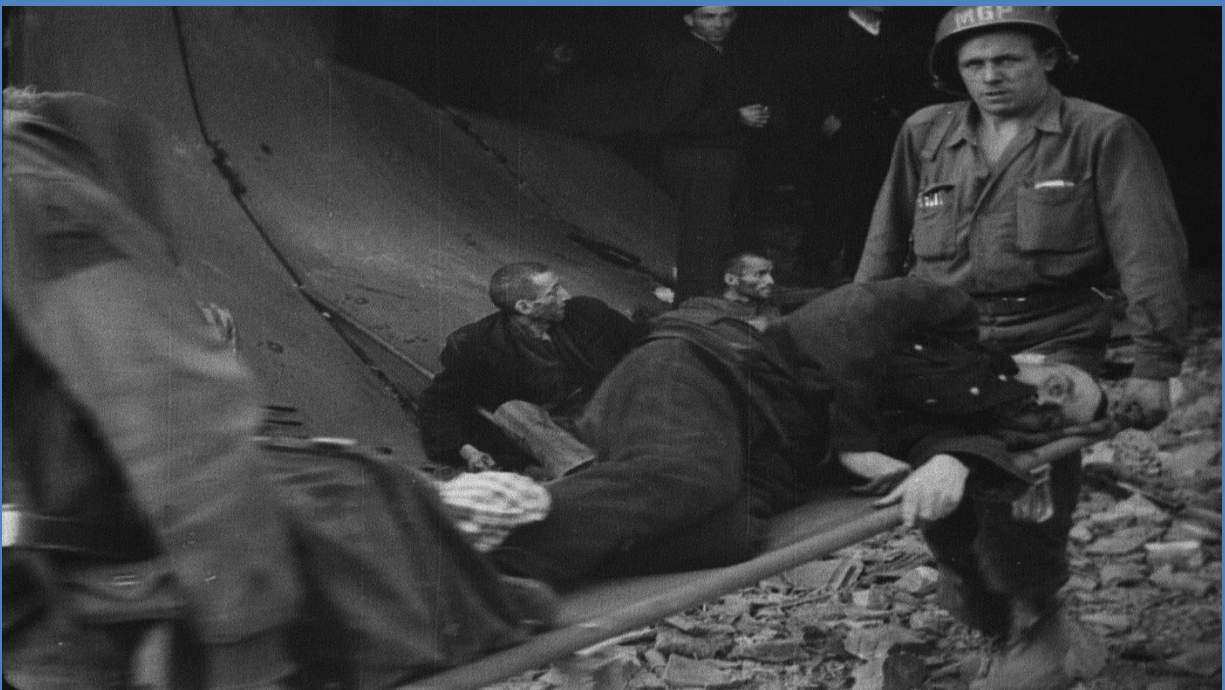


IN SEARCH OF STRICKLAND



Douglas Hackney

In Search
of
Strickland

Douglas Hackney

To my grandparents
Zane and Lois Strickland

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In Search of Strickland

Despite my Sgt.-Rock-comic-book- and countless-war-movie-fueled badgering, my grandpa Strickland only talked about his time in WWII to me once – for about five minutes.

One day, when I was about 10, he appeared in their living room with a small box.

“I know you like war stuff. I thought you might want to see these,” he said as he handed me the box.



I opened it to reveal a pile of medals and ribbons. I’d never even seen, much less touched, any real object from WWII – and these were *medals*.

I pulled a bronze star from the box, held it reverently and then looked up at him.

“Are you a hero?” I asked.

“No, son, I’m no hero,” he replied softly. “The heroes didn’t come back.”

He took the bronze star, put it in the box, turned and walked away.

Ever since that day I wondered about his time in the war.

Who did he know? What did he see? When was he there? Where did he go?

Thirty years later, after he passed away, I did sporadic research in an attempt to discover his war history. I didn’t have his records, his service dates, his unit, his military ID number or much of anything to go on. I didn’t get very far.

After my grandmother passed away, we were sorting through stacks of documents and photos. In the documents I found my grandfather’s Army discharge. I was thunderstruck. I had spent many long years in frustration because I did not have his service number, service dates, campaigns or any other critical information required to find his military service history. Now I had his service dates and his service number.

This information enabled me to make a formal request for his records from the National Personnel Records Center. Unfortunately, the results were negative. Like many WWII vets, his records were destroyed in a fire at the military records repository in St. Louis, MO on July 12, 1973.



On Memorial Day of 2014 I posted a photo of him on Facebook. An old schoolmate of mine and Army veteran, Jerry O'Brien, immediately commented on my grandfather's unit – the 3rd Armored Division. Jerry recognized that from the left shoulder patch in the photo.

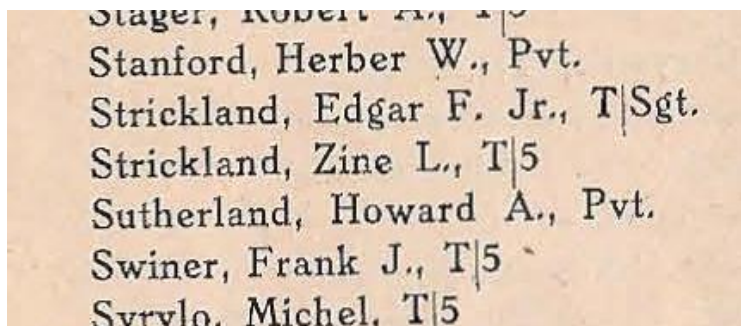
This gave me something solid to start with.

I started with the 3rd Armored Division and worked down from there. I took all the clues I had from our family stories, passed down through the years, and pursued each one.

A recurring theme was that he was a medic and some of the stories concerned rescuing wounded soldiers under fire.

Many, many hours of research later I found and purchased a copy of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment Personnel Directory that had been compiled at the end of the war.

There, on page 30, was my grandfather's name, albeit misspelled, as it was his entire time in the military.



That was a very big moment. There it was, in print, in black and white. I had finally found him.

When you do family history research, finding an ancestor's signature or name in print is a major milestone. After months, or years, of nursing a theory about someone, the physical confirmation makes all of your time and hard work worthwhile.

Now that I knew his unit I did a systematic search through every photo of that outfit I could find online. Night after night I clicked through thousands of images of the 3rd Armored Division and the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment. I never did find a photo of him.

Night after night I read through war diaries, histories and books about his units. I never did find mention of him.

Then, late on the night of June 20, 2014, while following links from yet another of hundreds of searches on his unit, I ended up in the Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive at the United States Holocaust Museum. There, in a low-resolution, grainy newsreel of the liberation of the Nordhausen / Dora-Mittelbau camp, was my grandfather carrying a stretcher.



At least it sure looked like my grandpa Strickland to me. I captured a still-frame image from the video and posted it for a vote among my cousins. The vote was unanimous. Everybody thought it was him. It didn't hurt that all those Strickland men - my grandfather, my uncle and my cousin - all looked nearly identical at that age.

It meant a lot to me to find that film, to see him there, moving, as he lived and fought and tried not to die, with death all around him.

It seems to me that when he glanced at the camera he was looking not just at the cameraman, but looking through time, forward, into the future, to a world and children and grandchildren yet to come.

The film is silent so there are no words, but if I listen carefully I can hear his voice speaking to me.

He speaks of how precious life is, how easily it is lost and how often mankind forgets how to be human.

Since his records were burned, we'll never know his full WWII military story, such as where he was posted and what he did prior to shipping out overseas.

However, after 20 years of looking, I finally had enough information to search down the specifics on his medals and his time in Europe in WWII.

It turns out his time there was very brief but also very eventful.

He survived firefights; liberated death camps; was overrun, captured, then rescued; and, fought all the way to the Elbe, where U.S. and Soviet forces met to end the war.

In the end, I can't argue with his view that the heroes didn't come back.



That said, he'll always be a hero to me.

Douglas Hackney
July 2016

Military Records

Zane Strickland's military records were destroyed in the St. Louis repository fire.

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

1 ARCHIVES DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63138-1002
www.archives.gov



November 12, 2014

DOUGLAS HACKNEY
14781 MEMORIAL DR 2336
HOUSTON, TX 77079

RE: Veteran's Name: STRICKLAND, Zane L
SSN/SN: 38 443 947
Request Number: 2-11871160364

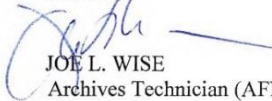
Dear Recipient:

Thank you for contacting the National Personnel Records Center. The record needed to answer your inquiry is not in our files. If the record were here on July 12, 1973, it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on that date and may have been destroyed. The fire destroyed the major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 through 1959, and records of Air Force personnel with surnames Hubbard through Z for the period 1947 through 1963. Complete personnel/medical records cannot be reconstructed.

We would normally utilize alternate record sources and provide an NA Form 13038, Certification of Military Service, to verify military service; however, the separation document provided with your enclosures contains more information than we are able to reconstruct. We have made copies of all the documents provided and they will be maintained on file.

If you have questions or comments regarding this response, you may contact us at 314-801-0800 or by mail at the address shown in the letterhead above. If you contact us, please reference the Request Number listed above. If you are a veteran, or a deceased veteran's next of kin, please consider submitting your future requests online by visiting us at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

Sincerely,


JOE L. WISE
Archives Technician (AFN-MC2E)



**We Value Our
Veterans' Privacy**

*Let us know if we have
failed to protect it.*

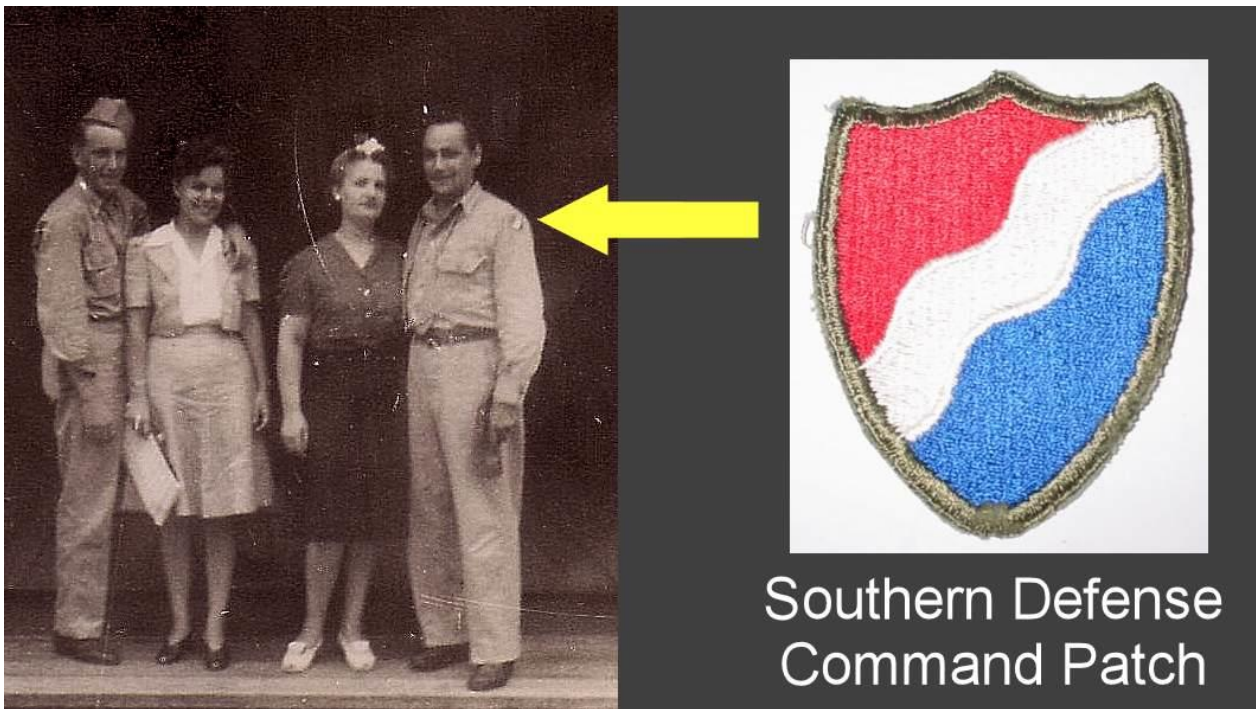
Zane L Strickland Military Records

Stateside and European Combat Units

Stateside

Zane Strickland's unit(s), location, post, role, rank, etc. prior to shipping out to Europe are unknown.

There are WWII photos in the Strickland family archives that include a left shoulder patch from the Southern Defense Command (SDC).



A major responsibility of the SDC was training recruits prior to deployment.

The oral family history includes that Zane Strickland was a gunnery instructor at a training camp prior to volunteering for overseas combat duty.

If that history is accurate and the photo was of a friend from his post, then he was stationed at a training camp in the SDC.

Zane L Strickland Military Records

The training camps in the Southern Defense Command area included:

WWII Name	Current Name	State	Date Established
Fort McClellan	Fort McClellan	AL	1917
Camp Rucker	Fort Rucker	AL	1942
Camp Sibert	N/A	AL	1943
Camp Chaffee	Fort Chaffee	AR	1942
Camp Pike	Camp Joseph T. Robinson (ARNG)	AR	1917
Camp (Jesse) Turner	N/A	AR	1942
Camp Beauregard	N/A	LA	1917
Camp Claiborne	N/A	LA	1940
Camp Livingston	N/A	LA	1940
Camp Plauche	N/A	LA	1942
Camp Polk	Fort Polk	LA	1941
Camp McCain	N/A	MS	1942
Camp Shelby	N/A	MS	1917
Camp Van Dorn	N/A	MS	1942
Camp Luna	N/A	NM	1942
Camp (William C.) Reid	N/A	NM	1942
Fort Sill	Fort Sill	OK	1869
Camp Gruber	N/A	OK	1942
Camp Forrest	N/A	TN	1941
Camp Tyson	N/A	TN	1942
Fort Bliss	Fort Bliss	TX	1890
Fort Clark	N/A	TX	1852
Fort Sam Houston	Fort Sam Houston	TX	
Camp Barkeley	N/A	TX	1941
Camp Bowie	N/A	TX	1917
Camp Bullis	Fort Sam Houston	TX	1917
Camp Hood	Fort Hood	TX	1941
Camp Howze	N/A	TX	1941
Camp Hulen	N/A	TX	1940
Camp Maxey	N/A	TX	1942
Camp Swift	N/A	TX	1942
Camp Travis	Fort Sam Houston	TX	1917
Camp Wallace	N/A	TX	1941
Camp Wolters	Fort Wolters	TX	1941

Source: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/camp-ww2.htm>

European Theater of Operations (ETO)

Based on available records the following are the most likely combat units Zane Strickland served with in the European Theater of Operations (ETO):

His initial unit when he was assigned to guard duty would probably have been either the 3rd Armored Division Military Police Platoon or the Regimental Police of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.



Members of the Regimental Police of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment

Based on available records and family oral history, he soon switched to the medics.

Zane Strickland's medical unit was:

45th Armored Medical Battalion

Company B

Insignia and pin of the 45th Armored Medical Battalion



His medical company was attached to:

First Army

VII Corps

3rd Armored Division

36th Armored Infantry Regiment

Combat Command B

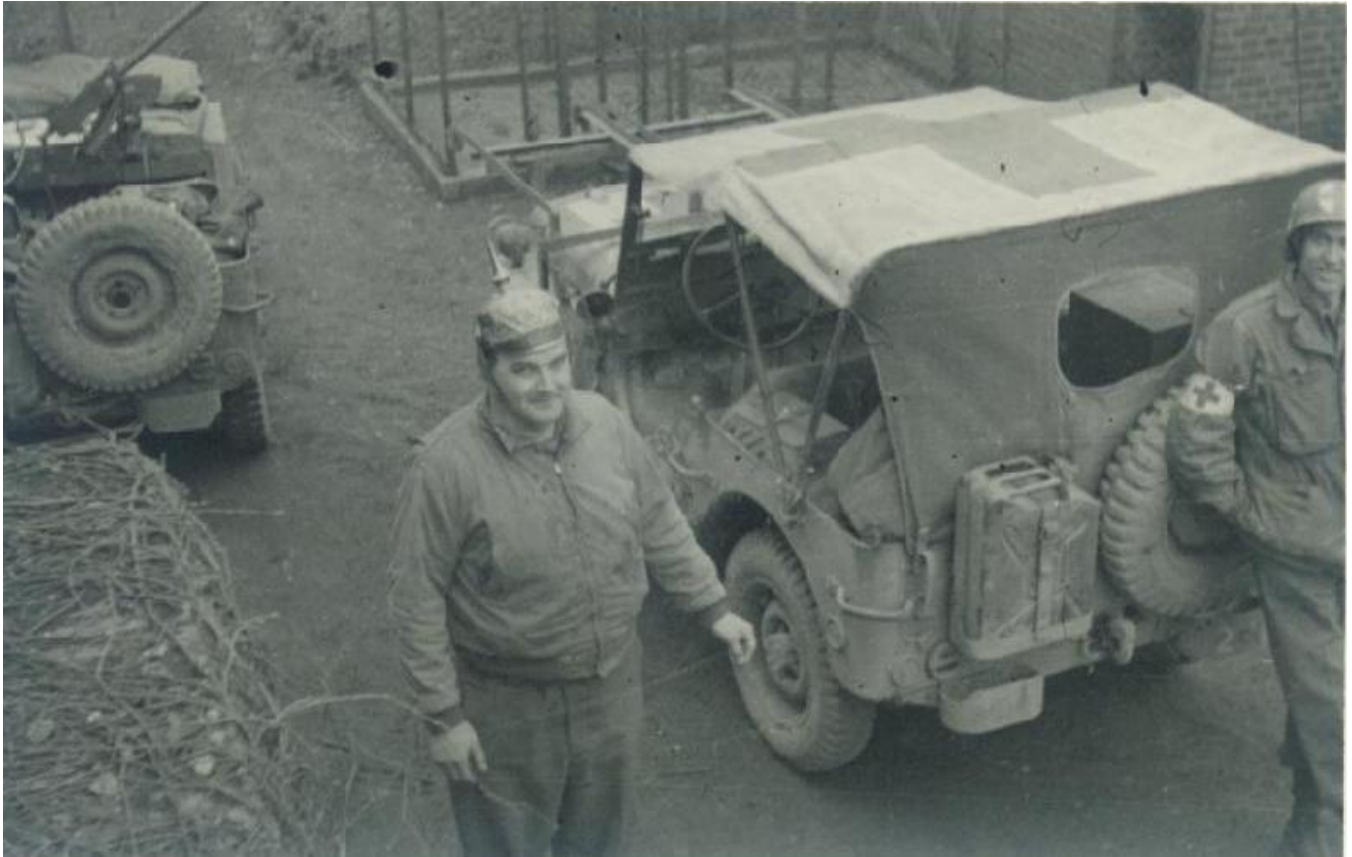
Task Force Lovelady

The hierarchy in this list is largest to smallest unit.

Photos identified as the 45th Armored Medical Battalion / 36th Armored Infantry Regiment

























Zane Strickland's military occupation code (MOS) in his discharge is "Driver Halftrack 931." The official WWII MOS 931 description is "Truck Driver, Heavy."

In his case he would have been driving a Medical Ambulance Halftrack.

This aligns with family oral history and the "Capture and Escape" section later in this document.

Photos of halftrack ambulances. Note: These photos are for example purposes only. Not all photos are from the 3rd Armored Division.





U.S. Army Organizational Unit Hierarchy

Unit Name	Consists of [1]:	Approx Number of men:	Commanded by:
Army	2 or more Corps	100,000 to 150,000	Field Marshal or General
Corps	2 or more Divisions	25,000 to 50,000	General or Lt. Gen.
Division	3 or more Brigades or Regiments	10,000 to 15,000	Lt. Gen or Maj. Gen.
Brigade	3 or more Battalions	1500 to 3500	Maj. Gen, Brigadier or Col.
Regiment [2]	2 or more Battalions	1000 to 2000	Col.
Battalion	4 or more Companies	400 to 1000	Lt. Col.
Company	2 or more Platoons	100 to 250	Captain or Maj
Platoon (Troop)	2 or more Squads	16 to 50	1st Lt.
Squad	2 or more Sections	8 to 24	Sgt.
Section		4 to 12	Sgt.

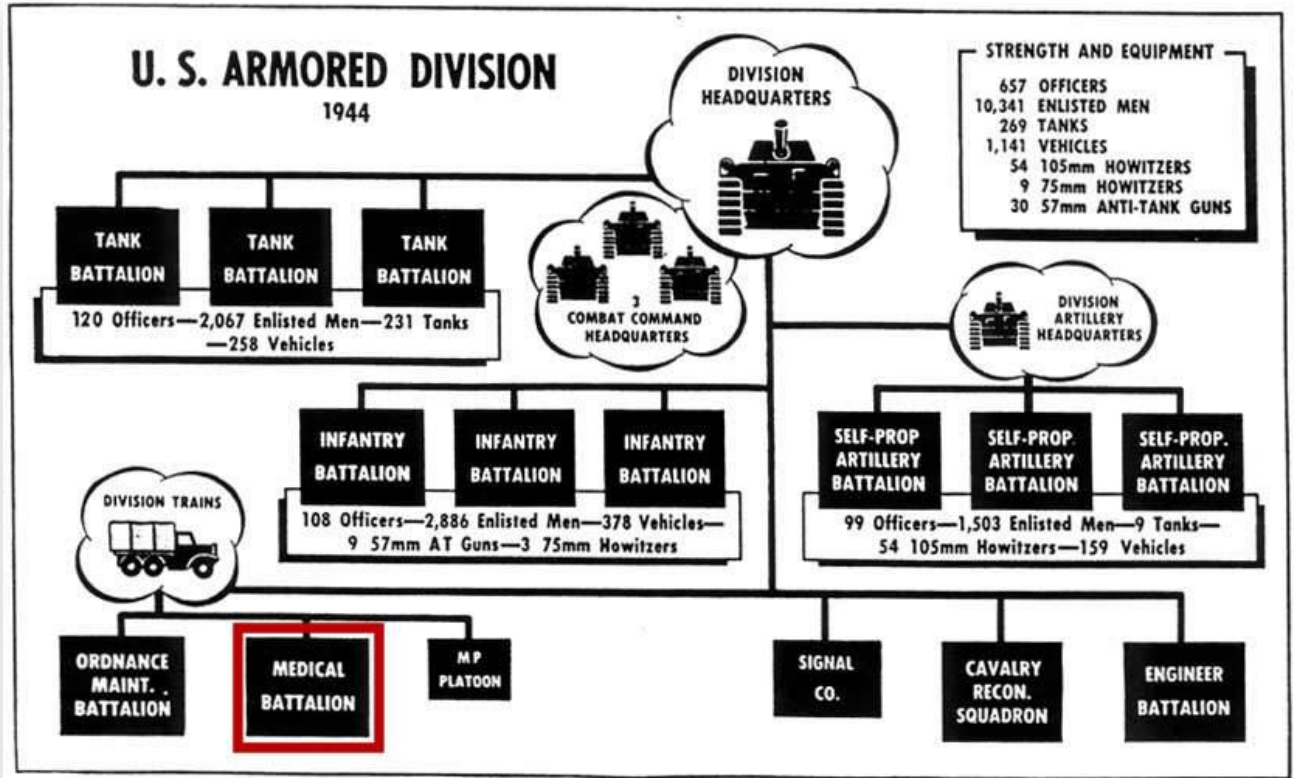
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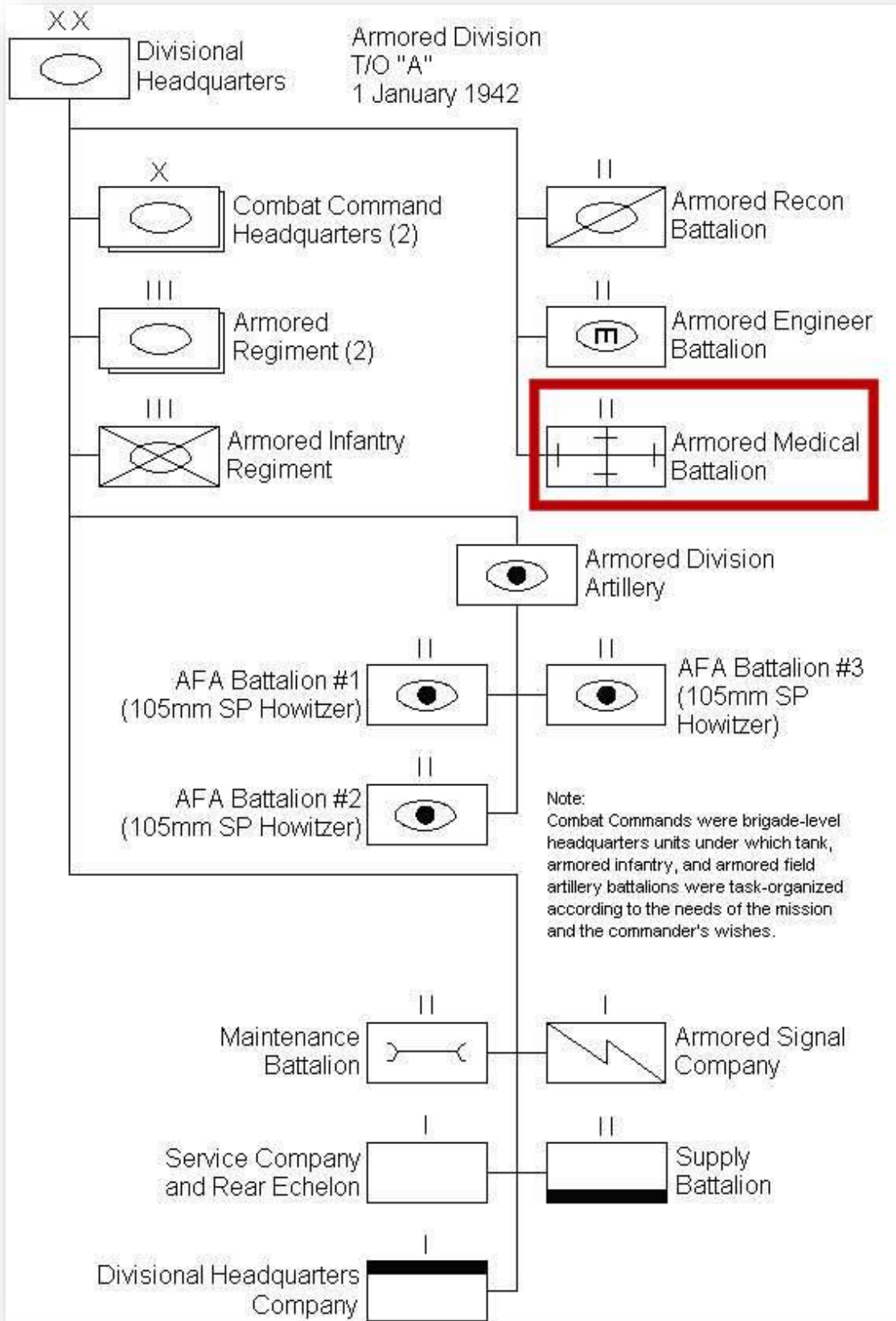
[1] This column indicates what usually makes up the core of the unit - with larger formations there will be more supporting units as well such as units for headquarters, admin, signals, air-defence etc etc which will increase the overall number of men involved.

[2] Regiment is not usually a deployed unit as a whole, but is more of an "administrative family" or permanent label of a group's identity. So units from a particular regiment may be spread around within an army.

Source: <http://www.secondworldwar.co.uk/index.php/army-sizes-a-ranks/86-army-units-a-sizes>

3rd Armored Division Structure



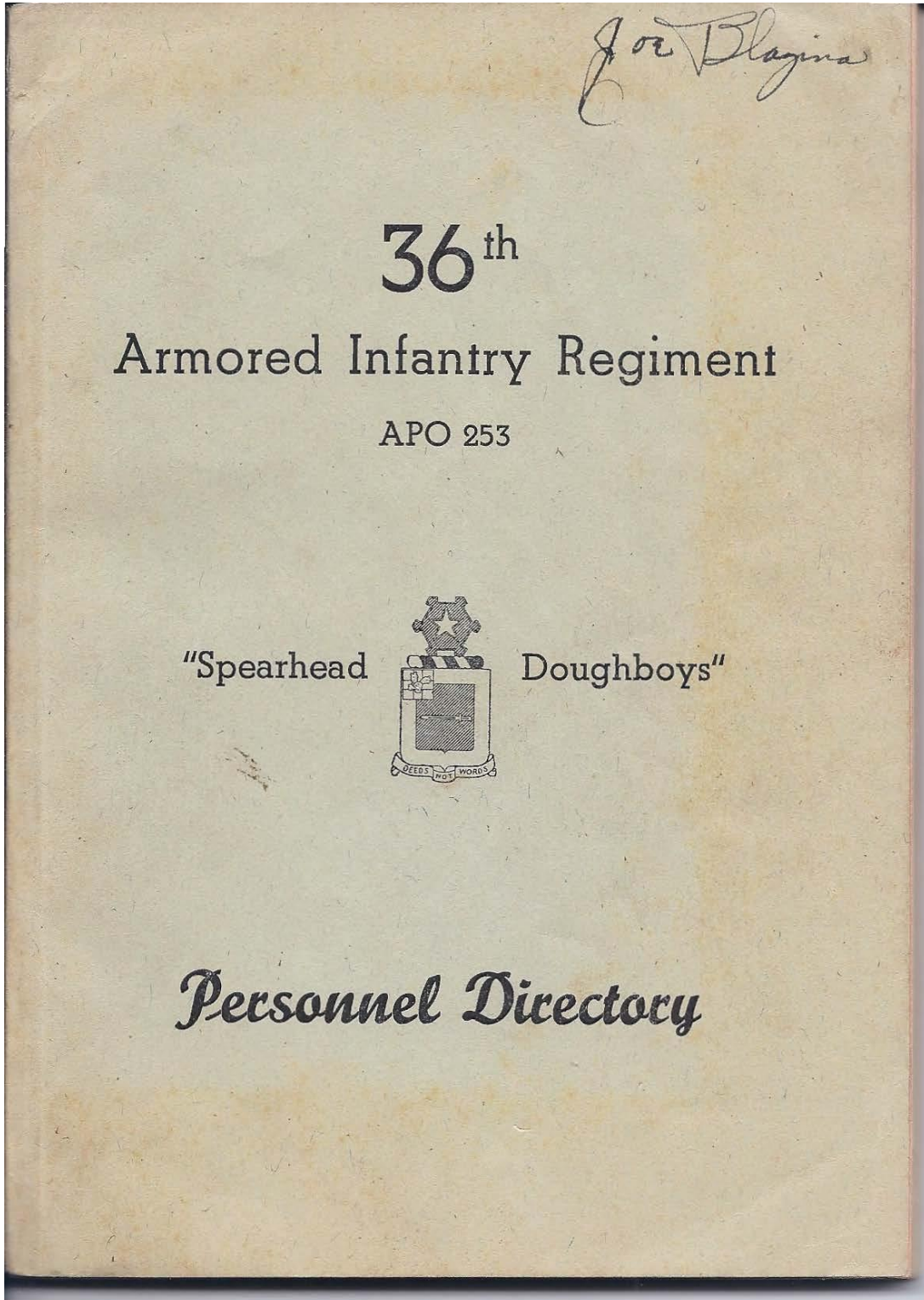


3rd Armored Division Units and Radio Call Signs

Omaha – HQ, General Staff
Ottawa – Combat Command A
Ontario – Combat Command B
Oriole – 32nd Armored Regiment
Orchard – 33rd Armored Regiment
Ozark – 36th Armored Infantry Regiment (“Blitz Doughs”)
Onset – Division Artillery HQ
Ozone – 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (normally attached to CCA)
Orlando – 391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion (normally attached to CCB)
Oshkosh – 54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
Osgood – 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
Outlook – 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion
Amber – 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
Annex – 486th Anti-Aircraft Battalion
Oxygen – Armored Maintenance Battalion
Orange – Armored Supply Battalion
Oxford – 45th Armored Medical Battalion
Ostrich – 143rd Armored Signal Company
Oregon – Division Trains

Source: Book – “Spearhead In The West 1941-45 The Third Armored Division” (published 1945)

36th Armored Infantry Regiment Personnel Directory



Zane L Strickland Military Records

30

Medical Detachment

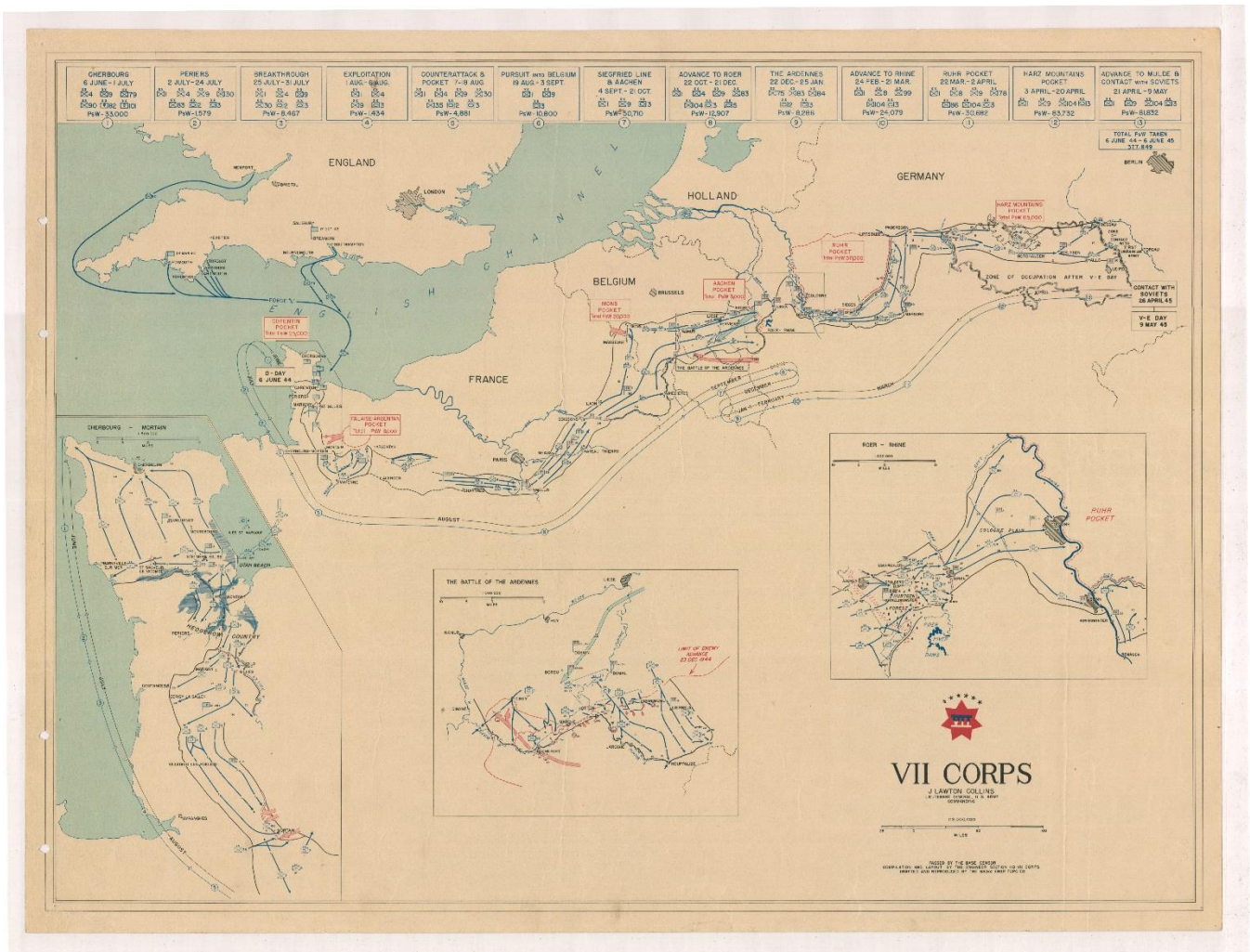
Radmore, Kenneth J., Pfc.	108 N. 2nd St., Titusville, Pa.
Rake, David L., Sgt.	1181 Wayne St., Topeka, Kansas
Rex, Oliver W., Pfc.	R. D. 2, Lehighton, Pa.
Richardson, Lester G., Pfc.	120 N. Gaston Ave., Somerville, N. J.
Ritchie, Harold L., Pfc.	725 E 26 St., Paterson, N. J.
Rivard, Maurice L., Pfc.	49 Washington St., W. Warwick, R. I.
Rosen, Charles I., T 4	1231 55th St., Brooklyn N. Y.
Roventini, Victor, Pvt.	225 High St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Ruggiero, Dominic A., Pfc.	32 Fayette St, Conshohochen, Pa.
Rupprecht, William C., Pfc.	3375 25th St., Detroit, Michigan
Sandman, Arthur G., Pfc.	Rt. 1, Bluffs, Ill.
Sandretto, John S., Pfc.	406 8th St., S. W. Chisholm, Minn.
Schaefer, Carl F., T 5	Harmon, Illinois
Scheibel, Herman D., T Sgt.	408 E. Oxford, Duluth, Minn.
Schneider, Louis G., Pfc.	Rt. 2, Nokomis, Ill.
Schwabe, Calvin, T 4	937 Pennington St., Elizabeth, N. J.
Searfoss, John L., Pfc.	Hannover, Pa.
Sexton, Reston L., Pfc.	1314 Linden Ave., Baltimore, Md.
Shishik, Serge, Pfc.	RFD. 1, Waterford, N. Y.
Shoemaker, William T., Pfc.	Rt. 1, Muncy, Pa.
Shreiner, Galen M. Jr., Pfc	30 S. Locust St., Lititz, Pa.
Simone, Tony, Pfc.	82 Pearl St., Camden, N. J.
Sims, Lawrence K., Pvt	182 N. Converse St., Spartanburg, S. C.
Smith, Carl H. Pvt.	Rt. 2, Ozark, Arkansas
Smith. Clyde, Pvt.	Rt. 2, Chatchie, Calhoun, Ala.
Smith, Elmer L., Pfc.	2718 Roger St., Covington, Ky.
Smith, Wayne H., S Sgt.	300 S. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio
Smitson, Roy T., Pfc.	RFD. 1, Carlisle, K. Y.
Snover, Sammie J., Pfc.	North Baranch, Mich.
Stager, Robert A., T 5	5347 Oregan, Detroit, Mich.
Stanford, Herber W., Pvt.	2nd 1915 Euclid Ave., Charlotte, N. C.
Strickland, Edgar F. Jr., T Sgt.	500 E. Foster St., Pampa, Texas
Strickland, Zine L., T 5	Rt. 1, Vilonia, Ark.
Sutherland, Howard A., Pvt.	615 7th St., S. W. Washingxon, D. C.
Swiner, Frank J., T 5	Gen. Del., Carnegie, Pa.
Syrylo, Michel, T 5	3911 Wetzel St., Wheeling, W. Va.
Tejeda, Ruben B. Pfc.	Box 12, Greaeagle, Calif.
Thompson, Clayton T., Pfc.	Hawley, Minn.
Tork, Lawrence L., T 5	2316 Dickens, Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Uschan, John Jr., S Sgt.	2151 N. 29th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.
Vankirk, William R., Pfc.	Millstone, W. Va.
Van Stedum, Fredrick, Pfc.	Rt. 1, Box 2, Ellsworth, Mich.
Vaugh, Hubert A., T 5	Rt. 3, Sulfur Springs, Texas
Vise, John C., T 5	Douglassville, Texas
Von Kaenel, Robert L., T 5	117 Myrtle St., Erie, Pa.
Wade, Robert C., Pfc.	Rt., 1, B. E. Daniels, Freemont, N. C.



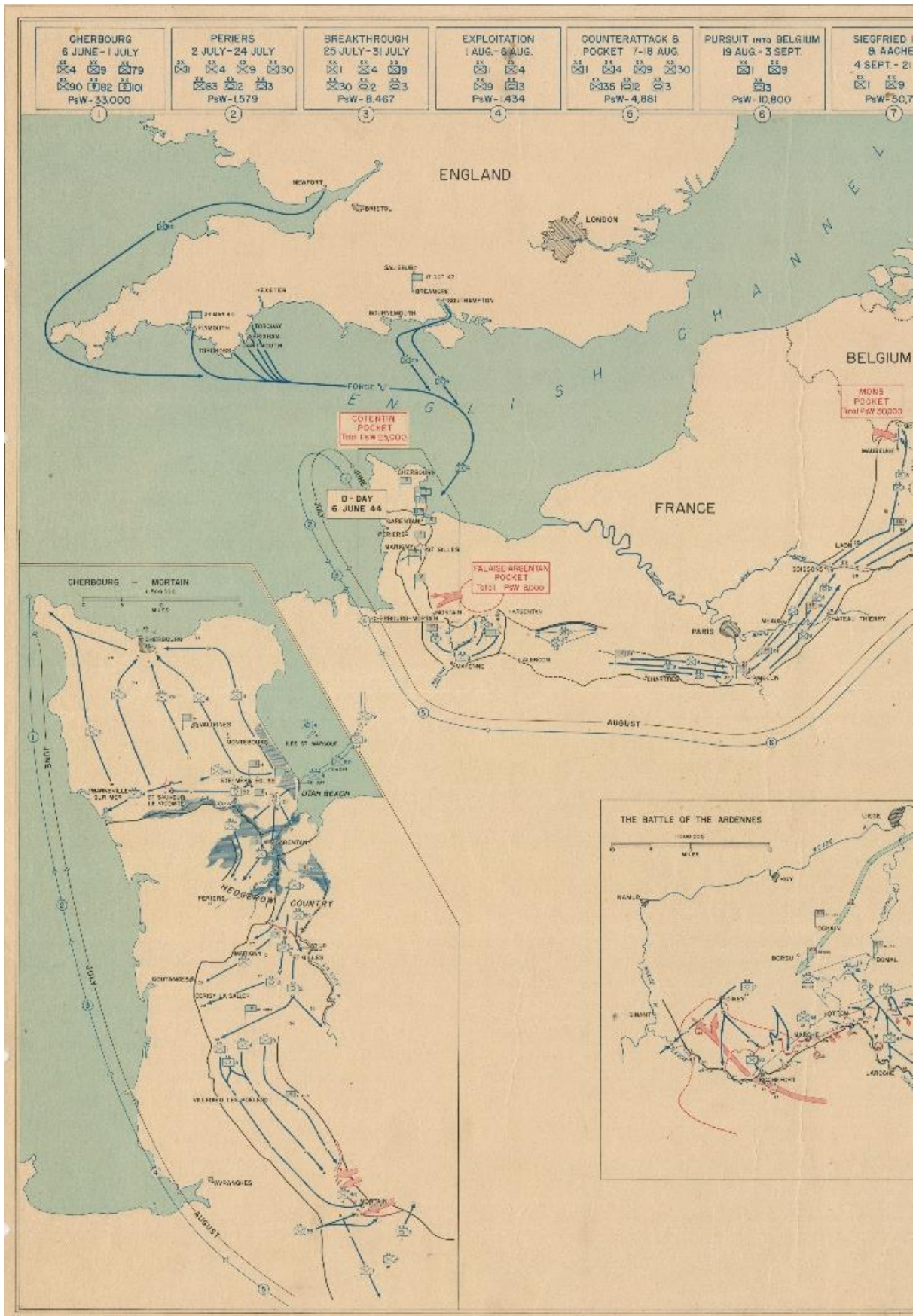
Combat Trail Maps:

VII Corps

Zane Strickland's 45th Armored Medical Battalion was part of the 3rd Armored Division, which was a lead element of the U.S. **First Army's** VII Corps



Zane L Strickland Military Records



<p>CHERBOURG 6 JUNE - 1 JULY xx 4 xx 9 xx 79 xx 90 xx 82 xx 101 PsW - 33,000</p> <p>1</p>	<p>PERIERS 2 JULY - 24 JULY xx 1 xx 4 xx 9 xx 30 xx 83 xx 2 xx 3 PsW - 1,579</p> <p>2</p>	<p>BREAKTHROUGH 25 JULY - 31 JULY xx 1 xx 4 xx 9 xx 30 xx 2 xx 3 PsW - 8,467</p> <p>3</p>
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<p>EXPLOITATION 1 AUG. - 6 AUG. xx 1 xx 4 xx 9 xx 3 PsW - 1,434</p> <p>4</p>	<p>COUNTERATTACK & POCKET 7-18 AUG. xx 1 xx 4 xx 9 xx 30 xx 35 xx 2 xx 3 PsW - 4,881</p> <p>5</p>	<p>PURSUIT INTO BELGIUM 19 AUG. - 3 SEPT. xx 1 xx 9 xx 3 PsW - 10,800</p> <p>6</p>
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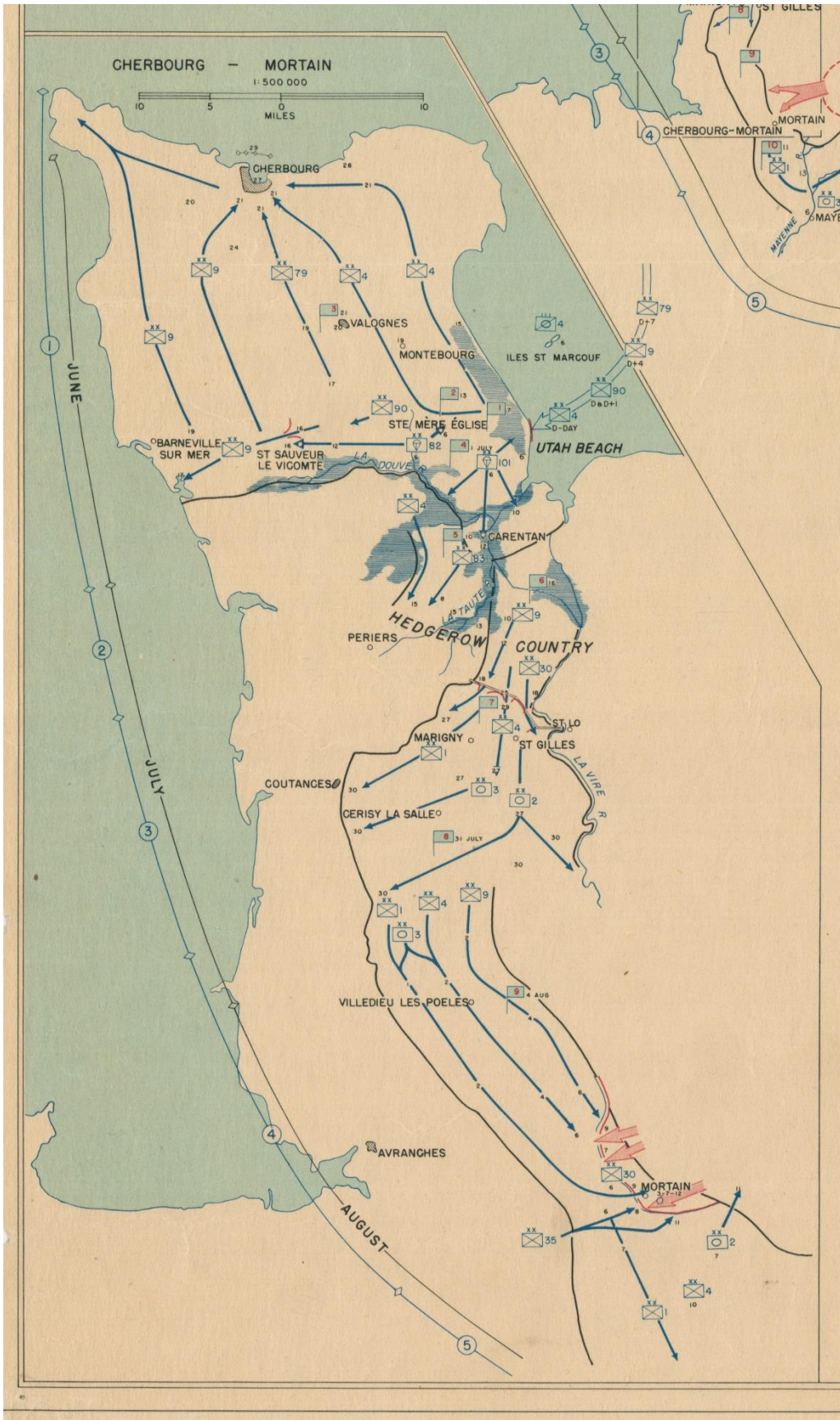
<p>SIEGFRIED LINE & AACHEN 4 SEPT. - 21 OCT. xx 1 xx 9 xx 3 PsW - 50,710</p> <p>7</p>	<p>ADVANCE TO ROER 22 OCT. - 21 DEC. xx 1 xx 4 xx 9 xx 83 xx 104 xx 3 xx 5 PsW - 12,907</p> <p>8</p>	<p>THE ARDENNES 22 DEC. - 25 JAN. xx 75 xx 83 xx 84 xx 2 xx 3 PsW - 8,286</p> <p>9</p>
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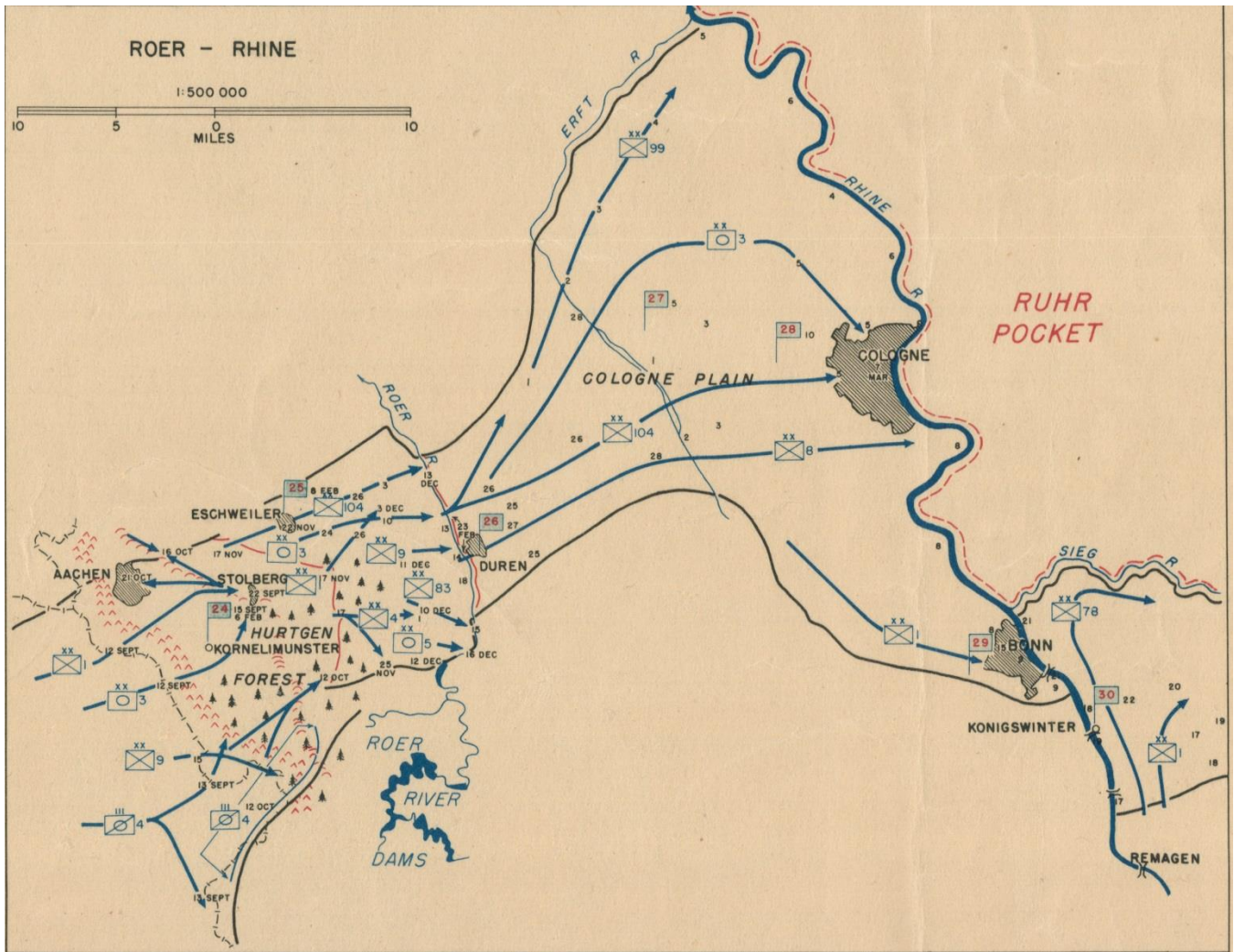
<p>ADVANCE TO RHINE 24 FEB. - 21 MAR. xx 1 xx 8 xx 99 xx 104 xx 3 PsW - 24,079</p> <p>10</p>	<p>RUHR POCKET 22 MAR. - 2 APRIL xx 1 xx 8 xx 9 xx 78 xx 86 xx 104 xx 3 PsW - 30,682</p> <p>11</p>	<p>HARZ MOUNTAINS POCKET 3 APRIL - 20 APRIL xx 1 xx 9 xx 104 xx 3 PsW - 83,732</p> <p>12</p>
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<p>ADVANCE TO MULDE & CONTACT WITH SOVIETS 21 APRIL - 9 MAY xx 1 xx 9 xx 104 xx 3 PsW - 81,832</p>
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13

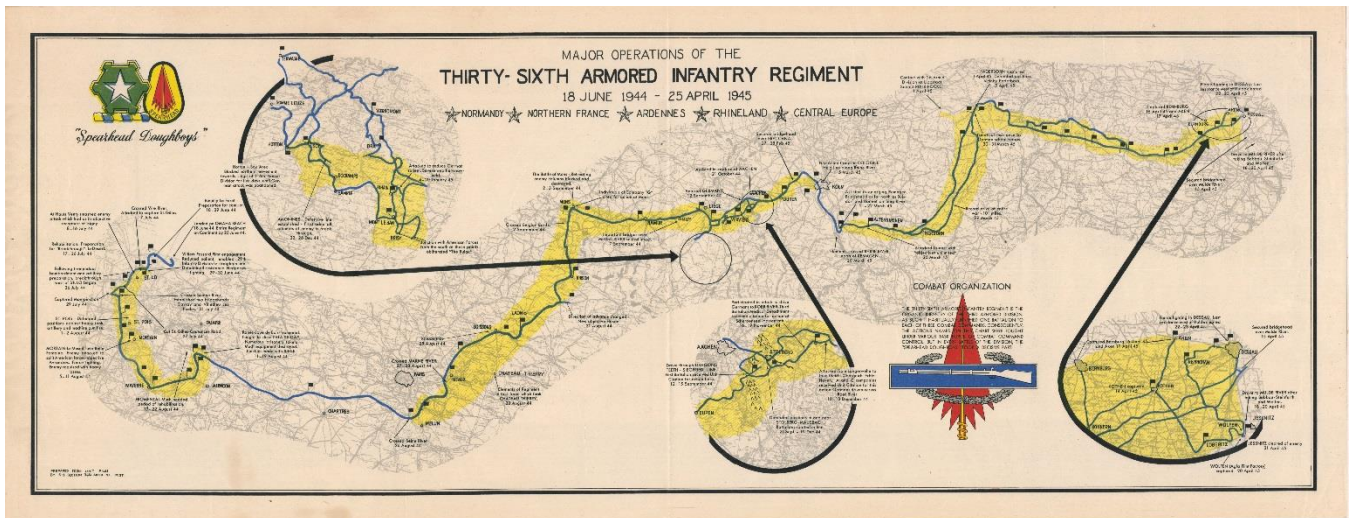
<p>TOTAL PsW TAKEN 6 JUNE 44 - 6 JUNE 45 377,849</p>
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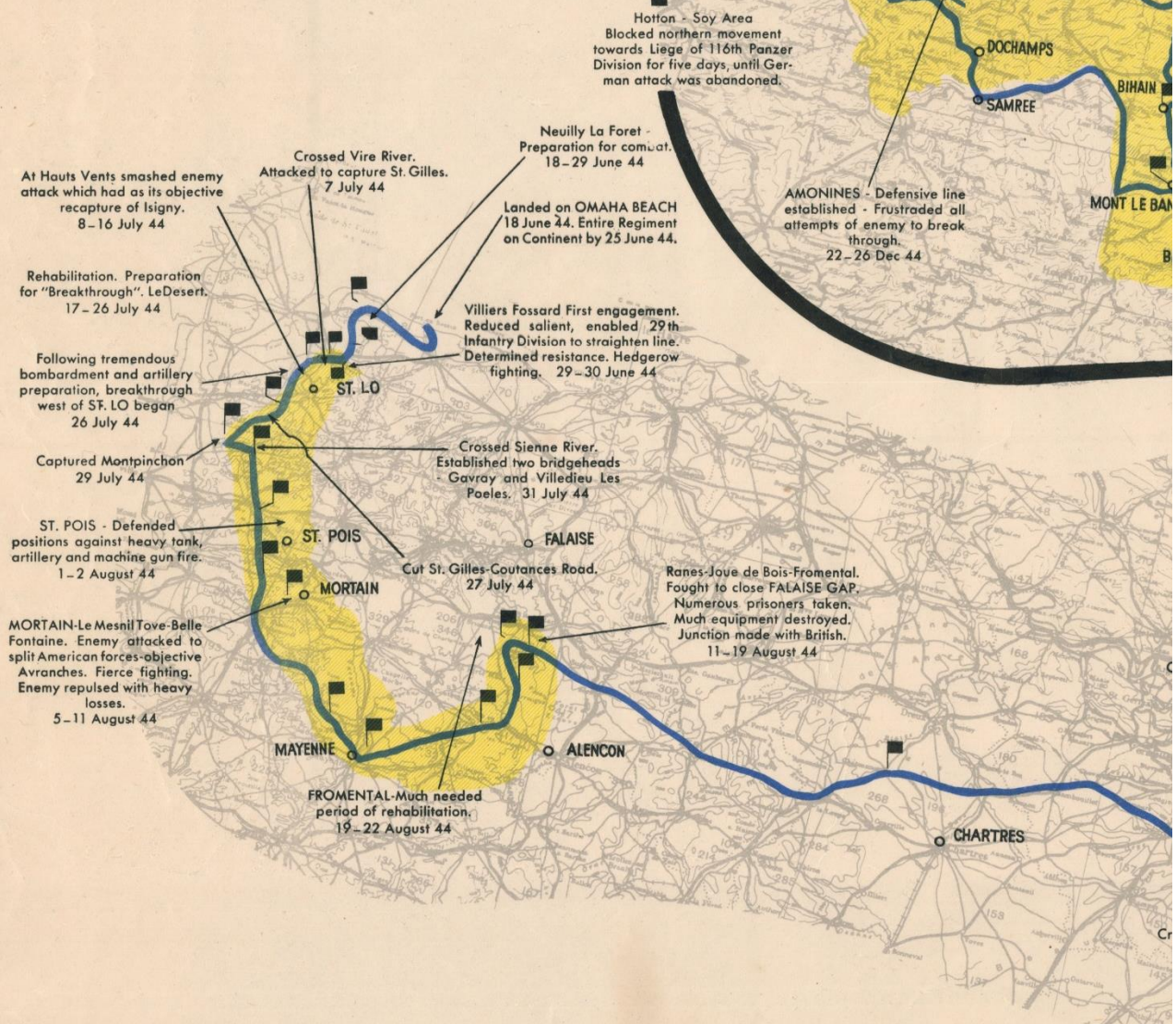
36th Armored Infantry Regiment

Zane Strickland's medical unit was attached to the **36th Armored Infantry Regiment**, which was the infantry component of the 3rd Armored Division.





"Spearhead Doughboys"

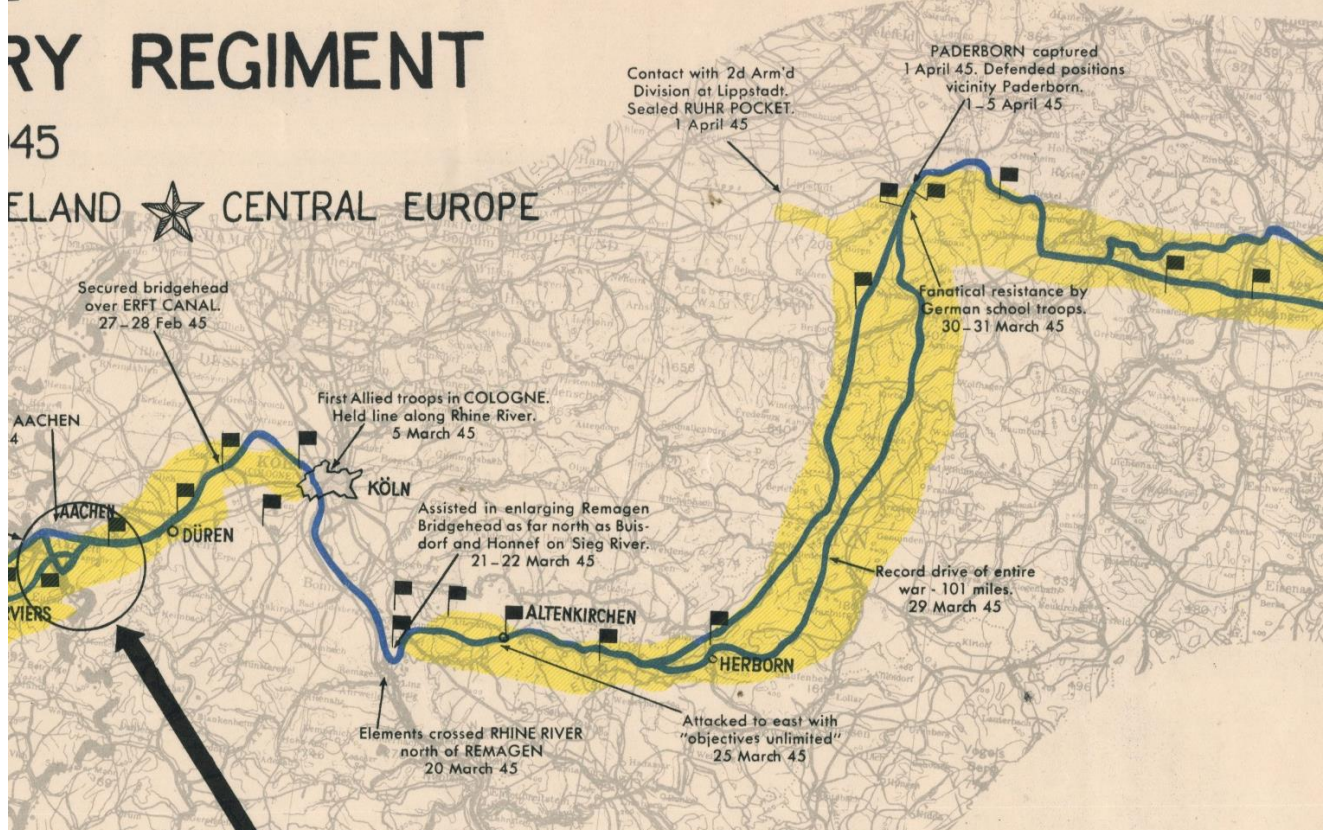


PREPARED FROM UNIT FILES
BY S-3 SECTION 36th ARMD. INF. REGT.

RY REGIMENT

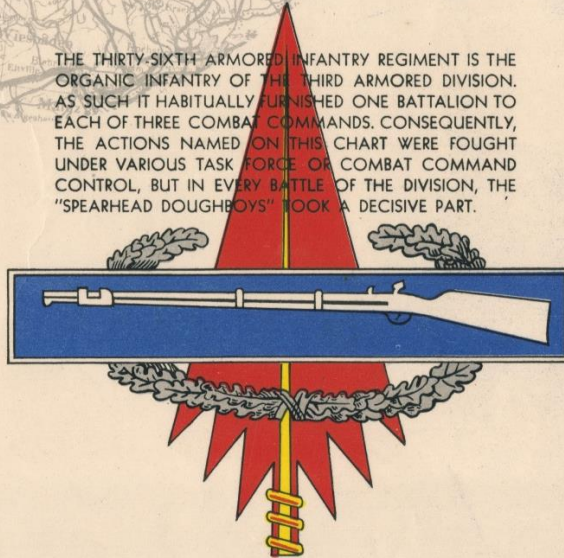
45

ELAND ★ CENTRAL EUROPE

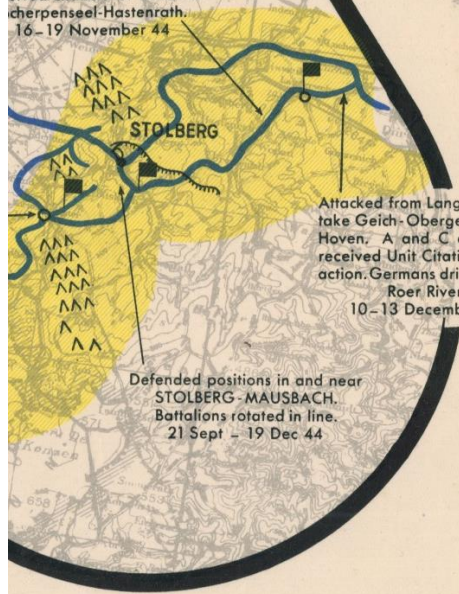


COMBAT ORGANIZATION

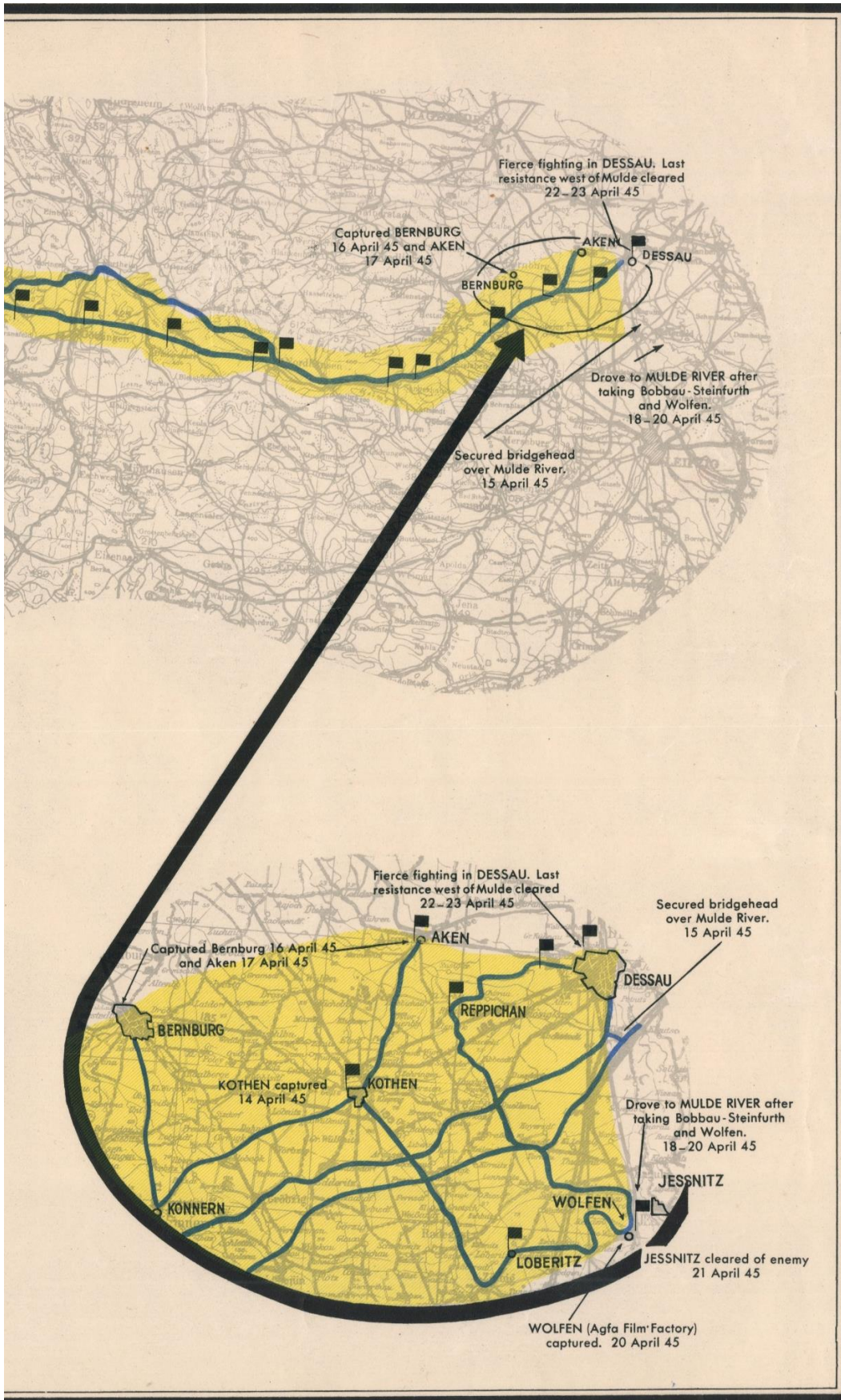
THE THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT IS THE ORGANIC INFANTRY OF THE THIRD ARMORED DIVISION. AS SUCH IT HABITUALLY FURNISHED ONE BATTALION TO EACH OF THREE COMBAT COMMANDS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ACTIONS NAMED ON THIS CHART WERE FOUGHT UNDER VARIOUS TASK FORCE OR COMBAT COMMAND CONTROL, BUT IN EVERY BATTLE OF THE DIVISION, THE "SPEARHEAD DOUGHBOYS" TOOK A DECISIVE PART.

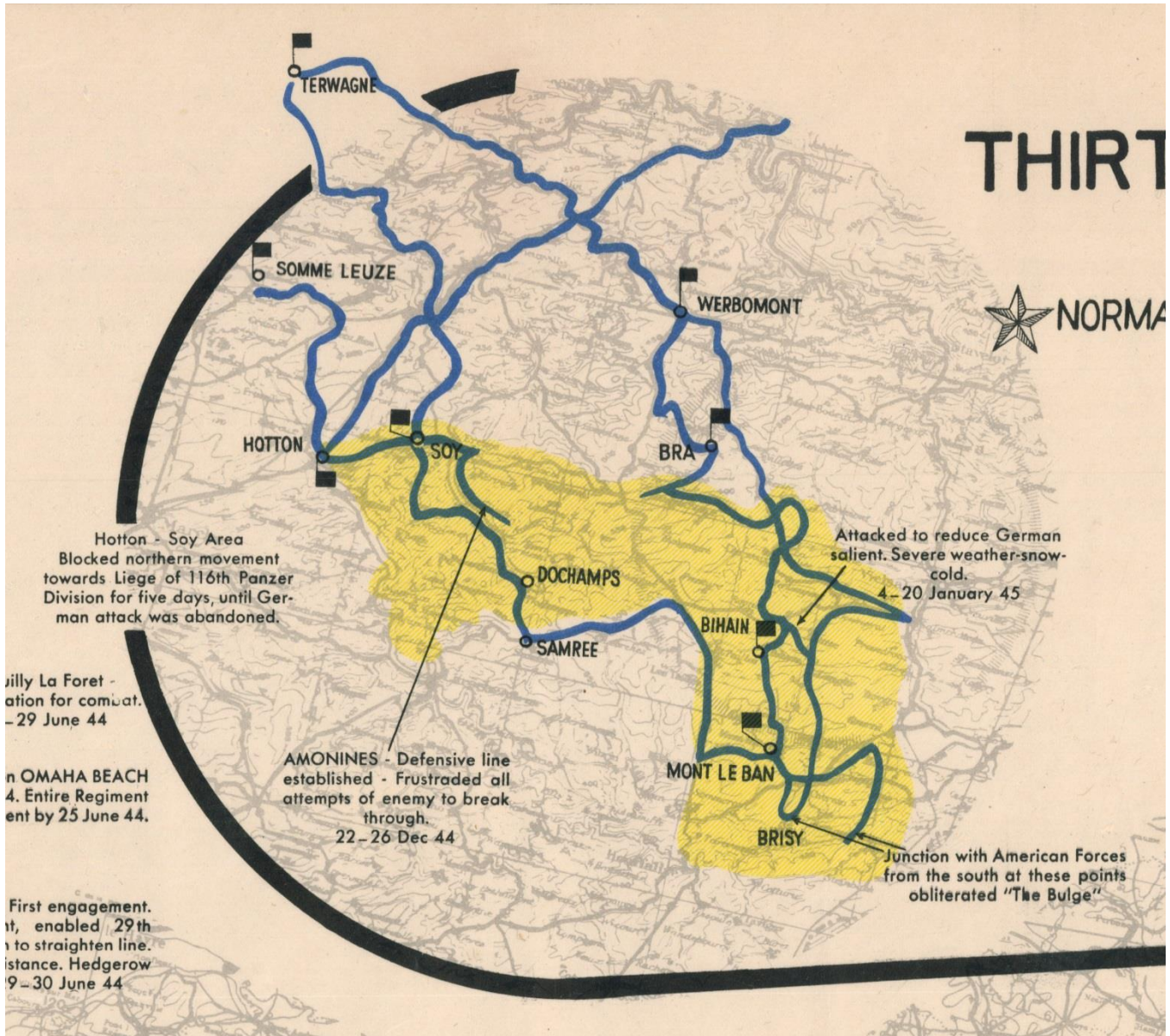


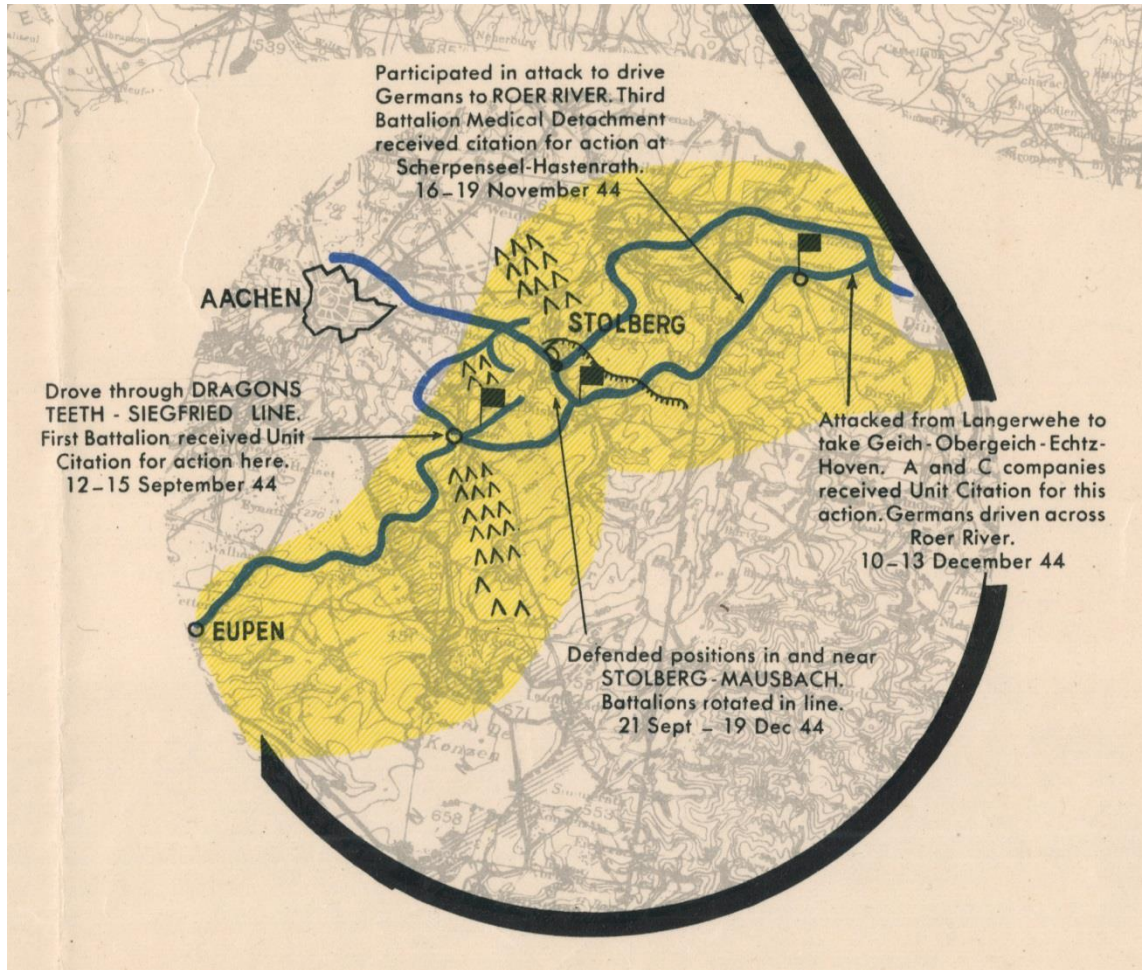
Participated in attack to drive Germans to ROER RIVER. Third Battalion Medical Detachment received citation for action at Cherpenseel-Hastenrath. 16-19 November 44

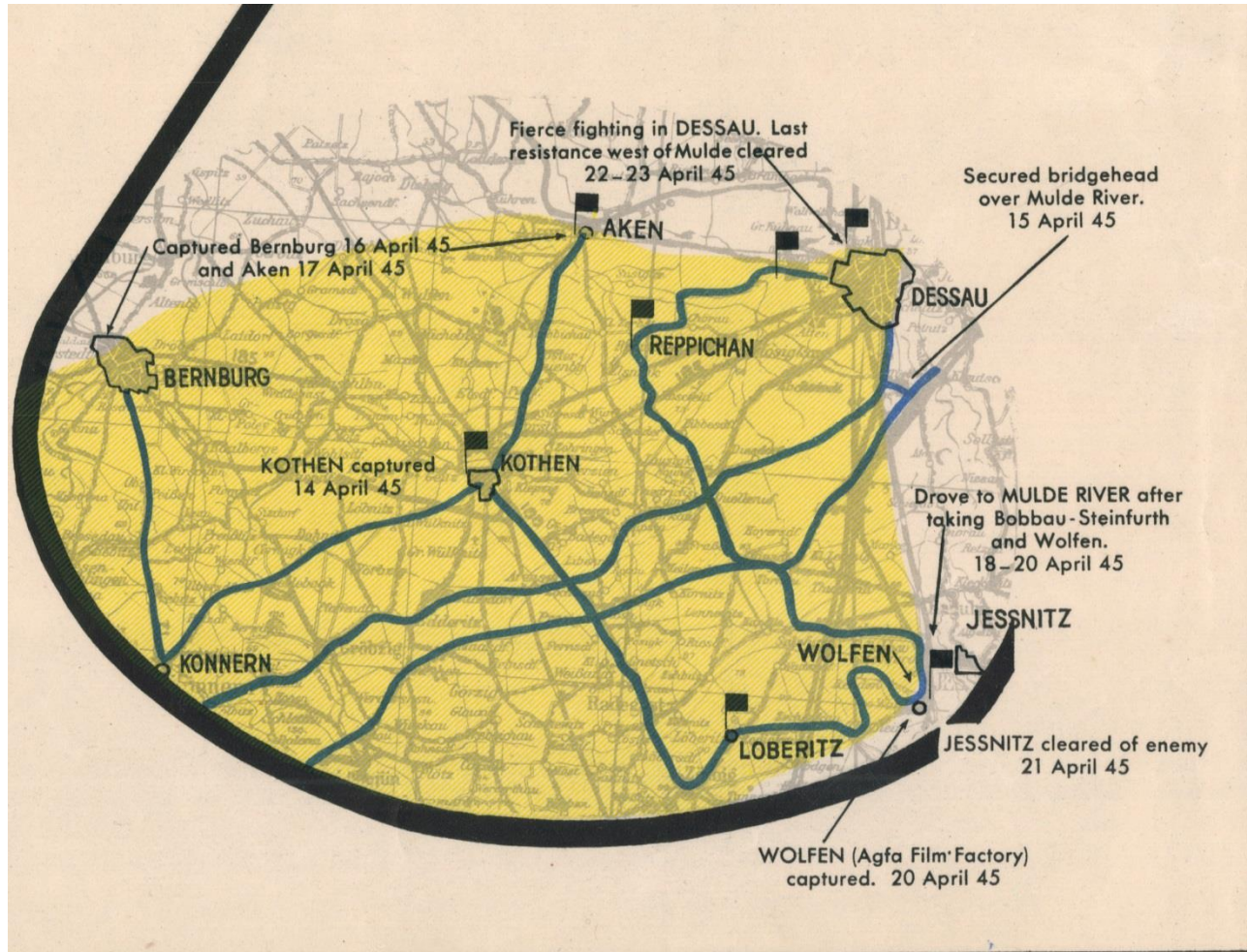


Zane L Strickland Military Records



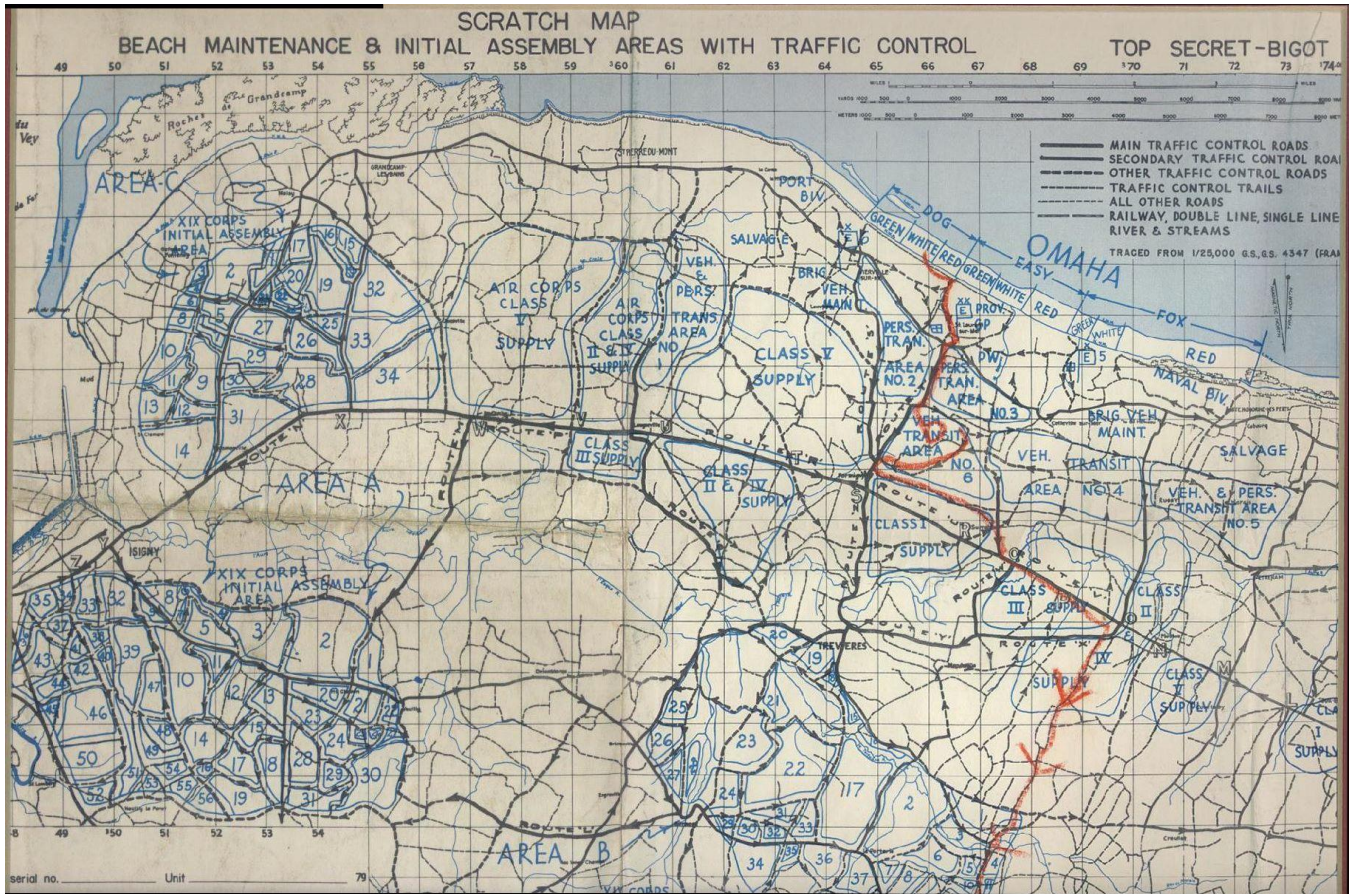








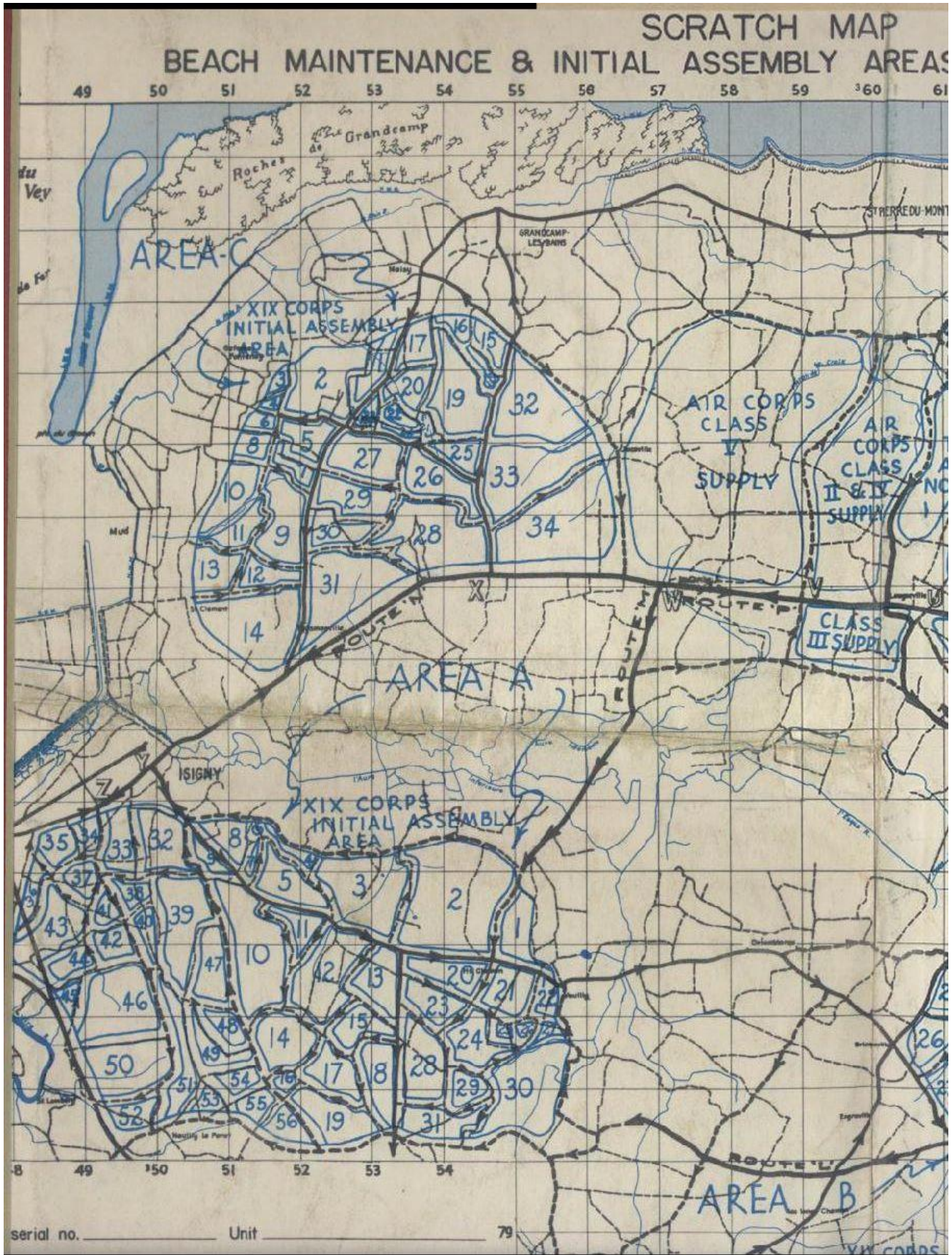
Route of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment from Omaha Beach inland.

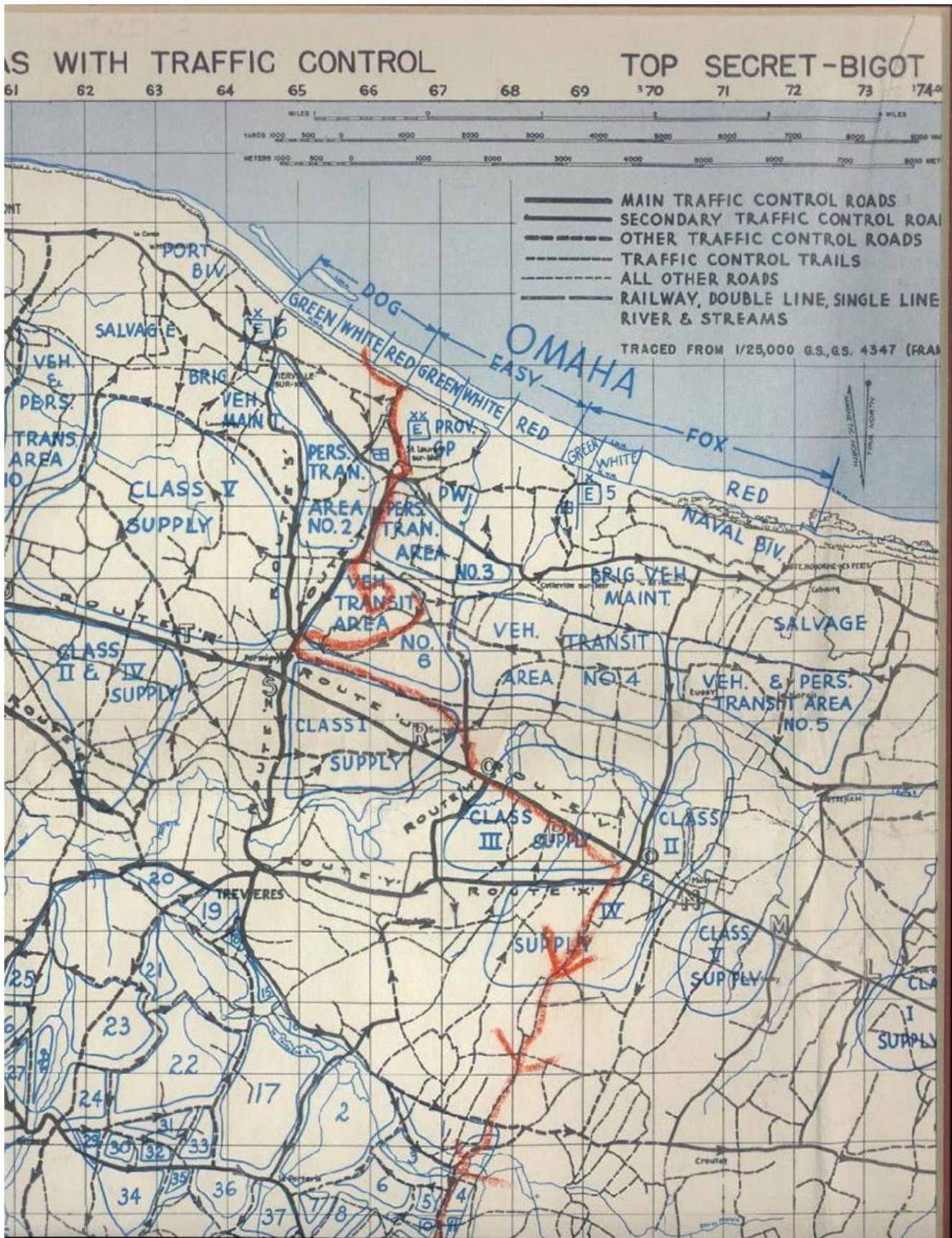


This map belonged to First Sergeant Walter Petrovich, First Sergeant of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

First Sergeant Walter Petrovich participated in the liberation of the Nordhausen / Dora-Mittelbau concentration camps.

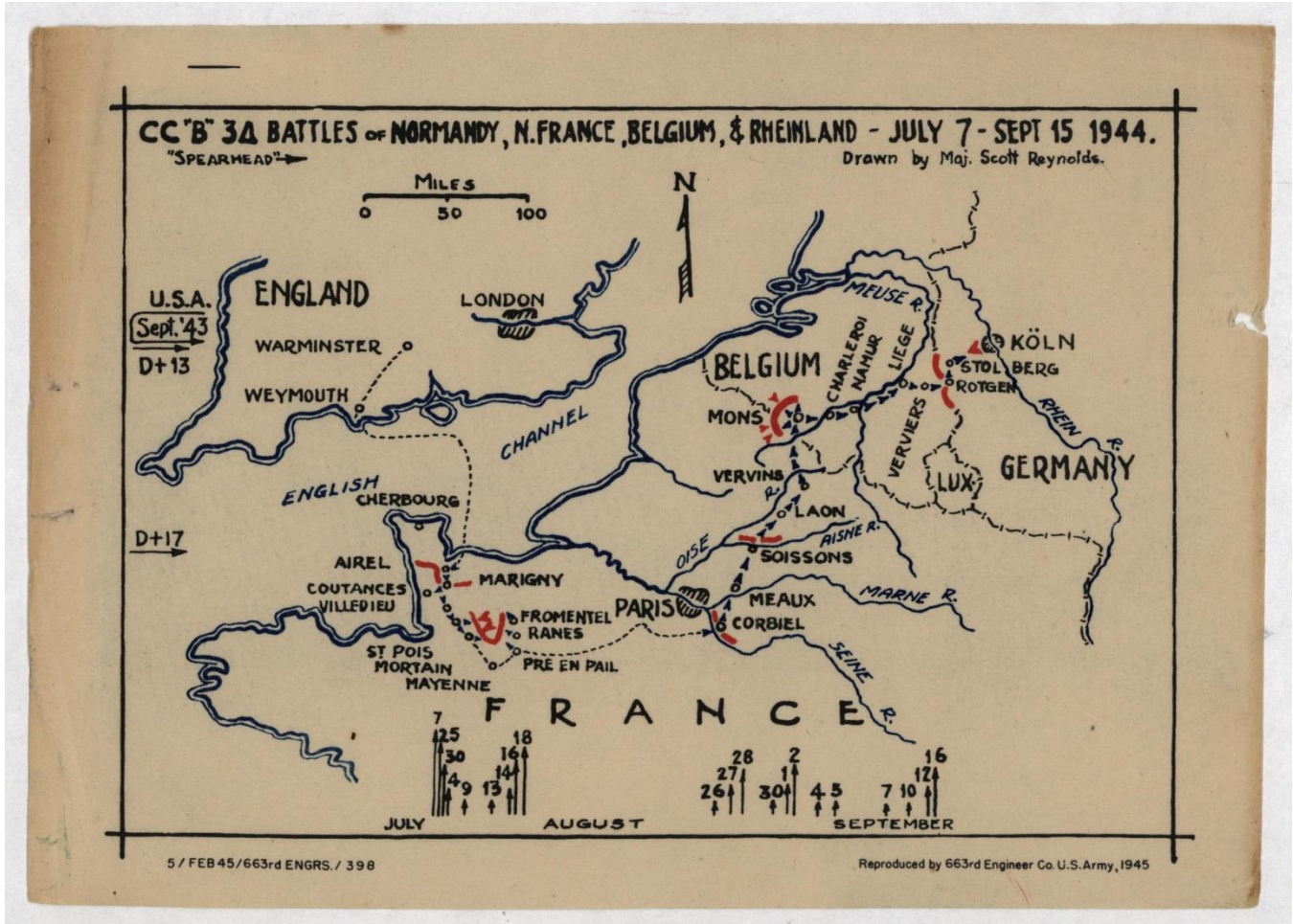
Source: <http://36thair3ad.homestead.com/HQ3dBn36thAIR.html>



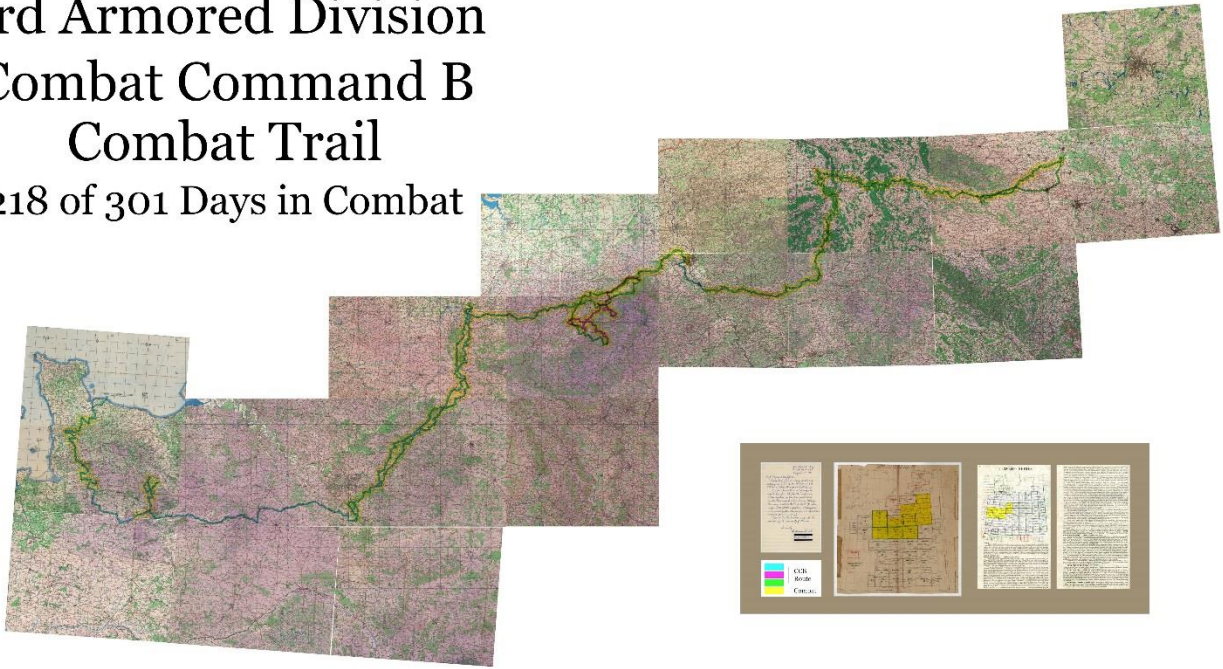


Combat Command B

Zane Strickland's medical unit was attached to the 3rd Armored Division's **Combat Command B**.



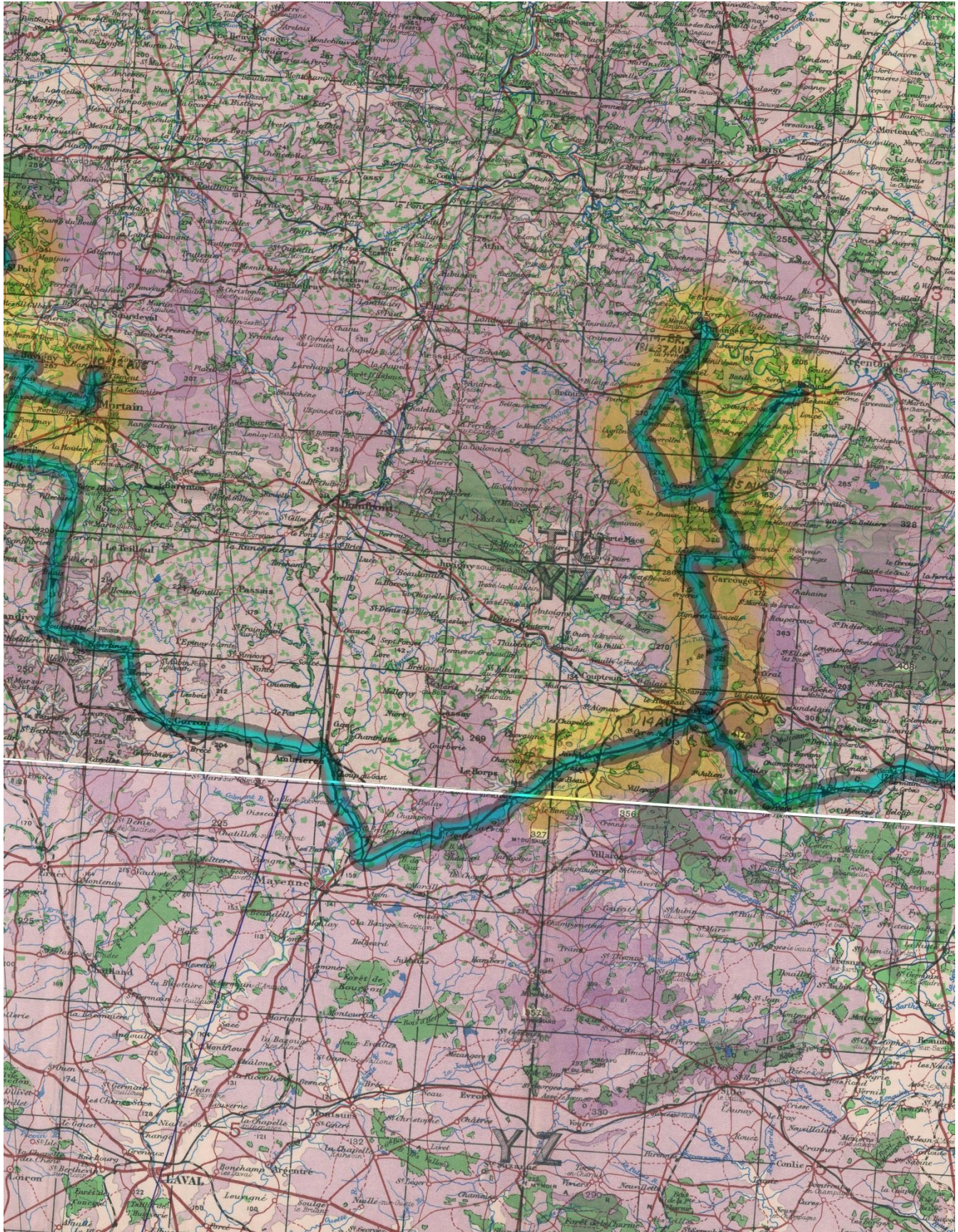
3rd Armored Division Combat Command B Combat Trail 218 of 301 Days in Combat



Zane L Strickland Military Records



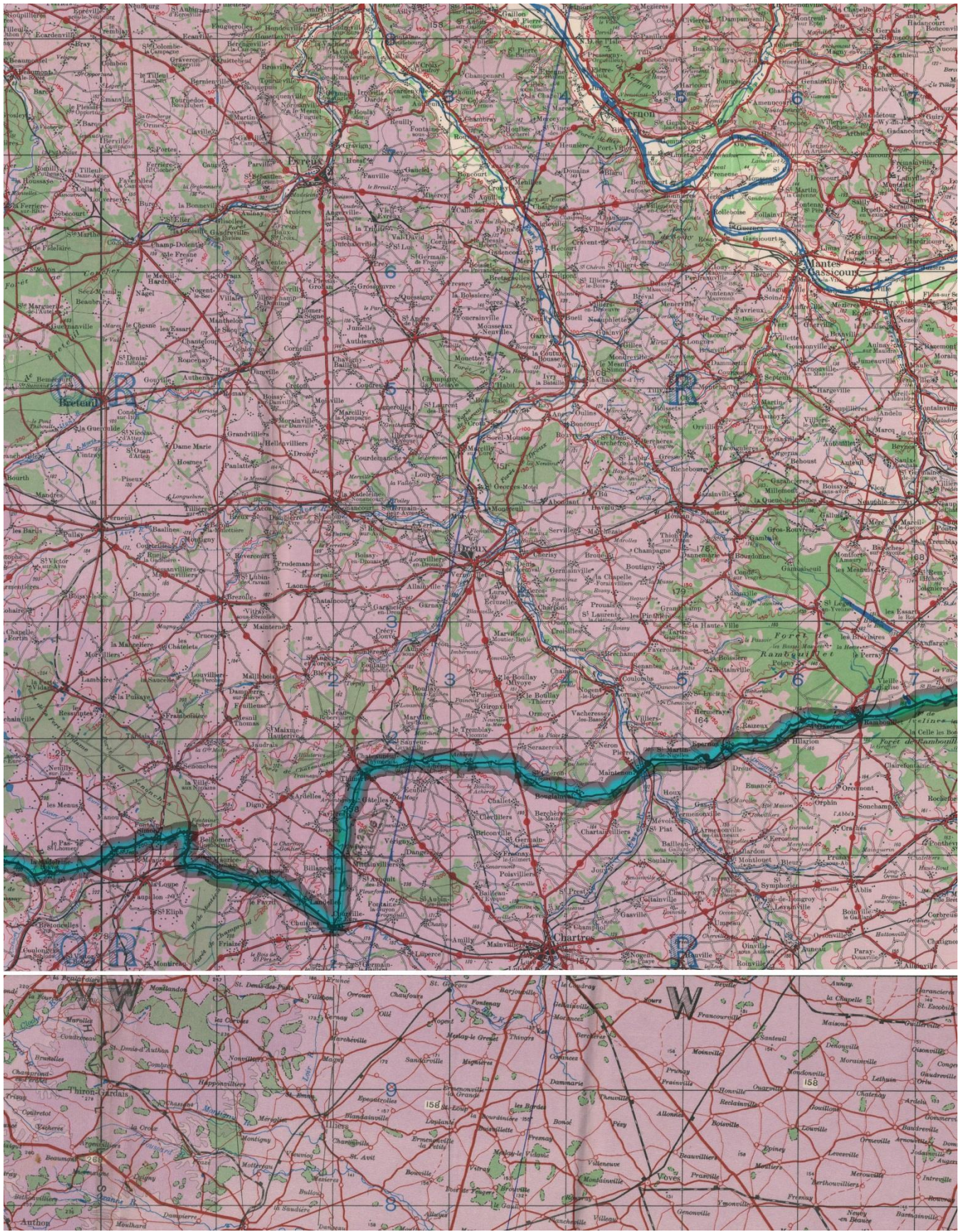
Zane L Strickland Military Records



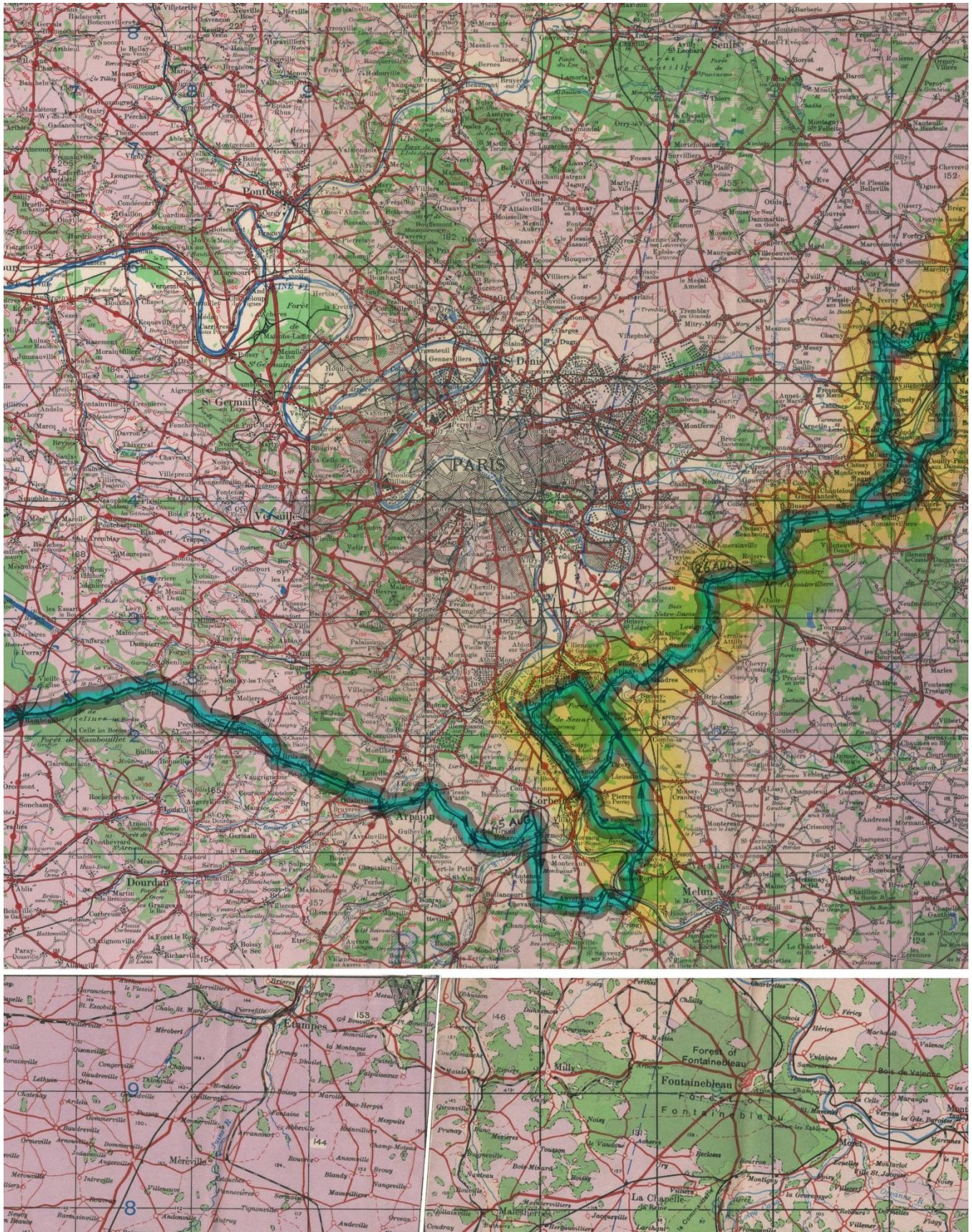
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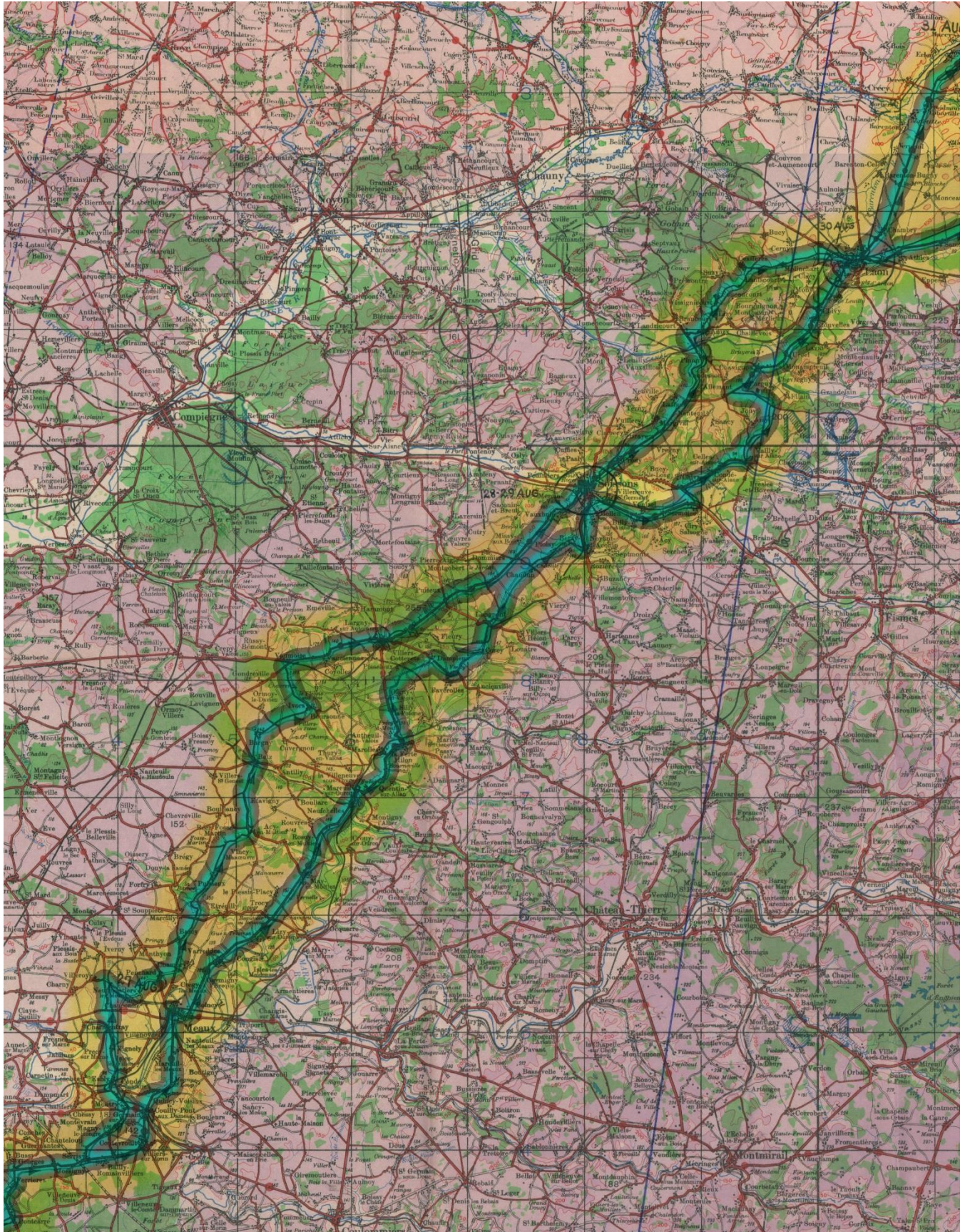
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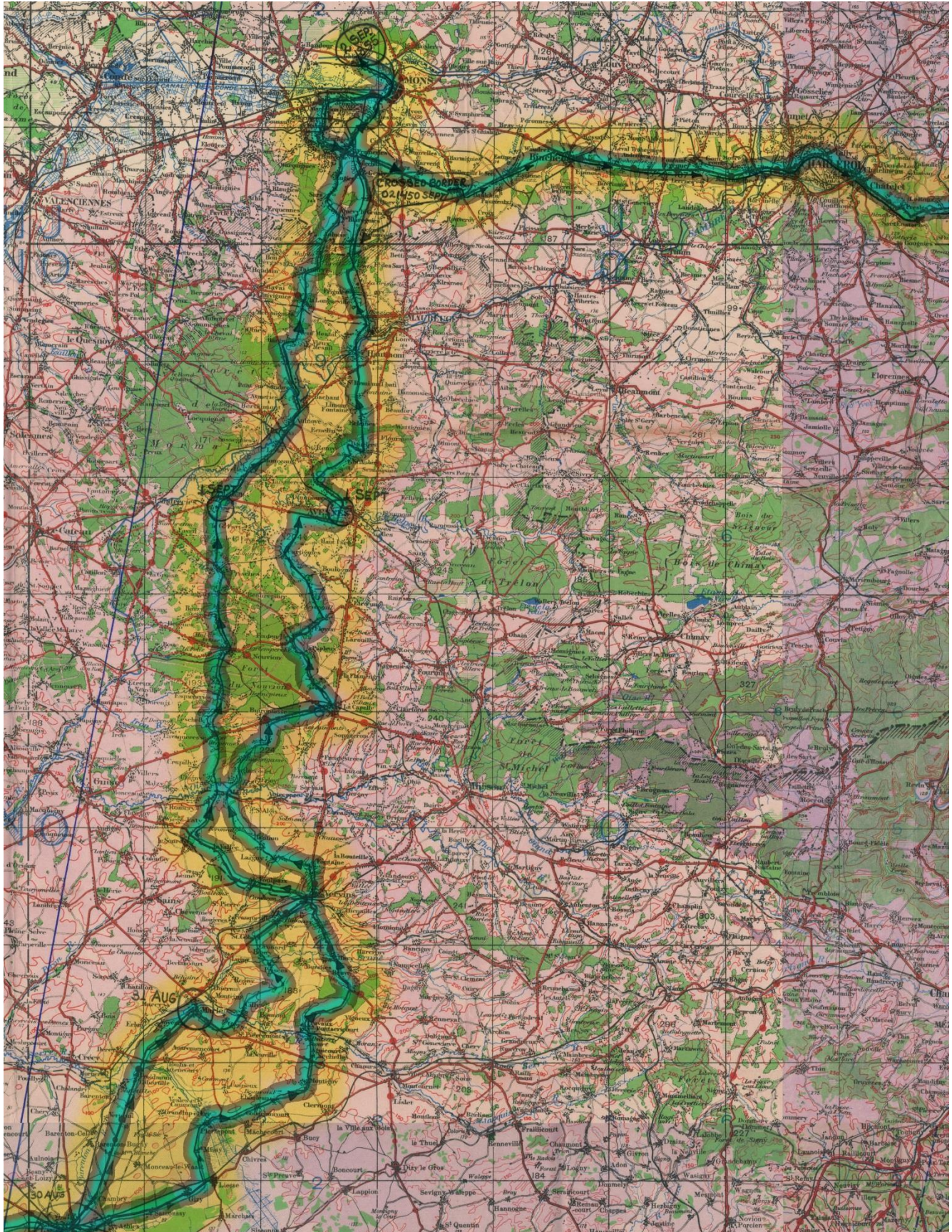
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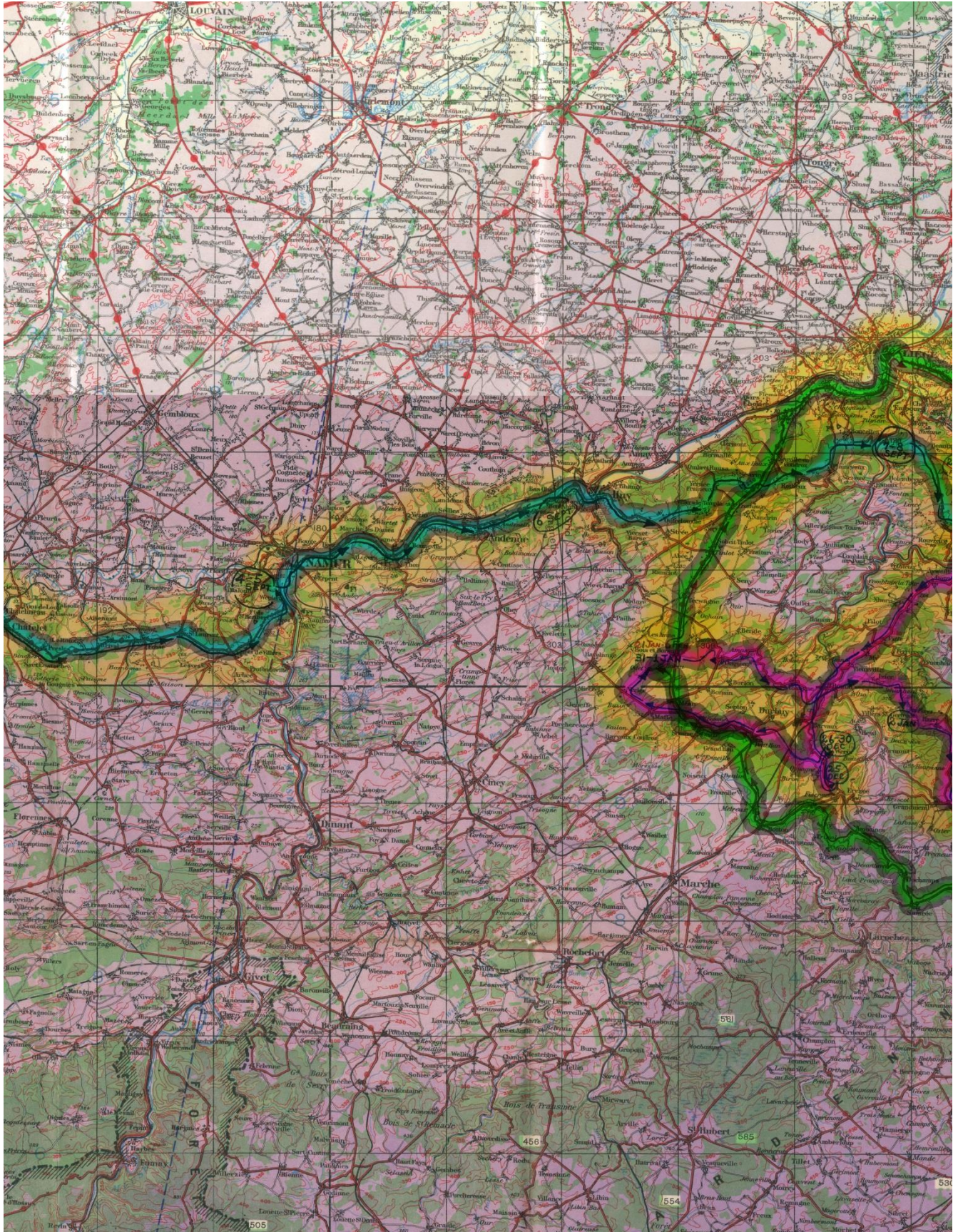
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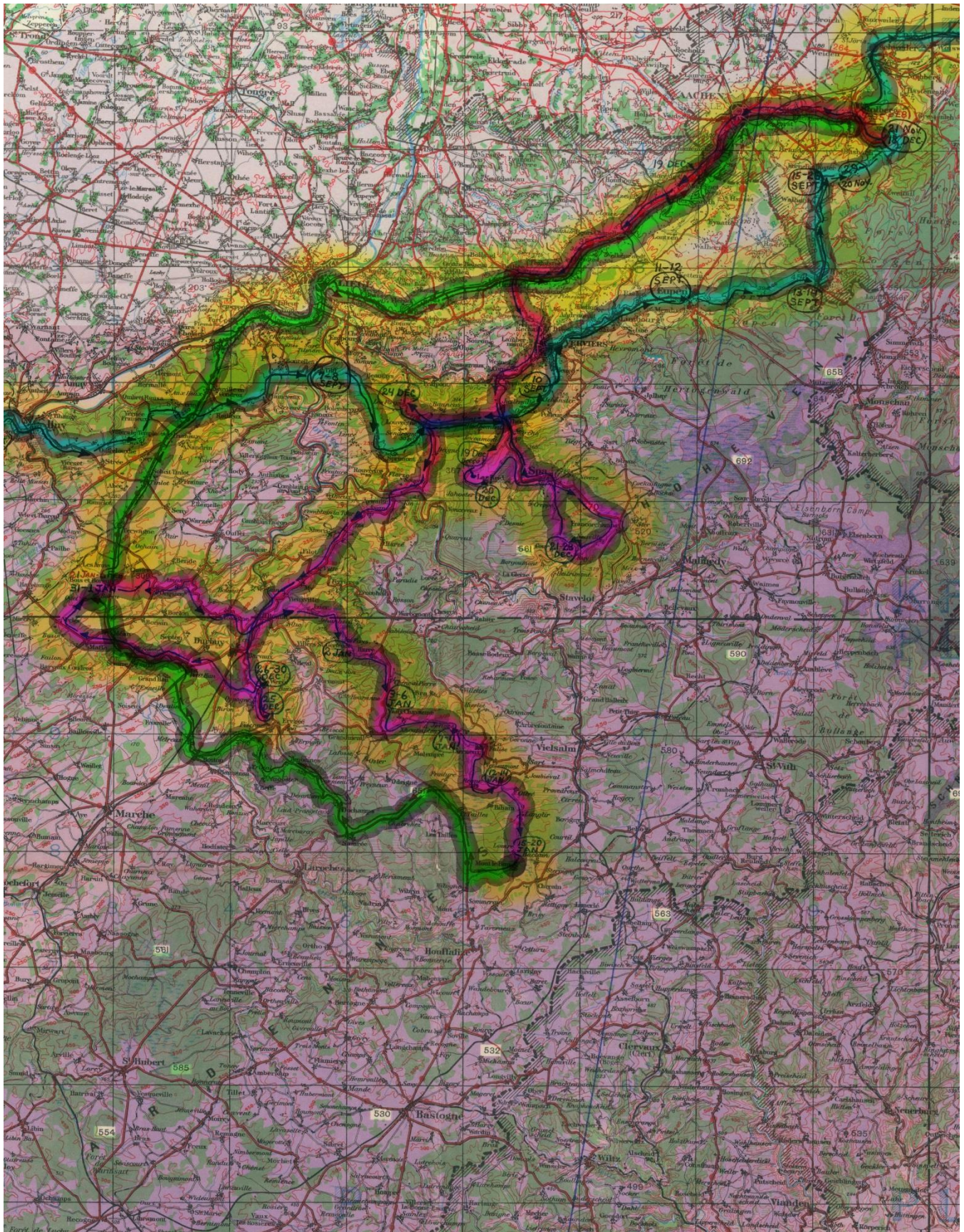
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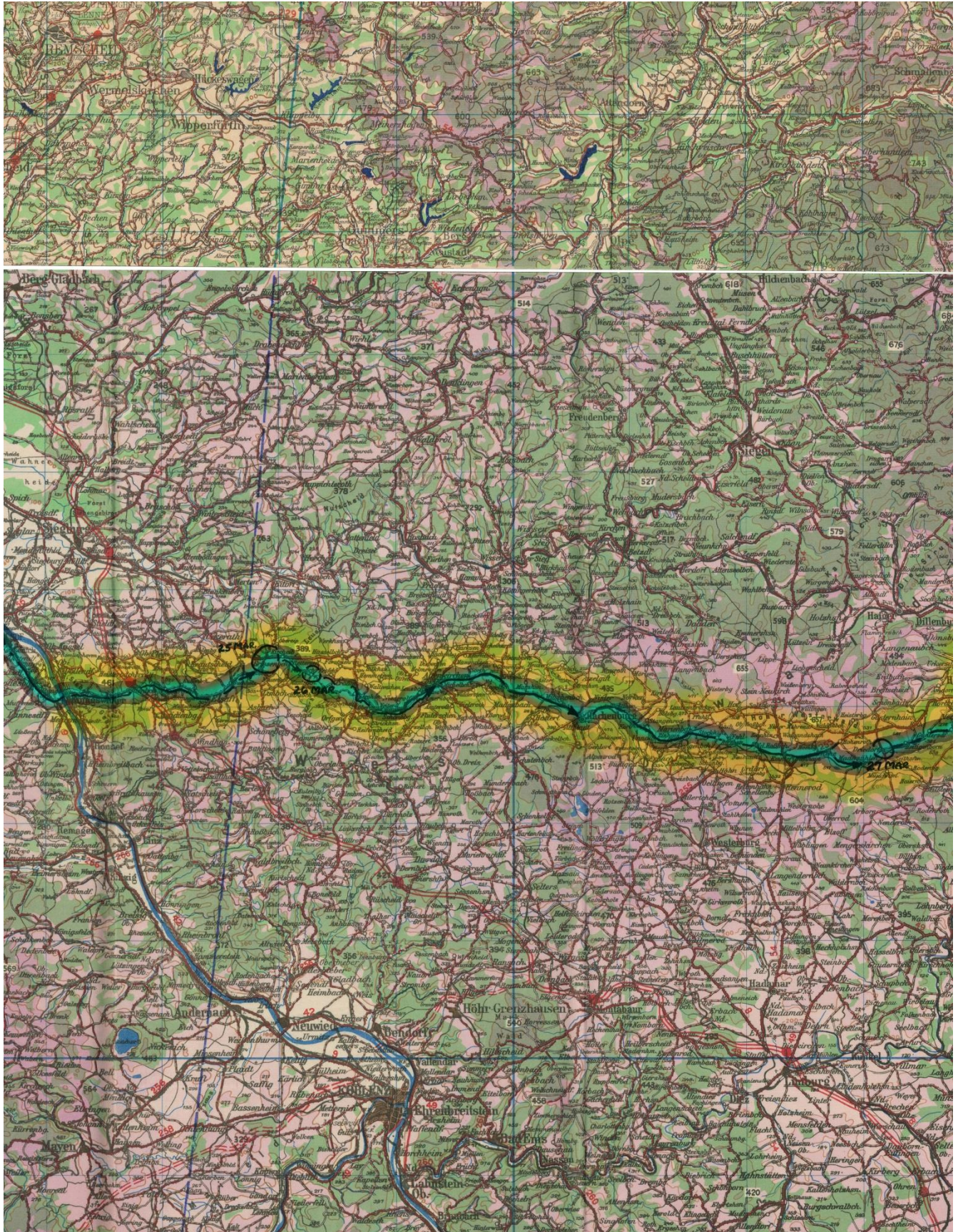
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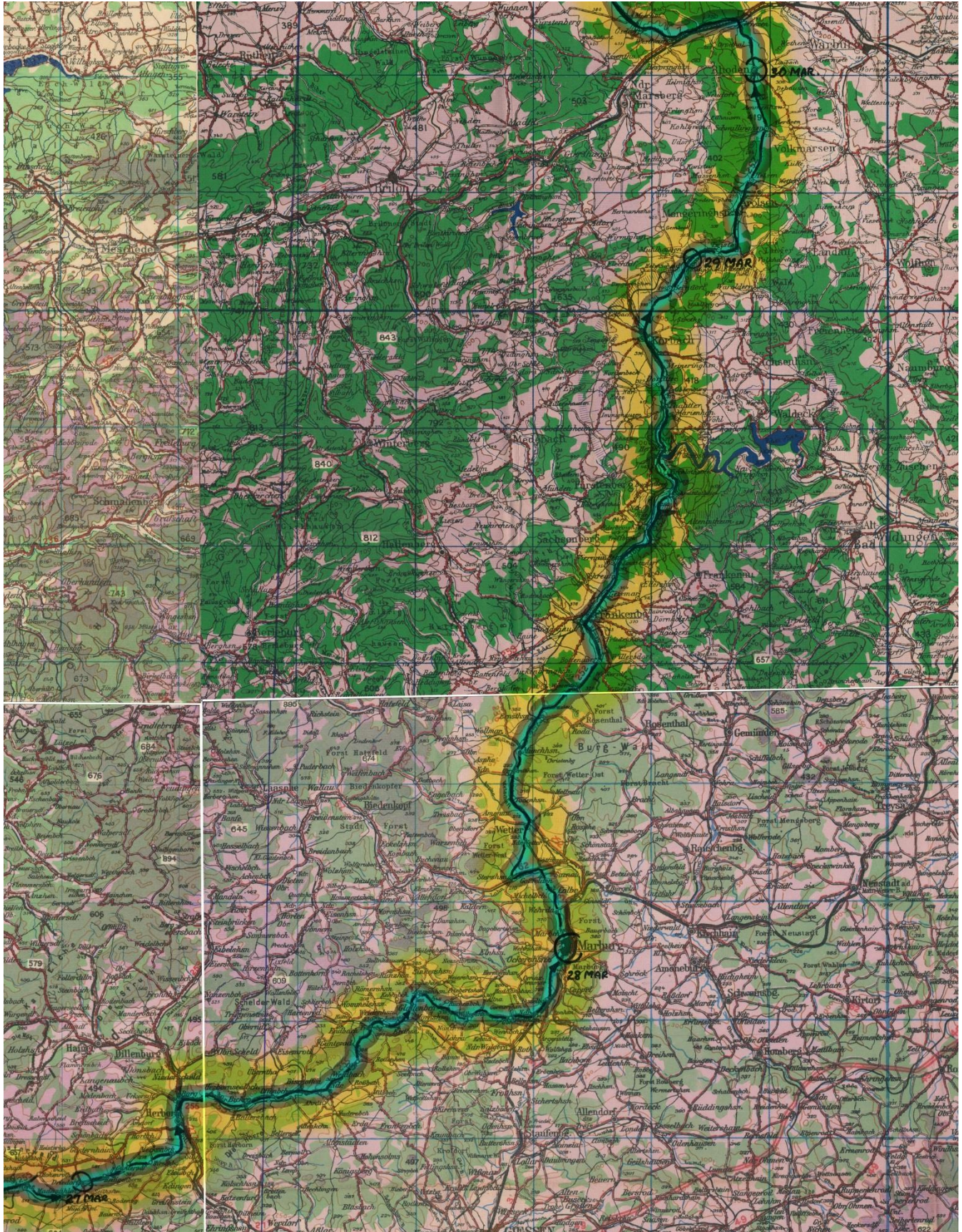
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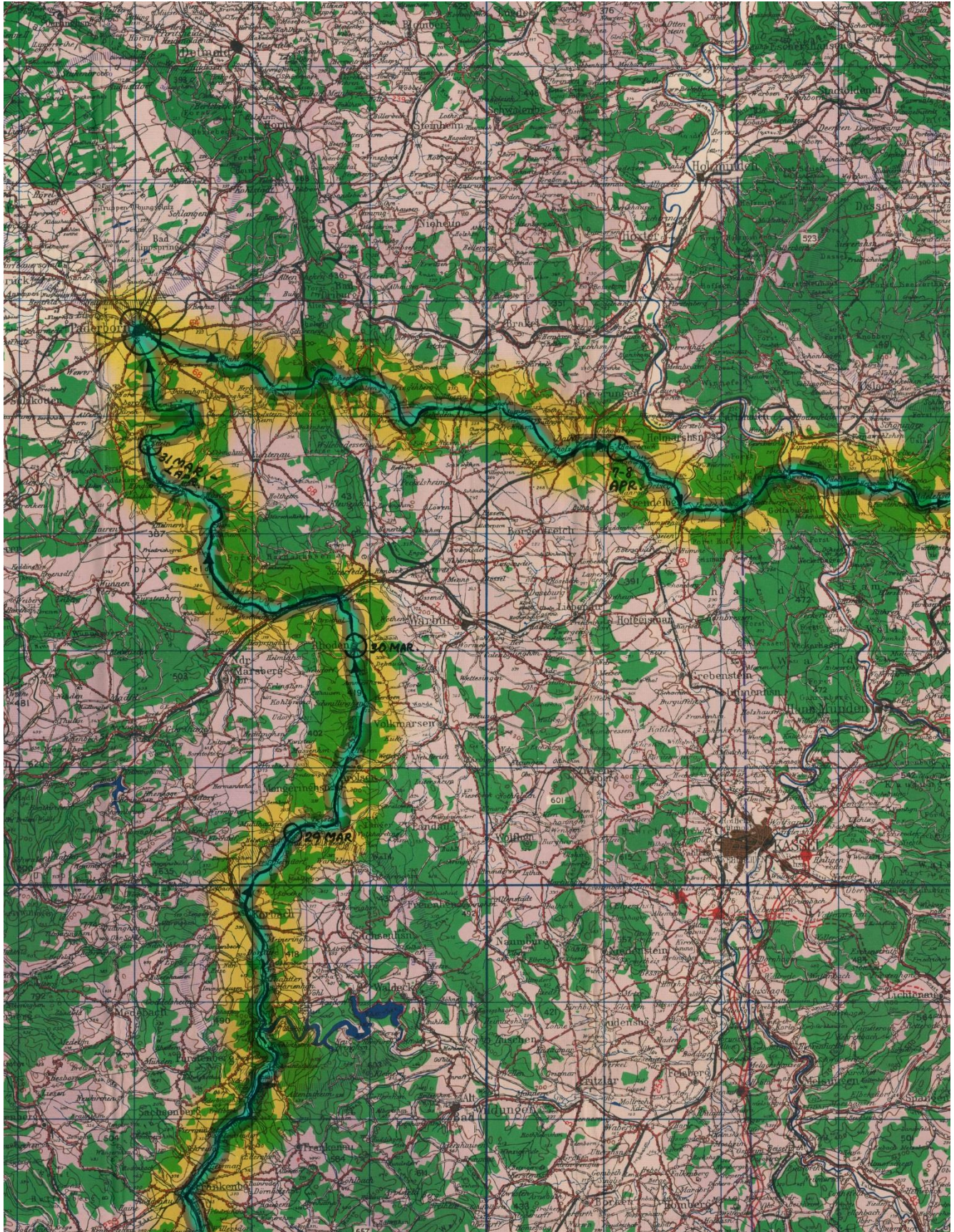
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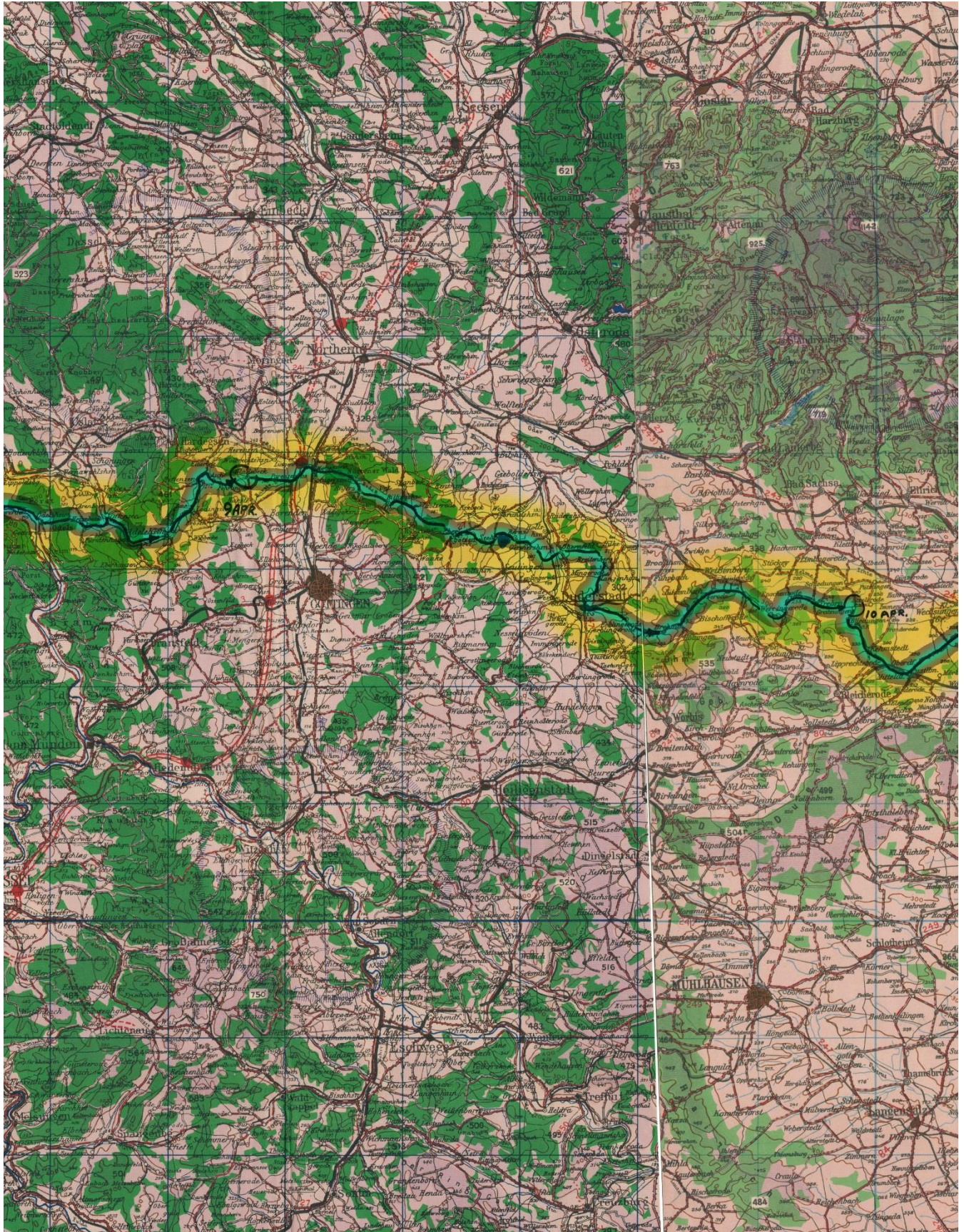
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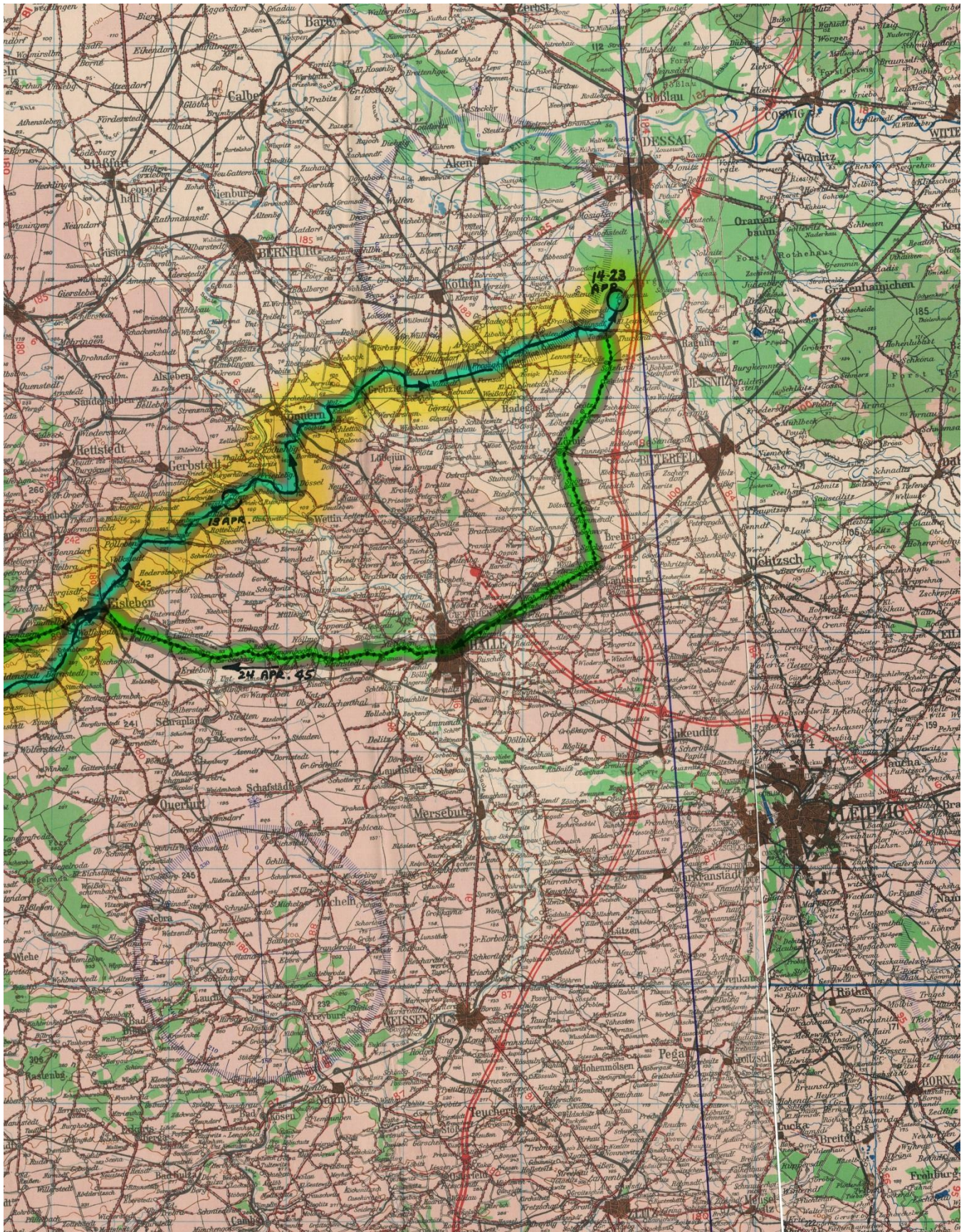
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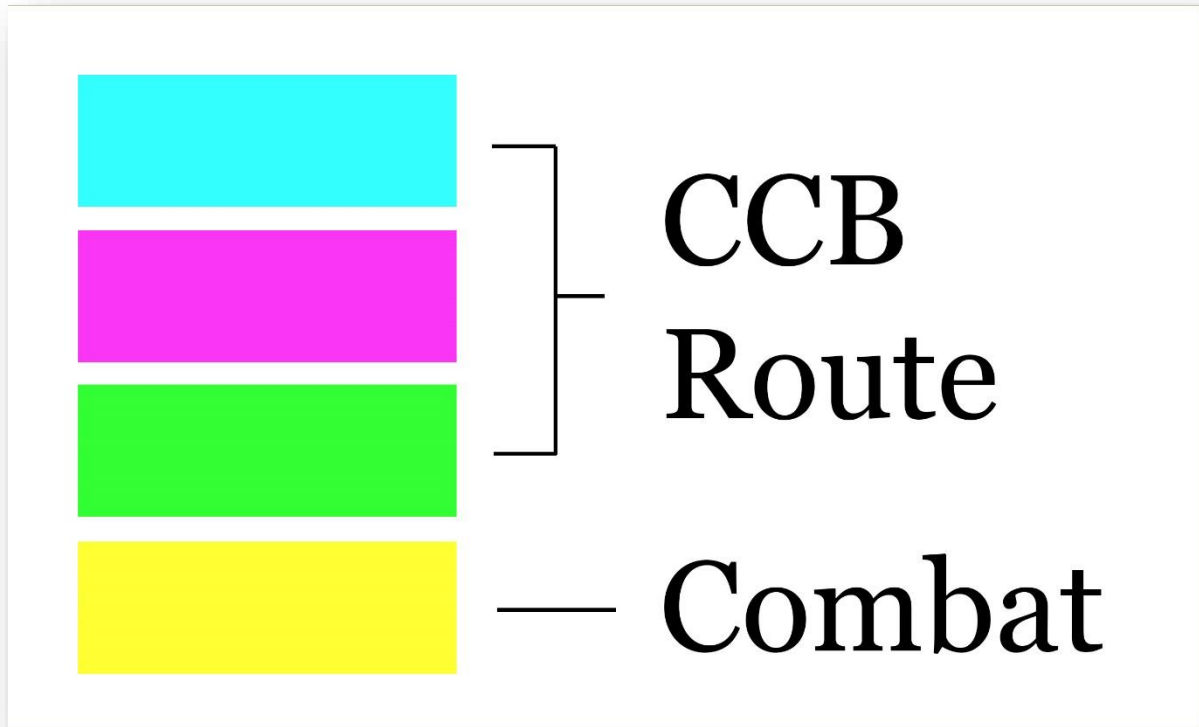


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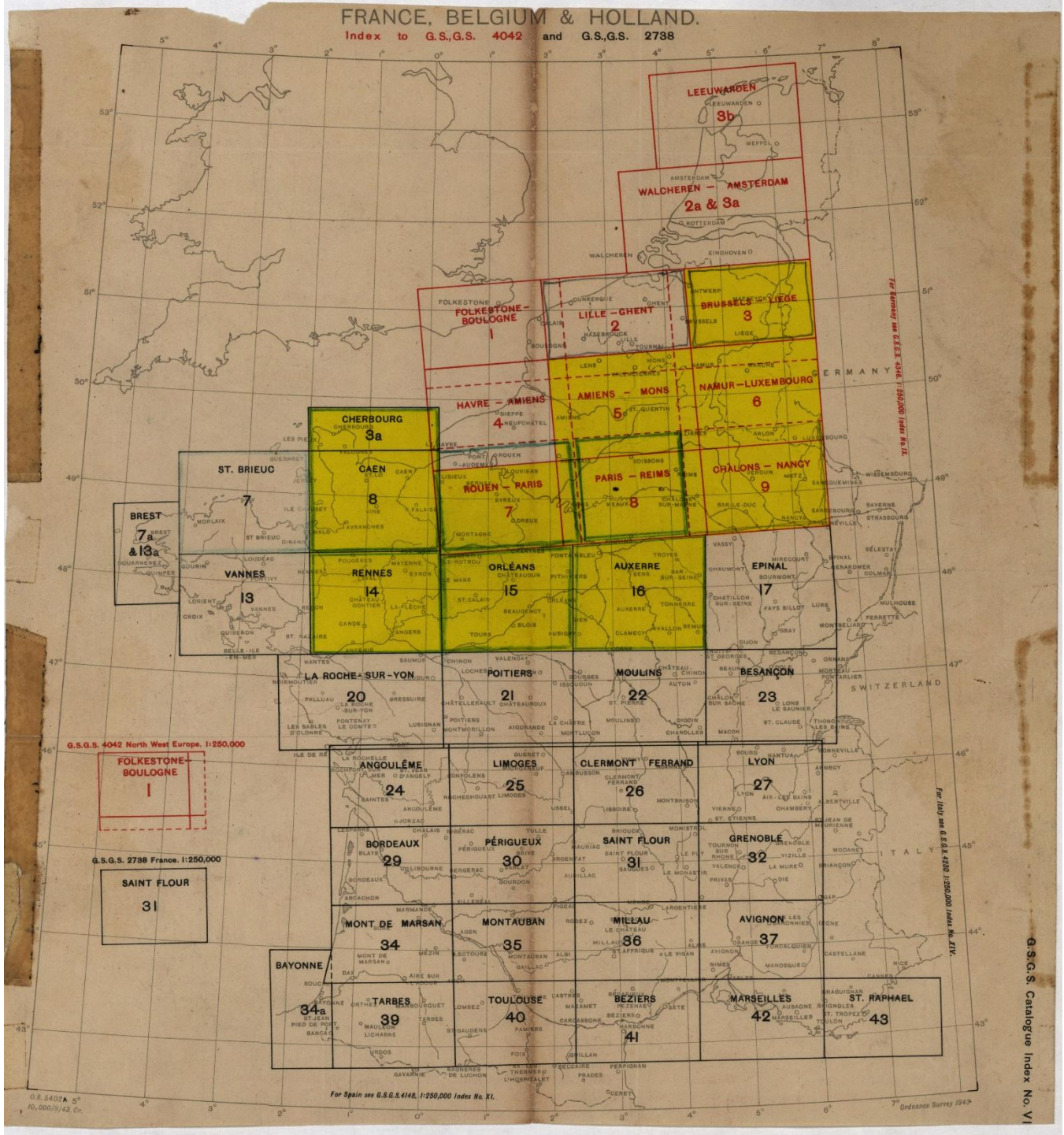


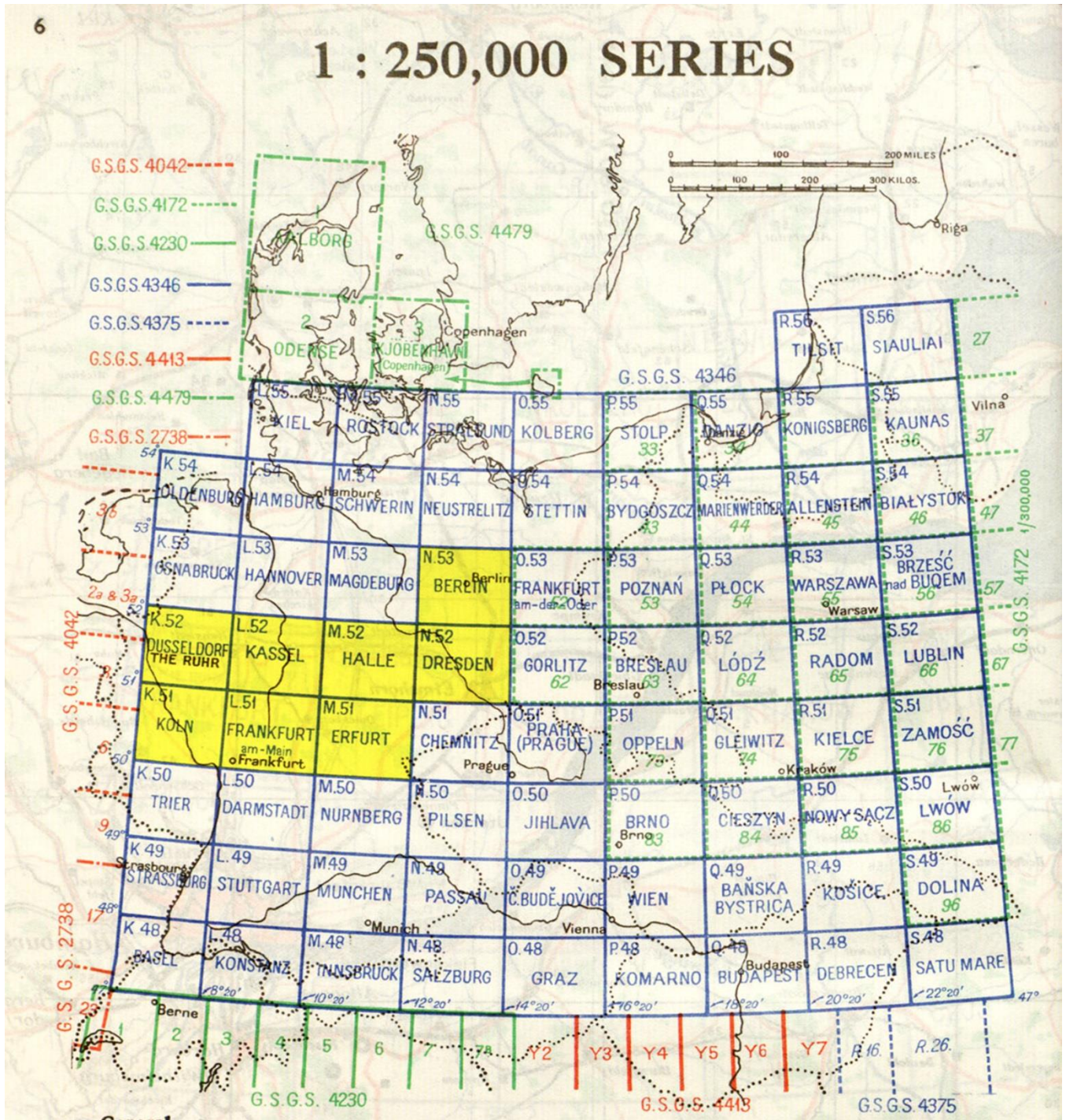
Zane L Strickland Military Records





Zane L Strickland Military Records





1880 Flametree Way
Hemet, Cal. 92343
August 31, 1984

Prof. Maynard Brickford:

I was Tech. Sgt. in charge of the S-2 Intelligence Section of Combat Command B, 3rd Arm'd Div. throughout World War II.

I enclose herewith a set of maps on which has been plotted, the route and stops by date, of the Command Post of Combat Command B, thru France, Belgium, Germany, and the Battle of the Bulge. These maps were plotted and prepared during and immediately after the war from our operational maps and S-2 journal.

I wish to donate these maps to the Archives of the University of Illinois.

Sincerely,

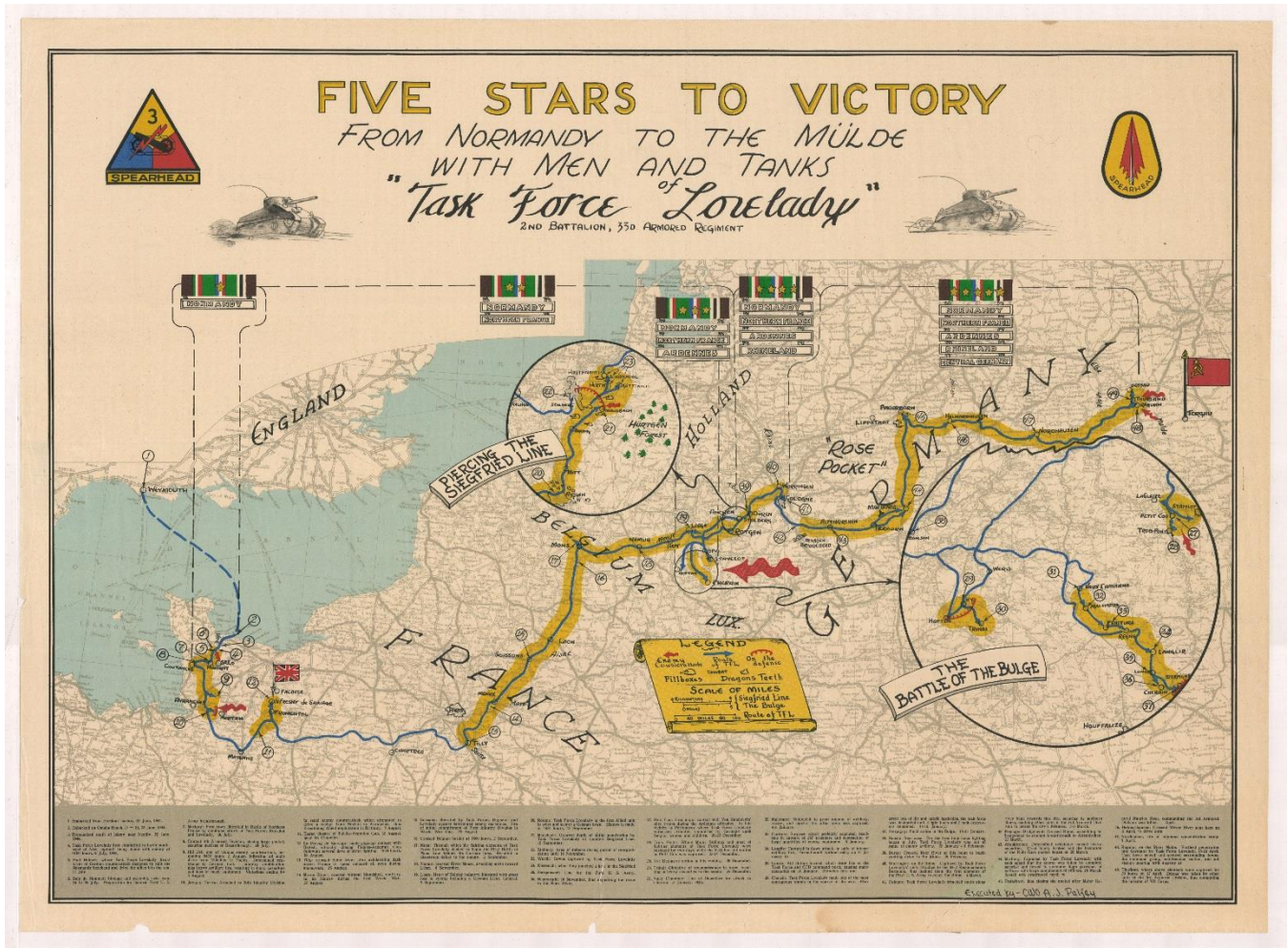
William Brick

MR WILLIAM BRICK
1880 FLAMETREE WAY
HEMET, CA 92343

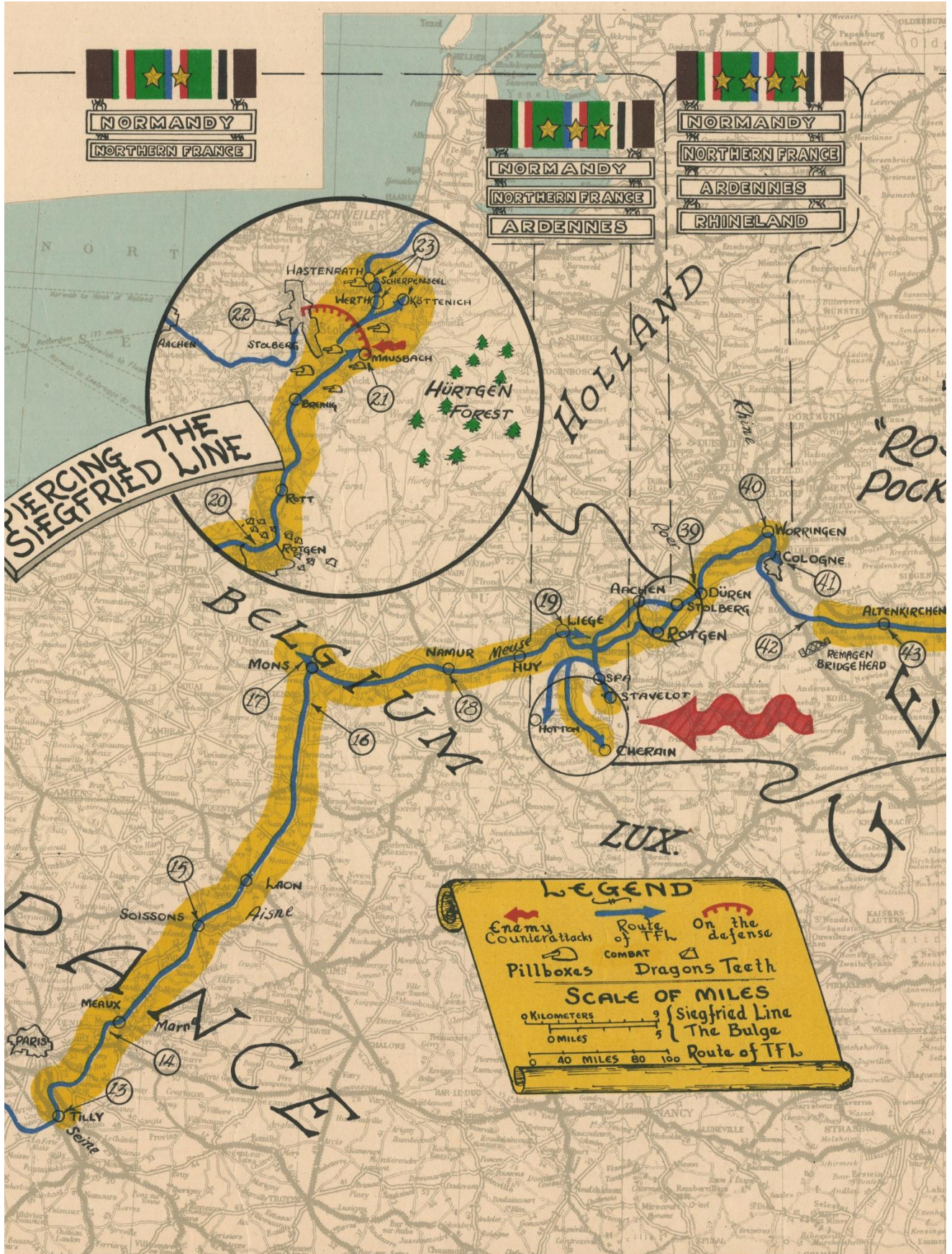
FIGHT EMPHYSEMA

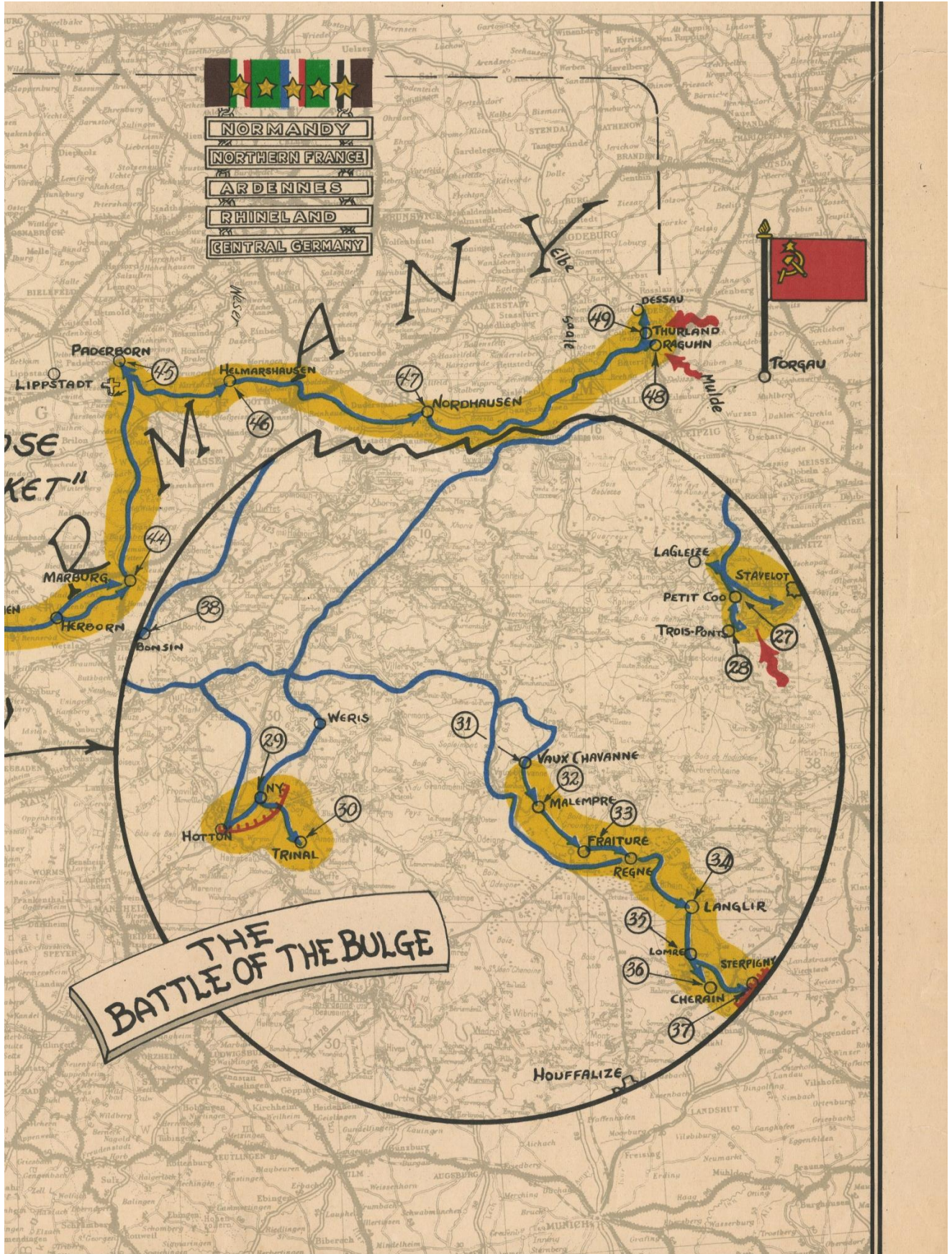
Task Force Lovelady

Zane Strickland's medical unit was attached to **Task Force Lovelady**, a tactical combat unit of the 3rd Armored Division's **Combat Command B**









1. Embarked from Portland harbor, 22 June, 1944.
2. Debarked on Omaha Beach, D + 18, 23 June, 1944.
3. Bivouacked south of Isigny near Neuilly, 23 June, 1944.
4. Task Force Lovelady first committed to battle southwest of Aire, contact being made with enemy at 0100 hours, 9 July, 1944.
5. Pont Hubert: where Task Force Lovelady bears brunt of German counterattack designed to split the Normandy beachhead and drive the allies into the sea. 11 July.
6. Bois du Hommet: bivouac and assembly area from 16 to 26 July. Preparation for historic First U. S.

- Army breakthrough.
7. Marigny: First town liberated in Battle of Northern France by combined efforts of Task Forces Roysdon and Lovelady. 26 July.
 8. Contact 4th Armored Division, closing large pocket, assuring success of Breakthrough. 28 July.
 9. Hill 264: site of vicious enemy counterattack, beginning 0430 hours, 2 August, following all night drive from Villedieu le Poeles. Determined resistance by German tank — infantry combination, plus heavy artillery fire, resulting in many casualties and loss of much equipment. Victorious ending by 4 August.
 10. Juvigny Tertra: Attached to 30th Infantry Division

to repel enemy counterattack which attempted to drive a wedge from Mortain to Avranches, thus threatening Allied exploitation in Brittany. 7 August.

11. Began closure of Falaise-Argentan Gap, 13 August, near les Chapelles.
12. La Fresny de Sauvage: made physical contact with British, officially closing Falaise-Argentan Gap, following several days of bitter fighting. 1020 hours, 18 August.
13. Tilly: crossed Seine River after exhilarating dash across France at speed unheard of, even during maneuvers. 25 August.
14. Marne River: crossed without bloodshed, contrary to its history during the first World War. 27 August.
15. Soissons: liberated by Task Forces Roysdon and Lovelady against determined enemy resistance. Site of initial commitment of First Infantry Division in World War One. 28 August.
16. Crossed Belgian border at 1600 hours, 2 September.
17. Mons: Through which the fighting elements of Task Force Lovelady dashed to begin the First Battle of Mons from behind the German lines. Resulted in disastrous defeat to the enemy. 2 September.
18. Namur: crossed River Meuse, attacking north toward Liege. 6 September.
19. Liege: Heart of Belgian industry, liberated with great loss to enemy including a German Lieut. General. 7 September.

20. Rötgen: Task Force Lovelady is the first Allied unit to seize and secure a German town. History is made at 1451 hours, 12 September.
21. Mausbach: Greatest depth of initial penetration by Task Force Lovelady of vaunted Siegfried Line. 15 September.
22. Stolberg: Area of defense during period of reorganization until 16 November.
23. Werth: Towns captured by Task Force Lovelady
24. Köttenich: when they punched a hole in the Siegfried
25. Sherpenseel: Line for the First U. S. Army,
26. Hastenrath: 16 November, thus expediting the drive to the Roer River.

27. Petit Coe: First major contact with Von Rundstedts' elite troops during the Ardennes offensive. In this vicinity is Perfondroy where Task Force Lovelady witnessed atrocities committed by Germans upon Belgian women and children. 20-22 December.
28. Trois Ponts: Where Major Stallings and most of fighting elements of Task Force Lovelady were besieged for two days while the battalion aid station in Petit Coe was captured. 22-24 December.
29. Ny: Defensive action in this vicinity. 25 December.
30. Trinal: Objective of reconnaissance in force, resulting in heavy casualties to the enemy. 29 December.
31. Vaux Chavanne: Line of Departure for attack to Cherain. 3 January, 1945.

Zane L Strickland Military Records

32. Malempre: Subjected to great amount of artillery, rocket, and mortar fire after town was captured. 4-5 January.
33. Fraiture: Surprise attack perfectly executed, resulting in capture of 287 prisoners and destruction of large quantities of enemy equipment. 6 January.
34. Langlir: Captured in dawn attack, in spite of intense artillery fire. Turned south without delay on 14 January to
35. Lomre: Aid station burned, which drew fire on the Task Force and CCB command posts, causing many casualties on 14 January. Between here and
36. Cherain: Task Force Lovelady made one of the most courageous stands in the course of the war. After

great loss of life and untold hardships, the task force was decimated until 3 light tanks and 2 tank destroyers remained. 14-15 January.

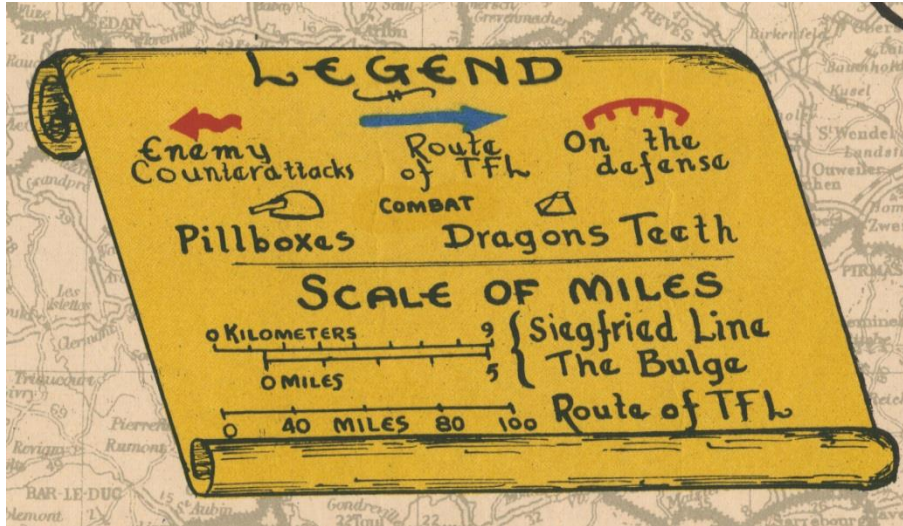
37. Sterpigny: Final action in the Bulge. 18-21 January.
38. Bonsin: Rest area. For the first time since fighting began in July, Task Force Lovelady was out of range of enemy artillery. 22 January - 8 February.
39. Duren: Crossed Roer River at this point to begin exciting drive to the Rhine. 26 February.
40. Worringen: on the Rhine. Captured by Task Force Lovelady's units attached to the 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion, thus making them the first elements of the First U. S. Army to reach the Rhine. 4 March.
41. Cologne: Task Force Lovelady attacked south along

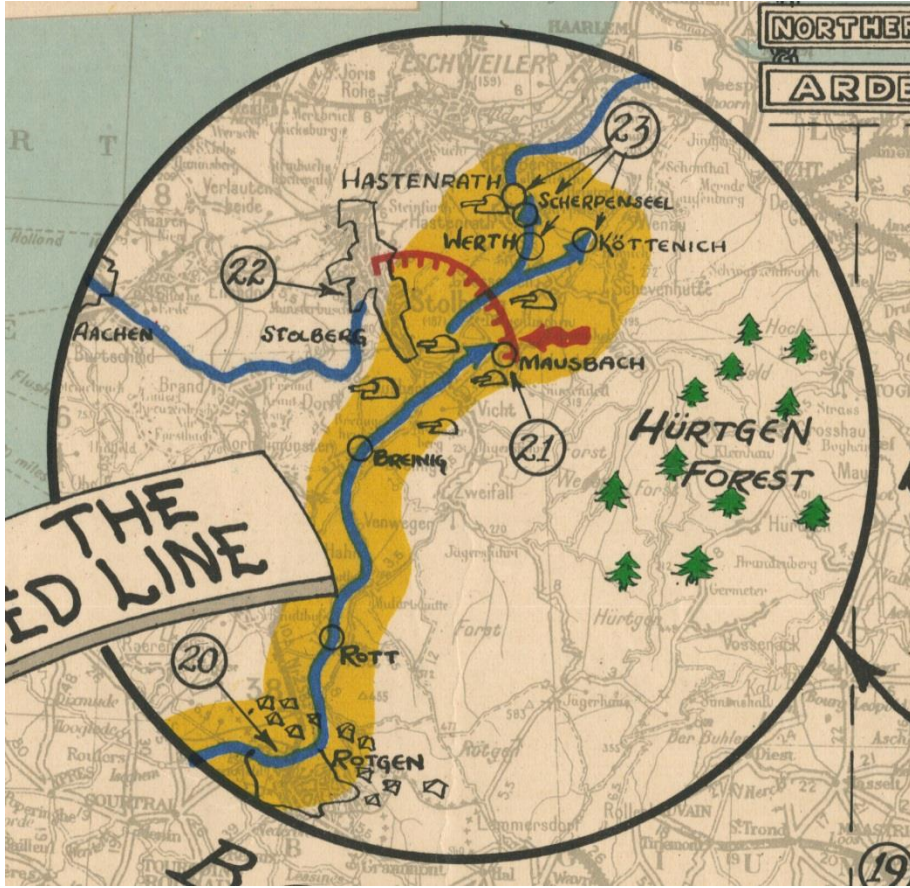
river bank towards this city, securing its northern flanks, enabling other units in the 3rd Armored Division to pierce the city's defenses. 5-6 March.

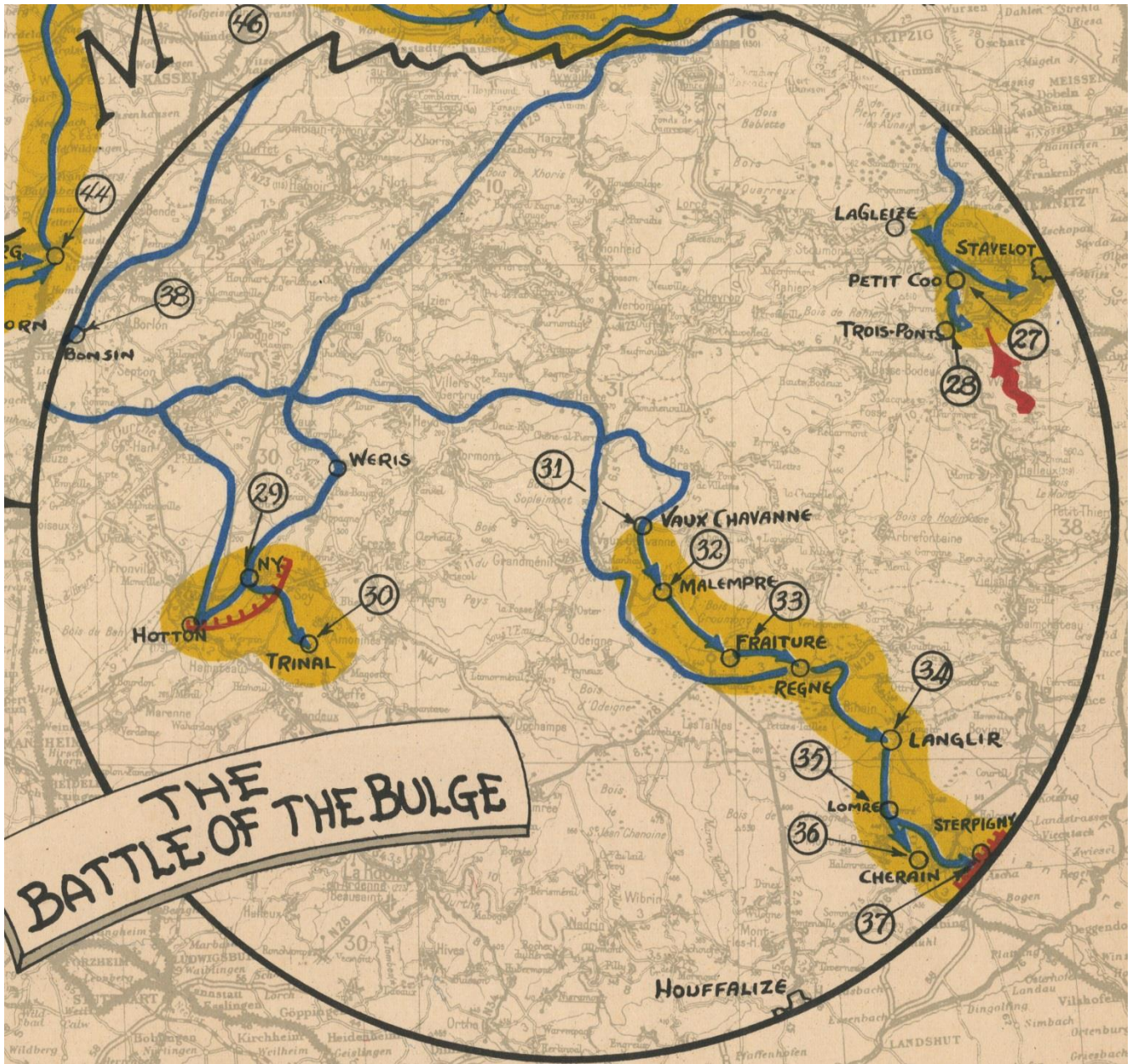
42. Remagen Bridgehead: Crossed Rhine, assembling on bridgehead to attempt breakthrough to Altenkirchen, 22 March.
43. Altenkirchen: Determined resistance caused heavy casualties. Crust finally broken and the formation of the Ruhr-Rose pocket began on 26 March.
44. Marburg: Captured by Task Force Lovelady with such speed that the enemy was taken by complete surprise and forced to surrender huge garrisons of soldiers with large complement of officers. 28 March. Attack now progressed north to
45. Paderborn, thus closing the pocket after Major Ge-

neral Maurice Rose, commanding the 3rd Armored Division was killed. April.

46. Helmarshausen: Crossed Weser River near here on 6 April, to drive onto
47. Nordhausen, site of infamous concentration camp. 7 April.
48. Raguhn: on the River Mülde. Furthest penetration into Germany by Task Force Lovelady; 15-23 April. Task force seized and secured surrounding towns, the command group, maintenance section, and aid station meeting with disaster at
49. Thurland, where above elements were captured for 20 hours on 17 April. Dessau was taken by other units of the 3rd Armored Division, thus completing the mission of VII Corps.





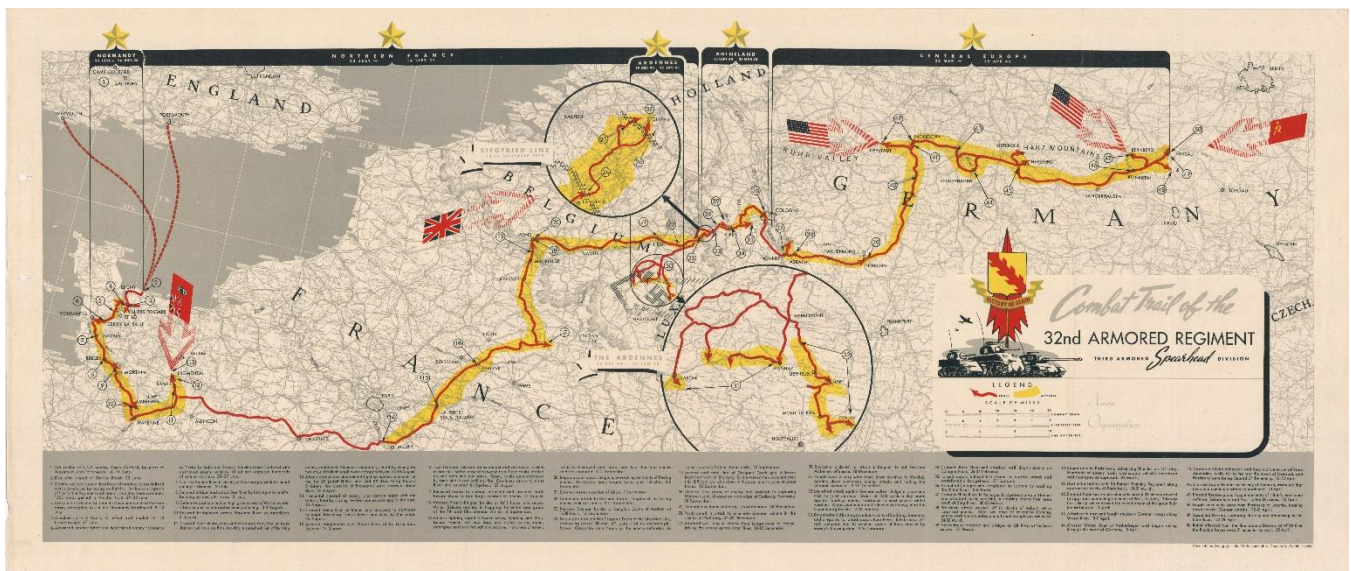


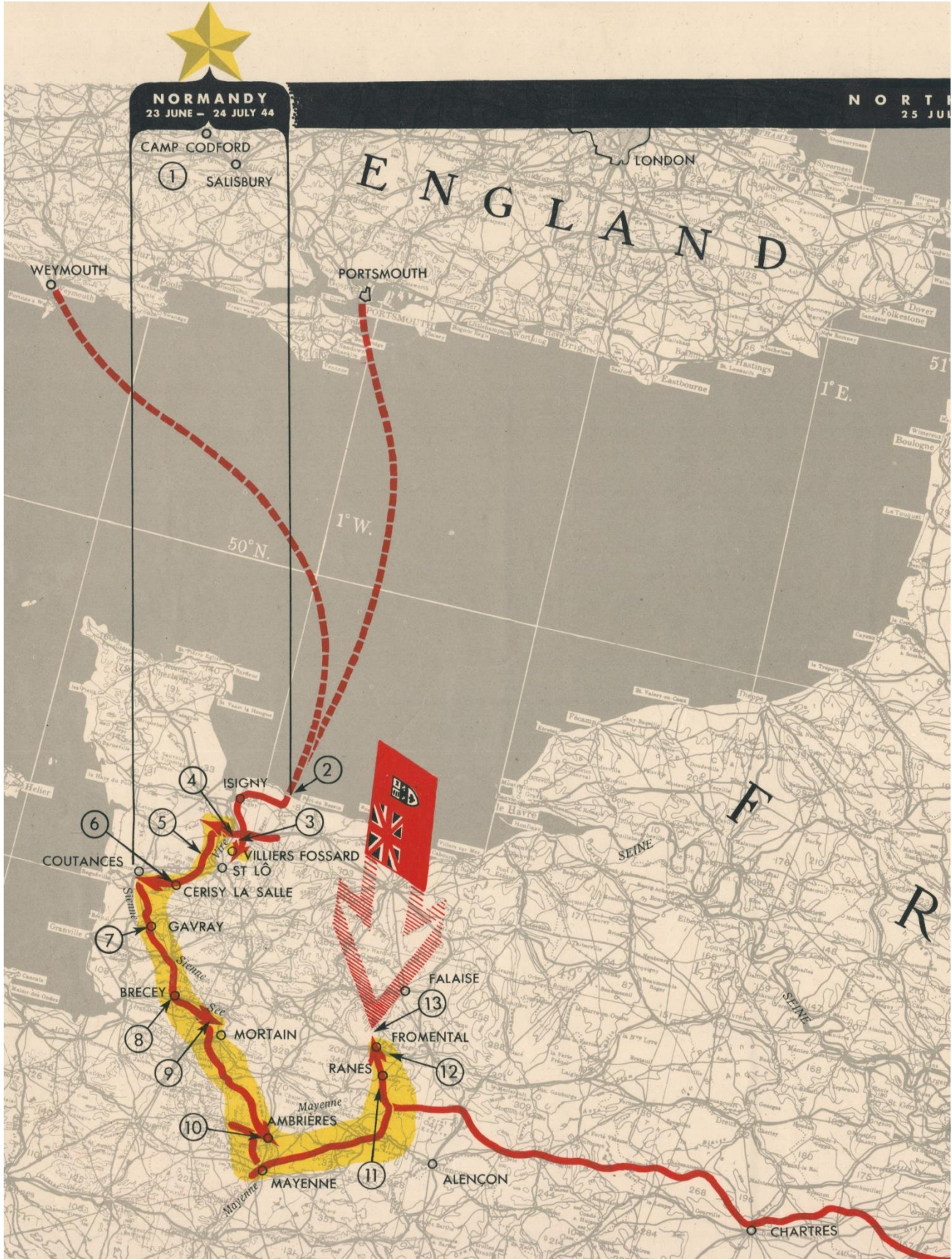
32nd Armored Regiment

The 32nd Armored Regiment was normally attached to **Combat Command A**, so Zane Strickland's medical unit was not typically attached to this regiment.

Combat Command A moved and fought parallel with Zane Strickland's **Combat Command B**.

This map is included to provide additional context to the activities and route of the 3rd Armored Division.











Zane L Strickland Military Records

1. Left station of 8-1/2 months, Camp Codford, for ports of Weymouth and Portsmouth. 16-19 June.
2. First units landed on Omaha Beach. 23 June.
3. German salient above Villiers Fossard smashed by specialized tactics developed for hedgerow fighting. Action was baptism of fire for the Regiment and heavy casualties were sustained. 1500 yards gained in two-day fight. 29-30 June.
4. Crossed Vire River at St. Jean de Daye and repelled German attack attempting to cut the Normandy beachhead. 8-12 July.
5. Attacked north of Canisy to effect and exploit St. Lô breakthrough. 27 July.
6. Advanced against bitter and determined enemy resistance

- to Cerisy La Salle and Roncey, leaving roads cluttered with destroyed enemy vehicles. Killed and captured hundreds of enemy soldiers. 28-29 July.
7. Crossed Sienne River in vicinity of Gavray against determined enemy resistance. 30 July.
8. Secured bridgehead across See River by fording stream after building up bed with rocks. 31 July.
9. Defensive position held on high ground west of Mortain under intensive and uninterrupted enemy shelling. 3-4 August.
10. Secured bridgehead across Mayenne River at Ambrières. 6 August.
11. Crossed river at Mayenne and advanced forty-five miles to Ranes and Joue du Bois, leaving a smashed trail of burning

enemy equipment. Elements completely cut off by enemy for two days. Medical supplies were dropped by air. 13-14 August.

12. After vigorous and determined fighting against elements of the 1st SS (Adolf Hitler) and 2nd SS (Das Reich) Panzer Divisions, the outskirts of Fromental were reached about dark. 16 August.
13. Fromental cleared of enemy and contact made with the British, there-by closing the German escape gap to the east. 18 August.
14. Crossed Seine River at Melun and attacked to northeast to begin liberating French towns and cities by the score. 26 August.
15. Secured bridgehead over Marne River at La Ferte Sous Jouarre. 27 August.

16. Two German railroad trains caught and destroyed, vicinity of Braisne. Battle ensued between four Tiger tanks loaded on one train and our tanks. Enemy tanks were destroyed by tank and direct artillery fire. Continued attack to Aisne River and secured bridgehead. 28 August.
17. Received orders to change direction and proceed north toward Mons to trap large number of enemy. 31 August.
18. Crossed Franco-Belgian border at 1615 hours and seized Mons. Seizure resulted in trapping the entire rear guard of the 7th and 15th German Armies. 2 September.
19. Intense fighting raged between Mons, Belgium, and Maubeuge, France, for two days and nights as the enemy attempted to break through and escape. Hundreds of enemy

vehicles destroyed and more than two thousand enemy soldiers captured. 3-4 September.

20. Began pursuit across Belgium, overtaking remnants of fleeing enemy. Destroyed many wagon trains and vehicles. 4-5 September.
21. Entered western section of Liège. 7 September.
22. Continued attack to German border in spite of increasing enemy tank resistance. 9-11 September.
23. Reached German border at Langfeld (south of Aachen) at 1638 hours. 12 September.
24. Tore a gap through first Dragon's Teeth of the Siegfried Line, destroying several 88-mm AT guns and six concrete pillboxes. Casualties were heavy as the enemy defended his

home country's frontier tenaciously. 13 September.

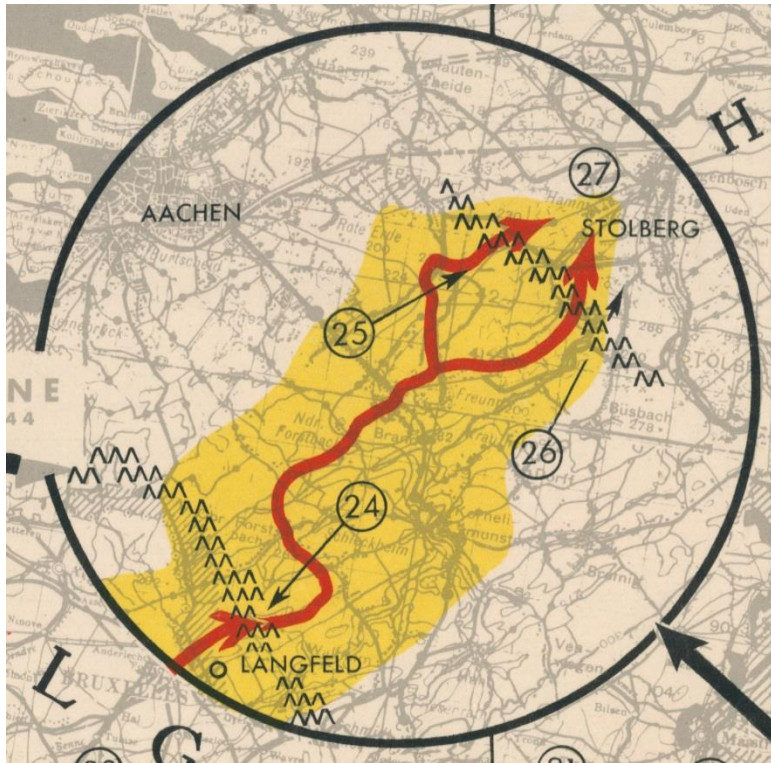
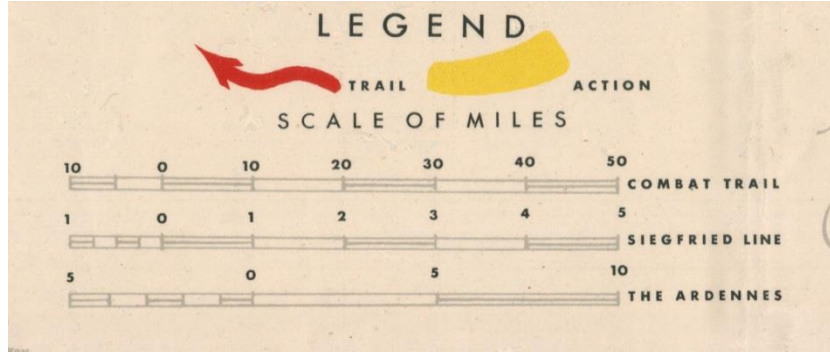
25. Second and final line of Dragon's Teeth and pillboxes breached west of Stolberg. Battle-weary men accomplished this difficult job with sheer will power and in spite of great losses. 15 September.
26. Cleared rear areas of enemy and assisted in capturing Münsterbusch, situated on west edge of Stolberg, Germany. 18 September.
27. Defended sector in Stolberg. 26 September - 18 November.
28. Participated in attack to eliminate German salient in the vicinity of Nothberg. 24-25 November.
29. Attacked well dug-in enemy from Langerwehe to Hoven, driving the enemy across Roer River. 10-12 December.

Zane L Strickland Military Records

30. Suddenly ordered to return to Belgium to halt German Ardennes offensive. 18 December.
31. Fought over a very wide front (from Manhay to Marche), beating down numerous enemy attacks and halting the German advance. 19-29 December.
32. Launched attack against German salient (Bulge) in snow and mist north of Lierneux. Gains of 1000 yards a day made against fanatical enemy resistance in most severe winter weather. Attack continued until relieved at Gouvy, near the Luxembourg border. 3-25 January.
33. Returned to old battle grounds in vicinity of Stolberg, Germany, and prepared for attack across Roer River, 8 February. Attack delayed due to swollen waters of Roer, caused by enemy's blowing dam. 9-25 February.
34. Crossed Roer River and attacked well dug-in enemy on Cologne Plain. 26-27 February.
35. Forged across difficult Erft Canal in surprise attack and established a bridgehead. 27 February.
36. Assaulted Cologne and completed its capture by reaching the Rhine River. 5-6 March.
37. Crossed Rhine River in Remagen bridgehead area at Honnef and attacked north, assisting in clearing enemy from area south of Sieg River. 20-22 March.
38. Pre-dawn attack pushed off in vicinity of Asbach which surprised enemy. After two days of relentless fighting, enemy positions crumbled and a breakthrough was achieved. 24-26 March.
39. Hachenburg captured and bridges on Dill River at Herborn seized. 27 March.

40. Began race to Paderborn, advancing 90 miles on first day. Hundreds of enemy trucks and supply vehicles overtaken and destroyed or captured. 29 March.
41. Had bitter battles with SS Panzer Training Regiment along approaches to city of Paderborn. 30-31 March.
42. Entered Paderborn while elements moved 25 miles westward to Lippstadt, contacting elements of 9th U. S. Army. This was first link-up which formed the envelopment of the great Ruhr industrial area. 1 April.
43. Attacked to east and fought stubborn German troops along Weser River. 5-7 April.
44. Crossed Weser River at Veckerhagen and began racing through the heart of Germany. 8 April.
45. Captured Gieboldehausen and began drive to cut off Harz Mountains, while far to the rear the towns of Osterode and Herzberg were being cleared of the enemy. 10-12 April.
46. Crossed Saale River in the vicinity of Könnern, assaulted that town and continued attack to northeast. 14 April.
47. Entered Bernberg and fought elements of Hitler's new home defense, Scharnhorst and Von Hotten Divisions. 15 April.
48. Fought over wide area from Bernberg to Jessnitz, beating down several German attacks. 15-21 April.
49. Assaulted Dessau, capturing the city and advancing to the Elbe River. 22-23 April.
50. Relief effected from the line around Dessau, at which time the Russian forces were 21 miles to the east. 25 April.

Zane L Strickland Military Records



Zane L Strickland Military Records

Unit Summaries

3rd Armored Division Overview

World War II

Activated: 15 April 1941

Campaigns:

- Normandy
- Northern France
- Rhineland
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

Days of combat: 231.

Distinguished Unit Citations: 7

Awards:

- Distinguished Service Cross (DSC): 25
- Distinguished Service Medal (DSM): 3
- Silver Star (SS): 839
- Legion of Merit (LM): 21
- Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC): 5
- Soldiers Medal (SM): 28
- Bronze Star Medal (BSM): 3,881
- Air Medal (AM): 134

Commanders:

- Maj. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem (April 1941-January 1942)
- Maj. Gen. Walton H. Walker (January-August 1942)
- Maj. Gen. Leroy H. Watson (August 1942-August 1944)
- Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose (August 1944-March 1945)
- Brig. Gen. Doyle O. Hickey (March-June 1945)
- Brig. Gen. Truman E. Boudinot (June-July 1945)
- Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, Jr. (July 1945)
- Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow (July 1945 until inactivation)
- Maj. Gen. Ray T. Maddocks (15 July 1947-1 April 1948)
- Maj. Gen. Roderick R. Allen (15 April 1948 to present)

Inactivated: 10 November 1945 in Europe.

Reactivated: 15 July 1947.

Combat Chronicle

The 3rd Armored Division landed in Normandy and entered combat 29 June 1944, taking part in the hedgerow fighting.

The Division broke out at Marigny and with the [1st Infantry Division](#) swung south to Mayenne in a general exploitation of the St. Lo breakthrough.

In August 1944, the Division participated in the heavy fighting involved in closing the Falaise Gap, pocketing the German Seventh Army.

Six days later (25 August) the Division had cut across the Seine River, and was streaking through Meaux, Soissons, Laon, Mons, Namur, and Liege.

Liege fell 8 September and Eupen on 11 September.

The Division breached the Siegfried Line with the capture of Rotgen, 12 September, and continued a slow advance against heavy resistance, to the vicinity of Langerwehe.

When the Battle of the Bulge broke, the Division was shifted to Houffalize, Belgium, where it severed a vital highway leading to St. Vith, and in January participated in the reduction of the German salient west of Houffalize.

After a brief rest, the Division returned to the front, crossed the Roer River into Duren, broke out of the Duren bridgehead, and drove on to capture Koln (Cologne), 6 March 45.

The Division swept on to Paderborn; it was at a road junction near Paderborn that Major General Rose was killed while attempting to surrender to a German tank commander, 31 March 1945.

The Division took Paderborn, assisted in mopping up the Ruhr pocket, crossed the Saale River, and after overcoming stiff resistance took Dessau, 21-23 April 1945.

Assignments in the ETO

- 20 November 1943: VII Corps, First Army.
- 8 February 1944: XIX Corps.
- 15 July 1944: VII Corps.
- 1 August 1944: VII Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.
- 19 December 1944: XVIII (Abn) Corps.
- 20 December 1944: Attached, with the entire First Army, to the British 21st Army Group.
- 23 December 1944: VII Corps.
- 18 January 1945: VII Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group.
- 1 May 1945: XIX Corps, Ninth Army, 12th Army Group.

General

Nickname: Spearhead Division.

Shoulder patch: Same as 1st Armored, with number "3" in upper portion of triangle.

Publication: *Spearhead in the West*; published by the 3rd Armored Division; Frankfurt am Main, Germany; 11 October 1945; 260 pp.

Source:

http://www.lonesentry.com/usdivisions/history/armored/division/3rd_armored_division.html

3rd Armored Division Detail

"Spearhead"

The mixture of insignia and distinctive colors of several arms incorporated in the Armored Force symbolize integrity and esprit. It is an interlocked ornament, found in Nordic monuments, composed of three torques: red for Artillery; blue for Infantry; and yellow for Cavalry. The symbols represent the characteristics of Armored Divisions: the tank track, mobility and armor protection; the cannon, fire power; and the red bolt of lightning, shock action.

COMMAND AND STAFF

Commanding General

15 Sep 1943	Maj Gen Leroy H. Watson
7 Aug 1944	Brig Gen Maurice Rose
5 Sep 1944	Maj Gen Maurice Rose
21 Mar 1945	Brig Gen Doyle O. Hickey

Artillery Commander

15 Sep 1943	Col Frederic G. Brown
-------------	-----------------------

Chief of Staff

15 Sep 1943	Col John A. Smith
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Assistant Chief of Staff G-1 (Personnel)

15 Sep 1943	Lt Col Jack A. Boulger
1 Apr 1945	Maj George G. Otis

Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 (Intelligence)

15 Sep 1943	Lt Col Andrew Barr
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Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 (Operations and Plans)

15 Sep 1943	Lt Col Howard M. Snyder
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Zane L Strickland Military Records

28 Aug 1943	Lt Col Wesley A. Sweat
1 Apr 1945	Maj James A Alexander
25 Apr 1945	Lt Col Wesley A Sweat

Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 (Logistics)

15 Sep 1943	Lt Col Eugene C Orth
-------------	----------------------

Assistant Chief of Staff G-5 (Civil Affairs)

22 Feb 1944	Lt Col William E Dahl
20 Apr 1945	Maj George F Cake

Adjutant General

15 Sep 1943	Lt Col Robert M Gant
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Combat Command A Commander

15 Sep 1943	Brig Gen Doyle O Hickey
31 Mar 1945	Col Leander L Doan

Combat Command B Commander

15 Sep 1943	Brig Gen John J Bohn
15 Jul 1944	Col Truman Everett Boudinot
4 Sep 1944	Brig Gen Truman Everett Boudinot

Combat Command R Commander

15 Sep 1943	Col Graeme G Parks
19 Jul 1944	Col William W Cornog Jr
15 Aug 1944	Col Louis P Leone
6 Sep 1944	Col Carl J Rohsenberger
24 Sep 1944	Col Robert L Howze Jr

STATISTICS

Chronology

Activated	15 Apr 41
Arrived ETO	15 Sep 43
Arrived Continent (D/18)	24 Jun 44
Entered Combat:	
First Element	29 Jun 44
Entire Division	9 Jul 44
Days in Combat	231

Casualties (Tentative)

Killed	2,540
Wounded	7,331
Missing	95
Captured	139
Battle Casualties	10,105
Non-Battle Casualties	6,017
Total Casualties	16,122
Percent of T/O Strength	111.5

Campaigns

- Normandy
- Northern France
- Ardennes
- Rhineland
- Central Europe

Individual Awards

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)	17
Legion of Merit	23
Silver Star	885
Soldiers Medal	32
Bronze Star	3,884
Air Medal	138
Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)	3

Prisoners of War (PsW / POW) Taken: 76,720

COMPOSITION

ORGANIC UNITS

Headquarters Company

Service Company

Combat Command A

Combat Command B

36th Armored Inf Regiment

32d Armored Regiment

33d Armored Regiment

23d Armored Eng Bn

83d Armored Rcn Bn

143d Armored Sig Co

3d Armored Division Artillery

391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion

67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

3d Armored Division Trains

3d Ordnance Maintenance Battalion

Supply Battalion

45th Armored Medical Battalion

Military Police Platoon

ATTACHMENTS

Antiaircraft Artillery

486th AAA AW Bn (SP)	25 Jun 44-9 May 45
413th AAA Gun Bn (Mbl)	7 Jul 44-16 Jul 44

Armored

Co A 738th Tk Bn (Mine Explorer)	6 Dec 44-15 Jan 45
1st & 3d Plats Co B 738th Tk Bn (Mine Explorer)	12 Jan 45-17 Jan 45

Cavalry

113th Cav Gp	8 Jul 44-10 Aug 44
4th Cav Gp	28 Feb 45-1 Mar 45
4th Cav Gp	3 Mar 45-8 Mar 45

Chemical

Cos A & C 87th Cml Bn	24 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
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Engineer

294th Engr C Bn	25 Oct 44-9 Nov 44
1st Plat Co B 15th Engr C Bn (9th Div)	27 Oct 44-11 Nov 44
298th Engr C Bn	9 Nov 44-10 Nov 44
Co B 15th Engr C Bn (9th Div)	11 Nov 44-1 Dec 44
298th Engr C Bn	27 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
Co B 297th Engr C Bn	27 Dec 44-30 Dec 44

Field Artillery

967th FA Bn (155 How)	29 Jun 44-30 Jun 44
58th Armd FA Bn	3 Jul 44-10 Aug 44
963d FA Bn (155 How)	7 Jul 44-9 Jul 44
258th FA Bn (155 Gun)	8 Jul 44-10 Aug 44
87th Armd FA Bn	9 Jul 44-28 Aug 44
258th FA Bn (155 Gun)	10 Aug 44-14 Aug 44
991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	12 Aug 44-20 Sep 44
60th FA Bn (9th Div) (105 How)	13 Aug 44-15 Aug 44

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58th Armd FA Bn	18 Aug 44-1 Oct 44
84th FA Bn (9th Div) (105 How)	27 Oct 44-11 Nov 44
83d Armd FA Bn	20 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
991st FA Bn (-2 btrys) (155 Gun)	21 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
188th FA Bn (155 How)	23 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
75th Div Arty	24 Dec 44-7 Jan 45
991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	2 Jan 45-11 Jan 45
183d FA Bn (155 How)	2 Jan 45-11 Jan 45
83d Armd FA Bn	2 Jan 45-9 May 45
183d FA Bn (155 How)	12 Jan 45-20 Jan 45
Btry A 991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	17 Jan 45-19 Jan 45
991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	25 Feb 45-9 Mar 45
183d FA Bn (155 How)	25 Feb 45-24 Apr 45
991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	29 Mar 45-1 Apr 45
138th FA Bn (155 How)	29 Mar 45-8 Apr 45
991st FA Bn (155 Gun)	6 Apr 45-13 May 45
Btry A 13th FA Obsn Bn	17 Apr 45-23 Apr 45

Infantry

1st Bn 60th Inf (9th Div)	9 Jul 44-11 Jul 44
2d Bn 60th Inf (9th Div)	10 Jul 44-11 Jul 44
3d Bn 60th Inf (9th Div)	13 Aug 44-15 Aug 44
2d & 3d Bns 60th Inf (9th Div)	17 Aug 44-19 Aug 44
1st Bn 26th Inf (1st Div)	6 Sep 44-23 Sep 44
47th Inf (9th Div)	8 Sep 44-10 Sep 44
47th CT (9th Div)	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 45
84th FA Bn (9th Div) (105 How)	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 44
1 Plat Co B 15th Engr C Bn (9th Div)	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 44
Co A 746th Tk Bn	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 44
Co C 899th TD Bn (SP)	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 44
Btry D 376th AAA AW Bn (Mbl)	25 Oct 44-10 Nov 44
2d Bn 47th Inf (9th Div)	24 Nov 44-26 Nov 44
1st Bn 60th Inf (9th Div)	11 Dec 44-12 Dec 44
1st Bn 517th Prcht Inf (Non-Div)	22 Dec 44-26 Dec 44
509th Prcht Inf Bn (Non-Div)	23 Dec 44-29 Dec 44
290th CT (75th Div)	23 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
898th CT (75th Div)	23 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
1 plat Co B 275th Engr C Bn (75th Div)	23 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
Btry A 440th AAA AW Bn (Mbl)	23 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
289th CT (75th Div)	24 Dec 44-29 Dec 44
897th FA Bn (75th Div) (105 How)	24 Dec 44-29 Dec 44

Zane L Strickland Military Records

730th FA Bn (155 How) (75th Div)	24 Dec 44-29 Dec 44
Btry A 440th AAA AW Bn (Mbl)	24 Dec 44-29 Dec 44
331st Inf (83d Div)	29 Dec 44-31 Dec 44
330th Inf (83d Div)	1 Jan 45-7 Jan 45
2d & 3d Bns 330th Inf (83d Div)	7 Jan 45-19 Jan 45
1st Bn 330th Inf (83d Div)	11 Jan 45-19 Jan 45
335th Inf (84th Div)	18 Jan 45-21 Jan 45
13th Inf (8th Div)	26 Feb 45-17 Mar 45
395th CT (99th Div)	28 Feb 45-2 Mar 45
924th FA Bn (99th Div) (105 How)	28 Feb 45-2 Mar 45
Co C 629th Tk Bn	28 Feb 45-2 Mar 45
Co C 786th Tk Bn	28 Feb 45-2 Mar 45
3d Bn 13th Inf (8th Div)	17 Mar 45-19 Mar 45
414th Inf (104th Div)	23 Mar 45-12 Apr 45
3d Bn 47th Inf (9th Div)	11 Apr 45-24 Apr 45
1st Bn 18th Inf (1st Div)	11 Apr 45-25 Apr 45
2d Bn 414th Inf (104th Div)	12 Apr 45-22 Apr 45
60th Inf (9th Div)	22 Apr 45-24 Apr 45

Tank Destroyer

803d TD Bn (SP)	25 Jun 44-2 Jul 44
703d TD Bn (SP)	25 Jun 44-17 Dec 44
643d TD Bn (SP)	22 Dec 44-26 Dec 44
703d TD Bn (SP)	2 Jan 45- 9 May 45
2d Plat Co B 635th TD Bn (T)	15 Jan 45-20 Jan 45

DETACHMENTS

(Attached To)

Armored

CC B	30th Div	8 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
33d Armd Regt	30th Div	8 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
36th Armd Inf (-3d Bn)	30th Div	8 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
Co D 83d Armd Rcn Bn	30th Div	8 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
Co B 23d Armd Engr Bn	30th Div	8 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
CC A	9th Div	9 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
32d Armd Regt	9th Div	9 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
3d Bn 36th Armd Inf	9th Div	9 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	9th Div	9 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
Cos A & C 23d Armd Engr Bn	9th Div	9 Jul 44-16 Jul 44
CC B	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
33d Armd Regt	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
36th Armd Inf (-3d Bn)	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
391st Armd FA Bn	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
Cos B & D 23d Armd Engr Bn	1st Div	26 Jul 44-30 Jul 44
CC B	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
33d Armd Regt	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
36th Armd Inf (-3d Bn)	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
391st Armd FA Bn	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
Cos B & D 23d Armd Engr Bn	4th Div	30 Jul 44-4 Aug 44
CC A	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
32d Armd Regt	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
3d GBn 36th Armd Inf	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
54th Armd FA Bn	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
67th Armd FA Bn	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
Co A & C 23d Armd Engr Bn	1st Div	30 Jul 44-12 Aug 44
CC B	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
33d Armd Regt	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
36th Armd Inf (-3d Bn)	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
391st Armd FA Bn	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
B & D Cos 23d Armd Engr Bn	1st Div	4 Aug 44-7 Aug 44
CC B	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
33d Armd Regt	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44

Zane L Strickland Military Records

36th Armd Inf	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
87th Armd FA Bn	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
391st Armd FA Bn	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
B & D Cos 23d Armd Engr Bn	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
1 det Co E 23d Armd Engr Bn	30th Div	7 Aug 44-12 Aug 44
Task Force King CC B	9th Div	5 Sep 44-6 Sep 44
1st Bn 33d Armd Regt	9th Div	5 Sep 44-6 Sep 44
Co F 36th Armd Inf	9th Div	5 Sep 44-6 Sep 44
3d Plat Rcn Co 33d Armd Regt	9th Div	5 Sep 44-6 Sep 44
2d Plat Co B 23d Armd Engr Bn	9th Div	5 Sep 44-6 Sep 44
Co E 33d Armd Regt	26th Inf	11 Oct 44-22 Oct 44
Co H 32d Armd Regt	9th Div	13 Oct 44-17 Oct 44
3d Bn 33d Armd Regt	26th Inf	15 Oct 44-22 Oct 44
CC A	V Corps	18 Dec 44-21 Dec 44
32d Armd Regt (-1st Plat)	V Corps	18 Dec 44-21 Dec 44
3d Bn 36th Armd Inf	V Corps	18 Dec 44-21 Dec 44
67th Armd FA Bn	V Corps	18 Dec 44-21 Dec 44
Co A 23d Armd Engr Bn	V Corps	18 Dec 44-21 Dec 44
CC B	30th Div	19 Dec 44-25 Dec 44
33d Armd Regt (-3d Bn)	30th Div	19 Dec 44-25 Dec 44
2d Bn 36th Armd Inf	30th Div	19 Dec 44-25 Dec 44
Co D 23d Armd Engr Bn	30th Div	19 Dec 44-25 Dec 44
CC B	V Corps	19 Dec 44-20 Jan 45
33d Armd Regt (-3d Bn)	V Corps	19 Dec 44-20 Jan 45
2d Bn 36th Armd Inf	V Corps	19 Dec 44-20 Jan 45
Co D 23d Armd Engr Bn	V Corps	19 Dec 44-20 Jan 45
Task Force Doan	84th Div	23 Dec 44-22 Jan 45
Hq 32d Armd Regt	84th Div	23 Dec 44-22 Jan 45
2d Bn 32d Armd Regt	84th Div	23 Dec 44-22 Jan 45
3d Bn 36th Armd Inf (-1 co)	84th Div	23 Dec 44-22 Jan 45
CC A	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
3d Bn 32d Armd Regt	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
Co I 36th Armd Inf	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
67th Armd FA Bn	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
54th Armd FA Bn	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
83d Armd Rcn Bn	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
Co A 23d Armd Engr Bn	75th Div	29 Dec 44-30 Dec 44
Task Force Richardson	84th Div	2 Jan 45-23 Jan 45
3d Bn 32d Armd Regt	84th Div	2 Jan 45-23 Jan 45
1 plat Co A 23d Armd Engr Bn	84th Div	2 Jan 45-23 Jan 45
CC R	1st Div	8 Mar 45-17 Mar 45

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3d Bn 32d Armd Regt	1st Div	8 Mar 45-17 Mar 45
2d Bn 33d Armd Regt	1st Div	8 Mar 45-17 Mar 45
3d Bn 36th Armd Inf	1st Div	8 Mar 45-17 Mar 45
Co C 23d Armd Engr Bn	1st Div	8 Mar 45-17 Mar 45
Co E 23d Armd Engr Bn	1106th Engr C Gp	17 Mar 45-25 Mar 45
CC R	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
CC R (Contd)	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
3d Bn 32d Armd Regt	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
2d Bn 33d Armd Regt	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
3d Bn 36th Armd Inf	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
Co C 23d Armd Engr Bn	1st Div	20 Mar 45-22 Mar 45
CC A	9th Div	24 Apr 45-25 Apr 45
CC R	9th Div	24 Apr 45-25 Apr 45

Engineer

Co A 23d Armd Engr Bn	9th Div	1 Jul 44-31 Jul 44
Co D 23d Armd Engr Bn	9th Div	11 Jul 44-16 Jul 44

Field Artillery

54th Armd FA Bn	9th Div	1 Jul 44-31 Jul 44
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Infantry

1st Bn 36th Armd Inf	9th Div	13 Oct 44-17 Oct 44
2d Bn 36th Armd Inf	1st Div	1 Dec 44-8 Dec 44

ASSIGNMENTS AND ATTACHMENTS

DATE	CORPS	ARMY		ARMY GROUP	
		Assigned	Attached	Assigned	Attached
20 Nov 43	VII	First		ETOUSA	
8 Feb 44	XIX	First			
15 Jul 44	VII	First			
1 Aug 44	VII	First		12th	
19 Dec 44	XVIII Abn	First		12th	
20 Dec 44	XVIII Abn	First		12th	Br 21st
23 Dec 44	VII	First		12th	Br 21st
18 Jan 45	VII	First		12th	-
1 May 45	XIX	Ninth		12th	

(-) Indicated relieved from assignment

COMMAND POSTS

DATE	TOWN	REGION	COUNTRY
1943			
15 Sep	Landed Liverpool	Lancashire	England
17 Sep	Bruton (Redlynch House)	Somerset	England
1944			
25 Jun	Les Oubeaux (¾ mi W; S of Isigny)	Calvados	France
9 Jul	La Fotelaie (½ mi W; vic Ariel)	Manche	France
9 Jul	St-Jean-de-Daye (¾ mi E)	Manche	France
17 Jul	Le Mesnil-Veneron	Manche	France
29 Jul	Carantilly (1 mi S)	Manche	France
31 Jul	Hambye (1 ½ mi N)	Manche	France
4 Aug	Cherencey le Heron	Manche	France
9 Aug	Chatillon-sur-Colmont (1 ½ mi S)	Mayenne	France
13 Aug	Pre-en-Pail	Mayenne	France
15 Aug	Ranes (3 mi S)	Orne	France
17 Aug	Ranes (3 mi N)	Orne	France
22 Aug	Favieres (1 ½ mi E)	Eure-et-Loir	France
25 Aug	Menecy (1 ½ mi W)	Seine-et-Oise	France
26 Aug	Quincy-sous-Senart	Seine-et-Oise	France

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27 Aug	Magny-le-Hongre (1 mi SW)	Seine-et-Oise	France
28 Aug	Levignen (1 mi NE)	Oise	France
29 Aug	Soissons (Sermoise)	Aisne	France
30 Aug	Braye-en-Laonnois	Aisne	France
31 Aug	Montcornet (½ mi S)	Aisne	France
1 Sep	La Capelle	Aisne	France
2 Sep	Mons (5 mi S)	Hainaut	Belgium
4 Sep	Charleroi (Chatelineau)	Hainaut	Belgium
5 Sep	Namur	Namur	Belgium
6 Sep	Huy (2 mi W)	Liege	Belgium
7 Sep	Sur Cortil (near Tilff)	Liege	Belgium
9 Sep	Louviegne	Liege	Belgium
10 Sep	Verviers	Liege	Belgium
11 Sep	Eupen	Liege	Belgium
13 Sep	Raerem	Liege	Belgium
15 Sep	Dorff	Rhineland	Germany
21 Sep	Stolberg	Rhineland	Germany
20 Dec	Hotton	Luxembourg	Belgium
21 Dec	Erezee (½ mi SW)	Luxembourg	Belgium
22 Dec	Manhay	Luxembourg	Belgium
23 Dec	Noiseux	Luxembourg	Belgium
24 Dec	Barvaux	Luxembourg	Belgium
31 Dec	Chateau de Bouillon (vic Havelange)	Liege	Belgium
1945			
2 Jan	Werbomont	Liege	Belgium
3 Jan	La Fourche	Liege	Belgium
6 Jan	Bra	Liege	Belgium
8 Jan	Lierneux	Liege	Belgium
14 Jan	Hebronval	Liege	Belgium
21 Jan	Petite Somme	Liege	Belgium
7 Feb	Stolberg	Rhineland	Germany
25 Feb	Mariaweiler	Rhineland	Germany
26 Feb	Arnoldsweiler	Rhineland	Germany
26 Feb	Morschenich	Rhineland	Germany
27 Feb	Elsdorf (Sittarderhof) (2 ½ mi SE)	Rhineland	Germany
3 Mar	Niederaussem	Rhineland	Germany
5 Mar	Pulheim	Rhineland	Germany
7 Mar	Cologne	Rhineland	Germany
17 Mar	Hermulheim	Rhineland	Germany

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22 Mar	Honnef (Mauser Home) (1 ½ mi S)	Rhineland	Germany
25 Mar	Eudenbach	Rhineland	Germany
25 Mar	Griesenbach (Oberscheid) (½ mi S)	Rhineland	Germany
26 Mar	Maulsbach	Rhineland	Germany
27 Mar	Altenkirchen	Rhineland	Germany
27 Mar	Atzelgift	Rhineland	Germany
28 Mar	Schonbach	Nassau	Germany
29 Mar	Ober-Marsberg	Westphalia	Germany
30 Mar	Etteln (1 mi NE)	Westphalia	Germany
31 Mar	Etteln	Westphalia	Germany
2 Apr	Nordborchen	Westphalia	Germany
6 Apr	Brakel	Westphalia	Germany
9 Apr	Adelebsen	Hannover	Germany
10 Apr	Werningerode	Magdeburg	Germany
12 Apr	Sangerhausen	Halle-Merseburg	Germany
13 Apr	Freist	Halle-Merseburg	Germany
14 Apr	Lingenau	Anhalt-Dessau	Germany
25 Apr	Sangerhausen	Halle-Merseburg	Germany

Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/documents/eto-ob/3AD-ETO.htm>

36th Armored Infantry Regiment



Deeds Not Words

OZARK 36TH ARMORED

Men of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, "Blitz Doughs" of the 3rd Armored Division, trace their immediate history back to Brownsville, Texas, where the unit was activated in July, 1916, by personnel of the 4th, 26th, and 28th Infantry Regiments. The new organization did not go overseas in World War I, but saw service on the Mexican border.

Reactivated by a cadre from the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Armored Division, on April 15, 1941, the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment became an original "Spearhead" element.

At Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, the first commander was Colonel Walton H. Walker, the officer who later became a lieutenant general in command of the famous XX "Ghost Corps" of the 3rd American Army. Other commanders, during training at Camp Polk, Louisiana; Desert Training Center, California; Camp Pickett, Virginia; and Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; were Colonel Edwin A. Smith, Colonel William L. Roberts, and Colonel Graeme G. Parks.

Upon arrival in England, during mid-September, 1943, the 36th was billeted at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. With the rest of the division it maneuvered widely over Salisbury Plain, engaged in landing exercises along the British coast, and took part in various special training courses.

Colonel Parks led the "Blitz Doughs" in their baptism of fire at Villiers Fossard, Normandy, but on July 18, 1944, he was succeeded by Colonel William W. Cornog, Jr. Colonel Cornog was the first regimental commander to be killed in action. From August 9 to September 23, 1944, the regiment was under the command of Lt. Colonel Jack R. Hutcheson, Colonel Louis P. Leone, and Colonel Carl J. Rohsenberger. At that time, Colonel Robert L. Howze, Jr., came to the regiment and led it through the remaining eight months of the European campaign.

Men of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment figured prominently in every 3rd Armored Division action on the continent. Companies "A" and "C" of the 1st Battalion, were the division's first tactical units to be awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation. This honor was bestowed as the result of heroic fighting in the December Roer River salient. The entire 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Colonel William R. Orr, was later awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for its work in storming the Siegfried Line. The action began during Orr's first day in battle! That was characteristic of the regimental spirit.

The Distinguished Unit Citation was also given to men of the 2nd and 3rd Battalion medical sections for outstanding gallantry in action at Fromental, France, and the Stolberg area, in Germany, respectively. And, in September, the 36th was declared a combat infantry regiment with more



Colonel Robert L. Howze, Jr., commanded the "Blitz Doughs" through heavy action; also led Combat Command "Reserve."



Lt. Colonel William R. Orr Lt. Colonel James T. Owen, Jr.



Lt. Colonel Vincent E. Cockeair Major Thomas O. Curlee, Jr.



Major Robert E. Chaney Major Thomas G. Tousey, Jr.

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Lt. Colonel Carlton P. Russell, Executive Officer

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22



INFANTRY REGT.

than 65 percent of its personnel wearing the coveted badge.

During the "Spearhead" Division's five western campaigns, six separate commanders led the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment. The casualty rate was even more severe in lower echelons: Colonel Orr's 1st Battalion went into its initial action at Villiers Fossard, Normandy, under Lt. Colonel Walter Abney. Before the unit reached German soil, three months later, it had been commanded by seven officers. They were: Colonel Orr, Major Paul W. Corrigan, Captain John C. Chapman, Major Theodore P. Mason, Captain Frank D. Hall, Captain Louis F. Plummer, and Colonel Orr. Captain Plummer was wounded during the first phase of the Siegfried line attack.

In the 2nd Battalion, Lt. Colonel Vincent E. Cockefair landed at the head of his troops in Normandy and was killed in action on August 9. The records disclose that 14 succeeding officers commanded the battalion from that time until VE day! Of these, Major Thomas G. Tousey, Jr., and Lt. Colonel Thomas J. Moran served longest, the latter fighting with his troops throughout the Roer-Rhine slug fest, the great Paderborn sweep, and the steady drive to Dessau.

Lt. Colonel Carlton P. Russell, wounded in action on August 5, 1944, was the first combat commander of the 3rd Battalion. Eight other officers succeeded him, with Lt. Colonel Paul L. Fowler, and Major Robert E. Chaney leading for the longest period of time. Major Chaney was killed in action ten days before the "Spearhead" Division came out of the line for the last time, at Dessau. Major Gordon Thomas then assumed command.

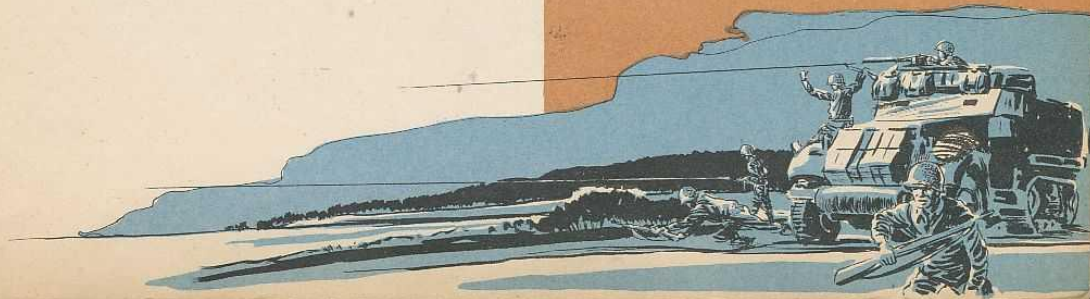
Many enlisted men of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment gave their lives to bring final victory. The job of the "Blitz Doughs" was not an enviable one, and yet there was such esprit de corps among Colonel Howze's troops that not one man would have changed places with a tank. These men were the infighters of the division, the soldiers who insured victory after the cutting edge of the armor had slashed enemy positions. Indeed, in street fighting, the armored infantry often preceded the tanks. For all of heavy casualties, constant fighting and fatigue, the "Blitz Doughs" maintained a brilliant reputation for valor.

23



The Armored Infantry didn't have much armor in combat. It was man against man in the time honored tradition of the foot soldier. Above: "Blitz Doughs" hitch a ride on a "Spearhead" tank. Center: the infantry crosses the Weser River in central Germany. Bottom: two doughs seek shelter from incoming mail on the Paderborn drive.

39



Task Force Lovelady

Task Force Lovelady was an operational combat unit of **Combat Command B** of the Third Armored Division.

It was commanded by Lt. Colonel William B. “Bert” Lovelady.



Its core was the tanks of 2nd Battalion (Reinforced) of the 33rd Armored Regiment but it also contained varying units from:

- 36th Armored Infantry Regiment
- 703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
- 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion
- 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
- 391st Armored Field Artillery Battalion
- 486th Anti-Aircraft Battalion
- 143rd Armored Signal Company
- 45th Armored Medical Battalion

Source: book “Five Stars to Victory”

Medal, Ribbons & Citation Research

I commissioned Brandon Wiegand for the research on medals and citations. Mr. Wiegand is the author of a series of indexes to WWII General Orders for medals and citations.

Information I provided to the researcher:

Seeking:

1. Details of Bronze Star
2. Determine if he won two Bronze Stars or if the 2nd Bronze Star medal the family has is a duplicate
3. Full Military Record

Basic Information:

- Veteran's Full name, including middle name: **Zane Lovidee Strickland. Note: On military records his name appears as Zine L Strickland.**
- Unit: **36th Armored Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Division, First Army** (his name and address appears in the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment Personnel Directory)
- Group: **Medical Detachment**
- Rank: **T5**
- Date of birth: **12 July 1923**
- Place of birth: **Enola Township, Faulkner County, Arkansas**
- Date of death: **19 January 1994**
- Army Service Number: **38 443 947**
- Social Security Account Number: **431-48-1661**
- Dates of service (date entered the service and date left the service):
 - Entered: **9 Jan 1943**
 - Separation: **5 Feb 1946**
- Address at the time he entered the service: **Vilonia, Arkansas**
- Address at the time he left the service: **Conway, Arkansas**

Known Citations / Commendations:

- Bronze Star GO 64 HQ 3rd Armored Division 1945
- Distinguished Unit Citation / Presidential Unit Citation GO 54 HQ 3rd Armored Division 1945

Ribbons:

- Good Conduct
- Bronze Star GO 64 HQ 3rd Armored Division 1945
- American Campaign
- Europe-Africa-Middle East 1941-45
- WWII Victory

Buttons / Badges / Pins:

- Army Combat Medical Badge
- Army Medical Corps Branch Insignia
- U.S. Army Insignia
- Honorable Service / Discharge

Anecdotal information related to family by Zane Lovidee Strickland (Note: subject to faded and distorted memories of family members):

- Awarded a commendation for saving a wounded GI. The unit pushed across a river but could not hold the advance. Zane dragged a wounded GI up under a bridge and held off the enemy while keeping the GI alive overnight until they made it back the next day.
- Was trapped in a basement with a high ranking officer and a few other men. The enemy was upstairs and all around. They later escaped.
- His position was overrun and he was captured. He and a few other GIs made a break for it prior to being loaded onto trains eastbound into Germany. He was a POW for only a few days.
- He started in the Army Air Corps as a gunnery instructor.
- One night he and a group of his Army Air Corps instructor buddies decided to answer the call to volunteer for overseas duty. He thought he never would have gone overseas if he had not volunteered.
- Was in a battle where the German soldiers were young kids.
- He was assigned to guard some POWs when the word came down: "Take no prisoners." He changed to being a medic after that incident.

Family lore:

- He lied about his age to enlist.
- He started in North Africa and fought in Sicily and Italy before going ashore in Normandy.

[Note: This assertion conflicts with his discharge and the record of his known unit, the 36th AIR and is only possible if he transferred into the 36th after Africa and the Mediterranean like the 3rd AD's commanding General Rose.]

War Booty / Memorabilia:

The only known item is a .38 special Smith and Wesson revolver, reputed to be his service sidearm.

Emails with researcher regarding medals and citations:

* * * * *

From: Brandon Wiegand [- redacted -]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 9:22 AM
To: Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: Hackney - Zane L Strickland - 36th Armored Infantry Regiment - discharge papers

Finally found the time to pull the general order for you.

The item labeled as a Meritorious Unit Citation is a faded Distinguished Unit Citation, which was later renamed the Presidential Unit Citation.

His second Bronze Star Medal is likely what is commonly referred to as a CIB (in this case [combat medical badge] CMB) conversation. Any one who received the CIB, CMB or a citation for ground combat in WWII was entitled to a Bronze Star Medal according to a change to the regulation made by General Marshall as he was leaving office. These awards were not automatic but had to be applied for.

I tried to copy GO#54, 1945, 3rd ARM DIV as well, but it isn't in my set of general orders.

I could likely track down the general order that awarded him the CMB, but will not do so until I hear back from you that you want me to do so.

In regards to the reference to the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment on his discharge. Strickland was a low point man and was transferred to one of the division, in this case the 2nd Armored Division, which was staying in Germany longer than his original division. Thus the 3rd AD went home before the 2nd AD and thus men with high points were transferred into the 3rd AD and low point men transferred out just prior to the division's return. This is why you traditionally find Ike Jackets with two patches on them. The patch on the wearer's left side is their current unit of assignment and the one on the right is the one that they served with in combat.

Brandon T. Wiegand
ddaymilitaria.com

* * * * *

Zane L Strickland Military Records

From: Douglas Hackney
To: - redacted - ; Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: PUC question
Date: Mon, 23 Jun 2014 09:33:50 -0500

Brandon,

Would he qualify to wear the DUC/PUC even if he was not in service when it was awarded to his unit?

Doug

* * * * *

From: Brandon Wiegand [- redacted -]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 1:26 PM
To: Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: PUC question

Doug,

The DUC/PUC is a permanent award to the individual when the individual was assigned to the unit during the period that the unit was cited. If Company A, 12th Infantry was cited for the DUC for June 6, 1944 and you served in Company A, 12th Infantry on June 6, 1944 you may continue to wear the DUC/PUC after you leave Company A.

Brandon T. Wiegand
ddaymilitaria.com

* * * * *

Zane L Strickland Military Records

From: Douglas Hackney
To: - redacted - ; Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: PUC question
Date: Mon, 23 Jun 2014 13:31:10 -0500

Brandon,

Thank you for the information.

Just to confirm, if he was issued a DUC/PUC then he must have been assigned to the unit during the period that the unit was cited for the DUC/PUC.

Is that correct?

Thanks,

Doug

* * * * *

From: Brandon Wiegand [- redacted -]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: PUC question

Doug,

The answer to your exact question is no, I was issued a PUC and several MUC when I reported to my first tactical unit, as that is what the unit was entitled to.

Strickland was present when his unit earned the PUC, as it appears on his discharge. The only unit citation on my discharge is a Superior Unit Citation that was awarded to my last command while I was in that command.

v/r,

Brandon T. Wiegand
ddaymilitaria.com

* * * * *

Zane L Strickland Military Records

From: Douglas Hackney
To: - redacted - ; Douglas Hackney
Subject: RE: PUC question
Date: Mon, 23 Jun 2014 13:45:11 -0500

Brandon,

In that case, then we definitely need to get a copy of both of the following:

GO 54 HQ 3rd Armored Division 1945 – for the PUC

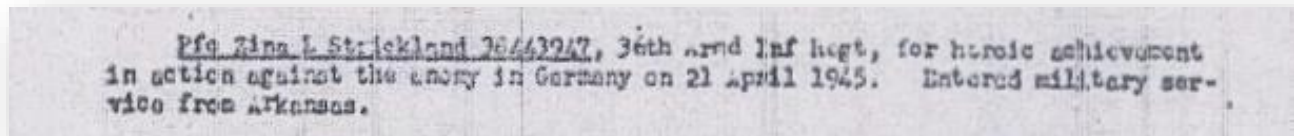
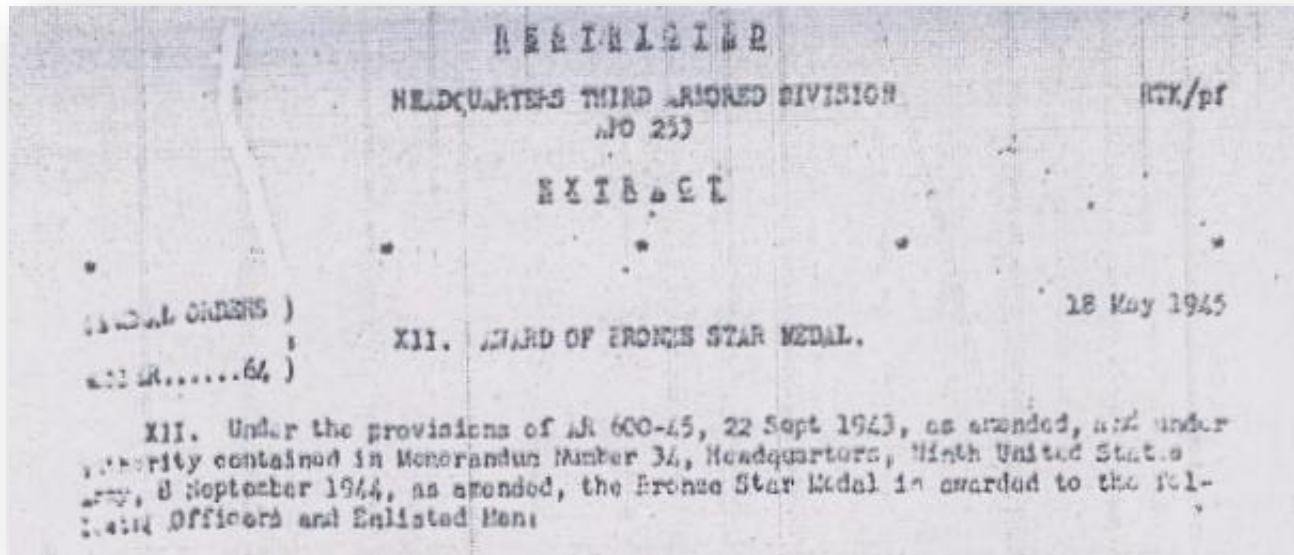
GO 64 HQ 3rd Armored Division 1945 – for the Bronze Star

That will be the only way we can learn what both of these were for.

Thanks,

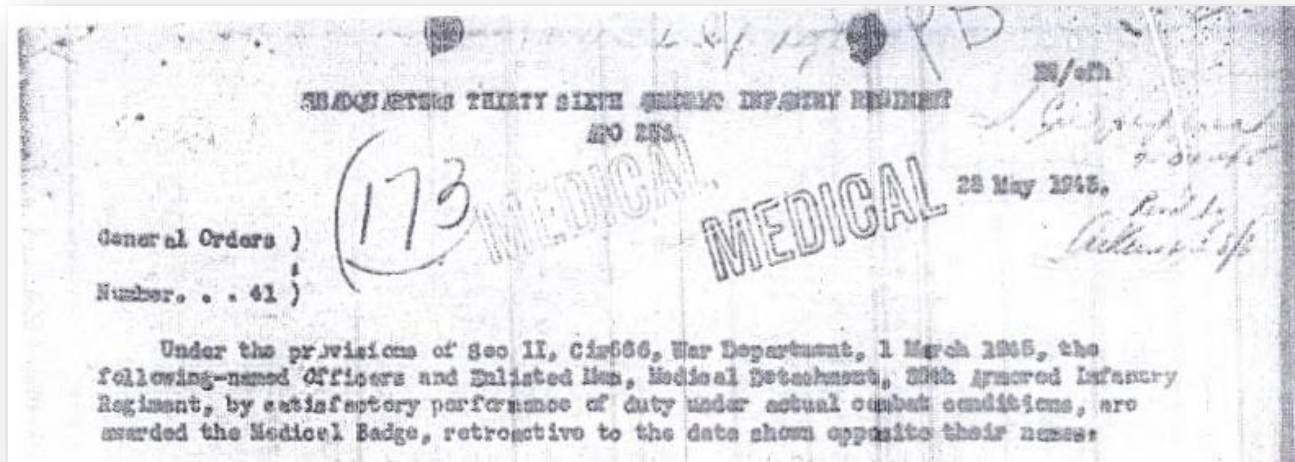
Doug

General Order for Zane Strickland Bronze Star:
1945-05-18 3rd Armored Division General Order 64



General Order for Zane Strickland Combat Medical Badge:

1945-05-28 36th Armored Infantry Regiment General Order 41



1st Lieut Herman M. Hornstein, 0546666 (MC)	21 Apr 45
Pfc Zane L. Strickland, 3044347	21 Apr 45
Pvt Charles H. Hockhoff, 3335323	22 Apr 45

Relevant Distinguished Unit Badge/Citation - Presidential Unit Citation:

Note: His record does not show he was in Europe or with the unit when this action took place.

1945-04-30 3rd Armored Division General Order 54

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMORED DIVISION
APO 253

30 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER . . . 54)

BATTLE HONORS

In accordance with the provisions of WD Circular 333, 22 December 1943, and as approved by Commanding General, First United States Army, the following units are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. These units are entitled to a citation streamer; individuals assigned or attached are authorized the award of the Distinguished Unit Badge or Oak Leaf Cluster thereto, whichever is appropriate. The citations follow:

MEDICAL SECTION, THIRD BATTALION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY
REGIMENT

The Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in Germany during the period from 17 to 21 September 1944. Throughout this bitter engagement, the Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment labored unceasingly despite devastating hostile artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, administering medical aid and evacuating casualties. Although several members of the section were themselves painfully wounded, they denied themselves treatment or rest until their patients had been cared for. On one occasion, when an adjacent battalion was forced back, leaving the aid station unprotected, the members of the section continued their care for the wounded, realizing that to move the patient would have been, in many cases, fatal. Litter squads operated in the face of intense fire between the aid station and advanced units, evacuating casualties. Aid men moved with foremost assault units, rendering immediate medical treatment to the wounded. The unflinching courage and superb devotion to duty displayed by the members of the Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, directly resulted in the saving of many lives, exemplifying the highest traditions of the military service.

**GENERAL ORDERS #54
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
12 July 1945**

III_BATTLE HONORS

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Germany during the period 12 to 22 September 1944. The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, on 12 September 1944 was assigned the mission of supporting an armored task force in its drive to smash the defenses of the Siegfried Line. Antitank-obstacles retarded the progress of armor, and the battalion was committed to overrun strongly fortified defensive positions overlooking the obstacles.

In 2 days of fierce fighting against a determined enemy the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, succeeded in overpowering enemy defenses and penetrating the first fortified belt of the West Wall. Over difficult terrain overlooking the second fortified belt this fighting force then attacked to force a bridgehead through the second belt of dragon's teeth. Vigorous hostile action was counterbalanced by an insuperable urge to close with and destroy the enemy wherever found.

Against tremendous odds the battalion succeeded in establishing a bridgehead and for 3 days repulsed vigorous enemy counterattacks launched against it in an effort to break the battalion's foothold north of the dragon's teeth on critical terrain. On 18 September 1944, after infantry elements on the left and right failed to advance, the 1st Battalion was given the vital mission of withdrawing from its salient and attacking the strongly fortified town of Munsterbusch. Its fighting spirit undimmed, the 1st Battalion withdrew under pressure and launched the assault. The enemy poured deadly fire into its ranks inflicting severe losses on the attackers. The enemy fought savagely which often resulted in hand-to-hand combat. Despite enormous losses incurred in this offensive the 1st Battalion allowed the enemy no respite. Defending the town stubbornly the enemy employed tank, mortar, artillery, and automatic weapons fire and fanatically held their positions until either killed or overpowered by unrelenting pressure.

During the period 12 to 22 September 1944 the 1st Battalion demonstrated extraordinary heroism and exhibited gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in overcoming unusually difficult and hazardous conditions.

The unconquerable spirit displayed by the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment in attack missions against important objectives made-possible more deadly blows against the enemy on German soil.

The Medical Section, 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in Germany during the period 17 to 21 September 1944. Throughout this bitter engagement, the Medical Section, 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, labored unceasingly despite devastating hostile artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire, administering medical aid and evacuating casualties. Although several members of the section were painfully wounded, they denied themselves treatment or rest until their patients had been cared for. On one occasion, when an adjacent battalion was forced back leaving the aid station unprotected, the members of the section continued their care for the wounded, realizing that to move the patients would have been, in many cases, fatal. Litter squads operated in the face of intense fire between the aid station and advanced units, evacuating casualties. Aid men moved with foremost assault units, rendering immediate medical treatment to the wounded.

The unflinching courage and superb devotion to duty displayed by the members of the Medical Section, 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, resulted directly in the saving of many lives, exemplifying the highest traditions of the military service.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

The following units of the 3rd Armored Division were awarded the DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION for heroism in action against the enemy in Europe.

MEDICAL SECTION, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, at Ranee and Fromental, France, on 14 to 17 August, 1944.

FORWARD ECHELON AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, with attached personnel of the 143RD ARMORED SIGNAL COMPANY, in France and Belgium, on 26 August to 4 September, 1944.

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, at Mons, Belgium, on 3 to 4 September, 1944.

2ND BATTALION, 32ND ARMORED REGIMENT, at Nutheim, the Siegfried Line, Germany, on 11 to 13 September, 1944.

1ST BATTALION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT, at Munsterbusch, the Siegfried Line, Germany, on 12 to 22 September, 1944.

MEDICAL SECTION, 3RD BATTALION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT, at Stolberg, Germany, on 17 to 21 September, 1944.

1ST BATTALION, 33RD ARMORED REGIMENT, (Less Companies "B" and "C", and 3rd Platoon, Company "A" with "F" and "I" Companies) at Hastenrath and Scherpenseel, Germany, on 16 to 19 November, 1944.

COMPANY "A", 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT, at Echtz, Germany, on 10 to 13 December, 1944.

COMPANY "C", 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT, at Obergeich and Hoven, Germany, on 10 to 13 December, 1944.

Capture and Escape

Zane Strickland's son, Rick Strickland, relates a story of Zane Strickland's group being overrun and hiding in a cellar with a senior officer.

The story says that they were captured by Germans but quickly escaped.

Combat command B, after action report 1945-04:

During the night 16/17 April, Service elements and Headquarters of TF LOVELADY had been attack at THURLAND by approximately 150 enemy infantry with bazookas and automatic weapons. (Time 170130 April) Severe house to house street fighting resulted and the enemy occupied the town of THURLAND. Co. D of the 83rd Armd. Recn. Bn. was moved north from ZORBIG (0345) to recapture the town of THURLAND and after overcoming strong enemy resistance of artillery, mortar, S.A. fire throughout the day - the town was finally secured and outposted.

Task Force Lovelady combat trail poster:

48. Raguhn: on the River Mülde. Furthest penetration into Germany by Task Force Lovelady, 15-23 April. Task force seized and secured surrounding towns, the command group, maintenance section, and aid station meeting with disaster at
49. Thurland, where above elements were captured for 20 hours on 17 April. Dessau was taken by other units of the 3rd Armored Division, thus completing the mission of VII Corps.

45th Armored Medical Battalion after action report 1945-04:

Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945 (Cont'd).

(2) In TOENAU, the company was brought together and set up facilities for treating casualties from the expected counter-attacks. In the subsequent action, two aid stations and 3 ambulances were overrun and captured for 24 hours.

From the book "Five Stars To Victory" pages 106-109

On the 16th of April, the command post, maintenance section, the infantry and armored aid stations, moved into Thurland in order to assume an approximate central position among our widely dispersed troops. Little did we suspect that some of the most exciting and terrifying hours of the war were about to begin in this little town, thus far scarcely touched by the devastating hand of conflict.

After establishing as nearly normal guard precautions as possible with an understrength command, we settled down for a few hours of much needed rest, with the exception of Colonel Lovelady, who left his headquarters to join his companies in an attack through the woods. At 0130 o'clock in the morning, the town was attacked by a battalion of enemy infantry, whom we soon recognized as first rate troops, experts in their business. From the burgermeister and Nazi civilians, they found out exactly which buildings we were in, whereupon they set about systematically to rout us out. The command post came first. Some of the officers and men tried to shoot their way out, believing they were faced by only a small patrol. This error led to the death of our Air Corps Lieutenant who had stayed with us to keep liaison with the P-47's. Young, our valiant, youthful motorcycle rider, incurred a compound fractured arm, and because he couldn't be evacuated for more than twenty-four hours, died, apparently from gas gangrene. Others were wounded less critically, among them, Captain Aldinger, whose foot was slightly injured. The rest of the battalion staff was captured intact except for Chief Warrant Officer Palfey, who shot one German with his pistol, then buried himself under a pile of potatoes, where he remained throughout the ordeal.

Continuing methodically through town, the marauders approached the aid station, which was billeted in two buildings separated by a driveway. This led to a barnyard surrounded by hay-filled sheds, and served as an excellent parking lot for the medical vehicles. Suddenly, the familiar flash and the crash of a panzerfaust brought us quickly to our feet. Dressing hurriedly, it was immediately apparent that the barns were burning furiously and would soon consume all of our vehicles. At that instant, a hand

grenade was casually, and impolitely, hurled in the window, its fragments wounding S/Sgt. Griese in the face. Not realizing the strength of the attack, the men thought only of getting their vehicles out of the holocaust. This they did, turning westward and driving through a canyon of guttural voices, but no further shots were fired. They halted on the edge of town, hiding themselves in the cellar of an infantry company's command post. In less than an hour, commands in German brought them from their refuge, hands over heads. Outside, they faced perhaps thirty enemy soldiers with two officers, only a small portion of the number who were in town. After being counted and searched, they were returned to the basement until dawn.

By then, news of our plight had reached higher headquarters, and friendly artillery (no more consoling than enemy artillery under these circumstances) began pounding at intervals, much to the disconcert of the German troops. By 0830 o'clock in the morning, all American prisoners were collected in another small basement across the street. There were 117 of us, and if it is true that "Misery loves company," there was an abundance of both, crowded into this tiny shelter.

The burgermeister was walking around his town in full glory, smoking an American cigar and wielding an American pistol. He supervised the distribution of panzerfausts and furnished whatever information was needed. His attitude did not impress us favorably and eventually led to his inability to ever hold that office again.

Our vehicles were thoroughly ransacked, and soon Germans were eating our emergency "K" rations with apparent relish, drinking our coffee and smoking our cigarettes. They wasted no time improving their defenses around the town, cutting the autobahn just west of it, and preparing for the counterattack which was sure to come.

Believing that another German battalion had successfully attacked Raguhn, thus providing them with a route of evacuation across the Mulde River, they loaded our ambulances with wounded together with considerable numbers of unwounded troops, assigned American drivers with German guards, and started back. Captain Aldinger rode at the head of the column in a jeep, with a German driver.

The other battalion of enemy infantry hadn't performed so well, holding only a few houses on the western edge of Raguhn. Even this fact was unknown to Captain Aldinger, who had no reason to think that the village was not entirely in our hands. At the crossroads a few hundred yards from Raguhn, the strange procession was halted by an alert tank destroyer road block whose persuasive looking 90 millimeter guns encouraged the enemy occupants of the vehicles to surrender.

With the perfectly correct impression that Colonel Lovelady had again established a practically unstaffed command post in Raguhn, the column headed in that direction in order to place the prisoners under the guard of our troops. As they approached the first buildings in the confusing half-light of early dawn, German machine guns nervously tattooed the road, killing Captain Aldinger and his German chauffeur. Later on, Corporal Perry from the reconnaissance platoon, drove the jeep out, and he, too, was killed when it turned over for some inexplicable reason. Tragedies such as these struck us deeper than ever at this late date, since everyone felt that the war was nearly over.

In the meantime, the enemy troops in Thurland realized that they were isolated from their own lines, and decided to defend their positions until dark, then infiltrate through our cordon of tanks which surrounded them.

Part of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion came to our rescue in an attack which was to consume the entire day. Artillery beat in heavily for many hours and, in the evening, tanks were firing directly into the town, many of the rounds hitting the building we were staying in.

It was nearly eleven o'clock at night that our liberators finally poured into Thurland. A larger part of the German command had been killed during the day, and most of the rest were captured.

Struggling out of the cramped quarters, the American liberated witnessed, not without some satisfaction, a German village destroyed, with the exception of not more than four houses, by fire and artillery.

As soon as the wounded were evacuated, the rest of us returned to our normal positions, this time into a safe Raguhn where the command post and aid stations were once more established.

* * * *

Source: excerpted from the book "Five Stars To Victory" pages 106-109

Five Stars to Victory: The Exploits of Task Force Lovelady 2nd Bn. (Reinf.), 33rd Arm'd. Regt., 3rd Arm'd., Div. U. S. Army in the War Against Germany 1944 - 1945

Roberts, A. Eaton

Published by Atlas Printing & Engraving Co., Birmingham, Alabama, 1949

Liberation of Nordhausen / Mittelbau-Dora Camps

On again at dusk.

Although the taking of Nordhausen did not constitute the heaviest fighting of April 11, that city

GI examines tail fin of V-2 bomb in underground factory in Nordhausen Germany.



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will live forever in the memories of 3rd Armored Division soldiers as a place of horror. The Americans couldn't believe their eyes. It is all very well to read of a Maidenek, but no written word can properly convey the atmosphere of such a charnel house, the unbearable stench of decomposing bodies, the sight of live human beings, starved to pallid skeletons, lying cheek by jowl with the ten-day dead.

Two task forces of Brigadier General Truman E. Boudinot's Combat Command "B" drove into Nordhausen practically together. They were the assault elements of Colonel John C. Welborn and Lt. Colonel William B. Lovelady. General Boudinot himself was among the first to enter the compound of Nordhausen's slave extermination camp, the former Caserne Boelcke. What he saw will go down in history as one of the greatest outrages against humanity in the entire war of German disregard for the rights and dignities of man.

Camp Nordhausen had been bombed by allied airplanes, but it was not bomb damage which so sickened the general and his troops as they viewed the remains of the Nazi institution. Hundreds of corpses lay sprawled over the acres of the big compound. More hundreds filled the great barracks. They lay in contorted heaps, half stripped, mouths gaping in the dirt and straw: or, they were piled naked, like cordwood, in the corners and under the stairways.

Everywhere among the dead were the living—emaciated, ragged shapes whose fever-bright eyes waited passively for the release of death. Over all the area clung the terrible odor of decomposition and, like a dirge of forlorn hope, the combined cries of these unfortunates rose and fell in weak undulations. It was a fabric of moans and whimpers, of delirium and outright madness. Here and there a single shape tottered about, walking slowly, like a man dreaming.

There was no hope for many of the prisoners in this place. Major Martin L. Sherman, a medical officer, estimated that although the army's medical facilities would be immediately put to use there was little chance of more than half the patients surviving. They were so far gone in the depths of starvation that death was a matter of hours. A number of those who had not starved had been shot by SS troopers when they attempted to run for cover during the air bombardment. They were, in a way, lucky.

The highly efficient German herrenvolk who caused the situation at Nordhausen and Dora, which was a place several kilometers to the north, were acting out a clearly defined program. These prisoners were political enemies of the Third Reich, German as well as other European nationals. They were men like Peter Hahn, a German communist, who had been a constant inmate of his country's

concentration camps for eight years; like Pole Leitner, a Hungarian electrician, who was dying from the ravages of tuberculosis. They were fourteen year old boys and aged men. They were members of the French Intelligence, Belgians, Poles, Russians—a very babel of tongues and nations, all dying together in the filth and dirt of their own dysentery.

Guarded by SS troops who delighted in beating the prisoners, these men had slept in three-decker wooden bunks, three men in each tier. Now every other man was a sunken corpse and, often as not, his neighbor in the same bed still lived and had the strength to move his eyes, slowly and wonderingly.

This was according to plan. The prisoners had worked—had dragged themselves to labor on V-1 and V-2 assembly lines although they were starving on a diet of four ounces of black bread and a small amount of thin soup each day. They worked because the SS had a cure for slackers or alleged saboteurs. At Dora they hanged 32 men one day and forced the entire garrison to watch. The prisoners then hauled their comrades to German cremation ovens.

The ovens were a very important fixture at Dora. The bodies came in by truckloads, stripped of all clothing, and were dumped on the ground. When crematoriums were full a pyre was constructed outside: first a tier of bodies, then a layer of dry wood: more bodies, and kerosene. They burned well enough for the SS and it didn't matter to them if a few bones were left. In fact, the SS wasn't at all partial: when one of their own men died, he too was shovelled into the oven.

The camp at Dora was elaborate. While Nordhausen was merely a barracks area from which the men were marched to work each morning at 4 A. M., Dora was a factory in itself. There were two parallel tunnels driven into the side of a hill there for a distance of almost two miles. Numbers of crossing tunnels and two separate levels were packed solidly with precision machinery. Here, the slave labor turned out quantities of V-1 and V-2 weapons, many of which were intact when CC "B" elements arrived to halt production. Robot bombs were an old story to "Spearhead" troops, but the more unfamiliar V-2 was of interest. They found the weapon to be shaped like a huge cigar with fins, 50 feet long. It had a huge, mushroom shaped engine and an electrician's nightmare of wiring. V-3, according to prisoners, was also undergoing experiments at Dora, but few of the political prisoners were assigned to its development. Those who were put on V-3 manufacture, according to eye-witness accounts, were segregated and finally murdered to preserve the secret of that which they had seen.

The arrival of American troops was miraculous to the half-crazed and starved slave laborers. At



Nordhausen - Hell-Hole

..... You'd never forget the look in their eyes. It was almost enough to make up for all the weary days and the fear and the hell of battle. They were so thankful to the liberators, and they looked at the Yanks with that special gaze reserved for deities





More of the foolhardy Hitler Yugend find their dreams collapsing.

A league of nations of forced laborers head for home. Freed by the Third Armored drive.

German tank-destroyer meets "Spearhead" tank. Alles kaput for Jerry!

Hostile machine gun fire downed this yank.

Hitler said: "Give me five years and you will not recognize Germany again." He was right.

Dora, hysterically happy men attempted to lift Lt. Herbert Gontard to their shoulders. Although the lieutenant was a slim young man, the weakened laborers couldn't lift him.

Nordhausen and Dora were efficient in a characteristic Nazi way, but to the shocked eyes of American fighting men, the camps were the most complete condemnation of Hitlerism yet exposed. The tankers of the 3rd were in a savage mood as

they went on to the final battles.

While Brigadier General Doyle O. Hickey, chewing savagely on his pipe, surveyed the gagging horror of Nordhausen, his old elite Combat Command "A" took Herzburg, reducing a strong road block in the process. Combat Command "Reserve" also battered ahead.

Advance elements crashed through Sangerhausen on April 12, and by the following day had reached the Saale River. Here again all bridges were thoroughly blown. The ground flattened perceptively as the "Spearhead" Division left the choppy, wooded Harz Mountains to the left rear.

Eisleben was declared an open city as the flying spearheads neared it, but on the outskirts, at Polleben, a British prisoner of war camp was overrun and some 430 Englishmen liberated. It had been a long wait for the Britons, some of whom had been prisoners since the debacle of Dunkirk, the Norwegian campaign, Africa and Crete.

To the long confined British, Yank super-abundance of equipment was a dreamed-of miracle. Said one Captain in amazement: "You chaps have enough materiel in this convoy to reach Berlin!"

It was a great day for the erstwhile prisoners. Traditionally reserved English officers and enlisted men broke down and cheered as the battle group formations thundered through town. An airborne infantry major summed it up: "We knew you were coming, but when that first Sherman tank rolled over the hill I was so happy I cried."

Division elements crossed the Saale on two bridges built by Colonel Foster's combat engineers on the night of April 13-14. In spite of increasing opposition, the tanks and infantry of Task Force Welborn lanced straight out into the blue. They

Mittelbau-Dora in the National Socialist Concentration Camp System

Mittelbau-Dora is a prototypical example of forced labour by concentration camp inmates, and thus of a new camp type within the National Socialist concentration camp system – a type not represented by other concentration camp memorials. Between 1943 and 1945, some 60,000 persons from nearly all the countries of Europe, above all the Soviet Union, Poland and France, were deported to the Harz Mountains as concentration camp inmates to perform forced labour for the German armament industry. One in three of them died.

“Dora” was founded in the summer of 1943 as a subcamp of Buchenwald concentration camp when the rocket production activities carried out at Peenemünde were relocated to tunnel facilities near Nordhausen to protect them from air attacks. Other armament projects soon followed: in 1944/45, tens of thousands of concentration camp inmates were deployed for forced labour in the construction of underground aircraft factories and fuel plants. To accommodate them, the SS established new subcamps which in the autumn of 1944 were consolidated with the Dora camp to form the independent Mittelbau concentration camp. The Mittelbau network consisted of nearly forty camps located throughout the Harz Mountains.

Source: <https://www.buchenwald.de/en/29/>

Dora - Mittelbau/Nordhausen Concentration Camp

Dora – Mittelbau also known Dora-Nordhausen was a concentration camp in the Harz Mountains, three miles from Nordhausen, Saxony, in Germany.



The *Dora-Mittelbau* camp was first mentioned on 27 August 1943 as an external unit of the Buchenwald concentration camp. On 28 October 1944 it became a major concentration camp in its own right, with twenty-three branches, most of them in the vicinity, inside a restricted military area.

Following Hitler's August 22 1943 order for SS-Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler to use concentration camp workers for A-4 production, 107 inmates arrived at Nordhausen from Buchenwald on August 28, 1943, followed by 1,223 on September 2. Workers from Peenemünde departed on October 13, 1943.

The Lutherplatz in the town of Nordhausen Originally called Block 17/3 Buchenwald, the SS administration ordered Dora to be politically separated from Buchenwald at the end of September 1944 and to become the center of Konzentrationslager Mittelbau (Concentration Camp Central Construction). In effect, the camp became operational on November 1, 1944 with 32,471 Mittelbau prisoners of many nationalities.

The SS used the Boelcke Kaserne, a former barracks in Nordhausen city, as a dumping ground for hopeless prisoner cases. Thousands of prisoners were transferred to *Dora-Mittelbau*, mostly from Buchenwald and they were put to work excavating underground tunnels that were to serve as the site of a huge plant for the manufacture of V-2 missiles and other arms.

The original plan of excavation and tunnelling provided for two long tunnels that would parallel through the mountain from north to south and be connected by forty-six smaller tunnels. By 1943 the government research firm WIFO had completed Tunnel B and had partially finished the Tunnel A opening on the northern side of the hill.



Entrance to the tunnels at Nordhausen

The project yielded an excellent site for underground rocket production in the two main tunnels – each 1,800 meters long and 12 and a half meters wide – and twenty-three connecting tunnels. The Germans used the main tunnels for rocket testing. Railroad tracks ran the length of the tunnel, with sufficient space remaining at the side for huge pieces of machinery. The Junkers company used the small northern section to manufacture airplane engines.

Until the plant was put into operation, in the late spring of 1944, the ten thousand prisoners working on the site had no living quarters and were housed inside the tunnels, under unbearable conditions, deprived of daylight and fresh air for weeks at a time. They had to work at a murderous pace, in twelve-hour shifts, in very unsanitary conditions and lack of security precautions led to a mortality rate much higher than that in any other concentration camp in Germany.



Tunnel - A One of the two parallel tunnels

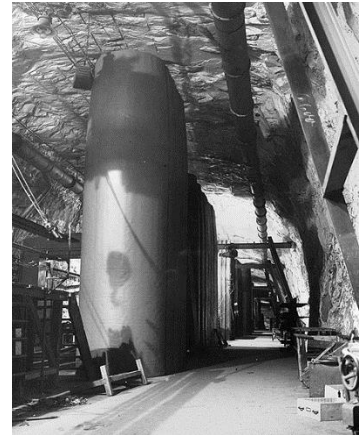
Only after production began was a camp of wooden barracks constructed in *Dora – Mittelbau*, to which the prisoners were transferred in the summer of 1944. That autumn, when maximum production was attained in the camp, Dora-Mittelbau had a permanent prison population in the main camp of over twelve thousand, with another twenty thousand in the satellite camps.

When construction was completed and the plant went into operation, thousands of Jewish prisoners from various countries were brought to *Dora-Mittelbau*. They were treated with great brutality and were assigned the most physically exacting jobs, their mortality rate was higher than that of any other group of prisoners.

Jewish prisoners who were exhausted and could not keep pace with the work were sent to Auschwitz and Mauthausen, in special transports, to be killed there.

The first group of prisoners sent to *Dora-Mittelbau* from Buchenwald included several individuals who had been active in the underground organisation in that camp. Together with other groups of prisoners of various nationalities, they formed an underground while *Dora- Mittelbau* was still under construction, in order to sabotage the work and slow it down.

When production began in 1944, the sabotage operations were intensified, seriously damaging the manufacturing process and upsetting the timetable for the delivery of the weapons desperately needed by the Nazis, as the tide of war turned against them.



Section of V2 rocket being constructed at Dora-Mittelbau

Although most of the prisoners were men, a few women were held in the Dora Mittelbau camp and in the Groß Werther subcamp. Only one woman guard is now known to have served in Dora, Lagerführerin Erna Petermann. Regardless of gender, all prisoners were treated with extreme cruelty, which caused illness, injuries and deaths.



Dead & dying prisoners found at Nordhausen

Examples of the cruelty routinely inflicted on prisoners include: severe beatings that could permanently disable and/or disfigure the victims, deliberate and life-threatening starvation, physical and mental torture as well as summary execution under the smallest pretext.

Large numbers of prisoners were jailed on charges of sabotage; many were killed during their interrogations or were subsequently executed. More than two hundred prisoners, including several of the underground leaders were hanged in public.

On 1 April 1945 the Nazis began the evacuation of the camp, within several days most of the prisoners had been taken out, with the majority transferred to Bergen-Belsen.

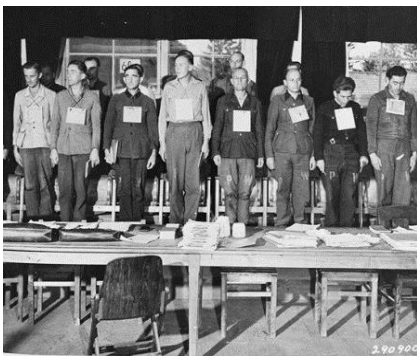
Thousands were murdered en-route, at one point near the village of Gardelegen, several thousand prisoners – mostly Jews – were crowded into a barn that was set on fire, burning them all to death.

Others succumbed to disease after they reached Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on the very eve of liberation. On 25 March 1945 *Dora-Mittelbau* and its satellites contained 34,500 prisoners.

The camp was liberated on 9 April 1945 by the American forces, who found only a handful of prisoners there. Between 7 August and 31 December 1947, an American Military Tribunal, which was independent of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, tried nineteen former staff members of the *Dora-Mittelbau*, fifteen were found guilty.



Bodies laid out for mass burial at Dora-Mittelbau



The commandants of Dora – Mittelbau were *SS-Sturmbannfuhrer* Otto Foerschmer, and *SS-Sturmbannfuhrer* Richard Baer, who was also commandant at Auschwitz. Other notable camp personnel were Karl Fritsch who also served at Auschwitz and Flossenburg, Karl Hoecker, who was at Majdanek and Auschwitz, Franz Hossler, who served at Auschwitz, Dachau and Bergen-Belsen, Dr Karl Kahr, who also served Dachau and Buchenwald, Alois Kurz, who also served at Majdanek and Auschwitz, Max Sell who served at Ravensbruck and Auschwitz, Dr Eduard Wirths, who was in charge of all physicians at Auschwitz.

The protective-custody camp leader, *SS-Obersturmfuhrer* Hans Karl Moeser, was sentenced to death by hanging. In his trial statement said:

Sixteen of the nineteen defendants on trial for war crimes at Dora-Mittelbau

me.”

“The same way, with the same pleasure, as you shoot deer, I shoot a human being. When I came to the SS and had to shoot the first three persons, my food didn’t taste good for three days, but today it is a pleasure. It is a joy for

The other defendants received sentences that ranged from five years to life imprisonment.

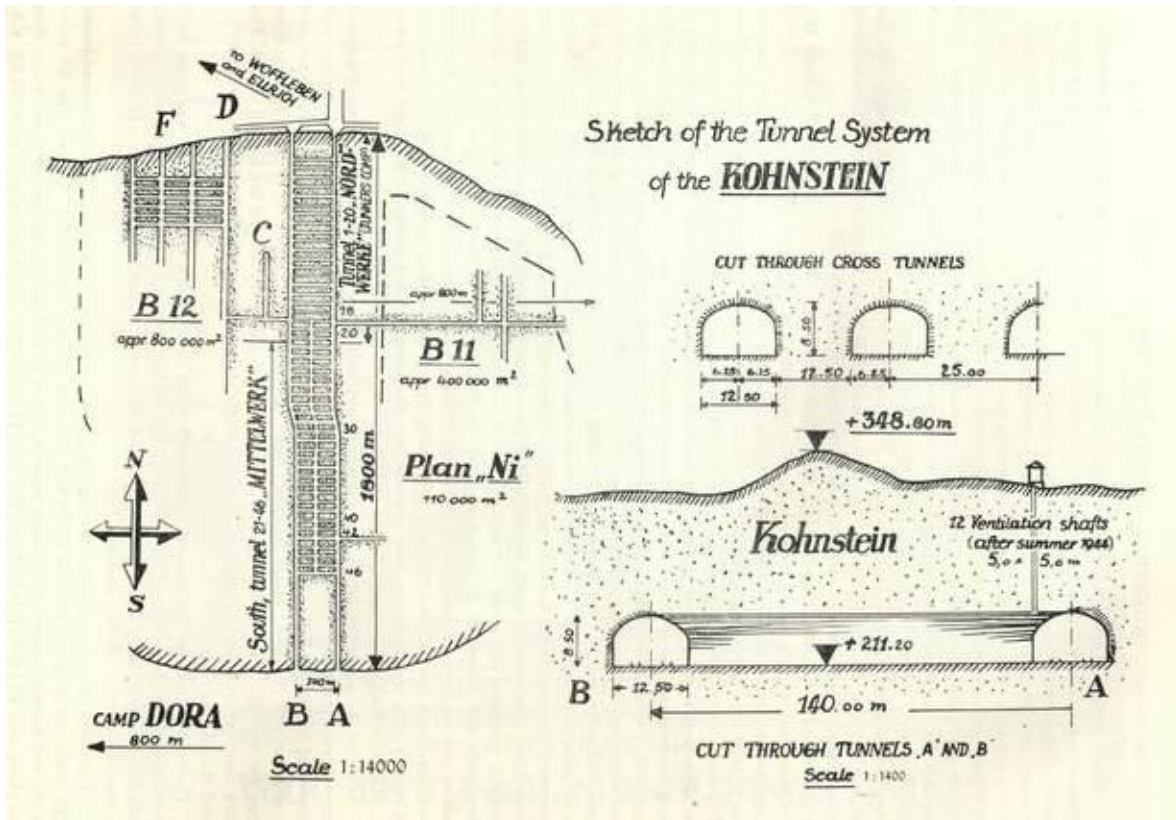
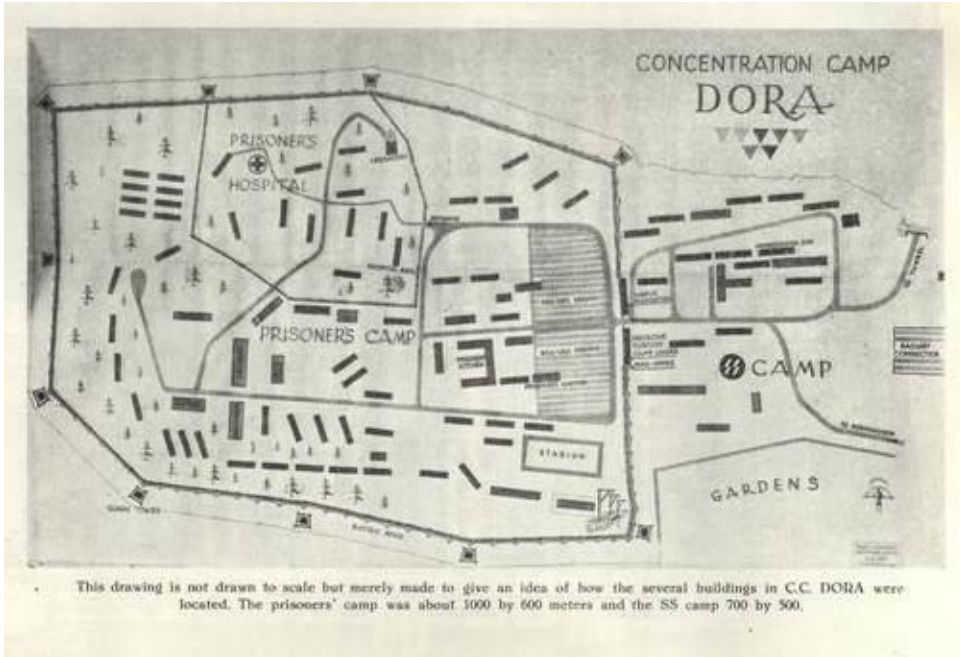
Source: <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/othercamps/dora.html>

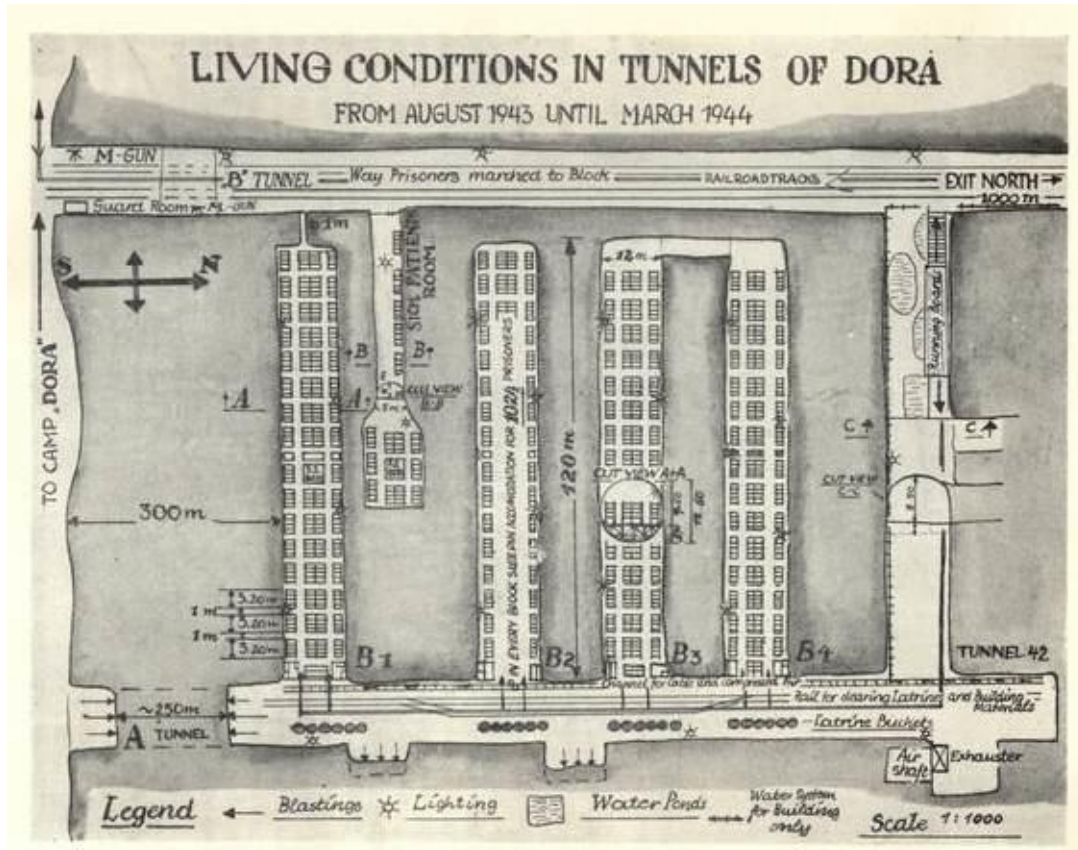
By noon of the 11th of April, another large city fell to Task Force Lovelady. This was Nordhausen, the site of a notorious concentration camp.

The horrors of Nordhausen have been dwelt upon so extensively by others that we shall not describe its gruesome scenes here. Having seen it, we need no words to remind us. Its gross inhumanity has been burned deep into our minds. We shall not forget the brutish sadism of the people who perpetrated and tolerated these dens of mass murder.

Source: book "Five Stars to Victory: The Exploits of Task Force Lovelady"







Source: "Dora – Nordhausen War Crimes Trial" book

Zane Strickland's unit was in Nordhausen at time of the newsreel filming:

23 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN, "
(3) <u>Company "B":</u>
1 Apr - 1 Apr - MARSBURG, GERMANY
2 Apr - 2 Apr - ETTEN, "
3 Apr - 6 Apr - HAMBORN, "
7 Apr - 7 Apr - FROHNHAUSEN, "
8 Apr - 10 Apr - LANGENTHAL, "
11 Apr - 12 Apr - NORDHAUSEN, "
13 Apr - 14 Apr - ZAHITZ, "
15 Apr - 23 Apr - TORNAU, "
24 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN "

b. Company "B": Following Combat Command "B" in its fight toward the WESER RIVER, Company "B" split its company into two sections, one trailing each task force. Resistance was strong until troops got over the river. Once across task forces continued to roll ahead and by 10 April, Company "B" had bivouaced in NORDHAUSEN. Their principle job here was to take care of 200 emaciated political prisoners in the infamous Nordhausen Concentration Camp. Conditions here were hideous beyond belief and many a American soldiers, for the first time saw revealed the inhuman evils of Nazism. Task force treatment stations took up the march the next day, trailing charging tanks through SANGERHAUSEN, EISLEBEN, across the SAALE RIVER, eventually reaching TORNAU on 14 April.

(1) 3d Armored Division forces had outdistanced supporting 9th Division Infantry, stretched its supply lines to a thin elastic, and finally were held up by the MULDE RIVER.

Source: 45th Armored Medical Battalion after action report 1945-04


Still frame of Zane Strickland from newsreel – National Archives reel 111 ADC 3961:



The "MGP" on his helmet is for "Military Government Police," in his case a provisional assignment. This would appear on his orders as: "Provisional Military Government Police Force Detachment"

This matches the history as told by his son, Rick Strickland, that he was first assigned to guard duty before switching to the medics.

Home / M1 Helmets / MGP Marked Fixed Bail



MGP MARKED FIXED BAIL

\$750.00

WWII Fixed Bail Helmet marked with the letters MGP. MGP stood for Military Government Police.



In the ETO, soldiers served on temporary duty with the Military Government, an agency of U.S. Army Civil Affairs. These men enforced curfew and blackout rules, kept civilians from obstructing military traffic, guarded dumps of captured enemy material, protected financial institutions, and hunted down hidden enemy soldiers and weapons caches. They also helped root out suspected collaborators.

The helmet itself is an early Fixed Bail with cast brass buckles and heat number 240A. The liner is a rare MSA liner which shows the same amount of wear as the shell but has no MGP marking.

Out of stock

SKU: m1-001

Category: M1 Helmets



Source:

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:1hDopfN5yvoJ:wwiidropzone.com/product/mgp-marked-fixed-bail/+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

This still is taken from:

National Archives Reel
111 ADC 3961
3rd Armored Division Segment
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/17763>

Liberation of the
Dora - Mittelbau/Nordhausen
Concentration Camp
Nordhausen, Saxony, Germany

National Archives meta data card for newsreel 111 ADC 3961

Signal Corps	ADC 3961
11 SOURCE: AFCE (M-1608-1610)	Card 2 of 2
ADC FILM: ARCH & APC MP, 814' ea Silent 1961-2	
LIB 5567 - SLAVE LABOR CAMP Nordhausen, Germany - 11 April 45	
<p>LS, Pan, destroyed buildings of prison camp area. CU, dead bodies lying in prison area. MSs, CUs, some of the cadaverous-looking prisoners. Excellent scenes, US medics and MPs of the 3rd Armored Div, FUSA, carry the sick and dying prisoners out of the camp. Seq: Emaciated man seated on ground is helped onto litter by US medics. The man is crying and clasping his hands in thankful prayer. Short scene, unidentified US Brig Gen speaks to internees. Ext CU, Pan emaciated prisoners seated amid rubble. VS, liberated prisoners eating and talking. Ints, emaciated victims lying in barracks amid corpses. CU, starved prisoner eating an egg. VS, US medics lead or carry extremely emaciated prisoners from the bldg. MS, loaded ambulances pull out of area. (Note: The Nordhausen concentration camp showed the most horrible examples of Nazi brutality. Hundreds of emaciated bodies covered the filthy barracks floors. More than 2,000 Russian, French, Italian, Belgian and Polish captives lived under these conditions.)</p>	
Record Group 111	
Accession Number III-NAV-210	
ARMY PICTORIAL CENTER, 35-11 35th Ave., LIC 1, NY	ERBS/lzw


Service Dates & ASR audit

Dates of service:				
induction	2-Jan-43		Little Rock, AR	
active service	9-Jan-43			
departure	9-Mar-45			
arrival	21-Mar-45			
departure	19-Jan-46			
arrival	29-Jan-46			
discharge	5-Feb-46			
length of service		years	months	days
	continental	2	2	6
	foreign	0	10	21
Advanced Service Rating (ASR) Score				
2-Sep-45	48			
EDate	1/2/1943			
LDate	9/2/1945			
1/9/1943 to 1/9/1945	24			
1/9/1945 to 9/2/1945	8			
	32			
Calculated ASR		discharge		
service months @ 9/1945		32		
overseas months @ 9/1945		6		
	medals	5		
	campaigns	5		
	children	0		
		48		
ASR Scoring:				
1. Month in service = 1 pt				
2. Month in service overseas = 1 pt				
3. Combat award (including medal and battle stars) = 5 pts				
note that campaign stars worn on theater ribbons = 5 pts				
4. Dependent child under 18 = 12 pts				
Sources:				
Dates:	Army discharge			
ASR Scoring:	http://www.custermen.com/AtTheFront/Points.htm			

Zane L Strickland Military Records

Zane Strickland Army Discharge

Form 1465—WD AGO Form 53-55 1 November, 1944. FOR SALE BY THE GEO. O. BARNARD COMPANY, ST. LOUIS AND DALLAS



Army of the United States

Honorable Discharge

Local Board 71
Baulkner County 045
Feb 6 1946 001
The Armory
Conway Arkansas

This is to Certify, That Zane L Strickland 38 443 947
Technician Fifth Grade Medical Detachment 41st Armored Infantry
Regiment

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 Chaffee Arkansas
 Date 5 February 1946 W P Spaulding Major Inf

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <u>Strickland Zane L</u>		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. <u>38 443 947</u>		3. GRADE <u>Tec 5</u>		4. ARM OR SERVICE <u>MD</u>		5. COMPONENT <u>AUS</u>	
6. ORGANIZATION <u>Med Det 41st Inf Regt</u>			7. DATE OF SEPARATION <u>5 Feb 46</u>		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION <u>Separation Center Camp Chaffee Arkansas</u>				
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES <u>810 Monroe St Conway Faulkner Co Ark</u>				10. DATE OF BIRTH <u>13 Jul 23</u>		11. PLACE OF BIRTH <u>Conway Ark</u>			
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT <u>See 9</u>				13. COLOR EYES <u>Blue</u>		14. COLOR HAIR <u>Brown</u>		15. HEIGHT <u>5'9"</u>	
16. WEIGHT <u>160 lbs.</u>		17. NO. DEPEND. <u>none</u>		18. RACE <u>White</u>		19. MARITAL STATUS <u>Single</u>		20. U.S. CITIZEN <u>Yes</u>	
21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. <u>Farm Hand General 316.10</u>		22. DATE OF INDUCTION <u>2 Jan 43</u>							
23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT <u>9 Jan 43</u>		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE <u>9 Jan 43</u>		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <u>Little Rock Ark</u>					
26. REGISTERED <u>X</u>		27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. <u>1</u>		28. COUNTY AND STATE <u>Faulkner Ark</u>		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <u>Rt 1 Vilonia Faulkner Co Ark</u>			
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. <u>Driver Half Trach 931</u>				31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) <u>Medical Badge</u>					
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS <u>Central Europe</u>									
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS <u>World War II Victory Ribbon Good conduct Medal American Theater Ribbon EAM Theater Ribbon One bronze Service Star Distinguished Unit Badge CO 54 HQ 3d Armd Div 45 Bronze Star Medal CO 64 HQ 3d Armd Div 45</u>									
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION <u>None</u>									
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN						
SMALL POX <u>28 Nov 45</u>		TYPHOID <u>16 Feb 45</u>		TETANUS <u>7 Feb 44</u>		OTHER (specify) <u>Chol 29 Aug 44</u>		DATE OF DEPARTURE <u>9 Mar 45</u>	
DATE OF DEPARTURE <u>19 Jan 46</u>		DESTINATION <u>US</u>		DATE OF ARRIVAL <u>21 Mar 45</u>		37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			
CONTINENTAL SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS <u>2 2 6</u>		FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS <u>0 10 21</u>		38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD <u>Tec 5</u>		39. PRIOR SERVICE <u>None</u>			
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION <u>Conv of Govt RRL-1 Demobilization AR 615-365 15 Dec 44</u>									
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED <u>Cooper and others</u>						42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar <u>8</u> High School <u>0</u> College <u>0</u>			
PAY DATA									
43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES		44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS		46. TRAVEL PAY		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER	
YEARS MONTHS DAYS <u>3 1 4</u>		TOTAL <u>\$ 300</u>		TOTAL PAYMENT <u>\$ 100</u>		none <u>\$ 7 10</u>		170.82 F W REESE MAJ FD	
INSURANCE NOTICE									
IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.									
38. KIND OF INSURANCE <u>X</u>		39. RATE <u>28 Feb 46</u>		40. DATE OF NEXT PREMIUM DUE <u>31 Mar 46</u>		41. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH <u>\$ 6.55</u>		42. OPTION OF VETERAN TO <u>X</u>	
43. Allotment <u>X</u>		44. Direct to V.A. <u>X</u>		45. Discontinuance <u>28 Feb 46</u>		46. Continue <u>X</u>		47. Continue Only <u>X</u>	
48. Discontinuance <u>28 Feb 46</u>		49. Continue <u>X</u>		50. Continue Only <u>X</u>		51. Discontinue <u>X</u>		52. Other <u>X</u>	
54. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) <u>Lapel Button Issued</u> <u>ASR Score (2 Sep 45) 48</u> <u>Inactive Service-ERC from 2 Jan 43 to 8 Jan 43</u>									
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <u>Zane L Strickland</u>				57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) <u>N B Snodgrass 1st Lt AC</u>					

WD AGO Form 53-55
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

550 PAGE 277

(over)

Zane L Strickland Military Records

BOOK 520 PAGE 278

Filed for record the 6 day of February AD 1946 and recorded in book 4 page 522.

State of Arkansas } ss. J W Jac son clerk
 County of Faulkner }

I, J W Jackson Circuit Clerk and Ex. Office Recorder with
 in and for said County do hereby Certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true, and complete copy of the original Certificate of Discharge
 issued to Zane L Strickland
 as the same appears of record in my office on Page 522 Book 4

WITNESS My Hand and Seal of the Circuit Clerk of said
 County at Conway Arkansas this 9 day of
March A.D. 19 46

By J W Jackson Clerk
Ailene Duman DC

CERTIFIED COPY
 —OF—
Honorable
DISCHARGE

BOOK 520 PAGE 278

STATE OF IOWA
 JASPER COUNTY
 FILED FOR RECORD

SFP 29 1968
 9:49
 Subst. # M. and
 Page
Wagon Recorder
 Deputy

Wagon
dal

Zane Strickland Birth Certificate

Note the "Name changed by affidavit 8/28/51" notation on the birth certificate:

STATE OF ARKANSAS
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

STATE OF ARKANSAS
State Board of Health
Bureau of Vital Statistics

455
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Faulkner
Township Enola
Inc. Town _____
City _____ (No. _____ St.; _____ Ward)

Registration District No. 5588 File No. _____
Primary Registration Dist. No. _____ Registered No. 14

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Zane L. Strickland } If child is not yet named; make supplemental report, as directed

3. Sex of Child Male 4. Twin, triplet, or other? _____ 5. Number in order of birth? _____ 6. Legitimate? no 7. Date of birth 7-12-1923
Month Day Year

FATHER		MOTHER	
8. FULL NAME <u>Isaac Strickland</u>	14. FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Agnes Jobe</u>	9. RESIDENCE <u>unknown</u>	15. RESIDENCE <u>W. Mt. Vernon Ark.</u>
10. COLOR <u>white</u>	11. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>20</u> Years	16. COLOR <u>white</u>	17. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>18</u> Years
12. BIRTHPLACE <u>Ark.</u>	18. BIRTHPLACE <u>Ark.</u>	13. OCCUPATION <u>Farmer</u>	19. OCCUPATION <u>at home</u>
20. Number of children born to this mother including present birth <u>1</u>	21. Number of children of this mother now living <u>1</u>		

Name changed by affidavit 8/28/51

22. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was alive at 10 a. M. on the day above stated.
Born alive or stillborn

(Signature) E. M. Ingram Physician
Address Enola Ark.
23. Filed 7-12-1923 E. M. Ingram Registrar
† Post Office Address

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.
Given name added from a supplemental report _____ 191 _____
Registrar

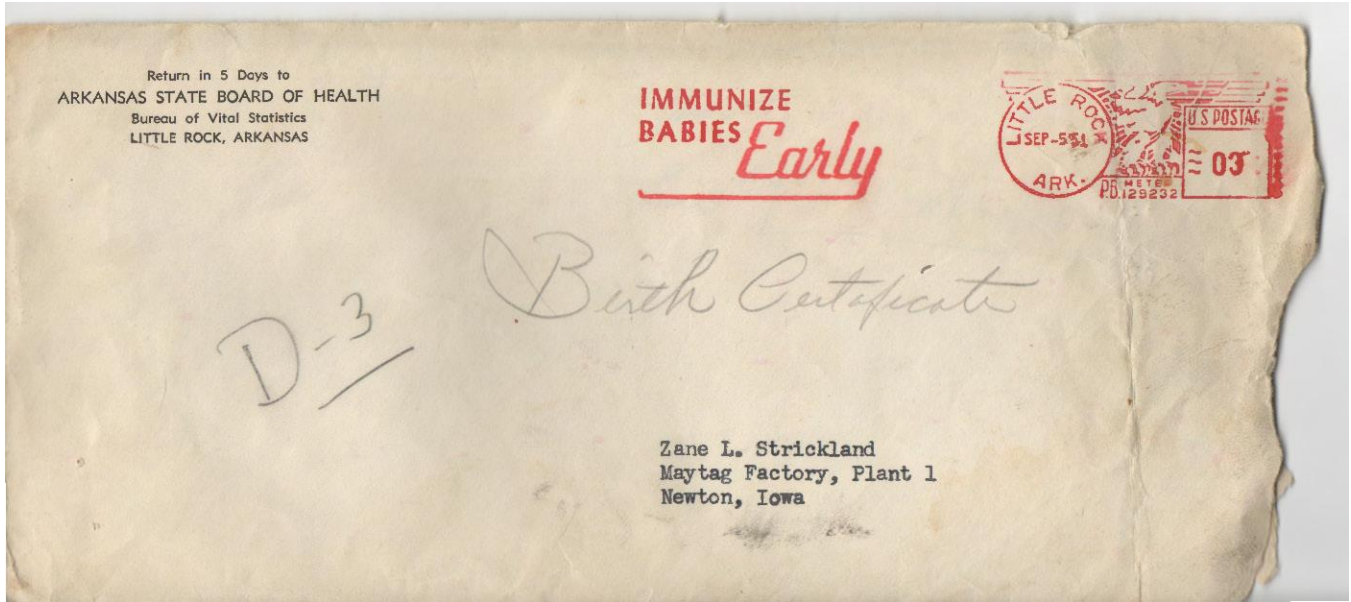
Form V. S. No. 1—5M Books—6-19-21

State Registrar

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above is a full, true and correct copy of the original certification which is on file in this office and of which I am legal custodian.
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Witness my hand and seal of office, at Little Rock, Arkansas.
Sept. 5, 1951

J. T. Hannon MD
State Registrar
J. T. Hannon
Senior Clerk

Zane L Strickland Military Records



His given name at birth was Lovidee Zane Strickland but he went by Zane Lovidee Strickland all of his adult life and legally changed it to that after the war.

WWII Photos From Strickland Family Archives:



Date unknown

Location unknown

Presumed to be the journey to Europe 9 March – 21 March 1945 as the journey back to the U.S. after the war was in January and it is unlikely the men would be topside during that time of year.



Date unknown

Location unknown

Zane Strickland in the middle, seated



Date unknown

Location unknown

Note the 3rd Armored Division insignia on the helmet:





Date unknown
Location unknown

Notes:

- The graphic on the sign, which is difficult to make out, refers to the 3rd Armored Division's (3rd AD) nickname of the "Spearhead."
- The "OZARK" refers to the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, (36th AIR) which was part of the 3rd AD.
- "Ozark" was the radio call sign of the 36th AIR. All except two call signs in the 3rd AD began with the letter O.
- "Blue" refers to a segment of the 36th AIR. I do not know the level of segmentation but my best guess is battalion. I found other 36th AIR photos with "Ozark Red" so I am deducing that the battalion components of the 36th AIR used color designations.
- "Litter Squads" refers to the men who carried the wounded back from the front lines to the medical stations.



Date unknown

Location unknown

The 3rd Armored Division was assigned to occupy Frankfurt, Germany after the war, so this location may have been there.

Ironically, Douglas Hackney's mother-in-law, Antje Hofmann Stant, lived in Frankfurt at this time as a young girl. She has fond memories of the U.S. soldiers who occupied the city. It is possible that their two paths crossed during this period.



Date unknown

Location unknown

Notes: The left shoulder patch is from the Southern Defense Command so this is probably a shot of his buddies while he was stationed in the U.S.

A second major responsibility of [Southern Defense Command] was the training of soldiers prior to their deployment overseas.

[Southern Defense Command] headquarters was co-located with the existing Third Army headquarters at Fort Sam Houston [in San Antonio, Texas].

SDC's operational region covered the states of New Mexico Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and the western half of the Florida Panhandle.

Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Defense_Command



Date unknown

Location unknown

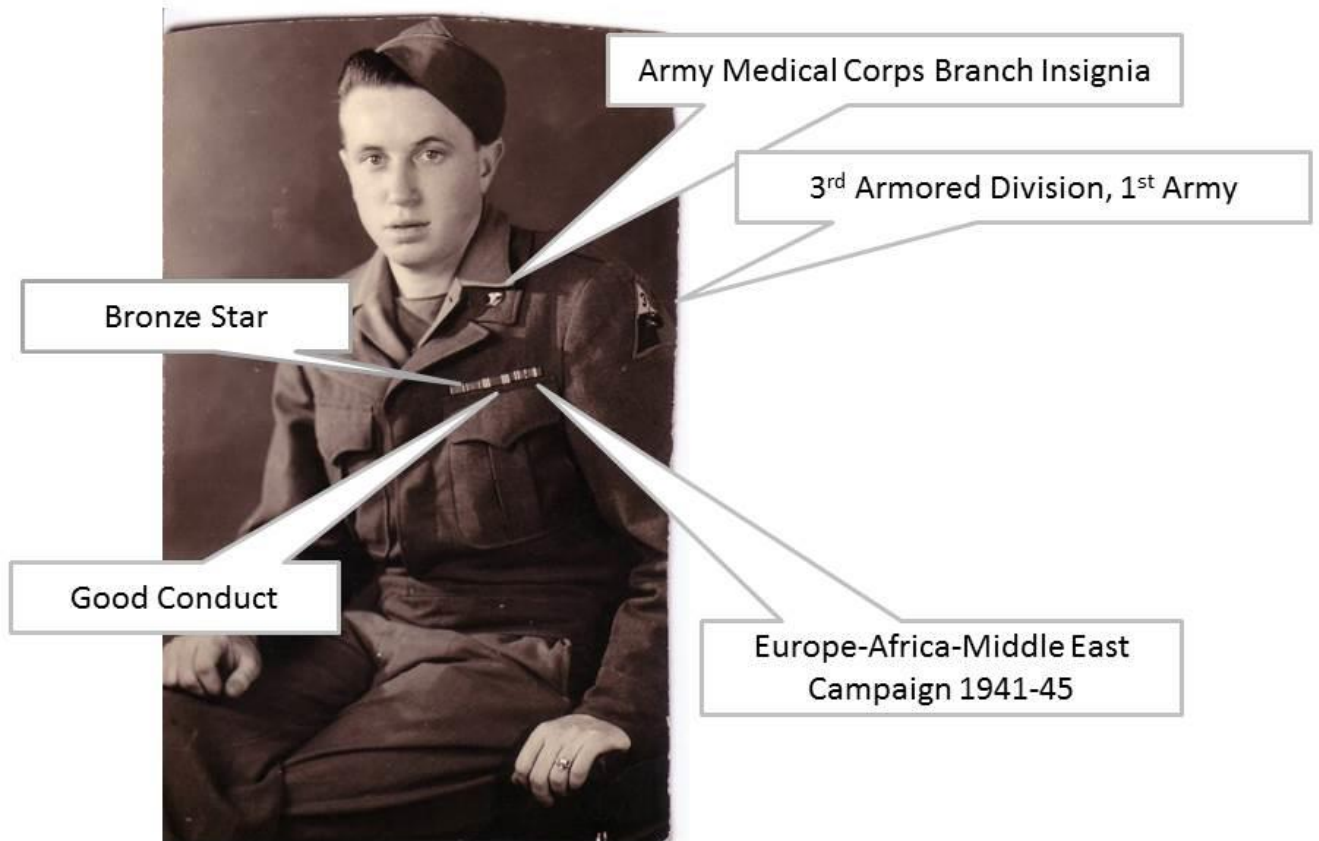
Notes: The left shoulder patch is from the Southern Defense Command so this is probably a shot of his buddies while he was stationed in the U.S.

I have been unable to identify the location or the right shoulder patch.



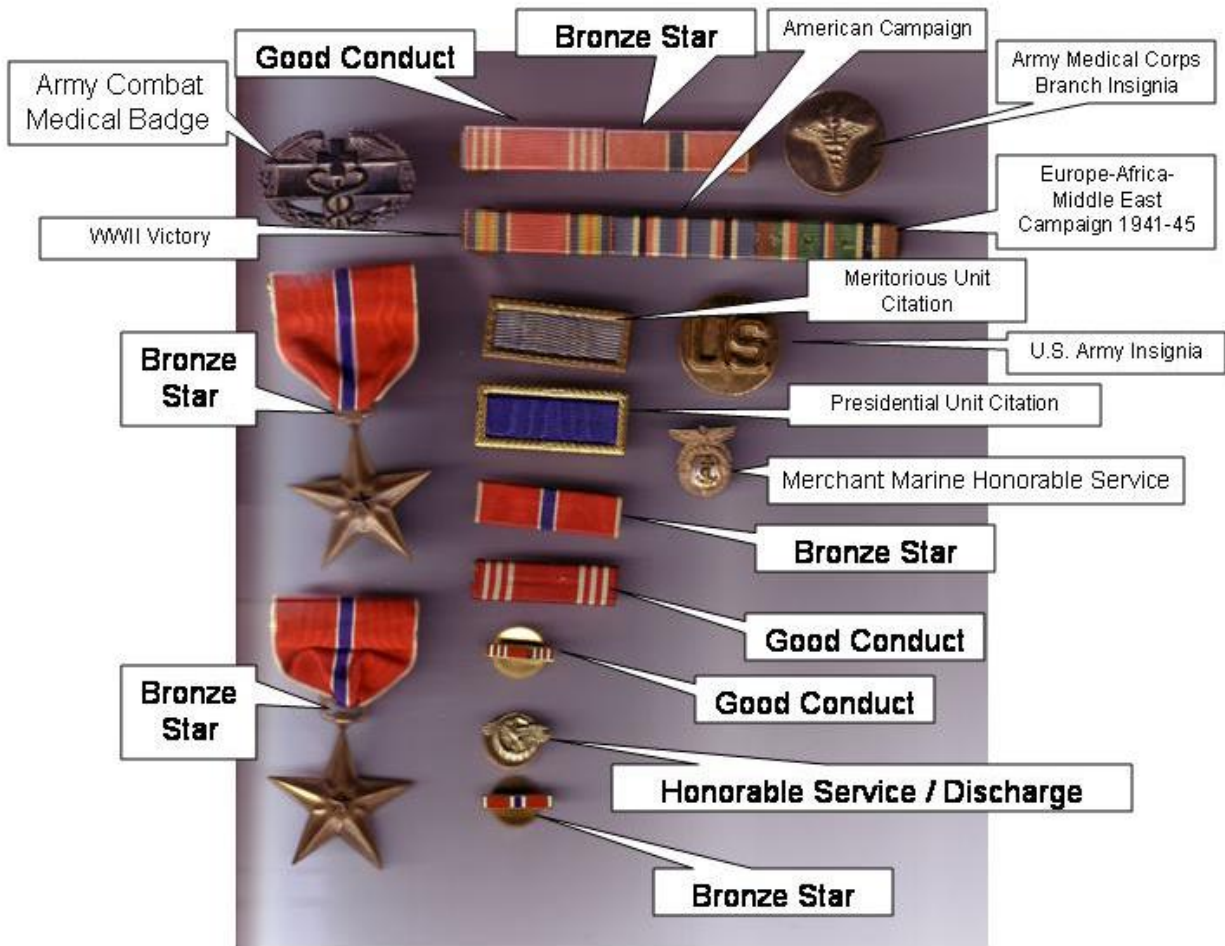
Date: 5 July 1945

Location: Probably in or around Frankfurt, Germany
He was a week shy of his 22nd birthday in this photo.



The 3rd Armored Division patch in this photo was the key to unlocking all of this information. A friend identified the unit by that patch. That led to identifying the 36th Armored Infantry Division and its personnel directory.

Zane Strickland Medals, Pins and Ribbons



Notes:

- We believe the Merchant Marine Honorable service pin is from his father, Isaac Edgar “Jack” Strickland, who served in the Merchant Marines during the war.
- Since making this image several years ago we have determined that the Meritorious Unit Citation is a faded copy of the Distinguished Unit Citation / Presidential Unit Citation.

Narratives and Unit Histories

The following are from the period when Zane Strickland was with these units.

Excerpted from the book "Five Stars To Victory"

25 March 1945 to 24 April 1945

Here was the storied Rhine, its splendor enhanced by a beautiful backdrop of majestic mountains sprinkled with ancient castles. No wonder this fabled land had been the inspiration of poets and musicians through the centuries! These sights puzzled us in Germany, for we could never understand how such a scenic, fertile country could yield such a ferocious population of war-makers.

Winding around steep trails we drove inland for several miles, bivouacking in fields torn intermittently by enemy artillery. By nightfall we had learned that our final objective was Altenkirchen, and that we would attack on the 25th of March.

When we sprung into action at 0430 in the morning, we found that friendly troops had not yet reached our supposed line of departure. Passing through them anyway, we were held up temporarily by mines. Reaching the starting point, "D" company, in the lead, lost two tanks almost immediately to mines. This was a day of heavy slugging, each man giving his utmost to put a dent in the opponent's lines. By 8 o'clock in the evening, we had punctured the inner ring of defense a distance of six miles, a gain greater than had been made in the First Army's sector during the past week. "D" company had lost three tanks, little enough for destroying two enemy tanks, four anti-tank and three self-propelled guns, seven trucks, three artillery pieces with their prime-movers, and two flak guns, besides capturing ninety-five prisoners! Task Force Lovelady was on the loose again, playing the game it knew so well, with all the brilliance of a perfectly coordinated team!

Leaving Fiersbach the following morning, we were due for a trying day. A frontal attack was impossible because so many anti-tank weapons were hidden in a broad wooded semi-circle that they could pick us off like ducks in a shooting gallery. Flanking movements were equally difficult because of rugged terrain features which precluded maneuvering. The provoking slowness of an infantry attack would be the only way to break the gauntlet of fire which presented an unsurpassable barrier to tanks.

There was no alternative and we were forced to remain in approximately the same position all day while the infantry systematically destroyed strongpoint after strongpoint. Close artillery support accounted for two self-propelled guns which had played havoc with "E" company. P-47's flew over and bombed an

enemy tank to Kingdom Come, then strafed several suspected positions. Towards the end of the day, "E" company knocked out another self-propelled gun, and we were finally on the way.

The column moved most of the night in a drizzling rain to reach its objective near Altenkirchen a few hours before dawn. We had accepted heavy losses that day in the interest of achieving a definite breakthrough. "E" company had lost five tanks, "D" company one. Four of Captain Aldinger's supply trucks had been knocked out, one after another, and one medical half-track was hit by an anti-tank gun.

Task Force Richardson had already entered Altenkirchen from the right flank, and much of Combat Command "A" had broken out of their sector of lighter resistance to dash headlong towards Hitler's inner sanctum.

The anticipated breakthrough had been accomplished within two days of committing the 3rd Armored Division! All the pent-up might on the Remagen Bridgehead was ready to pour through the gaping German lines to exploit the successes of our division!

It was clear that we were destined to tailor another pocket, this time sewing shut Germany's greatest industrial region, the Ruhr Valley. The Ninth Army had bridged the Rhine further north and were driving hard to the east. Now, we must meet them.

After following the route of Combat Command "A" on the 27th of March, we were ready to lead an attack on Marburg the next morning.

Leaving Herborn to cross the Dill River, we reached our line of departure before nine o'clock in the morning. With the exhilarating smell of both impending victory and spring in the air, morale was never higher. Soft sunshine brought to life the early morning dew, making cloudlets of steam-like fog rise from the warming earth. Colonel Lovelady drove to the head of his column in his jeep, waving over his shoulder for the tankers to "Step on it." As their pace reached 20 or 25 miles per hour, he would drop back to a more nearly normal place in the line, sometimes stopping by a crossroad to admire his heavy team as they passed in battle review. When their pace would tend to slacken, he would again speed recklessly ahead and encourage them to drive on. Overhead, hundreds of silver-winged American bombers droned their way in perfect echelon, towards the ever diminishing target areas in Central Germany. The thrill of watching these symbols of America's overwhelming power in the air and on the ground, and being a part of it, spurred the tankers on to even greater endeavor, and they now "barreled" along the highways at top speed.

The column would not even slow down for pockets of small arms resistance and the tanks knocked out seven enemy trucks, practically without stopping. A great fuel supply dump was captured, its location reported, then left behind without taking time to examine its contents. Town after town fell so quickly that the people didn't have time to put out the white flags, and could only crouch in their doorways, staring in awe at the unexpected advance. French, Belgian, English, Polish and Russian prisoners of war lined the roads by the thousands, waving and shouting "Viva l'Amerique!" in all its variations. At one point we looked into a valley on our left and watched a German supply column moving in the opposite direction, obviously unaware that we were anything but their own forces. Not wishing to waste time playing with them, as long as they were hopelessly lost anyway, we continued straight towards our objective.

In an hour and a half we had travelled more than 20 miles and were on the southern edge of Marburg, one of Germany's cultural centers, a city of some 25,000 population. Its several hospitals and lack of industrial development had spared it from the fate of destruction by Allied bombers that we had seen in Cologne, Bonn and Altenkirchen. Its great 13th Century Cathedral, and University, founded in 1527, escaped completely the ravages of this most terrible of wars. Here, "D" company was halted by a log and earthen road block, covered with infantry forces armed with small weapons, grenades and panzerfausts, and well zeroed-in by mortars. Without waiting for this to be cleared, "E" company swung sharply left, encircled the city, and came in to it from the west at 1030 hours. Thus, complete and overwhelming surprise was attained as we hurriedly and with the method of long experience took over the prize and sealed its exits before the consternation of the inhabitants began to wane.

In the meantime, engineers had forced the road block and the rest of the task force joined in the securing of the objective.

Entire garrisons of troops with a high percentage of officers were captured. Formal surrenders were accepted all through the day. The final count was 2000 prisoners, not counting the 6000 wounded in the seven hospitals.

A brief review of the hospitals revealed a number of Americans had been captured between the Roer and the Rhine. They were collected and started back on the route of evacuation after telling us some of the stories of their experiences. They had received as good treatment as was possible for the dwindling medical facilities of the disintegrating German state to render. Food was scarce, but they were as well nourished as the German wounded. "K" rations actually looked good to them, and they could not have devoured them with more zest, had they been turkey.

The civilian Nazis had thrived during the Hitler regime in this ancient and wealthy university center. More arrogant than most we had met, it was necessary to convince them that we meant business and that their homes were ours for billets and command posts.

Well-stocked Nazi warehouses were quickly ransacked until everyone had new flags with great black swastika's, arm bands and other souvenirs.

Fine liqueurs and an abundance of Schnapps were collected, consumed in moderation, the rest being loaded into our vehicles for future reference.

Marburg was the biggest prize yet seized east of the Rhine. Task Force Lovelady reveled in its spoils of war and prepared for another exciting day.

At five o'clock in the morning on March 29th. Captain John Haldeman, who had led us unerringly through much of France, Belgium and into Germany, took his Reconnaissance Company out of Marburg to find the best route leading north. At the first town, Colbe, they hit a hornet's nest of small arms, panzerfausts and mortars. They were trapped with nothing but thin-skinned vehicles. Captain Haldeman was wounded in the neck and they called for help. A platoon from "B" company went to their rescue, the scrap developing into a full-fledged fire-fight in which our small force came out second best, several of our light tankers and Reconnaissance soldiers and officers being wounded or killed.

Meanwhile, the rest of our task force took a parallel route west of them, driving with all speed in the direction of Paderborn. Resistance stiffened during the day, "D" company encountering intense bazooka fire in Munchausen, and losing one tank. Rather than consume precious time opposing it, we flanked the town and continued northward, knocking out five trucks, capturing two large railroad guns and 170 prisoners. By dusk, we had travelled 48 miles!

Factories and farms poured forth their slave laborers, who greeted us joyously, exuberant on their day of liberation. A constant stream of these happy folk lined the road as they immediately started towards home; French and Belgians walking in the opposite direction from us, on one side of the road; Russians, Poles, Slavs, following us, on the other side, all trekking hopefully toward their respective homelands.

We continued our relentless drive on Paderborn on the 30th of March, through ever-increasing opposition. The enemy had bolstered its collapsing defenses with picked groups of S.S. soldiers, armed mainly with panzerfausts.

"B" company was leading when they were trapped at a road block in Wrexen. Almost simultaneously, three tanks were knocked out by the deadly panzerfausts, their operators thoroughly concealed in roadside dug-outs. As the tankers bailed out, they were mercilessly mowed down in a withering curtain of machine gun fire. Thus, three tankers were killed and several wounded, along with much of the infantry who had been riding with them. "E" company pulled its heavier weapons up to relieve the desperately beset light tankers. Their plight was temporarily eased and by dusk we were through the town, trying to blaze our way to the final objective. Due to the steep cliffs, completely fortified on the left side of the road, "E" company was stymied until the infantry ferreted out the tenacious defenders.

By the time that task was accomplished, night had closed in on us and it was decided to try to run the gauntlet under the cloak of darkness. Hardly had we started out than the resounding "BOOM!" of many panzerfausts crystallized in the chill air, sending great flashes of fire far into the night. "E" company lost two tanks, and one was captured before we could withdraw.

Returning to Wrexen for the night, we received the tragic word of Major General Rose's death. He had been in Task Force Welborn's column on our left flank, when they were treacherously ambushed by a strong force of enemy tanks. With no alternative but surrender, he started to hand his pistol to his captors, when they shot him to death with a Schmeisser machine gun. Because of the importance of the attack which he was leading, and in honor of his personal courage, both VII Corps and First Army has since referred to the operation which virtually isolated the entire Ruhr industrial area, as the "Rose Pocket."

On March 31st, Task Force Lovelady resumed its attack, "D" company in the lead. Their first act was to knock out the Sherman which had fallen into enemy hands the night before. Then, just as the high ground was being cleared by the infantry with two tanks from "E" company, our combat command headquarters ordered us to withdraw into Wrexen and take another route to our objective.

This we did, losing another tank to that obnoxious little weapon, the panzerfaust, and fighting deep into the night.

Changing our route again, we jumped off at six o'clock in the morning, determined to reach our objective that day. At 1200 hours, Task Force Lovelady and Task Force Welborn entered the recently fire-bombed city of Paderborn against nothing but small arms resistance. By the time this devastated city was firmly secured, we had collected 160 prisoners.

Here the death of Major General Rose was partially avenged. A Nazi General Major by the name of Lippert was quite confidently and completely, without knowledge of our advancing tentacles, working in his garden. When the news of our impending approach finally dawned upon him, he rushed into his house, donned his dress uniform and tried to escape by running into the woods at the edge of the city. Refusing to halt at the repeated demands of our infantry, he was mortally wounded by a few well-placed bursts from a Tommy-gun.

Our task force was proud to have been a part of the 3rd Armored Division and to have assumed a vital part in closing the great Ruhr trap which was to yield 350,000 enemy troops who were now completely cut off from supplies and reinforcements.

Task Force Lovelady had helped sew up the Rose Pocket with stitches of steel. Other units were designated to destroy its contents while we resumed the First Army's eastward thrust.

"B" company had seized and secured Dahl, a suburb of Paderborn, capturing 15 prisoners against little opposition.

By April 4th, though we only had 16 Sherman and 4 light tanks left, we were sufficiently refreshed to begin another long drive, this time to the Weser River and beyond.

Leaving Ebberinghausen early in the morning, we spent most of the day fighting terrain and clearing woods, eventually arriving on an objective already secured by the Ninth Armored Division, who had fought along our right flank.

Seeking to avoid opposition in order to expedite a rapid push to the river, we drove through the night until one o'clock in the morning, when we were halted by impassable roads. A reconnaissance patrol spent the rest of the night looking for a better route, ran into an enemy road block at which two of our soldiers gave their lives and one officer was seriously wounded.

Marked opposition from roving self-propelled guns and tanks weakened us to 15 Sherman and 9 light tanks, holding us up most of the day.

On April 7th, we turned north from Trendelburg to capture Helmarshausen on the Weser River, after destroying an enemy tank, 3 trucks and capturing 45 prisoners. The next day was spent securing the river banks and getting ready for the plunge to the other side.

On April 9th we were on the east bank of the Weser, rolling insistently eastward. By dusk we had reached Lenglern, two miles northwest of the ancient city of Gottingen, having destroyed one enemy tank, one self-propelled gun and capturing another 20 prisoners.

Now we were moving swiftly as town after town fell before they had time to complete their log and

earthen road blocks. A town defended by small numbers of enemy bazooka-men and snipers was reason enough to draw our tanks up to a fighting front to practically destroy the village by tank, mortar and artillery fire, and sometimes by strafing planes.

"Axis Sally," the German female commentator who broadcast the news, highly flavored with propaganda, in English, had always given the 3rd Armored Division considerable infamous publicity. It was about this time that she professed the enemy's dislike for us, just as we had hated them so ruthlessly for many months. Speaking of the merciless onslaughts by some American units, she reminded us that few German troops would take prisoners from the 1st and 9th Infantry Division, or the 3rd Armored. This bit of advertisement served only to make us more immaculate in our devastation of German property and lives, though we would not stoop to refuse the surrender of those who wished to give up legitimately.

By noon of the 11th of April, another large city fell to Task Force Lovelady. This was Nordhausen, the site of a notorious concentration camp.

The horrors of Nordhausen have been dwelt upon so extensively by others that we shall not describe its gruesome scenes here. Having seen it, we need no words to remind us. Its gross inhumanity has been burned deep into our minds. We shall not forget the brutish sadism of the people who perpetrated and tolerated these dens of mass murder.

Hardly had Nordhausen been cleared than "E" company attacked southeast to secure Sundhausen in order to facilitate the speed of our eastward attack.

On April 12th, we roared out of Nordhausen for a blitz attack on Allstedt, another thirty miles along the road to Berlin. Racing through town after town, burgermeisters were informed that if a single shot was fired at an American soldier, we would burn that village to the ground. This was the kind of talk Nazis understood and we progressed rapidly, capturing 60 prisoners by dusk. Unknowingly, we had taken many towns which we were to come back to as their first occupation troops after the war. Haringen, Kelbra, Tilleda fell in rapid succession.

Just east of Tilleda, we encountered the tiny "Beetle" tanks, grotesque failures in the Nazis' book of weird weapons. These were little more than a yard long, less than two feet high, and about twenty inches wide. They were shaped like a tank and carried tracks. They were propelled by a battery-operated electrical mechanism and were guided by a reel of wire which unwound from the operator as the tank moved forward. The body of this lilliputian held in its warhead, several pounds of T.N.T. Our tanks riddled them into easy submission before they had done any damage and we by-passed them scoffingly.

These were days quite like those of nearly a year ago when we were racing through France. Instead of so many tanks and anti-tank guns, however, the most popular weapon now was the panzerfaust. We were also encountering more flak guns whose barrels were depressed for use as anti-tank weapons. Here, too, every town had its entrance blocked by sturdily constructed log and earth, or rock, road blocks. We were marching so fast, though, that many of these had not yet been completed.

On the 13th of April, "D" company ran into serious direct crossfire, which destroyed a peep and two tanks, causing some casualties. Our infantry flanked the town of Unterrissdorf on the right. "B"

company was on the left and, as they were about to close in on the offenders, the entire crews of two large flak guns appeared with their hands over their heads.

After that, we proceeded for several miles, practically unmolested, stopping at the banks of the Saale River near Wettin. Finding the bridge blown and a few snipers childishly trying to be brave from the buildings on the other side of the river, our tankers cleaned out their .50 caliber machine guns by firing them into the windows. This was followed by a few minutes of animated strafing by P-47's just to warn the townsfolk that they were making a mistake by trying to defend their village with a few riflemen.

Colonel Welborn's task force had a bridge across the river north of us, so we returned to Beesenstadt for the night and crossed the river on the morning of the 14th, returning then to our own route.

"D" company was again snared into a trap of direct fire which cost them one tank, while "E" company lost two tanks trying to flank the enemy's guns. This accomplished, the task force approached Zorbig, there to encounter determined resistance from infantry with large numbers of panzerfausts. This stronghold paid a heavy price for its folly, because we lost no time laying down a heavy artillery concentration, elaborated upon by vicious strafing from the P-47's who hovered over us, just waiting for a chance to shoot. Then, laying down an irresistible curtain of marching fire, our tanks and infantry rolled through a completely subdued community.

Moving out at dawn, Task Force Lovelady achieved its deepest penetration into Germany on the 15th of April.

Crossing another great autobahn, we approached Raguhn, our entrance fanatically opposed by panzerfaust troops whose only hope was to knock out one tank before they died. This they seemed to do willingly, and a hundred enemy soldiers clutched their diabolical weapons in lifeless hands before the day ended. Three hundred wiser ones surrendered.

We then prepared the town for our arrival by greeting them with a lusty artillery and mortar barrage, which facilitated our entrance at four o'clock in the afternoon. Reconnaissance elements inspected the River Mulde for the unlikely possibility of unmolested bridges, returning with the usual report that they were all blown. We were not particularly perturbed since our orders were not explicit about further objectives on the other side of the Mulde, and we settled down for a comfortable night's rest in Raguhn.

"B" company back-tracked for a few miles in a northwesterly direction, to clear out a village called Thurland, a name which more than a hundred of us will never forget, for reasons to be presented shortly. Here they encountered strong small arms resistance, and the ubiquitous panzerfaust, which had been the mainstay of the dying Wehrmacht since the closure of the Rose Pocket, destroyed two of our light tanks and killed Lieutenant Forbes.

The next day was spent clearing the towns along the banks of the River Mulde in our sector. "D" company seized Priorau and Schierau against light opposition, in which they captured 18 prisoners and a small ammunition dump. "E" company, with infantry from the 414th Regiment, attacked north through woods, to secure a road crossing just south of Dessau. Here they were subjected to continuous barrages of artillery and mortar fire coming from the east side of the river, which caused some casualties, especially among the infantrymen.

At this point, our long engaged task force was dangerously attenuated to spread it out so thinly over such a broad and, as yet, unstable front. On the 16th of April, the command post, maintenance section, the infantry and armored aid stations, moved into Thurland in order to assume an approximate central position among our widely dispersed troops. Little did we suspect that some of the most exciting and terrifying hours of the war were about to begin in this little town, thus far scarcely touched by the devastating hand of conflict.

After establishing as nearly normal guard precautions as possible with an understrength command, we settled down for a few hours of much needed rest, with the exception of Colonel Lovelady, who left his headquarters to join his companies in an attack through the woods. At 0130 o'clock in the morning, the town was attacked by a battalion of enemy infantry, whom we soon recognized as first rate troops, experts in their business. From the burgermeister and Nazi civilians, they found out exactly which buildings we were in, whereupon they set about systematically to rout us out. The command post came first. Some of the officers and men tried to shoot their way out, believing they were faced by only a small patrol. This error led to the death of our Air Corps Lieutenant who had stayed with us to keep liaison with the P-47's. Young, our valiant, youthful motorcycle rider, incurred a compound fractured arm, and because he couldn't be evacuated for more than twenty-four hours, died, apparently from gas gangrene. Others were wounded less critically, among them, Captain Aldinger, whose foot was slightly injured. The rest of the battalion staff was captured intact except for Chief Warrant Officer Palfey, who shot one German with his pistol, then buried himself under a pile of potatoes, where he remained throughout the ordeal.

Continuing methodically through town, the marauders approached the aid station, which was billeted in two buildings separated by a driveway. This led to a barnyard surrounded by hay-filled sheds, and served as an excellent parking lot for the medical vehicles. Suddenly, the familiar flash and the crash of a panzerfaust brought us quickly to our feet. Dressing hurriedly, it was immediately apparent that the barns were burning furiously and would soon consume all of our vehicles. At that instant, a hand grenade was casually, and impolitely, hurled in the window, its fragments wounding S/Sgt. Griese in the face. Not realizing the strength of the attack, the men thought only of getting their vehicles out of the holocaust. This they did, turning westward and driving through a canyon of guttural voices, but no further shots were fired. They halted on the edge of town, hiding themselves in the cellar of an infantry company's command post. In less than an hour, commands in German brought them from their refuge, hands over heads. Outside, they faced perhaps thirty enemy soldiers with two officers, only a small portion of the number who were in town. After being counted and searched, they were returned to the basement until dawn.

By then, news of our plight had reached higher headquarters, and friendly artillery (no more consoling than enemy artillery under these circumstances) began pounding at intervals, much to the disconcert of the German troops. By 0830 o'clock in the morning, all American prisoners were collected in another small basement across the street. There were 117 of us, and if it is true that "Misery loves company," there was an abundance of both, crowded into this tiny shelter.

The burgermeister was walking around his town in full glory, smoking an American cigar and wielding an American pistol. He supervised the distribution of panzerfausts and furnished whatever information was needed. His attitude did not impress us favorably and eventually led to his inability to ever hold that office again.

Our vehicles were thoroughly ransacked, and soon Germans were eating our emergency "K" rations with apparent relish, drinking our coffee and smoking our cigarettes. They wasted no time improving their defenses around the town, cutting the autobahn just west of it, and preparing for the counterattack which was sure to come.

Believing that another German battalion had successfully attacked Raguhn, thus providing them with a route of evacuation across the Mulde River, they loaded our ambulances with wounded together with considerable numbers of unwounded troops, assigned American drivers with German guards, and started back. Captain Aldinger rode at the head of the column in a jeep, with a German driver.

The other battalion of enemy infantry hadn't performed so well, holding only a few houses on the western edge of Raguhn. Even this fact was unknown to Captain Aldinger, who had no reason to think that the village was not entirely in our hands. At the crossroads a few hundred yards from Raguhn, the strange procession was halted by an alert tank destroyer road block whose persuasive looking 90 millimeter guns encouraged the enemy occupants of the vehicles to surrender.

With the perfectly correct impression that Colonel Lovelady had again established a practically unstaffed command post in Raguhn, the column headed in that direction in order to place the prisoners under the guard of our troops. As they approached the first buildings in the confusing half-light of early dawn, German machine guns nervously tattooed the road, killing Captain Aldinger and his German chauffeur. Later on, Corporal Perry from the reconnaissance platoon, drove the jeep out, and he, too, was killed when it turned over for some inexplicable reason. Tragedies such as these struck us deeper than ever at this late date, since everyone felt that the war was nearly over.

In the meantime, the enemy troops in Thurland realized that they were isolated from their own lines, and decided to defend their positions until dark, then infiltrate through our cordon of tanks which surrounded them.

Part of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion came to our rescue in an attack which was to consume the entire day. Artillery beat in heavily for many hours and, in the evening, tanks were firing directly into the town, many of the rounds hitting the building we were staying in.

It was nearly eleven o'clock at night that our liberators finally poured into Thurland. A larger part of the German command had been killed during the day, and most of the rest were captured.

Struggling out of the cramped quarters, the American liberators witnessed, not without some satisfaction, a German village destroyed, with the exception of not more than four houses, by fire and artillery.

As soon as the wounded were evacuated, the rest of us returned to our normal positions, this time into a safe Raguhn where the command post and aid stations were once more established.

Except for routine patrols, the allocation of a few "B" company tanks to another task force for reinforcement, and of three "E" company tanks to secure a town which had been seized by Task Force Richardson, there was not much activity. Various plans were proposed for bridging the Mulde and securing that part of Raguhn on the eastern bank, but none of these materialized.

Combat Command "A" was attacking Dessau, while we continued to hold what we had.

For the Task Force Lovelady, the war was nearly ended. They had reached the banks of the River Mulde, final destination of the VII Corps. The war was rapidly dissolving around them as the Russians hit Berlin and were approaching units south of us near Leipzig. Now they were waiting for the Ninth Infantry Division to come forward and relieve them. Billeting parties went back to Tilleda, Sittendorf and Rossla. Ironically enough, we were destined to sojourn under the majestic shadow of a titanic monument in memory of Germany's leader in World War I, Kaiser Wilhelm. On the highest hill at Kyffhauser, it could be seen by all the troops in our task force and the massive lodges surrounding it, a luxurious haven for officers in the S.S. and their spouses, would soon be occupied by "D" company. Those of us who later examined its extensive museum were struck by a scroll engraved in English which read, "To our dear friends and True Comrades!" and signed by the members of Milwaukee's American Legion Post as late as 1934! We could not but wonder if someday we would follow in the gullible footsteps of our progenitors, perhaps inscribing a congratulatory message to the inaugurators of a similar monument in honor of Hitler. We did not think we ever would, but time does strange things, and Americans are strange people, willing to love and trust in a world that knows only hate and deceit.

On the 24th day of April, Task Force Lovelady heard its last crash of enemy mortar and artillery, fired its farewell rounds into enemy lines, picked up its tracks and marched gayly into the west, relatively certain for the first time in ten adventure-filled months that they would awaken the next day to find themselves alive and unwounded.

Source: excerpted from the book "Five Stars To Victory"

Five Stars to Victory: The Exploits of Task Force Lovelady 2nd Bn. (Reinf.), 33rd Arm'd. Regt., 3rd Arm'd., Div. U. S. Army in the War Against Germany 1944 - 1945

Roberts, A. Eaton

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History of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment
22 March 1945 – 31 July 1945



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

HISTORY OF THE

36th ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 36th Armored Infantry Regiment was originally organized at Brownsville, Texas, in June 1918, as the 36th Infantry, 9th Cavalary Division. It was transferred to the 12th Division in 1921. It was redesignated the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment in 1942. The Regiment was active in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Germany campaigns. At the time of its inactivation the Regiment was entitled to no Battle Honors.

DESCRIPTION OF COAT OF ARMS

The Regimental Coat of Arms is in three parts as follows:

1. SHIELD. The official blazonry is argent, a sword hilted in base, or within a border of the like. On a canton argent a cross of the field, over all a cactus proper (for the 4th, 26th and 36th Infantry), which means in simple English, a horizontal gold sword hilted on a blue shield with a gold border. On a silver quartered insert in the upper left-hand corner (canton) is a blue cross, and superimposed on top is a cactus in natural colors.

The field of the shield is blue, the Infantry color. The sword hilted and border are taken from the unofficial insignia adopted by the 12th Division. The three parent organizations are shown on the canton. The 4th and 26th Infantry took part in the Vera Cruz expedition, the name suggesting the cross in blue for Infantry. The cactus represents the border service of all three Regiments from February 1913, until the organization of the 36th Infantry.

2. CREST. The official blazonry of the crest is "On a wreath of the colors a six-pointed star vert charged with a millet argent," which means in G. I. language "a silver star mounted on a green six-pointed resting on a wreath of gold and blue."



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
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★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

HISTORY OF REGIMENT

The 36th Armored Infantry Regiment was originally organized at Brownsville, Texas, in June 1916, as the 36th Infantry, the Regiment being organized by the individual transfer of men from the 4th, 26th and 28th Infantry Regiments. It did not serve overseas during World War I and was made inactive at Fort Jay, New York, 13 October 1921. Pursuant to instructions contained in a letter from the War Department dated 16 December 1940 as amended by letter dated 13 January 1941, the Regiment was made active as an Armored Regiment, which on 1 June 1942 was redesignated the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment. At the time of its reactivation the Regiment was entitled to no Battle Honors.

DESCRIPTION OF COAT OF ARMS

The Regimental Coat of Arms is in three parts as follows:

1. SHIELD. The official blazonry is Azure, a sword bayonet in fess, or within a border of the like. On a canton argent a cross of the field, over all a cactus proper (for the 4th, 26th and 28th Infantry), which means in simple English, A horizontal gold sword bayonet on a blue shield with a gold border. On a silver quartered insert in the upper left-hand corner (canton) is a blue cross, and superimposed on top is a cactus in natural colors.

The field of the shield is blue, the Infantry color. The sword bayonet and border are taken from the unofficial insignia adopted by the 12th Division. The three parent organizations are shown on the canton. The 4th and 28th Infantry took part in the Vera Cruz expedition, the name suggesting the cross in blue for Infantry. The cactus represents the border service of all three Regiments from February 1913, until the organization of the 36th Infantry.

2. CREST. The official blazonry of the crest is "On a wreath of the colors a six-bastioned fort vert charged with a mullet argent," which means in G. I. language "A silver star mounted on a green six-bastion resting on a wreath of gold and blue."



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

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-2-

The crest symbolizes the birthplace of the Regiment. The origin of Brownsville was the fort built by General Taylor in 1846, at first known as Fort Texas, later as Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown, who was killed in its defense while commanding the 4th Infantry. The 36th Infantry is therefore doubly associated with Brownsville, as its birthplace and through the 4th Infantry, which was connected with the birth of Brownsville. The battles of Pala Alto and Risaca di la Palma were fought for the defense of Fort Texas. This is shown by a six-bastioned fort in green, an allusion to the Mexican color, charged with the silver lozenge star of Texas.

3. MOTTO. "Deeds Not Words" needs no explanation.

B. On 22 April 1942, the War Department redesignated the Coat of Arms, 36th Infantry, as the Coat of Arms, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

C. On 16 May 1941, information was received from the War Department that the distinctive insignia of the 36th Infantry consisted of the crest only of the Coat of Arms, and on 22 April 1942, the distinctive insignia of the 36th Infantry was redesignated the distinctive insignia of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:

Brown was instructed to move his force northeast from Dambreich and begin the attack at 0600.

The 78th Inf Div had cooperated to the utmost with the Combat Command, and due to a shortage of Infantry of the Combat Command, the 78th had sent a battalion to attack the ground and wooded area in the vicinity of 6540. This assisted materially in the plan for TF Brown and after 2100 when a route across the creek had been found, the TF moved up. The close of the period found patrols out attempting to locate routes and enemy resistance.

There was no change in status of the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 36th Armd Inf Regt.

3-22-45 TF Richardson continued operations in Busidorf and by 0500 that place was reported secured. Co G 36th AIR proceeded to the east and took the town of Stossdorf.

Time of attack for TF Brown was changed to 0400. The tanks met considerable difficulty from terrain and the enemy offered moderate opposition. The leading elements entered Hennef at 1000, but fighting continued until late afternoon when the town was reported secure. TF Brown was relieved by the 2nd Bn 309th Inf at 2100 and the Task Force began movement to assembly area at Olinghoven.

The 3rd Bn 414th Inf was attached to CCR and moved to the vicinity of Hovel. Orders were received to move the Combat Command on the morning of 23 Mar 45 to the vicinity of Hovel and rejoin the 3rd Armd Div. The Combat Command was relieved from 78th Inf Div effective 2200.

There was no change in status or dispositions of the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR.

3-23-45 At 0925 movement to assembly area in the vicinity of Hovel commenced and by 1058 all units had closed.

The 1st and 2nd Bns 36th Armd Inf, as components of CCA and CCB respectively, moved across the Rhine during the day and assembled in the division area (7030)

3-24-45 All units of CCR remained in the assembly area at Hovel. CO and staff studied plans for an extensive



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operation which would carry the Combat Command to Altenkirchen.

There was no change in the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR.

3-25-45

At 0400 the 3rd Armd Division attacked with CCA and CCB abreast, with CCR following on the two center routes. Altenkirchen was the initial objective, but orders were issued that the advance would not be halted out of contact with the enemy.

TF Richardson used the right center route in the Division zone and maintained close contact with TF Kane of CCA. TF Hogan used the left center route and maintained close contact with CCB. Composition of task forces was the same as before, except that entire 3rd Bn 36th AIR, was attached to TF Hogan. Lt Col Hogan had returned from leave and assumed command of the Task Force. Movement began from the assembly area at Hovel at 1450 and by 2030 all units had closed in an assembly area near Krautshaid, Germany.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR attacked at 0400 as part of TF Dean and advanced on Route 4, the southern route. TF Doan ran into a minefield at 753293 and 20-mm and SP fire slowed the advance. After overcoming the resistance, the advance was rapid until more resistance consisting of nine 20-mm flak guns and tow tanks was met at Schoneberg (806287). Artillery fire knocked out the flak positions and one tank and the advance toward Flammersfeld (8527) was resumed. Between Schoneberg and Flammersfeld two road blocks and heavy small arms fire were encountered and the close of the period found the force short of Flammersfeld.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to TF Welborn. CCB attacked through the 1st Inf Div and advanced to and secured the town of Kerweiss by the end of the period. The line of attack was along a main road on a ridge line, always under observation of the enemy from the front and flank. A strong enemy position was met initially, but it was overcome by use of artillery. After that, chief difficulty was from terrain.



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3-26-45

Contact was maintained with CCA and CCB throughout the morning. At 1430 orders were received to employ TF Richardson in the zone between TF Lovelady of CCB and TF Kane of CGA for the purpose of aiding the advance of CCB and to clear the enemy from his assembly area at 1500, but the progress was slow due to the condition of the roads and traffic congestion. However, Altenkirchen was reached by 1700 without opposition and mopping-up operations against remaining enemy there were taking place. At 1805 orders were received to continue the advance to the east on Routes 1 and 2 of the Division, taking over the mission of CCB. TF Hogan was moved forward and advanced on Route 1. TF Richardson continued to advance on Route 2. By the close of the period both columns were proceeding slowly due to the visibility and the terrain.

1st Bn 36th AIR: At 0630 TD's with the 1st Bn 36th knocked out a Mark V tank at Flammersfeld and the attack moved on to Ober Wambach, they were met by heavy AT and artillery fire. After overcoming this resistance with artillery, the advance continued to Hachenburg (0629) without difficulty. During the night heavy mortar fire fell on the north edge of the town.

2nd Bn 36th AIR: By 0200 the road which had caused delay of the battalion on the day before was repaired and the advance continued to the high ground east of Rettersen. The high ground was secured by 0345 and the attack for Hasselbruch was continued at 0730. Tank and AT fire blocked advance, inflicted losses and the force was ordered back to reorganize. A dismounted attack, scheduled for 1300, was also delayed by observed artillery fire, and it was not until 1430 that the attack was launched. This time it was successful and the town was secured by 1545. A road block held up the advance on Oberoth, but was overcome and the town secured by 2400. Enemy resistance consisted of small arms fire and harassing artillery fire.

3-27-45

TF Hogan continued to advance throughout the night and morning. At Weitefeld (1336) some resistance was met, but was quickly overcome and the advance continued. TF Richardson maintained a rapid advance



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throughout the day. Enemy resistance was light but there was difficulty from terrain. By the close of the period, TF Richardson was continuing the advance on Dillenburg and TF Hogan halted for refueling northeast of Hof.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR continued a rapid advance with TF Doan and by close of the period had captured and secured Herborn and had secured a crossing over the Dill River. Contact was made with the 7th Arm'd Div on the right flank. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR with TF Welborn moved in reserve on Route 2 and closed at Holn at 2200.

3-28-45 TF Hogan, after refueling, continued a rapid advance and by 0730 had entered Dillenberg with little opposition and had secured the town by 0930. TF Richardson advanced rapidly with light resistance and by 1015 was on the objective in the area south of Dillenberg at Niederscheld. Both TF's secured the objective throughout the day and plans were made for a long thrust northward with Paderborn as the objective.

The 1st Bn conducted maintenance of equipment pending receipt of new orders as GCB passed through CCA.

3-29-45 Both columns moved from Dillenburg at 0600 with TF Hogan on route 1, the left route. TF Richardson's advance was very rapid and in one instance advanced 50 miles in five hours and 13 minutes. TF Hogan's advance proceeded rapidly at first but was held up by heavy resistance during the late morning. By 1200 TF Hogan was out of communication. TF Richardson reached Brilon at 1800 and cleared and secured the town. A relay station was sent back over the route to contact TF Hogan. The force coiled in the vicinity of Thulen for the night. The advance of 87 miles from Dillenburg to Thulen was made in 16 hours.

The 2nd Bn followed the 83rd Rcn Bn and at the end of the period was at Ober Marsburg, less than 30 kilometers from the final objective.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR was in CCA and followed TF Lovelady on route 3.



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3-30-45

TF Richardson jumped off at 0700 on Route 2 and advanced initially with no opposition. Later small pockets of resistance were met and quickly overrun.

Upon reaching 683392, heavy resistance from enemy panzerfausts and tanks were encountered. Close air support from dive-bombers was given and aided the advance of the column to (682415) Nordberchen, where at the close of the period the force was engaged in clearing the town of very stubborn SS troops. TF Hogan continued the advance throughout the night and at 0345 was ordered to move by a lateral route to route 2 and to follow route 2 to Brilon where it would resume the advance on Route 1, the left route. The column advanced rapidly to Wewer (668436) where they were stopped by panzerfaust and small arms fire.

In the case of both TF Richardson and TF Hogan the resistance proved to be the strongest that had been met on the drive. The defenders were troops from an army school center north of Paderborn, who were first class troops and who knew how to defend with what they had. The panzerfaust was used effectively as an anti-personnel weapon.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to CCB, passed through the 83rd Rcn Bn at 1200. Stiff resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Etteln (710373) and Hamborn (718410). In the vicinity of Hamborn the enemy attacked the center of the column by careful choice of terrain; and lack of armor in the column permitted him to destroy a large number of half-track vehicles. The battalion was disorganized to a certain extent and CCA sent a force to clean out the enemy.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR fought SS troops south of Etteln and in the Baddeken Forest. Small arms fights continued throughout the night.

3-31-45

TF Hogan spent the entire day in clearing stubborn resistance from Wewer. At 1953 the town was reported cleared and secured. Resistance of the same type as the day before made it an extremely difficult task to rid the town of the enemy. TF Richardson also fought a stubborn enemy all day. At 2330 Task



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Force Richardson reported Nordborchen secured and a force moved north as far as the road at 690425. TF Hogan sent a small force to Salzkotten to seize that place, and by 2230 the force had reached the Road Junction at 630409 and received panzerfaust and small arms fire. It was delayed in moving further by a burning enemy vehicle. However, the high ground northwest of Wewer was secured and the task force buttoned up.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR spent the day in clearing the Baddeken Forest.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR of TF Welborn, CCB, attacked to seize the high ground three kilometers south of Paderborn. The ground was secured without opposition, but the enemy counter-attacked with five tanks at 1830 and drove them back to the vicinity of Hemborn. The battalion assault guns accounted for three of the five enemy tanks and after the force was reorganized, the high ground was taken and secured.

The account of the drive made by the Third Armored Division, as reported in this document, does not tell the complete story of the enormous amount of enemy equipment overrun, the vast supplies taken, the staggering number of prisoners captured, the communication lines disrupted, the road nets cut, or the great morale effect it had on the German civilian and military population. This account is more of a factual record of how it was done.

4-1-45

Task Force Richardson continued his operation begun the day previous to seize the high ground northeast of Nordborchen (0355) to improve his position and cover the attack of TF Boles. At 0355 hours this objective was reached after overcoming resistance from entrenched infantry and some anti-tank fire. They secured their positions and started patrol contact with TF Boles at 693448. TF Hogan attacked southwest from Wewer, seizing Salzkotten. The TF entered Salzkotten at 0110 against comparatively light resistance. By 0440 the town was cleared and secured, and tanks pushed out to the high ground north of the town. Task Force



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Hogan left a small blocking force on the main road at the northeast edge of Wever and another small infantry force at 658446 in position to fire on the Salzkotten-Paderborn road. Salzkotten was secured during the day and patrol contact maintained with TF Boles at 671442. The combat command CP moved to Nordborchen (683417) at 0900 hours.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, attacked through TF Richardson at Nordborchen at 0626 and advanced north to Paderborn. Dug-in enemy tanks, anti-tank fire and small arms fire were encountered, but they proceeded across the railroad and helped clear and secure their sector.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to CCB as part of TF Welborn, attacked Paderborn in the northeast part of the town and helped clear this sector.

4-2-45

TF Richardson moved into Alfen at 1000 and continued to secure the town of Kirkborchen and Alfen and maintain patrol contacts with TF Boles on the north, 83rd AFA Bn on the east, and both forces of TF Hogan. Some prisoners of War were brought in. TF Hogan continued to secure Salzkotten and Wever and maintained contact by patrols with TF Boles to the east and TF Richardson. During the night 1-2 April, the route of TF Boles' patrol was cut by enemy infiltration on the road, vicinity 660450, and at 0730 a force from TF Hogan moved out to sweep this area and the woods, vicinity 658453. The enemy forces had withdrawn, and no contact was made. Beginning at 2000 elements of TF Hogan in Salzkotten were being contacted by patrols from the 2nd Bn 16th Inf in Gesche.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, and continued to secure the western part of Paderborn and maintain patrol contact with CCB and CCR.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Welborn (CCB) continued to secure the northeast part of Paderborn and conducted security patrols.

4-3-45

CCR continued to defend, patrol and maintain road blocks throughout the period. TF Hogan sent a patrol north from Salzkotten which made contact with elements of the 8th Armd Div at 597432 at 1555. Another



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patrol was sent to Upspringe during the day, without opposition. TF Richardson continued to patrol and defend throughout the day and night. Some Prisoners of war were brought in.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, and sent patrols to Delbruck to contact the 8th Armd Div. Patrols were maintained throughout the period.

The 2nd Battalion 36th AIR remained attached to CCB as part of TF Welborn, and continued to patrol and defend its sector.

4-4-45

TF Hogan continued its patrols and the security of its position throughout the day and night. At about 0700 TF Richardson sent a battle group of one tank company and one infantry company to relieve elements of TF Lovelady with the mission of securing Lichtenau. At 1210 the town was cleared and secured. The battle group remained in town, securing it. Another force was sent to sweep the Boddeken Forest, vicinity Neuboddeken. Other elements remained in place and secured and patrolled their sector throughout the period.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, remained in position securing its assigned sector in Paderborn and doing maintenance on vehicles and weapons.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, moved at 2000 to Herbram (8142) and secured it against very light resistance.

4-5-45

At 0815 the CO went to Division to get plan of attack and at 0900 had a meeting of the TF Comdrs. The division plan placed CCA and CCB in the assault, with CCR in Division Reserve. The Division was to jump off at 1200 hours. CCA A was in two columns on the left, and CCB in two columns on the right of the Division zone. CCR was to follow TF Hogan on Route 2 and TF Richardson on Route 3. CCR's CP was to follow TF Hogan on Route 2. That portion of TF Richardson which was in Lichtenau, was to move directly from there and join the column on Route 3, while the force at Alfen was to move to the southeast, leaving the east road to TF Hogan. TF Hogan was to move via Alfen and Nordborchen and stay off the Kirchborchen road. The Combat Command, CCR, was



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put on a one hour alert at 1300 and started moving at 1915 on the routes assigned. At the close of the period, TF Richardson was continuing to move to an assembly area position in the vicinity of Dringenburg and TF Hogan to an assembly area in vicinity of Schmechten. CCR's CP moved into an assembly position just south of Bad Driburg at the close of the period.

The 1st Bn, TF Boles of CCA, which attacked east from vicinity of Paderborn at 1220, was enroute to specified intermediate objectives and final objective on the River Weser.

The 2nd Bn, CCB's TF Welborn, which attacked east from the vicinity of Dall at 1200 to secure certain intermediate objectives, after which orders were issued for the Task Force to continue on to objectives on the Weser River, was going well as the period closed.

4-6-45

TF Richardson moved over Route 3 into an assembly area in vicinity of Doringenburg at 0400 and awaited developments. One platoon of 3rd Bn 36th AIR, went to Bad Driburg to guard the hospital there. TF Hogan coiled in assembly area at 0200 in vicinity of Schmechten and spent the day there, refueling and doing necessary maintenance. The CP of CCR moved to the new CP location in vicinity of Schmechten at about 1000. The Division Commander visited the Command CP at 1500. It was not expected that CCR would move before Saturday or Sunday, 7th or 8th of April 1945, depending on developments in front of CCA and CCB.

CCA's TF Boles, with 1st Bn 36th AIR as part, was advancing east on route 1. A road block was encountered just west of Otterbergen and the infantry moved forward to establish a by-pass. At Amelunzen the enemy destroyed the bridge and the infantry again pushed across and into the town against strong resistance. Along most of the route, small arms, panzer faust and some artillery fire was encountered. At the end of the period part of the 1st Bn 36th AIR and some tanks were engaged with the enemy infantry about 1200 yards north of Drinke, while another battle



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group of tanks and infantry were advancing slowly against stubborn resistance toward Wehaden. The 2nd Bn, 36th AIR with CCB as part of TF Welborn, advanced to the east on route 3. Heavy panzerfaust fire was encountered near Hainholtz. Small arms fire was met at Borgholtz but the attack continued. The 2nd Bn cleared the Eichhagen woods southwest of Haarbruck and the task force consolidated and moved on to Haarbruck, where it was ordered to secure the town for the night.

Service Company, 36th AIR, moved into Siebenstern at 2100 hours.

4-7-45

A Polish Prisoner of War reported that a force of Germans was in Altenheerse, and at 1030 hours orders were issued to send a force from TF Richardson into the town. At 1530 the force returned and reported that no enemy troops were found in the town. For the remainder of the period TF Richardson and TF Hogan remained in their bivouac areas.

At 1600 the CO went to Division CP to receive orders for movement the following day. At 1900 hours group commanders met at the CP for the order. The plan was, briefly, to move out Sunday, 8 Apr 45, at about 1910 south via Dringenburg, Folsen, Wille-gassen, Buehne, Hofgusman, across the Weser River Remeln, to an assembly area vicinity of Varlosen. The following morning at first light CGR was to attack and take and secure Uslar. For the operation, in addition to present components of CGR, the following units were attached: The 83rd Recon Bn.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn, attacked at 0630, and after overcoming a road block, entered Herstele about 1100. Here direct fire from both sides of the river; artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire were encountered. At 1115 part of the TF was sent to secure Calshaven. Here, also, artillery panzerfaust and small arms fire were met. After considerable fighting, both towns were secured at about 1800.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn, ^{Bales}CCA, continued to attack with Battle Group Orr to secure Wehrden and entered the town against slight resistance. The Bridge had been blown earlier by the enemy. Wehrden



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was secured by 1445. Numerous barricades had been erected in the town.

4-8-45

At 1100 the 83rd AFA Bn and Co D 83rd Rcn Bn were attached to CCR and along with the 54th AFA Bn, joined the column at Buehne. CCR, TF Richardson leading, started moving at 1100 over the route detailed above. TF Richardson closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of Guntern at about 2000. CCR CP closed at Imbsen about 2240. At the end of the period, TF Hogan was still moving in. The plan outlined the day previous to capture Uslar was cancelled by the Division Commander at about 1600, because of the fact that troops of another unit were closing in on Uslar. A new objective was assigned. At 2200 FO No 6 was issued by the CO, CCR, par 3 of which said in part:

(a) TF "R" on the right (east) route, will capture Barterode prior to daylight 9 Apr 45; at 0600 they will continue the attack via the east route, cut the road SE of Hardeggen, and protect the east flank of the Combat Command. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim, via route 2, on order.

(b) TF "H", on the left (west) route, will capture the crossroads in the ravine, 1200 yards east of Eberhsen prior to daylight 9 Apr 45; continue the attack at 0600, via west route and capture Hardeggen, and protect the west flank of the CC. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim via route 1, on order.

(c) Co D 83rd Rcn Bn will make reconnaissance to line OR at 408271 - Hill 394 (402308)-(373302); assemble vicinity Imbsen by daylight 9 Apr 45 in CC Reserve. Upon capture of Hardeggen, immediately initiate reconnaissance to Northeim (the Division objective) via routes 1 and 2.

(d) 54th FA Bn will be in direct support of TF "R", 83rd AFA Bn direct support of TF "H".

(e) Co "C" 23rd Armd Eng Bn (-) and Co C 703rd TD Bn., initially in reserve.

(f) CP initially Imbsen, will displace along west route.



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TF Richardson attacked at 2400. At 2135 Co D 83rd Rcn Bn reported they were in Eberhsn and also the control point 22 (ravine and CR 1200 yards east), and both were clear of the enemy.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles CCA, remained in its location throughout the period, maintaining road blocks and conducting maintenance.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Melborn of CCB, sent dismounted patrols from Carlshaven at 1530 hours east along the river road to Wahnbeck. This patrol met no opposition and had completed its mission of opening the road by 2045. At the close of the period the whole of CCB was being relieved in present position by elements of the 1st Inf Div to participate in a new operation on the River Weser.

4-9-45

At 0250 TF Richardson reported on the objective they were to take prior to day-light (Barterode). No resistance was met and the tanks moved in. At 0600 the attack jumped off, they hit a road block just beyond Barterode at 0635. This took some time to clear. At 0800 TF Richardson took Esehcek and proceeded to Emmerhsn. At 1050 they had reached Harste and sighted two enemy tanks 800 yards northeast of Harste. At 1030 the 83rd Rcn Bn reported anti-tank fire and other enemy activity from west of Hevensen. TF Richardson ran into some SS troops with panzer-fasusts at Harste. Later they spotted 5 more tanks, one of which they knocked out. In all, 9 Tiger tanks were reported in the woods just southwest of Parenzen, and these held TF Richardson up until 1600 or thereabouts. The 83rd Recon Bn earlier reported that Lutterhausen was clear of any enemy. TF Hogan was at Hettensen at 0730 hours after having cleared Eberhausen at 0635. By 0930 they were on the objective (Hardeggen. At Hettensen 22 prisoners were taken. The CP of the Combat Command moved into Hardeggen at 1100 hours. At 1440 the CG, 3rd Armd Div, visited the CP. A new objective was assigned TF Hogan. TF Hogan was to move over route 1 immediately and take and secure Northheim. Enough force would be left in Hardeggen to secure it. At 1430 the 83rd Rcn Bn was up to the Leine River west of Northheim. They reported the



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bridge intact but it had been mined for demolition. At 1525 the 83rd Rcn Bn reported an enemy column of vehicles, bumper to bumper, going into Northeim from the northwest. Air support was requested. At 1615 TF Hogan was at Blankenhoven and had met no resistance. When they reached the Leine River the bridge had been blown. A new plan was put into operation. TF Richardson was pulled out of Harst, leaving that sector to CCB which had come up along both flanks. TF Richardson was re-routed over routes 1 and 2 again in order to by-pass the enemy tanks. The head of the column reached Hardeggen at 1730 and proceeded on. The CC CP followed TF Richardson on routes 1 and 2. When TF Hogan found the bridge destroyed across the Leine, the 83rd Rcn Bn went south to look for another passage. A bridge was found intact between Hillerde and Sudheim. TF Hogan sent his infantry across the stream dismounted, took his armor down via the newly discovered bridge, crossed the river, turned north again and entered the town of Northeim from the southwest. By midnight the tanks and infantry had joined and half the town was secure.

TF Richardson crossed the river via the same bridge, captured Sudheim after a fierce fight and proceeded east. They were held up by a road block at 585639, but cleared it and at the end of the period were 600 yards west of Suterde. At the end of the period the Combat Command CP was still moving toward a new CP location in Sudheim.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles (CCA), crossed the Weser river at Beverungen beginning at 1540 and proceeded to secure Vernawahlshausen.

The 2nd Bn, as part of TF Welborn (CCB), moved on Route 3. They encountered dug-in infantry and tanks near Harst. With the aid of air, called by TF Richardson, and a maneuver by TF Lovelady, they were able to advance to the stream crossing at 518388. Here the bridge was covered by a strongly defended road block at each end. At the close of the period, they were still engaged with the enemy there.

4-10-45

On account of their forces being scattered, having



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been engaged most of the previous night, the attack did not jump off at 0600. TF Hogan started moving at 0800 after clearing debris and rubble from the route and at 0825 ran into a road block just outside of the city. Just north of Bilshausen, they encountered a fire fight, and shot up two buildings. At 1240 they spotted three enemy tanks in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and were told that 5 enemy tanks left the city at about 1100. Air was requested, which came and knocked out 3 tanks and reported seeing 10 more. More air support was requested. At 1340 a PW stated that 13 artillery pieces were located in the woods along the road between Ostermunde and Herzburg. One enemy Mark IV tank and 2 large planes were destroyed at 147121. At 142513 TF Hogan put Infantry in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and started trying to work up the heavier equipment. By 1530 leading elements were in the forward edge of the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and had encountered about 50 infantry, 3 half-tracks and some tanks. Pushing ahead, they found one Tiger Tank abandoned at Poehle. Two tanks were destroyed and some Pw's taken, and at 1855 TF Hogan was 1800 yards south of Scharzfeld, where they ran into felled trees, craters and debris. At Silkerode and Bockelnhagen enemy infantry were met and cleared out. Both towns were occupied and secured for the night by 2235. The 83rd AFA Bn was detached from CCR and attached to CCA.

TF Richardson started moving at 0715 hours and moved along well until they reached a road block on the western edge of Gieboldehausen. At 1240 they were still held up by the road block and some enemy tanks north of the town. Finally, shaking loose, they were stopped again at Rudershaven by SP guns. Knocking out the resistance, they moved forward until 1815 when a bridge was blown in front of them between Rudershaven and Hilerode. They reconnoitered for another route to by-pass the bridge while the engineers started to build a bridge. Going cross country to Hilerode they hit the route again and at 2331 had occupied and secured Zwinge for the night.

The Combat Command CP moved behind TF Richardson most of the way and at 2000 closed into bivouac at Brochthausen.



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At 2250 the CO issued the order for the attack for the next day. Briefly, the CO was to continue the attack at 0600, seize and secure the network of roads in the vicinity of Tettenborn and Neuhof (TF Richardson), and Bartoldelde and Osterhagen (TF Hogan). The 54th AFA Bn was to be in general support and be prepared to displace forward to Limlingerode. Co D 85rd Rcn Bn was to revert to Bn Control upon the occupation of the objectives by the Combat Command. At 2220 the engineers reported the bridge in Brochthausen would be ready for traffic in 15 minutes. Several vehicles of the Combat Command bogged down and got stuck on the cross country by-pass. Most of them were pulled out but some few coiled for the night there and planned to move at first light.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Boles followed the Advance route 1, protecting the north flank. At 1900 the Task Force was ordered to seize and secure Osterode and Herzberg. At the close of the period they were moving forward on their mission.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn CCB, continued clearing the road blocks on both sides of the bridge 518388. At 0730 the advance was resumed. They were delayed for a short time by a blown bridge at 693326, but soon resumed the march and at 1230 entered Duderstad., which had been cleared on 9 Apr 45 by elements of 2nd Inf Div. At 1500 they encountered enemy infantry and SP guns in vicinity of 890276. This resistance was quickly overcome and the advance continued to Epschenrode where stubborn resistance by enemy Infantry and panzerfaust men halted the column. Large numbers of snipers halted and delayed the clearing of the town, but by 1845 all resistance was overcome and numerous prisoners taken. At the close of the period they were at Klein Werther (085250), prepared to continue the advance to the east.

4-11-45

At 0600 TF Hogan jumped off in the attack on route 1, 600 yards from Bockelnhagen. They met small arms fire, which they shortly wiped out. About 800 yards further in the woods they were delayed again by small arms and machine gun fire. Clearing this, they preceded about 800 yards further in the direct fire from either an SP gun or tank. Air was called for and little after 1200 the town was secured. By 1300 Osterhagen was also buttoned up. TF Richardson moved at 0600 and met no resistance until they reached Limlingerode at 0930. There they met



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Date: tank and small arms fire. They called for air support. By 1000 they were traveling again and at 1115 were at Tettenborn where they met no resistance. The CC Cp moved forward to Tetterborn at 1310. Enemy tanks, short of Neuhof, about 1200, stopped the advance of TF Richardson. Air was again asked for. Knocking out an enemy SP gun and losing one tank, they occupied Neuhof. In the afternoon, orders for the attack for the next day were received. Combat Command R in the left (north) flank. At 1535 Co D 83rd Rcn Bn reverted to Bn control. For the next day's Operation CCR was to get another Rcn Co. The 1st Bn 313th Inf, relieved TF Richardson late in the evening and TF Richardson moved to a forward assembly area at Guedersleben, and TF Hogan moved to a forward assembly area at Hochstedt; while the 3rd Bn 414th Inf remained at Osterhagen. The Combat Command CP moved forward to an assembly area at Gunzerode at 2000. For the attack the next day, the 3rd Bn 47th Inf was attached to TF Hogan and joined at Gunzerode. The 83rd AFA Bn was attached to CCR and placed in direct support of TF Hogan.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Boles CCA, resumed the attack against Herzburg at first light against strong opposition of tanks, SP fire and small arms fire. The TF continued to push against strong opposition throughout the day and after entering the town, a strong enemy road block had to be removed before the town fell. By 2300 Herzburg was secure and arrangements were completed for the relief of TF Boles by elements of the 104th Inf Div at first light 12 Apr 45.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, CCB, and part of TF Welborn, resumed the attack east at 0530 to seize Nordhausen. By 0650 elements were in the northwest edge of town and by 1135 the north part of the town was secured. CCB was relieved in Nordhausen by the 3rd Bn 415th Inf at the close of the period.

4-12-45 TF Hogan was delayed in jumping off in the attack due to the fact that the 3rd Bn 47th Inf reported to them the night before until after dark, and the breakdown of men to tanks was not completed in time. However, TF Hogan crossed the LD at 0744. TF Richardson jumped



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off at 0700. East of Nordhausen SS Troops with panzerfaust were encountered. By 1010 the enemy had been reduced and TF Richardson was moving again. Progress was uninterrupted until 1212 when bad roads slowed them down. At 1530 they were held up by enemy between Weetelrode and Gonna. Two tanks, or AT guns, were reported and air support was requested. One of the guns was destroyed and the other captured intact. A PW reported a large concentration of tanks at Wippra. By 1725 TF Richardson was in the Gonna-Obersdorf area. The towns were occupied and secured. TF Hogan crossed the LD at C744 and by 1318 was to Leinungen. At 1530 they were held up by a road block at the western edge of Blankenheim. Airplanes strafed the road block and by 1600 they were in the town where they bivouaced for the night. The Rcn drew fire when they attempted to go beyond the city. By 1835 the woods in the vicinity of Enseloh and Blankenheim had been cleared and the CG Cp moved into town for the night.

Co A 83rd Rcn Bn attached for operations, suffered heavy casualties. 3 Half-tracks, 2 armored cars and 2 1-4 tons were lost. 35 men were reported missing, including the platoon leader, but most of these showed up later. The Company reported back to Battalion control at 1900. TF Richardson moved up to the woods and crossroad vicinity 529325 at 2000. Dismounted personnel with panzerfausts were encountered, but they were beaten off, and TF Richardson started patrols in its area. At 2210 the CO, CCR, sent the following message to TF Richardson: "Be prepared to attack with Inf at 0400 14 Apr 45 to secure town of Annarode, 545345, and continue attack with tanks at 0700. This will be confirmed as soon as definite." During the evening, orders came from the CG, 3rd Armd Div, for resuming the attack the following day to advance and secure bridgeheads over the River Elbe.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, after being relieved from previous positions, followed CCR on route 1 and occupied and secured the CC objective by 2050.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn (CCB), attacked at 0700 and advanced rapidly on Route 3 without encountering resistance until reaching coordinates 520250 where panzerfaust fire was encountered. AT fire from



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540255 was overcome, and the TF seized and secured Holdenstedt.

4-13-45

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR of TF Richardson moved at 0400 to secure the LD. By 0610 this had been accomplished. At 0645 they reported enemy tanks in the woods at 548335 and at 536346; also some small arms and 2 AT guns 500 yards east of the town of Annarode. At 0715 they were at the LD and were receiving small arms fire, tank and AT fire. At 1000 they were still unable to advance. Air was requested and promised for 1115 hours. Finally over coming the resistance without the help of air support, they reached Siebelgerode at 1110. The TF advanced rapidly to Gerbstedt by 1320, from where 2 enemy hospitals were reported. An enemy column was observed trying to escape. Quite a bit of horse drawn equipment was in the column. Here also around 1000 prisoners of war were liberated. At 1600, going into Alsleben, the TF ran into direct fire. Air was put on the resistance and TF Richardson moved into the town at 1730. However, it was still receiving 20-mm flak and some HE. Slow progress was made by the infantry and the advance elements tried to get to the bridge into town. They were unable to get to the bridge. At 1630 the bridge was blown up, practically in the face of the infantry, and the TF was ordered to cross the river over the bridge that was being constructed at Brucke. It, therefore, pulled back to Sanersleben for the night, prepared to cross when the bridge was completed. Inf elements of TF Hogan moved out at 0400 to secure the LD and by 0600 had done so. TF Hogan jumped off at 0700 and ran into tank and antitank fire just after crossing the LD. Overcoming this, they continued. CC CP followed TF Hogan out and at 0850 a dual purpose gun started shooting at the tail of the column. 3 half-tracks of the 85rd AFA Bn were knocked out immediately. Later the TD's found the abandoned gun in the woods. At the same time the head of Hogan's column drew fire upon leaving Ahlsdorf. Overcoming this resistance and moving on, the head of the column reached Helbra at 1050. The Combat Command CP coiled in the woods 1800 yards north of Blankenheim. At 1145 TF Hogan overran a



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German Prisoner of War Camp containing a large number of British and Russians, and also took 30 German prisoners. By 1200 the leading elements were at Siersleben. Approaching Nelben on the Assle River at 1430, they had the bridge literally blown up in the face of the leading elements by the retreating Germans. The railroad bridge, at first, appeared to be intact, but later investigation after it was captured, revealed a locomotive and some cars derailed on it. The infantry were still running into trouble at the river. However, a patrol crossed the river. At the bridge, small arms fire continued to come in. About this time air reconnaissance reported the bridge farther south. In CCB's sector was out. Preparations were made to build two bridges, one at Brucke and one in the sector in which CCB was operating at 778436. Two companies of Infantry crossed the CCB bridge at 778436 and attacked north to clear Mon during the night. At the end of the period they were advancing north toward Mon. The CP of CCR moved into bivouac at 1830 in Zuckeritz. The rest of TF Hogan bivouaced at Nelben for the night. During the day the Combat Command liberated 13 paratroopers and two other American soldiers who had been prisoners since D-Day.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, continued to follow the advance of Division, protecting the north flank against an enemy threat. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, attacked at 0700 and advanced against moderate resistance to 609274 where direct fire from 88-mm dual purpose guns halted them. After overcoming the resistance they continued the advance, knocking out numerous 88's. Eisleben was declared open and no resistance encountered there. The advance continued and Pölleben was entered at 1300 against moderate resistance. Here a PW camp was overrun and 430 British prisoners of war, including 300 Officers, were liberated. At 1515 they entered Friedenburg and cleared it.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR established a bridgehead and the engineers started building a bridge at 778436 for CCB to cross.



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4-14-45

The Engineers worked overnight constructing the bridge over the Saale River, and when the one in CCB sector was sufficiently finished, late in the evening of 13 Apr 45, two companies of Infantry of TF Hogan were sent across on foot. They attacked north and advanced to secure Mon. Due to the lack of necessary bridging material and boats, the bridge in CCR sector was not completed until 1035. The plan for crossing was for TF Hogan and one battery of his artillery to cross, followed by TF Richardson and one artillery battery. Then the rest of Hogan's artillery and Richardson's artillery in that order, followed by the Combat Command Cp.

TF Hogan crossed the river, beginning at 1035 and moved on to Konnern, where it was stopped on the eastern edge of town by small arms fire. After this resistance was overcome, the tank force moved rapidly until it reached the outskirts of Kothen. There it met dug-in Infantry armed with small arms and panzerfausts. There were about two battalions of Germans, one of the Wehrmacht and one Volksturm mixed together. Some bitter fighting ensued, and by moving in from several directions the task force had about half the town cleared by 2030. Upon orders from the CO they did not by-pass the resistance, but started to clear the town, while at the same time giving TF Richardson an opportunity to catch up on the left route. An airfield was captured in the vicinity at which several planes were destroyed. The south part of town cleared was secured and some elements continued to move toward the main part of town.

TF Richardson followed TF Hogan across the Saale River, and by 1410 was in Konnern. From here it moved to Phase Line F I, where small arms and panzerfausts fire held it up until 1610. At 1640 it was approaching Preussnitz. Just beyond Preussnitz at Biendorf, it was stopped by dug-in Infantry, reported to be SS troops armed with small arms and panzerfausts. Despite hard fighting it was unable to advance beyond this point, and at 2036 Col Richardson was directed by the CO, CCR, to button up in that vicinity and be ready to move out at first



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light. At the end of the period they were attacking Frenz some 2000 yards forward, and planned to spend the night in Biendorf and Frenz. The CP crossed the river about 1430 and followed TF Hogan on Route 2. About 1600 the Combat Command coiled in a field just south of Lobnitz. While there, 66 enemy infantry were flushed from the woods just north of Worbzig by Service units, and 22 others in Lobnitz by 2 Liaison officers. Both groups were very close to the CP location. At 2030 the CP moved into the western edge of Kothen for the night. On the way, an 88mm gun fired at the column, but very little damage was done. Earlier in the day the Luftwaffe strafed the left column of CCB and also the Division CP Column. P-51's chased them away and shot down 1 FW 190.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, crossed the Saale River on Bridge 1, immediately in rear of CCR and at the close of the period was assembled in vicinity of Trebitz, prepared to follow TF Richardson the next day.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR in TF Welborn of CCB, crossed the Saale river on Bridge 2 immediately upon completion at 0700. After assembling in the vicinity of Garsena they were prepared to resume the attack upon order. At 0915 the attack was renewed to the east against slight opposition. Spotted resistance was encountered all the way to the west bank of the Mulde River. Resistance then stiffened, and at the close of the period the Task Force was coiled in the vicinity of 600 yards southeast of Torten, and pushing infantry patrols to the Mulde River in an effort to secure the bridge intact at 134653.

4-15-45

Early in the morning, around 0100, two groups sent by TF Hogan to objectives in Kothern ran into trouble. G Co 33rd AR and K Co 47th Inf ran into road blocks and tried three times to advance but could not. I co 47th Inf and H co 33rd AR did reach their objectives. After daylight, progress was made in getting by the road blocks and by 0800 troops were nearly to the town's main intersection. Engineers were moved up to clear away the road blocks and tanks moved up. Around 1200 the left flank of TF Hogan ran into more Volkssturm short of the intersection. They were armed with small



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arms, shotguns and panzerfausts. Tanks were moved up to blast the houses. Troops of TF Richardson had reached the western edge of Frenz by 0415, and the town was cleared by 0730. Moving a short distance, they again met more dug-in Infantry and received automatic fire from both flanks. Gross Paschleben was defended all the way by enemy.

About 1100 the TF of CCA which had been trailing behind TF Richardson was side-slipped to the south, passed TF Richardson and went into position south and south-east of Kothen. At 1300 the mission of both TF Hogan and TF Richardson was changed. TF Hogan was ordered to clear Kothen immediately, and then send force west to meet TF Richardson. When the two Task Forces met, TF Hogan was to occupy both Kothen and Frenz. TF Richardson was to pull back and occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of the crossroad east of Plommetz and the crossroad just north of Bebiz. From the latter point a strong battle group was to be sent north to Bernburg, see what was there, and if possible, occupy and secure it. At 1615 TF Richardson and TF Hogan met in the western part of Kothen and TF Richardson started to its assigned objective. They reached Bebiz without opposition. The Battle group sent north ran into sniper fire at Unterpeissen and had to start house-cleaning again. Progress was slow, and at 2030, the CO CCR directed the tank force to button up where they were, and be prepared to continue at 0600. During the evening TF Hogan was ordered to send two patrols to contact CCA in their new position, one east of route 2 to Lausigk, then south to meet a patrol from TF Orr at Quellendorf; the other south to meet a TF Boles patrol and Badegast. The one to Badegast made contact at 1920. The other one, however, ran into a road block covered by small arms and panzerfaust fire at the railroad underpass at the eastern edge of town. At the end of the period contact had not been made with CCA by this patrol.

At 1020 CCA was ordered to move to Frossdick and Arensdorf, and to send a force to clear the enemy from the Meilendorf and Kornetz area where enemy small arms and panzerfaust fire was harassing supply and other vehicles moving along the Division route 3. 1st Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Orr, was sent to occupy Frossdick, which was secured by 1200. When TF Boles moved to Quellendorf, TF Orr occupied and secured Frossdick. Fernsdorf, Meilendorf and Frassdorf.



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The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, sent a patrol at 0445, after artillery fire was lifted to investigate the bridge. They found the bridge blown, and the site strongly defended. One company of Infantry and a company of tanks moved into position to force a crossing, the infantry going across on the wreckage of the blown bridge. By 2007 one company plus two platoons of the 2nd Bn had crossed and most of the enemy fire was taken off the site. Bridging operations were expected to start by 2400.

During the afternoon the 83rd AFA Bn was detached from the Combat Command.

4-16-45

TF Richardson at 0645 reported everything quiet. At 0700 a Battle Group moved north toward Bernburg. No resistance was met until they reached the outskirts of Bernburg at 0853. They received reports which indicated that the enemy forces which had held them up the night before in Unterpeissen had moved out, and probably move to Bernburg. On the edge of Bernburg they ran into small arms and panzerfaust fire. The Task Force Commander split his group into two columns and sent one around to the left. The left force ran into anti-tank fire and small arms. At 1150 the TF Commander notified the CC CO that it would take most of the day to clean up the town, due to the snipers and house-to-house fighting. Some of the panzerfaust fighting was reported done by civilians. He was told to take the rest of the day if necessary to clear the town. At 1530 half the town was cleared, and by 1900 the force reached the river Saale. The bridges, both road and railway, were out. They buttoned up there for the night. Several prisoners were liberated, including 8 Americans and some Canadians at Bernburg. At 0645 TF Hogan reported all quiet. There was not as yet any contact with TF Orr. At 0700 elements of the TF moved out east, but had gone only a short distance when they hit enemy small arms fire. Again it was house-to-house cleaning. By 1050 Klepzig was reached. The road was blocked and defended by small arms and an anti-tank gun. The Task Force was told to by-pass it and keep going. Leaving a force to contain the enemy, they sent a force southeast, east and northwest to Merzien



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which was reached at 1900 by both forces. It required considerable time to clean out Merzien, and they then proceeded toward Lausigk. On the way they hit some mines. Lausigk was buttoned up at 2200. Many prisoners of war were taken.

At 1500 TF Orr was ordered to send the 1st Bn 36th AIR, with Co A 83rd Recon Bn to sweep the woods west of route 3 in the Haideburg Forest. At 1730 they jumped off. The Infantry had very little trouble, but the 83rd met automatic weapons and panzerfausts. At the close of the period, they were still engaged in their mission.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn, continued mopping-up operations north of Gridline 60. They held their bridgehead over the Mulde River and continued bridging operations in the vicinity of 134653. Construction was impeded by difficult terrain at the southern approach and harassing enemy artillery fire. At the close of the period the bridging was still going on, and the Infantry were holding in their positions astride the Autobahn east of the river crossing west of Kleutsch.

During the day the 991st FA Bn which had been giving CCR supporting fire under division control, were given other missions and moved from the Combat Command area.

4-17-45

For the 17th April the mission originally was as follows: TF Richardson leave one company in Bernburg and send the remainder on a "clean up" route, viz: Mukrene-Bebitz-Leau-Plomnitz-Vaalberge-Drubard-Klien Paschleben-Drosa-Wulfen-Micheln-Maxdorf-Fr Paschleben. TF Hogan send a "Clean up" force to Forst-Sibbendorf-Osternienburg-¹rebbicheau-Aken (Leave a force at the river)-Kl. Herbst-Elsnigk-Wurflau-Zehringer-Forst. At 0700 TF Hogan moved out and hit a road block and some mines at Forst. By 0930 the town was cleared, and the engineers moved in to clear the road block and mines. At Forst the group divided with one force going to Aken via Sibbeldorf-Osternienburg-¹rebbicheau-Micheln-Wulfen-Drosa-Kl. Paschleben-Trinum-Gr. Paschleben, and the other, the original route as planned. By 1348 one column was in Sibbeldorf, and



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the other in Elsnick. Moving steadily against light opposition most of the day, both columns converged on Aken at 1715. On the way a Chemical plant, air field and electrical fixture plant were captured, and a hospital was discovered. Several PW's were liberated; some of them troops of VII Corps wire team, captured the night before. In Aken, small arms, panzerfausts and considerable artillery were encountered, but by the end of the period it was about three-fourths buttoned up. It was expected that the cleaning up would require most of the night and a greater part of the next day. The forces that turned east met opposition, lost one tank and had some casualties. At about 2100 they buttoned up Gr. Pacht - ben for the night to continue the next day.

TF Richardson moved out at 0700 and moved speedily with no opposition until it reached Konnern at 1000. Here the mission was changed, and it moved to Route 3 and proceeded east to come under Division control for a mission in the vicinity of Hinsdorf. From this position it attacked to seize Bobbau-Steinfurth and Jessnitz. As the Task Force got under way for the attack at 1400, an enemy task force launched a counter - attack northwest from vicinity Bobbau-Steinfurth. This attacking force was quickly turned back by heavy artillery and air cooperation of fighter-bombers which knocked out an estimated eight tanks. After overcoming stubborn resistance the task force reached Bobbau-Steinfurth, and at the close of the period held the west edge of the town.

After sweeping the woods in the Haideburg Forest, the 1st Bn 36th AIR in TF Orr, reached the eastern edge near the railroad tracks west of Torten, and remained in position throughout the period, keeping pressure on the enemy holding the RJ at 107649. Close contact was kept with TF Lovelady, operating in the east against Torten, in an effort to establish physical contact at the first opportunity.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Welborn, continued to secure the bridgehead over the Mulde River at 133653 and construction was continued on a treadway bridge at that point until 1845 when orders were issued to discontinue construction on the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead. At 0900 part of the



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Task Force was dispatched to aid elements of Task Force Lovelady to secure Torten, and RJ at 107649 just west of the town. Patrolling was conducted during the day. At the close of the period they were disposed in the woods southeast of Torten.

4-18-45

At 0600 TF Hogan resumed cleaning up Aken. By 1040 the right of the town was cleared. In the left portion there were 88's in buildings and were covering the road blocks. There was firing down cross streets. The task force commander threw artillery at the enemy infantry in the vicinity of North Church. The patrol from TF Richardson at Bernburg made contact with the 113th Cavalry at Pobzig at 1000. At 1210 contact was also made with them at the blown bridge in Bernburg. At 1800 the Group left in Bernburg was relieved by a combat engineer battalion and rejoined TF Richardson in vicinity of Bobbau-Steinfurth. TF Hogan was attempting to get a patrol out of Aken east to proceed toward Kl. Kuhnau, but was unable to get them out of town until 1400, due to sniper fire from the vicinity of the church. Considerable enemy artillery was thrown into the town. About 1500 the Combat Command CP moved to Aken, but shortly after arrival was ordered to move to Loberitz. When this was accomplished TF Hogan was placed under Div control, and TF Richardson, which included the 3rd Bn 36th AIR, reverted to CCR control. By 1900 TF Hogan had Aken cleared, and contact was made with the 83rd Division. TF Richardson received a counter-attack from 3 tanks and 100 infantry at about 0520 in Bobbai-Steinfurth. This attack was defeated without loss of ground. During the day they encountered heavy enemy defense of Infantry, supported by tanks, mortars and artillery fire. At night they secured their position, ready to continue the attack at 0600.

During the day TF Bradley attacked through Zechepkau and Thalheim to Reuden. While Reuden was being cleared the enemy counter-attacked from the south - east with 3 tanks and 25 to 50 infantry. This attack was defeated and the town was secured by 1915.

CCR Hqs were moved to Loberitz to take over the operations of TF Richardson, TF Miller and TF Bradley, after



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Lt Col Yeomans, CO, 83rd Rcn Bn, was killed. Composition of the troops at this time was as follows:

TF Richardson: 3rd Bn 32 AR; 3rd Bn 36th AIR; 2nd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn; 1st Plat Co C 23rd Ingrs Bn;

TF Miller: Co E 32nd AR; Co A 36th AIR; Sec Co A 703rd TD Bn; Cos A & B 83rd Rcn Bn.

TF Bradley: 83rd Rcn Bn (less cos A and B and 1 plat each of Cos C and D); Sec Co A 703 TD Bn.

The Battle Group secured Reuden for the night.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Orr CCA, continued to maintain their security during the period.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welbron of CCB, withdrew the bridgehead forces (E and F Cos) to the west side of the Mulde River under cover of darkness. They continued to clear the enemy from Terten, beginning at 0800 and by 1720 it was reported cleared. Combat Patrols moving from Terten to contact elements of Combat Command Doan received heavy anti-tank and small arms fire from the vicinity of RJ-107649, and were unable to effect the contact.

4-19-45

TF Miller moved from Thalheim towards Wolfen via Reuden at 0400 and began an attack from the northern side, advancing southeast. By 1100 it had reached the main north-south road. It reported finding "plenty of Krauts, and destroying same". The force met strong resistance, running into infantry, automatic weapons, panzerfaust, snipers and artillery. Late in the afternoon the task force began to move faster and by the close of the period had cleared four-fifths of Wolfen. This was secured and preparations were made to move on at 0600. TF Richardson attacked at 0400 in Bobbai-Steinfurth. The advance was very slow as it was a matter of house-to-house fighting. They met panzerfaust, small arms, small caliber A-P, mortars and considerable direct fire. Air support was requested and by 0945 plans arrived. At 1600 the task force was still in the vicinity of the church in the northern part of town, and the TF Commander reported the pressure was increasing. The task force tried to send a battle group around to the left and attack the enemy from the flank and rear. This force also met resistance but by the close of the period it had advanced to the point at



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which the main road branches east to Jessnitz. A patrol was sent out this road to go to Jessnitz, reconnoiter and report on the condition of the bridge, but at the end of the period no report had been received. Orders had been issued for TF Hogan (Less security detachment at Aken) to join Combat Command at Loberitz. TF Hogan at 0700 left Aken, leaving one platoon of Infantry, one platoon of light tanks and one section of tank destroyers to secure the town. They arrived at 1100, and were immediately given the mission of securing a film factory west of Wolfen. By 1315 the task force was moving and met very little resistance initially. Two-thirds of the way through enemy infantry was encountered, and at 1645, fire and smoke impeded progress. 45 prisoners of war were taken. When the factory had been practically cleared, and also almost destroyed by fire, a battle group consisting of a company of tanks and one Infantry company moved out to the left and north of Wolfen with the mission of advancing left and north to Bobbau-Steinfurth to relieve the pressure in front of TF Richardson. However, by the time this force had moved one-fourth of the way, TF Richardson had cleared the situation in Bobbau-Steinfurth to the extent that the battle group was not needed. It was ordered to halt and secure its position between the built up sections of Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth. The Combat Command CP moved from Loberitz to the northeast edge of Wolfen at 1800.

During the day Air support was requested several times and did considerable strafing. The 54th AFA Bn, from positions in Wadendorf, supported all three task forces with fire.

The 1st Bn (less Co A) 36th AIR, part of TF Orr, at 1800 attacked north from vicinity 108633 in conjunction with TF Welborn with the mission of securing road 100648-106648. The attack moved initially against light resistance and at 2100 the left element had secured its objective. Resistance consisting of small arms, panzerfausts and artillery fire slowed the advance of the right element and at the end of the period it had not advanced all the way to its objective.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

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The mission of TF Welborn, of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, was to secure the road 106630-113646 and establish road blocks at 106649 and 106648. Moderate to heavy resistance from artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire was encountered, and at the close of the period they were engaged in house-to-house fighting along the road southeast of Torten.

4-20-45

At 0600 Battle Group Miller continued his attack south toward Greppin. At 0650 they encountered dug in infantry and snipers who delayed the advance. By 1315, the southern part of Greppin was practically clear, and the 83rd Rec Bn began to take over. Battle Group Miller reverted to control of CCA during the afternoon.

At 0600 TF Richardson resumed the attack on Jessnitz. One battle group was sent to the left flank, while another attempted to press straight forward, but neither was able to advance due to intense automatic weapons fire, dug in infantry and direct fire. A patrol had been dispatched prior to dawn to investigate the condition of the bridge across the creek west of Jessnitz but had been unable to reach it so another patrol was sent out. At 0910 this patrol likewise reported that enemy resistance was too heavy for it to reach the bridge. In the meantime, both battle groups were attempting to move but progress was negligible. At 1300 leading elements heard an explosion which they believed to be the bridge being blown and by 1330 visibility had improved sufficiently for airplanes to verify this belief. However, strong enemy resistance continued and by dark TF Richardson had been unable to advance further than 400 yards beyond the railroad just east of Bobbau-Steinfurth. At the close of the period, the TF was secured in this position.

At 0600 TF Hogan resumed the attack in the factory area and meeting only slight resistance completed mopping up operations by mid morning. The battle group that had been sent north for possible use with TF Richardson remained in place between Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth.

During the morning the Commanding General 3rd Armd



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Division had discussed with the CO CCR his plans for assembly positions for this Combat Command when the Bobbau-Steinfurth-Jessnitz-Wolfen-Greppin mission had been completed. These plans called for the 83rd Rcn Bn to relieve Battle Group Miller and revert to Division control. Upon relief, the Battle Group, Battle Group Miller, was to revert to CC control and CCR consisting of TF Hogan and TF Richardson was to be assembled in Reppichau and Chorau, prepared to attack Dessau on Division order. Therefore, realizing that TF Hogan could not be further used in its present position, TF Hogan was ordered to move at 1300 to Chorau and from there to patrol the Chorau-Kl Kuhnau road. Upon reaching Chorua, TF Hogan sent a patrol north to the Kuhnau woods and then east toward Kl Kuhnau. In spite of some small arms fire progress was good and the patrol was reinforced to battle group size. By 1630 the eastern edge of the woods had been reached and the battle group continued to the western edge of Kl Kuhnau where a road block, defended by an assault gun and small arms was encountered. By 2030 the resistance had been overcome, the road block removed, and the battle group secured itself for the night approximately half way through the town. Patrols were sent on during the night to determine road conditions toward Dessau.

At 1730 the CP of the Combat Command began movement to new location at Reppichau. Upon orders of CG. 3rd Armd Div, TF Richardson reverted to Division control and was to continue his attack toward Jessnitz, but was not to advance further than the blown bridge except on order.

1st Bn 36th AIR part of CCA remained in position during the day, and continued to secure its sector in the vicinity of 106648.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn of CCB, continued the attack throughout the night and early morning against small arms, artillery and mortar fire. By 1000 they had secured the critical enemy strong point at RJ 106649. A combat patrol swept towns in the southern part of the division sector which had not been cleared during the initial advance of the Division to this area. Little resis-



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tance was encountered, and numerous prisoners of war were taken.

4-21-44

TF Hogan resumed the attack toward Dessau at 0600. One force attacked east through Kl Kuhnau, and another attacked north to Gr Kuhnau to take that town and then proceed against Dessau. By 0630 the right column was just about half way through Kl Kuhnau, but the force sent north was held up by a road block defended by small arms and panzerfaust fire on the road leading out of Kl Kuhnau. At 0730 the right column was also held up by a road block and artillery fire. By 0830 the road block to the north had been cleared and the left column started moving slowly. By 1045 the road block on the east was removed, the right column started moving, and by 1430 was in the western edge of Dessau. The left column proceeded to Gr Kuhnau and by 1430 had cleared the town but another road block on the eastern edge of the town was encountered. Overcoming this obstacle, the force moved on, and by 1530 was two thirds of the way from Gr Kuhnau to Dessau. The right column was inside the city and moving. At this time, the CG, 3rd Armd Div, directed that both columns be held in place until CCA, coming in from the south, could come abreast. When this was accomplished, both columns were to resume the attack on order. At 1730 CCA came abreast and the CG, 3rd Armd Div, ordered resumption of the attack. After advancing 400 yards in Dessau the Combat Command was ordered to secure its position for the night. Due to the layout of the city, the left column was somewhat forward of the right column. Orders were issued for the attack to be resumed at first light with the left column remaining in place until the right column came abreast and for both then to continue together.

Combat Command CP moved to Kl Kuhnau at 1415.

TF Richardson (operation under 3rd Armd Div control) started the attack toward Jessnitz at 0530. Attempts to cross the Spittel Wasser Creek were met with very heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire. Reconnaissance for a suitable crossing was started both to the north and south. A bridge was found intact at 148533, and a battle group attacked Jessnitz from the north supported by the remainder of the



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Task Force from the east and southeast edge of town. Enemy mortar, artillery and small arms fire continued to be heavy, but by 1700 the town was cleared. TF Richardson secured its position in Jessnitz for the night. Company D 83rd Rcn Bn which had been attached to TF Richardson reverted to the 83rd Rcn Bn at 1730 and moved to Wolfen.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Orr, attacked on the right in Combat Command A toward Dessau, at 0515, and advanced steadily against stubborn resistance throughout the day. The resistance consisted of small arms, panzerfaust, mortar and artillery fire. At last light the main intersection in center of Dessau was reached, and the task force secured itself for the night, prepared to move on at 0600.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attacked in its zone at 0530 and advanced against small arms, artillery and mortar fire, encountering one enemy light flak battery. By 1300 the task force objective was secured and contact was established with CCA on the left.

4-22-45

The right column of TF Hogan jumped off at 0600. It moved east to the main intersection in town, then turned north. The left force in the meantime had circled north, and CCA still further on the right (east) flank, circled north and northeast, so that once the movement started in the morning, the point of direction of all forces had changed to almost due north, to finish clearing Dessau. The left column met no resistance initially, and that met by the right column was negligible. Contact was made with CCA by the right column at 0830. Further in the city resistance stiffened, small arms mortar and artillery being encountered, but by 0930 both main intersections near the river had been reached.

Getting to within a few hundred yards of the final objective on the edge of town, the force advanced on two roads. Again, stubborn enemy resistance held up the advance and mines were reported. Inability to get past these obstacles and the necessity



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of having to dig out the enemy infantry one by one, delayed further advance the rest of the day. At 1830 a battle group of one platoon of tanks and one platoon of infantry moved around to the right flank to try to uproot the force holding up the advance, but this group was unable to accomplish its mission. CCA on the right flank was also held up about 200 yards short of the objective.

Late at night a platoon of Infantry, reinforced later to a company, worked through the mine field and the engineers went up and removed the mines. The infantry moved forward but at the end of the period they were still some distance from the objective.

The Combat Command CP moved to the western edge of Dessau at 1030. In the afternoon a patrol from TF Hogan was sent out to sweep the woods between Dessau and Aken. At 1630 the patrol reported 35 prisoners of war had been taken from the woods.

TF Richardson was relieved at Jessnitz by elements of the 60th Infantry, the relief being completed at 1600. At 1615 TF Richardson reverted to the control of CCR, and at 1625 moved out to the new assembly area in Kothen. By 1845 all elements had closed in Kothen.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Orr, CCA, resumed the attack at 0800 to complete its mission of seizing and securing that portion of Dessau in its zone. Initially resistance was light, but as the advance continued, resistance increased. However, by 1300 the objective had been reached and secured.

The 2nd Bn, part of TF Welborn CCB, continued to secure the left sector of CCB southeast of Dessau.

4-23-44

At first light TF Hogan continued the attack, making good progress against light opposition. At 1000, however, strong enemy positions were encountered and the TF stopped to reorganize and to plan a coordinated attack. At 1130 the attack was begun again with infantry leading due to the possi-



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bility of mines and due to intense panzerfaust fire on the tanks if the tanks broke defilade. Although some progress was made it was slight. This was due to an intense crossfire from automatic weapons and the fire from panzerfaust being used indirectly as mortars. The right column encountered a wire obstacle at 1430 and attempts to clear it of fire so that engineers could remove mines were unsuccessful.

The Combat Commander then ordered both columns to attack at 1630 with tanks leading, accepting losses due to panzerfaust and mines. At 1630, after an intense artillery preparation, the attack began and by 1645 the objective was reached. CC A in the meantime had taken and secured their objective. This marked the complete occupation of Dessau. Road blocks and patrols were set up.

At 0700 a force consisting of Co H, 36th Armd Inf Regt, and Co C 32nd AR, was sent by TF Richardson to Aken to relieve the force of TF Hogan in that town.

At 0755 TF Hogan dispatched a force of one company of tanks and one platoon of infantry to continue sweeping the woods west of Dessau. They returned at 1100 and reported finding no resistance.

At 1515 TF Richardson left the security force at Aken and the remainder of the task force started moving from Kothen to the new billeting area. The units closed in their respective areas at 1910, and the 3rd Bn 32nd AR reverted to 32nd Armd Regt control. Hqs 3rd Bn 36th AIR was located in Grillenburg and the battalion was billeted in towns in that vicinity.

At 1640 the artillery air OP reported that the bridge at 098743 had just been blown.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR part of TF ^{CCB} Weibern of CCA, continued to secure its sector through the period. It was anticipated that the 2nd Bn would move to the new assembly area sometime during the next day.

4-24-45

TF Hogan remained in position, securing its sector throughout the day. During the morning, prior to daylight, and after after dark, regular patrols



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were made to contact CCA on the right.

The Combat Command was attached to the 9th Inf Division at 1630.

Patrol attached to contact Division

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of CCA, continued to defend its sector. They were attached to the 9th Inf Division, effective at 1545, and remained under control of the 9th Inf Div until they started to move to the new assembly area.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, moved to new assembly area vicinity Vatterode during the day and reverted to Regimental control - 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR, less Co H, still in Aken, arrived in their new assembly area, started reorganizing, cleaning up and making necessary maintenance.

4-25-45

All attached troops of other units of the Division were released during the day, and reverted to their respective commands. On completion of the relief of the Combat Command by the 9th Infantry Division at 1630, the Combat Command reverted to control of 3rd Armd Division. Combat Command CP moved at 1725 to new area in the vicinity of Rammelburg and closed at 2130.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR continued to occupy their sector under CCA until late in the afternoon when relief was effected by the 9th Inf Division. The 3rd Armd Division planned to move the Battalion the following morning to the 36th AIR assembly area, at which time it would revert to regimental control.

The 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained in their sector and proceeded with cleaning up, recreation and maintenance.

H Co 36th AIR, was relieved at Aken during the day, and joined the 3rd Bn in their assembly area.

4-26-45
to
4-30-45

On 26th April, the 1st Bn 36th AIR, moved into its assigned bivouac area, vicinity of Wippa, and began maintenance, cleaning up and recreation. The 2nd and 3rd Bns continued with maintenance and recreation through 28 Apr 1945. On 29 Apr 45 the Regiment moved south to new assembly areas with Head-



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quarters and Service Company vicinity Greussen, 1st Battalion in the vicinity of Weissensee, 2nd Bn vicinity Kolleda, and 3rd Bn vicinity of Grossenehrich.

At the end of the period the companies were paid off, began anew on their maintenance and clean-up and prepared to start on a training and recreation schedule on the 1st of May.

5-1-45
to
5-31-45

At the beginning of the period all units of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment were directly under Regimental control, being billeted in several towns in assembly areas almost in the heart of Germany, immediately south and southeast of Sangerhausen. Regimental CP was in Greussen, 1st Bn CP in Weissensee, 2nd Bn CP in Kolleda and 3rd Bn CP in Grossenehrich. Hq Co and Service Co were in Greussen.

Recreation, maintenance of vehicles and weapons, and clean up in general were carried on for the first several days of May. On 2 May 45 the 1st Bn was presented a Presidential Citation by the Division Commander for outstanding performances of duty in action against the enemy in Germany during period 12th to 22nd of September 1944.

At the same time the 3rd Bn Med Section was presented a similar citation by the Division Commander for outstanding performance of duty in action in Germany during the period from 17 to 21 September 1944.

On 8 May 1945 a Regimental Parade was held on the parade field in the vicinity of Weissensee, in which all units of the Regiment took part. Present for the parade was Colonel John Smith, Chief of Staff of the Division. May the 8th was announced as official V-E day.

On 11 May 1945 the 7th Corps Commander spoke to all the Regiment on the Parade Ground near Gunstedt. He told the Regiment that the Division was being transferred to the 19th Corps and in his speech he lauded the deeds of the Division, as being among the best Divisions in the present conflict.

On May 12th the Regiment moved to new bivouac area in vicinity of Frankfurt-on-Main. The Regimental



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CP was located at Muhlheim, and the Battalions located in the towns nearby. 1st Bn CP was in Seligenstadt, 2nd Bn at Hausen and 3rd Bn at Jugeheim. Maintenance of vehicles and weapons was resumed as well as a training schedule which included several hours of recreation and athletics, and the beginning of the Education Program.

On 18 May 1945 a formation was held in the vicinity of Darmstadt at which time awards and decorations were presented to men of the Regiment, who had not previously received them but for whom they had been authorized, by the Division Commander General Hickey. Regular training schedule, including maintenance of weapons and vehicles, recreation, swimming, shows and games were carried on through the 20th of May. Work was being done towards getting the Education Program started. A questionnaire was circulated through the Regiment to determine the educational needs of the men, and textbooks and materials requisitioned on the basis of the answers received therefrom.

Effective 20 May 1945 Lt Col Wm R Orr was appointed Executive Officer, succeeding Lt Col Carlton P. Russell who was relieved to return to the United States. Major Curlee was assigned to the 2nd Bn and Major Owen assumed command of the 1st Battalion. Captain Bryan Gruver was assigned to Regimental S-3.

The period 20 May 45 to the end of the month was taken up with training, maintenance of weapons and equipment, recreation and final planning for the Education Program. Schools for instructors in the program started 28 May 45 with Major Gordon F. Thomas in charge.

6-1-45

At the beginning of the period all units of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment were under Regimental control in the area east and southeast of Frank-on-Main. Regimental CP was still at Muhlheim, First Battalion in vicinity of towns near Seligenstadt, Second Battalion in vicinity of Hausen and Third Battalion area vicinity of Jugeheim. Service co was located at Muhlheim.



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During the entire month training, recreation and maintenance were carried on. Special entertainment was provided and some leaves and furloughs granted. Lt Col Orr assumed command of the Regiment from the 4th and the 8th in absence of Col Howze, and again from the 11th to 17th. Lt Col Thomas assumed command from the 8th to the 10th in the absence of Col Orr. Colonel Howze assumed command again 18 June 1945.

A Regimental Parade was held in the vicinity of the Zellhausen Airport, June 19 1945, at which General Hickey presented the Legion of Merit to Colonel Howze and the Distinguished Service Cross to Pfc Roland Pomerleau and Silver and Bronze Stars and Clusters to other Officers and enlisted men of the Regiment.

On 29 June 1945 a Review and Inspection were held at the Zellhausen Airport, at which time the Division and Regimental Commanders said farewell to the men who were to leave the Regiment within the next few days.

7-1-45
to
7-31-45

Throughout the period the Regiment remained in occupational areas in the eastern half of the Offenbach Kreis. CP's of all units were the same as for the June Period.

On 6 July 1945 the Regiment transferred most of its 85-point officers and enlisted men ('44 Officers and 798 enlisted men) to the 6th Armd Division. Major Paul C Root assumed command of the 1st Battalion., Lt Col Charles E. Brown assumed command of the 2nd Battalion., and Major Gillman E. Morse assumed command of the Third Battalion. The new personnel from the 6th Armd Division coming to the Regiment in transfers in exchange for personnel transferred out of the regiment, were rapidly acquainted with existing policies and became part of the Regiment in short time.

A Regimental retreat parade was held in the vicinity of the Zellhausen Airport on 19 July 1945. Col Howze decorated all of the guidons of the Regiment with the Combat Infantry Company Streamer.

On 21-22 July 1945, Operation "Tallyho" was held in the Regimental area. The plan was well thought out and numerous civilian arrests were made. Many



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suggestions were received for any such future operations.

On Thursday 26 July 1945, President Harry S. Truman and party reviewed the Third Armored (Spearhead) Division. The Regiment assembled on the Darmstadt-Frankfurt road near Spremlingen for the review. The guard of honor was the First Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment and was commanded by Colonel Howze. Present with the President were Secretary of State James W. Byrnes, General Dwight Eisenhower, General Wade Haislip and other dignitaries.

During the entire month, training and recreation were carried on. Marksmanship and small unit tactics were stressed. Athletic programs were supervised by the Athletic Officer, and baseball and softball competition started.

36th Armored Infantry Regiment - After Action Report - March 1945

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
APO 253, U S ARMY



31 March 1945

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL (thru channels)
Washington, D.C.

(a) Original Unit: No change

(b) Changes in Organizations:

(1) Regtl Hq., Hq Co and Ser Co., 36th AIR were a part of Combat Command "R" throughout the period.

(2) The 1st Bn., 36th AIR was attached to Combat Command "A" throughout the period.

(3) The 2nd Bn., 36th AIR was attached to Combat Command "B" throughout the period.

(4) The 3rd Bn., 36th AIR was attached to Combat Command "R" throughout the period.

(c) Strength:

Date	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
1 Mar 1945	113	4	2482
31 Mar 1945	109	4	2344
Net loss	4	0	138

(d) Stations: No change

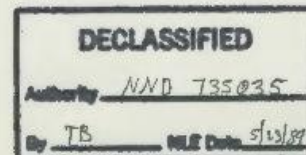
(e) Marches: Marches same as Battle Narrative shown in paragraph (g) this report.

(f) Campaigns: None designated since last report.

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*Classification changed per authority
WD letter 17 Aug 1945 Subj: downgrading
of Classified Records.*



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(g) Battles

1 March 1945:

COMPOSITION OF TROOPS

TASK FORCE HOGAN

3d Bn, 33d Armd Regt (- 1 Plt)
 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt (- Co G)
 3d Plt, Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
 3d Plt, Co C, 703d TD Bn

TASK FORCE RICHARDSON

3d Bn, 32d Armd Regt (- 1 Plt)
 3d Bn, 13th Inf Regt
 1st Plt, Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
 2d Plt, Co C, 703d TD Bn

TASK FORCE THOMAS

Co G, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 Co C, 703d TD Bn (-3 Plts)
 Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn (-2 Plts)
 2d Plt, Co C, 33d Armd Regt (Lt Tanks)
 3d Plt, Co I, 32d Armd Regt (Med Tanks)

The beginning of the period found Task Force Hogan, with Task Force Thomas attached, engaged with the enemy east of the Erit Canal beyond Glesch. The first crossing of the Erit had been made on the night of 27 February 1945, and 28 Feb had been spent in enlarging the bridgehead and building a bridge.

Task Force Hogan bridge at 200648 was completed at 010055 March and progress was continued in expanding the bridgehead. Intermittent mortar, artillery, and small arms fire fell on this bridge site and on the front line throughout the day.

At 1200 hours the east abutment of the Glesch bridge collapsed and repair work was started at 1340 hours. It was estimated that the bridge would be ready for use by 2400 hours.

TF Richardson, composition as shown above, had secured a shallow bridgehead over the Erit Canal in the vicinity of Paffen-dorf on the night of 27 Feb. Expansion of the bridgehead took place on 28 Feb and was continued on 1 March. The bridge was completed on 28 Feb in time to meet a serious enemy counterattack and was in use on 1 March.

An anti-tank ditch at 221638 proved to be quite an obstacle to TF Richardson, but by 0220 it had been crossed and a strong position was held in the vicinity of 223645. Enemy opposition consisted of heavy mortar and artillery fire during the day together with small arms fire. Enemy patrols were encountered during the morning. Two enemy tanks were destroyed by air support at 0850.

The 395th Regimental Combat Team, 99th Division, attacked through TF Richardson's position at 0300 with the mission of expanding the bridgehead to the south.

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The 4th Cavalry Squadron passed through TF Hogan's positions with the mission of protecting the left flank of the bridgehead and of seizing the high ground north of Glesch.

The 83d Armd Rcn Bn was attached to CC R at 1800 hours and was given the mission of securing the slag pile at 244655, of clearing enemy resistance from the woods in front of TF Richardson's positions, and of securing a line of departure for the attack of TF Richardson. The time of attack set for 83d Armd Rcn Bn was 0200, 2 March 1945.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, remained attached to CC A and secured the towns of Widdendorf and Thorr.

The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a component of CC B, moved from Elsdorf and assembled in Glesch.

2 March 1945: Time of attack of the 83d Armd Rcn Bn was changed to 0300 and at that time they began the attack to secure a line of departure for the attack of TF Richardson which was to be launched at 0700. The 83d Armd Rcn Bn advanced steadily in two columns and by 0500 the right column had reached a line running from 244645 to 247644 and at 0536 the left column had reached a line extending from 239652 to 242650.

At 0700 TF Richardson passed through the 83d Armd Rcn Bn and the 83d reverted to Division control.

TF R advanced in two columns. Enemy resistance was very stubborn and at this time consisted of artillery, mortar, tank, anti-tank and small arms fire. This type of resistance was met throughout the morning, but by excellent performance in the use of our superior fire power and maneuver, two companies of infantry and five medium tanks had succeeded in entering Niederaussen by 1100. The enemy continued to resist in the town, but by 1600 the main part of the town was cleared and at 1740 CO TF R reported that he was in position to button up for the night. Only the extreme north-eastern edge of the town remained in enemy hands.

Task Force Hogan attacked on the left of Task Force Richardson at 0700 from a line of departure in the vicinity of 203652. Likewise, their opposition was heavy and consisted initially of heavy small arms and mortar fire. The advance of the armor was delayed by an AT ditch at 206657. Rcn and work produced a crossing and the tanks moved in behind the infantry. On attempting to push the attack to Wiedenfeld, the tanks and infantry met anti-tank fire from that vicinity. By noon TF H was stopped by the resistance and it was 1400 before the town was entered.

The town was cleared of the enemy, a mine field was removed, and at 1600 orders were issued to TF H to continue the attack from

3
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SECRET
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Wiedenfeld to Auenheim. Enemy fire was heavy from the left flank and for that reason TF Hogan's attack was diverted to the south-east. The order directed that the CC reserve would secure Wiedenfeld, but was later changed, as CG, 3d AD, ordered CC B to send a force there for that purpose.

By 2000, Auenheim was secured and TF H buttoned up there for the night. At the close of the period, elements TF H left at Wiedenfeld were being relieved by TF Welborn of CC B.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Down of CC A, crossed the Srit Canal at Bergheim and attacked Oberaussem. The attack continued throughout the day against moderate resistance and by the close of the period the town was secured. The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Welborn of CC B, followed TF Hogan and relieved elements of TF Hogan in Wiedenfeld.

3 March 1945: At 0700 TF Hogan attacked from Auenheim in the direction of Rheidt. The 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, reached Monchof at 0720 and by 0900 had cleared and secured the town. Infantry had worked forward under cover of darkness and the town was entered and taken without difficulty.

After moving forward from Monchof, the task force came under enemy tank fire. The enemy tank was destroyed and the advance continued. Other enemy tanks were encountered during the morning. At 1400 TF Hogan reported a battalion of the 99th Div on the left had been contacted. The action of this battalion was coordinated with the action of TF H, through the CG, as Rheidt was also that battalion's objective. By 1545 Rheidt had been taken and TF Hogan was preparing to continue on mission.

Tank fire was again directed against TF Hogan as it left Rheidt. The fire came from left flank and it was necessary to use an alternate route to get by it even though fighter bombers were used. By 2035 TF Hogan had reached Stommeln and at the close of the period was engaged in clearing the NW section of the town.

TF Richardson moved out in the attack on Ingendorf at 0700 and was met immediately by AT fire from vicinity of 261671.

The enemy continued to resist the advance of TF Richardson by AT and small arms fire from 268662 and 298583, but Ingendorf was captured and the advance on Stommeln was begun at 1000. Heavy AT fire forced tanks to withdraw to edge of Ingendorf. The platoon of medium tanks from CC Reserve reverted to Battalion control at 1200.

Before it was possible to take Stommeln, it was necessary to stage a coordinated attack in conjunction with TF Lovelady of CC B. It was a well defended town with a minefield which had to be breached, a road block which had to be removed, and AT and small arms fire which had to be reduced.

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With TF Lovelady attacking on the right, TF Richardson in the center, and TF Hogan coming in on the left, the enemy resistance could no longer hold and at 1700 TF R was able to get beyond the RR. From that time on, the resistance was not strong, and by the close of the period the southwestern part of the town was secured.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Loan of CC A, captured Fliesteden, after which they launched an attack on Geyen coordinated with an attack by TF Kane on Fulheim. After the capture of Geyen, the battalion attacked Sinthern, which was taken by 1915 and secured by 2005.

2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Welborn of CC B, moved from Wiedenfeld to an attack position in the vicinity of Buisdorf at 1670. The battalion was ordered to attack Sinnersdorf. The attack was launched and after overcoming moderate resistance, the place was secured by 2015.

In referring to the action of the combat command and of the other units of the Division, the Division commander asked that it be made known to the troops that the day's operation was as near perfect as anything he had ever seen.

4 March 1945: Both task forces continued to secure positions in Stommeln and took over positions held previously by TF Lovelady in the eastern part of the town. Road blocks were established and patrols were in operation by nightfall for the security of the Combat Command area.

Co H (- 1 plt), 32d Armd Regt, from Task Force Richardson, was attached to 83d Recon Bn at 0645. The remaining platoon was attached to 4th Cavalry Squadron of 4th Cavalry Group.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, was relieved in Geyen and Sinthern and moved to Fulheim.

2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, continued to secure Sinnersdorf.

The following message was received from the Commanding General, Third Armored Division:

"Advise all of the following: My personal congratulations for a nearly perfect operation. 'Congratulations on spearheading 7th Corps, the leading 1st Army troops, to the Rhine. COLLINS 7th Corps.' Acknowledge-ROBE."

5 March 1945: The Combat Command continued to secure the Stommeln area. At 2100 TF Hogan was attached to CC B and began movement to an assembly area at 4264 at 2200.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Loan of CC A, attacked Cologne and at 0710 the leading elements had entered the

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outskirts of the city against moderate resistance. The advance into the city continued throughout the day. House to house fighting and mopping up was the type of fighting carried on.

2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Welborn, CC B, attacked at 0400 and secured the towns Volkhoven, Esch, Lindweiler, Longerich, Pesch, Willmath, Heimersdorf and Bergheimerhoff, all suburbs of Cologne.

6 March 1945: The Combat Command remained in an assembly position in Stommeln throughout the day and was out of contact with the enemy. Patrols provided security for the area. Co H, 32d Armd Regt, returned from the 83d Acm Bn and 104th Cavalry.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Doan, continued house to house fighting in Cologne and by 1845 had reached the famous Dom Cathedral on the west bank of the Rhine River. The 1st Bn was the "Spearhead" of the "Spearhead" Division in the attack on Cologne.

The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Welborn, CC B, attacked at 0400 and by 0710 had seized the Ford Motor plant in Cologne, after which it became reserve of CC B.

The 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, as a part of TF Hogan, attached to CC B, attacked and seized Niehl, a suburb of Cologne, by 1245. The attack was continued against moderate resistance toward the Rhine River. Enemy resistance indicated that he did not intend to put up a strong defense in the city.

7 March 1945: Task Force Richardson of the Combat Command remained in Stommeln in an assembly area. Task Force Lovelady (2d Bn, 33d Armd Regt, 2d Bn, 13th Inf Regt, Alt Co B, 73d TD Bn, Alt Co B, 23d Armd Engr Bn) was detached from CC B at 1200 and was attached to CC R. The Task Force moved to assembly areas at Mulheim and Sinnerdorf during the afternoon.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, continued to secure positions along the Rhine River in Cologne.

The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, remained in assembly position as a part of TF Welborn, the reserve of CC B.

3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, a component of Task Force Hogan, attached to CC B, continued to clear the assigned zone of the enemy and by 1800 the battalion had reached the Rhine in Cologne.

8 March 1945: At 1350 the Combat Command was placed on a two hour alert and orders were issued to make a route reconnaissance to the vicinity of Bruhl, Germany, where it was contemplated that the Combat Command might be moved for employment.



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The Combat Command was attached to the 1st Inf Div effective at 1435 and began movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of Liblar, Germany. The last elements of the CC closed in the area at 2330. The composition for the Combat Command was now as follows:

TASK FORCE RICHARDSON

3d Bn, 32d Armd Regt
 3d Bn, 13th Inf Regt
 1st Plt, Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
 2d Plt, Co C, 703d TD Bn

TASK FORCE LOVELADY

2d Bn, 33d Armd Regt
 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 Plt, Co B, 703d TD Bn
 Plt, Co B, 23d Armd Engr Bn

CC CONTROL

Co C, 703d TD Bn (-3 plts)
 Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn (-2 plts)
 Det, Co B, Maint Bn

The 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, had been relieved from TF Hogan in time to join TF Lovelady at Sulzheim. The 2d Bn, 13th Inf Regt, was relieved from attachment prior to departure and reverted to regimental control, 13th Inf Regt.

The Stommeln area previously occupied by the Combat Command, was taken over by CC B.

On arriving at Liblar, the Combat Command became the reserve of the 1st Inf Div and was to be used to exploit a bridgehead in the event that the bridge over the Rhine River at Bonn was captured. The Combat Command was put on a two hour alert by the 1st Inf Div.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, attached to CC A, and 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, attached to CC B, remained in position in Cologne, securing the west bank of the Rhine River.

9 March 1945: At 0720 a report from Hq 1st Inf Div was received to the effect that the bridge at Bonn had two spans destroyed. In view of this information, the Combat Command was taken off the alert and a period of rehabilitation, training and maintenance began.

There was no change in the attachment and dispositions of the 1st and 2d Bns of the 36th Armd Inf Regt. They remained in the Cologne area, attached to CC A and CC B respectively.

10 March-16 March 1945: The Combat Command remained in the Liblar area. Rehabilitation, maintenance, and training were conducted throughout the period 10 March to 16 March 1945. The CC was relieved from attachment to 1st Inf Div 171000 March 1945 and reverted to control of Third Armored Division.

On 18 March 1945, CC A and CC B were relieved in Cologne by elements of the 104th Inf Div. The 1st Bn and 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, remained attached to CC A and CC B respectively and moved to the vicinity of Brual and Pachen, Germany.

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19 March 1945: Rest, rehabilitation, maintenance, and training were continued by the Combat Command. At 0800 3d Bn, 33d Armd Regt, rejoined the Combat Command, replacing 2d Bn, 33d Armd Regt, which was relieved and reverted to CC B control. The 3d Bn, 13th Inf Regt, was detached from Combat Command at 1500 and reverted to 13th Infantry regimental control. There was no change in status or dispositions of the 1st and 2d Bns, 36th Armd Inf Regt.

20 March 1945: At 0730 Combat Command was again attached to 1st Inf Div.

The composition of the Combat Command was as follows:

TASK FORCE RICHARDSON

3d Bn, 32d Armd Regt
3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt (- Co I)
1st Plt, Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
2d Plt, Co C, 703d TD Bn

CC CONTROL

54th Armd P A Bn
Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn (-2 plts)
Co C, 703d TD Bn (-2 plts)§
Det, Co B, Maint Bn

§ Plt which had previously been with 83d Recon Bn reverted to Company control 0845.

TASK FORCE BROWN+

3d Bn, 33d Armd Regt
Co I, 36th Armd Inf Regt
3d Plt, Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
3d Plt, Co C, 703d TD Bn

+ Lt Col Hogan on leave to England

At 1100 orders were issued to move at 1245 to cross the Rhine River over the VII Corps pontoon bridge north of Remagen to an assembly area in the vicinity of Monnaf, Germany.

Movement started at 1245 and at 1507 hours the first tank arrived on the east bank of the Rhine River. Orders were issued en route for TF Richardson to continue the march and assemble near Ittenbach, Germany. All units closed in their respective assembly areas by 2045. Co I, 36th Armd Inf Regt, was relieved from TF Brown at 2250 and was attached to TF Richardson. TF Richardson relieved elements of the 16th Inf north of Ittenbach during the night of 20-21 March in preparation for an attack at 210600 March 1945.

21 March 1945: The attack of the 16th Inf on the left of TF Richardson began at 0300 and by 0400 had reached 66360.

The mission of the Combat Command was to destroy the enemy in its zone as far north as the Sieg River, the final objectives being Suisdorf and Bennef. The zone was narrow and as a result the order for the attack designated an attack in column of task forces with TF Richardson leading and TF Brown in reserve.

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Since the zone of the Combat Command crossed the boundary of the 1st Inf Div and the 78th Inf Div, the unusual situation of changing from control of one division to that of another in the midst of the attack gave rise to several problems, chiefly artillery fire, which had to be solved.

Task Force Richardson attacked in two columns at 0600 and progress was good. By 0700 the right column had secured Bockereth and by 0810 the left column was in the southern part of Rauschen-dorf.

The right column was held up by direct fire from the vicinity of Rott and the ridge running northwest which overlooked the route of advance.

The 1st Inf Div, in whose zone the resistance was located, was requested to assist in reducing it. Air was used, but it was only after a more covered route of advance was located that the advance could proceed, and it was 1330 before Bambröich was entered.

The left column attacked and secured Birlinghoven, and continued the advance to Nieder Fleis by 1900, where the route was blocked by a blown bridge at 634416. Plans were made to build a bridge, but one company of infantry from TF R was ordered to cross and take Buisdorf.

By 2335 the infantry force from TF R was in Buisdorf and were receiving intermittent artillery and mortar fire. House to house type of fighting made progress slow.

TF Brown advanced behind TF Richardson by bounds and was ordered to attack at 220630 Marco 45 and capture Hennef. Major Brown was instructed to move his force northeast from Bambröich and begin the attack at 0600.

The 78th Div had cooperated to the utmost with the Combat Command, and due to a shortage of infantry of the CC, the 78th had sent a battalion to take the high ground and wooded area in the vicinity 6540. This assisted materially in the plan for TF Brown and after 2100 when a route across the creek had been found, the Task Force moved up. At the close of the period patrols were out attempting to locate routes and enemy resistance.

There was no change in status of 1st and 2d Bns of the 36th Arm'd Inf Regt.

22 March 1945: TF Richardson continued operations in Buisdorf and by 0500 that place was reported secured. Co G, 36th Armored Inf Regt, proceeded to the east and took the town of Hossdorf.

Time of attack for TF Brown was changed to 0400. The tanks met considerable difficulty from terrain and the enemy offered moderate opposition. The leading elements entered Hennef at 100,

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but fighting continued until late afternoon when the town was reported secure.

Task Force Brown was relieved by 2d Bn, 309th Inf Regt, at 2100 and the Task Force began movement to assembly area at Klinghoven.

Task Force Richardson was relieved in Euisdorf and Stosdorf at 2230 by elements of 309th Inf Regt and began movement to an assembly area in Stieldorf.

The 3d Bn, 414th Inf Regt, was attached to CC R and moved to the vicinity of Hovel. Orders were received to move the Combat Command on the morning of 23 March 1945 to the vicinity of Hovel and rejoin 3d Arm'd Div. The Combat Command was relieved from 78th Inf Div effective 2200.

There was no change in status or dispositions of 1st and 2d Bns, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt.

23 March 1945: At 0925 movement to the assembly area in the vicinity of Hovel commenced and by 1058 all units had closed.

1st and 2d Bns, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt, as components of CC A and CC B respectively, moved across the Rhine during the day and assembled in the division area 7030.

24 March 1945: All units of the Combat Command remained in the assembly area at Hovel. CO and staff studied plans for an extensive operation which would carry the CC to Altenkirchen.

There was no change in 1st and 2d Bns, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt.

25 March 1945: At 0400 the 3d Armored Division attacked with CC A and CC B abreast with CC R following on the two center routes. Altenkirchen was the initial objective, but orders were issued that the advance would not be halted out of contact with the enemy.

Task Force Richardson used the right center route in the division zone and maintained close contact with TF Kane of CC A. TF Hogan used the left center route and maintained close contact with CC B. Composition of task forces was the same as before, except that entire 3d Bn, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt, was attached to TF Hogan. (Lt Col Hogan had returned from leave and assumed command of the task force.) Movement began from the assembly area at Hovel at 1450 and by 2030 all units had closed in an assembly area near Krautweid, Germany.

The 1st Bn, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt, attacked at 0400 as a part of TF Hogan and advanced on route 4, the southern route. The TF ran into a minefield at 753293 and 2 mm and 81 fire slowed the advance.

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After overcoming the resistance, the advance was rapid until enemy resistance, consisting of nine 20 mm flak guns and two tanks was met at Schoneberg (806287). Artillery fire knocked out the flak positions and one tank and the advance toward Flammersfeld (8527) was resumed. Between Schoneberg and Flammersfeld two road blocks and heavy small arms fire were encountered and the close of the period found the force short of Flammersfeld.

The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, attached to TF Welborn, CC B, attacked through the 1st Inf Div and advanced to and secured the town of Kerweiss by the end of the period. The line of attack was along a main road on a ridge line, always under observation of the enemy from the front and flank. A strong enemy position was met initially, but it was overcome by use of artillery. After that, chief difficulty was from terrain.

26 March 1945: Contact was maintained with CC A and CC B throughout the morning. At 1430 orders were received to employ TF Richardson in the zone between TF Lovelady of CC B and TF Kane of CC A for the purpose of aiding the advance of CC B and to clear the enemy from the area between the columns. TF Richardson moved from his assembly area at 1500, but progress was slow due to the condition of the roads and traffic congestion. However, altenkirchen was reached by 1700 without opposition and mopping-up operations against remaining enemy there were taking place. At 1805 orders were received to continue the advance to the east on Routes 1 and 2 of the Division, taking over the mission of CC B. TF Hogan was moved forward and advanced on route 1. TF Richardson continued to advance on Route 2. By the close of the period both columns were proceeding slowly due to the visibility and the terrain.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt: At 0630 TD's with 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, knocked out a Mark V tank at Flammersfeld and the attack moved on to Ober Lambach (9428). When elements left Ober Lambach, they were met by heavy AT and artillery fire. After overcoming this resistance with artillery, the advance continued to Bachenburg (8629) without difficulty. During the night heavy mortar fire fell on the north edge of the town.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt: By 0200 the road which had caused the delay of the battalion on the day before was repaired and the advance continued to the high ground east of Mettersen. The high ground was secured by 0345 and the attack for Hasselbruch was continued at 0730. Tank and AT fire blocked advance, inflicted losses, and the force was ordered back to reorganize. A dismounted attack scheduled for 1300 was also delayed by observed artillery fire, and it was not until 1430 that the attack was launched. This time it was successful and the town was secured by 1545. A road block held up the advance on Oberoth, but was overcome and the town secured by 2400. Enemy resistance consisted of small arms fire and harassing artillery fire.

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27 March 1945: Task Force Hogan continued to advance throughout the night and morning. At Weitefeld (1336) some resistance was met, but it was quickly overcome and the advance continued.

Task Force Richardson maintained a rapid advance throughout the day. Enemy resistance was light, but there was difficulty from terrain.

By the close of the period, TF Richardson was continuing the advance on Dillenburg and TF Hogan was halted for refueling north-east of Hof.

The 1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, continued a rapid advance with TF Doan and by the close of the period had captured and secured Herborn and had secured a crossing over the Bill River. Contact was made with 7th Armd Div on right flank. The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, with TF Welborn, moved in reserve on Route 2 and closed at Hohn at 2200.

28 March 1945: TF Hogan, after refueling, continued a rapid advance and by 0730 had entered Dillenburg with little opposition and had secured the town by 0930. TF Richardson advanced rapidly with light resistance and by 1015 was on the objective in the area south of Dillenburg at Niederscheld. Both Task Forces secured the objective throughout the day and plans were made for a long thrust northward with Herborn as the objective.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, conducted maintenance of equipment pending receipt of new orders as CC B passed through CC A.

29 March 1945: Both columns moved from Dillenburg at 0600 with TF Hogan on route 1, the left route.

TF Richardson's advance was very rapid and in one instance advanced 50 miles in 5 hours and 13 minutes.

TF Hogan's advance proceeded rapidly at first but was held up by heavy resistance during the late morning. By 1200 TF Hogan was out of communication.

TF Richardson reached Brilon at 1800 and cleared and secured the town. A relay station was sent back over the route to contact TF Hogan. The force coiled in the vicinity of Thulen for the night. The advance of 87 miles from Dillenburg to Thulen was made in 16 hours.

The 2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, followed 93d Rec Bn and at the end of the period was at Ober Marsburg, less than 30 kilometers from the final objective.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, was in CC A and followed TF Lovelady on Route 3.

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30 March 1945: TF Richardson jumped off at 0700 on Route 2 and advanced initially with no opposition. Later small pockets of resistance were met and quickly overcome.

Upon reaching 683392, heavy resistance from enemy panzerfausts and tanks was encountered. Close air support from dive-bombers was given and aided the advance of the column to (682415) Nordborchen, where at the close of the period the force was engaged in clearing the town of very stubborn SS troops.

TF Hogan continued the advance throughout the night and at 0345 was ordered to move by a lateral route to Route 2 and to follow Route 2 to Brilon where it would resume the advance on Route 1, the left route. The column advanced rapidly to Wewer (668436) where the column was stopped by panzerfaust and small arms fire.

In the case of both TF Richardson and TF Hogan the resistance proved to be the strongest that had been met on the drive. The defenders were troops from an army school center north of Paderborn, who were first class troops and who knew how to defend with what they had. The panzerfaust was used effectively as an anti-personnel weapon.

2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, attached to CC B, passed through 83d Rec Bn at 1200. Stiff resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Etteln (710373) and Hamborn (718410). In the vicinity of Hamborn the enemy attacked the center of the column and by careful choice of terrain and lack of armor in the column, he was able to destroy a large number of half-track vehicles. The battalion was disorganized to a certain extent and CC A sent a force to clean out the enemy.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, fought SS troops south of Etteln and in the Boddeken Forest.

Small arms fights continued throughout the night.

31 March 1945: TF Hogan spent the entire day in clearing stubborn resistance from Wewer. At 1953 the town was reported cleared and secured. Resistance of the same type as the day before made it an extremely difficult task to rid the town of the enemy.

TF Richardson also fought a stubborn enemy all day. At 2330 TF a reported Nordborchen secured and a force moved north as far as the road at 690425.

TF Hogan sent a small force to Balzkotten to seize that place. By 2230 the force had reached the rd at 63409 and received panzerfaust and small arms fire. It was delayed in moving further by a burning enemy vehicle.

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The high ground northwest of Newer was secured and the task force buttoned up.

1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, spent the day in clearing the Boddeken Forest.

2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, of TF Walborn, CC B, attacked to seize the high ground three kilometers south of Paderborn. The ground was secured without opposition, but the enemy counter-attacked with five tanks at 1830 and drove them back to the vicinity of Hamborn. The battalion assault guns accounted for three of the five enemy tanks and after the force was reorganized the high ground was retaken and secured.

The account of the drive made by the Third Armored Division, as reported in this document, does not tell the complete story of the enormous amount of enemy equipment overrun, the vast supplies taken, the staggering number of prisoners captured, the communication lines disrupted, the road nets cut, or the great morale effect it had on the German civilian and military population. This account is more a factual record of how it was done.

(h) Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Col R I Howze
1st Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Lt Col W R Orr
2d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Lt Col T J Moran
3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Ltj R E Chaney

(1) Changes in Command: None.



(1) LOSSES IN ACTION:

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Cutshall, Howard L.	33760762	Pfc	27 Feb 1945
Krohnar, Michael W.	33075211	Pfc	1 Mar 1945
Gaspara, John P.	42122330	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Lambright, Beaugregard	34767972	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Ruziner, Vaughn D.	38731209	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Taruska, Joseph (NMI)	11063208	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Sinks, Samuel T.	34180310	T/5	1 Mar 1945
Brown, Howard (NMI)	34058932	S/Sgt	1 Mar 1945
Marino, Alfred G.	42106034	Pfc	1 Mar 1945
Pucella, Charles W.	31448820	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Vacchiano, Frank S.	42190141	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Hill, William A.	37631049	Pfc	1 Mar 1945
Musselman, Clyde E.	42140307	Pfc	1 Mar 1945
Ferrone, William J.	31466002	Pvt	1 Mar 1945
Grove, Glenk V.	39204556	Pfc	2 Mar 1945
Stout, George E.	37120045	S/Sgt	2 Mar 1945
Wadsworth, Leamon B.	33079530	Pvt	2 Mar 1945
Creker, John Q. Sr.	34939333	Pvt	2 Mar 1945
Shepherd, Ralph T. Jr.	39138961	Pfc	2 Mar 1945
Tempeny, Charles L.	34884410	Pfc	2 Mar 1945
Humphries, Allen T.W.	34879851	Pfc	2 Mar 1945
Connell, Alton L.	32945399	S/Sgt	2 Mar 1945
Bundrick, Herman M.	01011158	Capt	2 Mar 1945
Vander Linden William P.	0485920	2d Lt	2 Mar 1945
Pokki, Aaron E.	31433743	Pvt	3 Mar 1945
Sullivan, Clayton T.	34849025	Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Lamos, Richard R.	31469014	Pvt	3 Mar 1945
Adamesyk, Felix J.	36349254	S/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Becerra, Frank (NMI)	36779923	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Colbert, Raleigh F.	01998479	1st Lt.	3 Mar 1945
Finnegan, Thomas J.	13080316	S/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Hull, Bill H.	39476559	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Hicks, Robert B.	39049226	T/5	3 Mar 1945
Hordlund, Maurice V.	37032925	T/5	3 Mar 1945
Babel, Alphonse (NMI)	31422353	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Dodson, Dave J.	34984077	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Shick, James J.	33441346	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Zwick, Lawrence A.	20128073	T/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Strelau, Norman A.	37596737	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Burch, Thomas C.	35140095	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Johnson, Ernest L. J.	34168056	S/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Reneau, Willie G.	34983221	Pfc	1 Mar 1945
Gunn, Wesley W.	36768146	Sgt	1 Mar 1945
Pattie, James D.	36036482	T/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Freeman, Vernon W.	34173762	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Przeslawski, John S.	36411261	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Mazurek, Charles M.	36980136	Pfc	4 Mar 1945
Tomkinson, Robert L.	0375590	1st Lt	4 Mar 1945
Guess, Richard M.	33923391	Pfc	4 Mar 1945
Lanningham, William (NMI)	38055322	Pfc	4 Mar 1945

(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Williams, Thomas W. Jr.	32958037	S/Sgt	4 Mar 1945
Keck, Charles B.	36042860	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Anderson, Virgil A.	36845029	Pvt	4 Mar 1945
Huisman, Albert P.	36260374	T/5	4 Mar 1945
Garr, John H.	14012451	S/Sgt	4 Mar 1945
Kirby, Douglas M.	33659306	S/Sgt	28 Feb 1945
Holloway, J. A. (IO)	14019616	Pfc	28 Feb 1945
Green, Gilbert E.	36043565	Sgt	4 Mar 1945
Shreiner, Galen H. Jr.	33512930	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Schlethauer, David J.	38104643	S/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Lindsay, Alexander H.	36892880	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Ruggiero, Emilio (NMI)	11066492	S/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Kleinhalter, Vernon J.	35691299	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Ginn, James P.	34093105	Pvt	3 Mar 1945
Malaki, Edward J.	36036156	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Miller, Jesse E.	38688847	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Sutherland, James (NMI)	42177165	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Anderson, Robert H.	0374352	1st Lt	3 Mar 1945
Beightol, John P.	33712470	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Dailey, Paul H.	33889437	T/5	3 Mar 1945
Brown, Arthur A.	34848313	Pfc	2 Mar 1945
Meyer, George F.	36953931	Pvt	2 Mar 1945
Brown, Fred H.	36581489	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Tonik, John J.	42121351	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Nowicki, Peter (NMI)	36983529	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Stephens, Harold (NMI)	36078193	Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Brooks, Roy E.	33731074	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Stoltman, Harold A.	36691723	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Chaves, David (NMI)	38673835	Pfc	28 Feb 1945
Gibson, Arthur S.	33736470	Pfc	28 Feb 1945
Strelcher, John E.	36889177	Pfc	28 Feb 1945
Ransay, Joseph M.	6254169	Pvt	28 Feb 1945
Grams, Paul A.	37568043	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Springstube, William H.	31039872	Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Manfredi, Edward C.	32802896	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Schmidt, Robert A.	37114049	T/Sgt	3 Mar 1945
Metcalf, John W.	01290976	Capt	3 Mar 1945
Misunstad, Norman E.	38506589	T/5	6 Mar 1945
Esquivel, Guadalupe (NMI)	38679210	Pvt	6 Mar 1945
Horowitz, Julius (NMI)	32811792	Pvt	3 Mar 1945
Dicken, Fred B.	35492883	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Encinias, Jose R.	38580025	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Sharp, Donald M.	33433904	T/5	6 Mar 1945
Norris, Samuel B.	33950981	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Olsen, Harold D.	36983595	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Lacka, George M.	33659238	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Swift, Robert S.	32922302	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Kevin, Charles S.	33148917	S/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Neiderer, Richard J.	33871554	S/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Nee, Arthur E.	36785989	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Ledoux, Mayance (NMI)	38652099	Pfc	6 Mar 1945

(1) LOSERS IN ACTION: (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Sullivan, John T. Jr.	34871604	Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Thompson, Harry O.	36893797	Pvt	6 Mar 1945
Atkinson, Stanley T.	36471638	Pvt	6 Mar 1945
Schaefer, Millard J.	36990027	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Nichols, Thomas A.	36834852	Pfc	3 Mar 1945
Young, Carl H.	36078460	T/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Wilson, Neill R.	34854021	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Hornig, Everett P.	42185724	Pvt	6 Mar 1945
Jaffee, Irving (NMI)	36119686	S/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Eleier, Louis A.	36078086	S/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Fridenstine, Robert L.	35316451	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Jolly, Algie L.	38447070	Pvt	6 Mar 1945
Farmer, Justin (NMI)	16061747	S/Sgt	6 Mar 1945
Hanson, Orval G.	37596933	Pfc	6 Mar 1945
Odom, Prentiss (NMI)	34849393	Pvt	4 Mar 1945
Williams, Max B.	35293280	Pfc	7 Mar 1945
Brink, Robert C.	35086685	Pfc	7 Mar 1945
Henry, Lucious C.	34837953	Pfc	8 Mar 1945
Sullivan, Luther L.	38667436	Pvt	8 Mar 1945
Baughn, Richard C.	38570747	Pvt	7 Mar 1945
Morris, Robert L.	37625530	Pfc	7 Mar 1945
Davis, Harry E.	15042910	Pfc	4 Mar 1945
Toy, Harry E.	33714846	Pvt	7 Mar 1945
Foster, Billy J.	38699487	Pfc	27 Feb 1945
Satak, John J.	37587332	Pfc	27 Feb 1945
Llanes, Theodore P.	37703025	Pfc	11 Mar 1945
Sessa, Samuel J.	33067426	Pfc	11 Mar 1945
Easey, Jack NMI	36960325	Pfc	5 Mar 1945
Lunceford, Robert T.	37129967	Tec 5	14 Mar 1945
Peoples, Robert H.	34931093	Pfc	15 Mar 1945
Malcolmson, Ralph NMI	31433087	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Burton, Carvel NMI Jr	35900103	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Vest, Linwood I.	33857851	Sgt	21 Mar 1945
Edenfield, Amos L.	42080708	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Levchuck, John NMI	35659938	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Rosa, Merrill NMI Jr	35893614	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Monaghan, Edward J.	32987319	Pfc	21 Mar 1945
Mills, Oland C.	33905901	Pfc	21 Mar 1945
Love, Noah E.	39424123	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Huntley, Charles C.	34935503	Pfc	23 Mar 1945
Kostyoz, Adam NMI	36980202	Pfc	23 Mar 1945
Fuller, Richmond NMI	38591361	Pfc	23 Mar 1945
Brown, Arthur A.	34848313	Pfc	21 Mar 1945
Stroupe, Claude A.	14123472	Pvt	21 Mar 1945
Nowak, Harry NMI	36965604	Pfc	22 Mar 1945
Brower, Emery NMI	36117665	Pfc	24 Mar 1945
Jonker, Eugene C.	36158144	T/Sgt	21 Mar 1945
Cannon, Homer L.	36313888	S/Sgt	22 Mar 1945
Rayman, Richard L.	37110546	S/Sgt	22 Mar 1945
Underwood, Floyd L.	37016320	Sgt	22 Mar 1945
Pochtar, Rubin NMI	32174546	Pfc	22 Mar 1945
Engleka, Irvin A. Jr.	33757191	Sgt	24 Mar 1945

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(J) Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action:

NAME	ASN	GRADE	TYPE OF AWARD	AUTHOR.	
Thornell, Warren F.	34333047	S/Sgt	Silver Star	3d AD G.	23
Werner, Arnold B.	37120070	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Harding, Fred W.	36118541	Pvt	" "	" " "	"
Jensen, Ralph F.	36274424	T/Sgt	" " Posthumous	" " "	"
Potts, Clifton J.	36118482	Sgt	" " "	" " "	"
Knight, Gabriel M.	38223146	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
Schoenfeld, Delbert H.	37663725	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
Harding, Fred W.	36118541	Pvt	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Dillard, Willaima O.	0537391	1st Lt	" " Posthumous	" " "	"
Bell, Wodrow W.	15090068	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
Hooper, Edward R.	11032098	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
McFall, Ralph L.	14043062	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
Peterson, Gilbert A.	17046420	Pfc	" " "	" " "	"
Gust, Albert J.	37076251	S/Sgt	Bronze Star	" " "	28
Ruggiero, Emilio	11066492	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Sarrett, Jesse B.	39309071	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Wheel, Edward R.	37016347	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Ilkanic, Thomas J.	35273905	T/4	" "	" " "	"
Rodgers, Joseph H. Jr	35046712	Opl	" "	" " "	"
Goad, James L.	14043068	T/3	" "	" " "	"
Horgan, Kenneth L.	39049141	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Moline, Alvin O.	39459099	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Ponzetti, Charles A.	31123893	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Schulman, Barnett	42132434	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Stroup, George T.	33775388	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Cook, Robert J.	0515019	1st Lt	Oak Leaf Cluster to S.S.	" " "	29
Honsey, Joseph	32214682	S/Sgt	Silver Star	" " "	"
Otto, Paul F.	35046545	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Yarbery, Bill	37067386	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Stroud, Lyle L.	36864599	Pvt	" "	" " "	"
O'Connor, Leonard E.	36767413	T/Sgt	Bronze Star-Oak Leaf Cluster to,	" " "	"
Sproule, George A.	37254775	Pfc	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Swiner, Frank J.	33674051	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Williams, Robert D.	37487284	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Bret, Willard S.	01996439	1st Lt	" "	" " "	30
Kreutzer, Leonard J.	37086854	S/Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Engleka, Irvin A. Jr.	33757191	Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Boldreghini, Louis O.	34881102	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Mottern, Earl J.	33688622	Pfc	" "	" " "	"
Salb, Harvey S.	0462284	1st Lt	Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star	" " "	31
Engleka, Irvin A.	33757191	Sgt	" "	" " "	"
Nameth, Lyall J.	01293093	1st Lt	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Wendland, Frederick F.	32558542	Pfc	Bronze Star Posthumous	" " "	33
McClure, Harry E.	01290970	1st Lt	Oak Leaf Cluster to B.S.	" " "	36
Maczynski, Alexander	36166979	Pfc	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Pacheck, Stanley F.	32936334	Pfc	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Preston, D. W.	34807352	Pvt	Bronze Star	" " "	"
Cwen, James T. Jr.	0398346	Major	Bronze Star	" " "	37

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(x) Photographs: None.

(1) Inclosures:

1. Journal

For the Commanding Officer:

EDMOND SPIEGELMAN,
Capt, 36th Armd Inf Regt,
Adjutant.



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36th Armored Infantry Regiment - After Action Report - April 1945

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HEADQUARTERS THIRTY SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
APO 253, U S Army

SURPLUS

30 April 1945

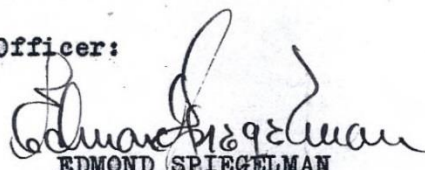
NON RECORD MATERIAL
WW II RECORDS DIV, NARS.

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : Commanding General, Third Armored Division, APO 253.

Enclosed herewith are After/After Action Reports for
the month of April 1945 with enclosures thereto.

For the Commanding Officer:


EDMOND SPIEGELMAN
Captain, 36th Arm Inf Regt
Adjutant

- 3 Incls:
No. 1 - After/After Action Report.
No. 2 - Journal - April 1945.
No. 3 - True Copy - General Orders No. 54, 3d AD - 30 April 1945.

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT
A P O 253, U S ARMY

30 April 1945

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : THE ADJUTANT GENERAL (thru channels)
Washington, D.C.

(a) Original Unit: No change

(b) Changes in Organizations:

(1) Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Service Company, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, were a part of Combat Command "R" throughout the period.

(2) The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force "Boles" and/or Task Force "Orr" throughout the period.

(3) The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was attached to Combat Command "B", as part of Task Force "Welborn" throughout the period.

(4) The 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was attached to Combat Command "R", as part of Task Force "Richardson" throughout the period.

(c) Strength:

Date	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
1 April 1945	109	4	2350
30 April 1945	99	4	2416
Net loss or gain:	-10	0	+ 66

(d) Stations: No change.

(e) Marches: Marches same as Battle Narrative shown in paragraph (g) this report.

(f) Campaigns: None designated since last report.

(g) Battles:

Throughout the period, except for temporary changes as shown in the narrative following, Combat Command "R" was composed of the following units:

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Regimental Hq & Hq Company, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 3d Battalion, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 Service Company, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 3d Battalion, 32d Armored Regiment
 3d Battalion, 33d Armored Regiment
 54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion
 Company C, 23d Armored Engineer Battalion
 Company C, 703d Tank Destroyer Battalion
 Company C, 45th Armored Medical Battalion

Except where otherwise indicated in the narrative following, Combat Command "R" was divided into Task Forces, during the month, as follows:

TASK FORCE HOGAN

3d Bn, 33d Armd Regt
 3d Bn, 414th Inf Regt (1 - 11 Apr)
 3d Bn, 47th Inf Regt (12-25 Apr)
 3d Plt Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
 3d Plt Co C, 703d TD Bn

TASK FORCE RICHARDSON

3d Bn, 32d Armd Regt
 3d Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 1st Plt Co C, 23d Armd Engr Bn
 2d Plt Co C, 703d TD Bn

COMBAT COMMAND DIRECT CONTROL

Regimental Hq & Hq Company, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 Service Company, 36th Armd Inf Regt
 Company C, 23d Armd Engr Bn (less 2 plts)
 Company C, 703d Tank Destroyer Bn (less 2 plts)
 Company C, 45th Armd Medical Battalion
 54th Armd Field Artillery Battalion

At the beginning of the period Combat Command "R" was engaging the enemy, continuing the battle as related in the battle narrative at the end of March. Task Force "Richardson" was in the vicinity of Nordborchen, and Task Force "Hogan" was in the vicinity of Wewer.

BATTLE NARRATIVE

1 April 1945: Task Force Richardson continued his operation begun the day previous to seize the high ground northwest of Nordborchen (0355) to improve his position and cover the attack of Task Force Boles. At 0355 hours this objective was reached after overcoming resistance from entrenched infantry and some anti-tank fire. They secured their positions and started patrol contact with Task Force Boles at 693448.

Task Force Hogan attacked southwest from Wewer, seizing Salzkotten. The Task Force entered Salzkotten at 0110 against comparatively light resistance. By 0440 hours the town was cleared and secured, and tanks pushed out to the high ground north of the town. Task Force Hogan left a small blocking force on the main road at the northeast edge of Wewer and another small infantry

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force at 658446 in position to fire on the Salzkotten-Paderborn road. Salzkotten was secured during the day and patrol contact maintained with Task Force Boles at 671442.

The combat command CP moved to Nordborchen (683417) at 0900 hours.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, attacked through Task Force Richardson at Nordborchen at 0626 hours and advanced north to Paderborn. Dug-in enemy tanks, anti-tank fire and small arms fire were encountered, but they proceeded across the railroad and helped clear and secure their sector.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "B" as a part of Task Force Welborn, attacked Paderborn in the northeast part of the town and helped clear this sector.

2 April 1945: Task Force Richardson moved into Alfen at 1000 hours and continued to secure the town of Kirkborchen and Alfen and maintain patrol contacts with Task Force Boles on the north, 83d Armored Field Artillery Battalion on the east, and both forces of Task Force Hogan. Some Prisoners of War were brought in.

Task Force Hogan continued to secure Salzkotten and Wewer and maintained contact by patrols with Task Force Boles to the east and Task Force Richardson. During the night 1 - 2 April, the route of the Task Force Boles patrol was cut by an enemy infiltration on the road, vicinity 660450, and at 0730 hours a force from Task Force Hogan moved out to sweep this area and the woods, vicinity 658453. The enemy forces had withdrawn, and no contact was made. Beginning at 2000 hours, elements of Task Force Hogan in Salzkotten were being contacted by patrols from the 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, in Gesche.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, and continued to secure the western part of Paderborn and maintain patrol contact with Combat Command "B" and Combat Command "R".

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Welborn of Combat Command "B", continued to secure the northeast part of Paderborn and conducted security patrols.

3 April 1945: Combat Command "R" continued to defend, patrol, and maintain road blocks throughout the period. Task Force Hogan sent a patrol north from Salzkotten which made contact with elements of the 8th Armored Division at 597432 at 1555 hours. Another patrol was sent to Upspringe during the day, without opposition. Task Force Richardson continued to patrol and defend throughout the day and night. Some Prisoners of War were brought in.

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The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "A" as a part of Task Force Boles, and sent patrols to Delbruck to contact the 8th Armored Division. Patrols were maintained throughout the period.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn, and continued to patrol and defend its sector.

4 April 1945: Task Force Hogan continued its patrols and the security of its position throughout the day and night.

At about 0700 hours Task Force Richardson sent a battle group of one tank company and one infantry company to relieve elements of Task Force Lovelady with the mission of securing Lichtensau. At 1210 hours the town was cleared and secured. The battle group remained in the town, securing it. Another force was sent to sweep the Boddeken Forest, vicinity Neuboddeken. Other elements remained in place and secured and patrolled their sector throughout the period.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles and remained in position securing its assigned sector in Paderborn and doing maintenance on vehicles and weapons.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn, which moved at 2000 hours to Herbram (8142) and secured it against very light resistance.

5 April 1945: At 0815 hours the Commanding Officer went to Division to get the plan of attack and at 0900 hours had a meeting of the Task Force Commanders. The Division plan placed Combat Commands "A" and "B" in the assault, with Combat Command "R" in Division reserve. The Division was to jump off at 1200 hours. Combat Command "A" was in two columns on the left and Combat Command "B" in two columns on the right of the Division zone. Combat Command "R" was to follow Task Force Hogan on Route 2 and TF Richardson on Route 3. Combat Command "R" CP was to follow Task Force Hogan on Route 2. That portion of Task Force Richardson which was in Lichtenau was to move directly from there and join the column on Route 3, and the force at Alfen was to move to the southeast, leaving the east road to Task Force Hogan. Task Force Hogan was to move via Alfen and Nordborchen and stay off the Kirchborchen road. The Combat Command was put on a one hour alert at 1300 hours and started moving at 1915 hours on the routes assigned. At the close of the period, Task Force Richardson was continuing to move to an assembly position vicinity of Dringenburg and Task Force Hogan to an assembly area in vicinity of Schmechten. Combat Command "R" CP moved into an assembly position just south of Bad Driburg at the close of the period.

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The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, which attacked east from vicinity of Paderborn at 1220 hours en route to specified intermediate objectives and final objective on the River Weser.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn, which attacked east from the vicinity of Dall at 1200 hours to secure certain intermediate objectives, after which orders were issued for the Task Force to continue on to objectives on the River Weser.

6 April 1945: Task Force Richardson moved over Route 3 into an assembly area in vicinity of Doringenburg at 0400 hours and awaited developments. One platoon of the 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, went to Bad Driburg to guard the hospital there. Task Force Hogan coiled in assembly area at 0200 hours in vicinity of Schmechten and spent the day there, refueling and doing necessary maintenance. The Combat Command CP moved to the new CP location in vicinity of Schmechten at about 1000 hours. The Division Commander visited the Combat Command CP at 1500 hours. It was not expected that Combat Command "R" would move before Saturday or Sunday, 7 or 8 April 1945, depending on developments in front of Combat Commands "A" and "B".

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, which was advancing east on Route 1. A road block was encountered just west of Ottbergen and the infantry moved forward to establish a bypass. At Amelunxen the enemy destroyed the bridge and the infantry again pushed across and into the town against strong resistance. Along most of the route small arms, panzerfaust and some artillery fire were encountered. At the end of the period part of the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, and some tanks were engaged with enemy infantry about 1200 yards north of Drinke, while another battle group of tanks and infantry were advancing slowly against stubborn resistance toward Wehaden.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, with Combat Command "B", as part of Task Force Welborn, advanced to the east on Route 3. Heavy panzerfaust fire was encountered near Hainholtz. Small arms fire was met at Borgholtz but the attack continued. The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, cleared the Eichhagen woods southwest of Haarbruck and the task force consolidated and moved on to Haarbruck, where it was ordered to secure the town for the night.

Service Company, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, moved into Siebenstern at 2100 hours.

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7 April 1945: A Polish Prisoner of War reported that a force of Germans was in Altenheerse, and at 1030 hours orders were issued to send a force from Task Force Richardson into the town. At 1530 hours the force returned and reported that no enemy troops were found in the town. For the remainder of the period Task Force Richardson and Task Force Hogan remained in their bivouac areas.

At 1600 hours the Commanding Officer went to Division CP to receive orders for movement the following day. At 1900 hours group commanders met at the CP for the order. The plan, briefly, was to move out Sunday, 8 April at about 0910 south via Dringenburg, Folsen, Willegassen, Buehne, Hofgusman, across the Weser River, Hemeln, to an assembly area vicinity Varlosen. The following morning at first light Combat Command "R" was to attack and take and secure Uslar. For the operation, in addition to present components of the Combat Command, the following units were to be attached: 83d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Company D, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, attacked at 0630, and after overcoming a road block, entered Herstele about 1100. Here direct fire from both sides of the river, artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire were encountered. At 1115 part of the Task Force was sent to secure Carlshaven. Here, also, artillery, panzerfaust, and small arms fire were met. After considerable fighting, both towns were secured about 1800.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A", as part of Task Force "Boles", Battle Group "Orr", continued the attack to secure Wehrden and entered the town against slight resistance. The bridge had been blown earlier by the enemy. Wehrden was secured by 1445. Numerous barricades had been erected in the town.

8 April 1945: At 1100, the 83d Armored Field Artillery Battalion and Company D, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, were attached to Combat Command "R", and along with the 54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, joined the column at Buehne. Combat Command "R", Task Force Richardson leading, started moving at 1100, over the route detailed above. Task Force Richardson closed in an assembly area vicinity Guntern at about 2000. Combat Command "R" CP closed at Imbsen about 2240. At the end of the period, Task Force Hogan was still moving in.

The plan outlined the day previous to capture Uslar was cancelled by the Division Commander at about 1600, because of the fact that troops of another unit were closing in on Uslar. A new objective was assigned. At 2200 Field Order No. 6 was issued by the Commanding Officer, Combat Command "R", paragraph 3 of which said in part:

(a) TF "R", on the right (east) route, will capture Barterode prior to daylight 9 April 45; at 0600 they will continue

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the attack via the east route, cut the road SE of Hardegsen, and protect the east flank of the Combat Command. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim, via route 2, on order.

(b) TF "H", on the left (west) route, will capture the crossroads in the ravine, 1200 yards east of Eberhsn prior to daylight 9 April 45; continue the attack at 0600, via west route and capture Hardegsen, and protect the west flank of the CC. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim via route 1, on order.

(c) Co. "D", 83rd Armd Rcn Bn., will make reconnaissance to line CR at 408271 - Hill 394 (402308-373302); Assemble vicinity Imbsen by daylight 9 April in CC Reserve. Upon capture of Hardegsen, immediately initiate reconnaissance to Northeim (the Division objective) via routes 1 and 2.

(d) 54th F A Bn will be in direct support of TF "R", 83rd F A Bn direct support of TF "H".

(e) Co. "C", 23rd Armd Eng Bn (-) and Co. "C", 703rd TD Bn., initially in reserve.

(f) CP initially Imbsen, will displace along west route.

Task Force Richardson attacked at 2400. At 2135 Company D, 83d Reconnaissance Battalion, reported they were in Eberhsn, and also the control point 22 (ravine and CR 1200 yards east), and both were clear of the enemy.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, remained in its location throughout the period maintaining road blocks and conducting maintenance.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn, sent dismounted patrols from Carlshoven at 1530 hours east along the river road to Wahnbeck. This patrol met no opposition and had completed its mission of opening the road by 2045 hours. At the close of the period the whole of Combat Command "B" was being relieved in present position by elements of the 1st Infantry Division to participate in a new operation on the River Weser.

9 April 1945: At 0250 hours Task Force Richardson reported on the objective they were to take prior to daylight (Barterode). No resistance was met and the tanks moved in. At 0600 hours the attack jumped off. They hit a road block just beyond Barterode at 0635. This took some time to clear. At 0800 hours Task Force Richardson took Eseeck and proceeded to Emmerhsn. At 1050 hours they had reached Harste and sighted two enemy tanks 800 yards northeast of Harste. At 1030 hours the 83d Reconnaissance Battalion reported

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anti-tank fire and other enemy activity from west of Hevensen. Task Force Richardson ran into some SS troops with panzerfausts at Harst. Later they spotted 5 more tanks, one of which they knocked out. In all, 9 Tiger tanks were reported in the woods just southwest of Parendsen, and these held Task Force Richardson up until 1600 hours or thereabouts. The 83d Reconnaissance Battalion earlier reported that Lutterhausen was clear of any enemy.

Task Force Hogan was at Hettensen at 0730 hours after having cleared Eberhsen, at 0635. By 0930 hours they were on the objective (Hardeggen). At Hettensen 22 Prisoners were taken.

Combat Command CP moved into Hardeggen at 1100 hours. At 1440 hours The Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, visited the CP. A new objective was assigned Task Force Hogan. Task Force Hogan was to move over Route 1 immediately, and take and secure Northeim. Enough force would be left in Hardeggen to secure it. At 1430 hours the 83d Reconnaissance Battalion was up to the Leine River west of Northeim. They reported the bridge intact but it had been mined for demolition. At 1525 hours the 83d Reconnaissance Battalion reported an enemy column of vehicles bumper to bumper, going into Northeim from the northwest. Air was asked for. At 1615 hours Task Force Hogan was at Blankenhoven and had met no resistance. When they reached the Leine River the bridge had been blown. A new plan was put into operation. Task Force Richardson was pulled out of Harst, leaving that sector to Combat Command "B", which had come up along both flanks. Task Force Richardson was re-routed over Routes 1 and 2 again, in order to by-pass the enemy tanks. The head of the column reached Hardeggen at 1730 hours and proceeded on. Combat Command CP followed Task Force Richardson on Routes 1 and 2. When Task Force Hogan found the bridge destroyed across the Leine, the 83d Reconnaissance Battalion went south to look for another passage. A bridge was found intact between Hillerde and Sudheim. Task Force Hogan sent his infantry across the stream dismounted, took his armor down via the newly discovered bridge, crossed the river, turned north again and entered the town of Northeim from the southwest. By midnight the tanks and infantry had joined and half the town was secure.

Task Force Richardson crossed the river via the same bridge, captured Sudheim after a fierce fight and proceeded east. They were held up by a road block at 585639, but cleared it and at the end of the period were 600 yards west of Suterde. At the end of the period the Combat Command CP was still moving toward a new CP location in Sudheim.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A", as part of Task Force Boles, crossed the Weser River at Beverungen beginning at 1540 hours and proceeded to secure Vernawahlshausen.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, as part of

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Task Force Welborn, moved on Route 3. They encountered dug-in infantry and tanks near Harst. With the aid of air, called for by Task Force Richardson, and a maneuver by Task Force Lovelady, they were able to advance to the stream crossing at 518388. Here the bridge was covered by a strongly defended road block at each end. At the close of the period they were still engaged with the enemy there.

10 April 1945: On account of their forces being scattered, having been engaged most of the previous night, the attack did not jump off at 0600. Task Force Hogan started moving at 0800 after clearing debris and rubble from the route and at 0825 ran into a road block just outside of the city. Just north of Bilshausen, they encountered a fire fight, and shot up two buildings. At 1240 they spotted three enemy tanks in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and were told that 5 enemy tanks left the city about 1100 hours. Air was requested, which came and knocked out 3 tanks and reported seeing 10 more. More air support was requested. At 1340 hours a PW stated that 13 artillery pieces were located in the woods along the road between Ostermunde and Herzburg. One enemy Mark IV tank and 2 large planes were destroyed at 147121. At 142513 Task Force Hogan put infantry in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and started trying to work up the heavier equipment. By 1530 leading elements were in the forward edge of the woods northeast of Gieboldehausen and had encountered about 50 infantry, 3 half-tracks and some tanks. Pushing ahead, they found one Tiger Tank abandoned at Poshlde. Two tanks were destroyed and some Prisoners of War were taken, and at 1855 Task Force Hogan was 1800 yards south of Scharzfeld, where they ran into felled trees, craters and debris. At Silkerode and Bockelnhagen enemy infantry were met and cleared out. Both towns were occupied and secured for the night, by 2135. The 83d Field Artillery Battalion was detached from Combat Command "R" and attached to Combat Command "A".

Task Force Richardson started moving at 0715 hours and moved along well until they reached a road block on the western edge of Gieboldehausen. At 1240 they were still held up by the road block and some enemy tanks north of the town. Finally, shaking loose, they were stopped again at Rudershaven by SP guns. Knocking out the resistance, they moved forward until 1815 when a bridge was blown in front of them on the route between Rudershaven and Hilkerode. They reconnoitered for another route to by-pass the bridge while the engineers started to build a bridge. Going cross country to Hilkerode they hit the route again and at 2331 hours had occupied and secured Zwinge for the night.

Combat Command CP moved behind Task Force Richardson most of the way and at 2000 hours closed into bivouac at Brochthausen.

At 2250 hours the Commanding Officer issued the order for the attack for the next day. Briefly, the Combat Command was to con-

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tinue the attack at 0600 hours, seize and secure the network of roads in the vicinity of Tettenborn and NeuhoF (Task Force Richardson), and Bartolfelde and Osterhagen (Task Force Hogan). The 54th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was to be in general support and be prepared to displace forward to Limlingerode. Company D, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, was to revert to Battalion control upon the occupation of the objectives by the Combat Command. At 2220 hours the engineers reported the bridge in Brochthausen would be ready for traffic in 15 minutes. Several vehicles of the Combat Command bogged down and got stuck on the cross country by-pass. Most of them were pulled out but some few coiled for the night there, and planned to move at first light.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A" as part of Task Force Boles, followed the advance on Route 1, protecting the north flank. At 1900 hours the Task Force was ordered to seize and secure Osterode and Herzberg. At the close of the period they were moving forward on their mission.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, continued clearing the road blocks on both sides of the bridge at 518388. At 0730 hours the advance was resumed. They were delayed for a short time by a blown bridge at 693326, but soon resumed the march and at 1230 hours entered Duderstadt, which had been cleared on 9 April by elements of the 2d Infantry Division. At 1500 hours they encountered enemy infantry and an SP gun in vicinity 890276. This resistance was quickly overcome and the advance continued to Epschenrode where stubborn resistance by enemy infantry and panzerfaust men halted the column. Large numbers of snipers halted and delayed the clearing of the town, but by 1845 all resistance was overcome and numerous Prisoners of War taken. At the close of the period they were at Kl. Werther (085250), prepared to continue the advance to the east.

11 April 1945: At 0600 hours Task Force Hogan jumped off in the attack on Route 1 600 yards from Bockelnhagen. They met small arms fire, which they shortly wiped out. About 800 yards further in the woods they were delayed again by small arms and machine gun fire. Clearing this, they proceeded about 800 yards and met small arms and direct fire from either an SP gun or tank. Air was called for and at 0915 hours elements of the task force entered Bartolfelde. By a little after 1200 hours the town was secured. By 1300 hours Osterhagen was also buttoned up.

Task Force Richardson moved at 0600 and met no resistance until they reached Limlingerode, at 0930. There they met tank and small arms fire. They called for air. By 1000 they were traveling again and at 1115 hours were at Tettenborn where they met no resistance. The Combat Command CP moved forward to Tetterborn at 1310 hours. Enemy tanks, short of NeuhoF, about 1200, stopped the advance of

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Task Force Richardson. Air was again asked for. Knocking out an enemy SP gun, and losing 1 tank, they occupied Neuhof. In the afternoon, orders for the attack for the next day were received. Combat Command "R" and Combat Command "B" were to attack abreast, Combat Command "R" on the left (north) flank. At 1535 hours Company D, 83d Reconnaissance Battalion, reverted to Battalion control. For the next day's operation Combat Command "R" was to get another Reconnaissance Company. The 1st Battalion, 313th Infantry, relieved Task Force Richardson late in the evening and Task Force Richardson moved to a forward assembly area at Guedersleben. The 3d Battalion, 414th Infantry, remained at Osterhagen, and Task Force Hogan moved forward to an assembly area at Hochstedt. The Combat Command CP moved forward to assembly area at Gunzerode at 2000 hours. For the attack the next day, the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry, was attached to Task Force Hogan and joined at Gunzerode. The 83d Field Artillery Battalion was attached to Combat Command "R" and placed in direct support of Task Force Hogan.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Boles of Combat Command "A", resumed the attack against Herzburg at first light against strong opposition of tanks, SP fire and small arms. The Task Force continued to push against strong opposition throughout the day and after entering the town a strong enemy road block had to be removed before the town fell. By 2300 hours Herzburg was secure and arrangements were completed for the relief of Task Force Boles by elements of the 104th Infantry Division at first light, 12 April 1945.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained attached to Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn. They resumed the attack east at 0530 hours to seize Nordhausen. By 0650 elements were in the northwest edge of town, and by 1135 the north part of the town was secured. The Combat Command of which 2d Battalion was a part was relieved in Nordhausen by the 3d Battalion, 415th Infantry Regiment, at the close of the period.

12 April 1945: Task Force Hogan was delayed in jumping off in the attack due to the fact that the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment reported to them the night before after dark, and the breakdown of men to tanks was not completed in time. However, Task Force Hogan crossed the LD at 0744 hours. Task Force Richardson jumped off at 0700 hours. East of Nordhausen SS Troops with panzerfausts were encountered. By 1010 hours the enemy had been reduced and Task Force Richardson was moving again. Progress was uninterrupted until 1212 when bad roads slowed them down. At 1530 hours they were held up by enemy between Weetelrode and Gonna. Two tanks, or AT guns, were reported and air was requested. One of the guns was destroyed and the other captured intact. A PW reported a large concentration of tanks at Wippra. By 1725 hours Task Force Richardson was in the Gonna - Obersdorf area. The towns were occupied and secured.

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Task Force Hogan crossed the ID at 0744 hours and by 1318 hours was to Leinungen. At 1530 they were held up by a road block at the western edge of Blankenheim. Air strafed the road block and by 1600 hours they were in the town where they bivouacked for the night. The Reconnaissance drew fire when they attempted to go beyond the city. By 1835 hours the woods in the vicinity of Enseloh and Blankenheim had been cleared and the Combat Command OP moved into town for the night.

Company A, 83d Reconnaissance Battalion, attached for the operation, suffered heavy casualties. 3 half-tracks, 2 armored cars, and 2 1/4 tons were lost. 35 men were reported missing, including the platoon leader, but most of these showed up later. The Company reported back to Battalion control at 1900 hours. Task Force Richardson moved up to the woods and cross road vicinity 529325 at 2000 hours. Dismounted personnel with panzerfausts were encountered, but they were beaten off, and Task Force Richardson started patrols in its area. At 2210 hours, the Commanding Officer, Combat Command "R", sent the following message to Task Force Richardson: "Be prepared to attack with Infantry at 0400, 13 April 1945 to secure town of Annarode, 545345, and continue attack with tanks at 0700. This will be confirmed as soon as definite." During the evening, orders came from The Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, for resuming the attack the following day to advance and secure bridgeheads over the River Elbe.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Combat Command "A", in Task Force Boles, after being relieved from previous positions, followed Combat Command "R" on Route 1 and occupied and secured the Combat Command objective by 2050 hours.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, attacked at 0700 hours and advanced rapidly on Route 3 without encountering resistance, until reaching coordinates 520250 where panzerfaust fire was encountered. Anti-tank fire from 540255 was overcome, and the Task Force seized and secured Holdenstedt.

13 April 1945: The 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, of Task Force Richardson, moved at 0400 hours to secure the ID. By 0610 this had been accomplished. At 0645 they reported enemy tanks in the woods at 548335 and 536346, also some small arms and 2 AT guns 500 yards east of the town of Annarode. At 0715 they were at the ID and were receiving small arms fire, tank, and AT fire. At 1000 they were still unable to advance. Air was requested and promised for 1115 hours. Finally overcoming the resistance without the help of air support, they reached Siebelgerode at 1110. The task force advanced rapidly to Gerbstedt by 1320 hours, from where 2 enemy hospitals were reported. An enemy column was observed trying to escape. Quite a bit of horsedrawn equipment was in the column. Here also around 1000 prisoners of war were liberated. At 1600 hours, going into Alsleben, the task force ran into direct fire.

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Air was put on the resistance, and Task Force Richardson moved into the town at 1730 hours. However, it was still receiving 20 mm flak and some HE. Slow progress was made by the infantry and the advance elements tried to work tanks into the town. They were unable to get to the bridge. At 1630 hours the bridge was blown up, practically in the face of the infantry, and the task force was ordered to cross the river over the bridge that was being constructed at Brucke. It, therefore, pulled back to Sandersleben for the night, prepared to cross when the bridge was completed.

Infantry elements of Task Force Hogan moved out at 0400 hours to secure the LD and by 0600 had done so. Task Force Hogan jumped off at 0700 and ran into tank and anti-tank fire just after crossing the LD. Overcoming this, they continued. Combat Command CP followed Task Force Hogan out and at 0850 hours a dual purpose gun started shooting at the tail of the column. 3 half-tracks of the 83d Field Artillery Battalion were knocked out immediately. Later the Tank Destroyers found the abandoned gun in the woods. At the same time the head of Hogan's column drew fire upon leaving Ahlsdorf. Overcoming resistance and moving on, the head of the column reached Helbra at 1050. The Combat Command CP coiled in the woods 1800 yards north of Blankenheim. At 1145 hours Task Force Hogan overran a prisoner camp containing a large number of British and Russians and took 30 German prisoners. By 1200 hours leading elements were at Siersleben. Approaching Nelben on the Saale River at 1430, they had the bridge literally blown up in the face of the leading elements, by the retreating Germans. The railroad bridge, at first, appeared to be intact but later investigation, after it was captured, revealed a locomotive and some cars derailed on it. The Infantry were still running into trouble at the river. However, a patrol crossed the river. At the bridge small arms fire continued to come in. About this time air Reconnaissance reported the bridge farther south, in Combat Command "B's" sector, was out. Preparations were made to build 2 bridges, one at Brucke and one in Combat Command "B" sector at 778436. Two companies of Infantry crossed the Combat Command "B" bridge at 778436, and attacked north to clear Mon during the night. At the end of the period they were advancing north toward Mon. The Combat Command CP moved into bivouac at 1830 hours in Zuckeritz. The rest of Task Force Hogan bivouacked at Nelben for the night. During the day the Combat Command liberated 13 paratroopers and 2 other American soldiers who had been prisoners since D-Day.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "A", as part of Task Force Boles, continued to follow the advance of the Division protecting the north flank against an enemy threat.

The 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained with Combat Command "B" as part of Task Force Welborn. At 0700 hours they attacked and advanced against moderate resistance to 609274 where direct fire from 88 mm dual purpose guns halted them. After

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overcoming this resistance they continued the advance, knocking out numerous SS's. Eisleben was declared open and no resistance encountered there. The advance continued and Polleben was entered at 1300 hours against moderate resistance. Here a PW Camp was overrun and 430 British prisoners of war, including over 300 officers, were liberated. At 1515 hours they entered Friedenburg and cleared it.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was put across the river and the engineers started building a bridge at 778436.

14 April 1945: The Engineers worked overnight constructing the bridge over the Saale River, and when the one in Combat Command "B" Sector was sufficiently finished, late the evening before, two companies of Infantry of Task Force Hogan were sent across on foot. They attacked north and advanced to secure Mon. Due to the lack of necessary bridging material and boats, the bridge in Combat Command "R" Sector was not completed until 1035. The plan for crossing was for Task Force Hogan and one battery of his artillery to cross, followed by Task Force Richardson and one artillery battery. Then the rest of Hogan's artillery and Richardson's artillery in that order, followed by Combat Command GP.

Task Force Hogan crossed the River, beginning at 1035, and moved on to Konnern, where it was stopped on the eastern edge of town by small arms fire. After this resistance was overcome, the tank force moved rapidly until it reached the outskirts of Kothen. There it met dug-in Infantry armed with small arms and panzerfausts. There were about two battalions of Germans, one of the Wehrmacht, and one Volksturm, mixed together. Some bitter fighting ensued, and by moving in from several directions the tank force had about half the town cleared by 2030. Upon orders from the Commanding Officer they did not by-pass the resistance, but started to clear the town, at the same time giving Task Force Richardson an opportunity to catch up on the left route. An airfield was captured in the vicinity, at which several planes were destroyed. The south part of town cleared was secured, and some elements continued to move toward the main part of town.

Task Force Richardson followed Task Force Hogan across the Saale River, and by 1410 was in Konnern. From here it moved to Phase Line F 1, where small arms and panzerfaust fire held it up until 1610. At 1640 it was approaching Preussnitz. Just beyond Preussnitz at Biendorf, it was stopped by dug-in Infantry, reported to be SS, armed with small arms and panzerfausts. Despite hard fighting it was unable to advance beyond this point, and at 2030, Colonel Richardson was directed by the Commanding Officer, Combat Command "R", to button up in that vicinity, and be ready to move out at first light. At the end of the period they were attacking Frenz, 2000 yards forward, and planned to spend the night in Biendorf and Frenz.

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The Combat Command CP crossed the River about 1430 and followed Task Force Hogan on Route 2. About 1600 the Combat Command coiled in a field just south of Lobnitz. While there, 66 enemy infantry were flushed from the woods just north of Worbzig, by Service units, and 22 others in Lobnitz by 2 Liaison Officers. Both groups were very close to the CP location. At 2030, the CP moved into the western edge of Kothen for the night. On the way, an 88 mm gun fired at the column but very little damage was done. Earlier in the day, the Luftwaffe strafed the left column of Combat Command "B", and also the Division CP column. P-51's chased them away, and shot down 1 FW 190.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Combat Command "A", Task Force Boles, crossed the Saale River on Bridge 1, immediately in rear of Combat Command "R", and at the close of the period was assembled in vicinity of Trebitz prepared to follow Task Force Richardson the next day.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, in Task Force Welborn, of Combat Command "B", crossed the Saale River on Bridge 2 immediately upon completion at 0700. After assembling in the vicinity of Garsena, they were prepared to resume the attack upon order. At 0915, the attack was renewed to the east against slight opposition. Spotted resistance was encountered all the way to the west bank of the Mulde River. Resistance then stiffened, and at the close of the period the Task Force was coiled in the vicinity of 600 yards southeast of Terten, and pushing infantry patrols to the Mulde River in an effort to secure the bridge intact at 134653.

15 April 1945: Early in the morning, around 0100, two groups sent by Task Force Hogan to objectives in Kothen ran into trouble. G Company, 33d Armored Regiment, and K Company, 47th Infantry, ran into road blocks and tried three times to advance, but could not. I Company, 47th Infantry, and H Company, 33d Armored Regiment, did reach their objective. After daylight, progress was made in getting by the road blocks and by 0800 troops were nearly to the town's main intersection. Engineers were moved up to clear away the road blocks, and tanks moved up. Around 1200, the left flank of Task Force Hogan ran into more Volkssturm short of the intersection. They were armed with small arms, shotguns, and panzerfausts. Tanks were moved up to blast the houses.

Troops of Task Force Richardson had reached the western edge of Frenz by 0415, and the town was cleared by 0730. Moving a short distance, they again met more dug-in Infantry, and received automatic fire from both flanks. Gr. Paschleben was defended all the way by the enemy.

About 1100, the Task Force of Combat Command "A", which had been trailing behind Task Force Richardson, was sideslipped to the south, passed Task Force Richardson, and went into position south and southeast of Kothen.

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At 1300 the mission of both Task Force Richardson and Task Force Hogan was changed. Task Force Hogan was ordered to clear Kothen immediately, and then send a force west to meet Task Force Richardson. When the two Task Forces met, Task Force Hogan was to occupy both Kothen and Frenz. Task Force Richardson was to pull back and occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of the cross road east of Plommetz and the Cross Road just north of Bebiz. From the latter point a strong battle group was to be sent north to Bernburg, see what was there, and if possible, occupy and secure it. At 1615 Task Force Richardson and Task Force Hogan met in the western part of Kothen, and Task Force Richardson started to its assigned objective. They reached Bebiz without opposition. The Battle Group sent north ran into sniper fire at Unterpeissen, and had to start house-cleaning again. Progress was slow, and at 2030, the Commanding Officer, Combat Command, directed the tank force to button up where they were, and be prepared to continue at 0600.

During the evening Task Force Hogan was ordered to send two patrols to contact Combat Command "A" in their new position, one east on Route 2 to Lausigk, then south to meet a patrol from Task Force Orr at Quellendorf; the other south to meet a Task Force Boles patrol at Badegast. The one to Badegast made contact at 1920. The other one, however, ran into a road block covered by small arms and panzerfaust fire at the railroad underpass at the eastern edge of town. At the end of the period contact had not been made with Combat Command "A" by this patrol.

At 1020, Combat Command "A" was ordered to move to Prossdick and Arensdorf, and to send a force to clear the enemy from the Meilendorf and Kornetz area, where enemy small arms and panzerfaust fire was harassing supply and other vehicles moving along the Division Route 3. 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Orr, was sent to occupy Prossdick, which was secured by 1200. When Task Force Boles moved to Quellendorf, Task Force Orr occupied and secured Prossdick, Fernsdorf, Meilendorf and Frassdorf.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attached to Combat Command "B", part of Task Force Welborn, sent a patrol at 0445, after artillery fire was lifted, to investigate the bridge. They found the bridge blown, and the site strongly defended. One company of Infantry, and a company of tanks were moved into position to force a crossing, the infantry going across on the wreckage of the blown bridge. By 2007 one company plus two platoons of the 2d Battalion had crossed, and most of the enemy fire was taken off the site. Bridging operations were expected to start by 2400.

During the afternoon the 83d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was detached from the Combat Command.

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16 April 1945: Task Force Richardson at 0645 reported everything quiet. At 0700 a Battle Group moved north toward Bernburg. No resistance was met until they reached the outskirts of Bernburg at 0853. They received reports which indicated that the enemy force which had held them up the night before in Unterpfeissen moved out, probably to Bernburg. On the edge of Bernburg they ran into small arms and panzerfaust fire. The task force Commander split his group into two columns, and sent one around to the left. The left force ran into Anti-tank fire and small arms fire. At 1150, the Task Force Commander notified the Combat Command Commanding Officer it would take most of the day to clean up the town, due to the snipers and house-to-house fighting. Some of the panzerfaust fighting was reported done by civilians. He was told to take the rest of the day if necessary to clear the town. At 1530, half the town was cleared, and by 1900 the force reached the River Saale. The bridges, both road and railway, were out. They buttoned up here for the night. Several prisoners were liberated, including 8 Americans and some Canadians, at Bernburg. At 0645 Task Force Hogan reported all quiet.

There was as yet no contact with Task Force Orr. At 0700 elements of the Task Force moved out east, but had gone only a short distance when they hit small arms fire. Again, it was house-to-house cleaning. By 1050, Klepzig was reached. The road was blocked and defended with small arms and an anti-tank gun. The Task Force was told to by-pass it and keep going. Leaving a force to contain the enemy, they sent a force southeast, east, and northwest to Merzien, which was reached at 1900 by both forces. It required considerable time to clean out Merzien, and they then proceeded toward Lausigk. On the way they hit some mines. Lausigk was buttoned up at 2200. Many prisoners of war were taken.

At 1500 Task Force Orr was ordered to send the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, with A Company, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, to sweep the woods west of Route 3 in the Haideburg Forest. At 1730 they jumped off. The Infantry had very little trouble, but the 83d met automatic weapons and panzerfausts. At the close of the period, they were still engaged in their mission.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, continued mopping-up operations north of Gridline 60. They held their bridgehead over the Mulde River, and continued bridging operations in the vicinity of 134653. Construction was impeded by difficult terrain at the southern approach and harassing enemy artillery fire. At the close of the period the bridging was still going on, and the Infantry were holding in their positions, astride the Autobahn east of the River crossing west of Kleutsch.

During the day, the 991st Field Artillery Battalion, which

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had been giving Combat Command "R" supporting fire under Division control, was given other missions, and moved from the Combat Command Area.

17 April 1945: For 17th April the mission originally was as follows: Task Force Richardson leave one company in Bernburg and send the remainder on a "clean-up" route, viz: Mukrena-Bebitz-Leau-Plomnitz-Baalberge-Drubard-Kl. Paschleben-Drossa-Wulfen-Micheln-Maxdorf-Gr. Paschleben.

Task Force Hogan send a "clean-up" force to Porst-Sibbendorf-Osternienburg-Trebbicheau-Aken (Leave a force at the river)-Kl. Zerst-Elsnig-Wurflau-Zehringer-Porst.

At 0700 Task Force Hogan moved out and hit a road block and some mines at Porst. By 0930 the town was cleared, and the engineers moved in to clear the road block and mines. At Porst the group divided with one force going to Aken via Sibbeldorf-Osternienburg-Trebbicheau-Micheln-Wulfen-Drossa-Kl. Paschleben-Trinum-Gr. Paschleben, and the other, the original route as planned. By 1348 one column was in Sibbeldorf, and the other in Elsnig. Moving steadily against light opposition, most of the day, both columns converged on Aken at 1715. On the way a chemical plant, air field, and electrical fixtures plant were captured, and a hospital discovered. Several prisoners of war were liberated, some of them troops of the VII Corps wire team, captured the night before. In Aken, small arms, panzerfausts, and considerable artillery were encountered, but by the end of the period, it was about three-fourths buttoned up. It was expected that the cleaning up would require most of the night and a greater part of the next day. The force that turned east met opposition, lost one tank, and had some casualties. At about 2100, they buttoned up Gr. Paschleben, for the night, to continue the next day.

Task Force Richardson moved out at 0700, and moved speedily with no opposition until it reached Konnern, at 1000. Here the mission was changed, and it moved to Route 3, and proceeded east to come under Division control for a mission in the vicinity of Hinsdorf. From this position it attacked to seize Bobbau-Steinfurth and Jessnitz. As the Task Force got under way for the attack at 1400, an enemy task force launched a counter-attack northwest from vicinity Bobbau-Steinfurth. This attacking force was quickly turned back by heavy artillery and air cooperation of fighter-bombers which knocked out an estimated eight tanks. After overcoming stubborn resistance the task force reached Bobbau-Steinfurth, and at the close of the period held the west edge of the town.

After sweeping the woods in the Haideburg Forest, 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, in Task Force Orr, reached the eastern edge near the railroad tracks, west of Torten, and remained in position throughout the period, keeping pressure on the enemy holding

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the RJ at 107649. Close contact was kept with Task Force Lovelady, operating to the east against Torten, in an effort to establish physical contact at the first opportunity.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Welborn, continued to secure the bridgehead over the Mulde River at 133653, and construction was continued on a treadway bridge at that point until 1845, when orders were issued to discontinue construction on the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead. At 0900 part of the Task Force was dispatched to aid elements of Task Force Lovelady secure Torten, and RJ at 107649, just west of the town. Patrolling was conducted during the day. At the close of the period they were disposed in the woods southeast of Torten.

18 April 1945: At 0600 Task Force Hogan resumed cleaning up Aken. By 1040, the right of the town was cleared. In the left portion there were 88's in buildings, and covering the road blocks. There was firing down cross streets. The task force commander threw artillery at the enemy infantry in the vicinity of the North Church.

The patrol from Task Force Richardson at Bernburg, made contact with the 113th Cavalry at Pobzig at 1000. At 1210 contact was also made with them at the blown bridge in Bernburg. At 1800 the Group left in Bernburg was relieved by a combat engineer battalion and rejoined Task Force Richardson, vicinity Bobbau-Steinfurth.

Task Force Hogan was attempting to get a patrol out of Aken east, to proceed toward Kl. Kuhnau, but up until 1400 was unable to get them out of town, due to sniper fire from the vicinity of the church. Considerable enemy artillery was thrown into the town. About 1500 the Combat Command CP moved to Aken, but shortly after arrival was ordered to move to Loberitz. When this was accomplished Task Force Hogan was placed under Division control, and Task Force Richardson, which included the 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, reverted to Combat Command "R" control. By 1900 Task Force Hogan had Aken cleared, and contact was made with the 83d Division.

§ Task Force Richardson received a counter-attack from 3 tanks and 100 Infantry at about 0520, in Bobbau-Steinfurth. This attack was defeated, without loss of ground. During the day they encountered heavy enemy defense of Infantry, supported by tanks, mortars, and artillery fire. At night they secured their position ready to continue the attack at 0600.

During the day Task Force Bradley attacked through Zechepkau and Thalheim to Reuden. While Reuden was being cleared the enemy counter-attacked from the southeast with 3 tanks and 25-50 Infantry. This attack was defeated and the town secured by 1915.

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Combat Command "R" headquarters was moved to Loberitz to take over the operations of Task Force Richardson, Task Force Miller, and Task Force Bradley, after Lieutenant Colonel Yeomans, Commanding Officer, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, was killed. Composition of troops at this time was as follows:

TASK FORCE RICHARDSON

3d Battalion, 32d Armored Regiment
3d Battalion, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt
2d Platoon, Co C, 703d TD Bn
1st Plt, Co C, 23d Arm'd Engr Bn

TASK FORCE MILLER

Company E, 32d Armored Regiment
Company A, 36th Arm'd Inf Regt
Section Co A, 703d TD Bn
Companies A & B, 83d Arm'd Rcn Bn

TASK FORCE BRADLEY

83d Arm'd Rcn Bn (less Companies A & B and 1 Plt
each of Companies C & D)
Section Co A, 703d TD Bn

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The Battle Group secured Reuden for the night.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Orr, Combat Command "A", continued to maintain their security during the period.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, withdrew the bridgehead forces (E and F Companies) to the west side of the Mulde River, under cover of darkness. They continued to clear the enemy from Torten, beginning at 0800, and by 1720, it was reported cleared. Combat patrols moving from Torten to contact elements of Combat Command Doan received heavy anti-tank and small arms fire from the vicinity of RJ at 107649, and were unable to effect the contact.

19 April 1945: Task Force Miller moved from Thalheim towards Wolfen via Reuden at 0400, and began an attack from the northern side advancing southeast. By 1100 it had reached the main north-south road. It reported finding "plenty of Krauts, and destroying same". The force met strong resistance, running into infantry, automatic weapons, panzerfaust, snipers, and artillery. Late in the afternoon the task force began to move faster and by the close of the period had cleared four-fifths of Wolfen. This was secured and preparations were made to move on at 0600.

Task Force Richardson attacked at 0400, in Bobbau-Steinfurth. The advance was very slow as it was a matter of house-to-house fighting. They met panzerfaust, small arms, small caliber A-P, mortars, and considerable direct fire. Air support was requested, and by 0945 planes arrived. At 1600 the task force was still in the vicinity of the church in the northern part of town, and the task force Commander reported the pressure was increasing. The task force tried to send a battle group around to the left and attack the enemy from the flank and rear. This force also met resistance but by the close of the period it had advanced to the point at which the main road branches east to Jessnitz. A patrol was sent out this road to go to Jessnitz, reconnoiter and report on the condition of the bridge, but at the end of the period no report had been received.

Orders had been issued for Task Force Hogan (less security detachment at Aken) to join Combat Command at Loberitz. Task Force Hogan at 0700 left Aken, leaving one platoon of Infantry, one platoon of light tanks, and one section of tank destroyers to secure the town. They arrived at 1100, and were immediately given the mission of securing a film factory west of Wolfen. By 1315 the task force was moving, and met very little resistance initially. Two-thirds of the way through, enemy infantry was encountered, and at 1645, fire and smoke impeded progress. 45 prisoners of war were taken. When the factory had been practically cleared, and also almost destroyed by fire, a battle group consisting of a company

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of tanks and one of Infantry moved out to the left, and north of Wolfen with the mission of advancing north to Bobbau-Steinfurth to relieve the pressure in front of Task Force Richardson. However, by the time this force had moved, one-fourth of the way, Task Force Richardson had cleared the situation in Bobbau-Steinfurth to the extent that the battle group was not needed. It was ordered to halt and secure its position between the built-up sections of Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth.

The Combat Command CP moved from Loberitz to the northeast edge of Wolfen at 1800.

During the day Air Support was requested several times, and did considerable strafing. The 54th Field Artillery Battalion, from positions in Wadendorf, supported all three task forces with fire.

1st Battalion (less Company A), 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Orr, at 1800, attacked north from vicinity 108633 in conjunction with Task Force Welborn with the mission of securing road 100648-106648. The attack moved initially against light resistance and at 2100 the left element had secured its objective. Resistance consisting of small arms, panzerfausts and artillery fire slowed the advance of the right element, and at the end of the period it had not advanced all the way to its objective.

The mission of Task Force Welborn, of which 2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was a part, was to secure the road 106650-113646 and establish road blocks at 106649 and 106648. Moderate to heavy resistance from artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire was encountered, and at the close of the period they were engaged in house-to-house fighting along the road southeast of Torten.

20 April 1945: At 0600, Battle Group Miller continued his attack south toward Greppin. At 0650, they encountered dug-in Infantry and snipers who delayed the advance. By 1315, the southern part of Greppin was practically clear, and the 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion began to take over. Battle Group Miller reverted to control of Combat Command "A" during the afternoon.

At 0600, Task Force Richardson resumed the attack on Jessnitz. One battle group was sent to the left flank while another attempted to press straight forward but neither was able to advance due to intense automatic weapons fire, dug-in infantry, and direct fire. A patrol had been dispatched prior to dawn to investigate the condition of the bridge across the creek west of Jessnitz but had been unable to reach it so another patrol was sent out. At 0910, this patrol likewise reported that enemy resistance was too heavy

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for it to reach the bridge. In the meantime, both battle groups were attempting to move but progress was negligible. At 1300, leading elements heard an explosion which they believed to be the bridge being blown and by 1330 visibility had improved sufficiently for airplanes to verify this belief. However, strong enemy resistance continued and by dark Task Force Richardson had been unable to advance further than 400 yards beyond the railroad just east of Bobbau-Steinfurth. At the close of the period, the Task Force was secured in this position.

At 0600, Task Force Hogan resumed the attack in the factory area and meeting only slight resistance completed mopping-up operations by mid-morning. The battle group that had been sent north for possible use with Task Force Richardson remained in place between Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth.

During the morning, Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, had discussed with the Combat Command Commander his plans for assembly positions for this Combat Command when the Bobbau-Steinfurth - Jessnitz - Wolfen - Greppin mission had been accomplished. These plans called for 83d Reconnaissance Battalion to relieve Battle Group Miller and revert to Division control. Upon relief, Battle Group Miller was to revert to Combat Command "A" control and Combat Command "R", consisting of Task Force Hogan and Task Force Richardson, was to be assembled in Reppichau and Chorau, prepared to attack Dessau on Division order. Therefore, realizing that Task Force Hogan could not be further used in its present position, the Combat Command Commander ordered Task Force Hogan to move at 1300 to Chorau and from there to patrol the Chorau - Kl. Kuhnau road. Upon reaching Chorau, Task Force Hogan sent a patrol north to the Kuhnau woods and then east toward Kl. Kuhnau. In spite of some small arms fire progress was good and the patrol was reinforced to battle group size. By 1630 the eastern edge of the woods had been reached and the battle group continued to the western edge of Kl. Kuhnau where a road block defended by an assault gun and small arms was encountered. By 2030 the resistance had been overcome, the road block removed, and the battle group secured itself for the night approximately half-way through the town. Patrols were sent out during the night to determine road conditions toward Dessau.

At 1730 the Combat Command CP began movement to new location at Reppichau. Upon orders of Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, Task Force Richardson reverted to Division control and was to continue his attack toward Jessnitz but was not to advance further than the blown bridge except on order.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Combat Command "A", remained in position during the day, and continued to secure its sector in the vicinity of 106648.

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2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn of Combat Command "B", continued the attack throughout the night and early morning against small arms, artillery and mortar fire. By 1000 they had secured the critical enemy strong point at RJ 106649. A combat patrol swept towns in the southern part of the division sector which had not been cleared during the initial advance of the Division to this area. Little resistance was encountered, and numerous prisoners of war were taken.

21 April 1945: Task Force Hogan resumed the attack toward Dessau at 0600. One force attacked east through Kl. Kuhnau, and the other attacked north to Gr. Kuhnau to take that town and then to proceed against Dessau. By 0630 the right column was half-way through Kl. Kuhnau, but the force sent north was held up by a road block defended by small arms and panzerfaust fire on the road leading out of Kl. Kuhnau. At 0730 the right column was also held up by a road block and artillery fire. By 0830 the road block to the north had been cleared and the left column started moving slowly. By 1045 the road block on the east was removed, the right column started moving, and by 1430 was in the western edge of Dessau. The left column proceeded to Gr. Kuhnau and by 1430 had cleared the town but another road block on the eastern edge of the town was encountered. Overcoming this obstacle, the force moved on, and by 1530 was two-thirds of the way from Gr. Kuhnau to Dessau. The right column was inside the city and moving. At this time, the Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, directed that both columns be held in place until Combat Command "A", coming in from the south, could come abreast. When this was accomplished, both columns were to resume the attack on order. At 1730 Combat Command "A" came abreast and the Commanding General, 3d Armored Division, ordered resumption of the attack. After advancing 400 yards in Dessau, the Combat Command was ordered to secure its position for the night. Due to the layout of the city, the left column was somewhat forward of the right column. Orders were issued for the attack to be resumed at first light with the left column remaining in place until the right column came abreast and for both then to continue together.

Combat Command CP moved to Kl. Kuhnau at 1415.

Task Force Richardson (operating under 3d Armored Division control) started the attack toward Jessnitz at 0530. Attempts to cross the Spittel Wasser creek were met with very heavy small arms, artillery, and mortar fire. Reconnaissance for a suitable crossing was started both to the north and south. A bridge was found intact at 148533, and a battle group crossed there, beginning at 1150. This battle group attacked Jessnitz from the north supported by the remainder of the task force from the east and southeast edge of town. Enemy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire continued heavy, but by 1700 the town was cleared. Task Force Richardson secured its position in Jessnitz for the night. Company D, 83d Reconnaissance

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sance Battalion, which had been attached to Task Force Richardson, reverted to the 83d Reconnaissance Battalion at 1730, and moved to Wolfen.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Orr, attacked on the right in Combat Command "A" zone toward Dessau, at 0515, and advanced steadily against stubborn resistance throughout the day. The resistance consisted of small arms, panzerfaust, mortar and artillery fire. At last light the main intersection in center of Dessau was reached, and the task force secured itself for the night, prepared to move on at 0600.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, attacked north in its zone at 0530 and advanced against small arms, artillery and mortar fire, encountering one enemy light flak battery. By 1300 the task force objective was secured and contact was established with Combat Command "A" on the left.

22 April 1945: The right column of Task Force Hogan jumped off at 0600. It moved east to the main intersection in town, then turned north. The left force in the meantime had circled north, and Combat Command "A", still further on the right (east) flank, circled north and northeast, so that once the movement started in the morning, the point of direction of all forces had changed to almost due north, to finish clearing Dessau. The left column met no resistance initially, and that met by the right column was negligible. Contact was made with Combat Command "A" by the right column at 0830. Further in the city, resistance stiffened, small arms, mortar, and artillery being encountered, but by 0930 both main intersections near the river had been reached.

* Getting to within a few hundred yards of the final objective on the edge of town, the force advanced on two roads. Again, stubborn enemy resistance held up the advance and mines were reported. Inability to get past these obstacles, and the necessity of having to dig out the enemy infantry one by one, delayed further advance the rest of the day. At 1830 a battle group of one platoon tanks and one platoon infantry moved around to the right flank to try to uproot the force holding up the advance, but this group was unable to accomplish its mission. Combat Command "A" on the right flank was also held up about 200 yards short of the objective.

Late at night a platoon of Infantry, reinforced later to a company, worked through the mine field, and the engineers went up and removed the mines. The infantry moved forward but at the end of the period they were still some distance from the objective.

The Combat Command CP moved to the western edge of Dessau at 1030. In the afternoon a patrol from Task Force Hogan was sent out to sweep the woods between Dessau and Aken. At 1630 the patrol reported 35 prisoners of war had been taken from the woods.

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Task Force Richardson was relieved at Jessnitz by elements of the 60th Infantry Regiment, the relief being completed at 1600. At 1615 Task Force Richardson reverted to the control of Combat Command "R", and at 1625 moved out to a new assembly area in Kothen. By 1845 all elements had closed in Kothen.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Orr, Combat Command "A", resumed the attack at 0800 to complete its mission of seizing and securing that portion of Dessau in its zone. Initially resistance was light, but as the advance continued, resistance increased. However, by 1300 the objective had been reached and secured.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn, Combat Command "B", continued to secure the left sector of Combat Command "B" southeast of Dessau.

23 April 1945: At first light, Task Force Hogan continued the attack, making good progress against light opposition. At 1000, however, a strong enemy position was encountered and the Task Force stopped to reorganize and to plan a coordinated attack. At 1130 the attack was begun again with infantry leading due to possibility of mines and due to intense panzerfaust fire on the tanks if the tanks broke defilade. Although some progress was made, it was slight due to intense cross fire from automatic weapons and the fire from panzerfausts being used indirectly as mortars. The right column encountered a wire obstacle at 1430 and attempts to clear it of fire so that engineers could remove mines were unsuccessful.

The Combat Commander then ordered both columns to attack at 1630 with tanks leading, accepting any losses due to panzerfausts and mines. At 1630, after an intense artillery preparation, the attack began and by 1645 the objective was reached. Combat Command "A", in the meantime, had taken and secured their objective. This marked the complete occupation of Dessau. Road blocks and patrols were set up.

At 0700 a force consisting of Company H, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, and Company C, 32d Armored Regiment, was sent by Task Force Richardson to Aken to relieve the force of Task Force Hogan in that town.

At 0755 Task Force Hogan dispatched a force of one company tanks and one platoon infantry to continue sweeping the woods west of Dessau. They returned at 1100 and reported finding no resistance.

At 1515 Task Force Richardson left the security force at Aken and the remainder of the task force started movement from Kothen to the new billeting area. The units closed in their respective areas at 1910, and the 3d Battalion, 32d Armored Regiment, reverted to 32d Armored Regimental control. Headquarters 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was located in Grillenburg and

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the battalion was billeted in towns in that vicinity.

At 1640 the artillery air OP reported that the bridge at 098743 had just been blown.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Orr, continued to maintain defensive positions in Dessau throughout the period.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force Welborn of Combat Command "B", continued to secure its sector throughout the period. It was anticipated that 2d Battalion would move to the new assembly area sometime during the next day.

24 April 1945: Task Force Hogan remained in position, securing its sector throughout the day. During the morning, prior to daylight, and again after dark, regular patrols were made to contact Combat Command "A" on the right.

The Combat Command was attached to 9th Infantry Division at 1630.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, part of Combat Command "A", continued to defend its sector. They were attached to the 9th Infantry Division effective 1545, and remained under control of 9th Infantry Division until they started moving to the new assembly area.

2d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, moved to new assembly area vicinity Vatterode during the day and reverted to Regimental control, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, less Company H, still in Aken, in their new assembly area, started reorganizing, cleaning up, and necessary maintenance.

25 April 1945: All attached troops of other units of the Division were released during the day, and reverted to their respective commands. On completion of the relief of the Combat Command by 9th Infantry Division at 1630, the Combat Command reverted to control of 3d Armored Division. Combat Command CP moved at 1725 to new area vicinity Rammelburg and closed at 2130.

1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, continued to occupy their sector, under Combat Command "A", until late in the afternoon when relief was effected by 9th Infantry Division. 3d Armored Division planned to move the Battalion the following morning to the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment assembly area, at which time it would revert to regimental control.

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2d Battalion and 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, remained in their sector, and proceeded with clean-up, recreation and maintenance.

H Company, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, was relieved at Aken during the day, and joined the 3d Battalion in their assembly area.

26 - 30 April (incl) 1945: On the 26th April, the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, moved into its assigned bivouac area, vicinity Wippra, and began maintenance, clean-up, and recreation. The 2d and 3d Battalions continued with maintenance and recreation, through 28 April 1945. On 29 April 1945, the Regiment moved south to new assembly areas with Headquarters and Service Company vicinity Greussen, 1st Battalion vicinity Weissensee, 2d Battalion vicinity Kolleda, and 3d Battalion vicinity Grossenehrich.

At the end of the period the companies were paid off, began anew on their maintenance and clean-up, and prepared to start on a training and recreation schedule on the 1st of May.

(h) Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:

36th Armored Infantry Regiment	-	Col R L Howze
1st Battalion, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Lt Col W R Orr
2d Battalion, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Lt Col T J Moran
3d Battalion, 36th Armd Inf Regt	-	Maj R E Chaney

(1) Changes in Command:

Lt Col T. J. Moran commanded 2d Battalion	from 1 - 13 April 1945.
Major Ronald J. Peshek commanded 2d Bn	from 14- 17 April 1945.
Capt Harvey K. Bubenzer commanded 2d Bn	from 18- 30 April 1945.

Major Robert E. Chaney commanded 3d Bn	from 1- 14 April 1945.
Major Gordon F. Thomas commanded 3d Bn	from 15- 30 April 1945.

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION:

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Moses, Kenneth E.	36525980	pfc	1 April 1945
Phillips, Clyde F. Sr.	34838357	pfc	1 April 1945
Marker, Gustave J.	36709586	pfc	1 April 1945
Congelo, George M. Sr.	42122406	pfc	1 April 1945
Campas, Tony NMI	39241888	pfc	1 April 1945
Irwin, Robert C.	38700107	pfc	1 April 1945
Boisvert, Guilfred J.	31375014	pfc	1 April 1945
O'Donnell, Henry T.	33941471	pfc	1 April 1945
Graig, Wayne L.	38570560	pvt	1 April 1945
Hardee, Silas E.	34857707	pfc	1 April 1945
Belue, John C.	15317944	sgt	1 April 1945
Harper, Louis G.	20560492	pfc	1 April 1945
Martina, James NMI	33153486	pvt	1 April 1945
Passanise, Sam H.	37626374	pfc	1 April 1945
Tipton, Harold M.	38599674	pfc	1 April 1945
Trovato, Joseph A.	42175054	pfc	1 April 1945
Avila, Ruben NMI	38057669	pfc	1 April 1945
Faith, Robert C.	36078030	pfc	1 April 1945
Pierce, Bert H.	7085674	pvt	1 April 1945
Richeson, James R.	38067447	pfc	1 April 1945
Cole, Henry A.	34939342	pfc	1 April 1945
Bartley, Wilber H.	37643691	pfc	1 April 1945
Alarie, Raymond M.	31448877	pfc	1 April 1945
Ledoux, Willie NMI	31454514	pfc	1 April 1945
Rewis, Robert A.	34058924	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Gomins, Harry M.	36212748	sgt	1 April 1945
Hughes, Edward E.	35295458	pfc	1 April 1945
Kosko, Michael F.	32918788	pfc	1 April 1945
Sarrett, Jesse B.	39309071	S/sgt	1 April 1945
George, James J.	35171462	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Duffy, Robert W.	37656745	sgt	1 April 1945
Jardot, Ralph J.	37745048	pfc	1 April 1945
Mentanez, Gustavo D.	39155126	pvt	1 April 1945
Halbrook, Leonard E.	34920180	pfc	1 April 1945
Hutchens, Billy G.	37512883	pfc	1 April 1945
Musella, Savarie J.	39545108	pfc	1 April 1945
Driscoll, James A.	42069357	pfc	1 April 1945
Pickard, Floyd E.	34174318	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Meals, James E.	33433035	pfc	1 April 1945
Canterbury, James M. Jr.	37180367	pfc	1 April 1945
Miller, Joe D. Jr.	34572697	pfc	1 April 1945
Becker, Kenneth O.	36212774	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Brinker, Lawrence W.	33704007	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Dickson, William G.	35897962	S/sgt	1 April 1945
Bellflower, Wilburn T.	39419767	pfc	1 April 1945
Reutter, Raymond J.	6131245	pfc	1 April 1945
Rowley, Paul H.	42120976	pfc	1 April 1945
Supernavage, Edward J.	42190128	pvt	1 April 1945
Taylor, Omar G.	36037248	Tec 5	1 April 1945

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Melnick, phil NMI	33827610	tec 5	2 April 1945
Batten, William G.	34173738	pfc	2 April 1945
Jones, Thomas R. SR.	34835152	pfc	2 April 1945
Bitski, Joseph S.	36037454	tec 5	2 April 1945
Marsenell, Richard J.	35089786	pfc	2 April 1945
Schill, Henry A.	37018131	tec 5	2 April 1945
Stephens, Harold NMI	36078193	sgt	1 April 1945
Boon, William C.	01327604	2/Lt	1 April 1945
Bird, Ted NMI	38583871	pfc	1 April 1945
Rainey, James W.	31071381	sgt	4 April 1945
Odle, Fred J.	35171554	tec 5	4 April 1945
Eisma, John H.	36234572	pfc	2 April 1945
Schuyler, Joseph A.	33807385	pfc	2 April 1945
Sullivan, William F.	34630703	pfc	2 April 1945
Huskins, Howard NMI	34950452	pfc	1 April 1945
Gunter, Raymond NMI	35908916	pfc	1 April 1945
Vernamonti, Michael L.	33838192	pvt	2 April 1945
Sanders, James E.	34762568	pfc	2 April 1945
Albers, John H.	37338209	pfc	2 April 1945
Becker, George J. JR.	38591244	pfc	6 April 1945
Sapien, Catarino NMI	39688360	pfc	6 April 1945
Guthrie, Martin T.	14033842	pfc	6 April 1945
Griffin, Ramon G.	32849086	pvt	6 April 1945
Young, Leonce NMI	34153863	sgt	6 April 1945
Bolton, Arthur K.	0536356	2/Lt	6 April 1945
Janczak, Frank S.	36907704	pfc	6 April 1945
Holman, Raymond L.	31467884	pfc	6 April 1945
Wasolowski, Joseph NMI	35046591	S/sgt	6 April 1945
Amano, Joseph NMI	32478267	pfc	6 April 1945
Kelly, John P.	42027813	pfc	6 April 1945
Wilks, James P.	6851450	S/sgt	6 April 1945
Badkins, Henry NMI	15065197	pfc	6 April 1945
Wilson, Glenn L.	42146027	pfc	6 April 1945
Rivard, Maurice J.	11063919	pfc	6 April 1945
Thomas, Ernest B.	34828753	pfc	7 April 1945
Maxwell, Wilson NMI	35670360	pfc	6 April 1945
Kirk, Allen R.	39726187	S/sgt	6 April 1945
Henderson, Roy J.	42122867	pfc	6 April 1945
Kinder, Vestle T.	35922299	sgt	6 April 1945
Tilden, Perry E.	01058139	2/Lt	7 April 1945
Smith, Clarence B.	36960788	pfc	7 April 1945
Yuras, Anthony P.	32357130	pfc	7 April 1945
Olesky, Frank NMI	36359900	pvt	7 April 1945
Brooks, Henry NMI JR	35839446	pfc	7 April 1945
Mueggenberg, Marlin G.	37670220	pfc	6 April 1945
Goldstein, Louis NMI	31390588	tec 5	6 April 1945
Price, Edward W.	39612144	pfc	6 April 1945
Watters, Robert S.	37032938	T/sgt	7 April 1945

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Fritz, William C.	53564052	s/sgt	7 April 1945
Gurtis, William E.	01322000	1/Lt	8 April 1945
Vincent, Clyde S.	38697955	pfc	8 April 1945
Berna, Lester R.	37775824	pvt	8 April 1945
Sadorus, George S.	39544679	sgt	7 April 1945
Roberts, Clifton R.	01039877	2/Lt	6 April 1945
Faia, Garmon J.	33085214	tec 5	6 April 1945
Harris, Ed C.	38043723	s/sgt	6 April 1945
Gallett, Clayton O.	42095501	pfc	6 April 1945
Ruggiero, Armando NMI	42142448	pfc	6 April 1945
Davenport, John D. Jr.	0537388	1/Lt	7 April 1945
Cantos, Charles J.	33923125	pfc	8 April 1945
Laney, Oliver NMI	14020029	T/sgt	7 April 1945
Blaker, James R.	36023689	pfc	7 April 1945
Appleman, James E.	38570789	pfc	6 April 1945
Schwarzschild, Jack NMI	42087145	pfc	7 April 1945
Wise, Jack R.	6667920	pfc	6 April 1945
Acosta, James E.	39698069	pfc	8 April 1945
Byrom, Vernon G.	31446265	pvt	8 April 1945
Fleegal, Glenn E.	35931080	pvt	8 April 1945
Kattestad, John M.	36961504	pfc	8 April 1945
Fuches, Leonard F.	37771269	pvt	6 April 1945
Sullivan, Bruce H.	34336452	sgt	6 April 1945
Todd, Rex L.	37054313	cpl	6 April 1945
Quimby, Lotus A.	38176114	pfc	6 April 1945
Warner, Paul D.	35634279	pvt	6 April 1945
Richardson, Lester G.	32594051	pfc	9 April 1945
Holder, Bruce G.	38608241	pfc	9 April 1945
Perkins, William G.	32847348	pfc	9 April 1945
Dill, Roy L.	38573218	pvt	9 April 1945
West, Edward G.	15101851	s/sgt	7 April 1945
Copeland, Alex NMI	37067410	T/sgt	6 April 1945
Withey, Carlous G.	42142687	pfc	6 April 1945
Walsh, Martin NMI	31375719	s/sgt	10 April 1945
Puccio, John NMI	31207461	cpl	10 April 1945
Frasier, Sharron L.	34088159	pfc	10 April 1945
Mecanles, Walter C.	37753736	pvt	10 April 1945
Kertis, Joseph NMI	33082177	tec 5	10 April 1945
Jobin, Maurice W.	31433621	pfc	10 April 1945
Todd, James A.	16085998	tec 5	9 April 1945
Stroud, Kyle L.	36864599	pfc	11 April 1945
Sparano, Dominick T.	42188867	pvt	11 April 1945
Ulmer, Leon G.	37071592	s/sgt	11 April 1945
Levine, Joseph NMI	36228088	s/sgt	10 April 1945
Turner, Benjamin F.	37745046	pfc	10 April 1945
Robert, Newton J.	38618593	pvt	10 April 1945
Vignati, Frank E.	31345509	sgt	12 April 1945
Zima, Eugene J.	31412470	pfc	10 April 1945
Rhodes, Fred H.	01057218	2/Lt	10 April 1945

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Bowlds, Leo A.	37771238	pfc	10 April 1945
Bossard, Paul J.	42185282	pfc	10 April 1945
Caule, Francis J.	37560430	pfc	10 April 1945
Nagy, Eugene P.	42187648	pfc	11 April 1945
Ashley, Ruel K.	34839522	pvt	12 April 1945
Viscuso, Carmelo NMI	42184598	pvt	12 April 1945
Baker, Westley W.	32585764	pfc	12 April 1945
Horn, Raymon G.	34058661	pfc	12 April 1945
O'connor, Leonard E.	36767413	T/sgt	12 April 1945
Pederson, Harold V.	39167678	Sgt	12 April 1945
Orsini, William J.	42188821	pvt	12 April 1945
Shelton, John H.	34977694	pfc	11 April 1945
Saylor, Asher NMI	35249646	pfc	11 April 1945
Dearden, William NMI	37046494	Tec 5	11 April 1945
Gietz, Lawrence R.	20846066	Cpl	10 April 1945
Perkins, John W.	14016560	pfc	10 April 1945
Brocius, Mervin NMI	33768815	pfc	10 April 1945
Deppiesse, Everett P.	36212791	Tec 5	10 April 1945
Frank, Herman NMI	55859247	pvt	
Holder, Homer R.	34597644	Sgt	12 April 1945
Alston, Robert M.	34230949	Sgt	11 April 1945
Hamilton, Clifford L.	34978682	pfc	11 April 1945
Shofner, Grover M.	36699538	pfc	12 April 1945
Lach, Stanley E.	33943049	pfc	12 April 1945
Chapman, Dalton NMI	6377094	pfc	12 April 1945
McCloud, James W.	34922103	pfc	12 April 1945
Burzo, Albert T.	42184354	pfc	12 April 1945
Hanneman, Vincent F.	36960928	pfc	12 April 1945
Sappington, Emmett B.	37399508	pfc	11 April 1945
Williams, Alvin H.	42146875	pfc	11 April 1945
Jaeger, George NMI	42176767	pfc	6 April 1945
Woodrome, John C.	36980204	pfc	6 April 1945
Macilko, Tony NMI	42180258	pfc	12 April 1945
Brown, Lewis N.	44035863	pfc	11 April 1945
Lovett, Clarence J.	38732975	pfc	11 April 1945
Portner, John A.	14017835	T/sgt	10 April 1945
Ramsey, Ronald V.	42096573	pfc	10 April 1945
Sokolofsky, Philip	33760486	pvt	10 April 1945
Frazier, William T.	34599312	pfc	13 April 1945
Wood, Henry L.	36919113	pvt	13 April 1945
Mueller, Donald F.	37553143	pfc	13 April 1945
Stephens, Leroy NMI	37058353	S/sgt	13 April 1945
Fosberg, Kenneth L.	20114184	S/sgt	13 April 1945
Hayes, James G.	01290944	Lt	13 April 1945
Donnell, William T.	6292063	T/sgt	13 April 1945
Rawls, Joe P.	14000398	T/sgt	13 April 1945
Simmons, Walter NMI	34268569	Cpl	13 April 1945
Carlson, Donald F.	36713724	pfc	13 April 1945
Vacchiano, Frank S.	42190141	pfc	13 April 1945
Crews, Hardie NMI	37610328	pvt	13 April 1945

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Gelof, Melvin NMI	01323119	2/Lt	13 April 1945
Densen, Charles E.	31436877	pvt	11 April 1945
Rauschenberger, Paul G.	36526861	pfc	13 April 1945
Rice, Thomas E.	33446468	sgt	12 April 1945
Boyer, Clifford G.	37010650	S/sgt	13 April 1945
Bailey, James T.	35816728	pvt	13 April 1945
Takas, John A.	42100981	pvt	13 April 1945
Shaw, William C.	14033913	S/sgt	13 April 1945
Hopper, Homer T.	38694011	pfc	13 April 1945
Worpell, James L.	36918466	pvt	13 April 1945
Hools, Ralph D.	0406527	1/Lt	13 April 1945
Back, Price B.	35088358	pvt	13 April 1945
Rivenbark, Henry G.	44013876	pvt	13 April 1945
Campana, Albert D.	32507403	pvt	14 April 1945
Henken, Joseph H.	36065968	pvt	14 April 1945
Bailey, Junior L.	33217574	sgt	13 April 1945
Camara, Manuel M. Jr.	31367422	pfc	14 April 1945
Schneider, Louis G.	36054411	pfc	7 April 1945
Valenti, Mariano NMI	42126547	pvt	7 April 1945
Linville, William T.	35877251	S/sgt	10 April 1945
Ruzicka, Victor H.	36458293	Cpl	10 April 1945
Jehlen, John A.	42136495	pfc	10 April 1945
Edwards, Donald F.	42184638	pvt	10 April 1945
Penna, Tony M. Jr.	39463417	S/sgt	14 April 1945
Parker, Morris M.	38042853	T/sgt	14 April 1945
Byrd, William T.	34968581	S/sgt	14 April 1945
Pum, William H.	12201130	Cpl	14 April 1945
Grube, Elwood J. Sr.	33837896	pfc	14 April 1945
Schilling, Charles H.	33574555	pfc	14 April 1945
Bell, Horace L. J.	34968963	pvt	14 April 1945
Smetana, John P.	42003973	pvt	14 April 1945
Powler, James A.	34868092	pvt	14 April 1945
Hackstedt, Raymond C.	38090072	S/sgt	14 April 1945
Frank, Louis W.	35019574	pvt	14 April 1945
Edge, Warren G.	6286690	Cpl	14 April 1945
Joseph, Harry T. Jr.	33814434	pfc	14 April 1945
Harris, Henry N.	34800644	pvt	14 April 1945
Brzuchalski, Sylvester NMI	35284647	pfc	14 April 1945
Krolkowski, Louis L.	32209488	pfc	8 April 1945
Gaserotto, Eugene G.	37159512	sgt	14 April 1945
Reed, Sanford R. Jr.	37753695	pvt	14 April 1945
James, Jack W.	39170400	pfc	15 April 1945
Stasiowski, Stanley S.	36606602	pvt	15 April 1945
Roventini, Nvio J.	36960728	pfc	15 April 1945
Musgrove, Harold G.	34979405	pfc	15 April 1945
Parks, Alfred NMI	38578517	pfc	15 April 1945
Pearcy, Gilbert J.	36960337	pfc	15 April 1945
Paulson, Maxwell L.	36960342	pfc	15 April 1945

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Butt, Charles A. Jr.	34088002	cpl	15 April 1945
McClure, William H.	34282221	pfc	15 April 1945
Clark, Harry L.	34973901	pfc	15 April 1945
Grice, George G.	31436654	pvt	15 April 1945
Grove, Andrew J. F.	33848844	pfc	15 April 1945
Pennington, James G.	34949002	pfc	15 April 1945
Saylor, Asher NMI	35249646	pfc	15 April 1945
Taylor, Euclid G.	18194427	pfc	15 April 1945
Cheshaek, Steven NMI	33200054	pvt	15 April 1945
Lentz, Harry J.	33878617	pvt	15 April 1945
Walters, Ernest R.	39173322	pvt	15 April 1945
Weisenzahl, Joseph W.	42191237	pvt	15 April 1945
Whitman, Leroy M.	14035102	pfc	15 April 1945
Jackson, Harold J.	31354535	cpl	15 April 1945
Farmer, Thomas E.	42104465	pfc	15 April 1945
James, Ola NMI Jr.	35845683	pfc	15 April 1945
Mickiewicz, Henry J.	32276683	T/sgt	15 April 1945
Butler, Eugene R.	37673733	sgt	15 April 1945
Meponell, Robert J.	36988913	pfc	15 April 1945
Jackson, Richard A.	37740994	pfc	15 April 1945
Kuhl, Ervin P.	37658737	S/sgt	15 April 1945
Rhinehart, Kenneth R.	36980490	sgt	12 April 1945
Davis, Charles T.	14023941	pfc	15 April 1945
Looney, Charles R.	35656615	Tec 5	15 April 1945
Fister, William J.	33616182	pfc	15 April 1945
Gohodas, Elger NMI	39701682	pfc	15 April 1945
Wohlgenuth, Gurd R.	32606645	Tec 5	15 April 1945
Ruckman, Richard A.	37016785	pfc	15 April 1945
Ballantyne, Robert J.	35905750	pvt	15 April 1945
Page, Marcel F.	35086780	pvt	15 April 1945
Walker, Phillip E.	15338195	pfc	15 April 1945
Grimaldi, Joe C.	36570894	pvt	15 April 1945
Gainey, Grover J.	34849236	pvt	15 April 1945
Grocker, John Q. Sr.	34939333	pvt	15 April 1945
Hey, Howard NMI	37497493	cpl	16 April 1945
Yarbery, Bill NMI	37067386	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Meyer, Rayfield M.	37664953	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Murphy, Robert E.	35076281	pfc	16 April 1945
Ramsey, Clyde R.	31373191	pfc	16 April 1945
Goodgold, Irving NMI	32644525	pfc	16 April 1945
Borgers, Otto F.	37605275	pfc	17 April 1945
Wiedenbaum, Harry NMI	32879018	pvt	17 April 1945
Lambright, Beauregard J.	34767972	pvt	16 April 1945
Pagett, Denver E.	37627242	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Kleinhalter, Vernon J.	35691299	pfc	16 April 1945
Kwiatkowski, Chester F.	32923940	pfc	16 April 1945
Washington, James J.	42143680	pfc	16 April 1945
Gehring, George J.	33199769	pvt	16 April 1945

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION: (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Watkins, Edward H.	33923332	pfc	16 April 1945
fox, wade A.	35829957	pfc	14 April 1945
patton, porian E.	35812575	T/sgt	16 April 1945
Keyser, Alfred NMI	36077914	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Hyatt, Perry R.	34935428	pfc	16 April 1945
Brooks, Henry NMI Jr.	35839446	pfc	16 April 1945
Mann, Howard L.	36980804	pfc	17 April 1945
Balaris, Joseph NMI	42185192	pfc	17 April 1945
patterson, William R.	33838379	pvt	14 April 1945
Oldham, Robert W.	37061169	pvt	16 April 1945
Darlington, Edward E.	37771240	pfc	16 April 1945
paterak, Frank J.	32453446	pvt	16 April 1945
Clapp, William H.	33141902	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Reinke, Martin R.	37120085	pfc	16 April 1945
Winters, William B.	34611540	pfc	17 April 1945
Volberding, Fredrick A. Jr.	37452626	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Nichols, Keith V.	16126275	Cpl	16 April 1945
Kahl, Harlan A.	36960758	pfc	16 April 1945
Nosofsky, Arthur NMI	32712722	pfc	16 April 1945
Toney, James W.	35902431	pfc	16 April 1945
Gaiser, John C.	33893962	pvt	16 April 1945
Pleegal, Glenn E.	33931098	pvt	16 April 1945
Kenia, Bernard W.	36918428	pvt	16 April 1945
Miller, David P.	35578616	S/sgt	10 April 1945
Gasparro, John V.	42122301	pfc	10 April 1945
Jensen, Victor F. Jr.	36834769	pfc	10 April 1945
Carlson, William T.	36106762	Tec 5	15 April 1945
Phillips, Elmer W.	34058499	sgt	16 April 1945
Storey, Forrest P.	34777502	pfc	16 April 1945
Kniffin, Ivan L.	39904881	S/sgt	16 April 1945
Reyer, Paul NMI	34260339	sgt	16 April 1945
Maher, Richard L.	37639901	pfc	16 April 1945
Hort, Marvin J.	13186837	pfc	16 April 1945
Ciupak, Edward F.	32841673	pfc	16 April 1945
Cannon, Hugh V.	34098982	Tec 5	16 April 1945
Burton Z T (io)	38607330	pfc	16 April 1945
Davenport, Albert NMI	7007333	sgt	17 April 1945
Sher, George NMI	36042664	Tec 5	16 April 1945
Hope, William D.	33048166	pfc	17 April 1945
Bartosek, Milton J.	36746524	pfc	17 April 1945
Watson, Morris T.	59148235	pfc	17 April 1945
Larsh, Clifford R.	35885880	pfc	17 April 1945
Dormany, Joseph E.	34546329	pfc	17 April 1945
Gaines, Albert R.	38128064	Tec 5	17 April 1945
Stamos, Samuel N.	13121145	Cpl	17 April 1945
Beeson, Albert T.	34869331	pfc	17 April 1945
Wise, Fred P.	34611433	pvt	17 April 1945

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

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(i) LOSSES IN ACTION (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Turnbough, Willard A.	37629105	S Sgt	17 April 1945
Wagner, Frank	32801528	Cpl	17 April 1945
Graves, John M.	34914044	Pvt	18 April 1945
McDowell, Roger C.	14030658	Pfc	18 April 1945
Montalbano, Joseph	42188848	Pvt	18 April 1945
Malinoski, Adolph A.	31417772	Pvt	17 April 1945
Duncan, Ralph L.	37749745	Pvt	17 April 1945
Farr, Henry C.	33596218	Tec 5	17 April 1945
Michaud, Henry H.	31433007	Pfc	17 April 1945
Adams, Jesse J.	33660836	Pfc	17 April 1945
Sarver, Edward G.	33091059	S Sgt	17 April 1945
Stephenson, Herman	44013649	Pvt	17 April 1945
Zuniga, Joe T. Sr.	37754077	Pvt	17 April 1945
Skaggs, Everett M.	35655052	Pvt	15 April 1945
Zaccaria, James A. Jr.	31411156	Pvt	15 April 1945
Sheridan, James E.	15337585	Pfc	15 April 1945
Wiechman, Martin W.	37747684	Pfc	13 April 1945
Arcia, James	39721225	Pvt	18 April 1945
Turnbull, Grant H.	39022533	Sgt.	18 April 1945
Booth, Eugene R.	42177292	Pfc	18 April 1945
Donovan, Clarence I.	36716224	Pvt	18 April 1945
Stogner, Leverte	38657755	Pvt	18 April 1945
Wilson, Warren D.	42099044	Pvt	18 April 1945
Smith, Ellis B. Jr.	44017708	Pvt	18 April 1945
Wood, Eugene M.	34865306	Pvt	18 April 1945
Schwertly, Harvey K.	42142644	Pfc	18 April 1945
Thibeault, Romeo	31100231	Tec 5	18 April 1945
Young, Homer L.	44038744	Pvt	18 April 1945
Smith, Gordon C.	33713434	Pvt	18 April 1945
Denniston, Donald W.	39476473	Cpl	18 April 1945
Seymour, Vinonet W.	31471851	Pfc	18 April 1945
Roberts, George L.	36254000	Pfc	18 April 1945
Barrett, John H.	33838526	Pvt	18 April 1945
Peterson, Warren C.	37010599	S Sgt.	18 April 1945
Cavin, Raymond C.	6272411	S Sgt	18 April 1945
Newcomb, James O.	35480741	Pfc	18 April 1945
Aspinall, Sam R.	31320547	Tec 5	18 April 1945
Baker, Edwin C.	33903331	Sgt.	18 April 1945
Meschini, Marcel J.	31432899	Pfc	18 April 1945
Paige, Tracy	44017583	Pvt	18 April 1945
Skallerud, Lowell R.	17050777	Pvt	18 April 1945
Jaques, Earl K.	31372476	Pfc	18 April 1945
Jones, Alan M.	19177612	Pfc	18 April 1945
Malone, Frank S.	33822964	Pfc	17 April 1945
Lewis, Eltus C.	18062455	S Sgt	13 April 1945
Stuedinger, Benjamin	33838289	Pvt	13 April 1945
Everett, Morgan R.	33942880	Pvt	13 April 1945
Berton, Leno L.	31433747	Pfc	13 April 1945
Roberts, Albert R.	33713452	Pvt	18 April 1945
Antonucci, John J.	31436566	Pvt	18 April 1945
Hayden, Henry E.	33860325	Pvt	18 April 1945
Hayes, Gerald W.	37589058	Pfc	18 April 1945
Stabler, Arthur L.	33814493	Pvt	18 April 1945
Hershey, Chester L.	33802852	S Sgt	18 April 1945
Bernardic, John L.	01321990	1st Lt	18 April 1945

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(1) LOSSES IN ACTION (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Wright, Lewis J.	15082734	Pfc	18 April 1945
Cole, Delbert K.	36444235	Pfc	18 April 1945
Furtado, Alfred J.	31434320	Pvt	18 April 1945
Dennis, James R.	35611818	Pfc	18 April 1945
Roberts, Laverne F.	36971130	Pfc	18 April 1945
Cooper, Robert M.	35905176	Pvt	18 April 1945
Dessautels, Paul A.	31418212	Pfc	18 April 1945
Dabbs, Allton L.	34885854	Pfc	18 April 1945
Garzieri, Frank	42176859	Pfc	18 April 1945
Layer, Glenn W.	38732867	Pfc	15 April 1945
Peshek, Ronald J.	0328473	Maj	18 April 1945
Orange, William A. Jr	33889204	Pfc	18 April 1945
Davis, Lowell S.	36918199	Pvt	18 April 1945
Beahen, Jerome T.	37775721	Pvt	18 April 1945
Owens, Nick	34912421	Pfc	18 April 1945
Hardy, Douglas P.	34837691	Pfc	18 April 1945
Piano, Edmond	31454505	Pfc	18 April 1945
Howden, Bruce E. Jr.	33598218	Pfc	18 April 1945
Hasse, Don A.	37378105	Pvt	18 April 1945
Pritt, Raymond L.	35086148	Pfc	15 April 1945
Rouse, Merle E.	37753716	Pfc	15 April 1945
Hourant, George M.	12021211	Bgt	15 April 1945
Moseley, William H.	33856824	Pfc	13 April 1945
Young, Hawley G.	37016026	S Sgt	18 April 1945
Wright, Andrew J Jr	33951442	Pfc	19 April 1945
Carter, Golden H.	44036155	Pvt	17 April 1945
Funk, Herman	35850247	Pvt	18 April 1945
Held, John M.	37638682	Pvt	18 April 1945
Huntley, Charles C.	34935503	Pfc	14 April 1945
Marcus, Gilmer L.	34937252	Pfc	13 April 1945
Gutierrez, Pete	37704887	Pvt	14 April 1945
Atwood, Alvin E.	38578729	Pfc	19 April 1945
Bailey, Wilbur S.	33854866	Pfc	19 April 1945
Mason, John F. Jr.	37424742	Pvt	19 April 1945
Sprake, John R.	14003679	Pfc	19 April 1945
Marotta, Patrick A.	31436902	Pvt	19 April 1945
Seidenstein, Lester	42189023	Pvt	19 April 1945
Rader, Marvin	32322115	S Sgt	19 April 1945
Cobb, Leland D.	37683811	S Sgt	19 April 1945
Carrier, William	35807065	Pfc	19 April 1945
Lee, Elton A.	37776198	Pfc	19 April 1945
Such, James J.	36911988	Pfc	19 April 1945
Lester, Newil W.	42165859	Pfc	19 April 1945
Barrow, Morris J.	38618916	Pfc	19 April 1945
Stepien, John T.	36036068	S Sgt	19 April 1945
West, Edward G.	15101851	S Sgt	19 April 1945
Wissler, Russell S.	33148660	T Sgt	19 April 1945
Adcock, Milton E.	37712620	Pvt	18 April 1945
Ringler, Norman L.	33574127	Cpl	19 April 1945
Chaney, Robert E.	0351085	Maj	15 April 1945
Hammett, Alphie B.	38641301	Cpl	20 April 1945
Klues, Roy H.	01326220	1st Lt.	20 April 1945
Coleman, Robert E.	14035328	Pvt	20 April 1945
Oliver, John F.	15076802	Sgt.	20 April 1945
Skelley, Jack E.	33940255	Pfc	20 April 1945

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

(1) LOSSES IN ACTION - R-E (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
DeSanti, Arturo	31429907	Pfc	20 April 1945
Wise, Jack R.	6667920	Pfc	20 April 1945
Domrow, Frederick W.	36919351	Pvt	20 April 1945
Wisnowski, Robert J.	42181328	Pfc-	20 April 1945
Yurko, Roger B.	39458756	Pfc	20 April 1945
Krehely, John P.	42184582	Pfc	20 April 1945
Smith, James R.	36073647	Tec 4	20 April 1945
May, Walter W.	01290968	1st Lt	20 April 1945
Woloszyn, Edward J.	33802104	Pvt	20 April 1945
Cordell, Earl M.	34987030	Pfc	20 April 1945
Rickey, Leodore A.	31468259	Pfc	20 April 1945
Hehny, Earl W.	33947486	Pvt	21 April 1945
Servis, Roy F.	36987215	Pvt	21 April 1945
Crumpley, James W.	38432218	Sgt	21 April 1945
Collins, Erwin E.	36228130	Pfc	21 April 1945
Maki, Jacob E.	36980172	Pfc	21 April 1945
Connors, Lawrence L.	31166099	S Sgt	21 April 1945
Roub, Ronald D.	37776315	Pfc	21 April 1945
Easterday, LeRoy E.	37481474	Pvt	21 April 1945
Stump, Clarence W.	13177053	Pvt	21 April 1945
Shadrick, Arnold A.	33956806	Pvt	21 April 1945
Jackson, Robert O	7004899	Tec 5	21 April 1945
Curran, Richard J.	42183593	Pfc	21 April 1945
Theobald, Ernest E.	36313826	S Sgt	21 April 1945
Roberts, Calvin D.	37748727	Pfc	21 April 1945
DeCrescenzo, Emingildo	42185595	Pfc	17 April 1945
Render, Harold J.	32168295	S Sgt	18 April 1945
Ramos, Paul A.	35738649	Pfc	18 April 1945
Anderson, Devi F.	44026323	Pvt	18 April 1945
Hartel, Lionel F.	31399697	S Sgt	18 April 1945
LaBrutto, Carmon J.	42184359	Pvt	21 April 1945
Lisi, Pasco F. Jr.	31470169	Pvt	21 April 1945
Byrley, Lattie	35134761	S Sgt	21 April 1945
Sadowski, Edward J.	33844824	Tec 5	21 April 1945
Vater, Frank E.	17041846	Pfc	18 April 1945
Verette, Joseph V.	34076554	Pfc	19 April 1945
Kurtz, Warren G.	34572050	Pfc	18 April 1945
Lambrecht, Leonard R.	36228054	Sgt	18 April 1945
Stacy, John J.	42101354	Pvt	18 April 1945
Snow, Arthur C.	37067373	Pfc	18 April 1945
Ashworth, Wilson P.	31448834	Pfc	18 April 1945
Mitchell, Warren M.	34936011	Pfc	18 April 1945
Goldberg, Arnold	42176260	Pvt	18 April 1945
Walker, Lowell K	35171482	Pfc	18 April 1945
Martin, Paul E.	37646184	Pfc	21 April 1945
Mott, Harold K.	36918486	Pvt	21 April 1945
Furhman, Morton	31436827	Pvt	19 April 1945
Donaldson, John E.	31457313	Pfc	21 April 1945
Eckert, Arthur J.	33609889	Pvt	21 April 1945
Trent, Charles D.	36058533	Pfc	21 April 1945
Douthit, John W.	37693113	Pfc	21 April 1945
Michalitsch, Joseph L	37590185	Pfc	21 April 1945
Beauchemin, Armand	31436783	Pfc	21 April 1945
Appleton, Thomas W. Jr.	42184633	Pfc	21 April 1945

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(i) LOSSES IN ACTION (continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Schrotberger, Dale L.	36990465	Pfc	21 April 1945
Brannan, Aubrey T.	34202690	Pfc	18 April 1945
Dolin, David R.	32845683	Pvt	21 April 1945
Arotsky, Abraham	31274535	Tec 5	16 April 1945
Niemi, Ralph E.	01014371	1st Lt.	13 April 1945
Van Hoose, Howard	35777373	Pvt	15 April 1945
Tricarico, Frank A.	42175055	Pfc	17 April 1945
Aker, Fred T.	44033086	Pvt	17 April 1945
Kinn, Edward L.	0511701	2nd Lt	18 April 1945
Palmer, Adrain P.	34989990	Pfc	18 April 1945
Chadwick, Alpin C.	39549033	S Sgt	18 April 1945
Jones, Wilbon M.	20360460	S Sgt	19 April 1945
Mitchell, Byron	34689259	Pfc	19 April 1945
Solami, Sam F.	36744925	Pfc	21 April 1945
Hockensmith, Clarence	37729738	Pfc	21 April 1945
Whitwire, Floyd E. Jr.	33610659	Pfc	21 April 1945
Roland, Robert A.	35894489	Pfc	21 April 1945
Saponaro, Rocco D.	32909210	Pfc	21 April 1945
Darbee, Harold C.	36117964	S Sgt	19 April 1945
Van Houten, Everett	42142686	Sgt	19 April 1945
Abernathy, Kenneth A.	37596136	Pfc	19 April 1945
Tippie, L.B. (io)	02005516	1st Lt	21 April 1945
Sutton, Gregory P.	34947221	Sgt	21 April 1945
Robertson, R.E. (io)	38601254	Pfc	21 April 1945
Scurry, Frederick G. Jr.	44026296	Pfc	22 April 1945
Armstrong, Donald L.	36843351	Pfc	22 April 1945
McCann, Herchel H.	14033949	T; Sgt	21 April 1945
Ritter, Edward W.L.	35901658	S Sgt	21 April 1945
Pool, John R.	39304665	Sgt	19 April 1945
Graham, Richard L.	37016283	Tec 5	22 April 1945
Haid, Ralph N. Sr	35775230	Sgt	19 April 1945
Kaup, John G.	37120329	Sgt	19 April 1945
Sprowl, Charles E.	36960878	Pfc	19 April 1945
Finn, Richard T.	36819082	Pfc	19 April 1945
Danchick, Joseph	32142899	Pfc	19 April 1945
Thellefsen, Merrill A.	42099960	Pvt	22 April 1945
Roan, Francis S.	20118352	Pvt	7 April 1945
Quayle, Thomas B.	01297250	1st Lt	21 April 1945
Kott, Edward J.	32709197	Pfc	11 April 1945
Hester, Edward G.	33921971	Pvt	20 April 1945
Hanson, Ervin O.	31466256	Pfc	19 April 1945
Michie, Phillip A.	31343997	Pfc	21 April 1945
Nearhood, Alvin H.	16148108	Pfc	21 April 1945
Cox, Ralph W.	01318652	1st Lt	21 April 1945
Miller, Robert E.	35915194	Tec 5	18 April 1945
Imbroto, Joseph P.	32176196	Pvt	20 April 1945
Snover, Sannie J.	36573717	Pvt	21 April 1945
Miller, William C	35046759	S Sgt	21 April 1945
Jaglarski, Casimer S.	36908249	Pfc	22 April 1945
Tohulka, Richard H.	35171603	Pfc	22 April 1945
Robertson, Ezell M.	34657221	Pvt	18 April 1945
Bieber, Arnold	32598005	Sgt	16 April 1945
Berry, James M.	33702463	Pfc	18 April 1945
Finch, Charles M.	42122915	Pvt	14 April 1945
Forte, John J.	33837169	Sgt	21 April 1945

S-E-C-R-E-T

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

S-E-C-R-E-T

(i) LOSSES IN ACTION (Continued)



NAME	ASN	GRADE	DATE OF CASUALTY
Cantrell, Sam	34738729	Tec 5	20 April 1945
Marra, Carlo M.	32765550	Pfc	14 April 1945
Martin, Orville D.	36918992	Pvt	14 April 1945
Zabel, Lawrence W.	37451063	Pfc	14 April 1945
Cornelius, Roy A.	38398986	Sgt	15 April 1945
Barney, Irving C.	42026428	Pfc	16 April 1945
Duff, Edward B.	31467322	Pfc	16 April 1945
Connors, Gerald	31433808	Pvt	16 April 1945
Hilburn, D.P.E. (io)	39421764	Pvt	10 April 1945
Finke, Herman F.	36398524	S Sgt	14 April 1945
Larson, Robert L.	37566468	Cpl	14 April 1945
Johnson, Carl J.	33893674	Pvt	14 April 1945
Kahn, Herbert	42176930	Pfc	14 April 1945
Donovan, Arthur G.	31433832	Pfc	15 April 1945

(j) Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action:

NAME	ASN	GRADE	TYPE OF AWARD	AUTHORITY
Libby, Jack P.,	01318368	Capt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Scott, Joseph S.,	01320970	1st Lt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Duscheck, Roland B.,	01327612	2d Lt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Gomez, Glynn C.,	34230679	S Sgt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Johnson, James G.,	33820349	S Sgt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Horgan, Kenneth L.,	39049141	Pfc	Silver Star	3d AD GO 43
Swinger, Frank J.,	33674051	Pfc	\$Cluster to B.S.	3d AD GO 43
White, Truman H.,	38068258	Pfc	\$Cluster to B.S.	3d AD GO 43
Howze, Robert L. Jr.,	016055	Col.	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Young, Carl N.,	36078460	T Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Harlow, Ernest L. Jr.,	20361922	S Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Martin, Ethere E.,	34818559	S Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Haid, Ralph E.,	35775230	Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Kaup, John G.,	37120329	Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Nordlund, Morris V.,	37032925	T 5	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Karvoski, Edward P.,	31392196	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Penix, Earl	35244075	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Qualters, William D.,	31392055	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Rowley, Paul H.,	42120976	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 43
Sprowl, Charles,	36960878	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 44
Catts, William P.,	32757840	Pvt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 44
Tippie, L. B.,	02005516	1st Lt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 45
Cable, Paul E.,	01326804	1st Lt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Fredericks, Dale W.,	01327613	2d Lt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Rayman, Richard L.,	37110546	S Sgt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Sullivan, John T. Jr.,	34871604	S Sgt	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
DiGiambattisti, Louis	42118403	Pfc	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Hughes, Edward E.,	35295438	Pfc	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Lopez, Conrado M.,	38065020	Pfc	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Sampson, George S.,	33946528	Pfc	Silver Star	3d AD GO 50
Costello, John A.,	01057391	1st Lt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50
Stapleton, Raymond O.,	37016894	S Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50
Geraghty, Thomas E.,	39206625	Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50
Stake, John R.,	31034715	Sgt	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50
Arcilay, Ralph	33780701	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

(j) Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action: (Continued)

NAME	ASN	GRADE	TYPE OF AWARD	AUTHORITY
Clark, Stanley H.,	31465652	Pfc	Bronze Star	3d AD GO 50
Gurley, Jake W.,	14009096	Pfc	Bronse Star	3d AD GO 50

§ Bronze Star

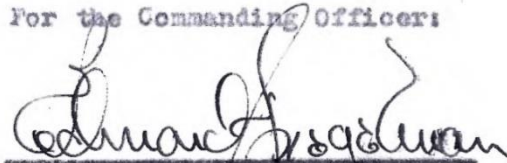
1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment and Medical Section, 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment were awarded the Presidential Citation Award as per General Orders No. 54, dated 30 April 1945 - 3d
See attached copy -

(k) Photographs: None.

(l) Inclosures:

1. Journal.
2. True Copy, General Orders No. 54, 3d AD - dated 30 April 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:



EDMOND J. LIBERMAN
Capt., 36th Arm Inf Regt
Adjutant.

S-E-C-R-E-T

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMORED DIVISION
APO 253

30 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

BATTLE HONORS

NUMBER . . .54)

In accordance with the provisions of WD Circular 333, 22 December 1943, and as approved by Commanding General, First United States Army, the following units are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. These units are entitled to a citation streamer; individuals assigned or attached are authorized the award of the Distinguished Unit Badge or Oak Leaf Cluster thereto, whichever is appropriate. The citations follow:

§ § § § §

1ST BATTALION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Germany during the period 12 to 22 September 1944. The 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, on 12 September 1944 was assigned the mission of supporting an armored task force in its drive to smash the defenses of the Siegfried Line. Anti-tank obstacles retarded the progress of armor, and the battalion was committed to overrun strongly fortified defensive positions overlooking the obstacles. In two days of fierce fighting against a determined enemy the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment succeeded in overpowering enemy defenses and penetrating the first fortified belt of the "West Wall". Over difficult terrain overlooking the second fortified belt this fighting force then attacked to force a bridgehead through the second belt of dragon's teeth. Vigorous hostile action was counterbalanced by an insuperable urge to close with and destroy the enemy wherever found. Against tremendous odds the battalion succeeded in establishing a bridgehead and for three days repulsed vigorous enemy counterattacks launched against it in an effort to break the battalion's foothold north of the dragon's teeth on critical terrain. On 18 September 1944, after infantry elements on the left and right failed to advance, the 1st Battalion was given the vital mission of withdrawing from its salient and attacking the strongly fortified town of MUNSTERBUSCH. Its fighting spirit undimmed, the 1st Battalion withdrew under pressure, launched the assault. The enemy poured deadly fire into its ranks inflicting severe losses on the attackers. The enemy fought savagely which often resulted in hand-to-hand combat. Despite enormous losses incurred in this offensive the 1st Battalion allowed the enemy no respite. Defending the town stubbornly the enemy employed tank, mortar, artillery, and automatic weapons fire and fanatically held their positions until either killed or overpowered by unrelenting pressure. During the period 12 - 22 September 1944 the 1st Battalion demonstrated extraordinary heroism, exhibited gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in overcoming unusually difficult and hazardous conditions. The unconquerable spirit displayed by the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment in attack missions against important objectives made possible more deadly blows against the enemy on German soil.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

GENERAL ORDERS No. 54 (Cont'd)

MEDICAL SECTION, THIRD BATTALION, 36TH ARMORED INFANTRY
REGIMENT

The Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in Germany during the period from 17 to 21 September 1944. Throughout this bitter engagement, the Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment labored unceasingly despite devastating hostile artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, administering medical aid and evacuating casualties. Although several members of the section were themselves painfully wounded, they denied themselves treatment or rest until their patients had been cared for. On one occasion, when an adjacent battalion was forced back, leaving the aid station unprotected, the members of the section continued their care for the wounded, realizing that to move the patient would have been, in many cases, fatal. Litter squads operated in the face of intense fire between the aid station and advanced units, evacuating casualties. Aid men moved with foremost assault units, rendering immediate medical treatment to the wounded. The unflinching courage and superb devotion to duty displayed by the members of the Medical Section, 3rd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, directly resulted in the saving of many lives, exemplifying the highest traditions of the military service.

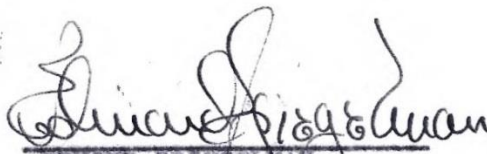
BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HICKEY:

OFFICIAL:

JOHN A. SMITH, JR.,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

/s/ROBERT M. GANT,
ROBERT M. GANT,
Lt Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

A TRUE COPY:


EDMOND SPIEELMAN
Capt., 36th Arm'd Inf Regt
Adjutant

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R E S T R I C T E D

Third Armored Division

Combat Command B - After Action Report - April 1945

~~SECRET~~
HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "B"
Third Armored Division
APO 253, U.S. Army

L-650



ACTION AGAINST ENEMY, REPORT AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT
Combat Command "B", 3rd Armored Division
For period of 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

FOREWARD

The preparation of this report follows the form as outlined by Paragraph 6, Section I, Administrative Memorandum No. 46, Headquarters VII Corps, dated 21 December 1944; with certain exceptions. These exceptions are necessary since a Combat Command, under the T/O of the 3rd Armored Division (Heavy Division), is a tactical headquarters only. Much of the administrative data required by the report form is submitted directly to the administrative staff section of parent units from which attachments are made to form a Combat Command.

William A. Castille
WILLIAM A. CASTILLE,
Major, G-2
Combat Command "B"

SURPLUS
RECORD MATERIAL
RECORDS DIV, NARS.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
White, Capt AGD
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *6 June 46*

~~SECRET~~

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A. ORIGINAL UNIT.

Hq. and Hq. Detachment C. Comd. "B" (Brig. Gen. T.E. BOUDINOT, Commanding)
 Signal Detachment, 1st 3rd Signal Company, 3rd Armored Division
 M.P. Detachment, 3rd Armored Division
 CIC Detachment, 3rd Armored Division
 IPW Team No. 36, MIS

COMBAT UNITS. Units attached from separate Battalions, Regiments, etc. by command of the Commanding General, 3rd Armored Division and Higher Headquarters. (See Part B "Change in Organization")

B. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION.

The composition of a Combat Command is subject to many changes throughout a combat operation. Therefore, attachments to and changes in composition of the Combat Command are recorded by means of "TROOP LISTS" which are included as a part of the NARRATIVE REPORT. (See ANNEX No. 1)

C. STRENGTH.

Approximate strength of units is attached as ANNEX No. 3. It must be emphasized here that these figures are subject to correction. They were obtained from partial reports submitted to this headquarters. Final figures and official records of strength are kept by administrative staff section of parent organizations (separate Battalions, Regiments, Division) from which attachments are made to form a Combat Command.

D. STATIONS.

GERMANY (Paderborn to Elbe River)

E. MARCHES.

Covered by Narrative Report (ANNEX No. 1) and MAPS (ANNEX No. 2)

F. CAMPAIGNS.

Not officially named by Higher Headquarters at the time of writing this report.

G. BATTLES.

GERMANY - Paderborn to Elbe River.

H. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS.

The names of commanding officers of all major combat units or task forces under Combat Command "B" control are shown on "TROOP LISTS" which are included as a part of the Narrative Report (ANNEX No. 1).

I. LOSSES IN ACTION.

The records showing the names of officers and enlisted men lost in action are kept by the Personnel sections of parent units (separate Battalions, Regiments, Division). Only the total number of officers and men lost each day is submitted

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ANNEX NO. 1

NARRATIVE

The "Narrative Report" for the beginning of the period 1 April - 30 April 1945, is a continuation of the March Narrative Report. For TROOP LISTS, COMMANDERS, etc., refer to ANNEX NO. 1, "NARRATIVE"; AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT for period 1 March - 31 March 1945.

At 0225 hours on 1 April, TF LOVELADY was relieved of the mission of siezing the towns of LICHTENAU and ordered to move immediately to DORSHAGEN and BERGERINGHAUSEN and pass through the 83rd Armd. Ren. Bn. there, attacking northwest towards PADERBORN at 0600A. TF LOVELADY left a blocking force of 1 tank platoon and 1 infantry platoon where they were colled at 763365 and started moving at 0430A. The attack on PADERBORN was launched at 0800. Initially the advance was made against no resistance. TF LOVELADY entered PADERBORN at 0900 against S.A. and light A.T. fire. The advance continued throughout the southeast portion of the town. The sector assigned TF LOVELADY was cleared and secured by 1700A. Contact was maintained with the 83rd Armd. Ren. Bn. at 760428.

TF WELBORN attacked towards PADERBORN at 0600A, the edge of the town was reached at 0655. Enemy infantry and a roving S.P. gun apposed the advance through the built-up section of the town. At 1030 elements of TF WELBORN crossed the RR into the northeast part of the town and by 1700 had their sector cleared and secured. Contact was maintained with TF BOLES (G. Comd. "A") at 707483. For routes, sectors, etc., see ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

It was on 1 April that a message was received from the Commanding General VII Corps ordering a force be sent to LIPPSTADT (4242) to contact elements of the 2nd Armored Division (U.S. 9th Army) moving from the west. TF KANE was diverted from the attack on PADERBORN and proceeded to the west to effect a junction with 9th U.S. Army. At 1520 Air OP planes of 2nd and 3rd Armored Division made radio contact and at 1530 physical contact was made with elements of 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. (2nd Armd. Div.) in the southwest edge of the town of LIPPSTADT. This closed the door on the famous REUR Valley, industrial heart of Germany. The pocket thus formed by this junction of the two U.S. Armies was officially named the ROSE Pocket in commemoration of Maj. Gen. MAURICE ROSE, Commander of the 3rd Armored Division, who lost his life while leading this Division in its' drive on PADERBORN.

On 2 April, TF WELBORN continued to secure the northeast part of PADERBORN and maintain contact with TF BOLES (G. Comd. "A") by patrol.

TF LOVELADY continued to secure the southeast part of PADERBORN. At 1915B TF LOVELADY sent a force consisting of 1 company light tanks and 1 company infantry and a section of tank destroyers to DAHL to relieve elements of the 83rd Armd. Ren. Bn. which had entered the town without opposition. The relief was completed at 1945B and at the close of the period the town was being secured by these elements of TF LOVELADY and contact was being maintained with the 83rd Armd. Ren. Bn. by patrol. The road block force of TF LOVELADY continued to hold at 763365 throughout 2 April.

On 3 April, G. Comd. "B" continued to defend, patrol, and maintain road blocks in its sector throughout the period. TF WELBORN sent a patrol from PADERBORN to BAD LIPPSPRINGE and contact was established with elements of 8th Armd. Div. at 1645 hours. TF LOVELADY moved his road block from BERGINGHAUSEN (672368) to LICHTENAU (805365) at 2345 hours to relieve a patrol from 83rd Armd. Ren. Bn. which entered LICHTENAU at 2120 hours without opposition.

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Annex No. 1

On 4 April, TF WELBORN and TF LOVELADY were relieved in the eastern sector of PADERBORN by TF KANE and closed into new defensive positions as shown on ANNEX NO. 2, MAP "A". By 2000 hours TF WELBORN was closed in DAHL and HERBRAM. The 1st Bn. 33rd Armd. Regt. of TF WELBORN occupied and secured the town of HERBRAM (0142) against very light resistance. TF LOVELADY was closed in at EGERINGHAUSEN by 1900 hours. A battle group of 1 tank company and 1 infantry company from TF RICHARDSON (G. Comd. HOWZE) relieved elements of TF LOVELADY which were securing LICHTENAU.

On 4 April, Division order was received. The Division to attack at H-Hour 5 April 1945 to seize and secure objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4. (See ANNEX NO. 2 MAP "A") Thereafter by dismounted action will clear the wooded area within the division zone and reconnoiter to objectives 5, 6, 7 and 8, prepared to occupy and defend with infantry and armor, and be prepared for further movement to the east.

Combat Command "B" will advance over routes (Shown on ANNEX NO. MAP "A") to secure objectives 3 and 4. Thereafter by dismounted action they will clear the wooded area within their zone and reconnoiter to objectives 7 and 8, prepared to occupy and defend.

TF WELBORN attacked east from vicinity of DAHL at 1200B on Route No. 3 to secure objectives 3 and 7. (See ANNEX NO. 2, MAP "A") By 1600 objective No.7 was secured and consolidated against no opposition. Orders were issued for the task force to resume the attack at 2120 hours and the advance continued throughout the night. Road conditions were the chief opposition.

TF LOVELADY attacked east from the vicinity of EGERINGHAUSEN at 1200B on Route #4 to secure objectives 4 and 8. At 2120B the force was secure on objective 8 and the task force resumed the attack throughout the night.

Not until TF WELBORN had reached HAINHOLT (0739) on the early morning of 6 April was any enemy resistance encountered. Here, however, heavy bazooka fire and artillery fire was met. By 0925B the task force had pushed on through and reached BORNHOLTZ (0537) where considerable S.A. fire was met. The advance continued steadily against moderate enemy resistance. Infantry mopped up in the wooded area at 0835. The task force consolidated after cleaning out enemy resistance and advanced to HAARBRUCK (1137). This town was cleared against moderate resistance, and the task force was ordered to secure the town for the night.

TF LOVELADY followed Route #4 and continued the advance throughout the night of 5/6 April. During the early morning of 6 April, leading elements encountered enemy positions defended by S.A. and bazooka fire near the road junction (082348). Artillery fire was received throughout the period sporadically. Advancing steadily against moderate to stubborn resistance, TF LOVELADY reached HARDE (1133) at 1930. By nightfall, infantry elements were advancing through the woods at 1333 when orders were received to coil in place and secure positions for the night.

TF WELBORN attacked at 070630B from a position vicinity 120376 and immediately encountered an enemy road block. After the road block was reduced, the advance continued against light opposition. At 1100B, TF WELBORN entered HERSTELLE (1639) where direct fire from both sides of the river, artillery, S.A., and bazooka fire were encountered. At 1115B a force from TF WELBORN was sent to CARLSHAFEN (1839) to secure the town. This force encountered considerable artillery fire, bazooka fire and heavy S.A. fire during the advance to CARLSHAFEN and in the town itself the bridge at CARLSHAFEN had been blown before our force reached the town. Stubborn resistance was overcome in the two towns and at 1800B HERSTELLE and CARLSHAFEN were secure.

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Annex No. 1

TF LOVELADY moved out at 0630 and advanced initially against light resistance. At 0945, TF LOVELADY entered DEISEL (1534) and quickly secured the town, encountering only feeble resistance. After moving out from DEISEL, TF LOVELADY encountered terrain difficulties which slowed the advance. In the vicinity of 184373 a stubbornly defended enemy road block halted the advance. After reducing this road block, the task force pushed on to the south edge of HELMARSHAUSEN (1938) where another defended road block was eliminated and the force entered the town. At 1800B, all enemy resistance within the town had been cleared and the town secured.

On 8 April - TF LOVELADY sent out an infantry force at 1145 hours to clear out the wooded high ground at 207399. By 1145 this high ground was secured against no enemy opposition.

TF WELBORN sent dismounted patrols from CARLSHAFEN at 1530 hours, east along the river road to WARBECK (2338). This patrol met no opposition and had completed the mission of opening the road by 2045 hours.

At the close of the day, 8 April, Combat Command "B" was being relieved on their positions by elements of 1st Infantry Division.

Orders had been received from higher headquarters that Combat Command "B" would be relieved in the HELMARSHAUSEN - CARLSHAFEN area during the night of 8/9 April by elements of the 1st Infantry Division. Combat Command "B" was ordered to move from this area through area held by 104th Infantry Division to assembly positions east of the WESER River at 090700 April. For routes and assembly area see ANNEX NO. 2 MAP "A".

Combat Command "B" would be prepared to attack to the east on Division order from this assembly position over routes 3 and 4 to secure GIEBOLDENHAUSEN (7137) and BILSHAUSEN (6526)

Relief by the 1st Infantry Division was completed by 090600 April and the Combat Command "B" moved in single column across the WESER River. The crossing was started at 0830. Since the advance of C. Comd. HOWZE was so rapid, Combat Command "B" was ordered to proceed through the assigned assembly area and proceed on routes 3 and 4 and advance at all possible speed to the objectives BILSHAUSEN (6739) and GIEBOLDENHAUSEN (7137).

TF WELBORN, following route #3 encountered dug in infantry along the road and in the town vicinity of 4337. A tank concentration near HART (4735) was also encountered in the late afternoon. Supporting aircraft controlled by TF RICHARDSON destroyed 2 enemy tanks in this vicinity. Tank fire destroyed 3 others. Pressure by TF LOVELADY on route 4 and continued attacks by TF WELBORN on route 3 broke up the enemy defences and TF WELBORN broke away and advanced rapidly to the stream crossing at 518388. The bridge at that point was strongly defended and finally blown by the enemy. At the close of the day and infantry bridgehead was being pushed across.

TF LOVELADY advanced steadily on route 4 against moderate resistance. By the close of the day TF LOVELADY was also confronted with a blown bridge at 510341 and pushed an infantry bridgehead across.

TF WELBORN continued clearing the road blocks on both sides of the bridge and at 0730 hours resumed the advance which proceeded initially against no enemy resistance. The column was delayed by a blown bridge at 693325, but the advance was soon resumed and at 1230, TF WELBORN entered DUDERSTADT which had been cleared on 9 April by elements of the 2nd Infantry Division.

S E C R E TPage No. 4
Annex No. 1

At 1505, enemy infantry and an S.F. gun were encountered vicinity 890276. This resistance was overcome and the advance continued to EPSCHENROADE (9227) where stubborn enemy infantry and bazooka men halted the column. A large number of snipers delayed the clearing of the town but at 1845 hours, all resistance had been overcome and many PWs taken. TF WELBORN coiled southwest of NORDHAUSEN as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

The attack by TF LOVELADY was delayed due to the muddy condition of the terrain at the bridgehead but by 0830 hours moved out. There was no enemy resistance initially but difficult terrain vicinity 760248 delayed the column for some time. At 1140, TF LOVELADY encountered enemy infantry and fire from S.F. guns vicinity 899250. This resistance was overcome and the force moved on to GR. BODURGEN (9023) where enemy infantry and bazooka men were encountered. After overcoming this strong-point, the advance was rapid and the task force reached 052205 by 1815 hours where they coiled for the night.

Orders were received to make a coordinated attack on NORDHAUSEN, 110430 April. TF WELBORN to secure the town north of the 27 grid line and TF LOVELADY to secure the town south of the 27 grid line.

On 11 April the attack was launched as scheduled and by 0740 hours TF LOVELADY was in the southwest part of the town without opposition. By 1225 hours the south part of the town was secure.

TF WELBORN had leading elements in the northwest edge of town by 0630 and by 1135 the north part of the town was secured.

Here, Combat Command "B" was relieved by the 3rd Bn. 415th Infantry Regt. during late evening of 11 April. Orders were issued for Combat Command "B" to continue the attack to the east.

At 0700 hours 12 April, TF WELBORN moved out - advancing rapidly on Route 3 without resistance until reaching 5225 where bazooka fire was encountered and A.T. fire from 540255. The force backed out and gave the town an artillery treatment then moved on through the town and seized the objective HOLDENSTETT (5625)

TF LOVELADY attacked at 0700 hours and advanced rapidly along route 4 against scattered light resistance of bazooka and small arms fire. By 1335 hours, the task force had seized the C. Comd. "B" objectives of ALLSTETT (5428) and WOLFERSTETT (5729).

13 April 1945 at 0700 hours, TF WELBORN continued the attack towards the east. Resistance was moderate until the leading elements reached 609274 where direct fire from 88mm dual purpose guns halted the advance. The enemy was bringing into play many of the anti-aircraft battalions which had long formed the inner ring anti-aircraft defences for Berlin and the important industrial area of north-central Germany. At least four AA guns were knocked out by noon. The advance was slow. The town of KISLEBEN (6432) was declared open and no resistance was encountered there. The advance continued to FOLLEBEN (6737) and was entered at 1300 hours against moderate resistance. In FOLLEBEN a PW camp was overrun. 450 British PWs were liberated including 300 officers. The majority of these men had been in captivity since June 1940. Captured at DUNKIRK. TF WELBORN continued to advance and by 1515 entered FRIEDBURG (7743). The town was cleared, and by nightfall one Bn. of infantry was across the river and a bridge was under construction at a site vicinity of 776436.

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Annex No. 1

TF LOVELADY attacked at 130700B and advanced rapidly against light resistance, reaching the south edge of HELPTA (6629) at 0830 hours. Here, heavy flanking fire from 88mm guns as well as bazooka teams and S.P. guns were encountered. Resistance in HELPTA was cleared by 1010 hours and infantry forces were working into UNTERRISSDORF (6831) where heavy 88mm fire again halted the advance. Stubborn enemy held out until 1430 hours when TF LOVELADY overran the positions and pushed on. By 1700 hours, leading elements reached LASCHWITZ (8238). The bridge at 825392 was blown as the column approached, and reconnaissance was sent to investigate the bridge at 836337. This bridge was also blown. TF LOVELADY was therefore ordered to assemble as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A", prepared to follow TF WELBORN over the bridge being constructed at 778436.

14 April, TF WELBORN began crossing the SAALE River immediately upon completion at 0700 hours. After assembling his force east of the river on route No. 3, the attack to the east was resumed at 0915. As the task force moved on its route it continued to meet spotted resistance which was quickly overcome. By early afternoon, the task force began to hit the first organized German resistance just west of the MULDE River. The task force was coiled in position as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A". Patrols were pushing toward the MULDE River in an effort to seize the bridge at 134653 intact.

TF LOVELADY commenced crossing the SAALE River at 0835 immediately in rear of TF WELBORN. As soon as the task force had one battle group east of the river, it jumped off to the east simultaneously with TF WELBORN (0915 hours). TF LOVELADY ran into A.T. fire immediately upon moving out on the attack. Resistance was strong throughout the day. Each little town was organized as a strong point. Approximately 50 men and usually 2 to 4 88mm dual purpose guns. By nightfall the task force was coiled as shown on ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

During the days operations, any labor groups camps were overrun and thousands of these slave laborers wearing their striped suits were streaming to the west past our columns. They were a ghastly sight. Many were too weak to walk and were being assisted by their friends. Their inthustic welcomes, greetings were heart warming but tactically - they impeded our progress by clogging up roads on the axis of advance and it took quite some time to get the situation under control. Finally collecting points were set up and in a short time 5,000 had been counted. A special problem presented itself when ever it was necessary to evacuate German PWs past these points. On several occasions the American Guards were overrun, the German PWs seized and practically torn to shreds.

15 April - TF WELBORN lifted artillery fire on the bridge site at 134655 at 0445 hours and sent patrols to investigate the bridge. The bridge was blown and the site strongly defended. Newly formed enemy division, with apparently good organization. Their mission was to hold the MULDE River and the resistance was very stubborn.

A Company of infantry and one company of tanks were moved into position to force a crossing, the infantry going across on the wreckage of the blown bridge. Bridging equipment was moved to the site starting at 0830. By 2000 hours, one company plus two platoons of infantry had crossed and most of the enemy S.A. fire was taken off the bridge site.

TF LOVELADY continued to attack east at 150600 April. The initial advance was rapid and unopposed, but heavy S.A. and bazooka fire was met along the road (1154).

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At the railroad crossing (135549) a strongly defended road block was encountered. The task force was ordered to reassemble in that vicinity, disengage and clear THURLAND and KLEINLEIPZIG and the wood to the north thereof up to the 60 grid line where contact was to be made with TF WELBORN. A battle group was sent to clear this area and engaged the enemy there. Results - 80 enemy killed, 250 PWs captured and one S.P. gun destroyed. By nightfall, task force was closed in new positions.

16 April TF WELBORN conducted mopping up operations north of grid 60, held the bridgehead over the MULDE River and continued bridging operations (134653). Construction was impeded by difficult terrain at the south approach and harrassing enemy artillery fire.

TF LOVELADY continued clearing enemy from the area south of grid 60. THURLAND and KLEINLEIPZIG were cleared during the day and elements of TF LOVELADY eliminated enemy resistance in RAGUNA, PRIORAU, MARKE, SCHIERAU and SIEBERHAUSEN. A force from TF LOVELADY was sent to clear the road from 100610 to GR 107649 and then turn east to TORFEN and secure the town. By nightfall this operation was still underway.

17 April - TF WELBORN continued to secure the bridgehead over the MULDE River and construction continued on a trestle bridge at that point until 1845 hours, when orders were issued to discontinue construction on the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead. It was generally known by this time that the 3rd Armored Division and 1st Army had advanced too far too fast and by putting the bridgehead across - were east of the international boundary which was set by the Allied Command. Newspapers said the Russians broadcast to the Americans, "Stay where you are and we will come to meet you". What basis these stories have, is undetermined by this Headquarters but the fact remains - we were to hold the west bank of the MULDE River and wait for the Russians to join us. Speculations were 3 days to 10 days time.

At 0900 hours, one battle group of TF WELBORN was dispatched to aid elements of TF LOVELADY secure TORFEN (117646) and road junction at 107649. Patrolling was conducted within assigned sectors throughout the day.

During the night 16/17 April, Service elements and Headquarters of TF LOVELADY had been attack at THURLAND by approximately 150 enemy infantry with bazookas and automatic weapons. (Time 170130 April) Severe house to house street fighting resulted and the enemy occupied the town of THURLAND. Co. D of the 83rd Armd. Bn. Bn. was moved north from ZORBIG (0345) to recapture the town of THURLAND and after overcoming strong enemy resistance of artillery, mortar, S.A. fire throughout the day - the town was finally secured and outposted.

The battle group of TF LOVELADY occupying RAGUNN remained in place throughout the day. The other battle group of the task force continued operations to seize TORFEN and the RJ at 107649.

During the night 17/18 April, TF WELBORN withdrew the bridgehead force to the west side of the MULDE river under cover of darkness. Beginning at 170000, operations were resumed on clearing the town of TORFEN. By 1720 the town was secured. Combat patrols moving from TORFEN to contact elements of Combat Command "A" received heavy A.T. and S.A. fire vicinity RJ 107649 and were unable to effect a contact.

TF LOVELADY occupied and secured the town in his sector. See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

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19 April, TF WELBORN attacked north from vicinity 115635 at 1800 hours in conjunction with TF ORR (C. Comd. "A") with the mission of securing the road 106650 - 113646 and establishing road blocks at 106649 and 106648. Moderate to heavy resistance from artillery, S.A. and bazooka were encountered and by midnight - house to house fighting was still in progress. Continuing to push throughout the night and early morning against very stubborn defenders, the objective at RJ 106649 was finally reached at 1000 hours 20 April.

A combat patrol was organized to sweep all towns in the division zone which had not been gone through during the initial advance of the Division to this area. No resistance was encountered but many PWs taken during the next several days.

The composition of this force was as follows:

TOWN PATROL (Lt. LORANO ANDERHAZY, Commanding)

Rcn. Co. 33rd Armd. Regt. (-1, 2, 3 Flats.)
Medical Det. "B" Co. 45th Armd. Med. Bn.
Engr. Section, "B" Co. 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn.
Military Gov. Representative
CIC Representative
MP Team with truck
IPW Team representative.

The towns covered and routes taken are shown in red ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

On 20 April orders were issued to seize and secure DES-BAU. C. Comd. "B" was to play only a small part in the attack - clearing out a sector between the MULDE River and the right boundary of C. Comd. "A". See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A" for C. Comd. "B" sector.

21 April, TF WELBORN attacked north in the assigned zone at 0530 and advanced against S.A., artillery and mortar fire. By 1300 the task force zone was cleared and contact was established with elements of C. Comd. "A" on the left.

TF LOVELADY attacked across the SPITTEL WASSEE Creek at 0300 hours to seize the eastern portion of RAGURN. Moderate enemy resistance was encountered. By 1325 hours the town was cleared. TF LOVELADY was ordered to attack south from RAGURN between the SPITTEL WASSEE and the MULDE to clear that area as far south as JESSNITZ, and assist TF RICHARDSON in the capture of JESSNITZ. Infantry elements of TF LOVELADY launched this attack at 1400 hours. Light enemy resistance was encountered and contact was established with TF RICHARDSON north of the town of JESSNITZ. TF LOVELADY was not committed in the attack on JESSNITZ and returned to its security positions.

The town patrol (Battle group) of C. Comd. "B" continued the reconnaissance sweep through towns of the Division area not previously cleared. The mission was completed at 1900 hours 21 April.

22 April, TF WELBORN continued to secure the left sector of C. Comd. "B". At 1615 elements of 60th Infantry Regt. (9th Inf. Div.) completed the relief of elements of TF LOVELADY south of a temporary boundary (56 grid line). At 1520, the 2nd Bn. 11th Inf. Regt. (10th Inf. Div.) was detached from TF LOVELADY and moved out from the C. Comd. "B" area.

23 April, C. Comd. "B" continued to secure the assigned Division sector throughout the period.

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24 April, G. Comd. "B" continued to defend the assigned Division sector until 1945 hours when the 47th Inf. Regt. relieved G. Comd. "B". Movement of the G. Comd. "B" was begun at once to designated assembly areas. See ANNEX No. 2, MAP "A".

Since the entry of the 3rd Armored Division into the combat zone on the 29th day of June 1944, 301 days had elapsed. During this time, the Division had been in active operations and in contact with the enemy for 218 of these days. Operation Memorandum No. 48, 3rd Armored Div., 21 April 1945 ordered that 3rd Armored Division would now move to assigned areas for a period of maintenance, rehabilitation of equipment and rest.

Ample billeting was provided and in assigning quarters, preference was given to comfort of troops. Laundry and replacement of worn out clothing received highest priority in order that men of the 3rd Armored Division would present the neatest appearance possible.

The Division zone was divided up into zones of responsibility. Civilians screened through CIC. Bourgoisiers were warned that any acts of sabotage, sniping, or overt act prejudicial to the safety of any of our troops or vehicles would be a hostile act and result in serious consequences to the entire population of the town concerned.

In Memorandum #48, the Division Commander stated in part: "The record of the 3rd Armored Division (SPEARHEAD) on the field of battle is known not only to every member of this Division, but to the entire Allied world, and to countless former prized Divisions of the German army. All of these whom we have met have succumbed to the hot steel of our tankers, infantrymen and artillerymen from NORMANDY to the MULDE River".

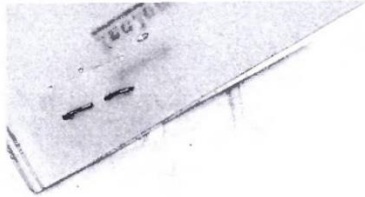
"Now that we are being pulled out of the line for a period of rehabilitation and rest, our conduct, discipline and personal appearance must be one of example, as much as our past conduct on the battlefield has been. By stern, uncompromising, yet fair treatment, we will impress on the civilians whose cities we occupy and govern, our intentions, steadfastness in adhering to the Supreme Commanders' desires and directives concerning our conduct in conquered and occupied Germany."

Upon closing into assigned areas, all units were regrouped into their original parent organization. G. Comd. "B" was given supervisory control over the areas occupied by the 33rd Arm. Regt. and the 83rd Arm. Recon. Bn.

With the exception of a change in assigned zones on 29 April, troops of the 3rd Arm. Div. began their occupational role and at the close of the period of this report, no major incident had occurred. CIC, MP and Military Gov. detachments began the many detailed jobs necessary for a successful occupation, control, and re-education of conquered Germany.

This ends the Report After/After Action Report, Combat Command "B", 3rd Arm. Division for the period 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945 inclusive.

45th Armored Medical Battalion - After Action Report - April 1945



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HEADQUARTERS
45TH ARMORED MEDICAL BATTALION
APO 253, U. S. Army

RC/ges

2 May 1945

319.1

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports for Calendar Month of April, 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.



1. In accordance with Par 10, AR 345-105 (G 3), the following After Action Report is submitted for the 45th Armored Medical Battalion, APO 253, U. S. Army, for the calendar month of April, 1945.

a. Original Unit: No change.

b. Changes in Organization:

<u>GAINS</u>				<u>LOSSES</u>		
Personnel	Duty	Date	Personnel	Duty	Date	
1 O	Asgn'd	1 Apr 45	2 EM	Transfd	3 Apr 45	
9 EM	"	1 " "	1 O	"	5 " "	
1 EM	"	2 " "	1 EM	"	13 " "	
1 O	"	4 " "	14 EM	"	17 " "	
4 EM	"	5 " "	1 EM	"	18 " "	
8 EM	"	10 " "	1 EM	"	20 " "	
2 EM	"	12 " "	1 O	"	21 " "	
8 EM	"	14 " "	1 EM	"	22 " "	
27 EM	"	20 " "	10 EM	"	24 " "	
1 EM	"	22 " "	3 EM	"	26 " "	
1 EM	"	28 " "	2 EM	"	30 " "	
1 EM	"	30 " "				

<u>c. Strength:</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
1 APRIL	48	3	426
30 APRIL	46	3	444
<u>Net Increase:</u>	0	0	18

d. Stations:

(1) Battalion CP & Hq and Hq Company

1 Apr - 1 Apr - MARBURG, GERMANY
 2 Apr - 3 Apr - KORBACH, "
 4 Apr - 7 Apr - ETTLEN, "
 8 Apr - 10 Apr - BRAKEL, "
 11 Apr - 13 Apr - DUDERSTADT, "
 14 Apr - 30 Apr - SAN GERHAUSEN,

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After Action Report, Hq, 48th Armd Med Bn, April, 1945 (Cont'd)

(2) Company "A":

1 Apr - 2 Apr - HAAREN, GERMANY
 3 Apr - 6 Apr - PADERBORN, "
 7 Apr - 9 Apr - OTTERBORN, "
 10 Apr - 11 Apr - HARDEGSEN, "
 12 Apr - 12 Apr - GIBHOLDEHAUSEN, "
 13 Apr - 14 Apr - GIBSTEDT, "
 15 Apr - 16 Apr - GERLEBOCK, "
 17 Apr - 17 Apr - FERNSDORF, "
 18 Apr - 24 Apr - QUELLENDORF, "
 25 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN, "

(3) Company "B":

1 Apr - 1 Apr - MARGURG, GERMANY
 2 Apr - 2 Apr - HTEIN, "
 3 Apr - 6 Apr - HAMBORN, "
 7 Apr - 7 Apr - FROHNHAUSEN, "
 8 Apr - 10 Apr - LANGENTHAL, "
 11 Apr - 12 Apr - HORDHAUSEN, "
 13 Apr - 14 Apr - ZAHITZ, "
 15 Apr - 23 Apr - TORNAN, "
 24 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN "

(4) Company "C":

1 Apr - 2 Apr - HAAREN, GERMANY
 3 Apr - 6 Apr - NORD BORCHEN, "
 7 Apr - 9 Apr - BAD DRIBURG, "
 10 Apr - 12 Apr - HARDEGSEN, "
 13 Apr - 14 Apr - OBERSDORF, "
 15 Apr - 16 Apr - BIEBENDORF, "
 17 Apr - 17 Apr - PRESSULITZ, "
 18 Apr - 18 Apr - KOTHEM, "
 19 Apr - 19 Apr - ZORBIG, "
 20 Apr - 25 Apr - SCHENNER, "
 26 Apr - 30 Apr - SANGERHAUSEN, "

e. Marches: See Narrative Report, Appendix No. 1.

f. Battles: See Narrative Report, Appendix No. 1.

g. Commanding Officer: Charles L. Steyaert, Lt. Col., Medical Corps

h. Losses in Action:

Vaughn, Dossie L.	Pfc	Prisoner of War	29 Mar 45
Yoho, William E.	Pfc	LWA	2 Apr "
Selke, Grant	Pfc	LWA	13 Apr "
Rouse, Jr., Rig	Pvt	LWA	21 Apr "

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After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, April, 1945 (Cont'd)

1. Awards:

The 45th Armored Medical Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "superior performance of duty in accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks during the period 30 June 44 to 30 September 44" per Par 1, GO #51, Hq, 3d Armd Div., dated 27 April 1945.

PURPLE HEART

Le Ponte, Joseph J.	Captain	GO #48	25 April
Zapko, John	Pfc	GO #45	10 April
Ballew, Charles M.	S/Sgt.	GO #42	2 April
Sims, Jr., John	Pvt.	GO #42	2 April



FREDERICK C. WEEKLEY
Major, MC
Commanding

APPENDIX: No. 1 - Narrative Report

INCLOSURES: One (1) copy Unit Journal, En CP
Six (6) copies - Tng Memo #1, Hq 45th Armd Med Bn.
Six (6) copies - Recapitulation of Casualties.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945.

Narrative Report

Maps: Map CENTRAL EUROPE, Sheets P3, P6, P7, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, R5,
R6; Scale: 1/100,000.

1. On 1 April 1945, the 3rd Armored Division, after its spectacular dash to the outskirts of PADERBORN, was tactically engaged with stubborn elements of SS Troops and Officer Candidates engaged in a last effort to stop us from completing the encirclement of the RUER VALLEY.

2. Disposition of combat commands and of our medical companies was as follows:

a. Combat Command "A": One task force had entered PADERBORN and had begun cleaning up the city; another task force had made contact with the 2nd Armored Division in LIPPSTADT. Company "A" had one treatment section in HAAREN and one section in KIRCHBORCHEN.

(1) On 2 April, the entire company was set up in a Luftwaffe administration building in PADERBORN, where it remained till 5 April while combat troops continued to outpost and defend PADERBORN and LIPPSTADT.

(2) The entire medical company was kept closed up to task force headquarters throughout this drive because it was the safest place to be. The forward position of the treatment stations also made it possible to render definitive medical care within 30 minutes after a casualty was tagged.

b. Combat Command "B": was coiled SE of PADERBORN in preparation for an attack on the city from the right flank. By 1700, two task forces had completed their mission. Company "B" supported the attack from HAMBORN. Casualties were light and no unusual incidents intercepted the evacuation channels.

c. Combat Command "C": At the beginning of the period, this combat command was securing approaches to PADERBORN and protecting the advance of Combat Command "A". Company "C", located at NORDBORCHEN, supported the attack, treating 56 American casualties.

d. The medical companies were each evacuated by a platoon of ten ambulances from the 578th Ambulance Company. The Field Hospitals and Evacuation Hospitals were soon out of reasonable reach which necessitated trips of 150, 155 and 175 miles. Fortunately, casualties were light thus we were not forced to hold patients at this time.

3. On 5 April, the Division attacked due East to secure unlimited objectives of the way to a crossing of the WESER RIVER.

a. Company "A": Supported Combat Command "A" in its mission to seize BAD DRIBURG. The entire company moved out after dark on the night of 5 April toward BAD DRIBURG. Traffic congestion and impossible driving conditions forced the company to turn back. At 0530 the next morning, the

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Appendix No, 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945 (Cont'd).

company moved out again, reached BAD HIRIBURG at 0730 and continued until it met the task force near OTTERBERGEN, where mounting resistance was met.

(1) About 1040, it bivouaced temporarily in a field on the west side of the town treating casualties. The resistance developed into a battle and the treatment section needed a suitable place to care for increasing casualties. The entire company moved into a schoolhouse in OTTERBERGEN midst mortar fire and set up at what was then the front line. Evacuation was no problem.

(2) Another task force had met resistance on the right flank. Ambulances from that task force were therefore evacuating forward to the treatment station.

(3) The company stayed in OTTERBERGEN until 10 April. 56 casualties were treated. Rearward evacuation had not improved.

(4) Beginning 9 April, Combat Command "A" followed on two central routes of advance across the WESER RIVER. Company "A" moved from OTTERBERGEN on 9 April and to HARDEGSEN on the 10th, to GIEBOLDENHAUSEN and SANGERHAUSEN the next two days. The only action was the elimination of a pocket of resistance near OSTERODE. Battle casualties treated for this action totaled 23.

(5) Since Combat Command "A" was in Division Reserve and more or less held the care of the division zone of security while task forces of other combat commands engaged the enemy in thrusts as far East as the ELBE River and the city of DESSAU. Company "A" remained together as a company following Combat Command Headquarters route of advance.

(6) From SANGERHAUSEN, the company moved to GERBSTEDT. On 14 April it moved again to GERLEBROCK, on the 15th to FERNSDORF. One section remained here to support a task force cleaning up towns in the rear and the other section moved to QUELLENDORF. At FERNSDORF, an attempt by the enemy to retake the town was smothered by combat troops while "A" Company Medics cheered their comrades from the roof tops. The company was together on the 17th at QUELLENDORF where it stayed until 25 April. 172 American battle casualties had been treated from 13 - 25 April inclusive.

b. Company "B": Following Combat Command "B" in its fight toward the WESER RIVER, Company "B" split its company into two sections, one trailing each task force. Resistance was strong until troops got over the river. Once across task forces continued to roll ahead and by 10 April, Company "B" had bivouaced in NORDHAUSEN. Their principle job here was to take care of 200 emaciated political prisoners in the infamous Nordhausen Concentration Camp. Conditions here were hideous beyond belief and many a American soldiers, for the first time saw revealed the inhuman evils of Nazism. Task force treatment stations took up the march the next day, trailing charging tanks through SANGERHAUSEN, BEISLBBEN, across the SAALE RIVER, eventually reaching TORNAU on 14 April.

(1) 3d Armored Division forces had outdistanced supporting 9th Division Infantry, stretched its supply lines to a thin elastic, and finally were held up by the MULDE RIVYER.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq. 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, APRIL, 1945 (Cont'd).

(2) In TORNAU, the company was brought together and set up facilities for treating casualties from the expected counter-attacks. In the subsequent action, two aid stations and 3 ambulances were overrun and captured for 24 hours.

(3) Rearward evacuation became a serious problem. Army ambulances were making trips of 200 - 400 miles, consequently there was a high back log of patients. 2½ ton trucks were used to evacuated less seriously wounded patients; for over a week they were constantly in use, going back over roads which were frequently under attack. One ambulance mixed in with a column of combat vehicles was fired on and destroyed. The driver was seriously burned, the patients killed. No other personnel or vehicles were lost.

(4) The company stayed in TORNAU until 25 April. Resistance was slowly cleaned out and infantry units gradually moved up.

c. Company "C": Supporting Combat Command "A" which is following on central routes of the Division attack.

(1) On 6 April, Company "C" moved to BAD DRIBURG, remained there until the 8th when it moved out to follow the column across the WESER RIVER pontoon bridge. On 9 April one section remained at IMBHEN, the other was sent forward to accompany a task force attacking HARDEGSSEN.

(2) On the 10 April, the Company Commander was forced to split his company and attach a treatment station to each of two task forces, to eliminate necessity for using lateral evacuation routes. The combat command swung East. One section moved out of HILKERODE to follow, was delayed by blocked roads but finally pulled through by tank destroyers and tank retrievers. Treatment administered in route was similar to method used last month; casualties were sent down column to surgical truck, treated there, transferred to Army ambulance, dispatched rearward when ambulance had a complete load. The 2nd section set up at SYLKRODE, ambulances evacuating this task force had to proceed across country because of blown up roads and impassable debris.

(3) The attack continued though gasoline supply was low. Although casualties had not been extremely heavy, 108 American battle casualties being received in seven days increasing resistance slowed down the advance. On 13 April one section had set up in THALDORF, the other at BELLEBEN, treating 56 casualties. The task forces moved across the SAALE RIVER on the 14th. By 2000 the same day, combat elements had reached KOTHEN, treatment stations having bivouaced in KLEIN-WULKENITZ and BIENDORF.

(4) The situation at this point was very much like a naval battle. Task forces, including a treatment section of a medical company would attack a town, return to a base, go out next morning to seize another town (or perhaps the same one) return to find their base taken and fight to get it back. Armored units were left without supporting infantry and although unable to "hold" territory manage to stop serious enemy counter-attacks by careful and planned attacks of their own.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1946, (Cont'd).

(5) Company "C" supported this type of warfare by attaching a treatment section with each task force. On 15 April there was no change in location: on 16 April one section had been established at PREUSSLITZ; on 17 April it moved again to TORNAU to support attacks toward BERNBURG and KOTHEN. On the 18th one task force attacked toward AKEN followed by the 2nd section of Company "C" moving from KOTHEN to ZORBIG, thence to SCHEUTER on the 20th, where it was joined by the rest of the company on the 23rd and remained until the 25th. Casualties during the operations from 15 April to 23 April totaled 469 Americans, a figure which shows how heavy the resistance and how difficult the problems of evacuation for a trip to the nearest hospital meant 200 - 400 miles of steady traveling.

4. Hq and Hq Company moved with Division Trains and continued to operate the Division Rest Center. Transportation of remaining cases was affected by making double trips between stations. The Ration and the Fuel and Lubricant section worked day and night to keep the medical companies supplied. At NORDHAUSEN a Medical Officer and technicians were sent to care for the overrun Concentration Camp.

5. By 25 April after 301 days in the combat zone and 218 days in contact with the enemy the entire Division had been relieved from combat and were assembling in new bivouac areas. All companies of this battalion returned to control of this headquarters and a period of maintenance, rehabilitation and training based on Operations Memorandum No, 46, Hq, 3d Armd Div, was begun. A training program was published emphasizing rehabilitation, physical fitness, and orientation. (See Incl # 1).

6. Despite the hardships of constant movement, the hazards of travelling through partially cleared areas, the logistical headaches over fast diminishing supplies, the medical companies maintained their usual efficient evacuation mission. The average distance from aid stations varied from 0 to 5 miles.

7. There were several additional problems on this drive which caused needless work, waste of time and complication of duties.

a. The distance to Field Hospitals and Evacuation Hospitals was overly long. For most of the period from 29 March to 25 April, the axis of evacuation ranged from 55 to 180 miles in one direction. In some cases, Field Hospitals refused to accept casualties including non-transportable cases. Thus, not only was our evacuation slowed down but an accumulation of patients seriously affected our support of advancing troops as we were forced to use our own transportation.

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Appendix No. 1 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, APO 253,
US Army, April, 1945 (Cont'd)

b. There are two possible solutions: (1) To increase the number of Army ambulances; (2) To attach two hospital units from a Field Hospital to the Division to care for all casualties evacuated by armored treatment platoons.

c. Medical company commanders were given the responsibility of investigating any enemy hospitals, reporting numbers of wounded PW's, number of operating personnel, searching towns for enemy wounded, investigating and reporting on concentration camps and PW camps.

8. Billiting was no problem in this part of Germany, relatively untouched because of the speed of the attack and because the population decided not to resist.

9. Officers and men of the 575th Ambulance Company performed outstanding services in the evacuation of 3d Armored Division casualties. Driving day and night over strange dangerous roads for distances which averaged 150 miles, twice captured by enemy patrols, these men performed their duty in an exemplary manner.

10. Attached as inclosure number 3 is a recapitulation of casualties treated by this battalion from June 1944 to April 1945, inclusive.

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

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Inlosure No. 2 to After Action Report, Hq, 45th Armd Med Bn, Apr, 1945

REGAPITULATION OF CASUALTIES IRRATED

JUNE 1944 - APRIL 1945



MONTH	3d Armd Division	Other American	Allied	Civilian	Enemy	TOTAL
JUNE	320	62	0	0	3	385
JULY	1310	670	17	32	170	2199
AUG	2136	866	33	122	453	3610
SEPT	2047	550	7	139	980	3723
OCT	1404	224	0	48	29	1705
NOV	1240	430	0	23	51	1744
DEC	1713	1418	4	28	118	3281
JAN	2590	1330	4	63	147	4134
FEB	1322	213	2	10	58	1605
MAR	1701	932	8	121	295	3057
APR	1654	785	47	179	551	3216
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>						<u>28,659</u>

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Zane L Strickland Military Records

Sources:

Books:

Five Stars to Victory: The Exploits of Task Force Lovelady 2nd Bn. (Reinf.), 33rd Arm'd. Regt., 3rd Arm'd., Div. U. S. Army in the War Against Germany 1944 – 1945 by Roberts, A. Eaton

36th Armored Infantry Regiment Personnel Directory 1945

Spearhead In The West – 1941-1945 The Third Armored Division – printed by Kunst und Werbedruck, Frankfurt am Main, Germany 1945

Spearhead In The West – Third Armored Division – Turner Publishing Company – 1991

Major General Maurice Rose: World War II's Greatest Forgotten Commander by Stephen L. Ossid & Don R. Marsh – Taylor Trade Publishing – 2006

Siegfried Line 1944-45: Battles on the German frontier by Steven J. Zaloga – 2007

Alamo in the Ardennes: The Untold Story of the American Soldiers Who Made the Defense of Bastogne Possible by John C. McManus – 2007

In the Company of Heroes: The Memoirs of Captain Richard M. Blackburn Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment by Jerald W. Berry – 2013

Louch by Lou Baczewski – 2013

If You Survive: From Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge to the End of World War II by George Wilson – 2010

Battle of the Bulge 1944 (1): St Vith and the Northern Shoulder by Steven J. Zaloga – 2003

Battle of the Bulge 1944 (2): Bastogne by Steven J. Zaloga – 2004

Bloody Roads to Germany: At Huertgen Forest and the Bulge by William F. Meller – 2012

The Bloody Forest: Battle for the Hurtgen: September 1944-January 1945 by Gerald Astor – 2000

A Dark and Bloody Ground: The Hurtgen Forest and the Roer River Dams, 1944-1945 by Edward G. Miller – 2003

The Battle of the Huertgen Forest by Charles B. MacDonald – 2015

Road to Huertgen: Forest in Hell by Paul Boesch - 2014

The Hotton Report by Robert K. McDonald – 2012

Armored Thunderbolt: The U.S. Army Sherman in World War II by Steven Zaloga – 2008

The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945 by Rick Atkinson – 2013

Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II by Belton Y. Cooper – 2007

U.S. Army Armored Division 1943-1945: Organization, Doctrine, Equipment by Yves J. Bellanger – 2010

Data on World War II Tank Engagements Involving the U.S. Third and Fourth Armored Divisions by David C. Hardison - 2012

United States Army in World War II European Theater of Operations Series

- Breakout and Pursuit
- Battle of the Bulge
- The Siegfried Line Campaign
- The Last Offensive

Pamphlets / Magazines:

Call Me Spearhead – Saga of the Third Armored “Spearhead” Division – published by the Stars and Stripes

Spearheading With The 3rd Armored Division – sequel to “Call Me Spearhead” – printed by Hallische Nachrichten, Halle (Saale)

Newsletters:

Ozark Red Grapevine Newsletter, July 1945

Bugler Newsletter, date unknown

Spearhead Doughboy Newsletter

- 19 January 1942
- 28 March 1942
- 24 April 1942
- 15 July 1945
- 9 September 1945
- 16 September 1945
- 7 October 1945
- November 1945 – last issue

3rd Armored Division Veterans Newsletter

- Return to Europe trip – 1992
- Return to Europe trip – 1994

Archives:

University of Illinois – 3rd Armored Division Archives

- Online access
- Personal visit
- Phone correspondence
- Email correspondence
- Procured high-resolution scans of maps and other materials

United States National Archives

- Online access
- Email correspondence
- Postal mail correspondence
- Procured high-definition video transfer of multiple 35mm newsreels
- Procured unit after action reports
- Procured general orders

United States Holocaust Museum – Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive

- Online access
- Email correspondence
- Identified Zane Strickland in newsreel
- Iterated with staff to identify the source National Archives newsreel

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library

- Online access
- Phone correspondence
- Postal mail correspondence
- Procured unit after action reports
- Procured general orders

National Personnel Records Center

- Postal mail correspondence

Strickland and Hackney Family Archives

- Photos
- Documents

Web sites:

Unfortunately, I did not keep a log of all the web sites I used in this research. If I had done so, it would have been a very long list – as in many scores if not hundreds.

The primary web sites for source material include:

University of Illinois - 3rd Armored Division Association Archives
<http://archives.library.illinois.edu/guides/3rdarmor/>

3rd Armored Division History Foundation
<http://www.3ad.com/>

Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans
<http://www.3ad.org/>

3rd Armored Division Association
<http://home.earthlink.net/~3adspearhead/>

3rd Armored Division Memorial Group
<http://36air-ad.com/>

Video:

United States Holocaust Museum – Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive

United States National Archives

“3rd Armored Division Newsreels” by Combat Reels

“March 1945: Dual at the Cathedral” by Hermann Rheindorf

Researchers:

Brandon T. Wiegand

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Media Digital File Donations

In the course of this project I funded the digitization of a variety of source materials into high-resolution and high-definition digital formats.

The resulting digital files were donated to:

United States Holocaust Museum – Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive

- High-definition video transfers of 35mm newsreels

The University of Illinois – 3rd Armored Division Archives

- Assembled map collage and combat trail – William Brick campaign maps
- High-definition video transfers of 35mm newsreels
- High-resolution scans of:
 - Unit After Action Reports
 - Unit reports, maps and records
 - General orders
 - Large-format maps
 - Pamphlets
 - Posters
 - Books

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