

#### FOURTH PLATOON HISTORY (FEB:22 MARCH 3 )

On the date of Feb. 22 1945 Charlie company was dug in , in a position that was almost surrounded by the Krauts. We had moved down a steep rough hill on the evening of the 21 about 600 yds. out in front of all other troops.

Almost all day long we did nothing except improve our positions and a few parcels were sent out.

We were less than one hundred yards from the Metz road and could see and hear German troops on the road and occasionally a vehicle or tank would move up or down the road. Believe me we certainly held our breath for fear we would be heard or seen. Sure was a good thing we were in thick woods.

We were all getting quite hungry about the middle of the morning for everyone was out of rations and we hadn't had any breakfast. Most of the fellows were without supper the night before. A carrying party was sent back and by noon they had rations and water to us.

Before the day was over we were all plenty worried for things were beginning to get a little hot and no one seemed to know just what we were to do. We were in plenty danger of being completely surrounded and cut off.

All went to sleep (Of course pulling a hour guard every other hour.) not knowing what tomorrow would bring. We sure were sweating out a counter attack for movement of the Krauts was reported.

Sure enough early on the Morning of the 23rd we were greeted with machine gun and burp gun fire coming from our right flank and right rear. Very little we could do for visibility was very limited and it was dangerous to get your head too far out of your fox hole.

A patrol was sent out to see where the best possible route of escape was. They made it back OK so our CO gave the word for all to be ready to move on a minutes notice.

During all this someone had captured four prisoners. This only added to more difficult complications. By this time the Krauts were really throwing the lead. There were a few men wounded. Sgt. Robt. S. Breen from our platoon was wounded in both legs. A bullet went through one leg and the same bullet went through the other leg. S/Sgt. Horton had a close call for a bullet clipped his clothing and burnt his neck.

Finally we started to move out. It was a difficult job for one could only move from cover to cover. The going was very slow for we went through a undergrowth of cedar and pine trees. This was good in a way that we were very hard to be seen. Finally we made it to almost the top of the hill. At least we were on the right side of the enemy. Here we reorganized and made ready for another attack. We were to move around to our right and occupy another hill. Knowing not if Germans occupied the hill we moved very cautiously. Luckily we met no resistance and moved into our new positions and began to dig in.

It was on this day or the night before that Lt. Cunningham came back to the Company. He had previously been in the fourth platoon. We were all really glad to have him with us again.

It was this day that we got a new Company Commander, "Lt. Blanche. Our new CO had been with the second Battalion. He was a West Point graduate and that was enough to convince us that he was OK."

The day of the 24th was quite busy. The Krauts were attacking Easy Co. which was to our left. Our Mortar section spent a busy day firing. During the night the enemy had made their way up a draw between E Co. and our company. Easy Co. sure had a rough time of it.

The MG section was dug in defensive positions standing ready for possible counter attacks.

Our new CO had a busy day for he re-organized all the positions of the platoons. This was a very difficult time to take over a company, not knowing the men and now being up with the situation. Regardless of this Lt. Blanchard seemed to be doing really OK.

Along in the afternoon the Krauts were quiet and down considerably. Later in the day we sent a carrying party back to pick up hot chow. The peeps could only come so far and we would carry rations, chow or ammunition the rest of the way. This was the first hot chow we had, had in some time and it certainly did hit the spot. We were also given a change of socks.

Lt. Cunningham was assigned to the fourth platoon on this day. When he left the platoon several weeks before he was a MG squad leader.

On the night of the 24th the 3rd platoon was to set up a road block on the Metz road, which was about 300 yds. to our front. We were on a hill and the road ran through the valley. The 4th platoon had a share in the road block for they carried concertina wire, mines, fuses, and flares. Sgt. Belew was in charge of this detail, and it was quite a job for it was very dark and the men had to be kept together.

On the day of the 25 all hell broke loose. The krauts made a counter attack and threw plenty of artillery and mortar fire at us. The fourth platoon did very little except dodge the artillery and keep in the bottoms of the fox holes. The mortars did fire some.

In the afternoon about 2 O'Clock things began to quieten down a little. We were given the word that we were to move for the enemy was coming in to our left flank and would cut around in back of us. Our company was out on the nose of a hill and there was no friendly troops on our left, so it was difficult to cut the Krauts off.

Later in the afternoon we moved back about 700 yds. We were then in line with all the other companies and it was much easier to defend your sector. We moved into trenches that were dug by the Germans. Our CP was in a bunker near a road.

Immediately after finding exactly where we were to be we all started digging a better shelter in the trenches and making splinter proof tops. We worked all evening until dark and by this time had some pretty darn good shelters.

Every thing was pretty quiet until about mid-night and then our MG and rifles from on our left flank opened up. They were firing on a enemy patrol.

Earlier in the day Lt Cunningham was transferred to F Co. At the time F Co. was to our left flank someplace and was having a pretty rough time.

All day the 26th most all the men did nothing except rest and take turns sleeping. There were a few patrols sent out and some of the fellows carried rations. Sometime during the day everyone did something to improve their positions for this is one thing you couldn't do too much of.

Off and on the Krauts would throw a few round in. They would do this to just keep us on the jump and to just keep us from getting any rest.

On this day Pfc. Elmer Dixon was taken to the Battalion Aid for he had a bad case of trench foot. He was later taken to the Hospital. Also at this time one of the newer fellows Pfc. Rella, was evacuated because of trench foot.

Most all day long it drizzled rain. Most of us had good enough shelters as to keep dry. The Krauts had left shelter halves in the trenches and we covered our fox holes with them.

In the evening after dark a carrying party was sent back a few hundred yards to bring up hot chow. It was taken into the Co. CP which was a bunker and a few men at a time would go down and eat.

During the next day we had a little more excitement for the Krauts seemed to know exactly where we were and they were sure laying the rounds right in there. They seem to be using more concussion shells than any other kind. Was a good thing for us for we were receiving plenty of tree bursts, and they were right on top of us.

All day long we were on the alert for we were notified of a possible counter attack. It was very likely, for we had received so much artillery.

In the afternoon we were notified that we would be relieved sometime during the night. Believe me this sure made everyone very happy. Knowing this the rest of the day went along very well, until chow was brought just after dark. Each platoon sent men to go on the carrying party for the hot chow and on their way back the Krauts threw quite a lot of artillery in. They all made it back OK and our two men from the 4th platoon were on their way to their fox holes and several rounds came in very close. One was too close for in ripped the front of Pfc. Billy C. Deeses' jacket out and cut his scarf into. The same piece of fragment wounded Pfc. Cheldon L. Harriman in the arm and chest. Both men were taken in on the chow peep.

Later in the night some time a little before mid-night we moved out for another company had come to relieve us. We went on foot for several hundred yards and then were picked up by peeps. It wasn't long until we reached the town of Kerback. This is where we found billets and spent the rest of the night. Earlier in the night just before we came into the town of Kerback a GI from another unit was shot by a sniper and this made us just a little leary of

going out after dark. The sniper was thought to have been in a old Church and this old Church happened to be right in back of the house we were staying in.

On the morning we were awakened by the guard to go for chow and naturally everyone was up and ready in no time flat.

It was really a swell day. The sun was out and it sure did feel wonderful. Most of the day was spent out in front of our billet taking advantage of the warm sun and part of the fellows spent it sleeping.

The 12th Armored Div. or part of it was in the same town and we would talk over where we had been with them and just shoot the bull at to what we were going to be doing in the future etc.

In the afternoon the 274th band came and played for an hour or so. We were always glad to see them come for they were the only means of music we had. On this day they had all types of old hats, caps, and derbies on. They had a nice little show for us.

In the evening we all received our PX rations. We sure drew a large one this time for it had been quite a while since our last one. We had three or four bottles of beer and plenty of candy, gum, cookies, toilet articles, and writing paper. As a result of all this all the fellows went to bed with full stomachs.

Everyone awoke on the first morning of March to find it a really nice day. We were in need of these sunny and warm days for the roads were muddy and it was no fun to stay in a muddy fox hole.

There were going to be hot showers for all the fellows sometime during the day. Part of the fellows went in the morning and the rest went in the afternoon. We also got a complete change of clean clothing.

Immediately after noon we had pay call. There wasn't anyone that cared to be paid but later in the day we gave our money to the mail clerk so he could get us money orders.

About 1 O'Clock in the afternoon the 274th band came again. We were surprised but very happy to see them for they had been there the day before. We're all quite proud of our Regimental band for they are really swell and would always play for us at any time possible.

In the afternoon we were notified that we were to move out some-

tine during the night. Hearing this we all began to throw our equipment together and roll our packs.

During the day the company received some replacements. Our platoon got a fellow that had been through N. Africa, Sicily, and Italy. He was Pfc. Romero. Since that time he has went home with more than 100 points.

We moved out at about 19:00 hours. We walked for about two miles before coming to a place where we picked up our mortars and machine guns. After this we took to the field. It was about four hundred yards to the positions we were to occupy. The night was very dark and we had to go through a couple barb wire entanglements and the trenches and fox holes were all over the place. It took at least two hours to reach our destination.

This turned out to be a good deal for we occupied abandoned bunkers and part of the fellows stayed in a cave that was dug into solid rock. It extended quite a way back into the hill.

The next day "March 2" very little happened. All we did was occupy our ~~gun~~ positions and stand guard. Most of the fellows were free to sleep and rest. Some were sent on carrying details for we did have to carry our ammo and rations quite a way.

The Krauts kept us from getting out of our bunkers and wandering about, for at regular intervals they would throw a few rounds in. They could lay them right at the door of the bunkers too.

Just as it was getting dark we sent a carrying detail to get hot chow. It was a little longer than a hour and we had our supper. Believe me nothing can beat a hot meal when you have to be out in the open all day long.

The next morning to our surprise the cooks had done went and "got" on the ball and we had a hot breakfast waiting for us by the time we ~~XXXXXX~~ were awakened.

All during this day we stood guard on our machine gun positions for a attack from the Krauts was very probable.

There is very little that can be said about this day for nothing of importance happened and there was no action with the enemy. I can say that we did have a pretty restful day and that is one thing that is quite rare while on the front lines.

Quite a few of the fellows had a good or bad case of the GI's.

HISTORY OF FOURTH PLATOON MAR. 4th MAR. 13th

On the morning of the 4th we were notified that we were to move some time during the day. The rifle squads had already moved out on an attack, and we were left as support. Not much time had elapsed before we were told to get all our equipment on and stand ready to move. It was a little before noon and we moved out. In about an hour we caught up with the rifle platoons and here we stayed and dug in. We were located on top of a hill over looking the town of Styring Wendell.

In the afternoon we were given the word to move to the foot of the hill and help support the second platoon. The machine gun section had already moved with the rifle platoon and was already dug in on the right flank of the second platoon. The mortar section was used as listening posts for the rifle platoons.

S/Sgt. Horton and T/Sgt. Cartiss volunteered to lead rifle squads and all during this day they were both clearing the houses of a town we had named Blancherdtville. We named it after our Company Commander, Capt. Blancherd.

By night fall it was raining and believe me this was one thing that wasn't wanted. We were supposed to have hot chow but it was pitch dark and the carrying detail was all split up, because the krauts threw a heavy concentration of artillery in just as they were on their way back with the chow. A couple of the men were wounded. The results was, we ate K rations.

This was a miserable night for none of us had any thing except our shelter halves to keep the rain out. We dug until about 22:00 hours on our fox holes and then finally just lay down and got what sleep we could. It was damn little for we had to go on a couple of carrying details. We carried rations and ammunition up to the rifle platoon that was directly in front of us.

The morning of the fifth was quite noisy. The Krauts were throwing in plenty of Artillery and Mortar fire. We spent all morning digging in more and some of the fellows were sent on carrying details.

Quite a few men in the rifle platoons were injured during the day and most of the men from the mortar section were kept busy carrying the wounded men back to a point, where they could be taken to the Battalion aid station. Several of the fellows had stepped on shoe mines and had their foot blown off.

I believe it was this day of the day before that a prison camp was liberated by our outfit. There was about 800 or more persons that were able to walk out and believe me they sure didn't stop at just walking. They were sure happy people when they hit our lines and we gave them what cigarets and food we could.

It was in the afternoon about 16:00 hours that we received a heavy enemy barrage. At this time the Krauts seemed to be throwing it all at the machine gunners. Here is where Fredrick J. Boldt was wounded and a few hours later he died. Sgt. Boldt was a MG Squad leader.

In the afternoon we were told that we were to move some time in the night. We were to move up with the first and second platoons, which were in the town we had named Blancherville. This town was the boundary between Germany and France. The Metz road was the main street.

It was about 22:00 hours and we moved out. We had to cross an open place which was mined. Luckily we made it through without anyone being injured. We had to go down the Metz road for about 600 yds. before reaching our destination. All the bridges were blown out so the going was slow because it was difficult to cross the streams.

We reached the first platoon CP and found out where we were to stay. We were all feeling swell now for our new home was a couple of shelled out houses. We occupied only the basements, because it was pretty safe from artillery.

The Machine Gun section and Mortar section were not all together for the MG section was with part of the second platoon about 150 yds. from the mortormen.

The next morning we all awoke to find it very quiet. The Krauts had all been cleared out of the town and were a few hundred yds to our front in another small village.

All day we more or less sweated out what we were going to do for we sort of liked it in those basements. We did very little all day except sleep and some of the fellows went back to carry up rations and ammo. This place was really OK for it was the first place we had been that we could really call where the German people had lived. The guys sure had a time in the houses for we spared nothing.

In the afternoon we cleaned the basements out and made it as

liveable as possible. It sure was like a palace to us after being in those fox holes for so long.

We spent part of the day looking for lamps and something to use for a light at night. What we found wasn't much to look at but it did make enough light to write by.

The next day was a little more colorful for we were all rested up and felt more like doing something. It wasn't long before some of the fellows, mainly Sgts. Bartram, Curtis, and Horton had a good supply of rabbits, chickens, and pigs.

All the guys were digging out old bicycles and fixing them all up. By the end of the day there were GIs riding up and down the street all dressed up in top hats and all sorts of old hats. Looked more like a circus had come into town.

On this 7th day of March 1945 we received one replacement, George W Thompson. we also got one of our old men back that had been back in the rear for awhile, Pfc K nyon. The machine gun section received one new man Pvt Turner.

The MG section had a steady man on guard at all times. We didn't know his name but he was a good soldier even though he was a kraut. "By this you know he was stiff."

In the evening we sent out a carrying party to pick up hot chow. They had to go up the Mentz road for about 500 yrd. to a place the peeps could reach. The chow was taken to the 1st platoon CP and we would go there a few at a time and eat.

After chow most all the fellows wrote letters for we received mail on this day and it had been some time since we had a good chance to write.

On the 8th the machine gun section was sent out on listening posts. these posts were located in the heart of a Cemetery. The cemetery was between us and the Krauts. A rifle squad was spent with the machine gunners.

All day long we did very little except rest and eat. We had chicken or something on the stove cooking all the time. We only had a small heating stove so we moved a cook stove from the second floor down to the basement.

By This time a couple of the fellows had located a couple of cows. Naturally cows give milk and the guys sure lost no time in draining the old girls. From then on Horton and Curtis had plenty of fresh milk.

On this day we got combat boots and believe me we were all plenty glad to get rid of those shoe packs. It was already getting warm and day by day those damn packs were getting heavier. One thing those things are good for is make your feet grow. I know mine grew a full size. We also got a couple clean pr. of socks, which were badly needed.

The 9th the platoon received three replacements. They were; Pfc. ~~Ray~~ Calhoun, Ralph Atkinson, and Cpl. George Baker. All these men came directly from the states. Calhoun and Atkinson were tall, big fellows, at least six foot, three.

This was a good day for we killed three pigs and they were really nice eating too. Couch got into the second platoons chicken house and managed to capture one Goose. He was a real big thang. The damn thang woke us early every morning with that loud squak. I dont believe we ever did kill him. As long as we could eat fresh pork and chicken there is no use in eating such a thang as a big old goose.

Some of the fellows went to the other end of town, which was not far and came back pushing a buggy carriage filled with potatoes and onions. They had at least two bushel on the buggy.

T/Sgt. Curtis has a brother in the 76th Div. and he came over and stayed all night. Guess he was hungry for some home cooking.

During the day we had to dig our mortars in, in case of a counter attack. We dug them in right in the front yard.

On the night of the 9th Sgt Maine was sent with a couple men to contact the company on our flank. He was gone a large part of the night and never did find the company. The results was he was sent the next night and he came back with mission complete. It was a bad thang to be wandering around after dark for there were several mine fields that wasn't too well marked.

The next few days were very peaceful and pretty quiet. Quite a few guys were kept busy on the 10th carrying rations etc. We would carry the rations to the Machine Gun section which was out on the listening posts. About all the rations we would get beside the hot meals was 10 in 1 rations. These are very good if one has a set up like we had and can cook the stuff up.

The streets of Blancherdvile were still pretty dead for we didn't care to run about too much for the Krauts would occasionally throw a round or so in our locality. Some of the fellows would get on their bicycles and run up and down the streets like hell.

S/Sgt. Horton would ride his to and from the Machine gun listening post.

There was an aquarium or some sort of museum or something in the town. Most of us went through it and they had all sorts of freak babies pickled in large glass bottles. There was one baby with two heads. This place was out by the grave yard.

The mortar section was supposed to relieve the Machine Gunners this night. After dark Sgt. Bartram took the two mortar squads to the grave yard where the Listening post was located. The Machine Gunners were glad to see us for they hadn't been in for several days.

The MG positions were dug in so as to cover the main road leading through the Cemetery. We were dug in right at the edge of tomb stones and also had the stones as tops for our holes.

Late in the night at about 1 O'Clock there was a five man patrol of Germans coming through. There was a BAR ~~TEAM~~ Team just in front of our position about 25 yds from us. Immediately the krauts were halted. When they were first challenged they didn't halt but after having a few rounds whiz by their heads they sure came to a dead standstill. They were really surprised for they had no idea of anyone being near the Cemetery. They had been sent on a patrol to go into the town we were staying and see if the town was occupied. They were taken in and later turned over to the interrogator.

All the next day we occupied these positions and this was some day. The Krauts evidently missed their ~~five~~ five comrades and they probably knew the route that they took so they would also know just about where they were when captured. Anyway we received mortar and artillery fire all day long. Believe me they sure laid them in plenty close.

After dark we were relieved by the Machine Gunners and we went back to our snug little basement. We ate chow and didn't lose any time in getting under our blankets.

On the day of the 12th we got Floyd G. Pollard as a replacement.

All day long we did very little except shave and clean ourselves and eat and sleep. This was really the life for we had plenty to eat and had nothing like an inspection and in other words we just did about what we wanted.

This was a very nice and warm day and we were all getting spring fever for this kind of life must have been spoiling us.

It was this day that S/Sgt. Horton was riding on of the bicycles and it so happened that he was going about top speed right toward a rock wall and when he applied his breaks the damn thangs just wasn't there. Right into the wall Alonzo and the bicycle went. He was pretty bad hurt but stayed with us that night and was later taken to Batallion aid. Horton is still in England recovering. He broke his arm and was skinned up quite a lot.

HISTORY OF FOURTH PLATOON ~~MARCH~~ 13 MARCH

On the day of the 13th we were given the word that we were to move some time during the day. We did very little all day except hurry and get all our equipment ready and then wait.

S/Sgt. Alonzo Horton was taken to the aid station and later to the hospital because of the bicycle accident he had the day before.

All afternoon we were packing all the food and extra stuff we had accumulated. Part of the fellows had bicycles and they were taking the bulk of the load. Those things looked more like pack horses. Monroe Couch had a half pig tied on the back of his cycle and enough other stuff to start a grocery store.

After supper at about 1900 hours the company moved out with the 4th platoon following the leading two platoons. We moved down the Metz road toward Forbac in a squad column. After going for about a half mile we came to the town of Stering Wendle. Upon reaching this place we were held up for about half an hour so as to get the route in which we were to take mapped out. The going was pretty slow going through the town for the route which we took was difficult for we couldn't take but only one route. The reason was because of many wire entanglements and anti tank ditches, also probable mine fields.

After traveling about half way through the town the company was held up and we were assigned to billets that we were to sleep in. It took only a very few minutes for all the fellows to get to sleep for it was then about 23:00 hours. We had all been in the sack about an hour and then the word came that we were to move out in just a few minutes. It was only a few minutes and we were all lined up and ready to go. Here is where the boys with the bicycles had to leave bicycle food and all behind. We picked up our Mortars and MG's at this place and took off.

For about three hours all we did was climb up and then down rail, road and anti tank embankments. At about 3A. M. the Company came to a stop and the platoons were assigned to billets. This time we were told we would be there for the rest of the night and to get all the sleep possible.

The 4th platoon moved in a house that people were living in and there must have at least been a dozen. The guys were piled all over the floors and what beds they had and Couch was sleeping on a big

buffet. The woman of the house had already kicked him off two times but she finally gave up hopes. Sgt. Chase found a baby bed up in the attick and there is where he spent the rest of the night. The Krauts were throwing a little artillery and mortar fire in occasionally and it was a little risky staying up in the attick but where there were ~~HI~~ beds you would find GI's.

About 8 the next morning or on the morning of the 14th we were awakened and told to roll our blanket rolls and be ready to move out in a hour or less.

Some time during this time and when we moved out a Kraut that had been hiding in a basement for 9 days came out and gave him self up. He had been waiting for the American soldiers to come. He was a young and pretty worn out looking guy. Well it wasn't long before Company Hq. had him loaded with two spools of wire, a phone and some other stuff. He had his overcoat on and the day was pretty <sup>warm</sup> ~~hot~~ so he had a pretty uncomfortable time of it.

We left this town about a hour after getting up and made our way up to the lines. The Krauts were moving pretty fast at this time so we had about two miles to go before catching up. This was slow going for for we knew not exactly where the enemy was.

It was at least noon or later before we reached the leading Companies, which were A and B Co. We were supposed to move in between the two companies and take up the attack with them but on this day we moved right in behind the two companies and dug in for the night. WE dug in on a hill about 400 yds. behind the line. The hill was wooded and before it was too late we all had pretty good fox holes dug with splinter proof tops.

We had a fair nights rest and at dawn we were all up and ready to move out. We were to move out through or between A and B Co. Slowly we made our way and it wasn't long before the rifle platoons ran on to resistance. The snipers were pretty well located and gave us more trouble than anythang. The terrain was heavy wooded and there was a thick undergrowth to go through. This made things pretty rough going for the snipers were extremely hard to locate. It was early in the afternoon before we pushed the Krauts off the hill and here is where we were stopped. We could go no further for we were looking right into the face of the Siegfried Line. We did make an attempt or so but each time we were stopped by machine gun

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and automatic fire. The enemy also had our positions zeroed in with mortar and artillery fire.

Two of our rifle platoons were pinned down with fire from the enemy and the mortars were called in to try and knock out a couple of machine gun nests. S/Sgt Bartram chose mortar positions and ran wire to a forward OP and he directed our fire. At this time our artillery opened up with a heavy concentration. The Krauts started running from trenches and fox holed to the pill boxes that made up that part of the Siegfried Line. It was here that we sure had a field day for with our light 60 mortars we could run the Krauts down as they made for the pill boxes. In the midst of all this S/Sgt Bartram was hit in the right hand with either shrapnel or a machine gun bullet. Despite this Bartram kept directing our fire.

We later got the word that we were to move to our right and fill up a gap that was between us and B Co. A Co. was to occupy the positions we were in.

The Company moved back so as to move into the new positions. During this time Bartram's hand had swelled and he was taken to the Battalion aid. After about an hour and a half we had moved back and around and was in the new positions. By this time it was almost dark and we immediately started digging our fox holes. A carrying detail was sent back about 600 yds. to a place we had previously dropped our blankets and brought up enough blankets for one each.

There was a couple cages that looked as if some animal had been kept in them and it was only a short time before some of us had our claim on them. They were cement buildings and looked as though they were as safe as a fox hole so that was really ok not to have to dig. After cleaning them we spread blankets out and hit the hay.

The next day "March 16" the Krauts gave us quite a lot of trouble. Their snipers were picking our men off right and left. The 4th platoon wasn't losing any men for we were pretty well located and couldn't be seen by the Kraut Snipers.

On this morning we decided it best to draw back about 100 yds so as to get away from losing so many men to snipers. We dug in at this place and the riflemen took up our old positions. We were getting quite a lot of artillery and mortar fire so we had to stay pretty close by our holes.

Late in the afternoon hot chow was brought to us and believe me it sure was OK for it was the first we'd had except K's for some time.

After dark we moved back to the positions we occupied the night before.

It was on this night that a BCo. man had been wounded during the day but he couldn't be carried out because of snipers. Two of our men Pfc's Billy Dees and Harry D. Brown went with a couple medics and carried the man out. On their way back they were caught in a barrage and one time they were all blown by the concussion, down a small but steep hill. The Wounded man managed to stay on the litter and they finally ~~MADE~~ made it back OK.

The next day the Krauts gave us hell again. Nine men from the rifle platoons had been wounded by snipers and every time one of the ffilemen would move he was shot at. Even two of our medics was wounded. The snipers were too close to use artillery so they ask for 60 mortar fire. The mortors were set up in relatively open positions and ~~XX~~ T/Sgt. Curtis was up front directing the fire. After firing several rounds and giving the Krauts a little of their own medacine one of the German "88's" hit within 3yds of our mortar position. Three men were wounded, Pfc. Harry DBrown, Pfc. WAREN E. Culp, and Sgt. L.F. Belew. One of the mortors was knock out of action so this ended the 60's for awhile.

A little later in the day the Co. moved back about 200 or 300 yds. Here we dug in and just held fast in case the Krauts decided to counter attack. Later in the afternoon Sgt. Belew came back to the platoon for he was very slightly wounded.

Nothing more exciting happend on this day so most everyone had a pretty good nights rest. We did have hot chow again.

On the morning of the 18th we improved our positions and just lay around and took it easy. The MG section was used with the leading platoon as protective fire in case of a counter attack.

One couldn't take it too easy for occasionally the enemy would drop a couple or so rounds in. There was one incident that must have been more of a miracle than anythang. Sgt. Maine was standing about five feet from his hole and a mortar shell hit within three yds. of him and blew him a few feet through the air and he hit right in his hole. All he got out of it was a little skinned place on his back and a hole or two in his clothes. His rifle we rittled and

he had some clothing hanging on a tree that was completely riddled.

In the afternoon hot chow was brought out and we had mail. Several of the fellows received packages and there is nothing like a package from home when on the front line.

On the morning of the 19th the whole fourth platoon moved back about three hundred yds to some buildings. This was certainly a good break for a building beats a fox hole any day. The company CP was just a few yds. from our building. The CP was caves dug out in the side of a hill and the rooms were large and had been cut through solid rock.

Most all day we did nothing except fix the basement of the house so we could be as comfortable as possible. We went through all the houses and got all the soft mattresses and feather beds. Also we carried the softest chairs to the basement. Before the day was over we had a place that looked like a palace compared to what we had been living in.

All in all this was a very nice and restful day and most of it was spent doing very little of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ anything.

\*On the morning of the 16th Lt. Robert Carlson became the 4th platoons new platoon leader. He had just recently been field commissoned. Lt. Carlson Has been with the company since its origin back in the states about two years ago.

## HISTORY OF FOURTH PLATOON (MARCH 20 MARCH 25)

During the night of the 19th and 20th we had got the word that the Krauts were withdrawing their troops. Knowing this we were given the word that we were to move on the morning of the 20th. We were to push through the Siegfried line and across the Saar River and on into Saarbrücken.

Early on the morning of the 20th the company moved out. Before going far five Germans were captured. They were in a pill box. We were given orders not to touch anything for fear of being booby trapped, but Pollard picked up a bike and a couple of the boys from the mortars picked up a couple of blue blankets. At this time word came that we were to move back and that 275th was going to relieve us, This trip back was a rather fast gate and at some places the men in the weapons had a heck of a time trying to keep up with their weapons and ~~mix~~ equipment. A little after noon we arrived at the Co Supply and were given rations and our gas masks and were told that we were to wait on trucks to take us farther up front but after waiting a couple of hours no trucks so started walking we soon met ~~x~~ the trucks but were picked up by plt. and the fourth was last so we were the last to be picked up and from there we rode across the Saar to a town by the name of <sup>ROCKENHAUSEN</sup> ~~Habsterdick~~ which was on the banks of the Saar here we were given a house to sleep in. Most of the fellows got a good night sleep and was swell to sleep without the sound of artillery and only pulling ~~x~~ a couple hours of billets guard.

On the day of the 21st most of the fellows spent their time sleeping and writing letters but some of the fellows looked over the town which was a wreck and by noon the word came back that there was a keg of beer down town so Couch and some of the fellows started to look for it in about a hour here they came back with about five gallons of strawberry jam they gave part of it to the mess hall the rest the mortars took but it was not long before the MG were over to the bloomergirls asking for some Jam but there was enough for everyone. That afternoon the plt received three new men they were Pfc Baril, Childress and Clark, Baril had been in Italy and just came to the ETO. That night we were called together and were told that we were in the reserve Div. of the reserve Regt. of the Reserve Bn and Co so of course that ~~make~~ ~~us~~ all feel good.

On the morning of the 22nd we had Hot Cakes for chow, and I think everyone enjoyed them as we had not had any for some time. Was this morning one of the old men came back from the hospital it was Pfc Edward Kempton knowned as "Blackie" to most of the fellows. After dinner word came that we were moving up again but to a town with electric lights so we rolled our rolls and the trucks came and we moved to Fredrickstal, we were given some nice homes and sure enough there was electric lights.

On the 23rd we had classes on our weapons and in the afternoon we cleaned our weapons and were told that we were going to have a ~~running~~ ~~patrol~~ roaming patrol so from about 1600 on we tried to catch a wink of sleep and one patrol went out. It was this after that Pfc. Kenyon of the Machine Gun section found a old car and with a little work here he came now the Plt. had a car and what a car the battery was on the outside and almost as large as the car itself. We kept these patrols up till the morning of the 24th when were told that we were go to another little town This was quite a ride and the road were quite dusty and the trip took about all day and late in the evening of 24th we arrived in Otterbach, the 4th Plt was housed on the edge of town with the M.G. section in a little house overlooking the country and the Mortors in the same house that the supply was in along the main road and was it dusty but that night there came a little rain and ~~xxxx~~ settled the dust.

On the morning of the 25th we were given orders to move to a little town by the name of Erlenbach about 5 kilometers from Otterbach and this time was to be the Inf way walking. It was hotter than heck that morning or it seemed that was to us as we had most of our winter cloths on. When we arrived at this town we were told that we were the only troops in it and was to have strick guard duty and also warned again about fraternization. The Machine gun section was housed on the main road and placed a machine gun on the road while the Mortors were up on a little hill overlooking the road and were also able to set the mortors to cover either road. The C.P. was in the School house in the middle of town it was there were we went after our chow.