch asst.	640
9. Grenade, hand asst.	2,350
10. Grenade, rifle asst.	480
11. Cart Carb M6	550
12. Signal M.C., asst	---
13. Cal. .50 MG	39,000
14. Cal. 145 ball	89,000
15. Carbine	111,000
16. Cal. .30 asst.	1,812,000

1 March 1945:-

Maj Gen Hugh J Gaffey returned from temporary duty as commander of XII Corps and resumed command of the division. Brig Gen Leger, who was in command of the division during Gen Gaffey's absence, returned to CC"O".

The units of CC"B" which were stationed on high ground southwest of Sefferweich received a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire at 0625. This barrage was followed by an enemy counter-attack of 12 tanks and approximately 100 supporting infantrymen. This attack came from the vicinity of Sefferweich. The enemy tanks opened fire on A/37 who with B/37 returned the fire. Three enemy assault guns and one tank were knocked out with the loss of two tanks to the 27th Tank Bn. The enemy infantry started to attack but the artillery fire by the 22nd Armd PA Bn and machine gun fire by the 51st Armd Inf forced the enemy to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties. At 1000 the 10th Armd Inf Bn replaced the 51st Armd Inf Bn which was placed in Reserve Command. The 22nd and 66th fired an artillery preparation on Sefferweich and fighter-bombers bombed and strafed enemy positions in the town. A/37 and C/10 then attacked Sefferweich and found no enemy opposition, taking the town at 1530. Meanwhile C/37 and A/10 took high ground between Sefferweich and Malbergweich, routing about 200 enemy infantry from fixed positions on the high ground. C/37 and A/10 then attacked Malbergweich and took the town against light rear guard and resistance. Sefferweich and Malbergweich were outposted for the night by the 37th and 51st.

The activity of CC"A" was limited to extending their left flank to the north to cover the arms around Fliessen which had been left open by the attack of CC"B" to the north. The 8th Tank Bn and the 53rd Armd Inf Bn outposted the area surrounding Fliessen and continued to hold defensive positions along the west bank of the Kyll River from Fliessen to Irsch. Patrols of infantry and engineers reconnoitered for bridging and crossing sites along the river.

The 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn began mounting high-speed firing air corps .50 calibre machine guns in place of the .30 calibre machine guns in the coaxial position on all medium tanks mounted with the 76mm gun. The .30 calibre machine gun was then mounted on the turret of the tanks.

Enemy losses inflicted for the day were; 6 tanks, 4 assault guns, and 3 horsedrawn vehicles destroyed. Supporting air accounted for 7 tanks destroyed and 4 others probably destroyed. Enemy casualties were 155 killed, 210 wounded and 448 prisoners.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

Killed - 2 Off; 11 EM

Wounded - 4 Off; 46 EM

2 March 1945:-

Activity in the 4th Armd Div sector was general light throughout the day. CC"A" remained in defensive positions along the west bank of the Kyll River and received sporadic artillery fire.

In the CC"B" area, a platoon from A/37 entered the town of Seffern, northwest of Sefferweich, without encountering the enemy. A patrol of C/37 entered Malberg from Malbergweich, and found only scattered small arms resistance. A patrol from A/37 entered Kyllburg to reconnoiter for bridges over the Kyll River but were driven from the town by enemy small arms and automatic weapon fire. A civilian had previously informed the patrol that there were no troops in Kyllburg.

March 1945-1

In a closed meeting held in Division Headquarters at 1020 and attended by Maj Gen Gaffey, Brig Gen Dager, Col Sears, Col Graham, Col Goodall, Col Sullivan, and the G-3 of the 5th Inf Div., plans were formulated for the crossing of the Kyll River. The 4th Armd Div was to make a diversionary attack north of Erdorf by firing all weapons at targets east of the river while the 5th Inf Div was to cross under cover of darkness farther to the south. The attack began at 2300 and the 5th had soon established a bridgehead against light enemy opposition.

The 25th Cav Recon Sqdn., in patrol activities on the division north flank, destroyed 175mm anti-tank gun, killed 30 and captured 20 prisoners. Other enemy casualties were 50 wounded and 24 prisoners.

4th Armd Div casualties were 1 killed and 9 wounded.

3 March 1945:-

The following troop list went into effect at 1900:-

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
53	10	51(-A)
8	37	35(-A)
A/25	C/25	A/24
A/811 TD Bn	C/704	D/489
C/24	B/24	
177 FA Gp	Hq Div Arty	<u>Division Trains</u>
94	22	A/51
276 FA Bn	66	A/35
974 FA Bn	179 FA Bn	126 (-A & B)
B/489	A/489	3804
A/46	B/46	444
A/126	B/126	144
		C/489
		1 Plat/16 FH

Maj Gen Gaffey held a meeting of the members of his staff and senior commanders at Division Headquarters at 0930. It was disclosed at this time that the 4th Armd Div was to attack through the bridgehead that was being established by the 5th Inf Div on the east bank of the Kyll River, east of Bitburg. The division was to attack to the north east with the Rhine River in the vicinity of Coblenz and bridges in that area as the objectives. Plans were made for this attack and another meeting was held at 1630 for final preparations. Both combat commands were alerted to be ready to attack at 0700 on the 4th. CC"A" was to attack on the left with CC"B" on the right.

In preparation for the attack CC"B" assembled northwest of Bitburg. The 37th Tank Bn assembled north of Rittersdorf and the 10th Armd Inf Bn grouped in the vicinity of Buckendorf after having been relieved by the 318th Regt of the 80th Inf Div.

Several units were attached to the division for the coming attack. These units were 811 TD Bn, 177th FA Group, 276th FA Bn, 974th FA Bn and the 179th FA Bn.

Colonel David A. Watt, Jr., Hq 4th Armd Div Trains, was announced as the Commanding Officer, Administrative Center, 4th Armd Div., and assistant to the Chief of Staff for Rear Echelon in addition to his other activities.

March 1945-2

The following French awards were presented to distinguished men of the 4th Arm'd Div for exceptionally meritorious service in the liberation of France.

Legion of Honor

Brig Gen Holmes E Dager - CC"8"
Brig Gen Bruce C Clarke - CC"11"
Colonel Wendell Blanchard - Reserve Command
Colonel Walter A Pigby - Div Hq

Croix de Guerre (Order of the Army)

Col Creighton W Abrams - CC"5"
Lt Col Arthur L West - 10th
Lt Col Leslie D Goodall - 25th
Lt Col George L Jacques - 53rd
Lt Col Alfred Maybach - 51st
Sgt Guernie Holbrook - 25th
Lt Col Edgar F Conley, Jr. - 8th
Lt Col Dale A Oden - 35th
Lt Col Arthur C Peterson - 2nd
Lt Col Neil H Wallace - 66th
Colonel Alexander Graham - Div Arty
Brig Gen Ernest A Bixby - Formerly Chief of Staff
Lt Col Graham Kirkpatrick - 10th
Lt Col Louis E Roth - 24th
Lt Col Allen H Murphy - 489th
Col David W Watt - Div Trains
Lt Col John H Himelick - Div Hq
Lt Col Bernard C Knestrick - Div Hq
Col John E Sullivan - Div Hq
Lt Col Harry E Brown - Div Hq
Lt Col Hal C Pattison - CC"11"

Croix de Guerre (Order of the Corps)

Lt Col Robert E Mailliard - 46th
Lt Col Richard B Euller - 126th
Maj Silvio J Giovala - CC"8"

Croix de Guerre (Order of the Division)

Capt James H Fields - 10th
Lt Col James H Van Wageningen - Div Hq
Maj Frank J Cibulka - Div Hq
Maj Gilbert J Chaisson - Div Hq
Maj Hollis A Hunt - Div Hq
Maj Youl H Havens - Div Hq
Capt Harry C Dunton - CC"11"
Capt Frederick L Grant - Div Hq
Capt Joseph A Costello - Div Hq
Capt Clarence J Fogarty - 35th
Lt Thomas E Flinn - Div Hq

March 1945-3

Croix de Guerre (Order of the Regiment)

S/Sgt Robert E Friend - 10th
Sgt John Totony - 704th
Sgt John Usucki - 489th
T/4 Theodore T Liscavage - 37th
T/Sgt Marwin Settle - 35th
T/Sgt Alfred Cava - 35th
S/Sgt Robert H Kenny - 10th
I/Sgt Dallas B Cannon - 51st
S/Sgt Joseph Weglarz - 24th
T/Sgt George A Gray - 8th
T/5 Joseph Russo - 53rd
S/Sgt Charles E Lytle - 46th
Cpl William R O'Connor - 37th
Sgt Herbert C Stover - 51st
T/4 Dominic Trasitano - 53rd
T/4 Byron E Ames - 8th
S/Sgt Harold A Mathes - CC"A"
Sgt Richard A Walker - 25th
Sgt Robert Turcan - 704th
T/Sgt Dewey H Fritz - 10th
S/Sgt James A Bennois - 25th
T/Sgt Charles J Schelds - 53rd
Pfc Edgar A Miller - 51st
T/3 Edward T Cunningham - 46th
Pvt Bow Smith - 94th
Cpl Keith McBride - 94th
Pfc Jack C Conrad - CC"B"
Sgt Harry B Montgomery - 22nd
Cpl Lewis H Fox - 66th
Sgt Ephraim Ryder - 24th
T/5 Eugene Caruso - 66th
I/Sgt - Elmer A Hegeberger - 126th
S/Sgt Henry S Markowski - 22nd

4 March 1945:-

No orders were received to begin crossing the Kyll River as originally planned so the combat commands remained in their assembly areas. Units made final preparations for the attack and spent the day getting vehicles and equipment in tip-top condition. Orders were received at 1900 that the attack would begin at 050730. The delay in beginning the attack was due to the fact that bridges and their approaches were not in good enough condition. The 5th Inf Div had not advanced as far as had been anticipated. Enemy opposition was light but they had encountered terrain difficulties with their vehicles.

The 704th TD Bn was released from attachment to XX Corps and the 94th Inf Div., moving from the vicinity of Saarbourg and closing in Rittersdorf at 1500. The battalion was attached to Reserve Command with B/704 attached to CC"A" and C/704 attached to CC"B". A platoon from "A" Company was attached to the

March 1945-4

25th Cav Ren Sqdn. The 811 TH Bn was released from attachment to the division upon the arrival of the 704th.

Forward Echelon moved from Oberweis at 1400 and closed in Bitburg at 1500.

5 March 1945:-

With CC"B" leading, the division moved from assembly areas north and west of Bitburg at 0730, through Bitburg, and began crossing the Kyll River north of Huttingen to attack to the northeast through the 5th Inf Div bridge-head. The combat commands marched in one column to Metterich where they split, with CC"B" attacking toward Badem and CC"A" toward Gendorf.

D/37 and C/10 led the CC"B" column and received their first resistance north of Badem. This resistance consisted of rocket and artillery fire but the column continued moving without stopping. In moving from Badem toward Orsfeld at 0845, the force received enemy tank fire from north of the town but entered Orsfeld and found only rear guard resistance. CC"B" then drove north toward Weisburg with such speed that many enemy and much equipment was taken before the enemy was organized to offer strong resistance and by, and by 1246 the column entered Weisburg. D/37 destroyed four enemy tanks north of Weisburg and drove through Weidenbach and captured Wallenborn without any supporting infantry. Many wagon trains and miscellaneous vehicles were destroyed in Wallenborn. C/37 and A/10 attacked Salm from Weisburg and met only light enemy resistance. Many wagon-trains, 3 105mm guns, and several 75mm guns were destroyed at Salm. CC"B" outposted Salm, Wallenborn and Weidenbach for the night. They had advanced 20 miles after having crossed the Kyll River.

CC"A" encountered a small group of enemy infantry soon after leaving Metterich on the way to Gendorf. The column captured or killed these infantrymen but were soon halted by a blown bridge. Reconnaissance was made for a suitable by-pass but none was found. Tanks of the 8th Tank Bn forded the stream and continued toward Gendorf but half tracks and wheeled vehicles were forced to remain in place. After CC"B" had cleared Metterich the wheeled vehicles and half tracks of CC"A" went back to Metterich and proceeded toward Gendorf via Badem. The 6th entered Gendorf against small arms resistance and destroyed two enemy tanks northeast of the town. They proceeded on to Oberkail where they found the bridge over the Kail River destroyed. Some enemy small arms and bozooka fire was received but by 1705 the town was cleared and outposted for the night. Bad roads and blown bridges slowed the progress of CC"A" more than enemy resistance.

The 25th Cav Ren Sqdn screened the left flank of CC"B" and during the day captured Kyllburgweiller, Seinsfeld and Steinborn.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 5 Mark VI tanks, 2 Mark V tanks, 4 105mm guns, 2 75mm guns, 4 150mm guns, 3 88mm guns, 200 miscellaneous vehicles and 100 horse-drawn vehicles destroyed. Enemy casualties were 300 killed, 200 wounded and 1375 captured.

4th Armd Div casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	1	0
Enl	12	25	2

March 1944-5

The Civil Affairs Section of the division was redesignated as the Military Government Section (Sec I, GO 42, Hq 4th Armd Div cs)

M/Sgt Mike Lapinski and T/4 Leo Wagner, 51st Armd Inf Bn, were awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in designing a skate mortar mount for half tracks, from 31 May 1944 to 17 June 1944. The presentation was made by Maj Gen Gaffey.

6 March 1945:-

CC"B" moved out from their assembly area in the vicinity of Weidenbach, Salm and Wallenborn at 0715 with B/37 and B/10 leading the attack. The column proceeded through Oberstadtfeld, which elements of the 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn had outposted on the previous night. Between Oberstadtfeld and Putsborn CC"B" was fired on by three enemy tanks. The 66th Armd FA Bn covered the advancing column with smoke and then placed direct and observed fire on the enemy tanks, destroying one and forcing the other two to withdraw. C/66 had two M7 105mm motor carriages destroyed in this action. The column then attacked through Putsborn, Neunkirchen, Daun, Darscheid and Schonbach to Ulmen. Artillery, rocket and mortar fire were received from both flanks and the force was temporarily split several times due to this enemy fire. There was at least one road block in at each town but many of these had been left undefended. Resistance in the towns was generally light and consisted of rear guard and sniper fire. So rapid was the advance of CC"B" that the CP of the 13th German Corps in the vicinity of Neunkirchen was overrun, and the commander, Lt Gen Graf Edwin von Rothkirch and Trach, together with his staff, were captured. Schonbach was taken at 1215 and at 1330 CC"B" forward elements entered Ulmen. A large Quartermaster Depot was captured in Ulmen with large quantities of supplies and equipment. CC"B" outposted Ulmen and received sporadic artillery fire throughout the night.

Impassable roads and blown bridges in the vicinity of Oberkail forced CC"A" to remain there for the night. In the morning they were ordered to follow CC"B" and to take parallel routes whenever possible. Large numbers of enemy prisoners moving to the rear, together with soft roads, delayed the movements of CC"A" until 1100. At this time they moved to Meisburg and followed the route of CC"B". Sniper fire was the only resistance offered along the route and at 1950 they closed in Salm, Wallenborn, Udersdorf area after having moved 20.3 miles.

The 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn captured a large enemy ammunition dump west of Meisburg and moved on to Salm where they received heavy artillery fire at an enemy road block.

The units of Reserve Command remained in the vicinity of Rittersdorf but were alerted to move as soon as the congested road conditions east of the Kyll River were cleared.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 2 Mark IV tanks, 4 Mark VI tanks, 3 Mark V tanks, 100 miscellaneous vehicles, 80 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 half track, 15 anti-tank guns, 16 105mm guns, and 1 75mm gun destroyed. Casualties included 40 killed and 976 captured.

4th Armd Div casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	0	1
EM	15	29

March 1945-6

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A group of five officers and 55 enlisted men were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to Reception Stations in the United States for 30 days rest and recuperation, (Par 1, SO 50, Hq 4th Armd Div cs).

7 March 1945:-

CC"B" moved out from Ulmen at 0730 to continue the advance toward the Rhine in the vicinity of Coblentz. The weather was cold and visibility was limited because of falling snow. The condition of the secondary roads forced the column to march on the main highways. Moving southeast, CC"B" advanced to Buchel and entered the town without opposition. From Buchel they proceeded northwest toward Kaisersesch. On the outskirts of Kaisersesch the column halted and delivered an ultimatum over the loudspeaker system for the enemy surrender or the town would be destroyed. The enemy complied and the town was entered without opposition. 200 prisoners were taken and approximately 300 allied prisoners and slave laborers of all nationalities were released. The force continued north and passed through Dungenheim without opposition. The first enemy opposition of the day was encountered at Kehrig. This town was held by an anti-aircraft regiment. Company "D" of the 37th Tank Bn destroyed the unit-aircraft guns in this valley south of the town and advanced up the high ground to the approaches of Kehrig. At this point bazookas and anti-tank guns opened up and knocked out two of the approaching tanks. An ultimatum was issued to the enemy but it was answered by gunfire. An artillery barrage was directed on Kehrig after which A/37 and A/10 assaulted the town and took it without further loss. Continuing to the northeast the column entered Polch at 1448 with no enemy opposition. The force was moving rapidly as little or no enemy opposition was encountered. At Ochtendung, two enemy trains and columns of troops were caught attempting to leave town and were brought under heavy fire. Many prisoners were captured in this action and the town was taken by 1730. Ochtendung was strongly outposted for the night after an advance of 26 miles by CC"B".

CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Weidenbach at 0630 with the advance elements moving through Mehren to Ulmen and the rear elements followed the route taken by CC"B". This split movements was done to facilitate movements as the main routes were congested with prisoners and supplies. The forward and rear elements joined at Ulmen and followed the same route taken by CC"B". No organized resistance was encountered but many PW's were taken along the route. Units of CC"A" closed in an assembly area between Polch and Ochtendung after having advanced approximately 36 miles.

The units of Reserve Command moved out from their assembly area in the vicinity of Rittersdorf at 0700, crossed the Kyll River at Erdorf following the same route as the other combat commands, and closed in the vicinity of Dorscheid at 1800.

Forward Echelon left Wittburg at 1100 and closed in Dorscheid at 1800.

Enemy losses during the day included 5 Mark VI tanks, 3 Mark V tanks, 10 half tracks, 2 trucks, 17 staff cars, 100 miscellaneous motor vehicles, 200 horse-drawn vehicles 3 75mm guns, 6 150mm 4 barreled Nebelwerfers, 2 self-propelled guns, 6 105mm guns, and 87 20 mm multi-barreled anti-aircraft guns destroyed. A fuel lubrication dump was also captured. 1500 allied prisoners were released, enemy casualties included 140 killed and 983 captured.

March 1945-7

Fourth Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	1	3
EM	1	21

Capt. Daniel C Jakovich, Hq 11th Armd Div (SSS), left to attend a six-day course of instruction at the Army Athletic Staff School, Cite Universitaire, Paris, France.

8 March 1945:-

Brig Gen Holmes E Dager, commanding officer of CC"B", left the division to assume command of the 11th Armd Div. Lt Col Creighton W Abrams was named to succeed Gen Dager and Major Hunter was appointed commanding officer of the 37th Tank Bn.

CC"B" was ordered to attack the towns of Kettig and Saffig, and at 0800 A/37 and A/10 moved from Ochtendung toward Plaidt. The force encountered some bazooka fire and mine-fields in the vicinity of Echtfeld but the column entered the town against scattered small arms resistance. Simultaneously, B/37 and B/10 attacked Saffig and took the town without opposition. At 1300 B/37 and B/10 attacked from Saffig northeast toward Kettig. Artillery and small arms fire were received from the woods between the towns but artillery fire from the 66th Armd FA Bn on this position neutralized the enemy resistance. Approximately 200 prisoners were taken from the woods after the barrage. Kettig was entered at 1700 and B/37 proceeded through the town and took up positions on high ground overlooking the main highway from Andernach to Coblenz. Enemy convoys moving toward Coblenz made good targets and many motorized horse-drawn vehicles were destroyed. The 22nd Armd FA Bn reverted to Reserve Command from CC"B".

The units of CC"A" attacked from the vicinity of Ochtendung at 0800 and captured the towns of Bassenheim and Wolken with little opposition. The attack continued at 1400 with B/53 and D/8 assaulting, Rubenach. Heavy fire from depressed anti-aircraft guns was received by the two companies from the vicinity of Metterich, but the town was captured by 1600. The 53rd (*B) and the (-D) entered the towns of Katlich and Mulheim. There was no opposition at Karlich but some direct fire, which was quickly reduced, was received as the column entered Mulheim. The Karlich, Mulheim, Rubenach area was strongly outposted for the night.

The 704th TD Bn plus D/35 was given the mission of protecting the main supply route in the vicinity of Alflen and Buchel. The battalion closed in Alflen at 1100.

The 51st Armd Inf Bn moved from Darscheid at 1400, passing through Schonbach, Ulmen, Kaiseresch, Dungenheim, Kehring, and closing in Polch at 1740. The 35th Tank Bn left Darscheid at 1300 and closed in the vicinity of Einig, southwest of Polch. They were the first to enter Einig and encountered a small enemy patrol there. Two of the patrol were killed and four were taken prisoner. The 25th Cav Rcn Sqdn screened to the north of CC"B".

Forward Echelon moved from Darscheid at 1330 and closed in Polch at 1600.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 8000 rounds of 75mm and 88mm ammunition captured; 61 miscellaneous motor vehicles, 20 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 truck, 1 peep, 8 large calibre artillery pieces, 1 anti-tank gun, 1 self-propelled gun, and 2 20mm anti-aircraft guns destroyed. Enemy casualties were 104 killed, 165 wounded and 950 captured.

March 1945-8

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	1	0	0
En	7	14	1

Following is a list of enemy casualties inflicted by the 4th Armored Div from the Rhine to the Rhine River (5-9 March 1945).

Motor Vehicles - 406
 Horse-drawn vehicles - 280
 Mark VI tanks - 10
 Mark V tanks - 12
 Mark IV tanks - 9
 Self-propelled guns - 2
 105mm guns - 26
 20mm multi-barrelled guns - 75
 Nebelwerfers - 6
 75mm guns - 7
 Volkswagens - 17
 Anti-aircraft guns - 12
 Half tracks - 17
 Anti-tank guns - 16
 88 mm guns - 3
 Motorcycles - 4
 Artillery batteries - 3
 Ammunition dump - 1
 Killed - 460
 Wounded - 240
 Prisoners - 2,855

The following enemy units were encountered by the division in the drive to the Rhine, 167th, 246th, 326th, 340th, and 560th Grenadier Divisions and the 2nd Panzer Division, all of which were either wiped out or severely mauled.

9 March 1945:-

The following troop list went into effect at 1200:-

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
8	35	10
53	51	37
24	66	704 (-B & C)
A/25	C/25	D/489
B/704	C/704	24 (-A & C)
C/24	A/24	179
177	276	22
974	A/489	
B/489	B/46	<u>Division Troops</u>
B/46	B/126	25 (-A & C)
A/126		11 RCT, 5th Inf Div.

A meeting of unit commanders was held at Division Headquarters at 0930 and the following plans were disclosed. CC"A" was to continue the present mission of clearing the enemy from the west bank of the Rhine and to be prepared to meet possible enemy infiltration. CC"B" was to move on Treis to seize

March 1945-9

and secure a bridge across the Moselle River, if intact. If the bridge was blown wires to reconnoiter for crossing sites. Reserve Command was to move into positions left by CC"E" and be prepared to reinforce either combat command. The 11th Light Combat Team of the 5th Inf Div. which was attached to this division, was ordered to clear enemy infantry south of Kaisersesch and to prevent the enemy from infiltrating in the vicinity of Ulmen and Darscheid.

The units of CC"B" moved out at 1200 to secure a bridge over the Moselle River in the vicinity of Treis. The 51st Armd Inf Bn followed a route from Kählig through Dungenheim, Kaisersesch, Hambuch, and Binningen. The 35th Tank Bn moved from the vicinity of Einig through Kollig, Roes, and Brohl. The attacking force was halted between Brohl and Carden by tank and small arms fire and anti-tank mines. One enemy tank was destroyed and the 35th lost one tank by bazooka fire. The mines were cleared and the enemy infantry were captured or killed and the column entered Carden at 1645. The enemy defended fiercely the approaches to the bridge in Carden. The narrow streets of the town made advances slow and difficult. Enemy resistance consisted of sniper and bazooka fire and artillery fire from south of the Moselle. As the attacking force approached the bridge, it was destroyed by the retreating forces. Under cover of darkness, the 51st withdrew to high ground surrounding the town and sent patrols into Carden during the night to learn if the enemy had infiltrated that position. The 35th withdrew to Binningen for the night after having lost their second tank to bazooka fire in Carden. The 66th Armd Fk Bn., reinforced by the 276th Fk Bn., deployed at Binningen and fired on enemy positions across the Moselle during the night.

The units of CC"A" and Reserve Command swept the west bank of the Rhine from Urmitz south to Coblenz, destroying much enemy equipment on the Andernach-Coblenz highway. Enemy units fleeing toward the Rhine were stranded when the remaining bridge was blown to prevent their seizure. Traffic on the river road made an easy target for our tanks and artillery on the high ground overlooking the road. The river towns of Kaltenengers, St Sebastian, Kesselheim, Vallersheim, and Neuendorf were cleared by a force of A & C/8 and the 53rd. B/10, with supporting tanks from the 37th Tank Bn., attacked Weisenthur at 1830 and captured the town against light small arms resistance. They outposted the town for the night.

The Administrative Center moved from Esch, Luxembourg and closed in Kerpelrich Germany.

Enemy losses during the day included 1 Mark V tank, 4 Mark IV tanks, 1 Tank, type unknown, 26 half tracks, 149 trucks, 38 staff cars, 2 armored cars, 92 miscellaneous vehicles, 17 motorcycles, 4 trailers, 70 20mm anti-aircraft guns, 36 88mm guns, 22 26mm guns, 10 105mm guns, 13 120mm guns, 2 anti-tank guns, 20 bazookas, 10,000 rounds 88mm ammunition, and 1,900 rounds 20mm ammunition. Casualties were 103 killed, 100 wounded, and 359 captured.

Fourth Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	1	1	0
EM	8	19	2

10 March 1945:-

In the CC"A" sector along the Moselle River, companies "A" and "B" of the 51st Armd Inf Bn., and "A" and "B" of the 35th Tank Bn., moved out from the

March 1945-10

vicinity of Binningen to clear the surrounding towns to the southwest. The force passed through Wirfus, Illerich, Landkern, and Greimersburg but encountered no enemy troops.

There was little activity in the CC"B" sector. Patrols from C/8 and C/53 reconnoitered the area in the vicinity of Coblinz and discovered that all three bridges across the Moselle into Coblinz were blown. The force continued its reconnaissance south along the Moselle and took the towns of Guls and Winnigen with little opposition. Many enemy troops surrendered to the force without a shot being fired. The 53rd (-C) moved from Wolken at 1250 and closed in Rubenach.

The 704th TD Bn was relieved by elements of the 5th Inf Div from its mission as protecting the main supply route and moved from Alflen at 1430 and closed in Oentending at 1900.

C/37 with the aid of the 11th Armd Inf Bn., cleaned up more enemy pockets around Weissensturn and cut the Ansbach-Coblenz highway. Much equipment was destroyed and many prisoners were taken. The 25th Cav Ren Sqdn cleared the towns of Munstermaifeld and Weisheim.

Orders were received that the Division was to be relieved by the 5th Inf Div which was to establish a bridgehead across the Moselle. The 4th Armd Div would then drive through the bridgehead with Worms and bridges across the Rhine as objectives.

A report from G-2 stated that through the use of the loudspeaker, the Psychological Warfare Team had accounted for 500 prisoners in recent operations.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 4 88mm guns, 3 half tracks, 57 rifles, 4 machine guns, 2 trailers, and 21 Tellermines destroyed. Prisoners of war taken during the day numbered 744.

Fourth Armored Division casualties included:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	0	4
EM	4	51

11 March 1945:-

The action of the units of the division was confined to patrolling and reconnaissance missions. The division was in the process of being relieved after the rapid drive from the Kyll to the Rhine. The 11th Armd and 90th Inf Divisions were coming up on the division left flank, the 87th Inf Div in the rear, and the 5th Inf Div on the right flank.

CC"A" patrolled the west bank of the Rhine in the vicinity of Coblenz taking several prisoners who had been stranded by the blowing of the bridges over the Rhine. The 8th Tank Bn outposted the towns of Urmitz and St Sebastian. A patrol from the 53rd Armd Inf Bn was sent to Neunsdorf to investigate a report of a prisoner that a bridge was intact over the river Rhine. The patrol returned with a negative report.

CC"B" was relieved by the 5th Inf Div and began moving to the assembly area in the vicinity of Gamlen at 0730. The CP of CC"B" closed in Gamlen; the 53rd closed in Roes at 0920; the 66th moved to Binningen and the 35th to Keifenheim.

March 1945-11

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the **original.**

The 25th Cav Recon Sqdn cleared the towns of Lehmen and Roselsursch against small arms resistance. The 70th (-B) patrolled the sector along the Rhine River between Kettig, Karlich, and Mulheim. The platoon of the 611 TD Bn, which had been attached to the division was relieved from attachment and reverted to battalion control at Gindorf.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 2 killed, 30 wounded, 129 prisoners, and 4 staff cars, 1 armored car, 9 half tracks, 74 trucks, 10 motor-cycles, 1 bus, 1042 small arms weapons, 5 Tellermines, 400 rounds bazooka ammunition, 15 anti-aircraft guns, 16 anti-tank guns, 16 artillery pieces, 5 rockets, 6 mortars, 8 miscellaneous vehicles, 135 machine guns, 4 88mm guns, and 296 wagons destroyed.

Division casualties were two enlisted men wounded.

12 March 1945:-

The division made no advances on this date although strong patrols and outposts contacted enemy elements attempting to flee to the Rhine. CC"1" outposted teams along the west bank of the Rhine River north of Coblenz to prevent possible enemy infiltration from across the river. The units of CC"1" were assembled in teams in the vicinity of Gunden. Reserve Command was alerted to move from teams in the vicinity of Ochendung to an assembly area in the vicinity of Daun. It was reported that enemy infantry were in the proposed assembly area so a task force composed of D/37 and C/10 were alerted to reconnoiter the area.

Correspondents from the Saturday Evening Post, Baltimore Sun, and Stars and Stripes visited various units to interview officers and enlisted men in regard to recent operations.

Enemy losses during the day were 4 killed, 39 prisoners, and 1 amphibious jeep, 1 20mm mortar, 100 small mortars, 2 artillery pieces, 325 small arms, and 1 truck destroyed.

The division had no battle casualties on this date.

13 March 1945:-

The combat command of the division continued to regroup and prepare vehicles and equipment for a drive south of the Moselle River after the 5th Inf Div had established a bridgehead.

The units of CC"B" moved from positions south of Palch to a general assembly area west of Kochem. The 51st Arm'd Inf Bn moved from the vicinity of Tross at 0915, passed through Kaiferbach, Wehlen, Hachbuck, Kreisbach, and Roth, Filz, and closed in Wollmeroth at 1220. The 35th Tank Bn left Kaiferbach at 0915 and closed in Alfien at 1145. The 66th Arm'd Inf Bn moved from Binningen to Schmitt.

CC"1" was completely relieved by the 67th Inf Div and the units were engaged in maintenance of vehicles and equipment in preparations for future operations. The 53rd Arm'd Inf Bn shot down an FW 190 near the battalion CP.

Reserve Command sent a task force from the assembly area near Saffig at 0615 to sweep the area in the vicinity of Maran of possible enemy. The force was composed of D/37, C/10 and the assault guns of the 10th and 37th. The force left at 0615 and returned at 1830 with the report that the area was occupied by friendly service troops. In the meantime the move of Reserve Command to the Mehren assembly area was cancelled at 1345.

March 1945-12

Battery "D" of the 189th ... Bn shot down an ME 109 in the vicinity of Polch. The plane, which was strafing, was brought down with .50 caliber machine guns and the pilot was killed.

Approximately 58 stragglers were picked up by division units in their moves to new assembly areas.

The Administrative Center moved from Kerperich to Bitburg.

14 March 1945:-

The division received orders from XII Corps to be prepared to attack through the 5th and 90th Inf Div bridgeheads across the Moselle River with Bad Kreuznach and a bridgehead over the Nahe River as the first objective. (TWX received from XII Corps). After reaching the first objective the division was to be prepared to advance and seize crossings of the Rhine River at Bingen, Mainz, or Worms. The plan of attack was for the division to cross the Moselle at Treis and Hatzendorf with CC"A" on the left and CC"B" on the right. Reserve Command was to follow CC"B". The 25th Cav Recon Sqdn was to provide security on the division right flank. The full signal troop list was effective for the attack.

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
53	10	51
8	37	35
A/25	C/25	D/489
B/704	C/704	24(-120)
C/24	A/24	D/704
Sect/995	Sect/995	
B/489	A/489	
177th FS GP	Hq Div Arty	
94	22	
276 FA Bn	66	
179 FA Bn	191 FA Bn	
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	

The units of CC"A" moved to a general assembly area in the vicinity of Kerben. The 53rd Armd Inf Bn left Rubenach at 1200 and closed in Kerben at 1330 after travelling a distance of 10.3 miles. The 8th Tank Bn moved from Mülheim to the vicinity of Kean.

The units of CC"B" assembled in towns in the vicinity of Gamlen. The 10th Armd Inf Bn and the 37th Tank Bn moved from Saffig at 1300 and passed through Pochtendung, Polch, Kehrig, Dungenheim, and the 37th closed in Kaiseresch. The 10th Armd Inf Bn continued on through Hambuch, Gamlen, Krifenheim, and closed in Rees at 1730. The 66th Armd FA Bn moved from Schmitt to Dunfus. The 704th TD Bn moved from the vicinity of Ochtendung at 1300 and closed in Dungenheim at 1810. The 22nd Armd FA Bn moved from the vicinity of Ochtendung at 1545 through Polch, Kehrig, Kaiseresch, Hambuch, and closed in the vicinity of Dunfus.

15 March 1945:-

The units of CC"B" moved out from the vicinity of Gamlen at 1130 to attack southward through the 5th Inf Div bridgehead across the Moselle River. The column began crossing the river at 1300 at Maden but congestion of the vehicles at the bridge with those of the 5th Inf Div slowed the crossing considerably. After

crossing the river the column moved through Burgen, Macken, Evershausen and Dammershausen. Only disorganized enemy resistance of undefended road blocks, light artillery and small arms fire was encountered in these towns. A road block of fallen trees, protected by mortars and 20mm guns delayed the column for forty-five minutes south of Derweiler. Direct fire from the tanks knocked out the enemy guns and the force continued the attack. Some anti-tank fire was received from Beltheim but these guns were quickly destroyed by artillery fire. The force then advanced rapidly toward Simmern, passing through Gedenroth and Leubach. Excellent air support was received on enemy strong points which resulted in numerous enemy vehicles being destroyed and many prisoners being taken. Leading elements reached Simmern at 1715, seized the town and secured a bridge across the Simmer River. The town of Simmern and the bridge were heavily outposted for the night. The CP of CC"B" closed in Laubach at 2000. During the march tanks led the column when resistance was expected and in open country where there was little opposition, the infantry led the force. The employment proved successful and hastened the movement of the units. CC"B" was alerted to move at 0630 the following day.

The units of CC"A" left the assembly area in the vicinity of Karben at 1200, crossed the Moselle River at Hatzenport and attacked through the bridgehead of the 90th Inf Div. The column followed a route through Nerhausen, Beulich, and Gundershausen, encountering only light small arms resistance in these towns. Leisenfeld was defended by four anti-tank guns and heavy small arms fire. Two of the anti-tank guns were destroyed and the other two were captured while the infantry were routed from their position by the advance of the tanks, Emmelshausen and Schwall in that vicinity were also cleared and Leisenfeld was outposted for the night. The CP of CC"A" closed in Gundershausen.

Trucks of Reserve Command moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Dungenheim in preparation for following CC"B" the next day. The 51st Armored Inf Bn moved from Walmerath at 0935, passing through Filz, Anderoth, and Kaisresch and closed in Dungenheim at 1130. The 35th Tank Bn moved from Alflen at 0845 and closed in the vicinity of Dungenheim at 1015.

Forward Echelon moved from Felch at 1600 and closed in Gamlen at 1730.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 105 killed, 150 wounded, 915 prisoners, 6 anti-tank guns, 3 88mm guns, 6 20mm guns, 1 half track, 42 motor transports, 75 horse-drawn vehicles and 1 motorcycle destroyed. One ammunition dump was destroyed and one was captured.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	0	3
EM	2	8

16 March 1945:-

Both combat commands continued their attack toward the Nahe River at 0630 with CC"B" moving out from Simmern. Opposition was generally light during the early stages of the attack and consisted of undefended road blocks and sporadic small arms fire. The route taken by the column was from Simmern through Tiefenbach, Markerwald, Woods, Winterbach, Winterburg, Beckenau, Spanheim, Mandel, Kulesheim, Weinsheim, Huffelsheim and Nerheim. 100 enemy laborers were captured at Winterbach as they were working on hasty emplacements. Most of the

March 1945-14

towns had a road block on the main road but they were unopposed so the force either by-passed or destroyed them. The advance was rapid and leading elements of the column reached the Rhine in the Lake River at 1200. C/37 and A/10 proceeded to Bad Munster and found the main bridge blown but crossed on a railroad bridge which was intact. They received 20mm fire and were bombed and strafed as they crossed the river but the bridge remained intact. By 1315 they had reached Altenbamberg and outposted the town awaiting further orders. Resistance appeared to be stiffening in this area as elements of the 2nd Panzer Division were attempting to break out of the Rhine-Moselle pocket toward Bingen. Considerable mortar, 20mm and small arms fire was received at Altenbamberg. Orders were received to continue the advance and C/37 and A/10 continued to Hochstatten, outposting it for the night. Companies "A" and "B" of the 37th and 10th found a more suitable crossing at Oberhausen and proceeded to Hallgarten and Dreineihroff after crossing the river. The CP of CC"B" closed in Huffelsheim. Air support was excellent during the day as numerous artillery and 20mm gun positions were destroyed. By P 17's before they could inflict damage on the approaching columns. The rear elements of the force, together with supply trucks, received considerable sniper fire as they passed through the heavily wooded area southeast of Simmern. The 22nd Armd Ft Bn had three trucks ambushed by enemy infantry in the Markwald Woods, southeast of Simmern. One truck was destroyed, 1 truck damaged, 1 jeep damaged, 1 officer missing, and 6 enlisted men wounded as a result of the ambush.

Advance elements of CC"A" moved out of Leisenfeld at 0630 and opposition was light until they reached Rheinbollen. Air support reported that enemy columns were fleeing to the south and east. At Rheinbollen they encountered stubborn resistance from elements of the replacements battalion of the 6th SS Mountain Division who had been sent to Rheinbollen to halt our advance. They had set up road blocks and covered them with bazooka and small arms fire. The force consisted of approximately 150 men. A/8 and A/53 attacked the town while the rest of the column by-passed it to the west and moved toward Ellern. It took approximately two hours to clean out Rheinbollen and destroy the road block, during which A/8 had two tanks knocked out by bazooka fire. The main force moved through Ellern, Grafenbacherhutte, Argenschwang, Spabrucken, Dalberg, Wallhausen, Gutenberg, and back onto the main road at Windesheim. Little opposition was encountered in these towns although road blocks had been erected in most of them. After clearing Rheinbollen, A/8 and A/53 moved through Rheinbollerhutte, Neuhutte, Stromberg, Schwoppenhausen, and joined the main force at Windesheim. The column then proceeded toward the Lake River passing through Waldhiltersheim, Heddesheim, Langenlonsheim, and reaching the river at Gensingen at 1800. One medium tank was destroyed by bazooka fire in Waldhiltersheim and as the force approached the river at Gensingen the bridge was destroyed by the enemy. Reconnaissance patrols were sent out to look for possible crossings. CC"A" received orders to outpost Bretzenheim, Langenlonsheim, and Windesheim and be prepared to cross the river the following day. The CP of CC"A" closed in Windesheim.

Reserve command moved from Polch through Hambuch, Garden, Macken, Dommerhausen, Dorweiler, Gundenroth, Laubach, and closed in Simmern at 1350. They made no contact with the enemy although several prisoners were picked up enroute.

Forward Echelon moved from Garlen at 0830 and closed in Simmern at 1430.

The Administrative Center and Train Headquarters moved from Bitburg to Polch.

Colonel William Roberts joined the division and was announced as Assistant Division Commander. He formerly commanded CC"B", 10th Armd Div.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 84 killed, 115 wounded, 1150 prisoners, 1 Mark V tank, 18 75mm guns, 16 trucks, 2 staff cars, 1 prime mover, 2 motorcycles, 135 miscellaneous vehicles, 40 horse-drawn vehicles and 4 half tracks destroyed.

4th Armd Div casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	2	3
EM	4	21

17 March 1945:-

During the night of the 16th and morning of the 17th, CC"B" captured several enemy vehicles and captured many prisoners as the vehicles moved along the roads near Altenbamberg. The enemy was unaware that the division had advanced that far. Elements of CC"B" continued to enlarge their bridgehead over the Nahe River. B/10 and B/37 began clearing the area between Bad Munster and Hochstatten of enemy infantry and by 1400 had cleared the road between these two places. At 1500 "B" and "C" of the 10th and "B" and "C" of the 37th were ordered to attack Furfeld and Frei-Laubersheim. The 66th fired an artillery preparation on these two towns after which the force took them with only light small arms fire. This mission was completed at 1630. At 1700 orders were received to attack Bad Kreuznach, and B/37 and B/10, followed by A/37 and A/10 moved out to attack. Considerable resistance was encountered in the form of small arms and bazooka fire as they approached the town. The 37th had one tank knocked out by bazooka fire. The enemy were firing from cellars and dug-in positions and as darkness was now approaching only a small section of the city was cleared. Perimeter defenses were established around this area for the night.

The main force of CC"A" reconnoitered along the Nahe River in the vicinity of Langenlonsheim with the mission of seizing a bridge or finding a suitable place to ford. A/8 and A/53 seized a bridge at Bretzenheim but the approach to the bridge collapsed as the second tank started across. A suitable ford was located near the bridge and A/8 and A/53 crossed the stream and established a bridgehead. The towns of Ippersheim, Michelshain, and Zetzenheim, overlooking Sprendlingen, were taken without opposition. The damaged bridge was repaired by the engineers to allow wheeled vehicles to cross while tracked vehicles used the ford. B/8 patrolled the supply route to Simmern and kept enemy infantry trying to escape the pocket from cutting the supply route. The balance of the command cleared several towns north and northwest of Bad Kreuznach. The CP of CC"A" moved to Winzenheim.

Units of Reserve Command moved from Simmern at 1250 and passed through Tiefenbach, Sponheim, Mandel, Rudesheim and closed in the vicinity of Weinsheim. The enemy attempted to ambush units of Reserve Command as they moved through the woods in the vicinity of Winterburg. Platoons of B/35 were deployed at strategic positions around the woods and the attempted ambush was foiled with 175 enemy killed and 150 captured against 4 casualties to units of Reserve Command. A/35 proceeded southward from Winterburg and took the town of Daubach without opposition.

Orders were received by both combat commands to be prepared to attack toward Mainz the following morning.

March 1945-16

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

Enemy airplanes were active over the division sector during the day but few casualties or little damage resulted from the bombing and strafing. Ten enemy planes were shot down and 9 others were listed as probables.

Forward Echelon moved from Simmern at 1430 but stopped in Tiefenbach when Reserve Command was attacked near Winterburg. Forward returned to Simmern for the night arriving in bivouac at 2030.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 215 killed, 693 prisoners, 15 wounded, 7.88mm guns, 1 half track, 14 trucks, 3 staff cars, 2 buses, 10 miscellaneous vehicles, and 1 locomotive destroyed.

Lth Armd Div casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	1	3
Enl	1	45

The division received a letter of commendation from Maj Gen H S Eddy, commander of XII Corps, for the brilliant dash of the division from the Kyll River to the Rhine River. Following is a quotation from the commendation: "Delayed by enemy road blocks and nearly impassable roads, hampered by limited visibility which prevented air support, you pushed 42 miles into Germany in 72 hours to reach the Rhine River. During this remarkable drive you captured over 7,000 prisoners of war and more than 50 towns and villages. Only inspired leadership, the most skillful technique, and the boldest most driving spirit could have produced these results which have so captured the imagination and admiration of the entire XII Corps."

By direction of the President, the Legion of Merit was awarded to Lt Col Richard B Suller, commanding officer, 126th Armd Ord Maint Bn, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 1 February 1944 to 31 August 1944.

18 March 1945:-

The units of CC"A" moved out at 0630 from the high ground in the vicinity of Zetzenheim and Ippesheim to attack Sprendlingen, and took the town by 0715 with no opposition. B/8 and B/53 captured Gau-Buckelheim with no enemy resistance. C/8 and C/53 were given the mission of protecting the right flank of CC"A" which was reported threatened by an enemy tank column. This enemy concentration of tanks was bombed and strafed by P 47's, which destroyed most of them and forced the remainder to withdraw to the southeast. After relief of this threat C/8 and C/53 attacked St. Johann. They met stubborn resistance of 20mm bazooka and small arms fire. C/8 had five tanks knocked out by bazooka fire before the town was cleared. Nine enemy 20 mm AA guns were destroyed. B/8 and B/53 then moved through St. Johann and attacked Wolfsheim. They encountered moderate resistance from 20mm guns and an 38 mm gun, but the town was cleared and outposted by 2145. The CP of CC"A" moved to Bosenheim.

CC"B" completed the clearing of Bad Kreuznach by 1200 after routing the enemy from buildings and cellars. Civilians in this town were openly hostile and the 37th lost one tank when a civilian fired on it with a bazooka. An enemy hospital was captured in the town and 50 American patients were liberated. At 0700 13 enemy tanks, together with self-propelled guns, moved to break through the positions of CC"B" southeast of Hackenheim. This counter-attack was repulsed before it was underway by friendly fighter-bombers and Companies "A" and "C" of the 37th Tank Bn. 12 enemy tanks were destroyed by tank fire. C/37 and A/10

March 1945-17

occupied the high ground in the vicinity of Furfeld and guarded the right flank of CC"B" against other possible counter-attacks. C/10 and A/37 took and outposted high ground surrounding Wellstein. B/37 and B/10 moved out from Bad Kreuznach at 1600 to attack Volxheim and Wellstein. Stubborn resistance was encountered at Volxheim from elements of the 198th Inf Div and 669th Assault Gun Brigade. The approach to the town was protected by road block and covered by a tank and 2 self-propelled guns; excellent air support destroyed the road block and the force entered the town. Intense mortar, bazooka and small arms fire halted the advance as the enemy resisted stubbornly from buildings and cellars. Much of the fighting was hand to hand as it was necessary to route the enemy from his positions. One-third of the town was cleared by darkness and a strong perimeter defense was set up. B/37 lost one tank to bazooka fire, leaving the company only six tanks. No replacement tanks were received until they reached Worms. The CP of CC"B" moved to Frei-Laubersheim.

Elements of the Reserve Command finished cleaning out an enemy pocket in the vicinity of Winterburg which had developed from an enemy attempt to cut the MSR. At 1700 these units assembled in the vicinity of Weinsheim and orders were received alerting Reserve Command to move the following morning at 0630 to assist CC"B". In the meantime A/35 and the assault guns of the 35th moved from Dautsch to attack Eckweiler. P 47's bombed and strafed the town and when the force entered at 1530 it was demolished. 50 prisoners were captured. At 1700, B/35 moved from Weinsheim to the vicinity of Furfeld to be in a position to assist CC"B".

The original order to attack toward Mainz was cancelled at 2300 as it was learned that the bridge over the Rhine River was blown. The division was to attack toward Worms and to seize any possible bridges in that area.

Forward Echelon moved from Simmern at 1000 and closed in Bockenau at 1330.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 103 killed, 125 wounded, 462 prisoners, 7 tanks, 3 self-propelled guns, 1 half track, 4 anti-tank guns, 37 trucks, 6 88mm guns, 9 20mm guns, 2 prime movers, 3 motorcycles, 20 miscellaneous vehicles, and 3 FW 190's destroyed.

19 March 1945:-

The units of CC"B" completed clearing Volxheim in the early morning and attacked toward Wellstein and Cumsheim. The resistance in these towns consisted of mortar, small arms and automatic weapons fire. A/37 and C/10 went on to take Wendelsheim at 1800 with no resistance. B/37 and B/10 took Eckelsheim at 1300 and outposted it strongly. Enemy resistance appeared to be weakening as the command took most of the towns with little or no resistance. C/37 and B/10 passed through Siegfriedsheim at 1030 and after an artillery preparation by the 66th Armd FA Bn attacked Wonsheim. Some artillery and small arms fire was received but the town was taken by 1530. The 37th had one tank knocked out by a self-propelled gun. CC"B" outposted high ground southeast of Eckelsheim and Wendelsheim for the night. Nearly every town entered by units of CC"B" had a road block but most of them were undefended. Enemy planes were over throughout the day but were driven off before they could inflict damage.

CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Wolfsheim to attack toward Worrstadt at 1200. A/8 and A/53 took Vandersheim with no resistance and then attacked Worrstadt. This town was defended by bazooka and small arms fire but it was cleared by dark. B/8 and B/53 captured the towns of Wallertheim, Sulshheim,

March 1945-18

Schimsheim, and Ramersheim during the day against light small arms resistance. C/8 and C/53 passed through A/8 and A/53 to take Spiesheim which was outposted for the night. The CP of CC"A" moved to Sprendlingen.

Reserve Command was given the mission of coordinating with and assisting CC"B" and protecting the south flank of the division. They moved from the vicinity of Weinsheim at 0630 through Huffelsheim, Traisen, Herheim, Ebenburg, Altenbamburg, and closed in Furfeld at 0930. A/35 and C/51 were ordered to attack the high ground overlooking Wunsheim. Anti-tank and self-propelled gun fire was received by the force from the direction of Wunsheim and a mine field also hampered progress, but the high ground was taken by 1500. Six self-propelled guns and 3 anti-tank guns were destroyed and 100 prisoners were captured during the day. Elements of "B" and "C" of the 35th Tank Bn were dispatched to clear the towns of Biederhausen, Tiefenthal and Wunsheim and the mission was completed at 1945 with light small arms fire being the chief form of resistance. A/35 and C/51 moved from Wunsheim under cover of darkness for a night attack on Mack. The attack was successful as enemy outposts were taken by surprise. The town of Mack was outposted for the night. The CP of Reserve Command moved to Furfeld.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 280 killed, 110 wounded, 653 prisoners, 5 self-propelled guns, 1 Mark VI tank, 23 trucks, 8 88mm guns, 2 75mm guns, 7 20mm guns, 1 half track, 5 machine guns, 3 scout cars, 2 motorcycles, and 1 horse-drawn vehicle destroyed.

4th Armd Div casualties included:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	5	0
EM	9	29	1

20 March 1945:-

Enemy resistance in the 4th Armd Div sector was broken as enemy elements attempted to flee to the south before the advance of the division. The enemy attempted to set up a defense line between Alzey and Bingen but the 4th Armd Div advanced so rapidly that these enemy units were forced to retreat. Toward the end of the day the retreat of the enemy became disorganized and confused and the division advanced with little opposition.

Elements of CC"A" attacked from high ground in the vicinity of Spiesheim and Schimsheim at 0600 with Worms as the objective. B/8, with infantry support from the 10th, took Albig at 0800 with no opposition, then proceeded east of ALZEY and took Gau-Heppenheim. P 47's bombed and strafed enemy columns fleeing southward from Alzey. A/8 and C/8, with supporting infantry, cleared the towns of Armsheim, Flinheim, Bornheim, and Ramersheim with little or no opposition. Road blocks were found in most of the towns but were undefended. A/8 proceeded through Alzey which had already been taken by CC"B" and captured the towns of Dautenheim, Blodsheim, Monzernheim, Westhofen, Auenheim, and Herrnsheim. Herrnsheim was cleared by 2000 and the high ground to the north outposted for the night. Resistance in these towns was light and consisted of undefended road blocks and scattered small arms fire. B/8 and B/51 proceeded through Dittelsheim and Bechtheim against light resistance and captured Osthofen against rear guard resistance. Osthofen and surrounding high ground were outposted for the night. Some slow-moving enemy columns fleeing toward the Rhine were captured without putting up a fight. The CP of CC"A" was moved to Westhofen.

March 1945-19

The units of CC"B" continued the attack toward Worms from the vicinity of Wendelsheim at 0700. After an artillery preparation in Erbas-Budesheim by the 68th Armd FA Bn and B/37, Companies "B" and "C" of the 10th Armd Inf Bn, together with A/37, entered the town with no resistance. A/37 and C/10 continued on to enter Heimersheim to the northeast to be in a position to support the attack on Alzey and at 0815 fired an artillery barrage on the town. B/37 and B/10 entered Alzey at 0930 and the only resistance was road blocks, covered by small arms, which was quickly wiped out. The column then proceeded to the southeast in a two-propelled drive on Dintesheim and Eppelsheim. Numerous prisoners were taken enroute, as the air force, proceeding ahead of the attacking force, destroyed several columns leaving the enemy with no means of transportation at 1215, A/10 and C/37 attacked Eppelsheim simultaneously with the attack of B/10 and B/37 on Dintesheim. Both towns were cleared of enemy bazooka and small arms fire by 1345 and CC"B" assembled along the road southeast of Eppelsheim for a final drive toward Worms. The column advanced rapidly and entered Pfeddersheim at 1530. Only light resistance was encountered but both bridges over the Pfrimm River had been destroyed. C/37 and A/10 circled the town to the north and found a bridge at Leiselheim which they crossed and entered the town of Pfifflogheim. While this force was engaged in clearing the town of bazooka and small arms resistance, A/37 and C/10 by-passed Pfifflogheim to the south and entered Worms at 1925. A/10 and C/37 cleared Pfifflogheim by 1700 and proceeded to Worms where bridges connecting the two parts of the town were destroyed. One platoon of C/37 was able to cross on a temporary bridge and reached the west bank of the Rhine where an outpost was set up which captured and killed many of the enemy as they attempted to cross the Rhine in boats. All bridges over the Rhine had been destroyed by the enemy. In the meantime B/37 and B/10 had entered Hochheim, taken the town, and outposted it for the night. The 35th Tank Bn and the 51st Armd Inf Bn which were attached to CC"B" from Reserve Command, advanced along the division right flank, taking the towns of Offenheim, Weinhaim Flornborn, Ober-Florsheim, Dalsheim, and Nieder-Florsheim against light enemy resistance. They outposted high ground around Pfeddersheim. Elements of CC"B" had advanced approximately 31 miles during the day.

The units of Reserve Command continued to protect the flank of the division from enemy attempting to break out of the Saar-Nahe trap in the vicinity of Stein Beckenheim and Wendelsheim.

Forward Echelon moved from Beckenau at 1030 and closed in Frei-Laubersheim at 1200.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 217 killed, 275 wounded, 949 prisoners, (prisoners of war from the 47th Inf Div and the 54th Nebel-Werfer Regt) 13 105mm guns, 6 88mm guns, 1 155mm gun, 5 75mm guns, 1 37mm gun, 6 20mm guns, 8 self-propelled guns, 2 anti-tank guns, 5 Mark V tanks, 1 Mark IV tank, 4 tanks (type unknown), 7 half tracks, 50 horse-drawn vehicles, and 30 miscellaneous vehicles destroyed. The 489th AAA Bn shot down three enemy planes and damaged two others. The planes shot down were an ME 262, and FW 190.

4th Armd Div casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Off	1	2
EM	4	45

March 1945-20

21 March 1945:-

A message was received from XII Corps for the division to move north along the Rhine River and clean up enemy resistance between Worms and Oppenheim. Elements of the 5th Inf Div relieved CC"B" to mop up Worms and by 1100 this relief was complete. Units of CC"B" northward at 1130 and cleared the full wing towns: Osthofen, Bechtheim, Mottenheim, Alsheim, Dern-Dunkheim, Frettenheim, Hillesheim, Dalgesheim, Eimsheim, Weinsheim, and outposted the west bank of the Rhine in the vicinity of Gimsheim. The CP CC"B" moved to Bechtheim. Scattered small arms fire was the only form of resistance encountered by the advancing forces.

The units of CC"A" assembled in the vicinity of Hessloch and Fremersheim in preparation for clearing the area to the north in a parallel Advance to that of CC"B". 20 enemy aircraft attacked as the units were assembling but were driven off by machine gun fire without causing any damage. The left column of CC"A" cleared Gau-Knagernheim, Gau-Odernheim, Undenheim, and Kengernheim, while the right column cleared Dittelsheim, Dalgesheim, Uelversheim, Weinsheim, Dalheim, and Dienheim. They outposted the area in the vicinity of Ludwigshohe, Wienheim and Oppenheim. The CP of CC"A" moved to Gau-Odernheim. They also made contact with the 90th Inf Div which was advancing to the south along the Rhine. Enemy resistance was light but many prisoners were rounded up as they attempted to reach the Rhine. The enemy was disorganized in this area and most prisoners surrendered without giving position.

Elements of the 35th Tank Bn and 51st Armd Inf Bn, which had been attached to CC"B", reverted to control of Reserve Command, which had assembled in the vicinity of Stein Beckenheim.

Enemy losses for the day included 75 killed, 56 wounded, 701 prisoners, 1 88mm gun, 1 anti-tank gun, 3 self-propelled guns, 12 trucks, 4 staff cars, 1 armored car, 1 motorcycle, 5 barges and 4 miscellaneous vehicles destroyed. A large radio station was captured in Worms.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	0	2	0
EM	1	5	1

Two enlisted men from the 8th Tank Bn and one from the 49th AAA Bn left to attend Officer Candidate School, (Par 1, SO 60 and Par 1, SO 61, cs, Hq 4th Armd Div.).

22 March 1945:-

During the night of 21-22 March, the division was relieved by elements of the 5th Inf Div., which was to establish a bridgehead across the Rhine River in the vicinity of Oppenheim. Both combat commands were alerted to move to a division assembly area in the vicinity of Sand Fraunbach.

The units of CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Oppenheim at 1300 and closed in a general assembly area in the vicinity of Spandlingen at 1700. The CP of CC"A" moved to Hackenheim.

CC"B" also alerted to move to the assembly area but the 5th Inf Div had encountered such little opposition in establishing a bridgehead over the Rhine that the move was cancelled. Units of CC"B" remained in the vicinity of Bechtheim and utilized the day for maintenance of vehicles and care of equipment.

March 1945-21

Enemy planes were over during the day but were driven off without inflicting damage.

Reserve Command remained in the vicinity of Steinbockenheim and continued to block roads on the division south flank.

Twenty-three enlisted men and 2 officers were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to the United States for 30 days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 62, Hq 4th Armd Div cs).

23 March 1945:-

Major General Hugh J Gaffey, who assumed command of the division 3 December 1944, was assigned to duty as Commanding General of the XXIII Corps of the 1st Army. Brigadier General William M Hoge, formerly commander of CC"B", 9th Armd Div., was named Commanding General of the 4th Armored Division.

The division was alerted to cross the Rhine River at 0900 the following day and to attack through the bridgehead of the 5th Inf Div. The objective of the division was to try to seize a bridge over the Main River in the vicinity of Hanau. The order of march was CC"A", 25th Cav Recon Sqdn, CC"B" and Reserve Command.

With the exception of the 22nd Armd FA Bn, the units of both combat commands remained in their assembly areas preparing to attack the following day. The 22nd moved from Dern Dürkheim at 0830 through Biebelnheim, Flonheim, Wendelheim to Gumbsheim, closing in at 1145. When CC"B" was alerted to 22nd returned to its original assembly area.

Forward Echelon moved from Frei-Laubersheim at 1530 and closed in Kegnheim at 1700.

24 March 1945:-

Units of CC"A" moved out from their assembly area in the vicinity of Sprendlingen at 0700 and passed through Gau-Buckelheim, Wallertheim, Sulzheim, Worrstadt, Uнденheim, and Dexheim. At 0900 CC"A" began crossing the Rhine River over the pontoon bridge at Nierstein. All units of CC"A" had completed the crossing by 1250. The column passed through Leheim but ran into heavy resistance in the vicinity of Wolfskehlen, Philippe Hospital, and Crumstadt. This resistance consisted of anti-tank, bazooka, and small arms fire. Once this resistance was reduced, the column advanced rapidly against light resistance passing through Eschollbrücken, Pfungstadt, Eberstadt, Nieder Ramstadt, and reached a position in the vicinity of Ober-Ramstadt by 0100. The CP of CC"A" moved to position in the vicinity of Ober Ramstadt.

CC"B" moved from the vicinity of Bechtheim and began crossing the Rhine at 1600 with the mission of protecting the advance of CC"A", by blocking any enemy attacks from the south. After crossing the river, the CC"B" column advanced through Gainsheim, Leheim, and Erfelden without opposition, but at Stockstadt they encountered bazooka, and small arms fire. C/10 and A/37 entered the town and cleared it by 1900. A/10 and C/37 then entered Hahn at 1930 and cleared it of small arms resistance. The column then advanced south along the autobahn and by 2215 had entered Hanlein after knocking out several bazooka teams which were covering a road block at the entrance.

March 1945-22

Units of Reserve Command moved from their assembly area in the vicinity of Furfeld at 1915 and followed a route through Wonsheim, Willstein, Gau-Buckelheim, Wallertheim, Sulzheim, Worrstadt, Udenheim, Dexheim, and began crossing the Rhine at 2345. After crossing the Rhine they proceeded through Geinsheim, Lecheim, Wolfskehlen, Griesheim, Eschollbrucken, and closed in Pfungstadt early in the morning of the 25th.

The entire division (approximately 2500 vehicles) crossed the Rhine River in 18 hours (240900-250300). After crossing the river, unofficial reports from the Air Corps clocked forward elements of the division as moving 7 miles in ten minutes. As the division crossed the bridge over the Rhine the enemy bombed and strafed in an attempt to destroy the bridge. The bridge was not damaged and no damage was done to the vehicles.

Forward Echelon moved from Kengernheim at 2100 and closed in an area south-east of Lecheim at 2345.

The Administrative Center moved from Felch and closed in Sprendlingen.

25 March 1945:-

CC"B" continued the attack at 0745 from the vicinity of Hehnlein. Bickenbach and Seeheim were taken with no opposition. B/10 and B/37 entered Ober Beerbach and quickly cleared the town of small arms resistance. Approximately 400 prisoners surrendered without putting up much of a fight. Jugenheim, Nider Rodau, and Reinheim were taken by 0930 against scattered enemy small arms fire. A hospital was captured at Jugenheim with approximately 300 wounded enemy soldiers. The column then advanced rapidly through Spachbrucken, Habitzheim, Richen, Schaafheim, Gross Ostheim and reached the Main River south of Aschaffenburg at 1400. A highway bridge and a railroad bridge over the river were captured and elements of the 10th Armd Inf Bn and the 37th Tank Bn quickly began to cross. After the 6th tank of D/37 had crossed the bridge collapsed from damage done to it when the enemy attempted to blow it before our arrival. The engineers quickly reinforced the railroad bridge for other vehicles to cross and a bridgehead was established by 1600. 150 enemy prisoners were taken from the woods near the bridgehead after our forces had sprayed the woods with machine gun fire. At dusk several attempts by enemy planes to destroy the bridge were unsuccessful. At 1730 AB/10 and BC/37 entered Aschaffenburg to clear the city, but orders were received to withdraw and set up a perimeter defense around the bridge. The CP of CC"B" moved to Gross Ostheim. CC"B" had advanced rapidly against light resistance and the advance was so rapid that the enemy destroyed several supply dumps, as they had no time to transport the supplies to rear areas.

CC"A" continued the attack at 0600 from the vicinity of Ober Ramstadt. The force passed through Rosserdf, Dieburg, Gross Eirborn, Bartenhausen, and Altheim without opposition. Considerable resistance from anti-aircraft guns was encountered at Babenhausen until these enemy positions were destroyed. Moderate anti-aircraft fire was also encountered at Zellhausen. The column by-passed Seligenstadt and went on to seize a bridge over the Main River at Klein Auheim. The bridge was damaged but infantry and tanks passed over quickly and established a bridgehead at Grossauheim. At 2000 an enemy railroad train, loaded with troops, pulled into Grossauheim, and it appeared as though they were unaware of the presence of American troops. The train was mounted with 4 150mm guns and several anti-aircraft guns. A sharp fight ensued and our troops were forced back to the bridge before artillery fire broke up the enemy counter-attack. Positions north of the river were strongly outposted for the night. The CP of CC"A" moved to Froschhausen.

March 1945-23

After moving most of the previous night, Reserve Command closed in Eschollbrucken at 0300. A task force from the 35th Tank Bn and 51st Armored Inf Bn was sent to clear Darmstadt, entering the city at 1330 and reporting it clear at 1430. There was no resistance as the city had been thoroughly bombed by the air force. At 1600 Reserve Command moved from Eschollbrucken to Dieburg with the mission of blocking any enemy attacks between Eberstadt and Dieburg.

The rapid advance during the day covered approximately 40 miles in a period of 18 hours.

Forward Echelon left Lohheim at 1615 and closed in Rosdorf at 1930.

Enemy losses inflicted during the 24th and 25th included: 2606 prisoners, 567 killed, 217 trucks, 128 staff cars, 21-3 75mm guns, 4-88mm guns 27 20mm guns, 10 self-propelled guns, 2 anti-tank guns, 1 flak car with multi-barreled 20mm gun, 3 105mm guns, 26 anti-aircraft guns, 3 40mm guns, 2 motor cycles, 1 bus, 4 half-tracks, 20 wagons and 3 planes destroyed; 400 box cars, 4 locomotives, and 1 train full of enemy supplies and ammunition was captured at Dieburg.

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	5	1
EN	17	60	4

26 March 1945:-

CC"A" continued to hold a small bridgehead over the Main River at Crossauheim although they were forced back to the bridge by the arrival of a train load of enemy reinforcements on the previous night. Enemy planes made several attempts during the night to destroy the already damaged bridge over the river but were unsuccessful. At 0530, CC"A" repulsed an enemy counter-attack of 50 infantrymen supported by artillery fire. The attack was repulsed by machine-gun small arms fire. A task force composed of one company from the 35th Tank Battalion and one company from the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion was sent to Zellhausen to be prepared to reinforce CC"A" in the event their situation became acute. Accurate enemy artillery fire hampered the work of the engineers who were trying to construct a bridge over the Main River so tracked vehicles could cross. At 1400, a combat team from the 26th Infantry Division moved through CC"A" positions to clear Crossauheim. CC"A" supported this attack and it was necessary to rout the enemy cellars with the use of hand grenades. The 8th Tank Battalion awaiting construction of the bridge, outposted the towns of Heinstadt, Seligenstadt, and Zellhausen and captured a large supply depot southwest of Heinstadt, which contained an estimated 2 1/2 million dollars worth of medical supplies and 10,000 tires. Sporadic artillery fire from across the river fell on the towns outposted by the 8th Tank Battalion.

The bridgehead of CC"B", south of Aschaffenburg, was attacked by enemy planes early in the morning but no damage was done to the bridge. These air attacks were followed by an enemy counter-attack of 11 self-propelled guns and 2 tanks. Three of the self-propelled guns were destroyed by fire from the 37th Tank Battalion, and the remainder of the force withdrew to the south. Orders were received during the day that CC"B" would be relieved by the 26th Infantry Division and would be prepared to enlarge the bridgehead at Hanau and attack toward Wilsen.

A special task force from CC"B" was organized with Captain Baum, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, in command with the mission of freeing approximately 900 American prisoners at a camp south of Hammelburg. This camp was approximately 55 miles behind enemy lines. The force was composed of A/10, C/37, Plat D/37,

March 1945-24

AG/10, and Ren/10. B/37 and E/10 attacked Schweinheim at 2100 from their bridgehead over the Main with the purpose of clearing the main street for the task force to pass through the town and get started on its mission. The 22nd, 66th and 94th placed a heavy barrage on Schweinheim, after which B/37 and E/10 entered the town. Resistance consisted of bazooka and small arms fire. E/37 had one tank knocked out by bazooka fire but by 2230 the route was cleared and the task force started out on its mission. B/37 and E/10 returned to their original positions of outposting the bridgehead south of Aschaffenburg (See History file for complete report of task force commander.)

The units of Reserve Command moved from Disburg at 1600 and closed in Babnhausen at 1945.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 608 prisoners, 215 wounded, 189 killed, 12 - 88mm guns, 14 - 20mm guns, 1 locomotive, and 6 railroad cars destroyed. The 489th AAA Bn shot down 1 JU-88 and 3 HE-111 as they bombed and strafed bridgehead positions. The 25th Cav. Ren. Sq. captured a German concentration camp, between Ober-Roden and Nieder-Roden, with over 1200 political prisoners and a train load of rations.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Off	2	5	--
EM	13	67	12

27 March 1945:-

The following troop list went into effect at 1900.

<u>CC"1"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
53	51	10(-A, AG, Ren)
2	35	37(-C, Flat D)
A/25	C/25	D/489
B/704	C/704	24 (-A & B)
B/24	A/24	A/704
C/489	A/489	
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	

<u>Division Troops</u>	<u>Supporting Troops</u>
25 (-A, B, C)	177th FA Group
D/704	276th FA Bn
A/10	179 FA Bn
Ren & AG Platoon 10th	191st FA Bn
C/37, Flat D/37	
66	
94	
22	

The 32nd Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division was attached to CC"1" for the purpose of clearing Grossauheim and Hantu while the 101st Regiment took over the bridgehead positions of CC"1" so the units could prepare for an attack toward Giessen the following day. At 0800, an enemy counter-attack of infantry supported by artillery fire drove elements of the 26th Infantry

March 1945-25

Division back to the Main River but by 0915 the situation was under control and the counter-attack had been repulsed. The engineers completed the trestle-way bridge over the river at 1500 after several interruptions due to counter-attacks and artillery fire. Elements of the 35th Tank Battalion and 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, which had supported CC"A" in bridgehead operations, reverted to battalion control.

Early in the morning, elements of the 26th Infantry Division began relieving CC"B" at the bridgehead south of Aschaffenburg. At 1800, the units of CC"B" moved from positions along the Main River south of Aschaffenburg to an assembly area in the vicinity of Weiskirchen. They followed a route through Schraffenheim, Babenhausen, Budenhofen and Jugesheim. The CP also moved to Weiskirchen. The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion now in CC"B", moved from Zillhausen at 1027 and closed in Hausen at 1150.

The 37th Tank Battalion and 18th Armored Infantry Battalion, which were now attached to Reserve Command, moved from the bridgehead south of Aschaffenburg at 1800 via Gross Ostheim, Schraffenheim and closed in Babenhausen at 2000.

Forward Echelon moved from Rosdorf at 0900 and closed in Jugesheim at 1100.

Enemy losses for the day were 64 prisoners.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Officers	--	1	10
Enlisted Men	10	20	290

28 March 1945:-

The objective of the division was the high ground east of Giessen in the vicinity of Grunberg. Advance elements moved out at 0500 to attack to the north through the Hannau bridgehead. The division crossed the trestle-way bridge at Grossauheim in one column as the highway bridge could not be reinforced to permit heavy traffic.

Elements of CC"A" which had been supporting the bridgehead operations crossed the Main River at 0300 and moved through the eastern outskirts of Hannau as the 26th Infantry Division was still clearing the city. By 0900 they reached a position south of Rosdorf and received some machine-gun and small arms fire. This resistance was neutralized as the enemy surrendered after seeing the strength of the attacking force. Stubborn resistance was encountered at Ostheim as the enemy fired bazookas from buildings and it was necessary to rout them with hand grenades. Ostheim was cleared by 1145. Throughout the remainder of the day, light small arms fire was the only resistance encountered by the column. From Ostheim, CC"A" advanced rapidly to the north following a route through Eichen, Altenstadt, Staden, Bingenheim, Gerolteit, and Hunzen. In the vicinity of Hunzen a long column of enemy vehicles was overrun with many vehicles destroyed and a large number of prisoners taken. The attacking force reached the objective (Grunberg) at 1800 and outposted the town for the night. The CP of CC"A" closed in Grunberg at 1900.

CC"B" moved out from the assembly area near Weiskirchen and cleared the CP (Hausen) at 0530. By 0715 the column had crossed the river and was attacking to the north of Hannau. A mined road block covered by bazooka fire in the woods north of Wilhelmsbad temporarily halted the column but the bazooka positions were knocked out and the road block destroyed. From that point on little re-

sistance was encountered. undefended road blocks and the large number of prisoners taken along the route were the only factors which impeded the advance of the column. The advance of CC"B" paralleled that of CC"A" and the route followed was through Kiliansteden, Windecken, Kaichen, Nieder Flurstadt, Weckelsheim, Munzenburg, and Lich. By 1600 they reached a position northeast of Grunberg and outposted high ground in the vicinity of Beltersshain. The CP of CC"B" moved to Goblared.

Reserve Command moved from Babenhausen at 1400, followed CC"B", and closed in Munzenburg at 1945. They were to be ready to reinforce either combat command and repel enemy counter-attack on the flanks. No counter-attacks developed and the combat commands advanced rapidly against light resistance.

The division advanced approximately 62 miles during the day.

Forward Echelon moved from Jugeshaim at 1545 and closed in Munzenburg at 2230.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 325 killed, 455 wounded, 406 prisoners, 76 trucks, 356 assorted motor transports, 3- 88mm guns, 2-150mm guns, 3-40mm guns, 2-20mm guns, 1 self-propelled gun, 10 nebelwerfers, 2 assault guns, 13 half-trucks, 1 bus, 16 staff cars, 5 motor cars, 2 volkswagen, 36 wagons, 2 jeeps, 2 tractors, 1 locomotive, 202 horse-drawn vehicles, and 5 motorcycles destroyed. A hospital with 150 patients and 100 box-cars were captured at Grunberg.

1st Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	1	1
Enlisted Men	6	23

29 March 1945:-

CC"B" was ordered to attack to the east with Lauterbach as the objective. They moved out from the vicinity of Beltersshain at 0700 and advanced rapidly against very light resistance. The objective was taken by 1400 after an advance of approximately 29 miles. Large quantities of enemy equipment were destroyed and many prisoners were taken. The advance was so rapid and unexpected by the enemy that many enemy soldiers were captured as they were eating dinner in private homes at Lauterbach. 1500 wounded enemy in a hospital at Bad Salzschlirf surrendered formally to the division. The following towns were captured by CC"B" during the day: Lunda, Atzenheim, Morlau, Ruppertshain, Ermenrod, Fulda, Winzhausen, Kodingen, Heltersshain, Reichels, Dirlammen, and Lauterbach. The CP moved to Lauterbach.

CC"A" attacked at 0630 from Grunberg with the mission of seizing the road center of Grossenluder. During the advance the orders were changed to attack Herbststein, and at 1600 orders were received to attack the original objective. undefended road blocks, light bazooka and small arms fire constituted the enemy resistance encountered during the advance. Grossenluder was taken by 2300 and the CP closed in that town. The following towns were captured by CC"A" during the day: Weickartshain, Lardenbach, Sellrod, Wonnfeld, Babenhausen Ulrichstein, Rebgeshain, Engelrod, Hergonau, Herbststein, Altschliff, St. ckhausen, Kleinluder, and Grossenluder. The enemy was disorganized and many surrendered without offering resistance.

March 1945-27

Reserve Command moved out from Münzenberg at 0900 with initial orders to follow the route of CC"B". After moving 6 kilometers to Hirschheim they were ordered to attack through Hirschheim to Herbstein to open an NSL. This route was parallel to and on the right flank of CC"A". Little action was encountered although many prisoners were taken and much equipment was destroyed. The mission was completed by 1715 with Herbstein and the surrounding high ground outposted for the night. The route taken by Reserve Command passed through Rodheim, Hidda, Michelau, Glashuttan, Herkenfritz, Gedern, Hartmannshain, and Grebenhain.

A Frenchman liberated in Lauterbach reported that the enemy had retreated on foot and bicycles the previous night toward Fulda and that the retreat appeared to be disorganized.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 127 killed, 100 wounded, 2145 prisoners, 1500 wounded surrendered in a hospital: 1-40mm gun, 10-20mm guns, 1 assault gun, 4 anti-aircraft guns, 1 Mark IV Tank, 2 half-tracks, 16 staff cars, 41 trucks, 1 buses, 18 motorcycles, 1 jeep, 5 prime movers, 8 armored cars, 95 wagons, 1 Volkswagen, 3 scout cars, 38 large trailers, 54 miscellaneous vehicles, 102 motorcycles, 150 railroad cars, 10 aircraft engines, and 1 military arsenal: 4 rail cars, 1 train and 1 fuel dump captured.

11th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	--	1
Enlisted Men	7	10

The Legion of Merit was awarded to Brigadier General Holmes E. Dager, Commanding General 11th Armored Division, formerly CC"B" commander, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service while a member of this division from 17 July 1944 to 10 January 1945. (CO 46, ETOUSA dated 29 March 1945)

30 March 1945:-

Word was received that the division had been awarded the Presidential Citation for the Bestagone breakthrough and the subsequent drive to the Rhine.

CC"A" was alerted at 1159 to continue the attack to the northeast with the mission of taking high ground in the vicinity of Hersfeld. At 1420, the combat command moved out from the vicinity of Gressenluder. Light resistance, consisting of small arms fire, was encountered during most of the advance and numerous road blocks and barriers were found in the early stages of construction. The advance of the division had been so rapid that the enemy did not have time to complete these obstacles. Small detachments of enemy armor were seen for the first time in several days and 3 Mark IV tanks were destroyed by artillery fire in the vicinity of Sieglar. The advance of CC"A" during the day liberated the following towns: Eichenau, Bad Salyshlirf, Uetshausen, Schlitz, Hutzdorf, Langenschwarz, Wehrda, Rhine, Hunkirchen, Hilsbach, Olmsachsen, Scaltitz, Bades Eitra Sieglar Fishbach, Erdmannrode, Wustfel, Honrode, Schenkklingsfeld, Hilmes, Hillartshausen, Gethserane, and Kustbach. The area between Hersfeld and Vacha was reached by 2300. The CP of CC"A" moved to Schenkklingsfeld.

CC"B" moved out at 1400 from the vicinity of Lauterbach to attack toward Hersfeld. Initially no resistance was encountered as the column passed through the towns of Udenhausen, Grebenau, Wallersdorf, Hatterode, Breitenbach, Ober

March 1945-28

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poor quality due to
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the **original**.

Jossa, and Nieder-Jossa. At Niederaula, an enemy troop train with equipment had just arrived and resisted stubbornly with small arms fire. B/35 and B/51 stayed behind to clear the town while the main force bypassed it to continue the attack. The train with much equipment was destroyed and many prisoners were taken as the town was cleared. 70 American airmen were also liberated at Niederaula. No resistance was found in Mengshausen or Kerspenhausen but Asbach was defended by small arms, bazooka and anti-tank fire. The column lost 1 medium tank and 1 light tank to bazooka fire and A/35 and A/51 were left to clear the town. In the meantime, a force composed of B/35 and B/51 attacked Hersfeld but orders were received to withdraw to Asbach and prepare to continue the advance to the northeast. The CP of CC"B" moved to Kerspenhausen.

Reserve Command was alerted at 1600 for movement the following day.

Forward Echelon moved from Munzenberg at 0900 and closed in Herbstein at 1330.

The Administrative Center moved from Sprendlingen across the Rhine River and closed in Jugenheim.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 85 killed, 88 wounded, 797 prisoners; 3 Mark IV tanks, 3 tanks (type unknown), 1 self-propelled gun, 2-75 mm guns, 6-20mm guns, 2 half-tracks, 12 trucks, 31 motor transports, 9 motorcycles, 9 horse-drawn vehicles, and 4 railroad trains destroyed, 6 locomotives, 140 box-cars, and 27 hospital cars captured.

4th Armored Division casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	--	--
Enlisted Men	8	14

The units serving with the Third United States Army received a congratulatory message from the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, "for the magnificent victories they have won on the western front."

31 March 1945:-

CC"A" received orders at 1315 to continue the attack with the mission of seizing a bridgehead over the Werra River and high ground in the vicinity of Eisenach. At 1400, the combat command moved out from Huesbach and soon ran into heavy resistance of artillery, bazooka, and small arms fire at Heimbaldsheim. Part of the column crossed the bridge over the Stankels River at Heimbaldsheim before it was destroyed by the enemy. The remainder of the force detoured through Friedwald to join the column at Wolfershausen. In the meantime, the forward elements that had safely crossed the bridge were delayed south of Wolfershausen when our artillery set fire to an enemy ammunition factory. After a delay of several hours, they continued the advance to the north along the Werra River and captured the towns of Wolfershausen, Wildershausen, and Dankmarshelm. Forward elements outposted Dankmarshelm for the night while the rest of the force assembled in the vicinity of Wolfershausen. The CP moved to Wolfershausen.

The units CC"B" moved out from the vicinity of Asbach at 1430, bypassed the resistance in Hersfeld, and advanced on the autobahn. The delay in getting started was due to D/24 constructing a 36 foot trestle bridge north of Asbach. The column encountered only light small arms resistance until they reached Huesbach, where an overpass crossed the autobahn. Part of D/35 had passed under the overpass when it was destroyed by the enemy and the resulting debris formed an ideal road block. The tanks that had passed through were immediately attacked by enemy infantry from dug-in positions. Several casualties were inflicted

March 1945-29

before the enemy were wiped out by machine-gun fire. The column was delayed for several hours while A/24 cleared the road with the use of Bulldozers and demolitions. While the road was being cleared, A/35 was sent through Hensbach, Grossensee, and Bosserde. Between Hilsbach and Grossensee enemy artillery fire was encountered and 6 enemy artillery pieces were destroyed. The autobahn was cleared by 1900 and the remainder of the column advanced to Bosserde where they turned off the road for the night. The CP moved to Grossensee.

The units of Reserve Command moved out from the vicinity of Barbstein at 1000, followed the route taken by CC"B" and closed in Hersfeld at 1900.

Forward Echelon moved from Herbstein at 1015 and closed in Hersfeld at 1830.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 140 killed, 120 wounded, 834 prisoners, 8 - 88mm guns, 1 75mm gun, 10 assault guns, 12 20mm guns, 2 anti-aircraft guns, 4 tanks, 2 trucks, 20 caissons, and 2 staff cars destroyed; 1 warehouse of tires was captured.

14th Armored Division casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Officers	--	2	--
Enlisted Men	17	47	2

March Summary:-

During the period 1-4 March the Division strengthened its position along the west bank of the Kyll River, north of Bitburg, and made plans to cross the river, drive through the 5th Infantry Division bridgehead, and attack to the northeast with the Rhine River in the vicinity of Coblenz as the objective. Units of the combat commands assembled northeast of Bitburg in preparation for the attack.

On the 5th, the division crossed the Kyll River in the vicinity of Huttingen and advanced to the northeast from the established bridgehead against light resistance. Progress was hindered more by inclement weather and roads than by enemy resistance. The two combat commands began the attack on parallel routes but the bad road conditions soon forced them to move on the main route, rather than secondary routes as previously selected. The town of Almen was reached on the 6th and in the latter part of the drive to the Rhine very little opposition was encountered. Many towns surrendered without a shot being fired after being issued an ultimatum over the loudspeaker system which was carried on one of the light tanks. The advance was so rapid that a German Corps Headquarters was overrun and the commander captured. The commander was General Graf Edwin von Rothkirch, who led the attack on Bastogne. Forward elements reached the Rhine on the 8th and destroyed much equipment as the enemy attempted to flee across the river and on all routes in front of our path of advances.

Units of CC"B" moved south on the 9th to attempt to capture a bridge over the Moselle River in the vicinity of Treis, while CC"A" and Reserve Command swept the west bank of the Rhine from Urmitz to Coblenz mopping up enemy elements. CC"B" found all bridges destroyed and one entered heavy artillery fire at Gamlen and withdrew to Binningen. The Division was relieved by the 5th Infantry Division, which was to establish a bridgehead over the Moselle. They assembled in the vicinity of Gamlen on the 11th and prepared to attack through the bridgehead with Werns as the objective.

The Division crossed the Moselle in the vicinity of Mudon on the 15th and by night had reached Simmern against light resistance. The Nahe River was reached by noon on the 16th and the advance was so rapid that rear elements received considerable sniper fire from units by-passed by the forward elements. Enemy planes were active and the columns were frequently strafed but withering machine-gun fire kept the planes at an altitude that little damage was done.

A bridgehead was established over the Nahe River on the 17th south of Bad Kreuznach and on the 20th the division attacked toward Worms to seize a bridge over the Rhine. This city was reached on the evening of the same day but all bridges over the Rhine had been destroyed.

During the period 21-23, towns between Worms and Oppenheim were cleared and preparations were made to cross the Rhine through the bridgehead established by the 5th Infantry Division on the 23rd.

The division crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim on the 24th and by evening of the 25th had established bridgeheads over the Main River in the vicinity of Hanau and Aschaffenburg. These bridgeheads were defended against enemy counter-attacks and on the 28th the division attacked to the north toward Grunberg and by the end of the month had reached positions in the vicinity of Borka, east of Eisenach. Resistance was very light during the advance and the enemy appeared to be disorganized.

March Statistics:-

I. Equipment

A. Enemy equipment destroyed by 4th Armored Division.

1. Mark IV tanks	11	26. Staff cars	230
2. Mark V tanks	15	27. Armored cars	12
3. Mark VI tanks	15	28. Buses	9
4. Tanks (type unknown)	26	29. Prime Mover	8
5. Self-propelled guns	34	30. Scout car	6
6. 155mm gun	1	31. Peep	5
7. 150mm guns	18	32. Misc. vehicles	1326
8. 120mm guns	14	33. Horse-drawn vehicles	1227
9. 105mm guns	42	34. M t bicycles	70
10. 88mm guns	105	35. Trailers	44
11. 86mm guns	22	36. Barges	5
12. 75mm guns	56	37. Airplane engines	10
13. 40mm guns	7	38. Railroad cars	156
14. 37mm guns	1	39. 88mm ammunition	10,000 rounds
15. 20mm guns	258	40. 20mm ammunition	4,000 rounds
16. Assault guns	17	41. Bazooka ammunition	400 rounds
17. Large Cal. Arty. pos.	44	42. Telemines	26
18. Nebelwerfers	10	43. Ammunition dump	1
19. Mortars	106	44. Locomotives	13
20. Anti-tank guns	49	45. Trains	4
21. Anti-aircraft guns	47	46. Military arsenal	1
22. Small arms weapons	1541	47. M-109	10
23. Half-tracks	85	48. HS-111	2
24. Trucks	683	49. HS-262	6
25. Volkswagens	3	50. FW-190	17

March 1945-31

- B. Enemy equipment captured by 4th Armored Division.
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Fuel and Lubrication Dump | 2 |
| 2. 75mm and 88mm Ammunition | 8000 rounds |
| 3. Ammunition Dump | 1 |
| 4. Radio Station | 1 |
| 5. Box cars | 640 |
| 6. Locomotives | 10 |
| 7. Trains | 5 |
| 8. Concentration camp with 1200 political prisoners of war | |
| 9. Hospital with 1500 wounded | |
| 10. Hospital cars | |
| 11. Warehouse of tires and medical supplies. | |

- C. Vehicles lost as a result of action by 4th Armored Division.
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| 1. Medium tank | 36 | 9. Cargo carrier (M29-C) | 2 |
| 2. Medium tank (105mm How) | 6 | 10. 1/4-ton truck | 50 |
| 3. Light tank | 10 | 11. 3/4-ton truck | 1 |
| 4. Armored car (M-8) | 7 | 12. Ambulance | 1 |
| 5. Motor carriage (M-7) | 2 | 13. 2 1/2-ton truck | 9 |
| 6. Motor carriage (M-18) | 4 | 14. 4-ton trailer | 2 |
| 7. Half-track (M-3.1) | 34 | 15. 1-ton trailer | 12 |
| 8. Tank recovery vehicle (M32) | 1 | 16. Ammunition trailer (M10) | 9 |

- D. The following vehicles were worn out and replaced.
- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| 1. Medium Tank | 42 | 7. Motor carriage (M7) | 1 |
| 2. Light tank | 11 | 8. 1/4-ton truck | 13 |
| 3. Motor carriage (M18) | 10 | 9. 2 1/2-ton truck | 12 |
| 4. Armored car (M8) | 2 | 10. Wrecking truck (M1) | 1 |
| 5. Motor carriage (M7) | 1 | 11. Ammunition trailer (M10) | 6 |
| 6. Medium tank (105mm How) | 2 | | |

II. Battle Casualties.

A. Enemy

- | | |
|--------------|--------|
| 1. Killed | 3,390 |
| 2. Wounded | 2,535 |
| 3. Prisoners | 23,303 |

B. 4th Armored Division

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Killed | Officers 15; | Enlisted Men 191 |
| 2. Wounded | Officers 57; | Enlisted Men 668 |
| 3. Missing | Officers 11; | Enlisted Men 318 |

III. Non-Battle Casualties.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| A. Officers | 18 |
| B. Enlisted Men | 431 |

IV. Returned to Duty

A. From battle casualties.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Officers | 9 |
| 2. Enlisted Men | 147 |

B. From non-battle casualties.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Officers | 10 |
| 2. Enlisted Men | 186 |

V. Reinforcements.

A. Officers 21
B. Enlisted Men 1164

VI. Division Strength (1 March 1945)

A. Officers 618
B. Warrant Officers 50
C. Enlisted Men 9993

VII. Promotions.

A. Field Grade

1. Major to Lieutenant Colonel.

a. Harold Cohen, Commanding Officer, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion.

2. Captain to Major.

a. Francis D. Reed, Assistant Military Government Office, Headquarters, 4th Armored Division

b. Hugh F. Young, Executive Officer, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion.

B. To Captain -6

C. To First Lieutenant -13

D. Battlefield appointments by unit.

1. 8th Tank Battalion	4
2. 53rd Armd. Inf. Bn.	1
3. 4th Armd Div Trains	1
4. 35th Tank Battalion	1
5. 4th Armd Div Hq.	2

VIII. Awards

A. Legion of Merit awarded to the following personnel for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the period indicated.

1. Lt. Col. Richard C. Muller, 126th Armd. Para-Maint. Bn, 1 Feb 44-31 Aug 44.
2. 1/Sgt. Mike Lapinski, 51st Armd Inf Bn, 31 May 1944-17 June 1944.
3. T/L Leo Wagner, 51st Armd Inf Bn, 31 May 1944-17 June 1944.

B. Silver Star.

1. 12
2. 1 Oak-Leaf Cluster

C. Bronze Star

1. 70
2. 24 Oak Leaf Clusters

D. Air Medal

1. 1
2. 1 Oak Leaf Cluster

E. Purple Heart

1. 301
2. 73 Oak Leaf Clusters

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IX. Ammunition Expenditure.

A. 105mm Howitzer, 12	73,995
B. 76mm Gun	12,995
C. 75mm Gun	10,325
D. 75mm Howitzer	1,900
E. 57mm Gun	2,140
F. 81mm Mortar	4,822
G. 60mm Mortar	1,278
H. Rocket 2.36 Asst.	2,520
I. Grenade, Hand Asst.	21,525
J. Grenade, Rifle Asst	1,420
K. Cartridge, Carbine	1,150
L. Shell .30 Asst.	432
M. Cal. .50 Machine Gun	2,010,000
N. .45 Ball	104,000
O. Carbine	249,800
P. Cal. .30 Asst	2,116,000

1 April 1945:-

The mission of the division was to seize Gotha and the communications center of Ohrdruf. According to information obtained from prisoners of war, Gotha was the operational seat of the German government.

CC"B" attacked from the vicinity of Bosserode at 0600 with C/35 leading the column. The force advanced to the northeast using the autobahn. Two enemy tanks were sighted in the vicinity of Wommen and C/35 immediately opened fire on them, after destroying one and forcing the other to withdraw, C/35 pushed on to engage a group of enemy tanks and self-propelled guns in the vicinity of Herleshausen, destroying 8 of the tanks and a member of the SP's. In the meantime, A/35 passed through C/35 to continue the advance but was stopped near Horschel by a road block and blown bridge covered by anti-tank and small arms fire. A/35 had 3 tanks knocked out by this anti-tank fire as they rounded a curve in the road. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron reconnoitered to the north for a possible bridge over the Werra River and reported one at Creuzburg. The column turned back from Horschel to Wommen and then proceeded north through Nesselroden, Narkershausen, Luderbach, and into Ifta. At 1700, a report was received from air liaison that the bridge at Creuzburg had been destroyed by the enemy so the units of CC "B" remained in the vicinity of Ifta. A task force from the 35th and 51st was sent to Creuzburg to clear the town and establish a bridgehead so that construction of a bridge could begin. The town was reported clear by 2400 and the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion immediately began construction of a pontoon bridge. The CP of CC"B" closed in Ifta.

CC"A" moved out at 0610 from the vicinity of Wolfershausen to follow CC"B" on the autobahn to attack Gotha. The column followed a route through Obersuhl, Untersuhl, Gertsungen, Neustadt, and Wommen. In the vicinity of Herleshausen, A/8 supported CC"B" and destroyed 2 armored cars and a self-propelled gun. The units of CC"A" assembled in the vicinity of Willershausen after word was received that all bridges over the Werra River had been destroyed.

Reserve Command was given the mission of following CC"B" and keeping the route of advance open so supplies could pass through. They moved out from the vicinity of Herfeld at 1445 and closed in Nesselroden at 1830.

Forward Echelon left Hersfeld at 1500 and closed in Nesselroden at 1730.

The 1st Platoon of the 16th Field Hospital was ambushed in the vicinity of Altonstadt as they were moving forward, by elements of the 6th SS Mountain Division, which had been by-passed by the fast moving tanks. Medical officers and nurses were freed but other officers and enlisted men were taken prisoners. The medical equipment was destroyed. Among the prisoners was Lieutenant Colonel Cohen, Commanding Officer of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, who was then a patient in the hospital. The following day, the Germans were surrounded by the 71st Infantry Division and the prisoners were liberated.

Enemy casualties inflicted during the day included 153 killed, 18 wounded, 464 prisoners; 9 tanks, 2 self-propelled guns, 8 other heavy tracked vehicles, 10 20mm guns, 4 88mm guns, 4 anti-tank guns, 5 assault guns, 11 trucks, 2 armored cars, 2 scout cars, 1 bus, 2 trains, and 15-18 planes destroyed on the ground; 260 box cars and 16 locomotives captured.

4th Armored Division casualties included:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	2	1
Enlisted Men	16	32

April 45-1

A group of 3 officers and 75 enlisted men was placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to the United States for 45 days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 69, Hq. 4th Armd. Div. cs).

The first group that was sent to the United States for rest and recuperation returned to the division. These men drove new vehicles from rear areas to the division.

2 April 1945:-

In the CC"B" area, B/24 completed construction of a 120 foot pontoon bridge over the Werra River at Creusburg early in the morning. As the command prepared to cross, 15 ME-109's bombed and strafed the bridge and destroyed four sections of the bridge. The cost was heavy to the enemy as A/489 shot down 7 of the enemy planes. Repair work was immediately begun and the bridge was completed at 1500. The vehicles immediately moved out of Ifta and began crossing the bridge at 1530 to join the infantry who had established a bridgehead. Several waves of enemy planes again attempted to destroy the bridge but were unsuccessful. The column advanced to Uetteroda where C/35 destroyed an enemy road block. Resistance consisted of light small arms fire and the units closed in the vicinity of Neukirchen for the night. They were alerted to continue the attack toward Gotha at 0700 the following day.

Under continual attack by enemy planes, A/24 completed a 144-foot pontoon bridge over the Werra River at Spichra by 1515. B/489 shot down 11 planes over this bridge during the day. The elements of CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Willershausen, passed through Pferdsdorf and outposted high ground northeast of Spichra.

The units of Reserve Command continued to protect the main supply route and clean out small pockets of enemy resistance in the vicinity of Neselroden.

During the day, the 489th AAA AW Bn., shot down 34 enemy planes and claimed 6 others as probables. A/489 shot down 18 of these enemy planes. Of these destroyed, 9 were identified as ME 109's and 3 FM-190's.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 46 killed, 472 prisoners, 1 tank, 1 self-propelled gun, 4 trucks, 2 staff cars, and a motorcycle destroyed.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Officers	1	2	1
Enlisted men	14	41	1

3 April 1945:-

Advance elements of CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Spichra at 0800 with A/8 and A/53 leading the column. Resistance was light as the column attacked through Krauthausen, Madelungen, Strega, Neukirchen, Stockhausen, Grossenlupnitz, Meningenlupnitz, Melborn, and Hastrungsfeld. At Sittelstadt the force received concentrated bazooka and small arms fire but artillery fire destroyed these enemy positions and the force proceeded on the autobahn to the vicinity of Leina. A blown overpass covered by two batteries of 88's halted the advance and heavy damage was inflicted. CC"A" lost 6 tanks, 1 assault gun, 2 half-tracks, and 2 peeps. With the aid of air support all the enemy guns were destroyed. The force then withdrew to the vicinity of Horselgau to reorganize for an attack on Gotha the following day.

Rear elements of CC"B" that had not crossed the Werra River the preceding day completed the crossing by 0445. Advance elements moved out from the vicinity of Neukirchen at 0800 to attack toward Gotha. Only light resistance of small arms fire was encountered and by 1300 the force occupied high ground overlooking Gotha and prepared to assault the city. Sniper and bazooka fire constituted the chief resistance as they attacked Gotha and forward elements reached the main square by night but withdrew to the outskirts and set up outposts. The route followed by CC"B" was through Berteroda, Hotzelsroda, Bollerotha, Beuernfeld, Grossenbehringen, Cesterbehringen, Bruheim, Sonneborn, and Netebach.

Enemy air was again active over the combat commands and 12 enemy planes were shot down. Three were identified as ME-109's.

Reserve Command moved out from the vicinity of Nesselroden at 1430, followed CC"B" over the bridge at Creuzburg and closed in the vicinity of Cesterbehringen at 2000.

Forward Echelon left Nesselroden at 1530 and closed in Grossenbehringen at 1830.

Enemy casualties inflicted during the day included 147 killed, 1154 prisoners, 50 wounded; 13 tanks, 6 88mm guns, 1 150mm gun, 1 40mm gun, 11 20mm guns, 1 anti-tank gun, 8 self-propelled guns, 2 half-tracks, 6 armored cars, 2 staff cars, 14 motorcycles, and 12 planes destroyed; 4 tanks, 3 assault guns and 10 trucks captured.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	3	4
Enlisted Men	14	65

4 April 1945:-

The burgermeister officially surrendered the city of Gotha to CC"B" at 1020 after an ultimatum had been delivered to the city. Plans had been formulated to assault Gotha if it did not surrender. The city was then declared an "open city" as there were several hospitals with enemy wounded. The units of CC"B" moved through Gotha at 1200 for a coordinate attack on Ohrdruf with CC"A". CC"A" was to outflank the town to the west and CC"B" was to seize high ground to the east. Light small arms fire was encountered as the units of CC"B" moved from Gotha through Siebleben, Seebergen, Wandersleben, to high ground in the vicinity of Muhlberg overlooking Ohrdruf. Little resistance was encountered by CC"A" at Ohrdruf and CC"B" did not have to support the attack. They remained in the vicinity of Muhlberg for the night and were ordered to hold that position the following day. The CP of CC"B" moved from Sonneborn and closed in Muhlberg.

The units of CC"A" waited in the vicinity of Norselgau to attack Gotha but after the official surrender were ordered to proceed southeast and attack the communications center of Ohrdruf. The column moved out at 1300 through Petriroda and Hohenkirchen, with some small arms and bazooka fire being received from Petriroda. B/8 and the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion attacked Ohrdruf and by 1520 had cleared the town and blocked all roads leading from it. The CP of CC"A" moved from Frottstadt and closed in Ohrdruf at 2005.

The units of Reserve Command moved from the vicinity of Oesterbehringen, followed the route of CC"B", and closed in Gotha at 1400.

Forward Echelon moved from Grossenbehringen at 1545 and closed in Gotha at 1900.

The enemy again attempted to destroy the Werra River bridge at Creuzberg and Spichra by sending over a number of planes. Elements of the 489th AAA AW Bn., protecting the bridges, destroyed 12 enemy planes with 6 others as probables. Two of the planes destroyed were identified as ME-109's.

The 4th Armored Division, 489th, 704th, and 995th were relieved from assignment to XII Corps and assigned to VIII Corps.

April 45-3

The 1st Platoon of the 16th Field Hospital, which had ~~hostile~~ equipment when ambushed by the enemy, was temporarily relieved from assignment to the 4th Armored Division.

Enemy casualties inflicted during the day included 93 killed, 60 wounded, 607 prisoners; 2 tanks, 10 ~~half~~ tracks, 11 trucks, 1 staff car, 10 miscellaneous vehicles, 7 trailers, 1 locomotive, 1 20mm gun, 2 40mm guns destroyed; 50 20mm guns, 50 machine-guns, 200 aircraft radios, and 8 JU-88's captured.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	1	4
Enlisted Men	5	22

5 April 1945:-

Acting on orders received from VIII Corps, the units of the 4th Armored Division held their positions of the previous day, awaiting relief by the 89th Infantry Division. CC"B" remained in the vicinity of Muhlberg while CC"A" maintained strong outposts around Ohrdruf. The units of Reserve Command patrolled roads in the vicinity of Gotha. 181 prisoners were taken in patrol activities during the day.

Wire teams and a photo detachment team from VIII Corps were temporarily attached to the 44th Armored Signal Company to augment the communications system of the division which had been working hard to keep up with the rapid advance of forward elements.

The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque was awarded to the 3804th Quartermaster Truck Company, 44th Quartermaster Truck Company, and the First Platoon, 16th Field Hospital, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks while attached to the 4th Armored Division.

6 April 1945:-

The division was in the process of being relieved by the 89th Infantry Division. The units of CC"B" began moving from the vicinity of Muhlberg at 0600 and closed in positions in the vicinity of Gotha at 1000. CC"B" had no contact with the enemy.

CC"A" continued to outpost Ohrdruf and the Nazi concentration camp located near the town. The enemy had killed many of the slave laborers before CC"A" seized the camp. The bodies of half-starved Belgians, French, Russians, Serbs and Poles lay where they were shot and others who had been tortured to death were piled in a small building. The few survivors were in a very weakened condition. Colonel Sears, Commander of CC"A", ordered the people of Ohrdruf to the concentration camp to view the ghastly scene left by their army. 46 prisoners were captured by CC"A" in patrol activities around Ohrdruf. The mayor and his wife, while professing no knowledge of the affairs of the camp, later committed suicide.

A task force from Reserve Command composed of B/37, B/10 and Rcn/704 was sent from Gotha at 0640 with the mission of releasing British prisoners of war at Friedrichroda, southeast of Gotha. Heavy small arms and bazooka fire were received as the force approached the town and 2 armored cars were destroyed. No air support was available and in the face of the heavy resistance the force returned to Gotha.

The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron killed 11 and captured 51 prisoners in a clash with an enemy group in the vicinity of Aspach.

Brigadier General Hoge received a congratulatory message from Major General Eddy, Commander of XII Corps, for the recent accomplishments of the division, including the crossing of the Rhine and the subsequent drive to the northeast. He said, "Your immediate smash beyond the Main, one hundred miles to the northeast into central Germany, proceeded to open the way for a sweeping Corps advance, and to electrify our nation at home".

7 April 1945:-

The division remained in the consolidated positions of the previous day, with CC"A" in the vicinity of Ohrdruf and CC"B" in the vicinity of Gotha. CC"A" received sporadic artillery fire from the southeast.

Lieutenant Colonel Saar, Division Signal Officer, and his driver were reported missing in action after being ambushed by civilians and soldiers in the vicinity of Neudietendorf while accompanying 3rd Army officials on an inspection of German communication installations. At 1830, a task force from C/35 was sent to Neudietendorf in an attempt to recapture these officers. The force located 1 enlisted man alive and the body of Colonel Harmon, 3rd Army Communications Officer. One of the officers reported missing was Colonel Robert S. Allen, TUSA, famous Washington columnist.

Some small arms and bazooka fire were received during the operation and the force returned to Gunthersleben at 2200. Reserve Command made plans to fire on the town and burn it down.

Brigadier General Hoge visited the 704th TD Battalion and presented awards to members of the battalion who had distinguished themselves.

The Administrative Center left Jugesheim and closed in Rotenburg.

8 April 1945:-

Relief of the 4th Armored Division by the 80th and 89th Infantry Divisions was completed by 1400 and the units assembled in towns in the vicinity of Gotha. Special attention was given to the maintenance of vehicles, cleaning of weapons and equipment, training reinforcements, and rest and rehabilitation. Shower and laundry points were established and movies were shown to the men and officers.

The 4th Armored Division was relieved from assignment to VIII Corps and assigned to XX Corps.

Three officers from the division were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to the United States for 45 days rest and recuperation.

Brigadier General Hoge continued his tour of inspection of the units of the division.

9 April 1945:-

The division received orders from XX Corps to maintain present positions until further notice.

The units devoted most of the day to training, maintenance and recreation. Driving instructions were given to reinforcements and some units fired on nearby ranges, using captured enemy vehicles as targets. Red Cross clubmobiles visited the units and movies were shown to the men in the evening. Several units sent officers and enlisted men to the concentration camp at Ohrdruf to witness the atrocities performed by the enemy.

Captain Baum, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, leader of the task force to Hammelburg, returned to the division after having been wounded and captured by the enemy.

Following is a list of enemy casualties inflicted by the 4th Armored Division from Worms to Gotha (15 March - 8 April): 30,337 prisoners, 2704 killed, and 2,140 wounded; material captured or destroyed; 5 Mark IV tanks, 7 Mark V Tanks, 1 Mark VI tank, 57 unidentified tanks, 73 self-propelled guns, 40 half-tracks, 17 armored cars, 15 scout cars, 10 nebelwerfers, 130 20mm guns, 1 37mm gun, 12 40mm guns, 39 75mm guns, 72 88mm guns, 3 150mm guns, 16 105mm guns, 1 155mm gun, 21 miscellaneous anti-tank guns, 20 miscellaneous anti-aircraft guns, 8 prime movers, 1 221 motor vehicles, 395 horse-drawn vehicles, 39 locomotives, 1134 railroad cars, and 4 ammunition dumps.

10 April 1945:-

A meeting of unit commanders was held at division headquarters at 2300. Orders were given at the meeting that the division would continue the attack to the east the following morning at 0700. The combat command were to attack abreast with CC"A" on the south flank. The 80th Infantry Division was to follow and clean our by-passed pockets of resistance. In conjunction with the attack, the 6th Armored Division was to attack, parallel to the 4th on the left flank. The following troop list was effective for the attack:-

<u>CC"A"</u>	<u>CC"B"</u>	<u>Reserve Command</u>
51	37	53
8	10	35
66	22	94
A/25	177th FA Bn.	A/24
B/704	D/25	A/704
C/24	C/704	58th FA Bn.
D/489	C/489	B/489
A/46	B/46	
A/126	B/126	
943 FA Bn.	B/24	

The administration Center moved from Rotenburg and closed in Gotha.

11 April 1945:-

The units of CC"B" moved from the vicinity of Gotha at 0700 to attack to the east on a route parallel to the autobahn. The column moved through Friemar and passed through elements of the 80th Infantry Division at Zimmernsupra and Alach. The force was halted near Gispersleben by a blown bridge covered by small arms fire. Company "B" of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion put in a 24-foot tread-way bridge and the advance continued through Kiliens, Kernsleben, and Tottleben. At Kleinmolsen a group of enemy tanks was spotted and C/37 and B/10 went into position to meet the group. With the aid of the air support, six tanks were destroyed and the remainder were forced to withdraw. The rest of the force continued to move and at Ottstedt split into two task forces. A/37 and C/10 continued on the main route and encountered some direct fire in the vicinity of Doasdorf and Gaberndorf. B/37 and A/10 took an alternate route northeast from Ottstedt and captured the political concentration camp of Buchenwald with

approximately 22,000 prisoners still in the camp. The two forces merged north of Weimar and closed in the vicinity of Ulrichshalben and Schwabsdorf for the night. The CP of CC"B" closed in Grosskromsdorf. During the day the column advanced approximately 35 miles and by-passed the large cities of Erfurt and Weimar. Resistance consisted mainly of small arms and bazooka fire.

The units of CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Ohrdruf at 0730 to attack to the east, using the autobahn as the axis of movement. At Molsdorf, they were forced to detour because of blown bridges and used alternate roads for the advance. This route took them through Ichtershausen, Eischleben, Waltersleben, and Egstedt. Between Egstedt and Schellroda some bazooka and small arms fire was received, but these positions were quickly destroyed and the force continued through Klettbach, Eichelborn, Bechstedtstrasse, Isseroda, Troistedt, Buchfahrt, Mechelroda, Magdala, Gottern, Bucha, and reached the Saale River at 2200. Reconnaissance showed that all bridges over the river had been destroyed and the units closed in the vicinity of Goschwitz for the night. Resistance was generally light during the advance and consisted of scattered bazooka and small arms fire. The CP of CC"A" moved to Bucha.

Reserve Command was given the mission of following CC"A" to protect the division right flank and be prepared to reinforce either combat command. The units of Reserve Command moved out at 1400 from the vicinity of Gotha and closed in the vicinity of Nohra at 2200. The CP was located in Nohra.

The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was given the mission of screening the south flank of the division and advanced on roads parallel to CC"A".

Forward Echelon moved from Gotha at 1630 and closed in Bechstedtstrass at 2030.

At Nohra, the CAC was ordered to investigate a civilian report that 6 German soldiers were hidden in a private home. A party of 4 officers, a squad of infantry from the 53rd, an MP, and a non-com from CAC was organized to investigate. The owner informed the party that the house was clear but when they started to enter, a German soldier opened fire with an automatic weapon. One officer and two enlisted men were wounded. The house was immediately set on fire with phosphorus grenades and the enemy soldiers were killed.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 75 killed, 60 wounded, and 286 prisoners: equipment destroyed included 2 Mark III tanks, 6 unidentified tanks, 6 88mm guns, 20 trucks, 1 half-track, 4 20mm guns, 10 motor vehicles, 6 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 motorcycle, and 2 trailers.

4th Armored Division casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	--	1
Enlisted Men	4	14

12 April 1945:-

CC"B" moved out from the vicinity of Ulrichshalben at 0700 to continue the attack to the east. Initial resistance of small arms fire was encountered in the vicinity of Schwabsdorf. At Isserstedt, artillery and anti-aircraft fire were received. A/37 and C10 entered the woods east of Isserstedt and destroyed these enemy positions. The remainder of the column proceeded through Krippendorf, Leheston, and Rodigen and reached the Saale River in the vicinity of Kunitz at 1230. The bridge at Kunitz had been destroyed and D/25 reconnoitered to the north as far as Dornburg but all bridges were found to have been destroyed. Bridgehead operations were begun immediately with BC/10 crossing the river in rubber pontoon

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boats. Heavy bazooka and small arms fire were received from Kunitz. The 37th Tank Battalion fired an artillery barrage into the town after which BC/10 entered the town and cleaned it out against stubborn resistance. It was necessary to rout both enemy soldiers and civilians from cellars and dug-in positions. High ground east of Kunitz was also taken. In the meantime, B/24 had started bridging the Saale River and by 1930 had completed a 108-foot bridge. Vehicles immediately began crossing the river, captured and outposted Laasan for the night. The CP of CC"B" moved to Rodigen.

In the CC"A" sector, elements of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion ferried across the Saale River in the vicinity of Maua to establish a bridgehead. Much bazooka and small arms fire were received but the 51st destroyed these enemy positions and secured high ground on the east bank of the Saale. The bridge was completed at 1400 and the combat command which had been divided into two task forces immediately began crossing. The left force moved to the northeast and encountered considerable small arms and machine-gun fire from J. IDmnitz but proceeded through the town with all guns firing at enemy targets. Schloben and Schengleina were captured and the force closed in the vicinity of Beulbar for the night. The right force attacked to the southeast after crossing the river and captured Sulza, Grossbockedra, and Obergæus against scattered small arms fire. The force then attacked to the northeast through Rausdorf, Gernowitz, crossed the autobahn and closed in the vicinity of Scheiditz for the night. The CP of CC"A" closed in Schongleins at 2230.

A force from Reserve Command composed of CB/35, A/53, and C/94 moved from Mohra along the autobahn to Mellingen and then north to clean out the area between the two combat commands. Little opposition was received but enemy prisoners were taken. The rest of Reserve Command remained in the vicinity of Mellingen for the night. The CP closed in Mellingen at 1600.

The 489th AAA AW Bn shot down three enemy planes at the bridge site in the vicinity of Maua. They also depressed their guns and fired at ground troops across the river.

Forward Echelon moved from Bechstetdstrasse at 1515 and closed in Gottern at 1700.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 14 killed, 21 wounded, and 1075 prisoners; 6 trucks, 1 armored car, 1 staff car, 6 88mm guns, 7 20mm guns, 5 horse-drawn vehicles, 1 Volkswagon, and 1 trailer destroyed.

4th Armored Division casualties included:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Officers	--	5	--
Enlisted Men	4	28	1

13 April 1945:-

Forward elements of CC"B" moved out from the vicinity of Laasan at 0630. The combat command attacked in three columns with cavalry and tank destroyers composing the north column and tanks, infantry and artillery, the center and south columns. The north column moved through Leberschutz, Graitschen, Poxdorf, Tunschütz, Grossehelmsdorf, and Rudelsdorf. The center force followed a route through Graitschen, Poxdorf, Rauschwitz, Petersberg, and Gossen. The south column attacked through Rodigast, Thalburgal, and onto the autobahn west of Eisenberg. The three forces converged at Etdorf and forward elements captured a bridge intact over the Weisse-Elster River at Rosenthal. Progress had been rapid as only scattered small arms and bazooka fire were received and the Weisse-Elster was reached.

by 1105. The combat command received orders to continue the attack to the east and establish a bridgehead over the Zwick-Mulde River. After crossing the Weisse-Elster River, CC"B" split into two columns at Crossen. The north column advanced through Breitenbach, Drossdorf, Geussnitz, Wurchwitz, Nissma, Grossroda, and Godern. The south force moved through Tauchlitz, Silbitz, Steinbrucken, Grossaga, Biebelroth, Heuchewalde, Polsig, and Lumpzig. The two forces merged at Rom-schutz and continued the advance through Burkersdorf, Saara, Podelwitz, Ziegelheim, Frohnsdorf, Flemming, and seized a bridge over the Zwick-Mulde River at Wolkenber. Forces crossed immediately and established a bridgehead. Rapid progress had been made against scattered bazooka and small arms resistance and the bridge at Wolkenber was seized by 1800. The CP of CC"B" closed in Wolkenberg at 2148. Major Hunter, Commanding Officer of the 37th Tank Battalion, was wounded during the advance and Captain Dwight assumed command of the battalion.

CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Beulbar and Scheiditz at 0700 to attack in two columns. The north column destroyed a road block at Waldeck and then proceeded through Bobeck, Klosterlausnit, Tautenhain, and Bad Kcstritz. The force then turned south column moved out from Scheiditz and onto the autobahn at Dorna. They advanced rapidly and seized the bridge at Langenburg, by 1200. Some bazooka and small arms fire were received at the bridge and the 8th Tank Battalion had one light tank destroyed. From Langenburg, CC"A" moved in one column to a point north of Ronneberg where the command again moved out in two forces. The north force moved through Matscher, Schmelln, Cossnitz, Tettau, and seized a bridge over the Zwick-Mulde River at Waldenberg at 2145. Considerable sniper fire was received as they pushed across the bridge and established a bridgehead in the vicinity of Ober-Winkel. This area was strongly outposted for the night. The south force moved speedily along the autobahn and captured a bridge over the Zwick-Mulde River in the vicinity of Reinholdshain by 1530. The force crossed the river and outposted high ground in the vicinity of Grunbach for the night. The CP of CC"A" closed in Weidersdorf at 1900.

The task force from Reserve Command completed clearing lateral routes between CC"A" and CC"B" in the vicinity of Mellingen and with the rest of the command moved from Mellingen at 0650, followed the route of CC"A", and closed in Langenburg by 2015.

The advance of the division during the day covered approximately 73 miles. Resistance was generally light and consisted of small arms and bazooka fire. Many prisoners were captured during the rapid advance. Enemy aircraft attacked the columns at intervals during the day and the 489th AAA AW Battalion shot down 4 enemy planes and listed another as probably destroyed.

Forward Echelon moved from Gottern at 1100 and stopped temporarily in Schloben at 1300. They left Schloben at 1400 and closed in Langenburg at 1900.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 160 killed, 103 wounded, and 2601 prisoners; equipment destroyed: 1 Mark IV tanks, 1 unidentified tank, 98 trucks, 46 staff cars, 1 half-track, 42 20mm guns, 1 88mm gun, 34 horse-drawn vehicles, 13 Volkewagen, 5 motorcycles; 1 prime mover, 1 bus, 3 trailers, 2 locomotives, 1 train, 8 search-lights and installations, 5 planes on the ground, 3 gliders, and 5 airplane engines; 260 aerial cameras were captured.

4th Armored Division casualties included:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	--	3
Enlisted Men	10	29

14 April 1945:-

Before continuing their attack to the east, the combat commands observed five minutes of silence in memory of our departed President and Commander in Chief Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The units of CC"A" moved out in two columns from bridgehead positions in the vicinity of Waldenburg at 0710. The north column moved through Falken without resistance but forward elements encountered heavy bazooka and small arms fire from Rossdorf. The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion pulled off the road in the vicinity of Falken while the 37th Tank Battalion cleared Rossdorf. Rossdorf was cleared by 0830 and the force moved to attack Limbach. Considerable small arms and bazooka fire was received from Limbach but the town was cleared by 1635 and outposted for the night. The south column moved out from the vicinity of Grunbach, followed the autobahn to Ernsthau, and cleared the towns of Ernsthau, Mohenstein, and Wustenbrand. Resistance was generally light and consisted of scattered small arms and bazooka fire. A few rounds of artillery fire were received as the force moved along the autobahn. They outposted positions around Wustenbrand at 1635. CC"A" liberated several thousand allied PW's from hospitals and camps in their advance during the day. The CP of CC"A" moved to Callenberg.

Elements of CC"B" enlarged their bridgehead positions in the vicinity of Wolkenberg during the morning and mopped up enemy infantry in that area. D/25 and elements of the 704th captured two additional bridges over the Zwick-Mulde River at Penig and three bridges were guarded by B/24. CC"B" continued the attack at 1130 with C/37 and 8/10 leading. Light resistance was encountered at Frehna and Muhlau but stubborn resistance from bazooka and small arms fire was received at Bergstadt. The enemy was routed from the town by 1600 by A/10 and B/37. Approximately 300 prisoners were captured and numerous allied prisoners were liberated. High ground (Hills 350 and 296) in the vicinity of Bergstadt was outposted for the night. Artillery fired on enemy units who were retreating to Chemnitz. The CP of CC"B" closed in Muhlau at 1600.

Reserve Command moved from Langenburg at 0615 and followed the CC"A" route along the autobahn to positions in the vicinity of Glachau. Orders were received to clear Glachau which had been by-passed by CC"A". BC/35 with elements of the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion attacked Glachau at 1030 from the northeast and northwest. The city was stubbornly defended by bazooka and small arms fire and the 55th had two tanks destroyed. The two forces reached the southern part of the city but infiltrating enemy infantry cut them off from the main force. Positions on the outskirts were outposted for the night as they waited for elements of the 80th Infantry Division to aid in mopping up the city. B/704 moved east of Glachau and captured Lobsdorf by 1530.

The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron screened the division south flank from Trebnitz to Posterstein.

Lieutenant Colonel Saar, Division Signal Officer, returned to the division after having been captured and wounded, 7 April, in the vicinity of Gotha.

Forward Echelon moved from Langenberg at 0915 and closed in Grumbach at 1120. Hq and Hq Co, 4th Armored Division, Hq and Hq Co, 14th Armored Division Trains, 126th Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion, 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion, were reorganized with a new Table of Organization and equipment. The 126th Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion was also redesignated as the 126th Armored Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day included 213 killed, 221 wounded, 4097 prisoners, 4 120mm mortars, 20 flak cars, 5 210mm guns, 4 nebelwerfers, 1030 bazookas, 20 trucks, 5 half-tracks, 10 passenger cars, 3 staff cars, 5 horse-drawn vehicles, 2 locomotives 1 liaison plane, and large quantities of small arms destroyed, 6 Volkswagons and 25 staff cars captured.

4th Armored Division casualties were:-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
Officers	2	8
Enlisted Men	15	47

15 April 1945:-

Brigadier General Hoge issued the following message to all stations in commemoration of the anniversary of the division. "Order of the day today on the fourth anniversary of activation of the 4th Armored Division. After ten months of combat we stand deep in Germany on the verge of final victory with deep pride in our long record of battles won and in memory of our dead let us resolve to press on till the complete destruction of the enemy." It was impossible to hold any ceremonies because the division was deep in the heart of Germany and had penetrated farther on this date than any other unit.

Activity in the CC"A" sector in the vicinity of Limbech and Wustenbrand was limited to patrol activities. Orders were received to make no further advances but to secure present positions. Reconnaissance units were sent in the direction of Chemnitz and upon reaching Siegmars received some bazooka fire. The units were forced to withdraw and artillery fire was placed on the town. Officials came out under white flag and surrendered the city as enemy forces had withdrawn due to the artillery barrage. Sporadic artillery fire was received by CC"A" during the night from the direction of Chemnitz.

The units of CC"B" secured their positions in the vicinity of Bergstadt by making local advances. A platoon from each A/37 and C/10 captured a bridge over the Chemnitz River in the vicinity of Draisdorf while a platoon from C/37 and B/10 seized another bridge over the same river farther to the north.

Units of Reserve Command, which had met stubborn resistance at Glachau and outposted the city for the previous night, were aided by the 317th Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division in clearing Glachau. This additional force overcame the enemy resistance and many prisoners were captured. The Cp of Reserve Command moved to Glachau.

Forward Echelon moved from Grumbach at 1600 and closed in Waldenburg at 1630.

Enemy losses inflicted during the day were 79 killed, 52 wounded, 1933 prisoners; 2 half-tracks, 1 truck, 33 motor vehicles, 15 machine-guns, 1 plane, 1 motorcycle, and a mobile repair shop destroyed.

4th Armored Division casualties were:

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Officers	--	4	--
Enlisted Men	3	17	1

April 45-11

16 April 1945:-

There was no enemy activity on this date as the units remained in position. Elements of the 80th Infantry Division began moving into our positions at 1300. CC"B" withdrew from front line positions east of Bergstadt to an assembly area northwest of Bergstadt. CC"A" remained in position in the vicinity of Hohenstein and Wustenbrand. Reserve Command continued to hold positions in the vicinity of Glachau.

The units utilized the day to maintenance and service vehicles after the approximate 100 mile advance from Gotha to Chemnitz.

30 enlisted men and 3 officers of the Third Army Signal Information and Army Monitoring Section joined the forward echelon of the 144th Armored Signal Company on temporary duty.

17 April 1945:-

A group of 55 enlisted men and 4 officers were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Ground Force Reinforcement Command Depot for return to the United States for forty-five days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 82, Hq 4th Armd. Div. cs).

The 4th Armored Division was ordered to relieve the 80th Infantry Division of front line positions. A change in mission of the 80th caused the 4th to be sent back into the line. However, word was received that the 4th would be relieved the following day by the 76th Infantry Division.

The units of CC"B" moved south from positions between Muhlau and Bergstadt with C/37 and AC/10 moved to high ground south of Gruma and the 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion moved from Muhlau to Russdorf. The CP of CC"B" closed in Kandler at 1830.

CC"A" remained in position in the vicinity of Ernsthall and the CP moved to Hohenstein. The units of Reserve Command continued to outpost Glachau.

The 126th Armored Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion received 16 G.M.C. truck engines, 60 sets of medium and light tank tracks, and 16 medium tank engines. Plans were made to install this new equipment in division vehicles which were badly worn from the long marches of the past few weeks.

Major Readle H. Russell, Military Government Section, was assigned to the 71st Infantry Division to become Chief of the Military Government Section.

18 April 1945:-

By direction of the President, the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Private Sam Capri, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy near Bastogne, Belgium, 10 January 1945.

After taking over front line positions from the 80th Infantry Division, just west of Chemnitz, due to a change in division boundaries, the division received orders that the 76th Infantry would take over our positions. The 76th began taking over the front line positions in the afternoon.

The combat commands held their positions of the previous day and reported little activity. Occasional sniper fire was received.

Colonel Blanchard, Commanding Officer Reserve Command, visited the units of his command and presented awards to men who had distinguished themselves in recent actions.

The first Platoon of the 16th Field Hospital, which had been ambushed and lost its equipment earlier in the month, was reattached to the 4th Armored Division.

The second group of men who had gone to the United States on furlough returned to the division.

19 April 1945:-

The 76th Infantry Division completed relief of the 4th Armored Division by 1200 and the combat commands began moving to assembly areas to the west. The units of CC"A" assembled in the vicinity of Thenhausen and the CP was located in that town. At 1200, CC"B" followed the autobahn and closed in an assembly in the vicinity of Schmelln, at 1430. Units of Reserve Command assembled in the vicinity of Crimmitschau and Glachau. The 8th Tank Battalion was assigned to Reserve Command from CC"A" and the 35th Tank Battalion was assigned to CC"A" from Reserve Command.

Forward Echelon moved from Waldenberg at 1100 and closed in Crimmitschau at 1200.

Lieutenant Colonel Abrams and Lieutenant Colonel Cohen reported to the 20th Armored Division to give lectures on battle experiences. Colonel Roberts, Assistant Division Commander, assumed command of CC"B" during the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Abrams.

Staff Sergeant Ralph R. Harrington was placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to the United States for 45 days rest and recuperation.

The following are excerpts from a report by Colonel Severne S. McLaughlin, Chief of Armored Section, XIII Corps, based on information obtained from officers of XII Corps on the employment of armored divisions.

1. Success Factors

- a. When no armored mission exists they are allowed to rest and refit.
- b. Usually not committed until suitable conditions for breakthrough are made by the infantry.
- c. Infantry combat team usually attached to make up for deficient organic infantry.
- d. Infantry divisions press close behind advancing armor.
- e. Armored divisions by-pass persistent centers of resistance.

2. Employment when one armored division is assigned.

- a. Armored division advances in two or more columns each under operational control of the infantry division in whose zone they are to lead.

3. When two armored division are assigned.

- a. Each operates in zone allotted to infantry division it precedes. Usually has combat team attached.

4. Armored boundaries.

- a. If advisable, one advancing ahead of the other may move into other zone.

5. Armored units often used secondary roads to keep from running into enemy anti-tank guns.

20 April 1945:-

The division remained in VIII Corps and SHAEF reserve with the units assembled around Crimmitschau, Schmolln, and Glachau. There was no activity with the enemy and the units took advantage of this time to maintain vehicles and clean equipment. Plans were also made to set up battalion training schedules.

All possible rehabilitation and recreational facilities were placed at the disposal of the men. Athletics, movies, and church services were scheduled to help relieve the tension of the past weeks of fighting.

21 April 1945:-

A report of the Third Army Signal Officer stated that the radio net of the 4th Armored Division had constantly been monitored by the enemy for two reasons. First the actions of the 4th were barometer of offensive activities on Corps and Army fronts; second, the 4th was a constant threat to the enemy's front and flank. Training schedules went into effect throughout the division. The tank battalions trained reinforcements in crew drill and driving while the infantry battalions conducted firing on improvised ranges. In the evening movies were shown and the units were visited by Red Cross Clubmobiles.

Brigadier General Hoge visited various units of the division to confer with battalion commanders and to observe the training procedures.

It was officially announced that the division had captured 80,011 prisoners to date.

22 April 1945:-

Units of the Third Army changed the direction of attack from east to south. The subsequent change in boundary lines placed the 4th Armored Division in the First Army sector. The division was relieved from assignments to VIII Corps and temporarily attached to First Army.

Brigadier General Hoge issued a division memorandum on the treatment of civilians in Germany. He emphasized the fact that the Americans came as conquerors, to maintain law and order, and that by maintaining a soldierly bearing and firm attitude, the German people would be convinced that the United States Army represented American democracy in its finest form.

The units of the division remained in the vicinity of Schnelln, Crimmitschau, and Glachau. The infantry battalions fired the bazooka and anti-tank grenades on improvised ranges. The tank battalions conducted training of reinforcements in crew drill and driving. Complete training schedules were in effect for all units.

23 April 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division and attached units were relieved from attachment to First Army and placed in Third Army Reserve. The division was alerted to move the following morning to an assembly area in the vicinity of Beyreuth. A meeting of staff officers and battalion commanders was held at division headquarters at 2230. Orders for the route of march and order of march were given.

Training schedules were carried out during the morning. In the afternoon, vehicles were loaded, serviced, and prepared for the long march to Beyreuth.

24 April 1945:-

The following order of march was issued for movement to the new assembly area.
April 45-14

25th, CC"A", Forward Echelon, CC"B", Reserve Command and Division Trains. The troop list effective for the march was:

CC"A"	CC"B"	Reserve Command	Div Trains	Div Troops
51	10	53	126(-)	25(-)
35	37	8	46(-)	
66	22	94	144	
A/25	D/25	B/489	A/409	
B/704	C/704	24(-)	444	
C/24	B/24	A/704	3804	
D/489	C/489		Plt 16 FH	
A/46	B/46			
A/126	B/126			

Elements of the 76th Infantry Division relieved division units from guarding warehouses in the vicinity of Glachau, CC"A" moved out from the vicinity of Thonhausen at 0655 and closed in the vicinity of Creussen at 1600. CC"B" left Schmolln at 1045 and closed in the vicinity of Weidenberg at 1900. Elements of Reserve Command moved from Glachau at 1300 and closed in the vicinity of Beyreuth at 0330 the following morning. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron closed in the vicinity of Kirchenlaibach. The route followed by the division was west from Crimnitzschau on the autobahn to coordinate 890-615 where they turned south and followed the autobahn to Uttersreuth. From Uttersreuth, the division moved on secondary roads through Topen, then on to the autobahn which led directly into Beyreuth. This detour was necessary because of a blown bridge. The distance of the march covered approximately 120 miles and the hard surfaced roads caused some of the tracked vehicles to develop mechanical difficulties with tracks and bogie wheels. Some sniper and bazooka fire were received by the column during the march, particularly when a vehicle became separated from the main force.

Colonel Abrams returned to CC"B" after being on temporary duty with the 20th Armored Division.

25 April 1945:-

The division remained in Third Army reserve and was placed on a twenty-four hour alert to be prepared to move in the direction of Cham in case of an enemy threat from that direction. A large enemy force now was pocketed in Czechoslovakia and was capable of counter-attack in strength.

The last units of Reserve Command closed in the vicinity of Beyreuth at 0330.

2 M7's and a T-5 wrecker, which had been forced to stop along the road because of mechanical difficulties in the vicinity of Senleiz, were ambushed and fired at by a bazooka and machine gun. One man was killed and one was wounded. Investigation disclosed that this area was definitely a sore-spot as there was much evidence of the Hitler Jugend and soldiers in civilian clothes. Action was immediately taken to screen all persons in that area. Another division had six men killed in the same area and had partially burned the town.

The units were busy with cleaning equipment and maintenance of vehicles after the long march of the previous day. Patrols were established to police the towns in the assembly area to supplement the work of Military Government.

The Administrative Center moved from Gotha to Beyreuth covering a distance of approximately 160 miles.

26 April 1945:-

Major Edward Bautz, CC"A"; S-3, was appointed commanding officer of the 37th Tank Battalion and Major Leslie Wilcox, 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, took his place as S-3 of CC"A".

The division remained on a twenty-four alert to move to the south or east but commitment was doubtful as friendly divisions were making good progress in their drive to the southeast and the Redoubt area.

April 45-15

Training schedules were resumed with most of the units firing on the ranges, using abandoned German vehicles as targets. The tank battalions held classes in driving instructions and the operation of the radio.

27 April 1945:-

A letter announcing the junction of American troops of the 12th Army Group with those of the First Ukrainian Army was officially announced by General O. N. Bradley. Following excerpts from the message: "While demonstrating new lessons in mobile warfare, you have annihilated whole groups of German armies in the west on their own German soil. In 10 months you have fought your way 700 miles from the beaches. These accomplishments were secured by your courage, your resourcefulness, and by your comrades who died to achieve them. You have shared in the liberation of four nations, given hope to others, and conquered half of Germany. The people of AMERICA who armed you, have had great faith in you. You have justified that faith as you will in the battles that follow".

Due to several recent ambush attempts in rear areas, a memorandum was issued to all organizations of the division. It was stated that travel would be performed in groups of two or more persons or vehicles and if fire was received from houses, these houses would immediately be destroyed.

The units of the division continued their training schedules and established an occupational defense of towns in the division area.

28 April 1945:-

Naturalization proceedings were held at the Division Administrative Center in Bayreuth, Germany, for 13 enlisted men of the division. The ceremony and oath were administered by Cyrus B. Follmer, Special Naturalization Examiner from the American Embassy in Paris. Following the oath of allegiance, the new citizens were addressed by Lieutenant Colonel Chester D. Silvers, Division Judge Advocate General. Members of the press witnessed the ceremony and took pictures of the event. The new citizens were from Mexico, Canada, Italy, Poland and Germany.

In their training schedules, the individual battalions stressed military discipline morale, proper uniform, maintenance of vehicles, march discipline, and responsibilities in the occupational area. Recreational facilities were also placed at the disposal of the men.

29 April 1945:-

In a general order issued to all commanding officers and organizations of the division, Brigadier General Hoge stressed the discipline and dress of the men. Following are quotations from the order: "It is essential that the high reputation of the 4th Armored Division for discipline and meticulous dress be maintained. The appearance and conduct of our troops during the static phases of the occupation of Germany will be closely observed by enemy nationals and this division is expected to set the same standards of leadership in these departments as it has in battle.

A patrol from the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion was sent to check a large woods northeast of Bayreuth for enemy soldiers and suspicious civilians but none were found.

A U. S. O. show played afternoon and evening performances for the men of the division at the large Richard Wagner Memorial Theater in Bayreuth.

30 April 1945:-

The 4th Armored Division with attached units was assigned to XII Corps.

A group of 59 enlisted men and 2 officers from the 126th Armored Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion, 46th Armored Medical Battalion, and Headquarters, 4th Armored Division left for Paris to drive new vehicles back for the division and to pick up needed supplies.

The division was placed on an alert status to move to the XII Corps zone in the vicinity of Regen, Germany. The 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was

assigned to CC"B" and the 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion was assigned to Reserve Command.

During the week beginning 24 April, a total of 200 new bogie wheels were pressed onto bogie hubs by a two man crew of the Headquarters Service Section of the 126th Armored Ordnance-Maintenance Battalion, using the 150 ton press of the section. This was the third time during the long period of combat that the bogie press was used and resulted in a substantial reduction in deadlined vehicles.

Summary for April 1-

Operations for the division during the month may be divided into the following phases:

- 1 - 4 Continuation of attack toward Gotha and Ohrdruf, capturing both places on the 4th.
- 5 - 10 Relieved by 80th and 89th Infantry Divisions and assembled in the vicinity of Gotha and Ohrdruf.
- 11 - 15 Attack east from Gotha and by 15th had reached positions in the vicinity of Chemnitz.
- 16 - 23 Relieved of front line positions and assembled in the vicinity of Crimnitzchau.
- 24 - 25 Division moved from the vicinity of Crimnitzchau to an assembly area in the vicinity of Bayreuth.
- 26 - 30 On twenty-four hour alert to attack to south or east. Units engaged in training and maintenance.

On the 1st, the division continued the attack toward Gotha from the vicinity of Bosserode and Wolfershausen. Tanks and self-propelled guns were encountered for the first time in several days in the vicinity of Herleshausen, Wommen, and Horschel. All bridges over the Werra River were blown and reconnaissance to the north found suitable bridging sites in the vicinity of Creuzberg. Companies "A" and "B" of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion erected bridges over the Werra River at Creuzburg and Spichra on the 2nd. Their work was hampered by constant air attacks and the bridge at Creuzburg was partially destroyed by enemy bombs. The 489th AAA AW Battalion shot down 34 enemy planes during the day. However, both commands crossed the river and established bridgeheads. Enemy air continued active on the 3rd but the division reached positions overlooking Gotha. CC"A" encountered heavy anti-tank fire at a blown overpass in the vicinity of Leina and lost 6 tanks and 2 half-tracks before the enemy guns were destroyed. The burgermeister of Gotha surrendered the city on the 4th after an ultimatum had been issued. The combat commands then moved through Gotha and attacked Ohrdruf with CC"A" capturing this communications center and a large concentration camp nearby.

Both combat commands were relieved by the 80th and 89th Infantry Divisions on the 6th and CC"B" moved to Gotha but CC"A" remained in the vicinity of Ohrdruf. These positions were maintained until the 11th and the units were engaged in maintenance and training.

April 11th, the division attacked toward the east with CC"B" moving out from Gotha in two columns. Six enemy tanks were destroyed in the vicinity of Kleinmelsen, and the infamous political camp of Bucherwald was captured as CC"B" advanced to a position in the vicinity of Schwabsdorf, north of Weimar. CC"A" attacked from Ohrdruf and after initial delay by blown bridges, advanced as far as the Saale River near Maua. Resistance was generally light and consisted of

small arms and bazooka fire. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron screened the division south flank during the advance. On the 12th, CC"B" reached the Saale River near Kunitz and in the face of heavy anti-aircraft, bazooka, and small arms fire, B/24 built a pontoon bridge. The combat command crossed and outposted Laasan for the night. The infantry of CC"A" ferried across the river at Maua and established a bridgehead so A/24 could build a bridge. The bridge was completed by 1400 and CC"A", attacking in two columns, reached the towns of Beulbar, and Scheiditz. On the 13th CC"B" moved out from Laasan in three columns to Romschutz and seized a bridge over the Zwick-Mulde River at Wolkenberg. By night a bridgehead was established on the east bank opposite Wolkenberg. CC"A" advancing in two columns, captured a bridge over the Weisse-Elster River at Langenburg and advanced from there in one column to Renneberg. A bridge over the Zwick-Mulde River at Woldenburg was taken intact and a bridgehead was established in the vicinity of Ober-Winkel. Reserve Command cleared lateral routes between the two combat commands. The division advanced approximately 73 miles during the day against light resistance and captured many prisoners. On the 14th, CC"A" moved out from the Ober-Winkel bridgehead in two columns. Bazooka and small arms fire were received at Rossdorf and the forces outposted Limbach and Wustenbrand for the night. CC"B" enlarged their bridgehead positions and captured the town of Bergstadt. Artillery fired on enemy columns retreating toward Chemnitz. Reserve Command, which followed CC"A", was ordered to attack Glachau. Stubborn small arms resistance was received and after the town was cleared, enemy forces infiltrated from the flanks. On the following day, Glachau was completely cleared. The combat command remained in positions as the division was ordered to make no further advances.

Elements of the 80th Infantry Division began relieving the division on the 16th but a change in boundary lines caused by Third Army's shift to the south caused the division to go back into the line on the 17th. The 76th Infantry Division took over front line positions on the 18th and the following day the division assembled in the vicinity of Crimnitschau with CC"A" at Thonhausen, CC"B" in the vicinity of Schmolln, and Reserve Command in Crimnitschau. Training schedules and maintenance programs were in effect for the next five days.

On the 24th, at 0635, the division began moving south to an assembly area in the vicinity of Bayreuth and the last units closed in on the 25th at 0330. The Autobahn was used for most of the march which covered approximately 120 miles.

During the last days of the month, the division was on a twenty-four hour alert to attack either to the south or east should the situation develop. Training, maintenance, recreation, and occupational patrols were in effect during this period.

April Statistics:-

1. Equipment

- A. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed by the 4th Armored Division.
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 125 20mm guns | 6. 3 40mm guns |
| 2. 23 8 mm guns | 7. 8 Assault guns |
| 3. 5 210mm guns | 8. 5 Anti-tank guns |
| 4. 5 120mm mortars | 9. 20 Flak cars |
| 5. 1 150mm gun | 10. 1030 bazookas |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11. 4 Nebelwerfers | 23. 1 Mobile repair shop |
| 12. 11 Self-propelled guns | 24. Motorcycles |
| 13. 65 Machine guns | 25. 50 Horse-drawn vehicles |
| 14. 39 Tanks | 26. 2 Trains |
| 15. 8 Heavy-tracked vehicles | 27. 260 Box cars |
| 16. 113 Trucks | 28. 21 Locomotives |
| 17. 9 Armored cars | 29. 8 Searchlights & Installations |
| 18. 21 Half-tracks | 30. 3 Gliders |
| 19. 20 Volkswagens | 31. 1 Liaison plane (on ground) |
| 20. 1 Prime mover | 32. 8 JU-88's (on ground) |
| 21. 101 Miscellaneous motor vehicles | 33. 5 Airplane engines |
| 22. 13 Trailers | 34. 260 Aerial cameras |
| | 35. 200 Aircraft radios |

B. Enemy planes shot down by the 489th AAA AW Battalion.

	<u>Category I</u>	<u>Category II</u>	<u>Category III</u>
1. ME-109	33	1	5
2. FW-190	22	1	9
3. Arado Tr.	3	1	

C. Vehicles lost by the 4th Armored Division and attached units due to enemy action.

1. Medium tank	18	5. Motor carriage M18	1	9. 2½-ton truck	13
2. Light tank	3	6. Half-track	3	10. 1-ton trailer	5
3. Armored car-M8	2	7. ¼-ton truck	21	11. Ammunition	
4. Armored car M20	1	8. ¾-ton truck	2	trailer M10	5

D. Vehicles worn out and replaced during the month.

1. Half-track	1	11. Tank recovery vehicle	7
2. Armored car-M20	1	12. 1½-ton truck	1
3. Medium tank	8	13. ¼-ton truck	31
4. Light tank	7	14. 2½-ton truck	21
5. Motor carriage M18	6	15. Heavy wrecking truck	2
6. Armored car M8	3	16. ¾-ton truck	1
7. Motor carriage M8	1	17. Sedan	1
8. Medium tank-105 How.	1	18. Ammunition trailer	6
9. Motor carriage M7	2	19. Cargo trailer	5
10. Cargo carrier M29C	3		

II. Battle Casualties.

A. Enemy

1. Killed	991
2. Wounded	585
3. Prisoners	10,858

B. 4th Armored Division

1. Killed	12 Officers	- 95 Unlisted Men
2. Wounded	34 Officers	- 345 Unlisted Men
3. Missing	3 Officers	- 7 Unlisted Men

April 45-19

III. Casualties, Non-battle.

- A. Officers - 11
- B. Enlisted Men 493

IV. Returned to Duty

- A. From battle casualties
 - 1. Officers - 15
 - 2. Enlisted Men -285
- B. From non-battle casualties
 - 1. Officers - 7
 - 2. Enlisted Men -301

V. Reinforcements.

- A. Officers - 37
- B. Enlisted Men -1092

VI. Division Strength (1 May 1945)

- A. Officers - 589
- B. Warrant Officers - 47
- C. Enlisted Men - 10,408

VII. Promotions

- A. Field Grade
 - 1. To Colonel
 - a. Creighton W. Abrams, Commanding Officer, CC"B"
 - 2. To Major
 - a. Abraham J. Baum, Executive Officer, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion
- B. To Captain
 - 1. 7
- C. To 1st Lieutenant
 - 1. 20
- D. Battle-field appointments (2nd Lt.)
 - 1. 66th - 1
 - 2. 37th - 2
 - 3. 10th - 1
 - 4. 51st - 1
 - 5. 94th - 1
 - 6. 25th - 1

VIII. Awards.

- A. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Private Sam Capri, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy near Bastogne, Belgium, 10 Jan. 1945
- B. Silver Star 37; Oak Leaf Clusters 5
- C. Bronze Star 231; Oak Leaf Clusters 37
- D. Air Medal 1; Oak Leaf Clusters 12
- E. Purple Heart 287; Oak Leaf Clusters 9
- F. Meritorious Service Plaques were awarded to the 3804th Quartermaster Trucking Company, 444th Quartermaster Trucking Company, and the First Platoon of the 16th Field Hospital.

IX. Ammunition Expenditure.

A. 105mm Howitzer	14,170
B. 76mm Gun	7,887
C. 75mm Howitzer	300
D. 75mm Gun	5,102
E. 37mm Gun	3,700
F. 60mm Mortar	738
G. 81mm Mortar	1,825
H. Cal. .50 Machine Gun	1,019,985
I. Cal. .30 Machine Gun	2,068,000
J. Cal. .45 Ball	159,600
K. Cart. Carbine, Cal. .30	177,700
L. Cal. .30 Rifle	440,608
M. Grenade, Hand, Frag.	5,650
N. Grenade, Hand Inc.	775
O. Rocket, 236	420

April 45-21

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original.**

1 May 1945:-

The division was assigned to XII Corps and during the morning preparation were made to move to the XII Corps zone and assemble southeast of Regen.

The units of CC"A" moved from the vicinity of Creussen at 1230 using highway route No. 85 as the axis of movement. Heavy movement of traffic in both directions caused the combat command to move slowly and darkness forced them to bivouac for the night before reaching their assembly area. The column bivouaced in the vicinity of Thierlstein. The CP closed in Oberndorf. The march took the command through Kirchenthumbach, Haag, Vilsock, Hahnbach, Arberg, Schwandorf, Wackersdorf, Neubau, Roding, Cham, Miltach, Viechtach, and Regen.

The medical personnel began giving typhus booster shots to all members of the division.

2 May 1945:-

The units of CC"B" moved out from the vicinity of Schmalin at 0500 and closed in the vicinity of Schmallnach at 1930. They followed the same route used by CC"A" on the previous day. The distance of the march was approximately 150 miles. The CP of CC"B" closed in Bengersberg.

After bivouacing for the night along the highway, the units of CC"A" resumed the march at 0600, passed through Deggendorf, Deggenau, Waltersdorf, and closed in the vicinity of Grattersdorf at 1400. The CP moved to Grattersdorf.

Forward echelon moved from Bayreuth at 0945 and closed in Deggendorf the following morning at 0120.

The units were unable to refuel their vehicles as there was a critical shortage of gasoline in the new area.

3 May 1945:-

After arriving in the assembly area in the vicinity of Regen, the division was placed in XII Corps Reserve.

The units of Reserve Command closed in a general assembly area in the vicinity of Schollnach.

The units of CC"A" and CC"B" spent the day in the maintenance of vehicles after the long road march. Critiques of march discipline were held by battalion officers.

News was received of the capitulation of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the German in Italy and Austria.

4 May 1945:-

The division was placed on a 48-hour alert to move toward Prague. The situation in that city was confused as partisans were fighting in the city and American and Russian forces were approaching from all sides. Broadcasts for aid were received from the Czech controlled radio station in Prague. The units continued the maintenance of vehicles in preparation for this move.

The Administrative Center moved from Bayreuth and closed in Regen after covering over 100 miles.

News was received of the unconditional surrender of German forces in northwest Germany, Holland, and Denmark.

Statistics released by TUSA on the number of enemy planes shot down by anti-aircraft units credited the 489th AA. AW Battalion with 125 in Category I. This figure topped all other units in the Third Army.

5 May 1945:-

During the morning a reconnaissance of routes leading toward Prague was made in anticipation of a move at 1200. However, no orders were received and the move was changed to 0600 the following morning. The 177th Field Artillery Group Headquarters and the 276th Field Artillery Battalion were attached to CC"A" for the attack.

A group of 7 officers and 82 enlisted men were placed on temporary duty with the 17th Reinforcement Depot for return to the United States for 45 days rest and recuperation. (Par 1, SO 96, Headquarters 4th Armored Division cs).

6 May 1945:-

Both combat commands moved out at 0600 from the vicinity of Regen in a two-pronged attack northeast toward Prague. Weather conditions were unfavorable as there was heavy rain and fog. The two columns passed through positions of the 5th and 90th Infantry Divisions and advanced rapidly. No resistance was received and the only hindrance in the advance was the weather and the condition of the mountain roads. After entering Czechoslovakia, a welcome was received which was comparable to that received nearly a year ago by the liberated French. The enthusiastic Czechs lined the sides of the road attired in their colorful costumes. Czech patriots had seized most of the towns before the advance of the two combat commands. The division advanced nearly 89 miles with CC"B" reaching Vel Bar at 1500 and CC"A" sending patrols as far as Pisek. Orders from XII Corps were received to make no further advances.

CC"B" followed a route through Hengersberg, Seelbach, Deggendorf, Regen, Schweinbutt, Zweisel, Voda, Hartmanice, Susice, Rab, Horazdovice, and Vel Bar. The CP of CC"B" closed in Horazdovice. CC"A" advanced through Grafenau, Freyung, Kunzvalt, Hor Vliavice, Winterberg, Velyne, and Strakonice. During the advance, CC"A" captured a Lieutenant General from the 85th Corps. A task force of the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and C/35 advanced to Pisek and accepted the surrender of a garrison of 800.

Forward echelon moved from Deggendorf at 1215 and closed in Susice at 1830.

7 May 1945:-

The division was ordered by XII Corps to hold present positions, take defensive precautions, and make no further advance toward Prague. Patrols were sent out during the day to investigate numerous Czech reports of enemy movements. These movements proved to be Germans moving to our lines to surrender and there was no action.

Word was received at 1200 that the German High Command had unconditionally surrendered and signed documents to that effect at Reims, France at 0141. All hostilities were to cease 9 May at 0001.

Hundreds of displaced personnel caught between the Russian and American lines became a problem and camps were established to get them off the roads.

The units spent the day in the maintenance of vehicles after the long road march over mountainous terrain and hard surfaced roads.

8 May 1945:-

The mass surrender of enemy forces marching our lines clogged the available

roads and it was necessary to patrol the roads to maintain traffic control. The prisoners were placed in assembly areas and were instructed to set up kitchens and to provide for their own security.

Several units of the division located in towns participated in informal celebrations with Czech civilians signifying the end of hostilities in Europe. The news of the cessation of hostilities in Europe was generally received with a feeling of suppressed enthusiasm among the soldiers after nearly a year of war.

By direction of the President, the Legion of Merit was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Otto T. Saar, Division Signal Officer, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 17 July 1944 to 10 February 1945.

* 9 May 1945:-

* This date was officially declared as Victory in Europe Day, but for most units of the division there was little time for celebration as the problem of handling large numbers of prisoners kept them very busy. The commanding general of the 17th German Army, with his entire staff and army, surrendered to the division and was given orders to disarm his troops and assemble beyond our front lines. There was a steady movement of enemy troops toward the American lines as they attempted to escape the approaching Russian forces.

The citizens of Susice, Czechoslovakia, headed by Mr. Jirout, President of the Susice National Council, held a welcome celebration for the 4th Armored Division. General Hoge and staff officers participated in the ceremony held in front of the town hall. The division band and a Czech band participated in the colorful celebration. (See History file for copy of program)

In a general order issued on V-E Day, General Patton summed up the achievements of Third Army and praised the men who had fought under his command. He concluded with this sentence: "The honor which is mine and mine alone is that of having commanded such an incomparable group of Americans, the record of whose fortitude, audacity, and valor will endure as long as history lasts." (GO 98, Hq TUSA es)

Statistics for period 17 July 1944 - 9 May 1945:-

I. Equipment.

A. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed by the 4th Armored Division.

1. Mark VI Tanks	41	15. 210mm guns	5
2. Mark V tanks	39	16. 155mm guns	1
3. Mark IV tanks	181	17. 150mm guns	8
4. Mark III tanks	7	18. 120mm guns	18
5. Tanks (type unknown)	579	19. 105mm guns	79
6. Self-propelled guns	89	20. 88mm guns	204
7. Armored cars	90	21. 75mm guns	59
8. Half-tracks	218	22. 40mm guns	34
9. Trucks	1305	23. 37mm guns	7
10. Misc. vehicles	1606	24. 20mm guns	219
11. Staff cars	233	25. Large cal. arty pieces	252
12. Volkswagens	51	26. Nebelwerfers	24
13. Personnel carriers	34	27. AT Rocket Launchers	7
14. Motorcycles	62	28. Bazookas	2129

A. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed by the 4th Arm'd Div (cont)

29. Mortars	189	42. Ammo dump	1
30. Machine-guns	381	43. Fuel & Lube Dump	3
31. Small arms (captured)	1349	44. Boats	2
32. AA guns (unknown cal.)	90	45. Rocket launchers	5
33. Flak cars	23	46. Railroad trains	8
34. Horse-drawn vehicles	1172	47. Aircraft motors	15
35. Locomotives	103	48. Tire warehouse (1 million dollar value)	1
36. Barges	7	49. Aerial cameras	290
37. Radios	204		
38. Box cars	1334		
39. Medical Supply Depot	2		
40. Ration depot	4		
41. Ammo dump with 88mm and 20mm ammo	1		

B. Enemy planes destroyed, probably destroyed, and damaged.

	<u>Category I</u>	<u>Category II</u>	<u>Category III</u>
1. ME-109	53	2	15
2. FW-190	53	1	17
3. JU-87	1		1
4. JU-52	1		
5. ME-410	1		
6. HE-111	2		
7. ME-262	6	1	
8. Arado Trainer	3	1	

C. Vehicles lost by the 4th Armored Division and attached units due to enemy action.

1. Truck, $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, 4x4	341	13. Tank, Med. M4A3 w/105	13
2. Truck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 6x6	135	14. Tank, Med. M4A1 w/75	52
3. Truck, $3\frac{1}{4}$ -ton w/c	35	15. Tank, Mod. M4A3E8 w/76	70
4. Truck, $3\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, amb.	12	16. Tank, Med. M4A3 w/76	92
5. Truck, $3\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, C & R	2	17. Tank, Mod. M4A3E8 w/105	5
6. Truck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, Dump	1	18. Tank, Med. M4A1 w/76	4
7. Truck, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 6x6	4	19. Tank, Mod. M4A3E2 w/75	24
8. Truck, wrecking, M1	6	20. Tank, Mod. M4A1 w/105	4
9. Tank, Light M5A1	70	21. Tank, Mod. M4A4 w/75	3
10. Tank, Light M24	27	22. Trailer, 1-ton cargo	89
11. Tank, Recovery M32	5	23. Trailer, ammo M10	61
12. Tank, Mod. M4A3 w/75	49	24. Trailer, $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton 4x4	2

Vehicles lost by the 4th Armored Division and attached units due to enemy action (Con't)

25. Truck, trailer, M25	2	40. Carrier, Motor 76mm M18	25
26. Tractor, M26	2	41. Gun, 57mm M1 W/carriage	
27. Car, Armd, Lite, M8	25	M1A3	4
28. Car, Armd, Util, M20	5	42. Car, Med. Sedan	1
29. Car, H.T. M2A1	17	43. Mine Exploder T1E3	3
30. Carrier, Personnel H.T.M4A1	99	44. Mine Propulsion Unit T1E3	
31. Carrier, Personnel H.T.M4A1		less exploder unit	3
with 81mm mortat	2	45. Mine Propulsion Unit	
32. Carrier, Cargo M29	8	less roller	1
33. Carrier, Cargo M29C	17	46. Tank, Dozer Blade	7
34. Carrier, Personnel H.T.M3	1		
35. Carrier, Motor W/105 How. M7	10		
36. Carrier, Motor 90mm M36	6		
37. Carrier, Motor 75 How. M8	5		
38. Carrier, Motor Mult, gun M15A1	2		
39. Carrier, Motor T 41	0		

II. Battle Casualties.

A. Enemy

1. Killed	13,641 (estimated)
2. Wounded	8,426 (estimated)
3. Prisoners	90,364
4. Inflicted by CC"A"	
a. Killed	6,171
b. Wounded	2,711
5. Inflicted by CC"B"	
a. Killed	5,062
b. Wounded	5,206
6. Inflicted by Reserve Command	
a. Killed	1,180
b. Wounded	178

II. Battle Casualties. (cont)

B. 4th Armored Division

1. Killed	-	Officers	131;	Enlisted Men	1388.
2. Wounded	-	Officers	312;	Enlisted Men	4717.
3. Missing	-	Officers	17;	Enlisted Men	253

III. Non-Battle Casualties

A. Officers - 172
B. Enlisted Men - 4763

IV. Returned to Duty

A. From battle casualties

1. Officers 97
2. Enlisted Men 1790

B. From non-battle casualties

1. Officers 64
2. Enlisted Men 1795

V. Reinforcements

A. Officers 372
B. Enlisted Men 8195

VI. Promotions

A. Battlefield Commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant.

1. 8th Tank Bn.	-	2	5. 37th	-	4	9. 35th	-	3	13. 25th	-	2
2. 10th A.I. Bn	-	2	6. 94th	-	4	10. 22nd	-	4			
3. Headquarters	-	5	7. 66th	-	2	11. 53rd	-	4			
4. 489th	-	2	8. 704th	-	2	12. 51st	-	4			

VII. Awards (including clusters)

A. Congressional Medal of Honor Lt. Fields, S/Sgt, Sadowski, Sgt Hendrix.
B. Distinguished Service Cross 25
C. Distinguished Flying Cross 1
D. Distinguished Service Medal 2
E. Legion of Merit 10
F. Silver Star 802
G. Bronze Star 3031
H. Air Medal 88
I. Soldier's Medal 11
J. Purple Heart 2796
K. Croix de Guerre 72
L. Russian decorations 12
M. Meritorious Service Plaques to 444th, 3804th 1st Platoon 16th F.H.

VIII. Ammunition Expenditures.

A.	155mm How. HEM107 c/r	32,274
B.	155mm How. M2	460,600
C.	76mm Gun	49,864
D.	75mm Gun	57,700
E.	75mm How.	20,200
F.	57mm Gun	3,900
G.	37mm Gun	17,200
H.	81mm Mortar	25,500
I.	60mm Mortar	14,500
J.	2" Mortar MK 1/L	886
K.	Rocket 2.36"	14,200
L.	Grenade Hand Asst	83,800
M.	Grenade, Rifle M9A1 Asst	12,876
N.	Mines Asst	2,157
O.	Signal Pyro Asst	1,042
P.	Flare Trip Asst	475
Q.	Adapter, Gr. M-1	3,840
R.	Cart. Carbine M-6	15,000
S.	Cal..50 Machine gun	4,716,900
T.	Cal..45 Ball	1,188,000
U.	Cal.,.30 Asst	14,321,000
V.	Cart. Carbine	1,763,000