

7th Armored Division

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized

Deaths in Europe " Incomplete list

TROOP A

FRANCE

16 SEPTEMBER, 1944

37 010 918 Fowles, Roy E. Sgt. SSN-652
Dy to KIA
34 272 902 Keith, Lewis H. Pvt. SSN-776 Born 1910 MS.
Dy to DCW
34 264 114 Tillman, Ralph Pfc. SSN-345 Born 1912 AL.
Dy to KIA 16 Sept 44 LD Battle listed on 18 Sept 44 M.R.
2 other EM LWA
STATION : 15 Sept., 44, 1 Mi. SE Marieulles, France VU8345
STATION : 16 Sept., 44, 1 Mi. SE Marieulles, France VU8345

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in area 1 mi SE Marieulles under fire of enemy all day.
Could not move. Morale good, weather rained all day and night.

18 SEPTEMBER, 1944

34 264 114 Tillman, Ralph E. Sgt. SSN-652 Born 1912 AL.
Dy to KIA 16 Sept 44 LD Battle
34 191 138 Marcum, George C. Pvt. SSN-745 Born 1917 TN.
Dy to DOW LD Battle
4 other EM LWA, 2 Sk
STATION : 17 Sept., 44, 1 Mi. SE Marieulles, France VU8345
STATION : 18 Sept., 44, 1 Mi. SE Marieulles, France VU8345

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in area 1 mi SE Marieulles, held by enemy fire. Weather
fair and cloudy.

HOLLAND

12 OCTOBER, 1944

36 212 798 Cunningham, Frank E. Pvt. SSN-607 Born 1920 WS.
Dy to trfd to 47th Field Hosp SWA LD Battle DOD ?
1 other EM LWA
STATION : 11 Oct., 44, 1 Mi. S. Someren, Holland QE5911
STATION : 12 Oct., 44, 1 Mi. S. Someren, Holland QE5911

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in area 1 mile south of Someren with platoons on road patrol
along canal. 1 Pfc SWA and 1 Pvt LWA while on patrol by rifle fire from
snipers. Weather fair, morale good.

22 OCTOBER, 1944

34 192 168 Cathey, Sam Pvt. SSN-521 BORN 1914 TN
32 249 407 Robertiello, Joseph Pvt. SSN-607 BORN 1920 NJ
dy to MIA 22 Oct.,44 listed on 25 Oct.,44 M.R. DOD 22 Oct.,44
1 EM SWA , 5 EM MIA including Pvts Cathey and Robertiello
STATION : 21 Oct.,44, 2 Mi N Nederweert, Holland QE6000
STATION : 22 Oct.,44, 2 Mi SW Harik, Holland QE6602

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr Hq moved fr 2 Mi N Nederweert to 2 Mi SW Harik, Holland. Remainder of Tr remained in same area with platoons on scouting and patrolling mission along canal running NE. Contacted enemy at 1330. 1 Pvt SWA at 1730 (Booth Pvt) Weather fair, Morale good, Roads good.

23 OCTOBER, 1944

32 227 510 Morrow, Kenneth K. Pvt. SSN-745 BORN 1911
Dy to KIA 23 Oct.,44 listed on 26 Oct.,44 M.R.
STATION : 23 Oct.,44, 2 Mi SW Harik, Holland QE6602

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr remained in same area. In contact with enemy along canal running NE. Roads good. Morale good.

27 OCTOBER, 1944

01 032 031 McMillan, William H. 2nd Lt. SSN-1620
MIA 27 Oct.,44 DOD 27 Oct.,44
1 EM LWA, 14 EM and 2 O MIA including 2D Lt. McMillan
STATION : 26 Oct.,44, 2 Mi S Harik, Holland
STATION : 27 Oct.,44, 4 Mi N. Nederweert, Holland

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr Hq contacted enemy patrol which opened fire. Forced to move. Left area 2 Mi S Harik at 0745 moving N. up Canal to 4 Mi N. Nederweert, arriving at 0845. 1st, 2d, and 3d platoon still in position NE Harik. Moved back to assembly area by foot then set up defense along Harik. Roads good, Morale good. Distance traveled 5 miles. 17 EM and 2 Officers still unaccounted for.

NOTE : * In the southern zone, on the morning of the 27th, Troop A was holding the line Stokers Horst - Nederweert, West of Canal Du Nord, with a series of strong points consisting of about eight men each, each point having one machine gun, and about half having mortars(50mm and 60 MM). The distance between points was 500, 600, and in one case 800 yards; positions were changed from time to time. Seven men from the maintenance section were securing the bridge across the Willem Canal at 613054, and the maintenance armored car plus six men from Troop E were holding the road-block on the West side of the canal about 1/2 mile out of Nederweert. During the night, the enemy moved up dismounted men, and at dawn laid down a heavy artillery barrage...chiefly on Nederweert and along the banks of the Willem Canal ; probably the reason more was not laid on the Troop positions was that enemy infantry was too close to permit it. Immediately after bombardment, attacks began in the vicinity of Budschop and Kreijel Nieuw en Winnerstraat. In at least one case the enemy was led by a civilian, and in another case the

enemy infiltrated through between the strong points and appeared behind them in British and American uniforms, attracting the attention of Lt. William H. McMillan and shooting him when he exposed himself. The troop was forced to withdraw to the North, where the men from the strong-points were reassembled and a new line organized. At dusk, task force Nelson from CCA ...arrived...Troop B arrived at midnight, but due to the dispositions of friendly and enemy troops in the area it was impossible to reach the Ospel- Meijel Road with vehicles. The troop commander personally made a dismounted reconnaissance, then dismounted the troop and outposted a portion of the Horic-Meijel road. Even stretching both troops to the limit, however, a wide gap remained between the extended flank and the friendly positions along the Asten-Meijel Road." 12 EM and 2 Officers MIA

"87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized Unit History and After Action Reports" : Obtained and Transcribed by Bob Porecca and Roy W. Boylan with Assistance from Michael Furlich.

29 OCTOBER, 1944

34 179 209 Foreman, Zack N. Pfc. SSN-607 DOD ? B.1920 N.C.
 32 214 214 Rubinetti, Frank H. Pvt. SSN-521 DOD 3 Nov.,44 B.1920 N.Y.
 Above 2 E.M. Dy to trfd to 53rd Field Hosp, SWA, LD, Battle DOD ?
 36 234 564 Parks, Clyde F. Pvt. SSN-733 Born 1918
 Dy to MIA 29 Oct.,44 DOD 29 Oct.,44 IDPF

2 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA

STATION : 28 Oct.,44, 3 Mi N. Nederweert, Holland QE6106

STATION : 29 Oct.,44, 3 Mi N. Nederweert, Holland QE6106

RECORD OF EVENTS

Troop remained in same location with platoons dismounted in contact with enemy at 620 030. Was held down by artillery and mortar fire. 1 Pvt. and 1 Pfc. SWA, 1 Sgt and 1 Tec.5 LWA, 1 Tec.5 LIA by artillery fire at 635 030, time 1730(Ref : Map Maeseyck).
 Weather good. Morale poor.

ST. VITH, BELGIUM

Northern Flank

21 DECEMBER, 1944

34 230 802 Chiasson, Ira N. Cpl SSN-653 Born 1920
 39 197 111 Robblee, Philip T. Jr. Pvt. SSN-607 Born 1922 Wa.
 Above 2 EM dy to KIA 21 Dec.,44

2 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA

STATION : 20 Dec.,44, St. Vith, Belgium VP8688

STATION : 21 Dec.,44, St. Vith, Belgium VP8688

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr remained at St Vith, Belgium holding off enemy counter attacks. Enemy arty heavy. 2 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA, 2 EM KIA, 1 MI E St Vith by enemy arty. Direct hit on Armd car-M-8. Hq platoon plus Tr "E" left St Vith at 2130 to join Sq Hq. 1st, 2d, 3d platoons remained at St Vith holding off enemy attacks. Hq platoon arrived at Sq Hq at 2330. Distance traveled 5 Mi. 1st, 2d, 3d platoons withdrew 3/4 Mi because of heavy enemy opposition.

22 DECEMBER, 1944

16 091 798 Schoechert, Leslie M. Pfc. SSN-607 Born 1914 Wi.
Dy to trfd to Hosp Unknown, Clearing Sta evacuated thru unknown,
LWA, LD, Battle. 22 Dec., 44 DOD 16 Jan., 44
5 EM LWA not including Pfc. Schoechert
STATION : 22 Dec., 44, Maldange, Belgium VP7983

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr less Hq Platoon withdrew fr St Vith, Belgium slowly, holding off
enemy opposition, moving SW throughout the day. Hq Platoon remained
at Sq Hq until 2130, moving out with vehicles to join Sq trains.
4 EM LWA By shrapnel. 1 EM MIA at St Vith.

23 DECEMBER, 1944

33 844 173 Tryonas, Frank W. Pvt. SSN-607 Born 1918 Pa.
Dy to MIA 23 Dec., 44 see 26 Dec., 44 M.R. DOD ?
1 EM LWA
STATION : 23 Dec., 44, 1 Mi N. Hamoir, Belgium VK4407

RECORD OF EVENTS

Departed 1 Mi S Werbomont, Belgium at 1000. Arrived 1/2 Mi NW
Eronheid at 1045. Left there at 1900 and arrived 1 Mi N Hamoir,
Belgium. Weather clear and cold.

7th Armored Division

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron
Deaths in Europe

TROOP B

FRANCE

14 AUGUST, 1944

32 227 286 Muller, Charles G. Sgt. SSN-652 Born 1917 N.Y.
38 373 926 Werling, Martin C. Pfc. SSN-745 Born 1919 La.
Above EM KIA 14 Aug.,44 2000
1 EM MIA

STATION : 13 Aug.,44, 7/10 mi. S. Highway N-157 Vaiges, France
STATION : 14 Aug.,44, 1 1/2 mi S.W. La Loupe, France, Hwy N-828

RECORD OF EVENTS

Arrived Bivouac area 5 mi. S. Nogent Le Rotrou, France, 730. Left Bivouac area on reconnaissance mission along Hwy N-828 moving N.E. Battle engagement 1 1/2 mi. S.W. La Loupe, France, Hwy N-828 1730. Morale excellent.

NOTE: * the recon platoons pushed on to the outskirts of La Loupe, encountering a minefield covered by small arms fire, plus enemy tanks and infantry in the town. CCR closed up to the rear of Squadron Headquarters, and Colonel Newberry at about 2200 gave orders for Troop "B" to initiate a night attack through the town. Before this could be accomplished, orders were received from Division to halt in place, secure the column, and await orders. While halted, Troop "B" sent patrols to study the enemy situation, and lost three men at the minefield - two killed, one missing" "87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mecz After Action Reports".

18 AUGUST, 1944

11 064 877 Hall, James K. Pvt. SSN-745 BORN 1911 NY
SWA 18 Aug.,44 DOW 22 Jan.,45 in Kentucky
STATION : 17 Aug.,44, Highway IC 122 Moving Southeast, France
STATION : 18 Aug.,44, 1 1/2 mi W. Ablis, France on Hwy N 188

RECORD OF EVENTS

Troop in squadron reserve. Moved from Jonvilliers, France to 1 1/2 miles W. of Ablis, France on Hwy N-188. Morale excellent.

06 SEPTEMBER, 1944

32 227 447 Hansen, Raynard A. Pfc. SSN-345 Born 1917 N.Y.
Above EM dy to KIA 06 Sept., 44

1 EM SWA, 2 EM LWA

STATION : 05 Sept., 44, 3 mi. E. Verdun, France

STATION : 06 Sept., 44, 1 mi. W. Mars-La-Tour, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Left bivouac area 3 miles east Verdun J016022 at 0225. Started on mission reconnoitering roads south and east to north south river 2 miles west of Metz and to siege and secure bridge site. Encountered heavy enemy artillery fire at 0800 in town of Gravelotte. Moved on E. under enemy artillery fire. Present time continuing on mission.

NOTE : "The mission assigned was to advance East in four columns, push through light resistance, seize and secure crossings on the Moselle River, establish a bridgehead with a reconnaissance screen in front of it, and upon being relieved by the 5th and 90th Division, to be prepared to move Northeast. Troop B was assigned to FORCE "B", consisting of Troop B, one platoon each of E/87, F/87, and C/33. Force "B" crossed the Line of Departure at 0300, following a route generally through Mars-La-Tour, Vionville, Rezonville, and Gravelotte. The column reached Rezonville at approximately 0800, and as the head of the column passed through the town the enemy opened up with direct anti-tank weapons. This was followed by heavy mortar fire on the town as the column deployed to the fields on both sides. In order to continue the advance the Force Commander, First Lieutenant Robert J. Stewart, called for fire from the M8 Assault guns and the attached platoon of medium tanks on the woods to the South of Gravelotte, and with the attached platoon of light tanks in the lead, the force advanced to the edge of the woods. As the light tanks approached a minefield Southwest of the town, direct anti-tank fire and observed mortar and artillery fire forced them to withdraw. B/87 was sent to an assembly area 1/2 mile west of Mars-La Tour." "87th Cav Rcn Sq Metz After Action Reports."

12 SEPTEMBER, 1944

14 012 187 Wheeler, Cordell Sgt. SSN-653 Born 1920 Tn.
fr dy to KIA 12 Sept., 44

1 O SWA

STATION : 11 Sept., 44 : 3/4 mi. N.E. Vionville, France

STATION : 12 Sept., 44 : 2 1/2 mi. E. Doncourt, France.

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr. outposted area between Gravelotte and Gorze 3 mi. W. Moselle River to prevent possible enemy counter-attacks. Assembled at Tr. C.P. 3/4 mi. N.E. Vionville J0410-0175 at 1945. Left assembly at 2000. Arrived new assembly area 2 1/2 mi. E. Doncourt J0445-0155 at 2045. Left assembly area at 2200, dismounted and moved to area 2 mi. SE assembly area at 2400 in preparation for dismounted attack.

NOTE : " Even in daylight, the undergrowth in the draw running North and South about 500 yards east of Malmaison and Gravelotte was so dense as to make movement difficult and observation very limited. The occupation of this line had to be entirely dismounted, with vehicles left under guard behind a sheltering ridge."

"87th Cav Rcn Sq After Action Reports." See 13 September, 1944, Troop B.

13 SEPTEMBER, 1944

31 064 383 Rafuse, Benjamin W. Sgt. SSN-652 Born 1920
36 239 762 Copsey, Vernon G. Pvt. SSN-745 Born 1919

Above 2 EM fr dy to KIA 13 Sept., 44

1 EM SWA, 1 EM LWA

STATION : 13 Sept., 44, 2 1/2 mi. E. Doncourt, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Started dismounted attacks on enemy positions 3 mi. W. Moselle River and 1 ? N. Gravelotte at 0630. Met heavy enemy resistance at 0730.

Unable to advance, so set up line to prevent possible enemy counter-attacks.

NOTE: " At 2030, Troop "B" was recalled from its previous mission and ordered to move into position in preparation for a dawn attack from North to South, to clear enemy infantry out of the draw. The final conference for coordination of artillery fire and completion of plan was held at 0200 on the 12th, and at 0715, following a short but intense artillery preparation, Troop "B" jumped off. It soon became apparent not only that the enemy had well-placed Mortars and artillery, but also that the dense jungle of trees and undergrowth favored their defense. Despite close artillery support, progress was slow and difficult. The estimated enemy strength was 400, and they were well dug in with plenty of ammunition, rations, and automatic weapons. At 1200 Troop "C" was called on to support the Troop "B" attack, and at 1300 the Squadron Commander went forward for a personal reconnaissance of the action. The contact was so close that Lieutenant Colonel Boylan was able to engage the enemy in conversation, and he called to them to surrender, but without success. At this time the Squadron Surgeon, Captain Edward J. Hackett, was mortally wounded while crawling forward to give aid to Sergeant Rafus(e), also killed in action. Troop "A" was recalled from its previous mission, and at 1600 ordered to relieve Troop "B" in the East side of the draw, while "B" moved about to the West. Both continued to attack. With nightfall further progress was impossible in such unfavorable terrain, and all troops organized their lines and dug in to hold." (see 12 September 1944, Troop B.)

"87th Cav. Rcn. Sq. Unit History and After Action Reports."

NOTE 2 : " What the Division faced was a more or less perimeter defense built around the city of Metz, a defense established on ground organized in the late 19th Century and used during the First World War. Using forts and terrain to the greatest advantage, the enemy had garrisoned key positions with infantry forces supplemented by heavy artillery support. The enemy troops used in the defense were primarily from the military school Metz, both faculty and students, selected non-commissioned officers in Officer Training, many of whom had been conducting " school problems over the terrain now being used."

"7th Armored Division After Action Reports"

Obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston.

Additional information on this action was also obtained by Wesley Johnston from General William Knowlton.

18 SEPTEMBER, 1944

37 728 164 Nevins, Ernest H. Pvt. SSN-745 Born 1909
Above EM dy to MIA 18 Sept.,44 DOD 18 May.,45 IDPF
2 EM MIA including Pvt. Nevins
STATION : 17 Sept.,44, 1/2 mi. S. Arry, France VU7845
STATION : 18 Sept.,44, 1/8 mi. S. Vittonville, France VU8142

RECORD OF EVENTS

Left area 1/2 mi S. Arry at 1230. Arrived new area 1/8 mi.
S. Vittonville at 1315. Established Tr. C.P. One platoon outposting
CCB Hq. Two platoons reconnoitering roads east-southwest of this
location.

NOTE 1 : Pvt. Nevins died as a POW. Pvt. Nevins died in a plane crash
as he was being evacuated to England after being liberated. He was
being evacuated by the British. Information obtained from IDPF .

NOTE 2 : Troop B attached to Combat Command B.

HOLLAND

01 OCTOBER, 1944

34 131 378 Brownlee, Elmo Tec.5 SSN-733 Born 1918
Above EM LWA 01 Oct.,44 DOD 02 Oct.,44 IDPF
39 237 840 Clark, Christie Q. Pvt. SSN-776 Born 1918
Above EM KIA 01 Oct.,44 see 03 Oct.,44 M.R.
4 EM LWA, 1 O SWA
STATION : 30 Sept.,44, 2 Mi E. St. Antonis, Holland QE7540
STATION : 01 Oct., 44, 2 Mi E. St. Antonis, Holland QE7540

RECORD OF EVENTS

Maintained contact between advance guards of CC"B" forces and CC"A"
forces, between left flank CC"A" and right flank CC"B". Also
reconnoitered CC"B" zone for enemy forces.

NOTE 1 : Tec.5 Brownlee died at the 41st Evac. Hosp. in Holland. IDPF
He was awarded The Silver Star.

NOTE 2 : " The Combat Command was in the process of attacking South
from a line St Anthonis - Boxmeer. The mission of the Combat Command
was to clean out enemy resistance on the West side of the Maas River:
bypassing known centers of resistance, Venray - Venlo. Enemy resistance
in that zone had previously been reported to be light and not very well
organized. Combat Command "B" did not complete the mission because
resistance in their zone was found to be well organized and dug in.
They were stopped vicinity Vortum by mines, AT guns, bazookas, armd
infantry dug in in the woods." After Action Reports Combat Command B

Meijel

27 OCTOBER, 1944

37 094 999 Jagol, Steve Eddy Pfc. SSN-345
Fr dy to trfd to 53d Field Hosp, LIA, 27 Oct.,44, DOI 28 Oct.,44
36 024 183 Colvin, Howard S. Tec.5 SSN-733 Born 1919
fr dy to trfd to 53d Field Hosp LWA, 27 Oct.,44 DOW 27 Oct.,44
42 085 632 Snyder, John Cpl. SSN-653 Born 1912
dy to MIA See 30 Oct.,44 M.R. Fr MIA to KIA 27 Oct.,44
see 19 Jan.,45 M.R.

2 EM LWA

STATION : 26 Oct.,44, 3 1/2 Mi S.E. Asten, Holland, QE 6410

STATION : 27 Oct.,44, 4 1/2 Mi S.W. Asten, Holland, QE6106

RECORD OF EVENTS

Called out to Meijel at 0700 to support "C" Tr to repulse enemy counter attack. Engaged enemy at close ranges with small arms fire. 48th Armd Inf attacked through our position at 1400. Protected flank of 48th Inf for attack. Tr withdrew at 2100 and left at 2245 to join "A" Tr and support them in outpostting areas on Ospel-Meijel road.

NOTE 1 : Cpl. Snyder's remains were not discovered until January, 1945. Tec.4 Jack Murray has confirmed that Tec.5 Colvin died of his wounds but can not remember the details.

Further Confirmation from IDPF Tec.5 Colvin.

NOTE 2 : As Troop C withdraws : "About a quarter mile out of the town, the troop was met by Major Cannon, followed closely by Troop B. The reserve troop formed a defensive line through which Troop C withdrew, then both troops parked their vehicles and organized a counter-attack. At 0930 Lieutenant Colonel Boylan arrived and took command, pushing the attack off at 1010, with the two troops astride the road - C on the North and B on the South - and all four assault guns in support. The two troops pushed ahead side by side until Troop B reached the Eastern edge of the woods just west of Meijel. Here, at the edge of a 500 yard open field, Troop B was stopped by automatic weapons, small arms, artillery and mortars. They held at the edge of the woods, and Troop C pushed some distance farther, but was forced back to a point on line with Troop B." 87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz Unit

History and After Action Reports.

SEE ALSO : Troop C, Company F and Troop A 27 Oct.,44

04 NOVEMBER, 1944

36 024 194 Dirks, Henry W. S/Sgt. SSN-651 Born 1909
Above EM Dy to trfd to 48th Field Hosp SWA 04 Nov.,44 DOW 05 Nov.,44
12 072 095 Richards, Harry Q. Pfc. SSN-345 Born 1919
dy to KIA 04 Nov.,44 see 07Nov.,44 M.R.

1 EM SWA not including S/Sgt. Dirks

STATION : 03 Nov.,44, 1/2 mi N. Kreijel, Holland QE6301

STATION : 04 Nov.,44, Waatskamp, Holland QE 6402

RECORD OF EVENTS

Pushed outpost lines to approximately 200 yds S Kreijel-Waatskamp road along a NE-SW line on a front approximately 1 1/4 miles long. Tr CP left area 1/2 Mi N Kreijel at 1430. Arrived new area at Waatskamp at 1510.

NOTE 1 : Information furnished by Tec.4 Jack Murray : Pfc. Richards died, and S/Sgt Dirks was fatally wounded when the peep they were riding in hit a mine.

NOTE 2 : "At 1330 Troop B reported trouble with mines and requested engineers to clear area. Later, at 1410, the same troop reported one killed, two wounded and one quarter-ton lost by mines."

87th Cav Rcn Sq After Action Reports.

GERMANY

11 DECEMBER, 1944

38 079 775 Morrison, George W. Pfc. SSN-345 Born 1913
Dy to Death 11 Dec.,44 See 16 Dec.,44

STATION : 10 Dec.,44, 1/4 Mi NW Waurichen, Germany VK8962

STATION : 11 Dec.,44, 1/4 Mi NW Waurichen, Germany . VK8962

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in bivouac 1/4 Mi NW Waurichen, Germany.

NOTE : Fatally injured in auto accident in Germany, one day after being reasgd from the Hosp.

On 17 December, 1944 the 7th Armored Division was called to St. Vith, Belgium to attack and open an escape route for two Regiments of the 106th Infantry Division that had been cut off and surrounded on the Schnee Eifel on 16 December. Clogged roads delayed their arrival and made a counter attack and rescue impossible. They then set about to defend the town. The situation was confused and no one, at that time, realized the full extent of the German attack.

**ST. VITH, BELGIUM
and The Prumerberg
17 DECEMBER, 1944**

38 106 047 Johnson, Weldon D. Pvt. SSN-521

LWA 17 Dec.,44, DOW 21 Dec.,44

Station : 16 Dec.,44, Heyd, Belgium VP4597

Station : 17 Dec.,44, 1 Mi. NE St. Vith, Belgium VP8788

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr left area 1/4 Mi NE Heerlen, Holland at 0415. Moved with Sq in advance of Div to 1 Mi NE St Vith, Belgium, arriving at 1230. Tr was committed and moved into position as holding force at 1400. Established line fr 872884 to 872888 between elements of 38th and 23rd Armd Inf Bns

NOTE 1 : "At 1200, 17th December, the situation in the ST. VITH

(P8588)area was critical. The 14th Cavalry Group retiring.

Communications with the two surrounded Combat Teams (106th Infantry Division)was sporadic by radio. To the south of Regimental Combat Team 424, 106th Infantry Division, the situation was hazy...In the meantime the enemy had approached ST. VITH from the east and was only three to four thousands yards from the town. The 106th Infantry Division, at about 1530, sent elements of Headquarters Company, 81st Engineer Battalion; 168th Engineer Battalion less one company; and one platoon of infantry, formerly used as CP guard, to block the road to the east of ST. VITH. The 106th Division made available to Combat Command B the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, in position at OBR EMMELS (P8290). During the afternoon of the 17th the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion, first Combat Command R unit to arrive southeast of RECHT (P7994) by the east route; the 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, first unit to arrive by the west route; and troops of Combat Command B were rushed to the east of ST.VITH."

Headquarters 7th Armored Division After Action Report :

The Battle of St. Vith", Obtained and Transcribed by Wesley Johnston.

NOTE 2 : Traffic streaming to the rear was clogging the roads and making it almost impossible for the 7th Armored to get to St. Vith. General Clarke himself went out to the crossroads leading into St. Vith to clear the retreating vehicles from the road.

NOTE 3 : " General Clarke stayed by the crossroads for most of the afternoon. At one point he was accosted by a diminutive Lieutenant Colonel Clay. "General, my name is Clay and I came to report to you. I have a separate battalion of self-propelled 105's, the 275th, and I want to shoot." "God bless you, Clay. You're the only artillery support we have. Head out and shoot in support of those engineers, on the ridge east of town." For the next few days, until the 7th Armored Division Artillery, now cut off by Peiper's men, could make their way to St. Vith, the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was to be the only artillery support Clarke had. On occasion parts of the 275th actually held a sector on the line."

" The Bitter Woods " by John D. Eisenhower

NOTE 4 : " While CCB were still struggling toward the front at nearly 4:00 p.m., Major Woodruff (General Clarke's S-3 who was also at the crossroads) let out a yell. Approaching was the exhausted leading element of Troop B, 87th...., of Combat Command B, 7th Armored. Captain Stewart reported into Clarke, who fell in alongside on foot, " Keep going right on down this road. You'll come to a big lieutenant colonel - Riggs. Tell him you're attached to him. He'll tell you what to do." B Troop of the 87th pushed out east of St. Vith to help establish a defensive position. But they had to fight their way to the spot, coming under semi-automatic fire as soon as they had located their chosen ground."

" Clarke of St. Vith ; The Sergeants General "

by William Donohue Ellis and Col. Thomas J Cunningham Jr

NOTE 5 : " When the 7th Armored was ordered down by Eisenhower to the St. Vith area, CCB was leading the division, and B Troop led CCB having traditionally worked for CCB as its Recon element. B Troop got through St. Vith and bumped into a German recon unit. Both sides pulled back and attacked again a few hours later. By then the 38th Infantry had two companies with B Troop".

Letter from Gen. William Knowlton

NOTE 6 : "The first arrivals were the Reconnaissance Troop (Troop B) of the 7th Armored which I immediately deployed with their automatic weapons in this skirmish line that we'd established, but I placed them on the left side overlooking the open field of fire where they could better utilize their automatic weapons "

" Great Battles of World War II The Battle of St. Vith,

Lt. Col Thomas Riggs Jr "

NOTE 7 : " B/87 came up on the line before B/38, and at first occupied positions later taken by A/23 north of the Schonberg road... At this time, 106th Engineers were on their right flank. They were from the 168th. There may have been some 81st Engineers there too but Sgt. Ladd is not sure. " **"1st. Sgt. Leonard H. Ladd Combat Interview"**

given to Lt. Robert Merriam...18 Jan 45 - obtained by Wesley Johnston

NOTE 8 : "1645 : Lt. Col. Fuller was ordered by Gen. Clarke to coordinate the defenses of St. Vith with the CO's of the 81st and 168th Engr C Bns, then in position about 2400 yards East of the town in the woods to the right of the Schonburg road. At the same time B/87, A/31 and B/23 were attached to the 38th. " The weather, which had been bitter cold all day with gray, overcast skies, turned into a cold, drizzly rain about 2200 . The ground was muddy and soggy, making vehicular cross-country movement almost impossible."

"Personal Report " Narrative Account of Action of

38th Armored Infantry Battalion

7th Armored Division, Battle of St. Vith, 17-22 Dec.44

by Donald P Boyer, Jr. Major, Infantry

Obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston

18 DECEMBER, 1944

STATION : 1 MI NE St. Vith, Belgium VP8788 Nord De Guerre
5 EM LWA , 1 EM LIA, 1 O SW, 1 O LWA

RECORD OF EVENTS

Continued holding position as a part of holding force to beat off enemy counter attack.

NOTE 1 : " The attacks made east of St.Vith on 18 December were carried out by a part of the 294th infantry whose patrols had been checked by the 168th Engineers the previous day. Three times the grenadiers tried to rush their way through the foxhole line held by the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion (Lt. Col. William H. G. Fuller) and B Troop of the 87th astride the Schonberg road. "

"The Ardennes : Battle of the Bulge " by Hugh M. Cole
Office of the Chief of Military History...Department of the Army

NOTE 2 : " 8:00 A.M : Monday 18 December we were hit with our first attack. The Germans punched a hole in our lines. We counter-attacked and restored the lines. Between 1130 and 1230 on that Monday the Germans again attacked us. At the end of an hour our lines still held but we had started the long roll of losses."

**" Great Battles of World War II The Battle of St. Vith
Major Donald Boyer "**

NOTE 3 :" 1445 : Attack by the enemy is started and the C.P. is alerted for movement. The main thrust seems to come from the east directed against the center of our line.

1515 : The attack is stopped and our positions are being strengthened. The battalion is also informed that the remainder of the 23rd A.I.B. is on the way up to reinforce us.

1525 : "A" Co 38th A.I.B. reports that the unit on their right is moving out. (B Troop 87)

1626 : "A" Co request information as to status of unit on their right.

1640 : "A" Co is informed that unit on their right is to stay in position until relieved by other troops.

1800 : "A" Co 23rd A.I.B. goes into line. One platoon is placed between "B" 23rd A.I.B. and the engineers, the remainder relieves B Troop 87th. "

S-3 Journal of the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston

NOTE 4 : "1745 : After almost 3 hours of vicious fighting, much of it hand-to-hand, the "Jerries were forced to withdraw. Our lines were still holding, although several gaps had been opened and some German patrols had infiltrated through. B/87 was pushed into the line to plug a gap which had been forced between B/38 and the Engr Co."

(on the Prumerberg). **" Personal Report" Narrative of Major Boyer**

NOTE 5 : "Sgt. Ladd says that B/87 was ordered into reserve, but never got there. This, he believes, is why some overlays show B/87 behind the line in a reserve position. The men pulled back but went right back on the line. The 168th was on the line all the time. Sgt Ladd does not know about the 81st."

"Combat Interview" of 1st. Sgt. Ladd

NOTE 6 : The S-3 Journal of the 38th makes no more mention of B/87 although Major Boyer refers to them often in his narrative. B/87 had One Officer SWA, One Officer and 5 E.M. LWA and 2 E.M. LIA. on 18 Dec.

(CONT...)

NOTE 7 : "..... At this time there was one platoon of B/38 on their right and two platoons of B/38 on their left."

Sgt. Joseph B. McKeon "Combat Interview" given to Lt. Robert Merriam
8 Jan 45 Obtained by Wesley Johnston

NOTE 8 : "During the night of 18-19 December there were noises indicating considerable activity and vehicular movement in the German rear areas - the arrival of more troops to reinforce those already attacking St. Vith. After midnight there was constant patrol and counterpatrol activity on both sides and the Germans placed a great deal of harassing fires on the roads and road junctions, using mortars, 88's, and for the first time, artillery firing battalion concentrations."

The U.S. Army Armor School's " The Defense of St. Vith, Belgium
17 - 23 December 1944 " A Historical Example of Armor in Defense

Prepared by The Armored School

Obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston

19 DECEMBER, 1944

1 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA

STATION : 1 Mi NE St. Vith, Belgium VP8788 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in position as part of holding force against enemy counter attack.

NOTE 1 : "0830 : Lt. Col. Fuller directed me (Major Donald P. Boyer) to take command of B/38 and B/87, and to readjust the line. At the same time, I was told that Holland's Prov Engr Co would be redesignated as B/168, and that on its right A/168 (Capt. Maher) would go in the line between Holland and Britton.

1630 : " Holland reported to me, and told me that he considered the Engr troops as being under my command. This gave me a little Task Force of 4 companies, totaling approximately 450 men. 380 in the line," ((B/38 (-AT), B/87, MG/HQ/38, B/168, A/168) with a reserve of 70 divided between 1/F/423 and H&S/81." (Task Force Boyer)

" Personal Report", Narrative of Major Boyer

NOTE 2 : Lt. Colonel Fuller's Command : All the men of Task Force Boyer plus A/38 (-AT), A/23 and B/23 (AIB) , In Support : A/31 (Tank Battalion, 1/A/814 (Tank Destroyer Battalion), Mortars/38, AG/HQ/38, AG Sec /87.

NOTE 3 : " Fuller's position had three obvious disadvantages : lack of unit integrity, for the troops had been committed piecemeal ; the gap on the southern flank ; The lack of depth. The lack of depth was particularly serious for the men on the Prumerberg, since close at their backs the ground dropped off sharply - almost a bluff - which was much like having a river behind you."

"A Time for Trumpets...The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge"
by Charles B. MacDonald former Captain 2nd Infantry Division

NOTE 4 : " At 1030, taking advantage of a lull, he (Major Boyer) was leading an officers' patrol into the woods ahead. He wanted to see the scene of three vicious attacks of the day before. To Boyer's surprise, under the camouflage jackets of nineteen dead paratroopers were the shoulder straps with the Gothic "GD" - the insigne of the famous Gross - Deutschland Division, an outfit supposedly on the Russian front."

US Army Armor School's " Defense of St. Vith " (CONT...)

NOTE 5 : " In the combined areas of B/38, B/87, and the Prov Engr Co we counted more than 200 dead....Also we were able to make our first identifications :Pz Fus Regt. Gross Deutschland, (This was unexpected for so far as I knew...(it) was a Panzer Div - one of the best as it always provided the guard for Hitler's Hq in the field)...164th VGR and 183d VGR (62d VG Div)...3d Pz Regt (2d Pz Div)."

" Personal Report " Narrative of Major Boyer

NOTE 6 : " At no time during the day was enemy pressure absent from any portion of the divisions perimeter. It seemed that the Germans were seeking a "soft spot", if they found one part of the line strongly defended, they pulled back and tried another."

US Army Armor School's " Defense of St. Vith "

20 DECEMBER, 1944

01 010 394 Stewart, Robert J. Cav. Capt. SSN-1620

LWA 20 Dec.,44 KIA 20 Dec.,44

1 EM MIA, 1 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA

Station : 20 Dec.,44, 1 Mi NE St. Vith, Belgium

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in position as part of holding force against enemy counter-attack. One enemy prisoner taken.

NOTE 1 : Information obtained by Wesley Johnston from General William Knowlton concludes that Capt. Stewart was a beloved commander and a favorite of General Bruce Clarke. He had been wounded and he was exhausted. His 1st Sergeant Leonard H. Ladd became worried about him and had him medically evacuated. The ambulance he was riding in was ambushed by a tank. Lt. Stewart was killed and the ambulance covered with debris. Due to the confusion of the battlefield the fate of Lt. Stewart was unknown to his troops. The squadron got paperwork suggesting that he was recuperating in the UK. His remains were not discovered until sometime in January, 1945 when the Americans retook St. Vith. Sgt. Ladd identified his remains.

General William Knowlton To Wesley Johnston

Capt. Stewart shows on 25 Jan.,45 M.R. as DOW 20 Dec.,44.

NOTE 2 : " The line of Troop B was somewhat changed by a shift with B/38 wherein B/38 got all of their platoons on the left of B/87. The engrs remained on the right flank."

" Sgt. Joseph McKeon Combat Interview"

NOTE 3 : " Then 20 December B/87 moved over to the right of B/38 and made contact with the 168th now on the right flank of B/87. B/87 held a short line, not more than 150 Yards in length. The men were dug in just east of the trail running south from Prumerburg. All of the positions were in heavy woods. There was no field of fire."

" 1st. Sgt. Leonard Ladd Combat Interview"

NOTE 4 : " 0530 : Patrols from B/38 and B/87 reported that "Jerry" infantry, estimated company of 150-200 men, were moving through the woods to the right of the Schonburg road in attack formations."

"Personal Report" Narrative by Major Boyer

NOTE 5 : " On the morning of 20 December the Americans defending St. Vith held the easternmost position of any organized nature in the center sector of the Ardennes battleground. The most advanced elements of the German drive by this time were twenty-five air-line miles to the southwest of St. Vith....As yet the enemy forces passing to the north and south had failed to coalesce to the west of St. Vith. "

" The Ardennes : Battle of the Bulge "

(CONT...)

NOTE 6 : " On the morning of the 20th the defenders.....had identified a most intimidating collection of German units confronting them, and to compound their trials, it was rumored that enemy troops had by-passed them and were in possession of towns far behind them...On Manteuffel's side, by December 20 he was already three days behind his timetable. Apparent to the Americans were many telltale signs of his determination to take St. Vith now - and quickly. The St. Vith Americans already knew from captives that he had hit them with the 18th and 62nd Volksgrenadier Divisions, and the 2nd Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 1st Panzer Division (the Adolph Hitler Division), plus parts of the 116th Panzer Division. Now they were under pressure from two identical regiments of the 560th Volksgrenadier Division and parts of the 2nd Panzer Division were going right around them. St. Vith now became an extremely urgent target for the Germans because, in addition to denying them the road net, their high command now saw it to be the " thumb in the throat " of their whole drive. If they didn't bite it off it would choke them. It was the wedge splitting their 5th and 6th Panzer Armies apart." " **Clarke of St. Vith "**

NOTE 7 : " By early on 20 December it had become obvious to the German high command that their great offensive had no possibility of success unless the St. Vith salient was promptly eliminated. With no possibility of a breakthrough north of Elsenborn, the II SS Panzer Corps could not operate unless it could be unleashed in the rear of the American front lines. Increasing pressure was placed on General Lucht to not only energize his LXVI Corps to drive through St. Vith from the west. Also the LVIII Panzer Corps, which had side slipped south, was to turn north through Houffalize, threaten the salient from the south, and, if possible, encircle it."

"Hitler's Last Gamble"by Trevor N. Dupuy

NOTE 8 : 1540-1615 : " Jerry" opened fire with his "burp guns" about 150-200 yards in front of "B" Co and "B" Trp. At about the same time 15 mortar rounds dropped in the woods behind us. Although we could hear the Feldwebels "talking it up" among their squads, the "Krauts" never closed and by 1615, all firing had ceased. Apparently "Jerry" had hoped that we would disclose our positions by prematurely opening fire, but in this he was disappointed. For 2 days I had been emphasizing to every man, as I made my rounds of the foxholes every morning just after daybreak, that no ammunition could be wasted --- that for every round fired, a corpse must hit the ground ; that in the woods as we were, fire should be held until the "Kraut" was less than 25 yards away."

"Personal Report" Narrative by Major Boyer

NOTE 9 : " By dusk the battle for St. Vith was approaching its crisis. The 18th Volksgrenadiers and the Fuhrer Escort Brigade were closing in on the east ; the 62nd Volksgrenadiers were on the south; and two fresh, eager panzer divisions, the 2nd and 9th SS, were closing in. Originally slated to exploit Dietrich's expected break-through, Hitler had ordered them shunted down to Manteuffel's sector. A mile east of town Major Don Boyer was visiting the foxholes of his battered task force of 450 men...There was little food, little ammunition, and everyone felt the sharp pains of frostbite. But all were standing fast. As Boyer was returning to his own dugout, seventy men sneaked into his lines from the east. They were the remains of Colonel Cavender's 423rd Regiment (106th Infantry Division). These exhausted survivors of the Schnee Eifel were questioned, taken to the schoolhouse in St. Vith, fed, and given beds."

" Battle : The Story of the Bulge " by John Toland (CONT...)

NOTE 10 : " The following night , December 21-22, they were given a position in the defensive line (east of St. Vith) where they fought like men possessed." " Clarke of St. Vith "

NOTE 11 : Like most of the Americans fighting to the East of St. Vith, they did not get out .

NOTE 12 : " By the end of the day prisoners from the following German divisions had been interrogated by the IPW Team of the 7th Armored Division (enemy divisions listed in relative order of positions from north to south): 1st SS Panzer Division, Gross Deutschland Brigade, 18th Volks Grenadier Division, 62d Volks Grenadier Division, 2d Panzer Division, 560th Volks Grenadier Division, and 116th Panzer Division. Manteuffel had assigned the task of taking St. Vith to two infantry divisions of the 66th Corps; his failure to accomplish this in a reasonable time had caused the commitment of additional troops from both Fifth and Sixth Panzer Armies. "

US Army Armor School's " Defense of St. Vith "

NOTE 13 : " All during the night there was heavy tank movement accompanied by motor transport, to our North, to the Northwest, to our front, and South of us. After midnight the sounds of moving vehicles were almost continuous, and from 0100 to 0330, there was a great deal of traffic to our front where it sounded as if half-tracks and tanks were laboring up a steep grade."

"Personal Report" Narrative by Major Boyer

21 DECEMBER, 1944

39 722 268 Schwartz, Bernard A. Tec.5 SSN-345 Born 1919
SWA 21 Dec.,44 DOW 21 Dec.,44 76th Gen Hosp IDPF
3 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA
Station : 21 Dec.,44, 1 Mi NE St. Vith, Belgium VP8788

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in position as part of holding force against enemy attack.

NOTE 1 : " Although the battle had now shaped into a great bulge, a long American finger was sticking into the German salient from the northwest. This was the St. Vith Peninsula. The current slackening action over much of the American battlefield was caused by this bulge within the Bulge. The German High Command knew this finger had to be severed before further advances were made. And so almost the full fury of the Nazi offensive was falling on St. Vith."

" Battle : The Story of the Bulge" by John Toland

NOTE 2 : " The Germans elected to attack with the forces deployed against the northern and eastern faces of the salient with the main effort from the east." " Hitler's Last Gamble" by Trevor N. Dupuy

NOTE 3 : " In the dark they could hear German tanks and trucks massing to the north, east, and south of the 10-mile diameter St. Vith defense. Meanwhile dawn was rising, incredibly, on the fifth day of the defense of St. Vith, December 21st. If they could hold through the 21st day of December, they would have delivered the three days requested to give the Third Army time to attack... The 21st of December should be in all American record books...The Germans wanted St. Vith at any price... At 1100 it happened. Stupefying artillery along the entire CCB front, followed by massive infantry assault... Large formations of German tanks supported the German infantry and crunched deep into the U.S. lines..." " Clarke of St. Vith "

(CONT...)

NOTE 4 : " 1150 : Patrol from B/87 returned with the information that an estimated battalion of infantry was advancing against our positions, 2 companies abreast, astride the Schonburg road.

1200-1315 : " "Jerry" kept up an unceasing series of infantry assaults against Foster and Higgins' (B/38) left platoon, making strong use of Panzerfausts, but their efforts to break through were unsuccessful. B/87 and Higgins' right platoon were only lightly engaged.

1330 : The expected attacks against B/87 and the entire B/38 were launched in force. I estimated the assault troops to consist of 2 battalions of infantry, each battalion attacking on a narrow front with 2 companies abreast.

1345-1510 : The " Krauts " kept boring in, no matter how fast we decimated their assault squads... The men were magnificent Whenever a machine gun was silenced by having its crew killed off, other men leaped from their holes to take over the gun Artillery, we were using it like mortars....with almost no casualties because of "shorts ". (This was the 275th AFA). Frankly, I didn't see how our men could stand this pounding without any cessation and no replacements ... And always there were more Germans...Where they were all coming from, I did not know but it looked as if battalion after battalion must have been massed up behind the original assault waves.

1515 : Contact had been broken all along the front, and the Germans had withdrawn. Quickly I dispatched orders to Higgins (B/38) Rogers, (B/87) (1st. Lt. Charles W. Rogers Jr. replaced Captain Robert J. Stewart who was killed in action 20 Dec.) and Holland (Engineers).....Readjust lines...redistribute ammunition...get wounded out....How much time we would have I did not know."

" Personal Report " Narrative of Major Boyer

NOTE 5 : " The German artillery began a preliminary bombardment.. ...it was punishing, Screaming rockets from Nebelwerfers added terror to the fire and tore gaps in the line, and on the Prumerberg, where most of the foxholes were inside the woods, tree bursts were deadly. "

" A Time for Trumpets "

1545 : " I heard the " screaming meemie " batteries go off to our front....in came the worst hail of steel and screaming metal that I have ever seen or heard. Back and forth, right and left, then back and forth, and again right and left across our positions came the crushing, thumping, tearing scream of steel followed by steel. Huge gashes were cut in the logs over our' holes, and all around us we could hear the crash of tree tops and even of trees as the merciless hail of steel swept and lashed through the forest. Again and again we heard the anguished scream of some man somewhere who had been hit, and yet all we could do was cower in our' holes with our backs against the forward walls, hoping that we would not receive a direct hit. It seemed as if our very nerves were being torn out by the roots as the screaming metal crashed around us, coming in with increasing and ever- increasing waves of hideous sounds.

1550-1620 : Artillery added its din to the heavy " screaming Meemie " preparation....switching back and forth along the front and converging on the center of the line in the vicinity of the Schonburg road. After 1600, the preparation definitely was concentrated against B/38 and B/87....This time the main effort was to be against us."

" Personal Report " Narrative of Major Boyer

(CONT...)

NOTE 6 : " As dusk was approaching, the shelling lifted to command posts in the rear and to St. Vith, and Volksgrenadiers all along the line swarmed to the attack. Artillery of the 7th Armored Division and of the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion responded with alacrity. Germans fell left and right, yet others, constantly exhorted by their non-commissioned officers, continued to push forward. By the time night fell , small groups of Germans were behind the line, roaming in the rear, killing messengers, bringing command posts under fire. "

" A Time for Trumpets "

NOTE 7 : 1619 : " I could see the German infantry starting to come through the woods...As I called " Heads Up " almost simultaneously the awful hail of steel was lifted from us and into the woods to our rear.

1620-1700 : This attack followed the same pattern as the earlier ones, except that there was close support from tanks and AG's.....Still he could not force a breakthrough.....Our stubborn stand, however, was beginning to show signs of weakening; gaps were appearing which we did not have men to fill. Had it not been for the deadly support of the 275th AFA, I feel certain that the "Krauts" would have forced a gap somewhere." **"Personal Report " Narrative of Major Boyer**

NOTE 8 : " Lt. Col. Robert Erlenbusch, (Commander of the 31st Tank Battalion and Bruce Clarke's northern flank) walked into his St. Vith command post. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Rhea, of the 23rd Battalion, telephone to ear, beckoned him. " We just got a frantic message from Troop B of the 87th," said Rhea. " They're getting a heavy attack from infantry supported by tanks and assault guns." (its possible that they were out of contact with the 38th AIB.)

" Battle The Story of the Bulge "

NOTE 9 : " 1905 : Jerry artillery and "screaming meemies" started coming in again. Once more they started a systematic raking of our entire area, and I knew that before long we would have tanks and infantry on us." **" Personal Report" Narrative of Major Boyer**

NOTE 10 : " A heavy arty barrage began falling at about 1400. About 1600 an enemy patrol emerged from the woods to the front of Troop B but they were pushed away from the positions. Later at about 1730 or 1800 the enemy came out of the woods across the fire lane for a second time, but again they were forced to pull back into the woods on the other side. About 2030 enemy tanks could be heard coming down the Schonberg road, and heavy firing was noted. Sgt. Ladd was sent by Lt. Rogers to the 38th Bn CP to obtain information about the situation. The Co had not been in contact with the 38th for some time. Sgt. Ladd went to the CP but found that it had been moved. He then attempted to find the 23rd Bn CP in St Vith, but by this time the enemy were in the town and house hunting became somewhat dangerous. He then went to CCB headquarters where General Clarke told him the order to withdraw had been sent out through four or five channels. The Sgt. then tried to recontact either the motor park or Lt. Rogers from a radio at the CCB Headquarters, but he was unable to contact either of them. No further word has been received of Lt. Rogers or the men of B/87. "

" Combat Interview" of S/Sgt. Ladd

(CONT...)

NOTE 11 : " Continued pressure was exerted by the enemy on all sections of our line, with the main effort being made on the right flank of B/23. A concerted tank infantry drive finally penetrated the right flank of B/23 and at 1930 the enemy was behind B/23. Attacks were launched simultaneously along the Schonberg - St Vith road against B/87 and from the NE against A/38. By 2000 our lines had been penetrated in at least three points. The battle continued until approximately 2200 when the Combat Commander.....issued the order to withdraw the center of the line to the high ground W of St Vith."

**Combat Command B After Action Report
obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston**

NOTE 12 : A Forward Observer (probably from the 275th AFA, A/23 had a FO assigned from the 275th) with A/23 was killed when he brought fire in on his own position in an effort to destroy the tanks.

" Personal Report " Narrative of Major Boyer

NOTE 13 : " At 2000 the battle along the Schonberg road flared up again. This was the end. Most of the American troops were killed or captured so that only a conditional reconstruction of the German breakthrough east of St Vith can ever be made. The American units flanking the road had been badly under strength before the 21st, but the lengthy and destructive barrage laid down by the enemy had caused very severe casualties and shaken the defenders. Sustained shelling had also destroyed all means of communication, except by runner, and left little groups isolated and unable to support one another. Troop B of the 87th Reconnaissance Squadron and Company A of the 81st Engineer Combat Battalion,... both directly in the German path...when the final blow fell. No withdrawal orders reached the troops now behind the enemy. Some held where they were, some stampeded blindly through the woods in search of an exit to the west. Of the force originally commanded by Colonel Fuller in the eastern sector only some two hundred escaped and half of these had to be evacuated for wounds or exhaustion." **" The Ardennes : Battle of the Bulge " by Hugh Cole**

NOTE 14 : " Not far east of St Vith, Baron von Manteuffel, impatient at the long siege, was exhorting his corps and division commanders to smash through the town and drive west. He had a grudging admiration for the unexpected fight the defenders of St Vith were putting up. An artillery outfit (it was the 275th) was doing a particularly damaging job. But the most troublesome unit, it seemed to him, was a group of British defending the eastern approaches. These troublesome "British" were Colonel W. H. G. Fuller's motley collection of GIs. By now Fuller's defenses were crumbling. Some of these survivors were drifting to the rear. But almost half of them - those commanded by Anstey and Boyer - were still in front-line positions."

" Battle : The Story of the Bulge " by John Toland

NOTE 15 : General wearing of the line appeared at about 1800 hours. The artillery barrage was extremely heavy and lack of our own artillery (possible shortage ?) was felt extremely. At about 2000 hrs the entire line was bending and giving and breakthroughs of both tanks and infantry came about that time. The forward CP was overrun and with both tanks and infantry between our line and St. Vith the situation was very grave."

2011 : Infantry from the 106th (423rd Regiment) which had infiltrated through the German Lines back to us have been organized and are being sent forward to aid B/23.

S-3 Journal of the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion (CONT...)

NOTE 16 : " Back on the Prumerberg, despite the breakthroughs along the southern flank and the main road from Steinebruck, there was still an American line in front of St. Vith. In between those two roads, the infantrymen, cavalrymen, and engineers were still holding, along with two tanks guarding the other road from Schoenberg; and on the open ground facing Wallerode, both Company A, 38th Armored Infantry, and Company A, 23rd Armored Infantry, although hard pressed, were still intact. Inside St. Vith, on the other hand, confusion was rampant. The big Tigers, Volksgrenadiers clinging all over them, were soon lumbering down the steep hill along the highway, and even though an occasional group of Americans and a tank destroyer or two tried to make a stand, nobody could hold out for long. In the darkness, vehicles of all types began streaming out of town toward the west, American soldiers clambering aboard on any available space." **"A Time for Trumpets"**

NOTE 17 : " **2015-2115 :** For an hour we kept the Schonburg road under heavy machine gun and "bazooka" fire..., the " Krauts" still kept pressing forward to follow their tanks. We were unable to stop all of them.... and we were paying a terrific price.

2200-2300 :the Fwd CP had been wiped out... at least 8 Panther or Tiger tanks were in town...infantry were pouring into St Vith. Lt. Col. Riggs (Engineers) and I then reported to Brig. Gen. Clarke, using Shanahan's (275th) FA FDC NET, " Road cut. At least 8 heavy tanks and infantry in town. What are our orders ?" About 45 minutes later, we received the following answer : "To Riggs or Senior Officer present : Reform : save what vehicles you can : attack to the West through St. Vith : we are forming a new line west of town."

2355 : When Gen. Clarke's orders were announced to the assembled Co. Commanders (Higgins, Rogers, and Holland), they insisted their men were not in shape to launch the attack...I agreed with them, especially when Rogers confirmed through his Maintenance Officer (then in St. Vith) that at least 8 - 10 heavy tanks were in the town. The decision was made to " peel off" to the right...Rogers (B/87) had 5 severely wounded men who could not be moved. These were to be left with an aid man who volunteered to stay with them, and in the morning he would try to surrender himself and them to a German medic. (Personally I (Major Boyer) was dubious of this arrangement, but there was nothing else we could do.) Rogers was to order his Maintenance Officer who had "B" Trp's vehicles in the RR yards in St. Vith to destroy such vehicles as he could not man with a crew, and to attack through the town and regain the lines being formed West of St. Vith. (*Its not clear if the men at the vehicle park ever received this message or if communication was even possible at this time*) We learned that the Prum road was cut and the "Jerries" had been pouring tanks and infantry up the road into St. Vith and Westward for more than 2 hours."

" Personal Report" Narrative of Major Donald Boyer

NOTE 18 : " Throughout the 21st and until 2200 that night the lines held against continuous assault of infantry, supported by heavy artillery and " screaming meemie" concentrations of unprecedented size and duration. Large formations of enemy tanks joined in the assault and smashed their way into the lines, where they blasted the defenders from their foxholes with point-blank tank fire. Time after time, the German infantry were forced to withdraw under the aimed short-range fire of the gallant infantrymen, engineers, tankers, reconnaissance troops, and others who stood their ground and inflicted huge losses upon the attacking formations. Even the heavy-tanks were forced to withdraw,

(CONT...)

leaving destroyed hulks, battered and burning, in their wake. On that day, the men of the 7th armored (and attached units of the 106th Infantry) performed individually and collectively, repeated deeds of heroism ; soldiers not only engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the German Infantry, but also destroyed German tanks with bazookas and grenades. Still the Germans attacked."

US Army Armor School's " The Defense of St. Vith "

NOTE 19 : " Sgt. McKeon, having taken ill, was sent to the motor park at St. Vith. Shortly after 1800 he received orders from Lt. Rogers that he and his 34 men were to stand fast until further orders were given. Shortly after, Sgt. McKeon noticed a German tank approaching St Vith from the E. The tank took up a position on top of the RR overpass and from there began to throw shells into the town. Two American TD's engaged the tank and a sharp fire fight took place. The TD's finally moved back and the enemy tank remained on top of the bridge. About an hour after the fire fight an enemy patrol of about nine men came down thru the RR yards from the N. The vehicles of B/87 were along the tracks near the RR station. This patrol was beaten back by the crews of the vehicles. During the evening two other patrols also came into the yards, but neither succeeded in penetrating the vehicle park. Radio contact was once again established with Lt. Rogers who reported that all was quiet and that the men were to remain with their vehicles until further word from him. Shortly after another German tank came into view, this time to the N of the vehicle park. The first tank was still on the bridge. Thus both ends of the park were blocked." "Sgt. McKeon Combat Interview"

22 DECEMBER, 1944

31 063 886 Bernier, George A. Pvt. SSN-745 Born 1920
 36 813 357 Stancel, Franklin Cpl. SSN-653

MIA 22 DEC.,44 DOD 22 Dec.,44

NOTE : Information obtained by Wesley Johnston states that Pvt. Bernier and Cpl. Stancel's remains were discovered in a common or mass grave (possibly covered over foxholes) on The Prumerberg, a ridge east of St. Vith, where B/87 was dug in as part of the defense of the town.

31 041 437 Sawicki, Francis L. Pvt. SSN-345
MIA 22 Dec.,44 DOD 22 Dec.,44 see 01 Apr.,45 M.R.

35 773 599 Wheeler, Paul C. Tec.5 SSN-745 Born 1920
MIA 22 Dec.,44 DOD 22 Dec.,44 see 01 Apr.,45 M.R.

NOTE : According to Tec.5 Wheeler's IDPF he died at St. Vith, Belgium on 22 Dec.,44. He was originally buried on 11 Feb.,45 in the Military Cemetery at Foy, Belgium. At that time Pvt. Sawicki was buried next to him which might suggest that they died at the same time and that their remains were discovered at the same time.

36 118 069 Lehrbass, Howard W. Sgt. SSN-532 Born 1916
MIA 22 Dec.,44 KIA 22 DEC.,44 See 25 Jan.,45 M.R.

NOTE : Place of Death: St. Vith, Belgium Cause of Death : GSW Abdomen According to Tec.4 Jack Murray, Sgt. Lehrbass was accidentally killed by friendly fire, in the vicinity of the Railway Station at St. Vith, by a member of the 106th Division . He was taken to the sub-basement of the Railway Station. At the time that Tec.4 Jack Murray entered the sub-basement Sgt Lehrbass had already died. Tec.4 Murray doesn't know at what location the Sergeant was shot before being taken there. The soldier who shot him was there, with several other men, and he was extremely distraught.

(CONT...)

15 101 326 Predovic, Peter J. Tec.5 SSN-733 Born 1913
MIA 22 Dec.,44 DOD 09 Feb.,45

NOTE : Died as a POW at the hospital of Stalag 2A, prisoner of war camp, Neubrandenburg, Germany of cerebro-spinal meningitis. IDPF.

MISSING REPORT : " Troop B, 87th Cav. Rcn Sq. Mecz., was dug in defensive position on high ground in woods approximately 1 1/2 miles East of St. Vith, Belgium, under command of 1st Lt. Charles W. ROGERS successor to Capt. ROBERT J STEWART who had been wounded and evacuated. Troop had remained in position and held line for five days. On 21 Dec. 1944 at 1600 the enemy made an attack on Troop B's position and the attack was repulsed as was another attempt to break through at 1730 same date. However at approximately 2030 on that date it is known that the enemy launched attacks on friendly troops on either flank of Troop "B" and infiltrated the lines. The last communication that was made with the troop commander was at approximately 2400 and at that time the troop was still in position and reported things as quiet in their immediate section; however at that time the enemy was to the rear of the troops position in such force that it was impossible to reach them by runner and radio communication was lost. The fate of the men who were in that position is unknown as none of them who were there at that time have been seen or heard from, except by radio communication, since 2400 on 21 Dec. 1944. It is known that the enemy infiltrated friendly lines and it is very apparent that the troop was surrounded by enemy forces. Men were dropped as MIA 22 Dec. 1944."

38 095 124 Jarratt, James L. Tec.5 SSN-733
MIA 22 Dec.,44 DOD 02 April, 1945 IDPF

NOTE : Place of Death : Near Duderstaft, Germany

Tec.5 Jarratt died as a POW on one of the forced marches between prison camps at the end of the war. The Germans had apparently agreed to take him to a hospital but it is not known if they ever did. It is thought that he had pneumonia at the time he was last seen. His remains were recovered, sometime prior to 05 June 45, in an isolated grave near Duderstadt, Germany.

32 660 103 Wrigley, Geoffrey S. Sgt. SSN-652 Born 1922
MIA 22 Dec.,44 DOD 08 April, 45 IDPF

NOTE : It appears that Sgt. Wrigley's remains were never recovered. It is likely that he died as a POW on one of the forced marches between prison camps at the end of the war. The 6th Armored Division, involved in the liberation of prisoners, reported that he died near Bad Sulza, Germany at 0300 hours, 08 April, 1945, and was buried by hospital authorities there. This, however, was never confirmed as Sgt. Wrigley's remains were not found there. S/Sgt. John H. Liebel was contacted by the Army in 1951 regarding the fate of Sgt. Wrigley. He stated that Sgt. Wrigley died on a march between prison camps in either March or April, 1945. He believed it was near Gorkitz, Germany. He was not aware that Sgt. Wrigley died in a POW hospital, but he said he could have been taken to one after he died.

NOTE : It is not known if any of the above men were among the severely wounded men left with the aid man on the Prumerberg.

1 EM LMA, 69 EM MIA Including all men listed above , 3 O MIA

STATION : 22 Dec.,44, Vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium

(CONT...)

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr was still in position as part of holding force against enemy attack. Enemy infiltrated friendly troop lines both on right and left flank. No communication with Tr was possible and Tr was cut off. Sq runner could not contact them. Fate unknown.

NOTE 1 : At the Vehicle Park : " No further word was received from Lt. Rogers. Finally about 0500 the Sgt. decided that something had gone wrong. He could not contact Lt. Rogers... so he decided to withdraw his men from the town which by then seemed to be quite definitely in German hands. The men formed into a column and began to move North along the East side of the tracks. Said the Sgt. "It was dark and snowing like a bastard." They wandered up the tracks to about 856888 where they spotted another column of American soldiers. There was a moment of indecision, when the respective groups were not sure whether they were friend or foe, but identification was finally established and the two groups went on together. They soon ran into a third group of men, this time from C/87. The three groups, totaling about 100 men in all, finally came into the assembly area of the 87th to the W. of St. Vith." **"Combat Interview" of Sgt. McKeon**

NOTE 2 : "After 1300 I was so heavily embroiled in the fighting within my own sector that I had no further knowledge of the general picture. Despite our standing there and tossing back attack after attack, by 2200 German tanks had blasted their way through the center of the line and were entering St. Vith, and those few men who were still alive, dazed from almost 12 hours of continuous pounding by the artillery , rocked by 12 hours of ceaseless attacks by overwhelming forces of infantry, supported by heavy concentrations of Panther and Tiger tanks ; and almost unnerved by 5 days of constant combat with no sleep, little food, and suffering from frost bite ---were forced to break up into small groups of 5 - 10 men each in an attempt to regain friendly lines by infiltration." "Snow had been falling for more than an hour and gave every indication of being knee deep by morning. Progress was slow. Men were experiencing difficulty keeping up. More than half were wounded in varying degrees. The snow was getting deeper and deeper and as the gray light of dawn began to come up we still were not across the Prum road. It was then I issued orders to destroy all personal weapons to break up into small groups and to infiltrate our way to our forces fighting somewhere in the west."

"Personal Report" Narrative of Major Boyer

NOTE 3 : " By evening (21 December) the Germans were building up their intensity and were starting to break through on both our flanks. By about midnight we'd lost communication on both flanks with the two units so we knew we were being completely isolated. We could then, in the dawns light, see that all the roads leading into St. Vith were full of German troops who were concentrating on and going through St. Vith. We obviously could not counterattack. I attempted, at that time, to split them up into patrols so they could attempt to work their way back through to the friendly lines, the U.S. lines. We started two of these patrols out and watched both of them captured and shortly there after I was captured with the remainder of the group."

" Great Battles of World War II...The Battle of St. Vith...Lt. Col. Thomas Riggs Jr. "

(CONT...)

NOTE 4 : " By morning the full extent of the price which the 38th AIB had paid for its stand began to be realized. There were no Assault gun, nor Mortar , nor Machine Gun Platoons --- neither men, nor vehicles, nor weapons. "A" and "B" COs consisted each of the Antitank Platoons plus the CO's half-tracks with their drivers. Of the attached troops, the picture was even "blacker" if such were possible. There was no A/23, and only 1 platoon from B/23. "B" Trp had ceased to exist, as had the 2 Prov Engr Cos. The only "bright spot" was at 1200, when A/31 was discovered to be fighting with CCB of the 9th Armored, with whom they had joined forces after fighting their way out of St. Vith. Throughout the morning various men worked their way back through the lines, but their numbers were pitifully few, and most of them came from A/38 and A/23." **" Personal Report" Narrative of Major Boyer**

NOTE 5 : Major Boyer was also taken prisoner later that day.

NOTE 6 : Troop B was the first unit of the 7th Armored Division to arrive at St. Vith. They were sent, upon arrival, to assist the Engineers of the 106th Division who were to the east of the town. They were attached to the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion and became part of Major Donald Boyer's Task Force and, as part of Combat Command B, held the town for 5 days before being cut off and surrounded the night of 21-22 Dec.1944. The men on the Ridge were all killed or captured. Most of the men at the Vehicle Park managed to escape. They had to leave the Troops vehicles as the Germans by then controlled the town and had blocked off both ends of the vehicle park with tanks. Tec.4 Jack Murray describes walking along the railroad tracks, in the dark, in the heavily falling snow. The men could see the flashes of light from the German artillery firing from the east and the American artillery firing from the west. They came upon a group of soldiers from another troop, joined forces and walked out together, finally reaching friendly lines. They had gone into the line on 17 Dec. with 5 Officers and 135 Enlisted Men. They now numbered 46 and had no Officers. They would have to build another Troop B.

Combat Command B, of which Troop B was a part, was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for this action.

" During the period in which the American troops were in St. Vith, the weather was such a strong ally of the Germans that American planes were not seen for the entire period."

"Clarke of St. Vith...The Sergeant's General"

" Without control of the communications center of St. Vith, focal point of five main highways and three rail lines, the enemy's armored infantry and supply columns were all practically immobilized. The rugged, hilly terrain of the Ardennes, heavily forested, permitted no cross-country movement. The few columns that were able to move, struggled along muddy, cratered, narrow secondary roads. Traffic was jammed bumper-to-bumper for miles from the original point of departure and provided excellent targets for friendly artillery and fighter bombers. The salient of St. Vith not only threatened the whole of Fifth Panzer Army's northern flank, but continued to prevent the movement of Sixth S.S. Panzer Army. This afforded the First U.S. Army sufficient time to bring up the reinforcements to a new defensive line."

"First U.S. Army Report of Operations" quoted from "Clarke of St. Vith"

" Two of the most important tactical localities on the eighty-eight mile front held by the VIII Corps in the Ardennes Forest, at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, December 16, 1944, were Bastogne and St. Vith. Through these localities were the road nets, which, if held, would disrupt the plan of any aggressor. Bastogne was an important communications center and was worth the gamble made for its defense. Its garrison wrote a brilliant chapter in history by denying the locality to the enemy ; therefore, much of the comment pertaining to the Battle of the Bulge has centered around this important terrain feature. This fact has caused many to lose sight of the importance of St. Vith and the gallant stand made for its defense by elements of Corps troops, by remnants of the 106th Division, and by CCB of the 7th Armored Division....."

Lt. General Troy H. Middleton, Commanding General VIII Corps in Europe
"Foreward...The US Army Armor School's...The Defense Of St. Vith, Belgium"

The Defense of St. Vith, recognized by Germans and Allied commanders alike as a turning point in the Battle of the Bulge, went almost unrecognized in the American press, being overcome by the story of the encircled troops at Bastogne... Held up six days longer than their timetable allowed, forced to detour around this vital road net, both Manteuffel and Dietrich felt the effects of this defense. Manteuffel could have, he stated, gone to the aid of Dietrich's imperiled 1 SS Panzer Division, and probably again opened a hole for the onrushing panzers had he been able to get through St. Vith ; Dietrich, in turn, would not have been forced to detour his second wave completely around this horseshoe, and could more quickly have brought his power to bear further to the west. Neither the Ambleve River line nor the subsequent XVIII Corps line extending to the west could have been formed without this prior delaying action, which allowed the First Army line to form up, at least in partial preparedness, before the Germans burst into their midst. That these troops stood alone, unaided, uninformed, and unprepared is testimony enough, and added to the true importance of the stand is the fact that four of the six regiments in the ring were armored, notoriously weak in infantry troops, designed more for exploiting enemy weaknesses rather than for defense. A standard armored division has only 3 battalions of infantry, (the equivalent of) slightly less than a normal infantry regiment , of which there are three in an infantry division."

"The Battle of the Bulge"...Abridged version of Dark December
by Robert E. Merriam

" Manteuffel later told the American historian Robert Merriam :
 " I wanted to have St. Vith on December 17. Although I had expected that Bastogne would be defended, I did not think that the Americans would be able to defend St. Vith." So the Germans were now five days behind schedule, their Armored divisions were marking time and their supply echelons were piling up on top of each other ; they took two further days to deal with the American remnants between St. Vith and Vielsalm. All this can be put to the credit of the defense of St. Vith. It had gained the time necessary to establish U.S. First Army on a new line, behind which the British reserves were moving into position. There was still plenty of punch left in the German offensive, but the "Battle of the Bulge" legend gives too much credit to the defenders of Bastogne at the expense of those of St. Vith. Without the latter Bastogne could probably not have been held, for Manteuffel would quickly have widened the gap and outflanked the Allies as they moved up to contain the German salient. "

" Hitler's Last Gamble " by Jacques Nobecourt
 Translated from the French by R.H. Barry

GERMANY

03 April, 1945

32 228 510 Blecher, Solomon H. Tec.4 SSN-648
 Dy to KIA
 36 678 538 Smith, Travis L. Pvt. SSN-345 BORN 1926
 trfd to 67th Evac Hosp, LWA, LD, Battle DOW 10 Apr.,45
 STATION : 02 Apr.,45 Medebach, Germany
 STATION : 02 Apr.,45 Medebach, Germany

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr very active during the day. 1st platoon held road block at 692867, then established other road blocks at 678906 and at 686906. 2D platoon ran patrols fr 692867 and 686877. Established road blocks at 670905 and ran patrols fr Medalon to Nesborn. 3rd platoons held road block at 678871 until 1100 then maintained liaison between 415th regt and CC"A". At 1600 3rd platoon was atchd to Task Force Dailey in vicinity of Kustelberg, Germany. Tr Hq remained in same area. Grid Zone, Nord De Guerre.

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized

TROOP C

FRANCE

25 August, 1944

36 036 555 Olsen, Albert Tec.5 SSN-767
Above EM dy to MIA 25 Aug., 44 see 28 Aug.,44 M.R. DOD ?
STATION : 24 Aug.,44 1 1/2 mi. E. Seine Port, France
STATION : 25 Aug.,44 1/4 mi north Voisenon, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Two platoons engaged about a regiment of infantry with anti-tank weapons at Lieussaint (Melun Map C. sheet 6lw 013042). Our losses 1 EM SWA, 3 EM LWA, 3 armored cars lost. 7 Germans believed killed. Troop Headquarters at Nandy until troop was ordered to join Squadron Headquarters at 1/4 mi north of Voisenon (Melun map sheet 6lw 019038) and bivouaced for the night. Weather fair, morale good.

06 SEPTEMBER, 1944

14 040 171 Cooper, David Pvt. SSN-607 Born 1922 MS.
Dy to MIA 06 Sept.,44 listed on 09 Sept.,44 M.R. Not on POW List.
32 248 706 Daniels, Theodore Tec.5 SSN-776 Born 1911
Dy to trfd to 32D Evacuation Hosp SWA LD Battle. DOW 07 Sept.,44

1 EM SWA, 5 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA
STATION : 05 Sept.,44 6 miles east Verdun, France
STATION : 06 Sept.,44 Verneville, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr left bivouac 6 miles east Verdun and jd 38th Armd Inf Bn for a Rcn in force. All atch Units started on mission at 0315 and proceeded on mission until enemy was encountered at Briey. They were Inf and tanks. The enemy was driven back without loss to our units. 814th TD destroyed 1 enemy tank. Enemy was again encountered at St. Ali and ??abnville, 74-66 Chalons - Nancy Map, sheet # 9. Heavy machine gun and mortar fire encountered. 1 EM SWA, 5 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA. All units were withdrawn and CCA assumed Attack. Tr bivouac at Verneville, 74-62 Chalons-Nancy Map Sheet # 9.

13 SEPTEMBER, 1944

14 040 171 Bonker, Ray Pvt. SSN-345
Dy to DOW LD Battle 13 Sept.,44 Listed on 14 Sept.,44
1 EM SWA, 2 EM LWA
STATION : Malmaison, France
STATION : Malmaison, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr remained in position at Malmaison 015-433 Map Frankriech 1/25,000 and sent out patrols to contact the enemy. No enemy encountered but mortar fire landed on our positions. Weather clear, morale fair.
"B" Tr moved on our left and "A" Tr on our right Front.

HOLLAND

05 October, 1944

34 441 756 Cotton, Quinton A. Pvt. SSN-745 BORN 1921
35 273 963 Wrana, Louis F. Tec.5 SSN-733 BORN 1916
Above 2 EM KIA 5 Oct.,44 listed on 06 Oct.,44 M.R.
STATION : 04 Oct.,44 6/10 mile south west St. Antonis, Holland QE7039
STATION : 05 Oct.,44 6/10 mile S.W. St. Antonis, Holland QE7038

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr Hq remained in bivouac. 2D Lt Storm LWA by artillery fire at 0600. Platoons remained on road patrols reconnoitering assigned areas.

Meijel

27 OCTOBER, 1944

01 012 409 Cooke, Carl F. 1st. Lt. SSN-1620
35 273 831 Latcovich, Stanley Cpl. SSN-607 Born 1914
Above 2 EM dy to MIA 27 Oct.,44 see 30 Oct.,44 M.R. DOD 27 Oct.,44
1 EM SWA, 2 EM LWA, 2 EM MIA not including Cpl. Latcovich
STATION : 26 Oct.,44, Meijel, Holland QE7107
STATION : 27 Oct.,44, 3 Mi. N.W. Meijel, Holland QE6808

RECORD OF EVENTS

Germans laid down artillery on Meijel about 0615. After artillery barrage, Inf was observed coming. All available men defended the town until orders were to withdraw. Tr, with help of Tr "B", this Sq, tried to retake town. 48th Armd Inf moved up to defend our forward position. Enemy known to have Inf, AT guns, and tanks. Weather cloudy, Morale poor
NOTE 1 : " The morning of 27 October was cloudy ; a heavy fog limited visibility to about 50 yards. At about 0610 heavy enemy shelling commenced along that portion of the division sector held by the 87th Reconnaissance Squadron. Our troops in the area were alerted to expect an attack. A particularly strong concentration was directed against the town of Meijel, headquarters of Troop C. At 0710 there came a lull in the firing, and at about 0718 a German officer of the 9th Panzer Division stood up and shouted orders. At his command, enemy troops estimated at company strength, stood up and began the attack. Concurrent attacks were launched against Troop A on the right or southern flank of the squadron sector and against Troop D on the north ..But the main thrust that first day was against Meijel. Troop C...held an 8000 yard zone....The 3 rcn. platoons outposted the front with nine posts, each having six to eight men, a machine gun and in some cases a mortar. Meijel itself was occupied by the Hq platoon and a platoon of two assault guns. During his barrage the enemy had managed to pass between the outposts without detection. Our troops in Meijel held their fire as the enemy advanced until he was within 30 Yards. Then all the defenders, including assault gun squads, opened fire at point blank range. The first and second waves of the enemy, except for those few men who were able to filter around the flanks, were almost all killed or wounded. The third wave advanced throwing hand grenades, over-ran the local outposts and gained the houses from where they opened fire with small arms. Meanwhile the flank platoons had been called in from their outpost positions, but in the face of the heavy fire the troop commander decided to withdraw and save the vehicles. The Northern flank platoon was cut off from the main body of Troop C but managed to circle around and join forces with Troop B, the squadron reserve, as it moved forward."

" Battle of the Canals , Operations of the 7th Armored Division "
by Lt. Robert E. Merriam, Obtained and Transcribed by Wesley Johnston.

NOTE 2 : " The night of October 26/27 was a quiet one-ominously quiet. The morning dawned without the sun being able to lift the fog that limited visibility to less than 50 yards. At 0615 the dormant sector suddenly erupted in a 40-minute artillery preparation. Then they came, the Germans. Under fog and artillery they had crossed the Deurne Canal and the Noorder Canal at several spots, looming up in front of the American outposts.....materializing, as it were, out of nowhere. In three successive waves they stormed the American lines, not caring about their losses...the third wave... broke through and reached the houses of Meyel. The Americans were forced to withdraw... At 0830 the place was in German hands. Meyel had been defended by a company made up of only two platoons : Troop C of the widely dispersed 87th Reconnaissance Squadron. Just west of Meyel, what was left of this weak detachment linked up with Troop B, held in reserve till then. The commanding officer Lt. Colonel Vincent Boylan....placed two companies (troops)supported by nine light tanks on either side of the road from Asten to Meyel. He himself stood in the middle of the road and shouted to his men " Come on....., they can't hit you. Move! I want to see a few Krauts bite the dust!".

" The Forgotten Battle " by A. Korthals Altes and N.K.C.A. In't Veld.

SEE ALSO : Troop B and Company F 27 Oct.,44

06 NOVEMBER, 1944

36 624 507	Ladwig, Edward A.	Pfc.	SSN-607	
dy to KIA	06 Nov.,44	see	07 Nov.,44	M.R.
12 073 793	Slocum, James E.	Pvt.	SSN-607	Born 1914
dy to KIA	06 Nov.,44			

4 EM LWA

Station : 05 Nov.,44 Vicinity of Ospel, Holland QE6503

Station : 06 Nov.,44 1/2 Mi. S.W. Ospel, Holland QE6502

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr Hq moved to 1/2 Mi SW Ospel, Holland. Patrols and outposts were the same. 2d platoon went on patrol and hit enemy mines. 1 EM, KIA, 4 EM, LWA. AP mines were also present. Weather fair, Morale good.

NOTE: There were four EM listed as LWA on the 06 Nov M.R., Pfc Ladwig was not one of them. Pvt. Slocum is listed as KIA on the 06 Nov. M.R. Information furnished by Mike O'Hara, son of Sgt. William O'Hara, who was wounded that day, suggests that Sgt O'Hara was engaged in clearing a mine field when a peep hit a mine. Sgt. O'Hara was left for dead and later discovered by the men who came to recover the bodies, who realized he was still alive when they saw him blink. It is likely but not certain that Pfc. Ladwig and Pvt. Slocum were that the peep.

ST. VITH, BELGIUM
The Northern Flank
17 December, 1944

STATION : Recht, Belgium VP7994

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr left Schaesberg, Holland at 0345 and traveled by GMT to new area at Recht, Belgium. Distance traveled 80 miles. Weather rain, Morale good.

NOTE 1 : "The 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn minus Troop B was sent to the NE of St. Vith in the Wallerode area to contact the 14th Cav. Group and to protect and screen the left flank . Later that evening it was learned that the 14th Cav Group had withdrawn to Recht and beyond, and that Born was not held."

Headquarters- Combat Command B - After Action Report
obtained and transcribed by Wesley Johnston

NOTE 2 : " Company arrived vicinity St. Vith in the late afternoon. That evening the company was immediately put into the line, 1st platoon commanded by Lt. Richard S Oaksford, from the CR at Hunningen 300-400 yards to the RR ; 3rd platoon under Lt. John H. Mullikan from the right flank of the first platoon to the woods at 852901, and the second platoon commanded by Laverne L. Prill from the N. edge of the woods swinging S. along the edge of the woods to contact Troop A."

Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview given to Lt. Robert Merriam, 08 January, 1945 ... Obtained by Wesley Johnston.

NOTE 3 : "The head of the Squadron column arrived there (at Recht) at 1030...by 1200 The CP was set up. Troop B had pushed on through to the East. Troop C blocked approaches from the North. Troop C was diverted to the North to counter a ???threat, and occupied the ridge-line running generally east from Hunningen, then South with a roadblock on the Heppenbach road. The Troop tied in with the 38th Infantry (AIB) at this point."

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized After Action Report

18 December, 1944

STATION : Hunningen, Belgium VP8590

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr moved ahead to St Vith and set up defensive units with friendly outfits and held German counter attack. Weather cloudy with rain. Morale good.

NOTE 1 : " At 0800 approximately 100 enemy infantry men and from 5-7 tanks (Mark IV) Came W on the road from Wallerode to Hunningen. The German infantry were in front of the tanks from 50-70 yards. The second platoon, at the approach of the enemy force, drew S into the A/87 area. The 3rd platoon fired at the enemy infantry forcing them to deploy and bring up their tanks. Then as the enemy tanks came into position the platoon withdrew down the road to the W. Two armored cars were left behind when they would not start. The first platoon maintained its ground, firing at the enemy as he approached. However the enemy infantry came around to the N of the first platoon and forced it to pull back to the CR. The rcn section under S/Sgt Norbert H. Zimmerman pulled back to the W of the intersection while the rest of the troop withdrew toward St. Vith, to vicinity 846894 where a new defensive line was established."

Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview...R. Merriam (CONT ...)

NOTE 2 : " At dawn 40 or 50 German infantrymen attacked the 3rd platoon of Troop C on the ridge East of Hunningen. A firefight ensued and the enemy was reinforced by more infantry supported by tanks. The 3rd platoon fell back on Hunningen and as the enemy pushed on to the crossroads, Sergeant Norbert H. Zimmerman took part of the 1st platoon and set up on the high ground 300 yards Southwest of the town, while the remainder of the platoon with the Troop Headquarters and 3rd platoon retired about 400 yards along the road to St. Vith, and set up a defensive position behind buildings along the road. Later these elements fell back about 300 yards farther and established a line on the high ground astride the road. From the high ground near Hunningen, enemy tanks threatened the Squadron CP to the South of them, and the CP moved West to a point just short of Rodt, where word was received that the enemy was in Recht and Poteau having thus cut the road to Veilsalm. At 1000 the Troop C line was reinforced by a platoon of light tanks from Co F, commanded by Lieutenant Good, and at 1100 a company of mediums from the 31st (TB) arrived. These tanks drove back the enemy tanks, and when a company of Tank Destroyers arrived around noon, the mediums left to undertake a new mission East of St Vith. The Tank Destroyers which arrived to support Troop C had the mission of retaking the high ground around Hunningen, and after a coordinated attack Troop C reestablished the old line through Hunningen with Tank Destroyers in support." **87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report.**

NOTE 3 : " About 1100 a friendly tank destroyer column came up from St. Vith and engaged the enemy tanks. Both sides suffered hits, but the enemy column finally withdrew. The Tank Destroyers of the 811th TD Bn, 9th Armored Division had been ordered to seize and hold the high ground vicinity TROOP A. After the enemy column turned around the TD's went back. Captain Johnson said he thought highly of the fighting qualities of the TD unit. When the German column had disappeared the Rcn men worked their way back into their original positions in coordination with a portion of C/31 which emerged to the W of Hunningen and drove due E." **Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview. R Merriam**

NOTE 4 : Four 40mm Anti-tank guns were also moved up in support, plus a 105mm Self-propelled howitzer and a platoon from the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion that happened to be occupying a position nearby. By 1800 however, only C/87 was left, and about this time Company C 31st Tank Battalion arrived and moved in on the left (West) flank. **87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report**

NOTE 5 : "At 180800 Dec 44 the enemy began an attack from the NE and E towards St. Vith. Two Med Tk Co's from the 14th Tk Bn, 9th Armd Div and A/811 TD Bn were sent to reinforce the 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn line. B/31 attacked Hunningen from the West while C/31 attacked it from the South. Later C/31 was moved E of St. Vith to support that portion of the line. B/31 was withdrawn W of St. Vith and placed in Combat Command reserve. By 1100 this attack had been stopped and the line was restored to its original position." **Combat Command B - After Action Report**

NOTE 6 : " Said Captain Johnson 'We had fine defensive positions there. Looking down their throat - for the first time we seemed to be looking down at them.' To strengthen the position a platoon of infantry, a company of TD's 814th, several assault guns, and a platoon of AA multiple 508's were sent up in addition to the C/31 tanks. However at 1800... the TD's, infantry, and AG's were gone to other sectors." **Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview... R Merriam**

(Cont....)

NOTE 7 : " Troop C and Troop A now held a line along the ridge-line East out of Hunningen and South to Heppenbach road tied in with A/38 on their right and C/31 on their left."
"87th Cav Rcn Sq After Action Report"

19 December, 1944

STATION : Hunningen, Belgium VP8590

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr has positions set up just out of Hunningen, Belgium. German activity seen and artillery used on them. Some arty landing here and flying bombs going over CP. Weather fair, Morale good.

NOTE 1 : "The 3rd platoon, Co F, remained in support of Troop C. One platoon from the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion was also in support of Troop C." **87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report**

NOTE 2 : "Reconnaissance was sent out 1200 yards to the front into Ndr Emmels. One Mark IV tank crept up on the C/87 positions but it turned around when 50 caliber mg fire was directed at it."

Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview. R Merriam

NOTE 3 : " During the night considerable vehicular movement was heard. Numerous artillery concentrations were fired on located enemy positions, and enemy vehicles and men threatened the line several times but were driven back by artillery and small arms."

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report

20 December, 1944

36 212 561 Zimmerman, Norbert H. S/Sgt. SSN-651

Dy to KIA

2 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA

STATION : 19 Dec.,44 : Hunningen, Belgium VP8590 Nord De Guerre

STATION : 19 Dec.,44 : Hunningen, Belgium VP8590 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr held position all day and observed activity in their own area. Some motor vehicles, tanks, H/T's and Inf was observed in towns to our front. Artillery fire turned them back. At 1700 Mark V tanks attacked our positions. 4 destroyed. Rest retreated. Exact number of enemy tanks unknown.

NOTE 1 : "Considerable enemy arty began to fall. The first and second platoons changed positions. A strong point was built up in the NE edge of the woods at 857901 with two light tanks, two medium tanks, a platoon of C/23 and the scout section of C/87."

Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview - R Merriam

" Early in the evening, just toward dusk, enemy activity increased all along the line, with the main attack coming in the Troop C sector. This attack was repulsed with Tank Destroyers and Troop C reported three enemy tanks knocked out ,one probable. In the morning, four enemy tanks (MK IV) were found knocked out."

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report

NOTE 2 : "During the evening a strong enemy patrol was driven off with arty fire. That same evening the enemy attempted an abortive tank attack to the W. of C/87, but four of the enemy tanks were destroyed."

Capt. Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview - R Merriam

21 December, 1944

01 030 602 Oaksford, Richard S. 1st. Lt. SSN-1620
15 089 848 Coleman, Theodore R. Tec.5 SSN-734

Above O and EM dy to KIA

2 EM LWA

STATION : 21 Dec.,44 : 3 Mi W. St Vith, Belgium VP8489 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr kept positions as of day before until about 1730 when Tr was ordered to withdraw to SW of St Vith, Belgium. A line was set up and outposted for the night. No enemy was encountered after withdrawal.

Weather cloudy, Morale fair.

NOTE 1 : "During the time the concerted drive was being exerted on our E. flank the troops of the N. were not heavily engaged."

Combat Command B .. After Action Report

NOTE 2 : "C/87 received none of the fury of the enemy attack on St. Vith except for a strong shelling. The platoon of C/23 was shifted to the W. of the Hunningen road. At 2130 or 2200 orders were given to withdraw, order of march to be first, third, and second platoons. The troop swung thru Hunningen and from there was to go S. along the St. Vith Road to 840890. This line was to tie in with the infantry platoon to the immediate W of Hunningen and with the mediums who were to take up positions in that same vicinity. However, shortly after these positions had been taken a second order came for a withdrawal thru St. Vith and to the W. As the Troop passed thru St. Vith it was subjected to mg and Schmeiser fire. The new position was to be from the RJ on the Rodt road at 835885 N. to the stream at about 837890. On their left were to be the infantry, and to their left were to be the tanks of C/31 under Lt. Bowman. C/87 was to make contact with the tankers but was unable to locate them. Little activity was reported."

Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview. R Merriam

NOTE 3 : "...the defensive line (from Hunningen to the St. Vith - Wallerode road) was to swing back to the West of St. Vith and establish a line for the elements E of St. Vith to fall back thru. This was accomplished. All through the night of 21 -22 December 44 stragglers were coming back from the troops which had been overrun E. of St.Vith...by early afternoon of 22 Dec 44 about 150 had been gathered up." **Combat Command B .. After Action Report**

22 December, 1944

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr held positions 1 Mi SW Rodt, Belgium with other friendly units during the night against enemy tank and inf attacks. All attacks were repulsed. 1 EM LWA. Weather snow, Morale good.

NOTE 1 : "At about 0800 a group of A/23 and B/87 (the men from the Railway station area) came into the company positions. The platoon of C/23 was still with them at the time. The line was further strengthened by the addition of some of the new men. About 1200 the Troop once more was ordered to move back to a new line, this time on the left flank of A/87 to the RJ at 810877. No activity during the evening." **Captain Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview - R Merriam**

NOTE 2 : " ... orders were received to form a line North and East of Krombach and Hinterhausen. Troops C and A were detached Squadron control and moved cross country to the high ground Southwest of St. Vith under command of Lieutenant Colonel Erlenbusch."

" 87th Cav. Rcn Sq. Mecz. After Action Report"

NOTE 3 : " By nightfall the line was held with C.O. 87th Cav Rcn Sqdn (Lt. Col. Boylan) Commanding on the left, C.O. 31 st Tk Bn (Lt. Co. Erlenbusch) Commanding in the center, and C.O. 17 th Tk Bn (Lt. Co. Wemple) on the South. The boundary between Wemple and Erlenbusch was the rr line running SW from St. Vith."

"Combat Command B ... After Action Report"

23 December, 1944

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr remained 1 Mi SW Rodt, Belgium until 0630 when orders were given to withdraw. Our Tr with other friendly units withdrew and reached area 1 Mi N. Hamoir, Belgium where the Tr rejoined Sq. Weather fair, Morale good.

NOTE 1 : " No action. Troops withdrew with the tanks of Lt. Swanger of 31st Tk Bn. Several peeps were lost, but no other action."

Capt. Donald L. Johnson Combat Interview

NOTE 2 : " At 230456 Dec 44 instructions to withdraw to W of Vielsalm were received." **Combat Command B .. After Action Report**

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized

TROOP D FRANCE

16 AUGUST, 1944

11 039 172 Davis, William L. Tec.5 SSN-776 BORN 1921

Above EM DOW

1 EM LWA

STATION : 15 Aug.,44 4 Miles E. Faverolles, France

STATION : 16 Aug.,44 1/4 mile N. Ecrosnes, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Germans attacked Bivouac at Faverolles, with inf and H.E. Mortar fire at 0730 to 0845. 1 EM LWA by rifle fire, leg. Left Bivouac at 1420 and arrived 2230 in bivouac 1/4 mile N. Ecrosnes.

27 AUGUST, 1944

31 064 494 Thomas, George W. Tec.5 SSN-345 BORN 1913

32 227 855 LaChance, Ernest H. Pvt. SSN-607 BORN 1911

Above 2 EM fr dy to KIA

32 253 277 Zuber, Stanley Pvt. SSN-607 BORN 1918

Dy to MIA 27 Aug 44 listed on 30 Aug.,44 M.R. DOD 27 Aug.,44

1 EM LWA

STATION : 26 Aug.,44 Vicinity of Chenoise, France

STATION : 27 Aug.,44 2 Miles S. La Ferte, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Left position 445-063, Map of Melun 1/50000 and reconnoitered area to prepared position in conjunction with guarding Div Trains. Present position 053-050, Map of Reims 1/50000 2 Mi S. La Ferte-Gaucher. 2nd Plat contacted enemy artillery & M.G. fire at 2000. 2 EM KIA, 1 EM MIA, 1 EM LWA.

06 SEPTEMBER, 1944

36 712 466 Czerebak, Edward Pfc. SSN-607 DOD 26 Sept.,44

Dy to LIA Div Clearing Sta, LD Battle extent of injuries unknown

4 EM LWA

STATION : 05 Sept.,44 : 6/10 Miles S. Damloup, France

STATION : 06 Sept.,44 : 1 Mile N. Gravelotte, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

5 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA, at approximately 1700-1800 while in the performance of dy they were drawn under a heavy concentration of enemy mortar, artillery and sniper fire at Gravelotte, France. Left bivouac 6/10 mi. S. Damloup, at 0305 arrived in bivouac at Gravelotte, at 2130, 068-662, Metz Map sheet No 9 1/250,000. Tr spearheaded Div under Sq control. Had very little time to make proper rcn. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was semi-continuous throughout the day. Morale Excellent, Weather overcast and cool.

07 SEPTEMBER, 1944

33 260 472 Julian, Michael Cpl. SSN-653 DOD 08 Sept.,44
Dy to trfd to Hosp unknown LWA LD Battle Evacuated thru Bn aid Sta,
Clearing Sta unknown.

1 EM SWA, 3 EM LWA, not including Cpl. Julian
STATION : 06 Sept.,44 : 1 Mile N. Gravelotte, France
STATION : 07 Sept.,44 : 3 Miles N. W. Gravelotte, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

3 Miles N. W. Gravelotte, France, 067-063 Map Verdun- Metz
1/50000. Troop advanced 2 miles on mission. Held up by heavy artillery
and mortar fire by enemy until relieved at 1545. Troop was under enemy
shell fire most of the time from 07?? until relieved. Shell fire was
periodically. Captured one prisoner. 4 E.M. LWA, 1 E.M. SWA,
2 E.M. Combat exhaustion.

HOLLAND

25 October, 1944

STATION : 2 Mi N. Neerkant, Holland QE 6911 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved fr position 4 Mi SE Weert to new area 2 Mi N. Neerkant. Reverted
fr CC"A" control to Sq control at 0900. Platoons posted in new
vicinity. Distance traveled 38 miles. Weather overcast with fog and
clouds. Morale excellent.

NOTE 1 : Troop D relieves Troop B in the Northern Sector near Neerkant,
Holland, outposting positions commanding Deurne Canal.

26 October, 1944

STATION : 2 Mi N. Neerkant, Holland QE6911 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in position 2 Mi N. Neerkant. Platoons remained posted or
shifted slightly to the east. Rcn Platoons have been under light
artillery fire. Patrols active in zones up to the canal.

27 October, 1944

STATION : 3 Mi. E. Neerkant, Holland, QE6911 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr was engaged by the enemy in repulsing a strong enemy counter attack
from the canal. 4 E.M. LWA, number of enemy dead unknown. Captured
1 prisoner. We are receiving heavy artillery barrages and MG fire by
the enemy. Our lines still hold but some elements have fallen back for
better position. We were asgd to a task force commanded by Col. Wemple
at 1600.

(CONT ...)

NOTE 1 : "About 0610 artillery fire opened up on the entire sector held by the 87th. At 0700 or 0710 there came a lull in the firing and at about 0718 the Germans attacked along the 87th front with the main thrust of the attack against Meijel. The attack against the Troop D outposts centered around Heitrak (See 27 Oct., 44 Deaths for Troop E) Neerkant, and Hof. The first assault against Neerkant was stopped by small arms and artillery fire...When this assault was repulsed the attackers angled to the north toward Heitrack to join in that thrust. There, the enemy was hit by the assault guns of Troop E and his attack stopped." " **Battle of Canals** "

NOTE 2 : " In the Northern zone, held by Troop D, enemy infantry attacked at 0700 in the vicinity of (Heitrack); Troop HQ was moved up in support of this section of the line, and the attack angled off to the South toward Neerkant, where a simultaneous attack was in progress. At this point the line was seriously threatened, but prompt artillery support plus intensive use of small arms stopped the enemy 100 yards in front of the defensive positions...At 0830 reinforcements arrived in the form of one company of medium tanks, one of light, and one of Tank Destroyers. Troop D was then attached to this force, which in turn was part of CCR. One platoon of mediums was placed with the third platoon, one with the Troop E assault guns near Heitrack, and one north of Heitrack. The light tank company was in general support in the woods North of Heitrack but was almost immediately moved out to provide security for the 440th. The Tank Destroyer Co. was split up to cover avenues of approach and provide protection against enemy armor "

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - After Action Report

NOTE 3 : "About 0930 a threat to this northern sector was reported and the force commander reorganized to meet it by placing D company (light tanks) in position to protect the 440th Armored Field Artillery, which was firing from positions only a few thousand yards west of Neerkant... During the period 0600-1100 the enemy had succeeded in getting some armor across the Deurne Canal and the first enemy armor was sighted by D Troop about 2000 yards to the east of the Liesel-Heitrack road. They were engaged by our artillery and assault guns with undetermined results. However about 1200, on the same road farther west, an M8 Armored Car of D Troop 87th, which was on outpost, was confronted by three enemy tanks. The car commander allowed one to pass and fired 6 rounds of 37mm shell in its rear at a range of approximately 15 yards. This caused the tank crew to ditch the tank. The M8 escaped up the road before the other 2 enemy tanks could bring it under fire. By 1630 the enemy had succeeded in building up his strength west of the canal, enabling him to resume the attack."

7th Armored Division in Defense of a Canal Line by William W. Rawlings, Jr., Major, Cavalry....Obtained and Transcribed by Wesley Johnston.

NOTE 3 : " At 1645 a strong enemy force estimated at 20 large tanks, supported by infantry approached Neerkant from the Southeast. C/48 (AIB) had moved one platoon East of Neerkant, and when the attack came this platoon was cut off along with the third platoon of D/87. One of the supporting medium tanks was knocked out and the remainder withdrew. The enemy took Neerkant, but the infantry filtered back Southwest to rejoin their company and the reconnaissance filtered back to the Northwest. The line held by D/87 at nightfall swung generally North from Heitrack, which was also in enemy hands by this time. "

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz - After Action Report

28 OCTOBER, 1944

36 037 439	Marek, Stanley P.	S/Sgt.	SSN-651	Born 1919	IL.
31 064 150	Duval, Conrad J.	Tec.5	SSN-733	Born 1920	Canada
34 494 226	Barham, John C.	Pfc.	SSN-776	Born 1920	TN.
37 324 281	Karhula, John	Tec.5	SSN-345		
31 064 425	Rill, Edwin	Tec.5	SSN-776	Born 1920	MA.

Above 5 E.M. dy to MIA 28 Oct 1944

6 other EM LWA

STATION : 27 Oct.,44, 3 Mi. E. Neerkant, Holland QE6911

STATION : 28 Oct.,44, 1 1/2 Mile W. Liesel, Holland QE6615

RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr changed C.P. position fr 3 mi E. Neerkant, Holland to 1 1/2 mi. W. Liesel, Holland, due to enemy counter attack and atchd to CC"B". Was committed to heavy combat with the enemy all day and subjected to enemy artillery fire constantly. Barrages fell with heavy artillery, 150mm or larger. Lost or destroyed at Sq Maint most of 3rd platoons vehicles plus one 1/2 track Hq platoon, 1 truck 1st platoon and 1 armd car 2D platoon. Tr facing much artillery and inf. Weather fair, morale excellent. 6 E.M. LWA.

NOTE 1 : None of the men listed as MIA appear on the POW list. All appear on the list of 87th Deaths. They were likely all KIA 28 October, 1944.

NOTE 2 : "CCB moved into an assembly area just west of Liesel they were to attack at 0700 with A and C Companies of the 23rd AIB to proceed south astride the Deurne-Meijel road toward Meijel with A/31 Tank Battalion in immediate support: while B/23 AIB, C/31, the assault guns and mortar platoons of 31st Tanks, one platoon of of the 814th Tank Destroyers and one platoon of engineers branched off the road, about 2000 yards south of Liesel, east toward Hoogbrug to destroy a bridge which the enemy had built across the canal. A force of the 17th Tank Battalion consisting of one company of medium tanks, D Troop 87th Reconnaissance and a platoon of tank destroyers located about 2000 yards south of Liesel was to come under control of CCB...and protect the rear of CCB against attack from the north and the Hoogbrug road to the east." **7th Armored Division in Defense of a Canal Line.**

NOTE 3 : "In the Northern zone, the 1st platoon of Troop D had repelled an aggressive enemy patrol during the night, with casualties on both sides. At daylight, the platoon leader's light tank (substitute for M8 Armored Car) was knocked out by an 88, and when the section from second platoon arrived to support, the armored car of the platoon sergeant who was leading the section was also hit by 88mm fire and burned. Enemy tanks and infantry continued to advance and Troop D was driven back to the vicinity of Liesel, where the 1st platoon was relieved by Company D 31st Tank Battalion. At this point companies A and C of the 23rd AIB attacked astride the road, and as night fell Troop D outposted a line from C/48 at Huize De Werf to 23rd AIB near Heitrack."

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report.

29 October, 1944

STATION : 1 1/2 Miles E. Maarheeze, Holland QE5604 Nord De Guerre
RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved fr area 1 1/2 mi W. Liesel, Holland to 1 1/2 mi E. Maarheeze due to enemy action. Rcn Platoons busily engaged in holding the enemy at bay in this and nearby vicinity. Weather clear and cool, morale excellent.

NOTE : "In the morning, a considerable gap existed...on the right south flank of Troop D, but by noon tanks had swung North and contacted the adjoining troop, thus forming a continuous line which was held until relieving units took over. Troop D was able to establish a forward CP from which artillery could be adjusted and six tigers were seen to burn. Troop D was pulled out of the line at 2030."

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Report.

BELGIUM

**St. Vith Salient and
Baraque de Fraiture (Parker's Crossroads)**

17 December, 1944

STATION : 1 1/2 Mi S. Wallerode, Belgium VP5499 Nord De Guerre
RECORD OF EVENTS

Departed fr Scherpensel, Germany at 0315. Crossed IP at Kunrad, Holland at 1545. Arrived 1 1/2 Mi S. Wallerode, Belgium at 1750. Total distance traveled 84 1/2 miles. Weather overcast with clouds. Morale excellent. Tr reverted fr CC"A" control to Hq control. Tr committed to combat at 1800.

18 December, 1944

STATION : Beho, Belgium VP7683 Nord De Guerre
RECORD OF EVENTS

Tr reverted fr Sq to CC"A" control at 0800 and CC"A" control to Div control at 1700. Left bivouac 1 1/2 mi S. Wallerode, Belgium at 0800 after drawing in platoons committed in combat. Arrived at Beho, Belgium at 1100. Distance traveled 9 miles. Rcn platoons placed on outpost duty for Hq CC"A" and left in position to defend same till movement for mission forthcoming. Tr Hq shelled by enemy artillery at St. Vice where we had a temporary CP. No casualties or damage done. Rcn platoons dismounted and used as Inf until movement fr vicinity of Wallerode. Drew tk and small arms fire. 1 enemy tk fired upon, crew evacuated it and tk later destroyed by friendly tk fire. Some crew members killed or wounded by our fire. Weather cloudy. Morale excellent.

19 December, 1944

STATION : Lierneux, Belgium VP6290 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Departed Beho, Belgium at 0930. Sent Rcn platoons out on missions. Hq Platoon only remained in this position. Established outpost for Div after thorough Rcn of given area. Weather cloudy with light rain. Morale excellent.

20 December, 1944

STATION : 1 1/2 Mi W. Regne, Belgium VP5685 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved fr Lierneux, Belgium at 1400 on new mission. Met enemy resistance 1 1/2 Mi E. Samree, Belgium. Had skirmish with enemy and established road block at that point. Moved Hq Platoon to 1 1/2 Mi W. Regne, Belgium. 1 EM LIA due to faulty breach on 37mm. Weather foggy. Morale excellent.

21 December, 1944

37 067 254 Powell, William R. Sgt. SSN-532

Dy to DOW

32 233 878 LaShomb, Francis F. Tec.5 SSN-733

Dy to MIA 21 Dec.,44 DOD ? Listed as MIA on 24 Dec.,44 M.R.

NOTE : Not listed as a POW Probably died in Belgium

32 233 918 Reynolds, Edward P. Tec.5 SSN-776

Dy to MIA 21 Dec.,44 DOD ? Listed as MIA on 24 Dec.,44 M.R.

NOTE : Not listed as a POW Probably died in Belgium

STATION : Joubival, Belgium VP6886 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Hq and 1st Plat moved fr 1 1/2 Mi W. Regne, Belgium to Joubival, Belgium by round-about way for other route was under direct fire of enemy weapons, both arty and small arms fire. Distance marched 8 Mi. 1st part of march under small arms fire. At 0200 was lightly attacked by enemy Inf. At 0400 another attack occurred in force but repelled same. 3d attack at 0545, attack repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. Captured approximately 17 between units, 7 killed, wounded known 13. The rcn platoons had been to withdraw as far as the rd junction inflicting losses on the enemy. 1st Plat on a rcn mission at Douchamps was baited into a trap, Results 1 Officer MIA, 1 EM LWA, 1/4 ton truck lost. Tr reassembled at 578852 Rd junction and given mission to hold at all cost. Enemy again attacked in force at 1240 and kept pressuring until 1700. Total casualties 1 Off MIA, 4 EM LWA, 1 EM SWA plus ? under investigation. Situation remains critical though reinforced by 8 medium tanks fr 3d Armd Div at 1800.

22 December, 1944

STATION : Malespre, Belgium VP5689 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Enemy forced HQ platoon out of Joubival, Belgium at 1430. Established temporary bivouac and reassembled Hq Platoon plus attachments at La Falise. Moved fr there to Malespre via roundabout route. 1st & 3d Platoons remained in position at road junction 1 1/2 Mi W. Regne. They are receiving heavy enemy fire, arty, mortar and small arms. Have stalled and still holding the enemy fr advancing after previous attacks in force. Weather clear and cold. Morale excellent.

23 DECEMBER, 1944

11 064 869 **Brooks, Hugh T.** Tec.5 SSN-776
Dy to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD 02 Jan.,45 listed as MIA 26 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Died as a POW. Status 4, Probably not of illness. Status 4
definition; executed or shot attempting to escape. It may have been
used for died of wounds and/or remains not recovered.

39 709 572 **Williams, John T.** Pvt. SSN-345
Dy to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD 26 Jan.,45 Listed as MIA 26 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Died as a POW. Status 5, Possibly fr illness or wounds.
Status 5 definition other than Status 4.

33 806 132 **Hall, Joseph D. Jr.** Pvt. SSN-776 Born 1922
DY to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD 23 Dec.,44 Listed as MIA 26 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Place of Death : Hotten, Belgium listed on IDPF but probably
died vic. Parker's Crossroads. First Burial Henri Chapelle 08 Feb.,45.

37 032 673 **Gruba, Dick R.** Tec.5 SSN-776
Dy to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD ? Listed as MIA 26 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Not listed as a POW. Probably died Vic. Parker's Crossroads.

32 257 086 **Johnson, John A.** Pvt. SSN-345
Dy to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD ? Listed as MIA 26 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Not listed as a POW. Probably died Vic. Parker's Crossroads.

12 071 790 **Sonner, Vincent C.** Tec.5 SSN-776
Dy to MIA 23 Dec.,44 DOD ? Listed as MIA on 27 Dec.,44 M.R.
NOTE : Not listed as a POW. Probably died Vic. Parker's Crossroads.
STATION : Werbomont, Belgium VP5499 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved CP fr Malempre, Belgium to coordinates VP5489 at 0800. Moved CP
at 1330 to Manhay, Belgium. At 2300 moved CP to Werbomont. The
position at 578852 was maintained and held under 8 heavy enemy counter
attacks. On the 9th attack it was abandoned by order. All vehicles
had been destroyed by enemy action and those still able to leave the
position on foot were to do so. The 3 Rcn Platoons held to the last
minute, without a man leaving his post till ordered, the MIA list is
being held up in hopes some 50 men may return. Though each and every
man of this unit knew the fullness of this suicide mission, credit must
be given to the fullest extent to the O's and EM for their (sic)
loyalty to dy in this action as they fully knew that nothing but death
awaited them. When the order to abandon post was given they were
surrounded on all sides. This unit held this post for 4 days. While
there they were under constant small arms and arty fire. On this date
they were subjected to the fury of a full Div.

24 December, 1944

STATION : Mormont, Belgium VP4794 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved fr Werbomont, Belgium to Mormont via Chansior. Rejoined Sq and
reverted to their control. Remnants of Tr joined forces with Tr "C"
and went back into the line as one unit under control of Tr "C" Comdr.
Deployed the Rcn platoons and established CP at Mormont, Belgium.

25 December, 1944

STATION : Mormont, Belgium VP4794 Nord De Guerre

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in position. Held outpost and road patrol. Also keeping
contact between units. Weather clear and cold. Morale excellent.
Mission completed and reorganized troops in vicinity of Mormont 2130.
Awaiting orders on 1 hour alert. (42)

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized

TROOP E

HOLLAND

27 OCTOBER, 1944

33 153 563 Darney, Steve Pvt. SSN-504

Fr dy to DOW

STATION : 26 Oct.,44 2 1/2 Mi S.E. Asten, Holland QE6312

STATION : 27 Oct.,44 2 1/2 MI S.E. Asten, Holland QE6312

1 EM LWA

RECORD OF EVENTS

At approximately 1330 Hq section of this Tr moved Southeast to contact "C" Tr and relieve them of 16 German prisoners. Upon arrival was met with German artillery fire resulting in wounds to Tec.5 Paup and Pfc. Cammarata. 2 other casualties were men atchd to other troops.

29 OCTOBER, 1944

37 323 243 Stahlecker, Arthur J. Tec.5 SSN-734

Dy to MIA 29 Oct.,44 listed on 01 Nov.,44 M.R.

STATION : 28 Oct.,44 2 1/2 M. S.E. Asten, Holland QE6312

STATION : 29 Oct.,44 2 1/2 M. S.E. Asten, Holland QE6312

RECORD OF EVENTS

No movement last 24 hours. Have been under enemy artillery fire all day. Weather bright.

BELGIUM

St. Vith Salient

21 DECEMBER, 1944

36 036 369 DeProsperis, Frank B. S/Sgt. SSN-651 Born 1916

Dy to MIA 21 Dec.,44 see 24 Dec., M.R.

Fr MIA to KIA 21 Dec.,44 see 25 Dec.,44 M.R.

Station : 20 Dec.,44 3 Mi W St Vith, Belgium VP8188

Station : 21 Dec.,44 1 Mi SW Rodt, Belgium VP8188

RECORD OF EVENTS

Remained in bivouac 1 Mi SW Rodt, Belgium. Under fire fr counter battery fr 2215 to 2225. Weather fair, Morale good.

87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized

COMPANY F

FRANCE

21 AUGUST, 1944

37 196 079 **Claude, Wayne G.** Pfc. SSN-604

Above E.M. dy to KIA

2 EM SWA, 1 EM LWA

STATION : 20 Aug., 44, Enroute

STATION : 21 Aug., 44, Marchans, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Fighting East through Dourdan, Rainville and Marchana.

22 August, 1944

38 032 376 **Gunter, Elbie L. Jr.** Tec.5 SSN-736

Above E.M. Dy to KIA

3 EM LWA

STATION : 22 Aug., 44, 1/2 Mi. N.W. Videlles, France

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved from Marchans to Videlles combating enemy all the way.

Lost 2 light tanks due to Anti-tank weapons.

25 August, 1944

32 246 385 **Mandau, Robert A.** S/Sgt. SSN-651

Above E.M. Dy to KIA

1 EN LWA, 1 EM SWA, 1 EM LIA

STATION : 24 Aug., 44, St. Leu, France

STATION : 25 Aug., 44, 1/2 Mi. S. Voisenin, France

1 EM LWA, 1 EM SWA, 1 EM LIA

RECORD OF EVENTS

Left St. Leu at 1115 heading East cross country as advance guard for

Sq. Engaged enemy at road junction 6082? . Pushed them ????????

6082? to Voisenin. 1 EM KIA, 2 EM wounded, 1 EM injured, 2 tanks

knocked out. Map used Melun 018-038

HOLLAND

23 OCTOBER, 1944

34 176 562 Pait, Leo J. Pvt. SSN-616 Born 1920 N.C.
Dy to DOW 23 Oct.,44
37 180 144 Williams, James R. Sgt. SSN-795 Born 1919
Dy to MIA listed on 26Oct., M.R. as MIA 23Oct.,44 KIA 23Oct.,44 IDPF
2 EM LWA
STATION : 23 Oct.,44 2 Mi S Asten, Holland QE6309

RECORD OF EVENTS

1st Platoon outposting "A" Battery of 440th Armd F.A. Bn. Hq and 2d
Platoons outposting 440th Hq and "C" Battery. 1st section of 3d
Platoon security for Sq Hq. 2d section of 3d Platoon assisting "A" Tr,
this Sq. 1 tank knocked out,
1 EM DOW, 2 EM LWA.

Meijel

27 October, 1944

Serial Listed as MIA on 30 Oct.,44 M.R. and confirmed by Number
32 227 000 Andrako, William Pfc. SSN-616 Born 1918 N.Y.
36 741 020 Hegnes, James E. Pfc. SSN-776
33 680 981 Malanowski, Leonard K. Pvt. SSN-014 Born 1924 Pa.
33 785 710 Malken, Jerry J. Pvt. SSN-014 Born 1925 Pa.
32 591 859 Nagy, Joseph Pfc. SSN-736 Born 1922 N.J.
01 015 004 Ostdick, Robert C. 1st Lt. SSN-1203 Ill.
32 225 156 Dudrey, Stanley J. Tec.5 SSN-604 Born 1910 N.Y.
36 234 505 Lusardi, Lawrence A. Tec.4 SSN-736 Born 1916 Mi.
35 274 263 Wildman, Charles W. Pvt. SSN-616 Born 1914 Oh.
dy to MIA 27 Oct.,44 DOD ? Not on POW List so did not die as POWs.
2 O & 17 EM MIA including men listed above. 1 O & 13 EM LWA
Station : 26 Oct.,44 2 Mi S Asten, Holland QE6309
Station : 27 Oct.,44 2 Mi S Asten, Holland QE6309

RECORD OF EVENTS

Encountered enemy at Meijel, Holland at 1000, believed to be 9th Panzer
Division. Lost 12 tanks, 4 of which are missing in action. 1 Officer
and 13 E.M. LWA. Morale very good, weather cold and rain. 1 Officer
and 25 E.M. still unaccounted for.

Note 1 : The 28 Oct.,44 M.R. reports that 8 of the 25 E.M. and 2 of
the tanks unaccounted for returned to duty.

Note 2 : Missing Report Leonard K Malanowski : Tank was hit by enemy
fire and knocked out, was not seen leaving vehicle. A search was
impossible for the area in which the vehicle was knocked (out) fell
into the hands of the enemy. DOD 27 Oct.,44 IDPF

Note 3 : The Germans had attacked and taken the town of Meijel,
Holland outposted by Troop "C". Troop "C" was reinforced by Troop "B"
and together they made an unsuccessful attempt to retake the town.

NOTE 4 : "Shortly after the repulse of the first attack, the light tank
company of the squadron arrived. With its arrival a second attack was
organized. B and C Troops moved forward in their same relative
positions. One platoon of tanks was sent wide to the left to provide
flank security, one went down the road and then peeled off to the left
in direct support, and the third platoon followed down the road in
local reserve. Some prisoners were taken by a tank of the flanking
platoon as our force moved forward. The tank gun jammed, and the
Germans recognized its plight and refused to drop their grenades. A
tommy gun was fired at the feet of the prisoners (Cont...)

but they remained adamant. A tank from the second platoon was sent over to take the prisoners back, but it was hit in the rear by what was thought to be bazooka fire. Fire was also directed against the tanks on the flank, and three of them were knocked out in rapid succession. The remaining two tanks of this platoon pushed into the woods and were not seen again. When two additional tanks of the second platoon were hit by anti-tank fire, the attack collapsed and the troops fell back to the line from which they had started.

Five ten-man bazooka teams were then organized to make a coordinated attack with the remaining tanks. The five teams headed for a hedgerow north of the road to the west of Meijel. They managed to reach the objective, but before the men could dig in an anti-tank gun opened fire and knocked out two of our tanks. The remaining tanks withdrew, leaving the dismounted men to face the heavy fire directed at them. The men retreated in disorder." " **Battle of the Canals** "

Note 5 : During the counter-attack : " At this time, a high explosive shell burst near the Squadron commander, and the commanders of Troop C and Company F. Captain Joseph L. Ramsey was wounded by flying steel fragments, and replaced. Lieutenant Richard Montgomery suffered from the concussion and also had to be replaced. Lieutenant Fred A. Lewellen was placed in command of Troop C. Lieutenant Carl F. Cooke of C Troop was killed when the anti-tank gun opened fire on the bazooka teams.

CCR had assumed responsibility for the sector at 1300, but the 87th continued to bear the brunt of the attack until 1610 when the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion arrived, passing through Troop C and Troop B positions. Troop B withdrew to their right rear flank as ordered. Then enemy tanks and artillery appeared from the South end of town and proceeded up the road, directing a hail of machine gun fire against the positions on either side. When these positions fell back, Troop B withdrew under heavy fire from the front and from the left flank.

The remaining light tanks from Company F resisted briefly, the company commander's gunner bouncing four rounds 37mm AP off the leading tank, but Lieutenant Good's tank was promptly knocked out and further resistance was clearly useless. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Robert C. Ostidick refused to leave with the rest, and was left behind. Under cover of darkness, both troops reorganized and Troop C moved to protect the left flank of Company C, 48th AIB, North of the road. The 1st Platoon was tied in with the infantry, the 2d Platoon pushed forward, and the 3d turned back to protect the extended North flank. Troop B was sent back and across the Willem Canal at bridge 613054 into the Troop A zone, to outpost the Ospel- Meijel Road. "

87th Cav Rcn Sq Mecz After Action Rpt

**St. Vith, Belgium
St. Vith Salient**

17 December, 1944

STATION : 1 1/2 Mi W. St. Vith, Belgium

RECORD FOR EVENTS

Departed fr Palenberg, Holland at 0470 marching to present location 1 1/2 miles W. St. Vith, Belgium at 1800. 2d Platoon was atchd to CC"B" for CP security. Weather cold cloudy and misting rain. Morale good.

18 December, 1944

STATION : 1/2 Mi E. Rodt, Belgium VP8289

RECORD OF EVENTS

Was forced to move CP fr 1 1/2 Mi W. St. Vith to 1/2 Mi. E. Rodt, Belgium at 0930 due to enemy artillery and mortar fire. 1st platoon was atchd to Tr"C" for support at 0820. 2d Platoon was reld fr atchd to CC"B" and reverted to Co control at 1035. Morale good. Weather cold and rain.

19 December, 1944

STATION : 1/2 Mi. SW Rodt, Belgium VP8188

RECORD OF EVENTS

Moved fr area 1/2 Mi E. Rodt, Belgium to 1/2 Mi SW Rodt, Belgium at 1600. Morale good. Weather cloudy and fog with a fine mist.

20 December, 1944

STATION : 1/2 Mi. SW Rodt, Belgium VP8188

RECORD OF EVENTS

2d Platoon outposted road crossing near Obr Emmels. 3 enemy tanks sighted by them but not fired on. 1st Platoon still atchd to Tr"C". Hq and 1st (3d?) Platoons outposting Sq CP. Weather fair and cloudy.

21 December, 1944

STATION : 3/10 Mi. N. Rodt, Belgium VP8290

RECORD OF EVENTS

2d and 3d Platoons held off 2 enemy attacks at 2055 and 2330. 3/10 Mi N. Rodt, Belgium. Tiger tanks started to approach but arty layed down by 434th F.A. drove them back. Weather snow and cold. Morale good.

22 December, 1944

STATION : Hinderhausen, Belgium VP8088

01 996 612 Barnhill, Burnis D. Cav 2d Lt. SSN-1203
dy to MIA see 25 Dec., 44 M.R. DOD 22 Dec., 44

RECORD OF EVENTS

Enemy launched an attack at 0930 with Tiger tanks and Inf. 9 tanks and 1 Half track lost due to enemy action at Rodt, Belgium. 1 officer and 8 EM unaccounted for. Weather slight snow. Morale still good. Remainder of Co withdrew to Crombach, Belgium. 1st Platoon reverted to Co control. Dismounted went back to Sq trains. The remainder of Co went to Hinderhausen and set up delaying action.

23 December, 1944

STATION : 1 Mi N. Hamoir, Belgium VK4407

RECORD OF EVENTS

Fought a delaying action fr Hinderhausen, Belgium West. Withdrew fr the lines to reorganize at 1930 and marched W. to Sq assembly area, 1 Mi N. Hamoir, Belgium. Weather fair, Morale fair.

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by Robert E. Merriam

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R.H. Barry

IDPF - Individual Deceased Personnel Files

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