

a 60 mile front from Monschau to Echternach, with the goal being 100 miles away at Antwerp. On 19 December, while the 945th was recovering from the devastating counter-battery fire from the day before, General Patton was meeting with XII Corps commander General Eddy, outlining plans for the swing to the north. General Patton then traveled to Verdun, France to meet with Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Bradley and others concerning the Third Army. Ike said, "When can you attack" (2). General Patton replied, "On December 22, with three divisions, the 4th Armored, the 26th, and the 80th". It was the "sublime moment of his career" and a focal point in the famous movie Patton (2). Although a technically difficult and daring maneuver to swing the Third Army to the battles southern shoulder, General Patton had already set the wheels in motion for the move; only a phone call back to his Chief of Staff General Gay would provide the direction. The 26th Inf. Div. and 4th Arm. Div. would move on Arlon, and the 80th on Luxembourg.

## THE XII CORPS MOVES TO LUXEMBOURG

On 20 December 1944 General Patton gave General Eddy the order to move the XII Corps headquarters and artillery at once to Luxembourg (2). The 35th Inf. Div., which was finally out of the line for a rest, was to move to Metz for later deployment. The 945th FAB was located at Erching, France, nine miles due east of Sarreguemines (Figure 2). In a "dazzling display of footwork", General Patton was rearranging the composition of his corps (2). Patton attributed the move to Third Army staff including Gay, Mueller, Col. Nixon, and Col. Busch, Quartermaster of the Third Army (3). As of 20 December the XII Corps had the following divisions: 4th Inf., 5th Inf., and the 10th Armored.

## 945th MARCH ORDER - LUXEMBOURG

The 945th War Diary notes that on 21 December 1944 the "Bn CO & reconn parties left for north at 0930, ..... marched 2245 following 273rd FA Bn." (4). Major Gray says "We really never identified them, but fortunately everyone was going in the same direction through fog, rain, sleet and finally snow in Luxembourg". The 945th Daily Journal reports on 21 December that there was a cloudy and overcast sky, but no rain. At 2030 the journal records "March order, close station". The turn to the Battle of the Bulge had begun. Clarence Mitchum remembers that B Battery limbered the howitzers about midnight and moved out (I21). Dan Hale and Wallace Bolton recall the convoy traveling with lights on "for a change" (I16 & I1). Steve Giacobelli's group was apparently not using the full headlights, but the "cat eyes" which provided minimal illumination (I13). Hale says they moved fast and some of the men passed out from exhaustion; D and K rations were used during the forced march. Gino Ricci remembers that it was "the coldest I've ever been", and that the M5 tractors needed cleats, and later extensions to get traction on the snowy, icy roads (I20). The extensions on the tracks later hung up on one of the treadway bridges causing much damage.

Rudolf Amschler recalls that around midnight during the march the weather turned much colder and that the mud froze on their boots (I31). Men were riding on the hoods of the M5 tractors trying to stay warm. In the morning the convoy stopped and a kitchen truck provided breakfast and hot coffee. They moved all morning on a four-lane highway towards Luxembourg - tanks, tractors,

guns, jeeps and trucks as far as you could see! Wayne Crusier, like most in the 945th FAB, had never heard of the Ardennes forest. He was told by Sgt. Hodnett to ride with Harvey Miller in a tractor with several ammunition trailers behind it (I36). He and Anthony Montini from the wire section tried a different idea to stay warm - they draped their legs over the mufflers at the back of the tractor and covered themselves with blankets. Harvey Miller drove into Luxembourg without any relief - no one was going to wreck his tractor. About half-way to Luxembourg the tractor started running rough, and when Crusier and Miller checked the engine they noticed a large amount of ice around the carburetor. So they fashioned a cardboard shield to direct the heat from the exhaust manifold towards the carburetor - it worked!

Major Gray recalls that the battalion moved out with only the "cats eyes" shining, small slits in covers over the headlights. When they had traveled far enough to the west they passed the army "light line" and they were able to turn on the headlights. The map carried at the battalion HQ by Maj. James Clay notes with blue pencil (used for the overlays) - "Long March to the Bulge". A blue line can be followed on the map to the west as far as St. Avold, then arrows are entered indicating a confused route back towards Metz where the battalion turned directly north. The confusion is noted in the journal as the "Driver Btry "B" turned left at CP instead of continuing straight, losing all of B, A, C, and Hq Batteries except 6 vehicles" (22 December 1944 Entry). This was the group that was with Major Gray.

Dale Curfman was glad to move towards the bulge as "we were getting clobbered" in France, and he knew "something was up as we traveled so far" (I40). By 0800 on the 22nd the 945th had regrouped and arrived in Bettembourg, a few miles south of Luxembourg City. DeLoach and the battery COs' met the column and led the battalion to its positions. According to Major Gray the CP was in a large brick house, on a knoll with a frozen pond at the foot of the hill. The whole of HQ Battery bedded down comfortably in the barns. During the night "Clinker Three", the telephone code for S-3 in the 10th Armored Division asked for support. However, they were not registered and the 945th had no idea where they were located. They were actually trying to relieve Bastogne to the west of the 945th positions.

The people of Luxembourg were glad to see the Americans (I13). That afternoon the 945th occupied positions at Nommern, well north of Luxembourg City and due west of Echternach. Larry Horning dug his foxhole in the frozen ground as the snow fell on the battalion during their first evening in Luxembourg (I17). Hugh Howenstein said it was "as cold as I ever want to be" (I18). The War Diary states only that "vehicle trouble marred march" (4)!

#### 945th FAB BEGINS OPERATIONS IN LUXEMBOURG

General Patton had hoped to get the XII Corps to attack on the 23rd or 24th of December with the 5th Inf. Div. and 10th Arm. Div. (3). The objective of the Third Army was to stabilize the southern shoulder of the German -penetration, then attack as soon as possible. The relief of Bastogne was a major concern as the 101st Airborne Div. And CCB of the 10th Arm. Div. Were encircled by the Germans. The 945th was fully moved and back in action on Friday, 23 December 1944 with

targets supporting the 10th Arm. Div. Patton noted in a letter to his wife on 22 December that "we now have 108 artillery battalions of corps and Army artillery supporting this attack - in other words, 1,296 guns of 105 or bigger. I don't see how the Boche can take this much artillery..." (2). The Germans recognized immediately that "Patton was on their right" (Figure 6).

Targets for the 945th FAB included roads, farms, road junction bridges, TOT (time on target) barrages on an enemy battery, and H&I (harassment and interdiction) on several towns within the German lines (Befort, Eppeldorf, Reisdorf, Haller). These towns were south of the Sure River and within 5 to 8 kilometers to the west of Nommern (Figure 3). Time on Target barrages were used with multiple battalions firing onto one location for intensified effect. The harassment and interdiction fire missions were used more to disrupt either German retreats or attempts to move armor and men towards the front lines.

Note on Figure 3 that three different American lines are depicted - the line of departure from 22 December, and the front lines on 21 December and 26 December. The Daily Journal notes that the day was "beautiful", and that "Morale is quite high. Many Friendly planes overhead". The battalion moved at the end of the day to Kobenbour after firing 78 HE rounds.

Bob Frey was a radioman for Lt. Lindstrom on several occasions. They carried the radio in the back of a weapons carrier with a canvas tarp for cover. All messages were by voice, not Morse code, and they went directly to the firing batteries and Corps HQ. Frey relates this story that occurred during the battle in Luxembourg: "On one occasion we were observing from the attic of a house on a street where there were several houses built about the same. We were bringing fire on a battery of German 88's and they must have guessed the approximate location from where we were observing because they began knocking the tops of the houses off on the street where we were located. Their guns were quite accurate. Finally they hit the house next to us and the Lt. said that we had better get out of there. Needless to say, it took me a very short time to grab the radio and head for a lower area. Almost at once the house we had been in was hit. I don't think Lt. Lindstrom had a nerve in his body or else we would have been long gone before then" (I6).

Christmas Eve day broke "clear and cold", and the Third Army had two fire direction centers handling the corps artillery (12). Conditions were perfect for observation, and the battalions fired "salvo after salvo" for interdiction. Several villages received TOT and WP (white phosphorus) fire missions. On this day the 945th fired 549 HE rounds, and 17 WP (4). The XII Corps artillery alone fired 21,173 rounds during the night and day along a ten-mile front (5). Patton noted that this day was rather discouraging due to stiff resistance on the part of the Germans, in fact he said it was a "very bad Christmas Eve" (2). The XII Corps, although attacking on a front from Diekirch to Echternach and making good progress, was receiving repeated counter-attacks. Most of the 945th targets on the 24th were villages, road junctions and German rocket guns (Nebelwerfers). The Nebelwerfers landed as a barrage causing a tremendous concussion. They were treated with great respect by the American troops, and therefore received a lot of "attention" from American artillery when their locations were spotted from the air or ground.

The Daily Journal on this day notes that Lt. Buck and Lt. Worley went out with the "50th", which was the 50th FAB (105 mm howitzers) from the 5th Inf. Div. Buck and Worley were to serve as "FOs" (forward observers) with the 50th.

On Christmas Eve Patton sent a personal message and prayer (written by Chaplain James O'Neill) to all of the men in the Third Army. Several of the 945th men still have the wallet sized cards (Figure 4). On Christmas Day he visited all of the divisions that were in contact with the enemy, and noted that virtually every man received turkey for dinner - cold sandwiches on the front and full turkey dinner in the rear. DeWitt Scarborough remembers the hot meal on Christmas day (I34). Patton said that "no other Army in the world except the American could have done such a thing" (3). He noted that the morale of the men was surprisingly good considering the cold. Bob Frey and a couple of the men were invited in for dinner by a local farm family, a practice that was not encouraged by the Army. Although they did not speak English, and the men could not speak German, "it was a memorable evening" (I6).

On 25 December the 945th displaced to Eschweiler and used the VT or "POZIT" (proximity) fuse for the first time. This VT fuse, which was developed at Johns Hopkins University and tested at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, used a radio signal to detonate the shell about fifty to thirty feet above the ground. On Christmas day the 945th fired 674 HE and 4 WP rounds - the highest total so far in the war. General Patton commented that the new fuse had resulted in over 700 German casualties near Echternach when they were caught in the open. Captured Germans consistently commented on their fear of the new secret weapon of the Americans. The use of the VT fuse is discussed on pages 501 and 504 of *The Ardennes Offensive*. As a forward observer with Lt. Soles, Paul Remillard saw the results of the VT fuse and stated that it was "very effective" (I47). Probably the only advantage of being a FO was that you were periodically in a house or other building at night. Samuel Gray noted that the VT fuse was best suited for infantry, yet the 945th often targeted armor or fired counter-battery missions.

The first troops from the 4th Arm. Div. Reached Bastogne on 25 December, but it would be two days later before supplies could be delivered and the wounded evacuated. On 26 December the 945th displaced to the vicinity of Consdorf, four miles southwest of Echternach (Figure 3). The coordinates for Consdorf as noted in the Daily Journal at 1415 were 995-321, which can be noted on the Trier topographic map retained by Maj. Clay after the war (Figure 5). It was in Consdorf that 1st Sgt. Buck Carter found out that Bob Frey could play the piano that was located in the converted mess hall. Frey not only didn't like playing in front of a bunch of guys, he also had to eat last! On a sad note, Frey also received word about this time that his grandmother, who had raised him and his brother after their mother died when he was three, had died back in the states. He was not allowed leave since it was not one of his parents, and it was quite difficult for a young man to deal with so far from home (I6). Wallace Bolton recalls Lt. Mabbit, who would be killed a few weeks later near Echternach, played the fiddle in a "shot-up" farmhouse near Consdorf (I16).

The Daily Journal notes that at 2100 H&I Fires from Coat (182nd FA Group) were fired on Eruzen. The coordinates of 060-390 can be located on Maj. Clay's map for the city. A later fire



mission (H4) was directed at a bridge over the Sauer River (coordinates 983-404). The Daily Journal notes that the weather was clear and cold, and thus the observation aircraft were up from 0850 to 1700. The pilots were Lt. Grawburg and Lt. Eaton.

On this date elements of the 5th Inf. Div. attempted to move into Echternach where E Company, 12th Regiment, 4th Inf. Div. had been holding out since the Germans attacked. The 4th Inf. Div. Had been pulled out of the line for rest and refitting after the brutal battle of the Huertgen Forest in November, only to be hit by the German attack in the Ardennes. The 945th would provide fire support for the 4th Inf. Div. remnants in Echternach until it was captured on 27 December. However, the fighting around Echternach continued for several more days. DeWitt Scarborough states that "Soles and Remillard were on the front constantly" as forward observers, and "Buck arrived about this time" (I34). The life of the forward observers was a dangerous one indeed.

The war diary notes on 29 December that the "Bn reinforcing 42 FA Bn in support of 12th Inf. Regt., 4th Inf. Div. Two FO's with infantry. Total rounds-240 HE, 6WP." The story of the 12th Infantry Regiment is told in the book "History of the 12th Infantry Regiment". This regiment dates back to the Mexican War, with actions at Gettysburg and Normandy. The regiment was honored with a Distinguished Unit Citation for "outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy from 16 to 24 December 1944". The 12th held against the 212th Volksgrenadier Division at Echternach until it was relieved on 24 December 1944.

The 27th of December found the 945th still in Consdorf, headquartered in an abandoned farm house. The targets continued to be along the Sauer River near and north of Echternach. For example, at 1100 batteries A and C fired 18 WP and 88 HE rounds at tanks located at coordinates 0300-3822. This would place the tanks in Weiterbach, just upstream on the Sauer River from Echternach (Figure 5). At 1130 a fire mission was conducted by an air observer from the 945th.

On 28 December 1944 General Lentz, Commanding Officer for the XII Corps artillery visited the 945th command post to present awards; however, he was called away before the ceremony could take place. The bronze stars that were to be presented that day would have to wait. On the 29th Lt. Col. DeLoach presented medals to officers and enlisted men. Lt. Babbitt was assigned as the forward observer with E Company, 12th Regiment, 4th Inf. Div. In Echternach. The next two days saw over 700 rounds fired by the battalion as the weather improved to "clear and cold". Patton noted in his diary that "There had been rumors for a number of days that Germans, flying captured P-47s, were strafing our troops. We finally decided that for the first of the year no P-47 would fly in the area of either the XII or XX Corps, so that if any attacks came they would be definitely recognized as German planes" (2). This was an ominous warning of what would be the most tragic day of the war for the 945th Field Artillery Battalion.

Snow flurries and continued cold greeted the 945th on New Years Eve day, 31 December 1944. It was Sunday and both Protestant and Catholic services were held at 1000 in the morning. Just past 1530 two P-47s appeared over Consdorf. Although no one knows for certain, the anti-aircraft battalion attached to the 945th may have fired their 40mm Bofers guns at the P-47s. If this

is true, they may have been provided word that no P-47s should be flying over the XII Corps, as per Pattons instructions. In any case, one of the P-47s peeled off, circled, and came directly in on Arthur St. Germain's gun section from C battery. Two 250 lb bombs careened their way down on the battery, striking one howitzer and having a direct hit on a tent containing several members of one gun section, including Rudolf Amschler. The howitzer was badly damaged, as was the M5 tractor. The effects on the men was much worse - nine dead and one (Rudolph Amschler) badly wounded. Wallace Bolton was astounded years later to find out that Amschler had survived! Bolton states that it was so cold that night that the blood plasma at the aid station was frozen solid.

St. Germain just missed the bombing as he was returning from picking up the mens pay for the section. Others were within a hundred or so yards of the explosions, and when they ran to the scene the only survivor was Amschler who was badly wounded and staggering away from the tent. Lt. Worley stopped him and got him to lie down. He remembered little other than a tremendous concussion from the bomb. Hugh Howenstine was close enough that he heard the shrapnel hitting the trees. Walter Kline described the scene of the bombing as an "awful site" (I33). As Roy McMahan said, it was during tough times like these that "we got tougher and stuck together better" (I26). Dan Hale simply states that "St. Germain lost his section and Amschler survived" (I1). See the special story at the end of this Chapter on "The Man Who Came Back from the Dead".

Fred Mackey had also missed the bombing of C battery as he was evacuated with a case of pneumonia on New Years Eve before dawn. Taken to a hospital in Nancy, where he shared a room with an officer that was also from Hartwell, Georgia (Fred didn't know him). He was eventually returned to England for recuperation, and didn't get back to the 945th until they were well into Germany. James Wright turned 21 on Christmas Day and he was not only very cold, but it was "one I will always remember" (I15). One of the gun section men that was killed was from California, and Wright's Aunt knew his mother. He visited the man's mother when he returned to the states after the war.

General Patton states that "At midnight on the night of December 31, all guns in the Third Army fired rapid fire for twenty minutes on the Germans as a New Years greeting. When the firing ceased, our forward observers stated that they could hear the Germans screaming in the woods" (3). The first entry of the following day said it all for the mood in the 945th - "A new year has begun - ?". Even Patton entered in his diary that "we can still lose this war" (3).

The first weeks of 1945 were relatively static for the 945th as the Americans continued to hold the southern shoulder of the bulge. General Patton was also ready to attack from Diekirch north (near the base of the bulge), but Bradley still wanted to pour more troops into the area around Bastogne. During this time period the 945th was reconnoitering positions to the west in case the Germans forced them from their blocking position on the southern shoulder of the bulge. The German counter-attacks began to lessen in frequency, as Patton feared that the Germans were escaping back out of the bulge - a thought which infuriated him! On 8 January 1945 Bradley asked Patton if the Third Army could attack towards Houfflaize in an attempt to cut off the German retreat out of the bulge. The attack would not kick-off until the 13th, and it would be the 16 January before

elements of the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment (U.S. First Army) made contact with the 11th Arm. Div of the Third Army - thus eliminating the bulge.

During this period the 945th generally fired between 75 and 150 rounds per day, with a variety of targets including pillboxes, German batteries, and the usual harassment and interdiction missions. Lts. Eaton and Grawburg continued flying for observation - weather permitting. On 4 January Cpl. Jimmie Powell, A battery, won the "Atlantic Sweepstakes" - a 30 day leave to the United States! Lt. George Soles, who had been "a hot FO", joined him on a 30 day leave. They left on 7 January 1945. Several men were also sent back to the "Nancy Rest Area" including Capt Cecil Morris. The fire missions were still across the Sauer River into Germany. For example. On 7 January Battery A fired 24 HE rounds TOT on a town at coordinates 080-392, just northeast of Echternach. The 945th was assigned during this period to the 177th Field Artillery Group, and officers from that outfit inspected the batteries during the next few days (10 January). On 11 January 1945 twenty-five enlisted men were given leave to visit Luxembourg City, an indication of the lull in activity on the southern shoulder. Also on this day several men were awarded the Bronze Star Medal as directed in General Order #3, HQ XII Corps. These included Cpl. William Skinner and 1st Lt. Arthur Kelter.

During January General Patton wrote the editor of the "Stars and Stripes", the Army newspaper, complaining that recent articles were "subversive to discipline" (2). He threatened to discontinue distribution of the paper, and called it a "scurrilous sheet". He felt it was giving the men a defeatist attitude - perhaps it was the photos of the Germans taking the boots off of dead Americans at Honsfeld that provoked him (Figure 7). These men were from the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed 90mm guns).

The XII Corps finally attacked on 18 January 1945 across the Saure River to the north at Diekirch with the 4th Arm. Div., and the 4th, 5th, 80th and 87th Inf. Divisions (3). The attack went well, particularly for the 5th Inf. Div. The Daily Journal reflects the intensity of the attack with numerous individual fire missions, usually 20 to 30 rounds per mission. The U.S. Army history notes that the "terrain on which the 4th Infantry Division had defended and over which the 5th Infantry Division had attacked proved to be as difficult as any on which military operations were conducted in the course of the Ardennes campaign. American superiority in heavy supporting weapons, tanks, tank destroyers never had the full tactical effectiveness on this broken ground which normally would be the case. The use of artillery on both sides of the line is one of the features of the XII Corps operations at the Sauer, and in numerous actions German use of the rocket launcher proved particularly disquieting to the Americans. German records note the effectiveness of the American artillery with considerable distaste" (1).

A large reason for the success of the artillery was the courage and skill of the forward observers. The Daily Journal notes that Lt. Buck was assigned as a forward observer with the 87th Inf. Div., 345th Inf. Regiment, and Lt. Lindstrom relieved Lt. Mabbitt. According to Wayne Cruser the FOs changed assignments between the infantry regiments and other field artillery units (I36). The

945th was still firing at 2255 (10:55 pm) on the day of the attack, and kept firing right through the night with missions at 0200, 0210 and 0215.

On 20 January, a Saturday, Cpl. Lawrence Horning and four other enlisted men were issued passes to the Nancy Rest Area. It is interesting to note that a 155 mm gun (Long Tom) from the 244th FAB was attached to the 945th for operations. The 155 mm gun has a flatter trajectory and longer range compared to the 155mm howitzers in the 945th (see Appendix G). The Red Cross clubmobile, named "Vicksburg", visited the battalion on 21 January to serve coffee and donuts.

On 25 January the XII Corps was on their objective, the hills east of the Diekirch-St. Vith road. The attack was "exceptionally good, well planned and rapidly executed (3)". On this date DeLoach was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Bronze Star, and several men received Bronze Stars including 2nd Lt. John T. Cope, who was in the hospital recovering from wounds received on 18 December, and 1st Sgt. William J. Hodnett, who would be killed near the wars end. 1st Lt. Robert R. Grawburg and 2nd. Lt. Edward A. Bletzer received Oak Leaf Clusters for their Air Medals. Thursday, 25 January was Walter Kline's lucky day as he was selected by the battalion for Corps competition to "work his way back to the states on a Red Cross ship and receive a 10 days leave in the states". The next day the Daily Journal notes that Kline "wins the trip home..."! The 25th was also the official date for the end of the Ardennes Campaign.

The USO presented a show for the battalion on 26 January, but it is unlikely that FOs Buck and Mabbitt saw the show as they were being reassigned to the 417th Inf. Regiment of the 76th Inf. Div., a newly arrived division in Luxembourg. Capt. Bean, serving as the "Ln O" or liaison officer with the 87th Inf. Div., was reassigned to 901st FAB from the 76th Inf. Div.

On 31 January Patton visited Houfflaize, which was utterly devastated by artillery fire (American) in an attempt to root out the Germans. Patton stated that it was the worst destruction of a town he had ever seen - even worse than St. Vith further east in the bulge. Germany would experience even greater destruction in the months to come as the Third Army drove deep into the heart of the Reich.

Figure 1  
The Western Front  
15 December 1944  
The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge Map 1

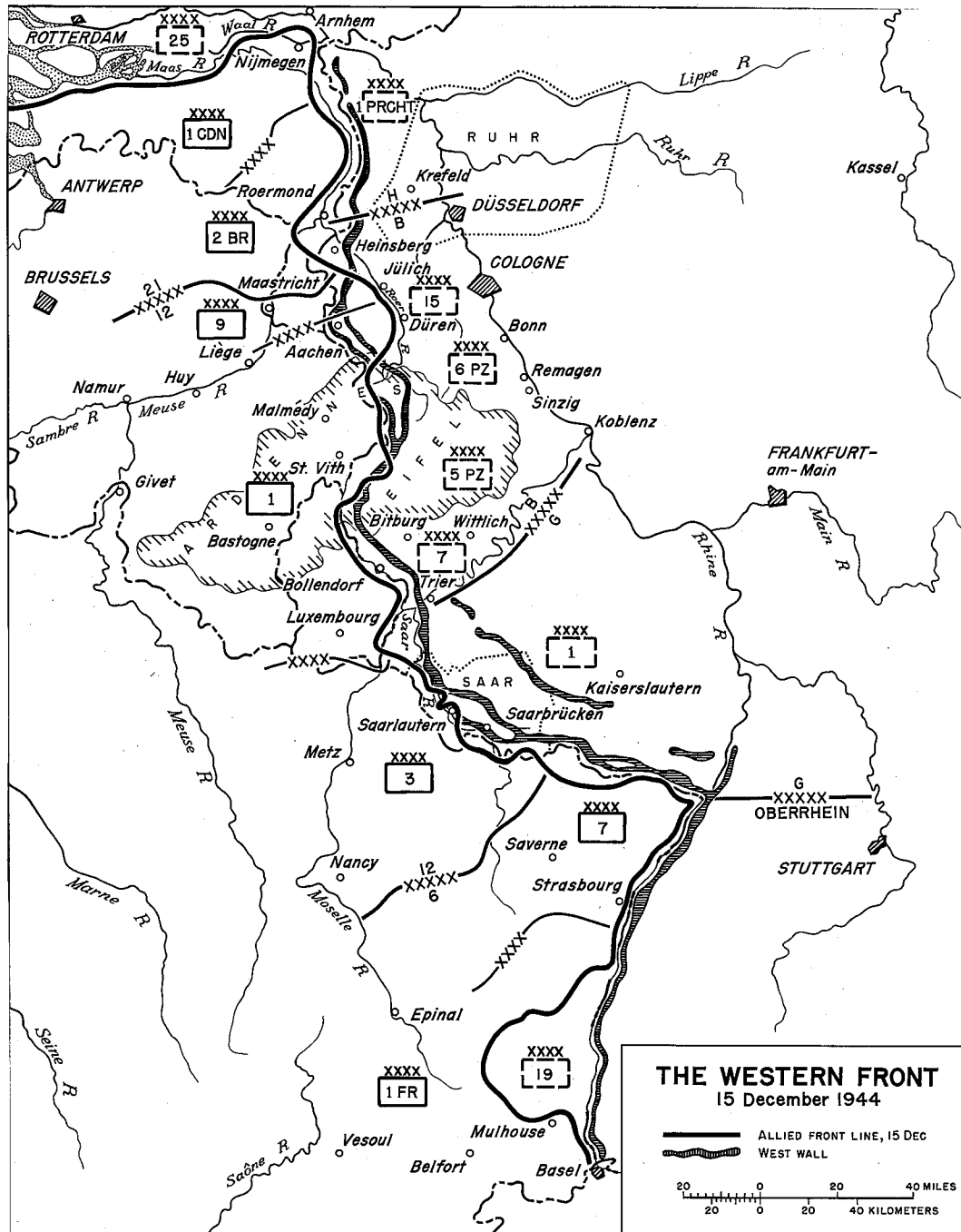


Figure 2  
Erching Area  
Saarbrücken - Sheet V.1.

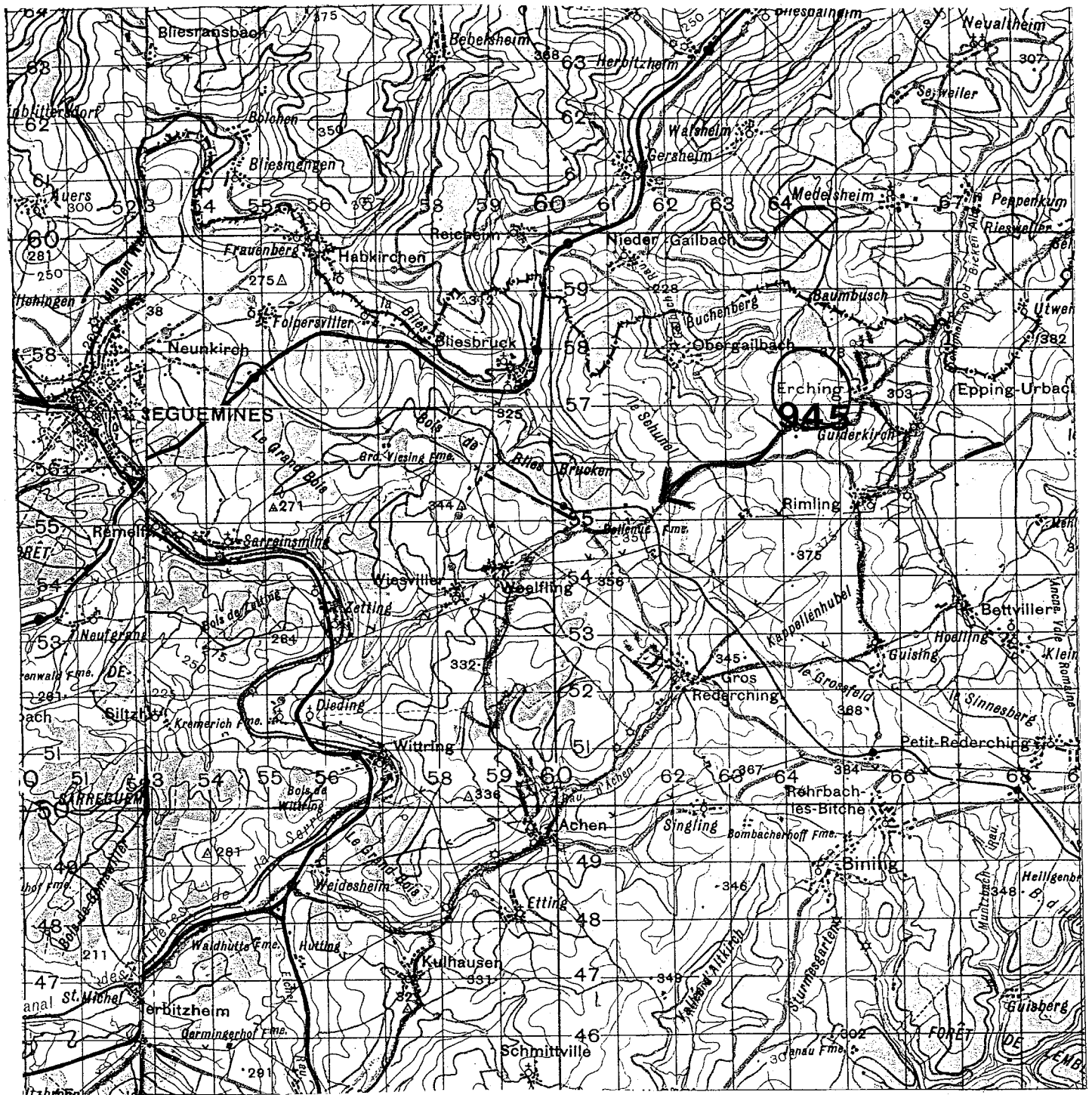




Figure 3  
The Southern Shoulder  
22-26 December 1944  
The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge Map IX

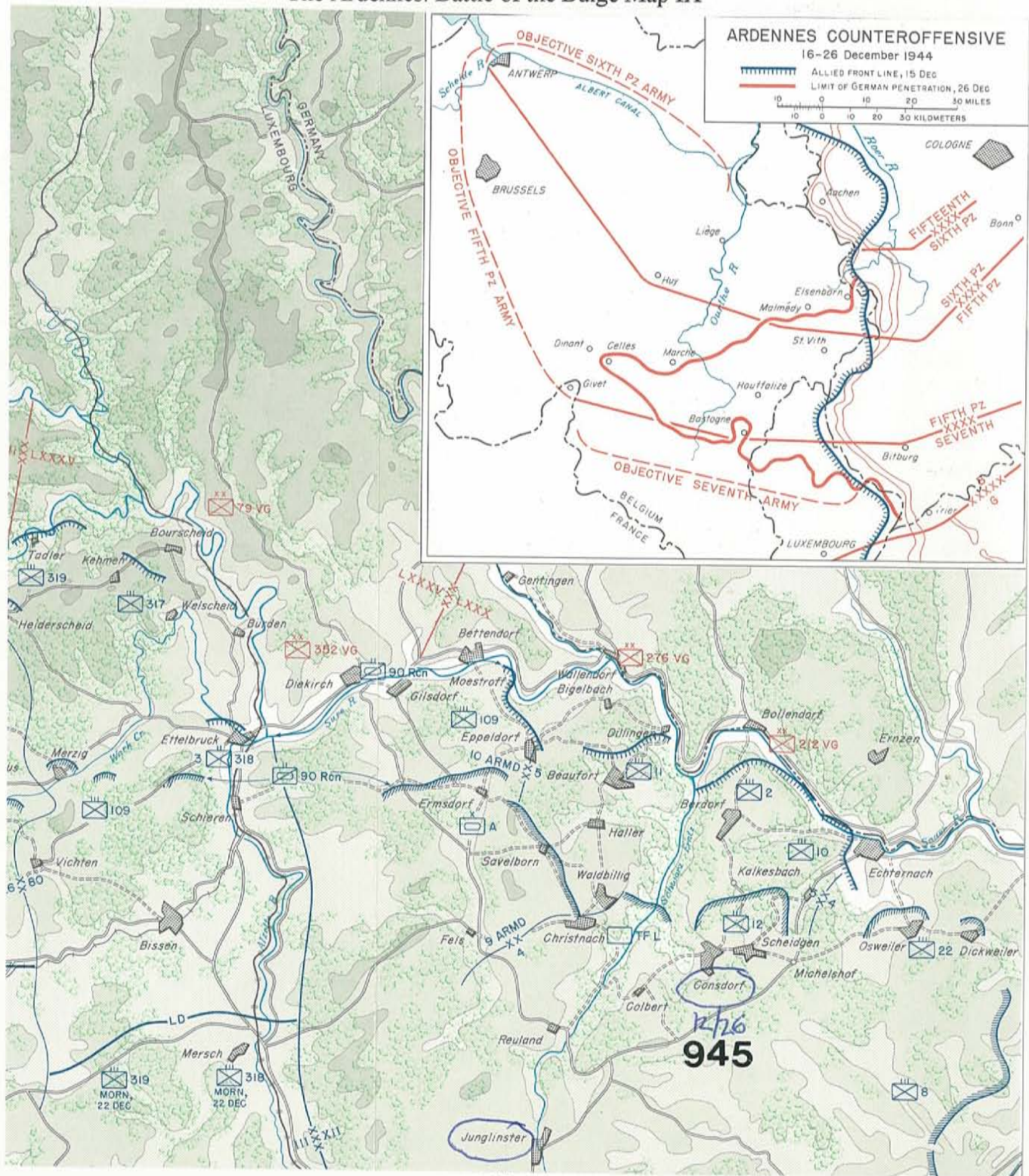


Figure 4  
Patton's Christmas Prayer

HEADQUARTERS

THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY



O each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessing rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day.

*G. S. Patton, Jr.*  
G. S. PATTON, JR.,  
Lieutenant General  
Commanding, Third United States Army.

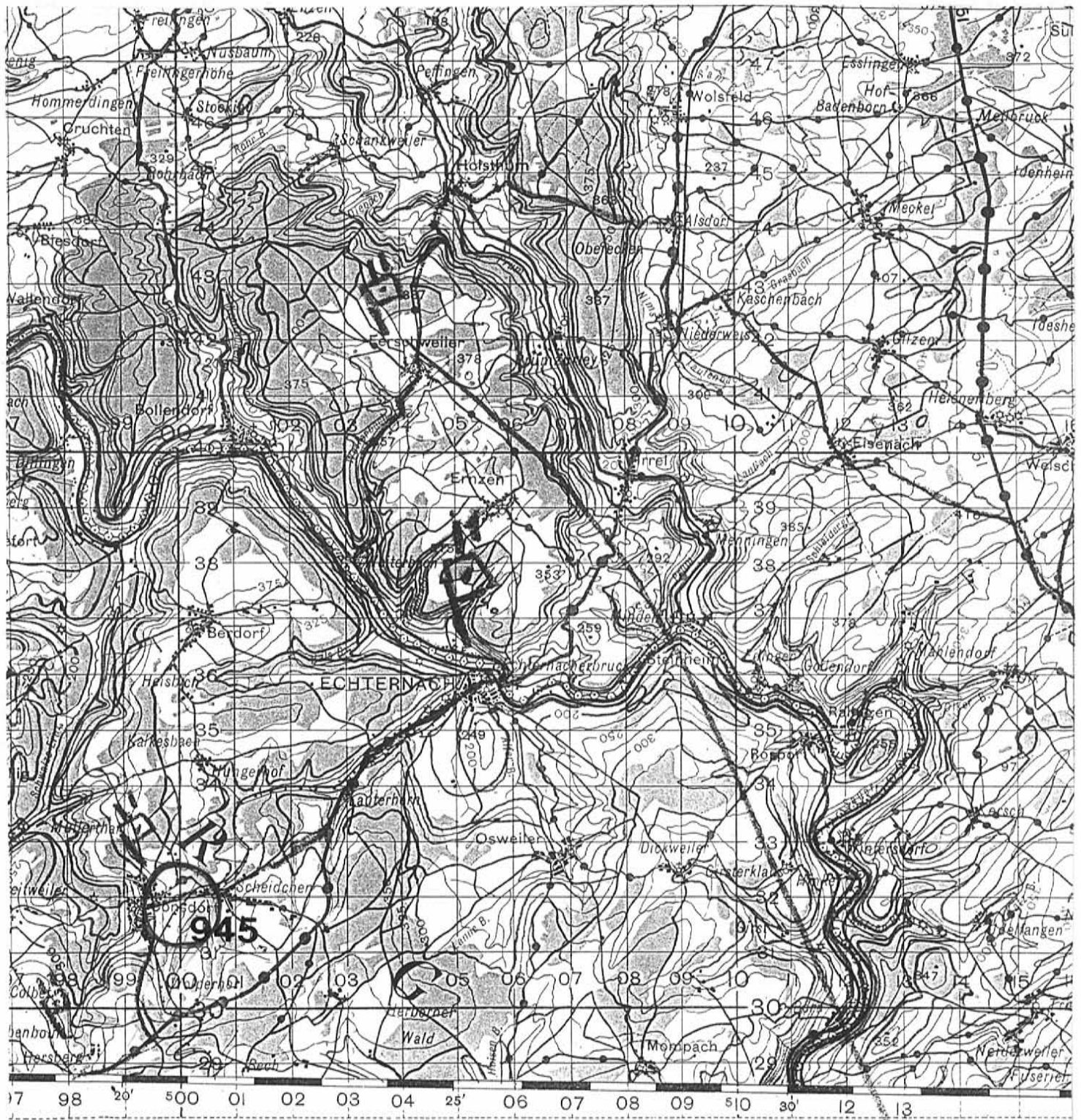
PRAYER



ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.



Figure 5  
 Consdorf Area  
 Trier - Sheet T.1.



**Daily German Lesson**  
Zeigen Sie mir das Haus  
Tasgen Zee meer dass Hows  
Show me the house

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces  
VOL. 5 No. 45-1d.  
in the European Theater of Operations  
SATURDAY, Dec. 23, 1944

**Daily French Lesson**  
Je voudrais manger  
Juh voo-dray mah-jay  
I want to eat

## Flank Attack Slows Germans

From the S & S to You Who Make Us, We Say—



There are no festive sentiments at Christmas among Allied troops fighting grimly on the Western Front. But on two continents behind the front taken homage is paid to the Yule season for the children of Allied nations. Upper left, in England, Pat, a war orphan adopted by the U.S. Army PX London branch, is fed chocolate pudding by Sgt. Harrison Fillingim, of Pensacola, Fla., at a Christmas party for British war orphans. Lower center, in America, John (Putty) Powell, his classmates and kids like them all over the U.S. mail their letters to Santa Claus. Lower right, on the Continent, St. Nick greets a tiny at a Christmas party given the children of Luxembourg by U.S. soldiers. Upper right, through the pen of artist Milt Caniff, creator of "Terry" and "Miss Lane," The Stars and Stripes extends its greetings to all its readers in the U.K.

### Vignette of War He Found His Lost

21st BOMBER COMMAND HQ, Saipan, Dec. 22 (AP)—When one of his Superforts failed to return from a recent night strike against Nagoya (Japan), Lt. Col. Robert Haynes, unit commander, received permission to conduct a search for it.

Basing his course largely on luck and a good hunch Haynes found the survivors aboard rafts half an hour after he started searching. There were ten members of the lost bomber aboard the rafts, all uninjured. Two others of the crew had drowned.

Haynes circled over the rafts for three hours until the men were rescued by a destroyer.

### Bagnacavallo Falls

Canadian troops, in a two-day battle, have captured Bagnacavallo, one of the key points in the German defense of the Po Valley. Allied HQ in Italy announced yesterday.

### Mars Won—but He Lost, Too



### Reds Open New Drives—Berlin

Two new Russian offensives, which appeared to be the opening of Marshal Stalin's winter drive on the eastern front, were launched yesterday, Berlin disclosed, one aimed at the Nazi stronghold in Latvia and the other pointed toward Austria between Lake Balaton and the Danube.

The German commentator, Col. von Hammer, admitted some Russian penetrations in the Latvian sector after Soviet forces, 27 divisions strong, supported by heavy artillery and air action, struck against the German Northern Army Corps, estimated at 30 divisions, trapped in the Baltic. Von Hammer also claimed the attack was halted by German guns.

On the Hungarian front the Russians were said to have thrown ten divisions into the battle to close the backdoor to Budapest. Berlin reported powerful Red thrusts along the railway line from Budapest to Szekesfehervar, 17 miles southwest of the Hungarian capital.

Von Hammer said the Latvian drive indicated "a large-scale counter-offensive in the near future," coinciding with an AP report from Washington that Russia had promised the Allies a powerful blow at the heart of Germany from the East.

High Washington officials, however, said that any announcement of a full offensive must come from Stalin.

Moscow followed its usual practice of remaining silent on new offensives until several days after they had started.

### A New Shining Son for Flatbush Nazi in GI Attire Foxes All but Brooklyn Medic

By Hal Boyle

Associated Press Correspondent

NEAR STAVELOT, Belgium, Dec. 21 (delayed) (AP)—Like all other soldiers, Capt. Fordyce Gorham, of Coudersport, Pa., had been warned to watch for enemy troops or spies in American garb, but, busy with battlefield problems, he noted only that the jeep which stopped near him had four occupants, all in U.S. uniforms, one dressed as a captain, the other three as privates, wearing sweaters and carrying rifles and carbines.

"I am from — Corps," said the strange officer, whose bars were on a mackinaw. "I am looking for my tanks. How are things going?"

"All fouled up," muttered Gorham. He grunted a cigarette and cheered Gorham with "news" that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton had broken through with four divisions, the stronger drove away.

Later, Pvt. Theodore Watson, a medic, standing in a farmhouse as U.S. tank-destroyers moved up to engage an enemy tank, spotted two jeeps on the move. When they halted, the quartet which Gorham had seen, alighted from one and four others, also in U.S. uniforms, got out of the second.

Watson, a wary Brooklynite, heard one of the men call to another in a German accent. His suspicions confirmed, Watson jumped out of his position and called to doubtdoubts in nearby foxholes: "They're Germans!"

The strangers began running for the German lines. "Shoot them—they're Germans!" called Watson.

### 100 B29s Bomb Jap Home Isle

Up to 100 Saipan Superforts, carrying greater individual loads than previously, failed to capture needed oil supplies, the Yanks having moved back these supplies before the enemy reached them.

An American staff officer said casualties were considered light in view of the vast scale of the battle. German claims were that 25,000 Allied troops had been made prisoners and that figures for killed and wounded were greater.

An Associated Press dispatch from Chungking quoted Chinese sources as reporting that the Japs recently conscripted laborers in northern China to help carve factories from Japan to Manchuria to protect her factories from U.S. raids.

**Fighters Fly from Mindoro**  
Allied fighter planes are now operat-

### Nazis Say Patton Hits On Left

An indication of Gen. Eisenhower's strategy to smash Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's great winter offensive into Belgium and Luxembourg came last night from German News Agency, which interrupted its program with a "flash" that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army had struck on the Nazis' left flank and succeeded in slowing down the drive into the First Army's lines.

There was no confirmation at SHAEF of this enemy report, only hinted at in previous German broadcasts, which claimed that the Americans were hitting at both flanks of the Nazi penetration along a 60-mile front stretching from Belgium to southern Luxembourg.

Telling of the fighting, German News Agency said: "A particularly grim struggle is being waged on the southern flank, where the German spearheads, heading southwest, had to defend themselves against steadily furiously counterattacks by several divisions of the U.S. 3rd Army."

Dispatches from the 21st Army Group (AG) had disclosed earlier that the Germans' deepest penetration of the lines was 40 miles, but did not mention a specific area. Thursday's reports, however, made of a drive to Habemont, south-east of the Allies' communications center of Liege. Last night's dispatches said the German push had been appreciably slowed in fighting on Thursday and yesterday.

Rundstedt has already cut the chief lateral supply road in eastern Belgium, and military commentators speculated that the purpose of his counter-offensive was to set up a winter line along the Meuse, northwest of the salient which reached Habemont by noon Tuesday.

Weather conditions have served Rundstedt's purposes. The front has been shrouded for days in swirling fog, which barred Allied fighter-bombers from carrying out destructive forays.

Yesterday, with the weather clearing somewhat, Allied tactical fliers made more than 100 sorties on the northern sector, following up British heavy bomber blows against Cologne and Bonn on Thursday night.

German broadcasts said Rundstedt's troops in the northern area were 15 miles from Namur, which, like Liege, is on the Meuse, and about 60 miles from Brussels.

With the most northern prong of their drive blunted by veteran U.S. units, the main enemy effort appeared now to be in the St. Vith area, south of Malmédy. St. Vith itself was said to be still in American hands.

Battles in this general area were said to have cost the Germans 55 tanks, smashed by U.S. armor and tank-destroyers.

Some reports told of German tanks having been stranded when the enemy failed to capture needed oil supplies, the Yanks having moved back these supplies before the enemy reached them.

An American staff officer said casualties were considered light in view of the vast scale of the battle. German claims were that 25,000 Allied troops had been made prisoners and that figures for killed and wounded were greater.

### British Are Faced With New Call-Up

Britain's first special call-up of the war and a shift of certain personnel from the Royal Air Force, the Navy and Army





Four American soldiers lie dead, face down in the slush of a crossroads on the Western Front, casualties in the German counter-offensive launched Dec. 16 in the Belgian sector. The Americans are already stripped of equipment. The circles show the bare feet of the American, (left), and a predatory Nazi on the right adjusting his newly-acquired boots. The photograph was made by a German Army cameraman whose film was later captured by American forces. (See page four for other photos taken from captured films.)

## Churchill In Athens to Seek a Peace

ATHENS, Dec. 26 (AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arrived in Athens yesterday to take a personal hand in attempting to end the undeclared civil war which has battered Greece and strained United Nations relations for three weeks.

Churchill was scheduled to address the opening session of a Greek all-party conference this afternoon. Under the chairmanship of Archbishop Damaskinos, proposed regent to run an interim Greek government until a general election could be held, the conference's avowed aims were "to put an end to fratricidal strife in Greece and to enable her to resume her place among the United Nations."

Representatives of the ELAS (resistance) central committee were invited to attend and safe conduct was promised them.

The U.S. ambassador, W. J. McVeigh, was reported planning to attend the conference.

Fighting continued in and around Athens throughout Christmas Day. Today an alleged plot to blow up the Grande Bretagne Hotel—headquarters of Maj. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie, British commander—was thwarted when a ton of dynamite was discovered under the street-car tracks and in a sewer just outside the building.

## Leyte Battle Over-M'Arthur

The Leyte campaign was described officially as "closed except for minor mop-up" by Gen. MacArthur's headquarters yesterday, soon after 77th Division troops, after an amphibious landing on Leyte's west coast, took the last Jap stronghold of Palampayan.

The nine-week-old campaign resulted in 11,217 American casualties, the communiqué disclosed. Of this total, 2,624 were deaths. The rest were wounded and missing.

Jap casualties were listed as totaling 113,221. From Oct. 20, Jap planes destroyed in the Philippines totaled 2,748. Forty-one enemy transports and 27 warships were sunk in the same period. Superforts raided Iwojima in the Bonin Islands Saturday, while American warships shelled shore positions. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced yesterday.

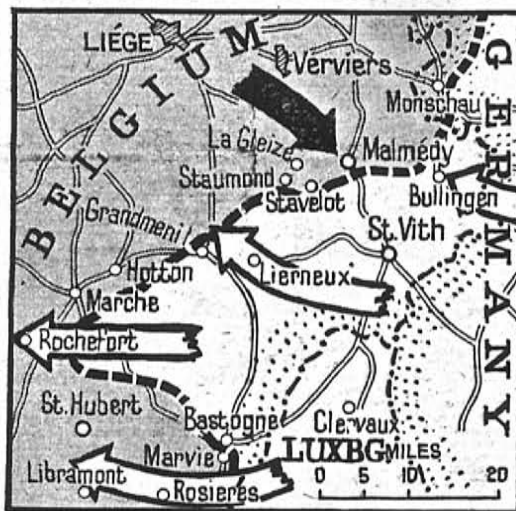
### Michigan Ex-Chief Dies

DETROIT, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Former LA. Gov. Frank Murphy, 46, who had confessed to charges of graft brought against him by a grand-jury indictment, died last night of a heart ailment.

New York London Edition Paris  
**THE STARS AND STRIPES**  
Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces VOL. 5 No. 46—1d.  
in the European Theater of Operations  
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27, 1944

Daily French Lesson  
S'il vous plait, montrez moi  
Seel voo play, mahn tray mwa  
Please show me

# Nazis 4 Mi. From Meuse



## 50 Mi. Into Belgium On a 40-Mile Front

Reports from SHAEF last night indicated that two German armies and possibly a third had succeeded in forcing a bulge in the American line in Belgium that by Christmas Eve, last Sunday night, had reached to within four miles of the Meuse.

The Germans were reported to be rolling ahead on a 40-mile front which they have pushed some 50 miles into Belgium on their way to the Meuse.

It was thought that the Meuse was the first major objective of Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's Christmas offensive.

SHAEF's news blackout of the Western Front delayed reports of activities there by 48 hours. Last night's reports covered actions up to Sunday night. At that time, reports said, the German offensive had carried to Celles, four miles southeast of Dinant on the Meuse, and to Cinay, eight miles northwest of Dinant, on the Liege road. Dinant is about two-thirds of the way across Belgium from east to west.

The Germans were reported to have in action the 7th Infantry Army, which evidently has been rebuilt since it was pounded to bits in the Normandy fighting in the summer, and the 5th Panzer Army—as well as a second panzer army which reports have not yet identified.

German Wedges Join  
The Germans had joined two wedges to form a single bulge straining into the American line. Their advance on Sunday, which evidently gained 11 miles during the day, was reported to have been made by two armored columns followed by infantry.

With U.S. forces holding both the northern and southern flanks of the German counter-offensive, the Germans evidently had canalized their strength in the center, changing the direction of their push from heading for Liege to heading for the Meuse in the Namur sector.

Namur is at a bend in the Meuse some 20 miles directly north of Dinant. On the southern flank U.S. troops had

## 25 Nazi P/Ws Escape in U.S.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 26 (ANS)—A Christmas Eve break by 25 German prisoners from an internment camp near here resulted today in the disclosure by the FBI that Guenther Prien, one of Germany's foremost U-boat skippers, was a prisoner at the camp. The news of Prien, whose submarine

## Aircraft Fowl Up Yule Dinner in Burma

MYITKYINA, (Dec. 25 (delayed) (AP))—Live ducks and chickens were dropped by plane for the Christmas dinner of American infantry and artillerymen fighting in the jungle of north Burma.

Meanwhile, a U.S. 10th Air Force pilot flew his P47, named Santa Claus, over a Jap concentration and dropped a 500-pound bomb as a Christmas present.

## Budapest Ring Closed by Reds

### BULLETIN

Capture of Esztergom, 20 miles northwest of Budapest, thus cutting off the German-Hungarian garrison in the capital from escape in any direction, was announced late last night by Moscow.

Russian forces on the west bank of the Danube last night battled forward to close the German garrison's last escape gap from Budapest as the Nazis dug in for a suicidal defense of a hopeless position.

## Chapter 11

1. Cole, Hugh M., The Ardennes Offensive, U.S. Army in World War II, Center for Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1965.
2. Blumenson, Martin, The Patton Papers, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA, 1974.
3. Patton, George S. Jr., War As I Knew It, Bantam Books, New York, NY, 1947.
4. U.S. Army Military History Institute, "War Diary of the 945th Field Artillery Battalion in the ETO", 202-945FA 1945, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.
5. Dyer, George LTC, XII Corps: Spearhead of Patton's Army, XII Corps History Association, 1947.

## "Pvt. Rudolph A. Amschler - The Man Who Came Back from the Dead" <sup>1</sup>

"On December 31, 1944 my section chief asked me to go along with him to Headquarters to get our pay. We got paid and he said he had to see somebody there, and I could go back to my gun section. I went back and we were in our tent. There were 3 other guys in my tent at the time. We heard an airplane circling. So one guy went outside and checked. He came back in and said it was one of our own. The plane circled again a second time and I said he sounds like he's going to bomb. I was sitting on the ground with my feet in a trench we had dug. They had a box stove in the tent. I was sitting in front of the stove. The bomb hit and we didn't hear anything, just a sudden blow. A concussion which knocked me in the trench. The stove was laying on top of me and the tent was gone. Everything was black as coal. My steel helmet was somewhat smashed tight on my head. I pulled it off. My overcoat seemed like it was burned and I tore it off and started running for help.

I discovered when I was breathing that I had a hole in my chest. As I went about 30 feet, Lt. Worley came to me and said, "Lay down, you are hurt!". There was snow on the ground. I did not want to lay down. Lt. Worley called for first aid and they put me on a truck and rushed me to an aid station. The doctor there told me I would be alright and gave me a shot and sent me to a hospital. This was about 4:00 pm. I woke up the next morning in the hospital. They had operated on me and I didn't know anything about it. I was sent to hospitals in France, England, New Jersey, and Brigham City, Utah. These hospital stays took me 11 months, 13 days before they passed me well enough to go home. During my hospital stays, I underwent 3 major surgeries, and 2 minor operations. I was discharged December 13, 1945."

This story was contributed by Rudolph A. Amschler of Perryville, Missouri. Rudolph was the lone survivor of the Battery C gun crew that was bombed near Consdorf, Luxembourg. Arthur St. Germain (gun section chief), and Fred Mackey, were both away from the section during the bombing. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Campaign Star. Lt. Milton C. Worley of Lawton, Oklahoma was the battery executive officer. The M1 155 mm howitzer was destroyed, as was an M5 tractor.

Robert Prather (B) was in Consdorf enjoying donuts with the Red Cross girls when he heard the plane go over the area. The girls were commenting on a recent strafing incident when they heard the explosion. Prather ran to the scene and administered first aid to Amschler for his neck wound. Prather was later recognized for his prompt efforts to save Amschler's life. Some men reported that our own anti-aircraft (AA) units had fired at the P-47 Thunderbolt which prompted the bombing. Whether the AA fire, or the confusion that existed on the southern shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge resulted in 9 KIAs, the blackest day in the history of the 945th FAB. Rudolph was in hospitals near Bastogne, Belgium, Luxembourg City, and Paris prior to leaving for England. Following the bombing, no one in the 945th FAB knew that Rudolph had survived, until George Buck made contact with him in early 1988 - he was a man who truly "came back from the dead".

1 - Much of the information on Mr. Amschler was provided by George Buck



## Chapter 12

### Into the Reich: Moselle to the Rhine

#### 26 January 1945 to 21 March 1945

“The Beginning of the End” - General George S. Patton

The final assault into Germany by the Americans, British and Canadians would include two officially recognized campaigns: a continuation of the Rhineland Campaign (begun in September) through March, followed by the Central European Campaign which would last until the end of the war on May 11, 1945. The Third Army had been attacking since December 22 into the Ardennes; however, the final drive into Germany would focus on the southern shoulder of the bulge near Echternach (1).

#### ATTACK ACROSS THE SAUER RIVER (7 FEBRUARY 1945)

The limited attack in late January (see Chapter 10) across the Sauer River at Diekirch had brought the Third Army to the west bank of the Our River upstream of where it flowed into the Sauer River (Figure 1). On 29 January 1945 the thirteen divisions that made up the four corps of the Third Army were abreast the Our, Sauer and Moselle Rivers from St. Vith to Saarlautern (2). The XII Corps had, from north to south along the Sauer River, the following infantry divisions: 80th (Blue Ridge), 5th (Red Diamond) and 76th (a replacement for the 4th and 87th Inf. Div.). The 945th War Diary notes (1 February) that the battalion command post was still located at Consdorf, and that the battalion was assigned to support the 417th Inf. Regiment, 76th Inf. Div.

In an effort to reconnoiter Echternach on 5 February Colonel DeLoach led a group of fifteen vehicles towards Echternach, and ignoring a “six foot” sign from the 5th Inf. Div. that said “no one beyond this point in daylight”, ran right into a German machine gun and mortar barrage from across the Sauer River. DeWitt Scarborough was with DeLoach as the vehicles and radios were abandoned in order to seek cover and withdraw (I34). Several weeks later the vehicles were found over 50 miles into Germany, apparently abandoned by the Germans, with the “Luxury” stencils still on the radios. The Daily Journal notes that at 1500 “Bn CO and party go on reconnaissance and receive considerable enemy small arms fire in the vicinity of Echternach (05-35). Btry B abandoned one 1/4 ton jeep. No personnel injured”.

General Patton proposed to General Eddy that the XII Corps attack towards Bitburg, Germany on 4 February. General Eddy objected, and General Patton reminded him that they would still be “west of the Seine” if he had not pushed his Corps commanders (2). General Patton later agreed to a kick-off on the night of 6-7 February. The attack would require difficult assaults across the Sauer River at nearly flood stage (Figure 1). Additionally, the opposite side of the Sauer River was dominated by high ground, particularly at Echternach.

Lt. Buck and Lt. Lindstrom were still assigned to the 417th Inf. Reg. as forward observers. According to the War Diary (4 February) Buck was assigned to "Trigger King" (K Company, 3rd Bn, 417th Inf. Reg.) and Lindstrom was with "Trigger Love" (L Company). However, Buck remembers that he was with the 1st battalion rather than the 3rd. Buck knew that a "green" division such as the 76th could be a dangerous assignment due to their lack of combat experience. Such was the life of the forward observer and his team. The Daily Journal notes on 4 February that Captain Bean was providing coordination with "High Skill", which was the 901st FAB, 76th Inf. Div.

General Patton approved a strike along a front of over seven miles from Wallendorf to Echternach (1). The attack began on 7 February with the 80th, 5th and 76th Inf. Div. attacking in line from left to right. The story of the Sauer River crossings is explained in detail in the US Army in World War II series book "The Last Offensive" (pages 101-104). The 5th Inf. Div., because of their experience in river crossings, was selected to cross first with the 417 Inf. Reg. protecting their right flank. They kicked off at 0100, two hours ahead of the 80th Inf. Div. further upstream (2). The Germans, including Commander in Chief of the West, Field Marshall Gerd Von Rundstedt, recognized the possibility of an American advance up the Moselle River valley, but they had several factors in their favor: the swollen Sauer River at over twice its normal width of 90 feet, the precipitous heights on both sides of the river (up to 600 feet), and the cover of woods that extended down to the river on the German side (1). The 80th Inf. Div. would assault the Sauer River from Wallendorf to Bollendorf, and the 5th from Bollendorf to Echternach.

The following excerpt from "The Last Offensive" describes the chaos and confusion that accompanied the initial assault of the 5th Inf. Div. across the Sauer River. As Charles MacDonald describes, "in such a melee, squad, platoon, and company organization went for naught. Thrown helter-skelter against the German held bank, the men tried to reorganize but with little success".

When the first boats pushed out into the river some capsized almost immediately. Others rampaged out of control far down the stream or careened crazily back against the bank. The entire east bank of the river appeared to come to life. Brilliant flares lighted the scene. Even those men who survived the treacherous current could scarcely hope to escape the crisscross of fire from automatic weapons. A round of mortar or artillery fire hit one boat broadside, sinking it in a flash and sending the occupants with their heavy equipment floundering helplessly downstream. Another boat began to drift directly toward a German machine gun spitting fire from the bank. Frantically, the men in the boat tried to change their course by grabbing at rushes along the waters edge, but in the process, they swamped the frail craft. Shedding as much equipment as they could, the men lunged into the icy water. Some made it to the bank. The current swept others downstream.

The 417 Inf. Reg. actually had better success than the more experienced 5th Inf. Div., probably because, as General Patton put it, "They did not realize how dangerous it was" (3)! The

80th Inf. Div. did not begin the assault further upstream on the Sauer until 0300. The 80th Inf. Div. deceived the Germans by firing smoke from 4.2 inch chemical mortars at locations that were likely crossing points, thereby drawing the German artillery fire and infantry away from the actual crossing locations. They got two battalions across with less difficulty (1).

George Buck with the 417 Inf. Reg. observed that the three most dangerous and difficult operations for the infantry were: attacks at night, river crossings, and attacks on fortified positions. The crossing of the Sauer River involved all three! The crossing was "75 yards of pure hell, .... with mortars, machine guns, artillery, and small arms pounding us on the river" (I38). Corporals Call and Shea from the 945th were in the same boat with Buck. As they reached the opposite bank a man from the 417th with an M-1 carbine and flamethrower leaped from the boat thinking they had made the bank. However, they were still short of the bank and he sand out of sight. Thinking he was lost, Buck was surprised to see him surface having discarded his rifle and the flamethrower. The display of valor and courage on the part of the men from the 417th Inf. Reg. was remarkable.

The 945th FAB fired a total of 1,837 HE rounds from the Consdorf area in support of the attack - the highest one day total for the entire war. The War Diary reads for that day (3):

7 Feb - XII Corps with 80th, 5th, and 76th Divisions in line from left to right launches coordinated attack across Sauer River with Bitburg as the objective. 417th Inf. And 901st FA Bn operating under 5th Inf. Div. 945th FA Bn reinforcing 901st FA Bn. High water and 12 mph current add to difficulty of crossing. Preparation and counterbattery missions. No flying. Total rounds -1837 HE.

Preparation missions were designed to disrupt the enemy at the intended point of crossing, although they could be used to deceive the enemy into thinking that a crossing was to take place at a certain location (as with the Rhine crossing later in the Spring). A counter-battery mission was designed to destroy or disrupt enemy artillery. This type of mission was the primary function of the medium (155 mm) howitzer battalions, at least in the theory of field artillery.

The Daily Journal notes several fire missions beginning just past midnight (0001) on 7 February. Villages targeted later in the day (1800) were in the Prum River valley (Daily Journal 2/7/45) including Menningen (0952-3851) with 48 HE rounds and Irrel (0800-3906) with 58 HE rounds. The six villages targeted at 1800 hours were all within several miles of Echternach along a main route of attack for the 76th Inf. Div (Figure 2). The battalion fired all day long on tanks, enemy batteries, villages, and areas of enemy activity.

The 945th continued to support the rive assaults for three days from their positions in Consdorf. Additional concentrations on the villages in the Prum River valley were called in throughout the day. By 8 February the XII Corps still did not have a bridge over the Our or Sauer Rivers, and the attack seemed to be "sticky" according to General Patton. (2). On Friday, 9 February 1945 Brig. General Lentz, CO for the XII Corps artillery visited the command post at



1600. Often a visit such as this was designed to recognize the contributions of the battalion, or in some cases determine why the support of several battalions was not being adequately coordinated.

The battalion finally moved on 11 February with the command post, B battery and C battery displacing to Echternach (3). Several fire missions were conducted against Nebelwerfers located north of Echternach near Ferschweiler, Germany. Echternach was heavily shelled that night by the Germans. A battery joined the others the next day, the battalion still maintaining a rate of fire of 500-800 rounds per day. On 12 February Col. DeLoach went on leave to London with Major Sam Gray replacing him as the battalion CO.

The XII Corps lost 15 bridges to the rampaging Sauer River before finally getting a few bridges across on 11 February (1). The fact that the men isolated on the west bank for four days were able to hold out is a tribute to their tenacity, as well as the "excellent support they got from their artillery" (1). Some self-propelled 155mm howitzers actually came up to the west bank of the river and blasted pill-boxes point-blank across the river. It would take six more days, until 17 February before the XII Corps could "carve a full-fledged bridgehead" across the Sauer River into Germany (1).

Lawrence Literal (B) was with forward observer Lt. George Soles as his radio operator. They looked down from a ridge line on an area that had a number of pillboxes being attacked by Infantry. The flamethrowers "did a pretty good job that day", and the artillery did an excellent job of covering the infantry as they crossed open areas near the pillboxes. The next day Literal and Soles were in a church steeple spotting fire missions when a German 88mm gun began shooting at them. Lt. Soles told Literal to "go back down to the ground floor and wait, no point in us both taking a chance of getting hit, I'll handle it". Literal remembers that he was a "prince of a guy" (I11).

General Patton visited the area on 12 February and was very pleased by the progress of the XII Corps. General Patton also visited the VIII Corps area on 12 February and commented on the effect of the proximity fuse on the forest. "You could see the exact angle of impact of all the projectiles, which had burst about thirty feet above the highest treetops. After bursting, they cut the trees at an angle of about forty degrees down near the ground" (2).

On 15 February the War Diary notes that "2nd Lt. Timothy Mabbut, 01176119, FO, C Battery killed near Echternacherbruck, Germany". Walter Kline and Mabbut observed and fired on Germans while looking down on them across the Sauer River (I33). Wallace Bolton from C battery recalls that "Lt. Mabbut joined us briefly. He played a fiddle in a shot-up farmhouse in Luxembourg" (I16). Bolton goes on to relate that "Mabbut was killed as a F.O. a couple of days later after crossing the river at Echternach". Wayne Cruser was there when Lt. Mabbut "got caught in a hail of machine gun fire and went down". He died that night near a pillbox on the Siegfried Line. Lt. Mabbut was a replacement that arrived in December, and like other "new" fellas had to take a bit of kidding from the veterans. The men who kidded him later found out he had participated in the D-

Day landings, firing a 155mm howitzer from the deck of an LST at Utah Beach. Wounded soon after, he joined the 945th FAB after he recovered from his wounds.

Another casualty occurred on 24 February when the CP was shelled. Tec 4 James Holcomb, a Georgia boy, was seriously wounded. The Daily Journal notes that the rounds which landed within 25 yards of the CP and were estimated to be of at least 170 mm with a delayed fuse. It was instances like this that lead Roy McMahan to state that "there were good times and bad times, but I don't want to try it again" (I26).

## REDUCTION OF THE VIANDEN BULGE AND ENTRY INTO GERMANY

The next objective for the XII Corps was reduction of the "Vianden Bulge", an area twenty by fifteen or so miles in area within which the Germans were still resisting (Figure 1). The 80th Inf. Div. began its advance on 18 February to eliminate the bulge and push on towards Bitburg. The attack went well, and by 24 February the bulge was reduced.

An interesting note on one difference between the German and American artillery is note in Charles MacDonald's book "The Last Offensive". He writes that a group of 90th Inf. Div. soldiers captured "some 100 prisoners, most of them artillerymen frantically trying to hitch their horses to their pieces and escape" (1). The towed howitzers and self-propelled artillery of the US Army were in stark comparison to horse-towed artillery which still made up a large percentage of the German artillery corps.

The 945th first entered Germany on 26 February, 1945 and located at Ferschweiler (see Figure 2, Trier Sheet T.1, coordinates (044-412). They would remain here through the end of February. The battalion CO and party went on reconnaissance in the vicinity of Alsdorf, Germany on 27 February. The Pruem River east of the Sauer would be crossed with much less difficulty, and the XII Corps would really began to roll east along the north side of the Moselle River in March. The initial assaults across the Sauer River reveal the success if the operation for the XII Corps. The Corps had penetrated the West Wall in "some of the most forbidding terrain to be found along the western front" (1). General Patton would now focus on the capture of Trier, an ancient Roman city of historical importance on the Moselle River - the western entrance into Germany and the Rhine River valley.

## CROSSING OF THE KYLL RIVER

The Kyll River is just east of Bitburg, and flows from north to south to its confluence with the Moselle River downstream of Trier. This was the next large obstacle for the XII Corps as they pushed towards the crossing of the Moselle. The Moselle angles from southwest to northeast towards Koblenz and it also must be crossed to reach the Rhine in the Frankfurt-Oppenheim area. On 3 March the 5th Inf. Div. forced a bridgehead over the Kyll River. The Daily Journal notes that on 3 March all three batteries were in march mode at 1545 (late afternoon) and that 27 fire missions

were assigned by Idaho (codename for XII Corps Artillery) beginning at 2100 hours, all on towns and villages occupied by German troops.

Nebelwerfers continued to be a common target, with concentrations going out every day after the German "rockets". Carl Hotz, a TEC 5 in HQ battery, clearly recalled the effect the "screaming meemies" had on the nerves of the men (I8). Their psychological impact was significant due to the sound they made, and the explosion and concussion that resulted from several rocket rounds hitting in one area simultaneously. The 945th was supporting the drive up the north side of the Moselle as General Patton and General Eddy planned for the crossing of the "lower" Moselle (downstream of Trier). The XII Corps was driving up the Moselle along a narrow corridor (20 miles wide) with the following divisions (from left to right): 4th Arm. Div., 80th Inf. Div., 5th Inf. Div., and the 76th Inf. Div. CP moved on five consecutive days from 7 March to 12 March from Speicher (southeast of Bitburg) to Neuerburg.

The situation was so fluid that it was difficult for HQ to maintain the vellum overlays on the topographic maps depicting the location of the batteries, targets, etc. As soon as HQ would begin to plot potential targets the CP would have to move to keep up with the armored columns. Elements of the 4th Arm. Div. had reached the Rhine River from Bitburg (65 miles) in just 58 hours (4). Col. Edward Bartley, supply officer for General Lentz's XII Corps artillery, was struggling to keep up with the battalions. The roads were now a morass, particularly after the armored columns passed over them. Somehow the supply system kept up with the infantry, armor and artillery units, a success seldom recognized compared to the more publicized gains of the combat units.

On 9 March 1945 a number of men in the battalion were awarded Bronze Stars through General Order #19, HQ XII Corps, including S. Sgt. Randolph Mullis, Sgt. Dan Hale, Sgt. Carl Riley, Cpl. David D. Curfman, Cpl. Lawrence A. Horning, Cpl. Walter J. Kline, and Pfc. Wayne R. Crusier. The 945th has largely supported the 355th FAB from the 76th Inf. Div. during early March. Now, with the 945th HQ at Neuerburg close to a big bend in the Moselle River, they were only days away from crossing at Bullay and approaching the Rhine.

The 945th continued to receive replacements during this period, and Robert Linz of Baltimore, Maryland arrived from an infantry unit to join Sgt. Clarence Mitchum's gun section in B Battery (I23). Prior to joining the infantry unit he had driven a truck delivering supplies to the Third Army during the drive across France. Linz was a "powder man". His job was to bring the requested number of powder bags to the howitzer. The longer the range to the target, the more powder charges had to be used to propel the 155mm shell. His main memory of the 945th was that he was "scared as hell", and that he had never seen a gun "that size in my life". For the replacements that had not been to Ft. Sill or received artillery training, the whole experience of being in a firing battery was impressive.

## XII CORPS "TURNS ON THEIR HEELS" TOWARDS OPPENHEIM

By the second week of March the XII Corps had driven all the way to the Rhine River with their armor along the narrow corridor on the northwest side of the Moselle. Everyone, including the Germans, expected that the XII Corps would continue the attack directly across the Rhine into Koblenz. American planners had a different idea. The 1st Army captured the Ludendorf Bridge and crossed the Rhine into Remagen on 7 March 1945. In the week that followed they continued to pour troops and armor across the bridge (which stood for 10 days before bombs brought it down), and they had the situation "well in hand" by 14 March (4). Also, the Saar-Palatinate area between the Moselle and the Rhine had still not been subdued by the Third Army. With these facts in mind, the XII Corps was ordered to "turn on their heels" and execute a second brilliant and surprise crossing of the Moselle (the first in France). They would attack at almost a right angle to their original direction along the Moselle (Figure 3).

The crossing of the Moselle was to be preceded by a large artillery preparation. The 90th Inf. Div. and 5th Inf. Div., both veterans at river assaults, were to lead the way before dawn on the 14th. The Moselle was crossed in the following order: on 14 March by the 90th Inf. Div. (new to the XII Corps) and 5th Inf. Div., 15 March the 4th Arm. Div., and 16 March by the 89th Inf. Div. and the newly transferred 11th Arm. Div. (4). The 90th Inf. Div., called the "Tough 'Ombres", was a veteran division originally formed from the Texas-Oklahoma (with a T-O shoulder patch) national guard. In fact, one regiment of the division had assaulted Utah Beach on D-day with the 4th Inf. Div., and they suffered almost 4,000 killed in action during the war (5).

On 13 March Lt. George Buck was manning an observation post in the town of Alf, Germany on the Moselle River. He was in a castle named Burg Arras which afforded him a fine view of the river at Bullay, the crossing point for the 945th FAB. He was soon assigned to the 89th Inf. Div., the "Rolling W" because of the design of their shoulder patch. Buck tried to tell the infantry captain in the 89th that Bullay was not heavily defended because he had not observed German activity in the town. The captain did not agree with Buck, although events later in the day proved him correct. Across the Moselle River Buck had observed a message painted on several railroad cars that read "Cross the Moselle and Go to Hell". Two men accompanied Buck during the 0300 hour assault across the Moselle in rafts: Cpl. Lee Cooper and a man he greatly admired - Cpl. Charles T. Shea from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Shea was Bucks driver, but today there was no need! The inexperienced soldiers of the 89th crossed the river on 15 March and began kicking in the doors of residences - scaring the only people remaining in the village at gunpoint - old people and children (I38). That night the three men slept under a pine tree in the open, with only the clothing they were wearing.

The Daily Journal notes that at 0915 on 16 March the battalion commanding officer went across the Moselle on reconnaissance. There was little resistance to the crossings at this point, and a fog machine operating on the bank reduced opportunities for German observation. Dale Curfman (B) recalled the difficulty of the Moselle River crossings saying that he "gained a lot more respect for the engineers" (I40). The engineers often worked under fire, both during construction of the

bridge and in subsequent days when the Germans would shell the pontoon bridges as the engineers maintained them and kept traffic moving.

The terrain across the Moselle was relatively flat and ideal for military operations. It did not take the XII Corps long to strike deep into the Palatinate area, with CCB of the 4th Arm. Div. advancing 16 miles in just over 5 hours (1). The Germans were now desperate to get their remaining troops and equipment across the Rhine. The task of the forward observer with an armored division can even be more difficult and dangerous than with an infantry unit. The armored units, particularly the armored infantry, move fast and often are the first to assault a village. At night the tanks would circle up in an open area with the barrels pointed outward - just like a wild west scene.

On 20 March the tanks, armored personnel carriers, and self-propelled artillery of the 11th Arm. Div. "coiled up" (circled) on the bank the Rhine River near Worms. That day the men observed a pitched aerial battle between the German Me-262 jets and the American P-51 Mustangs. Although the jets were faster, the more maneuverable P-51 could turn inside the jets avoiding their cannons. This was the second time Buck had seen a jet, the other being at Rodalbe, France in November 1944. It was on this day, 20 March, that the Germans sent over 300 aircraft on missions to destroy the armored columns of the Third Army. The aircraft, which included the new Me 262 jet, were greeted by anti-aircraft gunners anxious to use their multiple mounted 50 cal. Machine guns and their 40mm "Bofors" anti-aircraft weapons (4). They were successful, shooting down an estimated 25 aircraft. The 452nd AAAB battalion, an all "Negro" unit, was attached to the 945th FAB. They were very professional, and greeted the appearance of German aircraft with great enthusiasm. The Stars and Stripes newspaper recognized the unit, and mentioned that they had the highest "batting average" of any unit in the Third Army.

On 21 March the 945th fired across the Rhine for the first time. After the crossing, the fighting often consisted of a weakly defended roadblock at the entrance to a town or village. Quickly overwhelmed, the American troops entered the towns with little resistance. White sheets fluttered outside closed windows as the German civilians subjected themselves to the invaders, hoping for a minimal amount of destruction to their homes. Often the Americans passed through so quickly that little damage was done, this in stark comparison to the leveling of St. Vith, Bitburg, Trier, and other towns closer to the German-American lines established during the Battle of the Bulge. Bob Frey (HQ) has good memories of the common German people. He recalls that they were friendly and hoping to get the war over, "the same as we were" (I6). Paul Remillard recalls that the soldiers who surrendered were "very obedient and it seemed they liked captivity" (I47).

On 23 March the 945th FAB established their CP at Oppenheim, Germany overlooking the Rhine River from the formidable bluffs. William Skinner wrote home to his wife Viola on this day saying that "I'm ready to get to the other side of the Rhine" (I44). Skinner observed a lot of the German "supermen" surrendering during the drive to the Rhine, and he wondered "where do they keep getting the men to fight?". On this day Ray Draxler (SV) was wounded while driving his Captain's jeep "near the front lines". He was hit by a shot that passed through his left leg just below the knee shattering both bones. That was the end of the war for Ray, and he was hospitalized in

England and the states until 1 October 1945. Ida Draxler said that for several years afterward bone fragments worked their way out of the wound (I31).

The 90th Inf. Div. had reached Mainz, and the 4th Arm. Div. and 11th Arm. Div. were at Worms (2). General Patton decided with General Eddy to feint an attack across the Rhine at Mainz, complete with smoke screen, while actually crossing the just upstream at Oppenheim (south of Mainz). General Eddy had in fact selected this point "months earlier" (2). The highly experienced 5th Inf. Div. was chosen to assault the Rhine on 22 March. The Saar-Palatinate operation was one of the most successful Corps operations during World War II, and at its conclusion the Third Army was poised to vault across the Rhine on the last big campaign of the war.



## The Last Offensive: Map IV





Figure 2  
Trier Sheet T.1

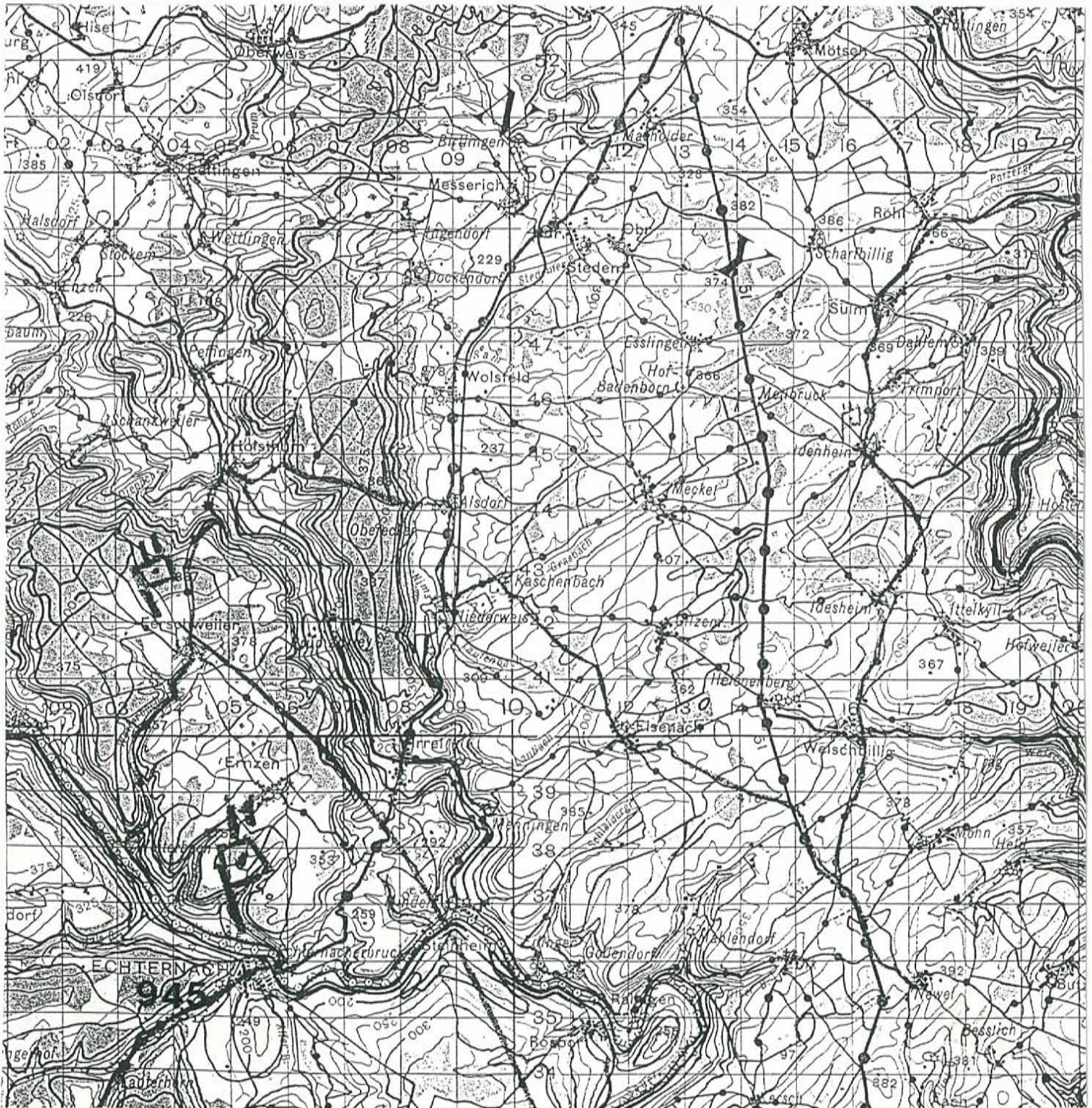
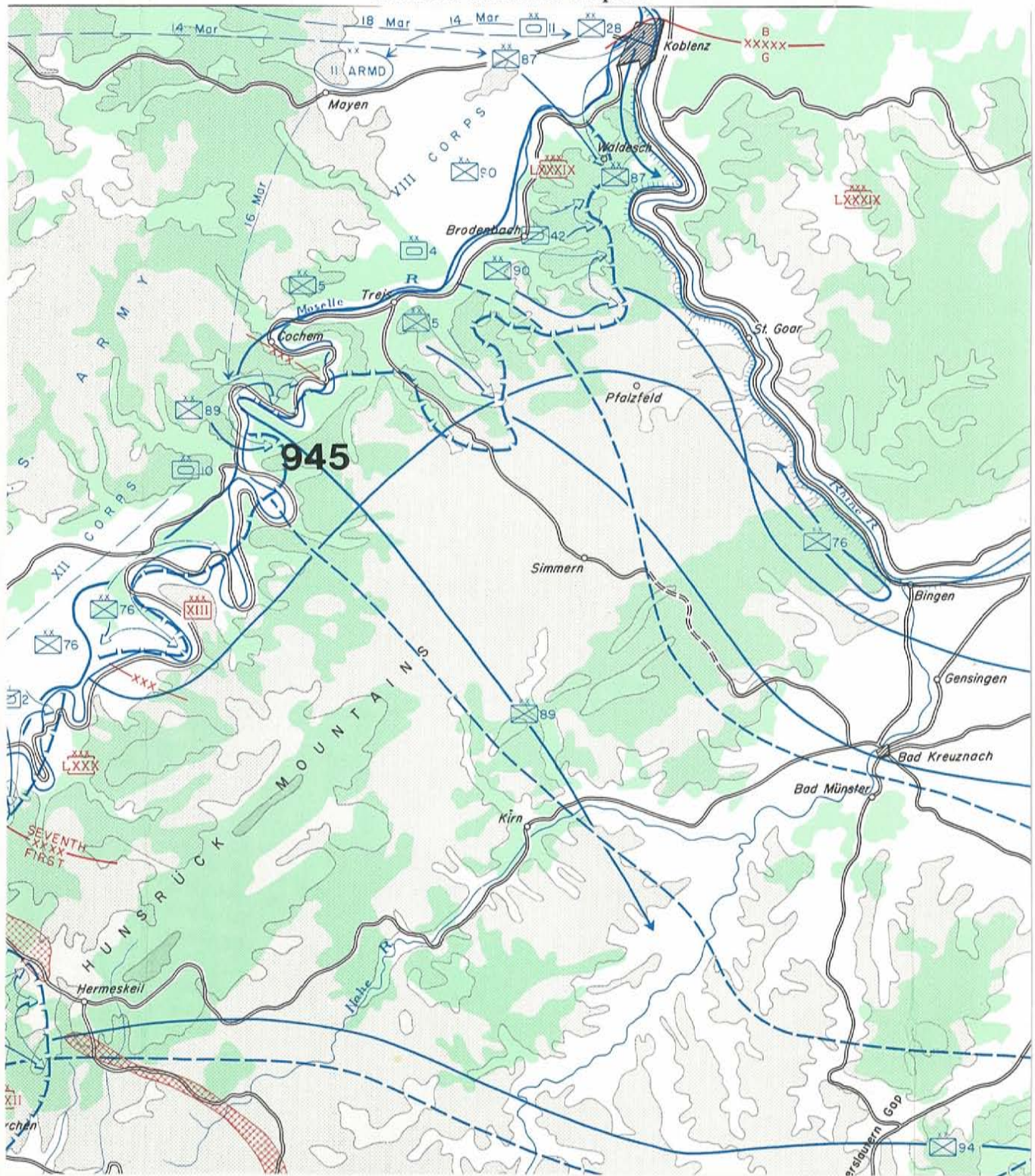




Figure 3  
XII Corps Turns On Its Heels  
14-15 March 1945  
The Last Offensive: Map IX



## Chapter 12

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## Chapter 13

### The Final Assault

#### 22 March - 7 May 1945

"Iceberg confirms that all hostilities will cease at 2400 hours on 8 May, 1945" - XII Corps HQ

#### ACROSS THE RHINE RIVER

On 22 March 1945 the Central Europe campaign began with the 945th FAB on the western bluffs above the Rhine River, upstream of the confluence with the Main River at Mainz. Generals Patton and Eddy, sensing that the Germans were anticipating a crossing of the Rhine River downstream of Mainz, decided to do what was not expected - a crossing at Oppenheim (1). This would not only require a convincing demonstration at the expected crossing site, but also a subsequent crossing of the Main River upstream of Frankfurt (Figure 1). General Patton was not only anxious to cross the Rhine to earn the same accolades as the First Army had at the Remagen Bridge, but he very much wanted to get across before Britain's General Montgomery! On 19 March General Bradley gave General Patton the go-ahead to "take the Rhine on the run" (1).

It came as no surprise that the 5th Inf. Div., veterans of twenty-two river crossings, was selected to make the initial Third Army assault across the Rhine River. The 945th was assigned to support the 5th Inf. Div. at 1600 hours on 21 March while all three batteries and HQ were on the march to Dalheim (2). The War Diary notes that AOP (aerial observation patrol) was used to "furnish column control" as the roads were congested as they approached the Rhine River. Several of the airman who supported the 945th were recognized on this day by receiving either Oak Leaf Clusters to previously awarded Air Medals: Lt. Edward Bletzer (third cluster) and Lt. Frederick Eaton (second cluster), or the Air Medal: Cpl. Stephen Dulick. Also, Cpl. Charles T. Shea, Lt. Buck's driver and respected friend, received a much deserved battlefield commission as 2nd Lt.

On 22 March the 945th War Diary notes that "shell rep" (shell report) teams were furnished for bridge sites for the 5th Inf. Div. crossings. Shell report teams would report on the intensity and estimated direction of German artillery fire based on the shell impact areas. Although not widely used during the war, the teams could estimate the type of fire received, the direction, and the approximate distance based on the configuration of the shell-hole. The Daily Journal notes that Lts. Hughes and Lindstrom were assigned to the shell-rep teams at the "new bridge head" (3). At this same time (1745) on 22 March Lt. Buck was assigned as a forward observer with "Co. I, 3rd Bn., 11th Inf. Reg." of the 5th Inf. Div. (3). Buck recalls that the crossing was "easy but we caught hell just after we got across. It was the widest and last river I ever wanted to cross in an assault boat, and I was glad when we reached the opposite shore" (I38). Fortunately it was a "clear warm day".

With the 90th Inf. Div. making a smoke-screened feint at the expected crossing location downstream of Mainz, the 5th Inf. Div. Would begin the assault at Oppenheim during the early hours of 22 March (1). General Irwin, commanding officer for the 5th Inf. Div., initially protested that a



night crossing was too difficult, but he relented and developed the assault plan accordingly. Five hundred boats were to be provided by the 204th Engineer Battalion for the 11th Inf. Regiment of the 5th Inf. Div., 1st and 3rd battalions. The 1st battalion would cross at Oppenheim and the 3rd battalion would cross at Nierstein (one mile downstream of Oppenheim). Once a bridgehead was opened, the veteran 4th Arm. Div. would exploit the crossing and race to the northeast towards Frankfurt.

Thirteen battalions of artillery were available to support the crossing, and the hills overlooking the Rhine were perfect for observation up to 10 miles beyond the river (1). However, in order to maintain the deception that the main effort would be below Mainz, the artillery was not used for preparatory fire. As it turned out the 5th Inf. Div. was opposed by no more than two weak infantry regiments and a handful of other troops. In fact, the Americans were having trouble even finding "targets of opportunity" (troops or armor in the open) for their artillery on the other side of the river. An occasional mortar or artillery round hitting Nierstein or Oppenheim were the only indication that the Germans were even present across the Rhine. For General Patton it did not matter what the German strength was, he would attack as soon as possible with what he had, not waiting to for a build-up on the west bank.

Over 7,500 engineers were ready to support the crossing, which was to begin using assault boats to traverse the 800 to 1,000 foot width of the river. Following the initial assault, LCVPs manned by Navy personnel would be used for transport of men and vehicles (1). The engineers stood ready to begin work on a permanent bridge, beginning at night with light provided by searchlights mounted on tanks overlooking the river. It was a well-planned operation from start to finish and it did not take long for American troops to start pouring across the river. At 2230, half an hour behind schedule, the first boats began to cross with men from Co. K of the 11th Inf. Reg. Not a sign of protest arose from the opposite shore (1). By daylight on 23 March two regiments of the 5th Inf. Div. were across the river, and by afternoon the third regiment was across as well - over 10,000 troops in less than 24 hours! Tanks and tank destroyers began to cross by ferry and LCVPs in the afternoon and a class 40 treadway bridge (for heavy traffic) was completed before darkness. The Germans were completely surprised and the race to Frankfurt was on!

The radius of the 5th Inf. Div. penetration was a surprising five miles by late on 23 March, so General Eddy ordered the 4th Arm. Div. to prepare for crossing on the 24th. General Bradley, commander of the 12th Army Group, released news of the Third Army Rhine crossing on the 24th, stated that the "Third Army had crossed without even so much as an artillery preparation" (1). The nature and timing of the announcement were clearly designed to "needle" General Montgomery, whose 21st Army Group was just preparing to cross the Rhine to the north, but only after extensive artillery preparation and aerial bombardment. Generals Patton and Eddy crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim on this day, stopping to "spit in the river" (4). Shortly after midnight on 24 March the 945th FAB crossed the Rhine River, only 48 hours after the initial assault began. This is in sharp contrast to the difficult crossing of the Sauer River during the winter when currents and German resistance were very strong.

Sgt. Clarence Mitchum, Chief of Section in B Battery, recalls the night crossing of the Rhine accompanied by flares and machine gun fire - in fact the machine gunners were trying to shoot the parachutes from which the flares were suspended in order to diminish their effectiveness. The M5 tractors hauling the howitzers went "click, click, click" as they proceeded across the pontoon bridge that had been hastily set up by the combat engineers. It was about this time that German jet aircraft were first spotted (ME-262s), and Mitchum says that they were moving so fast that "you could hardly see them". This did not prevent the black anti-aircraft group attached to the 945th from taking a few shots with their 40mm Bofers as they flew past. Following the crossing the column was intermittently shelled, and the men would take cover under the howitzers or in ditches. Sgt. Mitchum could not show fear in front of the men during these barrages as he was in charge.

## ACROSS THE MAIN RIVER

After supporting the 19th Field Artillery (5th Inf. Div.) for just 24 hours, the 945th reverted back to reinforcing the 46th Field Artillery, also from the 5th Inf. Div. These changes in assignment were typical for Corps artillery like the 945th FAB, and this change in particular took place because the 5th Inf. Div. was moving quickly towards Frankfurt.

The pilots and crew, Grawburg, Bletzer, Eaton and Dulik, continued to fly missions looking for targets - but German strongpoints, tanks and artillery were scarce. On 25 March the 945th began supporting Combat Command B (CCB) of the 6th Arm. Div. near Morfelden, and by the next day the battalion was one mile south of Frankfurt-on-Main. All forward observers were recalled from the infantry for re-assignment with the 6th Arm. Div. The Daily Journal from 25 March provides a good example of the diverse types of targets that the 945th fired on: enemy guns, enemy troops, an ammo dump, a town, and an air strip (3).

On 26 March the Daily Journal notes that "registration was observed by AOP". The importance of the aerial observation arm of the battalion cannot be underestimated. In fact, the Germans knew that if they observed the small Piper L-4s flying in the distance, they could very well be the next target for the howitzers of the 945th FAB. At 0900 on 27 March the firing batteries were told to "take such positions as will enable them to fire on targets of their own choosing along the Main River at the proposed site of the crossing" (3). This was one of the few occasions when the batteries actually selected the targets rather than exclusively relying on forward observers, the battalion HQ or the Field Artillery Group HQ. Later the forward observers assigned to the 6th Arm. Div. began directing fire at buildings across the Main River at the site of the proposed crossing (Figure 1). 295 HE rounds were expended, which must have been very unpleasant for the Germans along the north bank of the Main River.

The battalion was stagnant for several days, during which time the Red Cross Clubmobile visited. The "blue-uniformed" American girls were still there providing a smile and a touch of home, just as they had done all the way across France and Belgium (1). The clubmobiles were a welcome relief, serving hot drinks and coffee; however, that the "rear echelon" troops were confiscating much of the choice items.

The battalions' old friend from France, the 26th "Yankee Division", was supported for one day before they were re-assigned to the 11th Arm. Div. A crossing of the Main River (upstream of Frankfort) occurred on 29 March when the battalion displaced to Langenselbold. March ended with the battalion on the march at Kressenbach, Germany, well past Frankfurt into the heart of Germany..

## THE DRIVE INTO THE HEART OF GERMANY

Every man recognized that the war was winding down as the American armies raced across Germany, but many dangers lay ahead during the last full month of fighting. "Everyone knew that the war was over, yet somehow, at one isolated spot or another, the war still went on, real enough for the moment and sometimes deadly for those involved" (1). Often pockets of Germans would let the armor and infantry pass by their positions, then open up on the artillery and supply trains. Almost anywhere a fight could erupt, wherever a few Germans decided to make a stand.

April opened with the battalion continuing the support the fast-moving 11th Arm. Div. On 7 April at 1900 hours the battalion command post, now located at Seigritz, was on the receiving end of a Nebelwerfer barrage (Figure 2). Two enlisted men were killed and four wounded, two serious enough to require evacuation. The men killed were Pfc. Billy Swinehart and Cpl. James Logue. Carl Hotz (HQ) recalled the deaths of Swinehart and Logue - "Bill Swinehart was Col. DeLoach's jeep driver and Jimmy Logue was in the wire section. I remember the day very well. The Germans fired their so-called Nebelwerfer or screaming meemies in on us. Jimmy had just gone on guard duty at the C.P., and Bill was getting the Colonel's bed roll off the jeep. One round landed right by them and killed both of them. God rest their souls" (I8). Maj. Gooding Bean was also present during the shelling. He took cover in a building, and after Swinehart was hit Bean motioned him to come down a hallway in the building for protection. Swinehart was mortally wounded and died next to Bean. Pfc. Joseph Plas received a minor wound and was treated at the battalion aid center. The next day Lt. Grawburg was wounded by small arms fire while on patrol and had to be evacuated. Thus his flying service was lost until his replacement, Lt. Harvey Lindsay, could report for duty (3).

Although most German towns were surrendering without a fight, it often took a few low passes from American fighter-bombers to convince them that it was time to put out the white flags (4). The Third Army would often order the firing of a few artillery rounds into the German villages before asking for their surrender, a practice which was termed the "Third Army war Memorial Project" at HQ. These rounds were supposed to give future generations of Germans something to remember concerning the Third Army and the futility of war in general. There was no love lost between the Germans and American soldiers at this time, and these feelings intensified with the discovery of the concentration camps later in April. Hugh Howenstine recalls that he "did not know about the brutality of the SS until he visited Dachau" (I18). However, the American troops would fraternize with the German civilians, and it became obvious that they were extremely relieved that it would not be the Russians advancing into and occupying their villages.

In April and May the German soldiers began surrendering in droves. The 945th would often pass long columns of soldiers headed towards detention areas. The Third Army alone processed over

400,000 prisoners of war (PWs). While driving a weapons carrier, Wayne Crusier passed a soldier out in the woods with his hands over his head. Upon stopping and signaling to the soldier to approach the vehicle, it became apparent that this soldier was only 14 or 15 years old and very, very scared. The Americans gestured for him to drop his hands, which he did reluctantly, fearing the worst. Much to his surprise he was loaded into the carrier and taken to an area where other PWs were gathered. Crusier had given him a cigarette and grinned at him while lighting it for the young man. This seemed to relieve his tension, and as the men drove off the young soldier gave Crusier a wave (I36). In fact, Dale Curfman thought the Germans were more likeable as individuals than either the French or English (I40)!

On the morning of 22 March, 1945, Col. DeLoach told Capt. Gooding Bean to take twenty men, already selected, to Esch, Luxembourg for four days rest and recuperation (R&R). He further instructed that he wanted the 2 ½ ton truck which was used to make the trip, returned immediately after our arrival in Esch since the Rhine crossing was imminent. He also instructed Bean to wait in Esch until he sent a truck to return us to the battalion. DeLoach could not spare a truck until 1 April so Bean and the men enjoyed an extended stay in Esch.

Due to the rapid advance of the forces after crossing the Rhine and by the time Bean and the men returning from Esch crossed the Rhine, the battalion was not in the same position from which the driver departed. It was beginning to get dark and it was deemed advisable not to look for the battalion until the next day. However, before they decided to stop they arrived at a village, which they realized had been by-passed by our forces. There was not a light on or a person in sight. Bean decided at that time to quickly beat a hasty departure and seek another way around the village. A short time later they found a sign indicating the Command Post of a Calvary unit. Bean reported to the Commanding Officer of the unit and told him that we were attempting to return to our unit. He inquired as to what route they had followed and Bean showed him on the map as best he could including the village from which they had departed shortly before finding the Command Post. He Advised Bean that the Germans has just pulled out of that village and that there were a few of them still in the opposite end of the village. The CO then invited them to have some chow and spend the night - the offer was gladly accepted. The 945th FAB was located around noon the next day.

On an after note of this experience, in 1948, Bean was assigned to the 5th Arm. Div. (Training) at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and subsequently to the 95th Armd. FAB as a Battery Commander. A few days after joining the unit, Bean found out when speaking with the battalion CO, that he was the same officer in the Calvary unit to whom we had reported that evening in Germany!

The battalion continued to move south-east along what became the border between East and West Germany. The 945th was moving fast, and this was great as far as the men were concerned because it prevented the Germans from digging in. Later, following an ordered delay of three days for vehicle maintenance, the going was a little slower. It was during this time east of Frankfurt that the 945th fired rounds at a castle while under aerial observation, two of which were white phosphorus, which would have made a spectacular explosion on the side of the structure (3). On 12 April the battalion was located at Kronach, Germany, approximately 100 miles east of Frankfurt.

On 13 April, as news was coming into the FDC about Lt. Eaton's plane going down, the 945th received the news over their communications system of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia (I34). It was a somber day indeed, and if it not been for the tremendous progress the armies were experiencing, the President's death would have been an even larger blow to the troops. In addition, tragedy had struck the 945th itself when Lt. Eaton and Cpl. Dulick were confirmed killed when their L-4 observation plane was shot down by an Me-109. Some of the men felt that Lt. Eaton may have even crashed the plane trying to avoid the strafing run of the much faster Me-109.

On this same date Capt. Sterling DuPree became the Executive Officer for the 945th as Maj. Gray was re-assigned to a military government unit in Frankfurt. Apparently Gray's legal skills made him more valuable with the organization tasked with governing occupied Germany, rather than remaining with the 945th FAB.

By 19 April the battalion had swung south with the 11th Arm. Div. to Grafenwahr, only 30 miles west of the Checkoslovakia border. Lt. Buck had reported to the 490th Field Artillery Battalion (11th Arm. Div.), and Lt. Shea had reported to the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, also with the 11th Arm. Div. (5). It should be noted that the Armored Infantry Battalion's had one of the most difficult and dangerous roles in the war. They were "mechanized infantry" assigned to an Armored Division, transported on half-tracks and other vehicles out in front of the tanks, thus being on the point of attack at each town or fortified strongpoint. The armored infantry provided the necessary coverage for the tanks, which otherwise would fall easy prey to German anti-armor teams using Panzerfaust and Panzerchrecks. Buck, Shea and the other forward observers shared the danger of the armored infantry while providing badly needed artillery support.

## A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

On 19 April, General Patton received word from XII Corps HQ that General Eddy would have to step down due to dangerously high blood pressure. General Patton regretfully accepted the recommendation, recognizing that General Eddy had been with him since North Africa as a divisional commander (9th Inf. Div.), and that he had probably commanded larger numbers of combat troops with the XII Corps compared to any other General on the western front (4). Patton recommended three Generals as his possible replacement - Gaffey, Harmon and Irwin (5th Inf. Div.). Neither General Gaffey (4th Arm. Div.) or General Harmon could be spared, so it was down to either Irwin or coincidentally, General Ira Wyche (79th Inf. Div.), Eisenhower's choice and the 945th's old commanding officer from Camp Blanding and the 74th Artillery Regiment! General Irwin had been a classmate of General Eisenhower, and he was reluctant to promote classmates for fear that favoritism would be suspected. However, General Patton's choice of General Irwin, the commander of the veteran 5th Inf. Div. and campaigns in Tunisia and Europe, eventually prevailed (4). General Patton visited General Eddy on 20 April and saw him off "with great regret". General Eddy recovered after a long hospitalization in the states. Coincidentally, Maj. Bean became good friends with General Irwin after the war when they both served in Australia during the early 1950s.



## FIRES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The 945th first fired into Czechoslovakia at 2249 hours on 25 April 1945. The fire mission was conducted at the request of "Highpost" (183rd Field Artillery Group) and consisted of 12 HE rounds on a road junction. The battalion was now within 10 miles of the Czech border at Grafenau, Germany (40 miles due east of Straubing). The next day the battalion fired into Austria! The month of April concluded with snow and the inauspicious capture of two men from B Battery by a German patrol. Apparently these two men, Aubrey Wiseman and a man named 'Ingram', had wandered a bit too far from the battery as curiosity prompted them to explore a home. Several German soldiers were around the back of the house and they took them prisoner. As they marched them back towards the German lines, Ingram went for the weapon of one of the soldiers. The second soldier lowered his weapon and Wiseman yelled in German "Don't shoot". After this the Germans treated them rather roughly. In fact, several days later they led both men to the outskirts of a village, apparently to "get rid of them". A messenger arrived at the last minute and the men were returned to the village where several other American infantrymen had just been captured. Wiseman never saw Ingram after that day, and he ended up in a French PW camp hospital.

When the German soldiers began packing up and the nurses started crying Wiseman figured the end of the war had arrived. He got dressed, left the hospital, and upon seeing German vehicles driving by with men throwing their weapons into a pile, surmised that indeed the war was over. He soon found a soldier from the 5th Inf. Div. who took him to an American command post. The war was over for Wiseman, but Ingram's fate is not known to this day.

## LAST WEEK OF THE WAR - 1 MAY TO 8 MAY

The last week of the war was at hand, and yet still the troops were at risk of injury and death as the German Army went through its final death throes. With the Russians closing in on him, Adolph Hitler took his own life with a pistol, while his wife Eva Braun ended hers with a cyanide capsule. The Russians had fought to within a block from his Berlin bunker below the Reich Chancellery. Admiral Doenitz assumed command of the German armed forces and immediately began to negotiate a surrender with the allies, hoping to spare as many troops as possible from capture by the Russians. As we will see this was a futile attempt.

The battalion was on the march again, moved into Austria on 1 May near the town of Peilstein with the 11th Arm. Div. Enemy artillery fire once again took its toll on the 945th when on 4 May over 20 rounds hit C Battery (3). The men that were hit had carelessly exposed themselves to the direct fire from German 88s or even larger caliber anti-aircraft guns. Two men were killed immediately - Robert Holiday and Harvey Miller. Sgt. William Hodnett died later from wounds received in the barrage. Several others were wounded and survived, and two vehicles were damaged. Wayne Cruser was standing with the group that was hit and "when I heard some enemy artillery shoot ... something told me to hit the deck. The first barrage hit about eight feet from the men. Capt. Morris, Sgt. Hodnett and Sgt. Brown all went down". Cruser grabbed Brown by the collar and dragged him behind the rear wheels of a truck. Another man drug Capt. Morris behind the front

wheels of the truck. "Sgt. Hodnett did not realize the serious nature of his wound, as he was still on his feet and rode in the front seat of the ambulance on the way to the aid station" (I36). He died within a short time, apparently from internal injuries.

Wallace Bolton was in a fox hole next to Bob Holliday when he was killed (I16), and Fred Mackey would have been with these men except that he was away having his M-5 tractor repaired. This was the second time that Mackey's absence may have saved his life, the first being the bombing of C Battery in December. All this death and damage just 48 hours before the end of the war. As Robert Dale put it, "We lost some good people that day. The sad part, the war was over four days later" (I28).

On 5 May at 1100 the firing of the batteries ceased. In Reims, at General Eisenhower's Headquarters, the Germans finally accepted the fact that there would not be a separate surrender on the Western Front, and that thousands of German troops would fall into the hands of the Russians. General Jodl, negotiating on behalf of Admiral Doenitz, was instructed on 6 May to accept Eisenhower's ultimatum. General Jodl signed the unconditional and complete surrender of Germany at 0241 on 7 May, to be effective at 2301 on 8 May.

On 7 May at 1005 the 945th fired the last rounds of the war from B Battery, 4th section (Sgt. Gechter) on a harassment and interdiction (H&I) mission in the vicinity of Linz, Austria. Paul Linz, a relative newcomer to the 945th (March, 1945), took note of the target for the last 945th rounds, it was the home of his ancestors in Linz, Austria. The last round was number 58,798. Over 5.6 million pounds of 96 lb. 155mm shells had been fired since the previous August at Montargis, France! Among the battalions in the 182nd Field Artillery Group, the primary organization in which the 945th served, the battalion ranked second in total tonnage fired at 1,285 tons (6).

## THE END AT LAST

At this point the XII Corps was comprised of the 90th Inf. Div., 5th Inf. Div., 26th Inf. Div., and the 11th Arm. Div. At 1550 the battalion was relieved from the 11th Arm. Div. and re-assigned to the old Yankee Division, the 26th Inf. Div. for the last day of the war. All forward observers and liaison officers are recalled. Word is received from "Group" (183rd Field Artillery Group) that all hostilities will cease at 1200 hours on 6 May! Bob Frey relates the relief that accompanied that news - "What a feeling of joy that is was finally going to be over and you had made it through and were going back home. Its really impossible to describe your emotions at that time but it felt great!" (I6). Steve Giacobelli relates the same feelings - "The ending of the European campaign was my most joyous event. All thoughts were on going home and starting over" (I13).

Wallace Bolton wondered if the men of the 945th would be sent to the Pacific campaign, a rumor that was prevalent in the American armies. Gino Ricci was told by Capt. Black that the war was over. "It seemed anti-climatic after 10 months on the line, and I wondered what now?" (I20). The last casualty of the war occurred when Cpl. Eugene Martchek and two others ran over a land mine in his weapons carrier. The three men in the carrier initially thought they had been hit with an

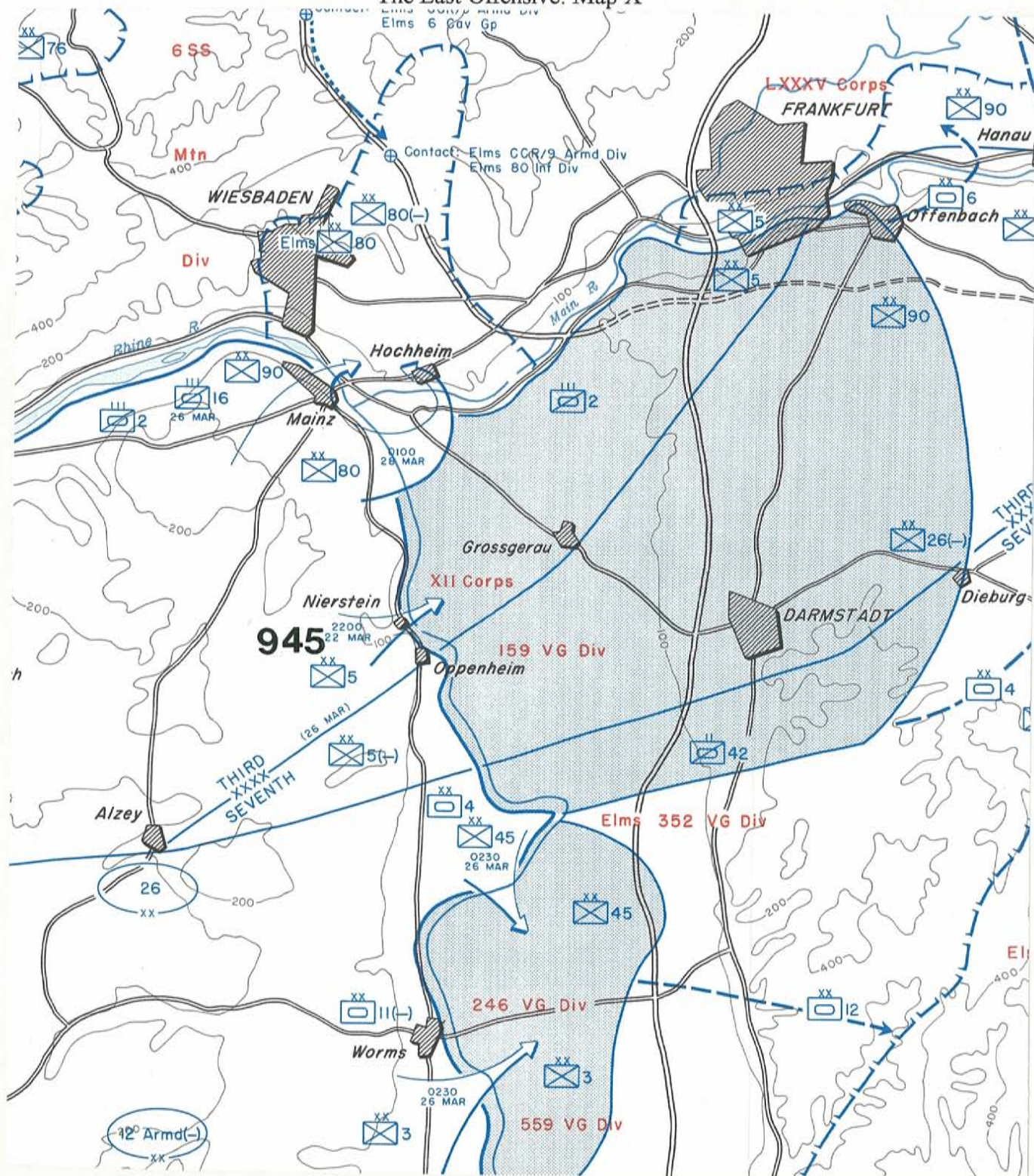
anti-tank weapon rather than a land mine. The carrier was destroyed, but Martchek escaped serious injury. "He had a piece of metal wrapped around his leg the size of a hand" according to Crusier. He carried him "like a baby" to a farmhouse, kicked the door in, and laid him, mud and blood and all, on a clean bed. The women occupants protested vigorously but to no avail. Col. DeLoach later came down and chewed Martchek out - he had driven through a well-marked American mine-field.

The 945th FAB moved into its last positions - Aigen, Austria and just into Czechoslovakia on 6 May, 1945 to await the end of hostilities. It is Sunday, and both Catholic and Protestant services are held by a thankful group of young Americans. The battalion has an active day including a visit by the Group CO, Col. Bartlett. At 1020 the 945th CO brought the news from Highpost (183rd Field Artillery Group), confirmed by Iceberg (XII Corps Artillery), that all hostilities will cease at 2400 hours on 8 May (3). On the final day the 945th FAB CO, Col. DeLoach visited each of the batteries to congratulate the men on the fine job they had done over the past year, and to explain their initial role during the occupation. Bronze Star Medals for meritorious service are awarded to eight men including M. Sgt. Joseph H. Summerour. At 2400 hours on 8 May, 1945, in Irrwald, Czechoslovakia the 945th Field Artillery Battalion "Daily Journal" is closed.

In the course of eleven months since the landings at Normandy, the Allied Armies had driven up to 700 miles into Germany and Czechoslovakia with over 4.5 million troops, including 91 Divisions (61 American). Allied casualties from D-Day to V-E Day were 766, 294, with over 135,000 Americans killed in action. The 945th FAB had distinguished itself as one of the finest field artillery battalions in the XII Corps, if not the Third Army. Twenty-three men from the 945th FAB made the supreme sacrifice, never to return to American soil. The valor, dedication and professionalism of the American soldier was proven over and over from the sand of Omaha Beach to the blue waters of the Danube River.

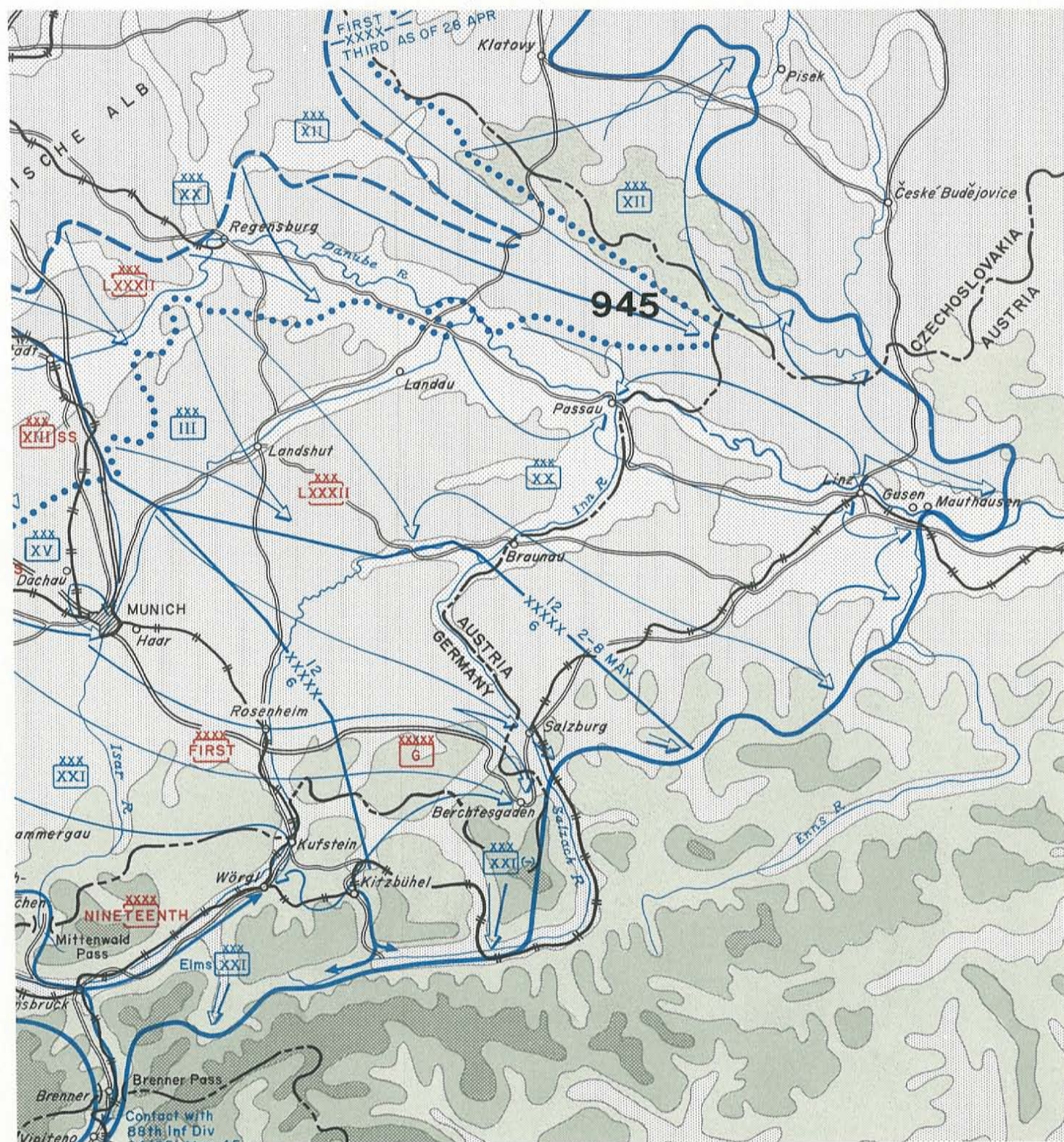
Figure 1  
The Rhine Crossings at Oppenheim  
22 March 1945

The Last Offensive: Map X





April-May 1945





## Chapter 13

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## Chapter 14

### Home at Last!

“New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty”

#### THE WAIT

The composition of the 945th FAB began to change as the war drew to a close. Men such as Maj. Gray had already moved on, and others were transferred to units that were responsible for the oversight of prisoners of war, displaced civilians, and the organizational affairs of an army no longer at war. All the men were ready to return home, but over one million men on the European continent. Wallace Bolten noted that under the point system the battalion was “pretty well split up”.

Shipping was limited, as was the ability to process the men using the “point system” which included such factors such as time in service, family status (married, children), combat service, wounds and medals awarded during the war. Men fortunate enough to accumulate the magic 70 points (which was later increased), waited for transfer in “cigarette” camps, named Lucky Strike, Camel, etc. The “Stars and Stripes” was full of articles concerning trips home. The 20 October, 1945 issue has the headline - “ETO Gets Get 12 Warships”. The carriers Enterprise and Wasp from the Pacific campaigns were sent to help the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. These ships could cross the Atlantic in six days.

Immediately after cessation of hostilities Lawrence Literal was able to meet his brother-in-law in Vienna, Austria. They met at a USO show that featured red Skelton and Jerry Kalona. He also visited the Riviera and Hitler’s mountain retreat in the Alps. On the way back they had an accident in the jeep and Lawrence went through the windshield. When they took him to the hospital one of the doctors recognized him, it was the same medical unit that had treated his broken shoulder in England following his bicycle accident. His trip home was later than most, January 1946 on a Kaiser Liberty Ship. The trip over was rough and he was glad to be back on US soil. He was discharged at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

#### BACK HOME

The trip home was often accomplished on smaller transports, and the going was pretty rough. Red Hinkel was sick for five days during the trip, yet the sight of New York Harbor and the beautiful Statue of Liberty beckoned him home. He saw his year and a half old son for the first time in New York. Art St. Germain’s trip home took quite a bit longer - 21 days! Dewitt Scarborough returned to his home state of North Carolina where he was discharged at Fort Bragg. He considered re-enlisting until he got home to his family - that changed his mind. He did stay in the reserves and got out 15 days before the Korean War began. Paul Remillard came home in November and stayed in the reserves for 20 years in New Hampshire. Wallace Bolton came back with the 83rd Infantry

Division. Steve Giacobelli said "all thoughts were on home" - remember most of these men were only 20-25 years old. Being away from home for four to five years was difficult for all of them.

The War Department provided "helpful" advice in the form of Pamphlet 21-4, "Going Back to Civilian Life". This small book of wisdom for the returning veteran included advice on jobs, the "G.I. Bill of Rights", and a few admonishments. Included was a caution about wearing your uniform during your return to your hometown, "...act in such a way as to reflect credit upon the uniform of your county. A lot of your buddies are still wearing it. Don't spoil things for them".

Roy McMahan was delayed by a long shore man's strike and he thought he "would never get home". He was discharged at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, now home of the famous General George S. Patton Armor Museum. The Army provided each man with a certificate of their honorable discharge, a "Report of Separation", and a "Separation Qualification Record" that listed the Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that he qualified for during the war. Dan Hale and Larry Hornings' records are provided as examples (Figures 1 and 2). The MOS listing was often used to enter the civilian work force in skilled industrial jobs.

Wayne Cruser was one of the few men remaining from the 945th FAB when the colors of the 945th FAB were struck for the last time at Camp Miles Standish near Boston. He kept a set of index cards of the remaining men that contained a summary of each man's service during the war, several of which were used to prepare this history of the 945th FAB.

## EPILOGUE

The men of the 945th returned to the United States to families, children, and a country that was on the verge of a period of tremendous growth and change. Some went to college on the G.I. Bill, others went to work in trades such as steel and tire manufacturing. Still others went back to farms. They raised families and contributed in communities across our nation. The memories they took with from the war were of and their suffering and sacrifice, and most of these memories were known only to those that had served with them. They served with dignity and courage so that the children of the United States, Britain, and even our vanquished foes could live the following half-century in relative peace and tranquility. But one task remained that was unknown to most men of the 945th. After four years their first casualty, Charlie Schwarz, was returned home to his parents in Philadelphia. On Friday Evening, 17 December, 1948, the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin contained an article on page G-41 entitled "18 Heros Back from the War Will Get Final Honors Here". Among those listed was Charlie:

*Services for Corporal Charles W. Schwarz will be held at 2 P.M. tomorrow at L.S. Hagerman, State Road and Hazel av., Upper Darby. Interment will be in Arlington Cemetery. He died in France on September 12, 1944. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Schwarz, of 67 N. State Road, Upper Darby.*

The men listed with Charlie died for their country in places like New Caledonia, France, Germany, and Belgium. And so the war finally ended for the 945th Field Artillery Battalion much the way it began, with Charlie Schwarz, the only son of an American family being laid to rest in his native soil. "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).



Figure 1  
Sgt. Dan Hale's Honorable Discharge



### Honorable Discharge

*This is to certify that*

DAN HALE 20 444 516 Sergeant

Battery C 670th Field Artillery Battalion

**Army of the United States**

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military  
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest  
and Faithful Service to this country.*

*Given at* SEPARATION CENTER  
Camp Gordon Ga

*Date* 26 October 1945


A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter M. Lask", is written over a horizontal line.

WALTER M LASK  
Major Inf

Figure 2  
Cpl. Lawrence Horning's Separation Qualification Record

22-19

# Army of the United States



## SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL				MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS			
HORNING LAWRENCE A				10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY	
2. ARMY SERIAL NO.	3. GRADE	4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.					
35 522 543	Cpl			3 1/2	Pvt	Basic Eng. FA 521	
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State) Box 105 RD 1 Awater, Portage Co., Ohio				7	Pvt	Gun Crewman. Med. Artillery 864	
				2	PFC	Telephone Oper. Fld. 650	
				12	Cpl	Scout 761	
				10	Cpl	Survey & Inst. Man 228	
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE				7. DATE OF SEPARATION		8. DATE OF BIRTH	
18 Nov 42				2 Nov 45		6 May 22	
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION							
Indiantown Gap, Pa.							
SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS							
13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION  SURVEY, INSTRUMENT MAN:  With field artillery battery in European Theater of Operations, computed ranges and firing data for use by battery. Used plane table, alidade, compass, protractor and firing tables to determine ranges, elevations. Assisted in aiming and firing gun in combat.							

## TAPS - THE SOLDIERS FINAL FAREWELL

Memorial Day was originally observed as an occasion for decorating the graves of soldiers killed during the Civil War. However, since World War I, Memorial Day has been a day to commemorate those people who died in all wars. If you have attended a Memorial Day observance, you have heard the lonely bugle call of "Taps". The composer of Taps was the Union General David Butterfield, and he said of the bugle call, "It brings down the curtain on the soldiers day and upon the soldiers life". Two versions of Taps are:

*Fades the light  
And afar  
Goes the day,  
Cometh night;  
And a star  
Leadeth all  
to their rest.*

*When your last  
Day is past,  
From afar  
Some bright star  
O'er your grave  
Watch will keep,  
While you sleep  
With the brave.*

General Butterfield was a Medal of Honor recipient and composed Taps one night in the hopes it would comfort the men under his command. Their morale had sunk to a new low during the heavy fighting near Richmond, Virginia. Their hopes for an early end to the Civil War and reunions with their wives and families had been dashed when they were informed that help would not be coming to them. Dug in for the night, General Butterfield, without knowing a note of music, composed what we know today as Taps.

The next morning Butterfield summoned the brigade bugler and hummed the melody he had composed the night before. After a few attempts, Oliver W. Norton, the bugler, had mastered the call. That evening, at nightfall, Norton played Taps officially for the first time. Oliver Norton was later to write about the reaction to Taps. He wrote, "The music was beautiful on that still summer night, and was heard beyond the limit of the Butterfield brigade as it echoed through the valleys. The next morning, buglers from other brigades came to visit and inquire about the new Taps and how to sound it". Later in the same campaign, Taps was used for the first time in connection with a military funeral. The Army officially adopted Taps in 1874, and by 1900 the other services followed suit.

Taps is sounded at 2300 hours, but prior to this at 2245 hours the call "Tattoo" is sounded as a reminder to the soldier to go to quarters and that his day is about to end, prior to his rest. Taps, the lullaby for the living soldier, in death his requiem. An additional version of Taps is:

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Fading light dims the sight,  
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright,  
From a-far, drawing nigh, falls the night.*

*Dear one rest, in the west,  
Sable night lulls the day on her breast,  
Sweet good night, Now away to thy rest.*

*Day is done, gone the Sun,  
From the hills, from the fields, from the sky,  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Day is done, gone the Sun,  
From the lake, from hills, from the sky,  
Rest in peace, soldier brave, God is nigh.*

*Soldier rest, gently pressed,  
To the calm Mother Earth's waiting breast,  
Duty done, like the Sun going west.*

*Starry bright, be your flight,  
To the goal of the soul, shining white,  
God is near, have no fear in his light.*

*Sleep and dream, every beam,  
Of the stars brings you peace, as they gleam,  
Peace and rest with the blest sleep and dream!*

Contributed by Lt. Col. (Ret) George Buck

## APPENDICES

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Appendix A  
A Battery Roster <sup>1</sup>

George R. Mitchell  
Crawford K. Pittard  
Jimmie J. Powell  
Henry F. Ashworth  
Acie C. McAda  
Carlton Carruth  
Lawson B. Owen  
T.B. Goddard  
Roy S. McMahan  
Lester Cummings  
Robert T. Witt  
Eugene H. Robinson  
Joy H. Cannon  
Leo Flood  
Leland L. Rice  
Fred W. Carruth  
Eugene J. Wright  
James A. Lazenby  
Cecil N. Jarrell  
Lee R. Smith  
Thomas Brackenridge  
Arthur L. Vass  
Ernest L. Strabley  
Ralph E. Call  
John Ritter  
Allen Lindsey  
Clem M. Harris  
John J. Herman  
Zack Chavis  
Freddie V. Blaha  
Lester P. Tamagno  
George W. Wesley  
Enous C. Oliver  
Anthony L. Loverme  
Harold S. Compton  
Fred W. Lyons  
David G. Roderigues  
Bennie L. Bowen  
Charles L. Beerle  
William L. Palm  
Elvin O. Bower  
Preston E. Blaylock

Allen D. Moss  
Fletcher S. Padgett  
Osborn A. Boles  
Woodrow Barber  
Raymond R. Altermose  
Homer Dillard  
Francis L. Kocher  
Gerald D. Varner  
Luke W. Byerly  
David M. Toledo  
Johnie G. Massey  
Vance A. Martin  
Carol G. Weed  
Paul Adkins  
Guy Ray  
Henry O. Medlin  
J.C. Howard  
Leonard L. Ash  
Allen C. Edgar  
Heman E. Hilliard  
James W. Brennan  
Bernhard Berlund  
George L. Allen  
John D. Craver  
Charles T. Shea  
George A. Buck  
Hugh B. Millard  
Oliver Q. Bates  
Jimmie E. Smallwood  
Warren E. Jones  
Chester M. Bunt  
Gordon H. Mitchell  
Lee F. Cooper  
Clarence A. Thompson \*  
John J. Bush  
Jerome M. Bauer  
Marvin L. Richardson  
Jessie E. Sellers  
David D. Sharpe  
James A. Nuzza  
Foster B. Miller  
Garvis W. Clark

Frank W. Seabolt  
Grady C. Reed  
Berry Edsom  
Richard K. Bish  
Philip A. Fusetti  
Emitt Bower  
Harold Gardner  
Robert Van Wey  
John F. Stewart  
Alphonse J. Vezzolo  
John C. Brooks  
Stanley J. Rossol  
Frank C. Greene  
Howard D. Ramsey  
Harold S. Dowd  
Walter H. Adelman  
Roy F. Blair  
Homer W. Skaggs  
Raymond B. Malick  
Jack P. Kilgore  
Herbert E. Card  
Fred L. Vermillion  
Jesse J. Barron  
Fred Bell  
Richard Webster  
Laurence W. Long  
Lamar G. Dearing  
Robert A. Benedict  
Edward McBryde  
John J. McDevitt  
Enos C. Oliver  
Harold K. Reese  
Carl R. Bailey  
Richard C. Boyer  
Johnie G. Dawkins

1 - List Provided by Henry  
Ashworth

\* - Killed In Action

Appendix B  
B Battery Roster<sup>1</sup>

Joseph R. Aderholt, Jr.  
Donald E. Beard  
George Binok  
Louis R. Bottieri  
John J. Bovino  
Alden C. Carlson  
Miles F. Chancellor  
Anthony Cioffi, Jr.  
Herbert V. Cox  
Robert R. Cowgill  
Dale Curfman  
Gale Davis  
Louis A. Dezelan  
Andrew J. Dobrin  
Stephen J. Dulik \*  
Arnold Esposti  
Robert W. Evans  
John H. Fite  
Richard H. Fleming  
Leo C. Garell  
LeRoy W. Gechter  
Wallace W. Gerren  
Don P. Giovagnoli  
Raymond G. Gless, Sr.  
Arnold H. Gothard  
Leon Hafer  
James E. Hansen  
Gus R. Hoff, Jr.  
Leonard T. Jones  
Philip E. Joseph  
William Kepinski  
John S. Langston

Paul W. Linz  
Lawrence J. Literal  
Earl Martin  
Paul Mehard  
Clarence J. Mitchum  
James McClanahan  
Wilbur J. Mohan  
Richard Monroe  
Martin F. Moore  
Robert J. Mullen  
Dewitt T. Scarborough  
John M. Scott  
J.C. Shiflet  
Charley F. Shivers, Jr.  
George W. Shumate  
George S. Soles  
Wilbur L. Stafford  
George W. Stancliff  
Edwin L. Stover  
Clinton H. Swain  
Aubrey L. Wiseman

1 - From 945th Mailing Lists

\* - Killed in Action

# Appendix C C Battery Roster<sup>1</sup>

Albrecht, Charles J. \*  
Albright, John E.  
Amschler, Rudolph A.  
Arrico, Augustus M.  
Bauer, Jerome M.  
Berger, Dorance C.  
Blaser, Thomas E.  
Blosser, Charles E.  
Bolton, Wallace L.  
Bowman, Edgar D.  
Brewer, Glenn L.  
Brinkley, Thomas B.  
Brown, Thomas C.  
Buedel, Walter J.  
Carter, Clarence  
Chaney, Carlton C.  
Cruser, Wayne R. #  
Davis, Walter C.  
Edge, Robert R.  
Frisina, Leonard F.  
Gallagher, Richard E.  
Gliebe, Rheinhard H.  
Glover, Jesse W.  
Guyton, Arthur G.  
Hale, Dan  
Hallock, Joseph D.  
Harding, Hudson H.  
Harris William H.  
Herda, Steve W.  
Hodnett, William J. \*  
Holliday, Robert W. \*  
Hoover, Fred W. #  
Horning, Lawrence A.  
Jakes, Dan H.  
Jones, Rancel M.  
Kehner, Walter A.  
Keller, Edward A.  
Kelter, Arthur C.  
Kent, Jack D.  
Kline, Albert \*  
Kline, Walter J.  
Koncelik, Lawrence  
Kretzman, Charles P.  
Krick, Russel A.

Laurenti, Tetto #  
Leist, Chester W. \*  
Liliental, Joseph  
Lincoln, Donald W.  
Linstrun,  
Long, Harry J.  
Lopez, Daniel M.  
Lounsbury, Ford L.  
Mabbutt, Timothy N. \*  
Mackey, Fred C.  
Marrara, Philip M.  
Marsh, John R. \*  
Martchek, Eugene  
Martin, Herbert L.  
McMillan, Otis L.  
McNeely, Victor B.  
Melvin, William O.  
Miller, Harvey R. \*  
Miller, Henry W.  
Miller, Jesse K. \*  
Mitchell, Spurgeon C.  
Mode, Floyd D.  
Modlin, Robert, W.  
Molloy, William J.  
Montini, Anthony F.  
Moore, George W.  
Morris, Cecil E.  
Mullis, Randolph D.  
Myers, Lucian D.  
Maypaver, John H. #  
O'Dell, Russel S. \*  
Oliver, Farish H. \*  
Parkerson, Arthur E.  
Payton, Henry T. \*  
Phillips, Marcus F.  
Porambo, Stanley J. #  
Prine, Howard  
Rabitsch, Horace, J.  
Ralco, Edward J.  
Reinhold, Martin H.  
Remillard, Paul F.  
Riley, Carl H. #  
Roddy, Roy  
Seagraves, Marion A.

Smith, Ralph R. #  
Spurling, Charlie T. #  
Stancliff, William A.  
Starnes, Samuel P.  
St. Clair, Floyd D. \*  
St. Germain, Arthur J.  
Street, Murrel F.  
Tapia, Elmo G. #  
Teagle, Marion D.  
Venechanos, James #  
Wall, Curtis F. #  
Walbeck, Edward J.  
Walker, Roscoe F.  
Watson, Clyde W. #  
Webster, Richard B.  
Werth, Everett E.  
Williams, Gordon O. \*  
Williams, Paul W. \*  
Worley, Milton C.  
Wolfenden, Harry R.

## Replacements

Angevine, Ernest  
Bagwell, John T.  
Beaulieu, Sylvie S.  
Burkelca, John  
Byrne, John F.  
Captain, Michael L.  
Castiglia, Paul R.  
Coffelt, Kenneth L.  
Cossa, Eugene G.  
Cranmer, Holdod D.  
Crewey, Giles W.  
Crist, Edmund  
Crowell, Leroy M.  
Dale, Robert D.  
Davies, Harold R.  
Dean, William F.  
DeFillippo, Pasquale  
DeSanders, Phillip C.  
Dito, Vito F.  
Flynn, Charles E.  
Fredrickson, Louis A.

Fry, Benjamin F.  
Gosselin, William H.  
Gray, Billy T.  
Green, Calvin W.  
Hanes, Jack C.  
Hise, William W.  
Janisky, Joseph T.  
Janow, Johnie C.  
Justice, Jesse E.  
Kilboten, Bruce P.  
Large, William O.  
Laubenheimer, Fred  
Lang, Alvin J.  
Milhbauer, Russell  
Ramsey, Vernon H.  
Tot, Louis J.  
Wells, Thomas S.  
Youmans, Corren P.

1 -Information  
provided by Wayne  
Cruser

\* - Killed in Action

# - One of the original  
group of 12 men that  
left Camp Gruber and  
remained with the  
945th until the  
battalion returned to  
camp Miles Standish in  
1945 to "Strike the  
Colors"

Appendix D  
Service Battery Roster <sup>1</sup>

Franklin B. Black  
John T. Cope, Jr.  
Joel B. McGhin  
Gordon D. Taylor  
Paul Mattern  
Marshall S. Ward  
Joseph A. Milberger  
Wilburn Thomas  
Elmer Miller  
Frank G. Lovell  
Raymond Draxler  
Creed E. Tollett  
Samuel S. Farmer  
Wilson R. Boss  
James E. Bange  
Thomas C. Poplin  
Joseph B. Martin  
Roy F. Chappie  
Sal J. Marcantonio  
James G. Saunders  
Cecil W. Berry  
William F. Cook  
Everett L. Sanders  
William N. Rush  
Gino J. Ricci  
John J. Morris  
James E. Price  
Grady K. Boger  
Patrick J. Mangan  
Frank H. Cofflin  
Russell Brown  
John Prokop  
Homer E. Dixon

Jack E. Dempsey  
Preston C. Davis  
Stephen N. Dulabahn  
Patric C. Bodoh  
T.J. Mahoney  
M.W. Cato  
Roy C. Elliot  
Michael S. Mina  
Joseph E. III  
Stanley J. Gembka  
James Xepoleas  
Orie Bonnell  
James F. Looney  
Walter C. Silver  
Esau Woodall  
John E. Stroupe  
K.E. Durden  
Albert D. Ray  
Pedro Servantes  
Steve J. Giacovelli  
James Walker  
K.M. Arnold  
Charles E. Anger  
William M. Skinner  
Kenneth C. Brehm  
Harwood H. Stuart  
Thomas F. Flanagan  
Wilbur B. Reed  
Creed E. Tollett  
Bernard Good  
Donald Giovangnoli  
Orie Bonnell  
Arnold L. Key

1 - Original list provided by Harvey Beall

None Killed in Action

Appendix E  
Headquarters Roster<sup>1</sup>

Archie F. Emerson  
James E. Hanson  
Wilbur DeLoach  
Samuel S. Gray, Jr.  
James P. Clay  
Levi M. Rigney  
Gooding H. Bean  
William C. Griffin  
Houston H. Richardson  
Robert Hesson  
Andrew Bincarowsky  
Thomas R. Greening  
Robert R. Grawburg  
Christopher W. Eaton, II \*  
Harvey W. Lindsay  
Clyde Kennedy  
Theron M. Strickland  
Robert A. Breitenstein  
Lowell Rutherford  
Joseph Torma  
Joseph F. Saghy  
Joseph Plas  
Sterling A. Dupree  
William O. Lindstrom  
George H. Wenzel  
Edward A. Bletzer  
Harlan F. Hill  
Von Brock  
Roosevelt Bryant  
Jack M. Carr  
Robert O. Frey  
Hugh L. Howenstine  
Howard E. Hartman  
Robert W. Hesson  
Edward W. Hinkel  
James E. Holcomb  
Carl J. Hotz  
Emerson W. Kidd  
Thomas E. Kinsella  
Billy J. Swineheart \*  
Albert F. Miller \*  
Sam Kreider

August H. Krumnow  
Jack G. Mayfield  
Donald O. McGraw  
Victor F. Paullas  
Robert S. Prather  
Charles J. Price  
Robert C. Schneider  
Fred Simpson  
Christopher C. Slone  
Willard E. Smith  
Joseph Summerour  
Donald E. Truka  
Malcolm H. Trump  
Kenneth L. Weakley  
Robert B. Worley  
James W. Wright  
William C. Bryant  
Lewis B. Carter  
Malcolm F. Cauthen  
John P. Cloney  
Ellis Davis  
Lawrence L. Grace  
Raymond L. Hall  
Jack Keel  
Clarence R. Land  
Bivalee A. Lequire  
James E. Logue \*  
Andrew Manca  
Buford H. Moyer  
Leland L. Rice  
John P. Tonin  
Laymond Tompkins  
Marvin Wade  
Wilbur L. Ward  
George H. Wenzel  
Theron M. Strickland  
Charles W. Schwarz \*  
Milton Worley

1 - Compiled from historical mailing lists and  
other sources contributed by several men

\* - Killed in Action



# Appendix F Battalion Locations<sup>1/</sup>

DATE	CITY	COUNTRY	ATTACHED
June 22	Camp Gruber	USA - Oklahoma	
June 25	Camp Myles Standish	USA - Massachusetts	
July 2	Boston Harbor	USA - Massachusetts	Departed USA
July 3	Boston	Atlantic Ocean	
July 12	Gurock	Scotland	Docked in Europe
July 14	Nuneaton	England	
August 5	Tilshhead	England	
August 9	Piddlehinton	England	
August 11	Depart Portland Harbor	England	
August 12	Ravenoville	France	Debark Utah Beach
August 13	Negreville	France	
August 14	Challes & Verney	France	
August 16	Danze	France	35th Inf Div/XII Corps
August 17	Cloyes	France	
August 18	Chateaudun	France	
August 20	Allaines	France	
August 21	Pithiviers	France	
August 22	Montargis	France	1 <sup>st</sup> Round Fired @ 1653 (A)
August 25	Chulles	France	
August 28	Troyes	France	
August 30	Mt. Villenneue	France	
August 31	Brienne-Le-Chatequ	France	
September 2	Guindre Court & Aux-Ormes	France	
September 9	Allain & Marthemont	France	
September 10	Xeuilley	France	1 <sup>st</sup> Counter-Battery Fire
September 12	Xeuilley	France	1 <sup>st</sup> Casualty-Charles Schwartz
September 13	Crevechamps	France	
September 15	Coyviller	France	
September 16	Ville-En-Vermois	France	
September 17	Nancy	France	
September 18	Bussoncourt	France	
September 23	Erbeville	France	
September 26	Moncel-Sur-Seille	France	26th Inf Div
October	Moncel-Sur-Seille Area	France	35th & 80th Inf Div/6th Arm
November 10	Vic-Sur-Seille	France	
November 11	Morville-Les-Vic	France	
November 14	Chateau Vous	France	
November 20	Zarbeling	France	
November 21	Nobling	France	
November 24	Hittersheim	France	4th Arm Div

DATE	CITY	COUNTRY	ATTACHED
November 26	Romlfing	France	
November 27	Vecherswiller	France	
November 29	Gungwiller	France	
December 5	Sarre-Union	France	26th Infantry Division
December 6	Ormingen	France	
December 9	Achen	France	87th Infantry Division
December 13	Gros Rederching	France	
December 18	Erching	France	
December 21	Departed Erching	France	To the Bulge
December 22	Nommern	Luxembourg	
December 23	Kobembourg	Luxembourg	5th Infantry Division
December 26	Consdorf	Luxembourg	4th/87th/76th Inf Div
December 31	Consdorf	Luxembourg	Bombed by US P-47
January	Consdorf Area	Luxembourg	
January 30	Michaelsdorf	Luxembourg	
February 12	Echternach	Luxembourg	
February 26	Ferschweiler	Germany	
March 1	Eisenach	Germany	
March 3	Idesheim	Germany	
March 7	Speicher	Germany	
March 8	Bienfeld	Germany	
March 9	Landscheid	Germany	
March 11	Neuerburg	Germany	
March 13	Benel	Germany	
March 14	Faid	Germany	89th Infantry Division
March 15	Beusen	Germany	
March 17	Bullay	Germany	11th Armored Division
March 19	Gribelschied	Germany	
March 20	Wies-Oppenheim	Germany	
March 21	Dalhein	Germany	
March 23	Oppenheim	Germany	5th Inf Div Rhine Crossing
March 24	Oppenheim	Germany	Crossed the Rhine
March 25	Morfelden	Germany	6th Armored Division
March 26	New Isenburg	Germany	
March 27	Offenbach	Germany	
March 29	Langenselbold	Germany	11th Armored Division
March 30	Lieblös	Germany	
March 31	Kressenbach	Germany	
April 2	Sulsfeld	Germany	
April 3	Oberstadt	Germany	
April 4	Suhl	Germany	
April 7	Seigritz	Germany	
April 9	Hilburghausen	Germany	
April 10	Oberlauter	Germany	
April 12	Schmolz	Germany	

DATE	CITY	COUNTRY	ATTACHED
April 13	Stadt Steinach	Germany	
April 18	Neudrossenfeld	Germany	
April 19	Grafenwohr	Germany	
April 22	Pfeimd	Germany	
April 23	Cham	Germany	
April 24	Viechtach	Germany	
April 26	Unt-Grainet	Germany	
April 30	Kaaburg	Germany	
May 1	Peilstein	Austria	
May 2	Feuchtenbach	Austria	
May 3	Marning	Austria	
May 4	Gramastetten	Austria	
May 5	Aigen	Austria	
May 6	Irrwald	Czechoslovakia	
May 8	V-E DAY		
May 9	War Ends at 0241!		
May 14	Deggendorf	Germany	
May 25	Straubing	Germany	

HQ Locations from the following sources:

Notes Provided by Robert S. Prather

HQ Sheet Provided by George Buck

War Diary of the 945th Field Artillery Battalion in the ETO

Official Records

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Appendix G  
155 mm M1 Howitzer and M-5 Tractor  
Diagrams and Data

182

AD

# TM 9-331

WAR DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL MANUAL

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## 155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1, M1A2

**RESTRICTED DISSEMINATION OF RESTRICTED MATTER—**

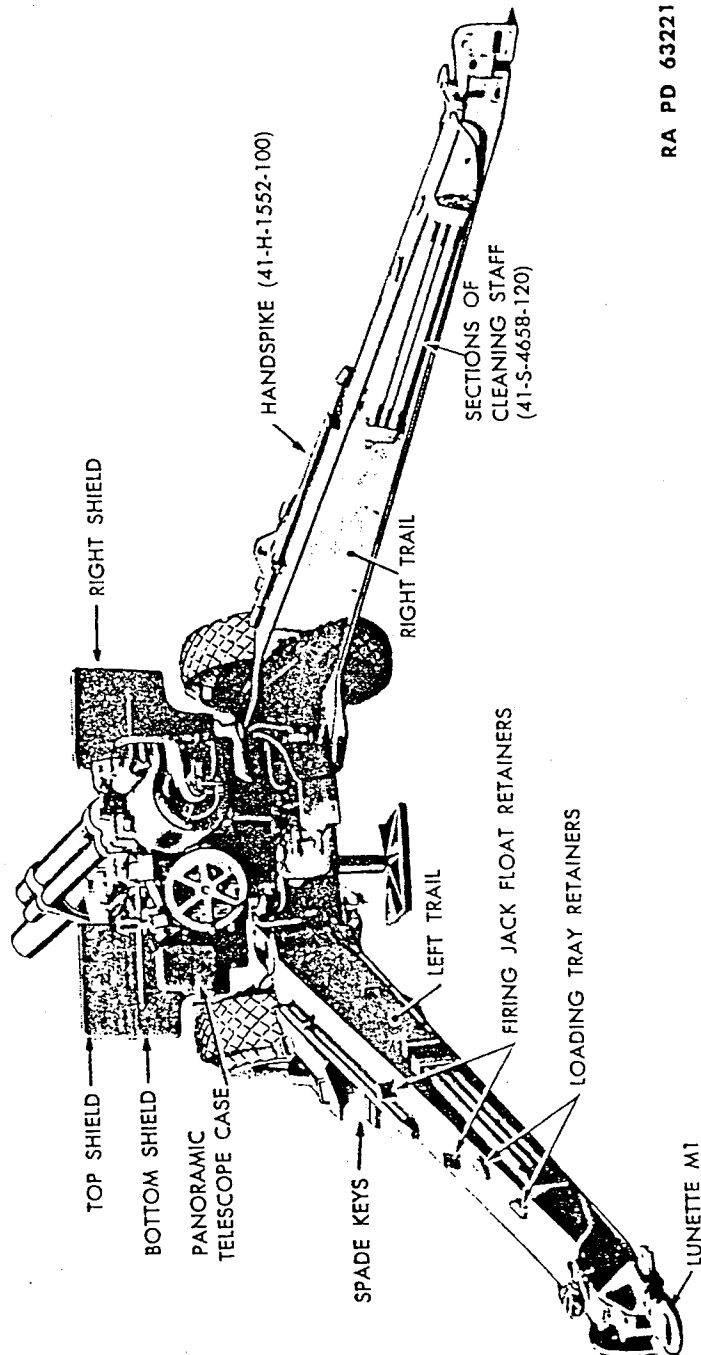
The information contained in restricted documents and the essential characteristics of restricted materiel may be given to any person known to be in the service of the United States and to persons of undoubted loyalty and discretion who are cooperating in Government work, but will not be communicated to the public or to the press except by authorized military public relations agencies. (See also paragraph 23, AR 380-5, 15 March 1944.)

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WAR DEPARTMENT • 22 NOVEMBER 1943

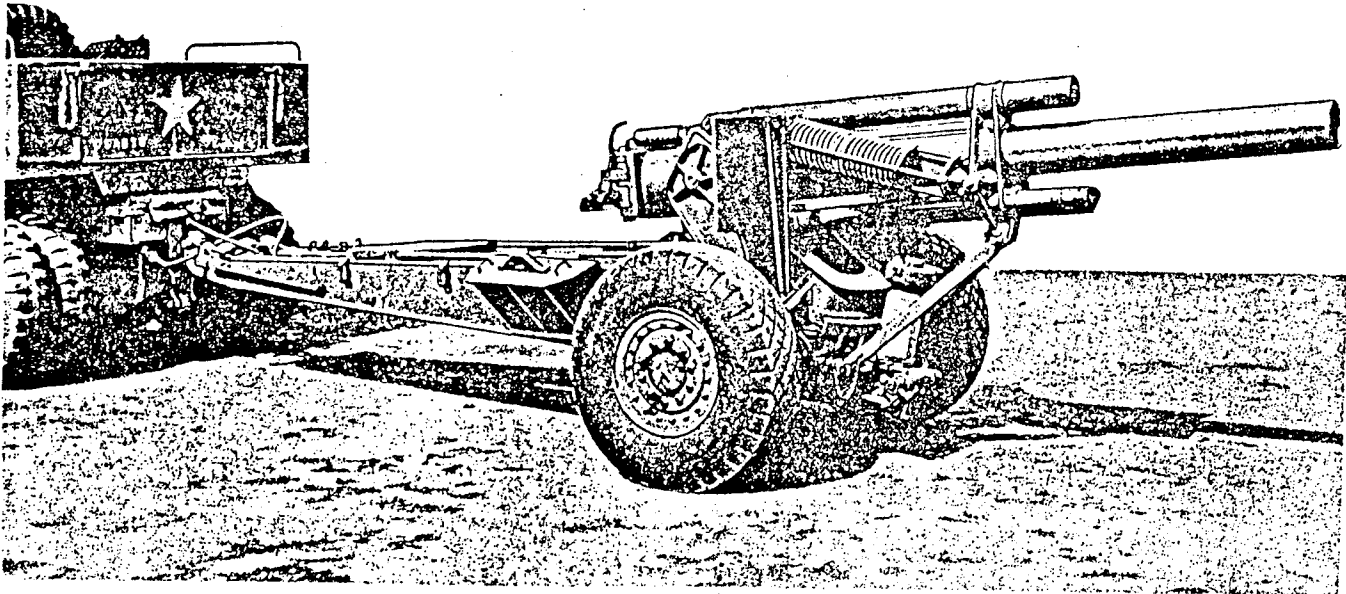


155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1A1



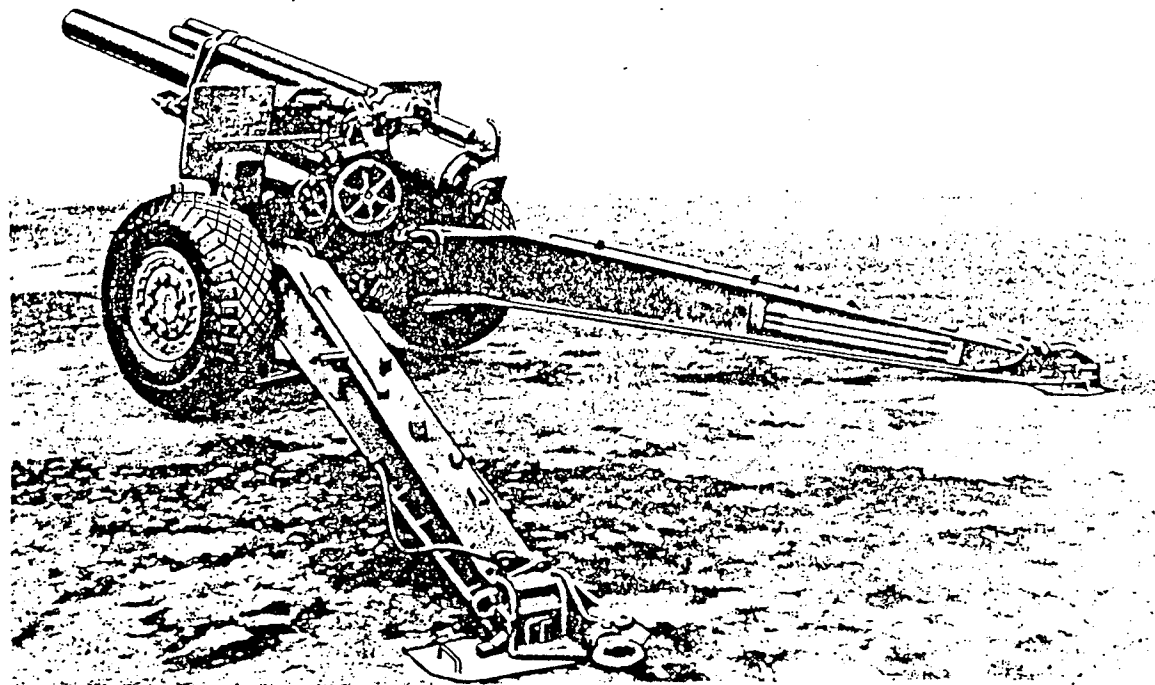
RA PD 63221

Figure 21 — 155-mm Howitzer M1 and 155-mm Howitzer Carriage M1A1 — Rear View — Trails Spread



RA PD 63203

Figure 3 — 155-mm Howitzer M1 and 155-mm Howitzer Carriage M1A1 — Traveling Position  
— Limbered to Prime Mover



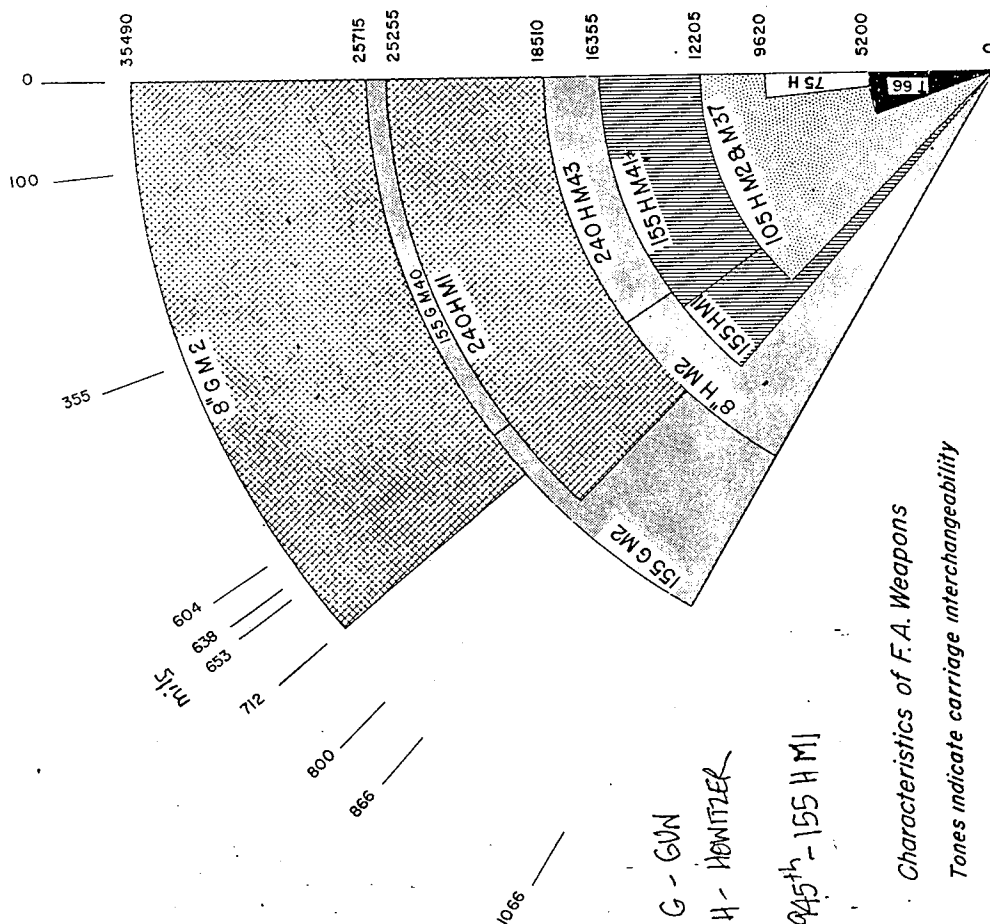
RA PD 63202

Figure 2 — 155-mm Howitzer M1 and 155-mm Howitzer Carriage M1A1 — Firing Position  
— Three-quarter Rear View

INTRODUCTION

		LIGHT		MED.	HEAVY				LIGHT
		75 mm HOW M 8	105 mm HOW M2A2 (T) M37 (SP)	155 mm HOW M1 (T) M41 (SP)	8" HOW M2 (T) M43 (SP)	240 mm HOW M1 (T)	155 mm GUN M2 (T) M40 (SP)	8" GUN M2 (T)	4.5" ROCKET LAUNCHER T 66
WT. OF PIECE & CARRIAGE IN TRAY POSITION (TONS)	T	.72	2.49	6.35	15.2	H. 23.86 C. 25.55	15.1	G. 26.31 C. 25.55	64
	SP	—	19.75	21.3	40.0	—	40.5	—	—
TIME TO EMPLACE (MINUTES)	T	3	3	5	30-360	60-360	30-360	60-360	2
	SP	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
WEIGHT OF PROJECTILE (POUNDS)	—	14.7	33	96.1	200	360	95.1	240	42
RATE OF FIRE (RDS./MIN)	MAX	6	4	2	1.5	0.75	2	0.75	16
	NORM	3	2	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	16
EFFECTIVE AREA OF BURST (YARDS)	LAT	30	50	60	80	100	60	80	50
	RN	10	15	18	20	25	20	20	15
MAX. ELEV. (MILS.)	T	800	1180	1120	1156	1157	1126	890	800
	SP	—	800	978	800	—	800	—	—

TAS, Ft. Sill, Okla., (2-6-49--1,000) 3506 15172



# INTRODUCTION

## b. General Data Pertaining to 155-mm Howitzer Carriage M1 and M1A1:

Carriage, complete with weapon (without covers or accessories)	12,700 lb
Spade	184 lb
Firing jack float	85 lb
Wheel, complete with tire and tube	615 lb
Right shield	79 lb
Top and bottom (left) shield	86 lb
Effort required to lift off the ground:	
Coupled trails, for limbering to prime mover	552 to 371 lb
One trail without spade	349 to 198 lb
One trail with spade	390 to 249 lb

### Recoil mechanism:

Model	M6
Type	Hydropneumatic
Recoil at maximum elevation	41 in.
Recoil at minimum elevation	60 in.
Weight	1,582 lb

### Dimensions:

Width of track, center to center of wheels	82 in.
Maximum width, traveling position (outside walls of tires)	96 in.
Maximum height, traveling position (top of right shield)	71 in.
Height of center line of bore from ground, zero elevation	50 in.
Length of howitzer and carriage, limbered	24 ft
Road clearance (bottom of firing jack housing)	9 in.
Road clearance (lunette in traveling position)	29 in.

### Maneuvers:

Range of elevation	1,156 mils (65 deg)
NOTE: Maximum elevation and depression are dependent upon emplacement of spades.	
Range of traverse	866 mils (48.7 deg)
Traverse to left of midposition	418 mils (23.5 deg)
Traverse to right of midposition	448 mils (25.2 deg)
Rate of traverse per turn of handwheel	10.3 mils (34.7 min)
Rate of elevation per turn of handwheel	14.8 mils (50 min)
Prime mover	Truck, 4-ton, 6 x 6 or Tractor, high-speed, 13-ton, M5

## 155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1

upper portions of the firing jacks from dirt and moisture. Such covers of earlier issue had no clamps. Some models are equipped with metal firing jack rack plunger top covers.

(4) **LOADING TRAY RETAINERS.** On M1A1 Carriages of late manufacture and those so modified, retainers have been welded to the tops of the trails to furnish a means of carrying the loading tray in traveling position.

(5) **TRAVELING TRAVERSING LOCKS.** On carriages of late manufacture and those so modified, plates have been welded to the top trail hinge castings and stops have been welded to the bottom plate of the top carriage. These locks prevent movement of the top carriage and tipping parts of the weapon during travel.

(6) **AIR FILTERS (AIR BRAKE).** Air filters of two different designs are used on different models. Both function and are serviced in the same manner.

(7) **PANORAMIC TELESCOPE CASE.** On carriages of late manufacture and those so modified, a panoramic telescope case auxiliary bracket has been fitted into the panoramic telescope case.

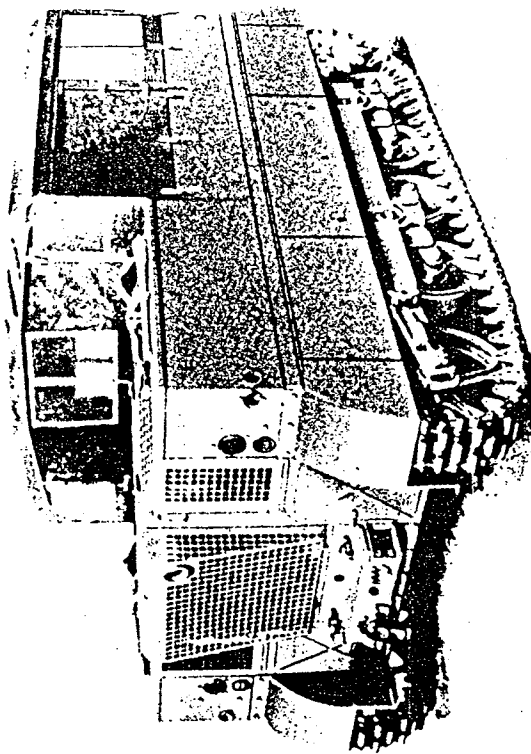
## 4. DATA.

### a. General Data Pertaining to the 155-mm Howitzer M1, M1A1

Weight of 155-mm Howitzer M1, complete	3,825 lb
Caliber	155-mm or 6.102 in.
Length of bore (in calibers)	23
Length (muzzle to rear face of breech ring)	149.2 in.
Type of breechblock	Stepped-thread, interrupted thread
Chamber capacity	725 cu in.
Muzzle velocity	1,850 ft per sec
Muzzle energy	2,260 ft-ton
Maximum powder pressure	32,000 lb per sq in.
Rifling:	
Length	113.10 in.
Number of grooves	48
Twist	Uniform, right-hand, one turn in 25 cal.
Weight of projectile	95 lb
Weight of powder charge	5.94 to 13.86 lb
Travel of projectile in tube	120.675 in.
Maximum range with supercharge	16,500 yd
Rate of fire:	
Rapid bursts	3 rounds per howitzer per min.
Prolonged firing	1 round per howitzer per min.

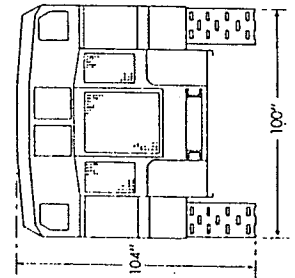
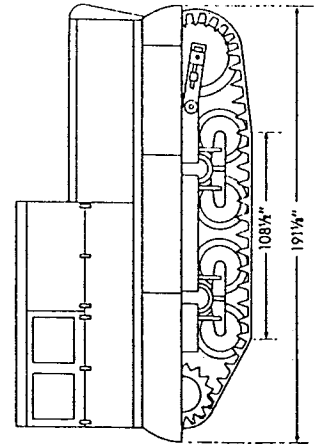
# STANDARD MILITARY MOTOR VEHICLES TRACTOR, HIGH SPEED, 13-TON, M5

Technical Manuals: TM 9-786. Parts List: SNL G-162  
Manufacturer: International Harvester Co.  
Ammunition: Carries 56 rounds, 105-mm; or 24 rounds, 155-mm; or 38 rounds, 4.5 in.



RA PD 309101

Classification: Standard  
Purpose: To tow artillery over rough terrain.



## SECTION X—TRACTORS TRACTOR, HIGH SPEED, 13-TON, M5

### GENERAL DATA

Crew.....	9
Weight.....	5,000
Payload.....	28,000 (lb)
Gross (with crew).....	(lb)
Shipping dimensions.....	(sq ft)
Track width.....	11 3/8 (in.)
Ground clearance.....	19 3/4 (in.)
Ground pressure.....	11.1 (lb per sq in.)
Electrical system.....	12 (volts)
Capacities.....	100 (gal)
Fuel, 70 octane gasoline.....	(qt)
Cooling system.....	(qt)
Crankcase (refill).....	(qt)
Brakes.....	

### PERFORMANCE

Maximum gradability.....	18 (percent)
Turning radius.....	(ft)
Fording depth.....	(in.)
Maximum vertical obstacle will climb.....	(in.)
Angle of approach.....	(deg)
Angle of departure.....	(deg)
Fuel consumption, average conditions.....	(miles per gal)
Cruising range, average conditions.....	(miles)
Maximum allowable speed.....	35 (mph)
Number of speeds forward.....	4

### ENGINE

Manufacturer.....	Continental.....	Model R6572
Type.....	In-line, 4 cycle.....	Number of cylinders
Displacement.....		(cu in.)
Governed speed.....		(rpm)
Brake horsepower.....		235

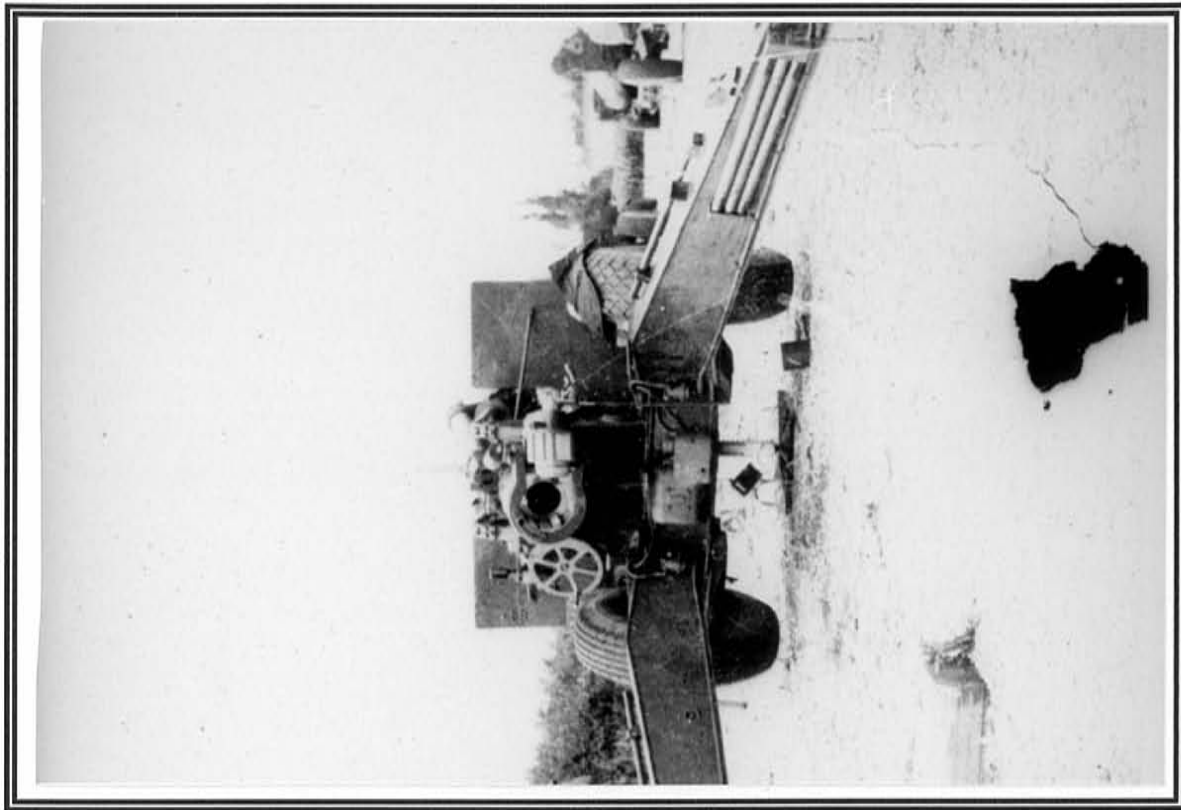
### ADDITIONAL DATA

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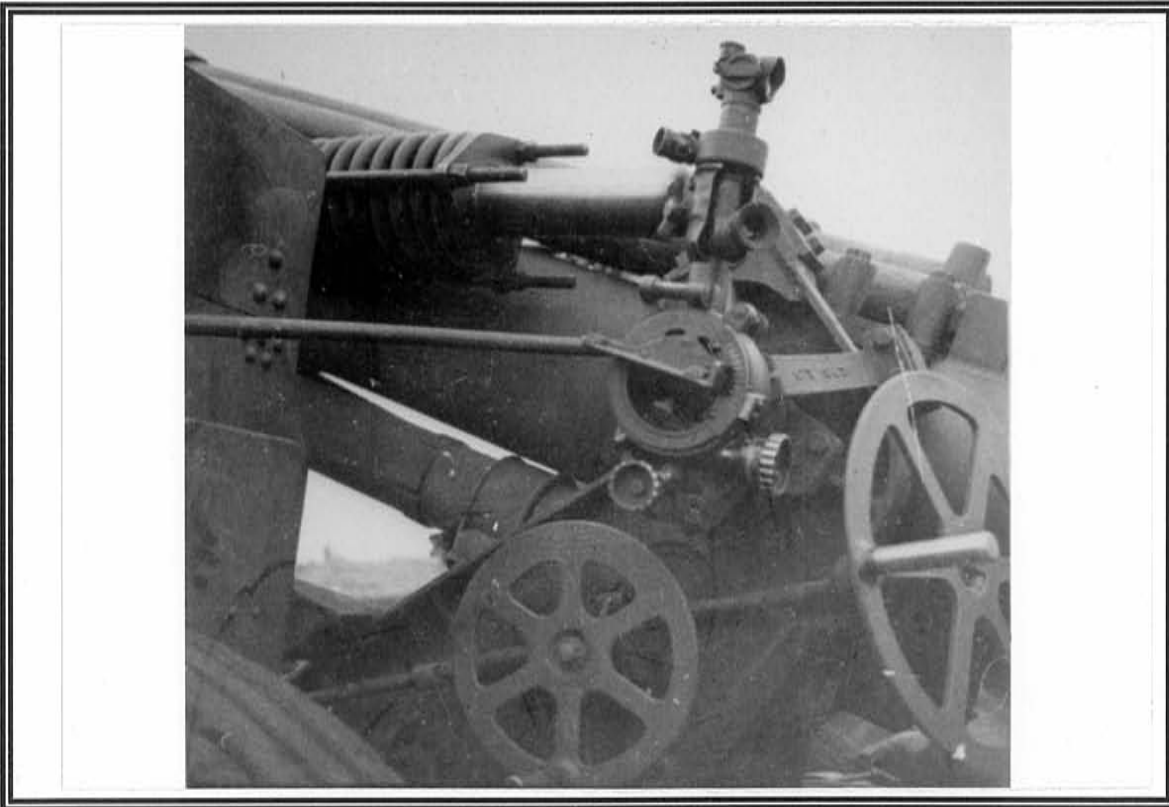


Appendix H  
Firing the Howitzer  
War Department Technical Manual TM9-331  
155-mm Howitzer M1 and 155-mm Howitzer Carriages M1 and M1A1  
22 November 1943

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155 mm M1 Howitzer with Breech Open (See Appendix G)



Panoramic Telescope M12 (top)  
Traversing (left) and Elevating (right) Mechanisms

155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1

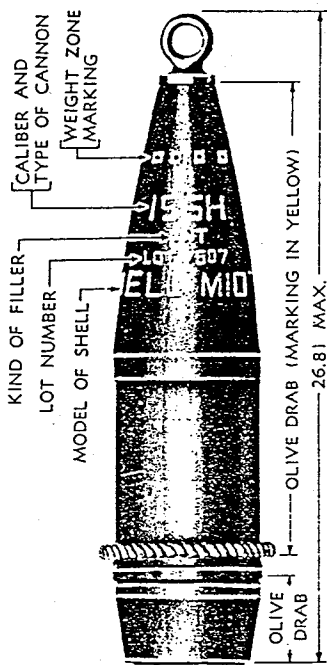


Figure 140 — SHELL, H. E., M107, Unfuzed, 155-mm How., M1 (Adapted for FUZE, P.D., M51, w/BOOSTER, M21; M51A1, w/BOOSTER, M21A1; or M51A3, w/BOOSTER, M21A2; or FUZE, Time, Mechanical, M67 or M67A1, w/BOOSTER, M21A1; or M67A2, w/BOOSTER, M21A2; or FUZE, Nose, C. P., T105, and BOOSTER, T1)

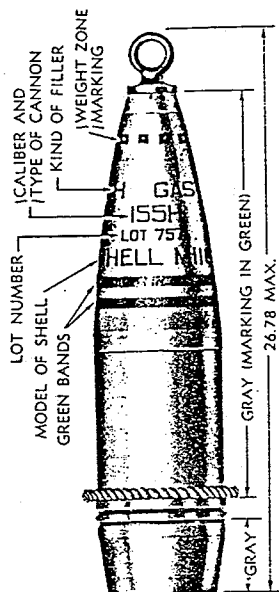


Figure 141 — SHELL, Gas, Persistent, H, M110, Unfuzed, 155-mm How., M1 (Adapted for FUZE, P.D., M51, w/BOOSTER, M21; or M51A1, w/BOOSTER, M21A1; or M51A3, w/BOOSTER, M21A2)

155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1



Figure 151 — PRIMER, Percussion, 17-grain, Mk. IIA4

155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1

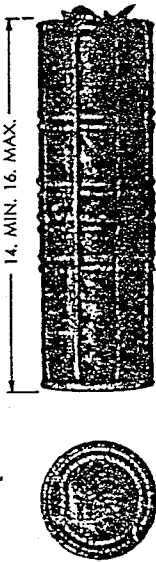


Figure 144 — CHARGE, Propelling, M3 (Green Bag), 155-mm How., M1

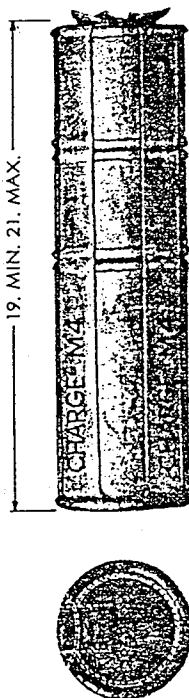


Figure 145 — CHARGE, Propelling, M4 (White Bag), 155-mm How., M1

AMMUNITION

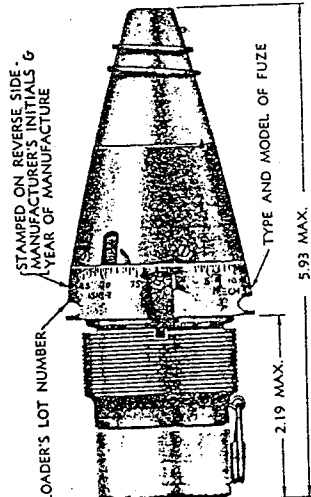
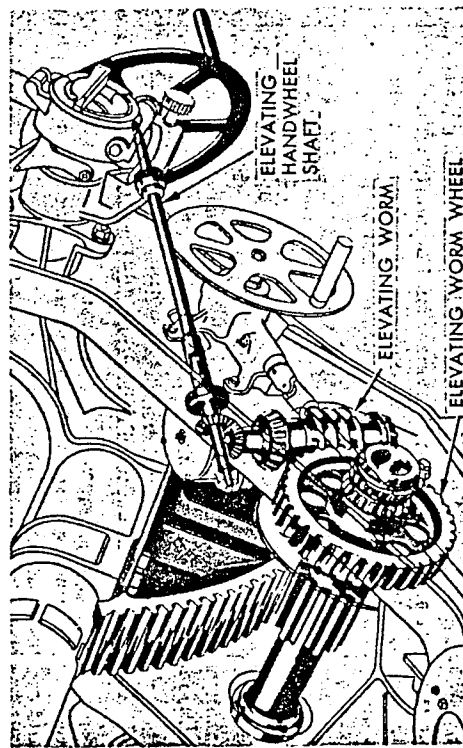
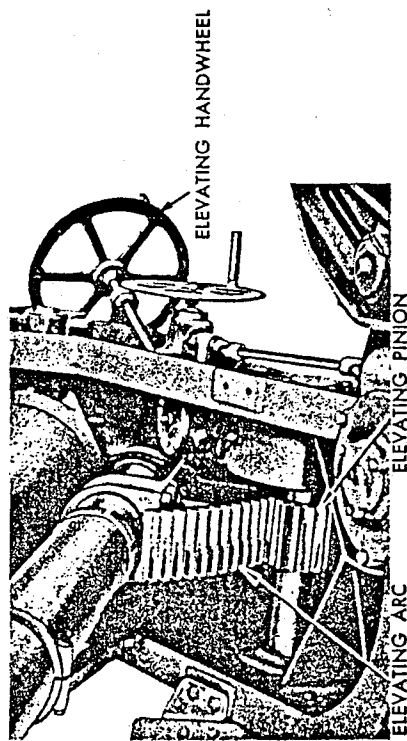


Figure 148 — FUZE, Time, Mechanical, M67 or M67A1, w/BOOSTER, M21A1

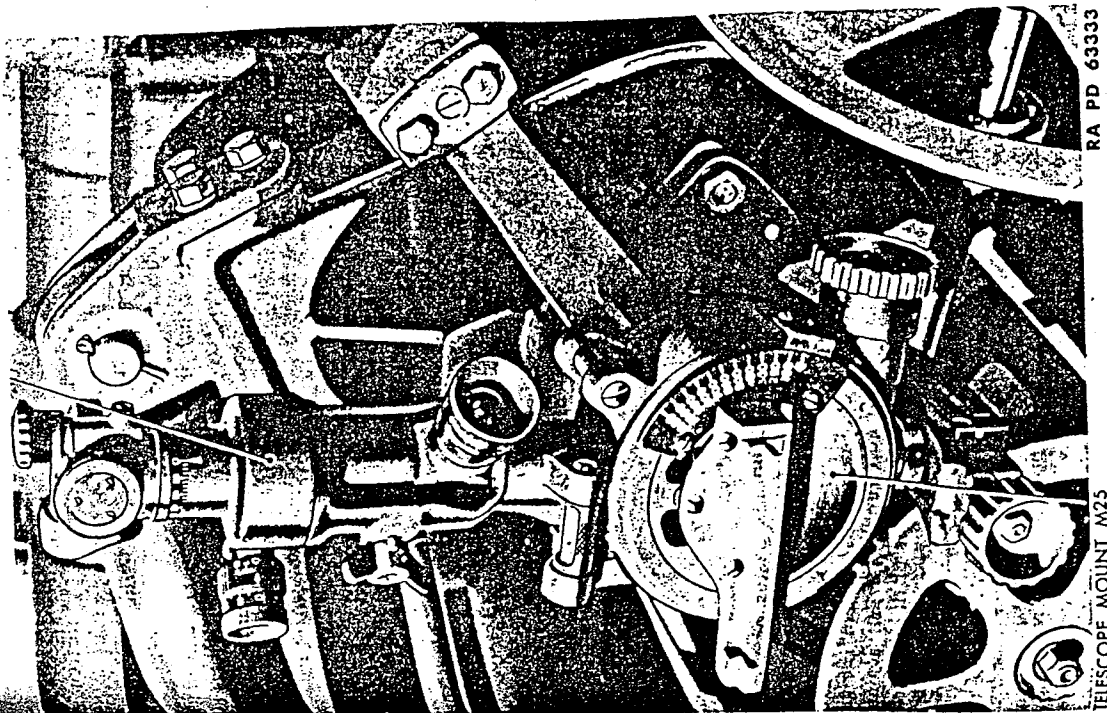
155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1



RA PD 63231  
Figure 31 — Elevating Mechanism — Assembled and Phantom Views

SIGHTING AND FIRE CONTROL EQUIPMENT

PANORAMIC TELESCOPE M12



RA PD 63333

Figure 133 — Telescope Mount M25 With Panoramic Telescope M12

155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1

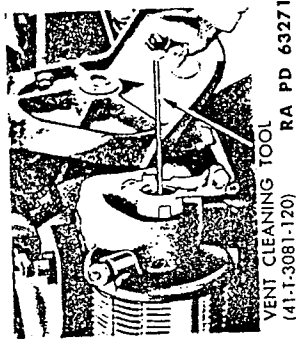


Figure 71 — Cleaning Primer Vent

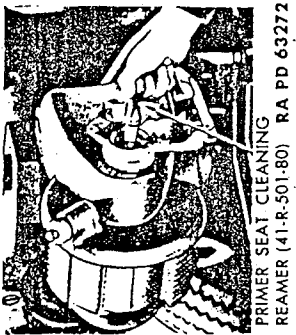


Figure 72 — Reaming Primer Seat

32. PRIOR TO FIRING.

- a. Check the replenisher and recuperator cylinder oil reserves (par. 29). When it is known that rapid fire is to take place, release oil from the replenisher until the rear end of the piston is 7½ inches (190-mm) from the rear of the replenisher. The heat of firing should bring the piston quickly to its normal position due to expansion of the oil.
- b. Inspect the bore and breech to see that no dirt or foreign matter has accumulated. If there is foreign matter, clean thoroughly and wipe dry. Normally, the bore should be wiped or cleaned to remove the coating applied after the previous firing. Examine the breechblock, primer vent, and gas-check pad. Inspect the recoil mechanism for oil leakage. Make certain that the recoil slide (the exposed bearing surface of the howitzer tube) is clean and well lubricated.

33. TO LOAD.

- a. Lower the weapon to an elevation suitable for loading (about 150 mils). Remove the Firing Mechanism M1 and open the breech. Latch the percussion hammer in the released (down) position by means of the percussion hammer locking pin.
- CAUTION:** The percussion hammer locking pin will not be drawn from its locked position, where it interferes with the upward swing of the percussion hammer, until after the breech has been closed and locked and the piece is ready to be fired. This is a safety precaution.
- b. Swab the powder chamber and breech recess. If a charge has been fired, wipe the powder residue from the obturator spindle head with a cloth or piece of waste slightly dampened with oil. Clean the

HOWITZER AND CARRIAGE



Figure 73 — Fuzing Projectile



Figure 74 — Loading Projectile



155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1



RA PD 63275

Figure 75 — Ramming Projectile

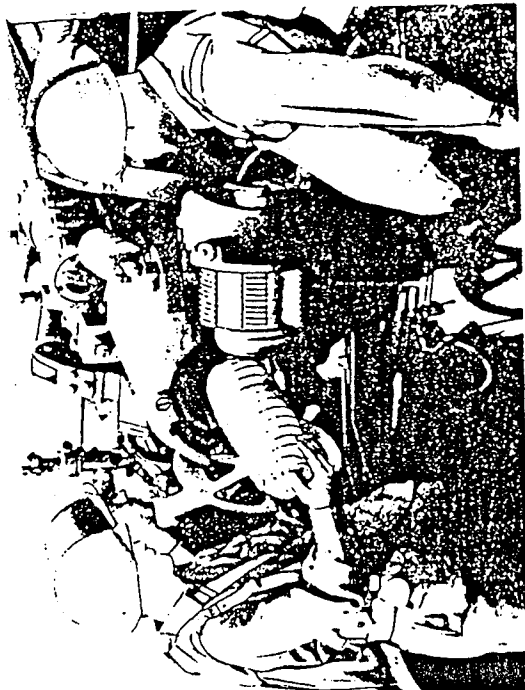
primer vent with the vent cleaning tool 41-T-3081-120 (fig. 71). Ream the primer seat with the primer seat cleaning reamer 41-R-501-80 (fig. 72). Inspect the bore for burning fragments of powder bags or other objects, and for bore injuries. In night firing, swab the bore with water.

c. **Prepare Projectile.** Verify the type, weight, and lot number, and examine carefully for defects. Remove the grommet and inspect the rotating band with special care; remove any burrs with a file. Clean the entire surface of the projectile with a dry piece of waste, or cloth. Sand or dirt on the projectile might cause premature detonation when the piece is fired and will cause undue wear on the bore.

d. **Fuze Projectile.** Unscrew the eye bolt lifting plug from the fuze socket. Insert the designated fuze, being careful that it is fitted with its felt or rubber washer. Screw it home by hand. Give the fuze its final seating with the Fuze Wrench M7A1 41-W-1596-50 (fig. 73). No great force should be used. If there is any difficulty in screwing the fuze home, the fuze should be removed and another inserted. If the same trouble is encountered with the second fuze, the shell should be rejected. Set the fuze.

e. **Load Projectile.** Bring up the prepared projectile on the loading tray 41-T-3851-260. In carrying the loading tray, grasp the handles and raise it with the front slightly above the rear. Get a

HOWITZER AND CARRIAGE



RA PD 63276

Figure 76 — Loading Propelling Charge

firm grip on the handles, as a shell may be dropped easily if the tray is not carried in the proper position. Place the lip of the tray in the breech recess. Place the loading rammer head 41-H-1826-360 squarely against the base of the projectile (fig. 74), pushing the projectile carefully until it has cleared the threads of the breech recess. Exercise extreme care that the fuze does not come in contact with anything.

f. **Ram Projectile.** Ram the projectile home with a powerful stroke (fig. 75). It is important that projectiles be rammed home with a uniform force since variations in the ramming force will cause slight variations in range. It is also important to avoid damage to the rotating bands on the projectile as such damage is likely to cause erratic flight of the projectile.

g. **Prepare Propelling Charge.** For description and preparation for firing of the propelling charge, see paragraph 87 c. Bring the prepared propelling charge up to the breech immediately after the projectile has been rammed.

**CAUTION:** An exposed propelling charge will not be near the weapon at any other time.

h. **Load Propelling Charge.** Place the charge in the chamber (fig. 76) with the igniter end to the rear, and push it in until the

155-MM HOWITZER M1 AND 155-MM HOWITZER CARRIAGES M1 AND M1A1



Figure 77 — Inserting Primer

RA PD 63277

base of the charge is flush with the rear end of the chamber. The igniter pad must come directly in front of the vent when the breech is closed to insure ignition of the charge.

- i. Close Breech. To insure transmission of the flash from the primer to the charge, the obturator spindle head should come in contact with the base of the charge when the breech is closed, must push the charge forward to its final position, and must remain in contact with it.

34. TO FIRE.

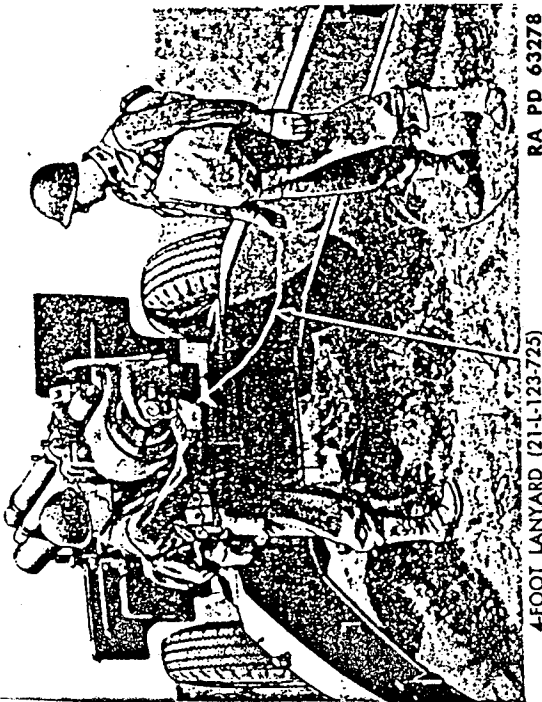
- a. Insert a percussion type primer in the Firing Mechanism M1. The primer case is inserted into the primer holder by pressing the head of the case downward firmly against the firing pin guide so that the rim of the case slides under the edges of the slot in the primer holder (fig. 77). The primer is then held in position by the pressure of the firing spring.

- b. In inserting the primer in the primer holder, the primer should be held in such a manner that no part of the hand is in front of the head of the primer. This precaution must be taken to avoid severe burn in case of premature discharge of the primer.

- c. Should the primer be slightly oversize, or the primer holder dirty, the primer will stick before it is properly seated. Force should not be exerted. Remove the primer and clean the primer holder, insert another primer.

- d. Insert the firing mechanism in the firing mechanism housing taking care that the front end of the primer has entered the obturator

HOWITZER AND CARRIAGE



4-FOOT LANYARD (21-L-123-725)

RA PD 63278

Figure 78 — Firing the Piece

handle plug. Seat the mechanism by turning the firing mechanism handle in a clockwise direction until it has contacted the firing mechanism blockhandle arm stop and has been latched. If the mechanism will not seat properly, the primer may be oversize, or its seat in the plug or in the primer holder may be dirty, or the breech may not be fully closed.

**CAUTION:** Make certain that the Firing Mechanism M1 is screwed home and is latched in position.

- e. Attach the lanyard. Draw the percussion hammer locking pin to the left and out of the path of the hammer, turning the percussion hammer locking pin knob to place the pin in locked-out position.

- f. Grasp the handle of the 4-foot lanyard 21-L-123-725 with the right hand, and without raising the hand, pull with a quick, strong pull (not a jerk) prolonged sufficiently to insure the percussion hammer hitting the firing pin (fig. 78). The lanyard will be pulled from a position as near the rear of the piece as is convenient, and sufficient out of the line of recoil to insure safety.

- g. If the long 50-foot lanyard 21-L-106 is used, it will be attached immediately before, and detached immediately after, the round is fired.

Appendix I  
945th FAB Survey Participants

No.	Btry	Name	Location
1	C	Hale, Dan	Watkinsville, Ga
2	B	Bovino, John	Troy, NY
3	A	Bish, Richard	Littlestown, PA
4	HQ	Carr, Jack	Douglasville, GA
5	HQ	Bean, Gooding	Athens, GA
6	HQ	Frey, Robert	Canton, OH
7	HQ	Worley, Milton	Lawton, OK
8	HQ	Hotz, Carl	Fremont, OH
9	C	Lounsbury, Ford	Chula Vista, CA
10	HQ	Smith, W.E.	Fremont, OH
11	B	Literal, Lawrence	Sequim, WA
12	HQ	Hesson, Robert	Hattiesburg, MS
13	SV	Giacovelli, Steve	San Francisco, CA
14	HQ	Gray, Samuel	Newtown, PA
15	HQ	Wright, James W.	Lake Isabella, CA
16	C	Bolton, Wallace	Palm City, FL
17	C	Horning, Larry	Camarillo, CA
18	HQ	Howenstine, Hugh	Fort Wayne, IN
19	SV	Good, Bernard	Fremont, OH
20	SV	Ricci, Gino	Jackson, CA
21	B	Mitchum, Clarence	Hollywood, SC
22	HQ	Hinkel, Edward	Canton, OH
23	B	Linz, Paul	Baltimore, MD
24	C	Amschler, Rudolf	Perryville, MO
25	HQ	Plas, Joseph	Port Charlotte, FL
26	A	McMahan, Roy	Murfreesboro, TN
27	SV	Cope, John	Auburn, AL
28	C	Dale, Robert	Grinnel, IA
29	SV	Giovangnoli, Donald	Kent, OH
30	B	Beard, D.E.	Eaton, OH
31	SV	Draxler, Ray	Hewitt, WI
32	SV	Walker, James	Athens, TN
33	C	Kline, Water	Sun City, CA
34	B	Scarborough, Dewitt	Candor, NC
35	SV	Beall, Harvey	Elkins, WV
36	C	Cruser, Wayne	Westport, IN
37	C	Hallock, Joseph	Diamond, OH
38	A	Buck, George	Des Moines, IA
39	HQ	Schneider, Robert	Scottsdale, AZ
40	B	Curfman, Dale	Kent, OH
41	HQ	McGraw, Don	Richmond Hills, GA
42	SV	Bonnell, Orie	Sublette, IL

43	C	Mackey, Fred	Hartwell, GA
44	SV	Skinner, William	Sardis, GA
45	C	St. Germain, Arthur	Porterville, CA
46	HQ	Price, Charles J.	Grand Island, FL
47	C	Remillard, Paul	Manchester, NH
48	HQ	Simpson, Fred	Snellville, GA
49	SV	Key, Arnold	Hobert, IN
50	A	Lyons, Fred	Talent, OR
51	B	Gless, Raymond	Rootstown, OH
52	HQ	Prather, Robert	Decatur, GA
53	C	Mode, Floyd	Marion, North Carolina
54	A	Howard, J.C.	Mooresville, NC
55	HQ	Hartman, Howard	Kent, OH
56	B	Moore, Fred	Stokesdale, NC
57	HQ	Breitenstein, Robert	Cincinnati, OH

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Appendix J  
"Why There Is A Reunion of the 945th Field Artillery Battalion"  
Lt. Col. (Ret.) George Buck

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## WHY THERE IS A REUNION OF THE 945TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Have you ever wondered why the 945th Field Artillery Battalion never had a reunion after World War II? I, like most of you, always thought that sometime, someday I would see a notice in one of the veterans magazines that there was a planned reunion, but such was not to be.

I retired from the army in 1963, and then went on to teach High School Science for twenty years, and retired again. Having been close to the military for many years, I thought it would be a good idea to try and promote a reunion of my World War II Battalion. This was in 1984.

I knew the location of only one other individual who had been a member of the battalion; my radio operator, Ralph E. Call, from A Battery. I had some addresses from 1945, but they turned out to be of no value. I did not realize at that time that the task would be so involved, so lengthy, so frustrating and so difficult, but the results have proven to be worth the effort.

I wrote to the Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper in Atlanta, Georgia, on 14 April 1985 proposing a reunion in Atlanta, because our battalion originated there, and asking for publication of my letter which contained information about the 945th Field Artillery Battalion and its relationship to Atlanta. I inclosed one dollar to have them send me a copy of the newspaper in which my letter appeared. I am still waiting for the copy of the newspaper.

I wrote to the National Archives and to the Department of the Army to obtain a muster roll of the 945th--no results.

I wrote and put notices in the Army Times newspaper, the Reserve Officers Association magazine, The Retired Officers Association, Association of the United States Army, Army Sergeants Association and other Army Organizations to locate 945th men, and I received one reply from a member.

The Armed Forces Register was checked for retired military personnel and found myself, my brother and six names of 945th men. My letters to them brought no results.

A letter to the Adjutant of the 101st Airborne Division Artillery, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, helped me locate the widow of Col. Wilbur V. De Loach, our battalion Commanding Officer during World War II. Mrs De Loach wrote me that he had not been interested or kept in touch with members of the battalion, but she gave me two names of people who wrote to them; Sgt Maj. Joseph Summerour and LTC Samuel S. Gray Jr.

I wrote to the Alumnae Associations of some Universities and Colleges if I knew of an individual who had graduated from there, this gave me a few names.

My initial contact with the American Legion magazine (they have a 7 month notification lead time before a reunion), Veterans of Foreign Wars magazine (they have a 6 month notification lead time before a reunion), Disabled American Veterans magazine (they have a 3 month notification lead time before a reunion) and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees were my most rewarding publications to locate 945th men.

Each individual contacted was sent a follow-up request to send me the names, addresses, town or city, state or any small bit of information on anyone they knew from the 945th Battalion. Almost all the information I received was from the 1945 era, and I used it as a foundation to get other information. Many men had kept in touch with a buddy or two, and I exploited all this information through the local library telephone books, an atlas of the states, a zip code book; thus turning up

hundreds of addresses. I also used the information of long distance telephone information. One can see that the spelling of the name, a middle initial, any small detail was helpful to me in locating an individual.

Initially I assembled only the mans name and address, but now I have expanded my information to include their rank, army serial number, his battery, position in battery if known, where I received his name and other information if available. Presently I am trying to assemble the names of those killed in action in Europe, those wounded, and obtaining any General Orders or Special Orders that may be available about the men or the battalion. I have collected maps, memorabilia, purchased information from the National Archives, and seek information from any source or area I can locate. I have about one foot of files in my file cabinet; have established a 3 X 5 card file where I have listed every man. At the present time, I have located 173 men living and 100 deceased, this does not include the 23 men killed in Europe. I still have cards on 256 men that I am trying to locate.

My first letter to members of the 945th Field Artillery Battalion was hand written, dated 29 September 1985 and listed 9 men and myself. A poor beginning, and at that time it looked like after more than one year of work that my "reunion" was doomed to failure. Can you imagine trying to find over 500 men located all over the United States, 40 years after they had been together? No names, no addresses, no clues, no nothing to try and locate them. My chances of success were minimal at best.

My second letter was eight months later on 8 June 1986 to our people and it contained 28 names, 5 of which were known to be deceased; so I had actually only 23 men. However, I realized at this time that I must hear from people and know that they were living, interested in a reunion, and be from the 945th, otherwise my roster of names would have little meaning. I therefore decided that future rosters would contain only the names of people who had answered my letters.

By August of 1986 I had located 51 people. I had managed to contact a small group of men in Ohio who were talking of getting together as they were all from the 945th Bn., so I invited them to "my" reunion. It did not seem possible, at this time, to hold a reunion in 1986, but that I would have to wait until 1987, because no arrangements had been made as to where or what to do.

When I published my third letter of 7 September 1986 I had decided to have the reunion at Lawton, Oklahoma, the home of Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 16-18 October 1986. I made all arrangements for the motel, get-together, a day at Fort Sill and a banquet by telephone and by letters. My letter gave all the information on the reunion, now all I needed was people. When October 1986 arrived and the time for the reunion was at hand I had located 95 men, and I had more than 90 letters out trying to locate others. Many people were unable to attend the first reunion due to the fast pace of adding new members at a late date, and many others had previous commitments.

I was the only one from A Battery to attend the first reunion and so no one knew me from previous experiences. Upon arriving at the motel in Lawton, Oklahoma, and while checking in I noticed on their event board schedule a 945th FA Bn. reunion by George A. Buck, and I heard someone say "who is this guy George Buck, I think we have been had and he will never show up. There is no such thing as a reunion".

Fort Sill, Oklahoma, really rolled out the red carpet for us; we saw K-9 (canine) demonstration, a static display and explanation of present day artillery; the Army band played for us; we ate in a GI mess-hall; the Commanding General, Eugene S. Korpel, spoke to us, and we saw the nationally known and famous horse drawn half-section perform and fire a blank round.

We had 25 members of the 945th present at Lawton and Fort Sill plus 20 wives

and friends. It was an unforgettable experience, and one that you would say could never happen-to go back to where you had been stationed 41 years ago. All concerned had a wonderful and exciting time, and departed looking forward to the next reunion at Akron, Ohio. Enthusiasm, comradery, and genuine good people made the reunion a memorable and great success. The expression, "Welcome to one of Patton's best-the 945th Field Artillery Battalion reunion. If the Infantry is the Queen of Battle, then surely the Artillery is the King of Battle", was born and may it ever be.

There have been many interesting experiences trying to start the reunion. I would estimate that I have written more than 1,000 letters, many returned and many not to the right person. Many men were astonished after 40 years to hear for the first time from someone in their wartime battalion. One man had moved from California to Oregon, and the letter went to his California address, and the mail carrier he had in California sent the letter to him in Oregon 18 years after he had moved. Another man who had not lived at the address I sent the letter for 42 years, and the Post Office called the Veterans Administration and they gave them his address. I sent a letter to a member in Pittsburgh, and he had not lived there for 35 years- he had spent 33 years in Michigan and 2 years in Florida, and the letter was delivered inside another envelope to Florida, and he does not know who sent the letter to him.

I could also tell you many other incidents where the Post Office has been less than cooperative, have not answered my letters, and in general have been very lax and disagreeable in offering service.

I will continue in the future to try and locate more of our men from the 945th Field Artillery Battalion. We have lost two men from our roster as deceased this year-1988. The continued vitality and holding of future reunions depends on the economy, our health and the will to want to continue.

"Welcome to one of Patton's best-the 945th Field Artillery Battalion".

726-50th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa, 50312

George A. Buck  
11 November 1988

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# Appendix K 945th FAB Officers and Service Staff

## **Headquarters**

Wilbur DeLoach	Lt. Col.	Battalion Commanding Officer
Samuel S. Gray, Jr.	Maj.	Executive Officer
James P. Clay	Maj.	S-3 (Fire Direction Control Center)
Levi M. Rigney	Capt.	Bn. Surgeon
Gooding H. Bean	Capt.	S-2
William C. Griffin	Capt.	Liaison

## **Personnel Section**

Houston H. Richardson	CWO	Personnel
Robert Hesson	T/Sgt.	
Andrew Bincarowsky	Sgt.	
Robert Schneider	Cpl.	

## **Battalion Medical Section**

Levi M. Rigney	Capt.	Physician
Jack Mayfield	S/Sgt.	
Roy Murray		
Don McGraw		
Samuel Stancel		
Albert Ludwig		
Phillip Fisher		A Battery Medic
Robert Prather		B Battery Medic
Marvin Wade		C Battery Medic

## **Air Section**

Thomas R. Greening	Lt.	Pilot
Robert R. Grawburg	Lt.	Pilot
Christopher W. Eaton	Lt.	Pilot
Harvey W. Lindsay	Lt.	Pilot
Victor Paullas	Pfc.	Mechanic
Clyde Kennedy	T/5	Mechanic
Theron M. Strickland	T/5	Mechanic

## **Fire Direction Control (FDC)**

Robert A. Breitenstein	T/4	Horizontal Control Operator
Lowell Rutherford	T/4	Vertical Control Operator
Joe Torma	Sgt.	A Battery Computer Operator
Joseph F. Saghy	T/5	B Battery Computer Operator
Joe Plas	Pfc.	C Battery Computer Operator

### **HQ Battery**

Sterling A. Dupree	Capt.	Commanding Officer/Communications Officer
William O. Lindstrom	Lt.	Assistant Communications
George H. Wenzel	Lt.	
Edward A. Bletzer	Lt.	Aerial Observer

### **A Battery**

George Mitchell	Capt.	Commanding Officer/Communications Officer
Leland Rice	Lt.	
George Buck	Lt.	Recon Officer (Forward Observer)
Acie C. McAda	Lt.	Executive
Harold K. Reece	Lt.	

### **B Battery**

Wilbur L. Stafford	Capt.	Commanding Officer/Communications Officer
Wilbur J. Mohan	Lt.	Executive Officer
Gus R. Hoff	Lt.	Motor Officer
George S. Soles	Lt.	Recon Officer (Forward Observer)
Cpl. Stephen Dulik	Cpl.	Aerial Observer

### **C Battery**

Cecil E. Morris	Capt.	Commanding Officer/Communications Officer
Arthur C. Kelter	Lt.	Executive Officer
Paul F. Remillard	Lt.	Recon Officer (Forward Observer)
Milton C. Worley	Lt.	Maintenance Officer
Timothy N. Mabbut	Lt.	Recon Officer (Forward Observer)
Charles T. Shea	Lt.	Recon Officer (Forward Observer)
Sylvie S. Beaulieu	Lt.	

### **Service Battery (SV)**

Chester J. Stekel	Capt.	
Jerome M. Bauer	Lt.	
Wilbur B. Reed	Lt.	Maintenance
Thomas F. Flanagan	CWO	Battalion Supply
John T. Cope	Lt.	Aerial Observer

### **Supply Section**

Franklin B. Black	Capt.	Supply Officer (S-4)
Thomas Flanagan	W/O	
Thomas Mahoney	T/Sgt.	Battalion Supply Sgt.
Joseph III	S/Sgt.	
Michael Minda	T/5	
James E. Price		

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### First Sargeants

Louis (Buck) Carter	HQ
Crawford K. Pittard	A
Joseph R. Aderholt, Jr.	B
William J. Hodnett	C
Roy C. Elliot	Service

### Survey Section

Andrew Manca	Sgt.
Raymond Lubin	Sgt.
Malcolm H. Trump	Cpl
William Schleiffers	Pfc.
Edward W. Hinkel	Pfc.
Howard Hartman	Pfc.
Frank Batag	Pfc.
Lawrence Grace	Pfc.

### Battery Clerks

Jimmie Powell	A
Ford Lounsbury	C
Frank Zanolini	SV

### Mail Clerks

Henry Ashworth	A
Joe Hallock	C
Frank Zanolini	SV

### Prisoners of War

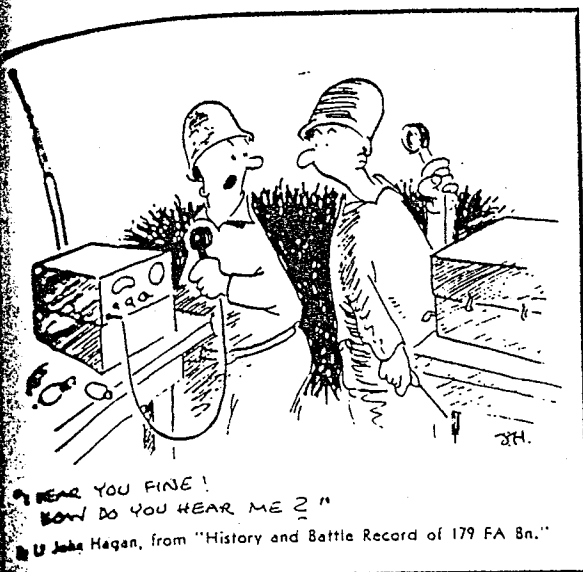
Cpl. Ira E. Ramsey	HQ	Hartford, MI
Cpl. Robert Mosley	HQ	Atlanta, GA
Aubrey Wiseman	B	
_____ Ingram		

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Appendix L  
Letters of Commendation

205

7010



HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 312, U.S. Army

16 October 1944

Brigadier General John M. Lentz  
Commanding, XII Corps Artillery  
APO 312, U. S. Army

Dear General Lentz:

The fighting of the last few weeks has punched home to us one point so obvious and so clean cut, that I want every soldier and every officer in the Corps to realize its full significance.

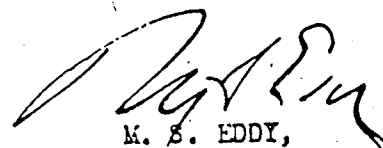
That point is this: The Germans, even the best and most experienced of them, are visibly frightened of us. They are frightened by the superior equipment, the more skillful tactics, and above all, by the magnificent courage and will to win shown by the troops of this corps.

I wish that more of us fully realized the really remarkable role that artillery has played in the war to date. In probably no branch of the ground forces has the skillful application of enormous power produced a more devastating effect upon the German army than in artillery. and I can assure you that the XII Corps Artillery is no exception. It has performed its missions consistently with distinction. All its members may well be proud of its record to date.

We are now between rounds of a fight to the knockout. The last round saw the Boche stagger back into his corner. While we are gathering our strength for the kill, he is hanging on the ropes. He cannot last another -- he is bound to go down. I am confident when the next round comes up, that the troops of the XII Corps Artillery will show the same courage, the same skill, and the same driving determination to get this war won, that have won for them their successes to date.

I congratulate the XII Corps Artillery on its performance in the past -- I wish it Godspeed and early victory.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. S. EDDY,

7010 e

HEADQUARTERS  
XII CORPS ARTILLERY  
APO 312, U.S. ARMY

12 December 1944.

AS 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : All XII Corps Artillery Units.


1. The performance of the Corps Artillery Battalions during the present offensive has met the highest possible standards.

2. From the start of the offensive on 8 November 1944 to the present time, each battalion has fought hard and well. The enemy has been not only the German, but also the rain, the cold, the mud - all the concentrated discomforts of a winter battlefield. It has not been easy, but every obstacle has been overcome.

3. Many times the guns have been in such forward positions as to be exposed to small arms fire, but at all times the guns have been where they can destroy German personnel and equipment.

4. This has been possible only because each individual made it so. The wiremen laid an incredible number of miles of wire. The forward and air observers put rapidly and accurately the power of our artillery where it could kill the most Germans. Night and day, service trains kept moving an unending stream of supplies. The cannoneers stood kneedeep in mud day after weary day to serve their pieces. This is a proud accomplishment.

5. We stand now on the border of Germany. There is still more rain, still more cold, still more mud, still more Germans to be overcome. But the end is inevitable. It remains now but to accomplish this final mission in the same magnificent manner that the Corps Artillery has made its standard.

  
JOHN M. LENTZ,  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,  
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS 26TH DIVISION ARTILLERY

APO 26, US Army  
21 December 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer  
945th Field Artillery Battalion

1. I wish to commend you and your command for the splendid support which your battalion furnished the units of the 26th Division Artillery during the recent offensive. The technical skill and aggressive manner with which your battalion was handled, the cooperative spirit and the untiring efforts of all personnel did much to make the artillery support so successful.

2. Your effective support in these operations reflects great credit on the ability and military skill of your organization.

/s/ Morrill Ross  
/t/ MORRILL ROSS  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

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Journal  
⑤ 151402  
Journal 945  
HEADQUARTERS XIX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 141 U S Army

29 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Brigadier General John M. Lentz, USA,  
Headquarters, XII Corps, APO 312, US Army.

THRU : Commanding General, TUSA, APO 403, US Army.

1. I wish to express my appreciation for the role you and your Corps Artillery played on 22 January when fighter-bombers of the XIX TAC destroyed or damaged 1700 German vehicles. Our victories were largely possible because of the successful interdiction of road junctions by your artillery.

2. I am expressing the deep appreciation of every pilot who has flown over the XII Corps front when I thank you for your cooperation in the form of anti-flak fire in support of attacking aircraft. It is such coordination and integration of effort that will lead the airground team to eventual victory.

/s/ O. P. Weyland,

/t/ O. P. WEYLAND,  
Brigadier General, USA,  
Commanding.

AG 330.13

1st Ind.

(29 Jan 45) GNMICA-4

HQ THIRD US ARMY, APO 403, U.S. Army, 3 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, XII Corps, APO 312, U.S. Army.

The Army Commander takes great pleasure in forwarding this letter of appreciation for the commendable and effective cooperation rendered by XII Corps Artillery to fighter-bombers of the XIX Tactical Air Command.

/s/ R. W. Hartman

/t/ R. W. HARTMAN  
Lt Col A.G.D.  
Asst Adj Gen.

AG 330.13

2nd Ind.

(29 Jan 45)

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS, APO 312, U. S. Army, 11 Feb 1945.

TO: Commanding General, XII Corps Artillery, APO 312, U. S. Army.

It is a pleasure for me to add my own commendation to that of General Weyland's for the superior performance of the XII Corps Artillery.

/s/ M. S. EDDY

/t/ M. S. EDDY  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding.

Reproduced Hq XII Corps Arty.  
13 February 1945.



30.13

3rd Ind.

(29 Jan 45)

XII CORPS ARTILLERY, APO 312, US Army, 13 February 1945.

TO: All XII Corps Artillery Units.

1. It is with pride and pleasure that I forward this commendation and its endorsements to you.
2. Your aggressive spirit and your untiring devotion to duty have aided immeasurably the accomplishment of our long string of victories.
3. This is your commendation. You have earned it.

*John M. Lentz*  
JOHN M. LENTZ  
Brigadier General, U S Army  
Commanding.

②

Journal the *State*  
HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
Office of The Commanding General

1 file

*59*  
5 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : The Commanding General, Officers and Men of the XII Corps,  
APO 312, U. S. Army.

1. The superior tactical skill and audacity which you and your Command displayed in breaking the southern shoulder of the German penetration will ever rank as an outstanding feat of intelligent planning and valorous execution.
2. You and the officers and men of your Command are hereby highly commended for a superior performance.
3. You will apprise all units concerned of the contents of this letter.

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.  
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,  
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

REPRODUCED HQ XII CORPS  
8 February 1945

AG 330.13  
(5 Feb 45)

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS, APO 312, U. S. Army.

8 Feb 45

TO: Commanders, Officers and Men of the XII Corps.

With the greatest satisfaction and pride I indorse General Patton's message to you. Again your gallant achievements deepen my confidence in the certainty that the officers and men of the XII Corps will keep high in future combat the enviable standards of courage and teamplay you have set in the past.

*M. E. Eddy*  
L. S. EDDY  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
"AT" & "AB"

*all*

*all*

141  
⑤ 131300  
HABC

HEADQUARTERS  
XII CORPS ARTILLERY  
APO 312

12 February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : All XII Corps Artillery Units.

1. On 6 February 1945, this Corps attacked a section of the Siegfried Line.
2. The approach to these fortifications involved a river crossing. Without considering enemy action, the swollen condition of the stream and its precipitous banks alone made such a crossing hazardous. Well-placed hostile artillery fire in sufficient volume might well have denied the crossing.
3. The operation was further complicated by the fact that unfavorable weather prevented adequate photo reconnaissance.
4. Much, therefore, depended upon artillery support. The Corps Artillery gave that support.
5. For 48 consecutive hours, the Corps Artillery, with fewer battalions than ever before and reduced personnel in each battalion, pounded hostile artillery positions, command posts, communication and traffic centers, towns, observation posts, routes for reinforcements. Between the start of the attack under cover of darkness and daybreak the next morning, 29,000 rounds were fired. Since then a comparable rate of fire has been maintained continuously.
6. The river crossing was made with little or no interference from hostile artillery fire. This is a considerable achievement. Only strenuous efforts on the part of all could have accomplished it.
7. Each individual in the Corps Artillery contributed to this result. Each individual can feel justly proud that in this contribution was demonstrated the maximum of aggressiveness, stamina, and the will to win.

*John M. Lentz*  
JOHN M. LENTZ,  
Brigadier General, US Army,  
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS  
XIII CORPS ARTILLERY  
APO 312

23 March 1945

AG 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanders, FDC's, FA Brigade, FA Groups and Battalions.

1. The artillery of the XIII Corps has completed a hard winter campaign in one of the most brilliant maneuvers and advances in history.

2. It is a fitting culmination of the amazing performance you turned in during the past six months. You performed the miraculous in rain, mud, and snow. Now you have performed the miraculous in moving fast and shooting hard.

3. Please tell every soldier in your command of my admiration for his ~~tenacity, hard work, fighting spirit and unselfish devotion to duty.~~

4. You have made this the greatest artillery team in war. You will continue to show that you are outstanding soldiers and fighters.

5. My congratulations.

*John M. Lentz*  
JOHN M. LENTZ  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Commanding.

A. ZCM  
B. ACK  
C. COM  
S. Jmb  
H. JMB  
M. E. D.

HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General

APC 312, US Army  
8 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, XII Corps Artillery, APC 312, US Army.

1. The following message has been received from the Commanding General, 8th Air Force, by the Army Commander who desires that it be disseminated to all field artillery units of your command.

"YOUR COOPERATION WITH OUR BOMBING EFFORT BY COUNTER-BATTERY FIRE ON AAA POSITIONS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. THE SPLENDID COOPERATION OF ALLIED ARTILLERY HAS SAVED MANY AIR CREW MEMBERS AND MANY AIRCRAFT. IN ALL AIR CREW REPORTS EXISTS HEARTY APPRECIATION OF YOUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THESE AAA POSITIONS AT THE POINTS AT WHICH AIR CREWS CROSS INTO ENEMY TERRITORY. I HAVE AN ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK BEING DONE BY THESE UNITS AND FOR THE RESULTS THEY HAVE ACHIEVED."

2. Please accept for yourself and your splendid command my own expression of commendation. This single phase alone of your operations to reach, attack, and exploit the Rhine is typical of the careful planning, the superior execution, and the magnificent spirit which characterizes your performance in every mission.

/s/ M. S. Eddy  
/t/ M. S. Eddy  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

1st Ind.

HQ XII CORPS ARTILLERY, APC 312, US Army, 11 April 1945.

TO: All XII Corps Artillery Units.

1. Once again it is with great pride and pleasure that I forward a commendation to you.

2. This is merely one of the many fine examples of the manner in which your cooperation with other arms has enabled us to drive into the heart of Germany.

3. My commendation to all members of this command is added for the valiant services you have relentlessly exerted to annihilate the enemy.

*John M. Lentz*  
JOHN M. LENTZ  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Commanding.

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AG 330.13

18 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officers, All Units Assigned or Attached XII Corps.

Please see that the letter below from the Army Commander is brought to the attention of all members of your command. Each of you will naturally share my pride and pleasure in transmitting to your officers and men this generous expression of commendation.

14 April 1945

My dear General Eddy:

It gives me very great pleasure to transmit to you, and through you to your magnificent officers and men, the high approbation of our peerless leader, General Eisenhower.

After his recent visit to our front, he said and I quote: "Please tell your officers and men of my great admiration for the skillful and veteran behavior of all units, both combat, supply, and administrative. I was particularly impressed with the self-confidence and ease with which all the staffs of the various units function. Nothing could be more admirable and inspiring."

I am sure we all appreciate such a tribute, and that we will do our uttermost to always merit this encomium.

Most sincerely,

/s/ G. S. Patton, Jr.  
/t/ G. S. PATTON, JR.,  
Lieut. General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

M. S. EDDY  
Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" & "D"

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HEADQUARTERS  
XII CORPS ARTILLERY  
APO 312

AG 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding Officers, Field Artillery Brigade, Groups and Battalions

Prior to relinquishing command of the XII Corps, Major General Eddy wrote to me as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

Brigadier General John M. Lentz  
Commanding XII Corps Artillery  
APO 312, U.S. Army

Before I leave, I want you to know of my admiration for your magnificent troops and of my gratitude for their remarkable contribution to the successful operations of our Corps. I hope I am not too prejudiced when I tell you I honestly believe the XII Corps artillery to be the finest on the Western Front. You have consistently met my high standards of team play between artillery and infantry which will surely be studied in years to come. The courage and skill and fidelity with which your battalions have fought during these last few crowded months will be to their undying credit.

Please accept for yourself, and convey to your command, this expression of appreciation. I wish I could be with you for the kill,. Good luck- and Godspeed.

Sincerely yours,

s/M.S. Eddy  
t/M.S. Eddy  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since it is the unrelenting service and loyal cooperation rendered by you, your officers and enlisted men which has earned this commendation, I wish to say that it is with real pleasure, pride and deep gratitude that I convey General EDDY's expressions to you. It is my desire that this letter be brought to the attention of all personnel under your command.

JOHN M. LENTZ  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Commanding.

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*Circular*

HEADQUARTERS  
XII CORPS ARTILLERY  
APO 312

*B d*

AG 201.22

*14* 2 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officers, Field Artillery Brigade, Groups and Battalions.

Prior to relinquishing command of the XII Corps, Major General EDDY wrote me as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

APO 312, U. S. Army  
25 April 1945

Brigadier General John M. Lentz  
Commanding XII Corps Artillery  
APO 312, U. S. Army

Before I leave, I want you to know of my admiration for your magnificent troops and of my gratitude for their remarkable contribution to the successful operations of our Corps. I hope I am not too prejudiced when I tell you I honestly believe the XII Corps Artillery to be the finest on the Western Front. You have consistently set high standards of teamwork between artillery and infantry which will surely be studied in years to come. The courage and skill and fidelity with which your battalions have fought during these last few crowded months will be to their undying credit.

Please accept for yourself, and convey to your command, this expression of appreciation. I wish I could be with you for the kill, good luck and Godspeed.

Sincerely yours,

S/L E. EDDY

U. S. Army

Major General, U. S. Army  
Commanding.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since it is the unrelenting service and loyal cooperation rendered by your officers and enlisted men which has earned this commendation, I want to say that it is with real pleasure, pride and deep gratitude that I convey General EDDY's expressions to you. It is my desire that this letter be brought to the attention of all personnel under your command.

*John M. Lentz*  
JOHN M. LENTZ,  
Brigadier General, US Army,  
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS XII CORPS  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 312, U S Army

20 April, 1945.

Message to All Corps Troops, XII Corps:

A year ago the XII Corps began to collect its strength to strike. Eight months ago, against an enemy still strong and dangerously aggressive, we struck. We struck with a boldness and a viciousness that have never failed us in nearly constant combat through three countries. Today, as we prepare for the final kill, there can surely be no corps in Germany more feared than the XIIth. Here is your record.

In August 1944 you launched a drive through Northern France which must rate as one of the most spectacular coups of this war. Your bloody battle of the Saar basin breached the Maginot line, and was leading you well into the Siegfried defenses when the German Ardennes offensive began. Your magnificent forced march to Luxembourg and your spirited defense of the Duchy are now history. In February you crossed the Sauer and smashed the Siegfried line against the bitterest possible conditions of flood, winter cold, and stubborn enemy resistance. Your lightning drive to the Rhine, and vigorous exploitation of its west bank, prepared you for what was probably the first assault crossing of this ancient barrier in military history. Your dash into central Germany, well ahead of any other allied unit, proceeded to electrify our nation. You have advanced some 600 miles into the heart of Nazi Germany, conquering some 12,000 square miles. Since entering Germany alone, you have captured over 125,000 prisoners, taken such prizes as Frankfurt and Worms, seized enormous stores of military equipment, rolling stock, and supplies, including what must have been the bulk of Germany's gold reserve, released thousands of Nazi slaves and allied prisoners, and driven a beaten enemy into his last stronghold.

I congratulate you upon a glorious record. I share the pride which every officer and every soldier of the XII Corps has a right to feel for it. The XII Corps has always been a spearhead unit of a spearhead army. It has never failed to accomplish its missions with dash and courage and skill. Your final mission is at hand. God speed you to it.

/s/

M. S. EDLY,  
Major General, U S Army  
Commanding.

Reproduced by the 945th FA Bn

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HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 403

AG 201.22 GMECF

10 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

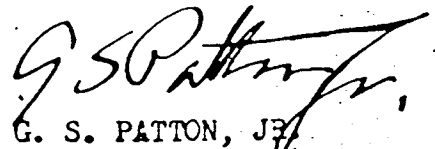
TO : Commanding Officer, 514th QM Group, APO 403, US Army.

1. May 9, 1945 saw the final triumph of our arms in the European Theater of Operations. On this glorious occasion I take the opportunity to thank and commend you, and every officer and enlisted man in the Quartermaster Truck Units of Third Army, for your enviable achievements in helping to make our great victory possible.

2. The tasks which have been placed upon your shoulders during this history making campaign have been almost superhuman. You have rolled your trucks through mud and snow and sleet and rain. You have operated around the clock for days on end. You have fought side by side with the Infantry, and rolled side by side with the Armor. But no matter what the obstacles, roll you must and roll you did. You never failed me.

3. Only by your most steadfast devotion to duty and untiring effort was it possible for our long supply lines to keep pace with the units at the front. Your valiant efforts during the closing six months of this conflict have fully confirmed my statement to you of last October - "the 2 1/2 ton truck is our most valuable weapon."

4. God speed to you all for whatever lies ahead - both in war and peace.

  
G. S. PATTON, JR.  
General.

This group included: 136th, 444th, 642d, 3511th, 3577th, 3597th, 3801st, 3802d, 3803d, and 3804th QM Trk Co's, all of which were also awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE:

The task which we set ourselves is finished, and the time has come for me to relinquish Combined Command.

In the name of the United States and the British Commonwealth, from whom my authority is derived, I should like to convey to you the gratitude and admiration of our two nations for the manner in which you have responded to every demand that has been made upon you. At times, conditions have been hard and the tasks to be performed arduous. No praise is too high for the manner in which you have surmounted every obstacle.

I should like, also, to add my own personal word of thanks to each one of you for the part you have played, and the contribution you have made to our joint victory.

Now that you are about to pass to other spheres of activity, I say Good-bye to you and wish you Good Luck and God-Speed.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

HEADQUARTERS  
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY



O each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"  
Eleventh Armored Division

APO 261, U.S. Army  
1 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO :. Commanding Officer, 183d Field Artillery Group,  
APO 412, U.S. Army.  
(Thru Channels)

1. I wish to commend the officers and men of the 945 Field Artillery Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel DeLoach commanding, for the exceptionally fine support they gave to this Combat Command during the period 29 March 45 to 5 May 45.

2. During this period the support rendered by this Battalion was always aggressive, prompt and accurate in its effect. I feel that its presence in this Command was an important factor instrumental to the success of our operations and the maintenance of our uninterrupted advance across Germany. This feeling is shared by the officers and men of the units who relied on the fires of the 945 Field Artillery for support, and whose casualties were as a consequence kept to a minimum.

W. A. HOLEROOK JR.  
Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
Commanding.

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AG 201.22

11 June 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

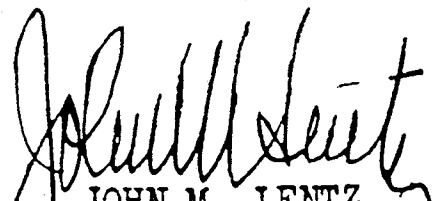
TO: Artillery Air Sections, each Corps Field Artillery  
Battalion and Group.

In reviewing the conspicuous achievements of our operations up to the close of the war, the Air OP's are an outstanding group of the many who have so magnificently contributed to victory. The dauntless courage, tireless efforts, and relentless desire to destroy the enemy on the part of each pilot, observer, and of the ground crews, was a matchless display of team play and unselfish devotion to individual duty.

Undaunted by the severest of weather conditions, which normally would have grounded your planes, you have taken to the air in order that our advancing columns, armored and infantry, would not be denied your observations. The determination with which you have disdained small arms and anti-aircraft fire in order to fly supplies, medicine and ammunition to surrounded units, not only inspired but enabled them to retain ground they had courageously fought for. You have justly been referred to as the eyes of the Infantry, as well as of the Artillery.

Because of the accuracy and effectiveness of your fire missions, the mere appearance of Air OP struck deadly fear into the enemy. This superior means of observation should not be acclaimed without credit to the energetic and arduous services rendered by the ground crews in their unspectacular yet vital duties.

It affords me pleasure and honor to commend the officers and enlisted men who have distinguished themselves as you have, in the establishment of your enviable combat record.

  
JOHN M. LENTZ  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Commanding

Appendix M  
Bronze Medal Awards<sup>1</sup>

1 - Information provided by George Buck

Des Moines, Iowa  
27 November 1996

I have researched for many years various records and information to be able to establish the following list of individuals from the 945th Field Artillery Battalion whom were awarded the Bronze Star Medal during their service in World War II. Keep this list as any future additions, deletions or corrections will be made by letter.

#### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Name	Rank	Serial No.	Authority
1. Gooding H. Bean	Capt	0 408 157	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
2. Robert A. Breitenstein	T/4	35 121 502	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
3. William C. Bryant	S/Sgt	34 262 169	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
4. Lewis B. Carter	1/Sgt	20 444 232	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 26 October 1944.
5. Malcolm F. Cauthen	S/Sgt	34 262 071	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
6. James P. Clay	Major	0 402 008	GO No. 46, XII Corps, 28 December 1944.
7. John P. Cloney	S/Sgt	32 108 839	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
8. Ellis Davis	S/Sgt	20 443 369	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
9. Wilbur Von Molt DeLoach	Lt Col	0 333 194	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 Jan 1945, 3rd award.
10. Sterling A. DuPree	Capt	0 316 660	GO No. 46, XII Corps, 28 December 1944.
11. Lawrence L. Grace	T/5	34 090 824	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
12. Samuel S. Gray Jr.	Major	0 307 032	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
13. William C. Griffin	Capt	0 411 070	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
14. Raymond L. Hall	T/4	14 092 471	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
15. Harlan F. Hill	T/5	20 444 183	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
16. Hugh L. Howenstine	T/4	35 348 095	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
17. Carl J. Hotz	T/5		
18. Jack Keel	Cpl	34 190 783	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
19. Thomas E. Kinsella	S/Sgt	37 073 531	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
20. Clearence R. Land	Pvt	34 190 845	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 26 October 1944.
21. Bivalee A. Lequire	Pfc	34 190 836	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
22. William O. Lindstrom	1st Lt	01 171 253	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
23. James E. Logue	Cpl	34 190 886	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
24. Andrew Manca	S/Sgt	32 516 673	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
25. Buford H. Moyer	Pfc	33 411 144	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
26. Randolph D. Mullis	S/Sgt	20 444 501	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
27. Robert S. Prather	T/5	20 465 193	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
28. Leland L. Rice	1st Lt	0 538 294	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 26 October 1944.
29. Houston H. Richardson	WOJG	W2 106 980	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 26 October 1944.
30. Levi M. Rigney (Dr)	Capt	01 699 790	GO No. 37, XII Corps, 13 May 1945.
31. Claude H. Schneider	T/5	35 348 134	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
32. Joseph H. Summerour	M/Sgt	20 444 231	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 26 October 1944.
33. John P. Tonin	Pfc	39 124 385	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
34. Laymond Tompkins	Cpl	13 033 177	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
35. Marvin Wade	Cpl	20 465 173	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
36. Wilbur L. Ward	T/4	34 050 574	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
37. George H. Wenzel	1st Lt	01 170 245	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.

#### A BATTERY

1. Preston E. Blaylock	Sgt	34 110 579	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
2. George A. Buck	1st Lt	0 461 237	GO No. 37, XII Corps, 13 May 1945.
3. Ralph E. Call	Cpl	34 094 817	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
4. Lee F. Cooper	Pfc		GO No. 43, XII Corps, 16 December 1944.
5. Harold S. Dowd	T/5	34 110 985	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
6. Frank C. Greene	T/5	34 090 497	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
7. Vance A. Martin	Sgt	34 080 204	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.

(over)

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8. Acie C. McAda	1st Lt	0 531 868	GO No. 43, XII Corps, 16 December 1944.
9. John J. McDevitt	Pvt	32 517 192	GO No. ? Info from daily journal.
10. George R. Mitchell	Capt	01 169 659	GO No. 46, XII Corps, 28 December 1944.
11. Allen D. Moss	Sgt	34 190 842	GO No. 37, XII Corps, 13 May 1945.
12. Enos C. Oliver	T/5	39 409 698	GO No. 37, XII Corps, 13 May 1945.
13. Marvin L. Richardson	S/Sgt	34 110 850	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
14. Jimmie E. Smallwood	Cpl	20 444 297	GO No. 43, XII Corps, 16 December 1944.
15. Lee R. Smith	Cpl	34 175 581	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
16. Gerald D. Varner			Information from Ernest Strabley.
17. Arthur L. Vass	T/4	35 348 370	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
18. Carl G. Weed	Sgt	20 444 301	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.

#### B BATTERY

1. George M. Binok	Sgt	31 042 726	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
2. Alden C. Carlson	Sgt	32 037 011	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
3. Herbert V. Cox	T/5	20 444 373	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
4. Dale D. Curfman	Cpl	35 522 503	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
5. Arnold H. Gothard	Pfc	34 817 563	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
6. Leonard T. Jones	Pfc	34 110 987	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
7. John S. Langston	S/Sgt	34 080 315	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
8. Earl Martin	T/5	37 012 664	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
9. Wilbur J. Mohan	1st Lt	01 175 517	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
10. J. C. Shiflet	T/5	34 262 203	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
11. Wiley Eugene Shivers	Pfc	34 262 112	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
12. George W. Shumate	Pfc	34 262 451	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
13. George S. Soles	1st Lt	01 168 993	GO No. unknown.
14. Wilbur L. Stafford	Capt	01 172 296	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.

#### C BATTERY

1. Wayne R. Cruser	Pfc	35 807 453	GO No. unknown-this is 2nd award.
2. Richard E. Gallagher	S/Sgt	32 372 450	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 December 1945.
3. Dan Hale	Sgt	20 444 516	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
4. William J. Hodnett	1/Sgt	20 444 470	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
5. Robert J. Holliday	T/5	37 681 126	GO No. 42, XII Corps,
6. Lawrence A. Horning	Cpl	35 522 543	GO No. 39, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
7. Edward R. Keller	T/5	35 522 548	
8. Arthur C. Kelter	1st Lt	01 169 596	GO No. 3, XII Corps, 9 January 1945.
9. Walter J. Kline	Cpl	35 522 527	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
10. Eugene Martchek	Cpl	33 117 566	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
11. Anthony F. Montini	Pfc	33 704 384	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
12. Cecil E. Morris	Capt	01 169 661	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
13. Randolph D. Mullis	S/Sgt	20 444 501	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
14. Henry T. Payton	S/Sgt	34 080 216	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.
15. Paul F. Remillard	1st Lt	01 169 705	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
16. Carl H. Riley	Sgt	14 105 242	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
17. Marion A. Seagraves	Pvt	20 444 386	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
18. William A. Stancliff			Transferred to 26 Inf Div-earned award there.
19. Milton C. Worley	1st Lt	01 184 971	GO No. 2, XII Corps, 6 January 1945.

CECIL E. MORRIS

Capt 01 169 661  
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18 December 1944

SERVICE BATTERY

1. Franklin B. Black	Capt	0 410 738	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
2. John T. Cope Jr.	2nd Lt	0 532 123	GO No. 6, XII Corps, 22 January 1945.
3. Stephan M. Dulabahn	Pfc	35 919 243	GO No. 3, XII Corps, 9 January 1945.
4. Roy C. Elliot	L/Sgt		GO No. 5, XII Corps, 17 January 1945.
5. Thomas F. Flanagan	CWO	W2 113 484	GO No. 37, XII Corps, 13 May 1945.
6. Joseph E. Ill	S/Sgt	32 108 814	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
7. James F. Looney	S/Sgt	34 033 554	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 3 May 1945.
8. Thomas J. Mahoney	T/Sgt	32 108 909	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
9. Joseph B. Martin	M/Sgt	20 444 722	GO No. 5, XII Corps, 17 January 1945.
10. John Prokop	T/5	35 522 068	GO No. 19, XII Corps, 8 March 1945.
11. Wilbur B. Reed	1st Lt	01 175 552	GO No. 40, XII Corps, 22 May 1945.
12. Walter C. Silver	Sgt	34 090 761	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.
13. William M. Skinner	Cpl	34 080 211	GO No. 3, XII Corps, 9 January 1945.
14. Creed E. Tollett	T/4	34 190 744	GO No. 31, XII Corps, 10 November 1944.

The following men from the 945th FA received the Bronze Star and it is not known which battery they were assigned.

1. Charles R. Crowe	Cpl	14 137 332	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 3 May 1945.
2. Paul Yuhas	Pfc	35 921 034	GO No. 34, XII Corps, 3 May 1945.

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Appendix N  
Men Wounded and Killed in Action<sup>1</sup>

Information provided by the U.S. Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, VA and George Buck

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Des Moines, Iowa  
27 November 1996

For many years I have written letters, researched various records and information to be able to establish the following list of individuals from the 945th Field Artillery Battalion whom were awarded the Purple Heart Medal during their service in World War II. Keep this list as any future additions, deletions or corrections will be made by letter. Those individuals marked by an asterisk (\*) were killed in action (KIA).

#### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Name	Rank	Serial No.	Location	Date
1. Carey S. Connelly	T/5	37 725 716	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
* 2. Frederick W. Eaton II	1st Lt	0 536 939	Kulmbach, Germany	13 April 1945
3. Archie F. Emerson	T/5	34 090 390	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
4. Robert R. Grawburg	1st Lt	01 183 966	Siegritz, Germany	7 April 1945
5. Thomas R. Greening	Lt	01 176 644	France	13 September 1944
6. James E. Hanson	Pfc	35 522 538	France	27 September 1944
7. Robert W. Hesson	T/Sgt		Nancy, France	12 September 1944
8. James E. Holcombe	Cpl	34 080 249	Consdorf, Luxembourg	24 February 1945
9. Bivalee A. Lequire	T/5	34 190 836	France	30 Sept. 1944
*10. James E. Logue	Cpl	34 190 886	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
*11. Albert F. Miller	Pfc	35 348 193	Stadt Steinach, Germany	15 April 1945
12. Joseph F. Plas	Pfc	35 521 249	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
*13. Charles W. Schwartz	T/5	33 590 947	Xeuilley, France	12 September 1944
14. Theron M. Strickland	T/3		France	13 Sept. 1944
*15. Billy J. Swineheart	Pfc	35 348 092	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
16. Laymond Tompkins	Cpl	13 033 177	Themar, Germany	7 April 1945

#### A BATTERY

1. Henry F. Ashworth	T/5	34 080 108	Gungweiller, France	30 Nov. 1944
2. Preston E. Blaylock	Sgt	34 110 579	Gungweiller, France	30 Nov. 1944
3. George A. Buck	1st Lt	0 461 237	Berdorf, Luxembourg	26 Dec. 1944
4. Ralph E. Call	Cpl	34 094 817	Echternacherbruck, Germany	7 Feb. 1945
5. Fred W. Carruth	S/Sgt	20 444 272	Moncel-Sur-Seille, France	1 Nov. 1944
6. Lee F. Cooper	Pfc		Gungweiller, France	30 Nov. 1944
7. John D. Craver	Sgt		Nancy, France	18 Sept. 1944
8. Leo J. Flood			France	1944
9. James A. Lazenby			Moncel-Sur-Seille, France	1 Nov. 1944
10. Fred W. Lyon	Pfc	39 329 387	Moncel-Sur-Seille, France	1 Nov. 1944
11. Acie C. McAda	1st Lt	0 531 868	Gungweiller, France	30 Nov. 1944
12. Jimmie J. Powell	Cpl	34 080 210	Nancy, France	18 Sept. 1944
13. Howard D. Ramsey				
14. Harold Keith Reese	1st Lt	01 172 239	Oppenheim, Germany	23 March 1945
*15. Clarence A. Thompson	T/4	37 293 937	Moncel-Sur-Seille, France	1 Nov. 1944

#### B BATTERY

* 1. Stephen J. Dulik	Cpl	35 522 424	Kulmbach, Germany	13 April 1945
2. Arnold H. Gothard	Pfc	34 817 563	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
3. Gus R. Hoff Jr.	Lst Lt	0 531 851	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944

(over)

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C BATTERY

* 1. Charles J. Albrecht	T/4	35 121 734	Radalbe, France	12 Nov. 1944
2. Rudolph A. Amschler	Pfc	37 186 159	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
3. Sylvie S. Beaulieu	Lt		Germany	7 April 1945
4. Charles F. Blosser	Sgt	35 202 604	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
5. Thomas C. Brown	S/Sgt	35 121 703	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
6. Carlton C. Chaney	S/Sgt	20 444 471	France	Nov. 1944
7. Robert R. Edge	Pvt	20 445 613	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
8. Leonard F. Frisina	Pvt	32 796 171	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
* 9. Benjamin F. Fry	Pvt	13 067 673	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
10. Rheinhard H. Gliebe	Cpl	42 050 554	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
11. William J. Gosselin	Pvt	31 471 941	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
12. Hudson H. Harding	T/5	20 444 517	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
*13. William J. Hodnett	1/Sgt	20 444 470	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
*14. Robert J. Holliday	T/5	37 681 126	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
15. Rancel M. Jones	Pfc	34 080 254	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
16. Walter A. Kehner Jr.	Cpl	35 522 562	Gremecey, France	18 Oct. 1944
*17. Albert J. Kline	Pfc	35 522 532	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
18. Walter J. Kline	Cpl	35 522 527	France	22 Sept. 1944
19. Russel A. Krick	Cpl	33 118 017	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
*20. Chester W. Leist	Pfc	37 144 849	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec 1944
*21. Timothy N. Mabbut	2nd Lt	01 176 119	Echternacherbruck, Germany	15 Feb. 1945
*22. John R. Marsh	Cpl	34 110 851	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
23. Eugene Martchek	Cpl	33 117 566	Aigen, Austria	5 May 1945
24. Otis L. McMillan	Cpl	34 080 279	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
25. Victor B. McNeely	Pfc	35 348 349	Consdorf, Luxembourg	27 Dec. 1944
*26. Russell D. Milbauer	Pvt	35 925 632	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
*27. Harvey R. Miller	T/5	34 090 467	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
*28. Jesse K. Miller	T/5	39 693 568	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
29. Cecil E. Morris	Capt	01 169 661	Gramastetten, Austria	4 May 1945
*30. Russell S. O'Dell	Pfc	39 204 377	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
*31. Henry T. Payton	S/Sgt	34 080 216	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
32. Paul F. Remillard (2)	1st Lt	01 169 705	Radalbe, France	12 Nov. 1944
33. Martin H. Reinhold	Pfc	36 441 597	Seigritz, Germany	6 April 1945
34. William A. Stancliff			Trfd. to 26th Inf Div & was wounded there.	
*35. Floyd D. StClair	Pfc	12 047 216	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
36. Marion D. Teagle	Pfc	39 693 591	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
37. Roscoe F. Walker	S/Sgt	39 409 667	Gungweiller, France	2 Dec. 1944
38. Everett E. Werth	Pvt	36 587 638	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
*39. Gordon O. Williams	Pvt	39 123 536	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
*40. Paul W. Williams	Pvt	34 190 832	Consdorf, Luxembourg	31 Dec. 1944
41. Milton C. Worley	2nd Lt	01 184 971	Gungweiller, France	2 Dec. 1944

SERVICE BATTERY

1. John T. (Tom) Cope Jr.	2nd Lt	0 532 123	Erching, France	18 Dec. 1944
2. Jack E. Dempsey	S/Sgt		Themar, Germany	7 April 1945
3. Ray C. Draxler			Oppenheim, Germany	22 March 1945

Awards not Confirmed

1. John J. Bush T/5 info. from obituary. A btry.
2. Jimmie E. Smallwood Cpl 20 444 297 info. from obituary. A btry.
3. Gerald D. Varner info. from Ernest E. Strabley. A btry.
4. John E. Stroupe T/Sgt Info. from son.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS  
NINE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 403  
U.S. ARMY

23 February 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 3)

1. By direction of the President and under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following member of this organization.

1ST LT GEORGE A. BUCK, O-461237, Btry "A", for wounds received as a result of enemy action on 26 Dec 44 in Luxembourg. Entered military service from Iowa.

By order of Lt Colonel DELOACH:

HOUSTON H. RICHARDSON  
WOJG, USA 945th FA Bn  
Personnel Officer

OFFICIAL: *Houston H. Richardson*  
HOUSTON H. RICHARDSON  
WOJG, USA 945th FA Bn  
Personnel Officer



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## Appendix O

### Daily Journal - Notations and Examples

The Journal of the 945th Field Artillery Battalion was obtained by the author from the National Archives, Suitland, Maryland during the course of writing the history. Without the Journal the preparation of the 945th FAB history would have been difficult if not impossible. This detailed, hour by hour account of the Battalion's activities begins on 1 December 1944. Apparently the earlier records did not make it to the Department of the Army's Adjutant General's Office, Departmental Records Branch.

The Journal not only recorded all of the fire missions, but also Battery movements and positions on the current map, men wounded or killed in action, awards received, weather conditions, visits from XII Corps HQ, and summaries of the flying log for the Battalion. Code names were usually used for organizational units (see attached sheet provided by George Buck) such as "Iceberg" for the XII Corps HQ, "Coat" for the 182nd Field Artillery Group, and "Luxury" for the 945th FAB. The organizations being supported, e.g. the 26th Infantry Division or the 11th Armored Division, were typically noted in the Journal.

Fire missions were usually numbered (e.g. Conc #974), and the type of mission (HE for High Explosive, WP for White Phosphorus, and Smoke) were noted along with the coordinates on the appropriate map (e.g. 9444-4192 on the Trier Sheet). Types of fire missions such as "Time on Target" (TOT), or "Harassment and Interdiction" (H&I) were often noted, as were the intended targets (towns under attack by American troops or being used as staging areas), enemy armor or artillery, or enemy strong points. The individual responsible for the "registration" of the mission (targeting) would also be noted whether it was a forward observer or the air observer. A typical example would be from 14 January 1945 (Sunday):

1230 to 1247 The following were check fires on H&I missions and were observed by the Luxury Air Officer:

H23 (050-445) fired by "C" on Helstrom. 3 HE

H24 (045-412) fired by "B" on Herschweiler. 1 HE

These missions were in support of an attack down the Moselle River valley after the breakout at Echternach. The 945th was hitting villages along the path of attack that the armor and infantry would be taking that afternoon. Later that day batteries B and C fired 67 HE rounds on an enemy troop concentration that was coordinated by the air observer.

In summary, the Journal should be used as the primary source of information on daily activities for those studying the 945th FAB in World War II.

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945th FA Bn  
 (ORGANIZATION)

# JOURNAL

From: 140001 Jan 45  
 (TIME AND DATE)  
 To: 142400 Jan 45  
 (TIME AND DATE)

Time		Serial Number	Time Dated	Incidents, Messages, Orders, etc.	Action Taken
In	Out				
				(Day and date)	
				Sun 14 Jan 45	
		0001 to 2400		The following are H & I missions from Lukewarm: H23 (050-445) was fired by Btry "B" and 10 HE were expended. H24 (045-412) " " " " "C" " 14 HE " " H25 (068-420) " " " " "A" " 9 HE " " H27 (080-395) " " " " "A" " 9 HE " " H28 (095-385) " " " " "A" " 9 HE " " H29 (088-420) " " " " "A" " 9 HE " "	
		0945 & 1215		923 (6690-3668) was fired by Btry on pillbox. 12 HE were expended at 0945 and 19 HE were fired at 1215.	
		1020		BP registration by "B" on (0370-4169) road junction was observed by Luxury Air Officer. 4 HE were expended.	
		1100		BP registration by A & C on (0621-3937) road junction was observed by Luxury Air Officer. 12 HE were expended.	
		1315		BP registration with Schneider ammunition was on (0621-3937) road junction. Luxury Air Officer observed firing of 11 HE. (M102)	
				Clear skies and sunshine.	
		1230 to 1247		The following were check fires on H & I missions and were observed by Luxury Air Officer. H23 (050-445) fired by "C" on Helstrum. 3 HE H24 (045-412) fired by "B" on Herschweiler. 1 HE H25 (068-420) fired by "A" on Prunzweiler. 1 HE H27 (080-395) fired by "A" on Irrel. 1 HE H28 (095-385) fired by "A" on Merrlingen. 1 HE H29 (088-420) fired by "A" on Neiderweis. 1 HE	
		1530 & 1630		Conc #924 (0484-4107) fired by B & C on enemy troops. Mission came from Luxury Air Observer. 67 HE were expended.	
		1630		Conc #925 (0905-3697) came from Causeway and was fired on a bridge. Btry "A" expended 27 HE.	
		1800 to 2400		The following are H & I fires from Lukewarm: H25 (0284-4520) was fired by Baker who expended 11 HE. H24 (0450-4120) " " " " " " 15 HE. H25 (0680-4200) " " " " " Charlie " 15 HE. H27 (0808-3939) " " " " " Able " 14 HE. H28 (0950-3850) " " " " " Able " 14 HE. H29 (0880-4200) " " " " " Charlie " 14 HE. H31 (1194-3989) " " " " " " 14 HE. H32 (0284-4520) " " " " " Baker " 11 HE.	

(See instructions on back of this form.)

Continued on page 2

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Radio and Telephone Codes - World War II

1. Can Can - 44th field artillery battalion, (105 How), 4th Infantry Division.
2. Camber - 4th Infantry Division artillery.
3. Causeway - 42nd field artillery battalion (105 How) 4th Infantry Division.
4. Chattanooga - 26th Infantry Division Artillery.
5. Chimes - 286th field artillery observation battalion.
6. Chimes Able - "A" battery, 286th field artillery observation battalion.
7. Chimes Baker - "B" battery, 286th field artillery observation battalion.
8. Clinker -
9. Coastal - 695th armored field artillery battalion.
10. Coat - 182nd field artillery group.
11. Cordoba - 102nd field artillery battalion, 26th Infantry Division, (105 How).
12. Drastic - 5th Infantry Division Artillery.
13. Driver - 50th field artillery battalion (105How), 5th Infantry Division.
14. Drowning - 46th field artillery battalion, 5th Infantry Division, (105 How).
15. Grog - 492nd armored field artillery battalion, 11th Armored Division, (105 How).
16. Habitation - 176th field artillery battalion, (4.5 inch gun).
17. Half Blood Blue King - 345th Infantry, 87th Infantry Division.
18. Headband - 273rd Field artillery battalion, (155 mm gun).
19. Hay Cock - 340th field artillery battalion, 89th Infantry Division, (105 How).
20. Highnoon - 334th field artillery battalion, (105 How), 87th Infantry Division.
21. Highpitch - 802nd field artillery battalion, 182nd field artillery group. (105 How)
22. Highpost - 183rd artillery group.
23. Highpot - 410th artillery group.
24. High Ridge -
25. High Saint- 355th field artillery battalion, 76th Infantry Division, (105 How).
26. High Skill - 901st field artillery battalion, 76th Infantry Division, (155 How).
27. Iceberg - XII Corps Headquarters.
28. Idaho - XII Corps Field Artillery.
29. Logan berry - 33rd Field Artillery Brigade.
30. Lonesome - 14th field artillery observation battalion.
31. Lonesome Fox Baker -
32. Loyalist - 244th field artillery battalion (155 mm gun).
33. Lukewarm - 177th Field Artillery Group.
34. Luster - 255th field artillery battalion, (105 How).
35. Luxery - 945th field artillery battalion, (155 How).
36. Obey - 66th armored field artillery battalion, 4th Armored Division.
37. Ocean - 4th Armored Division Artillery.
38. Trigger - 417th infantry regiment, 76th Infantry Division.
39. Trigger Love - "L" Co, 3rd Bn, 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division.
40. Trigger King - "K" Co, 3rd Bn, 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division.
41. Tropic-- 76th Division Artillery
42. Highside -

Some of the units in which I served and supported as a forward observer during World War II.

George A. Buck