

**After Action Reports
of
Combat Command “A”
7th Armored Division
August 1944 - August 1945**

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If there is any question of accuracy, please contact Wesley Johnston (wwjohnston@aol.com) so that the original scanned images can be checked to assure that the transcript does or does not match the original.

7TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO #257, c/o Postmaster,
U S ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT
Month of August 1944

COMBAT COMMAND "A"

Colonel Dwight A Rosebaum,
Commanding.

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7th A. D., U. S. ARMY

1 September 1944.

Subject: Battle Report.

To : Commanding General, 7th Armd Div, APO #257, U. S. Army.

Period: 13 Aug 44 to 31 Aug 44.

1. 13 Aug 44. This force was consolidated south of La Haye de Puit. Upon reorganization it was moved to area 3 miles northeast of Fougères, total of 125 miles the day of landing. No tactical situation encountered, no losses of troops or vehicles. 14 Aug 44. On forced march the command was moved to position 8 miles northeast of Laval in the Ste. Suzanne-Sille sector, distance of 85 miles, arriving 0200 15 Aug 44. No vehicular or personnel losses sustained. The same day the command was marched to assembly area east of La Ferte Bernard, no enemy encountered, no personnel or vehicular losses sustained. Arrived in assembly area 16 Aug 44 at 0400, distance traveled approximately 45 miles.

2. 16 Aug 44. Moved to line of departure La Ferte Bernard - St Cosme De Vain. Crossed Line of Departure on Division order. Command moved through Belleme - Remalard - Montiers au Perche - Senonches, encountering organized resistance at Forêt De Senonches. Command bivouaced evening of 16 Aug 44 southwest of Senonches. Our reconnaissance troop D/87, and our right flank guard, D/40, joined and encountered action at St Jean Murgers and Fontaine Simon, killing approximately 9 Germans at St. Jean Murgers, one captured; at Fontaine Simon 4 enemy killed. Our personnel losses were extremely light. Three of our M-4 tanks were known to be knocked out. 17 Aug 44. Command moved west to Buisserie, arriving night of 17-18 Aug 44. On 18 Aug 44 moved to Jonvilliers. 19-20 Aug 44 command moved to Maintenon - Châteauneuf - Dreux. Moved from Dreux on 21 Aug 44. Moved thru Nogent le Roi - Epernon - Arpajon. Evening of 21 Aug 44 encountered resistance at Ollainville and made plans for attack of Arpajon. Attacked Arpajon 0800 22 Aug 44. Command moved on the 22d Aug 44 after successful attack and met with intermittent resistance by AT guns and 88-mm. Resistance was put down with light losses and command moved to 1/2 mile S Ponthierry.

3. 23 Aug 44. Command made reconnaissance and plans for establishment of bridgehead across Seine River at Tilly. On the afternoon of 23 Aug 44 bridgehead was established and during the night of 23-24 Aug 44 bridge across Seine River was put in. Heavy enemy Artillery fire hampered this operation but concentration of Artillery fire at German 88-mm guns by 489th AFA Bn succeeded in silencing the enemy guns. The establishment of this bridgehead was effected mainly through the closely knit efforts of all units under this command. During the night of 23-24 Aug 44 bridge across Seine R was put in and on the morning of 24 Aug 44 main body crossed and took up bridgehead. This command in bivouac 1/2 Mile S Seine Port. During the day 24 Aug 44 the bridgehead was extended from Tilly to line Nandy-Cesson-Boissise-Bertrand. 25 Aug 44 Command left bivouac and advanced to 1/2 mi S St Germain Lexis encountering mine fields and AT Guns en route. 26 Aug 44 attack was resumed at 0625. Advance Guard moved thru mine fields, reducing same. At Pt Noisénay held up by AT fire, losing one tank and destroying eight enemy vehicles. Advance Guard deployed at Mormant and destroyed one enemy tank and seven vehicles. Five miles W of St. Hilliers advance guard captured ten horse-drawn vehicles, one ammunition dump, and an enemy headquarters with officer. Command bivouaced at St. Hilliers. German convoy approached bivouac and TD platoon engaged same destroying 19 enemy vehicles. Bridgehead extended from Tilly to St. Hilliers.

Hq CC A, APO #257 7th AD US Army, BATTLE REPORT (Cont'd)

4. 27 Aug 44. CC A in bivouac at St Hilliers. CC A advance elements moved out from this position at 1300. At La Ferte Gaucher considerable German equipment was captured and about 20 prisoners taken. Throughout this day there was contact with the enemy at La Ferte Gaucher, Montmirail, and at the junction of highways N33 GC 11. At the latter, an enemy artillery column was surprised and knocked out by our forces. In the days action, three 155-mm guns, three half-tracks, and five tanks of the enemy were destroyed, and at least seventy prisoners were known to be taken. Command went into bivouac in the vicinity of La Ferte Gaucher, about 2 miles north of that place. 28 Aug 44. During this day the forces of this command moved to a point 3 miles West of Comiracy. Outstanding in the day's action was the taking of Chateau Thierry and the crossing of the Marne River. Lt Col McConnell, commanding the 40th Tank Battalion, continued to distinguish himself, as he had already done in previous engagements, by his aggressive action in leading the forward elements of this command in such manner as to contribute directly to the rapid advance of this unit. Known to be destroyed or captured during the day were 3 enemy tanks, one 1/2-track, many bicycles and general-purpose vehicles, 1 75-mm AT gun, 1 105-mm gun, many small howitzers and machine guns. 29 August 44. Reconnaissance was conducted on this date for crossings of Aisne and Vesle Rivers. 30 Aug 44. Reconnaissance and preparations for crossing Aisne River was completed on this date. CC A advanced to 1/2 mile East of Passavant, meeting no enemy resistance en route. 31 August 44. This command advanced in two columns on this date to the Meuse River and established three bridgeheads across the Meuse River, at Verdun, Monthairons, and Tilly. During the day an enemy column was met 1 mile West of Meuse River at Tilly, several trucks and one tank of the enemy were destroyed. At Verdun enemy artillery was active.

5. Such other information as is required in the "Battle Report" is not available at this headquarters and in the time allotted for our operations. It can be obtained at the Administrative Center, Rear Echelon.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
C. E. LEYDECKER,
Lt Col, Cav,
Executive Officer.

Date 07 Aug, 1944

PLACE	MILEAGE	ARRIVE	DEPART	REMARKS
TIDWORTH	00.0		0750 07 AUG 44	
---	28.5	0940	1000	Rest Stop
---	49.0	1140	1200	Rest Stop
Marshalling Area	65.7	1305		
===	===	===	===	===
===	===	===	===	===
Marshalling Area	00.0		043309	
Port	14.9	060109	094509	On Boat (On LST)
LST in Port			073010	Left Port
Beach		221510		France
(Debark)	14.9	075011	075011	"
Assembly Area	[Blacked Out]	0923		"

Date 11 Aug, 1944

PLACE	MILEAGE	ARRIVE	DEPART	REMARKS
Assembly Area	00.0		1020 Assembly Area	France
	5.0	1037	1042	St Mere Eglise
BIVOUAC AREA	25.3	1320		

Date 11 Aug, 1944
12 Aug, 1944

PLACE	MILEAGE	ARRIVE	DEPART	REMARKS
BIV AREA	00.0	1320	1801	FORWARD
IP	5.9	1830	1830	
PERIERS	10.0	1858	1900	
COUTANCES	19.2	1920	1928	
on road MNT HAULT	27.6	2010	2015	
La Haye Pisad	40.4	2100	2103	
HALT on road	85.1	023012	063012	
(Lelorux) BIV AREA	86.8	063712		

Date 12 Aug, 1944
& 13 Aug, 1944

PLACE	MILEAGE	ARRIVE	DEPART	REMARKS
BIV AREA	00.0	See Post Report	234512 Aug	
---	003213			
IP	05.3	003213		
on Road	13.3	0121	0131	MNT HALT
---	15.8	0142	0154	15 MINUTE HALT
BIV (6K South SILLE de Guilliaume)	68.5	0800		BIV; CAMOUFLAGE NES UP

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HEADQUARTERS 7TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 257 U. S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report, 7th Armored Division,
Period 1-30 September, 1944.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Thru
Channels).

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HEADQUARTERS
7TH ARMORED DIVISION BATTLE REPORT

COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO 257 U.S. ARMY

On 1 Sept 44 the front line of CCA 7th Armd Div extended through Verdun-Monthairons-Tilly, bridgeheads having been established at these three points across the Meuse River on 31 Aug 44. With the exception of outpost, troops of CC A remained in bivouac throughout the period. On the afternoon of 1 September enemy AT guns and MGs were reported in vicinity of Clermont-Auzeville. A supply column approaching the CC A bivouac was attacked by the enemy at Clermont. The column consisted of two trucks, 2 1/2-ton, one a kitchen truck of Hq Co CC A, the other a ration truck of Service Co 40th Tank Bn. The truck of the 40th Tank Bn was set fire to and destroyed, one man of the crew of five being wounded, at this writing no official word has been received of either the men or the truck of Hq Co CCA. Reported missing in action near Clermont at 1000 1 Sept 44 were Sgt Avery, Tec 5 Talarski, Tec 5 Selliken, and Tec 5 Carpenter, all of "D" troop of the 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz). From 2245 to 2320 on the evening of 1 September enemy planes were active over Verdun, bombing that city. As a result of this action S Sgt Caputo, Pfc M. Downs, and Pfc Smith, all of Co B, 48th Armd Inf Bn, were reported killed, and the following men of the same Company were reported seriously wounded, Tec 5 Lundrigan, Pfc Strickland, Pvt McClanahan, Tec 5 Frey, Tec 5 Williams, and Pfc Barr. Also reported killed was Pvt Horton, Co A, 48th Armored Inf Bn. These companies were posted in Verdun on 1 Sept 44. The bombing attack was made by three enemy planes, two of which were destroyed.

On 2 September 1944 CC A moved from bridgehead areas, Verdun-Monthairons-Tilly to assembly area vicinity Bras. No enemy activity was reported during the day. From 2235-2300 the CC A bivouac was under enemy air attack with no casualties reported.

On 3 September 1944 "D" Troop of the 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) and D Co of the 40th Tk Bn moved from Tilly to 1/2 mi S Bras, thus completing the movement of the Combat Command from Tilly to assembly area vicinity of Bras. No enemy activity was encountered during the daylight hours; from 2230 to 2300 enemy planes, in number about three, came over the area, bombs were dropped, as a result of which no casualties were reported.

The period 4-5 September 1944 CC "A" remained in bivouac with no activity reported. Time was devoted to maintenance of vehicles and rehabilitation of personnel.

CC A departed assembly area in vicinity of BRAS at 1400 6 Sept 44. The Combat Command advanced in two columns with the mission of seizing bridgeheads over the Moselle and Saar Rivers successively. Column D, the North column, Lt Col Chappuis commanding, was composed of the 48th AIBn (-A, B), B/40th Tk Bn, 695th AFA Bn, 2d Plat A/814th TD Bn, and 2d Plat A/33d Engr Bn. Column C, the South Column, Lt Col McConnell commanding, was composed of the 40th Tk Bn (-B,C), A/48th AIBn, 489th AFA Bn, 3d Plat A/814th TD Bn, 1st Plat A/33d Engr Bn. Accompanying the South Column, and following it, was a task force under, Major Brown consisting of C/40th Tk Bn, B/48th AIBn, A/814th TD (-2,3 Plats), A/33d Engr (-1, 2 Plats), Hq CCA, Tns, D/40th Tk Bn. D Clm, North, crossed LD at 1455 moved along route prescribed, continued along this route turning south into Briey. At Briey bridges were blown. Prior to this time commanding officer of this task force was informed that he would turn North and try to cross Moselle River in the vicinity of Richemont. However, he located a crossing South of Briey and requested permission to use it and was granted same. Column crossed Orne River at Hatriz and then continued North along the south bank of the Orne River with mission of seizing crossing of Moselle River near junction of Orne and Moselle Rivers. About 2200 this column ran into considerable mines which delayed them and forced them to move due East rather than in Northeasterly direction. Their position at 0400 7 Sept was in the vicinity of Malancourt. C Clm, South Clm, commanded by Colonel McConnell, moved forward in the prescribed formation and met considerable traffic, 90th Infantry Division Artillery. However, after clearing this heavy traffic column was able to proceed at moderate rate as far as Conflans, where the column ran into elements of the

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87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz). At this juncture, Colonel Rosebaum decided on his new plan; that of moving Task Force Chappuis toward Richemont and moving South Column, C Clm, eastward, well to the north of town of Metz. South Column continued movement as far as Doncourt where it turned toward St. Marie. At St Privat South column encountered considerable machine-gun and mortar fire, minefields and road blocks which held up the column and forced it to deploy. By 2300 Infantry patrols of Column had entered town of St Privat. One Tank Company had deployed on the Southeast of town and one Tank Company had deployed on the North, Enemy resistance at St Privat was stubborn and they were using grenades extensively along with shifting machine-gun fire. The enemy was reported to be well dug in and numbering about 2000. As of 0600 7 Sept our operations for the day had resulted in the eastward advance of D Clm to Mondelange and C Clm to St Privat. Advance elements of D Clm had reached the Moselle River.

On 7 Sept 44 Task Forces of Combat Command A were disposed as follows: Task Force Chappuis in vicinity of Mondelange on the Moselle River; Task Force McConnell in vicinity of St Privat; Task Force Brown in the same vicinity as Task Force McConnell. The 489th AFA Bn was in firing position in the vicinity of St Marie. Task Force Chappuis which already had been on the Moselle River began a methodical search for crossings and by noon of the 8th had reached a point slightly north of Maizieres where it received artillery fire from all directions all afternoon and evening. About 1000 Co D 40th Tank Bn was sent forward to contact CC A and reinforce them. Contact was made but A Co 40th Tank Bn was returned to CC A. Division reported forces of tanks and infantry withdrawing from the Northwest to the Northeast in the vicinity of Briey. Combat Command A was ordered to send a force to Briey to block the advancing enemy and secure flank of the Division. A Co 814th TD Bn, less one platoon, and one platoon A Co 33rd Armd Engr Bn, was dispatched on this mission. Result of their operation was to make the necessary defensive disposition Southwest of Briey. Later during the day they reported few enemy tanks and enemy infantry in Briey. No further reports were received. At about 1100 Task Force McConnell was sent by way of St Privat, Roncourt, Pierrevillers to reinforce Task Force Chappuis. Task Force Brown followed Task Force McConnell. Task Force McConnell contacted Task Force Chappuis who had already reconnoitered for crossings over the Moselle River in the vicinity of Houconcourt. About 1130 Hq CC A, moved forward over the routes followed by Task Force McConnell and Task Force Brown, moving very slowly in bounds never exceeding one thousand yards. While crossing small dirt road at about 1500, NW of Sylvange, the column came under heavy artillery fire where casualties resulted and Hq CC A had to withdraw from the interdicted road. One battery 489th AFA Bn had been in firing position about 1000 yards west of point where Hq CC A was and also came under artillery fire making it necessary for them to withdraw to the North. A Co 48th Armd Inf Bn received instructions to make crossing of the Canal des Mines and the Moselle River West of the town of Talange. At about 1800 the CG 7th Armd Div visited this site with the Division G-3. Combat Command A was informed that bridge equipment and assault boats were being sent forward for the crossing. CO CC A had already moved forward and set up his own Hq in the vicinity, South of Talange where Col Chappuis' Task Force had dug in due to very heavy artillery fire. No further action except occasional artillery fire resulted during the night and at 0600 8 Sept 44 disposition of Combat Command "A" was as follows: Task Force McConnell vicinity Talange; Task Force Chappuis North of Houconcourt and vicinity; Task Force Brown vicinity Sylvange, Hq CC A in field about 2000 yards northwest Pierrevillers. Trains immediately south of Pierrevillers.

Personnel losses on this date included: Pvt O'Connor, A Co 40th Tk Bn, KIA, Lt George M. Hook, A Co 40th Tk Bn, and Sgt Wickham, A Co 40th Tk Bn, SWA. Cpl Vincent J. Bearder and Tec 5 George W. Harrison, of Hq Co 40th Tk Bn, KIA, Pfc Milton E. Jones, Hq Co 40th Tk Bn, SWA. Lt William S. Vilda and Tec 4 Henry W. Hellyer, both of Hq CC A were seriously wounded in action. Vehicular losses reported one M-5 Tank of D Co 40th Tk Bn

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Throughout 8 Sept 44 the CC A situation remained the same as it had been on the previous day. The front line was at Maizieres and the Command was engaged in holding that position. Enemy artillery was active in placing concentrations on all parts of the CC A area throughout the day. A task force was organized from elements of this Command to assist and cooperate with the 2d Inf in their attack from Verneville toward Tignomont. Col McConnell commanding C/40, A/48, 489 AFA, 2A/814 TD.

As a result of enemy shelling on 8 Sept 44 it was reported that Capt Eyberse of the 814th TD Bn had been killed, and that Joe L. Manning (rank unknown) of B Btry, 489th AFA Bn, had also been killed.

On 9 Sept 44 CC A position remained the same with the front line in the vicinity of Maizieres. Enemy artillery and mortar fire continued to harass all elements of CC A. At Pierrevillers, Lt Robert A. Schaaf, S Sgt Alfred J. Blackfish, and Cpl John W. Weir, all of A Co 33d Armd Engr Bn, were killed in action as a result of enemy artillery fire. Seriously wounded of the same company were Tec 4 Kraskiewicz, Pfc Caramadre, and Pfc Kassey. While holding a roadblock one mile South of Talange, the 2d Platoon, A Co, 814 TD Bn reported the capture of 25 PW's. This platoon reported one M-10 out of action as a result of enemy artillery fire.

It was reported by Liaison Officer, 40th Tk Bn, that the Task Force commanded by Col McConnell sent to cooperate with the 2d Infantry in their attack from Verneville toward Tignomont had encountered stiff resistance at St Privat. South of St Privat the enemy was firmly entrenched in the woods with well-concealed concrete pillboxes. Two strong forts were also of great aid to the enemy in their defense. It was rumored that for the past several years, since the German occupation, no civilians had been allowed entrance into these woods. In the attack on this date, Col McConnell's Task Force lost seven tanks, one M-10 and one M-7.

10 Sept 44 - CC "A" continued to remain in place with front line at Maizieres. Enemy artillery fire again was laid throughout the day on the positions of elements of this Command. During the major part of the day P-38's and P-47's were active in dive bombing and strafing enemy positions in the vicinity of St Privat and in the general direction of Metz. Results of this bombing could not be readily determined. The Task Force under Col McConnell, cooperating with 2d Inf, established CP at Habonville where 2d Inf also had CP. The results of operations of this command on 10 Sept 44 was to maintain positions secured.

CC A continued on 11 Sept 44 to maintain their positions in the vicinity of Maizieres with intermittent enemy Artillery fire being laid down during the day. During the night enemy patrols were active, it was reported by the CO 48th AIBn. These patrols were driven off with one PW taken. The latter was sent to CP CC A for questioning. C Company, 40th Tank Bn, part of Task Force under Col McConnell cooperating with 2d Inf, reported engaging the enemy at Mannville, six casualties resulting. Forward elements of that Task Force were reconnoitering for the 2d Bn, 208th German Inf. Reported killed in action on this date was Pfc Yannace of C Company 48th AIBn, and from the same Company Pfc Babinski was reported seriously wounded.

There was no change in the CC A position as of 12 September 1944. Intermittent artillery fire continued from across the river into the area. Contact with the 90th Infantry Division was established on the North. Task Force McConnell spent the day in reorganization; night patrolling was carried out by them to determine strength of enemy forces in Bois de Feves. Reports reaching this Command revealed that Capt (Ch) Marvin E. Utter, CC A, was eligible to receive the Purple heart as a result of wounds received from enemy artillery fire at Hagendingen, France on 9 Sept 44. Also eligible to receive the Purple heart was Capt Darwin A. Brock, Hq Co, 48th AIBn, for wounds received from enemy artillery fire at Hagendingen, France, on 8 September 44.

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13 Sept 44 - CC A position remained the same on this date. Intermittent artillery fire was again reported by elements of this Command to be harassing their positions. Task Force McConnell was actively engaged in patrolling at FORET de JAUMONT in an effort to determine enemy strength. Four explosions of undetermined origin were reported by A Co 33d Armd Engr Bn. No casualties resulted.

At 1410 13 Sept 44 Hq CC A CP was contacted by telephone through Hq CC R by the 440th AFA Bn of CC "B" 7th Armd Div. The 440th AFA Bn inquired if Liaison Officer 695 FA Bn was at CP CC "A". They were told that he was not but that CP CC "A" was in communication with 695 FA Bn on FM radio. The 440th AFA Bn wanted the 695 FA Bn to place artillery fire on Railroad Triangle at U8972, with air observation to be furnished by them, the 440 AFA Bn. This was done, with observation data being relayed by telephone from 440th AFA Bn, thru CC "R", to CC "A", and thence to 695 FA Bn by FM radio. As a result of this cooperation and grid coordination among the several units, the target was destroyed at 1715 13 Sept 1944.

14 Sept 44 - CC "A" position remained the same on 14 Sept 44 with the front line in the vicinity of MAIZIERES. Task Force McConnell continued its patrolling activities. It was reported that at or about 1900 on this date one platoon of infantry, patrolling for Task Force McConnell, was captured by the enemy in the vicinity 785663. Task Force McConnell was to be relieved this date by a Combat Team of the 90th Inf Div at 2100. No contact was made with more than the I & R platoon of this Combat Team. The Task Force remained in position, awaiting the arrival of more troops to relieve them. They were then told that there would be no more troops arriving to relieve them and that they were to move out at their convenience. Early in the morning of 15 September 44 Task Force McConnell began to move out.

On the afternoon of 14 Sept 44, a mobile Public Address truck from the 3d Mobile Unit attached to XX Corps was brought to the CP CC "A". Under the guidance of Major JOSEPH F. FORD, S-2 CC "A", the truck was driven to a point 100 yards Southeast of the CC "A" CP where, through the PA system, an attempt was made to prevail upon enemy soldiers in the vicinity to surrender. Getting no response at that point, the party moved one mile further on, in the vicinity of SEMECOURT. Two attempts made here to induce the Jerries to surrender, informing them that if none came out within five minutes of the second attempt, fire would be opened on them. This was met with heavy caliber fire from the enemy position, and so the party returned to CC "A" CP after their courageous but unsuccessful attempt to bring the enemy in the area to give themselves up.

15 Sept 44 - Having been relieved of maintaining positions secured in vicinity MARANGE-SILVANGE by elements of the 90th Inf Div, CC "A" moved out on the morning of 15 Sept 44 to assembly area in vicinity XONVILLE. At 1520, all elements having closed in assembly area, instructions were received to follow CC "R" across MOSELLE RIVER when that unit moved out. Early in the morning of 16 Sept 44 CC "A" began its movement to cross MOSELLE RIVER to LD in preparation for attack in accordance with FO #17, Hq CC "A", which had been issued verbally by Commanding Officer, CC "A", at 1500 15 Sept 44,

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16 Sept 44 - On the morning of the 16th CC A crossed MOSELLE RIVER and went into assembly positions vicinity ARRY-MERIEULLES. Col McConnell reported to Colonel Rosebaum that due to the fog and slippery terrain over which his tanks would have to move to comply with the attack order of CC "A" that it would be impossible to comply under the circumstances. Col McConnell requested that the attack be a dismounted Infantry attack. Colonel Rosebaum dispatched the 48th Armd Inf Bn on this mission. Two companies which had been in assembly area vicinity Arry moved on foot over the hills to line of departure generally 1000 yards East of the River. The attack was begun Eastward down slopes direction of VEZON. The attack got under way about 1400. The North flank company came under heavy artillery fire from a great distance to the North, causing slight casualties. The attack was continued by the company slipping to the South and they went into position South of MARIEULLES. Colonel Chappuis came to CP CC "A" at about 1730 requesting tank company to support his 48th Armd Inf attack. Company A/40th Tk Bn was dispatched from ARRY through LORRY to attack MARIEULLES in conjunction with the 48th by attacking in a Northeasterly directions. The attack jumped off about 1945 but was thrown back by heavy artillery shelling. The Tank Company which was to attack and support the Infantry received shell fire while moving forward and consequently was not able to assist in the attack. The 40th Tk Bn, which had been at the head of the draw, about 1500 yards east of the crossings remained there all afternoon and night, and was unable to support the infantry due to very rough terrain descending toward the East. This was the reason for dispatching Company A, 40th Tk Bn to assist the 48th Armd Inf Bn in their attack on MARIEULLES.

Artillery shelling continued intermittently during the day and night of 16 Sept 44 in the vicinity of CC "A" CP.

At 0630 morning of 17 Sept 44 CC "A" continued their attack in the direction of MARIEULLES. The 23rd Armd Inf Bn had been attached to CC "A" as of 160300 Sept 44. It was reported that in MARIEULLES there were 500 enemy infantrymen. At about 1000 our troops were receiving direct fire from enemy 88's. Division Artillery support was requested and at 1040 two battalions of 155-mm artillery were fired at MARIEULLES. Tanks were unable to perform their mission due to the rain and terrain. The attack on MARIEULLES was ordered to be resumed in the afternoon; 48th Armd Inf Bn followed by 23rd Armd Inf Bn with the 40th Tank Bn in support from defiladed positions. After a concentration of Artillery at 1530 Infantry attacked and were met with MG fire from the enemy. Tanks were sent through the infantry and at 1720 our troops entered MARIEULLES. 100 PW's were taken and a Sherman Medium Tank which had been captured previously by the enemy, and was being used against our forces, was recaptured. Some AT guns were also captured by our troops. After taking the town our elements were receiving hostile artillery fire but despite this the town was outposted and held.

18 Sept 44 - Effective upon relief by elements of the 5th Inf Div at 0635 on the morning of 18 Sept 44, CC "A" was placed in Division reserve and this day was spent in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles.

19 Sept 44 - Elements of the 48th Armd Inf Bn were relieved from CC B control and reverted to CC A control at 2000 on 19 Sept 44. These elements were ordered by CO CC A to move to assembly area S of LORRY, which movement was completed by 0600 20 Sept 44. The 40th Tank Bn was directed by CO CCA at 1940 19 Sept 44 to relieve CC R immediately at SALLIGNEY.

20 Sept 44 - CC "A" relieving CC "R" at SELLIGNEY attacked to the East toward SELLIGNEY with mission of crossing and establishing bridgehead across the SEILLE RIVER. Intense enemy artillery and mortar fire pinned down this attack and caused advance elements to retire to point West of the road running North and South through SELLIGNEY. Elements of our infantry attempted to cross the river but casualties were inflicted, enemy fire was intense and they were forced to retire.

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21 Sept 44 - In the vicinity of SILLEGNEY the situation remained static for the most part during 21 Sept 44. Reconnaissance patrols were actively engaged throughout the day probing for disposition of the enemy. Intense mortar fire and artillery shelling was placed on elements of this command during the period. It was believed that this fire was coming from the vicinity of POMMERIEUX and during the night our artillery was engaged in firing concentrations on the suspected enemy positions.

Pvt 1cl Raymond Stinson, 48th Armd Inf Bn, driving an RO peep and following a vehicle of medics on their way to aid and pick up wounded men, was halted by a German officer and some enlisted men. They were going to take him and the vehicle prisoner but he succeeded in convincing the officer that he was following the medics in order to help with the wounded. The officer believed his story, conducted him safely behind the enemy lines, aided the party in locating the wounded and evacuating them. Stinson was turned loose but enemy retained the peep.

22 Sept 44 - The period of 22 Sept 44 was spent in engineer reconnaissance for crossings of the SEILLE RIVER. Heavy concentrations of artillery were placed on the enemy positions during the day and night. Positions secured were held at all points.

23 Sept 44 - CC "A" continued to remain in position on this date, with the CC "A" CP at ARRY. Elements of the Command were engaged in continuing to hold positions secured. During the night our artillery was active in firing on enemy positions.

At a ceremony held at the CC "A" CP on the morning of 23 Sept 44, Tech Sgt Grady H. Blazier was given a battlefield promotion to the grade of 2d Lt. Major General L. McD. Silvester pinned the bars of a 2d Lt on the new officers raincoat while an assemblage of officers of the Division looked on. Following the brief ceremony, Major General Silvester held a meeting with the battalion and combat command commanders of the Division. General Silvester took the opportunity of this meeting to introduce Brig Gen Devine, who recently assumed command of CC "B".

24 Sept 44 - Relieved on this date by the 5th Inf Div at vicinity ARRY-LORRY-SILLEGNY, CC "A" began movement to new assembly area in the vicinity of XONVILLE. By 0815 25 Sept 44 withdrawal of units of CC "A" was completed and the movement to the new assembly area was completed by 1010 25 Sept 44. A report from the 40th Tk Bn received at CC "A" on the morning of 24 Sept 44 brought word that Lt Col Edward T. McConnell, commanding the 40th Tk Bn, had been seriously wounded in action.

25 Sept 44 - Having closed in new assembly area vicinity XONVILLE, elements of CC "A" spent this day in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles in preparation for move to new assembly area vicinity HASSELT, BELGIUM.

26 Sept 44 - CC "A" en route on this date from assembly area vicinity XONVILLE, FRANCE to new assembly area vicinity BOORSHEIM, BELGIUM.

27 Sept 44 - CC "A" completed road march from XONVILLE, FRANCE to new assembly area vicinity BOORSHEIM, BELGIUM and spent remainder of period in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles.

28 Sept 44 - Remained in assembly area, continuing rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles.

29 Sept 44 - CC "A" began and completed on this date movement to new assembly area one mile South of DEURNE, NETHERLANDS. At 2100 28 September 1944 FO #12 7th Armd Div had been issued and CC "A" moved to this new area to prepare for attack on 30 Sept in compliance with FO #12 7th Armd Div.

S-E-C-R-E-T

30 Sept 44 - CC "A" moved on this date from assembly area vicinity DEURNE, NETHERLANDS, to new assembly area vicinity OPLOO, NETHERLANDS, closing in to the new area at 1100 this date. At 2000 29 Sept 44, Commanding Officer, CC "A", had issued verbally FO #19, Hq CC "A". CC "A" had the mission of attacking to secure area East of WEERT. At 1130 CC "A" was in attack position with two Task Forces abreast, Task Force BROWN, under command of Major BROWN, 40th Tank Bn, and Task Force CHAPPUIS, under Lt Col CHAPPUIS, of the 48th Armd Inf Bn, At 1145 30 Sept 44, enemy artillery fire was placed on the position of each Task Force, resulting in three men killed and fifteen wounded. At 1535 the attack began and was met with artillery, mortar, and rocket projectile fire from the enemy. Counter-battery missions were prepared and fired on suspected enemy positions. Heavy resistance was encountered causing our troops to dig in and maintain positions for the night near OVERLOON.

Shortly after the attack began on the afternoon of 30 Sept 44, two companies of Germans indicated that they were willing to surrender. Almost at the same time our artillery opened up in the vicinity (coordinates 7333) and the enemy soldiers fled back into the woods.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

AFTER ACTION REPORT, CCA, 7TH ARMORED DIV
S-E-C-R-E-T

1 October 1944 - On 1 October 1944 CC "A" CP was located 3/4 of a mile South of OPLoo, NETHERLANDS. On this date elements of CCA, divided into two Task Forces attacked to the South for the town of OVERLOON. The Task Forces were as follows: Task Force Brown, commanded by Major BROWN, CO 40th Armd Tank Bn, and Task Force Chappuis, commanded by Lt Colonel CHAPPUIS, CO 48th Armored Infantry Bn. The former was composed of the 40th Armd Tk Bn (-A,D), B Company of the 48th Armd Inf En, 1st Platoon, A Company, 814th Tank Destroyer Bn, C Company, 82nd Engr Bn, and the 489th Armored Field Artillery Bn. Elements of Task Force Chappuis were the 48th Armd Inf Bn (-B), D Company and A Company of the 40th Armd Tank Bn, A Company, 814th Tank Destroyer Bn (-1st Pl), A Company, 33rd Armd Engr Bn, and the 440th Armd Field Artillery Bn. The attack began at about 0630 and continued throughout the day under stubborn resistance. Tanks were held up by AT fire but our infantry succeeded in entering the outskirts of the town despite heavy artillery and AP fire from enemy positions. At 1925 1 October 1944 our troops were digging in on the outskirts of town to maintain gains made during the day. Task Force Commanders were informed on the night of 1 October 44 that a two minute fire mission would be fired by 7 battalions of artillery at 0628 to 0630 on the morning of 2 October 44, following which the attack was to be resumed.

2 October 1944 - On this date the Artillery fire mission from 0628 to 0630 was fired and the attack on OVERLOON was resumed immediately afterwards. Progress was slow as the enemy met the attempted advance with HE and AP fire. AT and mortar fire was also brought to bear by the enemy on our infantry and tanks. Throughout the day the attack was carried on but again it was not possible to clear OVERLOON of the enemy.

Air support which had been requested was received by us between 1330 and 1430 with P-47 fighter bombers strafing and bombing enemy positions. The effect of this air support as known was that one Tiger Tank had been knocked out and that it had caused a diminishing of enemy fire. As a result our troops were able to move forward but not enough to occupy OVERLOON.

Our known losses for the day included 6 Tanks, among them 1 Light Tank and 1 105-mm SP.

At 1845 2 October 1944 an enemy counter-attack was repelled with at least 50 casualties inflicted on the attackers.

3 October 44 - At 0630 3 October 44 our troops resumed again their attack on OVERLOON. Progress was slow and two enemy counter-attacks were repulsed during the day; one at 0715, the second one coming at 1300. Both counter-attacks came from the woods Southwest of OVERLOON. Our troops succeeded on this date in maintaining previously secured positions.

Our artillery was subjected at 0700 this date to hostile counter-battery fire. No casualties were reported.

4 October 1944 - At 0630 4 ~~Sept~~ Oct 44 the attack on enemy positions at OVERLOON was resumed. Again the efforts of our troops were bitterly resisted and progress was slow. An enemy counter-attack from Southwest edge of woods around OVERLOON was begun at 0810 and was stopped and 0830. At 1445 air support which had been requested by CC "A" arrived. Twelve P-38's bombed and strafed enemy positions in woods Southwest of OVERLOON. At 1535 hostile artillery fire was laid on our troops and was followed by a savage counter-attack by the enemy, using infantry and tanks. The fury of this attack made it necessary to again call for air support. For the second time during the afternoon, twelve P-38's bombed and strafed the enemy. This air support arrived at about 1700 and while they perfored their mission our artillery laid concentrations on the enemy. At 1745 the counter-attack was broken up but not until our forces had suffered severe losses in personnel and vehicles. During the attack some ground was lost by our troops but was regained and positions remained the same as they had been on the previous day. As of the morning of 5 October 4 these positions were still being maintained.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

5 October 1944 - It was reported on this date that enemy losses in their counter-attack of 1730 4 October 1944 were estimated to be about 75. This figure was deemed to be probably inaccurate due to the difficulty of counting casualties in dense woods.

Twice more, on the morning of 5 October 1944, the enemy counter-attacked, at 0630 and at 0745. Both of these counter-attacks were repulsed by our forces. In each case the counter-attack stemmed from the woods Southwest of OVERLOON.

Word was received on this date that CC "A" would be relieved of its positions in the vicinity of OVERLOON by Combat Command "B", 7th Armored Division. This relief was to be effected on the ~~morning of 5 Oct~~ evening of 5 October 1944 and the morning of 6 October 1944.

6 October 1944 - By 0550 this date units of CC "A" had been relieved in the vicinity of OVERLOON by CC "B". CC "A" was entirely closed in the new assembly area, (Coordinates 748373 - Map: Central Europe, Sheet 5) by 0850/. Outposts were established and liaison maintained with friendly units on all flanks. No enemy activity was reported and the remainder of the period was spent in rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles.

7 October 1944 - At 0830 7 October 1944. FO #13 7th Armd Div was issued. CC "A" was to be relieved by units of the British 11th Armd Div and move to new assembly area North of WEERT to prepare to carry out its mission as assigned by Division. At 1400 FO #21, CC "A", was issued verbally by Commanding Officer. Units of CC "A" began movement to new assembly area and by 2400 7 October 1944 all had closed in to new position North of WEERT.

8 October 1944 - On 8 October 1944 CC "A" began movement out of assembly area North of WEERT to new positions (Cood575945, Map: Central Europe, Sheets 26 and 36, 27 and 37) to relieve British units operating in that area. Composition of CC "A" was as follows: 40th Tk Bn, 48th Armd Inf Bn, A Co 33rd Armd Eng Bn, A Company 814 TD Bn, D Troop 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz). All units had closed in to new positions and relief of British units was effected by 1725 8 October 1944. CC "A" submitted to Div plans for accomplishing assigned mission which included establishing patrols and maintaining contact with friendly units, setting up defensive positions.

D Troop 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn patrols guarded bridge (Cood 617022, contacted friendly units at NEDERWEERT. There was no enemy activity reported during the night.

At 2000 this date 7th AD passed from XIX Corps control to that of British VIII Corps.

9 October 1944 - During the daylight hours of 9 October 1944 sporadic enemy artillery and mortar fire was reported but not in the immediate vicinity of our positions. The 489th Armored Field Artillery Battalion fired six concentrations during the night, requested by the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion. No enemy contact was reported by our patrols but C Company 48th Armd Inf Bn reported receiving mortar fire, although none of it was close.

10 October 1944 - Our patrols continued their activities. At 1400 position #4 reported receiving enemy MG and 37-mm fire; our tanks returned the fire. Intermittent mortar fire was received by our troops. CC "A" continued to maintain patrols and fire artillery concentrations at points of enemy activity. Division ordered that aggressive patrols be pushed to determine possible enemy withdrawals.

11 October 1944 - CC "A" continued to be located Coordinates 575945. Our patrols continued actively in our sector during the night and day, receiving small arms, mortar, and bazooka fire. One of our half-tracks was destroyed by an enemy bazooka; one EM killed while on dismounted patrol. It was believed that enemy activities ceased after our Artillery fired on them at two points, Coordinates 672984 and 632985. Contact was maintained with Belgian units who reported little activity in their sector.

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Map: Central Europe, Sheets 26 & 36, 27 & 37

12 October 1944 - CC "A" CP continued to be located at Cood 575495. During the night and day of 12 October 44 our units continued their active patrolling and maintained their positions. Artillery concentrations were fired by the 489th AFA Bn as requested.

Five enlisted men were reported wounded in patrol activity during the day, two by MG fire, three by S-mine placed by enemy in ELBURG WOOD. Enemy casualties were unknown.

13 October 1944 - Active patrolling was continued throughout the night day by CC "A" units.

It was reported that the woods in grid square 6494 were heavily booby trapped and mined. CC "A" was ordered to use present or attached supporting troops and clear area. The 40th Tank Battalion was assigned this mission and was to be aided by A Co 33d Armd Engr Bn. This work was to be completed by 1200 14 Oct 44.

In patrol action during the night in vicinity of BOEVEN one enlisted man was killed, one wounded. Two German patrols were encountered near near SCHOOR and driven off. On this date outpost positions within Company areas were altered slightly to improve defensive positions.

14 October 1944 - CC "A" units continued active patrolling. Our patrols were receiving mortar fire and MG fire. In Elburg Woods one of our tanks was knocked out, by a land mine.

Engineers were engaged in clearing woods of mines and booby traps; work was to be continued on 15 October.

15 October 1944, - Active patrolling was still being carried out and the clearing of mines and booby traps in ELLBURG WOOD was completed at 1230.

Two German patrols of 6 men each attacked STEENWEG at 0230 15 Oct. They fired Bazooka and MG fire. One of our troops was killed, three wounded, and one reported missing. At Coordinates 622972 a German patrol was contacted. It consisted of 7 men. Five of them were killed by our troops, and two escaped. One of our men was killed. At 627963 a German patrol of 8 was met. One of them was wounded while we suffered no loss.

16 October 1944 - CC "A" CP still located at Coordinates 575945. Active patrolling was continued. A concentration was fired by our Artillery at Cood 655976 at 1600. Result: two vehicles set afire - three driven away.

17 October 1944 - Active patrolling continued. Contact was maintained with adjacent friendly units; little or no enemy activity along routes of patrol.

18 October 1944 - Active patrolling was carried out. Patrols reported intermittent mortar and small arms fire on HUNSEL from across canal during night. Four rounds mortar fire fell on from 0645 to 0650. Long range sniper fire from vicinity ELL.

19 October 1944 - Active patrolling continued. A patrol of fifteen enemy reported entering HUNSEL at 1545 18 Oct 44. They went into a house about 20 yards East of town and fired small arms into town. Our patrols destroyed the house at about 1645 and no enemy was seen to leave the house. During the night 19 October no hostile patrols reported in our sector. Long range MG fire on ELL from East of canal was reported.

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Maps: Central Europe
Sheets 26 & 36, 27 & 37

20 October 1944 - Active patrolling continued. It was reported that our artillery and mortar fire put out of action enemy mortars and MG in the vicinity of 650950 on 19 October 44 at 1615.

Effective at 0800 20 Oct 44 the 48th Armd Inf Bn was attached to CC R. The 38th Armd Inf Bn became attached to CC "A". Relief of the 48th Armd Inf Bn by 38th Armd Inf Bn was to be effected by Companies. Movement of 38th Armd Inf Bn into CC A area was completed at 1150 20 Oct 44.

21 October 1944 - Active patrolling was carried out. At STEENWEG during the night a German patrol of four men was repulsed; no casualties were reported.

From across canal between Hunsel and Steenweg heavy small arms and MG fire was received by Tr D 87th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz) at 1640. No casualties resulted from this fire.

22 October 1944 - During this day patrols continued to operate. No enemy activity reported.

23 October 1944 - Active patrolling carried out. No enemy activity reported.

24 October 1944 - Headquarters CC "A" moved this date from coordinates 575945 to coordinates 578962. Movement was begun at 1435 and completed at 1530.

Troop D 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) reverted to control of 87 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz) from CC A control at 1725. Rcn Co Harold (814 TD) was attached to CC A as of 0900 25 October 1944.

Active patrolling was carried out. Patrols reported receiving heavy intermittent mortar fire falling on Hunsel during the afternoon.

25 October 1944 - Active patrolling was continued and it was reported that enemy mortar fire was being received from ROEVEN. In a house at coordinates 618961 a patrol of the 38th Armd Inf Bn captured three prisoners at 1230.

Rcn Co, 814th TD relieved D Troop of the 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn in position at 0830.

26 October 1944 - Active patrolling carried out with little activity reported.

27 October 1944 - At 1045 27 Oct 44 the 1st Plat Rcn Co 814th TD En reported a unit of the 87th Rcn Sqdn was in trouble in the vicinity of NEDERWEERT. 87th Rcn Sqdn position at coordinates 616022 was receiving heavy mortar and artillery fire. The 40th Tank Bn was ordered to dispatch one company of tanks with one platoon of infantry and TD attached to area 613052 at 1305. This TF was attached to CC R by Division order at 1630. The TF reached its destination at 613052 at 1701. TF known as Task Force Nelson.

28 October 1944 - The Tank Platoon of TF Nelson returned from patrol and had nothing to report. As of 0600 TF Nelson was released from CC R and attached to CC A, also A troop 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn was attached to CC A as of 0600 this date. TF Nelson was directed to prepare for attack direction South and East on order at 0600. Task Force moved to line 617023 to 638027. Task Force began attack but progress was slow as it met determined enemy resistance. At the close of the period TF Nelson line was located at coordinates 616025-633023. On the remainder of the CC A front active patrolling was carried out.

29 October 1944 - TF Nelson resumed their attack at 0700 this date. Progress was slow the enemy was able to maintain their positions. On other sections of the CC A front active patrolling was carried out.

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30 October 1944 - Task Force Nelson was ordered to maintain and outpost bridgehead and extend to original positions starting at 0630 this date. Task Force Nelson accomplished this mission with the loss of one tank, one other damaged.

At 2120 29 Oct 44 it was reported that enemy tanks and heavy vehicles were in the vicinity of SCHANS and it was believed that construction work was being undertaken by the enemy. Our artillery was called upon to stop this activity and succeeded in doing so.

Between the hours of 0430 and 0600 three attempts were made by the enemy to cross canal at NEDERWEERT. These attempts were halted by our artillery.

At coordinates 648948 and 653936 there was enemy activity attempting to put bridge across the canal at those points.

FO #22, Hq CC "A", was issued at 1715A.

CC "B" relieved CC "A" at 1845A.

31 October 1944 - Units of CC "A" completed move into positions as per FO #22, Hq CC "A" 30 October 1944.

Hq of CC "A" moved on this date to coordinates 612072.

While the 38th Armd Inf Bn was moving into position on the morning of 31 October 1944, 70 enemy foot soldiers began an attack in their vicinity. The 814th TD Bn covering the movement of the 38th AT Bn into position brought direct fire to bear on the enemy and hastily quelled the attack. Of the 70 Germans attacking, 30 were taken prisoner.

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

3 December 1944.

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : Commanding General, 7th Armd Div, APO #257, U. S. Army.

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report covering the period 1 November 1944
thru 30 November 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

/s/ ALVIN L. MENTE Jr
ALVIN L. MENTE, Jr.,
Lt Col, Inf,
Exec O.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT

1 Nov 44 - FO #23, Hq CC "A", was issued at 2300 on 1 November 1944. This field order confirmed with verbal orders issued previously by the Commanding Officer, Col Dwight A. Rosebaum. To comply with these orders, units of CC "A" were engaged on this date in moving into positions and to prepare to attack at 1000 2 November 1944 as ordered. Hq CC "A" was located at coordinates 612074 (Map: Nederweert, south portion, scale: 1/25,000). Considerable enemy activity was encountered by the 38th Armd Inf Bn, with enemy reported digging in in the vicinity of coordinates 640555. There was also activity reported to the south of the 38th Armd Inf Bn. The composition of CC "A" units was as follows: Task Force Fuller (commanded by Lt Col Fuller, 38th Armd Inf Bn) consisting of the 38th Armd Inf Bn, attached A Company 40th Tk Bn., C Company 40th Tk Bn., a platoon from A Company 814th TD Bn., a platoon from A Company 33d Armd Engr Bn; Task Force Brown (commanded by Lt Col Brown, 40th Tk Bn) consisting of 40th Tk Bn., minus A and C Company, attached A Company 48th Armd Inf Bn., a platoon of A Company 814th TD Bn., a platoon of A Company 33rd Armd Engr Bn. At 1745 the 48th Armd Inf Bn was attached to Combat Command "A".

Throughout the day intermittent artillery harrassed our troops. Our artillery was called upon to fire many missions and did so apparently with good effect.

Our troops succeeded in capturing about 20 of the enemy in activity throughout the day, including one officer, a lieutenant.

2 November 44 - During the nite of 1 November 1944 our front line units dug in and prepared to attack on the morning of 2 November at 1000. At 1117 2 November 44 TF Fuller crossed LD. TF Brown crossed LD at 1110. At 1225 contact was made between both TF's. Battalions were abreast at coordinates 617025-623027-630030. Mine fields were encountered but by 1300 two lanes had been cleared through mine field at 635035. At 1645 the front line was at 617022-624022-630025-640034, and at 1830 the leading elements of TF Fuller were at 618018-630023.

At the beginning of the attack both Task Forces were receiving AT fire. Artillery was called upon to place concentration on possible gun position. This was done and as a result the AT fire ceased. Other missions were fired by our artillery upon request with good results.

During the day's action a total of seven (7) PW's were taken by troops of CC "A".

3 November 1944 - Having consolidated and reorganized on the nite of 2 November 1944 both Task Forces moved out on the morning of 3 November 1944 to continue on their mission. Light enemy opposition was met and both Task Forces succeeded in moving to and reaching their objective. Artillery missions were fired on request and their effectiveness contributed to the advance of our troops.

During the day's action a total of six (6) PW's were taken by troops of CC "A".

Task Forces dug in for the night along line 653012-648022-643036.

4 November 1944 - Both Task Forces resumed the attack on the morning of 4 November 1944 and succeeded in making rapid advance during the morning hours but were held up in the afternoon by artillery fire and mine fields. The mine field contained a large amount of AT and AP mines. Engineer troops were dispatched to sweep mine field from supply route and zone of advance. Our forces dug in for the night. In the vicinity of coordinate 670532 the field was heavily strewn with AT and AP mines. As it was suspected that the remainder of the area was mined an additional Engineer platoon was requested to clear the area and was dispatched to do so.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

5 November 1944 - CC "A" units having maintained their positions during the night of 4-5 November started out again at 0730 and advanced slowly owing to the heavily mined area and units receiving artillery, machine gun, and mortar fire. Throughout the day requests for artillery were dispatched and artillery missions were fired with good results. The movement of tanks was hampered by the extensive mine fields and their attempts to move forward drew heavy artillery fire.

Engineer troops were again utilized probing zone of advance for mines.

At 2000 on the evening of 5 Nov 44 relief of the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion was begun by the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion and relief was completely effected at 0445 on the morning of 6 Nov 44.

Information was received from Division Hq that one battalion of the 227 Brigade (British) would relieve the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion on the evening of 6 Nov 44.

6 Nov 44 - The 38th Armored Infantry Battalion jumped off on their attack at 1445 this date and in cleaning out area 678058 - 673056 encountered AP minefields. Engineers were employed to clear mines.

At 1815 this date word was received that CC A would move with Division to new assembly area.

Positions were consolidated for the night of 6-7 November 1944.

7 Nov 44 - Positions were maintained during the period. Engineers guarded and maintained two bridges at 614055. They searched for and removed mines in the vicinity of 661052 and 667055.

The 40th Tank Battalion was relieved in position and completed move to new assembly area vicinity MAARHEESE.

8 Nov 44 - CC A relieved in all positions and moved to new assembly area vicinity Maarheese.

9 Nov 44 - CC A moved from assembly area vicinity Maarheese, Holland, to new assembly area vicinity Ekkelrade, Holland.

9 - 21 Nov 44 - Period spent in rehabilitation and maintenance.

22 Nov 44 - CC A moved from vicinity Ekkelrade, Holland to new assembly area vicinity MUSSCHEMIG, Holland. Hq CC A at MUSSCHEMIG, coordinate 760571.

23 - 30 Nov 44 . Negative report.

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

1 January 1945.

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : Commanding General, 7th Armd Div, APO #257, U. S. Army.
(Attn: Div Historian).

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of Headquarters Combat Command "A" covering the period 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44, inclusive.

For the Commanding Officer:

/s/ Charles C. Stelling
CHARLES C. STELLING,
Lt Col, Cav,
Executive Officer.

Inclosures: CC "A" 7th Armd Div Journal 1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44, incl., includes FO's issued during month and Periodic Reports for December, w/msgs, overlays, etc.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Hq CC "A" After Action Report Dec 44..(Cont'd)..

21 Dec 44 - At the beginning of this period C Company 48th AIBn (-1 Plat) moved from Poteau to position North RR and astride the Vielsalm-Recht Road and established a defense line to the East. At 0430 21 Dec 44 there was in position astride the Vielsalm-Recht road, 100 yards West Poteau, two infantry platoons and one tank platoon. The CO, 48th AIBn was directed to send out patrols to determine enemy strength. C/48th AIBn (-1 Plat) and one platoon C Co 40th Tk Bn was sent to occupy high ground 772923. Stray enemy patrols began to harrass the road at 796896 with small arms fire. A platoon of B Co 40th Tk Bn was sent to repulse enemy patrol at 796896. A platoon of B Co 48th AIBn was sent to area where patrol had been reported. This platoon returned after recovering eight 1/4-ton trucks from which personnel of the command had been captured by enemy patrol.

A counter attack from the enemy Northwest Poteau was engaged with tanks and artillery and by 1330 21 Dec 44 was under control. Throughout the period positions were maintained and the road St Vith-Poteau was kept open despite harrassing of enemy patrols. Another strong hostile counter-attack with mortar,, MG, and artillery was repulsed at 2000. At 2345 road block at 798896 drove off hostile patrols.

22 Dec 44 - At the beginning of the period a message from instructing that present position be held and that control of Road at Poteau be held at all costs. Two platoons C Co 38th AIBn were attached, effective 0830. Two platoons C Co 38th AIBn arrived via Petit-Thier-Poteau. At 0830 approximately one company German infantry was encircling position of B Co 48th AIBn. Co C 38th instructed to move vicinity 8090 and patrol wooded area to North and East. A platoon of B Co 40th Tk Bn was sent to vicinity Rodt to repel company encircling tracks at 812887 from Northeast at 0945. At 1100 a platoon of B Co 40th Tk Bn and platoon of A Co 40th Tk Bn was engaging 16 enemy tanks in vicinity of Rodt. TD's were requested. At 788913 the vehicle area of C Co 48th AIBn was infiltrated by the enemy. Hostile tanks controlled Rodt. A message from Division advised of strong enemy attack Southwest from Rodt and instructed CC "A" to take action to retard right flank. Within and Northwest of Rodt platoon of A Co 40th Tk Bn and platoon B Co 40th Tk Bn still held on. Vehicles of B Co 48th AIBn and Service Co 48th AIBn and A-trains were knocked out. Remaining vehicles were withdrawn to Petit-Thier. Platoon A Co 40th Tk Bn and B Co 40th Tk Bn deployed Northwest Rodt with C Co 38th AIBn along woods. The CC "A" plan was to establish our units on line 774910-772920 beginning 1645. Hq CC "A" left position at 790908 at 1630. Hq CC "A" closed in Petit-Thier at 742915. The 48th AIBn CP was established at 742913; that of the 40th Tk Bn at 743914; C Co 38th AIBn (-) at 748912. At 2210 a hostile attack by tanks and infantry with bazookas from the East at Poteau resulted in the loss of two of our tanks.

23 Dec 44 - Early in the morning of 23 Dec 44 S-3 CC "A" returned from Division with plans from withdrawal. H-hour for withdrawal was set at 0600. At 1000 23 Dec 44 FO #30 Hq CC "A" was issued covering withdrawal. At 1035 a hostile counter-attack was begun by infantry at 770924. Counter-attack was stopped by artillery and tanks at 1115. Hostile tanks moving East on road at 770913 were taken under fire at 1230. Air support was rendered and planes bombed and strafed enemy positions at 77779220.¹ This support was very effective and continued throughout the daylight hours. Support for the withdrawal was also received from the 275 AFA Bn beginning about 1400. Withdrawal was made through CC "R" which also covered the movement. At the close of the period units were enroute or closed in to new assembly area vicinity Harze. Hq CC "A" was located at Harze.

24 Dec 44 - CO CC "A" reported to 18th Corps as ordered early in morning of 24 Dec 44. One Co 814th TD was alerted to have one platoon for movement by 0600 24 Dec 44 and this platoon was attached to CC "A" task force. CO CC "A" returned from Corps and issued verbal orders to have B Co 40th Tk Bn, A Co 48th AIBn, and one platoon A Co 33rd Armd Engr Bn move to Manhay without delay. Entire command was to be moved into 550911 and 523930; troops to be disposed there at once, remainder of command to follow at earliest possible time. Verbal orders from CO CC "A" were issued. All movement was affected and positions were taken up as shown on position overlay accompanying report #132. Contact was gained with 2nd Bn 325 Airborne at Fraiture. Liaison with 591 FA² was established at

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S-E-C-R-E-T

¹ "77779220" is as in the original.

² Original appears to have had "511" and then typed "9" over "1" to change to "591".

S-E-C-R-E-T

Hq CC "A" After Action Report Dec 44 (Cont'd)...

at 1700. Air support was received from 1030 until darkness. At 1700 the 23rd AI Bn was attached to CC "A". One Bn 424 Inf Regt attached to CC "A" at 1700 but reverted to control of Division at 1745. At 1430 the CC "A" sector was changed to include Tri-les-Cheslaing (5591) and the high ground West of Grandmenil (5290). Hq CC "A" was located at Manhay. At about 2220 a severe hostile attack was begun by the enemy after a heavy artillery concentration. Plans had been made for withdrawal of CC "A" units to line Grandmenil-Vaux Chavanne as coordinated with adjacent units. The enemy attack was made almost simultaneously with this withdrawal. CC "A" units fell back and established a strongpoint at 537945. During the enemy attack a German tank infiltrated through our lines and caused destruction of one half-track, one light tank, and 2 1/4-ton trucks. Severe losses were inflicted on tank and infantry companies.

25 December 1944 - Defensive positions were organized as shown on overlay accompanying Periodic Report #133. Heavy concentrations of artillery were inflicted on enemy positions. By the evening of 25 Dec 44 our troops were again entering Manhay.

26 Dec 44 - Enemy troops succeeded in re-entering Manhay the morning of 26 Dec 44. However, through this period elements of CC "A" succeeded in maintaining and consolidating positions in sector assigned. Heavy concentrations of artillery were directed against enemy positions in Manhay and beyond.

27 Dec 44 - Consolidation of positions continued. Two Cos of the 517th Parachute Regt attacked and took the town of Manhay supported by Division artillery.

28 Dec 44 - No change in the situation took place. Positions were consolidated and forward listening posts were established which rendered hourly reports to Combat Command headquarters. Active patrolling was carried out and intermittent artillery fire from the enemy was reported from front line positions.

29 Dec 44 - All positions were maintained and listening posts continued to render hourly reports to Combat Command Headquarters. Active patrolling continued.

30 Dec 44 - CC "A" was relieved in position on this date by elements of the 291st Infantry Regiment. CC "A" units completed movement to new assembly areas in the vicinity of Xhoris.

31 Dec 44 - Negative.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report, January 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C. (through channels).

Under the Command of Colonel WILLIAM S. TRIPLET, Combat Command "A", divided into three Task Forces, Task Force WEMPLE, commanded by Lt Col JOHN C. WEMPLE, CO of the 17th Tank Battalion; Task Force RHEA, led by Lt Col ROBERT L. RHEA, CO of the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, and Task Force Seitz, under Lt Col RICHARD H. S. SEITZ, CO of the 2nd Battalion 517 Parachute Infantry Regiment, went into the attack on the morning of 20 January 1945 with their immediate objectives being DIEDENBERG, the high ground Southeast of DIEDENBERG, and the clearing of the AUF der HARDT WOODS. Task Force WEMPLE obtained its objective, DIEDENBERG, by 1030 meeting only light resistance. Task Force RHEA succeeded in securing the high ground Southeast of DIEDENBERG by 1530 despite heavy enemy resistance from houses in their zone of action. During the remainder of the period positions were consolidated and plans made for the attack on 21 January 1945 of the AUF der HARDT WOODS.

At 0400 21 January 1945 Task Force SEITZ moved out across the LD toward their objective, the AUF der HARDT WOODS. Very little opposition was met and by 0900 Task Force SEITZ was on the objective. Task Force WEMPLE and Task Force RHEA moved out from their positions at 0800 to tie in with the flanks of Task Force SEITZ. By 1200 this was accomplished and a small force was then ordered to seize the high ground at 879964, which mission was accomplished at 1400.

Task Force SEITZ in advancing to clear the AUF der HARDT WOODS met moderate enemy resistance, consisting in the main of small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Five members of an enemy patrol, captured in the area of TASK FORCE SEITZ's advance, brought to light the fact that units of the 12 SS Pz Div were defending against CC "A"'s advance.

Artillery and Nebelwerfer fire was used by the enemy in considerably heavy concentrations on this date in the area of the AUF der HARDT WOODS.

The Command Officer of CC "A" issued Operations Instructions to assembled Task Force Commanders at a meeting at the CC "A" CP at 0200 22 January 1945. These Operations Instructions set forth the plan for the taking of HUNNANGE and the wooded area East of HUNNANGE. At 1000 on the morning of the 22nd January 1945 the movement for the attack began and, moving through small arms, anti-tank, and artillery fire, Task Forces SEITZ and WEMPLE put themselves in position to jump-off to take HUNNANGE. At 1700 both Task Forces jumped-off and by 1745 had reached their objective and were consolidating positions. Task Force RHEA in the meantime had taken up positions on the South edge of the IN der EIDT WOODS, having followed Task Forces SEITZ and WEMPLE, mopping up such resistance as remained behind those Task Forces. Small arms fire and anti-tank fire was met by our advancing troops but was swiftly reduced. Speed of advance was the "order of the day" for our troops and in carrying this out they succeeded in disorganizing the enemy to a large extent. A few enemy tanks were observed but these did not engage in ground fighting except for firing at long range.

Enemy units efforting to oppose our advance this date were revealed through PW interrogation to be elements of the 18 VG Div, the 246 VG Div, and the 12 SS Pz Div. Artillery fire was not in as great amount as on the previous day and enemy infantry bore the brunt of defense without much support. The result was the capture intact of several isolated enemy groups of resistance.

Upon reaching its objective CC "A" assumed control this date of Task Force GRIFFIN commanded by Lt Col GRIFFIN, CO of the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion.

Throughout the period of 23 January 1945 units of CC "A" were engaged in changes of boundaries (as shown in allied documents to this report). Positions held by units of CC "A" were consolidated.

[Back of page 1 contains very faint map overlay.]

Hq CC "A", 7th Armd Div, After Action, Report of, January 1945 (Cont 'd).

During the period 24 January 1945 active patrolling was maintained and consolidation of all positions was continued. Task Force RHEA reverted to CC "A" control as of 1400 24 January 1945 having been detached from CC "A" and attached to CC "B" control on 23 January 1945.

At 1430 24 January 1945 FO #35 Hq CC "A" was issued by the Commanding Officer. The line-up of Task Force RHEA, Task Force WEMPLE, Task Force SEITZ, and Task Force GRIFFIN was assigned mission as follows: Task Force RHEA to seize, secure and defend WALLERODE; Task Force GRIFFIN to seize and defend high ground Northwest of WALLERODE; Task Force SEITZ to seize and defend high ground North of WALLERODE. Task Force WEMPLE, in reserve, took up positions from which to bring direct fire on the objectives. H-hour was set at 1000 25 January 1945 and at exactly 1000 that date Task Forces SEITZ, RHEA, and GRIFFIN jumped-off for their objectives. Small arms, machine-gun, and artillery fire resisted the advance of the troops but despite this, and despite heavy mortar and sporadic Nebelwerfer fire, all Task Forces succeeded in securing objectives before nightfall.

The ground opposition in this attack on WALLERODE and vicinity consisted chiefly of well dug-in infantry whose emplacements were connected by tunnels and by dugouts. The points of high ground were well defended by dug-in infantry supported by mortars and machine guns. In addition, the houses along the route of advance were organized for defense. But the coordination of plans, the determination and bravery of the troops on the line, the combined use of all weapons in the attack added up to the success which this operation, and all operations reported herein, enjoyed. Such was the character of the attack that at the close of the period patrols were pushed forward in the direction of the Division objective line when reports were received of an enemy retreat.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
Ex-O CC "A".

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY.

SUBJECT: After Action Report February 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C. (through channels).

Headquarters Combat Command "A", commanded by Col WILLIAM S. TRIPLET, was located throughout the period 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945, inclusive, at LaBRUYERE, BELGIUM.

Units under command of Combat Command "A", 7th Armored Division, at the beginning of the period were the 17th Tank battalion, the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, B Company of the 33rd Armored Engineer Battalion, A Company of the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 2nd Platoon of C Company of the 203rd Anti-aircraft Automatic Weapons Self-propelled Battalion.

The entire period was spent in rehabilitation of personnel and vehicles, care of weapons, training and range firing. In addition to these activities, personnel of the units were at times engaged in road maintenance work in the Corps area. Road maintenance in the Combat Command area was done throughout the period. A CPX and Map exercise, in which headquarters Combat Command "A" and units under its command participated, was conducted by Division during the period 15-17 February 1945. A critique was held for CC "A" and units on 19 February 1945 at the CP of the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion at HENRI CHAPPELLE, BELGIUM, on 19 February 1945.

As of 022130 February 1945 the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion reverted to Division control and reverted to CC "A" control at 1400 10 February 1945. During their absence they assumed defensive positions in vicinity 984312.

A Company of the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion reverted to control of the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion at 1630 on 7 February 1945 and at the end of the period had not yet returned to CC "A" control. During their absence they were engaged in assuming defensive positions in the areas of the 69th and 99th Infantry Divisions, maintaining them for the purpose of supporting those Divisions in the case of an armored enemy counter-attack.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
Executive O.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

1 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report of CC"A" 7th Armd Div March 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C. (through channels).

Transmitted herewith is After Action, Report of, for this Command for the month of March 1945, together with supporting documents.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
ExecO

Incl: S-3 Journal March 1945,
w/msgs, overlay, Opns Instrs,
FOs, and Allied papers.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

1 April 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT MARCH 1945

Maps: 1 Mar - 2 Mar: France & Belgium, Sheet 70, 1/50,000.
3 Mar: GSGS 4040, Sheets 70, GSGS 4507, Sheet 20, 1/50,000
4 Mar - 7 Mar: GSGS 4507, Sheet 20, 1/50,000
8 Mar: GSGS 4507, Sheet 40 and 60, 1/50,000
9 Mar -22 Mar: GSGS 4507, Sheet 60, 1/50,000
23 Mar -25 Mar: GSGS 4507, Sheet 60 and 80, 1/50,000
26 Mar: S-2, 1/100,000
27 Mar -31 Mar: R-3, 1/100,000

1 Mar 45 - The CP of CC "A" 7th Armd Div was located on this date at La Bruyere, Belgium. Under its command was the 23 AIBn, 17 Tk Bn, B Co 33d Armd Engr Bn. Commanding CC "A" was Colonel WILLIAM S. TRIPLET, There was no contact at this time with the enemy.

2 Mar 45 - At 1500 2 March 1945 CC "A" was alerted for movement anytime after 0800 3 Mar 45. At 0800 2 Mar 45 C Btry 203 AAA AW Bn (-) was attached to CC "A" in place.

3 Mar 45 - CC "A" moved from vicinity LaBruyere, Belgium, to vicinity of Konzen, Germany, closing in their new area at 031445 March 1945. A Co 814 TD Bn was attached to CC "A" at 031445 Mar 45. At this time CC "A" was formed in Task Forces Wemple and Rhea, with a CC Reserve, embodying TF King, and the Hq & Hq Co CC "A". These Task Forces were led by Lt Col Wemple, CO 17th Tk Bn, Lt Col Rhea, CO 23 AIBn, and Lt Col King, Executive Officer of Combat Command "A".

4-6 Mar 45 - CC "A" remained at Konzen during this period conducting training, prepared to operate in the Division Zone.

7 Mar 45 - CC "A" moved from Konzen to vic Fussenich, Germany, closing at 071430 Mar 45. CC was prepared to operate to NE, E, or SE. The 489 AFA Bn and the 38th AIBn were attached to CC "A" at 072000 Mar 45.

8 Mar 45 - Early on the morning of 8 Mar 45 CC "A" began a march from Vic Fussenich to Assy area Vic Miel, Germany, closing at 080900 Mar. At 1030 CC "A" advanced in two columns, TF Wemple, TF Rhea. Following in support was TF Griffith, under Lt Col Griffith³, CO 38th AIBn. The objective was the West bank of the Rhine River. The two Task Forces were met by no opposition and by 1800 8 Mar 45 occupation of the West bank of the Rhine River from Mehlem to Unkelbach was completed. CP CC "A" at close of period was at Berkum, Germany. The 489 AFA Bn fired one round to be the first Arty Bn of the Division to fire East of the Rhine River.

9 Mar 45 - Positions of CC "A" were consolidated and boundaries readjusted. CP remained at Berkum.

10 Mar 45 - CC "A" on this date organized and maintained newly assigned defense sector.

11-22 Mar 45 - The Combat Command continued active patrolling, strengthened and maintained defense in sector during this period. On 20 Mar 45 internal security against possible enemy airborne attack was organized and maintained and this remained in operation until the Command was relieved of its responsibility for same.

23 Mar 45 - On this date CC "A" was relieved of responsibility for defense and internal security in its sector on W bank of the Rhine River.

24 Mar 45 - During the night 23-24 Mar 45 CC "A" completed movement across the Rhine River and closed into Assy area, with the CP of CC "A" located at Ginsterhahn (724197).

25 Mar 45 - CC "A" moved into Fwd Assy Area prepared to attack on Division Order. The 489 AFA Bn was attached at 0900 25 Mar 45. CC "A" formed into two Task Forces and CC Reserve. CP CC "A" closed at Ehlscheid at 1925 25 Mar 45.

³ Lt. Col. Marcus S. Griffin

26 Mar 45 - Early in the morning of 26 Mar 45, CC A jumped off on an attack which was to carry them SE down the Autobahn; the objective, Limburg. Driving with speed, carrying out the order to by-pass, encircle, and push, the attack was marked with success. Before reaching Limburg, plans were changed and the Command swung NE and drove toward Wetzlar. German wreckage along the route, thousands of surrendering enemy soldiers, abandoned guns and equipment gave testimony to the fact that the drive was creating havoc among the enemy forces; they were given no opportunity to set-up a defense capable of halting the attack. Wetzlar was cleared on 28 Mar 45 and CC "A"'s three Task Force columns, Wemple, Rhea, and King pushed East towards Giessen, Germany. Stiffer resistance was offered at Giessen than at any of the other places along the route of CC "A"'s advance but the town was cleared and outposted at 2130 28 Mar 45. Included in the bag for operations on this day were 19 88-mm guns, 7 20-mm guns, and a number of AT weapons of unidentified caliber. It was in the Vic of Giessen that a German PW camp containing approximately 1000 Allied Prisoners of War, the majority American soldiers, was overrun, freeing the captives.

29 Mar 45 - CC "A" was relieved in the Vic of Giessen by the 394 Inf Regt on this date and, in TF formation, the Command moved to a new Assy area in the Vic of Liedenhofen, Germany. The CC was reorganized into two Task Forces, and prepared to operate in the Div Zone.

30-31 Mar 45 - CC "A" remained in Div reserve until the end of the period.

Col W. S. Triplet, Commanding Officer Combat Command "A", was wounded on the night of 27-28 Mar 45 when his vehicle was struck by an enemy anti-tank gun. Despite a harrowing night spent in having to fight off the attempts of two enemy soldiers to take him prisoner or to kill him, and in trying to find his way back to his CP alone, Col Triplet remained on the field the following day. He directed the operations of the Command until the taking of Giessen. He was then evacuated and was replaced by Col A. J. Adams.

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

1 May 1945

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.
(thru channels).

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of this unit for the month of April 1945.

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
ExecO.

Encl: Allied Documents.

S-E-C-R-E-T

Subject: After Action Report, April 1945.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C. (thru channels).

At the beginning of the period, 1 April 1945, Hq CC A was established at Ellershausen, Germany (809767). A three hour alert was placed on CC A for attachment on call to the VII Corps for possible employment in the general vicinity 625840. Routes to the Northwest toward possible area of employment were reconnoitered.

Patrols to the Eder River in the assigned zone of CC A were maintained.

At 1700 on 2 April CC A was attached to the VII Corps and in turn to the 104 Inf Div. At 2000 on 2 April CC A began movement from the Vicinity of Ellershausen to Assy area Vic Medebach, Germany (6789). The CP CC A closed at Medebach at 0100 3 April and the entire command closed as of 0545 effecting relief of the 1st Battalion of the 415 Infantry Regiment. CC A was organized in three Task Forces, Task Force Wemple, under Lt Col Wemple, CO of the 17th Tk Bn, TF Rhea, commanded by Lt Col Rhea, CO of the 23d Armd Inf Bn, and TAsk Force Daley, led by Maj Daley, Executive Officer of the 17th Tk Bn. Their composition was as follows:

<u>TF WEMPLE</u>	<u>TF RHEA</u>	<u>TF DALEY</u>
17 Tk Bn (less two(2)	23 AIB (less two(3)Cos)	B/17
Cos(M) and D/17 less	C/17	C/23
one (1) Plat)	1/D/17	D/17 (less 2 Plats)
B/23	1/A/814	A/814 (less 2 Plats)
1/A/814	1/B/33	1/B/33
1/B/33		

Per Operations Instructions issued by the CO of CC A, Col J. Adams, CC A was to attack in conjunction with the 415 Inf Regt at 0930 on 3 April to seize and secure Glindfeld (649897) and RJ 654887 and establish security screen. TF Wemple and TF Rhea were given the mission of accomplishing these objectives, while TF Daley was to move to Medebach and establish close in security in that area. The 489th AFA Bn attached to CC A was displaced forward to fire preparatory fires on the objectives and to afford other fires on call. The objectives were seized against light apposition and by 1100 3 April 1945 the positions were consolidated, TF Daley was then assigned the task of assisting the 3d Battalion of the 145 Infantry Regiment in seizing and securing the town of Kustelberg (607920). TF Daley moved to carry out this mission at 1745. Direct fire from AT guns, tanks and SP guns were encountered and TF Daley could not get into the town until after dark. Kustelberg was finally entered at 1930 3 April 1945.

At 2400 3 April CC A was detached from the 104th Inf Div and attached the the 9th Infantry Division. CC A, less TF Daley, moved from Vicinity Medebach to attack positions in the vicinity of Kustelberg. At 12004 Apr 45 all elements of CC A were in Kustelberg. relieving the 3d Bn of the 145 Infantry Regiment. The CP of CC A closed at Medebach at 0900 4 Apr 45 and opened at Kustelberg at 1015 4 Apr 45.

Operations Instructions issued at 2200 on 3 Apr 45 gave TF Wemple the mission of moving from their positions at Medebach to Kustelberg to occupy and defend the North section of town. They were to block all entrances to area; destroy all direct fire weapons capable of firing into the area and prepare to continue the advance to the Northwest. TF Daley was given a similar mission, occupying and defending the South section of Kustelberg. TF Rhea was to secure Medebach, Medelon (654863) and to maintain contact with elements of the 60th Infantry Regiment.

At 1000 on 4 April 45 TF Wemple attached to seize Gronebach (5769 (576928). Heavy Anti-tank, artillery, mortar, and small arms fire was encountered and the attack was halted at 592927. After reorganization, the attack was resumed at 1600 assisted by elements of TF Rhea and TF Daley. The objective was seized at 1636 4 April 1945. At 1230 4 Apr 45 TF Rhea attacked and seized Hildfeld (580944), securing objective at 1356. TF Daley attacked at 1700 and seized Niedersfeld at 1945 meeting heavy anti-tank, artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Security of all objectives seized was organized and Task Forces prepared to continue attack.

At 2330 4 April 1945 CC A was reinforced with 1 Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment. Operations Instructions issued at 2150 4 April 1945 assigned missions to Task Forces of CC A. The attack began at 0800 5 April 1945. Attacking Northwest from Niedersfeld toward Wiemeringhausen (5399) our forces were met with heavy AT fire and a road block in the vicinity 547974 defended by SP and S/a fire. It was believed that the enemy was employing eight SP assaultguns to bolster his defense. After clearing out this resistance, our troops advanced to within 200 yards Southeast of Wiemeringhausen where they received heavy 20-mm fire. The town was cleared and from that point North only light resistance was encountered. During the late afternoon our forces launched an attack on Brunschappel (5399) from the North. The advance was held up by heavy AT, SP, mortar, artillery and small arms fire. The enemy resisted stubbornly. At the close of the period our forces were preparing to attack the town again. One SP gun reported at the edge of woods at 515991. 120-mm mortar fire fell on Niedersfeld throughout the day.

The 489 AFA Bn continued to provide close support for the attack of the Task Forces of CC A.

On 6 April 1945 TF Daley, attached to which was C Co of the 47th Infantry Regiment and one platoon of B troop of the 87 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz), continued the attack from Elleringhausen, moving out at 0805. A road block at 545060 was reduced at 0835. At 0930 Olsberg was attacked and seized, with only small resistance encountered. At 1300 Bigge was attacked, encountering moderate artillery and mortar fire and heavy small arms fire. At 1700, after reducing moderate artillery and mortar fire and light small arms fire, Antfeld was seized and secured, Task Force Wemple moved out from Brunskappel at 0900, set up a road block at 525020 at 1035 and secured Assinghausen. Task Force Rhea moved out from Wullmeringhausen at 0810 6 April 1945, followed Task Force Daley through Olsberg and Bigge, turned South from Bigge and attacked and secured Helmeringhausen at 1330. At the close of the period the CP CC A was located at Olsberg.

CC A remained on defensive status in the Zone Helmeringhausen, Antfeld, Olsberg Assinghausen until relieved by the 3d Battalion of the 47th Infantry Regiment. At 1930 6 April 1945 CC A was relieved of attachment to the 9th Infantry Division and was relieved in its zone at 0700 7 April 1945. A/814 was attached to the 47 Inf Regiment in the vicinity of Olsberg at 0700 7 April 1945 and B Co 17 Tk Bn was attached to the 47 Inf Regt in the vicinity of Antfeld at 0700 7 April 1945. CC A moved on order of the 7th Armd Div to new assembly area in the vicinity of Winterberg (555889)- Langeweise (507845) and Hoheleye (498829).

Throughout the period of 8 April 1945 CC A, continued in 7th Armd Div reserve to be employed only on order of the CG of the III Corps.

On 9 April 1945 CC A moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Gleidorf prepared to operate on Division order in Division zone.

On 10 April 1945 CC A moved from vicinity Gleidorf to Arpe - Kukelheim - Kobbenrode. TF Rhea moved North from Kobbenrode at 1600, attacked and siezed Isingheim at 1810. They then moved North and contacted TF Griffin of CC R at Bremscheid at 1830. Returning, they secured and outposted Isingheim at 1930. TF Daley formed in the vicinity of Schwartmecke and moved North to Obr Marpe, bypassing minefield at 288988 and attacked Obr Valbert. TF Wemple, formed in forward assembly area in Arpe and Kukelheim and was put on a thirty minute alert at 0900.

On 11 April 1945 CC A again moved, this time to positions in the vicinity of Eslohe, Ndr Salwey, Seipertine, Bremscheid closing at 1615 11 April 1945. CP CC A was located at Eslohe at 1525 11 April 1945. The 489 AFA Bn was attached to CC A and K Co of the 395 Inf Regt was attached to TF Rhea at 1730 this date.

On 12 April 1945 CC A moved from forward Assembly area vic Eslohe-Ndr Salwey-Seipertine-Bremscheid, passed through elements of the 2nd Infantry Regiment at Hellefeld at 072⁴. Task Force Rhea attacked and seized Wentenfeld, Selschede, Rohre, Recklinghausen, Siedfeld, Amecke Bruchhausen, Kasberg, Mellen, Elberzloh, Melsched, Hovel, against light to moderate resistance. Task Force Wemple turned left at Kasberg, attacked and seized Langenholthausen and was continuing attack toward Balve at the end of the period against light to moderate resistance. Task Force Daley turned left at Kasberg, prepared to support Task Force Wemple in attack on Langenholthausen and Balve until the end of the period. The 489 AFA Bn displaced forward on the axis of advance; provided constant artillery support. At 2055 12 April 1945 the CP of CC A was opened at Langenholthausen.

At 0830 13 April 1945 the 3d Bn of the 395 Inf Regt and Task force Chappuis, under command of Lt Col Chappuis of the 48th Armd Inf Bn 7th Armd Div were attached to CC A. Task Force Wemple attacked North from Volkringhausen at first light but heavy fire and poor terrain for their operations limited them to small gains and at the end of the period their attack was continuing. At 2000 elements of the 5th Inf, Div were passing through in support of their attack. Task Force Rhea attacked at first light on 13 April from Hovel (B1308) Southwest to Beckum (B110065) which was taken at 1330 and continued West to contact the infantry of TF Wemple at 1450 after working through a road block. At 1200 an attack to the Northwest was launched by TF Chappuis, TF Daley, and the 3d battalion of the 39t Infantry Regiment, Task Force Chappuis jumped off from Hovel at 1200, contacted elements of the 10 Inf, at 125106 and cleared woods E of that point at 1330. Considerable opposition was met 500 yards East of Eisborn (B102099) at 1800 and at the end of the period Task Force Chappuis had seized the town. Daley attacked from Balve to the Northwest over difficult terrain, supporting the attack on the town of Deilinghofen (B048088) 3d Battalion of the 395 Inf Regt, K Co having reverted to battalion control at 0800, attacked Northwest at 1200 from Balve, cleared the woods Northwest of the town and at the end of the period were attacking to capture Deilinghofen and landing ground 1000 yards North of Deilinghofen. The CP of CC A moved from Langenholthausen to Balve at 1400 13 April and from Balve to Beckum at 1630.

On 14 April 1945 The CP CC A remained at Beckum. Task force Wemple from Volkringhausen continued attack North to RJ 093079 with elements of the 5th Inf Div in support. The attack was halted at 084087 at 0200 due to stiffened enemy resistance. The Attack was resumed at 0615. Haustadt was seized and secured at 0812, Honnethal at 1014, Brockhausen at 1100, an enemy PW Camp in the vicinity of Hemer was seized at 1600 and Task Force Wemple maintained positions until the end of the period. Task Force Rhea attacked seized and secured Riemke at 1300, Aprike at 1400, holding defensive position 1 1/2 Km

⁴ The last 3 digits of these coordinates are off the right side of the page.

West of Aprike at end of the period.. Task Force Daley moved from Beckum at 0805 22 Apr 45 and attacked, seized, and secured Deilinghofen at 0846, receiving artillery and AT fire from the Northwest intermittently for the remainder of the period.. The CO of Task Force Daley, Major Thomas Daley, Executive Officer of the 17th Tank Battalion was instrumental during the afternoon of 14 April in efforts to negotiate a peaceful entry of our forces into Hemer. During the period of his talks with the Enemy parliaimentairs all firing ceased on Hemer. This consumed the time from 1200 to 2030 14 Apr 45. The 3d Battalion of the 395 Regt moved from its positions at RJ 060054 at 0800 14 April 45 and, under moderate artillery and AT fire, attacked, seized, and secured Sundwig at 1250. At the end of the period they were in position for the attack on Hemer. Task Force Chappuis remained in defensive position at Eisborn until 0940. The Task Force moved From Eisborn at 1125 closed in at Hovel (132079), reverted to CC B control at 1330.

On 15 April 1945 Task Forces Wemple and Rhea remained in place and Task Force Wemple was relieved of responsibility of En PW Camp (030096) at 1015 15 Apr by the 395 Inf Regt. Task Force Daley withdrew from Hemer, consolidating position at Deilinghofen at 0015. The 3d Bn of the 395 Inf Regt attacked, seized, and secured Hemer with no resistance at 2200 14 Apr 45.

On 15 Apr 45 CC A prepared to move on Div order on 1 hour notice. At 0705 16 Apr 45 the command moved from the vicinity of Brockhausen-Deilinghofen-Aprise to new assembly area in the vicinity of Gottingen, the command closing in to new assembly area at 0430 17 Apr 45.

CC A remained in the vicinity of Gottingen, with the CP at Mengershausen, until the night of 29 Apr 45 when it began movement to new Assembly area in the vicinity of Eschede, Dalle, Underluss, Muden, Oldendorf, Starklshorn. The Command closed in the new area at 1445 30 Apr 45.

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
Exec O CC A.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

5 June 1945.

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(thru channels).

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report for this unit for the month of May 1945.

(signed)
THEO T. KING,
Lt Col, Inf,
ExO.

Encl: Allied Papers.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT - JUNE 1945

On 1 May 45 Combat Command "A", 7th Armored Division, under command of Colonel WILLIAM S. TRIPLET, arrived at a new assembly area in the vicinity of ESCHEDI-DALLE-UNDERLUSS-MUDEN-OLDENDORF-STARKSHORN, in GERMANY.

On 2 May 45 at 0730 Operations Instructions were issued covering movement of the Combat Command to a new Assembly area in the vicinity of VELLAHN, GERMANY. Under command of this headquarters were Task Force WEMPLE, led by Lt Col WEMPLE, Commanding Officer of the 17th Tk Bn; Task Force Rhea, under Lt Col RHEA, CO of the 23rd Armd Inf Bn; Task Force DAILEY, commanded by Major THOMAS W. DAILEY, Executive Officer of the 17th Tk Bn; and Task Force CHAPPUIS, led by Lt Col CHAPPUIS, Commanding Officer 48th Armored infantry Battalion. Under direct control of the headquarters was the headquarters and headquarters Company, the 489th Armd Field Artillery Battalion, and B Company of the 33rd Armored Engineer Battalion. At the end of the period on 2 May 45 the Combat Command was closed in its new area in the vicinity of KLODDRAM.

On 3 May 45 the Command again moved, this time to new area in the vicinity of RANKENDORF-ROGGENSTORF-DASSOW-KLUTZ-GREVESMUHLEN-KALKHORST. Here in this area units of the Command were engaged in operating Prisoner of War enclosures, establishing local security and enforcing civilian control. Hq CC A was located at ROGGENSTORF during the period 3 and 4 May 45, later moving on the 5th of May to BOLTENHAGEN on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

The moves of CC A during the first days of May were part of the plan which was to execute the drive of the 7th Armored Division, operating closely with the 82nd Airborne Division, and attached to the British Second Army, across the ELBE RIVER and to the Baltic Sea, further splitting the already well cut up German Armies. The plans were conceived, execution of them was made - but opposition was nil. Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces facing the 21st Army Group allowed for the Command to carry out its operations without the firing of a single shot. But one obstacle was in the path of the advance, the thousands of German troops, and vehicles, using the route of advance of CC A as their route of retirement to Prisoner of War enclosures.

CC A remained at the vicinity of BOLTENHAGEN-GREVESMUHLEN-DASSOW until the 21st of May when it began movement to vicinity of EILENBURG-GLESSEN-ZSCHORTAU. At the end of May the CP of CC A was located at ZSCHORTAU, GERMANY.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

13 July 1945

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report for this unit for the month of June 1945 together with allied papers.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
WALTER P. LANG,
Capt, Cav,
Actng Adj.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

13 July 1945.

AFTER ACTION REPORT JUNE 1945

Maps: GSGS 4416, Scale 1/100,000, Sheets U3 and U4

Throughout the month of June 1945 CC "A" 7th Armd Div was located within the Division zone, which was in the vicinity of HALLE, GERMANY. The CP of CC A was at ZSCHORTAU (E210296) GERMANY.

Units under control of Combat Command "A", under the command of Col WILLIAM S. TRIPLET, were the 23rd Armd Inf Bn, the 17th Tank Bn, and the 33rd Armd Engr Bn.

Operations for the period consisted of maintaining road patrols, road-blocks, key installations (overlays) were guarded by CC troops, carrying out measures for civilian control, Military Government, and maintaining an airstrip. Basic training was performed and ranges were found and utilized for preparatory marksmanship and practice firing. Maintenance of vehicles and equipment and rehabilitation of personnel was continued throughout the period.

A Combat Command Reserve Task Force was maintained, companies alternating within the battalions forming armor and infantry components of the task force. This force made raids on all towns within the Combat Command area searching for German soldiers without proper discharge papers, party members, SS, and for ammunition and equipment. Such raids were made on a total of 58 localities, resulting in the arrest of 543 persons, the finding of a small amount of equipment.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

11 August 1945

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(thru channels).

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of this unit for the month of July 1945,
together with allied papers.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
WALTER P. LANG,
Capt, Cav,
Actng Adj.

~~Incls:~~

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

11 August 1945.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

JULY 1945

On 1 July 45 CC "A" moved from its former location in the vicinity of Halle, Germany and, completing its movement on 2 July 45, was located throughout the remainder of the month of July in the vicinity of Buchen, Germany. The CP of CC "A" was at Adelsheim, Germany.

Under command of CC "A" were three infantry battalions, the 23rd Armd Inf Bn, the 38th Armd Inf Bn, and the 48th Armd Inf Bn. In addition there was the 33rd Armd Engr Bn and the 814th Tank Destroyer Bn.

Activities for the period included training activities covering such subjects as Orientation, Drill, Athletics, Scouting and Patrolling, etc. In addition to normal training schedules road blocks in the area were maintained and security measures were taken. An Alert Company was on hand at all times ready to be used in the event of any emergency.

On 21 July 45 CC "A" engaged in Operation Tallyho and for its part detained a total of 262 persons. Offenses for which these arrests were made were PWs with improper discharge, SS Personnel, Party members prior to 1939, Civilians with improper identification, and possession of contraband. A limited quantity of contraband was confiscated, no US military personnel were detained, and no black market operations were uncovered in the area.

Commanding CC "A" of the 7th Armd Div was Colonel William S. Triplet.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

5 September 1945

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(thru channels)

Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of this unit for the month at August 45,
together with allied papers.

For the Commanding Officer:

(signed)
HENRY R. HARDENBERGH
Major Inf
Executive Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
APO #257, 7TH A. D., U. S. ARMY

5 September 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

AUGUST 1945

Headquarters Combat Command "A" and attached units located vicinity Buchen, Germany throughout month of August 1945. Command Post Combat Command "A" remained in Adelsheim, Germany during period.

Under command of Combat Command "A" were three infantry battalions, the 23rd Armd Inf Bn, the 38th Armd Inf Bn, 48th Armd Inf Bn and the 33rd Armd Engineer Bn.

Activities for the period included training activities covering such subjects as Orientation, Drill, Athletics, I & E and Etc. In addition to the normal training schedules, road blocks in the area were maintained and security measures were taken. An Alert Company was on hand at all times ready to be used in the event of any emergency. On the 23rd August 1945 elements of 119th Field Artillery Group with 81st Recon Squadron Atchd, assumed responsibility for BUCHEN LANDKREIS, relieving Troops of Combat Command "A", 7th Armored Division.

On 16 August 1945 upon raiding the town of Adelsheim in a security check, five (5) German soldiers were apprehended with improper discharge Papers. No enemy equipment or weapons were found.

On 24 Aug 1945, due to extensive transfers of personnel to other units, interior Companies of units under command of Combat Command "A", consolidated troops in Battalion Zones in vicinity at Battalion Command Posts for expedience in administration, messing and security. Also on this date, alert forces were discontinued as per verbal orders Commanding General, 7th Armored Division, same date. Units continued interior guard duty, redeployment of personnel, turn-in of vehicles and equipment and received personnel fillers with high ASR scores (70 plus) preparatory to redeployment to Zone of Interior.

On 30 August 1945, the 7th Armored Division was Alerted for movement to Zone of Interior.

Commanding Combat Command "A" of the 7th Armored Division was Colonel William S. Triplet until 21 August 1945 on which date he was relieved by Lt. Col. Joseph Safer who commanded Combat Command "A" for remainder of month of August 1945.