

drawals to safety. He brought them up to the hedgerow a sixth time as they heard the nearest tank changing its position. Sergeant Steelman planned to clear his way by getting at the tank with a bazooka, and then eliminating the machine guns. To locate the guns, he deliberately walked across the gaps, provoking the machine gun crews into declaring themselves. In crossing the second gap, he was killed instantly.

Company A lost its commanding officer, a platoon leader, and others from the artillery. That afternoon, the Company consisted of 42 men. Company strength in most companies was approximately a platoon. Company A had only one mortar left and it was the only effective weapon they had against the well dug-in enemy. This mortar was set up in the middle of the clearing before a hedgerow to get sufficient mass clearance. Pfc. George B. Boston and Pfc. Nathan Daniels manned the mortar under continuous small arms and artillery fire without cover. They refused to interrupt their fire to dig. They fired 136 rounds, and by their persistence and accuracy disorganized the enemy so that they fled, leaving their dead and wounded lying over the entire area. This was remarkable, because the Germans almost always took pains to bury or evacuate their dead. We seldom had the consolation of comparing their casualties to ours.

When the advance of C Company was stopped by extremely heavy fire, Sergeant Robert W. Chapin chose to lead his squad around the flank through a deep draw. It was a dangerous maneuver, yet when he took the position of lead scout, his squad moved out. On the way, he was mortally wounded by a machine gun covering the draw, but before he died, he was able to direct his squad by a slightly different route into the enemy flank. The enemy, with his position flanked, withdrew.

By evening, we were at least in sight of Troisgots. During the day eight men were killed, 86 wounded, and seven were missing. In the early morning, the Third Battalion had suffered casualties from an enemy bombing and strafing. That afternoon, we were given air support, the fire of which fell short and was withdrawn by request. During the night, enemy planes bombed the Regimental and rear areas, causing some loss in personnel and vehicles. After that, enemy planes appeared with such regularity each night that they were referred to as "Bed-Check Charlie," and no one went to sleep until Charlie had his go at us.

The Regiment had about the same mission on the 30th.



"Ooh!—Colonel!"

The attack began late in the morning, supported by tanks. The Germans also used a good many tanks, very effectively, two of which took pleasure running through the First Battalion lines, seemingly unaffected by the fire placed upon them. They soon found that a bazooka packs a terrific wallop.

Throughout the day, we maintained strong pressure, but with little progress. In the afternoon General Hobbs directed for the first time that a church steeple—at Troisgots—be knocked out since it might be an artillery observation post. In a short time it was hit and burning, and that much we had accomplished.

The understrength platoon of tanks with the Third Battalion was lost to the action; one had been hit, two had engine trouble, and the remaining one was forced to withdraw. Before nightfall, the 35th Division attacked south on the opposite side of the Vire, and there was some hope that the deadlock would be broken. During the day there were nine killed, 79 wounded, and five missing.

According to the attack order for the 31st, Troisgots was to be attacked simultaneously from both flanks as well as frontally from the north. The western flank was to be attacked by K Company with a company of tanks from the 743rd Tank Battalion, and the eastern flank was to be at-



"Would you care to have dinner with me, John?—Processed American cheese, you know—"

tacked by the Second Battalion, also with a company of tanks from the 743rd. The First and Third Battalions were to move up from their previous positions, the First being on the left. A company of light tanks, D Company, was sent to cover our left rear along the river. The push jumped at 0700 with slow progress. The enemy had most of the roads blocked and mined, and resisted actively with artillery, mortars, small arms, and a considerable force of tanks.

In the Third Battalion sector, Sgt. Joseph K. Delke and Pfc. Robert E. Look were engaged in clearing the roads. To reach one road block under observation of the enemy, they had to crawl 200 yards on their stomachs. After reaching the block, they crawled around from one mine to another, digging them out with trench knives and neutralizing a large number of attached booby traps. They labored in this manner for two hours before the block was neutralized.

Company L located the position of one very obstinate tank and found a possible route of getting at it. A call was sent for bazooka men, only to find that all the bazooka men of the two lead platoons had become casualties. S/Sgt. Frank H. Owens and Pfc. Elbert Whisnant, amateurs with a bazooka, volunteered to take a crack at the tank. They obtained a bazooka and crawled with it along a hedgerow some distance ahead of the foremost troops. Then, making a dash across an open space, they reached a firing position within close range

of the tank. The first rocket launched struck the turret, killing the gunner and knocking the tank out. Company L was able to move up several rows.

With the help of artillery applied to enemy strong points and tanks, the attack staggered slowly ahead. The tanks with the Second Battalion were sent off to help the First Battalion, and as a result, the Second Battalion, without them, was slowed down by small arms fire. Around noon, K Company's tanks were ready to move into Troisgots, but were held up by fire from enemy tanks inside the town. The light tanks were brought up from the left rear and committed in the Second Battalion sector, only to be promptly stopped by enemy artillery.

In the course of the afternoon, the enemy tanks inside Troisgots were knocked out one by one, and by 1630 both the First and Third Battalions were in the town while the rest of the Second Battalion cleaned up outside the town. By nightfall, practically all resistance had ceased. All elements dug in covering the river crossing and reverted to Division reserve.

Seventeen men were killed, 80 wounded, and eight missing. Twenty-one prisoners were captured.

AUGUST

Le Mesnil Adelee—Le Mesnil Tove—Romagny—Mortain—Les Forges — Brezolles — Droisy—Evreax—Flacourt—Seine Crossing — Porcheville — Ablemont—Vigny—Livillerex.

We had broken out of the Normandy Peninsula by the end of July and the Third Army was heading south across the Brittany Peninsula. The German line still held against the English at Caen and was anchored at Vire, to the southeast of St. Lo, but below there it seemed to have given way completely. The Germans had not succeeded very well in stopping the drive south by attacking its flank at Troisgots, nor had they been successful in withdrawing any great number of their troops out of the Normandy Peninsula.

For the first few days in August, the 119th Infantry rested from its hard fighting. Some were able to get hot showers, and a USO troupe showed up to entertain us. Red Cross clubmobiles also appeared and though there was no time to make coffee, there were doughnuts and girls. Less officially, of course, there was calvados.

On the third of August, the Second Battalion was at-

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120th Infantry, attached Company B, 743d Tank Battalion, and Company C, 92d Chemical Battalion continued attack to South with 2d and 3d Battalions at 300700B, but were unable to move forward due to strong enemy resistance. At 301530B a second coordinated attack was made and a slight advance was made. At the close of the period Regt occupied positions between 117th and 119th Infantry. 1st Battalion in division reserve continued to occupy and consolidate areas.

743d Tank Battalion, (-), remained attached to 117th Infantry and Company B was attached to 120th Infantry.

823d Tank Destroyer Battalion continued direct support division to south and southeast.

Division artillery continued support of division's advance to south.

531st AAA AW Battalion between 2300B and 2330B engaged unknown number of enemy planes that were dropping flares, bombing and strafing. Battery A claimed one destroyed, Battery C, one damaged, neither confirmed.

30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mezc, maintained contact between 117th Infantry and 116th Infantry.

Company A, 92d Chemical Battalion remained attached to 117th Infantry and Company C remained attached 120th Infantry.

Division continued its attack to south and southeast at 0700B against strong enemy opposition which included artillery, mortar, machine gun, and well emplaced infantry and at close of period was in positions as outlined above.

25. 31 July.

117th Infantry with Company A, 92d Chemical Battalion, attached, continued its attack at 310800B and immediately met with heavy enemy resistance consisting of fire from 88mm guns, dug-in tanks, and infantry. A slight advance of 200 - 300 yards was made and at end of period the regiment remained in position prepared to continue advance to south on division order.

119th Infantry, 743d Tank Battalion, attached, continued attack at 310700B. At 0925B light tanks blocked area at LA FOSSE which 2d Battalion had evacuated. At 1025B 2d Battalion entered TROISGOTS with tanks. Progress was slow until town of TROISGOTS was taken. At close of period the regiment objective had been seized and troops were in process of consolidating and establishing active defensive positions along line (504510), (512520), (510527).

120th Infantry with Company C, 92d Chemical Battalion attached, continued the attack at 310800B in column of battalions (3d - 2d) and immediately met enemy resistance consisting of fire from 88's, dug-in tanks, and riflemen. 1st Battalion continued to remain in division reserve until relieved by 2d Battalion at 311600B. 2d Battalion was in division reserve in position, prepared to actively defend that sector or repel counter-attack. At close of period the 1st battalion was in position vicinity (510530), 3d Bn in line LES MESNIL OPAC to stream junction (497507) and 2d Battalion on line (510530) (520537) prepared to continue attack on division order.

743d Tank Battalion was attached to 119th Infantry.

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areas by 1530, established blocks on the bridges over the Vire River, and set up all around defense. During the day 236 prisoners were taken, 24 were killed, 116 wounded and 29 missing.

On the morning of July 28th the 3rd Battalion moved a short distance south but continued their former mission of preventing enemy use of the bridge over the Vire. At 1205 a warning order was received for the regiment (less 3rd Battalion) to prepare to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of St. Romphaire, and at 1230 the march order was issued.

At 1315 the 3rd Battalion reported that they had closed into their new area. At 1415 the 2nd Battalion reported crossing the Initial Point, but the completion of the move was somewhat delayed since the 117th Infantry was fighting in the area to be occupied, however, at 1645 the battalions cleared into their area. The C.P. moved at 1800 to just south of le Ronceur. Hot food was served for supper for the first time since the push started and the officers each received two bottles of wine, captured from the Germans in Cherbourg.

At 2045 the 3rd Battalion was moved from their position along the river to a new area further down. As of 1200 the Division had reverted to the XIX Corps. 7 were killed, 35 wounded, 5 missing and 1 prisoner was captured.

At 0330 July 29th Field Order Number 17 was received from division directing that the regiment attack to the south between the 117th and 120th Infantries and seize the area east of Eourniere and Troisgots. The 1st and 2nd Battalions attacked abreast at 0800 with the 1st Battalion on the right.

At 0720 the C.P. moved to a farm house about 200 yards east of le Vivier, where it was visited by the Division Commander, the Assistant Division Commander, and the Division Chief of Staff at different times during the morning. At about 1000 the 3rd Battalion was released to regiment and ordered into the attack on the right of the 1st Battalion. Heavy resistance was encountered all day and artillery fire was placed on the bridges crossing the Vire River. Air support was also flown, but since some of the fire hit friendly troops, it was requested that it be withdrawn. 86 men were wounded, 8 killed, 7 were missing.

During the night the C.P. and rear areas were bombed, causing some casualties and losses in vehicles. This was repeated for several nights thereafter, until the planes came to be called "Bed Check Charlie".

On July 30th, the regiment had essentially the same mission. At 1130 the attack started, supported by tanks. The Germans also used a number of tanks and these were very effective. Throughout the day pressure was maintained but little progress was made. At 1445 General Hobbs directed that the church steeple at Troisgots be knocked out since it was a possible artillery observation post. At 1600 it was reported hit and burning. The platoon of tanks with the 3rd Battalion went out of action, one hit, two with engine trouble, and the remaining one forced to withdraw because of lack of tank sup-

port. At 1800 the 35th Division on our left flank attacked south on the other side of the Vire River. During the day 9 were killed, 79 wounded and 5 were missing.

For July 31st, the attack order was issued at midnight July 30th, directing the 2nd Battalion with Company "B", 743rd Tank Battalion attached, to attack at 0700, going around the left flank of the 1st Battalion and capturing the eastern portion of Troisgots, then to proceed to the bridge west of Bosqpatin and prepare it for demolition and cover it with by fire. "K" Company with Company "C", 743rd Tank Battalion attached, was to attack at 0700, going around the right flank of the 3rd Battalion and siezing the western portion of Troisgots.

At 0925 the light tanks, "D" Company 743rd Tank Battalion, in regimental reserve were ordered to the left rear to cover the crossings on the river which the 2nd Battalion had been watching. At about 1000 Lt. Colonel Seawright, Commanding Officer of the 197th Field Artillery Battalion, came to the C.P. to aid in securing artillery fires. At 1030 a ten minute artillery concentration was ordered, followed by a resumption of the attack, which had bogged down. At 1105 the tanks of the 2nd Battalion were sent over in front of the 1st Battalion to give them aid. The 2nd Battalion advanced slowly since they encountered considerable small arms fire.

At 1215, "K" Company reported^{ed} that its tanks were preparing to move into Troisgots, but at 1250 it was reported that enemy tanks in the town were holding up the advance of ours. At 1310 the light tanks, "D" Company, were committed thru the 2nd Battalion with "G" Company platoon from the bridge over the Vire protecting them. At 1315 they received artillery fire.

Through the afternoon the enemy tanks were knocked out one by one, and by 1630 both the 1st and 3rd Battalions were in the town. "F" Company was attached to the tanks to clean up the town while the remainder of the 2nd Battalion cleaned up the territory outside the town. At 1700 the light tanks were reinforced by a platoon of medium tanks and at 1715 another company of the 2nd Battalion was attached to the tanks. The bridge to the south was reported at 1710 as being blown by 35th Division Artillery. By 2000 practically all resistance had been cleared out and the 2nd Battalion units were released by the tanks. All elements dug in to a defensive position covering the river crossing but actually the regiment went into Divisional Reserve. There were 17 killed, 80 wounded, 8 missing and 21 prisoners were captured.

Submitted herewith Unit Journal and supporting papers for report for period.

For the Commanding Officer:

Charles G. Smither
CHARLES G. SMITHER
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

CLASSIFICATION CAPTIONED
by *J. F. J. J. J.*
on *16 August*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The 30th Infantry Battles Way to Highest Laurels

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION—The 30th Infantry's attached tank battalion, made up almost entirely of north-westerners and commanded by Lt. Col. William D. Duncan, of Sioux Falls, S.D., fought its way ashore 10 minutes before H-Hour on D-Day, received a Presidential citation for subsequent operations, and since then has "rested" altogether about five days.

Four sergeants were given battlefield commissions, other men have won a mass of Distinguished Service Crosses and Silver Stars—and well over 50 German tanks and self-propelled guns knocked out prove they're good.

T/4 William A. Paulhamus, a mechanic from Williamsport, Pa., worked under a hell of enemy fire on the beaches to put five knocked-out tanks back into battle.

Pvt. Irvin H. Reddish, of Lincoln, Neb., a tank-dozer driver, saw his commander wounded in the landing so Reddish dragged him from the tank turret under fire to comparative safety 125 yards away, then returned to take command of his vehicle and lead it in every fight from then on.

Orlyn H. Folkstad, a youngster from Clinton, Minn., was commissioned on the battlefield. When his platoon leader was killed on D-Day Folkstad took over, and later he took command of his entire

company when the company commander was wounded.

Gerard B. Peterson, of Perley, Minn., Floyd M. Jenkins, of Jamaica, Ia., and Millard A. Glantz, of Melbourne, Ia., have won battlefield commissions by similar actions.

In a recent fight near Tessy Lt. Harry F. Hansen's company, which had only five tanks left, was pinned in an unhealthy position by terrain and a couple of heavy German tanks up ahead. The Baltimore officer crawled from his tank and, with two bazooka-firing doughboys, sneaked into a building behind the German vehicles. Accurate bazooka fire knocked out both tanks.

S/Sgt. James S. DuQuoin, of Kansas City, Mo., a communications chief, was bringing a radio ashore in the initial landing. Despite the action he went on to a previously-chosen spot on the beach and provided good communications for the battalion until he was relieved.

T/4 Henry J. Shicks, of Faribault, Minn., warned tanks behind of a hidden 88 that had knocked out his tank, then went back to his vehicle while it was under artillery fire to save his wounded driver.

Duncan, originally the battalion operations officer, took over on the beach after his CO was hit by shell fragments. In the next 12 days his unit fought in support of five different American regiments from the British sector to Carentan.

July 29 -

- 0730 - Battalion moved up in the rear of 1st and 2nd Bns., this regiment. This regiment passed through 120th Infantry Reg't and attacked Southeast to consolidate positions along Vire River.
- 1200 - This Battalion committed around right of the 1st Bn, mission of seizing and preparing Bridge for demolition.
- 1220 - Company I, leading company encountered rifle and MG fire from the right.
- 1630 - Encountered five enemy tanks which delayed operation, TD's, battalion AT guns, and Bazookas placed into action.
- 2200 - Still delayed by enemy tanks and small arms fire. Positions consolidated for the night.
- 2300 - Enemy Aircraft bombed and strafed; Co. K suffered Casualties.

July 30 -

- 0500 - Enemy Aircraft attacked, bombed and strafed, no casualties reported.
- 0800 - Battalion commenced straightening their line, received reinforcements some light and medium tanks.
- 1300 - Little progress made, two of our tanks were knocked out of action. 1st Bn this reg't to pass through our positions. This Bn to revert to Regimental Reserve.
- 2200 - Still little progress made, battalion held up by emplaced weapons both automatic and light, self-propelled artillery.

July 31 -

- 0100 - Enemy Air Attack, bombed and strafed, no casualties.
- 0700 - Company K with tanks attached, in the lead, and Company I, on the left, Company L, on the right moved forward and renewed attack.
- 1700 - With aid of artillery, tanks, and bazookas, battalion moved forward several hundred yards knocking out of action enemy emplaced weapons and tanks. Company I, pinched out by Company K and 1st Bn.
- 1715 - Company F this reg't with plat of light and plat of medium tanks coming down along river and plan to swing northwest and come in, in rear of enemy holding up this Battalion.
- 2030 - Companies L and K flushed the enemy from village of Troisgots and advanced their lines beyond town and organized defensive positions.
- 2200 - Positions consolidated and commenced digging in. Bn op set up in town of Troisgots.

Aug. 1 -

- Luftwaffe paid nightly visit at 0005, no casualties.
- 0700 - Patrol from Companies I, and L sent down to reconnoiter and secure bridge. Combat Patrols sent out to clean out any remaining enemy pockets.
- 1100 - Reconnaissance Patrol reported seven enemy tanks knocked out in this Battalion sector, remaining part of day devoted to strengthening positions and reorganizing companies.
- 1900 - Hot chow served

Aug. 2 -

- Bn moved CP to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Troisgots. Hot meals was served, and this battalion received hot showers.