

1946

71st Infantry Regiment

United States Army

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PRO ARIS ET PRO FOCIS

DOES NOT
CIRCULATE



Chiariello

GERMANY



DEDICATION

IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES WHO
MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE AND
OF THOSE WHO WERE WOUNDED AND
INJURED WHILE OUR REGIMENT WAS
ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY.

Pro Aris et Pro Focis

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71st INFANTRY

REGIMENT

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BARBER



The Regimental Motto

As used in the coat of arms of the Seventy-First Infantry, "*pro aris et pro focis*" may be interpreted as:

"For our freedom and our home," or "For our country and our families."

"Strike—for your altars and your fires;

"Strike—till the last armed foe expires;

"Strike—for the green graves of your sires, God and your Native Land."

The Regimental Flag and Insignia

SHIELD: Azure; between two crescents in fesse, or a fasces of the like.

CREST: That for the regiments of the New York National Guard; on a wreath, or an azure, the full-rigged ship "*Half Moon*," all proper.

MOTTO: "Prepared to Guard."

The fasces on the regimental insignia stands for authority and guardianship; the crescents, readiness and preparedness, hence "Prepared to Guard." The eagle in the flag represents the Government; the ship, the State; the fasces and crescents, the Regiment.



HEADQUARTERS, 71st INFANTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
A. P. O. 44

To the Members of the 71st Infantry.

Having had the privilege of being your regimental commander during combat I now have the further privilege of addressing a final message to you.

When we joined the regiment we found a unit with a fine tradition covering many years of service to our country. You have added to the laurels of its past and have set high standards of combat performance which we trust future generations will strive to meet. We have repeatedly been selected to spearhead the attack and we have never failed to attain our objectives. To you, officers and men, belongs the credit -- you did the work and bore the hardships.

I am, and always will be, grateful to you for the splendid service you have rendered. My only regret is that we have had so many injured and that we have left so many of our fine men behind us in France, Germany, and Austria. To their loved ones at home I can only say that we, their comrades, join you in grieving for them and in glorying in their heroism. Let us all keep their memory green and do our utmost to preserve the liberties for which they so gladly made the supreme sacrifice.

I feel that you, who have served with me, will always belong to me. Until we meet again I want to say thanks for everything, good luck always, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,


E. D. PORTER
Colonel, 71st Infantry
Commanding



Service Record

Colonel Ercil D. Porter is a native of Oregon. He was granted a reserve commission and entered the service in March, 1917, as a First Lieutenant Provisional Officer. He was with the Eighth Division during the last war and was en route overseas when the Armistice was signed. From 1921 to 1924 he was assigned to the 27th Infantry and served with them in Hawaii, where he was promoted to Captain in 1921. After finishing his tour of foreign duty, his next station was Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with the 20th Infantry until he was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1926, to attend the officer's course there. Upon completion of his course he was assigned to the Department of Experiment, at the Infantry School, and remained there until 1931. His next assignment was with the 7th Infantry at Vancouver Barracks, Washington. In 1935 Colonel Porter, then a Major, was sent overseas again, this time to the Philippine Islands where he joined the 31st Infantry. In 1937 he was returned to Knox College, Illinois, as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. After five years there, during which he was elevated through the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel, he was assigned as Commanding Officer of the 331st Infantry of the 81st Division stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The next year Colonel Porter was transferred to the 11th Corps as Chief of the Infantry Training Section. He served in this capacity with the 16th and 36th Corps until he was assigned to command the 71st Infantry Regiment on August 12, 1944.

ERCIL D. PORTER
COLONEL
COMMANDING

Test We Forget

BORNZWEIG, RUBIN - 1ST LT.
HATFIELD, DALE H. - 2ND LT.
HOWLAND, FRANCIS G. - 1ST LT.

HUNT, CECIL C. JR. - 1ST LT.
MAC LARTY, JAY K. - CAPT.
REILLY, WALTER J. - CAPT.

POWELL, MORTON L. - 2ND LT.
PYLE, PAUL L. - CAPT.
YOUNG, IRVIN J. - 2ND LT.

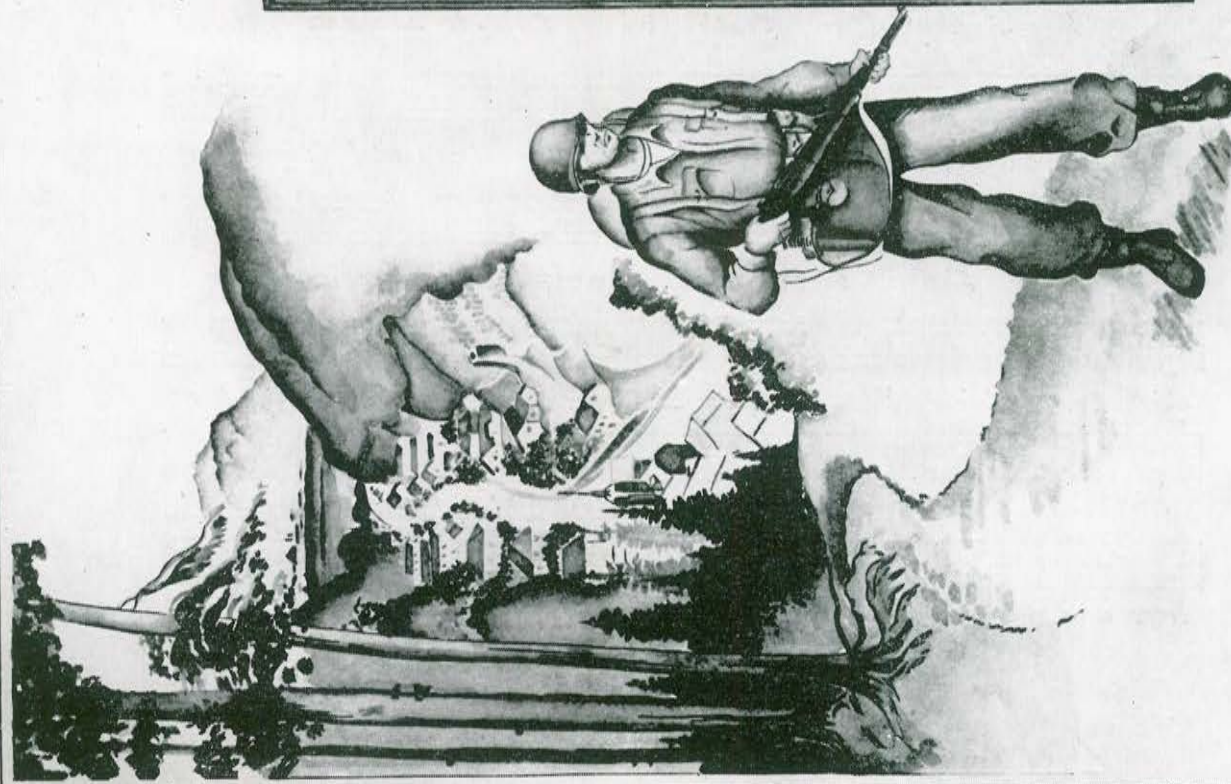
ABBOTT, JAMES B. PFC
ADAMS, CHARLES W. PVT
ALLEN, JACK L. SGT
ALLISON, DAVID R. PVT
ANDERSON, CHARLIE L. PVT
ANDERSON, MARR R. PFC
AUGUSTYN, CASIMIR S. PFC
AYERS, CLOREN D. PFC
BAGLEY, EUGENE TEC 5
BANK, LOUIS PFC
BARNES, HAROLD SGT
BARTON, JOE J. PVT
BASTIL, LESLIE A. PFC
BAYSINGER, CLIFFORD SGT
BENTIVEGNA, ANTHONY J. PVT
BERARDI, ANGELO A. CPL
BINKLEY, JOHNNY SGT
BISAILON, HERMAN J. SGT
BISKER, EDWARD W. PVT
BLAIR, HOMER L. SGT
BLANK, RUSSELL D. PFC
BONBAY, ROBERT R. PVT
BOYD, RALPH J. PVT
BRADLEY, EDWARD C. PFC
BRENNER, GEORGE J. SGT
BRENTS, JACK D. PFC
BROOKS, EDWARD W. PFC
BROWN, MANUEL O. PFC
BRYAN, DONALD P. CPL
BURDECK, DAVID C. PFC
BURPEAU, OSCAR J. PFC
CALDWELL, LAWRENCE J. JR. PVT
CALLOWAY, JAMES R. PVT
CARROLL, JAMES E. PVT
CARROLL, ROSS H. JR. PVT
CATON, WILBURN L. PFC
CHASSE, JOSEPH H. PVT
CHENEY, RONALD G. PFC
CHICKIE, ALBERT S/SGT
COLE, LEROY V. PFC
COLE, WAYNE B. PFC
CONLEY, CHARLES PVT
COOPER, EDWARD R. PFC
CORMIER, EDWARD L. PFC
CORNETT, JOHN L. PVT
COSCARRELLI, FRANK J. PVT
COX, JOHN A. PFC
COX, SHIRLEY G. JR. T/SGT
CRIBBS, CLAIR O. CPL
DE FREYN, WILLIAM A. SGT
DE GRANGE, JOHNNIE T. CPL
DICKENSON, VERNON PVT
DOUCET, DAVID E. TEC 5
DRABNIS, EDWARD P. PFC
DUBA, JAMES J. PVT
DYSARZYK, GILBERT J. S/SGT
ECKERT, CARL G. CPL
EHRICH, CHARLES H. PVT
EICHBERGER, EDWARD H. PFC
ELLIS, DON E. PFC
ERICKSON, WILLIAM J. SGT
ESTES, NOAH W. PVT
FAHRINGER, GLENDON L. PFC
FARRIS, SAM PFC
FAULKENBERRY, HENRY B. PFC
FEDUSH, MICHAEL T/SGT
FEICHT, JOSEPH H. S/SGT
FENT, FRANCIS H. PVT

FIELDS, CLYDE A. PFC
FLATTERS, DON L. PFC
FOLEY, THOMAS A. JR. PFC
FRIEDMAN, ROBERT J. SGT
FRY, MARVIN R. PVT
FULLER, EVERETT S. SGT
GALLAGHER, CORNELIUS J. PFC
GEBHART, FRANK J. S/SGT
GERBER, CYRIL J. PFC
GIBSON, WOODROW W. PFC
GILES, CRANT SGT
GILLES, SILVESTER M. PFC
GLENN, GEORGE H. PVT
GLICK, ROLLA G. PFC
GLINSKY, STEPHEN J. S/SGT
GOLDSTEIN, IRVING PFC
GORCZYNSKI, CHESTER J. PVT
GORMAN, RICHARD M. PVT
GRAY, CALVIN A. PVT
GREGORY, ROBERT H. PVT
GREEN, WARREN H. SGT
HALEY, JAMES D. TEC 5
HARDIN, RUDY PVT
HARKINS, LELAND R. PFC
HARMATA, STEPHEN J. S/SGT
HARTEL, EUGENE D. JR. PVT
HARRIS, EARL T. JR. PFC
HATLEY, JESSIE D. PFC
HEBERG, HAROLD R. PFC
HEATH, JAMES C. PVT
HERNANDEZ, BENNIE S. SGT
HOLCOMB, HOWARD D. PVT
HOUATH, JAMES PFC
HOUSTON, DAVID E. PFC
HUCKEMEYER, EDWARD PFC
HUFFMAN, RICHARD H. PFC
HUGHES, MARVIN S. PVT
HUMMER, ROBERT L. PFC
IREY, JAMES K. PFC
ISACSEN, ANDERS TEC 4
JAKSE, JOSEPH S. PFC
JASTREBSKI, KAROLE, TEC 5
JESCHKE, HERBERT PVT
JEZ, CASIMIR F. S/SGT
JILES, JOSEPH A. S/SGT
JOHNSON, MERLE A. SGT
JOYCE, GEORGE P. PVT
KANDEL, WARREN L. SGT
KARBOWSKI, RAYMOND PFC
KIMBROUGH, WAYNE W. PVT
KING, JAMES D. PVT
KING, MORRIS C. PVT
KISOR, GLEN R. PFC
KIVELL, GEORGE B. PFC
KLOSS, FRED E. JR. PFC
KOWALAK, THADDEUS M. PFC
KROPP, S. T. SGT
KUCER, MIKE JR. PFC
LAMP, LOUIS H. PVT
LARGE, JULIUS D. JR. S/SGT
LARSON, ERIC H. PFC
LARSON, LA ROY J. S/SGT
LA SALLE, WALTER F. TEC 4
LAUE, ROBERT R. SGT
LECHOWICZ, ROBERT J. PVT
LE CLAIR, MAURICE M. S/SGT
LEGGETT, CLYDE A. SGT
LEWELLYN, DAVID R. PFC
LONG, JOHNNIE B. PVT
LOOMIS, WILLIAM J. TEC 5
LORENZ, EDWIN F. S/SGT
LOTWICK, JOHN R. PFC
LOVE, WALTER W. PFC
LUOMA, CARL PFC

LYNCH, JAMES E. PVT
MALINKY, WALTER PVT
MARSH, WILLIAM K. PFC
MARTIN, COLLIE R. PFC
MARZETTI, MICHAEL D. PVT
MASCULLO, MENO P. PVT
MATALSKI, FRANK S/SGT
MATANI, SAMUEL J. SGT
MATTHEWS, WILLIAM TEC 4
MATZINGER, GEORGE TEC 3
MAWHINNEY, JOHN C. PVT
MCALARNEY, EDWARD L. PVT
MCLEAN, JAMES V. T/SGT
MC DANIEL, CHARLES J. PVT
MEDDUM, PHILIP E. S/SGT
MEDDUM, JAMES S. PFC
MEGEHON, JOHN PVT
MEGLYNN, JOSEPH P. PFC
MCKENZIE, ALVIS L. SGT
MCKINNEY, DONALD G. PFC
MCMAHON, EUGENE F. PFC
MCPHERSON, LOUIS H. PFC
MIHOVICH, JOHN M. PFC
MINER, CARL N. PFC
MINER, JAMES M. PFC
MITRISON, PAUL PVT
MOHR, CHARLES E. S/SGT
MOORE, THOMAS J. S/SGT
MOORE, CHARLES R. PFC
MOORE, EZRA F. PVT
MOORE, GERALD G. PFC
MURPHY, JOSEPH A. PFC
MURPHY, WILLIS F. PFC
NALL, DENNISON L. PVT
NICHOLSON, DONALD R. PFC
NYMAN, BERNARD A. PVT
O'DELL, WILLIAM M. PVT
OLSEN, EDWIN W. PFC
OSTRANDER, JOLE E. PVT
PALUMBO, JOSEPH M. PFC
PATTERSON, DANIEL L. CPL
PECKMAN, DONALD D. PFC
PERLMAN, HERMAN S. PVT
PERIN, MARCEL F. SGT
PETROVIAK, ERVIN R. PFC
PETTIGREW, ROY E. PVT
PHILLIPS, ROBERT R. S/SGT
PIONE, PATTY S/SGT
PION, ALAN R. PFC
POLING, THEODORE PFC
POLLOCK, JOHNNIE H. PVT
POLLOCK, PAUL E. PFC
POST, ORDE A. PFC
PRICE, BEN PFC
PRIDEMORE, ALLEN H. PFC
QUASKY, JOSEPH PFC
QUACK, EDWARD C. SGT
RACHEL, MATTHEW J. T/SGT
RAMSIER, EDWARD G. PFC
REED, DARRELL B. PFC
RESETER, GEORGE J. PFC
REYES, FILBERTO PVT
RICH, LAWRENCE W. PFC
RICHTER, HERBERT R. PVT
ROBERTI, JOSEPH J. PVT
ROBERT, FRANKIE N. S/SGT
ROCKWELL, RUSSELL C. PFC
ROHRBAUGH, CLARENCE SGT
ROHRER, OSCAR F. PVT
ROSKO, PAUL PFC
ROTH, HENRY C. SGT
ROWE, JERRIS R. PVT
RUZICH, FLOYD D. PVT
RUZICH, RUDY PFC

SANTOS, JOHN C. CPL
SCAVUZZO, NATHAN T/SGT
SCHIEZELT, EDGAR W. PVT
SCHROEDER, NORMAN PFC
SCHROEDER, RAYMOND PFC
SCHWARTZ, WALTER C. PFC
SCHIBER, STANLEY F. S/SGT
SEGER, BERNARD E. S/SGT
SEWICK, HERMAN C. PFC
SHINBAUM, LAWRENCE S. PFC
SHORT, CHARLES J. PVT
SILBERZAHN, MELVIN H. PFC
SINGLEY, WILLIAM C. PFC
SITKO, JOHN J. SGT
SMALLACOMBE, BERT H. PVT
SMITH, FORREST R. S/SGT
SMITH, HAROLD V. PVT
SMITH, JAMES B. PFC
SMITH, JAMES P. PFC
SMITH, ROBERT J. T/SGT
SMITH, WESLEY E. PFC
SOWDER, EMANUEL H. SGT
SPRINGSTON, CALVIN R. PFC
SQUIRES, HARRY G. PFC
STEIN, JOHN F. PFC
STEWART, GUY B. PVT
STEWART, EARL L. SGT
STOKES, RALPH C. PFC
STUCKEY, MARION PFC
SUSI, ITALO PFC
SWARINGEN, DONALD V. PFC
SWOKLA, JOSEPH J. PVT
SYMES, PAUL E. PFC
THOMPSON, WALTER H. PVT
THOMPSON, ELMER E. PVT
THRESHER, BOYCE CPL
TOME, CHESTER W. PVT
TORRES, JOHN A. PVT
TREMPER, CHARLES A. S/SGT
UBER, HARRY F. S/SGT
UPTON, ROBERT D. PVT
WADDELL, JOHN S. PFC
WAGNER, JOSEPH L. SGT
WALKER, MOSES F. SGT
WANNER, NORMAN P. PVT
WANZELAK, WILLIAM PFC
WALTER, MARSHALL W. PFC
WARRINGTON, LUYERNE T/SGT
WARRIOR, ANDREW PFC
WATKINS, KENNETH O. PFC
WATSON, SCOTT H. SGT
WEBB, EDWARD E. PFC
WEBER, HAROLD P. PFC
WELCH, FREDERICK F. SGT
WHEELER, EDWIN M. PFC
WHITLEY, THOMAS E. PVT
WILKENS, JOHN A. PFC
WILLIAMS, DOYLE H. SGT
WILLIAMSON, EDWARD PFC
WILLS, WILLIAM A. PVT
WILSON, JOHN S. PFC
WILSON, ROBERT L. S/SGT
WILSON, JAMES E. PFC
WOODRUFF, WILLIAM PFC
WOOLEWSKI, LEO J. T/SGT
YONIAK, WALTER PVT
YOUNKINS, PRESTON PVT
ZAKAWSKY, GEORGE PVT
ZIMBARDO, JOHN PVT
ZINDLER, WARREN M. CPL

FROM THESE
HONORED DEAD
WE TAKE INCREASED
DEVOTION TO THAT
CAUSE FOR WHICH
THEY GAVE THE
LAST FULL MEASURE
OF DEVOTION



0001 - 9 MAY 45

1800 - 24 OCT. 44

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| FRANCE | REMPFING | NEUSES | VÖHRINGEN |
| MARAINVILLE | ST. MICHEL | HUCKELHEIM | ILLERTISSEN |
| LA NEUVEVILLE | MAMBACH | SCHLÜCTERN | HÖRENHAUSEN |
| LE CHENOIS F.M.E. | PUTTELANGE | MICHELHELD | KELLMUNZ |
| EMBERTHIL | HACKENRANSBACH | WENKHEIM | BABENHAUSEN |
| LIENTREY | ERNSTVILLER | BRUNNTAL | SONTHEIM |
| AMENONCOURT | GUISING | STEINBACH | WINTERRIEDEN |
| AUTREPIERRE | BETTIVILLER | NEUBRUNN | KLOSTERBEUREN* |
| IGNEY | HOELLING | OB ROT | BOOS |
| FOULCREY | BIERING | EBERSBERG | MARKT-ERKHEIM* |
| IBIGNY | ROHRBACH | FÖRNSBACH | FRACHENRIEDEN |
| GONDREXON | RIHLING | KAISERSBACH | UNTER-WESTERHEIM |
| RICHAUX | MOONVILLE F.M.E. | EKERTSWILLER | RETTENBACH |
| GOGNEY | ACHEN | MANHOLZ | EGGENSTHAL |
| ST. GEORGES | GROS EDERCHING | HOLDIS | MARKT-ROTTENBACH |
| NEUF MOULINS | KALHAUSEN | WICHENKIRNBERG* | ENKHEIM |
| ILLING | GERMANY | WELTHEIM | KAUFBEUREN |
| LANDANGE | WEIDENTHAL | LORECH | GEISENREID |
| XOUXANGE | RHINE RIVER | FAURNDAU | OB GRÜNSBERG |
| SARREBOURG | KIRCHGARTSHAUSEN | GOPPINGEN | MARKT-OBERSDORF |
| GOERLIGEN | SANDHOFEN | RECHBERGHAUSEN | LENGENWANG |
| RAEWILLER | SCHONAU | WINNINGEN | SEEG |
| BAERENDORF | WALDHOF | JEBENHAUSEN | FÜSSEN |
| POSTROFF | KAPFERTAL | DORNHAU | AUSTRIA |
| EWILLER | MANHHEIM | HOZLHEIM | VILS |
| GUNGWILLER | NECKAR RIVER | GRUBINGEN | REUTTE |
| BERG | WALLSTADT | SCHLATH | RIEDEN |
| ESCHWILLER | DUDENHOFEN | AUERSDOORF | WEISSENBACH |
| THAL | FEUDENHEIM | MUHLHAUSEN | LERMOOS |
| MACKWILLER | ALZENAU | BAD DITZENBACH | ERHWALD |
| WALDHAMBACH | KLEIN WELTHEIM | WIESENSTEIG | ERN PASS |
| DIEMERINGEN | KLEIN KROTZENBERG | GOSBACH | FERNSTEIN |
| LORENTZEN | GELNHAUSEN | NEIDLINGEN | NASSEREITH |
| RATZWILLER | SOMBORN | DONSTETTEN | MALLINGER |
| BUTTEN | NEIDER MITTLAU | MAGOLSHHEIM | OBSTRAS |
| MONTBRONN | HAILER | FELDTSTETTEN | TELES |
| ENCHENBERG | GEISELBACH | WESTERHEIM | DARWITZ |
| SIERSTHAL | ERNESBACH | SONTHEIM | BARWEIS |
| LAMBACH | DORNSTEINBACH | ERNABEUREN | SCHLATT |
| FROMUHL | HORSBACH | ERBACH | ST. OTZTHAL |
| HOLBACH | GROS AUHEIM | ACHSTETTEN | OTT |
| MAGINOT LINE | MAINFLINGEN | BAUSTETTEN | WIENIS |
| FT. SIMSBERG O.P. | SELIGENSTADT | AMERSTETTEN | ST. LEONHARD |
| FT. LEGERET | GROSSENHAUSEN | BEUREN | LANGENFELD |
| SARREINSMING | HOCHSTETTEN | DIETENHEIM | UMHAUSEN |
| SARREQUEMINES | MEERHOLZ | ILLERRIEDEN | DORF |
| WITTRING | | | HUBEN |
| WOELFLING | | | SOLDEN |
| WIESVILLER | | | |
| BLIESBRUCK | | | |
| SILTZEIM | | | |

Chicago 11/1/45

★ TOWNS TAKEN BY 71ST INFANTRY

LEGEND

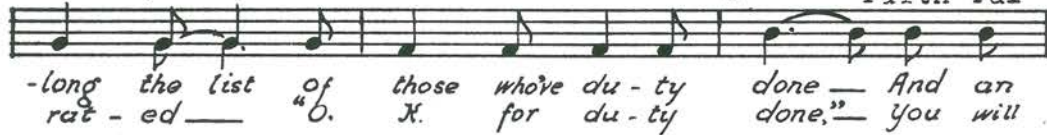
The Dear Old Seventy First

Words By Robert S. Sutcliffe

Music By W.O. Lambert L. Eben

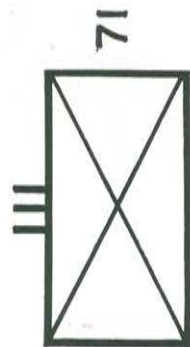
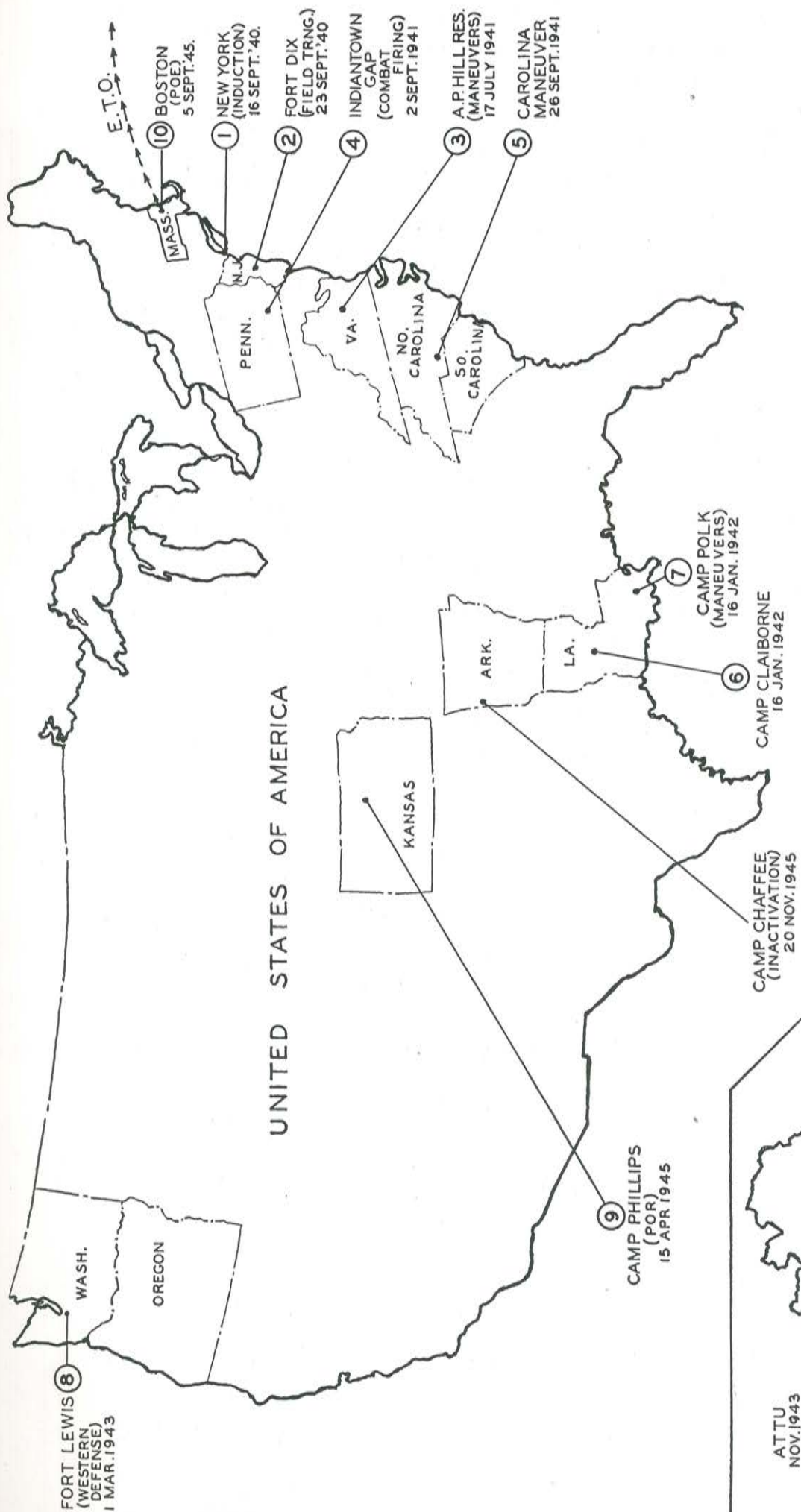


1. When there's
2. When the



Chorus





REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Staff No. 1



CAPT. THOMAS J. GANNON
Regimental S-1



MAJ. WYLLIS H. PEARSON
Regimental S-3



LIEUT. COL. ROY F. GOGGIN
Regimental S-5



MAJ. STEPHEN L. KOVACS
Regimental S-2



MAJ. JOSEPH BURKE
Regimental S-4

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS



CAPT. JAMES DOWLING
Information and Educational Officer



LIEUT. SIDNEY LERNER
Liaison Officer



LIEUT. RAYMOND S. BRICKLEY
Liaison Officer



CHAP.
MARTIN E.
RAMMING

Staff No. 2



CHAP.
WALTER C.
DURBIN



LIEUT.
LENT. I. RICE
Liaison Officer



LIEUT.
MICHAEL
CROWLEY
S-3 Section

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Staff No. 3



REG. SGT. MAJ. ANDREW SOVA

REG. OP. SGT. GLENDEL H. CHASE



S-1 Staff



Personnel Section



CORPORAL JOHNSON
S-2 Section

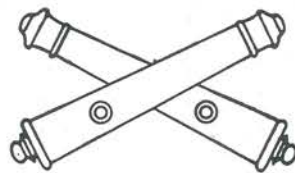


SERGEANT WELCH
Personnel

156th Field Artillery Battalion



LIEUT. COL. WILLIAM PARKS
156th Field Artillery Battalion Commander



Regimental History

The 71st Infantry Regiment was founded in the midst of a fever of patriotism in a small, dingy drill hall on the corner of Delancey and Christie Streets in New York City. The date was 2 June 1850, when the small group of native-born Americans met to act upon a suggestion that a 100 per cent American-born militia regiment be organized. The plan to exclude all foreign-born sprang from the fact that, although many of the recent immigrants to this country were serving in militia regiments, they tended to band together as separate nationalities, and even inhabited distinct racial districts in the city.

The Regiment was known as The American Rifles, and consisted of four companies, attached as a battalion to the First Regiment, Cavalry, of the New York State Militia. It expanded rapidly after 1859 when naturalized citizens were permitted to enlist, and was soon of three-battalion strength. Along with its swift expansion came the new name American Guard, and the now famous motto, "*Pro Aris et Pro Focis*," which is interpreted "for our Freedom and our Home."

Commendable service in restoring and maintaining law and order within its home state was rendered by the 71st Regiment during the numerous riots in the period 1857-1895. The unit won national honors in both the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, and when World War I broke out, was stationed on the Mexican Border.

Although in the first World War the Regiment did not appear in combat as such, it nevertheless furnished about 3,040 men to other units, chief of which were the "Fighting 69th" and the 105th Regiments and the famous "Rainbow" Division. Men and officers sent to the various units rendered valorous and, in many instances, individually commended service. The major World War I engagements in which these men participated included the battles of the Hindenburg Line, La Salle River, Jone de Mar Ridge, Vierstreat Ridge, The Knoll, and St. Maurice River. Other minor actions included the East Poperinghe Line, and the Dickenbush section of Belgium, as well as aiding in the Meuse-Argonne offensive from 25 September to 11 November, 1918.

After World War I, the 71st Infantry Regiment was activated once more as a Unit of the New York National Guard. Headquarters were again established in the New York City Armory. For the twenty years between wars, the Regiment served honorably as a unit of the National Guard. On 4 August 1940 began the maneuvers in upper New York State in which the 71st Regiment took part, returning to the Armory after twenty days experi-

ence. The next month, on 16 September, the Regiment was mobilized for Federal service and left the Armory on 34th Street and Park Avenue one week later for Fort Dix, New Jersey, with 1,665 men and officers.

Here the Regiment took part in maneuvers from 19 May to 23 May, 1941, then on to First Army maneuvers in Virginia from 10 July to 5 August, 1941, then back to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, for firing exercises the first week in September. Before the end of the month, the 71st Infantry had left Fort Dix, and established a base camp in North Carolina. For the next two and a half months the Regiment fought over this terrain, participating in the largest maneuver ever held by the United States Army. News of the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor came as the motor convoy was making its way back to Fort Dix.

The entire Regiment reached Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on 16 January 1942 after a 1,980 mile motor march, one of the longest moves by motor yet attempted. The following September, the Regiment, now a unit of the 44th Division, was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, as a part of the Western Defense Command. In February, 1944, the Regiment entrained for Camp Polk, Louisiana, for more maneuvers, and the following April arrived at Camp Phillips, Kansas, for its final training before embarking for overseas service.

The 71st Infantry Regiment sailed from the Boston Port of Embarkation on the morning of September fifth, 1944, on the *USS Monticello*, the converted Italian luxury liner *Conte Grande*. It formed part of the first units to land directly at the newly-liberated port of Cherbourg, France, in a direct movement from the States.

Moving from Cherbourg to the vicinity of Montebourg, the Regiment bivouacked in apple orchards and pastures. Here the Regiment received its trucks, and the issue of equipment and ammunition to ready it for combat completely. During the time in Normandy, an intensive athletic and training schedule was carried out. The men were particularly instructed in hedge-row and broken-terrain fighting. On October tenth the rail element left Valognes on French "40 et 8" boxcars for the front. The motorized convoy left the Normandy peninsula two days later, arriving at the Alsatian city of Luneville, France, at the same time as the rail unit. As the men bivouacked within hearing distance of enemy artillery, they learned that the Regiment's first combat mission was to relieve elements of the 79th Division in their defensive positions on the line.

The 71st INFANTRY IN WORLD WAR II

Headquarters 44th INFANTRY DIVISION

Award of Unit Streamer

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 170

23 June 1945

HEADQUARTERS 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 44, U. S. ARMY

AWARD OF UNIT STREAMER

Under the provisions of War Department Circular Number 408, 17 October 1944, the following organizations are entitled to a white streamer with the title, "Combat Infantry Regiment" inscribed in blue letters:

114th Infantry Regiment
71st Infantry Regiment
324th Infantry Regiment

By Command of MAJOR GENERAL DEAN:

OFFICIAL:
S/E. DOHERTY
E. DOHERTY
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

GEORGE E. MARTIN
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

The first companies of the Regiment entered combat on the twenty-third of October, 1944. They relieved elements of the 315th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Division east of Luneville, France, in the vicinity of Embermenil. The Regiment occupied dug-in positions in Le Remabois and in the eastern part of the Foret de Parroy. In the last week of October and the first weeks of November, with a series of night attacks, the First Battalion drove the Germans from their remaining strongholds in the forest. By continued and active patrolling, the Germans were kept from any effective offensive action in this part of the line.

One of the more daring patrols of this time was made on 31 October by four men from Company E: S/Sgt. R. B. Lawrence and Harold L. Hunt and Pfc. Collie R. Martin and John F. Larkin. These men volunteered to investigate a patch of woods that was suspected of concealing a mortar position. The patrol moved into the woods and, upon discovering more of the enemy than had been anticipated, withdrew and directed an artillery concentration on the area. They then moved into the woods a second time, discovering a machine gun emplacement and mopping it up. Proceeding farther they found a mortar position which they destroyed completely. Next they discovered an active observation dug-out and by moving within point-

blank range opened fire and wiped out the position. The patrol accomplished its mission so effectively that no further enemy activity originated from the wooded area. Pfc. Collie R. Martin was killed in the course of this patrolling action. All four of the men were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for their achievements.

Typical of the bravery of the Regimental Medical Detachment in this period was the action of Pfc. Daniel W. McCarty. On the 26 October, he left his sheltered position during an intense mortar and artillery barrage to go to the rescue of five wounded men. Administering medical aid to them while still under heavy fire, he prepared all the men for speedy evacuation. McCarty's action undoubtedly contributed to the saving of their lives. For his gallantry, McCarty was awarded the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre.

These last weeks of October and first weeks of November are remembered as a long ordeal of foggy rain and soggy mud. As the days went on, the rain became more insistent, driving its wetness to the very skin of the soldier. The men wore wet clothing for days at a time. Fox-holes and gun positions were flooded and caved in again and again. The men found themselves living and fighting in a brown sea of oozing, sticky mud. Trench foot became a greater danger to the individual than

enemy shrapnel. A hot meal served while in reserve was a greater treat for the front-line soldier than a dinner with music at the Waldorf would have been to the average citizen.

Neither the K-ration caramels nor a German broadcast could cheer the weary infantry. Company B reported that at 2215 on 1 November 1944, an enemy loudspeaker broadcast the following message: "Welcome, men of the Forty-fourth. War is Hell. Come over to our lines and get a hot meal." The Regiment made the war a little more hellish by replying with its mortars and calling down artillery fire.

On the 13 November 1944, the Regiment first took the offensive, launching an early morning attack in the Les Remabois Woods between Embermenil and Leintrey. It was a cold morning and the combination of the first snowfall of the season and the deep mud made battle conditions extremely difficult. The 71st Infantry, with the 114th Regiment on its right flank and the 324th Regiment on its left, began the first of a series of thrusts that resulted in the liberation of Sarrebourg, one of the major cities of Alsace.

The initial attack began at 0710, meeting stiff resistance almost immediately, with two battalions being stopped by constant artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. Company I pushed through, capturing Leintrey by 0930, the first of many villages and towns liberated by the Regiment, and went on to take Hill 310, its initial objective. In this engagement the company suffered 90 casualties in three hours. The rest of the day was spent by all battalions in consolidating the new positions, preparing for the expected counter-attack, and readying themselves for a new attack the next morning. The bitter cold continued, and cases of exposure and trench foot were numerous among all units. In many cases it was impossible to get adequate supplies through to all the men because of the constant shelling of positions by massed enemy artillery.

At 0700 the next day the attack was resumed, resulting in limited gains for all units, but on the fifteenth of November the enemy lines were broken and the first German defensive positions overrun. The Second Battalion took up positions on the right flank of the Regiment with a view to establish contact with the 79th Division which had been re-committed to the line. In a short period of time enemy resistance ceased to be the bitter, effective

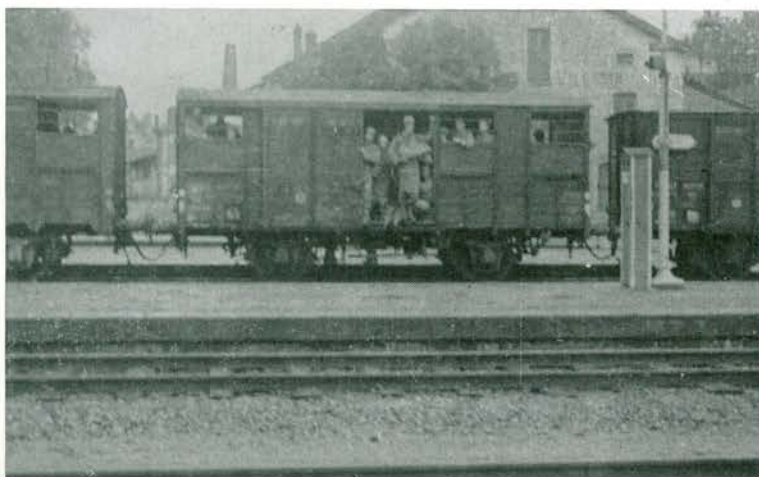


Major General William F. Dean, 44th Division Commander, and Colonel Ercil D. Potter, commanding officer of the 71st Infantry Regiment.

machine it had been up to this point, and the towns of Amenoncourt, Autrepierre, Gondrexon, Repaix, and Igney fell to our troops in the following two days.

On the eighteenth, Company K was engaged in attacking, when the leading elements came under the heavy fire of German machine guns, which completely dominated the draw through which the company must move. The constant gunfire, by halting the advance of one company, had slowed the entire Third Battalion. Upon learning of the machine gun locations, Capt. Walter J. Reilly, commander of Company K, went forward to direct the attacks against them. He rallied his men and led them forward, firing his carbine from the hip as the group advanced. This action brought him under fire from one of the guns and he was seriously wounded. Despite this fact, Captain Reilly kept advancing, firing constantly until he was again hit, this time fatally. His action resulted in the destruction of the gun crews and enabled the Third Battalion to continue to advance to its objective with a minimum number of casualties. Captain Reilly's courage and complete disregard for

This is how we arrived in Luneville, France.



Embermenil, where men first learned to dig in.





German prisoners taken in Saarebourg, November, 1944

his personal safety were inspirations to his men, and for this heroic action he was awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross.

Pushing on under close support from both our tanks and air corps, the village of Foulcrey was entered by troops of the First Battalion while it was still afire from effects of our dive-bombing during the day. The next day Ibigny fell—one more step on the road to the objective, Sarrebourg. From Ibigny the Third Battalion riding atop tanks, and the First Battalion mounted on trucks were set out immediately, while the Second Battalion remained in town in immediate reserve to exploit a breakthrough or to aid in crushing any counter-attack. It was here that contact with the 79th Division was finally established. The other two battalions worked their way through St. Georges in the early afternoon and broke out toward Landange, two miles distant. It was at this intersection that the Third Battalion with tanks turned east and south toward Lorquin instead of continuing to the northeast to Neufmoulins. Near Lorquin the Third Battalion encountered a strong enemy force and engaged them all night while the First Battalion held

up in the outskirts of Neufmoulins and established security outposts for the remainder of the night.

Lieuts. Luke LeBlond and Donald Moon of Company A and a platoon of men went out at 0500 as a combat patrol to enter enemy territory and, if possible, to secure and hold a bridge across the Marne Canal. After meeting resistance in the town of Xouaxange, the patrol captured the bridge with enemy demolition charges intact. The patrol had made its way to a point two and one-half miles into enemy-held territory and reached the bridge at 0645. While preparing hasty positions for the light machine guns that were covering the operation, the party was approached in the darkness by a group of men. At a distance of two yards, Lieutenant Moon recognized them as German soldiers and opened fire immediately, killing an officer, a staff sergeant and a private as they attempted to escape. Four prisoners were taken from this action and were employed to disarm the explosive charges placed beneath the bridge by the enemy. Soon Allied troops and tanks were streaming across the canal to Bebing, where the French Second Armored Division, which had joined the drive, turned to the

southwest to link with the 324th Regiment then on the left flank.

While the Regiment was covering the remaining few kilometers, a motorized reconnaissance patrol, under the leadership of 1st Lieut. Lyle Hoyt, of the Regimental I and R Platoon and another patrol led by 1st Lieut. Francis Howland and Sgt. Arnold Millner of Company B were sent ahead to scout the immediate vicinity of Sarrebourg. They met resistance in the outskirts and were pinned down by heavy and accurate small arms fire, which wounded Lieut. Howland fatally, and seriously wounded Lieut. Hoyt. Hoyt made his escape while Sgt. Millner, also wounded, and the others were captured. Millner was taken to a private home and his wounds were treated by German aid men. Immediately after their departure he was hidden by the family in the cellar potato bin and was not discovered by the returning Germans. The other captives, Sgt. John M. Higgins, Cpl. Robert Levy, and Pfc. Sam H. Bruesch, members of the Regimental I and R Platoon, and S/Sgt. Albert Chickie of Company B were forced to walk the entire distance from Sarrebourg to Strasbourg barefoot. Upon arrival they were interned in the city jail. For two days, until troops of our division arrived, all communications from Strasbourg were destroyed and all enemy runners were captured by members of the French Forces of the Interior. Consequently, the enemy was in doubt as to our positions and did not know the city of Sarrebourg had fallen.

Meanwhile, on the afternoon of the twentieth, the First and Third Battalions were deployed to the northwest of the city, where they succeeded in capturing the commanding high ground. Then troops of the First Battalion, working with the French tankers, drove into Sarrebourg proper without meeting the strong resistance that had been expected. For three days no artillery support had been possible because the foot troops had outdistanced all units of artillery. The large percentage of heavy fire-power had been delivered by the 81mm. mortar platoon of Company D. The order was given at 1700 to move the remaining companies of the Regiment into the city and its capture was nearly complete by nightfall. The following day was spent in clearing buildings of snipers and rounding up prisoners of war.

When Sarrebourg had been cleared and secured, the Regiment was ordered to continue its advance. By the twenty-third of November the major part of the Regiment was in Goerlingen, and defensive positions had been organized. The next day the second platoon of Anti-tank Company was fired on by enemy artillery and lost one 57mm. gun, a ton-and-a-half truck, and a quarter-ton truck.

At this time, while the Regiment was on the extreme left flank of the Seventh Army, the 130th Panzer Lehr Division attacked, and stiff opposition was encountered at Rauwiller. This panzer division had been trapped and outflanked by the strong thrusts of Patton's Third Army to the north and had fled southward to escape. As soon as the enemy division had an opportunity to regroup its forces, it was to attack immediately in the most vulnerable spot in the newly-consolidated Allied lines.

Overnight Sarrebourg had become the key communications center of the left flank of the Seventh Army and of prime strategic importance. The recapture of the city would have seriously impeded the advance of the Seventh Army if not stopping it altogether. It was to this specific mission—a last futile attempt to cut the Allies' Saverne corridor to the Rhine—that the 130th Panzer Lehr Division sped. Almost before anyone realized what had happened, German tanks were patrolling the streets of Rauwiller and firing point-blank into the buildings our troops were occupying.

One of the classic incidents of this engagement is the adventure of Maj. Edward Buschkamper, then acting commander of the Third Battalion. The Battalion had been in reserve for several days and was thrown in at this time to plug a gap in the lines. The troops arrived at 0100 and a meeting of all officers was in progress an hour later, when Major Buschkamper looked out the upstairs window of his command post and spotted three Tiger tanks deployed in front of the house and about seventy-five German soldiers advancing along the road. The command post fired on the enemy and they replied with machine gun fire. The Tiger tanks began firing their 88's at a range of fifteen yards. Fifteen officers and one hundred forty-seven enlisted men in the building were either killed or captured.

When the Major heard the Germans entering the building, he dashed to the attic and concealed himself by crouching in a pile of debris atop a smokehouse. While hiding in the attic for the next forty-eight hours, he narrowly missed discovery. He had only a D-bar for rations. In the course of the Allied counter-attack to regain Rauwiller, the town was set afire and the Major was forced to leave his place of concealment to avoid being burned alive. He plunged through the flames and sought a hiding place in the shadows, resolving to make his way back to the American lines. By crawling on his stomach for two hours, Major Buschkamper passed through the German positions and was received by friendly troops. On the next afternoon the Second Battalion was brought up and attacked through the lines of the Third Battalion, meeting with stub-

born resistance. The following day the Second Battalion and Third Battalion launched another attack with an infantry battalion from the 45th Division and aided by elements of the Fourth Armored Division. The attack was a success and the lost ground was retaken.

Following a series of small thrusts and gains the Regiment attacked again on the twenty-seventh, and by the end of November, positions were occupied near Eywiller and Berg.

In the first weeks of December, 1944, the Regiment advanced from the vicinity of Eywiller and Berg through Rexingen, Mackwiller, Diemerdingen, Lorentzen, Butten, Montbronn, and Enchenberg. Holbach and Siersthal were the scenes of heavy fighting; and in this sector the Regiment first encountered, in the Simserhoff Fortress, the fortifications of the reversed Maginot Line. The great line of defenses that the French had constructed in the Thirties to halt the German Wehrmacht were now being used by the enemy to impede the Allied advance.



Heavy rain was one of our toughest obstacles during this period. Embermenil, France.





Le Chenois Fme, Regimental CP, November, 1944.

The Regiment was engaged in reducing and inactivating the Simserhoff Fortress from the thirteenth to the twentieth of December. The Simserhoff sat on a high ridge northwest of Holbach, its guns commanding the surrounding approaches. The reputedly impregnable fortifications that the Germans could not capture from the French was the Regiment's goal. The Fortress consisted of ten fortified units whose turrets and pill-box outposts were spread over a thousand-yard front. On the average, each unit of the Fortress was composed of two large turrets and six small turrets above ground and extended three to seven levels below ground. The largest unit had twenty-four levels beneath the ground. The individual sections of the Simserhoff were connected with each other by a series of underground passageways and the Fortress as a whole was connected by a railroad tunnel of more than a thousand yards in length with a hillside entrance northwest of Legeret Ferme.

The fortified walls of the Simserhoff were so thick that heavy artillery ricocheted without penetrating, and five hundred pound bombs detonated without appreciable effect. The Fortress was finally taken after our artillery and tank destroyer units

Reinforcements for the 71st arrive at the replacement depot during mid-winter months.



had damaged the Fortress' heavy guns with direct hits.

The Regiment attacked the Fortress with assault teams which were given the mission of setting explosive charges in entrances and ventilator shafts. Flame-throwers and smoke grenades were employed in driving out enemy personnel. Men of the Sixty-third Engineers accompanied infantry in this action. The First Battalion captured units One, Two, Five, Seven, and Eight; the Second Battalion, Units Nine and Ten; and the Third Battalion, Units Three, Four and Six. Upon the taking of the Fortress, the First and Second Battalion was given the mission of rendering the Simserhoff useless as a defensive installation. The doors and apertures were blown, the underground shafts were sealed, the turrets were wrecked, and the emplaced guns were damaged beyond further usefulness.

The successful assault of the Simserhoff was due largely to the excellence of preliminary reconnaissance. The thoroughness of the patrolling near the Fortress is typified in the action of S/Sgt. Donald B. Harris of Company A, who volunteered to lead a night patrol with the mission of determining the extent of the Simserhoff's wire obstacles in his Battalion's line of attack. The information he secured was so accurate that the engineers were able to remove all obstacles without difficulty, and the Battalion's advance was considerably expedited.

Another example of the extensiveness of the patrolling about the Simserhoff is the action of 1st Lieut. Cecil C. Hunt, Jr., of Company B. Lieutenant Hunt accepted the hazardous mission of reconnoitering the area about unit number five and cutting a path through the protective wiring. His mission accomplished, he proceeded to the Fort and climbed over some of the turrets making a close study of the apertures to determine the type of weapons likely to be encountered. The information he gained was invaluable in planning the attack.

On the fourteenth of December, while the Regiment was engaged in the reduction of the Simserhoff fortifications, Company I, with the first platoon of Company M attached, was ordered to seize and secure Freudenberg Ferme in the vicinity of Bitche. The objective was located eight hundred yards forward. Before it could reach the line of departure, the Company was forced to move for a mile over a route that held four enemy fortifications of the reversed Maginot Line, and was sub-



Church steeple, well known landmark of battered Guising.

jected to heavy observed artillery fire. Moving under the intense enemy fire, the Company advanced to the high ground south of Freudenberg Ferme, and at 1145 was in position to attack the farm directly. Attacking through heavy automatic fire from the farm and increasing enemy direct fire from emplacements on the right flank, Company I seized the farm at 1600 and captured twenty of the enemy. At 0800, the fifteenth of December, the enemy launched a motorized counter-attack against Company I with approximately fifty men. The Company held its fire until the enemy was seventy-five yards from the farm when surprise fire from all the weapons in the Company caught the Germans in the open, killing at least thirty, wounding many others, and destroying one of the two personnel carriers.

From the fourteenth to the nineteenth of December, the enemy continued to subject the farm to steady and heavy direct and indirect fire, sending in as many as thirty shells a minute. At the end of this period, the heavy shelling had reduced to rubble every wall in the farm buildings which were originally three stories high. Despite being buried many times under crumbling walls, the men held

their ground, secured the Division flank, and accomplished their mission. For their courageous accomplishment of their mission, and their devotion to duty, the men of Company I and the First Platoon of Company M were recognized with a Presidential Citation.

On the eighteenth of December, elements of the Third Battalion undertook the capture of Freudenberg Observation Post. This installation, near Freudenberg Ferme, was a part of the Maginot Line. Because of its extensive field of observation, the fire of a number of Maginot batteries could be directed from it. Despite heavy and harassing small arms fire, the Battalion took the objective in five hours. The Observation Post was found to consist of a steel dome twelve inches thick that was six feet high and four feet in diameter. The walls contained four apertures, four by six inches in size. After the taking of the Simserhoff and the capture of Freudenberg Ferme, and the Observation Post, the Regiment held the line in this general area until relieved by elements of the 398th Regiment of the 100th Division on the twenty-third of December.



Forty & Eights en route Cherbourg to Luneville,
France, October, 1944.

Major Kovacs, First Sergeant Peters,
Captain Brunner.

Marainviller, France.

Lieutenant Hamilton, Major Raymond,
Captain Cole, Captain Reilly.



Moving up to establish new command
post, St. George, France.

Germans shelling road.

Searching German prisoners, Le Chenois Fme,
France, October, 1944.





Following a Christmas dinner that included baked turkey and cranberry sauce, the Regiment enjoyed an exceptionally calm period at the front. But there seemed to be a hint of something of great magnitude about to happen; and our intelligence had determined that at least two German Panzer divisions, supported by no less than two infantry divisions, were massed in the sector opposite the Regiment.

On 31 December 1944, the Regiment sat on the German border, with elements of the First Battalion already in Germany. The First and Second



Yank soldier looks up at one of the 75mm. turrets in the Simserhoff fortress, which was taken after repeated air and artillery bombardment. Enemy held up 44th Division for five days.

Battalions were on line. The First, supported by one platoon of Company A, 749th Tank Battalion, and one platoon of Company A, 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, occupied a bulging sector extending from the high ground southwest of Obergailbach, France, to Bleisbrucken, France. The Second Battalion with another platoon of Company A, 749th Tank Battalion, and another platoon of Company A, 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, held the high ground northwest of Rimling, France, on a twenty-four hundred yard front to the right of



the First Battalion. The Third Battalion, except for Company L and one machine gun platoon of Company M, which were linking the First and Second Battalions, was in Regimental reserve at Witting, France.

The night was clear and cold, and visibility was good. There was a foot of snow on the ground. The Regiment was anxiously awaiting the coming of the New Year. The local security was increased because of a warning to be on the lookout for German paratroops.

At 2350, the German Thirteenth SS Corps attacked the First and Second Battalion sectors, with the 19th Infantry, 36th Volks Grenadier and the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Divisions. Dense masses of German infantry, dressed in white to blend with the snow, and yelling at the top of their voices, "Happy New Year, Yankee Bastards," swept toward the Regimental lines. The enemy planned to overrun the battle positions by the sheer weight of their forces. It was evident as they approached that they were either drunk or drugged.

On the left, the Germans hit the third platoon of Company B, which was holding an outpost line, and, by overwhelming numbers forced back the outpost. Company B at first reported this force to be a platoon attempting to infiltrate the lines, but as the attack progressed, the enemy force was estimated to be a battalion. By 2355, Company C was attacked on both flanks and Company A reported increasing enemy mortar and artillery fire.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion was also being hit by huge numbers. On the right flank of the Battalion's sector, Company F was being attacked by a force estimated to be of five company strength. At 2400, Third Battalion was alerted and ordered to move to the road junction south of the eastern edge of Bleisbrucken Woods. From there the Battalion was to launch a counter-attack against the enemy infiltrating the Second Battalion's right flank. The Third Battalion moved to the road junction and took positions on the east-west road to await the arrival of three tanks from the 749th Tank Battalion. While the Battalion was awaiting the tanks, heavy automatic weapons fire was received from Bleisbrucken Woods. The enemy was attempting to cut behind the Second Battalion and encircle it. At this development in the German attack, the Third Battalion was ordered to move to the west, drive the enemy back from the woods and retake the town of Bleisbrucken.

Over on the First Battalion front, Company A had been attacked four times, and each time had repulsed the enemy. The Germans continued to shell the positions with mortars and artillery. Because of constant use the radios were out, with dead batteries, and communications by wire were continuously broken by shell fire. A light tank was sent forward with badly needed supplies of food, radio batteries and ammunition. It returned evacuating a few casualties.

On the Second Battalion front, the right flank was encircled and overrun. Under covering fire

from Company G, in reserve, and supporting tank destroyer guns, the right flank withdrew 1,000 yards to the south of Moronville Ferme. Company E, on the Second Battalion's left flank, received an attack of two company strength, and the left platoon was overrun and forced to withdraw. Enemy patrols circulated in the rear of Company E and a burp gun fired into the Battalion's command post. Wire communications were broken, but wire teams worked their way through enemy patrols to make repairs. Three enemy companies penetrated the left adjacent unit, cut off Second Battalion's main supply route, and threatened the Battalion's command post.

At 0430, January first, Company G, with the remainder of Company F, and one platoon of tanks, supported by machine guns, mortars, tank destroyer guns, and artillery fire, launched a counter-attack from Moronville Ferme, and by 0600 had restored all positions formerly occupied by Company F. At 0630 Company E received an attack of two company strength supported by four tanks. Despite heavy casualties from mortar and artillery fire, the enemy overran Company E and forced a six-hundred yard withdrawal. At 0800, Company E, supported by a platoon of tanks and heavy mortar fire from Company H, launched a counter-attack and by 0900 had restored the strong points of the main battle positions.

Using covered routes of approach, the enemy advanced and in battalion strength began an attack on the left flank of Company C. For two hours the fighting continued, until the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. While the left flank was engaged in this fight, another force of approximately the same size attacked the right flank of the company. This engagement lasted seven hours and again heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy with no losses to Company C. During the fight a group of thirty Germans had infiltrated the line and had attacked the Second platoon from the rear. This group was quickly engaged and forced to withdraw.

From 2400 through 0400, January first, Cannon Company fired more than 600 rounds of 105mm. howitzer ammunition against the enemy. Three hundred of these rounds were fired in the hours between midnight and 0100. At daybreak, the enemy requested a three-hour truce to pick up casualties. This was granted and it was estimated that two hundred dead or wounded were carried from the field.

Meanwhile, the tanks for which the Third Battalion had been waiting arrived and that attack commenced, with Company I on the left and Company K on the right advancing towards the woods, supported by machine gun sections of Company M. The Battalion assaulted the south edge of Bleisbrucken Wood but in a short time enemy bazooka fire had knocked out all three tanks. The attacking companies continued into the woods and at 0700 January first, shifted the attack westward toward the town of Bleisbrucken. The woods were



very dense and the enemy, estimated to be a battalion, was wearing white snow suits. The fighting was close and vicious. There was no artillery or mortar fire used by either side because of the uncertainty of the exact location of troops in the density of the woods. However, small arms fire was enormous. Steadily the enemy was driven westward through the woods. Company F was hit again by a company of infantry, four half-tracks and three tanks. Again the right flank was swung back 1,000 yards from Moronville Ferme. During the day heavy artillery and mortar fire was directed on enemy formations. Companies E and G repeatedly repelled enemy patrols which tried to infiltrate their positions. After establishing contact with the right adjacent unit, Company F launched an attack from Moronville Ferme and by 1715, January first, all positions on the Second Battalion main line of resistance had been restored.

Companies I and K continued their advance through Bliesbrucken Wood until dark, when enemy resistance in prepared positions on the high ground southeast of Bliesbrucken halted them. The strength of the Third Battalion had now been reduced to 150 men. Regimental headquarters was notified of the situation and the Battalion was ordered to secure the road through the woods leading to the town and hold until further orders.

Midnight of January first found the Regiment weary but still fighting. The Second and Third Battalions were holding their positions under heavy mortar and artillery fire, while the First Battalion was withdrawing under orders to straighten the Regimental line. The Battalion moved to the south through the Bliesbrucken Wood, which was in German hands. By 0700, January second, the move, led by Captain Rupp, was completed without a casualty. At 0900, the Battalion was ordered to move forward and occupy positions along the railroad tracks running through the woods. Throughout the movement the troops were subjected to constant enemy mortar and artillery fire. By 1400 the Companies were in position.

Meanwhile during the night and early morning the Second Battalion had been attacked by infantry, half-tracks and tanks. Again Company F was overrun and withdrew to Moronville Ferme. A gap was created on Company F's left flank, and Company G was sent to fill it. A platoon of tanks from Company A, 749th Tank Battalion, was sent to assist Company F. Before Company G reached its position in the gap, it was attacked by a company

of enemy infantry and pushed back to Moronville Ferme. At 0120, January second, the farm was attacked from the north and northeast and fired on by 20mm. cannon from the north. Twenty minutes later more enemy infantry attacked from the east and southeast, setting the farm buildings afire with incendiary bullets. Because of the burning buildings and heavy artillery fire, the position became untenable and permission was granted to withdraw. Covering one another's withdrawal, all units of the Second Battalion pulled back destroying a critical bridge to delay the enemy. At 0700, the Battalion moved to a new position east of Weiswiller, reorganized, and prepared a new defense line.

On January second, the Third Battalion supplemented by remnants of Company L, which had been on line between the First and Second Battalions, made assaults on the enemy in the woods in an attempt to control and set up a line along the railroad south of Bliesbrucken. Three times the Battalion attacked, but the enemy was too well

Digging in.





entrenched and the attacks were repulsed. A company from a friendly unit was assigned to help and sent along the west end of the woods to attack the enemy right flank while the Third Battalion attacked from the south. However, this assault was also repulsed. At 1500, a friendly battalion at full strength attacked through the Third Battalion and was immediately repulsed. The Third Battalion was then ordered to pull back and reorganize.

The First Battalion, holding its sector of the line, had been attacked repeatedly during this action. A company of enemy infantry made a fanatical attack against the right flank of Company C. For forty minutes a fierce fire fight ensued in which Company C inflicted a great number of casualties on the enemy. Repeated attacks were made against Company C from all directions as the right flank was exposed and a 1,000-yard gap existed. At 0530, January third, the enemy launched another attack that carried them to within a few yards of the battle positions. Through the fierce resistance of Company C, it is estimated that the enemy lost sixty per cent of its effective strength.

This action on the first few days of January can be said to be decisive in one way: The immediate threat of a large enemy breakthrough was greatly alleviated by January third. From the third to the sixth the lines were generally stable with spasmodic attacking on both sides. By January sixth, the 114th Infantry attacked through the lines of the Regiment meeting heavy enemy resistance, but the straightening and stabilizing of the lines was accomplished. On the seventh of January, the 114th Infantry relieved the Regiment.

For its successful battle action from the thirty-first of December to the third of January, the Sec-

ond Battalion was recognized with a Presidential Citation.

One of the many instances of supreme soldering in the Regimental New Year's engagement is the action of Sgt. Charles A. MacGillivray of the Third Battalion. On January first, 1945, Company I was alerted and ordered to move at 0015 one mile from Wolfling, France, to be in position in the event of an enemy breakthrough within the Regimental area. At approximately 0045 the Company was proceeding along the road from Wolfling to Gros Rederching, France. Sgt. MacGillivray, squad leader in the second platoon, was given the mission of protecting the left flank of the Company. At 0130 Sgt. MacGillivray closed in from the left flank and reported the enemy digging in. A few minutes later the enemy opened fire with machine guns, halting the advance of the Company. Company K was given the mission to come around the right flank and knock out the opposition. Sgt. MacGillivray, knowing the position of the enemy, voluntarily went around the left flank in the rear of one enemy machine gun and with an M1 rifle, at a distance of three feet, killed both the gunner and assistant gunner. Company K caused the other remaining machine guns to withdraw permitting Company I to continue to its forward assembly area. By his initiative and prompt action, after giving knowledge of enemy positions and their fire sectors, he prevented great loss of life to our troops.

At 1300, as Company I went into the attack again, it came under heavy machine gun fire. Sgt. MacGillivray, again on his own initiative and knowing the enemy positions, crawled towards the nest which had halted the attacking force and destroyed all three of the gun crews before he himself



On their way to Kalhausen, France, these Alsatian farm people flee from their homes in Gros Rederching, France, due to the constant shelling and German troops being only a few kilometers away. They take with them all their worldly goods.

was seriously wounded by a fourth machine gun. The sergeant lost one arm as a result of this action. For his extraordinary heroic action, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, his aggressiveness and self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty, Sgt. MacGillivray was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

From the seventh to the twelfth of January, the Regiment prepared defensive positions. The First Battalion was in the vicinity of Silzheim, the Second Battalion near Wolfling, and the Third Battalion at Hambach. The Saar River defensive positions were further improved when, during the course of the next few days, all three battalions moved short distances within this rear area and continued to strengthen the line.

Soon thereafter the Second Battalion moved into the front lines, relieving the Third Battalion of the 114th Infantry Regiment. From this new location a great deal of enemy activity and vehicular movement was observed. The Regiment, however, did not participate in any offensive action, as it was committed to the task of constructing a series of

strong defense lines in the region of the Saar River and Canal. Should the Germans counter-attack, the Regiment would have adequate defenses to prevent an enemy breakthrough, as had happened in the Ardennes Bulge. Work on improving the positions was continued, with emphasis on overhead protection and the placing of concertina wire. The pioneer platoons were particularly active in this last phase of the work.

Men of the 71st crossing the Saar River at Remilfingen, France.



The last of January found the men suffering not from wounds inflicted by enemy action, but from the bitter cold and violence of the elements. Fox-holes had to be blown instead of dug, because of the frozen earth. Frost bite and trench foot were the most formidable foes the Regiment faced during those severe winter days and nights.

The Regiment remained in reserve status from the first to the twelfth of February, with the three Battalions establishing headquarters at Etting, Bining, and Kalhausen. Training schedules were followed and the fighting men enjoyed such welcome experiences as taking showers, changing to clean, dry clothing and attending movies. The Forty-fourth Division Band played on several occasions.

After resuming front line status, the Regiment attacked. The mission was to straighten the lines by eliminating a German bulge in the Regimental sector. The Regiment jumped off at 0545 on the fifteenth of February, and the attack progressed successfully as the objectives, La Schlossberg, Moronville Ferme, and Rimling, were achieved. In the course of the attack the Third Battalion's commanding officer, Lt. Colonel Robert L. Wadlington, discovered the exact position of an enemy

machine gun nest which had pinned down the Battalion. Using himself as an aiming stake, Lt. Col. Wadlington emptied his pistol directly at the German machine gun, killing two gunners and thereby enabling Sgt. Raymond Powell of Company K to score a direct mortar hit on the position which was hidden in a draw. This action allowed the entire Battalion to complete its mission successfully.

The Regiment's attack came as a complete surprise to the new German units of the 37th Regiment of the 17th Panzer Grenadier Division. These units had come on the line the night before and consisted of sixty to seventy men, one group of which was completely composed of drivers, because the enemy lacked the necessary fuel to operate their vehicles.

After the Regiment's original success, the enemy counter-attacked on the morning of the sixteenth and forced Company F to relinquish some 800 yards of the newly acquired territory. As a result, the First Battalion, with Company G, took the offensive in the vicinity of Moronville Ferme and regained the ground lost in the preceding hours. Having eliminated the curvature in the line, the First and Third Battalions remained in the newly gained positions. The sector was not quiet, how-

Main Street, Remling, February, 1945.





Rolling through the impregnable Siegfried line.

ever, for on the seventeenth of February, four tanks supported by strong infantry units attacked the right flank positions of the First Battalion and forced the outposts to withdraw. Pfc. Paul W. Robinson and Pfc. Alfred Tanner on the Third Battalion's left flank formed a Company K bazooka team and advanced toward the tanks. Although under heavy fire, Gunner Robinson scored a direct hit on the lead tank and set it afire. The second tank, seeking to avoid the deadly aim of the two bazooka men, veered away but ran into a mine field and was destroyed. The remaining two tanks withdrew along with the foot troops. Enemy rockets landed in the Regimental position soon afterwards.

During the last days of the month of February, Regimental lines remained stable, although activity was never lacking. Patrols were sent frequently into enemy territory, often capturing prisoners and bringing them back for interrogation. The enemy continued heavy artillery activities.

The first two weeks in March were comparatively quiet while the Regiment maintained defenses. The third of March found the enemy in possession of high ground from which movements and positions of the Regiment could be observed. From that hill the Germans were directing artillery and mortar fire and it was ordered that it be taken. The mission was to be accomplished by a daylight patrol from Company E. Volunteers were called for and from among them fourteen men were selected. Among these were T/Sgt. Shirley Cox, T/Sgt. Nathan Scavuzzo, Sgt. Emanuel Sowder and Pfc. Theodore Poling. The patrol was divided into two groups, one led by T/Sgt. Cox, and the other by

T/Sgt. Scavuzzo. The patrol started out at 1200 and all went well until the men were only ten yards from the nearest known enemy positions. Suddenly the enemy opened fire with at least four machine guns, machine pistols, and grenades. While part of the patrol was seeking cover in a nearby dug-out, others succeeded in withdrawing down the hill. Because of the hazardous position it was decided that the remainder of the patrol should withdraw. With full understanding of the overwhelming odds, Scavuzzo and Poling chose to remain behind in order to provide a covering fire. Cox returned fire on one of these machine guns, wounding two of the enemy. From his position ahead of the knocked-out gun, Cox began to work himself to a place from which he could fire on the other enemy installations. By firing his Browning automatic rifle and throwing hand grenades, Cox killed or wounded six more Germans. He continued to fire on the enemy until he was fatally wounded by their machine gun fire.

Sgt. Sowder, realizing that his men could not move in any direction, and that their escape was imperative, instructed the group to give him covering fire while he advanced unnoticed to within six feet of the machine gun nest. He then opened up with an automatic weapon and either killed or wounded the Germans operating it. Other enemy gunners turned their weapons on Sowder, but he continued firing to permit his comrades to make their way to safety. He was killed in this action by a machine gun to his right rear.

When the others had withdrawn a short distance, Pfc. Poling was ordered to follow. Before he reached the group he spotted a hidden enemy



Marlene Dietrich is made an honorary member of the 71st in Siltzheim where she entertained the men while in rest.

machine gun which was in position to fire on the withdrawing group. With conspicuous bravery Poling fired at the crew, deliberately trying to draw its fire away from his comrades so that they could escape. The German gunners then swung their

The 71st crosses the famous Rhine on a pontoon bridge behind a protective smoke screen.

piece on Poling, wounding him in both legs, then turned again on the withdrawing group; before they could fire, they were again receiving fire from Poling. Despite his wounds, he had crawled up closer to the position and was continuing his efforts to cover the withdrawing group. He was hit in the back by a stick grenade and killed instantly.

T/Sgt. Scavuzzo, seeing an advantageous position, quickly crawled between two enemy emplacements and fired on the Germans with his sub-machine gun. He succeeded in killing two of them. However, he gave away his own location, so he found cover in a nearby shell hole and from there began to throw hand grenades, knocking out a fourth German machine gun nest.

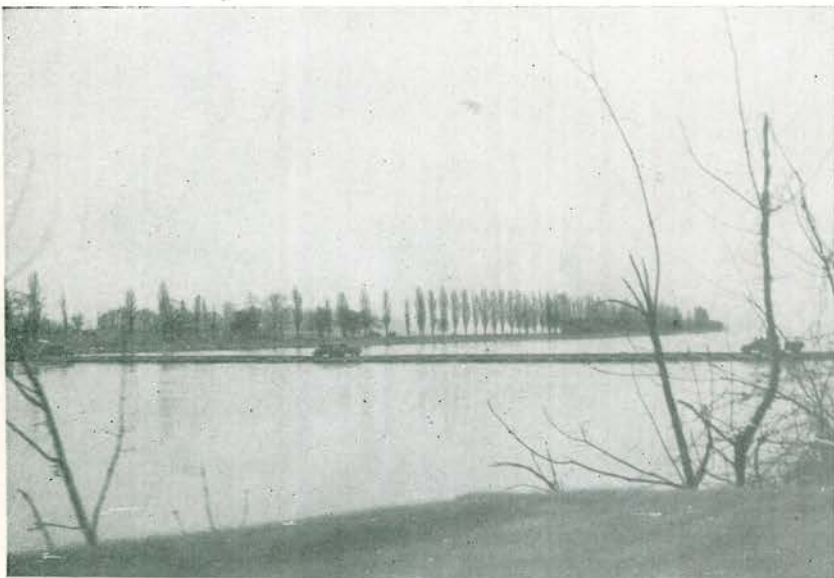
The patrol was withdrawing successfully when a German with his machine pistol opened up on the group. T/Sgt. Scavuzzo, showing gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty, with utter disregard for his life, jumped from the comparative safety of his hole and fired at the enemy. His action cost him his life when he came into range of a German officer's machine pistol. Due to the heroism and sacrifice of Cox, Scavuzzo, Sowder, and Poling the remaining ten members of the patrol returned safely to the Battalion positions. For their action in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service, T/Sgts. Nathan Scavuzzo and Shirley Cox, Sgt. Emanuel Sowder and Pfc. Theodore Poling have each been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.

On the sixteenth of March, elements of the Third and Forty-fifth Divisions relieved the Regiment and attacked through our positions toward Germany. After 144 days of hard fighting under continuous mental and physical strain, the Regiment was given its first rest and placed in strategic reserve. A bivouac area near Siltzheim, France, was chosen where rehabilitation, training, and salvage were carried on. The men participated in various athletic games and enjoyed two camp shows and several moving pictures which were presented in the area. At the close of the performance of her United Service Organization show, Miss Marlene Dietrich was made an honorary member of the Regiment.

After nine days of relaxation, the Regiment entered Germany on the twenty-fifth of March, 1945. The entry was made along the route of advance of preceding American units. The first Regimental command post in Germany was established in Wiedenthal. Two days later the Regiment crossed the Rhine River south of Worms. The crossing was a quiet one over a pontoon bridge concealed by an artificial smoke screen.

Germany's eighth largest city, Mannheim, with a metropolitan prewar population of 500,000, is situated on the right bank of the Rhine River. It is divided into northern and southern halves by the Neckar River, which flows into the Rhine at that point. Mannheim was the largest city taken by the Regiment and was the first real street fighting encountered since Sarrebourg.

Moving southeastward from Worms, the Regiment relieved elements of the Third Infantry Division on the outskirts of Mannheim. At 0600 on the twenty-eighth of March, the Regiment began the attack. The Third Battalion drove towards Feu-





Mannheim, 28 March, 1945.

denheim, a suburb of Mannheim. Not a shot was fired when the Battalion took the town.

This came about in a rather unusual manner. As Companies I and K approached the town along the main highway, leading elements caught sight of a lone figure, furiously waving a large white flag. While surrendering individuals were a common enough sight, there was something strange about this particular one. Careful not to be taken in by German subterfuge, 1st Lt. Conrad Lundquist, Third Battalion Intelligence Officer, quickly halted his advancing columns and sent Pfc. Marvel Wren, Third Battalion Intelligence and Reconnaissance, forward to investigate. The surrendering stranger evinced signs of great relief, as he hastily offered a sheaf of papers for Wren's inspection. Then, as Wren came closer to the man, he received something of a welcome shock as he was addressed in perfect English.

Wren accepted the proffered papers and found them to be an American citizenship certificate, an American Legion card and credentials from an American firm the German had represented before the war. While Wren was checking these, the man rapidly outlined a plan which would insure the capture of the town without any bloodshed. Acceptance of the plan came after a brief conference with Lt. Lundquist.

It was with extreme tension that the columns advanced on the town. In the lead was the little man, ordering the inhabitants off the streets and into their cellars or other places of safety and concealment. Close behind him, with his submachine gun at the ready, was Wren, fully prepared for the least sign of German treachery. Bringing up the rear was the long, silently watchful line of the men of Companies I and K, also doubly alert for trickery from the citizens as they quickly disappeared into their homes.

Apparently the American-German's scheme had caught the Germans flat-footed, for they failed to take advantage of the numberless excellent combat positions which could have been occupied. As a result, the town was captured intact without a single casualty. Among the military prizes were the telephone exchange, the water plants, the electric plant, and several munitions dumps.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion advanced on Kafertal, another suburb, and seized it. The First Battalion, from positions on the outskirts of Mannheim, began moving forward with Company A on the right and Company C on the left. Company B was in reserve but ready to advance to either flank if the necessity arose. Led by Lts. Charles Perelli and James Sweeney, and accompanying medium tanks of the 772nd Tank Battalion, Company A



A motor column of P. W.'s, Mannheim.

made slow progress towards the Neckar. Sniper fire was intense and mortars and artillery wreaked havoc on our troops, but by noon Company A had reached the river bank. Company C, also moving slowly, did not encounter much resistance on the left flank. Clearing a hospital on the river's edge, Company C took up positions for the night.

While our troops were taking the northern half of Mannheim, the civilian leaders and the commander of the German garrison were at odds in the southern half of the city. The civilians, dreading the American artillery fire that was systematically leveling their city, wanted to surrender the southern half without a fight. The German commander was equally determined and wanted to continue resistance. Throughout the attack, the city's entire communication system was in working order. So on the afternoon of the twenty-eighth, a civilian leader telephoned our troops and offered to surrender. He asked to meet an Allied delegation at 1810 near the remains of the blown center bridge. Our artillery ceased firing and American representatives, led by Brig. Gen. Robert L. Dulaney, then a colonel, was at the appointed spot at 1800. Ten minutes later the German commander directed an intense concentration of artillery and flak at the Neckar's northern bank. This barrage lasted approximately ninety minutes. His apparent inten-

tion was to wipe out the American party. In this he was unsuccessful; but the surrender move was momentarily halted.

The intrepid civilians were not discouraged, however. Early in the morning on the twenty-ninth, one civilian crossed the river in Company C territory. While he was being interviewed by the Battalion Staff, more civilians crossed in Company A's sector. Again the German commander sent over an artillery barrage. Although no concrete agreement was reached, it was decided that an assault boat, with Lt. Dale Hatfield, Company B, in charge, was to cross the Neckar, followed by another boat in which the civilians were to cross. As soon as they crossed the rest of Company B followed, along with Companies A and C. The whole Battalion had moved to the southern side by 1030.

The First Battalion encountered sporadic enemy machine gun fire while crossing and also drew artillery fire when landing. As on the northern side, sniper fire was encountered also, but resistance was comparatively light. By nightfall, the Regiment had completely cleared and conquered the once great city of Mannheim.

While the First Battalion was clearing the southern sector of the city, the Third Battalion moved through the city to the east, captured the municipal airfield on the outskirts and drove back to the



City Hall, Mannheim.



Round-up of "Civilians" near Mannheim.

Rhine to clean out territory still in German hands. The Second moved east by southeast across the railroad tracks towards Rheinau, while the First Battalion followed the main autobahn towards Heidelberg and captured Sechenheim. The next morning elements of the Tenth Armored and the Sixty-third Infantry Divisions relieved the Regiment.

In the course of the attack on Mannheim, the medium tank on which S/Sgt. Gilbert Rivera and his squad of Company A men were riding was halted by intense sniper fire. Sgt. Rivera immediately manned a fifty-caliber machine gun mounted on a tank turret and by his accurate fire eliminated the resistance. Advancing a few hundred yards more, the tank-riding squad met with another group of snipers. Sgt. Rivera again promptly engaged and dispersed the enemy although he was critically wounded in the action. For his courage, Sgt. Rivera was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Typical of the bravery and loyalty of the Medical Detachment, in the Mannheim engagement, was the action of T/5 Bernardino Rossi. When numerous casualties were inflicted on his company during the attack, Rossi, Company A aid man, displayed outstanding courage in treating the wounded. Although the area was under constant enemy fire, he moved fearlessly among the men to carry out his duties of administering first aid. His prompt action saved the lives of a number of soldiers. For his service, Rossi was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

With the Mannheim victory tucked under the Regimental belt, the outfit moved out onto the Reichsautobahn and headed north. This was a stretch of the famed highway designed by the Germans to supplement an inadequate railway net, if the country's borders should be threatened. But now the system was the main artery for the move-

ment of Allied war materiel to the enemy's interior.

This was indeed the driver's delight as the Regiment sped on in Division convoy: no mud, no ruts, no crossroads, no traffic jams and no villages with narrow, crooked streets and gaping civilians. Here was only that broad, smooth, concrete ribbon reaching away into the distance, joining all the principal cities of the Reich.

About forty miles north of Mannheim, the convoy swung off the main highway and headed east and northeast through the outskirts of Darmstadt and into a wooded bivouac area just outside Babenhäusen. Here the Regiment had its first glimpse of German jet-propelled planes. One afternoon at sundown everyone was jolted into a trench-digging mood by the whine of two planes flying over and departing at a terrific speed. It was only after the planes had passed and dropped several bombs in the rear areas that the men of the Regiment realized that they had just seen one of the war's latest and most outstanding developments.

After several days, the Regiment's move through Germany was continued to the northeast across the Main River, then north to an area in the vicinity of Hanau. Here the Regiment took up positions and became a part of the left flank security for the Seventh Army. The Regimental command post was located in the village of Somborn.

In the early part of April, the Regiment was alerted and moved southeastward to the village of Wenkheim, approximately fifteen miles southwest of Würzburg. During the following ten days the men were given a preview of a peacetime training schedule: lectures, marches, and parades. From Würzburg came tales of destruction, art treasures, and wine cellars. Along with the tales came samples of Rheinwein and Schaumwein. On the twelfth, the First Battalion executed an unscheduled training maneuver. While engaged in close-

order drill, supposedly miles from any enemy, Company D was suddenly pinned down by rifle fire from another company of the Battalion which had sighted a group of fifteen German soldiers and officers. They traveled only by night in their attempt to make their way back to the German lines. Their capture was due to the quick action of the security guards from Companies C and D. A few days later the Regiment moved to a bivouac area northwest of Wurzburg and remained there for several days.

Since the victory at Mannheim, the Regiment had not been actively engaged in fighting. Its duties had consisted largely of securing roads and bridges, guarding against sabotage, and rounding up enemy stragglers who had eluded advanced elements of the drive into Germany. Now came the order to proceed southward by a long night and day move to contact elements of the 63rd Division, relieve them, and take over the job of following a column of the fast moving 10th Armored Division. On April nineteenth, contact was made in the general vicinity of Lorch, and the Regiment was once more in the thick of the fight.

Then began a mad dash to the south. The Regiment, riding tanks, tank destroyers, artillery trucks, jeeps, and captured German vehicles, cruised through villages looking for the disorganized and beaten enemy. The roads were lined with wrecked and smoldering trucks. Surprised, sullen, and sometimes pleased civilians stared in open-mouthed

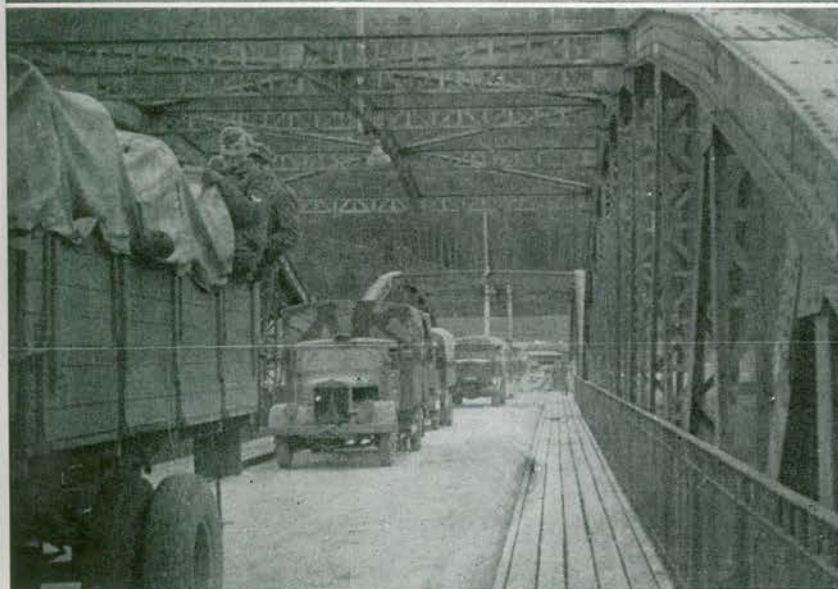
wonder at the seemingly endless column of Allied vehicles. The excited children ran to the roadside and shouted for Schokolade and Kaugumme. Fighting was sporadic but bitter. The First Battalion met fanatical resistance at Bad Dietzenbach, bowled it over with only a few casualties and pressed on. The Third Battalion, after a seventeen mile march, beat down the bitter German resistance at Welzheim, took the town and captured General der Infanterie, Gen.-Lt. Helmut Thumm, former commanding general of the 64th Corps in the Colmar operation of January, 1945. Confused, beaten, and exhausted enemy soldiers were surrendering by droves; and the Danube River was just ahead.

The First and Third Battalions entered the city of Ehingen, only about a mile from that famous waterway. The enemy retreated across the river, dynamited the bridge and fled. The next day the Battalions crossed the storied Danube, neither blue nor particularly beautiful, by means of tanks and assault boats but encountered no enemy resistance. By this time the 63rd Engineers had completed a pontoon bridge, and the Second Battalion now in Regimental reserve crossed over it on April twenty-fourth.

Across the Danube, the Regiment struck south and east toward Illertissen on the Iller River. Upon reaching the river, the First and part of the Third Battalion established bridgeheads for the armor by crossing in assault boats under enemy fire. Com-

Company K going through Berg, France.





Pushing through Germany many such ironic signs stood out among the ruins.

A German convoy.

panies I and K crossed over a dynamited bridge with a hawser for a guide line. Later, trees were felled and used to make the blown-out bridge a temporary crossing for foot troops. The Second Battalion effected a crossing a mile south, encoun-

One of the many loads of confiscated goods. This wagonload of cameras, knives and guns were turned in at Mark Oberdorff are to be dumped in the river.

During the last phase of the war the mighty Superman surrendered in hordes.

tered no opposition and began mopping up the villages to the south and east.

At this time the weather got cold and rainy and the enemy began surrendering in increasing numbers. Their utter disorganization, physical discom-

Part of the horde of Germans surrendering to the 71st during its rapid advance through Germany.





Elements of 71st Infantry fording Danube River.



During the last days of the war the Regiment traveled through the Austrian Tyrol on anything that would roll.

fort, hunger, and rumors of a German surrender, prompted them to give up by whole platoons and companies. It was no unusual sight to see long columns of German foot troops marching along the highway looking for an American soldier to whom they could surrender.

Following in the path of the Tenth Armored Division, on the morning of 28 April 1945, motorized elements of the Third Battalion seized Grunsberg, Thalhofen, and Heggen. At 1345, the Battalion entered the Austro-German border town of Fussen and completely cleared it. The Regimental orders at this time were to proceed into the German National Redoubt; so the Regiment drove south by southwest with the ultimate objective of linking with elements of the Fifth Army coming north from Italy, through the Brenner Pass.

Proceeding west along the Vils River, the Third Battalion crossed at Steinach, into the Austrian Tyrol. But the striking beauty and spectacular grandeur of the Alps had to be forgotten in the press of combat. Encountering resistance at the north end of the pass to Reutte, the Battalion stopped at the town of Vils to form a plan of attack.

In the meanwhile, First Battalion troops reached Rieden, Germany, but the advance to Fussen was hindered by the steady rearward flow of enemy prisoners and equipment captured en route. The Second Battalion jumped off early in the morning taking Seeg and advanced steadily on Fussen in conjunction with the Third.

At 1700 on the twenty-ninth of April, from the vicinity of Vils, the Third Battalion set out to seize Reutte and block all roads leading there. After

having encountered heavy machine gun and small arms fire, and numerous road blocks which were blown by Company A, 63rd Engineers, the Third Battalion captured Reutte. Continuing, the Third struck out for Heiterwang, and although slowed down by sporadic anti-tank and artillery fire secured new positions in the town. The Second Battalion, following in the wake of the Third, stationed guards on all roads and bridges. Throughout the fighting in this sector, the Regiment was hindered by poor roads, very heavy snow, landslides, road-blocks and German demolitions.

On April thirtieth, at 0545, the Second Battalion continued southward, bypassing the Third near

G. I.'s taking cover behind fence in Austria.



Heiterwang. Foot troops of Companies F and G reached Bichlbach with Company E following on trucks. The Battalion met with occasional sniper fire but eventually contacted the Tenth Armored Division northeast of Lermoos. Company E, operating with the Tenth Armored columns, drove east, and after a two-hour fire fight, seized Lermoos and

Infantry marching in Austria.
Krauts on the road near Vils, Austria.
Jet plane, Austria, 11 May 1945.



cleared Oberdorf, Unterdorf, and Ehrwald. Companies F and H occupied and held Bieberwier. The Third Battalion proceeded through Lermoos, accompanying other elements of the Tenth Armored Division toward Dormitz. Advance riflemen meeting road-blocks and landslides, the Battalion held up and regrouped in the vicinity of Lermoos.

On May 1945, the Third Battalion, with parts of the 772nd Tank Battalion and the 63rd Engineers, continued the attack to the south. Near the Blind See, the Battalion was soon hindered by road-blocks and landslides, and also encountered small arms, machine gun, and 47mm. fire. Deploying off the road to the left and right, the Battalion was pinned down by sniper and direct 88mm. fire from over the Blind See. Previous to this, Lt. Warren Wild of Company L led a combat patrol to locate the enemy and to provide flank security. When the patrol located two 88's, 81mm. mortar observer Sgt. Walter J. Machowiak, Company M, radioed back the approximate position of the guns and called for mortar fire which successfully neutralized them. Although constantly harassed, Lt. Wild and his men remained in their discovered position until the guns were silenced. Sgt. Machowiak was awarded the Silver Star and Lt. Wild the Bronze Star for this action.

After the 88's were knocked out, the Battalion moved up but discovered a thirty-foot crater in the road on the north side of the landslide, and a forty-foot crater on the south side, caused by German demolitions. Foot troops, after having eliminated more sniper fire, were able to push ahead, but, because of the condition of the road, mechanized units remained halted. At the end of the day, Company K reported strong opposition entrenched in the hills, and also in the town of Fern. Enemy strength was estimated at 800 men.

At 0200, on the morning of the second of May, the Third Battalion continued its southward drive through heavy fire from machine guns, self-propelled guns, 88's and panzerfausts. After a bitter fire fight in which Companies I and K reported seventy-eight casualties, the enemy was driven from Fern. The Fern Pass road was cleared of a landslide, and heavy traffic began moving slowly at 1210. The Battalion continued its slow progress towards Fernstein and the southeast.

At 1330, the First Battalion moved out from Ehrwald, also towards Fernstein. Led by Capt. Harold A. Rupp and 1st Lt. Archibald McLeod, and armed with nothing but infantry weapons, the First Battalion advanced rapidly and by a brilliant and energetic strategic maneuver, crossed Mt. Wanneck, height 2,495 meters, and, coming in from the south, surprised the German garrison in Fernstein at 1745. Said members of Company D's machine gun section: "Never again will we even look at a mountain, much less try to climb one with machine guns on our backs." Advancing to the north, along the Fern Pass road, the First Battalion met up with elements of the Third and secured the entire pass.

In the maneuver over Mt. Wanneck, of the Nieminger Ridge, the First Battalion succeeded in preventing the enemy from blowing the Fernstein bridge. Company C's Lt. McLeod, leading the advance elements, captured the 47th Volksturm Grenadier Division command post with all its staff, including the commander, Obt. Carl Langesee and caused the complete disruption of the German defenses. Along with Lt. McLeod, six Austrian members of the German army led the way over the mountain. The Austrian's leader, Obt. Max Wenk, was responsible for the rapid advance over the mountain and in a large measure was also responsible for surprising the German garrison at Fernstein. One hundred and three prisoners were taken, along with a complete battery of 88's. More prisoners were captured as the two battalions linked-up.

At 0830, May 3rd, the Second Battalion, with Company B attached, jumped off to the southeast to seize the Regimental objective, Telfs. Passing through the First and Third Battalions, the Second drove steadily towards Nassereith where Company B was detached. At 1645, the Battalion passed Stras and at 2005 entered Telfs where 1,000 prisoners were taken. Oblt. Max Wenk was instrumental in bringing about the fall of Telfs. Accompanying Second Battalion on its drive, he succeeded in talking enemy troops in small towns in the path of the advance into surrendering without a fight, as well as bringing about the capture of enemy personnel manning road-blocks situated to harass our troops.

The First Battalion, meanwhile, followed the Second toward Nassereith where Company B was rejoined. An enemy column was encountered south of Dormitz by Company B, the Battalion's leading element. When a fire fight ensued, Company A was ordered to the left to outflank the enemy. During this maneuver, 119 prisoners were captured. Companies A and B then continued to Dollinger, seizing and holding the town.

The next day, May fourth, was concerned chiefly with mopping-up operations and making contact with adjacent Allied units. Many more prisoners were taken as our road blocks were established. Motor patrols ran constantly from Nassereith and Telfs to Barweis. Mopping-up continued the next day and road reconnaissance was again maintained around Barweis. At 1705, the Regiment was noti-

fied that all hostilities in the Tyrolean sector would cease as of 1800, May fifth.

Through mud, rain, sleet and snow, bitter winter days and nights, sometimes fanatical and sometimes sporadic enemy resistance, the 71st Infantry Regiment had a brilliant record of 203 days of combat, 144 consecutively in direct contact with the German forces. When word was received that hostilities had officially ceased in the European Theater of Operations, the one-time mighty aggressor was completely defeated on the Regimental front. Through the foothills of the Vosges, the rolling Alsatian terrain, the long, cold, winter nights spent in static positions, the New Year's Eve attack, the crossing of the Neckar River, the fall of Mannheim, the drive through Southern Germany and the Austrian campaign, the men of the 71st maintained a high record of combat efficiency.

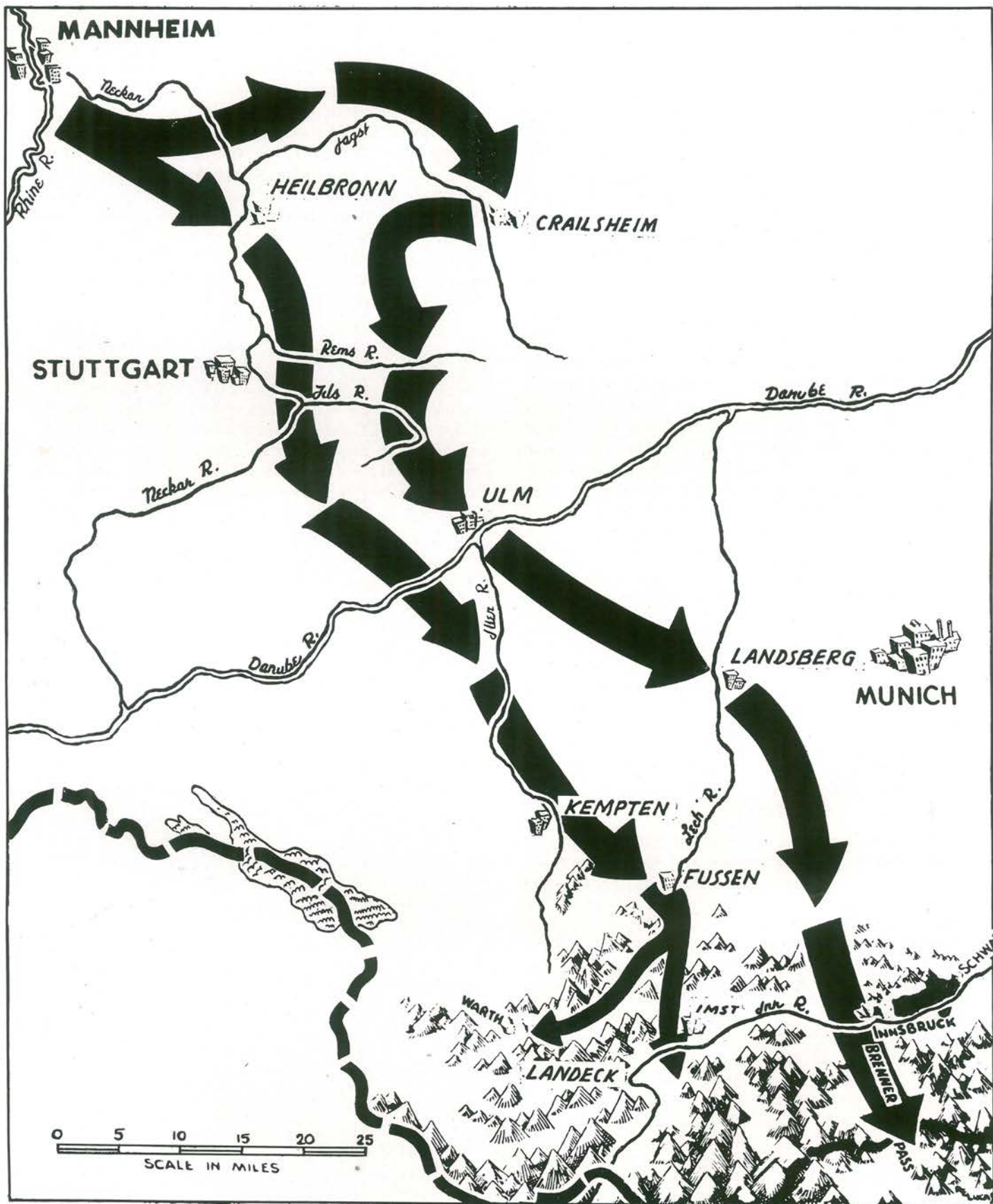
In the first week of June, the Regiment was alerted for shipment to the Pacific Theater by way of the States. Moving by motor convoy from Austria, the Regiment spent the first night of their homeward trek in bivouac near the historic city of Ulm on the Danube. Leaving Ulm, the Regiment traveled by truck to Hardheim, Germany, where an extensive salvage, rehabilitation, training and athletic schedule was carried out for ten days.

A combined rail and motor movement brought the Regiment to Rheims. Such places as Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Sarrebourg, Nancy, and Metz were on the route of travel. While at Camp Pittsburgh, near Rheims, passes to Paris were the order of the day. From Camp Pittsburgh the Regiment moved to Camp Twenty Grand, near Le Harve, and after a two-night stay, left the great continental port, crossed the English channel and disembarked at Southampton. For many, this was the first view of the land of our great Ally, Britain.

While in England, the Regiment was stationed at Camp Tidworth, only ninety miles from London and sixty-five miles from Bournemouth, the combination Palm Beach and Atlantic City of England. Passes were issued to both places.

July eighth, the Regiment began moving by rail to Scotland. Boarding the *Queen Elizabeth* in the Firth of Clyde, the Regiment set sail for the States on July fifteenth. Five days later the *Queen* docked at Pier 90, New York City, and the fighting men of the 71st Infantry Regiment had returned to the wonderland that is home.





HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY

APO 758

U. S. ARMY

23 November 1944

GENERAL ORDER)
NUMBER 112)

TO BE READ TO ALL TROOPS

SOLDIERS OF THE 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION: First introduced into combat the latter part of October in the Eastern part of the FORET DE PARROY, you drove the Germans from their remaining strongpoints in the forest and by continued and active patrolling kept the enemy from any offensive action in this section.

As the left assault division of the XV Corps, in its attack to capture the SAVERNE GAP you attacked on the morning of 13 November, overcoming strong enemy resistance after heavy fighting. By a brilliant flanking movement you captured VACOURT and succeeded in destroying a large German force defending BOIS DE LA GARENNE. On the 17th, striking swiftly to the east, you captured BOIS DE LA GARENNE in the face of savage enemy counter-attacks.

The same day you struck suddenly toward the important road center of RECHICOURT, keeping the enemy off balance, forcing him from his prepared positions, pursuing his scattered units tirelessly, and liberating AVICOURT, MOUSSEY, AUTRE PIERRE. Without respite, you continued to attack and by the 19th had taken RECHICOURT, ST. GEORGE and FOUICNY. Hundreds of prisoners and much equipment were captured. By this action you assisted immeasurably in accomplishing the final defeat and disorganization of the bewildered enemy in your sector.

Your tireless efforts and relentless pursuit of the enemy resulted in the liberation of SARREBOURG on 20 November.

By night fall of the 21st you stood ready to reduce the few remaining positions guarding the northern entrance to the SAVERNE GAP.

Your outstanding accomplishments against a strong and experienced enemy indicate a high standard of training and discipline and reflect a splendid morale on the part of your Division.

Men of the 44th Infantry Division, by your valor, skill and determination you have contributed another bright page in the history of your fine Division.

s/t/ A. M. PATCH,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.

Reproduced by: Hq. 44th Inf. Div., 25 Nov. 44.

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To include Platoons.

HEADQUARTERS 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION

AG 201.22

APO No. 44, U. S. Army

13 December 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

To: The Soldiers of the 44th Infantry Division.

Starting with your initial entry into combat just prior to the attack to force a breakthrough to the Rhine Valley and continuing through that operation and the subsequent action up to this time, the men of this Division have demonstrated consistent fighting qualities that have not gone unrecognized. Your Army Commander, Lieutenant General A. M. Patch, in his congratulatory message of November 23rd stated among other things: "Your outstanding accomplishments against a strong and experienced enemy indicate a high standard of training and discipline and reflect a splendid morale on the part of your Division."

Later, your Corps Commander, Major General Wade H. Haislip, extended his sincerest gratitude to the Division on the successful defense against the counter-attack of the 130 Panzer Lehr Division in the Vicinity of Rauwiller on the night of 23 November. More recently, General Haislip in a remark to the Commanding General of the 12th Armored Division stated that you were a bunch of "fighters."

The above comments by higher headquarters are a source of pride to all of us. It is my desire that every man know of my appreciation for your fine achievements, splendid endurance and demonstrated high soldierly qualities. I am confident that your indomitable spirit will overcome all obstacles offered by a stubborn enemy and adverse terrain and weather conditions and that we will move ahead to a certain and convincing victory.

R. L. SPRAGINS,
Major General, United States Army,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS
SIXTH ARMY GROUP
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 23

SUBJECT: Commendation.

13 January 1945

To: Commanding General, Headquarters 44th Infantry Division, APO 44.
THRU: Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758.

Since the night of 31 December 1944 the 44th Infantry Division has achieved new successes. Receiving the initial impetus of the main enemy attack on the evening of January 2, you maintained the integrity of your defense in the face of determined and repeated attacks by the German 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, supported by strong elements of two Infantry Divisions. The stubborn resistance of your Infantry elements, supported by artillery action, the devastating power and accuracy of which was unsurpassed, is outstanding. You repulsed, with exceedingly heavy losses to the enemy, several strong attacks on January 1, and numerous other attacks and continuous aggressive action since that date. The collective gallantry and superb fighting qualities of the 44th Division compelled the enemy to shift his main forces to another area. I congratulate every member of the Division and its supporting units for these courageous and successful actions.

Sgd. JACOB L. DEVERS,

JACOB L. DEVERS,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Reproduced by: Hq. 44th Inf. Div., 19 Jan. 45.

1st Ind.

Office of the Commanding General, 44th Inf. Div., APO 44, U. S. Army, 19 Jan. 45.

To: Officers and Men of the 44th Infantry Division:

1. It is with the greatest pride and deepest humility that I express my appreciation to you officers and men of the 44th Division, who, by your individual and collective gallantry, are responsible for the achievement that resulted in this citation.

WILLIAM F. DEAN,
Brigadier General, United States Army,
Commanding.

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BEACHHEAD NEWS

Sunday Supplement

VOL. 41, No. 25

Founded on Anzio . . . Printed in Germany

Sunday, June 10, 1945

44th Quick to Join Ranks of Vets

By BILL O'HOLLAREN



A 44th Infantryman is ready in a machine-gun emplacement for any enemy counterattack measure. It was the same throughout the long combat months; doughs working together. One adds camouflage here.

YOU CAN start an arrow on the map a few miles east of Lunzville, France, and send the arrow shooting across Alsace-Lorraine, over the German border, across the Rhine to Mannheim, east to the Wurzburg area, south through Ulm and into the Austrian Tyrol. That arrow will represent the campaigns of the 44th Infantry Division.

But of course the arrows don't really tell the story. The arrows won't show which towns were bitterly defended. The arrows move in a smooth line, a horizontal plane, and the infantrymen who made the route climbed hills and waded rivers; churned mud and stumbled over their own dead to keep the arrows advancing.

The 44th wasn't fighting for real estate anyway. It was fighting to destroy the German armies. In a little more than six months of combat, the 44th took more than 44,000 prisoners and inflicted uncounted thousands of killed and wounded on the enemy.

But here again the big picture doesn't tell the story. The sergeant who wiped out a machine-gun nest with his rifle only killed four Germans and died himself. Yet it is his story and his actions, multiplied sufficiently, which make the totals. It is only by understanding him, and his story, that you can feel and appreciate the combat record of the 44th Division.

The unit was in France five

weeks when it moved into the line in the Parroy Forest, near Lunzville. It was October and the Vosges foothill country was greasy black with mud and biting with cold.

The infantrymen knew how to dig a foxhole to protect them from shelling, but they didn't know how to dig a foxhole that gave anything approaching comfort. The mess sergeants were a little uncertain about getting hot meals up front and no one was quite sure what the difference in sound was between a German mortar and an 88.

For three weeks the 44th held a stationary front. They got their first shelling, sent out their first patrols, stumbled into their first mines, clubbed out their first German counterattacks, heard their first German propaganda ("Come over to us, soldiers of the 44th, and have a hot meal.")

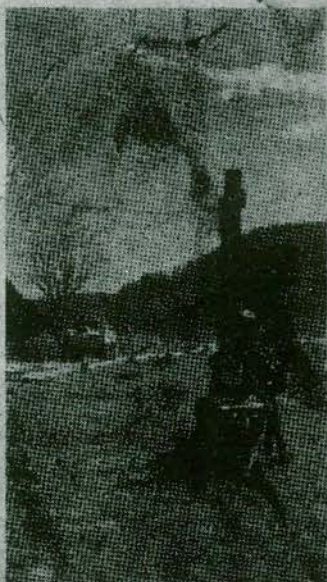
They chewed their K-rations, plastered the propaganda speaker with artillery, and captured Germans who hadn't eaten for days. In those three weeks the infantrymen learned a lot about war.

Learned Hard Way

They learned so much that they were assigned to spearhead the November 13 attack. Alsace-Lorraine had to be cleared, and at sundown the day before, the artillery announced that the big show was starting. Just 25,000 rounds were tossed out by the 156th, 157th, 247th, and 220th FA Battalions, plus reinforcing Corps artillery.

It snowed that morning, the first real winter snow. The 71st and 324th Regiments climbed the ridges, skirted edges of woods, maneuvered against pillboxes and dugouts, fell into trenches left from the last war, squirmed into the mire when 88s cracked.

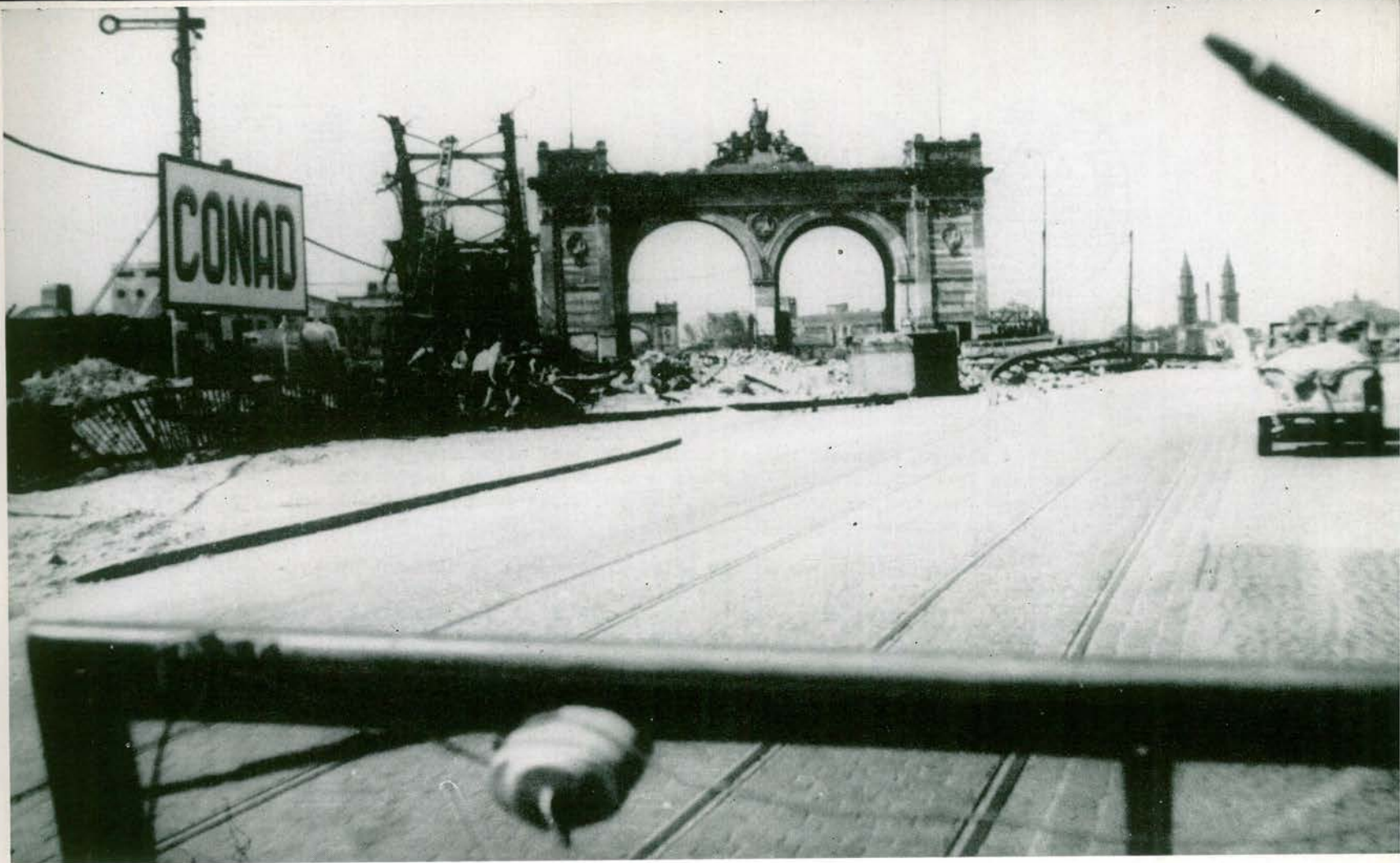
They flung their strength at the



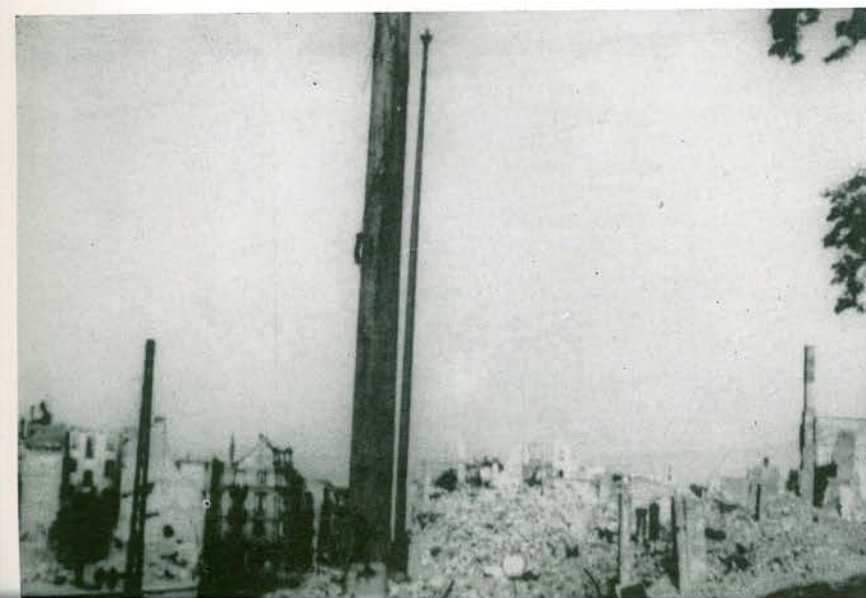
Doughs worked in close with advancing tanks as they approached foothills of Austrian Alps, mountain village of Mesau.



Sniper! The mere word spelled alertness for soldiers advancing in the wooded battle zones. Here, two Yanks go after the enemy trouble maker as a third gives cover. Dead kraut in foreground attests to shooting accuracy of the 44th hunters.



MEMORABLE SCENES IN
MANNHEIM, GERMANY





FOUR FOUR

REPRINTED BY REQUEST



SUNDAY

"NEWS WHILE IT'S NEW"

MAY 6 '45

VICTORY!

A simple, dramatic radio announcement last night brought to the 44th Infantry Division and other units of the Sixth Army Group the news that the German 19th Army, the principle enemy on our front, had surrendered unconditionally.

For the fighting men of the 44th, the news was a pleasant confirmation of what had already been expected. The men had fought too long and too bitterly, and had beaten the Kraut too decisively, to indulge in wild joymaking. Victory was not won from the Germans, it was beaten out of them -- beaten out by a series of desperate, bloody battles that have already gone down in history and legend.

The fight that ended today started for the 44th back in the Parroy forest near Luneville, and continued through Sarrebourg, Schallbach, Volkesberg, Enchenberg, Strassbourg, Simserhof, Bliesbrücken woods, Gross Rederching, Mannheim and Ulm. It continued through a lot of little towns that are unknown except to the dough-boys who fought in them and the pitiful civilians who lived in them.

The fight lasted through a cold and bitter winter, through icy days and nights so cold that a rifle barrel would stick to an ungloved hand. There are too many fine men still resting along that trail for their buddies today to feel like celebrating its end.

It was those battles that the 44th fought in Alsace-Lorraine, and the vigor and dash of the Division's slash across Germany and into Austria that had so much to do with the victory announced last night.





FOUR FOUR

IN GERMANY



THURSDAY

MARCH 29 '45

44 DIV TAKES MANNHEIM

In a smooth, two-day operation the 71st Infantry Regiment has taken the great German industrial city of Mannheim. The 44th Division infantrymen are mopping up the few remaining blocks of the city not yet in their hands.

Clearing Mannheim was fast but edgy work for the doughboys. The Germans failed to put up a stiff resistance, but sniper fire pinged from tenement and factory windows and artillery south of the Neckar River whanged away whenever they thought they had a target.

The 1st Battalion of the 71st entered Mannheim early Wednesday morning. By noon the men of Lt. Col. Wm. Fowler, Tiernan, Oregon, had reached the Neckar river, which bisects the city, and before dark all opposition north of the river had been erased.

Anxious civilians in the part of Mannheim south of the Neckar, lead by their assistant Burgermeister, wanted to arrange a truce to save their city from devastating 44th Division artillery fire. So they went about it the simplest way possible - - they picked up a phone and called the 44th Division Artillery Commander. The entire city's phone communications system was in good working order.

The assistant burgermeister called Wednesday afternoon, and said that the Germans were anxious to surrender. If the Americans would have a suitable delegation at the river's edge at 1810, the Germans would meet them and arrange details.

The 44th cooperated, and a party led by Col. Robert L. Dulaney, San Antonio, Texas, met near the main Neckar bridge at 1800. American artillery ceased on schedule, but at exactly 1810 the Germans unleashed a fierce artillery concentration on the river's edge - - no doubt hoping to hit members of the 44th delegation. They didn't.

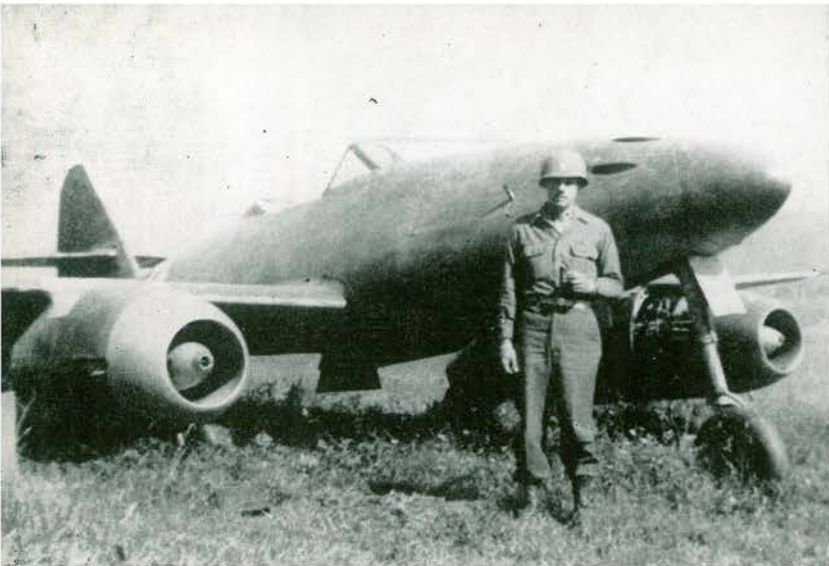
The assistant burgermeister wouldn't give up, though. Early Thursday morning he was on the phone again, trying to arrange a truce for 0830. The German garrison commander, a Captain, was as punctual as before and poured artillery fire all over the place promptly at 0830.

The 63rd Engineer Battalion had brought assault boats up, and when a group of civilians crossed the river under a white flag a few minutes later, trying to make a deal, the 71st Infantrymen had the answer. The civilians asked Col. Fowler's men to cross the Neckar and clear the remaining Nazi holders out of Mannheim.

So the 71st Infantrymen loaded into assault boats, and also loaded the civilians into one of the boats. They started across with the first boat soldiers, the second civilians, then more soldiers. At 0930 a platoon of Baker Company under Lt. Dale Hatfield hit the south shore, and the rest of Captain Cass Jazwick, Detroit, Michigan's Company was soon scrambling up the bank and headed down the avenues through the center of Mannheim.

The crossing was made without artillery preparation or smoke, and within minutes the bulk of the 1st Battalion had swarmed into the main city. Scattered snipers pinged away at the 44th men, but the ML's and BARs squashed them in short order. The great city was gaping with the sounds of fierce 44th Artillery shelling, and the civilians seemed relieved that the American had taken over.

Within a few hours the remaining two battalions of the 71st were across the river. By nightfall the city with a pre-war population of 280,000 was completely under 44th Division control.



Memorable Scenes





Histories
of the
SPECIAL
TROOPS

Regimental Headquarters Company

Introduced to combat beside the troops of the Regiment was Regimental Headquarters Company, composed of a Communications Platoon and an Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. The function of the Communications Platoon was to maintain contact for the Regimental Commander with his Battalions; at the same time it was the task of the I. & R. Platoon to procure intelligence that Company Patrols and Battalion I. & R. Squads were not able to obtain.

In the first week after the memorable jump-off on November 13th from Luneville aux Bois, Repaix became the first of a long string of towns to be captured entirely by the I. & R. Platoon. Patrolling the right flank of the Regiment during the push, the platoon received orders after the breakthrough to find out what troop dispositions were in Repaix. Ten prisoners were taken by the men upon entering the town, when a message was received for one squad to continue holding the town, while the remainder of the platoon was to be used elsewhere. By the time the first Infantry troops arrived in Repaix, the bag of prisoners had swollen to twenty and the squad, led by Sergeant John Higgins, was beginning to be concerned about being so badly outnumbered.

During this same attack, the Wire Section played an important part in establishing and maintaining communications with all the attacking units. Very often a line would be reported out of order only a few minutes after being installed, and the burden of getting the necessary messages through fell to the Radio Section, which kept its sets running night and day, never leaving them unoccupied. On many occasions, when neither of the sections could make contact, the motor messages were carried personally by the messengers of the Message Center.

On the nineteenth of November, the I. & R. Platoon was sent ahead to contact first Battalion troops who had captured intact the vital bridge across the Marne Canal at Xouxange. After clearing the nearby buildings of all enemy troops, the Platoon was assigned the task of spearheading the columns of foot troops into Sarrebourg, now but a few kilometers away. When the city had been sighted, all but the drivers and machine gunners dismounted and proceeded on foot with the point. Just as the group reached a trestle bridge on the outskirts, the columns were hit by mortars and artillery. Constant artillery fire managed to pin down the point and cut it off from the rest of the column. Then, with advancing infantry, the enemy proceeded to kill or take prisoner every man in the point. Eight men were taken prisoners, three of whom were from the I. & R. Platoon: Sgt. John Higgins, Cpl. Robert E. Levy, and Pfc. Sam Breusch. They were taken into Sarrebourg where the wounded men were treated and then evacuated on foot to a Lager in Strassbourg. A week later, when the French 2nd Armored Division rolled into town, Higgins and Levy were liberated and returned to their outfit. Having been sent to the German Military Hospital of the vicinity because of his wounds, Breusch was not freed until the end of the war. These men hold the distinction of being the first in the Regiment to be captured and the first in the Seventh Army sector to be liberated.

Later on in the month, in the Bitche sector, the hitherto-impregnable Simserhoff fortress of the Maginot Line faced the Regiment. At first little information could be obtained. It had to be gotten the hard way: by daylight patrols. On five successive days, Lt. Robert A. Dahl, accompanied by Sgt. Willard Pruitt, Cpl. Homer Jones, Cpl. Jack Dowd, and

Chow time for Regimental Headquarters.



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



LIEUT. JOHN R. HOWELL, JR.
Communications Officer



CAPT. HERBERT W. RICHARDSON, JR.
Commanding



LIEUT.
LYLE HOYT
Intelligence and
Reconnaissance
Platoon Leader



LIEUT.
JAMES C.
MCNEILL
Headquarters
Company

Pfc. Jack Owens made daylight patrols to within fifty feet of the fort, making sketches of the embrasures and determining the location and timing of the disappearing cannon, which continued to fire until it was put out of action by point blank tank destroyer fire. The patrols located but could not eliminate machine gun positions on the fort. As a result of their proximity, the patrol was continually subjected to a harassing, although ineffective fire. On the twenty-second day of December, the First Battalion jumped off under the leadership of Lt. Col. William Fowler, accompanied by the patrol, which maintained contact with Regiment. At 1600 radio silence was broken with the announcement, "We are now sitting on Simserhoff Fort."

During the enemy's famed New Year's Eve suicide attack the I. & R. Platoon held a forward observation post. The first artillery the Germans poured in on the Second Battalion positions broke the wires and broke the radio. It was imperative that word of the enemy activity reach Regiment. Pfc. James Moore volunteered to walk back with the information, going unarmed, leaving his rifle at the O.P. to afford more firepower in the attack that was inevitable.

Robbed of their communication, O.P. leader, Cpl. Dowd, and Pfc. Owens retired to the E Company Command post where they served as riflemen for the rest of the attack. When E Company was surrounded the next day, they infiltrated through enemy positions to return to Regiment with the first personal account of the attack.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Platoon spent the night and the next day patrolling the Regimental front, maintaining contact with the enemy and keeping Regimental Intelligence informed of the progress of the attack.

On the afternoon of February 15, the 71st recaptured the high ground around Rimling in what the Stars and Stripes referred to as "a limited objective attack." After accompanying the advance elements on the attack, two groups set up O.P.'s on the high ground and joined the riflemen in digging in, although it was still daylight and their activities were under enemy observation. When darkness fell, the Germans threw everything but Goering medals at the positions. Rockets and "Screaming Meemies" were used in an unprecedented number. Casualties were high and the attack so fierce that the line was untenable, necessitating withdrawal. Since they were not notified, Cpl. Jones, Pfc. Owens, Pfc. Moore, and Pfc. Colatruglio maintained their position. Some time later they discovered that they were alone and made an orderly withdrawal, although with more speed than dignity. Meanwhile the other O.P., manned by Sgt. Frank Silagyi, Cpl. Levy, Cpl. Dowd, and Pfc. Russel Parker, had been retired and the men were forced to return to Rimling. The next day the hill was retaken in force and the O.P.'s were again set up.

Following the attack at Rimling, the Division was granted a well-deserved rest. Then, again on the move, the Regiment crossed the Rhine at Worms to capture Mannheim, Germany's eighth largest city. Pausing only long enough to link with the pushing 10th Armored Division, the 44th Division began the chase of the bewildered Wehrmacht.

On the morning of the 21st of April, Goeppingen in Germany was taken by the Regiment. Since that was the objective for the day, outposts were sent to the outskirts of the town to hold until supplies could be brought up for the next day's jump-off. In the day's action the Regiment had lost contact with the enemy and so sent out the I. & R. Platoon that evening to check on whether two small towns directly to the front had been evacuated. Using motorized patrol tactics, they came into the approaches of the first town, where they met a civilian, who was interrogated by Cpl. Levy as to when the last German troops had passed through the town, their general condition, and just how

much equipment they had. The civilian informed them that American troops were in the town. They advanced into the village and found a platoon of the 324th Infantry who were there to make certain that the Germans did not return.

They remounted their vehicles and proceeded to Sailbach, the second town to be investigated. This time there was no activity on the streets at all, but as the first vehicle turned into the main street they were surprised to find both walks lined with people. Suddenly a band burst out with the "Marseillaise." Then the jeeps were surrounded by people shaking hands and throwing flowers. Finally a French soldier who had been a prisoner reported to Lt. Dahl with the news that the Germans had left and that the French prisoners had taken over the town and were waiting for the first Allied soldiers. Lt. Dahl instructed the Burgermeister to collect all weapons and cameras, and to turn over all members of the SS, the Wehrmacht, and the Volksturm to the Americans. He also notified the Burgermeister that all French prisoners were to be released and armed to maintain order in the town until the first American troops arrived later in the evening.

Shortly after, the Division entered Austria, Col. Ercil D. Porter and the five men assigned to him: Sgt. Silagyi, Cpl. Levy, and Pfc. Parker from the I. & R. Platoon; the Colonel's driver, T/5 Kenneth Wilson, and Radio Operator T/4 Charles Waddell, found themselves seven miles ahead



Confusion of peace talk, wine cellars, and fighting.

of the leading elements and out of radio contact. In order to keep informed of the Battalions progress, they were forced to turn back. During the trip back, the group ran into three separate enemy concentrations that had been bypassed by them earlier. In all, 106 Germans, including three officers, were disarmed and escorted back to the lines.

A week before the end of the war, the two trucks, now called Task Force Porter, were stopped by a civilian, who identified himself as the chief engineer of the Luftwaffe wind tunnel which had just been captured. He placed all his research at the Regiment's disposal and notified the group that a train on a nearby siding would be worth investigating. The men of the Task Force went to the train where they found all the master mechanics of the Mauser Company as well as all their blueprints, which were to be used in the "National Redoubt" in a do-or-die last stand. The fact that they had saved themselves countless days of continued fighting did not occur to the men who were too engrossed with the new Lugers and Mausers that were their prizes.

Service Company

The Service Company, 71st Infantry, was the hub of the wheel that rolled the Regiment through its glorious victories in combat. From the day the organization received its shipping orders until V-E day, a major role was played by each and every member of The Service Company.

Two officer representatives were sent to the Port of Embarkation at Boston, Massachusetts, with duplicate lists of shortages of equipment, and they ably supervised the checking and loading of all types of equipment on board the transport and freighter that carried the troops across the Atlantic. This movement was made with all equipment less motor vehicles.

Upon arrival of the Regiment in Normandy, the shortages incurred as losses in movement were requisitioned and drawn from Communication Zone Depots. This task, in itself, was great and difficult, requiring the combined efforts of everyone. Long, hard hours were experienced by all.

Prior to the organization's going into combat, all major needs were filled. As the trains, loaded with troops and sup-

plies were leaving Montebourg, France, ammunition, which had been unobtainable 48 hours before, was loaded into the 40 and 8s (40 Hommes et 8 Cheveaux) by the Battalion supply sections of the Service Company.

Most of the Service Company personnel crossed France in vehicles, which made up the major portion of the Regimental motor column. However, this journey was miserable due to the cold, wet weather. Each day's travel was broken by a nightly bivouac and the serving of hot meals which meant no rest for the ration sections, both Regimental and Battalion.

On 23 October 1944, the 71st Infantry had its first taste of real combat, having relieved elements of the 79th Division in the vicinity of Embermenil, France. Many supply problems confronted the Service Company, because everyone was "green" to the ways of combat. However, nothing but personal comfort and rest was sacrificed.

For field or combat functioning, the Service Company had to split up into many parts, each working, almost, as a separate Service Company in itself. With each Battalion a supply section was attached; technicians and specialists manned the S-1, S-2 and S-3 sections; the Regimental Field Train, which consisted of regimental supply, ammunition section, maintenance and transportation, graves registration, special service and company headquarters; and the personnel section that kept the paper work and administrative problems to a minimum for the front line troops. These are the spokes of the "great wheel."

The first combat mission for the 71st Infantry was a defensive position in the vicinity of Embermenil, France. There, new problems of supply confronted us. Having taken the advice of the 79th Division "vets," only "K" rations were given the troops in the beginning, but we later introduced our own system of feeding hot meals. The Battalion S-4s had to cope with the problem of supplying the troops, no matter what the cost. Advance supply points were established as close to the front lines as was practicable, so as to reduce the distance the supplies had to be carried by hand. Many things had to be considered and performed in order to put an operation like this into effect. Near the railroad track between Leintry and Embermenil, France, was established the advance supply point for the Third Battalion and a road had to be made, with the aid of the A & P Platoon, to allow vehicles to go as far as possible. The wet weather increased this hardship as the "man-made" road had to be maintained.

The Regimental Observation Post was established on the railroad bank about one kilometer in rear of Leintry, France, and while performing his duties here with the S-3 section, T/Sgt. Anders Isacsen lost his life by a direct hit

The regimental welder does a job in Mark Oberdorf, Germany.



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



CAPT. RICHARD P. BEYER
Commanding



CAPT. ROSARIO S. RIZZO



CAPT. LYNDEL F. KEENE



CWO SIDNEY RABINOWITZ



LIEUT. DONALD V. MULVEY



LIEUT. RAYMOND D. ASTUMIAN



LIEUT. WALTER P. TATE



LIEUT. FRANCIS MERRIL



CAPT. FRANK H. SPEARMAN III



PRIVATE "CHICK" GOODMAN
and shower installation.

of an enemy mortar shell. He was the only member of the Service Company to be killed in action.

On 13 November 1944, the 71st Infantry started its rapid advance through France. The first town liberated was Leintry. This rapid advance presented a great problem to supply, that of keeping up, as close as possible, with the fighting elements of the Regiment. Not being the only organization traveling the roads, traffic became a great problem to us, but only for a short while.

The Regimental Field Train, being such a large installation, did not move as often as the troops. Whenever possible, the front line commanding officers would send a few men back to the rear train where a shower unit was available to them. Here, the men were able to rest, get a good hot meal and clean clothes before undergoing the tough grind of combat again.

A skeleton crew for gasoline, rations and ammunition moved, with quantities of supplies, when the troops moved. This provided for a reserve over and above that which was carried by the Battalion supply sections.

The first big city liberated in France was Sarrebourg; with this, an additional and more pleasant service was rendered to the troops: distributing alcoholic beverages and food taken from enemy stocks. As a result of this prize cache, the Regiment reveled for about two days, after which time all resumed their more serious work, that of winning a war.

After a short period of rest, the Regiment started, again, its long, fast drive, and the next rest period came around Christmas. This meant that candy, raisins, turkey and all the trimmings had to be issued to the troops. Christmas dinner for the Service Company personnel was one to re-

member. It was supplemented with the old Yuletide drink, eggnog. This, in itself, brought good cheer to all.

New Year's Eve rang a note of fervent seriousness on the bell of events. The enemy attempted a bold attack on our front, but they were successfully repelled. The Third Battalion supply section was in the village of Woelfling, France, with their five kitchens. Having only three trucks on hand, it was necessary to shuttle the kitchens out of town, to the Regimental Field Train, and temporary safety. This was done in a startling short period of time. One kitchen crew loaded in its entirety and was on the road back in about fifteen minutes.

During combat the Regiment felt the need of more weapons. The Ordnance section, realizing the uselessness of a T/E, disregarded it and supplied whatever weapons were asked for, in almost any amounts.

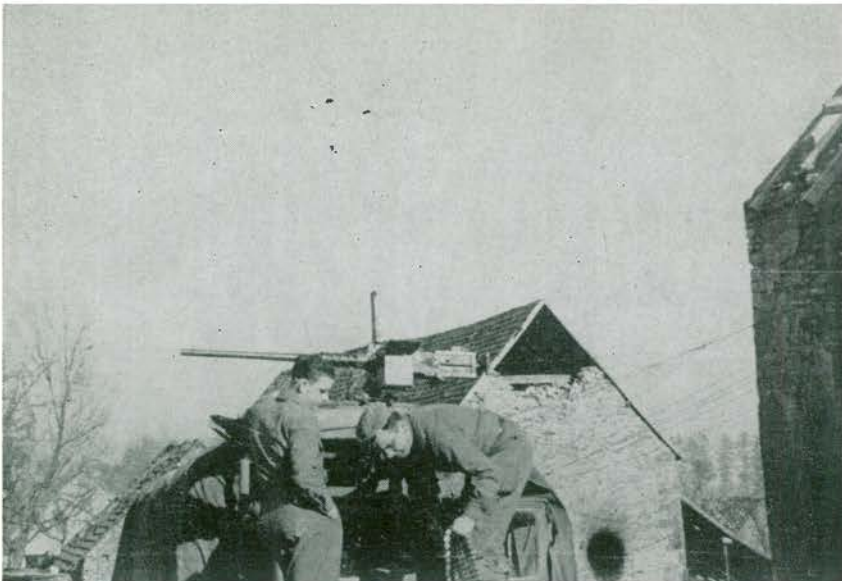
The next move was to Ormingen, France, where most of the Service Company's installations were set up in a former French barracks. The unit remained there for about three months. It was at this place where men who were given passes to visit Paris, Brussels and London were outfitted.

The Regiment, being in a very stable position from January to March, 1945, began concentrating on garrison ways of living and frequent inspections were made by commanding officers and medical officers of kitchens and surrounding areas to prevent any loss of personnel through disease. The Battalion S-4s were responsible for the order and condition of their respective Battalion kitchen areas.

After a period of time had elapsed, the 44th Division made a long move across the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River into Germany proper. This was the longest one move made by us during the entire period of combat. It was necessary to make many shuttle movements in order to

Service Company stops for chow while shuttling through Germany.





Men of Service Company pause to clean a 50 caliber machine gun in Guising.

bring all installations up. The crossing of the Rhine River was done according to a master schedule set up by Army Headquarters, and finding it necessary, the Regimental supply section crossed it twice more, obtaining much needed rations. They were the only ones in the 44th Division to accomplish this mission.

All this meant that the transportation and maintenance sections were in for a lot of work. Drivers were kept on the go as long as 48 hours without sleep. Vehicles were bombed, strafed and wrecked, but the Regiment moved. It was fully realized by all, at this time, how much we needed more transportation.

The taking of so many prisoners presented the problem of evacuating them to the rear. So, with the capture of Mannheim, Germany, came many German trucks which were put to good use. Maintenance men familiarized themselves with German parts and stocked their sets with parts and tools to keep them in operation.

In April, 1945, the 44th Division went into Army reserve and the 71st Infantry bivouacked in the vicinity of Wenkheim, Germany. Here, the special service section went into action again. Celebrities were obtained for entertainment, and the Mickey Rooney Jeep Show was enjoyed by all.

The city of Wurzburg, Germany, which was about 40 kilometers away, furnished more consumers' alcohol. The Third Battalion S-4 located a warehouse which held enough champagne to furnish an army, literally. Its stocks were never depleted, at least, by us.

Regimental A. P. O. somewhere in Germany.



Finally, one cold, wet and altogether miserable night, the Regiment received orders to enter Austria. This meant a complete check on supplies, as it was quite a distance to travel. There had to be gas enough for the trip, emergency rations and water for all, and ammunition. All this was obtained and distributed, allowing the Regiment to roll on.

The first view of the Austrian Alps was beheld upon entering the town of Fussen, Germany, which was on the German-Austrian border. It was breath-taking and everyone remarked at its beauty. But, beauty alone was not the prominent thought in many minds. It was realized how treacherous those mountains could be.

Advance elements in the town of Fussen received word that there was a possibility that our rear train might be cut off from the rest of the Regiment. In order to warn them, the Transportation Officer used an observation plane to fly back and enlighten the Field Train Commander as to the possibility of being ambushed.

It was after Austria was entered that almost everyone felt that the war was over. Prisoners were coming in by companies and even battalions. The last Field Train area inhabited by the Service Company was at a railroad station in Otztal, Austria. It was while stationed there that the war ended.

V-E day meant that there would be no more fighting in Europe for the 71st Infantry. However, the Service Company's work was never done. The men still had to be fed and clothed.

In February of 1945 the Service Company was awarded the Unit Plaque for Meritorious Service for its activities and achievements in the first six months of combat. They were cited for having performed all duties in a superior manner under the difficult conditions of severe weather and a rapid cross-country advance by the troops of the Regiment. Under all battle conditions, elements of the Service Company accomplished a punctual and flawless delivery of all essential supplies.

There has always been a motto for the Service Company, 71st Infantry. It reads:

"If it's difficult, we can do it immediately.

If it's impossible, it will take us a little time."

Time out for a card game.



Anti-Tank Company

HEADQUARTERS 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 48

APO 44, U. S. Army,

17 March 1945.

UNIT COMMENDATION

The MINE PLATOON, ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 71ST INFANTRY, is commended for outstanding performance of duty in action in eastern France on 13 November 1944. This platoon was given the mission of clearing mines from the railroad bed between Embermenil and Avricourt before the area was taken by our forces. In the face of heavy enemy small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire, the platoon accomplished its important assignment, permitting the route to be used for supplies and evacuation of the wounded immediately after the capture of Avricourt. The courage, skill, and devotion to duty which the men of the MINE PLATOON displayed on this occasion merit high praise and reflect great credit upon themselves and our Armed Forces.

By command of Brigadier General DEAN:

GEORGE E. MARTIN
Colonel, G. S. C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

s/t/E. DOHERTY
E. DOHERTY
Lieutenant Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant General

Anti-Tank Company Command Post, Achen, France.



ANTI-TANK COMPANY



LIEUT. LAWRENCE J. COCHRANE



LIEUT. PAUL V. YOWELL

LIEUT. HIRAM G. BROWNELL



CAPT. JEREMIAH E. PIRONE



LIEUT. BERNARD E. SCHILT



LIEUT. LEONARD O. ANDERSON

The Anti-Tank Company, as part of the 71st Infantry Combat team, arrived at Luneville, France, on the seventeenth of October, 1944, after having traveled 590 miles by motor from the initial bivouac area in Normandy. The tired, dirty men of the Company were allowed little time for rest or divesting themselves of the grimy coat of French mud they had acquired in the motor march before the reconnaissance elements were hard at work with corresponding units from the 79th Division. The mine platoon was clearing mines and bobby-traps from vitally needed roads, and the gun platoons were put to work in cleaning their 57's.

When the Company had taken its place on the line, with the second and third platoons in battle positions, the mine platoon was given the mission of clearing a large enemy mine field in the vicinity of Embermenil. From that time until the initial large-scale attack on the thirteenth of November, all platoons were assigned missions of supplying anti-mechanized defense to the battalions on the line. The first platoon succeeded in taking up positions on "B-Henry" Hill, which had been cleared immediately previous to this time by the mine platoon.

Two weeks of a steady, drizzling rain produced almost as much misery as anything the enemy had to throw over. In spite of all the ingenuity for which the doughboy is noted, it was impossible to prevent the foxholes from becoming quagmires. Here the first cases of exposure and trench foot were incurred.

The third platoon, minus one squad, remained in their well-prepared positions under the leadership of T/Sgt. Tramantano. The positions were situated on the reverse slope of a steep hill on the edge of the Parroy Forest and approximately 200 yards from the front lines. Because of their position, rations and water were carried to the men by the other squad, led by S/Sgt. Phillip McDorman. These two weeks were uneventful except for occasional mortar and artillery fire and a strafing attack by two enemy planes. No casualties were inflicted.

For two days previous to the attack, on the thirteenth of November, large numbers of friendly artillery units were observed taking up positions in the Divisional sector. All the men were guessing when the thrust was to begin, when on the evening of the twelfth, thirteen battalions of artillery began a constant pounding of German positions to the front. The intense barrage continued throughout the night along with the first snowfall of the season. The second and third platoons were in support of the First and Third Battalions, while the first platoon was in mobile reserve along with the Second Battalion. The mine platoon was attached to Company A of the 63rd Engineers in clearing the railroad tracks from Embermenil to Avricourt, which was to be used as a supply route. Here they were subjected to enemy sniper, mortar, and artillery fire.

At 1600, the second platoon was ordered to prepare positions for the night. Here the first casualties were suffered, when Pfc. Wayne Cole was killed by an artillery shell, and serious wounds were inflicted on Cpl. Pierdalla, Pfc. Burns, Kelty, Luna, Kennedy, Horner, and Larrison. The latter two were from the mine platoon attached to aid in detecting and neutralizing mines.

Pushing on through Igney and St. Georges, the Regiment liberated the Alsatian city of Sarrebourg on the twentieth of November. The following day the mine platoon was engaged in checking an area for enemy mines. Two squads of the first platoon set up their weapons on the edge of town as a security guard.

On the twenty-fourth, the Company left Goerlingen at 0030 to aid in halting a large enemy counter-attack in the vicinity of Rauwiller. An half-hour before, word had been received from a cavalry group that the enemy was approaching. Lt. Frank Gandler, first platoon leader, had reconnoitered for gun positions, but before the men could set

up the weapons, they were pinned down by an intense artillery barrage which wounded six men. Unaware that the situation had become a pitched battle, Sgt. Midence and Pfc. Porter set out to establish communications with the platoon leader, immediately finding themselves among a large group of Germans. Taking advantage of the darkness, they slipped away unnoticed, gathered the remainder of the men, and decided upon a bold plan of infiltrating back to their own lines. With Sgt. Midence and T/5 Stein in the lead, the party started its hazardous withdrawal. Suddenly they were discovered by the enemy, and while Pfc. Perry hurriedly cut a passageway through a high wire fence, the rest of the men kept him covered. With a well-timed grenade in the midst of the pursuing Germans, Pfc. Zukowski enabled all men except one to make their escape through the fence and back to friendly territory. Pfc. Warshafski, unable to push through the break in the fence, quickly burrowed into a nearby haystack to avoid capture. Three days later, when the town had been recaptured, Warshafski rejoined the Company.

The advance of the Regiment into the Holbach-Sierstal area was speeded by the quick work of the mine platoon in clearing the roads and filling craters. Here the job of aiding in the bombardment of the Maginot Simserhoff fortifications was tentatively assigned to the gun platoons. Later it was found that heavy artillery did little actual damage to the forts, so the three platoons took up positions protecting the approaches from the north and east.

On the last day of the month the Germans attacked in force in the Bliesbrucken vicinity, and the Company was constantly in action throughout the battle. One gun crew was overrun by the enemy, and Sgt. McDorman, Cpl. Bonfield, and Pfc. Cress and Sunderland were reported missing in action. The mine platoon worked feverishly to prepare a network of mine fields in all possible vehicle approaches, and were also assigned as bridge guards. When relief arrived the second week in January, no man was reluctant at the opportunity of enjoying a well-earned rest and an equally well-needed shower.

In mid-February the town of Rimling and the Moronville Farm were recaptured by troops of the Regiment. Here, in a period of hours, three of the Company's 57mm. guns fired more than a hundred rounds of ammunition on enemy front-line positions. The mine platoon was utilized in stealthily preparing and laying mine fields after dark to avoid being observed by the enemy.

During the battle of Mannheim, the three gun platoons were assigned one to each battalion, and after its capture were utilized to guard vitally necessary bridges.

When Mannheim had been secured, the pursuit of the enemy took on all appearances of a rout. Some sporadic opposition, varying from weak and incompetent to bitter and fanatical, was met and overcome. The duties of the Anti-Tank Company became a series of rapid moves behind the quickly advancing armor and foot troops, with the men being called on for a variety of duties ranging from guarding bridges and other vital installations to clearing roads of mines and firing on German troop concentrations when directed.

On the sixth of May, the surrender of all German troops in northern Italy and Austria was announced. The Company was situated in Haiming where it was engaged in collecting and evacuating prisoners and displaced persons in the area. Here the news of the mass German surrender and the V-E Day Proclamation was announced by the President six days later.

Processing of the prisoner stragglers and civilians continued, and patrols were sent frequently into mountains for SS officers and men who had gone into hiding. Upon completion of these tasks, Anti-Tank Company assumed the duties of occupation and training until alerted for a redeployment move by way of the United States.

Cannon Company

A Cannon Company, in an infantry Regiment, is armed with six 105mm. howitzers. These guns form the regimental commander's personal artillery battery. In combat, the guns are always in position to fire in the prompt and devastating support of the rifle companies; and should the emergencies of the situation demand it, one of the pieces may be taken forward as a sniper gun, firing from the immediate vicinity of the front lines.

Cannon Company set up in battle position in the vicinity of Embermenil on the twenty-third of October, 1944. The gun sections dug in along a stream line; and a command post and fire direction center were established nearby. Sgt. Benny Alek's gun section fired the first round in combat on that same day; and the men of the company heard for the first time in Europe the gentle roar of the weapons they were to fire across Europe, from Lorraine to the Tyrol. 1st Lt. Joseph Dimaria, in a front-line observation post, observed and adjusted the first rounds fired.

From the twenty-third of October to the fifteenth of November the company remained in this first position. Fire was delivered on enemy personnel and weapons in support of the action of the rifle companies, particularly Company E. One spectacular target was an enemy supply train that burned for three hours after the company's guns had done their work. On another occasion the town of Reillon was hit a one-hundred-round barrage by the company's guns. The company's fire was considered especially effective against enemy mortar positions. During this time Lts. Thomas Roney, Joseph Di Maria, Marvin Lee, Maurice King, George Christiansen, Charles Harran and David Rosenthal went forward with the line companies and adjusted and observed Cannon Company fire. Cpls. Albert Clem and Reben Dragwich, and Pfc. Walter Schoenberger, Arthur McCurry, Melburn Mayfield, Charles Beightler, Leiper Robinson accompanied these forward observers as radio operators. While manning a forward observation post with Lt. Roney on the thirty-first of October, Cpl. Donald Bryon and Pfc. Lester Krouse were caught in an enemy mortar barrage. Krouse was badly injured and Bryon was killed by the flying shrapnel.

In the Regiment's November attack to Sarrebourg, the company poured harassing fire on all

known enemy positions. The company fired particularly in support of the Third Battalion and its spearheading element, Company I. Moving near Igney, the company fired in support of the Third Battalion's drive to the important high ridge near Foulcrey. The company then moved again to support the Regiment's capture of Sarrebourg.

In the Third Battalion's engagement at Rauwiler, which followed the taking of Sarrebourg, Forward Observer Lt. Thomas Roney, with his radio operator, Cpl. William Gust, and his quarter-ton driver, Pfc. Charles R. Duncan had moved forward with the rifle companies. Consequently, when the Germans overran Rauwiler with tanks and infantry, these three men were cut off from the company. They were taken prisoners, and remained in German hands until the end of the European fighting.

Throughout the first part of December the company supported Regiment's advance from Eywiller and Berg toward Sierstal. In the vicinity of Sierstal the company supported the Regiment in its attack on the Simserhoff Fortress, from the thirteenth to the twentieth of December. In the course of this mission, the company received its first counter-battery fire; but no casualties were suffered because of the well dug-in positions.

After the capture of the Simserhoff, the Regiment took up defensive positions in an extended sector, as the whole Seventh Army spread itself thinly to compensate for the sending of great numbers of troops to the Ardennes front. On the twenty-third of December, Cannon Company moved to a position in the vicinity of Wittling to support the Regiment on its extended front. Christmas was a gray, cold day. Some of the men attended a Catholic mass celebrated by Chaplain Durbin. Others attended one of Chaplain Stob's preaching services. Mess Sgt. Tom Masiero contributed to the Christmas feeling by distributing G. I. hard-sugar candy at the noon meal.

The company maintained its position near Wittling until the end of December. Despite the bitterness of their combat Christmas the men, remembering the sentiments of peaceful years, looked forward to New Year's Eve. There was much talk of how the new year would be welcomed at the bars and firesides back home. Feeling that the

CANNON COMPANY



LIEUT. DAVID ROSENTHAL



LIEUT. JOSEPH DI MARIA



LIEUT. BENNY ALEK



LIEUT. MARVIN A. LEE



LIEUT. GEORGE CHRISTIANSON



LIEUT. JOHN H. HOLLMEN

company should celebrate as appropriately as possible, T/Sgt. John J. Matti suggested to the Company Commander that the guns fire one round at precisely 2400, the thirty-first of December. A few minutes before the appointed time, the Fire Direction Center telephoned the data, and at 2400 Cannon Company fired in celebration of the beginning of the seventh consecutive year the European action of World War II. But before the cannoneers could return the covers to their guns, they had another fire mission, and another, and another. The Germans' New Year's attack was on. The company in the Witting position fired from midnight until 0700 on January first. In the period between 1200 and 0400 the company shot over four hundred rounds into the Second Battalion's battle positions, and considerably alleviated the strain of the attacking German horde on that unit. In the course of the New Year's action, the enemy opposition was so fierce that machine gun fire was being received in the gun positions. Gunner Cpl. Edward Brill was struck in the leg as he stood in his gun pit working the gunner's sight.

Having exhausted all of its ammunition in the constant firing of the morning of January first, the company moved to a rearward defensive position to await more ammunition. On the fifth of January the company moved to St. Michel. Here the cannons were checked for necessary repairs, and the men prepared two sets of defensive positions in the vicinity. On the sixteenth of January the company moved into position near Zetting, and on the nineteenth the company, near Bining, relieved a cannon company from the 100th Division. The company maintained positions near Bining for the rest of January and most of February. Fire was delivered in support of the line companies until they went in reserve late in January. Then the company fired harassing missions assigned by the Divisional Field Artillery.

By the first of March the company was in position to support the regimental operations in the vicinity of Geising. Later three guns were sent forward to support the attack on Rimling. The rest of the firing battery came forward later, and from a position on the outskirts of Guising, the

company supported the Regiment in its defensive positions. Since the first of the year, 2nd Lts. Benny Alek, Lou Soracco and Sgt. Lawrence Coil had been added to the list of the company's forward observers.

In the middle of March Cannon Company went into strategic reserve at Silzheim, France, with the rest of the Regiment. From there the company moved on the twenty-sixth of March to Wieden-thal, Germany. The Rhine was crossed at 1119 on the twenty-seventh of March, and the company set up in a combat position to support the regimental attack on Mannheim.

After the fall of Mannheim, the company in the first weeks of April supported the Regiment in securing of the Seventh Army's left flank. The company was set up first in Bernbach, and then in Steinbach. When in the middle of April the Regiment linked with elements of the Tenth Armored to drive through southern Germany, the company followed as general support and security. On the twenty-fifth of April, in the vicinity of Dietenheim, Capt. John Thackston went ahead of the company to make a general reconnaissance. The Captain and his driver, T/5 Edward Colburn, and T/Sgt. Charles Harran were pinned down by a heavy and concentrated German artillery barrage. Colburn and Harran escaped injury, but the Captain was seriously wounded in the abdomen by a piece of flying shrapnel. When the Captain was evacuated, 1st Lt. Joseph Di Maria, who had successively held the positions of forward observer, firing battery executive, and chief of the fire direction center, succeeded to the command of the Cannon Company.

The company continued to support the Regiment on its attack through southern Germany and into Austria. Because of the congestion on the narrow roads, one gun section at a time would follow in direct support of the spearheading line companies. At the end of the Austrian drive, Cannon Company was stopping in Haiming, Austria. With the surrender of the German government and armies the company assumed occupation duties, until the final march order was given and the move to the United States begun.

Medical Detachment

During the period from the twenty-second of October, 1944, to the twenty-fifth of May, 1945, the Medical Detachment of the 71st Infantry Regiment operated as four separate units. These units were attached one to each of the three battalions, with the Regimental Section attached to Regimental Headquarters and Special Troops.

The Medical Detachment treated and evacuated approximately 5,750 battle casualties, sick and wounded during this period. Of this number about 250 were civilians or German soldiers. About one-fourth of the members of the Detachment were themselves wounded in action while administering to the wounds of their comrades.

When the medics were called upon to treat civilians, the treatment would consist of anything from delivery of babies to the administration of drugs to the diseased. No one was refused treatment. All were treated alike whether they were French, Russian, Polish, German or some other nationality.

The many heroic acts on the part of the members of the Detachment have resulted in the awarding of Bronze Stars and higher awards to many of the group.

Often the task of caring for the sick and wounded became so great that the 119th Medical Battalion would supply litter-bearers. Line company men volunteered to carry litters on numerous occasions. The ambulance drivers had to drive away from the aid stations with their cargos of sick and wounded while the areas many times were being pounded by enemy artillery.

No one will forget the fine work done by the chaplains who were there, too. Chaplains Durbin, Ramming, and Stob were all worth an extra pint of plasma to each of the wounded men when they arrived at the station. Their vigil at the sides of the wounded was constant. They shared the food, adventures, and misfortunes of the Detachment.

Of the many men who were members of the Medical Detachment, 71st Infantry, during the aforementioned period, it can be said that they maintained and carried on against great odds the finest traditions of the Medical Department, U. S. Army.

On the twenty-second day of October, 1944, the Regimental Section moved into Laneuveville, France, and set up its first combat aid station. As the men were moving into town, enemy shells began to fall, the first time any of the members had experienced artillery fire.

November thirteenth, 1944, is a date that will long be remembered by the Medics of the 71st Regiment. On that cold, rainy day the section moved to Embermenil and established an aid station in conjunction with the First and Third Battalion Aid Sections. When the attack started, this station was one of the busiest installations in the division area. The floor of the station was always covered with sick and wounded lying on litters or sitting on anything that was available. The ceiling leaked and water was continually dripping on everything, adding discomfort to those already uncomfortable. One person was continually sweeping out the door the deepening pool of water that covered the floor. Throughout the day this combined station of doctors, dentists, dental and medical technicians treated and

evacuated more than 180 casualties and the following day treated 107 casualties.

On that day T/4 Hollingsworth, aid man with Anti-Tank Company, was knocked unconscious by an artillery burst and upon regaining consciousness immediately began giving aid to the wounded around him. The dental technicians, T/5 Matt and T/5 Wieckowski, volunteered to help evacuate casualties during the attack and their help was much appreciated by the overworked staff.

The section was in St. George on the nineteenth of No-



Physical inspection.

vember where it underwent its first real shelling. During the night the personnel slept in unusual spots: the dental officers, Capts. Ohnstadt and Schneider, in a chicken coop, and T/5 Monaco in a potato bin.

On 21 November the section moved into Sarrebourg, the first large city to be liberated, and two days later at Hilbesheim T/4 Chaney was captured along with a gun crew of Anti-Tank Company. Here the section, established in the rectory of the local church, treated and evacuated the casualties of the Second Battalion which were being evacuated from the fighting in Rauwiller. After Hilbesheim, the sec-



CAPT. MOYNE C. LICHTLYTER



CAPT. TERREL R. OHNSTAD



MAJ. JAMES W. BURNETT
Regimental Surgeon



LIEUT. WILLIAM R. BROWN



LIEUT. MILO M. LANDIS



LIEUT. PHILLIP A. HOLUBECK



tion moved rapidly through Postroff, Eywiller, Mackwiller, Diemeringen, Butten, Montbronn, and stopped for several days at Sierstal.

At Sierstal the sick call was rather heavy, consisting mostly of upper respiratory infections and gastro-intestinal infections, with a few actual battle casualties.

Christmas was spent in Wittring with the Diebolds, a really wonderful French family who made Christmas more homelike to the men than they had ever expected when they first arrived in France.

Everyone will always remember New Year's Eve. In the Regimental area it was mostly spent in packing and unpacking the vehicles, ready to move out on a moment's notice in case of a breakthrough. The enemy shells could be heard exploding across the river while the friendly ones buzzed overhead on their way toward the enemy.

After Wittring and St. Michel came Bining, where the passes to Paris began. Then came a break in Oermingen, where hot showers, clean clothing and more passes to Paris and Brussels were enjoyed. Those lucky enough to receive the passes were very enthusiastic about the things to be seen in those cities.

March seventeenth found the section established in Silzheim, where the division spent seven days enjoying a well-earned rest. It was here that Maj. Clunan relinquished command of the Detachment to Maj. Burnett, and took over the duties of the Division Medical Inspector. Here,

also, the dental officers conducted a dental survey of the Regiment, established a dental clinic and spent the remainder of the rest period caring for the dental needs of a large number of men of the Regiment.

On the twenty-fifth of March the section moved by convoy 80 miles to Weidenthal, Germany. After arriving in Germany there was much discussion as to the difference in dress and appearance between the French and the Germans. A few more rapid moves brought the section to a bivouac area in a forest five miles northwest of Wurzburg. Just as plans were completed for training, we were ordered to move to the vicinity of Mannheim.

At Goppingen, two men from the 8th Air Force who had been liberated from an enemy hospital were treated and evacuated by the aid station.

Then came Mulhausen and Ehingen, where the section enjoyed the luxury of living in the private rooms of the Hotel Crown Prince. After crossing the Danube outside Ehingen, the section moved to Dietenheim, Eberbach and then to Fussen on the German-Austrian border. Here everyone caught his first glimpse of the picturesque beauty of the Alps towering above the city.

From Fussen the section moved to Reutte in Austria, and on to Lermoos. Following this came the Fern Pass, which will be long remembered. The end of the war in Austria found the section in Barweis, and the official end to the conflict in Europe came while the section was located in Roppen.

Regimental Aid Station, Lermoos, Austria, 1945.



First Battalion Aid Station

The First Battalion Aid Station set up initially in a building at Embermenil Station, France. The litter routes were carefully reconnoitered and planned by Capt. Uhler, Battalion Surgeon, and Cpl. Tully. Over these routes the litter-bearers carried the wounded from the lines where they had received prompt first aid from the company aid men. Very often a single litter haul would require two and one-half hours because of the deep mud and difficult terrain. After the Battalion extended its front line several hundred yards toward Leintrey, the forward aid station was located in a pillbox. This pillbox was only a few yards from the front line and offered almost immediate treatment of casualties. During this time, while the Battalion was in a defensive position, in addition to the battle casualties, there was a large number of sick as a result of the persistent cold, damp weather. Many men became exhausted from exposure and here developed the first trench foot cases.

When the Regiment made its first attack on November thirteenth the casualty rate was very high. As the Battalion advanced, the aid station was moved forward along the railroad track which was on the left boundary of the Battalion area and was established under an overpass about one-half mile from Embermenil Station. Casualties were brought by litter to this station, treated, then taken by jeep to a rear station at Embermenil which was operated by the Regimental Medical Section. Here they were given further treatment, loaded into an ambulance and taken to the rear. Among the litter-bearers and aid men who distinguished themselves under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire

were Pfc. Perdue, Zema, Mead and Colling, and Sgt. McEntire. Pfc. Colling later became a casualty himself when he stepped upon a mine while going to the aid of a wounded comrade.

After the Battalion broke through the enemy defenses at Embermenil, the aid station moved rapidly through Leintrey, Igney, Foulcrey, Ibigney, to St. George, where, during the night of November nineteenth, a number of casualties were treated and evacuated, but with some difficulty due to the heavy enemy shelling. The next day the aid station moved through Xouxange, set up in Bebing in the afternoon and in the evening moved into Sarrebourg. The following day the section enjoyed rather nice quarters and a much-needed rest in this first large city liberated by the 71st Regiment.

On November twenty-second the aid station moved to Goerlingen, France. The following day Company C, attached to the Third Battalion, was cut off at Rauwiller. During the ensuing action the company sustained a large number of casualties. One of the company aid men, T/5 Foster, recognizing the necessity for immediate evacuation of these casualties, proceeded to make his way across an open field which was covered by German light weapons. After he had effected a tortuous crossing of the German line, he continued on to the nearest town bringing information that made possible the speedy evacuation of all casualties.

The Battalion Section moved with the Battalion through Eywiller, Berg, Mackwiller, Diemeringen, Ratzwiler, Montbron, Lambach and Siersthal. During this time the casualty

Medical aid station in Guising, France.



rate was low and great emphasis was placed on the proper precautions against trench foot.

At the Simserhoff Fortress of the Maginot Line the First Battalion sustained many heavy casualties as a result of the artillery fire from guns mounted on the forts. The litter-bearers, under the supervision of S/Sgt. Ideson, worked hard and long, at the same time putting up with a great amount of artillery fire. Company aid men, Percy Wilson, T/4 William Jones and T/5 Eugene Bagley, did very fine jobs in caring for the wounded during this action. T/5 Bagley was killed in action while performing his duties as an aid man, and his loss was felt by all.

During the early part of January, 1945, the aid station found itself with no alternative route for the evacuation of front line casualties other than the one known as "Hell's Run," through Woeffling. This particular route consisted of a strip of observed road on which all traffic had been stopped because of the heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire which any vehicle drew. The passage was extremely dangerous at night because of the fact that the noise of any vehicle brought an instant barrage of all caliber shells. The two drivers, Pfc. Hall and Thompson, traveled the road day and night in order to evacuate the wounded. They accomplished this by means of low, swift flights in their "jeepcraft." They did not lose a wounded man during the entire period.

Later when the First Battalion crossed the Neckar River and entered Mannheim the companies covered such a large front and moved so rapidly through the city that keeping contact between the companies and the aid station was very difficult. This was accomplished by keeping the aid station mobile and moving along with the forward Battalion Command Post, where radio communication with the companies was available. Capt. Giacona, Battalion Surgeon, was kept busy that day keeping all elements of the aid station moving as fast as the troops.

On April twentieth the push across southern Germany into Austria began. Capt. Cullick was now Battalion Surgeon. Due to the fast-moving situation and in order to keep contact with the troops and at the same time have a place to treat the wounded, one-half the aid station remained stationary and set up during the day while the other half was motorized and kept close contact with the troops. Casualties were carried by jeep or ambulance from the front line to the aid station. The medical section crossed the Danube, moved rapidly through southern Germany, through Fussen and into Austria.

When the First Battalion crossed Mount Wanneck single file over an old trail, captured Fernstein and enveloped Fern Pass, one litter squad was attached to each company and one-half the aid station section accompanied the troops. It was planned that "weasels" would follow the troops, but the trail was too narrow and precarious for even a "weasel." On top the mountain a soldier from Company A was wounded by artillery fire. Pfc. Rice and Milazzo treated the wounded man and then evacuated him down the precipitous mountainside where it was too steep to employ a litter; but by slowly climbing downward, grasping the vegetation with one hand, and holding the casualty at all times, they reached safety. Around Fernstein a number of casualties developed. These were all cared for by the medical section, kept overnight, and evacuated the next day when the road to Lermoos was open.

The Battalion moved on through Nassareith and captured Dollingen. Evacuation was quite difficult because of blown bridges and numerous craters in the mountainous roads. Weasels were used freely and a shuttle system was set up between the blown bridges and craters, so that one casualty might ride on several vehicles and be carried across craters by several different groups of litter-bearers, but this movement to the rear was continuous and rapid.

The end of the war found the First Battalion Medical Section in Weems, Austria.

Second Battalion Aid Station

The Second Battalion Medical Section, commanded by Capt. Murphy, Battalion Surgeon, was first committed to action with the Second Battalion of the 71st Regiment on 23 October, 1944. The aid station took over a site which had been used by a similar section of the 79th Division.

The day presented a very pretty and sunny afternoon as elements of the Second Battalion moved into positions now being relinquished by the men of the 79th. Three aid men accompanied each company. Twenty more medics and two officers, comprising the station group, moved into a dirty cellar 500 yards from the front and proceeded to set up operations.

All the writing in the world and all the sagest advice could not teach so much war to the section as did the first barrage of nine mortar rounds which the Germans threw into the backyard of the aid station. Twelve men who but an instant before had been standing and enjoying the sunshine suddenly found themselves examining the ground with their noses while the shrapnel flew over their heads. Here it was that S/Sgt. Maslak became the first of the many Second Battalion medics to be wounded in the war.

The supreme trial of sacrifice and devotion to duty came on the days and nights of 13 and 14 November. During these 48 hours, while the 44th Division sought to smash

through strongly entrenched German positions, many casualties were incurred. The litter-bearers and drivers who had so vigorously started out upon the first evacuation became casualties themselves or dropped from sheer exhaustion after carrying the litters through snow, mud and sleet. On the thirteenth of November aid man Charboneau crawled out under intense enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire and time and again gave aid and care to his wounded comrades of Company E.

The loss of T/3 Matzenger was a hard blow for all the men who had ever known him. The gallant act for which Sgt. Matzenger received the Silver Star Medal, posthumously, are told in the personal account of a friend, Pfc. Clifford E. Anderson: "It was the evening of November seventeenth. When the Germans opened fire at us we were coming back from Rapaix to Autrepierre, France. I was in front of George Matzenger and some fellows from Company E were behind him. Some of the men from Company E were hit. There was groaning and he began to approach them under fire. I heard someone ask him, 'Medics, have you got any morphine?' Where he was working on them, he wasn't more than thirty yards from the machine gun nest. He must have helped the boys because they quit moaning and calling for medics. The only light was from the German's concussion grenades. Where Matzenger was working there was water in the ditch. It was very cold and windy and the water slowed his progress because of wetting his bandages. The burp guns would stop only when the clips were empty. I could see someone kneeling where the wounded men were. Afterwards, I didn't see him."

Then it happened that an alert Chaplain, an enterprising aid station clerk, and the Chaplain's driver found themselves on the road to Sarrebourg together with the vague rumor that the French citadel had been liberated. With visions of a huge beer hall for an aid station, Capt. Durbin and T/5 Saner, urged on by the clerk, rode over a mined bridge into a deserted and menacing city. Quick to recognize the symptoms of a hostile attitude, the trio dashed back to our lines after having penetrated a mile of unoccupied territory. Later they returned at a respectable distance behind the foot troops.

The period 31 December, 1944, to 5 January, 1945, resulted in many casualties to both the Germans and the Americans in the fanatical New Year's Eve attack. The medics worked without pause for several days and were instrumental in saving many lives.

Early in March, several members of Company E became involved in a clash with the enemy. T/5 James Martin hoisted a red cross flag and stopped the war on that par-

ticular front, so that the medics from both sides could work on the wounded.

At Mannheim, Germany, Capt. Cullick gained the respect and admiration of the men by establishing a flying aid station which followed the line companies into an attack.

On April twentieth, the drive across Germany and towards the Austrian border began. During the following days and weeks the situation was that of extremely fast moving troops, a very mobile front line, and a fanning out of all elements to cover a wide front. This made evacuation and caring of wounded very difficult. Capt. Lichlyter was now Battalion Surgeon. Gone was the need for litter-bearers to work between the front lines and the aid station. During the day the aid station remained in the position established the previous night, and with S/Sgt. Kokll in charge, a moving aid station set up on a vehicle followed the troops. At this time a valuable aid was made of the wireless system of communication. Because the companies were spread out, it was impossible to keep an aid station vehicle with each unit. By keeping in contact with the radio car, casualties and their positions could be ascertained by information received, and the aid station moved to that point. At many times the entire aid station was mobilized with the ambulances from the collecting station following, and casualties were picked up and evacuated while on the move. This required close liaison between the ambulance, the aid station, and the forward command. This situation continued through Germany, across the Danube at Ehingen, and across the German-Austrian frontier at Fussen. At Lermoos, Austria, the Second Battalion went into reserve while the Third Battalion advanced through the Fern Pass. Here casualties greatly increased. Due to the blowing of bridges, the blockage of roads by mines, progress was slow and costly. On May third, the Second Battalion passed through the Third Battalion with Telfs, Austria, as the regimental objective. Great difficulty was encountered in moving the aid station ahead with the troops as bridges were out and many places in the road impassable. A forward shuttle system was used between the road-blocks while the engineers worked feverishly to clear the roads. At this time the first use was made of the army "weasel." These vehicles were the first to be able to cross the hastily prepared roads around the blocks and destroyed bridges and were used in evacuating many of the casualties. The forward aid station had been set up in Nassereith, and by evening of that day the entire aid station had been safely brought through the Fern Pass. Maj. Gen. Dean personally assisted in reconnoitering the trails to be used in moving these vehicles forward. May fourth found the aid station set up in Telfs, Austria. From there the Regiment swung south, and the end of the war found the Second Battalion aid station in the town of Langenfeld, Austria, back once more to garrison medicine.

Third Battalion Aid Station

The Third Battalion Aid Station and medical men were committed to action on 22 October 1944 when they relieved a medical section of the 79th Division at Embermenil, France. Although the front had been fairly stable during the preceding week, the Germans suddenly attacked in a wooded area north of Embermenil and threatened to out-flank the entire 71st Regiment. The number of casualties was high because the men were inexperienced in actual combat.

At the aid station, Capt. Hendry, Battalion Surgeon; 1st Lt. Landes, the MAC; and Chaplain Ramming administered plasma and applied splints to the wounded that were brought back by the struggling litter-bearers. The aid station was located about 500 yards behind the line at Embermenil, and was shelled often by the Germans. When Chaplain Ramming had nothing else to do, he was cooking for the men in the aid station and in general did much to keep up the morale of the section.

The litter routes were long, winding, through woods, over hills and treacherous in this location. It was necessary to cross the railroad track which was under enemy observation in order to pass from the front lines to the aid station. The litter-bearers crossed this route many times, often experiencing mortar fire after reaching the railroad track.

The first attack came on 13 November, and the initial attack was costly in killed and wounded. That evening Lt. Holubeck and T/3 Scala moved behind the troops and set up an aid station in Leintrey before the roads were opened for vehicular traffic.

The next move brought the station into Igney, France, where the buildings were still burning. Along the route to Sarrebourg, the station was located one day in St. George, where the German artillery fire made evacuation of the wounded a dangerous and difficult task.

Finally, upon reaching Sarrebourg, the station was set up in what was formerly a Gestapo headquarters and there it replenished its supply of candles. Nothing is more necessary to a medical unit than an adequate amount of light.

Four days later, the Battalion, including many of the aid men, found themselves in the village of Rauwiller surrounded by attacking Germans. The aid station was located about three kilometers away in the town of Goerlingen. There were many wounded men and the closest road was cut off by the enemy. Cpl. Brey and Pfc. Leichter brought a jeep around from the other side of Rauwiller and successfully evacuated all the wounded men under cover of darkness.

New Year's Eve found the enemy attacking the entire Regimental line. The medics worked 24 hours a day treating and evacuating the wounded for three days. One of the outstanding aid men at that time was T/5 Robel who went out under heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire to treat a seriously wounded man.

Another outstanding aid man was T/3 Ortwin Wagner. A lead scout of Company L had been wounded and Wagner went after him with an aid kit in each hand. The artillery was falling all around him and the force of the blasts was so great that it blew the helmet from his head. He got the satisfaction of bringing the man back and undoubtedly saving his life.

On 15 February, T/5 Farkas went out to treat a machine gunner from Company M who had just been wounded. As Farkas moved towards him a sniper began to fire on the medic. This did not deter the man from treating his fallen comrade. Even after he was hit, Farkas continued to work on the casualty. Not until the man was evacuated did he think of his own misfortune. Through the tireless efforts of men such as he, the Third Battalion Medical Section gained the respect of the officers and men of the Third Battalion.

On March sixteenth, the entire 71st Regiment drew back to Silzheim, France, going into reserve, after the Third and 45th Division made an attack through our lines, and it is interesting to note that this marked the end of stabilized defensive positions, thereby requiring a new plan for medical evacuation.

At Silzheim the Third Battalion aid station, with Capt. Lichlyter as surgeon, utilized this needed rest for reorganization of equipment, and in giving a physical check-up on each man in the battalion. On March twenty-sixth began the long move north up through Kaiserlautern, Germany, and two days later found the aid station crossing the famous Rhine River at Worms, Germany. The following day the Third Battalion was in regimental reserve during the initial drive for Mannheim, Germany. The Third Battalion then assisted in clearing the town of Mannheim and it was during this time that it was found necessary because of the rapidly moving troops to establish a rear aid station, and to send a vehicle equipped with litters, plasma, and technicians ahead with the troops to form a forward aid station which moved forward at the rear fringe of the advancing elements. Men were treated from this mobile aid station and sent to the rear aid station for further treatment or evacuation. As the situation permitted, the rear aid station closed in with the advancing troops. The following two weeks consisted of cleaning out towns, long moves to the vicinity of Somborn, Germany, for a few days, and then a long swing south to the vicinity of Winkheim, Germany, where the Battalion was again in reserve for several days. During this period the aid station was busy taking care of the general health of the troops, and in preparing for the final drive.

Upon reaching Fern Pass, Austria, on May first, the medics found that the only route of evacuation had been destroyed by the enemy and so it meant that all the casualties, and there were many, would have to be moved to the rear on foot. Here the litter-bearers performed the job magnificently and by the afternoon of May second all casualties had been evacuated.

During the entire period that this section was assigned to combat operation there were many outstanding deeds performed by many men. One of the outstanding contributions to medical work of this sort was performed by S/Sgt. Edward Wagner. His intrepid action and bravery in the face of heavy fire was responsible for the saving of many lives.

The end of the war found the Aid Station in Telfs, Austria, from which they moved to Oetz, where peace was finally declared.

FIRST BATTALION PICTURES



FIRST BATTALION STAFF



MAJ. JOHN W. DELAHANTY



CAPT. RAYMOND TAIBBI



1ST LIEUT. ORRIS L. HAMILTON



CAPT. SALVATORE PAMPINELLA

Capt. S. Pampinella, 1st Lt. O. L. Hamilton, 1st Lt. D. Mulvey,
1st Lt. V. C. Loudenbach in Sonneborn, Germany



1ST LIEUT. WALTER BROTHERS
Communications Officer



History of the First Battalion

Debarking at Cherbourg was without incident. Landing craft activities were of interest to all and we were greeted by American soldiers on the shore at Cherbourg with the words, "It's all over, you're too late." How often we have wished they had been right! Upon landing, a short motor move was made to the vicinity of Valoognes, France, where for three weeks the First Battalion was occupied in battlefield indoctrination on the soil over which our forces had recently passed. Here the First Battalion was able to observe the effects of battle, to see the real effects of destruction, wrought both by the enemy and by our friendly forces. We received practical training over what was once the actual battlefield of units that had preceded us. Training was conducted in the application and technique of German weapons, German mine technique, and hedge-row fighting.

It was soon learned that a combined train and motor move was to be made to the east. The First Battalion was to go entirely by train with the exception of the Battalion motors and personnel assigned to accompany the Division motor train. This move was made on a French manned and equipped railroad. All personnel came through in good style and the detraining at Luneville, France, was without unusual incident, in mid-October. Here First Battalion men were in audible distance of real combat on the part of other units. New and slightly confusing to the men was the constant rumble of heavy artillery, that of other units, our own artillery, and that of units later to support our combat activities. Little nervousness was observed on the part of the men, as they did not know as yet of what to be afraid. Here our men were indoctrinated by stories from combat men who had been up front and by actual observation of the results of modern land warfare. It was soon learned that the 44th Division would relieve a combat-weary Division that had fought long and hard and had paid dearly for ground gained in the sector in which the 44th would soon be committed. Early bivouac areas of

the First Battalion were just west of Luneville and in the Parroy Forrest, northwest of la Neuveville. The First Battalion initially did not relieve a respective unit on line but was placed in mobile reserve which meant move dig, reconnoiter, and prepare counter-attack plans. Reluctance to dig a shelter soon disappeared as digging became the way of life to the infantrymen. Here our men were abruptly weaned away from kitchen-prepared hot meals. We were living in the ground; rain and mud was the order of the day.

On the twenty-fourth of October the First Battalion Command Post was set up in Ebermenil, France, and the troops of the Battalion relieved our own Third Battalion in the old trenches of World War I, in the Le Remabois Woods. Here the men were brought face to face with real enemy and it is useless to say that the elements of weather and the counter-activities of the enemy made life very miserable for our men. Here our men withstood the driving, penetrating, cold rain, and the German mortar and artillery fire as was the way of life in the Le Remabois Woods. It was here that our men, strong in spirit, but taxed to the utmost physically, suffered in the water-soaked crumbling foxholes. Physical stamina began to dissipate rapidly. Darkness brought little relief and activities became more or less routine. Here in the darkness of night, Germans countered with a monotony-breaking activity. The area became alive with rollicking German marching songs followed by snatches of the older Bing Crosby tunes.

Men could hardly believe their ears and we were sure that battle fatigue had not caught up with us this early in the game. Then as suddenly as the music had begun, the music stopped. In perfect English a clear voice welcomed the men of the 44th Division to what was said to be a futile bloody war on our part. That being so, argued the voice, there was but one reasonable thing to do: climb out of the watery, muddy foxholes and come through the lines to the German positions. There would be hot food waiting



LIEUT. COL. WILLIAM FOWLER
Commanding Officer First Battalion, 71st Infantry



First Battalion Command Post at Embermenil.

and every man could depend on being with his family by Christmas. As a matter of fact, prisoners taken throughout the night testified that they had not had a hot meal for over a week. Little were First Battalion men thinking of Christmas, but the Christmas that did come will be one which they will never forget. In answer to the German appeal, word was quickly relayed to the ever-ready 44th Division Artillery, "Fire Baker One and repeat on Red One"; a stock message which was destined to follow the First Battalion throughout the entire period of combat. The "Krauts," as we had learned to call them, did not press the issue further than to counter with their own mortars and artillery.

On the second night of occupation, members of Company A were credited with the first close contact with German patrol members, when a small three-man German patrol was disposed of in the prescribed manner. The names of Atkinsin, Miller and DiNuocio are associated with the patrol incident.

On the third of November a limited objective attack was carried out to effect a straightening of the line, in preparation for a large offensive action which we were sure would soon come. It was in the Le Remabois Woods that the First Battalion suffered its first casualties and fatalities. Lt. Donald Ferguson was one of the first to be wounded

by German mine action. The new position on the forward edge of the woods were occupied without serious difficulty. These positions offered good observation of the city of Leintrey, France, and of the battlefield over which the First Battalion was later to attack. While presenting good observation of enemy territory, our Battalion was exposed to direct observation by the enemy and we suffered heavily from continued enemy mortar and artillery fire. It was while in this position that Company B suffered heavily indeed. While directing friendly artillery from an exposed position, Capt. Paul L. Pyle was killed by enemy shell fragments from a tree burst. Many officers and enlisted men have praised the Captain as a courageous man and a great leader. Throughout the period from the initial occupation of positions in the Le Remabois Woods until 13 November 1944, the First Battalion dug and re-dug fox holes, which often afforded little protection from the German fire or little comfort against the severe elements of rain, sleet, and cold. Here we experienced the mounting rate of non-battle casualties, as men suffering from exposure and trench foot were evacuated for need of necessary treatment. A significant element in the Le Remabois Woods occupation was the patrol activity as directed for purposes of securing enemy information. It was at this time that Lt. Irving Young of Company C and eight

enlisted men lost their lives as a combat patrol into enemy territory during daylight.

Friday, November 13, will long be remembered as the date of the first large scale attack on the part of the 44th Division. The First Battalion sector of attack was that to the east, north of the city of Leintry and south of the railroad. The sector presented open fields, a gradual slope and gradually rising ground to the known enemy-occupied positions. The season's first snowfall had arrived during the night and as the men struggled out of their watery foxholes they stood out brilliantly against the white mantle covering the soggy ground. They made perfect targets for a waiting, well-dug-in enemy. The zero hour was 0710. The entire night had been filled with the thunder of thirteen battalions of friendly artillery, softening German positions. For two days and nights the advance was held up after limited gains of up to fifteen hundred yards had been made. Casualties mounted rapidly, both battle and non-battle; many men were broken in body and spirit. It was here that we first learned that artillery cannot be expected to neutralize large areas of well-dug-in and well-emplaced enemy. Men dug deeper, went without food, remained wet, muddy, exhausted, and withstood the shock of enemy mortars, artillery and small arms fire. High ground on the forward edge of the woods previously held by the enemy was taken in hand-to-hand fighting where casualties in officers and enlisted men were high on both sides.

At 0100 on the morning of November 16, Lt. Col. William H. Fowler, then a major and for the past year Regimental Plans and Training Officer, was assigned to command the First Battalion, with order to move the Battalion, prior to daylight, two miles forward into enemy held territory. Moving out into the darkness, Col. Fowler rallied the dissipated battalion of about eight officers and 125 men, moved into enemy territory, reached the assigned objective, and was dug in by daylight. Little opposition was encountered from the enemy save for sporadic artillery fire. However, the physical condition of the men was such that fighting efficiency was practically nil. Contact could not be made on the right and the unit assigned to move on the left did not do so throughout the night. Much credit is given by the Battalion Commander to the enlisted men and to Capt. Lindskog, Lt. Moon, Lt. Hamilton, Capt. Rupp, Capt. Looby, Lt. Guthrie, and Lt. Brothers for making possible the accomplishment of the mission.

The next two days were taken up in reorganization of the Battalion. Platoons and companies with their ranks greatly depleted were pulled together. Two days of fair weather, better food, and respite from direct observation

and fire from the enemy permitted time to effect the necessary reorganization which would permit the Battalion to carry on further offensive missions. On the evening of November 16, the Battalion swung south to the vicinity of Igney, a small village taken by our Third Battalion. Upon completion of digging the necessary shelters outside of Igney, the Battalion received orders at 0200 to move to high ground on the right of the Third Battalion. This was difficult with tired men but was accomplished prior to daylight, and when daylight came the First Battalion was occupying high ground looking across a deep valley at enemy occupied positions. This move, as was later learned, was preparatory to a coordinated attack to the east, on the part of the First and Third Battalions. Jump-off time was 1230, and the platoon of tanks assigned by higher headquarters to support the First Battalion was not available. Artillery concentrations as called for could not be obtained, although artillery observers from our own artillery and attached artillery were present. Here Company D's mortar platoon is credited with excellent firing in support of rifle company movement. Enemy positions along the right flank of the sector of the attack were neutralized. Lt. Quinn is cited for excellent work on this occasion. Moving out in column of companies, under moderate resistance, the assigned objective, which was the high ground to the northeast of Foulcrey, was secured shortly before dark, and the men dug in for the night. It was during this attack with Company C and elements of Company D in the leading attack echelon that Capt. Lindskog was wounded, but refused to leave his company until directed to do so on the following day. In the late afternoon the Battalion Commander was in receipt of orders to take the city of Foulcrey in conjunction with the Third Battalion. Company A was used to accomplish this over light resistance as the city had been given a good application by friendly air corps, and was burning brightly in many places as the troops entered the city. Throughout the night Company A must be credited with saving two sizable concrete bridges by alert guarding in the outskirts of Foulcrey, which facilitated greatly the movement of friendly units the following day. On November 19, the First Battalion moved generally along the main highway in rear of the Third Battalion toward Ibigney and St. Georges. Swinging left in the outskirts of St. Georges, Company A became engaged in a fire fight and it was here that one of our best sergeants, Sgt. Brenner, lost his life. It was not until nightfall that with supporting heavy weapons, and meager tank support, the enemy resistance was nullified with the capture of the enemy strongpoint. Thirty-five prisoners were taken, which at that time was a sizable number. At nightfall the Battalion was ordered through St. Georges to Neu:muclin, where one of the famous night

FIRST BATTALION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



1ST LIEUT. NORRIS L. GRIFFIN



1ST LIEUT. VERNON C. LOUDENBACH



1ST LIEUT. MORTON C. JOHNSON



First Battalion Motor Maintenance Section in Germany.

marches into enemy territory was made. The Battalion, less Company A and the Battalion C.O., still engaged with the enemy at St. Georges, led by Capt. Pampinella and Lt. Hamilton, marched eight miles into the little village of Neufmuelin two hours after it had been vacated by the Krauts. Company A and the Battalion C.O. closed into the village several hours later, at 2400. From Neufmuelin to Sarrebourg the First Battalion spearheaded the attack of the 71st Infantry. From Neufmuelin to Sarrebourg the cities of Xouxange and Bebing had to be taken. It was at 0200 on the morning of November 20 that a mission was initiated which proved of far-reaching significance. With the Battalion ordered to preserve the crossing over the canal at Xouxange, the Battalion Commander selected Lt. Moon, Lt. LeBlond and 20 enlisted men for the mission. A combat patrol moving out at 0300, three miles into enemy territory, did seize and hold the large concrete bridge over the canal, prior to daylight, and fought off enemy attempts to blow the bridge. This accomplishment is considered as one of the more significant accomplishments of our combat history. Saving of the bridge permitted the entire Regiment, a French Armored unit and other combat elements to pass

over the bridge later in the day. Destruction of the bridge would have delayed the advance of division combat elements for hours, if not days. How close the First Battalion was operating on the heels of the enemy is indicated by the Germans blowing the large railroad bridge on the far outskirts of the city, as elements of the First Battalion entered the city. At Xouxange the First Battalion was joined by a small task force of French Armor. A route around the blown railroad bridge was soon found and the French Armor and the First Battalion moved together to the city of Bebing. No resistance was met en route and only slight resistance from sniper fire was encountered in Bebing. It was here that the French Armor, lacking orders, refused to accompany the First Battalion farther. Still two miles from the regimental objective and slightly less from the division objective of Sarrebourg, the Battalion Commander said "Let's go," and what he said to the French Armored Commander should not be repeated. However, the French Commander seemed little perturbed, largely, we believe, because of his inability to understand English. So peaceful appeared the situation that the Battalion moved out of Bebing and into the outskirts of Sarrebourg. The enemy was waiting and

These prisoners taken in Sarrebourg were among those taken by the Regiment.



let our forces reach the edge of the city before opening up on the lead elements of the Battalion. At this point Company B was moving as the advance element of the Battalion. With the lead platoon was Lt. Howland, then commanding Company B, Lt. Hoyt of the Regimental reconnaissance platoon, and Col. Fowler, the Battalion Commander. The Germans let loose with all they had in the way of small arms and artillery. Lt. Hoyt was wounded, Lt. Howland was killed as well as were several enlisted men on the edge of Sarrebourg, and several were captured through inability to withdraw from the situation under constant German fire. Walz, the ever present Colonel's radio operator, had his radio put out of commission by enemy small arms fire when bullets penetrated the radio on the operator's back. Withdrawing the forward elements of the Battalion, the Battalion Commander effected the necessary organization and attacked across the high ground to the west of Saarbueg toward the regimental objective. It was during this move through the woods that enemy small arms fire and anti-tank fire was encountered and Lt. Cole, the only remaining officer in Company C, was wounded and had to be evacuated. Lt. Hamilton, Battalion S-2, organized a small task force, moved through the edge of Sarrebourg and succeeded in knocking out the anti-tank guns that were holding up forward elements of the Battalion. Continuing the attack to the northeast, the Battalion effectively overran German artillery, mortar, and infantry elements, captured large quantities of equipment and occupied the 71st Infantry regimental objective. During reorganization the Battalion Commander was given orders to hold the regimental objective with one company and attack Sarrebourg from the north with the remaining portion of the Battalion. This was accomplished as the First Battalion entered the Division objective, Sarrebourg, from the high ground to the north as darkness fell. The crossing of the large steel bridge into Sarrebourg under enemy small arms fire, as First Battalion men were silhouetted against the sky, will not soon be forgotten. Upon entering the city, the first of its size to be taken by the 44th Division, members of the Battalion sought cover in several substantial buildings to avoid enemy small arms fire. Sarrebourg was fought for only by the First Battalion, 71st Infantry; it was entered at darkness in the order of First Battalion, followed by the Third and Second Battalions in order. The twenty-first of November found the 71st Infantry clearing the city of Sarrebourg of the remaining Germans with the First Battalion covering an assigned sector. On the twenty-first the First Battalion was finally settled in a large school building as rear echelon elements of the Division sought suitable quarters. Sgt. Stickney was in command of Company C. Two days in Sarrebourg permitted reorganization of a badly depleted battalion and Lt. Hudgens was placed in command of Company C.

A small amount of heavy German artillery had to be contented with while in the city. From Sarrebourg the Battalion moved to the vicinity of the small village of Gorlingen where the Battalion was bivouacked in the wooded area just west of the village. We were still not convinced that every advantage should be taken of buildings for occupancy by our troops, when not actually engaged in fighting. While at Gorlingen, a reinforced rifle platoon was sent back to

the area of the Regimental objective near Sarrebourg to search the area for possible artillery pieces still manned, in the vicinity of the large city. Company C men who made the trip, returned the next day as did elements of the Xouxange patrol, which had been left as security on the Xouxange Canal bridge. It was while at Gorlingen that the much-talked-of Rauwiller episode occurred, which involved Company C only as far as the First Battalion was concerned. Company C was attached to the Second Battalion in an attack on Rauwiller and it was here that Lt. LeBlond and the very much-needed Sgt. Stickney were wounded, neither of whom were to return to the First Battalion. Company C returned to Battalion control as the Battalion moved to the small cities of HELLERING and Kirberg.

At this point the Fourth Armored Division enters the picture. It was indeed a dark period when the Third Battalion was in trouble in Rauwiller and Companies A and B in Kerberg reported to the Battalion forward command post that the Krauts were pushing our outposts back. By a stroke of good luck the Fourth Armored came rumbling in from our left flank. Only because of blown bridges along their assigned route did the Fourth Armored swing towards the right and wind up in the middle of the First Battalion. Needless to say, they were more than welcome. Thus was the pressure in Rauwiller relieved, but only after two days of hard, tough tank fighting and the Fourth losing over 18 tanks. Little did the First Battalion realize that they had come head-on with the 17th German Panzer Division who were on their way to retake Sarrebourg.

During this terrific tank battle nature had to have its say and though men were being killed and wounded, "Doc" Uhler, the Battalion surgeon, brought an infant into the world, for which he accepted the most valuable payment—one dozen fresh eggs.

Following a day's rest, the Battalion moved out at 0300 on foot, via a route from Kirberg to Baerendorf to Pisdorf where the Battalion attacked through a wooded area to the north, with the objective the city of Eyewiler. Opposition was of little significance until the entry of the city was made where buildings had to be thoroughly searched, and civilians cooperated in locating hiding soldiers and in pointing out enemy mine fields. Tanks were not available to assist the infantry and were used only momentarily throughout the entire route of combat to this point; they were of assistance in the edge of Sarrebourg and in entry to Sarrebourg.

From Eyewiler the Battalion moved out by foot through Berg with orders to effect a coordinated attack with the Second Battalion, the First Battalion on the right to attack, seize Rexigen and continue the attack. The Battalion without supporting armor entered Rexigen under minor opposition and Company B prepared to enter the woods beyond the town as darkness fell. Under direct observation from the woods on high ground, the Germans, with mortars, made the open ground untenable for the night and here Capt. Jozwiak is credited with sound judgment in withdrawing his entire company to the outskirts of the city.



1ST LIEUT. DONALD L. MOON



1ST LIEUT. RALPH GUTHRIE



1ST LIEUT. CHARLES PARELLI



CAPT. HAROLD A. RUPP

COMPANY A



2ND LIEUT. PAUL D. HAMPTON



1ST LIEUT. JAMES A. SWEENEY



2ND LIEUT. FELIX STANKOWITZ

COMPANY A



PFC. R. BAME



PFC. J. C. ALDRICH



S/SGT. D. HARRIS

SGT. J. KINGSTON



PFC. G. WEBB



PVT. R. ABSHER



Throughout the night the Germans covered the area occupied earlier in the evening by Company B, with intermittent mortar fire. At daylight on December 3, spearheaded by Company B and with the best exhibition of Company D's heavy weapons support, the Battalion attacked, seized and organized the woods for defensive operation. This position was to be short lived as Company C was moved out to the forward edge of the woods facing the city of Mackwiler, which had been taken by the Second Battalion.

The following day the Battalion was ordered to move through Mackwiler and on to Diemeringen. Leaving the city of Rexigen at 1300, the Battalion moved without incident on to Diemeringen, a city still under heavy German artil-

On successive days the Battalion moved from Lorenzen through Diemeringen to Ratzwiler and on to the outskirts of Montbronn. Here the Battalion bivouacked in the woods in the outskirts of the city.

On the following day the Battalion left the vicinity of Montbronn, at 1300, for Enchenberg, a small city that had been taken by elements of the 114th Infantry. Here Company A, reinforced by elements of Company D, occupied a company defensive sector on the south and east of the city. It was soon learned that the 71st Infantry was to take over the sector from the 114th. All other elements of the First Battalion were quartered in buildings in the west edge of Enchenberg. This was not to last, as shortly



Lt. Col. William H. Fowler looks over the Simserhoff fortress from his battalion position in a nearby woods.

lery shelling. Here defenses of the city were set up in the early evening of what was to be a dark bitter night. Company A, cooperating with the Second Battalion, 324th Infantry, provided a reinforced rifle platoon to fill a gap in the line a short distance out of Diemeringen. Heavy shelling was experienced throughout the night and on the following day the Battalion moved by foot to Lorenzen.

after nightfall the First Battalion was in receipt of orders to move by foot to the city of Lambach and assist, if need be, in the capture of the city. Here again the First Battalion made one of the dreaded night moves into enemy territory, over a mine infested road and it was during the march en route to Lambach that two men of Company B lost their lives by mine action and several others were wounded.



Conquerors inspect their prize.

Visibility was absolutely nil and the column was maintained only by each individual holding onto the man ahead of him, which was most difficult over a cratered road, in bitter darkness, through intermittent enemy artillery shelling. Upon arrival at the village of Lambach at 0200, elements of the Second Battalion, having already secured the city, were contacted. Here the companies were billeted as best could be for the remainder of the night. As daylight came, defenses of the city were organized largely by Company C. At 1300 on the following day orders were received for the First Battalion to move by foot north and east of Siersthal along the road leading from Frohmuel to Freudenburg Farm. The Battalion moved without incident through Siersthal, turned east and climbed the mountain, clearing into open territory just south of the road by nightfall. At this point the Battalion Commander received orders to remain in place for the night. The Battalion was then moved back into a wooded section on the reverse side of the hill and dug in for the night. At 2200 the Battalion Commander was directed to report to the Regimental Command Post to receive an attack order which involved taking over the Third Battalion sector. The darkness of the night made movement practically impossible.

Upon receipt of the Regimental order, Col. Fowler called his staff and Company Commanders together and issued the necessary order for an attack at daylight through the Third Battalion sector, to the north to develop initial enemy installation in the Maginot Line. Organization of the companies prior to daylight was very difficult; however, by daylight the Battalion was ready to move and did move

heavy weapons support. Little opposition was encountered throughout the forenoon and casualties were excessive only in Company C, as the reserve company, which had its company headquarters wiped out by long range German artillery. At this time the Battalion was not aware of the lurking danger ahead. Breaking from the woods, Company Commanders were confronted by structures entirely new and different and of magnitude never before experienced.

A close-up of the fortress.



COMPANY B



1ST LIEUT. DONALD FERGUSON



1ST LIEUT. PHILIP B. ROLIG

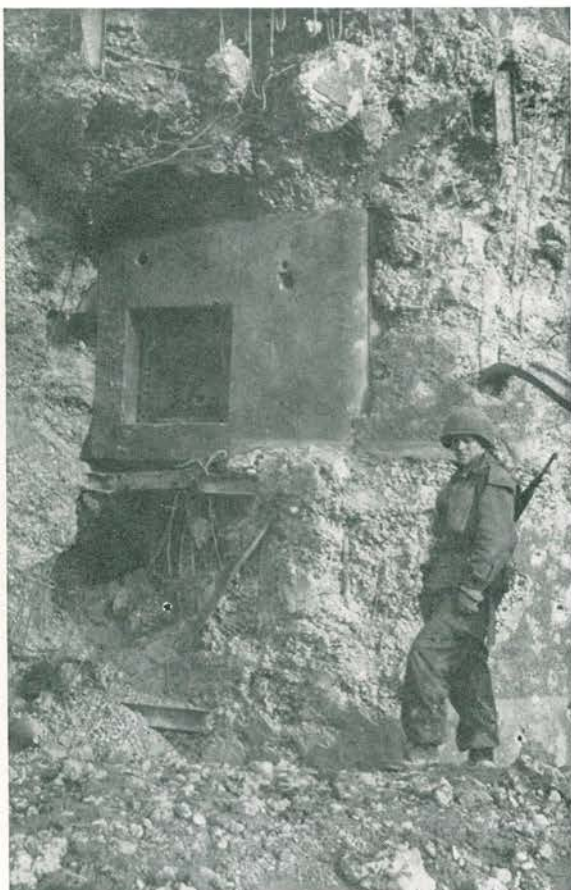


CAPT. CASS JOZWIAK



2ND LIEUT. CHARLES CROWLEY





This was built to last.

Front line rifle companies were soon to realize that the huge concrete structures were alive. Steel turrets atop the structure moved slowly and enemy machine guns sprayed the area with small arms fire. Companies were too close before there was a realization of what we were confronted with. Front line scouts and front line elements withdrew out with Company B and Company A abreast, Company A on the right and Company B on the left with attached to defiladed areas for protection and consultation. This was something new. Large caliber anti-tank guns fired from the concrete structures at personnel. It was soon learned that we had reached the much-touted major defenses in the Maginot Line. We soon found that the major forts in the Maginot Line, built as late as 1939, were often faced toward France and not toward Germany as is so often assumed.

Here Company A dug in, in the woods facing forts 7 and 8; Company B dug in facing forts 1, 2 and 5; Company C dug in in rear of Company B; and elements of Company D dug in with units of front line rifle companies to which they were attached. For several days the First Battalion occupied these positions as plans were effected and reconnaissance was made for means of breaking the German-manned fortified line. It was here that Lt. Hunt, a newly assigned officer to Company B, distinguished himself by leading the first reconnaissance patrol across the wire barriers to actually mount and patrol the Simserhoff Forts. On return from the patrol mission, Lt. Hunt and party blew a gap in the wire barrier which on the following day was to prove of great value to assaulting teams from Company B. It was also while in this position that Sgt. Hundley distinguished himself by carrying out night demolition work in front of fortresses 7 and 8, which materially helped Company A to move through the fortified area when the actual move was made

We pause for rations at the fortress.



later. For a tireless week the First Battalion sweated out the exchange of friendly and enemy artillery, sweated out orders and plans for the reduction of a structure the magnitude of which was only awe-inspiring to an infantryman, and for which he knew his individual weapons were useless. Orders were received, rescinded, changed, cancelled, and from day to day the Battalion suffered casualties in dug-in positions, and effected patrol missions by night. It is here that the First Battalion wholeheartedly joins in paying tribute to the 44th Division Artillery Commander. As Col. Fowler was overheard to say, "I don't know whether it was his stubbornness or his belief in the artillery, but he certainly saved us a lot of men." For a week our artillery and heavier artillery pounded away at the face of the larger fortresses, gradually reducing the forts and surely making the forts untenable for personnel.

Upon reduction of the famous Simserhoff Fortress, which was effected largely by the 44th Division Artillery, the Battalion moved through the Maginot Line in the vicinity of Fort No. 2 generally northeast. Without resistance, the Battalion moved about a mile and dug defensive positions. Orders came down to attack the next morning with the objective the high ground northwest of the city of Schorbach. Before the attack got underway, orders again were received to remain in position and await relief by elements of the 100th Division.

The relief was effected without incident and the Battalion moved back through the Simserhoff Fortress area to the town of Holbach. Vehicles were spotted in the town and a motor march from Holbach to Sarremines was soon in progress.

Arriving at Sarremines, the Battalion stayed the night in the town and moved out the next morning on foot to the town of Bliesbrücken. Companies A, B, and D, after a short stay in the town, moved south just out of the town and started preparing defensive positions along the railroad track. Company C moved to the north, and upon contact with the 44th Division Reconnaissance Troop, was given the mission of establishing and maintaining a covering force to the north, covering the withdrawal of the 87th Division from the sector.

Company C rejoined the Battalion in Wolfling and orders were received to prepare defensive positions on the high ground east of Bliesbrücken and south of the Brukerwald Forest. The positions were only partially completed when orders were again received to abandon the positions and move into the Brukerwald Forest and prepare the necessary perimeter defenses. With Company A on the right, one platoon of Company B to the north, Company C on the left, and the remainder of Company B in the town of Bliesbrücken, the defense was set up.

For six days the Battalion occupied a front of 3,400 yards. No reserve was held out; as, with such a frontage to cover



Typical of the sentiments of even the most battle-hardened men. Pfc. Armenta pauses in prayer at a shrine in Holbach after the ordeal of Sarrebourg.

and with under-strength units, the Battalion was hard pressed to even maintain adequate contact. No name has ever been found in the annals of military history which would adequately describe the type of defense which the First Battalion was forced to adopt. Looping around a long narrow neck of woods, the Battalion was vulnerable to attack from the front or from either side. The only thing we were sure of was that we were holding German soil and that we were the only unit in the Seventh Army to be holding German soil at that time. Throughout the days from Christmas to New Year's Eve, men of the Battalion improved their defensive positions in anticipation of a possible attack on the part of the enemy. Company B, with one platoon in the city of Bliesbrücken, one stretched over 1,000 yards to the southwest corner of the Brukerwald Woods and one platoon on the forward tip of the woods could never defend successfully the sector against an organized major enemy attack. Throughout the period prior to New Year's considerable German activity could be noted to the north. German and friendly artillery were active. Nightly patrols were again required by higher headquarters. The weather was generally clear and cold and the ground was partially covered with snow. Shortly before midnight on New Year's Eve, the Germans launched what was to be their major offensive

COMPANY C



1ST LIEUT. LOUIS P. ASCERNO



1ST LIEUT. LLOYD A. JONES



1ST LIEUT. ROBERT W. COLE



1ST LIEUT. ARCHIBALD McLEOD



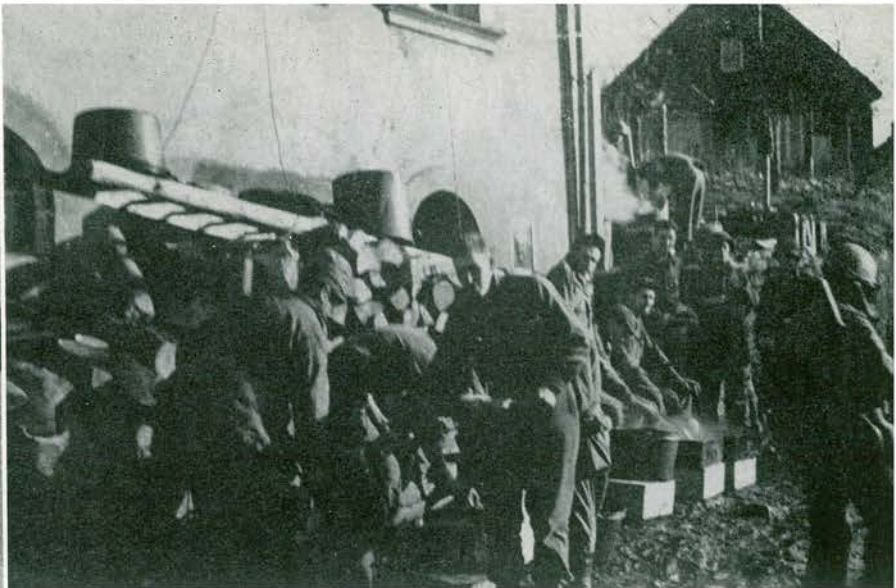
2ND LIEUT. ELMER KLEMINSKY



2ND LIEUT. WILLIAM J. FITZGERALD



Pfc. Gordon Pease, Company C, pauses near First Battalion Command Post to fill his canteen from a typical Alsatian well.



And a hot meal was enjoyed by all.

action against the 44th Division. Striking south in force on the west of the Brukerwald Forest along the general railroad area, the enemy had soon overrun our outposts and was moving into the city of Bliesbrücken.

From midnight until 0500 on New Year's Day the small garrison of Company B and attached elements of Company D fought an enemy twenty times their numerical strength. The entire mortar platoon of Company D was overrun and all heavy mortars were captured by the enemy. The enemy moved into adjoining houses and streamed past Bliesbrücken up the draw in an easterly direction into the Bliesbrücken Wald Forest. At 0500 the Battalion Commander ordered the Company Commander to withdraw that portion of the company under his control to the south edge of the Bliesbrücken Woods. Throughout this period, enemy attempts were being made from several angles to enter the Brukerwald Forest, but to no avail. Fighting from all sides of the Brukerwald Forest, Company A, Company C and the forward platoon of Company B were able to maintain their positions intact. Here the enemy paid dearly against a dug-in enemy. While the Battalion, minus elements of Company B, was completely surrounded by the enemy and cut off from friendly troops or supplies, the enemy was convinced that they did not at that time want the Brukerwald Woods. The unit on the First Battalion's right could not be observed or contacted after daylight on 1 January. Throughout New Year's Day the major part of the First Battalion was completely cut off by the enemy. The enemy had succeeded in moving through on the right of the Battalion south into Bliesbrücken Woods. It was plain that a withdrawal was necessary, but to effect one with any major degree of success seemed almost impossible. The withdrawal was planned and ordered to be executed just prior to daylight on 2 January. Assembling with the greatest of secrecy in the darkness, Companies A, C, and the platoon of Company B moved southeast into the enemy occupied Bliesbrücken Woods. Moving to the east and then cutting sharply to the south the Battalion cleared into the area just north of Wolfling as daylight came. The successful comple-

tion of the night withdrawal through enemy territory was credited to the better leadership of Capt. Rupp, Capt. Hudgens and to the cooperation of all officers and men, and to a not too alert enemy. Company B in the meantime had been attached to the Third Battalion in an attack from east to west through the Bliesbrücken Forest on the afternoon and evening of January 1. It was during this attack that Lt. Hunt of Company B was killed. Upon reaching the southern edge of the Bliesbrücken Woods on 2 January, there was no respite for the First Battalion men. The Battalion was immediately ordered to move to the railroad, organize, occupy and defend a sector generally to the north of the city of Wolfling. This movement was effected by attacking to secure the railroad and by 1400 on 2 January the Battalion was digging in along the track under what seemed to be never ending German artillery fire. Casualties and fatalities occurred daily. On the left of the Battalion was our own Third Battalion and on the right were elements of the 114th Infantry. The defensive sector was organized and improved as the enemy situation would permit with Company A on the left and Company C on the right and Company D just south of the wooded area in Battalion reserve. These were bitter days for both the enemy and our forces. A few yards apart in a forest, neither side willing to give ground, and neither side willing to risk offensive action at such a disadvantage. It was during this period, which lasted for eight days, that Capt. Baker, 156th Field Artillery Liaison Officer with the First Battalion, is credited with fine defensive action. The value of defensive fires here is not under estimated by the infantry as forward observers and infantry directed concentration after concentration. With the familiar call, "Fire Baker 1, 2, and 5 and repeat on Red 6," our men drew down in their foxholes and were content to listen to the shells whine overhead into enemy-held sections of the forest.

This was the only defensive sector where the men of the First Battalion were told to shoot anything moving above ground between darkness and daylight and such practice paid real dividends, in many dead Germans only a few

yards from our own foxholes as daylight came. Defensive bands of fire were laid down many times throughout the night as one heavy machine gun would break the silence and other heavies and lights would take up the cause.

After eight days of defensive operations the Battalion was relieved on the line by elements of the 114th Infantry. Moving out at night the First Battalion companies assembled in the vicinity of Wieswiller and Wolfling and on the following morning moved on foot to Wittring. Here the Battalion was motorized and moved through Herbeshiem to St. Michel where we were billeted for the next two days. It was here at St. Michel that the men were greeted with clean clothes and the first shower in better than two and one-half months. From St. Michel immediate reconnaissance was initiated by Battalion Staff Officers for preparation of

and improvement of a defensive line was begun, running generally east and west, north of the city of Guising. On our left was the 114th and on our right was our Second Battalion. In our own sector, Company A was on the left, Company B on the right, and Company C was in reserve at Oberdingelhof Farm, all units facing Schlossberg Ridge. It was while at this farm that Capt. Hudgens' dairy project was carried on.

A period of twelve days was devoted to improving foxholes, laying wire and mines, combatting near zero weather, and knee-deep snow. Patrol activity on our part was continuous and of serious proportions. With the foxholes rapidly filling with water due to melting snow, the First Battalion turned over its defensive sector to the First Battalion of the 324th Infantry. Immediately upon relief, a motor move to Aachen, Etting, and Wittring was in prog-



For the next ten days the battalion dug defensive positions.

defensive positions in the vicinity of Ernstviller. The Battalion was moved to the vicinity of Ernstviller where for one day the companies worked on assigned defensive sectors before orders were received for a motor move to Siltzheim.

Here out of Siltzheim for the next ten days the Battalion dug defensive positions east of Siltzheim and from Wittring west to Deiding along the canal and Sarre River. Company C prepared positions in the Bois de Wittring, while Company A and B from right to left worked on forward positions near the river bank. This period will well be remembered for the bitter cold, and the frozen snow covered ground that made the preparation of defensive installations doubly difficult.

After a round-about trip from Siltzheim, the Battalion detrucked late in the afternoon on the outskirts of Rhorback and consumed a hot meal. Then moving through a blinding snow storm to Guising, guides led the troops to the area which the 100th Division occupied and which was to be defended by the First Battalion. The relief was effected

ress. For a period of eleven days the First Battalion spent its time in improving the reverse defenses of the Maginot Line. The men were in good spirits despite a continual downpour of rain and the questionable activity on our part of improving the Maginot Line, in reverse. Hot meals

The frozen, snow-covered ground made preparation for the defensive installations doubly difficult.





1ST LIEUT. DONALD D. BROWN



1ST LIEUT. WILLIS TAYLOR



1ST LIEUT. ROBERT ALTIER

COMPANY D



CAPT. RALPH MASON



1ST LIEUT. RAYMOND QUINN



1ST LIEUT. RAY STEWART



2ND LIEUT.
CRAWFORD C. MURTON, JR.



1ST SGT. EDWARD CORCORAN



T/SGT. LEO D. FRAKER



T/SGT. HENRY W. WEIDMAN

COMPANY D



T/SGT. MIKE KUBACKO, JR.



S/SGT. HUGH F. GOBLE



2ND LIEUT. ANTHONY DEMARINIS



2ND LIEUT. STEPHEN WANOSIK

COMPANY D



2ND LIEUT. ELMER L. STANLEY



First Battalion sets up its C. P. here in Gros Riederching.

were fed daily, showers were available on schedule, and a meager entertainment program was presented by Special Service Units.

After eleven days of preparing positions, the First Battalion received orders to move to Gros Riederching and relieve a battalion of the 114th Infantry. A defensive line was set up due north of Gros Riederching with Company C on the left, a part of Company A in the center, and Company B on the right.

On the morning of the 15 February, the Regiment, in conjunction with the 114th, jumped off on a limited objective attack to take Rimling and secure the high ground north of Moronville Farm overlooking the towns of Obergailbach and Guderkirch. The First Battalion was in reserve in the initial phase, but was soon ordered to assist the 114th in its sector. The First Battalion accomplished its mission by moving north rapidly across Schlossberg Ridge to Moronville Farm, from where Company B cleared the woods to the left front of the farm and Company C cleared the woods directly to the front of the farm. A number of prisoners were taken along with two 75mm. anti-tank guns. This quick strategic move in the sector of another regiment effected a straightening of the new defensive line.

The First Battalion began immediate preparation of defensive positions when orders were received to the fact

The battalion moving into Gros Riederching.



that an element of the 114th Infantry would relieve the First Battalion. The Battalion, minus Company A, left the new defensive positions at 2400 and moved on foot to Guising, reverting to Regimental reserve. Company A remained in position just south of Moronville Farm under Second Battalion control.

As daylight came the First Battalion was in receipt of warning orders indicating the probability that the First Battalion would take over the defensive sector of the Second Battalion, acquired the previous day, but given up during the night. The Battalion Commander was also informed that Company A, under control of the Second Battalion, would attack with Company G to secure high ground and re-establish the line. This was hard to realize; however, in a very few minutes the First Battalion was ordered to move to the defensive area extending generally from the high ground west of Rimling to Moronville Farm. This move was made without incident. It was learned that Company A and Company G had restored the line and upon restoration, Company A remained in place and Company C relieved elements of Company G on line. Company B took positions as the reserve company on the high ground just to the right rear of Company A. All companies were digging in and preparing hasty defenses by mid-afternoon. It was here that the Battalion Commander, aware of the circumstances which resulted in the loss of the high ground, was instrumental in getting the only satisfactory anti-tank support from the tank destroyer unit to this point in combat. After appeals to Division, the First Battalion was promised, at least in part, tank destroyer protection. The anti-tank commander was heard to say, "Colonel, you have four tank destroyers and they are your responsibility to do as you see fit. Now where do you want them?" The tank destroyers were soon to learn that they were to be the nearest to firing a final protective line in front of infantry troops in their history of defensive operations. With the defensive organization effected, the Battalion Commander gave control of two tank destroyers to Capt. Rupp and two to Lt. McLeod, with the instructions that they were to be used in close conjunction with front line troops in holding the ground now occupied. Both officers moved the tank destroyers up into the front lines, and upon the first moonlight night of occupancy, German tanks from Erchingen came into our lines. It was here that the 776 tank destroyers, attached to the First Battalion, were accredited with fine work. It was on this same night that a 776 TD knocked out two German tanks, one of which had entered our lines and had moved through only fifteen feet from Lt. Perilli's platoon command post, to meet sure death under the accuracy of tank destroyer fire. Infantry following the tanks were killed or withdrew. The night's staunch defense throughout the German attack spelled the end of German tank activities in the immediate front of the First Battalion. For twelve days the First Battalion held the defensive sector from the woods in front

of Moronville Farm to the high ground west of Rimling. Considerable German activity could be observed to the front and right front in the direction of Guderkirch and Erchingen. Nightly patrol activity was required and it was here that Sgt. Sullivan of Company B distinguished himself as a patrol leader, and as having the ability to bring back prisoners, which were highly prized at this time. Casualties were light but daily throughout the period, as the complete Battalion was under enemy observation. It was here that the Battalion Anti-tank Platoon did good work firing upon targets of opportunity. The First Battalion Anti-tank Platoon remained in position for an extended period of 28 days, while the respective defensive sector was held in turn by our own Third and Second Battalions. Prior to relief from the positions, Company B was moved to Moronville Farm and in connection with the farm will be remembered the efforts to provide haircuts, foot baths and the possibility of shaving, an art, if not lost, which had been sadly neglected. German counter-attacks were not indicated and after twelve days the defensive sector was turned over to the Third Battalion.

The First Battalion moved from Moronville Farm to Gros Rederching for a five-day period of rest, recuperation and training. Here good hot food could be consumed without molestation by the enemy as enemy artillery was light at this time. Good weather, clean clothes, and the opportunity to live for a few days away from the strain of front line activity did much for the Battalion.

After five days in the vicinity of Gros Rederching, the Battalion moved out late one evening and took over the regimental defensive sector held by the Second Battalion, which had previously relieved the Third Battalion. The Rimling sector was held for ten days, casualties were light. It was while in Rimling that friendly air corps bombed the village and killed Carl Jastrebski, the very much respected First Sergeant of Company C. We were soon to learn that another division was to pass through the 44th in an attack to the north. After twelve days in the Rimling area, elements of the 3rd Division passed through the First Battalion sector which ended the long defensive period. From south of Rimling, the Battalion was motorized and moved to Siltzheim for an extended period of rest, recuperation, reorganization and resupply. Fair weather permitted the units to be quartered in wooded areas without undue hardships and good food added much to the comfort and contentment of the men. It was while at Siltzheim that the famous Regimental party was held, and while it cannot be expected that all present remember the occasion, it is understood that an enjoyable time was had by many. Following the recuperation period at Siltzheim, France, the Battalion made one of its longer motor moves. Entering Germany via the familiar route of Frohmuel, Simserhoff area to Bitche, the Battalion, as it neared Germany, was

given its first view of the city of Pirmasens and of the wholesale destruction of German cities on the part of friendly aid corps. Pleasing was the sight after months of observation of destruction, all of which was in France. At the conclusion of the first day's travel, the Battalion was billeted in the very beautiful little German city of Neidenfels. Now for the first time we were observing villages untouched by the ravages of war, small villages completely intact, well dressed people, cleanliness and healthy conditions appeared in most areas. Our stay in the village of Neidenfels was to be short lived and is remembered only by some as the place where Chap. Stob held a protestant service in a plain little protestant church on the hill. The next long motor move was destined to take the Regiment across the Rhine in the south suburbs of the great industrial city of Worms. Enroute, the evidences of air corps and other unit destruction was ever present. The Rhine was crossed in good motor order. The river did not possess the magnitude as was expected by many. Upon crossing the Rhine, it was soon learned that the First Battalion was to relieve elements of the 3rd Division in and around Waldhof, as a part of a plan involving a coordinated attack on the part of the First and Second Battalions, for the seizure of the north bank of the Neckar River and the ultimate attack of the great industrial city of Mannheim. The Battalion was detrucked in the vicinity of Sandhofen, and before nightfall had relieved elements of the 3rd Division in the sector assigned to the First Battalion. Orders were received at 0100 on the morning of 28 March for the attack to secure a crossing over the Neckar River. The First Battalion moved into the attack on the right of the Second Battalion, moving south through that part of Mannheim north of the Neckar River. Casualties were generally light, but several fatalities were recorded by the enemy as the First Battalion, with Company A on the right and Company C on the left, drove toward the north bank of the Neckar River.

Here we pay respect to the newly joined tank platoon, so ably led by Lt. Robertson. The 772nd Tank Battalion had joined the Division and immediately proved its superiority in fighting spirit and ability to any armored unit with which the First Battalion had been associated.

Pushing steadily toward the Neckar River, ably assisted by the 772nd Tank Platoon and the 776th TD Platoon, the First Battalion by noon reached and secured the north bank of the Neckar in its respective sector. A great deal of German activity could be observed on the far bank of the river and an attempted crossing at that time would have proved costly. Reconnaissance was made and plans were effected for a river crossing within our sector. It was during the evening of the first day that we were suckers to a plan of surrender of the city of Mannheim; however, those in control of personnel who doubted the plan are to be com-

mended for using such judgment as to prevent the loss of life by the double cross which was cleverly effected by the German military authorities. Those who experienced the tremendously heavy concentration of German artillery on our side of the river will quickly attest to the admission that an attempt had been made to lead our forces into a serious predicament.

At 1200 on 29 March the First Battalion, in conjunction with cooperative citizens of Mannheim, put the first American soldiers across the Neckar River and into the never-before-entered city. The crossing was effected in assault boats, and soon all elements of the Battalion were across and in the process of clearing the city. Large numbers of Germans surrendered and it was learned that a large part of the German garrison defending the city had evacuated the city during the preceding night. The remainder of the day was utilized in clearing the city. German architecture was of the best as much of it could be seen in the streets as we again saw the effects of the tremendous pounding which the city had been given by the air corps.

As nightfall came the Battalion was in receipt of orders to move east out of Mannheim, secure and hold the village of Seckenheim. As darkness fell, the Battalion moved to the east out through the general area through which ran a fine German autobahn. Swinging south and then east along the great maze of Mannheim railroads, the First Battalion passed through elements of the Second Battalion which were moving south. Crossing through the railroad yards to the north, the First Battalion secured the city as directed. German prisoners, deserting their ranks and being forced to fight, were captured in the process of enjoying a bountiful feast upon American Red Cross packages which were stored by the thousands in German military barracks. It was here that Cpl. W. Zindler of Company A lost his life by German small arms fire. Billeted for the night in a deserted German military barracks, the Battalion moved out at daylight to retrace its steps to the area opposite Feudenheim, where the Battalion crossed the river into Feudenheim on a foot bridge over which the 63rd Division had crossed the previous night. Here in Feudenheim the Battalion was able to gain a little much-needed rest.

From Feudenheim the Battalion was moved with other elements of the Regiment to a bivouac area in the woods in the vicinity of Babenhausen. Here we received our first initiation of German jet-propelled plane attacks. On short notice, the Battalion moved as a part of the Regiment from the wooded bivouac area to the German city of Somborn. Here the First Battalion enjoyed a period of Regimental reserve as unwelcome guests of the German people living in comfort, in a nice city untouched by the ravages of war. Company B performed the only mission forward of the Regiment while securing the city of Schluchtern, famous

for its fine Wehrmacht boys' school and its fine supply of good liquors. After several days in Somborn, the Battalion, as a part of the Regiment, made the famous motor move with the reversal of direction and return to Somborn.

Company B was returned to the Battalion before the departure by motor from Somborn to Brunntal, Germany. This move is remembered as one made partially by the use of vehicular headlight. At Brunntal the Battalion, as part of the entire Regiment in reserve, enjoyed a period of training, wholesome athletics and recreational activities. It was here that Sgt. Zdobylak of Company C, assisted by other members of company headquarters, captured a band of wandering German SS troopers, who, contrary to the attitude of many German soldiers, had no intentions of surrendering to our men.

From Brunntal the Battalion moved by motor to a bivouac area on a high hill outside the town of Oberleinach. Here for two days river crossing training was planned but was never effected because of movement orders. Here we had the experience of contact with German night observation and fighter planes. Good weather added much to the comfort of the men.

From the bivouac area on the high hill, the Battalion moved at midnight, on "ducks," to the vicinity of Simprechtshausen, arriving shortly after daylight. Time in this area was short-lived as reconnaissance was started early in the day and movement was initiated to put the Battalion in position just in rear of the German city of Michelfeld. This nightly bivouac will be remembered as one in a beautiful green meadow in a densely wooded area where difficulty was experienced with vehicles getting stuck in the soft earth.

On the following day the Battalion made one of its longest foot moves, moving through wooded areas and across open valleys and ridges, the Battalion was in the outskirts of the burned-out city of Fornbach by late evening. Anticipated bivouac for the night here was interrupted by orders to make a shuttle move by night to the vicinity of Schafhof in anticipation of taking over in the sector of the Second Battalion on the following morning. Lt. Lowdenback is accredited with exceptionally good work in effecting the completion of the shuttle movement by 0500. At 0600 the Battalion, without satisfactory rest and with Company B already in Lorch, moved out and passed through the Second Battalion. Supported by our 772nd Tank Platoon, the First Battalion entered the large German industrial city of Goppingen at 1100. The city, still occupied by remnants of German forces, had to be cleared and secured and this task was given to Company A. Essential bridges over the river in Goppingen were secured and preserved for elements to follow. Leaving Company A in Goppingen, the remainder of the Battalion moved on some two miles to a

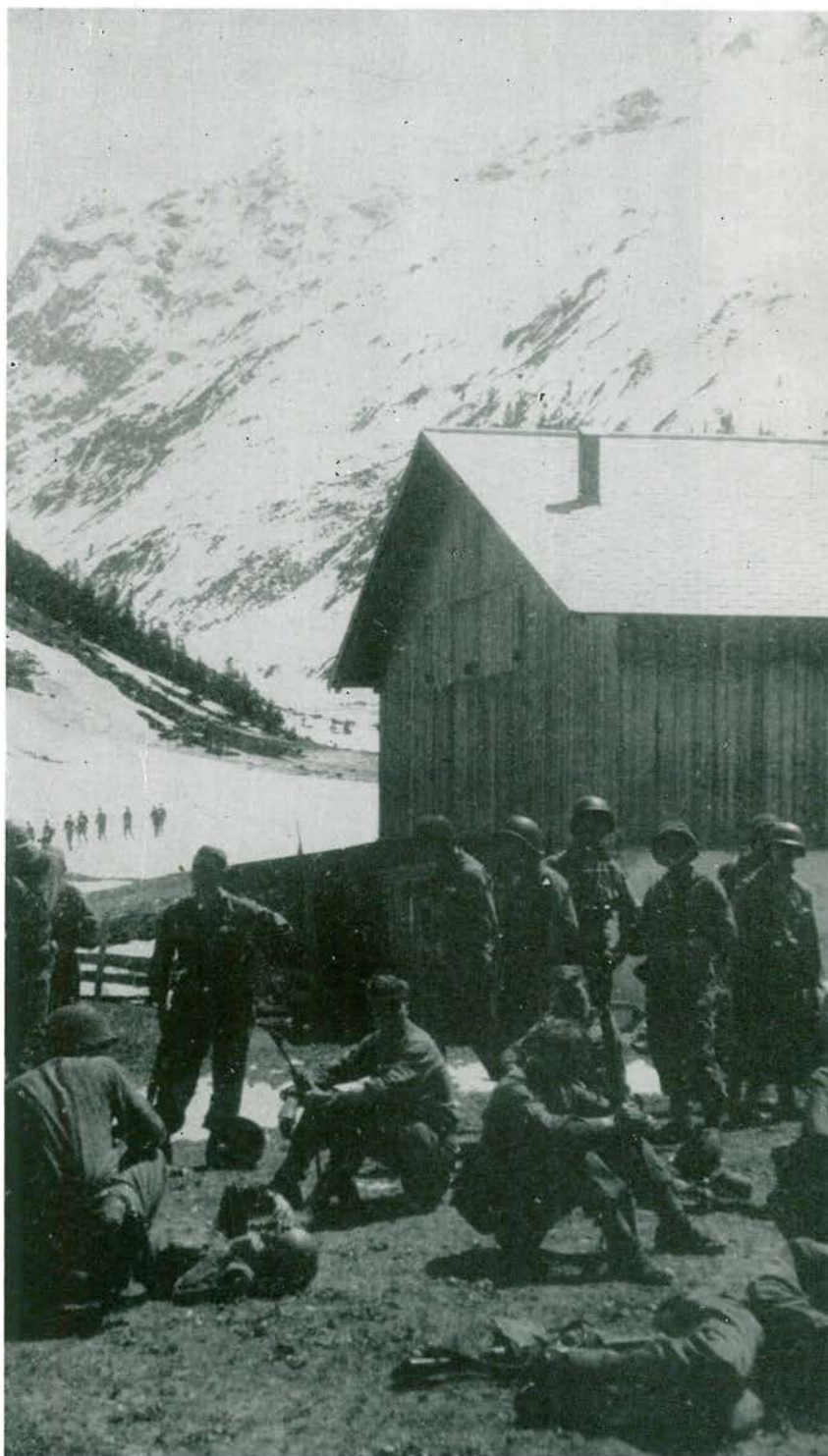
very beautiful little city of Jebenhausen. Here the Battalion was billeted until noon the following day. From Jebenhausen to the south, the Battalion was to follow a task force of the 10th Armored; this circumstance we realized only in part. At noon the Battalion moved south through the 10th Armored which occupied the villages of Eschenbach and Heimingen, and from there turned south-east through the strongly defended mountain area. Attacking through the mountainous wooded area from Gammelhausen to Auendorf, supported by our Platoon of 772 Tankers and a Platoon of 776 TD's, the Battalion was able to reduce the road-blocks and German defenses and to reach the city of Bad Ditzenback by 1700. Considerable good German weapons and material was overrun as the Germans retreated to escape capture or combat. Upon arriving near the city of Bad Ditzenback, the Battalion Commander was in receipt of orders to push on to the city of Ober Drackenstein. A high, wooded mountain barrier faced the Battalion and suitable roads were neither present on the map nor visible on the ground. Company A, still in Goppingen, had not at this time joined the Battalion. From Bad Ditzenback in the later afternoon, the Battalion was involved in one of its bitterest fights and placed in one of its most precarious positions. Switchbacks led up the steep mountain side on a narrow one-way road. German forces defending the mountain pass permitted our forces to move well up the mountain until heavy road-blocks were encountered when our forces were subjected to heavy small arms fire. Several fatalities were inflicted upon our men and in many instances, because of the nature of the terrain and the possibility of enemy fire from several directions, our men were helpless to fight back. It was here that Lt. Robertson of the 772nd Tank Platoon demonstrated a technique on road-block reduction previously unknown to our Battalion. Blasting heavy log road-blocks with his heavy tank guns, he was able to reduce five such road-blocks and to move with leading infantry foot elements out on to open ground on top of the mountain. New German anti-tank guns, sighted to cover the road-blocks, were not manned and were overrun in the movement to the mountain top. By the time darkness was settling, a driving, cold rain and snow storm was in progress. It was during the ascent of the mountain that Capt. Jozwiak was wounded but refused to leave his company. From the mountain to the city of Ober Drackenstein there was no suitable road and through darkness and in the blinding sleet Lt. Hartledge is credited with an outstanding piece of work in guiding the Battalion across country to our assigned objective. Arriving at Ober Drackenstein at midnight, cold, wet, but in good spirits, the Battalion billeted as best it could after being told by the German civilians that from the city in the afternoon had gone a German infantry company to defend the mountain pass from the direction of Bad Ditzenback. Civilians were curious to learn of what route we had taken and we were just as anxious to forget.

On the following morning the Battalion Commander organized the oft-recalled Lowdenback task force. A tank and a TD, with a platoon of infantrymen, were to return over the same route to Bad Ditzenback and guide Company A forward.

The remainder of the Battalion initiated movement out of the city of Ober Drackenstein to the south. Having gone only a short distance, word was received from Lt. Lowdenback that the Lowdenback task force was inadequate for the job of recovering Company A. Confronted by German elements still guarding the mountain road from the hill tops and aware of our small detachment, the German forces were prepared to again defend the pass. Lt. Lowdenback is credited with good judgment in returning for reinforcements and the Battalion Commander took the entire Battalion, supported by attached armor, to relieve enemy pressure. A short engagement with the enemy, largely on the part of the armor, broke the German defenses and while the infantry held the road and hilltop, the armor descended the mountain to the city of Bad Ditzenback where Company A and other elements of the Battalion were waiting to be guided forward. Returning to Ober Drackenstein, the Battalion moved to the south throughout the afternoon and was billeted in the village of Ennabeuren for the night. From the village of Ennabeuren the Battalion was alerted at 0100 for a motor movement shortly after daylight. This move was made on 156th Field Artillery vehicles and by 1200 the Regiment had reached the city of Ehingen on the Danube, the city having been previously secured by elements of the 10th Armored. Reconnaissance was made of crossings over the Danube which at this point appeared to be only a meager stream. The First Battalion followed the Third Battalion across the Danube in the outskirts of Ehingen. The river crossing was effected in the absence of enemy opposition and by the use of tank and tank destroyers fording the river and troops crossing in assault boats. The Battalion was billeted in the city of Berg for the night.

On the following morning the Battalion was motorized and moved in the direction of Deitenheim on the Iller River. Deitenheim had been secured by a task force of the 10th Armored; however, little effort was being made to establish a bridgehead across the Iller River. Fresh from a few days marked by the absence of hard fighting, the First Battalion suggested a river crossing and was quickly accorded the privilege of establishing one. Enemy strength in the vicinity was found to be practically nil as the Battalion Commander with an engineer officer was the first to cross the river in the wreckage of the blown highway bridge. Reconnaissance was made of a second blown bridge just across the river and of the blown bridge over the canal in the outskirts of the city of Illertissen. Within a short time infantry elements of the First Battalion were crossing on an improvised foot bridge over the wreckage of the highway

bridge. By 1700 the entire combat elements, other than those motorized, had closed into the city of Illertissen and had thus established a wide bridgehead, making possible bridge construction on the part of the 10th Armored Engineers. Security of the city was established. It must be said at this point, that to say the least, the German forces were greatly confused. The rapid drive of friendly forces had disrupted any organized enemy withdrawal as evidenced by the fact that throughout the night German forces, including heavy artillery, came into Deitenheim and crossed the Iller River on a bridge which had been constructed by 10th Armored Engineers during the night. German military elements, motorized and on foot, came into the city of Illertissen during the night and were captured or became casualties at the hands of First Battalion men. As daylight



came a German attack from the north was launched against our forces in an effort to secure the city. By 1000 the fighting had subsided and enemy forces, apparently surprised by the size of the opposition, surrendered or withdrew. No further fighting took place in the city of Illertissen. Meanwhile routes around blown bridges and construction over the canal were being effected and by 1400 vehicles and attached armor of the First Battalion came across the Iller River into Illertissen.

From Illertissen the Battalion moved out on the following morning ahead of the 10th Armored. This was a foot movement accompanied by attached armor. Prisoners be-

Patrol of Company "C" searching for prisoners in the Pitzal Valley, Austria, near the Swiss and Italian borders.



came numerous as some attempting to escape were rounded up and many others became willing subjects without resistance. The town of Babenhausen was entered without opposition where the major part of two German rifle companies surrendered to the First Battalion. Here we were overtaken by a task force of the 10th Armored which passed through the First Battalion in the city of Babenhausen and was not contacted further during the day. Turning the prisoners over to motorized elements of the 156th Field Artillery, the Battalion motorized on tanks and TD's and confiscated "Kraut" trucks, headed cross country through the assigned zone toward the city of Sontheim. Passing many small villages, the lead tanks were fired on by anti-tank guns from the outskirts of Sontheim. Here the tanks, TD's and heavy weapons went into action with perfect range and targets. German motorized elements could be observed evacuating the city as our forces proceeded to make it untenable. In a short time all intentions of enemy resistance from the city vanished, and with the city ablaze in many places, the Battalion entered the city as darkness fell, against little resistance.

From Sontheim the Battalion made a long foot movement of 22 kilometers to the city of Friesenried. This move was marked by German strafing of our column, the rapid advance of German retreating forces, the willing surrender of several hundred Hungarian soldiers, the late arrival of the First Battalion in the city of Friesenried, the liberation of American prisoners, and the retention of several hundred prisoners in the town church. A long combined motor and foot move was in store for the Battalion on the following day. This move will well be remembered for the route over the boggy terrain where as many as three of the six tanks were buried, turret deep at times. Over a period of hours Lt. Robertson did excellent work in freeing the tanks, permitting the continued movement of the Battalion in the late afternoon. Germans were surrendering by entire companies and upon clearing the forested area through which we were forced to travel, the First Battalion was in possession of better than three thousand prisoners. The Battalion moved to the east toward the zone of the 103rd Division. Here in the outskirts of a small city the large number of prisoners were held in an open field awaiting future disposal as the remainder of the Battalion moved on to the city of Reiden where the Battalion was billeted for the night. From Reiden on the following day, the Battalion moved without incident through Fussen to Vils, Austria. After one night in Vils the Battalion moved to Ruette.

During the night of 30 April, the First Battalion moved from Ruette, Austria, to Ehrwald, Austria, closing in at 0400, 1 May. The weather was extremely cold and snow blanketed the ground to and including the lowlands.

On 1 May the Battalion was assigned the mission of reconnoitering a series of passes which might skirt the



Over boggy terrain.

strongly defended main highway leading south through the mountains to the large cities of Imst and Innsbruck. A route other than the highway was necessary as operations of the Third Battalion were proving costly, and continued head-on progress was deemed unwise. Reconnaissance throughout the day proved futile. The German defense was ideally set up in the snow-covered mountain pass known as Fern Pass. Roads and trails could not be located and could not be navigated by the best equipment. Situated four and one-half miles beyond the German-held stronghold in the Fern Pass was the small village of Fernstein, from which the German defenses were directed. A route of march was needed which would permit our forces to attack the strong enemy positions in and around Fernstein and the Fern Pass, from the rear. The highway and narrow valley appeared to present a definite barrier to our forces. Throughout 1 May 1945 the Third Battalion, committed in the Fern Pass, made only limited costly gains; reconnaissance patrols met with little success as trails and possible passes were snowbound, impassable for motor vehicles, and in many instances for foot troops.

At 1100 on 2 May the Battalion Commander was in receipt of a plan of commitment of the First Battalion through the mountainous country to the east and southeast of Fern Pass with a mission of capturing Fernstein, saving the large concrete bridge over the end of Fernstein Lake, and attack Fern Pass from the rear. A route was outlined which skirted the slopes of Mount Wanneck (elevation 8,200 feet) south and west to cut the highway south of Fernstein. Time estimates by cooperative Austrian underground was seven hours with properly equipped trained mountain troops.

Orders were issued to the Battalion Commander for the accomplishment of the mission at 1130 on 2 May. Moving swiftly, the Battalion was organized and moved by "ducks" to a point on the highway near the Blind Sea, this point being two and three quarter miles through snow-covered mountainous area to the initial objective. At this point, Gen. William F. Dean, 44th Division Commander, issued final instructions to Lt. Col. Fowler. The seriousness of

the mission could not be overestimated. Mountain sides rose sheer and rugged. The ground was covered with snow. The Battalion, understrength, ill equipped for mountain fighting, untrained as mountain troops, faced with the impossibility of evacuation and supply, moved to accomplish the mission.

At 1330 on 2 May the First Battalion began the ascent of Mount Wanneck. Company C, with attached heavy weapons, represented the lead elements of the Battalion. Col. Fowler, the Battalion Commander, and Lt. McLeod, executive officer of Company C, moved with the lead scouts in reconnaissance of routes. All men traveled light; packs, blankets and other equipment pertinent to an infantry soldier was not carried. The laborious ascent of Mount Wanneck was slow. Fighting the steep hillsides and deep snow taxed the men to the utmost. Many times human chains were formed to help men up the hillside or to prevent their plunging to death below. Heavy weapons men bore a heavy burden and mortar men, traveling light, were attached as ammunition bearers to machine gun platoons.

For one mile the ascent was necessary, at which point the timberline was reached and sufficient distance had been attained as to prevent detection by the enemy and to provide possibility of continuance en route. Speed was considered essential and the men were pressed to the utmost by the officers, as failure to clear into the Fernstein area would certainly have been disastrous for the Battalion. Cutting south and then west, forward elements of the Battalion had reached the southside of the lake at Fernstein, near the highway, by 1700. En route from the highway mountainside, as visibility permitted, intense German activity could be noted, numerous vehicles, artillery pieces and staff cars were observed in action. To this point detection of the First Battalion's movement by enemy forces could not be obtained from prisoners captured later. It was later determined that a German "88" had wounded two men of the reserve company on Mount Wanneck, believed, as the enemy stated later, to be a small patrol. Upon the rapid assembly of the major portion of Company C and without

waiting for adequate reserves, the Battalion Commander ordered immediate seizure of the highway south of Fernstein, the Fernstein bridge, and an attack on Fernstein. This attack was vigorously carried out, the surprise element of a force as large as a company supported by heavy machine gun fire from high on Mount Wanneck caught the enemy off guard, evidenced by the quick seizure of the large concrete bridge, the capture of the 47th Volksgrenadier Division Command Post, with its staff, including the commander Oberst. Carl Langessus who was seriously wounded in the engagement. A battery of German artillery supporting the defense of the Fern Pass was overrun, as well as were several individual artillery pieces. German staff withdrawal was terminated and 20 staff officers surrendered en mass. The large concrete bridge was saved from destruction by seizure and quick removal of demolitions prepared by the enemy. The complete disruption of the German defenses was assured and in progress as defenses in the narrow valley began to crumble. At this time, 1750, the First Battalion was in Fernstein, three miles from the Third Battalion by highway. The Battalion Commander, upon capture of Fernstein, issued immediate orders and moved with Company A, supported by heavy machine guns, to close the gap with the Third Battalion. By 1900 Company A, led by Lt. Moon, had moved north from Fernstein along the highway against light resistance and crumbling defenses and had linked up with elements of the Third Battalion south of Fern Pass. Units of the Battalion returned to Fernstein in a blinding snow storm.

The First Battalion on 2 May, against odds of mountainous terrain, snow-covered hills, lack of mountain training and equipment, with no possibility of casualty evacuation and no possibility of resupply, did accomplish a mission of the utmost significance. Without proper shoes or mountain equipment, the Battalion accomplished a mission belonging to trained mountain troops. By a brilliant energetic, strategic maneuver, the Battalion crossed Mount Wanneck, suppressed, overran and captured a Volksgrenadier Division Headquarters, including the Division commander responsible for the defense of the Fern Pass. By the rapid and complete accomplishment of the mission, the First Battalion broke completely the defenses of Fernstein and the area north to the Fern Pass permitting the movement of the major portion of the Division through the pass on 3 and 4 May 1945. The First Battalion accomplished a mission against odds normally never assigned to a rifle battalion in record time and with a minimum of casualties. Enemy fatalities and losses in equipment and personnel were far out of proportion to those of the First Battalion. By such a maneuver the First Battalion broke the backbone of enemy defense in Fern Pass, accomplished the last major engagement of the Regiment and speeded the Division's forward movement by several days.

After spending the night in Fernstein Castle, the Battalion moved out on foot in rear of the Second Battalion to the town of Nasserith, the move being accomplished without incident. Upon reaching Nasserith, Company B was ordered to take the town of Dollingen. While carrying out this assignment, Company B closed with retreating elements of the 19th German Army and an engagement of minor proportions developed, during which Lt. Hatfield was fatally wounded and Lt. Hartledge was seriously wounded. Company A was called on to aid Company B. The combined efforts of the two companies were successful and Dollingen was taken. This proved to be the Battalion's last enemy engagement of the war as V-E Day came a few days later.



Lieutenant Colonel Fowler gives order to his staff for maneuver around Fern Pass.

Here the Battalion was passed through by elements of the 324th Infantry. The Battalion moved by motor from Nasserith and Dollingen shortly after V-E Day to Wenns and vicinity. The companies were quartered in the surrounding small villages with the mission of rounding up German soldiers and displaced personnel. Company C was in St. Leonhard, Company A was in Wiese, and Companies B, D, and Headquarters were in Wenns.

From the Wenns area the Battalion moved by motor to Stams and the entire Battalion, minus Company C, was quartered in a large castle. Company C was given a security guard mission protecting VI Corps Headquarters and was sent to the town of Ingles, Austria.

On June 6th and 7th the Battalion, minus Company C, moved by motor to Hardheim, Germany, bivouacked one night near Ulm, Germany. Within the next few days Company C rejoined the unit and the entire Battalion began

the initial phase of processing necessary for redeployment to the South Pacific via the States. After a ten-day stay in Hardheim the Battalion was moved by both train and motor to Camp Pittsburg near Rheims, France, from which point passes to Paris were numerous. High point enlisted men were transferred from the Battalion. From Camp Pittsburg the Battalion was moved by rail to the vicinity of Camp Old Gold and completed the movement by motor on to Camp Old Gold near Le Harve. Spending one night at Old Gold the unit was moved by motor to Le Harve and by water across the channel to Southampton, England. A train movement carried the Battalion to nearby Tidworth, where trucks were waiting to complete the move to Camp Tidworth, a British camp taken over by the American Forces.

Final processing took place at Tidworth and the men were given passes to London, Bournemouth and other English cities. Once again the Battalion was moved by rail to Gourrock, Scotland, and then by boat to the British steamer, *Queen Elizabeth*. On July 15 the steamer weighed anchor for the States and arrived in New York Harbor July 20. The Battalion soon found itself in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Within 48 hours the men were on their way to the various separation centers from where they received 30-day recuperation leaves and furloughs. Each man was faced with the thought of taking training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and being sent on to the Pacific Theater; however, V-J Day occurred before the recuperation period was completed. Upon assemblage at Camp Chaffee, training was initiated amid the unusual activity of discharging qualified men, transferring low-point men and granting furloughs to others.

Before bringing this First Battalion chapter of history to a close, we wish to remind our readers that much has been said of certain units while slight mention has been made of others. Certainly no history of the Battalion would be complete without a tribute to our Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. William H. Fowler. He was fearless to a point of fault, often acting with the lead scout for his Battalion. His sound tactics and good judgment played an integral part in the overall success of our Battalion in combat.

Our spirit has been one of modesty and we wish to pay tribute to the following: To all those officers and enlisted men who stuck it out when the going was the toughest; of personalities we mention Capt. Harold Rupp, whose stamina, cool judgment, and willingness to fight the enemy will not be forgotten. Of Lt. Brothers and his Communication Platoon which did such a masterful job of maintaining ade-

quate communication service. To them their best compliment was given by their Battalion Commander when the Commander was questioned concerning his communications in a particularly difficult situation. His reply was, "I never tell them what to do." To the Transportation Section for its contribution and excellent work under combat conditions. To members of the Heavy Weapons Company for their work on defense and in support of offensive missions. To the Medical Section for its contribution of medical aid in relief of suffering and administration to the wounded. To the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon often working in front of our front lines. To the Anti-tank Platoon for its readiness and desire to support the Battalion on targets of opportunity, and for the many tasks performed outside the realm of duty in which they would normally be expected to perform. To the rear echelon personnel whose good performance of duty relieved the Battalion Commander of much responsibility and added much to the welfare and comfort of the men.

The First Battalion appreciates more than any other remark that statement made to the assembled Battalion officers in Stams, Austria, after the close of hostilities, by Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, the Division Commander, when he said, "This is one Battalion I have learned I can depend upon."

It is devoutly hoped that men of the First Battalion will look back and, with pride, feel that their unit did serve well. It was only through the combined efforts of all that even the most meager accomplishments were made possible. There are no easy tasks in modern warfare. It is not that a man be flashy that makes him outstanding on the field of battle.

Not all men served well but there is one sure thing and that is that those individuals were in the minority. Let your conscience be your guide, and if you were one who possessed the courage to face the bitter facts on the battlefield, to do your share even though the other fellow cringed, you are the type of man about whom these pages have been written.

Those who have produced these writings humbly dedicate the messages to the memory of all those who did not return with the First Battalion. It is through your deeds and sacrifices that our accomplishments have been brought to light. And may the spirit of those real fighting men who made our return possible provide the example for us to carry on, as they are serving beyond the call of duty.

History of the Second Battalion

The Second Battalion, 71st Infantry, embarked on its career of oversea service at Port of Embarkation, Boston, Massachusetts, 4 September 1944. The Battalion boarded the *USS Monticello*, which was the former Italian luxury liner *Conte de Grande*. Companies E and F were designated as MP units aboard ship with Companies G and H maintaining the ship's galley. Much speculation about submarine attacks arose when the ship temporarily fell behind the convoy because of motor trouble, but the prominent rumors were concerning the load of white MP helmets and leggings which were supposedly stored in the ship's hold.

After an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic the southwest tip of England was sighted, but that section of the convoy in which the Second Battalion traveled proceeded across the English Channel and dropped anchor in the battered fortress harbor of Cherbourg, France, on the fifteenth of September. The 71st Infantry was one of the first units to use the harbor facilities of Cherbourg since its reclamation. Under cover of balloon barrages, small landing craft shuttled the men and equipment to waiting trucks on the wreckage-strewn docks. Thence, the Battalion went through towns partially and totally destroyed by the ravages of war which had so recently passed over this

famous Normandy peninsula and swept on to the fortress of Metz, France.

The truck convoy proceeded to the vicinity of Montebourg, France, where it was assigned its bivouac areas in the picturesque hedgerow-encircled fields and apple orchards of Normandy. For three weeks, in this staging area, the Battalion was trained in the use and recognition of German weapons, mines and uniforms, with the training being made doubly effective by the presence of mined areas, dug-in positions and abandoned equipment left over from the fighting which had so recently been fought in this area. Among the "firsts" with the men were local wines, ciders, cognacs and calvados for which a taste was developed that was to continue through the entire European campaign—in fact, at times the question came up as to whether "searching out" was concerned mainly with capturing enemy personnel or liberating tasty material. Enemy reconnaissance planes, known as "Bed Check Charlie," became a familiar figure to the men. Also introduced in this area were quartermaster portable showers and "kidney call," a phenomenon of nature caused by sleeping on the cold, damp ground.

"G" Company C. P. in Le Remabois Woods.



SECOND BATTALION STAFF



MAJ. NORMAN K. RAYMOND



S/SGT. FRED JUSTICE



LIEUT. ANDREW SLODITSKE



Command Post, Second Battalion, Glashafen, Germany.



LIEUT. PAUL MILLER



CAPT. WARREN J. PREDIGER



LIEUTENANT ALTIER

About the middle of October, orders were received for the Division to move to the fighting front by travelling in organic motors and French "40 and 8's." And so, after three nights and four days of stopping and starting, the Battalion arrived near the front in the vicinity of Luneville, France, and proceeded by several night marches to within a few hundred yards of the front lines and about continued its march up the Luneville-Sarrebourg Railroad to Embermenil, France, where the Second Battalion, 71st Infantry, relieved the Second Battalion, 315th Infantry of the 79th Division. These Cross of Lorraine veterans of the battle of northern France had been receiving some of the heaviest mortar and artillery fire in their combat experience miles east of Luneville. On October 23 the Battalion ended in this vicinity.

Companies E, F and H occupied positions on a partially forested ridge east of Embermenil in the vicinity of Les Remabois where the ghostly trenches of World War I were again consecrated with American blood, as the Battalion felt the first full shock of German direct and indirect fire. The Battalion CP was set up by Lt. Col. E. S. McKee in the Embermenil railroad station and received mortar and artillery fire often—more constant and heavy than that of the most forward foxholes. The Battalion, together with sister battalions of the regiment, was to hold these positions until the XV Corps was tactically situated for an all-out offensive on November 13. During this stay in the Embermenil area the Battalion participated in patrolling and security and in fighting not only the Germans but Nature herself, which seemed to have forgotten that there was such a thing as a sunny day. Among the unusual incidents that came about during this period was the German's use of a public address system welcoming, in perfect English, the members of the 44th Division, and relating the main points of the Division's history, and urging the men of the 44th to cease the useless fighting, leave the mud, sweat and blood of their holes and come over to a pleasant German dinner with hot chicken and plenty of gravy. This address by the Germans was answered with rumbling applause of time-on-target of artillery fire, and there were no encores.

Some incidents of the Embermenil period: The first patrols organized above company level consisted of Sgt. Frank DeJulio, and Pfc. Peter Collins, Howard Daniels and Lorenzo Mora of Company F. E Company repulsed its first enemy attack which had occurred about an hour after S/Sgt. Riggel sent in a report soon to become familiar, "The sound of motors directly to our front." F Company fired on an enemy dawn patrol and captured two Germans, suspected more of desertion than infiltration since they offered no violence to their captor, Pfc. Clarence Ashton, who, in his excitement, wedged his M-1 in his foxhole and was unable to get it out fast enough to do him any good. E Company's Sgt. Leggett and an IMG crew captured three enemy who were more seriously bent on infiltration. Enemy mortars being the chief cause of casualties resulted in E Company sending out on the night of October 31 a raiding patrol consisting of S/Sgts. R. B. Lawrence and Harold Hunt and Pfc. Colley Martin and John Larkin. This patrol discovered more of the enemy than they anticipated in a patch of woods in front of their positions and called for artillery fire prior to moving in and wiping out an MG emplacement, a mortar position and an active observation post. Pfc. Martin was killed in this action. Lt. Col. McKee

and Lt. Thomas Winter and Sgt. Harland Phillips of F Company devised a patrol based upon the American game of football. The personnel of the patrol consisted of S/Sgt. Frank Curcio, Sgt. Phillips, Pfc. Vernon Halford, Herbert Mathison and Raymond Czaja. The patrol was armed with Thompson sub-machine guns, Browning automatic rifles and M-1's. Sgt. Phillips carried an SCR-536 radio on the same channel as the Battalion SCR-284 jeep-mounted radio and was thereby able to communicate directly with the Battalion Commander. A pre-arranged code based on football slang and signals was used in communication. The patrol and the Battalion Commander had a football field plotted on identical aerial photo maps. When Sgt. Phillips would announce "we're on Army's 30, let's have a pass on the Navy 10-yard line," the Battalion Commander could follow the progress of the patrol and relay calls for supporting fire as requested by the patrol. Sgt. Fred Justice of the Battalion Intelligence Section, located in a forward OP, "refereed" H Company's use of the 81mm. mortar "football." Sgt. Justice complained that somebody among the enemy spectators contested his decisions with plenty of accurately thrown 88mm. artillery fire. E Company received a concentrated enemy shelling in its sector November 2 from about 2030 to 0120. All communications were disrupted by the enemy fire; a company ammunition dump was destroyed and one of the supporting TD's was hit. One barrage of estimated 120mm. mortar fire fell at the rate of six rounds per minute for about fifteen minutes and continued intermittently until communications to the 71st Cannon Company were maintained long enough to establish counter-battery fire which caused the enemy fire to cease. On November 3, Companies E and F attacked at 1200 and advanced two thousand yards to its objective, which was the high ground overlooking Leintrey. After the attack arrangements were made for the first replacements, and on November 7, after fifteen days of hell in the lines, the Battalion was relieved by the Third Battalion, 71st Infantry, and retired to a rest area southwest of Embermenil and limited passes were granted to the men to visit nearby Luneville. Company G celebrated Armistice Day by relieving the First Battalion, 324th Infantry, in preparation for the all-out offensive which was to come on November 13, and which offensive was designed to seize Sarrebourg, force the Saverne Pass, and close on the Rhine in the vicinity of Strassbourg.

At 0710, November 13, the Battalion commenced its attack in conjunction with the remainder of the Division. Mother Nature continued to frown, and as the attack began the ground was soggy, cold and the first snowfall had come in the night. The soggy terrain caused supporting TD's and tanks to be mired, and the white snow silhouetted the infantrymen against its background, making the dough-boy a lucrative target for snipers, MG, mortar and 88 fire. As Company F crossed the LD its CO, Capt. Robert Sidenberg, was seriously wounded by mortar fire and 1st Lt. Harry Law assumed command. During an enemy 88 barrage leveled at H Company's mortars, an ammunition trailer which was being unloaded received a direct hit, killing 1st Lt. Rubin Borenzweig and seven mortarmen. The initial successes of the Battalion were extremely limited and the Battalion was forced to dig in after a gain of about eight hundred yards. By 1600 the misery of what was to be known as "Death Valley" continued in mounting casualties and another Company Commander, Capt. How-



LIEUT.
QUINO
MARTINEZ

COMPANY E



LIEUT.
RALPH
RENZI



SGT. L. AULT



CAPT. HOWARD GOLDSMITH



1ST SGT. WILLIAM H. CONKLIN



LIEUT. MARION M. MILLER



LIEUT. WILLIAM ISOM



LIEUT. DONALD BOURNE



SERGEANT
TAYLOR



COMPANY E



ard Goldsmith, E Company CO, was seriously wounded and 1st Lt. John Jernigan then assumed command. Two days were spent in wet clothing and water-filled foxholes with enemy artillery, Schu mines and small arms fire taxing the Battalion severely. A platoon of G Company, led by Lt. Lloyd Anderson, attacked through F Company at a twilight attack over open ground but was unable to gain its objective and retired from the open ground. Lt. Anderson organized his exhausted platoon into litter teams, picked his way through mine fields under artillery fire, and evacuated wounded men who had been lying all day cramped in holes or in the open rain and shell fire, and whose earlier evacuation had been prevented by the shortage of fighting men and the deadliness of enemy fire. On November 15, elements of the 324th Infantry passed through the Battalion, pushing east along the Leintrey-Sarrebourg railroad toward the Division's ultimate objective of Sarrebourg. The Battalion, upon being passed through, moved by combination truck and foot movement and relieved the Third Battalion, 114th Infantry, and attacked in the direction of Gondrexon, Autre Pierre and Repaix. Despite terrific fatigue, the Battalion pushed forward in order to gain the greatest advantage over the withdrawing enemy. It was just east of Autre Pierre in the night of November 17 that the Battalion was surprised by enemy MG's firing from the front, flanks and rear. A bloody disorganization of the Battalion was effected and was ended only when Lt. Jerome Clarkson of Company E led one patrol to silence one enemy MG and strong point and Lt. George Reade, who had assumed command of F Company, led a patrol and silenced the remaining enemy action in rear of the Battalion. The Battalion was then able to retire in darkness to defensive positions in Autre Pierre. On the next day, November 18, the Battalion continued its movement, following the First and Third Battalions through Igney and St. Georges. Many men were falling out along the way, some exhausted to the point of unconsciousness, by the combination of bad weather and continuous action. A short night's rest was had at St. Georges; the night being illuminated by the flames and crashing of burning buildings, and the Battalion was kept uneasy by the whine of incoming enemy shells, three out of five of which were duds. Approaching Sarrebourg from the south on November 20, the Battalion remained ready until 1700, when the Regimental Commander, Col. Ercil Porter, ordered the three battalions to seize the large group of buildings on the north side of the city. Col. Porter, on a high knoll outside the city, issued his order to the battalions through T/4 Jessie L. Gruber of the Second Battalion radio car crew. When the Battalion did attack, it was able to overcome sufficient opposition in its sector to make possible the billeting of the troops in private homes within this key enemy city of Sarrebourg. The next day the Battalion moved to a large hospital located on the commanding ground on the north side of the city and continued to search out the town.

On November 22 the Battalion marched to Goerlingen, once again soaked by rain that had made the operations of the last few days exceedingly miserable. The Battalion assisted in outposting several towns, including Baerendorf, from which an outpost from Company F was driven by enemy tanks and infantry. This was part of an attempted enemy thrust intended to regain Sarrebourg and move on down the Alsatian plains. The Third Battalion was receiving the brunt of this attack at Rauwiller, to which town the Second Battalion was quickly dispatched to reinforce



The Second Battalion moves through Autrepierre.

the Third which was waging bitter, point-blank fighting against enemy tanks and infantry. The Second crossed the open field at the south edge of town in the face of enemy machine gun fire and succeeded in occupying several buildings, which were later steadily blown and burnt to pieces by the enemy Tiger tanks, moving down the streets and firing at twenty-five yards range. Men of each company of the Battalion did outstanding acts of heroism in this Rauwiller incident. T/Sgt. Nathan Scavuzzo of Company E, without regard of personal safety, brought wounded men from open ground to cover, also directing TD fire on enemy installations. 2nd Lt. Heffernan (then Technical Sergeant of G Company) exposed himself to enemy small arms fire running from building to building encouraging his men to hold out. Pfc. Marvin Larson, Company H, unable to aim his heavy machine gun from the tripod, fired the weapon from his hip on a known enemy machine gun position located in the church steeple, reducing the opposition. S/Sgt. Frank Curcio of Company F worked his way with a bazooka to within a few feet of the enemy tanks and effectively stopped their advance. On November 25 the enemy commenced a withdrawal and a battalion of the 45th Division passed through, receiving little opposition.

After a turkey dinner at Hilbesheim and a few days in Division mobile reserve, the Battalion and elements of the 4th Armored pushed on through Rauwiller, Baerendorf, Postroff, Wolsthof and on into the objectives of Eschwiller, Thal and Berg. A defense was set up on the high Kirchberg hill overlooking Berg. From this hill an attack on Mackwiller was launched on December 2. Maneuvering around the town from the southeast through the Bois de Todtenberg, the Battalion punched a hole into Mackwiller from the east. The Battalion Commander and a skeleton crew of two radio operators and two men from the Battalion Intelligence Section observed the entire action from atop the Kirchberg hill, with the nearly wrecked Kirchberg chapel as observation post. The SCR-300 radios were the sole means of control and communication with friendly troops in and around the area and with corps artillery. During the action artillery and TD's fired the town with

white phosphorous shells and high explosives. Many of the targets were within a scant hundred yards of friendly troops.

The intensity of the action in taking Mackwiller is seen in such exploits as that of Sgt. R. B. Lawrence and Pfc. Robert Hummer of E Company who crept up on enemy infantry located in a cemetery and with their M-1's systematically picked off the enemy soldiers as they tried to slip over the cemetery wall. The following E Company CO's were wounded in this Mackwiller action: 2nd Lt. Marion Miller, 2nd Lt. Schiff and 1st Lt. Andrew Sloditskie. 1st Sgt. Conklin finally held the command.

After the taking of Mackwiller by the Battalion the 324th Infantry passed through the 71st Infantry. With the Germans retreating before the attacks of the 324th Infantry and the 114th Infantry through the areas of Diemeringen, Bitten, Montbronn and Enchenberg, the Second Battalion, with the Regiment, received some much-needed rest. On the twelfth of December the Regiment was again committed, passing through the 114th Infantry to seize the hilly terrain around Siersthal and Fort Simserhoff, which was one of the larger fort systems of the Ensemble de Bitche, an important segment of the Maginot Line. The Battalion attacked out from Legeret and Freudenberg Farms and was unable to advance across the open ground to the pillboxes which made up the Simserhoff fort system. In one encounter S/Sgt. William Lewis, T/5 Henry Petty and Pfc. Marion Stucky of G Company proceeded in the face of enemy fire to remove eighteen wounded men lying in the open. Eventually the Germans ceased fire and a truce was called to allow both sides to remove wounded.

Company E, now under command of 1st Lt. Donald Bourne, was patrolling near three of the enemy pillboxes

by day and night. On the fourth day of patrolling, entrance was gained from the rear into one of the large fortifications. Lt. Bourne and a company runner descended into the 8-story deep structure, discovering to their amazement a vast labyrinth of passages and tunnels. An elaborate system of elevators and small rail tracks provided what appeared to be communications with the entire system of forts in the area.

On the fifth day of pressure against the boxes, a squad commanded by Company E's first platoon leader, T/Sgt. Shirley Cox, worked its way further down into the structure. Continuing along the tunnel, which was large enough to accommodate a small railroad and a side road for small vehicles, the patrol was suddenly left in total darkness when the brilliant overhead lights that lined the tunnel were extinguished. As had been prearranged, the men dashed to a room near the stairs after receiving a burst of machine gun fire from a wall aperture at the end of the tunnel. Deciding that further search would be futile, the men awaited the opportune moment and made a break for the stairs, protected by a seeming miracle that turned the blinking lights off long enough for the men to gain the safety of the staircase unharmed. Reporting to the Division Commander, Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, who was personally at the scene, Lt. Bourne advised that further attempts to penetrate the tunnel seemed futile and recommended a plan to knock out the ventilation system and block and close the pillbox entrance by demolition. Two prisoners later captured by Lt. Bourne stated that this attempt to destroy ventilation below had been at least partially successful, that the enemy forces below had moved up to a higher level during the night because of the foul air.

Atop the mighty Simerhoff fortifications are these steel observation turrets. It took more than 1000 pounds of TNT to blow this 10-inch thick turret apart.



After much supporting fire from 44th Division Artillery, 12th Tactical Air Force, 776th TD Battalion, together with demolition work by the 63d Engineer Battalion, the 71st Infantry was able to overcome the defenses of Simserhoff Ensemble. At this time shocking news of the German offensive in Belgium came. This offensive, because of its initial successes, made it necessary that major shuffling of troops in the Seventh Army be brought about and by 21 December the 44th Division had been shifted to the north and relieved the 102d Cavalry Group, the 87th and 35th Infantry Divisions and elements of the 12th Armored Division so that these units could be moved to the north and used in combating the German Ardennes offensive. In absorbing the frontage formerly occupied by the above listed units the 44th Division was greatly over-extended by any measuring stick. The terrain which was occupied by the 71st Infantry was just north of the famous Maginot Line in open terrain with long fields of fire. The initial employment of the Regiment in these positions placed the Third Battalion and First Battalion on the MLR with the Second Battalion in reserve in the vicinity of Woelfling and Weisviller, with the turkey being served in reserve positions on Christmas Day, a warm, sunny afternoon. Much apprehension in all levels of command in reference to the over-extended front was felt during this period.

On December 28 the Second Battalion relieved the Third Battalion at Moronville Farm, being supported with one platoon of Company A, 749th Tank Battalion and one platoon of Company A, 776th TD Battalion, and held the high ground northwest of Rimling, France, with a frontage of twenty-four hundred yards. As the Belgium offensive of the Germans was successfully blocked by the Allies, the Germans found it necessary to divert a portion of its reserve to the attack in another location and selected as the location for their attack the high ground in the vicinity of Moronville Farm, which positions were being held by the Second Battalion, 71st Infantry. From these positions the Battalion looked across the International Boundary into Germany. At 2330 on the moonlit night of December 31 the battle known as the "New Year's Engagement" began with the report by a patrol from E Company led by S/Sgt. MacConnichae and an outpostting platoon from G Company led by 2nd Lt. Lloyd Anderson that large concentrations of enemy in the woods to the front were moving out toward the Battalion lines. There was no enemy artillery preparation. Company F held the right (east) half of the Battalion sector, and at midnight its east flank was attacked by an enemy of estimated five company strength. Dressed in white snowsuits that blended with the half foot of snow and well primed with schnapps, the enemy, advancing in columns and waves, received terrific casualties from heavy and continuous artillery and mortar fire, but succeeded in cutting off Company F's right flank platoon and two LMG's. The 60mm. Mortar Section remained in position. The remainder of the company had withdrawn to the reserve positions at Moronville Farm. By 0230 the enemy, whose shouted "Happy New Year, Yankee bastards" was losing its enthusiasm, had flooded into the left (west) half of the Battalion sector, defended by Company E.

At 0300, word was received that the Third Battalion was on its way to help the Second restore the overrun positions. But the Third became involved in an enemy penetration to the Second's left (west). At 0430, Company G, with the remainder of Company F, a platoon of tanks, and supported



The trenches of World War I offered little protection from enemy shelling. Foret de Parroy, Embermenil.

by machine gun, mortar, tank destroyer and artillery fire, launched a counter-attack from Moronville Farm and by 0600 restored all positions formerly occupied by Company F. At 0615 Company E repulsed an attack of about one company strength. Hit again at 0630 by an enemy estimated as about three companies supported by four tanks, E's first platoon was forced back 200 yards. The friendly tank platoon moved to the left (west) of the farm to assist E Company, and a counter-attack supported by a terrific 81mm. barrage from H Company succeeded in regaining by 0900 the positions and relieving an HMG section of Company H that had been surrounded but had maintained its firing position.

At 0930, January 1, the right (each) flank of Company F was attacked by an infantry company, four half-tracks and three tanks, and was again forced back to Moronville Farm. Contact, (which had been broken since soon after the initial attack, was established with the adjacent unit on the east, and F Company counter-attacked at 1600. By 1715, January 1, all Battalion positions originally held December 31 had been restored.

At 1800 the entire Battalion position received a terrific barrage from enemy 105mm., 88mm. and 20mm. cannon, which continued intermittently until 2200. A half hour later, the right (east) portion of Company F, again perched on the bald forward nose of hill 391, received a heavy enemy infantry attack supported by two half-tracks and two

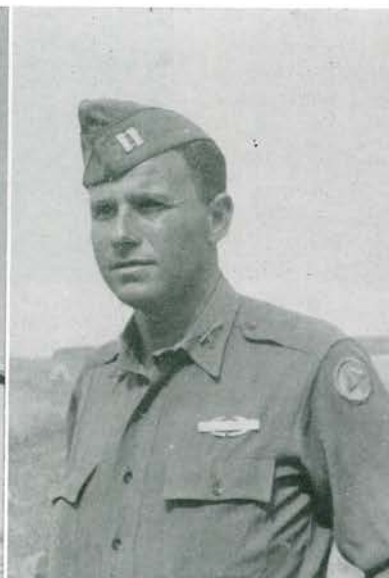


LIEUT. JOHN H. CUMBY

COMPANY F



LIEUT. EDWARD T. PEACH



CAPT. ROBERT SIDENBERG



T/SGT. FRANK CLAUS



LIEUT. HARRY BERG



STAFF SERGEANT CAMPASCONI

COMPANY F



tanks. Unable to sustain the onslaught and with its right (east) flank endangered, the company fell back to Moronville Farm. During this operation a gap was created between Company F and the platoon of Company G in the center of the battalion sector. At 0030, January 2, another platoon of G Company was sent to fill the gap, but was forced back to Moronville Farm. At 0120, January 2, the farm was attacked by one company of enemy infantry from the north and one company from the northeast, supported by 20mm. cannon fire from the north. At 0140 a reinforced enemy company attacked from the east and southeast, at the same time setting the farm buildings on fire with incendiary bullets. Higher headquarters granted a withdrawal which commenced at 0215. Company E fired previously prepared demolitions on a direct supply route bridge in the vicinity of Bellevue Farm and withdrew south. With one platoon of Company F and one platoon of Company G firing from the windows of the burning farm to cover the withdrawal, the remainder of the Battalion retired six hundred yards south where the tank platoon took up positions and covered the withdrawal of the remaining infantry. By 0400 the Battalion had passed through the next defensive line. At 0500 one platoon of Company G and the tank platoon moved to the west to cover the withdrawal of elements of a friendly unit coming from the northwest. This mission was completed by 0700, January 2, after which the Battalion proceeded to prepare a new defensive line in the vicinity of Weisviller.

During the twenty-six hour period beginning about 2330, December 31, the Second Battalion had closed again and again with the enemy as it flooded into the American foxholes. Rifles were used as clubs and weapons crews fired at point-blank range with pistols. During one particularly hot moment, E Company's Commander, Capt. Howard Goldsmith, called for 81mm. mortar fire and was advised that the target area he had indicated was too dangerously close to his own troops. The Captain impatiently called back, "Hell! So is Jerry." At one time on January 1, 182 enemy dead were counted within the positions of two E Company platoon areas. During the entire New Year's engagement the Battalion, being deployed on a greatly extended front, with its attachments, sustained eight enemy attacks before being forced out of position. Thirty-five prisoners were taken and an estimated 1,100 enemy casualties inflicted at a cost of eight killed, nine wounded and five missing in action. Many front line officers and noncommissioned officers estimated enemy casualties to be considerably higher.

This New Year's attack by the enemy was launched by elements of the 19th Infantry Division, 36th Volks Grenadier Division and 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. From interrogation of PW's it was learned that the enemy expected to be able to seize Sarrebourg which was some forty to fifty kilometers to the rear (south) of the Second Battalion's initial positions of December 31, this seizure to be executed with little resistance from American forces.



"HAPPY NEW YEAR, YANKEE BASTARDS"

During these first days in January, the Second Battalion suffered immensely from the necessity of sleeping in the open with little or no covering and from lack of sleep, hot food and dry clothing. Belated New Year's turkey, trucked up to the defense area around the "shell" near Weisviller, was one of the few encouraging bright spots.

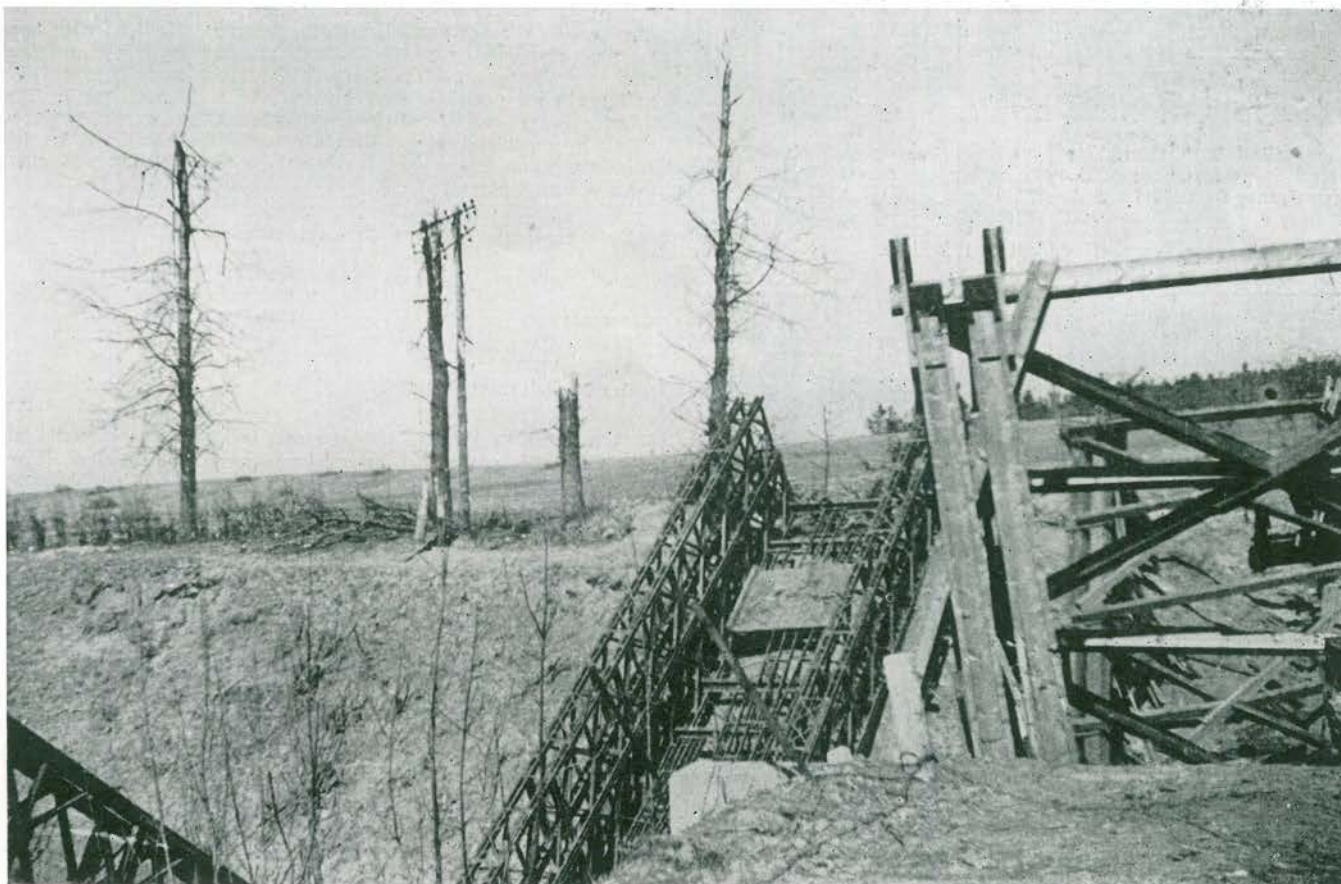
At about 1200 on January 2 the Battalion attacked through the Third Battalion, 253d Infantry, 63d Division, whose elements were holding a line on the high ground northwest of Gros Rederching. After pushing on northeast across the Gros Rederching-Bellevue Farm highway and up onto the hill east thereof, the Battalion was subjected to a severe artillery barrage and small arms fire of such intensity that a retirement to the original "shell" assembly area was ordered. In the dead of the night of January 2, Company F was ordered to move east into Gros Rederching which had been reported occupied by elements of the Second French Armored Division. At 0300, with Company F leading, the point encountered a road-block and was fired on. Within a few minutes the entire Company F was under small arms and mortar fire. Company F, being confused initially as to the identity of the fire, did not know whether to return same. Then it was learned that an enemy tank had been by-passed and that the Germans had established a road-block. At the same time that Company F was endeavoring to make its way into Gros Rederching, a column of enemy infantry retreating from the French armor was skirting to the northwest of Gros Rederching and became embroiled in the confusion of the night with Company F and it was suddenly discovered that enemy foot



Looking toward German-occupied Rimling from Moronville Farm, France.

troops were marching in Company F's column, and it is highly suspected that some of the missing Americans marched off with the Germans. This confusion of battle attests to the difficulties of night operations. When the confusion of the situation cleared, the exhaustion of both enemy and friendly forces after prolonged action can be attested to. After this confused action F Company returned to the "shell" area and with the remainder of the Battalion set up a defensive position near Weisviller. The following day one more attack was dragged out to clear the wooded

Bridge connecting Second Battalion with rifle companies. Baily bridge was blown by our own men when Germans made breakthrough and took Brandelfingerhof from our forces.





Brandelfingerhof, Second Battalion C. P. New Year's Eve. This is what it looked like one month later.

area west of Gros Rederching and with only 220 officers and men remaining in the Battalion further fighting for the Battalion in its condition was rendered useless. For this action, always to be known as the "New Year's Celebration," the Battalion received the Presidential Unit Citation.

HEADQUARTERS 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO No. 44, CAMP CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 183

29 August 1945

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following-named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

BATTLE HONORS—CITATION OF UNIT

The SECOND BATTALION, 71ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in eastern France from 31 December 1944 to 2 January 1945. On 31

A common sight near Brandelfingerhof at this time.



December 1944 the Second Battalion, 71st Infantry, supported by one platoon, Company "A," 749th Tank Battalion and one platoon, Company "A," 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, held the high ground northwest of Rimling, France, on a 2,400 yard front. At 2345, 31 December 1944, the 37th Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment launched an attack to seize Sarrebourg, France, and cut the main supply of the Seventh Army. The enemy had planned to overrun the position by sheer weight as they attacked in dense masses. The initial attack of five companies strength against the right half of the Second Battalion forced Company "F" to withdraw although the enemy suffered huge casualties as a result of friendly artillery and mortar fire. A penetration of the adjacent unit threatened the supply route and the command post installations. Another unit which was to help drive the enemy from the sector became involved in the penetration and the Second Battalion, with supporting elements, counter-attacked and restored the original positions. The enemy made repeated attacks on 1 January 1945 and again all positions were restored by a counter-attack. The Second Battalion, 71st Infantry Regiment, at greatly reduced strength, contained eight enemy assaults and inflicted terrific casualties upon the enemy, forcing them to withdraw with their mission uncompleted.

By Command of MAJOR GENERAL DEAN:

GEORGE E. MARTIN
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

FRANK PAUL
Major AGD
Acting Adjutant General

On January 4 the Battalion was relieved by elements of the 114th Infantry and moved by motor to St. Michel. The following day the move continued via Hambach to Silzheim where the veterans of New Year's, still dazed by the terrific events of the past few days, enjoyed showers, clean clothes and a few nights uninterrupted by the chilling staccato of Jerry machine guns. From January 7 to 18 the Battalion was attached to the 114th Infantry in the vicinity of Weisviller, where a defensive position was maintained with patrolling and occasional clashes, such as the hand grenade competition along the railroad tracks near the battered Brandelfingerhof Farm.

The next move was by motor to Rohrbach to relieve the First Battalion, 398th Infantry, 100th Division. Extremely cold, snowy weather limited the activity to patrolling. An interesting innovation appeared in the use of radar for aiming Company H's heavies for night firing. On February 1 the Battalion was relieved by the First Battalion, 324th

COMPANY G



LIEUT. EZRA GREENFIELD



LIEUT. AUGUST KRUGER



LIEUT. JOHN HEFFERNAN



CAPT. G. READE



LIEUT.
JAMES
TORRENCE



LIEUTENANT
LE RICHE

Infantry, and moved to Bining and Rohrbach for twelve days of rest, hot food, showers, movies and training. Platoons were sent out in rotation to man pillboxes in the secondary defense line of the Maginot Line. But the happiest event of all was a break in the weather with melting snow and warm sunshine.

Back on the line February 12, the Battalion planned an attack from Oberdingerhof Farm as part of the Regimental effort to straighten out the line and regain the ground lost six weeks before in the New Year's engagement. Three days later, on February 15, directed by radio from the Battalion Commander using a pillbox as his temporary command post, the companies moved out at dawn towards Moronville Farm and the high ground to the north. With enemy machine gun cross-fire silenced by daring flanking action, the attack continued across the open rolling hills in a perfectly coordinated tank-infantry formation that swept on to the objective. In capturing Moronville Farm, E Company corralled thirty-nine prisoners and three 81mm. mortars with ammunition, which was sent back to Jerry via air express special delivery.

Early the morning of February 16 enemy infantry and three tanks, with the mission of killing as many Americans as possible and then returning to their own lines, attacked F Company, which withdrew from "jinx hill" (hill 391) to secondary positions. G Company was forced to withdraw sufficiently to cover its exposed flank. G Company counter-attacked with Company A moving in on the right (east) and the positions were regained. The Battalion then went into a few days of Regimental reserve at Guising, after which the Second relieved the Third Battalion in a strong defensive line north of Rimling. It was from this position that E Company lost two of its most outstanding non-commissioned officers, T/Sgt. Nathan Scavuzzo and T/Sgt. Shirley Cox, both killed in a daring daylight raid on enemy machine gun, sniper and observation posts a few hundred yards in front of the lines.

Relieved by the First Battalion on March 4, the Battalion marched to Gros Rederching for several days of rehabilitation and range firing. During this time passes to Nancy



Our second visit to Moronville Farm.

and Paris were being granted at about the rate of three men per company per week.

On 9 March the Second relieved the Third Battalion with positions on the ridge north of Brandelfingerhof and Moronville Farms. Preparations were being made for allowing elements of the 3d and 45th Divisions to pass through the lines in the long-expected spring attack by the Seventh Army. During the night of March 16 the Battalion was startled by the spectacle of flares, ack-ack and shell bursts due to air bombings some twelve miles to the north on Zwiebrucken. And at 0100 the friendly units pushed through in the attack, supported by the mortars of Company H. This attack had been preceded by one of the most concentrated friendly barrages the Battalion had ever witnessed.

Pausing long enough to be certain that the attack had been successful, the Battalion motored into Army Reserve with the Division to a rest area near Silzheim, a few miles from Sarreguemines, after 144 consecutive days of combat or near combat.

Our second visit to Gros Rederching.



After ten days of rest, care and cleaning of self and equipment, range firing and training, USO and Red Cross shows including beer, liberated liquors and an afternoon and night with the new Regimental daughter, Marlene Dietrich, the Battalion moved out by truck on 26 March via Kaiserslautern to Weidenthal, crossing the Rhine on March 27 just below Worms on a bridgehead secured by the 3d Division less than a day before. The Regiment moved south into the attack of Mannheim. Passing through elements of the 3d Division, the Second Battalion attacked from the airfield on the west bank of the Rhine and occupied a suburban portion of Mannheim. The next day, with tanks and TD support, an attack was launched against Kafertal. G Company, moving in on the left, received murderous flat trajectory fire from 20mm. anti-aircraft and 88mm. guns. Mannheim and vicinity had some of the most elaborate anti-aircraft defenses in Germany.

On March 29 the Battalion passed through Feudenheim and in a drizzling rain crossed the Neckar River in assault boats. Late in the afternoon an attack was initiated along the autobahn to cross the railroad and seize Rheino. Company F engaged the enemy in a short fire fight, captured about 30 prisoners, and established itself for the night in a group of barracks on commanding ground short of the objective. The main body of E Company occupied positions a few hundred yards north of Rheino, while a group of seven officers and men from E Company, including CO Capt. Howard Goldsmith, Executive Officer 1st Lt. Donald Bourne, and 1st Sgt. Conklin entered into the spirit of changing guard with the enemy, passed through enemy positions on into the heart of town where they surprised and captured a German strongpoint and set themselves up quietly and alertly to await developments. The enemy, numbering about four hundred and fearing a major American infiltration, steadily withdrew, so that F Company entered the town the following morning without opposition, except cautious challenging from the seven well-barricaded members of E Company's outposting CP group. At this time elements of the 254th Infantry, 63d Division, passed

through and the Battalion returned to reserve to Feudenheim.

After the March 31 motor move to Babenhausen the Battalion saw its first enemy jet plane which streaked whistling over the wooded bivouac area and laid a couple of eggs on a nearby tank concentration. On the April 2 motor move to Somborn much consternation, including torn clothing, scratches, scrapes and sprained ankles, was caused by the mad scramble to detruck when an enemy plane threatened to strafe the convoy. After a few days with F Company in Lutzelhausen and E Company in Niedermittlau, the Battalion assembled with G Company in Hailer and prepared to motor to Wenkheim on 156th Field Artillery Battalion trucks.

In Wenkheim several days were spent in tank-infantry training; off duty hours were made enjoyable by liberated liquors, wines and cognacs from the wine cellars of the nearby and once beautiful city of Wurzburg. Also during the training here word was received of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On April 16 the Battalion completed a hot, dusty motor move from Wenkheim to a bivouac area east of Wurzburg. The following night "ducks" were boarded for a long two-day trip to Bibersfeld, south of Michelfeld. At the beginning of this move, while the convoy was assembling and setting out, a low-flying, relatively slow enemy airplane attempted strafing. At the bivouac at the end of the first day's journey warning was issued to be on the alert for activity by the Werewolves after the mutilated bodies of two Division Counterintelligence Corps Officers were found on a lonely road.

Early on the morning of April 19 the Battalion, passing through elements of the 253d Infantry of the 63d Division, moved into the attack behind spearheads of the 10th Armored. This commenced a series of long, gruelling moves that took the Battalion into the Austrian Alps. Foot elements alternated walking and riding on tanks or trucks.

Men of Company G in pursuit of enemy near end of war.





Colonel McKee talks to men of Second Battalion during break on a long march during pursuit.

Nights were usually spent in private homes "requisitioned" in the most recently occupied towns. Each town, house, cellar and bureau drawer was searched out for military equipment or items essential to the comfort of the advancing

army. The first night was spent in Burgholz and Mannholz, the next night in Faurndau, where the Battalion had the mission of guarding two Fils River bridges that formed part of the vital line of communication to the blitzing

A pause to heat a cup of coffee and open a can of C ration.





Men of Company E march through many deserted towns in pursuit of the enemy.

armor. The following day, April 21, the push continued through Gruibingen and Mulhausen to the valley town of Wiesensteig. Cold, driving rain increased the difficulty of movement, especially for Company F which had struck out

over the mountain toward Wiesensteig, become blinded in the approaching darkness by the fog, wind, and rain, and returned to Gruibingen to continue on to Wiesensteig by the valley highway.

Troops of Second Battalion move through road-block. Many such abandoned road-blocks were encountered. Kirchberg, Germany.



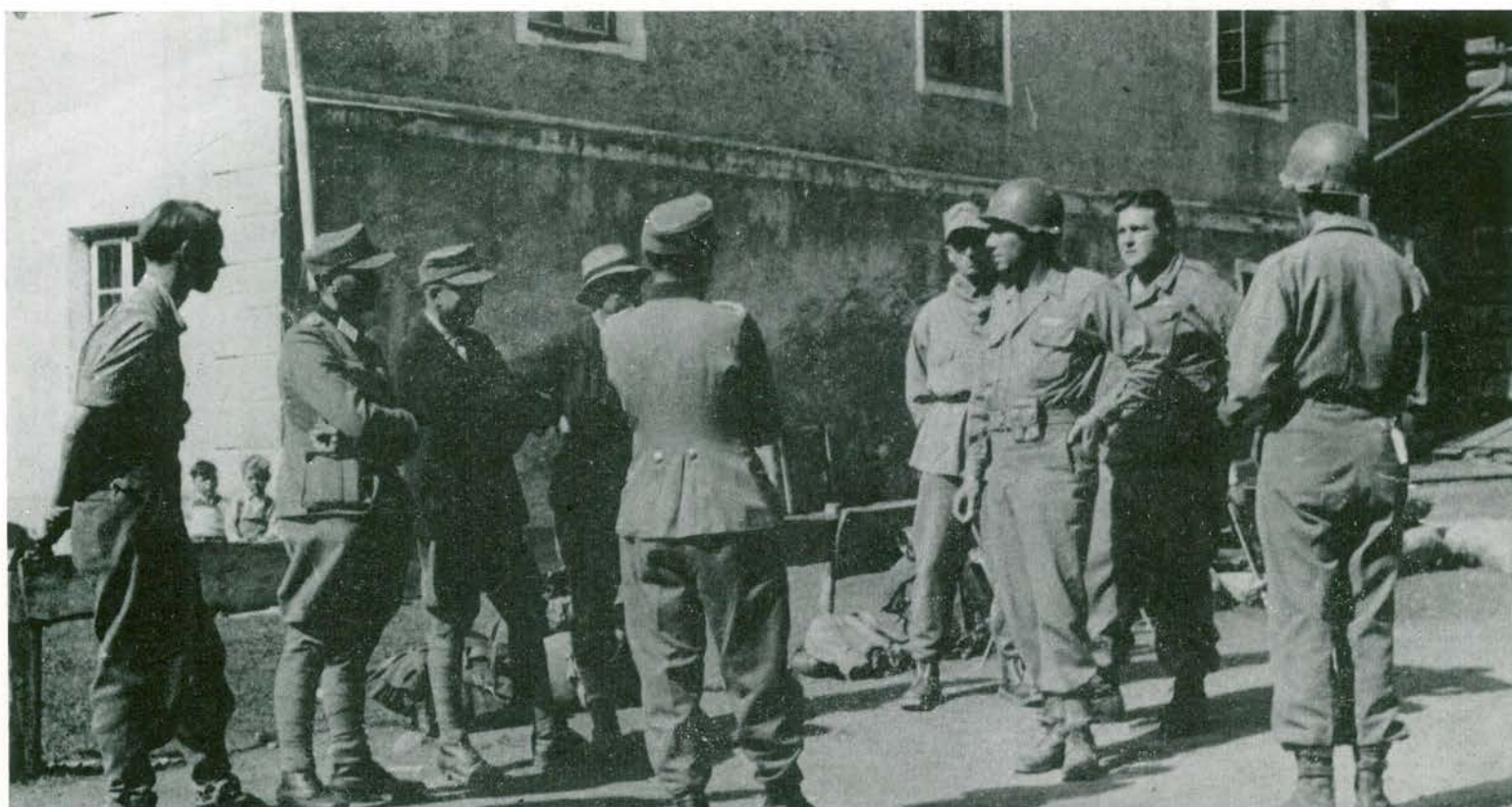


Riding tanks that wound up the steep, hair-pin turns from Wiesensteig to the plateau plains above, elements of the Battalion reached Feldstetten the following day. Company F set out on tanks and TD's at high speed to cross the Wehrmacht OCS training area to Boettingen. The remainder of the Battalion became involved in a fire fight and was unable to fight through to Company F, which dashed back to Feldstetten the following morning, after the enemy had exploded its huge ammunition depot near Boettingen and had apparently withdrawn most of its forces from the area. By April 23 the Battalion had reached Ehingen on the Danube River, which was crossed the next day. The advance continued on across the engineer bridges over the Iller River and Canal to Illertissen. South of Jedisheim and Unterwasterheim, the Battalion swept

through a heavily wooded area and burst out onto the plains that stretched away to the mighty, snow-covered peaks of the Alps. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day and as the weary infantrymen marveled at their first view of the Alps they joked about the heavy woolen mountain fighting clothing and equipment that should soon be issued.

From Ob Gunzburg and Ebersbach the Battalion reached the Austrian border at Fussen on April 28. All along the highways in increasing numbers were the still smoldering wrecks of enemy convoys blasted by the Air Corps or Armor. Enemy prisoners were being rounded up in such quantity that oftentimes the forward elements of the Battalion could only hastily check for weapons and then wave the prisoners on to the rear. Guards were out of the question.

Captain Sidenberg interrogating prisoners, Solden, Austria.





COMPANY H



LIEUT. EDWARD FALLON



LIEUT. ROBERT AYERS



LIEUT. LOGAN COX



S/SGT. MURRY LILLIANFELD



LIEUT. PATRICK BURDEN



LIEUT. THEODORE BRUNEN



1ST SGT. LOUIS LENZ



Interrogation of prisoners, Barweis, Austria.

The advance from Fussen was impeded by the necessity of cramming the convoys through fewer and fewer mountain passes that were easily defended, blocked and blasted by the retreating enemy. Smashing through road-blocks with the forward elements of the 10th Armored, the Battalion on April 30 reached the hospital towns of Lermoos and Ehrwald, where a few days were spent while the First and Third Battalions passed through to battle in the Fern Pass. In the cold and snow of May 3, the Second Battalion rode ducks to the top of the Pass, and proceeded on by foot through the First and Third Battalions. Spearheading without the armor which was held up by blasted bridges and demolished sections of the winding mountain highway, the Battalion pushed on through Nassereith and into the warm, sunny valley leading to Telfs. One town was entered under a huge banner proclaiming "Welcome in Tyrol." The frauleins were blonde and beautifully complexioned and wore lipstick. Waving excitedly from the roadsides, they helped the weary infantrymen to forget the long

miles. With the requisitioning of a dozen or so Wehrmacht and SS vehicles, the Battalion completed the last few miles into Telfs in high style. Later in the evening 2nd Lt. Ralph Renzi of E Company brought in a huge enemy wagon and truck convoy including a two-pip general. The enemy convoy was brought in under its own chain of command, arms, ammunition and all, for the number of enemy was so great that it was impossible to capture and handle them in orthodox manner. The total number of enemy captured by the Battalion exceeded one thousand.

The next few days were spent in motorized mopping-up assignments. Contact had been made with elements of the 103d Division from Innsbruck, and on May 5 word was received that hostilities had officially ceased in this sector. On May 6 the Battalion moved to the Oetz Valley, which came to be known as the Tyrolian vacation land or "Happy Valley." F Company was assigned the end of the valley a few miles from the Italian border, and outposted the towns of Soelden, Zwieselstein, Obergurgl and Vent. H Company was in Huben, Battalion Headquarters in Laengenfeld, G Company in Dorf and later in Sautens, and E Company in Umhausen where were uncovered household and personal goods of Jochim von Ribbentropp, the foreign minister of the former German Reich, which discovery initiated a vain search for the well known Nazi. Days were spent in training, athletic and patrolling for Wehrmacht and SS hideouts. German prisoners continued to stream in over the passes from Italy.

On June 6, relieved by elements of the 410th Infantry of the 103d Division, the Battalion began the 270-mile motor move via the Ulm airfield bivouac area to a rolling, wooded bivouac area near Hardheim, Germany. This area was closed on June 16 when the Battalion moved by motor and train via Heidelberg and Metz to Camp Pittsburgh, near Reims, France. On June 27 the movement was continued by train to Camp Twenty Grand, and two days later by Quartermaster trailer trucks to the rubble that was Le Harve, from which the Battalion sailed to Southampton, England. Again moving by train, the Battalion arrived on July 1 at Tidworth barracks where several days were spent, with passes to London and Bournemouth. Bob Hope and his USO show entertained. And on July 20 the *Queen Elizabeth* was boarded near Glasgow, Scotland, and sailed for New York, arriving July 24. In big white letters on the banks of the Hudson were the words:

WELL DONE
WELCOME HOME



History of the Third Battalion

The Third Battalion left the port of embarkation at Boston 5 September 1944 for overseas, crossing the Atlantic without incident.

The Battalion landed at Cherbourg, France, 15 September 1944. Unable to dock because of the terrific destruction which resulted from the invasion, the Battalion was taken ashore in LCI's. Once on shore, the Battalion was transported to a bivouac area where it trained for three weeks in preparation for the rigorous days that lay ahead.

At the conclusion of this training, the Battalion moved by rail to Luneville in the famous "forty-and-eight." As the Battalion arrived at Luneville, its members heard for the first time the sound of artillery fired in anger. After four days in this French town, the Battalion was ordered to relieve the 79th Division.

On the twenty-third of October, 1944, the Third Battalion received its baptism of fire. Companies I, K and L, supported by heavy weapons platoon of Company M, moved forward to relieve elements of the 315th Regiment of the 79th Division, taking up defensive positions on the eastern edge of the Forêt de Parroy near Embermenil, France.

Despite all the precautions taken to keep the news of the relief from the enemy, he apparently knew every move of the Battalion and did all in his power to destroy morale by harassing the green troops. On their way to the front, the companies were subjected to terrific artillery shelling and peppered with dense small arms fire from well-hidden German positions. The enemy was familiar with this area and had every approach to the forest zeroed in. On that first morning during the march up to the front line positions, the men were shocked by the sight of the first casualties. Several men were wounded by shell fragments, and Pfc. Norman Schoenberg, an automatic rifleman with the third platoon of Company K, was killed instantly by a direct hit. These first experiences made a profound impression on every member of the Battalion, serving to underline what the future held in store.

On line, the Battalion established perimeters of defense, and dug in to prepare for what was coming. The men of Company L were assigned an area in which old trenches from World War I still were visible. Company I was assigned an area approximately 25 yards left of L Company, also in World War I trenches. Company K contacted I Company's left flank and extended to the left and rear to complete the perimeter defense, also in the old trenches. M Company had one platoon of machine guns with I Company, and one platoon with K Company, and the 81mm. mortars were in battalion support. Artillery shells fell constantly with deadly accuracy, and the enemy mortar fire was devastating. In an effort to break down the

morale of the troops, the Germans broadcast music and propaganda to the Battalion during the night, but the result was the opposite of that intended by the Germans, since our troops enjoyed both music and propaganda thoroughly.

Contact patrols were sent out the first night to contact F Company of the Second Battalion, which was on our right flank. Between the Third and Second was a two-hundred-yard gap which the contact patrol covered during the hours of darkness. Combat and reconnaissance patrols were sent out every twenty-four hours to get information and capture enemy prisoners. On 3 November 1944 we were relieved by the First Battalion, 71st Infantry, and went into Division reserve west of Embermenil.

On the seventh of November, Companies I and L and two platoons of Company M returned to line, while Company K and one 81mm. mortar section of Company M remained in reserve positions.

At 0700 on the thirteenth of November, I Company plus one platoon of heavy machine guns and two sections of mortars, to attack from Company M, jumped off towards its objective, Hill 310, and its intermediate objective, Leintrey. The weather was cold and wet. The ground was covered deeply enough with snow to hide the ruggedness of the terrain, so that mortar men and machine gunners were constantly slipping under their heavy loads, but despite these adverse conditions, the attack proceeded. Company I supported by one machine gun platoon and two sections of mortars from Company M, attacked, capturing and mopping-up Leintrey by 0830, and reaching Hill 310 at 1100. The objective was taken under intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Capt. Edward Snyder, commanding Company I, led his company to the hill, until he was forced to withdraw because of his wounds. Despite the fact that Company I had suffered 90 casualties in three

hours, Capt. Snyder's company was the only company in the 44th Division to reach its objective on the thirteenth of November. After the capture of Leintrey, the mortar platoon of Company M, which was following the support platoon of I Company, was caught in an artillery barrage and pinned down for over two hours in the ice and snow. When the mortar men did move forward they had to set up on ground, suffering great casualties because of the enemy barrage.

About 1600 on the thirteenth of November the rest of the Battalion, initially in reserve, came forward and continued the attack to the right of I Company, which was momentarily stopped. As the rest of the Battalion came forward, they crossed a stream which, though normally small, now, because of the snow and the rain, formed a formidable barrier, which stopped the advance momentarily.



LIEUT. COL. ROBERT WADLINGTON
Commanding Officer of the Third Battalion

THIRD BATTALION STAFF



MAJ. EDWARD BUSCHKAMPER 1ST LIEUT. LYLE R. KELLSTROM CAPT. JOHN D. ROGERS



Third Battalion Staff, left to right:
COLONEL WADLINGTON, MAJOR BUSCHKAMPER,
LIEUTENANT LUNDQUIST, CAPTAIN RODGERS,
LIEUTENANT KELLSTROM



CAPT. FRED O. LINDSKOGG LIEUT. CLARENCE E. BAKER LIEUT. CONRAD LUNDQUIST

T/Sgt. Arthur Calhoun and S/Sgt. Peters Walters of Company M threw a log across the stream, then waded out and, dividing the distance between them, helped each man to cross. The advance continued along the inside edge of an evergreen forest until well after dark. The front of the column lost contact with the rear, and a halt was called in an attempt to regain it. Meanwhile it grew darker and colder. The men huddled together and tried to rest as much as they could while awaiting daylight. It was known that the enemy was very near, and it was therefore impossible to dig in. At dawn the lead scouts reported the enemy was contacted; in fact, our men had practically slept with the enemy during the night. Action commenced again, and the advance resumed to the edge of the woods, with the enemy steadily retreating. After a number of prisoners had been taken, positions were dug and held for several days on the assigned objective.

On the sixteenth of November, with the weather still wet and cold, hot coffee was brought up for the first time in four days. By this time the cases of trench feet had reached alarming proportions, and large numbers of weather-caused casualties streamed back to the aid station.

The following morning, with machine guns and mortars giving good supporting fire, the Third Battalion jumped off again to take the town of Amenoncourt and continue on to gain the village of Igney. The terrain was rough and wet, and the men walked across country through fields and plowed ground. The clay sticking to the feet made progress difficult; marching forward became a task that tried physical endurance to the utmost.

The next day, the eighteenth of November, the Battalion reorganized and jumped off again at 1245, supported by tanks and artillery. This was a coordinated regimental attack with the First Battalion on our right, the objective being a high ridge southeast of Foulcrey. Company K was the lead company, followed by I and L Companies. The leading elements came under the heavy fire of German machine guns, which completely dominated the draw through which the company must move. Upon learning of the machine gun locations, Capt. Walter J. Reilly, commander of Company K, went forward to direct the attack against them. Rallying his men, he led them forward, firing his carbine from the hip. Coming under the fire from one of the enemy guns, he was seriously wounded. Despite this fact, Capt. Reilly kept advancing, firing constantly until he was again hit, this time fatally. His action resulted in the destruction of the gun crews and enabled the Third Battalion to continue to advance to its objective with a minimum number of casualties. Capt. Reilly's courage and complete disregard for his personal safety were an inspiration to his men; and for this heroic action he was awarded, posthumously, the Distinguished Service Cross. The Battalion reached the objective at 1745 and dug in for the night on the crest of a hill. That night, the enemy threw in terrific artillery barrages.

On November 19, the Battalion mounted tanks and moved forward to take St. Georges. At this stage, Company M lost its commander, Capt. Roger Stewart, who was seriously wounded. The advance continued, passing through Landange, and not stopping until within a half-mile of Lorquin, where the men dug in for the night.

The next day the Third Battalion continued the attack to the edge of Sarrebourg, and aided the First Battalion

in capturing the high ground to the northwest. As men were moving in through the town, they were warned by a shout from a civilian that an ambush was ahead. S/Sgt. Peter P. Corrallo and Sgt. James F. Alford of Company M quickly went into action with their machine guns and knocked out the ambush, and the enemy machine gun positions. Finally houses and public buildings were cleared and the Battalion put up for the night with most of its men guard. The building occupied by the second platoon and the mortars of Company M was demolished by an enemy shell.

The twenty-first of November was spent in clearing Sarrebourg of the enemy. Men from Company I and the first platoon of Company M located a warehouse filled with German officers' sheep-skin lined bedding rolls. There were enough for all the men of Company I and the first platoon of Company M. They were very much appreciated, since bedding rolls had not yet been issued to the men.

On the twenty-third of November, the Third Battalion was alerted for a night motor move, and left the bivouac area in complete blackout. The convoy had traveled only a short distance when heavy artillery fire was encountered. The Battalion continued to the town of Rauwiller, leaving Company K and one section of the second platoon of M Company on the outskirts. I Company and a platoon of L Company, with support from elements of M Company, were sent as security about a mile out on each far side of the town. The bulk of Company L and Battalion Headquarters in the town itself. All elements of the Battalion began to prepare defensive positions.

At 0100, on the twenty-fourth of November, while all company commanders in the Third Battalion were in town, Rauwiller was attacked by elements of the 130th Panzer Lehr Division. The armored thrust was supported heavily by infantry units. The Germans plan was to push through Rauwiller and recapture Sarrebourg, thus cutting off the Allied supply route through the Saverne Corridor.

The enemy's Royal Tiger tanks were clattering up and down the streets of Rauwiller, firing into the cellars where the men had taken shelter; and the enemy infantry was awaiting any man who might try to escape. Because of overwhelming odds, many of the men were forced to surrender. A handful of the men of the Third Battalion still remained, and these, under the leadership of a few non-commissioned officers, withdrew to the edge of town. For two days Company K was to be under the command of T/Sgt. Leo Wroblewski, the senior non-com remaining in the company. A delaying action was organized in an effort to hold the town. Taking up positions in house windows the men were able to observe any advance the enemy made. The Germans employed tank guns and mortars and sent in riflemen in an effort to overpower the resistance the Third Battalion was offering; but the men held fast. During the night of the twenty-fourth of November every man stayed at his post without sleeping for a second. The same tired and hungry men held these positions through the following day and inflicted heavy losses on the determined and stronger foe.

The Second Battalion relieved the Third, which, with its casualties, was able to move to the rear. The stubborn



LIEUT. FRANCIS J. MERRILL

COMPANY I



CAPT. EDWARD N. SNYDER

LIEUT. WILLIAM G. LANE



resistance of these few valiant men of the Third Battalion aided immeasurably in preventing the enemy from recapturing the important city of Sarrebourg. Then, on the twenty-sixth, a coordinated attack by friendly units drove the enemy from Rauwiller and relieved the Second Battalion troops.

At Rauwiller, the mortar platoon of Company M acquitted itself with distinction. There was little or no concealment, and most of the time the men were in the open within range and view of the enemy. When the men had fired practically all the ammunition they had on hand and were badly in need of more, Pfc. Eugene Keyton, a driver for the platoon, volunteered to go back for more. The old route was completely cut off by the enemy, but he made the trip along a road under fire and returned with a trailer load of sorely-needed ammunition.

The second platoon of Company M received more than its share of punishment, since a large portion of the German tank and machine gun fire was directed at them. When they were cut off completely from the rest of the company, aid man Pfc. Roy Pyle, in a heroic attempt to save the life of the wounded Pln. Sgt. Matthew Rachel, was captured. When the action was over, three men were left of the entire section.

On the twenty-sixth of November, the Battalion moved to a bivouac area and received a large group of reinforcements. Three days later it moved by foot to a new location in Regimental reserve, and prepared defensive positions in the vicinity of Waldhemback.

The Third Battalion jumped off at 1515 on the eleventh of December to seize the high ground north of Sierstal. Progress was very slow, for the terrain was wet and soggy. Here the 44th Division as a whole was meeting some of the most impregnable installations of Maginot Line. Company I and the first platoon of Company M were chosen to attack and hold Freudenberg Farms, which was a group of farm buildings inside a triangle of pillboxes in the Maginot Line. With the second platoon of Company M giving overhead support fire, I Company's infantrymen smashed

forward at 0900, suffering numerous casualties on the way. A Company M aid-man, T/5 Edward Floyd, did a commendable job of taking care of the wounded and of evacuating them to the rear. At 1515 objective was stormed, after the troops had run a gauntlet of cross-fire from two pillboxes and traversed heavily-mined fields.

The first afternoon of their stay in Freudenberg Farms was quite eventful in that direct 75mm. fire was being received from one of the pillboxes. Every time a man picked what he considered a secure position, exploding shells knocked down the walls and covered him with plaster and stones. But the men soon found that their greatest danger came not from crumbling walls and collapsing timber but from white hot flying fragments of the artillery and large mortar shells, which at times landed at the rate of thirty per minute.

On the fifteenth of December the men repulsed a motorized counter-attack supported by at least fifty of the enemy. The men held their fire until the enemy was seventy-five yards from the farms, when surprise fire from all the weapons available caught the Germans in the open, killing at least thirty, wounding many others, and destroying one of their two personnel carriers.

When the men arrived at the Farm, it was in comparatively good condition, and was well-stocked with all kinds of farm animals. When they left, five days later, there was not a building standing, nor a single animal left alive. The only places that offered safety were the cellars, and part of these were damaged by shell fire. The men of Company I and the first platoon of Company M held Freudenberg Farms, however, and secured the Division flank. For the courageous accomplishment of their mission, and their devotion to duty, these men were recognized with a Presidential Citation. Personnel losses at the Farm were heavy, and of the twenty-eight men that had started as the first platoon of Company M, only eleven were left.

Under direct shelling from 88's, the Battalion jumped off in a dawn attack at 0730, the twentieth of December. The mission was to take the hidden draws northeast of

HEADQUARTERS 44TH INFANTRY DIVISION APO No. 44, CAMP CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 182

29 August 1945

BATTLE HONORS—CITATION OF UNIT

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following-named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

COMPANY "I," 71ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action from 14 to 19 December 1944. On 14 December 1944, Company "I," 71st Infantry, was ordered to seize and secure Freudenberg Farm in the vicinity of Bitche, France. The objective was located 600-800 yards forward. Before it could reach the line of departure, Company "I" was forced to move one mile east over a route that held four enemy fortifications (part of the Bitche Maginot Line) and was subjected to heavy observed artillery fire. Moving over the route under terrific enemy fire, the company moved up on the high ground south of Freudenberg Farm. At 1145, 14 December 1944, it was in a position to attack the farm directly. Attacking through heavy automatic fire from the farm and increasing enemy direct fire from emplacements on the right flank, Company "I" seized the farm at 1600 and captured twenty of the enemy. At 0800, 15 December 1944, the enemy launched a motorized counter-attack against Company "I" with approximately fifty men. The company held its fire until the enemy was 75 yards from the farm when surprise fire from all the weapons in the company caught the Germans in the open, killing at least thirty, wounding many others, and destroying one of the two personnel carriers. From 14 December to 19 December 1944, the enemy continued to subject the farm to steady, heavy direct and indirect fire with as many as thirty shells in a given minute. At the end of this period, every wall in the farm courtyard had been reduced by heavy shelling. Despite being buried under crumbling walls many times, the men of Company "I" held their ground, secured the Division flank, and accomplished their mission in a courageous display of fortitude and devotion to duty.

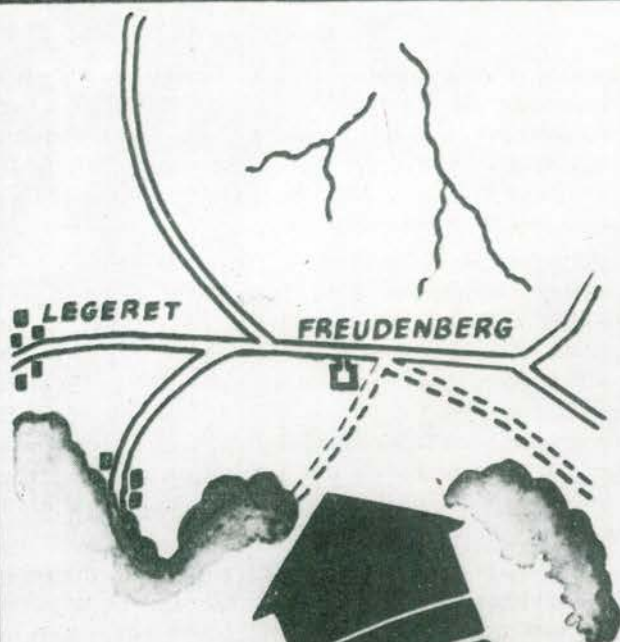
By Command of MAJOR GENERAL DEAN:

OFFICIAL:
S/t/FRANK PAUL
FRANK PAUL
Major, AGD
Acting Adjutant General

GEORGE E. MARTIN
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff

FREUDENBERG — FARM —

....IT WAS HERE THAT
COMPANY "I", 71 INFANTRY
REGIMENT WAS SUBJECTED
TO INDIRECT & DIRECT
ARTILLERY FIRE FOR 6
CONTINUOUS DAYS.....



Freudenberg Farms. The Battalion reached its objective at 0900, pushed the enemy back approximately two miles, and secured defensive positions.

On the twenty-third of December, in a readjustment of troops made necessary by the Battle of the Bulge, the 100th Division took over the positions of the 44th Division, which moved to a new sector. Here the 71st Infantry relieved the 345th Infantry of the 87th Division. The command post of the Third Battalion was established in Gros Rederching, and positions were dug northeast of Moronville Farm. In well-constructed foxholes, the men spent a cold, bleak Christmas, although enjoying the best kind of turkey dinner that front-line conditions would permit to be served.

There was little action in these vital defense positions, which were on an extremely wide front, except for artillery fire. However, the casualty list was long. The Third Battalion was relieved from these positions by the Second just before New Year's Eve. All of the battalion troops went into regimental reserve, except Company L, which held defensive positions along a railroad track.

Meanwhile, on the twelfth of December, Company K, as part of the Third Battalion's attacking element, advanced toward the immediate approaches to the Maginot Line. Despite plentiful and accurate artillery fire and intense enemy resistance, Siersthal and the high ground north of it were taken with moderate casualties. On the nineteenth of December, the company co-operated with the rest of the Regiment in the reduction of Simserhof Fortress. On the thirteenth of December, Company L was employed in close support of Companies I and K. The company was given the mission of protecting the right and left flanks. Holding the weapons platoon and second platoon in the town, Lt. L. D. Massey sent his first platoon to the edge of town to the left and the third platoon to the right. Mortar and artillery fire was coming in steadily, and sniper fire was heavy. The company held these positions for five days and during this time received many casualties from the heavy shelling. Sniper fire ceased the second day, after patrols went out to round up the harassing riflemen.

On the eighteenth of December the company received orders to attack around the right flank across Freudenberg Farm. Moving out in attack formation under fierce artillery fire, the company made visual contact with the enemy and pushed forward until darkness compelled the men to dig in. Approximately twenty prisoners were taken and a few Germans were killed.

At 0005, on the first day of January, the Third Battalion was alerted to move out as soon as possible. The enemy 13th SS Corps had launched a powerful three-divisional attack and had succeeded in penetrating front-line elements of the Regiment. The bulk of the Third Battalion was called from reserve to support the defense against the enemy. It was freezing cold when, early on New Year's morning, the men marched north from Weiswiller through Wolfing toward the front lines. When the Battalion had reached a point approximately a thousand yards northeast of Wolfing, on the south edge of Bliesbrucken Woods, it was fired on by an enemy machine gun in the woods. The original mission was to proceed to Moronville Farm to assist the rest of the Regiment in repelling the enemy counter-attack. But the enemy had infiltrated deeper than had been at first estimated, and there were no friendly troops between the Regimental

command post and the German troops. The Third Battalion was assigned to plug the gap to prevent the Regimental supply lines from being cut. The troops were now to clear the Bliesbrucken Woods and break through to the other side of the railroad tracks which ran east and west to the woods. Patrols and flanking movements were constant. It was estimated that there were at least six enemy machine gun nests in the woods, and casualties from these were moderately heavy. The Battalion spent all New Year's Day clearing out wooded areas. Late in the afternoon, the Battalion ran into the main body of enemy, and there followed a terrific fire fight that lasted several hours.

On the second of January the Battalion closed with the enemy their first taste of close combat. Wave after wave of the Germans was shot down. Pfc. Walter Smith accounted for thirteen of the foe during the afternoon. Pfc. Tom Foley wiped out a machine gun nest single-handed and captured or killed the crew of another. Killed while returning with his prisoners, he received the Silver Star Medal, posthumously, for his gallantry and sacrifices. Again casualties were high, and Company K had three different company commanders during the first two days.

Fight was bitter and fierce for the next five days. The men hardly slept or ate during that time. Rations consisted of one K-ration per man from supper on New Year's Eve until after daylight, the second of January. The Battalion succeeded in establishing defensive positions just across a road from the enemy-infested woods. Artillery and mortar duels were fought constantly, but the result of the Battalion's effort was evident. The enemy dead piled high, but not one had broken through. A tenacious and determined enemy had been thwarted and stopped cold.

One of the many instances of supreme soldiering in the Regimental New Year's Engagement is the action of Sgt. Charles A. MacGillivray of the Third Battalion. On January first, 1945, Company I was alerted and ordered to move at 0015 from Wolfing, France, to be in position in the event of an enemy break-through within the Regimental area. At approximately 0045 Sgt. MacGillivray was given the mission of protecting the left flank of the company. At 0130 Sgt. MacGillivray closed in from the left flank and reported enemy digging in. A few minutes later the enemy opened fire with machine guns, halting the advance of the company. Company K was given the mission of proceeding to come around the right flank to knock out the opposition. Sgt. MacGillivray, knowing the positions of the enemy, voluntarily went around the left flank in the rear of one enemy machine gun, and with an M-1 rifle, at a distance of three feet, killed both the gunner and the assistant gunner. Company K caused the other remaining machine guns to withdraw, permitting Company I to continue to its forward assembly area. By his initiative and prompt action, after giving knowledge of enemy positions and their fire sectors, he prevented great loss of life to our troops.

At 1300, as Company I went into the attack again, it came under heavy machine gun fire. Sgt. MacGillivray again on his own initiative, knowing the enemy positions, crawled towards the nest which had halted the attacking force and destroyed all three of them before he himself was seriously wounded by a fourth machine gun. The sergeant lost an arm as a result of this action. For his extraordinary heroic action, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, and for his own aggressiveness and

self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty, Sgt. MacGillivray was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Third Battalion was relieved by elements of the 114th Infantry on the seventh of January and moved by motor to St. Michel.

Higher Headquarters was determined to be better prepared for a possible attack in the future; so the Battalion was occupied from the seventh of January until the end of the month preparing defensive positions in the Saar Basin. The Battalion made rapid moves to Silzheim, where it dug defensive positions until the nineteenth of January. Then the Battalion moved to Hoeling, where it relieved the 398th Infantry of the 100th Division. While in these positions, the men experienced their coldest weather and were constantly under artillery and mortar fire. The Battalion remained in these defensive positions until the first of February, when it was relieved by the 324th Infantry.

During the period when Battalion Headquarters was located in Hoeling, L. Company was in Battalion reserve in Bettweiler. The company's mission was to maintain outposts, and run patrols when and where needed. On one occasion a contact patrol was to run between the right flank of Company K and the left flank of Company I, covering a distance of 400 yards. The first night, one reconnaissance patrol was to be sent to find out the strength and positions of the enemy in front of Company K. The wind had risen by the time the patrol was ready to go, which made it more difficult for the Germans to see the men dressed in

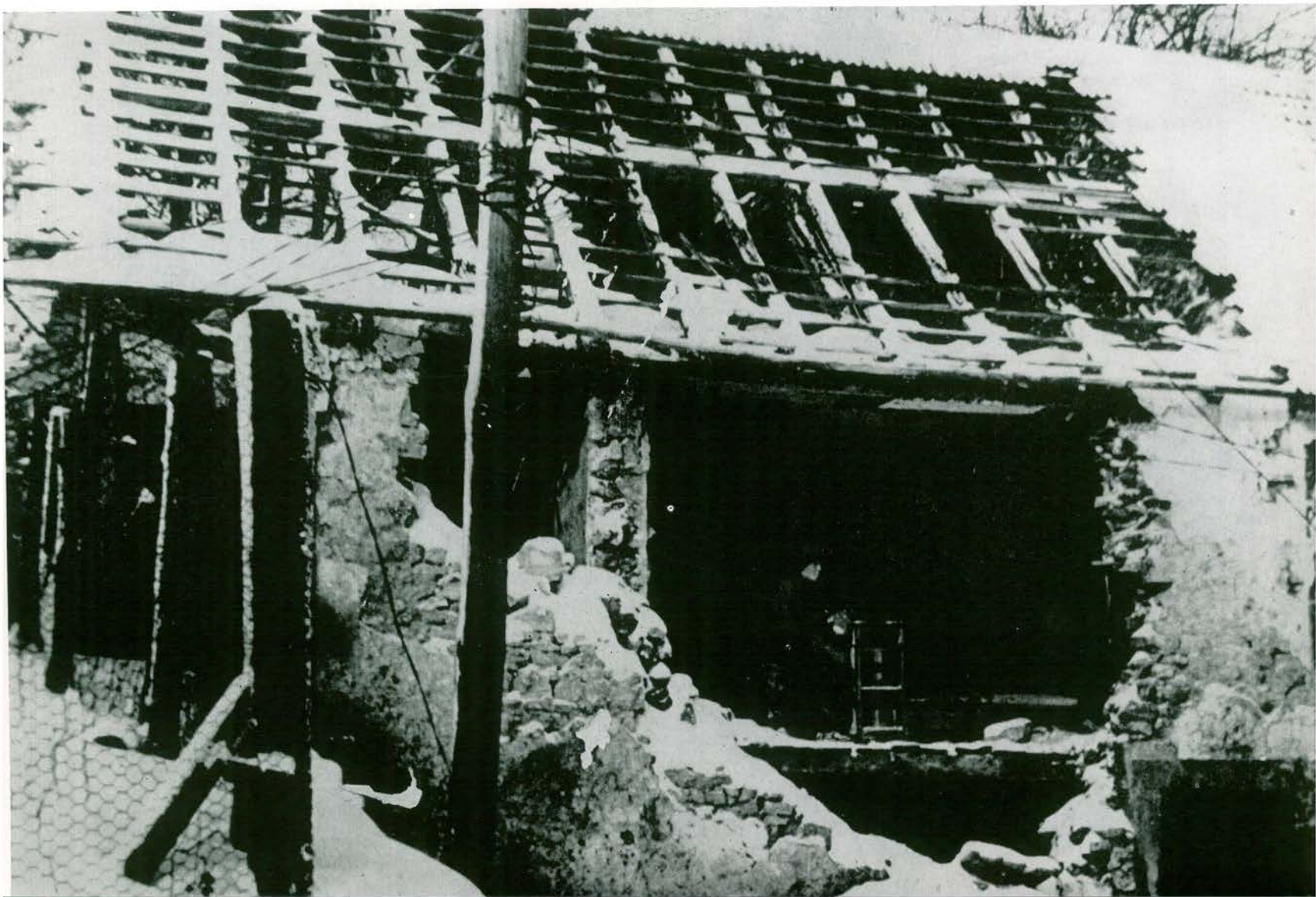
white. This was a blessing in one way, but no easy job for the men who had to buck the flying snow which was knee deep and the bitter wind which bit through to the bones. A very hard crust had formed on top and made silence impossible, for with each step the men would make a cracking and crunching noise as they broke through the crust.

The twenty-first day of January came, with still more snow falling. For the next four days, a reconnaissance patrol carefully felt out the enemy's positions.

When sufficient information had been gathered, a surprise raid on German outposts located in a strip of woods was planned. The company was divided into three different groups: one group to scan the woods and the other two to guard the flanks. Everything went as planned, but no German prisoners were taken, since the enemy had withdrawn from his positions. Two more reconnaissance patrols were sent out the following night. Then another combat patrol was planned. Snow was falling when this patrol left Company K's front lines. The patrol advanced 800 yards, finding two Germans who were willing to give up. Information gathered by L. Company patrols, together with information from other sources contributed much to the success of our attack made on the fifteenth of February.

In the first part of February, the Battalion moved to Kalhausen, going into divisional reserve. The men got hot showers and a change of clothes, and a training schedule was begun. On the fifth of February, the Battalion began

Typical of the air conditioning in Rimling, facilitated by our artillery and aerial bombardment.





COMPANY K

CAPT. WALTER J. REILLY, D.S.C.

CAPT. FLOYD W. ALLEN



LIEUT. HENRY W. WERONICK

LIEUT. CONRAD F. ROTH





German prisoners captured in Rimling marching to the rear.
Here they are assembled in a small town behind our lines.



preparing defensive positions in the Maginot Line northeast of Aachen, and had them completed by the twelfth.

On the fifteenth of February, the winter defense culminated when the Third Battalion attacked to capture and secure the high ground north of Rimling, France, in order to straighten out the Seventh Army lines. The troops left the town of Kalhausen at 0230, riding trucks to the town of Guising. Here they de-trucked and prepared to move out when ordered. The approach march formation was formed, with Company L as the spearhead for the Battalion. The move was begun before daybreak, the men starting cross-country through a mine field and barbed-wire entanglement, led by Lt. James Keeney. The terrain was unfavorable, consisting of rolling hills offering little cover or concealment. At daybreak, approximately 500 yards from the town, the point of the Battalion was fired upon by an enemy machine gun outpost, starting the battle for Rimling.

As L Company came under fire, I Company was committed to action on the left of L Company. The second platoon of I Company led by Lt. James A. Bennett, started the attack with the aid of tanks. Company I was able to reach its objective, the high ground north of Rimling. As I Company reached the objective, it cut the escape route of the enemy. At this time L Company, which was on the outskirts of town, continued the attack, clearing the town. While still under grazing fire, picked elements maneuvered to positions where they successfully silenced and captured the outpost. Advancing immediately, Company L crossed the open field under enemy shell fire to the outskirts of town. At this point, the friendly artillery ceased firing, and the other platoons advanced into the town with tank support.

Spreading out through the streets in squads, Company L captured 130 men, and killed approximately 40 of the enemy, who were routed from cellars, barns, shacks and any other hiding places. While searching houses for the enemy, S/Sgt. Russel Shay of Company L entered a dark cellar and was fired upon point-blank by a German lieutenant. Instinctively he hit the floor emptying his M-1 rifle in the direction of the flash. His quick action brought about the surrender of the officer and seven enlisted men. Mortars which were firing on Company I after they were on the objective were captured by Company L. During this operation S/Sgt. Tommie E. Falls and Pfc. Robert Tope of Company I, distinguished themselves by going out in front of their company and personally accounting for three enemy machine gun emplacements by rifle fire and hand grenades. The extraordinary efforts of these two men made it possible for the company to reach the objective. Captured in this engagement were a reconnaissance car, a jeep, other mortars, pistols, rifles, machine guns and ammunition for these weapons. Company L re-captured a 57mm. artillery piece, an American jeep, bedding, and phone equipment. The elements of surprise was extremely effective, being a prime asset to the completion of the mission.

Several Germans attempted to flee by trying to cut their way out with mortar and small arms fire, but were unsuccessful and were taken prisoners. During the day, enemy tanks fired into the town, killing cattle and battering the buildings.

Rocket shells were used in great numbers in an effort to knock out Company M's mortars.

COMPANY L



1st SGT. JOHN CLEARY



LIEUT. JACK COUSIN



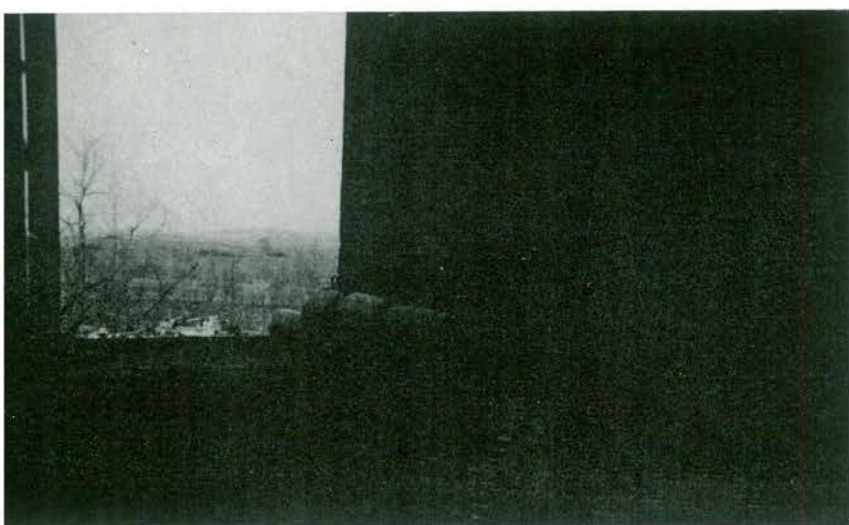
CAPT. JOYCE E. SHEALY

LIEUT. L. D. MASSEY

LIEUT. JAMES E. KEENEY

LIEUT. JOHN C. WILKS





Defensive machine gun position set up in Rimling.

The Battalion sent patrols out nightly with the mission of securing information as to the positions now held by the enemy. The first three nights, details of men directed by the engineers laid mines and barbed wire for the new defensive positions. The enemy counter-attacked continually from this time on, one attack being led by tanks. The tanks reached a point only a few hundred yards from the main line of resistance, fired their 88's point-blank, and sprayed the battalion positions with machine gun fire. The tanks were knocked out, and the attack stopped in the nick of time.

On the eighteenth of February several more tanks infiltrated behind our outposts and were promptly disposed of

Main street of Rimling after the snow melted.

American tank seeking shelter from enemy artillery on side of one of few buildings remaining in Rimling.



by a very able bazooka team; Pfc. Alfred Tanner and Pfc. Paul W. Robinson of the second platoon of Company K. For their heroism and accuracy they were presented with Silver Star Medals, in addition to three-day passes to Paris. The captured ground was held; and positions were consolidated and manned for several weeks in preparation for a grand drive into Germany. Action during this period was confined to patrolling. Throughout the first weeks of March, elements of the Third Battalion continued to participate in the defense of the Rimling sector.

On the fifteenth of March elements of the 3rd and 45th Divisions attacked through the Regimental lines and drove on toward Germany. The Third Battalion, along with other units of the 44th Division, pulled back to a rest area near Silzheim for reorganization and rehabilitation.

After eight days rest the Division was called from reserve to follow behind the attack. The 71st Infantry traveled 78 miles to the vicinity of Weidenthal, entering Germany on the twenty-fifth of March, and crossing the Rhine on the twenty-seventh by means of a pontoon bridge. The Regiment was given the mission of capturing by-passed Mannheim, Germany. On the twenty-ninth of March, in the course of the attack on Mannheim, the Third Battalion captured Feudenheim, a residential suburb on the north bank of the Neckar River, without receiving any enemy fire.

As Companies I and K approached along the main highway, the leading scouts suddenly noticed a lone figure approaching them with a huge white flag. This in itself was not particularly unusual; yet there was something strangely different about this person. Wary of a German trick, 1st Lt. Conrad Lundquist, Third Battalion Intelligence Officer, halted the advancing columns and dispatched Pfc. Marvel O. Wren, of the Battalion intelligence and reconnaissance section, to investigate. As Wren neared the excited stranger, he noticed what seemed to be signs of extreme relief. The man carried a number of papers in his hand, and he came within speaking distance, surprising things happened in rapid succession. First of all, Wren could scarcely believe his ears when the man began to speak English. Before Wren could recover from his surprise, the man presented his papers which proved to be an American citizenship certificate, his American Legion membership card, and his credentials from an American firm he had represented before the war. As Wren checked these the stranger disclosed that he had a plan for surrendering the town without bloodshed. After a conference with Lt. Lundquist, the man's plan was accepted. It was a tense situation as the column advanced through the town. First came the little man ordering all inhabitants off the streets and into their cellars. Next came Wren with his sub-machine gun trained straight ahead, just in case this was some German treachery. Finally came the men of Companies I and K, cautiously watching the civilians as they closed their shutters or lingered a few seconds on the streets.

Even though there were several positions which could have been defended advantageously by the Germans, apparently the American scheme had disrupted their plans. The whole town, including the telephone exchange, water works, electric plant, several munitions dumps and numerous other places of military value were captured intact without a single casualty.

The next morning the Third Battalion crossed the Neckar in assault boats, under sniper fire, to the southern half



More scenes of Rimling after the thaw.

of Mannheim. The troops walked through its zone of the city and rounded up about a hundred prisoners, without casualties.

After the capture of Mannheim, the 71st was relieved by elements of the 63rd Infantry Division on the thirteenth of March. Then followed a period of reserve during which time, by means of road-blocks and motorized patrols, the Regiment secured the left flank of the Seventh Army.

In mid-April the Regiment teamed up with the 772nd Tank Battalion and the Tenth Armored Division to form an armor-infantry assault unit. The Third Battalion, supported by tanks in the attack, captured Reimhartz, Oppingen and Berg. Departing from an area southwest of Michelfeld the Battalion advanced seventeen miles to take the town of Welzheim.

On the twenty-third of April, the Battalion left Feldstetten by motor at 0330 and closed in on Ehingen at 0930. After cleaning out the town, they secured a bridgehead across the Danube without a mishap. Company K, using the assault boats, spearheaded the Regiment in crossing the river, but enemy resistance was light.

The Battalion's next mission was to establish a bridgehead across the Iller River and Canal, south of Illerrieden, where considerable difficulty was encountered. Company K, followed by I, M, and L began its advance toward the river. When the forward elements had reached that portion of the bridge which was over the canal, the enemy dynamited the bridge across the river and at the same time opened up with heavy machine gun and small arms fire. The advance was halted temporarily, and tanks and the artillery fired on possible targets across the river. When this had been done it was already dark, but the advance

began again. It was halted soon after, however, when enemy machine guns fired once more, this time killing T/Sgt. Leo Wroblewski of Company K, who was leading his platoon. He was well-liked in the company, and his death aroused all the men.

After a thorough and hazardous reconnaissance it was learned that there remained only a cable and a girder where the enemy had blown the bridge. The entire company was moved up and deployed along the north bank of the river to the right and left of the bridge. After T/Sgt. James Heffernan had cut the wires connecting the two 500-pound aerial bombs which had failed to detonate when the enemy destroyed the bridge, a patrol led by S/Sgt. Bernard Kup-

Men of Company L pause for a rest during attack on Mannheim.





Riding a tank.

Men of Company L pause during long march through Germany.



Albert Poe cleaning a carbine while his Battalion pauses in reserve.
Note German girl looking on.

perman crossed the river, going hand over hand along the cable. The initial bridgehead was established and when the south bank of the river had been secured, the remainder of the company crossed by way of the cable.

It was a hectic night that followed, the Battalion being constantly under artillery fire. The riflemen were able to cross the river with a great deal of difficulty, but the machine gunners of the second platoon of Company M, with their heavy loads, were unable to use this method, and so crossed in assault boats. The first section started across, but the stream was a great deal more swift than anyone had anticipated. Before the first group had reached shore, the boat was out of control and had overturned, throwing its occupants into the icy water. They were rescued by the riflemen of Company K, and Pfc. Felipe B. Desiga of Company K received the Soldier's Medal for his part in the rescue work. In the meantime, another boat with the second section had successfully reached shore and no more boats were sent. The Engineers, after meeting a great deal of difficulty, constructed a crude foot-bridge for the rest of the men to cross. Once on the other side, the battalion entered and cleared the town of Vohringen. The Engineers were unable to complete heavy tank bridges until the following day; so when the Battalion was suddenly hit by heavy artillery fire, the tank support was forced to find another bridge a few miles up the river which they crossed to relieve the situation.

On the twenty-sixth of April, after capturing Vohringen, the Battalion spearheaded an attack toward Fussen, which



Men of the Third Battalion marching through Austria during April, 1945.





LIEUT. KENNETH H. ROSE

COMPANY M



LIEUT. JOHN L. SULLIVAN



CAPT. LORENZO EVANS

LIEUT. NEILL S. BECKETT



LIEUT. JAMES E. CARSON





Austria. "I" Company still presses on! A rifle platoon carries out a combat patrol on V-E Day. With the help of native guides, doughboys climb over sheer rocks and hip deep snow to hunt out fanatical SS troopers. The action took place on the so-called "Acherhogl" mountain near Otz. Prisoners were taken without casualties after stiff but short fire.

was captured on the twenty-eighth of April. The attack was made with Combat Command "B" of the 10th Armored Division and the 71st Infantry Regiment. The attack was led by the Third Battalion, which was riding on tanks, tank destroyers, and trucks. After capturing Fussen, which marked its entry into Austria, the Battalion moved on to Vils, without any opposition. The Battalion reached Vils that night, establishing a perimeter defense.

The morning of the twenty-ninth of April the Battalion continued the attack. Their mission was to clear a small pass just south of Vils, and continue on. But the attack on the pass wasn't as easy as expected. The attack started with I Company on the right, L Company on the left, K Company in reserve, and M Company in support of the Battalion, by laying down a terrific barrage of mortar fire in the hills covering the pass. The attacking elements were about half way through the pass before they ran into much resistance. They engaged in a fire fight which lasted about an hour and then they finally were able to move through the pass and continue the attack. At this point Company K led the attack, followed by L Company and then I Company. The attack continued with occasional sniper fire, but the Battalion was able to keep moving. The attack moved about 8 miles to a small town called Reutte. There the Second Battalion passed through the Third and continued the attack.

The swift advance through Austria continued despite enemy road-blocks and resistance from snipers. On the first of May, 115 prisoners were captured along the route

Doughboys of Third Battalion move out of Vils to continue attack.





Third Battalion C. P. at Fern Pass, Austria. A hell of a fight here, it was snowing and cold.

of advance. The next day the attack was continued along the route through the mountainous country. At this time the Third Battalion was high in the Austrian Alps, where the weather was extremely cold. There was a great deal of sporadic artillery fire, and the roads were narrow mountain trails, made impassable at numerous places by the retreating Germans. By blowing down an entire mountain side over the road, defensive positions were established which had to be captured and cleared of the enemy before the Engineers could repair the road to permit vehicles to pass.

At Fern Pass, in the highest and narrowest part of the Austrian Alps, the Battalion, hampered by heavy snow flurries and bitter cold, saw its last real action of the war. It proved to be some of the bitterest. The enemy had blown huge craters in the only road leading through the pass, and had covered these craters with two well-placed and well-concealed 88's. None of the supporting armor could pass the road-blocks, and even the friendly artillery was ineffective because of the enemy's well-placed positions. So it was strictly a job for the infantry. Here Company M's mortar platoon made a good record for itself when the Battalion was completely stopped by this road-block. S/Sgt. Walter Mackowiak, with radioman Pfc.

Thomas J. Murphy, crawled to a vantage point within a hundred yards of the enemy's position and directed mortar fire until the hostile guns were silenced. For this action, both men were awarded Silver Star Medals.

On the night of the first of May, heavy enemy resistance was encountered in the small town of Fern. The infantrymen were now working far in advance of the armor, because

German "88" holding up advance in Fern Pass.





Building which sheltered men of Company "L" until set afire by enemy panzerfausts during fight at Fern Pass.

the terrain was impossible for the movement of anything but foot troops. Company I gained a foothold in Fern by driving the enemy from the first house, then following up immediately and driving on through the town. The attack was halted after a short advance by heavy machine gun fire and effective fire from panzerfausts. The Battalion battled all night in an effort to destroy the enemy resistance on the mountainsides which surrounded Fern. Several prisoners were captured, but the heavy fire continued. A panzerfaust made a direct hit on one of the houses in which Company L had taken shelter, and started to burn. All the troops in the building moved out quickly without a casualty.

Patrols were active all night in an effort to locate and destroy the stubborn foe. By early morning the house had

completely burned to the ground. Company K was in position to lead the attack when more enemy panzerfausts struck directly in their midst. Machine gun and sniper fire also delayed our advance. Finally the First Battalion deployed to the left flank by climbing over Mount Wanneck, and succeeded in cutting off the enemy who had been impeding the Third's advance. With the capture of Fern, the Third Battalion went into reserve and moved back to Ehrwald.

After moving behind attacking elements for several days, the Battalion reached Telfs. It was in this quaint Austrian town, on the sixth of May, that the men of the Battalion learned that all resistance had ended in the regimental sector. From this point on, until orders were given for redeployment, the Battalion performed the duties of occupation.



Untergurgl, Austria

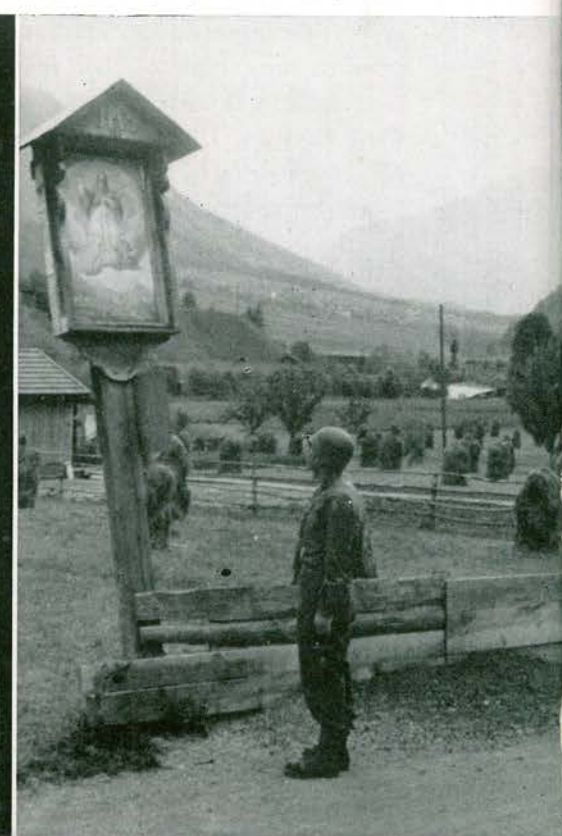


Roppen, Austria

Umhausen, Austria

Burg Petersburg, Austria

Wayside Shrine and a G. I. in the Austrian Tyrols.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

HONORING OUR DEAD

MAY, 1945

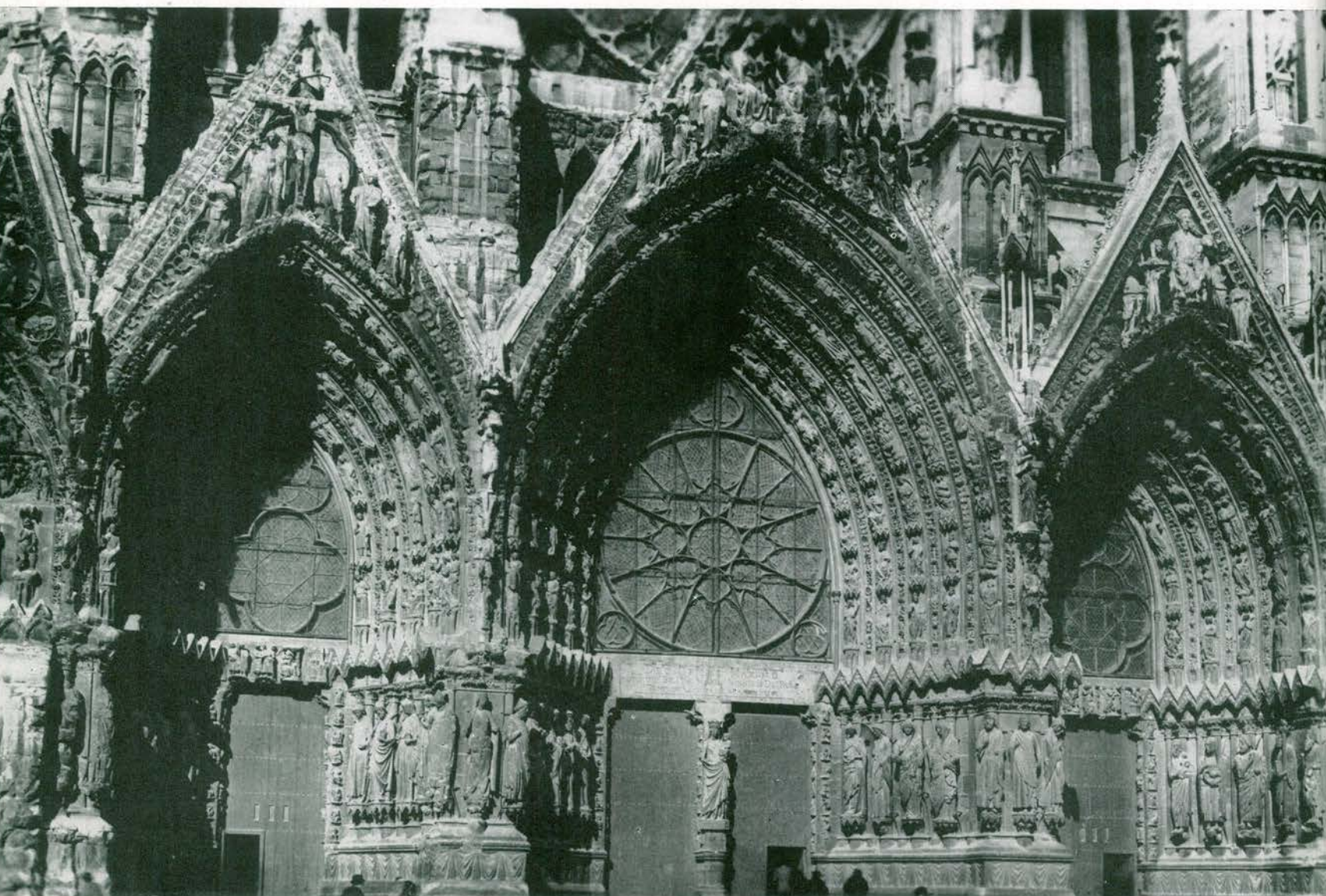
ÖTZ, AUSTRIA



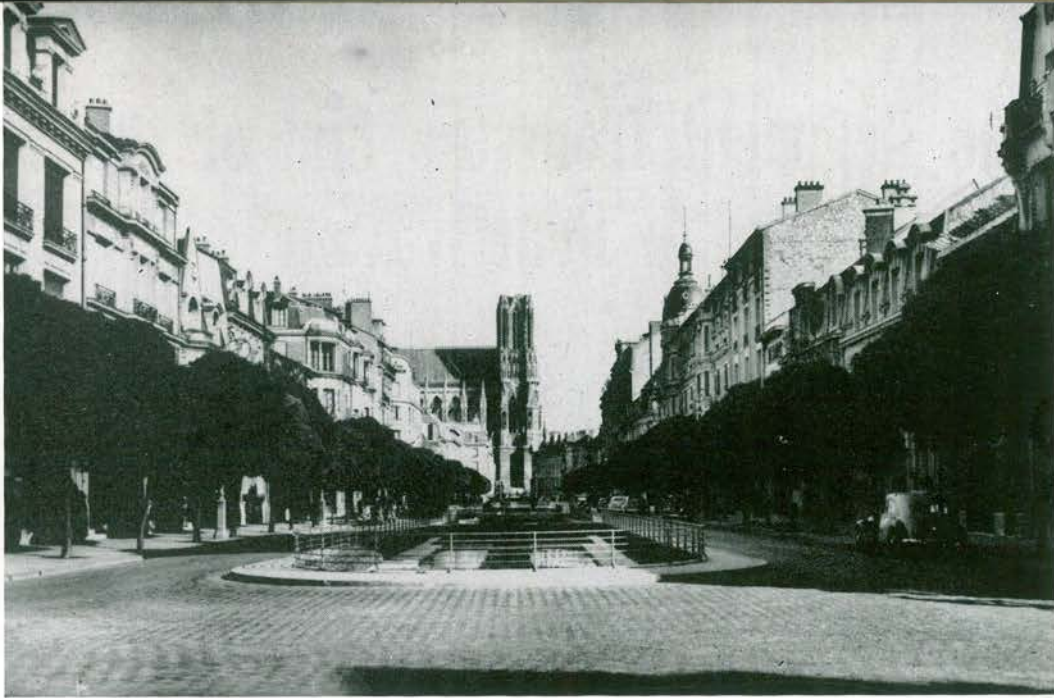


AUSTRIAN TYROL

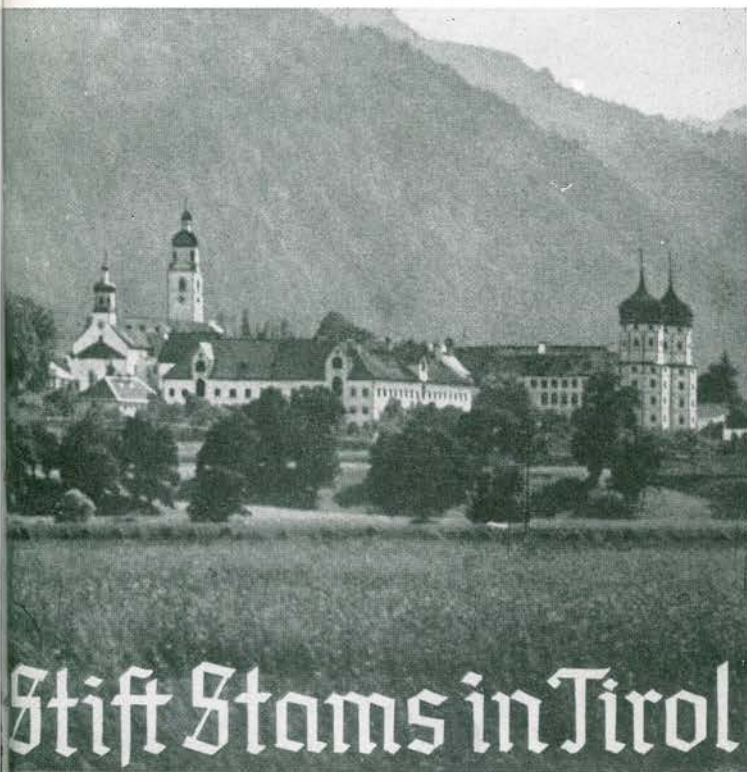
REIMS CATHEDRAL, REIMS, FRANCE



REIMS, FRANCE

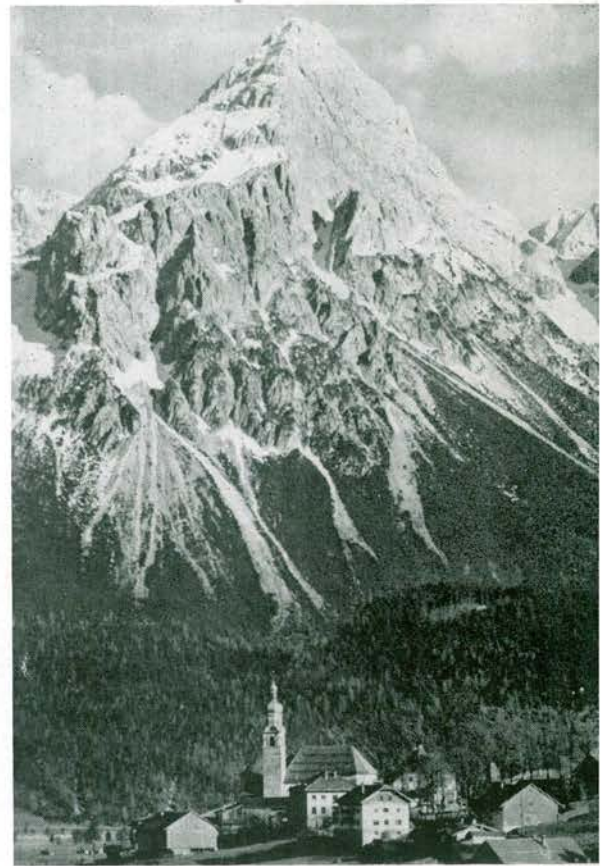


STAM'S CASTLE
STAMS, AUSTRIA



Stift Stams in Tirol

SONNENSPIITZE,
AUSTRIAN TYROL



LERMOOS, AUSTRIA

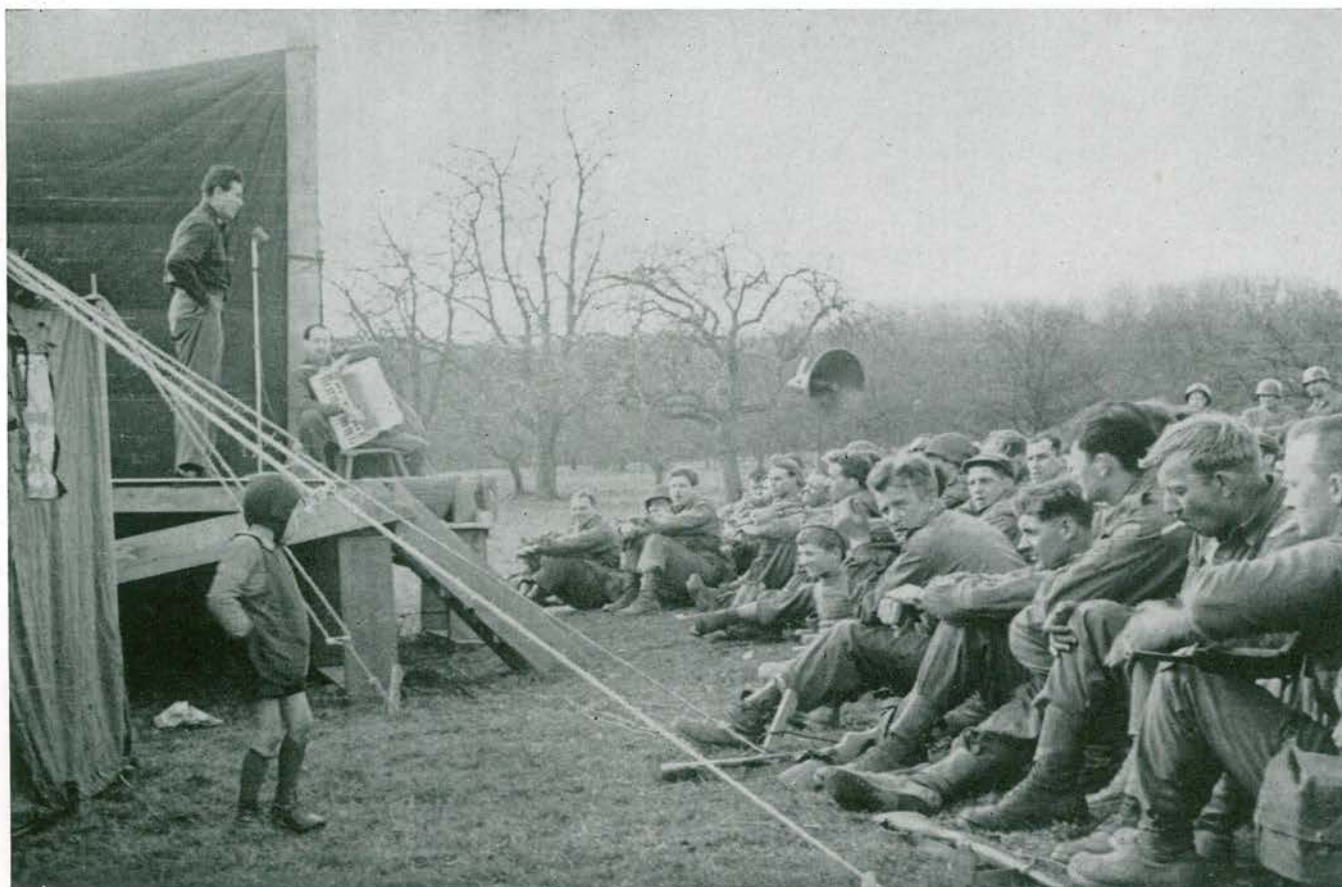


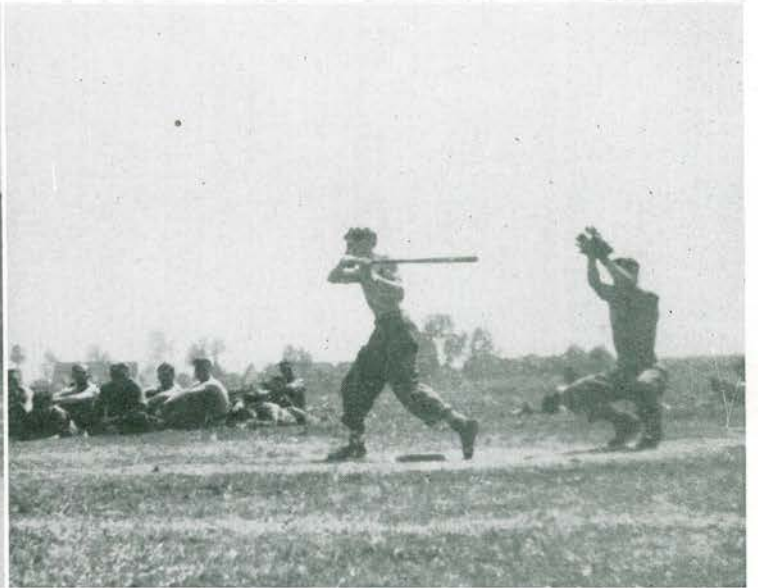
The Regiment from the End of the War to Deactivation



With the end of the struggle in Europe came the end to long, cold, sleepless nights and dangerous days. The enemy had been completely defeated all along the Regimental

front. He had been routed from his positions in the forests of Alsace, the plains of the Saar, back through two powerful defensive systems, the Maginot Line and the





Ball playing was a major part of activities.

Rhine River barrier. He had been pursued relentlessly through his own homeland and now called for peace in the rugged mountainous terrain of the Austrian Alps—the much publicized “National Redoubt,” which was never defended.

The men of the 71st Regiment could afford to relax now and rest assured in the pride achieved through a job well done.

Naturally enough thoughts of home were uppermost in the minds and hearts of the victorious doughboys, but they settled down to the jobs of occupation, recreation, and training with a minimum of complaints. Sporting events were well organized; most units had softball, football, and

volleyball teams that practiced regularly. A great deal of friendly rivalry was engendered in the competition as each team regarded itself as the best of its kind.

Half-day training schedules were inaugurated, for no one was certain as to what lay ahead. There was yet another war to be fought and won half-way around the globe.

In an effort to make our peaceful occupation program better known to the Austrian people, agricultural improvement teams were organized to aid the natives in helping themselves. New methods of farm production, the American way, were presented to the people. Even seed potatoes

Horseback riding through the Tyrol afforded pleasure.



Parades were frequent.



The stopover in Ulm, an airfield of vehicles and men.



Part of the trip across France was made in the already familiar 40 and 8's.

and other materials were located and given to the valley farmers in a plan to enable them to increase their production. When their natural suspicions were overcome, they cooperated fully with the German-speaking teams; and when orders from higher headquarters finally moved us from the valley, their thanks were profuse.

On June fifth, 1945, elements of the 410th Infantry of the 103rd Division began occupation of the area formerly occupied by the 71st Infantry. The next day the Regiment moved by motor to Ulm Airfield, where it bivouacked for the night, and continued on to Hardheim, Germany, early the following morning.

In the new area, an extensive program of rehabilitation, salvage and sports was begun and continued throughout the ten-day stay.

On the fourteenth of June the Regiment received instructions from Division alerting it for an impending move to Rheims, France, in an ultimate redeployment to

the Pacific Theater of operations. Movement to Rheims was made partially by train and partially by motor. Leading elements entrained at Heidelberg, Germany, on the sixteenth. Motor elements commenced their move two days later and bivouacked overnight in Metz, France. The Regiment moved into Camp Pittsburgh in the vicinity of Rheims on the nineteenth of June, 1945.

The Regiment stayed in Camp Pittsburgh for ten days. A training schedule was followed and clothing was issued in preparation for the move to the States, while the men were given passes to Rheims and Paris. From Camp Pittsburgh, the Regiment moved to Camp Twenty Grand near Le Harve. There the men waited several days for transportation across the English Channel to Southampton. The bulk of the Regiment landed in Southampton, England, on June thirteenth.

For its stay in England, the Regiment was quartered in Camp Tidworth near the city of Salisbury. At Tidworth

Here men of Company D play a few numbers before boarding the train at Heidelberg.



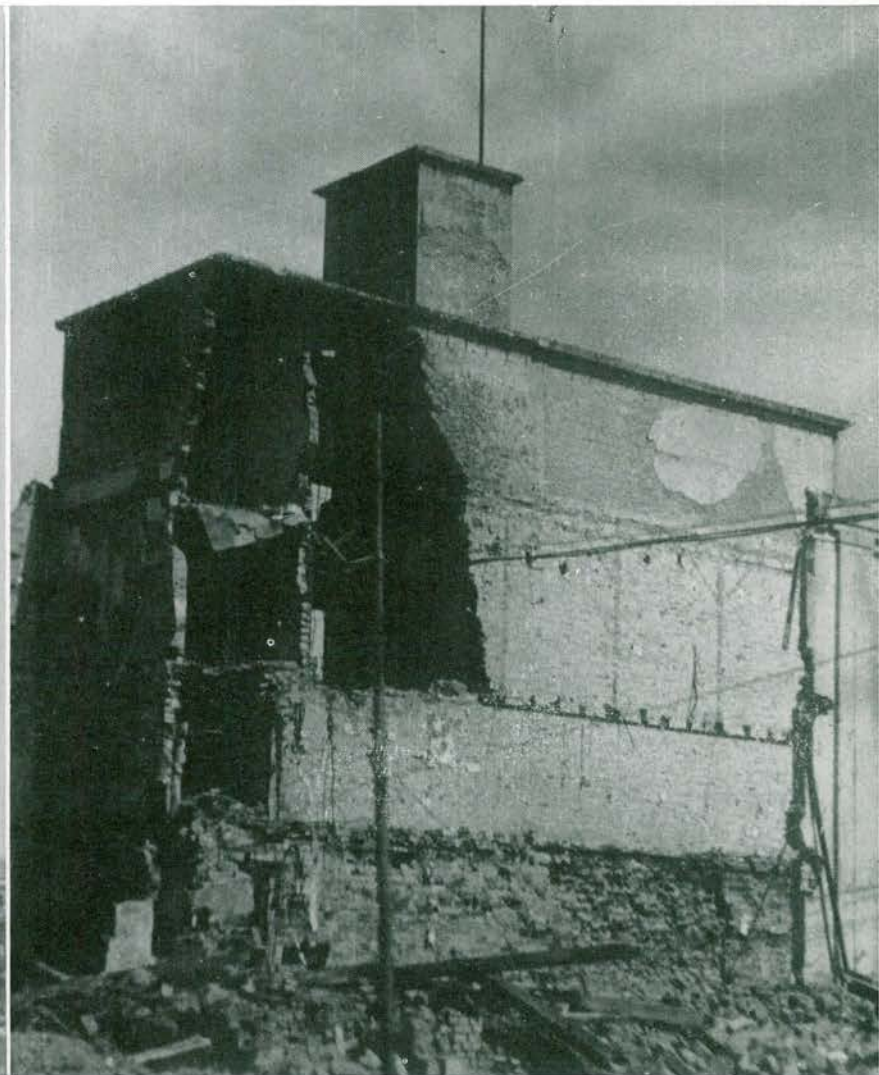


On the way back we passed through many familiar places.

the Regiment waited its turn to board the great English liner, the *Queen Elizabeth*, and make the happy trip to the United States. The men were given passes to London and Bournemouth during the stay in England. By the nineteenth of June the Regiment had entrained for Scotland and boarded the *Elizabeth* in the Firth of Clyde. The great ship sailed on the twentieth, and except for one twenty-

four hour period of rough weather that gave every one a chance to remember what seasickness is like, the voyage was a comparatively smooth crossing. The *Queen* docked at New York City on the twenty-fourth of June and the Regiment entrained immediately for Camp Joyce Kilmer. From Kilmer the men were sent to their homes throughout the United States for thirty days of temporary duty for the

Along the homeward route.



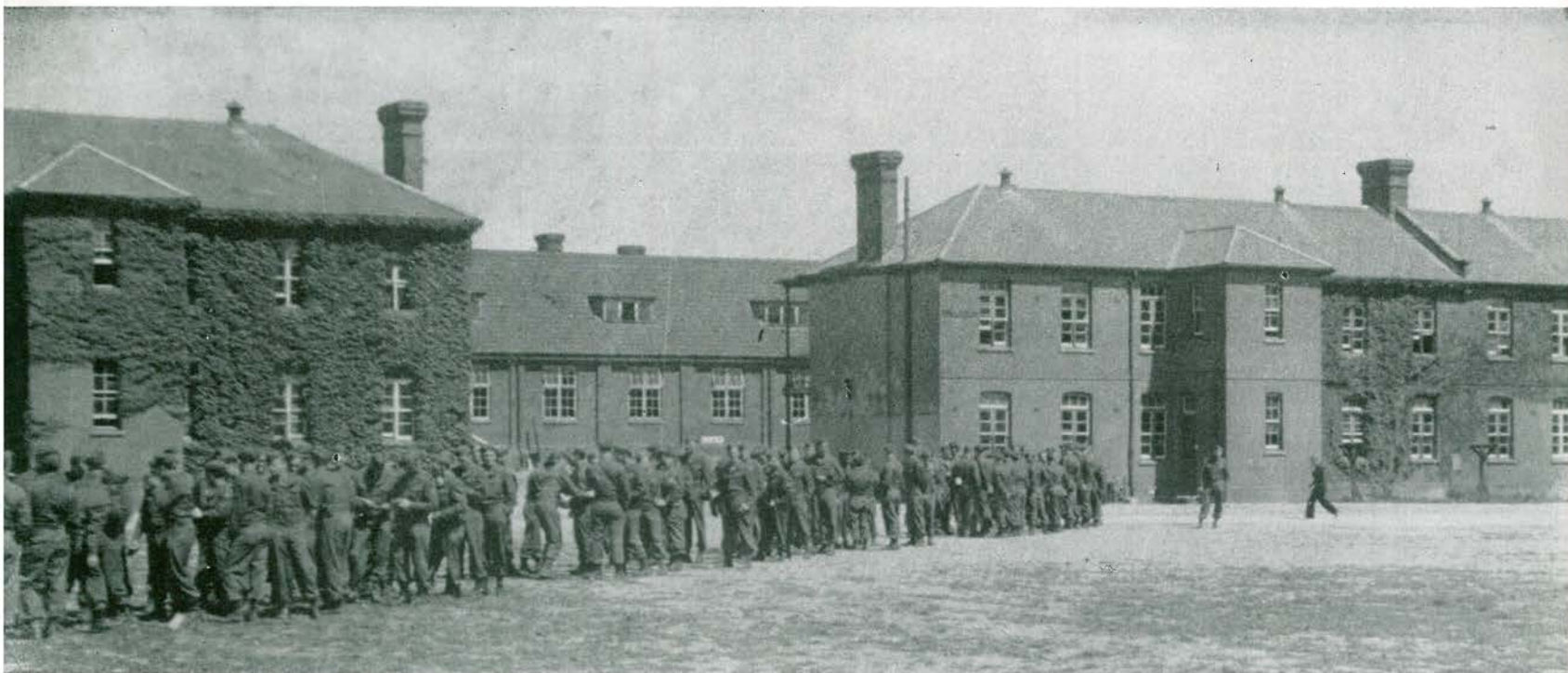
purpose of recuperation.

The thought of seeing families, old friends and familiar places made the men overjoyous to be going home, but behind the expectations of happiness, all had memories of the European war, and the thought that the war in the Pacific had to be won before they might stay home for good. But the collapse of Japan was announced on the fourteenth of August, and the men were relieved to know that if they were in for a tour of the Pacific, foxhole stop-overs would not be part of the schedule.

The Regiment was assembled in strength at Camp Chaffee by the thirteenth of August and the inevitable training schedule was resumed once more. But with the defeat of Japan, plans for the discharge of most of the men and for the inactivation of the Regiment were announced. Members of the Regiment who had seen less than two years of



At Le Havre we boarded a small boat to cross the channel.
Barracks bags were filled with loot.



We stopped over in Tidworth, England, for 10 days.

service were transferred to outfits scheduled for overseas duty. By the twentieth of November, the majority of the men in the Regiment who had seen two years service, of which a good part had been spent overseas, had been discharged from the army; and the inactivation of the Regiment had been accomplished.

The 71st Infantry Regiment was inactivated, because, with the coming of peace, the men who made the Regiment must assume the responsibilities of peaceful citizens. In forming an effective fighting unit, the men of the Regiment served long and well. But regiments and the armies they make are for fighting wars, and when the war is won, a peace must be kept. So the ways of war are put aside, and the men of the 71st Infantry Regiment go forth to enjoy the ways of peace in the world they fought so hard to preserve.

Passes were given to Bournemouth beach. Here the dragon teeth from the beach defenses are being removed.





Finally we crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth.
We sighted land.



Sunbathing was popular with the officers.

Climbing up for a look at the good old U.S.A.

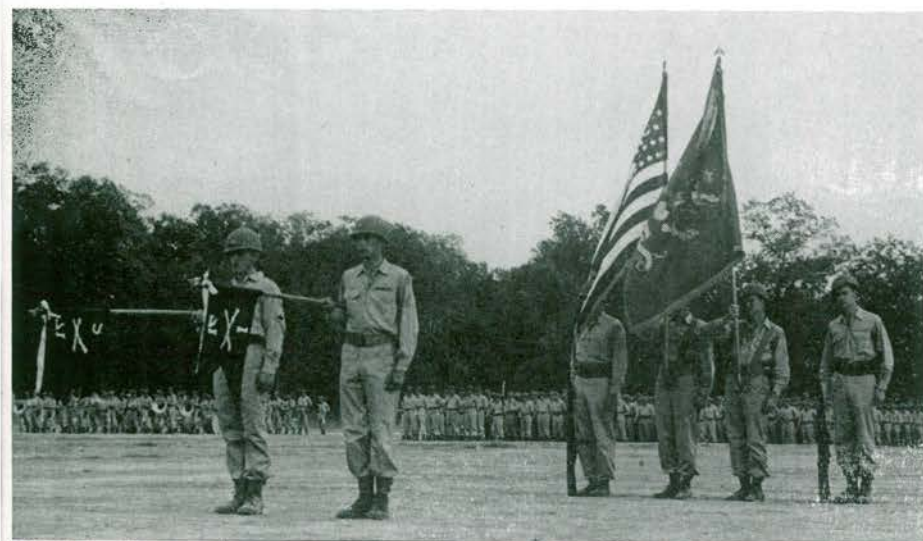


The Battery was a welcome sight.



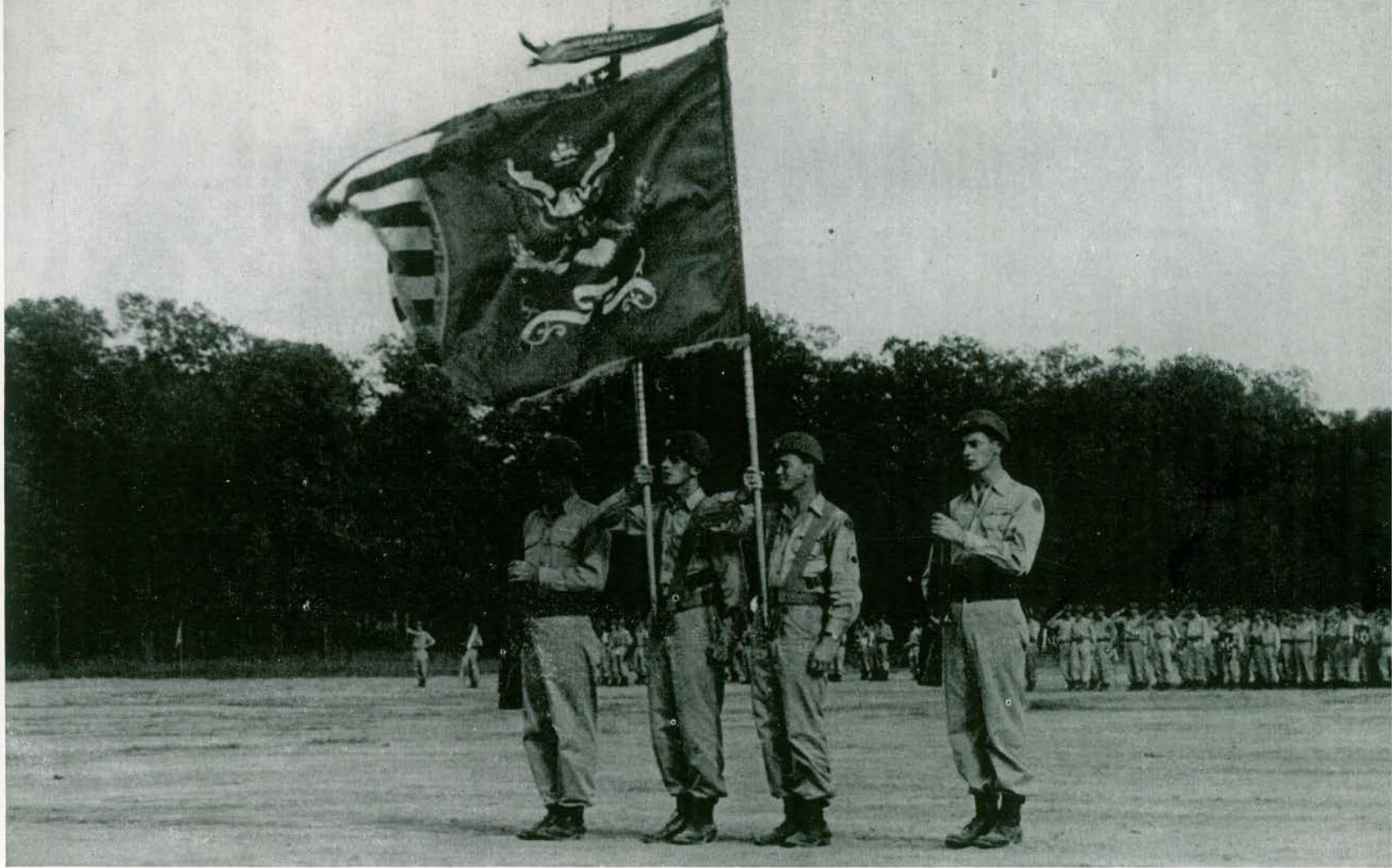


Soon reception stations were shuttling us home for a 30-day furlough. Fort Lewis, Wash.



At Camp Chaffee the 71st formally received its battle honors during a regimental review.





Color guard.

Passing in review.



Killed and Missing In Action

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

McCLEAN, James V., T/Sgt.; Gertrude McClean, 67-11 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, N. Y.
HALEY, James D., T/5; Mary Haley, 3753 Pulaski Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
LASALLE, Walter F., T/4; Clara LaSalle, 301 Nichols Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MATTHEWS, William P., T/4; Arizona Matthews, Ravenden, Ark.
CESARE, Gabriel J., T/5; Rose Cesare, 3514 East Malta St., Philadelphia, Pa.

SERVICE COMPANY

ISACSEN, Anders, T/4; Mrs. Anders Isacsen, 1115 East 2nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

BARNES, Harold, Sgt.; Mrs. Elizabeth Barnes, Rt. 3, Versailles, Ky.
COLE, Wayne B., Pfc.; Tim Cole, Holton, Kans.
McDORMAN, Philip, S/Sgt.; Mrs. Lois McDorman, 420 Knecht Drive, Dayton, Ohio
ZUKOWSKI, Joseph, Pfc.; Anthony Zukowski, Jerice Turnpike, Jerice, N. Y.

Killed Other Than In Action

*GOURLEY, Luther, Pfc.; Mrs. Clara Gourley, Rt. 3, Konawa, Okla.

Died of Natural Causes

*VERHEEVE, John J., T/5; Mrs. Dorothy Verheeve, 30 Benson St., Paterson, N. J.

Missing In Action

BATES, Charles C., Pfc., Mystic, Iowa
COFFIN, Bruce E., Pfc., 521 S. Forrest, Independence, Mo.
MAURI, Robert W., Pfc., 5228 Genevieve Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
STOHR, Harold, Cpl., Rt. 6, Shelbyville, Ind.
TOMLINSON, Alfred B., Pfc., 6642 Edmund St., Philadelphia, Pa.
WILSON, Richard N., Pfc. Lexington, Ky.
ZDYB, Richard N., Pfc., 312 Gardenia St., Michigan City, Ind.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

BAGLEY, Eugene, T/5; Fletcher O. Bagley, Rt. 2, Lindsay, Okla.
BORCHARDT, Robert R.; Louise Borchardt, 1517 27th Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
MATZINGER, George S., Jr., T/3; Mrs. George S. Matzinger, Jr., 55 North Julia St., Mobile, Ala.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

First Battalion

None.

COMPANY A

BANK, Louis; Sam Bank, 2459 E. 23rd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
BENTIVEGNA, Anothojy J.; Bernardo Bentivegna, 1583 W. 5th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
BISKER, Edward W.; Leona Bisker, 2810 Echodale Ave., Baltimore, Md.
BRENNER, George J.; Catherine Brenner, 315 S. 13th St., Reading, Pa.
COOPER, Edward R.; Thereasa Cooper, 216 S. Columbus St., Lancaster, Ohio
COX, John A.; Lissie Willie Cox, 203 Pantex Village, Amarillo, Tex.
DICKENSON, Vernon; Lonnie B. Dickenson, Rt. 2, Swance, Okla.
FAHRINGER, Glendon L.; Minnie Fahringer, 351 E. Poplar, York City, Pa.
FIELDS, Clyde A.; Vesta Fields, Newton, W. Va.

The Purple Heart

It is deeply regretted that lack of space does not permit listing the names of the 1,322 members of the Regiment who received the Purple Heart in recognition of wounds suffered from enemy action.

ROWE, Jerris R.; Roscoe C. Rowe, Rt. 1, Blairsburg, Iowa
SCHLETZELT, Edgar W.; Ida C. Schletzelt, 1713 Patterson, Sioux City, Iowa
SINGLEY, William C.; Helen M. Singley, 828 Center St., Easton, Pa.
SMITH, Harold V.; George V. Smith, Stanberry, Mo.
SPRINGSTON, Calvin R.; Muriel Springston, Wilson, Va.
STEIN, John F.; Katie Stein, 1205 N. Charlotte, Pottstown, Pa.
WANZELAK, William; Mary Meisberger, 325 N. Shamokin St., Shamokin, Pa.
WEBB, Charles E.; Leander Webb, Oil Springs, Ky.
WILLIAMSON, Edward; Samuel Williamson, Sr., 37 Bowmans St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
ZINDLER, Warren M.; Udith Mayer Zindler, 4706 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, Tex.

COMPANY B

BLANK, Russel D., Pfc.; Mrs. Russel V. Blank, 1547 Bryson St., Youngstown, Ohio
CALDWELL, Lawrence J., Jr.; Mrs. Effie Caldwell, 702 S. Mill St., Cleburne, Tex.
CHICKIE, Albert, S/Sgt.; Mrs. Jane Chickie, 409 Straight St., Cincinnati, Ohio
DUBA, James J.; Mrs. Margaret S. Duba, 302 S. Martin Ave., Waukegan, Ill.
GORCZYNSKI, Chester J.; Mrs. Agnes Gorczynski, Rt. 2, Alderson, Pa.
GIBSON, Woodrow, Pfc.; Mrs. Zora Gibson, Caperton, W. Va.
HARDIN, Rudy; Mrs. Bulla Hobbs, 402 South 16th St., Paducah, Ky.
HARKINS, Leland R., Pfc.; Mrs. Mary Harkins, Forrest Hill, Mo.
HATFIELD, Dale H., 2nd Lt.; Mrs. Clara Hatfield, Rt. 3, Lebanon, Ohio
HOWLAND, Francis G., 1st Lt.; Mrs. Margaret M. Howland, 2374 Bayless Place, St. Paul, Minn.
HUNT, Cecil C., Jr., 1st Lt.; Mrs. Anne B. Hunt, Box 3, Breaux Bridge, La.
KLOSS, Fred E., Jr., Pfc.; Mrs. Maude M. Kloss, Montana, Ark.
LARSON, Eric H., Pfc.; Mrs. Ida Larson, Gunnestorp, Njohult, Sweden
LONG, Johnnie B.; Charley Long, Rt. 1, Hartwell, Ga.
LORENZ, Edward F., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Pauline Lorenz, 2604 Argyle St., Chicago, Ill.
LOTWICK, John R., Pfc.; Mrs. Marion Lotwick, 710 West Spruce St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
LLEWELLYN, David R., Pfc.; Harry C. Llewellyn, 328 S. Kenson Ave., LaGrange, Ill.
MARSH, William K., Pfc.; Armored Marsh, 17 East 6th St., Jamestown, N. Y.

MASTALSKI, Frank K., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Mary Mastalski, Rt. 2, Sobieski, Wis.
McKINNEY, Donald G., Pfc.; Ernest Webster McKinney, Yakutat, Alaska
MOOG, Thomas J., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Agnes Moog, 174 Main St., Tottenville, Staten Island, N. Y.
O'DELL, William L.; Fred O'Dell, Rt. 1, Box 712, Auburn, Wash.
POST, Ordie A., Pfc.; Omer A. Post, Coppen, W. Va.
PYLE, Paul L., Capt.; Mrs. Eloise Pyle, 309 W. Broadway, Granville, Ohio
SEEGER, Bernarn E., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Catherine M. Seeger, 16 Sunol St., San Jose, Calif.
SMITH, Wesley E.; Mrs. Bell Smith, Dighton, Kans.
STEWART, Earl L., Sgt.; Roscoe G. Stewart, 3034 North 16th St., Kansas City, Kans.
WAGNER, Joseph L., Sgt.; Mrs. Catherine Wagner, Rt. 1, Anderson, Tex.
WATTS, Edward, Jr., Pfc.; Mrs. Harriet Watts, 314 Madison Ave., Cedarhurst, N. Y.
YONIAK, Walter, T/Sgt.; Mrs. Francis Yoniak, Locust Valley, N. Y.

COMPANY C

ALLISON, David R.; Mrs. Geneva C. Allison, R.F.D. 1, Lock Haven, Pa.
CAROTHERS, Ross H.; Carrie Delia Carothers, Rt. 1, Rock Hill, S. C.
FRIEDMAN, Robert J., Sgt.; Mrs. Mildred A. Present, 30 Colonia Solona, Tuscon, Ariz.
GRAY, Calvin A.; Mrs. Jeanette H. Gray, Gen. Del., Ducktown, Tenn.
HERNANDEZ, Benny S., Sgt.; Mrs. Inocencia Hernandez, Houston, Tex.
HOLCOMB, Howard D.; Mrs. Sheley D. Holcomb, 702 Goodyear Ave., Rockhart, Ga.
JASTREBSKI, Karol E., 1st Sgt.; John Jastrebski, 369 East 29th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
KROPP, S. T., Sgt.; Mrs. Effie May Kropp, Van Horn, Tex.
MOHR, Charles E.; Mrs. Margaret Mohr, 4327 Hays Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
QUASKY, Joseph, Pfc.; Mrs. Agnes Quasky, 603 West St., Baltimore, Md.
RESETAR, George J., Pfc.; Mrs. Mary Resetar, 455 Fifth St., Struthers, Ohio
SITKO, John J., Sgt.; Mrs. Mary Sitko, Rt. 2, Alliance, Ohio
SMIT, Charles H.; Mrs. Nellie Smit, 109 Ohio St., Rochester, N. Y.
SWOKLA, Joseph J., Pfc.; Mrs. Catherine Swokla, 16-E 15th St., Bayonne, N. J.
UBER, Harry P., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Matilda B. Uber, 112 Porter St., Scottdale, Pa.
WILKENS, John A., Pfc.; Mrs. Rose Wilkens, 2nd 8 Paine St., Kiel, Wis.
YOUNG, Irvin J., 2nd Lt.; George B. Young, 503 Exchange Ave., Endicott, N. Y.

COMPANY D

ALLEN, Jack L., Sgt.; Mrs. Elton Allen, 3905 Brandon, Beaumont, Tex.
FARRIS, Sam, Pfc.; Mrs. Lucy Farris, 510 9th St., Port Arthur, Tex.
GALLAGHER, Cornelius J., Jr., Pfc.; Mrs. Anna A. Gallagher, 1746 S. 54th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
HARMAZA, Stephen J., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Mary Seltzer, 1010 Hegeman Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MARZETTI, Michael D., Pfc.; Mrs. Florence Marzetti, 2035 Pointview Ave., Youngstown, Ohio

RICH, Lawrence W. W., Pfc.; Amer Rich, Rt. 2, St. John, Kans.
 WALMER, Moses F., Sgt.; Mrs. Sally Walmer, 505 N. 7th St., Lebanon, Pa.
 *TUCCHOLSKI, Eugene, Cpl.; Pauline Tucholski, 5606 Orey Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY Second Battalion

LOOMIS, William J., T/5; Mary E. Loomis, 406 E. Oak St., Butler, Ind.
 ZAIKAWSKY, George J., Pfc.; Mary Zai-kawsky, 227 Mott Ave., Burlington, N. J.

COMPANY E

BARTON, Joe J.; Mrs. Mary Barton, Rt. 1, Bastrop, Tex.
 BAYSINGER, Clifford, Jr., Sgt.; Clifford E. Baysinger, Rt. 2, Baxter Springs, Mo.
 BISAILLON, Herman J., Sgt.; Mrs. Antoinette Bisailon, 5944 S. Kolin Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 COATY, Leroy V., Pfc.; Mrs. Agnes Coaty, Star Rt. No. 1, Durand, Wis.
 COX, Shirley G., Jr., T/Sgt.; Shirley G. Cox, Sr., Manorville, L. I., N. Y.
 CONLEY, Charles; Mrs. Hester H. Conley, Gen. Del., Proctor, N. C.
 DEFREHN, Wm. A., Sgt.; Mrs. Florence DeFrehn, 130 High St., Pk. Pl., Mahanoy City, Pa.
 GREGORY, Robert H.; Mrs. Ruth Hill Gregory, 52 Home Ave., Meridan, Conn.
 HARPEL, Eugene D., Jr.; Mrs. Gertrude Harpel, 1116 Arrott St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 HARRIS, Earl T., Jr., Pfc.; Mrs. Estella Harris, 1840½ W. Washington St., Springfield, Ohio
 HOUSTON, David E., Pfc.; Mrs. Clara M. Baker, 4103 S. 10th St., Kansas City, Kans.
 HUMMER, Robert L., Pfc.; Mrs. Mary M. Hummer, 129 Weiler Holmes, Toledo, Ohio
 IREY, James K., Pfc.; Mrs. Jennie IreY, Rt. 1, Amity, Pa.
 JAKSE, Joseph S., Pfc.; Mrs. Barbara Jakse, 520 Duss Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 KANDEL, Warren L., Sgt.; Mrs. Loretta C. Kandel, 1400 E. Main St., Louisville, Ohio
 LECLAIR, Maurice M., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Virginia S. LeClair, 251 E. 184th St., New York, N. Y.
 LEGGETT, Clyde A., Sgt.; Clyde W. Leggett, Dyersburg, Tenn.
 MARTIN, Collie R., Pfc.; Mrs. Nannie F. Martin, Rt. 2, Cave City, Ky.
 MOORE, Charles R., Pfc.; Mrs. Alice Moore, Gen. Del., Kleburg, Tex.
 MOORE, Ezra F.; Mrs. Mary Moore, Rosebud, Ark.
 OLSEN, Edwin W., Pfc.; Mrs. Holtie Olsen, 4447 N. Mead Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 PECKMAN, Donald D., Pfc.; Mrs. Roy A. Peckman, Rt. 1, Milo, Mo.
 PERIN, Marcel F., Sgt.; Mary Perin, Rt. 1, Houston, Ohio
 POLING, Theodore, Pfc.; Henry Poling, Rt. 2, Kasson, W. Va.
 PRICE, Ben, Pfc.; Mrs. Mildred Price, 1114 Dartmouth Sw., Canton, Ohio
 ROHRER, Oscar F.; Jake W. Rohrer, 509 N. Walnut, Hutchinson, Kans.
 SCAVUZZO, Nathan, T/Sgt.; Mrs. Josephine Scavuzzo, 204 Willow St., Waterbury, Conn.
 SCHENK, Richard C., Pfc.; Mrs. Margaret Schenk, 473 Hewitt Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

SHINBAUM, Laurence S., Pfc.; Mrs. Lily Shinbaum, 776 Broadway, Newark, N. J.
 SMALLACOMBE, Bert H.; William Smallacombe, Oak St., Old Forge, Pa.
 SOWDER, Manuel H., Sgt.; Mrs. Ruby E. Sowder, 427 Dearborn Ave., Dayton, Ohio
 SQUIRES, Harry G., Pfc.; Carl Squires, 2330 Eastwood Ave., Akron, Ohio
 THOMPSON, Elmer E.; Mrs. Carrar E. Thompson, Farrar, Tex.
 TOME, Chester W.; Chester Tome, Rt. 1, Laurel, Pa.
 WEBBER, Harold P., Pfc.; Mrs. Katherine M. Webber, Trenary, Mich.

COMPANY F

ANDERSON, Charles L., Pfc.; Mrs. Marie Anderson, 1503 N. 7th St., Longview, Tex.
 ARNOLD, Randall E., Pfc.; Mrs. Nannie Bell Arnold, Marion, Va.
 BOYD, Ralph J., Pfc.; Mrs. Lueretia Boyd, Rt. 1, Orient, Ohio (Died in Service).
 BURDICK, David C., Pfc.; Mrs. Burdick, Little House Farm, Maple Grove Road, Walpole, N. H.
 CALLOWAY, James R., Pfc.; Anna T. Calloway, Gen. Del., Barnardsville, N. Y.
 Czaja, Raymond, Pfc.; Anna Czaja, 2642 N. Wayne Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 DRABNIS, Edward P., Pfc.; Mrs. Eva Drabnis, Middleport, Pa.
 ERICKSON, William J., Sgt.; John Erickson, 1415 N. 26th St., Superior, Wis.
 GLENN, George H., Sgt.; Alma Hasty Glenn, Box 242, Chickamauga, Ga.
 GLINSKY, Stephen J., Pfc.; John J. Glin-sky, 813 W. 6th Ave., Walshburg, Colo.
 KOWALAK, Thaddeus M., Pfc.; Mrs. Viola Kowalak, 38 Dempster St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 LARSON, Laroy J., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Alvina Larson, 1243 S. Euclid Ave., Bewyn, Ill.
 LAUE, Robert R., Sgt.; Hilma Laue, 1901 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, Ill.
 MATANI, Samuel J., Pfc.; Mrs. Mary Matani, 3021 Lavender Ave., Parkville, Mo.
 McDANIELS, Charles J., Pfc.; Stewart H. McDaniels, 201 Pike St., Phillippi, W. Va.
 MCKENZIE, Alvin, Pfc.; Mrs. Essie E. McKenzie, Rt. 4, Quitman, Tex.
 MINER, James M., Pfc.; Miss Dora Armon, Elizabeth St., Minerva, Ohio
 PION, Alan R., Pfc.; Shari L. Pion, 601 W. 115th St., New York, N. Y.
 REED, Darrell B., Pfc.; Gladys Reed, 4607 Lyons Road, Austin, Tex.
 ROHRBAUGH, Clarence E., Pfc.; Mrs. Gertie E. Rohrbaugh, Millers, Md.
 RUSK, Floyd D., Pfc.; Kathleen F. Rusk, 576 Grenville Road, Newark, Ohio
 SHORT, Charles J., Pfc.; Charles Haddon Short, Nau-ces-O-Wee Hotel, Sebring, Fla.
 SILBERZAHN, Melvin, Pfc.; Mrs. Mary J. Silberzahn, 2110 E. Madison St., Baltimore, Md.
 SWEARINGEN, Donald J., Jr., Pfc.; Mrs. Edith M. Swearingen, Rt. 1, Georgetown, Pa.
 WADDELL, John S., Pfc.; Lizzie Waddell, Osmond, Nebr.
 WATSON, Scott H., Pfc.; Mrs. Annie Watson, Box 102, Jonesboro, Tex.
 WHEELER, Edwin M., Pfc.; Thelma Wheeler Sanders, Shortsville, N. Y.
 WILLIAMS, Doyle H., Pfc.; Mrs. Lillie Williams, c/o Gen. Del., Bethel, Okla.
 YOUNKINS, Preston S., Pfc.; Mrs. Lettie J. Younkings, Rt. 1, Middletown, Md.

COMPANY G

BRENTS, Jack D., Pfc.; Sudie Brents, Cristine, Tex.
 BURPEAU, Oscar J., Pfc.; Mrs. Oscar Berpeau, 82 Cowels Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.
 CHANEY, Ronald G., Pfc.; Mrs. Chole Chaney, Rt. 2, Fowlerville, Mich.
 EICHBERGER, Edward H., Pfc.; Ida Eichberger, 2630 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 ELLIS, Don E., Pfc.; Mrs. Lillie C. Ellis, 315 N. 14th St., Guthrie, Okla.
 ESTES, Noah W., Pfc.; Mrs. Juanita Estes, Pharoah, Okla.
 GRESSEN, Warren H., S/Sgt.; Keneth Gressen, 1168 S. East Ave., Kankakee, Ill.
 GILLES, Sylvester M., Pfc.; Alice Gilles, Rt. 2, Cadott, Wis.
 HUCKEMEYER, Edward, Pfc.; Herman Huckemeyer, 4322 42nd St., Long Island City, N. Y.
 KUCER, Mike, Jr., Pfc.; Mary Kucer, 698 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 McALARNEY, Edward L., Pfc.; Mrs. Maude McAlarney, 368 Ira Ave., Akron, Ohio
 McPHEARSON, Louis H., Pfc.; Frank McPhearson, Rt. 1, Mt. Vernon, Ohio
 NALL, Dennison L., Pfc.; Mrs. Marjorie J. Nall, 504 N. Hudson St., Altus, Okla.
 NYMAN, Bernard A.; Ben Nyman, 1142 E. 67th, Chicago, Ill.
 SCHROEDER, Raymond W., Pfc.; Mrs. Louis Schroeder, Rt. 1, New Haven, Mo.
 STUCKEY, Marion E., Pfc.; Mrs. Gussie Stuckey, Rt. 2, Bishopville, S. C.
 TORRES, John A.; Mary Torres, 889 Roger Place, Bronx, N. Y.
 UPTON, Robert D.; Mrs. Francis Upton, 204 S. Chestnut, Jefferson, Iowa
 WATKINS, Kenneth O., Pfc.; Mrs. Golda N. Watkins, Rt. 7, Sidney, Ohio
 RICHTER, Herbert R., Pfc.; Mrs. Emma Richter, 2246 Webster Ave., New York, N. Y.

COMPANY H

BERARDI, Angelo A., Cpl.; Marie J. Berardi, 2240 61st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 BORENZWEIG, Ruben, 1st Lt.; Rae E. Borenzweig, 1360 E. 14th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 BRADLEY, Edward C., Pfc.; Irene Bradley, 1413 Okema St., Elkhart, Ind.
 CRIBBS, Clair G., Cpl.; Mabel Cribbs, 57½ Market St., Blarisville, Pa.
 GEBHART, Frank J., S/Sgt.; Margaret A. Gebhart, 5022 Oleatha Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 JESCHKE, Herbert; Ella Jeschke, 5083 Harding Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 JEZ, Casimir F., S/Sgt.; Catherine Jez, 2102 W. 18th Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 McDUGALL, James S., Pfc.; Mary Ann Erwin, 8414 N. Foss St., Portland, Ore.
 MORIN, Gerald G., Pfc.; Edith Morin, Rt. 1E, Munising, Mich.
 PATTERSON, Daniel L., Cpl.; Lois L. Patterson, 2501 Whitaker St., Savannah, Ga.
 PERELMAN, Herman S.; Eva Perelman, 3006 W. Fountain St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 WILSON, Robert L., S/Sgt.; Adaline E. Wilson, Rt. 2, Tyrone, Pa.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY Third Battalion

McLARTY, Jay K., Capt.; Mrs. McLarty, Harper House, Rock Island, Ill.
 BOMBAY, Albert J.; Mrs. Anna Bombay, 2105 Elbur Ave., Lakewood, Ohio
 KISOR, Glen R., Pfc.; Mrs. Maude Kisor, Rt. 3, Wellston, Ohio

PETROVIAK, Ervin R.; Mrs. Pauline Petroviak, 1905 S. 12th St., Milro, Wis.
 RICHLE, Paul J., T/5; Mrs. Stella Richle, Names Creek Road, Ogden, Pa.

COMPANY I

ABBOTT, James B., Pfc.; Nellie A. Abbott, 229 Leith St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 ANTHONY, Marr R., Pfc.; Mary Anthony, 162 E. Polk St., Paris, Tex.
 AUGUSTYN, Casimir S., Pfc.; Stanley Augustyn, 1814 W. Cullerton St., Chicago, Ill.
 AYERS, Cloren D., Pfc.; Edith Ayers, 2714 Valley Pike, Dayton, Ohio
 BLAIR, Homer L., S/Sgt.; Daisy B. Blair, 1423 S. Wellington St., Memphis, Tenn.
 BROWN, Manuel O., Pfc.; Claude Brown, Gen. Del., Hillsboro, N. Mex.
 CANTON, Wilburn L., Pfc.; Mary E. Canton, Rt. 4, Clanton, Ala.
 CHASSE, Joseph H.; Isobel M. Chasse, Loue, Saskatchewan, Can.
 CORNETT, John L.; Mona Cornett, Box 193, Davenport, Okla.
 DE GRANGE, Johnie T., Cpl.; Rena Jefferies, 1428 Hanover, Baltimore, Md.
 DOUCET, Davis, E., T/5; Lemiza Doucet, Golden Meadow, La.
 EHRLICH, Charles H.; Charles H. Ehrlich, Box 863, Henryetta, Okla.
 FEICHT, Joseph H., S/Sgt.; Mrs. Catherine Feicht, 1327 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 FULLER, Everett S., Sgt.; Charles Fuller, Rt. 2, Waynesburg, Pa.
 GERBER, Cyril J., Pfc.; Eleanor M. Gerber, 211 York St., Bellevue, Ohio
 HEATH, James C.; Grace Glossner, Rt. 2, Howard, Pa.
 HUFFMAN, Richard H., Jr., Pfc.; Mabel F. Huffman, 848 Jennifer St., Madison, Wis.
 LAMP, Louis H.; Pearl E. Lamp, Box 87, Shipping Port, Pa.
 LUOMA, Carl W., Pfc.; Maria Luoma, 1545 Cortland, Detroit, Mich.
 MASCUILLO, Neno P.; Amelia Mascuillo, 67 Western Ave., Morristown, N. J.
 MCGEEHON, John; Anna McGeehon, 4401, Cottman St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 McMAHON, Eugene F., Pfc.; Thomas E. McMahon, Rt. 2, Bellevue, Ohio
 MIHOVICH, John M., Pfc.; Mary Mihovich, Ambridge, Pa.
 MITRISION, Paul; Verna Mitrision, Platte, Pa.
 MURPHY, Joseph A., Pfc.; Michael Murphy, 35 Old Country Rd., Westbury, L. I., N. Y.
 NICHOLSON, Donald R., Pfc.; Edna Nicholson, 11 E. King St., Shippensburg, Pa.
 OSTRANDER, Jole D.; Sarah Ostrander, Rt. 2, Schoharie, N. Y.
 PHILLIPS, Robert R., S/Sgt.; Mary E. Phillips, Gen. Del., Rusk, Tex.
 ROBERTI, Joseph J.; Caroline Roberti, 42 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 ROBBETT, Frankie N., S/Sgt.; Nellie Robnett, Rt. 1, Box 371, Henryetta, Okla.
 ROTH, Henry C., Sgt.; Henry E. Roth, 7211 Jenwood St., Louis County, Mo.
 RUZICH, Rudy, Pfc.; Lucille Ruzich, Rt. 2, W. Frankfort, Ill.
 SCHWARTZ, Walter C.; Roy E. Schwartz, 271 E. Winona St., St. Paul, Minn.
 SCIBEK, Stanley F., S/Sgt.; Anna Scibek, 2535 S. 7th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 SHEWCRAFT, Herman C., Pfc.; Grace L. Shewcraft, Rt. 2, Fredonia, Ky.
 SMITH, Forrest R., S/Sgt.; Alice L. Smith, Rt. 3, Middlefield, Ohio
 STOKES, Ralph C., Pfc.; Della M. Howard, Goreville, Ill.

SYMES, Paul E., Pfc.; Joseph L. Symes, 936 N. Topeka, Wichita, Kans.
 TREMPER, Charles A., S/Sgt.; Roy A. Tremper, 86 Farrelly St., Kingston, N. Y.
 WALTER, Marshall W., Pfc.; Nancy Mae Walter, Buskerk, N. Y.
 WANNER, Norman P.; Josephine Wanner, 10 Ainsworth St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 WELCH, Frederick F., Jr., Sgt.; Betty Jane Welch, Ansted, W. Va.
 WHITLEY, Thomas E.; Pearl B. Whitley, Rt. 5, Box 122, Atlanta, Ga.
 WILLS, William A.; Mrs. Nina Wills, Arnett, W. Va.
 WILSON, James E., Pfc.; next of kin unknown.

COMPANY K

ADAMS, Charles W.; Rt. 2, Nettetson, Miss.
 BANDO, George R., Pfc., 211 Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 BASTIL, Leslie A., Pfc., Birnawood, Wis.
 CARNELL, James E., Pfc., 7281 Tucker Road, Se., Washington, D. C.
 DYSARCZYK, Gilbert J., S/Sgt., 5811 Sheridan, Detroit, Mich.
 FLATTERS, Don L., Pfc., 1108 W. 18th St., Muncie, Ind.
 FOLEY, Thomas A., Pfc., 1562 Eutaw Pl., Baltimore, Md.
 GIESE, Grant W., Sgt., Rt. 2, Clarmont, Ill.
 HORVATH, James, Pfc., 1033 Jefferson St., Easton, Pa.
 JILES, Joseph A., S/Sgt., Rt. 2, Gramtsburg, Wis.
 JOYCE, George P., 588 N. Main St., Pittston, Pa.
 KARBOWSKI, Raymond L., Pfc., 2941 N. 74th Ct., Elmwood Park, Ill.
 KIMBROUGH, Wayne W., Russellvilles, Ala.
 KING, James D., Sgt., Crossville, Tenn.
 LECHOWICZ, Robert J., 31 Solar St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 LYNCH, James E., 512 Ave. E., Garland, Tex.
 MALINKY, Walter, Rt. 1, E. Millsboro, Pa.
 MAWHINNEY, John C., Wood St., Cochran, Pa.
 MCGLYNN, Joseph P., Pfc., 352 N. Washington St., Wilherburg, Pa.
 PRIDEMORE, Allen H., Pfc., Rt. 2, Kyles Ford, Tenn.
 RAMSIER, Edward G., Pfc., Tarr, Pa.
 REILLY, Walter J., Capt.; 559 W. 164th St., New York, N. Y.
 REYES, Filberto, Pfc., 1108 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
 SCHOENBERG, Norman, Pfc., 402 Tattall St., Wilmington, Del.
 SMITH, Robert J., T/Sgt., 1445 St. Nichols Ave., New York, N. Y.
 SUSI, Italo, Pfc., 1523 80th, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 WARRINGTON, Luverne O., T/Sgt., 213 Charles St., Albert Lea, Minn.
 WARRIOR, Andrew, Rt. 1, Stroud, Okla.
 WILSON, John S., Pfc., 1713 33rd St., San Francisco, Calif.
 WROBLESKI, Leo J., T/Sgt., 61-44 54th Road, Maspeth, N. Y.

COMPANY L

BINKLEY, Johnny, Sgt.; Mrs. Sarah D. Binkley, Waverly, Tenn.
 FENT, Francis H.; Addie Fent, Rt. 3, Greenfield, Ohio
 FRY, Marvin R.; Jeanne Fry, Rt. 1, Yukon, Okla.
 GLICK, Rolla G.; Mrs. Patricia Glick, 623 S. Main St., Pocatello, Idaho
 GOLDSTIEN, Irving, S/Sgt.; Rose Goldstien, 241 E. 91st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

GORMAN, Richard M.; Millie Gorman, Rt. 2, Carlton, N. Y.
 HATLEY, Jessie D., Pfc.; Johnnie G. Hatley, Rt. 4, Atwood, Tenn.
 HERTLE, Edgar H.; Amelia M. Hertle, 197-01 119th Ave., St. Albans, N. Y.
 HUGHES, Marvins; Nora Hughes, S. 127 W. 4th Pl., Tulsa, Okla.
 KIPLINGER, Morris C.; Verna Kiplinger, Rt. 1, Elynia, Ohio
 MURR, Willis F., Pfc.; Dora G. Murr, Box 127, Fountain City, Wis.
 PETTIGREW, Roy E.; Katie J. Pettigrew, Rt. 4, Cleburne, Tex.
 PICONE, Patty, S/Sgt.; 180 E. Wilkes Barre St., Enston, Pa.
 POWELL, Morton C., 2nd Lt.; Mrs. Helen Powell, 27 Sylvan Ave., New Haven, Conn.
 QUEEN, Edward C., Sgt.; Mrs. Blanch Hollycross, 5310 Fletcher St., Jennings, Mo.
 ROCKWELL, R. C., Pfc.; Isabell Rockwell, 1207 W. Gambier St., Mt. Vernon, Ohio
 ROSKO, Paul, Pfc.; Katherine Rosko, Rt. 3, Easton, Pa.
 SMITH, James B., Pfc.; Charlie Smith, Rt. 3, Rogersville, Tenn.
 SMITH, James P., Pfc.; Opal Smith, Twin Bridges, Mont.
 STEWART, Guy B.; Lucy Ann Stewart, 424 E. 6th St., North Onawa, Iowa
 THOMPSON, Walter H.; Minnie M. Thompson, Rt. 3, Elmo, Tenn.
 WOODRUFF, William E., Pfc.; Nora G. Woodruff, Florence St., Maysville, Ky.
 ZIMBARDO, John; Mary Zimbaro, 216 E. 96th St., New York, N. Y.
 FEDUSH, Micheal, T/5; 169 Cambridge Ave., Garfield, N. J.

COMPANY M

CASCARELLI, Frank T.; Mrs. Louise Cascarelli, 705 W. 2nd St., Salida, Colo.
 ECKERT, Carl G., Cpl.; Mrs. Laura Eckert, Lawn, Pa.
 FALKENBERRY, Henry B.; Mrs. Ruby Lucas Falkenberry, Rt. 3, Kenshaw, S. C.
 HERBERT, Harold R., Pfc.; Mrs. Marie Herbert, 246 N. 5th Ave., Long Branch, N. J.
 JOHNSON, Merele A., Sgt.; Mrs. Helen G. Johnson, 702½ St. Helen Ave., Tacoma, Wash.
 KIVELL, George B., Pfc.; Mrs. Minnie Kivell, 1085 White St., Lincoln Park, Mich.
 LARGE, Julius D., Jr., S/Sgt.; Julius D. Large, Sr., Rt. 2, Box 104, Princess Anne, Va.
 LOVE, Foster D., Pfc.; Mrs. Jane E. Love, 807 Cherry St., Hartford City, Ind.
 PALUMBO, Joseph M., Pfc.; Mrs. Mary Yacovoni, 517 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 POLLOCK, Johnie H., Pfc.; Ed Pollock, Rt. 2, Lexington, Tenn.
 POLLOCK, Paul E., Pfc.; Mrs. Marlene Pollock, 1928 N. Whipple St., Chicago, Ill.
 RACHEL, Matthew J., T/Sgt.; Joseph Rachel, S. Elm St., Windsor Locks, Conn.
 SANTOS, John C., Cpl.; Mrs. Ethel Santos, 652 Sausalito Blvd., Sausalito, Calif.
 THRESHER, Boyce, Cpl.; Mrs. Lydia L. Thresher, 2202 Nw. 1st St., Amarillo, Tex.

* Died of natural causes.

* Killed accidentally.

* Killed other than in action.

Personal Data

Name _____

ASN _____ Grade _____

Date and Place of Induction _____

Arm of Service _____

Date of Discharge _____

Home Address _____

Decorations: _____

Battle Campaigns: _____

Record of Service

[illegible]

Overseas Service:

I left Port of Embarkation _____ from _____
Date Place

on SS_____. Landed at_____ on_____.

I left for Home on _____ from _____

on the SS _____ and arrived in _____

on_____.

After my recuperation leave I reported at _____ on _____

for_____. I was discharged on_____Special Order_____, Par._____

Dated_____.

71st INFANTRY REGIMENT



Headquarters Company

Alcala, Lupe R., Box 474, Pearasol, Tex.
Allen, Donald E., Box 21, Stockdale, Ohio.
Bradstreet John R., 55 W. San Fernando, San Jose, Cal.
Brunner, Hans P., 78th St., Jankson Hights, Long Island, N. Y.
Burrison, George R., 8220 W. Norton Ave., Hollywood, Cal.
Carpenter William B., Jackson Rd, Gastonia, N. C.
Case, Morris F.
Caves, Thimas E., 1479 Pachill Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio.
Cuirei, Joseph E., 5242 S. Honore St., Chicago, Ill.
Connor, Donald L., 2821 Whirlpool St., Niagra Falls, N. Y.
Conti, Joseph S., 463 W. 35th St., New York, N. Y.
Campbell, Lawrence, 2424 W. Grant Ave., Alhambra, Cal.
Crowley, Michel J., 742 E., 43rd St., Brooklyn N. Y.
Colastrugio, Sgmuel F., 189 Miami St., Tiffin, Ohio.
Cannazero, Joseph F.
Dahl, Robert H., 387 Rochambeau Ave., Providence, R. I.
Doyle, James G., 51 Smith St., Perth Amboy, N. J.
Draper, Tommie R., 541 E. 2nd St., Prineville, Oregon
Dunlap, Gabriel J., 6334 S. Perry Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Davidson, Sherman H., Peoples, Ky.
Dowd, John H., Jr., 147 Keeny Ave., W. Hartford Conn.
Durbin, Wallace E., 869 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.
Durden, Andrew C., 201 Pierce Ave., Macon, Ga.
Eggers, John D., 373 E. 142nd St., Bronx, N. Y.
Estling, Thomas J., 1711 N. 18th St., Superior, Wis.
Fiorini, Dante A., 45 Lake St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fischer, Frank E., 24 Duncan St., Chippewa Falls, Wis.
Foster, Hugh T., 515 Massena Ave., Waukegan, Ill.
Fowler, William H., Tiernan, Oregon
Furlough, Eugene, 207 Neal Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Galloway, Kenneth C., Rt. #3, W. Asheville, N. C.
Gannon, Thomas J., 221 Union Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
Gibson, Phillip S., Rt. #1, Vinegar Bend, Ala.
Goggin, Roy F., 391 Broadway, Somerville, Mass.
Goodman, Harry, 286 E. 169th St., New York, N. Y.
Greener, LeRoy A., Rt. 1, LaSalle, Ill.
Goldbeg, Benard L., 3201 Bir Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Groulx, John M., 1032 Maffei St., Muskegan Heights, Mich.
Hancock, Clarence, P O Box 342, Beckley, W. Va.
Haren, David J., 10 Daisey Place, Silver Beach, Bronx, N. Y.
Hayes, George F., Jr., 1229 Broadway, Columbus, Ga.
Higgins, John M., 302 E. 17th St., Hopkinsville, Ky.
Hill, Edward G., 4261 Bell St., Tacoma, Wash.
Hallander, David, 795 Maple St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hoyt, Lyle S., Box 63, Allentown, Iowa
Herlein, Robert J., 1223 E. Forrest St., Muskegan, Mich.
Hopkins, Robert J., 928 E. 16th St., Chester, Pa.
Hellig, Donald J., 236 E. 238th St., New York, N. Y.
Howell, John K., Jr., 91 Portland St., Phoenix, Ariz.
Jacobson, Louis Jr., 150 Montague St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Jacobs, Nathan, 1020 Simpson St., Bronx, N. Y.
Jensen, Arthur F., 402 Kenilwith Ave., Toledo
Johnson, Bille J., 5014 Sante Fe St., Dallas, Tex.
Jones, Homer R., High St., Woodfield, Ohio.
Jones, Vann V., 424 S. Terrace Drive, Wichita, Kansas
Kavanaugh, Donal J., 36 Pine Ridge Terrace, Cheekawa, N. Y.
King, Alfred M., 1615 Duncan Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn.
Kulp, Harry E., Golden Egal, Ill.
Kaminsky, Theodore, 3783 Calvert, Detroit, Mich.
Kiscadon, Samuel E., R.R. #1, Smithville, Ky.
Koacs, Stephen L., 1952 E. 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lapinski, Stanley Z., Rt. #2, Stockton, N. J.
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Livingston, Milton W., Livingston, Wis.
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Lamb, Clifton E., R. RD. #1, Oswego, N. Y.
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Rice, Robert B., 475 State St., Colonia, Mich.
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Sardina, John, 2299 E. 30th St., Vancouver, Wash.
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Silagyl, Frank, Box 247, N Columns, N. Y.

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 Wenter, Clarence R., 3878 W. 162nd St., Cleveland, Ohio.
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 Williams, Frank A., Hemhull, Tex.
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 Ynderstead, Alfred J.
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 Zimmer, Fred, 2826 Concord Ave., Candam, N. J.
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 Beacon, Everett L., R. F. D. 1, Box 510, Atlanta, Ga.
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 Berkowski, Henry S., 120 Goodyear Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
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 Elfein, Benjamin, 71 60 69th Place, Glendale, Long Island, N. Y.
 Elmer, Roland, Bay Ave., Point Pleasant, N. J.
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 Ferguson, James R., 10 Farrington St., Newburgh, N. Y.
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 Cress, Hurve L., 608 E. Epworth Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
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 Hanft, John J., 107 Melrose St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Hart, Fred, 501 Market St., Paris, Tenn.
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 Hawthorne, George O., 1520 Nassau St., Gamesville, Fla.
 Hayes, Walter J., 5841 N. Field Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Haynes, Charles E., Box 286 Miami, Tex.
 Heath, James S., Rt. 2, Grafton, Ohio.
 Henderson, Robert A., 20 Sullivan St., Forty Fort, Pa.
 Heneghan, Anthony H., 7033 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Hess, William R., 323 W. North St., Greenburg, Ind.
 Hilly, Ralph E., Rt. 2, Marion, Ill.
 Hitchcock, Robert C., Glovedale, Ohio.
 Holslaw, Ernest, S., 531 Sibley St., Hammond, Ind.
 Holland, Creighton, G., Norway, Iowa.
 Holt, Byron E., 1105 Belvedere Ave., Lima, Ohio.
 Horner, James G., 1166 Kehler Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Hougham, Lyle T., Ausubel Forks, N. Y.
 Hultz, William, 711 S. 52nd St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Jenkins, Robie, Eugene, Mo.
 Johnson, Donald F., 7251 Whittaker Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Jones, Henry C.
 Kapperman, Louis J., 124 Hemenway Rd., Cheektowaga, N. Y.
 Kelly, Charles A., 2921 13th St., Monroe, Wis.
 Kemp, Arthur R., Olmstead, Ky.
 Kennedy, Jasper J., 1207 Jefferson St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Kerlavage, Sylvester P., 145 S. Empire St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
 Kultz, Alfred F., 146-57 107th Ave., Jamaica, N. Y.
 Knecht, Donald E., Heavener, Okla.
 Krasnick, John E., 917 E. Pine St., Mohaney, Pa.
 Kury, Fred S., 5111 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Lammert, George J., 4657 Delet St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Lambert, Richard P., 642 McLaughlin Ave., Muskegon, Mich.
 Landgraver, Larry J., 1431 S. E. 30th Ave., Portland, Oregon.
 Larrison, Erwin, Batistity, Mo.
 Laterza, Orlando A., 2313 2nd Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Leight, Ralph H., New Freedom, Pa.
 Luna, Joe, 788 Clanton St., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Lupasky, John, 338 Locust Ave., Centraie, Pa.
 Mahler, Joseph P., 122 Park St., Beacon, N. Y.
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 Mazza, George, 2934 N. Lambert St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 McShea, Lee F., 1447 Evans St., St. Paul, Minn.
 Meadows, Thomas F., Rt. 6, Kokoma, Ind.
 Medors, Stanley K., 986 Penna. Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Melone, Fred N., 701 S. 4th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Mendola, Carmelo L., 39 Bayard St., Trenton, N. J.
 Midence, Alfred R., 53-12 Seabury St., Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.
 Mikszewski, Anthony, 2600 Nibel St., Hamtramck, Mich.
 Mohr, Forrest M., Rt. 2, Richmond, Mo.
 Moreno, Ernest C., 44-15 1/2 Michigan Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Morgan, Willard E., Box 5, Mineral, Ill.
 Murnane, Timothy J., 61 Welcott St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Nealon, Thomas J., 552 W. 43rd Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Nels, Charles, Purgavlo, W. Va.
 Nettles, James G., Repton, Ala.
 Nichols, Willis, 2074 N. Carolina Ave., Mason City, Iowa.
 Norse, Seymour L., 1495 Nestrand Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 North, Harold M., 315 N. Mulberry St., Muncie, Ind.
 Norton, Robert, 288 Whitting Ave., Dedham, Mass.
 Norwood, William C.
 Nourse, Vernon E., 402 Marshall St., Scioteville, Ohio.
 Nutten, Gilbert W., General Delivery, Hanford, Wash.
 Nykanon, Lauri W., Box 397, Aurora, Minn.
 O'Brien, Frederick W., 32 Calhoun Ave., Apponaug, R. I.
 O'Heary, John J., 787 Columbia Rd., Dorchester, Mass.
 Olchey, John, 223 E. 4th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Pappas, Lewis C., 318 Greenwood Drive, W. Palm Beach, Fla.
 Palling, Carlton F., 12133 Belsay Rd., Rt. 3, Clio, Mich.
 Patterson, Wesley H., Lovelside, Mo.
 Peck, John J., 823 Stanhope St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Perry, Vincent J., 65 Florence St., Providence, R. I.
 Perry, Gerardo O., Rt. 3, Claremore, Okla.
 Pierdolla, Andrew C., P. O. Box 50, St. Hedwig, Tex.
 Piercing, George F., 3902-111th St., Corona, L. I., N. Y.
 Picard, Elmer F., Cedar St., Champlain, N. Y.
 Pirone, Jeremiah P., 20-79 45th St., L. I., N. Y.
 Pisani, Herman A., Box 229, Waynesboro, Ohio.
 Pessin, Morris, 2006 Kaufmann Ave., Vancouver, Wash.
 Peidmani, John, 21 Green St., Hackensack, N. J.
 Porter, Wilbur E., 1620 Halford St., Anderson, Ind.
 Puckett, Walter W., Rt. 1, Portsmouth, Ohio.
 Puzak, George, R. F. D. 2, Saltsburg, Pa.
 Rasnik, Henry S., Tiny, Va.
 Reeves, Buster H., 1901 N. Alder St., Tacoma, Wash.
 Richards, Edward F., Box 35, Wyoming, Delaware.
 Ridenbaugh, Russel E., 304 Wilson, Newark, Ohio.
 Riley, Jeff, Buchorn, Ky.
 Roe, Paul N., Boyington, Okla.
 Robertson, E. W., P. O. Box 633, Sinton, Tex.
 Robinson, Buron, Russellville, Ala.
 Robinson, Walter G., S. St., Blair, Neb.
 Rosen, Louis, 180 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rutter, John P., 15379 Princeton, Detroit, Mich.
 Rywak, Stepehn, 639 E. 6th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Salegna, James H., 24 Hill St., Bernardsville, N. J.
 Scarbrough, Farmer E., Dayton, Tenn.
 Schilt, Bernard E., 131 E. 3rd St., Denver, Col.
 Schreder, Wilbur H., Rt. 3, Watseka, Ill.
 Schwartz, Isidore I., 2424 N. Marston St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Shove, Ralph B., Country Club Road, Sharon, Conn.
 Shuter, Thomas F., 21 Merte St., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Smith, James H., Rt. 6, Box 586L, Salem, Oregon.
 Soderquist, Glen V., 87-17 160th St., Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.
 Sorrell, Howard G., 312 N. Miami Ave., W. Carleton, Ohio.
 Spaulding, Hubert S., 292 Decatur St., Aurora, Ind.
 Stein, Abraham H., 655 E. 178th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Sterling, Clarence L., R. F. D. 3, Leighton, Pa.
 Steward, Charles W., 802 East 2nd St., Logan, Ohio.
 Stineheller, Delbert J., 116 Patterson St., Crestline, Ohio.
 Storie, Clarence M., 2309 N. W. 35th, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Straver, Robert D., 141 E. 2nd St., Muncie, Ind.
 Strickland, Dayton, Star Rt. Chester Rd., Pomeroy, Ohio.
 Stuckert, Ralph A., 513 E. 114th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Sunderlin, James F., R. F. D. 1, Box 144B, Clinton, Maryland.
 Swan, Edward F., 1502 Jonquil Terrace, Chicago, Ill.
 Sweeney, Benjamin F., 702 St. Paul St., Memphis, Tenn.
 Sweeney, John J., 23 Fairlawn Ave., Hazardville, Conn.
 Szablawicz, William J., 107-12 Liverpool St., Jamaica, N. Y.
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 Van Nieuw, Peter, 27 Brown Ave., Prospect Park, Paterson, N. J.
 Vehern, Herbert R., R. R. 1, Minster, Ohio.
 Villard, Lucien A., 91 Chester St., Woonsocket, R. I.
 Viaduchek, Stanley, 637 Melrose Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Waggener, Robert E., R. R. 1, Sheridan, Ind.
 Wallace, Troy L., 309A N. McKinley St., Harrisburg, Ill.

Walsli, Ralph J., 138 Prospect Ave., Gleversville, N. Y.
 Warshefski, Joseph, 6 Donahoes Row, Mt. Carmel, Pa.
 Weizand, John J., 3607 Annapolis Rd., Censul, Md.
 Wenholz, William D., 3605 N. Tripp Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Whitworth, Paul H., R. R. 2, Erie, Kans.
 Whierwile, Woodrow W., R. R. 1, New Bremen, Ohio.
 Wilczak, Frank S., 2334 Oakley Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Williams, Robert L., 1851 Columbus Rd., N. W., Washington, D. C.
 Yahraus, George R., 9603 Dickens Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Yowell, Paul V., 1114 Vater St., Manhattan, Kans.
 Young, Peter E., 525 N. 46th Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Yosseo, Frank P., 2127 E. 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Ziola, Waslaw W., 4173 - 30th St., Detroit, Mich.

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Acerno, Louis, 8344 Lyford Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Alek, Benny, 180 New Hyde Park Rd., Franklin Square, N. Y.
 Arnold, Francis R., 300 McLaughlin Ave., Tupper Lake, N. Y.
 Arnold, Roy, Rt. 1, Box 79, McCoy, Tex.
 Aston, James R., Ruffsale, Pa.
 Appel, El, 7309 Colgate Ave., University City, Mo.
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 Bokrosch, Michael, 8 W. Abbott St., Lansford, Pa.
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 Bryon, Donald P., 7 S. Kilburn Rd., Garden City, L. I., N. Y.
 Buss, Edward E., 1526 S. 44th St., W. Milwaukee, Wis.
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 Boston, Keith K., 3404 Montclair Ave., Detroit, Mich.
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 Dragovich, Ruben, 11853 Whithorn, Detroit, Mich.
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 Elliott, Henry, Rt. 6, Madison, Ind.
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 Graziano, Samuel A., 183 N. Union St., Rochester, N. Y.
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 Gruver, James E., 251 S. Main, Mansfield, Ohio.
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 Grosso, Andy J., 170 First Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Guinello, Sebastian, 1641-74th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Gleaves, Charles D., 9 Edgar St., Nashville, Tenn.
 Guhier, Allan, R. D. 1, Box 251, Aubois, Pa.
 Harragan, Nathan, 136 Hedden Terrace, Newark, N. J.
 Harran, Charles, 7212 Juniper Valley Rd., Queens, N. Y.
 Hettish, John A., 1814 Beaver Rd., Ambridge, Pa.
 Hacker, Frank J., 135 East Park Ave., Merchantville, N. J.
 Hatfield, Henry H., Philo, Ohio.
 Hawkins, Eugene, 228 W. Railroad St., Columbia, Ohio.
 Oakley, Oakley, Frametown, W. Va.
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 Hirsh, Ralph C., 28 N. Westfield Ave., Trenton, N. J.
 Hewko, Edward W., 41 Beacon St., Newark, N. J.
 Hentges, Roman, Blackduck, Minn.
 Janssen, George J., 6480 Flyer St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Johnson, Henry E.
 Jackson, Glen M., Box 133, Binnington, Okla.
 Kilgus, Donald E., 813 Short 11th St., Anderson, Ind.
 Koucky, Joseph A., 2659 S. Avers Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Kindt, Denie J., Star Rt., Stonehan, Colo.
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 Kirtland, Howard, 264 Gorham St., Canadagus, N. Y.
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 Kingfisher, George, Gen Delivery, Tahlequah, Okla.
 Kramer, Leonard, 1675 University, Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Letts, John F., 2208 Howell St., Candem, N. J.
 Lee, Lonnie A., 1228 Arlington Ave., Torrance, Cal.
 Lane, Herman.
 Lindsay, Hobart W., Tennessee St., Lawrence, Kans.
 Lenham, Frederick R., 33 St. Market St., Dorchester, Mass.
 Motti, John J., 591 Tinton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Maserio, Thomas, 6 Central Ave., Averb, Mass.
 Marciotta, George, 157 Wilson Ave., Newark, N. J.
 Molczyk, Anthony, 523 Leona Road St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Mesallick, Edward J., 391 E. Oak St., Trescow, Pa.
 Mooney, Charles, 315 W. 4th St., Mitchell, S. Dak.
 McCurry, Arthur C., Rt. 1, Weaverville, N. C.
 Mogan, Robert L., Route 2, Taylorsville, Miss.
 Moxley, George, R. D. 2, Monrovia, Md.
 Midthun, Gerald, Deforest, Wis.
 McMeller, Donald, 219 N. Wolf, Saudwich, Ill.
 Miskell, Robert J., 13 Washington St., Auburn, N. Y.
 Moore, Charles, 16 N. Lexington Ave., Asheville, N. C.
 Moore, William, Globe, Ariz.
 Mayfield, Melburn, Island, Ky.
 Martin, Isaac J., 1330 Juliana St., Parksburg, W. Va.
 Nowlin, Roy W. Sr., 39232 7th Ave., Port Arthur, Tex.
 Nava, Cecilio R., 923 Sea Breeze St., Alice, Tex.
 Newcomb, George G., Box 354 Onset, Mass.
 Ortmann, John H. Jr., 6322 Pensola Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 OTT, Billy L., Gen. Delivery, Springlake, Tex.
 Owens, Gordon E., 4859 W. Tuse Ave., Canton 7, Ohio.
 Patton, Francis J., 382 Lombard St., New Haven, Conn.
 Phillips, Daniel, 127 E. Budd St., Sharon, Pa.
 Prevatt, Melvin P., Edgewood & Kings Rds., Jacksonville, Fla.
 Patucci, Joseph A., 1939 N. Collington Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Parks, Willie F., R. D. 1, Westfield, Ind.
 Pinto, John, 2030 E. 2nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Poehler, Alfred A., 114-23 200th St., Albans L. I., N. Y.
 Ray, Ernest M., 103 W. Oak St., Rossville, Ga.
 Richardson, Andrew R., 185 Washington St., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
 Rooney, Thomas A., Oakes, North Dak.
 Rosenthal, David, 52 Sumner Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rose, Raymond F., 354 Lucca St., Wooster, Ohio.
 Roninson, Leiper, 126 Birch Ave., Wilmington 187, Del.
 Reyes, Reynaldo M., 1420 Madero St., Corpus Christi, Tex.
 Ramoso, Antonio E., Box 716, Alpine, Tex.
 Roberts, Clarence C., Rt. 6, Box 226, Bessemer, Ala.
 Six, Norris, L., Bluffs, Ill.

Strickland, Norman F., Rd. 1, Chippewa Twp Beaver Falls, Pa.
 Scott, Frank L., 715 Cherry St., Friend, Neb.
 Scheele, Evan D., 2728 Yates St., Denver, Col.
 Sprague, Elmer D., 508 N. 11th St., Geneva, Neb.
 Santilli, Emilio A., 30 River St., W. Warwick, R. I.
 Stoddard, Donald, 129 Bancroft Rd., Burlingame, Cal.
 Strook, Andrew R., Weston, Col.
 Shoenberger, Walter Jr., Rt. 1, Smock, Pa.
 Shaw, John B., 77 W. Grand Highland Park, Mich.
 Swaney, Robert O., 416 Spring St., Dennison, Ohio.
 Serio, Salvatore, 22-5 37th St., Astoria, N. Y.
 Spencer, David E., 228 Union St., Bluefield, W. Va.
 Sellers, William H., 267 Delaware St., Harrisburg, Pa.
 Soracco, Louis W., 219-48 92nd Ave., Queens Village, Queens, N. Y.
 Smith, Delmer L., R. F. D. 1, Paris, Ohio.
 Taylor, Glen D., 910 Sixth Ave., Middleton, Ohio.
 Tichacek, Alphonse G., Box 84, Alief, Tex.
 Thackston, John A., 128 Palm Drive, Piedmont, Cal.
 Talbert, Norris E., Rt. 1, Chumkey, Miss.
 Thompson, Donald P., Valentine, Neb.
 Van Aken, George H., 1009 E. 2nd St., Brooklyn, Kings, N. Y.
 Wachowski, Edward P., 3650 W. George St., Chicago, Ill.
 Weese, Arley, 417 Center St., Elkins, W. Va.
 Wilkerson, Robert T., 134 S. McDowell St., Raleigh, N. C.
 Weissborn, Frederick, Nicollet, Minn.
 West, Charlie F., 229 W. 9th St., Coouington, Ky.
 Zidel, Stanley T., Rt. 3, Latrobe, Pa.
 Zitkus, Albert A., 97 Water St., New Philadelphia, Pa.
 Zoobylak, Stanley, 1822 W. Huron St., Chicago, Ill.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Ackley, Earl E., 53 Plymouth St., Johnson City, N. Y.
 Adams, George H., 570 Bright St., San Francisco, Cal.
 Ahern, Edward J., 14655 Vose St., Van Nuys, Cal.
 Angelo, Elroy L., Rd. #1, Box 23, McClellandtown, Pa.
 Annunziata, Joseph, 258 W. Post Rd., White Plains, N. Y.
 Armeli, Joseph A., 540 E. 187 St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Arnold, Richard H., 47 Spencer Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Arnold, Thomas L., Benton, Mo.
 Bagley, Eugene, Rt. #2, Lindsay, Okla.
 Bajnok, Joseph E., 294 Adam St., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Baselice, Fred F., 55 Maple St., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Baumgartner, Richard D., F. D. #1, Carrollton, Ill.
 Bean, Argus P., Rt. #3, Stigler, Okla.
 Beckner, Robert R., P.O. Box 1034, Modesto, Cal.
 Berg, Harold A., Ruthven, Iowa.
 Berry, Lloyd E., Jr., 3020 Fulton Rd., Grand Rapids, 6, Mich.
 Bierlylo, Anthony M., 18808 Lamont, Detroit, Mich.
 Bishop, Donald, Almont, Mich.
 Blackburn, Tom, Auxier, Ky.
 Blatnik, William A., 3990 De Orway St., Long Beach, Cal.
 Blouch, Charles H., 1814 Schaaf Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Blue, Walter J., R. F. D. #3, Traverse City, Mich.
 Blumenthal, Arnold W., 262 Montauk Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Bobo, Melvin, 3221 Ave. L, Fort Worth, Tex.
 Bobolz, Arnold G., Paulina, Iowa.
 Bourgeois, Eugene P., 18 Douglas St., Lynn, Mass.
 Buchanan, Ray H., 948 Washington, Blvd, Ogden, Utah.
 Budahn, Ervin, C., Jr., Rt. #1, Mayville, Wis.
 Burger, Warren C., Wautoma, Wis.
 Burnett, James W., 2005 Beech St., Texarkana, Tex.
 Burns, Jerry N., 19 Water St., Lebanon, Ohio.
 Burnside, Ernest F., Winfield, W. Va.
 Brey, Wilbert M., Star Rt., Denmark, Wis.
 Borchardt, Robert R., 1517 27th Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Bronson, Charles N., Tenney, Minn.
 Brown, William R., 2615 S. E. 22nd St., Portland, Oregon.
 Cannon, Grady E., 401 Agnes Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.
 Carroll, John J., 250 Scott St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
 Chaney, John P., 3740 Indiana, Kansas City, Mo.
 Charboneau, Robert H., 54 East Anchor St., River Rouge, Mich.
 Clark, Ernest O., 1601 Bailey St., Lansing, Mich.
 Clunan, Ambrose P., 607 N. Lafayette Ave., Morrisville, Pa.
 Cohen, Manuel I., 273 Dewey Ave., Pittsfield, Mass.
 Colombo, Paul A., 169 Montgomery Ave., Scarsdale, N. Y.
 Colling, George, 6118 Flushing Ave., Maspeth, L. I., N. Y.
 Crossley, Olin R., Box 936, Hayfork, Cal.
 Crowder, Elmer N., 5611 Nottingham St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Cullick, Louis, 557 Forest St., Shreveport, La.
 Cutsforth, Bernard A.
 Davis, Ledworth R., 1016 Ray St., Akron, Ohio.
 Donley, Gene C., 611 W. Hunah St., Dayton, Wash.
 Drake, John R., 1619 Marmont Ave., Hollywood, Cal.
 Duckworth, Robert E., 701 N. 7th St., St. Vincennes, Ind.
 Dunn, Miller E., 211 Dobbin St., Paris, Tenn.
 Dunnington, John L., 16-8th St., Zanesville, Ohio.
 Ehrlich, Leonard, 3109 Sunnyside Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Esa, Frederick A., 2111 W. 47th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Esposito, Salvatore J., 2426 84th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Farkas, Andrew J.
 Finck, Edwin G., 162 Hudson Ave., Roosevelt, L. I., N. Y.
 Fineberg, David H., 1291 Carr Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
 Fleming, Harold J., 26 Boynton St., Portland, Maine.
 Floyd, Edward G., 2104 Summit Ave., Racine, Wis.
 Foreman, Earl M., 5831 Jonquil Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Foster, Miller C., Jr., 611 Rutledge St., Spartanburg, S. C.
 Frisbee, Robert E., 213 S. 9th St., Salina, Kans.
 Garloch, William E., Rt. 1, Freetown, Ind.
 Gearing, Donald L., 43 E. Great Miami Blvd, Dayton, Ohio.
 Gerami, Thomas J., Box 503, Many, La.
 Giacoma, Joseph F., 221 Lincoln Ave., Union City, N. J.
 Gilmore, Andrew S., Rt. 2, Mart, Tex.
 Glover, Hulett J., 905 E. Williams St., LaGrange, Ga.
 Groff, Joseph R., Rt. 1, Albion, Ill.
 Gruening, Glen G., 7903 California Ave., Seattle, Wash.
 Gum, John W., Rt. 3, Weston, W. Va.
 Guter, Henry C., 279 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, L. I., N. Y.
 Gyrion, Claude W., Rt. #4, Waupaca, Wis.
 Hall, Mason S., 18440 Buffalo Ave., Detroit, 12, Mich.
 Harlos, Harry A., 228 Scioto St., Urbana, Ohio.
 Heil, John C., Jr., 1115 Mallinckrodt St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Hendry, Wayland M., 1343 15th St., Augusta, Ga.
 Herrman, Paul, Custer, South Dakota.
 Hesselgrave, William S., 3631 Snelling Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Heyden, Carl F.
 Hollingsworth, Haywood G., 2022 W. 41st Drive, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Holubeck, Philip A., 26365 Lyndon Rd., Detroit, Mich.
 Horner, James A., 130 10th St., Clarksville, Tenn.
 Iacovitti, Joe, 1638 S. Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
 Ideson, Howard A., 850 Franco Ave., Johnston, Pa.
 Janarella, Amerigo L., 1772 37th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Jones, William J., 1058 Spruce St., Kulpmont, Pa.
 Judge, Lawrence P., 629 Second Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Kalinowski, Stanley, 264 Railroad Ave., Brookhaven, N. Y.
 Kaminski, Joseph T., 2359 Orthodox, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Keiper, Earl F., 223 Thirwell Ave., Hazelton, Pa.
 Kendall, Jay L., 815 Hart St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Kile, Glen E., 451 West Ridge Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 King, Earl H., Escanaba, Mich.
 King, Hoyt W., 4453 Lake Park Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Klux, Gerhardt J., 14006 Longacre Rd., Detroit, Mich.
 Koll, Wendel F., 915 Elsmere Place, N. Y., N. Y.
 Kozlowski, Edward, 409 Wilson Ave., St. Cloud, Minn.
 Kunchinka, Joseph J., 4287 Harrison St., Blaire, Ohio.
 Kurey, Donald J., 711 West Franklin St., Appleton, Wis.

Kwasniewski, Walter J., 471 Amherst St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Landes, Milo M., Rt. #3, Anderson, Ind.
 Landsburg, Norman, 2502 North Stanley Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Lannen, Emmett V., 4615 North Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 La Traille, Arthur L., Heyden, N. Dakota.
 Lee, William J., 43 Readville St., Hyde Park, Mass.
 Lehman, George C., 3249 West 51st St., Chicago, Ill.
 Leichter, Henry O., 316 West 94th St., N. Y.
 Liechlyter, Moyné W., 325 El Marado Court, Ontario, Cal.
 Link, Walter W., 1050 West 32nd St., Dubuque, Iowa.
 Lipkin, Max, 5635 North Burrage Ave., Portland, Oregon.
 Lopez, Alvin M., 7234 Ave., N. Huston, Tex.
 Luecht, Charles, 4035 West 25th St., Chicago, Ill.
 McEntire, Richard A., 239 Maryland Ave., N. E., Warren, Ohio.
 McFarlane, Theodore W., 1660 South 56th St., Tacoma, Wash.
 Markovich, Alexander G., 57 Louis St., New Brunswick, N. J.
 Martin, James P., Utica, Ohio.
 Martin, William J., Chestnut St., Milton, Del.
 Maslak, John E., 697 Catherine St., Perth Amboy, N. J.
 Mason, William J., 999 Hancock St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Matt, Frederick, 18627 Asbury Park, Detroit, Mich.
 Matzenger, George S., Jr., 211 Glenwood Ave., Mobile, Ala.
 Maxwell, Robert W., 14 Winter St., Auburn, Mass.
 McCarty, Daniel W., Rt. 4, Independence, Mo.
 McGinn, John A., 401 West 10th St., Sterling, Ill.
 McLennaghan, James, 114-48 201st St., St. Albans, N. Y.
 Meade, Edward N., 1100 Chamberlain Ave., Fairmont, W. Va.
 Meyer, Joel D., 1706 Humboldt Blvd, Chicago, Ill.
 Michaels, George W., Rt. 4, Allegan, Mich.
 Michaels, Roy E., Rt. 5, Wilmington, Ohio.
 Mickleberry, Stephen, Rt. 1, Box 10B, Silverdale, Wash.
 Milazzo, Joseph C., 1985 West Davison Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Miller, William H., Rt. 6, Olney, Ill.
 Mize, Warren P., Powhatan, Ark.
 Monaco, Gaetano J., 3128 Villa Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Monroe, Joseph J., 9110 Hudson Blvd, North Bergen, N. J.
 Mosseson, Bernard, 2821 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio.
 Murphy, Foster E., 5446 North 11th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Murray, Edward A., 794 President St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Neri, Charles, 1437 70th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Nesadny, Frank L., 20 South Broadway, Tarrytown, N. Y.
 Obler, Gerhardt J., 621 Ave. 1, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 O'Brien, John J., 3735 West 60th Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Ohnstad, Terrell R., 2313 Central North East Minneapolis, Minn.
 Olson, Jack L., 241 South Madison St., Waupun, Wis.
 Overdorf, George E., 611 Broadway, Bethlehem, Pa.
 O'shea, William J., 186 Butler St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Parmenter, William K., 1478 Grace Ave., Lakewood, Ohio.
 Partney, Loren W., 723 Delmar Festus, Mo.
 Thomas A., Box 144, Kingsley, Mich.
 Perdue, Tom B., Shade Gap, Pa.
 Perregio, Arthur, 6341 West Eddy St., Chicago, Ill.
 Petty, Henry W., 314-17th St., West Kansas City, Mo.
 Pie, Roy L., Friedans, Pa.
 Pndyski, Peter
 Pfeiffer, Joseph J., 50 West Hamilton Place, Jersey City, N. J.
 Polega, Ervin J., 1457 North 21st St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Putman, William B., 315 North Willow St., Fayetteville, Ark.
 Ptak, Rudolph, 1847 Euclid Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 Rakas, Anthony J., 633 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Reed, Guy D., 2405 East 28th St., Tulsa, Okla.
 Reimer, Leo K., 730 South 26th, Manitowish, Wis.
 Rekuc, Walter S., 76 Clifton Place, Jersey City, N. J.
 Revis, Franklin, Marion, N. C.
 Rice, Arthur L., 3511 Genesee St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Rider, Ernest B., 4725 Rod Man St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
 Rivera, Aristides, 447 State St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rhoda, Francis W., 428 Fulton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Robel, Joseph D., 254 Virginia Ave., Shenandoah, Pa.
 Robbins, Roy M., Royal, Ark.
 Rossi, Berardino, 804 North Green Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Rotkiewicz, John H., Jr., 121 Ave. A., N. Y., N. Y.
 Kucik, Albert A., 1442 82nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rubnick, David S., 4009 North Leamington Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Schneider, Louis L., 906 South 8th Lincoln, Neb.
 Sanner, Richard L., 103 East 2nd St., Anamosa, Iowa.
 Scala, Lettino A., 9325 5th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Schiffman, Paul J., 150 West Euclid St., Detroit, Mich.
 Schubel, Robert E., 1529 East Grand River, Lansing, Mich.
 Senate, William, 10813 Charnock Rd, Los Angeles, 34, Cal.
 Sherry, Patrick E., 3842 West 64 Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Sholl, Dean E., 1 North Wilson St., Bellefonte, Pa.
 Spero, Jerome N., 2577 Overlook Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio.
 Steffan, Thomas, 2488 East 83 St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Spencer, Nathan G., Jr., Box 104, Cave Spring, Ga.
 Thomas, Melvin S., 100 North Thomas St., Bellefonte, Pa.
 Thompson, George, 1188, 3rd Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Tomaszewski, Bert J., 841 Capen St., N. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Tully, Joseph B., Jr., 843 President St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Tsuchida, Shinji A., 5915 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, Cal.
 Uhler, Walter M., 2132 Sycamore St., Bethlehem, Pa.
 Von Gilleren, Richard D., 4827 Elm St., Skokie, Ill.
 Valle, Roland J., 30 Front St., Manchester, N. H.
 Wagner, Edward J., 33 Tompkins St., Staten Island, N. Y.
 Vaughan, Elmer T., Box 1053, Colorado City, Tex.
 Wagner, Orwin K., 809 Knickerbocker Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Wallig, Robert J., 1106 53 St., Kenosha, Wis.
 Watson, Claude, Rt. 2, Madisonville, Tenn.
 Willet, Roland H., 52 Charlotte St., Plattaburg, N. Y.
 Wilson, Percy B., 1306 Louisa St., South Jacksonville, Fla.
 Wiczkowski, Richard M., 3136 East Forest Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Wixted, Robert J., 214 South 2nd St., Mechnicville, N. Y.
 Wdowiars, Tony J., 2250 South California, St. Chicago, Ill.
 Wood, Albert E., 85 North Washington Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.
 Yamate, James M., R. R. Box 13c, Keensburg, Col.
 Yeager, Walter E., 5121 North Fairhill St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Zema, Felix J., 32 Ellis Place, Ossining, N. Y.

Foller, Ernest E., Rt. #2, Abilene, Tex.
 Frantz, William J., 2672 N Morland Blvd, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Franzen, Martin 214 S. Lippencott, Maple Shade, N. J.
 Freytag, Theodore H., Echo Hill, Eriecco, N. Y.
 Gadd, William R., 731 Maple Ave., Hamilton, Ohio.
 Gaines, James W., Gen. Delivery, Houston, Tex.
 Garber, Hubert C., Converse, Ind.
 Gilson, Walter J., 336 Stegman Pk. Wy., J. C. N. J.
 Graf, John P., 512 W Taylor, Kokomo, Ind.
 Grant, Ralph H., 205 Howard, Stratford, N. J.
 Graz, Alexander, B 911 N 9 St., Cottage Grove, Ore.
 Green, Walter, Pineville, West Va.
 Grieco, Theodore E., 2077 Central Rd., Ft. Lee, N. J.
 Hager, Charlie W., Rt. 1, B 2B, Mercer Is., Wash.
 Hamilton, Gilbert C., 2319 River Ave., Camden, N. J.
 Hamrick, Max, Wyandot, Ill.
 Hanson, Harvey P., 106 Reed St., Muscatine, Iowa.
 Harpring, Robert C., 625 Delhi, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Harrison, Raymond W., 624 N Columbia, Ogelsby, Ill.
 Haven, William E., Jr., 517 13th St., Galveston, Tex.
 Heid, James P., 83 Albany, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Heiss, Walter, 5913 160th St., Flushing, N. Y.
 Hensley, Eligh, 3119 Teel Rd., Louisville, Ky.
 Hersherberger, Roy A., Rt. 1, Milford, Neb.
 Hilgert, John H., 1736 Roscoe St., Chicago, Ill.
 Hinkle, Robert D., 1749 Superior St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Howell, Ralph C., Leopold, Ind.
 Iacovitti, Frank, 949 E 213th St., N. Y., N. Y.

Johnson, Francis A., 35 Graves Ave., N Hampton, Mass.
 Johnstone, Robert T., 211 Rolland Ave., N. Canton, Ohio.
 Jones, Douglas F., Nolan, Tex.
 Jores, Wesley A., R. F. D. #3, Freehold, N. J.
 Jordan, Robert H., 5489 Linden, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Jueneman, Richard B., Clements, Minn.
 Kassiss, Nick, 1543 Fillmore St., Chicago, Ill.
 Kretner, Norman, 439 W. Washington, Iono, Mich.
 Klein, Donald M., 663 N. Vine St., Hazelton, Pa.
 Knuth, Ernest, 117 W. Northfield, Livingston, N. J.
 Komasa, William, 196 S. Columbia, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
 Kormann, John J., 2818 Garfield, Camden, N. J.
 Kuzila, James J., 2001 Barl Court, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Lauck, Forest C., Rt. #1, Arlington, Ohio.
 Leatherwood, Eugene R., 3816 Purdue, Dallas, Tex.
 LeCarl, John F., 15 Chapel St., Summit, N. J.
 Lee, Martin A., 7806 S. Bishop, Chicago, Ill.
 Leonard, Roscoe L., 500 Vone St., Hattiesburg, Miss.
 Logan, Richard C., 999 Mechanic St., Grafton, Ohio.
 Longawa, Raymond, 4216 Olcott Ave., E. Chicago, Ind.
 Lugo, Raphael A., Sofia Magdalena, #1 BE, Obreiro, Puerto Rico.
 Lyon, Robert E., 831 Norwood Ave., Elberon, N. J.
 Macewicz, Stanley, 18 Colrain, Greenfield, Mass.
 Machnica, Joseph W., 258 Leeper St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Mai, Werner L., Rt. #2, New Ulm, Tex.
 Mamola, John J., 7225 Milwaukee, Chicago, Ill.
 Matthews, Robert H., 1300 W. 5th Ave., Gary, Ind.
 Mattix, Melvin N., Nowata, Okla.
 Maynard, George R., Dunlow, W. Va.
 McClay, Ralph L., R. R. #4, Greenwich, N. Y.
 McCourt, Thomas P., 244 S. Broadway, Gloucester, N. J.
 McPherson, Clarence, Star Rt., Flemington, N. J.
 Merritt, Dallas B., 1518 W. 13th St., Anderson, Ind.
 Miller, Frank, 404 Atlantic, Spring Lake, N. J.
 Mills, Arthur L., P. O. Box 13, Buena Park, Cal.
 Mincenberg, William Jr., 40 Lloyd, New Brunswick, N. J.
 Mohan, Robert E., 105B N. Broad, Glendale, Cal.
 Montgomery, William R., 224 W. Woodbine, Kirkwood, Mo.
 Mohler, Jerry L., Gilmer Trailer Camp, N. W. 5th St., Cabin #6, Richmond, Ind.
 Nabours, William W., 1824 E 7th St., Tucson, Ariz.
 Nagy, Frank Jr., 4446 Alcott, E., Chicago, Ind.
 Neale, Jack L., 513 Tally Rd., Chattanooga, Tenn.
 Neel, John E., Siegel, Star Rt., Brookville, Pa.
 Nevel, Raymond R., 542 N. Moss, Burbank, Cal.
 Nelecamp, Val P., 3303 Columbia Pkway, Cinn, Ohio.
 Neithe, Arthur L., 7063 Wyoma, St. Louis, Mo.
 Nubbemeyer, Frederick, 2815 N. Hutchison, Phila, Pa.
 Obenhaus, Franklin, 25 Elm St., West Mt. N. J.
 Oden, Ray L., P.O. Box #217, Bethesda, Ohio.
 Olson, Robert, Cunningham, Ky.
 Pakula, Jack L., 191 E. 31st St., Patterson, N. J.
 Pales, Richard M., 1644 Humbolt Blvd, Chicago, Ill.
 Paskowsky, John 8531 Colfax, Detroit, Mich.
 Pecora, Amilio W., 1452 Barry, Chicago, Ill.
 Perun, Nicholas, 22 S. Goodwin, Kingston, Pa.
 Peters, William H., Anderson, Ind.
 Raily, Joseph J., McCook Lake, Jefferson, S. Dakota.
 Ray, Glen, Ignacio, Cal.
 Rebis, Joseph E., R. F. D. #1, Box 42, Broadalbin, N. Y.
 Reisman, Roger U., 406 W. 4th St., Des Moines, Iowa.
 Ricco, Carlo, 576 Fox St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Roberts, Ray L., Rt. #4, Reedsville, N. C.
 Rohde, Wayne E., Randolph, Neb.
 Roome, Harry J., Jr., Pine Grove, W. Va.
 Rowand, LeRoy S., 843 E. 87th St., Seattle, Wash.
 Rowe, Prentice E., 408 Dever St., Pawnee, Okla.
 Ryan, John P., 1007 Gardiner, Niagara Falls, N. Y.
 Schneider, Russell, 407 E. Grand Blvd, Detroit, Mich.
 Scherittella, Joseph, 733 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Schetter, Joseph, 2033 W. Susquehanna Ave., Phila. Pa.
 Shell, Frederick E., Millers Port, Ohio.
 Smith, Stephen P., R. E. D. #2, Thomson, Ohio.
 Spivey, Thomas R., Tillamook, Ore.
 Stabs, Richard C., Rt. #1, Box 281, Duluth, Minn.
 Stamatis, Tony G., 1435 Brainerd, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Strengthen, John R., 1425 Madison, Alexander, Ala.
 Sudnik, Chester P., 645 S. 19th St., Newark, N. J.
 Swearingon, Glenn S., 14118 Idarosa, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Tay, William J., 1512 W. Graham, Bloomington, Ill.
 Thoroughgood, Albert, Millsburg, Del.
 Towey, Thomas E., Union Beach, N. J.
 Trent, Robert K., Manchester, Mich.
 Valigura, Edmund E., Rt. #1, Moulton, Tex.
 Vandersnick, Clarence, Absarokee, Montana.
 Wald, Franklin, 301 Reed St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Watkins, Clarence J., Box 414, Rt. #5, Birmingham, Ala.
 Walker, Clyde W., Box #11, Gross City, Mo.
 Warshawsky, Jacob, 1110 Independence, Chicago, Ill.
 Whistler, Brandon M., 10 Weiss St., Flourentown, Pa.
 Whitaker, Roy, 143 New York, Jersey City, N. J.
 Williams, Robert E., Webster & Madison, Parry Palmyra, N. J.
 Wyrzykowski, Kazimir, 5642 N. Mason Ave., Chicago, Ill.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY FIRST BATTALION

Adams, Fred W., 516 Waldorn St., Kansas City, Mo.
 Altier, Robert C., 123 Loehr Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
 Alcorn, Scottie L., Elsinore, Mo.
 Albaugh, Joseph E., W. Bellaire, Ohio.
 Alexander, Paul, Rt. 2, Oktaha, Okla.
 Baker, Floyd, Battiest, Okla.
 Ball, Donald R., R. 1, Palatine, Ill.
 Barber, Charles R., 741 Froome Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Barclay, Paul L., 2207 Pierce St., Springfield, Mo.
 Barr, William E., 1344 S. Silas St., Decatur, Ill.
 Bauer, Francis, 506 Jefferson St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Beckwith, William G., c/o G. T. Lathrop, Mason, Mich.
 Bedie, Craig P., 36 Armstrong Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
 Blackham, Lawrence A., 44-07 Utopia Pkwy, Flushing, N. Y.
 Blessing, George H., 2316 N. W. 33rd St., Okla. City, Okla.
 Bugucki, Eugene, 1144 Buckingham St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Bounds, Osborne M., Washington, Ga.
 Boutwell, James H.
 Breznak, William, 9507 Raymond Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Bridgeford, Burton W., 900 State St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Britton, Edward J., 3 W. Raleigh Ave., W. Brighton, S. I. N. Y.
 Brothers, Walter A., 421 Philadelphia St., Indiana, Pa.
 Brown, John W., 441 S. Pearl St., Albany, N. Y.
 Browning, Amos, 642 N. 22nd St., Batoune, La.
 Brunelle, Lancier, Proctorsville, Vt.
 Bubnis, John F., 48 Main St., Lowershaft, Pa.
 Buffington, Ruben S., Rt. 1, Box 852 A, Panama City, Fla.
 Butler, Benjamin M., 4313 Prescott Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
 Cabbage, James F., Rt. 1, Island, Ky.
 Cannaday, Byron L., 363 Church Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.
 Capps, David, 1055 Lick Ave., San Jose, Cal.
 Carlson, Bismark B., 1458 Pearl St., Eugene, Ore.
 Caracilio, Vincent G., 225 Henry St., Inwood, L.I., N. Y.
 Childers, Leslie W., Goble, Ore.
 Coc, Brady M., 1335 John St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Cook, Robert 815 S. Spring St., Sioux Falls, S. D.
 Cook, Lawrence, 2107 Oakwood St., Saginaw, Mich.
 Craig, Lloyd R., Camden, Ohio.
 Davidson, Sherman, Peoples, Ky.

Deatherage, William, Lexington Rd., Richmond, Ky.
 DeGruchy, George, 60 Bolton St., Portland, Maine.
 Dolan, John W., 32-25 53rd Place, Woodside, L.I., N.Y.
 Donham, Paul, Rt. 4, Glasgow, Ky.
 Dennis, James R., Fruitland Rd., Box 384, Moline, Ill.
 Ducat, Denzil, 3816 Burton Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Edlich, Robert L., 115 N. 96th St., Belleville, Ill.
 Edwards, Clifford E., 12 Hubbard St., Norwich, N.Y.
 Eller, Lewis D., Rt. 1, Algona, Iowa.
 Engel, John A., 353 S. Stewart Ave., Lombard, Ill.
 Fearon, Edward C., Kennecott Bld., Biddeford, Maine.
 Fink, Walter, 1401 Front St., Bismark, S.D.
 Fowler, William, Tiernan, Ore.
 Furse, Alexander, 434 Vermont Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Gerhäuser, Elmer G., 4112 Caroline Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Gorman, Michael P., 4701 Clinton Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Hall, Riner K., 305 Highland Ave. S.W., Roanoke, Va.
 Hamilton, Orris L., Prosser, Wash.
 Haney, George H., 2117 Fulton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Harrison, Emmett, Millville, Fla.
 Harrison, Gerard, 16 Croton Ave., Hastings On the Hudson, N.Y.
 Hassel, Tilman T., Boyd, Minn.
 Hebert, Leo R., 9 Aldrich St., Centerville, Ohio.
 Hegedus, Francis G., 36 Huston Alley, Trenton, N.J.
 Henderson, Oran K., 3340 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Herther, Fred R., 2625 Menker Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Hilbrich, Jack, 854 Sibley St., Hammond, Ind.
 Holliday, Bobbie D., 2003 Walnut St., Morphisboro, Ill.
 Hooper, Albert L., 3202 Maple St., Everett, Wash.
 Hrebik, Mike.
 Hundley, Max R., 443, Safford, Arizona.
 Iagrossio, Victor R., 3221 Seymour Ave., Bronx, N.Y.
 Jankalski, Sigmund C., 2345 S. 9th P., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Johnson, Morton C., 470 W. 11th St., Claremont, Cal.
 Katzmeier, George, 1152 Cora Ave., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Keel, Leo, 30 Orchard St., Cumberland, Md.
 Kernen, Franz J., 1234 Mullock St., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Kosak, Frank J., 5415 82nd St., Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.
 Langley, James H., Rt. 4, Culman, Ala.
 Lawrence, Allen P., 210 N. Flood St., Norman, Okla.
 Leslie, Hugh, 5923 W. Byron St., Chicago, Ill.
 Linberry, Howard, 1031 Melton St., Centralia, Wash.
 Lollins, Veno E., 6064 Vermont Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Lowdenback, Vernon C., Fullerton, Ky.
 Lyon, Raymond, 303 N. 7th St., Cambridge, Ohio.
 Malnor, Robert J., Rapid River, Mich.
 Mancuso, Peter J., 394 Trenton Ave., Patterson, N.J.
 Matheny, LaSalle, Gleason, Wis.
 May, Charles, 661 Howard St., Greenville, Ind.
 McNeely, Raymond A., 3107 Bridge St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 McDonald, Edward Jr., 932 2nd St., W. Kalespell, Mont.
 Mellem, Louis, 10518 S. Eggleston St., Chicago, Ill.
 Mellington, Raymond, 1885 E. Ivy Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 Merina, John M., 15 Wolcott Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Metcalf, Leo, 1848 Daubert Ave., Louisville, Ky.
 Meyer, Harold, Woodburn, Ind.
 Miller, Virgil P., Rt. 1, Philo, Ohio.
 Morfield, Leonard R., Stanton, Neb.
 Newman, Leo, 4320 W. 16th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Noll, Joseph A., 542 E. Main St., Dallastown, Pa.
 Nordquest, Robert K., 2678 Draper St., Warren, Ohio.
 Norfleet, Herbert, Faubush, Ky.
 Nunzato, Henry, % Allegretti, 141 Voss Ave., Yonkers, N.Y.
 Orent, James H., McLaughlin Rd., Bridgeville, Pa.
 O'Toole, James, 804 Palmer St., W. Easton, Pa.
 Pampinella, Salvatore, 435 Theriot Ave., Bronx, N.Y.
 Panzera, Antonio, 7701 15th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Pawlicky, Edward J., 206 Cliff St., Cliffsides, N.J.
 Pierce, Morris M., 1816 E. Frank St., Norman, Okla.
 Pluga, Joseph, 1 Boston Ave., Waterville, Maine.
 Polk, James M., Varnville, S.C.
 Putnam, Frederick, 413 Victory Ave., Schneectady, N.Y.
 Quinn, John P., % Whitaker, Rt. 1, Albany, Ore.
 Ramirez, Ramiro, 559 W. 16th St., New York City, N.Y.
 Rice, Thomas J., 73-02 Ditmars Blvd., N. Jackson Hgts., N.Y.
 Riddell, James G., Box 95 S. Barre, Vt.
 Ridgeway, Sturdy R., % M. Brown, 938 Hemphill Ave., Atlanta, Ga.
 Rizzo, Stephen P., 114 Devos St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Roa, Herbert E., 1961 Queen City Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Roberson, Jack P., R. 2, Elwood, Ind.
 Robertson, Lon C., 712 Nowlin St., Mexia, Tex.
 Rolig, Philip B., Box 12, Center City, Minn.
 Rose, Norman, 1805 N. Quinn St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Roush, Earl F., Martinsville, Ohio.
 Ruvo, William A., 8534 N. Mohawk Ave., Portland, Ore.
 Schnavi, Domonick J., 622 Catherine St., New York City.
 Schook, Walter E., 18 E. Woods St., Norristown, Pa.
 Schraff, Raymond J., 2960 Essex Rd., Cleveland Hgts., Ohio.
 Sewell, David J., Chadillon Rd., Rome, Ga.
 Simon, Bernard V., 1718 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Slaughter, Stanley, 625 Delia Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Smith, Carl R., 47 W. Beau St., Washington, Pa.
 Stanton, John F., 124 6th Ave. S., Wausau, Wis.
 Stephens, Woodrow W., 16 Gramercy Park, N.Y.
 Stigelman, William H., 158 E. Main St., Pennsgrove, N.J.
 Stone, Robert L., Junction, Ill.
 Switzer, Gerald R., Rt. 1, Hartsville, Ohio.
 Tabba, Raymond V., 102-06 27th Ave., E. Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.
 Taylor, Vernon O., 208 E. Main St., McLeansboro, Ill.
 Tellev, Raymond J., R. 2, Linn, Mo.
 Tramontana, Sam J., 19 Thompson St., Pittston, Pa.
 Turner, Roy Perry, Mich.
 Travers, James J., 446 3rd Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Uber, Harry J., 416 Depot St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 Urie, Stephen J., Cogswell, N.D.
 Vandenberg, Robert D., Rossville, Ill.
 Vennert, Robert J., 311 Schuyler St., Syracuse, N.Y.
 Verholt, Robert, 218 5th Ave., West Bend, Wis.
 Walz, George, 197 Elm Ave., Teaneck, N.J.
 Walz, LeRoy, Rt. 1, Beaulieu, Minn.
 Warner, John, 811 Bond St., Hastings, Mich.
 Weaver, Jay A., 121 Jackson St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Wisonouckas, William S., Jr., 1422 E. 89th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Wozniak, Alvin J., 2917 S. 14th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Wolf, James E., 306 N. Miami St., Sidney, Ohio.
 Wright, Vernon J., 308 Austin St., Plainville, Tex.
 Ziebold, George D., 432 Ohio Ave., Fremont, Ohio.

Dunn, Quentin E., 308 Main St., Bridgewater, Mass.

COMPANY A

Abbott, Howard N., Wyoming, Del.
 Abram, Wesley J., Brownston, Minn.
 Absher, Robert H., Roaring River, N.C.
 Aldrich, Leroy L., 1115 Mississippi Ave., Bemidji, Minn.
 Akers, Glen, Crow, W. Va.
 Alejandro, Ernesto P., Sabinal, Tex.
 Alrich, John C., 3047 Silver Lea Terrace, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Anderson, Lloyd F., Inwood, Ia.
 Anterni, Richard, 674 Wood Ave., Woonsocket, R.I.
 Anthony, John D., 942 Emerson Ave., S.E., Atlanta, Ga.
 Apostolou, Louis T., 66th Throop Ave., New Brunswick, N.J.
 Applegate, Ernest, N. 216 Casto St., Maysville, Ky.
 Anglere, David, D. 432 Ashland, Detroit, Mich.

Arnhold, Charles R., Danville, Ohio.
 Ast, Eugene J., Horen, Kans.
 Atkins, Floyd R., Rt. 2, Lawson, Mo.
 Atkinson, Paul J., Holland, Mo.
 Bacon, Charles R., Rt. 1, Hebron, Tex.
 Bailey, Earl B., Rt. 4, Box 389, Hickory, N.C.
 Baker, Charles G., Sweetman, Miss.
 Bame, Richard J., Box 47, Arcadia, Ohio.
 Banks, Louis (KIA), 2459 E. 23rd St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Barbano, Jack NMI, 457 Woodward Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Bare, Thomas J., 1071 E. 20th Ave., Hialeah, Fla.
 Barz, Edmund P., Jr., 202 Etta St., New York, N.Y.
 Basham, Dexter A., Ollie, Tex.
 Bass, J. W., Box 247 Dangerfield, Tex.
 Batry, Charles, 9727 80th St., Ozone Park, L.I., N.Y.
 Bell, Bill, 131 Water St., Tahlequah, Okla.
 Bell, James W., New Lebanon, Ohio.
 Bellows, Edwin D., 906 Garland St., Flint, Mich.
 Bell, Lawrence E., 5009 Benton Hgts. Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Bennett, Max G., 433 Patapsco Ave., Brooklyn, Md.
 Bentivenga, Anthony J., (KIA), 1583 W. 5th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Berg, Harry E., % Marvin Thomason, Lake Benton, Minn.
 Berryann, James C., Sr., 69 Livingston St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
 Bialek, Frank A., 2335 N. Oakley, Chicago, Ill.
 Bihon, Mike, Hannston, Pa.
 Billa, Jean, 320 W. 47th St., New York, N.Y.
 Bisker, Edward W. (KIA), 2810 Echodale Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Blankley, James A., 85 Clinton Place Staten Is., N.Y.
 Blessingame, Haney V., 300 San Felipe Ave., San Bruno, Cal.
 Bodlak, Milton V., Thurston, Neb.
 Boggiano, Rudolph J., 743 Paris Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Bohn, George W., 1602 W. 6th St., Santa Ana, Cal.
 Boles, Elias J., 45 Oak St., Waterville, Me.
 Boissert, Warren H., 122 N.E. St. Carlisle, Pa.
 Bost, Willard E., 1000 Fairview St., Malvern, Ark.
 Bouley, Albert D., Union St., Dover Foxcroft, Me.
 Box, Rayburn R., Rt. 1, Glen Allen, Ala.
 Brandt, Waymon NMI, Rt. 1, Cassville, Mo.
 Brawner, Jack D., 710 E. A St., Brunswick, Md.
 Breeden, Jennings L., Cedar Grove, W. Va.
 Breeding, Kennon Cody, Ky.
 Brenner, George J., (KIA), 315 S. 13th St., Reading, Pa.
 Brizinski, Sigmund NMI, Rt. 1, Rea, Pa.
 Bridges, Fred W., 526 Sunset, Dallas, Tex.
 Briscoe, Benson NMI, 227 Alcoa St., Monroe, Ga.
 Brown, Howard B., Rt. 1, Augustus, Wis.
 Burchinal, Thomas O., 414 Main St., Roaring Spring, Pa.
 Calger, Wesley NMI, Rt. 1, Box 196 Chandler, Ariz.
 Campbell, Andrew F., Frankfort, Del.
 Cannon, James NMI, 725 Ridge St., Freeland, Pa.
 Castle, Alvin, NMI, Olive Hill, Ky.
 Chadwick, Stephen F., Jr., 1121 41st Ave., No Seattle, Wash.
 Claibough, Raymond E., Rt. 1, Taneytown, Md.
 Cole, Richard F., Rt. 1, Waterloo, Ohio.
 Coley, Edwin, Fredrick, Okla.
 Collier, Clarence E., Whitman, W. Va.
 Collins, Ernest A.
 Conlin, Donald R., 4386 W. 10th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Cooper, Edward R. (KIA), 216 S. Columbus St., Lancaster, Ohio.
 Corn, Ralph W., 312 N. Jackson Pratt, Kans.
 Costa, Charles N., 12 Willard St., Boston, Mass.
 Cox, John A. (KIA), 203 Pantex Village Amarillo, Tex.
 Crabb, Buster Rt. 9, Box 183 Paris, Tex.
 Creason, Kenneth W., Rt. 5, Anderson, Ind.
 Crittenden, Tom, Fort Gibson, Okla.
 Cromwell, James W., Gen. Del., Sunbright, Tenn.
 Crowder, Emory G., 2656 Bankhead Ave., N.W., Atlanta, Ga.
 Dailey, Robert W., 432 E. 67th St., New York, N.Y.
 Davis, John O., 3341 Orchard St., Hallidays Cave, W. Va.
 Dawson, Willie H., Rt. 2, Carthage, Tenn.
 DeLaZerda, John F., 718 Mission St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Dempsey, Hugh D., % Carson's Store, Farmington, N.M.
 Dickenson, Vernon, Rt. 2, Shawnee, Okla.
 DiNuocio, Leo A., 504 Oxford Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Dominguez, Leonardo R., Gen. Del., Smeltertown, Tex.
 Domanowski, Walter A., 1310 Buckingham St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Dowd, Eugene F., 5017 Montclair, Detroit, Mich.
 Dreher, Harry W., 408 Denny Rd., Columbia, S.C.
 Driggers, Emery A., Rt. 2, Baxley, Ga.
 Drobae, George, 9652 Ave. N., Chicago, Ill.
 Dugat, Euel B., Box 1, Winnie, Tex.
 Duncan, Russell E., Rt. 1, Jeffersonville, Ohio.
 Earl, Glenn C., Jr., 2037 Fourth St., Detroit, Mich.
 Edwards, Richard T., Amagansett, L.I., N.Y.
 Ekenstedt, Elert E., Rt. 2, Cumberland, Wis.
 Elliott, James A., Jr., 486 Mentar Ave., Painesville, Ohio.
 Ellis, Riley D., Perryssville, Ind.
 Erntano, John J., 184 Whitney St., Rochester, N.Y.
 Evans, Don, 461 S. W. 4th St., Richmond, Ind.
 Everett, Troy W., Rt. 2, Yazoo City, Miss.
 Fackler, Newman E., Jr., Main St., Canton, Ga.
 Fahringer, Glendon L. (KIA), 351 E. Poplar St., York City, Pa.
 Farley, Harold W., Rt. 3, West Branch, Mich.
 Ferranto, Joseph A., 131 Bay 14th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Feinman, Lawrence L., 505 Rockaway Pkwy., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Fields, Clyde A. (KIA), Newton, W. Va.
 Fisher, William F., 2937 Wilder St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Fleming, William T., Jr., Rt. 2, Box 13, Norfolk, Va.
 Fleisher, Thurman H., 2201 1/2 Julian St., Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Flores, Fred, 27 N. La Roca Ave., Baldwin Park, Cal.
 Fontenot, Calvin P., Ville Platte, La.
 Free, Alton H., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Galerston, Robert D., 1900 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N.Y.
 Garavaglia, Joseph A., 1816 Scott, Detroit, Mich.
 Gardenhire, Roy C., Lamesa, Tex.
 Garrett, Francis L., 12-55 5th St., Fair Lawn, N.J.
 Gattrell, Clyde R., 211 Reynolds Pl., Canton, Ohio.
 Gerbereux, Raymond, French Rd., Station A, Buffalo, N.Y.
 Geschke, Melvin E., 201 W. Sherman Ave., Ft. Atkinson, Wis.
 Gidney, Elmer R., Box 44, Crowell, Tex.
 Gillette, Alfred NMI, 603 Cherry St., Norristown, Pa.
 Goins, Howard R., Box 335, Ranger, Tex.
 Gray, Earnest R., Rt. 1, Coker, Ala.
 Guthrie, Ralph H., 117 1/2 W. Main St., Anthony, Ka.
 Greenwood, Donald E., 1628 W. Washington Springfield, Ill.
 Gressett, Norman E., Rt. 2, Kirkland, Tex.
 Griffin, Dennis C., 4342 N. Francisco, Chicago, Ill.
 Haire, Clyde C., Mangham, La.
 Hale, James N., Rt. 1, Elmer, Okla.
 Hampton, Paul D., Rt. 8, Greensburg, In.
 Hanika, Donald F., 2717 Meek Ave., Des Moines, Ia.
 Hanson, George W., 469 Elm St., Macon, Ga.
 Harris, Donald B., Alderson, W. Va.
 Hartlage, John P., Jr., 718 Sutcliffe Ave., Louisville, Ky.
 Heidebaugh, Clair W., Rt. 5, York, Pa.
 Heilman, Bernard J., Norwalk, Wis.
 Henderson, Oran K., 3340 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Herbert, Clifford J., 10 Clark St., Newark, N.J.
 Hesketh, Kempster F., Box 33, Black Duck, Minn.
 Hinn, Richard W., 12071 Cherrylawn, Detroit, Mich.
 Holeman, John D., 419 S. Skinner St., Drumright, Okla.
 Holt, John E., 102 E. Gogebic St., Ironwood, Mich.
 Hoover, Hershell H., Nellis, W. Va.
 Hoover, Waldo E., Box 1, Enolewood, Ohio.
 Hospodar, Sam NMI, 130 Barber St., Kingston, Pa.
 Hostetter, Gracen E., 805 12th St., New Brighton, Pa.

Hulhee, Ralph M., 738 Palani Ave., Honolulu, Oahu, T.H.
 Hurst, Carlis, Flipping, Ark.
 Janetopoulos, Lewis, 4734 Kedvale Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Jansen, James H., 213 Kaukauna St., Menasha, Wis.
 Jatkowski, Walter J., 1604 Delaware St., Gary, Ind.
 Jenkins, Charles W., Box 90, Alamogordo, N.M.
 Johnson, Charles F., Gauga Lake, Ohio.
 Johnson, Donald F., 6412 N. Michigan Ave., Portland, Ore.
 Johnson, Jason E., 155 Cleveland, Lebanon, Ore.
 Johnson, William C., 3634 Blaine Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Jones, Alpha J., 18th S. Walnut, Pettersburg, Ind.
 Jones, Edwin L., Afton, Ia.
 Jones, Samuel C., Rt. 1, Albertville, Ala.
 Justice, Wayne R., 1995 E. Estoria St., Atlanta, Ga.
 Kalcow, Michael, 14 Cedar St., Hastings, N.Y.
 Kallio, Lauri M., 10741 San Fernando Rd., Pacoima, Cal.
 Kelly, Wilfred E., 515 5th St., Vinton, Ia.
 Kilonis, Aleek.
 Kingston, James E., Rt. 1, Box 176, Wis. Rapids, Wis.
 Kisse, Augustus A., 406 W. Pearl St., Greenwood, Ind.
 Klein, Donald A., 4305 Oak Park, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Knight, Fred C., 9 Ferry Lane, Barrington, R.I.
 Koval, Michael R., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Korzeniewski, Joseph A.,
 Kozlowski, Adam V., 16 Morrison St., Rockville, Conn.
 Kowalewski, Joseph P., Jr., 409 S. Register St., Baltimore, Md.
 Krakower, Edward NMI, 236 S. 1st St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Krall, John C., 20 Byerley Ave., Etna, Pa.
 Kucenic, George J., 224 Center Ave., Greensburg, Pa.
 Kiscadond, Samuel E., Henderson, Ky.
 Lader, Seymour, 630 Rugby Rd., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Laneja, John N., 532 Laurel Hill Ave., Cranston, R.I.
 Lanham, John R., Box 36 East Rochester, Ohio.
 Larson, Dwight L., 412 W. 29th St., Cheyenne, Wyo.
 Larson, Olaf A., D. S. R. El Campo, Tex.
 Leach, William M., 164 Allcutt Ave., Bonner Springs, Kan.
 Lemire, Daniel R., 8354 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.
 LeTarte, Grosvenor H., 42 Lower Fort Hill St., Fort Fairfield, Me.
 Lettiere, Vincent N., 6085 Freshpond Rd., Maspeth, L.I., N.Y.
 Lewis, Melvin A., Snook, Tex.
 Liggett, Marvin M., Rt. 4, Box 146, South Bend, Ind.
 Linn, Max T., Box 41 Gaston, Ind.
 Lizotte, Normand J., Van Buren, Maine.
 Lockrey, Paul A., 5832 Pentridge St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Lunsford, Varda E., 5 E. Riverview Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
 LeBlond, Luke, 1927 Iowa St., Sioux City, Iowa.
 Luzzi, William M., 29 Palisade Ave., Jersey City, N.J.
 Lytle, James F., Pylesville, Md.
 Maglina, Herbert L., 250 Meadowbrook Rd., Merrick, L.I.
 Mains, Henry I., 1325 Republic St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Malkis, Morris NMI, 165 Blake Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Mangi, Bart L., M.D., 14 New Windsor, Orange County, N.Y.
 Marder, Abel, 156 S. 9th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Marecki, Joseph W., 84 Dennis St., 5th Ave., Garden City Park, L.I., N.Y.
 Margolis, Sol, 4911 S. Kildare, Chicago, Ill.
 Marks, Russell R., 2106 E. Berges St., Phil. Pa.
 Martin, Allyn L., 628 E. 17th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Martin, Jesse S.
 Martinez, George J., 1734 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Mathews, John A., Rt. 1, Carthage, Tenn.
 Metz, Francis R., 305 Prospect Ave., Medina, N.Y.
 Masiello, Anthony C., 37 Coughswell Ave., North Cambridge, Mass.
 McDaniel, Leo G., Box 612 Alliceville, Ala.
 McIntyre, Bert, Rt. 2, Box 78A, Ashland, Ky.
 McPeck, Marshall J., Wolf Point, Mont.
 McVeigh, John G., 366 Ridge St., Honesdale, Pa.
 Mikeska, Calvin J., Rt. 1, Bellville, Tex.
 Mikida, Zydmund J., 160 Ingham Ave., Lackawanna, N.Y.
 Miller, Burnell R., Yoe, Pa.
 Miller, Ernest M., Rt. 2, Glasgow, Ky.
 Millicek, Peter, 105 Garfield St., Mt. Olive, Ill.
 Mills, Joseph S., Rt. 4, Louisville, Ky.
 Molander, Myron D., 230 Irvine Ave. S., Bemidji, Minn.
 Monaghan, Thomas C., Central Islip, Box 336, New York, N.Y.
 Murawski, Frank S., 2335 S. Kostner Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Murray, Halton J., Rt. 2, Frankford, Del.
 Mon, Donald L., 1429 N. Federal Ave., Mason City, Ia.
 Nains, John R., 4900 W. Catalpa, Chicago, Ill.
 Nalyvayko, Alexander, 15 Bristol St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Nichols, Vern T., Mora, Minn.
 Nicholson, Wayne E., Rt. 1, Campbellsburg, Ind.
 Nieman, Wesley J., 510 3rd St., Wahpeton, N.D.
 Norman, William A., Prosperity, W. Va.
 Novak, John J., Avonmore, Pa.
 Olinger, Clifford I., Rt. 3, Fresno, Ohio.
 Olinger, Lytle G., 1113 N. Miami St., Wabash, Ind.
 Oliver, Thomas, 2957 N. Mascher St., Phil. Pa.
 Oliver, William L., Box 27, Kuttawa, Ky.
 Oliverio, Pete F., 641 East Pike, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Olson, Wesley K., 45 Spring St., Ossining, N.Y.
 Ostling, Laurence W., Jr., 8101 S. Merrill Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Patti, John G., Jr., 25 E. 3rd St., Dunkirk, N.Y.
 Pcolar, George, 816 24th St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Pena, Albert G., 422 Calhoun St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Pennock, Paul W., 801 N. Du Pont Rd., Wilmington, Del.
 Perilli, Charles, 31-16 21st St., New York City, N.Y.
 Perkins, Robert J., Rt. 2, Orrville, Ohio.
 Phelps, Louis NMI, Rt. 1, Somerset, Ky.
 Phelps, Lynn R., Rt. 1, Tully, N.Y.
 Pitts, Alfred P., Jr., Rt. 1, Jeffersonville, Ky.
 Pizzello, Steve J., 1439 W. Taylor St., Chicago, Ill.
 Plivka, Andrew, 87-84 115 St., Richmonds Hill, L.I., N.Y.
 Quattlebaum, Cecil L., Rt. 2, Midland City, Ala.
 Quiroz, Steven G., 1520 Beale St., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Raible, Joseph C., 508 N. Hayden St., Hannibal, Mo.
 Randazzo, Stephen L., 2435 26th St., Astoria, N.Y.
 Rhodes, Christopher C., 1007 Carolina Amarillo, Tex.
 Rhodes, Howard F., Rt. 1, Williamsport, Md.
 Rodia, Albert A., 1815 Morris St., Phil. Pa.
 Rice, Harry W., Jr., 24 Remington Ave., S. Coatesville, Pa.
 Rivera, Gilbert, 484 23rd Ave., San Francisco, Cal.
 Roberts, Andrew L., Gen. Del., Doernte, Tex.
 Roberts, Ford L., Box 408, Milton, W. Va.
 Robinson, Rhee R., Jr., 2740 Wooddale, Lincoln, Neb.
 Robinson, Holly E., Rt. 3, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
 Rogers, Fins J., 160 Main St., Greenfield, Tenn.
 Rogge, Bernard C., Jr., Floyd Knobs, Ind.
 Rupp, Harold, Kittanning, Pa.
 Rolli, Kenneth F., 2118 3rd St., S.E., Canton, Ohio.
 Rombauts, Otto G., 5153 Hillier, Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.
 Roper, Willie J., Box 91, Orchard, Tex.
 Rowe, Jeris R. (KIA), Rt. 1, Blairsburg, Ia.
 Rybski, Frank A., 5312 Cabot St., Detroit, Mich.
 Salisbury, Arthur G., 306 N. Olive St., Jefferson, La.
 Salisbury, Marion D., 706 W. Washington, Jefferson, Ia.
 Sanders, Harry J., Guide Rock, Neb.
 Sandusky, Alvin C., Liberty, Ky.
 Saylor, John L., Cealgood, Ky.
 Scheetz, Leo W., 48 Devries Circle, Lewes, Del.
 Schietzelt, Edgar W. (KIA), 1713 Patterson St., Sioux City, Ia.
 Schroeder, Walton M., Larsen, Wis.
 Schwartz, Jacob, 160 Lee Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Seigel, Norton, 611 Sutter Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Serverson, William T., Sr., 8713 Yale Place, Phil. Pa.
 Serviss, George C., 222 E. Main St., Elsie, Mich.

Shackleton, Edwin R., Jr., 14 Grubb St., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
 Sharek, Carl R., 662 Grove St., Manchester, N. H.
 Shelton, Earl B., Gen Del, Las Vegas, Nev.
 Shook, Jack, 316 W. Concho, San Angelo, Tex.
 Siller, Jesus R., 2220 El Paso St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Simononis, Alphonsus J., 79 Big Mine Run, Ashland, Pa.
 Singley, William C. (KIA), 828 Center St., Easton, Pa.
 Sistrunk, Laurie, NMI, Rt. 4, West Monroe, La.
 Sites, Walter J., Rt. 1, Yorktown, Ind.
 Skaggs, Basil L., Victor, W. Va.
 Skahan, Vincent D., 6128 Chestnut St., Pahl, Pa.
 Skinski, Louis, 9017 Houston Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Slagle, John V., 1022 E. 88th St., Seattle, Wash.
 Smith, Harold V., Stanberry, Mo.
 Sokolowsky, Harry, 272 Marshall St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Soviar, Andrew J., Jr., 6509 Debel, Detroit, Mich.
 Spear, Kenneth J., Jr., 916 Irving Ave., Lansing, Mich.
 Spice, Floyd H., Rt. 2, Wolcottville, Ind.
 Spittler, John L., 51 Pearl St., Wernersville, Pa.
 Springston, Calvin R. (KIA), Wilson, Va.
 Squires, John L., Jr., 5 Park Ave., Old Bridge, N. J.
 St. Amand, Aurel R., 120 Bellevue Rd., New Bedford, Mass.
 Stalnakar, Mack Jr., Rt. 2, Box 289, Liberty, Mo.
 Stankewicz, Felix NMI, Peconic, L. I., N. Y.
 Stansbery, David H., 527 West St., Carey, Ohio.
 Stats, Alex, 2505 W. 18th Place, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Stein, John F. (KIA), 1205 N. Charlotte St., Pottstown, Pa.
 Sterrett, Andrew A., 87 Valeview Dr., Kenneywood, Pa.
 Stevens, James K., Rt. 1, Galatia, Ill.
 Stewart, Robert D., Rt. 1, Central City, Ky.
 Stobodzan, Paul, 96th St., Marks, Pl., New York, N. Y.
 Stolar, Allen D., 301 10th St., S. W., Washington D. C.
 Story, Charlie E., 743 Deaner Dr., Muskegon, Mich.
 Strong, Royal A., Jr., 2219 Barnard Ave., Waco, Tex.
 Suhodolsky, Nicholas, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Sweeney, James A., Box 130, Washingtonville, N. Y.
 Tighe, Stephen L., 142 S. Franklin St., Schomokin, Pa.
 Thimell, Henry A., 6117 N. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Thomas, Ernest, 125 Grant St., Framingham, Mass.
 Thomas, James E., 2231 Harding St., Detroit, Mich.
 Thompson, Ralph S., 110 Union St., East Jordan, Mich.
 Tolley, Eugene R., Rt. 1, Swope, Va.
 Tolman, Richard E., 2246 Bullard Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Toth, Joseph G., 712 Kerr St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Turisco, Alfred T., 296 Colman St., New London, Conn.
 Turner, Elbert C., Arcadia, S. C.
 Ulrich, John E., 1047 Donavon St., Seattle, Wash.
 Valenti, Angelo A., 152 N. Maple St., Akron, Ohio.
 Valentin, Joaquin, 571 W. 139th St., New York, N. Y.
 Valentin, John A., 100-26 41st St., Corona, L. I., N. Y.
 VanderHam, Ray NMI, 723 Laurel Ave., Bellflower, Cal.
 Vanschoick, Roy D., Pickrell, Neb.
 Vinciguerra, Ernest C., 135 E. 117th Place, Chicago, Ill.
 Waddington, Benjamin, Paw Paw Lake, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.
 Waite, Harry A., 652 W. 61st Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.
 Walbert, Milton E., 925 N. Front St., Marquette, Mich.
 Walczak, Francis M., 1007 4th St. North, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Waldron, Roy D., Rt. 2, Sionier, Ind.
 Walton, James J., 6808 4th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Wanasek, William (KIA), 325 N. Shamokin St., Shamokin, Pa.
 Warren, George N., 159 Oak St., Providence, R. I.
 Warren, Henry M., Jr., Buckeye, W. Va.
 Watson, Richard B., Rt. 2, Box 97, Rensselaer, Ind.
 Webb, Charles E. (KIA), Oil Springs, Ky.
 Webb, Harold J., 8 Rollins St., Roxbury, Mass.
 Webb, George W., Rt. 2, Sunbury, Ohio.
 Weibye, Richard B., Eagle Bend, Minn.
 Weidemann, Oliver D., 901 N. 7th St., Beatrice, Neb.
 Weidemann, Robert F., 469 First St., Palisades Pk., N. J.
 Weiss, Earl K., 3506 Asheville St., Phil. Pa.
 Wheeler, Fred H., 1500 Spring Place N. W., Washington D. C.
 White, Roy C., 1221 Hess Lane, Louisville, Ky.
 Whitmore, George R., 201 W. Patrick St., Frederick, Md.
 Wildermuth, Ralph E., 1065 Porter St., Gary, Ind.
 Wilfing, Charles E., 425 10th St., Wellsboro, Ohio.
 Wilken, Frank T., 230 21st St., Santa Monica, Cal.
 Williams, Charlie P., 202 W. Plummer St., Eastland, Tex.
 Williams, J. R., Valliant, Okla.
 Williamson Edward (KIA), 37 Bowman St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
 Witte, Howard J., 301 N. Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Wohlleb, Fred C., Jr., 173-31 103 Rd., Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.
 Wolter, Allen L., 5924 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Woods, Fay R., % W. H. Peeples, Early Branch, S. C.
 Woods, Robert A., Garwin, Ia.
 Wright, Wilson W., Marbury, Md.
 Younger, Roy L., 820 Traven St., South Boston, Va.
 Yurich, Frank M., 3510 W. 98th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Yurkiewicz, Clem J., Rt. 1, Box 130, Elyburg, Pa.
 Wylie, Everett L., Rt. 1, Cumberland Gap, Tenn.
 Zimmerman, Delbert L., Rockwell City, Ia.
 Zimmermann, Walter J., 1636 Dyre St., Phil. Pa.
 Zimmermann, Robert W., 3030 Arthington St., Chicago, Ill.
 Zindler, Warren M., 4706 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, Tex.
 Zorbas, William S., 40-41 99th St., Corona, N. Y.
 Zuidema, John A., 207 1/2 Elliot St., Grand Haven, Mich.

COMPANY B

Adams, Bruce S., 776 Sepulveda St., San Pedro, Cal.
 Adams, Herman, Orr, Ky.
 Allen, Edward L., 2277 Mogadore Rd., Akron, Ohio.
 Alpert, Herbert, 1546 Selwyn Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Apana, Joseph, Papa, Kau, Hawaii
 Argelan, Paul S., 5 no, Qualmia, Wash.
 Arnaud, Nealy J., Arnaudville, La.
 Atkins, Harold D., Indian Mt. Tenn.
 Aysec, Robert C., 726 Chambers Ave., Jeanette, Pa.
 Badgwell, Lawrence, 602 Laharba St., Laharba, Cal.
 Bailey, Sim B., 114 S. Bar Man St., Vernon, Tex.
 Bara, Ignatz Jr., 1537 S. Linden St., Alliance, Ohio.
 Barnett, Thomas D., 502 N. St. Joseph St., South Bend, Ind.
 Beaman, Albert E., Walworick Rd., Winchester, N. H.
 Beard, John Jr., 1220 Waverly St., Houston, Tex.
 Beckett, George A., 3819 W. 62nd Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 Bennet, Russell E.
 Bell, Ralph J., Rt. 2, Martin, Tenn.
 Billheim, Chester W., 304 N. 6th St., Sunberg, Pa.
 Bishop, Woodrow W., 17 Home Place, Winsted, Conn.
 Bishop, John E., West Hampton Beach, L. I., N. Y.
 Bitner, Edward S., Milroy, Pa.
 Blanchard, Donald J., 2166 Newport Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Blevins, Moody C., Box 552, Marion, Va.
 Bradley, Edward A., 3i Malvern St., Manchester, N. H.
 Brannian, Richard R., 2530 Franklin St., Bellingham, Wash.
 Brooks, Gerald T., 206 Bridgett St., Westville, Ill.
 Brooke, Truman G., 5229 Irving Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Bumbul, Felix J., 5910 Elmer St., Detroit, Mich.
 Bales, Richard M., 806 W. Court St., Beatrice, Neb.
 Betz, Andrew F., Rt. 1, Library, Pa.
 Burkhardt, Charles H., R. F. D. Temperanceville, Ohio.
 Byrd, James L., Box 284, Blossom, Tex.
 Barry, Louis G., 295 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich.
 Bean, Efrid L., Rt. 1, Denton, N. C.
 Bateh, Audi S., 297th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Bero, Richard W.
 Bonrud, James O., 1100 N. Prairie St., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
 Brown, Russell E., 1009 Alldays Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Brezinsky, Eugene L., 3051 S. 9th Pl., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Burke, Kenneth D., 485 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, Cal.
 Campbell, Bernard W., 18th & Walnut St., Petersburg, Ind.
 Caravone, Edward J., 1362 75th St., Brooklyn N. Y.
 Carter, Marurice W., Altus, Ark.
 Chaney, Maurice W., Union Bridge, Md., Box 171.
 Chadell, Richard W., R. D. 4, Coldersport, Pa.
 Chilson, Avery W., Jr., 15436 Beldin Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Clark, William E., 105 E. 12th St., Covington, Ky.
 Cloninger, J. C., 9022 Fildin St., Dallas, Tex.
 Cole, Brady N., 1335 Johns St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Collier, Clarence E., Rt. 3, Box 411, Oroville, Cal.
 Condry, Carl, Mansfield, Ark.
 Condeia, James V., 2227 99th St., Corona, L. I., N. Y.
 Cookesey, Marshall M., Niskey Lake, Ben Hill, Ga.
 Costa, Charles N., 12 William St., Boston, Mass.
 Cox, Everette J., Mammoth, Cave, Ky.
 Cox, Willard B., 1011 N. Roan St., Johnson City, Tenn.
 Cyle, Raymond, 255 91st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Crocco, Louis J., 1225 Evergreen Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Cross, Sidney B., 1444 Deveraux Ave., Phil., Pa.
 Crowley, Charles F., 23 Haven Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Crump, Odus L., Rt. 2, Denison, Tex.
 Casantos, Frank, 1212 St. Clair Ave., Duquesne, Pa.
 Cuellar, Jose A., Ft. Stockton, Tex.
 Cargal, James M., 823 Rudolph St., High Point, N. C.
 Champio, Columbus M., Rt. 1, Rutherford, N. C.
 Cleveger, Charles E., Point of Rock, Md.
 Coan, Gordon A., 69 Timson St., Lynn, Mass.
 Cockrall, William E., Rt. 3, Kernes, Tex.
 Conroy, Lawrence F., 42 Saranac Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Cuzzo, Michael, 536 Empire Blvd., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Childers, Chandler S., Billsboro, N. C.
 Dailey, Robert, 432 E. 67th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Damon, Harold W., 1336 N. 17th, Council Bluffs, La.
 Davis, Robert W., Dexter, Ohio.
 Daniel, Hubert O., Rt. 1, Lorin, Miss.
 De La Zerda, John F., 718 Mission St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Davenport, Robert, 210 Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 De Ruvo, Pasquale R., 711 E. 231st St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Dehn, Donald D., 324 W. 4th St., Waterloo, Ill.
 Duely, Lloyd P., Lamont, Iowa
 Diaz, Salvador O., El Paso, Tex.
 Dobrash, Pete, 2021 Delgany St., Denver, Col.
 Dockal, Joseph M., 79 Alexander St., Albany, N. Y.
 Dodd, Junior C., 31 S. Locust St., San Jose, Cal.
 Dosson, Celam, Rt. 1, Brecken Ridge, Mich.
 Driscoll, John F., 904 127th St., College Point, L. I., N. Y.
 Dubiel, Brown, Box 201, Fairpoint, Ohio.
 Desmarais, Ernest J., 556 Clinton St., Woonsocket, R. I.
 Drew, Elden E., 5254 Collinsville Ave., E. Staovis, Ill. Staldivis.
 Derrick, William C., R. R. 1, Cooksville, Tex.
 Dubonis, Adam, 116 Niagara St., Newark, N. J.
 Edall, Ray W., 401 N. 19th St., Kansas City, Kan.
 Elliot, Milford, R. R. 11, Box 112, Dayton, Ohio.
 Elmer, Claude B.
 Epps, Raymond V., 327 S. 11th St., Poplar Bluff, Mo.
 Evanko, Elmer R., 1505 Duss Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Eagan, Harry D., 616 E. Roosevelt, Phoenix, Ariz.
 Eck, James A., Rt. 2, Montourville, Pa.
 Esser, Donald J., 1722 Regent St., Madison, Wis.
 Farrel, James T., 25 Rose Ave., Plains, Pa.
 Fauett, Roy C., 1117 E. 11, Waco, Tex.
 Feder, Murray H., 2106 Ave. X, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Fellicia, Angelo J., 8674 17th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Ferguson, Donald J., 8 Itendale St., Springfield, Mass.
 Fite, Hugh H., 1015 N. Lee, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Fleming, Donald J., 239 54th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Flesher, Thurman H.
 Friedman, Bennett D., 38 Abbott St., Barao Ford, Pa.
 Frost, Robert P., R. R. 8, Hamilton, Ohio.
 Fry, Paul H., 219, E. 14th St., Newport, Ky.
 Fifer, James L., 5402 69th Pl., Maspeth, L. I., N. Y.
 Foley, Cleburn E., 329 Belmont Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Gamblin, Oran M., Friona, Tex.
 Gardner, Lawrence F., 32 Cain Ave., Weymouth, Mass.
 Gattens, James P., Jr., Brownsville Rd., Broughton, Pa.
 Geller, Max, 546 Eastern, Malden, Mass.
 Gibbs, Paul L., 819 W. Grand Ave., Harveyville, Md.
 Gray, Ernest, Rt. 1, Coker, Ala.
 Gray, Wilbur K., R. F. D. 1, Newton, Pa.
 Gregory, Thurman A., Rt. 3, Box 331, Waco, Tex.
 Griskonis, Simon J., 13 Memorial St., Exter, Pa.
 Gulick, Lewis M., 205 Church St., Hackettstown, N. J.
 Gonzales, Librado S., Box 342, Menard, Tex.
 Gavron, Edmond F., Washington St., Seabrook, N. H.
 Grames, Virgil L., 888 Patterson Dr., Monroe, Mich.
 Godbey, Virtreas M., Gilpin, Ky.
 Glenn, Earl R., R. F. D. 3, Circleville, Ohio.
 Grossman, Louis, 3021 Ave. 1, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Gutzdorf, Alex A., 1420 Utah St., Watertown, Wis.
 Haire, Clyde C., Rayville, La.
 Hall, Charlie, 116 Oak St., Springfield, Tenn.
 Hamling, Allen J., 125 Allison Ave., St. Helena, Cal.
 Hance, George W., Poet Republic, Md.
 Harshey, Donald W., 416 S. Homer St., Lansing, Mich.
 Hartlage, John L., 718 Sutcliffe St., Louisville, Ky.
 Hawkins, John R., Paeclot, S. C.
 Helms, Doyle E., 443 S. 19th St., Clinton, Okla.
 Helman, Hubert O., 128 Mound St., Sydney, Ohio.
 Henry, Eugene E., 5401 Kinnessing St., Phil. Pa.
 Herring, Jesse H., Jr., 2931 Nolenville Rd., Nashville, Tenn.
 Hickman, James A., 2015 Franklin Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
 Hinds, George K., Rickman, Tenn.
 Hines, John D., P. O., Box 35, Nomanagee, Tex.
 Hlavaty, Nick, 4002 Pulaski St., E. Chicago, Ind.
 Hodges, Earl S., Kokomo, Miss.
 Hoffman, Andrew J., 5407 S. Alder St., Tacoma, Wash.
 Hoffman, Warren R., R. D. 2, Coopersburg, Pa.
 Hudson, Willie C., 1516 London Ave., Roanoke, Va.
 Hudspeth, Earl D., S. Greenfield, Mo.
 Hultz, Delbert M., Box 12, Lomax, Ill.
 Hoffman, Lewis H., Falling Rock, W. Va.
 Hill, John B., Albany, La.
 Hooper, James H., Rt. 2, Springville, Tenn.
 Hutchens, Frankie, Rt. 2, Cottage Grove, Tenn.
 Jenkins, Harry, 535 Ray St., Camden, N. J.
 Jenkins, Galen W., 1408 E. Vanderhoof St., Decatur, Ill.
 Jimenez, Lorenzo C., 118 N. McKinley, Oxnard, Cal.
 Joy, Cecil, Box 128, Delhi, Cal.
 Johnson, Archie R., 104 E. Scoot Ave., Pampa, Tex.
 Johnson, James A., Rt. 4, Macleansboro, Ill.
 Jozwiak, Cass J., 7800 Asterian Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Kilburn, William H., Rt. 3, Lebanon, Ohio.
 Killebrew, Duane E., Nebo, Ill.
 Knouse, John E., Finksburg, Md.
 Kruger, Elmer
 Krueger, Edmund C., 4077 S. Rockwell, Chicago, Ill.
 Krywka, Julius W., 431 Harlan Ave. N. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Kurzbard, Sidney, 59 Division Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Kaminsky, Theodore, 3752 Calvert, Detroit, Mich.
 King, Robert L., 1552 Labaie Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Kopecky, Robert C., 1518 Houston Ave., Houston, Tex.
 LaFoca, Peter, 61 E. Oak St., Pittston, Pa.
 Larose, Joseph O., 38 Hawley St., North Hampton, Mass.
 Legge, Robert J., Oxford, Pa.
 Long, Claude A., Rt. 2, DeWitt, Ark.
 Looser, Bernard L., Rt. 2, Ft. Jennings, Ohio.
 Lott, William M., Newa, Ark.
 Lynn, James W., Jr., Birmingham, Ala.
 Lillemon, June J., Harvey, N. Dakota
 Lindsfors, James, 5240 Sohl St., Hammond, Ind.
 Liptak, Stephen T., Lore City, Ohio.
 Lockhart, Edward F., 1817 Union St., Brunswick, Ga.
 Logue, Francis F., 2945 67th St., Phil., Pa.
 Mackey, John, 107 S. Walnut St., Pauxxatawny, Pa.
 Malcolm, James A., Jr., 345 Vanadium Rd., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Markel, John M., Jr., R. D. 2, Tyrone, Pa.
 Marr, Kenneth H., 3991 Harney St., Omaha, Neb.
 Masias, Jose, Rt. 3, Box 113, Shimer, Tex.
 Massenelli, Paul D., 299 W. Goodale St., Columbus, Ohio.
 Mauck, Eugene E., 121 Pershing St., Flint, Mich.
 McMahon, John D., 629 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal.
 McCarroll, Harold W., 7332 6th St., Washington D. C.
 McGee, James H., 704 Washington St., Burlington, N. C.
 McNeil, Russell H., Colara, Md.
 Mease, David M., Main St., Coopersburg, Pa.
 Meredith, William L., 409 S. Allison St., Baltimore, Md.
 Michealsky, Enoch W., 417 W. Poplar St., Shenadoah, Pa.
 Michaleik, Steven Jr., 90 Bryson Ave., Seymour, Conn.
 Miller, Raymond E., Liberal, Mo.
 Miller, Warren W., 917 Parkwood Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Minnis, Walter E., New Cumberland, Pa.
 Montes, Louis, 3309 Medra St., El Paso, Tex.
 Moore, James R., 5001 Decatur St., Edmonston, Md.
 Morin, Francis J., 55 N. Pearl St., Milford, Mass.
 Morrisette, Robert, 216 Chapman St., Chesaning, Mich.
 Meyers, Berman R., Rt. 2, Lower Salem, Ohio.
 Martinez, Ernesto S., 807 7th St., Brownsville, Tex.
 Mitchell, Mallie, Rt. 1, Box 25, Burnsville, N. C.
 McMonagle, Stanley L., 2814 Hudson St., Detroit, Mich.
 McFarland, Fredrick M., Indio, Cal.
 Moore, George R., Fairfax, Va.
 McMickle, Dewey R., Jr., Fox Lake, Ill.
 Matthews, William J., Salmon, Idaho
 Mahlum, George A., 609 5th St., Albert Lea, Minn.
 Meyer, Max A., 159 1/2 Kenmore Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Meyers, James A., Gen Del, Pearl, Tex.
 Millner, Arnold J., 601 W. 151st St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Molnar, Charles, Warren, Ohio.
 Moore, William A., Shinnston, W. Va.
 Morrill, Edward D., Box 113, Rt. 2, Huron (Beadle) S. Dak.
 Newhouse, Eugene J., 1407 Sheridan Rd.
 Nauman, Melvin E., 101 Nearly St., Hummelstown Pa.
 O'Brien, Maxwell, 706 Mc Kinstry St., Detroit, Mich.
 O'Brien, John L., Jr., 27 Colonial Ave., Dorchester, Mass.
 Orner, Vernon W., 215 N. 6th St., Youngwood, Pa.
 O'Conner, Thomas M., 2811 S. Park Ave., Lackawana, N. Y.
 Olmstead, George R., Rt. 1, Rockwell Rd., Jamesville, N. Y.
 North, Stewart D., Rt. 1, New Auburn, Wis.
 Parker, Floyd R., Box 1454, Harlingen, Tex.
 Pate, Donald H., 720 E. Washington St., Clinton, Ill.
 Patton, Junior F., 2850 Robinsdale Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Pease, Gordon L., Kinsman, Ohio.
 Peckskamp, Albert F., 808 11th Ave., St. Cloud, Minn.
 Perkins, Robert E., Rt. 2, Reeds Ferry, Nashua, N. H.
 Poe, John A., Dora, Ala.
 Potts, Harry M., 123 Colin Kelly Courts, Piquia, Ohio.
 Pry, Gordon E., 63 S. Gambil St., Shelby, Ohio.
 Pastor, Leon, 393 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Paul, John L., 1238 Texas St., Louisville, Ky.
 Paul, Clarence E., Festigs, Pa.
 Pettit, Rufus, Gen. Del., Tahlequah, Okla.
 Partlow, Ralph E., Sundance, Wyo.
 Pazaras, George W., 144-35 70th Ave., Kew Gardens Hills, N. Y.
 Procanik, Peter D., 168 Hall Ave., Perth Amboy, N. J.
 Provencher, Robert C., 257 E 10th St., Traverse City, Mich.
 Ramirez, Ramiro
 Reed, Ernest A., Scotland Ave., Black Mt., N. C.
 Resare, Elmer R., 1308 Delaware St., Berkeley, Cal.
 Rhode, Dee, F. Olive Branch, Ill.
 Richards, Elmer F., Bib Springs, Va.
 Robinson, James E., 223 N. Main St., St. Lawrenceburg, Ky.
 Rolig, Philip B., Center, City, Minn.
 Rollen, William F., 1810 E. 18th St., Muncie, Ind.
 Rowe, Irvin J., Jr., 25 Green St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Rywalski, Roman P., 1332 Campbell St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Rulli, Dommick A., 912 S. Main St., Greensburg, Pa.
 Ratti, Thomas A., Marble St., Lee, Mass.
 Ramey, Herman W., Rt. 2, Muncie, Ind.
 Rhodes, Luther J., 159 Reed St., Biltmore, N. C.
 Romines, Earl M., Maryville, Tenn.
 Romanoski, Edward, 356 3rd Ave., Komal, Pa.
 Salter, James W., Newport, N. C.
 Safford, Dean W., 28 Blodgett St., Springfield, Mass.
 Schmidtke, Harry E., 64th St., Wilryan Ave., S. Minneapolis, Minn.
 Scott, Roger, R. F. D. 3, Gloverville, N. Y.
 Seigler, James E., 402 Hamilton St., Augusta, Ga.
 Shataka, Charles V., 6549 79th St., Middle Village, L. I., N. Y.
 Sierp, Henry F., 9315 Vanderveer St., Queens Village, N. Y.
 Silver, Carroll L., 26 Spring St., Marion, N. C.
 Smith, Doyle E., Carlisle, Ark.
 Smith, Robert M., 5401 Auth Rd., Washington, D. C.
 Smith, William O., Blue Jay, W. Va.
 Smith, Jack F., Rt. 1, Burgettstown, Pa.
 Snyder, George W., Box 363, Okla. City, Okla.
 Spures, Alva, Jr., Nanchesser, Ohio.
 Sterenson, Philip, 2431 E. 26th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Strippling, Olen F., Star Rd., Bee Branch, Ar.
 Sturm, James R., 86 N. Western Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 Sullivan, William H., 13442 State, Otisville, Mich.
 Swenson, Walter E., Hoople, N. Dak.
 Smiley, Charles R., 605 W. South St., Pickneyville, Ill.
 Smith, Edward C., 107 S. 21st St., Brigantine, N. J.
 Soroka, Alexander, 3236 N. 6th St., Phil. Pa.
 Specht, Paul M., Jr., 10731 104th St., Ozone Park, L. I., N. Y.
 Stokes, James P., Box 474, Jellico, Tenn.
 Spooner, William O., 1465 Helen St., Detroit, Mich.
 Shaffer, Charles L., Jr., 36 Middle Ave., Millville, N. J.
 Shaffer, Charles L., Jr., 36 Middle Ave., Millville, N. J.
 Sandis, John A., 1134 Schoonmaker Ave., Monessen, Pa.
 Taylor, Joa D., 7346 Melrose Ave., University City, Mo.
 Thomas, Robert C., 519 Uclid Ave., Greensburg, Pa.
 Tovar, Edward O., San Antonio, Tex.
 Trandem, Ralph W., Mentor (Polk) Minn.
 Torres, Andrew, 139 Berkeley Ave., Claremont, Cal.
 Tufts, Donald R., 317 Ashtabula At., Irontown, Ohio.
 Taylor, William B., 102 Douglas Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
 Turner, LeRoy E., R. R. 4, Bedford, Ind.
 Turner, Melford D., Pittsburg, Mo.
 Thompson, Richard V., 223 Margaret St., Plattsburg, N. Y.
 Turner, George C., 1276 Clugter, Kan. City, Kan.
 Turebay, George P., 221 Bradford Ave., Brooklyn N. Y.
 Van Dyne, Ralph M., 1117 Argentine Blvd., Kansas City, Kan.
 Vogde, Eugene C., 130 Walnut St., Fon Du Lac, Wis.
 Vincent, Gilbert H., Rt. 1, Sullivan, Ill.
 Vogel, Edward R., Rt. 1, Sullivan, Ill.
 Wade, George H., 6336 Orange St., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Wadsworth, Carol O., R. R. 1, Venus, Tex.
 Walle, Joseph J., 1775 Convoid St., Detroit, Mich.
 Walter, Byron J., 1829 12th Ave., Altoona, Pa.

Warnick, Solomon O., Swanton, Md.
Webber, Edwin V., 253 W. 101 St., N. Y., N. Y.
White, Russell
Whitehead, William C., 311 Currahee St., Toccoa, Ga.
Williams, James E., Gloucester Pt., Va.
Willingham, Virgil E., 1955 Jonesboro Rd., Atlanta, Ga.
Wilson, Beno, Roland, Okla.
Wise, Hollis R., 3, Milton, Fla.
Wisner, James R., 217 E. 3rd St., Fredrick, Md.
Wren, John D., Rt. 1, Box 208, Wasco, Cal.
Wright, Earl E., 27 Galloway St., Dayton, Ohio.
Walker, George F., Jr., 1824 E. 29th St., Baltimore, Md.
Webber, Robert A., 1420 Goodbar Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
Weller, Harry E., 105 25th St., Babbitt, Nev.
Whitis, Varner L., Ula, Ky.
Woodell, Ira N., Box 18, Roseville, Ohio.
Wolfe, Virgil A., 1115 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Wright, J. D., Rt. 1, Washington, Okla.
Willmot, Robert L., 3309 Alton Park Blvd., Chattanooga, Tenn.
Wright, William F., Jr., Myrtle St., Mills, Mass.
Yahnke, Philip J., Kent, N. Y.
Yates, John N., 522 McClellan St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Yeager, Vaughn A., Floresville, Tex.
Young, Robert, 251 Burnt St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Alexander, Olen, Wayne, Okla.
Anderson, William M., Star Rt. 1, Nixon, Tex.
Anderson, Samuel, 1076 Feller Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Alvise, Richard M., J. 3120 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.
Alcala, Lupe R., Box 474, Pearsall, Tex.
Bentley, Nathaniel, Lincoln, Ga.
Bates, Walter L., 908 Woodley Rd., Dayton, Ohio.
Berkel, Kenneth J., St. Clair, Mo.
Blake, Ray, R. R. 3, Shoals, Ind.
Boenhenn, George W., 3674 High St., Columbus, Ohio.
Bone, Charles M., R. F. D. 3, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.
Boyer, Max A., Eureka, Utah
Bostick, J. B., Cee Vee Rt., Childers, Tex.
Brooks, Arthur V., R. D. 3, Ocala, Fla.
Brodish, Paul R., 525 Melrose Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Brown, Loyal R., 1435 S. 65th St., West Alis, Wis.
Bruesch, Sam H., Rt. 2, West Bend, Wis.
Bullock, Millard H., Smithville, Mo.
Burns, John F., 4109 41st St., L. I., N. Y.
Bernvolanta, Frank, J., 497 St. Johns Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Bobyack, Joseph, 1036 Michigan, Detroit, Mich.
Bragdon, Donald A., Poland Springs, MD.
Brehm, Wesley E., Furbotville, Pa.
Brown, Wallace W., 1023 Bleacher St., Utica, N. Y.
Campbell, James F., 945 Cunningham Pl., Atlanta, Ga.
Capps, Robert, 139 W. 2nd St., Bountiful, Utah
Carr, Orville L., R. F. D. 4, Fairfield, Iowa
Carson, Robert L., 338 Satula Ave., Athens, Ga.
Casey, Hoyle G., 1126 Madison Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Caswell, William K., 529 S. Ash Fairmont, Mo.
Champion, Raul, G., 915 Muncy St., San Antonio, Tex.
Closs, Ramon C., 229 Winthrop, Syracuse, N. Y.
Coddington, Lloyd D., 501 E. 1st St., Spencer, Iowa
Dan, Lonnise, 708-B, Gladewater, Tex.
Darnell, Gordon L., 2800 Whitis Ave., Austin Tex.
Dobbelare, Henry J., 5001 E., St. Croix St., Superior, Wis.
Dudrue, Kenneth E., Mentone, Ind.
DuBoise, Clarence E., Gen Del., Commerce, Okla.
Dyke, Arthur L., 1615 Ida St., Wichita, Kan.
Easton, Lloyd B., 1702 N. Maple, Royal Oak, Mich.
Eckert, Fred J., 4037 Huron Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Edmond, Charles F., 84-65 127th St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.
Fausnaugh, Ralph, Rt. 1, W. Mansfield, Ohio.
Fisher, John W., 138 E. Elm St., Shillington, Pa.
Frey, Walter L., Alverton, Pa.
Farano, Guvesippe, A., 3500 Bank St., Baltimore, Md.
Fiare, Edward, 1855 Foster Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
Fursa, Alexander, 146 Floyd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Gaillard, Benjamin, 210 E. 122nd St., N. Y., N. Y.
Gavin, John R., 39 Jay St., Albany, N. Y.
Gillarty, Floyd P., 2337 S. W. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa
Girdley, Charles, Deroseth, Tenn.
Gorman, James J., 62 16th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Grasser, James E., Rugby, N. Dak.
Grosso, Andy L., 170 1st Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Gyrlon, Claude V., Rt. 4, Waupaca, Wis.
Gunderson, Arnold, R. D. 2, Eleva, Wis.
Green, Oscar W., R. R. 1, Waynesburg, Ky.
Hendricks, Henry, Alderson, W. Va.
Herzog, Harold W., 115-14 69th Ave., Flushing Heights, L. I., N. Y.
Heywood, Clifford S., 4021 Van Renssler Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.
Hildebrandt, Lawrence F., 3416 Wickham Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Hubusch, Joseph A., 2828 S. 9th St., St. Louis, Mo.
Hoddinalt, George H., Jr., 5720 Pimlico Rd., Baltimore, Md.
Hoosler, Frank, Gen. Del., Shelton, Wash.
Hornsher, Alton A., Tt. 1, Moulton, Tex.
Horner, James A., 130 10th St., Clarksville, Tenn.
Hoyes, George F., Jr., 112 S. Tenn., Lakeland, Fla.
Holland, Max, 1523 44th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Hubbell, Roy E., Rt. 1, Box 7, Droper, Wis.
Hail, Millard R., Rt. 2, Wewoka, Okla.
Hanson, Virgil, R. 6, Saginaw, Mich.
Hansen, Robert C., 3426 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Ill.
Harvey, Charles P., 8 Sewall St., Boston, Mass.
Hankins, Oakley G., Farmtown, W. Va.
Johnson, Randolph R., Rd. 1, Muleshoe, Tex.
Kanjmer, Frank J., Jr., 402 N. Curley, Baltimore, Mo.
Knight, Donald F., Rt. 1, W. Moreland, Tenn.
Koncky, Joseph A., 2659 S. Avers St., Chicago, Ill.
Kreochbaum, Dwight O., 901 Woodstock, Toledo, Ohio.
Krause, Lester V., High Rock, Pa.
Kwincinski, Harry, 1234 W. 60th St., Chicago, Ill.
Linsley, Paul L., Sandesbury, Ohio.
Loky, Vaclen F., 2835 S. Kenneth Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Lotos, Carl J., Rt. 2, Jacobsburg, Ohio.
Martinez, Edward C., 606 N. 12th Santa Paula, Cal.
McGlone, William E., 554 Hamilton Ave., Columbus, Ohio
Meneor, Harry C., Sta. C., Clarksburg, W. Va.
Mosesall, 2548 E. 28th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
May, Charles F., R. R. 3, Greencastle, Ind.
Moslanta, John W., E. Cinnabar St., Bessemer, Mich.
Marks, William, Fairbanks, Alaska
Malchert, Fredrich H., 932 S. Lombard St., Oakpark, Ill.
Malamed, Sam, 7017 20th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
McMahon, Peter J., 2713 Maple St., Everett, Wash.
NewHouse, Benjamin E., 1008 S. Washington, Park Ridge, Ill.
Nickals, Joe R., 7136 Manette Dr., Jennings, Mo.
Orzech, Thaddeus E., 117 Kirby Ave., Lackawanna, N. Y.
Olguin, Frank C., 11502 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
O'Dell, Herbert G., Winona, Mich.
Oetting, Earl J., 216 E. Cedar, Jefferson City, Mo.
Olerlog, Herman K., Box 192, Levy, Ark.
Oberg, John E., 1329 1/2 Park Ave., Meadville, Pa.
Pennoch, Paul W., Wilmington, Del.
Procter, Sam W., R. F. D. 1, Quailty, Ky.
Rakas, Antony J., 635 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Redfield, Allen L., Palms To Pines Lodge, Cathedral City, Cal.
Reilly, Thomas E., Arlington Ave., Wyandoch, L. I., N. Y.
Reynolds, Kermit C., Rt. 3, Rovenna, Ohio.
Rozakis, Paul, 1419 8th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Roberts, William L., 2561 Seamlie Str, Memphis, Tenn.

Robinson, Emanuel H., 108 Forest Hill Drive, Asheville, N. C.
Rogers, Haywood M., Newville, W. Va.
Rose, Joseph 497 E. 4th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ristow, Arvin J., 802 W. Harris St., Appleton, Wis.
Rushworth, James 1442 North Field Ave., E. Cleveland, Ohio.
Rudy, John Tacoma, Wash.
Steele, Max 1559 E. 13th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sullivan, Daniel M., 302 W. 1st St., Oswego, N. Y.
Sacks, Melvin, 1024 Ridgely St., Baltimore, Md.
Samuelson, Vergil M., 601 Crocker Ave., Thief River Falls, Minn.
Saver, Raymond L., 1014 Sims St., St. Paul (Ramsy) Mich.
Schiavi, Dominick J., 18 Cherry St., N. Y., N. Y.
Seitzer, William L., 117 N. Oneida St., Green Bay, Wis.
Sentieri, Richard, 5901 21st Ave., Knapaha, Wis.
Sippie, Daniel J., 85 Main St., Moria, Penn.
Shanahan, Joseph L., 825 W. 56th St., Chicago, Ill.
Shoff, Morris, 645 Van Buren St., Gary, Ind.
Shaw, John G., 77 W. Grand Highland Park, Mich.
Smieska, Edward J., 1207 Alsdare St., Lansing, Mich.
Spolansky, Harry J., 172-90 Highland Ave., Jamaica, N. Y.
Sternberg, Donald R., Ironside, Oregon
Stone, Charles E., 501 S. Knight, Wichita, Kans.
Terzino, Alvin A., 23 Cherry Ave., Mt. Pleasant, Penn.
Thomas, Melvin G., 4544 9th N. E., Seattle, Wash.
Trammel, Knox B., Pideake Rt., Gatesville, Tex.
Tropp, Earnest E., 288 Grole St., Richmond, Ohio.
Venables, Donald C., 717 N. 50th, Seattle, Wash.
Veronese, Fred J., 1035 Spruce St., Ambridge, Pa.
Vrell, Jack E., N. Main St., Lewiston, Ill.
Valenti, Nofe, Rt. 2, Box 167C, Hammond, Ind.
Walter, Arthur L., 202 Matson Ave., Nillard, Ind.
Walsh, Cornelius A., 1419 S. Cardinal Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Webber, Charles A., 4572 Eastern, St. Louis, Mo.
Welsh, Jason E., Jr., Gen. Del., Turner, Tenn.
Wells, Warren D., 1600 S. 4th Ave., Maywood, Ill.
Wesseling, William B., 3750 Concord St., Detroit, Mich.
Wheeler, Carol E., 218 Jackson St., Madison, Wis.
White, Edward N., 184 Kingland Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Whitmore, Ernest Leroy, Bloomfield Ave., Rockaway Necks, N. J.
Wills, Griffin D., Rt. 1, Solado, Tex.
Wilson, Joe H., Whitby City, Ky.
Wood, Duane E., 127 Wyandotte St., Lancaster, Ohio.
Wishow, Edward W., 617 Mich. Ave., N. Fonel Dwlac, Wis.
Yanosky, Joseph C., 426 Howard St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
Zimmerman, Harold F., 2616 Windsor Ave., Debake, Iowa
Ziccardi, Carmine D., 14 N. Henry St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

COMPANY C

Abbondandolo, Fred A., 1326 Herkimer, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Adamiak, Robert L., 8438 Buckley Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Allison, David R., Star City, Ind.
Alpert, Sam, 298 Herman St., Detroit, Mich.
Anastasio, Joseph P., 57-20 163rd St., Flushing, N. Y.
Appley, Bartlett E., 1507 Turner N. W., Grand Rapids, Mich.
Bailey, Edward Jr., E. Washington, Montello, Fla.
Ballist, Ernest A., 12907 Parkhill, Cleveland, Ohio.
Bell, Edgar W., Rt. 2, Celest, Tex.
Bergute, Charles J., Briston Rd., Warrington, Pa.
Bigelow, Walter H., 8th St., Juniata, Pa.
Boone, Joseph R., 854 E. Wyoming St., Indianapolis, Ind.
Boss, Herbert, 934 Ponce Deleon Apt 1-A, Atlanta, Ga.
Braswell, Robert H., 212 Franklin St., Dublin, Ga.
Brown, Aaron W., 1016 Wheaton St., Savannah, Ga.
Browne, Harris C., Johnson Park, Salem, N. J.
Bruna, John H., R. F. D. 1, Pickrell, Neb.
Bregenhagen, Erwin F., Thompson Rd., Clarence, N. Y.
Bukrow, Donald F., 315 Hugusta St., Elmore, Ohio.
Burns, Daniel F., Jr., 131 N. Essex Ave., Orange, N. J.
Burton, John M., Jr., Grove Park, Fla.
Calderone, Anthony L., 3258 Morse Rd., Columbus, Ohio.
Cantrell, Thomas A., Rt. 1, Oakalla, Tex.
Cappa, Raymond F., 47 Castle Manor Ave., San Francisco, Cal.
Carney, Edward F., 42 Kensington Ave., Springfield, Mass.
Cartes, Lawrence B., 375 Sawyer St., Rochester, N. Y.
Carthers, Ross H., Rt. 1, Rock Hill, S. C.
Cato, Oscar R., 7287 7th Ave., S. St., Petersburg, Fla.
Ceardly, William E., Gen. Del., Vasper, Tenn.
Ceardly, Homer A., Rt. 1, Box 18, Briston, Okla.
Cermak, Theodore D., 3330 W. 54th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
Chaing, George G., 135 W. 69th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Churchill, Bruce W., R. D. 2, Belvidere, Ill.
Cicerella, Michael, Mt. Clair, N. Y.
Cingue, Jules G., 379 W. 125th Manhattan, N. Y.
Clapper, Charles E., R. D. 2, Pierce City, Mo.
Clark, John H., Rt. 1, Ashley, Mich.
Clenidine, Richard F., 605 Canton St., Detroit, Mich.
Cloud, James D., 645 Eastern Ave., Bellefontaine, Ohio.
Cockines, Frank C., 1119 Wennefred St., Charlotte, N. C.
Coffill, Charles F., 44 Albany Ave., Amityville, L. I., N. Y.
Couser, Harold L., 915 W. Madison St., Sioux Falls, S. D.
Cosky, Sarving, 287 Hartwell, Buffalo, N. Y.
Cox, Wilford B., 1011 Roan, Johnson City, Tenn.
Courtien, Francis J., 506 W. 178 St., N. Y., N. Y.
Crittelli, Joseph, 133-197 Ave., Richmond Hill, N. Y.
Crowder, Oral G., Shannon, Ga.
Crowe, June, Locust Branch, Ky.
Cullen, Harry E., 198 Virginia Ave., Shenandoah, Pa.
Cutler, Roy H., 1055 Finger Board Rd., Grasnieri, S. I., N. Y.
Cyrus, Garland, Fortgay, W. Va.
Davis, Hobart A., Box 16, Cummings, Cal.
Deason, Marvin, 1788 Wood St., Westmorroe, La.
De Felice, Fred, Maitland, W. Va.
De Mello, Elfonce, Whitefield, Fall River, Mass.
Demsey, Ezra, R. R. 5, Winslow, Ind.
Deusck, Louis F., 815 Cottage Grove St. S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
Dickenson, William J., 265 E. 200th St., Bronx, N. Y.
Dixon, Robert L., Bismark, N. D.
Doty, Curtis, 3426 St., Vincent, St. Louis, Mo.
Dunn, Travis, Rt. 4, Mt. Pleasant, Tex.
Elrod, Claude D., Gen. Del., Coppertown, Tenn.
Elsen, James S., 34 Gravel Pit Rd., Salamancas, N. Y.
Enneking, James B., Rt. 2, Melrose, Minn.
Ferrera, Joseph F., 26 Meruin St., Inwood, L. I., N. Y.
Fitzgerald, William J., 1204 Cliton Ave., Kalamasoo, Mich.
Foster, George J., 971 Davis St., San Leandro, Cal.
Fowler, William S., 18 School Terrace Bellasquer Westcolder
Midlothian, Scotland
Fox, Elmer, 3815 Miller St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Friedman, Robert J., 30 Colonia Solons, Tucson, Ariz.
Fulwood, James W., Rt. 1, Stantonville, Tenn.
Gathin, William E., 2120 E. Hillsborough Ave., SS 4, Zones 5,
Tampa, Fla.
Gick, Lester M., Rt. 2, Monroeville, Ind.
Goldback, Edgar C., 4504 N. Racine, Chicago, Ill.
Gottfried, Morton D., 11514 Hopkins Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
Gaus, Fredrick L., 108 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
Graz, Calvin A., 2nd 8 Paine St., Kiel, Wis.
Gredell, John P., 574 E. 139th Bronx, N. Y.
Hallisey, Charles H., 29 Beach St., Hartford, Conn.
Harris, Elmer J., 110 16th St., Clair Suite 14, Cleveland, Ohio
Hamrick, William E., 211 Dallas Pl., Spartsanberg, S. C.
Harves, Stanley C., 23 S. Virginia Ave., Brunswick, Md.
Herman, Edward W., 103 John St., Rensselaer, N. Y.
Hernandez, Benny S., Huston, Tex.
Herrera, Marcelino L., 595 W. 1st., San Pedro, Cal.

Hewatt, Thomas W.
Hill, Carl V., Jr., 3714 Brooklyn, Kansas City, Mo.
Holcomb, Howard D., 702 Goodyear Ave., Rockhurst, Ga.
Hughes, Doyle Woodsville, W. Va.
Hunt, Charles, 315 E. Maine St., Mt. Sterling, Ky.
Hunt, Russel B., 4216-80th St., Elmhurst, N. Y.
Hunter, John, 6195th St., Bemidji (Beltrami) Minn.
Iwanski, Arthur J., 2522 S. 4th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Jackson, David F., Grenshaw, Miss.
Jacomet, Gerard, Hickory St., Andover, Ohio.
Johnston, Ovale, Rt. 5, Chillicothe, Ohio.
Jones, Winfields, Box 191, Sloatsburg, N. Y.
Jordan, Howard E., Rt. 1, Bean Lake, Pa.
Jumper, Murice R., 316 Green Towns St., Findlay, Ohio.
Kadinger, Glen H., 1406 N. Maple Ave., Sioux Falls, S. D.
Kamerling, Tunis, 171 DeMotte Ave., Clifton, N. J.
Kamler, Harry, 1620-46th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Kammer, Harry G., Yale, Mich.
Kanopie, George J., Box 273 Maynard, Ohio.
Kelly, Frank W., Glendora, N. J.
Kelly, William B., Rt. 3, Bundmead, Cansapolis, Pa.
Kent, Fredrick W., 1329 Campbell St., Sandusky, Ohio.
Kerr, Richard A., 62 Division St., Coldwater, Mich.
Klemensky, Elmer, Star Rt., Flemington, N. Y.
Knauff, James H., 416 E. Mason St., Owosso, Mich.
Kropp, S. T., Van Hans, Tex.
Lamb, Donald R., 1221 Ohio, Flint, Mich.
Larson, Oral J., Rt. Hiwassi, Ark.
Larusso, Stephan, 588 2nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lasobock, Walter, Box 127, Atlasburg, Pa.
Lehman, George C., 3249W. 51st St., Chicago, Ill.
Liles, Mrke K., 1902 E. Grand Marshall, Tex.
Lobascio, Mikael A., 519 53rd St., Camden, N. J.
Lofano, John D., 25-52 99th St., E. Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.
Marconett, Henry, 912 Walnut St., Ottowa, Ark.
Mayfield, William A., Jr., 2032 Blud Drive N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
McClelland, Laura F., Scott City, Kans.
McClintock, Dean I., 798146 St. S., Seattle, Sash.
Michaels, Earl E., Rt. 1, Wabensville, Ohio.
Miller, Hershel H., Rt. 3, Liberty, Ky.
Minolina, Clarence, Box 355, Truman Ave., Mountainview, Cal.
Minogue, Patrick J., 41-21 Denman St., L. I., N. Y.
Mohr, Charles E., 4327 Hays Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Mucciarelli, William L., 36 W. Ingam Ave., Trenton, N. J.
Mudd, Arthur L., 400 Mildred Ave., East, St. Louis, Ill.
Mullins, Verlin P., Box 263 Wheelright, Ky.
Murch, Bennie, Rt. 1, Box 184 A, Tulare, Cal.
Orsini, Michael, 2166 Dean, Brooklyn Kings, N. Y.
Ortalan, Michael J., 1704 W. 60th St., Cleveland 6., Ohio.
Pace, Albert F., 279 Lincoln, Brooklyn N. Y.
Payne, Vesper O., Jr., Page, W. Va.
Paszynsky, Louis J., 2815 Forrest Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
Piejfice, Rudolph W., 2210 N. Church Salem, Oregon
Plunk, Amos C., Rt. 2, Bethlsping, Tenn.
Pollard, Thomas W., 276 Avery Terrace, Paynesville, Ohio.
Pongracz, Albert, Nellis, W. Va.
Quasky, Joseph, 603 W. St., Baltimore, Md.
Ramirez, Jose C., Marra, Tex.
Raney, George C., 302 E. 23rd St., Pinebluff, Ark.
Raymond, Robert H., Neligh, Nebraska
Reed, Jessie H., Rt. 1, Hawkins, Tex.
Reen, Joseph T., 30 Woods Ave., Summerville, Mass.
Repzynski, Theodore, 47-30 48th St., Woodside, L. I., N. Y.
Resetar, George J., 45-5 5th St., Struthers, Ohio.
Reynolds, William S., Schoolfield, Va.
Riggaboe, Bruce H., Carrboro, N. C.
Rulli, Arthur J., 634 W. Otterman St., Greensberg, Pa.
Rusko, Howard L., 1500 Church St., Ambridge, Pa.
Schlichting, Alua B., Box 1128 Eleacon, Cal.
Schmeling, Roland W., 613 S. Washington St., Watertown, Wis.
Scott, Haston O., Box 84, Redbay, Ala.
Simkins, Jim T., Jr., Rt. 1, Shirley, Ark.
Sitko, John J., Rt. 2, Alliance, Ohio.
Stempewaski, Stanley, 839 Glenwood, Ambridge, Pa.
Stickney, Willis E., Fedfralhill Pd., Wilford, N. H.
Stolts, Harold A., 3922 Fairview Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Strahle, Ralph H., 1605 N. Maple St., Decatur, Ill.
Stubbe, Louis J., Whittington, Ill.
Swokla, Joseph J., 16 E. 15th St., Bayonne, N. Y.
Teresky, Michael 87 2nd Ave., Koppel, Pa.
Thomas, Omar G., Linn, Mo.
Thomas, Donald L., 633 N., Morgan St., Portland, Oregon
Tomasky, Joseph G., 66 Mountain St., Suoyersville, Pa.
Uber, Harry F., 112 Porter St., Scottsdale, Pa.
Wagner, Herman, 127 W. 10th St., Holland, Mich.
Willis, Ward S., R. F. D. 1, Bluefield, W. Va.
Winkler, Joseph E., Cleveland, Ohio.
Williams, John A., Ducktown, Tenn.
Wood, Cleveland W., Rt. 1, Box 142, Wallace, N. C.
Wright, William R., Jr., Ackley, Iowa
Zeagley, Ned C., 315 3rd St., Defiance, Ohio.
Zoung, Irvin J., 503 Exchange Ave., Endicott, N. Y.
Zwierzynski, Walter, 162-4th Ave., Koppel, Pa.

COMPANY D

Adamczyk, Thaddeus J., 1204 S. Sparrt St., Chicago, Ill.
Adkins, George E., 510 Elizabeth St., Wilmar, Del.
Allen, Jack L., 3905 Brandon, Beaumont, Tex.
Altier, Robert C., 123 Loehr Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
Andert, Irving, Eastford, Conn.
Andrich, Jerry, 4724 14th Ave., Sacramento, Cal.
Balmes, Robert B., 814 Greenwood Ave., Glenview, Ill.
Banker, Robert C., 1504 Broadway, Superior, Wis.
Barbara, Vito J., 2668 E. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Barnes, Fred M., Rt. 1, Weatherford, Okla.
Baista, William 83 Frank St., Struthers, Ohio.
Bass, James W., Rt. 1, Ft. Valley, Ga.
Baxley, Clifton R., 2908 Garnet Rd., Parkville, Md.
Beauchamp, Ernest J., Iron Mt. Mich.
Becia, Andrew D., 3s. Main St., Danielson, Conn.
Bekwith, Seymour, Rt. 4, Rome, N. Y.
Bengton, Myron H., 4530 N. Menard Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Bill, Donald K., Waylad, N. Y.
Bird, Melvin E., 3101 Manchester Rd., Rt. 2, Middleton, Ohio.
Blanton, Homer L., Gen. Del., Chesnee, S. C.
Bledsoe, Charles W., Jr., Box 424, Haskell, Tex.
Blessing, George H., 2316 N. W. 33rd St., Okla. City, Okla.
Blumenthal, Murray M., 901 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Bowie, Colvin L., Pisgah, Md.
Bowen, Roland H., Huntington, Md.
Bowen, Howard B., 1053 N. Cherry St., Winston-Salem, N. C.
Bowman, Joseph D., 3350 Bewedere Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Boone, Cecil W., Rt. 2, Winfield, Tenn.
Bray, Clyde A., 42 E. Ave., Red Lion, Pa.
Brenneman, Charles R., 42 E. Ave., Red Lion, Pa.
Briggs, Robert J., 5314 S. Emerald Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Brockman, Ralph R., Rt. 3, Covington, Ky.
Brown, Donald D., 7401 4th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Calhoun, Elwood, Star Rt., Hazlehurst, Ga.
Calyout, James L., 1301 W. 40th St., Baltimore, Md.
Campbell, LaMar J., Rt. 3, Gastonia, N. C.
Capps, Norris D., Rt. 3, Gastonia, N. C.
Carpenter, Woodrow C., Box 505 Lamesa, Tex.
Cemore, Alfred J., 2423 Drake Pk., Des Moines, Iowa
Chambers, Ronald, Box 175, Abingdon, Ill.

Chapman, Fay E., Baylis, Ill.
 Cheshire, James F., 133 Chestnut, Keyser, W. Va.
 Christo, Takis A., 212 S. Monroe, Albany, Ga.
 Clarke, Thomas A., 3147 Keswick Rd., Baltimore, Md.
 Cleveland, Thomas M., Tyler, Tex.
 Coffey, Clyde R., Rt. 1, Box 216, Littlefield, Tex.
 Collins, Benjamin, Rt. 1, Box 20, Laveon, Ariz.
 Colvin, George E., 626 Kersher, Maimbaum, Ohio.
 Conter, Clarence E., Flushing, Ohio.
 Connelly, Delbert H., 425 Bird St., Covington, Ky.
 Corame, Milton S., 4008 Baltimore St., Haletheopie, Md.
 Corcoran, Edward, 875 N. Farson W., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Countryman, Marion J., 530 N. E. 9th St., Okla. City, Okla.
 Cristiano, Rosario F., 157-850, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Cummings, James D., 33 N. Park Rd., La Grange, Ill.
 Daily, Harold L., Box 43, Greentown, Ohio.
 Danielson, Francis C., Rt. 1, Box 1, Luck, Wis.
 Davis, Jack M., Rt. 1, Greensboro, N. C.
 Davis, Ralph H., 831 Morse Lee St., Evanston, Wyo.
 DeMarinis, Anthony, 699 Jackson Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 DeMartino, Anthony G., 1334 63rd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Denby, Tom E., 13501 Cormere Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Diekey, Autley, 6615 St., Augustine, Houston, Tex.
 Dietzel, Everett D., Rt. 2, Jamestown, Mo.
 Donofrio, Albert A., 2201 W. 9th St., Wilmington, Del.
 Durham, Wilbur C., 113 Camben St., Jackson, Tenn.
 Dewart, Wayne E., Box 45, Horseshoe Bend, Idaho.
 Eaton, Claude H., 1155 Shepherd St., Peterburg, Va.
 Esposito, Argentina D., 61 Glenmore Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Farris, Sam, 510 9th St., Port Arthur, Tex.
 Fant, James E., 36 Clark St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Fisher, Nathan J., 10708 Tacoma Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Forkner, Vernon L., Rt. 8, Spokane, Wash.
 Forman, Martin, 2002 Blaine, Detroit, Mich.
 Fraker, Leo D., Ft. Littleton, Pa.
 Gallagher, Cornelius J., Jr., 1746 S. 54th St., Phila., Pa.
 Gang, George B., 2294 E. Wood Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Garrison, Ernest, 3001 Washington Blvd, Chicago, Ill.
 Gaudin, Henry W., Summerfield, N. Y.
 Gibson, Robert W., Box 25, Summit, Ore.
 Gilbert, Glenn E., Altona, Wis.
 Gilliam, Charles F., Rt. 6, Aphens, Ala.
 Goble, Hugh H., 1303 N. Woodlawn, Bloomington, Ind.
 Goff, Merle F., 10 Burton St., Westbrook, Maine.
 Goodin, Oscar H., 1937 Central Ave., Ashland, Ky.
 Govlick, Joseph S., 306 Vine St., Old Forge, Pa.
 Goldberg, Herbert I., 21 Morris St., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Grey, Robert H., Gen. Del. Colfax, N. Y.
 Green, Norman L., Box 32, Willow Springs, Mo.
 Greendeer, Lyle, Wyeville, Wis.
 Grecnik, Michael J., 4837 S. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Grisham, Oscar G., Jr., 4217 W. 9th Ave., Amarilla, Tex.
 Gryzbowski, Chester, 3125 N. Mississippi, Portland, Ore.
 Guthrie, Charles H., 2517 Race, Independence, Mo.
 Harmaza, Stephen J., 1010 Hegeman St. Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Harper, Emerson L., Bridgeville, Del.
 Harris, Andrew J., Eastaboga, Ala.
 Hendrix, Clyde J., 414 N. 3rd Sapulpa, Okla.
 Henlein, Martin A., 226 Goethe St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Herzog, Ralph, Rt. 3, Paducah, Ky.
 Hiestand, Dale L., 2510 Madison Ave., Granite City, Ill.
 Hoelfing, Paul D., 2414 East St., Sacramento, Cal.
 Hoffman, George M., 1417 E. Oak, Niles, Mich.
 Hollingsworth, Lewis F., 427 Ann Elizabeth St., Pekin, Ill.
 Horton, Robert D., Sigel Rd., Brookville, Pa.
 Hovecamp, Joe H., Rt. 3, Paducah, Ky.
 Huber, Roscoe R., Ellsworth, Wis.
 Janssen, Melvin A., Schirvew Rd., Haysprings, Neb.
 Jedryski, Stanley, 200 Hanburg St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Kanceliskis, Frank P., 2543 W. 47th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Keller, Francis J., 4080 Columbus, Detroit, Mich.
 Keller, Kenneth, Dongola, Ill.
 Kelley, Richard W., 405 Main St., Haverhill, Conn.
 Kerr, Robert D., Rt. 1, Beavertown, Pa.
 Kief, Gilbert C., Rt. 1, Box 163, Martinsburg, W. Va.
 Kendrick, Loren E., 731 Washington Ave., Hagerstown, Md.
 Kooyumjian, Edward H., 4503 N. Magnolia, Chicago, Ill.
 Kowal, Chester W., 324-6 Bradford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Kress, Glenn R., Potsdam, Ohio.
 Kubacko, Mike Jr., 540 Douglas St., N. E. Warren, Ohio.
 Lane, Tom E., Alluwe, Okla.
 Laughter, James T., Rt. 1, Rutherfordon N. C.
 Lent, Carl H., Rt. 1, Otego, N. Y.
 Little, Archer S., 1180 Singletary Ave., San Jose, Cal.
 Livengood, Clell, 218 W. Bartlett St., South Bend, Ind.
 Lochfeld, La Vergne P., St. Henry, Ohio.
 Long, Christian, Box 2, Lawn, Pa.
 Looby, Martin L., 854 Main Ave., Greenwood, R. I.
 Lucas, George, Box 143, Houtzdale, Pa.
 Lueder, Harold H., 403 N. Spring St., Elgin, Ill.
 Maciejewski, Edward, 3657 E. Armour, Cudahy, Wis.
 Mallicoat, Kenneth D., 811 S. 12th St., Marshalltown, Iowa.
 Mann, William F., Finksburg, Md.
 Martin, Johnnie H., Pontiac, Mo.
 Marzelli, Francis A., Kuser Rd., Trenton, N. J.
 Mazzetti, Michael D., 2035 Pointview Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Mason, Ralph, Rt. 1, Box 482-A, Spanaway, Wash.
 Mastrogannes, Peter, 4529 3rd Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Melesky, John J., Iron, Mt. Mich.
 Miller, Charles T., Rt. 6, Box 757, Portland, Ore.
 Miller, William J., 421 E. 102nd St., New York, N. Y.
 Misiak, Stanley J., 6175 Petersmith, Detroit, Mich.
 Morgan, Clyde R., Rt. 4, Franklin, Ky.
 Morrison, Richard E., 3927 Terrace, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Murton, Crawford B., 230W. 16th St., Chicago Hts, Ill.
 Murray, James E., 7220 Forest Ave., Hammond, Ind.
 Musgrave, Kestle D., Rt. 5, Waynesburg, Pa.
 McClarty, Edward L., 227 Camino Delmar, San Francisco, Cal.
 McCorkle, Alonzo, Rt. 1, Bradford, Ark.
 McDowell, James M., 909 Herman St., Rapid City, S. D.
 McEnery, Francis J., 9 Rockford Rd., Wilmington, Del.
 McKeehan, Francis G., 3724 Warwick, Mo.
 Nichols, Cecil L., 831 Meridian St., Shelbyville, Ind.
 Ocker, Allen C., 1027 Florence Ave., E. McKeesport, Pa.
 O'Neill, Charles A., 307 Army St., San Francisco, Cal.
 O'Neill, Timothy J., 223 E. 74th St., New York City, N. Y.
 Passarella, Anthony R., 49-15 Vernon Ave., L. I., N. Y.
 Pappas, Alexander, 3324 S. E. 9th St., Portland, Ore.
 Panchelli, Domenick A., 508 Ligonier St., Latrobe, Pa.
 Peurrung, Albert, 922 Garden St., Middleton, Ohio.
 Porter, Walter, 112 W. Dorothy Lane, Dayton, Ohio.
 Pittman, Lloyd R., 906 S. Colorado St., Midland, Tex.
 Quigley, Sherwood P., Wilton, Conn.
 Quinn, Raymond, 530 E. 159th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Revelle, Wm D., 212 N. Union St., Concord, N. C.
 Rhome, Wilford D., Rt. 3, Box 74, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 Rich, Lawrence W. W., Rt. 2, St. John, Kans.
 Rimoldi, Reno P., Box 111, Darlington, Pa.
 Risch, Robert H., Rt. 1, Whitelaw, Wis.
 Rollo, Lester J., 94 Phillips St., Weymouth, Mass.
 Rummel, Albert H., Meridian St., Reese, Mich.
 Rowlands, Robert G., 241 N. Water St., Sharon, Pa.
 Russel, Paul R., Rt. 1, Ikwon, Ohio.
 Rygalski, Ralph W., 221E. 1st St., Oglesby, Ill.
 Roberts, Lewis D., 1480 Beatie Ave., S. W. Atlanta, Ga.
 Sala, Patrick J., 67 Powers St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Santucci, Rocco F., 37-13 102nd St., Corona, N. Y.
 Saylor, Richard P., Beavertown, Pa.
 Seelsa, Anthony F., 29 Orient Way, Lyndhurst, N. J.
 Schiller, Donald S., 18473 Woodingham Drive, Detroit, Mich.
 Scharf, Mac M., 1335 Lincoln Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Schmidt, Robert G., 2114 N. 1st St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Schwartz, Melvin C., Rt. 4, Comanche, Texas.
 Shaheen, Joseph, 43 Ston St., Danbury, Conn.
 Shifflett, Raymond J., Stanardsville, Va.
 Shimkus, Michael J., 12 Elliot St., New Phila., Pa.
 Shrive, William E., Rt. 4, Hartford City, Ind.
 Smart, Wellington C., 745 N. 37th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Snyder, Charles A., 925 E. Mahoney St., Mahoney City, Pa.
 Spada, Anthony, 160 Pearl St., Malden Mass.
 Spak, Alex. Jr., Rt. 3, Andover, Conn.
 Spinato, John S., 22 Ann St., New Haven, Conn.
 Stanley, Elmer L., 1055 Cumberland Rd. S. E., Atlanta, Ga.
 Stecker, Edward M., 239 E. Ave., Mt. Carmel, Va.
 Stewart, Ray E., 10 N. E. 16th St., Portland, Ore.
 Stoner, Carl L., Rt. 5, Salisbury, N. C.
 Suozzo, John D., Waterbury, Conn.
 Swartz, Robert V., 815 Broadway St., Martin Ferry, Ohio.
 Swiger, Tony J., 613 Stevenson St., Farrel, Pa.
 Taggart, John K., 204 S. Heald St., Wilmington, Del.
 Tarris, Adrian R., 1050 S. Lake St., Marquette, Mich.
 Taylor, Willis E., 244 East Greene St., Waynesburg, Pa.
 Tesovich, William C., 265 First St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Thompson, James L., Shelbyna, Mo.
 Thompson, J. W., Albertville, Ala.
 Tieman, Louis R., 528 N. Luzerne St., Baltimore, Md.
 Tingley, Arthur R., 206 W. Carroll St., Portage, Wis.
 Tobat, Thomas W., East New Market, Md.
 Thompkins, Sam E., 1216 N. O. St., Lakewood, Fla.
 Townsend, Lee R., Rt. 1, Etowah, Tenn.
 Troutman, Raney E., Rt. 1, Box 133, Gold Hill, N. C.
 Tsucholski, Eugene, 5606 Orey Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Ventress, Harold R., 519 State St., Alton, Ill.
 Vando, Pasquale A., 35 Rossmore St., Summerville, S. C.
 Van Outer, Henry, 4091-2 Lafayette, Lexington, Ky.
 Van Tassel, F. H. Jr., 8 S. 4th St., Hudson, N. Y.
 Wade, Vernon B., 209 S. Mulberry St., Wilmington, Ohio.
 Wagoner, Sam., Goddard, Ky.
 Walmer, Moses F., 505 N. 7th St., Lebanon, Pa.
 Wanosik, Stephen P., 114 S. 20th St., Dennison, Ohio.
 Weaver, Ralph, Rt. 1, Covington, Ohio.
 Webb, Eugene B., 100 Glasscock St., Alcoa, Tenn.
 Whitaker, Kenneth J., 105 Parkway Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Weidman, Henry W., Rt. 3, Lebanon, Pa.
 Willard, Charles F., W. Main St., Thurmont, Md.
 Wilson, Harold V., Red Lion, Pa.
 Wilson, Horace L., Bluford, Ill.
 Wilson, Monroe, Dyas, Ala.
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 Zahl, Charles E., Moberly, Mo.
 Zelonis, Vincent E., 338 E. Market St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
 Zamora, Adam, 1009 Vers Cruz St., San Antonio, Tex.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2ND BATTALION

Adkins, Pearly W., R. F. D. 1, Box 116, Branchland, W. Va.
 Anderson, Clifford E., McConnellsville, Ohio.
 Anderson, James K., 599 E. South St., Akron, Ohio.
 Alonzo, Rodolfo, 136 Klein St., Topeka, Kansas
 Altier, Robert C., 123 Lochr Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
 Backes, Russell A., 1127 No. 12th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Balderrama, Juventino R., P. O., Sumerset, Tex.
 Barletta, Harold A., 115 W. 190th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Bender, Alfred A., 1516 Ohioview Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Berg, Harold R., 28 S. Honore St., Chicago, Ill.
 Baur, John R., Eaton, Ind.
 Bogucki, Eugene C., 1144 Buckingham, Toledo, Ohio.
 Bopp, Robert L., 815 W. Brighton Ave., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Bournakis, Nicholas, 15 Franklin St., Franklin Sq., L. I., N. Y.
 Brammer, Herbert F., Route 4, Saineville, Ohio.
 Bridgeford, Burton W., Rt. 1, Cedar Grove, Ind.
 Brock, Jimmie L., 2640 DuPont, Shreveport, La.
 Brown, George W., 702-5th Ave., S. Estherville, Iowa.
 Browning, William F., 710 N. Chestnut, Scottsdale, Pa.
 Brunner, Hans P., 3537-78th St., Jackson Hgts., L. I., N. Y.
 Burkhardt, Francis, Rt. 3, Louisville, Ohio.
 Burrows, Robert D., 1229 Thomas Ave., Charlotte, N. C.
 Carpenter, Kenneth, Zephyr Hills, Fla.
 Case, Paul F., Wheeler, Mich.
 Chambaasian, Sam., R. R. 1, Box 350, Racine, Wis.
 Chapman, Irvin S., Shady Knoll Pt., Park Falls, Wis.
 Cherry, Wallace C., 5609 S. Junett, Tacoma, Wash.
 Covell, Philip E., %Hockstra Roffing Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Covington, George W., 6106 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Cusick, Michael J., 267 Jefferson Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Cunningham, Otho, Franklin, Tex.
 Daulton, Ora P., 117 N. 5th, Upper Sandusky, Ohio.
 Dean, Garland W., Box 531 Youngsville, Va.
 DeStefano, Nicholas F., Winslow Rd., Winslow, N. J.
 Dodd, Robert F., 2214 Jefferson St., Anderson, Ind.
 Duckworth, Thomas W., 3924 - 9th Ave., Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Eppler, Ralph E., 1273 Quebec Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Farquharson, Don D., Box 155, Hoytville, Ohio.
 Faust, Eugene C., 135-3rd St., Passaic, N. J.
 Pegley, Leroy, Quakake, Pa.
 Pink, Theodore A., Fowler, Ave., Westphalia, Mich.
 Fischer, William, Kulm, N. Dak.
 Flynn, John E., 157-19 Quince Ave., Flushing L. I., N. Y.
 Gernadnick, Edward, 516 Highland Ave., Canonsburg, Pa.
 Gernheuser, Elmer, 4112 Caroline Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Goggans, Aubrey T., Star Rt., Ft. Payne, Ala.
 Golden, Henry, 120W. 57th St., New York, N. Y.
 Greecek, Frank, Box 133, Coral, Pa.
 Gross, Edwin M., 1620 Gardener Ave., Charlston, W. Va.
 Griffin, Gerald B., 25 Edgewood Ave., Greenwich, Conn.
 Gruber, Jesse L., R. R. 7, Lima, Ohio.
 Harant, Edward, 2657 N. Kedgie Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Harper, Donald C., 310 E. Flower Ave., Watertown, N. Y.
 Harvey, Robert L., 528 Walnut St., Anderson, Ind.
 Hasting, Charles D., General Delivery, Williamsport, Ohio.
 Hayes, Robert, 1002-17th St., Bedford Ind.
 Hayward, Richard H., Tt. 4, Fremont, Mich.
 Helton, Virgil L., Rt. 2, Wagoner, Okla.
 Henkel, Frank W., 7028-69th Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Hentges, Roman H., Blackduck, Minn.
 Hoare, Robert T., 3354 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 House, George S., Hustontown, Pa.
 Howell, John R., 90 W. Portland St., Phoenix, Ariz.
 Hughes, Edward H., 1212 Castlewood Ave., Louisville, Ky.
 Johnson, John F., 102 N. Adler, Aberdeen, Wash.
 Jones, Lloyd S., 1537 - 38th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
 Justice, Fred H., 65 Elm St., Tonawanda, N. Y.
 Kabrich, Roy A., 2208 Chase St., Anderson, Ind.
 Kelley, William, Newport News, Va.
 Kellis, Leonard J., 1320 Vance St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Klein, John, 114-16-134th St., S. Ozone Pk., L. I., N. Y.
 Kleinf, Alfred J., Rt. 1, Custer, Wis.
 Knight, Harold E., Hudson, S. Dak.
 Krotkosky, John, R. D. 3, Box 299, Johnstown, Pa.
 Krute, Everett A., R. D. 1, Root Rd., Elyria, Ohio.

Lehman, Earle F., Jacobus, Pa.
 Loomis, William J., 406 E. Oak St., Butler, Ind.
 McCrea, Ralph M., Main St., Minerva, Ohio.
 McIntyre, Richard F., Gen. Del., Dulzura, Cal.
 McKinley, George, 1705 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Magee, Ralph, 824 S. Jefferson Apt. 108, Springfield, Mo.
 Manley, Robert, 1304 Schley, Nampa, Idaho
 Mansnerus, Harlan H., 2025 W. Farragut, Chicago, Ill.
 Marshall, Joseph, 676 San Francisco, Pajoma, Cal.
 Martinez, Pedro, 545 W. 111th St., Apt. 88, N. Y.
 McKee, Edgar S., 316 W. Calhoun St., Sumter, S. C.
 McLaughlin, Donald L., Dink, W. Va.
 May, Robert W., 124 E. Whitney Ave., Shelby, Ohio.
 Meister, John E., 2890 Montana Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Melnick, Victor, 2924 W. 3rd St., Chester, Pa.
 Miller, Paul A.E., 16th & John Sts., Corning, Iowa.
 Mulland, John, 307 E. 188th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Mueller, Wilfred G., Regal, Minn.
 Nabors, Buford V., 221 Church St., Mangum, Okla.
 Napier, Bernard J., Valmeier, Ill.
 Nevetta, Anthony, 575 Lorimer St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Norman, Gerald R., R. F. D. 3, Newcomerstown, Ohio.
 Olenski, Joe C., 405 Tower Ave., Superior, Wis.
 Oles, Merton F., 36 Spring St., Chatham, N. Y.
 Ott, Lester J., 5008 N. E. Broadway, Portland, Ore.
 Overgoner, Clarence J., Rt. 5, Halbettsville, Tex.
 Plante, William H., 521 Lansing St., Utica, N. Y.
 Poreca, Michael, 844 Vernon Pk. Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 Porter, William R., 512 Cornwall, Waterloo, Iowa.
 Posillico, Mario J., 1915 Edison Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Powell, Kenneth M., Garretson, S. Dak.
 Prediger, Warren J., 114 W. 16th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Price, Joseph W., 454 Ocean Ave., Malverne, N. Y.
 Radke, Edmund L., Rd. #1, Dewitt, Mich.
 Raymond, Norman K., 335 1/2 Highland, San Mateo, Cal.
 Repsher, Robert W., 12 Allen St., Detoeing, N. J.
 Rickson, Philip H., 37 Miller St., Plattsburgh, N. Y.
 Rivera, Francisco, 9025 Exposition, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Robbins, Posy S., Cincinnati, Iowa.
 Ruby, Lester C., 2nd Ave., Kappel, Pa.
 Rudokas, Peter P., 2917 Mars Hall Ave., Sioux City, Iowa.
 Rusnak, John J., 1470 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Russell, Raymond R., 196 Stanwood, Providence, R. I.
 Sacatch, John G., 3700 E. 124th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Salmon, Eldredge, 405 1/2 Winnie St., Houston, Tex.
 Scherer, James F., Scottsville, Kan.
 Schwarz, Frederick, 2612 N. Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Sewell, James D., Jr., Fairbanks, Ala.
 Shoemaker, Jack, Box 123, Sedalia, Ohio.
 Shuter, Thomas, 21 Myrtle St., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Slavinski, Walter, 206 Harrison St., Patterson, N. J.
 Smith, Dave, Box 173, Saltville, Va.
 Sloditskie, Andrew, Rd. #1, Sunbury, Pa.
 Spencer, David, 228 Union St., Bluefield, W. Va.
 Stanley, Harry, 513 Athens St., Gainesville, Ga.
 Start, Arthur, 1401 Rathbone St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Stuerer, Clyde E., R. R. #1, Box 47, Garden Prairie, Ill.
 Stumbaugh, James T., #2, Dover, Ark.
 Tortorello, Dominic, 564 Fox St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Uber, Paul E., 417 Westmore S., Howell, Mich.
 Underwood, William H.,
 Van Fleet, James K., 541-2nd St., Webster City, Iowa.
 Vaz, Francisco Jr., 2430 W. 111th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Vinsel, Ewin C., 1400 Ninth St., Cuyahoga, Falls, Ohio.
 Wade, Neal O., Jr., 2636 Jefferson Park, Charlottesville, Va.
 Wagner, Edward F., R. R. #1, Reedsburg, Wis.
 Walker, Archie, 36 Kelley St., Paris, Ky.
 Walker, Homer A., 1011 W. 16th St., Plainview, Tex.
 Waters, John O., Gen. Del., Sallisau, Okla.
 Witte, Williard E., 2708 N. Mozart, Chicago, Ill.
 Yommer, Bruce O., Grantsville, Md.
 Zaikowsky, George J., 227 Mott Ave., Burlington, N. J.
 Zerangue, George J., 11638 Riverside Dr., N. Hollywood, Cal.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2ND BATTALION

Collin P. Williams, 1204 Eleld Ave, Syracuse, N. Y.
 John C. Barney Jr., 2107 Burnett St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Roy L. Dye, Box 823 Bisbee, Arizona.
 Lon D. Marlowe, 1346 S. Hudson, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Rex B. Wilson, 2847 1/2 Leeward Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Herbert O. Shaw, 1433 Jeanette, Wichita, Kans.
 Jesse R. Emery, 900 W. Parker St., Waterloo, Iowa
 Norbert, Gengler
 James Mac Gregor, 2187 S. W. Kingscourt, Portland, Ore.
 Adler, Emanuel T., 91 Corbin Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Alexander, William E., 735 N. Reservoir, Lancaster, Pa.
 Andretta, Alfonso, 6 Lloyd Pl., Freehold, N. J.
 Allen, Milton, Hallowell Rd., Rt. #2, Norristown, Pa.
 Anich, Louis, Rt. #1, Mukwong, Wis.
 Austin, Grafton T., Jr., 4316 Ave. M, Galveston, Tex.
 Balulis, Anthony E., 219 Richmond St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Bahr, Joseph F., 3149 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Banachowski, Daniel, 1550 Nebraska Ave., Tole do, Ohio.
 Bard, Isiah S., 11 York St., Dorchester, Mass.
 Beck, Harold V., 915 Turner Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Billero, Joseph, 24 Gray St., Jersey City, N. J.
 Bodie, Edward
 Brown, Charles T., Gen. Del., Eagletown, Okla.
 Burnett, Gene J., 215 Gale St., Aurora, Ill.
 Cann, William W., Mentor, Ky.
 Ciliberti, Joseph, 740 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
 Claps, James J., 54 Bay 14th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Cirifci, Aurelio
 Cohen, Carl
 Collins, Gayle W., 19 Church St., Phelps, N. Y.
 Constantine, William
 Crowell, Simon P., 430 W. Broad St., Griffin Ga.
 Crawford, Dwight D., Dodge City, Kans.
 Czuliniski, Chester
 D'Alesandro, Philip, 301 E. 11th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Doege, Arnold, R. D. #2, Cambria, Wis.
 Duffy, Fred, Box 36, Newport, Ohio.
 DiGioia, Michael J., 2706 E. County Line, R. D., Ardmore, Pa.
 Diggle, Robert
 DePalma, Michael, Waterford, N. J.
 Eckberg, Harold, Box 242, Waynat, Ill.
 Edgahl, Thomas
 Fealy, Edward B., 708 E. 104th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Ferguson, Elbert O.
 France, Wilmer, 7100 Wardman Rd., Baltimore, Md.
 Gifford, Vernon E., 56 Chittenden Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Gill, John P.
 Gittleman, William, 603 E. Wyoming Ave., Phila, Pa.
 Gluchowski, Eugene G., Kulpmont, Pa.
 Godbey, Delton, 248 Avalon St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Grover, Earl, 246 Burns St., Camden, N. J.
 Gutowski, Walter, 385 A, 12th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Hakim, Harold B., 168 South St., Jersey City, N. J.
 Hallenbeck, Warl L., Canadea, N. Y.
 Hager, Sheldon, 1047 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Hamilton, George
 Harvey, Joseph F.,

Heiss, Lynn S., 537 Greenhurst Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Hendrix, Alva D., Granite, Okla.
Hill, Frank S., Argone, Wis.
Hines, Vergil B., 13155 Water Rd., Chelsea, Mich.
Imhoff, Dohald H., Hamilton, Ohio.
Kehoe, Kenneth, R. F. D. #1, Milford, Iowa
Kelly, Robert J.
Kelly, James
King, Frank H., Parkersburg, W. Virginia
Koch, Clifford W., 48 Bates Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
Kuchy, Peter P., 1016 Niagara Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
Kuczek, Henry J., 3701 W. Dickens, Chicago, Ill.
Lightcap, Joseph C., 33 N. 33rd Ave., Camden, N. J.
Lockhart, Arthur A., Box 218, Palos Verdes Estates, Cal.
Long, Russell R., Russell, Iowa
Longueira, Antonio, 219 Madison St., N. Y., N. Y.
Lopresti, Rocco J., 183 Starr St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Macolino, Louis J., 115 42 238th St., Elmont, L. I., N. Y.
Marks, Donald M., 516 Woodbourne Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Martin, William J., Lincoln, Nebraska
Masur, Francis J., 136 S. Quince St., Mt. Carmel, Pa.
McDevitt, William
McNally, William J.
McChesney, William
Miller, John H., 520 N. 9th St., La Crosse, Wis.
Muehr, Bernard, 2407 Prospect St., La Crosse, Wis.
Murphree, Hosey V. Sr., 303 Marburg St., Dallas, Tex.
Newman, Braxton, 121 Koehler St., San Antonio, Tex.
Orem, Clyde, 2807 Miles Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Panamas, Joseph C., 5628 S. Sangamon St., Chicago, Ill.
Peterson, Vincent
Pfister, Norbert L.
Pfundheller, Gilbert., Spooner, Wis.
Phillips, Robert M., Glen Springs, S. C.
Porges, John M., 35 Hamilton, Pl., N. Y., N. Y.
Quinn, John F., 472 E. 140th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Raub, Floyd E., 519 E. 8th St., South Sioux City, Neb.
Renfro, James G., 424 Ottawa St., Louisville, Ky.
Renfro, Norman
Renfrow, Joseph
Roker, Myron B., Clatonis, Neb.
Rosoff, Abe, 204 Legion St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rozovics, John, 515 S. Tallman Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Schlegler, Fred W., Jr., Box 41, Bretz, W. Va.
Schmidt, John L., 604 N. Montford Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Scott, LaVerne R., 1526 9th St., Muskegon Hgts, Mich.
Seaman, Ernest W., 214 N. Peterboro St., Canastota, N. Y.
Sopkin, Marvin F., 2140 S. Harding Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Stevens, Roy L., Central City, Ky.
Stevens, Orval B., 2114 N. Rogers, Springfield, Mo.
Stout, Charles, 338 Union St., Napoleon, Ohio.
Styduhar, Thomas J., 131 N. Water St., Sharon, Pa.
Swadey, Frederick F., 1488 Montague Ave., Muskegon, Mich.
Thomas, Clair L., Box 373, Malad City, Idaho.
Thompson, James, 107 4th St., Wilmington, Del.
Thompson, Donald K., Long Prairie, Minn.
Thue, Richard O.
Vaughan, Edgar, 922 McClurkin Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Volgarino, Woodrow, 303 Garden St., Mount Holly, N. J.
Weaver, Billy E., 3714 S. 28th Ave., Tulsa, Okla.
Wheatley, George W., 124 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.
Wood, Stanley V., Jr., 334 S. Franklin St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Zubris, John S., 60 Clay St., New Philadelphia, Pa.

COMPANY E

Ackley, Lee A., E. Maehicis, Maine.
Ablight, Rudolph S., 1511 Coolidge Ave., Aurora, Ill.
Alger, Lewis E., Overall, Va.
Alessi, Frank R., 1353-61st., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Alushin, Michael, 513 Wilson Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Angel, Leonard J., 4063 Lillibridge, Detroit, Mich.
Anderson, James H., Rt. 2, Hickman, Ky.
Arbia, Joseph, 3425-101st St., Corona, L. I., N. Y.
Ardoin, Kelly, Box 99, Eunice, La.
Armen, Patrick, 2825 Frink St., Scranton, Pa.
Asbell, Robert W., R. R. 3, Baxter Springs, Kans.
Atchison, Darrell E., 627 S. Sycamore, Centraillia, Ill.
Atzrott, Joseph V., 15 Dingsen St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Ault, Lawrence G., Naylor, Missouri.
Bailey, Thomas M., Rt. 4, Box 28, Sullivan, Mo.
Barbosa, Theodore Jr., 3008 Marjoissin Ave., El Paso, Tex
Barton, Joe J., Rt. 1, Bastrop, Tex.
Baldwin, George R., Rt. 3, Adairville, Ky.
Ballard, Clifton L., R. F. D. 2, Bennington, Okla.
Barnard, Clyde E., Gen. Del., Bixby, Okla.
Bartlett, Joseph E., 612 Santa Clara St., Fellmore, Cal.
Bashlor, James L., Dorchester Station, Ga.
Baston, James W., 211 W. 11th St., Stillwater, Okla.
Baysinger, Clifford Jr., R. F. D. 2, Baxter Springs, Mo.
Bennett, Earl W., Rt. 1, McChisky, N. D.
Bennett, Omer H., Gen. Del., Emmett, Ark.
Beattie, Quentin J., Rt. 4, Shelby, N. C.
Benevides, Joseph D., 104 Cedar St., Rihobath, Mass.
Benoit, Clement P., 59 Warner St., Hudson, Mass.
Benestante, Arthur, Box 76, Dickinson, Tex.
Bennitt, Russell W., 407-1/2 LWW, South Bend, Ind.
Bernard, Stanley E., R. R. 1, Minster, Ohio.
Bishop, Louis J., 116 W. 1st Ave., N. Wildwood, N. J.
Bisallion, Herman J., 5944 S. Kolin Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Bobb, Frank W., R. F. D. 2, Norristown, Pa.
Boisab, Albert J., 23456 Ave., K. Chicago, Ill.
Beyer, Joseph P., 107 W. 11th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Bogges, Harry W., 917 Bellevue Pl., Indianapolis, Ind.
Bochian, Elmo, 747-1/2 Virginia St., W. Charleston, W. Va.
Bourke, James J., 47-21 189th St., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
Bourne, Don A., 1714 S. E., 55th St., Portland, Ore.
Bowers, George H., 1219 South St., Baltimore, Md.
Bowers, George E.
Bowers, Wade F.
Bowers, Thomas W., 169 E. 28th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Brain, Jacob R., Box 125, Forrest Rd., Budd Lake, N. J.
Bradford, Carl T., R. F. D. 2, England, Ark.
Billips, Raymond, 411 Deerfield, Lansing, Mich.
Blackwood, Henry C., Gen. Del., Walterboro, N. C.
Briggs, Albert L., 502 E. Green, Gallup, New Mexico.
Broadrick, Donald O., Rt. 1, Greenbrier, Tenn.
Brooks, Claude E., R. R. 3, Athens, Ga.
Brown, Roy E., Rt. 2, Rolla, Missouri.
Bryer, Jack R., 1151 Benica Rd., Vallejo, Cal.
Buono, Tom, 6 Bowes Pl., Passaic, N. J.
Bushee, William G., 3406 Abbey St., Kalamasoo 22, Mich.
Butler, Lewis G., Cotton Plant, Ark.
Butler, Robert L., Diamond Springs, Cal.
Carper, Sherman, Gen. Del., Limestone, Tenn.
Champagne, Peter E., Houma, La.
Crabtree, Conan B., Selmer, Tenn.
Cherniski, Edward F., 2453 Bennett Ct., Hazelton, Pa.
Cheshire, James V., Box 122, Citra, Fla.
Christie, Richard, 7 Willard St., Boston, Mass.
Chiaroli, Henry B., 611 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Clark, Leo J., 122 Mill St., Pittston, Pa.
Clark, Kenneth S., 910 W. Kirby St., Detroit, Mich.
Clarkson, Jerome
Cloutier, Chas. J.

Coaty, Leroy V., Star Rt. 1, Durand, Wis.
Cochran, Franklin C., 1035 Central, Kansas City, Kans.
Cohen Morris, 5746 Rodman St., Phila., Pa.
Colwell, Raymond G., R. F. D. 1, Sarver, Pa.
Combs, Rubin E., 126 Renfro St., Mt. Airy, N. C.
Conklin, William H., Pomona, N. Y.
Conlon, Peter J., 289 Rose Ave., Richmond, N. Y.
Constantino, John C., 653 Duss Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Corns, Charles E., 119-3rd Ave., Huntingdon, W. Va.
Cribbs, James E., Rt. 1, Tracey City, Tenn.
Cox, Shirley G., Jr., Manorville, L. I., N. Y.
Conley, Charles, Proctor, N. C.
Daly, William E., 104 N. 39th St., Louisville, Ky.
Daniels, George W., Poestenkill, N. Y.
Davis, Hollis
Dean, Lawrence E., 1609 Julia St., Harrisburg, Pa.
DeFeet, Robert L., Jr., Webb's Crossroad, Ky.
De Frein, William A., 130 High St., Pk Pl., Mahouay Cy, Pa.
Demes, Earnest, 9305 S. Park Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Dennison, Edwin E., Box 63 W. Mansfield, Ohio.
De Perini, Jack K., 510 Carmody Dr., Washington, D. C.
De Vore, Clarence R., Jr., 57 Canton Rd., Akron, Ohio.
Doherty, Nicholas Jr., 11-12 Woodcrest Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Dunn, Herman, Box 54, Harkinsville, Ala.
Eastman, Clayton R., 39 Poplar St., Wyandotte, Mich.
Edgar, Clifford L., 1821 Cullerton St., Chicago, Ill.
Edwards, Richard J., 413 W. High St., Gainesville, Ga.
Ellington, Charles M., Roswell, Ga.
Erdman, Herman, 286 Trafton, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Faller, Harold E., Jr., 4221 S. Robertson St., New Orleans, La.
Fearnow, Gerald B.
Felisky, John M., 1301 Maple St., Flint, Mich.
Ferguson, Ralph E., 2740 Falund St., Rockford, Ill.
Firsick, Ralph W., 225 S. Kentucky St., Sedalia, Mo.
Fitzgerald, Eugene, Chireno, Tex.
Floyd, Don N., 2219 S. Charlotte St., San Gabriel, Cal.
Floyd, Thomas D., 2111 Morris Ave., Lincoln Pk., Mich.
Follmer, Joseph, 5245 Berkshire, Detroit 24, Mich.
Formica, Francis J., 8303 Frankfort Ave., Phila., Pa.
Frick, James A., 2502 E. Main St., Durham, N. C.
Fryhoff, Albert, 1513 S. 14th St., Plainfield, Ill.
Gage, Monaque, Gilmer, Tex.
Gastineau, Charles R., R. R. 1, Judson, Ind.
Gibbons, Andrew N., 40 W. Station St., Hudson, Pa.
Gianuzzi, Phillip J., 71 Loomis St., Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Goldsmith, Howard F., 529 S. 50th Ave., Omaha, Nebr.
Gonter, Clarence H., 32 Adams St., Irvington, N. J.
Grecco, Leonard J., 1128 Porter St., Phila., Pa.
Gregory, Robert H., 52 Home Ave., Meridan, Conn.
Gray, Fred N., Box 115, Selmar, Tenn.
Grieco, Salvatore F., 4 Charles St., White Plains, N. Y.
Gribbii, Alton E., Rt. 1, Hiawasee, Ga.
Griggs, Willie F., Rt. 3, Hartsville, S. C.
Grubb, Newell L.
Gulyas, Stephen G., 442 Columbia St., Bridgeport 4, Conn.
Harpel, Eugene D., Jr., 1116 Arrott St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Harris, Earl T., Jr., 1840-1/2 W. Wash. St., Spgrld, Ohio.
Harrison, Earl A., Toledo, Ohio.
Harkins, Cornelius J., 5849 Crittenden St., Phila 35, Pa.
Haube, Charles Jr., 1406 Marengo Ave., Forest Pk., Ill.
Hayden, Robert W., DeSmit (Kingsbury), S. D.
Haydu, George E., Omar, W. Va.
Heaberlin, Buell, Shakertown Rd., Rt. 2, Danville, Ky.
Helseth, John E., Box 986, Ft. Pierce, Fla.
Hennessy, James P., 46 Davis St., Bradford, Pa.
Herbert, Daniel J., 2031 E. 100th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
Hetrick, Henry W., 2031 E. Hazard St., Phila., Pa.
Heupel, Calvin, Wetonka, South Dakota.
Hill, Truitt R., Rt. 2, Danville, Ala.
Hills, Leo A., Jr., 914 N. Farson St., Phila, Pa.
Hines, Wiley R., Rt. 2, Box 239, Belair, Md.
Hobbs, Z., Wayland, Ky.
Holland, Thomas, Rt. 2, Tallins, Ga.
Holmes, Alfred I.
Horton, Louis W., Rt. 5, Russellville, Ala.
Hosea, Robert G., 1237 F. St., San Bernardino, Cal.
Houston, Alfred E., 331 King Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
Houston, David E., 4103 S. 10th St., Kansas City, Kans.
Huddleston, Ewing G., Rt. 1, Northville, Ky.
Hummer, Robert L., 120 Weiler Holmes, Toledo, Ohio.
Hunt, Harold L., R. F. D., Paducah, Ky.
Irey, James K., R. F. D. 1, Amity, Pa.
Isom, William H., Perks, Ill.
Jakos, Joseph S., 520 Duss Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Jarosinski, Joseph P., 5902 W. Mitchell St., W. Allis, Wis.
Jennings, D. H., Box 175, Savannah, Tenn.
Jernigan, John T.
Jessen, Ellis J., Everly, Iowa.
Johnson, Buford E., Rt. 1, Buena Vista, Ga.
Johnson, James H., Dagmar, Montana
Johnson, Robert W., Elm Ave., Croydon, Pa.
Johnson Samuel G., 363 Old Post Rd., Fairfield, Conn.
Jones, Cecil R., 2803 Holmes, Dallas 15, Tex.
Kandel, Warren L., 1400 E. Main St., Louisville, Ohio.
Kazarian, Charles, 1952 Davidson Ave., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
Keith, Loren R., 1420 6th St., Sioux Falls, Md.
Keith, Glen, Wayne City, Ill.
Kelly, James C., 154 Pearl Ave., Hamden, Iowa
Kerne, Kenneth L., 493 S. Knox St., Denver, Colo.
Kemper, Arthur J., 1400 Scott St., Culpomont, Pa.
Kennemer, George S., Damen, Texas
Kern, Lindel R., R. R. 2, Springfield, Ill.
Kierff, Raymond E., 307 Crescent Ave., Elmira, N. Y.
Keiper, Donald E., 118 Jackson St., Neenah, Wis.
Kirchen, Joseph A., Rt. 2, Estacado, Ore.
Kleinschrodt, Calvin, 4427 Osceola St., Louis, Mo.
Kloener, Richard F., 4233 John Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Klich, John, 23 Van Buren St., Passaic, N. J.
Krause, Carl A., 717 Michigan Ave., St. Cloud, Fla.
Kralemann, William, 5535 Jennings Rd., St. Louis City, Mo.
Kroll, Leroy J., 2358 S. 7th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Kollas, Anthony, 444 E. 147th St., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
Lamm, Charles L., Porter, Ohio.
Larkin, John F., 32 Linden Ave., Pelham, N. Y.
LaPlante, Lawrence J., Chasy, N. Y.
LaRosa, Angelo, 27 Rose St., Patterson, N. J.
Lawrence, R. B., Rt. 1, Henry, Tenn.
Lawhorn, Charlie L., Philadelphia, Ky.
LeClair, Maurice M., 251 E. 184th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Ledbetter, Wm. T., Sr., Rt. 3, Kings Mtn., N. C.
Leggett, Clyde A., Dyersburg, Tenn.
Legler, Phillip, 4736 Decatur St., Denver, Col.
Lindsey, Warner N., 1805 Inf. St., Detroit, Mich.
Long, Paul L., Oraville, Md.
Manley, Maurice A., R. R. 1, Weston, Mo.
Marinelli, Robert E., R. F. D. 2, New Philadelphia., Ohio.
Martin, Collie R., Rt. 2, Cave City, Ky.
Martinez, Luis D., Gen. Del., Asherton, Tex.
Martinez, Quino E., P. O., Box 221, Fierro, New Mexico
Magee, Ralph E., 124 Jefferson Ave., Springfield, Mo.
Martinaitis, Walter C., 742 S. Jackson St., Waukegan, Ill.
Maneuco, Carmelo S., 7806 14th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Maneini, Amadio J., 4636 Rosina Way, Pittsburgh, Pa.
McConachie, Eugene W., 303 S. Virginia, Charleston, Mo.
McDowell, Van K., Hodges, Ala.

McDonnell, Thos. J., Jr., 2085 Lexington Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
McGovern, Wm. J., Rt. 2, Box 315, Gresham, Ore.
McKemy, Charles C.
McLaughlin, B. T., 4645 Elston Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Merleel, Joseph L., Celestine, Ind.
Merse, Edwin G., 5841 St., Elmo Pl., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Meyer, Robert W., 2958 Burlington Pl., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Miazgowski, Matthew, 182 Speer Ave., Clifton, N. J.
Miller, Charles F., 906 N. Parka, Indianapolis, Ind.
Miller, Marion M., 12 Giebe St., Charleston 6, S. C.
Miller, Arthur
Miller, Robert L., 149 E. Main St., Pallostown, Pa.
Milloward, Carl, R. F. D. 4, Box 121, Gaffney, S. C.
Minshall, James P., 6312 Lakewood Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Moniz, John S., 7 Perry St., S. Dartmouth, Mass.
Moore, Charles R., Kleburg, Tex.
Moore, Ezra F., Roseburg, Ark.
Moorehead, Charles E., Rt. 2, Box 690, Battle Crk., Mich.
Moon, Ira J., 1218 N. Jefferson, Mt. Pleasant, Tex.
Morggen, Kemett A., 2169 Berkely Pl., S. Bend, Ind.
Morrissey, Bertran, Box 326, Keadspott, Ore.
Mueller, Frank G., Jr., 2101 E. Beckert Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nelson, Forrest, 28 Pleasant View St., Bangor Md.
Norden, Arthur C., Rt. 1, Amery, Wisconsin
Norwood, Cecil C. L., 118 Cedar St., Hico, Tex.
Oliver, Randolph W., R. F. D. 4, Showbegan, Md.
Olivier, Emile, Arnaudville, La.
Olsen, Edwin W., 4447 N. Mead Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Organ, Raymond H., 49 Monroe Ave., Wheeling, W. Va.
Pajak, William F., 4846 S. Ada St., Chicago 9, Ill.
Pakkala, John F., Claire Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Papaw, Clarence F.
Paponis, Louis, 180 Diamond St., San Francisco, Cal.
Parks, Earl R., P. O. Box 64, Spencer, La.
Parrish, Donald W., Landsford Rd., Lancaster, S. C.
Pavelka, John J., Box 14, Hadden, Conn.
Panko, Joseph E., 1102 Fruda St., Dixon, Pa.
Peckman, Donald A., Rt. 1, Milo, Mo.
Pecora, Pitt, 301 Wise Ave., Dundale, Md.
Perin, Marcell F., Rt. 1, Huston, Tex.
Peterson, Robert N., 1867 Tuttle Glen Rd., Piedmont, Cal.
Petrone, Vito J.
Plumb, Milton J., 14 Almeron St., Evansville, Wis.
Poling, Theodore, R. F. D. 2, Kasson, W. Va.
Pollack, Joseph, 932 Tiffany St., Bronx 59, N. Y.
Porter, Broadies R., Sanford, N. C.
Poullnot, George E., 39 Coymen St., Newark, N. J.
Price, Ben 1114 Dartmouth S. W., Canton, Ohio.
Price, James, 908 W. D St., Russellville, Ark.
Pringel, Edmund C., Maple Park, Ill.
Prouty, Ira E., R. R. 1, Linesville, Pa.
Puentes, Manuel D., Rt. 1, Box 167, Parlier, Cal.
Rack, Walter E., Box 47, Wilford Ave., DesPlaines, Ill.
Ramirez, Jesus A., 216 1st St., Watsonville, Cal.
Ramos, Tony M., 823 Lisbon Ave., Oakland, Cal.
Rasmusson, Vincent H., 914 King St., Olean, N. Y.
Redden, Johnny W., Baker, La.
Redelman, Herbert A., Greenburg, Ind.
Regino, Patrick P.
Reid, Alger T., Englewood, Tenn.
Renquist, Irving E., Troque Ave., W. Warwick, R. I.
Renzi, Ralph W., 224-4th St., Pittsfield, Mass.
Respini, John W., Witter Springs, Cal.
Riffle, Stanley E., 352 Warder Ave., Grafton, W. Va.
Ripplemeyer, Paul A., R. R. 1, Waterloo, Ill.
Rister, Randall, 1115 Franklin St., Eldorado, Ill.
Rives, Wm. C., Rt. 1, Box 3, Lakeland, Fla.
Robertson, Leroy J., % R. Weber, Salem, Ore.
Robertson, Rufus R., % P. O. Roberts, Box 414, Columbia, Mo.
Robinson, Robert L., Rt. 3, Springfield, Ohio.
Robin, John R., 8623 Drexel Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Roderick, Walter D., % Gen. Del., Boulder Creek, Cal.
Rodgers, Gerard F.
Rogers, Charles J., 3420 Milvale St., Phila., Pa.
Rohrer, Oscar F., 509 N. Walnut Ave., Hutchinson, Kans.
Rollason, Harold P., 3215 Sloan St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Roll, Charles L., Bloomingburg, Ohio, R. R. 1.
Rosenbaum, Frederick, 213 E. 88th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Ross, Nathan A., 201 Bassett St., New Haven, Conn.
Roth, Wm. R., 208 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing, Mich.
Rozek, Joseph M., 12642 Charest, Detroit 12, Mich.
Roznovski, James I., Rt. 1, Moulton, Tex.
Rudy, Michael J., R. F. D. 1, Lower Washington, Peckskill, N. Y.
Runyon, Sidney F., 323-19th St., Ashland, Ky.
Rush, Charles L., 866 Wales Rd., Marsallion, Ohio.
Sacatsch, John G., 3700 E. 124th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
Salver, Alvy H., 1777 Napa Rd., Vallejo, Cal.
Sanders, Eric T., Box 16, Hosford, Fla.
Sapien, Joe F., Rt. 2, Box 161, Glendale, Ariz.
Sautner, Harold N., 701 Adler Rd., Marshfield, Wis.
Saxon, John, 517 Saline St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Scarborough, Marvin, Box 14, Kiever, Tex.
Schenk, Richard C., 473 Hewitt Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
Schiff, Richard J.
Schneider, Paul G., 408 Potter Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.
Schneider, Ralph G., Box 28, Sandyville, Ohio.
Schwab, Albert L.
Schucker, Paul N., 18 Pine St., Kulztown, Pa.
Sciara, Louis N., Jersey City, N. J.
Sciandra, Carmen J., 75 Putnam, Buffalo, N. Y.
Scott Dan W., Rt. 1, Birdstown, Tex.
Semo, John J., Jr., 35 S. Range Rd., Ironwood, Mich.
Sergent, Lester, Democrat, Ky.
Shaffer, Leslie B., % Blecker Stage, Gloversville, N. Y.
Sharp, Francis L., R. F. D. 1, Chanute, Kans.
Shealy, Fred A., R. R. 2, Chapin, S. C.
Shell, Wm. I., Rt. 1, Aragon, Ga.
Sieffert, Louis I., 710 Omar, Houston, Tex.
Sieger, Elmer S., 230 S. Plum St., Mt. Carmel, Pa.
Shultz, Henry L., 1118 Harrison Ave., Roxbury, Mass.
Siddat, Lawrence P., Rt. 1, Tupelo, Miss.
Simmerman, Dale, 338 Alfred St., N. Baltimore, Md.
Shinder, Bernard P., 675 Weathersfield Ave., Hartford, Conn.
Siner, Robert A., Rt. 2, Terra Haute, Ind.
Simmonetti, Michael A., 2377 E. 4th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Slater, Benhart C.
Shinbaum, Lawrence S., 776 Broadway, Newark, N. J.
Smith, Carlton, 1641 N. Wolf St., Baltimore, Md.
Smallcombe, Bert H., Oak St., Old Forge, Pa.
Smith, Edward C., 512 N. Allegheny Ave., Covington, Va.
Smith, Hal G., 2301 Rudkin Rd., Yakima, Wash.
Smith, James E., 1046 W. Hodley, Las Cruces, N. M.
Smith, John D., Rt. 2, Ben Wheeler, Tex.
Snyder, Bernard M., 3330 Ramona Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Snyder, Wallace C., 208 Maple Ave., Butler, Pa.
Sowder, Manuel H., 427 Dearborn Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
Scavuzzo, Nathan, 204 Willow St., Waterbury, Conn.
Spangrud, Vernon C., Kellier, Minn.
Speer, James E., Jr., 1034 Ohio View, Ambridge, Pa.
Squires, Harry G., 2330 Eastwood Ave., Akron, Ohio.
Stahm, Lloyd L.
Stein, Louis I., 1454 68th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Stern, Richard O., Box 205B, Gt. 2, Petersburg, Mich.
Stevens, Harley C., 107-1/2 S. Delaware, Bartlesville, Okla.
Stevens, Robert L., 309 Innes Blvd., Marshalltown, Iowa
Stevens, Wm. K., 219 Hazel Ave., Lundsdowne, Pa.

Stewart, Howard J., 6415 Eastern Ave., Takoma Pk., Md.
 Strasser, Clayton N., 4430 Monroe St., Ecorse, Mich.
 Stone, Ralph T., 502 Craig St., Christiansburg, Va.
 Suppo, Henry W., 108 West Ave., Brocton, N. Y.
 Swann, Truman E., 408 5th St., Greydottie 3, W. Va.
 Tassin, Elio J., R. R. 1, Bradford, Pa.
 Taylor, Earl R., 344 Belfort St., Russell, Ky.
 Tetzloff, Leroy G., 3640 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 Thompson, Douglas K., 652 N. Jusmita St., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Thompson, Elmer E., Farrar, Tex.
 Todd, James H., R. R. 1, Dyer, Tenn.
 Tome, Chester W., R. F. D. 1, Laurel, Pa.
 Torrez, Adolfo R., 3024 E. Weber Ave., Stockton, Cal.
 Torres, Jose H., Rt. 42, Box 259, El Paso, Tex.
 Torres, Victor J., 520 E. 77th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Trinkle, Robert L., R. R. 1, Marshall, Ind.
 Tripp, William R., 322 N. 10th St., Ft. Smith, Ark.
 Tuttle, Carlos M., Rt. 2, Beaver, Mo.
 Tornese, Louis J., 1124 42nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Turner Edward F.
 Van Dorsten, Chas H., 5 Maxwell St., Battle Creek, Mich.
 Vaz, Francisco, 24 W. 111th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Violi, Richard C., 253 Mt. Hope Pl., N. Y., N. Y.
 Vliem, James, Lodge Pole, S. D.
 Volkmar, Elmer F., 4340 E. Warner, St. Louis, Mo.
 VonStein, Floyd J., Gusper, Mont.
 Wallin, Orville A., 905 S. Victory St., Waukegan, Ill.
 Walton, Joe C.
 Wasikowski, Casimir J., 320 Pulaski St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Webber, Harold P., Trenary, Michigan.
 Weeks, Henry B., West, Miss.
 Weiner, Gustav G., 5842 Barry Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Welch, Edward J., 23 Water St., Leeds, Mass.
 West, Robert E., 319 E. 69th Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 Wheaton, Ivan P. Jr., 255 Clairbourne Pl., Lg. Beach, Cal.
 Whittenmore, Roy L., 6 Library St., Hudson, N. H.
 Widmer, Edwin O., Box 3, Alfred, N. D.
 Will, Frederick R., 3928 E. Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 Williams, James C., 607 Benton St., Hot Springs, Ark.
 Williams, Robert A., 1034 Caton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Williamson, Lawrence J., 2152 Chalcedony, San Diego, Cal.
 Winston, Thomas G., 4017 Hermitage Rd., Richmond, Va.
 Wirz, Earl H., 808 Laurel St., Highland, Ill.
 Woerdenhoof, Albert S., 810 N. Glen Oak, Peoria, Ill.
 Wojczak Frank E., 2516 Trecher St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Woods, Thomas J., Jr., 1520 Euclid Ave., Steubenville, Ohio.
 Woods, Walter P., Box 157, Polk, Pa.
 Wray, Glen W., Rt. 1, Box 280, Rochester, Wash.
 Wright, Carlton W., 52 Walnut St., Auburn, N. Y.
 Wright, Phillip R.
 Wright, William R., Ackley, Iowa.
 Wright, I. J. W., Rt. 2, Kenton, Okla.

Faller, Harold E., Jr., 4221 S. Robertson St., New Orleans, La
 Johnson, Robert W., Elm Ave., Croydon, Pa.
 McLennan, Donald M.

COMPANY F

Abbott, Arnold, 6945 Noble St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Adams, Ivan E., 417 E. 22nd, Baxter Springs, Kans.
 Armstrong, William L., Box 86, San Clemente, Cal.
 Allman, John, Rd. 2, McArthur, Ohio.
 Angeli, Louis Jr., Rt. 1, Box 81, Hatshome, Ark.
 Ashton, Clarence E., 3201 North Western Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Austin, John A., Rt. 2, Chetek, Wis.
 Ballandran, Richard E., Box 245, Cutler, Cal.
 Barbero, Frank, 1387 Harkimer, St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Barr, Joseph L., Rhodelia, Ky.
 Barringer, Robert L., 4004 Greenlee, St. Louis, Mo.
 Barrett, Sanford, 219 Saluda St., 96 S. C.
 Bauer, Robert F., 2717 Mass. Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Bean, Blackie, 138 High St., Hagerston, Md.
 Bendos, John, 45-05 192 St., Flushing, N. Y.
 Benge, Edwin P., R. R. 5, Box 315, Nobleville, Ind.
 Berardino, Edward W.
 Berg, Harry, 16 Shorepark Rd., Great Neck, N. Y.
 Bichler, Joseph S., 12145 Waltham Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Bollenbacher, Paul K., Inwood, Ind.
 Borrich, George M.
 Boscher, Gerard J., 1744 Newark Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Bourne, Donald A.
 Bowers, Bernard F., 1566 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio.
 Bowers, Dale F., Rt. 2, Zansville, Ohio.
 Butler, Paul R., 409 N. 4th St., Rockport, Ind.
 Brown, Joseph, 1909 Forrest Parkway, Denver, Col.
 Brown, Paul, Rt. 2, Blairsville, Ga.
 Caizza, Emilio A., Denton Ave., Garden City, N. Y.
 Campascone, Tobio A., 1465 69th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Campbell, Lawrence, 537 N. 10th St., Centerville, Io.
 Carey, David M., 22 Belknap St., Concord, Mass.
 Carney, Danney C., Richardson, Tex.
 Carter, Ranson, Rt. 1, Randleman, North Cal.
 Cashin, Kenneth, 3013 18th St., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Christopher, Ettore J., 8551 S. Lowe Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Claus, Frank, 144 Lud Low St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Claussen, Clifford G., Rt. 2, Pender, Neb.
 Cloninger, J. C.
 Cloud, Harold C., 1271 Cleveland Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Coakley, Joseph D., Box 282, Frostberg, Md.
 Cobel, Edmund J., 2379 Broadway, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Cochran, Jack, Rt. 3, Checotah, Okla.
 Cockburn, Sidney, 520 Ecuil, Albuquerque, N. Mex.
 Cockran, Rambert, Rt. 2, Calhoun, Ga.
 Cohen, Morris, 5746 Rodman St., Phila., Pa.
 Cohoon, Burton, Rt. 2, Lachine, Mich.
 Colburn, Alden, North Ware, N. H.
 Coleman, William O.
 Collins, Jessie, Rt. 3, Mt. Aire, N. C.
 Collins, Peter, 829 62nd St., Kenosha, Wis.
 Collino, Dominic, 2943 E. 123rd St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Cook, Kent Jr., Box 88, Dayton, Ohio.
 Coonan, John M., Jr.
 Creehan, Francis P., 840 Castles Hannon Blvd, Pitt., Pa.
 Crumbling, Lamar
 Cumby, John H., 4653 Nacoma Dr., Dallas, Tex.
 Curcio, Frank C., 187 Sackman St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Cutburth, Watha W., 207 E. Peral St., Odessa, Tex.
 Cascheraki, Bruno T., Rt. 3, Box 198, Chardon, Ohio.
 Daniels, Howard, Rt. 1 Box 294, Tempe, Arz.
 Davis, Clifford, Chauncey, Ohio.
 Dean, Horace, Rt. 3, Elmore City, Okla.
 DeJulio, Frank, Rt. 7, Sidney, Ohio.
 Denney, Carl L., 1190 East Morgan, Martinsville, Ind.
 Deres, Raymond A., Rt. 2, Box 306A, Santonio, Tex.
 Devenny, Paul J., 138 Hamilton St., Washington, Pa.
 Doell, Charles S., 51-18 Simpson St., Elmhurst, N. Y.
 Dole, Robert W., 618 Oakland Ave., West Brighton, N. Y.
 Donaldson, Robert J., Ry. 1, Effingham, Ill.
 Dover, Earl, Rt. 2, Russellville, Ark.
 Dunn, Daniel J.
 Dunn, Robert C., 2849 Detroit Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Durso, Anglo M., 203 E. 122nd St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Edgin, Edmund B.
 Elishewitz, Betran, 221 W. 82nd St., New York, N. Y.
 Eljst, Clyde, 65 Burns, Cin innati, Ohio.

Eng, James K.
 Esheleman, Harold Rt. #1, Noraina, N. Y.
 Fairchild Raymond, Rt. #3, Phippot, Ky.
 Farthing, Calvin H., 1418 N. Main St., Danville, Va.
 Filosa, Adolph
 Fisher, John W., 138 E. Elm St., C. Shillington, Pa.
 Fisher, Richard, 138 E. Elm St., C. Shillington, Pa.
 Fishvogt, Robert, North Vernon, Ind.
 Flanagan, Joseph, 2421 Clarendon Rd. Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Fletcher, Elmer, 226 W. Franklin St., Hagerstown, Md.
 Forrester, Arthur, 1672 Bronswick Ave., Trenton, N. J.
 Fortner, James J., Rt. 1, Falco, Ala.
 Frassetti, Michael A., 1118 38th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Freda, Anthony J., 343 Elizabeth St., Orange, N. J.
 Gabaccia, Louis, 2615 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N. Y.
 Garcia, Daniel, Box 1254, Three Rivers, Tex.
 Garcia, William 35 W. College, Aurora, Mo.
 Geer, Dwight, 428 E. 6th St., Monroe, Mich.
 Giedeman, Martin, 532 West Mascher St., Phil., Pa.
 Gilbert, Clement, Rt. 7, State St., Bangor, Md.
 Glorid, James A., 411 W. Elm, Jefferson City, Mo.
 Gorham, James E., 104 Kentucky Ave., Franklin, Ky.
 Gramum, Melvin S., 1320 N. Phillips Ave., Sioux Falls, S. D.
 Griffin, Wade
 Grimm, Edward T., Jr., 513 E. 87th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Grifton, J. C.
 Gunther, Edison G., Syracuse, Ohio.
 Gurley, Jack, Rt. 2, Tishomingo, Miss.
 Hagley, Robert, 354 S. Vance St., Carey, Ohio.
 Hallford, Vernon L., Habersham, Ga.
 Halloran, William P., 9285 Missouri, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Hammett, Mack D., 1446 Clovers, Augusta, Ga.
 Hancock, Durward, 523 E. Walnut St., Ogleby, Ill.
 Hanks, Earl W., Rt. 1, Ute, Iowa
 Harrison, John, Rt. 2, Red Line, Pa.
 Harrison, Ned W., 679 Lenox Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Hawthorth, Charles, 503 West St., Georgetown, Ill.
 Heffernan, James
 Heinrichs, Frederick W., 196-899th Ave., Hollis, N. Y.
 Horgbuch, Rholan G., 5136 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Holcomb, Everett, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
 Holm, Eugene, Tulare, S. D.
 Holtzclaw, Boyd W., Rt. 1, Clinton, C. C.
 Horb, Frank, 12523 Galajava, Detroit, Mich.
 Howard, Joseph M., 1256 Riverside Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Hresko, Paul J., 4164 E. 110th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Hulbert, Lytle E., Baron, Wis.
 Hunger, John C., 401 Marshall Ave., Aurora, Ill.
 Ingram, Floyd V., 176 Shelby St., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Jackson, Jack, 1011 Grand Ave., Mantowae, Wis.
 Janet, John D., 119 North Center St., Bensonville, Ill.
 Janet, Richard, 119 North Center St., Bensonville, Ill.
 Jernigan, James H., Rt. 3, Red Level, Ala.
 Jett, Ernest C., Rt. 2, Timia, Mo.
 Johnson, Walter P., 2214 Tulip St., Lynchburg, Va.
 Karey, Nicholas, 1670 Taylor Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Kedzierski, Edward K.
 Kiesel, Thomas, 789 Via-Carmelious, N. L., Beach
 Kilgore, Richard B., Star Rt. 2, Lamesd, Tex.
 Kliehthermes, Hubert, 1606 E. Miller St., Jeff., City, Mo.
 Knierim, James P., Parrie Home, Mo.
 Knipscheids, Edward H.
 Kobilarcik, Joe J.
 Kobusch, Frederick Wm., 711 1/2 5th Ave., Mendota, Ill.
 Koenecke, Melvin D., Box 263, Clearlake, S. D.
 Koostira, Louis W., 1433 Bates St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Kromka, Andrew, 330 Qudy St., Vandergrift, Pa.
 Kudlachik, John
 Lafin, John N., 9755 Cherry Hill, Upsilonanti, Mich.
 Lamb, Charles L., Rt. 1, Ft. Morgan, Cal.
 Lanasa, Anthony P., 2677 S. Benedict St., Baltimore, Md.
 Lane, Herman L.
 Langyel F.
 Larkin, Densale O.
 Larson, Ruolan E.
 Laughery, Earl H., Danvill, Ohio.
 Law, Harry L.
 Lay, Charles W., Rt. 6, Gainsville, Ga.
 Leister, Edwin M., Melfintown, Pa.
 Lenhart, David J., 1534 S 2nd, Phila., Pa.
 Lewis, Edward D., 211 E. Walnut, Dickson, Tenn.
 Lewis, Frederick, 1210 Brown St., Akron, Ohio.
 Lifson, Theodore, 3907 Park Hgts. Ave., Baltimore, Md.
 Lipinski, Stanley, 1621 N. Monroe Heights, Chicago, Ill.
 Lirrette, Deaury, Rt. 2, Box 203, Hauma, La.
 Logan, Jesus M., 113 29th St., Denver, Col.
 Logan, George J., Rt. 1, Cave Junction, Ore.
 Lohmeyer, Edwin O., Jr. 113 N. Rayson, Baltimore, Md.
 Long, Grant C., Box 453 Blane, Wash.
 Love, Wilbert, Rt. 2, Latta, S. C.
 Lundquist, Robert T., 22415 Verne, Detroit Mich.
 Maccoby, Herberim
 Macey, Hillery
 Macsinka, Andrew, 15 Cedar St., Garfield, N. J.
 Manvillas, Salvador, 1140 W. Jackson, Chicago, Ill.
 Malcomb, Donzel, Liago, W. Va.
 Mangi, B.
 Marek, Oscar G., Box 441, LaGrange, Tex.
 Mariner, Vincent J., 6143 S. Francisco, Chicago, Ill.
 Martinez, Gabriel L., 1018 6th St., Calexico, Cal.
 Masters, Ernest W.
 Mathisen, Herbert A., 160-23 119th Rd., Jamaica, N. Y.
 Meathenia, Roy C., 605 S. Wall St., Shamrock, Tex.
 Macanic, Nicholas, Hanlon Sta., Pa.
 Meglin, Raymond A., 519 Hill St., Elgin, Ill.
 Meyers, Robert, 2904 Pinewood Ave., Balt. Md.
 Miller, Clement, 1122 Almenoster, New Orleans, La.
 Miller, Richard S., Fair Acres, Central New York, N. Y.
 Miller, Warren, 2205 W. Smith St., South Bend, Ind.
 Molchak, Paul, 2000 Wade Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Monday, Glen H., Clementsville, Ky.
 Montee, Charles F., Mantee Sta., Bremerton, Wash.
 Mooney, Joseph C., Box 93, Killarney, W. Va.
 Moore, Willie, Drift, Ky.
 Mora, Lorenzo, 2113 Cypress, El Paso, Tex.
 Morin, Ferdinand, 34 Main St., Slattersville, R. I.
 Morris, John H., Jr., 1219 Penn. Ave., Charleston, W. Val.
 Murphy, Thomas F., 3263 2nd St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
 Musch, John H., 2483 Nesbitt, Akron, Ohio.
 McCarthy, James W., 1214 Jackson St., Owensberg, Ky.
 McMullan, Ralph W., Shade Gap, Pa.
 McGarrigue, James A., 1714 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 McGaughy, Eugene, 144 Saries Lane, Pleasantville, N. Y.
 McMahon, Patrick J., 233 E. 88th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 McPeetons, Walter S.
 McBride, Fred, 15 West Moreland, Greensburg, Pa.
 McCandles, David Jr., 160 Coostle St., Great Barington, Mass.
 Nardine, James, 1628, 68th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Nesbitt, Andrew
 Nielson, Reed, 88 S. East St., Logan, Utah
 Novotney, Joseph R.
 Numez, Angel C., 1309 Baugh Ave.
 Ober, Bernard, 7414 35th Ave., Jackson Hgts, N. Y.
 O'Brien, Francis, 909 E. Center St., Mitonoy City, Pa.
 Olson, Maurice, Marmouth N. D.
 O'Reilly, John J., 802 St. John Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Ott, Luther
 Owens, Jesse, 312 Sherman St., Wabash, Ind.
 Owen James, Box 44, Gadley, Texas.
 Owensian, Ervin V., 2706 S. 15th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Oxholm, Edward H., Tyier, Texas
 Palmer, Jack A., Rt. 2, Box 16, Benton Harbor, Mich.
 Pastorensi, Santiago, 431 Nafles St., Francisco, Cal.
 Peach, Edward T., 6 Prospect St., North Field, Va.
 Penn, Paul S. Sr., 202 White St., Roanoke, Ala.
 Pepe, John, 377 N. 6th St., Newark, N. J.
 Peters, D. / , Box 415, Sarasota, Fla.
 Phillips, Chester, Clementsville, Ky.
 Phillips, Harlan D., 208 Homewood Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Pierotti, Peter
 Polley, Kenneth D., Gilevin City, Mo.
 Poole, Algis C., Rt. 1, Enone, S. C.
 Portley, William A., 383 Manet Ave, Quincy, Mass.
 Pramberger, Joseph G., 91-13 71st Rd., Forrest Hills, N. Y.
 Presnall, Claude, Hickory Plains, Ark.
 Priore, Vincent P., 3116 41st St., Astoria, N. Y.
 Pugh, Creighton Q., Singer, La.
 Pugh, John H., West Hillborough, N. C.
 Pufisler, J. Frank Jr., 621 N. Lexington St., Orlando, Fla.
 Putnam H.
 Pycke, Norebert H., Gilliam Mo.
 Radcliffe, Clayton W., Harrison, Ohio.
 Reade, George W. Jr.
 Reese, Lloyd E., Milesburg, Pa.
 Regino, Patrick P., 443 W. 49th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Reichman, William H., 83 E. Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Replodge, Henry, 401 S. 10th St., Beatrice, Neb.
 Reynolds, Orlan, Rt. 1, Stone Park, Ill.
 Rice, Harold H. Jr., Cummings, Kansas
 Rickard, Willoughby H., Rt. 3, Mathsonville, Ky.
 Rickers, Lynn E., Rt. 3, Seymour, Ind.
 Riggan, John J. Jr., Paul River, N. C.
 Rihs, Ralph R., Long Lane E., Hampton, N. Y.
 Rives, Robert H., 2901 Orange Ave., Ft. Pearce, Fla.
 Rizzo, John
 Roberts Charles, Reagan, Tenn.
 Roberts, William, Phil Campbell, Ala.
 Rogers, James A., 724 S. 7th, Chiehsaw, Okla.
 Russell, Arthur, 622 Harrison St., Pottsville, Pa.
 Ryzka, Edward J., 222 Front Ave., New Phila., Ohio.
 Salter, Wilson P., San Carlos, Arizona
 Sanders, George
 Schaefer, Floyd G., Irving, Ill.
 Schieks, Emil E., 145 Lenace Ave., Hemstead, N. Y.
 Schmidt, Ernest D., Lodi, Cal.
 Schroeder, Harley R., Rt. 3, Peschtigo, Wis.
 Schroll, Francis M.
 Seidel, Frank M., Mariana, Pa.
 Senecker, Wilbur H., Arnstrom Rd., Mumford
 Serverson, Harlan M., 123 Chicago Ave., Madison, S. D.
 Shively, George., 200 Bronxville Rd., Bronxville, N. Y.
 Shriver, Joseph E., Rt. 5, Morgantown, W. V.
 Sidenberg, Robert., 124 E. 72nd St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Sila, Lloyd C.
 Sisco, Everett, Chicotah, Okla.
 Slonecker, Arthur E., 3704 Holmes St., K. C., Mo.
 Smith, Frank, Lincoln Town, N. C.
 Smith, Joel L., Millwood, Ga.
 Smith, John L., Myersville, N. C.
 Smaltz, John E., 1828 W. Moya Minsing Ave., Phila., Pa.
 Snyder, Donald H., 2460 Wright Ave., Racine, Wis.
 Spinnato, Santo S., 1812 W. Greenfield, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Spitzmiller, Gustave E., Box 158, Grand Lake, Col.
 Staude, Wesley, 1027 E. Warrington Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Steele, John A., 235 Lee St., York
 Stottlemeyer, Francis A., 531 Mechanic Cemberland, Md.
 Strait, Robert D., Rt. 1, Box 103, Hamerson, W. Va.
 Stricher, Gerard.
 Sullivan, Martin J., Dickson, Mont.
 Swearngen, Charles R., 922 Hickory St., Mt. Vernon, Mo
 Sylvester, Frank
 Synstenlin, Jerome O., Dalton, Minn.
 Tam Loo, Charles., 718 Maui St., Honolulu, Ha.
 Tanghare, Anthony, Goshen Ave. Camp May, N. J.
 Taylor, Charles, Star Rt., Duke, Ohio.
 Taylor, Walter Jr., Meeker, Col.
 Thelen, Joseph T.,
 Thelen, Robert
 Thomas, Earl
 Thomas, Otis., Convey, Ky.
 Thomas, Richard., 302 Montgomery Ave., Pittston, Pa.
 Thomas, William
 Thompson, Calvin, Rt. 4, Cummings, Ga.
 Thompson, James N.
 Thompson, Myron B., 4115 15th St., Seattle, Wash.
 Tome, Sterling
 Tosh, Cleo, Rt. 4, Baitsville, Ark.
 Townsend, John., 2059 Madary Ave., Phila., Pa.
 Townsend, Virgil, Rt. 1, Evant, Texas.
 Trammel, Arnold, G. D., Lometa, Tex.
 Trudo, Orville D., 314 Williston, Waterloo, Ia.
 Turner, William J., 3912 Burnt Pl., Wash., D. C.
 Tuttle, Carlos
 Utz, William T., Jr., Rt. 6, Tyler, Tex.
 Vahey, James A., Rt. 3, Portland Lre.
 Vigil, Lloyd P., 145 Box, Antonito, Colo.
 Walker, Herman W., Wiggins, Miss.
 Walter, Joseph W., Ridge Rd., Ambridge Pa.
 Waviomek, Richard D., 113 Patspoe Ave., Balt. Md.
 Washington, Herman., Durante, Okla.
 Wasilewski, Edward., 268 Portlan St., Balt., Md.
 Watkins, Gilbert, Kamas Valley, Ore.
 Watson, Thomas T., Box 77, Rt. 4, Okla. City, Okla.
 Watts, George W., Box 231 B., Vicksburgh, Miss.
 Watts, Laird, Cody, Ky.
 Weaver, Carroll S., 2515 Carmey, Waco, Tex.
 West, John W., Box 642 Fayetteville, W. Va.
 White, Clarence A.,
 White, Gordon, 420 Maine St., Ada, Okla.
 Wiess, Thomas, 305 Milne St., Phila., Pa.
 Williams, Delbert, 1715 New Castle, Ind.
 Williams, Robert N., Phil. Campbell, Ala.
 Wilmont, Murey, 15450 LaSalle Blvd., Detroit, Mich.
 Wine, Kenneth, 3089 Mt. Vermae Ave., Alexandis, Va.
 Winner, Thomas A.
 Wirick, Kenneth D., 210 Linden Pl., Loledo, Ohio.
 W ood, Zack, Box 15, Junction, Ill.
 Woodhouse, George, 118 Main St., Waterville, N. Y.
 Woodward, John R., Rt. 1, Spring Hope, N. C.
 Worrell, Morris, Colonial Beach, Westmoreland Beach, Va.
 Yarnell, Robert S., Valesville, Shenados, Pa.
 Young, Harold A. Rt., 2, Raleigh, N. C.
 Zacek, Joseph C.
 Zalewski, Joseph A., 1449 Burnat Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.
 Zawilinski, Walter P., Rt. 1, Box 3, New Salem Pa.
 Zea Sterly H., 3664 Mt. Elieat, Detroit, Mich.
 Zea, Sterly H., 3664 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, Mich.
 Zeidenberg, Nathan P., 435 Borton Park, Neco Haven, Conn.
 Zeigler, Simpson E., Rt. 2, Paulding, Ohio.
 Zimmer, Leroy E., Rt. 2, Godfrey, Ill.
 Zulli, Carmine J., 1242 S. 29th St., Phila. Pa.

Anderson, Charles L., 1503 N. 7th Longview Tex.
 Arnold, Randall E., Marion, Va.
 Boyd, Ralph J., Orxent, Ohio.
 Burdick, David C., Little House Farm, Maple Grove Rd Walpole, N. J.
 Callaway, James R., Larnardwelle, N. Y.
 Czoja, Raymond, 2642 N. Wagner Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Drabnis, Edward F., Middleport Pa.
 Erickson, William S., 1415 N. 26th St., Superior Wis.
 Glenn, George H., P. O. 242 Chickamaugue, Ga.
 Glinsky, Stephen J., 813 W. 6th St., Walsburg, Colo.
 Kowalski, Thaddeus M., 38 Dempster St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Larson, Larry J., 1243 S. Euclid Ave., Bewyn, Ill.
 Lave, Robert R., 1901 Chicago Rd., Chicago, Hights, Ill.
 Matani, Samuel S., 3021 Lavender St., Parkville, Mo.
 McDaniel, Charles S., 201 Pke St., Phillip, W. Va.
 McKenzie, Alvin, Rt. 4, Quitman, Tex.
 Miner, James M., Elizabeth St., Minerva, Ohio.
 Pion, Alan R., 601 W. 115th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Reed, Darrell B., 4607 Lyons Rd., Austin, Tex.
 Roshbaugh, Clarence E., Millers, Md.
 Rusk, Floyd D., 576 Granville Rd., Newark, Ohio.
 Short, Charles J., Sebring Fla.
 Swartz, Donald J., 2110 E. Madison St., Balt., Md.
 Waddell, John S., Osmond, Neb.
 Watson, Scott H., Box 102 Jonesboro, Tex
 Wheeler, Edwin M., Shortsville, N. Y.
 Williams, Doyle H., Bethel, Okla.
 Younkens, Preston S., Rt. 1, Middletown, Md

COMPANY G

Adams, Joe C., 1728 S. Washington St., Lansing, Mich
 Adams, Robert., 1713 N. 19th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Adcock, Porter T., 24 Main St., Bradley Beach, N. J.
 Alexander, Henry T., Olive Hill, Ky.
 Alveres, Jose, Rt. 1, Box 659, Tucson, Arizona
 Anderson Charles W., Box 813, Welch, Okla.
 Archuleta, Isidor, Losvegas, New Mexico
 Barr, William E., Cherry Valley, Ark.
 Barney, Laurel A., 939 21st Ave., St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Bassette, Alfred E., 171 Columbia St., Adams, Mass.
 Barbuto, Vito E., 212 Middle St., East Weymouth, Mass.
 Bakke, Russell, Minniapolis, Minn.
 Barbolla, Michael, Ft. Worth, Tex.
 Beeks, Marvin A., Rr. 4, Fayetteville, Ark.
 Benson, Herbert A., Murfreesboro, Tenn., R. I.
 Bechtel, Charles, Box 644, Fremont, Neb.
 Becker, Victor, 1471 Franklin St., Caryle, Ill.
 Bettner, Robert, 142 Walnut St., Sealdale, Pa.
 Barbolla, Michael, Ft. Worth, Tex.
 Brandt, John E., 22 Baldwin St., Nariden, Md.
 Bogan Calvin H., Warm Springs, Va.
 Blanton, Rufus, 1231 Yorkshire St., Houston, Tex.
 Bommel Daniel, Van., 1552 Glover St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Bokowski, Joseph, Rt. 2, Box 93., Gaylord, Mich.
 Boales, Buel, Rt. 1, Belton, Tex.
 Bullian, James 5211 Butler St., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Burnett, Jerry H., Rt. 1, Blair, Va.
 Bologna, Samuel J., 1537 Elgin St., Aliquippa, Pa.
 Brooks, Edward W., Steele, Missouri
 Burke Edward J., Richmond, Va.
 Bohanan, Abner S., Okla. City, Okla.
 Burnette, Charles D., R. F. D., Peninsula, Okla.
 Brigham, Herbert H., 84 Green St., Berlin N. H.
 Brusda, Alex F., Marines Harbor, N. Y., N. Y.
 Cooke, George R., 1068 S. Perry St., Napoleon, Ohio.
 Cathcart, John G., Sharon, Conn.
 Carsten, Lawrence H., Hoxton, Col.
 Call, John J., R. F. D. 2, Marion, Va.
 Cook, Howard, Milan, Pa.
 Chalek, Mathew, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Coffey, Charlie R., Ritner, Ky.
 Crouse, Charlie H., Hartsville, Md.
 Cunningham, William E., 610 Center St., Waukegan, Ill.
 Cox, Cecil G., 10404 Vernon St., Huntington Woods, Mich.
 Charleson Earl E., Bumcumbe, Iowa.
 Carter, Charles G., 469 Rhoads Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Clint, Albert H., 407 5th St., S. Devils Lake, S. D.
 Chaney Ronald G., Rt. 2, Fowlersville, Mich.
 Carson, Vernon, 58 Beach St., Bristol, Conn.
 Connelly, Forrest, Rockville, Md.
 Chandler, Lawrence, R. F. D. 2, Olean, N. Y.
 Collins, Roy, Rt. 1, Spartenburg S. C.
 Cannon, Wodrow, 801 S. Oak St., Holdersville, Okla.
 Carney, Alexander B., 414 Neil St., Nashville, Tenn.
 Christenson, Albert C., 2539 West Homer, Chicago, Ill.
 Calton, Jim, Hinefork, Ky.
 Client, Nick 919 S. Culyer Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
 Chicken, George I., 67 Hunter St., Hodi, N. J.
 Cormier, Edward H., 579 Chestnut St., Springfield, Mass.
 Congdon, Dale H., 411 E. Jefferson St., Grand Lodge, Mich.
 Clark, Francis, 601 W. Mich Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.
 Callinan, Francis, 5648 Whitley Ave., Phila., Pa.
 Cox, Raymond E., Nemacolin, Pa.
 Coaks, Joseph R., Arnaville, La.
 Coopy, Jerome A., 8108 Vista Ave., Los Angeles 26, Cal.
 Cantu, Manuel, R. R. 1, Box 113, Pleasanton, Tex.
 Carr, James M., Box 1163, Kermit, Tex.
 Cowan, Ralph E., 1445 Warren Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Covington, James D., 1816 Westwood Ave., Richmond, Va.
 Douglas, Marcus E., Jr., Baton Rouge, La.
 Daniels, Marion A., R. R. 1, Hatfield, Mo.
 Dautrich, Theodore G., 39 East Lake St., Winsted, Conn.
 Daddio, Augustine, 75 Brookline Ave., Nuttley, N. Y.
 Dodd, Robert S., 33214 Vine St., Willoughby, Ohio.
 Derringer, Carlos H., La rue, Ohio.
 Dibbern, William E., 1224 North Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, S. D.
 Desmoine, Ralph, 789 East 158th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Devito, Salvatore A., 556 W. 126th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Espenchied, Delma A., 1003 E. Front St., Dover, Ohio.
 Eshau, James V., 1025 Iuman St., Akron, Ohio.
 Eggleston, Vincenty J., Gosard, Neb.
 Easley, Jesse C., Rt. 2, Jimsimin, Ark.
 Etheridge, Charles, Cordora, Ala.
 Eisherloh, Harold L., 1830 San Francisco St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Ellis, John P., R.D. #3, Box 271, Alexander, Ind.
 Elliot, Raymond A., Box 36, Glenlyn, Va.
 Filipiak, Vincent J., Chicopee, Mass.
 Fitzpatrick, James B., Norfolk, Va.
 Fontenault, Paul E., 68-A, Norwich St., Hartford, Conn.
 Fish, James L., Rt. #2, Jonesboro, Tenn.
 Flint, Arthur J., Rauch, Minn.
 Ferrioli, Frank, 178 Conklin Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Fincher, Willie J., Cedartown, Ga. Rt. #3
 Freeman, Herbert, Rt. #4, Cullman, Ala.
 Fisher, Nelson M., Wingatch, Pa.
 Faust, Oscar N., 15 Bertus St., Cincinnati 17, Ohio
 Glover, David Jr., Lothair, Ky.
 Grobe, Norman E., 335 Bedford Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Guthrie, David Jr., 6320 Santa Fe Dallas 10, Texas
 Garland, Clifton M., Rt. #3, Paducah, Ky.
 Graeff, William V., 2533 N. 8th St., Philadelphia, 33, Pa.
 Groome, Hasnell Y., Rt. #1, Maplesville, Ala.
 Gambrell, Norman L., Newcomb, Md.
 George, Edward A., Milford, Mich.

Gemberling, James F., 214 East Independence St., Shamokin, Pa.
 Gregorio, Joseph, Box 244, Powhatan, La.
 Grant, Donald J., 492 E. 239th St., Euclid, Ohio.
 Grice, Luther E., Rt. 3, Salem, Va.
 Guenther, Woodrow W., 316 Watonanna St., Mankato, Minn.
 Gunter, Clarence G., Cayce, S. C.
 Gualter, Smith, 2084 Riverside Dr., S. Williamsport, Pa.
 Guigueno, Aley, 104 Alabrama Ave., Paterson, N. J.
 Guercio, Sam, 391 Trenton Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Gagliardo, Benny, Rt. 2, Box 233, A., Nealsburg, Cal.
 Garner, Robert, Rt. 2, Pottstown, Pa.
 Gonzales, C. O. Jr.
 Gaskins, Albert, Wickatunk, N. J.
 Casperino, Leon, 417 Washington, Ave., Lexington, Mo.
 Gorton, Marvin
 Gould Thomas, 210 E. 96th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Glanton, Fred
 Good, Thomas., St. Joseph, Mo.
 Hack, Robert C., 105 Albany, Ave., Hartford, Conn.
 Heidbreider, Hugo, Russellville, Mo.
 Homan, Roy, 46-1/2 State St., Conneaut, Ohio.
 Hodgkinson, Donald H., Rt. 1, Davison, Mich.
 Hurley, Wallace G., 2022 Center St., Little Rock, Ark.
 Hall, Edward H., Jackhorn, Ky.
 Harrell, Lawrence W. Bedford, Ind
 Holm, Herman A., St. Paul, Minn.
 Howerton, James S. Goleta, Cal
 Hezz, Charles Jr., N. Y., N. Y.
 Hanson, Arthur C., 644 N. Fife St., Tacoma, Wash
 Hazel, Joseph D., Gen Del, Greenwood, S. C.
 Hanna, Sam, 2920 Kansas Rd., Camden, N. J.
 Hernandez, Manuel., 1069 Simpson St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Hockenberry, Thomas E., 114 Spring St., Cambridge Ohio
 Hohensee, Arthur A., 517 Swan St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Huckemeyer, Edward, 4322 42nd St., L. I., N. Y.
 Hoff, George L., Rt. 1, Box 184, Chesterton, Ind.
 Harris, Clifton H., 2482 Thomas Ave., Berkley, Mich.
 Hedrick, Harvey, Hotel McCredy, Hinton, S. Va.
 Henson, Albert N., 622 Chestnut St., Hagerstown, Md.
 Hoffman, Clyde H., Haslam Apts., Devils Lake, N. D.
 Harr, Woodrow W., Rt. 2, Batesburg, S. C.
 Henock, William E., 7645 Sheridan Rd, Chicago, Ill.
 Hopson, Raymond E., Yellow Pine, Tex.
 Holder, Willard, Rt. 3, High Point, N. C.
 Hahn, Oscar, 26 East F St., Brunswick, Md.
 Hryniewicz, Paul Jr., 804 16th St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Horvath, John, 1205 Alsford St., Lonsine, Mich.
 Harney, John J., 297 Boston St., Lynn, Mass.
 Hanbury Clyde E., 1756 Steiner Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
 Halloway, Rufus, Cookevil, Tenn.
 Iacano, Frank D., 3471 E. 114th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Jenkins, Robert, Ban Wier, Tex.
 Jewell, Leslie R., 1083 Hunter Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Jennings, Buster, Rt. #2, Batesburg, S. C.
 Johnston, Edward A., Hartford, Conn.
 Johnson, Archie L., 607 Grand Ave., Superior, Wis.
 Jones, Vernon B., 727 1/2 N. Bluff Adam, Okla.
 Knoll, Pat E., 15 Agnola, St., Crestwood, N. Y.
 Kudiac, John Jr., Sherrard, W. Va.
 Kabara, Edward J., 3814 Fait Ave., Balt., 24, Md.
 Kargna, Russell L., 405 6th St., Tell City, Ind.
 Krueger, August, 126 Pacific St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Kabin, Jack S., 29 N. 59th St., Phila., Pa.
 Kellman, Eino J., 9th Ave., East Hibbing, Minn.
 Krider, Russel L., Rt. 1, East Canton, Ohio.
 Kahl, Donald F., 12684 Vaughan Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Keller, Thomas C. S., 336 W. South St., Carlile, Pa.
 King, Fernando, Beersheba Springs, Tenn.
 Kendig, Ralph, 3001 Sedill Pl., Chester, Pa.
 Kelson, Kenneth, 56 Central Ave., Dover, N. J.
 Lamb, Fred, 5728 Theodosia St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Ladousa, Howard M., 2421 55th St., Kenosha, Wis.
 Lee, George, Rt. 2, Lorraine, Tex.
 Lewis, William E., N. Y., N. Y.
 Lego, John N., 1914 East Venango St., Phila., Pa.
 Mann, Clarence A., 112 S. Locust St., Nt. Carmel Pa.
 Marker, William L., Vinita, Rt. 3, Okla.
 Moore, Joseph F., Prospect Hts., Rensseler, N. Y.
 McDaniel, John
 Martin Donald O., Hughesville, Md.
 McAlarney, Edward I., 368 Ira Ave., Akron, Ohio.
 Mackety David, Rt. 2, Athens, Mich.
 Morgan, James H., Box 1384 Leveland, Tex.
 Matiski, Joe, Rt. 1, Foxboro, Wis.
 Manser, Philip F., Harford Rd., Lack Raven, Balt., Md
 Miller, Carl N., 318 Chatham St., Union City, Ind.
 Mackhart, Bohumil, Rt. 2, Shiver, Tex.
 Malone, Sherley, Rt. 2, Chunchula, Ala.
 Martino, Philip A., 1820 Pernon St., Phila, 45, Pa.
 Nealy, Harry E., Orange St., Franklin, Ky.
 Nolte, Walter C., 1976 Lexington Ave., Norwood, Ohio.
 Nelson, Urban C., Rt. 2, Velva, N. D.
 Nez John H., Box 115, Saint Michaels, Ariz.
 Naeser, Howard J., 13 Kent St., West Field, N. Y.
 Nail, Dennison L., 504 N. Hudson St., Altus, Okla.
 Nirenberg, Max., 2454 85th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Northrup, Dale L., 355 Pearl St., Marion, Ohio.
 Nelms, Lillard J., 409 West 2nd St., Cisco, Tex.
 Noto, Phillip, 2509 Pine St., Tampa Fla.
 Nicholson, Michael J., 663 N. Locaust St., Hazleton, Pa.
 Olson, Obert W., Milwaukee, Wis.
 O'Reilly Roger P., 3715 64th St., Woodside, N. Y.
 Ohlson, Nels G., 5810 Princeton Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Pitcher, Donald E., 1638 5th St., Muskegon, Hts., Mich.
 Peters, Charles P., 212 Hamilton St., New Brunswick, N. J.
 Peters, Raymond H., Jersey City, N. J.
 Paluzzi, James 504 N. Elmer St., Sayre, Pa.
 Pictor, Walter W., 4101 Chesley Ave., Balti., Md.
 Ragucci, Bernard J., 70 Carson Ave., Staten Island, N. Y.
 Rowe, Ernest A., Denver, Col.
 Rosewald, Donald R., 521 Lake St., St. Joseph, Mich.
 Robinson, Horace P., Fayetteville, Ark.
 Richter, Herbert R., 2246 Webster Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Rychlik, Edward S., 46 Sherman St., Bridgeport, Conn.
 Roehke, Ralph, 3647 S. Broadway St., Louis, Mo.
 Raduonz, Lyle F., 1115 N. 17th St., Manitowoc, Wis.
 Rossion, Simeon E., Box 23 Sunny Meade, Cal.
 Rosenthal, Benjamin, 307 Montank Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Sheffield, Aaron J., Brooklet, Ga.
 Schriock, Bernard, Mountain Lake Minn.
 Spiegler, Bernard, Akron, Ohio.
 Snyder, Dana R., Dover, Pa.
 Schroedermer, Robert L., Hollywood, Cal.
 Schlomowitz, William, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Sear, Raymond A., 3734 N. 38th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Summers, Richard W., 437 S. Shippen St., Lancaster, Pa.
 Smith, Gerald C., 2084 Riverside Dr., S. Williamsport, Pa.
 Standish, Donald, Rt. 1, Marongo, Ill.
 Stuckey, Marion E., Bisheville, S. C. Rt. 2.
 Smith, John 79 E. College Ave., Westerville, Ohio.
 Suits, Earl A., Peoria, Ill.
 Spivey, Wilburn J., 1116 N. 14th St., Nashville, Tenn.
 Schroeder, Raymond W., Rt. 1, New Haven, Mo.
 Spohn, Herbert, 645 W. 11th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Stallions, William L., 1007 East 4th St., West Franklin, Ill.
 Shidler, George G., 357 Park Ave., Long Beach, Cal.

Sinclair, Sheldon., 432 4th St., N. Glasgow, Montana
 Skawinski, John C., 588 Berkshire Ave., Bridgeport, Conn
 Stone, Robert P., 3019 St. John Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.
 Smith, Gerald, 2084 Riverside Dr. S., Williamsport, Pa.
 Shulenburg, Frank, R. R. #3, Box 393, Hickory N. C.
 Slater, Paul, Rt. #3, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Simons, Stanley, Volga S. Dakota
 Sugar, Vincent, 2252 Johnston St., Los Angeles, Cal
 Shannon, John H., 1604 Jennings St., Battleville, Okla.
 Shaw, Kenneth A., Harveyville, Kansas
 Trimpe, Carl L., Seymour, Ind.
 Triplett, Carl, Monise, Ky.
 Thompson Denver L., 925 Croyden Dr Dayton, Ohio.
 Tiejak, Steve, 16 Seneca St., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Tice Edward J., R. F. D. #31, Slingerland, N. Y.
 Terry, Eldon W., Box 109 Whitehouse, Tex.
 Thomas, Calvin R., Holsopple, Pa.
 Thomas, Edwin P., 1126 Barbara Ave., Duquesne, Pa.
 Toms, David L., Lincoln Highway, Colina, N. J.
 Timpkins, Daniel, Wempus Ave., Armonk, N. Y.
 Troutman, Harvey, Mayport, Pa.
 Tucker, William, 926 Grant Ave., New Phila., Ohio.
 Upton, Robert D., 204 S. Chestnut, Jefferson, La.
 Van Sweden, Harold, Byron Center Rt. 1.
 Vitanas, Joseph, 146 S. 10th Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
 Van Dyke, J. J. Jr., Coleman, Tex.
 Vollmer, Leo W., Box 111, Rt. # Vincennes, Ind.
 Vaughn, Clyde W., Rt. 1, Cambria, Va.
 Vavra, Frank S., 5857 W. Dirersey Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Vullo, Michel G., Happy Jack, La.
 Van Valien James, Sulphur Springs, Tex.
 Vasquez, Andrew R., Leel W. 30th St., Los Angeles, Cal.
 Vaughn, Abraham, 403 N. Main St., Fitzgerald, Va.
 White, Nolan R., Box 324, Benham, Ky.
 Williams, Clyde, 708 Rogers St., Gadsden, Ala.
 Woodward, Donald A., Sackets Harbor, N. Y., N. Y.
 Wals, Helmut F., Sheyboygan, Wis.
 Welsh, Paul, 276 Marshall Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Watterson, Martin, 5606 Focussel St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Wade, Francis M., Shoals, Ind.
 Winter, William K., 1030 S. 16th St., Maintowoc, Wis.
 Winchester, Robert O., Rt. #2, Imboden, Ark.
 Wren, Martin W., Box 123, W. Hillsboro, N. C.
 Windle, James O., Rt. #1, Ivokoe, Texas
 Ward, Lewis A., R. F. D. #2, Box 777, Battle Creek, Mich.
 Wallis, Worthy B., Hural St., Apple Grove, W. Va.
 White, Arlee, Dodson, La.
 Walton, James, Dresden, Ohio.
 White Andrew A., Rt. 1, Desoto, Mo.
 Widell, Laurel W., Hayward, Wis., R. R. #1.
 Williams, Fred F., Sherdesan, Ark. Box 18.
 Yanuzzi, Ralph J., 622nd N., James., Hazleton, Pa.
 Yira, William E., Honolulu
 Zard, Ernest, 641 10th Ave., Ontigo, Wis.
 Zechman, Ralph G., Pine Grove, Pa.
 Zimmer, Richard V., Rochester, N. Y.

COMPANY H

Andrews, Harvey, Cleveland, Ark.
 Asparro, John D., 3219 S. E. Francis St., Portland, Ore.
 Bagley, Charles R., 2021 Madison Ave., Anderson, Ind.
 Baker, Raymond A., 8 Summer St., Westerly, R. I.
 Benesh, George J., 3577 E. 112th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Bellerdine, Anthony, 169 Clark St., Auburn, N. Y.
 Bissell, Robert J., Kendall, N. Y.
 Borner, Arthur R., 4738-10th Ave., S. Minn., Minn.
 Branit, Paul G., 603 St., Dundasnd Rd., Balti, Md.
 Brown, William F., 1285 2nd St., Steelton, Pa.
 Brunderhauser, Earnest., 1 French Terrace, Yonkers, N. Y.
 Butler, Robert T., 417 E. S. "B" St., Gas City, Ind.
 Bryer, Stanley J., 4218 S. Rockwell St., Chicago, Ill.
 Case, Morris., 3210 East Owen St., Salem, Ore.
 Catterton, Lloyd E., Whitall, S. C.
 Chambers, Harold G., 231 8th Ave N., St. Paul, Minn.
 Chuchak, Ernest M., 1453 Belmont Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Compton, George W., Union, West Va.
 Coniff, Alvin G., 1218-11th St., Port Huron, Mich.
 Coverale, Frank J., 1504 Telephone Rd., Houston, Tex.
 Cowden, John T.
 Cox, Logn W., 1904 W. 10th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Brumm, Theodore, 7133-charles St., Phila, Pa.
 Cox, Raymond M., Gen Del, Trenton, Tenn.
 Cox, William S., 544 Harrison, Gary, Ind.
 Craig, Robert, 525 Gifford Ave., Hagestown, Md.
 Daly, William A., 2344 Pierce St., Phila, Pa.
 Davis, Harold I., 284 Hartwell St., Fall River, Mass.
 Davis, Jessie M., Union St., Eldorado, Ill.
 Davis, Joseph J., Rt. 2, Conway, N. C.
 Davis, Lowyn, 1249 S. E. St., Washington, D. C.
 DeWanz, Llyn E., 63 Grace St., Elgin, Ill.
 Domanack, Adolph F., 2130 Rutland Ave., Springfield, Ohio.
 Douglas, Curt R., 329 Mid Ave., S. Va.
 Downey, Paul L., 4914 Tuckerman Ave., Riverdale, Md.
 Due, Robert ZL Toledo, Wash.
 Dunning, Cornelios, 1050 East 24th St., Patterson, N. J.
 Eckel, Robert B., 770-12th St., Boulder, Col.
 Edwards, Henry B., 103 Causen Ave., Suffolk, Va.
 Essex, Frank Jr., 398-1st St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Eversole, Robert B., Rt. 1, Pickerington Ohio.
 Fallon, Edward J.
 Fede, Vincenzo S., 44 Tariff St., Thompsonville, Conu.
 Feunay, Lester F., 1137 Lincion St., Eldorado, Ill
 Fisher, Lloyd C., Brown City, Mich.
 Fisher, Noble J., 319 S. Illinois Ave., Martinsburg, W. Va.
 Fitzgerald, James E., 490 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul Minn.
 Frantum, George W., 3004 Illinois Ave. Baltimore, 27, Md.
 Freeman, Morris., 2019-72nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Fried, Melvin H., 238 Meeting House Lane Merion, Pa.
 Fugate, Joe J., Beaver, Mo.
 Gardner, Albert O., Sharon, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 Geile, Harold E., 5311 Lindenwood St. Louis, Mo.
 Giddens, William A., 320 S. Central Tifton, Ga.
 Glennon, Charles E., 175 W. 72nd St., N. Y. c., N. Y.
 Goddard, John W., 4829 Townsend Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Godzwon, Thadeus
 Gould, Dale F., Arcadia, Neb., Rt. #2.
 Haas, Joseph W., 115 E. Main St., Sleepy Eye, Minn.
 Harrinton, Patrick J., 1515 W. 56 St., Chicago, Ill.
 Hesterk James E., Millerton, Okla.
 Hughes, Philip S. Jr., Box 186, Salem, Ill.
 Hulin, Dixie D., R. F. D. #2, Hickory, Ky.
 Humphrey, George W., 24 Propeller Dr, Baltimore, Md.
 Hutchins, Gordon E., 5 E. Seminary St., Brandon, Vt.
 Inglis, David, 623 Woodland, Petoskey, Mich.
 Irvin, Jack, 213 W. John St., Martinsburg, W. Va.
 Isaacs, James K., 1723 Grand Blvd. Hamilton, Ohio.
 Israel, William L., Southwick, Idaho
 Jackson, Henry, Rt. 5, Carleton, Ga.
 Jackson, Rex M., 719 Willow, Bonham, Tex.
 Jaworski, Chester J., 4088-7th St., Wyandotte, Mich.
 Jowico, Albert, 135 E. 114th Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 Jones, Alga L., Rt. #2, Hamilton, Tex.
 Keedy, Chester F., 806 W. Franklin St., Hagestown, Md.
 Kennedy, Willford, Greenwood, Springs, Miss.
 Kursey, Clyde G., Rt. #5, Cleveland, Tenn.

King, John W., 1111 N. George St., York, Pa.
 King, Ned B., 1318 Steiner Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
 Kurtz, Garwood M., 856 Main St., Pennsylvania, Pa.
 Lachette, Joseph G., R. F. D. #1, Whitehaven, Pa.
 Larson, Marvin L., 324 E. Jackson St., Morris, Ill.
 Laverne, Stanley J., R. D. #1, Lorain, Ohio.
 Lenz, Louis, 73 Terry St., Patchogue, N. Y.
 Lillienfeld, Murray, 5609 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy, Bklyn, N. Y.
 Linton, William H., 1402 Jefferson Ave., Lewisburg, Pa.
 Locklear, Cleveland, Box 144, Cleo, S. C.
 Lolli, Louis, 147 W. 27th St., Bayonne, N. J.
 Loncesion, Cecil, Zuni, New Mexico.
 Main, Lester M., Box 113 Galeson, Pa.
 Marshall, James L., 3725 Telle St., Dallas, Tex.
 Mays, Francis, Rt. 1, Aubrey, Tex.
 Meyer, Robert J., 1728 Queen City Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Miller, Thomas, Rt. 5, 188 Box, Talahassae, Fla.
 Miller, Nevin, Church St., Bechtelsville, Pa.
 Montalbano, Michael, 504 W. North Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Myers, Delmar E., Jacksonville, Tex.
 Neal, Clarence, 1623 Fourth Ave., Beaver Falls, Pa.
 Nealy, Oris F., Rt. 2, Box 8, Koheling, La.
 O'Neal, Clifford, Everett Star Rt., Pa.
 Pace, Felix J., Rt. 3, Haleyville, Ala.
 Padovano, Rosario J., 80 2nd Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Palay, Donald W., 520 8th Ave., S. Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
 Palmer, Arthur, 2430-29th St., Astoria, N. Y.
 Parker, James H., Rt. 3, R. F. D., Adamsville, Ga.
 Phelps, Cecil A., 302 N. Ill. St., Monticello, Ind.
 Pochatko, Paul P., 1450 E. 8th Erie, Pa.
 Prentice, Richard A., Warsaw, N. Y.
 Press, Bronislav J., Manchovia Rd. N. Wilbraham, Mass.
 Pruitt, Russell C., 905 Beulah Ave., Gadsden, Ala.
 Pulver, Fred H., 4192 Greene Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Pyles, Claude L., Wolfe City, Tex. #2.
 Rago, Joseph T., 1775 Manor Port Richmond, Staten Is., N. Y.
 Ragadeal, Roy D., Box 53, Galatia, Ill.
 Rainey, Selba D., Rt. 3, Shamrock, Tex.
 Reeves, Willard F., Sparta, N. C.
 Redwine, Raymond E., Rt. 1, Plains, Tex.
 Rheume, Richard R., 1211 Elm St., Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
 Riggs, Floyd W., Galesburg, Ill. Rt. #3.
 Rickerson, Charles W., 244 East Elm St., Beeryan, N. Y.
 Robbins, Posy, Cincinnati, Iowa.
 Robinson, Benjamin T., Rt. 3, Dalton, Ga.
 Robinson, Trenton W., Rt. 4, Cullman, Ala.
 Rodgers, Norman E., Wheaton, Mo.
 Sauer, Joseph D., 6644 Boyer St., Phila., Pa.
 Scarcello, James N., 541 Harrison St., Kansas City Mo.
 Schiffman, David, 1772-46th St., Brklyn, N. Y.
 Schenk, Vincent H., 8392 Senator Ave., Detroit, 9 Mich.
 Sears, Calvin W., Rt. 3, Gullman, Ala.
 Sensabaugh, William E., Raphine, Virginia Rt. 1.
 Short, Donald N., Jacksonlane Middletown, Ohio, Rt. 2.
 Simmons, John G., Baldwin, Ga.
 Skolmikh, Herman 2018 Monterey, Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Smith, Lee A., 626 S. Park Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Snider, Homaer R., Rt. 2, Cumberland, Md.
 Stewart, William A., Armthwaite, Tenn.
 Stonerook, Clarence, Box 306 Exter, Neb.
 Stults, Paul A., Olivet, Mich. 118 Drury Lane.
 Syphurs, John S.
 Talamini, Anthony G., 1840 Hoffman St., Phila., Pa.
 Tammaro, Rudy, 125 Navy Walk, Brklyn, N. Y.
 Taormina, Nata.
 Tenore, Eugene L., 2232-1st Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Terrell, Walter T., 114 W. 34th St., Norfolk, Va.
 Thompson, Clealon C., 229 Oakwood Ave., Maritta, Ohio.
 Tillman, Lowell T., Conway, Mo.
 Tobolski, Joseph A., Garrison Rd., Vineland, N. J.
 Trapp, Paul W., Charleston, Tex.
 Troxell, Henry L., 815-12th St., Windber, Pa.
 Vogel, Harry J., 415 S. Pruente, Baldwin Park, Cal.
 Waits, Joseph F., Gravel Switch, Rt. 1, Ky.
 Wagner, Lyle, 327 W. 11th St., Russel, Kans.
 Walker, Preston L., 1811-27th St., Birghingam, Ala.
 Wallis, Billy W., Rt. 1, Hiawathat, Kans.
 Ward, John H., Bodette, Minn.
 Welker, Andrew J., Frankellay, Mo.
 Whitmore, George A., Richmond, Mo.
 Wheeler, John W., Jr., Cartersville, Rt. 3, Ga.
 Weigel, David, Rt. 2, Medford, Wis.
 Wilkerson, Dale R.
 Willoughby, William, Box 838, Bow Legs, Okla.
 Wolfe, Norman R., Mineral Wells, Tex.
 Woolen, Clifton E., 2619 Buena Vista Rd., N. C.
 Woodusiewicz, Peter, 66 Stone St., Stanford, Conn.
 Wostovic, William B., 430-18th St., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
 Zambon, Bruno J., 2552 W. Superior St., Niagara Falls, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 3RD BATTALION

Alessandro, Frank, 2966 Eastlawn, Detroit, Mich.
 Alexander, Bural N., Gen. Del., Cottage Hills, Ill.
 Allen, Harry W., 83 Marquette Rd., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Alvis, Roy J., Rt. 1, Box 113, Ronger, Tex.
 Alfante, Harold M., Ingalls, Ind.
 Apicella, Frank R., 2919 Hamilton St., Bellaire, Ohio.
 Asens, Joseph F., 3527 Osage Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Austman, Walter, 607 Main St., Macon, Ga.
 Andrews, Walter, Lost Creek, Pa.
 Babbitts, Edward H., 25 Cleveland St., Englewood, N. J.
 Bagwell, Robert B., 409 Sixth Ave., Thomaston, Ga.
 Baker, Clarence E., 3501 N. 60th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Ball, Robert B., 119 W. Lenawee, Lansing, Mich.
 Barnacki, Stanley J., 117 Richards St., New Britain, Conn.
 Barnett, Kenneth C., Rt. 2, Jane Lew, Va.
 Becker, Joseph, 1127 E. Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
 Auletta, Anthony J., 1803 81st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Beening, Arthur F., 14220 Dixon Rd. E., Dundee, Mich.
 Bell, Grant C., 1152 N. Water St., Decatur, Ill.
 Betz, Paul C., 6 Reynolds Ave., Pottstown, Pa.
 Biege, David S., 469 Main St., Walnutport, Pa.
 Blackham, Lawrence A., 4407 Utopia Parkway, Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
 Bombay, Albert J., 2152 Brown Rd., Lakewood, Ohio.
 Boettcher, Donald M., Box 134, Bruce, S. D.
 Bonta, Jimmie R., 161 Marion Rd., Woodlawn, Conn. Ohio.
 Bragdon, Donald A., Poland Spring, Md.

Buschkanper, Edward, 37 Thompson Ave., White Plains, N. Y.
 Calvert, Hilton G., 11 Burr Oaks, Austin, Minn.
 Campbell, Loren L., 410 State St., Salina, Kans.
 Cannizzaro, Joseph F., Bay St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Canody, Roland G., 11509 Balfour Dr., Detroit, Mich.
 Carpenter, William B., Jackson Rd., Castonia, N. C.
 Ciesinski, Roman, 6337 Woodrow Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Clawson, Fred F., Box 103, Lucerne Mines, Pa.
 Click, Glynn A., Rt. 2, Claremont, N. H.
 Clifford, Jerome F., 39-25 21st St., L. I. City, N. Y.
 Constantino, Nick A., 3021 W. Polk St., Chicago, Ill.
 Cornelison, John S., 1825 P. St., S. E., Washington, D. C.
 Crawford, Darwin W., 3513 London St., Kalamazoo, 38 Mich.
 Crisci, Arthur M., 3250 85th St., Jackson Hts., L. I., N. Y.
 Cummings, Dwight, 20 Summer St., Auburn, Mass.
 Curci, Hugo F., 1467 Bay St., Staten Island 5, N. Y.
 Curry, Edwin L., Rt. 2, Mansfield, Ohio.
 Curtis James W., 2208 James Ave., N. Minneapolis, Minn.
 Curtis, Woodford T., Clay City, Ky.
 Dahl, Eldon W., Madelia Madelia, Minn.
 Darnley, John H., Lonaconing, Md.
 Davis, Donald J., 127 Wilkinson Sidney Ohio.
 Davis, Earl D., Rt. 3, Walker, W. Va.
 Davis, John R., Solsberry, Ind.
 DeSantis, Frank J., 2540 Cambreleng Ave., Bronx 55, N. Y.
 Devore, William W., 774 Bryant St., Stroudsburg, Pa.
 Dickey, Will D., 603 E. Ross St., Downs, Kans.
 Dudaski, Michael, 40 Knapp Ave., Clifton, N. J.
 Dembroski, Walter, 4112 23rd Rd., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
 Eby, Edward K., 914 Grand Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Ferron, Daniel F., 15 Maple St., Danilston, Conn.
 Fiocchi, Natale, 106 McDougal St., N. Y.
 Fox, Gottfried J., 316 E. 92nd St., N. Y.
 Fullilove, A. J., 806 Cuyahoga St., Clarkdale, Miss.
 Garringer, Kenneth E., Rt. 6, Washington C. H., Ohio.
 Geissler, Harold G., Box 237 Okeechobee, Fla.
 Gibson, Merl M., 519 S. Eddy St., South Bend, Ind.
 Gibson, Henry L., 2317 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls, Ore.
 Gladette, John L., Nelliston, N. Y.
 Gilbert, Glenn E., Altoona, Wis.
 Gilmer, James W., 1011 S. 41st St., Birmingham, Ala.
 Goldberg, Bernard, 125 Brighton 11 St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Goulash, Leo J., Jr., 2 Randolph Pl., North Hampton, Mass.
 Hains, Nelson P., 4 Tolles St., W. Hartford, Conn.
 Hale, John E., 412 Francis St., Jeffersonville, Ind.
 Hall, Riner K., 305 Highland Ave., S. W., Roanoke, Va.
 Harnisch, Ernest G., Fredricksburg, Iowa.
 Harper, Blake W. Jr., 102 Holly St., Montgomery, Ala.
 Hastings, Walter W., Rt. 2, Seaford, Delaware.
 Hayes, Daniel J., 401 E. Walnut St., Washington, Ind.
 Hausman, Edward T., 3511 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Ill.
 Heritage, Wm. W., 503 Durham St., Burlington, N. C.
 Highers, William T., 703 E. Mt. Vernon St., Somerset, Ky.
 Hoff, Roy A., Mrs. Olga Hoff, All Saints School Sioux Falls, S. Dakota.
 Hornshu, Alton A., Houston, Tex.
 Hunt, John F., 682 E. 4th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Jacobs, John D., 157 S. 4th St., Steelton, Pa.
 Johnson, Hugh C., Liberty St., Waynesboro, Ga.
 Johnson, John K., 2425 14th Ave., San Francisco, Cal.
 Kachura, Nicholas W., 500 E. 15th St., N. Y. N. Y.
 Kaplan, Louis W., 230 Schenectady Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Kastner, Moses M., 510 S. 18th St., Newark, N. J.
 Keefe, Elmer W., 34 Thorndike St., Concord, N. H.
 Kehoe, Thomas F., 2331 Bryant St., San Francisco, Cal.
 Kennedy, Thomas E., 1816 Taylor Rd., E. Cleveland, Ohio.
 Kennedy, Walter J., 335 84th St., Brklyn, 9 N. Y.
 Kervan, Richard E., 102 Center St., Warren, Pa.
 Kingmon, Robert J., 6201 Dawes Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Kirk, Charles E., Logan, Tenn.
 Kisor, Glenn R., Rt. 3, Wellston, Ohio.
 Kubitschek, Antone E., 270 Castro St., San Francisco, Cal.
 Lang, Gerald C., 216 Jefferson Ave., Warren, Pa.
 Lawrence, Edward P., 187 Pres Ave., Buffalo, 20, N. Y.
 Lowe, Wilfred, 2260 N. W. Irving, Portland, Ore.
 Majowicz, Ted R., 125 10th St., Passaic, N. J.
 Mallon, Walter B., 50 Washington St., Malone, N. Y.
 Kelstrom, Lyle R., 218 E. St., S. E. Auburn, Wash.
 Lindsok, Frederick O., 235 7th Ave., San Mateo, Cal.
 Lundquist, Conrad, 101 S. Clark Drive, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Kunkle, Paul, 2001 Washtenaw Ave., Ann. Arbor, Mich.
 Mandeville, William C., 509 Summit Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Mansmith Harold E., 113 21st St., S. E. Mason City, Iowa.
 Marcus, Marvin W., 874 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Maynard, Jack W., Rt. 2, Vonore, Tenn.
 McCormick, Edwin J., 405 Mill St., St. Paul 2, Minn.
 McLarty, Jay K., Harper House, Rock Island, Ill.
 McLaughlin, Donald O., 31 McCorkal Ave., S. Charleston W. Va.
 Meador, James D., 367 Church Ave., S. E. Roanoke, Va.
 Merritt, Earl O., 216 E. Laurel, Independence, Kans.
 Miranda, Joseph A., Box 37, North Rd., Calverton, L. I., N. Y.
 Molnar, William S., 331 165th St., Hammond, Ind.
 Monaco, Angelo J., 1706 Harewood St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Monroe, Paul E., Rt. 1, Daleville, Ind.
 Moss, William S., 568 Drew St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Murphy, Frank J., Rt. 2, Rice Lake, Wis.
 Murphy, Arthur P., 401 E. 156th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Naylor, Lewis C., 714 Fulton Rd., N. W. Canton, Ohio.
 Naveta, Anthony A., 265 Prospect Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Nibbe, Kenneth E., 1601 W. 5th St., Redwing, Minn.
 North, William D., Jr., 515 Welcome Ave., Norwood, Pa.
 Oberlin, George D., 1284 Waterloo Rd., Arkon, Ohio.
 O'Hearn, John J., 787 Columbia Rd., Dorchester, Mass.
 Olmstead, George R., 2425 S. State St., Syracuse, N. Y.
 O'Neill, David D., 214 Willis Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Paladino, Ciro B., 309 S. Jackson, Kansas City, Mo.
 Panzera, Antonio, 7701 15th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Pappas, Custer G., 29 High St., Norwich, Conn.
 Parris, Henry K., 3545 Idlewild Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Paszkiewicz, Harry C., 4044 14th Ave., Kenosha, Wis.
 Pasquale, George J., 1342 Fulton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Petroviak, Ervin R., 309 N. 61st St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Pierce, Lawson F., 1810 S. Cleveland, Little Rock, Ark.
 Pierson, Francis E., Mason, Ohio.
 Pinney, Grant L., 1426 Proutz Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Pirro, Albert H., 116 Freeman Ave., Solvay, N. Y.
 Pitaresi, John V., Rt. 10, Box 640, Milwaukee, Ore.
 Price, Donald J., 1023 E. 18th Ave., Spokane, Wash.
 Pritchett, Eli D., Rt. 1, Marietta, Ohio.
 Pusek, John, 755 E. 96th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Quattrucci, Henry M., 138 Belmont St., Worcester, Mass.
 Rammel, David J., 219 Old Main St., Miamisburg, Ohio.
 Ratner, Alvin J., 8537 91st St., Woodhaven, N. Y.
 Richle, Paul J., 509 Maddock St., Crumlyne, Pa.
 Roberts, Harry O., 980 Delaware Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
 Roberts, Lewis D., 1480 Beatrice Ave., S. W. Atlanta, Ga.
 Rodriguez, Refugio P., 704 E. 10th St., Austin, Tex.
 Rogers, John D., 118 Maple Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Rogie, Luke A., 1412 Merchant St., Ambridge, Pa.
 Romano, Robert J., 49 Brook St., Shelton, Conn.
 Rozen, Yitshag, 600 Wend Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Rudden, Patrick M., 5411 Woodside Ave., Woodside, L. I., N. Y.
 Rutter, Orley E., Rt. 2, Bristol, Va.
 Russer, Robert C., 2021 Lackawanna Ave., Superior, Wis.
 Ruvo, William A., 8534 N. Mohawk Ave., Portland, Ore.

Saunders, Gerald A., 47 E. 15th St., New Albany, N. Y.
 Schultz, Lewis D., Box 395, Los Gatos, Cal.
 Skeryane, Raymond F., 19511 Nottingham Rd., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Slusser, Paul D., Rt. 3, Blomingsburg, Pa.
 Smith, William T., Rt. 2, Box 140-D, Sylacauga, Ala.
 Smith, Albert, 1963 Wallace Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Snow, Charles W., 642 N. Daniels, Springfield, Ill.
 Solganic, Abraham J., 1734 59th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Stable, Albert, 10 Hobson St., Methuen, Mass.
 Stagg, Merrill J., Rt. 3, Box 232 Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
 Stalleup, Howard, Clifton City, Ky.
 Stem, Harry, 3123 Campbell, Kansas City, Mo.
 Stevens, John A., Rt. 2, Onaway, Mich.
 Stewart, Roger M., 36 Claremont Ave., Maplewood, M. J.
 Szeluga, Robert, 86 Sesson Ave., Hartford, Conn.
 Tabor, Elbee R., 38 Light St., Dayton, Ohio.
 Taylor, Garland H., Bilar, W. Va.
 Terrill, William R., 214 W. South St., Mahanoy City, Pa.
 Trelle, Daniel J., 316 E. 164th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Utberg, Frank E., Dixonville, Pa.
 Valentino, Dominick N., 29 Orchard St., Jersey City, N. J.
 Valverde, Walter S., 701 W. 177th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Vastag, John R., 2127 W. 58th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Vlach, Wilbur M., 916 N. Montford, Baltimore, Md.
 Voigt, Eugene W., Basehor, Kans.
 Vuoso, George, 501 W. 34th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Wadlington, Robert L., Beau Sejour, St., Martinville, La.
 Wathen, Thomas A., Compton, Md.
 Watroski, Joseph M., 13305 Harvard Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Warner, Herbert A., Shortsville, N. Y.
 Wellman, Homer, 8805 Vancouver St., Fort Gay, W. Va.
 Wiedner, Donald C., East Texas, Pa.
 Wild, Warren R., 2401 W. Brown St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Wilson, Robert R., 120 Washington St., Waterloo, Iowa.
 Wilson, Thomas D., Kincaid, Kans.
 Wolf, Maurice P., 3828 Glenway Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Wojczak, Frank E., 1844 W. Kerney Pl., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Wren, Marvel P., 706 E. B. Temple, Tex.
 Zagg, William J., 17 Stanton St., Newark, N. J.
 Zirol, Gustave J., 9606 Ave., N. Chicago, Ill.
 Zomchick, Anthony J., 68 Patrotic Hill, Mahoney City, Pa.
 Gibson, Merle M., 519 S. Eddy St., South Bend, Ind.
 Harnisch, Ernest G., Fredricksburg, Iowa.
 Pirro, Albert H., 116 Freeman Ave., Solvay, N. Y.

COMPANY I

Abbott, James B., 229 Leith St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Akridge, Douglas C., 2110 Clark Lane, Rulando, Cal.
 Allen, Wilbert M., R. F. D. #1, Jefferson, Ohio.
 Alvarado, Matias, Box 682, Goeta, Cal.
 Anderson, Leslie, Rt. #2, Bathill, Wash.
 Anshel, Charles, 1818 E. Fairmount Ave., Balt., Md.
 Anthony, Marr R., 162 E. Polk St., Paris, Tex.
 Askea, J. W., Box 283, Atlanta, Ga.
 Asten, William G., Rt. 2, Winslow, Ind.
 Auzulavich, Thomas J., 1255 Poplar Kulpmont, Pa.
 Babcock, Clarence V., Rt. 1, Box 38, Bayfield, Colo.
 Barlam, Carmen D., 387 South Ave., Bridgetown, N. J.
 Bagwell, Claude E., 3974 QM Truck Co. APO 667, % PM N. Y. N. Y.
 Bartholomew, George A., 1545 Beechwood Blvd., Pitt., Pa.
 Bastkowski, Theodore, 4326 Milnor Phila., Pa.
 Beckelheimer, Archie, US Army Hosp. Plant 4130A APO 316A % PM N. Y.
 Becker, Robert H., 667 S. Libert St., Elgin, Ill.
 Behmke, Leonard F., 1528 S. 8th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Bennett, James A., Mt. Morse, Pa.
 Bennett, Thomas J., 1506 41st St., North Bergen, N. J.
 Benson, Sidney, 2537 N. Myrtlewood Plaza 32, Pa.
 Bernard, Joseph, 1301 Foster St., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Beyron, Herbert Jr., 1404 Park Ave., Cambridge, Ohio.
 Birr, Delbert E., 5529 Roscoe St., Chicago, Ill.
 Blair, Homer L., 1423 Wellington St., Memphis, Tenn.
 Boden, Gilbert, Rt. 5, Butler, Mo.
 Bogg, Homer S., Rt. 2, Sutton, W. Va.
 Bravieri, Eugene R., 7639 W. Farragut Chicago, Ill.
 Brennan, Daniel, 341 5th N. E., Canton, Ohio.
 Brewer, Richard C., Albion, N. Y.
 Bricklev, Raymond S., 1627 Kensington Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.
 Brown, Manuel O., Hillsbor, New Mex.
 Byrd, Luther M., Ramsay Town, N. C.
 Carter, Thomas J., 2406 Whitney, Niagara Falls, N. Y.
 Casey, John J., South Amboy, N. J.
 Cashman, Edward J. Jr., 24 Michell, Biorghampton, N. Y.
 Caton, William L., Rt. 4, Clanton, Ala.
 Chasse, Joseph H., Love Saskatchewan, Canada.
 Cheapetta, Sam S., 3231 W. Lexington Ky.
 Clark, Larnan, A., Bagley, Wis.
 Clark, Phil G., Greenleaf, Kans.
 Corey, William C., 256 W. Ficus S., Mt. Sterling, Ky.
 Cornish, Harry J., 1692 Wash. Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Cortez, Catarino C., 2913 Ruth St., Corpus Christi, Tex.
 Cottrill, Richard P., 242 Hosea Ave., Cinn., Ohio.
 Crunk, Howard T., Seabro, Tenn.
 Curney, Lawrence, 46 1/2 Catherine St., Elizabeth, N. J.
 Cypert, Richard B., Rt. 3, Sexter, Mo.
 Daddio, Augustine, 75 Brookline Ave., Nutley, N. Y.
 Daley, Robert, 206 E. Church St., Alexandria, Ind.
 Dahse, Francis T., Gresham, Wis.
 Davis, Willie E., Box 56, Brumley, Mo.
 DeGrange, Johnnie T., 1428 Hanover, Balt., Md.
 Delehanty, Paul W., 200 Yale Ave., Swarthmore, Pa.
 Demk, Wesley, 4623 S. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 DeSantis, Joseph, 331 Dahill Rd., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Dinyer, Anthony M., 5461 Goethe Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Dix, Giles F., Star Rt., Danville, Va.
 Dodge, Leslie M., Box 95, Saxton River, Vt.
 Doering, William E., 915 Kingstown St., Toledo, Ohio.
 Dombrowski, Edward W., Rt. 2, Pt. Jervis, N. Y.
 Donegan, Joseph T., 1413 S. Guenther St., Phila., Pa.
 Dorris, Harold D., 1839 E. Jefferson Detroit, Mich.
 Doshier, Hershel L., 913 E. Chadler Chawnee, Okla.
 Doucet, Davis E., Golden Meadow, La.
 Dowdy, Hulan J., 2842 Thomall, Dallas, Tex.
 Drooge, Frederick J., 1922 Hunt Club Dr., Det., Mich.
 Dubay, Guy F., 54 Grant St., Van Buren, Maine.
 Duck, George F., 1419 Edmonds Ave., Phenix City, Ala.
 Duffer, Emmett L., Rt. 4, Greenville, Va.
 Dyer, Albert E., Borden Spring, Ala.
 Ehrlich, Charles H., Box 184, Seminole, Okla.
 Eide, Erling, Park Hotel, Oslo, Minn.
 Enault, Herbert A., Box 134, Onekama, Mich.
 Esquvel, Paul, 205 Idaho St., San Antonio, Tex.
 Fadden, Frank N., 1671 Oneida St., Schenectady, N. Y.
 Feicht, Joseph H., 1327 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Frantz, Ralph, 137 Holland St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
 Fuller, Everett S., Rt. 2, Waynesburg, Pa.
 Gable, Carl D., 4329 Laclene, St. Louis, Mo.
 Gallagher, Edward M., 829 W. 51st Pl., Chicago, Ill.
 Gandron, Vernon J., Box 335 Tiedoroga, N. Y.
 Gardner, John C., Rt. 2, Sharon, Tenn.
 Garner, Otis A., Rt. #1, Miller, Mo.
 Grish, Howard J., Gen. Del., Wauneta, Neb.
 Gerskowitz, Michael, 41 New Port St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Gillespie, John M., Formerville, La.
 Gilmore, Marion G., 120 S. Allen, Chanute, Kan.

Godsey, Wilson D., Stop Mine Mine Mile Rd., Richmond, Va.
Gonzales, Eligio T., Floresville, Cal.
Gordon, Charles R., 5242 You St., Sacramento, Cal.
Grant, Earl, Nacy, Nebr.
Gray, Johnnie L., 633 Boyles St., Houston 10, Tex.
Greenwood, Donald E., 1628 W. Wash. Springfield, Ill.
Grizzle, Hollis T., Rt. 1, Roswell, Ga.
Gullet, Clifford R., Paintsville, Ga.
Guggenbiller, Albert, Rd. 1, Cornell Rd. No. Olmstead Ohio.
Hackney, Paul J., Rt. 12, Knoxville, Tenn.
Hall, Douglas Ragland, W. Va.
Halverson, Walter, 3335 Holmes Ave., S. Minn. Minn.
Hansen, Almo I., 4325 1/2 Brighton, Los Angeles, Cal.
Haskell, Robert 302 Cherry St., Harrison, Mich.
Hassinger, Raymond R., 59 Transit St., Waterbury, Conn.
Haught, Oscar B., Rt. 3, Emory, Tex.
Haupt, Warren G., Rt. 1, Box 76, Shomolia, Pa.
Hector, Robert, Sheldon, Iowa.
Hendenburg, John, 144 N. Dithridge, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Henderson, Daniel C., Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.
Herron, James W., 314 N. Park Ave., Warren, Ohio.
Hockett, Ira, Box 70, Cresswell, Ore.
Hodge, Gerald, 121 1/2 E. Moulton St., Watertown, N. Y.
Hodgkiss, William F., Box 288, Tark, Pa.
Howe, Willard A., 231 Denison Pkwy, Corning, N. Y.
Howell, Benjamin M., Rt. 3, Russellville, Ala.
Howell, Lonnie D., Rt. 1, McKenney, Ala.
Hughes, Robert, 65 Harvard St., Quincy, Mass.
Hutchinson, Parke W., R. F. D. 2, Lancaster, Pa.
Ittinger, William H., Alexandria, Pa.
Ivanic, Joe P., 1328 S. 51st Court, Cicero, Ill.
Johnpall, Melvin H., 1020 45th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Johnston, Walter G., 714 Grantham St., Tarentum, Pa.
Jones, Claudie, Negreet, La.
Jones, Vann V., 424 S. Terrace Dr., Wichita, Kans.
Jorgensen, Stephen, 389 Insee Perth Amboy, N. J.
Juravic, William G., 1433 Oakgrove Ave., Steubenville, Ohio.
Karels, Michael R., 516-26th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
Kastner, Moses M., 510 S. 18th St., Newark, N. J.
Keist, William E., 809 S. Hollywood, Rdt, Finton, Mich.
Keller, William H., 207 1st Ave., Red Lion, Pa.
Kellogg, Howard C., Missouri Valley, Iowa.
Kelly, Byron B., 10 Morgan Pl., Port Wash., L. I., N. Y.
Kelly, John B., Box 1503, Midland, Tex.
Kempsey, Frank J., 500 Southern Blvd, Bronx, N. Y.
Kessler, Harold, 1212 Grant Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Kilburn, Norman W., 517 N. Y. Ave., Creston, Iowa.
Klein, Bernard S., 280 E. 160th St., Bronx, N. Y.
Klix, Gearhardt J., 14006 Longacre Rd., Detroit, Mich.
Koch, Robert S., 160 Spring St., Carbondale, Pa.
Kuehne, Norman R., Box 213 Long Prairie, Minn.
Kutche, George D., 808 Peace St., Hazleton, Pa.
Kuzminski, Michael, Box 588 Youngsville, Pa.
Ladylove, Perry F., 234 Sycamore St., Jacksonville, Tex.
Lane, William G. Jr., Box 113, Fulton County, Hustentown, Pa.
Latham, George O., 235 Ward Pkwy, Kansas City, Mo.
Lawson, Fred S., 1658 21st St., Douglas, Ariz.
Legosa, Paul, 333 W. 70th St., New York, N. Y.
Leide, Arthur W., 2408 S. Troy St., Chicago, Ill.
LeMaster, Ralph J., Rt. 2, Woodward, Iowa.
Lemon, Floyd O., 1605 Webster St., White Bear Lake, Minn.
Lonzynski, Kazimir J., 159 Jersey St., Staten I., N. Y.
Lettiere, John N., 6080 Freshpond Rd., Maspeth, L. I., N. Y.
Leung, Jick S., 77 Mott St., New York City, N. Y.
Leventhal, Sam, 279 W. Clarendon, Gladstone, Ore.
Lewis, Alvin B., 309 N. Siminary St., Priceton, Ky.
Liberty, Joseph, 1138 Morse St., N. E., Washington, D. C.
Light, Ernest R., Rt. 1, Dante, Va.
Lindsay, John G., 134 E. Howard St., Portage, Wis.
Linville, James B., 314 Thompson St., Florence, Ala.
Lockard, Alfred C., Rt. 4, Apollo, Pa.
Len, William, 703 Melrose Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Long, James F., Calhoun, La.
Long, Russell H., Columbia, W. Worely, Mo.
Long, William, Rt. 1, Nickenson Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich.
Lorusso, Stephan, 588-92nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lucic, James, 1817 Beaver Rd., Ambridge, Pa.
Lyon, James L., Jr., Rt. 1, Mt. Calm, Tex.
MacGillivray, Charles A., 814 E. Sixth St., S. Boston, Mass.
Maddox, James, 222 S. Broadway, Balt., Md.
Magoon, Eugene, 47 Felice St., Salimar, Cal.
Manese, Ralph A., 106-14 162nd St., Jamaica, N. Y.
Mantel, Henry, 107 52 Van Wyk Blvd, Richmond Hill, N. Y.
Marasek, Leonard, 69 Mehroot Rd., Little, Ferry, N. J.
Maples, Tom B., Box 202, Ft. Stockton, Tex.
Marquard, Vincent V., Box 173, Amherst Jet, Wis.
Martinez, Manuel E., 107 1/2 McCarragher St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Masters, Leon R., 304 Congress St., Charleston, S. C.
Maxwell, Robert W., 14 Winter St., Auburn, Mass.
May, Elmer F., 2043 N. 12th St., St. Toledo, Ohio.
Mayer, Donald T., Vallee City, Ohio.
Mayer, Elton B., Burton, Tex.
Mazzaglia, Anthony, 231 Rantool St., Beverly, Mass.
McCann, William R., 109 New Jersey Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
McCoey Ellison, Mirriron, W. Va.
McCoey, William E., 708 E. Sandusky Bellefontanone, Ohio.
McGill, Lawrence W., 1941 Parkside Dr. N. W., Washington, D. C.
McGlynn, John J., 130-11th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Meers, Emmett, Rt. 1, Murraycross, Ala.
Meridian, Walter M., 6111 Catalpa Ave., Ridgewood, N. Y.
Michael, Tedie R., 158 Moreland Ave., S. E., Atlanta, Ga.
Miller, Richard, Hanoverton, Ohio.
Miltzdarffer, Joseph J., Pesotum, Ill.
Montecalvo, Settimio, 3221 N. Kostner Ave., Chawnee, Okla.
Morgan, Clarence W., 4307 Oates Ave., Columbus, Ga.
Muenks, Herbert, 300 Pierce St., Jefferson City, Mo.
Muslo, Peter, 616 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
Naylor, Eugene P., 325 Vine St., Liverpool, Ohio.
Nemzin, Robert, 9748 Broad St., Detroit, Mich.
Nichols, Joe R., 7136 Mausest Rd., Jennings, Mo.
Norris, Dale W., 6111 Palmwood Ave., Delta, Ohio.
Norris, J. W., 1909 4th Ave., Dallas, Tex.
Norton, Paul A., Sherburne, Vt.
Nunes, Aniceto, Box 171, Ft. Stockton, Tex.
O'Brien, Stanley, B., 421 Broadway, Waterblot, N. Y.
O'Gorman, William H., Wilmington, Del.
Olmstead, George, 632 Utah Ave., S. E., Huron, S. D.
Oneal, Barney, Gen. Del., Apache, Okla.
Oney, Walter E., Yakemia, Wash.
Ormsby, Ora F., 1017 1/2 St. Mary's Ave., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Owens, Guy R., 10 Speed St., Greenville, S. C.
Owens, Jack, Blue White Trailer Co., Knoxville, Tenn.
Pash, Mike, 2118 W. Human, Chicago, Ill.
Peacock, Royce E., Box 446 Price, Tex.
Pearson, Jimmie G., R. R. 1, Bloomingdale, Ind.
Perkins, Glenn, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Permenter, Morris, 1200 N. W., 1st St., Okla. City, Okla.
Perrine, Shirley R., 178 3rd Ave., Beaver Falls, Pa.
Peterson, Earl V., R. R. 1, White Fish, Mont.
Pitsinger, Edward J., 200 S. Gilmor St., Baltimore, Md.
Pollan, Raymond V., Box 63, Lindsay, Okla.
Powers, Bruno R., 8419 S. Baltimore Ave., Chic, Ill.
Prather, Roy C., Union City, Tenn.
Pugh, Louis E., Leechburg, Va.
Quinn, Stephen V., 456 E. 40th St., Brklyn, N. Y.
Racine, Ray, Owensville, Ind.

Ray, Olum, Box 114, Leesville, La.
Reggie, Anthony J., U Elizabeth St., Pittsburg, Pa.
Reinecke, William P., Cedar Hill Lane, Brooklyn, Md.
Reynolds, Emmett C., Rt. 1, Wellington, Ala.
Riccardi, John J., 248 Mulberry St., N. Y., N. Y.
Rice, Gordon R., Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
Rinn, Robert M., 427 Manning Blvd., Albany, N. Y.
Roach, Jasper, R., Box 126, Loraine, Tex.
Robinson, Ernest, Bricksy, Mo.
Robinson, Milburn F., Hope, Ark.
Roboy, Seth C., Rt. 1, Box 95, Dayton, Tenn.
Rodman, John S., 4K Crawford, Village, McKeesport, Pa.
Rodriguez, Noel, 1735 W. Poplar St., San Antonio, Tex.
Rolis, Leonard C., Box 4, Nocona, Tex.
Roman, Nick, Mt. Gay, W. Va.
Romano, Perer P., 70 River St., Sidney, N. Y.
Rosas, David H., 1517 W. Poplar St., San Antonio, Tex.
Rose, Kenneth H., 7450 Blanchard St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Rosenbush, Heinz, 393 Clinton Ave., Newark, N. J.
Rosenfeld, Martin H., 1428 E. 5th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rosignola, James S., 1723 Cutter St., Toledo, Ohio.
Rositzke, Ernest W., 231-05 Linden Blvd., St. Gibans, N. Y.
Rouse, Orville, Bordo, Ky.
Rucks, Roy L., Rt. 1, Hollywood, Fla.
Rye, William R., Jr., Brandywine, Md.
Roshko, John, 2408 N. Reese St., Phila, 33, Pa.
Sain, Glover, 590 Valle Jot St., Emmerville, Cal.
Saine, Norman B., Rt. 2, Box 99, Tullahoma, Tenn.
Sain, Golver, 5907 Valley St., Emmerville, Cal.
Salmon, Eugene C., 1111 8th Ave., Rock Island, Ill.
Samaniego, Raymond S., 227 Pastores, Ave., San Antonio, Tex.
Sanchez, Alberto, Copita, Tex., Box 78.
Sanders, James H., 2602 E. 46th St., Chattanooga, Tenn.
Saunders, Wayne F., Blue Hill, Maine.
Scappatore, Angelo, 2011 W. 5th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Seavo, Louis S., 433 Rear 4th St., Taylor, Pa.
Schlosser, Wilbert M., 628 N. 8th Ave., West Bend, Wis.
Schoffstall, Charles M., 4422 Woolsayer, Pitt, Pa.
Schultz, Leonard P., 8245 Kenney Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Schultz, Gordon, Rt. 4, Grand Island, Neb.
Schreengost, Dale W., Rd. 5, Kittanning, Pa.
Shank, Gerald W., Rd. 4, Springfield, Ohio.
Sheaffer, Thomas B., New Bloomfield Rd. Pa.
Shaw, Paul F., 307 Mechanic Ave., Cleburne, Tex.
Shively, James C., 716 W. Pittsburg, St., Scottdale, Pa.
Sieliani, Joseph, 4729 W. End Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Sims, Donald J., Rd. 2, Tyrone, Pa.
Sinna, Jerome F., 187 Edmund Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
Slieter, Richard G., Larchwood, Iowa.
Smith, Anthony F., 10th Ave., Dorthy, N. J.
Smith, George A., Rt. 1, Russellville, Ala.
Smout, Loy J., 1344 Sage Ave., Idaho Falls, Idaho.
Snider, Floyd W., 815 W. 1st Pittsburg, Pa.
Snyder, Donald L., Rt. 4, Coudersport, Pa.
Snyder, Edward N., 380 S. 23rd St., Salem, Ore.
Snell, Wilbur H., Rt. 1, Lambridge, Ohio.
Sokol, Nicholas, 209 Front St., Forest City, Pa.
Socokolski, Sanford, 1565 Mostrand Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
South, Charles R., Box 43, Cable, Ohio.
Spacer, Charles H., Towarda, Pa.
Spillman, William B., Kaddinville, N. C.
Steed, Willard H., 405 E. Guilford St., Thomasville, S. C.
Steele, John C., 118 S. Center St., Tyler, Tex.
Stein, Harold J., 1243 Chicago Dr., Grand Rapids, Mich.
Stephens, Noland L., 249 W. Grand Hot Springs, Ark.
Stewart, Warren A., 3800 Canterbury Rd., Baltimore, Mo.
Stickney, Gerald, 1365 Labor Sp Co., APO 5155 PM N.Y.N.Y.
Stokes, Ralph C., Rt. 4, Marion, Ill.
Storz, Carl A., 52 Lehigh St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Stoulig, Paul J., Kenner, La.
Strable, Edward G., 6132 S. Laflin St., Chicago, Ill.
Sturgeon, Howard O., Munfordville, Ky.
Summer, James 430 26th St., Cairo, Ill.
Swzec, Stanley, 2711 Parrish St., Phila, Pa.
Tapia, Florencio, 923 N. Rowan Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.
Tavan, George A., 2763 Orchid St., New Orleans, La.
Taylor, Alfred S., 3221 Wash. St., Wilmington, Del.
Thibault, Irving J., 1527 N. Carolina, Balt. Md.
Thompson, Ernest C., Sr., 3426 Cottage Tolt Rd. Norfolk, Va.
Todd, James G., 3417 Hart St., Detroit, Mich.
Triebe, Clark O., 3902 N. Kenneth Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Turley, James H., S. Sycamore St., Mt. Sterling, Ky.
Uboldi, Santino E., New Galilee, Pa.
Vigil, Ernest L., Box 944 Texico, N. Mexico.
Van Dusen, Forrest B., 878-10th Ave., S. Petersburg, Fla.
Vindiala, Heraclio, 624 3rd St., Safford, Ariz.
Walker, John, 23 Leoux St., Mt. Kisco, N. Y.
Walker, Lowell M., 20055 Exeter, Detroit, Mich.
Wall, James H., R. F. D. #2, Bassett, Va.
Warner, Donald V., Rt. 4, Box 578, Olympia, Wash.
Warwick, James E., 306 Tazewell Park Fountain City, Tenn.
Watkins, Harold V., 424 West State Enid, Okla.
Waydick, Fred B., 419 Lake St., Barobor, Wis.
Weatherford, Leo W., Rt. #1, Wash. Okla.
Webb, Troy L., 711 E. Myrtle Ave., Johnson City, Tenn.
Weckerle, Frederick J., 81 W. 13th St., Bayonne, N. J.
Wheeler, James M., 2200 W. 32nd St., Little Rock, Ark.
White, Robert M., Harts, W. Va.
Whittle, William H., Westminster, S. C.
Wiers, Wallace 1017 S. 2nd St., Booneville, Ind.
Wierzbowski, Walter C., Box 82, Claridge, Pa.
Wilkinson, John J., Jr., 1702 W. 9th St., Wilmington, Del.
Williams, Donald R., 646 E. Tiptoo, Huntington, Ind.
Wills, William A., Arnett, W. Va.
Whitaker, Stanley A., Rt. 1, Orefield, Pa.
Wilson, James E., 306 W. 7th St., Pittsburg, Kan.
Witcal, Arthur B., 5434 Erick St., Phila, Pa.
Witzorreck, William A., 36 Troy St., Millvale, Pa.
Wyatt, John D., Rt. 1, Munford, Ala.
Tope, Robert, Box 152 S. Elgin, Ill.
Topping, Edward, 421 N. Main, Bellefontanone, Ohio.
Tyngblood, Harold D., 115 E. Spring St., Zeluenople, Pa.
Zimmerman, Charles I., R. R. 1, Prairie Home, Mo.

Cook, John C., Gen. Del., Bluejacket, Okla.
Dazzler, Solomon, General Del., Wetumka, Okla.
Emch, John W., Jr., 121 Commercial St., New Martinsville, W. Va.
Grossi, David V., 95 Litchfield St., Brighton, Mass.
Greminger, Christian A., 415 LaHaye St., Stegenevieve, Mo.
Leutz, Richard A., Rt. #1, Larwill, Ind.

COMPANY K

Allen Bonard A., Box 312, Ft. Payne, Ala.
Allen Harry W., Wilmington, Vermont.
Allen, Lloyd W., 205 N 13th St., Wilmington, N. C.
Ashe, Ogle J., Etowah, Tenn.
Aubertin, Leo, Pittsfield, N. H.
Barnes, Joseph R., 1018 Elliston St., Houston, Tex.
Beck, Andrew D., Jr., 2101 W. Oak St., Denton, Tex.
Beinlich, William B., 905 Linden Ave., Hubbard, Woods, Ill.
Bisker, Donald M., Salem, Md.
Borrelli, Francis A., 210 Hays Glen St., Hays Pgh, Pa.
Burggerman, Mark, 614 E. 7th St., Alton, Ill.
Burggerman, Robert, 614 E. 7th St., Alton, Ill.
Builderback, William, Box 387, Lebanon, Mo.

Carlisle, James J., Rt. #3, New Phila, Ohio.
Carlton, Warren W., Box 22C, Marietta, Okla.
Carson, Clinton C., Rt. #2, Austelle, Ga.
Cathay Houston W., Rt. # Whitebluffs, Tenn.
Cauas, Thomas, 1479 Parkhill Rd., Cleveland Hts. Ohio.
Cauto, Frank, 6547 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Cheney, Hugh C., Jr., E. 7th St., Dawson, Ga.
Cholewsky, Alphonas
Cleary, John G., N. Wilkensboro, N. C.
Cook, Harry O., Belton, Tex.
Corbett, William S., 75-17 41st Ave., Jackson Hts., L. I., N. Y.
Cox, Arthur, 28 Franklin St., White Plains, N. Y.
Demery, Harold R., Woodbine, Iowa.
Danz, Edward C., 2521 E. Hoffman St., Baltimore, 13, Md.
Davis, Rollas, Wessington, S. D.
Desiga, Felipe B., Box 384, McAllen, Tex.
Delano, Dura R. Jr., Rt. #1, Canton, Maine.
Dennis, Donald H., 1121 S. Park Dr., Temperence, Mich.
Dicus, James, 411 A Cook St., Sioux City, Iowa.
Dodson, Claude M.
Douglass, Jesse, Rt. #1, Emmett, Ark.
Dowdy, Thomas L., 307 Elk St., Elk City, Okla.
Dramczyk, Daniel D., 1005 King St., Toledo, 7, Ohio.
Dukes, Lover C., Rt. #1, Milner, Ga.
Edens, Henry C., Jr., Box 33, Rt. #1, Dalsell, S. C.
Englert, Joseph T., Fancy Farm, Ky.
Ennis, Melvin H., Success, Ark.
Faconne, Patsy A., 99 Bidwell Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
Faust Roy C., 218 Dickens St., Columbia, S. C.
Faverty, Leonard D.
Fitzgerald, Joseph W., 20 Wibrid St., Quincy, Mass.
Flores, Ernest, 1715 Providence St., Houston, Tex.
Flores, Delbert L., Rt. #3, Harrisonville, Mo.
Friedman, Arnold, Delanson, N. Y.
Fox, Carl F., Rt. #1, Brothersville, Ind.
Gable, Carl D., St. Clair, Mo.
Gabalidon, Manuel, Grants, New Mexico
Gardner, Garuiss L., Gen. Del., Dawson, Tex.
Gebhard, Albert E., 1219 Swissvale Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Giguere, Harry L., 106 Linden St., Pittsfield, Mass.
Gish, Elmer F., Tipton, Mo.
Glossup, George, Sulphur Springs, Tex.
Green, Joseph, Mountain View, Ark.
Gruber, Franz, 2016 Sempson Ave., Aberdeen, Wash.
Guidry, Lawrence, Box 27, Rayne, La.
Hanson, Harold, Warrensburg, Mo.
Harmer, Douglass, 604 S. Main St., Springville, Utah.
Harmon, Charles, 1507 Plimpton Ave., Plimpton Bronx, N. Y.
Harris, Aaron, 1507 Plimpton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Harris, Oliver, Spray, N. C.
Harrop, Donald C.
Healy, Edward C.
Herman, Ralph S., 316 Ridge-Ave., Kittanning, Pa.
Held, Robert E., 740 Broadway, Buffalo 12, N. Y.
Herbert, John, 708 E. Lake Ave., Tampa, Fla.
Hempel, Victor, Stanwood, Iowa.
Hill, Wilber
Hoffman, Robert E., 1813 E. 35th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Homan, Ferdinand, 1301 Haley St., Midland, Mich.
Horst, Melvin H., Box 162, Gurley, Neb.
Hough, Grover R., Rt. #1, Wappinger, Falls, N. Y.
Hundt, Earl, Union Mills, Ind. Box 72.
Hvisdak, Joseph, 49 Rifles St., Struthers, Ohio.
Hyatt, Loren D., Rt. #2, Midland, Mich.
Immekus, LeRoy J., 2934 Collier Ave., Brentwood, Mo.
Jacobson, Abraham, Hoboken, N. J.
Jandard, Albert W., 108 Hamilton Ave., Passaic, N. J.
Jones, Garnet R., Rt. #1, Vernon, N. Y.
Jones, Stephen D., Jr., Alpena, Pass, Ark.
Jahnecke, Edward, 4831 Elm St., Downers Grove, Ill.
Keller, Charles, Rt. #1, Attica, Ind.
Kelly, LeRoy
Kinsel, Louis, Milton, Ky.
Krikbride, Albert Jr., 129 W. Water St., Orville, Ohio.
Kohler, Robert E., 13411 Mills Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
Kotche, Walter, 1341 N. 4th St., Cataqua, Pa.
Kozak, John, Jr., 6107 Harley St., Phila, 42, Pa.
Kupperman, Bernard I., 601 Marcy Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Kuszynski, Edward A., 2149 North Latrobe Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Kutz, Paul D., 2741 Enoch Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Kwincinski, Harry, 1234 W. 50th St., Chicago, Ill.
LaFrom, Boise
Landess, Robert, 301 Bellaire, Ave., Springfield, Ohio.
Latham, Elmer B., 2708 Pierce Ave., Camden, N. J.
LeBar, John A., Jr., 539 Thomas St., Stroupsburg, Pa.
Lewis, Alexander, Rt. #1, Box 80, Winnow, N. C.
Leonhart, Harry E., 4723 El Campo St., Ft. Worth, Tex.
Levine, Harry, 1379 58th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lewis, Jackson E., Rolette N. D.
Link, Edward G., 606 Spring St., Piqua, Ohio.
Livrone, Paul A., 608 Pitt St., Leechburg, Pa.
Lunsford, Clayton L., 6409 S. Wood St., Chicago, Ill.
Madl, Lawrence J., 1023 Smithton St., Pittsburg, Pa.
Mansnerus, Harlan H.
Mazques, Juan C., 1100 S. Oregon St., El Paso, Tex.
Marshall, Jack Jr., Rt. #2, Box 368, A., Uniontown, Pa.
Martin, Roy, Rt. #1, Box 74, Westersford, Tex.
Martinez, Alfonso A., 1437 Elm St., Greensburg, Pa.
Mason, Milton, Breckenridge, Tex.
Mason, Paul Jr., APT. 59, Lacock Dwhys, Rochiater, Pa.
Mattox, LeRoy, Dundee, Fla.
Mazur, Mike, 1201 Merchant St., Ambridge, Pa.
Merook, Walter A., New Boston, Pa.
Merrill, Walter L., 1076 Norton St., St. Paul, Minn.
Meyer, Harry F.
Meyers, Harold, 515 Revendale Ave., Blyn, N. Y.
Miller, Robert C., Rt. #2, Columbia City, Ind.
Mullins, Brax, Ambury, Ky.
Mrowinski, Ralph, 2537 W. Maple St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Munsey, Roy, 203 Roosa St., Roda, Va.
Musgrove, Daniel I., Rt. 2, Kountze, Tex.
Myers, Orman J., Box 1011, Alpine, Tex.
McArthur, Berlin
McGlashen, Eugene, Rapid City, Mich.
McGlinchy, Charles, 710 Belgrade St., Phila, Pa.
McHenry, Raymond E., Adamsville, Ohio
Mcshes, Lawrence D., 1594 York Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Natale, Lewis, 191 12th Ave., Paterson, N. J.
Neff, Hugh T., Box 690, Marion, Va.
Nemire, Robert, Rt. 1, Ottawa, Ohio.
Norton, Warren R., 404 3rd St., Box 45, Silverton, Ore.
Nunley, Mairin, Rt. 3, Paducah, Ky.
Obrien, Francis, 1802 S. 10th St., Tene, Haute, Ind.
O'Hara, William E., 1819 Tower Ave., Superior Ave.,
Oliver, Marion A., Rt. 3, Colorado City, Tex.
Osnoe, Earle O., Kingman, Maine.
Parker, James, Rt. 1, Box 205A, Cantonment, Fla.
Payne Paul D.
Peacock, Royce S., Price, Tex.
Perry, Hugh E., 1221 Lee St., Evanston, Ill.
Peters, James, Wharton, West, Va.
Peterson, Robert L., 3061 Chestnut St., Duluth, Minn.
Peterson, Vincent, 1517 E. 1st St., Long Beach, Cal.
Plantantes, A., 344 7th Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Platt, Charles R., 614 N. Div. St., Mount Union, Pa.
Pollect, Marvin W., Rt. 2, Brownstown, Ind.

Poole, William L., 1037 N. Eyre Dr., Chester Pa.
Popelka, Steun J., 301 Bermond Ave., Endicott, N. Y.
Prager, Julius, 2908 Kingington Ave., Phila. Pa.
Promosic, Frank J., Jr., 1131 Norwood Rd., Cleveland 3, Ohio
Prudhomme, Calvin J., Rt. 3, Box 114, Opelousas, La.
Puttkamer, William P., La Fayette, N. Y.
Ragsdale, Samuel, Box 67, Oregon City, Ore.
Reed, Frank L., 616 Auburn St., Roanoke, Va.
Reichart, Lewis H., Fredricksburg, Pa.
Reynolds, Robert, Andes, N. Y.
Reigle, Morris, 132 Ruesurior St., Lancaster, Pa.
Reilly, Thomas
Ring, Warren, 475 Nelson Ave., Cliffside Park, N. Y.
Robinet, Henry H., 410 S. E. Frazier St., Pendleton, Ore.
Robinson, Paul, 1240 E. Summerlin St., Barton, Fla.
Robinson, Paul, 1240 E. Summerlin St., Barton, Fla.
Rodriguez, Joseph, Rt. 3, Box 387, Bakersfield, Cal.
Romero, Henry A., Box 100, New Iberia, La.
Roseburg, Don W., Rt. 1, Box 103, Lisbon, Ohio
Roth, Conrad F., 56-50 186th St., Flushing L. I., N. Y.
Ruddock Robert B., Rt. 1, Box 16, Homer City, Pa.
Ruskowski, Raymond, 226 Sweeney Ave., Riverhead, L. I., N. Y.
Saliski, John J., 171 Burke Ave., Travis, Staten Island, N. Y.
Schantz, Donald R., Rt. 1, Butler, Pa.
Schermerhorn, Harold, Rt. 1, Cones, N. Y.
Scudiero, Henry, 218 Olive St., Kansas City, Kans.
Sellers, Robert, Rt. 4, Attica, Ind.
Severin, Donald, 719 John Ave., Superior, Wis.
Shasteen, Chauncey, Darlington, Pa.
Shumway, Melvin, c/o P. M., Onset, Mass.
Smith, Walther, Fairfax, Okla.
Stewart, Carl B., Jr., Athens St., Winder, Ga.
Stinson, Robert C., Rt. 5, Park Ave., Dalton, Ga.
Strouth, Henry E., 1822 Southside Ave., Bristol, Tenn.
Study, Harold S., Taney Town, Rt. 1, Md.
Suppl, John, 90 Hudson St., Garfield, N. J.
Sweet, Grove G., 301 W. South St., Warrensburg, Md.
Taglieri, Angelo J., 26 Pembroke Ave., Pittsfield, Mass.
Taylor, Oliver F., Rt. 2, Farmerville, La.
Terlasky, Michael, 81 Ludlow St., N. Y., N. Y.
Teriano, Joseph, 19 Critten Pl., N. Y., N. Y.
Tuchner, John 1302 Oscola Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
Urenos, John, 3240 W. 111th St., Chicago 43, Ill.
Uhrich, Harold, Rt. 1, Box 147, La Salle, Col.
Van Dyne, J. W., 315 E. South St., Barnesville, Ohio.
Vanderstrop, Harry A., Rt. 1, Lake City, Mich.
Vido Willard, 2022 E. Fair Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Walters, Buddy, 1111 Hampton Ave., N. Chattanooga, Tenn.
Wilber, Albert H.
Welling, Alfred, Woodville, Ohio.
Weronic, Henry W., 154-01 109th Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Wilgers, Merle, 190 Silverton Rd., Salem, Oregon.
Williams, Donald E., 2 W. Church St., Masontown, Pa.
Williams, Gilbert G., Rt. 6, Box 181, Duluth Minn.
Williams, Harry Jr., Spring Valley Farm, Hillsboro, Tex.
Williams, Seeley, 603 N. Elm St., Greenville, Ill.
Wiser, Paris V., 318 Geyer St., Dayton, Ohio.
Wood, Andrew S., 271 Main St., Ridgefield Park, N. J.
Wood Richard N., 1112 N. 22nd St., Richmond, Va.
Wray, Luther A., Jr., Rt. 1, Maxeys, Wright, Benson J.
Wyland, Burton K., 3729 S. 24th St., Omaha, Neb.
Young, Reginald G., Rt. 1, Duboise, Pa.
Zamow, Otto F., 305 Algoma St., Stevens Point, Wis.
Zayicek, Augustine, 12 Hoffman St., Johnstown, N. Y.
Ziesman, Raymond, 1332 Jackson St., Garry, Ind.

Aber, Floyd D., Box 97, Hyde Park, Pa.
Albright, Morvin E., Tampa, Kans.
Antanitis, Tony J., Factory Ave., Matituck, L. I., N. Y.
Baker, Fred E., 7107 14th Ave., Kenosha, Wis.
Bard, Seldon R., 1727 Cratona Park, E. Bronx, N. Y.
Barnas, Chester, 85 Kirby Ave., Lackawanna, N. Y.
Barnhart, Wilber E., R. D. 2, W. Finly, Pa.
Barker, Elmer H., Molone, Ky.
Barker, Jerry W., 2405 Boulevard, Texarkana, Tex.
Bats, Jesse W., Rt. 1, Martha, Tenn.
Baysinger, Robert W., 1925 5th Ave., Terre Haute, Ind.
Bay, Paul H., 2402 Laurel St., Joplin, Mo.
Bennette, Bruce D., 104 S. St., McCook, Meb.
Boyle, Vernon G., 620 Cedar St., Irwin, Pa.
Bowman, Harold H., R. R. 4, Buckley, Mich.
Bowman, James W., Rt. 1, Martha, Tenn.
Camp, Olan A., Oak St., Albertville, Ala.
Carey, Robert V., 11 South Flag St., Worcester Ind.
Cates, Clarence C., 213 Oakley St., Evansville, Ind.
Chamberlain, Wyley P., Box 54, Skull Valley, Ariz.
Chamber, Daniel, Rt. 1, Box 95, Alice, Tex.
Claudy, Charles J., 3440 Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.
Class, Lawrence R., Limerick, Pa.
Coleman, Clarence E., Rauen, Val.
Compton, Bruce B., R. F. D. 19, Box 762, Indianapolis, Ind.
Cromnick, Harry, 120 W. 54th St., Bayonne, N. Y.
Cross, Robert P., Gen. Del., Mesa, Ariz.
Dale, Joseph S., 63 Knecker Bocker Rd., Englewood, N. J.
DeBard, Winfield S., Street, Md.
Donarski, Arthur J., 4051 N. Meade Ave., Cumberland, Md.
Donnelly, Felix Jr., Dungle, Ky.
Downey, Harold Jr., 812 Gordon St., Piqua, Pa.
Dwyer, Phillip J. Jr., 888 S. Artry, Quincy, Mass.
Dyer, Joseph B., 486 Baltimore Ave., Cumberland, Md.
Elder, Lawrence, 927 Albany St., Roxbury, Mass.
Fatty, Victor, Quaker Bride, N. Y.
Ford, Edward R., 46 Charlotte St., Hartford Conn.
Garland, Clifton M., Rt. 3, Paducah, Ky.
Gerbr, Victor R., 765 E. 238th St., Couberort, Pa.
Gibson, William O., Rt. 1, Collins, Ark.
Gilbert, Howard D., 447 W. 27th St., Houston, Tex.
Goodenough, Dennis E., 605 Rass St., Couderport, Pa.
Green, Oscar W., R. R. 1, Waynesburg, Ky.
Griffith, Clarence C., 1316 S. Brown St., Dayton, Ohio.
Grimm, Graby M., Rt. 2, Smithbury, Ky.
Grossman, Yalie, 167 N. Bemiston Ave., Clayton, Md.
Hager, William M., Fieldale, Va.
Hainline, Walter L., Rt. 2, Norwalk, Ohio.
Harper, Clark A. Jr., 312 13th St., Ambridge Pa.
Hart, Raymond, Lapwai, Idaho.
Harriger, Edwin E., Rt. 1, Freedom, Pa.
Hatfield, Dale H.
Havelka, Ernest J., 2888 E. 112th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
Hefferman, Jame F., 666 W. 246th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Herron, Don L., Rt. 2, Box 162, Morray, Utah.
Hopkins, Elwood W., Rt. 1, Johnstown, Pa.
Horan, James P., 2049 McGrad Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Hurlock, Sammal G., 4833 N. 18th St., Phila, Pa.
Iaso, Louis, 311-E-156th St., Bronx, N. Y.
Jacinto, Louis, 2914 Pearl Ave., Lorain, Ohio.
Jarmelofsky, Hyman, 236 Dumont Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Johnson, Walter 32 Sunset Ave., Red Bank, N. Y.
Josa, Lotton J., 517 E. 89th St., Chicago, Ill.
Kamde, Simeon, 9481 Wian St., Honolulu, T. H.
Key, Landy B., Rt. 3, Monterey, Tex.
King, Joseph M., 3512 Mountain Ave., El Paso, Tex.
Kleinert, Eugene B., 2030 Herman St., Madison, Wis.
Klosterman, Theodore, 1515 Oakland Ave., Coumington, Ky.
Knippers, William E., 1807 W. 16th St., Little Rock, Ark.

Knutson, Douglas D., 610 Huron St., Sturgeon, Bay Door, Wis.
Lambro, Orhan, 2356 Ryer Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Laurenzo, Armond J., 724 S. W. Tarlor St., Pantihan, Ore.
Lee, Joe E., 464 S. Forest St., Avon Park, Fla.
Leedy, Bryon E., 952 Prospect Ave., Ashland, Ky.
Mahar, Herbert L., R. F. D. 1, Savannah, N. Y.
Makula, Alex. F., 279 Tolland Tn Pk., Manchester, Conn.
Martine, Louis N., 415 Chestnut St., N. Y., N. Y.
Martinez, Gregorio, Fulskean, Tex.
Mason, Paul J., APT. 59, Luckehock Dwelling, Rochester, Pa.
Masullatis, Frank J., 7 Nelson St., S. Barre, Mass.
Maurise, William W., 1800 E. 45th St., Ashabla, Ohio.
McCormick, Philip L., Ft. Crook, Neb.
McNabb, Frank J., I. Sullivan, Ind.
McNamee, Francis P., 250 Ledgeale St., Pittsury, Pa.
Montjoy, Charles C.
Moore, Charles H., 1901 S. 1st St., Ft. Smith, Ark.
Moran, Peter, R. D. 7, Mahonigan, Pa.
Murrillo, Gerand, 219 Houston St., Laredo, Tex.
Murray, Charles J., 50 Hazelwood Rd., Bloomfield, N. J.
Nichols, Bernard A., R. R. 1, Box 135, Michigan City, Ind.
Norris, William R., Box 64, Round, Wash.
O'Leary, Joseph P., 525 Virginia St., Gary, Ind.
Oranski, Raymond L., 83 Grant St., Portland, Maine.
Osterdorf, Logan C., 2816 S. 45th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Overpeck, Doyle E., 236 S. 22nd St., Terus Haute, Ind.
Peckham, Ray S., Rt. 2, Sacramento, Cal.
Pennington, James H., Dodson, Mo.
Popham, Bendamin E. Jr., Box 712, Cedertown, Ga.
Porter, Jack J., 1808 Wyandotte, Kans. City, Mo.
Poniask, Henry A., 5444 Drummond Pl., Chicago, Ill.
Powers, Raymond A., 314 E. Line St., Mineruh, Ohio.
Prescott, Braobus D., Box 62, Savannah Beach, Ga.
Puska, Antone M., 325 Edinburgh St., San Francisco, Cal.
Raichelson, Melvin A., 38 Bancroft St., Springfield, Mass.
Ramsay, Loss I., Liberty Hill, Tex.
Reed, Nacey W., 6319 W. 2nd St., Dayton, Ohio.
Reed, Willie D., Austell, Ga.
Reilly, Harry W., 25-67-38th St., L. I. City, N. Y.
Reilly, Thomas E., Arlington Ave., Wyondorch, L. I., N. Y.
Regnier, Joseph L., 2451 W. Adams St., Chicago Ill.
Rhodes, Maurise E., 124 1/2 1st St., Mountain Grove, Mo.
Rhynard, J. H., 505 N. Walnut St., Newkirk, Okla.
Rivers, Alfred D., Rt. #1, Box 170, Clint, Tex.
Roberts, Harry C., 1204 W. States St., Marshalltown, Iowa.
Robertson, Howard R., Hubbard, Iowa.
Rodriguez, Ray, Yokon, Okla.
Rassmiller, William B., 329 Del St., Quincy, Ill.
Robenstern, Iruin M., 6433 San Bonita, Clayton Mo.
Schlegel, Aenold W., 1623 Clan St., Rreine, Wis.
Schrock, Robert E., 171 W. Marion Ave., Youngstown, Pa.
Sims, Gilbert, Rt. #4, Winder, Ga.
Sitka, Rudoloh L., Gen. Del., N. Y., N. Y.
Sleeth, George R., 93 Thonmton St., Quincy, Mass.
Smith, Victor E., Jr., R. F. D. #2, Corbis, Ky.
Stanton, William A.
Stearns, Morris L., 148 Corina Ave., Long Beach, Cal.
Stue, Henry F., R. F. D. #2, Winnabro, Tex.
Tanner, Alfred, Spencer, W. Va.
Taves, Wesley F., 1235 Dewy Ave., Beloit, Wis.
Ternese, Louis J., 1235 42nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Jerkowitz, Bernard, 1805-78st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Tippett, James L., 44 E. Oakwood Pl., Buffalo, N. Y.
Tipton, Wilbur L., Star Rt., Jamestown, Tenn.
Valck, Raymond H., 1840 S. Loomis St., Chicago, Ill.
Vanderroort, William V., 254 Mason Hall, E. Lansing, Mich.
VanNatta, Samuel G., 331 S. Swall Drive, Los Angeles, Cal.
Venturini, Ralph J., 1017 Forrest St., Chicago, Ill.
Viola, Antony, 188 Withers St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Waldman, Alexander S., 1745 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Watson, William W., R. D. #2, Prenton, Fla.
Weinzmeyer, Joseph, 445 William Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Werneberg, Albert, 104-53-123rd St., Richmond Hill, N. Y.
White, John H., Box 95, Savannah, Tenn.
Wichershen, Clarence L., Washington, Ga.
Wierhold, Harold F., 13 Rand St., Ilion, N. Y.
Winters, Allen, Okland Ave., Okland, N. J.
Wise, William F., 26-14-93rd St., Jackson Hts, L. I. C., N. Y.
Wisnfield, William, 8932-146th St., Jamaica, N. Y.
Wittbecker, Harold R., 403-N. 3rd Ave., Freeport, Ill.
Wood, Francis E., 4225 Vermaas Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
Wood, Charles E., 8 Grove St., Auburn, Maine.
Wood, Lowell H., Rt. #3, Marion, Ohio.
Wren, Thomas M., 601 N. Locust St., Clarkville, Tex.
Woodall, Floyd W., Kensett, Ark.
Wright, Walter E., Secaucus, N. J.
Young, William E., 1061 A. Hoffman, Long Beach, Cal.
Zaus, Joseph S., 2166 Buck St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Zellers, Howard E., Rt. #1, Annapolis, Ill.
Zukowski, John, 248 Main Rd., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Zutant, Allison E., Mabscaut, W. Va.

Abbondandolo, Fred A., 1326 Herkimer St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Acierno, Louis P., 8344 Lyford St., Detroit, Mich.
Alfonse, Harold M., Ingalls, Ind.
Allen, Wilbert M., Jefferson, Ohio.
Alsop, Edward M., 382 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Alvater, Richard C., 221 S. 3rd St., Terre Haute, Ind.
Alvares, Frank P., 827 Union Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Alvaro, Louis, 221 Beach, 87th St., Rockaway Queen, N. Y.
Alvis, Roy J., Box 931, Desdemona, Tex.
Alvise, Richard I., 3120 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.
Amayo, Luke, 2310 Ruby St., Kans. City, Kans.
Anasatasio, Joseph, 249 Eldridge St., N. Y., N. Y.
Anderson, Clarence S., 914 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.
Anderson, Samuel, 1076 Teller Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Arra, Ralph J., 141 East Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.
Auld, Francis T., 19 E. 213 St., N. Y., N. Y.
Auld, Jessie L., Gen. Del., Aldmore, Okla.
Baer, Vernon E., Kirby, Pa.
Baganski, Walter S., 127 Grand St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Bailey, Junior D., 116 E. Wash St., Morris, Okla.
Banach, Edward, 471 43rd St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Baril, Edward L., Buras, La.
Barrientos, Enrique, 1775 Union St., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
Barteluce, Frank J., 58 W. Magnola Ave., Maywood, N. J.
Bean, Andrew J., Rt. #4, Sayre, Okla.
Becker, Alvin L., 1831 N. Dorgenois St., New Orleans, La.
Berg, Larry, 335 Christersher Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Berkeley, Warner P., 301 Cumberland St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Baile, Isidore, 1034 Faile St., N. Y., N. Y.
Billingsley Earl L., 1806 Scott St., Wilmington, Delaware
Bishop, Odus, 530 W. 2nd St., Ada, Okla.
Blass, Edward, Astoria Queens, N. Y.
Robols, Arnold G., Rt. #2, Paulina, Iowa.
Bogutsky, William, 105 Henry St., N. Y., N. Y.
Bogandy, James A., 332 E. Main St., Barnsville, Ohio.
Bolin, Loren, 307 W. St., Ciana, Ohio.
Borzellino, Anthony, 448 E. 21st St., Paterson, N. J.
Bourgeois, Eugene P., 18 Douglas St., Lynn, Mass.
Bradley, John J., 192 Middletown St., N. Y., N. Y.
Bragan, Peter D., 1509 19th St., Mo.
Brenner, Wendell J., 308 E. 50th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Brooka, William, 288 Clouad Rd., New Rochelle, N. Y.
Brown, Joseph T., 2741 Sedgewick Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Brusing, Richard E., Maumeer, Ohio.

Buccolieri, Gregory J., 234 Thompson St., N. Y., N. Y.
Buonvolanta, Frank J., 497 South Johns Pl., Bklyn, N. Y.
Burgos, Ismaes, 35 E. 110th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Burke, Henry J., 508 W. 132nd St., N. Y., N. Y.
Burns, Jerry, 19 Water St., Lebanon, Ohio.
Burns, John F., 12 Hendrickson Ave., Richmond, N. Y.
Burns, Robert J., 415 W. 26th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Buss, Edward E., 1526 S. 44th St., W. Mil. Wis.
Butler, Joseph J., 160 W. Kingsbridge Rd., N. Y., N. Y.
Cargill, John C., Crockett, Tex.
Campbell, Andrew F., Frankfort, Delaware
Camparone, Tubo A., 1430 - 70th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Campbell, Robert P., 760 67th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Carbine, Charles J., 173 High St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Carter, Benjamin F. Jr., Sweeney, Tex.
Charter, Charles D., Gen. Del., Webber Falls, Okla.
Casey, John H., Gatesville, Tex.
Castaldo, Joseph, 1928 17th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Catalano, Nicholas J., 712 Knickenbocker Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Cecceaci, John D., 712 7th St., Galveston, Tex.
Cesare, Selvester, 567 Chaucey St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Chan, Sui Gay N., 524 W. 124th St., N. Y.
Chandler, Jessie J., Rt. #2, Rockhold, Ky.
Channell, Harry L., Valley Head, W. Va.
Chong, Loo, 26 Elizabeth St., New York, N. Y.
Cinque, Jules G., 2384 8th Ave., N. Y.
Clarke, Ramon C., 229 Winthrop St., Syracuse, N. Y.
Cmerek, Rudolf S., Rt. #2, Box 78, Granger, Tex.
Coffin, George O., Dagsboro, Sussex County, Del.
Condeia, James V., 27-27 99th St., Corna, L. I., N. Y.
Conley, Henry F., 63-22 Melrose St., Chicago, Ill.
Conner, Donald L., 717 Pine Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
Cooper Roy R., 325 Kan. Ave., Carthage, Mo.
Coddington, Earl W., 5015 Trumbull St., Detroit, Mich.
Cureton, Tommie A., Jewett, Tex.
Cornelson, John S., 1831 P. St., S. E. Wash, D. C.
Cromer, Harold L., 527 N. Main St., Marissa, Ill.
Cuevas, Moises M., 223 Varet St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Damore, Nicholas J., 2106 Clinton Ave., N. Y.
Dannemann, Raymond H., 5815 6th Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
David Paul J., 64 Bay 13th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Rhodes Roy C., Rt. #1, Webbers Falls, Okla.
Deleon, Jose B., Martin St., San Antonio, Tex.
Dempsey, Hubert B., 90 Lake St., Jersey City, N. J.
Dempsey, Maurice J., 10 Arthur St., New Haven, Conn.
Dempsey, James F., 1611 Waverly St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Dennis, Rufus A., Lindsay, Okla.
De Bianca, Joseph, 532 E. 149th St., N. Y.
Dickenson, Joseph M., Cedarville, N. J.
Digangi, Peter C., 1115 40th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Diwndt, Victor G., 33 S. Portland Ave., Brklyn, N. Y.
Dortch, Frank G., 25-33 83rd St., Jackson Hts, N. Y.
Dorich, Frank, 25-33 83rd St., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
Dorich, Jerome, J., 25-33 83rd St., Jackson Hts., N. Y.
Dorich, John T., 25-33 83rd St., Jackson Hts, N. Y.
Dovzak, John, 74 Canal St., N. Y., N. Y.
Drucker, Irving, 353 S. 5th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ducey, Joseph A., 520 Pecur St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Duty, Fliga D., Rt. #1, Bennington, Okla.
Eaton, Paul R., Yuma, Ariz.
Edelman, Morris, 1046 Manor St., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
Elliott, George E., 50 S. Broadway, Pennsylvania, N. J.
Estrella, Anthony A., 952 Hudson Ave., Union City, N. J.
Fagone, Sebastiano J., 275 Mallyd Ave., S. Beach S. I., N. Y.
Fay, John J., 160-05 Northern Blvd., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
Federinko, George, 2124 W. 52nd St., Chicago, Ill.
Feldman, Joseph, 4474 21st St., L. I., N. Y.
Felicia, Angelo J., 8674 17 Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fersko, Sidney, 483 E. 96th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ferro, Salvatue, 102-A, Hull St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fifer, James L., 5402 69th Pl., Maspeth, L. I., N. Y.
Finger, Hut, Alex., 20 E., 18th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Funk, Joseph, 2164 60th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fiore, Edward, 1855 Foster Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
Fischetti, Salvadore A., 419 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fitzsimons, Edward A., 107 Descher St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Forbes, Donald H., 246 Locust St., New Martinsville, W. Va.
Fox, Robin, 578 Hendrix, St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Gagan, Thomas A., 49 Conger Ave., Haverstraw, N. Y.
Gaillard, Benjamin, 210 E., 122nd St., N. Y., N. Y.
Gates, Gordon D., Port Clinton, Ohio.
Gere, George M., 1049 Merrill St., Winnetka, Ill.
Ginsburg, Sheldon, 7945 S. Rhodes, Chicago, Ill.
Glenn, John L., 1924 Avendale Ave., Charlotte, N. C.
Gold, Sol, 586 90 Kosiusko St., N. Y., N. Y.
Green, Norman, 360 S. 1st St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Greenfield, John, 231 Eldridge St., N. Y., N. Y.
Gryzboski, Chester, 5 Fulton Ave., New Hyde Park, N. Y.
Gullepper, Marvin G., Beaumont, Tex.
Gwinn, Dent, 840 Taylor St., San Francisco, Cal.
Hagen, Carl T., Whitehall, Wis.
Halfman, Joseph E., 3734 Gladstone St., Detroit, Mich.
Harmon, John E., 206 Audobon Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Harris, Voyle C., 607 N. Brewer St., Paris, Tenn.
Harsch, Schuyler W., 1264 Madison St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Hattwell, Eugene E., 22 Allen St., N. Y., N. Y.
Hartman, Charles T., 5212 6th Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Hastings, Walter W., Rt. #2, Seaford, Del.
Hatfield, Dale, H., Rt. #4, Lebanon, Ohio.
Hayes, James W., Belair, Mo.
Hegler, Edward, DelCarbon, Col.
Heinsohn, Carl G., 442 E. 81st St., N. Y., N. Y.
Henderson, Donald C., 4410 Rubidoux Ave., Riverside, Cal.
Hendricks, Earl F., Rt. #1, Reasnor, Iowa.
Henry, Loyd J., Rt. #1, Monterey, Tenn.
Hesselgrave, William S., 3651 Snelling Ave., Minn, Minn.
Higgins, John M., E. 7st St., Hopkinsville, Ky.
Hildebrandt, Lawrence, 3416 Wickman Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Hitchens, Loyd H., R. F. D. Dagsboro, Del.
Hoff, Roy A., 331 W. 6th St., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
Horrell, Elmer E., Gen. Del., Deming, New Mexico.
Howard, Edward J., Jr., 50 Pine St., Belous Falls, Vermont.
Hynes, Daniel M., 1193 E. 46th St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Iandolo, Frank, 90 S. Grand Ave.
Isacsen Anders, 1115 E. 2nd St., Bklyn, N. Y.
Ivancic, Frank J., Rt. #2, Lorain, Ohio.
Izzo, Lewis, 316 E. 156th St., Bronx, N. Y.
Jacobs, Calvin D., Rt. #2, Lachine, Mich.
Janas, John J., 60-27 Maspeth Ave., Maspeth, N. Y.
Jarrard, Andy C., 709 S. 8th St., Yakima, Wash.
Jaworski, Henry C., 22-25 42nd St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
Johnson Andrew M., 1317 N. 16th St., Superior Wis.
Johnson, Lewis C., Box 45, Spiceland, Ind.
Johnson, Staten W., 345 Tunbridge Rd., Baltimore, Md.
Jones, James, Newton Falls, Ohio.
Jones, Ralph, 214 S. 3rd St., Marshall, Ill.
Jordan, John E., 2507 Cross Island Blub, Queens, N. Y., N. Y.
Jordon, Rudolph B., 906 E. 223 St., Bronx, N. Y.
Julen Frederick E., Rt. #2, Theeviers, Mich.
Kamde, Vernon J., 612 Gordon St., Kendaleville, Ind.
Kachura, Nicholas W., 500 E. 15th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Kaffel, Jack, 195 Bennett Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
Karp, George, 8732 24th Ave., Bklyn, N. Y.
Kash, Robert H., 415 Albany St., Dayton, Ohio.
Kats, Sol., 308 W. 15th St., N. Y., N. Y.

Kavanagh, Donald J., 36 Pineridge Terrace, Cheektowagh, N. Y.
 Kelly, Robert A., 340 E. 107th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Kennedy, James M., 1441 Undercliff Ave., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
 Kennedy, Daniel G., 417 Westminter Rd., Rochester, N. Y.
 Kennedy, Walter J., 338 84th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Lecker, Bernard, 329 Grand St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Kiely, John J., 5332 251 Pl., Douglaston
 Klug, Donald E., 2124 E. 16th St., Anderson, Ind.
 King, Earl A., 225 N. 19th St., Escanaba, Mich.
 Kiscaden, Samuel E., Rt. #1, Smith Mills, Ky.
 Kisor Glen R., Rt. #3, Wellston, Ohio.
 Klymowich, William, 403 E. 15th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Knaff, James H., 1116 East Mason St., Owosso, Mich.
 Knecht, Norman W., St. Peter, Ill.
 Knies, Eugene L., Liberty St., Harmony, Pa.
 Knutson, Douglass D., 13 N. Cedar St., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
 Kaouky, Joseph A., 2659 Savers Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Kwasmick, Phillip, 1234 W. 50th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Lack, Peter J., 43-20 42nd St., Corona, N. Y., N. Y.
 Lackmeyer, Claton, 605 Spring St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Ladrner, Homer L., 621 Convention St., Baton Rouge, La.
 Laktash, George V., 118 Kelly St., Akron, Ohio.
 Landers, Fred T., Rt. #6, Gainesville, Ga.
 Lane, Clarence A., 505 E. Bradley St., Champaign, Ill.
 Langstaff, Ray L., Glendive, Montana
 Larson, Eric H., 463 77th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Lethan, John T., 2487 Grand Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Latus, Carl J., Rt. #2, Jacobsburg, Ohio.
 Levitsky, Anthony G., 2506 Wallen Ave., Seattle, Wash.
 Lewis, James J., 24-49th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Lewis, Milton J., 307 Herkimer, Joliet, Ill.
 Lifschultz, Alea, 530 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.
 Liszewski, Joe, 84 Morton St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Locicard, Charles J., 115 E. 3rd St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Lodni, Arden C., Rt. #1, Cornell, Wis.
 Lokey, Vaden T., 2335 S. Kenneth Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Loughman, Willis E., 131 Jones St., Newark, Ohio
 Lovins Lonnie A., 509 Walnut St., Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Lucds, Edmund, 183 Floyd St., Bklyn., N. Y., N. Y.
 Mac Ewan William H., 896 S. 16th St., Newark, N. J.
 Mackie, Gordon E., 297 N. St., Greenport, Suffolk, N. Y.
 Macomber, Edward G., 213 N. St., Greenport, Suffolk, N. Y.
 Mada, Mitchell M., 910 Jennings St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Maffel, James D., Jr., 29 Grant St., Montclair, N. J.
 Mallick, John S., 86th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Mangold, Andrew J., 12015 First Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 March, Robert D., R. F. D. #4, York, Pa.
 Marks, Williams, Fairbanks, Alaska
 Marlett, Woodrow, Rt. #2, French Lick, Ind.
 Martinez, Aurelio, 408 Jackson St., San Marcos, Tex.
 Martinez, Ishmael, 27 E. 110th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Martinez, Gregorio, Fulsner, Tex.
 Massenelli Paul D., 299 W. Boopale, St., Columbia, Ohio.
 Mathis, Thomas G., 1214 Dunlap St., Paris, Tenn.
 Maori, Robert W., 5228 Genevieve Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Mazany, Joseph W., 4214 5th Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Meir, Fred H., 2462 S. 10th St., Mil. Wis.
 Meister, Walter E., 907 Spring Ave., N. E., Canton, Ohio.
 Melfie, Anthony, 427 Landadown Ave., Camden, N. J.
 Mellett, Francis J., 2221 E. 15th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Mellett, John E., 2221 E. 15th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Melnick, George, 50 Allen St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Menear, Harry C., Station C., Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Michael, Earl E., Rt. #1, Waynesville, Ohio.
 Michalski, Leonard D., 3227 S. 11th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Migliccio, Joseph, 3621 35th St., L. I., N. Y.
 Mishler, Joe, Rt. #2, Shipshewana, Ind.
 Molczyk, Anthony, 811 Nicks St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Moore, William D., Shinnston, W. Va.
 Moose, Vicent C., Box 22, Cansera, N. Y.
 Morall, John O., 182 Lynch St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Moran, Edward J., 599 West 178th St., N. N., N. Y.
 Moolo, John R., 203 Lexington Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Mollaley, Joseph J., 750 5th Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Moscat, Arthur, 238 E. 122nd St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Musgrove, Clyde D., Box 13, Votow, Tex.
 Murphy, Thomas S., 121 A. Nassan Ave., Green Point, N. Y.
 Murray, Noel, J., 133-06 140 St. S. Ozoneck, N. Y.
 Muelleady, Joseph P., 6803 218th St., Rayside, L. I., N. Y., N. Y.
 McAfee, Ralph L., 116 E. 83rd, N. Y., N. Y.
 McDonald, James X., 2417 Jerome Ave., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
 McGeorge, Alfred, 202 S. Upper St., Lexington, Ky.
 McLaughlin Philip E., 264 Bement Ave., New W. Brighton, S. I., N. Y.
 McQuillan, Hugh J., 1296 First Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Negrey, John, 826 Pine St., Ambridge, Penn.
 Neuman, Leonard, 1888 60th St., Bklyn., N. Y., N. Y.
 Neumer, Robert H., 504 W. 129th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Newman, James B. C., Rt. #3, Chetek, Wis.
 Nienberg, Ralph, 1732 Sterling Pl. Bklyn., N. Y., N. Y.
 O'Brien, James P., 18th St., Wyandanch, L. I., N. Y.
 O'Neill, Arthur F., Jr., 3018 Heath Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Orenstein, Joseph, 80 Thayer St., N. Y., N. Y.
 O'Rourke, Andrew P., 799 E. 150th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Paissai, Attalio R., 9143 87th St., Woodhaven L. I., N. Y.
 Padilla, Pablo, Bisbee, Ariz.
 Paige, Clarence W., 807 Oliver St., Conn. Ohio.
 Palermo, Charles, 1478 E. 94th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Parker, Floyd R., Franklin, Tex.
 Parker, Ralph L., Rt. #2, Box 323, Tarantum, Pa.
 Paterson, Wayne E., 1949 Benton, Springfield, Mo.
 Payne, Martin L., 2505 Rose St., Nashville, Tenn.
 Perdoe, John R., Slade, Cap. Pa.
 Peterson, Orville, K., 910 E. 62nd St., Chicago, Ill.
 Petrovich, John, 9343 Jefferson Ave., Rockfield, Ill.
 Phillips, Maynard M., Rt. #1, Bevely, W. Va.
 Picciano, Egidio, 1129 White Plains Rd., By, N. Y.
 Piechuch, Frank J., Rt. #3, Phalanx Station, Ohio.
 Pillarella, Antony, 57 Senech St., N. Brighton, Richmond, N. Y.
 Pinho, John C., 489 12th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Pizzella, Pasquale G., 2869 Lawton Ave., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
 Plew, Norman L., 764 Chevrolet Ave., Flint, Mich.
 Pogazelsky, Walter J., 154 E. Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.
 Pollard Woodrow W., Broughton, Ill.
 Potter, George W., Greenup, Ky.
 Powell, Thomas O., 1218 Grant Drive, University, Mo.
 Proctor, Sam W., R. F. D. #1, Quality, Ky.
 Rabinowitz, Edward, 1071 West Farms Rd., Bronx, N. Y.
 Ratliff, Otis F. 2110 Woolplaw Ave., Middletown, Ohio.
 Reed, Charles R., Rt. #2, Sycamore, Ohio.
 Reed, Nacy W., 300 Lookout Ave., Dayton, Ohio.
 Reichelt, Wallace W., % Carl Anderson, Deerfield, Ill.
 Reid, Verne, 1028 Pearce St., Owosso, Mich.
 Repka, Frank E., 70 Passaic St., Trenton, N. J.
 Renner, Sumon L., Rt. #1, Strong's, Prairie, Wis.
 Reyers, Filberto, 4127 Dorazo St., El Paso, Tex.
 Rivezzo, Daniel J., 35 Furman Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Roden, Ernest H., Star Rt., Gatesville, Tex.
 Roggenbuck, Gerhardt E., 946 S. Wash. St., Shawand, Wis.
 Rodgers, Richard W., 134 N. W. 6th Ave., Miami, Fla.
 Rojas, Manuen, 2342 Market St., Denver, Col.
 Rossales, Lazaro M., Stafford, Tex.
 Rozni, Albert P., 137 Morningside, N. Y., N. Y.
 Ryan, John J., 315 524 W. 134th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Ryan, Matthew W., 2105 Ryder Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Rumbo, Robert J., 25-45 18th St., Astoria, N. Y.
 Rywalski, Roman R., Toledo, Ohio

Stram, Edward J., 190 Prospect St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Strickland, Claude, Thornton, Ark.
 Struckman, William L., 1638 Agelalbe Blvd., Akron, Ohio.
 Sullivan, Daniel M., 302 W. First St., Oswego, N. Y.
 Sullivan, William H., Rt. #1, Otisville, Michigan
 Saganich, Henry R., 2310 Valiente Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Sangran, Leonard R., 268 6th Ave., West Cape May, N. J.
 Santoro, Nicholas A., 1503 Neck Rd., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Savio, Anthony L., 2643 Mill Rd., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Seaggs, Newman, Reach Creek, W. Va.
 Schdcher, Maurice J., 1403 E. South St., Bklyn., N. Y., N. Y.
 Schmidt, Michael P., Box 143, Parkville, N. Y.
 Schrenet, Raymond C., 1242 Avondale Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
 Schumacher, William F., 13 Allen St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Scott, John N., 400 E. 3rd St., Fordyce, Ark.
 Seitz, Charles S., 6353 S. Keosie Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Selover, George G., 400 8th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Shaff, Morris, 645 Van Buren St., Garry, Ind.
 Sharred, Robert E. L., 219 Park Pl., Irvington, N. J.
 Shatata, Charles J., 65-49 79th Middle Village, Queens, N. Y.
 Shaw, Harold E., Westington, S. D.
 Shaw, John J., Garfield Hts., Ohio.
 Shelly, Harold E., 115 Bergen St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Sherwood, Charles H., 107-36 139th St., Jamaica, N. Y.
 Shook, James K., 118 Poplar Ave., Moundsville, W. Va.
 Short, Clyde M., Gen. Del., Tyner, Tenn.
 Shoup, Kenneth W., Rt. #5, Waynesburg, Pa.
 Sibilio, Tony, 40 Wright St., Stanford, Conn.
 Sierp, Walter J., 93-15 Vandervere St., Queens Village, L. I., N. Y.
 Sierp, Henry, 93-15 Vandervere St., Queens Village, L. I., N. Y.
 Sierra, George R., 2315 Andrews Ave., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.
 Siesel, Marx, 1559 E. 13th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Silva, Pilar G., Rt. #2, Box 2, New Braunfels, Tex.
 Simons, Justin, 12134 Green St., Calumet Park, Ill.
 Sisk, James H., Hopkinsville, Ky.
 Slane, Walter E., Box 56, Oak Hill, Ill.
 Slane, Henry, 269 Sand Lane, South Beach, S. I., N. Y.
 Slaughter, Stanley, 625 Delhi Ave., Cinn. Ohio.
 Smith Isaac C. T., Rt. #1, Frederick, Md.
 Smith, Ralph R., 99 Rose Ave., Gardenville, N. Y.
 Smith, Reginald V., Varnville, S. C.
 Smith, Thomas, 9344 65th St., Woodside, N. Y.
 Sorel, Henry B., Rt. #1, Mt. Sterling, Ky.
 Sovich, Andrew E., Rt. #2, Garry, Ind.
 Stachow, William, 119 Henry St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Stampel, John J., 67 Woodbine St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Stanley, Gordon W., Rt. #2, Newton, Ill.
 Stearns, Robert J., 536 Woodlawn Ave., Acora, Ill.
 Stein, Louis I., 1954 68th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Stereson, Philip, 2431 E. 26th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Stevens, Paul J., 1019 E. Mulberry St., Evansville, Ind.
 Steward, Cletos R., 721 Cedar St., Santa Monica, Cal.
 Stingley, Keith W., 2124 Orchard St., Chicago, Ill.
 Stober, Harry A., 422 E. 80th St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Stone, Robert L., Junction, Ill.
 Storie, Eugene C., 419 Holt St., Dayton, Ohio.
 Tashy, Sam K., 937 Bergenline Ave., N. Bergen, N. J.
 Taranto, John D., 320 Classon Ave., Bklyn., N. Y., N. Y.
 Taylor, Owen F., 2124 N. Leithgow St., Phila. Pa.
 Taylor, Paul A., 121 N. 26th St., Camp Hill, Pa.
 Taylor, Paul A., 187 Water St., Freedom, N. Y.
 Teman, Mike, 436 N. 3rd St., Allentown, Pa.
 Thomd, George H., 9601 4th Ave., Corond, L. I., N. Y.
 Thoren, James E., 943 18th Ave., N. E., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Tibbs, Robert L. Jr., West. Blotgan, Ala.
 Tickack, Alphonse G., P. O., Box 564, Richmond, Tex.
 Tobin, Edward J., 61 45th St., Wheeling, W. Va.
 Tocci, Emil Jr., 75 Harris St., Hewlett, Nassau, N. Y.
 Tomasselli, Arthur, 1219 74th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Tomadzioglow, Alexander, 106 Benefit St., Providence, R. I.
 Tomasky, Joseph G., 66 Moutain St., Swaraysville, Pa.
 Train, Walter W., 12 Summit Ave., Patchogue, L. I., N. Y.
 Tarmontano, Natlie C., 262 President St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Travers, James J., 446 3rd Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Tropeano, Dominick, 14-33 27th Ave., Astoria, Queens, N. Y.
 Tufariello, Patsy, 1658 Bath Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Tully, Joseph B., 297 6th Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Turner, Alfred N., 2042 W. 8th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Turner, Edwin K., 41-26 23rd St., L. I. C., N. Y.
 Twogood, Merlin R., 1355 4th St., N. W., Moran, S. D.
 Tybubzy, George P., 221 Bedford, Bklyn., N. Y.
 Uihlein, Edward J., 3312 N. 10th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Uihleyn, Michael A., 1018 Shannon Ave., Barbeton, Ohio.
 Uricinoli, Salvatore, 200 Burger Ave., Staten, Island, N. Y.
 Urtate, Renato, 523 2nd Ave., N. Y., N. Y.
 Utberg, Frank E., Dixonville, Pa.
 Villecas, Arturo, 1817 W. N. Y. St., Albuquerque, N. M.
 Vlach, Robert, James, 1923 S. Wasatan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Vogel, Edward R., Rt. #1, Grays, Ill.
 Voyer, Louis D., 128 W. 52nd St., % Gen. Assn., N. Y., N. Y.
 Vila, George L., 1724 Madison Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Vila, Carlos A., 1724 Madison Ave., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Vidmar, John P., 416 E. 5th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Velaco, Manuel F., Jr., 38-3rd St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Valenti, Noff, Rt. #2, Box 1670, Hammond, La.
 Valdez, Gregorio T., 3635 S. Lake Park Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Valencia, Emilio M., 519 5th St., Douglas, Arizona
 Wagner, Henry, 3850 78th St., Jackson Hts., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Walker, George A., 5306 6th Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Walsh, James A., 570 72nd St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Walsh, John J., 1316 Meek Rd., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Walwisch, Harold, 452 E. 3rd St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Wambacil, Harry, 451 W. Brad St., Hazelton, Pa.
 Ward, Daniel W., Jr., 218 S. Madrona, Brea, Cal.
 Ward, John P., 88-43 181st St., Jamaica Queens, L. I., N. Y.
 Wesder, Victor E., 1864 85th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Wajs, Walter, 188 Green St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Watson, Richard, Caney, Ky.
 Watts, Edward Jr., 314 Madison Ave., Cedarhurst, N. Y.
 Wdowars, Tony J., 2230 S. Calif. Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Weaver, Ellis L., New Haven, W. Va.
 Weber, Irwin J., 253 W. 101st St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Wecker, Samuel, 270 Barnard Ave., Cedarhurst, L. I., N. Y.
 Woodrow, Gilbert W., 412 McCartney St., Easton, Pa.
 Weiss, Murphy, 287 Hillside Ave., Williston Park, N. Y.
 Weiss, Warren E., Box 215 Medford, N. Y.
 Wyrzykowski, Kasimer, 3149 N. Springfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Wright, Robert E., 9137 Apollone, Detroit, Mich.
 Woodruff, Burbank R. F. D. #2, Franklinville, N. Y.
 Werden, Joseph, 506 E., 81st St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Wesley, Alva A., Liberty, Ky.
 Williams, William C., 8901 Kercheval Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Williamson, Joseph A., 63 Penn. Ave., Exeter, Pa.
 Wilson, Thomas W., R. F. D. #2 Box 29, Emporia, Va.
 Winters, Frank, 84-11 Barry Pl., Rockaway, N. Y., N. Y.
 Wishart, Andrew, 337 63rd St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Woloszek, Frank, 149-E 29th St., N. Y. C., N. Y.
 Young, James F., Gen. Del., Smithville, Tenn.
 Zaniak, Walter, Ave., A. Locust Valley, L. I., N. Y.
 Zahumensky, Joseph, 2548 S. Albany Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Zavica, Stanley J., 82-03 Astoria Blvd., Jackson Hts., L. I., N. Y.
 Zicardi, Carmine D., 14 N. Henry St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Zimmerman, Harold J., 2616 Windsor Ave., DuBuque, Iowa.

COMPANY I

Abbott, Charles E., 626 1/2 W. Main St., Jefferson City, Mo.
 Abernathy, Gerald L., Ervin Rt., Hugo, Okla.
 Ackermann, Eugene A., 2533 Maple Pl., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Adams, Worethy B., Box 16, Bristol, W. Va.
 Agne, Ross W., Rt. #2, Newport, N. Y.
 Ahner, Milton F., 224 N., First St., Leighton, Pa.
 Alba De Costa, Eugene, 3527 Meade Ave., San Diego, Cal.
 Albert, Earl R., 2626 Hendrick St., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
 Aldrick, Lawrence E., 422 2nd St., Fremont, Ohio.
 Allen, Junior J., Rt. #1, Bridgeport, Ill.
 Allman, Richard, Rt. #1, Panhensburg, W. Va.
 Almeida, Manuel S., 86 Raymond St., Fall River, Mass.
 Alvarado, Herman B., 1903 Ave. I, Galveston, Tex.
 Anderson, Kenneth E., Rt. 1, Box 49, Ironwood, Mich.
 Anderson, Marvin, 706 Corrigan St., Kilgore, Tex.
 Andrian, George R., 63 Douglas St., Hartford, Conn.
 Angulavich, Thomas J., 125 Poplar St., Kuldmont, Pa.
 Arch, LeRoy A., 168 N. Ampton St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Arrezola, Louis E., General Delivery, Coy City, Tex.
 Atkins, Everett M., Rt. #1, Lussay, Va.
 Babinsky, John P., 936 Centre St., Mahoney City, Pa.
 Baehr, Nicholas E., 2685 University Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Baker, Clifford H., 1947 Wright St., St. Louis, Mo.
 Bartz, Carl A., 3352 N. Buffon St., Milk, Wis.
 Bastiansen, William H., 587 Central Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Battini, Louis, 25 Roosevelt St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Baum, Luther O., Rt. #2, Kimmswick, Mo.
 Bickel, George C., 1913 Madison St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Blikenstaff, Arthur C., 16 E. South St., Fredrick, Md.
 Blowers, Orile, 1515 Norris St., Camden, N. J.
 Bobayac, Joseph, 1036 Mich. St., Detroit, Mich.
 Bodner, Michael T., 343 Court St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Bollinger, Ralph J., Keymar, Md.
 Boone, Joseph R., 831 Bradshaw St., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Bouchea, Noel P., 508 E. York St., Savannah, Ga.
 Bramblett, Ralph, Rt. #1, White, Ga.
 Brazina, M. hael A., 2388 Elyria Ave., Lorain, Ohio.
 Brehm, Wesley E., Turbatville, Pa.
 Bridges, Roy G., 4160 Clinton St., L. A., Cal.
 Bright, Ralph F., 113 Mass. St., St. Joseph, Mo.
 Brill, Carl J., 5931 Patterson St., Chicago, Ill.
 Brinkley, Johnny, Waverly, Tenn.
 Brock, Leo W., Rt. #2, Crescent, Okla.
 Brooke, James E., Rt. #4, Gadsiner, Maine.
 Brown, James E., 410 N. Lincoln Ave., Barnsville, Ohio.
 Brown, James J., 36-35 167th St., Flushing, L. I., N. Y.
 Brown, Lawrence S., 1314 Argus Rd., Camden, N. J.
 Brunker, Leo H., Rt. #1, Paris, Ky.
 Burmister, William J., Kingston, Mich.
 Brown, Wallace W., 1023 Blucher St., Utica, N. Y.
 Carlson, Arthur E., Rt. #4, Sugar Grove, Pa.
 Carlson, Harold J., Sister Bay, Wis.
 Carlson, Robert O., Box 33, Greenridge, Mo.
 Cabral, Joseph, 43 Maple Ave., W. Warwick, R. I.
 Campbell, Charles F., Box 43, Maynardville, Tenn.
 Carlisle, Erwin W., 200 E. 18th St., Cisco, Tex.
 Carr, Frank R., 2440 Harvey Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 Carmona, Juan J., 202 Ave. K, Lubbock, Tex.
 Carney, Edward F., 42 Kensington Ave., Springfield Mass.
 Carpenter, Roger H., 4253 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Charette, Ovila, 42nd Ave., Box, Edmundston, N. B., Canada.
 Chase, Glendell H., Morrison Hotel, 509 3rd Ave., Seattle, Wash.
 Childs, Chester L., 1003 William St., Cape Girardeau, Miss.
 Chong, Leo, 26 Elizabeth St., New York, N. Y.
 Christine, Rocco J., W. 25 3rd Ave., New York, N. Y.
 Christodoulou, Harry P., 523 E. 148th St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Cigaukis, John, 9296 Holmur Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Cleary, John R., 508 W. 29th St., N. Y. C.
 Colatruigio, Samuel F., 189 Miami St., Tiffin, Ohio.
 Cole, Fay N., Princeton, Kansas
 Connors, Robert P., 302 N. Chester Pike, Glenolden, Pa.
 Cornish, Harry J., 1692 Wash. Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Cornwell, Edward W., 111-14 112th St., Ozone Park, L. I.
 Cotsonas, George, 25-40 30th Road, Astoria, L. I.
 Cousins, Jack J., Welsh, La.
 Coscia, Stanley, 599 Morris Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Cravens, Porter S., 240 2nd Neenah, Wis.
 Crowley, David A., 1513 Boyla St., Pittsburg, Pa.
 Cunningham, Claude O., Rt. #2, Ninnekan, Okla.
 Cunningham, Thomas H., 506 S. E., 44th St., Box 152, Rt. #8., Okla. City, Okla.
 Cupit, Everette, Box 54, Gen. Del., Crowville, La.
 Czerwiecki, Frank F., 63rd Center St., Lockport, N. Y.
 Daley, Joseph R., 132 Fairmont Ave., Newark, N. J.
 Dalrymple, Vincent F., 470 E. 141st St., Bronx, N. Y.
 Daman, Harold R., Woodbine, Iowa.
 Deal, Kenneth P., 1739 Monroe Ave., Hixington, Va.
 Davy, Albert A., 14 Frenwood Ave., Bramford, Mass.
 De Forrest, Ernest J., 503 2nd St., Faulerville, Nich.
 De Marco, Patrick, 33 Leonard St., Mechanicsville, N. Y.
 De More, Howard L., 301 S. Sylvan St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 De Prima, Frank A., 257 3rd Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Dew, William G., 410 N. Main St., Canastota, N. Y.
 De Wald, Alfred N., Round Lake, Ill.
 Dillon, Royle V., 122 Sheridan Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 De Young, John, Rt. #1, Box 458, Orange, Tex.
 Dinay, Howard L., Genoa, N. Y.
 Dolak, George R., 109 19th St., Wheeling, W. Va.
 DuVall, Thomas B., Elvaton Millersville, A. A., Md.
 Dziak, Paul S., Rt. #2, DeWitt St., Lorain, Ohio.
 Enterman, Donald L., 803 E. 10th St., Jeffersonville, Ind.
 Eritano, John J., 184 Whitney St., Rochester, N. Y.
 Erwin, Lawrence E., 1702 Roche St., Knoxville, Tenn.
 Fackler, Newman E., Jr., Main St., Canton, Ga.
 Faile, Clarence C., Rt. #3, Kershaw, S. C.
 Faltinson, Marvin F., 9918 9th Ave., S. W., White Central Hts Seattle, Washington
 Fedush, Michael, 169 Cambridge Ave., Garfield, N. J.
 Fent, Francis H., Rt. #3, Greenfield, Ohio.
 Fehr, Lester, 145 E., 85th St., N. Y. C.
 Fergeson, Donald J., 34th Scott St., Springfield, Mass.
 Ferrante, Phillip, 433 Penn. Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Fleming, William T., Rt. #3, Box 13, Norfolk, Va.
 Ford, Edwin R. Jr., Greenfield Hill, Conn.
 Ford, Henry M., Rt. 6, Gainesville, Ga.
 Foster, Ronald W., Rt. #1, Bonita, Tex.
 Franciosa, Alfred H., 360 E. 116th St., N. Y. C.
 Freidman, Paul, 1621 Union St., Bklyn., N. Y.
 Fry, Marvin R., Rt. #1, Youkon, Okla.
 Gamboa, Dolores G., 2204 8th St., Austin, Tex.
 Ganiel, Leon J., R. F. D. Box 119, Egg Harbor, N. J.
 Gard, Samuel W., 457 W. Freeman St., Frankfort, Ind.
 Gardner, Orville L., Box 311, Kanawa, Okla.
 Garnac, Joseph, 212 Maple St., Shorspore, Pa.
 Garner, Chester, F., Rt. #3, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
 Garrett, Lloyd H., 1545 7th Ave., Waterlet, N. Y.
 Garstecki, John E., 812 W. Smithfield St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
 Gauger, Chester A., Fishcreek, Wis.
 Geckie, Albert J., Rt. #1, Ft. Jennings, Ohio.
 Ginsberg, Murray, Unknown, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Gittle, Robert G., 236 3rd Ave., Hartford, Wis.
 Gleisinger, Joseph, Rt. #5, Look Rd., Mansfield, Ohio.
 Glick, Rolla G., 632 S. Main St., Pocatello, Idaho.
 Goldstein, Irving, 241 E. 91st St., Bklyn., N. Y.

Gontarz, Joseph J., 1270 Allison Ave., Wash., Pa
Gonzales, William P., Moses, N. H.
Gorman, Richard M., Rt. #2, Culton, N. Y.
Gotshall, William F., 402 Broad St., Port Allegheny, Pa
Grafton, William K., Rt. #2, Stewartstown, Pa
Graw, John A., 2731 W. Hamburger St., Philadelphia, Pa
Green, Charles B., Rt. #2, Hickman Hills, Mo
Green, Oscar W., Rt. #1, Waynesburg, Ky
Greenstreet, W. R., 31 Murry St., Beaconsdale, Va
Griffin, Leonard, Sourlake, Tex
Griffo, Louis E., 54 Cox Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.
Grimsinger, Earl G., 145 Armour Pl., San Antonio, Tex
Gross, John E., 245 Springettsburg St., York, Pa
Grover Paul C., Rt. #2, Smithburg, Md.
Guillard, Lester L., 537 Mayland Ave., Hagenstown, Md
Guzman, Anthony, Rt. #2, Scottsbluff, Neb
Hadmott, Cleve B., Bridgeton, N. C.
Haggard, Darrell E., Martinsville, Ind
Hailson, Culer L., 127 W., Romona St., Pensacola, Fla
Hall, Gary C., Rt. #4, Newalk, Ohio
Halligan, William A., 85 Chestnut St., Salem, N. J.
Halverson, Roger L., Taylor, Wis
Haney, James T. Jr., Rt. #3, Hagerstown, Md
Harris, Leon L., Viola, Wis
Harris, Walter M., 809 Lin St., Lames, Tex
Harsh, Maurice D., Ronks, Pa
Hatley, Jessie D., Rt. #4, Atwood, Tenn
Hayek, Will J., Iowa City, Iowa, 900 N. Dubuque St.
Hayes, Gerald G., Box 59 Mt. Pleasant, Pa
Heath, Melvin R., 305 E. Rofte St., Perry, Mich
Heinley, Calvin H., 305 S. Balliet St., Frankville, Pa
Henderson, James C., 505 Palmetto St., Anniston, Ala
Hagood, Robert L., 5335 Goodman St., Rochester, N. Y.
Hanson, Albert L., 3703 50th St., Des Moines, Iowa
Hansen, Curtess E., 124 W. 3rd St., Red Wing, Wis
Hansen, Robert C., Chicago, Ill
Hansen, Russell E., 116 E., Ainsworth St., Ypsilanti, Mich
Hanks, Walter S., Rt. #2, Fallston, Md
Henderson, Elmer W., Rt. #2, Elvia, Wis
Henthorn, Everette O., Rt. #3, Bealsville, Ohio
Herman, Martin, 2821 Baker Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Hertle, Edgar H., 197-01 119th Ave., St. Abans, N. Y.
Hewitt, Leonard E., Rt. #2, Westville, Okla
Higgins, Ernest E., Canton, Kans.
Hite, Benjamin C., 1013 O St., Waynesborough, Va
Hobbs, J. B., Rt. #1, Kennett, Mo
Hoffman, A. Jr., Manfield, Ohio, Rt. #6.
Hofmecker, Stewart C., 1726 Pulte St., Cincinnati, Ohio
Holly, Everett G., Rt. #1, Arp, Tex.
Holton, William H., Star Rt., Kirbyville, Tex
Holtzman, Sol N., 175 Stockton St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Hones, Joseph A., 310 E. Center St., Mt. Carmel, Pa
Hooser, Harland L., Rt. #1, Box 63, Ft. Collins, Col
Hope, Joseph B., 3450 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, Pa
Hopkins, Charles W., Rt. #1, Ettrick, Va
Hopkins, Robert J., 928 E. 16th St., Chester, Pa
Horowitz, Harold J., 140 Dahill Rd., Bklyn., N. Y.
Hurst, Carlis
Hughes, Marvin S., 127 W. 4th Pl., Tulsa, Okla
Hunter, Miller R., 1211 W. Broadway, Ardmore, Okla
Inge, Calvin W., Rt. #1, Sycamore, Va
Ingber, Frederick A., 54-57 60th Lane, Masspeth, L. I.
Jennings, Conley J., 1122 E. Long St., Hamilton, Ohio
Johnson, Jim M., Melvin Hill, N. C.
Jones, Morris W., 224 Coffery Ave., Phant, Tex
Jones, Charles B., Box 485, Massuep, Conn
Kable, Neil R., 323 Tenn Ave., Wash., D. C.
Katz, Stanley J., 421 Jerome St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Kosowski, Dominico, 88 Cross St., Providence, R. I.
King, James R., 9961 Old Ft., Rd., Wash., D. C.
Kawaguchi, Tadayuki, 162 D. Topaz St., Delta, Utah
Keegan, Michael S., Granite, Falls, Minn.
Keeney, James E., 24 Main S. Reisterstown, Md
Kaiser, Benjamin, 2236 Strauss St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Kelley, Lemul T., 406 Reuter St., Flat River, Mo
Kennaer, Ralph W., Rt. #2, Woodville, Ala
Kennedy, Walter J., 338 84th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Kiefer, Robert E., Rt. #1, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Kincadd, John N., Rt. #2, Winchester, Ky
Kiplingerm, Morris, Rt. #1, Elyria, Ohio
Koon, Henry E., Gen. Del. Irmo, S. C.
Kowalczyk, Joseph, 4419 Henry Ave., Hammond, Ind
Krembas, Edward, 218 Townsend Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
Kreuger, William, 4924 Quincy St., Chicago, Ill.
Kruger, Robert M., 2196 Ferris Rd., Columbus, Ohio
Kuchera, Frank A., 654 McKicken Ave., Cimn. Ohio
Kucielka, Joseph G., 619 Pacific St., Granite City, Ill.
Kulic, Joseph A., 154 S. Vine St., Mt. Carmel, Pa.
Kumbers, Eugene M., 724 S. 20th St., Milwa., Wis.
LuBombar, James D., 108 Marquette Ave., Crystal Falls, Mich.
Lain, Russell T., 158 Institute Rd. Valparaiso, Ind
Lake, Fredrick H., 22-24 42nd St., Astoria, L. I.
Lambert, Andrew R., 447 Wilson St., Williamsport, Pa
Lanassa, Warren L., 414 Ave. A. Westwego, La.
Laykin, John, 101 W. 193rd St., N. Y., N. Y.
Lebetter, Louie, Grath, Ky.
Lento, Anthony M., 202 Hart St., Bklyn., N. Y.
LePaze, William J., 82 Knowless St., Pawtucket, R. I.
Linsley, Robert E., 45 Crawford St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich
Lodewyck, John F., 1855 N. Dayton St., Chicago, Ill.
Lugo, Michael A., 610 E. 25th St., L. A. Cal.
Lowenthal, David, 1 W. Irving St., Chevy Chase, Md.
Lubianetzki, John, 548 1st St., Warren, Ohio.
MacRae, James A., 210 Princeton Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
Magee, Anthony J., 7109 Narr'ws Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
Mahon, Etel., O'Keere, W. Va.
Malik, Alexander F., Rt. #2, Leechberg, Pa.
Malek, Henry H., 1439 S. Comstock Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Malikowski, Joseph L., 340 Broadway, Bayone, N. J.
Mallow, Howard W., 419 Murrill St., Bonne Tere, Mo.
Mamary, John, 13 Belmont Ave., Patterson, N. J.
Mandato, Albert E., 35-22 Prince St., N. Y., N. Y.
Mansfield, Paul, Rt. #1, Central City, Ky.
Marchant, Elmer P., 233 Tremont St., Somerville, Mass.
Margulies, Iver P., 3030 Riehton St., Detroit, Mich.
Marhofer, Alvin V., 2356 W. McMecken Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Marrino, Joseph, Coxton, Ky.
Marl, Isaac J., Rt. #1, Gastville, Ark.
Martin, Andrew J., Rt. #2, McMinnville, Tenn.
Martin, Benton B., Rt. #2, Albany, Ky.
Matraw, Gordon E., 477 S. Meadow St., Watertown, N. Y.
Matts, Leslie G., Rt. #1, Box 45, St. Louis, Mo.
Matson, Carl A., Gobi, Va.
Maxwell, Robert W., 14 Winter St., Auburn, Mass.
Mawrock, Boleslaw., 3075 Trowbridge St., Hamtromch, Mich.
McAbee, Judge A., 320 Craven St., Ashville, N. C.
McCarthy, Edwin J., 158 Boylston St., Jamaica Plains, N. Y.
McCowan, Lloyd C., Rt. #1, Box 76, Boardman, N. C.
McIlhenny, Hughlion H., Box 124, Eatonton, Ga.
McIlhenny, James E., 116 Whitley, Terrace, Derby, Pa.
Meehan, Charles V., 1432 E. 29th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Meder, Charles S. Jr., 4235 Maywood St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Mebring, Rudolph Jr., Rt. #1, Hupersburg, Pa.
Meier, Nick E., 819 Fillmore St., St. Louis, Mo.
Meier, Henry J., Jr. 248 Clyde Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Melton, William, E. 200 Ohio Ave., Etowah, Tenn.

Mensink, Roger E., 1730 Belden Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
Merritt, Earl, 58 N. Market St., Mt. Sterling, Ohio.
Mesiak, Stanley J., 17 Rector St., New York, N. Y.
Mets, Thurston, E., Ct. C-59 Fairfield, Md.
Michael, Charles E., 1500 Church St., Ambridge, Pa.
Micka, Paul Jr., Park Hill Rd., Hampton, Mass.
Mickelson, Vernon L., Rt. #2, Meridan, Tex.
Mikulak, John, 63 Penn Ave., Punasotawney, Pa.
Milio, Salvatore, 912 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Milliken, Charles W., Rt. #3, Fayetteville, Tenn.
Milliron, James B., 412 Depot St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
Mitton, Harold K., 24 Chestnut Ave., Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Mock, Harold R., 2424 Gasser St., Toledo, Ohio.
Monroe, George R., 924 Flushing Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
Moore, Allen V., 323 Harrison Ave., Norwood, Pa.
Moore, Earl F., 946 Barron Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Moore, William J., Rt. #3, Hampton, Iowa.
Morris, Emmett W., 1 Kemper Center, Sandston, Va.
Morris, Gerald
Morrisey, Joseph F., 49 8th Ave., New York City, N. Y.
Munson, James H., Philadelphia, Pa.
Murr, Willis F., Box 127, Fountain City, Wis.
Neary, William M., 188 8th St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Neely, Lawrence, 5416 Calif. Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Nelson, Carl L., Esty, W. Va.
Nelson, Donald L., Rt. #2, Craig, Nebraska.
Neuberger, Loyall C., Ridott, Ill.
Nick, James T., 32 3rd Ave., Union City, Pa.
Niessner, Raymond L., 516 Billings Ave., Painesboro, N. J.
Minrick, William M., Vinita, Okla.
Novak, John J., Aronmore, Pa.
Olinger, Roy L., Springville, Iowa.
Ondish, George Jr., 114 Washington Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.
Organ, Warren D., Granby, Mo.
Otis, James T., 40 Harvard Ave., Meridan, Conn.
Owens, William C., Rt. #1, Wallington, Ala.
Owens, Curtis M., Webb's Cross Rd., Ky.
Pall, Eugene N., 1625 E. 29th St., Lorain, Ohio.
Pape, Joseph T., 21 Prince St., Stapleton, N. Y.
Parsons, Clifton L., 71 Central Ave., East Hartford, Conn.
Pauletto, Bruno A., 1019 Kent St., Rockford, Ill.
Paxton, Ddibert O., Keltie, W. Va.
Pelligreno, Louis, 34 Frost St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Perkins, George A., 338 W. 9th St., Dallas, Tex.
Perkins, George C., 2730 W. 2nd St., Duluth, Minn.
Peskowitz, Howard, Hunter, N. Y.
Pettigrew, Roy E., Rt. #4, Cleburne, Tex.
Pettit, Paul, Atkins, Ark.
Passata, Frank J., 530 Pierce Ave., Sharpville, Pa.
Picoas, Patty, 180 E. Wilkes Barre St., Easton, Pa.
Pierson, Paul J., 2106 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Pilkinton, Gordon., 1128 W. 97th St., L. A., Cal.
Pingley, George L., Gibson City, Ill.
Pisklak, Joseph R., 250 E. Walter St., Coaldale, Pa.
Pitchford, Melvin T., Eaton, N. Y.
Pitman, Chester Jr., 1052 Myrtle Ave., Frankfort, Ind.
Poe, Albert T., St. George's Island, Md.
Pondar, Leroy, Cortland, Ala.
Ponder, Arduin., Rt. #2, Box 85, Many, La.
Porcella, Frederick, 40 Thayer St., N. Y., N. Y.
Powell, Morton L., 27 Sylvan Ave., New Haven, Conn.
Powell, Raymond A., 314 E. Line St., Menveria, Ohio.
Pottlebaum, Fred., 850 E. Cambridge St., Greenwood, S. C.
Queen, Edward C., 3310 Fletcher St., Jennings, Mo.
Raymer, Henry C., 704 Clark Pl., Nashville, Tenn.
Ratych, Nicholas, 109 Bluff St., Carnegie, Pa.
Redd, James Jr., 1412 Prk Ave., Aiken, S. C.
Rhatigan, William J., 315 Willow Ave., Garwood, N. J.
Richey, Robert L., Rt. #1, McCormick, S. C.
Rigdon, Eugene E., 502 W. Center St., Paris, Ill.
Ritter, Elmer R., Rt. #1, Box 109, Clayton, Mo.
Robins, Otis Jr., 123 Harding Ave., Revloc, Pa.
Robinson, Wyatt R., 424 Unruh St., Phila., Pa.
Roberts, Dewey, 5633 W. 64th St., Chicago, Ill.
Rockwell, R. E., 1207 W. Gambier St., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.
Rogers, Earlen R., Rt. #1, Brockline, Mo.
Rimero, Felix., 2710 N. Howard St., Dallas, Tex.
Roaka, Paul, Rt. #3, Easton, Pa.
Ryan, Eugene H., 1688 Gladstone St., Youngstown, Ohio.
Ryan, Roscoe E., Seasmont, Maine.
Sakowski, Roman, 2032 S. 3rd St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Salitros, Phillip., Box 185, Carbon, Indiana.
Salvati, Ferdinand J., 810 16th St., Ambridge, Pa.
Sauceda, Yidiro G., Hearne, Tex.
Sauka, Wassy L., Northampton, Pa.
Scagnelli, Louis A., 50 Bridges St., Framington, Mass.
Seanol, Andrew, Jr., 634 Long Lane, Upper Darby, Pa.
Schroeder, Robert L., R. R. Box 320, Appleton, Wis.
Scott, Arthur M. Jr., Rison, Maryland.
Sedowski, Walter J., 1108 Beaver Rd., Ambridge, Pa.
Selkie, Harry F., 1523 S. 7th St., LaCrosse, Wis.
Serewicz, Walter J., 113 Brown Ave., Holyoke, Mass.
Seassums, Earl W., 705 W. Rosedale St., Ft. Worth, Tex.
Sgro, Angelo C., 719 Howland Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
Sharpe, David W., Toledo, Ohio.
Shaw, Billy., Honea Path, S. C.
Shay, Russell G., Rt. #1, Knox, Pa.
Shea, Francis E., 104 Tamrack St., Ironwood, Mich.
Shealy, Joyce E., 2107 S. Magnolia St., Laurel, Miss.
Sheffield, James V., 334 2nd Ave., S. E., Cutbank, Montana.
Shields, James, 1960 10th Ave., Sacramento, Cal.
Shuler, Daniel P., 503 Virginia Ave., Butler, Pa.
Sickles, Russell L., 259 Ray Ave., N. E., New Phila., Ohio.
Sieper, Gerald J., 88 Washington Pl., Passaic, N. J.
Simpson, Johnnie V., Rt. #1, Box 175, Monroe, La.
Smith, Carl A., Rt. #6, Box 752, Vandouwer, Wash.
Smith, Earl R., 2511 Jefferson St., Omaha, Nebr.
Smith, James P., Twin Bridges, Mont.
Smith, James B., Rt. #3, Rogersville, Tenn.
Smith, Isaac T., 7917 Charles Rd., St. Louis, Mo.
Smith, Lawrence A., 251 School St., Indiana, Pa.
Smith, Oscar G., Rt. #1, Carlton, Pa.
Smith, Russell J., 413 W. Poplar St., Olathe, Kans.
Smith, Wallace, Boat, Ky.
Smoot, Roy H., Amherst, Va.
Snyder, Robert K., 106 E. Gibbs St., St. Johns, Mich.
Sodaro, Salvatore, 123 Whitney Pl., Buffalo, N. Y.
Sokol, Julius J., 893 Pittview St., Pittsburg, Pa.
Spano, Burno J., 707 Railroad Ave., Donaldsville, La.
Spencer, George H., 1504 Horton St., Ft. Scott, Kan.
Sprangue, Boyd L., 1248 Montausama St., Pittsburg, Pa.
Stahl, Oliver L., 231 W. Congress St., Morenci, Mich.
Staigh, Johnnie A., Fayetteville, W. Va.
Staley, Lloyd, Rt. #1, Lewiston, Idaho.
Steffen, Earl E., Rt. #3, Juneau, Wis.
Stenstrom, William J., 2044 Arthur Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Stephens, Harrison, Riser, Ky.
Stephenson, Robert B., Rt. #1, Russellville, Ala.
Stewart, Donald W., 424th 8th St., Onawa, Iowa.
Stewart, Guy B., 424 E. 6th St., N. Onawa, Iowa.
Story, James M., West Point, Tenn.
Strauss, Jean G., 131-50 227th St., Laurelton, N. Y.
Strickland, Hershel, Lovellon, Ky.
Steeck, Julius, 5 Ezra St., Bridgeport, Conn.
Sullivan, Curtis L., Wagner, Ala.
Swartz, Wade., Rt. #3, Hoopesston, Ill.

Sweigart, Robert L., 303 Clay St., Bradford, Ohio.
Szewczyk, Stanley W., 99 Jersey St., Staten Island, N. Y.
Talaga, William P., 1894 34th St., Roky Island, Ill.
Talbert, Bruce W., Box 386 A, Rt. #3 Sylacaugh, Ala.
Tanner, Frank P., Traer, Iowa.
Tanner, Wesley E., Rt. #1, Box 71, Dover, Florida.
Tansey, Francis J., 3446 Wyoming St., St. Louis, Mo.
Terry, Harold W., Gallatin, Mo.
Thacker, Francis, 5724 157th St., Flushing, New York.
Thomas, Lawrence., 7134 S. Artesian Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Thompson, Walter H., Rt. #3, Elmo, Tenn.
Timko, Frank J., 284 Framington Ave., Kensington, Conn.
Toler, Amos T., Chester, Tex.
Toth, Louis J., 464 Hamilton Ave., New Brunswick, N. J.
Tranier, Peter E., Rt. #3, Box 72, Farmville, Ohio.
Trombley, Norman L., 5 Henry St., Ticonderoga, N. Y.
Turney, Joseph Jr., 2735 Tecumseh St., Baton Rouge, La.
Turecek, Joseph F., 508 Overbrook Rd., Ottumwa, Iowa.
Van Scoy, Dwight D., 1509 E. Main St., Ottumwa, Iowa.
Viele, Marvin L., Rt. #1, North Creek, N. Y.
Viel, Joseph T., 629 Agua Fria St., Santa Fe, N. M.
Vigasky, Joseph H., 6167 Marcus Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Vigilant, Anthony J., 143 Huyler St., Hackensack, N. J.
Villich, Anthony T., Rt. #6, St. Paul, Minn.
Von Hagel, Robert H., 302 Jefferson Ave., St. Bernard, Ohio.
Wainwright, M. C. 111 Espejo St., Mobile, Ala.
Walls, Archie E., Rt. #1, Darwin, Minnesota.
Walsh, Bernard E., Rt. #2, Ossain, Ind.
Walsh, Francis R., 31-45 84th St., Jackson Hts., New York.
Walding, Albert C., Box 44, Frankston, Tex.
Ward, Joseph F., Casey Creek, Ky.
Ward, Joseph F., Casey Creek, Ky.
Warren, Wayne F., Childress, Tex.
Warner, Harry, 25 Parade Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Watts, Olen E., 212 Roosevelt St., Union, Mo.
Webb, George W., Rt. #2, Sunbury, Ohio.
Whalen, James F., 433 Elias Ave., Rock Spring, Wyoming.
White, Robert M., Hants, W. Va.
Wick, John J., 2138 W. 19th St., Chicago, Ill.
Wierzbinski, Joseph, 8659 Kingston St., Chicago, Ill.
Whitmore, Robert, Rt. #3, Box 364, Beaumont, Tex.
Wild, Warren R., 2401 W. Brown St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Wilber, Joseph R., 18632 Rose Rowe Rd., Detroit, Mich.
Wilcox, James R., 339 E. Oak St., Louisville, Ky.
Wilks, John C., 504 Carlton Ave., Caruthersville, Mo.
Willard, Leon C., Rt. #1, Duncan, Okla.
Williams, Frank A., Hemp Hill, Tex.
Wilson, Dudley L., Billings, Okla.
Wilson, James M., Rt. #2, Sharon, Tenn.
Wilson, Max F., Sr., 810 Clay St., Houston, Tex.
Wolike Chris., 1007 Franklin Ave., Bklyn., N. Y.
Wood, Seaborn L., 1324 1/2 S. Main St., Kokomo, Ind.
Woodruff, William E., Florence St., Mayaville, Ky.
Woods, Stanley, 1736 W. Barry Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Wright, Robert S., Box 295, Hooks, Tex.
Wright, Scott E., Rt. #3, Des Moines, Iowa.
Wright, Thomas L., Rt. #1, Shenandoah, Va.
Zamarra, Paul A., 88 Smith St., Newark, N. J.
Zannetti, Joseph M., 330 E. 176th St., Bronx, N. Y.
Zehner, Conrad., 309 Madison Ave., Evansville, Ind.
Zimbarido, John., 216 E. 96th St., N. Y., N. Y.
Zola, Joseph A., 540 Hayes St., Hasleton, Pa.
Zolner, Stanley M., 59 70th St., Bklyn., N. Y.

COMPANY M

Alexander, Peter B., 7060 Meadow Ave., Van Dyke, Mich.
Alford James F., 725 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield, Cal.
Allnutt, Frederick G., 307 W. Linden Rome, N. Y.
Arillo, Rocco., 109 Prospect St., Frdona, N. Y.
Aronson, Harvey, 1003 N. W. 42nd Okla. City., Okla.
Atwater, Norton V., Oak Harbor R. 1, Ohio.
Auletta, Anthony J.
Austin, Alfred A., Thonton W. Va.
Balsley William E., 6508 Rivera Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Beckett, Neil S., 130 Woodland Ave., Pitman, N. J.
Berne, Donald P., 119 W. 734d St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Black Von., Leeville, S. C. Box 283.
Blackwell, Horace E., 623 Reed St., Asenevar, N. C.
Blaine, Kyle E., 1215 1st Ave., S. E., Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Bloom, Laurence U., 5 Bradford Ave., Somerville, Mass.
Bowling, Wilgus., Hazard, Ky.
Boyd, George A., 1744 N. 16th St., Phoenix, Ariz.
Braun, Loyd B., Owatonna, Minn.
Bricault, Romeo A., 19 Central St., Nashua, N. H.
Brown, Thomas L., Rt. #1, Wetumka, Okla.
Burge, M. G., Malden, Mo.
Burnap, Dorance E., Lyons Falls, N. Y.
Burton, Manuel G., Grayson, Ky.
Calhoun, Arthur C., Mount Lake Park, Md.
Cascarelli, Frank., 705 W. Second St., Salida, Col.
Case, David V., 56 Randall, Circle, Williamsport, Pa.
Casto, Erval H. T., Statfs, Mills., W. Va.
Chambers, David H., 123 N. 17th St., Paris, Tex.
Champa, Robert A., 64 Fifth St., Bklyn., N. Y.
Clark, Lindle L., 1735 E. 36th St., Anderson, Ind.
Colpoza, Patrick J., 1820 Michigan Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
Copeland, Arnold F., 4325 Chippewa Ave., Cleveland, Tenn.
Corrallo, Peter P., 316 Chestnut St., Lockport, N. Y.
Cornine, Joseph E., Jr., 4763 Seilaure Ave., Phila., Pa.
Cote, Stanley M., 45 Oak St., River Rouge, Mich.
Cox, Lee E., Amboy, Minn.
Crabbs, Dallas E., Winterset, Iowa.
Crane, John D. Jr., Rt. #4, Burlington, N. C.
Crawley, Patrick J. Jr., 48 Cherry St., Pawtucket, R. I.
Criscera, Patrick J., 37 42nd St., Carbondale, Pa.
Cruelle, Anthony J., 68 Lawrence Ave., New Windsor, Newburg.
Cuda, Eugene E., 219 Locust St., Ambridge, Pa.
Cygan, Edward A., 4518 S. Mozart Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Cyerman, Peter J., 122 Randolph Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
D'Alessandro Wm O., 8 N. Wash. Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Davissan, John D., 2849 Forest Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
Decker, Charles W., 142 Putnam St., New Haven, Conn.
DeFuria, Guy, 511 S. 18th St., Newark, N. J.
Delgado, Martin, 833 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal.
Devereaux, Bernard A., 2106 Hartford Rd., Baltimore, Md.
Dickey, Autley, 6615 St., Augustine, St. Houston, Tex.
Dille, James A., R. F. D. #1, Dunns Station, Pa.
Drown Wm M., Box 137, Shreve, Ohio.
During, Theodore A., Sta Bri, Box 118, Superior, Wis.
Eckert, Carl G., Lawn, Pa.
Elias, Louis M., 1977 Tuxedo Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Evans, Lorenzo S. Jr., Blue Shingles, Richmond, Va.
Fairley, Francis J., 1719 5th St., N. Minneapolis, Minn.
Falkenberry, Henry B., Rt. #3, Kenshaw, S. C.
Fawley, Baline E., Rt. 3, Box 310, Chehalis, Wash.
Feasel, Galen D., 1203 1/2 St., Marys, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Feltz, George L., 3509 Washington Blvd., Hall Thorpe, Md.
Fertly, Wilburn P., Rt. #3, Box 268, Battellville, Tex.
Frame Roy L., Bison Rt Sutton, W. Va.
France Ray S. Rt. #2, Cottage Grove, Tenn.
Freeze Paul D., Box 295, Thrumont, Md.
French Edgar C., Carlton, Tex.
Foreman, Melvin, Rt. #3, Clover, S. C.
Foote, Dale E., 2504, Clendale St., Detroit, Mich.
Gannon John J., 665 Oakland Pl., Bronx, N. Y., N. Y.

Goldberg, Herbert I., 21 Morris St., Yonkers, N. Y.
 Gorham, Thomas J., 8 Tobin Ct., Roxbury, Mass.
 Gould, Howard, Jamestown Tenn.
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 Griset Lorin
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 Hauke, Walter, 802 Sash St., Marshfield, Wis.
 Hazel, Wilbur J., Nauvo, Ala. R. 1.
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 Hendrickson, Fredinand A. S., 547 Broadway Paterson, N. J.
 Heritage, William
 Herberg, Harid, 246 N. 5th Ave., Long Branch, N. J.
 Hines, William R., R. 4, Winston Salem, N. C.
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 Holsapple, Hubert H., 709 N. Main St., Martinsville, Ind.
 Honca, Joseph A., 310 E. Center St. Mt. Carmel, Pa.
 Humber, Albert H., Fayette, R. 2, Ala.
 Honicle, Charles J. S., Rt. #3, Box 56, Grove St. DesPlaines, Ill.
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 Inman, Elmer C., 207 Ridge Ave., Lakewood, N. J.
 Jarrett, Jesse W. Sr., Nelson, Ga.
 Jemison, Charles C., Box 152, Mamou, La.
 Jensen, Lawrence C., Jr., 114 W. 29th St., Richmond, 24, Va.
 Johnson, Herbert W. Port Wing, Wis.
 Johnson, Merle A., 702 St. Helen Ave., Tacoma, Wash.
 Jones Ira D., Alexandria, Mo.
 Junker, Arthur J., 428 N. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls S. D.
 Karsten, Louis M., 712 S. Oakland Ave., Green Bay Wis.
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 Knicely Percy C., 906 W. Addition St., Martinsburg, W. Va.
 Koch, Robert S., 160 Spring St., Carbondale, Pa.
 Kosturbal, Robert, 25 Chestnut St., N. Tarrytown, N. Y.
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 LaBeau, Harold E., 2418 9th St., Wyandotte, Mich.
 Lantry, Thomas J. T., 3359 60th St., L. I., N. Y.
 Lara, Alfinio, Box 28, Carlsbad, Cal.
 Large, Julius D. S., R. D. #2, Box 104, Princess Anne, Va.
 Lawsberg, Arnold C., 1438 Bushkill St., Easton, Pa.
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 Leonard, John J., 441 W. 28th St., Manhattan, N. Y.
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 Long Leonard E., Rt. #2, Mt. Carmel, Ill.
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 Lucas, James M., Rt. 1, Godwin, N. C.
 MacDonald, George G., 655 Fox St., N. Y., N. Y.
 Mackowiak, Walter J. S.
 Malone, Albert C., 1015 S. 7th St., Ironton, Ohio.
 Mahoney, George C., Mitchell, S. D.
 Martin, Jissie M., McCalla, Ala.
 Marriott, Robert A., 621 Arnett Blvd., Rochester, N. Y.
 Matysiak, Jerome H. T., 7144 58th Rd. Maspeth, N. Y.
 Mayberry, Harold M., Rt. #3, Barnesville, Ohio.
 McBee Darwin L., Box 234, Monon, Ind.
 McClellan, Rudolph., Rt. #2, Alexander City, Ala.
 McDonald, Hubert C., Rt. #4, Box 300, Birmingham, Ala.
 McGlone, Vernon B., Rt. #2, Beaver, Ohio.
 McKinney Paul, Greensburg, S. C.
 McKivitz, Donald E., 2916 Mont Belle Terrace, Balt., Md.
 McNeil, Varnell, Rt. #2, Bethel-Springs, Tenn.
 Meacham, Emery C., Rt. #3, Kokomo, Ind.
 Mecler, August J., 601 S. Gruney St., Balt. Md.
 Mercuri, Daniel M., 16 Balteny St., Boston Mass.
 Michalski, Matt J., 2520 S. Calif Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Milanowski, Michael B., 561 Stocking Ave., G. Rapids, Mich.
 Miles, Jack, 1968 Stearnes Drive, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Miller, Jerry B., 52 Van St., Reedsville, N. C.
 Minto, Jos A., Box 36, Madison Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.
 Mizer, Darrell A., 1139 Tuscawas Ave., New Phila. Ohio.
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 Norris, Donald F., 325 Tou Ville St. Celina Ohio.
 Obal Steve M., 1215 E. 3rd St., No 5 Dayton 2 Ohio.
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 Palaszynski, Henry, 8645 Marquette Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Palumbo, Jos M., 517 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge, Pa.
 Parke, Howard., 122 N. Overland Ave., Burley, Idaho.
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 Phillips Claude C., 3450 Wildwood Ave., Cleveland, Tenn.
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 Pierce, Michael F. S. 198 Lincoln Pl. Bklyn, N. Y.
 Pollock, Johnnie H., Rt. #2, Lexington, Tenn.
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 Rader Ross E., Rt. #3, Claremore, Okla.
 Radford, Haydon L., Box 134 Cadis, Ky.
 Raichelson, Melvin A., 1296 Bay St., Springfield, Mass.
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 Riffin, Charles S., Box 191, Wink, Tex.
 Robb, Kent D., Dickinson Ave., Swarthmore, Pa.
 Rudzik, Francis J., 187 Catherine St., McKees Rocks, Pa.
 Rundie, Thomas, 64 S. Manor Ave., Kingston, N. Y.
 Saco, Michael L., 1013 Underwood Pl., Cincinnati, Ohio.
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 Scheib Wm A., 58-37 217th St., Bayside, L. I., N. Y.
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 Shank Russell W., 1707 E. Lombard St., Balt. Md.
 Shapers, Arthur L., 38 Webster Ave., Glean Falls, N. Y.
 Schappner Ernie G., 2425 Ellsworth St., Berkeley, Cal.
 Schumann Cyril M., Box 8, Furman, S. C.
 Simms, George M., 8811 Rhode Island Ave., Branchville, Md.
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 Swanson, Elwin, Kersey, Pa.
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 Szczepanski, Felix, 2122 Beaver Rd., Ambridge, Pa.
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 Zenner, Henry J., 1908 S. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Zirbes, Jerome J., 1326A N. 20th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

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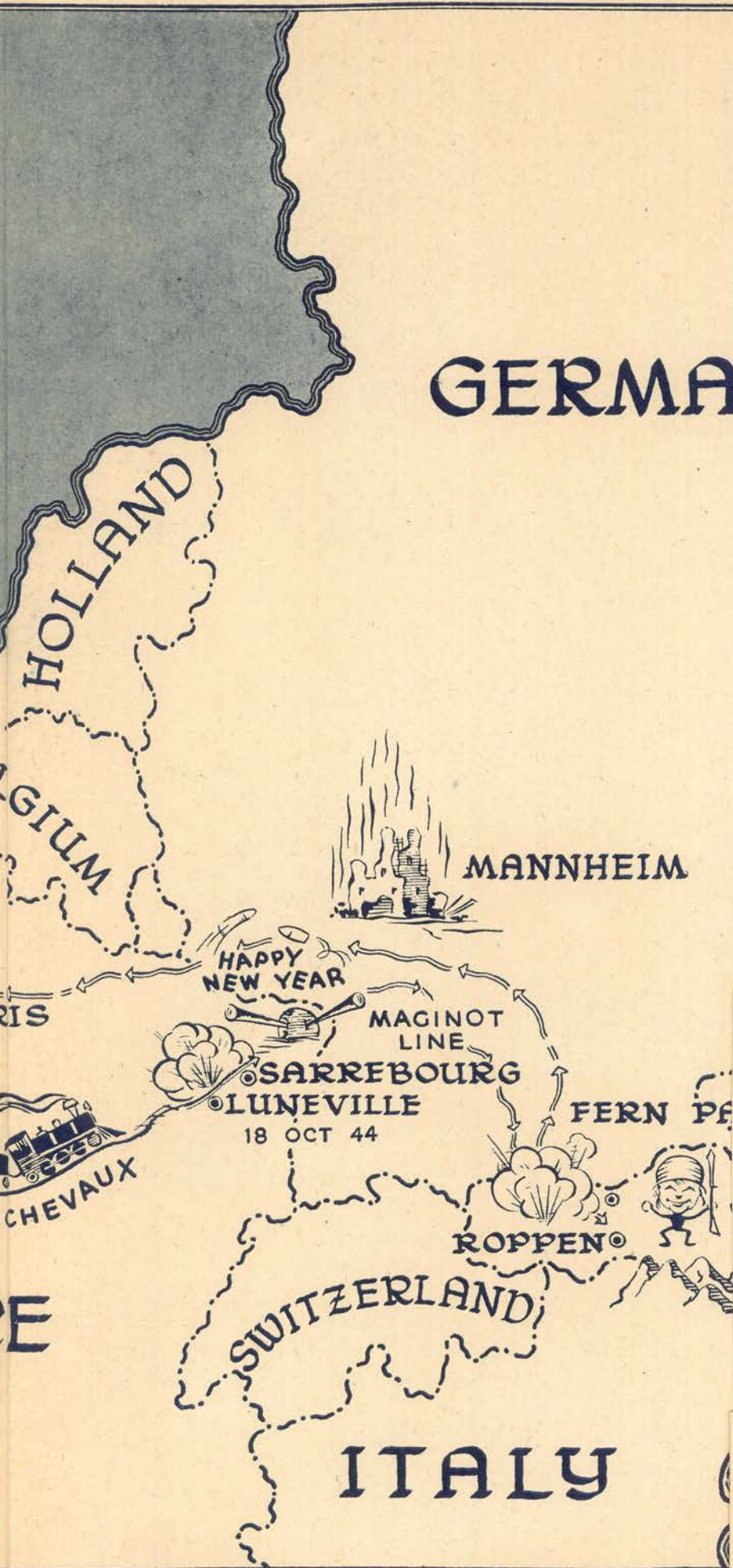
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