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Report date: 9 October 1943 – 18 May 1945

Title: After Action Report of the United States Army 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division

Abstract: U.S. Army 14th Tank Battalion After Action Report, 9 October 1943-18 May 1945 to include History of the 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division and recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Bronze Star

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AFTER ACTION REPORT

14th Tank Bn

9 Oct 43 - 18 May 45

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HISTORY OF THE 14TH TANK BATTALION

The 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division was formed 9 October 1943 when the 14th Armored Regiment was reorganized pursuant to General Orders Number 114, Headquarters Desert Training Center dated 28 September, 1943 and Letter, Headquarters 9th Armored Division dated 1 October 1943. The reorganization of the 14th Armored Regiment into the 14th Tank Battalion was accomplished at Camp Ibis, near Needles, California.

At the time of the reorganization the 14th Armored Regiment was commanded by Lt. Colonel Glenn F. Rogers, Cavalry, U.S.A., OLS 366, who was designated as commanding officer of the 14th Tank Battalion by Major General John W. Leonard commanding the 9th Armored Division.

The 14th Tank Battalion was formed largely from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment, intact; Co B, 1st Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment, intact; a portion of Hq & Hq Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment; and personnel from the Provisional Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment; then personnel were in number as follows:

Provisional Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Unlisted Men</u>
Hq & Hq Company	11	2	90
Service Company	10	2	182
Maintenance Company	4		62

1st Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment:

Hq & Hq Company	5		46
Company "B"	7		94

2nd Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment:

Hq & Hq Company	14	1	131
Company "D"	7		199
Company "E"	8		139
Company "F"	8		133
Med Detachment	4		22
TOTAL	<u>78</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1038</u>

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By order of Lt. Colonel Glenn F. Rogers commanding, the following Battalion Staff Officers were announced by General Orders Number 1, Hq 14th Tank Battalion, dated 9 October, 1943:

Bn Executive Officer	Major Cyril C. Gumbinger, O 342 920
S - 3	Major Oliver W. Roberts, O 332 119
S - 2	Capt Aubrey M. Hurt O 335 950
S - 4	Capt Brecken J. Manning O 450 534
S - 1	1st Lt Max D. McLaughlin O1 011 312

Company Commanders of companies as indicated as ordered by Lt. Colonel Rogers were as follows:

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2/3

H. & H. Company	Capt Frank M. Simons, Jr.,	0 407 738
Service Company	1st Lt Francis E. Voegeli,	024 699
Company "A"	Capt Peter P. Zillick,	0 411 903
Company "B"	Capt John E. Chandler,	0 351 811
Company "C"	Capt Vincent J. Tranfaglia,	0 354 780
Company "D"	Capt Harold C. Wright,	0 456 067

Companies at the date of the reorganization were of a strength and organization as provided by Table of Organization 17-25 dated 15 Sept 1943, the table of organization and actual strength in officer and enlisted personnel was as follows:

	<u>I/C</u>			<u>ACTUAL</u>			
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Off</u>	<u>Enl Men</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Off</u>	<u>Enl Men</u>	
Battalion Hq	8		29	8		29	
Hq Company	5		105	18	1	137	
Service Co	4	3	112	9	4	167	
Company "A"	5		117	9		172	
Company "B"	5		117	11		170	
Company "C"	5		117	10		172	
Company "D"	5		92	9		169	
Med Detachment	2		20	4		22	
TOTAL	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1038</u>	

The 14th Armored Regiment was activated on 15 July, 1942 at Fort Riley, Kansas, pursuant to General Orders Number 1, Hq., 9th Arm Div, dated 15 July 1942. The 14th Armored Regiment was formed from the 14th Cavalry Regiment of the 2nd Cavalry Division and a Cadre from the 8th Arm Div.

To the 14th Cavalry Regiment and the Cadre from the 9th Arm Div go the roots of the 14th Tank Battalion. The 14th Cavalry was composed mostly of regular army men and hardened selective service men who were fresh from border patrol assignments in Arizona. The 14th Cavalry had previously at earlier dates seen service in the Philippines at two different periods, the Mexican engagements of 1916 and had served at many different stations in the United States and fostered the famous General Officer, Terry Allen.

From the officer and enlisted cadre from the 8th Armored Division, then at Fort Knox, Kentucky came the technical advice and experience which, coupled with the officers and men of the 14th Cavalry, soon fused together to form a Tanker's Regiment, the 14th Armored Regiment.

From these, the personnel who made the 14th Armored Regiment, came the personnel who made the 14th Tank Battalion. Many of the officer and enlisted personnel who served in the 14th Armored Regiment, who came originally from the 14th Cavalry Regiment and the cadre from the 8th Armored Division are present today in the 14th Tank Battalion.

Prior to the reorganization of the 14th Armored Regiment, the regiment on 8 June, 1943 moved to Camp Ibis, near Needles California pursuant to movement order #3, Hq. 9th Armored Division, dated 3 June, 1943, for the purpose of Desert Maneuvers.

The regiment departed from Camp Ibis for Desert Maneuvers in that vicinity on 6 September 1943. On 27 September 1943 the 9th Armored Division was ordered to return to Camp Ibis, California to await the reorganization of the 9th Armored Division and the 14th Armored Regiment.

After the reorganization of the 14th Armored Regiment into the 14th Tank Battalion and the 71st Tank Battalion, the 14th Tank Battalion remained at Camp Ibis, California, going about the necessary adjustment and training necessary for a new organization.

On 11 October 1943 the Battalion received orders to move with the 9th Armored Division to Camp Polk, Louisiana, pursuant to movement order Number 10, Hq. 9th Arm Div., dated 8 October 1943. An advance detail of 6 officers and 12 enlisted men was sent to Camp Polk, while an advance detail of 7 Officers and 65 enlisted men was sent to Camp Barkley to take over vehicles. The Battalion was to leave Camp Ibis, California on or about 15 October, 1943. The Battalion moved in two trains as follows:

1st Train:

Commanded by Lt Colonel Glenn F. Rogers.

Personnel:	Officers	Enlisted Men
Hq & Hq Company	11	148
Service Company	9	132
Company "A"	4	158
Med Detachment	2	11
TOTAL	26	449

2nd Train:

Commanded by Major Cyril C. Gumbinger.

Personnel:	Officers	Enlisted Men
Company "B"	11	138
Company "C"	7	158
Company "D"	7	158
Med Detachment	1	11
TOTAL	26	465

The trains traveled as follows:

Left Camp Ibis

Arrived Camp Polk

1st Train:

16 October 1943, 1300 hours.

19 October 1943, 0600 hours.

2nd Train:

17 October 1943, 0900 hours.

20 October 1943, 0320 hours.

The Battalion was quartered in North Camp Polk, Louisiana, when it took over vehicles and equipment, and prepared to gird itself for the coming Louisiana Maneuver.

The Battalion departed for Louisiana Maneuvers on 22 November 1943 and proceeded on a hardening mission to prove its readiness for the defeat of its countries enemies. The following is the table showing the dates covered by the maneuver, the bivouacs, and the distances marched:

<u>LEFT</u>	<u>ARRIVED BIVOUAC AT</u>	<u>DISTANCE MARCHED</u>
Camp Polk, La, 22 Nov 43	2nd SW of Farrisville, Texas	51 Miles
Farrisville, Tex, 29 Nov 43	3rd SE of Pineland, Texas	29 Miles
Pineland, Tex, 30 Nov 43	5mi NE of Pineland, Texas	9 Miles
Pineland, Tex, 3 Dec 43	15 mi NE of Jasper, Texas	26 Miles
Jasper, Tex, 5 Dec 43	Vicinity of Brookland, Texas	
Bivouaced near Nealig, Texas, 6 Dec 43		
Nealig, Texas, 8 Dec 43	1 1/2 mi South of Yellow Pine, Tex	
Yellow Pine, Tex, 9 Dec 43	2nd SW of Bayou, Texas	
Bayou, Texas, 10 Dec 43	8nd NE of Leesville, La.	
Leesville, La, 19 Dec 43	1nd East of Hicks, La.	14 Miles
Hicks, La, 20 Dec 43	2nd SW of Simpson, La.	
Simpson, La, 21 Dec 43	Vic of Kurthwood, La.	
Kurthwood, La, 22 Dec 43	5nd West of Mount Carmel, La.	
Mount Carmel, La, 29 Dec 43	Peason, La.	
Peason, La., 30 Dec 43	Vic of Kurthwood, La.	
Kurthwood, La., 31 Dec 43	5nd SE of Marthaville, La.	
Marthaville, La, 5 Jan 44	4nd North of Ft Jessup, La.	8 Miles
Ft Jessup, La., 6 Jan 44	Vicinity of Simpson, La.	
Simpson, La., 12 Jan 44	Vicinity of Anacoco, La.	
Anacoco, La., 18 Jan 44	6nd South of Jasper, Texas.	
Jasper, Tex, 23 Jan 44	4.5 mi NE of Newton, Texas.	27.5 miles
Newton, Tex, 25 Jan 44	Vicinity of Camp Polk, La.	75 Miles

Louisiana Maneuvers ended

On 1 February 1944, the 14th Tank Battalion left Bivouac near North Camp Polk, Louisiana on extension of "K/10" proceed to the Battalions' new home between 2nd and third streets in North Camp Polk, Louisiana.

On 7 March 1944, Lt Colonel Gellan F. Rogers was ordered away from the Battalion to proceed for a well deserved overseas assignment. Lt Colonel Rogers, left the Battalion, a beloved commander by both officer and enlisted personnel, alike, of the battalion. At this date the command of the battalion was taken over by the capable hands of Major Cyril C. Gumbinger, the former Battalion Executive Officer. Major Oliver W. Schantz then became Battalion Executive Officer by order of Major Gumbinger. And shortly thereafter Capt John B. Chandler, the former commanding officer of Company "B", became the Battalion S-3. Capt Philip B. Pitts then became the commanding Officer of Company "B", 14th Tank Battalion.

The Battalion proceeded on regular garrison duties and concentrated training until 17 May 1944, at which time Capt Peter P. Zilliok who was commanding Company "A", 14th Tank Battalion, was sent to a general hospital for physical disability, at which time 1st Lt George Pete Soumas, O1 O11 146, Inf, assumed command of Co "A", 14th Tank Bn.

Following this date, the Battalion continued its rigorous training program in preparation for a hoped overseas movement.

The Battalion had now seen much change in personnel from the original 81 officers and 1038 enlisted men as of 9 October 1943. The Battalion strength as of 1 June 1944 was as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted men</u>
Battalion Hq	8	51
Hq Company	5	110
Service Company	7	116
Company "A"	5	116
Company "B"	5	117
Company "C"	5	117
Company "D"	5	94
Med Detachment	2	20
	<u>42</u>	<u>721</u>

On 17 July 1944, an advance detachment was sent forward by the battalion to pave the way for overseas shipment. The detachment was composed of 3 Officers and 5 Enlisted Men. They were as follows:

S - 1 -- 1st Lt. Max D. McLaughlin
 S - 4 -- Capt Breckan J. Manning
 Maintenance Officer -- Capt Cecil W. Roberts
 S - 1 Clerk -- Tec 5 Raymond J. Gantser
 S - 4 Clerk -- Tec 5 William E. Knisely
 Maintenance Clerk -- Tec 5 Paul J. Bouda
 Maintenance Sergeant -- M/Sgt Anthony R. Ziegler
 Personnel Clerk -- Tec 4 Henry J. Urban

The Battalion advance detachment left Camp Folk, Louisiana on 16 July 1944 with the rest of the Division advance detachment which was commanded by Brigadier General Fiburn. The detail arrived at Fort Hamilton at the New York Port of Embarkation on 19 July 1944. At Fort Hamilton the detail was prepared for overseas shipment and loaded on the Queen Mary for an unknown destination. The detachment sailed from New York Harbor 23 July 1944 and arrived in England on 28 July 1944. The detachment was billeted at Tidworth Barracks, Tidworth England and proceeded to draw supplies and equipment and to prepare billets for the main body.

On 31 July 1944 Major Cyril C. Gumbinger, who had been previously hospitalized, was transferred and relieved from command. Major Oliver W. Schantz then assumed command of the battalion.

The battalion continued its plans and preparation for overseas movement.

On 1 August, 1944 Major Leonard E. Engeman was assigned and took command of the Battalion. Major Oliver W. Schantz again became battalion Executive Officer and Major John E. Chandler who was promoted to Major on 27 July 1944 remained as Battalion S-3.

The Battalion departed from Camp Polk Louisiana on 6 August 1944, by train for a permanent change of station. The battalion arrived at Camp Kilmer (Staging area) at the New York Port of Embarkation on 11 August 1944. While at Camp Kilmer the Battalion completed final preparation and checks under Camp Kilmer personnel.

Departure by rail from Camp Kilmer for the New York Port of Embarkation was accomplished on 18 August 1944. All personnel were loaded on the transport Queen Mary which sailed from New York Harbor on 20 August 1944. During the voyage the battalion acted as the military police for the military personnel traveling aboard the Queen Mary.

On 26 August 1944, the battalion landed at Greenock, Scotland, and departed by train for Tidworth Barracks. 28 August 1944 found the entire battalion at Tidworth Barracks getting settled in a new home in a friendly but strange country.

The process of drawing new vehicles and other necessary supplies to equip the battalion for combat service was pushed by all personnel. The morale of all personnel was "high" and on 29 Sept 1944 the Battalion left Tidworth Barracks for Camp D6, of the marshalling area, 5 miles south of Dorchester, England. At this camp marshalling of personnel and vehicles into craft loads was accomplished and the battalion left Camp D6 for the Embarkation Regulation Park at Portland Harbor on 30 September 1944.

Upon arrival at Portland Harbor the battalion was loaded on Landing Ships Tank and landing Crafts Tank, and sailed from the Portland Harbor on 30 September 1944 for the destination of Utah Beach, France. The crossing of the English Channel was accomplished without mishap as the channel was calm and contact was not made with any enemy vessel or airplane.

On 2 October 1944 the battalion unloaded on Utah Beach, France and proceeded to the Division Marshalling Area at Saint Marie DuMont, France, and then proceeded to bivouac at a point one (1) mile north of Vierville, France. The Battalion remained in this area, awaiting further orders until 15 October 1944. At this date the Battalion was ordered to move forward under the command of Division Artillery Headquarters to the vicinity of Meresch, Luxembourg.

Departure from Veirville, France was made at 1230 hours, 13 October 1944. All personnel were in good spirits and ready to see new territory. The following is the table showing the dates covered by the movement, the bivouacs, and the distances marched:

<u>LEFT</u>	<u>ARRIVED BIVOUAC AT</u>	<u>DISTANCE MARCHED</u>
13 October 1944	Eight (8) Miles South East Falaise, France	88 Miles
14 October 1944	Two (2) Miles East Danville, France	67 Miles
15 October 1944	Two (2) Miles East Livryville, France	80 Miles

<u>LEFT</u>	<u>ARRIVED BIVOUAC AT</u>	<u>DISTANCE MARCHED</u>
16 October 1944	Four (4) Miles East of Chaintrix, France	76 Miles
17 October 1944	One (1) Mile West of Etain, France	72 Miles
18 October 1944	Four (4) Miles South of Lenguy, France	37 Miles
19 October 1944	Two (2) Miles South West of Ettlebruck, Lux.	47 Miles

The Battalion remained in the vicinity of Ettlebruck, Luxembourg from 19 October 1944 to 23 October 1944. During this period maintenance of vehicles and personal equipment was accomplished while all personnel awaited information as to the mission of the Battalion. Routes were reconnoitered for possible movement and several trips were made to the front lines by Battalion Staff Personnel. In the bivouac area for the first time personnel heard the sound of enemy artillery firing and heard allied artillery firing in return. All personnel dug slit trenches and fox holes with an enthusiasm which they had never before exhibited in such an operation.

On 22 October 1944 the Battalion heard its first "Buss Bomb". It passed directly overhead but was too high to be seen.

Movement from the vicinity of Ettlebruck to bivouac two miles west of Lengler, Belgium was accomplished on 23 October, 1944. The distance marched was 38 miles.

The new bivouac area was a planted pine forest in Belgium. From this position both Allied and enemy machine gun and artillery could be heard very plainly. Fox-holes and slit trenches were dug by all personnel without the issuance of an order. When shellfire sounded especially loud and plain, all slit trenches immediately were shoveled down a few more inches.

While in this bivouac, orders were received to send two tank platoons into firing positions to fire indirect fire with the 16th Field Artillery who were firing in support of the 8th Infantry Division artillery. On 26 October the 2nd platoon of Company "A", whose platoon leader was 2nd Lt. Sidney L. Moskovits, and the 2nd platoon of Co "B", whose platoon leader was 2nd Lt Morris J. Hamilton, moved into firing position just west of Weiswampach, Belgium.

The first round of ammunition fired by the 14th Tank Battalion against the enemy was fired at 0850 hours, 26 October 1944, by Lt. Moskovits's platoon. The Tank that fired the first round was Co "A" Tank #7, U.S.A. #N-30100195, and was the 1st tank of the 2nd platoon of Co "A". The Crew of the tank were as follows:

2nd Lt. Sidney L. Moskovits - Platoon Leader and Tank Commander.
 Cpl Darius S. Roark, 35667136 - Gunner.
 Tce & Granger M. Roberson, 35686430 - Driver.
 Pvt Fred Lovely, 35636483 - Ammunitioner.
 Pvt Henry C. Mounts, 35741178 - Assistant Driver.

The other guns in the 2nd platoon, Co "A" were registered on 26 October 1944 and also those of the 2nd platoon of Company "B".

The rest of the Battalion remained in the bivouac area until 27 October 1944, at which date Bn Hq and Hq Co moved 2 miles north to the town of Schiende Luxembourg. There the Battalion Headquarters moved into the summer home of F. Delvaux a native of Luxembourg and a merchant of Diekirch, Luxembourg. Hq Company was billeted in the adjoining houses and area around the Bn Hq. The quarters in the building seemed quite luxurious after living in pap tents on the ground.

On 29 October 1944, Companies A, B, and D moved to new bivouacs. Companies A and B moved west of Weiswampach, Luxembourg and took up firing positions. They were joined by their second platoons. Both companies continued to reinforce the fire of the 16th Field Artillery who were supporting the artillery of the 8th Infantry Division.

Company "D" moved into a new bivouac area approximately 500 yards north west of their old bivouac position. There the company headquarters and mess moved into a house. The remainder of the company bivouaced in the pine woods near by.

Also on 29 October 1944, Service Company moved into billets in the town of Deyfeldt, Belgium, three miles north of the old bivouac area. There the entire company was billeted in houses.

Company "C" moved into a new bivouac position 400 yards west of the cross roads at Kemperhardt, Luxembourg, on 30 October 1944. The Company Headquarters, Mess, and all but one platoon of the company moved into a house.

The Battalion Assault gun platoon commanded by 1st Lt. Walter P. Roges, on 1 November 1944, moved into firing position about 400 yards north west of Weiswampach, Luxembourg. There the platoon reinforced the fire of the 16th Field Artillery.

After companies had completed their moves all personnel began to make themselves comfortable for the winter. Log Huts and underground houses were built by those personnel who were not quartered in houses.

Except for companies "A" and "B", who were continuing to fire in support of the artillery, the duties of personnel settled down to routine duties similar to garrison life even though the battalion was in the field and partially engaged against the enemy.

Tank Infantry training was scheduled for the medium tank companies of the 14th Tank Battalion and the rifle companies of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion which was billeted nearby in the town of Huldigen, Luxembourg. This training was initiated after Brigadier General Fibern was transferred from CC "B", 9th Armored Division to a new assignment. Brigadier General Roges then took command of CC "B".

During this period the Battalion sent men on pass to the Chateau De Monarch Recreation Center, Arlon, Belgium, a movie was shown to the companies every two days. The morale was high and the command was in excellent health.

The last of October saw the mail coming in very slow. All personnel noted a decrease in the mail received. There was apparently nothing that could be done by either the battalion or the Division to increase the flow of mail, as all the mail that the Division received was distributed. In the middle of November, Christmas packages began to arrive and all personnel became convinced that the Christmas packages were slowing the regular mail.

Thanksgiving day was celebrated by the battalion with business as usual. A ration of turkey with all the frills that could be provided featured the noon Thanksgiving meal.

On 27 November, 1944 Companies A and C exchanged positions. Company C joined Company B in firing with the 16th Field Artillery while Company A moved into the former billets of Company C.

The battalion table of organization had been changed in enlisted strength, the Battalion T/O and Actual strength as of 27 November 1944 was as follows:

	<u>T/O</u>				<u>ACTUAL</u>		
	<u>OFF.</u>	<u>W/OFF.</u>	<u>EM</u>		<u>OFF.</u>	<u>W/OFF.</u>	<u>EM</u>
Headquarters	8	0	29	Headquarters	8	0	30
Hq Company	5	0	98	Hq Company	5	0	99
Service Co	4	3	108	Service Co	4	3	108
Company "A"	5	0	112	Company "A"	6	0	112
Company "B"	5	0	112	Company "B"	6	0	112
Company "C"	5	0	112	Company "C"	5	0	109
Company "D"	5	0	89	Company "D"	5	0	89
Med Det	2	0	18	Med Det	2	0	19
TOTAL	<u>39</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>676</u>	TOTAL	<u>41</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>676</u>

From 27 November 1944, the Battalion remained in the vicinity of Schmeide, Luxembourg.

On 1 December 1944, Major Leonard E. Engeman was promoted to Lt. Colonel and remained in command of the battalion.

The battalion was alerted for movement, on 12 December 1944, and together with the rest of OC "B", 9th Armored Division was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. The mission was participation in an attack in the Dreibern Area with the ultimate mission of either destroying or capturing two dams on the Roer river.

The battalion moved from Schmeide, Luxembourg on 13 December 1944, and marched a distance of 24 miles to a bivouac area one (1) mile north east of Ligneuville, Belgium; map reference, Central Europe, Sheet #8 1, scale 1/100,000.

From 13 December to 16 December 1944, the battalion remained in the vicinity of Ligneuville, Belgium making map studies and reconnaissance for the battalion's proposed part in the attack. Six officers from the Battalion were attached to the 2nd Infantry Division as observers.

At 0230 hours 17 December 1944, the battalion was alerted for immediate movement. At 0330 17 December 1944, the battalion moved from Ligneuville, Belgium to an area one (1) mile east of Breitfeld, Belgium marching a distance of 41 miles. Map reference: Germany, sheet #5702, scale 1/25,000. The Battalion and OC "B" were attached to the 106th Infantry Division.

The Battalion took up positions east of Breitfeld. The Assault gun platoon moved into position to support the fires of the 16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. At 1230 hours, 17 December 1944, the first platoon of Company A, 14th Tank Bn., was committed to support an attack of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion towards Eisherath. 1st Lt John Grimball, O1O18847, the platoon leader of this platoon lead his platoon on a curving road leading up a ridge. Upon rounding a curve his tank, the leading tank in the platoon, was hit by a basecra round in the right front final drive. The turret jammed and the tank was rendered inoperative. Lt Grimball and his crew dismounted from the tank with their shoulder weapons, and in front of and leading the other tanks in the platoon advanced into the draw to the left front. In the battle 87 prisoners were captured and two tanks from the platoon were knocked out. The platoon leader was recommended for the Silver Star.

At 1500 hours, 17 December Companies A (Less first platoon) B, and C left the assembly area for an attack on Winterspelt with line of departure on high ground south of Steinbruck. This attack was cancelled at 1523 prior to the arrival of the leading company at the line of departure and companies returned to the assembly area.

At 1600 the position of the 1st platoon Company A, 14th Tank Bn was isolated by the withdrawal of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion and the platoon was recalled to the assembly area. The battalion's position was outposted and a perimeter defense for the night was set up.

During this time Service Company of the battalion was in CC "B", 9th Armored Division trains park in the vicinity of Ligneuville, Belgium. At about 1430 hours 17 December 1944, warning reached Service Company by foot messenger that enemy columns were two to three kilometers from Ligneuville and approaching from the north and east. Small arms firing immediately followed by larger calibre enemy tank weapons occurred within ten minutes after the warning was received. This company while becoming engaged in a fire fight with the enemy, withdrew to Grand Sart, Belgium. This withdrawal was accomplished through effective rear guard action by a bulldozer tank from Company "A" 14th Tank Bn., which knocked out 4 enemy tanks and probably destroyed one (1) more enemy tank. The members of the tank crew were recommended for the bronze star. This crew acted entirely on their own initiative and their unprecedented action had a large share in the saving of the battalion trains. Lost in this action were the following: one bulldozer tank; one fuel and lube cargo trailer; one company headquarters cargo trailer with records, mail, supplies, and personal belongings; one company maintenance cargo trailer containing supplies; one company kitchen truck and trailer of Company B and one disabled 106mm Assault Gun of Hq Company.

On 18 December 1944, the Battalion C.P. was moved to Breitfeld, Belgium. Companies A and C and the Reconnaissance Platoon were sent, on orders of the Commanding General, CC "B", to St. Vith to meet a German thrust from the Northeast. Companies moved to St. Vith with Company C leading. The enemy Armored column was contacted about 2500 yards northeast of St. Vith. Seven enemy tanks including one Mark VI tank were destroyed. Due to the obscure situation on the flanks, Companies A and C were unable to exploit their success. However the companies remained in position 2500 yards Northeast of St. Vith until relieved by the 7th Armored Division at about 1700, 18 December 1944 at which time the companies returned to the assembly area.

Capt Tranfaglia the commanding officer of Company C was injured and evacuated when his tank was hit and disabled by enemy bazooka fire in this action. 1st Lt. William F. DeLaWater, O1 O10 078 then assumed command of the Company.

At 0830 18 December 1944, the mortar platoon was sent to the high ground southwest of Dreibutten to observe the progress of an attack by enemy forces against the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. The platoon observed throughout the day reporting observations to the C.P. by radio. The platoon returned to the battalion assembly area at 1730 hours, 18 December 1944.

At 1000 hours, 18 December 1944, Company D, 14th Tank Bn was ordered to make a road reconnaissance of the roads north and east of St. Vith, Belgium in the vicinity of Schlierbach, Belgium where OC "B" reported enemy concentration and had ordered that they be developed by road patrols. Company D contacted the enemy at Schlierbach, Belgium, lost one tank, received orders to withdraw, returned to the area 500 yards east of Breitfeld, bivouaced for the night and covered the Breitfeld - Schlierbach road by dismounted outposts.

At about 1600 hours, 18 December 1944, the 16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, which had been occupying a position to the immediate rear of the Battalion, displaced further to the rear, and the assault gun platoon rejoined the 14th Tank Bn. Company B, 14th Tank Bn occupied the high ground 871849-880856. At 1730 hours the same day the battalion less Company D reassembled in the original area. About 2 hours later, an overlay was received in the battalion C.P. from the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion showing that the Infantry had established lines to the south and east about 500 to 600 yards from the tanks. An investigation was made and it was found that the Infantry was in reality in positions directly around the tanks, strong security measures were therefore necessary. During the night of 18-19 December the sound of enemy vehicles could plainly be heard from the position of Company B.

At 1900, 18 December 1944, orders were received from The Commanding General, OC "B", 9th Armored Division, that the Combat Command would defend St. Vith from its present positions against attacks from the South, and by making contact with the 7th Armored Division near Breitfeld. Dispositions for a defense in depth were accomplished during the hours of darkness.

At 0050 19 December 1944 the Service trains were moved to a position just north of Bauverm. Company B moved farther back west on the ridge into defiladed firing positions. Company C moved into position to defend from the southwest, Company A and the assault gun platoon were withdrawn at the same time to reserve positions between Wissenbach and St. Vith where they could support the action. The mortar platoon went in to firing positions 50 yards north of Company B. The Battalion C.P. moved to Breitfeld. Company D remained in position to cover the approaches from Schlierbach.

The next day at 0640, Company B reported Infantry 800 to 1000 yards to their front but as the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was reported to be in that position fire was withheld. Combat Command "B" reported 10 enemy tanks in the vicinity of Lemmersweiler and Infantry patrols reported enemy armor moving from Lemmersweiler towards Schlierbach along the defile running northeast from Steinbruck.

The 2nd platoon of Company C was then sent to reinforce Co B against possible enemy action from the vicinity of Schlierbach.

Company B and the Battalion CP were both shelled at about 1000, 19 December 1944. After the artillery fire Company B spotted an enemy tank to their direct front, knocked out the tank and set the woods on fire. About one hour later Company B received a heavy enemy artillery shelling. Company B then saw another enemy tank on the ridge to the south front, the tank was hit and the enemy tank crew abandoned their tank. At this time the exact position of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion in front of Company B was both unknown and unobtainable. 1st Lt. Roges the platoon leader of the assault gun platoon came forward to the Company B position to act as observer for his platoon, registered his platoon in the area to the front of Company B, and prepared to give direct fire support to that company.

Company B again came under enemy artillery fire at 1128 hours. The fire was evidently from high velocity flat trajectory weapons, as some of the rounds passed over Company B position, landed in Company A position to the rear causing casualties in Company A.

At 1237 hours, 19 December 1944, enemy mortar fire from the southeast was accurately layed on the road junction 200 yards from the Battalion CoP. in Breitfeld. There were no casualties as a result of this fire.

Another enemy tank was knocked out by Company B at 1353 hours on the ridge to the company's direct front. The tank was set on fire, and was believed to be an American Sherman Tank in enemy hands. At 1500 hours, Company B was again under enemy artillery fire. Company B then fired on enemy personnel who were concentrating in a woods about 1000 yards to the company's direct front. The fire was believed to be very effective. Company B then fired on another enemy tank, which retired behind a building, making it impossible to determine the probable damage. At 1533 hours, Company B received a heavy artillery concentration from medium calibre guns. This fire was then shifted to the Battalion CoP., although the fire was accurately adjusted, neither personnel or vehicles were damaged.

At 1635 hours, enemy infantry started advancing through the draw to the east of the Company B position. This infantry was observed by the Commanding Officer of Company D; 1st Lt Stanley J. Dawidczyk, 01013599 the platoon leader of the 2nd platoon, Company C; and 2nd Lt Hugh R. Morrison, 01017961, the platoon leader of the 3rd platoon, Company C. The enemy was fired upon by Company D, and 1st Lt Dawidczyk and his medium tank platoon plus 2nd Lt Morrison and his medium tank platoon charged and overran the enemy in the draw. The enemy was mowed down at close range inflicting heavy casualties and breaking up the enemy attack. As the enemy retreated into the woods heavy mortar fire was brought to bear on them by the battalion mortar platoon inflicting further casualties and adding to the disorganization of the enemy. At 1730 hours, the 3rd platoon of Company C returned to its original position with Company C.

Orders were received at 1615 hours from the Commanding General, CG "B" to prepare for a withdrawal under cover of darkness to positions west of St. Vith. Company A was moved to a position on the high ground vicinity of Galhausen to cover the south and east. The balance of the battalion started withdrawing and closed in the vicinity of Grufflingen at 2045 hours, 19 December 1944.

During this period the enemy was denied access to St. Vith from the South east.

The reconnaissance platoon was sent out to reconnoiter the route Grufflingen-Neubruck-Burvenn-Galhausen-Bovenknapp and to contact Troop D, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron which was also patrolling roads in this vicinity. The mission was blocked by impassable roads.

At 0800, 20 December 1944, Company B was alerted by order of the Commanding General, CC "B" and started towards St. Vith. The company was released by CC "B" at 0810 and was sent to a position in the vicinity of the south end of Grufflingen to protect against any armored threats from the vicinity of Oudler.

The 3rd platoon of Company C at 0830 was sent out to block any armored threat from Thommen.

CC "B" reported enemy activity in the area south east of Grufflingen. Company D was dispatched at 0830 with the mission of contacting Troop D of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and making a reconnaissance in force of the roads and trails to the south east of Grufflingen. Contact with the enemy was made 2 miles south east of Grufflingen by the 1st platoon lead by 1st Lt Paul M. Fisher, O1011309. At the time of contact it was believed that the enemy consisted of approximately 100 dismounted men, one light tank, and one towed anti-tank gun. At this position a line was formed over a front of about 370 yards with Company A of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion on the company's left flank and elements of the 424th Infantry of the 106th Infantry Division on the right flank. 2nd Lt Robert L. Trower, O1015151, the platoon leader of the 2nd Platoon Company D was wounded by small arms fire in the resulting action and was evacuated.

Company C less the 3rd platoon was disposed on the high ground north east of Grufflingen for security.

The area in which Company D was engaged was densely wooded making developments of the situation very slow for tanks. At 1026 an enemy AT gun was discovered to the front and the engines of enemy vehicles could be heard. A forward observer was dispatched to Company D.

At 1150 hours, Company B came under fire from flat trajectory artillery from the south of south west. This fire continued throughout the day and appeared to be direct fire but the enemy guns could not be located.

The company commander of Hq Co, Capt Frank M. Simons Jr., O407738, and 16 enlisted men from that company at 1224 hours, 20 December 1944 were ordered to the company D position as an infantry platoon. The close terrain in which Company D was fighting made such support a necessity. Two wounded prisoners of war were captured by Company D at 1232 hours.

Artillery fire on the enemy infantry to the front of Company D was called for at 1250 hours by Company D. The forward observer could not contact the 16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion by radio, so the fire was adjusted by 1st Lt Paul M. Fisher who sent his commands to the Battalion CP by radio at which place the commands were relayed to the 16th by telephone. One battery was registered on the enemy with effective results. The concentration was assigned the number of 110 for future reference. After this Company D had one tank knocked out by enemy bazooka fire, and captured four more prisoners of war. By this time the Battalion Mortar platoon was ready to render fire support to Company D if needed, but this support was not requested by the Commanding Officer, Company D. At 1541 hours Company D lost another tank by enemy artillery fire.

At 1705 hours, 20 December 1944, the third platoon of Company C lead by 2nd Lt Hugh R. Morrison was alerted to move to the vicinity of the Combat Command "B" command post at Neubrueck to protect against a tiger tank reported to be on the road between Neubrueck and St. Vith. This tank never did materialize, and the platoon rejoined the company at 201845.

At 1800 hours the same day the Reconnaissance platoon was attached to Company D to assist the dismounted men already there in patrolling during the night. Patrolling ordered by CC "B" included contact with the 27th Armored Infantry Bn on the left, the 424th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Alster, and probing to the front at least 1000 yards. Companies B and C were also directed to contact each other by patrols.

At 0550 hours, 21 December 1944 the enemy made a light attack supported by artillery on the company D position which was repulsed.

Company C was ordered to move Northeast to vicinity 852841 to support the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion in repelling a strong enemy attack at 0815 hours. This mission was accomplished and the company returned to the Battalion Area. During this time one platoon from Company B occupied the position of Co C near the battalion C.P.

At 1115 hours, 21 December the Reconnaissance platoon was detached from Company D and was given the mission of making contact between Company D and the right flank of the 27th Armored Infantry Division.

Company D knocked out an enemy tank, either a Mark III or IV, at 1205, with the fire of its 37mm guns. The company then located a machine gun, enemy infantry and an enemy tank to its direct front. 1st Lt Paul M. Fisher of Company D then called for a fire mission and brought very effective fire to bear in this opposition silencing the machine gun and inflicting many casualties on the enemy. The company then reported an enemy AT gun, were again attacked by the enemy and again the attack was repulsed.

The 3rd platoon of Company B was sent to reinforce the power of Company D at 1530 hours. Again at 1600 hours Company D was again attacked by enemy infantry estimated company strength, along its entire company front. This enemy infantry was supported by mortar fire and automatic weapons fire.

Troop D of the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized which had been attached to Company D gave way on Company D's left flank and retreated to the vicinity of Grufflingen. Company D held their position without giving ground and repulsed the attack. Troop D of the 89th Reconnaissance was rallied and returned to its position at once.

At 1630 hours, Company A was under heavy enemy artillery fire and was alerted to be ready to move to the support of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion which was under enemy attack from the direction of Breitfeld and Heidengen. At 1743 one platoon from Company A moved to the 27th Armored Infantry position for direct support, the enemy attack was repulsed and the platoon returned to the company.

30 rifleman and two officers from the 424th Infantry stationed in Grufflingen were attached to Company D at 1800 for night patrolling missions of contacting the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, the 424th Infantry at Alster, and strong patrols were also to be sent to the front.

Orders were received from the Commanding General, Combat Command B, 9th Armored Division, for Company "A" to move to Bauvern via Galhausen to establish a road block there, to contact the 7th Armored Division which was falling back from St. Vith and to cover withdrawal of the vehicles of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

During the early morning hours of 22 December 1944, company A held its position at Bauvern while the vehicles of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion cleared behind it.

After the Infantry had cleared this point, Capt George Pete Soumas, the commanding officer of Company A, attempted to make contact with the 7th Armored Division. The only contact made was when an officer from the 7th Armored, appeared at Capt Soumas' position, with two light tanks to establish a road block. One of these light tanks was knocked out by enemy artillery fire which was intermittent throughout the night. The officer with the other light tank left the crossroads and returned to his organization to secure reinforcements, and did not reappear.

At 0600, 22 December 1944, the Commanding Officer of Company A reported that contact had not been made with the 27th Infantry. Capt Soumas was instructed to contact the C.P. of the 27th Infantry at Neubrueck and to arrange for an immediate contact. This was done, and Company B of the 27th Infantry was found along the road 500 yards southwest of Neubrueck. This company was conducted back to the line Bauvern - Galhausen and put into position with Company A. During this period when Company A was holding this position without infantry support considerable enemy infiltration of the position occurred.

This position was under continuous enemy small arms fire with some artillery support from the time of daylight. By 0815 hours Company B of the Infantry started falling back on Neubrueck. This left Company A in an isolated position and the company began to receive enemy small arms fire from their right front flank and from their rear.

At 0830 the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion reported that their Battalion C.P. at Neubrueck was surrounded by the enemy and that they were under attack. The Commanding General of CC "B" transmitted this information to the 14th Tank and directed that help be sent to the 27th Infantry C.P. During this time the situation at the infantry C.P. became steadily worse. The 3rd platoon of Company B was detached from Company D and returned to the company area. The 1st Platoon of Company B commanded by 1st Lt David P. Duck was sent to the 27th Infantry C.P. along the Grufflangen Neubrueck road to render any possible assistance to the 27th Infantry. The 27th Infantry C.P. at this time had been captured and occupied by the enemy. The staff and headquarters personnel of the Infantry had been captured by the enemy.

After 1st Lt David P. Duck and his platoon had left for the Infantry C.P., the Infantry Battalion S-2 and one other officer from the Infantry arrived at the 14th Tank Bn C.P. These officers were in an exhausted condition but their aid was secured in the recapture of their battalion C.P. They were told to secure as many infantrymen as they could, to meet 1st Lt David P. Duck and Capt Soumas, and to aid in the recapture of the C.P.

In the meantime 1st Lt David P. Duck and his platoon going down the road towards Neubrueck ran into an AT gun in a patch of woods to the left of the road on the hill to the south of Neubrueck. One tank was knocked out by the AT gun, 1st Lt Duck maneuvered the balance of his platoon and knocked out the AT gun. Lt Duck's platoon then ran into enemy small arms fire.

During this time Company A had fought its way back to Neubrueck arriving in that vicinity at 1130 hours at which time 1st Lt Duck's platoon was attached to Company A. Capt Soumas then formulated a plan for the recapture of the Infantry C.P. which involved the sending of one tank platoon with attached infantry into the town and attacking the house formerly used as the C.P. This house was at this time used for the detaining of the prisoners captured by the enemy from the 27th Infantry Battalion.

Approximately 20 to 25 infantry from the 27th Infantry Battalion arrived at the company A position at about this time. Capt Soumas asked his tank platoon leaders for a volunteer to lead a tank platoon into the village of Neubrueck. 1st Lt David P. Duck volunteered immediately.

The mission of recapturing the 27th Infantry CP was undertaken at once. Lt Duck's platoon with about 5 infantrymen riding on each tank proceeded on the road South of Neubrueck leading down the hill into the village.

The 1st platoon of Company A was in direct support of Lt Duck's platoon.

As Lt Duck's platoon proceeded down the hill towards the village his platoon came under heavy artillery fire. The infantrymen on the tanks hit the ground and took cover. The tank platoon proceeded into the town, at this time there were approximately 5 infantrymen with the tank platoon. The tank platoon approached the Infantry C.P., Lt Duck sprayed the upper story of the house with machine gun fire, the enemy remained in the house. At this time the prisoners from the 27th Infantry were held by the enemy in the basement of the building. At this time Lt Duck seeing that the machine gun fire did not have any effect on the enemy fired several rounds of 76mm H.E. into the top of the building. After this action several of the enemy came out of the house and surrendered. Seeing that the remainder of the enemy and the prisoners were still in the building, 1st Lt Duck then dismounted from his tank and with the five infantrymen who had accompanied his tanks advanced on the C.P. building under the cover of the fire from his tanks. The enemy then surrendered and evacuated the house, giving up the prisoners from the 27th Infantry. The commanding officer of the infantry, Lt Col Cummings, then accompanied Lt Duck and two tanks to the other end of the town where the 27th Infantry Med Det with its personnel together with wounded personnel were located and were sent to the rear. In this action 19 prisoners were taken.

At 1520 hours Company B was attacked by enemy infantry from the woods to the south. This attack was supported by artillery fire. The attack was repulsed and the enemy infantry was pinned down. However, inasmuch as Company B lacked Infantry support they were unable to "mop up" the enemy or to counterattack.

At 1430 hours, 22 December the Battalion CP was moved to another building in the western edge of Grufflingen at S18827. As a result of orders received from the Commanding General Combat Command "B", 9th Armored Division, the company commanders were called into the C.P. to receive new dispositions for the night.

At 1700 hours companies "K" and "L" of the 424th Infantry were assigned positions to support companies "B" and "C" to the south. The companies arrived in the Battalion area at 1900. At 1906 hours, the 3rd platoon of Company B was alerted to be ready to move in support of Company D which was patrolling in and south of Grufflingen. One platoon from Company A of the 511th Tank Destroyer Battalion was also attached to Company D to assist in this operation.

During this entire night Company D was in constant contact with enemy patrols in and south of Grufflingen. Enemy tanks and other vehicles could be plainly heard by Company D. At dark Company D captured a horse drawn wagon which contained quantities of food which had been cooked by enemy sympathizers in Grufflingen and was being smuggled to the enemy.

The civilian situation in Grufflingen was bad as the majority of civilians appeared to be enemy sympathizers and were treated as such.

Company D took numerous enemy targets under fire. One house believed to be occupied by an enemy patrol for the purpose of adjusting artillery fire was set on fire by H.E. and destroyed.

The town of Grufflingen was subjected to harassing enemy assault gun fire and some mortar fire during the night.

From 0001 to 0400 hours, 23 December 1944, Company D with the assistance of the attached Tank Destroyer Platoon continued active patrols in Grufflingen and towards Thommen.

Strong enemy pressure was exerted on the 27th Infantry position in Neubruck at 0130 hours and at 0300 hours the Infantry began to fall back towards Grufflingen. This withdrawal was covered by Company A which frequently was between the 27th Infantry and the enemy. Company A experienced difficulty in effectively using tank weapons as it was impossible to distinguish between friendly and enemy Infantry.

From 0200 to 0250 the Battalion Mortar Platoon fired in an enemy column advancing up the draw at 835846.

Company A took up new positions at 824853 and held until 0950. At 0430 during the early morning two Company A tanks became mired in soft ground. The Battalion Maintenance Officer, Capt Cecil E. Roberts with a tank recovery vehicle was sent out and successfully recovered the vehicles.

At 0530 hours, orders were received from the Commanding General, CC "B" for the withdrawal of the Combat command towards Maldingen.

D During the night at about 00250 hours, 23 December 1944, an enemy patrol was reported in the western edge of Grufflingen. The Headquarters Company Commander, Capt Frank M. Simons, was sent out on a patrol to investigate. This patrol returned to the C.P. at about 0345 hours and reported that enemy horse drawn artillery was moving into position north and west of Grufflingen.

The withdrawal of the Battalion was accomplished under the cover of Company A with Company C of the 27th Infantry attacked and Company B of the 14th Tank Bn with Company A of the 27th Infantry attached. Company C of the 27th Infantry did not report to the company A position, but company A of the 27th Infantry did report to the company B position but withdrew immediately.

The withdrawal started at 0630 with Company G lead by that companies bulldozer tank; all units were withdrawn without incident except Company A which was the last unit of the combat command to withdraw.

When Company A passed the crossroads at Grufflingen at 1000 and headed towards Maldingen the company came under the fire of four anti-tank guns covering the Maldingen-Grufflingen road beyond Grufflingen. The first two tanks in the column were knocked out by the enemy anti-tank gun fire. The anti-tank guns were silenced and destroyed by the company's outflanking attack on the position. Prior to leaving its former position Company A recovered three U.S. vehicles which had been manned by the enemy. Three enemy command vehicles were knocked out at that position.

The Battalion moved on the route Madingen, Behe, Salmchateau, Lierneux, to Malenpre. At 1530 hours 23 December 1944, the Battalion was assigned to the Lierneux area and closed in bivouac at Lansival near Lierneux at 2300 hours.

At 2000 hours 23 December the Battalion was informed that it was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and that it was in the XVIII Corps (Airborne). At 2030 hours the same date the assistant division commander, Colonel Ira P. Swift, of the 82nd Airborne Division, who was the former Regimental Commander of the 14th Armored Regiment, arrived at the Battalion C.P. Colonel Swift issued orders to the Battalion Commander to establish a road block at the crossroads at Manhay. Company C was immediately alerted and sent to Manhay at 2100 hours to establish the road block. One light tank from Company D was sent to the Forward Echelon of the 82nd Airborne Division at Bra to maintain radio contact with Company C at the roadblock at Manhay.

On 24 December word was received at 1030 hours, that the town of Regne, Belgium had been captured by the enemy from a company of the 375th Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. The 82nd Airborne Division then requested tank support to aid in recapturing the town. Company A was assigned this mission and moved from Lansival to Viereumont at 1130. At this point the tank and airborne personnel were briefed on the situation and the Airborne Infantry Company was mounted on the tanks and the combined force moved to the high ground just north of Regne, coordinates 617872 (Map Reference: France and Belgium, 1/50,000, sheet #83). Two platoons then attacked towards Regne moving one on each side of the Regne-Lierneux road with the infantry riding the tanks. The company headquarters and the 1st platoon of Company A remained on the high ground to establish and maintain a base of fire. As the tanks reached the edge of the town the Infantry proceeded on foot ahead of the tanks into the town of Regne. By 1430 hours the town was recaptured.

After the capture of the town the enemy did not make an attempt to reenter the town, the enemy began to use effective anti-tank fire from the high ground to the south of Regne. This fire was directed at the Company A tanks, this fire was returned by Company A, and in the ensuing fire fight Company A lost three (3) tanks. As part of the fire came from enemy tanks on the ridge, Company A knocked out five Mark VI tanks.

At 1616 hours Company B was sent to assist Company A but was recalled prior to reaching Regne, as orders had been received by the Battalion at 1610 hours for a move to a different area. One platoon from Company A of the 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was sent at 1700 hours to cover the withdrawal of Company A.

At 1000 hours Company C and the rest of the Battalion as well as the whole Combat Command went under the direct control of the XVIII Corps (Airborne).

At this time Company C was ordered to be relieved from its road block mission, but these orders had not been received by officers of the 3rd and 7th Armored Divisions who were in charge of operations at the crossroads in Manhay.

In the meantime the Commanding Officer of Company C, at 1500 hours, had received orders to send one tank platoon on the mission of contacting suspected enemy anti-tank guns, enemy tanks, and enemy infantry on the road to La Fosse from Manhay. 2nd Lt Hugh R. Morrison and the 3rd platoon of Company C were sent on this mission. All went well with the platoon until they reached the vicinity of La Fosse when four (4) tanks from the platoon were simultaneously knocked out by unknown enemy fire. Lt Morrison withdrew his tank to cover and with the assistance of his platoon personnel reorganized the platoon. All personnel of this platoon were later "all accounted for" and rejoined the company.

Throughout the day of 24 December, Company C was committed on various local actions.

Finally, at 1500 hours, Company C was relieved when the Commanding General of CC "B" made contact with the 82nd Airborne Division and caused the necessary orders to be issued. The company then reassembled in the vicinity of Bra at 1800 hours.

The orders received by the Battalion at 1610 hours placed the Battalion and CC "B" in XVIII Corps (Airborne) reserve and ordered the movement of the Battalion at dark to an assembly area east of Vaux Chavanne, there to be prepared to move farther north. After the disengagement of Companies A and C had been accomplished the Battalion moved from Lansival along the route Lierneux, Bra, to vicinity Vaux Chavanne. The Battalion closed in the assembly area at 2030 hours. Company C rejoined the Battalion at Bra as the column passed through that town.

During this movement of the Battalion out of the Lierneux area a traffic jam occurred in Company D's column. In attempting to straighten out the traffic snarl, Captain Harold C. Wright was crushed between a tank and a truck. He was immediately evacuated and 1st Lt. Paul M. Fisher assumed command of the company.

Orders were received by Liaison Officer in the assembly area that the Battalion would move to a position 3000 yards north of Webermont via Manhay and N15 passing Manhay at 2320 hours. The Battalion left the assembly area at 2300 hours and moved towards Manhay. As the head of the Column approached Manhay it was noted that friendly infantry were digging in along the north side of the road. Then tracer fire was noted coming from the South, from the wooded section, and appeared to be aimed at the head of the column. There was also tracer fire coming directly into the town of Manhay which was being returned from personnel in the town. The column halted about 400 yards short of the town as the vehicles of Battery D of the 482 AAA Battalion were parked along the road in preparation to infiltrate into the column, and vehicles coming from the opposite direction blocked the road.

At this time, Major John E. Chandler, who was leading the column in the command half track, dismounted and proceeded to the crossroads in Manhay on a dismounted reconnaissance. Major Chandler found that the troops in the town were in a panicky condition, at that time, caused by erroneous reports of enemy tiger tanks in the town. Major Chandler, as he did not find any evidence of tiger tanks in the town, returned to the command track and lead the column forward. As the column reached the cross road at Manhay it was under moderate and inaccurate machine gun fire. This fire was being returned by troops in the town. As the column turned the corner and headed north on the Manhay Webermont road considerable difficulty was experienced as the road was congested with miscellaneous military vehicles driven in most cases by troops in a panicky condition.

After the first part of the column consisting of Battalion Headquarters and the vehicle of Hq and Hq Company had cleared the crossroads at Manhay the fire fight and the congestion of vehicles was such that further clearance through the point was impossible. The Battalion Commander ~~Wank~~ directed that radio contact be made with CC "B" which had moved northeast of Harse, the Headquarters column moved north until such contact could be made.

At 0200 hours, 25 December the Battalion Headquarters arrived at Housenloge and established radio contact with CC "B" and explained the situation at Manhay. Orders were received from CC "B" that an alternate route was not available to the Battalion, and that it would have to fight its way through Manhay as best it could. The Headquarters section then returned to Webermont where radio contact was re-established with the balance of the Battalion and orders from CC "B" were relayed to the Battalion Commander.

Meanwhile the Battalion Commander had contacted Headquarters, 88nd Airborne Division at Bra and secured clearance on the Snamont Hablemont, and Webermont road. The column had been turned around and was moving to Webermont on ~~that road~~. The march was completed without further mishap and the Battalion closed in bivouac at 0530 hours, 25 December 1944 in an area two miles west of Harse.

During the afternoon of 25 December the Battalion sent billeting parties to Les Baty Belgium, billets were secured and the Battalion moved into Les Baty Coordinates P4906 (Map reference, France and Belgium, 1/50,000, Sheet No. 80).

The Battalion remained in Les Baty from the afternoon of 25 December till 28 December, 1944. Personnel were in fine spirits tho tired and worn out. During this period personal maintenance and shaking down were stressed. The Battalion was still in XVIII Corps (Airborne) reserve.

At 1630 hours 28 December 1944, the Battalion moved to Bomal, Belgium marching a distance of 8 miles, and arriving at 1730 hours. The Battalion entered billets in Bomal. At #96, Bomal the Battalion CP was established in a safe-garage building. All troops were again in billets. The Battalion was placed on a 30 minute alert status until 2302 hours at which time it was placed on a one hour alert.

The location of the CP was moved to a furniture store in the center of Bomal of 29 December at 1500 hours. All companies shifted their billets around to more comfortable quarters. The company commanders were sent out to reconnoiter the road net between Bomal and Le Grands Pre, Belgium. The reconnaissance platoon was also sent out on road reconnaissance missions.

On 30 December the Battalion was placed on the alert to repel possible enemy parachute attacks. One platoon of Company B was alerted and sent on a road block mission at a road junction

just west of Eresse Belgium. 2nd Lt. Donald F. Lynn the reconnaissance platoon leader was sent with the platoon as a guide to the road junction. When the platoon arrived at the road junction it was found that the 75th Infantry Division had already established a road block with tanks in position at the road block the platoon then returned to Bomal. The Battalion was still on a one hour alert.

The day of 31 December was quiet but during the night friendly artillery in positions near the city raised quite a racket. A buzz bomb passed over the CP its motor shut off, the whistle of its plunge could be heard, and it exploded in the air approximately 2 miles north of the CP.

At this time the total losses of the Battalion in personnel were as follows:

KIA		WIA IIA		MIA		SA & NBC		TOTAL	
OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM
	1	4	56	0	30	2	15	6	102

The total officer and enlisted strength of each company was as follows:

	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
Hq.	8	0	28
Hq. Co.	5	0	96
So. Co.	4	3	105
A Co.	6	0	93
B Co.	5	0	96
C Co.	5	0	102
D Co.	3	0	76
Med. Det.	2	0	18
Total	38	3	616

Late in the afternoon of 1 January 1945, CC "B" called for billeting parties. The Battalion departed Bomal at 2025 hours 1 January 1945 for bivouac area in the vicinity of Lorce, Belgium. The distance marched was 13 miles. The Battalion bivouaced in a pine woods in the snow and cold, closing in bivouac at 2230 hours.

The Battalion CP moved into Chessions, Belgium on 2 January 1945. Inasmuch as billets were not available for the balance of the battalion, the rest of the battalion stayed in bivouac.

From 1 January to 7 January 1945 the battalion remained in this area. The Battalion drew 13 M4A2 Diesel tanks and distributed them to the companies. During this period the Battalion was still on a one hour alert.

At 0920 hours, 7 January 1945 the head of the column left Hq. Co. area 2 miles south of Lorce, Belgium with the destination of Rozoy, France. The Bn. marched a distance of 131 miles over treacherous icy roads through the Meuse River Valley. Many beautiful and historic buildings were noted on the march. The Bn. arrived in Rozoy, France at 0130 hours 8 January, 1945.

All Companies of the battalion were billeted in the town Rozoy except Company A which was billeted in the town of Fraillecourt, France. The Bn. was back under the control of the CG 9th Armored Division and was told that it was in a rest area. All personnel immediately started to catch up on lost sleep, and personal maintenance. Arrangements were made for all personnel of the Bn to secure a bath and to trade all their dirty clothes. This mission was never accomplished at this time, as at about 2000 hours 9 January, 1945 the Bn. was placed on a one (1) hour alert for movement and all recreational plans were immediately thrown to the four winds.

At about 0200 hours 10 January, 1945 the Bn. Liaison Officer 2nd Lt. Raymond L. Lewis arrived with orders for the Bns departure in the morning. The Bn left Rozoy at 0900 hours 10, January, 1945 with the destination of Verdun, France where the Battalion was to have the mission of establishing and maintaining bridge guards. The Bn was attached to the 28th Infantry Division, and was again out of 9th Armored Division control. At 1530 hours having marched a distance of 89 miles the Bn arrived at Verdun. The billets were old French military barracks but were in a pitiful condition as the window lights were nonexistent and the buildings in general were in a filthy condition. The Bn arrived in Verdun less Companies B and D which were sent on separate missions to Stenay and Montfoucon respectively.

At 1000 hours 11 January 1945 the Bn CP was moved to a chateau at 11 Rue Saint Maar in Verdun. The Bn was placed on a one hour alert. The Bn and the whole Combat Command were to be again placed under 9th Armored Division control as of 1200 hours 11 January, 1945.

The Bn then moved from Verdun at 1830 hours 11 January for the 9th Armored Division assembly area in the vicinity of Estain, France. Bn Hq., Hq. Co. and Service Company billeted in Xirvy Circourt, France. Co. A billeted in Avilliers, France, Co. C in Doniprix, Co. D in Rechicourt, and Co. B in Hancourt.

The Bn was alerted to move after 1000 hours, 12 January, 1945, billeting parties were sent out at 0500, 12 January, 1945. The Bn moved at 1720 hours, 12 January, 1945, to the Division assembly area in the vicinity of Metz, France. The Bn arrived at its new billets at Bettelainville, 9 miles north east of Metz at 2315 hours, 12 January, 1945 having marched a distance of 42 miles.

Hq & Hq Company, Service Company and Company B were billeted in Bettelainville; Company A in Altroff; Company D in Hesseange; and Company C in Chelaincourt Chau.

During the period 12 January 1945 to 9 February 1945 the Battalion proceeded on personal maintenance, recreation, and training. On 15 January 1945, Major Oliver W. Schantz, 0352119 was relieved from assignment to the Battalion and was transferred to the 2nd Tank Battalion. Major John E. Chandler, 0351811, who had been Bn S-3 became the Battalion Executive Officer. On 16 January, 1945, 66 reinforcements were assigned to the Battalion. Captain Cecil E. Roberts, 0400932, the former Battalion Motor Officer became the Bn S-3. Lt. Col. Edward J. Rodden, 0281045 was assigned to the Battalion on 24 January 1945, for the purpose of receiving training.

Captain Aubrey M. Hart, 0335950, the Battalion S-2 was evacuated to the hospital on 25 January 1945. Captain Philip B. Pitz, was evacuated to the hospital on 25 January 1945. 1st Lt. Carl E. Linder, Jr., 01011420 then assumed command of Company B, 14th Tank Battalion. On 25 January 1945, 1st Lt. Max D. McLaughlin the former Battalion Adjutant became the Battalion S-2 and acting Adjutant.

The following decorations were awarded to personnel of this Battalion:

Silver Star

Pfc Robert G. Hommescher, 13099214, Co C, GO 12, Hq 9th Armored Division.
1st Lt John Grimball, 01013847, Co A, GO 13, Hq 9th Armored Division.
S/Sgt George A. Varie, 32090281, Co A, GO 13, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Cpl Herman A. Garavaglia, 6939045, Co A, GO 20, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Pfc Walter E. Cain, 35667480, Co A, GO 20, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Tec 5 Clarence A. Williams, 36071345, Med Det, GO 20, Hq 9th Armored Division.

Bronze Star Medal

Sgt Harry Petheff, 36158347, Co C, GO 12, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Sgt Thomas W. Chapman, Jr., 35012951, Co C, GO 12, Hq 9th Armored Division.
1st Col Leonard E. Engeman, 0304690, Bn Hq, GO 13, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Tec 4 Trig L. Large, 13119048, Co A, GO 17, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Cpl Clement A. Wegman, 37050611, Co A, GO 19, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Pvt Guy W. Caraway, 35667472, Co A, GO 19, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Pvt Fred H. Weis, 33636422, Co A, GO 19, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Sgt Euren J. Johnson, 37060429, Co A, GO 16, Hq 9th Armored Division.
Tec 4 Stanley Barases, 32186086, Co A, GO 16, Hq 9th Armored Division.

At 1400 hours 10 February 1945, the Bn Liaison Officer arrived in the Bn with the news that the Bn would send a billeting officer to Division Hq. at 0800 hours 10 February 1945 and to expect movement during 10 February. At 0500 hours he returned to the Battalion with news that the Bn would be moving around 1000 hours 10 Feb 1945. Orders were actually received at 0700 hours and the Bn moved from Bettelainville at 1045 hours, 10 February with the destination of a new division assembly area in the vicinity of Liege, Belgium. The Bn actually traveled a distance of 59.7 miles to Lenguy when orders were received that the Bn would turn around and return to Bettelainville as the move was called off. The Bn arrived in Bettelainville at 2245 hours, 10 February 1945. The Bn then proceeded with training and housekeeping.

~~During January and February additional officers and enlisted men had been assigned to the Battalion making the company strengths as follows.~~

On 22 February, the Battalion again began a march that was to take them 112 miles to Maissin, Belgium, and then to Diegne, closing into the latter on 23 February at 1245. From the 24th to 27th of February, 40 new sets of tracks were received and installed. Five M4A3 tanks were turned in and the new M26 45 ton Pershings were received for the 1st platoon of Co A. These new tanks were picked up as the outfit moved through Aachen on the 28th, on the way to cross the Roer River to the vicinity of Soller.

Immediately upon arrival at Soller, Germany, at 1730 hours, the company commanders were called together and a combat order was issued. Three task forces were formed for the purpose of capturing the towns of Muddersheim, Disternich, and Severnich, all located on the Meffel River. The composition of the task forces (known as A, B, and C) was:

<u>TASK FORCE A</u>	<u>TASK FORCE B</u>	<u>TASK FORCE C</u>
Company A, 14th Tank Bn	Company B, 14th Tank Bn	Company C, 14th Tank Bn
Company A, 27th A.I.B.	Company B, 27th A.I.B.	Company C, 27th A.I.B.
Plat. Co B, 9th Engr Bn	Plat Co B, 9th Engr Bn	Plat Co B, 9th Engr Bn

Company D of the 14th was given the mission of screening the attack by taking up positions on the right flank. A reconnaissance unit of CO B had previously reported the town of Froitzheim to be clear of enemy troops, so Co D moved out ahead of the attack to take up their position. As the company approached the town (Froitzheim) and when the lead tank was within 200 yards of the first building, four enemy AT guns suddenly opened fire on the column. The order to withdraw was given, but before it could be accomplished one tank was struck and the entire crew lost. A second tank became mired in the mud and the crew brought under small arms fire as they attempted to evacuate. A third tank was hit by AT fire, bringing the total casualties to seven killed and two wounded.

The position of the AT guns was given to the mortar platoon leader, Lt. Guy R. Copeland, and he immediately laid down fire in an attempt to help the wounded men return to our lines. Two men did return and were evacuated.

At this time, Task Forces A and B were re-routed to go through Veitweis, and from there to proceed on their mission.

The three task forces encountered heavy traffic but no opposition as they moved to their objectives. At 2530, Task Force C had reached their objective, and was outposting it in preparation of building a bridge across the Meffel River. Task Force A had been halted at 2005 by order from CO "B".

At this time a few difficulties were encountered. The engineer officer with Force C reported he did not have the men or equipment to bridge the river. But by 0745, on 1 March, the town of Muddersheim was cleared of enemy and the bridge building began. After additional material was received, it was completed by noon.

At 0250 hours, Company B encountered booby traps while moving through Sievernich. The infantry dismounted and moved through the town, locating one AT gun. Several enemy prisoners were captured, and patrols searched for a bridge site. At 0915, the company had crossed the Meffel and held the existing bridge.

In the meantime, Company A had received orders to continue on their mission and at 0150 reached their objective and sent infantry patrols into the town of Disternich. A few minutes later, enemy artillery began to fall on their positions, and the company returned it by using the FO with Company C. Just at dawn, a small amount of AT fire was received, but was soon silenced. At 0755 the company attacked Disternich in force.

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Immediately upon arrival at Soller, Germany, at 1730 hours, the company commanders were called together and a combat order was issued. Three task forces were formed for the purpose of capturing the towns of Muddersheim, Disternich, and Sievernich, all located on the Neffel River. The composition of the task forces (known as A, B, and C) was:

<u>TASK FORCE A</u>	<u>TASK FORCE B</u>	<u>TASK FORCE C</u>
Company A, 14th Tank Bn	Company B, 14th Tank Bn	Company C, 14th Tank Bn
Company A, 27th A.I.B.	Company B, 27th A.I.B.	Company C, 27th A.I.B.
Plat. Co B, 9th Engr Bn	Plat Co B, 9th Engr Bn	Plat Co B, 9th Engr Bn

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At this time a few difficulties were encountered. The engineer officer with Force C reported he did not have the men or equipment to bridge the river. But by 0743, on 1 March, the town of Muddersheim was cleared of enemy and the bridge building began. After additional material was received, it was completed by noon.

At 0230 hours, Company B encountered booby traps while moving through Sievernich. The infantry dismounted and moved through the town, locating one AT gun. Several enemy prisoners were captured, and patrols searched for a bridge site. At 0915, the company had crossed the Neffel and held the existing bridge.

In the meantime, Company A had received orders to continue on their mission and at 0130 reached their objective and sent infantry patrols into the town of Disternich. A few minutes later, enemy artillery began to fall on their positions, and the company returned it by using the FO with Company C. Just at dawn, a small amount of AT fire was received, but was soon silenced. At 0735 the company attacked Disternich in force.

At midnight, Company D contacted Company C, 636 Tank Destroyer Battalion, and at 0257 was relieved by the latter and moved near Veitweis to fulfil their original mission of screening the attack. Enemy activity was observed to the front, and the fire of Mortar and assault gun platoons were laid down. An enemy minefield was located on the company's right.

At 0930 on the morning of 2 March 1945, the orders for the days attack were received from CG "B". The objectives were:

Task Force A - Derkum, Germany on the Erft Canal

Task Force B - Mulheim, Germany on the Erft

Task Force C - Weillerwist, on the Erft

The companies were to jump off at 1400 hours, but at 1130, Company B was committed on the orders of the 27th A.I.B. commander.

At 1400, Company B jumped off, and A and C followed an hour later. Heavy AT fire was received by all companies, Company A losing four tanks from enemy guns in the vicinity of Weiler, and C losing three from these same enemy guns. Plenty of artillery was brought down in an effort to silence these guns, and patrols were used to flush the woods near Sievernich and Weiler. At this time, 1st Lt. William F. DeLaMater assumed command of Company C. A single enemy plane repeatedly strafed C and A with no effect of damage to either.

At 1410, Company C was attached to 2nd Bn of 310 Infantry. All companies moved forward slowly, encountering opposition. At 1710, B was on their objective.

During the night of 2-3 March, C lost two more tanks and B lost one. Task Force A jumped the Roth River and moved into Lemmersum. Company D, with the assault guns and mortars attached, moved east of Neiderburg to observe the town of Klein. Force C hurried to complete treadway bridge, and finished it at 0330. Force A laid a bridge across the Erft Canal at Derkum.

At this time, the entire combat command was attached to the 9th Infantry Division. On the 4th March, Company C, D, the assault gun and mortar platoons were relieved, and took over a large chateau at Gertrudenhof.

On the 5th, Company B, along with B of the 27th Infantry, took the town of Esch, and the battalion moved there and outposted the town that night. By 2145, B had taken Ludendorf and had infantry in Essig.

At 0840 of the 6th March, the battalion moved to Ludendorf, where they received a few rounds of artillery and soon after started toward Miel, and following this, Morehoven.

At this time a queer situation arose. The CG found the roads filled with the advancing column and he had difficulty in driving forward. He ordered the battalion commander to clear the roads, and an alternate route was chosen and part of the column was sent along it. This new column had Company B, 27th Infantry, D of the 14th and assault gun platoon. After leaving Miel, D fanned out to allow A Company to go through, and followed A.

By operating two columns, each converging on the same objectives, successive double envelopments followed which were very successful. The final objective was Stadt Muckenheim, and Companies A and B entered the town simultaneously from opposite ends. As they were mopping up, Capt Soumas, CO of Company A whose code name was "Greek" was heard to call Red (Capt Linder, CO of Company B) to say "Be damn sure you shoot Krauts, we're getting pretty close to each other".

The reconnaissance platoon of Lt. Donald F. Lynn captured the town of Pepperhagen, including six prisoners.

At 1700, the CG of Combat Command "B" arrived in Stadt Muckenheim and outlined a plan for an immediate attack toward the Rhine River, seven miles away. A light tank platoon of Company D was alerted to act as the point, but before the plan could be put into action, all orders were cancelled and instead, the town was outposted for the night.

Stadt Meckenheim had been worked over thoroughly by friendly air the previous day.

The 7th of March, 1945, was a red letter day for the 14th Tank Battalion. It saw the accomplishment of a feat that brought credit to be absorbed by the entire 9th Armored Division, the whole U.S. Army, and the World. One of the greatest single actions of the entire European war - the capture of the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen and the first allied troops to cross the Rhine River.

The action has been hailed: Time Magazine (19 March) "It was a moment for history"; Gen. Omar N. Bradley (8 June) "One of the major 'breaks' the American armies had in Europe was the capture of the Remagen bridge intact"; U.S. First Army (8 March) "Taking of the bridge intact undoubtedly changed the entire complexion of the war"; United Press (8 March) ". . . the war in the West might have been held up indefinitely at the Rhine"; Associated Press (8 March) "The swift sensational crossing was the biggest military triumph since the Normandy landings, and was a battle feat without parallel since Napoleons conquering legions crossed the Rhine early in the last century"; General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander (8 March) "The whole Allied force is delighted to cheer the United States First Army whose speed and boldness have won the race to establish the first bridgehead over the Rhine".

And now for the story. Companies C and B were to move to Gelendorf, then left through Eckendorf, and down to Sinzig.

The left column was led by a platoon of Company A, 14th Tank Battalion, and a platoon of the 27th Infantry Company A. The column moved out of Stadt Meckenheim at 0820, amid a great deal of confusion and snarled traffic, and captured the towns of Adendorf, Arzdorf, Werthhoven, and Birresdorf before reaching Remagen. Up to this point, very light resistance had been met. The infantry had dismounted before reaching Arzdorf to clean out AT guns located in the woods, and again between Birresdorf and Remagen to eliminate a small enemy patrol. At one point in the woods, a large ordnance depot was discovered, containing both numerous vehicles and huge quantities of large caliber ammunition. Throughout this advance, many German prisoners could be seen walking down the highway toward the rear, being waved on by each element in the column.

At four minutes before 1300 hours, Lt. John Grumble, commanding the lead platoon, reported that he was on a hill overlooking Remagen, and that civilian and military traffic was moving across the bridge. Time fire was placed on the bridge by the artillery.

Now was the time to set up a new plan, since it was learned that the bridge was intact. Lt. Col. Engeman was designated as commander and he decided to send the infantry into Remagen under cover of the trees on the left of the road. The tanks of the first platoon of Company A were to lead Company C of 27th AIB into town on the main road. The dismounted doughboys were given a 30 minute lead to coordinate the attack.

At 1420, the first platoon of Company A jumped off to enter Remagen. They moved down to the bridge, encountering only small arms fire, and proceeded to lay down fire to cover the crossing of the infantry. The balance of Company A then proceeded into Remagen. The assault guns and mortars, deployed on the high hills overlooking the Rhine, and laid WP on the east bank to screen the crossing. The wind was very strong, but the infantry stated that the smoke screen was very effective.

At 12 minutes past three, 1st Lt Grumble reported that one demolition charge on the bridge had been set off by the enemy, but the bridge was only slightly damaged. The radio was jammed with orders and reports - -

"Pull forward, driver - that's it - hold it there - Gunns caliber 30 on that Kraut running across the street. Holy Smoke! - look at that damn big train - throw an AP into that sonofabitch".

Two minutes later, Lt. Col. Engeman ordered the infantry to cross, covered by the fire of Company A. The first doughboy, a sergeant, was seen to jump to his feet, and half crouching, start running across the bridge. His squad followed close behind.

"This is 9-2. A German PW reported that the bridge is to be blown at 1600 hours".

This message came through at 1520 hours.

The smoke screen was beautiful to see. On the bridge, 300 yards long, a line of doughboys was moving steadily across. They reached the east bank at 5 minutes before four O'clock, and began to fan out. The engineers rushed out to tear the wires loose from the demolition charges.

"This is Corn. There's a big boat coming down the river - should I knock it off?"

Chaplain Gible stood on the high hill overlooking Remagen and beautiful Rhine valley. He took pictures of the first men to cross, of the smoke and HE landing in Erpel, the fast flowing Rhine moving below the three span bridge. Many pictures he took, knowing well that it was a historic moment. Later, a correspondent from the Associated Press told him to name his own price for "The only pictures of the crossing of the Rhine". But no - the camera and film had been lost in the chaplain's peep, when he had loaned the vehicle to the medics to evacuate wounded. Early the next morning, the Chaplain was on the east bank of the river, passing out "Liberated" candy to the tankers as they drove by.

The radio was still jammed with messages. Corn had sunk the boat, CO "B" was notified that doughs were across, the engineers were calling for 8 by 8 timbers. Lt. Paris dismounted his light tank platoon and went on a mission to eliminate some 20mm flak guns that had been causing trouble. Lts. Copeland and Roges went across the bridge to set up CP's. Remagen was pitch dark, and snipers began to work the streets over. You could hear the fire of our M1, and the German M2 machine gun. Battalion CP was set up in a cellar, and everyone waited for the help they knew would soon arrive.

At midnight, Company A began to move across the bridge to set up road blocks. The infantry reported a counter-attack, but nothing happened except a few prisoners were taken. At 0235 on the 8th March, Company C of 656 TD Battalion arrived to set up road blocks. An hour later, the 52nd Infantry began to cross the river.

At 0500, the 2nd Battalion of 310 Infantry arrived. They had been pulled out of the line, very quietly marched five miles to the rear where their trucks waited, and drove straight across country to Remagen. They dismounted and crossed the river.

By now, Companies B and C had rejoined the battalion, and these two, along with Company D, the mortar and assault gun platoons, and battalion headquarters all moved across the river into Erpel.

Company A sent a platoon of tanks with the 2nd Battalion of 310 Infantry to take Linz. One platoon of Company B was attached to the same outfit. Company C was attached to 3rd Battalion of 311 Infantry. Sgt's Smith platoon of Company D was attached to 52nd Infantry.

During the next few days, the area around the bridge underwent a terrific shelling, with artillery up to 210mm landing around the west approach of the bridge. The Luftwaffe came out in force, a total of 350 planes, of which 111 were shot down (Yank, 8 July 1945). The first planes appeared on the 8th,

Only one way traffic was allowed on the bridge - that going east in Germany. On the 10th, the battalion maintenance platoon moved into Erpel, Company B lost a tank to enemy mines, Company A returned to battalion control. Ten new tanks were received and distributed to the line companies. By the 12th of March, the battalion was all under command of Col. Engeman, except for Company C, which was fighting in Honnef with the 1st Bn of 311th Infantry. By the 15th, Co C had returned to battalion control, and was set up in Honnef. Service Company moved to Unkel, Company B to Rheinbreitbach.

On the 17th of March, at 1505, the Ludendorf Bridge collapsed, having withstood the poundings of artillery, Luftwaffe, thousands of feet and many tanks. But it had served its purpose - the breaching of the Rhine without the huge losses that would have accompanied an infantry assault. By now, the engineers, who had been working unceasingly and always under fire, had completed two pontoon treadway bridges.

On the 18th, the battalion moved to an open field near Linz, and three days later to Rheinbrohl. The following day, B and C moved out to attack south and capture a crossing across the Weid River at Irlich. The attack was slowed by road blocks and mine fields, but the objective was reached by noon. The bridge had been destroyed by the retreating Germans, both at Irlich and at Neuweid, so the tanks moved to high ground to support the infantry in a crossing.

Company B swung left at Fahr to help the 60th, and ran into a mine field. This was breached, and they assisted the infantry near Niederbieber, receiving only small arms fire. On the 23rd, a bridge was found in the 2nd Infantry Division sector, and Co B began to move across. By 0700 the next morning, a Bailey bridge had been completed across the Weid River.

The 14th Tank Battalion changed to CO "A" Control and moved to Heddesdorf, minus Companies B and C. The latter captured Engers and the 14th moved in to town. Then, for a couple of days, the battalion remained in reserve, with the 656 TD Battalion attached, and our assault gun platoon attached to the 3rd Field Artillery Battalion. On the 26th, the battalion moved to Altendies, and again moved on the 28th by going to Schadeck.

During this time, several attack orders had been received and cancelled, but on the 29th, the 14th again spearheaded a major attack that was to do much toward closing the Ruhr pocket. Called "the greatest double envelopment in military history", the capture of the Ruhr cut off the great industry of Germany and yielded a total of 337,000 prisoners. The 14th formed the right prong of the action, first driving east and later northeast to link up with the left column and enclosing this huge and very rich area.

At 0515, the 14th moved out of Schadeck, Germany, led by the 3rd platoon of Company D. Following was:

- 1 Section Co E, 38th Infantry
- Assault Gun section (3 guns)
- Co A, 14th Tank Battalion
- Co E, 38th Infantry, minus 1 section
- Platoon of Company A, 9th Engineers
- Assault Gun Section (3 guns)
- Command Section
- Headquarters Company
- A and B Trains.

The attack moved steadily, meeting very little resistance, and these towns were captured: Arfurt, Aumenan, Elkerhausen, Blossenbach, Laubueschach, Weilmunster, Mottau, Kraftsalms, Oberquembach, Oberwetz, Weidenhausen, Gross Rechtenbach, Hochelheim, Harnsheim, Grossen-Linden, Leihgestern, Steinberg, Walzenborn, Hausen, Annerod, Grossen Buseck, Beuern, Geilshausen, Obenhausen, Weithain, Bernsfeld, Homberg, Appenrod, Erbenhause, and Kirtef.

A hospital containing 67 American PW's was liberated, approximately 66 large guns up to 88 mm were captured, and a total of 1187 prisoners taken by the battalion. In Rechtenbach and Hornsheim, many new artillery pieces were discovered in the yards, still covered with cosmoline. At Grossen-Linden, a battery of 88mm AA guns were taken when the garrison surrendered. While the lead platoon commanded by Lt Paris was trying to control the huge flow of prisoners in Steinberg, Lt. Col. Engeman and Capt Earl M. Fisher discovered a room full of sleeping enemy soldiers, and disarmed them.

The final objective had been reached at 1100 hours, at which time, Col Harold, commanding CG "A", instructed the leading platoon to continue the attack. The 1/100,000 map soon proved insufficient and the battalion was moving in an area of which they had no maps. The day was finished by using a map of Germany torn from Yank Magazine.

The Battalion closed into Kirtorf, Germany at 1715. Over a period of eleven hours and nine minutes, the advance had covered a distance of 68.4 miles.

The mission of the 30th March was to drive to Fritzlar and secure a bridgehead over the Eder River. The attack was led by the 2nd Battalion of the 38th Infantry. Company B was with the 60th Infantry and had the mission of securing the bridgehead when Fritzlar was reached. The mission was accomplished and about 40 prisoners were taken. A particularly vicious group of Hitler Jugend, dug in with machine guns, held up the attack at Fritzlar and caused numerous casualties.

The following day the order of march remained the same, the combat command crossing the Wega River at 0600. But at the town of Breuns, the 14th swung to the right, and led by Company B, captured and occupied the towns of Haueda, Grimelsheim, and Dolheim. Nineteen towns were captured, along with 150 prisoners, and 45.9 miles covered. The battalion closed at 1230, at which time the 3rd platoon of Company D accompanied Lt. Col. Engeman on a reconnaissance mission. The mission was successful and returned with about 20 prisoners and one light machine gun.

Thus closed the end of March, a historic month for the 14th Tank Battalion. For replacements, the battalion received 3 officers and 86 enlisted men. Three officers and 50 enlisted men had been killed in action; 4 officers and 46 men wounded. The vehicular losses were:

- 21 M4A3 76mm tanks knocked out by enemy action
- 1 M26 90mm tank knocked out by enemy action
- 2 M5A1 37mm tanks knocked out by enemy action

A total of 4,955 rounds of cannon ammunition of all types was fired from the tanks, plus 27,320 rounds of 50 caliber and 309,990 rounds of 30 caliber from the machine guns.

The terrain near the Rhine was unsuitable for tank action, but once the infantry had pushed out far enough, the tanks took over. From then on, the action was aggressive, taking the enemy by surprise, keeping the back on their heels. Enemy action consisted generally of AT guns, some hasty minefields, and 20mm flak. The weather was generally favorable throughout the month.

The first of April 1945 saw the 14th Tank Battalion continuing the attack of the 9th Armored Division against the enemy. Orders were received for the movement of the Battalion to Daseburg via Haueda, Grimelsheim, Ersen, Harlinghausen and Warburg. The Battalion closed at Daseburg at 0920 hours 1 April 45 having marched a distance of 10.1 miles.

For five days the Battalion remained at Daseburg performing maintenance of personnel and equipment, and sending hourly patrols through the Battalion Area of responsibility.

At 1000 hours 6 April 1945 orders were received for the Battalion to be prepared to move anytime after 1400 hours. The move was not a tactical move was led by the Command section and followed by the balance of the Battalion less Company C and plus Company B of the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion attached. The Battalion moved southwest out of Daseburg back to Warburg and then to Kalenburg closing there at 1635 hours having marched a distance of seven miles.

The area at Kalenburg was an assembly area where preparations were to be made for a move to the east. At 0900 hours, 8 Apr 45 orders were received to move forward with the advancing front lines as far as Munsen. So in administrative order the Battalion moved out of Kalenburg at 1345 hours 8 April towards Munsen passing through the towns of Wellesingen, Aberlistingen, Niederlistingen, Aber Meiser, Kalder, Immenhausen, Hohen Kirchen, Rothwesten, Simmershausen, Wahnhausen, Wilhelmshausen, Hann Munden, Altmunden, Volkmarshausen, Neider Scheden, and Meensen. The destination was reached at 2240 hours 8 Apr 45.

On 9 April one platoon of light tanks from Company D was attached to Division trains to assist in the guard of Division Headquarters.

At 2145 hours 9 April 1945 orders were received for the continued attack by the 9th Armored Division. The division was to attack with the three combat commands abreast passing through the 2nd and 69th Infantry Divisions to secure a bridgehead over the Elbe River bypassing Leipzig in route. The 14th Tank Battalion led the center column of Combat Command A. The order of march was Company B with the 3rd platoon of Company B, 60th A.I.B. mounted on the tanks, plus the psychological warfare loudspeaker tank; company B 60th AIB mounted in half tracks; Battalion Command section; Assault guns; Motrar platoon; Hq Company; attached engineer platoon; Company A; Company D minus; Service Company and trains; and one platoon of Company D acting as rear security.

At 0630 10 April the column moved out of Meensen towards the line of departure at Reinholterode twenty-five miles distance. At Bademrode a blown out bridge caused the Battalion to bypass to the south. For the next thirty-five miles the Battalion did not meet resistance, upon entering towns white flags were flying in every case.

At 1400 hours however when the head of the column entered Abelen, enemy anti-tank guns opened fire knocking out one company B tank and the attached artillery observers tank. The enemy continued to fire but did not inflict any further damage as Company B immediately pulled into the town, the infantry dismounted providing security in the protection of the buildings. The balance of the Battalion went into position to cover the withdrawal of Company B and the infantry from the town. The assault guns and mortars started firing on the far side of the town. Company B then started its withdrawal using the tank smoke mortar to mask their withdrawal. After the completion of the withdrawal all guns of the Battalion began firing on the town. With the aid of air support the town was worked over for three and one half hours. Finally at 1735 hours the Battalion moved forward through the ruins.

The advance then continued without incident till 2045 hours that evening when Company B ran into a fire fight in the woods north of Hohenebra. At this point the column was turned around and moved to Oberspier for the night, after having gone a distance of 66.7 miles.

At 0715 hours and in the same march order the 14th Tank Battalion passed through the line of departure at Oberspier. The column moved slowly and cautiously, halted outside the town of Dilzingslihen while the air support gave the town a "Working over", as enemy tanks were reported to be in the town. Many bridges encountered were blown and the column picked alternate routes or bypassed as necessary.

1430 hours 11 April saw the Battalion outside the town of Sachsenburg where stiff enemy resistance was encountered. The greater part of the Battalion was spread out over the flat of the valley and came under heavy enemy high explosive artillery fire. The enemy had good observation from the high ground to the front and flanks but the damages suffered were negligible. The Battalion moved back to the town of Kannawurf for the night while dismounted infantry was brought forward to clear the enemy from the high ground beyond Sachsenburg. The Battalion had marched a distance of 23.7 miles during the day and had taken the towns of Oberspier, Westeringel, Kirchengel, Holzengel, Trebra, Niederbosa, Aberbosa, Bilzingsleben, Kannawurf, and Sachsenburg.

The spearheading company was changed to company A on 12 April, and at 0650 hours the Battalion moved out passed through Sachsenburg at 0705. One platoon of Co B 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion was then attached to the Battalion. The column did not halt until just outside the town of Gehofen where white flags were not flying. The lead elements cleared the town with a small fire fight and the column moved on.

During the course of the day three changes in the route were necessary due to blown out bridges.

When the head of the column approached Weissenfels resistance in the form of bazooka fire, small arms and automatic weapons was received from the town itself. The tanks then moved to a supporting line outside the town while the infantry moved forward. Battalion Headquarters moved back to the town of Pittstadt to prepare plans for the next days operations.

During the day the Battalion passed through the towns of Sachsenburg, Heldrungen, Reinsdorf, Cohofen, Donndorf, Wiche, Allerstedt, Memleben, Gross Wangen, Nabra, Zingst, Klein Zingst, Pretita, Reinsdorf, Steigra, Glieme, Baumeraroda, Storkaw, and to Weissenfels.

At 1400 hours 13 April 1945 the Battalion was ordered to lead the south column of CC "A" and to continue the attack. The march order was the same as the preceding day with Company A leading. At 0720 hours the Battalion passed through Pettstadt for Pegau, the day's objective. After marching a distance of 32.8 miles the Battalion closed in Pegau at 1130 hours. Although resistance had been reported ahead the Battalion arrived in Pegau without difficulty by-passing through the towns of Pettstadt, Markrohlitz, Naumberg, Wethau, Gieckau, Schuerdorf, Prieststadt, Stessen, Kostplatz, Krossuln, Teuchern, Runthol, Art, Gossrau, Zenschen, Hohenmaken, Steckelberg, Grossgrinna, Grunau, and Stontzsch to Pegau.

At 1210 hours 14 Apr 45 orders were received from CC "A" to be prepared to move on Kitzscher; the head of the Battalion moved out at 1910 hours in the right column of CC "A" behind the 273rd Infantry. The route was Grietzsch, Drossa, Fedelwitz, and Drossdorf to bivouac at Neukieritzsch closing there at 0210 hours 15 April 45.

When the combat command moved out at 0900 15 Apr 45 the Battalion was placed in combat reserve. Many dual purpose anti-aircraft guns and 88's were encountered by the head of the column. The 14th Tank Battalion did not move out till 1610 hours due to the fact that stiff resistance was encountered at Borna which was bypassed by the Battalion going the way of Lobstadt, Grosszossen, Kleinzossen, Eula, Dittmannsdorf, and Kitzscher where the command post closed at 2045 hours after marching a distance of 9.5 miles.

For the attack on 16 April the 14th Tank Battalion was again ordered to lead the advance of the combat command column to the south the combat command attacking in three columns. The Battalion jumped off at 0630 hours for the town of Grinna to seize the bridge across the Mulde River but the bridge was destroyed when the Battalion arrived at Grinna. The Battalion following orders was to then proceed north to Trebsen to seize the bridge but that was also destroyed. As the columns to the left flank were meeting stiff resistance the Battalion continued on to the final Combat Command objective of Bennowitz. Here to at Bennowitz the bridge was destroyed by demolitions as the head of the column approached the bridge. The Battalion then secured the area until the

remaining troops of the combat command arrived.

Throughout the entire days march only small arms and bazooka fire was encountered. When the Battalion was relieved it returned to Pausitz and thence to Altenheim where the Command Post arrived at 1953 hours. During the day the Battalion had covered a distance of 23.6 miles and the towns of Kitzscher, Steinback, Lauterback, Bernbruch, Gross Bardau, Grimma, Bohnstadt, Trebsen, Walzig, Rothensdorf, Bach, Pausitz, Schmalen, and Bennowitz were taken.

Due to the concentrated push on Leipzig the 2nd Battalion of the 273rd Infantry was relieved of its area of responsibility to take part in cleaning up Leipzig. The 14th Tank Battalion was then ordered to secure the area the Battalion then started moving at 1120 hours moved a distance of three and a half miles to Trebsen. While Hq and Hq company, Company B, Service Company, and Co B 60th A.I.B. remained in Trebsen.

Company A plus a platoon of Company B, 60th AIB were placed in Grimma, Company D at Seelingstadt, the platoon of Company B, 656 Tank Destroyer Battalion was ordered to Grothen, and the anti-tank platoon of Company "B", 60th AIB was ordered to Bidersdorf. The balance of the day was spent in setting up the security for the area.

During the night of 19 April 1945, one of the half-track patrols of Company B, 60th AIB was hit by a bazooka round in a wooded area. Some small arms fire was also encountered, resulting in two men killed and fourteen men wounded. Dis-mounted patrols were sent to these locations.

In as much as there was considerable 88mm flak coming into Grimma from the opposite side of the river and some enemy activity on both sides of the river, Lt. Colonel Engeman organized a task force at 1040 hours on 19 April to clear and harass the enemy held positions along the Mulde River. The Task Force consisted of Company "B", 60th AIB dismounted, 1 platoon of Company "D", Assault Guns of 60th AIB and 14th Tank Battalion, and the mortar platoon. The force returned at 1640 hours after flushing the woods and surrounding towns. No trouble was noted thereafter.

The Battalion was ordered to move to Grimma on 20 April 1945 and moved out at 1552 hours in administrative order. After the short move of 6.8 miles, the Battalion set up security for the night in Grimma.

On 21 April 1945, the Battalion was ordered to move to Grosshermsdorf. The move was made in administrative order. The route followed, was Grimma, Stockheim, Ritzscher, Mittmmsdorf, Berna, Lobstadt, Bergisdorf, Brunsdorf, and Grosshermsdorf. The Battalion after marching a distance of 21.4 miles, closed at Grosshermsdorf at 1730 hours on 21 April 1945.

In this area the Battalion was allowed to rest except for necessary guard and maintenance. At 2300 hours on 23 April 1945, Company "B" of the 60th AIB returned to its parent unit and Company "C", 14th Tank Battalion returned to Battalion control. All personnel of the Battalion were in a carefree mood as rumors were strong that the end of the war was very near and that the Battalion would not see anymore action.

However on 23 April, the Battalion was placed on a 6 hour alert for a possible move. Orders were received, the Company Commanders were called for a meeting, and the Battalion in administrative order, moved out at 0716 hours on 23 April 1945.

At 1430 hours the Battalion closed in the new area after a march of 73.3 miles. Battalion Headquarters and the H q Co were located in Grosscrunstadt; Co A and Co C at Obernif; Co B at Weigendorf; Co D at Edigsdorf; and Service Co at Schmiedorf. At this location the Battalion and the Division were under VIII Corps. Feeling was still prevalent in the Battalion that the war was over as far as the 14th Tank Bn was concerned as the Battalion was in reserve with no prospects of commitment.

During the month of April 1945, the Battalion had not suffered heavily in casualties, having 3 enlisted men killed in action, 1 officer and 1 enlisted man who died as a result of wounds, 2 officers and 21 enlisted men wounded, and injured in action, and 6 enlisted men missing in action. During the month, the Battalion had captured a total of 576 prisoners of war.

The Battalion remained at Grossrumstätt in VIII Corps Reserve until 3 May 1945, at which time Company "C", 14th Tank Battalion was again attached to the 60th AIB and Co "A", 60th AIB was attached to the 14th Tank Bn. Also attached to the 14th Tank Battalion, was one platoon of Co "A", 9th Armored Engineers, and one section 482nd AAA Bn.

Orders were received for the Battalion to move on 3 May. Combat Command "A" was to follow Combat Command "B" in the first column. The non-tactical march was to an assembly area in the vicinity of Weiden. Upon closing in the area, the Battalion was under V Corps control. The Battalion left at 1235 hours, after traveling a distance of 106.3 miles, the Battalion arrived in the new area at 0045 hours, 4 May 1945. The route of march was as follows: Grossrumstätt, Isserstätt, Jena, Burgau, Loboda, Ullersreuth, Hirschberg, Topin, Zschütze, Hof, Ober Katzen, Schwarzenbach, Kirchenlamitz, Marktlothen, Ober Reilau, Kunsiedel, Marktö dwitz, to Mitterteich.

In the new area, the Battalion was part of Combat Command "A", 9th Armored Division, in reserve for the 1st Infantry Division, and the Battalion was given the mission of blocking all movement from the East.

All the Companies of the Battalion were located in Mitterteich except Company "D" which was located in Hünnersreuth. An all around defense was set up.

The morale of the Battalion was very high as it was believed by everyone that the Battalion would not see anymore action as the war was nearly over. A theater, a canteen and other activities were promoted to insure adequate recreational activities.

However on 5 May 1945, all previous ideas that the war was over or the Battalion were immediately discarded, as the Battalion was ordered to lead the daylight attack of the 1st Infantry Division on 6 May, with the objective of sieging and securing Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia.

The Battalion moved out of Mitterteich at 0600 on 6 May in the following order: Reconnaissance Platoon; one platoon Troop "A", 89th Reconnaissance Squadron; Co A plus one platoon Co "A", 60th AIB; Command Section; one platoon Company "A", 9th Engineers; Assault Gun platoon; Mortar Platoon; Headquarters Company; Company "B"; Company "D"; empty half-trucks; essential trains; Medical and Maintenance. The kitchen trucks and trains remained in Mitterteich to await orders.

At 0001 hours 6 May 1945, the V Corps and all its troops became part of the 3rd United States Army.

0650 hours, 6 May 1945 found the Battalion moving into Czechoslovakia. The Battalion passed through the 1st Infantry Division lines moving slowly, and no resistance was met until the town of Kornev. At this point the Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel Engeman, decided that the leading elements were too thinly armored so he ordered Company "A" to lead the attack until one platoon of light tanks from Company "D" could bypass the column and take the lead. For the remainder of the day, all movement was slow due to the numerous obstacles which were encountered. Base and anti-aircraft fire first halted the column, the infantry dismounted and rounded up the enemy. A mile and a half farther down the road, a battery of five 88mm guns knocked out a light tank before the guns were silenced. Near Stienhof and Golddorf, more road blocks were encountered. Fire from the woods beyond Golddorf knocked out a second light tank. Again here, the infantry dismounted and cleaned out the resistance by flanking the wooded section.

Another time, 88mm guns were knocked out by the leading elements.

After disposing of four more road blocks, the column closed at Rudlice, Czechoslovakia at 2145 hours having traveled a distance of 24.7 miles during the day.

At 0615, 7 May, the Battalion continued the attack in the same order as the previous day. By 0700 hours, the column was passing through Falknov headed for Leoket. No resistance was met in Falknov as German troops in the town were ready to surrender. Numerous British and American former prisoners of war were in the town and welcomed the Battalion.

The advance continued until 0945 hours at which time orders were received to cease all forward movement, to remain in place, and to take local security measures. The last shot fired by the Battalion was at 0925 hours. Lead elements of the Battalion had advanced into Czechoslovakia to a point about one half way between Elbogen and Karlsbad.

The orders to cease all forward movement caused rejoicing among all personnel of the Battalion as the orders were interpreted by all hands as meaning the end of the war. First orders placed the Battalion in bivouac in Elbogen, but these were modified and the Battalion less Co "A" moved into bivouac in the town of Chodov and secured the surrounding area. Company "A" moved into North Sedle. During the day, the Battalion had covered a distance of 16.8 miles.

In this area, the Battalion was then faced with the problem of disarming and evacuating thousands of German troops, taking care of displaced persons, and evacuating liberated Allied Prisoners of War. The situation became very acute due to the surge of humanity that was rushing to get out of the way of the advancing Russians who were still fighting resisting 88 men.

Contact with the Russians was first made in Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia and again in Chodov.

The action during May had resulted in 2 enlisted men killed in action and four enlisted men injured in action.

After final clearance of German soldiers except for small numbers, the Battalion was ordered to move to the area surrounding Lichtenfels, Germany to assume occupational duties. On 12 May the Battalion closed in Lichtenfels, Germany. Companies were located as follows; Hq & Hq Co in Lichtenfels; Service Company in Sueseldorf; Co D and Co B in Weisboden; Company C in Redwitz; and Co A in Burgkunstadt.

The Battalion proceeded with house keeping, police of the area, maintenance of road block, processing of prisoners of war, and general occupational duties.

Developments in the area caused Lt. Col. Engeman to move Co D to Michelau and Co B to Staffelstein. Then because of the fact that part of the Battalion's occupation area was given to the 19th Tank Battalion, Co B was moved to Sehney. The Battalion was now occupying the Lichtenfels section of the Landkreis Staffelstein - Lichtenfels.

On 18 July, 1945, Lt. Col. Engeman was transferred from the Battalion and Major John E. Chandler assumed command of the Battalion.

The Division then began to process personnel with sufficient points for return to the States. The transfer of both officer and enlisted personnel finally left the Battalion with a strength of 25 officers and 244 enlisted men who had served with the 14th Tank Battalion. Transfer of high point personnel from the

634th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 68th Tank Battalion, these men filled the Battalion to full strength plus 10% overage.

Service Company was awarded the Distinguished Service Plaque, and the following awards were made as indicated to the following persons:

Distinguished Service Cross

Capt. George P. Soumas, Co A.
1st Lt. Charles W. Miller, Co A
1st Lt. John Grimball, Co A
Sgt. William J. Goodson, Co A
Sgt. Albert B. Taylor, Co D, (Posthumously)

Silver Star

Tec 4 Robert A. Jones, Co A
Opl William E. Richards, Co A
Pvt Berthold Freid, Co A
S/Sgt Lawrence H. Swayne, Co A
Tec 4 Melvin E. Baker, Co A
Opl Fred Lovely, Co A
Opl Clemen Knapp, Co A
Tec 5 James E. Thomas, Co A
2nd Lt. Hugh R. Morrison, Co C
S/Sgt Clarence E. Wallace, Co B
1st Lt. Carl E. Linder, Jr., Co B
2nd Lt. Morris J. Hamilton, Co B
S/Sgt Frank P. Scardelle, Co D
2nd Lt Robert L. Trewer, Co D (Posthumously)
S/Sgt John L. McFarland, Co C
Sgt Luther R. Kolbe, Co C
2nd Lt. Weston G. Cooley, Co B
Lt. Col. Engeman,
Sgt Norman G. Davall, Co D
Tec 4 John Brogovich, Co C
Opl Curtis F. Kachner, Co C
Tec 4 Charles M. Moore, Co A

Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Leonard E. Engeman, Bn H q (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
Major John E. Chandler, Bn Hq
1st Lt. Paul M. Fisher, Co D
Capt Breckan J. Manning, Bn Hq
S/Sgt Nolan E. Smith, Co D
1st Lt Duck, David P., Co B (Missing in Action)
T/Sgt William J. Sweeten, Bn Hq.
Tec 4 Raymond K. Winburn, Co D
Tec 4 Lloyd T. Williams, Co D
Tec 5 William J. Arndorfer, Co D
1st Lt Jerry H. Rubin, Med Det
Pfc Edward J. Armstrong, Med Det
Tec 5 Robert L. Revolt, Med Det.
Tec 4 John E. Donohue, Co D
Opl Francis G. Melver, Co C
Capt Cecil E. Roberts, Bn Hq
Capt George P. Soumas, Co A

Brnze Star (contd)

S/Sgt Lloyd A. Alt, Co C
1st Sgt Joseph W. Matyskiela, Co C
T/Sgt Joseph J. Kecher, Co C
T/Sgt Lewis H. Ping, Co D
2nd Lt Heron J. Thompson, Co C
Pfc Harry R. Anast, Med Det
Tec 5 Clarence A. Williams, Med Det
Cpl Leo J. Sobieralski, Co C
1st Sgt Rudolph F. Cerveny, Co A (Posthumously)
S/Sgt Taylor W. Glick, Med Det.
Sgt Arthur G. Dean, Co B
S/Sgt Holland C. Root, Co B
Pfc Ralph E. Whitaker, Co B
S/Sgt John J. Biras, Co B (Posthumously)
S/Sgt John W. Ward, Co B (Posthumously)
Sgt Charles W. Kyle, H q Co
Tec 5 Dale D. Smedley, Co C
Tec 4 Thurman L. Wilson, Co C
T/Sgt Joseph J. Kecher (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
T/Sgt Robert T. Self, Co B
Tec 4 John Bresovich, Co C
Tec 4 Jessie J. Dowdy, Co D
Pfc Raymond F. Raddatz, Co D
Sgt. Herman C. Davall, Co D (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
S/Sgt Thomas W. Chapman Jr., Co C
Pfc Joseph E. Rosner, Co D
Capt Harold V. Swenson, CCB
S/Sgt Howard J. Woodard, Co A
S/Sgt Harry A. Schmidt, Hq Co
S/Sgt Harley S. Booth Jr., Hq Co
T/Sgt Martin E. Pavlock, Hq Co.
S/Sgt Jack M. Connell, Co A
Tec 4 Clarence J. Williams, Co C
1st Sgt Edwin M. Weaver, Co A
Tec 5 Stanley J. Hakow, Med Det
Pfc Joseph P. Rossetti, Med Det
Pfc Gerald F. Thurstin, Med Det.
CWO George Candee, Personnel
S/Sgt William E. Emsley, Sv Co
1st Lt Guy R. Copeland, Co A
Tec 5 John A. Whitehead, Co A
Pfc Robert W. Gardner, Sv Co
1st Sgt Anthony R. Ziegler, Sv Co
Capt Sidney Cohn, Bn Hq
1st Lt Joseph J. Mickalonis, Co D
Maj Cecil E. Roberts, Bn Hq (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
Maj John E. Chandler, Bn Hq. (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
1st Lt. Jerry H. Rabin, Med Det (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
2nd Lt. Nolan E. Smith, Co D (Oak-Leaf Cluster)
Tec 5 Arthur L. Critchley, Co D, (Posthumously)
Capt Vincent J. Tranfaglia, Co C,
Capt Abrey M. Hurt, Bn H q
Capt Max D. McLaughlin, Bn Hq
Capt Frank M. Simons, Jr., Hq Co
1st Lt Walter P. Roges, Hq Co,
1st Lt Edward D. Tripp, Sv Co

Bronze Star (contd)

1st Lt. Demetri Paris, Co D
1st Lt Stanley J. Dawidczyk, Co C
1st Lt. Charles W. James, Sv Co
1st Lt Donald F. Lynn, Hq Co,
1st Lt. John Magura, Jr., Co B
2nd Lt Charles M. Snyder, Co B
2nd Lt. Michael Burke, Hq Co
WOJG William J. Green, Sv Co
WOJG Carl Rosenbalm, Sv Co
S/Sgt Stephen J. Banks, Co B
S/Sgt Edward G. Cuddy, Co B
Pfc George Emil, Sv Co
Tec 4 Paul O. Ford, Med Det.
M/Sgt Arthur C. Gjertsen, Bn Hq
T/Sgt Sylvia S. Laird, Co B
Sgt William L. Graham, H q Co
T/Sgt Ira Band, Bn Hq,
Tec 4 Everett C. Simmons, Co D
Sgt Earl E. Morrow, Co D
T/Sgt Paul J. Bouda, Bn H q.

On 6 September 1945, the Battalion left Lichtenfels, Germany for Camp San Antonio, France, the assembly area for shipment to the United States. The trip was made with part of Bn Hq, Co D, Co C, and Co A by train, while the rest of Bn Hq, Hq Co, Sv Co, and Co B making the trip by motor transport. The Battalion closed in Camp San Antonio at 2014 hours, 9 September 1945.

On 12 September 1945, Lt. Col. E. O. Peekham, who had been transferred to the Battalion from the 1st Infantry Division, assumed command of the Battalion. The Battalion completed processing and on 17 September 1945, departed by rail for the Calas Staging Area near Marseille, France. Train actually departed at 0115 hours on 18 September 1945. At this time the Battalion moved with a strength of 49 Officers and 2 Warrant Officers and 750 enlisted men.

The Battalion arrived at the Calas Staging Area at 1915 hours on 20 September 1945, was billeted in an area and proceeded with further processing. The departure of the Battalion was delayed due to the fact that the U.S.S. Mount Vernon was sent to Gibraltar for repairs to a damaged propeller. Finally at 1000 hours on 4 October, 1945, the Battalion loaded on trucks and proceeded to the "Port of Kale" at Marseille, and loaded on the U.S.S. Mount Vernon for shipment to the United States. At 1530 hours on 4 October 1945, the U.S.S. Mount Vernon sailed for the United States. The Battalion now had a strength of 49 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 738 enlisted men. The morale of all personnel was of the highest and everyone proceeded to enjoy the voyage.

The voyage was a smooth one except for 8 and 9 October, during which time the ship passed through fairly rough waters, ~~aggravated~~ aggravated by a high wind and occasional rain squalls.

On 10 October 1945, all personnel were informed that the ship would land at Hampton Roads, Virginia during the evening of the 12th of October. Orders for debarkation were issued for all personnel.

Land was first sighted at 1600 hours, 12 October 1945. The boat docked at 2200 hours at Hampton Roads, Virginia. The Bn disembarked and moved to Camp Patrick Henry to be processed. The 14th Tank Battalion and the 9th Armored Division

were inactivated at 2359 hours on 13 October 1945. Personnel were sent to reception and separation centers for processing.

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