

1945

The Thirteenth armored division: a history of the Black Cats from Texas to France, Germany and Austria and back to California

United States Army

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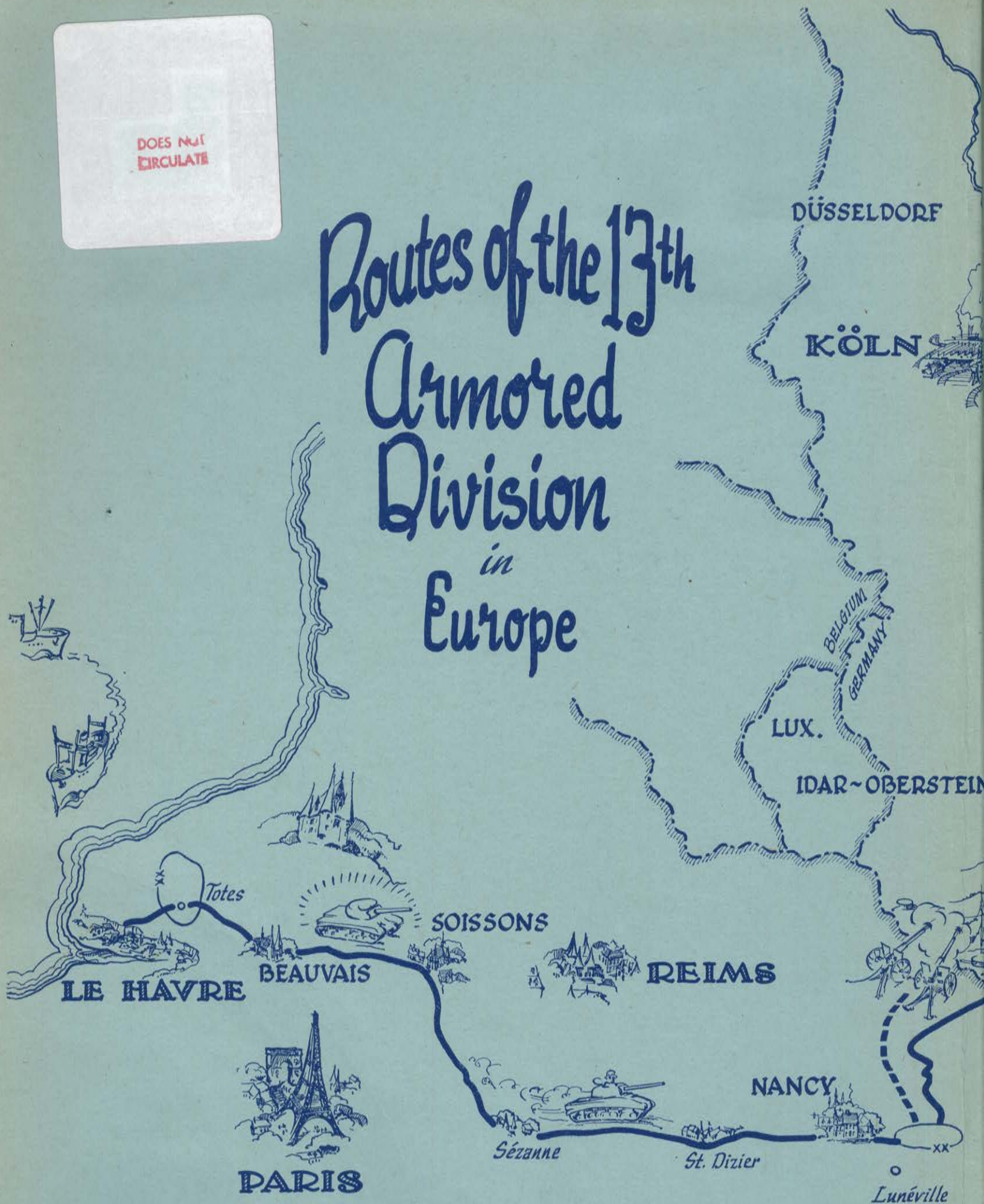
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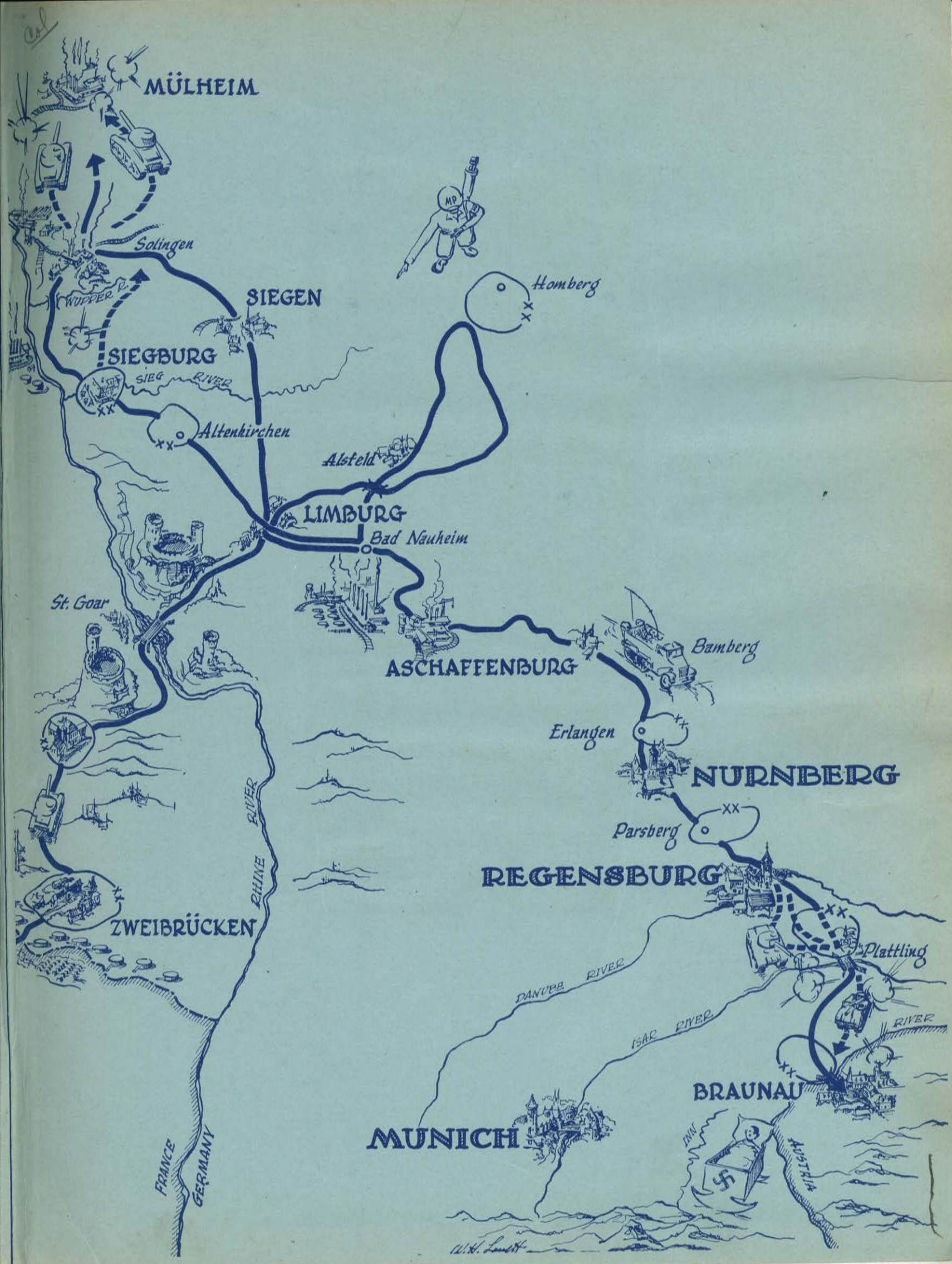
13TH ARMORED DIVISION



DOES NOT
CIRCULATE

Routes of the 13th Armored Division *in* Europe







THE THIRTEENTH ARMORED DIVISION



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A HISTORY OF THE BLACK CATS FROM
TEXAS TO FRANCE, GERMANY AND
AUSTRIA AND BACK TO CALIFORNIA.

1945



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN B. WOGAN

I am very glad of the opportunity to address a final message to the splendid personnel of the 13th Armored Division. These Division and battalion histories will be one of the most cherished possessions of every officer and enlisted man in the division because they will be the proud narration of the accomplishments of an outstanding organization—the Black Cat Division.

I shall always be proud of the fact that I was your commander from the day of activation to the day of combat, a most unique record among armored division commanders. That I was denied the privilege and honor of being with you to the end will always be a source of deep regret to me, but it was the fortune of war and I accept it with resignation and faith that it was for the best.

I take this opportunity to thank the officers and men of the Division for their loyalty, their cooperation and

their unflagging high morale. To those who are returning to civil life, I send my sincerest wishes for good health, success and happiness. To those who suffered wounds, I wish complete recovery and a speedy return to a normal life. To those who gave their all, I join you and our grateful nation in paying them a tribute for having made victory possible. I pray that our all-wise and all-merciful Father has seen fit to bestow upon them the rich rewards that their sacrifice deserves.

John B. Wogan



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN MILLIKIN

Officers and men of the 13th Armored Division, you may well be proud of the part you played in the final phase of the war with Germany. Your operations were marked by courage, relentless determination, and a daring spirit that could not be denied. Yours was a soldierly attitude toward all problems with which you were confronted. You may take pride in the manner in which you discharged your duties. As for me, I feel deeply honored to have been one of you and to have commanded you. My service with the Division is one of the high lights of my career.

May our wounded completely recover and return to normal life. May our dead rest peacefully under God's protection and be assured that we, and our fellow countrymen, will not forget their supreme sacrifice, nor the cause for which they died.

John Millikin.

GENERAL STAFF



COL. WILLIAM H. WOOD
CHIEF OF STAFF



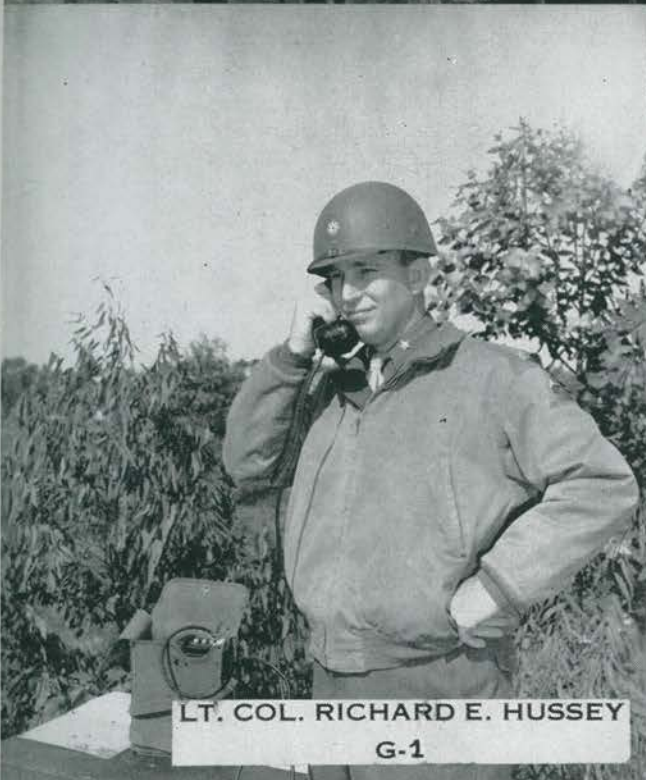
LT. COL. ORVIE HIGHUM
G-4



COL. DALE E. MEANS
G-3



GEN. PATTON'S VISIT



LT. COL. RICHARD E. HUSSEY
G-1



LT. COL. LLOYD G. BUCHLER
G-2

THE BLACK CATS

THEY SHARPENED THEIR CLAWS IN CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS, THEN SCRATCHED HELL OUT OF THE NAZIS

This is the history of the 13th Armored Division, a story of three long years in training and battle—a story written not in the bone-dry dust of the historian, but rather with the sweat and blood and honest fear of the infantryman, the tanker, and the cannoneer. These men worked together, lived together, and some of them died together—died in the filth and rubble of the war-ravaged Ruhr or in the rivers and forests of Bavaria. But, most of the men lived—and fought, and captured towns, liberated prisoners of war, killed Germans—and helped win the war. This, then, is the story of these men, living and dead.

The war was young, and not going at all to our liking, when we descended upon Camp Beale, California in 1942 to begin the long training grind that was to lead us to the battlefields of Germany. And we were young, too, and cocky—"Get that cap on the left side of your head, soldier. You're in the Armored Force now," we barked. We trained and learned the arts of battle the hard way—toughening up with basic training, and problems staged with the realism of combat. "California's Own" they called us—and the Governor of the state christened our tanks. That was in the summer of 1943. For two years we toughened up at Beale and Camp Bowie, Texas, and we were plenty rugged when they put us on that boat for the ETO.

In the main, the ocean voyage was made without incident. One of the ships broke down and had to return to New York, the convoy was twice alerted for submarines and depth charges were dropped. Most of the troop passengers were afflicted with seasickness. But the men of the Division were in good shape when the troop ships eased into the devastated port that had been Le Havre, France. Once-sunny France was now bleak and frozen under the worst snow storm in many years. Here in apple-rich Normandy, the men of the 13th spent two months in preparation for battle.

NORMANS WERE OUR HOSTS

So this was Normandy. Here the sturdy French peasant tilled the soil much as had his ancestors in the middle ages. From here sprang the Norman conqueror who was to enrich our blood and our English language. In quaint cottages and rich chateaux hemmed in by hedgerows, these Normans were our hosts. Most of us couldn't parley-voo at first, but we learned fast, and it wasn't long before we could buy a dozen eggs for a handful of francs, or get a bottle of Calvados or a glass of cider at the local cafe. Historic towns these, and their names rolled off your tongue like honey—Royville, Bellencombre, Beaunay, Longueville, St. Saens, Bacqueville and Val Martin. But, it wasn't all

play as the 124th Engineers found out when they had to root up 21,185 square yards of mines that the Krauts had left behind.

Now equipped with tanks and vehicles, small arms and artillery, the Division rolled through France to its new forward assembly area near Luneville. Windblown and sunburned, the Black Cats hightailed through cities famous as battlefields of the last war—Compiègne, Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, Vitry-le-Francois. And the realization of man's inhumanity to man struck deep into each man's heart as he witnessed the complete ruin of the beautiful towns of Alsace-Bourdonnay, Moyenvic, and Avricourt. The Division Artillery pulled out on the 19th of March to become the first of the 13th troops committed to the fight, pouring shells into the besieged city of Saarbrücken. "A" Battery of the 497th dropped in the first shell from Spicheren, Germany.

So, then we were occupation troops, policing the towns of the Saar and searching German houses and frisking kraut civilians for hidden weapons. Servile, they were, with their "Nicht Nazi" and "Hitler kaput." You couldn't find a self-admitted Nazi from Zweibrücken and Waldmohr to Trier or Merzig. But the CIC had a list of Nazis marked for automatic arrest and they scoured the countryside with their teams of German-speaking Black Cats. The only excitement we had was when they sent part of the 67th Infantry and the 46th Tankers to scour the Taunus woods near Mainz for some bypassed krauts. We were in the Seventh Army then, all ready to rush through when the Infantry had cracked the Siegfried line. But someone decided that the 4th Armored needed a rest and off we went to relieve them—now as part of Patton's Third Army.

ACROSS THE RHINE

On April 5, 1945, the vehicles of the Division moved out of the occupational area and proceeded across the Rhine river by way of the ponton bridge at St. Goar, Germany, Patton's army had just driven a deep wedge into the German armies and the 4th Armored had reached Kassel. The 13th was ordered to the vicinity of Homberg, near Kassel. For the first time the men saw the famed Autobahns that were to play such a vital role in the defeat of Germany. The convoys rolled day and night and as far as the eye could see, the 2 1-2 ton's rode bumper to bumper as though this were Highway 101 and they were making the night run from Frisco to L. A. And overhead the ever-welcome P-51s and P-38s rode herd over the earthbound vehicles. The Division closed into Homberg on the 7th and girded for combat.

But we didn't fight there either. We turned around again and lit out for the Ruhr back over the same Autobahn and you couldn't blame those Polish DPs who hurried south because they thought the Germans must have been after us. And you could sympathize with the fellow in the track behind you whose itchy trigger finger led him to shoot at—and miss—a herd of deer along the road. Once more we assembled for battle, this time in the German city of Altenkirchen.

The American First and Ninth armies lay coiled around the Ruhr like a giant octopus, probing its tentacles ever deeper into this richest of all German industrial areas. Without the Ruhr with its steel and coal, the German war effort was doomed. It was into this all-important battle that the 13th was committed to battle for the first time. Battle plans called for the 13th, now part of the XVIII Airborne Corps of the First Army, to strike north from the town of Hennef, cross the Sieg river, and pass through Siegburg toward the center of the Ruhr pocket. The enemy was known to have heavy concentrations of 88-mm. and 20-mm. anti-aircraft guns in this area for the protection of the vital war industries. These guns could—and did—do double duty as anti-tank and anti-personnel weapons.

AHEAD WERE THE 88's

CCA and CCB crossed the Sieg on April 10 and the 13th was a maiden no longer. CCB bypassed Troisdorf, later mopped up by CCR, and fought through Wahnersheide and Urbach to Dunnwald on the next day. CCA advanced along an Autobahn to take Lohmar and then attacked Breidt. Thus began the Battle of Germany for the 13th Armored Division. Behind the men lay two or more years of training. Ahead were the 88s, the MG 34s and the cities of the Ruhr to be plucked like ripe grapes from the falling German empire.

Well, we fought north all right, through every road-block the Heinies could throw up, and every artillery barrage they could throw at us. It took us just 6 days to blast our way across four rivers and the valleys between—the Sieg, the Agger, the Duhnn, and the Wupper. A kraut with a burb gun could hold a doughboy up for just so long, and there was the tanker to ease the kraut out of the picture. Or that other one with the Panzerfaust could slow up the tank, but the Infantryman was there to knock him out with an M-1. And behind them both was their long-armed buddy in an M-7 ready to reach out with his 105 and smash the enemy. It was the teamwork that did the trick—and General Wogan who called the plays. Only we lost the general in the Ruhr when he was struck by Nazi rifle fire. Seriously wounded, he was evacuated by the 83rd Medics and later shipped stateside. General Millikin took over from there.

MANY A BLACK CAT FELL

The initial objective of the Division was Berg-Bladbach, and the drive north continued along the Rhine. German towns fell by the score and prisoners surrendered by the thousands. The fighting was marked by the sharp clash for each locality and then the dash to the next. Many a Black Cat soldier fell in the fight for towns like Rath, where CCA liberated a POW camp; Spitze, where the 16th Infantry and the 45th Tanks were roughed up; and Dellbrück, Altenburg, Opladen and Hilden on the main axis of advance which fell to the onrushing CCB.

When you looked at one of those P-X bombers that the artillery used for target spotters, you wondered how it stayed up there as one particular plane did that day in the Ruhr. From below it looked like a toy as the pilot wove a delicate pattern trying to evade the flak which blossomed

like a bouquet around him. But he stayed up there and soon the enemy 88s were silenced for good when the guns of the 498th boomed out an answer to his radio call.

As the Ruhr pocket was being more tightly compressed, the troops of CCR were ordered to the area of Gevelsburg to be attached to the 8th Infantry Division, then fighting south toward Wuppertal. The rest of the Division continued north with CCB driving toward Mettmann in the center of the Pocket, and then racing along the left flank paralleling the Rhine to seize Duisburg. CCA sped into Muddlinghausen with hopes of capturing Field Marshal Model and his staff. Though Model had fled, the bag of prisoners included two major generals. With the fall of the German general staff in that area, organized resistance ceased. The Battle of the Ruhr ended on the 18th of April and the 13th was again assigned to the Third Army.

DIVISION CROSSED THE DANUBE

After a march of approximately 300 miles through Remscheid and Limburg, Bad Nauheim and Hanau, the 13th reached the Danube river at Regensburg and was once more thrown into battle. Now an integral part of the XX Corps of the 3rd Army, the Division crossed the Danube on bridges provided by the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions. CCB hurdled the Danube at 1830 on the 27th of April, using the 71st Infantry bridge. They were closely followed by the tanks and tracks of CCR. CCA crossed on the 65th bridge but concentrations of enemy artillery and mined roads hindered their advance. Held in a close formation by the crossing, the Division hit the south bank and fanned out like water through a broken dam in their forceful rush to the Isar river. The attack was in three columns echeloned to the right. CCB with the 59th Infantry and the 24th Tanks rolled along the left flank through Rain, Rinkham and then into Straubing, where a bull dozer reduced a road block that had been holding up the column. Near Aiterhofen and Strasskirchen they encountered mines and four tanks were lost.

Meanwhile, CCR overran several undefended roadblocks, taking Hainsbach and Wallkoffen in their dash to the Isar. CCA, echeloned to the extreme right of the Division area rolled to the Isar at Worth and the entire north bank of the river from Worth to Plattling was held by the 13th. The artillery of the 496th was called up to soften up the south bank for a crossing by the infantry.

If the Heinies hadn't blown up most of their bridges from one end of Germany to the other, the 124th Engineers wouldn't have been kept so busy. When we hit the Isar, the Krauts touched them off right in our faces and there we were with no way of getting our vehicles across till the engineers came up to put up a treadway bridge for us. But that didn't stop the doughboys from getting over. The main push was at Plattling and the boys of the 59th forced the river on a railway bridge, wading waist deep through the swift current. The 16th Infantry with CCR made crossings at Mamming and Landau. At Mamming they scaled the girders of the demolished bridge and took the town, holding it against three fierce counterattacks by SS troops. The Landau crossing was made in assault boats, but the enemy fire and the current kept all but three of the boats from negotiating the stream. So—we held the bridgeheads come hell or high water and when our bridge was put up at Plattling, we were ready to roll to the Inn River—and Austria.

13TH ROLLED THROUGH BAVARIA

That the German army was now collapsing like a paper bag was a certainty as the Division broke through the defenses of the Isar and dashed to the Inn. The end of the

war was in sight as the 13th rolled through Bavarian towns like Pfarrkirchen, Tann, and Eggenfelden. However the German will to fight was not entirely extinguished, and the column of CCB headed into a strong point at Malgersdorf where the 24th had two tanks knocked out.

When we took over Tann for the headquarters of the Division we also, but quite unwillingly, took over more than 50,000 Hungarians who were anxious to surrender to the Americans. There was the usual ceremony and General Millikin accepted the surrender of Jeno Szollosi, the ex-prime minister of Hungary and Koroli Beregfy, the commander in chief of the Hungarian army. It would have been too big a problem to put them all in POW cages, so they stayed free as long as they behaved themselves.

You could have knocked those men from the 153rd Signal Company over with a feather when a Nazi colonel walked into their message center, asked if it was the "Toxic" Message Center, and promptly surrendered.

The Division mop-up of the area between the Isar and the Inn was accomplished by the three combat commands



moving abreast through light resistance to the Austrian border. CCA rolled behind Task Force Smith to the left and entered Simbach on the Inn to find the bridge down. CCR found the Marktl bridge a mass of twisted girders but seized a civilian ferry at Kohlburg to transport the 16th Infantry over the Inn. Once across the river, the three companies of the 16th marched afoot to Burghausen on the Salzach river and Hohenwarth on the Alz, capturing a Nazi prison camp and freeing 11,000 prisoners of war—4,100 of them Americans. CCB veered to the right and hit the Inn opposite Neu Otting, crossing the river in assault boats manned by the 124th Engineers and seizing the town.

"I ASK FOR MERCY"

By now we'd come all the way across Germany and our speedometers had ticked off 1608 miles since we left Le Havre. We were sitting on the banks of the Inn right across from Braunau, that medieval Austrian city whose only claim to fame was that Hitler had been whelped there.

We'd come from Plattling with Col. Smith in his mad dash to the border with part of the 93rd recon as well as tankers and Infantry. But we got caught with our bridges down when some well placed explosive charges dropped the center spans into the swiftly flowing Inn. So we sent the mayor of Simbach rowing across the river with an ultimatum to the defending garrison of Braunau. "Surrender or have the city destroyed," General Augur said. Back came the mealy-mouthed answer, "I ask for mercy for the city of Braunau, for its women and children. Our fight is against the Bolsheviks only, not against the Americans." Division Artillery made ready to bombard the town at noon, but at three minutes to the hour, the garrison surrendered.

So ended the Battle of Central Europe for the 13th Armored Division. Their combat commands and task forces had fought from the Ruhr to Austria, consuming 1,987,550 gallons of gasoline in their M-7's, tanks, half tracks and trucks. Their rifles, carbines, and machine guns had expended 1,189,638 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition, and the 105s had belched out 14,382 rounds of high explosive, smoke and white phosphorus shells. And before the last of these shots was fired, the bag of enemy prisoners taken totaled 1,556 officers and 27,827 enlisted men. Keeping a fast moving armored division serviced and supplied was no sinecure, and the Division Trains matched the speed of the forward elements by getting the ammunition, gasoline, food and other supplies to the right place at the right time. These were the bald facts of the Battle of Germany for the 13th Armored Division. Behind the facts lie the bloody fighting of the infantry and cavalry, the blasted tanks and reconnaissance cars, and the weary mile after mile of constant movement. Vehicles were smashed, bogies were dropped and the 135th Ordnance got things going again. Men were wounded and the 83rd Medics or the battalion medics patched them up. The Division rolled and kept rolling until the fighting was over.

SIFTING OUT NAZI BIGWIGS

The war was over and we were occupation troops again. We sent out patrols and roadblocks to sift out the Nazi bigwigs, and worked on our weapons and vehicles, getting them ready for redeployment and the Battle of Japan. But it wasn't all work, and we took excursions to the lakes of Bavaria and Austria, or visited Hitler's home at Berchtesgaden. We made trips to Paris or the Riviera. But mostly we thought about going home.

While the men of the Division were preparing for the expected redeployment to the Pacific Theater of Operations, the Army General Staff in Washington was planning the part of the 13th should play in the final assault on Japan. As part of the invading Army, the Division was scheduled to storm the beaches of the Japanese home Island of Honshu and spread out over the Plain of Tokyo and bring the war to a quick conclusion. But, the war ended even more suddenly and dramatically when the two atomic bombs blasted Hiroshima and Nagasaki into oblivion, and the Nipponese sued for surrender. Thus the 13th was spared what would likely have proved a costly and bloody undertaking.

When the Division reassembled at Camp Cooke, California, after 30 day recuperation leaves, Los Angeles proclaimed a 13th Armored Division week, and Governor Earl Warren awarded the Black Cats a Certificate of Merit on behalf of the people of California. Then Hollywood played host to the 13th at an all-star show in the Hollywood bowl, and Orson Welles, Eddie Cantor, Bob Hope, Frances Langford, Kay Kyser, Edward G. Robinson, Dinah Shore and Lionel Barrymore got together to applaud the Division for its part in winning the Battle of Europe.

"California's Own" was home for good.

GETTING READY



All weapons were inspected . . .

. . . and blood pressure checked

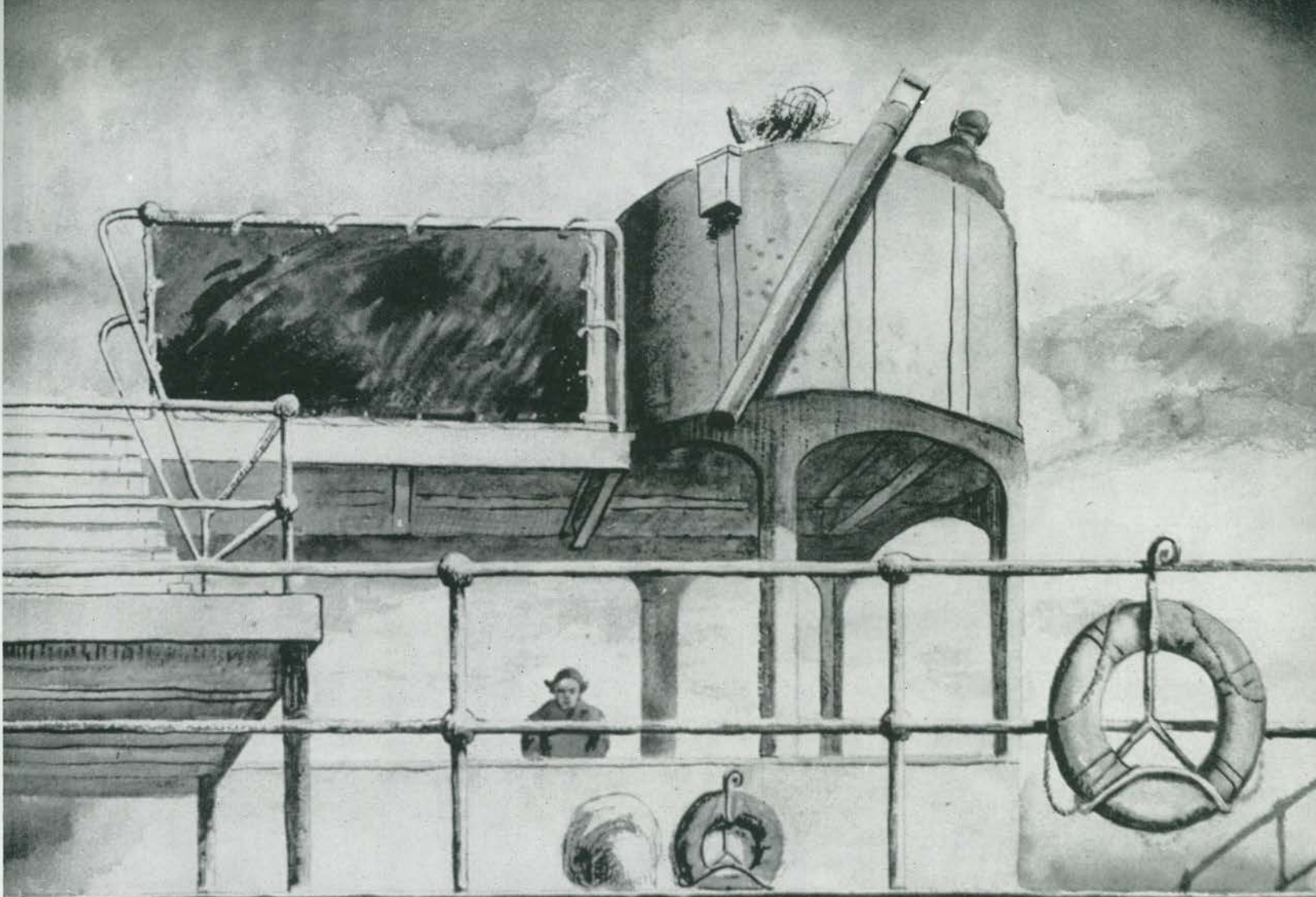




Just one more beer . . .

. . . and we're on our way







Ahead, Europe and Combat
Behind, Home and Family



INFANTRY

Here begins the graphic portrayal
of the Division's
Armored Infantry Battalions
The 16th, 59th, and the 67th

NORMANDY

In Lammerville
chateaux were typical . . .



. . . as were crucifixes

. . and village churches.



ON THE WAY

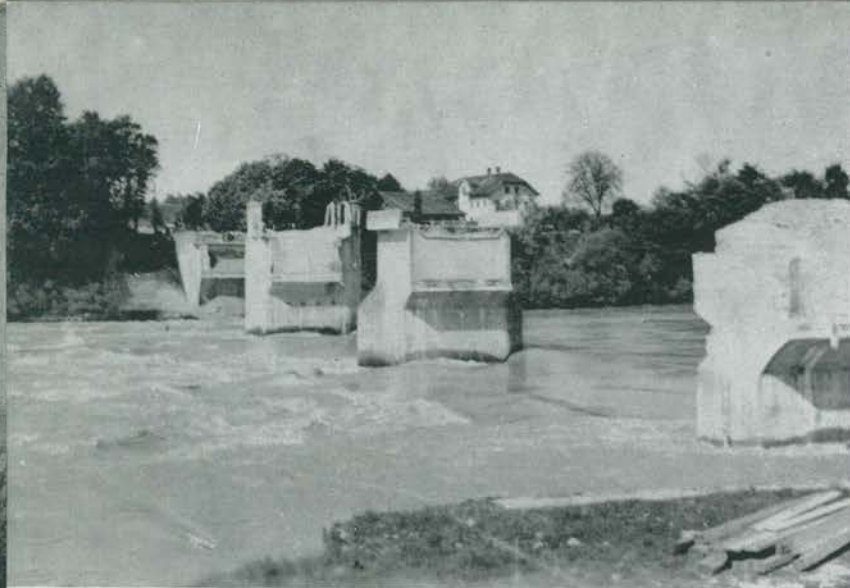
The pause that refreshes



Victim of two wars



... for impending combat



Even nearby fords were mined

Native architecture along the way



On the road to Homberg . . . shrapnel . . .



. . . from once-active German guns.



The Ruhr, ready to move . . .

COMBAT

. . . into the first day of fighting—at Lohmar





The cause of a sleepless night



Out of hills and houses

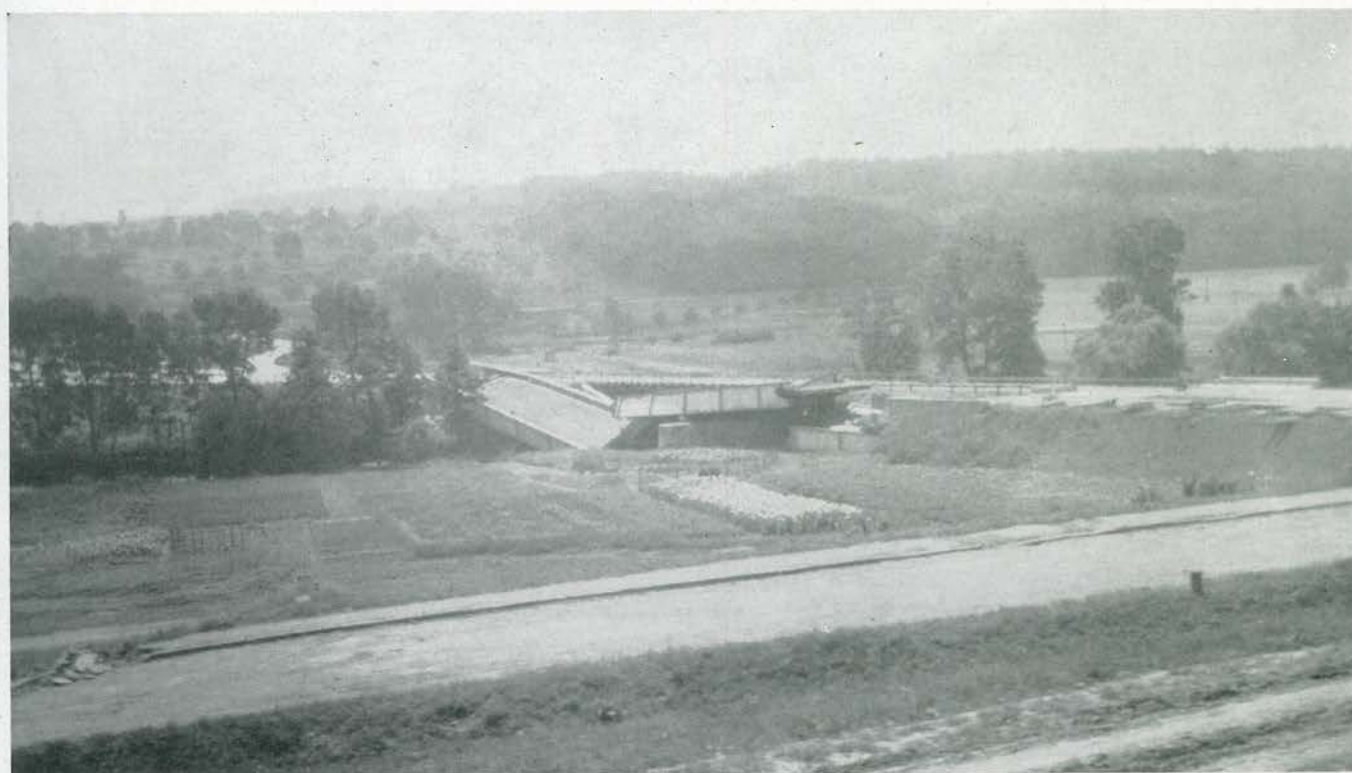
Mopping up . . .



. . . after artillery

. . . and bombs.

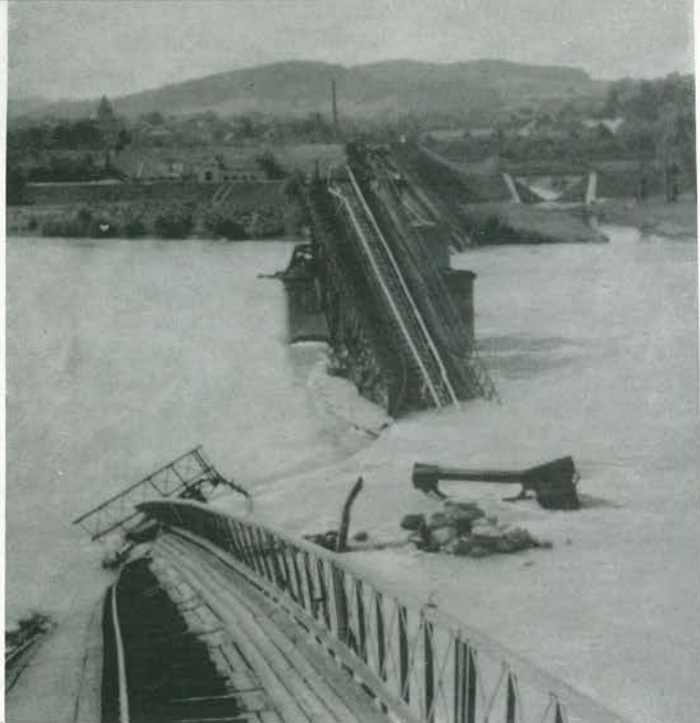




Autobahns were disrupted

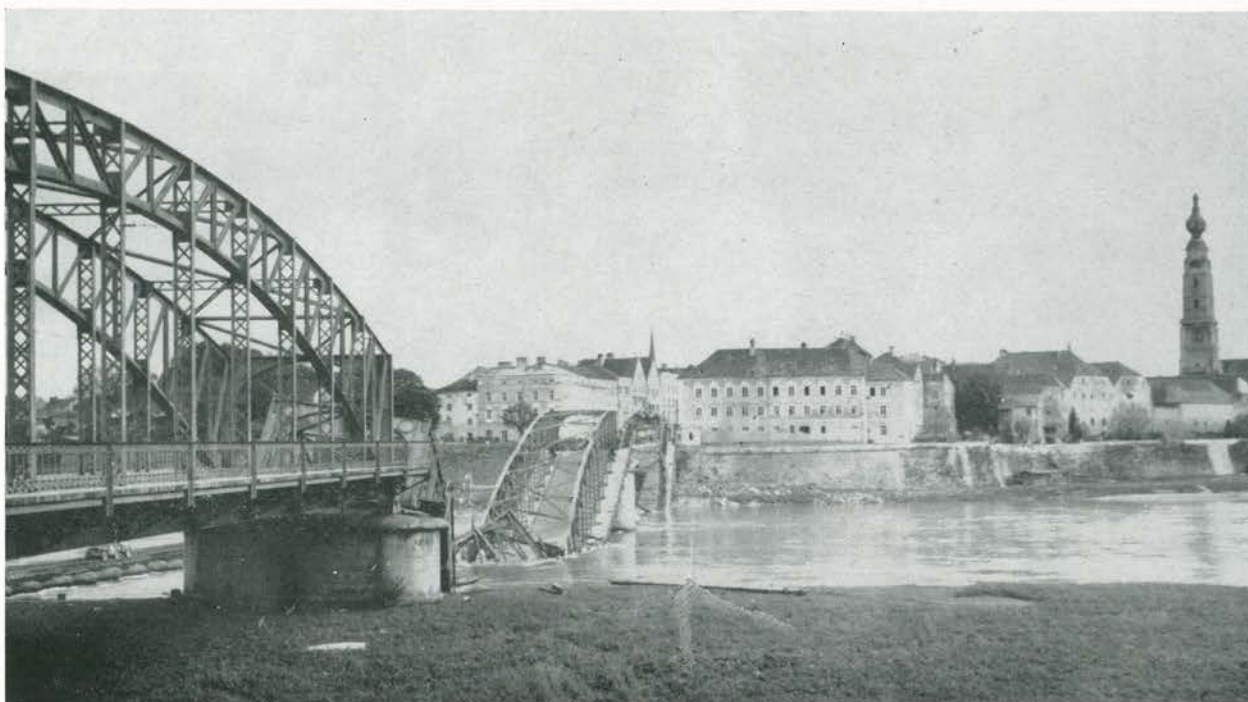


After a blackout detour—the ditch



Obstacle course—made in Germany

Blown before our eyes



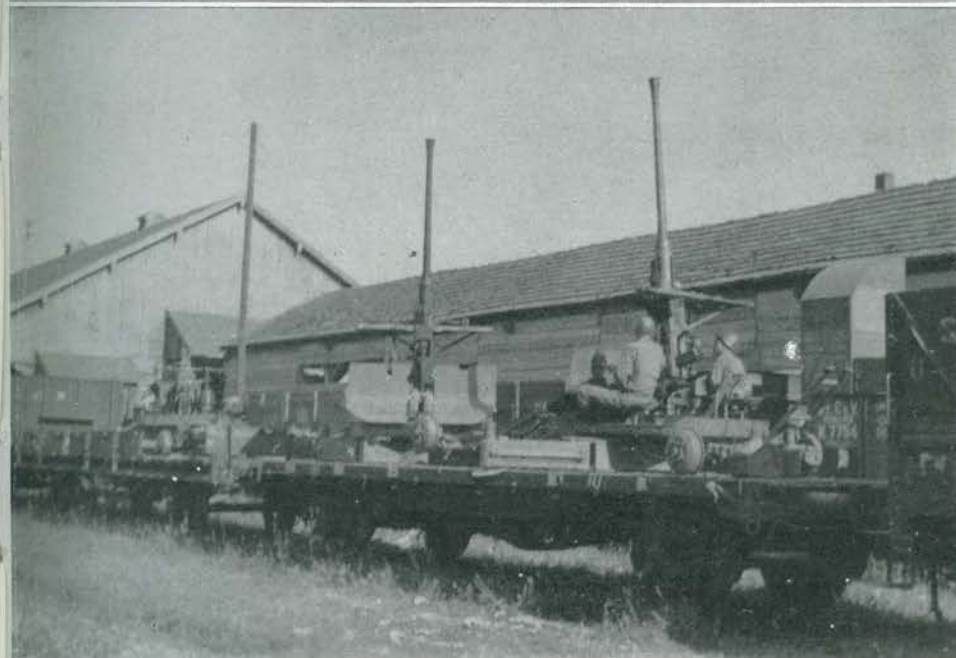
After the Engineers
came



Across the Inn

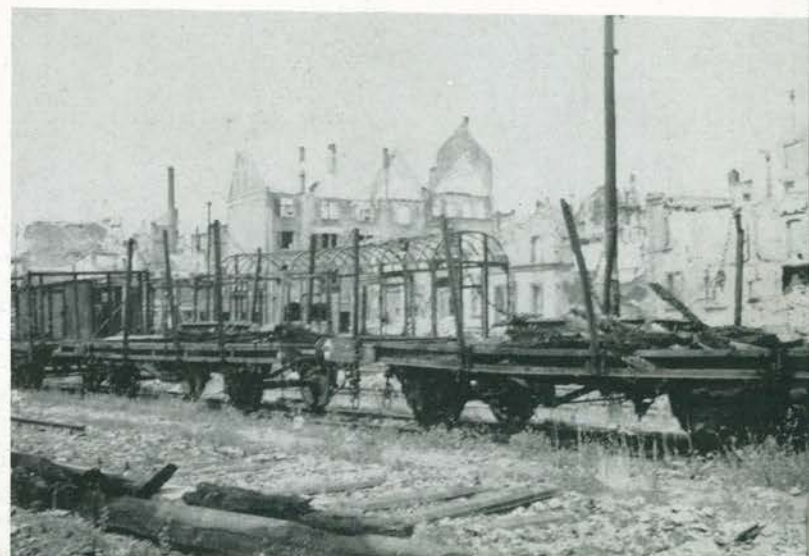


An improvised ferry



Under new management

Reichsbahn kaput





Abandoned German vehicles lined the roads . . .

. . . as prisoners poured in by the thousand.



For this German farmer
the war was over



For these Russians
there was liberation



For these Nazi civilians there was hunger



After the patrols . . .

. . . and the bombings . . .



. . . relaxation.

Opposite

Amid the rubble . . .
a shattered dream.





RISE AND FALL

These pictures are a part of a secret cache made by Heinrich Hoffman, official Nazi photographer, and discovered on an estate near Winhoring, Germany, by members of the 59th Armored Infan-



OF THE NAZIS

try Battalion. They graphically depict the heyday and inevitable decline of the evil empire Hitler attempted to foist on the world, a scheme defeated by such fighting units as the 13th Armored Division.





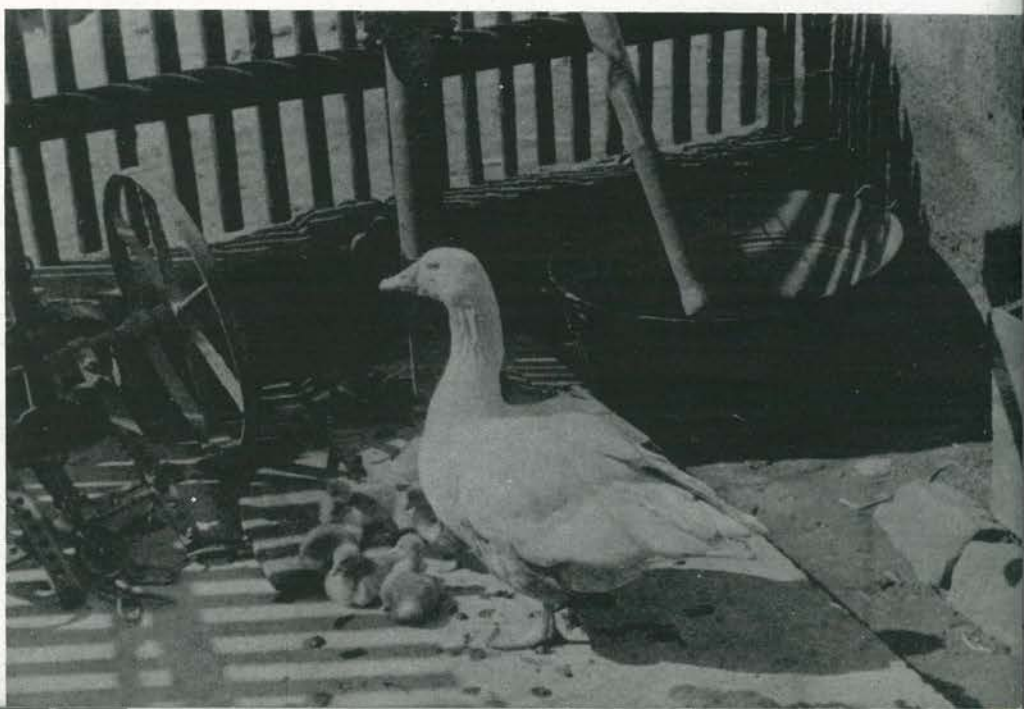
OCCUPATION

Commandeered for recreation

The American touch



Hostile Nazi geese . . .



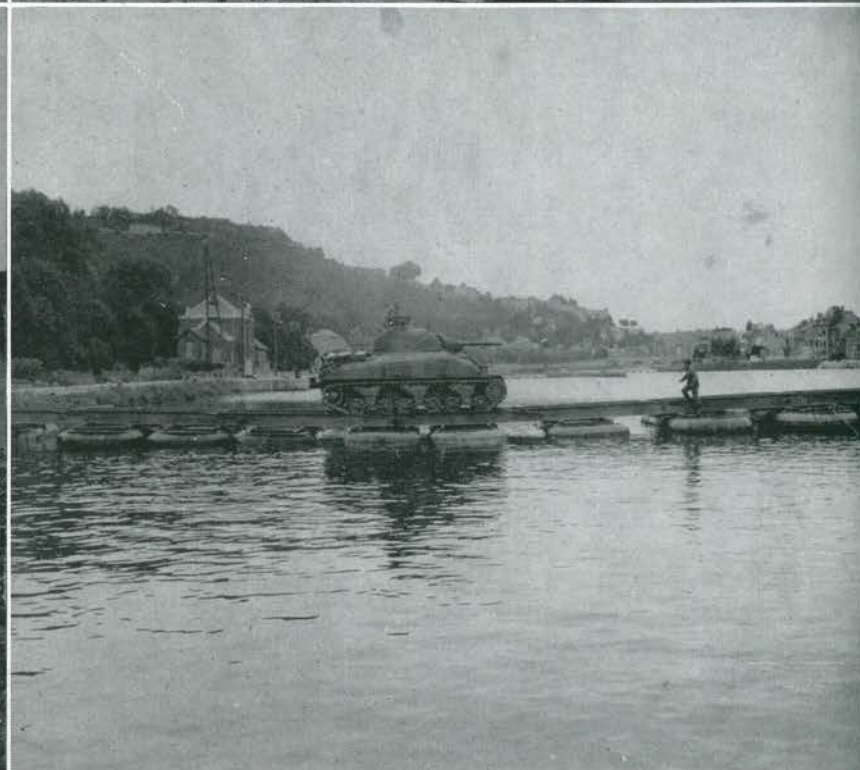
At Wager See . . .

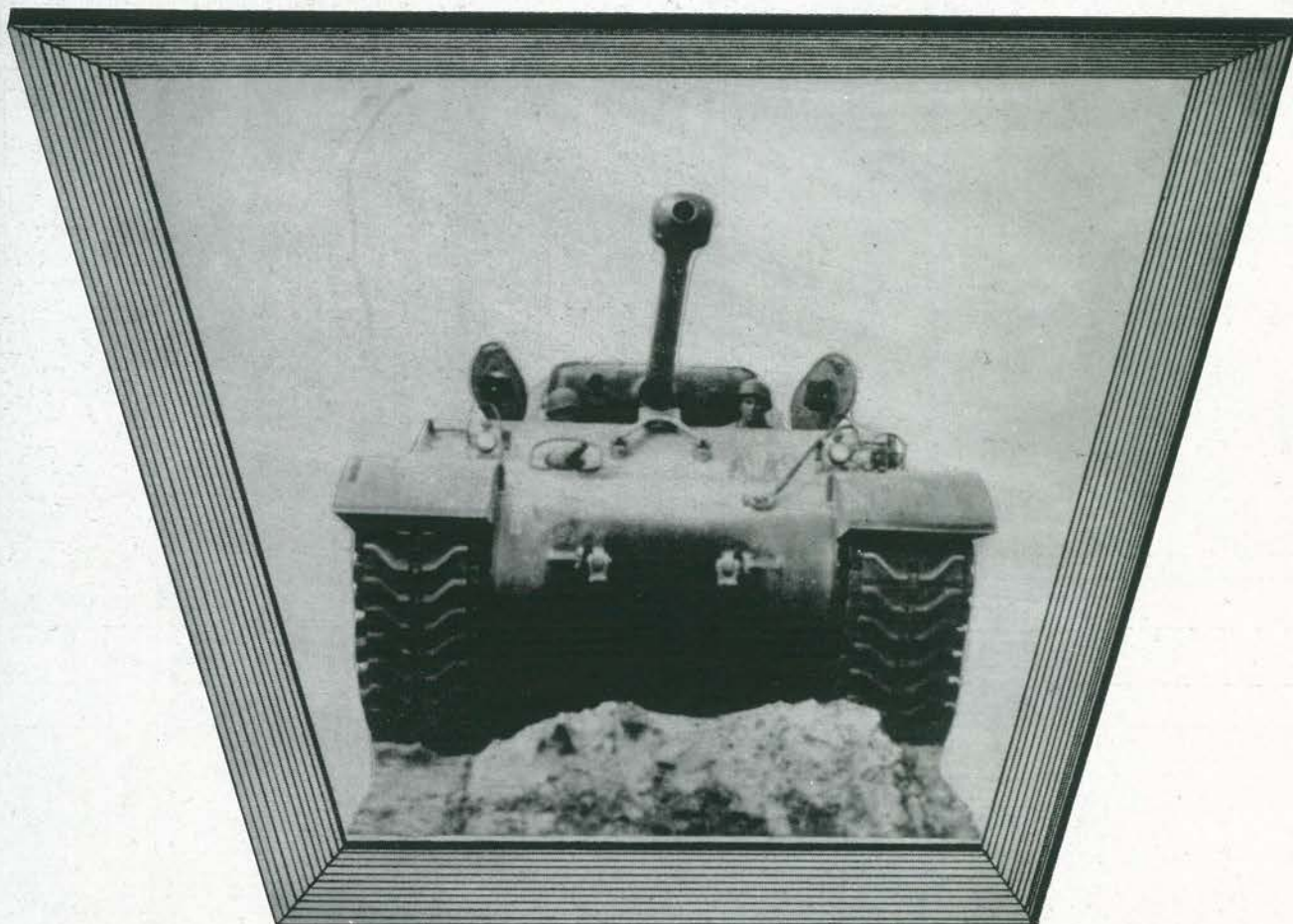


. . . the water was cold.

. . . wound up in a mess.







**“that fire-belching, death-
dealing, iron-clad monster—
THE TANK”**

HERE BEGINS THE GRA-
PHIC PORTRAYAL OF THE
DIVISION'S TANK BAT-
TALIONS—THE 24th, THE
45th AND THE 46th.





WAITING

Lined up and ready to go, just outside Bel-lencombre. Scenes like this were the exception rather than the rule as we neared enemy territory.

INTRODUCTION TO FRANCE



Church in Belencombre, France. Some of us attended Catholic services with the French. For others, Protestant services were held in the school building.



Home was never like this. We slept in barns, hotels, shops, and in French homes. Most French families kept but one stove in use, retiring early to save fuel.

Tank takes advantage of slight cover offered by shattered building. Narrow streets and soft footing made parking a problem.





Rumbling through a French village on the way to the front. Many French towns seemed almost deserted. Inhabitants of German cities were more in evidence. German civilians often lined the streets to watch the fighting while traffic cops continued to direct traffic.

MOVING UP



The Rhine at St. Goar. High terraced banks with their massive castles made the Rhine a memory-catching panorama.



Riding the rails to cross railroad bridge in approach on Somerheim, Germany. Rough country with numerous streams gave the enemy opportunities to delay us with mines, roadblocks, blown bridges and antitank guns.



Shattered railroad bridge in the Isar river at Platting. Doughboys fought their way over this crossing and pushed back the enemy so engineers could construct a sturdier bridge.

Curious tankers watch prisoners walk to the rear. The enemy surrendered in such numbers they were often sent back without guards.



SUPER MEN ?



K. P. for German party members at Winterbach, Germany. Washing pots and pans seemed a fitting task for Nazis.



Trucks like these hold 18 Americans, or 80 Germans. Many of the enemy already had discharge papers for quick switch to civilian clothes.



More P Ws in Neu-Otting, Germany. A guard starting for the rear with two dozen prisoners might well end up with two hundred.

DESTRUCTION



Experimental plane captured at Mulheim, Germany. Many planes, grounded by lack of fuel, were captured intact.

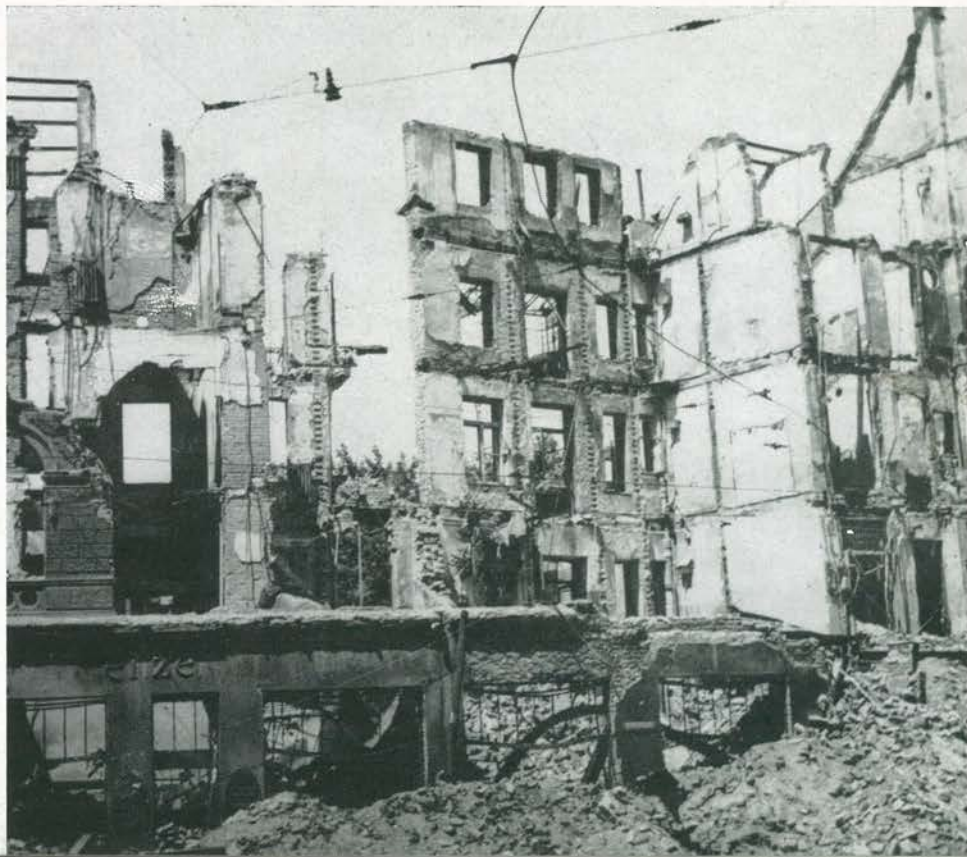


Large buildings often blocked streets with bricks and stones after collapse under heavy bombing.

Hitler's dwelling in Berchtesgaden. Bombs shattered all buildings at this level although the retreat several miles higher was undamaged.



Debris of once beautiful city of Neumarktl. In most cases, small towns escaped such total destruction.





END OF THE TRAIL

Panzerfausts and 88s stopped this tank near Seelscheid, Germany. These two weapons were most feared by tankers.

Sherman tank burning in the street at Seelscheid, Germany after direct hit by 101-mm. antitank gun.



Pfc. Charles Gossett of the 24th thoughtfully surveys result of Panzerfaust hit on a comrade's tank.



Blown bridge over Inn river halted our advance May 1. Unconscious of destruction, a civilian car later plunged from far bank into river.



Shady lane leading to bridge shown at left. This drive connected Eisenfelden, where most of the battalion billeted, and NeuOtting proper.

GERMANY AT PEACE

NIX NAZI! Fawn assures Pfc. Paris Barrett of his peaceable intentions. Fraternization with this "dear" was not "verboten."



Scenic countryside where we rested after the war. The lofty evergreens, well-kept fields and picture-book mountains seemed far removed from strife.





Fighting finished, troops switch to routine of garrison shine and polish for the almost forgotten ceremony of the parade.

B A C K T O N O R M A L



Installing bunks for the ride from Germany. We first cleaned the cars, deloused them, and then built canvas and wooden bunks.



Tankers freshen up for a meal in efficient transient mess in France while enroute to Camp Atlanta.



Le Havre and the Gen. U. S. J. H. McRae. Ship is much larger than those on which we went to France.



A patrol from Company C of the 45th Tank Battalion brings in 20 prisoners in the fighting near the Isar River.



ON THE WAY TO THE FRONT





THE RUHR POCKET





A L L E S K A P U T





A TWO-DAY BREAK, THEN ON TO BAVARIA





THE FIGHT TO THE INN, V-E DAY, AND BACK TO GARRISON



D.D.T., the wonder insecticide takes on new meaning for "DELNORE'S DEMON TANKERS."



A few of Adolf's "Pure Aryans" being sprayed once over lightly with D.D.T.





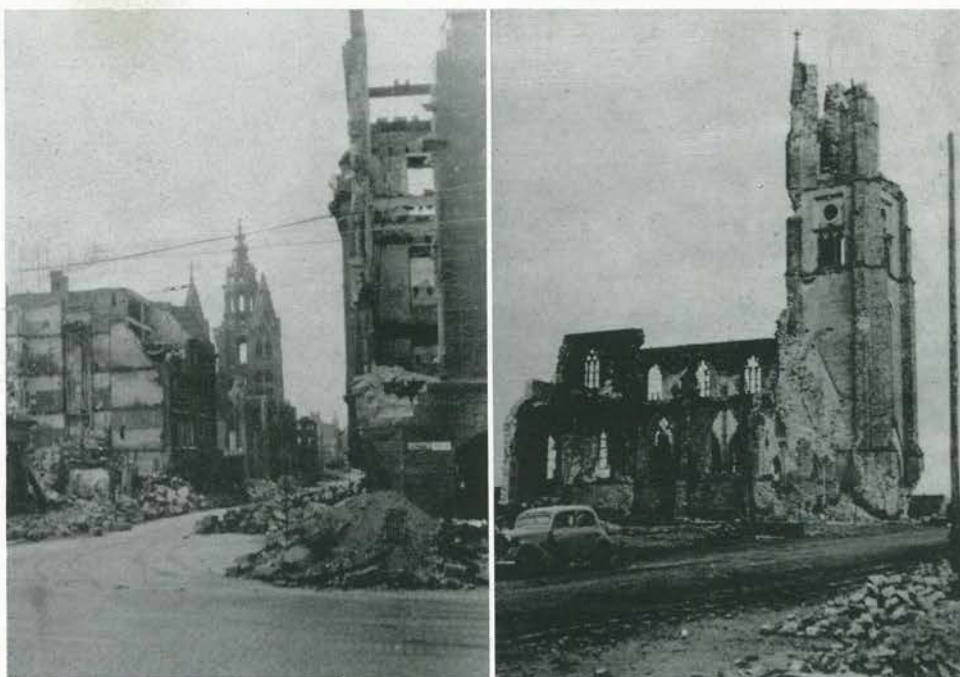
The Krauts scam as the tankers roll into Gerresheim and the local citizenry looks stoically on.

A blown bridge at Braunau is quickly by-passed and the Engineers smilingly welcome the tankers and their accompanying "doughs."





An abandoned
"88". It didn't
take long for
the boys to de-
velop a healthy
respect for this
baby.



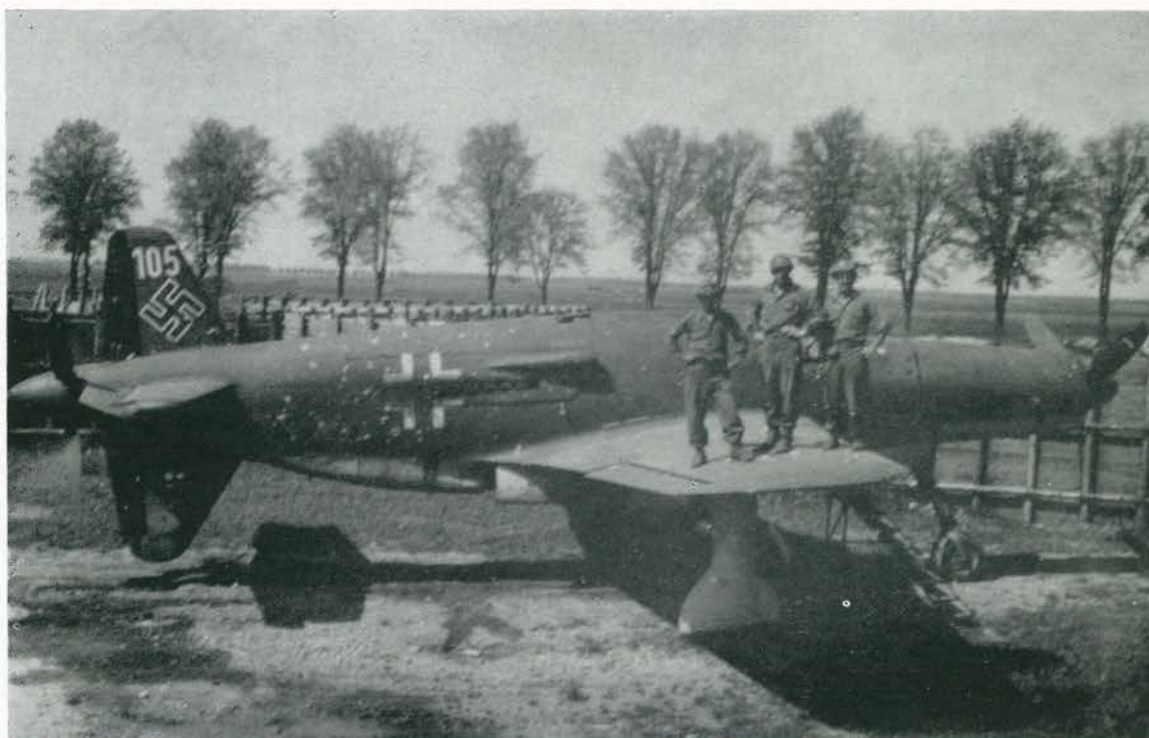
Aftermath of total war.



It's a small world. T/Sgt., William Ghiz, shown with Col. Delnore, was shot down over Austria in 1943. He was liberated by the task force of his life-long friend, Col. Delnore.

Using a peep as their reviewing stand, several captured German officers disconsolately view the armored might of Delnore's Demon Tankers.





An experimental German plane captured by our forces. Jerry never had a chance to try this for size.

After V-E Day our Russian allies roll out the welcome mat. Not shown are the back-slapping and the introduction to vodka which followed almost immediately.





Before their comrades, 46th tankers receive battle awards from General Augur, commanding general of CCA.

HERE BEGINS THE
GRAPHIC PORTRAYAL
OF THE DIVISION'S AR-
TILLERY — THE 496TH,
THE 497th AND 498TH
ARMORED FIELD ARTIL-
LERY BATTALIONS
AND DIVISION ARTIL-
LERY HEADQUARTERS.



DIVISION ARTILLERY

FIRST BLOOD!

We all looked reflectively at our first dead German.



At 1700 hours on 19 March, 1945, "A" Battery of the 497th AFA Battalion fired the Division's first shot at the Krauts from Spicheren, France across the Siegfried Line into Saarbrücken, Germany.



In some spots, the teeth were still in good shape but the former owners weren't (see left above.)



After the Americans got through shooting, the Dragon's Teeth needed a dentist!



Despite equipment like this . . .

Many Krauts decided discretion was the better part of valor.



We gathered around the craters in Ommer-sheim . . .

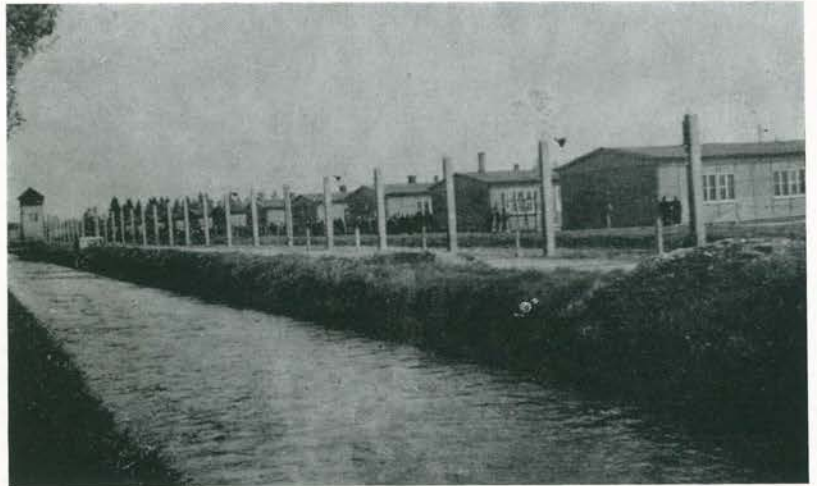
And looked at the houses that were still stand-
ing.



M O V I N G U P



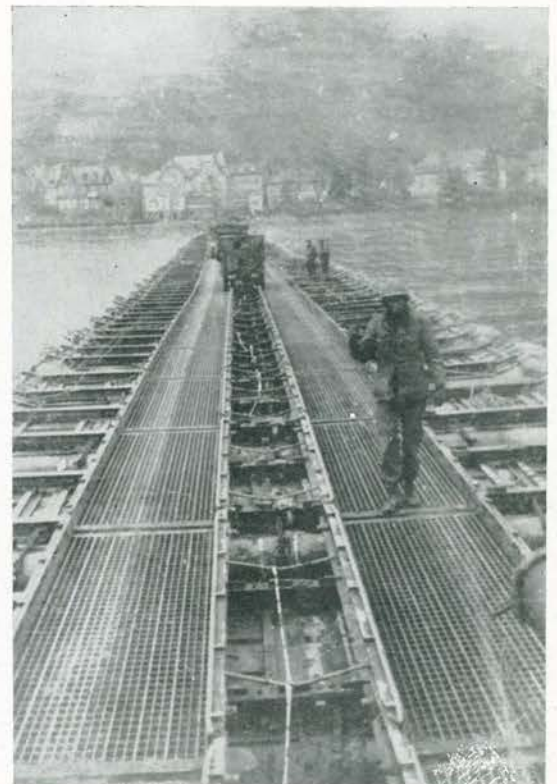
This was a too familiar sight in France.



We saw too many of these.



But we never became tired of this.



Across the Rhine by courtesy of the engineers.



TIME OUT FOR CHOW

Out of range, we could afford the luxury of a chow line's hot meal and washing those mess kits leisurely afterward. . . .

But Oh, those C rations (C below)



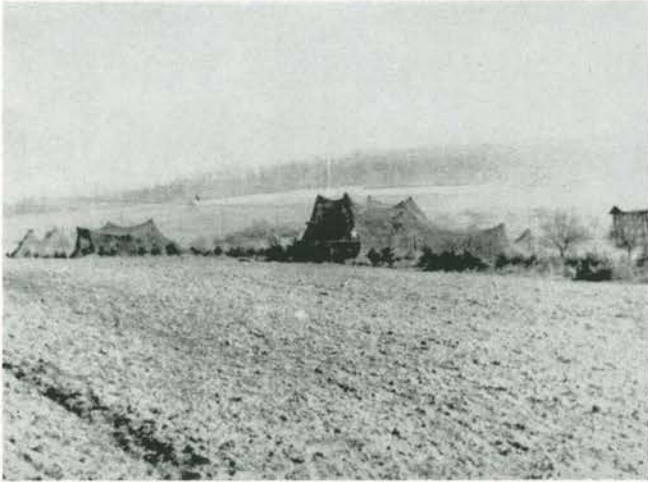
Sometimes the Red Cross gals came to our rescue with coffee and doughnuts.



And sometimes we helped ourselves.



FIRE AND DIG IN



It usually seemed that the Brass waited until our camouflage was up and our foxholes just dug, then—"MARCH ORDER!"



A good German, maybe made that way by one of our shells, judging from the shrapnel holes.



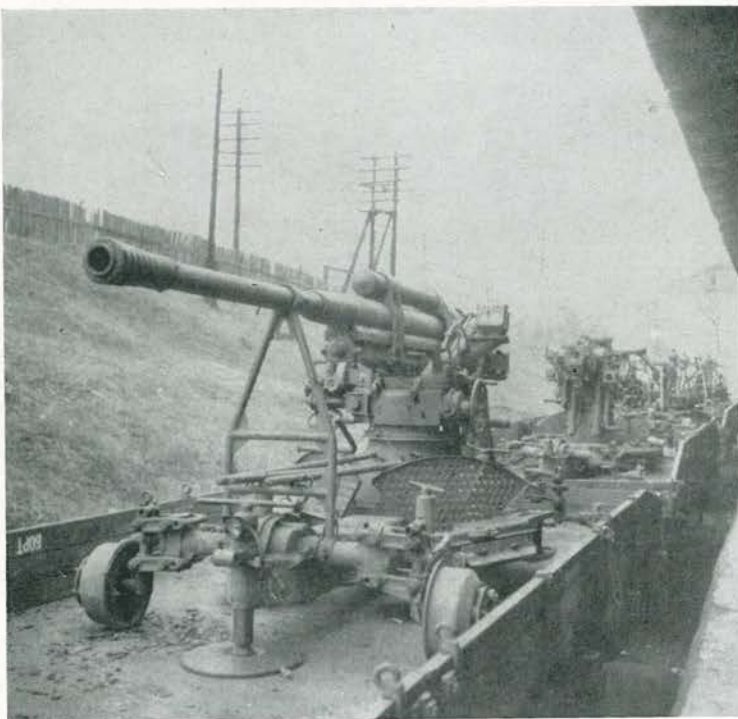
The white sheet rapidly replaced the swastika as the national emblem of Nazidom.

GIVE AND TAKE

It wasn't all Give—as the plane and burned out 6x6 witness, but, the Germans lost more than we did.



These planes were more than just an artillery air OP—they were our eyes!



WE RODE IN (AND



Of course, the good old M-7 (self-propelled howitzer to you) was our big gun, but, we used everything from the orthodox peep to the flying jeep in getting the job done.



ON) **EVERYTHING**



Change of owner.



We never got quite this hard-pressed . . .



This was the best ride in all Europe!

SOUVENIRS



Our "Collectors" were just as active as any other outfits—And who blames them? Of course, some of us just about made the gangplank, but, think of the tall tales we can tell our grandchildren about those guns.



The only reason this Jerry Weep didn't come back was that it wouldn't fit in anyone's duffel bag.



ALWAYS MAINTENANCE

Maintenance, Maintenance, Maintenance—always
Maintenance! First echelon, Second echelon and
Personal echelon.



Boy, did that feel good!



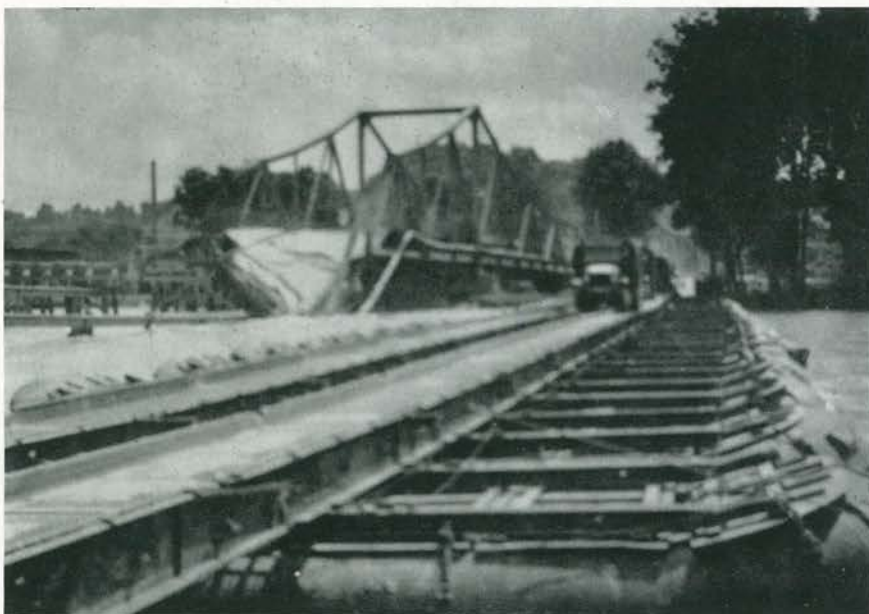
Let's get on the ball, soldier, you ought to be able
to hit that jar!



BAVARIA—BRIDGES TO



Blown-out German bridges didn't mean a thing—we rolled across the Danube, Isar and Inn rivers on American bridges.



AUSTRIA AND VICTORY



End of the Trail

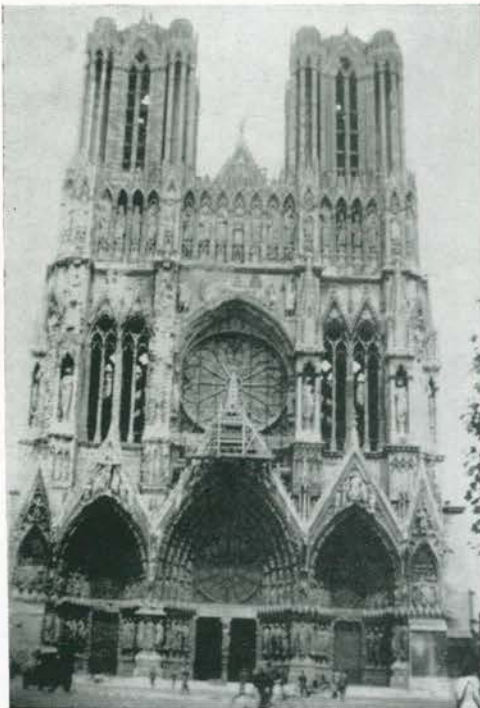
We didn't fire anymore after Braunau (Hitler's birthplace in Austria) was captured—the faces of our gunners and the glum lines of PW's above show the difference in reactions. (Above): Back to digging sumps again—another foot and he'll be charged with desertion!



WE SAW SOME SIGHTS



We all wondered why the Germans didn't want to stay home with scenery like this.



Cathedral at Rheims



What's left of Hitler's home.

AND RELAXED, TOO



We played softball . . .



. . . and Volley-ball . . .



. . . and enjoyed the swing orchestra. The band impressed the Krauts more.



Both French and German moppets were frequent chow line crashers.

RECONNAISSANCE

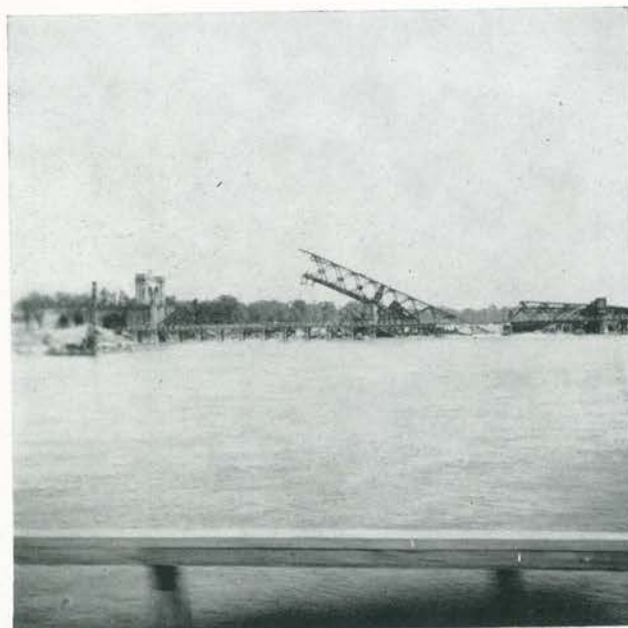


"WE WILL LEAD"



Entrance to the Nazi Reich . .

. . . was hindered by blown bridges . .



. . . but it wasn't long until the
prisoners began rolling in.



Danube-bound over muddy roads . . .



. . . or no roads at all.



Time out for a spot of chow.





The Nazis took this picture . . .

. . . but Black Cats took these.



MP's search German officers.

Not much left but rubble





Baseball in Bavaria—93rd vs 496th



At Camp Atlanta—packing and fun



**AFTER THE BATTLE, CAVALRYMEN RECIEVE
THEIR DECORATIONS.**

ENGINEERS

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ETO MINE SCHOOL AT ST. PIERRE, FRANCE



Lifting dummy tellermine from roadbed



Using mine detectors



Probing for mines



Mines located in roadway



270-mm French naval shell with pressure fuse



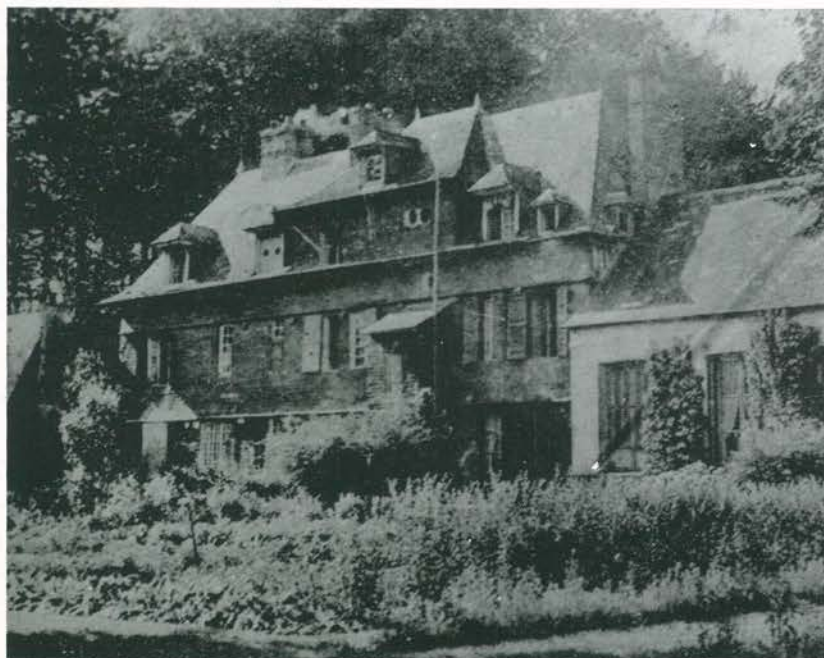
228-foot floating treadway over Aggar at Seigburg



72-foot M-2 floating treadway bridge over Wupper



540-foot M-2 and 630 feet of planking over Isar



TYPICAL BATTALION COMMAND POSTS

Upper Left Fresnay le Long, France

Center Left Seigburg, Germany

Lower Left Tann, Germany

Upper Right Richrath, Germany

Lower Right Mettmann, Germany





Ruins of Zweibrücken

Siegfried Line near Zweibrücken

Award ceremony at Tann

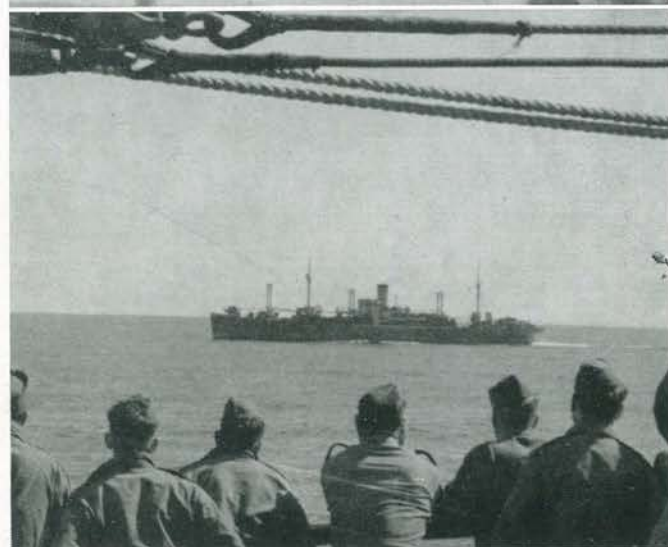


Sports after V-E Day



The heart of Zweibrücken

Camp Atlanta, France



A break in the monotony
Painting a Division sign

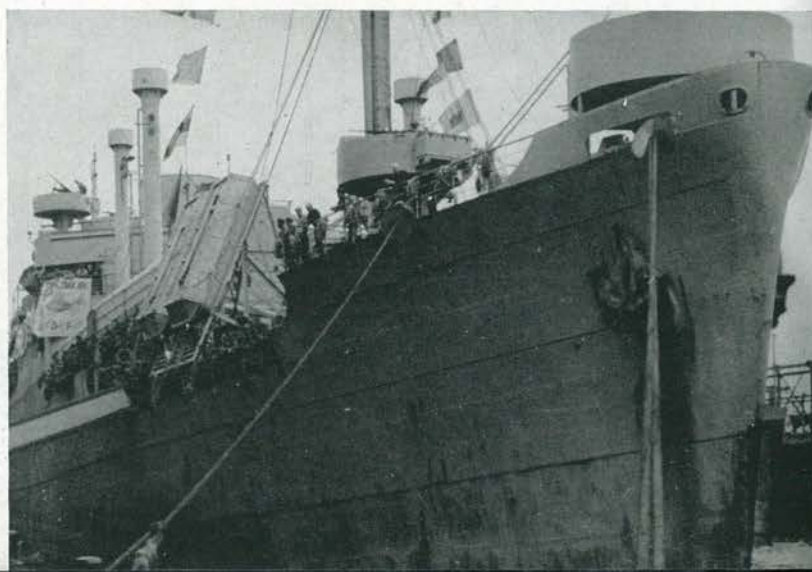


Travel, Continental style

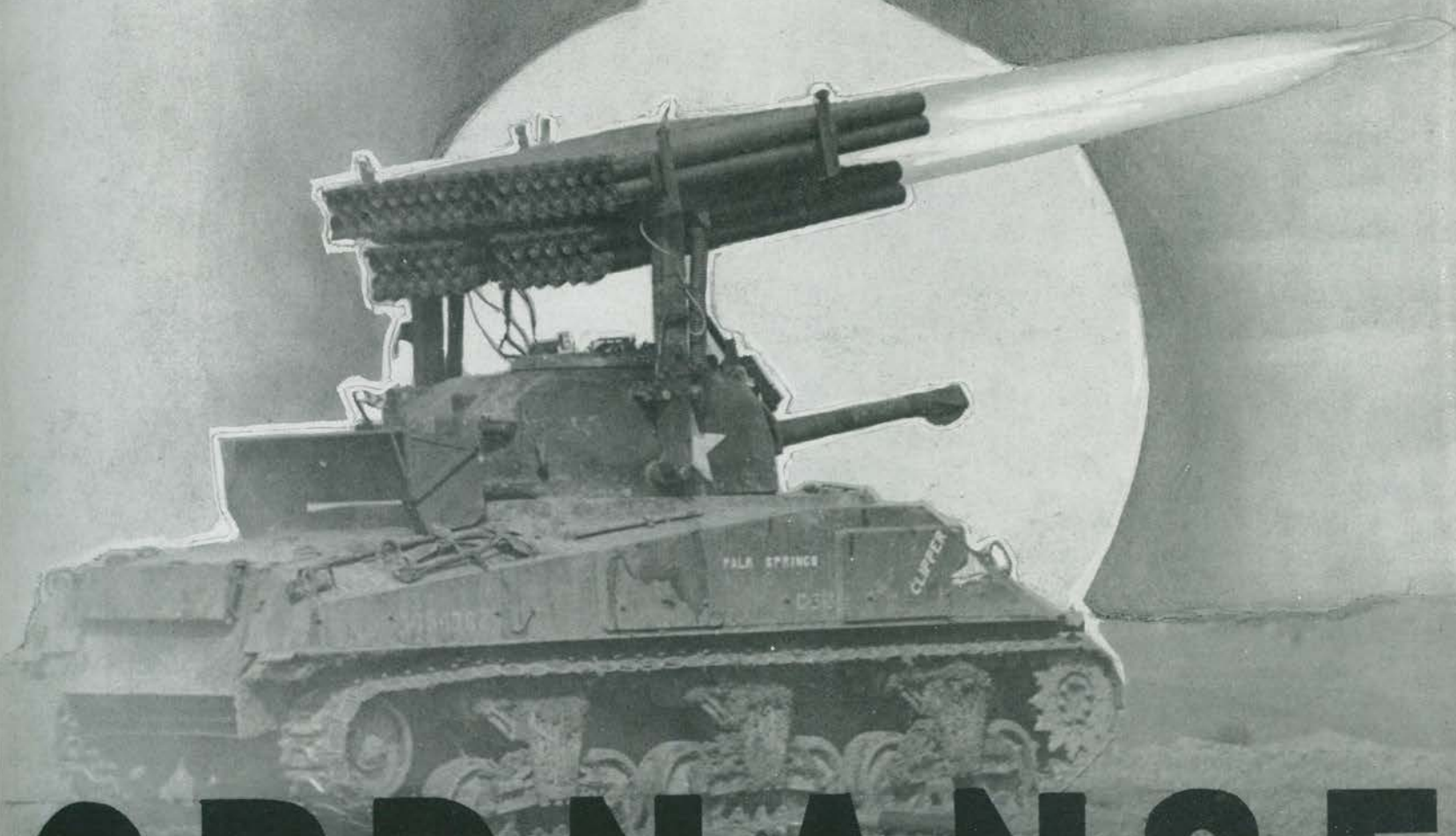


Hot and low down

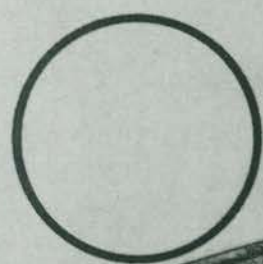
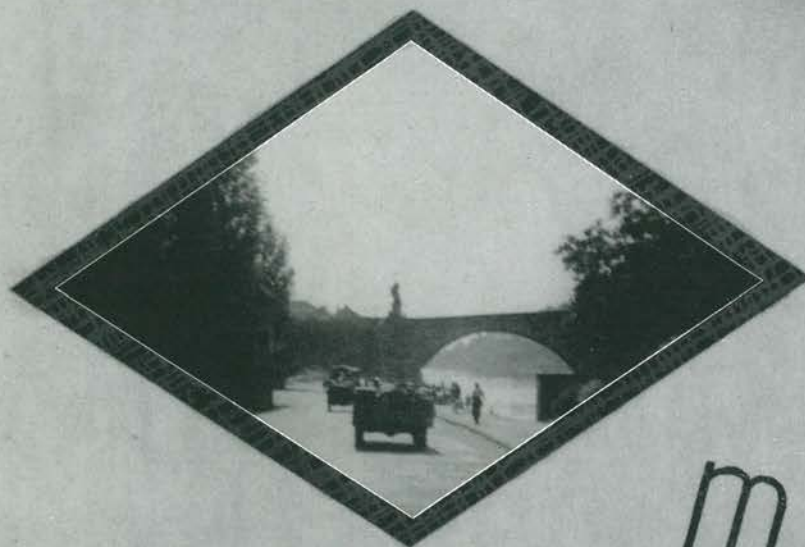
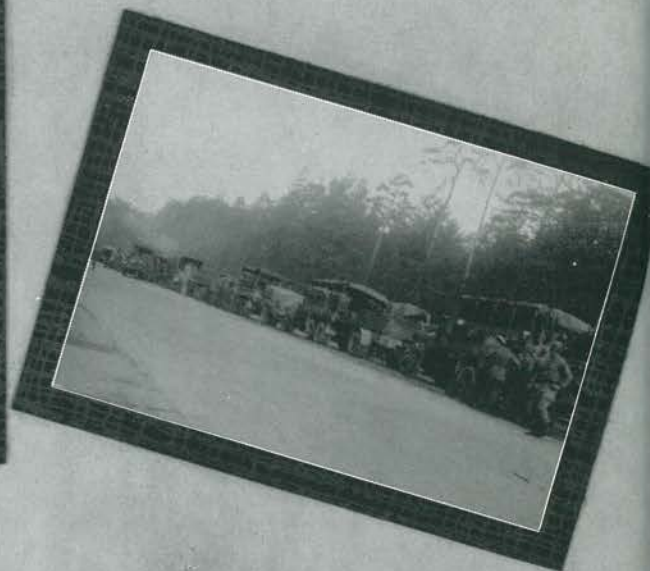
Home



*"The men ...
behind the men
behind the GUN."*



ORDNANCE



n THE

MARCH

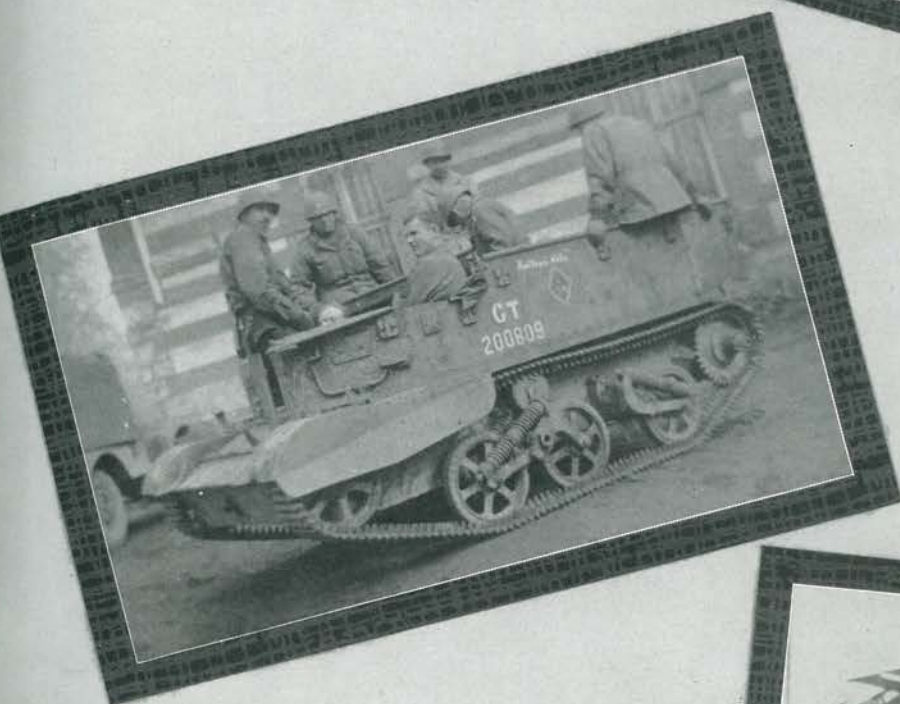
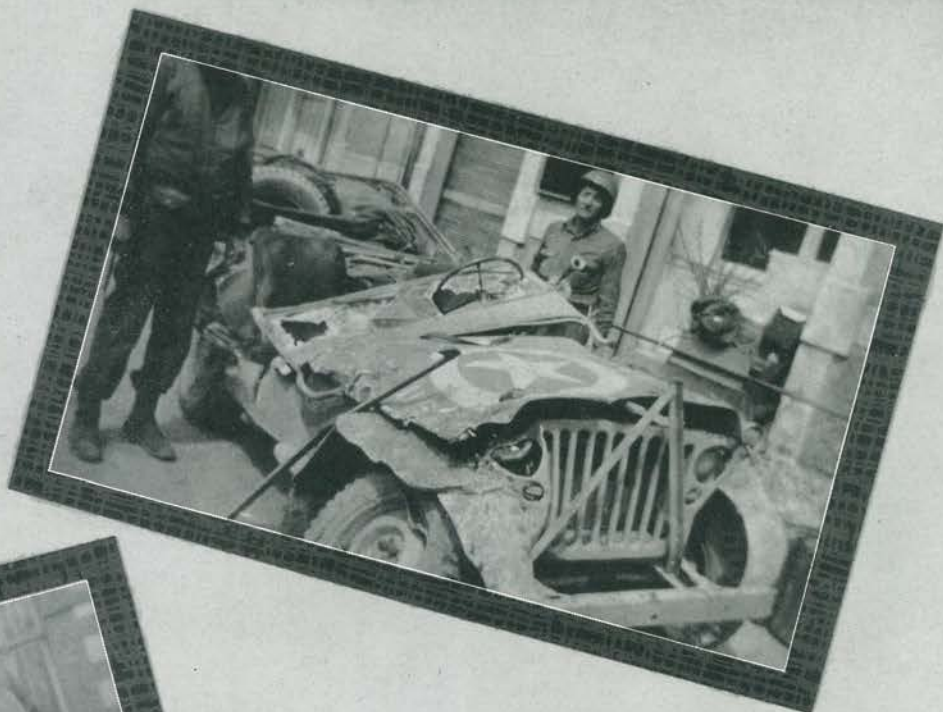


WITH ORDNANCE

The

PRIMARY MISSION

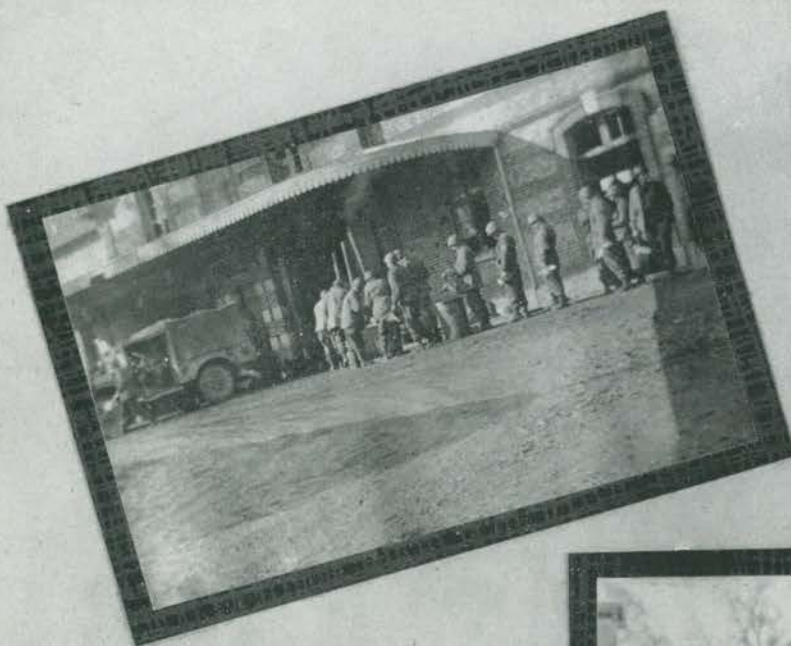
MAINTENANCE



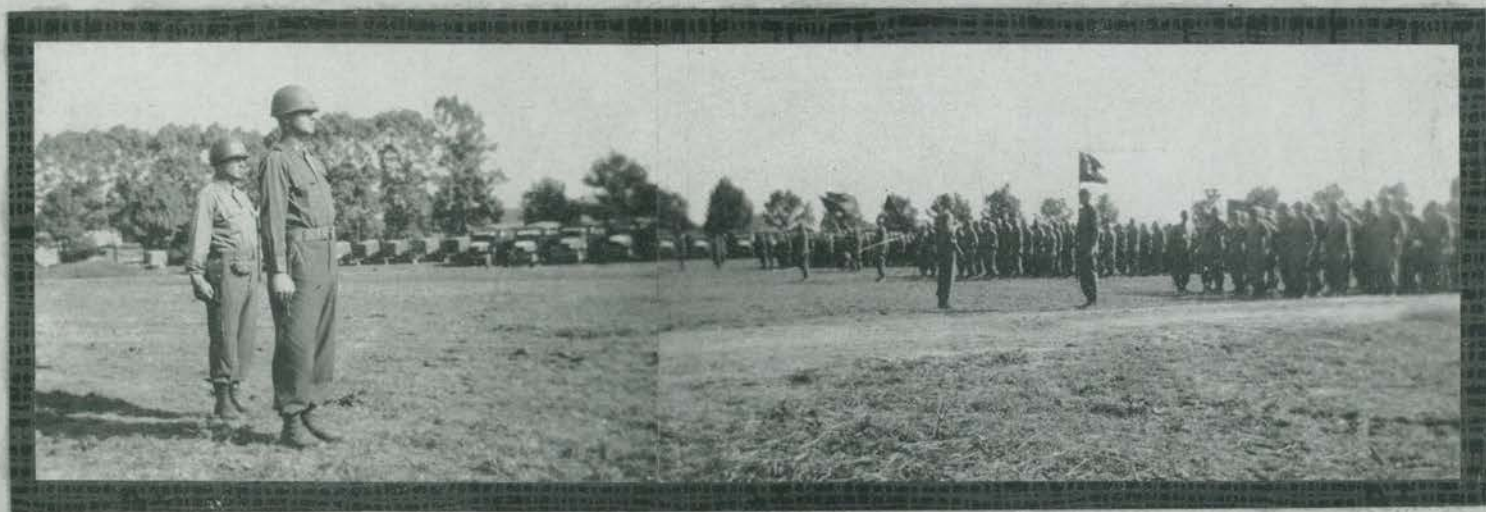


OFF Duty





FORMATIONS



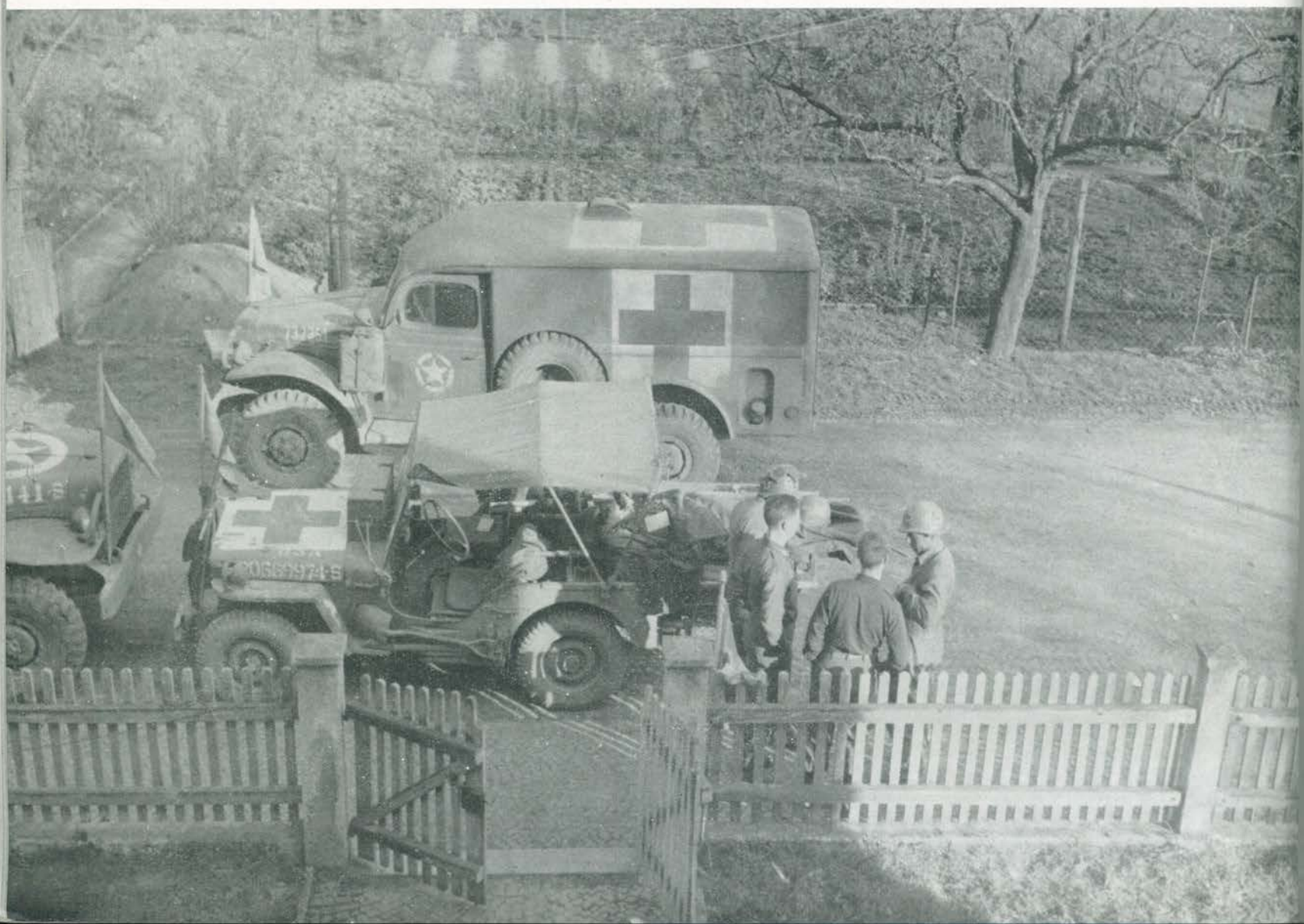
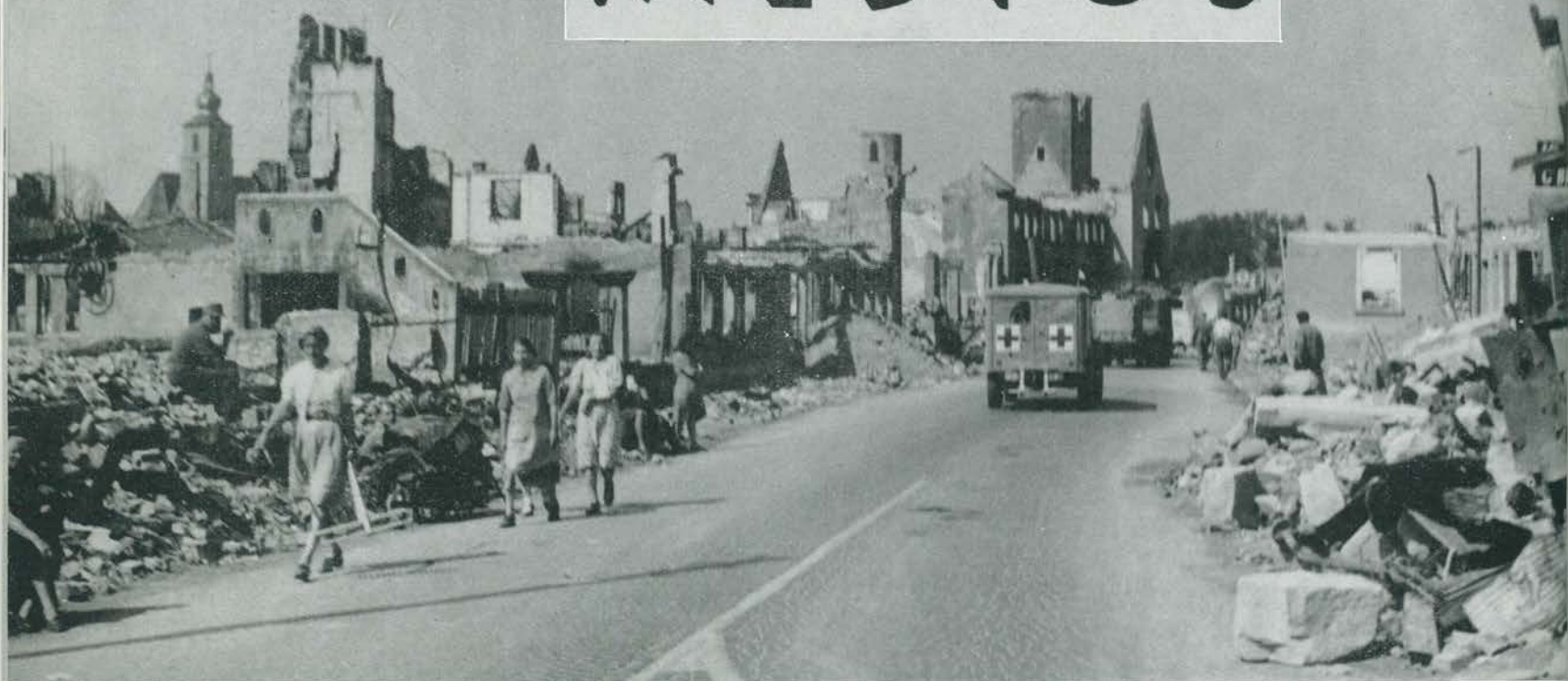


When bullets fly this is a good place
not to be.

On the heels of the fleeing Nazis—wiremen.



MEDICS





Clearing Station at Grassensee, Germany



On the Autobahn near Kaiserslautern



Open-air barber shop

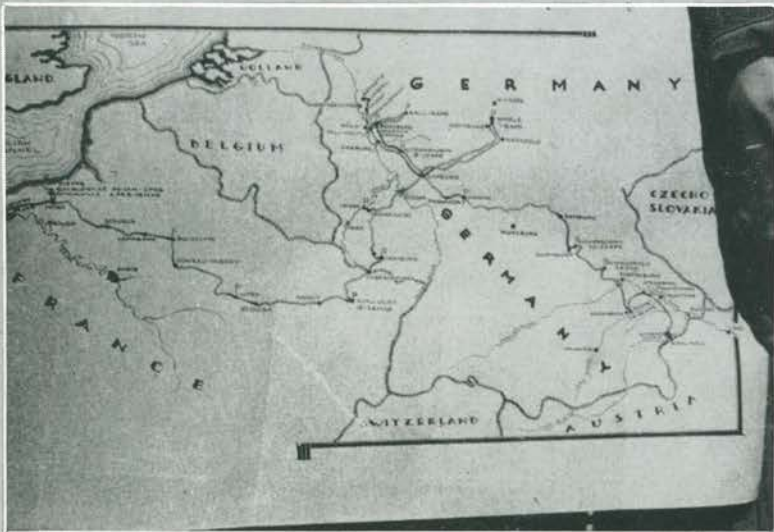


Gas burner repair



Easter Sunday

COMBAT COMMAND "A"





COMBAT COMMAND B



POM. Even the armorer doesn't need hair in Europe.



Communication Section lines up for a shot in Germany. Kirchrottenbach.



Kitchen, dining room, bedroom and home for two days.



A part of the Luftwaffe with CCB on top.



A German colonel and friend get their first peep ride.



Colonel H. G. Holt. Commanding Officer, Combat Command B.



A familiar sight. Has-been towns.



A modern kitchen? But the maintenance crew did eat at Hennef, Germany.



Heinies forward-marching backwards.—PW's.



One sight no one missed as 90% of CCB got to Paris.



That's no toy; it's French rolling stock with GI's about to board.



The Black Cats' advance in Bavaria meant the release of thousands of prisoners of war. Here, nine smile their gratitude immediately after they were liberated.





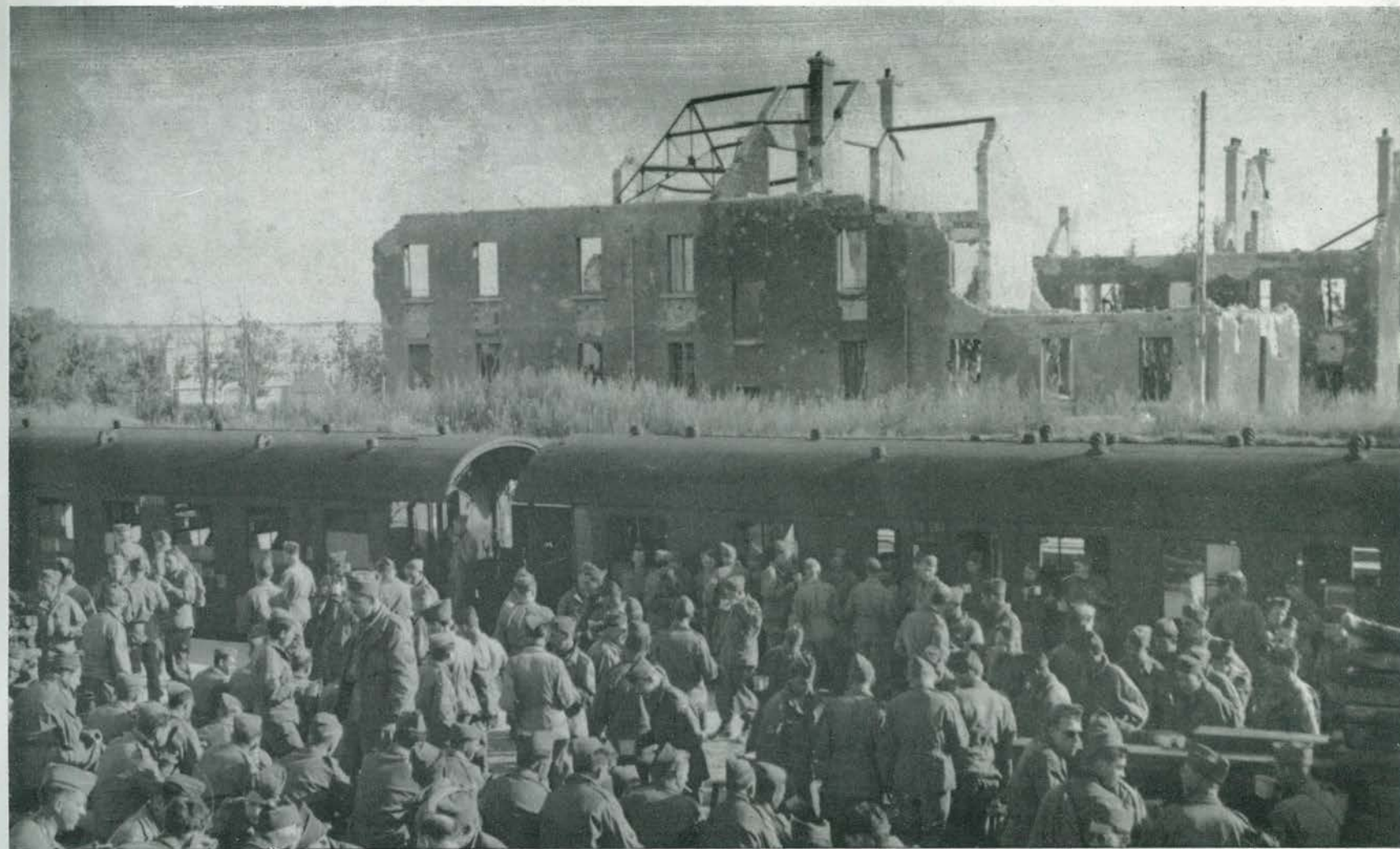
After V-E Day there was time for recreation and sightseeing.

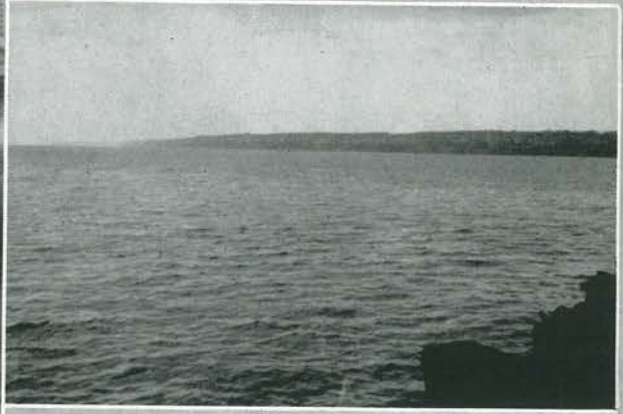


Hitler's home at Berchtesgaden was most popular spot for Black Cat sightseers.



HOMeward BOUND!







CALIFORNIA



Back once more in California—the state of its activation—the Black Cats were given a rousing welcome. Mayor Fletcher Bowron (above) proclaimed a “13th Armored Division Week” in Los Angeles. Governor Earl Warren (opposite page) presented “California’s Own 13th” with a Citation of Merit and scores of film and radio stars (below) honored the Division at a Victory Rally in Hollywood Bowl.

Every major U. S. network carried the broadcast. The 13th was home.





CITATION OF MERIT

To the men and officers of the 13th Armored Division in gratitude for your loyal and selfless devotion to duty and the singleness of high purpose which carried you to your assigned objectives, the State of California hereby formally bestows upon you this citation of Merit.

*EARL WARREN,
Governor of California.*



Lord God of Hosts
Be with us yet.
Lest we forget,
Lest we forget.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY



COLONEL ALFRED KASTNER
Commanding



JOHN F. SMOLLER
Lieutenant Colonel
Executive Officer



MAX A. MORRIS
Major
S-1, S-4



JOHN E. ANGST
Major
S-2



WALTER F. THOMAS
Major
S-3



HEINZ P. RAND
Captain
Assistant S-2



RAYMOND W. CRIPPS, JR.
Captain
Commanding Officer
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery and 497th



ROBERT A. NEILSON
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer and
Communications Officer,
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery



THOMAS I. WHELAN
Second Lieutenant
Artillery Air Observer



JOHN B. MORGAN
WO(jg)
Motor Officer
Headquarters Battery

A HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS, DIVISION ARTILLERY

Housing conditions, wives, cancelled maneuvers, reorganization, both California and Texas foxholes, firing tests—World War II was fought at home and almost won abroad before the Artillerymen of the 13th Armored Division went overseas.

What has now become history started to weave itself into a story at Camp Beale, California, on the 15th day of October, 1942, when Division Artillery Headquarters was created and assigned to the forward echelon of Division Headquarters. At that time an appointment was made which was to stick through all the other changes incident to the growth and development of the 13th Armored Division Artillery: Col. Alfred E. Kastner became Artillery Officer.

The responsibility for directing and supervising the training of all the artillery within the Division was assigned to Division Artillery and included not only the artillery battalions but the tanks and assault guns in their general support functions. Despite the work entailed by this assignment, everything in artillery headquarters was blissful until August—no guard, no duty officer, no charge of quarters and no participation in the alerts of the West Coast Defense Command. All these were the lot of the battalions. We were a part of Division. This all led to loud complaints over the debut of Black Cat Headquarters into the realm of soldiering when it ventured out early in August for a week-end CPX. Tear gas and K rations were tried for the first time and each had its expected effect.

Then came a deluge of combat firing exercises and artillery shoots. Tank support problems and infantry support problems were run concurrently in all sectors of the Camp Beale reservation—with Lone Tree Hill alone common to them all.

October 15, 1943, marked a year of training and brought indications of maneuvers to come. The Division prepared for movement to Oregon, but a last minute cancellation turned the Division "Farewell Party" into a "Not Going Away" affair. Massed-fire training continued and midway through November Division Artillery conducted Practice Test No. 3 in the Waldo, Spenceville, Lone Tree Hill area.

Then "California's Own" left home. The change of station to Camp Bowie, Texas, came early in December,

and we arrived in the Lone Star State in time for Christmas and the inevitable ITP tests.

In preparation for ITP tests, basic training was begun anew on a seven day week basis, and everyone had gas mask drill, basic medical and small arms instruction, physical fitness training, and military courtesy lessons right up to "H" hour. This was followed by the never to be forgotten "snow problem," which occurred, fortunately, before anyone dreamed of trenchfoot.

In due time the Division's big day arrived. It was to rough it at last. A real field exercise was to comprise the final phase of Division training; the "D" Series lasted four weeks, after which the salt spray in the air seemed so real that wives and children were moved back home, terminal leaves were rushed through on special orders, and the local realtors began looking for new clients. The Cats were hot.

September brought the beginning of intensified and uninterrupted inspections and rumors of Louisiana maneuvers. We took to the field continuously, exploiting breakthroughs and attacking fortified areas until the grease pencils gave out. Back in garrison the paper shortage was becoming acute; so everyone turned to packing and crating, uncrating and repacking. No one would believe that plans to proceed to an east coast POE would not be changed, but somehow or other everyone got on trains and the mass of equipment on each man's back impressed him personally that these orders were not to be retracted.

Kilmer was a pleasant spot, liberal in its pass policy and ready to assist transient troops wherever possible. The stay there was all too short, for the *Marine Dragon*, anxious to push off from her Brooklyn pier on a maiden voyage that was to leave far behind our "fruited plains and amber waves of grain," had a date with a convoy. The second day out we joined another convoy down from Boston and found that among its ships was the British battleship H.M.S. *Nelson*. From then on "Forever Amber," "The Canary Murder Case," "The Dragon's Whistle," Fuller Warren's "Now Hear This," and a talented GI stage show were the only distractions to keep men from their favorite topic, "How far are the Russians from Berlin?"

On January 28th the "Marine Dragon" rounded the Isle of Wight and dropped anchor at nightfall off England's

shores. Around midnight we started across the channel with a full moon and an unannounced escort of naval protection, headed straight for the lion's mouth. The Navy saw us through all right; the beautiful port of Le Havre—twisted steel, broken stone and silent desolation—met the eyes of a serious group of soldiers on the cold overcast morning of January 29, 1945. We were not quite prepared for the acres of destruction before us. This should never happen again !!!

That night the advance party led us through the icy cold of a bitter snow-storm to our billets in St. Foy, Normandy, and by arrival time in the wee hours of the morning a shivering Headquarters Battery was ready to believe Master Sergeant (now 2nd Lt.) Whelan when he climbed on a bale of hay outside a bleak chateau and said, "Things are tough in the E.T.O." The men weren't long in naming their new abode: "Chateau de Mud."

Attempts at the French lingo, introductions to the wine shortage via Calvados, Cognac and vinegar-gone-to-war, visits to Dieppe, local dances, news broadcasts and good food were second only to the daily mail in their assistance in tiding men over from one day's work to the next. Finally the vehicles were in shape, and everything was unpacked and serviceable again. The Cats were ready!

So was higher headquarters! Seventh Army assigned Division Artillery and its component battalions under the designation of GROUP KASTNER to VI Corps Artillery Headquarters. Group Kastner was given the mission of general support of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions near Saarbrücken, Germany, and on March 19 moved to positions around Etzling, France. On the next day displacement was made to Ommersheim, Germany, the Siegfried Line was broken and the Allies raced to the Rhine unopposed. On March 22, having accomplished its mission, Group Kastner returned to the 13th Armored Division, now in the vicinity of Moyenvic, France.

For a while Division Artillery's mission was far removed from the din of battle. Figuratively donning M.P. brassards, it fell our lot to set up policing operations on the north side of the Moselle River at Trier in a great hospital, complete with running water and individual rooms with view. It was too good to last. It didn't. Patton had the 13th now. Everyone hung onto his hat as we took off for the front lines, crossed the Rhine at St. Goar and, despite a shortage of replacements for shredded bogie wheels, continued to assembly areas near Mosheim. Last minute plans to head toward Leipzig and meet the Russians were formed and reformed; Division patches put on and taken off again; vehicles loaded and radios tuned up—nothing

could stop us now. So with a 150-mile about face we returned to Horhausen, just south of the Ruhr pocket, where we joined the XVIII Corps (Airborne) as part of the First Army. Stieldorf was the first of a series of cellar command posts occupied by Division Artillery Headquarters. There, prior to the commitment of the 13th Armored Division as a whole, Division Artillery received the mission of reinforcing the 97th Infantry Division Artillery, commencing with the crossing of the Sieg River at Siegburg on April 11. Speeding northward next day to Romaney, we occupied a command post in a large Gasthaus, received a welcome of Heinie time fire, and departing for Dunnwald, were showered with Allied propaganda leaflets. At Dunnwald only 500 yards from the advance elements we again moved into a cellar and concentrated on a creation of war memorials. On April 15 we occupied Dunnfeld, and successively established command posts at Ohligs and Gruiten, concluding the Ruhr operation northwest of Wulfrath on April 18th.

Following the Division's return to the Third Army, Division Artillery was ordered to the south and closed in at Schweig, on the 22nd of April. We crossed the Danube near Regensburg on the 28th and established headquarters at Thalmassing. The next morning we moved to the Isar River and thence across it at Plattling. In early May Division Artillery moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Simbach on the Inn River across from Hitler's birthplace at Braunau, Austria.

Throughout the last operation Division Artillery functioned under XX Corps and was assisted by Colonel Bernard Thimer's 5th Artillery Group consisting of Group Headquarters and three battalions: the 177th, 943d, with 105 howitzers, and the 274th, a 105 SP outfit. The 943d Field Artillery Battalion worked directly under Division Artillery control throughout the operation, while the other battalions supported either CCB, CCR, or both, depending upon the organization employed for combat.

After the welcome news of VE Day, comfortable quarters, bumper markings and haircuts were the order of the day. The pleasant hours at Simbach on Inn from May 8 to June 25 will long remain in the memory of Division Artillery, for everyone enjoyed the natural beauties of Bavaria.

Today at Camp Cooke, California, the history of the 13th Armored Division closes with each artilleryman anticipating his return to civilian life. However, thankful that V-J Day interrupted War Department plans to combat load the 13th on LSTs headed for the invasion of the Japanese mainland, each can recollect the part he played with pride. The job has been well done.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY

FIRST ROW:

CASTRO, Augustus, M/Sgt., 62 Retiro Way, San Francisco, Calif.
GOMEZ, Amador R. G., T/Sgt., 2410 Market St., Fort Worth, Tex.
HOUK, Edwin G., S/Sgt., Rt. 1, Sandusky, Ohio.
IRONS, John B., S/Sgt., 261 W. Patriot St., Somerset, Ohio.
MATUSCHAK, Joseph P., S/Sgt., 2828 Spring St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MORAN, Anthony B., S/Sgt., 219 Prospect Pl., Rutherford, N. J.

SECOND ROW:

PEEL, Richard T., S/Sgt., 704 Fifth Ave., Sibley, Iowa.
THROWER, Raymond B., T/3, Kosciusko, Miss.
ASTLEFORD, Charles W., Sgt., Box 131, Lake City, Iowa.
BRISTOL, Bob, Sgt., Walla Walla, Wash.
BAIRD, Jack A., T/4, 259 Wayne Court, Salt Lake City, Utah.
DANIEL, Chester S., T/4, 2321 S. Albany Ave., Chicago, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

HURDLE, George J., T/4, 124 E. McMicken Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
SCHOFF, Thurston R., T/4, 1421 S. Dodgeon St., Independence, Mo.
WENGEL, Bruno, T/4, 1503 Wolf Ave., North Braddock, Pa.
WHELAN, James M., T/4, P. O. Box 43, Bergholz, Ohio.
ZELENIK, William L., T/4, 5145 Anthony St., Maple Heights, Ohio.
ANDERSON, Jack E., Cpl., 535 N. Orange St., New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

FOURTH ROW:

CAMPBELL, Richard D., Cpl., 114 Short St., Byesville, Ohio.
COX, William A., Cpl., 4611 S. Emerald Ave., Chicago, Ill.
DEWEY, Daniel J., Cpl., 100 Roseville Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
KEATING, Frank C., Cpl., 3232 Warner Ave., Chicago, Ill.
MAIER, William A., Cpl., 230 Miami St., Leavenworth, Kans.
RAZSI, Gazie C., Cpl., Rt. 4, Box 76, Uniontown, Pa.

FIFTH ROW:

STAMAN, Gilbert W., Cpl., Walnut, Iowa.
BEHERNS, John A., T/5, 923 N. Fourth, Atchison, Kan.
CRONIN, William J., T/5, 5376 Northland Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
DESTEFANIS, Albert, T/5, 17900 Strasburg St., Detroit, Mich.
KANE, Robert C., T/5, 7465 Stanford, University City, Mo.
KELSI, Joseph R., T/5, 4177 Irving St., Denver, Colo.

SIXTH ROW:

KURLINSKI, Robert M., T/5, 4509 Cullen Dr., Cleveland, Ohio.
LEIFESTE, Thomas H., T/5, 1359 Prescott St., St. Petersburg, Fla.
MAGARY, Arthur, T/5, Canadaig, N. Y.
NAPP, Paul, T/5, 2037 S. Fourth St., Philadelphia, Pa.
PACK, Clarence, T/5, Rt. 1, Townsend, Tenn.
PERSON, Vernon J., T/5, Rt. 3, Box 423, Vienna, Va.

SEVENTH ROW:

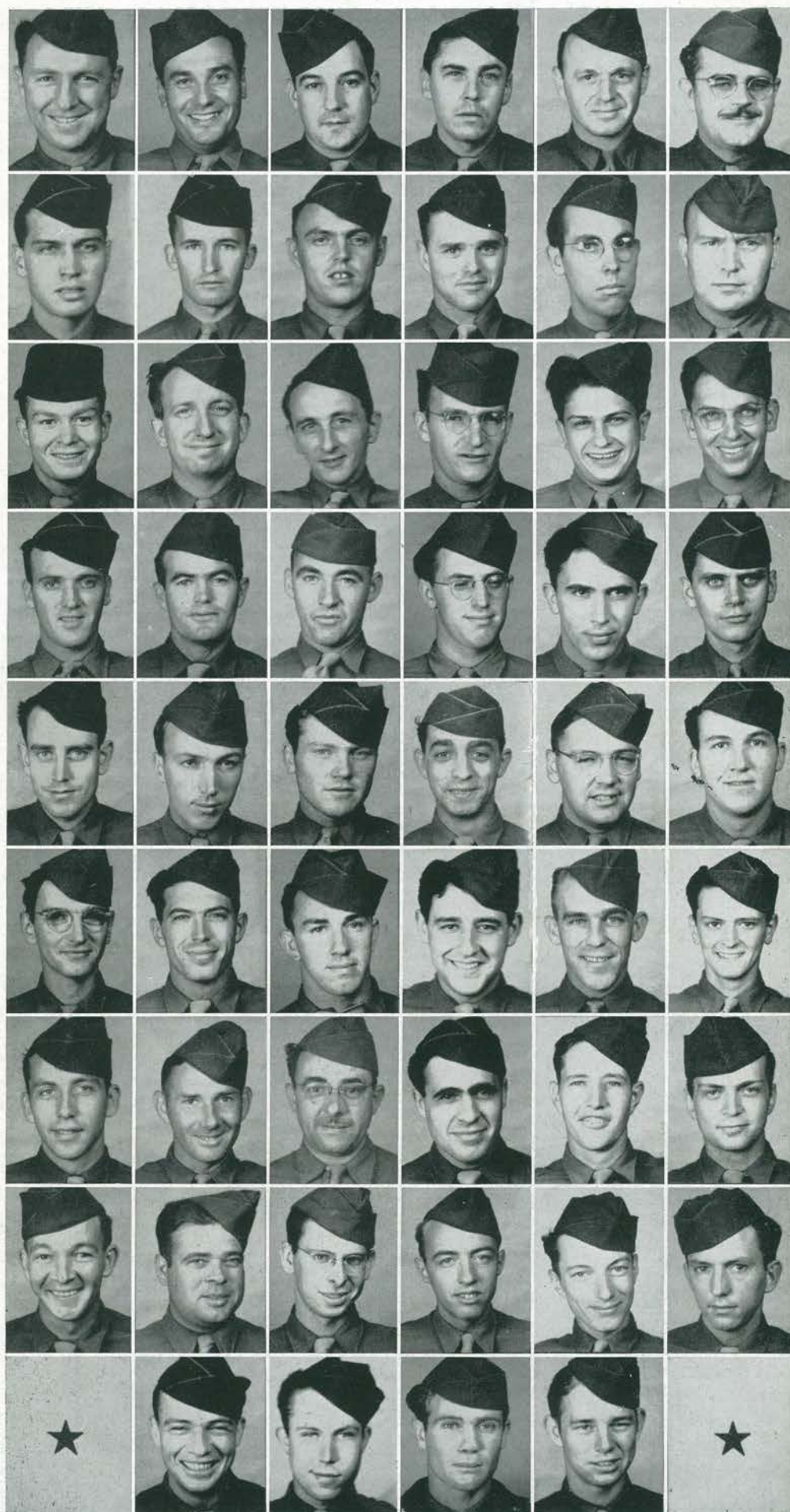
TWITTY, Gramount D., T/5, 1629 S.W. 14th St., Miami, Fla.
WILLIAMS, Jut A., T/5, 503 Wild Rose Ave., Monrovia, Calif.
WILLIS, Joseph, T/5, 4208 West Grand, Detroit, Mich.
ZUCKER, Donald, T/5, 847 El Calaveras, Altadena, Calif.
BROWN, Richard, Pfc., Box 1346, Benson, Ariz.
HENRY, Raymond W., Pfc., 1419 N. 14th St., Reading, Pa.

EIGHTH ROW:

INMAN, Newton, Pfc., 140 Danbury St., S.W., Washington, D. C.
STROUPE, Gregory E., Pfc., 238 S. Cedar St., Charlotte, N. C.
TATE, Don E., Pfc., 1042 W. Monroe St., Springfield, Ill.
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ZAREMBA, Joseph, Pfc., Clipper, Wash.
FARLEY, Frank B., Pvt., Chatham, Ill.

NINTH ROW:

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YOHE, Delton S., Pvt., Burrton, Kans.





THE 496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



LIEUTENANT COLONEL FORRESTER A. CLARK
Commanding

BATTALION STAFF



JAMES G. HAYS, JR.
Major
S-3



THOMAS W. HENDERSON
Major
Executive Officer



EDMUND J. KADLUBOWSKI
Major
Division Artillery Surgeon



JOSEPH F. CULLEN
Captain
S-4



WALTER H. KRAEMER
Captain
Liaison Officer



WILLIAM C. MONROE
Captain
Liaison Officer



LEWIS J. WOOD
Captain
S-2



WILLIAM L. PENKER
First Lieutenant
Battalion Reconnaissance and
Survey Officer



HISTORY OF THE 496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

It was in January of 1944 that the 496th Armored Field Artillery Battalion left its adopted home at Camp Beale, California, and headed south. And it was in another January—1945 this time—that our hell-for-leather cannoneers, by now entirely bored with the southern atmosphere, decided to push east—all the way east into Europe. So they wound up their Camp Bowie training career that witnessed two "D Series" maneuvers, "Red and Blue" wars, innumerable field problems, and hosts of "friendly" critiques, and shoved off for an honest-to-goodness war of steel. And as it turned out, it was going to be a war in which the 496th was destined to make its famous slogan "Fire and Move," a terrible acutality for the German Army.

But first we moved to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where we prepared for our overseas venture in the shadow of New York's great metropolis. Despite the rigors of a weekend in the Big Town, the battalion managed to struggle up the gangplank of the USS Marine Dragon on January 16.

For most of us, the first experience with "mal de mer" and its resulting unpleasantness lasted only for a day or two, and having weathered one submarine scare, we landed at the battered city of Le Havre, France, on January 28, 1945. The battalion debarked in one of the worst storms in French history and moved to Longueville-sur-Scie, France, our assembly area. The fifty mile ride in open lorries in freezing weather is an event that will live forever in the memories of the men of the battalion.

Working by day and playing at night for a period of six weeks, we made fit our vehicles and weapons for combat and became acquainted with the celebrated French mademoiselles and a highly intoxicating beverage called "Calvados."

At 2200 hours on March 15, 1945, we left Longueville on a three-day march of three hundred miles to the front under Combat Command A control, stopping enroute at Soissons and Vitry for necessary rest and vehicular maintenance.

On March 19th, we were assigned to the U. S. XXI Corps and given the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 63rd and 70th Infantry Divisions' Artillery in a joint assault on the Siegfried line at Saarbrücken. We fired our first combat mission from positions at Alstingen, France, on March 20th into the bastions of the German first line of defense.

Following up the successful attack of the 63rd Division

we moved onto German soil at Ommersheim, Germany. We registered but the enemy was retreating so rapidly that within two hours they were beyond the range of our guns. For three days at Ommersheim we first became familiar with the problems of Military Government, prisoner handling, burial of the dead and occupation of a German town.

The battalion then reverted to Division control, and for the next two weeks we were engrossed in the problems which beset occupational troops both in the vicinity of Zweibrücken and later in the town of Hermeskiel near Trier, Germany. We occupied towns, guarded bridges and regulated traffic.

At the end of this period we were assigned to the VIII Corps of General George S. Patton's Third Army and given the mission of relieving the 4th Armored Division in its drive on Leipzig and Chemnitz. Departing from Hermeskiel on April 5th, a non-stop march of 177 miles carried us across the historic Rhine River at St. Goar and to the village of Eife. From there the battalion moved to Boddinger where Battery "C" personnel took several German prisoners who were posing as civilians.

In Boddinger, a change of orders sent us to the First Army with the mission of spearheading the attack of the XVIII Corps (Airborne) into the Ruhr Pocket. Under Division Artillery control the battalion fired missions to support the bridging operations of the 97th Infantry Division across the Sieg River. That evening, as part of Combat Command B, we followed the 24th Tankers and 59th Doughfeet across the river and into the city of Siegburg to spend the night under continuous counter-battery fire. During the following day we gave close support to CCB, eliminating strong enemy resistance in the town of Elsdorf. In the operation a Battery C half-track was destroyed by enemy artillery fire. In the next firing position that night in the town of Eil, a German patrol infiltrated into the Battery B position and during the ensuing firefight the German officer was wounded and four of our men were wounded, two seriously, by small arms and "Panzerfaust" fire. The following morning our guns were firing in four different directions simultaneously. Battery A firing two missions, Battery B being displaced forward with the advanced guard, while Battery C was firing directly to the rear on a combat target in Elsdorf. On the same morning the battalion S-4 and four men had their vehicles destroyed and were taken prisoner in a firefight. They were later recaptured when a task force from CCB retook the building in which they were being held.

On the 12th of April, we moved into position at Aue, destined to be the "hottest" position we were to occupy in combat. Almost every combat mission fired was counter-battery on German 88 batteries on which we were able to get observation only by the diligence of our liaison pilots and observers. As a result of the assistance of our "grasshoppers" and that of some displaced Russians who pinpricked German gun positions on our maps, we took a heavy toll of 88 batteries. During this three-day operation, Headquarters Battery lost one man by mortar fire and B and C Batteries suffered casualties.

Our mission completed, we moved to Schlebusch, thence to Puttersburg where five hundred prisoners were taken, then on through Gruiten, firing all the way.

On the morning of April 17, we moved from Gruiten to Steinkoffen and Mettman, crossing a ridge enroute later dubbed "88 Alley" by the battalion. The entire column was subjected to direct fire from German artillery firing at right angles to the line of advance. The fact that we suffered no casualties testifies to the poor marksmanship of the enemy for we were "sitting ducks" for one-half hour.

The battalion then rolled into Duisberg, the Division objective, and the job of the Black Cats in the Ruhr campaign was completed.

Following the Ruhr campaign, the Division was re-assigned to the Third Army. Another road march carried us from Duisberg to Schwaig, a suburb of Nuremburg. Here we were addressed by the Third Army Commander, General George S. Patton, and were informed that the mission of the 13th Armored Division was to spearhead the attack of the XX Corps in their final major drive of the European war.

On April 27, the 496th crossed the famous Blue Danube and rolled into action against the enemy as part of CCB. The following day in Rain, Germany, the battalion, firing with battalions from the Fifth Artillery Group, fired heavy concentrations of white phosphorous and HE ammunition into the town of Straubing. While moving up to the Isar River, the bridge we had reconnoitered was blown by the enemy and we were forced to bivouac in the vicinity of Plattling.

The 496th fired its heaviest concentration during its combat experience while the Plattling bridgehead was being established. In one twenty-four hour period the battalion expended over 2500 rounds of 105-mm. ammunition on enemy targets across the Isar River. During this operation one of our forward observation officers was fatally wounded.

On the evening of the last day of April, the battalion

moved out with CCB on a night armored attack across the Isar and on to the Inn River—a crushing night and day move that covered 60 miles in 24 hours. While reconnoitering and observing for the CCB column, one of our grasshoppers was hit and forced down and the observer was wounded by flak.

The battalion closed in Reischach, Germany, on the 1st day of May and commenced firing on the enemy across the Inn River. While in this position, German infantry fired on our attached AA unit. Driven into the woods by our heavy small arms assault, weathering a barrage of time fire during the night, they surrendered to us the next morning. We also shot down two enemy planes, our first of the war.

On May 7, 1945, we received the news that Germany had unconditionally surrendered and the European war was over.

The battalion reconverted to a garrison basis and an extensive athletic and recreation program was launched. Recreation tours to Berchtesgaden and Salzburg were conducted. A Division Artillery rest camp went into operation and many members of the battalion participated.

Finally news arrived that we were to be redeployed to the Pacific via the United States. The battalion left Reischach on June 24th and was processed in Camp Atlanta and Camp Old Gold, France. While at Atlanta, many of the men visited Paris and the battlefields of World War I.

At Le Havre we boarded the USS General Black and set sail for the United States on July 14th. Our ship finally docked at Hampton Roads, Virginia on July 23rd. We disembarked and entrained for Camp Patrick Henry and the following morning the officers and enlisted men parted for their respective separation centers and thirty days at home.

After those beautiful days of civilian life, we again returned to our battalion at the new station in Camp Cooke, California, to find that since the "Jap" war was over the Division was no longer destined for the Pacific. Those fortunate enough to have sufficient points were immediately discharged and for the remainder, it was only a question of time until the division was inactivated.

This history of the 496th Armored Field Artillery Battalion is written as a tribute to its officers and men called by Hitler three years ago, "the soft citizens of a decaying democracy." These same men have proved themselves the best soldiers in the world. No job has been too tough for the men of the 496th. Their loyalty, courage, and devotion to duty never wavered. They have fired and moved halfway across the world and back. They may be justly proud of their combat record.



WALTER AARDSMA
First Lieutenant
Commanding Officer



THOMAS S. YANCEY
First Lieutenant
Commanding Officer



RALPH L. MIDLICK
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer



RALPH W. LAWSON
Second Lieutenant
Communications Officer



AUGUST P. PLEVA, JR.
Second Lieutenant
Forward Observer

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



JOHN MURGATROYD
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot

WILLIAM SWARTZ
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot



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Second Row:

HOLSTEEN, Verdaine L., T//3, Morning Sun, Iowa.
AHR, Raymond W., Sgt., 2030 Baltimore Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
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FITZGERALD, J., Sgt., 1873 Taylor Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
FOSTER, Norris W., Sgt., Hornbeak, Tenn.
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McCLURE, Ralph, Sgt., Route 2, Box 591, Charleston, W. Va.
OTT, Robert J., Sgt., 836 Orchard Ave., Moscow, Idaho.
PRINS, William A., Sgt., 4804 Garfield Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.
BARR, James R., T/4, 310 First St., Manistee, Mich.

Fourth Row:

BRIAN, Francis, T/4, Colesburg, Ky.
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MOORE, Ray L., T/4, 3455 N. Opal Ave., Chicago, Ill.
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LANE, Harry, Cpl., 5107 S. Blackstone, Chicago, Ill.
NEWMAN, Harold L., Cpl., 217 Seneca Ave., Byesville, Ohio.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY



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FORBES, Jack H., T/5, 307 Mass. St., St. Joseph, Mo.



Second Row:

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PATTERSON, William J., T/5, 1919 Banks Ave., Superior, Wis.
SCARBEARY, Donald, T/5, Lexington, Ill.
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496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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CLAYTON C. BONNESS
Captain
Battalion Maintenance Officer

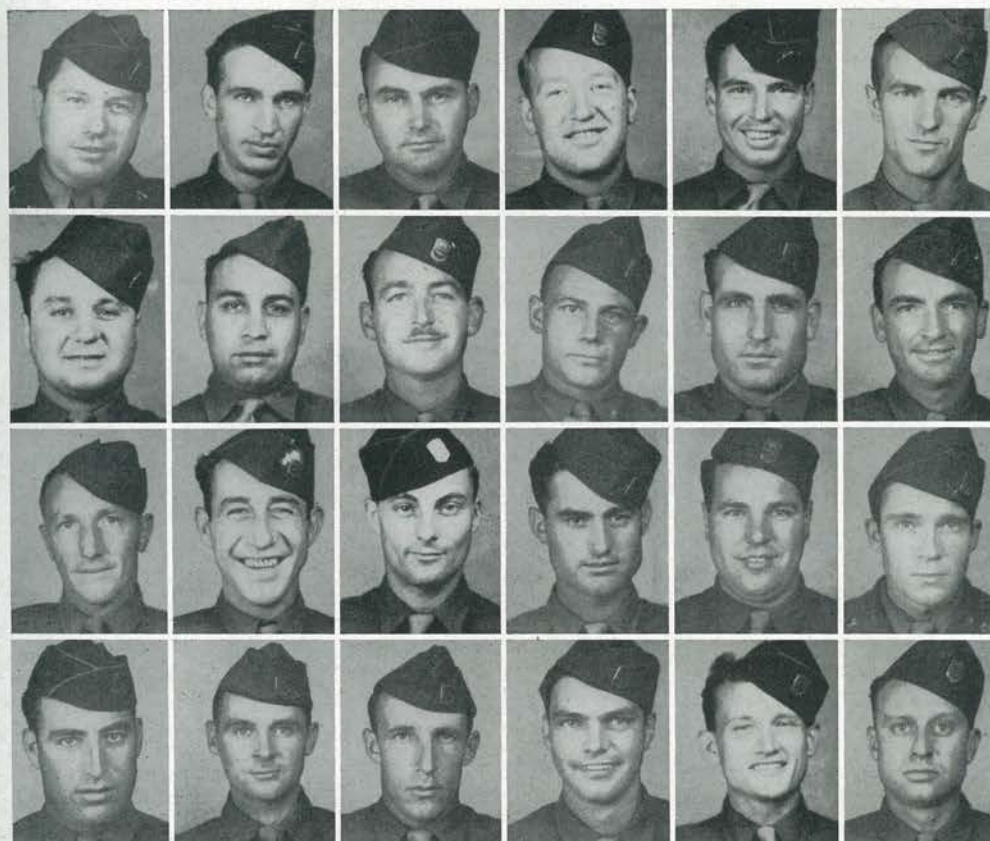
LAWRENCE F. STURGEON
First Lieutenant
Air Observer, S-1

WILFRED A. BAUHOF
Chief Warrant Officer
Personnel Adjutant

RICHARD H. SHACKELFORD
Chief Warrant Officer
Assistant Battalion
Motor Officer

S E R V I C E B A T T E R Y

496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



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SWEITZER, Millard J., S/Sgt., Long, Md.
FRANKUM, Edlar J., Sgt., Buford, Ga.
GILL, Charles T., Sgt., 418 N. Hardisty, Kansas City, Mo.

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HALEY, William, T/4, 2711 18th Ave., N., Birmingham, Ala.

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SENIG, Vernon E., T/4, Route 1, Amand, Ohio.
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LANE, William H., Cpl., Route 1, Box 96, Russellville, Ala.
BJORGE, Bernard H., T/5, Route 3, Elkhorn, Wis.
DANKU, Frank, Jr., T/5, Route 2, Mantva, Ohio.

Fourth Row:

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HENDERSON, William B., T/5, 5 Payne St., Greenville, S. C.

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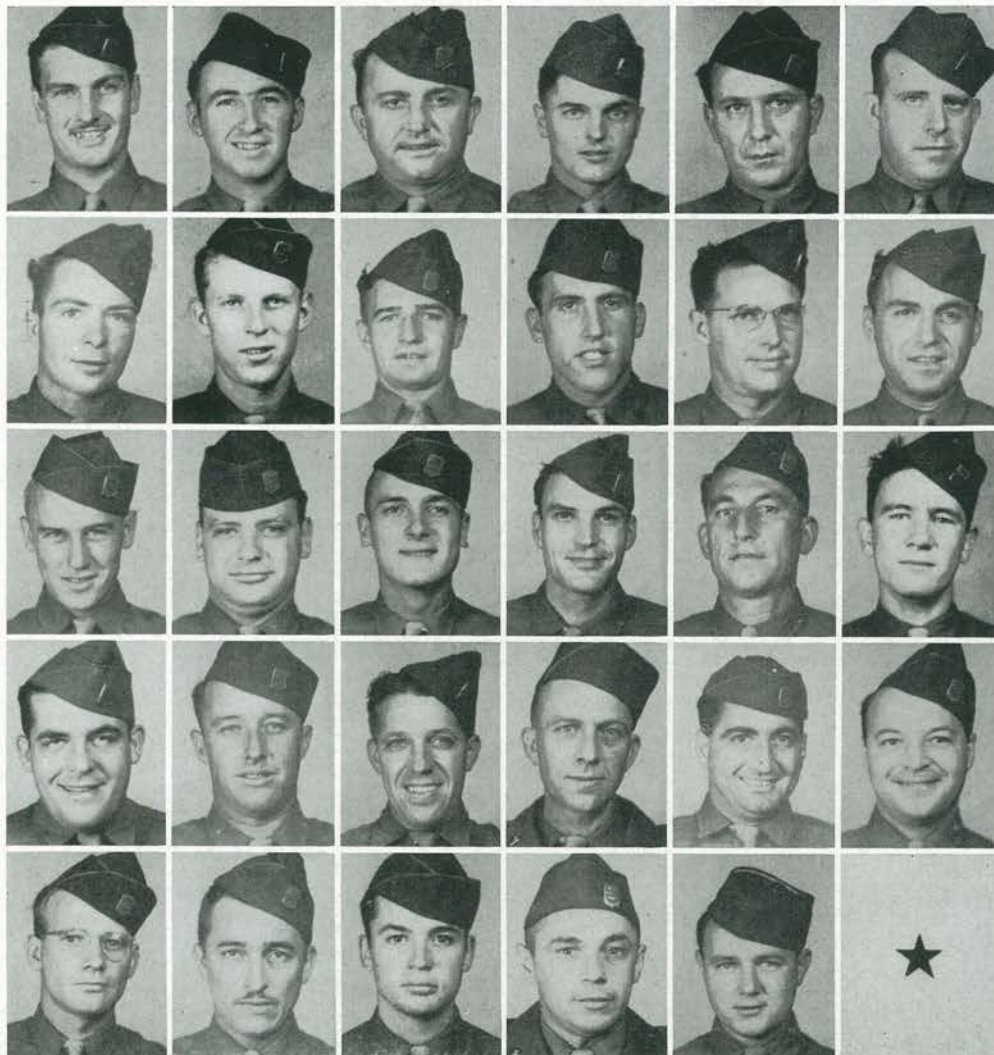
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 FITZGERALD, Nolan H., Pfc., Lowesville, Va.
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 LATHAM, Clarence, Pvt., Jamestown, R. I.
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ROBERT L. PETERS, JR.
Captain
Commanding Officer



TEDDY B. AKINS
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer



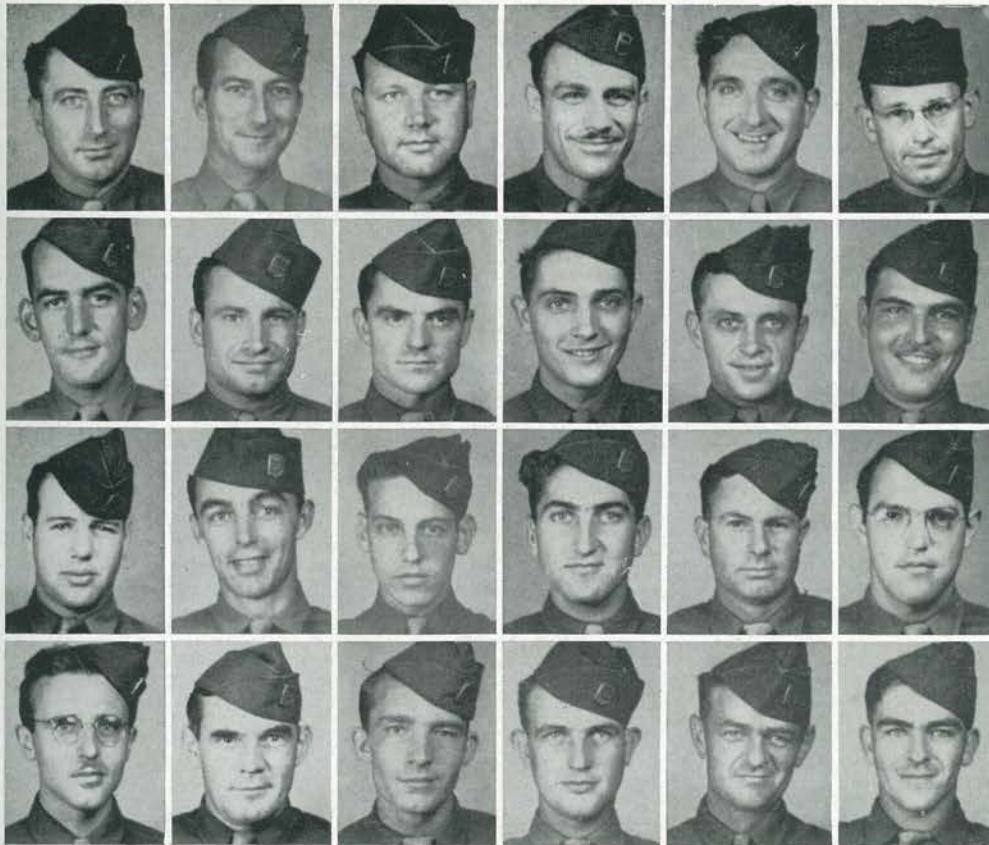
SHERBURNE A. MORSE
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer



EVANS E. WELLS
First Lieutenant
Assistant Executive Officer

B A T T E R Y A

496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



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RICHARDSON, Hughes, T/4, 110 N. Jarrett St., Florence, N. C.

Third Row:

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ALL, Gilbert V., Cpl., 128 N. Maxwell, McPherson, Kans.
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CROOK, Cole B., T/5, Cross Anchor, S. C.
CROUCH, Marvin L., T/5, Williams, Iowa.

B A T T E R Y A



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JONES, Franklin, Pfc., 7319 Betz Ave., Balti-
more, Md.
JOYCE, James H., Pfc., 2815 W. 34th Ave., Den-
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LUSTER, Glenn W., Pfc., 73 Valpgruiso St., San
Francisco, Calif.

Fourth Row:

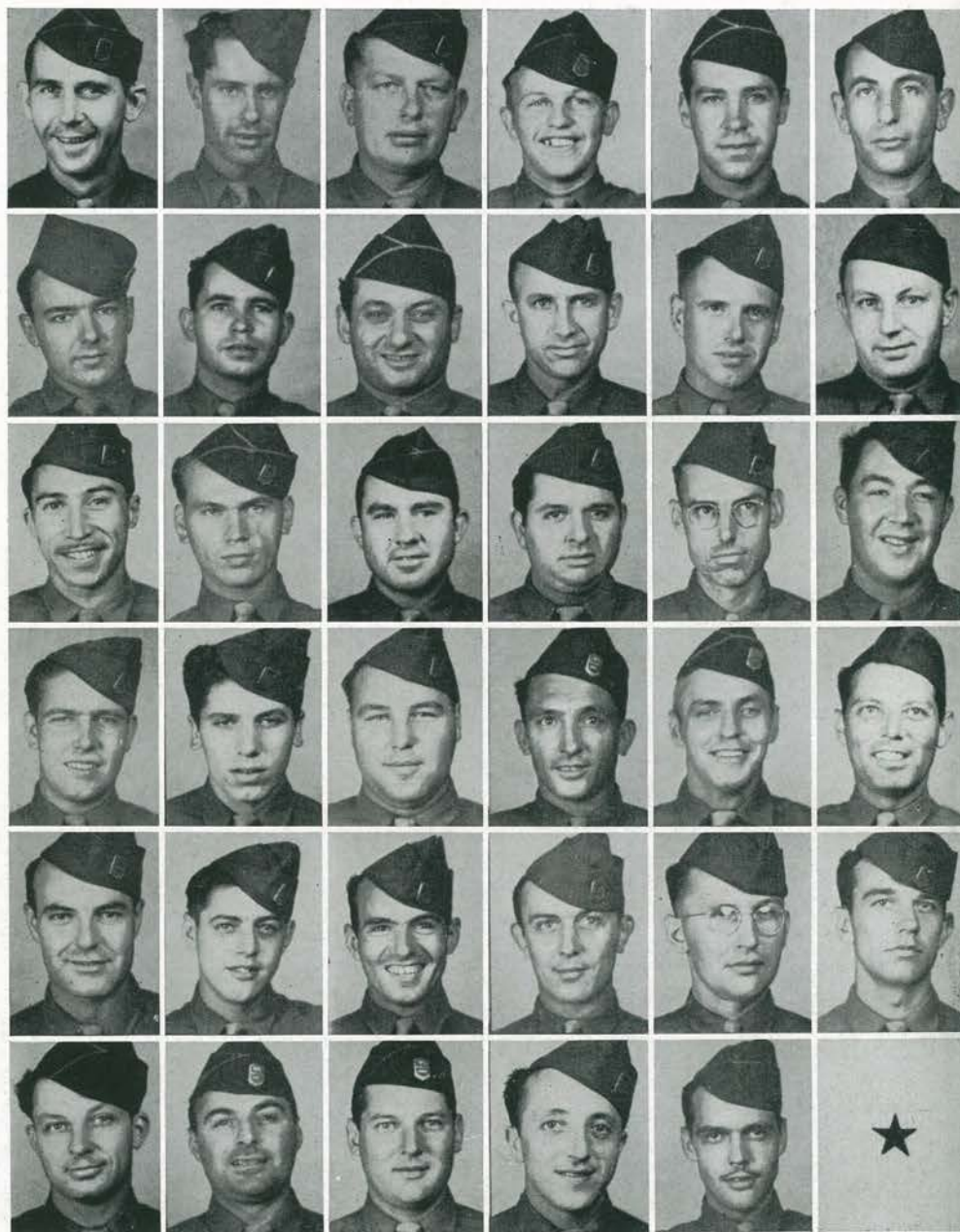
MAIN, Fred L., Pfc., 20121 Tracy Ave., Euclio,
Ohio.
MANGIAFICO, Joseph V., Pfc., 43 Brooklawn St.,
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MEISSNER, Ervin R., Pfc., 630 N. 8th, Buhl,
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MOROSIN, John J., Pfc., 10429 Orange Ave., South
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MORSE, Clifford C., Pfc., Mill City, Nev.
McBEE, V. Turk, Pfc., Bi'ou Theatre, Green-
ville, S. C.

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ROHR, Ferdinand L., Pfc., 3208 Green St.,
SALISBURY, Charles, Pfc., 73-A Lee St., Char-
leston, S. C.
SCHROER, Paul W., Pfc., 1605 McMakin St.,
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SCHULAR, Milton J., Pfc., 2439 West 47th St.,
Chicago, Ill.
SHARPE, Lionel, Pfc., 517 Young St., Middle-
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Sixth Row:

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VENNERI, Louis F., Pfc., Route 1, Walla Walla,
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WEEDEN, Edward B., Pfc., 1019 N. Lawler Ave.,
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WEITZMAN, Bennie, Pfc., 1134 Coronado Ave.,
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RICHARDSON, Joe, Pvt., Box 23, Pikeville, Tenn.





PAUL T. CONLY
Captain
Commanding Officer



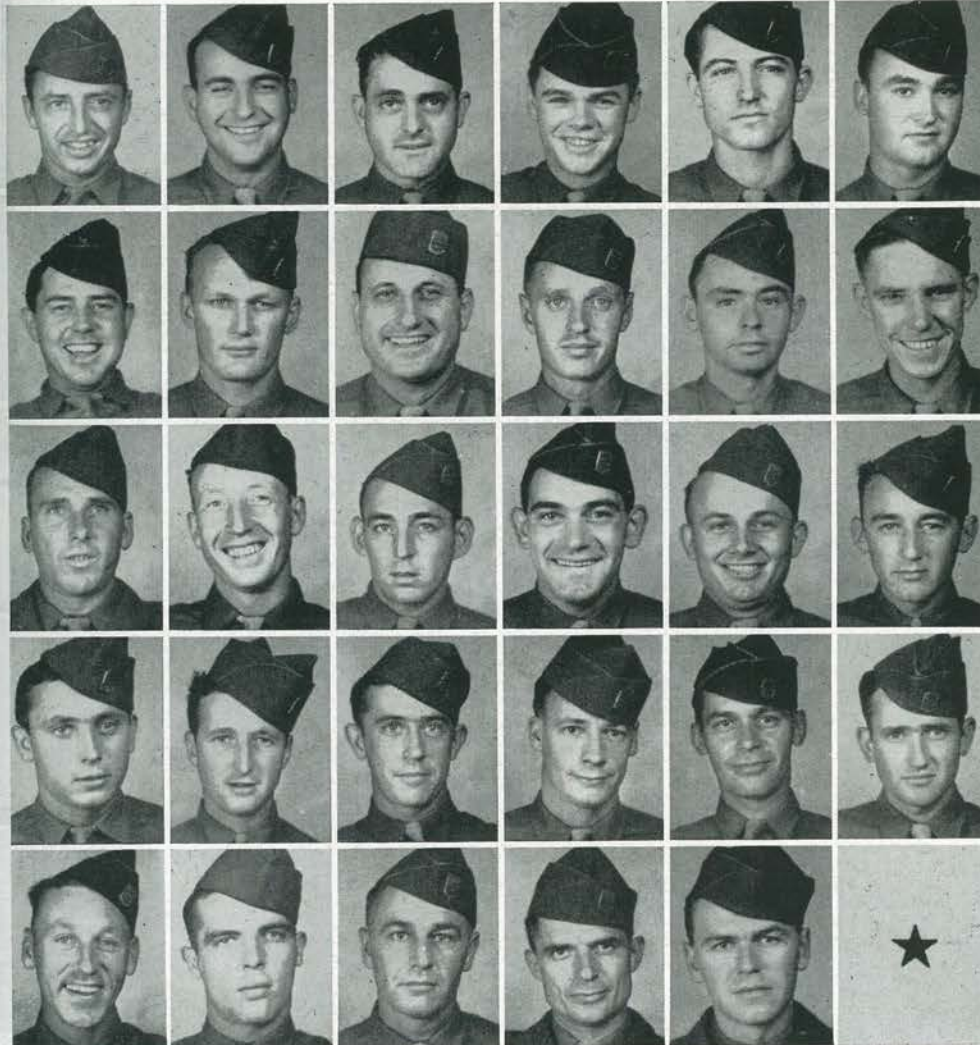
HARRY SHERMAN
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer



FRANCIS T. MCFARLAND
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer

B A T T E R Y B

496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



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WARD, Mathew L., S/Sgt., 1208 Division St., Ranger, Tex.
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Second Row:

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HOLLIS, Eugene E., Sgt., Sawyerville, Ala.
LUSK, Vance F., Sgt., Honea Path, S. C.
VIRNICH, LeRoy O., Sgt., 1408 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Ill.
ASHMORE, James W., T/4, Route 1, Osborn, Ohio.
DIETIKER, Bernard J., T/4, Route 1, Box 217, Sharonville, Ohio.

Third Row:

HOLLIFIELD, Lee Roy, T/4, Marion, S. C.
JACKSON, Lon J., T/4, Box 16, Mountain View, Mo.
MAAKESTAD, Kenneth J., T/4, Box 226, Alexandria, S. D.
PENCE, William W., T/4, Route 1, Cleveland, N. C.
REED, Dale A., T/4, 631 West Pike St., Clarksburg, W. Va.
WADE, Charles, T/4, 191 South 5th St., Newark, Ohio.

Fourth Row:

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BEVERLAND, Gail R., Cpl., 1440 S. 12th St., Omaha, Nebr.
CHERRY, William, Cpl., Model, Tenn.
DARBY, Ralph H., Cpl., 2721 Barth St., Flint, Mich.
KRUSE, John E., Cpl., 5721 W. 64th Place, Chicago, Ill.
KYTE, Howard, Cpl., New Market, Tenn.

Fifth Row:

LOWMAN, John C., Cpl., 338 Water St., Belvidere, N. J.
MANN, Eugene, Cpl., 1125 S. Forest Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.
SCHORG, Kenneth H., Cpl., Route 2, Remsen, Iowa.
ZEILER, Otto, Cpl., 4348 Delor St., St. Louis, Mo.
GOETSCH, Gaylord, T/5, Lime Ridge, Wis.

B A T T E R Y B

First Row:

HALE, Harvey, T/5, Route 1, Jasper, Tenn.
HEDRICK, E. F., T/5, 10124 Charles St., Chicago, Ill.
HELMS, Aubrey M., T/5, Route 5, Monroe, N. C.
JOHNSON, William, T/5, 1907 H. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
MATTSO, Everett A., T/5, 210 Hampton St., Marshall, Minn.
THOMAS, William F., T/5, Route 3, Sweetwater, Tenn.

Second Row:

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BEDSON, John L., Pfc., 23395 Miller, Farmington, Mich.
BUVONA, Buster, Pfc., Route 3, Box 89-D, Hammond, La.
BURGER, Willy, Pfc., 2248 S. Kostner Ave., Chicago, Ill.
CARDEGNO, Louis, Pfc., 118 Ridge St., Winsted, Conn.

Third Row:

CARGNELLO, Albert, Pfc., 205 First St., Canonsburg, Pa.
CLEGG, James W., Pfc., 7355 Kingston Ave., Chicago, Ill.
COLE, Joseph H., Pfc., 210 E. Rockland St., Philadelphia, Pa.
CONOVER, William E., Pfc., 935 Church St., Indianapolis, Ind.
COSTON, Ted., Pfc., Mt. Enterprise, Tex.
CRENSHEW, W. Garvis, Pfc., Route 3, La Grange, Ga.

Fourth Row:

DREIHAUPT, Karl, Pfc., 520 N. 27th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
FANSELAU, Erwin E., Pfc., Flagler, Colo.
FREDERES, George, Pfc., Remsen, Iowa.
GEIGER, Hayward J., Pfc., 10520 Hobday, Overland, Mo.
GOLDMAN, Oscar, Pfc., 1625 Park Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.
GORGONI, John J., Pfc., 177-29 106th Ave., Jamaica, N. Y.

Fifth Row:

HATCH, Ardis J., Pfc., Route 2, Mebane, N. C.
KRYZEKOWSKI, Frank M., Pfc., 6 Iurio Court, Jersey City, N. J.
LARSON, Lawrence N., Pfc., 1324 2nd St. S., Minneapolis, Minn.
LEWIS, Herbert, Pfc., 42 Oak St., Bridgeton, N. J.
LONCARIC, A. L., Pfc., 1817 South 61st St., West Allis, Wis.
MALTZ, Solie S., Pfc., 3559 N. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.

Sixth Row:

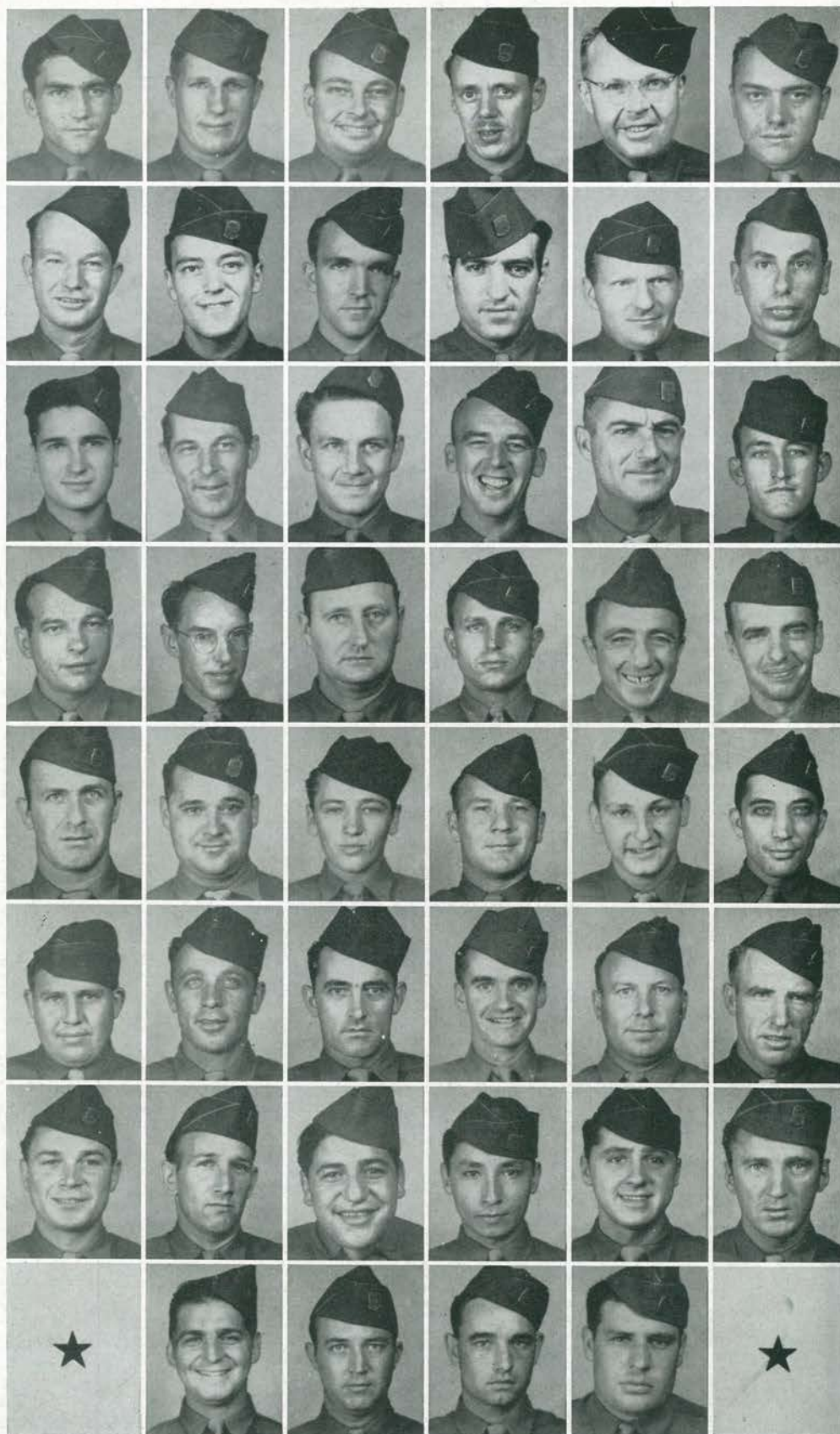
MILLS, Floyd H., Pfc., Route 4, Vonore, Tenn.
MONTGOMERY, Lewis, Pfc., Afton, Iowa.
PROUD, Roland J., Pfc., 149 E. 2nd St., New Castle, Del.
RICHEY, Robert W., Pfc., 1029 Center Point Rd., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
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SMITH, Lenord, Pfc., Route 2, Acworth, Ga.

Seventh Row:

STANLEY, Babicz, Pfc., 2392 Thurman St., Cleveland, Ohio.
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TRIOLA, John, Pfc., 1935 Cleveland Ave., Chicago, Ill.
WELCH, Sam, Pfc., Claremore, Okla.
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ZOHOVETZ, George, Pfc., 10 Whitehead Ave., South River, N. J.

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GREEN, Everette A., Pvt., Box 89, Arrowdale, N. C.
MORDECAI, James L., Pvt., Box 27, Kennedy, Ala.
PAYNE, Edgar H., Pvt., Route 5, Spartanburg, S. C.





FRED H. HARRISON
Captain
Commanding



JOHN J. FLAVIN
First Lieutenant
Motor Officer



DONALD J. THOMPSON
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer



PAUL H. REINERT
Second Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer

B A T T E R Y C

496TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



First Row:

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COOPER, Ralph W., S/Sgt., 319 Division St., Joliet, Ill.
DOHERTY, Francis, S/Sgt., 55 Moreland St., Boston, Mass.
GULLIETT, Paris, S/Sgt., 2314 8th St., Portsmouth, Ohio.
BEGNOCHE, Lyle, Sgt., 929 Lincoln Ave., Clay Center, Kans.
DARNER, Paul B., Sgt., 278 S. Findlay St., Dayton, Ohio.

Second Row:

MARCHIONY, Francis R., Sgt., 574 West 130th St., New York City, N. Y.
SCOTT, Edd W., Sgt., Route 4, Harriman, Tenn.
THOMAS, Russell L., Sgt., 4000 Beale Ave., Altoona, Pa.
WAUTERS, Archil C., Sgt., Route 1, Brooklyn, Iowa.
CARNAVALI, Joe N., T/4, 5240 Shafter Ave., Oakland, Calif.
FROST, Eartley E., T/4, 324 Grant St., Plainwell, Mich.

Third Row:

MARSHALL, James J., T/4, 1437 Lill Ave., Chicago, Ill.
McNULTY, Richard F., T/4, 30 Worrall St., Wikes-Barre, Pa.
RUGGIERO, Angelo, T/4, 84 Klondike Ave., Fitchburg, Mass.
SELLEGREN, Floriz E., T/4, Arma, Kans.
HAWKINS, Ralph, Cpl., 3814 S. E. 84th Ave., Portland, Ore.
HEILSHORN, G. J. H., Cpl., Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio.

Fourth Row:

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MITCHELL, George F., Cpl., Box 37, Parshall, Colo.
PANNELL, Bill, Cpl., 1202 Hickory Ave., Mena, Ark.
PARSONS, Samuel D., Cpl., 405 7th Ave., Springfield, Tenn.
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SPICER, Benjamin F., Cpl., 8928 Roberts, Kansas City, Mo.

BATTERY C



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GORDON, Glen, T/5, 209 Ryan St., Chillicothe, Mo.
HILL, William G., T/5, Route 5, Cynthiana, Ky.

Second Row:

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LAKE, Marshall, T/5, Uniontown, Pa.
SMITH, Grafton, T/5, Fonthill, Ky.
SPEYER, Phillip W., T/5, 320 Blandin, Fort Worth, Tex.
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COHN, Marvin L., Pfc., 1755 Eastburn Ave., New York, N. Y.
CORDIMA, Frank J., Pfc., 87 Beech St., Waverley, Mass.
CORIDDI, Patrick A., Pfc., 204 Atkinson St., Rochester, N. Y.

Fifth Row:

GOGGANS, Joe B., Pfc., Arlington, Kans.
EVANS, W. H., Pfc., Pickett Rd., St. Joseph, Mo.
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GODFREY, William B., Pfc., Route 1, Charlotte, N. C.
HOLLON, Dale., Pfc., Route 9, Newport Springs, Knoxville, Tenn.

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Seventh Row:

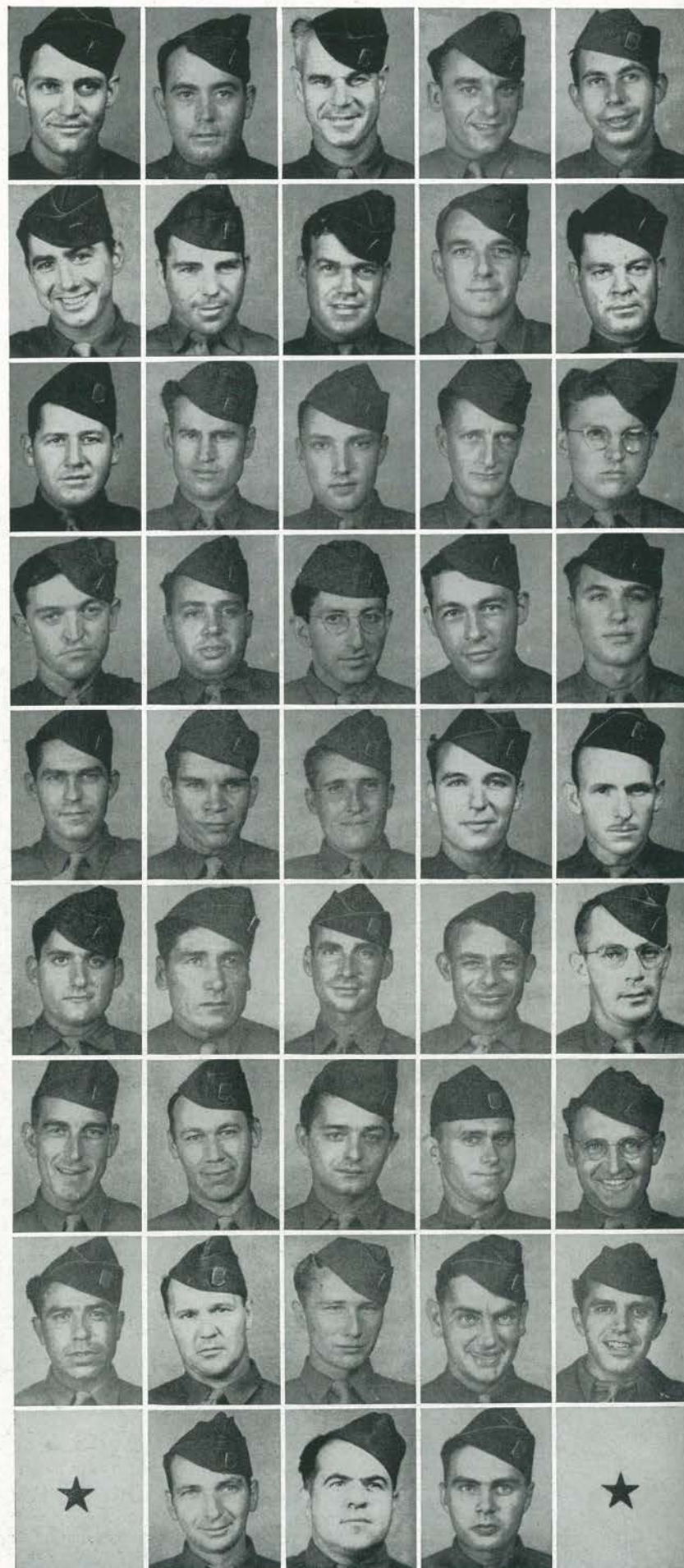
MAZE, John W., Pfc., 2407 Burwell, Louisville, Ky.
MELTON, Raymond V., Pfc., Woodlawn, Va.
MIKSICH, Thomas, Pfc., 3245 Black Oak Rd., Hammond, Ind.
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SENF, Al H., Pfc., 9244 S. Trumbull, Evergreen Park, Ill.
SPERNAK, Peter, Pfc., 87 East Potter Ave., Granville, N. Y.
STEVENS, Jack, Pfc., 427 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
SURACE, Frank, Pfc., 732 Annin St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Ninth Row:

TOUT, James A., Pfc., 232 South St., Mauch Chunk, Pa.
VARIAN, Charles R., Pfc., 1617 Crescent Rd., Apt. 4, Charleston, W. Va.
VOGEL, Norman, Pfc., 1865 77th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.



SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

PEDIGO, Joseph H., S/Sgt., Headquarters Battery,
1409 Versailles Rd., Lexington, Ky.
McINTOSH, Donald F., S/Sgt., Service Battery.
HANSON, Clayton L., Sgt., Battery B, 318 Crawford St., Clay Center, Kans.
LOPES, Alvin J., Sgt., Battery A, 602 W. Sixth St., Hanford, Calif.
MILLER, Howard G., Sgt., Battery C, Rt. 1, Miamisburg, Ohio.
ZIRNGIBLE, Albert J., Sgt., Headquarters Battery, Rt. 1, Box 26, Medford, Wis.

SECOND ROW:

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DICKSON, James E., Cpl., Battery C, Rt. 3, Inman, S. C.
EVALINE, George, Cpl., Battery C, 1002 W. Town St., Columbus, Ohio.
MORRIS, Chester E., Cpl., Battery C, 1371 N. Grant St., Springfield, Mo.
TOCCI, Joseph A., Cpl., Battery C, 312 N. Simpson St., W. Philadelphia, Pa.
AMBLER, Fred W., Jr., T/5, Battery C, 2909 East 79th St., Chicago, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

EASTIN, Ancil L., T/5, Battery B, Rt. 2, Newman, Ill.
HEREFORD, Dennis, T/5, Battery C, 1311 Summit St., Muskogee, Okla.
ROBY, William O., T/5, Battery B, 1372 Columbia Rd., Washington, D. C.
WESTRE, Norman C., T/5, Headquarters Battery.
YARDLEY, James S., T/5, Battery B, Rt. 1, Mascot, Tenn.
BARSTAD, Arnold, Pfc., Battery C, Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

FOURTH ROW:

BENSON, Roy C., Pfc., Headquarters Battery, 671 Sherwood Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
FIORINA, James E., Pfc., Headquarters Battery, 1617 Third Ave., Arnold, Pa.
KULOW, Robert J., Pfc., Battery C, 3410 N. 15th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.
LANGDON, Perin, Pfc., Battery C, 700 Hanover Ave., Aurora, Ind.
ENRUFTY, Charles, 1st Lt., Battery B.
PHELPS, Ollie R., Pfc., Headquarters Battery, Rt. 1, Mayville, Mich.

FIFTH ROW:

SCHLEIN, Irving D., Pfc., Battery A, 659 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
SOMMER, Allen, Pfc., Battery B.
VUKITS, Ernest, Pfc., Service Battery, 1511 Leahy St., Muskegon Hgts., Mich.
SCHIMMENTI, Vincent J., Pvt., 965 Jack St., Baltimore, Md.

SIXTH ROW:

TAYLOR, Raymond E., S/Sgt., Headquarters Battery, 1119 N. Eighth St., Springfield, Ill.
ALEXANDER, James B., Sgt., Service Battery, 346 Woodard Ave., S.E., Atlanta, Ga.
HAWLEY, Frank L., Pfc., Battery B, 1719 Mulberry St., Scranton, Pa.





HEADQUARTERS
ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division

Modern warfare has made necessary the introduction of new units and new techniques to ensure victory in battle. The 13th Armored Division, activated at Camp Beale, California, on 15 October 1942 as a result of the need for armored units, proved in training and in combat the adaptability and genius of the American soldier in all methods of warfare.

Since the time when I was Commanding General of the Armored Force, I have followed the career of the Black Cat Division with interest and pride. After the completion of training, much of which you did at Camp Bowie, Texas, you arrived overseas early in 1945, and your tankers quickly earned for themselves the respect of the enemy. Joining the Third Army, you participated brilliantly in the final drive across the Danube River deep into Southern Germany. Your officers and men, despite their comparatively brief period in battle, fought with boldness, bravery and skill, winning a firm place in the heritage of our country.

Those of the 13th Armored who find themselves in new tasks, now that the division is being inactivated, will continue to serve their country, I know, with enthusiasm and steadfastness, until our military strength can safely be reduced.

The men in the 13th Armored Division will be forever included among the heroes of our country, and it is for me a proud occasion to be able to commend you most heartily, in the name of all Americans, for your gallant service in defense of freedom.

Jacob L. Devers
JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, USA,
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY



COLONEL ALFRED KASTNER
Commanding



JOHN F. SMOLLER
Lieutenant Colonel
Executive Officer



MAX A. MORRIS
Major
S-1, S-4



JOHN E. ANGST
Major
S-2



WALTER F. THOMAS
Major
S-3



HEINZ P. RAND
Captain
Assistant S-2



RAYMOND W. CRIPPS, JR.
Captain
Commanding Officer
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery and 497th



ROBERT A. NEILSON
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer and
Communications Officer,
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery



THOMAS I. WHELAN
Second Lieutenant
Artillery Air Observer



JOHN B. MORGAN
WO(jg)
Motor Officer
Headquarters Battery

A HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS, DIVISION ARTILLERY

Housing conditions, wives, cancelled maneuvers, re-organization, both California and Texas foxholes, firing tests—World War II was fought at home and almost won abroad before the Artillerymen of the 13th Armored Division went overseas.

What has now become history started to weave itself into a story at Camp Beale, California, on the 15th day of October, 1942, when Division Artillery Headquarters was created and assigned to the forward echelon of Division Headquarters. At that time an appointment was made which was to stick through all the other changes incident to the growth and development of the 13th Armored Division Artillery. Col. Alfred E. Kastner became Artillery Officer.

The responsibility for directing and supervising the training of all the artillery within the Division was assigned to Division Artillery and included not only the artillery battalions but the tanks and assault guns in their general support functions. Despite the work entailed by this assignment, everything in artillery headquarters was blissful until August—no guard, no duty officer, no charge of quarters and no participation in the alerts of the West Coast Defense Command. All these were the lot of the battalions. We were a part of Division. This all led to loud complaints over the debut of Black Cat Headquarters into the realm of soldiering when it ventured out early in August for a week-end CPX. Tear gas and K rations were tried for the first time and each had its expected effect.

Then came a deluge of combat firing exercises and artillery shoots. Tank support problems and infantry support problems were run concurrently in all sectors of the Camp Beale reservation—with Lone Tree Hill alone common to them all.

October 15, 1943, marked a year of training and brought indications of maneuvers to come. The Division prepared for movement to Oregon, but a last minute cancellation turned the Division "Farewell Party" into a "Not Going Away" affair. Massed-fire training continued and midway through November Division Artillery conducted Practice Test No. 3 in the Waldo, Spenceville, Lone Tree Hill area.

Then "California's Own" left home. The change of station to Camp Bowie, Texas, came early in December,

and we arrived in the Lone Star State in time for Christmas and the inevitable ITP tests.

In preparation for ITP tests, basic training was begun anew on a seven day week basis, and everyone had gas mask drill, basic medical and small arms instruction, physical fitness training, and military courtesy lessons right up to "H" hour. This was followed by the never to be forgotten "snow problem," which occurred, fortunately, before anyone dreamed of trenchfoot.

In due time the Division's big day arrived. It was to rough it at last. A real field exercise was to comprise the final phase of Division training; the "D" Series lasted four weeks, after which the salt spray in the air seemed so real that wives and children were moved back home, terminal leaves were rushed through on special orders, and the local realtors began looking for new clients. The Cats were hot.

September brought the beginning of intensified and uninterrupted inspections and rumors of Louisiana maneuvers. We took to the field continuously, exploiting breakthroughs and attacking fortified areas until the grease pencils gave out. Back in garrison the paper shortage was becoming acute; so everyone turned to packing and crating, uncrating and repacking. No one would believe that plans to proceed to an east coast POE would not be changed, but somehow or other everyone got on trains and the mass of equipment on each man's back impressed him personally that these orders were not to be retracted.

Kilmer was a pleasant spot, liberal in its pass policy and ready to assist transient troops wherever possible. The stay there was all too short, for the *Marine Dragon*, anxious to push off from her Brooklyn pier on a maiden voyage that was to leave far behind our "fruited plains and amber waves of grain," had a date with a convoy. The second day out we joined another convoy down from Boston and found that among its ships was the British battleship H.M.S. *Nelson*. From then on "Forever Amber," "The Canary Murder Case," "The Dragon's Whistle," Fuller Warren's "Now Hear This," and a talented GI stage show were the only distractions to keep men from their favorite topic, "How far are the Russians from Berlin?"

On January 28th the "Marine Dragon" rounded the Isle of Wight and dropped anchor at nightfall off England's

shores. Around midnight we started across the channel with a full moon and an unannounced escort of naval protection, headed straight for the lion's mouth. The Navy saw us through all right; the beautiful port of Le Havre—twisted steel, broken stone and silent desolation—met the eyes of a serious group of soldiers on the cold overcast morning of January 29, 1945. We were not quite prepared for the acres of destruction before us. This should never happen again !!!

That night the advance party led us through the icy cold of a bitter snow-storm to our billets in St. Foy, Normandy, and by arrival time in the wee hours of the morning a shivering Headquarters Battery was ready to believe Master Sergeant (now 2nd Lt.) Whelan when he climbed on a bale of hay outside a bleak chateau and said, "Things are tough in the E.T.O." The men weren't long in naming their new abode: "Chateau de Mud."

Attempts at the French lingo, introductions to the wine shortage via Calvados, Cognac and vinegar-gone-to-war, visits to Dieppe, local dances, news broadcasts and good food were second only to the daily mail in their assistance in tiding men over from one day's work to the next. Finally the vehicles were in shape, and everything was unpacked and serviceable again. The Cats were ready!

So was higher headquarters! Seventh Army assigned Division Artillery and its component battalions under the designation of GROUP KASTNER to VI Corps Artillery Headquarters. Group Kastner was given the mission of general support of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions near Saarbrücken, Germany, and on March 19 moved to positions around Etzling, France. On the next day displacement was made to Ommersheim, Germany, the Siegfried Line was broken and the Allies raced to the Rhine unopposed. On March 22, having accomplished its mission, Group Kastner returned to the 13th Armored Division, now in the vicinity of Moyenvic, France.

For a while Division Artillery's mission was far removed from the din of battle. Figuratively donning M.P. brassards, it fell our lot to set up policing operations on the north side of the Moselle River at Trier in a great hospital, complete with running water and individual rooms with view. It was too good to last. It didn't. Patton had the 13th now. Everyone hung onto his hat as we took off for the front lines, crossed the Rhine at St. Goar and, despite a shortage of replacements for shredded bogie wheels, continued to assembly areas near Mosheim. Last minute plans to head toward Leipzig and meet the Russians were formed and reformed; Division patches put on and taken off again; vehicles loaded and radios tuned up—nothing

could stop us now. So with a 150-mile about face we returned to Horhausen, just south of the Ruhr pocket, where we joined the XVIII Corps (Airborne) as part of the First Army. Stieldorf was the first of a series of cellar command posts occupied by Division Artillery Headquarters. There, prior to the commitment of the 13th Armored Division as a whole, Division Artillery received the mission of reinforcing the 97th Infantry Division Artillery, commencing with the crossing of the Sieg River at Siegburg on April 11. Speeding northward next day to Romaney, we occupied a command post in a large Gasthaus, received a welcome of Heinie time fire, and departing for Dunnwald, were showered with Allied propaganda leaflets. At Dunnwald only 500 yards from the advance elements we again moved into a cellar and concentrated on a creation of war memorials. On April 15 we occupied Dunnfeld, and successively established command posts at Ohligs and Gruiten, concluding the Ruhr operation northwest of Wulfrath on April 18th.

Following the Division's return to the Third Army, Division Artillery was ordered to the south and closed in at Schweig, on the 22nd of April. We crossed the Danube near Regensburg on the 28th and established headquarters at Thalmassing. The next morning we moved to the Isar River and thence across it at Plattling. In early May Division Artillery moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Simbach on the Inn River across from Hitler's birthplace at Braunau, Austria.

Throughout the last operation Division Artillery functioned under XX Corps and was assisted by Colonel Bernard Thimer's 5th Artillery Group consisting of Group Headquarters and three battalions: the 177th, 943d, with 105 howitzers, and the 274th, a 105 SP outfit. The 943d Field Artillery Battalion worked directly under Division Artillery control throughout the operation, while the other battalions supported either CCB, CCR, or both, depending upon the organization employed for combat.

After the welcome news of VE Day, comfortable quarters, bumper markings and haircuts were the order of the day. The pleasant hours at Simbach on Inn from May 8 to June 25 will long remain in the memory of Division Artillery, for everyone enjoyed the natural beauties of Bavaria.

Today at Camp Cooke, California, the history of the 13th Armored Division closes with each artilleryman anticipating his return to civilian life. However, thankful that V-J Day interrupted War Department plans to combat load the 13th on LSTs headed for the invasion of the Japanese mainland, each can recollect the part he played with pride. The job has been well done.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILERY

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IRONS, John B., S/Sgt., 261 W. Patriot St., Somers, Ohio.
MATUSCHAK, Joseph P., S/Sgt., 2828 Spring St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MORAN, Anthony B., S/Sgt., 219 Prospect Pl., Rutherford, N. J.

SECOND ROW:

PEEL, Richard T., S/Sgt., 704 Fifth Ave., Sibley, Iowa.
THROWER, Raymond B., T/3, Kosciusko, Miss.
ASTLEFORD, Charles W., Sgt., Box 131, Lake City, Iowa.
BRISTOL, Bob, Sgt., Walla Walla, Wash.
AIRD, Jack A., T/4, 259 Wayne Court, Salt Lake City, Utah.
DANIEL, Chester S., T/4, 2321 S. Albany Ave., Chicago, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

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SCHOFF, Thurston R., T/4, 1421 S. Dodgeon St., Independence, Mo.
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WHELAN, James M., T/4, P. O. Box 43, Berg-nolz, Ohio.
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SEVENTH ROW:

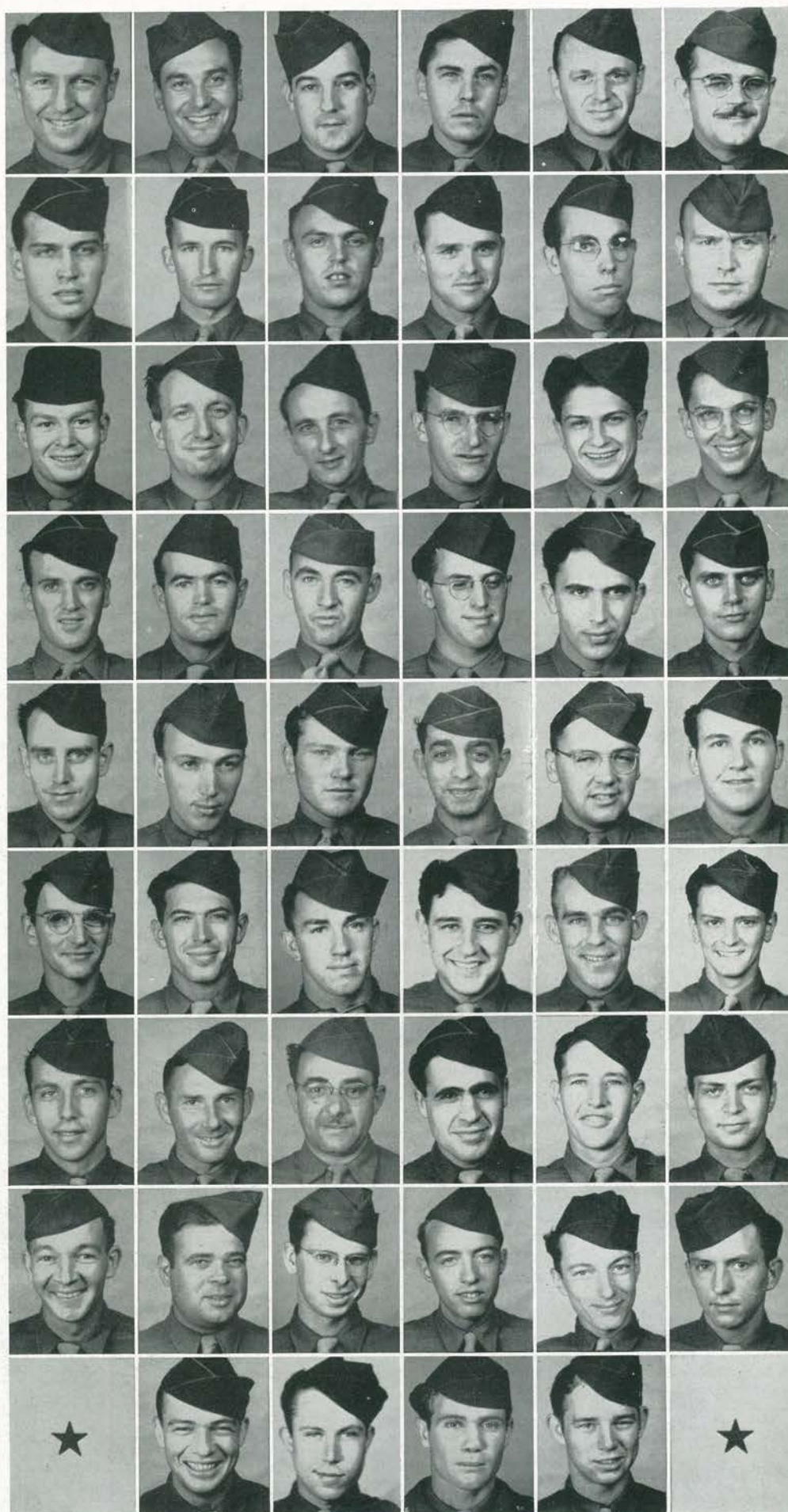
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REESE, Burdette L., Pvt., Hagaman, N. Y.
SHEPHERD, Charles E., Pvt., P. O. Box 788, Fruitland Park, Fla.
YOHE, Delton S., Pvt., Burrton, Kans.





THE 497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel H. Heyne



B A T T A L I O N S T A F F



ANDREW MARSHALL, JR.
Major
Executive Officer



STUART F. BRADY
Captain
Liaison Officer



JOSEPH A. DUPONT
Captain
Battalion Surgeon



ALPHONSO A. TOPP
Captain
Acting S-3



STEVER AUBREY
First Lieutenant
Communications Officer



WALTER B. BRICE
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot



ALBERT M. ROBASH
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer



LLOYD G. ROBINSON
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer



LESLIE L. VIVIAN, JR.
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer and
Assistant S-1



HAROLD A. WALDRON
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer



HENRY M. CARNEY
Warrant Officer
Assistant Adjutant

HISTORY OF THE 497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

We had a long way to go before we could get to shoot our guns—from California to the French-German border. Last leg was on March 19 when we proceeded through Moyenvic and Saareguemines to firing position near Spichenen, which was about 2,000 yards from the enemy lines in Saarbrücken. The rest of the Division was not in this action—the Division Artillery did the first fighting for the 13th. At 1700 on that day "A" Battery fired the first shot of the division at the enemy on a target in Saarbrücken. Our long months of diligent training paid dividends, the first round was "Effect on the Target!" The other batteries joined in, and we were embarked on our combat career. We fired during the night, and on the 20th, our supported troops moved very rapidly in on the German positions. We displaced across the German border to a position near Ommersheim, Germany, where we had only time to register before the battle again got out of range. We returned to the Division at Luneville on the 23rd of March, making a noise like veterans whenever anyone was within earshot.

We moved out on the 27th, following the successful breakthrough of the Siegfried Line, and went east and north, crossing the border between Geiderkirch, Alsace-Lorraine, and Pempungum, Germany. We rolled into Mimbach, Germany, late that day. Still part of the Seventh Army, we stayed there until the 2nd of April, searching pillboxes of the Siegfried Line and houses for weapons, etc., supervising the population in their cleanup of the debris.

On April 2nd, we moved out through Homberg, Neunkirchen, and Saarbrücken, to an area near Trier, on the Moselle River. Battalion Headquarters was in a small town called Kenn. Our task in this area turned out to be very much the same as it had been in Mimbach, with the additional duty of guarding seven bridges against sabotage by the Germans in the area. We stayed here until the 6th when we moved out again to the east. At this time, General Patton's Third Army was spearheading a drive which had progressed across Germany almost to Jena, and an operation to continue this to meet the Russians was in the wind. We went right out to the spearhead, with the purpose of relieving the 4th Armored Division. The route led across the Rhine on a ponton bridge at St. Goar. By this time we had begun to get into serious trouble with our bogie wheels on the M-7's. Replacements were few, and the tremendous amount of travelling was blowing them out right and left. It was not unusual to arrive in a new

location with only three or four of our eighteen M-7's with us, the rest trailing in from then on for about twelve hours or so. That problem was never quite cured, although toward the end of the war, the replacements began to come in faster. Meanwhile things were tough.

At Hilgershausen we found that the whole operation to meet the Russians had been called off, and we were needed up in the Ruhr instead. We were released from the Third Army, assigned to the First Army, and started off after a day's rest to the Ruhr Pocket. We moved to Niederpleis, where we were in support of the 97th Infantry Division, to help them establish a bridgehead across the Sieg River. April tenth brought us one more move, to Siegburg-Mulldorf, where we fired across the river throughout the night. It was here that the battalion received its baptism of counter-battery fire, when we were shelled by 88's intermittently. Early the next day, reconnaissance parties went across the river to pick positions in Siegburg, and the battalion moved across late in the afternoon. The Germans hit the battalion CP building with several rounds of 88-mm. fire, and dropped a few in one of the battery positions before the battery got there.

On the 12th, in direct support of CCR, we took off in a rapid advance up through the pocket which was halted by strong enemy resistance shortly beyond Berg-Gladbach, and the battalion went into position in the middle of the town, to support the attack that night and the next morning. "C" Battery opened up the bombardment, firing on a concentration of German 88's who were firing at "D" Company of the 45th Tank Battalion, which had with it as forward observer Lt. Waldron and his crew. Few of us who heard it will forget the first salvo fired from that position in the center of town. It was just after dark, and the guns sounded like the crack of doom as they echoed back from the houses close around. Glass fell out of the windows of the houses for blocks around, and the streets, which had been full of civilians a few seconds before, were cleared like magic. Lt. Waldron and his men were having troubles, meanwhile, as one of the 88's which he was firing at had apparatus that enabled them to pick up the sound of his radio, and fired at the sound every time he turned on his transmitter to give fire commands. Fortunately, the battery got the 88 before it got our observers, and the whole battalion, passing by the next morning, saw the wreck of the gun, with shattered equipment and ammunition lying all around, and a few dead Germans who had not been carried away.

On the 14th, we were continuing our advance with

CCR when the mission of the Combat Command was changed, and it, with the 497th attached, left on a long road march (over roads that had been cleared of Germans "to the ditches") which brought us, after marching all night, to a town about twenty miles north of Langenburg. We were attached to the 8th Infantry Division, and with just time to refuel after our march, took off in an attack southward toward Langenburg. Through the 15th and 16th we fought southward, going into positions, firing a few missions, then moving out and on again, time after time. We went through Langenburg on the 17th, and then on against steadily decreasing resistance to Velbert and Mettman. During these days, the German will to fight was very spotty. They were surrendering by thousands in some places—in others they fought as long as they thought they could get away with it. Snipers caused a good many casualties throughout the Combat Command. From Mettman we fired a few rounds into Dusseldorf, but that city surrendered without putting up much resistance. Our part of the Ruhr campaign ended here, and on the 19th we moved out to the vicinity of Derschlag, 50 miles away, where we rested for a day and did some much-needed maintenance on our vehicles. On the 20th we received hurried orders and moved out on our way to Bavaria, where General Patton and his Third Army again needed some help.

300 miles from Derschlag is Buchenbuhl, which was our next stop. It is a small town not far from Nuremberg, which had just been captured the day before we reached Buchenbuhl. We remained here until the 26th, resting and working on the vehicles. General Patton talked to the assembled officers and noncoms of the division, and his address measured up to expectations. The new operation was designed to sweep southeastward through Bavaria, to meet the Russians who were driving northwest from Vienna, and keep the Germans from massing their forces in the so-called "Redoubt Area"—the Austrian and Bavarian Alps—for a last stand. On the 26th we made a short move to Parsburg, and left the next day for a march which took us across the Danube. This march across the Danube, to a position at Wolkering, was only 47 miles, but due to terrible roads, deep mud, and a bottleneck at the engineer pontoon bridge, it took us 28 hours to do it. As one route got too bad to use, another would be found, and the column got completely screwed up at times. For example, Service Battery, at the tail of the column when we started out, crossed the Danube hours ahead of the rest of the battalion. We progressed southwestward, doing some firing, through Wolkering, Essenbach, Makofen, and Encherdauf, where we arrived on the 30th. This period was one of little sleep. As soon as we arrived in a town and dispossessed the Germans of their houses, served a meal and fell into bed, we would be moved out again half an hour later.

As was the case with almost all of the rivers in that part of Germany, the Isar River had no bridges left by the time that we arrived there. In direct support of CCA, we crossed the Isar on the first of May and took off for the Rott River, 35 miles away. The Division mission was then to take three bridges across the Rott River, and the hope was that they could be captured intact. The advance guard elements lost their way, and the 497th, with Major Lea flying with Lt. Masonholder in the plane and guiding the lead vehicle by radio, turned itself into an advance guard and took one of the bridges intact. The spearhead was a halftrack from Headquarters Battery followed by two M-7's from "B" Battery, all firing their machine guns as they went through the two towns that stood between us and the river, and trying to sound like a column of tanks coming down the roads. After crossing the Rott, the task force was regrouped, the advance guard was found and led out front again, and we continued on to the south. The next objective was to secure bridges across the Inn River in the vicinity of Braunau. (In this area, the Inn was the border between Germany and Austria.) We were not so lucky this time, and the bridges were blown before we got there. The battalion went into position first just north of Simbach, and the next day, the 2nd, into position at Gumpersdorf to support a projected crossing of the river near Marktl. We had registered and were ready to fire, when orders were received on the 3rd at 1055 from our liaison officer to cease all hostilities. Rest and maintenance operations immediately went into effect, while rumors flew around that this was the end of the war, that it wasn't, that we were to leave on another mission, etc., etc. It was raining hard, and the dirt roads in our area quickly became almost impassable. We stayed in this position through the fifth, and then moved on the sixth to a town named Triftern, about ten miles to the north. On the seventh, we received the long-awaited message from General Eisenhower that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally, and that hostilities had ceased throughout the European Theatre.

There was probably never a luckier battalion. It contributed materially to the success of our army, training hundreds of replacements of officers and men for overseas duty prior to itself departing for combat. Its members participated in important operations, such as the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line in the Saar, the reduction of the Ruhr Pocket, and the race to Austria. In the course of long advances and marches through the ruins, bombing and shell fire, its members got a first hand knowledge of the ruthless destruction and carnage of war. The battalion was lucky that in these operations its sick and casualty list was nil. We all know there was never a better trained artillery battalion; surely the long hours of sweat and devotion to duty prior to combat was a contributing factor in making our battalion the "Lucky 497th."



PAUL G. MASONHOLDER
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot

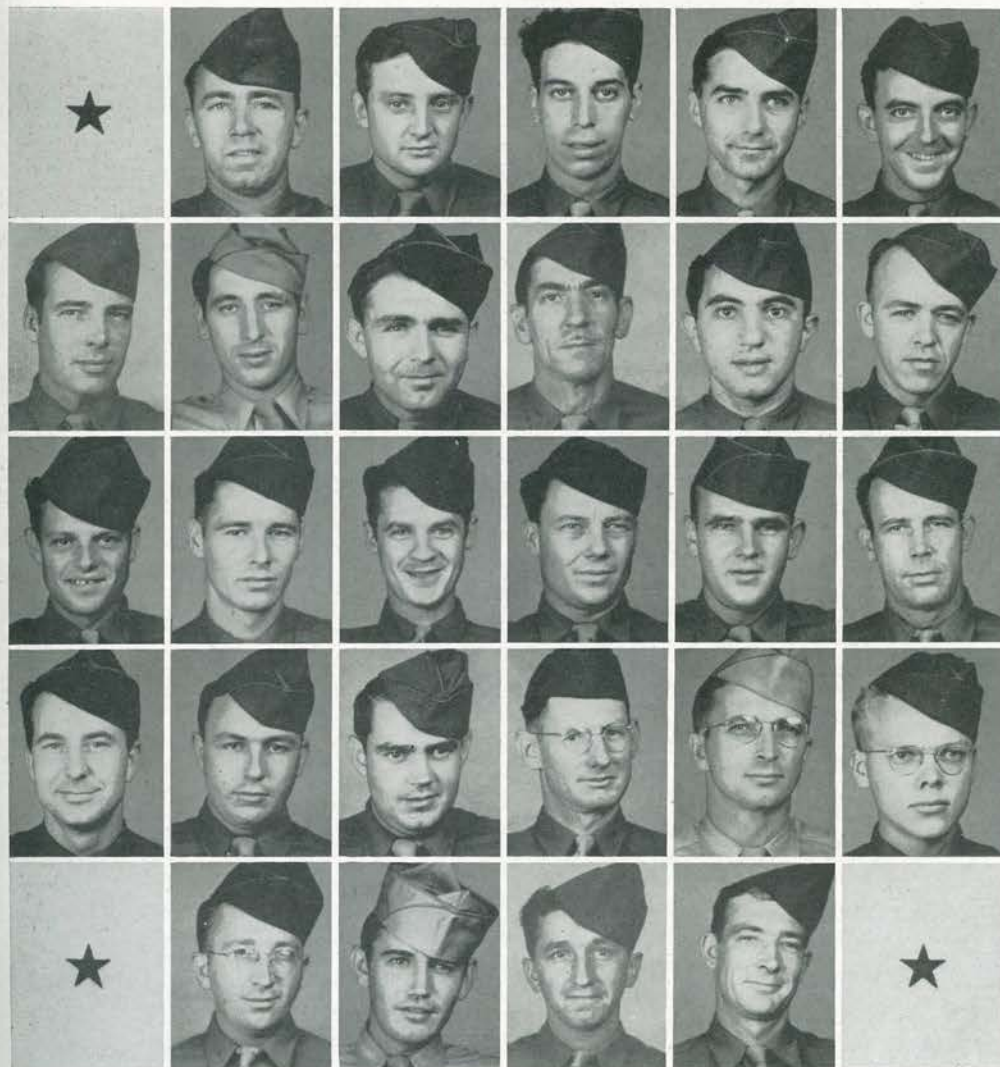


EDMUND J. VAN PELT
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer



HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



First Row:

SLUSHER, Ralph, T/Sgt., 1214 N. Lowry Ave.,
Springfield, Ohio.
FOX, Isaac, T/3, Route 2, Lebanon, Pa.
CARBONEL, Kenneth, Sgt., 1216 N. Mayfield
Ave., Chicago, Ill.
PAULUS, Orville E., Sgt., 340 S. Miami St., West
Milton, Ohio.
WILCOXSON, Carl, Sgt., Greensburg, Ky.

Second Row:

HATHORN, Hannan, T/4, Clara, Miss.
HOLLIS, Derwin, T/4, Route 306, Novelty, Ohio.
RENTMEESTER, Robert J., T/4, Route 2, Green
Bay, Wis.
YOST, Raymond C., T/4, 7407 Brookwood Rd.,
Baltimore, Md.
DORFMAN, Arthur, Cpl., 107 Christopher St., New
York, N. Y.
GRAVELY, Walter, Cpl., Bricelyn, Minn.

Third Row:

WALLACE, Donald R., Cpl., Route 2, Wheelersburg,
Ohio.
BAYNES, Charlie, T/5, 224 Baugh St., Dan-
ville, Va.
EICHINGER, Robert L., T/5, Route 1, Brussels,
Wis.
EIDSON, Lamar W., T/5, Route 2, Ridge
Spring, S. C.
HOFFMAN, Edward J., T/5, 1555 Pullan Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.
KIMBLE, David R., T/5, Coalfork, W. Va.

Fourth Row:

MEYER, Charles G., T/5, Box 192, Florence, S. D.
PAYNE, Joe S., T/5, 681 2nd South St., Morris-
town, Tenn.
RINEHART, Cecil E., T/5, Route 2, Galion, Ohio.
TURBERVILLE, Malcolm R., Box 154, Chero-
kee, Ala.
WANDER, Carrol A., T/5, Hartwick, Iowa.
NELSON, Donald H., Pfc., 4524 17th Ave. So.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Fifth Row:

ZALESIAK, Sylvester S., Pfc., 5013 W. 29th Pl.,
Cicero, Ill.
TALLENT, Cecil, Pvt., 2003 N. Broad St.,
Rome, Ga.
KASTELIC, Gene E., Pvt., 819 No. 15th St.,
Milwaukee, Wis.
BURROUGHS, Oren L., Pvt., Harlem, Ga.



LOWELL M. DENNIS
Captain
Battalion Motor Officer



WILLIAM J. BARTHOLOMEW
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



MAX G. ALLEN
Second Lieutenant
Motor Officer



DELMAR R. CLARK
Warrant Officer (JG)
Battalion Motor Transport
Officer

S E R V I C E B A T T E R Y

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

First Row:

SMITH, Harry T., 1/Sgt., 647 Maury Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
JOHNSON, Robert W., T/Sgt., 380 Woodstock Ave., Stratford, Conn.
ANDERSON, Elmo, S/Sgt., 135 College St., Idaho Falls, Idaho.
CERONI, Joe, S/Sgt.

Second Row:

LUCAS, William J., S/Sgt., 437 Midland St., Bridgeport, Conn.
FRIDY, John L., Sgt., Winnsboro, S. C.
HAMOUZ, Joseph, Sgt., 2529 So. Grove Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
HUGGINS, B., Sgt., Route 1, Lithia, Fla.
LEGGETT, William R., Sgt., 217 Washington St., St. Albans W. Va.
MILLER, Theodore E., Sgt., Geff, Ill.

Third Row:

OLSON, Kenneth, Sgt., Hermosa, S. D.
WISBY, Harold A., Sgt., Plevna, Kans.
BISHOP, Fred A., Route 1, Eubank, Ky.
DUTTON, Clifford D., T/4, 12011 Wilshire Ave., Detroit, Mich.
RHEINSHELD, Floyd D., T/4, 496 E. 2nd St., Logan, Ohio.
BAKER, Joe F., Cpl., Maryville, Tenn.

Fourth Row:

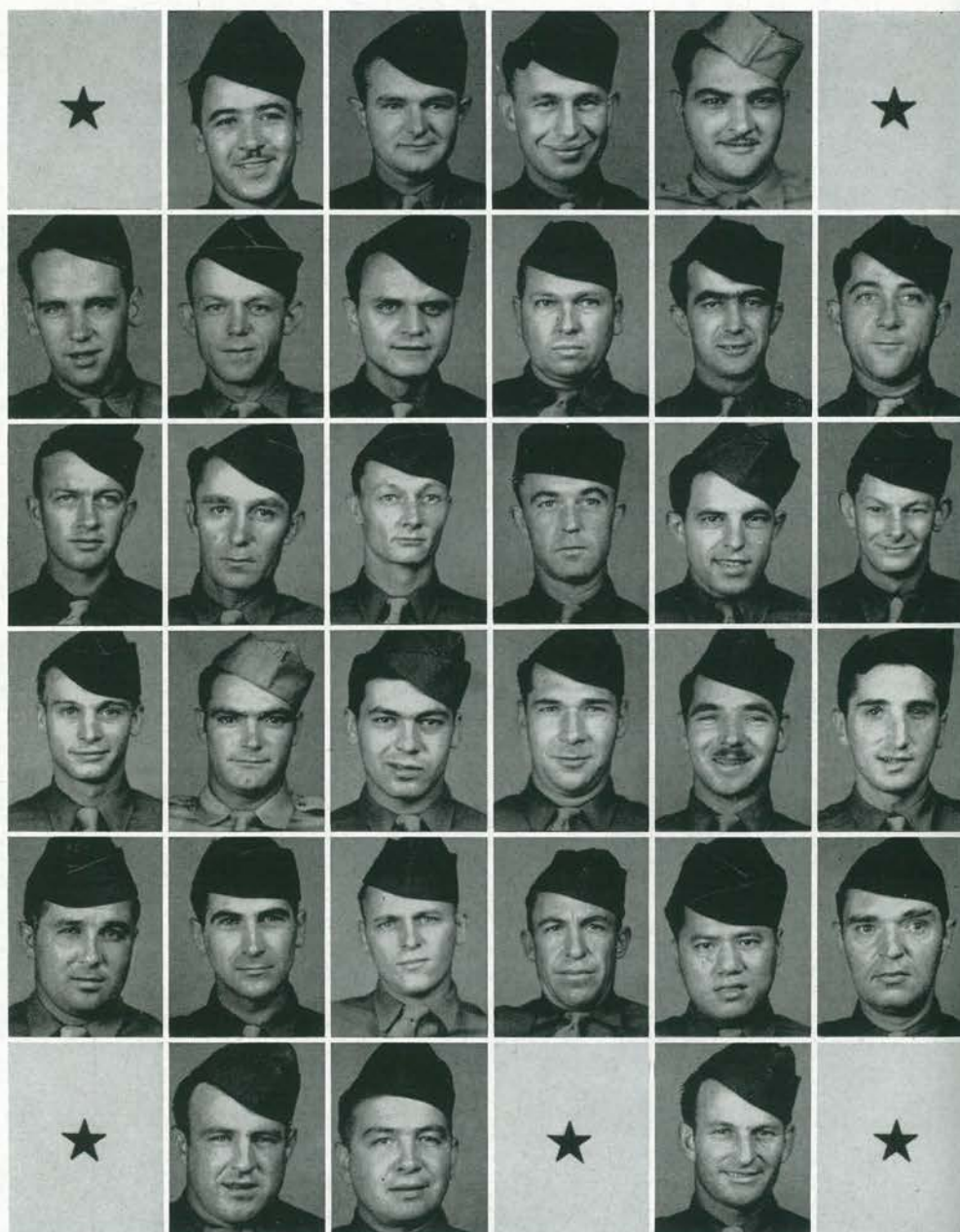
BREWER, Frank, Cpl., Box 404, Grundy, Va.
HICKS, Rex O., Cpl., Box 24, Stafford Kans.
JOHNS, Thomas K., Cpl., Box 423, Republic, Pa.
KAUFFMAN, Walter F., Cpl., 1228 S. 49th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
KIMBALL, Charles T., Cpl., 1922 Baird St., Port Huron, Mich.
SASSONE, James J., Cpl., 954 Jay St., Rochester, N. Y.

Fifth Row:

EALEY, John T., T/5, Springfield, Ill.
KILBY, Thomas R., T/5, 214 Washington St., Warrenton, Va.
DUNCAN, Bob S., Pfc., 7101 Rhodes Ave., Chicago, Ill.
FAILE, Archie, Pfc., Route 3, Kershaw, S. C.
JING, George, Pfc., 1848 Harvey Ave., Fresno Calif.
THOMAS, Kolon P., Pfc., 912 N. Richmond, St., Chicago, Ill.

Sixth Row:

McCURDY, William E., Pvt., Fort Payne, Ala.
KUBIRA, Joe, Pvt., 452 3rd St., Donora, Pa.
CALDERWOOD, Albert E., Pvt., 8511 Victory Rd., LaMesa, Calif.





RICHARD O. PALLIN
Captain
Commanding Officer



WILLIAM G. ROSS
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer



B A T T E R Y A

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



First Row:

BERENSTEIN, Louis, S/Sgt., 1629 Lawrence St., Denver, Colo.
SHANE, Carl, S/Sgt., Route 2, St. Paris, Ohio.
CUTSHALL, Chester L., Sgt., 1039 North 9th St., Payette Idaho.
ENGLISH, John R., Sgt., Box 164, Monroe, N. C.
FERRETTE, Roy JJ., Jr., Sgt., 410 Repton Rd., Riverside, Ill.
MILLER, Harry L., Sgt., New Haven, W. Va.



Second Row:

SMITH, Emmett G., Sgt., 869 11th Ave. Ext., Muncie, Pa.
SUGGS, Alton L., Sgt., Route 1, Conway, S. C.
DENNIS, William A., T/4, Box 162, Sutter City, Calif.
HOWE, Carl E., T/4, 102 Scruggs Ave., Spartanburg, S. C.
TIMBERLAKE, John L., T/4, 2625 Floyd Ave., Richmond, Va.
FAUBEL, Arthur J., Cpl., 66159 Dawning Dr., Cleveland, Ohio.



Third Row:

HURST, Robert, Cpl., 232 Center St., Hobart, Ind.
KENNEDY, Vincent D., Cpl., Belle Fourche, S. D.
ADAMS, Claude L., T/5, B'andville, W. Va.
CROCKETT, Carl W., T/5, 118 Dudley St., Bucyrus, Ohio.
FAIRCLOTH, Joseph, Jr., T/5, 301 West "J" St., Erwin, N. C.
FRANCO, Michael, T/5, 257 S. Maple Ave., Oak Park, Ill.



Fourth Row:

USRY, Lewis A., T/5, Route 3, Augusta, Ga.
GUILIANO, Vincent, Pfc., 443 Locust St., Mount Vernon, N. Y.
GRANDA, Louis A., Pfc., 319 West Chandler St., Macomb, Ill.
HENSLEY, Albert B., Pfc., 20-C Pulaski Ave., Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.
MONROE, J. son C., Pfc., Route 1, Greenville, Va.
MYLES, Nicholas J., Pfc., Newark Valley, N. Y.



Fifth Row:

SCANTLIN, Stuart M., Pfc., 540 Tecoma Pl., Knoxville, Tenn.
SUCH, Emil, Pvt., Paint Lick, Ky.
JOHNSON, William E., Pvt., Box 263, Oak Hill, W. Va.
JENKINS, Herschel, Pvt., Naples, Tex.



FRANCIS J. BELL
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer

B A T T E R Y B

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

First Row:

REED, Seugas H., 1/Sgt., 307 Clinton Ave., Kingston, N. Y.
CAVENDER, Bernard V., S/Sgt., 420 W. 35th St., Norfolk, Va.
GIROUX, Arthur L., S/Sgt., 1405 W. 2nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.
COOK, Vance E., Sgt., Box 90, Englewood, Kans.
HEPPLER, Joseph T., Sgt., 1517 Summer St., Philadelphia, Pa.
KING, Forrest W., Sgt., 946 East Berry St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

Second Row:

MASTNY, Johnny F., Sgt., Clarkson, Nebr.
POGUE, Edward L., Sgt., North Madison, Ind.
SOWERS, Charles F., Sgt., 604 Sullivan St., Thomasville, N. C.
TAYLOR, William H., Sgt., Route 2, Darlington, S. C.
VITELLI, Aldo, T/4, 251 E. 21st St., Chicago Heights, Ill.
COSTOLO, Walter F., Cpl., Box 444-A, Uniontown, Pa.

Third Row:

HADDON, Rubin M., Cpl., Spartanburg, S. C.
HERTZOG, John W., Cpl., Lee's Summit, Mo.
MARSHALL, William H., Cpl., 203 Woodland St., Springfield, Tenn.
ROBINETTE, Raven, Cpl., McComas, W. Va.
FOX, Elonzom, T/5, Summers St., Hinton, W. Va.
MINNIEAR, Carl E., T/5, 1734 E. 3rd St., Dayton, Ohio.

Fourth Row:

POTTER, Russell M., T/5, Concord, Tenn.
YOUNG, Harold A., T/5, 1277 H. W. E., Galion, Ohio.
ST. ANGEL, Charles, Pfc., 211½ S. Winnebago St., Rockford, Ill.
BRUEN, Norman J., Pfc., 95 Sylvester Ave., Winchester, Mass.
CALLANDER, Earl V., Pfc., 108 7th St., Balboa Beach, Calif.
CIK, John, Pfc., 1507 W. Walton St., Chicago, Ill.

Fifth Row:

DeDIE, Clarence W., Pfc., Route 1, Plainwell, Mich.
FOSTER, Martin, Pfc., 2005 W. Philadelphia, Detroit, Mich.
GRAEFE, Ralph E., Pfc., 48 Jackson St., Staten Island, New York, N. Y.
GRAVES, Harold N., Pfc., 2711 10th St., Meridian, Miss.
GROVE, David E., Pfc., 153 S. Pine St., York, Pa.
KELLEY, William L., Pfc.

Sixth Row:

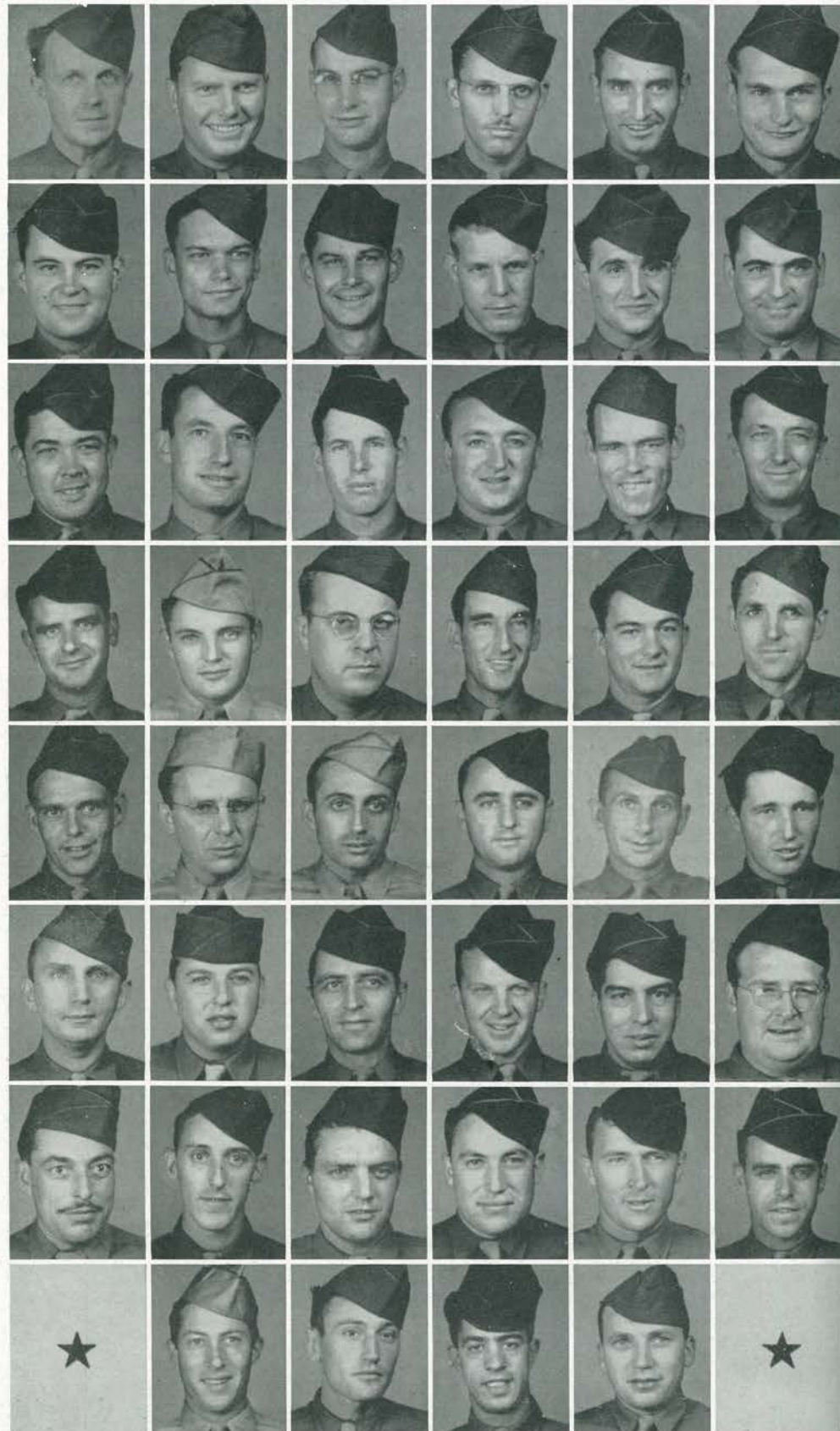
KORPOLEWSKI, George, Pfc., 2325 N. Mulligan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
KREKE, Richard N., Pfc., 703 John St., Evansville, Ind.
LAWSON, Norman E., Pfc., California, Mo.
LIGHTFOOT, Robert C., Pfc., 115 Madison Ave. S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
LUCERO, John R., Pfc., 2831 Arapahoe St., Denver, Colo.
MATTHUSEN, Frank F., Pfc., 1707 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Seventh Row:

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PENNINGTON, William E., Pfc., 1013 13th St., Ashland, Ky.
ROGERS, Charles, Pfc., 427 North 6th St., Steubenville, Ohio.
SEELEY, Clair M., Pfc., Mt. Pleasant, Utah.
SMITH, John A., Pfc., Route 1, Macon, Ill.
SULLIVAN, Martin W., Pfc., 6625 S. Sacramento, Chicago, Ill.

Eighth Row:

HURST, Roy L., Pfc., Sevierville, Tenn.
USERY, John T., Pfc., Bradford, Tenn.
VERGNOLA, Dino, Pfc., 161 Chestnut St., Muse, Pa.
WOJDAK, Frank, Pfc., 2833 E. Ann St., Philadelphia, Pa.





REX D. FOGARTY
Captain
Commanding Officer

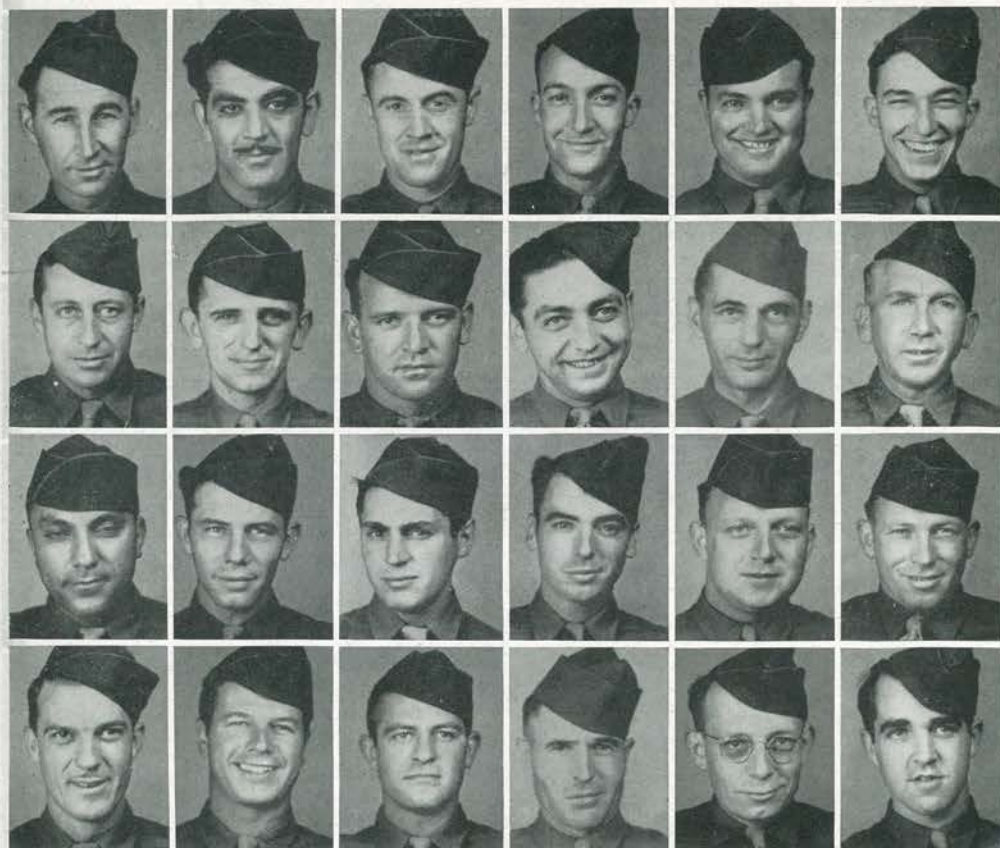


DONALD R. YOUNG
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer



B A T T E R Y C

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



First Row:

PARZICH, Stanley J., 1/Sgt., 661 Main St., W. Springfield, Mass.
FERRIS, Fred T., S/Sgt., 200 Madison St., Aliquippa, Pa.
MITCHELL, William J., S/Sgt., 5741 S. Honore St., Chicago, Ill.
RICHARDSON, Jack, S/Sgt., 7615 Cregier Ave., Chicago, Ill.
BARFIELD, William Earl, Sgt., Route 1, La-Grange, N. C.
DAVIS, Sam H., Sgt., Fork Mountain, Tenn.

Second Row:

DUNHAM, T. W., Sgt., Route 2, Lawrence, Mich.
HILL, Connie, Sgt., 30 Dallas St., Worcester, Mass.
KOCHEVAR, Frank A., Sgt., 109 N. 6th St., Tooele, Utah.
KOVAR, J. W., Sgt., 4016 S. 38th St., Omaha, Nebr.
LISOWSKI, Frank A., Sgt., 2608 Evergreen Ave., Chicago, Ill.
MILOS, John F., Sgt., 47 Union St., Holyoke, Mass.

Third Row:

PAGE, James C., Sgt., Lester Manor, Va.
SNYDER, Jack, Sgt., 1117 Marion St., Knoxville, Tenn.
DAMBROSIO, J. John, T/4, 1118 S. California Ave., Chicago, Ill.
VIRGIN, Glenn E., T/4, Waverly, Ohio.
ALTMAN, Mayo, Cpl., Johnsonville, S. C.
CLEMENTS, Alvin F., Cpl., 1107 W. 4th South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Fourth Row:

DORSEY, Forest L., T/5, Fowler Knob, W. Va.
GOETTEL, George A., Cpl., 1422 Lexington Rd., Louisville, Ky.
HARRIS, John H., Cpl., 509 S. W. 47th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
HARRISON, Frank K., Cpl., Route 1, Box 1A, Quincy, Calif.
LAMEY, William L., Jr., Cpl., 5924 Forest Glenn Ave., Chicago, Ill.
OPPLIGER, Robert E., Cpl., 15302 Arden Ave., Lakewood, Ohio.

B A T T E R Y C

First Row:

PACKETT, William C., Cpl., 1110 Wright St., Sweetwater, Tenn.
ROSS, E. R., Cpl., Pebworth, Ky.
SCHAEFFER, William F., Cpl., Route 2, Nokesville, Va.
WHITEHEAD, Ralph, Cpl., 600 Yankee Rd., Midletown, Ohio.
WHITMAN, Obiel, Cpl., 306 E. 9th St., Columbia, Tenn.
WOFFORD, Lloyd C., Cpl., Route 1, Pauline, S. C.

Second Row:

BREWER, Forrest C., T/5, 1071 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, Ohio.
EMMONS, Cecil B., T/5, 240 Winchester, Paris, Ky.
LOVETT, Paul C., T/5, Box 27, Hurricane, W. Va.
BALLARD, Russell J., Pfc., 1134 Crescent St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
BATSELL, William R., Pfc., 1220 Elizabeth St., Brownsville, Tex.
BRUMLEY, Brodie L., Pfc., 314 Sweetser Ave., Evansville, Ind.

Third Row:

CORMELL, Edward W., Pfc., 614 Morrill Ave., S. E., Roanoke, Va.
EARL, George, Pfc., 1611 5th Ave., Watervliet, N. Y.
FARRELL, Francis J., Pfc., 2532 University Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
FOLKERTS, Marvin L., Pfc., 9836 N. Syracuse St., Portland, Ore.
GAMBLE, John J., Pfc., Route 2, Jasonville, Ind.
GISMONDI, John J., Pfc., 2645 E. 93rd St., Chicago, Ill.

Fourth Row:

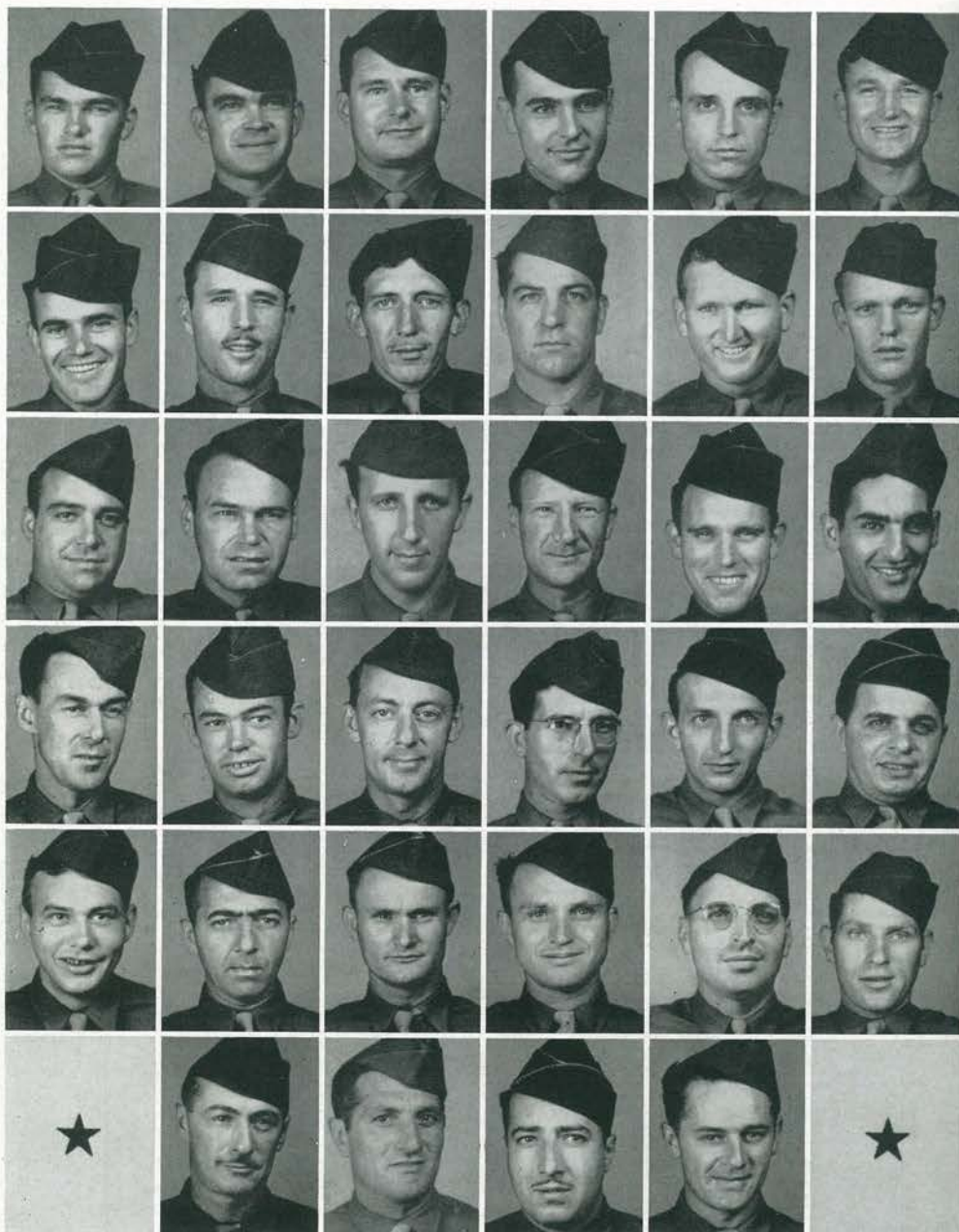
HEIMERL, Lester J., Pfc., Rubicon, Wis.
HELMS, Reece, Pfc., Mt. Holy, N. C.
HOAG, Lewis, Pfc., 1720 Belfield Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
KENNEDY, George W., Pfc., 952 E. Main St., Ottawa, Ill.
KOCHMAN, Michael H., Pfc., 44 Perrine St., Auburn, N. Y.
KOONS, Joseph, Pfc., 1024 Second St., Catasauqua, Pa.

Fifth Row:

OHLENDORF, Edwin, Pfc., 28 E. Herman St., Crete, Ill.
PROCTA, Joseph F., Pfc., 36 Maple St., Gloversville, N. Y.
QUILLIN, Milton C., Pfc., Route 1, Hornbeak, Tenn.
RANDALL, Charles A., Pfc., 2601 Main St., Keokuk, Iowa.
RIECK, William E., Pfc., 1907 N. 24th St., Boise, Idaho.
SPECHT, Joseph L., Pfc., 2717 Price Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sixth Row:

STACEY, George E., Pfc., 835 N. W. 17th Ave., Portland, Ore.
VENDETTI, Frank J., Pfc., 1618 Marth St., Omaha, Nebr.
ZANKI, Joseph A., Pfc., 686 4th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
GREGORY, Harold, Pvt., 815 Pleasant St., Petoskey, Mich.



M E D I C A L D E T A C H M E N T

497TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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MONTICONE, George, Cpl., 519 Josephine St., McKeesport, Pa.
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ALESSI, Joe, Pfc., 1909 Orchard St., Chicago, Ill.
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PELLETIER, Louis, Pfc., 260 Washington St., Salem, Mass.



SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION



MARTIN, Glenn B., T/Sgt., 214 Rose St., Little Rock, Ark.
LaCHETTE, Francis, Pfc., 1510 Honen St., Chester, Pa.





HEADQUARTERS
ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

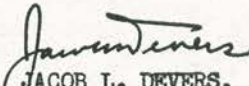
TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division

Modern warfare has made necessary the introduction of new units and new techniques to ensure victory in battle. The 13th Armored Division, activated at Camp Beale, California, on 15 October 1942 as a result of the need for armored units, proved in training and in combat the adaptability and genius of the American soldier in all methods of warfare.

Since the time when I was Commanding General of the Armored Force, I have followed the career of the Black Cat Division with interest and pride. After the completion of training, much of which you did at Camp Bowie, Texas, you arrived overseas early in 1945, and your tankers quickly earned for themselves the respect of the enemy. Joining the Third Army, you participated brilliantly in the final drive across the Danube River deep into Southern Germany. Your officers and men, despite their comparatively brief period in battle, fought with boldness, bravery and skill, winning a firm place in the heritage of our country.

Those of the 13th Armored who find themselves in new tasks, now that the division is being inactivated, will continue to serve their country, I know, with enthusiasm and steadfastness, until our military strength can safely be reduced.

The men in the 13th Armored Division will be forever included among the heroes of our country, and it is for me a proud occasion to be able to commend you most heartily, in the name of all Americans, for your gallant service in defense of freedom.


JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, USA,
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY



COLONEL ALFRED KASTNER
Commanding



JOHN F. SMOLLER
Lieutenant Colonel
Executive Officer



MAX A. MORRIS
Major
S-1, S-4



JOHN E. ANGST
Major
S-2



WALTER F. THOMAS
Major
S-3



HEINZ P. RAND
Captain
Assistant S-2



RAYMOND W. CRIPPS, JR.
Captain
Commanding Officer
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery and 497th



ROBERT A. NEILSON
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer and
Communications Officer,
Headquarters Battery
Division Artillery



THOMAS I. WHELAN
Second Lieutenant
Artillery Air Observer



JOHN B. MORGAN
WO(jg)
Motor Officer
Headquarters Battery

A HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS, DIVISION ARTILLERY

Housing conditions, wives, cancelled maneuvers, reorganization, both California and Texas foxholes, firing tests—World War II was fought at home and almost won abroad before the Artillerymen of the 13th Armored Division went overseas.

What has now become history started to weave itself into a story at Camp Beale, California, on the 15th day of October, 1942, when Division Artillery Headquarters was created and assigned to the forward echelon of Division Headquarters. At that time an appointment was made which was to stick through all the other changes incident to the growth and development of the 13th Armored Division Artillery: Col. Alfred E. Kastner became Artillery Officer.

The responsibility for directing and supervising the training of all the artillery within the Division was assigned to Division Artillery and included not only the artillery battalions but the tanks and assault guns in their general support functions. Despite the work entailed by this assignment, everything in artillery headquarters was blissful until August—no guard, no duty officer, no charge of quarters and no participation in the alerts of the West Coast Defense Command. All these were the lot of the battalions. We were a part of Division. This all led to loud complaints over the debut of Black Cat Headquarters into the realm of soldiering when it ventured out early in August for a week-end CPX. Tear gas and K rations were tried for the first time and each had its expected effect.

Then came a deluge of combat firing exercises and artillery shoots. Tank support problems and infantry support problems were run concurrently in all sectors of the Camp Beale reservation—with Lone Tree Hill alone common to them all.

October 15, 1943, marked a year of training and brought indications of maneuvers to come. The Division prepared for movement to Oregon, but a last minute cancellation turned the Division "Farewell Party" into a "Not Going Away" affair. Massed-fire training continued and midway through November Division Artillery conducted Practice Test No. 3 in the Waldo, Spenceville, Lone Tree Hill area.

Then "California's Own" left home. The change of station to Camp Bowie, Texas, came early in December,

and we arrived in the Lone Star State in time for Christmas and the inevitable ITP tests.

In preparation for ITP tests, basic training was begun anew on a seven day week basis, and everyone had gas mask drill, basic medical and small arms instruction, physical fitness training, and military courtesy lessons right up to "H" hour. This was followed by the never to be forgotten "snow problem," which occurred, fortunately, before anyone dreamed of trenchfoot.

In due time the Division's big day arrived. It was to rough it at last. A real field exercise was to comprise the final phase of Division training; the "D" Series lasted four weeks, after which the salt spray in the air seemed so real that wives and children were moved back home, terminal leaves were rushed through on special orders, and the local realtors began looking for new clients. The Cats were hot.

September brought the beginning of intensified and uninterrupted inspections and rumors of Louisiana maneuvers. We took to the field continuously, exploiting breakthroughs and attacking fortified areas until the grease pencils gave out. Back in garrison the paper shortage was becoming acute; so everyone turned to packing and crating, uncrating and repacking. No one would believe that plans to proceed to an east coast POE would not be changed, but somehow or other everyone got on trains and the mass of equipment on each man's back impressed him personally that these orders were not to be retracted.

Kilmer was a pleasant spot, liberal in its pass policy and ready to assist transient troops wherever possible. The stay there was all too short, for the *Marine Dragon*, anxious to push off from her Brooklyn pier on a maiden voyage that was to leave far behind our "fruited plains and amber waves of grain," had a date with a convoy. The second day out we joined another convoy down from Boston and found that among its ships was the British battleship H.M.S. *Nelson*. From then on "Forever Amber," "The Canary Murder Case," "The Dragon's Whistle," Fuller Warren's "Now Hear This," and a talented GI stage show were the only distractions to keep men from their favorite topic, "How far are the Russians from Berlin?"

On January 28th the "Marine Dragon" rounded the Isle of Wright and dropped anchor at nightfall off England's

shores. Around midnight we started across the channel with a full moon and an unannounced escort of naval protection, headed straight for the lion's mouth. The Navy saw us through all right; the beautiful port of Le Havre—twisted steel, broken stone and silent desolation—met the eyes of a serious group of soldiers on the cold overcast morning of January 29, 1945. We were not quite prepared for the acres of destruction before us. This should never happen again!!!

That night the advance party led us through the icy cold of a bitter snow-storm to our billets in St. Foy, Normandy, and by arrival time in the wee hours of the morning a shivering Headquarters Battery was ready to believe Master Sergeant (now 2nd Lt.) Whelan when he climbed on a bale of hay outside a bleak chateau and said, "Things are tough in the E.T.O." The men weren't long in naming their new abode: "Chateau de Mud."

Attempts at the French lingo, introductions to the wine shortage via Calvados, Cognac and vinegar-gone-to-war, visits to Dieppe, local dances, news broadcasts and good food were second only to the daily mail in their assistance in tiding men over from one day's work to the next. Finally the vehicles were in shape, and everything was unpacked and serviceable again. The Cats were ready!

So was higher headquarters! Seventh Army assigned Division Artillery and its component battalions under the designation of GROUP KASTNER to VI Corps Artillery Headquarters. Group Kastner was given the mission of general support of the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions near Saarbrücken, Germany, and on March 19 moved to positions around Etzling, France. On the next day displacement was made to Ommersheim, Germany, the Siegfried Line was broken and the Allies raced to the Rhine unopposed. On March 22, having accomplished its mission, Group Kastner returned to the 13th Armored Division, now in the vicinity of Moyenvic, France.

For a while Division Artillery's mission was far removed from the din of battle. Figuratively donning M.P. brassards, it fell our lot to set up policing operations on the north side of the Moselle River at Trier in a great hospital, complete with running water and individual rooms with view. It was too good to last. It didn't. Patton had the 13th now. Everyone hung onto his hat as we took off for the front lines, crossed the Rhine at St. Goar and, despite a shortage of replacements for shredded bogie wheels, continued to assembly areas near Mosheim. Last minute plans to head toward Leipzig and meet the Russians were formed and reformed; Division patches put on and taken off again; vehicles loaded and radios tuned up—nothing

could stop us now. So with a 150-mile about face we returned to Horhausen, just south of the Ruhr pocket, where we joined the XVIII Corps (Airborne) as part of the First Army. Stieldorf was the first of a series of cellar command posts occupied by Division Artillery Headquarters. There, prior to the commitment of the 13th Armored Division as a whole, Division Artillery received the mission of reinforcing the 97th Infantry Division Artillery, commencing with the crossing of the Sieg River at Siegburg on April 11. Speeding northward next day to Romaney, we occupied a command post in a large Gasthaus, received a welcome of Heinie time fire, and departing for Dunnwald, were showered with Allied propaganda leaflets. At Dunnwald only 500 yards from the advance elements we again moved into a cellar and concentrated on a creation of war memorials. On April 15 we occupied Dunnfeld, and successively established command posts at Ohligs and Gruiten, concluding the Ruhr operation northwest of Wulfrath on April 18th.

Following the Division's return to the Third Army, Division Artillery was ordered to the south and closed in at Schweig, on the 22nd of April. We crossed the Danube near Regensburg on the 28th and established headquarters at Thalmassing. The next morning we moved to the Isar River and thence across it at Plattling. In early May Division Artillery moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Simbach on the Inn River across from Hitler's birthplace at Braunau, Austria.

Throughout the last operation Division Artillery functioned under XX Corps and was assisted by Colonel Bernard Thimer's 5th Artillery Group consisting of Group Headquarters and three battalions: the 177th, 943d, with 105 howitzers, and the 274th, a 105 SP outfit. The 943d Field Artillery Battalion worked directly under Division Artillery control throughout the operation, while the other battalions supported either CCB, CCR, or both, depending upon the organization employed for combat.

After the welcome news of VE Day, comfortable quarters, bumper markings and haircuts were the order of the day. The pleasant hours at Simbach on Inn from May 8 to June 25 will long remain in the memory of Division Artillery, for everyone enjoyed the natural beauties of Bavaria.

Today at Camp Cooke, California, the history of the 13th Armored Division closes with each artilleryman anticipating his return to civilian life. However, thankful that V-J Day interrupted War Department plans to combat land the 13th on LSTs headed for the invasion of the Japanese mainland, each can recollect the part he played with pride. The job has been well done.

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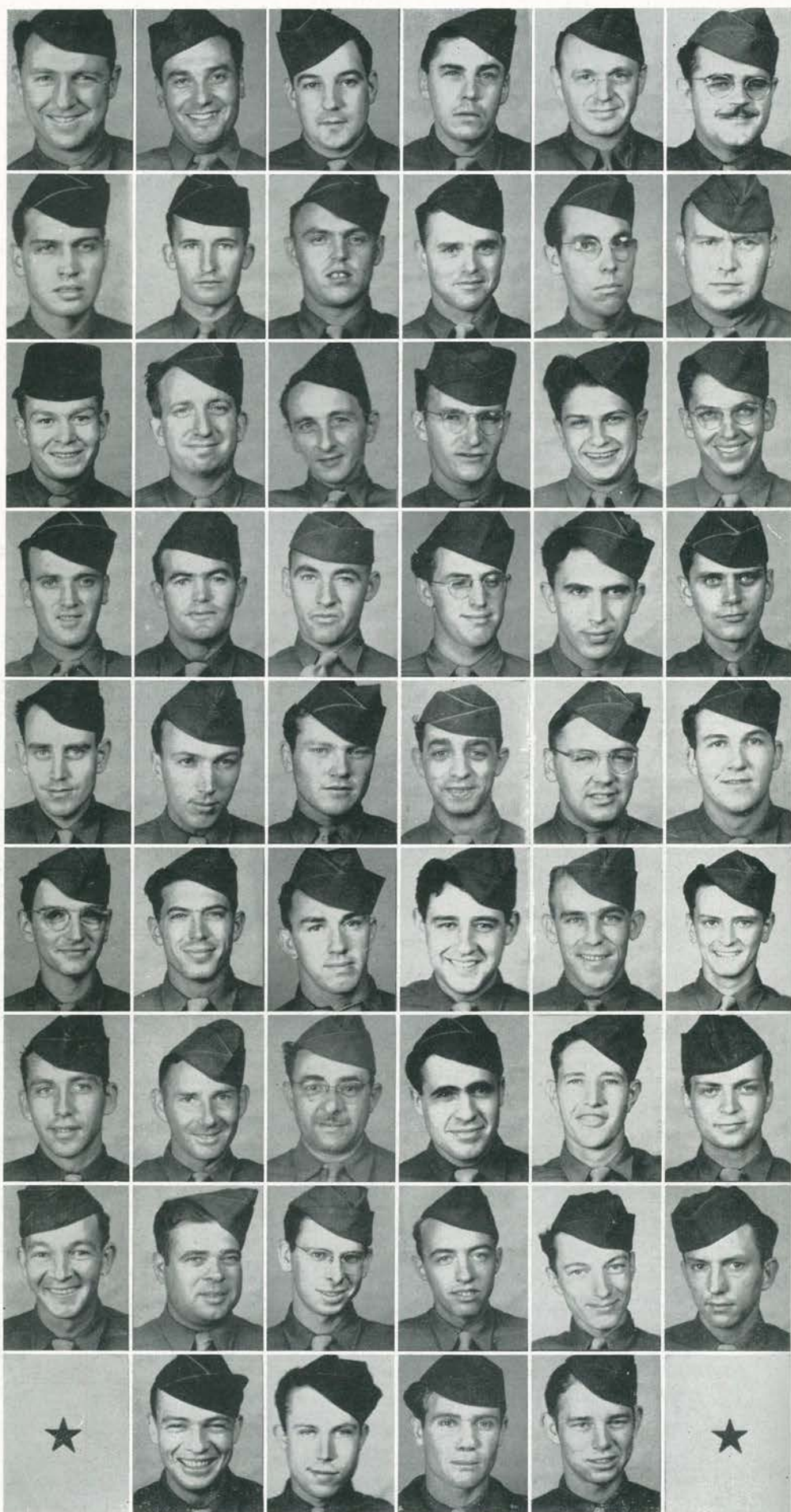
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ZAREMBA, Joseph, Pfc., Clipper, Wash.
FARLEY, Frank B., Pvt., Chatham, Ill.

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YOHE, Delton S., Pvt., Burrton, Kans.





THE 498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



LT. COL. WILLIAM S. RICHARDS

Commanding

B A T T A L I O N S T A F F



WILLIAM W. GLENNY
Major
Executive Officer



EDWARD C. ROSE, JR.
Major
Battalion S-3



FRANK F. FATA
Captain
Liaison Officer



DAN A. MCKENZIE
Captain
I. and E. Officer

ROBERT R. SCOTT
Captain
Battalion Surgeon



EDWARD J. SEKAN
Captain
S-4



JAMES E. ALVATOR
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot



IAN R. W. CHISHOLM
First Lieutenant
Adjutant

JAY TSCHUDY, JR.
Captain
Assistant S-3



THOMAS R. GROSS
First Lieutenant
Communications Officer



JOE P. HUGHES
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance and
Survey Officer



JAMES R. SLOANE
First Lieutenant
S-2



JOHN A. WYCKOFF
First Lieutenant
Liaison Pilot

A. Z. WEST
Warrant Officer
Battalion Personnel

HISTORY OF THE 498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The 498th Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the 13th Armored Division terminated over two years training in California and Texas with its departure on the 3rd of January, 1945, for Camp Kilmer, N. J. From there, after ten days of training and processing as well as passes to New York, the battalion went by train on the snowy morning of January 17 to the New York Port of Embarkation at Brooklyn, where they loaded on the USS *Mormacmoon*.

The voyage across the Atlantic was relatively quiet for the wartime winter months. Once a storm was encountered and twice there were submarine alerts. Just before reaching England, destroyer escorts dropped several depth charges between the *Mormacmoon* and the adjacent British battleship *Nelson*.

On 29 January, the *Mormacmoon* sailed into the battered port of LeHavre, France. The next day the battalion debarked, marched through the city, and entrained in Forty and Eight box cars for the brutal all night trip to the billeting area.

For six weeks the battalion readied itself for combat by modifying vehicles, drawing ammunition and equipment, and putting the final touches on training. This life of comparative ease was ended on March 16 when the battalion set off on the first leg of the trip to the battle front. The march carried them through Soissons, Vitry le Francois and Nancy to Bathelmont, France in the rear assembly area of the Division.

On the morning of 19 March, the battalions of Division Artillery moved to firing positions near Alsting, France. The 498th was attached to the 93d Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the Seventh Army, with the mission of supporting the 63d and 70th Infantry Divisions in their assaults on Saarbrücken. The battalion fired harassing and interdiction fire all night, and by noon of the 20th, fire slackened off as the infantry moved into the ruined city.

On 25 March, the battalion, back with the Division, was on the road to Germany, this time on a mission of aiding military government around Homberg. Here the officers and men had the experience—later to become a common practice—of dispossessing Germans of their homes. Setting up civil controls, rounding up German soldiers, Nazis, and displaced persons, kept the battalion busy until 1 April.

On the rainy midnight of 5 April, the battalion, as part of the Division, rumbled out of Trier and headed east with the mission of relieving the 4th Armored Division at the front. The Rhine River was crossed on a pontoon bridge at St. Goar. Finally, after traveling 221 miles, the battalion closed in the little town of Ostheim near Alsfeld. On the afternoon of April 8, a march order was given and the battalion moved to firing positions near Rott in the Ruhr. The Division was now part of the First Army. The guns of the battalion supported the 97th Infantry Division's bridging of the Sieg River near Hennef.

As soon as the bridgehead was secured, Combat Command A of the 13th went into the attack with the 498th in direct support. Soon the leading elements of the Combat Command pulled out of range of their organic artillery. However, late on 10 April, the 498th was finally able to cross the one way pontoon bridge over the Sieg River to Kaldauen and by noon of the 11th had moved up to the hot spot of Lohmar on the Autobahn. The battalion fired all night out of Lohmar on the enemy positions. The Germans returned the fire and laid in everything they had upon the firing positions.

Still in direct support of CCA, the battalion left Lohmar on 12 April and proceeded to Altenrath where it stayed until the next noon before displacing to Rosrath-Hack where some shell fire was received. The next day the battalion advanced to Forsbach. The only fire received here was against the observers, both ground and aerial. On April 14, the 498th advanced to Harkenrath and left the same day for

Mulheim, on the east bank of the Rhine River, opposite the much bombed cathedral city of Cologne.

On the afternoon of 15 April, the battalion displaced forward to Burriger, near Leverkusen. From here the battalion guns fired all night despite heavy enemy shelling which harassed the batteries for hours. At dawn, a battalion observation plane spotted an 88 battery and it was knocked out within 15 minutes.

Around noon, the 498th marched 18 miles to Hilden and went into firing position in an open field. Battery A had been in position north of Hilden under direct observation of the enemy, but it had to pull back when the shelling became too heavy. Making use of aerial photographs to spot the enemy positions, the guns fired throughout the night, many of the rounds with radio controlled fuse. The next day the German prisoners attested to the destructiveness of the fire by reporting that their casualties had been very heavy.

When all resistance ceased in the Ruhr, the battalion marched to Peckhaus, near Mettmann. On the 19th of April, the battalion moved 65 miles to Waldbrol and vicinity and recuperation and maintenance of weapons and vehicles. On the night of the 20th, it again hit the road for a 119-mile march to a bivouac area. After an eight hour rest, it moved on and during the night the column was bombed by German planes, and after traveling 279 miles in 41 hours closed into Heroldsberg.

Shortly after midnight on 26 April the battalion, still in direct support of CCA, left Heroldsberg to march 50 miles to the forward assembly area in the little Bavarian village of Mausheim. The 498th moved out the next day though rains had turned the roads into all but impassable sloughs of mud. On 28 April, they crossed the Danube River on a pontoon bridge near Lohstadt and proceeded to Gebelkofen. The next morning the battalion drove on the Isar River to find all bridges blown. From Einack, and Unter-Knollenbach the batteries fired across the river at enemy troop concentrations and gun positions. Battery A advanced several thousand yards into Worth on the river, but was shelled so heavily that it was forced to withdraw. Many Allied Prisoners of War were liberated in this area.

Unable to cross the river here, the battalion pulled out early on the morning of the 30th and marched 40 miles to the vicinity of Plattling. Shortly after midnight on 1 May, still with CCA, it crossed the Isar on a pontoon bridge and dashed 60 miles to Stubenberg several miles short of the Inn River. From positions here the battalion 105s delivered accurate observed fire on targets in and around Braunau, Austria, Hitler's birthplace. On May 2 more missions—the last of the war for the 498th—were fired on antiaircraft batteries and troop concentrations reported to be elements of the 6th SS Panzer Division.

On 3 May, the war was just about over for the 13th. The period from 3 May until 25 June was spent in the area east of Simbach, Germany, in military government work—searching houses, apprehending enemy prisoners, enforcing the laws—maintenance of weapons and vehicles, trips to Berchtesgaden and rest camps, and sports activities.

On 25 and 26 June, the battalion left their German billets for Camp Atlanta, France, A and B batteries traveling by train and the rest by motor convoy. Here it was staged for indirect redeployment to the Pacific. After staying at Camp Atlanta from 27 June until 9 July, the battalion departed by rail for Camp Old Gold in Normandy. Leaving Old Gold on 13 July, all batteries traveled by truck to Le Havre and boarded the USS *General McRae*, a Navy transport. After a ten-day voyage, the men of the 498th landed in the United States. Following thirty day recuperation furloughs, the men of the battalion reassembled at their new station, Camp Cooke, California, early in September, 1945.

As their commander, Lt. Col. W. S. Richards, told them before they left Germany, the men of the 498th Armored Field Artillery Battalion could look back on their days of combat with pride in a job well done. From the observer parties, firing batteries, fire direction center, to the supply and maintenance sections of Service Battery, the Battalion functioned well and was instrumental in defeating the armies of Germany. It can be said that the words of the motto on the coat of arms of the Golden Griffins, *Celeritas et Virtus* (Speed and Valor), epitomize the combat career of the battalion.



ALEXANDER EDWARDS
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer



VINCENT ELLIS
Second Lieutenant
Air Observer



DONALD M. SEARLE
Second Lieutenant
Air Observer



VIRGIL H. WILLIAMS
Second Lieutenant
Forward Observer



RAY F. LIVINGSTON
First Lieutenant
Forward Observer

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



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HARDY, Paul H., T/4, Star Rt., Sellersville, Pa.



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HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

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SIXTH ROW:

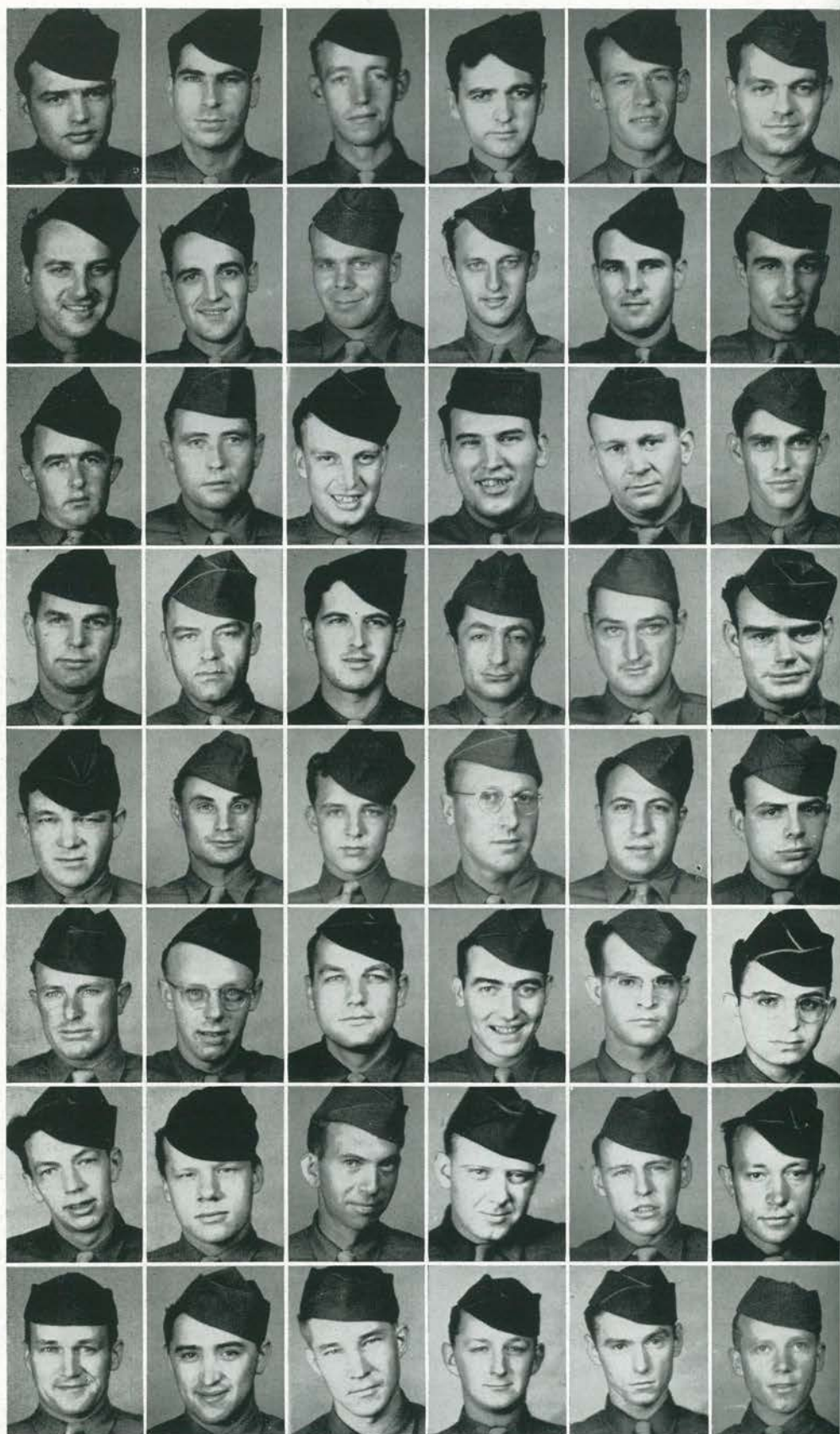
FLOWERS, Clifford P., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 458, Lindsay, Calif.
HAYDEN, Robert G., Pfc., 13600 Sixth Ave., East Cleveland, Ohio.
HEINDEL, Robert E., Pfc., 353 Lora Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.
JAMES, Stephen K., Pfc., 607 Chestnut St., Blue Rapids, Kans.
LEWIS, Troy D., Pfc., Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.
MARKS, Harol L., Pfc., 4756 Drexel Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

SEVENTH ROW:

MCCARTHY, Joseph P., Pfc., 1430 S. 16th St., Salt Lake City, Utah.
MILLER, John T., Pfc., 1801 Arlington Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
NORRIS, Troy F., Pfc., Rt. 1, Nevada, Mo.
PATRICK, Robert F., Pfc., 940 16th St., Des Moines, Iowa.
RANSON, Donald T., Pfc., 2215 Brown Rd., St. Louis, Mo.
REMEROWSKI, Ray A., Pfc., Ivanhoe, Minn.

EIGHTH ROW:

SAHL, Oliver, Pfc., 322½ Liberty St., Conneaut, Ohio.
SKERCZAK, Michael, Pfc., 3926 Wind Gap Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa.
TUOMOLA, Robert G., Pfc., 129 Violet Ave., Floral Park, N. Y.
WELLS, Eugene W., Pfc., 1806 N. Mobile, Chicago, Ill.
EVANS, Rowan B., Pvt., 328 Gaskin Ave., Douglas, Ga.
LUKASIK, Alfred J., Pvt., 141 Lidy Rd., Dupont, Pa.



M E D I C A L D E T A C H M E N T

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



ROBERT R. SCOTT
Captain
Battalion Surgeon

FIRST ROW:

LEBER, Elwood G., S/Sgt., 801 Locust St., Columbia, Pa.
NATALIE, John, T/4, Rt. 2, Box 224, Clinton, Ind.
SALESKY, Willie, Cpl., 71 E. 100th St., New York, N. Y.
MAINES, Robert G., T/5, 318 N. Powell Ave., Freeport, Ill.

SECOND ROW:

MANAS, Nicholas, T/5, 22-34 24th St., Astoria, Long Island, N. Y.
BARTLETT, James, Pfc., Butler, Mo.
GREEN, Harold W., Pfc., Rt. 1, Greer, S. C.





MORRIS L. BAKER
Captain
Battalion Maintenance Officer



RICHARD T. BENTLEY, JR.
First Lieutenant
Assistant S-4



ARNOLD D. BLACKWELL
Second Lieutenant
Motor Officer



HOWARD O. PASCHALL
Second Lieutenant
Motor Officer



FRANCIS M. DECKER
Warrant Officer (jg)
Assistant Battalion
Maintenance Officer

SERVICE BATTERY

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

WINANS, Ralph A., Jr., T/Sgt., 309 E.N. Broadway, Columbus, Ohio.
AUFDERHAAR, William H., S/Sgt., 550 Canton St., San Antonio, Tex.
BLACKBURN, Carl, S/Sgt., Rt. 1, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
HAMMERLY, Matthew, S/Sgt., 3513 W. 61st, Chicago, Ill.
WOMACK, Thixton L., S/Sgt., 201 Park Way, Dinuba, Calif.

SECOND ROW:

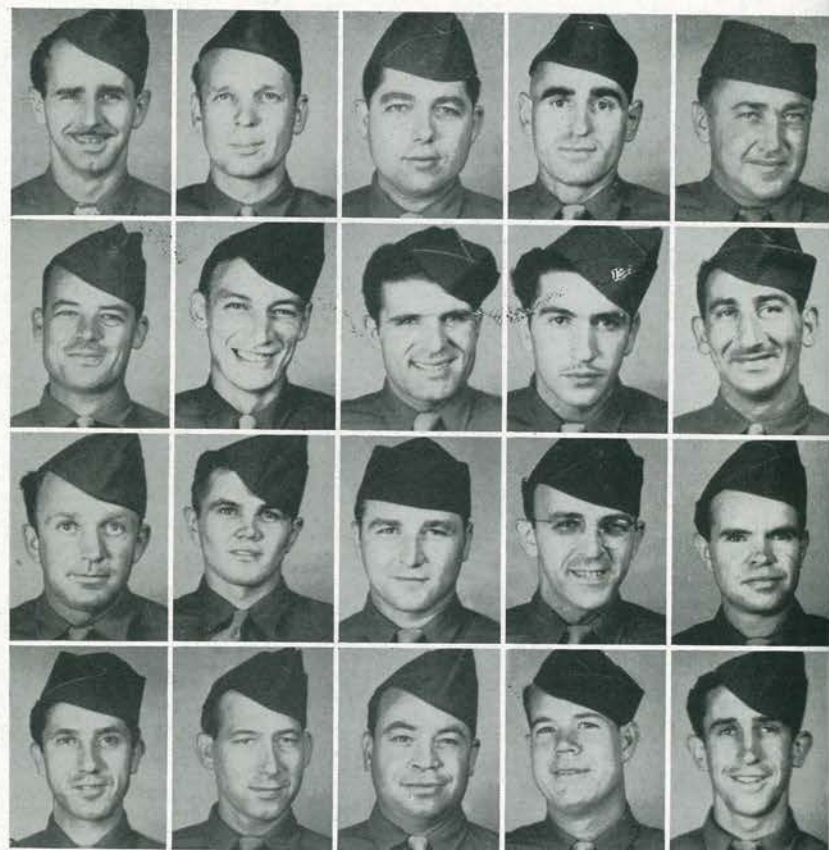
HOBBS, Donald E., Sgt., 1310 Pearl St., Santa Monica, Calif.
ROEDERSHEIMER, Harry B., Sgt., 1018 Rutledge St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
SOWARDS, Pearl O., Sgt., 2265 Main St., Culloden, W. Va.
CAVOULAS, Nick, T/4, Rt. 3, Box 434, Aliquippa, Pa.
DENNIS, Wilson, T/4, Moselle, Miss.

THIRD ROW:

HAIRE, Edward W., T/4, 118 N. 13th St., Herington, Kan.
NELSON, Allen R., T/4, 123 N. Main St., Effingham, Ill.
OBOJSKI, Harry E., T/4, 4103 East 76th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
PRAZICH, George D., T/4, Hibbing, Minn.
REITINGER, James E., T/4, 52 Bleecker St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

FOURTH ROW:

TANGRADI, Dominic J., T/4, 2410 South Percy St., Philadelphia, Pa.
VAN DAM, Algernon A., T/4, 127 Highland St. N.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
WILSON, William W., T/4, 214 Oakland Ave., Spartanburg, S. C.
WORKMAN, Don, T/4, Chadwick, Mo.
STOTT, Earl R., Cpl., 531 North Second St., E., Provo, Utah.



S E R V I C E B A T T E R Y



FIRST ROW:

ALLEN, Byford I., T/5, 731 East Center, Sandwich, Ill.
 ALLEN, George M., T/5, Harrisonville, Mo.
 BARBER, Orvel, T/5, Newell, S. D.
 BARNETT, William L., T/5, Braggadocio, Mo.
 BONYE, John, T/5, 311 Flagg St., Aurora, Ill.
 CASTLE, Logan, T/5, Stambaugh, Ky.

SECOND ROW:

McGRATH, William J., T/5, 6301 Cambridge Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 MILLARD, Wilford C., T/5, Edelstein, Ill.
 MUELLER, Stanley A., T/5, 1109 Patterson Ct., Belleville, Ill.
 RODARTE, Martin, T/5, 1380 Kingman St., San Bernardino, Calif.
 SPILLIA, Joseph J., T/5, Clarence, Pa.
 WHITE, Thomas B., Jr., T/5, 1504 West 47th St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

THIRD ROW:

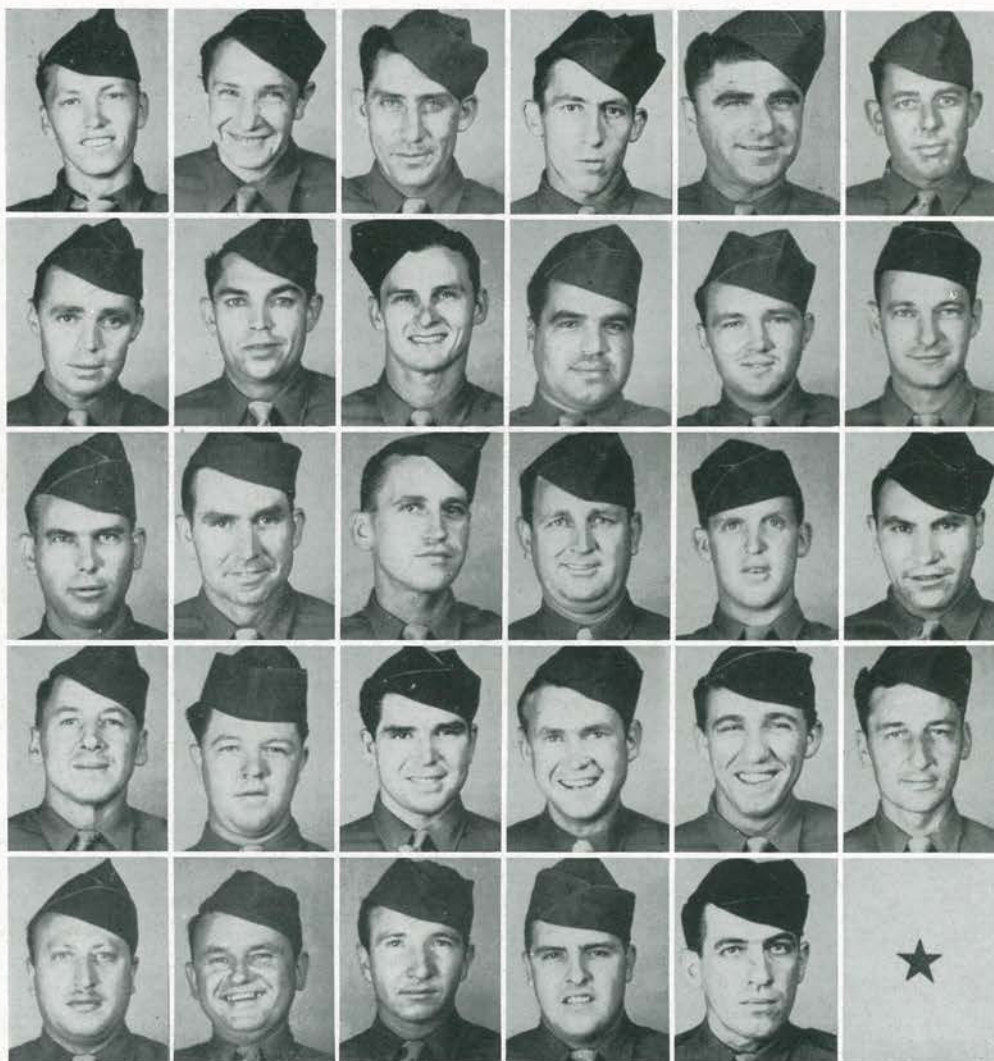
ALMOND, Reno A., Jr., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 9, Coushatta, La.
 CRASS, John E., Pfc., Thayer, Mo.
 FONTAINE, Arthur L., Pfc., 1593 Washington St., West Newton, Mass.
 GRAY, Hershel C., Pfc., 1617 W. Second St., Taylor, Tex.
 HICKS, Emmett E., Pfc., 209 Clay St., Marietta, Ga.
 JARDINE, James C., Pfc., 1522 Pittston Ave., Scranton, Pa.

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 McCOY, Horace E., Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 59, Piney Flats, Tenn.
 OSMOND, George W., Pfc., 15603, S. Normandie Ave., Gardena, Calif.
 ROTHDEUTSCH, Alfred, Pfc., Stiles, Pa.
 TAFT, Ernest H., Pfc., 559 Riverside Ave., Elmira, N. Y.

FIFTH ROW:

TENNEBAUM, Jack J., Pfc., 1393 Arlington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 WALSH, William F., Pfc., 1857 Jefferson St., Kansas City, Mo.
 WHISENANT, George L., Pfc., 4101 Ninth Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn.
 WILBURN, Ted R., Pfc., Maybeury, W. Va.
 WILT, Lester T., Pfc., Harper's Ferry, W. Va.





ALEXANDER A. RYBICKI
Captain
Commanding Officer



EWART J. WHITE, Jr.
Captain
Reconnaissance Officer



FREEMAN H. BEETS
First Lieutenant
Assistant Executive Officer

FRANCIS J. RIDDELL
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer

B A T T E R Y A

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

BOWMAN, John H., S/Sgt., 201 E. Main St., Annville, Pa.
HEGWOOD, Arthur M., S/Sgt., Rt. 3, Lafayette, Ga.
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MOLOTSKY, Sol., S/Sgt., 4401 State Line, Kansas City, Mo.
BENTIVEGNA, Anthony, Sgt., 5904 New Utrecht, Brooklyn, N. Y.
FRITZ, Floyd D., Sgt., Rt. 3, Brookville, Ind.

SECOND ROW:

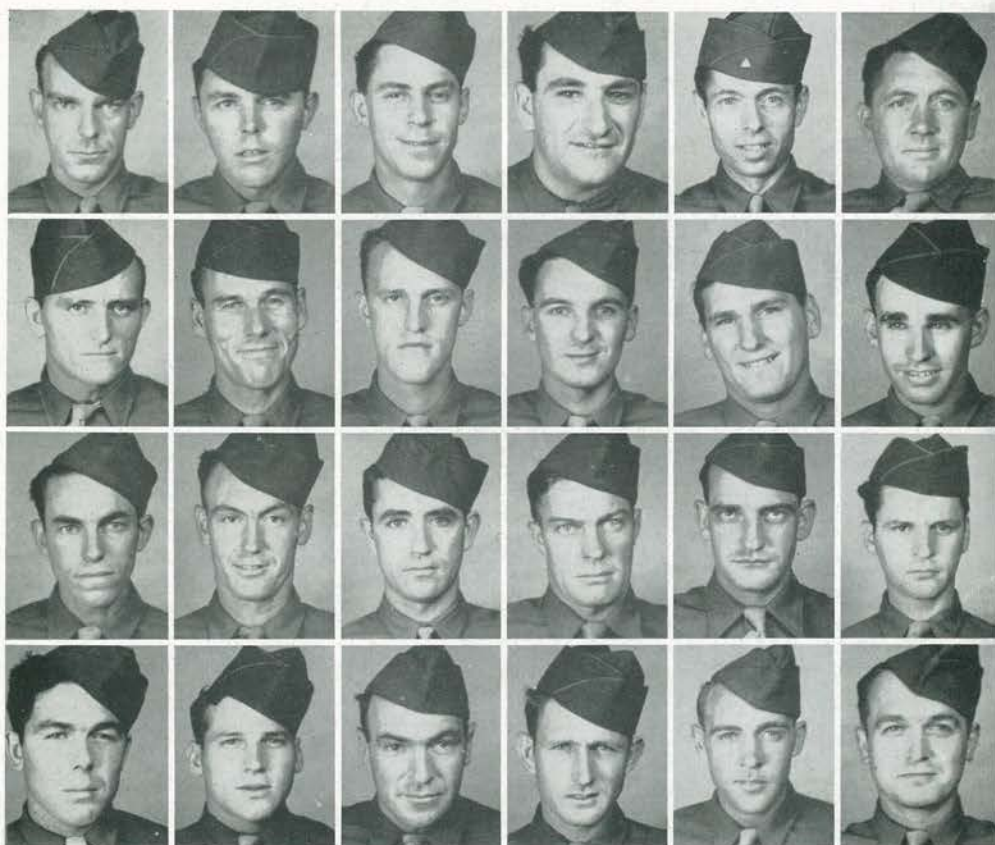
LONESS, Omer L., Sgt., St. Marys, Mo.
McCALEB, Howard F., Sgt., 7311 Stewart Ave., Chicago, Ill.
WARDEN, Wilbur E., Sgt., 131 Wood St., Marietta, Ohio.
ADAMS, Ellsworth, F., T/4, 28933 Pardo Ave., Garden City, Mich.
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THIRD ROW:

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TUCKER, Henry R., T/4, Greensburg, Ky.
YOUNG, Howard, T/4, Valley, N. C.
BISHOP, Earl G., Cpl., Rt. 4, Paris, Ky.
DAY, Charlie W., Cpl., Bridgewater, Iowa.
GABBIE, William E., Cpl., 933 Hervey St., Indianapolis, Ind.

FOURTH ROW:

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HEIHR, Otto H., Cpl., Beulah, N. D.
MITCHELL, John H., Cpl., Rt. 1, Box 518, Dayton, Ohio.
MITZ, Lloyd, Cpl., 611 Franklin St. S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
NEDERVELP, Fred, Cpl., Moline, Mich.



B A T T E R Y



FIRST ROW:

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 STELLER, Florian, Cpl., Rt. 1, Coldwater, Ohio.
 STEPHENS, Roy W., Cpl., Greeley, Kan.
 TRUNK, Ray W., Cpl., 2507 Prospect Rd., Peoria, Heights, Ill.
 WEST, Joseph R., Cpl., 4124 Vinedale Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

SECOND ROW:

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 CLAIBORNE, Charles L., T/5, Rt. 1, LaFollette, Tenn.
 DEEDS, Adrian, Jr., T/5, Box 184, Severy, Kan.
 GUNTER, Allen V., T/5, Rt. 4, Box 506, Columbia, S. C.

THIRD ROW:

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 BABB, Bennie T., Jr., Pfc., Box 23, Duncan, S. C.
 BARBOUR, Manford F., Pfc., Box 147, Kittery Point, Me.
 BRYANT, Clarence E., Pfc., Lynchburg, Va.

FOURTH ROW:

CARLSON, Clarence O., Pfc., 239 Mt. Airy St., St. Paul, Minn.
 CORUM, Rosco E., Pfc., Rt., Mountain City, Tenn.
 DON, E. BELT, Pfc., Dr. Pepper Plant, Denison, Tex.
 ELLKEWICZ, Leonard B., Pfc., 597 Islington St., Portsmouth, N. H.
 FRIBERG, A., Pfc., Worcester, Mass.

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HIGHTOWER, Obie W., Pfc., 7912 Waxahatchie St., Houston, Tex.
 KREIGER, Eugene B., Pfc., 8 Whitehouse Ave., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
 McDONALD, Harley F., Pfc., Sarcoxie, Mo.
 MECHALSKE, Millard J., Pfc., Rt. 1, Mt. Crawford, Va.
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 SMITH, Charles H., Pfc., Canelyake, W. Va.
 SMITH, Fred A., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Gibsonia, Pa.
 VIVIANO, Andrew, Pfc., 89 Grand St., Albany, N. Y.
 WEGNER, Arthur P., Pfc., 1414 N. Lotus Ave., Chicago, Ill.

SEVENTH ROW:

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 WINTER, Lewis S., Pfc., Parkston, S. D.
 WINTERS, George R., Pfc., 443 Slots St., Denver, Colo.
 WOOLDRIDGE, Woodrow, Pfc., 415 W. Hazel St., Walnutridge, Ark.
 BESSERGLICK, Louis, Pvt., 130 Ave. C, New York, N. Y.

EIGHTH ROW:

DEIS, Walter K., Pvt., 4313 Longshore St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 ELDER, Henry B., Pvt., 1730 Edison, Tucson, Ariz.
 HENDRICKSON, William W., Pvt., 601 N. Third St., Hamilton, Mont.
 RAMEY, Elbert F., Pvt., Lowgap, N. C.



BRUCE P. WILSON
Captain
Commanding Officer

GUY S. PETIT-CLERC
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer

HAROLD J. ULBRICH
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer

B A T T E R Y B

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

FIRST ROW:

ENTINGER, Jacob H., 1/Sgt., 212 Logan St., Steubenville, Ohio.
ARTHUR, Paul W., S/Sgt., 1306 Grandview Ave., Portsmouth, Ohio.
BAART, Ivan, S/Sgt., 27 Austin St., Rochester, N. Y.
BENNETT, Ray, S/Sgt., 660 Jefferson St., Carlyle, Ill.
HALL, Froman G., S/Sgt., Rt. 2, Charlestown, Ind.
SMITH, Lee R., Jr., S/Sgt., 310 Hill St., Xenia, O.

SECOND ROW:

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BETTS, Clarence R., Sgt., 219½ E. Findlay St., Carey, Ohio.
DICKSON, R. L., Sgt., 747 Abby, Fresno, Calif.
ELSWICK, Dave, Sgt., 3207 Portland Ave., Louisville, Ky.
HERBERT, Benjamin F., Sgt., 5140 N. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, Ill.
TAYLOR, Glen R., Sgt., P.O. Box 13, Rossville, Ga.

THIRD ROW:

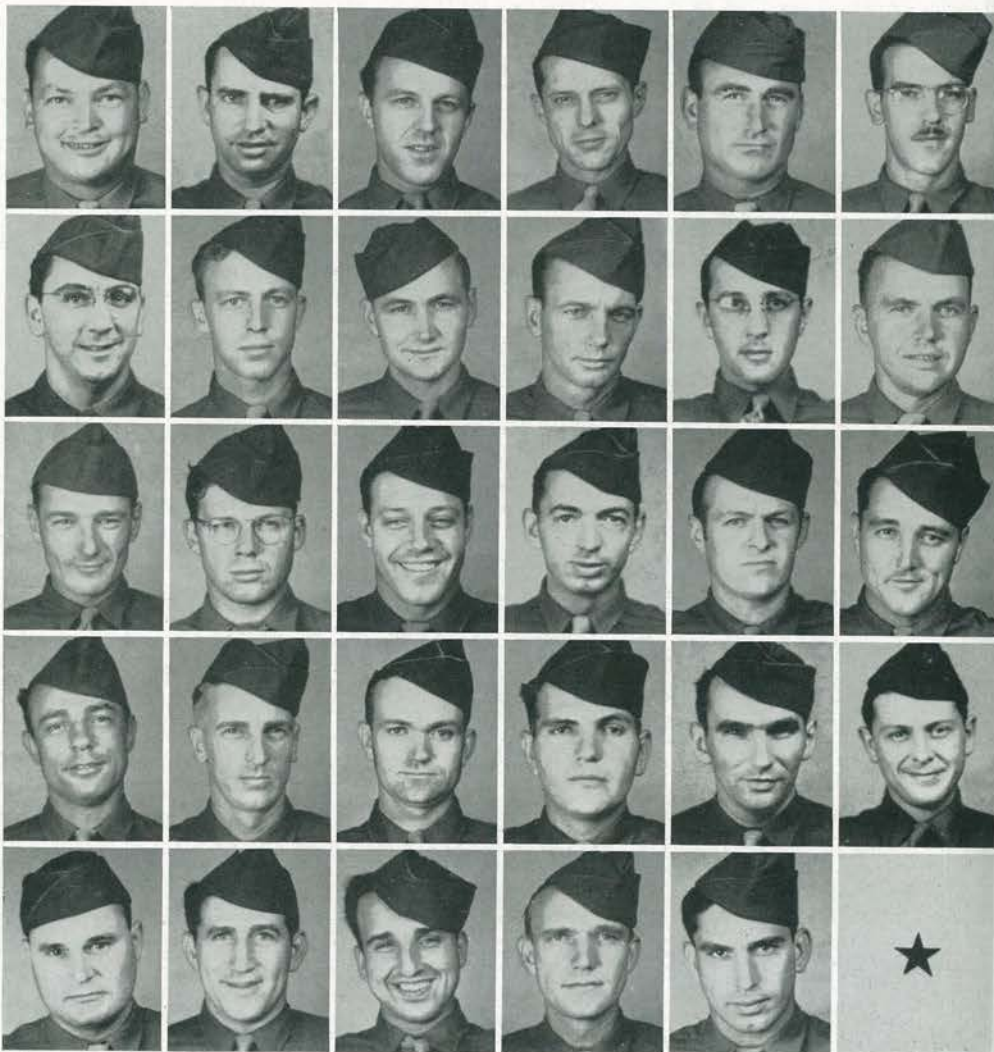
WOZNICK, Chester J., Sgt., 4841 McGregor St., Detroit, Mich.
WOOD, John F., Sgt., 3919 Archwood Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
COOPER, William K., T/4, 228 E. Pine St., Greenfield, Ohio.
GATLIN, Thomas M., T/4, 2320 Glenmary, Louisville, Ky.
MCCORD, William E., T/4, 507 January Court, Paris, Ky.
NELSON, Severne B., T/4, 410 S. Elmwood, Sioux Falls, S. D.

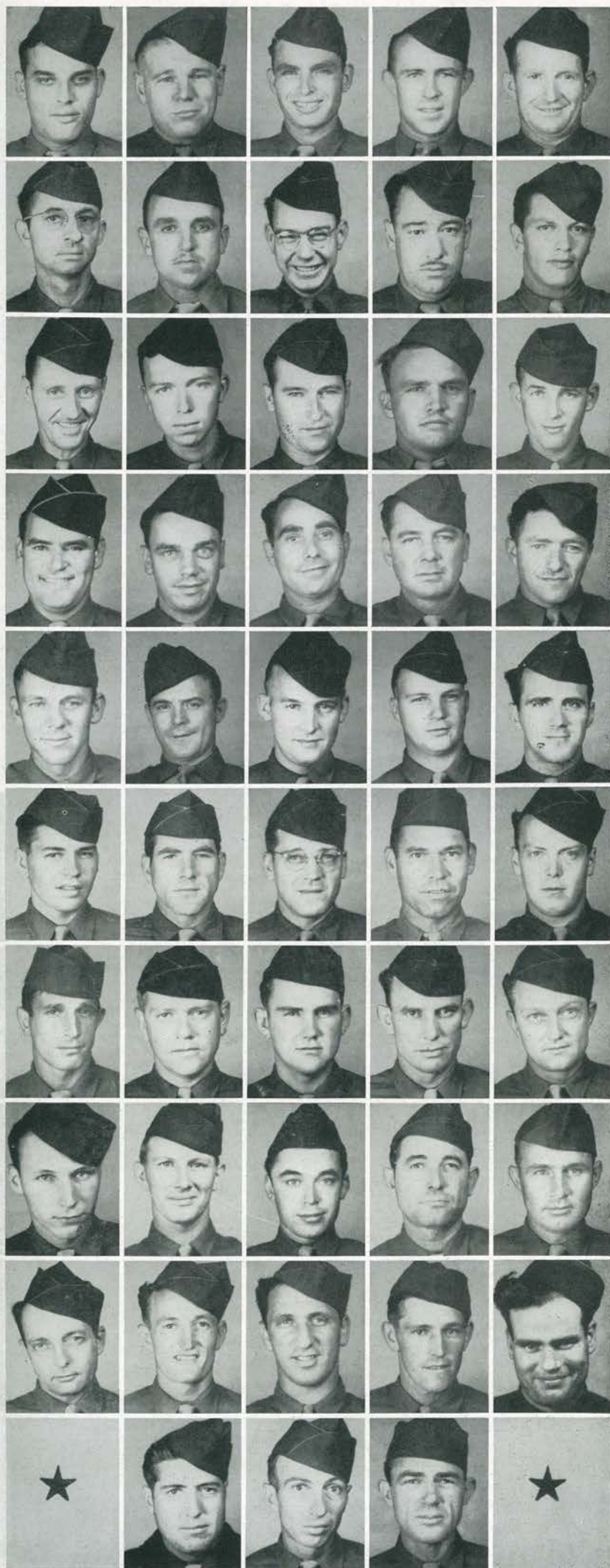
FOURTH ROW:

PUSZCZAN, Joseph J., T/4, 13305 Coath Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
ALBRIGHT, Jacob A., Cpl., Rt. 4, Box 168, Anoka, Minn.
CANNON, Julian B., Jr., Cpl., Rt. 1, Georgetown, Ky.
EHLERS, Henry F., Cpl., 71 Lee St., Charleston, S. C.
KORTUM, Edward C., Cpl., 3924 N. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Ill.
LIEBERMANN, Arthur L., Cpl., 1127 Barthleme St., Joliet, Ill.

FIFTH ROW:

LOSCHKY, Robert T., Cpl., 1531 S. New Jersey St., Indianapolis, Ind.
WAITSMAN, Bernard, Cpl., 3420 Noble St., Baltimore, Md.
ZOTTOLA, Eugene S., Cpl., 355 Omega St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
APRIL, Edward G., T/5, 4456 Gibson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
DAFE, Floyd R., T/5, 724 Geyer Ave., Mishawaka, Ind.





BATTERY B



FIRST ROW:

EDGAR, James D., T/5, Rt. 2, Hardin, Mo.
 ENGLUND, Harold, Jr., T/5, 7138 Evans Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 INGOLD, Guy G., T/5, Rt. 4, Greensboro, N. C.
 NANCE, William W., T/5, 913 Omaha St., Greensboro, N. C.
 NELMS, William T., T/5, Union City, Tenn.

SECOND ROW:

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 SHAW, Harold, T/5, Hustontown, Pa.
 ADAMS, Graham W., Pfc., Grain Valley, Mo.
 ALEXANDER, Howard W., Pfc., 2700 College Ave., Quincy, Ill.
 BOUGHTON, Lucas, Pfc., Richmondville, N. Y.

THIRD ROW:

BROWN, Gordon, Pfc., 1313 Warwick Ave., Lincoln, Park, Mich.
 DAY, John J., Pfc., 3338 Penn Ave., N., Minneapolis, Minn.
 GALEWSKI, Chester, Pfc., 2316 12th Ave., S. Milwaukee, Wis.
 GOURLEY, Leroy R., Pfc., Mabon Bldg., Box 210, Miami, Okla.
 GRAHAM, Jim, Pfc., Tracy, Minn.

FOURTH ROW

HEFLIN, Stanley T., Pfc., 2506 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria, Va.
 HOWARD, Orlin L., Pfc., Rt. 1, Prattsville, N. Y.
 INGARRA, Vincenzo, Pfc., 205 Palmetto St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 JONES, L. B., Pfc., Hazelhurst, Miss.
 KOSTICK, Abraham, Pfc., 112 Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

FIFTH ROW:

KRAFT, Robert L., Pfc., Lena, Ill.
 KUB, Edward, Pfc., 4817 S. Throop St., Chicago, Ill.
 LARSON, Jackie E., Pfc., 91 East 18th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 LYTLE, Richard C., Pfc., 1362 S. Pine St., Muskegon, Mich.
 MAHONEY, Paul T., Pfc., Perham, Minn.

SIXTH ROW:

MORROW, Walter F., Pfc., 437 Eighth St., Lincoln, Ill.
 NIBLOCK, Kenneth C., Pfc., Rt. 2, Cleveland, N. C.
 OLSEN, Hilmer, Pfc., 1748 N. Keystone Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 OUTLAW, Lucious J., Pfc., Rt. 1, Hamilton, Wis.
 PAULSON, Robert A., Pfc., 1935 W. Broadway, Minneapolis, Minn.

SEVENTH ROW:

PETRIVELLI, Francis J., Pfc., 293 Sumner St., East Boston, Mass.
 PETTERSEN, Walter K., Pfc., 7102 Tenth Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 REYNOLDS, Francis W., Pfc., Rt. 3, Freehold, N. J.
 RAGENS, Ted, Pfc., 425 N. Waco, Wichita, Kan.
 SHELTON, Forest, Pfc., 2003 Casey Ave., Mt. Vernon, Ill.

EIGHTH ROW:

STAVELAND, George O., Pfc., Box 102, Reedsport, Ore.
 STONEROCK, Gilbert W., Pfc., Rt. 3, Mt. Sterling, Ohio.
 TUEL, Francis D., Pfc., Milford, Iowa.
 TURNER, Fred R., Pfc., Box 23, DeWitt, Ark.
 WALTERS, Adolph A., Pfc., 126½ N. Main, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

NINTH ROW:

WHEELER, Theodore, W., Pfc., 2008 Lansing Ave., Jackson, Mich.
 WILSON, James R., Pfc., 718 Third Ave., Dallas, Tex.
 EPSTEIN, Solomon G., Pvt., 2832 W. 15th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 MCGHEE, Horace L., Pvt., Rt. 1, Ferrum, Va.
 McNAUGHTON, Edward A., Pvt., 3243 Malcolm Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

TENTH ROW:

TEETER, David L., Pvt., 3822 Delaware St., Anderson, Ind.
 THUMMEL, Aloysius G., Pvt., Box 106, Higgins, Tex.
 WHITFIELD, John S., Pvt., Rt. 4, Rome, Ga.



WILLIAM R. HUMPHREY
Captain
Commanding Officer



WALLACE E. HOLLER
First Lieutenant
Assistant Executive Officer

JOHN R. ROSENDAHL
First Lieutenant
Executive Officer

ALLEN H. MORSE
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer

B A T T E R Y C

498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

GILLETTE, Charles L., S/Sgt., 209 E. First St.,
Fort Scott, Kan.
WHITE, Ned M., S/Sgt., 116 W. Eden St., Eden-
ton, N. C.
ZANK, Edward H., S/Sgt., 212 N. 56th Ave., W.,
Duluth, Minn.
AHERN, Charles E., Sgt., 2300 Lakeview Ave.,
Richmond, Va.
LOETZ, Willard A., Sgt., 1017 N. Ninth St., Spring-
field, Ill.
SHEPARDSON, John W., Sgt., Rt. 5, Box 64, West
Haven, Conn.

SECOND ROW:

BARNES, Edward A., T/4, Jarratt, Va.
LAIL, Colon, T/4, Rt. 4, Box 272, Hickory, N. C.
LIVERMORE, George R., T/4, 1404 Race St., Wil-
liamsport, Pa.
SHIRK, Martin V. B., T/4, West Mansfield, Ohio.
BAUGHMAN, James B., Cpl., 314 S. Briscoe Blvd.,
Dallas, Tex.
DELSENER, Anthony H., Cpl., 1433 Vincennes
Ave., Chicago Heights, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

HENSLER, Delbert P., Cpl., Racine, Ohio.
HILLEARY, Norman D., Cpl., 1880 West 25th St.,
Cleveland, Ohio.
KENNEDY, Robert L., Cpl., Rt. 1, Suwanee, Ga.
RIGER, Raymond L., Cpl., Rt. 3, Nevada, Mo.
LUDWIG, James J., Cpl., 413 W. College Ave.,
Jacksonville, Ill.
MINNICH, Edward G., Cpl., 1407 Liberty St.,
Harrisburg, Pa.

FOURTH ROW:

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ville, Conn.
RYTERSKE, Leon J., Cpl., 3902 Delor St., St.
Louis, Mo.
SCHAEFFER, Wilbert M., Cpl., 5027 S. Racine Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
WHEELER, Harold R., Cpl., Fox Lake, Ill.
WILLIAMS, John J., Cpl., 167 E. Grantley Ave.,
Elmhurst, Ill.
BAUMGARDNER, George R., T/5, Rt. 3, Humans-





BATTERY C



FIRST ROW:

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 CAMPBELL, Herbert D., T/5, Rt. 3, Lynchburg, Va.
 CHILES, Harold R., T/5, 5 Easley St., Greenville, S. C.
 CLARK, Howard E., T/5, 734 N. 23rd St., East St. Louis, Ill.
 DAWLEY, John O., T/5, 4878 S. 95th St., West Allis, Wis.

SECOND ROW:

INIGUEZ, Anthony, T/5, 1743 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, Ill.
 KINCAID, Charles L., T/5, Headwaters, Va.
 LINEAWEAVER, Lloyd E., T/5, 508 W. High St., Hummelstown, Pa.
 ROBERTS, Clarence A., T/5, Kinston, N. C.
 SICILIANO, Joseph, T/5, 707 Hickory St., Omaha, Neb.

THIRD ROW:

ADAMS, Harold W., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 328, Wapato, Wash.
 BATDORF, Kenneth C., Pfc., 131 Oak St., Palmyra, Pa.
 BLEWETT, Harold E., Pfc., 420 Jackson St., Anoka, Minn.
 BROWN, Edmon, Pfc., Elliott, S. C.
 BROWN, Glyn D., Pfc., 1412 Brick Church Pike, Nashville, Tenn.

FOURTH ROW:

CARLSON, Glenn G., Pfc., 20717 Finkel, Detroit, Mich.
 CLIFTON, William E., Pfc., Rt. 1, Rockwood, Tenn.
 CROWDER, Clint, Pfc., Liberal, Mo.
 DeANGELO, James R., Pfc., 518 Wetmore St., Utica, N. Y.
 DeFOREST, Revere C., Pfc., Bow Lane, Middletown, Conn.

FIFTH ROW:

FOX, Robert A., Pfc., 1057 Pritz Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
 GEORGE, Alfred H., Pfc., 2604 S.E. 105th Ave., Portland, Ore.
 GUNTHER, William A., Pfc., 109 W. Miller St., New Castle, Pa.
 HELMS, Bland, Pfc., Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C.
 LEWIS, Barney V., Pfc., Benton City, Wash.

SIXTH ROW:

LUCE, Rex M., Pfc., Readfield, Me.
 MANN, Ivin, Pfc., 115 McClellan St., Bronx, N. Y.
 MARQUEZ, Frank L., Pfc., 4418 High St., Riverside, Calif.
 NELSON, Lars P. J., Pfc., 317 Chestnut St., Los Alamitos, Calif.
 RAASIO, Wilho E., Pfc., 80 Mt. Vernon St., Fitchburg, Mass.

SEVENTH ROW:

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 SAMUEL, Robert J., Pfc., 105 Oak St., Oshkosh, Wis.
 SCHULTZ, Howard L., Pfc., 3722 Giddings, Chicago, Ill.
 SHAFFER, Chester P., Pfc., 443 East Jefferson St., Williamsport, Pa.
 SKINNER, Manuel C., Pfc., 1709 Meade St., Flint, Mich.

EIGHTH ROW:

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 SMITH, James V., Pfc., Liberty, Ky.
 TERAN, Reuben J., Pfc., 960 15th St., Merced, Calif.
 THOMPSON, John O., Pfc., Hannaford, N. D.
 WEBER, Anthony, Pfc., 829 Oswego St., Utica, N. Y.

NINTH ROW:

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 WILSON, Robert M., Pfc., Wolf-Lake, Ill.
 WYGANT, Rea E., Pfc., 305½ East Front St., Oil City, Pa.

SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

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 HARRIS, Luther C., Sgt., 1107 F. Ave., Lawton, Okla.
 CLARK, John M., T/4, 236 Lehigh St., Avoca, Pa.
 WALSH, Martin A., Pfc., 614 Kemper Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 BARNES, Ross W., 1316 N. 46th St., Omaha, Neb.
 BOWSHER, Robert W., 816 Sargent St., Ft. Worth, Tex.

SECOND ROW:

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 GJESDAHL, Eric J., Box 940, International Falls, Minn.
 HERING, Robert N., 1810 W. High St., Springfield, Ohio.
 HERMAN, Harold M., 210 S. Karlov Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 HIGHT, James S., Smith River, Calif.
 IVEY, Winton S., 206 Woodward Ave., Spartanburg, S. C.

THIRD ROW:

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HEADQUARTERS
ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL



WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation


TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division

Modern warfare has made necessary the introduction of new units and new techniques to ensure victory in battle. The 13th Armored Division, activated at Camp Beale, California, on 15 October 1942 as a result of the need for armored units, proved in training and in combat the adaptability and genius of the American soldier in all methods of warfare.

Since the time when I was Commanding General of the Armored Force, I have followed the career of the Black Cat Division with interest and pride. After the completion of training, much of which you did at Camp Bowie, Texas, you arrived overseas early in 1945, and your tankers quickly earned for themselves the respect of the enemy. Joining the Third Army, you participated brilliantly in the final drive across the Danube River deep into Southern Germany. Your officers and men, despite their comparatively brief period in battle, fought with boldness, bravery and skill, winning a firm place in the heritage of our country.

Those of the 13th Armored who find themselves in new tasks, now that the division is being inactivated, will continue to serve their country, I know, with enthusiasm and steadfastness, until our military strength can safely be reduced.

The men in the 13th Armored Division will be forever included among the heroes of our country, and it is for me a proud occasion to be able to commend you most heartily, in the name of all Americans, for your gallant service in defense of freedom.


JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, USA,
Commanding.

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THE 498TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
13TH ARMORED DIVISION

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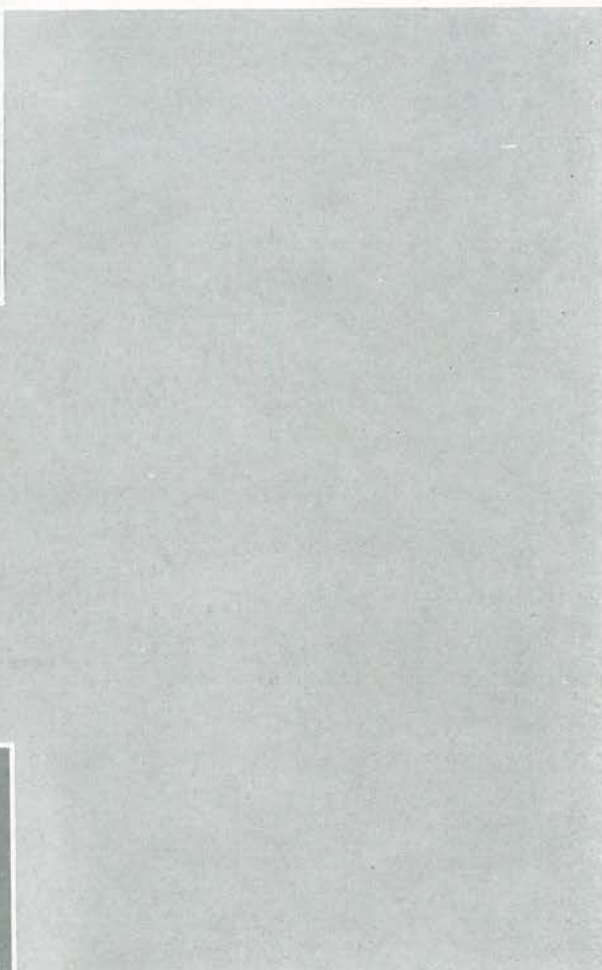
24th★

TANK BATTALION





LT. COL. CHARLES L. YON
*Commander of the 24th Tank Battalion until
wounded in action April 12, 1945.*



LT. COL. ROBERT B. McRAE
*Commander of the 24th Tank Battalion since
April 15, 1945.*

HISTORY OF THE 24TH TANK BATTALION

As long as there's a breath in your body or a single person to listen to you, you'll be talking about this war. And when the time comes when no one will listen, you'll be talking to yourself. Okay, Joe, and so will we. Because nothing like this ever happened to us before. Things began to happen as soon as we climbed on that train to leave Bowie January 4, 1945, and kept right on happening.

We rolled into the staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, January 8 to begin processing, checking records and clothing, and training, and visited New York for a last quick handshake with civilization before embarking. About the first thing we remember after that fling in New York was staggering up the gangplank. We wandered through the most bewildering maze of hatches, companionways, ladders and whatnot we ever saw. We ended up in little bunks—those bunks were so close together, one above the other, that we had to breathe in cadence.

The ship seemed pretty big at first, sitting there in the calm harbor. But it appeared to shrink as we bored into that Atlantic. On those cold dark nights when alarm bells shrilled and depth charges drummed against the hull it almost disappeared.

January 28 we anchored off Southampton, England, to wait for a high tide before running into a French port. The morning of the 29th gave us a first glimpse of France when we tied up at Le Havre. Shattered piers and buildings testified to the terrific bombing the city had undergone. More eloquent were the people themselves, ragged and dirty, scrambling along the dock and even into the water for the cigarettes, candy bars and oranges we tossed down to them.

The French railroad still pulls those boxcars labeled "40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux" but they must have been cleaner in World War I. We rode them to St. Ouen de Breuil, then moved in trucks to Bellencombre, St. Hellier, and Rosay. The people of these little towns were glad to see us; every kid in town had a papa who smoked.

By March 17, our vehicles and equipment were

ready to go; we mounted up and rolled to Soissons, then on through Vitry to billets near Avricourt, March 19. We got under way again March 25, crossed the German border at 0855 to arrive next day in Pirmasens on the Siegfried line. Some of those fortifications were burrowed under big hills with back doors like those on bank vaults, wide enough for a truck to enter.

Our next move was a 75-mile march to Birkenfield to join the Third Army, April 2. Then we rolled 168 miles across the Rhine to Grebenau April 6, leaving almost immediately on a 52-mile run to Gensungen. April 8 we set out for Schonberg to join the First Army for a Ruhr Valley cleanup. We arrived there with only a few roadweary tanks; the rest of them were strung out over the 159-mile route with blown bogie wheels, and combat loomed the next day. We shed surplus equipment in Schonberg, moved to a forward assembly just south of the Sieg River early April 10. Maintenance crews performed the impossible by delivering most of the tanks in time for the crossing of the Sieg River in the late afternoon; night found us coiled in Siegburg, while the next morning saw us crossing the Agger, another river, to swing west toward the Rhine.

The battalion first came under fire at 1000 just west of the bridge over the Agger. Our first casualty came from antiaircraft gun fire. Sniper fire commenced, then artillery fire dropped in while Company D mangled two 88 guns at Spitze. B moved in to smash antiaircraft guns and the war was on!!! B led on through Wahnerheide, turned west into four antitank guns, flak guns and riflemen and crushed them in a half-hour fight while the battalion was reorganizing east of town. Unable to rejoin the battalion, B spent the night on an airfield southwest of Mulheim. Snapping into action at dawn when visibility revealed 88-mm. and flak guns ringing the field, alert assault gun crews from Headquarters Company, tanks and infantry fought their way from the trap and moved north to join the battalion west of Dunnwald shortly before noon on the 12th.

Enemy artillery fire which had begun falling on the bivouac position the night before increased throughout the day. Artillery, mortars, small arms and direct-firing big guns poured their loads into the bivouac, keeping men in the slit trenches and wounding the battalion commander when he exposed himself to use the radio. Later in the day the battalion moved into Dunnwald, gathered separated forces on the 13th while the 97th Infantry Division moved in.

Further advance in Wiehagen on the 14th was thwarted by blown bridges and boggy ground. We returned to Dunnwald and struck out for Opladen, blasting roadblocks with tank destroyers through sand and up to a big steel roadblock south of Opladen which had to be bypassed, while the infantry swirled through the town and held crossings against night counterattacks on the northern edge of the town.

Racing recklessly north through Haan, one Company C and two Company B tanks fell to antitank guns short of Gruiten; by 1730 we reached Mettmann and were welcomed by wildly cheering liberated factory workers before they began surging through plate glass store windows on a shopping tour.

Driving onward for 24 miles the next day, the battalion linked with the 17th Airborne Division in Duisberg thus completing on the 18th, the Battle for the Rhur.

Catching our breath, we began retracing our way south April 20 through Bamberg, Altenkirchen, Schnaittach to Beratzhausen for another mission in Bavaria. Bound for Berchtesgaden, we launched our forces across the Danube near Regensburg, and on the morning of the 28th smashed on through Ram, Rinkham, Straubing and Salching. Avoiding our first minefield in Aiterhofen about noon, we pushed on to Strasskirchen, barged through smoke from burning buildings into a minebelt which wrecked four tanks of the leading platoon. A race to capture intact the bridge across the Isar at Plattling ended when the bridge erupted skyward as leading forces reached it.

The battalion waited in the town under a hot

exchange of artillery, duelling for control of the bridge site a scant thousand yards away. Finally on the 30th, infantry pushed across, engineers built a bridge and our armor poured across in the darkness, fighting on through the night while buildings flamed in our wake. The objective was now Salzburg; Eggenfelden was taken, and Company D branched off to race for another vital bridge over the Inn River but met fierce panzerfaust teams and entrenched infantry which cost them a setback and two company commanders within 20 minutes of each other. Meanwhile B, leading the main body reached the bridge at Neu Otting only to have it sent crashing into the swift river a scant 30 yards from the leading vehicle. Operations were halted and the European war ended a few days later.

Settling down to garrison life in the picturesque town of Neu Otting, the battalion cleaned up, rested, played ball, decorated its heroes with 4 silver stars, 69 bronze stars, and 100 purple hearts. A few lucky ones drew passes to Paris, the Riviera, and other resort centers while awaiting news about going home. Four battle-tested sergeants, Jarvis, Pyatt, Turnbull and Myers turned in their stripes for new second lieutenant bars.

June 25 we boarded our German train for Camp Atlanta, France, near Mailly, arriving June 27. Here we crated and packed for the ocean voyage home, took short trips to Paris and Reims and finally entrained July 9 for the staging area in Camp Old Gold. On July 14 we moved by truck to Le Havre, double-loaded on the USS *General McRae* and steamed for the States. Hampton Roads, Virginia, on July 23 and Camp Patrick Henry for a special dinner—ice cream, milk, fresh fruits and vegetables and steaks. By July 25 we were on the way to reception stations for 30 days home.

Filtering back to Camp Cooke, California, early in September, we settled down to training, discharges for some and long furloughs for others. Relieved of the task of tackling Honshu, the outfit prepared to end more than two years of eventful service with deactivation late in October.

SILVER STAR

GALLANTRY IN ACTION

1ST. LT. STEPHEN H. SMITH
S/SGT. ALVA J. CARPENTER

SGT. CHARLES E. THOMPSON, SR.
1ST LT. NOAH I. KRALL



BRONZE STAR

HEROIC OR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

SGT. JAMES C. COPLEY
S/SGT. JOHN M. SCHMITZ
SGT. GLENN W. SMITH
PFC. ALLEN G. WHEELER
PFC. JAMES W. YOUNG
PFC. FRED SILKWOOD
SGT. GLENN A. GRIFFITHS
T/SGT. ALBERT T. BARRY
SGT. ALBERT C. MOTYLEWICZ
SGT. DONALD E. CROUCH
PFC. MARION M. MCCULLY
T/5 CLEM S. MCKOWN
1/SGT. LAWRENCE E. MYER
2ND LT. WHITMAN M. SMITH
1ST LT. GEORGE G. CANTLAY, JR.
2ND LT. JACK C. PYATT
T/5 RAYBURN L. BROOKS
T/4 CLARENCE A. PUCKETT
PFC. HUBERT D. WILLIAMS
1ST LT. JOHN F. SULLINGER
SGT. HAROLD E. FRIEND
SGT. WILLIAM R. BISHER
PFC. ALAN C. CURREY
T/5 MARTIN M. KOVALAK
PFC. ANTONIO LIPARI
CPL. GLENN D. BROWN
SGT. CARMEN P. DEROSE
PFC. BARRY W. GOLDSMITH
PFC. DAVID E. GREENE
1/SGT. DONALD E. GROW
T/4 JAMES H. LANDIS
T/4 HARVEY F. HICKSENHEISER
T/4 JOSEPH E. HODGE
1ST LT. GEORGE E. KIMBALL

S/SGT. PERCEY C. CULVER

T/4 CHESTER MARRATTA
PFC. CHESTER J. MATHEWS
PFC. ROBERT A. MCKENNA
CAPT. WESLEY B. STREITLE
1ST LT. DAN M. BECKETT
T/SGT. ARTHUR W. MYERS
CAPT. LESTER G. HANSEN
S/SGT. THOMAS H. JONES
CAPT. WALTER O. MITCHELL
T/3 WALTER J. TARZAN
T/4 ALBERT D. TESSIER
1/SGT. CHARLES A. AIGNER
T/SGT. SAM DE BLAERE
1ST LT. HARRY DENECKE
S/SGT. IRVIN J. DIDION
1ST LT. WILLIAM D. EASLEY, JR.
T/SGT. CHARLES E. FOX, JR.
1ST LT. ROBERT E. GRAHAM
S/SGT. ALBERT E. HARMAN
S/SGT. WILLIAM A. HAWTHORNE
W/O (JG) DONALD L. KANE
T/4 FREDERICK OWEN
CAPT. WILLIAM E. PFEIFFER
CAPT. THOMAS O. SHINDLER
SGT. LEONARD M. SPETH
T/5 GEORGE E. BOWEN
T/5 FRANCIS J. TALORICCO
LT. COL. CHARLES L. YON
LT. COL. ROBERT B. McRAE
CAPT. RICHARD F. BLAKE
T/5 THOMAS R. BAUCUM
T/5 HOSEA B. THORNE, JR.
SGT. WILLIAM H. THOMAS
CAPT. LESLIE L. TAYLOR



SOLDIER'S MEDAL

T/5 TED H. PHILLIPS





IN MEMORY

OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES

HARRY D. CARPENTER
DORRAL B. ELLIOTT
DONZEL C. KNIGHT
DANIEL T. MORRIS
CHARLES V. EATON
ERNEST R. BROWNFIELD
WOODROW W. BAUGHER
ALAN C. CURREY
MARTIN M. KOVALAK
MARION M. MCCULLY
ALBERT H. YETTER
DONALD E. CROUCH
JOHN S. HUFFMAN
WILLIAM R. BISHER
HOUSTON S. CANOY
WALLACE I. HIAASEN
GRANT L. HOGGE
EVANS M. MOCHEL

BATTALION STAFF



WALTER GREENWOOD, JR.
Major
Battalion S-3



KENNETH H. PETERS
Major
Executive Officer



JACK GRILL
Captain
Air S-3



RAY C. KING
Captain
Adjutant



WALTER O. MITCHELL
Captain
Battalion Motor Officer



THOMAS O. SHINDLER
Captain
Battalion Surgeon



JOSEPH G. SMITH
Captain
S-4



PAUL R. MIDAUGH
First Lieutenant
Communications Officer



WILLIAM D. EASLEY, JR.
First Lieutenant
S-2





WILLIAM E. PFEIFFER
Captain
Commanding Officer



HARRY DENECKE
First Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Platoon Leader



ROBERT E. GRAHAM
First Lieutenant
Mortar Platoon Leader



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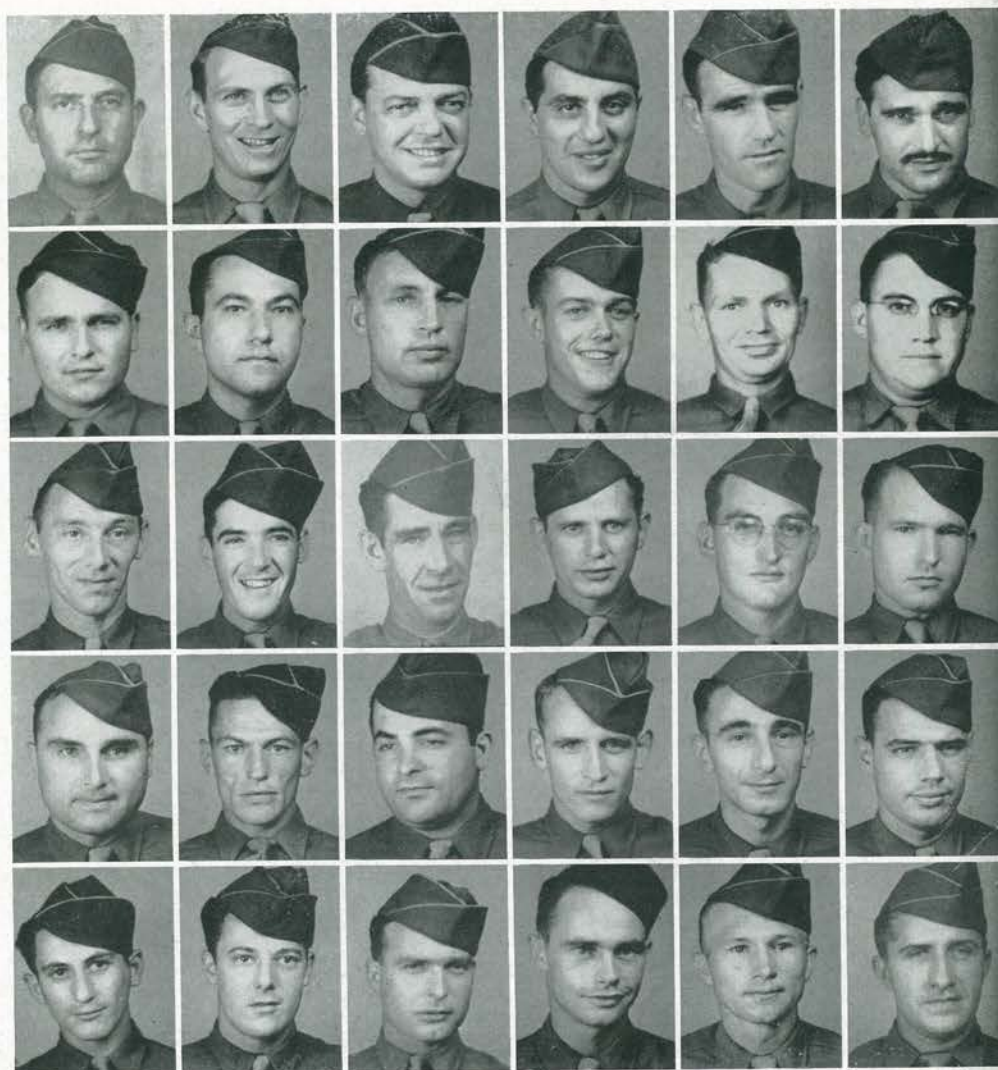
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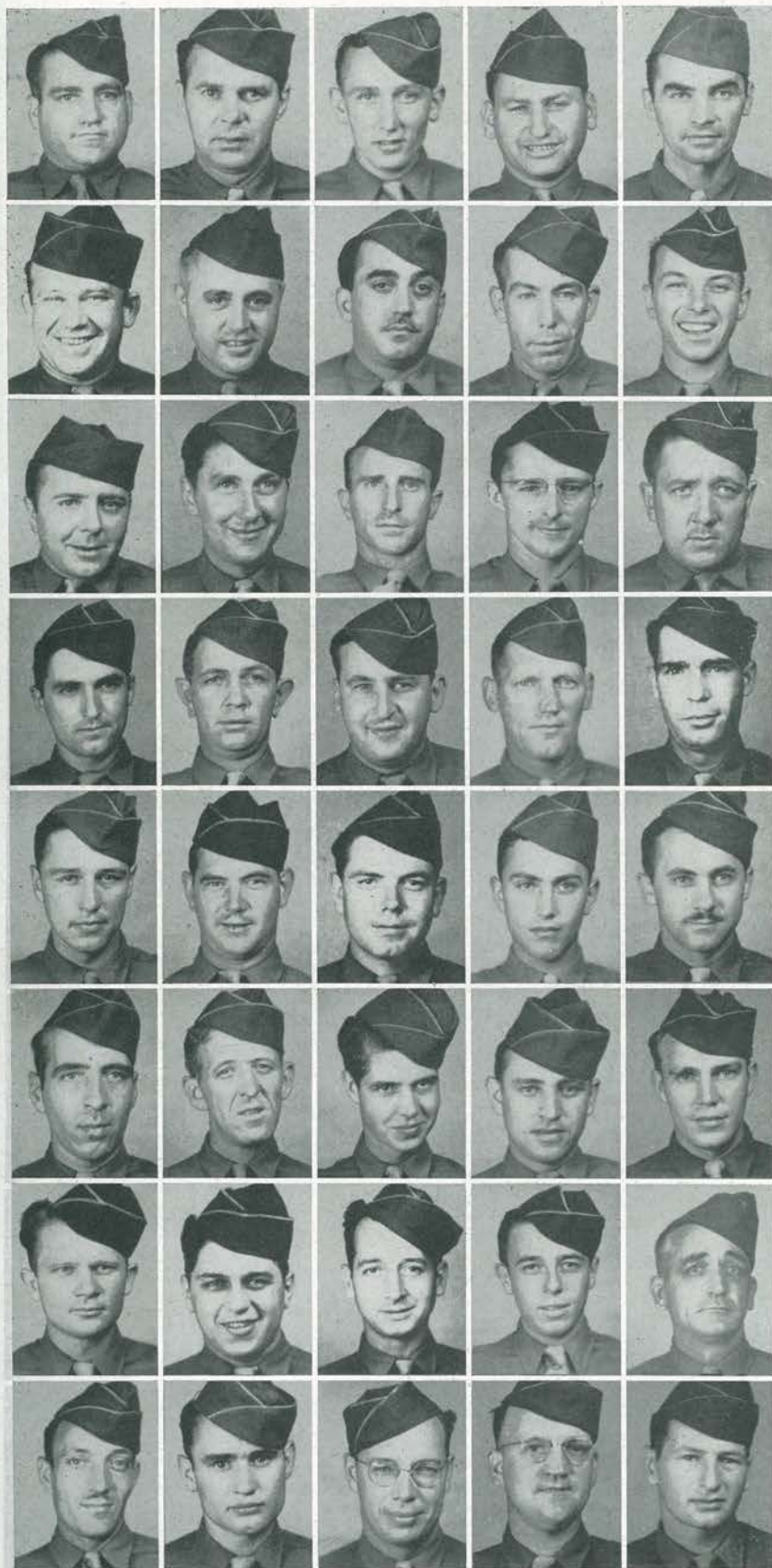
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24TH TANK BATTALION



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LESLIE L. TAYLOR
Captain
Commanding Officer



ARTHUR L. WITTY
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



LAWRENCE E. MEYER
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



COLMAN THALL
Chief Warrant Officer
Personnel Officer



DONALD L. KANE
Warrant Officer (jg)
Maintenance Officer



PHILLIP C. LAIZURE
Warrant Officer (jg)
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SERVICE COMPANY

24TH TANK BATTALION



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ZIMBECK, Eugene, Sgt., Lanesboro, Iowa.
ADAIR, Jay E., T/4, Sacramento, Calif.
DILLARD, Harold V., T/4, West Baden Springs, Ind.

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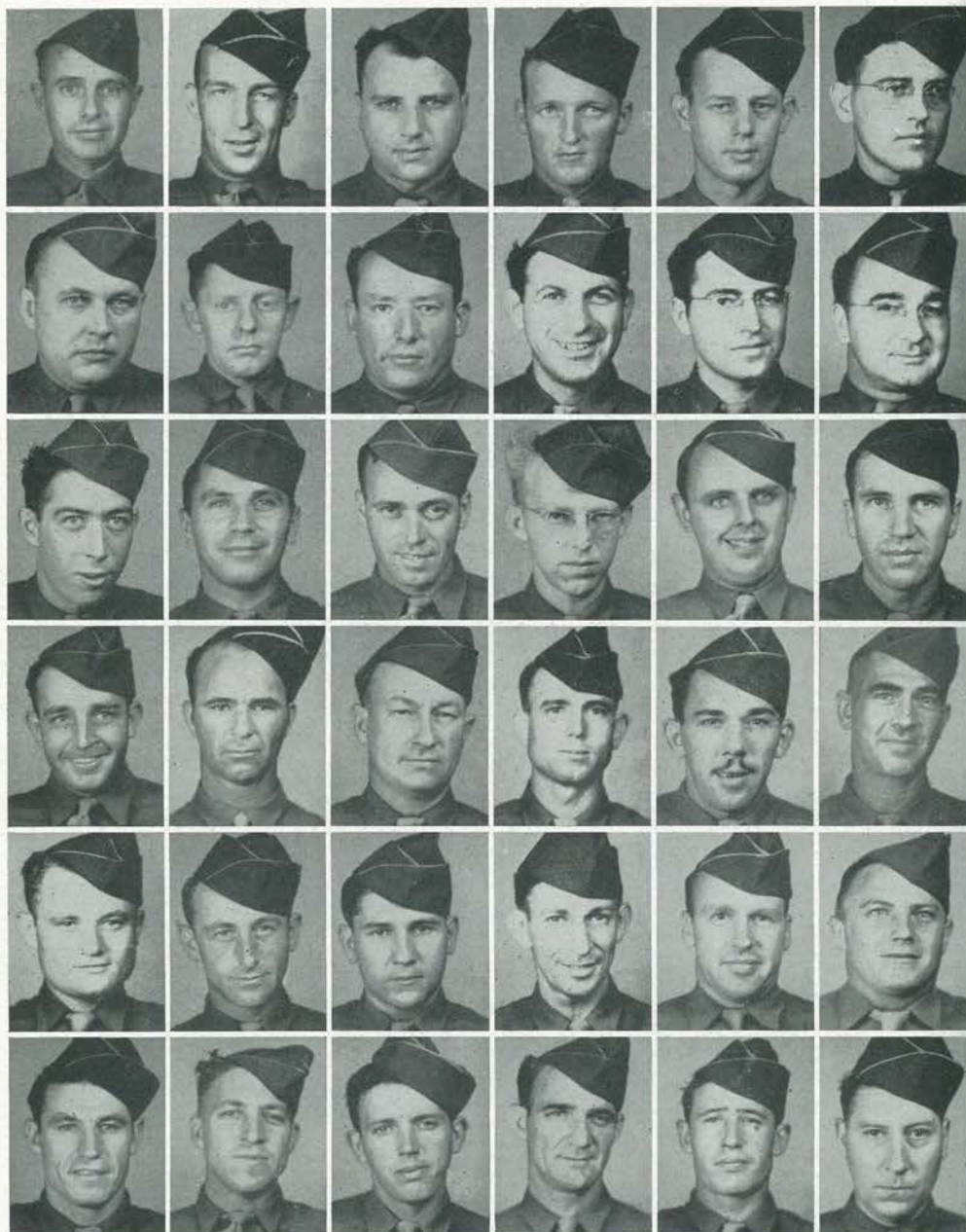
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SABOL, Victor, T/4, 359 Bostwick Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.
SANDERS, Pearl C., T/4, 1126 Wells St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

FIFTH ROW:

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STEIN, August C., T/4, Rt. 2, Mascoutah, Ill.
WEAVER, Dean L., T/4, Rt. 7, Box 579, Johnstown, Pa.
WILKINSON, Frederick L., T/4, 114 E. Madison Ave., Collingswood, N. J.
ADAMS, Paul D., Cpl., Coldwater, Ohio.
BENESCH, Joseph, Cpl., 808 W. Lombard St., Baltimore, Md.

SIXTH ROW:

BREWINGTON, Herbert, Cpl., 162 Washington Pl., Spartanburg, S. C.
CLARK, Lester, Cpl., 3460 W. 32nd Ave., Denver, Colo.
DALZELLE, Omar B., Cpl., 354 Scott Ave., Paris, Ky.
GRIEME, Hawley J., Cpl., 430 Elm St., Ludlow, Ky.
McHOES, Wayne R., Cpl., Rt. 3, Box 34, Olympia, Wash.
NESSLER, Fred E., Cpl., 564 Hunterdon St., Newark, N. J.





SERVICE COMPANY



FIRST ROW:

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RALPH, Sam D., Cpl., 305 N. Taylor, El Dorado, Ky.
RUMBLEY, Robert E., Cpl., 512 Lincoln St., Topeka, Kan.
SCHOFER, Kermit E., Cpl., 101 High St., Topton, Pa.
SPITTLE, Richard M., Cpl., Rt. 5, Monroe, N. C.

SECOND ROW:

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BALLATO, Michael P., T/5, 1066 Fourth St., Weirton, W. Va.
BERRIER, Roland G., T/5, 1356 Dayton St., Denver, Colo.
CARDER, Garold W., T/5, 1443 Capitol Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.
CLOAR, Ervin A., T/5, Rt. 1, Rives, Tenn.

THIRD ROW:

CRONIN, Selmer, T/5, 804 14th St., Tell City, Ind.
DeHOFF, Ralph L., T/5, 3047 Meredith Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
FANGMEIER, Martin A., T/5, Glead, Neb.
FLANDERS, Bardon W., T/5, Newport, N. H.
FRITZ, Ralph E., T/5, 318 Spruce St., St. Marys, Pa.

FOURTH ROW:

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LUETKE, Gordon G., T/5, 229 Scott St., Ripon, Wis.
NIELSEN, Gordon E., T/5, Box 156, Declo, Idaho.
STEVENSON, Kenneth, T/5, Rt. 2, Kansas City, Mo.
TAYLOR, Caleb W., T/5, 325 Broadview St., Jackson, Miss.

FIFTH ROW:

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THOMAS, Henry J., T/5, Rt. 2, Box 201, Madera, Calif.
WURM, Floyd N., T/5, Harvey, N. D.
BALDERSTON, LaVerne F., Pfc., 1919 Mason St., Omaha, Neb.
BATES, Richard A., Pfc., Grandview, Ark.

SIXTH ROW:

BINDER, Robert L., Pfc., 140 South Broad St., Lansdale, Pa.
DYMOND, John E., Pfc., Fairfax, Mo.
GUMBARDA, Robert, Pfc., 5811 Rhodes Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
HILEMAN, John A., Pfc., 338 Wheatland Ave., Logansport, Ind.
JOHNSON, Gordon G., Pfc., 1846 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

SEVENTH ROW:

JOHNSON, Riner M., Pfc., Martin, S. D.
KIEC, Stanley J., Pfc., 242 Lathrop St., Buffalo, N. Y.
MORROW, Clyde C., Pfc., 117 West Cannon St., Fort Worth, Tex.
NIELSEN, LaVern W., Pfc., 1528 Edison St., Salt Lake City, Utah.
PAFUMI, Anthony E., Pfc., 11-35 30th Dr., Long Island, N. Y.

EIGHTH ROW:

PAPSDORF, Norman E., Rt. 1, Clinton, Mich.
RODRIGUEZ, Bernardo, Pfc., Box 21, Yuba City, Calif.
RYTKONEN, Roy, Pfc., Box 322, Negaunee, Mich.
SEURER, Harold, Pfc., New Market, Minn.
STOCKER, Sidney R., Pfc., 420 Race St., Catasaugua, Pa.

NINTH ROW:

TERUGGI, Neto, Pfc., 612 North 12th St., Herrin, Ill.
TRAMMELL, Roy E., Pfc., 616 South St., Iola, Kan.
TWYMAN, Bill L., Pfc., Cave Junction, Ore.
WELCH, Thomas G., Pfc., Rt. 2, Crystal Springs, Miss.
WHITT, William A., Pfc., Water Gap, Ky.

TENTH ROW:

WILSON, Hugh G., Pfc., Smithland, Ky.
EXTINE, Charlie C., Pvt.
GREEN, Leonard, Pvt., Davy, W. Va.
PEISTRACK, John F., Pvt., 18461 Syracuse Ave., Detroit, Mich.



WESLEY B. STREITLE
Captain
Commanding Officer



NOAH I. KRALL
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



CHARLES W. MUEGGE
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



JOHN F. SULLINGER
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



JACK C. PYATT
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

C O M P A N Y A

24TH TANK BATTALION

FIRST ROW:

IDAHL, William K., 1/Sgt., Rt. 1, Beverly, W. Va.
LAMB, Joseph, S/Sgt., 516 S. Pearl St., Denver, Colo.
LEPP, Roger D., S/Sgt., 8506 Munson Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
METZ, Robert B., S/Sgt., Rt. 1, New Middletown, Ohio.
PRECCO, John, S/Sgt., 654 Green St., San Francisco, Calif.
BALON, Ted K., Sgt., 8244 Kenney, Detroit, Mich.

SECOND ROW:

CALL, Angelo, Sgt., 467 Oceanside Ave., Staten Island, N. Y.
DAVIS, Jim, Sgt., 219 Rives Rd., Martinsville, Va.
MAZZELLA, Andrew J., Sgt., 321 East 150th St., New York, N. Y.
SALYERS, George, Sgt., Waynesburg, Ky.
SHUSTAK, Charles J., Sgt., 349 North Seventh St., Newark, N. J.
SIMMONS, C. J., Sgt., 1258 Nutwood Ave., Bowling Green, Ky.

THIRD ROW:

WILLET, Jay L., Sgt., Black Mountain, N. C.
WILLIAMS, C. E., Sgt., 10 Perry Rd., Greenville, S. C.
BALLARD, George S., T/4, Edwardsville, Kan.
BLATCH, Norman C., T/4, Box 242, Ellwood City, Pa.
CHRISTENSEN, Ernest, T/4, Williston, N. D.
GEORGE, Calvin L., T/4, Rt. 1, Callands, Va.

FOURTH ROW:

HODGE, Joseph E., T/4, 4011 Ellery Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
KING, Wallace W., T/4, 12 Overhill Rd., Upper Darby, Pa.
RZCECZNIK, Walter, T/4, Smithfield St., New Castle, Pa.
SAUNDERS, Herman V., T/4, Oakwood, Ill.
SMITH, Wilber A., T/4, 31 Second St., Marysville, Calif.
TRUAX, Lester, T/4, East Springfield, Ohio.

FIFTH ROW:

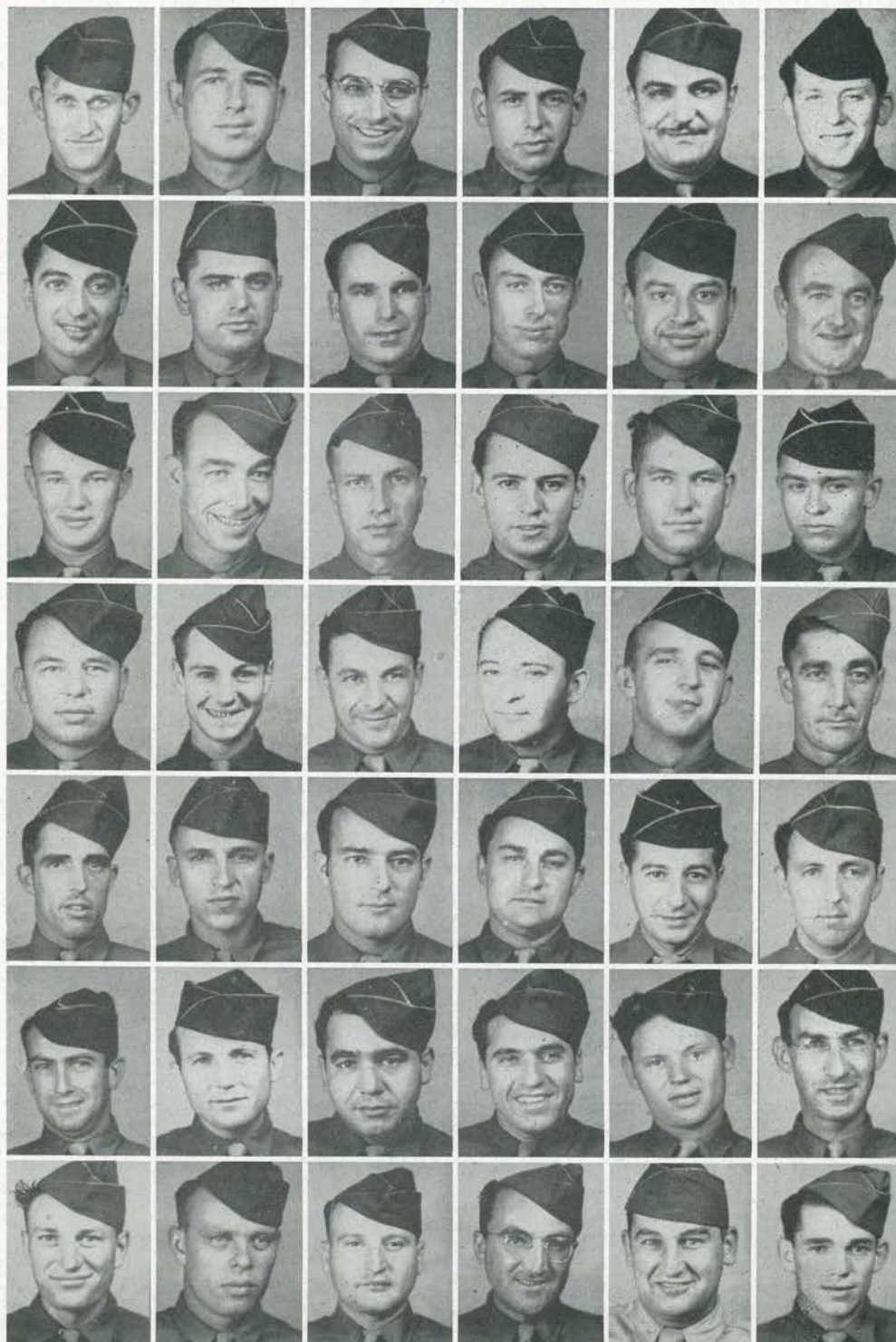
WALKER, William, T/4, Marion, Iowa.
BAKER, Bennie, Cpl., Box 112, Lufkin, Tex.
BLASI, Louis, Cpl., Mildred, Pa.
BROSKY, John, Cpl., 2710 Arthington, Chicago, Ill.
CAPRIOLA, Vito A., Cpl., 957 East 215th St., Bronx, N. Y.
DICK, Francis M., Cpl., Lyons, Colo.

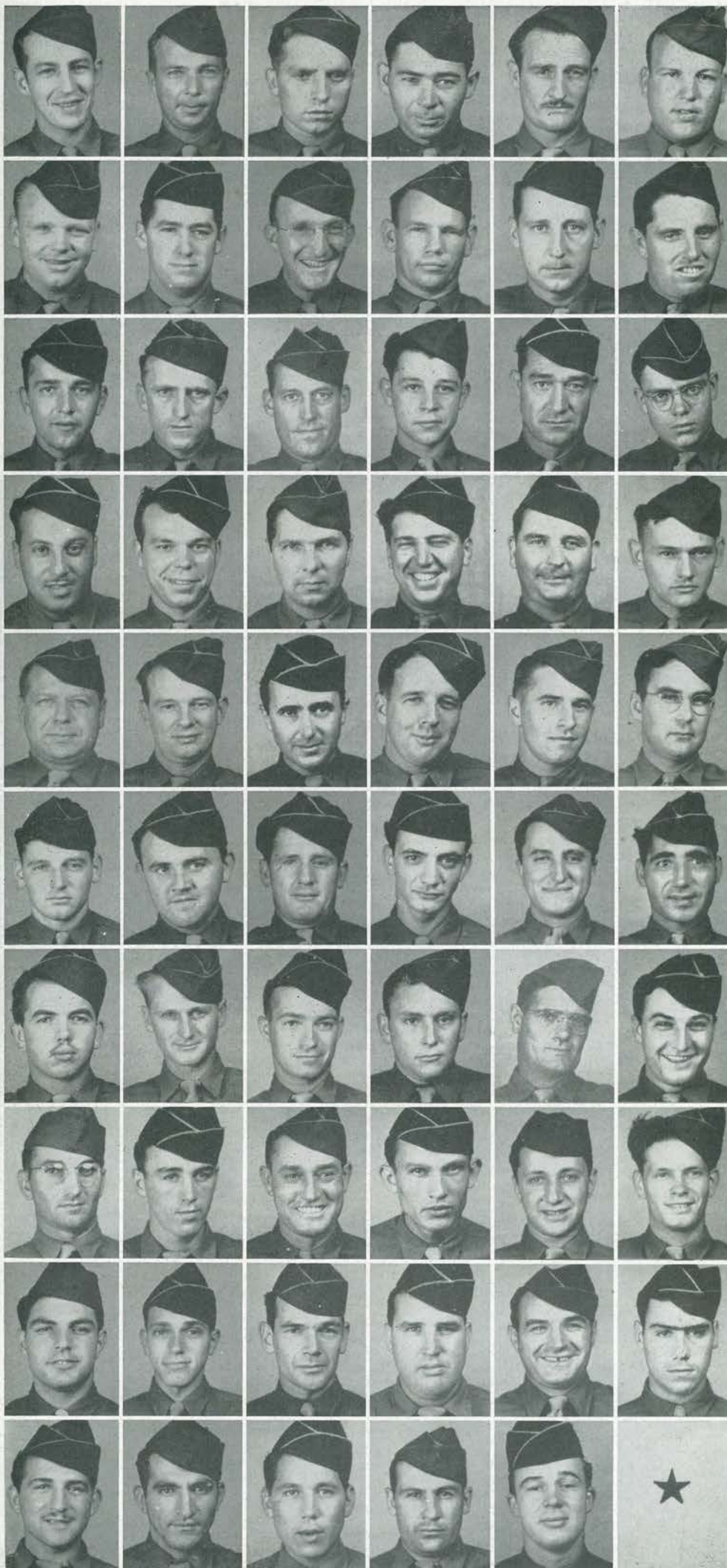
SIXTH ROW:

ELLIOTT, Wendell, Cpl., Alma, Tex.
JOHNSON, James M., Cpl., Rt. 3, Moundville, Ala.
LEVIN, Jacob, Cpl., 1318 S. Central Park, Chicago, Ill.
MARBELLO, William A., Cpl., 5010 Barton St., Philadelphia, Pa.
NOVAK, Joseph, Cpl., Rt. 1, Box 452, Uniontown, Pa.
O'NEILL, Edwin A., Cpl., 36 Guernsey St., W. Roxbury, Mass.

SEVENTH ROW:

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SABONIS, Frank J., Cpl., Hazardville, Conn.
SANGER, Carl A., Cpl., 6208 Grant St., St. Joseph, Mo.
SEIBER, Eric, Cpl., Salem, Ill.
SVOCHAK, William, Cpl., 5378 Cooper, Detroit, Mich.
THACKREY, Robert A., Cpl., 2019 Orchard Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.





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 BAUCHUM, Thomas R., T/5, Box 192, Edcouch
 Tex.
 CROWNOVER, Charles E., T/5, 426 N. Ramona,
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 DICKEY, Clarence, T/5, Rt. 2, Buchanan, Mich.

SECOND ROW:

DOTSON, James T., Ransom, Ky.
 LANE, John P., T/5, 436 Armistice Blvd., Paw-
 tucket, R. I.
 PROVENCE, Edwin, T/5, London, Ky.
 RACZKOWSKI, Anthony J., T/5, 1832 East 29th
 St., Tacoma, Wash.
 REITZ, Lavern L., T/5, 110 Vanover Salishan,
 Tacoma, Wash.
 SMITH, William, T/5, Glennie, Mich.

THIRD ROW:

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 Palatine, Ill.
 WIESE, Elmer B., T/5, Vall, Iowa.
 BAKER, Clifford, Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 130, Satrobe,
 Pa.
 BARRETT, Boyd, Pfc., Rt. 1, Kerrmoor, Pa.
 BARRETT, Paris A., Pfc., Bluefield, Va.
 BEAUCHAMP, Artie L., Pfc., 8 Cedar St., Clayton,
 N. M.

FOURTH ROW:

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 Chicago, Ill.
 BURDELL, Harry, Pfc., 225 W. Water St., Litch-
 field, Ill.
 DAVIS, Earl H., Pfc., 413 S. Albert St., Cape
 Girardeau, Mo.
 DEAL, Harold C., Pfc., 807 Highland Ave., Iowa
 City, Iowa.
 DEDOR, Edward, Pfc., 4369 East 144th St., Cleve-
 land, Ohio.
 FRIED, Douglas O., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 148, Mena,
 Ark.

FIFTH ROW:

GICEVICE, John J., Pfc., 55 Boston St., Methu-
 en, Mass.
 GLADNEY, Robert, Pfc., Box 114, Weir, Miss.
 GOLDSMITH, Barry, Pfc., 95 Highland, Metuchen,
 N. J.
 GOSSETT, Charles W., Pfc., 1417 Cooper St., Ft.
 Worth, Tex.
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 HEHL, Arthur L., Pfc., 902 Berry Ave., Bellevue,
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SIXTH ROW:

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 KOWALESKI, Leonard J., Pfc., Gaylord, Mich.
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 LIPARI, Antonio, Pfc., 710 Sixth Ave., Brooklyn,
 N. Y.
 MANCINI, Cofliero, Pfc., 1181 S. Waring, Detroit,
 Mich.
 MARQUES, Manuel, Vanicek Ave., Middletown,
 R. I.

SEVENTH ROW:

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 MOTYLEWICZ, Albert C., Rt. 1, Windsor, Ohio.
 MURPHY, James, Pfc., 2400 Sherman Ave., Mid-
 dletown, Ohio.
 ROBINSON, Buck, Pfc., Box 445, Louisville, Miss.
 SMITH, Tommie, Pfc., Byrds, Tex.
 TALARICO, Frank J., Pfc., 2626 E. Countyline
 Rd., Ardmore, Pa.

EIGHTH ROW:

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 N. J.
 WARD, Bernard P., Pfc., 4506 Overbrook Ave.,
 Philadelphia, Pa.
 BRASWELL, Sam, Pvt., 2107 Gano St., Dallas,
 Tex.
 CAUDILLO, Selestino, Pvt., 816 Dolores St., Corpus
 Christi, Tex.
 CLEARFIELD, Leonard, Pvt., Stratford and
 Spring Ave., Melrose Pk., Philadelphia, Pa.
 DAVISON, Richard C., Pvt., Deanfield St., Dean-
 field, N. J.

NINTH ROW:

FIGLIOLINO, Louis A., Pvt., 14 Seeley St., Pater-
 son, N. J.
 GUZIK, Ronald K., Pvt., 32 Independence St.,
 Tarrytown, N. Y.
 HARRON, Thomas G., Pvt., 2400 Van Ness Ave.,
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 LEARY, R. A., Pvt., 230 York St., Vallejo, Calif.
 LELKO, Henry, Pvt., 4736 S. Ada St., Chicago,
 Ill.
 LUTZ, John P., Pvt., Box 301, Hopewell, N. J.

TENTH ROW:

MISH, Jack, Pvt., 10 St. Marks Pl., New York,
 N. Y.
 OLIVAREZ, Salvador, Pvt., Rt. 1, Caldwell, Tex.
 PENISKA, Laramie, Pvt., 5514 S. 31st St., Omaha,
 Neb.
 WILLIAMS, W. T., Pvt.
 MERCER, Joseph, 165 Ridge Rd., Rochester, N. Y.
 N. Y.



LESTER G. HANSEN
Captain
Commanding Officer



JACK E. DAWSON
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



IRA F. SWEARINGEN
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



ELLIS J. WILLIAMS
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer

C O M P A N Y B

24TH TANK BATTALION

FIRST ROW:

DUNCAN, Odie, 1/Sgt., Rt. 1, Cornelia, Ga.
BARRY, Albert, T/Sgt., 101 Westminster Ave.,
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FISHER, Cecil E., S/Sgt., 1210 E. Promenade St.,
Mexico, Mo.
McCOY, Clyde H., S/Sgt., Box 93, Highland, Ohio.
McINTOSH, James S., S/Sgt., Rt. 8, Hamilton,
Ohio.
SPETH, Leonard M., S/Sgt., 1005 Madison St.,
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SECOND ROW:

CARROLL, James C., Sgt., Rt. 1, Manchester, Ga.
DICKE, Ernest R., T/4, Rt. 2, Columbus, Neb.
FLINT, Charles W., T/4, Natural Bridge, Va.
FUNK, Floyd W., T/4, West Jefferson St., Van-
dalla, Ill.
GRIFFITHS, Glenn A., Sgt., Rt. 1, Box 527,
Lansing, Mich.
HAGAN, Warren E., Sgt., 1105 Prairie Ave., Mat-
toon, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

HAMPTON, Willie S., Sgt., Rt. 3, Rutherfordton,
N. C.
HOLLAUBAUGH, Marshall J., Sgt., 119 E. Uni-
versity St., Waxahachie, Tex.
KENNERLY, Glenn C., Sgt., 600 Patterson Ave.,
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McCARTHY, John J., Jr., Sgt., 7940 S. Throop St.,
Chicago, Ill.
McRAE Thomas J., T/4, Rt. 1, Burdick, Kan.
ROMEO, Dominick J., Sgt., 16 Rumsey St.,
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FOURTH ROW:

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STUCKI, Warren W., Sgt., Helena, Mo.
STUDER, Edwin H., T/4, Box 51, Preston, Kan.
WEBBER, John F., Sgt., 54 Penn Ave., Sinking
Spring, Pa.
YANDRICK, Michael E., Sgt., Box 121, Hostetter,
Pa.
ANDERSON, Alvin A., T/4, Box 454, Bassett,
Neb.

FIFTH ROW:

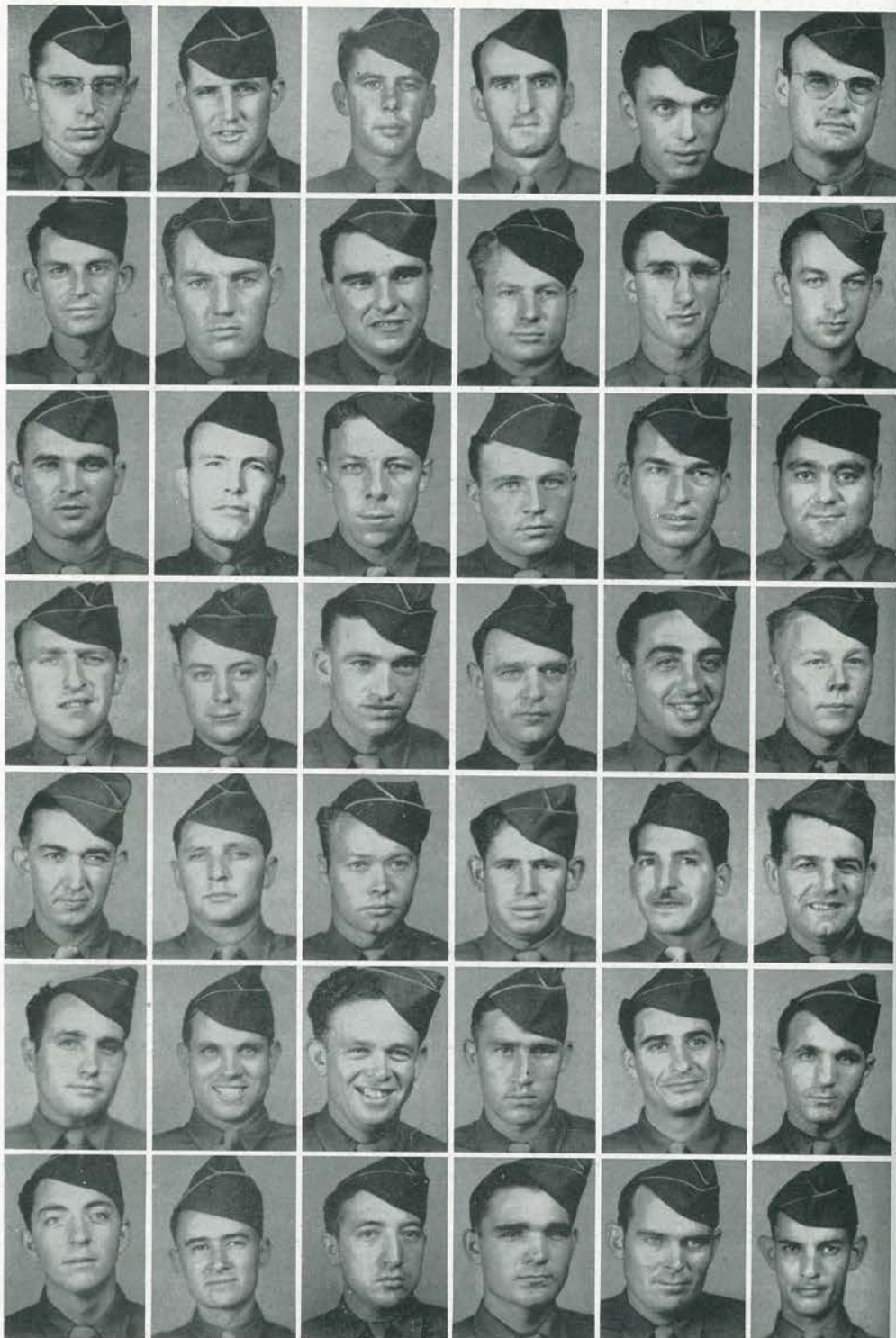
ANDREWS, Thomas E., T/4, 3401 16th Ave.,
Sacramento, Calif.
BROWN, Louis R., T/4, Rt. 1, Sesser, Ill.
CARRINGTON, Walter L., T/4, 1027 Krause Ave.,
Peoria, Ill.
DEYOUNG, Oliver H., T/4, Rt. 1, Woodruff, S. C.
ESCANDON, Daniel H., T/4, 321 N. Arizona Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.
ONEILL, William A., T/4, 531 S. Main St., Great
Barrington, Mass.

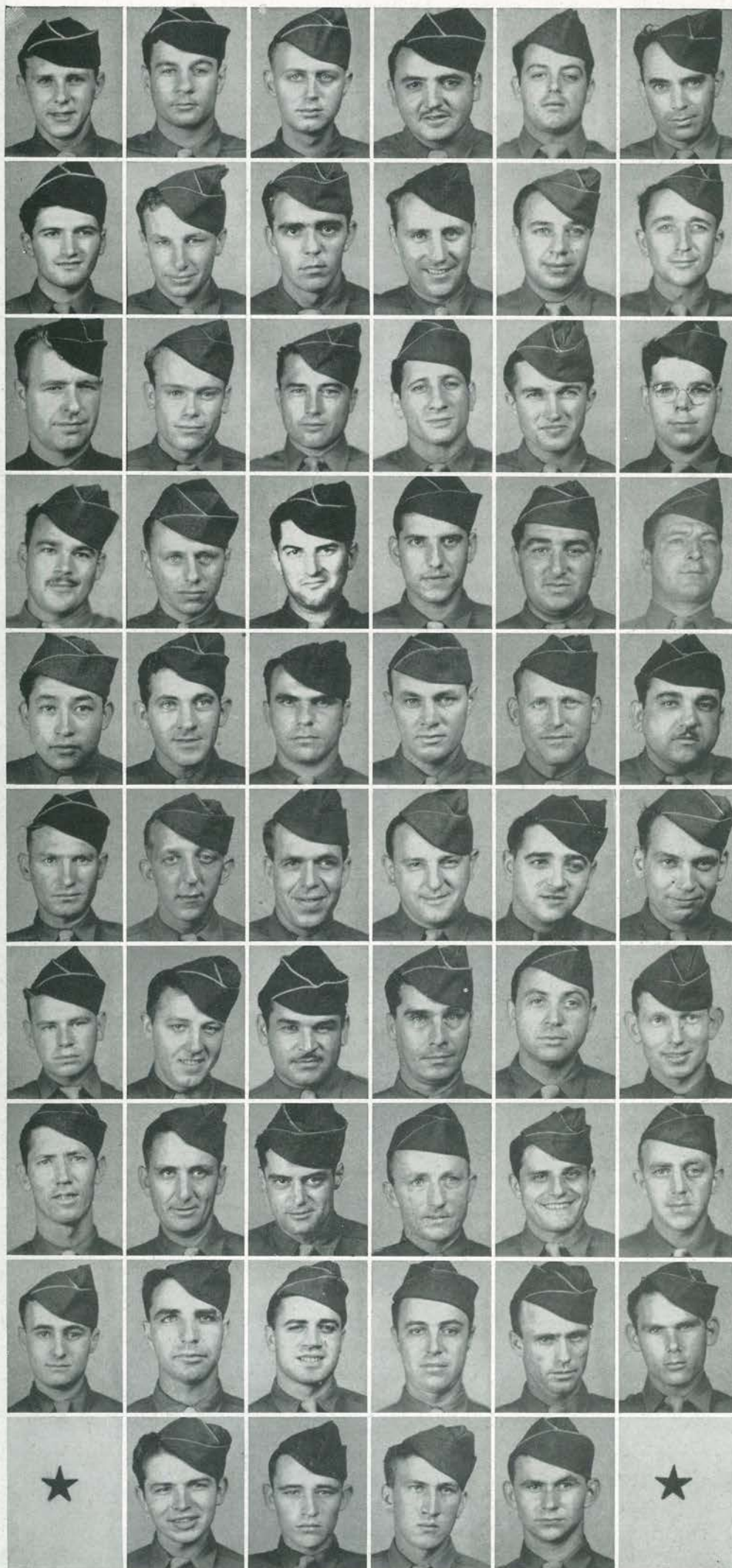
SIXTH ROW:

PUGH, Delmer D., T/4, Boyer, W. Va.
SCHARTIGER, Darius, T/4, Box 216, La Frank,
W. Va.
BOLINSKI, John S., Cpl., 4416 Comly St., Phila-
delphia, Pa.
BRYANT, Douglas E., Cpl., 902 Wise St., Lynch-
burg, Va.
CECCONI, William D., Cpl., 1938 York St., Blue
Island, Ill.
DICIERO, Vincent J., Cpl., 1502 Vine St., Cin-
cinnati, Ohio.

SEVENTH ROW:

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FINK, Adam, Cpl., 4578 Leaf Ct., Denver, Colo.
HENZE, Herman W., Jr., T/5, Rt. 4, Elgin, Tex.
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JENKINS, James L., Cpl., Box 52, Havaco, W. Va.





COMPANY B

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 LANZA, Eustachio, Cpl., 739 Winton St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 MALONEY, Francis D., Cpl., 315 Larimer Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

SECOND ROW:

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 NEUDECK, Robert A., Cpl., Rt. 2, Box 74, Ste. Genevieve, Mo.
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 PLUNKETT, Harold C., Cpl., Box 1095, Burke, Idaho.
 STEIN, Chester L., Cpl., 9138 S. Oakley Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 WOMACK, Hovell C., Cpl., Gadsden, Ala.

THIRD ROW:

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 AXLEY, Lawrence J., T/5, Rt. 12, Box 1310, Phoenix, Ariz.
 BROWNING, Earl, T/5, 515 W. Sixth St., Chattanooga, Tenn.
 GERVASI, Sam J., T/5, 1 South Murray St., Madison, Wis.
 KOTHANEK, Richard F., T/5, 2107 S. 48th Ct., Cicero, Ill.
 MORTON, Donald B., T/5, 988 Greenfield Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

FOURTH ROW:

POE, Garland A., T/5, Box 422, Winnsboro, Tex.
 SETTERSTROM, Carl R., T/5, Rt. 7, Little Falls, Minn.
 STIPONOVICH, Peter, T/5, 115 E. Hunt St., Paragould, Ark.
 BALL, Herbert H., Pfc., Hubball, W. Va.
 BILL, Gilbert B., Pfc., Gridley, Ill.
 BURNS, Francis E., Pfc., 919 Rose Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

FIFTH ROW:

CARO, Joe M., Pfc., 1317 N. Culver St., Compton, Calif.
 CARPENTER, George E., Pfc., Brightwood, Va.
 CORNIBIE, Louis A., Pfc., 126 Hickory St., Butler, Pa.
 DOWD, David R., Pfc., 506 17th Ave., Paterson, N. J.
 ELLETT, Ernest H., Pfc., Coatesville, Ind.
 GARCIA, Amos M., Pfc., 1817 Bramble St., Houston, Tex.

SIXTH ROW:

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 HERSHBERGER, Ned G., Pfc., Hooversville, Pa.
 HITCHENS, Matthew E., Pfc., 6646 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 HOLOWATY, Andrew, Pfc., 32 East Seventh St., New York City, N. Y.
 LABOSSIERE, Wilfred N., Pfc., 84 Water St., Danielson, Conn.
 MACCHINI, Enrico, Pfc., 4828 S.E. 41st Ave., Portland, Ore.

SEVENTH ROW:

OAKLEY, Billy D., Pfc., 309 N. McLaren St., Marion, Ill.
 OSTROKOL, Joseph J., Pfc., 8423 Brandon Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 PAREDES, Rodolfo C., Pfc., 209 Ave. L, Lubbock, Tex.
 PARKER, Edwin R., Pfc., 2639 Forest, Kansas City, Mo.
 POORE, Frank J., Pfc., Box 66, Ware Shoals, S. C.
 PUGH, Clyde W., Pfc., Rt. 2, Carvin St., Vinton, Va.

EIGHTH ROW:

REEVES, Andrew E., Pfc., 1430 Walton Way, Augusta, Ga.
 ROSS, James R., Pfc., 109 17th St., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 SCHROEDER, Alfred H., Pfc., 1301 S. Main St., Corbin, Ky.
 SHAW, Walter L., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 34, McCool, Miss.
 SINGRABER, John R., Pfc., 5254 S. Marshfield St., Chicago, Ill.
 WEBNER, Herbert O., Pfc., Rt. 1, Garner, Iowa.

NINTH ROW:

WELDER, Joseph L., 327 Brooklyn Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 WILLIAMS, Hubert D., Pfc., Box 91, Blachly, Ore.
 WILSON, James L., Pfc., 171 Howell Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Ga.
 ALEXANDER, Jesse C., Pvt., Waugh, Ala.
 BURTON, Robert T., Pvt., 230 East Main St., Lebanon, Tenn.
 DILLARD, Dewey E., Pvt., 5538 Bunte St., Houston, Tex.

TENTH ROW:

DOERRE, Carl J., Pvt., 3 Malan Ave., Berlin Heights, N. J.
 DUNWOODY, John P., Pvt., Rt. 2, Lafayette, Ga.
 HUDDLESTON, Charles W., Pvt., Rt. 3, Box 55, Williamsburg, Ky.
 SPANI, Herman A., Pvt., Blanchardville, Wis.



RICHARD F. BLAKE
Captain
Commanding Officer



GEORGE W. HUGHES
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



STEPHEN H. SMITH
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



MARCUS M. JARVIS
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



C O M P A N Y C

24TH TANK BATTALION

FIRST ROW:

HICKS, Pearl F., 1/Sgt., Durham, Mo.
MYERS, Arthur, T/Sgt., 766 Francis Way, Yuba City, Calif.
BERRYMAN, Kenneth, S/Sgt., 2825 S. Fourth St., Louisville, Ky.
GRIFFITH, William E., S/Sgt., 240 Wilson Ave., Beaver, Pa.
SMITH, Glenn W., S/Sgt., 1323 N. Mansfield, Hollywood, Calif.
UNLAND, Harold J., S/Sgt., 4230-A Linton Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

SECOND ROW:

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BROWN, John V., Sgt., 1266 W. Bucker Rd., Mobile, Ala.
CHANEY, A. W., Sgt., 1022 Sturguss Ave., Seattle, Wash.
DILLARD, William C., Sgt., 3328 Handoer Ave., Richmond, Va.
FORD, Charles, Sgt., 1719 Lakefront Ave., East Cleveland, Ohio.
FROST, L. M., Sgt., 218 Robinwood Ave., Elmira, N. Y.

THIRD ROW:

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JACKSON, James W., Sgt., 60 Washington St., Nashville, Tenn.
JOHNSON, Lonnie E., Sgt., Rt. 2, Smithfield, N. C.
KNOBLOCK, Gillis L., Sgt., Box 72, Buntyn Station, Memphis, Tenn.
MCNEIR, Joseph G., Sgt., Oak Ridge, N. J.
MOLEBASH, Reuben F., Sgt., Rt. 2, Etna Green, Ind.

FOURTH ROW:

ROBERTS, Graig, Sgt., 915 N. 14th St., Dekalb, Ill.
STILES, Okley W., Sgt., Blacksville, W. Va.
STRAUSS, George F., Sgt., 84 Passaic Ave., Hawthorne, N. J.
SUBER, Jacob A., Sgt., Columbia, S. C.
THOMPSON, David C., Sgt., Rt. 2, Mooresville, N. C.
ZARINSKY, Hyman, Sgt., 822 Leesville Ave., Rahway, N. J.

FIFTH ROW:

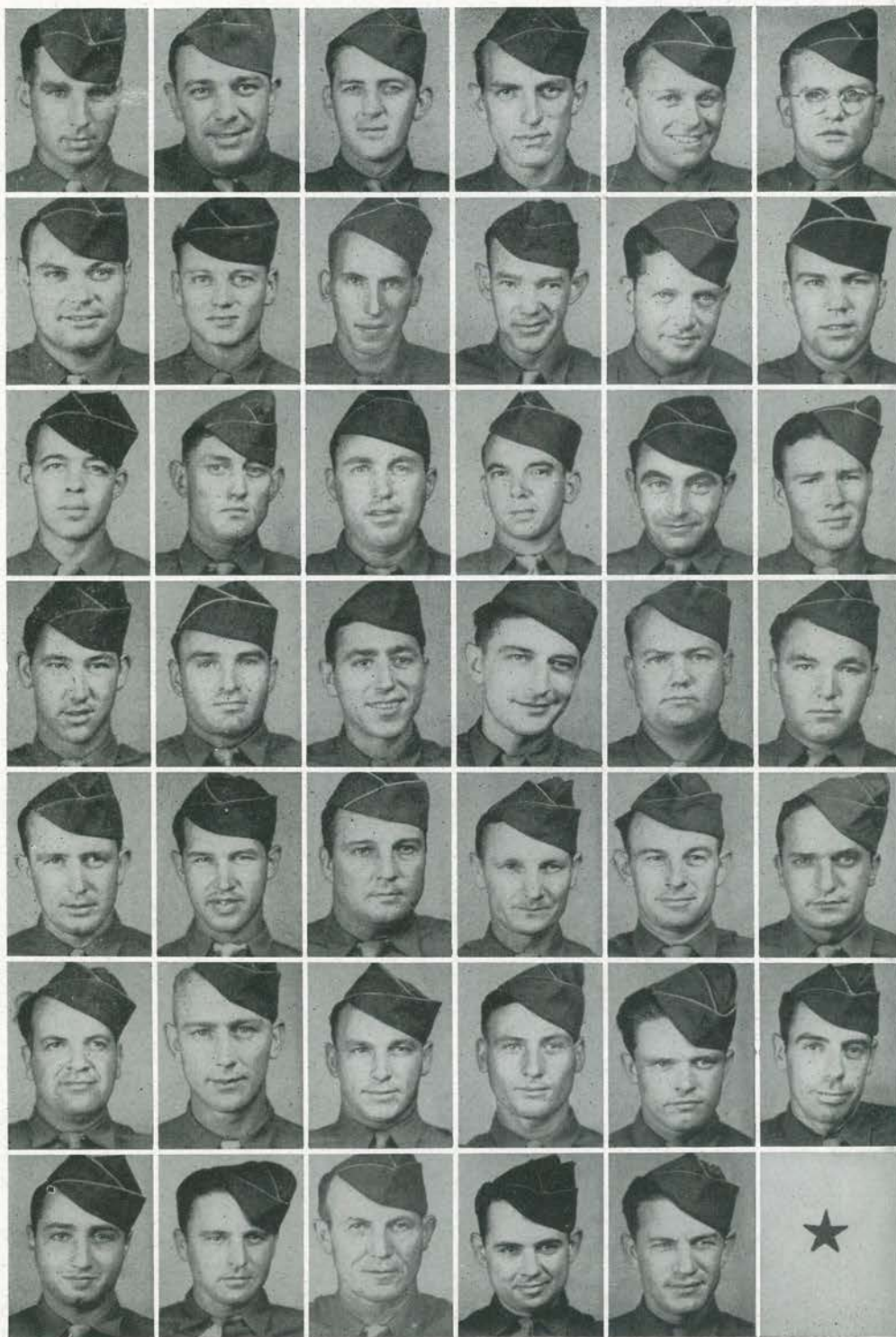
ALLEN, Ira O., T/4, 4101 Garfield, Kansas City, Mo.
ALLEN, Thomas E., T/4, Lafayette, Ala.
ATHERTON, Robert W., T/4, Box 13, Murphy, Tex.
BISHOP, Walter L., T/4, Box 203, Bowie, Md.
ELLIS, Stanley H., T/4, 8 Copy Ave., Oneonta, N. Y.
FORD, Frank D., T/4, 1925 S. 24th Ave., Maywood, Ill.

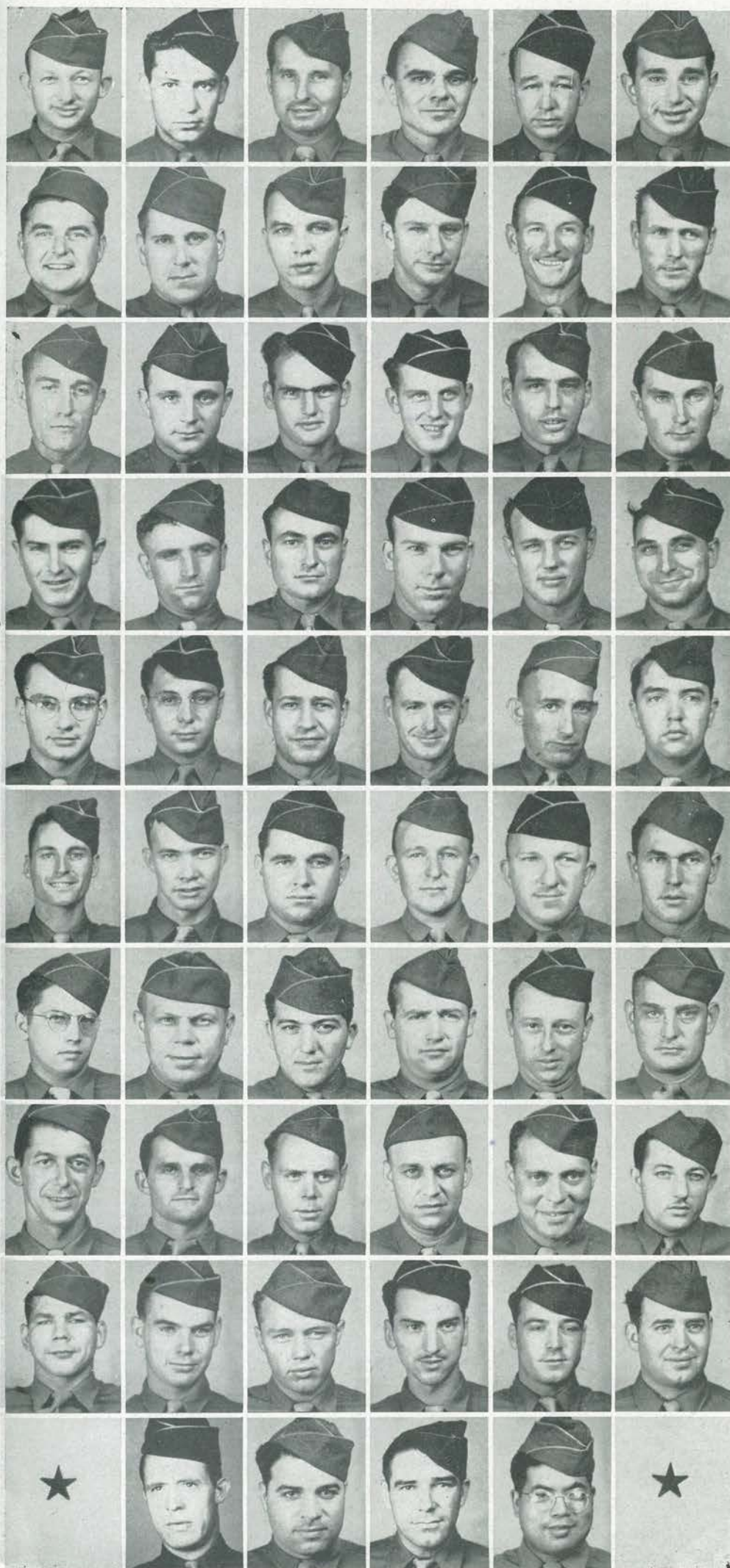
SIXTH ROW:

GREENE, Laurence F., T/4, 25 Lansing Ave., Cortland, N. Y.
KIRBY, Edward E., T/4, Burlington, Colo.
MARKL, Harold V., T/4, 611 Third Ave., S.W., Pipestone, Minn.
RUSSELL, Floyd W., T/4, 2301 E. Ave., Springfield, Mo.
ABBAS, Melvin, Cpl., Geneva, Iowa.
CRAM, Locklon B., Cpl., Kanab, Utah.

SEVENTH ROW:

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JONES, Floyd W., Cpl., Pennsboro, W. Va.
KNODE, Winfred, Cpl., 1125 Randolph Ave., Pulaski, Va.





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 SACHS, Melvin, Cpl., 1024 Ridgely St., Baltimore, Md.

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 TRAITEUR, Joseph, Cpl., Centerville Station, Ill.
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 CARMICHAEL, Sterling, Pfc., Henniker, N. H.
 CARR, Ernest M., Pfc., Newton, Iowa.
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ROBERT J. DEAN
Captain
Commanding Officer



GEORGE E. KIMBALL
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



WHITMAN M. SMITH
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



RICHARD C. SMITH
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



GERALD TURNBULL, JR.
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

C O M P A N Y D

24TH TANK BATTALION



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SECOND ROW:

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COPLEY, James C., S/Sgt., 401 Maryland Ave., Oakmont, Pa.
DOORN, Irwin, Sgt., 2060 Denwood Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.

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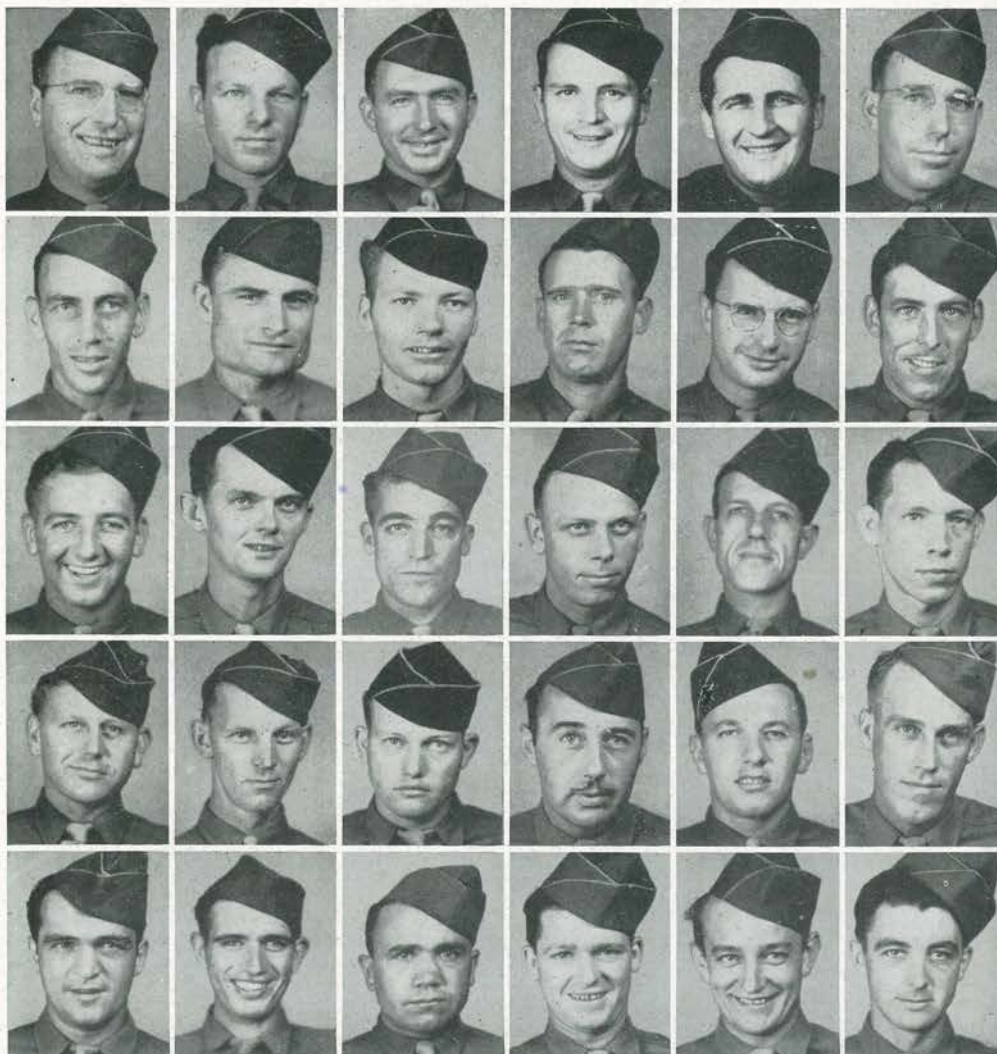
FRIEND, Harold E., Sgt., Rt. 1, West Alexandria, Ohio.
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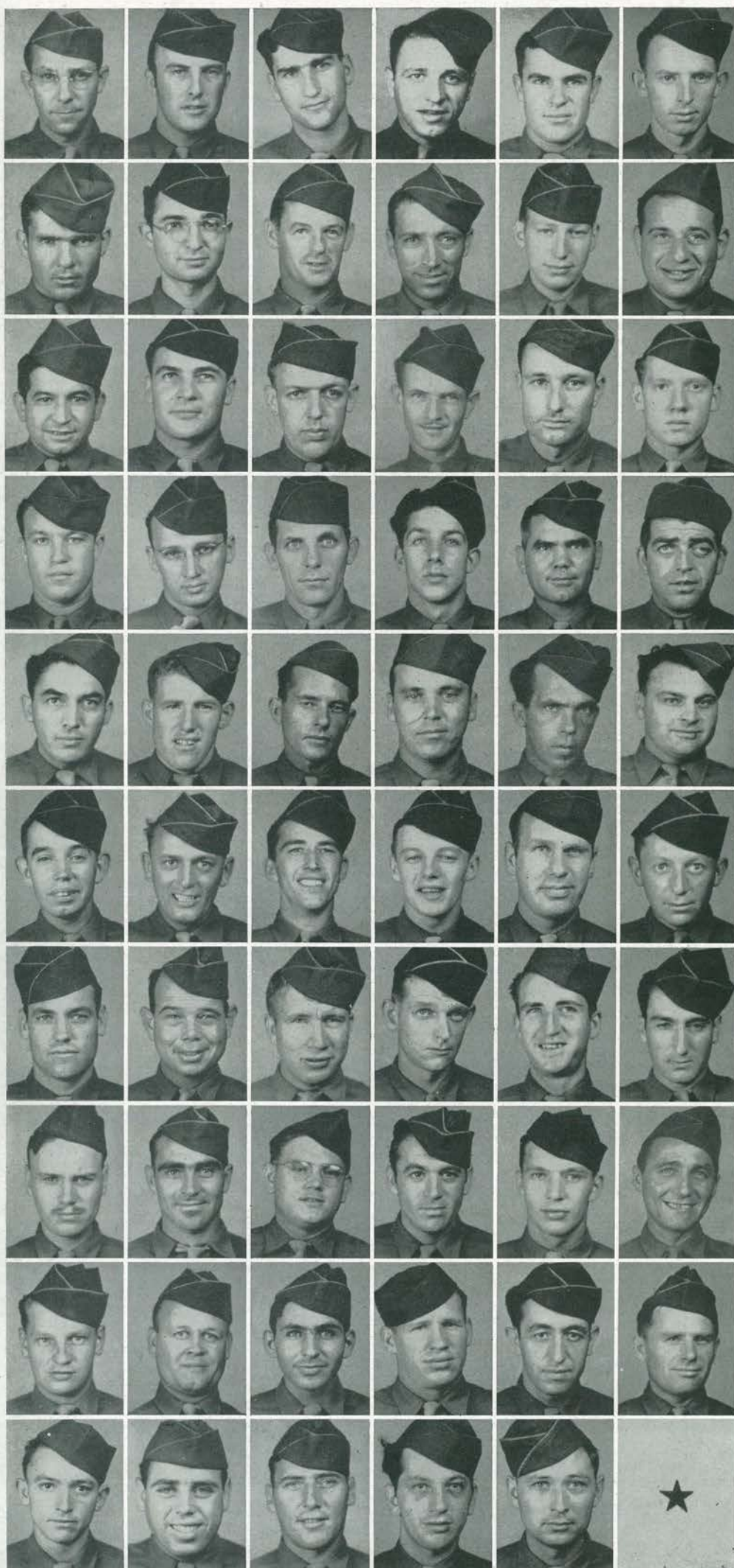
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 KING, Harry G., Jr., Pvt., 417 East LaFayette
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 KLUCAS, Eldon L., Pvt., Waverly, Minn.

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MEHNERT, W. H., S/Sgt., 412 Pulterwey St.,
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McCREARY, Charles J., T/5, 154 Wilson Ave.,
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FISHER, John O., Box 34, Zionsville, Ind.
MARROTTA, Chester, Shelburn, Ind.

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STROUD, Alva L., Rt. 2, Belton, Tex.





HEADQUARTERS
ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

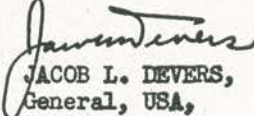
TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division

Modern warfare has made necessary the introduction of new units and new techniques to ensure victory in battle. The 13th Armored Division, activated at Camp Beale, California, on 15 October 1942 as a result of the need for armored units, proved in training and in combat the adaptability and genius of the American soldier in all methods of warfare.

Since the time when I was Commanding General of the Armored Force, I have followed the career of the Black Cat Division with interest and pride. After the completion of training, much of which you did at Camp Bowie, Texas, you arrived overseas early in 1945, and your tankers quickly earned for themselves the respect of the enemy. Joining the Third Army, you participated brilliantly in the final drive across the Danube River deep into Southern Germany. Your officers and men, despite their comparatively brief period in battle, fought with boldness, bravery and skill, winning a firm place in the heritage of our country.

Those of the 13th Armored who find themselves in new tasks, now that the division is being inactivated, will continue to serve their country, I know, with enthusiasm and steadfastness, until our military strength can safely be reduced.

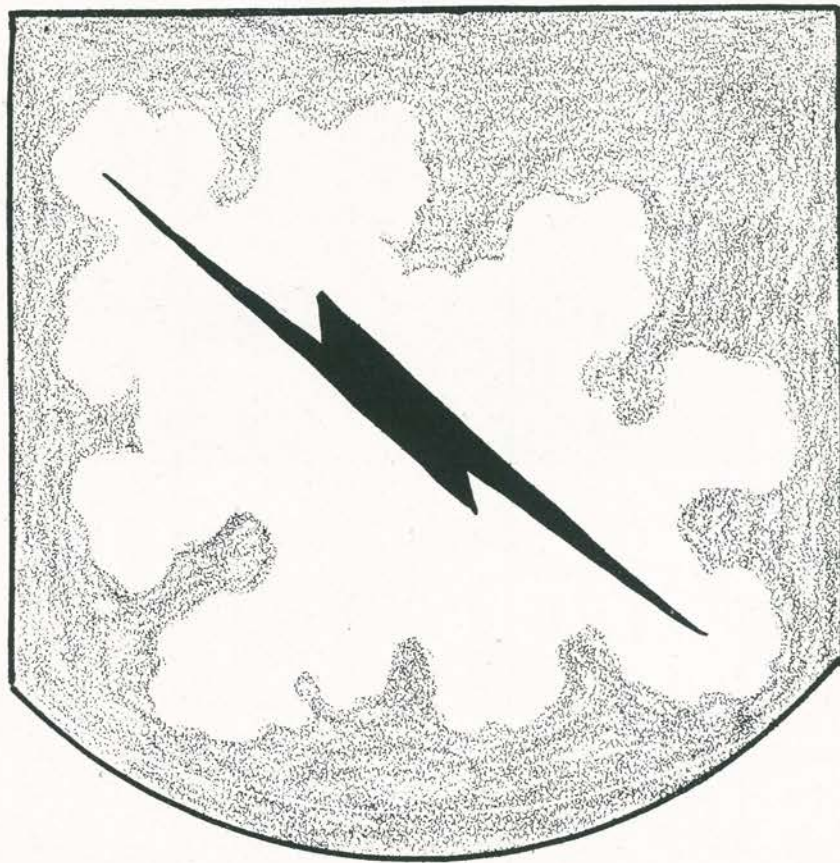
The men in the 13th Armored Division will be forever included among the heroes of our country, and it is for me a proud occasion to be able to commend you most heartily, in the name of all Americans, for your gallant service in defense of freedom.


JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, USA,
Commanding.

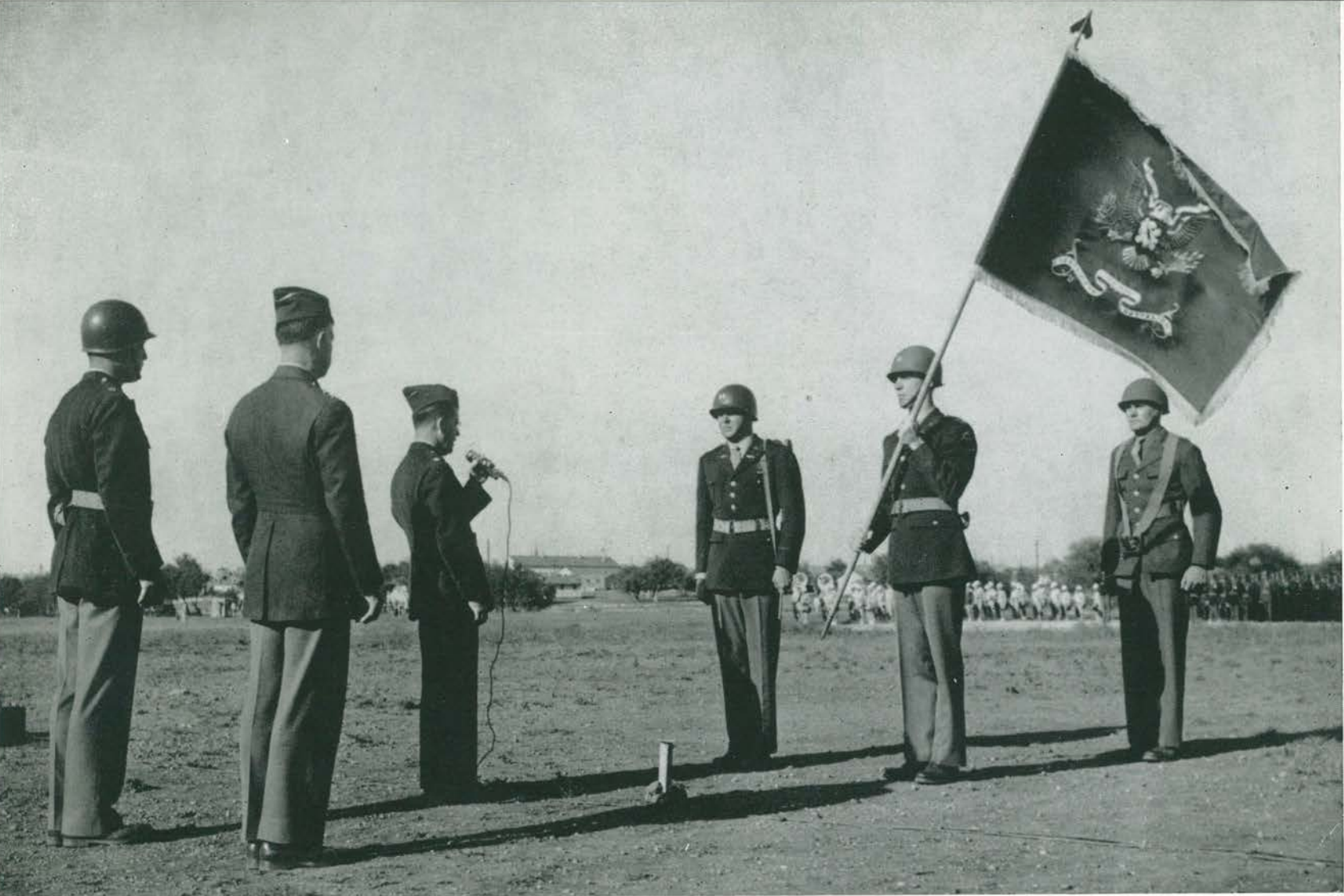
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COMBAT HISTORY

OF THE



FORTY-FIFTH TANK BATTALION



The 45th Formally Receives Its Colors from Maj. Gen. John B. Wogan

A HISTORY OF THE 45TH TANK BATTALION

More than two year's sweat and toil amid the heat and dust of Camp Beale, California and Camp Bowie, Texas, ended on the eighth of January, 1945, as the 45th boarded the waiting troop train bound for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Memories of weekends in Forth Worth and Dallas were mingled with mental question marks about what was ahead.

The snow at Camp Kilmer didn't prevent the majority of personnel from enjoying a day or two in New York City, the first visit for many. The passes over, another troop train, a ferry ride, and suddenly we found ourselves headed into the cold winds of New York Harbor as we nosed out past the Statue of Liberty on the SS *Sea Quail*, part of a twenty-ship convoy escorted by the HMS *Lord Nelson*.

On the 31st of January, after an uneventful trip, the *Sea Quail* docked at Le Havre during one of the coldest spells of the winter. Here the battalion came in contact for the first time with the terrible damage than can be

wrought by war. The buildings were tortured, twisted wrecks, and thereby made the port appear like a land of the lost.

By a combination of marching, train and truck riding, the battalion finally closed in its assembly area in the vicinity of Sevis, France, a small Normandy town. This was the beginning of a series of moves on European soil destined to carry the 45th all the way to Hitler's birthplace and the end of the war. "Things are rough in the ETO" became the favorite expression of all GI's. Several dances introduced GI's to the language and customs of the local French people.

In the seemingly ever-present mud of France, tankers labored long hours preparing the newly received equipment for combat. During this period, an occasional visit to battle-scarred Dieppe or Rouen made the little spare time more interesting.



LT. COL. FULTON G. GALE, JR., *Commanding*

On the 18th of March we hit the road. The long pull to the now rapidly-moving front was on. During our brief stay in France, the Allies had recovered from the Battle of the Bulge, had pushed through portions of the vaunted Siegfried Line, had taken the famous Remagen Bridgehead across the Rhine, and were now striking toward the heart of Germany. Two nights on the road were spent in Soissons and Vitry as we passed the World War I battlefields of Compiegne and Chateau Thierry. The last day of the 300-mile march took us through historic Nancy and then to Bourdonnay, a ghost town in the heart of the nowhere of Eastern France. German and American tanks rusting amid scattered minefields gave evidence of the major engagements fought in the surroundings fields.

A week of test firing and putting finishing touches on the equipment at Bourdonnay was terminated when we received orders for another move. We were headed for Germany. At the end of the March we crossed the border at Saareguemines and moved to Blieskastel, Germany, a town just east of Saarbrücken. At least we were in hostile country, but to all appearances, the local inhabitants had had a change of heart. Anything we wanted done was

done without question, and promptly. The people who could speak German became increasingly popular, and the nonfraternization policy began to be a big item of conversation. After a stay of a week we moved on again, this time into the Saar Valley, 35 miles south of Trier. With troops billeted at Saarburg, Weiskirchen, and Neunkirchen, the battalion established traffic control points along the Third Army main supply route.

The First and Ninth Armies had carved out a pocket in the Ruhr and the 4th Armored Division was deep in Germany when we received our next movement order. We moved to join the Third Army at Alsfeld, Germany, near Kassel, at that time the scene of heavy fighting. We crossed the Rhine River at 0730 on the 7th of April and arrived about 20 miles south of Kassel on the night of 8 April while the report spread that we were immediately to relieve the famed 4th Armored on the drive into the heart of Germany. Instead, orders were received to retrace our steps back almost to the Rhine and join the First Army in clearing out German resistance in the Ruhr Pocket. Leaving "A" Company stranded without bogie wheels, we went back down the autobahn and then north

to the vicinity of Altenkirchen. After a 24-hour stay, a night march was made to Siegburg, our first combat operation. At 0300 on 12 April, 88 and mortar shells began to hit in the battalion area while we remained in assembly just north of Siegburg awaiting our turn to cross the Agger River.

From this time on we operated as a task force in conjunction with the 16th Armored Infantry Battalion. The 45th became Task Force Gale. From here on and for the next week life became a nightmare of enemy fire, constant movement, with never a chance to stop and get just a little rest. Northwest, paralleling the Rhine, to Mulheim on the outskirts of Cologne, and then east toward Berg-Gladbach, we rolled. On 14 April, we headed northeast from Berg-Gladbach to Spitze where "D" Company had spent the previous night "playing" with several 88's well emplaced at a crossroads. From Spitze it was Bechen and Viersbach, both small towns, but full of krauts who used their antiaircraft and antitank guns from all directions. About 1600, CCR, of which we were a part, was ordered to move about 50 miles north to join the 8th Infantry Division in the final squeezing together of the pocket. An all night march brought us to Westerbauer and immediate employment in support of the infantry. Again a blur of action as we went through towns such as Hoppe, Ansbeck, Silchede, Hiddinghausen, Hattingen, Kupferdreh, Langenberg, Niedersprockhovel, and so on, far into several nights, until the battalion reached Velbert at midnight on the 16th and was told to stop because of the proximity of friendly troops. A tremendous ovation, from a large Displaced Persons camp greeted the leading elements as they entered the city. Except for some scattered artillery fire in the town, the Ruhr Pocket was wiped out and over 300,000 Germans had surrendered.

Back again with the Division and on the move, this time headed east toward the Danube with Third Army in its push toward the Austrian border. Our next chance to rest was at Brand, Germany, about 35 miles north of Regensburg, our projected bridgehead across the Danube. On 26 April we moved from Brand to the banks of the Danube and finally fought our way through heavy traffic across the bridge near Regensburg and south toward the initial objective, the Isar River and its crossings. By noon on the 29th we hit the Isar River only to have the Germans blow four bridges in our faces. After a reconnaissance, it was determined that we should try a crossing at

Mamming. The accompanying infantry, Company C, 16th AIB, put across two platoons without opposition until late in the afternoon when several unsuccessful counterattacks were launched at their position. The battalion was relieved at Mamming and with two additional infantry companies attempted another crossing at Landau. This time, enemy opposition and a swift flowing current made the attempt unsuccessful during the night. The following day a crossing was made by elements of the 71st Division who had been in support of the Division.

Our next objective was to obtain crossings over the Inn River and to continue south to Salzburg deep in Austria. We crossed the Isar at Plattling on an engineer bridge and headed south again. With a limited supply of gasoline, the 45th continued south behind CCB with B and C Companies reaching Tann, Germany, on the 1st of May and the remainder of the battalion following on the 2nd of May. "Baker" and "Charlie" Companies participated in the capture of the Hungarian General Staff and the Secretary of State of Hungary with all of their troops in the area as they surrendered to the Division.

On the 3rd it looked as though the war was over. We had moved to the banks of the Inn River at Marktl and were told not to cross, but to remain in our location while Seventh Army troops moved into Austria across the river. Combat in Europe was over for the 45th Tank Battalion, and everyone started to think about the Pacific Theater.

After a brief rest and reconditioning period, the battalion participated in an athletic program while settling down to a brief occupational period in Bavaria. Passes to Paris, the Riviera, and London became possible, in addition to several scenic trips to Berchtesgaden, Chiem See, and Konigsee in the Alps.

Then the word came in June. Back to the States for redeployment to the Pacific. It seemed good to hear that we at least would have a little time at home. On the 25th of June we left Marktl-am-Inn headed for the U. S. and arrived at Camp Atlanta near Mailly, France, on the 28th. After approximately two weeks at Atlanta and a week at Camp Old Gold at Le Havre, we boarded the "Explorer" bound for Boston and a great welcome home. A thirty-day furlough, "VJ" Day, a long train ride back to the State of activation, California, and Camp Cooke. Next? For some a quick discharge and "civvies," for others a little more time to "sweat it out" and dream those wonderful dreams of a world at peace.

IN MEMORIAM

LOSSES IN ACTION

Killed in Action:

CAPTAIN VICTOR V. TAYLOR, JR. Commanding Officer Company C, 45th Tank Battalion. Killed 15 April 1945, Hoppe, Germany. (Recommended for Bronze Star.)

FIRST LIEUTENANT HARRY G. BRICKHOUSE. Platoon Leader Company A, 45th Tank Battalion. Killed 15 April 1945, Gelvesburg, Germany.

SERGEANT LLOYD G. HASFURTHER. Tank Commander Company A, 45th Tank Battalion. Killed 15 April 1945, Neidersprockhovel, Germany.

Died of Wounds:

STAFF SERGEANT LEROY V. HALL. Platoon Sergeant Company C, 45th Tank Battalion. Died 16 April 1945, Milspe, Germany.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSE A. BALTIER. Cannoneer Company A, 45th Tank Battalion. Died 16 April 1945, Neidersprockhovel, Germany.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL AWARDS

LT. COL. FULTON G. GALE

MAJ. EDWARD L. BUSCH

1ST LT. ELMER W. BOWINGTON

1ST LT. HARRY G. BRICKHOUSE

1ST LT. JOHN W. CANNADY

1ST LT. ROBERT S. CUTHERELL

1ST LT. ROBERT A. MARKSON

1ST LT. GUY C. MEISS

1ST LT. DANIEL B. PHILLIPS

CAPT. JEROME H. HIRSCHMANN

1/SGT. DONALD BAKER

1/SGT. LEROY MCCOY

T/SGT. GLENN M. SHULLEY

T/SGT. PETER W. STOCKMAN



S/SGT. HAROLD L. COILE

SGT. JACK H. ALLEN

SGT. CLINTON E. DALE

SGT. JOHN A. SHAVER

CPL. GEORGE B. STOVER, JR.

CPL. LOUIS E. BOLDI

S/SGT. MELVIN F. GROTELUESCHEN

CPL. MARTIN L. LEHMAN

T/5 DELBERT H. JOHNSON

T/5 CHARLES K. SCARBROUGH

T/5 JOHN F. KNOPF

PFC. JAMES C. MOORE

PFC. LAWRENCE J. NICHITA

PFC. JULIUS P. OCHS, JR.

PFC. ALAN O. COPPOCK

PFC. LEON O. RAMSEY

PFC. HERMAN L. GUY

PFC. GERALD A. HURTADO

PFC. ROWLAND K. MCCARTY

PFC. GEORGE R. MOORE

PVT. JAMES L. BOGGS

B A T T A L I O N S T A F F



EDWARD L. BUSCH
Major
S-3



WILLIAM E. SCHUTT
Captain
S-2



CHARLES W. GEYER
Captain
S-4

RAYMOND P. CAMPBELL, JR.
Major
Executive Officer



HERBERT E. GORDON
Captain
Battalion Motor Officer



ORA H. MCKENNEY, JR.
Captain
Chaplain



RICHARD E. FRASER
Captain
Communications Officer

CHARLES S. HARBAUGH
WOJG
Assistant Battalion Supply
Officer



ROBERT A. MARKSON
First Lieutenant
Adjutant



GUY J. MAURO
First Lieutenant
Liaison Officer



FRED C. SHAFER
Chief Warrant Officer
Personnel Officer

ROY T. RUBLE
WOJG
Assistant Battalion Motor
Officer



EARL J. TOPPER
Captain
Commanding Officer

ROBERT S. CUTHERELL
First Lieutenant
Recon. Platoon Leader

JOHN E. KING
First Lieutenant
Assault Crew
Platoon Leader

MILTON F. LAVIGNE
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer

DEAN M. PARKER
First Lieutenant
Mortar Platoon Leader

WILLIAM E. RANDALL, JR.
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

45TH TANK BATTALION



NOT SHOWN:

VINING, Charles. M/Sgt., Leavenworth, Kan.
SHULTZ, 1/Sgt., Headquarters Company.
MERCER, Carmel L. T/4, W. Va.

FIRST ROW:

MARCUM, Bill, T/Sgt., 2844 Overlook Dr., Huntington, W. Va.
NIEDERMAN, Harry L., T/Sgt., 107 North 16th St., East Orange, N. J.
ECCLES, Ivan, S/Sgt., 2135 Holabird St., Klamath Falls, Ore.
GOLDING, Raymond J., S/Sgt., 2114 Francis Ave., Flint, Mich.
GROTELVESCHEN, M. F., S/Sgt., Schuyler, Neb.
EAGLE, James S., Sgt., 356 Brodhead Ave., East Stroudsburg, Pa.

SECOND ROW:

HICKS, Hugh W., Sgt., 102 Blackburn Ave., Covington, Ky.
LEEF, Jewels, Sgt., Box 2, Princeton, Idaho.
MATTHEWS, Charles G., Sgt., Rt. 1, Edinburg, Pa.
COKER, J. D., T/4, Clanton, Ala.
DeANGELIS, Michael, T/4, 401 N. 4th St., Allentown, Pa.
KATENKAMP, Donald E., T/4, 5046 Relleum Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio

THIRD ROW:

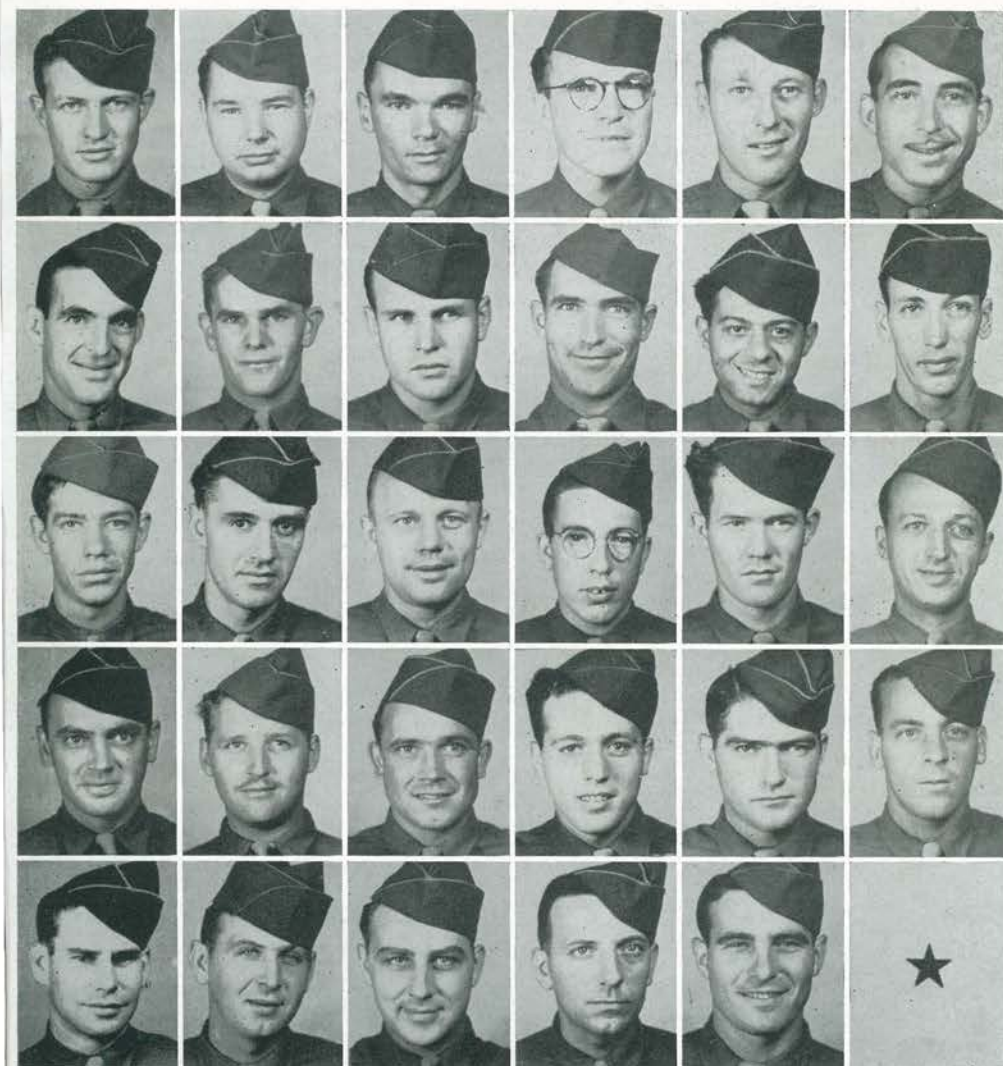
KILGO, Coy D., T/4, Logan, Ala.
KIOSEFF, George, T/4, Box 411, Windham, Ohio
MacFARLAND, F. E., Jr., T/4, 1946 Humboldt Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
NORTH, William E., T/4, 90 S. Catawissa St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
ROSS, Alvie L., T/4, Rt. 1, Harrisburg, Ore.
SANKOVICH, Nick J., T/4, 949 Belden Ave., Chicago, Ill.

FOURTH ROW:

SLAVIK, Harold R., T/4, 415 S. 15th Ave., Maywood, Ill.
THALER, Joe, T/4, 4528 Zuck Road, Erie, Pa.
TOUTNOUT, Richard J., T/4, Box 45, Maximo, Ohio.
BEVENSON, David, Cpl., 865 Fox St., Bronx, N. Y.
BUTLER, Mack B., Cpl., Rt. 3, Gallatin, Tenn.
KEEN, Joseph A., Cpl., 517 E. Fulton St., Lancaster, Pa.

FIFTH ROW:

LENHARDT, Louis L., Cpl., 2183 W. 41st St., Cleveland, Ohio.
LOWE, Joe, Cpl., Dry Ridge, Ky.
LYONS, Raymond, Cpl., Nippa, Ky.
MASHER, Joseph R., Cpl., 3485 E. 104th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
STIEPIEN, Tom, Cpl., Box 304, Wellsville, Ohio.



HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



FIRST ROW:

BENDER, Bill, E/5, 102 Prairie St., Zeigler, Ill.
BERFELZ, A. O., T/5, Box 242, Mahanomen, Minn.
BOVARD, Richard R., T/5, 630 Beall Ave., Wooster, Ohio.
CARTER, W. B., T/5, Grand Marais, Minn.
CLAY, Don E., T/5, Worthington, Mo.
GEORGE, Benjamin F., T/5, Leacock, Pa.

SECOND ROW:

GRAF, Richard, T/5, 639 Moulton Pl., Portsmouth, Ohio.
GRANDLE, Herman D., T/5, McCune, Kan.
GREENE, B. F., T/5, Rt. 3, Monroe, N. C.
MONROE, James A., T/5, Eagle Springs, N. C.
NEAULT, Marvin J., T/5, 2536 Polk St., N.E. Minneapolis, Minn.
SUHUR, Ralph, T/5, Salina, Kan.

THIRD ROW:

STEELMAN, Buford B., T/5, Box 134, Yadkinville, N. C.
STEINERT, Marvin E., T/5, 1903 Quincy Drive, Bakersfield, Calif.
WOZNY, Edward, T/5, 5435 W. School St., Chicago, Ill.
ANDERSON, Duane, Pfc., Derry, Pa.
BARRY, William O., Pfc., 2008 W. Spring St., Lebanon, Tenn.

FOURTH ROW:

BOLLES, Clarence E., Pfc., 5512 E. 27th St., Kansas City, Mo.
BURDOO, Joe, Pfc., 1216 Sylvania, St. Joseph, Mo.
CASKEY, Francis J., Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 12-D, Duluth, Minn.
CONSTANTINE, A., Pfc., 205-10 48th Ave, Bayside, L. I., N. Y.
COPPOCK, Alan O., Pfc., 1047 E. 42nd Pl., Chicago, Ill.
ENGLISH, Richard J., Pfc., 34 Kenton Rd., Jamaica Plain, Mass.
FRIZZELL, John, Jr., Pfc., 29 Marcella St., Roxbury, Mass.

FIFTH ROW:

HILLMANN, Harold J., Pfc., 320 E. Fourth St., Clifton, N. J.
KASTNER, Wallace, Pfc., 1724 King Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
MALINGOWSKI, Edward, Pfc., 2213 Sarah St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MCKINZEY, John L., Pfc., Box 172, Sunray, Tex.
MCQUINN, Curtis, Pfc., 3405 Seventh Ave., Columbus, Ga.
OREN, Clarence C., Pfc., Rt. 1, Annadale, N. J.

SIXTH ROW:

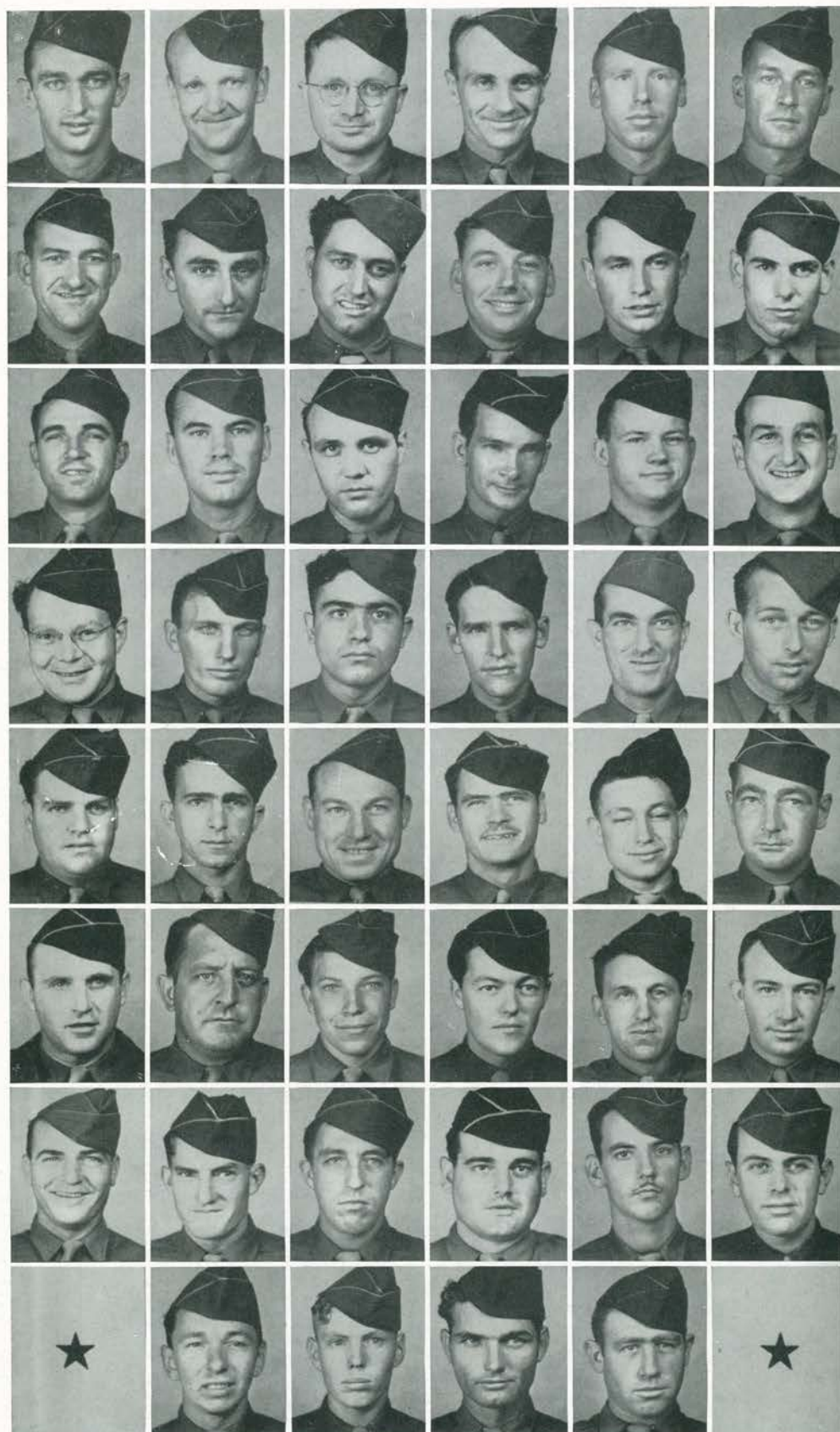
PHILLIPS, Charles J., Pfc., 5223 W. 30th St., Cicero, Ill.
POTTS, Walter D., Pfc., 105 N. Cono St., Williamsport, Md.
RIBBECK, C., Pfc., 130 State St., Batavia, N. Y.
RINGSTAD, John G., Pfc., 14432 Greenview, Detroit, Mich.
SHEPPARD, Ray E., Pfc., Rt. 1, Covington, Ind.
STINSON, Charles M., Pfc., 1618 N. 32nd St., Omaha, Neb.

SEVENTH ROW:

VUICHARD, Francis, Pfc., 261 Bauman Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
ADAMS, William R., Pvt., Rt. 1, Box 31, Adamsville, Ala.
BRYANT, Loyd, Pvt., Rt. 1, Albertville, Ala.
DAVIS, Mathew E., Pvt., Buena Vista, Va.
ESTES, Leon H., Pvt., 520 Ash St., Macon, Ga.
GAFFNEY, Edward H., Pvt., 5746 N. Lambert St., Philadelphia, Pa.

EIGHTH ROW:

GRUSCZONSKI, E. J., Pvt., 171 Russell St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MEAD, Loren, Pvt., Rt. 1, Hayward, Wis.
PRATT, Oscar R., Pvt., 1125 12th St., Port Arthur, Tex.
SWAYZE, Vern, Pvt., Eugene, Ore.



JEROME HERSHMAN
Captain
Battalion Surgeon



ROBERT SORKINE
First Lieutenant, M.A.C.

M E D I C A L D E T A C H M E N T

45TH TANK BATTALION

FIRST ROW:

McCOMBS, Denzil, S/Sgt., Box 125, Santa Anna, Tex.
BATES, George S., Cpl., 3752 Eddy St., Chicago, Ill.
EVANS, Steve, Cpl., 6620 S. Green St., Chicago, Ill.
SCARBROUGH, Charles K., T/5, Greenleaf, Kan.
DECHARY, Joseph M., Pfc., 816 Labauve Ave., Plaquemine, La.

SECOND ROW:

FERMO, Mike, Pfc., 2117 W. Taylor St., Chicago, Ill.
GUY, Herman L., Pfc., 2829 23rd St., San Francisco, Calif.
HURTADO, Gerald A., Pfc., 1006 Hiff St., Pacific Palisades, Calif.
MORDELL, Phillip J., Pfc., 1802 W. Superior St., Chicago, Ill.





JOHN CHANNING
Captain
Commanding Officer

CARL L. NEFF
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer

JOHN W. CANNADY
First Lieutenant
Transportation Officer

S E R V I C E C O M P A N Y

45TH TANK BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

HUFFMAN, Hulon S., 1/Sgt., 2204 E. Bowie, Marshall, Tex.
PJONTEK, John, M/Sgt., 635 Le Duc St., Grass Valley, Calif.
JULIUSBURG, Charles H., T/Sgt., 5201 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, Ill.
KALMAR, Arthur, T/Sgt., 2412 W. Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Ill.
KAUTZ, Arthur, T/Sgt., Merino, Colo.
GERHART, Raymond E., S/Sgt., Rt. 2, Box 1455, Del Paso Heights, Calif.

SECOND ROW:

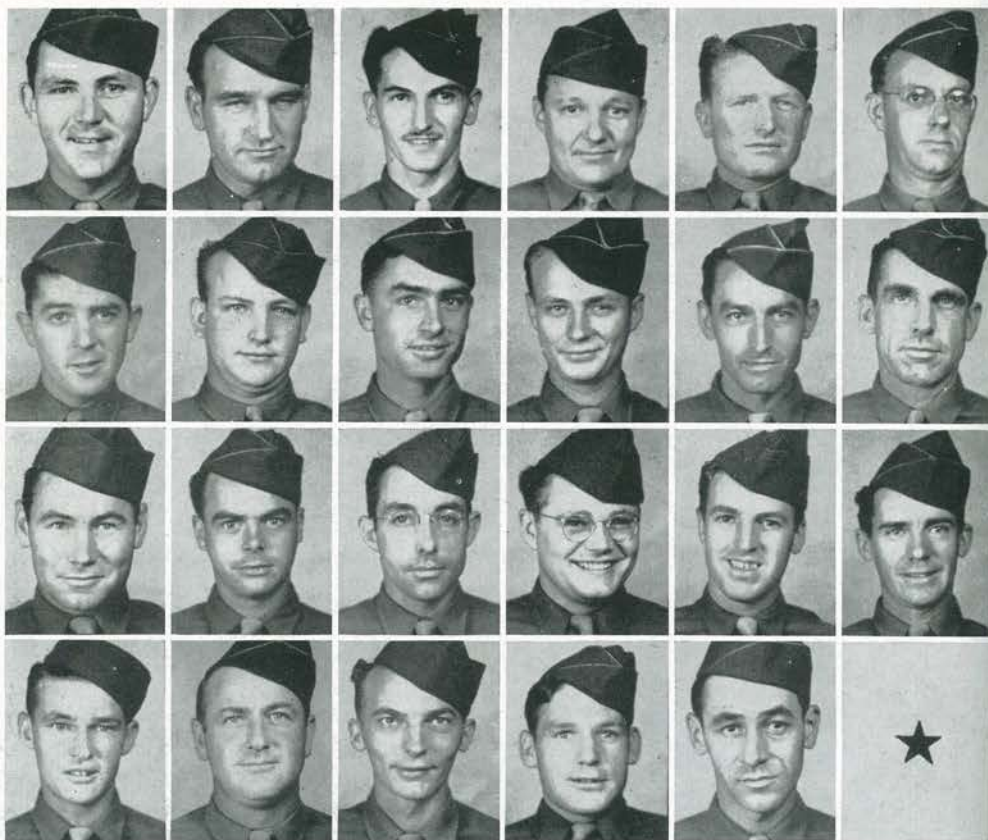
ENGLISH, John P., Sgt., Elizabeth, N. J.
ABERNATHY, James, T/4, Rt. 5, Blackstone, Va.
BRACK, Dean C., T/4, Leoti, Kan.
BUTENOB, Vern, T/5, Howard, S. D.
DANIEL, Charles L., T/4, 705 Holly Rd., Rt. 2, Roanoke, Va.
LEAHY, Francis V., T/4, Parnell, Iowa.

THIRD ROW:

MANNING, Lloyd, T/4, Box 365 Arbuckle, Calif.
MITCHELL, George, T/4, 2737 Frontenac St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
MOORE, Grover C., T/4, Rt. 2, Matthews, N. C.
STAGE, Theodore, J., T/4, 3422 25th Ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn.
STURN, Willard E., Cpl., 117 Washington Ave., Rensselaer, N. Y.
CALLAGHAN, Henry C., T/5, 2926 Kansas Rd., Camden, N. J.

FOURTH ROW:

ENSWORTH, Percy B., T/5, Rt. 2, Hale, Mich.
HASH, John P., T/5, Marion, Va.
JOHNSON, Oral A., T/5, Calumet, Minn.
KINCAMON, Robert D., 4803 Jefferson Ave., Richmond, Calif.
KOJSZA, Theodore, T/5, Box 54, Federal, Pa.



S E R V I C E C O M P A N Y



FIRST ROW:

MEYERS, William, T/5, 623 Corey Ave., Braddock, Pa.
 OKREND, Martin, T/5, 1347 Morris Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 PLACE, Darrill D., T/5, 3515 N. East St., Lansing, Mich.
 POWERS, Lonnie H., T/5, Mooresville, N. C.
 SIMMONS, Robert W., T/5, 595 10th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 STINE, Richard J., T/5, Paw Paw, Mich.

SECOND ROW:

STUBBLEFIELD, Harman A., T/5, Rt. 3, Union City, Tenn.
 WARD, Wilson, T/5, 3317 Labadie Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 WERNESKI, Anthony, T/5, 1615 Greenwood St., Evanston, Ill.
 BEST, Robert H., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 71, Mount Olive, N. C.
 DANIEL, Robert J., Pfc., West End, N. C.
 FUGATE, Harold F., Pfc., Columbus, Ohio.

THIRD ROW:

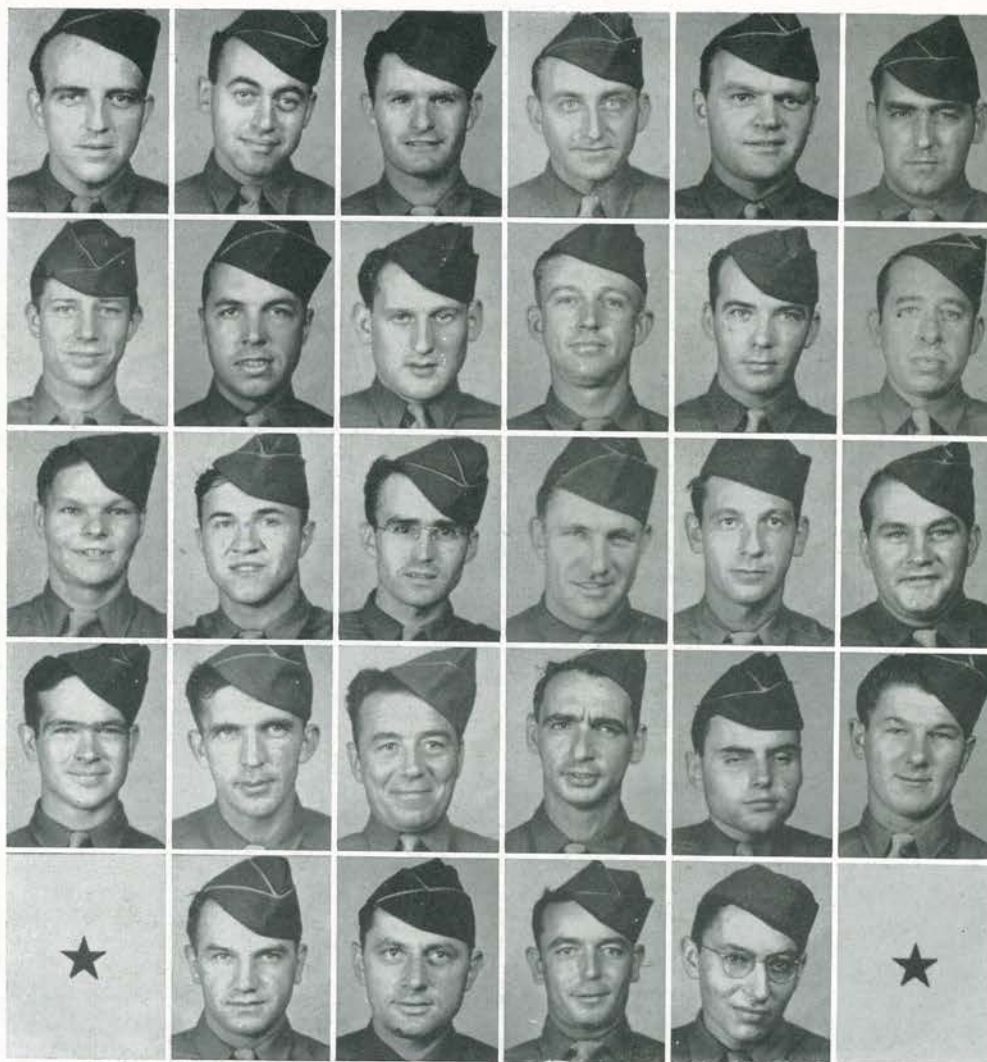
GAROT, Denis, Pfc., 631 S. Madison St., Green Bay, Wis.
 GIFFORD, John A., Pfc., Rt. 2, Hannibal, N. Y.
 HACKERT, Ralph D., Pfc., 226 10th St. S., St. Cloud, Minn.
 HANSEN, Darrell E., Pfc., Boise, Idaho.
 JONES, James, Pfc., 16 Metropolitan, Oran, N. Y.
 LUKASIK, Stefanum, Pfc., 5951 Chene, Detroit, Mich.

FOURTH ROW:

MILLER, Neal E., Pfc., Ft. Mackenzie, Sheridan, Wyo.
 ROTEN, James O., Pfc., 924 S. Newton St., Denver, Colo.
 RYAN, Daniel, Pfc., 1212 N. Mayfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 SCHERF, Francis E., Pfc., 4203 Pechin St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 TSCHENN, John, Pfc., 35-16 62nd St., Woodside, L. I., N. Y.
 WYKOWSKI, Henry, Pfc., South Deerfield, Mass.

FIFTH ROW:

CHURELLA, John, Pvt., 954 Maryland Ave., Johnstown, Pa.
 FRITZ, Joseph, Pvt., 808 S. 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 JOHNSON, Ralph N., Pvt., 1422 W. Fourth St., Little Rock, Ark.
 WAGNER, Dietrich K., Pvt., 71 26 73rd St., Glendale, N. Y.
 MacAVOY, Harold, T/4, 829 Mead Ave., Oakland, Calif., (not shown).





JOHN WELCH
Captain
Commanding



SIMON J. BESEL
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader
(Battlefield Commission)



RICHARD E. MOSHOFSKY
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



C O M P A N Y A

45TH TANK BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

GREGORY, Robert, 1/Sgt., Fisher, Minn.
STOCKMAN, Peter W., Jr., Rt. 2, Box 105, New-
ark, N. Y.
BRINKLEY, Hughes W., S/Sgt., Morrisville, N. C.
JABLONSKI, Edward J., S/Sgt., 5317 N. Kedzie
Ave., Chicago, Ill.
KARCZEWSKI, Walter J., S/Sgt., 1299 Atlantic
Ave., Monaca, Pa.
PRUNKARD, Donald H., S/Sgt., 1381 Garfield Ave.,
Lincoln Park, Mich.

SECOND ROW:

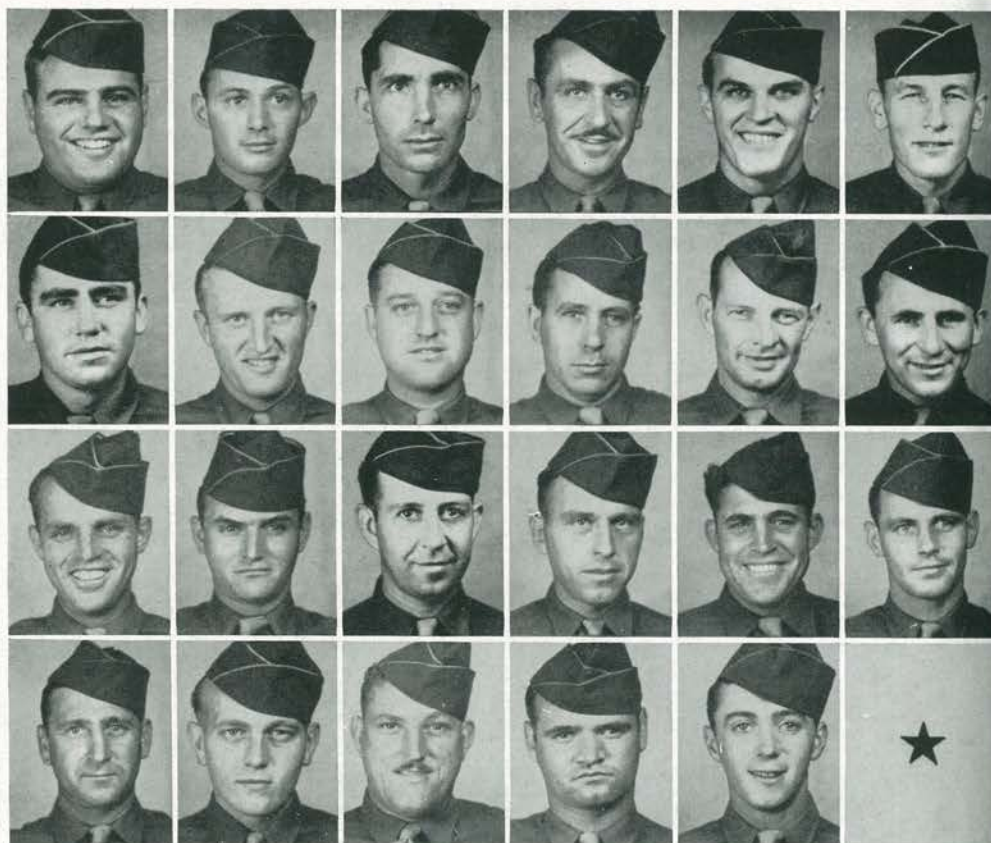
ELLSWORTH, Duone, Sgt., Higley, Ariz.
MOLLENKAMP, Lawrence, Sgt., 399 Chittenden
Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
OFFICER Manuel F., Sgt., Sparta, Tenn.
PIERCE, John F., Sgt., 2701 E. 42nd Ave., Den-
ver, Colo.
SHAYER, John A., Sgt., Parkhre and Bridge St.,
Colusa, Calif.
STRZELINSKI, John J., Sgt., 8327 Kingston Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

THIRD ROW:

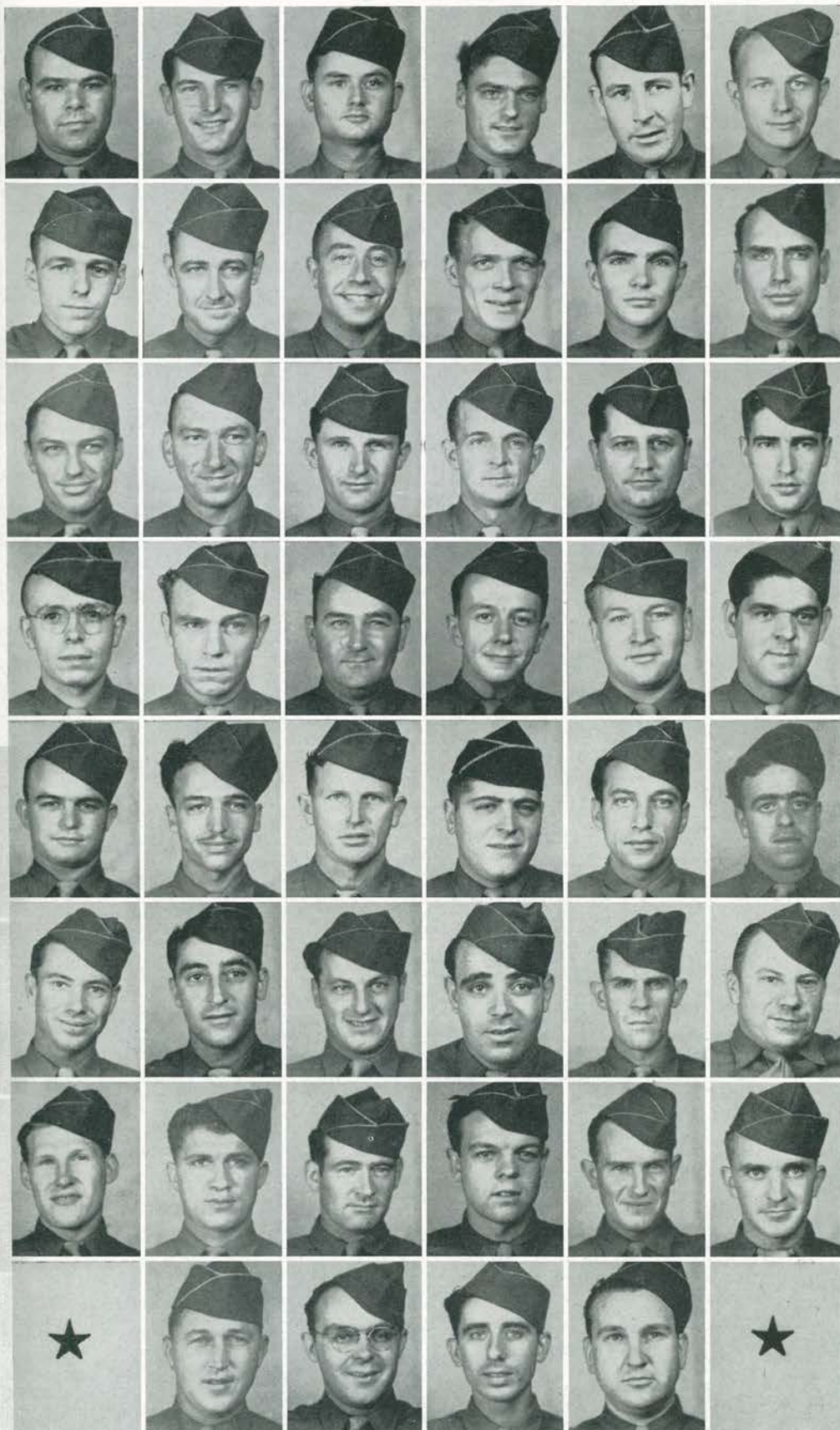
VERMILLION, Otis L., Sgt., 408 Randolph St.,
Charleston, W. Va.
WAYNE, Gerald, Sgt., 22 Maple St., Richwood,
W. Va.
COLLIER, Dale B., T/4, 614 S. Third, Beatrice,
Neb.
COULTER, Charles M., T/4, Box 285, Tulare, Calif.
CRUMRINE, Charles, T/4, Hazelton, Idaho.
GUIMOND, George R., Jr., T/4, 318 S. Fifth Ave.,
Kankakee, Ill.

FOURTH ROW:

JACOBSON, Francis H., T/4, Box 143, Butte, N. D.
MACHACEK, George J., T/4, 4449 San Francisco
Ave., Chicago, Ill.
NIEWIADOMSKI, Frank E., T/4, 142 Langdon
Ave., N.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
OLNICK, Steve C., T/4, Beech St., Burnham, Pa.
STRICK, John P., T/4, 4402 Claude Court, Den-
ver, Colo.



C O M P A N Y A



FIRST ROW:

WHILES, Coy, T/4, Somerset, Ky.
BURZACKI, Edward S., Cpl., 26 Maple St., Conshohocken, Pa.
JONES, Denver B., Cpl., Rt. 1, Waldron, Ark.
KEMP, Laverne, Cpl., 7207 St. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Ill.
KOST, John, Cpl., Osceola Mills, Pa.
KOTTMAN, Wilbert A., Cpl., 1428 Thompson Heights, Cincinnati, Ohio.

SECOND ROW:

LEHMAN, Martin, Cpl., Rt. 2, Box 263, Latrobe, Pa.
McRAE, Fred C., Cpl., Brandon, Miss.
MILLER, Murray, Cpl., 1231 W. Wyoning Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
MIZERA, Thad S., Cpl., 4642 S. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
MOREHOUSE, Alpha L., Cpl., Rt. 1, Lafayette, Ind.
MOSELEY, Ira P., Cpl., Stockbridge, Ga.

THIRD ROW:

MRAZ, Joseph G., Cpl., 257 Neville St., Perth Amboy, N. J.
MROSKO, Andy, Cpl., 145 Whyel Ave., Uniontown, Pa.
OTLAWSKI, Julian, Cpl., 24 Charter St., New Castle, Pa.
TRACY, Leland G., Cpl., Lynchburg, Mo.
BERGEN, Leon R., T/5, Box 53, Republic, Pa.
CYR, Aurele H., T/5, Main St. Keegan, Me.

FOURTH ROW:

ENNIS, Joseph M., T/5, The Gables, Smyrna, Del.
GINN, Eugene L., T/5, 454 Park Ave., Superior, Neb.
HEETER, Emory J., Jr., 22 N. Third St., Mifflintown, Pa.
HARRIS, David R., T5, 327½ E. Washington St., New Castle, Pa.
LARSON, Floyd C., T/5, Ericsburg, Minn.
LIBERTY, William, T/5, 552 Fourth Ave., North Troy, N. Y.

FIFTH ROW:

NONA, Chester, T/5, 4909 Gibson, Houston, Tex.
RUSSO, Michael, T/5, 57-53 Granger St., Corona, L. I., N. Y.
SLANKARD, Frank, T/5, 790 Brower St., Memphis, Tenn.
BERTACCINI, Lincoln, Pfc., Main St., Bantam, Conn.
CAROTENUTI, Louis, Pfc., 176 Roosevelt Ave., Torrington, Conn.
CERASOLI, Phillip, Pfc., 374 E. 145th St., Bronx, N. Y.

SIXTH ROW:

CLAYTON, Caudell, Pfc., Rt. 1, Alabama City, Ala.
CORONA, Russell, Pfc., 114 Circle Ave., Forest Park, Ill.
DEMBSKI, Vincent S., Pfc., 111 Fitzgerald St., Buffalo, N. Y.
GROSSO, Enrico, Pfc., 49 St. Johns Ave., Rosebank, L. I., N. Y.
JENKINS, Gordon K., Pfc., 620 S. Ash St., Harrison, Ark.
KASTEN, Fred A., Pfc., Allentown, Pa.

SEVENTH ROW:

LEWANDOWSKI, Chester A., Pfc., 194 A, Norman Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
McCOY, William J., Pfc., 1107 Poplar St., Kulpmont, Pa.
MELVIN, Tim, Pfc., 196 Hillside St., Roxbury, Boston, Mass.
PRAY, Thomas R., Pfc., Los Banos, Calif.
RENOUX, Kenneth L., Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 521, Pueblo, Colo.
RIDDLE, William A., Pfc., Big Creek, W. Va.

EIGHTH ROW:

ROARK, Eldon C., Pfc., 117 Church St., McKenzie, Tenn.
SIMPSON, Robert S., Pfc., Tribune, Kan.
TRACHUK, Richard, Pfc., 3200 S. 60th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
WHITE, Walter W., Pvt., 2316 Maple St., Des Moines, Iowa.



HAROLD A. ELGAS
Captain
Commanding Officer



JOHN M. BESSER, JR.
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



HENRY R. CARSON
First Lieutenant
Motor Officer



DANIEL B. PHILLIPS
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

EVAN H. WATHEN
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

C O M P A N Y B

45TH TANK BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

BYRNE, S. J., Jr., 1/Sgt., 1617 S. Conestola St., Philadelphia, Pa.
ALDERSON, Cloyd D., S/Sgt., 615 S. Washington, Iola, Kan.
BASS, Edward, S/Sgt., 114 S. Addison, Richmond, Va.
HODGSON, Harry M., S/Sgt., Maricopa, Calif.
WILLIAMSON, E. P., S/Sgt., 6351 Walnut St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
EDGINGTON, Herman H., Sgt., Rt. 3, Box 310, Brookville, Ohio.

SECOND ROW:

HERREN, Dick N., Sgt., Van Tassell, Wyo.
KESSLER, Donald, Sgt., Rt. 6, North Canton, Ohio.
MCGOWAN, Finis, Sft., Russell Springs, Ky.
NOWAK, Daniel W., Sgt., 420 S. Carlisle St., South Bend, Ind.
PAXTON, Walker, Sgt., Rt. 1, Greensburg, Ky.
PICCOLOMINI, R. W., Sgt., Uniontown, Pa.

THIRD ROW:

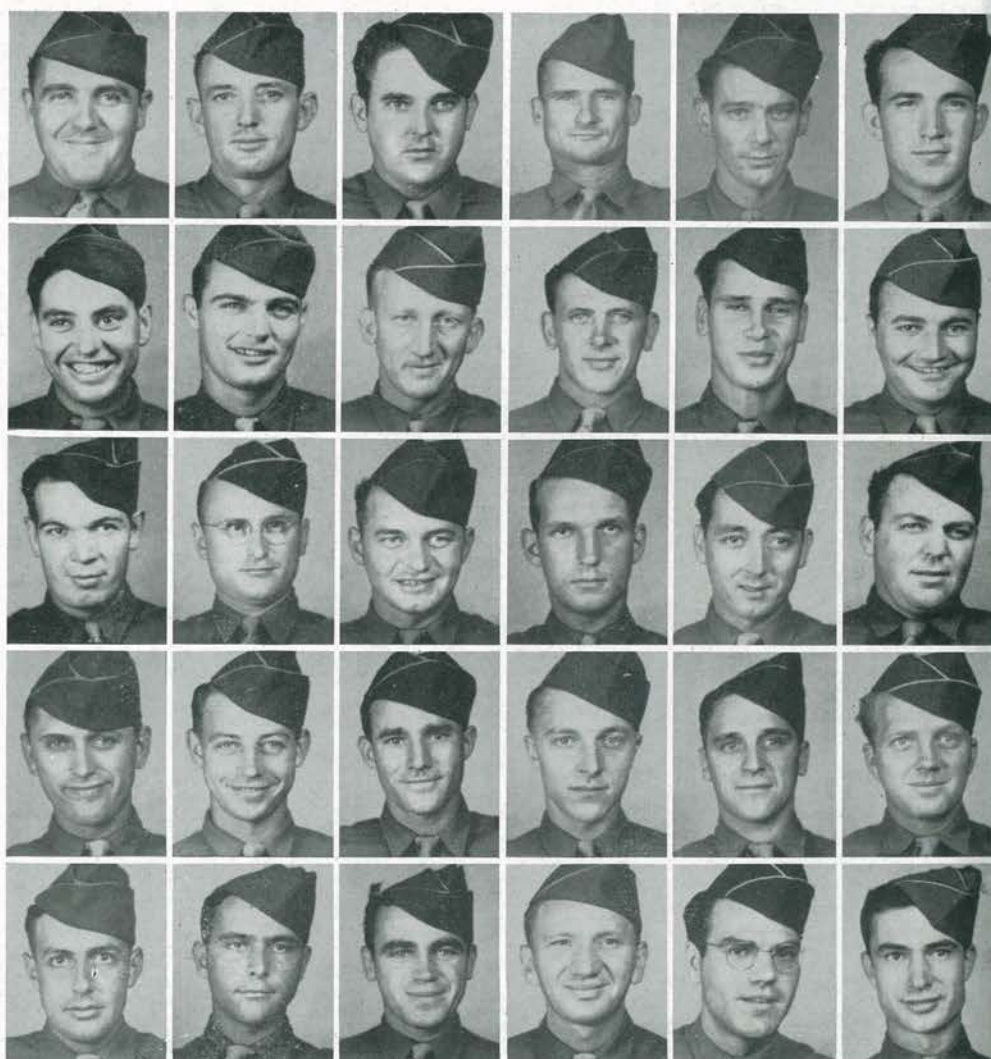
BATOR, Leo, T/4, 116 North St., Keiser, Pa.
BERESCIK, Michael, T/4, 212 Lincoln Ave., Mingo Junction, Ohio.
CAREY, Lester M., T/4, 2295 18th St., Akron, Ohio.
JOHNSON, Carl C., T/4, 3416 Olinville Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
JOHNSTON, William, T/4, Pine St., Phillipsburg, Pa.
MORK, Irving J., T/4, Wheeler, Wis.

FOURTH ROW:

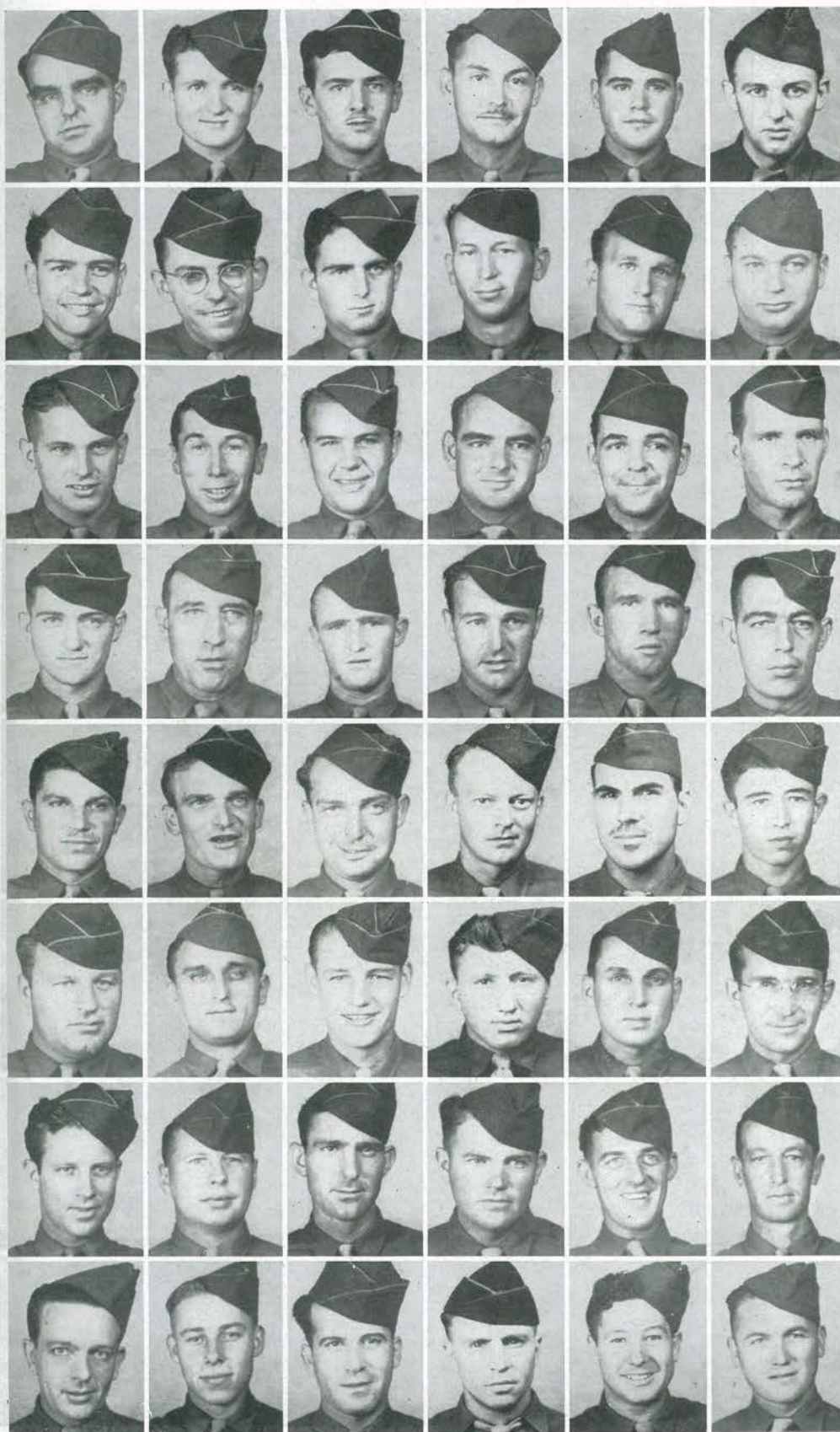
PHILLIPS, Edward W., T/4, 225 W. Linden Ave., Linden, N. J.
PHILLIPS, R. J., T/4, 5504 W. 22nd Pl., Cicero, Ill.
PLEASANT, Edward, T/4, Rt. 2, Angier, N. C.
RIEHL, Edw. P., T/4, Rt. 1, Box 341, Verona, Pa.
SELESNIK, Frank A., T/4, 19 Seventh St. N.W., Chisholm, Minn.
STERKER, Harold, T/4, 37-60 88th St., Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y.

FIFTH ROW:

WALDO, George W., T/4, Rt. 2, Eau Claire, Mich.
BERUTTI, Michael T., Cpl., 1454 W. Broad St., Quakertown, Pa.
CAMPBELL, Dale S., Cpl., 22 Monroe St., Latrobe, Pa.
EISENSTEIN, Sidney, Cpl., 1726 W. Susquehanna Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
KROUPA, William M., Cpl., 7213 Torresdale Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
LEIGH, Clarence L., Cpl., Rt. 4, Rossville, Ga.



C O M P A N Y B



FIRST ROW:

MARTYNOWICZ, Frank B., Cpl., 4349 San Francisco Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 NEWCOME, Richard N., Cpl., 956 Vernon Ave., Winnetka, Ill.
 NIEMAN, Frederick L., Cpl., 3620 S. 54th Ave., Cicero, Ill.
 PARMENTER, Urban H., Cpl., 6151 N. Winthrop Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 PHILLIPS, Troy, Cpl., Rt. 1, Pilot Mountain, N. C.
 POWELL, Thomas J., Cpl., Box 45, Kite, Ga.

SECOND ROW:

STEADHAM, Harold, Cpl., 454 Beechwood Dr., Wichita, Kan.
 STOVER, George B., Cpl., Main St., Fredericksburg, Pa.
 WILLIAMS, Charles J., Cpl., 2511 Newkirk Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 WINGO, Algie G., Cpl., Rt. 2, Inman, S. C.
 BRENEMAN, Herbert H., T/5, 144 W. Frederick St., Millersville, Pa.
 EASON, James A., T/5, 820 Holt St., Norfolk, Va.

THIRD ROW:

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 MASON, Walter E., T/5, 2317 Lyon St., Des Moines, Iowa.
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 SANSEVERINO, Harold C., T/5, 2665 Decatur Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 SPENCER, Orvis E., T/5, Rt. 3, Martinsville, Va.

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 BURNS, Dale C., Pfc., 2406 Cypress, Kansas City, Mo.
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 ELLIS, Everett, Pfc., Box 249, Dayton, Ore.
 ERICKSON, Everett K., Pfc., 6412 Marty Rd., Overland Park, Kan.

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 GROOVER, Howard W., Pfc., Bedford, Iowa.
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 HOOVER, Leonard N., Pfc., Ponchatoula, La.
 HOSPERS, Gerrit, Pfc., Ontario Center, N. Y.

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 KATCHMAR, Andrew J., Pfc., 907 S. Bloomington, Streator, Ill.
 KLEIN, Howard C., Pfc., Wales, N. D.
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 McDOWELL, James, Pfc., 347 Charles St., Coatesville, Pa.
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 RIGGLE, Dale W., Pfc.
 ROBINSON, George, Pfc., East Bernstadt, Ky.
 WATERS, Jesse H., Pfc., 405 E. Main St., Washington, N. C.
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 FAIRHURST, Edward W., Pvt., 724 Thornton St., Leavenworth, Kan.

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 FRYE, Grover C., Pvt., Portsmouth, Va.
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 KOSKI, Francis C., Pvt., Box 166, Bradenville, Pa.
 SCHORN, Thomas F., Pvt., Rt. 1, Eagle Lake, Minn.



ELMER W. BOWINGTON
Captain
Commanding Officer



MALCOLM D. DIXON
First Lieutenant
Maintenance Officer



ROBERT E. SMITH
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

JESSE T. POLLOCK
Second Lieutenant
Platoon Leader
(Battlefield Commission)

C O M P A N Y C

45TH TANK BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

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CARTER, Ned L., S/Sgt., Rt. 1, Huttig, Ark.
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ROWLETT, Robert B., S/Sgt., 1603 North Fifth St.
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BISHOP, Francis C., Sgt., New London, Iowa.
BLAIR, Robert H., Sgt., 336 W. 13th Ave., Den-
ver, Colo.

SECOND ROW:

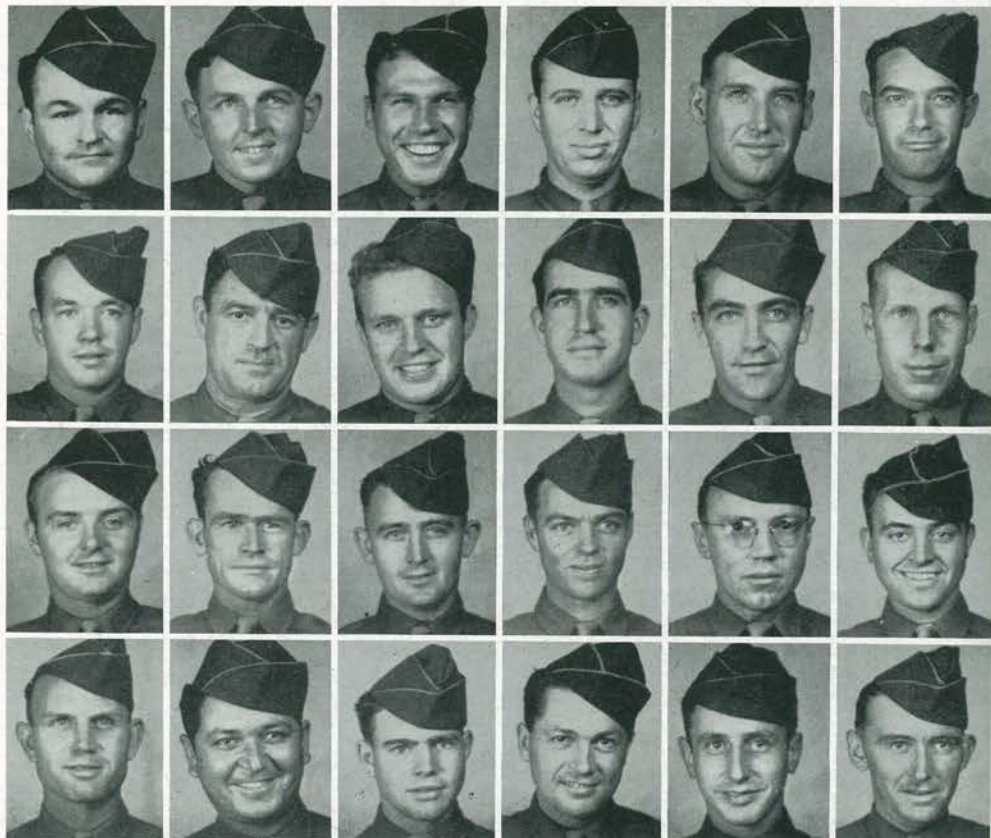
BRYANT, Thomas, Sgt., Rt. 5, Greenville, S. C.
FISHER, Charles R., Sgt., 201 East 34th St.,
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GREGORY, Francis E., Sgt.
McCARTHY, James F., Sgt., 60 Banks St., Cam-
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PARROTT, David S., Sgt., Easton, Md.
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DE LATEUR, Ralph A., Cpl., 612 First St., Ho-
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MAURICE, Wilfred E., Cpl., 32 Newbury St.,
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BELL, ROBERT L., T/5, Greensburg, Ky.



C O M P A N Y C



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 FARMER, James T., Pfc., 727 W. Second South, Morristown, Tenn.
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THIRD ROW:

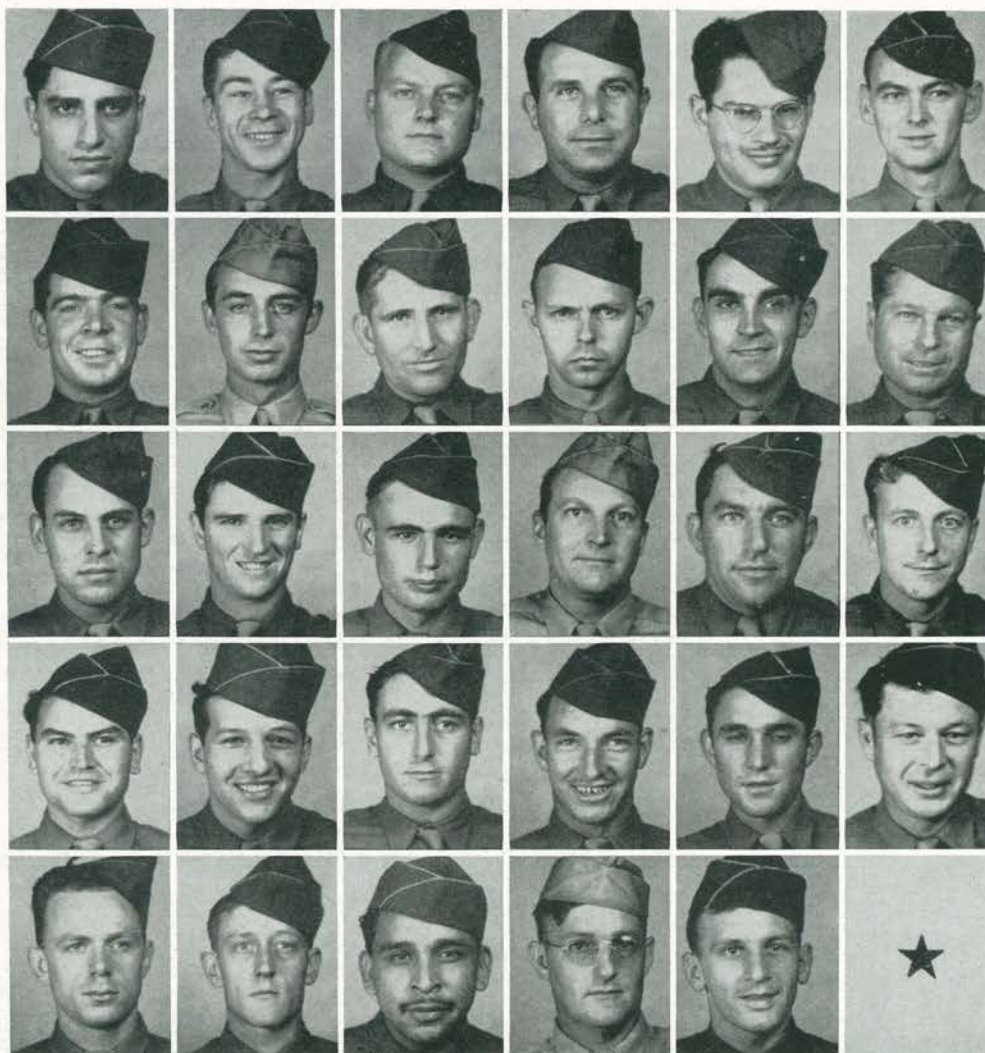
JUSTESEN, Roger T., Pfc., Maupin, Ore.
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FIFTH ROW:

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RICHARD E. DAKE
Captain
Commanding Officer



DONALD L. DAYHUFF
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader



CARL W. GATZKE
First Lieutenant
Motor Officer

GUY MEESE
First Lieutenant
(Commanding Officer when
wounded in action)

ROBERT HUMPHRIES
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

BRYANT I. STILES
First Lieutenant
Platoon Leader

C O M P A N Y D

45TH TANK BATTALION



FIRST ROW:

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EBERTS, Jerald, Sgt., Hamden, Ohio.



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LOVE, Wilburn L., T/4, 508 Mound Ave., Cordova, Ala.

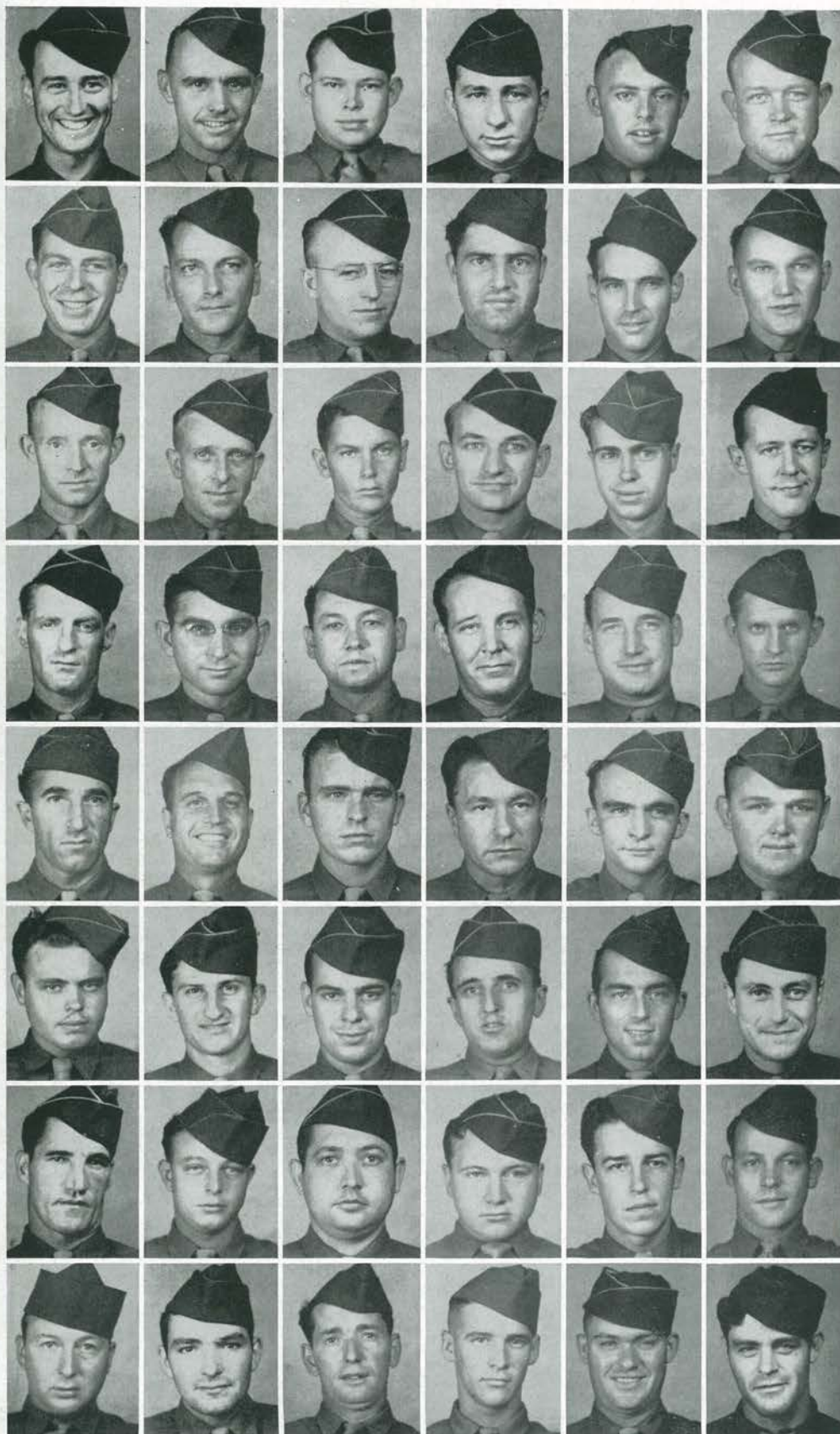


FOURTH ROW:

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C O M P A N Y



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TAYLOR, James H., Pfc., Elkhorn, W. Va.
TROWBRIDGE, Howard L., Pfc., Westby, Mon.
CEYNAR, Don, Pvt., 1621 Second St. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
DODD, Alvin E., Pvt., Nindes Store, Va.
FLEETWOOD, Harold, Pvt., 206 White St., Macon, Ga.

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MITCHELL, Roy, Pvt., Coalgood, Ky.
ROY, Alfred P., Pvt.
SHENEMAN, Logan L., Pvt., Rt. 1, Sugar Creek, Ohio.
SHORT, Hugh W., Pvt., 116 W. Silver St., Lebanon, Ohio.
TOIER, Wallace S., Pvt., 504½ Lhind St., Greenville, Miss.

SOME FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION



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CAUDILL, Edward, S/Sgt., Hitchins, Ky.
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KRAJEWSKI, John J., Rt. 1, Hillards, Pa.
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FOURTH ROW:

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UFFNER, John D., T/4, Brownsville, Ohio.
CISLE, Walter D., Cpl., Rt. 6, Hamilton, Ohio.
DILL, David T., Cpl., 5187 Senica Ave., Detroit, Mich.
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JENKINS, Calvin T., T/5, Henager, Ala.

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URSO, Michael, T/5, 4027 Pitomar Ave., Chicago, Ill.
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LEIGHTON, George H., Pfc., Rt. 1, Lake Preston, S. D.
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McGARY, Lawrence H., Pfc., 316 Franklin Ave., Wilkinsburg, Pa.

NINTH ROW:

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POGANSKI, Victor J., Pfc., 612 Ninth Ave., St. Cloud, Minn.
PRONKO, Robert C., Pfc.,
TEDESCO, Joseph A., Pfc., 2013 Gov. Nicholls St., New Orleans, La.
WIMPY, Esco L., Pfc., Young Harris, Ga.

TENTH ROW:

COLEMAN, Harold A., Pvt., 804 John St., Utica, N. Y.
FREEMAN, Dallas, Pvt., Rt. 2, Ruston, La.
GARY, Clifton, Pvt., Rt. 2, Gary, Tex.
NICHOLSON, Frank C., Jr., Pvt., Clarksville, Ga.





HEADQUARTERS
ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL



WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

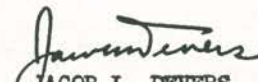
TO : Commanding General, 13th Armored Division

Modern warfare has made necessary the introduction of new units and new techniques to ensure victory in battle. The 13th Armored Division, activated at Camp Beale, California, on 15 October 1942 as a result of the need for armored units, proved in training and in combat the adaptability and genius of the American soldier in all methods of warfare.

Since the time when I was Commanding General of the Armored Force, I have followed the career of the Black Cat Division with interest and pride. After the completion of training, much of which you did at Camp Bowie, Texas, you arrived overseas early in 1945, and your tankers quickly earned for themselves the respect of the enemy. Joining the Third Army, you participated brilliantly in the final drive across the Danube River deep into Southern Germany. Your officers and men, despite their comparatively brief period in battle, fought with boldness, bravery and skill, winning a firm place in the heritage of our country.

Those of the 13th Armored who find themselves in new tasks, now that the division is being inactivated, will continue to serve their country, I know, with enthusiasm and steadfastness, until our military strength can safely be reduced.

The men in the 13th Armored Division will be forever included among the heroes of our country, and it is for me a proud occasion to be able to commend you most heartily, in the name of all Americans, for your gallant service in defense of freedom.


JACOB L. DEVERS,
General, USA,
Commanding.

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