

1945

History of the 745th Tank Battalion, August 1942 to June 1945

Harold D. Howenstine

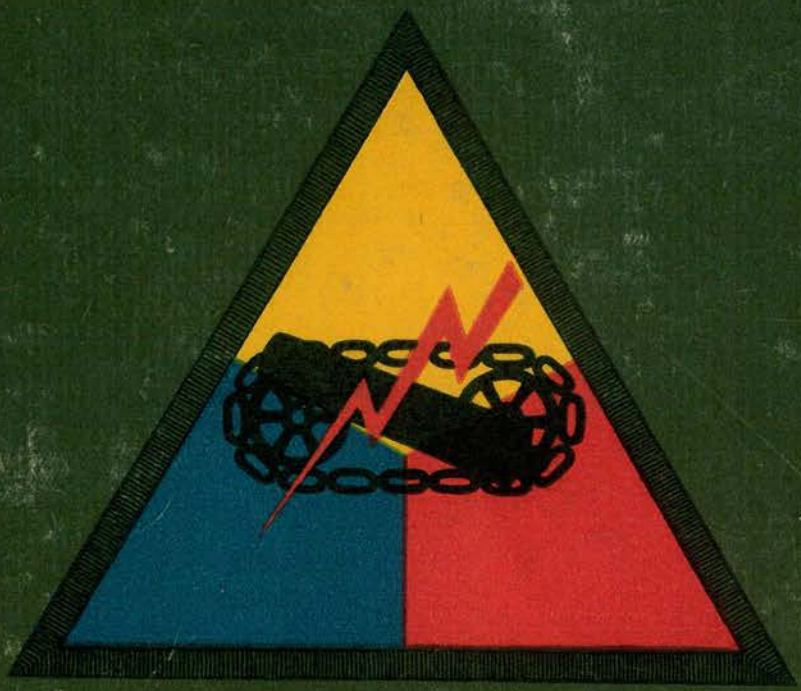
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HISTORY

of the

745th TANK BATTALION

HISTORY

of the

745th TANK BATTALION

*

AUGUST 1942

to

JUNE 1945

*

PRINTED IN NURNBERG, GERMANY

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*To Sgt. Charles N. Donoghue, the first
member of the 745th Tank Battalion to
lose his life in combat, this history is
humbly dedicated.*

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FOREWORD

If perchance in the post-war world you encounter a man who says that he fought in Europe with the 745th Tank Battalion, salute him and offer him a drink— for you have encountered one of the best soldiers in the world. You have encountered a man who has contributed a great deal toward ending the conquests of the Nazis and bringing peace to the world. You have encountered a man of whom the entire army is proud.

The 745th's record speaks for itself. It participated in the heart of every major battle of the 1st U. S. Army in Europe, providing the armored support for the famous "Fighting First" U. S. Infantry Division— of which there is no finer.

The 745th began pushing on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when it crossed the blood-splattered beaches of Normandy, and continued pushing until the German capitulation on May 8, 1945. During those eleven months the 745th saw some of the roughest fighting in Europe, and they still were aggressive and forceful to the end.

Following the expansion of the beachhead came the breakthrough at St. Lo, repulsion of a German counterattack against our armored columns driving southward, closing the Falaise Pocket and then the drive across France and Belgium to the Siegfried line, hesitating only to clean out the Mons Pocket at the France-Belgium border. After the mopping up of Aachen came the bloody and heart-breaking drive through the Hurtgen Forest to the Roer River, the Battle of the Ardennes, the drive from the Roer to the Rhine, then the expansion of the Remagen Bridgehead and the sweep around the Ruhr Pocket and another neatly laid trap, the Harz Pocket. Even as the bewildered and beaten enemy fled, the 745th continued in pursuit and followed him into his final lair of resistance in Czechoslovakia, whipping and slashing him until the final capitulation.

The man you have encountered has paid a price— a price of blood and sweat and tears. He has seen his comrades fall beside him. He has attacked the enemy relentlessly and thrown back the enemy's every thrust. He has spent many a miserable hour waiting, hoping, praying.

The man before you is not a hero— because no man considers himself as such. He cannot tell you a true picture of his experiences, and the ribbons he wears upon his breast are incapable of doing so. On these pages we shall attempt to portray in a small way the picture of his experiences.

We salute him— the best damn soldier in the world.

TRIBUTE

from the

BATTALION COMMANDER

Individual proficiency has been the byword and the cause for the great successes and achievements of the 745th Tank Battalion. Each and every man may personally feel that he has contributed his share— —and more— —to the attainment of Victory. Supporting the First Infantry Division, the men of this Battalion have given their undivided cooperation, their incomparable courage, their blood, to make this team of tanks and infantry one to stand alone in the annals of military accomplishments in Europe. The untiring devotion to duty displayed by every man in the unit has been responsible for the sustained mobility and aggressiveness essential to the winning of battles. You have won your battles— —all of them— —whether you fought through thick and thin, mud and rain, or cold and snow. Over all types of terrain and through every type of obstacle the German could devise, you have fought and you have won.

This history is an enviable one. No other tank battalion in the United States Army can equal it. As Battalion Commander, I am proud to share the glory with you, the soldiers, who fought so valiantly to make such glory possible.

WALLACE J. NICHOLS
Lieutenant Colonel.

Blazon

SHIELD: Blanche, a mullet or one point to chief, superimposed upon a square vert, all circumscribed by a circle noir, sept segment, subtended by fleche d'or curvée pointing to a "V" rouge at base.

CREST: Three red, jagged streaks of lightning.

MOTTO: Our Tracks Lead To Victory.

Description

The 745th Tank Battalion (M) was constituted and ordered to be made active at Camp Rucker, Alabama, pursuant to letter, 322,171/1 (745th Tk Bn) GNOPN (4-30-42), dated 3 May 1942. This letter was amended to make the unit active at Camp Bowie, Texas, where it was made active 15 August 1942. The Battalion was reorganized under T/O 17-85, dated 23 June 1942 (1st Indorsement from Fort Knox, Kentucky, dated 1 September 1942).

The green and white are the colors of the Armored Force. The seven black segments of the circle represent tracks and the figure "7" of 745; the arrows pointing to the red "V", which stands for Victory, indicate the motto, "Our Tracks Lead To Victory". The letter "V" also stands for the code name "Villain" which was given the Battalion during combat in the European Theater of Operations. The square represents the "4" in 745, and the star denotes the State of activation, Texas, as well as representing the figure "5" in 745.



BATTALION
COAT - OF - ARMS



Col. Thomas B. Evans
First Commanding Officer

Col. Thomas B. Evans served as commanding officer of the 745th Tank Battalion from the time of its activation in August, 1942, to midway through the Louisiana maneuvers in May, 1943. Prior to being assigned to the 745th, Col. Evans, after graduating from West Point in June, 1933, served nearly two years at Fort McKinley in the Phillipine Islands, from July, 1936, to May, 1938, one year with the 70th Tank Battalion, and had completed five months' service with the 741st Tank Battalion.

On leaving the Battalion, Col. Evans was assigned to the Maintenance Division, Headquarters, Army Services Forces, where he served as Chief of Analysis Staff from May 1943, to March 1945. He was then assigned to the 102nd Infantry Division in the European Theater of Operations, where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff until May 1945 when he assumed his present position with the Equipment Maintenance Branch, G-4 Section, Headquarters, Communication Zone, ETOUSA.



Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols
Commanding Officer

Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols has served the 745th Tank Battalion as commanding officer for more than two years, including eleven months in combat. Lt. Col. Nichols reported to the Battalion from the Fourth Armored Division during Louisiana maneuvers in May of 1943 and has retained command to the present date.

A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1933, Lt. Col. Nichols was an architect in Albany, N. Y., in civilian life. He entered federal service as a reserve officer September 6, 1940, attaining the rank of major May 5, 1942, and being promoted to his present rank November 24, 1942.



Maj. Miles R. Patterson
Executive Officer

Maj. Miles R. Patterson has been a member of the 745th Tank Battalion since August of 1942 when the battalion was activated from a cadre of the 191st Tank Battalion. Maj. Patterson has served as Battalion motor officer, S-3 and executive officer.

A graduate and football star of Western Maryland College where he graduated in 1935, Maj. Patterson lived near Monkton, Md., where he operated a farm. He entered federal service as a reserve officer in December of 1940, being with the Second Armored Division for one year before being transferred to the 191st Tank Battalion. He attained the rank of major in May of 1944 while the Battalion was stationed in England.



Maj. Howell H. Heard
S-3

Maj. Howell H. Heard has served the 745th Tank Battalion as company commander, S-3 Air, S-3 and executive officer, joining the battalion upon its activation in August of 1942. Before becoming a member of the 745th, Maj. Heard was with the 191st Tank Battalion.

An attorney in Monroe, La., in civilian life, Maj. Heard is a graduate of Louisiana State University. He entered the federal service on February 10, 1942, as a first lieutenant, being promoted to captain in May of 1942 and attaining his present rank in May of 1943.

Battalion Staff



First Row: Maj. Heard, Lt. Col. Nichols, Maj. Patterson.
Second Row: Lt. Greemann, Capt. McCall, Capt. Garland,
Capt. Honeman, Capt. Joanis.

* * *

Commanding Officer	Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols
Executive Officer	Maj. Miles R. Patterson
S-3 Operations	Maj. Howell H. Heard
S-3 Air	Capt. Donald E. Honeman
S-2 Intelligence	Capt. Francis A. McCall
S-4 Supply	Capt. John H. Garland
Motor Officer	Capt. Robert E. Joanis
Battalion Surgeon	Capt. Sam Sugar
S-1 Adjutant	1st Lt. Wilford B. Greemann

**BATTALION
HEAD-
QUARTERS**

(Left to Right)
1st Row: T/4 Kee-
nan, T/5 Stage,
T/5 Roberts, T/5
Nagorsky, T/5
Syren, T/5 Lake,
Sgt. King, Pfc.
Gunderson. 2nd
Row: T/Sgt. Gre-
any, T/4 Cook,
Pfc. Motley, M/
Sgt. Fore, T/Sgt.
Troll, T/4 Baird,
T/5 Barlow, T/
Sgt. Krusinski.



**MEDICAL
DETACHMENT**

(Left to Right) 1st Row:
Sgt. Robb, Cpt. Sugar,
S/Sgt. Bednarcik, Lt. Mor-
ganroth, 2nd Row: Pfc.
Berwin, Pvt. Mead, Pfc.
Messina, T/5 Jackson. 3rd
Row: Pvt. Keough, T/3
Dulgar, T/5 Paul, Cpl.
Pixley, Pfc. Yott. 4th
Row: T/5 Teichner, T/5
Zuber, T/5 Johnson, Pfc.
Rosenberger T/5 Win-
quist, T/4 Dexter.

PERSONNEL SECTION

(Left to Right) 1st Row:
Cpl. Calderone, Cpl. Rap-
pold, CWO Dick, T/Sgt.
Leavitt, T/4 Webster. 2nd
Row: Cpl. Stapleton, T/4
Hornat, Cpl. Hoffner, Pfc.
Focht, Cpl. Cassens



Battalion Headquarters

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men

OFFICERS:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Wallace J. Nichols

MAJORS

Howell H. Heard

Miles R. Patterson

CAPTAINS

Ralph B. Burt

Fiore Campana

William R. Denslow

John H. Garland

Francis A. McCall

Donald E. Honeman

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wilford B. Greemann

ENLISTED MEN:

MASTER SERGEANTS

William E. Wagner

Victor W. Fore

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

John J. Greany

Arthur J. Krusinski

George E. Troll

SERGEANT

David F. King

TEC 4

Donald A. Baird

James R. Cook, Jr.

John E. Keenan

TEC 5

Charles M. Barlow

Roman S. Bieganski

Joy F. Jones

Clayton G. Lake

Sam S. Nagorsky

Lester W. Reinecke

George W. Roberts

Joseph A. Stage

Oliver L. Syren

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Chester J. Jaskoviak

John P. Lavanski

Otis N. Motley

PRIVATE

Alexander Balog

Medical Detachment

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men Since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAIN

Sam Sugar

LIEUTENANTS

Milton Greenberg

Arthur J. Morganroth

ENLISTED MEN:

STAFF SERGEANT

Edward D. Bednarcik

TEC 3

Lee E. Dulgar

SERGEANT

William Robb

TEC 4

George T. Dexter

CORPORAL

George F. Pixley

TEC 5

Warren Jackson

Glen R. Johnson

Robert L. Paul

John P. Winquist

Frederick A. Zuber

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Louis Berwin

James E. Green

Donald Messina

Paul E. Rosenberger

George W. Rupp

Jim V. Tursi

Anthony R. Yott

PRIVATE

James T. Keough

Wilbur B. Mead

Ben B. Tiechner

Headquarters Company

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAIN

Irving M. Altschuler

FIRST LIEUTENANTS

Samuel O. Hernandez

John A. Howard

Earl E. McCain

Warren A. Raddatz

Glennis W. Thompson

WARRANT OFFICER

(JG)

Francis M. Burdge

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANT

Norman Baker

William H. Williamson

STAFF SERGEANTS

Joseph M. Abbate, Jr.

Arthur W. Buckman

Stanley Gowgiel

Roy Hornbeck

Charles L. Jennings

Charles W. Lewis

Donald W. Norris

Raymond A. Strassenburg

SERGEANTS

Charles M. Abel

Lawrence A. Bednarz

Robert C. Dressler

Roy M. Heath

Thomas J. Jeschke

Frank A. Komendisch

Clyde T. Lahre

Nick Marcu

Richard L. Melton

Edward T. Murphy

William A. Saunders

Irvin H. Steve

Delbert D. Stover

TEC 4

Stanley J. Bycenski

Joseph G. Cannon

Rocco A. Crudell

William Derfler

Ernest J. Fredricks

Bernard F. Grens

Eben H. Jacobs

Allen J. Kaiser

Perry C. Keele

Fred A. Raetzke

Glenn L. Raffensparger

Fred S. Thompson

Arthur A. Tuomikoski

John S. Zolig

CORPORALS

Edmond L. Ames

Angelo J. Calderone

Francis A. Darnell

George T. Hougas

Robert A. Kelly

Elmer F. Kressly

Earl R. Lofthouse

Norman L. Lundebly

Guy B. Mitchell

Eugene J. Morzuch

James J. Pascal

L. D. Steele

Raymond C. Tuma

TEC 5

Edward A. Albracht

Stephen A. Baran

Henry L. Brickman, Jr.

Hubert I. Cantrell

Ralph G. Cozzi

Fred L. Forchione

Dwight R. Guge

Clinton A. Holmes

John Insalaco

Roman G. Jablonowski

Harold A. Stricklin

Joseph F. Lipka

Thomas E. Lipsey

Norman B. McChain

Edwin A. Moll

Richard A. Peters

Lynn A. Pfaffenberger

Joseph F. Placente

J. S. Tibbitts, Jr.

Ward K. Van Epps, Jr.

Mario Vangelisti

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

Clark H. Burnill

Henry W. Cutler

Joseph W. Desmond

Stephen J. Dutch

Dale T. Fortin

Leroy E. Fritz

Earl D. Gibbs

Joseph Goldberg

James W. Greenfield

Joseph F. Gunderson

Walter R. Gutshall, Jr.

Haskel R. Hazelwood

John H. Hibbs

Allen R. Jewell

Clifford Johnson

Everett H. Lloyd

Edward M. Lynch

Kenneth McDonald

Buell N. Miller

James R. Moses

Darrell R. Nance

Nicholas Narkoff

James O. Northcott

Thomas B. Ochs

Ernest Pacheco

Bruno J. Pacyna

Curtis M. Parker

John R. W. Patterson

Lee H. Penny, Jr.

James T. Ryan

Richard K. Shook

David W. Smith

Joseph L. Sowisdral

John F. Sublett

Frank J. Sulek, Jr.

PRIVATES

Aiko J. Aikens

John H. Alger

Stanley W. Bakke

Clarence Browning

Max E. Chamblee

Elmer L. Cole

Orey Cole

Dwight E. Davis

Leonard A. Formato

Andrew Gontarick

William Gatlin

William Finkelstein

Raymond J. Guettes

Leslie L. Hopper, Jr.

William L. Jones

Charles F. Koschak

Labern H. Likens

Norbert Lintgen

Ignatius M. Montalto

Eugene D. Morris

Lawrence O. Novo

Robert B. O'Reilly

Henry Oswald

Chester W. Patterson

Joquin T. Perez

John P. Ries

Richard E. Sawyer

Mike Sestina

Arthur J. Sheehan

Patterson Shelton

Mike A. Shutkas

Stanley R. Sunsak

Lester R. Williamson

Arthur W. Whisler

Headquarters Company



Officers

(Left to Right) Lt. Howard, Lt. Hernandez, Capt. Altschuler, Lt. Thompson, Lt. Raddatz.



Assault Gun Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Pfc. Penny, Cpl. Darnell, Pfc. Pacyna. *2nd Row:* Cpl. Kelly, Cpl. Mitchell, Pfc. Lloyd, T/5 Van Epps, T/4 Keele, T/5 Pfaffenberger, Pvt. Perez, Pvt. Cole, Pfc. Narkoff, S/Sgt. Norris. *3rd Row:* T/5 Lipka, Sgt. Melton, Pfc. Sublett, Pfc. Ryan, Pfc. Parker, Pfc. Goldberg, T/4 Jacobs, Pfc. Gutshall, Pfc. Shook, Pfc. Northcott. *4th Row:* T/4 Fredricks, Cpl. Tuma, Sgt. Abel, Sgt. Dressler, Pvt. Alger, T/4 Raffensparger, T/5 Tibbitts, Cpl. Hougas, Cpl. Steele, Pfc. Miller, T/5 Stricklin, Pfc. Nance, Sgt. Jeschke, T/5 Brickman, Pfc. Jones.

Mortar Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* T/5 Lipsey, Pfc. Burrill, Pfc. Sowisdral, S/Sgt. Abbate, Pfc. Sestina. *2nd Row:* 1st Sgt. Williamson, Sgt. Bednarz, T/5 Guge, Pfc. Gibbs, Pfc. Moses, Pfc. Bakke, Sgt. Stover, Lt. Raddatz. *3rd Row:* Cpl. Ames, Sgt. Marcu, Pfc. Sulek, Cpl. Morzuch, Pfc. Morris, Cpl. Kressly, T/5 Holmes.

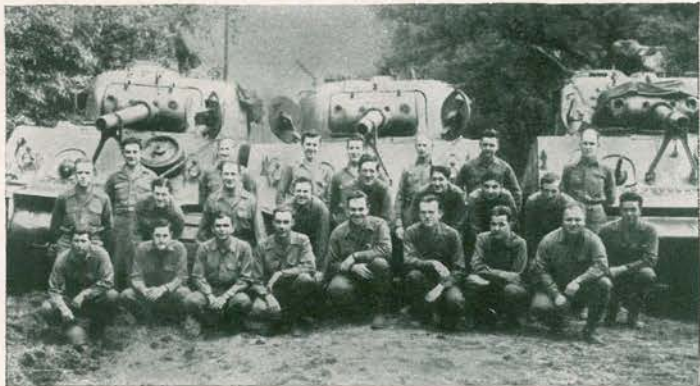


Reconnaissance Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* S/Sgt. Lewis, Cpl. Lundebly, Lt. Thompson, Sgt. Lahre. *2nd Row:* Pvt. Montalto, Pvt. Oswald, Pvt. Davis, Pfc. Sunsak, Pfc. Smith, Pfc. McDonald, Pvt. Likens, Cpl. Pascal. *3rd Row:* Cpl. Lofthouse, T/5 Moll, Pvt. Williamson, Pfc. Greenfield, Pvt. Sawyer, Pvt. Chamblee, Pfc. Patterson, Pfc. Johnson, T/5 Baran.

Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* T/5 Siddens, T/5 Insalaco, T/4 Grens, S/Sgt. Strassenburg, Pfc. Hibbs, T/5 Peters, T/4 Tuomikoski, T/4 Kaiser. *2nd Row:* S/Sgt. Buckman, Pvt. Finklestein, T/5 Jablonowski, Pfc. Lavanski, Sgt. Saunders, T/5 Cozzi, T/4 Crudell, T/4 Zolig, T/4 Raetzke. *3rd Row:* T/5 Placente, S/Sgt. Hornbeck, Pfc. Balog, Pfc. Ries, T/5 McChain, Pfc. Fortin, Pfc. Patterson.





Service Company

Officers

(Left to Right) *1st Row*: Lt. McClintock, Lt. Carter, WOJG Frank. *2nd Row*: Capt. Joanis, Capt. Waage, Lt. Watlington

Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row*: 1st Sgt. Gallagher, Pfc. Sinski, T/5 Giacalone, S/Sgt. Ross, T/4 Koebler, Pfc. Jonas, Sgt. Stankiewicz. *2nd Row*: S/Sgt. Hicks, T/4 Phillips, T/5 McFall, Pfc. Rudden, Pvt. Brown, Pfc. Fitzgerald, Pfc. Nickless.

Maintenance Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row*: Sgt. Joyner, T/5 Hintz, T/4 Himbert, T/4 Scoleri, T/5 Tarasiewicz, T/5 Dixon, S/Sgt. Stickels, T/4 Siemplinski, S/Sgt. Childers, T/4 Benigno, T/Sgt. Moray. *2nd Row*: T/5 Bryant, T/5 Weber, T/5 Steurer, Pvt. Miller, T/4 Cerasa, Pfc. Poland, T/5 Kalwasinski, T/5 Peart, T/4 Hardy, T/4 Fenzau. *3rd Row*: T/5 Prem, T/4 Ridgway, Pvt. Walker, T/5 Osborne, T/4 Brown, T/5 Jacobs, T/4 Patrick, T/4 Janas, T/4 Haase, T/4 Johnson, T/5 McGregor, T/4 Burke.

Battalion Supply and Transportation Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row*: WOJG Frank, T/Sgt. Debelak, Pfc. Prefontaine, S/Sgt. Lambert, Pfc. Frangella, T/5 Cheeseman, Pfc. Muller, T/5 Bonk, T/5 Krueger, T/5 Tremonte, Pfc. Patzer. *2nd Row*: T/5 Pinnelli, Pfc. Sansone, Pfc. Kemper, Pfc. Marston, T/5 Cook, Pfc. Winchester, T/5 Grupp, T/5 Harms, Pfc. Schlanser, S/Sgt. Marten. *3rd Row*: Pfc. Kuschell, Pvt. Miner, Pvt. Seidelman, Pfc. Johnson.

Service Company

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAINS

Robert E. Joanis
Howard A. Waage

LIEUTENANTS

Verle W. Carter
Irwin W. McClintock, Jr.
James H. Watlington

WARRANT OFFICERS

CWO William W. Dick, Jr.
WOJG Frederick W. Frank
WOJG Robert E. Welch

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANTS

Joseph P. Gallagher

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

Walter A. Hines
Jerome Leavitt
Leland B. Moray

STAFF SERGEANTS

William H. Childers
John B. Debelak
Clement M. Hicks
Carl E. Marten
Vincent F. Ross
William C. Strickels
Michael J. Tirone

SERGEANTS

Edward D. Joyner
Adam S. Stankiewicz

TEC 4

Danny O. Benigno
John A. Brown
George J. Burke
Joseph Cerasa
James J. Drain
Robert G. Haase
Melvin A. Hardy
Stanley P. Himbert

Charles F. Hornat

Frank J. Janas
Edwin O. Johnson
Maurice J. Koebler
Oscar C. Patrick, Jr.
Wayne H. Phillips
James D. Ridgway
Arthur J. Ruling
Thomas M. Scoleri
Raymond J. Siemplinski
Joseph S. Stancel
George J. Webster

CORPORALS

Louis V. Atkins
Corba L. Hoffner
Albert M. Sorn

TEC 5

Bernard F. Bonk
Luther M. Bryant
Maurice H. Carter
Robert O. Cheeseman
Robert W. Criley
Robert E. Dixon
Pastor A. Cornejo
Harry R. Fenzau
John B. Giacalone
Edwin E. Gill
Paul C. Grupp
Earl A. Harms
Albert A. Hertz
Paul J. Hintz, Jr.
William Iles
Herman A. Jacobs
Marion J. Jedrzejczyk
Theodore Kalwasinski
John P. Kirkolis
Albert A. Krueger
Robert L. Lambert
John T. Matysik
Tollie McFall
William T. McGregor
Melvin A. McInnes
John G. Osborne
George W. Peart
Bernard J. Prem
Ralph Pinnelli
Raymond M. Sorensen
Francis E. Steurer
Edward T. Tarasiewicz
Peter A. Tremonte
Horace A. Walter
John J. Weber
John M. Zimmerman

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Oliver B. Chappell
Otie T. Cook, Jr.
Jack D. Craddock
Harvey W. Focht
James Frangella
Harley A. Jonas
Lloyd B. Johnson
Jesus A. Juarez
John W. Kemper
Raymond I. Klang
George N. Kuschell
Richard V. Lyons
Richard A. LeResche
Lealon C. Mann
Freeman B. Marston
Herbert M. Morrison
Ted Muller
James L. McLelland
Oliver V. Nickless
William C. Patzer
Creston R. Poland
William D. Rigsby
Richard R. Prefontaine
John T. Rudden
Tom J. Sansone
Joseph A. Schlanser
Walter Trojan
John A. Sinski
Gilbert G. Tarpinian
Robert W. Walling
Norman H. Winchester

PRIVATE

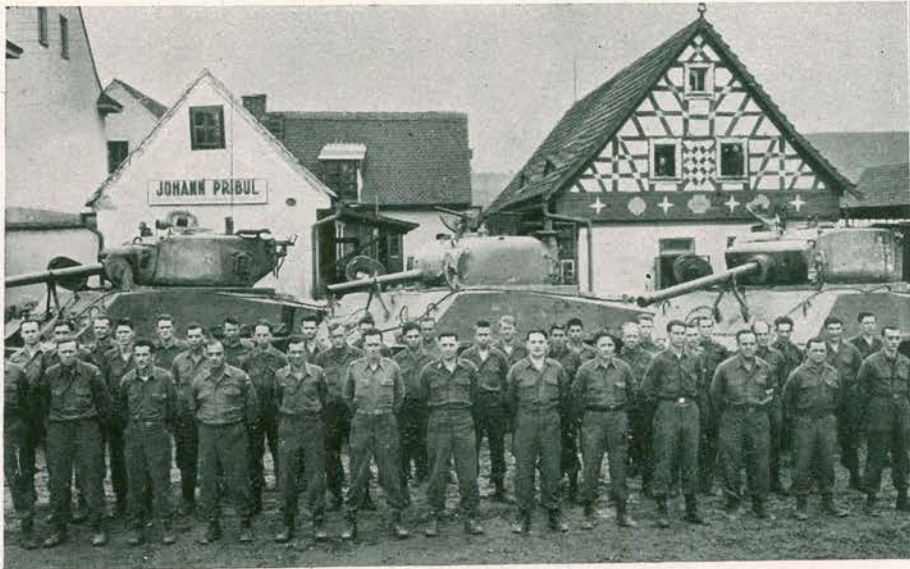
Lester M. Brown
Floyd R. Crum
Martin Danek
Arthur M. Fitzgerald
Charles W. Horn
Wilbur E. Keene
James J. LaRose
Philipp Mallick
Walter G. Marcinkowski
William S. Miller, Jr.
John F. McHugh
Marion K. Neuman
William H. Rahm
Albert G. Seidelman
Francis T. Miner
Charles W. Stickling
Herbert J. Smith
Russell J. Topper
Arthur R. Vickery
Harold L. Walker
Nathan Weinberg

Company "A"



Officers

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Lt. Russell, Capt. Carroll, Lt. Moody. *2nd Row:* Lt. Spencer, Lt. Viggiano, Lt. Kelly.



Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* T/4 Wargo, T/4 Thayer, T/4 Greco, T/Sgt. Bacciolo, T/Sgt. Schadt, Lt. Russell, Capt. Carroll, 1/Sgt. Zeig, S/Sgt. Wellman, Cpl. Crockett, Pfc. Messina, Cpl. Stefanski, Cpl. Atkins. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Weber, Pvt. Bushong, Pfc. Yott, Pvt. Lambacher, T/5 Myers, Pfc. Scolastico, Pfc. Martin, Pfc. Adesso, Pvt. Young, Pvt. Nance, Pfc. Hartman, T/5 Volatile. *3rd Row:* T/5 Teichner, Pvt. Logisz, Pfc. Ankrom, Sgt. Williams, T/4 Lynd, Pvt. Patterson, T/4 Wells, Pvt. Moon, Pvt. Wilkenfeld, Pvt. Bennett, T/5 Strohacker, Pfc. Hall, Pfc. Smith.



Company "A"

First Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Cpl. Lang, Sgt. Stites, S/Sgt. Benskofsky, S/Sgt. Baker, Lt. Viggiano, Sgt. Farricy, Sgt. Snearly, T/4 Tibbs, T/4 Gauger. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Skoezen, Cpl. Lancaster, Cpl. Tieman, Cpl. Wirth, Cpl. Schubert, Pfc. Partin,

Pfc. Shank, T/5 Zush, T/5 Moutray. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Oullett, Pvt. Inman, Pfc. O'Brien, Pfc. McKiernan, Pvt. Mayti, Pfc. Mercer, Pfc. Wood, Pvt. McGarvey, Pvt. Stanley.

Second Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Pvt. Oden, Cpl. Hale, Pfc. Petersen, Cpl. Smith, Pfc. Papazian, Sgt. Smolley, T/4 Barello. *2nd Row:* Lt. Moody, Cpl. Hermanson, Pfc. Adesso, S/Sgt. Ashley, Pfc. Vines, T/5

McSpedon, Sgt. Whinery, Pvt. Hansen, Pfc. Meredith, Sgt. Blezinger, Lt. Kelly. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Fritz, T/5 Lackner, Pfc. Kmiotek, Cpl. Johnston, Pvt. Cole, T/5 Toler, T/4 Embry, Sgt. Anderson.

Third Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Lt. Spencer, Sgt. Snider, Sgt. Kite, Cpl. Jaworek, Pvt. Kikla, Cpl. McArty, T/4 Fuessel, Pfc. Matson, Sgt. Oldham, *2nd Row:* Sgt. Stammer, Cpl. Hallmark, Pfc. Mead, Pfc.

Kocka, Pvt. Peschko, Cpl. McBride, Pvt. Bowman, Cpl. Pence. *3rd Row:* Pfc. Brennan, T/5 Neuzil, T/5 Spila, Pvt. Lear, Pvt. Woodrow, Pfc. Massey, Pfc. Delmont.

Company "A"

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAIN

Thomas Carroll

LIEUTENANTS

Anton R. Gorenc
Ernest S. Moody
Raymond A. Russell
Allen G. Spencer
James W. Sullivan
John A. Viggiano
Joseph G. Kelly
LeRoy F. Rheinberger

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANT

Joseph J. Zeig

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

Joseph R. Bacciolo
John Schadt

STAFF SERGEANTS

Verice L. Baker
David Benskofsky
Thomas W. Cancell
Charles L. Carroll
Maurice C. Gaulard
John R. Patrick
Ronald Wellman

SERGEANTS

Walter Anderson
Clifford F. Ashley
Charles J. Ballaera
Frank Barrile
John H. Bittner
Herman G. Blezinger
Henry E. Crow
Oscar R. Dintelman
Francis K. Farricy
Jean M. Gibson
George A. Hatch
Thomas T. Hughey
John F. Kite
Edward L. Murphy
Harry B. Nance
Carl E. Oldham
John J. Russell
Peter Smolley
James K. Snearly
Edward J. Snider
Carl L. Stammer
Bernard T. Stites
Samuel B. Whinery, Jr.
Frank W. Williams

TEC 4

Frank W. Barbour
George Barello
Eugene R. Beliste
James G. Embry
William H. Frakes
Siegfried C. Fuessel
Elmer O. Gauger
Joseph P. Greco
Clifford W. Lynd
John P. McCambridge
Richard E. Miller
Henry C. Sailer
Fred L. Suddarth, Jr.
Robert E. Thayer
Harvey T. Tibbs
Estill K. Wells
Joseph E. Wargo

CORPORALS

Arthur W. Becker
Harold J. Bloomquist
Paul E. Clark
Thomas V. Crockett
Leon I. Drexler
Albert J. Guerrero
Allen J. Hale
James E. Hallmark
Hal E. Hermanson
Frank J. Jaworek
Olin G. Johnston
Richard P. Kaucich
George L. Keeter
Joe S. Kudra, Jr.
Robert L. Lancaster
William L. Lang
George M. Larson
Meredith E. McArty
James R. McBride
Roy Mead
Florin A. Nocek
Howard L. Perce
Emil Piper
Elmer F. Prohaska
Dennis F. Rudolph
William E. Schubert
Carl Smith
Patrick M. Stapleton
Bruno J. Stefanski
Eugene W. Swenson
Dewey E. Tiemann
Tony E. Wirth

TEC 5

Alphonse Alencynowicz
Thomas S. Brennan
Cecil M. Darnell
John W. Duke, Jr.
Gerald A. Geltz
Woodrow Hipsman
Edward P. Lackner
Delmar L. McDonald
George D. McSpedon
Lewis M. Meyers
Mendall L. Morrison
Ralph E. Moutray
Thomas D. Murrey
Theodore W. Nelson
George W. Neuzil
Raymond A. Niebrugge
Thomas Quattrocki
Wesley B. Reese
Joseph J. Rihel
John W. Smith
John F. Spita
John C. Strohacker
James W. Toler, Jr.
Clement Volatile
George F. Weber
Lawrence Winner

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

James J. Adesso
Paul D. Ankrom
Owen H. Dedmon
Francis L. Delmont
Thomas M. Dolan
Edward Echols
Byrrl I. Griffy
Ralph F. Hall
Harold T. Huntington
Stanley Kmiotek
Frank M. Koch

George Kocka
Ernest M. Lentz
William W. Martin
James A. Massey
Ralph C. Matson
Henry J. McKiernan
Johnnie F. Mercer
James R. Meredith
Warren G. H. Miller
Ralph F. Montoro, Jr.
John J. O'Brien
Joseph B. Papazian
George A. Partin
Hans M. Petersen
Robert Schufeldt
Joseph C. Scolastico
William A. Shaner
Hubert A. Shank
Henry A. Skoczen
Raleigh M. Tylee
William D. Vines
Larunce S. Wood

PRIVATEs

Frank M. Avalos
Walter E. Bachman
Donald D. Barr
Ralph Bennett
Douglas E. Bowman
Marvin R. Bushong
Merritt R. Cole
Gerard J. Cormier
Charles E. Dierker
Joseph J. Formiglia
Julius A. Fritz
Randell A. Gary
Carroll C. Gibbons
Raymond E. Hagley
Albert E. Hansen
James M. Hubbard
Joseph O. Inman, Jr.
Philip F. Keane
Victor W. Kikla
Robert R. Lambacher
Richard R. Lear
Salvatore Lombino
Howard D. Lovell
Edward Matyi
Rolland W. Mauller
James May
Jack McCracken
Hubert McGaha
Anthony J. McGarvey
Burton T. Moon
William D. Nance
George E. Noble
James T. Offill
Ernest J. A. Ouellet
Mancil O. Oden
James R. Patterson
Frank J. Pavlowski
Harry J. Peschko
Joseph E. Resnick
Rudolph J. Severinski
Raymond G. Smith
Burnis Stanley
Edward A. Surlis
Bruno R. Tassione
Larmer S. Tippit
Robert G. Varney
Harold D. Vickers-Smith
Robert Wilkenfeld
Rudolph C. Wuensch
Noble L. Woodrow
William H. Young
Joseph A. Zazzaro

Company "B"



Officers

(Left to Right) Lt. Shapiro, Lt. Carlton, Lt. Pedigo, Capt. Wardner, Lt. Quinn, Lt. Resnick.



Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Pedigo, Capt. Wardner, Lt. Quinn. *1st Row:* 1st Sgt. McGrath, T/5 Kostial, T/4 Masulatis, T/5 Tiernan, Pfc. Gersbach, Cpl. Auger, Pfc. McCartle, T/4 Manna, Pfc. Pendola, Pfc. Johnson, T/Sgt. Lastowski, T/4 Dellutri, T/4 Morin. *2nd Row:* S/Sgt. Frederick, T/4 Cakebread, Pfc. Cederburg, Pfc. Adelphio, T/5 Walworth, Sgt. Hajek, Sgt. Miller, T/4 Kibart, T/5 Eifert, Pfc. Yager, Sgt. Konken, Sgt. Buck, Pfc. Sliwa, T/4 Cory. *3rd Row:* T/4 Knize, T/4 Bloomstein, Cpl. Purcell, Pfc. Perley, Pfc. Carbough, Pfc. Roe, Cpl. Watkins, Pfc. Ditola, T/5 McDermott, Cpl. Bollinger, Pfc. Berwin, Pfc. Leming, T/5 Feller, T/5 Barr, S/Sgt. Wegrzyn.



Company "B"

First Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Carlton. *1st Row:* Lt. Shapiro, Pfc. Rogers, T/5 Maxwell, Sgt. Jackson, T/5 Pesta, Pfc. McIlreavy, Cpl. Land, Pfc. Ensminger, Cpl. Joines, S/Sgt. Miksa. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Slencsak, Cpl. Wassman, T/4 Bruce, Sgt.

Hilb, Pfc. Holmes, Pfc. Erber, Cpl. Taylor. *3rd Row:* Sgt. Eddy, T/4 Bizousky, Pfc. Conroy, Pfc. Mitchell, T/4 Peterson, Pfc. Blevins, Pfc. Young, Cpl. Hardesty.

Second Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Worthing, *1st Row:* S/Sgt. Fields, Cpl. Rotondi, Cpl. Baker, T/5 Blunt, Cpl. Gass, Pfc. Perez, T/5 Davis, Pfc. Dippery, Pfc. Espinosa, *2nd Row:* Pfc. Malphurs, T/5 Beauchamp,

T/5 Lamar, Cpl. Wojtowicz, Sgt. Gundberg, T/4 Townsend, Pfc. Williams, T/4 Hadinger. *3rd Row:* Pfc. Isler, Pfc. Smith, Pfc. Harvey, Pfc. Nelms, Pfc. McCormick, Cpl. Grisso, Sgt. Urbanski.

Third Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Resnick. *1st Row:* S/Sgt. Olson, T/4 Leftywich, Sgt. Herman, Cpl. Cypert, Sgt. Vandenburg, Cpl. Jones, Pfc. Cramer, Cpl. Stephenson. *2nd Row:* Cpl. Flamini, T/4 Binder, Pfc.

Johnston, Pfc. Altenburg, Pfc. Smith, Pfc. Chew, Sgt. Wensel. *3rd Row:* Pfc. Morgan, Pfc. Miller, T/5 Bolton, T/5 Goliszewski, Pfc. Berardesco, T/5 Shanp, Pfc. Fraser.

Company "B"

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

Capt. Wallace C. Wardner
 1st Lt. Douglas E. Banks
 1st Lt. James A. Keller
 1st Lt. Roger L. Pedigo
 1st Lt. Martin E. Quinn
 1st Lt. Wilburn L. Sanders
 1st Lt. Joseph S. Sabol
 1st Lt. James P. Wood
 1st Lt. Wilbur F. Worthing
 2d Lt. Weldon B. Benson
 2d Lt. Richard J. Carlton
 2d Lt. Joseph Paxton
 2d Lt. William V. Resnick Jr.
 2d Lt. Merrill Shapiro

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANT:

Edward F. Mc Grath

TECHNICAL SERGEANT:

Felix B. Lastowski

STAFF SERGEANTS:

Alfonso R. De Andrea
 Raymond W. Fields
 Chester Frederick
 Edgar G. Ireland
 Earl R. Jacobson
 James E. Mathes Jr.
 Robert Miksa
 Archie C. Ross
 James F. Sheldon
 Stanley M. Wegrzyn

SERGEANTS:

Frank W. Baker
 Alva E. Beck
 Clayton E. Buck
 Delbert N. Bumpus
 Thaddeus M. Cebulski
 Charles R. Eddy Jr.
 Paul B. Gundberg
 Erwin G. Hajek
 Theodore R. Hilb
 Glen R. Jackson
 Charles Karkut
 Norman D. Korken
 Lawrence G. Landstrom
 Francis J. Miller
 William Moreland
 Edward Morris
 Vechel W. Olson
 Anthony J. Pagano
 Arland C. Randall
 Robert J. Rossman
 Charles E. Russell
 James W. Smith
 Harry L. Stenbridge
 Clayton H. Tippet
 Paul Vandenberg
 Wesley L. Walters
 Arthur E. Winters
 James W. Wensel
 Stanley T. Urbanski
 Martin J. Zitter
 Carl F. Beauchamp

TECHNICIANS 4TH GRADE:

Davnd Bloomstein
 Cecil A. Bruce
 William C. Cakebread
 Walter E. Davis
 Angelo J. Dellutri
 Roland L. Cory
 Daniel C. Gordon
 Joseph Hadinger
 Howard W. Johnson
 Joseph J. Kibart
 Duane J. Knize
 Allen F. LaMar
 Arthur L. Leftwich
 Salvatore J. Manca
 Anthony V. Masulaitis
 Charles T. Morin
 Glenn R. Pedersen
 Robert P. Peterson
 Rudolph G. Plovanych
 Norris G. Townsend
 Paul E. Turton

CORPORALS:

Frank L. Agresto
 Walter E. Auger
 Carl A. Back
 Lon H. Baker
 Louis Bernstein
 Norwin A. Bollinger
 Robert P. Cypert
 Edmund S. Domaracki
 Dominic R. Flamini
 John E. Gass
 Arthur A. Grisso
 William J. Hagen
 Guy L. Hale
 Edward N. Hardesty
 Frank J. Hermann Jr.
 Joseph J. Jarosz
 Joseph L. Joines
 George T. Jones
 Robert E. Land
 Roy W. Lindoerfer
 Walter F. Meinecke
 Hubert V. Nymczyk
 Stanley F. Ogint
 Albert J. Petrick
 Gilbert D. Purcell
 Albert F. Rapozo
 Louis D. Rotondi
 Howard F. Stephenson
 Joseph E. Sternberg
 William R. Taylor
 Lester E. Veme
 Cecil Warren
 Maurice H. Wassmann
 Robert E. Watkins
 Henry J. Wojtowicz

TECHNICIANS 5TH GRADE:

Robert A. Bair
 Frank L. Barr Jr.
 Alexander J. Blunt
 James M. Bolton
 Joseph R. Couchaine
 Ora G. Davis
 Charles B. Eifert
 Ezra B. Feller

Ralph Fitzgerald
 Justin W. Fogarty
 Alfred A. Gironimi
 Edward Godnick
 Alex Goliszewski
 Harry J. Jewell
 Rudolph J. Kostial
 Robert E. Kuffer
 Louis H. Maurer
 Vearl Maxwell
 Fabian J. Mc Climon
 Raphael J. Mc Dermott
 Robert J. Michaud
 Russell E. Nelson
 William J. Palmer
 James R. Paul
 Edward R. Pesta
 James Shamp Jr.
 Patrick Tiernan
 Lewis T. Walworth
 William R. Webb
 Joseph C. Wic

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS:

Thomas Adelfio
 William D. Altenburg
 Nicholas Berardesco
 Lloyd C. Blevins
 Thomas Caliento Jr.
 Franklin B. Carbaugh
 John R. Cannon
 Roy W. Cederburg
 Thomas E. Chew Jr.
 Kenneth W. Collins
 David P. Conroy
 John Corey
 Myron R. Coy
 Robert L. Cramer
 William L. Dippery
 Glen G. Early
 Robert L. Ensinger
 Kenneth G. Erber
 Ross J. Espinosa
 Jesse F. Fraser
 John F. Freitag
 Ernest R. Gersbach
 Clarence P. Hanks
 William M. Harvey
 Jerome C. Hatch
 Otto C. Hoffman
 Donald W. Houghton
 Boyd Isler
 Charlie H. Johnson
 Vernon E. Johnson
 Judson K. Johnston
 Lyle E. Keller
 William I. Leming
 James F. Malphurs
 Charles H. Mc Cartie
 Karl J. Binder
 Michael G. Bizousky Jr.
 Willard J. Mc Cormick
 James Mc Heavy
 Cyril D. Miller
 William J. Mitchell
 Gerald C. Morgan
 Anthony J. Muccilli
 Ralph A. Murphy
 Reato D. Musetti
 Frank F. Olszewski
 Robert J. Pautler

Carlo E. Pendola
 Guy V. Perez
 Walter J. Renusch
 Arthur Roe
 James B. Rogers
 Paul J. Shermer
 Marcus A. Slencsak
 Dominic F. Sliwa
 Loyd R. Smith
 Lloyd R. Smith
 William Smith
 Chester Smolinski
 Ernest J. Swaby
 Robert L. Tussey
 Roy A. Williams
 George Yager
 Robert D. Stokes

PRIVATEs:

George E. Baker
 Eugene B. Barrner
 Israel Bloom
 Frank I. Brown
 Carlo F. Di Tola
 George W. Eubanks
 Armando H. Gos
 Delbert A. Holmes
 Leo Kissler
 Johnnie D. Klein
 John F. Litwicki
 Joe M. Nelps
 Harry P. Nyerick
 Howard L. Yung
 George A. Perley
 Sylvester J. Sanfratello
 Lowber Randolph
 John D. Pressinger
 John Mastrocolo
 Robert E. Marcoff
 Walter S. Lenik
 Robert W. Hammond
 Eugene Haffics
 Mar J. Friedman
 Walter C. Brandt
 Guion H. Willis
 James W. Woody

* *

Company "C"



Officers

(Left to Right) Lt. English, Lt. Fitzpatrick, Lt. Novak, Lt. Fitzgerald, Lt. Hoover, Lt. Barnes.



Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* 1st Sgt. Yeatts, Lt. English, Lt. Fitzpatrick, Lt. Barnes, T/Sgt. Seipp.
2nd Row: T/4 Szydowski, Sgt. Weiss, T/4 Weidner, T/5 Vierck, Pfc. Murillo, Cpl. Ward, Pfc. Mysko, Pfc. Boudreau, Pvt. Biron, Pvt. Murray, Cpl. Sherwin, Pvt. Hanberry.
3rd Row: T/5 Wilson, Pfc. Rakowski, T/5 Love, Pvt. Webster, Pfc. Howard, T/4 Constable, Pfc. Fernandes, Pvt. Peretz, Pvt. Morales, T/5 Hendrickson.
4th Row: T/5 Sinn, T/5 Schreiber, Sgt. Brane, Pfc. Hinkle, Sgt. Martin, T/4 Dillenburg, Pvt. Saldana, Pfc. Simmons, T/4 Knopf, S/Sgt. Bogas, Sgt. Swern.



Company "C"

First Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Pvt. Brewster, Pvt. Grzesik, Pfc. Rossi, Pfc. Peterson, Pvt. Morris, Pvt. Roberts, T/5 Campbell, Pfc. Roberson, Lt. Fitzgerald. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Piersanti, Pfc. Abshire, Sgt. Richard-

son, Cpl. Angelini, Pfc. Blood, Pfc. Myatt, S/Sgt. Dehart. *3rd Row:* Pfc. Burch, T/5 Bryant,* Cpl. Kietzman, T/5 Zukowsky, Pvt. Taggart, Pfc. McCray, T/4 Ochs.

Second Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* T/4 Malner, Sgt. Mitchell, T/4 Hicks, T/4 Cromwell, Sgt. Mills, S/Sgt. Corwin, Sgt. Lorenzetti, Pfc. Fraschetta, Lt. Novak. *2nd Row:* Cpl. Bickel, T/5 Duncan, Cpl. Schull, T/5

Hannawalt, Cpl. Harris, Pvt. Agar, Pfc. Brimmer, Pvt. Shoemaker. *3rd Row:* Pfc. Westbrook, Pfc. Wickman, Pfc. Murray, Pfc. Piccolomini, Pfc. Snodgrass, Pfc. Bulau, Pfc. Holden, T/3 Moran.

Third Platoon

(Left to Right) *1st Row:* Cpl. Hoffman, T/4 Heavner, Sgt. Peia, Lt. Hoover, S/Sgt. Charnisky, T/4 Bennorth, Cpl. Robinson, Cpl. Triantis. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Miller, T/5 Thomas, Pfc. Brewer, T/5

Orme, T/5 Dudley, T/5 Nagell, Cpl. Pleasant, Pfc. DeMeo. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Olson, Pfc. Alexander, Pvt. Peters, Pfc. Eckler, Pfc. Allburger, Pvt. Nurse, Pvt. Leonard, Pfc. Peterson.

Company "C"

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAIN

Alwyn L. Washburn

LIEUTENANTS

Donald M. English
Warren J. Fitzpatrick
Lester H. Hoover
Leonard J. Novak
Frank E. Barnes, Jr.
Harold R. Fitzgerald

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANT

Garland E. Yeatts

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

Samuel F. Perrone
Edward H. Seipp

STAFF SERGEANTS

George Bogas
John Charnisky
Lavern R. Corwin
Thomas E. Dehart
Alfred L. Dixon
Garland R. Lewis
Thomas J. Nayder

TEC 3

Edward J. Moran

SERGEANTS

Frank M. Brane
Glen J. Dill
Darrell J. Eggenberger
Glen C. Helton
Burl R. Innis
James M. Kennedy
Ben B. Lewis
Dominick P. Lorenzetti
Robert D. Martin
Matthew E. McGrath
William B. McShay
Clarence W. Michaeis
Walter W. Mills
Edward B. Mitchell
Garson Y. Moore
Albert L. Peia
Allen T. Perry
Albert V. Stasi
John B. Swern
Bohumil J. Sykora
Hayden F. Weiss
Frank P. Wollan
Chester Richardson

TEC 4

Fred Arnold
Charles A. Bennorth
Elden E. Bittner
Donald S. Constable
Paul O. Cromwell
Robert H. Dillenburg
Owen H. Faurot
Howard R. Heavner
George W. Howell
Earl Hicks
Roy H. Johnson
Mar Knopf
Cozmer T. Mälner
Burton W. Maupin
Martin E. Miller
John W. Ochs
Willard D. Shottenkirk
Otis F. Smith

Leonard E. Szydlowski
Walter T. Weidner

CORPORALS

Ernest C. Angelini
Kermit Basham
Leroy Bickel
Vincent A. Bova
James I. Brewster
Sidney E. Brimmer
Frank A. Cairo
Russell F. Feller
Louis J. Gergel
Francis H. Giguere
Hubert E. Harris
Merton E. Hoffman
Herbert H. Irlbacker
Leroy N. Jannenga
Glen H. Johnson
Walter L. Kietzman
Eugene A. McKay
Robert T. Morrice, Jr.
William E. Pleasant
William J. Rappold
Francis E. Reilly
John F. Robinson
Robert F. Schaefer
Edward K. Sherwin
Gary O. Shull
Warren A. Strauss
Barney Shapiro
Antonios Triantis
Andrew Tylka
Raymond L. Ward

TEC 5

Dallas E. Barnes
Thomas H. Bryant
James M. Campbell
George Dudley Jr.
Raymond R. Duncan
Edward T. Dwyer
George Hannawalt, Jr.
Leonard J. Hartline
Sie Hendrickson
James H. Hill Jr.
Melvin C. Lewis
Lee P. Love
Clyde E. Medley
Matthew T. Murray
Lloyd Leuze
James D. Nagell
Orville L. Orme
Elvin V. Phelps
Charles A. Rossi
Lawrence W. Schreiber
Luke Sciambra
Charles A. Sinn
Raymond G. Vierck
Russell B. Thomas
Homer W. Wilson
Edward J. Zukowski
Ernest Cairo

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

Robert T. Abshire
George H. Alburger
Arnold E. Alexander
Joseph E. Basista
Aaron F. Bennett
Harold R. Blood
Wilbur J. Boudreau
Raymond S. Brewer
Alwin E. Bulau, Jr.
Elmer L. Burch
Joseph J. Chmielinski

Anthony J. De Meo
Kenneth D. Eckler
Willford L. Fauquier
Americo J. Fernandes
Dominic J. Franchina
Alexander F. Fraschetta
Eugene A. Fishman
Vincent J. Green
William A. Gruber
Max E. Hanberry
Cecil E. Hinkle
James A. Holden
Robert C. Howard
Carl E. McCray
Seymour G. Miller
James H. Morris
Henry E. Mulbauer
Edward T. Murillo
James H. Murray
Bill Myatt
Andrew L. Mysko
Freamon B. Newton
John C. Nitz
Milton J. Olson
Spiro Peterson
Harold G. Petersen
Guido D. Piccolomini
Anthony J. Piersanti
Nickolas A. Pignetti
Elmer E. Pritchard
Eugene D. Raike
Jack J. Rakowski
Edison P. Roberts
Richard R. Saldana
Francis M. Simmons
George M. Snodgrass
Robert F. Taggart
Anthony J. Vetrano
Vincent L. Westbrook
William R. Wickman

PRIVATES

Carl Adams
Willford L. Agar
Frank R. Biron
Frank J. Bonfile
George T. Brooks, Jr.
Bernard E. Burke
Alfred S. Cierpial
Louis Foresta
Joseph F. Grzesik
Harley A. Jonas
Teddy E. Lego
Earl A. Leonard
Andrew M. McDermott
Tony A. Majersky
Joseph E. Massina
Benjamin F. McRaven
Samuel F. Mobley
Carl J. Moen
Samuel Morales
George R. Murray
John P. O'Donnell
John L. Overmire
William Peretz
Robert V. Nurse
Daniel W. Peters, Jr.
Eugene D. Raike
Beverly O. Roberson
John J. Shoemaker
Walter J. Siwek
John A. Tabbert
Bernard A. Webster
Claude E. Whitney

Company "D"



Officers

(Left to Right) Capt. Chirigotis, Lt. Lee, Lt. Howenstine, Lt. Lefeber.



Headquarters Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Howenstine, Capt. Chirigotis, 1st Sgt. Goodwin, T/Sgt. Duggan.
1st Row: Pvt. Hunt, T/4 Nau, Pvt. Cucinatta, Sgt. Zemlin, Cpl. Hays, Pvt. Bizon,, T/5 Williams, F., S/Sgt. Facticeau, Pfc. Boase, Sgt. Anderson. *2nd Row:* Pfc. Bledsoe, T/4 Krebbs, Pfc. Foster, T/4 Dombach, T/4 Hesse, Sgt. Dempsey, T/5 Burk, T/5 Schmuck, Pvt. Doyle, Cpl. Cantlett. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Cienkus, Pvt. Smalley, T/5 Sprague, Pvt. O'Connor, Pvt. Gottschalk, S/Sgt. Coleman, T/4 Brosius, Cpl. Pixley.



Company "D"

First Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Lefeber, S/Sgt. Bohannon. *1st Row:* T/4 Finch, Pvt. Jones, T. S., Sgt. Lee, Pvt. Masden, Pvt. Larason. *2nd Row:* T/5 Moon, Pvt. Givin,

Pvt. Cereghino, Pvt. Comfort, Pvt. One-son. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Longstreth, Pvt. Jones, C., T/5 Orbik, Pvt. Kuligoski T/4 Diehl.

Second Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* S/Sgt. Smith. *1st Row:* Sgt. Bost, T/5 Hatfield, Pfc. Brandmeyer, Pvt. Cameron, Pvt. Housley, Pvt. Mullett. *2nd Row:* Sgt. Henry, Pvt. Zart-

man, Pvt. Pallerino, T/4 Rosendahl, Pvt. Holcomb. *3rd Row:* Sgt. Marshall, Pvt. Heuman, T/5 Robison, T/5 Browning, T/5 Zekser, Pvt. Sobrian.

Third Platoon

(Left to Right) *Front:* Lt. Lee, S/Sgt. Duff. *1st Row:* Sgt. Thompson, T/5 Williams, T., Pvt. McGathay, Sgt. Kneeland, Pfc. Fingerhut, T/5 Fossie. *2nd Row:* Pvt.

Hensel, Pvt. Spahn, Pfc. Komerak, T/4 Haseman, Pfc. Stanziola. *3rd Row:* Pvt. Peterson, Pvt. Zalewski, Sgt. Good, T/5 Brown, Cpl. Woody, Pvt. Mauro.

Company "D"

Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men since 6 June 1944

OFFICERS:

CAPTAINS

Frederick F. Chirigotis
Leonard S. Wilds

LIEUTENANTS

Arthur E. Bernd
Frederick B. Dapp
Lannes H. Hope
David C. Houck
Harold D. Howenstine
John T. Lee
John Lefeber
Robert C. Krueger

ENLISTED MEN:

FIRST SERGEANTS

Frank E. Mazurowski
Elwin W. Goodwin

TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

John Duggan
Walter F. Sanczuk

STAFF SERGEANTS

Arthur F. Biechler
Francis Birmingham
Clyde H. Bohannon
Ennard D. Coleman
Charles C. Duff
Robert W. Facticeau
William C. Rensi
James A. Smith
John V. Sullivan, Jr.
E. L. Vaughn

SERGEANTS

Frank F. Anderson
Fred Barr
Eugene D. Bost
John W. Dempsey
Stanley C. Erickson
Joseph R. Ferguson
Vincent J. Gibbons
Paul W. Good
William O. Hart
Ralph G. Harvey
Eugene J. Henry
Herbert A. Hookaylo
Leroy Kennedy
Harding H. Kneeland
Wayne S. Larson
Marion E. Lee, Jr.
Odie R. Liptrap
Shirley B. Marshall
Vernon C. Proffitt
Walter M. Sullivan
John E. Thompson
Stephen Zemlin
Mike Zielicki

TEC 4

Paul J. Brosius
William S. Collie, Jr.
Raymond Davis
Russel F. Diehl
Charles C. Dombach
Josch W. Finch
Lawrence Haseman
Jerrill D. Hesse
Victor E. Krebbs
Paul J. Murman
Walter E. Nau
Edward E. Pardo
James E. Rispane
Raymond Q. Rosendahl
Aloysius J. Urbanski

CORPORALS

Franklin H. Canienn, jr.
Harold D. Cassens
Monico M. Carcia
James R. Hays
Herbert A. Woody

TEC 5

Blain A. Beatty
Lee R. Brown
Eldee Browning
Leonard L. Burk
Ernest A. Fossie
Clifford P. Hartje
Chester Hatfield, Jr.
John A. Hensley
Elwood F. Kramer
Henry J. Kuligoski
Virgle C. Moon, Jr.
Richard L. Moore
Frank J. Orbik
Floyd E. Robison
Raymond A. Schmuck
Henry B. Siezega
Bernard J. Sprague
Walter L. Stewart
Frederick G. Williams
Raymond B. Williams
Thomas E. Williams
Morris Zekser
Floyd N. Robison

PRIVATEs

FIRST CLASS

Richard J. Ayers
Robert C. Boase
Richard Brand
Harold J. Brandmeyer
Howard W. Brouse
William J. Cienkus
Sherman Foster
Charles Komarek
Frank C. Kot

John D. Larson
Allen J. Longstreth
Wendelle E. Moncelle
Ernest B. Olejniczak
Dominic M. Pizzimenti
Dermont L. Porterfield
Joseph J. Rizzo
Corbett Rowe
Robert C. Saunier
Robert E. Bledsoe
Charles N. Smalley
Colbert N. Sobrian

PRIVATEs

John J. Bizon
Thomas M. Bowen
William C. Cameron
Joseph Cereghino
John L. Comfort
Orazio Cucinotta
James M. Doyle
Jay S. Drexler
Edward Fingerhut
Fred W. Fondaw
Albert F. Gottschalk
Bobbie R. Gwin
Edgar L. Harris
Harold S. Hecht
Henry C. Hensel
Wilbur J. Heuman
David D. Holcomb, Jr.
Calvin C. Housley
John E. Hunt
Charles C. Jones
Thomas S. Jones
Constantine Kapior
Jack E. Keith
John Kozik
Harvey W. Larason
Charles R. Long
Robert W. Masden
Ernest S. Mauro
Norman R. McCollum
John O. McGathey
Sylvester F. Meyer
Edward H. Muench, Jr.
William G. Mullett
Edward X. Norkiewicz
Jeremiah T. O'Connor
Irving B. Oneson
Albert J. Pallerino
Arvid E. Peterson
William D. Rountree
Joseph J. Samson
Robert O. Slein
Edward J. Spahn
Anthony Stanziola
Charles J. Zalewski
Claude D. Zartman

Awards Received by The Men of the 745th

Distinguished Service Cross

Capt. Leonard S. Wilds
Lt. Wilbur F. Worthing
S/Sgt. William I. Tucker

Silver Star

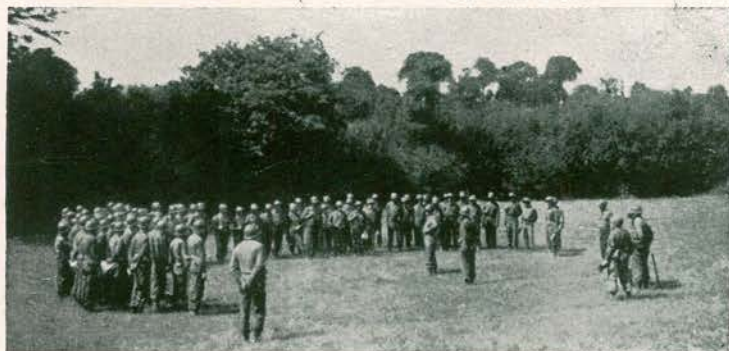
Capt. Donald E. Honeman
Capt. Robert E. Joanis
Capt. Francis A. McCall
Capt. Alwyn L. Washburn
Lt. Douglas E. Banks
Lt. Joseph I. Breen
*Lt. Donald M. English
*Lt. Daniel P. Griffin
Lt. Lester H. Hoover
Lt. David C. Houck
Lt. John A. Howard
Lt. Anton R. Gorenc

Pvt. Richard Angelica
Pvt. George E. Baker
Sgt. Alva E. Beck
S/Sgt. David Benskofsky
Pfc. Richard Brand
S/Sgt. Thomas W. Cannell
S/Sgt. Lavern R. Corwin
T/4 Rocco A. Crudell
Pfc. Owen H. Dedmon
Sgt. Glenn J. Dill
T/4 William H. Frakes
Pvt. James V. Fresso
Sgt. Jean M. Gibson
Sgt. Burl R. Innis
S/Sgt. Edgar G. Ireland
S/Sgt. Earl R. Jacobson
Cpl. Richard P. Kaucich
S/Sgt. Garland R. Lewis

Lt. James A. Keller
Lt. Joseph G. Kelly
Lt. Ernest S. Moody
Lt. Leonard J. Novak
Lt. Martin E. Quinn
Lt. Warren A. Raddatz
Lt. Leroy F. Rheinberger
*Lt. Joseph S. Sabol
Lt. Roy P. Simmons
Lt. James W. Sullivan
Lt. James H. Watlington
Lt. John A. Viggiano

Pfc. Everett H. Lloyd
T/5 Clyde E. Medley
Sgt. Edward L. Murphy
S/Sgt. Thomas J. Nayder
S/Sgt. John R. Patrick
S/Sgt. Archie C. Ross
Sgt. Peter Smolley
Sgt. Bohumil J. Sykora
Sgt. William J. Sam
S/Sgt. John V. Sullivan
S/Sgt. William I. Tucker
T/4 Robert E. Thayer
T/5 Mario Vangelisti
Pvt. Harold L. Walker
M/Sgt. William E. Wagner
Sgt. Wesley L. Walters
S/Sgt. Robert Miksa

*Oak Leaf Cluster



Presentation of awards at la Ferte Mace,
France

Bronze Star

- *Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols
Major Howell H. Heard
Major Miles R. Patterson
Capt. Ralph B. Burt
Capt. Frederick F. Chirigotis
Capt. Robert E. Joanis
*Capt. Wallace C. Wardner
Capt. Thomas Carroll
Lt. Verle W. Carter
Lt. Donald M. English
Lt. Warren J. Fitzpatrick
Lt. Wilford B. Greemann
Lt. Harold D. Howenstine
*Lt. James A. Keller
Lt. John Lefebber
Lt. Joseph M. Paxton
Lt. Roger L. Pedigo
Lt. Thomas E. Pegg
Lt. Martin E. Quinn
Lt. Leroy F. Rheinberger
Lt. Raymond A. Russell
Lt. Wilburn L. Sanders
Lt. Allen G. Spencer
Lt. James W. Sullivan
Lt. Glennis W. Thompson
CWO William W. Dick, Jr.
- Pvt. Wilford L. Agar
Sgt. Clifford F. Ashley
Cpl. Joseph P. Avelis
T/Sgt. Joseph R. Bacciolo
Pvt. George E. Baker
S/Sgt. Verice L. Baker
T/5 Charles M. Barlow
Sgt. Frank Barrile
*Cpl. Kermit Basham
Sgt. Ray Beachler
Cpl. Arthur W. Becker
Sgt. Lawrence A. Bednarz
T/4 Eugene R. Belisle
Cpl. Christopher R. Bell
T/4 Danny O. Benigno
Pfc. Louis Berwyn
T/5 Roman S. Bieganski
T/4 Karl J. Binder
Sgt. John H. Bittner
Sgt. Norman G. Blezinger
T/4 David Bloomstein
S/Sgt. Clyde H. Bohannon
T/4 Eugene D. Bost
Sgt. Frank M. Brane
Cpl. Sidney E. Brimmer
Pfc. Thomas J. Brennan
Pfc. Raymond S. Brewer
- Pfc. Richard W. Brown
Pfc. Alwin E. Bulau, Jr.
Sgt. Delbert N. Bumpus
Pfc. Pasquale J. Buoncontri
T/4 George J. Burke
S/Sgt. Thomas W. Cannell
S/Sgt. Charles L. Carroll
S/Sgt. John Charnisky
S/Sgt. William H. Childers
Pvt. Merritt T. Cole
Pfc. James P. Connell
*S/Sgt. Lavern R. Corwin
T/5 Robert W. Criley
Cpl. Townsend W. Crittenberger
Sgt. Henry E. Crow
T/5 Cecil M. Darnell
T/4 Angelo J. Dellutri
Pfc. Francis L. Delmont
Pfc. Anthony J. De Meo
Sgt. John W. Dempsey
Pvt. Virgil B. Dent, Jr.
S/Sgt. Alfred L. Dixon
T/4 Charles C. Dombach
*Pfc. Thomas M. Dolan
Pfc. Eugene E. Downey
T/Sgt. John Duggan
T/5 Raymond R. Duncan
T/5 Edward T. Dwyer
Pfc. Edward Echols
Sgt. Charles R. Eddy, Jr.
Sgt. Darrell J. Eggenberger
S/Sgt. Robert W. Facticeau
T/4 Owen H. Faurot
Cpl. Russell F. Feller
S/Sgt. Raymond W. Fields
T/4 William H. Frakes
*T/4 Siegfried C. Fuessel
T/4 Elmer O. Gauger
Sgt. Jean M. Gibson
T/4 Daniel C. Gordon
Pfc. Vincent J. Green
Cpl. Albert J. Guerrero
Sgt. Paul B. Gundberg
T/5 Dwight R. Guge
*Sgt. Erwin G. Hajek
Cpl. Guy L. Hale
*Cpl. James E. Hallmark
T/5 George Hannawalt, Jr.
T/4 Melvin A. Hardy
Cpl. Hubert E. Harris
Sgt. William O. Hart
T/5 Woodrow Hipsman
T/5 Clifford P. Hartje
- T/4 Albert H. Harvey
T/4 Howard R. Heavner
Sgt. Glen C. Helton
Cpl. Frank J. Hermann, Jr.
Cpl. Hal E. Hermanson
T/4 Earl Hicks
T/5 James H. Hill, Jr.
S/Sgt. William E. Hinton
Cpl. Merton E. Hoffman
T/5 Clinton A. Holmes
T/4 George W. Howell
Cpl. Edward Jackson
T/5 Warren Jackson
T/4 Eben H. Jacobs
*Cpl. Frank J. Jaworek
T/5 Marion J. Jedrzejczyk
S/Sgt. Charles L. Jennings
Pfc. Allen R. Jewell
T/5 Harry J. Jewell
Pfc. Vernon E. Johnson
Cpl. Olin G. Johnston
*Cpl. Richard P. Kaucich
T/4 John E. Keenan
Sgt. John F. Kite
*Pfc. Stanley F. Kmiotek
T/4 Duane J. Knize
Pfc. George Kocka
T/5 Elwood F. Kramer
Cpl. Elmer E. Kressly
T/Sgt. Arthur J. Krusinski
T/5 Robert E. Kuffer
Cpl. Robert L. Lancaster
Cpl. William L. Lang
T/Sgt. Jerome Leavitt
T/5 Thomas E. Lipsey
*T/5 Edward P. Lackner
T/5 Robert L. Lambert
Sgt. Lawrence G. Landstrom
Pfc. Ernest M. Lentz
T/5 Lloyd Leuze
S/Sgt. Charles W. Lewis
S/Sgt. Garland R. Lewis
T/5 Melvin C. Lewis
Cpl. Roy W. Lindoferfer
Sgt. Dominick P. Lorenzetti
Sgt. Nick Marcu
Pfc. Henry J. McKiernan
T/5 Louis M. Meyers
Sgt. Edward Morris
Cpl. Eugene J. Morzuch
T/5 Ralph E. Moutray
T/5 Thomas D. Murrey
T/4 Cozmer T. Malner
T/4 Salvatore J. Manna

*Oak Leaf Cluster

Bronze Star (Cont'd)

S/Sgt. Carl E. Marten	Sgt. Arland C. Randall	Sgt. Harry L. Stenbridge
S/Sgt. James E. Mathes, Jr.	Cpl. Chester R. Richardson	Sgt. Bernard T. Stites
Pvt. James May	Sgt. William Robb	T/4 Fred L. Suddarth, Jr.
1st Sgt. Edward F. McGrath	Sgt. William R. Roberts	*T/4 Leonard E. Szydowski
T/5 Clyde E. Medley	Cpl. John F. Robinson	Pvt. Ben B. Teichner
S/Sgt. Howard G. Meyers	*Cpl. Dennis F. Rudolph	Cpl. Dewey E. Tiemann
Sgt. Clarence W. Michaels	Sgt. John J. Russell	T/5 James W. Toler, Jr.
T/4 Martin E. Miller	T/Sgt. Walter F. Sanczuk	T/Sgt. George E. Troll
Pvt. Ignatius M. Montalto	T/Sgt. John Schadt	T/4 Harvey T. Tibbs
*Sgt. Garson Y. Moore	Cpl. William E. Schubert	Pfc. Jim V. Tursi
T/4 Charles T. Morin	Pfc. Henry A. Skoczen	Cpl. Andrew Tylka
Pfc. Andrew L. Mysko	Pfc. Dominick F. Sliwa	Pfc. William D. Vines
Sgt. Edward L. Murphy	Sgt. James K. Snearly	T/4 George J. Webster
T/5 James D. Nagell	*Sgt. John B. Swern	Sgt. James W. Wensel
*T/5 Raymond A. Niebrugge	Pfc. Robert C. Saunier	Pfc. Larunce S. Wood
Pfc. John C. Nitz	Cpl. Robert F. Schaefer	T/4 Maurice W. Walker
Pvt. George E. Noble	T/4 Thomas M. Scoleri	T/4 Walter T. Weidner
Cpl. Florian A. Nocek	T/Sgt. Edward H. Seipp	Sgt. Hayden F. Weiss
Cpl. Stanley F. Ogint	Pfc. William A. Shaner	T/5 Joseph C. Wic
Pvt. John P. O'Donnell	T/4 Raymond J. Siemplinski	1st Sgt. William H.
T/5 Frank J. Orbik	T/5 Charles A. Sinn	Williamson
S/Sgt. John R. Patrick	T/4 Otis F. Smith	*T/5 Homer W. Wilson
T/4 Oscar C. Patrick	Sgt. Peter Smolley	Cpl. Tony E. Wirth
T/5 George W. Peart	Pfc. George M. Snodgrass	Sgt. Frank P. Wollan
*T/Sgt. Samuel F. Perrone	*Sgt. Carl L. Stammer	T/5 Walter J. Zush
T/5 Dyson Price	T/5 Oliver L. Syren	Pfc. Anthony R. Yott
Cpl. Edward J. Puckorius	T/5 John F. Spila	T/5 John M. Zimmerman
*S/Sgt. William C. Rensi	Cpl. Bruno J. Stefanski	

*Oak Leaf Cluster

CROIX de GUERRE

Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols
 Lt. James A. Keller
 S/Sgt. Earl R. Jacobson

* * *

For superior performance of duty, and the achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during the period 1 October 1944 to 30 November 1944, Service Company of the 745th Tank Battalion was awarded the:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

IN MEMORIAM

To those members of the battalion who gave their
lives for their country, we humbly pay our tribute.

DAVIS, JEFFERSON F., Jr.	1st Lieutenant	"B" Co.
DAY, JOHN J., Jr.	1st Lieutenant	"B" Co.
GRIFFIN, DANIEL P.	1st Lieutenant	"C" Co.
PEGG, THOMAS E.	1st Lieutenant	"A" Co.
YAKISH, ELMER K.	2nd Lieutenant	"A" Co.
Angelica, Richard	Private First Cl.	"A" Co.
Avelis, Joseph P.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Bailes, Butler O.	Private	"C" Co.
Ballard, Henry L.	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
Beachler, Ray	Sergeant	"B" Co.
Bell, Christopher R.	Corporal	"A" Co.
Berg, Harry A., Jr.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Bettin, Henry A.	Corporal	"B" Co.
Borta, Edward P., Jr.	Corporal	"A" Co.
Brahmstedt, Arthur G.	Technician Gr 4	"C" Co.
Broadman, Alfred F.	Private	"B" Co.
Brown, Donald E.	Private	"A" Co.
Brown, Richard W.	Private First Cl.	"C" Co.
Browne, Richard J.	Private	"A" Co.
Brycsak, Stephen	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
Buoncontri, Pasquale J.	Private First Cl.	"C" Co.
Chiapetta, Fredy P.	Sergeant	Hq. Co.
Clifford, Francis W.	Private	Hq. Co.
Connell, James P.	Private First Cl.	"A" Co.
Copenhaver, Wayne O.	Private	"A" Co.
Crittenberger, Townsend W.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Curlee, Charles W.	Technician Gr 5	"B" Co.
Decker, James C.	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
Dent, Virgil B., Jr.	Private	"A" Co.
Dirks, Raymond T.	Private	Hq. Co.
Donoghue, Charles N.	Sergeant	"B" Co.
DuMolin, Frank J.	Corporal	"A" Co.
Fleenor, Ivan	Sergeant	"C" Co.
Foster, Donald B.	Corporal	"B" Co.
Fresso, James V.	Private	"D" Co.
Gawron, Bruno J.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Gill, Orion P.	Corporal	"B" Co.
Guhrke, Clarence F.	Private First Cl.	"C" Co.

IN MEMORIAM

Hanmer, George M.	Private	Hq. Co.
Harris, John F.	Corporal	"B" Co.
Harvey, Albert H.	Technician Gr 4	"B" Co.
Heuck, Henry C.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Heuston, Paul F.	Sergeant	"B" Co.
Himstedt, Harry F., Jr.	Private	"C" Co.
Hinton, William E.	Staff Sergeant	"C" Co.
Hoidahl, Palmer M.	Private First Cl.	"C" Co.
Hutter, Franklin M.	Private	"C" Co.
Irish, Kenneth N.	Private First Cl.	"A" Co.
Jackson, Edward	Corporal	"C" Co.
Kasprak, Joseph J.	Sergeant	"C" Co.
Kawell, Warren J.	Technician Gr 5	"C" Co.
Knarr, Sterling A.	Private	"B" Co.
Labno, Edward F.	Corporal	"B" Co.
Lemm, Herbert H.	Technician Gr 5	"A" Co.
Lothrop, William	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
McFarland, John E.	Private	"C" Co.
McManimem, Harold P.	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
McVicker, Arthur T.	Private	"C" Co.
Morrison, John R.	Private First Cl.	"D" Co.
Myers, Howard G.	Staff Sergeant	"C" Co.
Narducy, John W.	Corporal	Hq. Co.
Ostrowski, Adam R.	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.
Perkins, Theodore A.	Technician Gr 5	"A" Co.
Price, Dyson	Technician Gr 5	"A" Co.
Puckorius, Edward J.	Corporal	"C" Co.
Rath, Henry J.	Private First Cl.	Hq. Co.
Roberts, William P.	Private First Cl.	"A" Co.
Roberts, William R.	Sergeant	"B" Co.
Sam, William J.	Sergeant	"B" Co.
Schmieder, Alfred J.	Private	"D" Co.
Smith, Paul A.	Sergeant	"A" Co.
Sokol, Meyer	Private First Cl.	"C" Co.
Surowka, Joseph S.	Private	"C" Co.
Thomas, Edward	Technician Gr 4	"D" Co.
Tucker, William I.	Staff Sergeant	"A" Co.
Valavor, Joseph	Private First Cl.	"A" Co.
Vosefski, Bruno J.	Private	"A" Co.
Walker, Maurice W.	Technician Gr 4	"C" Co.
Walker, Vincent J.	Technician Gr 4	"D" Co.
Witzig, Ned E.	Technician Gr 4	"A" Co.
Worley, Harold L.	Private First Cl.	"B" Co.



Lt. Gen. Hodges, Commanding General of the First US Army, left, and Major Gen. Collins, Commanding General of the VII Corps, right, following ceremony of award presentation to Major Gen. C. R. Huebner, Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division in France.



Major General Andrus, Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division, pins the eagles of a full Colonel on Col. Williamson, commanding officer of the 18th Infantry Regiment.

Battlefield Commissions



(Left to right) **Front Row:** Lt. Spencer, Lt. Shapiro, Lt. Lefeber, Lt. Kelly,
Second Row: Lt. Watlington, Lt. Resnick, Lt. Howard, Lt. Raddatz.

Displaying the superior quality of the men in the 745th Tank Battalion, eleven enlisted men rose to commissioned ranks during the eleven months of combat in Europe by receiving battlefield appointments as second lieutenants. Each man had proven his ability as a leader under fire as a non-commissioned officer or warrant officer. Six of the eleven received promotions to first lieutenant while still in combat.

We salute the eleven members of the battalion who have fought the war in both the enlisted and commissioned ranks——and made good at both. They are:

1st Lt. James H. Watlington	Service Company
1st Lt. Warren A. Raddatz	Headquarters Company
1st Lt. John A. Howard	Headquarters Company
1st Lt. Allen G. Spencer	Company "A"
1st Lt. James W. Sullivan	Company "A"
1st Lt. John Lefeber	Company "D"
2nd Lt. Joseph F. Kelly	Company "A"
2nd Lt. LeRoy F. Rheinberger	Company "A"
2nd Lt. William V. Resnick, Jr.	Company "B"
2nd Lt. Harold R. Fitzgerald	Company "C"
2nd Lt. Merrill Shapiro	Company "B"

The Original Cadre of the 745th Tank Battalion

Capt. Marvin W. Wall
Capt. Paul W. Schubach
Lt. Miles R. Patterson
Lt. Raymond F. Pepple
Lt. Ralph Burt
Lt. Fiore Campana
Lt. William R. Denslow
Lt. John M. Hughes, Jr.

Lt. Elliot P. Y. Powell
Lt. John S. May
Lt. Robert E. Joanis
Lt. Samuel O. Hernandez
Lt. Vaughn Bishop
Lt. Euclid K. Willis
Lt. Charles A. Miller
Lt. Jack S. Simmler

Lt. Donald E. Honeman
Lt. Leonard S. Wilds
Lt. Roger L. Pedigo
Lt. William M. Harris, Jr.
Lt. Harold W. Schiff
Lt. Thomas G. Howard

SERVICE COMPANY

M/Sgt. William Dick, Jr.
M/Sgt. Raymond C. Mason
T/Sgt. Don Civitarese
T/Sgt. Frederick W. Frank
T/Sgt. Louis Wolfe
1st Sgt. William E. Wagner
S/Sgt. Walter A. Hines
S/Sgt. Shirley B. Marshall
S/Sgt. Harry P. Nyerick
Sgt. Robert B. Coleman
Sgt. William Finkelstein
Sgt. Harold T. Huntington
Sgt. James L. Lowe
Sgt. John P. Morgan
Sgt. Vincent F. Ross
Sgt. William A. Saunders
T/4 Edward Dunn
T/4 John T. Godber
T/4 Thomas H. Levin
T/4 Michael J. Tirone
Cpl. David F. King
T/5 John G. Osborne

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Sgt. William V.
Resnick, Jr.
T/Sgt. Joseph P. Gallagher
S/Sgt. Frank F. Anderson
S/Sgt. Herbert W. Brimmer
S/Sgt. Frank J. Lazlo
S/Sgt. John R. Robinson
S/Sgt. Chester Frederick
S/Sgt. John J. Greany
Sgt. Robert W. Facticeau
Sgt. Adam Karatkiewicz
Sgt. Charles W. Lewis
Sgt. Edward T. Murphy
Sgt. Joseph M. Abbate, Jr.
Sgt. Charles N. Donoghue
Sgt. Joseph L. Martin
Sgt. Robert J. Childress
Sgt. Tony R. Majersky
T/4 Stanley J. Bycenski
T/4 John S. Begansky
Cpl. Francis S. Sheckley

COMPANY "A"

1st Sgt. Norman Baker
T/Sgt. Joseph J. Zeig
S/Sgt. Maurice C. Gaulard
S/Sgt. Frank E. Mazurowski
S/Sgt. John V. Sullivan
S/Sgt. Ronald Wellman
S/Sgt. George A. Hatch
Sgt. Alfonso R. DeAndrea
Sgt. John E. Chopus
Sgt. Charles C. Duff
Sgt. Joseph A. Kelly
Sgt. John Schadt
Sgt. Orlando J. Rufino
Sgt. James W. Sullivan
Sgt. Charles J. Ballaera
Sgt. David Benskofsky
Sgt. James S. Hegedus
Sgt. Jack Linn
Sgt. Robert F. Taggert
T/4 Woodrow Hipsman
T/4 Elmer E. Pritchard
T/4 Frederick G. Williams
T/4 Edward Echols
T/4 Lynn A. Pfaffenberger
T/4 John J. Russell
T/4 Walter J. Zush
Cpl. Seymour Willins
T/5 Clifford F. Ashley

COMPANY "B"

1st Sgt. John F. Dunn
T/Sgt. Louis Comeau
S/Sgt. Edward Morris
S/Sgt. Joseph J. Kibart
S/Sgt. Joseph J. Rihel
S/Sgt. James F. Sheldon
S/Sgt. Robert E. Welch
Sgt. George E. Baker
Sgt. William Musiker
Sgt. Max Rosenfield
Sgt. John Corey
Sgt. Allen T. Perry
Sgt. Harold D. Adams
Sgt. Frank W. Baker
Sgt. David Bloomstein

Sgt. Anthony J. Pagano
Sgt. Walter F. Sanczuk
Sgt. Charles Karkut
Sgt. Stanley Wegrzyn
Sgt. Felix B. Lastowski
T/4 Earl Jacobson
T/4 William B. McShay
T/4 Marion R. Wilkinson
T/4 James F. Brock
T/4 Raymond W. Fields
T/4 Eben H. Jacobs
T/4 Chester W. Patterson
Cpl. Albert Rapozo
T/5 Ross J. Espinosa

COMPANY "C"

1st Sgt. Victor Fore
T/Sgt. James H. Watlington
S/Sgt. Harold R. Fitzgerald
S/Sgt. Ben B. Lewis
S/Sgt. William T. McGregor
S/Sgt. Earl J. McCulloch
S/Sgt. Harold L. Walker
Sgt. William E. Hinton
Sgt. Richard L. Moore
Sgt. John J. Richardson
Sgt. Otie T. Cook, Jr.
Sgt. Alfred L. Dixon
Sgt. Garland R. Lewis
Sgt. Edward B. Mitchell
Sgt. Garson Y. Moore
Sgt. Howard G. Myers
Sgt. Clyde H. Bohannon
Sgt. James E. Mathes
Sgt. Richard P. Scott, Jr.
Sgt. Garland E. Yeatts
T/4 Frank E. Carter
T/4 Wade H. Saunders
T/4 William I. Tucker
T/4 Ivan Flenor
T/4 Woodrow F. Burnett
T/4 Tollie McFall
T/4 Thomas R. Moore
Cpl. Jerome Leavitt
T/5 Charles W. Smalley

I. Activation and Training

The 745th Tank Battalion was activated at Camp Bowie, Texas, on August 15, 1942, under the command of Lt. Col. Thomas B. Evans. Under Lt. Col. Evans and a cadre originating from the 191st Tank Battalion, the 745th was molded from a mere group of untrained men into a cool, determined, highly efficient fighting unit—a unit destined to take its rightful place with the finest armored battalions in the United States Army.

The great majority of the original cadre came from Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and was made up of men from National Guard tank companies from Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. These well-trained men, taking the raw recruits which arrived from Camp Grant, Illinois, on October 14, immediately undertook a comprehensive training program consisting of calisthenics, infantry drill, obstacle courses, tank driving, and firing. Soon the transformation from civilian to soldier was apparent, and the 745th was ready for more advanced training which could be secured only from a large field maneuver.

On April 14, 1943, the Battalion loaded its tanks, trucks, and peeps onto railroad flat cars and entrained for the Louisiana maneuver area. It was in the vicinity of Leesville, Louisiana, that the unit began an intensive six-week field maneuver, applying to practical use the book theories which had been learned at Camp Bowie. Halfway through the maneuver period, Lt. Col. Evans relinquished his command of the Battalion in order to assume a post in Washington, D. C., and on May 11, Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols assumed command of the unit.

On June 6—a date which was destined to mark the beginning of the combat history of the Battalion a year later—the men gladly left the mud and rain and heat of Louisiana to return "home" to Camp Bowie. This move was an epoch, for after loading all the tracked vehicles on flat cars, the men mounted trucks and rode the 440 miles to Camp Bowie in 22 hours, a record of sustained movement which stands high in the entire Army.

Once back in Camp Bowie, the Battalion began a gruelling period of range firing and preparations for overseas movement. A series of combat tests with the 4th Armored Division was completed practically on the eve of departure for the Port of Embarkation.

Loading on two trains, leaving their vehicles behind them, the Battalion left Camp Bowie at midnight on August 14. Traveling north to Chicago, where many men were within blocks of their homes, the trains turned east to Camp Shanks, New York, just 14 miles up the Hudson River from New York City. The men hardly paused here as they raced through their physical examinations and processing, and on August 18 the first units of the Battalion boarded the gigantic Queen Elizabeth in order to serve as gunnery crews during the crossing. The remainder of the Battalion went aboard the following night—a night never to be forgotten. Loaded down with rifles, gas masks, musette bags, complete blanket rolls, and the ungainly packages of gas-impregnated clothing, the men struggled over 2 miles of hilly ground

from their barracks to the train. After a 45 minute ride, they walked to the ferry landing where they took a large ferry to the loading pier, and it was not until after midnight that everyone was in his quarters, totally exhausted by the arduous task. While on the ferry, the men saw the great burned out hulk of the Normandie, its sheer deck almost completely out of water but still listing badly.

At 9 o'clock on the morning of August 20, the Queen Elizabeth set sail, and after 5 days of beautiful weather, marred by not the slightest mishap, dropped anchor in the Firth of Clyde at Greenock, Scotland. On August 26 the men disembarked to the tingling wails of bagpipes, played by a group of Highlanders resplendent in their multi-colored kilts. After this memorable welcome, a train of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railroad took the Battalion through Glasgow, Carlyle, Leeds, and Derby to its ultimate destination at Camp Ogbourne St. George, near Swindon, Wiltshire, England. The camp previously had been occupied by an armored unit of the British Eighth Army.

Included in the Battalion's training program in England were three months of amphibious training for Company "B", at the U. S. Assault Training Center at Lincombe, Devon, near Morthoe on the Western Coast of England. Here Company "B" conducted numerous experiments and tests while training the infantry units in combined amphibious operations with tank support. This was to prove very valuable experience for the real test which was to come a few months later.

The remainder of the Battalion participated in anti-aircraft firing and range practice at St. Agnes in October and combat firing exercises at the West Down Range near Tilshead early in November and then again in December.

It was in December that the Battalion was reorganized, creating Company "D", the light tank company.

There will be plenty of memories of those days in England remaining with the men—such as the time they pulled the weeds by hand because there were no sickles available, the time they harvested the potato crop for the English people because of the labor shortage, the furloughs to London, and the trips to Minehead, Tilshead and St. Agnes. Many a life-long friendship was created as the result of the companionship with the English people, and they became real people in the minds of the men, rather than stiff, formal and dull as many previously had pictured them.

After the first of the year, the Battalion became attached to the Southern Base Sector of SOS for duty with the Field Force Replacement System in training replacements. For this purpose the bulk of the Battalion moved into Marston Bigot near Frome, with Company "A" occupying a camp at Emborough and Company "C" moving to Street. More than 3,000 replacements were processed through the ambitious training program set up, and several of these found their way to the 745th after the unit was in combat.

On April 3 the Battalion moved into Parnham Tent Camp at the edge of Beaminster where final preparations for combat were undergone. Here all vehicles were waterproofed for an assault landing, and combat ammunition

was loaded into the vehicles. Here also the Battalion was assigned to V Corps and attached to the First U. S. Infantry Division for the invasion of France.

There was one dry run. For "Fabius" operation the Battalion moved on April 24 into three different marshalling areas in the vicinity of Dorchester and Weymouth near the Southern Coast of England. On April 30 personnel and equipment were loaded on four ships, but Company "B" was left in the marshalling area because its ship, a special type landing craft, had not yet arrived from the States. Hundreds of ships and planes and thousands of men participated in the problem.

"Fabius" was good practice, for the terrain where the landing was made, on the southern coast of England just below Dartmouth, closely resembled that of the actual landing area in Normandy which our troops assaulted five weeks later.

With one dry run under its belt, the Battalion knew that the real thing could not be far off. On May 17 the assault echelon of the Battalion moved to Marshalling Camp D-14 near Weymouth. Here the final stages of waterproofing were completed, and members of the organization were briefed for the "greatest show on earth"—the invasion of France.

On May 18 the residue of the Battalion—Company "D", parts of Headquarters Company and Service Company, plus the kitchens of the medium tank companies—moved from Parnham Tent Camp to the resort city of Bournemouth on the Southern coast of England, where they awaited their turn to cross the channel and join the assault elements of the Battalion.

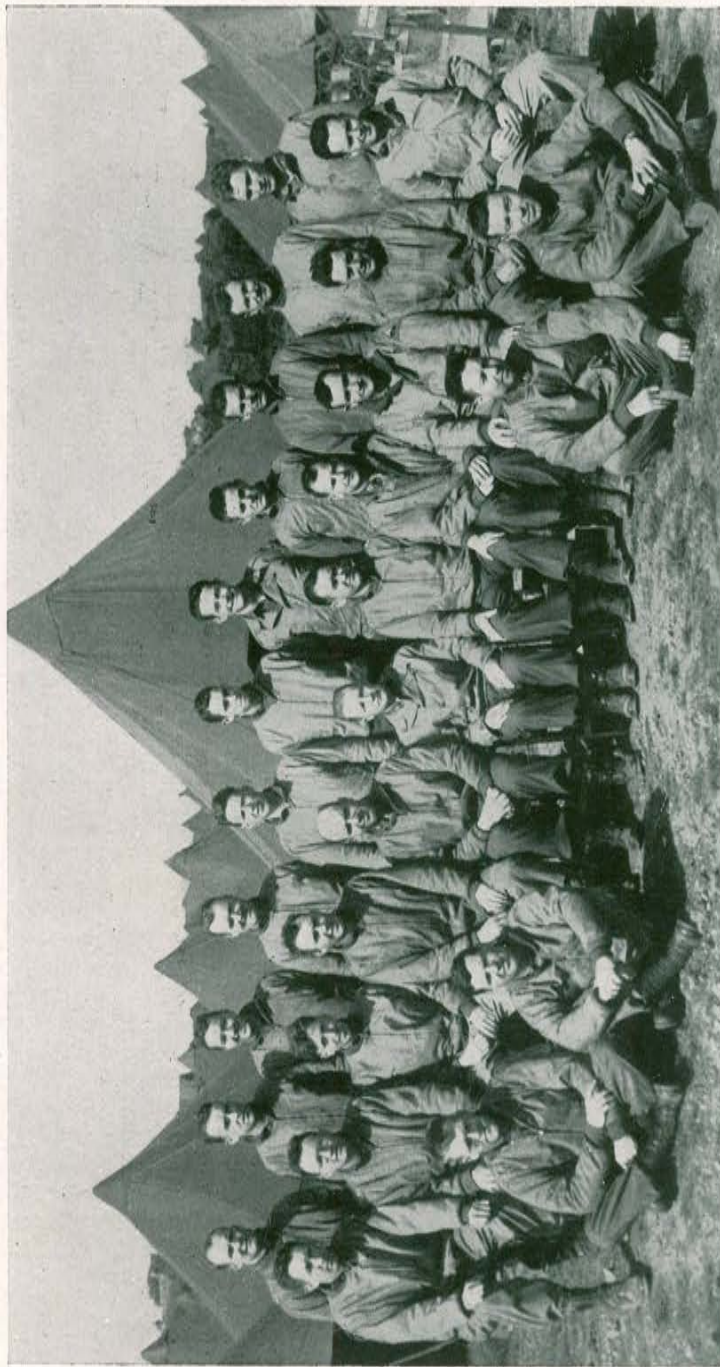
The loading and disembarking order called for the following:

LSD	Co "B", Bn. C. O.	95 men, 6 Off.	H † 360 Min.
APA 1	5 Recon. Peeps	14 men, 1 Off.	H † 365 "
APA 3	4 Peeps, S-3 Air	10 men, 1 Off.	H † 370 "
LST 418	Co. "C", Bn. Maint., Hq.	138 men, 10 Off.	H † 960 "
LST 419	Co. "A", Ex O., S-4, Med.	123 men, 9 Off.	H † 980 "

Loading took place on the night of June 2 with the landing scheduled for June 5. Inclement weather, however, forced General Eisenhower to delay the operation for 24 hours. Although the weather still was poor for such an enormous undertaking, the order to carry out the invasion as planned was given late on June 5 since it would be two weeks before the tides again would be right.

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Officers of the Assault Echelon, 745th Tank Battalion 24 May 1944



(Left to Right) **Front Row:** Lt. Joseph I. Breen; Lt. John J. Day, Jr.; WOJG James H. Watlington; Lt. Glennis W. Thompson. **Middle Row:** Lt. Roger L. Pedigo; Capt. Alwyn Y. Washburn; Capt. Donald E. Honeman; Capt. Robert E. Joanis; Maj. Miles R. Patterson; Lt. Col. Wallace J. Nichols; Capt. Ralph B. Burt; Capt. William R. Denslow; Capt. Francis A. McCall; Capt. Thomas Carroll; Lt. Raymond A. Russell. **Back Row:** Lt. Wilburn L. Sanders; Lt. Harold D. Howenstine; Lt. Martin E. Quinn; Lt. Daniel P. Griffin; Lt. Jefferson F. Davis, Jr.; Lt. Donald M. English; WOJG Robert E. Welsh; Lt. Roy P. Simmons; Lt. Ernest S. Moody; Lt. Lannes H. Hope; Lt. James A. Keller. (Missing from Picture—Maj. Howell H. Heard; Capt. Sam Sugar; Capt. John H. Garland).



II. The Normandy Beachhead

The picture of Omaha Beach in Normandy forever will remain in the memories of those who landed there. It is a picture that cannot be erased from one's memory. There was a gigantic and terrible litter of wreckage as far as the eye could see when our first elements landed only a few hours behind the first wave. Submerged tanks and overturned boats and burned trucks and shell-shattered jeeps and personal belongings were strewn over those blood-stained sands. Bodies of fallen soldiers sprawled grotesquely in the sand or half-hidden by the high grass beyond the beach.

In the water were thousands of devices to prevent the landing of our assault craft. There were six-pronged spiders made of railroad rails. There were huge logs buried in the sands, pointing outward and upward, their tops just below the water. Attached to the logs were mines. And there were floating mines off-shore, land mines buried in the sand of the beach, and more mines in the tank traps and barbed wire beyond the sand.

Built into a bluff a couple hundred yards back from the beach were concrete gun emplacements. These opened to the side instead of to the front so that they could shoot parallel with the shore and cover every foot of it for miles and still be difficult targets for naval fire from the sea. These guns took a heavy toll of the amphibious tanks and the landing craft. Then there were machine gun nests on the forward slopes, arranged so that their crossfire could cover every inch of the beach. These nests were connected by networks of trenches so that the German gunners could move about without exposing themselves. Beyond the beach and behind the protecting ridges were heavy artillery pieces which laid barrages into the men and ships attempting to land.

This was the beach called "Easy Red"—the beach which was never made easy, but which ran red with the blood of brave men. This was the beach of which Brig. Gen. George Taylor of the First Infantry Division said: "There are two kinds of men on that beach—those who are dead and those who are about to die." This was the beach referred to by Field Marshal Montgomery when he said that the men "hung on by their eyelids"—the beach which Ernie Pyle called a "pure miracle" to have ever been taken.

Reinforced by a division in the area for anti-invasion maneuvers, the German defenders of Omaha Beach put up the fiercest resistance encountered on any landing area in Normandy. As it was the only beach which did not receive a preparatory bombing, the defenses were intact and dealt out a severe beating to the assault forces until knocked out by the superb naval gunfire or by the determined assault of Rangers and infantrymen. Of the amphibious tanks which were in support of the leading infantry elements, only a few reached shore. This added great difficulties and responsibilities to the job of the 745th, which was to expand the beachhead.

Because of the tremendous amount of resistance, landing operations were behind schedule from the start. The first element of the Battalion to land was Lt. Glennis W. Thompson's Reconnaissance Platoon, which hit the beach at 1220 hours. Two of the platoon's peeps drowned out while wading ashore, and the other three moved on to the already congested beach, made so because of the lack of an exit from the beach. And the beach already was littered with dead bodies and the battered hulks of damaged landing craft. The platoon was pinned down on the beach by heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire.

The first casualties of the Battalion were suffered when Sgt. Charles W. Lewis, Pfc. Allen Jewell and Pvt. Ignatius M. Montalto attempted to recover their stalled peep only to have a shell land directly on the vehicle. Sgt. Lewis and Pvt. Jewell were wounded while Pvt. Montalto was shellshocked for several hours by the concussion.

Company "B", commanded by Capt. Donald E. Honeman, was the first tank company of the Battalion to land. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col.

Wallace J. Nichols, also made the landing with Company "B". Each tank was loaded in an LCM, discharged from a Landing Ship Dock, and made its way through heavy seas to reach the beach safely at 1500 hours. Upon landing they found no means of exit from the beach through the maze of minefields, tank traps and barbed wire. Enlisting the aid of the I and R platoon of the Third Battalion of the 16th Infantry, Company "B" inched its way precariously through the defenses, losing but three tanks by mines and making the first useable exit from the beach.

Company "B", after leaving the beach, attacked the town of Coleville-sur-Mer in conjunction with the 16th Infantry and spent a night, long to be remembered by its men, between cross fires of our own troops and those of the enemy. Prior to daylight of June 7, Company "B" was on its way east in the support of elements of the 16th and 26th Infantry, reaching the town of Le Grand Hameau at 0530, then attacked toward Le Hamel at noon, arriving on the objective at 1400. At 2030 part of the company attacked Formigny and cleared the town of the enemy while the rest assisted the infantry in the attack of Manderville.

Company "C" had its difficulties getting ashore, and seven tanks of the company along with the command group of Battalion Headquarters floated around on the turbulent sea on their Rhino Ferry from about midnight on June 6 until about 1000 on the morning of June 7 before a landing finally was made by the crippled Ferry. Shore forces had to clear bodies and debris away from in front of the Rhino Ferry before the tanks rolled ashore.

The first mission of the second platoon of Company "C" was to assist the 18th Infantry in clearing out an enemy strongpoint in the vicinity of Bellfontain. Then by nightfall the platoon had attacked successfully the town of Mosles after having lost its platoon sergeant, S. Sgt. William E. Hinton and his entire crew to bazooka fire. The remainder of Company "C" landed on the evening of June 7, and the other two platoons joined the second at Mosles during the night.

After passing through Tour-en-Bessin and reaching St. Anne on the night of June 8, Company "C" was subjected to the first heavy counterattack of its combat history and succeeded in turning back an assault by more than 300 enemy, inflicting heavy casualties. Two of our tanks were hit by an enemy anti-tank gun during this fierce battle.

After landing on the morning of June 7, Company "A" moved inland to Le Hamel and then on the following day launched an attack against enemy positions south of Mosles and succeeded in reaching Etreham.

Then began a concentrated series of attacks to the south which in five days carried the Battalion to the La Vacquerie-Caumont highway, the farthest inland penetration on the Allied front. In fact, on a situation map of the front the First Division stuck out like a sore thumb.

Fighting in Normandy was from hedgerow to hedgerow. These hedgerows which were banks of earth two to three feet thick surmounted by thick hedges separated the fields and offered excellent concealment and protection for the enemy. Our forces would have to drive the enemy from each hedgerow before the infantry could advance. At this job the tanks of the 745th proved themselves very efficient.

Commendation of Unit

(Taken from General Order No. 54, Headquarters,
1st Infantry Division)

Company C, 745th Tank Battalion, is commended for outstanding performance of duty in action.

"During the operations of the 3d Battalion, 26th Infantry, in seizing the initial beachhead and in clearing the town of Tour-en-Bessin, Normandy, France, 6-7 June 1944, Company C, 745th Tank Battalion, rendered invaluable assistance by delivering accurate fire power at well-manned enemy defenses. Undaunted by constant hostile fire and heavy losses of tanks and men, this unit courageously pushed its attack on the enemy, thereby facilitating the swift accomplishment of the infantry's mission. The aggressive manner in which tank support was coordinated with infantry assaults was directly attributable to the professional skill, esprit de corps, and complete devotion to duty by the personnel of this company."

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HUEBNER

III. The Breakthrough

The beachhead was established and expanded. Cotentin Peninsula was cut, mopped up, and the valuable port of Cherbourg was in Allied hands. Meanwhile, innumerable troops and vast stores of supplies continued to flow over those same beaches that had been so bitterly contested a month earlier. We were marking time until enough troops and enough supplies could be amassed to warrant a breakout from our beachhead, the time when the Battle for Normandy would evolve into the Battle of France.

The 745th Tank Battalion was to play an important role in the "Breakthrough". On July 14 Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner announced that the First Infantry Division would be relieved by the Fifth Infantry Division in the defensive position near Caumont, the 735th Tank Battalion assuming the positions occupied by the 745th.

The 745th Tank Battalion, along with the First Infantry Division, was relieved from its attachment to V Corps and was attached to VII Corps, effective upon relief by the new units.

Moving as a battalion, the 745th marched from the vicinity of Caumont and Sallen back toward the beach to the vicinity of Mestry, a march of 29 miles. There the entire battalion was assembled in one area for the first time in France.

Dozer blades had been attached to one tank each from A, B, and C Companies while near Caumont, and A and B Companies had the opportunity to employ them in combat when they were attached to the 741st Tank Battalion for 10 days in the 2nd Infantry Division area on our right flank. The tank dozers were found quite valuable for clearing an opening through hedgerows. It also was found that they provided a morale factor by burying the enemy in their foxholes. After seeing a few of their comrades buried alive, a great many Jerries were ready to toss in the towel.

At Mestry the Battalion's tanks were armed with a new "secret weapon" known as the rhinoseros or "hedgecutter". It consisted of seven steel prongs or teeth projecting from the front of the tank. These would "gnaw" out the top of the hedge bank and make it easier for succeeding vehicles to pass through.

Plans for the "Breakthrough", which was known as "Cobra" operation, were released. Company "C" was attached to the 26th Infantry Regiment, and Company "B" was attached to the 18th Infantry Regiment, with the rest of the Battalion operating with the 16th Infantry Regiment.

Here is the "big picture" of the proposed operation:

The VII U. S. Corps, reinforced, supported by elements of the Allied Air Force, and with supporting fires from the VIII and XIX U. S. Corps, attacks with the mission of breaking through the enemy defenses on the fronts held by the 9th and the 30th Infantry Divisions, exploiting the breakthrough to the west and the south with the 2nd and 3rd Armored Divisions and the 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions, and destroying or capturing the enemy north of the Coutances-St. Lo road.

Following a saturation bombing by the U. S. Air Force, the 9th and 30th Infantry Divisions would break through the bombed area, then wheel to protect the flanks of the neck. Through this neck would pour the 3rd Armored Division and the 1st Infantry Division to exploit the breakthrough to the south and the 2nd Armored Division and a combat team of the 4th Infantry Division which would exploit the push farther south and protect the eastern and southern flanks from counterattacks. In the meantime, the VIII U. S. Corps, on order, would push southward to join forces with the 1st Infantry Division.

H-hour was to be set for the first day in which there were three hours of good flying weather. In preparation for the big drive which was destined to be a brilliant page in American history, the 745th Tank Battalion moved with the units to which attached to assembly areas west of St. Jean-du-Daye. This 16-mile march was made on the night of July 20-21, one of the blackest nights recalled in France, and resulted in the death of one man and injury to two others when a Company "D" tank and a mortar platoon halftrack overturned.

Rainy weather was prevalent as the men were briefed for the coming operation. July 25 broke as a somewhat cloudy day. Early in the morning, however, the clouds lifted, and the place of the clouds in the sky was taken by waves of planes. Light, medium, heavy, and dive bombers with their hordes of protecting fighters hovering about moved overhead in a seemingly endless stream as the U. S. Air Force opened the assault with one of the most devastating aerial bombardments in history. It was the greatest aerial show seen in France. Although five or six miles from the target area, members of the 745th could look through binoculars and see the bombs plummeting earthward. They could feel the earth tremble beneath their feet and hear the windows rattle in nearby buildings.

Following the bombardment, the 9th and the 30th Infantry Divisions launched their ground attack against the dazed foe and were followed by the 3rd Armored Division. On the morning of July 26 Company "B" moved out in support of the 18th Infantry Regiment with the town of Marigny as its objective. The bulk of the Battalion with the 16th Infantry Regiment moved south on the morning of July 27 while Company "C", in reserve with the 26th Infantry Regiment, moved out on the evening of July 27.

Company "B" was forced to fight its way to Marigny, assaulted the town and then wheeled westward. Companies "A" and "D" reached Marigny on July 27 along with the Battalion C. P. and still found small arms opposition in addition to being subjected to a bombing by enemy planes on a congested road.

It was on July 28 that "A" Company, with the tank section, assault gun platoon and mortar platoon of Headquarters Company attached, met stiff enemy resistance west of Camberton near La Chapelle as it was proceeding enroute to its objective of Monthuchon in support of the Third Battalion of the 16th Infantry. The enemy, consisting of elements the German 2nd Panzer Division, was strongly fortified on high ground, and had heavy artillery and mortar support with good observation.



Company "D", moving up on the left flank, also ran into heavy opposition but doubled back on the route taken by Company "A" after losing two tanks to an enemy anti-tank gun, which it later destroyed.

It was during this battle that Capt. Leonard S. Wilds dragged two wounded men from his knocked out tank in the face of continued enemy fire although he had been seriously wounded himself. He then directed the attack on the enemy anti-tank gun and refused to be evacuated until the strongpoint had been destroyed. For this deed he received the first Distinguished Service Cross awarded to any member of the Battalion.

Meanwhile, Company "C" moved west along the Marigny-Coutances road and then south. On July 29, however, contact was made with a strong enemy force south of the main highway near Savigny, and one tank was lost.

Company "C" moved on to the vicinity of Hambye with the 26th Infantry on July 30 and then proceeded to its objective north of Le Mesnil Bonand the following day. The remainder of the Battalion left the vicinity of Courcy to move to Bourguenalles, closing in the new area on the morning of August 1.

It was on this night of July 31-August 1 that Company "B" was subjected to a heavy aerial bombardment by enemy planes which resulted in eight members of the Battalion joining the casualty ranks.

It also was on this memorable night that Lt. Joseph S. Sabol's platoon of Company "B", attached to the third battalion of the 18th Infantry, caught hell but without a casualty. It's a wild story the platoon tells, but it runs something like this:

The bombing by the planes set on fire an ammunition truck and a peep belonging to the 18th Infantry, lighting up the field as bright as daylight, just as the platoon was preparing to leave its positions on a march to a forward objective. To make matters worse and to light up the scene a little more for the bombers, one of the attacking planes was shot down by nearby ack-ack batteries and plunged into a field between the two leading tanks. Burning debris from the plane fell on the rear deckplates of both tanks and other burning pieces fell into the turrets of the two tanks.

Lt. Sabol, T/4 Robert Miksa and Cpl. Wesley Walters raced from their place of comparative safety to remove the burning debris from the rear of the tanks and extinguish the flames within the turrets. All this was done with airplanes buzzing over the lighted field while the plane, the truck, and the peep all were burning in the field with the possibility of gasoline and ammunition exploding—not to mention the fact that the fire in the tanks themselves could have spread to the gasoline and ammunition at any moment.

Then Lt. Sabol went back to the hedgerow to obtain volunteers to lead and drive the tanks from the danger area to the road. The only way out of the field, according to Lt. Sabol, was past the burning truck and plane—so past them they went, saving the tanks from further damage and enabling the platoon to support the infantry in its drive to a forward objective.

On August 2 Company "C" moved into the vicinity of Brecey and sweated out a counterattack by German armor all night. Although tanks could be heard rumbling in the distance, none arrived in Brecey. Then they swung farther south to Mortain where they were joined by Company "B". At this stage of the game we were guarding the sides of a narrow funnel through

which General Patton and the entire Third Army was streaming southward in a move to cut off Brest Peninsula as well as to penetrate deeper into France.

The First Division was relieved by the 30th Division at Mortain, the entire Battalion moving from the vicinity west of Mortain to an arc running through Ambrieres-Oisseau-Mayenne. Company "B" was near Ambrieres with the 18th Combat Team. Company "C" was east of Oisseau with the 26th Combat Team, and Company "A" was in the vicinity of Mayenne. The defensive line was built along the Mayenne River as the Battalion continued to protect the neck of the funnel.

The day after the First Division had turned over its defensive positions in the vicinity of Mortain to the 30th Division, the Germans launched a large-scale attack through the Mortain sector in an effort to penetrate to the sea at Avranches and thus cut the Allied forces in half. The attack was stopped largely through the efforts of British rocket firing Typhoons, which destroyed hundreds of German tanks and vehicles.

The Battalion was represented in this counterattack by Sgt. Allen T. Perry, T/4 Otis F. Smith, Pvt. Arthur Brahmstedt, Cpl. Bruno J. Gawron, and Pfc. Clarence F. Guhrke of Company "C" who had remained behind with their tank which had been damaged by artillery fire. Perry's crew carried ammunition for an anti-tank gun which knocked out two Mark V tanks before being knocked out itself by a Mark VI. At this point the crew took off and hitch-hiked to Oisseau to rejoin the company.

Remaining in a more or less static position along the Mayenne River line for six days, all of the companies were in contact with enemy units, but there was no conflict reaching major proportions. The Battalion was strafed, shelled, and harrassed by nebelwerfers in this area.

The Germans had moved up a large number of troops in their effort to crack our narrow bottleneck to the south. However, they failed in their attack and were meeting continued pressure from all sides in what eventually turned into the Falaise pocket. The Battalion's part in closing the Falaise pocket was to pivot from Mayenne to the vicinity of La Ferte Mace where pressure was applied from the south while General Patton's Third Army was racing still farther south before turning eastward to the Seine.

* * *

IV. The Falaise Pocket

Moving north from Mayenne to close the right jaw of the pincers, the Battalion encountered stiff enemy resistance at Bagnoles de l'Orne and in the Bagnoles Woods before reaching La Ferte Mace. This sudden swing northward played a major role in creating the Falaise Pocket in which the fighting strength of the German 7th Army virtually was eliminated. Americans pushing north from Argentan, and Canadians pushing south from Falaise formed the ever-narrowing bottleneck through which the battered remnants of the German Army ran the gamut of incessant artillery and aerial bombardments. The aggressiveness displayed by Company "C", which was attached for a short time to the 47th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division and attacked to Briouze, establishing physical contact with the British, aided greatly in the early reduction of the pocket.

The closing of the Falaise Gap and the subsequent mopping up within the pocket put an end to major organized resistance by the enemy in Northern France. The German 7th Army was annihilated, the battle of pursuit was on, and the broken, fleeing enemy stumbled into Allied troops wherever he turned. The Germans turned east to try to get back to the Siegfried Line, and the 745th turned east also, with Germany as its goal.

* * *

V. Northern France

While the Falaise gap was being closed, American armored columns of the Third Army were making history with their broad sweep to the south, taking Le Mans, Tours, Orleans, and Chartres. From there they pushed on to the Seine in two spearheads, one crossing the river north of Paris and the other south of Paris. Meanwhile, French Forces of the Interior arose and after four days of bitter fighting with the German garrison in Paris announced that they held the major portion of the city.

On August 24-25 the 745th, moving as a battalion, made the longest road march in its combat history by moving 156 miles in 26 hours from La Sauvergere, northwest of La Ferte Mace, to Charmarande, northeast of Etampes and only 30 miles from Paris. Here the Battalion occupied the grounds of a beautiful chateau.

On the morning of August 27 the Battalion again broke up to form combat teams, Company "C" rejoining the 26th Infantry Regiment, Company "B" the 18th, and the rest of the Battalion moving with the 16th. Leaving the luxury of the Chateau Chamarande behind, the various combat teams moved on toward Paris, crossing the Seine River over a pontoon bridge at Ris Orangis—about 15 miles from the heart of the city—and headed east.

Moving through the suburbs of the great city, the men of the Battalion encountered the most tumultuous welcome any of them could ever expect to see. The long column of tanks and trucks was slowed to snail's pace by the overwhelming crowds. For miles the highway was a solid mass of wildly cheering, supremely happy people. Everone was there—the young, the old, the middle-aged—all of them trying to outdo the other in their welcome. This amazing ovation continued for many miles along the outskirts of the city; the shaking of hands, the tossing of fine grapes and plums into the vehicles, and the cries of "Vive l'Amerique" were everywhere. By the time the Battalion had reached its new position, all the vehicles were gaily bedecked with beautiful flowers, and the men were of the unanimous opinion that no sentiment on earth could have equalled that displayed by these newly-liberated people of Paris.

On August 28 two medium tanks and a platoon of lights went to the rescue of about 150 infantrymen who were trapped by several hundred Germans at Annet sur Marne. A display of firepower on the part of the tanks broke up this bit of resistance, and the doughboys were rescued. The Germans departed after the tanks had entered the battle but left 81 dead behind them as the result of a fast-moving fire fight.

As the Battalion began pushing eastward from Paris, there were ever increasing signs of World War I. On August 28 Lt. Earl E. McCain's assault gun platoon took up a position beside a monument marking the most advanced position of the German artillery under General Von Kluge in the Battle of the Marne in the last war.

On August 29 the Battalion moved on to the vicinity of Rosoy en Multain where the reconnaissance platoon captured 20 prisoners at Boullare and Betz while reconnoitering routes of advance.

On August 30 the Battalion moved to an area steeped with memories of World War I south of Soissons. The Battalion CP was established 10 miles from Soissons in a forest called Villers Cotterets in which signs of many of the long winding trenches which marked combat in this area in the last war still remained. The 16th Infantry set up its CP in a house across the street from a church which had served as a command post and an observation post for the same regiment in 1918.

The gratifying thing about seeing these memories of World War I was the fact that we were taking in strides of 20 to 25 miles per day the ground over which our fathers had fought so bitterly just 26 years previously. Everywhere were historic names, and road signs pointed to such famous towns as Reims, Verdun, Compiègne and Chateau-Thierry.

* * *



VI. Battle of Mons

With the Allies' fast moving offensive both to the north and the east proving a serious threat to its rear, the German 15th Army began pulling out of its defensive positions along the English Channel and moving back to man the prepared defenses of the Siegfried Line.

Our first contact with this fleeing army came in the vicinity of Laon, France, where an enemy column was surprised and countless enemy were slaughtered in a fast-moving battle. This proved to be the prelude to the "Battle of Mons".

On the night of September 2 elements of the enemy's forces moving from west to east had cut in behind the Third Armored Division, cutting off the division command post from the combat teams. One platoon of Company "C" was sent North along the Maubege-Mons road along with one battalion of the 26th Infantry Regiment to serve as a reserve force for the Third Armored Division. At Bettigmes the force ran into opposition which began the fast-moving series of clashes which resulted in the decisive outcome.

On September 3, tanks of the 745th Tank Battalion were moving north on parallel routes with one platoon of tanks forming the spearhead for each battalion of infantry and began hitting the German columns broadside as they continued their headlong flight to the east. Company "B" was on the left in vicinity of Bavai with the 18th Infantry Regiment; Company "C" was in the middle along the Maubege-Bettigmes-Mons road with the 26th Infantry Regiment, and Company "A" and Company "D" were on the right, moving from Maubege to Givry and then to Mons with the 16th Infantry Regiment.

There have been varying estimates of the size of the enemy force, but the First Infantry Division G-2 report dated October 31, 1944, states that a total of five enemy divisions were completely destroyed. These were the 6th Parachute, 18th GAF, 47th Infantry, 275th Infantry and 348th Infantry. Other estimates said that about 30,000 men and 1,500 vehicles were involved.

When the magnitude of the German force became apparent, an air support mission was called, and dive bombers arrived to bomb and strafe the roads. Following the air attacks and even during them, the tanks of the 745th moved in to complete the slaughter of any troops showing willingness to fight and capturing many others who were too dazed and confused to resist.

There was no front. The Third Armored Division was to the north of the main body of enemy troops, and the First Infantry with the 745th was to the south of the main elements. However, after their vehicles had been shot up and the roads choked with wrecks and debris, innumerable groups of the enemy began wandering around in all directions, thoroughly disorganized. Moreover, additional columns following the original column continued to arrive in the area and make the situation even more confusing. Tanks and infantry would mop up an area and then a few hours later receive a report that a new mass of enemy had been sighted in the same locality.

There were enemy hiding in every woods, every village and every possible hiding spot. It was only through the firepower and mobility of the tanks of the

745th that the scattered groups were mopped up so quickly and so thoroughly. It took three days to complete the roundup, and the final score was approximated at 27,000 prisoners.

The significance of the "Battle of Mons" is that approximately five German divisions either were destroyed, captured or routed within three days with very small losses to our troops. Had this enemy force been permitted to reach the defenses of the Siegfried Line, our entrance into Germany would have been much more difficult and our penetration of the Siegfried Line much more costly.

* * *

Commendation of Unit

(Taken from General Order No. 150, Headquarters,
1st Infantry Division)

The following-named organization is commended for outstanding performance of duty in action:

Third Platoon, Company C, 745th Tank Battalion.

"During the movement of the 3d Battalion, 26th Infantry, from Avesnes, France, to Frameries, Belgium, 3 September 1944, the above-named organization, forming the leading element, drove through an enemy flank guard and contacted a hostile motorized and horse-drawn column north of La Longueville, France. The tanks and infantry quickly deployed and completely destroyed the enemy column, and later, upon encountering a larger force, aggressively engaged the enemy troops and dispersed them throughout the countryside. The indomitable spirit, resourcefulness, and exemplary devotion to duty of the Third Platoon, Company C, 745th Battalion, contributed appreciably to clearing the battalion path of advance by routing a superior enemy force estimated at regimental strength and seizing approximately 1100 prisoners.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDRUS

VII. Siegfried Line

The terrific strain on our supply lines, stretched to the breaking point by our rapid advances, now loomed as the one thing capable of stopping the march into Germany. After a 70-mile march on September 7 from Mons to Huy, Belgium, the Battalion was out of gas completely. However, after gasoline had been flown to the front by transport planes, the Battalion moved on to the vicinity of Herve, Belgium, on September 10 after strict apportionment of gasoline. On this move the Battalion passed through the city of Liege where it received a tumultuous welcome from the citizens and crossed the Meuse River, another named steeped in the laurels of the great offensive in 1918.

During this fast-moving warfare, reconnaissance elements were roaming far in front of the combat elements in an effort to discover enemy pockets of resistance as well as to reconnoiter the routes to be used by the speeding combat teams.

It was on September 11 as the 745th rapidly was approaching the German border and the ramparts of the famed Siegfried Line that Lt. Glennis W. Thompson's reconnaissance platoon ran into a pocket of enemy a little too large for it to handle. Going into the village of Hockelbach, east of Herve, Belgium, the platoon contacted enemy elements and took several prisoners who asserted that the enemy was in strength in the area. As the platoon started to leave the town, tanks and small arms fired on the platoon's vehicles. Four men were killed, five wounded and two missing in action.

On September 12 tanks of the Battalion moved out to attack the Siegfried Line. Company "A" and Company "D" pushed as far as Eyenatten on the 12th and the following day crossed the German border to attack the defenses of the Siegfried Line in the face of heavy artillery fire and stubborn resistance from the enemy manning anti-tank guns and pillboxes. After overcoming enemy opposition, the breach was forced through the dragon teeth, anti-tank ditches, pillboxes, roadblocks and felled trees. Resistance by enemy infantry bordered on the fanatical, but the vigorous aggressiveness and terrific firepower of the 745th's tanks enabled them to overcome all opposition and force the initial breach through the German's famed defenses.

While these forces were moving into position south of Aachen, the second and third platoons of Company "B" were moving into the sector northwest of Aachen in the lower tip of Holland. The global aspect of the war was graphically illustrated at this stage by the fact that the Battalion had two platoons in Holland, four platoons in Belgium, the mail orderly in France, wounded in France and England, and the remainder of the Battalion in Germany.

Continuing against very stiff opposition, the Battalion advanced toward the industrial city of Stolberg, five miles east of Aachen. Stolberg, which proved to be the anchor of the Allies' farthest penetration into Germany for two months, was defended strongly, the enemy using each house as a gun emplacement and each street as a line of fire. Several strong counterattacks came against the battalion here, and the assault gun platoon played a major role in halting one of these by firing time fire at the shortest possible range as the enemy stormed a ridge in front of its positions.

VIII. Aachen

Two major tasks occupied the attention of the 745th during the month of October—supporting units of the First Infantry Division in enveloping the city of Aachen from the south and mopping up the city itself.

At the start of the month all platoons were in defensive positions south and southeast of Aachen and extending east through Eilendorf and Stolberg. On October 8 the envelopment of Aachen began with the tanks of Company "B" moving out in support of the 18th Combat Team from Eilendorf to Verlautenheide and Haaren while the infantry occupied Verlautenheide, Haaren, Crucifix Hill and Hill 227. It was several days before the envelopment was completed by a unit of the 30th Infantry Division moving down from the north, but the enemy continued its series of counterattacks until the final surrender of the Aachen garrison on October 21. The tanks played a major role in assisting the infantry in repelling these counterattacks, and Lt. Harold Howenstine's second platoon of Company "B" saved the Second Battalion C. P. of the 18th Infantry from being captured after it was surrounded on three sides.

Verlautenheide was the focal point for one of the heaviest artillery barrages that any American troops have seen in this war, and our casualties showed its effect. In spite of the continued pressure as the Germans sought to break through at various points along the line — Dawson's Ridge, Verlautenheide, Crucifix Hill and Hill 227 — and relieve the troops in Aachen, our lines held firm and permitted the mopping up of the city to continue without fear of the defenders being reinforced.

On October 10 an ultimatum was sent to the military and civil leaders of Aachen, giving 24 hours for the city to surrender unconditionally or face destruction. It was rejected, so on the following day artillery and air attacks on the city began. Of course, this caused plenty of damage, but after entering the city, it was obvious that the most devastating damage had been done by repeated bombings by our strategic air force.

Company "C", attached to the 26th Infantry Regiment, drew the assignment of taking the city and for the job they were given the added firepower of the assault gun platoon of Headquarters Company. The fighting was from building to building, and from street to street, with the Germans taking advantage of the ruins, the cellars, the rubble and the debris for positions. Many bazookas and anti-tank guns were encountered, but by close coordination with the infantry, the tanks proved effective in the town fighting. At noon on October 21 the garrison of Aachen, composed of SS troopers, converted Aachen policemen and civilians, surrendered, and the town was clear except for a few snipers.

Meanwhile tanks from Company "B" were assaulting pillboxes daily, firing on them and driving out the occupants or making it possible for the infantry to approach close enough to use pole charges. Where possible tank dozers were used to pile dirt in front of the firing apertures to render the pillbox ineffective.

On October 17 a tank commanded by Sgt. Archie Ross with T/4 Edgar G. Ireland, as driver; Cpl. Alva E. Beck, gunner; Pvt. William J. Sam, assistant gunner, and Pvt. Everett Lloyd, assistant driver, knocked out two enemy tanks



and a pillbox after the tank had been immobilized by fire from one of the enemy tanks. When Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner, Commanding General of the First U. S. Infantry Division, heard of the deed, he ordered a special ceremony at which he presented Silver Star awards to each member of the crew.

Following the fall of Aachen, the ruins of that once beautiful city became a haven for sightseers and souvenir hunters although it still was only a short distance from the front lines. One of the signs erected in Haaren, a suburb of Aachen, for the benefit of these sightseers read, "Stop! Are you Lost? You are now 400 yards from the front lines."

Capt. Francis A. McCall assumed the position as Battalion S-2, with Lt. Wallace C. Wardner assuming command of Company "B" on October 18. On October 25—27 Capt. McCall, along with Lt. Verle Carter and several enlisted men, attended a school on the flame thrower at the 70th Tank Battalion area, and by the last day of the month the Battalion had received eight flame throwers for installation in tanks. The flame thrower, which is most effective up to a distance of 40 yards but throws a flame about 80 yards, replaced the bow gun in designated tanks.

* * *

IX. Hurtgen Forest

Following the fall of Aachen, units of the Battalion remained in defensive positions to the east and northeast of the city until relieved by the 750th Tank Battalion, attached to General Terry Allen's 104th Infantry Division, on November 9 and 10. On these dates our platoons moved with their respective infantry battalions to assembly areas in preparation for an attack through the Hurtgen Forest to the Roer River.

From November 10 to 16 all elements of the Battalion remained in assembly areas waiting for clear weather so the air corps could soften enemy positions with a saturation bombing preceding the attack.

Continued rain, snow, sleet, driving winds and the stickiest, most annoying mud imaginable made life during this period nearly unbearable. All of the platoons were assembled in the woods in expectation of an order to attack, but prospects of clear weather seemed quite distant. The only way in which the men could escape the elements was to prepare log-covered dugouts or log cabins similar to those of the pioneer days. These they built industriously and heated them with ingenious homemade stoves or stoves from bombed-out German homes. Two purposes were accomplished by this work — keeping the men warm while they were working and keeping them dry and warm after their completion.

November 16 was set as D-Day, and the Air Corps' bombing mission began at 1115 hours with the combined tank and infantry attack scheduled to get under way at 1245. Division and corps artillery, assisted by 667 rounds by our own assault guns, also contributed to the softening-up process. However, the softening up process evidently was not thorough enough because plenty of Jerries remained in their defensive positions and offered the stiffest opposition met by the Battalion since the Normandy beaches.

The attack through the Hurtgen Forest in November marked the most discouraging and the most dismal period in the European history of the 745th. In addition to the most stubborn resistance by a numerous and well-organized enemy, members of the Battalion were hampered by severe cold weather, rain, snow, mud, and a penetrating wind. The enemy confronted our forces with heavy artillery and mortar fire which was much more effective in the dense forest than it could have been in the open or in towns where walls and buildings could offer some refuge. There simply was no refuge from the artillery in the Hurtgen Forest, the tree bursts making it unsafe anywhere — even in usually substantial foxholes. Casualties were heavy. Fighting through the deep mud and mire was exhausting and seemingly futile as we fought desperately for every yard of ground gained. Because of the miserable weather it was almost impossible to obtain air support.

The Battalion as a whole took its most severe beating of the European phase of the war during that miserable two weeks slaughter. Hurtgen Forest is a name and a battle that never will be forgotten by members of the 745th.

Because of the constant rains and the poor drainage in the forest, the ground was very soggy which resulted in numerous tanks becoming bogged

down. Company maintenance crews were able to extricate a number of them, but the maintenance platoon of Service Company performed an excellent job of extricating the remainder and returning them to service within a few hours.

By darkness of November 16 Company "C", working with the 26th Infantry Regiment, had fought its way to the vicinity of Schevenhutte in spite of heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. However, darkness overtook Company "A" and Company "D" short of their objective of Hamich, and they were forced to dig in for the night amid heavy artillery and mortar fire.

On November 17 the first battalion of the 16th Infantry, with the first platoon of Company "A", attacked Hamich but failed to reach its objective and was forced to withdraw under heavy artillery fire, the infantry suffering heavy losses. In the meantime, the second platoon of Company "C" attacked in support of the second battalion of the 26th Infantry but failed to reach its limited objective because of the intense artillery, mortar and small arms fire.

On the following day the third battalion of the 16th took over the task of assaulting Hamich, and the third platoon of Company "A" moved into town with four tanks. This number was reduced to two before the day ended as the result of fire fights with German Panther tanks. In conjunction with the attack on Hamich, a platoon of Company "A" and a platoon of Company "D" attacked memorable Hill 232 in support of the second battalion of the 16th. One tank was hit and burned, but the objective was reached. Hill 232 was important because it was the dream type of observation post and held the key to the entire defense line.

Possession of both Hamich and Hill 232 was disputable for a couple of days as the enemy threw counterattack after counterattack at the positions, but finally the tremendous losses given the enemy forced him to withdraw to his next defense line.

Company "B", supporting the 18th Infantry, took over the initiative at this point and moved past Hamich to attack Heistern where the enemy had set up a new defense line. After heavy fighting, half of Heistern fell with the enemy bringing every defense in his command to bear on further advances. During the night the enemy brought up strong reinforcements and staged a brazen and well supported counterattack before dawn. However, the assault was beaten off and more than 120 prisoners were taken — — weakening the enemy to a point where we could successfully attack the remainder of the town and push on beyond it.

Tanks of the third platoon of Company "A" pushed beyond Heistern to a castle referred to as Point 104 where the German artillery observer called his troops into the cellar and brought down a barrage around the castle. After our infantry's attack had been stopped, the enemy counterattacked, but this was thrown back. Then, with S. Sgt. Leroy F. Rheinberger leading the tank attack across the remaining open area and into the courtyard of the castle, the enemy again retired to their cellar where they taken prisoners by our infantry.

Again the enemy threw a determined counterattack of several tanks and two hundred infantry at the castle, but this was repulsed by the devastating artillery fire brought down on the castle. The artillery was directed by Sgt. William I. Tucker of Company "A" who was awarded the Battalion's second



Distinguished Service Cross for his part in halting the attack. The artillery fire called by Tucker destroyed three of the enemy's tanks as well as forcing the infantry to withdraw.

On November 27 the battered second and third platoons of Company "A" returned to the Company CP for reorganization while the first platoon moved to Point 105, outside Langerwehe, with the first battalion of the 16th Infantry. Coordinating with this move, the third platoon of Company "B" moved into Langerwehe with the 18th Infantry. Here it was joined by the second platoon of Company "A" on the following day.

In the meantime, the third platoon of Company "C" was moving through the most heavily wooded section of the Hurtgen Forest toward Jungersdorf with the third battalion of the 26th Infantry after some heavy and hard fighting. On the morning of November 28 this unit received two fierce counterattacks, both of which were repulsed.

November 29 marked an unfortunate day for the second platoon of Company "C" but even moreso for the second battalion of the 26th Infantry. While attacking the town of Merode through the mud and mire, three tanks of the platoon bogged down and had to be abandoned. Two tanks did manage to push through the mud, but one of them was set afire short of the town by a bazooka and the other overturned and was rendered helpless after being taken under intense artillery fire. The Germans counterattacked the village, cutting off the two companies of doughboys attempting to defend it and eventually forcing their surrender when they were unable to obtain ammunition or supplies.

On December 3 the first platoon of Company "A" supported the first battalion of the 16th Infantry in a clever move to take the village of Luchem north of Langerwehe and near the Autobahn. After patrols had managed to reach the village, it was planned to attack across the open ground between Langerwehe and Luchem during darkness so they would be mopping up the town before daylight. The plan worked perfectly, the infantry succeeding in getting inside the town before being discovered after which the tanks raced down the highway to support the infantry. All of the houses but ten in town were taken by eight o'clock, but it was not until three o'clock in the afternoon that the stubborn enemy was driven from the last house.

The following evening at dusk, just before the Battalion was scheduled to be relieved by a battalion of the 18th Infantry, the Germans launched a large-scale counterattack which was repelled by murderous artillery fire and direct fire from our tanks and antitank guns.

* * *

X. Ardennes Counteroffensive

At this stage of the game, still about three miles short of the objective — — the Roer River, the battered and bleeding First Division was pulled out of the line and relieved by the Ninth Infantry Division. The Battalion, minus Company "A" and the assault gun platoon, assembled in the vicinity of Hergenrath, Belgium, on December 6. Company "A" and the assault gun platoon joined the rest of the Battalion at Hergenrath on December 13.

Somebody said that the German Army never would be content to permit the First Division and the 745th to rest, and he was right. On December 16 the enemy staged its well-planned Ardennes counteroffensive and broke through the thinly-held line occupied by the 99th and 106th Infantry Divisions south of Monschau. The German plan was to break through to capture our huge supply base in Liege and to swing northward to Antwerp if possible. The enemy did break through, but he never reached Liege, and he never swung northward because of the powerful defensive line that was built up in record time to stop the drive.

With the battle-weary men comfortably settled in buildings, a large number of men on pass to Paris and Verviers, and more than half the tanks in ordnance for a technical inspection and refitting, news of the breakthrough first came to the Battalion in the way of wild rumors. This was followed by rumors that paratroopers were landing on all sides and in all directions.

At 1400 on December 16 the Battalion was placed on six hour alert, and there began a wild scramble to return the tanks from ordnance and to fill vacancies left by men on pass. Since some of the tanks had their engines removed and others were unable to run, ordnance grabbed every spare tank available in order to give the Battalion its quota of tanks. The situation was very vague, and this tended to cause rumors and speculations to run rampant as to just how serious the situation had become.

Because of the paratrooper rumors and because of the extremely heavy enemy air activity in the vicinity, there was little sleep on the night of the 16th. Tension was high, and there was little confirmed news on the developments to our south.

On the 17th Company "C" moved to the vicinity of Elsenborn in support of the 26th Infantry Regiment and later moved on down to take up defensive positions south of Butgenbach. Company "A" moved into the woods south of Eupen, and Company "B" also moved into an assembly area near Eupen.

The Ardennes counteroffensive saw the birth of Task Force Davisson which included Capt. Frederick F. Chirigotis' light tanks of Company "D", the assault gun platoon and the mortar platoon of Headquarters Company, along with the Reconnaissance Company of the 634th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 1st Reconnaissance Troop. This force moved to the south on a reconnaissance mission and south of Weismes contacted an enemy armored unit. The task force then set up roadblocks in Weismes and held there until the second battalion of the 16th Infantry passed through to set up a strong defensive line at the southern edge of Weismes.

By December 20 the First Division and its attachments had built up a defensive line running east to west from Butgenbach to Weismes that was strong enough to stop any enemy attack, and it had the opportunity to prove its strength. Numerous attacks came against that defensive line, but the enemy's main effort came against Company "C" and the 26th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Butgenbach and Dom Butgenbach, south of Monschau. During the three-day period—December 20, 21, and 22—the tanks of Company "C" played a great part in stopping a series of assaults by the enemy's 12th SS Panzer Division during which a total of 31 enemy tanks were destroyed. Lt. Leonard J. Novak's second platoon of Company "C" claimed credit for knocking out six enemy tanks on the 20th and eight on the 21st, while the first and third platoons each accounted for two on the 22nd.

The sector held by the 745th with the First Division was a very important one in halting the enemy's offensive since it was on the neck of the "Bulge" where the front line running north and south suddenly swung westward. Our stubborn defense there prevented the enemy from swinging north and thus being able to cut our supply lines.

A fitting tribute to the First Division was paid by a British staff officer at SHAEF when he said, "We don't have to worry about the Monschau sector. The First Division is there."

As the counteroffensive was stopped in the West, the sides of the bulge began to be compressed, and the Germans began to withdraw. The Battalion continued to hold in the positions from Butgenbach to Weismes against continued pressure until January 15 when we assumed the initiative in driving the remainder of the enemy from the "Bulge".

During the period a heavy snowfall of more than two feet in depth made movement of vehicles and personnel very difficult and resulted in a large number of trenchfoot and frostbite cases. The tanks were painted white for camouflage, and this proved very effective in the series of attacks which took place during the latter part of January.

The deep snow made the detection of mines very difficult, and fifteen medium tanks and one light tank were disabled by mines during the series of attacks. In addition to this, there were many tanks hung up in deep snowdrifts and bogged down in bomb craters and streambeds. In spite of the large number of tanks out of action during the period, the company maintenance crews and Service Company's maintenance platoon proved equal to the task and usually managed to have the tank back on the line within 24 hours.

Tank dozers proved very effective during this period, making roads through fields and forests and clearing other roads to make it possible for the infantry to advance and for supplies to flow to the front.

Several attacks were made during snowstorms, and the one on the town of Schoppen particularly was outstanding because it was snowing so hard that drivers and gunners could see no more than a few yards in front of their tanks. It was equally difficult for the enemy to see the approaching tanks, and the attackers reached the edge of town before being discovered. On this occasion the snowfall was so heavy that some of the infantry's casualties were blanketed with snow before medical aid could reach them and were not found until the snow thawed more than a month later.



On January 15, Company "A" started pushing to the South in support of the 16th Infantry Regiment, clearing Faymonville, Schoppen, Amel, and Mirfield as well as much of the surrounding woods during which attacks it was joined by light tanks of Company "D". Company "B" took Ligneville, Iveldingen, Morschheck, and Moderscheid.

At this point the direction of attack changed to the east, and Company "B" moved through Hepscheid, Heppenbach, Honsfeld, and Hunningen while Company "D" covered the division flank with TFD. Company "C" went from the defensive to the offensive to take Bullingen and Murringen.

Each of these attacks made through deep snow and against a stubborn enemy which was protecting the withdrawal of the German armor from the "Bulge" has a story of its own which cannot be told here. In addition to the tanks which hit mines, many were stuck in deep snowbanks, in swampy lowlands, or in craters hidden by the snow. The men were battling the elements of nature as well as a stubborn and determined enemy.

Not content with restoring the original line held before the German counteroffensive, the 745th made its second conquest of the Siegfried Line during the first five days of February in the vicinity of the Hollerath Knee. This action included the taking of Hollerath and Ramscheid as well as cleaning out numerous pillboxes and other defenses of the Siegfried Line.

With the German threat eliminated and a defensive line again established, the First Division and the 745th were relieved by the 99th Division. Company "A" moved directly to the vicinity of Kleinhau, Germany, near the Roer River, while the remainder of the Battalion went back to the vicinity of Oneux, Belgium, for a three-day rest period before joining Company "A" near the Roer on February 10.

* * *

Commendation of Unit

(Taken from General Order No. 84, Headquarters,
1st Infantry Division)

The 2d Platoon, Company A, 745th Tank Battalion, is commended for outstanding performance of duty in action:

"When stormy winter weather threatened to disrupt the infantry's progress on 23 January 1945, the 2d Platoon, Company A, 745th Tank Battalion, was assigned the mission of supporting Company E, 16th Infantry, in an attack against strong enemy positions on a wooded ridge in the vicinity of SCHOPPEN, BELGIUM. Jumping off in a blinding blizzard, the tanks moved out to the infantry's front and forced a path through waist-deep snow. Disregarding intense hostile automatic, small-arms, and mortar fire, the armored elements advanced directly on the enemy, utilizing their firepower to overrun the enemy's positions and to break his resistance. The aggressiveness, professional skill, and heroic determination of these armored elements contributed materially to the seizure of a vitally strategic ridge feature and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service."

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL ANDRUS

XI. Roer to Rhine

With the remainder of the Battalion resting, performing maintenance and preparing for a gigantic drive against the Roer River defenses, Company "D" plus the assault gun platoon and the mortar platoon joined Task Force Davisson to hold positions along the west bank of the river south of Ober Mausbach. A number of platoon leaders and platoon sergeants made use of artillery observation planes to see the terrain and defenses through which the attack was to move.

First to cross the Roer was Company "A", which on February 25 moved across a bridge constructed by the 28th Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division on the First Division's left flank. From this bridgehead Company "A" attacked to the south with the 16th Infantry Regiment and took its first two objectives of Kreuzau and Drove. The gaining of these towns made it possible for Company "C" to cross with the 26th Regiment and take Udingen.

From there the attack was continued due east across the Cologne Plain in a drive destined to reach the Rhine despite determined enemy opposition. The flat plains proved to be good tank country, with the exception of cultivated fields which were quite soggy as a result of recent rains. It was also excellent anti-tank country, however, and the enemy's flat trajectory weapons took a toll of our armor until our forces began staging night attacks when the vision of the anti-tank weapon would be limited.

Numerous enemy mines were encountered during this drive, but they served only to slow the tanks rather than to stop them, and most of the disabled tanks were returned to action within 24 hours.

The Battalion suffered its greatest losses to enemy mines when two officers and two men met death while riding peeps which struck buried mines. Lt. John J. Day, Jr., was killed when the vehicle he was using to reconnoiter routes for his tanks hit a mine, and two days later a Company "A" peep hit a mine in Gladbach. The latter incident took the lives of Cpl. Frank J. DuMolin, S. Sgt. William I. Tucker, and Lt. Elmer K. Yakish. The irony of the accident lies in the fact that S. Sgt. Tucker had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism at Hamich, and Lt. Yakish had been a member of the Battalion for only two hours.

On February 27 Company "B" crossed the Roer and joined in the drive to the Rhine, taking the towns of Stockheim, Jakobwullesheim, Kelz, and Dorweiler.

As Companies "A" and "D" moved eastward they encountered stiff opposition at Frangenheim and Soller, but the attack on Vettweiss was even more fiercely contested. Of fourteen armored vehicles which launched the attack—five medium tanks, five light tanks, and four tank destroyers—only two reached the objective, the remainder being hit by anti-tank guns or becoming stuck in the soggy sugar-beet fields.

The rest of the way across the Cologne Plain proved to be the assault of one rural village after another. Some of them fell easily, but many, such as Pingsheim and Mellerhofe, were tough nuts to crack.

It was during the night attack on Mellerhofe that Lt. Wilbur F. Worthing's platoon of Company "B", silhouetted against burning haystacks, lost three tanks to enemy armor. When Lt. Worthing's lead tank was knocked out, he jumped on the second tank commanded by Sgt. William R. Roberts and continued to attack. Enemy tanks scored hits on Roberts' tank and disabled it, after which they counterattacked, supported by heavy artillery fire and strafing aircraft. Lt. Worthing mounted his third tank and helped to repel the counter-attack, but not before another tank of his platoon, that of S. Sgt. Edgar Ireland, was hit and burned. The initiative was regained, however, and Lt. Worthing led the two tanks he had left into the town.

Company "C" moved through Bruhl, and 1st Sgt. Harold R. Fitzgerald, acting platoon leader, claimed to be the first man of the Battalion to reach the Rhine. The remainder of the Battalion swung southward to attack the city of Bonn. Against the fire of many depressed anti-aircraft guns, Companies "A", "B", and "D", plus the assault gun and mortar platoons, helped to capture this important city, only to find that great bridge across the Rhine had been destroyed by the retreating Germans.



Headquarters First United States Army

Office of the Commanding General APO 230

9 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation of Major General James A. Van Fleet, 03847.

TO: Major General James A. Van Fleet, Commanding General,
III Corps, APO 303.

On this day of victory in Europe I want to congratulate you and the fighting III Corps on the contribution you have made to the defeat of the German Army.

From the time your corps joined First Army on 13 February through its relentless drive to the Rhine, the brilliant bridgehead operation at Remagen and the reduction of the Ruhr pocket its record has been an outstanding one. The troops under your command have fought with courage and determination. Your leadership has been forceful and inspiring.

I desire to commend you, your staff and the officers and men of the units who have served under you. Please let them know I am deeply appreciative of their accomplishments and accept my best personal wishes to you and to III Corps for continued success.

/s/ Courtney H. Hodges
/t/ COURTNEY H. HODGES,
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

200.6 (9 May 45) GNNCG

Ist Ind.

HEADQUARTERS III CORPS, APO 303, U. S. Army, 26 May 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 745th Tank Battalion, APO 403, U. S. Army.

1. It is a pleasure to forward this commendation. Your command served as part of the III Corps from 13 February 1945 to 8 March 1945.

2. The repeated, outstanding accomplishments of the 745th Tank Battalion attest to the fine spirit with which its officers and men are imbued and reflect the high qualities of leadership of its commander.

J. A. VAN FLEET,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

XII. The Remagen Bridgehead

One of the luckiest breaks of the war for the Allies was the capture by the 9th Armored Division of the railroad bridge at Remagen, about 20 miles south of Bonn. After several days of rest near Bonn, the 745th was called upon to support the First Division in its task of expanding the Remagen Bridgehead, already established by the 9th Armored and the 78th Infantry Divisions.

The bridgehead still covered a small area when our units moved across the majestic Rhine on a pontoon bridge built along side the oft-bombed railroad bridge. Company "C" was the first to cross, on March 15, and other units of the Battalion followed quickly. Meanwhile, the enemy continued to maintain heavy pressure all around the bridgehead, and artillery and mortar fire was intense. Company "C" found rough going at Orscheid and Wullscheid and received numerous counterattacks at the airfield in the vicinity of Germscheid, while Company "B" encountered a large scale counterattack after taking the town of Eudenbach.

By March 20 Company "A" had taken Oberpleis, and the bridgehead had expanded far enough that the lines were growing thin. The light tanks of Company "D" were sent into the battle in the role of mediums to attack the towns of Rubhausen and Kurscheid in support of the 18th Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Thomas E. Pegg led his second platoon of Company "A" in attacks on Jungsfield and Soven but ran into a strong counterattack after clearing the latter. Although his tanks knocked out three enemy self-propelled guns, Lt. Pegg was killed by direct fire from an enemy tank, and his platoon sergeant, S. Sgt. John R. Patrick, was seriously wounded.

By this time the enemy had gathered two Panzer divisions and three infantry divisions in the woods west of Altenkirchen in preparation for an all out attack against the bridgehead. The platoon commanded by 1st Sgt. William V. Resnick, Jr., of Company "B" destroyed eleven enemy armored vehicles in two days as a series of counterattacks were received from these forces.

Lt. Richard J. Carleton, Sgt. Samuel B. Whinery, Jr., Pvt. Larmer S. Tippit, and Cpl. George L. Keeter of Company "A" received their biggest "thrill" of the war on March 26 at Dondorf when they were captured by the Germans after their tank had been knocked out. However, after about eight hours of captivity, they were liberated by Company "E" of the 16th Infantry Regiment, none the worse for their experience.

As the rest of the Battalion pushed eastward, Company "D" drew the assignment of guarding the Division's left flank along the Sieg River. Some stiff enemy resistance was met in the towns of Hennef, Geisbach, and Dondorf.

It was during this period that the mortar platoon saw some of its heaviest action of the war, firing a total of 812 rounds at attacking enemy forces from its position in the vicinity of Bierth. The assault gun platoon also played an important part in stopping heavy enemy counterattacks against the bridgehead, firing 397 rounds on March 22 and 349 rounds on March 23.

XIII. The Ruhr Pocket

On March 25 Company "B" concentrated on clearing the town of Uckerath, through which the 3rd Armored Division directed its drive to break out of the bridgehead. The breakthrough was a masterpiece, and within two weeks the powerful armor had swept eastward beyond the confines of the Sieg River to pivot north and pocket the entire Ruhr valley. On Easter Sunday, April 1, the 3rd Armored linked up with elements of the American Ninth Army near Paderborn, and the Ruhr was lost to Germany.

The job of the 745th was to support the First Division in mopping up the pockets of resistance which had been by-passed by the fast moving 3rd Armored. Moving rapidly to Altenkirchen, skirting Siegen, and then wheeling north, the Battalion went into position south of Paderborn near Buren, where several attempts by the enemy to break out of the trap were thoroughly repulsed.

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XIV. The Harz Pocket

On April 6 elements of the Battalion began movement with their respective combat teams to positions in the First Infantry Division sector to cross the Weser River. Tanks supported the crossing by infantry and then crossed the river themselves over pontoon bridges. The Battalion pursued the fleeing enemy to the Harz Mountains where the Germans hoped to hold out indefinitely in well-prepared defensive positions.

From April 12 to April 21 companies of the Battalion supported their combat teams in attacks against these positions in the Harz Mountains. Company "D" was employed with Company "C" and the 26th Infantry Regiment until they had reached their objectives of Braunlage and Eland. Then, racing around to the other end of the division area, the light tanks assisted Company "B" and the 18th Infantry in the final big mop-up at Thale. There three corps commanders and an admiral were among the thousands of prisoners taken. The total for the Harz Pocket reached 34,000 prisoners.

Opposition in the Harz Mountain area was stiff at first but gradually lessened as the enemy's situation became more and more desperate. Due to the mountainous terrain movement of tanks usually was restricted to roads. Numerous roadblocks and felled trees slowed movement, and the defenders were numerous and well organized.

The Germans still had no intentions of folding, and just to make the point clear, a single German tank ambushed Lt. Wilbur Worthing's second platoon of Company "B" near Northeim and knocked out four of five tanks, causing three to burn.

As elements of the Battalion moved through Bad Grund, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Altenau, St. Andreasberg, Braunlage, Eland, Rubeland, and Thale, numerous German military hospitals containing thousands of wounded Germans were taken under Allied control. Also many American and Allied prisoners were released. The majority of these towns were winter resort centers and had been converted into military hospitals.

Lt. Frank Barnes' platoon of Company "C" accounted for five enemy armored vehicles in the vicinity of Altenau. Lt. Barnes, one of the newer officers in the Battalion, and still imbibed with the textbook theories to some extent, deliberately started to deploy his tanks. S. Sgt. Lavern Corwin popped up with the classic remark, "Hell, Lieutenant, this is no time for tactics. Let's start shooting."

Lt. John A. Viggiano's first platoon of Company "A" also had a field day on April 18th in the vicinity of Rubeland, where it captured 50 enemy vehicles at one spot and later caught an enemy column on the road destroying about 30 vehicles as well as assisting in taking more than a thousand prisoners. Lt. Ernest Moody and his second platoon of Company "A" did almost as well with 40 vehicles and 400 prisoners to their credit.

Company "B", during the attack on Thale, established a road block with a tank equipped with a 76mm gun. During the dark night an enemy column rumbled toward it. The gunner waited until the leading vehicle of the closely

grouped column approached within 25 yards of the corner and then fired. A single round from the 76mm gun destroyed at least half a dozen vehicles and killed many of the enemy.

With the taking of Eland, Rubeland, and Thale, mass surrenders followed, ending organized resistance in the Harz Pocket although about two days were required to mop up all the prisoners.

XV. Czechoslovakia

On April 24 the entire battalion moved from the Harz Mountain sector to several villages west and northwest of Eisleben for a period of rest and maintenance. The period lasted for only four days, however, and on April 29 the Battalion moved 120—140 miles to the southeast with the First Division as it relieved the 97th Infantry Division in its positions generally along the German-Czechoslovakian border. In fact, most of the combat elements of the battalion were inside Czechoslovakia, and Company "C" had its CP in Asch, just over the border.

Although the assigned mission was to hold, the aggressive First Division turned to the attack on the first of May and kept edging forward until given orders to hold on May 6—two days before hostilities were to cease. The farthest penetration into Czechoslovakia was made by Company "D" which contacted Russian forces at Karlsbad.

Following the cessation of hostilities, the battalion took up the task of guarding more than 80,000 prisoners who wound up in the First Division PW cages.

Other than guarding prisoners, the chief interest of members of the Battalion became the complex problem of counting points under the army's new redeployment system—and sweating out the Pacific. The European phase of the war was over, and members of the Battalion were eager to learn what the future held in store.

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XVI. Occupation

After spending almost a month guarding and processing the German prisoners at the camp near Cheb (Eger), the Battalion moved on June 7 to the ancient, storied town of Rothenburg on the Tauber, where the varied duties of military occupation were undertaken. The 165-mile move was made on the summer's hottest day, the blistering sun and blinding dust making the trip far from being enjoyable.

Rothenburg, located 60 miles west of devastated Nurnberg, has for many years been a mecca for tourists from all over the world. Noted as Germany's oldest town, Rothenburg is the embodiment of all the ledgermain and fables which have come down through the centuries from Germany. And here the Battalion set up headquarters and guard posts, and began its occupational duties for an undetermined length of time.

XVII. Conclusion

The combat history of the 745th Tank Battalion has been a glorious one. It has met and conquered the best that the German army had to offer. Working in small units, usually of platoon strength, it has done nothing to attract world-wide renown. Yet, the tanks of the 745th has supported the best infantry division in the world in some of the roughest fighting in Europe. The tanks of the 745th and the doughboys of the First Infantry Division have developed a close-knit spirit of tank-infantry cooperation that has been superb— a spirit that has paid off in results.

The Battalion has made its sacrifices and suffered its casualties. It has paid a price in blood. Yet, for every casualty suffered by the 745th, the enemy has suffered at least ten-fold. The undying spirit and the unflinching devotion to duty displayed by these tankers under the most adverse circumstances has enabled the Battalion proudly to display its motto, "Our Tracks Lead to Victory".

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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26TH INF.



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