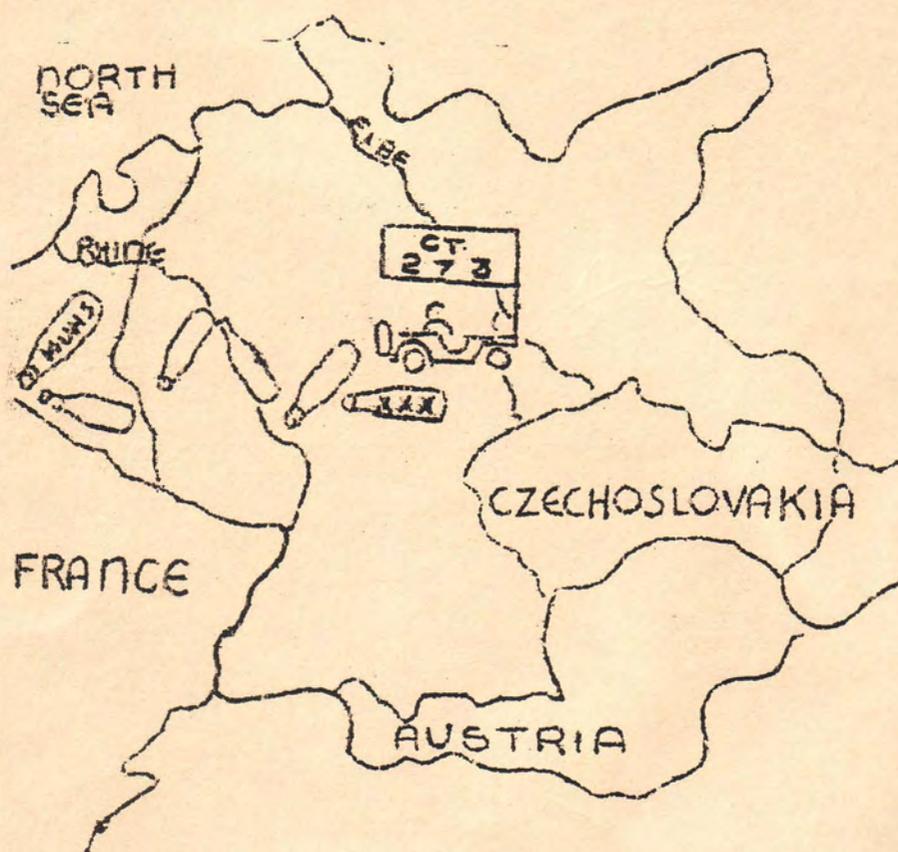


COMBAT SOUVENIR
2nd BATTALION
273rd INFANTRY
69 DIVISION



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**OFFICERS OF HEADQUARTER COMPANY,
SECOND BATTALION
COMBAT OPERATIONS**

Bn. Commander: LT. Col. John M. Lynch
Exec. Officer: Major Fred W. Craig
S-1 (Adjutant) Capt. Wm. T. Boone
S-2 (Intel. Officer) Eugene Reese
S-3 (operations Officer) Capt. Arthur J. McBride
S-4 (Supply Officer) 1st. Lt. Henry E. Webster, Jr.
S-10 (Commissary Officer) 1st Lt. Wm. F. Mahoney
S-16 (Surgeon) Capt. Robert C. Scott
S-35 (Trans. Officer) 1st. Lt. Phil R. Fountain

Combat Line Company Officers and Men

Company E: Capt. Dave F. Dunlap

Company F: 1st. Lt. Don Moran

Company G. Capt. George H. Caple, Jr.

Company H.: Capt. Chas. Burtyk, Jr.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIGHTS

2nd Bn.-273rd INF.-69th Div.

The Outfit

69th WHICH MADE FIRST ATTACK
IN DIV. TO TAKE GIESCHEID;
CAPTURED FIRST GERMAN
P.O.W.s DURING ACTION

LED: SEIGFRIED BREAKTHRU&DRIVE THRU GERMANY

TOOK: HANN MUDEN

STORMED: LEIPZIG TOWN HALL

NEUTRALIZED: NAPOLEON'S STATUE

SPEARHEDED: DRIVE TO MULDE BY CCA
9TH ARMED DIVISION

MADE FIRST RUSSIAN CONTACT

Our comrades in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice

Hdqts. Co.: 1st. Lt. Lotspeich, Norvin E.
1st.Lt. Madory, Lyle J.
T/5 Lowe, George E.

Co. E : T/Sgt. Sanders, Carl
S/Sgt. DeMarco, Dino A.
S/Sgt. Buckley, Fergus P.
Sgt. Dchchenko, Alexis A.
Sgt. Carlson, Ernest A.
Sgt. Wagner, Chester L.
Pfc. Harfoot, Edward A.
Pfc. Coombs, Linwood R.
Pfc. Seger, Robert R.
Pfc. Bray, Ewert E.
Pvt. Harding, Mitchell A.
Pvt. Copenhaver, Chas. C.
Pvt. Cottrell, Stanley
Pvt. Ham, Clifton A.
Pvt. North, James U.
Pvt. La Grone, Chas. B.
Pvt. Bourassa, Paul E.

MISSING IN ACTION:

Pfc. Goldie, William

Our comrades in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice

Co. F : T/Sgt. Franks, George E.
Sgt. Amoss, Harry C.
Sgt. Gilligan, Joseph F.
Cpl. Smith, Russell E.
T/5 Bork, Kenneth G
T/5 Collard, Vernile
Pfc Biggerstaff, Harry
Pfc Creed, Melvin B.
Pfc Holland, John E.
Pfc Gillilan, George M.
Pvt. Kelley, Harold L.
Pvt. Rustad, Vernon R.
Pvt. Spieckerman, Marvin H.
Pvt. Schafer, Marvin H.y

Co. G : Ist. Lt. Fox, Chris P. jr.
S/sgt. Haverly, John jr.
Sgt. Maloney, Edwin J.
Pfc. Kamman, Royce G.
Pfc. Pittman, jr. Harry S.
Pfc. O'Keefe, Edward C.
Pfc. Kline, Robert E.
Pfc. Kouthin, Donald R.
Pfc. Wright, Nelson R.
Pvt. Willoughby, Richard E.
Pvt. Fletcher, Robert L.

Co. H None lost.

ORIGINAL CADRE, 69TH DIVISION

C.O. Lt. Col. Oliver S. Olson

Ex. O. Major HENRY h. Moore, Jr.

S-1 Capt. William H. Harris

S-2 Ist. Lt. Dean L. Davidson

S-3 Capt. Jones B. Huskey

S-4 Ist. Lt. Frank Henley

Co. E Capt. Harry Homan

Co. F Capt. Ernest M. Stallings

Co. G Capt. Robert L. Chandler

Co. H Capt. Charles W. Burtyk, Jr.

ACTVATION AND TRAINING

The 2nd battalion 273rd infantry regiment was activated on the 15th of May 1943, as part of the 69th Infantry Division. Activation and training were conducted at Camp Shelby, Miss., and in the maneuver grounds, De Soto National Forest, Miss.

The Cadre had been members of the 381st Infantry Regt., 96th Div. Which had trained at Camp Adair , Oregon. This cadre left Oregon in February 1943 and the officers attended new division officers class no. 12 at Ft. Benning's famous infantry school. Upon completion of this course they were joined by the NCO and Jr. Officers cadre at Camp Shelby in April 1943.

Training began on the 31 st of May 1943 and a routine intensive training program of 13 weeks was followed by 12 weeks of additional field training problems which were rated very successful. A change from "over seas" rumors became an undertone during the now famous "March to the Sea" from the containment area to the beautiful Ocean Springs on the Gulf Coast.

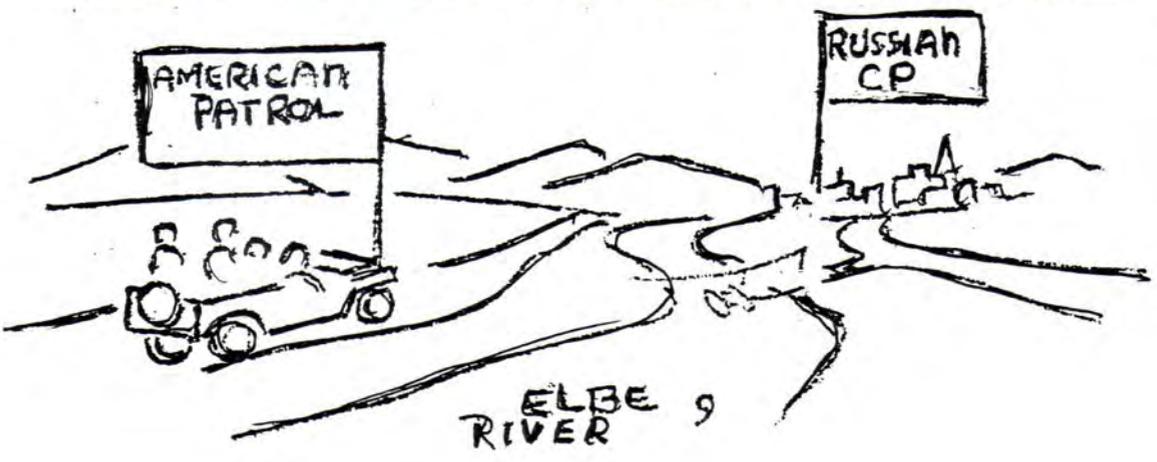
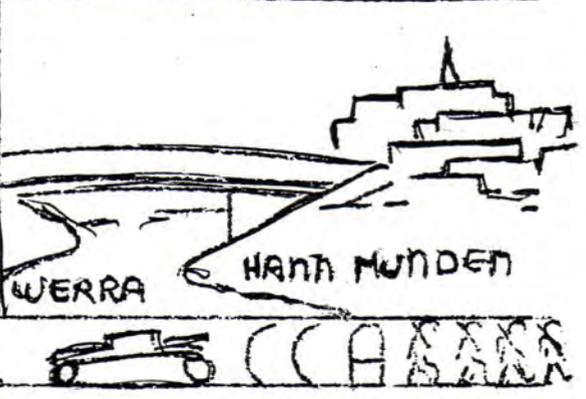
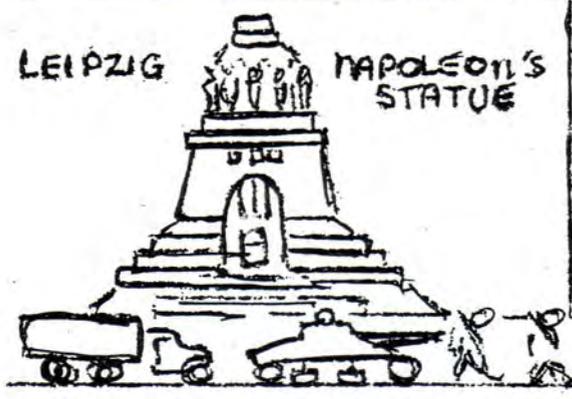
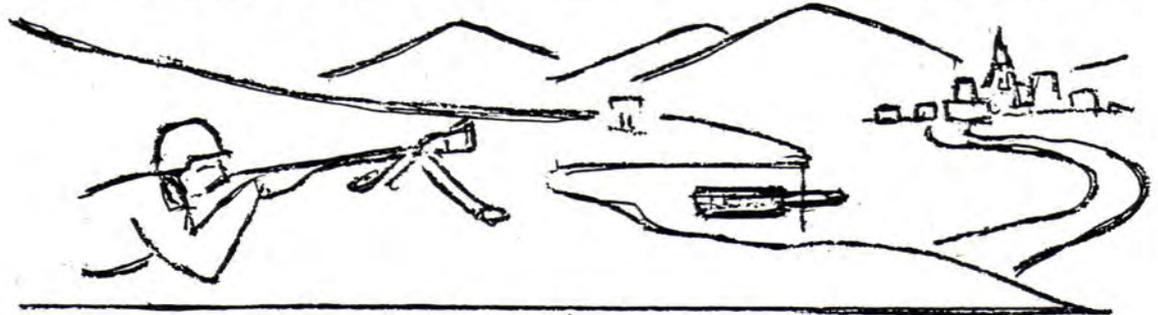
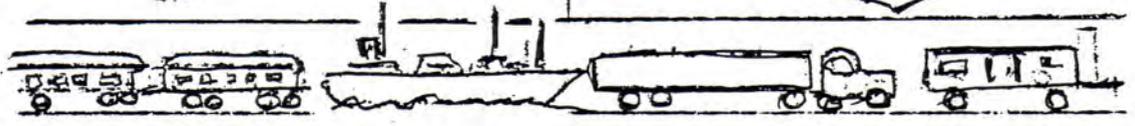
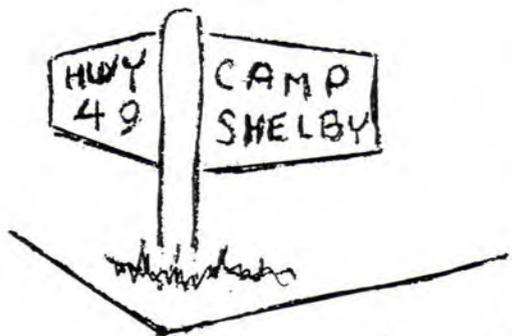
Upon return to the garrison, we suffered our second and greatest personnel casualty, the loss of 60% of our enlisted men as overseas reinforcements. With the constant drain on personnel to overseas ports of embarkation, our training became a combination of basic, unit, combined, and "D" exercises. A happy climax to this period came on Nov.3rd , 1944, when the last train left Camp Shelby for Camp Kilmer, N.J.

Movement to Battle

Following the train ride from Camp Shelby, Miss., to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, we spent a few days in that famous staging camp, where incidentally, we got passes to New York City. A train ride to the ferry dock, a ferry ride punctuated by the pain of a too heavy pack, and a gangplank were stepping-stones to the SS Marine Panther.

For thirteen days, (you have your own memory of that seaward journey), we “sweated out “ another move from historic Avonmouth docks near Bristol to camps in the vicinity of Crawley and Chilbolton, England. Nissen huts and mud, London and Piccadilly, rolling pasture land spotted with crawling shadows of large Air Force bomber formations. All these did not allay our concern when we lost another 25% of our men to the assignment of replacement combat personnel.

Just as we settled for a long stay in the United Kingdom, we became targeted for combat and practically overnight we found our battalion crossing the English Channel into France, on that miserable truck ride from LeHarve to Chateau Bremontier Mervalle near Gournay, France. A couple of dismal train rides in the famous WWI 40 and 8 rail cars with a pause in Sissone brought us to Vallendar and the combat area.



THE SIEGFREID LINE

The first taste of combat came in the vicinity of Ramscheid, Germany; on the 12th of Feb. 1945. After relief of the 1st battalion, 393rd infantry, we spent the remainder of the night and the following day getting accustomed to the sniper fire, the artillery rounds, mortar and "screaming meemie" fire. Patrolling and being subjected to more enemy fire occupied our time. The Battalions first casualty was Sgt. Carl Sanders of Company E. who was killed by a land mine during patrol. Plans were made on Feb. 26th for our first offensive action. In order to clear the International boundary road, (between France and Germany), as an army supply route, we had to deny observation on the road to the enemy.

Moving during the early morning darkness of Feb. 27th, the battalion assaulted and seized Giescheid and the surrounding high ground with Co. G occupying the town. Despite heavy artillery and mortar fire from the enemy we continued our attack and on the 28th of Feb. Companies E and F captured the town of Rescheid and the access road to the North. Here we were relieved by the 2nd. Battalion, 272nd infantry during the night of March 1st and then moved to a "rest area " in the vicinity of Muringen. Our rest was of short duration however and we rejoined the regiment in relief of the 2nd battalion, 110th infantry, 28th division in the vicinity of Hellenthal during the night of March 3rd.

The second Siegfroid belt, which we faced, looked like another formidable spot. Patrols soon discovered that it was lightly held and we crashed through to Oberhausen on the 6th of March. Mopping up and a march to the town of Kreuzeburg for a well-deserved rest followed.

THE MOPPING UP DAYS

After reconnaissance for a move to the vicinity of Dedenbach , and an early crossing of the Rhine, our hopes were dashed and we moved to Hilberath and spent nine days in rebuilding and improving a seven mile section of the Sinzig Buskirchen road as a supply route for the Remagen bridgehead. Upon completion of this work, we by-passed our planned rest area in Dedenbach(again) and moved to an active defensive position on the west bank of the Rhine, in the vicinity of Brohl, to relieve the 1st Battalion, 272nd infantry regiment. Hardly stopping for time to organize this position, we led the Rhine crossing by ferry and pontoon bridge during the night of 27-28 of March.

Then began a mad series of marches, motor marches stops, and continued moves again. Beundorf, Weinar, Holzapple, Geissen, and a hundred other towns; stopping just long enough to patrol, mop-up, and send back those hundreds of “Supermen Nazis” who had been by-passed. The agonizing ride of 148 miles during the darkness over an unmarked route and crowding into trucks and perched on tanks and tank destroyers were somewhat confusing as to our final objectives. We shagged our way into Hitler’s Third Reich at a maddening pace and were halted momentarily to prepare for Hann Munden on 7th of April.

HANN MUNDEN

The 2nd battalion left Bonafort, Germany, on 7th of April, with the mission of crossing the Weser River east of the city of Hann Munden. G company lead out followed by the rest of the battalion.

Just before we were in sight of the river we received a change in orders to take Hann Munden before dark. After hasty reconaissance, the battalion started on its new mission, to take our first big city.

F and G companies were on line and E company was to make a wide enveloping movement on the right, H company to be in general support. All companies were to enter the city at the same time.

We received a lot of machine gun and 20 mm fire from the outskirts of the town just as we were ready to move in. At 1910 hrs. the 881st Field Artillery battalion laid down a ten-minute concentration of fire. At 1950 hrs. all resistance except sniper fire ceased. The town was taken before dark. The bridge was secured, and another mission completed by the battalion.

Combat Command "A" Days

On 9th of April, the battalion was attached to CCA of the 9th armored division to spear head the First Army's drive to the river Elbe.

Sixty miles in a single day! –At least we learned how a motorized unit moves on TD's, tanks, and personnel carrying vehicles. We moved fast and furious in a new kind of fighting. From Volkerode on the 10th of April, we traveled eastward fifty miles, meeting little resistance and stopped for the night at Schernberg. On the 11th we continued on our way but in late afternoon the entire CCA was held up by enemy fire in the vicinity of Heldrunen.

After patrol reconaissance, we attacked Heldrunen at dawn on the 12th. The town was cleared by 0800, and once more we continued eastward.

In the early afternoon, we were held up by artillery fire. It was necessary to send G compoany on a detached mission to Gross Gohren. The morning of the 14th , G co., received heavy direct fire. The fire continued until late afternoon when G company was relieved by the 271st. infantry and returned to our control.

As advance guard of CCA, we received heavy direct fire but rolled into Trebsen on the Mulde on April 16th.

LEIPZIG

Leaving Trebsen on 18th of April, we started our move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Lieberwolkevitz for a supposed attack on Leipzig at 1900hrs. Upon our arrival at 1400, we found that we were to attack immediately, and that Co. F would be detached as regimental reserve. With E and G companies abreast, the battalion stormed the Sports Stadium, the Ball Park, and the railroad yards. Meantime, F Company mounted tanks and TD's and ran the gauntlet of murderous crossfire in the area of Napoleon's monument to storm and capture the vaunted SS defenses at the new Town Hall. Throughout the night the advance and the storming continued and early on the morning of 19th of April, we made contact with the first battalion of the 273 infantry on our right, and the second battalion of the 23rd. Infantry of the 2nd division to our front. Reorganizing after heavy losses, we completed the mopping up of Leipzig and moved on the 20th April to relieve the CCA of the 9th armored division on the Mulde River.

RUSSIAN CONTACT

After relief of CCA, of the 9th Armored Division on the 20th April, the battalion began an extensive program of cleaning-up in preparation for future operations. Patrols crossed the Mulde River and collected a few PW's. On 24th of April we rebuilt the "jeep" bridge over the river at Trebsen, and occupied the town of Niechen on the east bank. During the late afternoon of 24th April we began another type of operation. In less than 72 hours an estimated 12000 allied prisoners of war from Western nations were released to make their way across the bridge from where they were transported to the camp at Altenhain for evacuation, and to complete the screwy pattern, we collected an estimated 7000 German prisoners of war by small patrols and the "grapevine". Garrisons of towns surrendered by telephone and large groups were either captured or came in of their own volition/.

Meantime two patrols from the second battalion ventured beyond their destination and contacted Russian forces on the 25th of April at Leckwitz and Clanzschwitz at 1332 hrs. and 1545 hrs. respectively. Festivities were enjoyed by members of the patrol and soldiers of the 175th Regiment of the 58th Russian guards Divisions, while negotiations with Russian general Rusakov were begun for future meetings.