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HEADQUARTERS 17TH TANK BATTALION  
APO 257, U. S. ARMY

2 October 1944

Subject: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 7th Armd Div, APO 257, U. S. Army,  
(Attention Public Relations Officer)

Transmitted herewith Unit History of the 17th Tank Battalion for  
the month of September 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

R. E. MILLER,  
1st Lt., 17th Tank Bn  
Adjutant

CLASSIFICATION  
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*William J. Add*  
9 Apr 1946

HEADQUARTERS 17th TANK BATTALION  
APO 257, U. S. Army

U-N-I-T H-I-S-T-O-R-Y

of the 17th Tank Battalion

for the month of September 1944.

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Task Force WEMPLE which was composed of Co "A" and Hq & Hq Co of the 17th Tank Bn, Co "A" of 38th Inf Bn, Btry "C" of the 440th F. A. Bn, one platoon of Engineers from the 33rd Engineer Bn and one Platoon of T. D.'s from the 814th T. D. Bn went into an assembly position east of Verdun, France near the town of Etain at 1000 on 1 September 1944. C.C."R" Hq and the other two task forces under that command also assembled at that point however the task forces remained intact. That is the various elements of the task forces did not revert to their respective unit commanders. All of the forces of C.C."R" remained in this position until 1530 on 2 September 1944 at which time the command moved back to the west to an assembly area near the town of Dieppe-sous-Douaumont.

Task Force WEMPLE closed in the new area at Dieppe-sous-Douaumont at 1730 2 September 1944. All of the elements of the 17th Tank Bn reverted to the Bn control on 3 September 1944 while still in this same area. The Bn remained in this same area until 6 September 1944 because the Division could not get fuel to move with. During the period 3 September to 6 September the Bn performed some much needed maintenance. The light tank company, Co "D", turned the tracks on all their tanks and the medium tank companies got replacements for the tracks which were worn out on their tanks. It was during this period that the Bn. received its first issue of Cognac which was received very favorably by most of the men. The Bn Commander controlled the issuing of the spirits in such a way that no one could abuse the privilege, in other words there was no excessive drinking.

The Bn strength for duty as of 5 September 1944 was 37 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 644 Enlisted Men. On this date companies "A" and "B" were detached from the Bn and placed under the command of the commanding officers of the 87th Rcn Squadron. The history of these two companies of the 17th Tank Bn for the period during which they were attached to the 87th Rcn Squadron will be found in that Unit's history.

The 17th Tank Bn received information in regard to the next move or operation in the morning of 6 September 1944 from C. C. "R" Hq which in brief was to attack with the Division to the east and across the Moselle River in the vicinity of Metz then on to the Rhine River at Frankfurt. The 17th Tank Bn minus companies "A" and "B" was to attack under C.C."R" along the route Eix, Chatillon, Haudiomont,



Unit History of the 17th Tank Battalion for the Month of Sept 44, cont'd.

Pintheville, Maizeray, Moulotte, Hammonville-au-Passage, Mars-la-Tour, Vionville, Rezonville, Gravelotte, Ars-sur-Moselle at which point the Moselle River crossing was to be made. C.C."R" was to follow in column along the route indicated above and it was to be preceded by a task force from C. C. "B".

At 1330, 6 September 1944 Lt Col JOHN P. WEMPLE called a meeting of his officers and gave them all of the information available in regard to the coming operation. The order of march within the Bn was given as follows: I & R Platoon, Co "C", Mortar Platoon, Bn Hq, Hq Co, Co "D", Trains (which were ammunition trucks and Bn Maintenance Section). The remainder of the trains were to revert to C.C."R" control.

The Bn started moving out on the route listed above at 1500 on 6 September 1944. At this time the Bn strength was 28 officers, 2 W. O'S and 439 E. M. Co's "A" & "B" had moved out at 0115 6 Sept 44 in the 87th Rcn Task Force. At this time Co "C" had 9 medium tanks with 75mm guns, 2 medium tanks with 76mm guns, one 105 assault gun tank, 2 one quarter ton cars, one half track and one tank recovery vehicle. Co "D" had 18 M5A1 light tanks, 2 one quarter ton cars and one 2 1/2 ton truck. Hq & Hq Co had 9 half tracks, 7 one quarter ton vehicles, three 105mm assault tanks and one medium tank. Service Co had 34 2 1/2 ton trucks, 2 quarter ton vehicles, 2 three quarter ton trucks, 1 C & R vehicle, one half track and one wrecker.

The movement during the day of the 6th of Sept was rather slow because all roads were congested with troops, however, at 1900 the Bn pulled off the road with CC "R" into an assembly area just west of the town of Mars-la-Tour. At this time we found that the leading elements were stopped just beyond the town of Rezonville by enemy action. The enemy had A.T. guns, Infantry and mines. Strength of enemy was estimated at 5 companies of men who had been recently shifted from the Russian front to set up a defense at this point. At 2330 the Bn C.O. received an alert notice from C.C."R" with an order to be prepared to attack on call. The plan was for C.C."B" to attack in two columns with C.C."R" in the middle. The Bn C. O. issued his order to the Bn in case the plan was executed. Co "C" was to lead the attack followed by the assault guns then the Bn Commander, Co "D" minus the mortars, Bn Hq, Hq Co, Medics and two tanks from Co "D". The I & R Platoon was to be with the Bn Hq section to be used for special missions.

The Bn stood by all night on the alert for further orders but they were not received. The weather was cold and cloudy all night with some rain and it was still cloudy and raining some at 0800 on the morning of the 7th.

At 1130, 7 Sept 1944 the Bn received orders from C C."R" to move up to the town of Rezonville and to start the movement in ten minutes. The Bn started the move at 1140 and moved into an assembly position north and east of the town of Rezonville at 1215. While in this position enemy artillery fire fell in our area but no casualties resulted.

At 1430 Co "C" of the 17th and the Mortar Platoon were attached to a force commanded by Col. KEELER which was to attack via Gravelotte to Ars-sur-Moselle to a point just north of Dornot on the Moselle River. Our tanks and mortars were to support the Infantry while they crossed the river and formed a bridgehead. The

Unit History of the 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44 cont'd.

plan was for the two Artillery Bns in C.C."R" to deliver heavy fire for thirty minutes just prior to Col. KEELER's force moving out. A Bn of Infantry was to proceed in front of the tanks on foot. However the Division Commander came forward before the plan was executed and ordered that the attack be pushed on more rapidly. As a result the artillery concentration was not laid down.

At 1420 Co "C" and the Mortar Platoon moved forward behind the Infantry. Co "C" was ordered to move a Platoon close to the woods to the left flank and deliver fire to protect Infantry. Enemy was firing on our tanks with small arms and mortars. At 1540 Co "C"'s commander requested our mortars to put fire on dug-in enemy positions to his left which they did immediately. Enemy strength at this point was estimated at 20 men in well dug-in positions with machine guns, rifles, mortars and bazookas. At 1510 Lt Col WEMPLE was ordered to come forward behind Col. KEELER's force to act as rear guard with his remaining force.

The original plan was for the tanks to move along each flank along a valley with woods on both sides and for the Infantry to advance down between the tanks and under their protection. However after getting into the fight it was found that this plan would not work for the terrain was not exactly like the commander thought it was and the movement was not fast enough.

At 1615 one tank on the left flank was hit by a bazooka and four members of the crew left the tank. The last man couldn't get out because the tank was surrounded by Germans. The man left in the tank was Tec 4 BOOTH and he called Capt GEORGE on the radio and asked him what to do. Capt GEORGE told him to try and start the tank and try to back it out and that, Capt GEORGE would be down to help him. Sgt. BOOTH started the tank and Capt GEORGE moved his tank down and put fire on the enemy while Sgt BOOTH backed the tank up to a safe position. Four members of the tank crew were evacuated but they were not seriously wounded. One officer, Lt. FRANK B. ZINN, was evacuated with a hand wound. The tank was hit in the turret and damaged but can be repaired.

The assault guns were moved up and put direct fire on enemy positions and the mortars were moved to a position so they could put fire on the left flank.

Two light tanks from Co "D" were called up to assist evacuate some wounded infantrymen. The tanks went over close to a wooded area hunting for the wounded men and one tank commander, Sgt. HAMMOND saw a German preparing to fire a bazooka at his tank. Sgt HAMMOND turned his tank sharply and the bazooka hit his tank at an angle on the side and did not penetrate. However the equipment on the back of the tank caught fire. As soon as the fire was put out Sgt HAMMOND took his section back to try to destroy the men that had fired on him. Sgt HAMMOND and his tank crew showed plenty of calmness and ability during this operation.

At 1715 Capt GEORGE was ordered to precede the infantry with one platoon of medium tanks. The route to be followed was a very narrow trail through dense woods. The tank platoon started along the route with the infantry dismounted and following the tanks and they proceeded in this formation until 1810 when the whole ~~action~~ action was halted by higher headquarters. They did not meet any enemy resistance in the woods which is very fortunate for the trail was so narrow and the woods so dense that it would have been very easy for the enemy to have destroyed the tanks with bazookas. At this time an element of the 5th Inf. Div. was ordered to relieve this task force.



Unit History of the 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44 cont'd.

and proceed with the mission. C.C. "R" was ordered to withdraw as they were relieved by the 17th to the original assembly area near Mars-la-Tour. The 17th Tank Bn minus Co's "A" and "B" were back in the assembly area by 2100.

The Bn was in the assembly area near Mars-la-Tour on 8 Sept 44 and the Bn Commander was informed that "A" & "B" companies had reverted to his control and that they would join the Bn in this assembly area. Orders were issued to all elements in the assembly area to perform all maintenance possible at this time. Companies "A" & "B" re-joined the Bn at 1600 and their tanks and vehicles were immediately refuelled and their ammunition supply was replenished.

At 1630 on 8 September 1944 the Bn Commander was called to C.C. "R" Hq and was informed that the 17th Tank Bn had been attached to the 90th Inf. Div. The 90th Inf. Div. was thought to be in danger of a heavy tank attack and 17th was to be used in repelling such an attack. Lt. Col. WEMPLE proceeded immediately to the 90th Inf. Div. Hq which was to the north near the town of Higny. The executive officer was ordered to alert the Bn and have it ready to move at the Bn Commander's orders. The Bn Commander carried part of the I & R Platoon forward with him to be used to send back and guide the Bn to the new location.

At 1800 the Bn. Commander ordered the Bn to move forward to an assembly area near the town of Mainville. At 1813 the head of the column moved on the road. The route was on the highway through the towns of Mars-la-Tour, Conflans, Abbeville, Ozerailles, Fleviler, Lixieres, Merry-la-see and Mainville. The march to the new area was very orderly and uneventful; we did not contact the enemy and did not lose any vehicles due to mechanical failure. The Bn closed in the assembly area just South of Mainville by 2015. The Bn. Commander and the I & R Platoon leaders had picked out the assembly area and the Bn was guided into the area by the I & R platoon. This area was excellent for our purpose for it was wooded with excellent fields of fire from the north and east, the direction from which the enemy was most likely to attack. The Bn remained in the area until 0700, 10 Sept 44.

The 17th Tank Bn was placed in reserve by the 90th Inf Div and the Bn Commander and the different staff sections made periodic visits to the Div Hq in order to keep up with the situation. During the night of the 9th and 10th of Sept the Bn received an order to displace forward on the following morning to an assembly position near the town of Sancy. The route to follow was Mainville to Mairy to Anderny to Sancy. The march was started at 0700 and the Bn closed in the assembly area near Sancy at 0805. The Bn Commander and staff officers went to Audon-le-Roman to contact the 90th Inf Div Task Force Commander and to find out how the Bn would be employed. The Bn was ordered to remain on the alert and to stand by for orders.

At 1345 the Bn received an order reverting the 17th Tank Bn back to the 7th Armd Div and under the command of C.C. "R". There were no specific instructions as to where the Bn should go so the Bn Commander decided to return to our original C.C. "R" assembly area near Mars-la-Tour. The order of march was I & R Platoon, Co "B", Co "A", Hq and Hq Co, Co "C", Co "D" and Serv Co. The Bn moved out at 1430 and the march progressed very satisfactorily along the route Sancy, Trieux, Briey, Jarney and along N 52 toward Mars-la-Tour until 1615 at which time the column was

Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44 cont'd

halted on the highway near Mars-la-Tour at 1630. At this point on highway N52 the Bn received the following message: "Proceed to Conflans then to Batilly, thence to St. Marie-aux-Cheves, then to assembly area, gas up and await orders."

At 1635 the Bn Commander contacted the Executive Officer of C.C."R" and received orders to proceed to the assembly area near St. Marie along the route Mars-la-Tour, Brunville, Dancourt, Jouville, Batilly, St. Ail and St Marie which the Bn did and closed in the assembly area at 1930. The Bn Commander went to a unit commander's meeting at 2130 and called for a company commander's meeting at his Bn Hq at 2330. The Bn Commander returned to Bn Hq at 2350 with his order from C.C."R". Again C.C."R" was to be divided into three task forces with the mission of clearing out the enemy resistance in the vicinity of Marange-Silvange, Semecourt, Bronvaux, Feres, and St. Privat. Lt Col WEMPLE was placed in command of Task Force WEMPLE which consisted of Co "C", Hq & Hq Co of the 17th Tank Bn, one company of the 38th Inf, one platoon of T.D.'s from the 814th T.D.Bn and one platoon of Engineers from the 33rd Eng.Bn. Lt. Col KEELER was to command Task Force KEELER which was composed of Co "A" of the 17th Tank Bn plus Inf, Eng. and T.D. elements. Major RANKIN was in command of Task Force Rankin composed of Co. "B" of the 17th Tank Bn plus Inf, Eng. and T. D. elements. The plan was for Task Force WEMPLE followed by Task Force KEELER to attack from assembly area at St. Marie along the route Roncourt, Pierre-villers and to the west and back through the valley between Feres and Marange-Silvange. Lt. Col WEMPLE assembled the officers commanding the elements of his task force at 2350 and issued his order. It was known that we would not meet enemy resistance until after we had passed through Pierrevillers and over the high ground to the north and west of that town, so his plan was as follows: The task force would move out mounted in their vehicles in the following order: one platoon of medium tanks leading with a platoon of infantry right with them mounted in half tracks; then a tank and a half-track and a tank and a half track. The forward observer from the 440th F.A.Bn who was mounted in a medium tank was to march just behind the two lead tanks. The platoon of T.D.'s was placed behind this tank infantry point formation to be followed by a platoon of tanks, a platoon of infantry, a platoon of tanks and a platoon of engineers; then the Hq section followed by the assault gun platoon and the mortars. Lt Col WEMPLE ordered that the force proceed along the road in this formation until resistance was met at which time the infantry was to dismount and attack on foot. The leading element was to cross the I.P. just out of the assembly area at 0630. The attack was launched as planned at 0630 on the morning of 11 September 1944. All trains remained in the assembly area near St. Marie.

At the time the attack was launched it was known that the enemy occupied the old forts along the high ground south and west from Semecourt and Feres. Due to the nature of the terrain the vehicles were to remain on the road until resistance was met and it became necessary to deploy the force.

At 0730 on 11 September 1944 the point of the Task Force ran into a road block on the road about 1,000 yards beyond the abrupt right turn in our route of advance or at the point where the railroad passed over the road. The Germans had blown the



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railroad over-pass and the rails and ties blocked the road; they had placed a few mines and booby traps at this point. This block was on the crest of a hill and it was possible to by-pass it to the right so the tanks and the infantry pulled up to the crest of the hill on the right and deployed along the crest and the engineers were called forward to clear the road block. As soon as our tanks and infantrymen exposed themselves on the crest of the hill the enemy fired on them with small arms, machine guns and artillery. The artillery was identified as 105mm. At this point there was a slight hill to our right, high ground to the left and a high ridge to our right front along which we knew the forts were located. This high ground which was held by the Germans was wooded and furnished excellent concealment for them for this reason; our troops could not locate the exact positions of the Germans. Our tanks and infantrymen from our position on the crest fired at all likely targets. The platoon of Tank Destroyers were brought forward and deployed along the crest of the hill and fired on all likely targets. ~~The enemy~~ The enemy had at least three artillery pieces and they fired intermittently on our force from ~~0730~~ on throughout the day. The infantry had several casualties from small arms fire and the artillery early in the morning. In fact they were forced to remain behind the crest of the hill to our right for the enemy placed very accurate fire all along our force even behind the crest of the hill.

At 1000 the Force Commander ordered the mortars to place smoke on the hill to our right which they did. However this smoke on the enemy probable O.P. did not stop the artillery fire.

At 1115 the Force was ordered to continue the attack regardless of artillery fire. The tanks led out and the attack proceeded over the crest and down into the valley. The tanks placed heavy fire on a dug-in position on our left flank and it was estimated that about 20 Germans were killed. The one medium tank company (Co. "C", 17th) and the infantry company (Co "B", 38th) which were leading the attack were stopped in the valley by heavy artillery fire and small arms fire. However the enemy had such excellent natural concealment and cover that the actual enemy positions could not be located. The assault gun platoon had been moved to a position where it could place fire in front of the attacking elements but since we could not locate the enemy gun positions it was not known whether their fire was effective.

The tanks pushed out in front of the infantry and when the artillery fire and small arms fire became so intense the infantry became separated from the tanks. This whole ~~force~~ attack force was in a very bad spot for they were exposed to fire from the forts to their front and to fire from the high ground to their left flank.

At approximately 1200 Colonel Molony, the C.C. "R" Commander, Major LAUER, the S-3 and Lt. Col. KEELER who commanded Task Force KEELER were wounded by artillery fire. Col. MOLONY and Lt. Col. KEELER were evacuated, however Col. MOLONY gave Lt. Col. WEMPLE his place and orders before he was evacuated. The plan was to push Task Force KEELER over the crest of the hill and to the right of the Task Force WEMPLE and bring Task Force RANKIN up to protect the rear of both forces. At this time Lt. Col. WEMPLE took command of C.C. "R", Major DAILEY took Task Force WEMPLE.

Unit History, 17th Tank Bn., for the month of September 44 cont'd.

and Captain NEIL took Task Force KEELER. Task Force KEELER and Task Force RANKIN started moving into their position according to the plan. However the artillery fire continued and it was becoming even more obvious all the time that this force could not go down the valley in front of the forts along the Feres ridge as planned.

Lt. Col. HART was placed in command of C.C."R" and Lt. Col WEMPLE assumed command of his force again. At 1515 it was decided that C.C."R" could not accomplish the mission as planned and the forces were ordered to withdraw to a position behind the ridge from which the original attack was launched.

The casualties in this operation were: Co "C" of the 17th Tank Bn had one officer killed by artillery fire, Lt STETS, and one tank commander, Sgt. WARE injured and evacuated. They ~~were~~ evacuated two medium tanks because of the damage done by the artillery one of which was Captain GEORGE'S tank, the company commander. Co "B" of the 38th Inf. Bn. had fifteen (15) casualties including one officer and two enlisted men killed. Lt. GEIGER who commanded Company "B" of the 38th Inf Bn was wounded by artillery fire and evacuated.

Co "A" of the 17th Tank Bn, Capt PIER's company was pulled back to the ridge and left to repel any counter-attack which the enemy might make. Co. "C" of the 17th Tank Bn was moved with Bn. Hq of the 17th to an assembly position along the road between Pierrevillers and Silvange. The assault Gun Platoon and the Mortar Platoon were sent back to St. Marie to furnish protection for the trains. Co "D" of the 17th minus one platoon which was attached to C.C. "R" Hq and one platoon which was attached to an Artillery Bn was sent to the trains area. Co "B" of the 17th was held in the vicinity of Pierrevillers to be used in a night operation.

Major RANKIN with one platoon from Co "B" of the 17th, some elements of the 38th Inf and a squad of Engineers was given the mission of crossing the Mill from the north and securing an O. P. position near the town of Marange-Silvange. This mission was accomplished during the night of 11-12 Sept 44 and the tank platoon had no casualties.

Lt. Col. WEMPLE was ordered to take a force composed of one tank platoon and elements of the 38th Inf and a squad of Engineers over the high ground to the south-east and secure an O. P. position in the vicinity of Bronvaux. This mission was accomplished during the night of 11-12-Sept. 44. However, the tanks were not used as the timber was so dense that the tanks could not get through.

During the day of 12 Sept 44 the 17th Tank Bn simply held its position while the artillery and the air corps worked on the enemy positions. Lt. Col ADAMS assumed command of C.C."R" on this date. At 1900, Co "B" of the 17th Tank Bn was given the mission of securing the town of St. Privat. This company was ordered by higher Hq. to dismount some of its tank crews and take them into the town to secure it. The tanks could not be taken into the town because it was not clear of mines and booby traps. Co. "B" of the 17th, commanded by Captain PILAT held this town until after dark on the night of the 14th September 1944, at which time it was relieved by elements of the 90th Inf. Div.

The 17th Tank Bn was inactive during the day of 13 Sept 44. Bn. Hq, Hq Co.



Unit History, 17th Tank Bn, for the month of Sept 44 cont.

followed by the rest of the Bn moved to a new assembly area near Puxieux after it was ordered to do so by C.C."R" at 1000 on 14 Sept 44; moving with C.C."R".

At 1055 on 14 Sept 44, Bn Hq, Hq. Co., Co "A" and Co "C" started moving from the area of Pierreville to the assembly area near St. Marie. At this time one platoon of Co "D" was attached to the 558th Field Arty Bn for their protection, one platoon was attached to C.C."R" Hq and the remainder of the company was attached to the C.C."R" trains.

The trains were all brought under C.C."R" control and the 17th Tank Bn Service Co. Commander, Capt GEHLING was placed in command of the trains.

At 1500 on the 14th the Battalion started the march to Puxieux by the route of St. Marie, Batilly, Jouaville, Doncourt, Bruville, Mars-la-Tour and Puxieux. The march was very orderly and uneventful and the Bn was closed in bivouac by 1730. The Bn remained in this assembly area near Puxieux the night of 14-15 Sept 44 and until about 1400 of the 15th.

During the morning of the 15th the Bn Commander, Lt. Col. WEMPLE received his orders and the plans for the next operation. Briefly the plan was for the 7th A.D., to cross the Moselle River in the vicinity of Arnaville, pass through the 5th Inf., Div. and circle around Metz and seize the high ground on the east side of the river in the vicinity of Thionville to form a bridgehead for the 90th Inf. Div., to cross the river. The division was to attack in two columns or two forces after the river was crossed. C. C. "R" and C.C."A" were to take the north route through the towns of Arry, Lerry, Sillegny, Pommerieux, Verny, Pentoy and on around to the high ground to the north and east of Metz in the vicinity of Thionville. C. C. "B" was to attack along a route more or less parallel to this route but to the south and east of it. C. C. "A" was to lead the attack followed by C. C. "R" but C. C. "A" was not relieved by the 90th Div as quick as had been expected so C. C. "R" attacked first.

Lt. Col. WEMPLE was placed in command of the advance guard which was composed of one platoon from the 87th Rcn Squadron, Co "A", Hq & Hq Co of the 17th, Co "A" of the 38th Inf., one platoon of the 814th T. D. Bn., one platoon of the 33rd Ar. Eng. Bn., and one battery of the 440th F. A. Bn. Co "B" of the 17th was to be used as a right flank guard and Co "C" was to be with the main body of C. C. "R". Co "D" of the 17th was still split up between the 558th F. A. Bn., C. C. "R" Hq and C. C. "R" trains.

During the morning of 15 Sept 44 Col. HEFNER assumed command of C.C."R".

At 1115 on the morning of 15 Sept 44 Lt Col WEMPLE assembled his officers and issued his order for the attack. Since the river crossing had been secured by C.C. "B", of the 7th A.D., and the 5th Inf. Div., we did not expect to meet the enemy until we were across the river so the following march order was given: One platoon from the 87th Rcn Sq., Co "A" of the 17th, Co "A" of the 38th Inf., Bn, the T. D. platoon, the Engineer Platoon, the F.A. Battery, Bn. Hq., of the 17th, the Mortar Platoon and the Assault Gun Platoon. Co "B" of the 17th Tank Bn plus one platoon from the 87th Rcn Sq which was to be the right flank guard was to march behind the advance guard until after we had crossed the river. This of course was followed by the main body of C.C."R" a part of which was Co. "C" of the 17th Tank Bn.

At 1430 on the 15th of Sept 44 the leading elements of the Advance Guard passed the I. P. which was near the town of Puxieux. The route to the river was on a high

## Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44, Cont'd.

way to Chambley, Waville, Onville, Bayonville, Aranville and then to the river crossing. The march to the river and the crossing itself was uneventful except that the crossing was slow. Two pontoon bridges were across the river but the traffic on the other side was congested, therefore the crossing was slow. The 5th Inf. Div. and C.C."B" had had much trouble in making the crossing for the enemy had placed heavy artillery fire on them all the time. In fact, the crossing was still under artillery fire on the day that we crossed but it happened that the enemy was not firing right at the time that we crossed, however the bridges were protected by a heavy smoke screen as we crossed.

At 1845 we passed through the town of Arry and by 1935 we were through the town of Lorry which had just been captured by the 5th Inf. Div.

At ~~2020~~ the Rcn Platoon from the 87th Rcn was sent forward to try to determine what was in front of us. They moved on past the road to the north of Marieulles and to the edge of the woods. This platoon reported that they could hear motors running in the woods and a road block in the edge of the woods. By this time the advance guard had drawn enemy machine gun fire from the left flank. The advance guard pulled off the road at this position and deployed to the right of the road. This was near the junction of the road to Marieulles and the road to the east of Sillegny. Co's "A" & "B" of the 17th were deployed to the right of the road to advance to the east and Co. "C" of the 17th was brought up and deployed to the left of the road as a left flank guard. The whole C.C."R" remained in this position throughout the night. Lt. Col. WEMPLE formulated his plans for pushing his advance guard forward early the next morning and issued his order. The medium tanks were to attack along the road followed closely by the infantry, the T. D.'s and the Assault Guns.

At ~~0730~~ on 16 Sept 44 Capt PIER with his Co "A" of the 17th moved out. They drew some small arms fire from the left flank and from the woods to the front as soon as they reached them. At ~~0830~~ the advance guard was stopped by the road block in the woods. The engineers were sent forward to remove the block but prior to this the infantry commanded by Capt DAN JENNINGS was brought up to cover the block while the engineers removed it. From this point the infantry preceded the tanks for the woods were very thick and the tanks could not leave the road. The enemy withdrew as we pushed forward but they left three road blocks. These blocks were formed by falling large trees across the road. By ~~1100~~ the infantry and engineer team had cleared the road for a distance of about 400 yards or to the first clearing in the woods and the tanks moved up to this point. This clearing in the woods was about 200 yards wide and the forward elements reported enemy activity in the woods to the front; they could also see that more timber had been fallen across the road ahead. During this time our artillery had gone into position and was putting fire on the road to our front. The enemy started putting artillery and mortar fire on the area occupied by the 17th Tank Bn C.P. and the C.C."R" C. P. early in the morning of the 16th of Sept <sup>and</sup> continued to do so throughout the day. The artillery fire was coming from the north and east but we could not definitely locate their guns. The enemy had their artillery zeroed in on the roads in this vicinity and the firing placed on the roads did not seem to be observed however, some of the fire was observed for it was too accurate for unobserved fire. The enemy counter battery fire was amazingly accurate. The battery of artillery which was a part of the advance guard was compelled by enemy fire to move several times during the day of the 16th of Sept 44.



Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44, cont'd.

It was amazing how few casualties that the 17th Tank Bn had during the day and night of the 16th and 17th of Sept for we were under artillery fire almost constantly during this period. Hq Co. had one non-battle casualty evacuated and two enlisted men wounded and evacuated with shrapnel wounds. Hq. Co had one half-track knocked out by artillery fire. Co "A" of the 17th had one man killed by artillery fire and three other enlisted men wounded and evacuated. These men were all outside of their tank when they were wounded. None of the other companies had any vehicular or personnel casualties. Co. "A" of the 17th with Co "A" of the 38th Inf Bn and the platoon of engineers tried throughout the day of the 16th to push on through the woods toward the town of Sillegny but the enemy artillery fire and automatic weapon fire from the woods held up the attack. At 1630 our artillery laid down a heavy concentration on the woods to our front and at 1640 the attack moved forward. By 1830 the infantry had pushed through the woods and set up outposts on the edge of the woods. The enemy had withdrawn from the woods to the town of Sillegny when our artillery shelled the woods. The Bn C. P. was moved up to the first clearing in the woods and all the Hq Co vehicles were dispersed in this area. It rained hard during the night of the 16th and 17th and the enemy continued to put artillery all over our positions. The infantry was pushed back in the woods by enemy artillery fire at 1900 and the Combat Commander ordered that we all just try to hold our position during the night. Lt. Col. WEMPLE was ordered to push on through the woods and to the town of Sillegny. The attack was to be launched at 0730 on the 17th of Sept. During the night of the 17th the engineers and infantry had cleared the road through the woods except one which was left for our protection.

Lt. Col. WEMPLE assembled his officers at 2200, 16 Sept 44 and issued the following order. The artillery was to lay down a 10 minute concentration on the area just outside the woods at 0720, 17 Sept 44 and Co "A" of the 17th supported by Co "A" of the 38th was to push off on the attack at 0730. Co "A" of the 38th Inf Bn was supposed to hold their position at the end of the woods during the night of 16 and 17 but the artillery drove them back. They had many casualties and the company was pretty well demoralized. The 38th brought up another company of infantry to support the attack. The artillery laid down their fire at 0720 and Co "A" of the 17th moved out at 0730 and the infantry was with the tanks. As the attack moved up through the woods and into the clearing the enemy artillery fire increased, in fact the fire was so heavy that the infantry could not proceed so our tanks deployed to the right and left the road just beyond the woods and held their position. The 17th Bn tanks remained in this holding position throughout the day while the 38th Inf Bn re-organized their forces. It rained some during the day and it was really a miserable day with the enemy artillery and the bad weather. Our artillery fired all day but the observation was so poor we do not know how effective their firing was. Hq Co G. Co, Capt AHEARN was evacuated due to battle fatigue and one officer and three enlisted men were evacuated from Co "A". The Bn strength at the end of the day was 38 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 661 Enlisted Men.

CC"R" planned to try to take the town of Sillegny again on 18 Sept 44. It was to be a coordinated infantry and tank attack and the attack was to be at 1200, however the attack did not actually start until 1515 on the 18th of Sept. The plan was for the tanks to move down close to the town and put fire on it while the infantry went into the town. Lt. Col WEMPLE used his tanks by having Co "A" deploy ~~back~~ to the left, Co "B" to the right and Co "C" was to move straight up to the town along the road. As Co "A" of the 17th moved into position on the left they were taken under fire by direct fire AT guns from the left flank and from the town.

Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44, cont'

Three Co "A" tanks and one recovery vehicle was knocked out by enemy AT guns and their exact positions could not be located, however, our tanks put fire on all likely positions. Co "B" on the right flank received heavy artillery fire and mortar fire. By 1600 on the afternoon of the 18th of Sept both Co "A" and Co "B" of the 17th were running low on ammunition and fuel so Co "C" was brought up and pushed through to take up the assault position. Co's "A" and "B" fanned out to the left and right flanks to protect the flanks and deliver what fire they could. Ammunition was brought up to the edge of the woods under artillery fire and Co "A" started pulling tanks back a section at a time to get ammunition. This process of re-supply of ammunition was slow but it was the only way it could be accomplished because we could not weaken our line by pulling the whole company back and the ammunition could not be carried up to the tanks because of the intensive artillery fire. As soon as it started getting dark on the 18th of Sept Lt. Col. WEMPLE pulled all three companies of tanks back slightly but not all the way back to the woods to form a defensive line for the night. Co "C" held the area to the front or East, Co "A" joined them on the left flank and Co "B" on the "right".

~~The assault guns and the one gun which was left out of the T.D. platoon were used as flank protection.~~  
The assault guns and the one gun which was left out of the T.D. platoon were used as flank protection. During the day of the 18th, Co "A" of the 17th had two men killed and 5 men missing in action. The other companies had no casualties even though they were under artillery fire practically all day and night.

On the morning of 19 Sept 44 our tanks were still in their holding positions waiting for the infantry to get reorganized so we could attack the town of Sillegny again. At 0400 the platoon from 87th Rcn Sq., which had been attached to our organization was ordered by higher headquarters to report back to their organization. This platoon had been a great help to Lt. Col. WEMPLE for he had used them on several occasions to reconnaissance to the flanks for routes and the platoon had always accomplished their mission excellently.

At 0800 19 Sept 44, Capt GEORGE, the company commander of Co "C" of the 17th was killed by enemy small arms fire. He was standing up in his tank turret throwing a hand grenade at some dug-in enemy infantrymen to his front at the time he was killed. Capt GEORGE had done an excellent job and his loss was a great blow to his company. Lt. MAHONEY took command of the company and carried on efficiently.

During the morning of the 19th of Sept, Capt BILES the Bn S-4 was up forward at the forward ammunition dump and was wounded by shrapnel. Soon after this the ammunition dump was moved further to the rear because of the intensive artillery fire.

During the day and night of the 19th tanks were pulled back by sections to the fuel and ammunition dump for re-supply. At this time the tanks were also supplied with water and food for the crews.

On the 19th one man from Hq Co., Private JAMES PAYNE was killed by shrapnel about 75 yards from the Bn C. P., and at the same time Pvt GORTON was seriously wounded. Lt BUCEK, the assault gun platoon leader and acting commander of Hq Co at the same time was wounded and evacuated; he was with his platoon on the front line when wounded. Co "A" had six men evacuated on this date with battle wounds. Co "C" had two casualties in addition to the company commander. Hq Co had two men evacuated with battle fatigue.



Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44, cont'd.

During the morning of the 19th of Sept the tanks simply held their position waiting for the infantry to get ready to enter the town again. Since this operation at Sillegny had begun the 38th Inf Bn had had four different commanders due to the respective commanders being wounded or killed by enemy artillery fire. Three Bn Commanders were killed and one wounded.

At 1340 on the 19th two tanks from Company "A" of the 17th supported by what remained of the 38th Inf Bn entered the town of Sillegny and just inside the town they ran into a road block and mines. The infantry started removing the road block and called the engineers forward. As our troops entered the town the enemy started laying heavy artillery fire on it and there was very little enemy resistance in the town other than the artillery fire. Apparently the enemy had withdrawn so that they could place artillery fire on our troops. The artillery fire became so dense and heavy that the infantry had gone forward behind our tanks had withdrawn or took refuge in building basements and our tanks were left in the town without protection. At 1644 a P.W. reported that about 20 enemy tanks were coming into Sillegny from the northeast. About this time the Division notified us that their air corps had destroyed a column of enemy tanks and armored vehicles on the road to Sillegny northeast of the town. At 1715 the assault gun platoon leader reported two enemy tanks approaching the town of Sillegny from the north and he fired on them as they came into range but did not stop them. However our Co "C" tanks knocked out one of the tanks and other one went on into town. By 1830 the two Co "A" tanks had been pulled back out of the town because the enemy infantry was coming back into the town with Bazookas and there were no infantry ~~available to support the tanks~~ around to protect the tanks. Approximately a platoon of infantry from the 38th Inf Bn remained in the town and barricaded themselves in a stone building in the southern part of the town. They had a radio and were in contact with C.C."R". Hq until about midnight when they called for artillery fire and reported that they were surrounded by enemy infantrymen. We tried to send a section of tanks into the town from Co "B" but they could not get in because of anti-tank gun fire and artillery fire. One tank was knocked out.

By 1900 on the 19th the tanks of the 17th had been pulled back out of the town of Sillegny again to hold a defensive line just west of the town. Again Co "A" held the left flank, Co "C" the center sector and Co "B" the right flank. During the night of the 19th and 20th we received word that C. C. "A" would pass through our line on the following day and we would assume the role of supporting their actions.

The C.C."A" plan was to attack from the east through our line and to by-pass the town of Sillegny to the south and take a piece of high ground to the south-east of the town. Co "A" and Co "C" of the 17th were to hold a position on the left flank so they could place fire on the roads to the north and east of the town of Sillegny and thus protect the left flank of the C.C. "A" effort. Co "B" of the 17th was to take up a position ~~on~~ to the south to protect the right flank of C.C."A".

From 1900 on the 19th of Sept until 1600 on the 20th of Sept we simply held our position moving the tanks around very short distances to try to keep the enemy artillery from getting direct hits. At 1600 C.C."A" launched their attack and we assumed our role as support and flank protection which required very little change in our position. One company of C.C."A" tanks plus one company of infantry moved down to the north south road approaching Sillegny and here the infantry was pinned down by enemy artillery fire. Their tanks were not being knocked out by the artillery but due to the fact that there was an impassible stream to their front they could not advance. On the 20th Hq Co evacuated one battle fatigue case. Co "B" evacuated one officer (Lt THOMPSON) and one EM with battle wounds.

Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44, continued.

The 17th Tank Bn remained in the supporting position throughout the day and night of the 21 Sept 44 and up until the afternoon of 22 Sept 44. We were under artillery fire most of the time but had no vehicular or personnel casualties during this period. The 22nd of Sept was the seventh day that we had been in the Sillegny area under the heavy enemy artillery fire and many of our men were almost exhausted. C.C."A"'s attack had not been any more successful than ours and we were all setting there basking a beating from the enemy artillery fire.

At 1815 on 22 Sept 44 we were ordered to move back to an assembly area right on the Moselle river just across from the town of Pagny and we closed in the area by 1900. It rained during the night but there was no enemy artillery fire on so so the troops enjoyed their first nights rest in about eight days.

Major WHITE was assigned to and joined the 17th Tank Bn and during the afternoon of the 22nd was assigned to the job of Bn S-3.

The Bn had 32 medium tanks, 17 light tanks and 4-105mm assault guns which were available for duty on the 22nd of Sept 44.

The day of the 23rd of Sept was spent in the assembly area near Pagny. It rained most of the day but all crews did what maintenance work they could under the circumstances. There was not artillery fire or enemy activity in our assembly area.

Late in the afternoon of the 23rd we received an order from C.C."R" that we would move back across the river and into an assembly area at Puxieux which we had occupied once before. The route of march was to be - cross river on the Pagny bridge then to Pagny, Arnaville, Waville and Chambley and assembly area near Puxieux. The Bn moved out on the march at 0305 on 24 Sept 44 and closed in the bivouac area at Puxieux at 0515. It was very dark and rained most of the time during the march but we made it without any casualties. The members of the Bn were allowed to sleep until about 1200.

The 17th Tank Bn remained in this assembly area at Puxieux until 1225 on the 25th of Sept 44 at which time we were alerted for a move to an assembly area near Stockheim. We knew that a big change in plans was underfoot for we were ordered to get our duffle bags out of storage and because of the long contemplated move but we did not know the details of the plan. The route of march was to be: Puxieux, Mars-la-Tour, Conflans, Longuyon, Longwy, Arlon, Martange, Bastonge, Marche, Huy, St. Trond, Has-selt and Stockheim. The advance guard composed of Co "A", of the 17th plus other elements moved out at 1811. The march was rather difficult because it rained and was very dark. One  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton car from Hq Co ran off the road and two men were slightly injured and evacuated. The Bn was closed in the assembly area near Stockheim, Belgium, at 1900 on 26 Sept 44.

During the day of 27 Sept 44 we learned that we were in the 1st U. S. Army and in the XIX Corps with the 2nd Armd Div and the 29th and 30th Inf. Divisions.



Unit History, 17th Tank Bn for the month of Sept 44 continued.

We remained in the assembly area at Stockheim until 1840 on the 29th of Sept. During this period the time was devoted to much needed first and second echelon maintenance on vehicles. Members of the command received showers which were very welcome by everyone.

On the 27th of Sept 44 we learned that the plan was for the 7th A.D., to move to an attack position in the vicinity of St. Anthonis, Holland, and to attack south and southwest along the west side of the Maas River and to seize objectives in the vicinity of Grathem and Millert. The plan was for the Div to attack in two columns with C.C. "A" and C.C. "B" abreast with C.C. "A" on the right and C.C. "B" on the left with C.C. "R" initially following C.C. "B" in reserve. The 17th Tank Bn was still an element of C.C. "R".

On the 29th of Sept Co "D" of the 17th Tank Bn was detached and placed under the command of Lt. Col. JONES whose force was to furnish flank protection for the Division for the forthcoming operation.

On the 29th the Bn was alerted for the move to the assault position. The order of march for C.C. "R" was to be: The advance guard composed of one platoon from Co "B", 17th Tank Bn plus other elements, Hq, C.C. "R" 38th Inf Bn, 774th F.A. Bn, 17th Tank Bn (minus), 440th F.A. Bn and Com "B" of the 17th minus one platoon. The march order within the Bn was to be Co "C", Hq and Hq Co, Co "A" and the trains. The leading elements moved out at 1940 on 29 Sept 44 and followed the following route: Neeroeteren, Heikart, Neerhoven, Rinroy, Weert, Asten and into an assembly area east of Asten near Voordeldonk. The Bn closed in this area at 0010, 30 Sept 44 and remained there until 1315 on 30 Sept 44.

At 1315 on 30 Sept 44 the 17th Tank Bn as an element of C.C. "R" moved into an assembly area north of St. Anthonis, near De Park. The route followed was Asten, Beurne, Bakel, Gemert, Heide, St. Anthonis, Ledecker and the assembly area which we closed in at 1514.

C.C. "A" and C.C. "B" launched their attack as planned at 1315 on 30 Sept 44 and C. C. "R" was waiting in the initial attack position at 2400, 30 Sept 44 for orders to perform their mission in the attack. At this time Co "D" was still detached and each of the medium tank companies had only 12 tanks.

WRAPPER

11 SEPT

V 52

1

I

0945 GET A MEDICS BACK TO  $\frac{1}{2}$ T  
IRISH BRINGING A WOUNDED MAN  
BACK - IRISH

0946 CAN YOU GET ANYTHING ON SIT-  
UATION FORWARD - CCR

0946 MICK / SEND A MEDICS FORWARD  
TO OUR  $\frac{1}{2}$ T

0950 HEATH SENT BACK FOR MEDICS

0957 TANKS CANNOT PROGRESS, NEED  
INF CORP ARTY NEEDED.

1002 IRISH I / WHERE IS PAT / LOU

1002 LOU / SMOKE HIGH HILL ON OUR  
RIGHT WITH YOUR A.G. / IRISH

1003 <sup>IRISH</sup> / SEND BACK TO FIELD BY HOUSE  
AT EDGE OF TOWN / THROW ROUNDS IN  
INTERMITTANTLY

1018 AG MOVE FORWARD.

1045 JAY II / CONTACT REBEL IF POSSIBLE

1055 HAVE BUCKS BOYS GO FORWARD.

1056 IRISH I MOVES FORWARD.



WRAPPER

11 SEPT 2 II

1100 - REBEL TO BUCK - LAY SMOKE ON HILL, MORTAR  
FIRE FALLING ON REBEL.

1102 - REBEL TO IRISH - SEND LAVETT FORWARD

1103 - IRISH TO LAVETT - MOVE FORWARD I WILL  
PICK YOU UP.

1106 - BUCK TO HOO (TOM ANSWERED) DOWN 200 RT 200

1115 - LAVETT IS IN POSITION

- 1115 - BUCK second shot good 100 LEFT 100 LEFT

1116 - BUCK NOT DOING ANYGOODS, BUCK CEASE  
FIRING, DISPLACE FORWARD

1117 - LAVETT FIRMS ONE ROUND

1118 - SHOT GOOD 100 LEFT. + 150 YARDS

1120 - LAVETT THROW MORE ROUNDS

1121 - INCREASE RANGE 50 YDS PER ROUND.

1121 - JAY IN ASSEMBLY POSITION DOUGHS NOT  
AROUND. IS BEING BROUGHT UNDER  
FIRE.

1124 IRISH TO REBEL IS ARTY LAYING SMOKE OF FR.

1125 JAY TO IRISH ARTY IS LAYING SMOKE OF FR.

1130 USZ TO IRISH ARE YOU MAKING ANY  
PROGRESS?

1135 HAVE BUCK DISPLACE FORWARD TO 2ND  
BRIDGE WHERE YOU SAW ME THIS MORNING?  
REBEL TO TOM.

1135 KEELER BROUGHT 4 TKS UP AS  
LEFT PLANK GD.

WRAPPER

11 SEPT 3

III

1140 - TO CCR. - PROGRESS REPORT -

JAY HAS PROGRESSED TO BOTTOM OF VALLEY - MORTAR STILL SMOKING HILL, - A.G. DISPLACING FORWARD TO SECOND RIDGE WHERE REBEL WAS THIS MORNING.

1145

WE ARE NOT DRAWING ANY FIRE SINCE WE BLASTED LEFT (?)

1146 GIGER TO IRISH - HOLD TRS TILL WE GET INTO PLACE.

1147 IRISH TO JAY - WAIT IN POSITION TILL DOUGH COME UP.

1150 LAVETT KEEP THROWING AN OCCASIONAL ROUND, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO STOP.

1155 SHADOW SEND A 1/2 AT W/RADIO FORWARD.

1158 BUCK CANNOT FIND SPOT.

1208 BUCK IN POSITION

1209 USZ 6/IRISH. SEND TOM TO THIS POINT IMMEDIATELY.

1211 TELL LOU BUCK IS IN POS

1212 TOM IS AT USZ

1216 CONTACT GIGER TOM WANTS TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN ANY OF HIS ELEMENTS GO AROUND HIS LEFT FLANK

1220 MICK - SEND MAINTENANCE TO COL'S TANK. ROGER OUT



WRAPPER

11 SEPT 4

TV

- 1227 WAGNER'S POSITION 200 yds TO  
RIGHT OF ROAD NEAR BROKEN  
DOWN R.R.
- 1230 IRISH ONE MOVE FORWARD TO  
CHARLEY CHARLEY ROGER -
- 1232 LAVETT LIFT YOUR FIRE.
- 1235 LAVETT DECREASE YOUR RANGE.
- 1235 COL MALONEY EVACUATED.
- 1235 COL WEMPLE ASSUMES CMD.
- 1235 IRISH ASSUMES CMD.
- 1240 LAVETT HOLD FIRE, DISPLACE  
FORWARD ALONG AXIS OF ADVANCE  
TILL YOU ARE PICKED UP AND  
GIVEN ANOTHER MISSION.
- 1243 IRISH TO JAY WHAT IS THE SITUATION?
- 1244 JAY TO IRISH WHAT IS LEFT OF INF?  
1 pl<sup>INTOWN</sup> 1 pl<sup>INTOWN</sup> behind us 1 pl<sup>INTOWN</sup> lost.  
ARTY HAD NO EFFECT.  
BIG STUFF STARTING TO FALL AGAIN  
NOT IN CONTACT WITH ONE
- 1255 GET 38TH MEDICS UP TO THE DOUGHS.
- 1259 SHOULD DO NOT REMOVERS COME  
FORWARD - WAIT.
- 1300 NEIL'S BABIES ARRIVE.
- 1300 SOME ONE THREW SMOKE RIGHT  
WHERE HE THOUGHT FIRE WAS  
COMING FROM.
- 1308 JAY/F.O. IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
- 1320 F.O. IN CONTACT WITH JAY. / THEY ARE  
STILL LAYING THEM IN.
- 1330 POSSIBLE GUN POSITION *the ground foray*

WRAPPER

11 SEPT 5

V

~~NO ELEV~~~~50.3-19.2~~

1333. TELL IRISH ABCE STATUS NOT GOOD. - JAY.

1335. NOT GOOD INF ORGANIZATION ONE PLAT NOT ABLE TO FIND, ONE PLAT IN VILLAGE, ONE PLAT BEHIND. TELL US WHEN INF IS READY. NEIL IS COMING FORWARD WITH ANOTHER GROUP THE SAME AS JAY'S.

1340 F.O. READY TO FIRE MISSION

1345 THE DONUT REMOVERS HAVE A DUD ABOUT 15 FT AWAY FROM THEIR TRACK. IT IS TAPED OFF. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT?

1358 MORT IS GOING ASSEMBLY AREA.

1359 JAY IS SITTING LIKE DUCKS.

1400 BILES AT S-I

1404 BRING JAY'S SUPPLIES FORWARD

1410 SITUATION VERY ROUGH STETZ HIT RANKIN WILL BIPASS JAY + JAY WILL RETURN BY PLAT. TO REORG + RE SUPPLY RANKIN WILL GO THRU YOU AND NEIL + PIER WILL GO AROUND IN A LARGE ARC.

1430. F.O. THAT WAS W/MORT IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND THEY ARE MOVING OUT ANYWAY (MORT + NEIL)

1445 F.O. TO MORT

1452 BUCK'S FIRE ON THE WAY



WRAPPER

11 SEPT 6

VI

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By LB NARA Date 9-19-05

- 1500 AL REPORTS HE IS IN POS  
1505 LAUETT - DON'T GO BEHIND RIDGE  
1507 REBEL REVERTS TO HIS OWN CMD.  
1517 PULL JAY, NEIL & PIER BACK  
JAY WILL RETURN FIRST BY PLAT  
NEIL WILL FOLLOW HIM BY PLAT  
PIER WILL COVER THIS MOVEMENT  
JAY WILL TAKE UP POSITION ON LEFT  
• f rd.  
NEIL WILL TAKE UP POSITION ON RIGHT  
• f rd.  
PIER WILL TAKE UP A COVERING POS-  
ITION IN BUCK'S PRESENT POS  
1526 BUCK WILL RETURN TO NEXT  
CREST IN REAR.  
1530 ROAD BLOCK HAS BEEN CLEARED  
1535 REBEL KNOWS SITUATION.  
1540 IRISH I MOVING TO REAR. Piervilliers  
1740 MEETING OF C.O.S

- 1740 IRISH I MOVING TO NEW ASSEMBLY AREA  
1745 CLOSED IN NEW ASSEMBLY AREA  
1800 CHANGED BIVOAC  
2000 TO CCR - ALL QUIET  
2400 TO CCR - ALL QUIET

WRAPPER

14 SEPT

7

I

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 735017

By LB NARA Date 9-19-05

0200 TO CCR ALLS WELL

0400 TO CCR ALLS WELL

0600 TO CCR ALLS WELL

1050 IRISH GOES TO C.C.R.

1100 FROM CCR WHAT IS THE SITUATION?  
AS OF 1030?

1130 RECEIVED VERBAL WORD FROM S-2 THAT  
COL ADAMS ASSUMES CMD CCR.

1600 Co CMDRS MEETING.

1900 GIVE EXACT DISPOSITION AND LO-  
CATION OF YOUR ENTIRE BN. THE  
PLAT ATTACHED TO THE ENGINEERS  
IF RELEASED TO YOU. HAVE MED  
Co IN TNS AREA SECURE THE  
TOWN OF ST PRIVAT. - CCR.



WRAPPER 13 SEPT 8

I

NO MOVEMENT.

WRAPPER 14 SEPT.

- 0950 REBEL TO CCA.  
1000 CO & LANDR PLATOON TO  
REPORT THIS CP IMMEDIATE-  
LY - CO CCR  
1015 SHADOW TO CCR  
1015 GIGER TO CCA TO PICKUP REBEL.
- 1030 FOLLOWING MSG FROM WORKSHOP  
TO CCA & CCR. UNICORN ELEMENTS  
ARE TO RELIEVE US, WE MOVE  
TO NEW ASSEMBLY AREA. AM  
SENDING BY LN OVERLAY  
SHOWING ROUTE & AREA. MOVE  
ELEMENTS NOT IN CONTACT  
SOON AS POSSIBLE OR CONFORM  
TO TIME OF MOVEMENT SHOWN  
ON OVERLAY. SUGGEST YDO  
MOVE IN ORDER TNS HQ  
NOT NEEDS OTHER UNITS NOT  
IN CONTACT. UNITS IN CONTACT  
AS RELIEVED. RETAIN SMALL  
RESERVE UNTIL LAST

WRAPPER 14 SEPT 9 I

I AM MOVING ELEMENTS OF  
17 T.B. IN YOUR AREA TO  
ASSEMBLE W/ (?) WEST  
ST PRIVAT IMMEDIATELY  
C.C.R.

1030 MOVE YOUR BN IMMED. ASSEMBLY  
AREA VIN CO B 17 WEST  
PRIVAT. CO REPORT TO HQ WROUGHT  
ACCOMPANIED BY C.O. 18 R PLAT.  
18 R PLAT MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO  
ASSEMBLY AREA VIN WROUGHT CP.

1045 W.P. WILL CLOSE IN 2 HRS.

1055 PIERREVILLE

1110 BRONHOFF

1120 ARRIVE IN ASSEMBLY AREA  
VICINITY OF ST MARIE

1400 ALERT TO MOVE ON ORDER OF  
REBEL - M.O. - HQ. A, C, D.; BC.  
FOLLOWS C.C.R. / DESTINATION  
PAXIEUX -

1425 LEFT ASSEMBLY AREA

1500 ST. MARIE

1500 WRAPPER (-B) CROSSED I.P.  
1500 - TO C.O. C.C.R.

1520 BATILLY

1530 JOUVILLE

1535 DONVOURT

1547 HALTED AT ONE TO ALLOW  
SILVER'S OUTFIT TO GO BY.  
TO CCR

1610 CCR RESUMES MARCH



WRAPPER 14 SEPT 10

II

1620 TRUVILLE  
 1637 MARS LA TOURS  
 1637 WRAPPER REACHED TWO  
 1645 PUXIEX  
 1650 REACHED ASSEMBLY AREA  
 1730 CLOSED IN BIVOUAC 19.9

15 SEPT 00.0

0745 IRISH TO C.C.R.  
 1045 REBEL TO C.C.R.  
 1115 Co. CMDR MEETING  
 1300 REBEL RETURNS FROM C.C.R.  
 M.O. A17A-387D, 33 platoon, BTY FA. HQ, MOB AG.  
 C-17 TO C.C.R.; 3-FLANK G.D. RTFL.  
 D-558 CCF TRAINS.  
 1430 - LEADING ELEMENT MOVES OUT.  
 1447 - IRISH MOVES OUT.  
 1450 - PUXIEX  
 1505 - CHAMBLEY  
 1515 - ASSEMBLY AREA 05.0  
 1605 - LEADING ELEMENT MOVES OUT.  
 1627 - REACHED L.D. #1 1625 (L.E.)  
 1635 - WAVILLE  
 1640 - ONVILLE  
 1645 - BAYONVILLE  
 1720 - NO INSTEAD OF JO.  
 1725 - ARNAVILLE  
 1732 - WE ARE TAKING ORIGINAL ROUTE TO C.C.R.  
 1745 - MOSELLE  
 1755 - LOOKING FOR A BI-PASS AROUND  
 SPOT ZEROED IN BY ENEMY TO C.C.R.  
 1800 - IS BOYLANDS TROOPS W/YOU. TO C.C.R.  
 1801 - YES TO C.C.R.

EVR WRAPPER

15 SEPT

11

82-45

III

1820 - HART'S BOYS LEADER IS GOING  
FORWARD TO LOOK FOR A POS. / FR: REBEL

1828 - A PATROL ON SOUTHERN ROUTE EX-  
POSED ON LEFT CAN'T GET THROUGH.

1845 - ARRY.

1900 - SLOWLY PROGRESSING FORWARD.

1935 - ALL ELEMENTS MOVING OUT.

1936 - PUSH ON THRU THE NEXT TOWN  
AND THE ONE AFTER THAT.

1937 - HAVE BOYLAN'S BOYS GO FORWARD.

2016 - PUSH THRU TWO TOWNS CONTINUE TO  
NEXT TOWN.

2018 BOYLAN'S BOYS ON WAY FORWD.

2018 LEAVE FARRELLS BOYS IN PLACE.

2020 TO C.C.R. - LEAD ELEMENTS THRU  
1ST TOWN ON WAY TO SECOND.

2030 WHAT IS THE SITUATION? &  
SITUATION?

2035 BOYLAN'S BOYS WILL LEAD & CALL  
FOR ARTY IN WOODS IF NECESSARY.

2045 3/4 MI OVER L.D. #2

2100 MOVE ON TO SILLEGLY 84-44  
FR G.G.R.

16.8



WRAPPER

16 SEPT.

I

17

00.0

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Authority NND 735017

By CB NARA Date 9-19-05

0715

0715 FIRE FROM LEFT FL

0730 MORT MOVED OUT

0740 MORT DREW FIRE FROM WOODS AHEAD

0830 ROAD BLOCK (MORT) FALLEN TREES

0850 IRISH DRAWING MORTAR FIRE.

0855 ADDITIONAL TREES IN R.B. <sup>SOME FELL</sup> <sup>SOME CHARGED</sup>

0856 DO NOT REMOVERS GOING FORWARD.

0930 PUSH IN & THEN FOLLOW W/TKS

1015 3 R.B. CLEARED & MOVING ALONG SLOPE

1100? REACHED 1st CLEARING

1215 A GREAT DEAL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY THE OTHER SIDE OF CLEARING.

1215 OUR ART FIRING ON SAID SPOT

1235 FR REBEL / WHAT IS HOLDING UP FARRELL'S MISSILE?

1236 TO REBEL / FARRELL IS CHANGING BATTERIES

1245 STILL A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY IN FRONT OF THE REBEL - WAITING FOR FARRELL'S

1300 NO FRIENDLY TROOPS OTHER THAN THOSE ON THE OTHER AXIS.

1300 TO FARRELL WHAT IS THE SIT?

1301 FR FARRELL MOVED BY FLASH & SOUND

1315 AS SOON AS FARRELL IS THRU, THE DOG WILL MOVE ON

1320 AS SOON AS AREA WAS CLEARED OUT AND MEN STARTED FORWARD, THEY WERE FIRED ON BY MG'S & RIF.

1345 FR ODIE JERRIES STREAMING IN & FOWN TO US

1345 TO ODIE LAY FIRE ON TO THEM.

1450 HOLDING WHAT THEY GOT & WAITING FOR ARTY <sup>FROM HOW</sup>

1510 FROM MORT TO REBEL: ALL QUIET, FROM COTTON ALL QUIET EXCEPT ARTY REG IN

WRAPPER

16 SEPT

II

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By CB NARA Date 9-19-05

- 1545 - NO CHANGE; ARTY HAS LAID IN  
A COUPLE OF ROUNDS, MORE DOUGHS BROUGHT IN
- 1615 - ARTY'S ARE DOING THEIR WORK.
- 1620 - MORT CAN'T SEE WHERE ARTY IS FALL-  
ING, WILL MOVE OUT WHEN CONC IS LIFTED.
- 1715 - PILAT'S DOUGHS ATCHD TO REBEL
- 1750 - RAN INTO MORE R. B.
- 1840 - MOVED FORW.
- 1845 - CLOSED IN BIVOAC 02.0.

17 SEPT

RAIN ALL DAY NO MOVEMENT

- LEFT BIVOAC
- HIT R. B.
- UNABLE TO GAIN
- 0200 : CLOCK TURN BACK ONE HOUR.



WRAPPER

18 SEPT

I

14

CO. MEETING

CO. MEETING

TOM TO CCR

ROBEL TO CCR

REBEL TO CCR

1515 LEFT BIVOUAC

1533 CROSSED ON TIME

1537 NEGATIVE 1ST REPORT TO CCR

1540 MORT FOUNDS DUG IN POSITIONS - NO FIRE REC.

1541 LEAD ELEMENTS AT 2 TO CCR

1545 RECEIVE A.T. FIRE

1600 REQUEST 9 FROM HARRY

1607 RECEIVING AT & ARTY FILING FROM FRONT  
USING COUNTER BTY & DIRECT FIRE - LOSSES -  
3TKS I.T.D.

1610 REQUEST S11, S12, S13, FROM HARRY

1612 TO CCR ASK MCGINNIS FOR STUFF ON S-9 &amp; FORT

1614 MEDICS NEEDED UP THE ROAD.

1620 MEDICS NEEDED UP THE ROAD INF

1625 TO CCR MORE MEDICS NEEDED.

1628 SITUATION SAME ARTY & A.T. FIRE HEAVY  
FIRE HEAVIER THAN RECEIVED HERE POSSIBLY  
FROM FORT. TO CCR.1631 MORTS SITUATION/ LOTS ARTY & MORTAR INF  
RETIRED AT GUNS UNDER FIRE

1631 LARRY BE SENT TO HELP MORT IF POSSIBLE

1632 TO CCR THROW STUFF ON FORT &amp; TOWN.

1639 BOB FIRED CONC 10

1640 BOB CAN SEE TOWN, LOOK FOR A.T. &amp; FIRE ON THEM.

1643 BIG STUFF ON FTS NOW. FROM FRANK

1644 ELEMENT ON LEFT PUMPING ALL THEY'VE GOT  
INTO TOWN

WRAPPER

18 SEPT

II

15

- 1650 DOUGHS FALLING BACK, UNORGANIZED ROSEY TRYING  
T. REORGANIZE THEM. RELAY TO C.C.R.
- 1655 REBEL ABOUT 500YDS OVER L.D.
- 1700 MORT BELIEVES ALL A.T. IS FROM TOWN.
- 1705 MORT LOW ON AMMO. - BELIEVES THEY HAVE  
SILENCED A.T. - INF MISSING - MORGARTY ON TOWN.  
INF NEEDED TO TAKE TOWN. - 600YDS TO TOWN.
- 1710 BUCK FIRING AT ENEMY INF COMING OUT OF  
TOWN.
- 1714 PILAT TAKEN AT 4 MORTAR UNDER PILE &  
ALSO FIRING AT INF.
- 1720 AMMO ON WAY UP -
- 1773 JAY IS GOING TO REPLACE MORT  
DOUGHS ARE BEING SENT UP.
- 1750 REBEL MEETS JAY.
- 1759 PILAT REQUESTS FIRE FROM ARTY TO BE LAID  
ON HOUSE FILLED W/ENEMY.
- 1800 INF CANT BE REORGANIZED, RANKINS FORCE  
BEING SENT FORWARD, BIG PETE ON WAY UP.
- 1812 MEDICS NEEDED UP AHEAD.
- 1816 PILAT RECEIVING HEAVY ARTY FIRE, BRENNAN  
SPOTS 4 ENEMY TANKS.
- 1817 ABOVE MSG SENT REBEL.
- 1832 PILAT SPOTS GERMAN COLUMN COMING FR EAST
- 1841 RANKINS T.D.'S BEING SENT FORWARD.
- 1919 PILATS CALLING FOR MEDICS
- 1922 JAY SUPPORTED BY DOUGHS ADVANCING  
TOWARD TOWN SUPPORTED BY MORT & LARRY.
- 2000 INFANTRY ON EDGE OF TOWN
- 2015 BLOCK HOUSE W/M.G. HOLDING UP PROGRESS  
TOP OF INF 2 OF J.S. BOYS TO GO DOWN ROAD  
TO TAKE CARE OF SAME.
- 2030 JAY TO SUPPORT FROM OUT-  
SIDE TOWN

WRAPPER

19 SEPT I

10

02.0.

- 0400 - LEE'S BOYS REVERT TO OWN OUTFIT  
 0631 - G7A BROUGHT FORWARD  
 0648 - RUNNERS TO BE SENT TO FOLW A. DUMP.  
 0750 - ARCHER IN CHARGE OF G.  
 0750 - BOYLAN BOYS ON SO FLANK  
 0756 - JAY'S SECTIONS CAN GO BACK IN TURN  
 to replenish.

- 0945 - TEN PRISONERS BROUGHT IN  
 1044 - FR CAMPBELL VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY  
 1045 - KING HAS TAKEN OVER FROM WELLS  
 1150 - REBEL RECEIVES CHANGE IN H HOUR  
 1153 - BUCK IS OK ON AMMO  
 1153 - JAY'S A.G. BEING SENT BACK FOR AMMO.

- 1338 PROGRESS, ENEMY SHELLED TOWN, BELIEVES  
 NO ONE IS IN TOWN. FR REBEL.  
 1341 PILAT'S TANK RECEIVE DIRECT HIT  
 OPENING TURRET, FROM ARTY, IS WITH-  
 DRAWING 150 YDS  
 1346 3 AMMO ARRIVES.  
 1353 ELEMENTS HAVE REACHED TOWN.  
 MORTY & LARRY STILL IN PLACE  
 1358 RAMP + CRUTCHER IN TOWN FIND R.B  
 CONSISTING OF FARM IMPLEMENTS, DOUGLES  
 STARTED TO REMOVE THEM BUT THEY ARE  
 MINED. SUGGEST DONUT REMOVERS BE SENT IN  
 141V DONUT REMOVERS ON WAY.  
 1428 FR REBEL TERRIFIC ARTY FIRE



WRAPPER

19 SEPT

II

17

- 1431 DOUGHS ARE CATCHING IT IN TOWN  
DOUBTS IF DONUT REMOVERS CAN GET IN
- 1439 CRUTCHER GOT HIS BLOCK REMOVED &  
STARTED TO PROCEED, BUT DOUGHS CANNOT  
PROCEED BECAUSE OF HEAVY ARTY, NO  
ENEMY IN TOWN. AWAIT INST.
- 1449 DOUGH TAKE COVER & HOLD WHAT THEY'VE  
GOT.
- 1500 PAPS <sup>RT</sup> FLANK / DOUGHS TAKEN OFF  
<sub>LEFT</sub> CRUTCHER FLANK / DOUGHS TAKEN OFF.
- 1509 BIG BOYS HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM  
TOWN AS DOUGHS HAVE LEFT THE BIG  
BOYS AND THEY ARE UNPROTECTED.
- 1517 TRS WILL STAY IN TOWN UNCLE PETE  
IS ON HIS WAY UP.
- 1526 UNCLE PETE PASSED HERE.
- 1530 AIR CORP PUTS IN ITS APPEARANCE
- 1535 LARRY REPORTED A.T. FIRE FROM LEFT FL  
<sup>ENEMY</sup>
- 1540 TWO TANKS ATTACKING FROM LEFT.
- 1605 REPORT REBEL KNOCKED OUT.
- 1607 REPORT UNTRUE -
- 1610 ONE ENEMY TK KNOCKED OUT, OUR TRS  
MANEUVERING TO COVER.
- 1625 ARMORED COLUMN REPORTED COMING  
FROM NORTH.
- 1635 JAY'S P.O. REPORTS NO TRS IN TOWN, SPOTS  
ONE ENEMY TK.
- 1635 WOUNDED NOT EVACUATED FROM TOWN.
- 1641 REBEL WANTS TOM TO TAKE OVER WHILE  
HE GOES TO SEE UNCLE PETE.
- 1644 VO ENEMY TRS <sup>+ INF</sup> REPORTED COMING  
FROM POMEROY. REPORTED BY P.W.
- 1655 TOM LEFT FOR REBEL.

WRAPPED

19 SEPT

III

18

1658 BUCK HAS BEEN HIT.

1707 BUCK RETURNS TO C.P.

1718 JAY IS TO RETURN TO RIDGE LINE  
SO THAT HE CAN VIEW RD + COVER  
RD.

1715 A.G. (SMITH) SPOTTED GELMAN TR.

1743 PREPARING TO RECEIVE ENEMY COL.

1746 HARRY PLACING FIRE ON RD. N.E.

1756 PILOT HAS 1/2 IN POS, REMAINDER WILL  
BE IN POS IN 25 MIN.1757 REBEL TO TOM - SEND THEM BACK  
BY SEC. TO SUPPLY WITH A+G.1801 ENEMY INF CLOSING IN ON OUR INF IN  
TOWN. FRANK WANTS TO KNOW IF WE  
CAN HELP THEM.1811 ENEMY ARTY DROPPING ON NEAREST EDGE  
OF TOWN, WE MUST HELP INF IN TOWN.  
WILL SEND SEC IN TO HELP THEM.1840 2 M-83 FIRING ON CROSS LOS <sup>IN TOWN</sup> AND STOPPING US  
FROM SENDING ASSISTANCE INTO TOWN.

1825 ONE OF POLKY'S VEH HIT BY A.T.

1835 AIR + ARTY HAS RAISED HELL WITH  
ENEMY TR. COL.

1836 WE HAVE REQUESTED INF FOR TONITE.

1840 ONE OF OUR VEH SHOT INTO A HOUSE.

OCCUPIED BY OUR TROOPS, STOP THEM, NONE  
HAVE BEEN HURT SO FAR. GELMANS ARE ON  
THE OUTSIDE.

1903 DOUGHS WILL BE UP - BINDER

- NO ENEMY AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITY  
IN FRONT LINES DURING NIGHT.- ROSEY HAS BEEN ORDERED TO  
COME FORWARD + RELIEVE US.

WRAPER

20 SEPT

I

19

0635 PILOT CALLED FOR ARTY 400 YDS  
TO HIS FRONT ON WHAT HE THOUGHT  
TO BE GERMAN TR.

1400 Co CMDRS MEETING

1600 C.C.A. ATTACK w/ 17<sup>TH</sup> IN SUPPORT

21 SEPT

HOLDING - SUPPORTING CCA

22 SEPT

HOLDING - SUPPORTING CCA

1815 LEFT BIVOAC

2.0 MI

1900 ARRIVE BIVOAC OPP PAGNY

23 SEPT

REMAIN IN BIVOAC OPP PAGNY

3.0 MI

24 SEPT

0301 LEFT BIVOAC

17.4 MI

0545 ARR BIVOAC PUXIEUX



WRAPPER

20

I

25 SEPT.

1225 - ALERTED BY CCR FOR 00.0  
MOVEMENT ANYTIME AFTER 1300

1530 - M.O. ISSUED BY C.O. - Co A ADV

Co C - 26 - B - SERV.

1710 - Co A. MOVES OUT.

1811 - Co P. MOVES OUT.

1819 - POUXIEUX

1826 - MARS LA TOURE

1845 - JARNY

B53 - CONFLANS

2030 -

24.0

ETAIN

LONGUYON

LONGUY

ARLON

MARTELANGE

BASTOGNE

BARR-vc-de-CHAMPION

0800-1123 HALT - 26 SEPT. 107.8

1135 - MARCHE

1330 - HUY

124.0

1335 RIVER

1345 - ANTHIET

1500 - HANNUT

1545 - SITROND

162.0

1648 - HAS

170.4

1745 - GENIL

1806 - ASCH

1830 -

WCHI

194.0

1900 - ARRIVE BIVOUAC VICINITY OF

198.4

EYSER

WRAPPE

27 SEPT <sup>21</sup>

1300 - MEETING ALL OFFICER

1630 - UNIT C.O. MEETING.

- MEETING Co. CMDRS

- REMAINED IN BIVOUAC ALL DAY

1630 - SHOWERS

28 SEPT.

0900 - MEETING Co. CMDRS.

2000 - MEETING Co. CMDRS.

29 SEPT

0900 - CIVILIAN POL. REPORT 40055 TRPS 6946-6947

0900 - Co. D. MOVES W/ ADV PTY.

MEETING Co. CMDRS

M.D. - C.-HQ. - A. SERV.

1840 - LEADING ELEMENT MOVES OUT.

1845 - C.P. MOVES OUT.

1905 DIV. I.P. DILSER

1920 NEEROETEREN

1925 HEIKANT

1955 KINROY

2045 WEERT

2235 HEEZE

0010 ASTEN BIVOUAC 42.6

30 SEPT.

0800 Co. CMDRS MEETING 00.0

ADV PARTY LV BIVOUAC

C.P. LV BIVOUAC

1315 ASTEN 02.7

1328 C.P. CRSD CCR I.P. 03.5

1337 DEVRNE

1400 BACKEL 11.0

WRAPPE

30 SEPT (CONTINUED)

1420 GEMERT

1514 ARRIVE BIVOUC VICINITY OF  
ST ANTHONIO 28.3 MILES

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 735017

By LB NARA Date 9-19-05