



83rd Infantry Division

FROM OMAHA BEACH TO THE ELBE

We traveled 1,408 miles from Omaha Beach in Normandy through France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany across the Elbe River.

We left Southampton, England D-Day plus 12 and established our bridgehead across the Elbe on April 13th, 1945. Our first offensive was launched July 4th and we broke out of the hedgerows on the 25th in the vicinity of Periers.

We fought two major battles to liberate St. Malo and Dinard by August 20th and then swept down to the Loire River where we bottled up 60,000 Nazis at St. Nazaire.

We patrolled an area of 93 miles from Angers to Nantes and on to Redon. Our reconnaissance patrols also crossed the Loire probing aggressively into enemy territory.

On September 18th, we moved by motor 245 miles from Nantes to Montargis through Tours, Blois and Orleans. Five days later we were in Luxembourg clearing German pockets to the eastern banks of the Moselle.

December 6th we moved to the Hurtgen Forest through Belgium and slugged our way to the Roer River south of Duren.

Between December 23rd and 25th we moved to Aachen and then shoved off south into Belgium on the 26th. By January 9th we attacked into the northwestern tip of the Nazi salient and after 10 days of bitter fighting in the Ardennes, the counteroffensive was smeared.

We crossed the Roer at Julich February 28th and in 48 hours were on the Rhine River's banks at the southern tip of Neuss.

We left the Rhine March 21st and moved to Sustern, Holland to conduct training in river crossings and attack over open terrain.

We moved through Roermond, Holland, crossed the Rhine March 29th south of Westel and in 13 days swept 215 miles through Germany over the Weser, Leine and Elbe Rivers.

During this drive we established a fiercely contested bridgehead across the Dortmund-Ems Canal into Hamm on April 2nd. Our positions across the Elbe River were 65 miles southwest of Berlin, the closest American unit to the German Capital.

We met the Russians April 30th and they relieved us of our bridgehead two days before V-E Day.