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Report date: September 1943-April 1945

Title: United States Army 82nd Airborne Division Reports

Abstract: **Item 2065:** G-2 section report, Italy, September 1943; **Item 2066, Part A and Part B:** Unit history, 17-31 December 1944; **Part B:** Office of HQ Commandant, Unit history, February 1945; **Item 2067, Part A:** Office of Provost Marshall, Chronological log of Bulge mission, 17 December 1944- 22 February 1945; **Part B:** Unit history, April 1945; **Item 2068:** Stories of Sicilian invasion by Jack Thompson, War Correspondent, July-August 1943.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



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WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-867 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM

ITEM NO:

2065

382-9
(22676)
Master

82nd A/B Div., G-2 Section Rpt., Italy

Sep 43

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HEADQUARTERS 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the A. C. of S., G - 2
A. P. O. 469 U. S. Army

21 October 1943

SUBJECT: Campaign Report for Month of September, 1943.

TO : Commanding General, 82d Airborne Division.

1. The work of the G-2 Section, 82d Airborne Division, during the month of September in the Italian campaign was characterized by only two developments, aside from its previous routine. They were:

a. The German interrogation team had its first opportunity to do any interrogation. Reports submitted by Lieuts. Mosler and Bushman were extracted and included in both X Corps and Fifth Army reports.

b. The G-2 Section had opportunity for the first time to make use of the facilities of the Office of Strategic Services. A detachment of Office of Strategic Services agents was given to the Division toward the close of the month, for use in its march on the City of NAPLES. These agents supplied much information relative to destruction caused by the Germans before their departure from the city. This information, in the main, was fairly accurate.

2. During most of the month units of the Division in action were attached to other divisions or similar organizations. Consequently, the G-2 Section had very little activity as a section in combat during September.

3. The Reconnaissance Platoon was not in action during the month as it did not arrive from SICILY until the last day of the month.

T. B. Ketterson
T. B. KETTERSON,
Major, Cavalry,
Asst AC of S, G-2.

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ITEM NO: 2066

382-22

(22672)
Master

82nd Airborne Division Headquarters Commandant, History 17 - 31 Dec 44, Feb 45

HEADQUARTERS 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Headquarters Commandant

AFPO 469, U. S. Army
15 January 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 82d Airborne Division.

In accordance with unnumbered Memorandum, this Headquarters, subject, "Action Against the Enemy Reports", dated 11 January 1945, the following is submitted:

At 1940 hours, 17 December 1944, the Headquarters Commandant was summoned to a meeting at the office of the Chief of Staff at 2030 hours. At this meeting the Headquarters Commandant was ordered to prepare the forward echelon elements of this organization for a move by motor transport to the vicinity of BASTOGNE, BELGIUM. During the night of 17-18 December 1944, sections of Division Headquarters and platoons of Headquarters were alerted; section and platoon equipment was packed for the trip; basic loads of rations and ammunition were procured and issued; vehicles were quickly removed from deadline by minor repairs and loaded with combat organizational equipment. At 0800 hours, 18 December, after only twelve hours notice, this unit was ready to move into combat complete to the last paper clip and 50 caliber machine gun.

At 0955 hours, 18 December the Headquarters serial departed CAMP SISONNE, FRANCE, en route to the designated point as ordered by the Division Movement Order. After passing through towns to Belgium, which only a few hours later were taken by the enemy, the Headquarters Commandant, commanding the Headquarters serial, reported to the Division G-1 at 2215 hours in the vicinity of WERBOMONT, BELGIUM. Orders were received that the unit would bivouac in the vicinity of WERBOMONT and begin operation. The Reconnaissance platoon leader reported to the Division G-2 for orders, and the Defense platoon commander established a defense for the Division Command Post. The Headquarters Commandant reported the arrival of the unit to the Commanding General.

At 1800 hours, 19 December, the Headquarters Commandant, with Defense platoon men, went forward to establish a forward Command Post for the Division Headquarters. This CP was opened at 2030 hours, 19 December. At 1800 hours, 20 December, this forward CP was moved to a point ten miles away at LENEUX, BELGIUM. The Defense platoon was set up in three locations - at the rear Command Post, at the first forward Command Post and at the new forward Command Post. On 21 December the rear Command Post moved from vicinity of WERBOMONT to BRA, BELGIUM. Command Post was set up in the village in a chateau with section located in nearby houses. At this location the unit was in danger of an attack from the rear by the enemy. The unit was, at all times, alert to move from this location.

Capt CLAUSSEN, with kitchen men and equipment arrived in the forward area at 0800 hours, 23 December.

During the period 21-22-23 December the Defense platoon maintained a road block one-half mile southwest of BRA for the protection of the Division Command Post, at the rear.

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On 23 December the Forward Command Post moved from LENEAX to the rear Command Post location at BRA.

At 0600 hours, 24 December, the rear Command Post was alerted to move from BRA to the rear due to the tactical situation. The rear Command Post moved to CHATEAU VILLA, and the forward Command Post moved from BRA to the first forward Command Post location at a point three miles east of WERBOMONT.

Casualties to date total two enlisted men killed in action, one enlisted man seriously wounded in action and two enlisted men in hospital sick.

On 27 December the rear Command Post moved from CHATEAU VILLA to a chateau near NEUVILLE, BELGIUM.

Four days later the New Year, 1945, came to life.

William H. Johnson
WILLIAM H. JOHNSON
Major, CE
Hq Commandant

HEADQUARTERS 82d AIRBORNE DIVISION
Office of the Headquarters Commandant

13 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Unit History.

TO : AC of S., G-3, Headquarters, 82d Airborne Division,
APO 469, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with Daily Bulletin # 37, Paragraph # 3, dated 7 March 45, the Unit History of Headquarters and Headquarters Company is submitted, for the month of February, 1945.

February 1, 1945 Headquarters and Headquarters Company 82d Airborne Division was located at STAVELOT, BELGIUM. At this time the personnel section of Headquarters and Headquarters Company had moved from BASE to STAVELOT. The purpose of moving the personnel section from BASE to STAVELOT, was to make payment to the personnel easier. At this time elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Company were in reserve. February 7, 1945 Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company were alerted to move from STAVELOT at 0400 hours. All Sections were notified to pack their equipment and to load equipment on convoy which was to be formed at 2100 hours. This convoy was to be formed in two (2) serials, one serial was led by the Headquarters Commandant, and the other serial by the ass't Headquarters Commandant. At 2230 hours, February 7, 1945, the 1st sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company with a small detail, moved from STAVELOT to the forward CP.

At 0500, 8 February 1945, coordinating as planned from Headquarters G-3, forward elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Company moved to ROTT, GERMANY to establish the new Division CP. The new CP (in ROTT, GERMANY) was completely set up and working properly at 1200 hours, 8 February 1945, only 30 minutes after elements had arrived.

On February 10, 1945 an element from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, HURTGEN, GERMANY, moved forward to Division CP and forward regimental CP's.

February 10, 1945 thru February 19, 1945 marked only routine duties.

On February 19, 1945 ROTT, GERMANY and HURTGEN, GERMANY CPs were alerted to return to Camp Sissacne, France. HURTGEN elements returned to ROTT on February 20, 1945. On February 21, 1945 personnel moved by truck to AACHEN, GERMANY, when they en-trained at 1245 hours. Equipment convoy with guard, moved from HURTGEN GERMANY to Camp Sissacne, France, at 0800 hours, February

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21, 1945, arriving Camp Sissonne, France at 1800 hours, February 21, 1945. Personnel and equipment from STAVELOT, BELGIUM moved to Camp Sissonne at February 23, 1945. All personnel had closed in on Camp Sissonne by February 26, 1945.

February 26th to February 28th marked reorganization and routine duties in Camp Sissonne, France.

Robert B. Patterson
ROBERT B. PATTERSON,
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding Officer.

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ITEM NO: 2067

382-28

(1959)
Master

82nd Airborne Division - Provost Marshal - Unit Report

17 Dec 44-22 Feb 45
Apr 45

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL
82d Airborne Division
APO 469

27 Feb. 1945

CHRONOLOGICAL LOG

OF

BULGE MISSION

Sunday, 17th Dec. 1944:

1. At 2130 hours at Sissonne, France, Lt. Col. Ireland notified Lt. Sneiderman that the entire Combat Echelon of the 82d Airborne Division would move by truck to the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium.

2. At 2300 hours Sgt. LeVec, Pfc. Sciars, Cpl (then Private) Balch left Sissonne with a small advance party in command of Lt. Col. Ireland to establish assembly area, vic. Bastogne.

Monday and Tuesday Dec. 18, 19, 1944

1. At 0630 hours, two M.P. details left Sissonne, France to post signs from:

a. Sissonne to assembly area: Lt. McGillivray, Cpl. (then pfc) Nichols.

b. Suipees to assembly area: Sgt. (then S/Sgt) Hovick, Sgt. Padilla, Pfc. Gillman.

2. At 0900 hours the main body of the M.P. Platoon left Sissonne France under command of Lt. Sneiderman in advance of Convoy which started at 0935. This detail left M.P.s at strategic intersections on route and arrived in vic. of Webermont assembly area at 1800 hours.

3. At 1830 hours convoys from Suipees camp began to close in new assembly area.

4. At 181830 to 190800 Convoys continued to close in assembly area. Personnel detrucked and trucks were released. Continuous traffic jam at Webermont crossroads.

5. 190800. P. M. Office established at Webermont Cross roads W. collecting point established 100 yards south on Rt. 15.

6. Two traffic posts were established at Webermont.

7. Entire day's activities consisted of routing units to respective areas.

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DATE 11/15/50 BY [signature]

20 Dec. 1944

1. Location: Webermont, Belgium.
2. 1st P.W. from 505th Precht Inf.
3. Lt. J. W. McGraw. joined M.P. Platoon in Belgium.
4. Civilians checked with CIC personnel.

21 Dec. 1944

1. 2 P.W. collected, 3 outlaw civilians.
2. Traffic continued to be heavy.
3. P. M. Office and P. W. moved to Bra, Belgium.
4. Traffic posts- Straggler points established.

22 Dec. 1944

1. Traffic points established at Hablemont and Snamont, Traffic continued to be very heavy.
2. Stragglers from 106th Div., 7 Div. and 28th Div. very numerous.
3. 24 P. W. collected.

23 Dec. 1944

1. Location Bra;
2. Traffic posts at Hablemont, Snamont and Bray and Lierneux. Traffic very heavy.
3. Stragglers from 106, 7th Armored, and 28th Div. very numerous.
4. 4 P.W. collected.

24 Dec. 1944

1. Moved to Ville(Junction Rt. 23 and 29)
2. Traffic points at Snamont, Hablemont, Ville and Lierneux.
3. 2 P.W. collected.
4. 10 stragglers collected.

25 Dec. 1944 Christmass-(Turkey dinner served at 1600 hours
Candy and Cigarettes for all.)

1. Locations: Rear: Ville, Forward: Hablemont.
2. Traffic lighter at Snamont, Traffic post ~~discontinued~~.
3. Traffic heavy at Hablemont(Forward); light elsewhere in Div. Area.
4. 24 P.W. Collected.

26 Dec. 1944

1. Locations: Rear: Ville, Forward: Hablemont.
2. Traffic and Straggler Posts at Hablemont and at Ville.
3. Lt. McGillivary returned to Sissonne Base.
4. 20 P.W. Collected.
5. P.W. and P.M. Office and Rear C.P. Moved to Chevron, Belgium.

27 Dec. 1944

1. Locations: Rear: Chevron, Forward: Hablemont.
2. Traffic and Straggler Posts at Hablemont and Chevron.
3. 13 P.W. collected.
4. 2 Stragglers collected.
4. Road Patrols in Div. Area from 0900 to 2400 hours.

28. Dec. 1944

1. Locations: Rear: Chevron, Forward: Hablemont.
2. Traffic light.
3. Traffic and straggler points at Hablemont and Chevron.
4. 33 P W. collected.
5. Major McCollum reported for duty.
6. 1 straggler.
7. Motor Patrols in Div. Area from 0900- 2400 hours.

29 Dec. 1944

1. Locations: Forward: and Rear: Chevron.
2. Traffic light.
3. Traffic and Straggler point at Hablemont and Chevron, and on Rt. 23(Lt. Platte)
4. Forward C.P. moved to Chevron
5. 4 P. W. Collected
6. Motor Patrol 0900-2400, in division area.

30 Dec. 1944

1. Traffic continued light.
2. Still at Chevron.
3. Traffic and Straggler post at Hablemont, Chevron and Rt 23.(Lt. Platt.
4. P.W. Collected 14.
5. Motor Patrol 0900-2400 in Div. area.

31. Dec. 1944

1. Location: Chevron.
2. Traffic continued light.
3. Traffic and straggler post at Hablemont, Chevron and on Route 23(Lt. Platte)
4. P. W. Collected 1.
5. Motor Patrol 0900-2400 in Div. Area.

1 Jan. 1945.

1. Traffic increased.
2. Traffic and Straggler Post at Hablemont, Chevron and Rt. 23(Lt. Platte).
3. P. W. Collected 25.
4. Installations at Chevron.
5. Motor Patrol 0900-2400 in Div. area.

2nd Jan 1945

1. Location of Administration: Chevron.
2. Forward C.P. Moved to Haute Bordeaux(1 C.P. Post and 1 traffic Post, and Straggler Point.
3. Traffic and Straggler posts at Chevron and Hablemont.
4. P.W. Inclosure at Chevron.
5. Traffic Posts on Route of move-5.
6. P. W. Collected 3.
7. Motor Patrol 0900-2400 in Div. Area.

3rd. Jan. 1945

1. Administration-Chevron.
2. Forward C.P. at Haute Bordeaux, forward P.W. Collection point established there.
3. Traffic and straggler post maintained along with P. W. Inclosure at Chevron.
4. Traffic point at Hablemont.
5. Traffic increased and roads which are covered badly with Ice and Snow have been graveled.
6. P. W. Collected 75.
7. Motor Patrol 0900-2400 in Div. Area.

4th Jan 1945.

1. Administration at Chevron.
2. Traffic same- roads covered with fresh snow-slippery.
3. Forward C.P. at Haute Bordeaux. C.P., Traffic, Straggler and forward P.W. collection point installations.
4. Traffic post pulled at night to assist in P.W. work.
5. P. W. Collected 556 Total to date 726
6. Stragglers collected and returned to unit 53 total to date 53.

5 Jan 1945

1. Administration at Chevron.
2. Traffic conditions improved.
3. Forward C.P. at Haute Bordeau, with C.P. Traffic, Straggler and Forward P. W. Collection Point installations.
4. Traffic posts used at night for P.W. guard.
5. P.W. Collected 634 Total to date 1360.
6. Stragglers collected 26, total to date 79.

6 Jan 1945

1. Administration at Chevron.
2. Roads graveled, traffic increased from yesterday.
3. Forward C.P. at Haute Bordeaux with forward P.W. collection Point, C. P. and Straggler and Traffic installations.
4. P. W. reorganized, and set up on a three shift basis, with use of the P.E. Escort guard.
5. 24 hour Road Patrol.
6. P. W. Collected 226. Total 1586.

7 Jan 1945

1. Administration at Chevron.
2. Roads and traffic same as on preceding day.
3. Advance-Forward P.W. Collection Point established at Abre Fontaine.
4. Forward C.P., Straggler and Traffic installations in addition to P.W. collection Point at Haute Bordeaux.
5. 24 hour Road Patrol.
6. P. W. Collected 174. Total to date 1760.

8 Jan 1945

1. Administration at Chevron.
2. Roads and traffic same.
3. Forward, Forward Traffic, Straggler, and P.W. collection point installations at Abre Fontaine.

8 Jan 1945(Cont.)

4. Forward C.P., P.W., Traffic, and Straggler installations at Haute Bordeaux.

5. C.P., Traffic, and Straggler Installations as well as P. W. Inclosure at Chevron.

6. 24 hour road Patrol in Division Area.

7. P. W. Collected 698. Straggler 11.
Total 2458 Total 91

9 Jan 1945

1. Administration at Chevron.

2. Forward Posts Same.

3. Posts at Chevron Same.

4. Roads and traffic medium.

5. Road Patrol same.

6. P. W. Collected 3 Stragglers 20.
Total 2461 Total 111

10 Jan 1945

1. Administrative group moved to Sedoz.

2. C.P., Straggler installations established at Sedoz.

3. Forward Posts same.

4. P. W. Collected 52 Stragglers 0.
Total 2513 Total 111

11 Jan 1945

1. All troops moved to Sedoz.

2. Posts: 2 C.P. Posts, Straggler point.

3. P. W. Collected 38 Stragglers 10

Total ~~XXXX~~ 2551 Total ~~121~~

12 Jan. 1945

1. Troops remain at Sedoz.

2. Posts: 2 C.P. Posts, 1 Information Room set up at C.P. Straggler point, Road Patrol, 1 in Div. Area 0800-2000

3. Stragglers: 26 Total-~~X~~ 147

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Period 13th Jan. 1945, to 24th Jan. 1945 Incl.

1. Troops remain in Rest Area in and around Sedoz.
2. Posts maintained during this "rest period" by M.P.:

Information Post,
2 C.P. Posts.
1 War Plans Post.
Road Patrol 0800-1800, within the Division area.
2 Straggler Points
Division Stockade for General Prisoners.

25 Jan. 1945

1. Administrative group remains at Sedoz.
2. Base Group and Forward C.P. Group moved to Stavelot, Belgium.
3. Posts maintained 2 C.P., 1 Inf. 1 War Plans, Straggler point. Division Stockade for General Prisoners. Security post and Straggler Point established at Stavelot.
4. Roads posted for movement of Division troops.

26 Jan. 1945

1. Administrative group joined the Base group at Stavelot.
2. C.P. closed at Sedoz.
3. Forward C.P. group set up at Hunnage.
4. Posts:
 - a. Base: CP and 2 traffic Posts, one at Stavelot and one at Trois Points, General Prisoner Stockade.
 - b. Forward- Traffic, C.P. and P.^w. Collection and Interrogation points established.
 - c. Two C.P. Security posts established at Non Ceveaux.

27 Jan. 1945

1. Adm. base at Stavelot.
2. Champion C.P. at Born.
3. Posts: 1 traffic, 1 C.P. and 1 General Prisoner Stockade at Stavelot. 1 C.P. P.^w. Stockade and evacuation point Forward/
4. 18 E.M. from 214th M.P. Co. being used by M.P. PLAT.
8 E.M. from 1st Army M.P. P.E. Esct. Gd. used in evacuation of P.^w. to Stavelot Railhead.

27 Jan. 1945 (Cont)

5. P. W. collected: 0 Stragglers 16
Total 0 Total 16

28. Jan. 1945

1. Administration Stavelot (717010 F. and B. 1/50,000)

2. Forward 886922 Medell (Germany 1/50,000)

3. Posts same except for overnight P. W. at Stavelot.

4. P. W. collected 27 Stragglers 30
Total 27 Total 56

29 Jan. 1945

1. Locations: Adm. Stavelot., Champion Medell. Champion Forward (936952) Werth.

2. Base Posts Same. Champion: C.P., Traffic, Straggler and P. W. Installations. Forward: C.P. Traffic, P. W. Collection Point, 2 escort Guards groups to Regt. Combat teams.

3. Pvt. Woodard killed at Champion Forward.

4. P. W. Collected 389, Total ⁴¹⁶~~389~~; Stragglers 25, Total 71

30 Jan 1945

1. Location: Base: Stavelot; Champion : Medell; Forward Werth.

2. Posts same.

3. P. W. collected 348, Total ⁷⁶⁴~~348~~; Stragglers 17, Total 88

31. Jan 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot; Champion Holzheim.

2. Posts: Base same; Champion: C.P., Traffic, P.W. and Straggler installations. Prisoner esct. Gds to Regt. C.T.s.

3. P. W. collected 245, Total ¹⁰⁰⁹~~245~~, Stragglers 17, Total 105.

1 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot; Champion; Holzheim

2. Posts: Same both Forward and Rear.

3. P. W. 20, Total ¹⁰²⁹~~20~~; Stragglers 15, Total 120.

2 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot; Champion: Holzheim.
2. Posts: Same both forward and Rear.
3. P. W. Collected 303, Total ~~1332~~¹³³²; Stragglers 13 Total 133

3 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Same.
2. Posts: Same.
3. P. W. 257, Total ~~1585~~¹⁵⁸⁹, Stragglers 16, Total 149.

4 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Same.
2. Posts: Same.
3. P. W. 27/ Total ~~1612~~¹⁶¹⁶, Total for Bulge to date ~~4166~~⁴¹⁶⁷.
Stragglers: 12, Total 161.

5 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Same.
2. Posts: Same.
3. P. W. 0 Stragglers 15, 176.
4. Champion(New) C.P. being established at Vielsalm, Belgium.
5. Road routes marked from Holzheim to Vielsalm.

6 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot; Champion Forward: Vielsalm.
2. Posts: Champion: C.P., Traffic, Situations Room, Generals Home, General, Prisoners Stockade, Straggler Collection Point.
Champion Forward: C.P. Traffic and Straggler installations.
3. Stragglers. 21, total 197

7 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot, Belgium.
Forward: Rott, Germany
Rear: Vielsalm, Belgium

2. Posts and Activities.

- a. Stavelot same
- b. Traffic directional posts established and roads posted from Vielsalm to Rott, Germany.
- c. C.P., Traffic, Straggler and P.W. installations established at Rott Germany.

3. Division Convoys moved to Rott, Germany.

4. P.W. Collected 0 Total ~~4328~~⁴¹⁶⁷, Stragglers 13, Total 210.

8 Feb. 1945

1. Locations:

- a. Base: Stavelot, Belgium.
- b. Champion: Rott, Germany.

2. Posts and Activities:

- a. Remainder of Div. Troops moved to Rott, Germany.
- b. Posts at Stavelot, Belgium Same.
- c. C.P., Traffic, Straggler, P.W. installations at Rott, Germany.
- d. P. W. Collection and Traffic Post established at Hurtigan.

3. Numerous groups of stragglers returning from hospitals began to arrive. These stragglers were sent to their unit with least possible delay. (Note: These groups of stragglers continued to arrive daily from this time)

4. P. W. collected 0, Total ~~4328~~⁴¹⁶⁷, Stragglers 16, Total 226.

9th February 1945

1. Locations:

- a. Administrative Base: Stavelot, Belgium
- b. Champion: Vicinity of Rott, Germany
- c. Forward: Vicinity of Hurtigan, Germany.

2. Posts and Activities:

- a. Stavelot: Same.
- b. Champion: Same
- c. Forward: Same

3. Traffic and Straggler and P.W. Collection Points established at:

- a. Bergstein, Germany.
- b. Harscheidt, Germany.

4. P. W. Collected: ~~7~~, Total ⁴¹⁷⁴ ~~4393~~; Stragglers 18, Total 244.

10 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot, Belgium
Champion: Vic. of Rott, Germany
Forward: Vic. of Hurtigan, Germany.

2. Posts and Activities:

- a. Posts and M.P. installations same.

3. P. W. Collected: 12, Total ⁴¹⁸⁶ ~~4204~~; Stragglers 17, Total 261.

11 Feb. 1945

1. Locations: Base: Stavelot, Belgium.
Champion: Vic. of Rott, Germany.
Forward: Vic. of Hurtigan, Germany.

2. Posts and Activities:

- a. Posts and M.P. installations same.

3. P. W. collected this date: 2, total ⁴¹⁸⁸ ~~4207~~; Stragglers 11
Total: 272.

12. Feb. 1945

1. Locations:
- a. All same.
2. Posts and Activities;
- a. Posts and M.P. installations same.

3. P. W. collected: 0 Total: ~~285~~⁴¹⁸⁸; Stragglers: 13, Total 285.

13 Feb. 1945:

1. Locations:

a. All same.

2. Posts and activities:

a. Posts and M.P. installations same.

3. E. W. collected 0, Total: ~~306~~⁴¹⁸⁸; Stragglers: 21;
Total: 306.

14 Feb. 1945:

1. Locations:

a. All same.

2. Posts and activities:

a. Posts and installations same.

3. P. W. collected: 0, Total: ~~326~~⁴¹⁸⁸; Stragglers: 20;
Total: 326.

15 Feb. 1945:

1. Locations:

a. All same.

2. Posts and activities;

a. Posts and installations same.

b. 10 E.M. of Div. Arty Band replaced 4 E. M. from
214th M.P. Co..

3. P. W. collected: 1; Total: ~~347~~⁴¹⁸⁹; Stragglers 21, total
347.

16 Feb. 1945

1. Locations:

a. All Same.

2. Posts and activities.

a. Posts and installations same.

3. P. W. Collected: 0, Total ~~1116~~⁴¹⁸⁹; Stragglers 14, Total 361.

17 Feb. 1945.

1. Locations:

a. All same.

2. Posts and activities.

a. Posts and installations same.

3. Troops directed to assembly area.

4. Numerous stragglers directed to their proper areas.

5. Totals: Prisoners of War for Bulge: ~~4300~~⁴¹⁸⁹.

Total Stragglers 361.

18 Feb. 1945.

1. Locations:

a. All same.

2. Posts and activities:

a. Posts and installations same.

3. Assembly completed.

4. Stragglers directed to their proper areas.

19 Feb. 1945.

1. Locations:

a. Base: Stavelot, Belgium.

b. Champion: Vicinity of Rott.

2. Lt. Snederman left Rott with small detail to mark route and to post crucial traffic points for return from Rott to Sissonne.

a. Highways marked.

3. Forward groups of units begin to move to French Base Camp.

4. Numerous stragglers directed to their proper station.

20 Feb. 1945.

1. Base including Division Stockade left Stavelot for Sissonne.

2. Champion moves from Rott to Sissonne.

21. Feb. 1945.

1. Convoys continue to arrive at Sissonne.

22 Feb. 1945

1. Final convoys arrive Sissonne.

2. Last of Military Police Platoon arrive Sissonne, France.

F. G. McCOLLUM
Major, F. A.
Provost Marshal

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL
82d Airborne Division
APO 469.

9 May 1945

UNIT HISTORY

1 April 1945

1. S/Sgt. LeVec left Sissonne, France with three other E.M. for Modrath, Germany, as advance detail at about 0930 hours.
2. Lt. McGillivray left three vehicles, four E.M. to each vehicle as further advance detail for road marking and traffic direction.
 - a. Roads marked to Weiden, Germany.
 - b. Sgt. Robertson left in charge of traffic detail at Durant, Germany.
 - c. Traffic clearing station established at Modrath.

2. April 1945

1. Cpl. Anderson with three other E.M. left Sissone at 0330 to notify Military Police along the route of the scheduled times of Convoys.
2. Detail in charge of Sgt. Padilla left Sissonne, to mark Camp Suippes route 'C' to Weiden at 0330.
3. C.P. and C.P. Traffic posts established at Weiden, Germany.
4. Escort Details for convoys of units left Sissonne to escort respective units. Time: 0400 to 0700 .
5. After unit convoys had cleared I.P. Major McCollum left Sissonne to check convoys en route and in addition to check hiway markings.
6. Traffic clearing station maintained at Modrath.
 - a. Convoys escorted from Clearing station to respective assembly areas.
7. Motor Patrols in 'Jeeps' and Motorcycles thru Weiden, Modrath and Cologne for escort of Stragglers to respective units.
8. Remainder of troops arrive at Weiden, Germany,

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3 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic Posts at Weiden
2. Straggler point and P.W. established at Weiden, Germany.
3. Motor vehicle and motorcycle patrols from Stolburg (Railhead) for escorting to assembly area of troops coming in by train.
4. Traffic control Station at Modrath.
5. Motor vehicle and motorcycle patrols in Eoligne
 - a. Straggling trucks directed to proper units.

4 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic posts at Weiden, Germany.
2. Traffic Posts at Modrath and Durant relieved and brought to Weiden, Germany.
3. Motor Patrols in Division area from 0800 until 1800 hours.
 - a. Units contacted for orientation of Patrols.
4. 1st P.W. captured. 4 misplaced persons evacuated to misplaced persons depot.
5. 1st arrest for Fraternization (Possibly assault with intent to commit rape)

5. April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic Post at Weiden, Germany.
2. Motor Patrols to unit areas 0800 -2000 hrs.
 - a. Units contacted
 - b. Liaison contacts established with Challenge and Cider C.I.C.
 - c. Contacts established with misplaced persons depots.
3. Provost Marshal contacted XV Army controlled Misplaced persons depot.
 - a. Aiding in reorganization of depots
 - b. Assisting in the establishment of a definite policy of handling D.P. personnel, and in addition the procedure.

3. Further contacts maintained with Military Government.
"City Jail"(Civilian Prison) procedure established for the arrest of Civilian Criminals.
 - a. Arrest forms attached.
5. Documents to be carried by civilians determined and this information given to patrols.
 - aa. Temporary Registration certificate.(attached)
 - b. Exemption(from restriction)(attached)
6. P.M. Office moved to new location near C.P. In Weiden.
7. C.P. moved to new location in Weiden.
8. P.W. collected today 0. Misplaced persons 4.

6 April 1945

1. C.P. and C.P. traffic Posts at Division C.P. at Weiden.
2. Motor Patrols to units and General police work throughout Division area.
3. Continued negotiation with Army D.P. Depots on policy and organization.
4. Arrangements made with units' P.W.s for collection and transportation of P.W. to Division P.W.
 - a. Unit will call P.M.
 - b. Guard sent from M.P. Plat.
 - c. P.W. brought to Div. P.W. Inclosure.
5. Policy as established by P.M. in regards to German civilians entering houses now occupied by Division Offices and personnel
 - a. Civilians must go to the Burgmaster of the City of Cologne.
 - b. Then the Civilian will clear thru M.G.and Pass will be "O'K ed" by Lt. Hook, if entrance is necessary.
 - c. Civilians will then come to M.P. Hq. for approval by this office.
 - d. Guards of respective unit will be notified and person will be accompanied by guard throughout period of entrance.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT
OF GERMANY

MILITÄRREGIERUNG-BEFREIUNG
MILITARY GOVERNMENT
EXEMPTION

A

Datum der Ausstellung
Date Issued

Wird unwirksam am
Expires on

Name
Name

Anschrift
Address

Wohnort
Town

Ausweiskarte Klasse
Identity Card Type

Nr.
No.

Unterschrift des Inhabers
Signature of Holder

ANWEISUNGEN: Diese Befreiung ist im Namen der Militärregierung ausgestellt worden. Sie ist nicht übertragbar, darf nicht abgeändert oder vernichtet werden und ist nur gültig in Verbindung mit der Ausweiskarte des Inhabers. Der Verlust dieser Karte muss der Polizei gemeldet werden. Gefundene oder unwirksam gewordene Karten müssen an die ausstellende Behörde zurückgegeben werden.

INSTRUCTIONS: This exemption is issued by Military Government. It is not transferable, must not be altered or destroyed, and is only valid when used in conjunction with the holder's identity card. The loss of this card must be reported to the police. If found, or on expiration of validity, this card must be returned to the issuing authority.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION

Zeitweilige Registrierungskarte

Name Alter Geschlecht
Name Age Sex
Ständige Adresse
Permanent Address
Jetzige Adresse
Present Address

Beruf
Occupation

Der Inhaber dieser Karte ist als Einwohner von der Stadt
vorschriftsmäßig registriert und ist es ihm oder ihr strengstens verboten, sich von diesem Platz zu entfernen.
Zu widerhandlung dieser Maßnahme führt zu sofortigem Arrest. Der Inhaber dieses Scheines muß diesen Ausweis
stets bei sich führen.

The holder of this card is duly registered as a resident of the town of
and is prohibited from leaving the place designated. Violation of this restriction will lead to immediate arrest.
Registrant will at all times have this paper on his person.

Legitimations-Nummer
Identity Card Number

Name and Rank
Mil Gov Officer, U. S. Army

Unterschrift des Inhabers
Signature of Holder

Right Index Finger

Datum der Ausstellung
Date of Issue

(Dies ist kein Personal-Ausweis und erlaubt keine Vorrechte.)
(This is not an identity document and allows no privileges.)

FORM NO. 100
1953-10-1

FR : Das Alliierte Militärgericht

TO : Allied Military Court

Dieses Formular ist auszufüllen und dem Gericht zu überreichen, wenn
gegeben werden kann, wenn nach dem Tode eines Gefangenen ein Verbrechen
begangen wurde.

This Form must be completed and returned to the Court at the
time you deliver a certified affidavit.

Name des Gefangenen:
Name of Prisoner:

Anschrift der Angehörigen:
Address of Prisoner:

Identifikationskarte:
Identification Card:

Ort der Vernehmung:
Place of arrest:

Bezeichnet:
Date:

1953
10 03

Einzelheiten des Verfalls:
Details of incident leading to death:

Form 100 (Rev. 1-1-41)
Witnesses with addresses:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Proceedings/standards
Property available as evidence:

Beschreibung:
Description:

Name des deutschen Polizeibeamten dem der Gefangene übergeben wurde:
Name of German Policeman to whom prisoner has been delivered:

Behörde: _____ Ort: _____
Authority: _____ Location: _____

Sie sind angehalten den Gefangenen in der Zeit der Vernehmung
for einem militärischen Zwecke Verhandlung, von einer bestimmten Verzicht
zwecks Bestrafung durch die deutsche Polizei, als auch militärischen
zwecks Vernehmung, zu halten. Sie sind angehalten, die Vernehmung

You are instructed to detain the prisoner in a place of military custody
for penalty to be imposed upon him by the military government, or
detention for _____ by the army.

Name des Militärpersonals
Verhältnis zum Gefangenen (Bezeichnung):

Name of Military personnel (Relationship to prisoner)
(Print in block letters)

Organization:
Organization:

30 (continued)
11/1/41

über
für

6. Pass system established for 'working civilians' in GP
 - a. After screening and written approval by Div. C.I.C. passes will be issued to persons by this office.
 - b. Entry will be made only under guard of respective section using laborer.
7. Persons listed who may park within the Division C.P.
8. P.W. Collected 60 Stragglers 3 D.P. 4.

7th April 1945

1. C.P. Guard and C.P. traffic Post maintained.
2. Information Post established at C.P.
3. P.W. and General Prisoner Stockade maintained.
4. Motor Patrols throughout the Division Area from 0800 hours to 2200 hours.
 - a. Special Motor and Motorcycle Patrols from 1900 hours to 2130 hours for the enforcement of curfew.
5. P.W. Collected: 12; Stragglers 0 Mis. Persons 0.

8 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic Posts at Division C.P.
 - a. Information post within C.P.
2. Motor Patrols continued same.
3. M.P. alerted to prohibit use of German vehicles by soldiers.
 - a. No permits to be issued for such use.
4. P.W. Collected: 1. Displaced person 37.

9 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic Posts and Information post at Division C.P.
2. Motor Patrols continued same.
3. Lt. Sneiderman took a special detail to Frechen on "Negro-German Disturbance". When he arrived he found that the 4336 Q.M. Troops(C) milling in the streets. Capt. Alexander contacted and he assured the M.P. that he would post proper

proper guards and control troops.

4. Further attention placed on civilians moving from town to town without authorization.
5. P.W. Collected 3. Stragglers 1.

10 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic and Information Posts at Division C.P.
2. Motor Patrols continued same.
3. Report from Capt Sloat M/G Frechen on additional "Negro Incidents" on night of 9 April.
 - a. Additional investigation made by P.M. Office .
 - b. Preliminary Report to C/S. and Corps (XXII)
 - c. Investigation continued by XXII Corps.
4. Continuous check maintained on D.P. and Germans.
5. P.W. Collected 0, Stragglers 0

11 April 1945

1. C.P. and Traffic and Information Post at Division C.P.
2. Motor Patrol continued same.
3. Location of New Units in the Area conducted by M.P.
 - a. G-1, to be notified of units in area.
4. P. W. Collected-8 Stragglers 0.

12. April 1945

1. C.P. and traffic and Information Post at Division C.P.
2. Motor Patrols continued same.
3. P.W. Collected 18 Stragglers 1.

13 April 1945

1. Troops and Installations still at Weiden, Germany.
2. C.P., C.P. Traffic and Information post at Division C.P.
3. Motor Patrols continued same.
4. P.W. Collected: 24 Stragglers 6.

14 April 1945

1. Troops and installations at Weiden, Germany.
2. C.P., C.P. Traffic and Information post at Division C.P.
3. Motor Patrols continued same.
 - a. Increased emphasis placed upon the identification and circulation of civilians within the Division area.
 - b. Stress placed upon the handling of D.P.
4. Military Police Platoon alerted for possible move.
5. P.W. Collected 16, Stragglers 0.
6. M.P.s in group attend commemoration service for President F.D. Roosevelt in a group at Div. Hq. at approximately 1030 A.M.

Period of April 15 to 21 April 1945 Incl.

1. Troops and installations at Weiden, Germany.
2. C.P., C.P. Traffic and Information posts at Division C.P.
3. Motor Patrols continued same.
 - a. During this period due to the "fall" of the "Ruhr Pocket" the influx of German soldiers disguised as civilians increased

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prisoners Collected</u>	<u>Stragglers</u>
15 April 45	10	1
16 April 45	13	2
17 April 45	18	0
18 April 45	83	0
19 April 45	247	1
20 April 45	106	0
21 April 45	35	0

22 April 1945

1. Troops and Installations at Weiden, Germany.
2. G.P., C.P. Traffic and Information posts at Division G.P.
3. Motor Patrol areas enlarged to cover "New" Division Patrol Area.
 - a. Continued influx of German soldiers "Falsely discharged".
 - (1) These are arrested and placed under P.W. status
 - (2) Special emphasis placed upon the duty of the Patrols to maintain periodic contact with P.M. Office.
 - (a) By Radio
 - (b) By Telephone where radio contact impossible.
4. P. W. Collected 43.

23 April 1945

1. Troops and installations same.
2. Posts and motor patrol same
3. P.W. collected 81.
4. Patrols alerted for apprehension of Field Marshal Modell, believed to have escaped from the Ruhr Pocket.

24. April 1945

1. Troops and installations same.
2. Posts and motor Patrol same.
3. Total P.W. todate this campaign: 874

25 April 1945

1. Troops and installations same
2. Detail in command of Lt. Sneiderman left Weiden, Germany, to establish advance traffic collection point at Holdenstadt, Germany. Detail left at approximately 0600hrs.

3. Remainers of troops alerted for immediate move to new area.

26 April 1945

1. Traffic Control point established at Holdenstadt, Germany.
2. Forward group of M.P. Platoon left Cologne and established a staging area at Weidenbruch, Germany.
3. Main group of troops remain with existing installations at Weiden.

27 April 1945

1. Forward C.P. established at Hohenzathen, Germany.
 - a. C.P. guard assumed.
 - b. P.W. Inclosure established.
 - c. Straggler and information office maintained.
2. Traffic control station maintained at Holdenstadt.
 - a. Information post.
 - b. Convoy escorts to respective unit assembly areas.
3. Staging area maintained at Weidenbruch.
4. Main body of troops remain with existing installations at Weiden, Germany.
5. Convoys of the day escorted to their proper destination.
6. P. W. collected: 0

28 April 1945

1. Forward C.P. maintained at Hohenzathen.
 - a. C.P. Guard.
 - b. P. W. Inclosure.
 - c. Straggler and information office.

2. Traffic control station maintained at Holdenstadt.
 - a. Information post
 - b. Convoy escorts to respective units.
3. Railhead traffic control station established at Lehrte, Germany.
 - a. Arrangements made for the proper care of incoming troops.
4. Staging area maintained at Weidenbruch, Germany.
5. Route posted for moving of G.P. from Hohenzathen to Eblekede.
6. Convoys of the day escorted to respective assembly areas.
7. Main body of M.P. arrive at Hohenzathen.
8. P. W. collected: 11.

29 April 1945

1. C.P. moved from Hohenzathen to Eblekede.
 - a. C.P. Guard established.
 - b. Main body of M.P. move to Eblekede.
 - c. P. W., straggler and information office established.
 - d. Straggler post left at Hohenzathen until all sections had cleared.
2. New routes marked from traffic control station at Holdenstadt to new assembly areas in the vicinity of Eblekede, Germany.
 - a. Information post.
 - b. Convoy escorts to respective units.
3. Railhead traffic control station maintained at Lehrte.
4. Major McCollum arrived at Eblekede.
5. P. W. evacuation squad formed and sent across the Elbe river with assault troops.
6. P. W. Collected: 18

30 April 1945

1. Troops and installations at Bleckede, Germany.
 - a. P.M. office
 - b. C.P. Guard
 - c. Traffic control.
 - d. P. W. Escort guards with radio communications to P.M. Office located at strategic locations on south side of Elbe.
2. Lt. McGillivray with Staging area group arrive at Bleckede.
3. Traffic control established at bridge across Elbe river and at strategic crossroads north of Elbe.
 - a. Bridge opened for traffic at approximately 2000 hours.
 - b. Traffic rigidly controlled on bridge.
4. Forward C.P. squad moves across Elbe to establish forward C.P. Guard.
5. Forward P. W. Collection point established north of Elbe, immediately after the opening of the bridge.
6. Traffic control at Holdenstadt and Railhead traffic control at Leherte.
7. P. W. Collected: 582 Total : 1485

F. G. McCOLLUM
Major, F.A.
Provost Marshal

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-867 PENTAGON

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ITEM NO: 2068

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83rd A/B Div, Stories of Sicilian Invasion written by Jack
Thompson; War Correspondent
Jul, Aug 45

S.M.
5 JULY 43

(Following are the first stories on the invasion of Sicily to be written by Jack Thompson veteran Chicago Tribune war correspondent who made a parachute jump into combat with the 505th Parachute Inf. Thompson returned to Tunis to wire his colorful story but has since returned to Sicily.)

SIXTH AIRBORNE TROOPS — Spearheading the Allied invasion, an American paratroop combat team has just completed a most brilliant and tough mission, fulfilling the expectations of this, the largest airborne combat operation ever attempted by the United States Army.

Since late Friday night when they landed by the light of a waning moon they've been fighting crack German and Italian troops, killing and capturing hundreds and hundreds. They've fought on small guerrilla bands attacking pillboxes and strong points with grenades, automatic weapons and knives, and they've fought an excellent team against the German heavy machine guns and tanks.

They've taken rather heavy losses, but they never gave ground and it was largely through their slashing, demoralizing attacks on strongly-prepared enemy positions that the advance of a much larger airborne force coming in behind them was accomplished as readily in the area around Vittoria.

It would take a book to tell the full story of this operation, and it will be days before all details are even learned, for almost every man who jumped did a job worthy of an army medal. But this much at least can be told by this correspondent who jumped with them to make his second combat jump and his first jump at night.

Actually this mission started under most unsuspecting circumstances, for the entire combat team was dropped by troop airplanes 10 to 15 miles from the planned objective. Instead of jumping inland in front of the enemy force to cut off enemy reinforcements, destroy communications and otherwise soften up airborne landing, the entire group of parachute infantry, artillery, engineers, medical and attached services was jumped in front of another force farther south.

While the moon was dipping low along the Western horizon we came in over the sea, a mighty armada of transport planes flying in perfect formation. The terrain looked unfamiliar to the combat team commander, Col. James Davis, of Ft. Carnel, Pa., but the red light was flicked by the pilot at the controls. We had been standing for several minutes in our heavy parachutes, soldiers weighted down with loads of ammunition, guns and demolitions, and this reporter sagging under his own load of noncombatant equip, etc. The red light meant we would be over the objective in a few minutes. They passed quickly. The green flame light flickered, there was a rush down the aisle toward the rear, and the next moment we were hurtling through space -- then the way of shoulders as the parachutes opened.

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2/2/43
J.M.

A brilliant flare illuminated the ground, revealing an olive grove instead of the expected wheat field. For a moment most of us thought ground-sweepers had sent up flares and were opening fire. Then came the sickening realization that the flare was from one of the transports which had broken into and burst into flames. And the next moment we were landing. Thirty feet from the ground oscillation swung my body horizontally as I smashed through an olive tree and then onto the ground.

It was a good landing, all things considered. Others didn't fare so well. This correspondent emerged from his tangled strand lines with a wrenched knee, skinned hands, bruises and what was not to appear until later -- a cracked rib.

That night we went prowling about in small groups trying to reach ground that we could recognize. Before dawn, as it turned out later, every one realized that we were on the wrong side now. Most of us learned what part of Southern Sicily we were in and started a general movement northwest toward the original objective.

Many men jumped into the fight right away, landing on machine gun nests or pillboxes. Others soon found their hands full as they ran into Italian strongpoints along the coast or farther inland along strategic highways.

We began to lose men -- but not many -- as tough, wiry troopers rushed pillboxes. These emplacements were well designed with three-foot cement walls, clips commanding all approaches, 47mm guns, machine guns and mesh barbed wire.

But the paratroopers had come to kill, and they did not stop until their antitank weapons and grenades drove enemy gunners from the olive allowing the pillboxes to be rushed. Well-aimed German rifle fire often accomplished the same purpose, and withings about time each pillbox surrendered its load of Italians or a few Germans.

That was along the beach. Inland, fighting continued throughout the day.

Our own group by daylight had increased from this correspondent and two others, also wounded, who had been "sweating out" the dark hours together, to 22 scattered paratroopers.

And there it might be believed that every man who jumps, with the above exceptions, jumps ready to fight, whether he be company clerk, fitter, or service command, and they fought hard and viciously.

Our executive officer had joined up, and at his command we moved off in column, with flanking accents, intending to swing north toward Vittoria. That was a day we won't forget soon, particularly this reporter who seldom walked more than a few miles at a time back home.

The Sicilian mountainside is beautiful in its green and yellow harvest colors. Most of the natives greeted us in friendly fashion as we passed, offering wine, water or bread. We trudged along under the hot sun over plowed fields through vineyards, grain stubble, olive brakes and along dusty limestone roads until we hit the outskirts of Vittoria late in the morning.

My typewriter, a secondhand Underwood portable weighing at least 15 pounds had been dropped safely by parachute bundles and recovered. With the aid of a sturdy sergeant major we'd gotten this load so far.

Just as we started to skirt the town which we had learned contained an Italian garrison, snipers opened up on our scouts a few yards ahead of us. We went a hasty withdrawal behind a stone fence where my typewriter was left hidden among rocks — later to be stolen while the troops fought back and then withdrew to swing south around Vittoria.

It was march, march, march all afternoon and part of the night until we made bivouacs. Parachutists carry no blankets and clothing other than their jump suits, but despite mild nights in this country we slept and at dawn wore off again, this time down the road leading toward Gela.

Not far out of town we encountered our colonel and a small party preparing to attack the enemy who was holding a hill 20 kilometers up the road from Gela. Our own group had increased in force, but it still was only a fraction of what we'd started out with — 7 of our units and only one actually was draped on the correct drop line and fought a hard battle to accomplish the original mission.

Despite the smallness of his force, Colonel G. went into position on a lower hill in the orchard and then worked through tall grass, gnarled little trees and vineyards. Fanny green soldiers — for that is what most opposition proved to be — fought back with their fast-firing machine guns, muzzers, seemingly 105 mm. mortars which were mounted on rubber tires.

Our first rush shaved the enemy back up and over his hill although he then outnumbered us three to one. Paratroopers had the jump on the gun, but he came back strong with more artillery fire and then tanks — not only tank IVs but also his huge Mark VI tiger tank mounting 88 mm gun in turret.

The next hour was our worst. Everyone expected an attack by tank in force and it looked as if there was a good chance we would be overwhelmed.

Colonel Gavin has sent word by runner to tank force headquarters: "If you want this position held, we must have more firepower. But what ever happens we aren't moving off this hill."

He and his staff dug into foxholes while the command post was under heavy fire. One staff captain, Captain Ireland, of Baltimore, took ten men to the right flank. We waited, this reporter being one of 100 young recruits sheltered by a culvert while the rear of enemy tanks grew louder.

Out in front paratroopers kept up a can, cut fire. Machine crews with their anti-tank weapons knocked out 'we tank IVs' but other crews were blown up. One youngster after capturing a small Italian infantry machine similar to the British Bren gun carrier, charged off in it with the same reckless purpose of "securing these bastards". A direct hit killed him.

Then Colonel Gavin pulled his last boys and ordered three available peak headquaters checked us to direct fire. I saw one gun come up this hill into position. One trooper rode its barrel while others revealed the place up the slope to the ridge beside a small white stone house. Tanks began registering all around the gun almost immediately, but with the coolness of veterans these paratrooper artillerymen laid their gun and opened fire at 800 yards, knocking out two tanks.

By this time higher headquarters had brought up some 105 mm pieces which were firing rapidly, and the tank attack was stopped. By morning more paratroopers had arrived and the Colonel ordered a counterattack in order to recover our dead and wounded. Then like a last-minute Hollywood ending, we came a company of our General Sherman tanks and some halftracks towing their anti-tank guns. You could hear paratroopers cheer from above the clutter of the tanks.

At ten minutes after eight our tanks opened fire and we charged. A few moved while the Germans replied with intense mortar fire and sweeping machine gun fire. Overhead their Messerschmitts flew in a circling or steady.

Whizzing bullets sang their death song of death past my helmet while shell fragments whirled through the air. A half-hour later it was quiet.

and in the glow of gathering night our men came back to their positions while the tanks withdrew after having destroyed from the rear the enemy tank whose thick frontal and side armor had withstood the charge of our rocket guns. We counted many dead and wounded and it was victory beyond question.

The attack had driven the enemy off his hill; and he backed through the village, abandoning tons of equipment. In fact, reconnaissance showed later that he retreated completely from this sector.

The result of this battle allowed the combat team of the task force, which had been held up by the enemy's strongpoint, to rush on through in the same manner as the paratroopers' attack of pillboxes and rear areas had allowed the combat team on the southern flank to advance.

There was another contributing element. The enemy's huge pillboxes and strongpoints protecting the high ground from the west had come under the fire of heavy naval guns from one of our warships during the height of the battle. The fire of these guns was directed by radio by two young naval ensigns who jumped with us and who had been out in front in the worst fighting all day.

That was yesterday. Today the men are resting, reorganizing and often eating for the first time since they landed in Sicily. You find during the fierce throbs of battle that hunger is nonexistent; but it sets back once you've had a chance to relax.

- - - - -

WITH AMERICAN AIRBORNE TROOPS, SICILY --- It is quiet today, oddly quiet in the cool shade of our Sicilian orchard. The noise of battle has passed, and overhead dresses a Spitfire patrol which appeared yesterday for the first time, replacing what seemed to be ever present enemy fighters and bombers.

In this strange and unaccustomed quiet you glance through the grove at tired men improving their sand slit trenches or cleaning guns and you marvel again at the ability and stamina of American soldiers, particularly these airborne soldiers. In fancy they might be a band of Robin Hood's men bivouacking in Sherwood Forest, their olive green jump suits often camouflaged with darker dappled greens completing the picture. But these men are an even tougher breed.

You've just seen them in their first combat. They parachuted by night into axis strongpoints. They bottled their way along the coast and inland, fighting as guerrillas and then drawn together into small combat teams and reinforced by tanks and artillery they fought as well as any tanks ever fought.

It was their first fight but you would have thought they were old hands at it. Some mistakes naturally were made, but these shock troops distinguished themselves brilliantly.

Men dropped as planned paratroops are not designed as a mobile force but as units to fight within an area of a few miles. Draped as they were in this operation, they made forced marches of as much as 40 miles, lugging all of their heavy equipment and sometimes managing to scrounge some extra transport.

The task force they aided was able to provide coffee, jacks and breaks for a limited time. Industrious parachutists have been coming up in this area in everything from captured Italian tankettes, trucks, jeeps, bicycles to peasant carts, sedans, motorcycles, horses and jackasses. They had to appoint a stable officer and establish a picket line when 50 jackasses appeared.

Notions and water always were a problem as well as the evacuation of wounded from busy fr. bilious stations where notions and first aid men worked long hours to save lives of tank and air soldiers.

The fact that we always had food and water as well as ammunition and other vital supplies was due almost entirely to the ingenuity of G.A. Parachutists' supply officer, Major Edward Lee, of New York, N.Y. For the first 24 hours, like every other officer, he was fighting with a sword on route northwest near Vitoria. Pillboxes became his specialty, and Major Lee was happy.

Another group of six parachutists, later augmented to 17 and headed by Lt. Richard Janney, M, of Baltimore, and by Sgt. Carl Nease, C, Columbus, Ia., breached off a half-dozen pillboxes along the coast, taking 250 prisoners. Sometimes our men were wounded or killed, but more often it was the enemy.

There was the case of Pvt. Robert Gault, Norfolk, Va., a clerk in headquarters. He should be dead.

Attacking a pillbox, Gault crept in close, when the enemy fired 70 rounds and then pitched three hand grenades at him making him unconscious. He woke up inside the pillbox, stripped naked. A half-hour later Americans attacked again, destroying the pillbox and killing all Italians, but Gault was unscathed.

Sometimes our men did not take many prisoners after breaching one of our men finding them naked or otherwise distressed, or the men were one of our parachutists, wounded by a hand grenade outside a pillbox, was attacked with gasoline by enemy soldiers and set afire. That particular pillbox being filled only corpses — enemy corpses.

Then there was Pvt. Edward Bennett, M, 1st Infantry, Baltimore. Bennett blew the top off a pillbox with a bazooka, wounding three Italians. One came out with a white flag, then started firing. Bennett killed him, and the remaining two surrendered.

"It was our first fight," he said, "so we gave the men a proper burial. The list could go on indefinitely. There was lightning war, and the men were killed in the battle two days ago with a force including riggers, company clerks, cooks, orderlies as well as infantry and engineers.

Two of his best men were killed on either side of him, but Spangler kept on creeping under machinegun fire. In a shell he took upon a Mark IV tank beside which stood two of the crew. One hand grenade killed both men; and the tank retreated while Spangler hollered for the machine crew.

Or Pvt. Phillip Foley, from Boston. He and two others were the first to reach the points from which to observe the enemy before Colonel Gavin's tank came into action. Soon they were under fire.

One of his pals was killed by a sniper who fell a few paces later to Foley's accurate Garand fire. The second was lost an arm and Foley was shot slightly in the leg and had his head crossed trying to help the wounded man. Later, back in the line, he started looking for a cila to recover his amette bag, but he changed his mind, fearing he would miss the next action. He didn't miss it. I saw him again behind a tree hunting snipers.

Or Sgt. David Rosenkrantz, of Los Angeles, and Corp. Leo Black, of Jackson, Tenn. Outside Sialki, in the forks they stumbled upon 400 Italians and were captured. But the Italians held a conference and decided they want to surrender to Americans. Rosenkrantz and Black agreed to take them over at the first opportunity. Then everyone sat down to dinner and wine provided by the captives. As soon as Inaks appeared after daylight the Italian Colonel formed his command, and headed by Rosenkrantz and I set, they marched singing, to give up.

Or our official airplane observers, Lt. Col. William Jeter, the army's first parachutist and former commandant of the parachute school, Fort Benning, and Charles Billingslee, of San Francisco, who jumped with British paratroops in Tunisia.

They came to watch and remained to fight. Each started out with a squad, fighting and marching day and night without sleep and little food. Jeter pitched in helping Colonel Gavin as troop director and liaison before, during and after the battle. Late in the first day of battle Billingslee was sighted soaring at the head of the head of "Gavin's Army," several hundred par-achutists with their strange assortment of transport. By the time the fighting was over these two looked like ghosts and blackened eyebrows.

There have been many strange sights these past several days. Each green field or waste place and unimproved grove and in their center stand, eight Tiger tanks belching smoke and shell. Each surrounded with tiny two-wheeled Italian carts painted in brilliant reds and blues illustrating heroic passages from history of the Scriptures, their harness or jacksaws hauled and assembled, the carts piled high with household goods.

One black-coated peasant was on the road during the combat team headquarters during the battle. He and his cart and jackass took shelter under a tree 25 yards from Colonel Gavin. There they remained throughout the day until our evening attack. When the Germans counterattacked with heavy mortars which burst nearby, the old man led his jackass rapidly rearward.

Aid medical men — under fire all the time, yet performing heroic work carrying wounded back from the front lines, treating them at improvised aid stations in an orchard, where life-giving cans of blood plasma littered the place — then more long hauls back to the tiny railroad station where operations could be performed, until German ship bombers blasted a few yards from the building. Then the struggle to get ambulance trucks — anything in which to carry patients farther rearward to the civilian hospital in Vittoria or down to the beaches. They lay on stretchers, shielded from the hot sun, tended by doctors and other aid men; awaiting the time when landing craft could be unloaded and they could be put aboard ships bound for Africa.

It was there on the hot sands, amid orderly confusion of the beachhead, that I met a Chicago emigrant, Rudolph Herman, 25. As beachmaster, he and his shore patrol and army engineers had the task of unloading supplies and getting them moved over improvised roads inland. Herman's highest praise for the army's "Landing Craft, Tanks" (LVTs) amphibious trucks. They proved superior to any landing craft.

Then back inland two nights ago, when the second wave of paratroopers came in as reinforcements and lost five planes shot down by sub-sea fire, there was an old friend and Tunisian campaigner, Lt. Col. William Yarborough, of New York. They'd seen their comrades go down in landing ships but had jumped safely through a hail of fire. Some came down with their canopies riddled but quickly organized into fighting units once they were on the ground, packing on to join us with their equipment, the artillery boys, wheeling their howitzers along the road.

It was a mission worthy of the best paratrooper effort — this quiet operation — and now the men are recognizing for the next mission for whom they will be ready when needed.

Continued by G - 1 Section, HQ, 62nd AVN Div.