

1945

A pictorial account of the 393rd Infantry Regiment in combat, 1944-1945

Ernest W. Fritz

United States Army

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393^D Infantry IN

REVIEW

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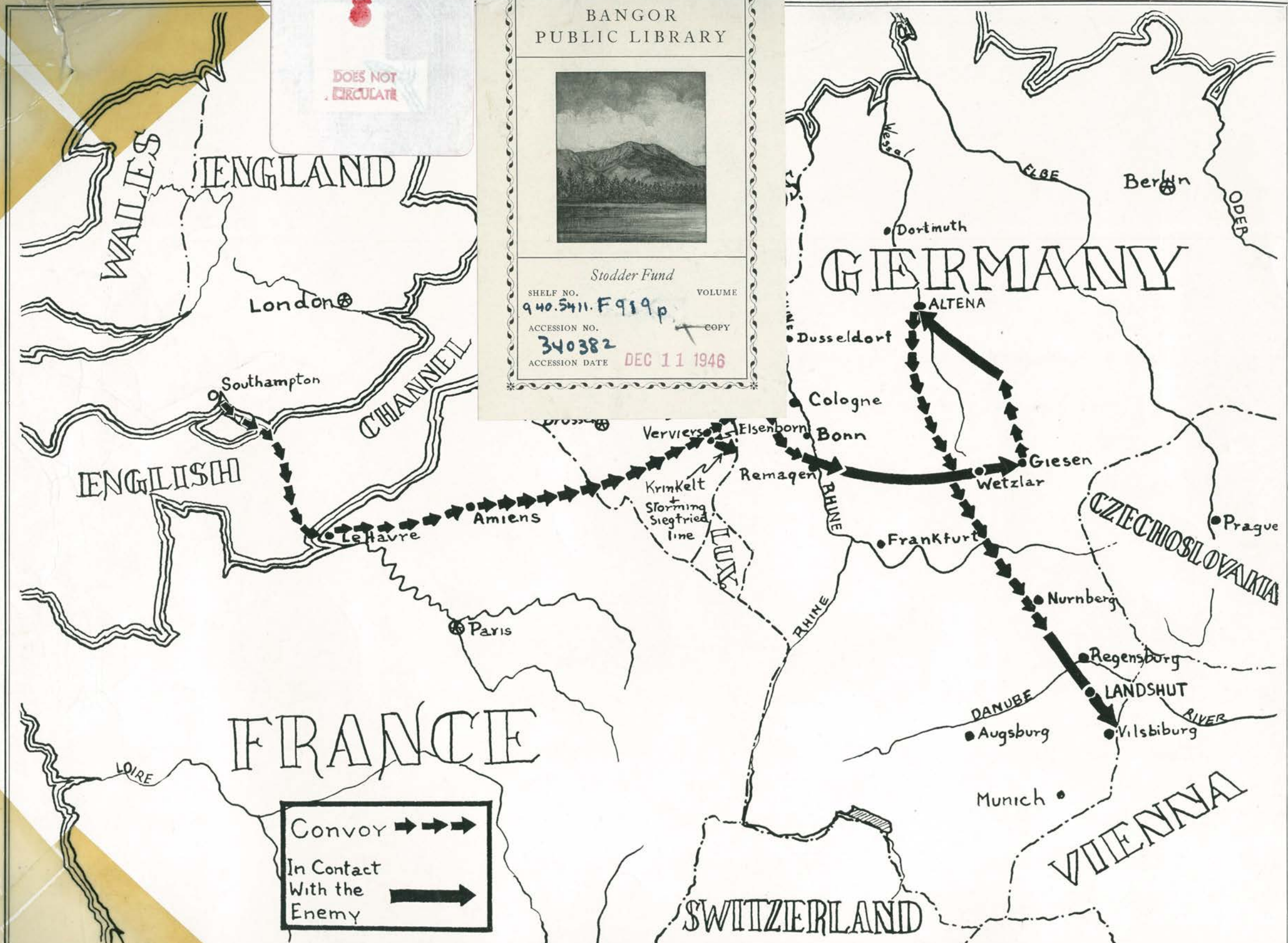
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A Pictorial Account of
393d Infantry Regiment
In Combat

1944-1945

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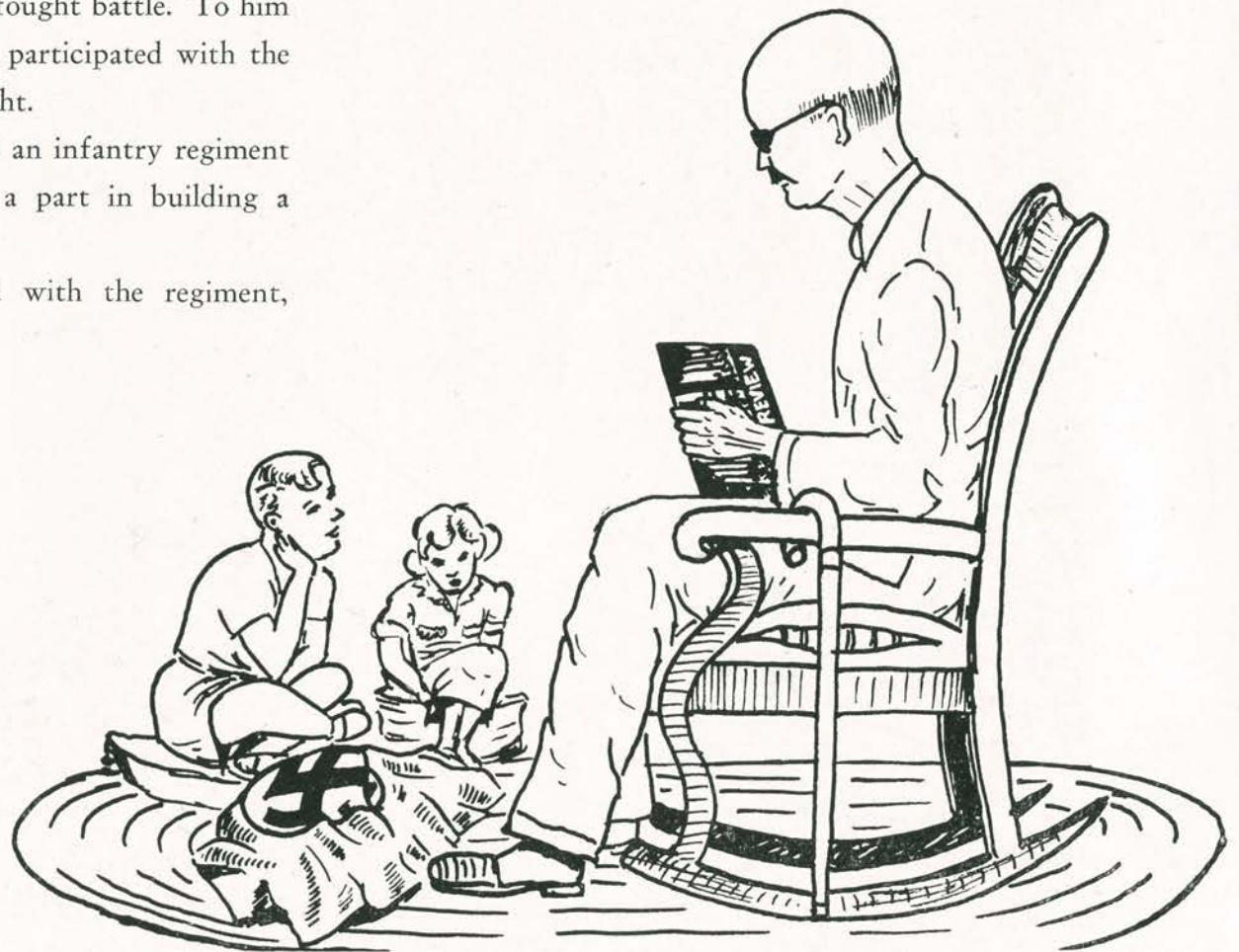
Preface

This book has been compiled from official and unofficial sources to afford men who have been in combat with the 393d Infantry a review of the Regiment's action in the European Theater of Operations.

With emphasis placed on the unit rather than individual action, the book has omitted stories of personal heroism. Names of men in pictures have been purposely omitted. To each man who fought with the 393d Infantry belongs credit for the hard-fought battle. To him belongs also the privilege of relating his deeds. Some five thousand men participated with the regiment in combat—to each this book is the background of his own fight.

Effort has been made to show action of every section that comprises an infantry regiment in combat. A sincere endeavor was made to encompass all who played a part in building a fighting team.

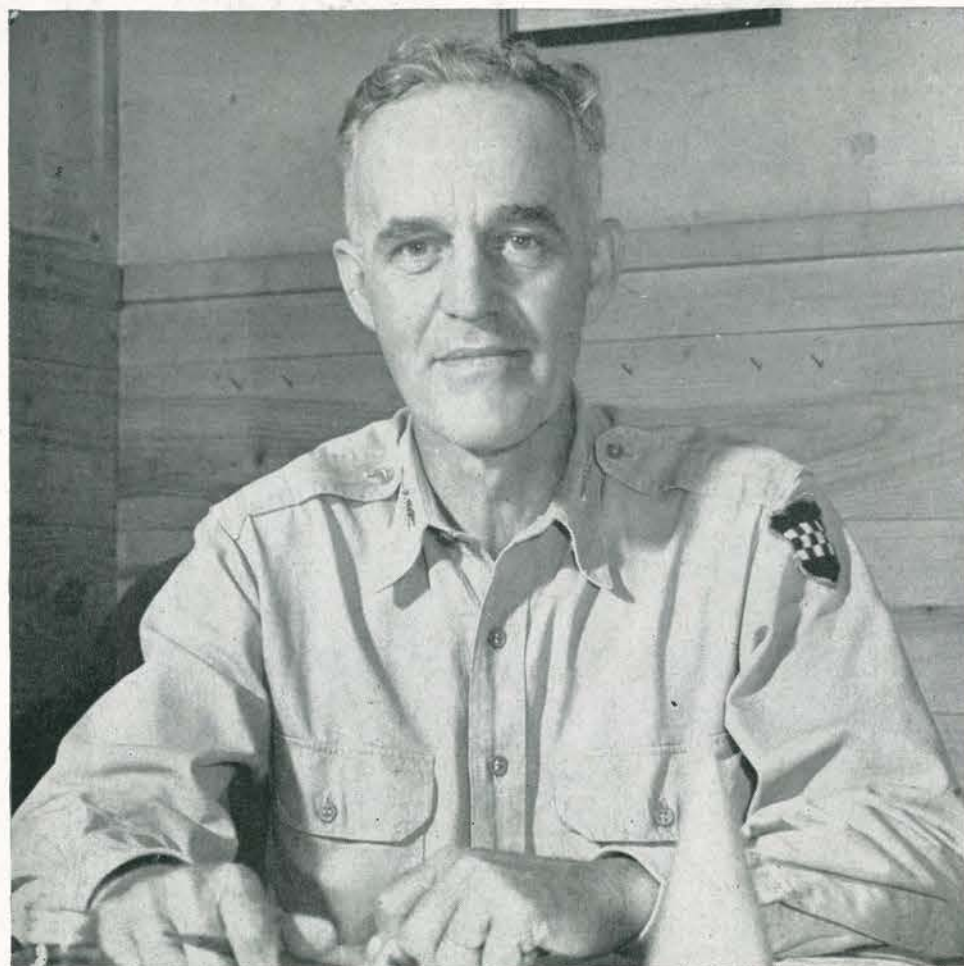
If you are able to recall some of the joy and hell you experienced with the regiment, the 393D INFANTRY IN REVIEW is a success.



ADDITIONAL
CLIPPER
YRABILL
IN ROOM

Dedicated to Our Buddies Who Gave Their Lives...





Colonel William B. Yancey

On the fateful day of December 7, 1941, the 99th Infantry Division was a Reserve Unit—a “paper division.” It has never been called into active service, but with lightning speed plans were made for activation. A tarpaper camp in Mississippi was planned and designated as its post. Major General Thompson Lawrence was assigned as Commanding General. The vast machinery was begun to form a fighting team of 15,000 men. General Lawrence said in his activation day speech: “The history of the 99th Infantry Division will be written by you. The greatest responsibility of your life is the preparation and the fight of this division against the enemy.”

Introduction

The 393d Infantry Regiment was activated as part of the 99th Infantry Division on 15 November 1942 at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi (near Centerville) under the command of Colonel William B. Yancey. The Executive Officer was Lt. Col. L. W. Meinzen.

The Officer cadre was formed from Regular Army, Reserve Corps, and graduates from the Fort Benning Officer Candidate School; and the Enlisted cadre came from the 17th Infantry of the 7th Division. Arriving in late November and December 1942, most recruits came through reception centers in New Cumberland, Penn; Fort Meade, Md; and Camp Perry, Ohio. A few came from Southern States.

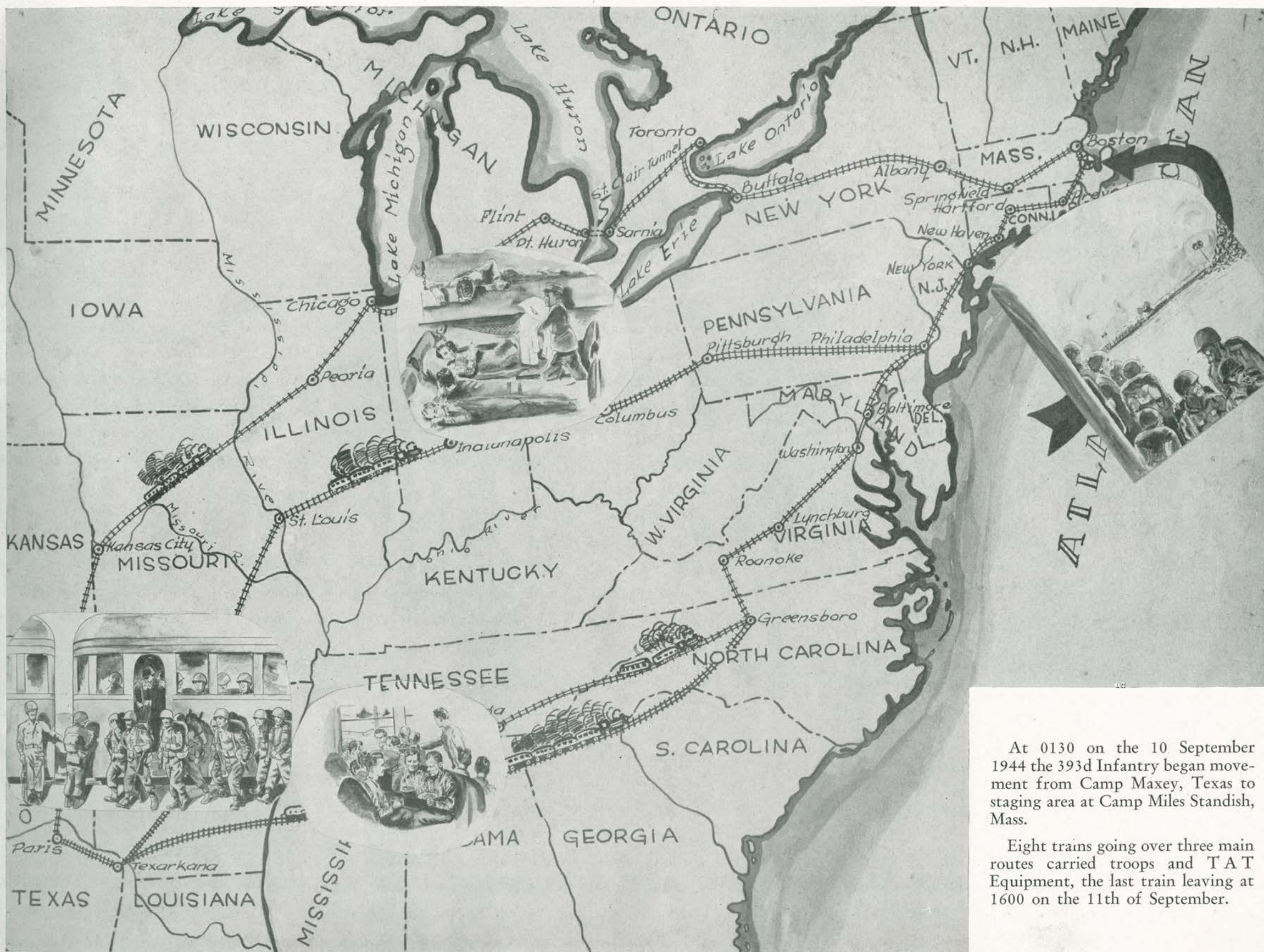
Thirteen weeks of basic training began January 4th and was followed by a cycle of furloughs in the Spring and Summer while the Regiment engaged in unit training and several two and three day field problems. The second week in August began “D” Series Maneuvers on the Van Dorn Reservation followed by large scale maneuvers beginning the first week in September and lasting through November 16th. The 99th Division participated in the Louisiana war games with three other Divisions: the 84th, the 102d, and the 103d in the unpopulated areas between Alexandria and the Texas border. After the final problem, a river crossing on the Sabine, the Regiment moved by motor and train to Camp Maxey, Texas (near Paris) on the 18th and 19th of November.

Several hundred men left the Regiment while on maneuvers to join the 85th and 88th Divisions scheduled for early shipment overseas.

At Maxey small unit training became greatly intensified with courses, problems, and tests conducted over carefully chosen terrain for squads and platoons and their leaders. In March began a concentrated effort to get each man POM (Preparation for Overseas Movement) qualified. Individual and crew-served weapon firing for qualification and familiarization was a requisite of the program as well as Special Battle Courses: Infiltration Course, Close Combat Course, and Village Fighting. Meanwhile the Regiment was losing large quotas of men to join other units for shipment overseas and in March and April large numbers of reinforcements from Army Specialized Training Program arrived.

The Regiment won the EI Streamer in July when more than 60% of the unit had passed successfully the required test for EXPERT INFANTRYMEN, and in July Lieutenant Colonel Jean D. Scott assumed command of the Regiment.

Regimental field problems were held in southern Oklahoma hills the last two weeks in July. The month of August found the Regiment receiving additional men from training units to bring the unit up to T/O strength, busy packing and crating equipment and impedimenta for movement to an unknown staging area and thence into combat!



At 0130 on the 10 September 1944 the 393d Infantry began movement from Camp Maxey, Texas to staging area at Camp Miles Standish, Mass.

Eight trains going over three main routes carried troops and TAT Equipment, the last train leaving at 1600 on the 11th of September.

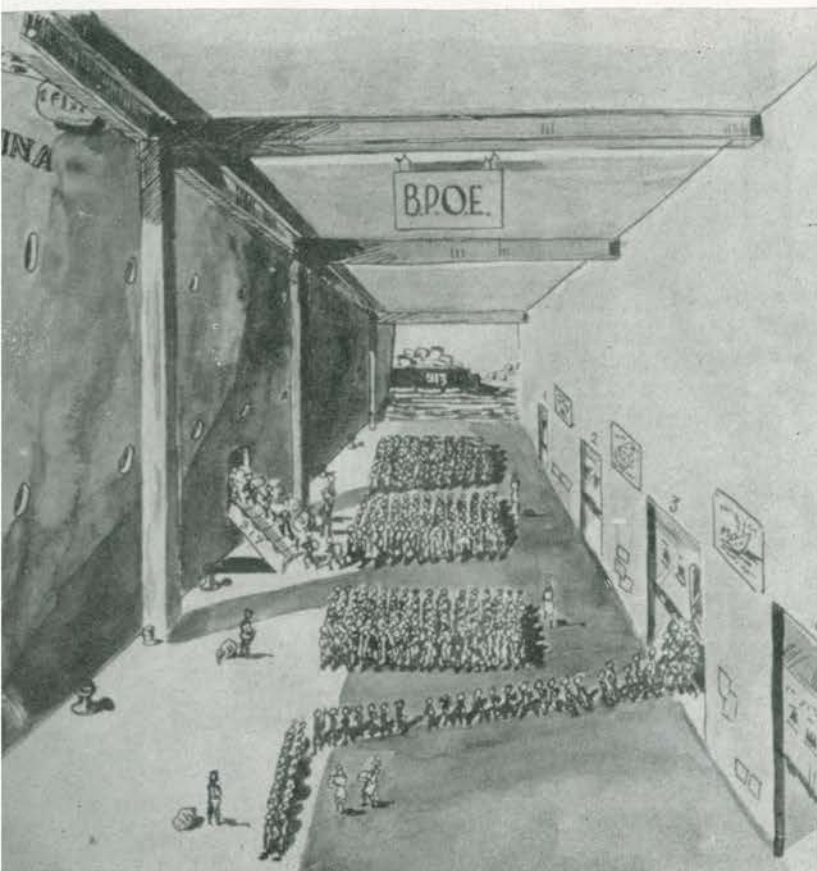


بٹ CAMP MYLES STANDISH (CMS)



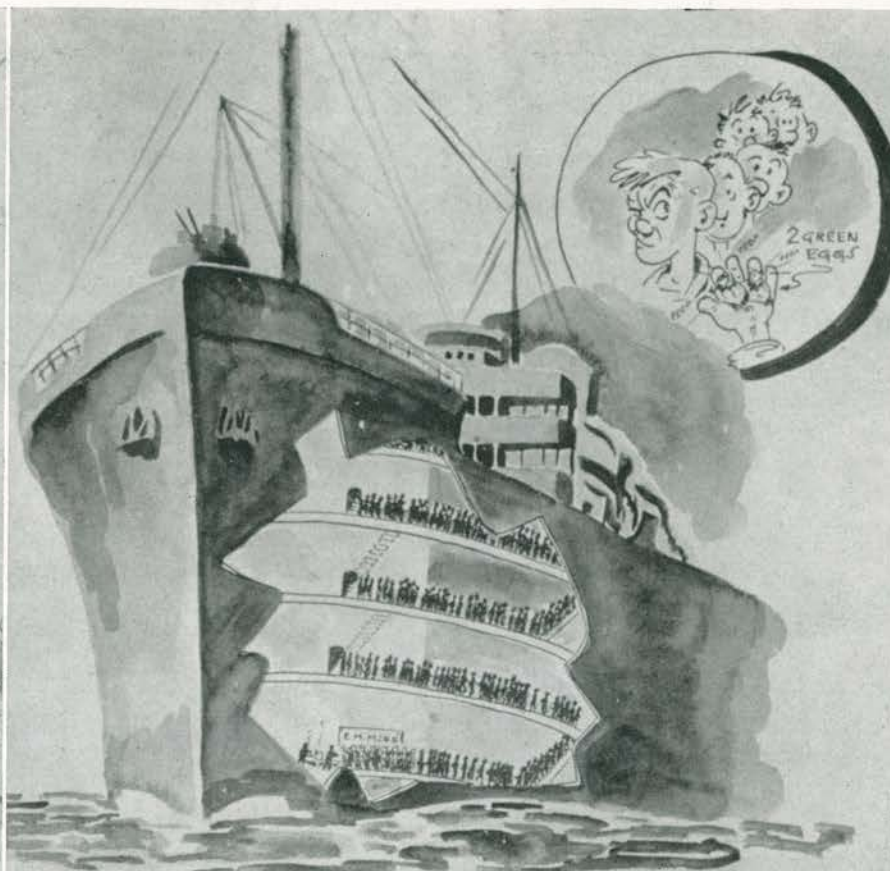
Each man passed the IG Inspection—received several shots in the arm. Letters were censored for the first time. Passes to Boston and other towns in a 50 mile radius were issued. Many men made their last long distance call home.





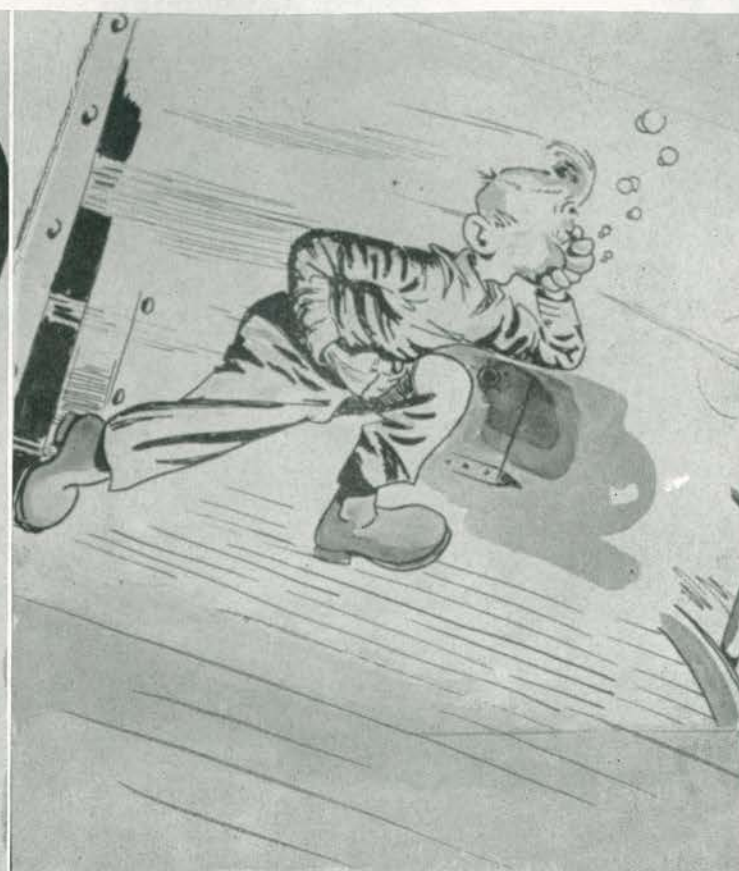
Loading at Boston

Ships Drill



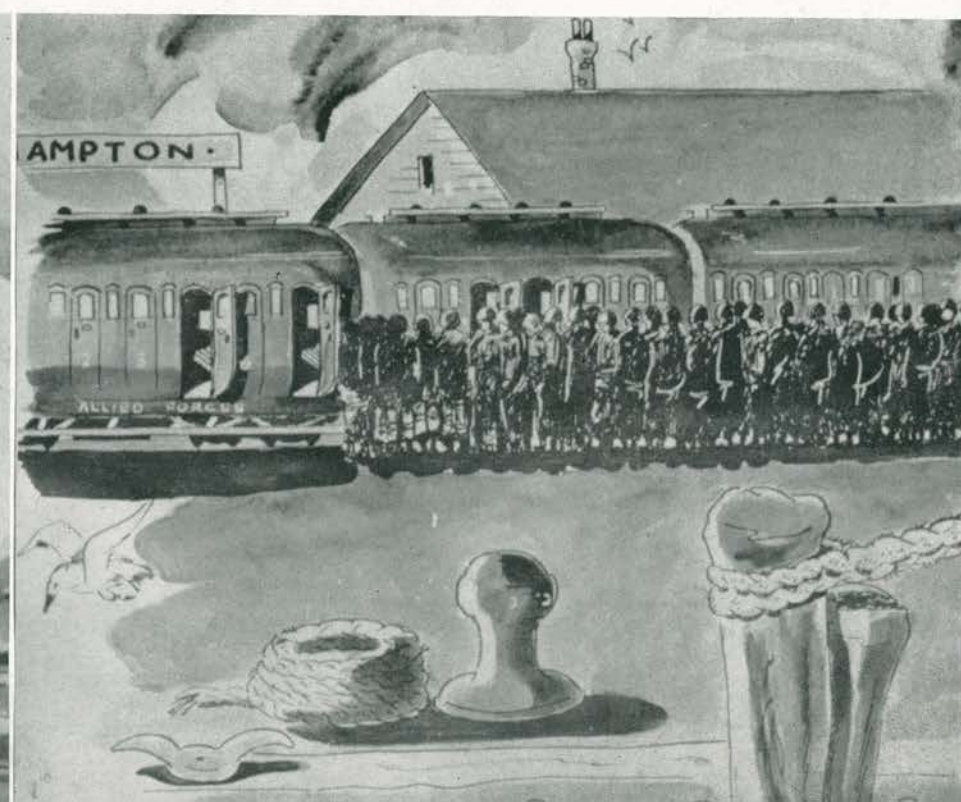
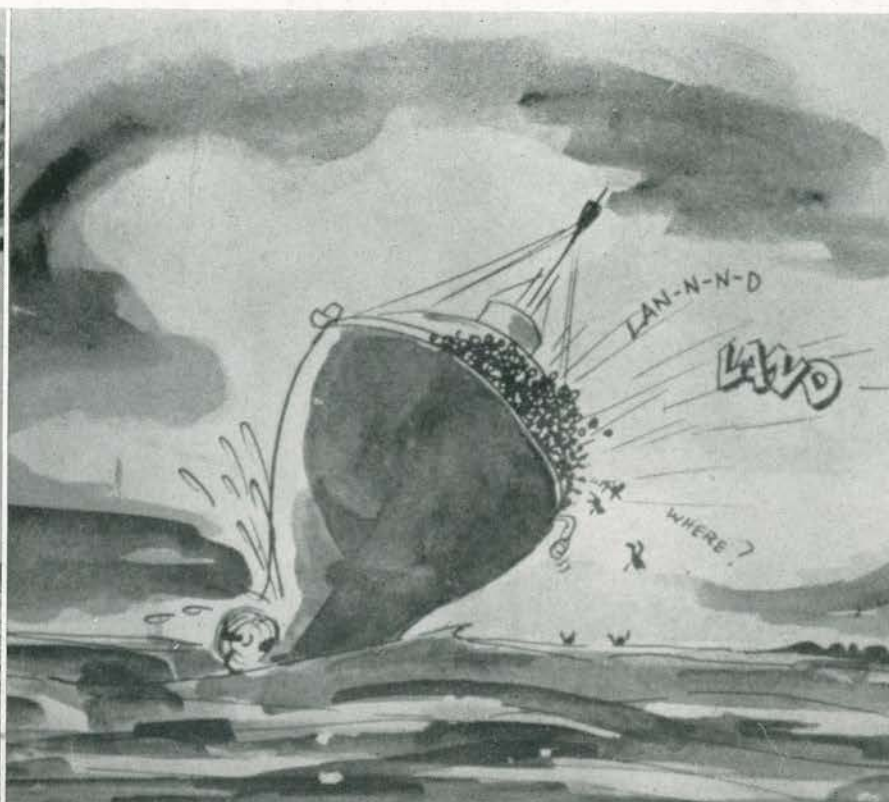
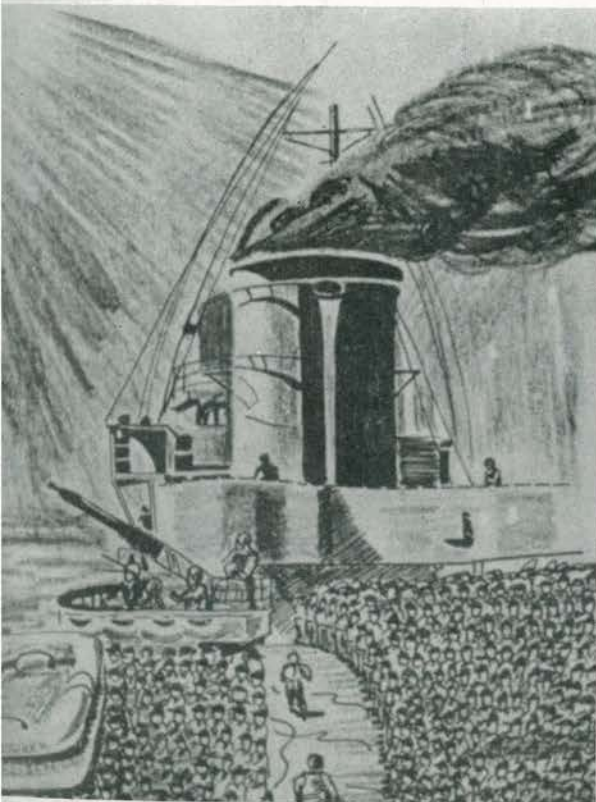
Chow

At Long Last



Double Time

Boarding Trains in England





Unexpected Guests

On the 10th and 11th of October, we arrived in camps that had not been occupied since D Day (June 6th). With mattress covers and straw-made pads for cots everyone set up living quarters. Of course it was raining. It was England.



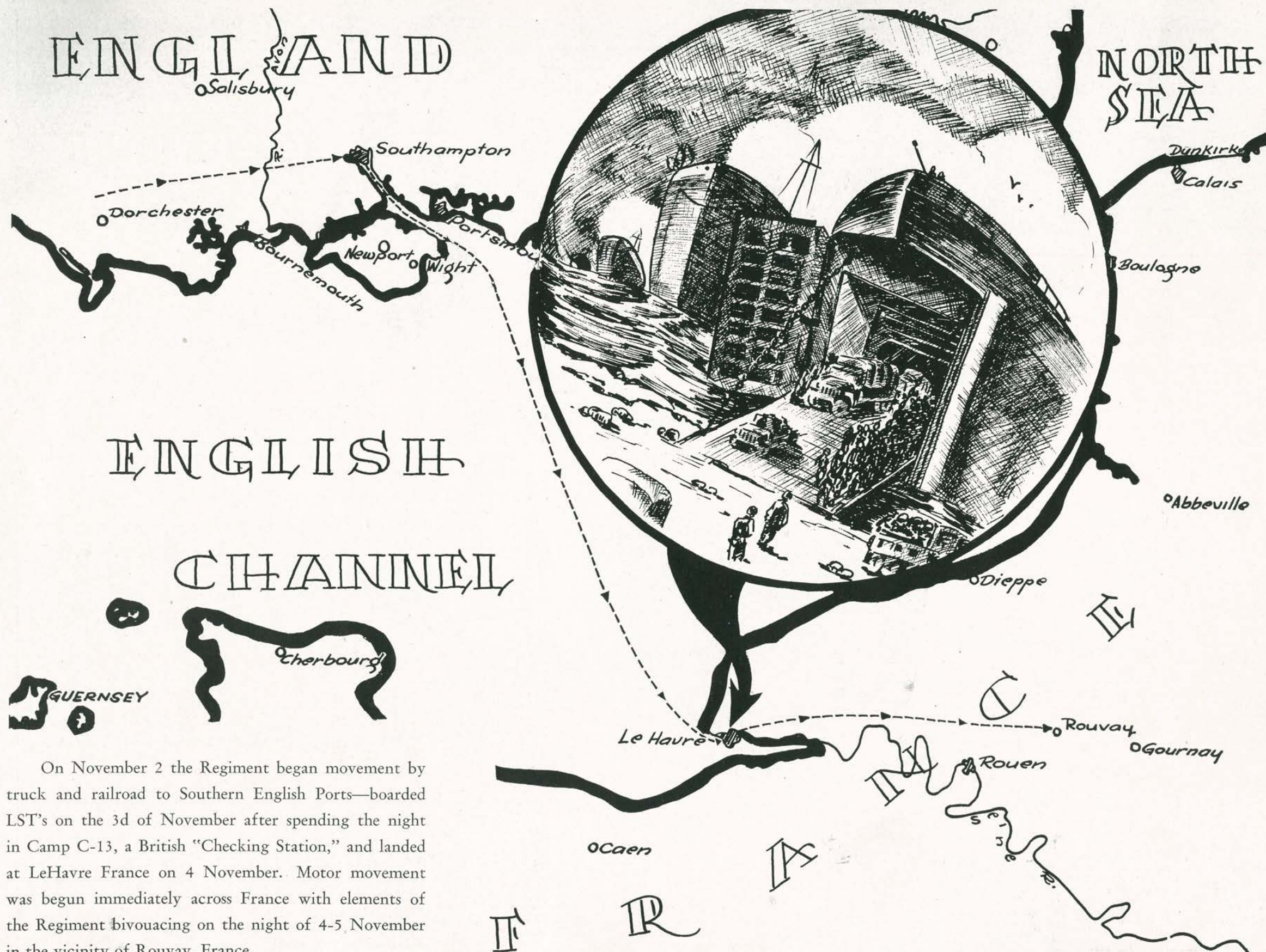
Every Man Five Miles Every Day

Training was resumed with intensity and conditioning marches were the order of the day, rain or shine.

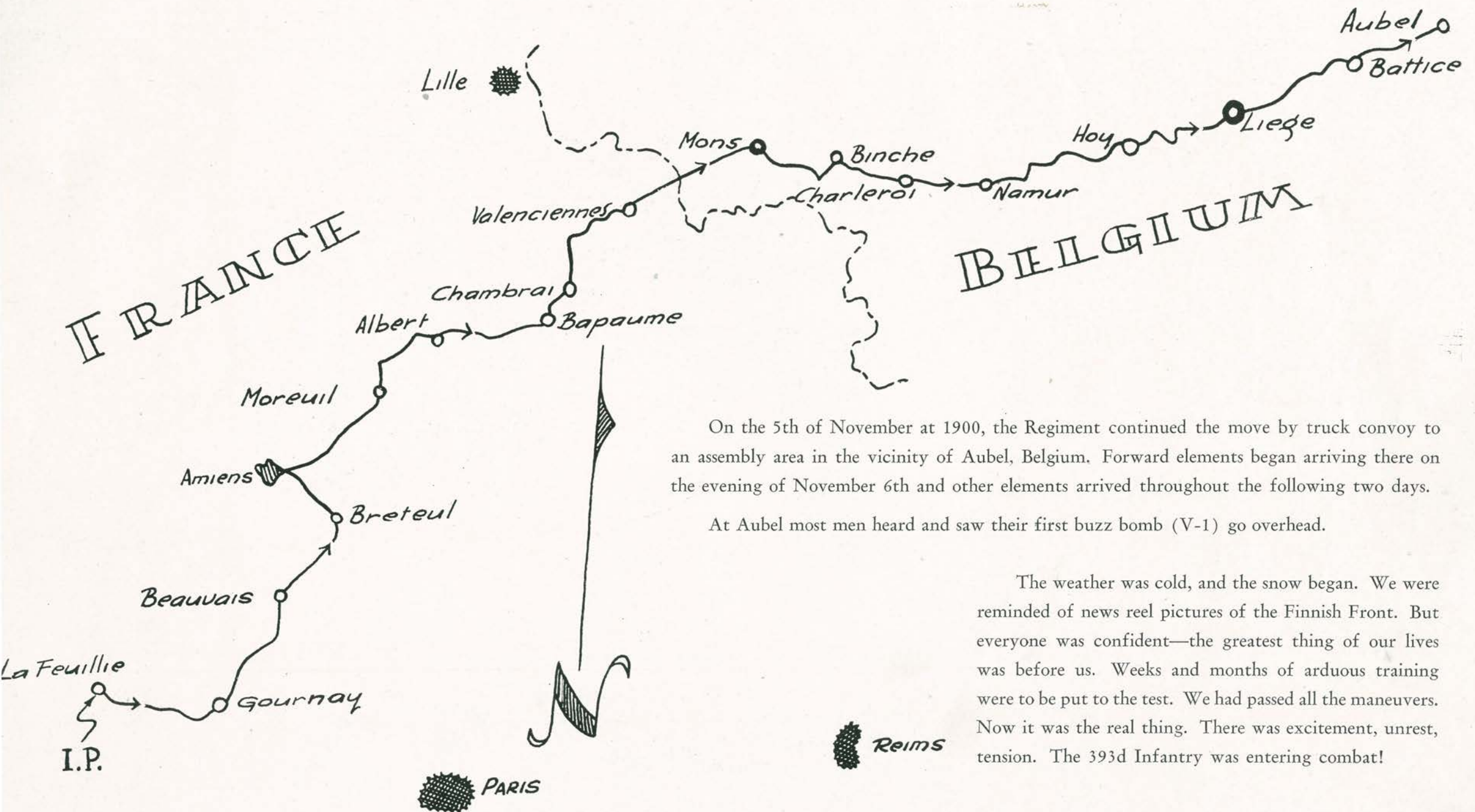
Toward the end of the month of October, Battalions made a three-day bivouac in areas about 10 kilometers from camp.



TAT and Impedimenta were uncrated and conditioned for combat.



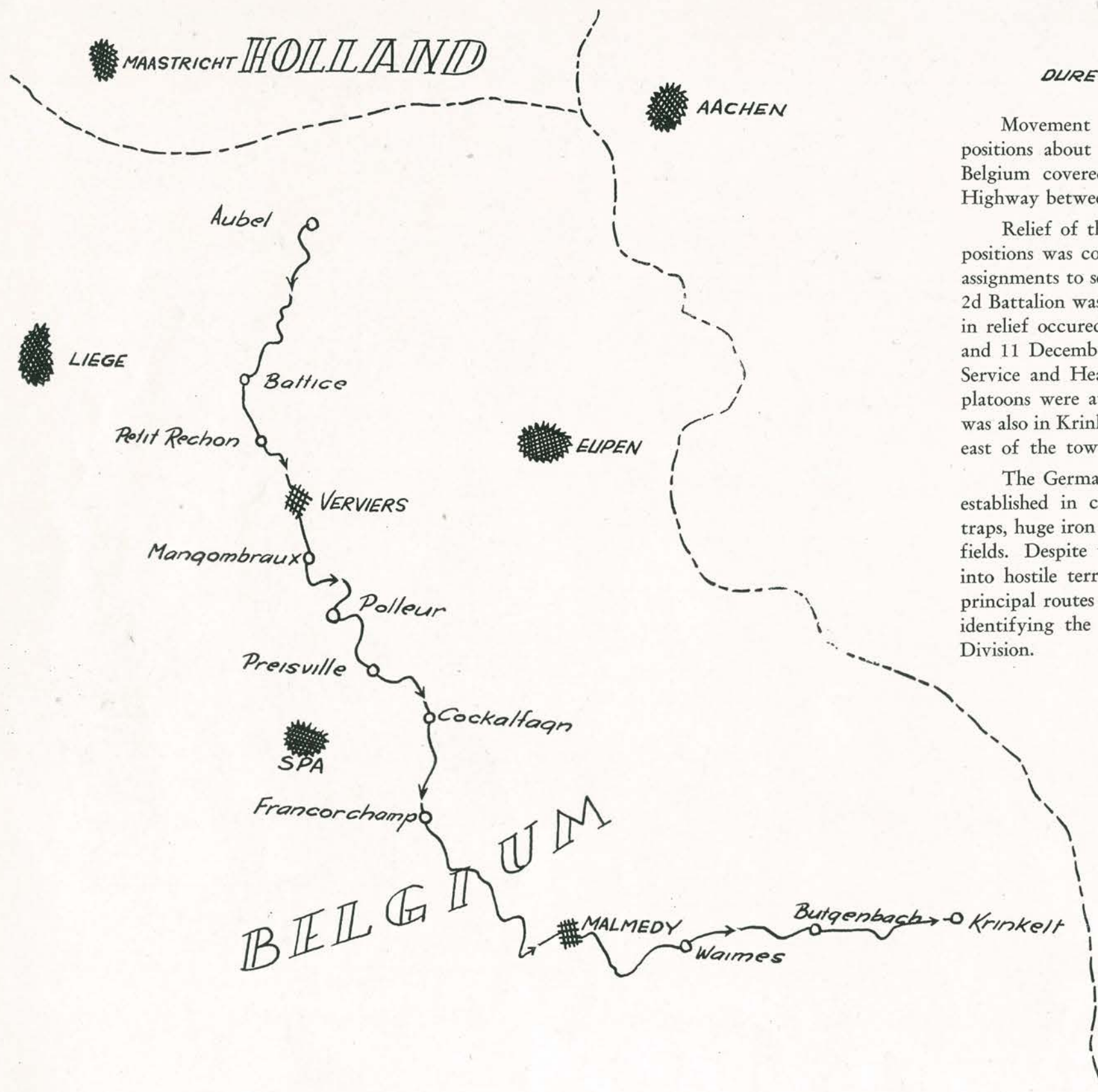
On November 2 the Regiment began movement by truck and railroad to Southern English Ports—boarded LST's on the 3d of November after spending the night in Camp C-13, a British "Checking Station," and landed at LeHavre France on 4 November. Motor movement was begun immediately across France with elements of the Regiment bivouacing on the night of 4-5 November in the vicinity of Rouvay, France.



On the 5th of November at 1900, the Regiment continued the move by truck convoy to an assembly area in the vicinity of Aubel, Belgium. Forward elements began arriving there on the evening of November 6th and other elements arrived throughout the following two days.

At Aubel most men heard and saw their first buzz bomb (V-1) go overhead.

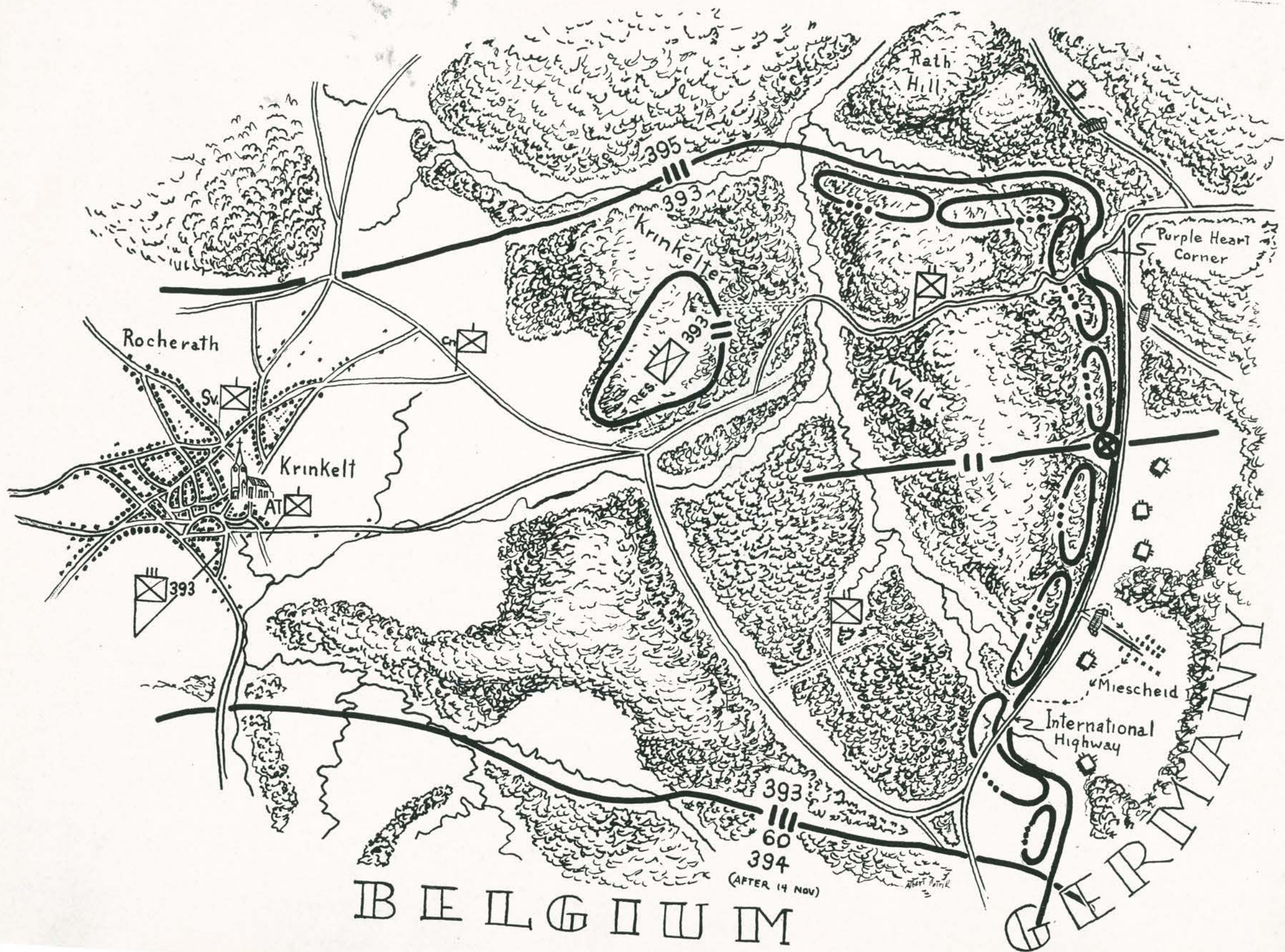
The weather was cold, and the snow began. We were reminded of news reel pictures of the Finnish Front. But everyone was confident—the greatest thing of our lives was before us. Weeks and months of arduous training were to be put to the test. We had passed all the maneuvers. Now it was the real thing. There was excitement, unrest, tension. The 393d Infantry was entering combat!



Movement from Aubel was made on 10 November. Front line positions about three and one-half miles East of Krinkelt-Rocherath, Belgium covered approximately 8,000 yards along the International Highway between Belgium and Germany.

Relief of the 39th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division on these positions was completed on the morning of 11 November and original assignments to sectors put the 3d Battalion on the left (North) and the 2d Battalion was initially in Regimental Reserve. However, many shifts in relief occurred through the following weeks. Between 13 November and 11 December, Company "A" was attached to the 395th Infantry. Service and Headquarters Companies were in Krinkelt and Anti-tank platoons were attached to Battalions while AT Company headquarters was also in Krinkelt. Cannon Company established positions just North-east of the town behind the reserve Battalion area.

The Germans on the East side of the International Highway were established in concrete pillboxes surrounded by dragon's teeth, tank traps, huge iron road-gates, wire entanglements and anti-personnel mine fields. Despite this elaborate defensive set-up, our patrols went daily into hostile territory. (Note: Dotted lines on map opposite are two principal routes taken by patrols). Often they returned with prisoners identifying the enemy units as elements of the 277th Volksgrenadier Division.





Command Post established by Capt. R. M. Holman at Southern end of Krinkelt from November 10 to December 18, 1944.



Red Cross Canteen being visited by GI's in Krinkelt on 24 hour rest period. (Later on—Dec. 17—this same spot was occupied by a German tank.)

Movie theatre where three showings daily provided recreation for troops rotating to Krinkelt on 24 hour "passes." Name 'Dead-Horse' theatre commemorates unfortunate work horse which was mistaken by a night sentry for an enemy patrol.





THE CHURCH IN KRINKELT is a towering terrain feature of the vicinity. In the evening of 17 December 1944 the Germans sneaked a tank through our forward elements and "set up" in front of the church, built a huge bonfire and harassed troop movements through the night and the following day. Snipers and burp gunners fired from windows—one shown at right is in cubical. Birdseye view above looking West—road to Wertzfeld visible in distance.





Several casualties resulted from patrols worming their way through enemy mine fields and some from German Artillery. The most threatening menace during November was the weather since cold rains and slushy snows kept the entire area a sea of mud. Trench foot and exposure caused many evacuations and foot inspections became a necessary part of the routine. After a few weeks, arctics arrived and casualties from such causes decreased.

Troops contrived various means of keeping dry and warm. Some platoons built underground huts just in back of the lines where men rotated to dry off.

Buzz Bomb Lands in Rocherath

V-1 Robot Bombs, reportedly headed for Liege, were a familiar sound flying overhead through the days and nights at Krinkelt (the frequency was increased later at Elsenborn, however) making targets for AA Units in the vicinity. Some were shot down over our sector and one landed in Rocherath demolishing several buildings in the vicinity and making a crater twelve feet deep.

A few days later a crippled Mosquito Bomber returning from a raid over Germany crashed into a house setting it afire and causing one death—other men were severely burned. The pilots had bailed out and one of them alighted in the 370th FA area.



The Attack Began . . .

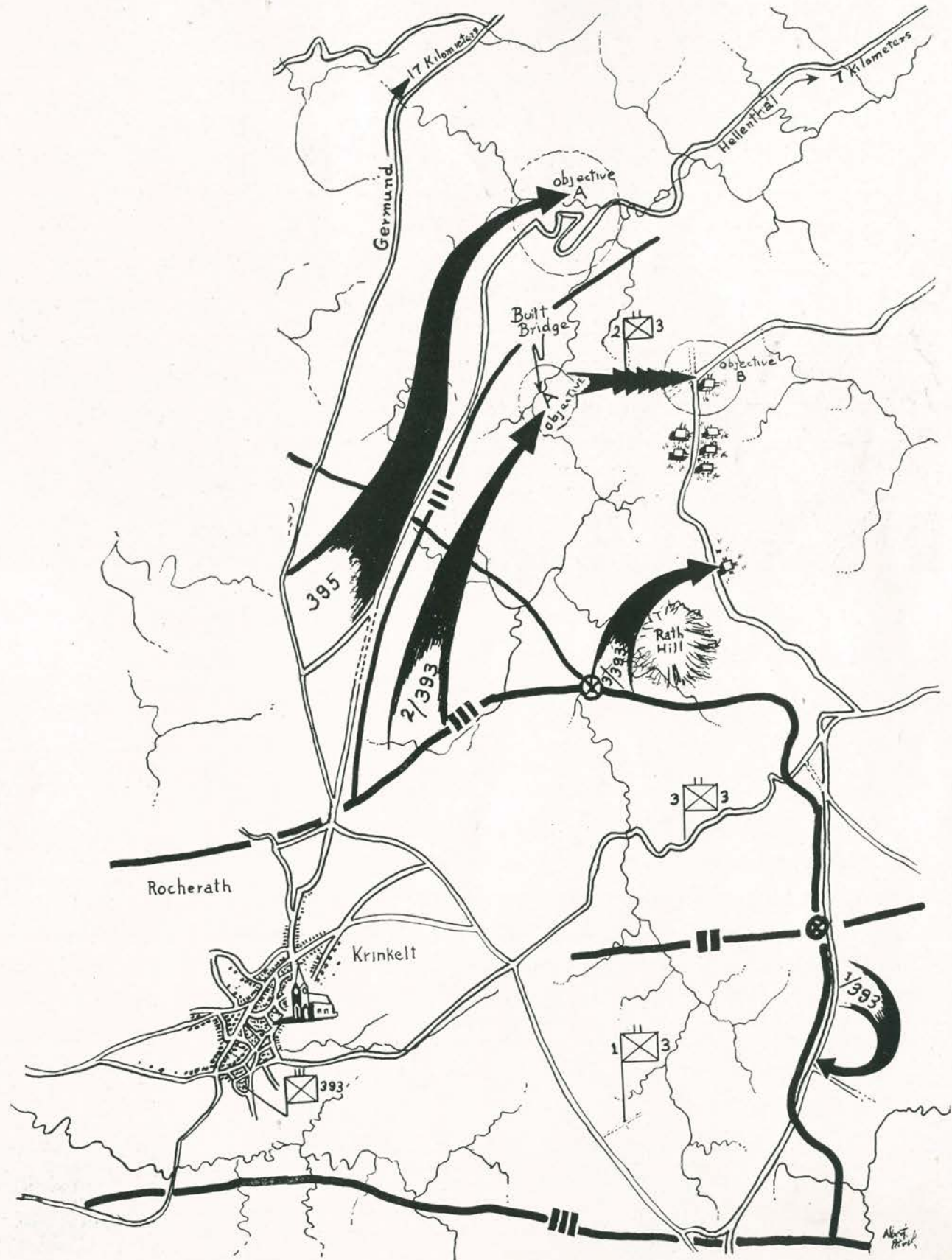
The Regiment's first offensive began on 13 December and was an attack to the North and East coordinated with a push by the 2d Division on the North of the 395th Infantry to sieze the town of Helenthal and so cause a crumbling of the Siegfried Line to the South.

The 2d Battalion was placed under Division control and moved to a forward assembly area between the 395th Infantry and our 3d Battalion—at H hour (0800) 13 December. The first platoon of Company E led the attack to secure objective “A” in their zone. The 3d Battalion attacked to the North to secure Rath Hill, and the 1st Battalion staged a feint attack to the East.

The advance of the 2d Battalion through deep snow and rough terrain and against stiff resistance from strongly defended pillboxes continued for two days. Supply and medical evacuation were difficult, and they taxed the efforts of Major Cole and Major Morgan and their staffs to the utmost. The work of WOJG Hervey in getting supplies was cited by the Regimental Commander.

Higher headquarters praised the work of Colonel Peters and his battalion. The offensive action was progressing better than expected. Although there were a number of casualties, everyone was optimistic. The jerries couldn't hold out much longer. Several companies organized pools for V-E Day. There was a feeling of something big in the air . . .

The attack was interrupted by the Great German offensive in the Ardennes on December 16, 1945.



AT 0530 ON 15 DECEMBER 1944 . . . this once regarded static front became an inferno of bursting shells of every conceivable type and caliber. The Krauts plastered our entire Regimental area with a gigantic barrage that lasted for two hours. And at 0730, while it was still dark, hordes of infantry charged our positions "screaming and yelling like madmen" as flares and huge searchlights hunted out targets for them. The main thrusts struck at the boundary between the First and Third Battalions and hit the southern Regimental flank. The Great German Counter-offensive that turned into the Battle of the Ardennes, more commonly called the Bulge, was on.

"Dakota" Doughs scrambled out of their sacks to pour lead and mortar shells into the charging columns but despite the heavy toll they took, great and overwhelming numbers infiltrated through the positions. Charlie Company on the extreme South fought desperately but by 1000 two platoons were reported overrun and the third resisting but unable to hold much longer. The same condition existed in Baker's area, next company to the north, and in King's which was north of Baker. In a matter of a few hours three companies had been badly cut up by the surprise attack, and there was little reserve to send to their aid. The Second Battalion, the normal Regimental Reserve, was engaging the enemy in the North where they had three days before begun an offensive. Able Company was sent to assist Baker and the Mine Platoon of Anti-tank Company rushed to the scene of Charlie. Item and Love Companies regrouped to form a Third Battalion reserve and perimeter defense of the Battalion Command Post and I Company of the 394th

rushed to the scene of King. Thus the lines were partially restored.

Then the Germans threw in more reserves in a smashing attack. Columns of armor started assaulting our positions. Aid stations were already over-flowing with wounded, communications began to fail—artillery had knocked out vehicles, cut telephone lines, damaged radios. Battalion ammunition piles began to dwindle and treacherous artillery on supply routes made re-supply almost impossible—some ammo trucks got through but at least one jeep loaded with mortar shells is known to have received a direct hit and disappeared. Evacuation of wounded over the shelled roads was possible only because ambulance drivers disregarded the great danger. The Third Battalion Aid Station was crowded with casualties and with no means to evacuate them, the Battalion Surgeon and his section elected to remain with their wounded when the unit withdrew.

The Germans were pounding our defenses relentlessly and despite the terrific artillery barrages laid against them by Cannon Company and the 370th FA, they kept coming, crawling over their own dead, large combat patrols roving the rear areas. Cooks, clerks, drivers, and mechanics picked up cold rifles and crawled in fox-holes to engage the enemy in close combat. The Krauts kept coming—we captured a few prisoners—interrogation revealed that this was the "all out"—"we'll be in Paris by Christmas"—"the Americans and English will be driven from the mainland by New Years"—"nothing will stop us now." The 394th captured Von Runstedt's order which verified the magnitude of the offensive.

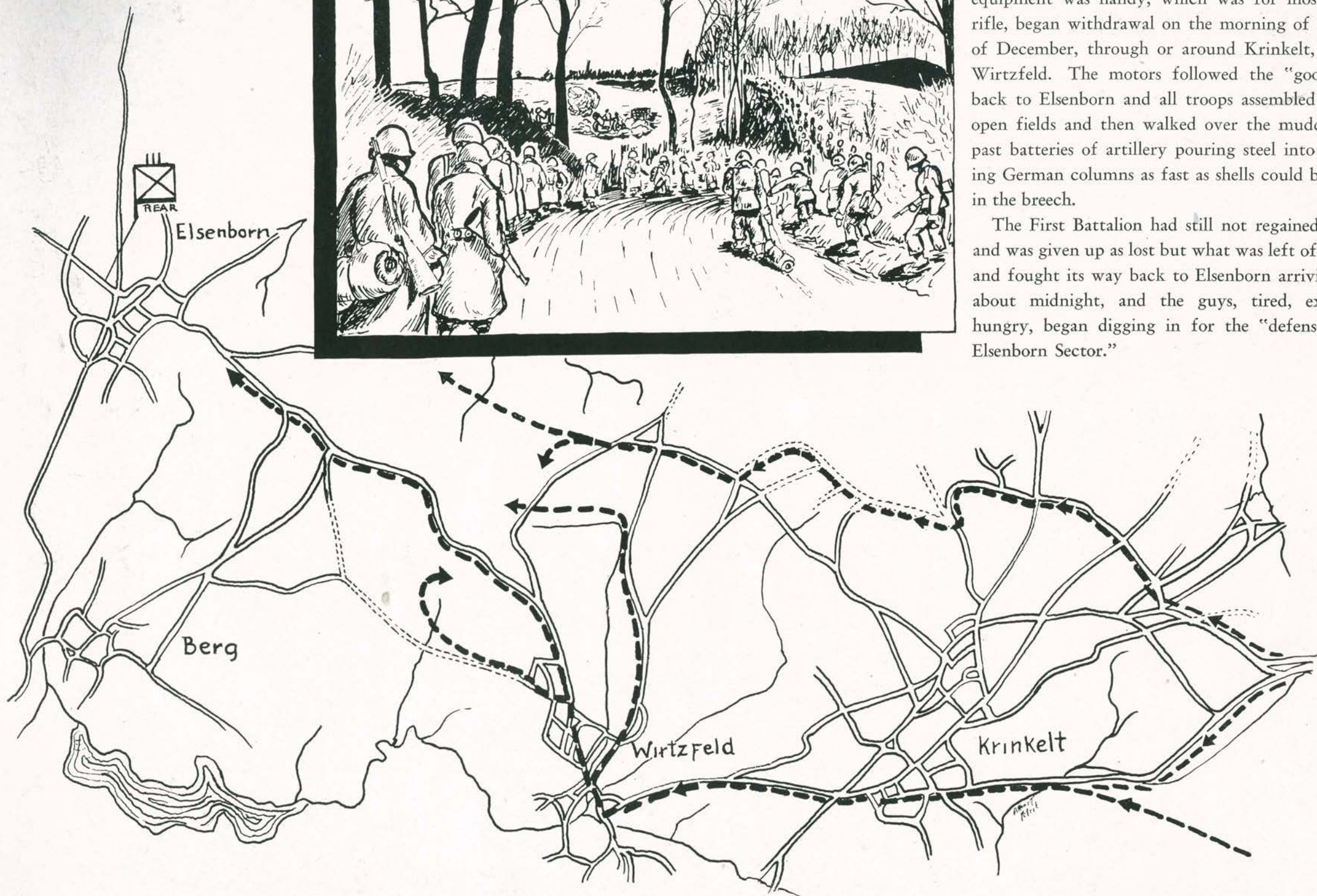
At 1500 the 16th, the 3d Battalion, 23d Infantry of the 2d Infantry Division was sent to our assistance. They dug in positions about 2,000 meters East of Krinkelt (dotted line) where the I and R had been holding off huge combat patrols that had infiltrated our forward elements. The two battalions were cut off from communications except for radios of the artillery and Cannon Company's forward observers, who were calling for artillery concentrations less than 50 yards from their own locations. The First and Third Battalions were completely surrounded and the First Battalion had been reduced to a handful of men resisting desperately to protect their Command Post from capture. The Third fought its way through to the rear and established positions on the left of the 3/23d Infantry. Patrols harassed preparations all through the night of 16-17 December, and the following morning the attack was resumed with greater intensity. Around the clock the men had fought off one attack after another, patrols of 50 and more continued to infiltrate and harass troops in the rear. All through the day the attacks were repulsed, then great columns of armor, crawling with shouting infantry, charged the positions. They were met by bazooka teams, TD's and artillery and only one of them got through. It pulled into the town of Krinkelt, built a bonfire in front of the church and fired into houses and down the streets. The Second Battalion moved down to take up positions on the north of the 3d Battalion. The new Main Line of Resistance just east of Krinkelt held and early Monday, December 18, orders were received for the 393d to pull back to Elsenborn and regroup.





Having fought gallantly and stubbornly since 0530 on the 16th, the worn-out doughs, dragging whatever equipment was handy, which was for most only a rifle, began withdrawal on the morning of the 18th of December, through or around Krinkelt, back to Wirtzfeld. The motors followed the "good" road back to Elsenborn and all troops assembled in large open fields and then walked over the muddy trails, past batteries of artillery pouring steel into advancing German columns as fast as shells could be shoved in the breach.

The First Battalion had still not regained contact and was given up as lost but what was left of it found and fought its way back to Elsenborn arriving there about midnight, and the guys, tired, exhausted, hungry, began digging in for the "defense of the Elsenborn Sector."





THE FRONT AT ELSENBORN

2nd Battalion Radio in Operation



Fighting Hole



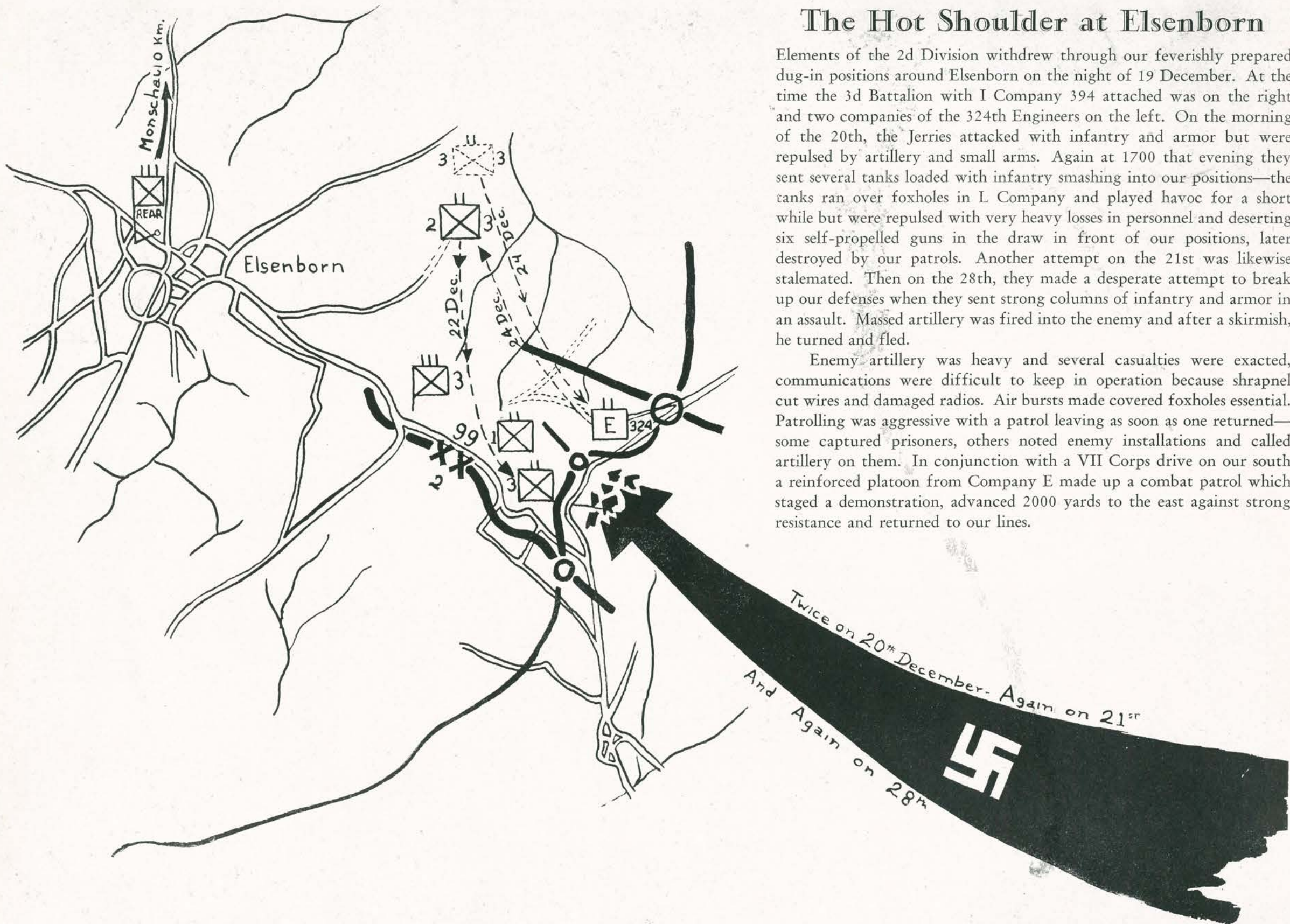
Elsenborn GI of King Co.



The Hot Shoulder at Elsenborn

Elements of the 2d Division withdrew through our feverishly prepared dug-in positions around Elsenborn on the night of 19 December. At the time the 3d Battalion with I Company 394 attached was on the right and two companies of the 324th Engineers on the left. On the morning of the 20th, the Jerries attacked with infantry and armor but were repulsed by artillery and small arms. Again at 1700 that evening they sent several tanks loaded with infantry smashing into our positions—the tanks ran over foxholes in L Company and played havoc for a short while but were repulsed with very heavy losses in personnel and deserting six self-propelled guns in the draw in front of our positions, later destroyed by our patrols. Another attempt on the 21st was likewise stalemated. Then on the 28th, they made a desperate attempt to break up our defenses when they sent strong columns of infantry and armor in an assault. Massed artillery was fired into the enemy and after a skirmish, he turned and fled.

Enemy artillery was heavy and several casualties were exacted, communications were difficult to keep in operation because shrapnel cut wires and damaged radios. Air bursts made covered foxholes essential. Patrolling was aggressive with a patrol leaving as soon as one returned—some captured prisoners, others noted enemy installations and called artillery on them. In conjunction with a VII Corps drive on our south a reinforced platoon from Company E made up a combat patrol which staged a demonstration, advanced 2000 yards to the east against strong resistance and returned to our lines.





Regimental Supply crew breaks down "B" rations in the woods near Sourbrodt (NW of Elsenborn). A rest camp was also in these same woods where rotated troops got a shower, clean clothes, a night's rest in an area less frequented by in-coming "mail."



Regimental Commander Lt. Col. Jean D. Scott at the entrance to his Advance Command Post, a dug-out about 2,000 yards behind the front. But Colonel Scott was usually at the front "raising hell"—no one doubted his courage.



The Third Battalion Chaplain, Carl M. Truesdale, established a collecting point in Elsenborn where soldiers lost in the confusion at Krinkelt were rounded up, warmed, and fed—at least a hot "C" if not some of the Chaplain's famous pancakes.

German Prisoner captured by a patrol being questioned by Regimental Interrogation Officer Captain Michau. Lt. James Browne acted as Provost Marshal, and he insured that PW's were quickly taken to the stockade.



The Rear Command Post in Elsenborn—not far from the cross roads that were a favorite target for the German Artillery. (Note shell hole in roof.) Telephone lines indicate the extensive communications in the defensive set-up.



Over this street in Elsenborn rode the many reinforcements who arrived during January to replace the losses suffered at Krinkelt. Heavy snows and strong gales from January 8th to 18th required constant attention to roads to keep them open.





Evacuation by Major Milton J. Cole's Medics during the Monschau Forest drive by ambulance . . .



By Jeep . . .



By Weasel over the snow swept fields . . .

Vehicles recaptured in the drive.



THEN . . . the attack began over these fields of waist deep snow.

These German soldiers offered stiff resistance in the woods.



Policing the battlefield after the attack.





The Monschau Forest Drive

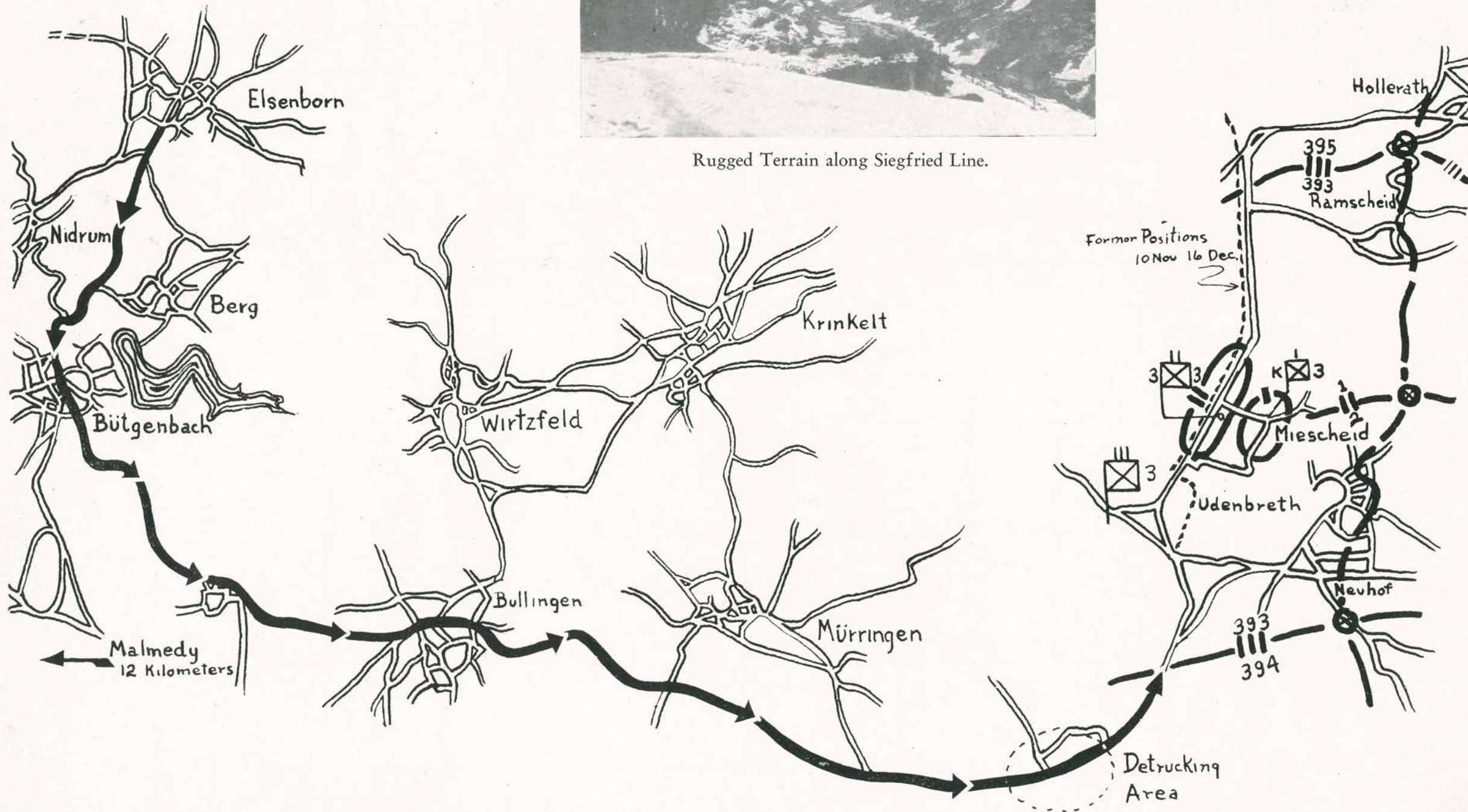
On 30 January at 0300 the Second Battalion jumped off with Easy Company in the lead, advanced through waist deep snow and bitter winds over the open fields and attacked the point of the woods just before daylight. The Germans resisted with heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire from their sheltered positions. Easy Company's advance was halted and Fox Company moved in to assist. Despite heavy artillery concentrations poured into the German positions, entrance to woods was continually denied them by the enemy who possessed wide fields of fire and excellent observation of the 2d Battalion in open terrain. The deep snow made maneuvering practically impossible and the battle continued through the whole day. The Third Battalion was committed that evening, taking up positions in the opposite side of the woods. A coordinated attack was staged with the 2d Battalion at 0200 in the morning when both Battalions entered the woods and cleared this strong point of enemy. The First Battalion went to relieve the Second and the advance continued northward, as the enemy fled back to the Siegfried Line. Many mined and booby trapped areas were encountered in the long push through the dense woods to the cross roads seven kilometers north. Here the leading Battalions were pinched out of the drive by the 2d Division and the 394th Infantry.

Then on February 1st, movement on foot was begun back to original positions. The exhausted troops walked over the snow choked fields and drifted trails (broken line) too numb to be glad to be living—tired, cold, exhausted and hungry, they streamed back through Elsenborn, back to their foxholes to sleep . . . and for the first time in 84 days the Regiment was not in contact with the enemy.

On the 4th and 5th of February, after two days policing up the scene of the attack in the woods, the Regiment moved to positions about two kilometers east of former positions (dotted line) relieving the 18th Infantry, 1st Division. (2d Battalion relieved elements of the 82d Airborne Division.)



Rugged Terrain along Siegfried Line.



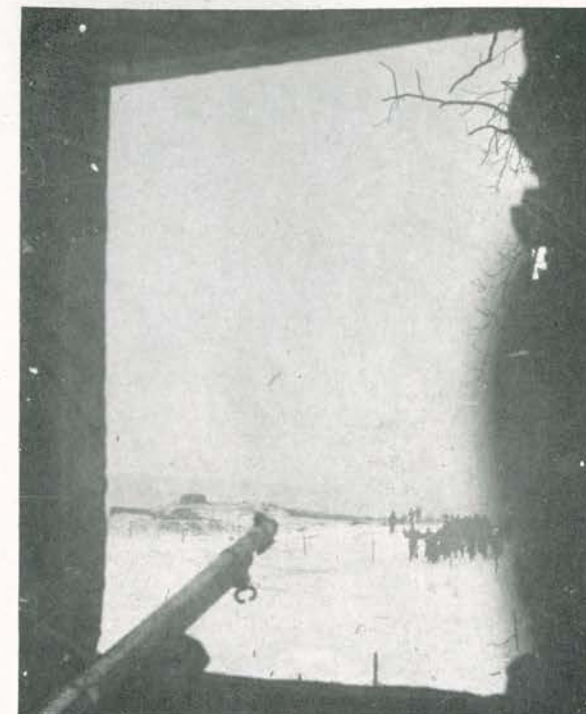
The enemy still held pillboxes in the Second Battalion Sector and plans were made to seize them.

George Company staged an attack at 1550 on the 7th of February using one rifle platoon supported by artillery and three-inch TD guns. After a sharp encounter the men were able to get within 50 yards of the fort but concentrated artillery fire and supporting fires from nearby pillboxes forced the platoon to withdraw. On the 10th, Fox Company staged a surprise attack at 0630 using grenades, flame-throwers, and satchel charges and Pillbox Number 1 fell at 0800.

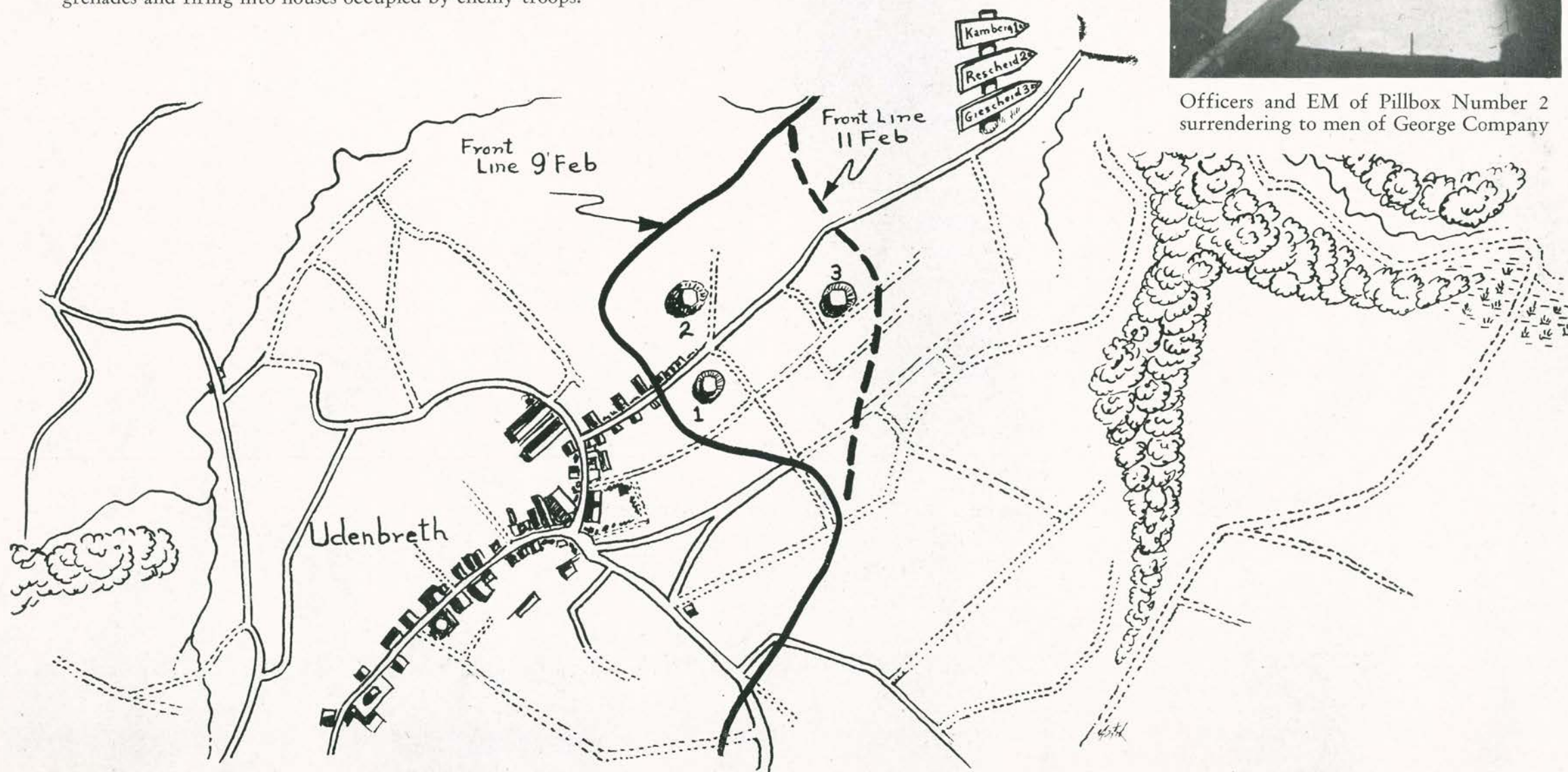
"George" launched an attack on Pillbox Number 2 on the 11th of February, with a rifle platoon reinforced with bazooka teams, satchel charges, flame-throwers and at 1430 the pillbox and occupants, 33 EM and 2 Officers, surrendered.

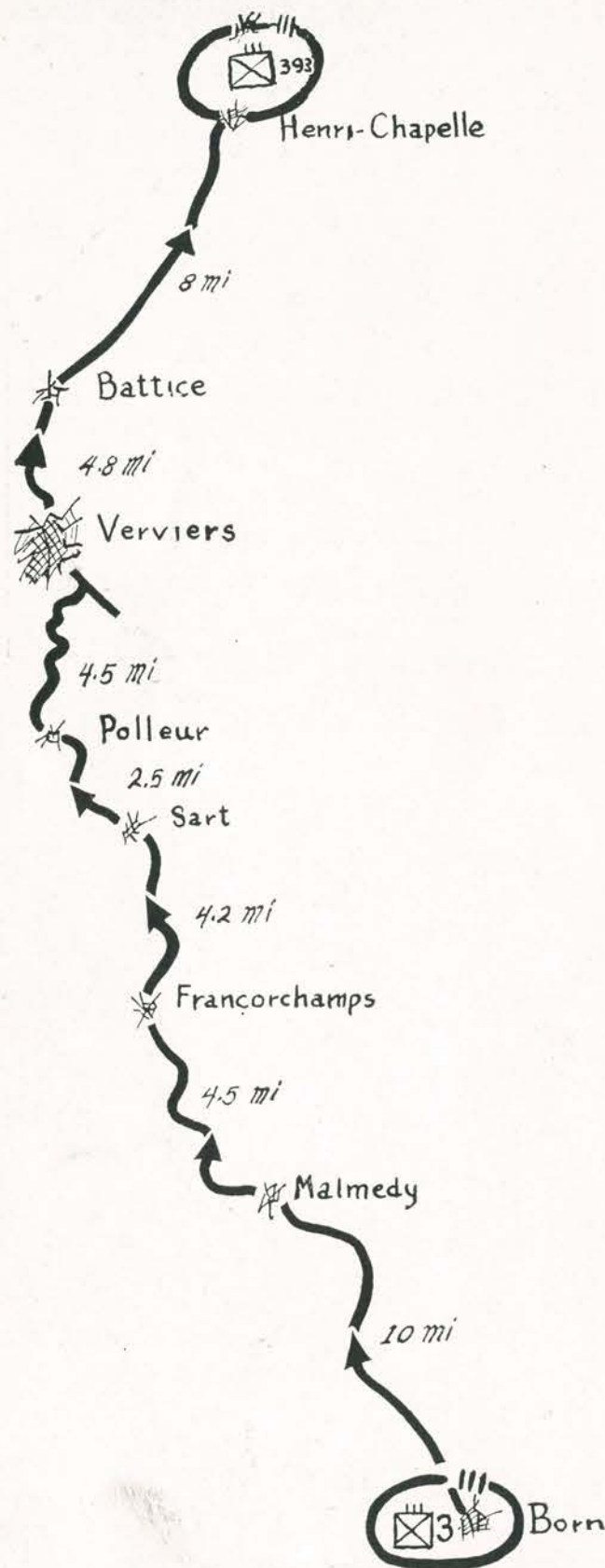
A rifle platoon of I Company staged a similar attack on the remaining pillbox at 0645 on the 12th of February and in 15 minutes the 28 EM and 2 Officers were headed for the PW cage and our troops took up positions in the fort.

Patrolling during these seven days was very active. On dark nights our patrols penetrated German positions as far as three kilometers to reconnoiter and harass enemy positions in Rescheid, Giescheid, and Kamberg tossing grenades and firing into houses occupied by enemy troops.



Officers and EM of Pillbox Number 2 surrendering to men of George Company





After being relieved on positions in the Siegfried Line by the 273d Infantry of 69th Division on 12 February, the 393d pulled back to a concentration area in the vicinity of Born, Belgium. While waiting for assignment to a rest area the Battalions furnished details of 500 men to help Engineers repair the badly damaged roads and highways that had been torn by shell fire and aerial bombing during the Battle of the Bulge.

For the first time since entry into combat we could have open fires. What morale builders they were, too. The ground was damp, but the weather was fair. Clothes were dried out. All troops were paid for the month of January. A few "small games" in every company . . . a "few" sent money home. "This was the life" . . . meeting and knowing the men of another platoon.

Inspections started . . . Colonel Pete spruced up his "rat-top" battalion . . . Captain Mucha was shining up those guns after three months of brilliant firing . . . Captain Maertens had his Anti Tank Company in good shape . . . and Major Cole was not only looking after his own detachment but the welfare of the entire regiment. Everyone felt better. The worst was certainly over. We had taken a terrible beating, but we had come back, and in every sense of the word, we were "combat veterans."

On the 19th of February, the Regiment began movement by motor and on foot from Born to Henri-Chapelle, Belgium. The first ten miles of the journey the troops marched because roads were impassable to heavy vehicles. This was a rugged march over muddy, crater-holed roads. Entrucking at Malmedy, the doughs rode the remainder of the trip, going through Verviers.

In a concentration area around Henri-Chapelle, the troops were bivouaced and billeted in buildings. Passes were issued to some lucky ones who visited Brussels, Verviers, Jayhawk (VII Corps) Rest Camp, and Paris. Engineer shower units were located in nearby towns where clean clothing was issued. GI's had a rest and some recreation and a Command Inspection on 27 February was held.

It seemed almost impossible that it was only three short months ago that the 393d Infantry bivouaced here. Hardly the same outfit. The outstanding Platoon and First Sergeants were now Lieutenants . . . Henderson, Orlando, Harbeck, Keyser, Finer, Juhl, Sergeant, Lowry, Romero were a few. There were new faces in every company. But a common cause made all the new replacements veterans after a few days.

The Division Commander visited troops, making a short address to express his compliments for the ". . . brilliant and successful defensive action and . . . now we shall soon be on the offensive."

On March 1st the Regiment was alerted to move across the Roer River.



Division Commander Major General Walter E. Lauer wishes success to new Regimental CO, Colonel James K. Woolnough.



"... you will soon be on the offensive."

Presentation of Bronze Star Medals at Born.





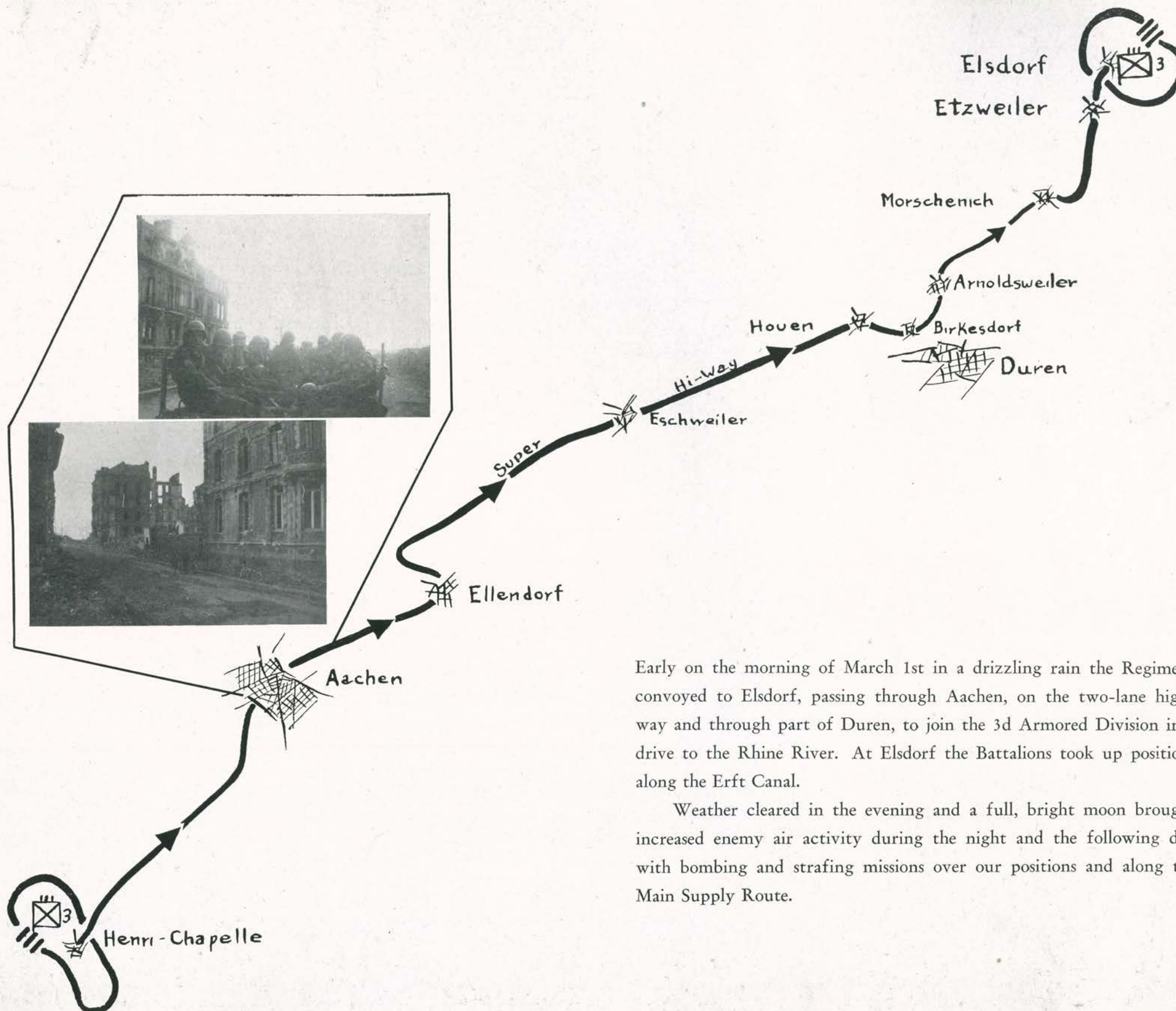
2d Battalion advances over the Cologne plains. This offensive war was a new side of combat we had never known. The long marches were hard, but new country, all kinds of souvenirs, and "liberating" made life more interesting. It was spring in Germany and we even admitted it was pretty country.



Dakato UPS where all the administrative functions of the regiment were carried on—pay, mail, casualty reporting, assignment, and classification. After the Battle of the Bulge, the section was reorganized under Lt. Robert E. Freed and had the tremendous task of compiling new records to replace those captured.

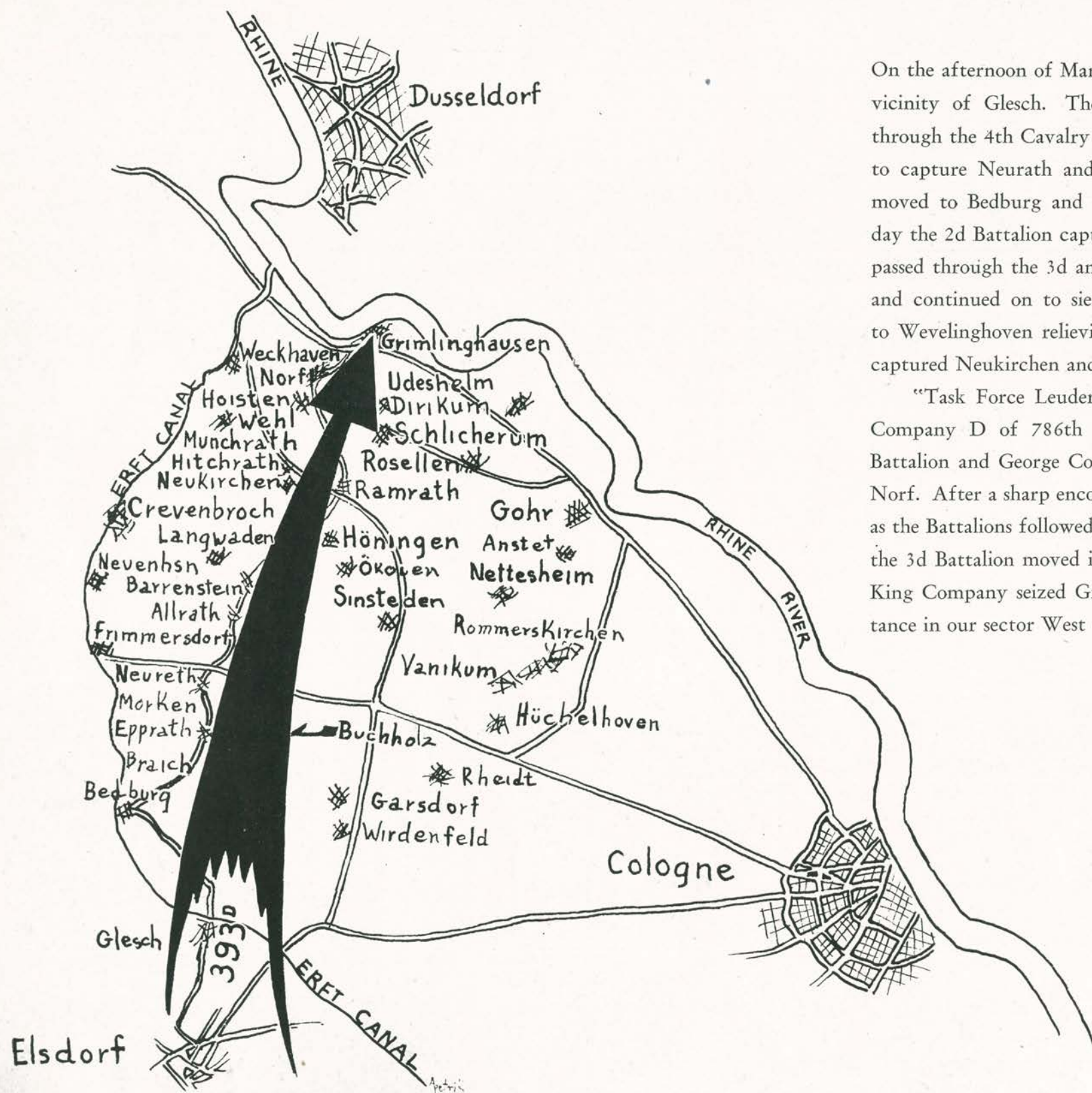
CP in Elsdorf received a direct hit with an aerial bomb, killing or seriously wounding several enlisted men and officers of S-2, S-3 Sections and Headquarters Company.





Early on the morning of March 1st in a drizzling rain the Regiment conveyed to Elsdorf, passing through Aachen, on the two-lane highway and through part of Duren, to join the 3d Armored Division in a drive to the Rhine River. At Elsdorf the Battalions took up positions along the Erft Canal.

Weather cleared in the evening and a full, bright moon brought increased enemy air activity during the night and the following day with bombing and strafing missions over our positions and along the Main Supply Route.

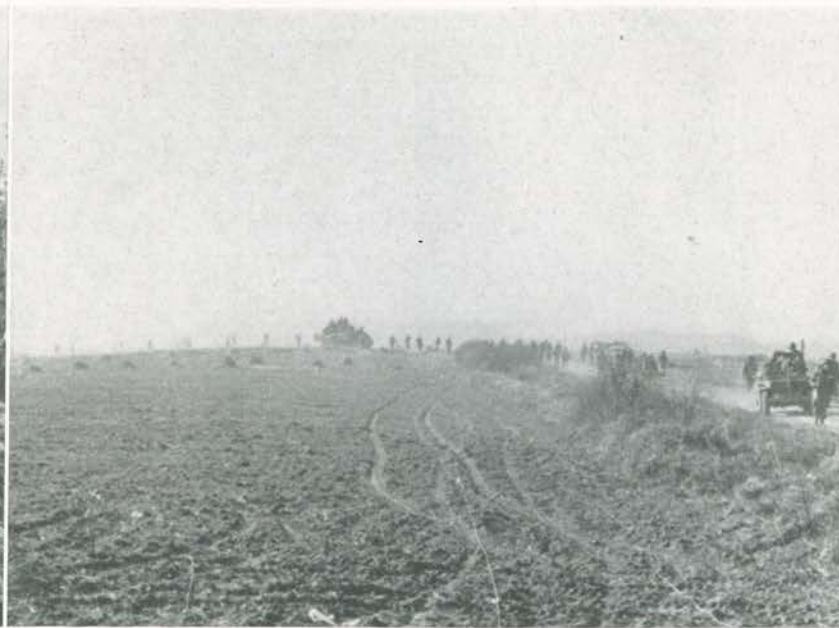


On the afternoon of March 2d, we began crossing the Erft Canal in the vicinity of Glesch. The 3d Battalion leading, advanced and passed through the 4th Cavalry Group at Buchholz and continued the advance to capture Neurath and eighty German prisoners. The 1st Battalion moved to Bedburg and the 2d remained in Buchholz. The following day the 2d Battalion captured the high ground south of Allrath, the 1st passed through the 3d and captured a large aluminum plant, Erftwerk, and continued on to sieze Machhasen. Then the 2d Battalion moved to Wevelinghoven relieving the 4th Cavalry Group. The 1st Battalion captured Neukirchen and 2d Battalion took Hulchrath the next day.

"Task Force Leuders" was formed of 99th Reconnaissance Troop, Company D of 786th Tank Battalion, Company A of 629th TD Battalion and George Company, to make a lightning thrust to capture Norf. After a sharp encounter with enemy armor, they seized Derikum, as the Battalions followed mopping up towns along the way. That night the 3d Battalion moved into Derikum and the following day, March 5, King Company seized Grimlinghausen which ended all organized resistance in our sector West of the Rhine River.



Over the Cologne Plains some Doughs of 393d rode tanks in lightning assaults on dug-in enemy positions.



The Second Battalion moves into position to prepare defense against possible counter-attacks.



Third Battalion in column formation waits for orders to move up. Artillery had been hot along this road.

Men of How Company demonstrate firing across the Rhine with 105 Mortar captured by George Company.

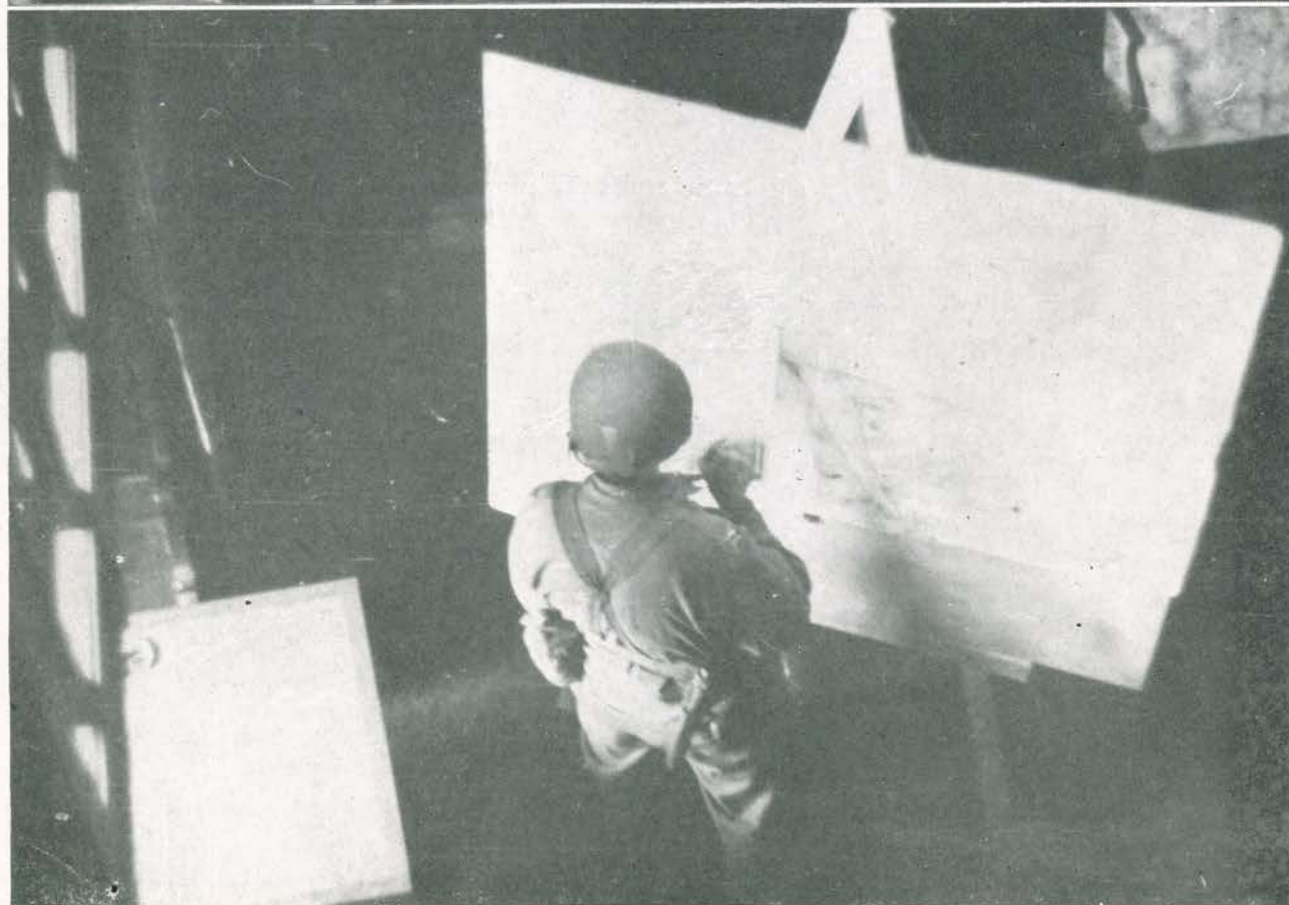


First Battalion man eats a "K" as they advance on town in Remagen Bridgehead



Tanks and TD's augment Anti-aircraft protection for troops crossing the Remagen Railroad Bridge.

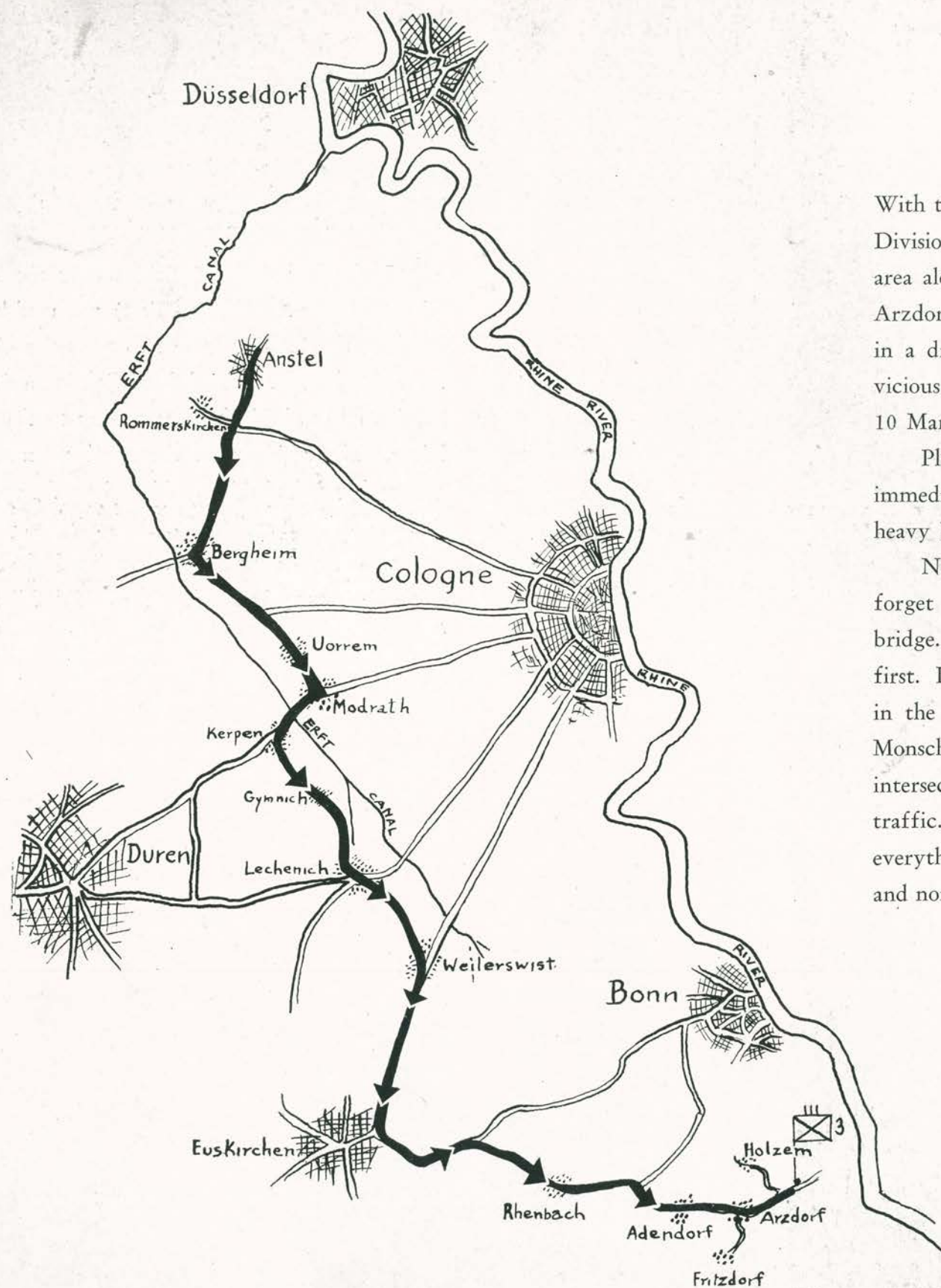




Following the swift shuttle of the 99th from vicinity of Dusseldorf to South of Bonn (see map opposite) with the capture of the Remagen Bridge, the 393d established a Command Post in the administration building of a small college where plans for crossing the Rhine River were immediately laid.

Upper left: The Regimental S-3 makes detailed plans on the situation map which shows the displacement of known enemy units furnished by S-2.

Lower left: A Battalion S-3 transferred the information to his own map and makes notes on routes and schemes which concern his unit.



The Remagen Bridgehead

With the sudden capture of the Ludendorf Bridge by the 9th Armored Division, the 99th Division was quickly moved from its concentration area along the Erft Canal and the Rhine to an area in the vicinity of Arzdorf, south of Bonn. The 393d moved on the night of 9-10 March in a drizzling rain through towns still flaming and smoldering from vicious air and artillery assaults, closing in the new area about 0400 on 10 March.

Plans for crossing the River and exploiting the bridgehead were immediately begun and the following night troops began crossing under heavy bombardment from huge guns and aircraft.

No one who crossed that bridge in the first few days will ever forget the experience. The enemy did everything he could to hit the bridge. Foot elements and a few supply vehicles of the regiment crossed first. Later on, the artillery came over. More casualties were sustained in the crossing than at any time since the January offensive in the Monschau Forest. Many were sickened by "dead man's corner"—the intersection just before the bridge where a company of MP's directed traffic. When one MP fell, another took his place. For days and nights everything the III Corps of the First Army had crossed that bridge—and none will ever forget it.



The Ludendorff Railroad

The Ludendorff Railroad Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen (looking East) was used by the 393d on the 11th of March to cross the historic barrier and secure through hard fighting a sizeable portion of the bridgehead extending to the Wied River. The artillery on the small town at the approach, on the bridge itself, and on the opposite side was constant and deadly. Aircraft made several attempts to crash our defenses and bomb the bridge out of existence, but before the bridge fell a few days later, several floating bridges as shown below were already in operation.



When our crossing was completed, the 99th Infantry Division was the first full division on the east side of the Rhine River. There were combat teams of other divisions, however, the 9th Armored, the 9th Infantry, and the 78th Infantry Divisions. It had been a terrible fight. Few felt the war was over, but no one could see how it could continue much longer. Casualties still were evacuated, and all men were still tense and alert. But the 393d Infantry had done a lot of fighting and a lot of killing since November 8th!



This town at the approach to the Pontoon Bridge was victim of shelling by German artillery and air raids.



These Krauts gave up around Ginsterhahn after putting up a stiff fight.



The 3d Battalion, initially in Regimental Reserve, mopped up the wooded areas in the Bridgehead.

The Luftwaffe was very active around Linz. Here GI trucks are burning from a bomb which scored a direct hit on an AA gun emplacement.



Men of the 2d Battalion pull into woods just east of Linz to wait for orders in expanding the bridgehead. Canteens were filled with a "souvenir" from Linz.



Men of 1st Battalion take cover in a draw from bursting artillery shells during the seizure of bitterly contested ground between the Rhine and Weid Rivers.



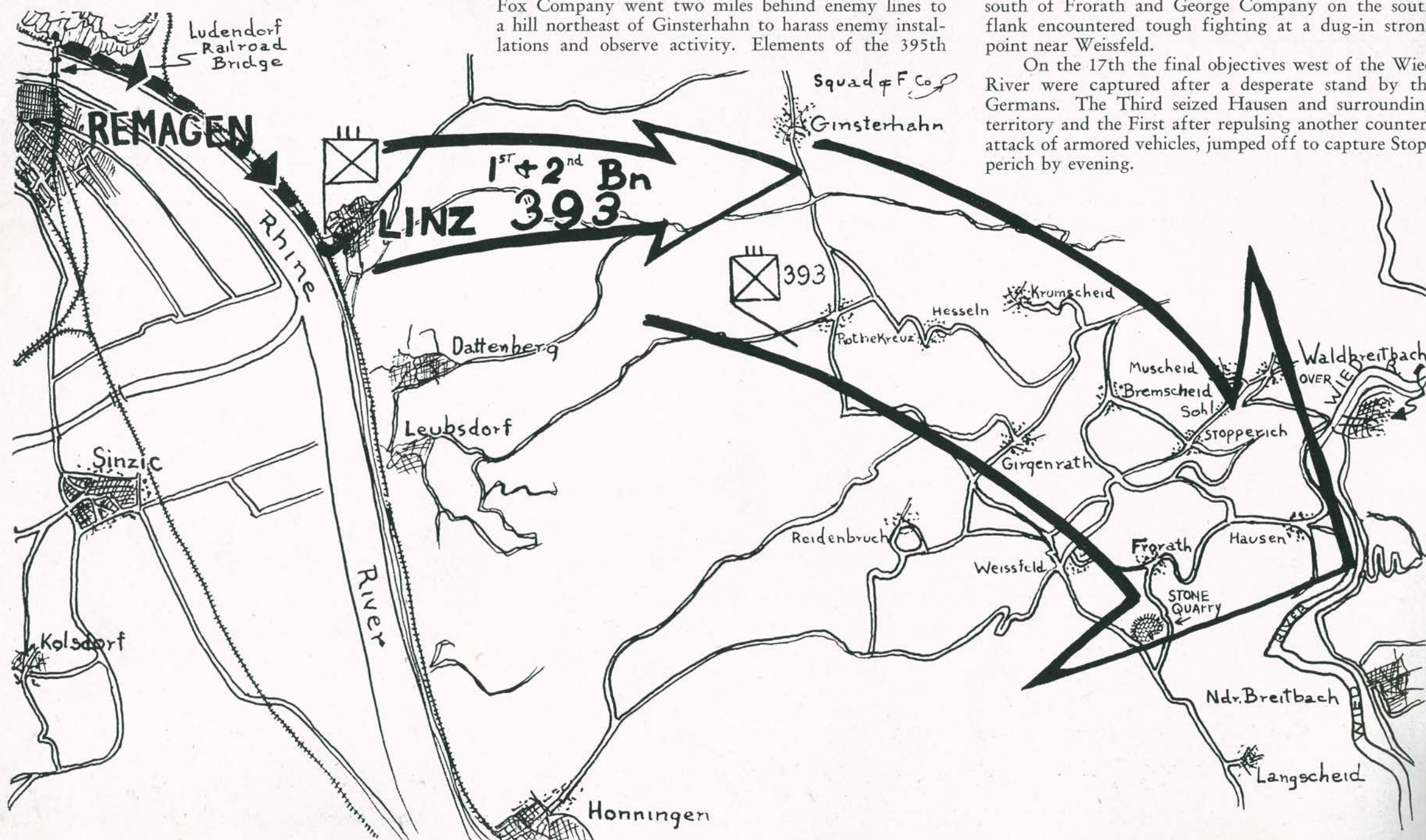
Having crossed the Rhine at Remagen, the Regiment swung south and 1st Battalion relieved the 3d Battalion of 60th Infantry on positions about 2 kilometers east of Linz. The 2d and 3d Battalions remained in reserve but the following day at 0700 the 1st and 2d Battalions jumped off to the east attacking against very stubborn resistance, advancing about one kilometer capturing the villages of Rotherkreuz, an important crossroads, and Ginsterhahn respectively. The First Battalion repulsed three counter-attacks the same day at Rotherkreuz and on the 13th, seven tanks staged a daring

counter-attack at Ginsterhahn, entered the town but were met by 2d Battalion and King Company who held their fire until the armor and pig-a-back infantry were sure targets, then opened up with such murderous fire that the tanks turned tail and fled. Another counter-attack in the First Battalion Sector was likewise thwarted the night before when A Company caught a Mark V lurking in the brush and knocked it out with Bazooka fire. Thus a main north-south road had been secured. Meanwhile 3d Battalion mopped up rear areas capturing prisoners and equipment, and a squad-size patrol from Fox Company went two miles behind enemy lines to a hill northeast of Ginsterhahn to harass enemy installations and observe activity. Elements of the 395th

passed through the patrol on the 14th attacking east from our north flank and the 2d Battalion went into Corps Reserve. On the 15th the 1st and 3d Battalions turned the direction of attack to the southeast and seized the towns of Hesseln and Krumscheid after heavy fighting.

That night at four minutes past midnight Item Company captured Girgenrath and at 0600 both battalions again jumped off, 3d Battalion capturing Bremscheid, Over, Muscheid and Sohl against moderate resistance. First Battalion met stiff defenses at a stone quarry south of Frorath and George Company on the south flank encountered tough fighting at a dug-in strong point near Weissfeld.

On the 17th the final objectives west of the Wied River were captured after a desperate stand by the Germans. The Third seized Hausen and surrounding territory and the First after repulsing another counter-attack of armored vehicles, jumped off to capture Stopperich by evening.





SP's and Tanks accompanied Doughs along the roads that criss-crossed the hard won brideghead.



But infantry can go where tanks can't and much of the area that had to be captured and consolidated was heavily wooded with pines. This is the Wald near Rotherkreuz, which was seized by the 1st Battalion.



A tank battle took place at these crossroads just north of Romerick. This U. S. tank received a direct hit from artillery and exploded after catching afire.

Radio operators remained alert for possible warnings of counter-attack. This man of 2d Battalion Radio Section "makes" time to shave also.

With the final objectives take in the first stage of the campaign east of the Rhine, the men of Baker dig in ready to repulse counter-attacks.





Messenger: "Prepare to move out."



CP in woods under construction.

Machine gun at Rotherkreuz.

Message Center digs in.

The S-3 section at work.



Thus the bridgehead had been secured and for five days the Regiment consolidated positions, built up supply dumps east of the Rhine and harassed enemy movements and installations east of the Wied with artillery and mortar fire in preparation for crossing of the Wied and further attacks into the heart of Germany.



The front is visited by news analyst from the Blue Network. Regimental S-2 points out on map our positions and enemy weak spots.

After completion of CP (opposite page upper right) the Commanding General visits the Regimental Commander near Rotherkreuz regarding the Weid River crossing.



At the Regimental OP on hill overlooking the Weid River, forward artillery and mortar observers direct WP shells into the town of Niederbreitbach to burn and to smoke the enemy out. GI on right observes results through 20 power scope, while the Cannon Company forward observer looks on. The support of our own artillery, the Cannon Company, was highly regarded by the whole regiment. The continuous and accurate fire of Captain Mucha's guns was equalled by the morale and discipline of his company. (At right) How Company's 81 mm mortars in operation south of Weissfeld.





While evacuating a wounded man from Langscheid, this First Battalion medic had a close call.



With the bridgehead secured there is time for a haircut in Mike Company.



... and time to peruse a copy of Stars and Stripes in Headquarters Company.

Nine of the "Lucky 13" from Fox that "captured" a hill northeast of Ginsterhahn.



A Mark V in the First Battalion Sector around Rotherkruez was vulnerable to the first round from a bazooka.

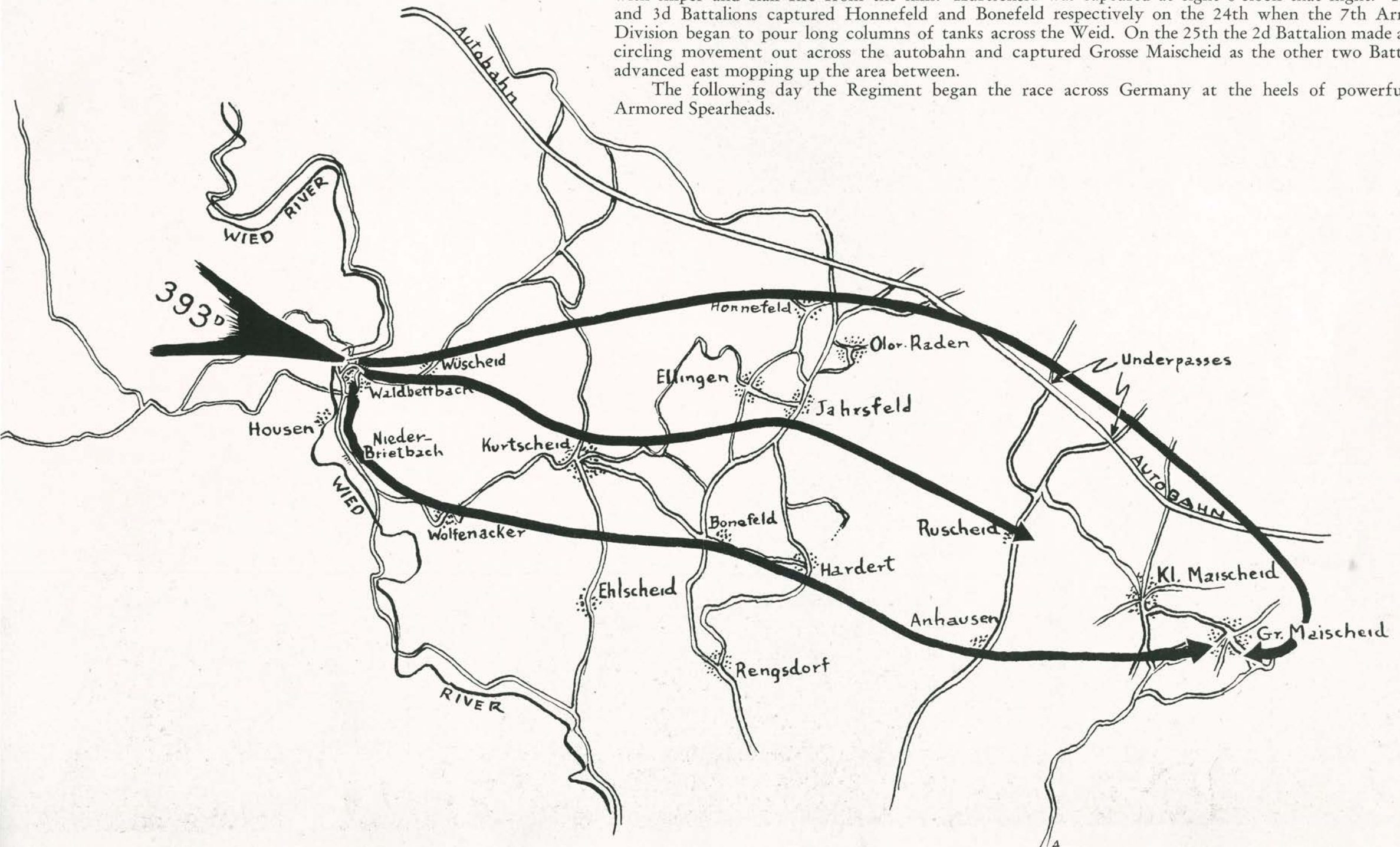


A platoon leader with a bazooka from Able Company. Lt. Henderson was a battlefield appointment.



When the 38th Infantry relieved the 2d Battalion on the South, 21 March, the Regimental front in the bridgehead extended only over the 3d Battalion Sector around Waldbreitbach. Patrols had previously picked a site where the Weid River could be waded and crossing operations began at midnight 22 of March, when Able Company entered Waldbreitbach without artillery preparations and took the enemy by complete surprise. Charlie and Baker Companies followed with their Dog Company support and turned south to take Niederbreitbach and the high ground between the two villages. The Second Battalion crossed and began driving up steep slopes to take Kurtscheid, and the Third Battalion followed on the heels of the First mopping up isolated strong points and by-passed small groups who were delaying our advance with sniper and flak fire from the hills. Kurtscheid was captured at eight o'clock that night. The 2d and 3d Battalions captured Honnefeld and Bonefeld respectively on the 24th when the 7th Armored Division began to pour long columns of tanks across the Weid. On the 25th the 2d Battalion made a wide circling movement out across the autobahn and captured Grosse Maischeid as the other two Battalions advanced east mopping up the area between.

The following day the Regiment began the race across Germany at the heels of powerful 7th Armored Spearheads.





Item Company bringing prisoners back across Weid at Waldbreitbach as Engineers repair damaged bridge.



Third Battalion followed on the heels of the 1st hunting out snipers nests and securing the area around Wolfenacker. They charged on against stiff resistance to take Bonefeld to secure room for armored columns to assemble.



First Battalion Machine Guns move up to provide support for advancing doughs.

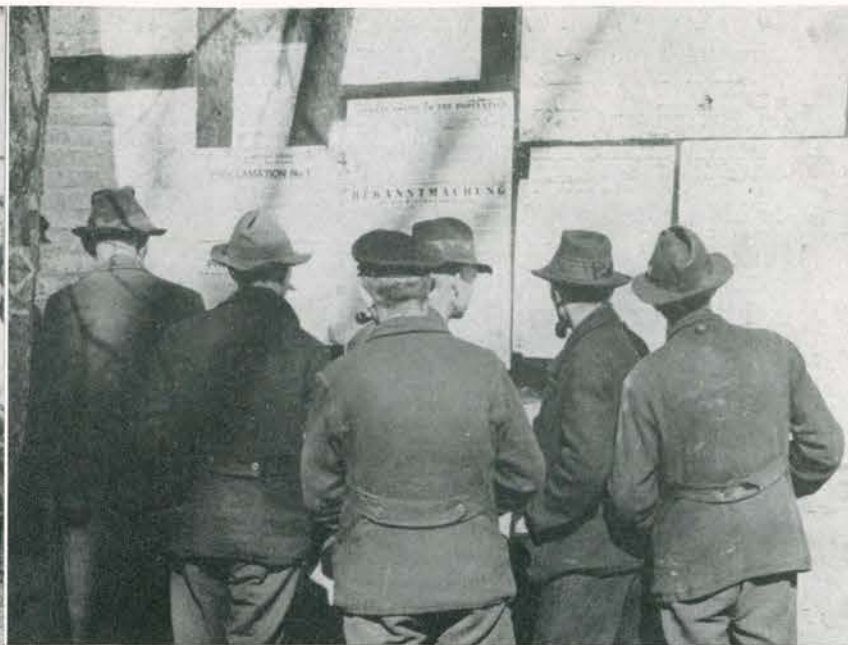
... To duty—from hospital. Most of these men were wounded during the Battle of the Bulge.

The Colored Platoon of Easy Company—one of the best platoons in the regiment.





AT GROSSE MAISCHEID



IN THE RUHR



AT HARDERT

German Civilians come out of their cellars and caves to learn the policies of U. S. Military Government as soon as the doughs drive on and the small arms fire goes with them.

PW's captured in the first drive out of the Remagen Bridgehead across the Weid River being searched by Regimental Special Guard.



This jeep ran over a mine in the road just after crossing the Weid. The driver and occupants escaped with injuries.



The push continued as fast as the doughs could cover the terrain. Here King Company advances on smoking Hardert.



March 25th in conjunction with the 12th Army Group Offensive aimed at the heart of Germany, the Regiment began to exploit a major breakthrough by mopping up behind the 7th Armored Division as it swept eastward against disorganized resistance. Motorized patrols advanced far in advance of the Regiment, capturing hundreds of Germans, freeing slave laborers from confinement and liberating hundreds of Allied POW's from their concentration camps.

Partially prepared road blocks dotted the roads but most of these were in the initial stages and constituted no delay in our advance. No organized resistance was encountered until Wetzlar was reached where the First

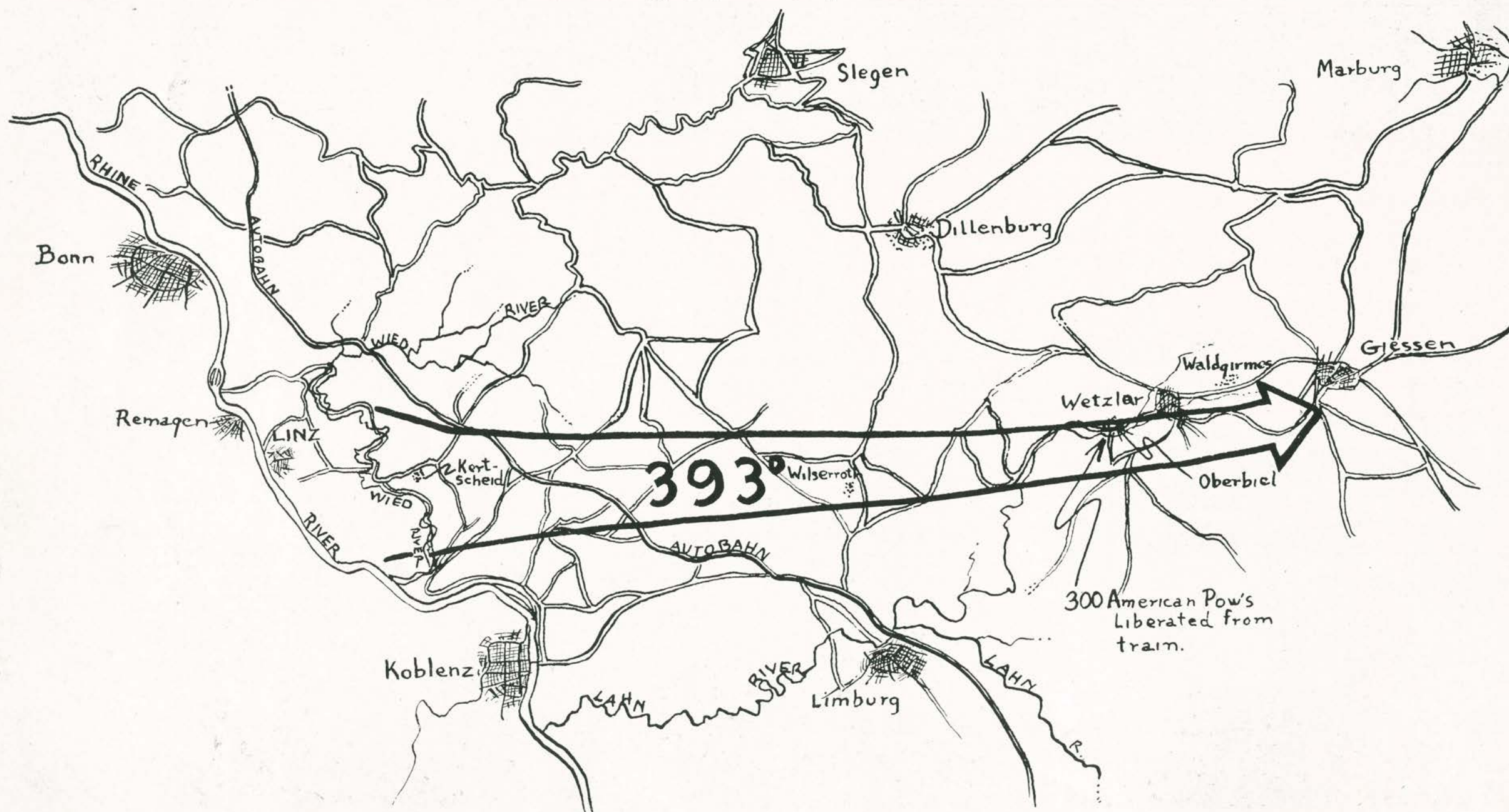
Battalion entered the town under small arms and mortar fire, and captured this home of the famous Leica Camera.

The advance continued for four days extending 85 kilometers from Kurtscheid to the Bieber River when the 393d halted its advance on orders from higher headquarters.

In every town and village white flags waved from the housetops and German civilians lined the streets to gape at the might of the American Forces as they sped through in hot pursuit of the enemy.

On the 29th, 30th and 31st of March the Regiment continued mopping up isolated groups of enemy between

Wetzlar and Giessen and conducted rehabilitation and maintenance of unit vehicles in preparation for further offensive action. On April 1st the Regiment began motor movement northward through Marburg to a concentration area about ten kilometers north of that town and then on the 3d of April, it moved about 20 kilometers northwest to the vicinity of Schwarzenau in preparation for attacking and cleaning out the Ruhr Pocket. This had resulted from the junction of the Ninth Army on the north and the First Army on the south, trapping thousands of the Wehrmacht in the Ruhr industrial valley.





Switchboards were set up temporarily as the Regiment raced across Germany. The communications section was kept busy.

Constant moving kept wire teams busy installing new communications whenever the CP stopped for the night.

The 393d Regimental Command post was established in fifty-two different locations during operations against the Germans.

Armor achieved the initial break-through that routed the Jerries after Doughs had cracked the defenses before the Wied River.

Mail call was held just before this motorized patrol took off to mop up isolated enemy pockets. The best part of each day!

The advance was so swift and prisoners so numerous that they were simply disarmed and sent to rear concentration areas unescorted.





Men of Baker Company advance in Wetzlar over bridge which leads to the world famous Leica Camera Factory. Some resistance was met in this town but it did not delay the advance. "Souvenir hunting" in this city was especially good.

"Old Glory" flies over the Nazi Party House in Wetzlar 30 March 1945, making ultimate Victory for the Allies seem a swifter approaching reality. A familiar sight in this vicinity was the long continuous stream of airplanes, shuttling gasoline to the speeding armor ahead of us.



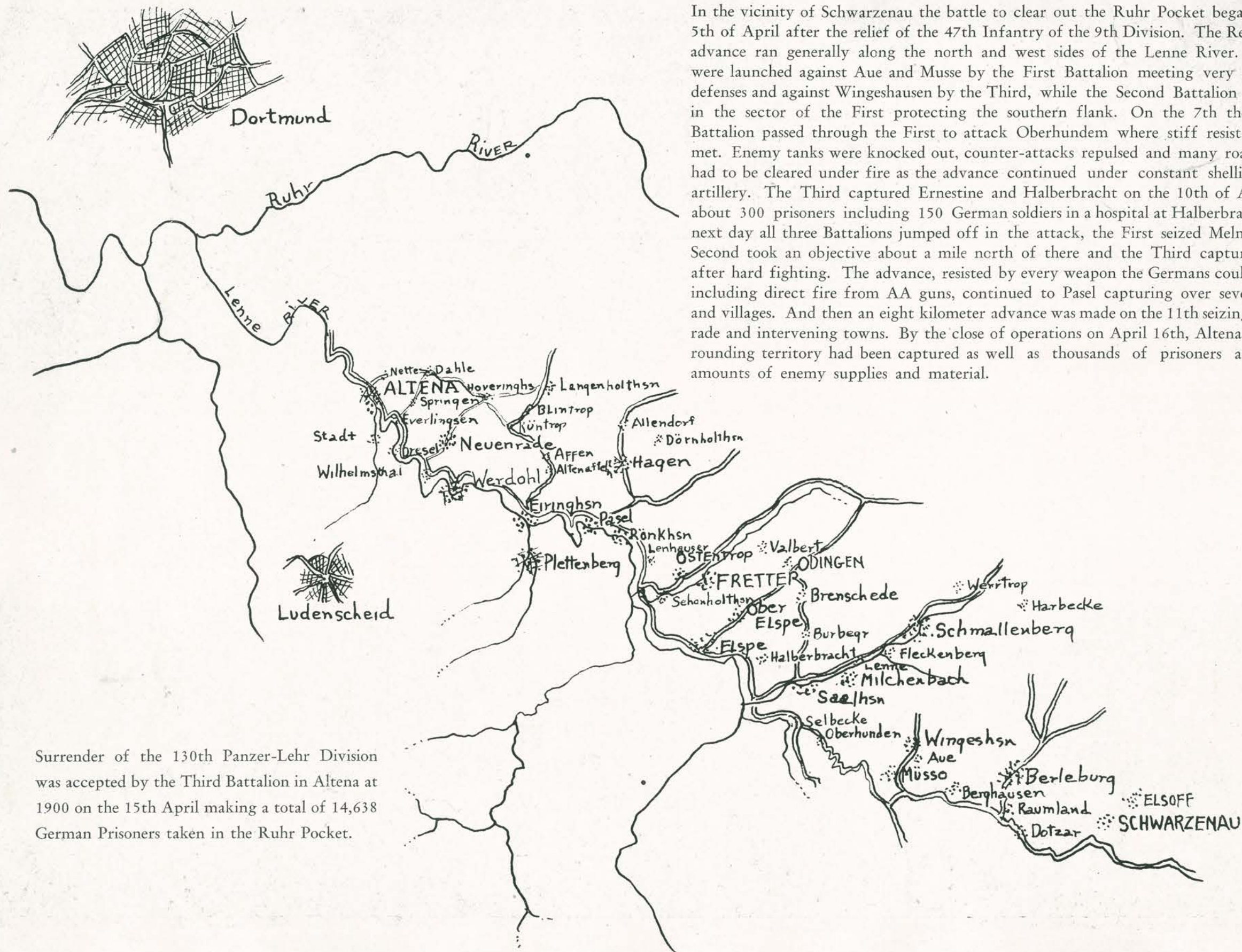


The First Battalion was mopping up isolated enemy in the advance to Wetzlar when Charlie Company found this trainload of American POW's. Nearly three-hundred Americans who were ill from malnutrition and bearing large festering sores from the filth and lice they were

forced to live with. These prisoners had been deserted by the retreating Germans on a railroad siding after a desperate attempt to remove them from their confinement in Limburg as the liberating American columns swept eastward. Evacuation of the severest cases began

immediately by the Battalion and Regimental Medical Sections; others waited in Army care until transportation was available. The First Battalion Chaplain conducted Services, thanking God for their delivery from further Nazi abuses (lower right).





In the vicinity of Schwarzenau the battle to clear out the Ruhr Pocket began on the 5th of April after the relief of the 47th Infantry of the 9th Division. The Regimental advance ran generally along the north and west sides of the Lenne River. Attacks were launched against Aue and Musse by the First Battalion meeting very stubborn defenses and against Wingshausen by the Third, while the Second Battalion followed in the sector of the First protecting the southern flank. On the 7th the Second Battalion passed through the First to attack Oberhundem where stiff resistance was met. Enemy tanks were knocked out, counter-attacks repulsed and many road blocks had to be cleared under fire as the advance continued under constant shelling from artillery. The Third captured Ernestine and Halberbracht on the 10th of April and about 300 prisoners including 150 German soldiers in a hospital at Halberbracht. The next day all three Battalions jumped off in the attack, the First seized Melmeck, the Second took an objective about a mile north of there and the Third captured Elspe after hard fighting. The advance, resisted by every weapon the Germans could muster including direct fire from AA guns, continued to Pasel capturing over seven towns and villages. And then an eight kilometer advance was made on the 11th seizing Neuenrade and intervening towns. By the close of operations on April 16th, Altena and surrounding territory had been captured as well as thousands of prisoners and large amounts of enemy supplies and material.

Surrender of the 130th Panzer-Lehr Division was accepted by the Third Battalion in Altena at 1900 on the 15th April making a total of 14,638 German Prisoners taken in the Ruhr Pocket.



Infantrymen advance on the burning town of Aue after an artillery preparation that routed some of the enemy.



As the doughs passed the smoking ruin in Aue, they were going forward to capture Musse. Snipers still caused many casualties.



Machine-gun support to the advancing foot sloggers picks a spot with concealment from enemy OP's and a good field of fire.

This German cyclist waited too long before deciding to take off. Already the 3d Battalion is pushing on through Lenhausen to new objectives.



Oberhundem was strongly defended and an air mission was flown over the town in support of the Second Battalion attack that captured the town before nightfall on 7th April. Left center is a crossroads that was a favorite target for enemy artillery during our short stop there.





Charlie Company doughs move into temporary defensive position around Oberhundem protecting the left flank of the Division and remaining alert for possible heavy enemy counter blows. At right, men warm hands before a small fire where they are heating their rations.



Lenhausen was tough resistance. After a destructive blow of artillery had been placed on the objective, it was easy.

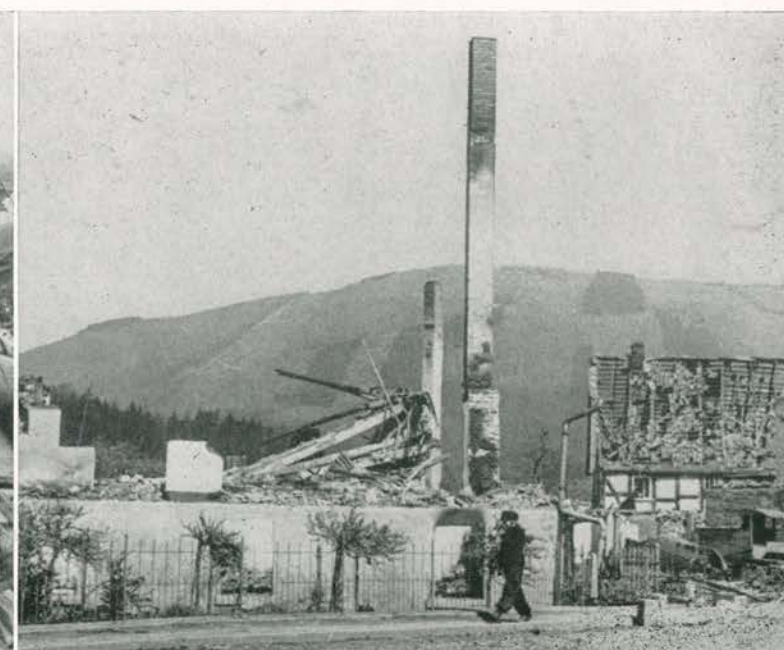
In Karlshutte members of the I and R Platoon rescued these four 86th Division Medics who had been taken prisoner the night before.



Item Company doughs ride pig-a-back from Duetmecke to mop up isolated groups of enemy in the drive Northwest.



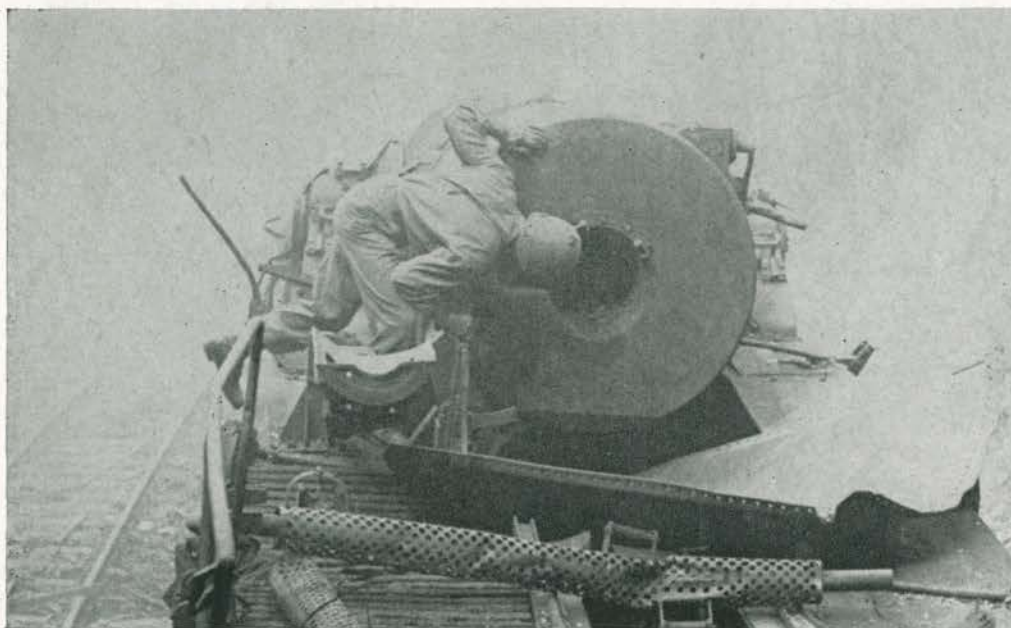
This was a familiar scene—all Germany was like this. As General Patton said, "A war memorial in every town."





The handling of thousands of prisoners who surrendered in the Ruhr Pocket constituted a real problem. Fields around Neuenrade (above) and Altena (lower center) were filled to over-flowing with disarmed Germans of the 130th Panzer Lehr Division. Upper right, Officers and high-ranking Non-Coms were happy to be prisoners when they realized the jig was up. Whole companies were led into American hands by the commanders bearing white flags (lower left) and large numbers of Officers and Enlisted Men surrendered, driving up to the PW cage in their own vehicles and dismounting as if they were going to a movie (lower right).





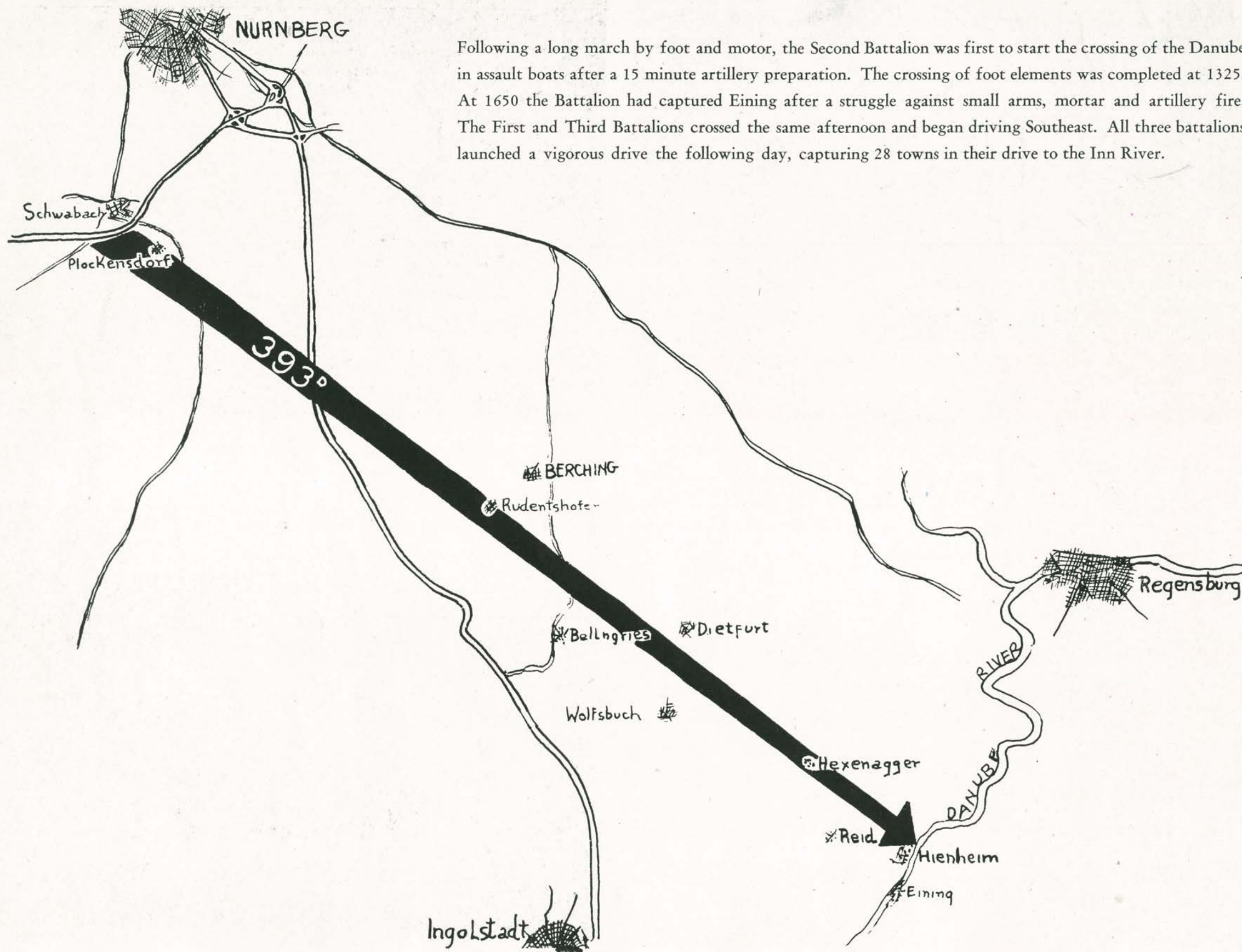
Germans destroyed this huge Long-Tom before deserting it in the Ruhr Pocket. It is believed that this is one of the guns used to shell our positions on the West of the Rhine and harass our operations in establishing the Remagen bridgehead. An 88 was deserted by its crew almost intact in the vicinity of Halberbracht (lower left). Pouring direct fire from a flak gun on the route of our advance, now invisible because of the smoke from a burning town (lower center). A flak gun. The sight was still in good condition but the barrel had been damaged before the crew gave themselves up (lower right).





SECRET (Note the covered patches—upper and lower right) motor convoy into the THIRD ARMY Sector near Bamberg. Beginning around midnight of the 17th, the drive lasted for about 16 hours. "K" rations were the day's menu and the motor train stopped enroute to brew a cup of instant "coffee." Following a few days of relaxation and rehabilitation during which time screening operations of the area were continued. The Regiment moved to a forward assembly area near Plockendorf 12 kilometers South of Nuremberg to take refresher training in assault boat tactics (lower left) and to take precautions against lice (lower center).





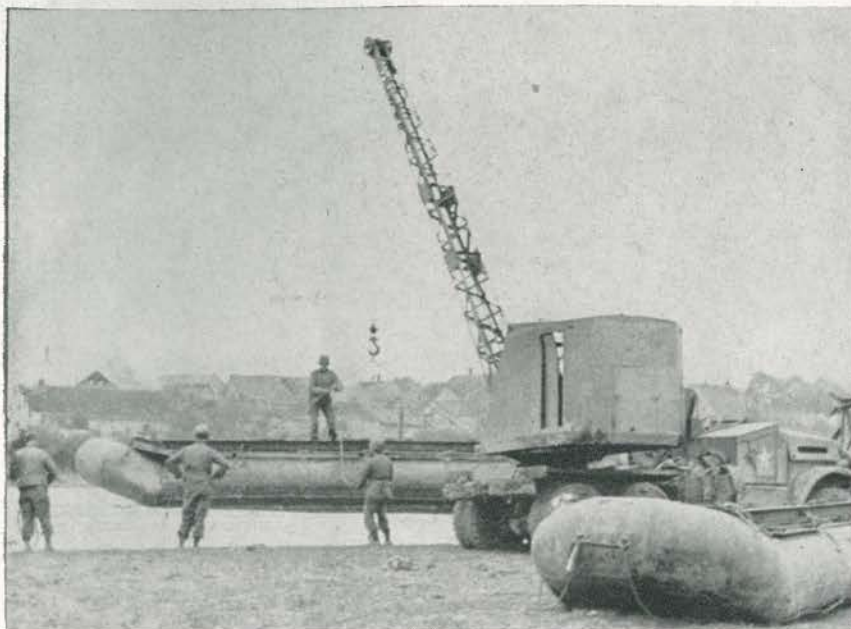
Following a long march by foot and motor, the Second Battalion was first to start the crossing of the Danube in assault boats after a 15 minute artillery preparation. The crossing of foot elements was completed at 1325. At 1650 the Battalion had captured Eining after a struggle against small arms, mortar and artillery fire. The First and Third Battalions crossed the same afternoon and began driving Southeast. All three battalions launched a vigorous drive the following day, capturing 28 towns in their drive to the Inn River.



Movement to the banks of the Danube was begun on the 25th of April and the crossing was begun at 1100 on the 27th by the Second Battalion. First and Third Battalions crossed the same day at different points and by swift, daring fighting and determination routed the Germans from their defensive positions along the high ground overlooking the river.

Here the First Battalion is moving up to and crossing the Danube in assault boats under observation and fire from the hills opposite.





Engineers began building a bridge over the Danube on the 27th but enemy artillery and swampy approaches held up the completion until the 28th. Shown are six stages in the construction of the floating bridge and the corduroy road (lower right) leading to it from Heinheim in the distance.

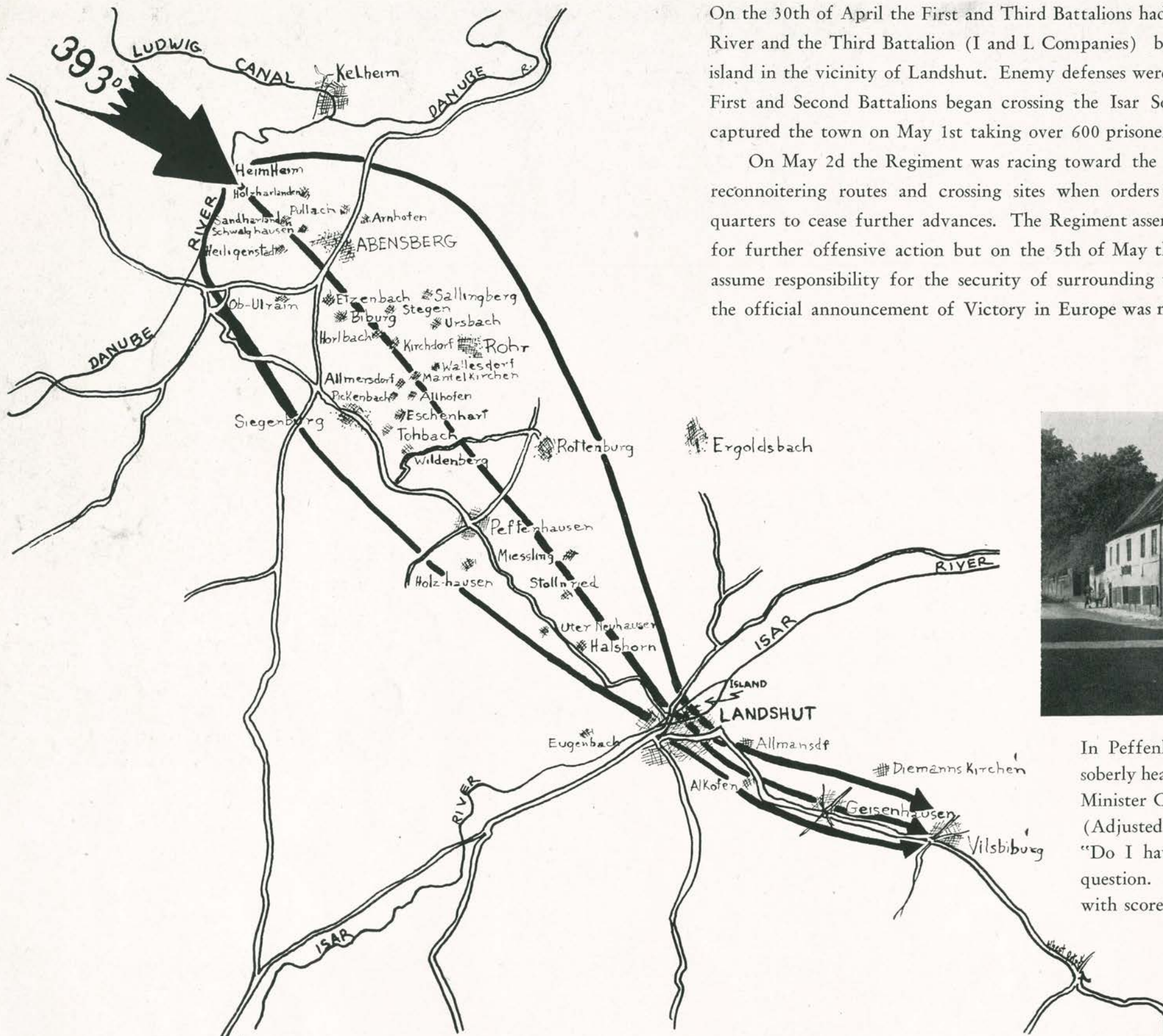


One of the ferries over the Danube by which vital transportation and supplies were floated to the fighting troops on the side while the bridge was still being constructed in the vicinity of Heinheim. Here the First Battalion is crossing.



Amphibious vehicles brought casualties to the Aid Station in Heinheim during early stages of the fighting on the opposite banks around Eining and Staubling. Major Cole and Captain Almes with their medics crossed with the first troops.





On the 30th of April the First and Third Battalions had pulled up to the banks of the Isar River and the Third Battalion (I and L Companies) began infiltrating troops onto an island in the vicinity of Landshut. Enemy defenses were stubborn and artillery heavy. The First and Second Battalions began crossing the Isar South of Landshut that night and captured the town on May 1st taking over 600 prisoners.

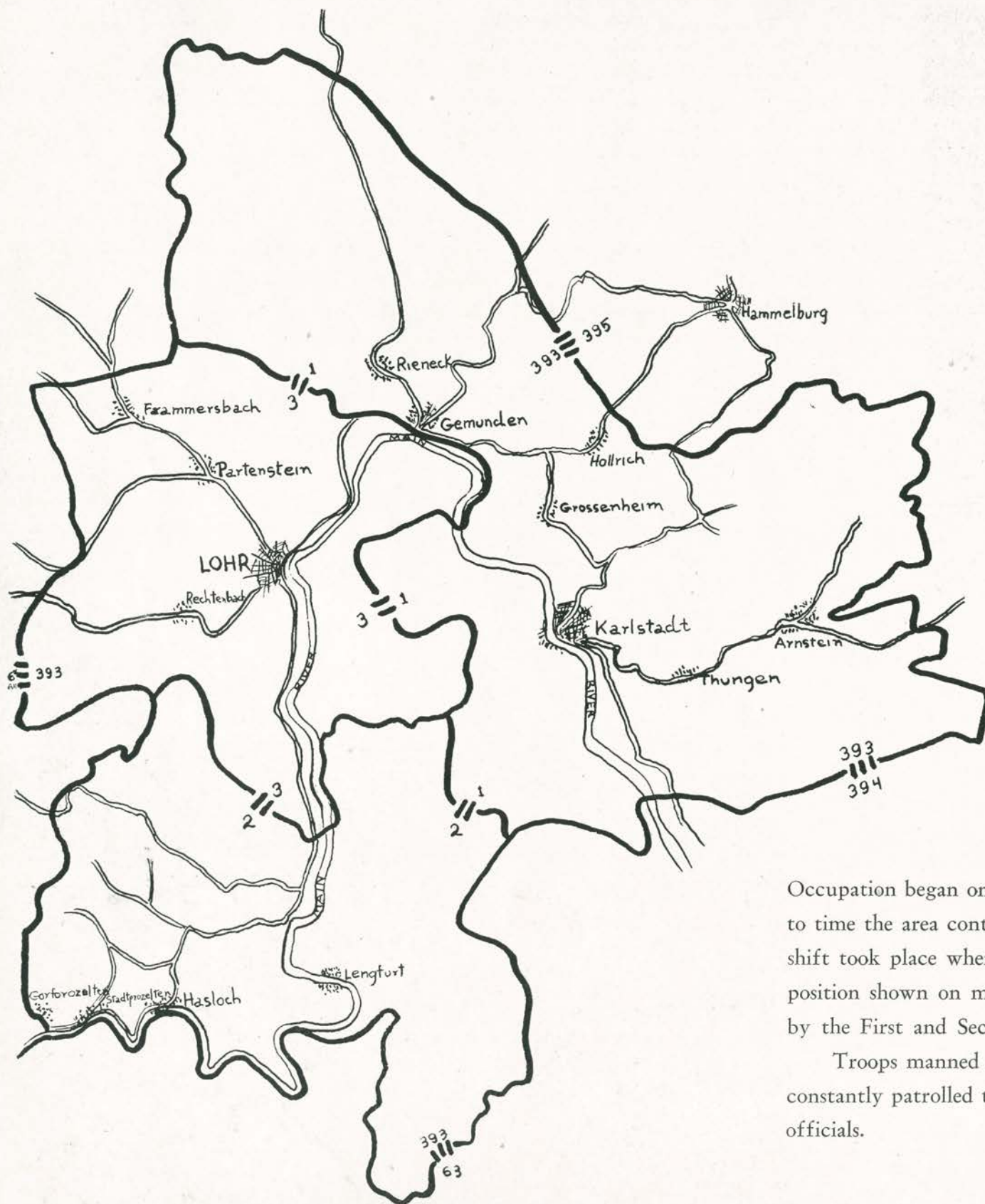
On May 2d the Regiment was racing toward the Inn River and a Task Force was reconnoitering routes and crossing sites when orders were received from higher headquarters to cease further advances. The Regiment assembled South of Vilsbiburg preparing for further offensive action but on the 5th of May the Regiment moved to Landshut to assume responsibility for the security of surrounding territory. In Landshut on May 8th the official announcement of Victory in Europe was made.



In Peffenhausen the Unit Personnel Section soberly heard the V-E announcement by Prime Minister Churchill. At once each man's ASR (Adjusted Service Rating) was computed—"Do I have enough points?" was the great question. The 393d Infantry had few men with scores over 85.



It was a long walk to Vilsbiburg . . .



Lt. Robert E. Freed who served as Personnel Officer from the Ardennes Battle until the 393d Infantry was inactivated. He was responsible for the records of every man and officer in the regiment—his pay, his mail, his awards, his assignments, and his service record. Lt. Freed and his UPS won the respect and admiration of the entire regiment.

Occupation began on May 11th and with slight variations and shifts with other units from time to time the area controlled by the 393d is shown generally on this sketch map. The biggest shift took place when the 2d Battalion pulled in from the West around Aschaffenburg to the position shown on map in the Southern part of the Sector which had formerly been occupied by the First and Second Provisional Battalions.

Troops manned road blocks and guard posts at bridges, underpasses, and factories. They constantly patrolled the area by motor and picked up Prisoners of War and high-ranking Nazi officials.



Lieutenant Colonel Logan Clarke accepts command of the 393d Infantry from Colonel James K. Woolnough on the 6th of May 1945 in Landshut, Germany. Colonel Clarke came from the 924th Field Artillery Battalion and Colonel Woolnough went to the Operations Division, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Hotel Draxlmar on the main street of Landshut was the Regimental Command Post when the official announcement of V-E Day was made. Men of the 393d were stationed in and around Landshut at the time and the news was received thankfully but, for the most part, quietly, by the war-weary doughs.





German prisoners cleaning up the debris of wreckage caused by the onslaught of war as a Cannon Company man guards them.

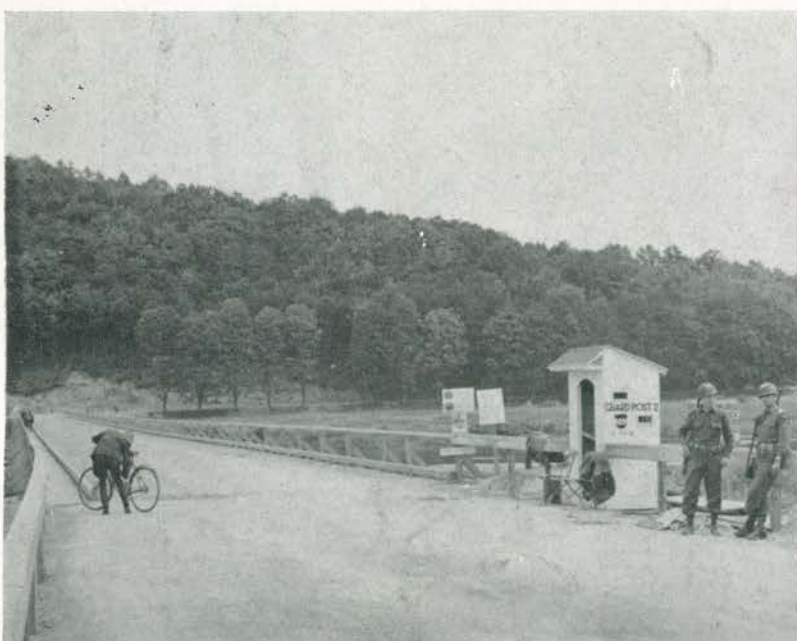


In Aschaffenburg . . .



Motor patrols toured the area picking up German soldiers who had avoided capture and preventing possible sabotage.

The wooden bridge over the Main at Lohr was guarded by Love Company.



All civilians were stopped at road blocks to have passes and identification checked.



"Eyes Right!" The Division Review held on 30 June near Wurzburg.





PX rations on sale. Hordes of German kids who developed an incredible taste for American "chaa-kolat" and "cow-goomie" wait outside.



Back to Mess Halls in Able Company! With tables! chairs! and dishes!

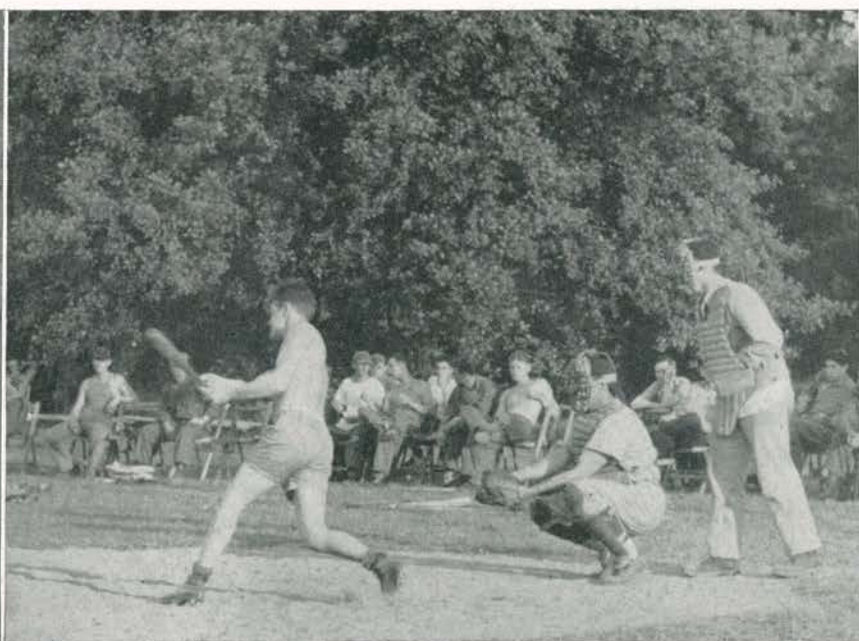


The 3d Battalion Headquarters Company had a swimming pool on the premises. Others went swimming in the Main River that wound through our Sector.

Supply Sergeants submitted requisitions. Everyone needed uniforms, patches, and chevrons. New uniforms were exchanged for battle-weary clothing.



Baseball and Softball. This was the Regimental team playing the 9th Air Force at Bad-Kissingen.



Running water can seem like a luxury after a few helmet baths in the field. Garrison standards, again, which meant shaves everyday.





The Command Post in Lohr was the center of the occupation area. Here Colonel Clarke and his staff directed the regiment. Officers and men gathered here for passes to Paris, Riviera, Switzerland, Brussels, and Nancy.

At Kahl in the 1st Battalion Occupation Area Able Company raises the hand-sewn Stars and Stripes given them by the Sisters of Peter and Paul Church to express their appreciation for the liberation of Germany from the Nazi Doctrine.

Pruty, Ernest W.
m w

Conclusion

On the 23d of August the regiment moved into the field near Gemunden, Germany, a distance of only a few miles from the occupation area. We were relieved of all duties by the 79th Infantry Division. Officially, the division had been alerted for return to the United States. New men arrived from almost every unit in Third Army until the strength was close to 3500 enlisted men and 185 officers. Dates were still moved up, and early morning of the 1st of September, the regiment began movement by motor and "40 and 8's" to the Calas Staging Area at Marseille, France.

Perfect weather, adequate transportation facilities, and the French countryside all contributed to the air of excitement of "going home." The personnel of the regiment consisted of officers and enlisted men from the 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, 76th, 79th, 83d, 90th, 102d, and 103d Infantry Divisions and various Corps and Army Artillery units. There were few old men of the 393d left—only a handful of officers and under one hundred enlisted men. The entire character of the regiment was changed. Few knew Colonel Yancey and what it had meant to serve under him. Only one or two remembered the bleak, winter days at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. The SS Argentina and its "green eggs" were unknown. The 393d Infantry was literally what the War Department had directed "a vehicle for returning high point personnel to the United States."

The regiment was commanded by Lt. Col. Cecil R.

Credits

Prepared by the Record of Events Section, 393d Infantry Regiment and passed by the Unit Intelligence Officer.

Edited by SGT. ERNEST W. FRITZ

Photographed by CPL. JOHN ROGERS, JR.

Published by LT. ROBERT E. FREED

Explanation of Symbols

Explanation of Standard Signs and Symbols used on maps in this book:

- XX = Division
- III = Regiment
- II = Battalion
- I = Company
- ... = Platoon

Everett, having assumed command on August 29th. Lt. Col. Clarke, popular Regimental Commander, and Lt. Col. Peters, 2d Battalion Commander during the entire period of the regiment's overseas duty, remained in Germany with the 79th Infantry Division. When the regiment left Germany the Battalions were commanded by Lt. Col. Raymond J. Lewis, Lt. Col. Jack W. Ward, and Lt. Col. Charles B. Bryan.

The stay at Calas was brief and uneventful. Fifty-three men classed as "essential" were literally taken off the ship at the last moment on orders from ETO Headquarters due to low points. Sgt. Fritz and Cpl. Rogers, who were responsible for the compilation of this book, left us. UPS, under Lt. Freed, worked continually for sixty hours to get rosters and passenger lists ready for embarkation. Since there was no electricity, this necessitated the use of 330 candles in one night.

On the 11th of September the entire regiment boarded the SS Admiral Capps, a Navy Transport. Brigadier General Frederick H. Black, the Division Commander, was aboard. There were few who remembered that he commanded troops of the 393d Infantry on the voyage to Europe. A smooth crossing, fairly good food, much excitement made the trip interesting. The 393d Infantry was on the way home!

At Hampton Roads, Virginia, the SS Admiral Capps docked on September 20th. We were whisked away to Camp Patrick Henry a few miles away. The same day

PHOTOGRAPHS—

Cpl. John Rogers, Jr. (all except the following) Signal Corps: bottom row, p. 21; extreme lower right and left p. 24; upper left p. 44; lower right p. 45; upper left p. 48; all p. 51. Pfc. Sigurd E. Steen: center bottom p. 24; lower left p. 40; bottom row p. 55; all p. 57. 1st Sgt. Vernon Selders: top row p. 21; p. 31.

Art Work—Pfc. Frank Brady, Pfc. Albert Petrik
Copyist—Pfc. Dean Bramon

Thus a boundry between the 1st Battalion and the 2d Battalion

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \text{II} \text{---} \\ 2 \end{array}$$

between the 394th and 393d Infantry Regiment

$$\begin{array}{c} 4 \\ \text{---} \text{III} \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array}$$

between the 99th and 2d Infantry Divisions

$$\begin{array}{c} 99 \\ \text{---} \text{XX} \text{---} \\ 2 \end{array}$$

by General Order No. 50, Headquarters Army Service Forces, Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, the 393d Infantry was inactivated. All personnel was transferred to Reception Stations and Separation Centers. A cadre of the Regimental Commander, the three Battalion Commanders, and the Personnel Officer was formed for final disposition of records. All records were filed and boxed for storage, and by the time the Personnel Section had endorsed each man's service record, the trains were ready to pull out. It was all over in four days. The final Morning Reports were submitted: "Record of Events: Unit inactivated by Special Orders No. 50 Army Service Forces, 20 Sept. 45. All personnel transferred. This is the final Morning Report."

So, the 393d Infantry that was activated in tar paper barracks in Mississippi three years before—the regiment that achieved a fine training record during Louisiana Maneuvers and at Camp Maxey, Texas—the fighting team that went overseas in October 1944 to meet the strongest assault of Hitler's winter offensive in December, 1944—the regiment that took one hell of a beating during the Battle of the Bulge, only to show its guts by reorganizing and carrying the war to the very heart of Nazidom, to the Rhine, the Remagen Bridgehead, the Ruhr Pocket, Nuremberg, the Danube River, Landshut . . . the 393d Infantry . . . after three years of federal service, had concluded a glowing episode in the highest traditions of the United States Army.

The 393d Infantry in Review was published and distributed by the Historical Association, 393d Infantry Regiment, 1164 East South Temple, Salt Lake City 2, Utah. The Articles of Association were drawn and approved at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia the 21st of September 1945. The following officers were appointed by Special Orders No. 133, Hqs. 393 Infantry, APO 499, U. S. Army: Lt. Col. Cecil R. Everett, President; Lt. Col. Raymond J. Lewis, Vice-President; Lt. Col. Charles B. Bryan, Vice-President; Lt. Col. Jack W. Ward, Vice-President, and Lt. Robert E. Freed, Secretary-Treasurer.

And Command Posts of 393d = $\begin{array}{c} \text{III} \\ \boxed{\times} \end{array} 3$

3d Bn. 393d = $3 \begin{array}{c} \text{II} \\ \boxed{\times} \end{array} 3$

Cn. Co. 393d = Cn $\begin{array}{c} \text{I} \\ \boxed{\times} \end{array} 3$

And a Platoon Area = $\text{---} \text{...} \text{---}$

Abbreviated writing of 2d Battalion 393d Infantry = 2/393

And of 3d Battalion 38th Infantry = 3/38

Unit Commanders of the 393d Infantry Regiment During Combat

Regiment Commanders: Lt. Col. Jean D. Scott
Col. James K. Woolnough

Executive Officers: Lt. Col. Thomas N. Griffin
Lt. Col. Oliver W. Hartwell

REGIMENTAL STAFF:

S-1—Capt. Karl W. Volk, Jr.
1st Lt. Ernest E. Thompson
S-2—Major Don Davis
S-3—Major Elmer Schmierer
Major Richard L. Belt
S-4—Major George N. Morgan
Major William H. Beacham

Personnel Officer—Capt. Richard C. Turner
1st Lt. Robert E. Freed

SPECIAL UNITS:

Hqs. Co.—Capt. Rensselaer M. Holman
Capt. Jacob W. Gravely
Capt. Donald L. Driscoll
Cn. Co.—Capt. Daniel Mucha
AT Co.—Capt. George K. Maertens
1st Lt. Robert A. Cronk
Serv. Co.—Capt. William H. Beacham
Capt. Aaron Nathan
Med. Det.—Major Milton J. Cole

For Reference
Not to be taken
from this library

FIRST BATTALION:

Lt. Col. Matthew L. Legler
Lt. Col. Charles E. Ward
Major Richard L. Belt
Lt. Col. Larry H. Leidenheimer
Hqs. Co.—Capt. Robert J. Eckman
Capt. Leroy A. Stenborg
Co. A—Capt. Joseph D. Jameson
Capt. Joseph A. Carnevale
Co. B—Capt. Thomas G. DeBerry
Capt. Henry B. Jones
Co. C—Capt. Aaron Nathan
1st Lt. Stanley L. Sine
1st Lt. Dale H. Metz
1st Lt. James H. McGourty
Capt. Paul V. Fogleman
Co. D—Capt. Harry R. Bangs
1st Lt. J. C. Steen
Capt. Louis W. Bratton

SECOND BATTALION:

Lt. Col. Ernest C. Peters
Hqs. Co.—Capt. Carl S. Swisher
Co. E—Capt. Carl S. Miller
Capt. Donald L. Driscoll
1st Lt. Roy Engelbretson
2d Lt. Edward J. Orlando
Capt. Daniel C. Sutherland
1st Lt. Donald G. Ross
Capt. George R. Dufresne
Co. F—Capt. J. R. Edwards
1st Lt. Wilfred J. Fridel
Capt. James K. McCaslin
1st Lt. Joseph Kagan
Co. G—Capt. William R. Smith
1st Lt. Paul R. Walgren
1st Lt. Julius Weisglass
2d Lt. William L. Probeck
Capt. Curtis C. Noblitt
Co. H—Capt. Joseph W. Nelson

THIRD BATTALION:

Lt. Col. Jack G. Allen
Lt. Col. Oliver W. Hartwell
Lt. Col. Elmer Schmierer
Hqs. Co.—Capt. Wayne E. Shannon
Co. I—Capt. William B. Coke
Capt. George K. Maertens
Co. K—Capt. Jacob W. Gravely
Capt. Max N. Andrews
Capt. Stephen K. Plume
Capt. Felix W. Salmaggi
1st Lt. Edward F. Irick, Jr.
Co. L—Capt. Paul V. Fogleman
Capt. Rolland L. Neudecker
Capt. Floyd O. Jones
Co. M—Capt. Roger C. Nielsen
Capt. John E. Veneklasen

Medal of Honor

On a December day in 1945, two months after the 393d Infantry was inactivated, a soldier of Captain Fogleman's Company "L" stood before President Harry S. Truman and received the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary bravery and extreme devotion to duty during the Battle of the Bulge. Staff Sergeant Vernon McGarity was representative of the 393d Infantry.

Following is the official citation:

"Staff Sergeant Vernon McGarity, a squad leader with Company L, 393d Infantry, was painfully wounded in an artillery barrage that preceded the powerful counter offensive launched by the Germans near Krinkelt, Belgium, on the morning of December 16, 1944.

"He made his way to an aid station, received treatment, and

then refused to be evacuated, choosing to return to his hard-pressed men instead. The fury of the enemy's great Western Front offensive swirled about the position held by Sergeant McGarity's small force, but so tenaciously did these men fight on orders to stand firm at all costs that they could not be dislodged despite murderous enemy fire and the breakdown of their communications.

"During the day the heroic squad leader rescued one of his friends who had been wounded in a forward position, and throughout the night he exhorted his comrades to repulse the enemy's attempts at infiltration. When morning came and the Germans attacked with tanks and infantry, he braved heavy fire to run to an advantageous position where he immobilized the enemy's lead tank with a round from a rocket launcher. Fire from his squad drove the attacking infantrymen back, and three supporting tanks withdrew.

"He rescued, under heavy fire, another wounded American, and then directed devastating fire on a light cannon which had been brought up by the hostile troops to clear resistance from the area.

"When ammunition began to run low, Sergeant McGarity, remembering an old ammunition hole about 100 yards distant in the general direction of the enemy, braved a concentration of hostile fire to replenish his unit's supply.

"By circuitous route the enemy managed to emplace a machine-gun to the rear and flank of the squad's position, cutting off the only escape route. Unhesitatingly, the gallant soldier took it upon himself to destroy this menace single-handedly. He left cover, and while under steady fire from the enemy, killed or wounded all the hostile gunners with deadly accurate rifle fire and prevented all attempts to reman the gun. Only when the squad's last round had been fired was the enemy able to advance and capture the intrepid leader and his men.

"The extraordinary bravery and extreme devotion to duty of Sergeant McGarity supported a remarkable delaying action which provided the time necessary for assembling reserves and forming a line against which the German striking power was shattered."



In June redeployment began and under the Personnel Officer, 3,000 officers and men were transferred from the regiment and 3,500 veterans of other divisions joined the regiment. Low-pointers went from the 99th to the 1st, 2d, 4th, 83d and 90th Divisions and others left in

large groups to reinforcement depots. Men with more than 85 points came in from these divisions. Everyone with less than this critical score was sweating out the CBI until V-J Day was officially announced on 15 August. Then everyone began sweating out occupation.

Here trucks are leaving from Service Company with men bound for the 1st Division on July 5. This scene was repeated throughout the summer until practically all the "old" officers and men had gone. The combat history of the 393d Infantry in World War II was ended.

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