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HEADQUARTERS
492D ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 261, U.S. ARMY

1 February 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against the Enemy for the Period 23 Dec 1944 to 31 Jan 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 11th Armored Division

1. The following report is submitted of the action of the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion against the enemy for the period 23 December 1944 to 31 January 1945, as required by AR 345-105, C3.

DECEMBER 1944

- 23 The 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion consisting of 32 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, and 487 Enlisted men, was encamped in an open field at Soissons, France, where they had arrived from a three-day overland march the night before. In view of the imminent threat to Liege, Belgium, it was first planned to remain at Soissons indefinitely, but orders were received to move 20 miles further to the north to Laon, France, where French barracks would be at the unit's disposal. Shortly before march order was given at 1330 the battalion had its first casualty when Private Guillermo R. Gonzales, ASN 39539044, of Battery "A" received an accidental wound in his foot from a sub-machine gun. He was evacuated to the nearest hospital. Stories of German paratroopers dropping in the area had continued to reach the battalion, and for the short march from Soissons to Laon, machine guns were uncovered and the men were ordered to carry their weapons ready to fire. The French barracks were reached at 1530, vehicles were put under cover of buildings and men were assigned to sleeping quarters. Work was begun immediately to put track extensions on the tanks that night.
- 24 At 0200 the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was ordered by Division Headquarters to stand ready to move to the front at 0630 the same morning. Duffle bags and foot lockers were unloaded at this point. At 0630 Field Order No. 5, Headquarters CCA, was brought in. The 11th Armored Division, as part of the VIII Corps, had been ordered to move immediately "to secure bridge in vicinity of Sedan, France and Charleville, France; contact British Forces to the north; establish and maintain contact with the enemy northeast of the Meuse River." After hasty briefing, the battalion moved out at once and proceeded north to Rozoi, France, where Battery "C" was assigned to Task Force White under Lt Col AHEE. The remainder of the battalion stayed in Task Force BLUE under Lt Col BRADY and continued north to Givet, France, prepared for action against the enemy, on order. After being formed at Rozoi, Task Force WHITE went into bivouac about three miles east of Aubigny, France in which vicinity it remained for several days. At Givet the main part of the battalion crossed the River Meuse, contacted units of the British 11th Armored Division, and then returned across the river. The Meuse was crossed again further south at Vireux-Molhain and the battalion went into positions $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Vireux-Wallerand at 1945. Overlays of pre-arranged fires were prepared for the forward observers to take forward to the 63d Armored Infantry Battalion where the observers reported for further instructions.
- 25 The battalion remained in the same position. Negative reports were received from both observers, but from other sources reports came in throughout the day of steady German advances, of the capture of Ciney, Belgium and St. Hubert, Belgium, of the slowly tightening ring around Bastogne, Belgium. All units were warned of German soldiers in the vicinity wearing U.S. uniforms and driving U.S. vehicles. Two Germans disguised as priests were reported captured at nearby Givet. Ordered to find a new position on the west side of the Meuse, the battalion moved that evening to Mazee, a small village on the Belgium border, just over a mile northeast of Vireux-Molhain. Defensive fires were prepared

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- 25 Contd.
and distributed to the forward observers and to the 63d Armored Infantry Battalion.
- 26 A CCA order was received attaching a platoon of Battery "C" 575th AAA Battalion to the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion, and a defense plan to protect the Viroux bridge was drawn up in conjunction with Company "B", 63d Armored Infantry Battalion. The battalion liaison planes arrived at 1100, landing on air strips selected near Treignes, Belgium, and observer missions were flown from 1300 to 1600. Negative enemy reports were received from these missions. Around 2215 that night a single German plane, later identified as a JU 88, flew back and forth over the battery positions several times, drawing considerable AA fire from guns to the east and northeast. Word was received that same night that the 17th Airborne Division was to relieve elements of the 11th Armored Division the next day with the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion to remain where it was and support the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The relief operation was carried out as planned, and Battery "C", now no longer a part of Task Force WHITE, rejoined the Battalion at noon. The German line ringing Bastogne was broken at 1700, when OCB of the 4th Armored Division drove through to contact the encircled forces of the 101st Airborne Division and the 9th and 10th Armored Divisions. The enemy, however, had continued his assault on the Bastogne salient with an attack on the west and southwest portion of the broken circle. On the eastern tip of the breakthrough the Germans were reported only four miles from Dinant, Belgium, a town on the Meuse, 25 miles north of the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion's position. All this time enemy infiltration tactics continued. Three Germans dressed in American uniforms were captured at 1310 by Company "B", 2 Battalion 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment on Mount Viroux, overlooking the battalion gun positions. Parachutists had dropped at Recroi. Communication wires between the CP and the firing batteries were broken several times during the night. In at least one instance, communication personnel reported cuts were deliberate.
- 27 There was no enemy activity except that enemy aircraft was reported in the area.
- 28 The Battalion remained in the same position and no enemy activity was reported.
- 29 When the Meuse River had been completely turned over to the 17th Airborne Division, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion reverted to CCA control, and at 0200 the 11th Armored Division began a forced march of 85 miles through Fumay to Recroi to Charleville to Sedan to Carignan, to Florenville to an assembly area in the vicinity of Neufchateau, Belgium. The area was reached at 1340 and the Battalion went into temporary positions at Trenquey while reconnaissance was made for new firing positions further north.
- 30 At 0230 march order was given and the battalion went into position northeast of Remumont, Belgium, and readied itself for the attack. The situation here was vastly different from that at Viroux. Into the corridor which had been opened to Bastogne by the 4th Armored Division, the Germans were now moving large concentrations of troops to the southwest in order to cut off the only highway leading out of the city (the Bastogne-Neufchateau road). An estimated 10,000 men and 70 tanks were holding a line running from St. Hubert east to Remagne and Sibrot, then on to Bastogne. Three divisions were known to oppose Allied forces in this sector - the 15th Panzer-Grenadier Division, the 130th Panzer Lehr Division, and elements of the 5th Parachute Division. Strong forces were reported massing in the town of Remagne, and in some places Germans were only a thousand yards from the vital Bastogne-Neufchateau highway.

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30 Contd

The mission of the Division was to attack north, relieve the threat to the highway, and push forward to the objective north of Bastogne. Division Artillery was to furnish close fire support to the attack of the Division. The 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was placed in general support, with the 490th Armored Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of OCA and the 491st Armored Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of OCB. One Battalion OP and three forward OP's were established east of Freux overlooking the enemy occupied town of Remagne. The first round fired from the Battalion in combat was fired by the No. 1 gun section of Battery "C" by mistake. At 1200 Battery "C" fired on the town of Remagne. The first battalion target was enemy personnel around a building. Three more battery missions and one battalion mission were fired before darkness. One Tiger or Panther tank was burned, two Mark IV tanks were knocked out, and an unknown number of personnel were killed. The first battalion casualty in combat was Corporal Stanley V. Nelson, ASN 1218453, of Headquarters Battery. Corporal Nelson, a member of a liaison section with the 101st Airborne Division, was hit by a shell fragment during an enemy air raid in Bastogne and was evacuated. Later that night the original Division plan to attack with Combat Commands abreast was changed to make way for a more powerful thrust on the second day of operations. The new plan called for a shoring up of the east flank by OCB and west flank by OCR with a direct breakthrough by OCA down the Rechrival Valley. The 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was placed in direct support of OCR.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Battalion Missions	1 Tiger or Panther Tank destroyed (burned out)
4 Battery Missions	2 Mark IV Tanks damaged
	Personnel casualties unknown
<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> Total Missions 6 *	Total Rounds Expended 244

- 31 At 0130 the battalion moved northeast about 15 miles going into position south of Morhet, Belgium at 0745. Considerable difficulty was encountered enroute because of icy roads and vehicular congestion. As soon as the new position was occupied, forward observers were sent out to the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion where liaison had already been established. The battalion started firing at 0830. The attack had just got under way when 2d Lt Virgil H. Treberg's jeep struck a mine 100 yards south of the road junction leading to Pinsamont on the road between Magerette and Tillet. When his progress had become impeded by the enemy road blocks Lt. Treberg had found a way around the blocks, and, in spite of heavy mortar and machine gun fire, hastened forward to reach the leading elements of Company "C" 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, to give them artillery support. He was killed instantly when his vehicle struck the mined area. His driver, Private First Class William Hoko, ASN 16120588, was slightly wounded and was evacuated to the 107th Evacuation Hospital at Sedan. Throughout the day nine battery missions, twelve battalion missions, and two Division Artillery missions were completed. Visibility was extremely poor, hampered as it was, by snow and thick haze. The attack went off as planned and OCR entered Magerette during the morning. The 55th Armored Infantry Battalion moved northwest at once to seize high ground then, with elements of the 22d Tank Battalion, blasted enemy troops from dug-in positions on the reverse side of the hill and entered the town of Acul. During the same period OCA captured Rechrival and OCB entered Chonogne.

* First artillery to be fired against the Nazi by 11th Armored Division Artillery.

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DECEMBER 1944

31 Contd

MISSIONS FIRED

12 Battalion Missions

9 Battery Missions

Total Missions 23

EFFECT

1 Armored counter-attack stopped in late afternoon

Vehicle, Equipment, and Personnel casualties unknown.

Total Rounds Expended 1228

JANUARY 1945

- 1 The Battalion continued to support OOR on the left flank of the Division sector. At 0735 a heavy preparation was fired on a woods 1000 yards north-west of Chenogne. The weather was clear and cold, but hazy at times so that registration was not completed until 1030.

MISSIONS FIRED

7 Battalion Missions

10 Battery Missions

3 Division Artillery Missions

Total Missions 20

EFFECT

2 Enemy Half-Tracks destroyed

2 AA Positions neutralized

1 88 mm or 105 gun destroyed

1 mortar position neutralized

Total Rounds Expended 1124

- 2 The battalion remained in position and continued to support OOR. Weather was cloudy and hazy, and registration was completed at 1000. Heavy TQT's were fired into the towns of Mande, St. Etienne, and Flamizoulle. One forward observer attempted to adjust one 155mm howitzer of the 422d Field Artillery Group on a rear CP but visibility was difficult and darkness closed in before completion of adjustment. 58 propaganda shells with Safe Passage Cards were fired by Battery "A". Harrassing and interdiction fires were started in the evening.

MISSIONS FIRED

6 Battalion Missions

16 Battery Missions

3 Division Artillery Missions

Total Missions 25

EFFECT

1 Armored counter-attack repulsed
Equipment and personnel casualties not known.

Total Rounds Expended 840

- 3 Harrassing and interdiction fires were continued during the early morning and throughout the day while the relief of the 11th Armored Division was effected. The 17th Airborne Division relieved the 11th Armored Division minus Division Artillery and 2 companies of the 22d Tank Battalion. The 802d Field Artillery Battalion, 105mm howitzer, was grouped with the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The 802d Field Artillery Battalion was located 1/2 mile west of Capon. Since the howitzers of the 681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion had not yet arrived with the rest of the 17th Airborne division, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was assigned the mission of Direct support of the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment. Liaison was maintained with the 2d and 3d battalions of the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment and with their Regimental headquarters. Two forward observers were sent out, complemented by observers from the 802d and 681st Field Artillery Battalions. By 1800 the enemy front lines generally from Pisanount through Leval, Hubermont, Millomont, Monty, and 1500 metres southeast to road junction on Bastogne road. Visibility was poor during the day, never more than 500 yards, with intermittent snow and sleet falling. Radar metro messages from VIII Corps were used to correct the registration of 1000.

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JANUARY 1945

3 Contd

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
Continuous harrassing and Interdiction	Not known
	Total Rounds Expended 1694

4 The battalion continued in direct support of the 194th Infantry Glider Regiment in the attack north at 0815. The attack proceeded successfully to Remumont. One of the forward observers 1/4 ton vehicle was damaged by shell fragments. Private Hayden Blankenship, ASN 34394778, Headquarters Battery, and Corporal Joseph V. Farber, ASN 32480198, Battery "B" were also injured by shell fragments. Liaison was maintained with the 2d Battalion, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment, and with the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment. Two enemy armored counter-attacks were repulsed by artillery in the late afternoon. At 2000 a strong enemy counter-attack pushed the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment back 2500 yards to Hounont. The battalion helped slow the counter-attack by knocking out two tanks north of Remumont.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Preparation	2 Armored counter-attacks repulsed
23 Harrassing and Interdiction	
23 Targets of Opportunity	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended 2125
47	

5 The withdrawal of elements of the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment to Hounont during the dark hours of the morning was supported by the battalion. Since the 681st Field Artillery Battalion had received its howitzers, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion reverted to general support with the secondary mission of reinforcing the fires of the 681st Field Artillery Battalion. The 802d Field Artillery Battalion pulled out at 0900.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
3 TOT	Unknown
15 Targets of Opportunity	
22 Harrassing and Interdiction	
1 Center-Battery	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended 2087
41	

6 The mission of the battalion was general support with the secondary mission of direct support of the 2d Battalion, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment. Liaison planes were grounded due to fog. Liaison was maintained with the 2d Battalion, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment, and the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment. Harrassing fire was conducted from 0001 to 0615. Two counter-attacks were fired on, one in the morning, which was stopped, and one in the afternoon, with results unknown. Enemy troops and tanks were fired on in the morning with the effect unobserved. Two road junctions and a mortar position were fired on in the afternoon with the effect unobserved. Harrassing fires were continued throughout the day. German propaganda leaflets were found in the battalion area in the morning most of them being in the vicinity of Battery "A". These pamphlets were probably fired during the night. Also an abandoned German Tiger tank was found in the woods at 468576. It was apparently left in haste when this area was overrun. Papers and notebook were found.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
2 Registrations	Not known.
33 Harrassing and Interdiction	
3 TOT	
8 Targets of Opportunity	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended 1540
46	

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- 7 Falling back in the face of an attack launched by the 17th Airborne Division in the morning German forces retreated along the entire front. At 1500 one forward observer reported that Rechrival had been taken and that Allied troops had reached Leval. The Battery Commander of Battery "H", Captain John Francis Ryan, O1167200, was wounded by mortar fragments and was evacuated.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
2 Preparations		Unknown
19 Harrassing and Interdiction		
3 TOT		
35 Targets of Opportunity		
<hr/>		
Total Missions	59	Total Rounds Expended 3063

- 8 The battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 681st Field Artillery Battalion and to fulfill the mission of general support under the 11th Armored Division Artillery. Cloudiness and heavy snow obscured visibility.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
1 TOT		Unknown
16 Harrassing and Interdiction		
9 Targets of Opportunity		
<hr/>		
Total Missions	26	Total Rounds Expended 459

- 9 Counterbattery fire was received for the first time in the firing battery areas at 1220 and 1305. The first shell landed 75 yards north of Battery "A" position (46235257). Azimuth to direction from which the shell came was estimated as 200°. The second shell landed in Battery "C"s position, injuring one man, Private First Class Fred Molson, ASN 17060963 in the leg. Azimuth to direction from which shell report came was estimated at 150°. Judging from the sound and fragments, both shells are believed to have been fired from a German gun of 150mm caliber. There is a possibility that both were ricocheted at that time. The ammunition allotment was set at 30 rounds per gun per day beginning this date.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
1 TOT		Unknown.
11 Targets of Opportunity		
1 Registration		
<hr/>		
Total Missions	13	Total Rounds Expended 378.

- 10 No enemy action was reported during what has been the quietest period along the immediate front. Troop movements further north indicated the possibility of German withdrawal with only a shell left in the way of resistance. During an adjustment on a group of enemy tanks north of Rechinont a violet smoke round was fired. Shortly thereafter Spitfire fighter planes strafed and bombed the same area.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
1 TOT		Unknown
10 Targets of Opportunity		
1 Registration		
6 Harrassing and Interdiction		
<hr/>		
Total Missions	18	Total Rounds Expended 376.

- 11 No enemy action was reported, although some enemy personnel were sighted and light mortar fire was reported by one forward observer.

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JANUARY 1945

11 Contd

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
2 TOT	1 3-gun Artillery Battery neutralized
2 Targets of Opportunity	1 vehicle set on fire
5 Harrassing and Interdiction	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
9	203

12 The battalion continued to reinforce the fires of the 681st Field Artillery Battalion until it received march order at 1300. The 11th Armored Division ordered that the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion return to Division control. The rest of the day was spent on very icy roads moving to Henroulle, Belgium, northwest of Bastogne. One gun from Battery "A" was sent ahead of the new position to register prior to darkness.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Harrassing and Interdiction	Unknown
1 Registration	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
2	54

13 The battalion arrived in position at 0200. Counterbattery fire was received in Battery "B" s position (53296060) at 0830. Two men, Private First Class William F. Miller, ASN 35293030, and Private First Class Peter E. Pagliaroni, ASN 35294166, were slightly injured by shell fragments. Estimated azimuth to direction from which fire came was 6350 A. German troops falling back before an attack by the 11th Armored Division were reported at the woods (585652) approximately half-way to Bartogne, initial objective for the Division. Both Bartogne and Compogne received heavy shelling by armored artillery during the early part of the afternoon. The mission of the battalion was general support of the attack by OCA. One forward observer was sent to the 22d Tank Battalion. 2 Forward Observers were sent out with the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. After dark the battalion took over direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion with OCA. Whereupon 3 forward observers were maintained with the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion and 3 forward observers with the 41st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized. Liaison was maintained with OCA and OCA.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Preparation	3 Enemy tanks destroyed
10 Harrassing and Interdiction	
10 Observed Fires	
2 TOT	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
23	1151

14 The battalion continued the mission of direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion with OCA. The battalion fired a preparation for the 41st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, sweeping the woods. The fire proved to be short and landed among our troops causing casualties. This fire was due to erroneous coordinates requested by the supporting unit. Firing during the day was hazardous as there was woods fighting. There were instances of fire missions that would have landed on our own troops had not the coordinates been checked before firing. It was found necessary to be extremely cautious in woods as it is difficult to identify targets as being friendly or enemy. One forward observer's tank hit two mines at 53356460 at 1200 causing track trouble. Another forward observer's 1/2 ton vehicle hit a mine at 545645 with damage to the vehicle but none to personnel. Another forward observer, 2d Lt Homer H. White, 01185351, and Staff Sergeant Frederick G. Oberle, ASN 32572563, Battery "A", were hit by shell fragments. Staff Sergeant Oberle was evacuated, but 2d Lt White stayed at his position until nightfall when he was relieved by another forward observer.

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14 Contd

Fighting a strong delaying action, enemy troops continued to fall back along the entire front. Bertogne fell to Allied hands. There were no indications of a German counter-attack by 1600. One hundred rounds of Safe Conduct passes were fired on Compoigne, Cobru, and Vaux at 1100.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Preparation	Had effective fire on tanks, personnel, AA positions, and CP's but personnel and vehicles casualties not known.
18 Targets of Opportunity	
5 Harrassing and Interdiction	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
24	1084

15 The battalion was given the mission of direct support of TF STUBBS which consisted of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 193d Glider Infantry Regiment. The forward observers with the 41st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 193d Glider Infantry Regiment who relieved the 41st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized in their sector. The attack went rapidly so that the battalion was soon firing at targets near its maximum range. The battalion displaced by echelon, Battery "A" displacing first to positions north of Longchamps.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Preparation	1 vehicle burning; CP in building dispersed; a direct hit on enemy personnel causing 40 personnel to be taken and 12 casualties.
12 Observed Fires	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
13	961

16 The battalion continued in direct support of TF STUBBS. A move to Vallenoux was contemplated but a change in the Division sector altered those plans. 2d Lt Johnnie W. Arrington, 0518268, was assigned to the battalion by VOCO Division Artillery.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
3 Targets of Opportunity	1 gun of an enemy battery knocked out
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
3	114

17 The battalion, although out of range, was not allowed to displace forward because of an order from VIII Corps which held it in place to meet any possible counter-attack. The missions from the forward observers were relayed to Division Artillery who assigned them to other artillery battalions who were in range. The system was slow and not too effective. The battalion moved to new positions at Cobru, Belgium (P57866456) at 1300 where it was unable to support TF STUBBS until relieved and also able to give general support to the 11th Armored Division.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
6 Harrassing and Interdiction	Unknown
11 Targets of Opportunity	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
17	703

18 As of 0001 the battalion reverted to general support of the 11th Armored Division. Fog and haze prevented registration.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
12 Harrassing and Interdiction	Unknown
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
12	496

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- 19 The battalion took over direct support of 55th Infantry Battalion while the Division was regrouping.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
18 Harrassing and Interdiction 2 HB Registrations		
Total Missions	20	Total Rounds Expended
		331

- 20 The battalion continued in direct support of the 55th Infantry Battalion.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	2	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Registration 1 Target of Opportunity		1 enemy occupied house destroyed, causing one enemy soldier to walk to our lines and surrender.
Total Missions	2	Total Rounds Expended
		74

- 21 11th Armored Division Field Order No. 10 ordered an attack to the vicinity of Buret (6668) and east at H hour on the 21st. The battalion was given the mission of general support, ready to revert to direct support of CCR on call. At 0500 the battalion moved out to new positions north of Bourcy (6264). Forward observers with the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion stayed in the vicinity of Bourcy while CCA moved forward to secure the Division objective. No fire lines from VIII Corps put the battalion out of range by 1600. Reconnaissance and survey was made, of new positions, east of Bourcy.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	1	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Registration		No fire directed against the enemy.
Total Missions	1	Total Rounds Expended
		54

- 22 The battalion remained in place.

NO FIRING

- 23 The 11th Armored Division accomplished its mission. The 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was ordered to rest in place and prepare for future operations. Forward observers and liaison officers returned to the battalion. General Order No. 9, Headquarters, 11th Armored Division dated 23 January 1945, awarded the Bronze Star Medal, posthumously, to 2d Lt Virgil E. Treberg, O1178373, FA, Battery "B".

NO FIRING

- 24 CCA was alerted to assist the 17th Airborne Division. The 11th Armored Division Artillery was alerted to support CCA.

NO FIRING

- 25 No change. 2d Lt William E. Gaffken, O1166717, was assigned to the battalion by VOCCO Division Artillery.

- 26 CCA alert was cancelled as the 17th Airborne Division was relieved by the 87th Infantry Division.

NO FIRING

- 27 Warning order was received from the 11th Armored Division of a pending VIII Corps attack with the 90th, 87th, and 4th Infantry Divisions to attack with the 11th Armored Division and the 95th Infantry Division in reserve. CCA and CCB were ordered to reconnoiter routes to Lommersweiler, Belgium and Burg-Rouland, Belgium. The battalion made a route reconnaissance to these towns.

NO FIRING

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28 The battalion participated in a ceremony held at Boeur at which 7 of its members were presented with decorations by the Commanding General, 11th Armored Division. The following members of the battalion were presented with awards:

SILVER STAR - 2d Lt. HOMER H. WHITE, 01165351 - General Order No. 14

BRONZE STAR MEDAL *(Staff Sergeant Arthur J. Christiansen, 17156025, Battery "C").

General Order (Tec 5 Willis R. Gravely, 33216606, Headquarters No. 13, Headquarters, 11th Armored Division, 28 Jan. 1945)

(Private First Class Laverne H. Huber, 35345768, Headquarters Battery.

(Staff Sergeant Frederick J. Oberle, 32572563, Battery "A", (Hospital).

General Order (Tec 5 Freddie H. Koith, 35498934, Battery "A" No. 14, Headquarters, 11th Armored Division, 29 Jan. 1945)

(Private First Class Emmett Stormes, 38293926, Battery "A".

(Private Robert E. May, 36883384, Battery "A".

29 No change. 2d Lt. Virgil H. Harnon, 0451530, and 2d Lt. Lee R. Scott Jr., 0556417, were assigned to the battalion by VOCO Division Artillery.

31 No Change.

LOSSES

OUR OWN FORCES

Personnel -
 Killed - 1
 Wounded - 7
 Missing - 0
 8

Material -
 1/2 Ton 4x4 - 3
 3

ENEMY FORCES

Prisoners of War - 0
 Killed and Wounded - 12
 (Estimated)

Material -
 Tiger Tanks - 1
 Mark IV Tanks - 2
 Half Tracks - 2
 88mm Guns - 1
 Vehicles - 2
 Gun Caliber Unknown - 1

9

FEBRUARY 1945

1 The opening day of the period found the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion resting in place, north of Bourcy, Belgium, and preparing for future operations, in compliance with orders. The battalion had occupied this position 21 January 1945 while in general support of the 11th Armored Division. Strength of the battalion at the beginning of the period was 34 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, and 487 enlisted men. No missions were fired.

2 No change.

3 No change.

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FEBRUARY 1945

- 4 The battalion was ordered by CCR to move to the vicinity of Steffeshausen, Belgium to support CCR. Battalion moved out at 0935, closing in the new area at 1800. Defensive fires of the 344th FA Bn. were adopted and the battalion prepared to support CCR on call. No missions were fired.
- 5 CCR made an early morning surprise attack without artillery preparation. Poor visibility during the day limited possibilities of observed fire. FO #11, Hqs 11th Armored Division placed the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion in direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. Forward observers were recalled from other elements of CCR and sent to the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
5 Targets of Opportunity	Damaged 1 Mark III Tank
1 Registration	Neutralized 1 SP Artillery Piece
<u>10 Harrassing and Interdiction</u>	
Total Missions 16*	Total Rounds Expended 266

- 6 Infantry captured objectives in Scigfried Line early in day, and dug in. Artillery support limited by poor visibility. The enemy fired heavy concentrations of artillery, mortar, rocket and small arms fire. Battalion fired many defensive fires on normal barrages and on suspected enemy positions.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
7 Defensive Fires	Enemy personnel killed and wounded.
14 Harrassing and Interdiction	
30 Targets of Opportunity	3 Pillboxes destroyed. Other results unknown.
4 TOT	
7 Propaganda	
<u>Total Missions 62</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended 1446</u>

- 7 Battalion continued in direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. CCR was unable to jump off at 0400 due to strong enemy fire. Attack was postponed due to constant heavy fire. Private Lathrop, "C" Battery, was hit by shell fragments in arm and shoulder while at forward OP.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
15 Harrassing and Interdiction	Unknown
18 Targets of Opportunity	
7 Propaganda	
1 Registration	
4 Pozit	
<u>Total Missions 45</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended 937</u>

- 8 Battalion continued in direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. Infantry remained in same locations while artillery softened up enemy positions.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
10 Harrassing and Interdiction	Unknown
20 Targets of Opportunity	
1 TOT	
1 Registration	
<u>Total Missions 32</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended 495</u>

* First artillery fire to fall on German soil by 11th Armored Division Artillery.

S E C R E T

FEBRUARY 1945

- 9 Battalion remained in direct support of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. Infantry continued defensive action and remained in same positions.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
10 Harrassing and Interdiction		
15 Targets of Opportunity		
1 TOT		
2 Registrations		
Total Missions	28	Total Rounds Expended
		635

- 10 Battalion remained in direct support of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. FO's were active during the afternoon. Several air missions were fired on enemy CP's, vehicles and gun positions. Numerous unobserved fires were fired for the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion which temporarily quieted rockets, artillery and mortars falling on front lines and the Infantry CP. Harrassing and Interdiction fires were all with Pozit.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Registration		1 enemy vehicle destroyed.
15 Targets of Opportunity		Gun positions damaged.
15 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	31	Total Rounds Expended
		508

- 11 The battalion's medium tanks were placed in indirect fire positions, but were not registered due to lack of observation. 55th Armored Infantry Battalion and 63rd Armored Infantry Battalion were relieved by elements of the 90th Infantry Division. Forward observers were withdrawn and battalion placed in general support of the 90th Infantry Division.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
6 Targets of Opportunity		
16 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	22	Total Rounds Expended
		356

- 12 The battalion remained in general support of the 90th Infantry Division. No observed missions were fired due to poor visibility.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Registration		
1 TOT		
2 Targets of Opportunity		
11 Propaganda		
4 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	19	Total Rounds Expended
		280

- 13 Battalion continued in general support of Division elements in part of sector not taken over by 90th Infantry Division. The battalion's medium tanks were registered by Air OP.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	Unknown	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Registration		
10 Targets of Opportunity		
1 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	12	Total Rounds Expended
		336

S E C R E T

FEBRUARY 1945

- 14 Battalion continued in general support of Division. Missions were fired on enemy tanks, pillboxes and gun positions.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
2 Registrations		Unknown
1 TOT		
7 Targets of Opportunity		
1 Propaganda		
Total Missions	11	Total Rounds Expended
		194

- 15 55th Armored Infantry Battalion relieved 63rd Armored Infantry Battalion in the line, and the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion took over direct support of the 55th. Missions were fired on enemy infantry, mortars and artillery.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
2 TOT		4 known enemy casualties, others unknown.
10 Targets of Opportunity		
Total Missions	12	Total Rounds Expended
		250

- 16 Visibility was limited throughout the day by low hanging fog. The Bn. fired on an enemy OP, supply dump, mortar positions and personnel.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
17 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown
2 Defensive Fires		
12 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	31	Total Rounds Expended
		462

- 17 Battalion continued in direct support of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. Firing was limited by fog. 2d Lt. Gregg awarded Purple Heart per GO #25, Hqs 11th Armored Division, for wounds received when his liaison plane made a forced landing.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
3 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown
1 TOT		
3 Counter-battery		
Total Missions	7	Total Rounds Expended
		137

- 18 CGR made a surprise attack at 0545 without artillery preparation. The 55th Armored Infantry Battalion reached their objective at 1800.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Smoke		Unknown
22 Targets of Opportunity		
1 TOT		
2 Counter-battery		
10 Harrassing and Interdiction		
Total Missions	36	Total Rounds Expended
		943

- 19 Battalion continued in direct support of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. Forward displacement was made to position 3/4 mile west of Heckhuscheid, Germany. Battalion fired many battery missions in the afternoon as the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion moved south from Leidenborn. Targets were enemy bunkers, machine guns, OP's and buildings.

S E C R E T

FEBRUARY 1945

- 19 Contd
- | <u>MISSIONS FIRED</u> | <u>EFFECT</u> |
|--|--|
| 31 Targets of Opportunity | Unknown |
| 10 Harrassing and Interdiction | |
| 2 Preparations | |
| 2 Registrations | |
| Total Missions 45 | Total Rounds Expended 854 |
- 20 Battalion continued in direct support of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion. A preparation was fired for 63rd Armored Infantry Battalion in the morning.
- | <u>MISSIONS FIRED</u> | <u>EFFECT</u> |
|--|--|
| 6 Harrassing and Interdiction | 1 Mark IV Tank disabled. Others unknown. |
| 1 Preparation | |
| 9 Targets of Opportunity | |
| 2 Registration | |
| 2 TOT | |
| Total Missions 20 | Total Rounds Expended 479 |
- 21 A heavy preparation was fired at 0700 for attack of 55th Armored Infantry Battalion on Roscheid and pillboxes to the northeast. Battalion displaced by echelon to positions 1/2 mile north of Berg, Germany.
- | <u>MISSIONS FIRED</u> | <u>EFFECT</u> |
|--|--|
| 1 Registration | |
| 12 Targets of Opportunity | 1 vehicle, 2 buildings burned, others unknown |
| 1 Preparation | |
| 2 TOT | |
| Total Missions 16 | Total Rounds Expended 566 |
- 22 Two TOT preparations were fired for attack of COR, one for 55th Armored Infantry Battalion at 0720 and one for 63rd Armored Infantry Battalion at 0805. Both units reached their objectives by 1030.
- | <u>MISSIONS FIRED</u> | <u>EFFECT</u> |
|---|---|
| 2 TOT | Unknown |
| Total Missions 2 | Total Rounds Expended 36 |
- 23 Battalion was relieved of direct support of the 55th Armored Infantry Battalion, but remained in position awaiting orders. Time devoted to care and rehabilitation of personnel and materiel. No missions were fired.
- 24 No change.
- 25 Battalion was alerted for possible move to new positions. In compliance with FO #14, Hqs. 11th Armored Division, the battalion moved to new positions in the vicinity of Habscheid. Mission of the battalion was general support of VIII Corps Artillery. A German 88mm PAK, in damaged condition, was picked up near Sengerich and brought to new position.
- | <u>MISSIONS FIRED</u> | <u>EFFECT</u> |
|---|--|
| 2 Registration | Unknown |
| 3 Harrassing and Interdiction | |
| Total Missions 5 | Total Rounds Expended 227 |

S E C R E T

FEBRUARY 1945

26 Battalion placed in general support of 90th Infantry Division.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
6 Harrassing and Interdiction		Unknown	
1 Counter-battery			
2 TOT			
6 Preparations			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	15	Total Rounds Expended	426

27 Battalion relieved of general support of 90th Infantry Division and placed in general support of 4th Infantry Division, reinforcing fires of 42d FA Bn. A preparation was fired at 0645 for attack of 4th Infantry Division.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
5 Registrations		Unknown	
9 Harrassing and Interdiction			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	14	Total Rounds Expended	264

28 Mission of the battalion was changed to general support of VIII Corps in 6th Armored Division sector. Several missions were fired through the 42d FA Bn. Missions were relayed by Liaison Officer while the 42d completed a forward displacement.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
2 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown	
8 Harrassing and Interdiction			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	10	Total Rounds Expended	266

LOSSES

OUR OWN FORCES

Personnel - 0 - Killed
 2 - Wounded
 0 - Missing
 2
 Materiel - 0

ENEMY FORCES

Prisoners of War - 1
 Killed & Wounded - 4 Known
 5
 (Other enemy casualties unknown because of lack of observation)
 Materiel -
 Mark III Tanks - 1
 Mark IV Tanks - 1
 SP Artillery Piece 1
 (Caliber unknown)
 Pillboxes - 3
 Vehicle - 1
 (Type Unknown) -
 7

S E C R E T

MARCH 1945

- 1 On the opening day of the period, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was in position near Habscheid, Germany in general support of the 4th Infantry Division. Operations Memorandum #30, Hqs. 11th Armd. Div. relieved battalion of support of the 4th Infantry Division and directed the battalion to advance to new positions. The battalion marched to new positions in the division assembly area NE of Steinsehlen, Germany in the 4th Infantry Division sector. Counterbattery fire was received during the night. Strength of the battalion at the beginning of the period was 34 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 486 Enlisted men. No firing.
- 2 Battalion was registered on BP and 2 check points by Air OP. Plans were made for attack by division through 4th Infantry Division sector for bridgeheads on the Kyll river. FO #15, Hqs. 11th Armd. Div. placed battalion in general support of division. This was changed to direct support of Task Force CHICO (Hearn) - 55th Armored Infantry Battalion and 22d Task Battalion.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

4 Registrations

<u>Total Missions</u>	4	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	64
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- 3 Reconnaissance for positions east of Prum was initiated early in the AM. Battalion marched to new positions SW of Dausfeld, Germany and was registered by Air OP. Forward observers moved out with Task Force CHICO at 1200. Light counterbattery fire was received, wounding several men. One FO tank was hit by enemy AT gun. One officer and one EM wounded. Missions were fired on enemy tanks and artillery fire. Light harrassing fire was delivered during the night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

3 Registrations
6 Preparations
4 Counterbattery
41 Targets of Opportunity
1 TOF
9 Harrassing and Interdiction

Personnel killed and wounded.
3 Tanks destroyed.
1 AT Gun destroyed.
Gun position damaged.

<u>Total Missions</u>	64	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	1276
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- 4 Many on call and observed fire missions fired in AM in support of Task Force CHICO during its attack to the east to Budesheim and on the division objective, the high ground west of the Kyll river. Reconnaissance for new positions near Weinsheim was initiated, and Battery "C" displaced at 1400. The remainder of the battalion displaced when Battery "C" was in position. Capt. Leo W. Cloutier and 2 EM were injured when their vehicle struck a mine. A light harrassing program was fired during the night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
18 Targets of Opportunity
4 Harrassing and Interdiction

Personnel killed
AT gun destroyed.

<u>Total Missions</u>	23	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	494
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- 5 Reconnaissance was made for positions in vicinity of Budesheim. Battalion moved into position and was registered. FO also registered 490th and 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalions. One mission was fired on enemy troops. A 180 round (1/2 Pozit) harrassing program was fired at night on various installations. Orders for continuation of COB's attack to Nieder and Ober Bettingen were received. Battalion remained in direct support of Task Force CHICO. Three Div Arty TOF's on towns and high ground were fired in early evening.

S E C R E T

MARCH 1945

5 Contd

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 Registration		Unknown	
1 Target of Opportunity			
3 TOT			
15 Harrassing and Interdiction			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	20	Total Rounds Expended	329

6 Preparations were fired at 0630 and 0700. The forward observers were very active during AM, firing in close support of advance of their units. HC smoke was fired with good effect. Reconnaissance for new positions was initiated. Battalion occupied positions near Oos and was registered. Missions were fired on entrenched troops east of the Kyll with good effect. A small harrassing program was fired during the night.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 Registration		Unknown	
20 Targets of Opportunity			
2 Preparations			
6 Harrassing and Interdiction			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	29	Total Rounds Expended	659

7 Targets of Opportunity were fired in the AM on enemy on the east side of the Kyll river. Battalion was ordered to move south and cross Kyll River near Lussingen in 90th Infantry Division sector. March order was given at 1600.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
21 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown	
<hr/>			
Total Missions	21	Total Rounds Expended	757

8 Battalion marched to the east along the route Budesheim, Lissingen, Gerolstein, Kirschweiler, Dockweiler, Kolberg, Neuberg, Kempenich, Hannebach, Niederdurenbach, Niedergissen. Battalion continued in direct support of Task Force CHICO. No firing.

9 Battalion fired TOT with 491st to support CCA's drive to Andernach. Battalion was in position at Obergissen. Battalion occupied defensive positions at Oberlutzengen with each battery covering a sector to the NW, W and NE. Defensive fires were planned with CHICO.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 TOT		Unknown	
<hr/>			
Total Missions	1	Total Rounds Expended	36

10 Battalion supported Task Force CHICO in late afternoon push to clear and capture Brohl. Preparation and targets of opportunity were fired in support of the attack. Smoke missions were fired east of the Rhine without success due to high winds.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
3 Preparations		Unknown	
5 Targets of Opportunity			
1 Registration			
<hr/>			
Total Missions	9	Total Rounds Expended	459

S E C R E T

MARCE 1945

- 11 Clearing of Brohl was completed by 1000 against light resistance. Battalion fire mission on AT gun east of Rhine opposite Brohl. Battalion continued to collect enemy stragglers. Reconnaissance sent out for maintenance period assembly positions vicinity Obermendig.

MISSIONS FIRED

3 Preparations

5 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

EFFECT

Total Missions

8

Total Rounds Expended

365

- 12 Battalion displaced to Obermendig. Time devoted to maintenance of personnel and vehicles. All personnel billeted in houses. Battalion CO assumed duties of military governor until arrival of Civil Affairs representative. Warning order received that Battalion might be used to assist 6th Cav. Group or 87th Infantry Division along Rhine. No missions fired.

- 13 Battalion ordered by Div Arty CO to move to new positions vicinity Kretz, Germany. Battalion placed in general support of 6th Cav. Group defending W flank of VIII Corps. 490th and 253rd Armored Field Artillery Battalions in direct support. Survey and registration delayed due to intense ground fog. No firing.

- 14 Survey completed and Battalion registered on BP and 2 check points by Air OP. Batteries continued maintenance of personnel and equipment. Two targets of opportunity fired from Battalion OP. Road reconnaissance sent out to reconnoiter roads to south. Five harrassing and interdiction missions fired during night.

MISSIONS FIRED

3 Registrations

2 Targets of Opportunity

5 Harrassing and Interdiction

Unknown

EFFECT

Total Missions

10

Total Rounds Expended

199

- 15 Three targets of opportunity fired in AM by Air OP. Other missions fired on OP's vehicles and trenches.

MISSIONS FIRED

8 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

EFFECT

Total Missions

8

Total Rounds Expended

207

- 16 Battalion fired on targets of opportunity E of Rhine. Battalion alerted to move to assembly area vicinity of Schmitt, NW of Bulley on Moselle River.

MISSIONS FIRED

5 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

EFFECT

Total Missions

5

Total Rounds Expended

115

- 17 Battalion marched to assembly area vicinity of Schmitt, arrived 0715. Battalion moved at 1630 from assembly area, marched to Bulley, crossed Moselle River and advanced through 89th Infantry Division sector to positions W of Munich. No firing.

S E C R E T

MARCH 1945

18 Five volley preparation fired on Sahren at 0655. Battalion moved out at 0800 and marched along CCB route. Battalion went into position at Oberhosenbach in order to deliver fire in support of CCB. Targets fired on infantry, enemy columns, air support targets. Hqs Btry and Serv Btry supply elements shelled at 1530. Pozit fired on bridge near Kirn in attempt to save it for capture. Bridge blown up by enemy. Battalion moved to night positions vicinity Bergen. Battalion registered by 491st Air OP. No harrassing fires during night. Counterbattery fire received at 2100. No casualties.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Preparation		5 Vehicles destroyed.	
1 Target of Opportunity		15 Enemy captured, 1 killed.	

<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>103</u>
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19 Battalion forded Nahe River and advanced along CCB route to positions near Hundsbach. Battery "C" fired observed fire on enemy columns and Batteries "A" & "B" fired direct fire to the flanks on enemy infantry. Battalion continued march to night positions vicinity Daumoschel.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

3 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown	
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>174</u>
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20 Battalion went into positions vicinity Standenbuhl. Battalion registered by Air OP. At 1400 Corps restraining line was lifted and CCB resumed attack toward Worms. Battalion went into position near Wiesoppenheim. One enemy vehicle and 20 personnel were captured in the Battalion area. No harrassing fires were delivered during night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations		Unknown	
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>26</u>
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21 Battalion strafed by 15 ME 109's. Combined fire of CCB brought down one. One man wounded by fragments. Air OP's subjected to heavy AA fire. Battalion fired on 4 gun battery.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Target of Opportunity		Enemy battery neutralized.	
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>36</u>
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22 FO's sent to 21st Armd Inf. Bn, and 41 Tank Bn. Battalion ordered to send billeting parties to rear rest areas vicinity Meisenheim. Battalion continued in support of CCB defending Rhine vicinity Worms. A few FO and Air Missions fired on suspected and actual enemy positions. Serv Btry moved up into Battalion area. Billeting details recalled when CCB was ordered to continue defensive missions. Air section departed on secret mission for VIII Corps.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

4 Targets of Opportunity		Unknown	
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>55</u>
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S E C R E T

MARCH 1945

- 23 Air section returned to Division Control. Battalion continued in direct support of CCB. Several FO and air missions fired on actual and suspected enemy installations. No harrassing fires.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 Registration		Unknown	
Total Missions	1	Total Rounds Expended	10

- 24 Battalion moved E of Wiesoppenheim in order to cover entire CCB defense sector. Battalion registered and proof fired by Air OP. Personnel and vehicle maintenance performed during period of light activity.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 Registration		Unknown	
Total Missions	1	Total Rounds Expended	12

- 25 Battalion registered on check point and proof fired on base point by Air OP. Battalion relieved of direct support of CCB. Reconnaissance sent out vicinity Bechtheim for assembly and maintenance period positions. 11th Armored Division placed in XX Corps which has present mission of Third Army Reserve. Battalion moved to Bechtheim.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>		<u>EFFECT</u>	
1 Registration		Unknown	
Total Missions	1	Total Rounds Expended	87

- 26 Personnel and materiel maintenance. No firing.

- 27 Continued maintenance of personnel and materiel. No firing.

- 28 Battalion alerted for movement. Original objective Giessen reported taken by 7th Armored Division. New division objective Kassel. Battalion ordered to move across Oppenheim bridge toward Hannau via Kastel. Battalion in general support of CCB under Div Arty. 183rd Field Artillery Group in general support of CGA. Orders changed at 1900. Battalion remained in Bechtheim. No firing.

- 29 Battalion moved out, crossed Rhine near Offenbach, continued to Darmstadt, Hannau, crossed Main River and closed into night positions NW of Hannau. No firing.

- 30 New division objective, Fulda. Battalion moved at 0900, cleared through Bruckkabel, Pudigheim, Badington, closing in vicinity of Niederseemen. No firing.

- 31 Battalion continued march with CCB toward Fulda. Bn went into positions NE of Gunzenau, fired on 3 enemy tanks. Preparation fired on Hosenfeld. Moved out again at 1130. CCB stopped 1 Km W of Fulda due to change in orders, and coiled for the night vicinity Grossenluder. Battalion went into position near Hosenfeld. No missions fired from these positions. Battalion moved to Grossenluder, registered on Fulda and fired harrassing missions on Fulda.

S E C R E T

MARCH 1945

31 Contd

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Preparation
 1 Target of Opportunity
 1 Registration
 1 Harrassing and Interdiction

Unknown

Total Missions 4 Total Rounds Expended 220

LOSSES

OUR OWN FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

Personnel - Killed - 1*
 Wounded - 9
 Missing - 0

Personnel - Prisoners of War - 200
 (Estimated) Killed & Wounded
 4 known, other unknown.

Material - None

Material - 3 Tanks, type unknown
 2 AT Guns, caliber unknown
 5 Vehicles, type unknown

* EM wounded early in period, and
 died as a result of his wounds
 several weeks later.

10

APRIL 1945

- 1 On the opening day of the period, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion was in general support of CCB under Division Artillery. The Battalion continued the advance with CCB from Grosschluder, Germany to Wonderhausen to positions 1 kilometer east of Unterweid. Battalion was registered by the Air OP and dug in for the night. No harrassing fires were delivered during the night. Strength of the battalion at the beginning of the period was 33 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 483 Enlisted Men. No firing.
- 2 In the early morning a 126 round preparation was fired on Aschenhausen. Battalion continued the advance with CCB toward Arnstadt and went into position vicinity Wahms at 1030. Battalion was registered by Air OP and was ready to support bridge construction vicinity Wasungen. 7 FW 190's harrassed the Battalion area at 1115; no casualties. Two planes were hit. Warning orders for continuing the march were received at 1700. Btry "B" moved out with the advance guard and crossed over the pontoon bridge at Wasungen at 2000.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
 1 Preparation
 2 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 5 Total Rounds Expended 160

- 3 Battalion moved out at 0800 and advanced through Wasungen, Wallback, Metzels Christes, Bretonback, Springstelle, Steinbach - Hallenburg, and went into position on a steep slope at Obr Schonau. Small arms fire was received while marching through the main part of the Thuringer Wald. Btry "B" continued to march with the advance guard which was held up most of the afternoon by road blocks between Obr Schonau and Oberhof. While on the road, Btry "B" received long range bazooka fire; no damage. Two German soldiers and 53 civilians were driven out of a wood on the Battalion's right flank by our mortar fire. At 1800, 192 rounds were fired into Oberhof just

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

3 Contd

before entrance of the advance guard into it. The Air OP adjusted fire on a Tiger Tank defending the road block in front of the advance guard. The tank was forced to move. Btry "B" moved into Oberhof at 2100 and fired some targets of opportunity.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Preparation
3 Targets of Opportunity

25 PW's captured.

Total Missions 4

Total Rounds Expended 228

4 The remainder of the Battalion closed in Oberhof before noon. 3 ME 109's flew low over the Battalion Area at 1100. Battalion continued in support of OCB, but was assigned to support Reserve Command for a cleaning-up operation at Zella-Mehlis. Defensive fires were coordinated by Division Artillery. A late evening registration was adjusted by the Air OP.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
3 Targets of Opportunity
1 TCP

Unknown

Total Missions 5

Total Rounds Expended 77

5 In the morning, the Battalion fired on enemy vehicles SW of Oberhof, and on a small enemy reconnaissance party N of Oberhof. The mission of clearing Zella-Mehlis was completed. Battalion fired on additional targets of opportunity during the day.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
3 Targets of Opportunity
1 TCP

Unknown

Total Missions 5

Total Rounds Expended 73

6 Verbal instructions received at 1100 to cease offensive action in zone and defend until relieved by 26th Infantry Division. No firing.

7 OCB March Order Plan "B" executed at 1000. Propaganda shells were prepared by Division Artillery for attack on Gehlberg. Attack cancelled by Corps order, to cease all offensive action. Division ordered to close in new assembly areas preparatory to new offensive action. Battalion marched through Zella-Mehlis, Suhl, Bischofred and Eichenberg. Battalion was registered on BP and Check Point by Air OP. No harrassing fires delivered during the night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

4 Registrations

Unknown

Total Missions 4

Total Rounds Expended 38

8 Battalion moved at 0700 under escort of Troop "D", 41st Cavalry through Themar to positions vicinity Beinorstadt. Leading elements of OCB put Battalion out of range before registration could be completed. Battalion displaced to positions near Dingsleben at 1000. Air OP registered Battalion on BP and Check Point. Battalion continued to fire on various targets of opportunity in support of OCB. Defensive fires were adjusted in front of positions vicinity of Bedheim.

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

8 Contd

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
7 Registrations	Unknown
1 Target of Opportunity	
2 Harrassing fires	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
10	161

- 9 Battalion fired on suspected woods vicinity of Bedheim. Battalion was granted 36 hour maintenance period effective 081500. Battery "A" killed one enemy and took 2 prisoners in front of the battery positions. Warning orders for move received at 2300.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Target of Opportunity	Unknown
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
1	12

- 10 Battalion joined CCB advance guard at Bedheim and went into position at Eishausen. One gun was put in position at Steinfeld to fire propaganda shells into Rodach. Battalion was registered by Air OP and fired 332 rounds into Rodach. Battery "A" fired direct fire mission on suspected OP. Battalion fired 2 volleys into Lempertshausen. Battalion moved out and went into positions near Wiesenfeld. Battalion was registered by Air OP and fired heavy preparation into Coburg. No harrassing fires delivered during night.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
2 Registrations	Unknown
3 Preparations	
5 Targets of Opportunity	
1 Propaganda	
1 Direct Fire	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
12	780

- 11 Battalion remained in position at Wiesenfeld. 71st Infantry Division moved up at noon to assist in clearing Coburg. One mission fired on enemy barracks. Warning orders received at 1900.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1 Target of Opportunity	Unknown
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
1	12

- 12 Battalion moved out at 0730. Battalion again in general support of CCB. Forward Observers placed with 21st Armd Inf Bn and 41st Tk Bn. Battalion moved through Coburg and Ebersdorf to vicinity Sonnefeld. Battalion registered by Air OP. Battalion displaced at 1500, forded Main River at Marktzeuln, and sent into position vicinity Obr Zettlitz. Forward gun was registered by Air OP before arrival of Battalion. Battalion fired on Is-ling and defensive fires were adjusted. Division and CCB orders arrived at 2000. Division objective was changed from Bayreuth to Hef.

<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
4 Registrations	Unknown
4 Defensive Fires	
2 Targets of Opportunity	
Total Missions	Total Rounds Expended
10	192

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

- 13 Battalion displaced to new positions at Schwarzach arriving at 0900. Battalion was registered by Air OP. 4 enemy were captured in Mainleus. Battalion fired defensive fires in late afternoon. OCB orders Plan "A" (Objective Hof) and Plan "B" (Objective Bayreuth) received at 2030. Battalion ordered to lead main body. Battalion was strafed by 6 ME 109's at 1800. One plane crashed and one was seen to be hit.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
3 Defensive Fires

Unknown

Total Missions

4

Total Rounds Expended

22

- 14 Plans "A" and "B" cancelled by verbal orders. Battalion remained in position while a OCB Task Force proceeded to Bayreuth. OCB took Bayreuth at 1600 and withdrew when relieved by 71st Infantry Division. No firing.
- 15 Division alerted for operations to the South and Southeast. 24 hour maintenance in effect. Forward Observers and Liaison Officer recalled. No firing.
- 16 Continuance of maintenance period. No firing.
- 17 Movement orders received from Division Artillery. Battalion moved out of Schwarzach positions at 0900. Division mission to defend east of Autobahn from Bayreuth to Stretau relieving 71st Inf. Div. Battalion mission was direct support of 41st Cav. Battalion occupied positions near Zettmeisel at 1045. Battalion was registered by Air OP and defensive fires were adjusted.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
6 Defensive Fires

Unknown

Total Missions

8

Total Rounds Expended

52

- 18 Battalion alerted for movement by Division Artillery. Movement orders received at 2000. No firing.
- 19 Battalion moved out at 0815. Division Objective: Grafenwohr. Battalion mission was general support of OCB. Battalion traveled south on Berlin-Munich Autobahn, following OCB route through Croussen to positions near Vorbach. Battalion was registered by Air OP and fired on AA position near BP. Other targets of opportunity fired on from this position. Battalion displaced at 1500 to positions near Stegenthumbach. Battalion was registered by Air OP and normal barrages were adjusted. OCA and OCB captured Division Objective Grafenwehr. Information received at 2330 that Division would not move toward Cham objective.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
2 Defensive Fires
4 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions

8

Total Rounds Expended

151

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

20 Morning was spent in maintenance and capturing enemy stragglers. Battalion was alerted for movement at 1300. Battalion displaced at 1500 to positions in NW section of Grafenwehr German Army Training Camp. Battalion was registered by Air OP and fired enemy horse-drawn supply train. Orders received at 2000 to remain in present position on 21 April.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

3 Registrations
1 Target of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 4

Total Rounds Expended 47

21 Battalion remained in Grafenwehr positions. Orders received at 1800 that Division would move in the morning. Battalion registered by Air OP. Tino fire was placed on a critical bridge on CCA route.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

4 Registrations
1 Target of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 5

Total Rounds Expended 122

22 Battalion displaced at 0710, moving in CCB column to positions near Mantel, Germany. Battalion displaced again at 1400, moving along CCB route to positions vicinity Lissenthau. Battalion was registered and numerous prisoners were taken. Verbal orders received that Battalion would continue the march at 0700.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration

Unknown

Total Missions 1

Total Rounds Expended 12

23 Battalion continued along CCB route through Schwarzenfeld and Kemrath to positions vicinity Fahren. Battalion was registered by Air OP. Battalion displaced again at 1000, moving in CCB column through Heuburg v Wald to positions near Wulfing. Battalion was registered and fired one mission on enemy infantry. Warning orders received from Division Artillery that Division would continue advance to the SE in the morning.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
3 Defensive Fires
1 Target of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 6

Total Rounds Expended 138

24 Battalion displaced at 0900 and advanced through Iannhof, Miltach, Viechtach, going into position near Armesriel at 1230. Battalion was registered by Air OP and a preparation was fired on Regen. Targets of opportunity were fired and defensive fires adjusted.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
6 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 8

Total Rounds Expended 389

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

- 25 Battalion displaced at 0715 and advanced through Regen, Effonschlag and went into positions vicinity Schonberg. Battalion was registered and fired on a target of opportunity. During a march halt, 20 prisoners were captured. Battalion moved east to positions in Haus for the night. Battalion was registered by Air OP and placed harrassing fire on a town south of the CCB route.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
1 Target of Opportunity*
2 Preparations
1 Harrassing

Unknown

Total Missions 6

Total Rounds Expended 372

- 26 Battalion displaced at 0730 and went into position vicinity of Perlesreut at 0830. Battalion was registered by Air OP and fired into a town on the route as well as on targets of opportunity. Battalion displaced again at 1145 and went into positions vicinity Prassreut. Battalion was registered and fired a heavy preparation into Waldkirchen. Other missions were fired on enemy infantry, mortar positions and a direct fire weapon position. Battalion again displaced at 1715, moving through Behrnbach and Waldkirchen to positions near Reichardsreut. Battalion was registered by Air OP. Battalion positions was bombed by FW 190's; no casualties. Battalion captured 26 prisoners. A 24 hour maintenance period was granted. Two men of Btry "B" were killed during march to Prassreut.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
4 Targets of Opportunity
2 Preparations

Unknown

Total Missions 8

Total Rounds Expended 742

- 27 Battalion was registered on 2 Ck pts, and continued to support of CCB. One Forward Observer accompanied the 41st Cav. In an advance toward Passau. Battalion fired missions on infantry, towns, and suspected OP's. Harrassing fires were also delivered. Battalion continued maintenance.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations
3 Targets of Opportunity
1 Harrassing
1 Counter-battery

Unknown

Total Missions 7

Total Rounds Expended 578

- 28 Battalion displaced from Reichardsreut positions at 1730 to positions vicinity Leinbach. Battalion was registered and fired targets of opportunity.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
5 Targets of Opportunity

Unknown

Total Missions 6

Total Rounds Expended 101

* First artillery fire from Western forces to fall on Austrian soil.

S E C R E T

APRIL 1945

29 CCB resumed the advance, and Battalion fired heavy preparations on towns along the route. Enemy had dug-in positions, mortars, Mark V tanks and artillery. Targets of opportunity were fired on buildings, enemy in woods, AT guns and mortar positions. Battalion displaced at 1800 to positions vicinity Guttenhofen. Registration was completed and missions were fired on infantry in woods, AT guns, buildings, and Mrk IV tanks in Strasskirchen. Defensive fires were adjusted and Strasskirchen was harrassed throughout the night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration
5 Preparations
6 Targets of Opportunity
1 Harrassing

Unknown

<u>Total Missions</u>	13	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	940
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30 Defensive fires were fired at 0500 on self-propelled guns harrassing positions of 41st Cav. Battalion displaced at 0630 to positions near Oedhof. Battalion fired on enemy in woods east of line of advance, buildings and road blocks. Battalion displaced again at 1700 along CCB route through Griesbach, Wildenramme to positions at Maierhof. Battalion was registered and defensive fires were adjusted. Orders received at 2200 that CCB would continue advance toward Linz, Austria at 0630.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

3 Registrations
6 Targets of Opportunity
4 Defensive fires
1 Harrassing
1 Propaganda

Unknown

<u>Total Missions</u>	15	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	267
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LOSSES

OUR OWN FORCES

ENEMY FORCES

Personnel - Killed - 2
 Wounded - 0
 Missing - 0

Personnel - Killed - Unknown
 Wounded - Unknown
 Captured - 475 (Est)

Material - None

Material - 2 Volkswagons
 1 MG 109
 2 FW 190's (Probables)
 1 AA Gun Neutralized

6

MAY 1945

1 On the opening day of the period, the 492d Armored Field Artillery Battalion consisting of 34 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 486 Enlisted men, was in position at Maierhof, Germany supporting CCB. Battalion moved out at 1100, continued along CCB route through Karlsbach and went into temporary positions vicinity Mayerhal at 1500. Battalion did not fire, but displaced again at 1730 to positions vicinity Lembach, Austria. Battalion was registered by Air OP. Battalion fired WP shells into a Altenfelden.

S E C R E T

MAY 1945

1 Contd

and the normal barrage was adjusted. Large fires were started by firing in Neufelden. The town was harrassed through the night.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations		255 enemy personnel captured,
2 Preparations		others unknown
2 Targets of Opportunity		
2 Harrassing and Interdiction		

<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>209</u>
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2 Battalion fired propaganda shell into Neufelden in early morning. CCB and CCA reconnaissance found blown bridges in Neufelden.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

4 Propaganda		Unknown
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>20</u>
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3 Battalion, under Division Artillery control was given mission of general support of the Division and reinforcing the fires of the 183rd FA Group. Battalion displaced across Mehl River at 0500 to positions vicinity Altenfelden. Battalion was ordered to join Task Force Crick (Lt. Col. Wingard) of CCA. Battalion joined column at Neufelden, with "B" Battery in the advance guard. Battalion occupied positions vicinity Steingreb and Winkler, but did not register. Battalion displaced to Dunzendorf at 1200 and was registered by Air OP. Battalion displaced to positions near Perleeder at 1500. At 1650 column displaced to Gramastetten.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

2 Registrations		Unknown
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<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>14</u>
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4 Battalion arrived in Gramastetten positions at 0030, and was shelled by enemy artillery shortly thereafter, with no casualties. At 0530 the position was shelled again causing injuries to 3 men, one of whom later died. Enemy shelling continued throughout the day. About 1500, Battalion fired on large concentration of enemy AA guns. Following this, little fire was received. Battalion also fired numerous TCF's for 183rd FA Gp. Battalion continued to harrass all known enemy artillery positions throughout the night with Pozit shell.

MISSIONS FIRED

EFFECT

1 Registration		Killed 50 enemy (Est)
5 Targets of Opportunity		Destroyed 4 AA Guns
1 Counter-Battery		Destroyed 1 Vehicle
4 TCF		Destroyed AA installation.
4 Harrassing		

<u>Total Missions</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Total Rounds Expended</u>	<u>1230</u>
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5 Battalion moved out at 0715 in direct support of Task Force Crick. Battalion marched through Zwettl, Hellmonsdt to positions vicinity Altenberg. No registration was fired. Task Force moved into Urfahr and Linz without opposition. Battalion was ordered to support CCB from Altenberg positions. No firing.

S E C R E T

MAY 1945

- 6 Division ordered to stand in place. Battalion displaced at 1500 to positions vicinity Oberneukirchen in support of Reserve Command. Battalion received information at 1000 that the war with German would end officially at 0001, 9 May 1945. Battalion began heavy Maintenance and did not fire.
- 7 No change. No firing.
- 8 No change. No firing.
- 9 End of actions against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations!!!!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!

LOSSES

OUR OWN FORCES

Personnel - Killed	-	1
Wounded	-	5
Missing	-	<u>0</u>
		6
Materiel - 1 Halftrack	damaged	
1 Ambulance	damaged	

ENEMY FORCES

Personnel - Killed	-	50 (Est)
Wounded	-	Unknown
Captured	-	300 (Est)
Materiel - 4 AA Guns		
1 Vehicle		
1 AA Installation		
		6
Lost by the enemy -- THE WAR!		

L. M. AIT

L. M. AIT
Lieutenant Colonel, FA,
Commanding.