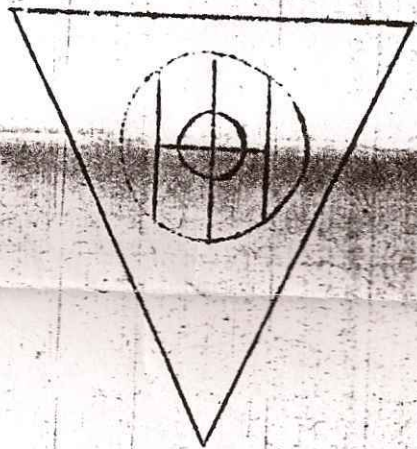


1st Battalion

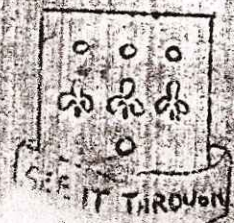
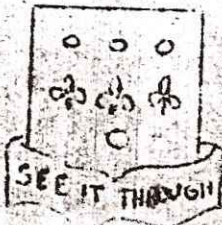
331st Infantry

NORMANDY BRITTANY LOIRE VALLEY LUXEMBOURG HURTGEN FOREST



83rd Thunderbolt

ARDENNES FIRST TO RHINE ELBE BRIDGEHEAD



D E D I C A T I O N

This brief history of the First Battalion, 331st Infantry, is dedicated to the greatest soldier and finest gentleman that the men of the Battalion have been privileged to know - the late Captain Daniel M. Moore, former Company Commander of Company "B", 331st Infantry. The finest tribute we can pay him is to reprint the entry his company made in its Morning Report upon hearing of his untimely death on 15 April 1945, from wounds received near Halberstadt, Germany, while he was in his usual position - at the head of his Company moving against the enemy.

"This Company is in mourning for the greatest man ever to be a member of this organization. Capt. Moore is no longer among the living, but his spirit will always hover over the Company which he made so great. The Company lost its greatest friend and the Division its best Captain. He gave his life so that this Company could continue on the road to greatness. There is no tangible way that the men can show their grief, but in each man's heart a void and ache has been created. Every man in this Company can honestly feel that he was privileged to serve under Captain Moore. Whatever honors we may amass in the future will be in his memory. He will live untarnished in our minds forever. Captain Moore - May your soul rest in peace and have the tranquility which it did not have on earth."

The unique shoulder patch insignia of the 83d Division started to draw questions late in the summer of 1942 when the Division was starting its reactivation in Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and the people of that state, especially in Indianapolis were having their first chance to meet some of the men of the Division. Early in November of 1942 the Division began its program of vigorous training. The 331st Infantry was under the command of Col. Ervil D. Porter while Lt. Col. Long was the First Battalion's Commander. The men of the Battalion were not too enthused by the clay red scar on the green, hilly countryside of Indiana known as Camp Atterbury. The weather was cruel, the training extra vigorous, consisting of rugged two week bivouacs, firing on the range in driving blizzards, extra long hours on one of the toughest Ranger Courses in the country, and an abundance of twenty-five mile hikes with full field packs. Of course the men had a chance to relax every now and then, especially to enjoy the hospitality of the people of Indianapolis who really went "all out" for the men of the 83d. The Battalion indulged in a vigorous athletic program with Company "A" being the big power in baseball, basketball and football. The men pitched into the training with so much enthusiasm and skill that the Division was ordered on Tennessee maneuvers in the summer of 1943. The Battalion had a new commander, Major Thomas F. McNeill, as Lt. Col. Long became the Regimental Executive Officer. The Division arrived in Tennessee in the vicinity of Lebanon, early in July and discovered that it was the youngest division participating in the maneuvers. Its opponents in the maneuvers were the 80th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division. The maneuver consisted of eight problems that took the Division from one end of the maneuver area to the other. The weather was murderously hot, the chiggers unrelenting in their attacks, but the men of the 1st Battalion played the game to the full, marching day and night without rest, indulging in pitched battles with both the enemy and the umpires until one day the maneuvers were over, the last siren had sounded and the Battalion moved into a rest area at Springfield, Tenn. where rumors of fifteen day furloughs began to circulate. The first 50% of the men did leave on their furloughs from the city of Nashville, which consequently experienced a transportation crisis. Early in Sept. the remaining 50% of the men started their long march to their new station, Camp Breckinridge, situated in Kentucky. The march, some 200 miles in length was rough, especially when it was made on hard pavements under a driving, cruel hot sun. The men upon arriving at their new camp found it to be a good one with the good sized town of Evansville, Indiana, only an hours ride away. By October the majority of the men had received their furloughs. In November the Battalion, now under the command of Lt. Col. Neilson, went into a period of training that was to match the training at Atterbury in its intensity. The Battalion received numerous Division and Corps tests and excelled in all of them, soon becoming recognized as one of the hottest Infantry Battalions in the Division. It kept this same record up in sports where Company "C" not only won the basketball crown in the Battalion but also took the Regimental and Divisional titles. Company "A" took the baseball and football crowns with Headquarters Company running close second in all of the three sports. The Regiment was now under such capable leadership that the advanced training was conducted and completed in record time. The Division packed up and headed for the East coast on the last of March to take "that boat ride". The 1st Battalion acted as Detail Battalion on the "George Washington" which was the Division's troop ship. The old tub docked at Liverpool on the 18th of April and the Battalion moved by train to the little town of Adderly Hall. After several weeks of collecting their equipment they moved out to a new area at Llangollen, Cheshire, where the Battalion conducted intensive training for the coming invasion. With this ever present threat of combat hanging over them the men of the Battalion sought relaxation in the town of Chester, where many of the men found "The Broadway Palace" to be the place to while away the hours

dancing with the assorted crop of females. In May the Battalion moved out to Wales where it was to conduct two weeks of what was later to turn out to be practically amphibious maneuvers. The Battalion was stationed near TRAWSFYND for part of the time, but later moved to ROMAN BRIDGE, where the whole regiment was flooded out in the last few days of their stay there by a stream which had been swollen to flood level by a cloudburst. It was quite a sight watching tents, clothing and all types of equipment whirling down the raging little stream. After this dose of rainy, cold weather the Battalion returned to TARGORLEY for another two week stay. They then moved for SOUTHAMPTON, England, on the 16th day of June and were sailing from there on the 19th after spending one day at the marshalling areas where the giant "D" day armadas had been prepared. The Battalion finally landed in France, on OMAHA BEACH on the twenty third of the month after setting off shore for five days weathering out a terrific squall which whipped the channel into a leaping frenzy and forced many of the men to use their little wax bags, which all of them had thought were unnecessary baggage. The Battalion assembled around the town of BRICQULVILLE, France. On the 26th the Battalion moved up through the battered town of CARENTAN, into the little town of CANTERIE; France, where it relieved elements of the 101st Airborne Division, which had jumped into this area on "D" day. The Battalion was ready to test its battle muscles and the opportunity soon was afforded to them.

The 1st Battalion was the reserve Battalion of the regiment while it was at CANTEPIE, and as a result the Battalion was able to do more training and brush up on the finer points to make it a smooth running outfit. The Battalion, however, did send out patrols at night to augment the information obtained by our front line units. "C" Company proved to have the outstanding patrol leaders of the Division in obtaining enemy information.

Early in the morning, 4 July 1944, the Allied Forces launched a general attack after a terrific artillery preparation, and the Battalion moved to its final assembly area. The Battalion Commander was ordered to Regiment to become Regimental executive Officer as the Regimental Commander, Colonel Martin D. Barndollar was killed by enemy rifle fire. However when H Hour (1930) for the Battalion arrived the Battalion Commander was back at the head of his battalion. The Battalion jumped off at 2035 in a coordinated attack behind an artillery preparation in the order, "C", "B", "A" and "D" less attachments. Enemy artillery was heavy but control was maintained despite casualties. After heavy fighting in the famous hedgerows against a bitter and fanatically resisting enemy, "C" Company was able to establish a 700 yard salient into the enemy lines. The fighting continued, being heavy until 2330, when the attack was stopped by darkness and increasing enemy resistance. All Companies were committed and casualties were extremely heavy. All the Officers from Company "A" were injured or killed and a Tech Sergeant had taken over command of the Company. The 1st Battalion was the only unit of the Division that made any noticeable gain all during the day, advancing nearly seven hundred yards. On July 5th the Battalion jumped off at 0900, after repulsing enemy counter-attacks. The enemy artillery and mortar fire was extremely heavy but Co's "C" and "D" were able to take their objectives at 1030. Again casualties were extremely heavy. The fighting continued along the same "drag them out and knock them down" lines until late in the afternoon, after a gain of some 1300 yards when there was a momentary lull. During the fighting both the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Neilson and the Heavy Weapons Company Commander, Captain Floyd Souders were seriously wounded, the latter mortally. After a short respite the Battalion jumped off again at 2100 with casualties continuing to be heavy. On the 6th of July after two days of hell the Battalion saw parts of the 4th Division, fresh from its triumphs at Cherbourg, pass thru to relieve them. The Battalion was put in Division reserve and for the rest of the day was only annoyed by a little sniper activity. On the 7th and 8th the Battalion was on the move again following the 2nd Battalion and whenever they were held up they moved out to assist them. On the 8th Co's "A" and "C" made contact with the enemy and with the aid of their tanks were able to make sizeable gains (sizeable gains in those days meant taking three or four hedgerows). Company "B" was cut off from the Battalion and pinned down by enemy tanks. But their bazooka men were unusually active and were able to account for several enemy tanks and assisted the Company in fighting their way out of the enemy trap. Meanwhile "A" and "C" received numerous casualties due to enemy tank and automatic weapons fire. On the ninth the Battalion moved into an assembly area preparatory to moving to SAINTENY. The advance party arrived in town and received a very heavy shelling. The Battalion still on the move up was ordered to return to its assembly area. The night of 10th July from Co. "A" were able to bring back several prisoners. Although our forces were quite depleted on both the 11th and 12th the Battalion moved forward, the resistance being lighter than previously encountered. On the 12th the troops dug in for the night after gaining quite a bit of ground. The 13th, 14th and 15th were quiet days for our patrols because of our frequent shelling of the enemy positions.

On the 17th the Battalion moved out of its defensive position to attack across the LA VERDE peninsula. Casualties were heavy and the Battalion was forced to withdraw to its original position. The Battalion remained in this position until the 26th. During that time the Battalion was kept occupied by a vigorous training program. Also active patrolling was maintained. On the 26th at 0530 the Battalion again jumped off in the attack. Enemy resistance was strong and the Battalion Commander was killed while he was at the Battalion OP, but the Battalion continued moving forward against determined resistance. On the 27th the Battalion was off in the attack again with the line companies using grappling hooks to trip the mines which the enemy had placed in the hedgerows. The attack progressed well and by late afternoon the Battalion had gained its objective. Early on the morning of the 28th the Battalion following the 2nd Battalion crossed the swamp. Their all day march was marred only by a little bombing and strafing by the Luftwaffe. Contact was made with the 1st Division and the Battalion settled in its new area. The Battalion was now in a quiet area far behind the enemy's front. The enemy MLR had been broken and Jerry had been forced back. On the 29th a few of the select were given the opportunity to take showers. The rest of the time until the 3rd of August was spent in training. On the 3rd the Battalion assembled in the vicinity of DOL, France. On the 5th they moved up the beach road toward CANCALE meeting little resistance. Some strong points were met but they were wiped out by dive bombing missions. The enemy was blowing up his ammunition dumps as he withdrew. After checking the towns of CANCALE and MELOIRDESONDRES the Battalion moved on towards ST MALO. After savage fighting, during which time the enemy was using ack-ack guns as direct fire weapons the Battalion was squeezed out on the right flank of the Division. On the 9th the Battalion entrucked and moved towards DINARD where they relieved part of the 8th Division. On the 13th of the month the Battalion captured the airstrip at LE BOURGVEUX. The fighting was rough but the Battalion PW cage continued filling up as the intense fighting spirit of the men of the Battalion was forcing more and more of the enemy to give up. Company "B" had advanced so rapidly that they had run off a road and the Germans ignorant of this continued to drive down the road in their cars and on their bicycles. The airport was filled with bikes, wine and even women's stockings. It also had a small Siegfried line set up in the center of it and the Company CPs were located in underground shelters complete with bunks, electric lights and gas decontamination equipment. Late on the evening of the 14th the Battalion captured the town of ST LUNAIRE as it continued its relentless drive forward. The town was filled with mine fields and the 15th was spent in clearing up the fields and also in picking up a few German trucks which the enemy had left behind. The enemy had withdrawn to a fortress outside of the town located close to the sea, called Hill "48". On the afternoon of the 15th some of the men had stumbled into a deserted pill box which was discovered to have direct telephone communication with the fort itself. A German interpreter contacted the Commander of the fort by phone and told him that his forces were surrounded and that he was to have an hour in which to surrender his forces. The enemy refused and our attached tanks were brought up. They scored a direct hit on the steel doors of the fort and set off materiel which gave off poisonous gas resulting in the deaths of a hundred or more of the enemy and the surrender of 1000 prisoners. On the 16th the town was quiet and the Mayor gave a party. Amidst several ceremonies the American flag was raised over the town. On the 17th the Battalion moved back to Dinard where it took over temporary control of the town. On the 20th the Battalion was on the move. It passed through Rennes on its way to RIAILLE where it set up for the night. The Battalion was on the move, it passed through RENNES on its way to patrol the LOIRE RIVER along a forty mile front. On the 24th there was a

shifting of positions and the Battalion moved to the vicinity of NORT where it continued its patrolling activities until the 31st of the month when it moved to VIGNUEX in the vicinity of NANTES and ST NAZAIRE. During their stay in this position the companies changed position every four days, giving each a chance to be up front and to send out patrols, to conduct training and to send men to NANTES on pass or to witness a few of the movies held in the Battalion area. On the 15th of the month the 94th Division fresh from the States, arrived to take over our positions. During these few weeks of patrol activity the work of the F.F.I. had been helpful but they did cause the Battalion a lot of worry with their queer way of fighting a war. On the 17th of September the Battalion moved out to the town of MONTARGIS. On their way they passed thru the towns of ANGENIS, ANGERS, ELOIS AND ORLEANS. At ORLEANS the column was nearly mobbed by the French civilians who stood on both sides of the streets, showering the men with fruit and affectionate greetings all along the way. Arriving at MONTARGIS on the 19th the Battalion spent four days brushing up on their training. On the 23rd the Battalion was on the move again passing thru VERDUN, ST MIHIEL, COURTNAV, BRAUCOURT, LORRAINE and then into LUXEMBOURG. The Battalion moved into the town of WELFRANGE under the cover of darkness. The Battalion was now in Regimental reserve while the other two Battalions were closing the pockets on the enemy between our positions and the MOSELLE RIVER. On the 29th the Battalion moved to the vicinity of CANACH preparatory to cleaning the enemy out of the rest of the towns on this side of the MOSELLE. On the night of the 29th and the morning of the 30th Company "B" captured the town of EHREN and "A" Company, although fighting fiercely, was unable to take the town of WORMELDANGE. Casualties were rather heavy due to the commanding positions the Germans held. The Battalion immediately moved down to a defensive position, sending out aggressive patrols. "B" and "C" Companies ran into enemy outposts several times and in the ensuing fire fight suffered a few casualties. The front was fairly quiet during the first week of October. The enemy did shell the front line areas quite frequently but there weren't too many casualties. Also there were quite a few buzz-bombs overhead, but no one minded as long as they continued passing overhead. On the 7th the Battalion jumped off in the attack again, this time "C" Company attacked and took the town of WORMELDANGE, after some bitter fighting and "B" Company took the town of OBERMELDANGE. On the 8th our positions were taken over by the 330th Infantry, and the Battalion moved to the vicinity of NEUDORF. While in this area the men were given passes to the city of LUXEMBOURG where they indulged in the luxury of ice cream for the first time in nearly half a year. "B" Company acted as an honor guard for the Division review held for General Marshall. On the 13th the Battalion moved to the vicinity of THIONVILLE where they were to conduct training on the Attack of Fortified Positions using the old Maginot line fortifications. After several days of training here the Battalion moved to the town of CONTERN, Luxembourg. While in this area the Battalion conducted intensive training and also ran several CPX's. The only other activity of note was the presentation of awards to 15 men in the Battalion by General Macon and the appearance of more V-2's over our area. The first week in November was spent in running platoon problems and taking Division tests. Lieutenant Colonel Neilson, having recovered from wounds received 5 July 1945, returned to the Regiment 8 November and on the 15th of November took over command of the Battalion from Major Scott. The only activity of the 2nd week was a fire which broke out in "C" Company's Area and which had the company out forming bucket brigades which soon had the fire under control. On the 16th the Battalion moved to the vicinity of HIMELING, France, where it was to spearhead the Division attack across the Moselle River. After remaining in this area for several days the Battalion moved

back to CANACH when the order to cross the Moselle was rescinded. On the 17th the first patrol was sent into Germany and thereafter patrols were sent out every night with Company "B" being very successful, penetrating deep into enemy territory locating targets for our artillery. Otherwise the front was relatively quiet. The companies reported a little enemy shelling and there were a few casualties. The men enjoyed Thanksgiving Day dinners in comparative quiet. During the rest of the month the Companies spent their time in patrolling and the reserve company spent its time in platoon training. A few passes were granted and all of the excitement was confined to the attempts of German patrols to break thru our lines, but they were always discovered and driven back across the river. On the 6th of December the Battalion was relieved by elements of the badly mauled Fourth Division. The Battalion arrived in the new area on the seventh, after passing through parts of BELGIUM and HOLLAND. For the next few days all of the Battalion installations received heavy shelling from enemy guns. The rifle companies sent out several patrols to probe the town of GEY to their front. At 1445, November 11th "A" Company attacked the southwest part of the town and after a fierce night of hand to hand combat in the ruined houses of the town managed to establish a foothold. At 1020, November 12th Captain Moore led Company "B" and a platoon of attached tanks into GEY, capturing 112 prisoners in an hour and a half and securing the town by noon. Co "C" moved out to clean up the surrounding area. For three days "C" Company fought its way thru enemy mine fields, and stubborn enemy resistance, ever advancing forward even though its casualties were rather heavy. On the afternoon of the 20th the Regimental Commander, Colonel York and the Battalion S-2, Lt. Clevenger were wounded by mortar fragments. The Regimental Commander was evacuated and a new commander, Colonel Walthour took his place. On the 22nd the Battalion moved into the town of KUFFERATH, where it continued patrolling right up to the ROER river front, at that time our unit had made the deepest penetration yet made into German territory. Christmas day was marred by only occasional shelling and all of the companies enjoyed bountiful Christmas dinners, and the Company all had a Christmas tree of some sort set up. Late on the afternoon of the 25th the Battalion was relieved by the 104th Division and moved to AACHEN. The men had a day of rest there and then were on their way again, this time to meet the German counter-thrust into the BELGIUM territory, which was to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. The rest of the month found the Battalion relieving elements of the 75th Division and setting up mine fields and barb wire defenses. Due to the excessive number of mines that our unit was laying there were several mine accidents resulting in the loss of several men's lives. The Battalion moved again, this time to the town of LILERNLAUX. While the Battalion was in this area the old Battalion S-3, Captain Bart, who had been wounded about July 9th returned to the Battalion. On the night of the 11th Co's "A" and Co "C" jumped off in the attack towards the town of LANGLIER. The going was rough due to the intense cold, the depth of the snow and enemy tank - infantry teams. Casualties were rather heavy but the enemy was pushed back and quite a number of prisoners were taken. The town was taken on the 12th at 1330. The Companies took off again in the attack at 2225 with "B" Company attacking through the woods towards COURTIL. On the 14th Co's "A" and "B" had pushed forward and established contact with the 3rd Battalion on the right. These two companies immediately prepared a defensive position setting up mine fields and also preparing barbed wire defenses. The Battalion was to drive forward in attempt to cut the Houfalize and COURTIL road. At 1200, January 17, the 1st Battalion jumped off with the 104th Division and Corps artillery to cut the Houfalize - Courtil road. The way was cleared thru the woods for armor by a bulldozer as Co's "A" and "B" pushed steadily forward. They met a considerable amount of resistance.

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They surprised several enemy convoys on the road and the machine gunners of Company "B" had a field day mowing down Germans and trucks. The Company pushed ahead so rapidly and aggressively that by late afternoon November 18 they were on the objective, but nearly isolated due to the density of the woods and the rugged climatic conditions. On the 19th the Battalion was relieved and the men had a chance to come back to the drying tents where they could soak up some warmth for the first time in several weeks. Trench foot had played havoc with the men but they gamely stuck it out and blasted the enemy back and assisted in hammering the Bulga flat. The Battalion moved back to AINSNE where the men had a chance to clean up, see movies and go on pass to nearby LIEGE or to PARIS, etc. Training took up most of the time of the men during their stay in this area, the only occasions breaking the usual routine being the awarding of Bronze and Silver Stars by the Division Commander and the holding of an NCO party. On the 6th of February the Battalion moved again this time to BERNEAU. The move was made under the strictest of security measures, all markings being scrapped off a vehicles, shoulder patches were removed and the personnel of the Battalion were forbidden to fraternize with the Belgium civilians. The time in this area was taken up with training and a few night problems were even inserted in the training schedule. With the attack on the Roer starting the Battalion moved up ready to follow the attacking elements. After a short stop at OLTWEILER, Germany the Battalion moved across the Roer, thru JULICH into GARZWEILER, where it joined up with a combat team from the 2nd Armored Division and started off on its wild race across Germany, stopping temporarily to consolidate its positions at the town of HEMMERDEN. The rapid advance continued until the Battalion with the rest of the 331st Infantry Regiment reached the Rhine in the vicinity of NEUSS, being officially credited as the first American unit to reach this great water barrier. The Battalion immediately started to set up road blocks and to conduct a military government in the area. While in this area the companies started to train again, with emphasis being on river crossing. The men had a chance to take showers and see a few movies and to rest after their whirlwind dash across Germany. The Battalion left this area on the 21st of March and moved close to the Dutch border where they were to conduct more assault boat training on the MEUSE RIVER. The Battalion was the only unit of the Regiment stationed in HOLLAND. Several parties were given and also passes were authorized into Holland towns. On the 29th the Battalion moved out of its area and crossed the Rhine river near WALLACH. The Battalion moved into an assembly area, the men now riding on tanks and TDs instead of trucks. The Battalion continued on the move passing thru OLFGEN and KOLONIE HERMANN and several other towns, all of which were bedecked with white surrender flags and sullen faced civilians who were still shocked by the American blitz tactics. The Battalion was protecting the flank of the Second Armored Division along the edge of the RUHR valley. The Battalion moved out of this position on the third, passing through the towns of SANDE and PADERBORN, following the 113th Cavalry. On the fifth they assisted in the capture of the town of ROLFZEN and continued on their drive toward the WESER river. Companies A, B, C were all meeting stiff resistance and it took a day of intense fighting to reach this objective. 1135 April 7th Company "B" captured the town of HEINSEN, while "A" and "C" companies were fighting fiercely for the town of POLLE. At 0600 on the 8th of April and after intense fighting against fanatical SSS and Wehrmacht troops. Companies "A" and "C" were captured POLLE. Meanwhile "B" Company was attached to the 3rd Barralion and crossed the Weser with that unit near HEINSEN. Late that night the rest of the 1st Battalion crossed the WESER at POLLE and continued to move forward stopping briefly on the 10th in the town of WISBERG. While in this area the Battalion received a new Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kuhlman, the old Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Neilson, leaving for Regiment where he was to serve as Regimental

Executive Officer. On the 12th the Battalion started on its rapid race across Germany and in the vicinity of the town of LANGENSTEIN the Company Commander of "B" Company, Captain Daniel M. Moore was mortally wounded by a German ambush party. On the 13th the Battalion moved on to the town of CALBE where they were to protect the supply route from the South. At midnight the Battalion was alerted to move up to the town of BARBY, and then over the ELBE. "B" Company crossed without too much trouble and was given the mission of assisting the 2nd Battalion who had crossed earlier. On the 14th the rest of the Battalion moved across the ELBE. Upon moving into their area across the river, Companies "A" and "C" ran into enemy fire and strongpoints which held them up temporarily and caused rather heavy casualties. At this time Company "C" lost its Company Commander, Captain Patrick Murphy, who was fatally wounded by enemy machine gun fire, while directing his company from the top of a tank. After eliminating this enemy strongpoint the companies moved into the towns of KAMERITZ and TOCHEIM and set up defensive positions. During this time the enemy was using every means at his disposal to knock out the bridge across the Elbe; the Luftwaffe strafed and bombed it, the artillery shelled it, floating mines were sent down the river against it and also swimmers were sent to assist in its destruction, but all to no avail as the Battalion hung on grimly protecting its small chunk of "living space". Early on the morning of the 18th the enemy threw a full sized counterattack estimated as 2 Battalion supported with armor, which really threatened the entire bridgehead. Due to the heroic and courageous work of "C" and "A" Companies the counterattack was stopped after nearly 10 hours of fighting. After this score the next few days were spent in improving positions, setting up mine fields and barbed wire entanglements. Also "C" Co and "B" Co sent out several patrols "C" Co clearing out the town of STECKBY and surrounding areas. On the 22nd word was received of an expected contact with the Russians as a result several flare signals were to be used and men were to be on the alert. The front was very quiet for the next few days and the expected meeting with the Russians never did materialize, however, they did link up later with the 69th Division further to the north. The only activity during that period came on the 29th when the 329th Regiment moved in and took the large town of ZERBST without firing a shot. The mighty German beast was breathing his last, his struggles were becoming fewer and fewer, in fact German soldiers were surrendering in large groups in order to avoid the on rushing Russians. The War was approaching its conclusion and everyone was holding on hoping against hope that it would soon end. The Companies were engaged in training activities and also USO shows and passes were keeping the men occupied. On the 5th of May the Battalion withdrew back across the river to take over Military affairs from the 2nd Armored in its area west of the ELBE. From this date until the war was officially ended on 8 May the Battalion continued moving from one area to the other taking care of Displaced Persons and handling military affairs. The Battalion was approaching the end of its fighting days in this theatre. It had distinguished itself in battle and was justifiably proud of its heroes and its brave fighting men. It was the courage and fighting spirit of men like these that crushed the mighty German war machine and it was their just right to share in the fruits of the victory and to enjoy a quiet that wasn't temporary, but permanent. These veteran fighters paused to salute their Comrades - in - Arms who had made the supreme sacrifices, but like all good Americans their minds were on the future of their homes and families. Their dreams now had a chance to be realized: they soon would be back in the good old U.S.A.

NOTE: Date on line 4, page 7 should be January 18th

V-E Day found the Battalion set up in the town of OSTERWEICK, in a military Government setup when the word was received that hostilities had ceased. The ending of the war did not make too great an impression on the men of the Battalion but they really did enjoy themselves when they received a V-E day ration of liquor. Up being relieved by elements of the 30th Division, the Battalion moved to the vicinity of GREENE. The Companies set up road blocks and surveys were made of all industrial and supply installations in the area. The Battalion CP was located initially at GREENE, but moved to a more central location at GANDERSHEIM, in which town "C" Company was also located. The rest of the month 5th May was spent in removing all DP's from the area and returning them to their own home lands. Also the men of the Battalion received furloughs to the Riviera, England and Paris. Several presentations of awards were made during this period. But most of the time was spent in manning road blocks. An aggressive athletic program was in operation with Company "C" and Company "A" providing the fireworks in the softball league. Several swimming pools were set up in the town and also the Battalion was treated to a nightly movie, either at their own theatres or at the theatre at the nearby 115th Evac. Hospital. On the 16th of May several high point men of the Battalion were given furloughs home for eventual discharge. Later in the month beer gardens were placed in operation and Division had set up a rest center in BAD HILZBURG. Replacements were received for the Battalion and the T/O was beginning to look normal again. The usual troubles of handling returning German soldiers and other little problems of military government were the only headaches the Battalion had to contend with. Rifle ranges were constructed by each of the companies. Pictorial histories of the Division were distributed to men of the Battalion and tons of mail went out in the last part of the month now when censorship regulations were lifted. The men of the Battalion had a chance to rest up and take it easy for a change. Red Cross Clubmobiles made several visits to the Battalion during the month. The month closed with rumors of relief by the British in our sector.

The Battalion prepared to make its next move in early June. This time it was stripped of all of its captured vehicles and looked once again like a normal outfit, and nothing like the old "Rag Tag Circus". The 6th of June was a holiday in honor of the "D" day landings of 1944. On the 9th of June the Battalion moved out of GANDERSHEIM on its way to the Third Army area in southern Germany. After bivouacing on the road for one night the Battalion arrived in the new area in the vicinity of PASSAU, Germany, where it was to relieve elements of the 13th Armored Division and the 5th Infantry Division. The Battalion CP was now located at SIMBACH. The next few days were spent in making surveys of all installations in the area. "B" Company was guarding road blocks in the vicinity of EHRLING and the other companies were patrolling around the town of SIMBACH. For those troops not engaged in patrolling around these areas there was training, athletics and a little I & E training. Men were being sent on passes to Riviera, Paris and U.K. and also to the Division Rest Camp. Ranges were built in the area and the Companies all moved back into the town of SIMBACH on the 24th of June ready to follow a rigorous training schedule. The rest of the month was spent in improving the various company installations in the town. The Battalion soon had an elaborate setup with each company having a mess hall, beer parlor and dance halls. The Battalion had a photo shop, a jewelry shop, Battalion dance hall, beer gardens, swimming pools, two bathing beaches and nearly every convenience imaginable, including a riding stable and a Battalion movie house.

During July the men of the Battalion had an opportunity to

make excursions on the Danube and to visit the Division rest center at PASSAU. Also numerous Battalion Parades were held on the new Battalion Parade Ground, a parade being held every Friday afternoon. The Companies held parties several nights a week, using the Hungarian band from "A" Company to provide the music. Several USO shows were put on during this period such names as Jack Benny and Bob Hope being featured. On the 15th of July all military government duties were taken over by the 102nd Division. Also all the "85" point men in the Battalion were redeployed to the 99th Division, in exchange for their low point men. Also on the 15th of July, MOORE FIELD, at BIRNBACH was dedicated in honor of "B" Company's great Company Commander. The rest of the month was spent in the running of Platoon Combat problems by the rifle companies. There was practice mortar firing by both the 60 and 81mm mortar sections. The entertainment for the month was varied, the men were treated to movies at the Battalion theatre and also several USO shows at PASSAU. The Battalion hardball team played several games during the month and showed that it had plenty of power.

The month of August found the Battalion winding up its training getting ready to go to the GRAFENWOHR Training area, on maneuvers. On the 15th of August 1945, the Battalion assembled to celebrate the 3rd Anniversary of the Division. On the same day the cheering news that Japan had decided to "throw in the towel" was received and the men of the Battalion began counting up their points and the number of months that were to elapse before they were to return home. The final and crowning news was the cancellation of maneuvers. The men of the Battalion had excelled in their wartime duties and as August drew to a close the men were awaiting the future; the Division had taken over military government duties again an intensive I & E program was in operation, but the men were still eager to get back to that land of plenty, the good old USA.

The men of the Battalion had excelled on the field of battle. They could look back on their days with the 1st Battalion with deep pride and satisfaction of a hard and dangerous job well done. Many will carry back with them to civilian life the same high sense of duty, loyalty and honor that characterized their unselfish and exemplary conduct in combat.

COMBAT - AWARDS

Bronze Stars Awarded:	444
Bronze Stars Pending:	189
Silver Stars Awarded:	63
Silver Stars Pending:	7
Croix de Guerre :	5
Purple Hearts :	249
British Order of Merit: (T/Sgt. Wojnar - Co "A")	1
Luxembourg Medal : (T/Sgt. Wojnar - Co "A")	1
Belgium Award (Pending): (Pfc. Philip Streit - Co "D")	1
Legion of Merit (Pending): (Capt. Daniel Moore - Co "B")	1
Distinguished Service Cross (Pending) Pfc. Vester Skinner - Co "B"	5
Pfc. Charles Agnew - Co "C"	
Sgt. George Gaydush - Co "D"	
S/Sgt. Charles Pate - Co "D"	
Capt. Patrick Murphy - Co "C"	
Certificate of Merit	33
Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Heart:	34

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