



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

*"Spearhead Doughboys"*

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

HISTORY OF THE

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36th ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 36th Armored Infantry Regiment was originally organized at Brownsville, Texas, in June 1916, as the 36th Infantry, and the Regiment was the individual transfer of men from the 4th, 26th and 28th Infantry Regiments. It did not see active service and was made inactive at ... Pursuant to instructions contained in a letter from the War Department dated 16 December 1940 and 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 Milllet argent," which means in G. I. language "a silver star mounted on a green six-bastion resting on a wreath of gold and blue."



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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.

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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 lone 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.



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36TH ARMORED INFANTRY

Date:

Station:

The 36th Armored Inf was activated in compliance with War Department letter, AG 320.2 (7 Feb 1941) E.C. Subject: Cadres for the Armored Force, dated 21 Feb 1941, as a unit of the 3rd Armored Division, Camp Polk, La., with temporary station at Camp Beauregard, La. Colonel Walton H. Walker was assigned to and assumed command of the regiment.

CAMP BEAUREGARD, LOUISIANA

- 4-16-41 Preparing a tent camp for the arrival of the cadre.
- 4-17-41 Cadre consisting of 6 officers (RA), 80 officers (ORC) and 652 enlisted men joined by transfer from 41st Inf (Armd), Fort Benning, Ga., having departed from that station via RR Train at 8:30 AM, 16 Apr 1941, arrived at Camp Beauregard, La., at 8:45 AM 17 Apr 1941.
- 4-18-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
5-31-41
- 6-1-41 Usual garrison duties. Band, 36th Armd Inf activated by transfer of personnel and equipment of the Band, 20th Inf., Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo., per letter War Dept., Subject: Bands, dated 2 Apr 1941, file AG 320.2 (5 Mar 41) M (Ret) W-C. Did not join. On Detached Service, Ft Leavenworth, Kan.
- 6-2-41 Usual garrison duties.
- 6-3-41 Usual garrison duties. Advance detachment departed for Camp Polk, La.
- 6-4-41 Usual garrison duties. Band arrived at Camp Polk, La., by RR Train from Ft Leavenworth, Kan.
- 6-5-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
6-12-41





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Date:

Station:

CAMP POLK, LOUISIANA

- 6-13-41 Regiment departed from Camp Beauregard, La., at 9:00 AM and arrived at Camp Polk, La., at 12:30 PM. Method of travel Motor Convoy. Distance traveled 75 miles.
- 6-14-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
6-19-41
- 6-20-41 Usual garrison duties. Regiment commenced receiving selectees.
- 6-21-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
7-17-41
- 7-18-41 Col Walton H. Walker reld from asgd and comd and trfd to Hq 3rd Armd Div. Lt Col E. A. Smith assumed comd.
- 7-19-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
8-19-41
- 8-20-41 Usual garrison duties. Col William L. Roberts, Inf, asgd and assumed comd of Regt. Lt Col Edwin A. Smith reld from comd of Regt.
- 8-21-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
9-5-41
- 9-6-41 Usual garrison duties. 2 Regular Army and 20 Reserve Officers and 123 enlisted men departed by rail for detached service at Ft Knox, Ky., as cadre for 5th Armd Div., to be activated 1 Oct 1941.
- 9-7-41 Sunday. Pvt Burch, Hq Co. was accidentally killed in an automobile accident near Lake Charles, La.
- 9-8-41 Usual garrison duties. Col Wm L. Roberts reld fr comd of Regt and departed as an observer, 3rd Army maneuvers. Lt Col Edgar B. Heylman assumed comd.



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Date:

Station:

9-9-41 Usual garrison duties.

9-10-41 Usual garrison duties. Col Roberts returned from detached service and assumed comd. Lt Col. Heylmun reld of comd.

9-11-41 Usual garrison duties.

9-12-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
10-30-41

10-31-41 Usual garrison duties. Col Wm L. Roberts, Inf, reld comd of Regt. Lt Col Edgar B. Heylmun, Inf, assumed comd of Regt.

11-1-41 Usual garrison duties. Lt Col Edgar B. Heylmun Inf reld comd of Regt. Major Joseph J. Billo assumed comd of Regt.

11-2-41 Sunday.

11-3-41 Usual garrison duties. Major Joseph J. Billo Inf reld comd of Regt. Col William L. Roberts Inf resumed comd of Regt.

11-4-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
11-7-41

11-8-41 Usual garrison duties. Pvt Eugene E. Kelley, Co D, died at Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.

11-9-41 Usual garrison duties.  
to  
11-21-41

11-22-41 Usual garrison duties. Col Wm L Robert, Inf, reld comd of Regt. Lt Col Edgar B. Heylmun, Inf, assumed comd of Regt.

11-23-41 Lt Col Edgar B Heylmun Inf reld comd of Regt. Col William L. Roberts Inf assumed comd of Regt.







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Date:

Station:

Inf Regt; Hq Co; Hq 1st Bn; Hq Co 1st Bn; Hq 2nd Bn; Hq Co 2nd Bn; Hq 2nd Bn; Hq Co 3rd Bn were activated per letter Hq Armd Force, file 320.2 GNOAG, Subject: Organization of Hq & Hq Co's of Units of the 3rd Armd Div dated 6-19-42.

6-24-42    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
6-27-42

6-28-42    Lt Col Cockefair reld comd. Lt Col Seely asmd comd.

6-29-42    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
7-10-42

7-11-42    Lt Col Seely reld comd. Col Roberts asmd comd.

7-12-42    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
7-13-42

7-14-42    Pvt Erie G. Linnstaedter, Co B, died.

7-15-42    Usual garrison duties.

7-16-42    Col Roberts reld comd. Lt Col Cockefair asmd Comd.

7-16-42    Regiment departed from Camp Polk, La., in 7 RR  
and        Trains for Desert Training at Freda, Calif.

7-17-42

ENROUTE

7-18-42    Enroute from Camp Polk, La., to Freda, Calif.  
to  
7-19-42

7-20-42    Lt Col Cockefair reld comd. Lt Col Seely asmd comd.

7-21-42    Regiment arrived at Freda, California, and estab-  
and        lished bivouac 12 miles southwest of Freda, Calif.

7-22-42





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Date:

Station:

12 MILES SW FREDA, CALIFORNIA

7-23-42    Preparing camp site.  
7-24-42    Lt Col Seely reld comd. Col Roberts asmd comd.  
7-25-42    Usual camp duties.  
      to  
7-26-42  
7-27-42    Pvt George A. Parker, Hq Co, 1st Bn, died.  
7-28-42    Pvt Spencer A. Cornelius, Co F, died.  
7-29-42    Usual camp duties.  
      to  
8-7-42  
8-8-42    Col Roberts reld comd and trfd to C & GSS School,  
      Ft Leavenworth, Kan. Lt Col Cockefair asmd comd.  
8-9-42    Usual camp duties.  
      to  
8-11-42  
8-12-42    Lt Col Cockefair reld comd. Lt Col Seely asmd comd.  
8-13-42    Usual camp duties.  
      to  
8-16-42  
8-17-42    Col G G Parks joined by transfer from 8th Serv Comd  
      asmd comd of Regt. Lt Col Seely reld comd.  
8-18-42    Usual camp duties and maneuvers.  
      to  
10-22-42  
10-23-42    Regiment departed from Freda, California, in 6 RR  
      to  
10-25-42    Trains for Camp Pickett, Va.



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Date:

Station:

ENROUTE

10-26-42 Enroute from Freda, California to Camp Pickett,  
to Virginia.  
10-29-42  
10-30-42 Regiment arrived at Camp Pickett, Va.  
to  
10-31-42

CAMP PICKETT, VIRGINIA

11-1-42 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
overseas movement.  
11-18-42 Col Parks reld comd. Lt Col Seely asmd comd.  
11-19-42 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement  
11-27-42  
11-28-42 Lt Col Seely reld comd. Col Parks asmd comd.  
11-29-42 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
1-10-43  
1-11-43 Regiment departed in 5 RR Trains for Indiantown Gap,  
to Pa.  
1-12-43

INDIANTOWN GAP MIL RES, PENNSYLVANIA

1-12-43 Regiment arrived at Indiantown Gap Mil Res, Pa.  
&  
1-13-43  
1-13-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
2-3-43  
2-4-43 Major Charles Cooke, 36th Armd Inf Regt died.  
2-5-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
overseas movement.





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Date:

Station:

2-6-43    Usual garrison duties and preparation for overseas movement.

2-7-43    Col Parks reld comd.    Lt Col Russell asmd comd.

2-8-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
2-13-43

2-14-43    Lt Col Russell reld comd.    Col Parks asmd comd.

2-15-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
2-19-43

2-20-43    Col Parks reld comd.    Lt Col Seely asmd comd.

2-21-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
2-23-43

2-24-43    Lt Col Seely reld comd.    Col Parks asmd comd.

2-25-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
3-11-43

3-12-43    Pvt Ernest Ringen, Co I, died.

3-13-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
4-1-43

4-2-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
4-15-43

4-16-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement  
to  
4-30-43

5-1-43    Usual garrison duties including preparation for overseas movement.  
to  
5-16-43



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Date:

Station:

5-17-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
5-31-43

6-1-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
6-18-43

6-19-43 Opening of Summer Training Area. Swimming instruct-  
ion and floating of equipment scheduled for the Regt.

6-20-43 Usual garrison duties including preparations for  
to overseas movement.  
6-30-43

7-1-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
7-13-43

7-14-43 Pvt Wayne A. Crabtree, Co I, died.

7-15-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
7-22-43

7-23-43 Pvt Lyle L. Page, Hq Co 2nd Bn, died.

7-24-43 Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to overseas movement.  
7-31-43

8-1-43 Final preparation for overseas movement. Unit known  
to as 2190-M.  
8-17-43

8-18-43 Summer Training Area closes.

8-19-43 Completion of packing and preparation for overseas  
to movement.  
8-26-43

8-27-43 Regiment departed from Lickdale, Pa., in three trains  
to Staging Area.





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Date:

Station:

CAMP MILLS R., NEW JERSEY

8-28-43    2190-M undergoes final preparation for overseas move-  
to    ment  
8-31-43

9-1-43    2190-M completes preparation for overseas movement.

9-3-43    Regiment departs to Port of Embarkation in 6 trains.  
Troops depart on Transport Carrier, Cape Town Castle,  
an English Liner.

AT SEA

9-4-43    Overseas Movement in Convoy.  
to  
9-15-43

LAND

9-16-43    Docked at Liverpool, England.

9-16-43    Debarkation Regiment moved to Sutton Veny, England  
&    in 6 trains.  
9-17-43

SUTTON VENY, ENGLAND

9-18-43    General police up of Camp.  
to  
9-30-43

10-1-43    Usual garrison duties. Training Program includes  
to    Road Marches.  
10-10-43

10-11-43    Identification of German Uniforms and Weapons.  
Field Demonstrations.

10-12-43    Usual garrison duties including six day field problem.  
to  
10-24-43

10-24-43    Death of Holland F. Holm, Co F. Burial at National  
Cemetery, Brookwood, England.



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Date:

Station:

10-25-43    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
11-30-43

12-1-43    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
12-24-43

12-25-43    Christmas day. Holiday for all. Day spent with  
the Enlisted men. Party for neig boring English  
children.

12-26-43    Usual garrison duty.

12-27-43    Death of Pvt Fred Urban, 1st Bn Hq. Burial at  
National Cemetery, Brookwood, England.

12-28-43    Usual garrison duties.

12-29-43    Lt Col T. A. Seely transferred to 28th Inf Div  
and departed. Changes in Regimental Staff.  
Major J. R. Hutcheson to Ex O and Capt T. P. Mason  
to S-3

12-30-43    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
1-7-44

1-8-44    Usual garrison duties. Death of Pfc Harm Kock,  
Hq Co 3rd Bn. Burial at National Cemetery, Brook-  
wood, England. American Flag raised at Reveille  
for first time at Sutton Veny Camp,

1-9-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
1-16-44

1-17-44    Gen Bernard Montgomery, CO British Ground Forces,  
visited Camp and addressed assembled troops.

1-18-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
1-23-44



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Date:

Station:

1-24-44    Usual garrison duties. American flag lowered for security reasons on advice of Division G-2.

1-25-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
2-12-44

2-13-44    Formal opening of Regimental NAAFI Service Club.

2-14-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
2-24 44

2-25-44    Visit by General Eisenhower, General Sir Arthur Tedder and General Sir Bernard Montgomery who visited Training Area and witnessed a field exercise in which one battalion of the Regiment participated setting up a defensive position against an armored attack.

2-26-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
3-6-44

3-7-44    Deaths of Pfc John A. Havelka and Pvt Martin H. O'Kada, Co F. Burials at National Cemetery, Brookwood, England.

3-8-44    Regiment Show "It's In The Bag" opened at Sutton Veny Camp. Show scheduled to tour other units of Division.

3-9-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
3-25-44

3-26-44    Co's A and B and Hq Co, 1st Bn, 120th Inf (30th Inf Div) moved into Sutton Veny Camp for one weeks training with 3rd Armd Div.

3-27-44    Usual garrison duties.  
to  
4-12-44





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Date:				Station:
4-13-44				Co's C and D and Hq Co 1st Bn 117th Inf (30th Inf Div) moved into Sutton Veny Camp for one weeks training.
4-14-44				Normal garrison duties.
4-15-44				3rd anniversary of 3rd Armd Div. Training suspended for afternoon. Message from Commanding General read to all troops.
4-16-44				Usual garrison duties.
to				
4-19-44				
4-20-44				Usual garrison duties. All Officers and NCOs attended an address by Major Gen Corlett, CG XIX Corps.
4-21-44				Usual garrison duties.
to				
5-17-44				
5-18-44				Gen Omar H. Bradley visits camp and addresses all Officers.
5-19-44				Usual garrison duties.
to				
5-23-44				
5-24-44				Waterproofing of vehicles begun. Usual garrison duties.
to				
5-27-44				
5-28-44				1st stage of waterproofing vehicles completed.
5-29-44				Usual garrison duties.
to				
5-31-44				
6-1-44				Entire Regiment completely combat loaded. Personnel moved to shelter tent camp within Sutton Veny Camp.
6-2-44				Usual garrison duties. Passes for personnel stopped at 1130 PM.



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Date:

Station:

6-3-44            Usual garrison duties.  
to  
6-5-44

6-6-44            Tent camp inspected and Officers meeting by Div  
Commander.

6-7-44            Usual garrison duties including preparation for  
to                    overseas movement and - combat.  
6-16-44

ENROUTE

6-17-44            Regiment moved from Sutton Veny Camp, England, to  
to                    France via marshalling areas near Southhampton, Eng-  
6-25-44            land and Weymouth, England, from which ports groups  
of the Regt in varying sizes sailed during this  
period. Debarkation was on an established beach-  
head known as Omaha Beach (code name), near Isigny  
France. The entire regiment assembled in areas near  
Neuilly la Foret, France, and began de-waterproofing  
vehicles and making further preparations for combat.

FRANCE

6-26-44            Regiment in assembly areas near Neuilly la Foret.  
Regiment assigned to Combat Command "A" under Brig  
Gen D. O. Hickey. Regt preparing for combat.

6-27-44            1st and 3rd Bns move to vicinity of St Clair L'Elle.  
Remainder of regiment stay at Neuilly la Foret. Prep-  
arations for combat continue.

6-28-44            CCA divided into 3 task forces: Task Force X, com-  
manded by Col Boudinot, 32nd AR, consisting of 3rd  
Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 36 AIR; Task Force Y commanded  
by Col Graeme Parks, 36AIR, consisting of 2nd Bn 32nd  
AR and 2nd Bn 36th AIR; and Task Force Z commanded  
by Lt Col Walter Abney, 36th AIR, consisting of 1st  
Bn 36th AIR and 1st Bn 32nd AR. Each had detachments  
of engineers and tank destroyers. Regt Hq Co and  
2nd Bn 36th AIR move to St Clair L'Elle. Orders for  
attack on 29 June issued by Combat Command "A" and  
reconnaissance by all commanders conducted. Infantry  
companies integrate with tank companies for engage-  
ment. Task forces moved to forward assembly areas  
during night of 28 June 1944.



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★ NORMANDY

★ NORTHERN FRANCE

★ ARDENNES

★ RHINELAND

★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:

Station:

6-29-44

CCA attacked through lines of 29th Inf Div at 0900 with a mission of securing high ground about 2 miles north of St Lo thus removing a salient in and improving the lines of the 29th Inf Div. The attack covered an area approximately 3500 yds wide and 2500 yds deep. Task Force X with Co's G & H, 36 AIR, in the assault and Co I in reserve, attacked on the left. Task Force Y with Co's D & E in the assault and Co F in reserve attacked on the right. Task Force Z was in CCA reserve. Heavy resistance was encountered throughout the day. After some progress was made during the day, at night the tanks withdrew behind the Infantry, positions were outposted and preparations were made for continuation of the attack on 30 June 1944.

6-30-44

Attack continued at 0800. Co C 36th AIR with a Co of tanks was taken from Task Force Z and committed on left flank of Task Force Y during the morning. Strong enemy resistance continued, with artillery and mortar fire particularly heavy. Terrain was difficult to attack over, being made up of small fields surrounded by hedgerows and sunken roads, but well adapted to defense and affording the enemy excellent observation. Hedgerows were breached by dozers on medium tanks and by demolitions. Attack was made from hedgerow to hedgerow with small groups of infantry working with each tank to form small combat teams. During the day's operations, the village of Villiers Fossard was taken in Task Force Y's zone. At 1500 Co B with tanks were moved from Task Force Z to Task Force X and were committed on the right flank of that Force. Elements of the 29th Inf Div took over the positions held by CCA during the evening of this day and all elements of the Command were moved to the attack assembly area and then to St Clair L'Elle.

7-1-44

Regiment remained at St Clair L'Elle.

7-2-44

Regt (less 3rd Bn) relieved from CCA and moved to Neuilly la Foret. 3rd Bn under CCA moved to vicinity of le Tronguay with mission of reinforcing V Corps line. 2nd Bn assigned to CC B with mission of reinforcing XIX Corps line. Regt (less 2nd & 3rd Bns) asgd to Div Troops, commanded by Col Parks, with mission of backing up either CC "A" or CC "B".





THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

"Spearhead Doughboys"

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

Date:

Station:

7-3-44

Regiment (less 3rd Bn) in bivouac near St Clair L'Elle. Entire regiment refitting for combat. Regiment receive 8 Officers and 175 enlisted men replacements. Major Gen Leroy Watson, CC 3rd Armd Div and Brig Gen Doyle O. Hickey awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action in engagement 29-30 June 1945. 3rd Bn 36th AIR still under CCA near le Tronguay.

7-4-44

No change in status of any elements of Regiment

to

7-6-44

7-7-44

Late in the afternoon of this date, the 36th AIR (minus 3rd Bn, which was still near le Tronguay under CCA) was assigned to CCB under Brig Gen Bohm. CCB issued an attack order at about 1800. CCB was to move during the night of 7 July south to Aire, to cross the River Vire at Aire, pass through bridgehead that had been established across the river by the 30th Inf Div., make contact with the enemy and drive him south with ultimate mission of siezing the high ground at St Gilles (XIX Corps objective) in the 30th Inf Div zone some ten miles south of Aire and four miles west of St Lo. This order divided CCB into three Task Forces, namely: Task Force X, Lt Col Cockefair, 36th AIR commanding and consisting of 2nd Bn 36th AIR and 2nd Bn 33rd AR; Task Force Y, with Col Parks, 36th AIR commanding, consisting of 1st Bn 36th AIR and 1st Bn 33rd AR; and Task Force Z, consisting of 3rd Bn 33rd AR without Infantry and commanded by Lt Col Hogan, 33rd AR. Each Task Force had attachments of Engineers and Tank Destroyers, in addition to medium tanks equiped with bull-dozer. Task Force X crossed the river and made first contact with enemy at 496746 (see overlay) at about 2245. Four enemy tanks were destroyed and the enemy withdrew, after which Task Force X went into assembly area in that vicinity preparing to continue the attack. During the night orders were received from CCB to continue the attack at 0630 of 8 July 1945. In the meantime, Task Force Y crossed the river and arrived at an assembly area as shown on overlay (496755) at about 0330 on the morning 8 July, and prepared to displace forward behind Task Force X and assist it in the attack when so ordered.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

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

Date:

Station:

The 3rd Bn, 36th Armd Inf Regt, remained near Tronquay under CCA during this date.

7-8-44

Task Force X crossed the LD as shown on overlay at 0630 and advanced some 1500 yds during the day to a position as shown. Resistance during the attack was initially light but increased as the attack progressed. Task Force Y remained in its assembly area until about 2200 at which time it moved forward through Task Force X and continued the attack, but only slight advances were made during the night. During this date CC B was attached to the 30th Inf Div.

At 1800 this date the 3rd Bn 36th AIR, still assigned to CCA (commanded by Brig Gen D.O. Hickey) moved with CCA from its position near Le Tronquay to an assembly area north of Martigny (see overlay) at 48C745. The mission of CCA initially was to cross the river and assist CCB on 3rd Armd Div Order. At 2000, 3rd Bn 36th AIR, part of CCA Task Force commanded by Lt Col Russell, 36th AIR, moved to a position behind the 3rd Bn, 130th Inf Regt, in the 9th Inf Div (VII Corps) zone, prepared to attack through that battalion at 0600 on 9 July. However, this attack was not made due to last minute changes in orders from CCA.

7-9-44

In the XIX Corps Zone, Task Force Y continued the attack at 0700 and during the day advanced so that one company of tanks of this Task Force were on the CCB objective (Hill 91 at Vents - see overlay) by dark. The Infantry was some 1200 yds short of the objective due initially to traffic congestion that prohibited use of vehicles and then to intense artillery and mortar fire being placed on the objective. Meanwhile, Task Force X, attempting to withdraw north to its original assembly area as soon as Task Force Y passed through its lines and then attack south on the west flank of Task Force Y, was unable to move due to traffic congestion and did not reach the assembly area until 2020. Preparations were made then to launch the attack on the morning of 10 July. Col Roysdon, 33rd AR, assumed command of CCB this date, vice Brig Gen Bohm relieved.





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Date:

Station:

In the 9th Inf Div Zone (VII Corps) the Task Force under Lt Col Russell, 3rd Bn, 36th AIR, relieved the 3rd Bn, 117th Inf and received orders to attack at 0430 on 10 July 1944 and take objective as shown on overlay.

7-10-44

Task Force X attacked astride the St Jean di Day-Vents highway during the early morning of this date, meeting only slight resistance; in the meantime, Task Force Y was receiving heavy artillery and mortar fire and could not advance. The tanks of Task Force Y were forced to withdraw from the objective behind the line of the Infantry when Task Force X reached lines held by Task Force Y, Co C, 36th AIR. with its integrated tanks was attached to Task Force X from Task Force Y and Task Force X launched an attack on the objective at 1630 which was successful and objective was taken. Task Force Y was then withdrawn some 2000 yards and outposted along the right of the St Jean-Vents highway during the night. Task Force X (plus Co C 36th AIR and tanks) defended the objective during the night. At 0430 on this date the CCA Task Force under Lt Col Russell attacked in the 9th Inf Div zone and reached a position as shown on overlay where enemy resistance prohibited further advance. During the night the Task Force was relieved by elements of the 9th Inf Div and the Task Force moved back to original attack assembly area.

7-11-44

At 0830 on this date Lt Col King, 33rd AR, with force consisting of Co A, 36th AIR and two companies of tanks from 33rd AR, was ordered to move to the vicinity of Carigny to meet an enemy tank threat on the left flank. At Carigny this force divided into two equal forces and proceeded as shown on the overlay. These forces successfully operated in this zone until relieved on 13 July. Task Force X (plus Co C and its integrated tanks) continued to hold this objective despite terrific enemy artillery and mortar fire until 1900. Task Force Z was ordered to the objective during the day as well as Co B, 36th AIR with its intergrated tanks so that at 1900 Task Force X, Y and Z (less Co A, 36th AIR and two companies of tanks under Lt Col King) were all on the objective and organization of the ground was completed. 3rd Bn, 36th AIR remained in forward assembly area behind 9th Inf Div.





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Date:

Station:

- 7-12-44      CCB continued to hold objective despite heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. Co A, 36th AIR was still on special mission.  
At 1500 3rd Bn 36th AIR moved to bivouac area as shown on overlay (480748) still under CCA.
- 7-13-44      CCB continued to hold objective awaiting to be relieved by elements of 30th Div. The 30th Div passed through lines of CCB and prepared to continue attack. Artillery and mortars continued to shell objective. Co A relieved from special mission during the afternoon moved to bivouac at 472718. There was no change in status of 3rd Bn 36th AIR.
- 7-14-44      No change in any elements of 36th AIR. Artillery and mortar still falling on objective, CCB expected to be relieved during day but no orders received.
- 7-15-44      No change in any companies of 1st and 2nd Bn 36th AIR. 30th Inf Div launched attack at 0515; CCB continued to hold objective pending relief by 30th Inf Div. At 1900, CO, CCB, issued order reorganizing CCB into one assault group (on objective) under Col Roysdon with Lt Col Cockefair in command of Infantry, Col Hogan in command of tanks and Lt Cleveland in command of reserve (2) Task Force Y (Co A, 36th AIR and 1st Bn 35th AR) with Lt Col King in command (3) CCB Reserve with Col Parks in command. 3rd Bn as part of CCA, moved from position SE of St Jean de Daye to new assembly area at La Dessert (West of St Jean de Daye) during afternoon.
- 7-16-44      Cos B, C, D, E, and F, which were holding objective at Vents were relieved by elements of 30th Inf Div at 1500. The 36th AIR (less 2nd Bn) was assigned to CCA and moved to vicinity of Le Dessert at 2100. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCB and moved to assembly in Bois de Hommel (413755).
- 7-17-44      Entire Regiment resting and refitting for further combat. 2nd Bn remained under CCB in Bois de Hommel and rest of Regiment remained under CCA near La Dessert.



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Date:

- 7-18-44      No change in status of Regiment. 4 Officers and 11 enlisted men received Bronze Stars per GO No 12 3rd Armd Div dated 18 July 1944.
- 7-19-44      No change in locations. Col Wm L Cornog assumed command of Regiment Vice Col G. G. Parks reld. Major P W Corrigan assumed command of 1st Bn 36th AIR VICE Lt Col W L Abney reld. Regiment, less 2nd Bn, received alert orders from CCA on pending operations. CCA divided into (3) Task Forces: TFX (Lt Col Doan, 32nd AR comdg) consisting of 3rd Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 36th AIR; TFY (Col Cornog 36th AIR comdg) consisted of 36th AIR less 2nd and 3rd Bns and 2nd Bn 32nd AR; and TFZ (Lt Col Daniel, 26th Inf Regt comdg) consisting of 3rd Bn 32nd AR and 2nd Bn 26th Inf Regt from 1st Inf Div. Each task Force was assigned artillery, engineers and tank destroyers. 2nd Bn remained under CCB.
- 7-20-44      No change. Pending operations delayed due to inclement weather.  
to  
7-25-44
- 7-26-44      CCB, of which 2nd Bn was part, attack at 0700 in zone of 1st Inf Div following air bombardment and opening of enemy lines by coordinated attack by 1st, 9th and 30th Inf Divs. Steady progress made during day against slight opposition. CCB went into assembly area west of Marigny during night. Regiment less 2nd Bn, remained under CCA at Le Dessert.
- 7-27-44      CCA, of which Regt less 2nd Bn was part, passed through enemy lines at 0630. Initial progress was slow but by noon TFX, of which 3rd Bn was part, had cut the St Gilles-Coutances road and continued to advance to St Bonort where strong enemy resistance was encountered. This resistance was bypassed and the advance continued until leading elements had reached Le Gault (404578). TFY containing Regt less 2nd and 3rd Bns, followed TFX and halted between Marigny and St Giles (438604).



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Date:

CCB, of which the 2nd Bn was part, was ordered to continue the attack that began 26 Jul 1944. All elements started moving at 0800 and by 1240 the leading elements had advanced four miles west along the main St Lo-Coutances highway.

7-28-44

At 0630 TFX passed through TFX and advanced toward its objective near Coutances. At 2100 TFX went into assembly area near Crisy la Salle (3553) and during the night two battle groups blocked exits from high ground at Montpinchon from West and South.

The 2nd Bn, under command of CCB, drove forward to commanding ground overlooking their final objective and were ordered not to occupy the town but rather turn SE and attack a strong point that was holding up the 1st Inf Div. With this mission accomplished and after fighting continually for three days and two nights, CCB was ordered to sit tight on their position until further orders in the morning for a new mission to begin at once.

7-29-44

TFX held exits from high ground at Montpinchon while TFX attacked from North at 1200. TFX disengaged and continued on mission to seize objective southwest of Coutance. Objective was reached at 1830 and TFX was given a new objective near Coutance (3450) which it reached by 2400. TFX mopped up high ground at Montpinchon and moved on to its objective near Contriers.

CCB reverted from 1st Inf Div to 3rd Armd Div control and was ordered to assemble south of Cometous. However, the CO, CCB, urged that the men be given a few hours rest as they had been going continually for three days and three nights. Request was granted and CCB closed to assembly area at 2000 that evening. 2nd Bn under CCB remained near Combenon until 1100 and then moved to assembly area east of La Villedieu.

7-30-44

During the day TFX (CCA) of which the 3rd Bn was part, established a line just North of Gavray where they remained throughout the afternoon and night. TFX of which 36th AIR (— 2nd and 3rd Bns) advanced until it reached an assembly area near St Denis Le Cast.





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Date:

CCB, of which 2nd Bn was part, advanced south and crossed the river at La Sayeria and by 2100 were on the Divisional objective west of Villedieu-les-Poeles

Effective at 2400 this date, 3rd Bn, was assigned to CCA and the Regt (less 3rd Bn) was assigned to CCB.

7-31-44

CCA held bridge-head across Sienne River and at 1000 began moving forward towards Villedieu-les-Poeles.

The Engineers (Co B 23rd Eng) succeeded in bridging a forty foot gap to prepare the way for CCB to continue. By 1900 the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR as part of CCB succeeded in crossing the river although this area was heavily blanketed with mortar and artillery fire. Results of the day show two bridgeheads successfully established across the river north of Villedieu-les-Poeles.

8-1-44

CCA continued to move south during this date against moderate enemy resistance.

On the morning of 1 Aug 1944 TF 2 (Col Cockefair) crossed the IF at 0500, launching an attack simultaneously with TF 1 to secure the initial objective of the 4th Inf Div which was east of Villedieu-Les-Poeles. However, enemy action succeeded in delaying the advance by means of road blocks which were covered by AT guns, small arms fire, plus a very heavy concentration of artillery fire. A few enemy tanks were dug in and used as armored pill boxes. The enemy put up a stubborn rearguard action. Our units accounted for a few enemy tanks and AT guns and were able to inflict heavy casualties. However, the progress made by our units was very slow. (Three of our tanks were knocked out.)

As a result a new plan of attack was formulated. CCB was to break contact and move west with head of TF 2 at bridge (390352 - see overlay). TF 1 with Co D, E and A 36th AIR, from assembly area, would move via route shown on overlay to an objective at (435295). TF 2 (Col Cockefair with C & F co's 36th AIR) would maintain liaison with TF 1, moving their columns over same route.



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Date:

TF 1 made good progress on this newly assigned mission. At 2225 TF 1 reported a column of vehicles about two miles away from along its route, moving south about 20 miles per hour. TF 1 was moving so fast the CC, CCB, could not report the location of his leading elements.

8-2-44

At 0258 TF 1 caught up with the tail of the enemy armored column. There was much confusion. Several of the enemy vehicles were set afire but the main body of the enemy force was able to get away. This action took place just short of CCB's objective (La Moncelliere). TF 1 coiled in the fields for the night. Enemy vehicles were heard moving in fields a few hundred yards away. There was much active patrolling by both sides. The enemy began firing small arms tracer ammunition and set fire to several half-tracks which lighted up the countryside. The enemy zeroed in with his mortar and a close range fire fight ensued. Soon seven half tracks and two M-4's were ablaze. Our casualties were heavy. TF2 came to the assistance of TF 1. The enemy pressed an attack and reinforced with tanks in strength and fought tenaciously for several hours; situation obscure.

In the morning CCB resumed the attack against the enemy and occupied area as shown on overlay. Hill 329 was secured by the 2nd Bn, 8th Inf Regt of the 4th Inf Div.

8-3-44

CCB continued to hold until late in the afternoon, at which time it disengaged and started advancing toward a new objective at Cherence.le.Rousel. Upon reaching Couves enemy resistance was encountered and CCB went into assembly area. CCA remained on objective throughout day.

8-4-44

Task Force Two of CCB, of which 36th AIR (less 2nd and 3rd Bns) was part, left Couves at 1900 and moved to a point one mile south of Cherence.le.Roussel. CCA remained on objective for rest and maintenance.



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"Spearhead Doughboys"

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

Date:

- 8-5-44      Task Force Two of CCB attacked at 0530 to secure bridge-head at Cherehce-Le-Roussel and at 0700 had accomplished this mission.
- CCA of which 3rd Bn was part, moved at 1500 to seize new objective at Damfront. By 2400 CCA had gone into assembly area in vicinity of Le Teilleul (6298).
- 8-6-44      CCB moved to vicinity of Reffuveille for rest and maintenance on this afternoon.
- CCA continued to advance and by night had elements in Ambrieres le Grand and patrols near Barenton. Regiment (less 3rd Bn) in rest area lines (061800) at Reffuveille.
- 8-7-44      Regt (less 3rd Bn), part of CCB, was attached to 30th Inf Div sometime in the morning. CCB was broken down into 3 Task Forces, namely; TF 1, TF 2 and TF 3 TF 1, which the 1st Bn 36th AIR was part (Col Roysdon comdg); TF 2 which the 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part with Col Cornog comdg; and TF 3 which consisted of tanks, no infantry and was commanded by Lt Col Hogan.
- The Regiment (less 3rd Bn) was in vicinity of Reffuveille. Late in the afternoon TF 2 was ordered to move out by (2045 hours east via Reffuveille-Juvigny le Tertre road and thence by using unimproved roads north of main Juvigny le Tertre-Mortain road to attack, seize and secure road between Cherehce-le-Roussel and Mortain. TF 1 was to move south of Cherehce-le-Roussel, seize high ground around town which had been retaken the same morning by the enemy. TF 3 was to move just north of Mortain (ST Bartelmy) seize road and secure and defend position along road. TF 2 was broken down into 3 sub TF's each consisting of one Inf Company 36th AIR and 1 co tanks from 33rd AR. Sub TF 1 under Lt Col Cockefair was to put in mine field and road block at 556159. All three sub-TF's were to assemble just west of objective for the night and attack early in the morning of the 8th. Sub TF 2 began moving about 2100. Northeast of Juvigny le Tertre enemy resistance was met and Sub TF 1 did not get road block in until morning of 8th. Regt CP was established just west of Juvigny le Tertre.





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Date:

- 8-8-44 Road block was set at OSOG. Attack launched at 0630 against heavy enemy resistance. TF 2 attached to 119th Inf Regt. Casualties were heavy due to enemy mortar and artillery fire. Objective not reached.
- 3rd Bn 35th AIR still under CCA. Major R T Dunn evacuated and Capt T. G. Touse assumed command of 3rd Bn.
- 8-9-44 Forward elements in the vicinity of Mortain with the town being in the hands of the enemy. Fierce fighting against fanatical resistance was encountered. Artillery and mortar fire was extremely heavy. Both Infantry and Tanks suffered many casualties. Col Cornog and Lt Col Gockefair were killed in action.
- Still attached to 119th Inf supporting their left flank of line running from about 547168 to 549162, Map France 1:50,000.
- 8-10-44 Lt Col Hutchinson took over command of 2nd Bn. Lt Col Lovady assumed command of Task Force 2. The enemy counter-attacked in strength but our lines hold and he was unable to gain ground. Artillery and mortar fire still heavy and -- accurate. The Infantry continued to suffer heavy casualties. Objective not reached.
- 8-11-44 TF 1 in vicinity of Les Mesnil Tove south (528158). TF 2 still in same location North Belle-Fontaine, ordered to organize and defend present position. Little change in situation save casualties were lighter than previous. 3rd Bn still under CCA south of Garnon (690795).
- 8-12-44 Situation changed very little. Position organized and being held. Regiment (- 3rd Bn) released from 30th Inf Div control at 1500. Reverted to CCB and Div control. Prepared to move south to join Div located South of Oisseau. Route followed south to Fortain-St Hilaire-du-Horccourt road; east to Milly to Notre Dame de Techet road; south to Fougervilles du Pleasis, east to Desertines; Southeast to Gorrion; East to junction road Le Fos-St Mars-sur Colmont; Southeast to Oisseau, reaching bivouac area at about 0300 15 August 1944.



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Date:

8-13-44

With Ranex as objective TF X of CCA (Brig. Gen Hickey comdg) of which 3rd Bn 36th AIR (Capt Tousey comdg) was a part, moved from Assembly area at 0630 as per Field Order No 6, Hq 3rd Arm'd Div, dated 12 Aug 44, moved south on route, continued attack throughout the day with little resistance during early part of attack but with increasing resistance as they neared objective. Objective Ranex secured at 2030.

TF Y, part of CCA which included 1st Bn 36th AIR, moved over North route, encountered strong resistance from anti-tank and machine gun fire in vicinity of 043914 about 1130. By by-passing this resistance TF Y reached 115955 by 2400. Both columns had continuous air support during the day. Div Res, commanded by Lt Col King, of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, received orders to move at 0950. TF 2, consisting of one Co 36th AIR, one Co of Tanks, one Co of TD's and one Co of Engineers, moved over North Route and encountered heavy enemy resistance. TF Y (CCA) had by-passed same. CCB ordered to move and secure objectives Joue-du-Rois. TF 1 of CCB moved north route to vicinity of Coupstrain where it joined attack against enemy resistance encountered by TF 2, Div Res. TF 1, Div Res, of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR (- one Co) was a part, moved south route to vicinity of Pre-En-Pail and attacked north to secure objective (070990). Objective not secured by 2400. Objective Joue-Du-Rois-. Went into assembly area in vicinity of Pre-En-Pail for night.

60th Inf Regt attached to Division at 1745 hours, joined TF Z, CCB, in their location.

8-14-44

TF X (CCA) of which 3rd Bn 36th AIR was part, remained on its objective (Ranex) throughout the day in face of heavy enemy opposition. A strong enemy counter-attack from North and South was repulsed; however, TF X was unable to extend north. TF Y, of which 1st Bn 36th AIR was part, attacked at 0630 on West route to join TF X on objective (Ranex) but was delayed due to stubborn enemy resistance in vicinity of Joue-Du-Rois (124040).



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Date:

TFY reinforced TFX at Ranès around 1700 after overcoming road block at road junction (145015).

Division Reserve ( TF King ) of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, continued attack at 0630 with mission of seizing objective (Joue-du-Bois). Strong enemy resistance was encountered and the town was bypassed to the east at 2100 to seize high ground on north. After occupation of high ground, town was to be cleared. CCB attacked at 0630 with moderate resistance throughout the day and seized objective (La Motte Fouquet) at 1700. TFY and Div Res went into assembly area in vicinity south of Joue-du-Bois for night around 2200.

8-15-44

CCA attacked at 0730 along the Ranès--Fromental highway. The command had as an objective, Putanges. Considerable resistance was met consisting mainly of artillery and tanks. At the close of the period the Combat Command and Div Res were consolidated and defending the area of Ranès. Elements of CCB crossed their LD at 1700. This combat command was unable to attack earlier because their Infantry had not been relieved by elements of the 60th Inf. Div Res Command group and service trains coiled at about 1900. Considerable enemy opposition had been met during the day but the morale and combat efficiency of our troops were excellent. Col Louis P. Leone assumed command of the Regiment and Lt Col Hutchinson resumed his duties as Executive Officer.

8-16-44

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR reverted to Division Reserve at Ranès. Both Combat Commands at 0620 began an attack to seize previously assigned objectives. Div Res prepared to follow either Combat Command on Division order. The Combat Commands advanced steadily against heavy resistance consisting of artillery, mortar fire and tanks. At the close of the period CCA was fighting on the outskirts of Fromental and maintaining contact there. CCB advanced steadily and TF 1 coiled in the vicinity of Les Yveteau (075146) and TF 2 in the vicinity of Hill 231 (100115).





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Date:

- 8-17-44    The 1st Bn 36th AIR still in CCA. The 2nd Bn in CCB and the 3rd in Div Res. At 0830 CCB tried to join CCA so as to coordinate an attack on Fromental but met heavy resistance and was unable to do so. CCA launched an attack on Fromental at 1400 and by 1700 had occupied the town except for scattered resistance groups in the western part. At 1700 the town was heavily bombed by friendly aircraft (P-38's) and in the resulting confusion the enemy reoccupied the center and more of the western section of the town. Casualties resulting were heavy for us and at the close of the period CCA had to be content with occupancy of but the eastern part of Fromental. The 2nd Bn 60th Inf and a Medium Tank Co were detached from Div Res and sent to CCA. At 2030 CCB met heavy resistance but advanced steadily nevertheless. Div Res moved north at 1705 to new assembly area (099145). Shell fire fell around the area and seemed to come from the northwest. Plans and reconnaissance were made for occupation of the objective.
- 8-18-44    At 0100 Capt Mann, 32nd AR, was sent with a force to protect our rear, while Capt T G Tousev, 36th AIR, took a force to protect our right flank. Each of these forces consisted of a Tank Co and an Arm'd Infantry Co. At 0630, a force made up of Co F 32nd AR and Co H 36th AIR, under the command of Major Baily, was sent to mop up a pocket in the area of Trieze Saints-Batilly. TF Baily was also to contact TF Hogan. TF Baily met moderate resistance and it was reinforced with a light tank Co, a Medium Tank platoon and a Co of Infantry. Operations were successful and the Task Force coiled for the night. CCA completed the occupation of Fromental and CCB secured its objective south of Putanges during the day.
- 8-19-44    Div Res completed mopping up the area of Trieze-Saints-Batilly by 1030 and moved back to assembly area at coordinates (101149). Reorganization and maintenance were started. Maintenance was badly needed due to the continuous operations by all units of the Regiment.



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Date:

- 8-20-44      Maintenance and care and cleaning activity continued through the day. Brig Gen Laurice Rose, CG, 3rd Armcd Div presented awards to Officers and enlisted men of the Regiment. The Division was reorganized with troops assigned as follows:
- CC "A" under command of Brig Gen Hickey was made up of the 32nd AR (less 2nd Bn); 1st Bn 36th AIR; Co A 23rd Eng; Co A 703rd TD Bn; Co A 45th Med Bn; 67th AFA Bn; 54th AFA Bn; and a Det of Maint Bn.
- CC "B" commanded by Col T. E. Boudinot consisted of the 33rd AR (less 3rd Bn); 2nd Bn 36th AIR; Co D 23rd Eng; Co B 703rd TD Bn; Co B 45th Med Bn; 391st AFA Bn; 87th AFA Bn; and a Det of Maint Bn.
- Division Reserve , with Col Leone commanding, was composed of the 36th AIR (less 1st and 3rd Bns); 2nd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 703rd TD Bn (less A and B cos); 23rd Engr Bn (less A and D Cos); Co C 45th Med Bn; the 991st AFA Bn; the 185rd FA Bn (155-mm How) and a Det of Maint Bn.
- 8-21-44      Division Reserve still in rest area awaiting orders to make administrative march to new area. Composition of troops issued 20 Aug 44 remained unchanged. Care and cleaning, maintenance and reorganization continued. Morale was high and combat efficiency excellent.
- 8-22-44      Division Reserve departed assembly area for march to new area at 1457 hours. Unit was still marching at the close of the period. The column progressed nicely despite Casual vehicles using the same routes which created some delay.
- 8-23-44      Division Reserve closed in new assembly area (Courville-Sur-Eure 1:50,000 - 195132) at 0415 hours. Remainder of the period was spent in care and cleaning of equipment.
- 8-24-44      Division Reserve still in assembly area south and in the vicinity of Chatteaux. Departed for new assembly position at 1615 hours. The column was still marching as the period closed.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

"Spearhead Doughboys"

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

Date:

- 8-25-44    Div Res closed into assembly area with Headquarters located at 055060. TF Roysdon (2nd Bn 36th AIR, 1 Tank Bn of 33rd AR and 1 Rcn Co of the 83rd Rcn Bn) was alerted to cross the Seine River at Tilly with the mission of assisting the 22nd Inf RCT to secure Foret de Senart. TF Roysdon moved at 1630 and crossed at 1815, then coiled for the night. The remainder of the Division moved to the West bank of the Seine to cross behind TF Roysdon. The 23rd Eng Bn began another bridge across the river at 2345 at point 170088.
- 8-26-44    Both CCA and CCB attacked at 1400: the attack being delayed one hour because of difficult terrain. The 83rd Rcn Bn preceeded the Division by one hour. Div Res left its assembly area at 1300 and completed crossing the river by 1900. Reserve still moving in zone of CCB at the close of the period.
- 8-27-44    CCA attacked at 0805 with Soissons as its objective, while CCB attacked at 0700 with Fontarcy as its objective. Div Res was ordered to move forward at 1300 in the Division zone. This move was made in two columns with the objectives assigned as Hill 176 (526490). Major R T Dunn commanded TF X and this Task Force consisted of 3rd Bn 36th AIR (- Co G); 1 Med Tank Co of the 33rd AR and Detachments of Medical and Maintenance. TF Y was commanded by Lt Col Hogan and consisted of 3rd Bn 33rd AR (- one Co and one platoon), 3rd Bn 47th Inf and 703rd TD Bn (- Cos A and B). The objective was secured by 2234 and the reserve was ordered to remain there throughout the night. CCA encountered heavy resistance in the vicinity of Coulommiers (590328) but continued to advance and crossed the Marne River at 1500 hours. By 1836 the command had secured the town of La Porte Sans Jouxarre and coiled in that vicinity for the night.
- CCB attacked East and North in two columns and by 1600 they, too, had crossed the Marne. By 1945 the command had taken Meaux by an attack from the West and had secured bridges south of Meaux.





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- 8-28-44    CCA advanced in two columns through to its objective at Pontarcy. At 1300 the command was ordered to send a force to secure Chateau-Thierry. A Recon Co, Tank Co, Inf Co and a Plat of TD's were sent on this mission which proved successful near the close of this period. At 1530 TFY of the Div Res made up of two plato of Med Tanks and one plat of light tanks, one plat of TD's and a Bn of motorized Inf were attached to CCA. By 2030 CCB had reached Soissons and CCA was just short of Pontarcy.
- 8-29-44    From 0001 and until 1200 units consolidated and strengthened positions previously taken. TF Y relieved from CCA at 1226 joined Div Res. Both Combat Commands and Div Res were ordered at 1600 to secure high ground along the line S-760980, N-830031, N-880050 and N-965063. This advance was successfully completed and the ground was occupied.
- 8-30-44    All units of the Division attacked to expand bridgehead across the Aisne river, previously made by CCB. Div Res crossed the LD at 1100 and was on assigned objective by 2000 after encountering only slight resistance. Other units had previously reached their objective.
- 8-31-44    Division Reserve moved at 1000 hours to secure Nouvion. Enroute moderate enemy resistance was encountered, but the advance continued satisfactorily through the day. Route and mission was changed at 1620 and the new mission was to secure Herson. At the close of this period, Div Res was North and in the vicinity of Rubigny.
- 9-1-44    Field Order No 12, 3rd Armd Div, was put into effect at 0700. Div Res (Col Leone cmdg) made steady advancement through the day, but were held up temporarily by a destroyed bridge. A bridgehead was secured, however, and late in the day a bridge was constructed at 385483. At the close of the period Div Res had its leading elements in Herson at 385530.



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CCA with the 1st Bn 36th AIR as part, advanced from Rozoy to vicinity of Landoussery where a blown bridge and resistance with artillery, mortar, nebelwerfer and small arms fire made a river crossing necessary. The destroyed bridge was put into shape for a crossing by the engineers, and the advance resumed to Avesnes where the command halted for the night.

9-2-44

The advance of the 1st Bn (CCA) continued through to Maubeuge where French civilians showed the way over the river to avoid the bridge destroyed by the Germans to a position just south of Mons. Here our forces were confronted with enemy rearguard action of AT Guns and Inf. This unit was the first part of the Div to cross the Belgium border. (Note) CCB also makes this claim. To avoid friction the writer is willing to concede it to both Combat Commands without prejudice. By 1700 2 Sept 44 the leading elements of the command had reached and sent patrols through Mons. The balance of the day and night was spent in establishing road blocks and patrols through the Mons area.

At 1445 the leading elements of TF 1 (CCB) crossed the Belgium border, the first troops of World War II to advance on to Belgium soil. Near Aloguies Cheusse, an enemy cavalry column came out of a side road and turned south, meeting the leading elements of CCB's column head on. Every German was either killed or captured. Entering the outskirts of Mons, TF 1 found that the Belgians had been waging war with the Germans for two days within the town. The town was by-passed to the west and southwest, where they set up road blocks.

Div Res encountered moderate resistance during the day and knocked out 10 enemy tanks. Lt Col Hutcheson asmd command vice Col Leone relieved. Lt Col Hutcheson asmd command of Div Res as well as the 36th AIR.

Note: (For an Armd Div the bag of prisoners was tremendous. Throughout the night, units continued to round up small enemy groups. A tank plat from Hqs of CCB was dispatched to the west of Mons in position just south of Mons, accounted for 35 enemy destroyed and within a space of a few hours had taken 85 prisoners. By the night of 2 Sept 44 TF 1 had approximately 700 PW's, TF 2 had 600 and had sent another 300 PW's to the rear the day before.





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CCB had taken 200 prisoners. It was necessary to call on the Belgium White Army ( an underground organization) to furnish additional guards for the Divisional PW inclosure until the Division MP's arrived. A German Colonel and his staff were captured and although the Colonel was arrogant and very displeased over his having been captured, he nevertheless expressed great relief at having been rescued from what he termed the "Belgian Terrorists."

BELGIUM

9-3-44

Field Order No 13 was received in the early morning and listed troops as follows:

CCA: 67th FA Bn; 54th FA Bn; 1st Bn 36th AIR; 32nd AR less 2nd Bn; Co A 703rd TD Bn; Co C 23rd Engr Bn; Co A 45th Med Bn and Det Maint Bn.

CCB: 33rd AR less 3rd Bn; 2nd Bn 36th AIR; 391st FA Bn; 58th FA Bn; Co B 703rd TD Bn; Co B 23rd Eng Bn; Co B 45th Med Bn and Det Maint Bn.

Div Res: 36th AIR less 1st and 2nd Bns; 2nd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 1st Bn ~~1st Inf Bn~~ 703rd TD Bn less A and B cos; Co C 45th Med Bn; 23rd Eng Bn less B and C cos, and Det of Maint Bn.

CCB unable to get supplies (the lines being stretched to the breaking point) remained on objective until relieved by units of the 1st Inf Div.

CCA encountered enemy groups trying to move north and east through their established road blocks. Many enemy vehicles were knocked out, including tanks and trucks. At this stage the enemy appeared generally disorganized with little or no knowledge of the position of our troops. In two days in the area, the Command took 3500 prisoners, including 3 general officers.

Division Reserve was closed in assembly area at 0300 at 341054. About 20 minutes later the assembly area was attacked by three enemy tanks and 15 dismounted Infantry. Two tanks were knocked out and one abandoned. The enemy suffered eight killed, while our losses were one killed and two wounded. The Reserve sent out mopping up parties during the day and prisoners

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and supplies were taken. Road blocks were posted and our defensive positions were strengthened, Col C. J. Rosenberger joined and assumed command of the 36th AIR and Div Reserve, arriving by liaison plane as no routes were open to our positions.

- 9-4-44      Division Reserve attacked over assigned route (Route No 2). CCA continued to hold its position until relieved by the 1st Inf Div. At noon the Command moved out with the objective of reaching Charleroi, and late in the evening bivouaced for the night on the east side of the city. Only light opposition was met during the day..
- CGB encountered little or no resistance and the CG, 3rd Armd Div ordered the Command to continue on to Namur instead of the limited objective, Charleroi. Arriving at the Meuse river, they found the bridge had been destroyed.
- 9-5-44      Division Reserve left assembly area at 1400 and continued towards Namur. Both Combat Commands, CCA and CCB, had attacked at 0630 and reached their objectives after overcoming several enemy pockets. CCA occupied the Northern part of Namur, while CCB the Southern Part. Our columns were constantly covered by air throughout the day. Prisoners continued to be captured in large numbers. The Reserve closed in its assembly area before the close of the period.
- 9-6-44      The advance of CCA was delayed slightly, and the Command did not move out until 1500 hours. (CCB followed this column with mission of securing west of Liège). CCA advanced as far as Artheit, encountering AT opposition in the vicinity of Warath-Chausee. At 1140 CGB received orders to launch an attack on Liege. TF Hogan was attached to CCB to supplement TF 2 attached to the 9th Inf Div. The composition of this TF was as follows:
- TF Hogan (Lt Col Hogan comdg)  
            3rd Bn 33rd Armd Regt  
            1st Bn 36th Armd Inf Regt



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- 9-7-44      Attack was continued against moderate resistance. Division Reserve reached and occupied its objective by the close of the period. CP was set up at Fort de Hollogne just west of Liege.
- 9-8-44      Road blocks were set up at all critical points and road block No 3 at 414328 knocked out seven enemy tanks and killed and wounded an unknown number of enemy. Car force suffered one man wounded. CCA and CCB sent strong patrols into town and they met only scattered resistance. Liege was cleared by 1810 and at the close of the period all units were ready to move forward again.
- 9-9-44      Combat Commands attacked during the morning towards Verviers. Division Reserve moved at 1900 against little resistance. The Reserve went into assembly area in vicinity of Romsee near the close of the period.
- 9-10-44      Bridge reconnaissance was made for crossing over the Meuse and as soon as CCB had cleared the east bank the Meuse was crossed in force and CCA moved to the vicinity of Herve. The 105 Panzer Brigade was encountered and several tanks destroyed. Positions were taken up in the vicinity of Dison and Verviers. Division Reserve continued from its assembly area and moved into a new position Southwest of Verviers about 2100. Road blocks were set up by the 703rd TD Bn and 3rd Bn 33rd AR.
- 9-11-44      Mopping up operations were conducted by all Commands in the vicinity of Verviers, and reconnaissance of the first line of the Siegfried Line was made. On this date, the CG, 3rd AD, directed that CCB continue its attack at 0800, objective Eupen: Division objective: Eschweiler. Division Reserve CP set up Southwest of Eupen at close of period. Little enemy resistance was met by any units.
- 9-12-44      Division Reserve moved into a new assembly area on the southwest side of Eupen. On this date the first



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troops of the Division crossed on to German soil.

Road blocks were established in the area and a patrol was sent to Limbourg. The patrol reported mines and a bridge out. Following troops were now in Division Reserve: 3rd Bn 36th AIR (less G co); 3rd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 703rd TD Bn (minus cos A & B); 1st Bn 26th Inf; 23rd Armd Eng Bn (less cos B & C); Co C 45th Med Bn; Co A Maint Bn. Service Trains and Regt Hqs 36th AIR were also in this group.

GERMANY

9-13-44

The 1st Bn 26th Inf were sent to CCA at 0800 hours. The remainder of the reserve spent the morning cleaning equipment and doing badly needed maintenance. Plans and reconnaissance were made of a new assembly position. Div Res changed assembly positions commencing at 1800 to a position about a mile east of Raeran. 3rd Bn 36th AIR (less G Co) had previously reverted to CCB at 1450 hours.

The first line was breached by combined efforts of our Infantry, engineers and tanks. Heavy small arms fire from the bunkers and intense mortar fire from positions behind, backed up with anti-tank fire from mobile guns behind the bunkers made the crossing of the Dragon Teeth obstacles and reduction of the necessary number of bunkers very difficult.

3rd Bn 33rd AR reverted to CCA at 2100 hours.

9-14-44

There was no activity on any of the road blocks during the night. 3rd Bn 33rd AR departed for CCA at 0650. Both Combat Commands attacked at 0800 as per division order. CCA met strong resistance but advanced slowly. TF Lovelady and TF King of CCB were advancing well at 1100. Major George Mills assumed command of TF King when Lt Col was evacuated about 1200 hours. TF Mills and TF Blanchard were both held up by blown bridges during the afternoon and coiled about 1800. TF Dorn made a rapid advance during the afternoon and coiled at coordinates 895435 at 1800. TF Lovelady continued to advance during the afternoon and coiled at 955390 about 1800 hours. Div Res (TF Hogan) protected the left flank of the Division and continued to hold road blocks in the vicinity of 833314.





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9-15-44

Col Rosenberger was called to Division at 0740. Reserve was alerted at 1000 hours for a move to a new assembly position. 1st Bn of 16th Inf now a part of TF Hogan. Reserve started to move to new area at 1415 through Raeran to southwest of Kornelimunster and closed there at 1915 hours. Reserve moved again at 1945 hours for still another area just northeast of Dorff. Mission of Reserve is to establish road blocks in front of Division CP and to close the gap between the Combat Commands. Series of 12 road blocks were established and were manned by TF Hogan and the 703rd TD's. CP at 915392. During the day, TF Dorn (1st Bn 36th AIR being a part) and TF Lovelady (2nd Bn 36th AIR a part) breached the main defenses of the Siegfried Line and had established considerable bridgeheads by the close of the period.

9-16-44

Road blocks were completed by 0500 and there was no activity there during the dark hours of the morning. During the morning, the 83rd Rcn Bn, operating North of Dorff toward Busbach was assisted by a Road Block of the 703rd TDs with direct fire against a pillbox. CO, Div Res, called a unit commanders meeting at 1300 hours. TF Adams (Maj Adams, CO, 1st Bn 26th Inf) was formed with the mission of clearing the town of Busbach and advancing to the second barrier of the Siegfried Line just North of the town. TF Adams consisted of 1st Bn, 26th Inf, Co G 33rd AR, a platoon of TD's and Engineers on call. The 54th FA Bn furnished FO's and LO's. The TF attacked at 1520 and by 1830 had advanced to the main CR north of the town. Enemy resistance at first consisted of mortar and small arms fire, but later a tank was lost to AT fire. Our casualties were light and about 50 prisoners were taken. TF Adams coiled for the night in and around Busbach and sent patrols to reconnoiter the Dragon Teeth defenses to the front. TF Adams was contacted at 2100 and told to report his exact front line positions and not to move after 170600. At 2115, all units in the Reserve were notified that at 170300 the time would revert to 170200 and become "A" instead of "B". During the day both Combat Commands pushed infantry attacks against very



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heavy resistance.

9-17-44

At 0330. S-3 of the 1st Bn 26th Inf, gave a detailed report as to his unit's location and activities during the night. Road Blocks all reported no activity during the night. TF Adams received small arms and AT fire during the morning. Both Combat Commands received air support during the morning. The remainder of the Div Res was alerted at 1200 for possible employment to the left of Busbach where the 16th Inf was receiving a counter-attack. At 1300 Lt Col Hogan reported for alert instructions. He was told to reconnoiter for a route to a point 4 kilometers east of Busbach. At this time, CCB was receiving a very heavy counter-attack in the vicinity of Mausbach. Major Pike of 23rd Ingr Bn reported at 1345 and was ordered to take over the road blocks that had been manned by 3rd Bn 33rd AR, as this latter unit was assembled in the vicinity of Dorff and held in readiness. Co C 26th Inf reverted to CCB and was ordered to move to the vicinity of Mausbach to make a limited objective attack to relieve the pressure on TF Lovelady. This move was made by truck at 1700. Col Rosenberger and Lt Col Hogan attended a conference at Division CP in regard to an attack by TF Hogan towards Mausbach with the high ground around Duffenter as his objective. The TF was to consist of 3rd Bn 33rd AR (less G co) and 1st Bn 26th Inf. 2nd Bn 36th AIR suffered very heavy casualties during the enemy counter-attack on CCB by enemy tanks and infantry. Cos D & E were particularly hard hit but it is believed that some men from Co E were cut off and captured.

9-18-44

TF Hogan was alerted and reverted to Division control at 0700. The security of Busbach was taken over by the 83rd Recn Bn (minus 2 cos) with Div Res supporting them. Lt Col Yeomans, CO, 83rd Recn., reported to CP Div Res., to coordinate the defense of Busbach with the road blocks maintained by the Reserve. LO Capt R W Russell reported small arms and AT fire along the positions of the 83rd Recn at 1145. 2nd Bn 36th AIR and 2nd Bn 32 AR reverted to Div Res at 1700. Both units reported into the proper radio nets, were bivouaced around Dorff and closed there at 2030. Both units needed reorganization and refitting badly and work was started on this immediately.





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9-19-44

Refitting and reorganization was carried out during the day by the 2nd Bns of the 36th AIR and 32nd AR. Co F of the 36th AIR did not report with the TF, as it was on a special mission. At 1635 five enemy tanks were reported north of Busbach. Lt. Col. Miller, CO 2nd Bn 32nd AR, was called to CP. At 1800, enemy infantry were reported coming back into Busbach by infiltration. At this time TF Miller (2nd Bn 32nd AR and D Co 23rd Eng) was alerted to meet this threat. Col Rosenberge met Gen Rose in Busbach about 1635 to receive instructions. TF Miller moved out about 1840 into position. At 2050 the S-3 section and a Rcn section (Regimental Rcn) moved to a forward CP location at 925401. The remainder of the period was quiet for Div Res. Throughout the period, both Combat Commands continued to mop up in their areas and to strengthen their positions.

9-20-44

CP moved slightly to gain more room in some nearby buildings. At 1045 Co D 36th AIR was attached to 83rd Rcn to help clear Busbach and at 1100 one platoon of medium tanks of Co F 32nd AR was attached for the same purpose. TF Yoemans attacked about 1230 and reported small arms fire as resistance. Col Rosenberger was directed by message (rec'd 1335) to take over the positions held by TF Yoemans, to protect the CR at 929412 and to initiate reconnaissance north toward Stolberg. This mission was given to TF Miller. One platoon of Co E 36th AIR was attached to TF Mills about 1400. TF Miller secured the passage through the Dragon's teeth about 1800. Our casualties were very light and TF Miller took 81 prisoners and knocked out several pillboxes with direct tank fire. Forward CP was moved back to rear CP in the vicinity of Dorff and closed there at 1915.

9-21-44

All road block reports, as well as the reports of TF Miller, were that all was quiet during the night. At 1000 hours Co E 36th AIR (less one plat) was sent to join TF Blanchard north of Busbach. All units of Division reserve in the immediate Busbach area were unable to do maintenance as per Division order for they were engaged and snipers in the area were particularly active. Division Reserve was assigned a new assembly area and reconnaissance was initiated





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during the morning. Orders were received and transmitted to TF Miller that he was to remain on his present assignment. The TD's and TF Miller were to revert to 703rd TD Bn at 220630. SSO Lt Phillip Zulli arranged for movies, clubmobiles and a USO show during the afternoon for all reserve units not engaged.

9-22-44

Unit commanders meeting was called at 0830 to prepare for move to new assembly area. Billeting party departed at 0830 to prepare the area and Division Reserve moved at 1000 with the Regt CP group closing at 1130 at coordinates 951395. Co E 36th AIR (less one plat) reverted to Division guard at 0800 hours and relieved Co G 36th AIR which went to CCB. Per Div instructions, Col Rosenberger issued the following order at 1500 to Lt Col Miller by liaison: "2nd Bn 32nd AR with 2nd Bn 36th AIR (minus cos E and F) attached, will proceed immediately and take up a position in readiness in the vicinity of 955413 prepared to repel a counter-attack against the 47th Inf." At 1555, Capt Toussey was given instructions to move to the position and be joined there by Lt Col Miller with his force. TF Miller moved and took up the positions indicated without incident. Reserve CP moved to the new location at 956402 and closed at 1900. Four road blocks were set up on roads leading into the reserve area and were manned by the 703rd TD Bn and 23rd Eng Bn. Capt Patterson assumed command of 3rd Bn 36th AIR when Major R. T. Dunn was evacuated.

9-23-44

All units reported no activity during the night. Reconnaissance was made for the occupation of a defensive sector by elements of the Division Reserve. Co E 36th AIR (less one plat) reverted to 2nd Bn 36th AIR at 0800 and was put into the defensive position with the Bn.

9-24-44

There was no enemy activity reported by any units of the Division Reserve during the night. CP was shelled between 2400 and 0100 and two men were slightly wounded. Lt Col Orr, CO 1st Bn 36th AIR reported to CP at 0730 in regard to effecting relief of TF Lovelady and 1st Bn 47th Inf. Col Rosenberger was called to division for instructions at 0915. At 1000 hours, Col R. L. Howze was assigned and joined. He assumed command, vice Col Rosenberger relieved, of the Regiment and Division Reserve. Plans were continued for the relief of units within the Division so as to allow a rotation of units to effect



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maintenance and reorganization. Col L. L. Doan, CO, 32nd AR, reported about 1100 to assist with relief plan. Div sent down an operations memo which was to be followed. At 1700 Lt Col Jack R. Hutcheson, Ex O 36th AIR, was evacuated with severe rheumatism. The initial relief was made from about 1900 and continued through the remainder of the period with TF Orr (1st Bn 36th AIR and 2nd Bn 32nd AR) relieving TF Lovelady.

9-25-44

TF Orr completed his relief during the early part of this period. His sector was quiet during the day except for occasional shellings by mortars and artillery. In turn, our FO's harassed the enemy throughout the day with Assault Guns, 81mm mortar and artillery fire. The relief plan continued with TF Kane (1st Bn 32nd AR and 2nd Bn 36th AIR) relieving TF Hogan and TF Mills at 1815. TF Richardson then moved into a reserve position prepared to support either TF Orr or TF Kane. His TF (3rd Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 36th AIR) was to continue maintenance and reorganization in this reserve position (955415). TF Kane reverted to CCA in their position at 1830.

9-26-44

Road blocks and patrols made negative reports throughout the night. First light reports revealed no activity on any of the fronts. TF Orr received light mortar and artillery fire during the morning. Some Machine Guns were located in the sector of C&C and tanks were moved in to fire direct fire on those positions. During the morning, Capt Hemphill assumed command of the 3rd Bn 36th AIR. During the afternoon Co A 36th AIR located three tanks of the 33rd AR. One of the tanks (a "76") was in good condition and it was started and put into position for defensive fire. The second tank had a broken track and the third tank had to be burned. TF Orr, from good observation points, continued to put mortar and artillery fire on the enemy.

9-27-44

Road blocks and first light reports indicated all quiet on the front. Intermittant artillery fire continued to fall on TF Orr throughout the night. It was believed that the Germans were using artillery fire to cover the movement of their tanks. However,





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reports received at 0720 indicated that all was quiet on all fronts and the situation remained quiet for the remainder of the period.

Lt Col. Fowler joined the 36th AIR at 1600 and was assigned to and assumed command of the 3rd Bn 36th AIR.

9-28-44

First light reports from all units indicated a quiet night with only occasional fire. At 0800 a meeting was held at Regimental Cp for the purpose of coordinating the relief of the Div Res by CCB. Officers attending were Brig Gen Boudinot, Lt Cols Lovelady, Richardson, Miller, Orr and Fowler; Majors Mills and Albro and the Regt Staff of the 36th AIR. Gen Boudinot issued orders to effect the relief by CCB of positions occupied by TF Orr. The 2nd Bn 32nd AR was relieved by 2nd Bn 33rd AR at 1930 and 1st Bn 36th AIR was relieved by 3rd Bn 36th AIR at 2145. 1st Plat Co A 36th AIR established road blocks at Mausbach.

9-29-44

Negative reports were received throughout the night concerning activity on the road blocks within the Div. Res area. The Div. Reserve now consisted of the 36th AIR (less 2nd and 3rd Bns) 703rd TD Bn (less Cos A and E); 3rd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 33rd AR (less C co); Co C 45th Med Bn, A Co Maint Bn and the 23rd Eng. Bn, (less A and B cos).

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR is now attached to CCA and is part of TF Kane. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR is attached to CCB and in TF Lovelady.

Plans were formulated for the relief of the elements of the 2nd Bn 32nd AR on the road blocks at Mausbach by elements of 3rd Bn 33rd AR.

9-30-44

The situation remained quiet throughout the night and the units of the Division Reserve continued their maintenance and reorganization throughout the day. Units not engaged were trying to familiarize their replacements with the various weapons. Many replacements in the Regiment had never qualified on the machine gun and trained machine gunners and mortar men were scarce.

Reports received in the early evening indicated that





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"Spearhead Doughboys"

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Date:  
9-30-Cont.

the anti-tank platoon from 2nd Bn 36th AIR received a heavy shelling and five casualties were reported. Also during the early part of the evening the troops on the road block at Mausbach reported finding an abandoned friendly tank. Capt. Stoddard, Co Commander A Co. Maint Bn, was contacted and plans were initiated for the recovery of the vehicle.

10-1-44

The tank mentioned in yesterdays account was recovered by Co A Maint Bn with the assistance of patrols from RB No 4, during the early hours of the morning. Road Block No 4 also drove off an enemy patrol of three men, one of whom was reported killed.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR was released from Div Res, effective at 1500 and was attached to CCA for the purpose of relieving the 2nd Bn 36th AIR on the defense of Stolberg. Relief was reported complete by 1st Bn 36th AIR at 2015 and at 2033 2nd Bn 36th AIR was reported that they had closed in their assembly area.

The AT plat of 2nd Bn 36th AIR relieved the 1st Plat of A co 36th AIR on the road blocks at Mausbach.

10-2-44

Road blocks and first light reports indicated a quiet night. At 0800 Lt Col Carlton P. Russell, former 3rd Bn Comdr, rejoined the Regt and was assigned to Regt Hqs as Ex O. 2nd Bn 36th AIR spent the day resting and refitting in their assembly area. The 703rd TD Bn received their new M-36, 90-mm TDs- and conducted long range indirect fire on targets in Eschweiler. 1st Bn 36th AIR reported artillery fire falling on their positions in Stolberg causing two casualties. During the afternoon H Co 33rd AR was placed on alert for the purpose of repelling counter-attacks in the sector of the 16th Inf of the 1st Inf Div. The alert was to go into effect at 0700 3 Oct 44.

10-3-44

Enemy shelling was quite heavy between the hours of 0000 and 0400. At 0030 the 3rd Bn 33rd AR was placed on immediate alert due to the increased threat of counter-attack in the sector of the 16th Inf. At 0315 the 3rd Bn 32nd AR was ordered to relieve elements of the 3rd Bn 33rd AR on the road blocks at Mausbach at first light and to go on one hour alert at 0600. First light reports indicated that the situation had quieted



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10-3-cont.

down and the alert status of both Arm'd Bns was changed. At 1330 Maj Gen. Rose awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars to members of the 2nd Bn 32nd AR and Regt Hqs 36th AIR. Ceremony was held in the 2nd Bn, 36th AIR area. Those decorated were S Sgt. Whitehill, Co E; Pfc Sam Catalano Silver Stars; Lt Col. Carlton . Russel Bronze Star and Cluster; 1st Lt W. W. Day, 2nd Bn Hqs. Bronze Star and Cluster; T Sgt E F. Strickland, Med. Det., Sgt F W. Phillips Co E Pvt Rolland B Fletcher Co D; and Pvt David L Roberts Regt. Hqs Co Bronze Stars. Gen Rose gave a short address to the assembled Bn after the ceremony. At 1515 A Co, 33rd AR was placed on alert in addition to H Co 33rd AR for the purpose of supporting the 1st Inf Div in the event of an enemy attack in that sector. LC from 1st Inf Div Hqs reported at 1445 for the purpose of coordinating planning of defense. At 1145 3rd Bn 32nd AR took over the road blocks at Mausbach so that the AT platoon could be released for the service of their guns. The AT platoon was back in position at 1855. New M56 TD was on display at Regt CP at 1710.

10-4-44

The situation remained quiet throughout the night. At 0730 the CO with a group of staff officers departed for the CP of the 47th Inf- Col Sayth, CO of the 47th conducted the party on a tour of the Regt OP and front line positions in the vicinity of Krewinkle and Schevenhutte. The trip was made so that the group could become better acquainted with the terrain in the sector of the 47th Inf with future operations in view. During the afternoon, plans were made for the relief of the 3rd Bn 36th AIR by the 2nd Bn 36th AIR. The relief was effected at 2100 and the 3rd Bn 36th AIR closed in their assembly area at 2300. 2nd Bn 36th AIR reverted to CCB control.

10-5-44

Intermittent shelling was noted throughout the night in the vicinity of the Regt CP. First light reports indicated all clear. 3rd Bn 36th AIR conducted maintenance and rest throughout the morning. At 1300 Col Howze accompanied Gen Rose on a reconnaissance. At 1500 considerable air activity was noted throughout the area but no damage was done. At 1600 a few shells dropped in the vicinity of the Regt CP. All was quiet for the remainder of the period.





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10-6-44

Road blocks and first light reports were negative. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR continued rest and maintenance. 2nd Bn 36th AIR reported excellent effect of the anti personnel mines upon the enemy. The mines were used to fill a gap in the lines. Also good use was made of the long range indirect MG fire at ranges up to 3000 yards.

10-7-44

Road blocks and first light reports indicated that the situation was quiet throughout the night. Intermittent artillery fire was noted during the early morning hours. At 0930 Col Brown, Div Artillery, reported a suspected enemy CP at Mausbach and plans were made to evacuate all civilians from the town and to demolish certain buildings which offered good observation of the rear areas and roads leading into the town from the south. At 1300 the CO, S-2 and Ex O visited the OP of the 47th Inf. Major Bryan, S-3, departed for Mausbach at 1400 to make final plans for evacuation and demolition of OP's. At 1345 permission was granted by the Div Engrs for use of our attached Engrs for the demolition in Mausbach. At 1500 transportation was sent to Col Dahl, Div Mil Gov Officer in Mausbach, for use in evacuation. Evacuation was to be completed by 1700 and the 3rd Bn 36th AIR were to furnish troops to make a thorough search for civilians. At 1400 Co G 33rd AR was placed on alert to assist the 1st Div. At 1730 the entire 3rd Bn 33rd AR was alerted to assist the 9th Div. This is in addition to two companies on alert to assist the First Division. At 2210 the 3rd Bn 36th AIR was alerted for use in the sectors of the 1st and 9th divisions and be teamed with the 3rd Bn 33rd AR in the event that they were used in the 9th Div sector. They would be teamed with tank battalion from CCA in the event that they were used in the 1st Div sector.

10-8-44

At 0100 Service Company 36th AIR, 703rd TD Bn and 23rd Armd Eng Bn received shells in their areas. However, no casualties were reported. First light reports indicated that the situation was quiet. During the morning the CO visited the Div CP and was informed that the 83rd Recon Bn would relieve the 1st Bn 36th AIR on the defenses at Stolberg. 3rd Bn 36th AIR





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was notified that they would not be relieved on the road blocks at Mausbach. 1st Bn 36th AIR was relieved by the 83rd Rcn Bn at 1820 and moved to the vicinity of Busbach at 1900.

- 10-9-44   Concentrations of artillery fell in the area during the night. First light reports were negative. At 0800 the CO met the staff and Bn Comdrs and made plans for a future operation. At 0930 the CO and a party of Engineers(Officers) departed to make plans for the construction of a woods-fighting training area. At 1130 the CG stated that the alert status of the Division Reserve units to the CO as follows: 3rd Bn 36th AIR and 3rd Bn 33rd AR alerted to assist 26th Inf in area of 1st Div on call: alert status 30 minutes. 3rd Bn 36th AIR alerted to assist 9th Div in the vicinity of Schmidt on call. At 2325 a contact patrol from the 47th Inf reported to the road block No 1 instead of road block No 2 and drew fire. No casualties reported.
- 10-10-44   Road blocks and first light reports were negative. Some artillery fire was reported on the area in the vicinity of Regt CP during the night. The situation remained quiet throughout the day. CO was notified that 3rd Bn 36th AIR would revert to CCB and would relieve the 2nd Bn 36th AIR Thursday. At 2030 a report was received that the evacuated buildings in Mausbach had been looted.
- 10-11-44   All reports received during the night and first light reports indicated that the situation was quiet. At 0715 the CO and staff with the Div Mil Gov Officer departed for Mausbach to investigate the reported looting. At 1400 13 replacement Officers were received and assigned. At 1900 it was reported that the Div artillery had placed a dummy battery in the vicinity of Mausbach for the purpose of causing suspected enemy batteries to disclose themselves. At 1905 A Co 33rd AR was ordered to the area of the 1st Div and to team up with the 1st Bn 26th Inf. This action was taken to reenforce the 1st division against counter-attack. About 1930 a fire was reported in Regt CP area. It was suspected that the fire was due to enemy sources, possibly as a signal.



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As a result the guard was reenforced. 3rd Bn 36th AIR was warned that they might be called upon for use in the 1st Div sector. In the event the 3rd Bn 36th AIR was ordered to move, the 1st Bn 36th would take over the 3rd Bn positions in Hausbach.

10-12-44

Nothing unusual happened during early morning. 1st Bn 36th AIR were training in woods-fighting near Breinig. Regt CO inspected them in the morning. During the afternoon Gen Rose awarded decorations to Officers and men of the 1st Bn. 2nd Bn relieved from line by 3rd Bn. Relief completed by 2025 but 2nd Bn was not closed in new assembly area until 2225.

10-13-44

No great change in situation. At 0800 Regt CO and Ex O went to 1st Bn to observe training. H Co 32nd AR ordered from Div Res to be attached to 47th Inf for limited objective attack tomorrow. 1st Bn 36th AIR also ordered to 9th Div as a reserve for the attack. At 1330 Bn CO and Co Comdrs of the 1st Bn met with Regt CO and received instructions to warn men against looting, fraternizing with German civilians and to more rigidly enforce military courtesy and the carrying of gas masks. Gas masks are to be kept near at all times. At 1530 a meeting was held with representatives of the 2nd and 3rd Bns to instruct them in the above mentioned items. 1st Bn reported closed in new assembly area at 1925. During the day the 2nd Bn conducted rehabilitation and training. Morale of troops returning from lines was excellent.

10-14-44

From 0300 to 0400 shells fell near CP at various intervals but no damage or casualties reported. Road Blocks first light reports were negative. CO & Ex O visited 3rd Bn 36th AIR in 9th Inf Div zone. New road blocks recommended by S-3 to be at 957400. LO No 1 instructed to find out what blocked north-south road in CCB sector and to make reconnaissance for undestroyed pillboxes along the road. 2nd Bn 36th AIR to man road blocks at new location. Lt Col Richardson stopped at Regt CP to inform S-3 that he had assumed command of 32nd AR in absence of Col Doan, who had been evacuated for treatment. Major Brewster assumed command of 3rd Bn 32nd AR. At 1450 Ex O and Hqs Co Comdr went to Stolberg to reconnaissance of billeting area, returning at 1600. Two shells fell



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near Regt CP at 1830 and were reported to G-3. Dark at 1850. Enemy plane straffed nearby at 1849. Were informed that night fighters would be up in our sectors tonight. Div called for Major Rowsey, instructing him to report to Div CP at 0800 tomorrow to go with Gen Rose on reconnaissance. Track with VHF radio to report to Major Yeager at Danger CP by 0800 tomorrow. Weather - fair.

10-15-44

Sunday. Quiet this AM. Road blocks report no activity. First light reports negative. During the night a horse walked into a mine field near road block No 4 causing an alert. At 0900 Co and S-3 went to 1st Bn 36th AI. No change in situation there. G-3 called to have 1st Bn 36th and 3rd Bn 33rd alerted. Co C 32nd AR to replace Co C 33rd AR at Div. Chief of Staff called that Company of Engineers were attached to Div Res to relieve road block detail No 5. At 1300 Major Tousey was given back his road block detail to prepare to move with 3rd Bn 33rd AR to 1st Div. TD Company (less one section) alerted at 1325 to move on order to CCA and one section ordered to road block No 5 in place of Inf. They reported in at 1550. Mil Gov called Ex 0 to say civilians will be allowed in Mausbach tomorrow to get food stuff. At 2000 all units of Div Res were warned that all men, including cooks and clerks, might be used in case of a parachute attack. Weather rainy during PM to early night. 3rd Bn still on line. 2nd Bn going from assembly area to 1st Div with TF Hogan.

10-16-44

Clear at first light. Road blocks reported O.K. 0815 one man reported killed and two injured from Amber by enemy shells. 0835 CO explained tentative plans to put 83rd Recon Bn or 1st Bn 36th either in Stolberg or Mausbach. Plan will be clarified later. Ex 0 to go to Mausbach to recon for billeting areas. Various reports that 1st Div had several counter-attacks yesterday and last night. 1st Bn remained in area near 47th Inf while 2nd Bn with TF Hogan at Briant. Service Co and Hqs carrying on usual duties.

10-17-44

Everything was quiet at first light this AM but it rained some during the morning. The 1st Bn was ordered to Stolberg under CCA. 3rd Bn still on line with CCB.





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H Co 32nd AR came back. 83rd Rcn relieved from Stolberg and will take over RB'S at Mausbach from TD Bn before 0700. 2nd Bn with TF Hogan at 1st Div. At noon Lt Col Orr stopped in to say A Co had lost 1 man dead and 7 wounded while coming out of 47th Inf area. Maj Brewster notified he could relieve tanks from Mausbach as Rcn Bn would take over. G-3 notified of above. Hqs Co and Serv Co - no change. Composition of Div Res as follows: 36th AIR less 1st, 2nd & 3rd Bns; 83rd Rcn Bn; Co C 45th Med Bn; 23rd Eng Bn less Cos A, B & D; 703rd TD Bn less Cos A & B and 1 plat Co C; 3rd Bn 32nd AR minus Co C. G-3 sent copy of this distribution. Weather was misty all day.

10-18-44

At first light no great activity reported. Rain during the night. 3rd Bn reported 5 Jerries killed and 1 PW taken during night. No casualties to our forces. 1st Bn had 2 men killed by our artillery. 2nd Bn with TF Hogan under 26th Inf preparing to attack NW of Aachen. 119th Inf attacked and won their objective N of Aachen. 83rd Rcn Bn completed relief of 23rd Engs at Mausbach this AM. After dinner CO and Ex C went to Co C 45th Med near Kornelmunster to check new billeting obtained from Mil Gov. Reports that enemy artillery is more active than usual came through. Weather was misty most of the day.

10-19-44

No unusual activity in first light reports. Rained considerably during night and was very muddy. 1st Bn continued to defend Stolberg, while 2nd Bn under TF Hogan reached objective at 830445 about 1045. This north of Aachen. The 3rd Bn still on line under CCB. Hq Co and Serv Co still in same area doing routine dv.

10-20-44

At first light reports RB's and patrols showed only limited activity. Rained most of the night. A report came in that the 2nd Bn had lost 2 Officers and 15 EM in their attack yesterday. The 1st Bn lost their men to enemy patrols as PW's. The Bn continued to hold its location with CCB. Enemy planes dropped leaflets on our lines last night. CO made plans for a patrol of 83rd Rcn Bn to go and get PW if possible from vicinity of Eschweiler. Left OP on line of our 3rd Bn at 2145. Serv Co and Hq Co remained in same area - routine duty. A 2 1/2 ton truck of Serv Co was hit by an enemy shell and burned in the evening.



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Date:

- 10-21-44    At first light there were no unusual reports from road blocks or regular patrols. However, the patrol sent out from the 83rd Rcn ran into an enemy booby trap and fire about 600 yards out. One officer and three enlisted men were wounded. All returned. S-3 went to check that they would get out before daylight as he could not contact 3rd Bn by radio or telephone at night. The 1st Bn remained in Stolberg and set up a few more mines as a defense. The 2nd Bn remained with TF Hogan until night when G-3 called to say they had reverted to Div Res but would not return until tomorrow. Later S-3 was told they would be subject to call by Danger. The 3rd Bn remained on line but Co Comdrs of 83rd Rcn went up to look at their positions preparatory to changing battalion areas. The change was slated for the morrow. Service Co and Regt Hq Co remained in same location doing routine duty. Not much rain today. Quite a bit of ack-ack of our own at lone enemy plane at 2100.
- 10-22-44    No unusual activity was reported from road blocks or listening posts at first light. The 1st Bn remained in the same location at Stolberg except the train of 1st Bn which moved from Busbach to Breinig. The 2nd Bn train rejoined the Bn from vicinity of Aachen to Busbach and will be under Div control. The 3rd Bn moved from line to Mausbach to take over road blocks. 83rd Rcn Ben went on line with CCB. Div Res now consists of the following troops: 36th AIR less 1st and 2nd Bns; Co C 45th Med Bn; 703rd TD Bn less cos A and B; 23rd Eng Bn less Cos A and B; 3rd Bn 33rd AR less Co C.
- 10-23-44    During the early morning there was no unusual activity. The 1st Bn remained in Stolberg under CCA with its trains in Breinig. The 2nd Bn is in Busbach under Div control subject to call by 1st Inf Div. They sent part of their men to Kornellmunster for showers in the morning. The 3rd Bn remained in Mausbach on road blocks. Service Co and Regt Hq Co carried on usual duties. It was rather cold with a little rain late at night. Early in the evening several Bombers (British) went over. New medium tanks with 105 guns were received to replace assault guns in Hq Cos of each Bn.





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- 10 ~~2~~-24-44    Road blocks reported little activity at first light. 2nd Bn went to showers from their area at Busbach. Some shelling in their area reported during day. No casualties, however. 1st Bn remained in CCA at Stolberg. 3rd Bn maintained road blocks at Mausbach. Crews for the new assault guns, M-4 105mm, from 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn received instructions from artillery officer in vicinity of Breinig. 83rd Rcn Bn sent a patrol out in early part of night toward Gressenich. Returned before 2200. Did not rain much today. 2nd Lt Herbert Gontard, a German speaking Officer, joined Regiment.
- 10 ~~2~~-25-44    At first light road blocks and patrols reported no unusual activity. The 1st Bn remained in Stolberg, holding its position. The 2nd Bn went into line with CCB in place of 83rd Rcn Bn. Exchange made in late afternoon and night. 3rd Bn in Mausbach and maintained road blocks. Serv Co and Hqs Co carried on usual duties. During the day the 2nd and 3rd Bns sent their assault gun crews to Breinig area to receive instructions in use of M-4 105mm. The doughnut wagon visited Hq area and sent doughnuts and coffee to 3rd Bn 36th AIR. Rcn Bn said they found some dead soldiers in area. They had been there for some time. Our grave registration officer said he had removed them. Will investigate. Not much rain, but rather foggy. Div Res now composed of following troops: 36th AIR less 1st and 2nd Bns; 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 23rd Eng Bn less Cos A, B & D; Co C 45th Med Bn and 3rd Bn 32nd AR less Co C.
- 10 ~~2~~-26-44    At first light road blocks and patrols reported O.K. The 1st Bn in CCA unchanged. The 2nd Bn in CCB was unchanged. It remained in line for the period. The 3rd Bn remained in Mausbach and maintained road blocks. A few shells fell in the late afternoon near 3rd Bn's area. No casualties. Serv Co and Hq Co remained in same location and did usual duties. It was foggy for the greater part of the day. During the night some shelling was reported nearby and a few robot bombs have been reported.





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- 10-27-44    At first light the road blocks and patrols reported O.K. Enemy patrols were active. 1st Bn and 3rd Bn 36th AIR changed positions; the 1st Bn going to Mausbach to maintain road blocks, while the 3rd Bn went to CCA at Stolberg. They were closed in assembly area about 2130. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained on line in CCB. Service Co received some shelling during the night. No casualties reported but three cows were hit nearby. Hq Co carried on usual duties. CO and S-3 went to Division in the afternoon to see a demonstration of rifle launcher with WP grenade.
- 10-28-44    At first light road blocks and patrols reported O.K. 1st Bn 36th AIR was in rest area at Mausbach maintaining road blocks. Men went to showers and assault gun platoon moved to Breinig for instructions. 2nd Bn remained on line with CCB. They were preparing to fire the 37-mm gun at long range. 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained in Stolberg with CCA. Service Co and Hq Co carried on usual duties. Quite a few shells dropped near Regt CP during evening. Weather - clear and crisp.
- 10-29-44    At first light road blocks and patrols reported O.K. Ex O went to Paris for SHARP lecture. 1st Bn remained in Mausbach and maintained road blocks. Training continued. 2nd Bn with CCB. 3rd Bn in CCA at Stolberg. Serv and Hq Co carried on usual duties. During the night there was quite a bit of shelling near CP and Serv Co. No casualties reported.
- 10-30-44    At first light there were no reports of unusual activities. 1st Bn still in Mausbach; 2nd Bn in CCB area; with 36th AIR's 3rd Bn still in Stolberg under CCA. Serv and Hq Co carried on usual duties. Composition Div Res as follows:  
36th AIR less 2nd and 3rd Bn; 3rd Bn 32nd AR less Co C; 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 703rd TD Bn less Cos A and B; 23rd Eng Bn less Cos A, B and D.
- 10-31-44    First light there were no unusual reports. During the night the area of CCB received some small arms and bazooka fire. The 1st BN 36th AIR, no change; 2nd Bn, no change; 3rd Bn, no change, with Hq and Serv cos carrying on usual duties. 1st Bn assault guns fired from training area vicinity near Breinig. There was slight rain during the night.



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Date:

- 11-1-44    Regimental CP at 956402. During the early morning a few shells fell in the vicinity but none close to the Regt CP. At first light the road blocks and patrols reported no activity. 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained with CCB in line and reported some enemy patrol activity during the night. 1st Bn remained in Mausbach and carried on rehabilitation, training and maintenance as well as maintaining road blocks. 3rd Bn still in Stolberg under CCA defending its position against enemy patrols, received some artillery fire. Serv and Hq Co carrying on usual duties. Rained during the day and early evening.
- 11-2-44    Enemy artillery was intense in vicinity of Regt CP between the hours of 0200 and 0300. During the shelling, a half-track belonging to 1st Inf Div was hit. No casualties reported. Road blocks and patrols had nothing to report other than artillery, falling in surrounding area. No casualties. CO went to 1st Bn and then to assault gun training area where 2nd Bn's gun crews were receiving instruction in use of the weapons. CO, 32nd AR, visited CP. At 1940, 1st Bn reported seven casualties (one killed) from artillery while on road march south of Mausbach. At 1300 CO visited 85rd Rcn Bn and from there to 28th Inf Division, returning at 1550. From 1716 to 1740 a heavy artillery barrage fell in the vicinity of Mausbach, accompanied by small arms fire to left and right. 2nd Bn reported some artillery fire in area of CCB but not so intense. G-3 notified of above. 1st Bn requested a counter-barrage by our own artillery which was granted. 1st Bn suffered 6 casualties (1 killed) from above mentioned enemy artillery concentration. At 1856 CO placed 2 Cos, one of 1st Bn 36th AIR, and one of 3rd Bn, 32nd AR, on one hour alert to meet any emergency which might arise. G-3 notified of casualties suffered and also of equipment losses, which consisted of one half-track and one jeep. Two additional casualties were reported by 1st Bn 36th AIR at 2000. Same Bn also reported personnel maintaining listening post beyond road block No 3 were apparently captured during artillery barrage. When contact and wire party went out, they found part of equipment but the 5 men could not be located. 3rd Bn 36th





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Date:

AIR still in Stolberg under CCA. Serv and Hq Co, no change.

11-3-44

Road blocks and patrols reported no activity other than artillery fire. 1st Bn maintained road blocks in Mausbach. 2nd Bn, no change. 3rd Bn, no change. Serv Co and Hq Co, no change. At 1900, the CO went to Division for meeting. CO and C-3 of 54th FA were here for work on plan of artillery support. At 1000 2nd Bn reported they were receiving some fire from some of our units. C-3 stated that Co C 32nd AR was firing 37-mm but that firing would cease. CO returned from Division at 1035 and at 1330 called a meeting of his staff and representatives of all units in Division Reserve to warn them concerning enemy agents, looting and the proper use of the password. CO stated that he had been complimented by Div relative to military courtesy and good discipline shown by guards around CP. At 1945, the Chief of Staff, 3rd Arm'd Div notified the CO to have 1st Bn less company on road blocks prepared to move to vicinity of 83rd Rcn Bn in zone of 294th Engrs and to aid them if necessary. 1st Bn less one co and Rcn platoon were placed on 30 minute alert. The 83rd Rcn Bn and 294th Eng Bn had met enemy resistance in establishing road block No 11. Weather - rainy during most of the day.

11-4-44

During the night the situation was very quiet and first light reports were negative. The alert status of 1st Bn and Rcn platoon was called off. A house burned in Mausbach. The fire resulted from a half track which was hit nearby. Eschweiler was bombed by AIF during the early evening. The attacking force consisted of approximately 30 bombers. Later in the evening a force of approximately 500 bombers of the RAF flew over and it is presumed that their mission was also Eschweiler. Enemy aircraft were also active. Flares, Bombs (both heavy and anti-personnel) and strafing resulted. However, no casualties were reported. No change in disposition of troops of Regiment. Weather cold.

11-5-44

At first light all reported O.K. 1st Bn had two casualties from air activity. Some artillery in Breinig during the night. In the forenoon, the AG's of 1st Bn fired direct fire on range near Walherm. 3/3





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Date:

reported the result of firing satisfactory. During the morning the CO visited the Bns. At 2055, the 1st Bn reported a German patrol had set off some booby traps near road block No 3. 2nd Bn - no change. 3rd Bn - no change. Division Reserve now consists of the following troops:  
36th AIR less 2nd and 3rd Bns; 5rd Bn 33rd AR; 3rd Bn 32nd AR less Co C; 703rd TD Bn less Cos A and B; 23rd Armd Eng Bn less Cos A and B; Co Co 45th Med Bn;.

11-6-44

Road blocks and first light reports were negative. A house was hit near 32nd AR CP at 0930. There were no casualties. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR reported some shell fragments falling on them in D Co area. A check revealed that it was probably AA shells. No change in position of units. During the early evening planes dropped propoganda leaflets concerning our election in the area of the road block at Mausbach.

11-7-44

All units gave a negative report at first light. Road blocks and patrols reported no activity. No change in units of Regiment. 1st Bn 32nd AR to Div Res and 3rd Bn 32nd AR to CCA. During the night a few shells fell near CP. Two men were hit slightly. Rainy most of the day.

11-8-44

Negative reports were received from road blocks and patrols. A Buzz Bomb was heard as it passed over 1st Bn. 36th AIR area shortly after midnight. At 0815 CO and S-3 AIR, S-3 1st Bn 36th, went to 83rd Rcn Bn and 294th Eng Bn area. Co B 36th AIR was ordered to move tomorrow night to right sector to act as Reserve for 298th Eng Bn who are taking over road blocks. The communications Officer was instructed by CO to see that wire was laid direct from Co B to Regt. CP. when they arrive in new area. Also that they have a 528 radio tied in Regt Command Net. No change in location of units of Regiment. Voting certificates were collected from each man in Regiment.

11-9-44

At first light all patrols and road blocks reported O.K. In the area of the 1st Bn, six civilian bodies were found and reported to S-3 at 0900. Mil Gov notified and preparations were made to remove them from the area. Co B 36th AIR moved out at 1130 to a location at 987355 to be attached to the 298th Eng Bn.



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2nd Bn 36th AIR relieved from line during the evening and were billeted in vicinity of Stolberg and Busbach. One half track from Co D overturned while coming out and two men were killed. 1st Bn 36th AIR remained in Mausbach and vicinity. Enemy patrols were active in the area of the road blocks during the night. 3rd Bn remained in Stolberg and received Mortar fire and some casualties resulted. Serv Co and Hq Co, no change. First snow fell and temperature dropped considerably.

11-10-44

First light and road block reports were negative. There was some artillery fire during the night. All units instructed to check vehicles for grenades with rusty pins and to replace them if necessary. At 1000 CO went to unit COs meeting at Division. CO called a meeting of LOs from Div Res units at 1110 and they were instructed that (1) All German traffic in Div Res area would cease immediately. (2) Traffic would be one way on certain roads as shown on operations memorandum. No 16. (3) Platoon Leaders from 1st Bn 36th AIR and 1st Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 33rd AR in charge of mortars and assault guns would meet LO 54th FA at 1300. The platoons were alerted for a possible move during the afternoon. Co B 36th AIR left the 298th Eng Bn area and closed in 1st Bn 36th AIR at Mausbach at 1350.

11-11-44

At first light all reports were negative. Mortar and Assault Gun platoons of 1st Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 33rd AR were attached to 1st Bn 36th AIR. Platoons were netted in 1st Bn radio command net. At 1300 artillery LO reported enemy vehicles moving on super-highway in vicinity of Eschweiler. Artillery fired on them but range was too great. There was unusual enemy movement reported during the day. No change of location of Div Res units. It rained and snowed during the day.

11-12-44

First light reports were negative from units and pat Sky was overcast most of the day. 1st Bn remained in vicinity of Mausbach and maintained road blocks. 2nd Bn was in vicinity of Stolberg under CCB. 3rd Bn 36th remained in Stolberg and defended positions under CCA. Hq Co and Serv Co 36th carried on usual duties. At 1210 a few shells fell in vicinity of Regt CP near





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cross roads. Div Res now consists of:  
36th AIR less 2nd and 3rd Bns; Co C 45th Med Bn;  
3rd Bn 33rd AR; 1st Bn 32nd AR; 703rd TD Bn less  
Cos A and B; 23rd Eng Bn less Cos A and B.

- 11-13-44    At first light there were no reports of activity. During the day there was some artillery fire in the area of Mausbach. All units of 36th AIR - no change. Usual duties carried on.
- 11-14-44    At first light all reports were negative. During the night there was some artillery and mortar fire in the Mausbach area. At 1000 the CO held a meeting of the Div Res command group and Regt Staff. The following officers were present: Co, Ex O, S-5. S-3 AIR. CO 1st Bn 36th, CO 1st Bn 32nd AR, CO 3rd Bn 33rd, CO 703rd TD Bn. S-2. S-4 and CO Trains. At 1955 the road block No 2 reported that they fired on what later was determined to be a dog. Later when they went out to bring in the dog or collar, neither was there. At midnight the 2nd Bn Med Det in Stolberg reported they had seen a five man patrol, which they thought to be enemy, come through their area. Later investigation did not confirm this report. It rained and was very muddy through the day.
- 11-15-44    All first light reports were negative. Nothing else to sustain the reported German patrol of previous period. All units remained unchanged during the period. Routine duties and cleaning and care of equipment carried on during the day. Cloudy most of the day.
- 11-16-44    Road blocks and patrols gave negative reports. During the night there was some mortar and artillery fire. At 0645 all units were notified that the attack would start today; that bombers would be over at 1000 and 1300 (H hour). At 0800 all units notified that time of attack had been changed. Bombers were now scheduled for 1115 and H Hour 1245. Hq personnel were warned to take cover during the bombing and artillery barrage as preparation against a counter barrage. Troops of Combat Command Howze were broken down into Task Forces. Troops of this command were listed as follows: TF Kane (Lt Col Kane) TF Hogan (Lt Col Hogan, comdg).





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TF Kane consisted of: 1st Bn 32nd AR; 1st Bn 36th AIR less Co B; Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn; Plat Co C 23rd Eng Bn.

TF Hogan consisted of: 3rd Bn 33rd AR; Co B 36th AIR; Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn; Plat Co C 23rd Eng Bn.

703rd TD Bn less Cos A and C and two Plats Co B; 23rd Engr Bn less Cos A and D and 2 plats Co C; Detachments of Maint Bn accessible to both TF's.

At 1345 a large bomb, later estimated to be 1000 lbs, fell near the Regt CP. The guard reported that it was jettisoned from a P-38 which was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Due to traffic, Lt Col Kane was unable to move at scheduled time. Lt Col Hogan closed in assembly area at 1505. At 1735 1st Bn 32nd AR closed in assembly area. At 1910 G-3 notified that the 47th Inf was on the outskirts of Gressenich. CCB had taken Werth and were on the outskirts of Mastenrath at dark. The 104th Inf Div on the left, had not been able to advance as fast as units of CCB, therefore a part of 2nd Bn 36th AIR was placed on left flank of CCB for protection. Over 100 PW's were taken, nine having been captured by the 1st Bn 36th in the vicinity of Mausbach. Hq and Serv Co remained in their location. There was a frost during the night,

11-17-44

At first light all road block reports were negative. At 0810 G-3 called to have one platoon of tanks ready to help 83rd Rcn Bn mop up between its previous location and CCB. Col Howze notified the 1st Bn 32nd AR to alert one of their platoons. At 1035 the 47th Inf had taken Gressenich. The 1st Bn 36th sent a patrol to the 47th Inf from Mausbach and reported no evidence of mines near the road. At 1350 Lt Col Fowler of the 23rd Eng Bn informed the CC that the Engrs would clear mines in rear of CCB. At 1530 TF Mills of CCB, reported heavy resistance at Scherpenseel. CO instructed 1st Bn 36th AIR to give one plat of Inf to Engrs to aid in clearing mines along the road; also to send Rcn party to Mastenrath area and reconnoiter with view of possible use for the northwest of the town. At night, the platoon, from 1st Bn 32nd AR, were taken off the alert and told to be on the alert again at 0800 tomorrow. 1st Bn 36th and 1st Bn 32nd AR notified that the Germans may be



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planning a counter-attack in the vicinity of Konich. At 2153 one company of 1st Bn 36th AIR and one company of tanks of the 32nd AR were alerted to possibly move to Scherpenseel and assist TF Mills. They were placed on a two hour alert until 0800 18 Nov 44 and then on a one hour alert thereafter. LO from 1st Bn 36th AIR went to 1st Bn 32nd AR to coordinate plans. It was cold and rain fell during most of the period.

11-18-44

At first light all reports were negative. The alerted company of 1st Bn 32nd AR was told to allow the Inf, which was to go with them, to take their half-tracks if they moved. At 0753 word was received from LO No 1 that the high ground on CCB's left flank, known as the "Pimple" had been taken by the 104th Inf Div at 1620. One company of tanks and one company of Infantry of Div Res were placed on a one hour alert. Some RAF planes went over at dusk. All units were notified who they were, but warned that the Germans still had planes. Several buzz bombs were sighted, traveling in a northwesternly direction. 1st Bn 36th AIR remained in action with CCB. Major Tousey was Missing in Action at 1200. Capt Smith took over the Bn at that time, and was in command until Lt Col Russel was sent to them. At 0700 19 Nov Lt Col Russell joined them. Major Tousey came in at 1700 and was evacuated. 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained in CCA. Serv and Hq Co remained in former places and carried on usual duties. Weather was clear for most of the period.

11-19-44

First light reports were negative. Hq & Serv Cos 36th remained in Div Res, carrying on usual duties. 1st Bn was in Mausbach and did patrol work. 2nd Bn in CCB near Scherpenseel and Hastenrath and were consolidating previous gains and mopping up area. 3rd Bn 36th moved to Busbach. They still remained in CCA. CO and S-3 AIR went to CP near Busbach to observe the attack of the 47th Inf on Hill 232.

11-20-44

First light reports were negative from all Div Res Units. There was no change of locations of units of 36th AIR. Recon Officer reconnoitered two possible routes forward for units of Div Res, toward Langerwehe. He reported that there were still plenty of mines along the roads and some artillery fire. It was rainy most of the day.





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- 11-21-44    First light reports were negative. All units remained in same locations. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR continued to consolidate its position in Mastenrath area under CCB. Co A, 83rd Recon Bn, was attached to CC Howze at 1500. The CO called a meeting of Bn Comdrs of Div Res at 1530 to discuss future operations. Rain fell most of the day, and the evening was quiet.
- 11-22-44    At first light reports all were negative. All units remained in their former locations. At 1530 the CO called Bn Comdrs of the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR to meet him at the CP to discuss future operations. It was quiet during the entire day and the weather was cool.
- 11-23-44    First light reports were negative from all units. CO visited each Bn to inspect messes for Thanksgiving. All units remained in the same location. It rained most of the day. The Engrs would not permit heavy traffic on the bridge in front of the CP until the water receded. It was quiet in the area of all our units.
- 11-24-44    At first light all reports were negative. The Regt remained in the same place, carrying on usual duties. Major Chaney took over the 2nd Bn, 36th AIR, from Lt Col Russell, who returned to Regt as Ex O. It rained most of the day.
- 11-25-44    First light reports were negative. All units remained in their area carrying on rehabilitation. It rained most of the day.
- 11-26-44    First light reports negative. All units remained in same areas. CO visited the 2nd Bn 36th AIR in the morning. Ex O and S-3 36th AIR went on a reconnaissance in the morning. In the afternoon the CO and S-3 visited the CP of the 104th Inf Div and Adv CP of CCA. It was cool most of the day.
- 11-27-44    First light reports told of all quiet save for a few shells having fallen in the vicinity of Breinig. All Units of Regt in same areas and carrying on rehabilitation and training. CO, Ex O went on a reconnaissance of area. It was cold most of the day.





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- 11-28-44    At first light all reports were negative. All units of Regt remained in same areas, carrying on rehabilitation and training. CO 1st Bn and 3rd Bns 36th AIR and CO 1st Bn 32nd AR visited CP. CO went on a reconnaissance in the morning. It was clear most of the day.
- 11-29-44    First light reports were negative. A school on artillery and infantry coordination was held for Regimental Staff and LOs. At 0830, CO, Ex O and S-3 AIR went on a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Langerwehe. At about 1530 a large shell fell in the vicinity of Mausbach but no one was injured. There were quite a few of our planes active during the day.
- 11-30-44    First light reports were negative. All units of the Div Res command remained in same area. Hq Co and Hq still located at 956402 and Serv Co at Breinig. Both were in Div Res. 1st Bn 36th AIR was in vicinity of Mausbach in the Div Res. 2nd Bn 36th AIR in the vicinity of Scherpenseel, Werth and Hastenrath under CC "Boudinot". 3rd Bn 36th AIR under CC "Hickey" were in vicinity of Busbach. Units carried on training and care of equipment. A few shells fell in the vicinity of Mausbach during the early evening. It was mild weather for the day.
- 12-1-44    Rget CP at 956402. First light reports were negative. The following units were in CCR and located as follows: Hq and Hq Co in vicinity of CP. 1st Bn 36th in vicinity of Mausbach. The 2nd Bn 36th was in Scherpenseel area under CCB while the 3rd Bn under CCA was in Busbach. The CO went to Div at about 0830 hours. When he returned he had all Bn and separate Co Comdrs of CCR notified of a meeting to be held at the Regt CP at 1100 hours. At the meeting plans for future operations were discussed. At 1340 hours the CO was called to Div and when he returned at 1400 he said that all plans for the move had been postponed twenty four hours. LOs notified their units of the change. At 1600 the CO issued further instructions to all Comdrs of CCR at a meeting called at the CP. LO. No 2 and CO of Co C, 23rd Engr Bn, reported to S-3 after making a reconnaissance of the routes and area of the proposed move. S-3 gave the route to G-3 at 2025.



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Overlays and march orders were issued to *Act* Comdrs. Troops of CCR were grouped in the following manner: TF Hogan - 3rd Bn 35rd AR; 1st Bn 36th AIR (- 1 Co); 1 plat of Co C 23rd Engr Bn, 1 Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn.

TF Kane - 1st Bn 32nd AR (1 Co A); 1 plat, Co C 23rd Engr Bn; 1 plat Co B 703rd TD battalion.

Reserve - Co A 33rd AR; Co C 23rd Engr Bn (- 2 Plats); Co B 703rd TD Bn (- 2 plats); Co A 83rd Recon Bn.

12-2-44

First light reports were negative. At 0800 S-3 went to CCA to coordinate traffic of this unit with them for the move forward. At 1000 CO, S-3 AIR, S-2 and advance party went to Langerwehe to set up the Forward CP. Lt Col Davidson CO 738th RE Bn brought the Comdr of Co A and plat ldr of 2nd Plat Co A which was attached to CCR to this CP. They were located at Aachen and provisions were made for them to be routed through Eschweiler and Weisweiler to Langerwehe. Col Davidson was instructed to have that plat at RJ at 938418 in Stolberg at 1200 hours, where a guide would take it to Weisweiler to join column of one of Task Forces. The CO sent word by LO to give two large and one small mine exploder and one tank dozer to Lt Col Hogan and one small and one large mine exploder to Lt Col Kane. The CG visited the Adv CP at 1400 hours. At 1355 the CO 33rd AR reported that the TDs had put out mines with the 1st Div. Capt Anderson was sent to the Adv CP to notify the CO of the above. Div was also notified of these mines. At 1630 hours instructions were received that the operations from Langerwehe were indefinitely postponed and the forward CP returned to Stolberg. No other elements of CCR or the 36th AIR had moved during the period.

12-3-44

First light reports were negative. At 0900 the CO called a meeting of all Comdrs of Combat Command R. Omaha Five called at 1030 and directed that present plans concerning Langerwehe operation be extended east to include the town that was to be blocked under the old plan (Hoven). The CO went to Div at 1300 and returned to hold a conference with TF Comdrs at 1500. This conference concerned possible future operations.





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All units of the Regt remained in the same locations and with the same units.

- 12-4-44    First light reports were negative. At 0900 the CO went to Div and when he returned he called a meeting of CCR unit COs at 1500. Col Howze received the following information from Div: That the 703rd TD Bn less 2 Cos and the 25rd Eng Bn less 2 cos were back in CCR. G-3 called at 1245 to say that the 2nd Bn 36th AIR was attached to the 13th Inf, effective immediately. They were to act as a reserve in Langerwehe area. At 1520 Major Palmer sent a message that enemy aircraft was near. All units of CCR were notified to be on the alert. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR started moving at 1750 to vicinity of Langerwehe to take up positions. All other units of the Regt remained in same locations.
- 12-5-44    , No activity reported at first light. At 0900 G-3 called that enemy aircraft were active over Duren. All units of CCR were notified of the above. At 1115 S-3.3rd Bn 35rd AR called to say they would conduct a tank driving instruction period during the afternoon. Ex 0 and S-3 AIR went to 2nd Bn 36th AIR at 1500 to give them a Situation overlay. At 1525 G-3 reported 25 enemy aircraft headed toward Division. All units of CCR were notified. At 1900 G-3 reported a counter-attack of unknown strength in direction of Langerwehe. No change in status of Regt or location of any elements.
- 12-6-44    At 0635 first light reports were negative. The CO went to Div and 1st Bn 32nd AR at 0800. Then he returned he called a meeting of all LOs to have men warned again concerning leaving bivouac area unless on official business. Some men from 32nd AR had gone into mine field and had some casualties due to negligence. CO received information at 1300 that Co A 83rd Rcn Bn would return to Bn control. At the same time Ex 0 and S-3 AIR went to Stolberg to locate billeting space for Co A less 2 plats 738th LEE Bn which had been attached to CCR. At 1540 G-3 (Major Alexander) called that above company would not arrive until tomorrow but Co Comdr would be in this afternoon to get acquainted with the situation. At 1630 the Co Comdr reported to the Regt CF for instructions. No





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change in the disposition of units of the Regiment.

12-7-44

At 0640 first light reports were negative. At 0730 CO held meeting of representatives of all units of CCR to discuss an attack in the vicinity of Langerwehe toward the east. At 0800 CO, S-3 AIR and LO No 2 went to Langerwehe to reconnoiter area and locate billeting space for troops if contemplated move was made. At 0930 CO 381st FA Bn called at Regt CP to say his unit was moving and he would come back later. At 1000 an officer from Co A 738th MB Bn reported and said more space was needed in Stolberg to billet his men. CO sent Rcn Officer to assist in procuring more space. While at the CP the CO coordinated with S-4 on future supplies. When CO returned from reconnaissance he went to Div to see the CQ. At 1350 CO met all Comdrs of CCR to discuss and extend plans prepared a few days previously. Co B 85rd Rcn Bn was not part of CCR. At 1900 plans were complete and FO No 6 CCR was ready for distribution. Advance parties were to start about 0900 8 Dec 44. At 2000 Div notified CO that plans would be postponed one day. No change in location or status of any elements of the Regiment.

12-8-44

At first light reports were negative. At 0800 the CO went to the 60th Inf and Langerwehe area. He brought back S-3 some changes that would be made in FO No 34 of the 60th Inf. Lt McDonald and Advance Party went to Langerwehe to establish the advance CP. The Ex O and S-3 AIR went on a reconnaissance to forward areas with which the Combat Command would be concerned. They also made a reconnaissance of assembly areas for the units of CC. At 1400 the CO held a meeting of the unit COs of the CCR to discuss the proposed attack. FO No 6 CCR was distributed to the units concerned. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR returned to their former area in the vicinity of Scherpenseel and Hastenrath under control of CCB. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained in Busbach under CCA.

12-9-44

First light reports were negative. March orders were sent by LO to units concerned. G-3 AIR called S-3 AIR to be sure that all units concerned in the operation for the next day would display panels. The



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units of CCR were notified. At 1000 the CO went to Langerwehe and vicinity to check on preparations for receiving the main elements of the CC which would start moving at 1610. In early afternoon elements of CP group started moving, by infiltration, to the forward CP which was opened at 1440. At 1750 the CO held a meeting of the unit Comdrs of the Combat Command to clear up last minute details of the next morning's attack. At 2015 all elements of the 2nd Bn 36th AIR in the Scherpenseel area under CCB carried on rehabilitation and training. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR had no change. A skeleton force of Staff and Hq Personnel remained in the old CP to carry on with administrative matters.

12-10-44

At 0730 TF Kane moved some of his medium tanks to high ground just east and slightly north of Langerwehe to support by fire the attack of TF Hogan on Obergeich and Geich. TF Hogan began his advance on Obergeich at 0745 and by 0900 Col. Hogan reported he was in Obergeich. Actually this report was in error and as soon as the situation there was clarified (1130) TF Kane was ordered to advance to the high ground north of Geich and support the advance of TF Hogan into Geich. This high ground was occupied by TF Kane by 1400 against slight opposition. A request was made by the CO, CCR, that the 60th Inf Begin to move into Geich-Echtz area. Movement was begun immediately. By 1530 TF Hogan had cleared Obergeich and the attack was continued to Geich. The western edge of Geich was reached by dark but due to exposed positions, TF Hogan withdrew to Obergeich after dark and remained there during the night. In the meantime, TF Kane was ordered to advance to Echtz and at 1515 movement began. By 1616 leading elements were in Echtz and by 2100 TF Kane was in complete control of the town. After dark the 1st Bn 60th Inf was guided into town and outposted the southern portion. One company of the 2nd Bn 60th Inf assisted TF Hogan in the occupation of Obergeich. At 0945 a task force of one light tank platoon, one Recon plat, a squad of Engrs and a mine exploder were committed down the Langerwehe-Rothaus road to establish a road block at an important road crossing at Rothaus. This force followed Co B 36th AIR which was a part of TF Hogan the greater part of the way and established the road block, losing only the mine exploder. The action of





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of the force cut off some fifty Germans besides aiding materially in the protection of the right flank of CCR. The latter part of the night of 10 Dec 44 was spent by all forces in improving security positions. At approximately 2000 CC of CCR issued orders for TF Hogan, in connection with 2nd Bn 60th Inf to attack Geich at 0800 11 Dec and then to push on rapidly to Echtz. At 0800 TF Kane was to initiate reconnaissance toward Hoven and in the event Hoven was not strongly held, to take it and hold it with part of his force. During this period the 2nd and 3rd Bns 36th AIR remained in assembly areas under CCB and CCA respectively.

12-11-44

At 0800 TF Hogan, in connection with the 2nd Bn 60th Inf, began his attack on Geich and by 0845 had secured the town. At 1005 TF Hogan, leaving one medium tank company in Geich, started moving toward Echtz with the mission of securing it. The 1st Bn 36th AIR was detached from TF Hogan and assigned to TF Kane. The reconnaissance of TF Kane met strong resistance on its push toward Hoven and was unable to make progress. At 0920 TF Kane was relieved of responsibility of securing Echtz by TF Hogan and was directed to use entire force in attacking Hoven. Initial attacks by TF Kane were repulsed and at 1430 he was directed to secure his force in Echtz and renew the attack on 12 Dec 44. Very late in the afternoon the 1st Bn 60th Inf was attached to CCR and just before dark plans were completed and orders issued for TF Kane to attack on the left with the northern part of Hoven the objective: the 1st Bn 60th Inf was to attack on the right with the southern part of Hoven as the objective. During this period, the 2nd and 3rd Bns 36th AIR remained in assembly areas near Stolberg under CCB and CCA.

12-12-44

At 0800 the attack jumped off as outlined above and under cover of smoke. The Infantry advanced some 1000 yards before the smoke lifted and resistance increased. Small arms, direct assault gunfire and artillery slowed the infantry advance considerably, but as soon as one tank could move up to provide close support, the attack progressed and by 1020 leading elements of TF Kane entered Hoven. These elements then turned south and materially helped the advance of the 1st Bn 60th Inf on the right.



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Due to Infantry losses Co B 83rd Rcn Bn was assigned from the Combat Command Reserve to the 1st Bn 36th AIR as reinforcements at 1220. By 1600 the village was secured. At 2115 CO CCR received instructions to relieve the 1st Bn 60th Inf and to secure the town with other elements of CCR. TF Kane was assigned the mission of securing Hoven and Co B 83rd Rcn Bn was moved from Echtz to Hoven. At the close of the period the relief of the 1st Bn 60th Inf was being accomplished by TF Kane. The 2nd and 3rd Bns 36th AIR remained in assembly areas during the period.

- 12-13-44    By 0200 the relief of the 1st Bn 60th Inf had been completed to the extent that the presence of that battalion in the town was not needed for its security. Before dawn the 1st Bn 60th Inf was withdrawn from Hoven. At 1225 CO CCR received instructions that CCR would probably be relieved from Hoven by the 60th Inf, and the afternoon was spent in making plans for the relief. At 1800 the relief was begun and at the close of the period CCR was enroute to assembly areas in the Stolberg-Mausbach area. The 2nd and 3rd Bns 36th AIR remained in assembly areas under CCB and CCA.
- 12-14-44    At 0100 all units of CCR were reported closed in assembly areas in Stolberg-Mausbach-Breinig. This day was spent in maintenance and care of equipment. No change in status of Regt or location of any unit other than that which is mentioned above.
- 12-15-44    Meeting of COs in CCR was held at 1100. Administrative matters discussed. 703rd TD Bn less Cos A and C and 23rd Engr Bn less Cos A and B were attached to CCR for administration. All units of CCR and 36th AIR carried on maintenance and training during the period.
- 12-16-44    First light reports of CCR were negative. Critique held for units COs and S-3s in CCR and the Geich-Obergeich-Hoven operation was discussed. All units of CCR and the 36th AIR remained in assembly areas doing training and maintenance.





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Enemy aircraft were active over the Division area during the early morning. At 1430 all CCR's in the Division were directed to establish traffic control points for the purpose of checking for enemy paratroopers. Training and maintenance and rehabilitation were continued by all units of CCR and the 36th AIR during the period. At 2000 the 703rd TD Bn was detached from the 3rd Armd Div and attached to the VIII Corps. 3rd Bn 36th AIR, part of CCA, was placed on a six hour alert, along with the remainder of CCA for possible employment to the south. 2nd Bn 36th AIR, under CCB, was placed on a one hour alert for possible employment in the event of enemy airborne landings.

12-18-44

First light reports were negative. At 1720 a road block of TF Kane fired on a vehicle and wounded the driver when he disregarded the guards challenge. The driver was later identified as friendly. Enemy aircraft were active during the morning. At 1500 Ex O and S-3 AIR visited CCA to get details of CCA's movement plans. CCA which included 3rd Bn 36th, was detached from the 3rd Armd Div effective at 1200 and attached to V Corps. Movement to the vicinity of Eupen, Belgium began at 1730. CCR and CCB (2nd Bn 36th AIR) continued to maintain road blocks and patrols and to conduct training and maintenance throughout the period.

12-19-44

First light reports in CCR were negative. At 1240 CCR was placed on a three hour alert for possible employment to the south, due to enemy penetrations. At 1700 movement orders were received directing CCR to move behind Div Hqs to the vicinity of Hotton, Belgium. Route of march: Aachen, Verviers, Bomal, Barvaux to Hotton, Belgium (359680). Head of column crossed IP at Stolberg at 1810. The entire CCA less Co A 738th LE Bn, to include trains, moved and at the close of the period were progressing satisfactorily toward destination. CCA, of which the 3rd Bn 36th AIR was part, remained attached to V Corps throughout the period. At 1030 CCB which 2nd Bn 36th was part, was detached from the 3rd Armd Div and attached to the V Corps. Movement to assembly positions, vicinity of Theux, began at 1315 and closed



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at 1700 at which time CCB was detached from V Corps and attached to XVIII Corps (Airborne).

12-20-44

The head of CCR arrived at Hotton at 0855. Immediately upon arrival, 3rd Bn 33rd AR less Co C; 1st Bn 32nd AR less Cos A and G and 54th FA Bn were detached from CCR and attached to the 83rd Rcn Bn to be used by that unit for reconnaissance in force. Units remained under CCR were 36th AIR less 2nd and 3rd Bns; Cos A and G, 32nd AR, Co C 33rd AR; Co C 23rd Engr Bn. CCR was organized into TF Orr consisting of 1st Bn 36th AIR less Co B, Cos A and G 32nd AR and a reserve force of Co C 33rd AR, Co B 36th AIR and Co C 23rd Eng Bn. CCR received orders to move toward Erzee (450905) and movement of the Combat Command (trains and rear Hqs personnel who were left in Hotton) began at 1430. The CC assembled with Hqs and Reserve in Soy (415898) and TF Orr in Erzee and received orders to remain there during the night. At 2120 orders were received from 3rd Armd Div to move 1st Bn 36th less Co B to Samree (505815) to reenforce elements of the 73rd Rcn Bn there and at the close of the period the 1st Bn 36th minus Co B were enroute to there. The remainder of the CC established security outposts and road blocks and conducted patrols throughout the night. CCA of which the 3rd Bn was a part, remained attached to the V Corps. CCB which the 2nd Bn 36th was part, launched an attack at 0830 to the south toward L'Ambleve River. Enemy situation unknown. TF McGeorge, containing 2nd Bn Hq and Hq Co and D Co 36th, was almost immediately held up by a road block. TF Jordon with F Co 36th made contact with the enemy but pushed on to occupy a good position to overwatch the valley to their left. TF Lovelady with E Co 36th made excellent progress and at 1415 ran into SP guns, infantry mounted in half tracks and several medium artillery pieces and practically wiped the enemy column out. The score was: 2 75 AT guns; 5 trucks; one 155mm towed gun, one 155mm SP gun and two volkswagons.

12-21-44

At 0310 Operations Instructions No 1, 3rd Armd Div, which gave CCR the mission of following enroute and being prepared to support the 83rd Rcn Bn, were received. During the early morning everything was quiet. At 0430 the CO Hq Co 36th AIR reported hearing enemy





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vehicles south of Hotton, and a patrol from B Co 36th reported being fired on by what they believed to be Germans in American vehicles from the vicinity of Wy (420881). At 0800 CO Hq Co 36th reported that Hotton, the town where he was, was under attack by the Germans. At 0855 Col Howze reported to Div that a column of enemy tanks, fifteen minutes long, was moving north to Hotton-Soy road and then turning west toward Hotton. Div changed the mission of CCR until this could be cleared up. Throughout the morning Hotton was attacked by the enemy tanks and Infantry but the town was successfully held by tanks and Hqs personnel there. By 0900 CCR had initiated action with force in Soy against the enemy column attacking Hotton, and by 1125 one platoon of med tanks, one platoon of infantry and one platoon of light tanks had worked their way from Soy north and into Hotton and were helping to stabilize the situation there. At 1310 Co CCR was informed by Div that elements of the 84th Inf Div would approach Hotton from the southwest and would relieve our forces there, but by the end of the period only one depleted platoon from that unit had made contact and it had instructions to stay south of the river and knew nothing about the rest of the unit. Continued progress was made but pressure increased throughout the day in Hotton and on the Hotton-Soy road and at the end of the period, one of the forces sent from Soy to Hotton along the road had made little progress. Plans were made for movement of CCR to Grandmenil (520900) when force in Hotton was relieved, but the mission of CCR was to hold Hotton and Soy at all costs until relieved.

CCA with the 3rd Bn 36th as part was now under control of 3rd Armd Div and moved to the vicinity of Herbronnt Belgium to assist in blocking further German penetration from the west and the north. 3rd Bn 32nd AR, with I Co under direct Div Control, took up defenses of the crossroads at P-576852 and the surrounding area. The balance of CCA moved to Marche.

CCB, of which 2nd Bn 36th was part, remained under the XVIII Corps (Airborne) with whom they were attached. TF McGeorge was held up short of Le Gleize. TF Jordan held his original position, while TF Lovelady attacked





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to the east and joined 117th Inf of the 30th Inf Division.

TF Orr, of which 1st Bn 36th less Co B was part, operated under the 83rd Rcn Bn and attacked toward Samree.

12-22-44

At 0445 CO CCR returned from Div and issued orders for an attack at 0900, this date. Located in the vicinity of Beffe (424852) was TF Hogan who was assigned to CCR. Groupment of troops: TF Hogan - 3rd Bn 33rd AR less 2 Cos; 1 Co 83rd Rcn Bn; 1 Batry 54th AFA Bn; TF Mize - located in Soy had Co G 32nd AR; Co C 33rd AR less 1 plat; 1 Plat Co B 36th AIR; 1 squad Co C 23rd Armd Engrs. TF Smithers, located in Hotton; 1 plat Co G 32nd AR; 1 plat Co B 36th AIR; 1 Plat Co C 33rd AR.

Mission of CCR in the attack was to clear Soy-Hotton Beffe area. TF Mize to attack southwest from Soy toward Hampteau and drop off a road block at 405587; TF Hogan to attack northwest from Beffe and contact road block of TF Mize. TF Smithers to hold Hotton and to support attack by fire. 83rd FA Bn was in direct support. 1st Bn 517th Para Inf Bn attached and CO reported to CP at 0730. CO CCR informed him he would commit his battalion as soon as it arrived. The attack of TF Mize jumped off at 0900 but progressed slowly throughout the day, due to small arms, anti-tank and artillery fire. TF Hogan at the south edge of Beffe met intense opposition. At 1130 TF Hogan began receiving serious counter-attacks and at 1250 was directed to hold where he was until Soy-Hotton Situation was cleared and he could be sent help. At 1230 Co B 643rd TD Bn was attached to CCR but had not arrived. At 1345 TF Hogan drew back to Marcouray (439818) for better defensive position. He reported his gas very low and continuous enemy pressure. CO issued orders to CO Para Inf - "Your objective is Hotton. You are to take Hotton, secure it, and then attack south. I will arrange FO's through artillery LO and I hope to be able to give you a company of medium tanks before you depart. Attack at 1700." 1st Bn 517th Para Inf Bn and Co B 743rd TD Bn arrived at 1615. Para Inf Bn launched attack at 1750 but progressed slowly due to strong enemy resistance and



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difficult terrain. By 2000 the attack had just about stopped and CC CCR sent for CO Para Inf Bn to meet him at CP. At 2100 reports were received that Hotton was being attacked by an estimated company of Infantry but force there believed they could hold if Para Inf would hurry. At 2255 CC stressed the importance of clearing up the Hotton-Soy situation during the night. Plat of medium tanks and 5 1/2 ton trucks were attached to CO Para Inf and plans drawn up to send one company Para Inf, the tanks and 1/2 ton trucks into Hotton by flanking to the north, while the remainder of the Para Inf Bn attacked down the Soy-Hotton road. The period ended with final preparations for this maneuver being made. 3rd Bn 36th AIR, less Co I, was attached to TF Doan CCA and during the day took part in an attack to cut the Marche-Bastogne road and established vital road blocks in that area. Co I 36th AIR was attached to TF Richardson, CCA, and moved to vicinity of Brezee prepared to assist CCR in the event of enemy penetrations.

TF Jordon secured the town of Rouat. The bulk of the enemy armor was withdrawn to the east, but TF McGeorg cut the enemy's routes of escape. The Infantry moved in and cleaned out Stoumont. (CCB)

TF Orr met heavy resistance during the day in an attempt to take Dochamps (494838), was unsuccessful, and by the close of the period had fallen back to and secured Amonies (443874).

12-23-44

At 0455 the maneuvering force of tanks and Para Inf had worked their way from Soy and were in Hotton but met considerable opposition when attempting to move east toward Soy. The remainder of the Para Inf Bn attempting to attack west toward Hotton along the road, were held up by small arms anti-tank and artillery fire. One Plat from the 509th Para Inf Bn arrived at 1755 and was attached to the 517th Para Inf Bn to be used by the force attacking from Soy. At the close of the period, both the forces in Hotton and the force attacking from Soy were attempting to make contact, but neither attack was going well due to considerable enemy opposition. Throughout the period TF Hogan remained in Marcouray, badly in need of medical supplies and gasoline. During the morning, medical supplies were fire to him by artillery but were ruined. An attempt in the afternoon to drop supplies by airplane failed





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when they missed the town. During the period Co B 36th AIR (less one platoon in Hotton) was relieved from CCR and reverted to TF Orr, 1st Bn 36th AIR, who was heavily engaged throughout the day in the vicinity of Amenines. TF Doan, which included the 3rd Bn 36th AIR minus Co I, was relieved from the 3rd Armd Div and operated directly under the 84th Inf Div. TF Richardson, which included Co I 36th, remained in the vicinity of Ezeree throughout the period.

CCB, which the 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, continued to operate under V Corps. TF Jordan launched an attack east toward La Gleize with the 119th Inf RCT. At 0900 TF McGeorge launched an attack but was unable to advance. TF Jordan made contact by patrols with TF McGeorge, however.

12-24-44

At 0200 instructions were received from 3rd Armd Div to discontinue attacks until 0815 and at that time attack with full force from Soy toward Hotton along the road, and from Hotton toward Soy. The attack jumped off at 0815 and by 1125 the two forces had made contact and began to outpost the Soy-Hotton road. At 1320 Co. A 628th TD Bn arrived in area as a part of CCR. At 1030 the CG 3rd Armd Div visited CCR's CP and issued an order for the 290th CT to relieve CCR in the Soy-Hotton area. Arrangements for this relief, to include reconnaissance of the area, by the COs of CCR and 290th CT was completed, but due to a change in orders the relief was not made. At 1600 290th Inf CT was attached to CCR and CG CCR issued orders for 290th CT to attack south as soon as closed with mission of seizing high ground south of Soy-Hotton road (general line 400870) and establishing a strong defense position there. Arrangements made for attachments of TD's, Tanks and for necessary wire and mines for defenses. 290th Inf was directed to push out reconnaissance at once. Due to one Bn of the 290th Inf getting lost, the attack did not begin until 2330. At the close of the period the attack was still progressing slowly with two Bns of 290th Inf CT attacking abreast. Throughout the period TF Hogan remained in Marcouray still badly in need of gasoline and other supplies. An attempt to drop supplies in the afternoon again failed.



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TF Jordon in CCB with F Co 36th AIR secured La Gleize. Losses in enemy equipment were heavy. 26 Panther tanks, 35 half tracks and 4 SP artillery pieces had been destroyed. In addition, approximately 300 American soldiers were released from German captivity

CCA's road block at Grandmenil was forced to withdraw under pressure of a strong enemy force, but prevented the enemy from penetrating to the north and west. The 3rd Bn 289th RCT succeeded in blocking the road leading northwest from Grandmenil. TF Doan (3rd Bn 36th less Co I) continued to hold positions against strong enemy pressure. TF Richardson (Co I 36th AIR) remained in position in vicinity of Ezeree.

TF Orr (1st Bn 36th AIR) continued to hold his position in vicinity of Amenines against strong enemy pressure.

12-25-44

Throughout the early morning and on up to noon the two Bns of the 290th Inf continued to attack but progress was slow. Information was scarce due to poor communications and what information there was was frequently in error. At 1245 CO CCR called for CO Para Inf Bn and informed him he was to be committed on the right and that the objective must be taken, as we were facing a major German attack. At 1430 1st Bn 517th Para Bn launched attack in the right zone and at the same time Co I 290th Inf swung around from Hotton through Hampteau and approached high ground from the west. At 1700 the Hotton bridge was prepared for demolition and Capt Anderson instructed to blow bridge only on order of CG, 3rd Armd Div, or on his own initiative in case of emergency; the attack in both zones was continuing at the close of the period with some troops on both objectives but neither cleared completely nor organized. Plans to supply TF Hogan in Marcouray by air completed during the early part of the period, but at 1000 a message was received from CO TF Hogan that supplies not be dropped since it was impossible to get vehicles out of Marcouray. At 1630 TF Hogan sent a message that his force was out of communication with CCR. TF Orr, 1st Bn 36th AIR, continued to occupy Amonines, maintain road blocks and conduct patrols.





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CCB was ordered to assemble at Spa, Belgium and upon arrival became Reserve of the XVIII Corps. Reserve was short lived and orders were received to proceed at once to the Grandmenil area to reoccupy the lost ground. At 1430, just as the attack plan was completed the TF was bombed and strafed by friendly P-38's. 36 enlisted men and three Officers were killed.

12-26-44

By 0445 both objectives were reported as taken but defenses on neither were properly set up, and the two battalions of the 290th Inf were not tied in. The remainder of the period was spent in organizing defenses, laying wire and mines and establishing communications. Relief of the 1st Bn 517th Para Bn was begun late in the morning and at 1000 this Bn was relieved and detached from CCR. At 0505 one Officer and 18 enlisted men from TF Hogan arrived at our front lines and by 0920 the bulk of TF Hogan had arrived safely. Lt Col Hogan arrived himself at the CP CCR at 1420. TF Hogan was assembled in Barvaux. TF Orr (1st Bn 36th AIR) remained in Amonenes out of contact with the enemy except for enemy patrols and artillery fire. Throughout the period plans were being worked on for the relief of elements of CCR less 290th Inf Regt who would remain in position by CCB.

During the night of the 26th Dec 44, one Battalion of the 25th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment with reinforcements of the 12th SS Panzer Division, infiltrated through the gap between the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 289th RCT (who were attached to CCA) in an attempt to capture Sadzot.

In the meantime, CCB (2nd Bn 36th AIR), temporarily under the command of CCA, regained the town of Grandmenil on the night of the 26th and the 3rd Bn 289th Inf RCT had taken up positions in and around the town to prevent enemy armored penetrations. Major Dunn, 2nd Bn 36th AIR became a casualty. Major Tousey assumed command.

12-27-44

Little enemy activity was reported during the morning. Plans were completed by 0900 for the relief of CCR in the Soy-Hotton area by CCB and at 1130 the Command Group, CCR, left Soy for Weris (430942) arriving there at 1150. By 1700 all elements of CCR except 1st Bn 36th AIR, still in Amonenes expecting to be relieved on 28



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Dec 44 had closed in assembly area as follows: Hq & Hq Co 36th AIR in Weris; 3rd Bn 33rd AR in Barvaux and 2nd Bn 32 AR in Mervilles (4394) - Tournans (4397). By this time all miscellaneous attachments of Tank Destroyers, Infantry, Tanks and so forth had been relieved from attached to CCR and Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn had reverted to Bn control. A Force consisting of C Co 32nd AR B Co 36th AIR and a platoon of Co C 33rd AR was sent by CCR to Melreux (365895) where it was to prepare to occupy and prepare defensive positions just north of Hotton in case an enemy breakthrough in that area. During the afternoon the forces of CCR in Hotton were relieved by elements of CCB. 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCB in the rear of the front lines in Hotton-Soy area. 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCA. During this period CCA re-grouped and conducted maintenance and rehabilitation..

12-28-44

At 0800 1st Bn 36th AIR was relieved from Amonines and assembled in the vicinity of Merville and Tour. CCR reorganized as follows: TF Kane - Hq & Hq Co, 32nd AR; Co D 32nd AR; Co A 36th AIR; Plat Co A, 32nd AR. TF Orr - 1st Bn 36th AIR (Cos A & B not incl) Co H 33rd AR; Plat Co C 33rd AR. TF Mize (in Melreux) Co G 32nd AR; Co B 36th AIR and Plat Co C 33rd AR. Reserve - Hq & Hq Co 36th AIR; Co C 33rd AR; less two platoons; Co A 32nd AR less two plats, and 3rd Bn 33rd AR less G, H and C Cos. A force of five medium tanks (total strength of Co G 33rd AR) was sent to Division CP. Throughout the day units of CCR were kept on alert for possible employment against enemy breakthrough in CCA sector where the enemy was very active and had made some infiltrations. 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCB and conducted patrols beyond our front lines in Soy-Hotton area. 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCA.

12-29-44

During the period all units of CCR remained in same assembly area and positions as of 28 Dec 44. The forces at Melreux continued to improve prepared positions. TF Kane remained on a one hour alert for employment against the enemy penetrations and the remainder of the force stayed on a two hour alert. Recon.





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Reconnaissance was made of the new assembly areas by all battalions. This was in the vicinity of Terwagne (305078) and at 2200 hours CCR published a movement order for movement of the force at 0900 30 Dec 44.

12-30-44

At 0900 leading elements of CCR moved from Weris and by 1530 all troops had closed in a new assembly area with CCR's CP in Terwagne. TF Orr in Terwagne; TF Kane in Melreux was relieved of the responsibility in that locality and elements of that force reverted to their respective battalions and closed in new areas by 1530. Road blocks were established and patrols conducted in the new areas and at the close of the period, all was quiet. CCA (3rd Bn 36th) was relieved from its defensive responsibilities and during the period, they, too, closed in new assembly areas in Warzee (3608) area. 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained under CCB behind the front lines in the Soy-Hotton area.

12-31-44

During this period, CCR remained in assembly areas as of the 30th Dec 44. At 0800 the 628th TD Bn was attached to CCR and billeted in the Abee (3111) area. All Task Forces conducted patrols and maintained road blocks throughout the period. CCB (2nd Bn 36th) was relieved from the Soy-Hotton area and closed in assembly areas southwest of Terwagne. CCA 3rd Bn 36th remained in the same assembly areas conducting maintenance and rehabilitation.

1-1-45

Security patrolling continued throughout the night and at first light the situation was reported to be quiet. At 1130 word was received that all troops west of the north-south road leading through Terwagne would move east of that road, also the 330th Inf less two Bns of the 83rd Div was attached and would be billeted in our area. Arrangements were made to move elements of Hogan and Orr, who were west of the new boundary line. The billeting parties of the 330th Inf arrived and were assigned an area. By 2100 the 330th Inf had closed. Security patrolling continued after the hours of darkness. At 1745 FO No 20 3rd Armd Div was received and reconnaissance was made for a move to the southeast. The 1st Bn 36th AIR was attached to CCR and was assembled in the Terwagne area. All companies under Battalion control. 2nd Bn 36th



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1-1-45

AIR was attached to CCB and was assembled at Les Avins, Belgium. 3rd Bn 36th AIR was attached to CCA and was assembled in the vicinity of Warzee. All companies were under battalion control.

1-2-45

Patrolling continued throughout the night and at first light all was reported quiet. At 0330 bill-eting parties left for the new area and at 1230 movement to the new area commenced. The entire day was consumed in moving the Combat Command, due to traffic congestion on the roads. The entire Combat Command was concentrated in the area around Ferrieres at this time.

The 2nd Bn was located north of Vaux Chavenne and Grandmenil. The Bn moved to an assembly area behind the 83rd Inf Div and was not in contact with the enemy. Plans were made to attack with the 1st Bn 33rd AR at daylight, 3 Jan 45. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR moved from Warzee to Habiemont, Belgium, and had one company attached to TF M. The remainder of the Bn was in TF X.

1-3-45

The situation remained quiet throughout the night and at 1215 the Advance CP moved to the vicinity of Werboment. At 1505 TF Hogan was formed and alerted for movement. Movement started and at 2215 TF Hogan had closed in Au Hetre area. TF Hogan consisted of the following troops: 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 1st Bn 330th Inf; 1 Plat Co B 23rd Eng, and one plat Co B 703rd TD Bn. At 2036 verbal orders were received from Division to move TF Kane at 0700 4 Jan 45 to the vicinity of Bergifaz. The Inf attached to this TF was 1st Bn 36th AIR. The Inf was to seize the nose at 606922 and hold it until the passage of CCA to the south, at which time TF Kane was to reassemble in a new area. Col Kane and Col Orr were called to the CP and were issued orders for the operation. Composition of TF Kane at this time was as follows: 1st Bn 32nd AR; 1st Bn 36th AIR; 1 Plat Co B 23rd Eng, and one Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn.

The 2nd Bn was located 1000 yards southeast of Vaux Chavenne. The Bn attack was held up by a road block, small arms and mortar fire and they outposted there for the night. The 3rd Bn had no change in attachment. This Bn was located south of Foret, Belgium and Co H had captured Floret. Co I was with TF Y and had advanced to 602918.





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1-4-45

No activity was reported during the night. At 0700 TF Kane moved out as scheduled and at 0955 the 1st Bn 36th AIR reported that the operation had started. At 1030 the 1st Bn had advanced 500 yards encountering opposition. At 1140 hours they were on the objective. The 1st Bn 32nd AR closed into Bergifaz at 1200 and was ordered to remain there. The 1st Bn 36th AIR was ordered to continue to hold its objective and at 1420 information was received that a Bn of the 329th Inf would relieve the 1st Bn 36th AIR of the responsibility of its objective. Upon relief the 1st Bn 36th would assemble at Bergifaz. At 1420 orders were received to move TF Hogan to the vicinity of Manhay to attack at 0800 5 Jan 45 and to capture the cross-road at 576853. Movement began at 1515 and at 1640 TF Hogan had closed in his assembly area. The relief of the 1st Bn 36th AIR was completed at 1905 and it closed in its designated assembly area at 2040.

The 2nd Bn captured Baneux. Co D led the attack and cleared the town of the enemy and outposted the town for the night. The Bn advanced approximately two miles. Capt Smith took command from Major Toussey who had been evacuated. Co H of the 3rd Bn 36th AIR help point 585925 and Co G, with 1 med tank plat, captured ford and bridge at 611910 and moved on to take Lansival by noon, and after organizing and seizing Jevaigne, captured and organized the high ground south of Lansival in a night attack. This attack seems to have taken the enemy by surprise since the next day strong counter-attacks were launched against the hill with tank support. Prisoners stated they expected to take the hill with little effort.

1-5-45

After a patrol from the 1st Bn 330th Inf had moved to Meleprè and had encountered no opposition, Col Hogan moved Cos A and B of the 330th Inf and Co G of the 33rd AR to that town. This force closed into the area at 0300. Co H 33rd AR, with Co C 330th Inf, moved to the woods at 544881. At 0800 the left force (Co G 33rd AR and Co A and B 330th Inf) attacked from Malempre and encountered a road block at 566876. The block consisted of mines and was covered by anti-tank fire. Since it was impossible to move around the block with the tanks, Cos A and B, 330th Inf, continued



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toward the objective. At 1400 the right force (Co H 33rd AR and Co C 330th Inf) jumped off from their assembly area at 544881 and attacked down the main road leading to the objective. This force ran into a block composed of a knocked out enemy tank at 558866. Cos A and B 330th Inf had reached Croix St Jacques at this time. Co G 33rd AR was moved back to Malempre and into the woods (544881) previously vacated by Co H 33rd AR. The right force sent out a patrol at 2315 in an attempt to move across the open ground at 557864. They were pinned down by an enemy road block at 563862.

Co E and Co F 36th AIR advanced 1000 yards southwest of Baneux and were help up in the woods by enemy delaying action. Co D remained in Baneux with the 1st Bn 33rd AR. Capt Metcalfe took command from Capt Smith who was wounded in the action. Co E outposted the woods during the night. The 3rd Bn was located north of La Vaux and Co H captured the main part of La Vaux. At 2000 orders were received from Division to have the 3rd Bn 36th AIR (CCA) replaced by the 1st Bn 36th AIR. The 1st Bn would pass through the 3rd Bn, thereby relieving it. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR would then revert to CCR. CCA advanced off the high ground to open up the road to Lieneux. TFX with the 3rd Bn 36th spent the day in establishing and maintaining a bridgehead over the Rau di Chaumont. That night TFX put tanks across the stream and a Bailey bridge was constructed by the Corps Engineers.

1-6-45

At 0800 Col Hogan's right force jumped off for the objective and at 0950 were reported at 563862. At 1040 it was reported that the right and left forces had made contact at 567860. At 1240 Hogan's right column was blocked by fallen trees across the road and three tanks and one TD had been knocked out by enemy tank fire. Cos A and B (left force) continued to attack and by 2240 were reported on high ground 200 yards northeast of the objective. Co H 33rd AR had been withdrawn to Manhay and Engrs were at work clearing the road block. Co C 330th Inf remained in the vicinity of Croix St Jacques. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR closed in assembly area under CCR at 1430 at Bergifaz. At 1640 the CP moved to Bra.





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*"Spearhead Doughboys"*

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The 2nd Bn was located 1000 yards north of Begne. Co E and F attached through woods on the east. Co D left Baneux and moved into Lierneux where it joined Co E and Co F on road bend south of Lierneux. The 3rd Bn was relieved from front line and moved to Rarmont. At 1143 it was reported that Lt Col Fowler CO 3rd Bn 36th had been wounded by a mine explosion and that Major Chaney was in command.

1-7-45

The Engineers worked under cover of darkness and by 0200 had cleared the block at 563862. At this time Co G 33rd AR and 1 plat Co C 330th Inf moved down the main road to contact Cos A and B, 330th Inf. Movement was slow since the engineers were sweeping the road ahead of the tanks. At 0927 contact had been made between the Infantry and the tanks. The force continued moving and at 1127 was on the objective (CR 576852). At 1225 the roads running north, east and west from the objective were reported blocked. At 1600 information was received that the 1st Bn 333rd Inf would relieve the 1st Bn 330th Inf by daylight 8 Jan 45. The period closed with plans being perfected for the relief.

Co E 2nd Bn 36th AIR with tanks of 1st Bn 33rd AR assaulted Regne and Co D and Co F seized high ground southeast of Regne. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR was located in Rarmont conducting rehabilitation and reorganization of companies.

1-8-45

All remained quiet throughout the night and at 0800 the relief of the 1st Bn 330th Inf by the 1st Bn 333rd Inf was reported to be progressing satisfactorily, and at 0830 the relief was reported complete. Contact was made with CCB on CCR's left at 0910. At 1546 orders were issued to have the 1st Bn 333rd Inf in conjunction with 2nd Bn 333rd Inf, on the right, to push to the edge of the woods at 5783 and establish road blocks at 577837 and 586842. At 1805 the 1st Bn 333rd Inf had established road blocks at 577837 and 586842 and had pushed to the edge of the woods at 578832 to get a better field of fire. Tanks from TF Hogan were moved to reinforce the block. Contact was maintained on the left but was not established on the right as the period closed.



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The towns of Hebronval and Ottre were 2nd Bn objectives. Co D seized Hebronval and Co E seized the high ground south of Hebronval. Co F advanced down the road to Ottre and was held up by small arms fire. The 1st Bn 33rd AR assaulted Ottre and Co D and Co E outposted the town. There was no change in the situation of the 3rd Bn.

1-9-45

During the night contact was maintained on the left. However, due to inclement weather, which had disrupted communications, information concerning contact did not reach the 2nd Bn 33rd Inf (CCB 2nd AD) until morning. At 0815 information was given to Col Hogan that he would be relieved of the responsibility of the cross-roads by the CO, 1st Bn 33rd Inf. The relief depended on the arrival of the tanks and TD's that normally support the 33rd Inf, and Hogan commenced movement to Begne where he closed at 1750. Upon reaching Pegne, Hogan was given the mission of setting up road blocks to protect the right flank of the 83rd Division. Contact was established on the right and left and all remained quiet until the close of the period.

The 1st Bn (36th AIR) was relieved from attached to CCR and was attached to CCA as part of TFX. Co D and Co E, 36th, were in assembly area in Ottre. Co F was located on the high ground south of Hebronval. The 3rd Bn 36th moved to Lierneux and was attached to CCR.

1-10-45

All remained quiet throughout the night and contact patrols continued without interruption. At 1000 the Advance CP moved from Bra 628897 near La Vaux. 1 Plat Co I, 36th AIR, was sent to Hogan for Inf security at road blocks and arrived there at 1415. TF Kane (1st Bn 32nd AR and 3rd Bn 36th) moved to vicinity of Verlaumont and closed at 1520. At 1905 information was received that the 1st Bn 330th Inf had taken Bihain and would now revert to CCR. At 2326 Col Hogan was ordered to relieve attached tanks and TD's of the 330th Inf in Bihain on the morning of 11 January 45.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR occupied and improved defensive positions at Provedroux and Co B was attached to TF Miller. Co D and Co E 36th AIR were located in Ottre





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with Co F on the high ground south of Hebronval. Heavy concentrations of artillery fell in these areas. The 2nd Bn maintained liaison with the forward elements of the 83rd Div who were attempting to establish the LD for TF Welborn for his assault on Baclain Cherain and Sterpigny.

1-11-45

All remained quiet throughout the night and Hogan's tanks relieved the 1st Bn 330th Inf Tanks at 0645 and at 0840 had repulsed a small counter-attack of tanks and Infantry that approached Bihain from the south. One enemy tank was destroyed. At 1350 one plat of TD's was detached from Kane and attached to the 83rd Rcn Bn. At 1530 the 1st Bn 330th Inf and Co H 33rd AR under Hogan's command, were ordered to attack south from Bihain with the bridge at 626823 as the objective. The 83rd Rcn Bn was to take over positions in Bihain. The attack jumped off at 1600 and at 1650 they were reported 1000 yards south of Bihain, encountering no opposition. At 1755 it was reported that tanks were held up by a road block at 626826 and that the infantry had proceeded ahead. The block consisted of a knocked out enemy vehicle. The Infantry was reported on the objective at 1000. The tanks were in the process of clearing the block previously mentioned. The force was ordered to secure itself for the night. Later it was found that the Infantry had withdrawn 200 yards to the north to provide security for the tanks. The entire force was reported secure along the edge of the woods at 626823 at 2140. Hogan reported that the Infantry had been badly depleted due to exposure and frost bite and that they could not put up a strong defense. Co A of the 83rd Rcn Bn now located in Bihain was alerted to move to the assistance of TF Hogan in the event of a counter-attack. One platoon of Co C 33rd AR went to Fraiture to hold the positions vacated by the 83rd Rcn Bn. and conducted patrols from Regne to the cross-roads at 575852.

The 1st Bn was on defense at Frovedroux. Co D and Co E 36th AIR remained in Ottre with Co F on the high ground south of Hebronval.



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1-12-45

All remained quiet throughout the night and it was unnecessary to call upon the Co of the 83rd Rcn Bn that had been alerted for use. At 0955 the 83rd Rcn Bn passed through Hogan's position and continued to attack to the south. Contact was maintained with the rear of the 83rd Rcn Bn by means of light tanks from Hogan's force. Hogan was ordered to move at 1050 with the remainder of his force, which was in Regne-Fraiture area to Bihain and Kane was ordered to the Regne-Fraiture area from Varlemont. At 1215 both forces were reported to be moving and both had closed in their respective areas prior to dark. Advance CP moved to Hebronval at 1900. At 1400 the 2nd Plat of Co G 33rd AR and 3rd Plat Co I 36th AIR set out from Bihain to contact the 2nd Armd Div at Risserotte. This force encountered resistance in the woods southwest of Bihain and on high ground at 617830. Risserotte was found to be occupied by the enemy and the force coiled for the night at 609824. About 1800 one co Inf, one sec TD's, one sec Medium tanks and one plat of light tanks, all from Hogan's force, established road blocks at 619816 and 625813. The 83rd Rcn Bn came under CCR's control at 1635. At 2305 FO No 2 CCR (confirming verbal orders) was issued for the attack of the Combat Command at 0800 13 Jan 45. The CC would attack with TF Yeomans and TF Kane abreast. Kane, on the left, would capture Mont-le-Ban initially, then proceed south to capture road junction at 638762 - then capture Vaux. Yeomans, on the right, was to capture high ground at 645763 then continue the attack to capture Sommeraina. Hogan in reserve would be prepared to move to the assistance of either TF Kane or TF Yeomans, and would protect rear of Combat Command and maintain contact with 2nd Armd Div out on the right.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR was located in Sart and Grand Sart after being relieved on position at Provedrouz by 1st Bn 289th Inf from the 75th Div.

The 83rd Div attack bogged down after a limited advance. By the morning of the 12th Jan it was evident that a bridgehead into the woods south of the 3rd Arm Div's positions would not be secured in time for an





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attack on 13 Jan 45. Time and speed of movement were all important. The objective must be taken. At 1000 12 Jan CCB with the 2nd Bn 36th AIR was ordered to begin move into new assembly positions in the Petit Langlier-Langlier area, following closely the advance elements of the 83rd Div. The farthest advance of the 83rd Div was to be the LD for the 2nd Bn 36th AIR.

1-13-45

Yeomans's forward elements were reported at 630795 at the opening of the period. Kane's movement from the Regne-Fraiture area began at 0600 and at 0937 had pushed out ahead of the position occupied by the 83rd Rcn Bn which had side slipped to the right and went into the attack for the high ground at 625761. At 1100 Kane was reported on the edge of Mont-le-Ban and was receiving very stiff opposition from enemy tanks, artillery and mortars. At 1240 Yeomans force was in the woods at 634766 and was continuing the attack on Sommerain. The high ground at 625761 was avoided by Yeomans, due to lack of cover. However, a section was put on the highground to hold it. At 1440 TF Kane was still on the edge of Mont-le-Ban and was still receiving stiff opposition. At 1700 Kane was ordered to leave a containing force at Mont-le-Ban and by-pass the town to the right and at 1750 was reported to be at 638780. The 83rd Rcn Bn attacked at 1415 to capture Sommerain, but were driven back due to high losses. At 1808 the 83rd Rcn Bn was ordered to push a force down to the road junction at 636861 and block the road. A force from TF Kane, under command of Maj Chaney, was ordered to push down the road leading to the northeast from 639761 and to tie in with the 83rd Rcn Bn there. Information was received at 1928 that CGA would take over Hogan's mission in Bihain. Hogan was ordered to move his force at 0800 14 Jan to the outskirts of Mont-le-Ban: take command of Kane's containing force and capture the town. At 2615 information was received that Kane had contacted Yeomans force 400 yards north of the road junction at 639761 and it was found that the road was not physically blocked. The 83rd Rcn Bn was ordered to block the road physically and the block was reported in place at 2358. Yeomans was ordered to take over the force of Kane that had joined him



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and attack east on the morning of 14 Jan 45, and to capture Vaux. He was to leave a force on the road block 639761.

Co A and Co C 36th AIR moved to the Regne-Bihain area and Co C, in Bihain, was attached to TF Miller and was occupying road blocks. Co A was in Hebronval.

At 0445 the 2nd Bn 36th AIR moved out with the mission of passing through the 83rd Div and occupying the high ground overlooking Baclain; thus denying the enemy observation from the tank assault to follow. Co F led and had not proceeded 500 yards when they were ambushed by a strong pocket of enemy resistance bypassed by the 83rd Div but not reported to CCB. 13 Enlisted men and 2 officers were killed immediately. Capt Charles I Fisher was commanding the attacking forces and executed a suburb flanking movement with D and E Company to annihilate the enemy pocket. By 1650 the 2nd Bn 36th AIR less F Co reached their objective. Heavy artillery and mortar fire was encountered and took its toll of the infantrymen. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR minus F Co dug in for the night while F Co secured a bridgehead over the stream north of Baclain and outposted it during the night while the engineers put in a bridge.

1-14-45

All remained quiet throughout the night. At 0825 Kane was reported to have elements on the west edge of Mont-le-Ban and that they believed the town was still strongly held. At 0827 the report was received that Hogan was moving down to join Kane. At 0905 the Advanced CP moved to Bihain. The plan for Kane's and Hogan's attack on Mont-le-Ban was as follows: Kane to attack from the northwest; Hogan from the west. Time of attack 1200. At 1040 Yeomans jumped off in his attack to capture Vaux and after advance of 800 yards was forced to withdraw to his original position due to heavy anti-tank fire. The attack on Mont-le-Ban started at 1215 and at 1315 elements were reported in town. Yeomans was ordered to remain in his positions. At 1525 the town of Mont-le-Ban was reported to be secure, and at 1540 information was received that TF Miller of CCA would take over the positions of Mont-le-Ban. TF Kane was detached from Hogan and was ordered to assemble southwest of Mont-le-ban.





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Hogan was ordered to initiate an attack on Vaux. Yeomans' mission was to hold the road block at 639761 and woods on high ground at 736758. At 1730 one company of medium tanks and one company of infantry was detached from Kane and attached to Yeomans. Yeomans was detached from CCR at this time and attached to Division, operating under their control. At 1755 Hogan's attack on Vaux was pinned down by concentrated anti-tank fire and heavy artillery. The period closed with Hogan reorganizing for another attack on Vaux.

*Battalion*

The 1st Bn 36th AIR moved to Baclain and established road blocks after the capture of the town by CCB. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR captured Baclain late in the afternoon, with Cos D and F having assaulted the town and Co E securing the town with the 1st Bn 33rd AR until being relieved by CCA. The battle group moving into Baclain consisted of the 1st Bn 36th AIR minus C Co, and Co E 32nd AR, who moved in, as mentioned above, to establish road blocks.

1-15-45

At 0100 TF Miller relieved elements of TF Kane in Mont-le-Ban and at 0135 TF Hogan was reported to have his leading elements at 648774. However, at 0215 he was stopped by enemy tank fire and was unable to leave a defiladed position. At 0500 TF Hogan reported that he had reached a point 100 yards from the main road and had lost 25 per cent of his Infantry. He withdrew to a point just south of Halonreux and recommended that if the attack was to be continued it be coordinated with another force. At 0600 the following plan was formulated: Hogan to attack from present position and capture high ground 648772, then capture Vaux. Kane to move via crossroads after Hogan had cleared Halonreux, to capture Brisv. Time of Hogan's attack was set at 0930. There was a delay and at 1000 Hogan's attack jumped off and Kane was reported in progress at 1118 in his attack. At 1205 TF Hogan's leading elements were reported southwest on the edge of the initial objective, receiving heavy anti-tank fire from the left. At 1540 the Advance CP moved to Mont-le-Ban. At 1615 Kane's leading elements were reported at 644758. Hogan was reported to be in Vaux at 1700 and Kane was ordered



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to secure himself on his present position. At 2245 Hogan was told to be prepared to attack Cherain the following day. The following plan was formulated for 16 Jan 45: Hogan was to push off to Cherain, Kane to continue attack on Brisy, after neutralization of HILL 662738 by smoke. Time of the attack was 0830.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR was on road blocks in the Bac-lain area.

At 1210 Cos D and E with the 1st Bn 33rd AR attacked Sterpigny. Dug in enemy Infantry along the axis of advance, mine fields, direct fire from tanks on both flanks stopped the advance after short gains. Heavy smoke was laid down and the attack resumed. Upon reaching the town several Mark V tanks opened up and quickly knocked out ten light tanks and the Infantry of both D and E cos were cut off. The situation was critical. Co F was on a road block east of Baclain where they remained for this period..

1-16-45

Attempts were made during the night to coordinate Hogan's attack on Cherain with the right column of CCB. However, help from that flank was not forthcoming. At 0830 TF Kane commenced his attack on Brisy and at 0800 TF Hogan reported that he had infantry across the bridge at 661772 and were moving into the town of Cherain with little opposition. The bridge mentioned above had been blown and prevented passage of Hogan's armor. However, information was received at 0900 that Hogan's Infantry was on the objective and that armor from CCB was being sent into the town from the north. Col Hogan was ordered to start some of his force in the direction of Brisy in support of Kane's force which at this time was receiving anti-tank fire from the left. At 1000 TF Kane was reported to have pushed 500 yards south and was still receiving anti-tank fire from enemy guns on his left. Information was received at 1005 that Hogan's Infantry would be relieved in Cherain upon the arrival of TF Bailey of CCB. TF Hogan was to continue his attack south to relieve the pressure on Kane. At 1117 TF Kane was reported to be stopped by an anti-tank ditch at 652754 and TF Hogan's attack south had gone 200 yards from Vaux in which





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Hogan had inflicted heavy casualties among enemy Infantry and had knocked out two tanks. The Co of infantry and the Co of tanks with Yeomans were relieved and reverted to CCR at 1215 and were attached to TF Kane. At 1330 TF Hogan had contacted elements of CCB (36th AIR F Co) in Chercain and had turned over the defense of the town to them. At 1403 TF Kane had lost one tank to enemy tank fire and had been given air support. At 1420 he had withdrawn to a defiladed position at 640754. At 1649 Col Hogan was evacuated due to illness. Major Brown assumed command of the 3rd Bn 33rd AR. Both forces suffered heavy casualties in both infantry and tanks and were ordered to discontinue the attack and prepare for a night attack. At 1726 orders were received from Division to secure the forces in position. Contact on left and right was established and both forces pushed patrols toward Brisys. Composition of troops at this time: TF Hogan: 3rd Bn 33rd AR; 1st Bn 330th Inf; Co I 36th AIR; 1 plat Co C 23rd Engrs and 1 Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn. TF Kane: 1st Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 36th AIR minus I Co; 1 plat Co C 23rd Engrs and 1 plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

A task force from 3rd Bn 32nd AR, along with Co E 2nd Bn 330th Inf attacked Sterpigny at 0500 and by 0650 Cos D and E 36th AIR which had been surrounded were contacted. Enemy pressure from the east and northeast of Sterpigny was intense. Direct fire from AT weapons poured into town throughout the day as mopping up action was carried out. By nightfall the town was partially cleared, but not secured.

1-17-45

At 0900 Cos E and F 36th AIR, with the 1st Bn 33rd AR attacked to secure the high ground overlooking Retigny. Tank fire and artillery and mortar fire was too intense and the initial attack bogged down. Later with a heavy concentration of our artillery laid down on the enemy positions, the objective was secured. This by 1345. The remaining men of Co D, 14 in all, were evacuated because of severe frost bite and exposure.

At 0520 the patrol from TF Kane's force returned and



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reported that they had observed enemy infantry digging in along the 75 grid line and had located two enemy tanks with Infantry at 644752. At 0810 information was received that CCR would be relieved by the 4th Cavalry Group. Brown (3rd Bn 33rd AR) was informed that he would take over CCA's road blocks in the Halonreux area and TF Kane was told that he would take over road blocks in the Mont-le-Ban area. At 1335 the 1st Bn 330th Inf was ordered to relieve 1st Bn 36th AIR on road blocks in Baclain area and movement from Vaux by this unit commenced at 1530. At 1711 the 1st Bn 330th Inf had closed in the Baclain area and at 1935 the relief was reported complete. Plans continued throughout the afternoon for Kane's and Brown's relief by the 4th Cavalry Group the following day. Maj Brown was instructed to send a patrol of four men down the creek toward Brisny to determine the nature of the bridge at 664764 and Kane was ordered to send a patrol into Brisny. Brown was also informed that the 3rd Bn 36th AIR would be attached to him and that he would take over Baclain, Halonreux and Mont-le-Ban areas. TF Kane was to attack Brisny with a Bn of Infantry to be attached. At 2026 1st Bn 330th Inf was released to the control of CCA.

1-18-45

Information received from G-3 at 0200 that the 3rd Bn 335th Inf would join CCR about 1100 hours. At 0625 the patrol from TF Kane's force that had the mission of going to Brisny, returned and reported that they had encountered dug in infantry on the edges of the town and were unable to enter the town. Brown's patrol returned and reported that the stream was fordable only 200 yards south of Vaux. The 4th Cavalry Squadron began relieving Kane at 0950. At 1030 Brown was instructed to send a patrol in command of an officer to the woods south of Cherain to get a report on the bridge at 664764. TF Kane's relief was reported complete at 1241 and at 1440 the relief of Brown in Vaux - by the 4th Cav - was reported complete. At 1545 Brown had taken over the road blocks in Baclain area and Kane had assembled in Mont-le-Ban. The 3rd Bn 335th Inf had joined Kane by this time. At 1600 one company of the 3rd Bn 335th Inf was ordered to move at once to Cherain and report to Col Welborne. This company was to be used to extricate a patrol that had become cut off in Rettigny. However, after the





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arrival of the company in Cherain, it was found that its employment was not necessary and it reverted to CCR control. It was decided that the company would remain in Cherain. Brown's patrol returned at 1820 and reported the bridge intact but unsuitable for tanks. Also that woods at 663761 were booby trapped. At 1905 the CO decided to move Co L 335th Inf - the co in Cherain - south from Cherain to woods at 663761 for the purpose of cleaning out woods and cover the engineers in the construction of a treadway bridge at 664764. The remainder of the 3rd Bn 335th Inf was ordered to these woods at 0600 19 Jan and TF Kane was to move there at 0800 on the same day. Upon arrival of TF Kane at this point, the 3rd Bn 335th Inf, would be attached to him. TF Kane, with 3rd Bn 335th Inf, was ordered to attack at 0900 on 19 Jan, to capture the high ground at 660746 and Brisys. At 2230 Co L 335th Inf started movement south from Cherain and at 2350 were reported at 665764.

Cos E and F 36th AIR with the 1st Bn 33rd AR continued to hold the high ground overlooking Rettigny with Bn Hqs in Cherain.

1-19-45

At 0218 Co L 335th Inf was on its objective ( the woods at 663762) and had established the bridgehead. The Engineers started work on the bridge 664764 at 0230 and completed the work at 0400. At 0600 the 3rd Bn 335th Inf began movement to 663762 and at 0752 had joined Co L same regiment. 1st Bn 32nd AR began movement to join the Inf Bn at 0800. At 0900 the attack started with Cos I and K 335th Inf leading, supported by tanks of the 1st Bn 32nd AR and heavy Weapons of Co M 335th Inf. Co L 335th Inf remained in the woods (663762). At 0935 the leading elements (Co K 335th inf) were reported at 662752 and were advancing with no resistance. The advance continued without opposition and at 1050 Co K 335th Inf was reported on the objective (660747) where they met slight resistance. Co I 335th Inf supported by some of Kane's tanks, continued toward Brisys and at 1200 was moving into the town with slight resistance. Co L 335th Inf had moved to the objective at 660747 to join Co K 335th Inf. At 1255 the objective was reported secure and concertina wire was requested.



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Contact for the night was arranged with CCB on the left, and the 4th Cav Sqd on the right. At 1938 Col Kane reported that he had sent a patrol to determine the routes of withdrawal of the enemy from Brisy. They had returned and reported the bridge at 650739 was intact but was prepared for demolition.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR moved to Sterpigny-Renglez area. Co B minus one platoon captured high ground at 684775 without opposition. The remainder of the Bn moved to an assembly area at 688782 and attacked TF X's objective, which was captured without opposition. Co F and Co E 36th AIR were relieved and moved back into Cherrain where they outposted the town.

1-20-45

All remained quiet throughout the night. Contact was maintained with CCA on the left but patrols from Kane's force failed to make contact with elements of the 4th Cav Sqd on the right. At 0830 operations memorandum No 23, 3rd Armd Div, was received. This memo directed that CCR would be relieved by the 4th Cav Grp on 20 Jan and would assemble in the Baclain-Bihain area. At 0930 a meeting was held at the Regt CP and plans completed for the relief. At 1305 the relief of Kane's force by the 4th Cav Grp was reported completed, and the CO 4th Cav Grp assumed responsibility for the zone. The 3rd Bn 335th Inf reverted to the control of the 335th Inf Regt at 1330. Plans were made for a move to a rest area in Somme Leuze, Belgium on 21 Jan 45, and at 1930 hours the route of March for the move was received from Div. At 2040 Kane's force closed in the Bihain area and at 2140 permission was granted to relieve Brown's force from the road blocks in the Baclain area at 0800 21 Jan 45.

1-21-45

Combat Command commenced movement to rest area at Somme Leuze, Belgium, at 1109. At 1715 the 1st Bn 32nd Armd Regt closed into area 333939 and at 1850 the 3rd Bn 33rd AR and the 3rd Bn 36th AIR closed in the Somme Leuze area. CP now located at 318963. Movement of Combat Command was reported complete at 2115.





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The 2nd Bn 36th AIR moved with CCB to Mean and remained there through 31 Jan 45 conducting training, rehabilitation, maintenance and rest. The 1st Bn 36th AIR was relieved by the 3rd Bn 335th Inf Regt at 1630 and moved to Oppagne where they remained through 31 Jan 45 conducting rehabilitation, training maintenance and rest.

1-22-45

The Regimental CP moved to a more suitable location at 1442 hours and arrived at the new CP location (333852) at 1450. Combat Command conducted rest, rehabilitation and maintenance.

1-23-45

At 1430 a meeting of unit commanders of the CC was held at the CP and administrative details discussed. Col Howze departed to join part at Div Hqs for trip to London at 2350. Lt Col C. P. Russell, designated by CG, 3rd Armd Div, to command CCR in the absence of Col Howze. Lt Col T. J. Moran assumed command of the 36th AIR!

1-24-45

to  
1-31-45

CCR remained in rest area in the vicinity of Somme Leuze, Belgium, and conducted training, rehabilitation and maintenance from 24 Jan through 31 Jan 1945. The training consisted of firing, orientation of new men, tank-infantry cooperation and familiarization with enemy mines and booby traps.

CCA of which the 1st Bn 36th AIR was part, and CCB of which the 2nd Bn was part, continued to perform training, rehabilitation and maintenance during this like period. Reinforcements were received to put the units back to T/O strength.

2-1-45

to  
2-3-45

Through the period extending from 1 Feb 45 to 3 Feb 45 CCR was assembled in the vicinity of Somme Leuze, Belgium and was composed of the following:

36 Armd Inf Regt less 1st and 2nd Bns  
3rd Bn 33rd Armd Regiment  
1st Bn 32nd Armd Regiment  
Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn  
Co C 703rd TD Bn  
Co C 45th Armd Med Bn

All units were out of contact with the enemy and were conducting rest, rehabilitation, maintenance and train



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Date:

ing. The training consisted of range firing of all weapons, Tank-Infantry Cooperation Problems and indoctrination of new reinforcements.

The 1st Bn was attached to CCA as part of Task Force X and was assembled in the vicinity of Oppagne, Belgium. The 2nd Bn was assembled in Mean, Belgium, as an attachment of CCB. Both battalions were out of contact with the enemy and were conducting rest, rehabilitations and training.

2-4-45  
to  
2-6-45

FO No 24 4 Feb 45 Hq 3rd Armd Div was received which directed that a move be made from the present assembly area to the vicinity of Stolberg, Germany. This order also changed the composition of CCR in that the 3rd Bn 32nd AR replaced the 1st Bn 32nd AR as part of CCB and the 54th FA Bn was attached. Billeting parties left for the new assembly area at Beinig, Germany early on the morning of the 5th of Feb 45. Rest, rehabilitation and maintenance was continued.

Orders were received at CCB of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR as part to move to the vicinity of Stolberg, Germany, and for CCA - with 1st Bn 36th AIR as part - to assemble in Mausbach, Germany.

2-7-45

At 1130 movement of the Combat Command commenced to the new assembly area at Breinig, Germany, via Terwagne, Ougree, Liege, Herve, Aachen, Brand, Busbach and then to Breinig. The movement continued without incident until the 54th FA Bn entered the Busbach-Breinig road. Here a number of vehicles became mired down due to the poor condition of the road. The remainder of the column was rerouted through Dorff and Breinig. At 2200 the last unit in CCR (Co C 45th Med Bn) reported that they had closed in their assembly area.

The 1st Bn was still attached to CCA and was assembled in Mausbach, Germany. The 2nd Bn was assembled in Stolberg, Germany, as part of CCB.

2-8-45  
to  
2-20-45

Throughout this period extending through 20 Feb 45 CCR remained in the assembly area at Breinig, Germany, and continued rest, rehabilitation, maintenance and training. Plans for an operation that would carry the





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Combat Command across the Roer River through to Paffendorf and Glesch, Germany, were being studied by the members of the Staff and the Battalion CO's.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions remained in Mausbach and Stolberg, Germany, respectively and continued to conduct training, rehabilitation and maintenance.

2-21-45      At 1500 hours a formal review and Decoration Ceremony was held in Mausbach for the purpose of presenting the Presidential Unit Citation to Company A and Company C 36th Armd Inf Regt. This award was given to these companies for Distinguished Service in action against the enemy in operations that ended in the Capture of Echtz, Giech, Obergiech and Hoven Germany. General Rose, the Division Commander, presented the decoration after which the 1st Bn 36th Armd Inf Regt was appointed temporary Regimental Color Battalion and was presented with the Regimental Colors.

2-22-45      Throughout the period extending from 22 Feb 45 thru  
to            23rd Feb 45 the units of CCR continued training. At  
2-23-45      1115 on 23 Feb 45 the Regimental Commander held a meeting of Staff members and the Battalion Commanders at the CP and it was announced that elements of the 104th and 8th Inf Divisions had crossed the Roer River and that the Third Armd Div would move across the river and seize the Divisional Objective in the Elsdorf area, along the Erft Canal on or about D plus 2. The Combat Command was placed on a 6 hour alert. The new T26E3 heavy tanks were test-fired near Gressenich by the 3rd Bn 32nd AR and the 3rd Bn 33rd AR during the afternoon.

There were no changes in the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR over the period.

2-24-45      Training continued during the day. Reports were received concerning the bridge capacities over the Roer. No change in the 1st and 2nd Bns in the period.

2-25-45      At 0935 the Regt Comdr held a meeting of Staff members and Bn Comdrs at the CP. It was announced that the division would attack at 0600 on 26 Feb 45 from the Corps Bridgehead line. CCR would use the two northern routes of the division and would follow CCB.



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A 25 minute interval was to be allowed between the heads of our columns and the tail of CCB to allow for the passage of the 991st FA Bn and the 183rd FA Bn over the Roer Bridges.

No change in the 1st and 2nd Bn attachments and dispositions. The 2nd Bn CO received final briefing on the coming operations. During the night CCA with the 1st Bn 36th AIR moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of the eastern exits of Duren. CCB with the 2nd Bn moved to the vicinity of Marioweiler, Germany, and established their CP in Eller.

2-26-45

Movement of CCR commenced at 0115 and by 0720 all units had crossed the Roer River and had coiled in the Birkesdorf area. CCR was organized as follows:

TF Hogan: 3rd Bn 33rd AR less 1 plat; 3rd Bn 36th AIR minus G co; 3rd Plat Co C 23rd Armd Engr; 3rd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

TF Richardson: 3rd Bn 32nd AR less 1 plat; 3rd Bn 13th Inf Regt; 1st Plat Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn; 2nd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

TF Thomas: Co G 36th AIR; Co C 703rd TD Bn less 3 platoons; Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn less two platoons; 2nd Plat Co C 33rd AR (Lt Tks); 3rd Plat Co I 32nd AR (Med Tks).

The 3rd Bn 13th Inf joined TF Richardson in the assembly area at Birkesdorf during the day and at 1930 orders were issued for an attack by the Combat Command to seize our portion of the division objective over the Erft Canal. TF Hogan would attack on the left and TF Richardson on the right. TF Thomas would follow TF Hogan and act as reserve. The attack was to be made through the gap that existed between TF Lovelady on the left and the 83rd Recn Bn on the right.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR crossed the IP at 252400 and an uneventful march to assembly areas. The move was very smooth and without incident. Co C moved to attack position near bridgehead line at 0500 and moved to Golzheim at 0600. This objective had been taken during the night by elements of the 104th Inf Division. At 0902 the 2nd Bn 32nd AR launched an





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attack on Blatzheim. Co E, leading the attack, encountered severe AT fire from dug in 88-mm guns and had to withdraw, losing 5 tanks. Co A 36th AIR had proceeded down the main road at 0902 and moved about 800 yards, meeting resistance of heavy mortar and artillery fire. Co A remained in position and at 1130 Co C and Co F jumped off in another attack. Fierce enemy resistance was encountered from Infantry in trenches dug World War I style. As the trenches were cleared by the two attacking companies, numerous prisoners were taken including a battalion commander and his staff. The two attacking companies then entered the town of Blatzheim, encountering heavy resistance and taking quite a few more prisoners. A and C companies were stopped at 1800 and told to consolidate. Co C was receiving direct tank fire from 3 Mark V tanks at this time, and further advance was impossible. Co B was moved to Blatzheim and positions consolidated. All weapons of Hq Co were moved to Blatzheim and placed in supporting position. At 2000 a counter attack was launched against C and B companies positions and consisted of about 150 infantry supported by tanks. This fight was brief and fierce and the enemy was compelled to withdraw after about 30 minutes. Positions were strengthened by placing Co B 32nd AR in positions behind Co B 36th AIR. Plans were made for Co B, 36th, to attack through Co C at 270400 to take Bergenhausen. The enemy continued to put on small local counter-attacks and combat patrols were active throughout the period.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR closed into their assembly area in Ellen at 0400 and jumped off in an attack on Etzweiler at 0600. Progress was slow due to the Boggy terrain but the enemy opposition was light and at 1200, D and F cos had entered Etzweiler and had started clearing the town of the remaining resistance. Co E arrived in Etzweiler at 1300 and aided D and F companies with their task. Co A 33rd AR entered the town with the aid of D co and established road blocks on the approaches of the town, which they manned between them. F co lost one killed and several wounded in the capture of the town and took about 50 prisoners. At 1600 Co E mounted the tanks of Co I 33rd AR and attacked toward Elsdorf with D Co 36th following. Both companies reached Elsdorf without opposition but re-



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ceived heavy mortar fire upon entering the town. Co D remained in Etzweiler with Co A 33rd AR and continued to secure town. By 2400 ten houses had been cleared in Elsdorf and enemy infantry and tanks had been encountered.

2-27-45

At 0630 both columns of CCR began movement to their attack positions, However, it was found that there was a serious conflict between our plans and that of the 83rd Rcn Bn. Division was notified of the conflict and instructions were received that the 83rd would continue on their mission. TF Richardson was ordered to coil at Mannheim and TF Hogan at L98572 to await further instructions. After a meeting of the Comdr's concerned at the Div CP, it was decided that TF Hogan would coil behind CCB in the Elsdorf area and prepare to pass through their positions and attack to the northeast to seize Glesch and establish a bridgehead over the Erft Canal. TF Richardson was to move at once, by-pass the 83rd Rcn Bn fighting in Grooven, seize Brockendorf, Desdorf, Paffendorf and establish a bridgehead over the Erft canal. TF Thomas as to move and coil at L96575. At 1405 both columns were reported moving and at 1530 TF Hogan coiled behind CCB at L72577. TF Richardson had moved through Berrendorf at 1630, had captured Brockendorf and was moving on Desdorf. TF Hogan was ordered to by-pass CCB in Elsdorf and to continue on its mission. The Regt CP moved from Mannheim and opened at L98572 at 1700 hours. TF Hogan was reported to have started the attack at 1720 and at 1720 TF Richardson was on the western edge of Paffendorf. TF Hogan's attack made good progress and at 2129 they had taken Glesch and pushed elements of Co H and Co I 36th AIR across the Erft Canal. The bridge at Glesch was reported to be passable for foot troops. TF Thomas was attached to TF Hogan at 2210 and began movement to Glesch at 2330. TF Richardson took Paffendorf and pushed elements of the 3rd Bn 13th Inf across the Erft Canal and six bridge trucks were sent to the crossing site to begin construction on the bridge, TF Richardson was given the mission of expanding the bridgehead during 28 Feb 45 and to gain contact with TF Hogan.

In the face of enemy counter-attacks against positions of Co C 36th AIR, Co B 36th AIR passed through them at





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0400 and attacked toward Bergerhausen. Small arms fire was severe and in as large a volume as ever experienced by any member of the battalion. Advance was slow and after penetrating about 400 yards the company was under fire from three sides. 81-mm mortar support enabled the company to continue its advance and reach the first houses in Bergerhausen. House to house fighting broke out and at 1000 Co A was committed to clear machine gun nests on the right of Co B. By 1300 the objective had been cleared and reorganization was begun. A change in plans was received and the Battalion was to continue its attack into Kerpen in conjunction with the 3rd Bn 121st Inf. Co C passed through Co B at 1700 and attacked toward Kerpen, taking the intermediate objective. At 1930 Companies A and B passed through C Co and established a bridgehead over a large canal. At 2100 a passage for tanks was started and A and B companies pushed into Kerpen. Light resistance was encountered until the Northeast portion of the town was entered. There the companies encountered about 100 infantry supported by two or three tanks. Fierce fighting ensued and continued throughout the period. Co C was displaced behind Co B to assist if needed.

E and F companies 36th AIR continued their mopping up operations in Elsdorf and at 0600 D company was moved from Etzweiler to Elsdorf to reinforce E and F companies. Progress was slow in E and F companies' zones due to the stiffened enemy resistance which consisted of small groups of enemy infantry, protected by buildings and supported by tanks. D co was employed on the east side of town and made good progress. By 1800 all resistance had been cleared from the town and all elements of the 2nd Bn had been moved into Elsdorf. The AT platoon was employed on road blocks in F co's sector. During the operations in Elsdorf, approximately 60 prisoners were taken and several killed. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR lost 3 men killed and 3 wounded.

2-28-45

During the early hours of the morning, both forces continued to expand their bridgeheads and TF Richardson reported that they were receiving strong opposition from the enemy's prepared positions on the east side of the Erft. At 0240 both forces reported



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that they had two companies of infantry across the Canal and by 0515 the 3rd Bn 36th AIR had advanced 300 yards from the bridge site at Glesch. Construction on both bridges had been started at this time. Work on the bridges progressed slowly due to heavy small arms and artillery fire that was falling on the bridge sites. TF Hogan was ordered to seize the high ground east of the Glesch bridge-site in order to remove the small arms fire falling on the bridge - and also to erase the enemy's observation. At 0912 TF Hogan moved the Infantry company that remained west of the Erft into the bridgehead east of the canal to strengthen further that position. TF Richardson reported a counter-attack on the right flank of the Paffendorf bridgehead at 0940. This attack was preceded by four feints directed to determine the strength; then the main attack consisting of an estimated battalion of Infantry, supported by two over-watching tanks, attacked the right flank of the position. This constituted a serious threat on the bridgehead, since the Inf company that held the right flank reported that they could not hold the attack without further support. However, at this time the last sections of the tread-way were in the process of being laid on the Paffendorf bridge and a Platoon of Tanks from H Co 32nd AR was alerted to move into the bridgehead to meet the attack immediately upon the completion of the bridge. As the last section of the bridge was laid, the tank platoon rushed across and took the attacking infantry under fire. The enemy infantry was dispersed and the counter-attack contained. At 1120 TF Hogan moved a company of tanks (Co G 33rd AR) over the Paffendorf bridge into the Glesch bridgehead to further reinforce that area. TF Hogan's attack continued throughout the day and at 1750 had occupied the trench system extending from 205649 to 203652 then west to 198656. The Glesch bridge had not been completed due to the loss of two bridge trucks by enemy fire. Two replacement trucks were immediately dispatched to the bridge site and by the close of the period, the bridge was reported to be in the process of completion.

At 0300 Kerpen was cleared by the 1st Bn 36th AIR and defensive positions were occupied. Tanks of E and F cos of 32nd AR were moved into positions to support against any counter-attack. These positions were held





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while elements of the 8th Inf Div passed through to make a bridgehead across the Erft Canal- At 1030 the Bn was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn 121st Inf and moved back to assembly areas in the vicinity of Bergerhausen. At 1200 the Bn had closed at Bergerhausen and plans were being made to move to Thorr.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained in Elsdorf on the defense. All companies had organized a perimeter defense. One round of enemy artillery, calibre unknown, was reported as having fallen in Elsdorf. The mission of CCB (2nd Bn 36th AIR) had been accomplished. Losses were light, and the 2nd Bn 36th AIR had played a decisive part in the breaking through of the enemy's defenses east of the Roer river and opening the approaches to the "Cologne Plain".

3-1-45

Composition of troops on this date were as follows in CCR:

TF Hogan: 3rd Bn 33rd Armd Regt minus 1 plat.  
3rd Bn 36th Armd Inf Regt less Co G.  
3rd Plat, Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn  
3rd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

TF Richardson:

3rd Bn 32nd Armd Regt less one plat  
3rd Bn 13th Inf Regt  
1st Plat Co C 23rd Armd Engr Bn  
2nd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn

TF Thomas: Co G 36th Armd Inf Regt

Co C 703rd TD Bn less 3 plats  
Co C 23rd Armd Eng Bn less 2 plats  
2nd Plat Co C 33rd Armd Regt (Lt Tks)  
3rd Plat Co I 32nd Armd Rget (Med Tanks)

The beginning of the period found TF Hogan, with TF Thomas attached, engaged with the enemy east of the Erft Canal beyond Blesch. The first crossing of the Erft had been made on the night of the 27th of Feb 45 and 28 Feb had been spent in enlarging the bridgehead and the subsequent building of a bridge. TF Hogan's bridge at 200648 was completed at 0055 1 Mar 45. Intermittent mortar, artillery and small arms fire fell on this bridge site and on the front line throughout



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the day. At 1200 the east abutment of the Glesch bridge collapsed and repair work was started at 1340. It was estimated that the bridge would be ready for use by 2400. TF Richardson had secured a shallow bridgehead over the Erit Canal in the vicinity of Paffendorf on the night of 27 Feb 45. Expansion of the bridgehead took place on 28 Feb 45 and was continued on 1 Mar 45. The bridge was completed on the last day of February in time to meeting a serious enemy counter-attack on that date and was in use on March 1st. 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 at 0850.

The 395th RCT, 99th Division, attacked through TF Richardson's position at 0300 with the mission of expanding the bridgehead to the south. The 4th Cav Sqd passed through TF Hogan's position with the mission of protecting the left flank of the bridgehead and of seizing the high ground north of Glesch.

The 83rd Armd Rcn Bn was attached to CCR at 1800 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 position and of securing a line of departure for the attack of TF Richardson. The time of attack was set for the 83rd Rcn Bn was 0200 2 Mar 45.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA and secured the towns of Widdendorf and Thorr.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, as a component of CCB, moved from Elsdorf and assembled in Glesch. Movement was without particular incident and the Bn closed in assembly area at 1145.

3-2-45

Time of attack of the 83rd 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 83rd Rcn Bn advanced steadily in two columns and by 0500 the





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right column had reached a line running from 244645 to 247644 and at 0536 hours the left column had reached a line extending from 239652 to 242650.

At 0700 TF Richardson passed through the 83rd Rcn Bn and the 83rd reverted to Division control. TF Richardson 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 Niederaussem by 1100. The enemy continued to resist in the town but by 1600 the main part of the town was cleared and at 1740 Richardson reported that he was in position to button up for the night. Only the extreme northeastern edge of the town remained in enemy hands. TF Hogan attacked on the left of TF 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 Hogan was stopped by the resistance and it was 1400 before the town was entered. The town was cleared of the enemy, a minefield was removed and at 1600 orders were issued to TF Hogan to continue the attack from Wiedenfeld to Auenheim. Enemy fire was heavy from the left flank and for that reason TF Hogan's attack was diverted to the southeast. The order directed that the Combat Command's reserve would secure Wiedenfeld, but was later changed as C&I, 3rd Armd Div, ordered CCB to send a force there for that purpose. By 2000 Auenheim was secured and TF Hogan buttoned up there for the night. At the close of the period, elements TF Hogan left at Wiedenfeld were being relieved by TF Welborn of CCB.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Doan of CCA, crossed the Erft Canal at Bergheim and attacked Oberhaussem. The attack continued throughout the day against moderate resistance and by the close of the period the town was secured.



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The 2nd Bn 36th Armd Inf Regt, part of TF Welborn of CCB, followed TF Hogan and relieved elements of TF Hogan in Wiedenfeld.

3-3-45

At 0700 TF Hogan attacked from Auenheim in the direction of Rheidt. The 3rd Bn 36th AIR reached Monchof at 0720 and by 0900 had closed 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 TF 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 Division on the left had been contacted. The action of this battalion was coordinated with the action of TF Hogan through the CG, as Rheidt was also that battalion's objective. By 1545 Rheidt had been taken and TF Hogan was prepared to continue on mission. Tank fire was again directed against TF Hogan as it left Rheidt. The fire came from the left flank and it was necessary to use an alternate route to get by it, even though fighter bombers were used as support. By 2035 TF Hogan had reached Stommeln and at the close of the period was engaged in clearing the Northwest 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 298683, but Ingendorf was captured and the advance on Stommeln was taken up at 1000. Heavy AT fire forced the tanks to withdraw to the edge of Ingendorf. The platoon of medium tanks from CCR 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 CCB. 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 which had to be neutralized.

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 Richardson was able to get beyond the railroad.





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From that time on the resistance was not strong, and by the close of the period, the southwestern part of the town was secured.

TF Welborn of CCB (2nd Bn 36th AIR) followed TF Lovelady and at 1600 was ordered to attack Sinnersdorf at once. The Task Force launched its attack against moderate opposition of AT Fire and small arms fire, but was moving into the town by 1900. By 2015 the town was secured.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR (TF Doan of CCA) captured Flies-teden after which they launched an attack on Geyen, coordinated with an attack by TF Kane on Pulheim. After the capture of Geyen, the battalion then attacked Sinthern, which was taken by 1915 and secured by 2005.

In referring to the action of CCR 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.

3-4-45

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 (minus 1 plat) 32nd AR from TF Richardson, was attached to 83rd Rcn Bn at 0645. The remaining platoon was attached to 4th Cav Sqd of the 4th Cavalry Group.

1st Bn 36th AIR was relieved in Geyen and Sinthern and moved to Pulheim.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR continued to secure Sinnersdorf.

The following message was received from the Commanding General, 3rd 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. Acknowledged-ROSE."



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3-5-45

CCR continued to secure the Stommeln area. At 2100 TF Hogan was attached to CCB and began movement to an assembly area at 4264 at 2200.

1st Bn 36th AIR (TF Doan CCA) attacked Cologne and at 0710 the leading elements had entered the 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 action carried on.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR (TF Welborn CCB) attacked at 0400 and secured the towns of Volkhoven, Esch, Lindweiler, Longerich, Pesch, Willmuth, Heimersdorf and Bergheimhoft, all suburbs of Cologne.

3-6-45

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 32nd AR returned from the 83rd Rcn Bn and 104th Cavalry.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR (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 2nd Bn (TF Welborn CCB) attacked at 0400 and by 0710 had 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.

3-7-45

TF Richardson of CCR remained in Stommeln in an assembly area. TF Lovelady (2nd Bn 33rd AR, 2nd Bn 13th Inf, Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn, Plat Co B 23rd Engr) was detached from CCB at 1200 and was attached to CCR. The Task Force moved to assembly area at Pulheim and Sinnersdorf during the afternoon.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR continued to secure positions along the Rhine River in Cologne.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained in assembly position as part of TF Welborn, the reserve of CCB.





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The 3rd Bn 36th AIR, a component of TF Hogan attached to CCB, continued to clear the assigned zone of the enemy and by 1800 the battalion had reached the Rhine in Cologne.

3-8-45

At 1350 CCR 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. CCR 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 CCR closed in the area at 2330. The composition for the Combat Command was now as follows:

Task Force Richardson: 3rd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 13th Inf Regt; 1st Plat Co C 23rd Engr Bn; 2d Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

TF Lovelady: 2nd Bn 33rd AR; 3rd Bn 36th AIR; Plat Co B 703rd TD Bn; Plat Co B 23rd Armd Eng Bn.

CC Control: Co C 703rd TD Bn minus 3 plats; Co C 23rd Armd Eng Bn minus 2 plats; Det Co B Maint Bn.

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR had been relieved from TF Hogan in time to join TF Lovelady at Pulheim. The 2nd Bn 13th Inf was relieved from attachment prior to departure and reverted to regimental control, 13th Inf Regiment,

The Stommeln area previously occupied by CCR was taken over by COB.

On arriving at Liblar, CCR 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 AIR, attached to CCA, and the 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to CCB, remained in position in Cologne, securing the west bank of the Rhine river.

3-9-45

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, CCR was taken off the alert and a period of rehabilitation, training and maintenance began.



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There was no change in the attachment and disposition of the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 36th AIR. They remained in the Cologne area, attached to CCA and CCB respectively.

3-10-45    CCR remained in the Liblar area. Rehabilitation, maintenance and training were conducted throughout to  
3-18-45    the period 10 Mar 45 to 18 Mar 45. The Combat Command was relieved from attachment to 1st Inf Div at 1000 17 Mar 45, and reverted to control of 3rd Armd Div.

On 18 Mar 45 CCA and CCB were relieved in Cologne by elements of the 104th Inf Div. The 1st Bn and 2nd Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA and CCB respectively and moved to the vicinity of Bruhl and Bachem, Germany, for rest, rehabilitation and maintenance.

3-19-45    Rest, rehabilitation, maintenance and training were continued by CCR. At 0830 3rd Bn 33rd AR rejoined the Combat Command, replacing 2nd Bn 33rd AR which was relieved and reverted to CCB control. The 3rd 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 2nd Bns 36th AIR.

3-20-45    At 0730 CCR was again attached to the 1st Inf Div. The composition of the Combat Command was as follows:

TF Richardson: 3rd Bn 32nd AR; 3rd Bn 36th AIR minus I Co; 1st Plat Co C 23rd Armd Eng Bn; 2nd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

TF Brown: 3rd Bn 33rd AR; Co I 36th AIR; 3rd Plat Co C 23rd Armd Eng Bn; 3rd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn.

CC Control: 54th AFA Bn; Co C 23rd Armd Eng Bn minus 2 plats; Co C 703rd TD Bn minus 2 plats. Det Co B Main Bn.

Platoon which had previously been with 83rd Rcn Bn reverted to Company control at 0845.

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 Ronnef, Germany. Movement started at 1245 and at 1500 the first tank arrived on the east bank of the Rhine River. Orders were issued enroute for TF Richardson to continue the march and assemble near Ittenbach,





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Germany. All units closed in their assembly areas by 2045. Co I 36th AIR 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 0600 21 Mar 45.

3-21-45

The attack of the 16th Inf on the left of TF Richardson began at 0300 and by 0400 had reached 665360.

The mission of the Combat Command was to destroy the enemy in its zone as far north as the Sieg River, the final objective being Buisdorf and Honnef. 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. 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.

TF Richardson attacked in two columns at 0600 and progress was good. By 0700 the right column had secured Bockeroth and by 0810 the left column was in the southern part of Rauschendorf. The right column was help up by direct fire from the vicinity of Rott and the bridge 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 support was used, but it was only after a more covered route of advance was located that the advance could proceed. It was 1330 before Dambroich was entered.

The left column attacked and secured Birlinghoven and continued the advance to Nieder Pleis 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 Richardson was ordered to cross and take Buisdorf. By 2335 the infantry force from TF Richardson 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 0630 22 Mar 45 and take Honnef. Major



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Brown was instructed to move his force northeast from Dambreïch 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 CCA 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 Armd 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 CCB 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 Hamborn. 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 Wewer 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 Wewer 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 Ottbergen and the infantry moved forward to establish a by-pass. 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 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 Hemeln, to an assembly area vicinity of Varlosen. The following morning at first light CCR was to attack and take and secure Uslar. For the operation, in addition to present components of CCR, the following units were attached: The 83rd Rcn 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, <sup>Bales</sup>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 Guntarn 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 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 Apr 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 Rcn Bn will make reconnaissance to line CR at 408271 - Hill 394 (402308)-(373302); assemble vicinity Imbsen by daylight 9 Apr 45 in CC Reserve. Upon capture of Hardegsen, 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 Wahmbeck. 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 Eseheck 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 panzerfasusts 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 Parensen, 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 Northeim. Enough force would be left in Hardeggen to secure it. At 1430 the 83rd Rcn Bn was up to the Leine River west of Northeim. 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 Vernawahlshousen.

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 Pochlde. 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 Hilkerode 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 CC was to continue the attack at 0600, seize and secure the network of roads in the vicinity of Tettenborn and Neuhoef (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 83rd 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 Duderstadt, 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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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 CC 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 520256 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 83rd 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 Volkssturm 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 plans 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 2030 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 Worzig 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 Kothern 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 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 Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Orr, was sent to occupy Prossdick, which was secured by 1200. When TF Boles moved to Quellendorf, TF Orr occupied and secured Prossdick. 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 Rcn 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. Constructed 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 Porst-Sibbendorf-Osternienburg-Trebbicheau-Aken (Leave a force at the river )-Kl. Zerst-Elsnigk-Wurflau-Zehringer-Porst. At 0700 TF 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-Drosa-Kl. Paschleben-Trinun-Gr. Paschleben, and the other, the original route as planned. By 1348 one column was in Sibbelsdorf, 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. Pachtben 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 Engrs 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 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 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.





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The mission of TF Welborn, of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR was 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.

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 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 a detail to contact divisions*

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 Wippra, 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.



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SUPPLEMENT





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NOTE: - This report was copied by CCB from the report prepared by 2nd Lt Fred L. Hanson, 2nd Information and Historical Service, 1st U. S. Army; and is added hereto as a supplement to the 36th Armd Inf Diary for the period 12 Sept 1944 to 25 Sept 1944:

9-11-44

The evening of 11 September found Task Force 2 (King) of CCB, at an assembly area a mile north-east of Kettenis (815300), which it had reached after a period of hard fighting. Enemy vehicles were known to be on the left flank, in the vicinity of Walhorn (807321), but as they were trying to escape to the northeast, they did not give the Task Force opposition.

9-12-44

As the morning passed, it was learned that the reconnaissance in force sent out by TF 1 (Lovely) had bogged down in the Eupen Forest about two miles east of the area in which TF 2 was coiled. The Commander of the Combat Command, Col T. E. Boudinot, ordered Lt Col R. H. King to send out a similar reconnaissance in force south through Kettenis (80728) skirting the Eupen at Oberstheide (800276), and then moving east through the heavily wooded area via Schoenefeld (823270) and the Raerener Woods to the German border and the town of Roetgen. This force, under the command of Capt K.T. McGeorge, was composed of 1 platoon of light tanks of A Company, 33rd AR, one company of medium tanks, 33rd AR. F Company of the 36th AIR, and one platoon of B Co, 23rd Armd Engrs.

At 1500 the reconnaissance in force moved out of the assembly area with the mission of reconnoitering the route into Germany. The thickly wooded terrain east of Eupen made impossible any flank protection. The unit therefore led off with its light tanks, followed next with medium tanks and then the infantry in half-tracks. As the column passed Schoenefeld and continued into the forest, McGeorge noticed a number of tank tracks left by the enemy, but did not encounter any resistance.

At approximately 1630, at the crossroad in the center of the forest (862278), the unit encountered teller mines across the road. From a point about 100 yards



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farther east, machine guns covered the obstacle. For an unexplained reason, the light tank platoon went safely through the well camouflaged mines, and only when a medium tank was disabled by an exploding mine were they discovered at all. The light tanks continued ahead to mop up the machine guns and enemy infantry, which they did without difficulty. The engineers came forward and cleared the eight mines from the cross road. The column thereupon reformed and continued on its mission eastward to the German border.

At 1700, the column hit the main road from Raeren to Roetgen (893295), turned southeast, and contacted elements of TF 1 (Lovely). The reconnaissance in force passed through the friendly units, crossed the German frontier, and at Petengsfeld (903289) turned north on the highway to Schmidhof (895333) at a point just west of the railroad station serving Roetgen. The column moved without opposition along the road, taking incidently, ten prisoners about 600 yards north of Petengensfeld.

As the reconnaissance unit turned the bend in the highway at Muensterbildschen (907303), it found itself at the top of a long slope and at the beginning of approximately two miles of perfectly straight road. Perceiving the enemy would have an excellent field of fire if he chose to defend at the high ground at the other end of the straight road, McGeorge halted his force. The ground on either side of the road proved too boggy to deploy armor. Infantry was therefore sent down in columns along the edge of the road to the bottom of the slope, while light tanks were sent ahead to draw fire if the enemy intended to defend at this point. No enemy action was observed, and the rest of the column moved down to the bottom of the slope, while foot troops went on to make reconnaissance on top of the next hill.

The point of the column encountered first a rope chain of mines, which enemy infantry had dragged across the road before retiring.





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The infantry of the reconnaissance unit, F Co, 36th AIR, dismounted, and its half tracks drew off the road. The artillery was called for a preparation on the crew of the Hill at Koenigsberg (902326). The medium tanks, which were sitting along the road, could fire from a column formation, since the slope was sufficient to fire over the turret of the tank ahead. The infantry moved in a squad column along the edges of the road, and by 1800 had reached the crest of the hill without difficulty. Since its mission was to secure the ground beyond the Dragon's Teeth, in order that the engineers could work unhindered on the obstacles. F company therefore continued towards the concrete teeth, some two hundred fifty yards beyond the crest of the hill. However, small arms fire from the right (presumably from a pillbox in the woods) hit the Infantry and stopped it. Since it was now getting dark, F company was ordered to hold on the hill top for the night. Meanwhile, the rest of the reconnaissance in force coiled for the night near the railroad crossing north of Muensterbildschen (907308).

9-13-44

When TF 2 (King) resumed its attack at 0800, it found that the enemy had withdrawn from his position on the Koenigsberg hills itself. The engineers therefore removed the mines without difficulty and destroyed the first set of obstacles -- the cables and iron gate. Thereupon the Infantry and tanks occupied Koenigsberg entirely, from which position the unit could see clearly the Dragons Teeth and the obstacles on both sides. The enemy made his presence behind the crust of the Siegfried Line felt by sniper and mortar fire. The reconnaissance unit held the ground about Koenigsberg, while the main body of the TF, which had remained near Kettanis until 1100, began its movement forward.

The main column of TF 2 followed the route marked out for it by the reconnaissance in force, and it proceeded without contacting the enemy through the Eupen Forest to Roetgen and thence north along the highway to Koenigsberg. Between 1400 and 1500 the TF coiled near the railroad north of Muensterbildchen (007308), while King, Mills and McGeorge went forward





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to Koenigsberg to study the situation. It was apparent that F company of the infantry, which was already understrength, could not be expected to secure the commanding ground at Schmidthof on the left and hold the wooded area on the right while the engineers built a crossing of the Dragons Teeth. Therefore, King asked the combat commander for reinforcements. H and I companies of the 36th AIR were taken from Div Reserve and sent forward to TF 2. They arrived at 1800.

In the meantime, it was decided to attempt an attack with the infantry on hand. I co, 33rd AR, medium tanks, was brought up as support, while F company, 36th AIR, prepared to attack at 1730. The artillery laid down a ten minute barrage on the enemy positions just previous to the jump off time. F co, which numbered by now no more than 60 men, turned left of the highway, and moved in platoon column through the woods at Koenigsberg and down a draw which parallels the highway and runs towards Schmidthof. The enemy position behind the irregular line of Dragons Teeth was studded with pillboxes, and foot soldiers were observed digging in around the houses of Schmidthof.

The tanks of I company turned west off the highway at the combination restaurant farm house, which is the sole building of Koenigsberg. They skirted the woods and edged around on the side of the slope, some hundred yards from the highway, in order to support the Infantry by fire as it went down the draw towards Schmidthof. The tanks came under AT fire as they moved from the edge of the woods. Two were knocked out. The Infantry, meanwhile, came under small arms fire of the enemy - both from pillboxes on the right flank and from dug in positions in the front. At approximately 1945, as dusk began to settle, the Infantry was halted by the enemy fire.

Since it was clear that the Infantry could not seize the objective of Schmidthof before dark, King ordered them to hold their position. The tanks withdrew to behind the crest of the hill. The main body of the TF held its position (9C7308) for the night.



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Shortly after midnight, the enemy opened upon the Infantry with mortar and automatic fire of such intensity that the men were pushed back from their position along the slope of the hill (near Muerhenbrueck 398331) and withdrew to the Koenigsberg hill. At this position, near the Dragons Teeth, they held for the night.

Parenthetically, the antitank fire which knocked out the two tanks of I Co 33rd AR was spotted by the artillery FO, which brought down on the enemy position sufficient concentration of fire to insure disabling the guns.

9-14-44

The plan of attack developed by King for 0730 in the morning utilized both H and I companies of the 36th AIR. H was instructed to swing left, move through the woods, take advantage of the draw, and attack north towards Schmidthof. I was ordered to right of highway, push through the woods, and flank Schmidthof from the east. The actual attack began at 0900, with particularly heavy artillery preparation preceding it. Before the attack was launched, however, King was evacuated, since an old wound had become infected. Mills assumed command of the task force.

The Infantry seized the hill of Schmidthof with very little opposition. The village itself was likewise secured without difficulty. For the most part the pillboxes which had held up the infantry the night before were now empty. From those which were manned, there was captured a mixture of young boys and old men. By 1000 the infantry had secured the ground essential for the engineers to work on the Dragon Teeth. The platoon came forward to fill the crater in front of the teeth, to remove the "I" beams placed in the road at the gap, and to blow the gate locked across the road. Since the crater was full of water it was difficult to fill, the engineers built a by-pass at the edge of the road to the left, which passed between the teeth along the sidewalk. Some of the tanks and half tracks were taken through the by-pass, while the engineers continued to work on the crater in order to open the highway for the main body of the task force.





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Patrols were sent forward from the TF along the road to the bend just south of Friesenrath (904540) in order to reconnoiter the next stream crossing. At 1300 they reported the bridge out. They were then ordered to seize the ground beyond the stream to secure a bridgehead for the work of the engineers. By 1400 the 2nd plat, D Co 23rd Armd Engrs arrived to work on the bridge site. Meanwhile, the tank and Inf began to form a column along the straight section of highway between Koenigsberg and Muensterbildchen in preparation for the advance to the north.

At approximately 1500, while the second bridge was still under construction, Mills sent Inf patrols a 1000 yards north along the road to reconnoiter the area. They reported it free of enemy. At the same time, a ford across the stream was found and, initially, the 1st Plat F Co 33rd AR (med tks), was sent across on the road beyond the bridge. As the main body of the column slowly uncoiled and prepared to move forward, the remaining tanks of F Co forded the stream. By 1630 the bridge was completed and the bulk of the TF began to cross it. By 1715 the Comdrs of the Corps, Div and Combat Command arrived to find most of the TF well on its way again.

The leading elements, continuing north on the highway toward Kornelimuenster, spotted a very large gun along the road at Itternberg (907368), which suggested a 105 rifle. At the same time, enemy Inf were seen ducking into nearby hedges. As it was about 1800, and there seemed to be considerable enemy ahead, Mills ordered the tanks to pull off the road into positions of all round protection. From this place (906361) could be sighted a blown railroad viaduct whose debris completely blocked the road. Thereupon Mills pulled ahead in his tank to the brow of the hill at Itternberg (907369). As he turned into a farm lane on the right of the road two German Air Corps Officers, immaculately dressed, came out of the house and surrendered. At the same time the tanks of F Co, which were maneuvering into position along the road, suddenly discovered that they were in the middle of a whole group of dual purpose AT and AA 88 guns, which had been well concealed by the hedges which crisscross the countryside at this point. Simultaneously, the leading elements of the column sighted enemy infantry in and around the hedges and began to fire upon them. On seeing the guns so numerous and





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and Infantry, Mills ordered I company, 36th AIR, to deploy both sides of the road and clear out the fields. At least eight of the dual purpose guns, in addition to the towed 105 rifle were located in the hedges and fields on this hill. The weapons were brand new, and about the positions were stacked large quantities of ammunition. The guns were so placed as to cover completely the road on which the column had just moved. If the enemy had so desired he could have wiped out the entire company of tanks and inflicted heavy casualties on the infantry in its half-tracks. In short time about 75 prisoners were rounded up, and during the next few hours some 25 more were located.

Although the reason for the surrender of the enemy without firing his excellently placed and completely equipped weapons cannot be determined, Mills was of the opinion that the heavy artillery concentration which had been laid on the hill before the column arrived must have scared and scattered the enemy. The fire had been accurate: there were many casualties. It apparently took all the fight out of the enemy,

The remainder of the TF was brought up and directed to coil in the fields on both sides of the highway. Meanwhile, a squad of Infantry was sent across the debris from the viaduct to reconnoiter the bridge ahead. A tank-dozer moved up to begin the job of clearing the blocked road. At 1900 the engineer platoon leader reported that at least three hours would be required to build a bridge on the southern outskirts of Kornelimuenster. Since it would therefore be too late to move farther that night, Mills made prepararions to halt the column there until the next day. Major Dunn, commander of H and I of the infantry companies, was ordered to secure the high ground beyond the bridge and at the north of Kornelimuenster, in order that construction work could begin without danger of enemy fire. H company went forward to perform this mission and reported by 2100 that the area was cleared.

Meanwhile, in order to speed the start the next day, an attempt was made to ford the stream just west of the bridge site. Six tanks were able to get across, which were used to man road blocks in the town of Kornelimuenster. Patrols of infantry worked ahead



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northeast of Breinigerheide, and reported that the area was all clear. By 0600 the following morning the bridge construction was completed and the task force could proceed.

9-15-44

At 0800 the TF moved off. F company tanks led the column, with I company, Inf, following in half-tracks. Generally, when the column was on the move, a company of medium tanks led the way, followed by a company of Infantry mounted in half tracks. When the situation became obscure, because of the terrain or information concerning the enemy, the infantry dismounted and moved forward to feel out the position. This method proved typical after hitting Germany, while in France and Belgium the reconnaissance platoon led the column, and a section of medium tanks followed behind it. When enemy opposition became stiffer, the reconnaissance platoon leaders were killed and the platoon shot up, hence the change made. The light vehicles, half tracks and quarter tons, were too vulnerable to small arms fire. Position of the rest of the column: Reconnaissance plat, Bn Hqs, then 1 medium tank co (I), advance battery of artillery, Infantry (H) co, TDs, Engineers, one Bn Hq (33rd), with assault and mortar platoons, medical detachment, maintenance section, F company Infantry, remainder of FA Bn, light tanks (A) co.

Anyhow, the column moved out of its bivouac on the hill southeast of Kornelimuenster at 0800. It passed through the city, turned north, and went along what proved to be little more than a good "Texas cowtrail" to the right of Busbach (937404). Enemy were spotted between Dorf (917390) and Busbach (927405). They were fired upon but did not return the fire. The column fired on pillboxes and enemy vehicles on the left flank all the way as it proceeded to the east and north of Busbach. At 1000 it reached the high ground south of Bauschenberg (938404) and started over the high ground commanding the valley to the north east and the Vicht river. At this point heavy artillery came down from the northeast. The column therefore pulled back behind the crest of the high ground, while the rest of the TF coiled along the route behind it for a distance of three-quarters of a mile. The usual





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length of the column on the road was one mile; however, it frequently stretched 2 1/2 miles. It was necessary to abandon a section of peeps at this point, as enemy small arms fire from the northwest (934408) drove the men into the ditch and would not permit them to remount and return with their vehicles. The enemy artillery continued to fall on the column but it was apparently unobserved, since it hit the crest in front of the TF and continued to pound that area without searching in any other position.

In order to advance farther to the northeast, the TF would have to descend a steep slope to the valley, cross the Vicht river, and then penetrate the heavily wooded slopes to secure the valley, the bridge, and the commanding ground beyond. H and I companies were given their instructions, and at 1100 I company led off in a column of platoons followed by H company. I crossed over the hill at 938407 and entered the valley near Minafeldhammer (933409). Small arms fire was received. Several enemy infantry were seen in the woods across the stream (936407). By 1200, the leading elements were almost to the bridge. Friendly artillery laid on three heavy concentrations, based on observation from Brockenberg (938400). Divisional artillery got those on the nose of hill to the left (944413) while Corps artillery was called in to lay on the nose of the hill to the right (936409).

The Infantry commanding officer was advised that if the bridge proved to be out, the advance route would be changed and that the task force would swing to rear of TF 1 (Lovelady) and cross over his bridge. The Infantry patrolled up to the bridge (944409) and reported at 1230 that it had been blown and that it would take considerable work to repair it. Thereupon, the plans of the TF were changed, Col Boudinot of CCB told Mills to move his men to the rear of TF Lovelady. Reconnaissance was therefore sent out to find a suitable route of approach to the southeast.

TF Mills swung south to hit TF Lovelady at Breinig (934383). It began to move at 1230, and was held up some time near Breinigerberg (046387), where it had contacted TF Lovelady. At 1330 Mills deployed his men off the road in the fields at (934383) and coiled





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the leading elements (2 cos: F co tanks, and H co Infantry, with TDs and Engrs). The rest remained coiled along the road south of Hassenberg (933394). It remained there during the afternoon, there being no room for additional troops across the stream beyond the bridge. Late in the afternoon the TF pulled near Breinigerberg and went to bivouac in that area for the night.

At 1900 Inf of the TF were ordered by Col Boudinot to go up to Col Lovelady at Burgholz (958410) to help secure his position.

In order to determine when to move up and what the situation was across the stream, Mills kept close liaison with Capt George Stalling, executive officer of TF 1 (Lovelady). Mills took one medium tank company and checked personally to see if his force could be assembled north of the Vicht river. He then called Col Boudinot and told him of the crowded situation there and was given permission to move into the bivouac near Breinigerberg.

Mills, on his radio, heard Col Boudinot and Lt Col Lovelady discuss the need for Infantry. Lovelady said he did not need the infantry but finally agreed to take them. When Mills ordered the Infantry forward at 1900, he kept F company, Inf, with him, since it was badly shot up. Major Dunn, comdg Officer, 3rd Bn, 36th AIR, thereupon went up personally to contact Col Lovelady and alerted H and I companies.

9-16-44

Throughout the entire day, TF Mills remained in place, except for minor shifting of forces. One platoon of tanks (I. co) was sent to CCB to protect the CP. During the night, Mills kept his CP in the pumping station to the right of the road between Breingerberg (948391) and Nachtigallchen, from which he had withdrawn it the previous night. He pulled his reconnaissance platoon up to the CR for local security.

In the morning Mills went up to Col Lovelady's CP, in the Pillbox south of Burgholz (958410). There Col Gans was trying to line up his force. He should have had two battalions less one company, but he could only find four companies. Mills told him of the depleted F company which he had held in his area and which he had not sent up the night before because Lovelady had not seemed to need them. Mills then ordered F company commander to alert his men, and ordered him to see Col Gans as to where to put his men. Col Gans should have had F, H and I companies of the 36th AIR (formerly with



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Mills) and D and E companies of the 36th AIR (formerly with Lovelady). At 0100 of the 16th, Col Gans had been called back to headquarters to receive orders.

During the evening of the 16th, Mills received the following order: Move forward, pass through part of Col Lovelady's TF, cut left at RJ 273 (962412), attack west to Stolberg (9342), and then go north through the town, turn northeast at 935434, thence to Birken-gang (944438) (incidentally crossing the Donnerburg fortress), then northeast to 954433, then southeast to 957429, then northeast to 959432, resuming the original axis of advance. Mills was to pick up F company 36th AIR from Lovelady at CR 273.

9-17-44

In the morning, TF 2 (Mills) uncoiled from its bivouac area near Breinigberg and pushed its way north along the route (via Nachtigallchen 957400, the bridge 955466 and CR 273) followed by TF Lovelady. F co of tanks, in the lead, crossed the initial point of the engineer's bridge at approximately 0800, and at CR 273 the column turned left to penetrate the woods southwest of Diepenlichen. While passing through TF Lovelady's defensive position at the edge of the woods, Mills picked up the remnants of F co, Inf. Just short of the western edge of the woods (954416), the leading elements of the force halted in order to make a reconnaissance and estimate the situation of the open terrain to the front.

Across the gentle valley, at a distance of approximately 800 yards, enemy infantry were digging in on the ridge paralleling the edge of the woods (948418 to 958428). Artillery was called for, which came down on the ridge. The 40 men left in F company were dismounted from their half tracks and given the order to attack across the little valley to the ridge and to secure the crest at 952421 as an OP. In addition to the artillery concentration on the ridge in front of the position, artillery also fired on the woods at the southern end (945416), where considerable enemy activity had been observed. Likewise, the orchard at 953419 was subject to fire. When the infantry jumped off about 1000, therefore, they had been preceded by artillery fire which was deemed sufficient to break any enemy resistance. The infantry had crossed the bottom of the small valley in a skirmish.





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line and began to work its way up the far slope. At this point it began to receive small arms fire from the woods to its left and from the direction of a burning house at Neiderhof (958424). The company commander reported that he could not take the objective without undue losses, and he was therefore ordered to withdraw half way back to the woods from which the attack had been launched. Another artillery concentration was then called for.

In the meantime, the tanks of the task force had been immobilized by the appearance of a heavy enemy tank (probably a Mk VI) coming up through a small draw behind the ridge to the northeast (955424) and firing upon some friendly light tanks at the northwest corner of the woods near Niederhof (960423). It knocked out a tank of Tr Lovelady, which went up in flames and the cry for medics was heard. Mills, after consulting with his tank commanders, thought he could knock out the enemy tank and therefore eased a 76-mm SP gun into position at the edge of the woods. It opened fire on the Mark VI and got off 4 rounds before the enemy tank could turn its turret to fire on the 76-mm gun. Three of these rounds were definite hits, but they merely bounced off. Then the Mark VI opened up and put two rounds right through the front slope plate of the 76-mm tank chassis, knocking out the gun, killing one man, and wounding two others. The enemy tank then remained in position, with no friendly armor able to challenge it. Having no other way to deal with the Mark VI tank, Mills requested artillery fire on its position. Thereafter during the day, whenever the enemy tank poked its nose over the ridge, the artillery would drive it back but could not knock it out.

The second artillery barrage was laid down in the woods at 950418, concentrating on the finger of trees which points to Burgholzerhof. Again the Infantry tried to reach the hill, following close in as artillery lifted its fire. This time F company got to the ridge. A platoon of F company tanks infiltrated at maximum speed down the slope and up to a defiladed position in rear of the Infantry. In order to try to complete the mission, a section of medium tanks, commanded by Lt John H Raymond, went





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up at 1200 with the plan of moving through the woods on the left of 945416. However, as he pushed into the woods he received bazooka fire from the left flank, knocking out the lead tank.

In view of the small Infantry force available and the hazards of continuing on the assigned mission, The TF was ordered to hold the ridge. There were only elements of one tank co and one Inf co on this objective. The CP was moved to the middle of the woods (956414) while assault guns, mortars and reconnaissance elements moved around the CP. As yet the TD's and Co I of Med Tanks had not been brought

On this date the TD's, I Co of Med Tanks, Rcn Plat, Assault guns and mortar section were all sent to the right flank of TF Lovelady's position near Arewinkel. They were ordered first to Mausbach, then to turn north on the road to Gressenich. They lost three tanks early in the movement and wound up in the vicinity of Mausbach, between TF Lovelady and the 47th Infantry Regt.

During the night, shortly after midnight, the strong point on the ridge was subject to an attack by German Inf. Hand to hand fighting ensued, in which two enemy and one American soldier were killed, with others wounded.

9-18-44

At 0800 the Inf Comdr reported that he was driven off the high ground and forced back to the farmhouse of Burgholzerhof (953420), under the pressure of heavy mortar and small arms fire. The remnants of F Co were beginning to break under the extended strain many were shocked and suffering from combat exhaustion. The situation was reported to Col Boudinot, who replied that it was "very necessary" to regain the high ground. By 1000, heavy enemy artillery began to fall on the area.

At this time a large number of enemy Infantry were sighted coming over the ridge, which previously had been held by the elements of F Co. Likewise along the ridge to the northeast, enemy began to appear. Thereupon, Mills called for artillery fire on the ridge, which began to break up the attack. By 1500 the enemy efforts ceased.



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At about 1600, F company again moved out towards the high ground of the ridge, following closely behind a heavy artillery fire. It retook the objective. Mills received no reinforcements and therefore dismounted part of his mortar platoon for flank support on the left. Part of the assault gun platoon was instructed to cover the right flank with fire. Of the six medium tanks available, some were put on the flanks, while others supported the front. This defense was established for the night and was held in the face of continued enemy artillery fire over the entire area.

9-19-44

In pursuance of the same mission as he had been given two days previously, Mills was given a different plan of attack. At 0800 he was instructed to turn southwest, move down the small valley instead of across it, proceed to the Vicht river (944410) turn west and skirt the woods in which his tanks had been hit with bazooka fire, and move into Stolberg from the southeast. TF 1 (Lovelady) was to follow TF 2.

Early in the morning the 3rd platoon of F company, eight tanks, was sent down the valley to reach the river. There it found that an error in reading the map had been committed when the order was given. There wasn't any road on the near side of the Vicht river, by which the tanks could skirt around the wooded hill. Sgt Watson, leader of the patrol, returned in his tank and met Mills at 950416. Mills personally reconnoitered for a route leading towards Stolberg, but found none existed without crossing the stream. Since the bridge at this point was blown that was impossible.

At the same time as the reconnaissance platoon of tanks moved off, the infantry began its part of the attack. One platoon of I company had been attached to Mills during the night, and along with the rest of F company - which was a half platoon itself by now - it moved down the little valley towards the stream, with the mission of attacking west through the woods (945414) and vicinity. It reached the stream about 0900, meeting very little opposition. Even though the tanks were unable to get through around the hill, the infantry was ordered to attack across the wooded area in the direction of Stolberg.





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It was to wait for the TF at 940420 in the town. Mills then planned to send his armor over the ridge near Burgholzerhof. As the infantry swung west into the wooded hill, it drew small arms fire from both the front and the rear. It was therefore unable to continue without support.

In preparation for the tank attack over the ridge to Stolberg, Sgt Watson in charge of the light tanks, conducted a reconnaissance for the TF. From a position in partial defilade near the outskirts of the town (943420), he reported back to Mills. There had been no AT fire as he raced over the hill, and no AT guns were visible. At his position, however, he received enemy rifle and bazooka fire, grenades and machine guns in buildings. He reported by radio also that the ground down the open hill was marshy and that it would be hard to deploy the tanks, but that it was possible to get them through.

Mills ordered the 3rd platoon of F company tanks to cross the ridge and join Sgt Watson. As the lead tank moved over the ridge (949419), it drew AT fire and was immediately knocked out. The rest of the platoon then withdrew to behind the hill for cover in the orchard. Sgt Watson, still observing from his advanced position, reported the enemy was shooting out his periscope, shooting bazooka and throwing grenades at close range. He was unable to fire back without exposing himself to the AT fire. Mills therefore decided to lay down a smoke screen to enable Watson to withdraw. However, it became so hot for the sergeant that before the artillery could lay down smoke, he pulled out of his sunken road and ran the gauntlet of enemy fire up over the hill and to safety. Three of his tank commanders were wounded by enemy small arms fire from the town, but during his stay there he had, in addition to making reconnaissance, directed artillery and mortar fire on the enemy in Stolberg. He returned at about 1130.

Mills was ordered at noon to hold his present position. At 1500 he was called to Lovelady's CP, where Hogan, Mills and Lovelady were issued the order for a three-



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pronged attack northeast to secure Weissenberg, Hochwegerhof, and the high ground between the two points. The LD was the edge of the woods between Niederhof and Diepenlinchen. Mills was on the left, Lovelady in the center, and Hogan on the right.

Soon after the objective was reached, at about 1800, the tanks and Infantry of TF 1 came up from the right. The infantry, elements of H and I companies 36th AIR, were commanded by Capt Getters. They had attempted to move forward, but under heavy fire they had side slipped to the left and reached TF Mills' objective instead of their own. At 1900 Mills put his own infantry (15 men of F co, and 20 men of one platoon of I company) under Getters, telling him to organize the defense for the night. McGeorge, in the meantime, sent to get engineers' platoon to put along the northwest flank on the high ground to the left, and to extend the line farther by the reconnaissance platoon. The CP and assault guns moved up to Niederhof. One platoon of A co, light tanks, remained on the line, while the rest pulled back to Niederhof. This defense was held for the night.

Mills sent for his light tank company, his platoon of TDs, and his engineers, and had them contact a guide at CR 273 to lead them into the woods from which the attack was to be launched. His order stated that the tanks of F co would lead, followed by the Infantry platoon and the elements of F company, Inf, (both of which were badly shot up); next the light tanks of A company, with the TDs moving to the edge of the woods to cover the ridge to the west and give flank protection by fire.

The mortars and assault guns in position near Burg-hölzerhof were given the mission of smoking the left flank as Mills attacked. The heavy smoke which they subsequently laid down at 1600 proved very helpful.

Mills attacked toward his objective before 1700, where in the orchards and house of Hochwegerhof, he encountered many enemy infantry. AT fire from the northeast and heavy mortar and artillery fire fell on the objective. It was hot as hell. One light tank was knocked out by the AT fire, while Mills and McGeorge roved the area firing on infantry in the orchard and house. The enemy counter-attacked by





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fire. Mills had the tree immediately in front of his tank blown up by a shell, but the attack was repelled. HE, AP and Smoke were fired into the house, but it was difficult to get the enemy out. Meanwhile, the tanks received bazooka fire from the enemy. There was little order in the fighting. Tanks and Infantry mixed and infiltrated among the enemy.

9-20-44

In the morning, Mills received from CCB the order to hold his defensive position at Hochwegerhof and to fan out on both sides of the orchard to protect the left flank of the combat command.

About noon Mills went back to the pillbox (958412), which was the CP of the command, located on the east side of Diepenlinchen woods. From Col Boudinot he received an order to attack at 1430 northwest across the ridge and through the valley to Hill 287. At this time Mills had F company (tanks), 32nd AR, and one platoon of A Co's light tanks in the orchard at Hochwegerhof, and remnants of Co F 36th AIR, now numbering about 15 men. When Mills pulled his tanks back, however, the platoon of I Co, Inf, and F Co, Inf, remained with H company in the area. Mills asked for the return of his I Co tanks, which had been sent to Mausbach the night before to hold the town. In order that this company might arrive, the attack was held up from 1430 to approximately 1600.

During the hour and a half, while the Task Force was preparing for the assault, an unusually heavy enemy artillery barrage came down on the western edge of the Diepenlinchen woods. It came from the northwest, in the direction of Hill 287, and disrupted the refueling and reloading of ammunition of the Task Force. Further disruption was caused by the casualty of Capt John Watson, artillery Officer, and his FO, who had just worked out the fire plan for the artillery.

When the armor of the TF was finally marshalled for the attack, F Co had 8 tanks, I Co 6 tanks and A Co 15 light tanks. As artillery preparation, concentrations were laid on Duffenter (953430) on the right, Donnerberg (946424) on the left, and Hill 287 (948433) in the center. The assault guns of the Bn laid smoke on the hill itself, while the artillery



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smoked the right flank (957434), and mortars smoked the left (947424). The TF had hoped to receive Infantry support in its attack and it was promised that troops would be sent up later in the afternoon.

When the attack was launched at 1600, the armor went without infantry support. F co and I co led in lines of five tanks, making a total of three waves, and A co followed. As the tanks crossed the ridge before going down the valley at Duffenter, they opened up with their guns on Hill 287. As the attack advanced under the protection of smoke, the tanks would run and fire, combining speed with fire power as much as possible. One tank commander of a light tank was wounded and his tank turned back. Otherwise, the attack through the crossroads south of Duffenter and up to the top of Hill 287 was made without loss of vehicles. Only the smoke and speed saved the TF, for direct 88mm fire had been coming throughout the afternoon; probably from a Mark VI tank known to be in the area.

Another reason for the success of the initial attack was the action of the TD platoon, 1st Plat, B co, 703d TD Bn, which had been in partial defilade behind the right flank of the force with fire and put fire on enemy vehicles observed in the vicinity of Hill 287. It did an excellent job, knocking out one Mark VI tank on the right flank and one Mark V tank near Hill 287.

The TF reached the top of the hill (Hill 287) before 1700. When the leading elements got to the top of the slope, they drew fire from the rear of the hill before they could take cover. Seven tanks were knocked out rapidly - 3 from I co and 4 from F. Thereupon, the remainder withdrew to the rear side of the slope and began to form a defensive position southwest of Duffenter (947426) as marked on sketch. The light tank co was given the task of protecting the flanks and rear of the force, since without infantry, the task force was open from all sides. Mills then organized the defensive position for the night, under fire from enemy Infantry in the houses in Donnerberg on the left, around the church, and from positions on Hill 287. It necessitated a withdrawal of about 200 yards on the right and 400 yards on the left.





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Meanwhile, The rear CP of the TF and higher Hqs were trying to get infantry to outpost the position of the TF. After making frantic efforts, they report about 1900 that none were available. To make things worse, the enemy began to bring his artillery fire into the area. Observation for the enemy was available from the pillbox on Hill 287, and for forty five minutes the TF received some of the most intensive fire of the past several days. Afterwards, the enemy contented himself with intermittent fire of high velocity into the area. The medics half-track tried several times to get up to the position, but each of the efforts were met by enemy fire from Hill 287. Throughout the night, the tankers dismounted to guard their vehicles, and by good luck the casualties were low.

9-21-44

At dawn one of the remaining tanks of I Co was hit by bazooka fire. It was knocked out and its commander badly injured. New efforts to get infantry and medical aid were made. About 1030 Lt Paul R Long led the medical H/T over the hill in a light tank. At the same time urgent requests for air support were made. One flight came in but had to return for gas. Others contacted already had missions. A third effort brought a flight which stated that the desired targets (marked by red smoke from the artillery) were too close to friendly vehicles. Therefore, the enemy fire, particularly from a dug in tank on Hill 287, continued to harass the TF. One Inf Plat, so fresh that some of its men had done little more than fire their M-1 rifles, from the newly reconstituted E Co 36th AIR, was reported coming up to aid Mills. MG fire from the enemy in houses at Duffenter pinned the platoon down. An artillery concentration and then finally a smoke screen was laid down to get the men forward by 1400. At 1500 they were ordered to move out toward Hill 287, to dig in and outpost the position. The Plat Leader was wounded and the platoon bogged down short of its line in the vicinity of 947429.

At about 1530 Mills received radio order from the Combat Commander to undertake a new mission. He was



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ordered to move northwest along the road across Donnerberg to Birkengang, thence to go southwest and make contact with TF Hogan in Stolberg. Mills gave his attack order and the infantry were withdrawn to the tank position, to be mounted on the rear for the attack.

Just as Lt Col Lovelady came forward with part of his TF to relieve Mills so that he could attack, the enemy joined in with a terrific artillery barrage, which scattered part of the infantry.

Mills took off towards the objective with 4 tanks left in F co, 3 in I company, and 14 in A company of light tanks. Instead of striking across the road suggested by higher headquarters, Mills took the circuitous path in order to secure as much cover as possible. (see dotted line on map 945430 to 940430 to CR at 945434 and then NW to Birkengang). As the TF proceeded to its objective, an enemy tank from west across the valley opened up on its left flank, forcing two light tanks to take cover. They then became stuck in the mud. As the column turned northwest on the road to Birkengang (944436) enemy to the north of Hill 287 opened up on the column from the rear. Then as the TF made another turn southwest of Stolberg, it began to get direct Tank fire from the enemy behind bunkers (936438). Likewise, time was passing and Mills had to start coiling his force for defense during the night. He therefore turned the column into the factory district of Birkengang, and by stringing the column along zinc slag piles he succeeded in giving it some cover against tank fire, if not from infantry small arms.

One section of light tanks was sent back to get supplies. It reached the CP in Burgholzerhof, got supplied, and attempted to return, where about 2000 it was to pick up tanks from TF 1 near Duffenter. They got to 942433, where an enemy tank confronted them. As a result of the nights efforts, three half-tracks, three medium tanks, and one light tank were lost to enemy fire or stuck in the mud.





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The TF remained in the Birkengang factory area (942438) most of the day. Enemy tanks were heard early in the morning moving to the northwest at a distance estimated to be about 500 to 1000 yards. Other enemy vehicles were heard in the woods to the east and along the road from Birkengang toward Hill 287. About 0800 a German SP gun pulled up on top of the slag piles (944438) about 50 yards from the nearest tank of the TF. A bazooka was fired without hitting the enemy; however, the vehicle withdrew. The tanks of the force were themselves unable to fire against the enemy and remained in cover, since they were pulled in close to the rough edge of the slag pile of the zinc factory.

About 1000 a tank pulled up to the southeast corner of the CR at Birkengang (943438), not much more than 100 yards from the factory area. It sat there, as if guarding the enemy infantry who began to infiltrate towards the TF from the direction of Eschweiler. The Infantry and the crews of the TF fired upon the enemy with rifles and machine guns and managed to kill a number of them. In addition, Mills called in frequent artillery concentrations which apparently proved effective in breaking up the enemy groups.

All through the morning the enemy brought down heavy artillery fire in the general vicinity of Hill 287. It passed over the head of the TF as it was coiled in the factory in Birkengang. It seemed probable that the enemy, from his observation point near Donnerberg, could not see Mill's force, for the terrain was such that fire into the TF from the northwest would have been easy.

Late in the morning, a patrol of the remaining 14 Infantrymen were sent out towards a building northwest of the position at 939437, where enemy infantry had been sighted. The patrol returned with four prisoners who stated that beyond the high slag pile west of the factory (938439) were between 200 and 300 dug in infantry. At this time friendly artillery from somewhere west of Stolberg, apparently on commanding ground held by CCA, laid down fire upon the enemy that was threatening Mills force from that direction.





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At 1500 the enemy on the west of Stolberg apparently sighted the Task Force, for heavy calibre high velocity shells began to fall on its position. At the same time, enemy infantry began to infiltrate into the houses southwest of the zinc factory (939437). In the face of enemy capabilities against the TF, Mills called Col Boudinot, CCB commander, on the radio and discussed the situation. Mills was given authority to plan a means of withdrawal to contact TF Hogan in Stolberg itself. At this time Mills lacked Infantry to hold such a position, while many of his men required medical treatment. Some of the tanks were low on ammunition. While a few of the light tanks needed fuel, since the enemy artillery had disrupted the refueling before the attack.

At 1615 the artillery laid down the smoke screen as planned. In spite of the great assistance this gave the maneuver, the TF still received tank fire from 944436, along the edge of the woods, and from 944438, the crossroads at Birkengang. The tank southwest of the factory area, at 939437, could fire only part of the time, for the column moved down a draw which partly masked its fire.

At the moment the artillery laid its smoke screen, the enemy infantry sprang up from its position on the outer edges of the slag piles and closed in on the Task Force. Enemy fire was received at almost point blank range. Apparently the enemy had been building up his strength for some time, and he either used the smoke to cover his movements or he foresaw that it preceded a withdrawal. That not a man was hit during the actual withdrawal operations appeared to be a miracle to the Task Force Commander.

The column moved out at full speed just after 1615, and by 1630 initial contact was made with TF Hogan in Stolberg (937432). In the evening Mills furnished road blocks for Hogan's force.

9-23-44  
to  
9-25-44

This position was held in Stolberg during these days. At the end of the period 23 through 25 Jan 44 the Task Force was relieved by part of the 32nd AR.