

AFTER ACTION REPORT
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
12TH ARMORED DIVISION

JANUARY THROUGH 10 MAY 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

JANUARY 1945

HEADQUARTERS 56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

10 February 1945

Table of Contents

	PAGE
A. Index	3
B. Letter of Transmittal	4
C. Narrative	5
D. Casualty Report	6
E. Awards and Decorations Report	7-8
F. Officers' Roster	9
G. Gains and Losses of Officers	
H. Journals with Supporting Documents	Exhibit A *
I. Orders and Overlays	10-51 *

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from the original source document to correctly reflect paging of this electronic document.)*

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 262, U.S. ARMY

10 February 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division, APO 262, U.S. Army

In compliance with memorandum Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945, transmitted herewith is Unit History of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion for the month of January 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DANIEL J. BRENNAN
WO (JG) USA
Asst Adjutant

OPERATIONS HISTORY - JANUARY 1945

1-6. Battalion in Corps Res. Carried on routine training to include Tank-Infantry problems. Battalion located during this period in Binure-Haute. 062015 received alert order to move Mic Hinversheim. Closed in 070700. Moved to new assembly area vicinity Kurtzenhausen. Closed in 072155. Verbal order received from CC-B to attack. Objective Herrlisheim. 080100 Co Commanders received attack order and overlays. Time of attack 1000. Battalion was to follow Power TF. Battalion was delayed in closing in initial assembly area (prior to attack) vicinity Rohrwiller by Power TF. Closed in assembly area vicinity Rohrwiller 1215. CP moved to Bischweiler. Battalion held up by Power TF which was unable to attack because of blown out bridge. Battalion jumped off in attack 1450. Forward CP established in Rohrwiller. Trs received heavy mortar, artillery and SA fire east of La Braymuhl. Suffered heavy casualties. Companies were ordered to withdraw. Defensive positions established southeast of Rohrwiller, 0900630 Battalion again attacks. Objective Herrlisheim. Under heavy fire objective was reached 1150. North end of town was taken and held. Positions prepared to hold for the night and continue attack the following day. Enemy counterattack our position at darkness. Suffered heavy casualties. Unable to continue attack 10 January due to depleted strength. Forced to withdraw 110200 to defensive position southwest of Rohrwiller. Positions southwest of Rohrwiller held until night of 15-16 Jan. Attack order received evening 15 Jan. Objective track (?) and highway crossing approx. 1000 meters northeast of Herrlisheim. Battalion jumped off 160200. Heavy mortar, artillery and SA fire received. Reached objective. Suffered heavy casualties and unable to hold objective against well dug-in enemy emplacements. Forced to withdraw 161200 to organize position southeast of Rohrwiller. Battalion again attacks late afternoon 17 Jan. Objective same as 16 Jan. Objective was reached under heavy fire. Unable to hold, Battalion was forced to withdraw under cover of darkness to positions in Rohrwiller. Attacks were made 18 and 19 Jan. Objective same, each time heavy fire received resulted in heavy casualties and withdrawals were made to positions southeast of Rohrwiller. A counterattack night of 19-20 Jan by estimated four companies was repulsed. Battalion was relieved by 143rd Infantry Regiment night of 19-20. 200330 Battalion moved to Wingersheim. Here Battalion relieved elements of 92nd Reconnaissance in CC-B sector of protective screen along of south boundary of Corps.

25. Battalion moved to Truchtersheim. Mission of CC-B being to prevent enemy infiltration into woods south of Geudertheim and to support French in Hoerdt. Reconnaissance was made of roads and terrain of our sector 29 Jan. This move for training purposes. Training during period 25-31 Jan stressed tank-infantry problems. Care and cleaning of weapons and equipment was conducted concurrent with this training.

CASUALTY REPORT

Killed In Action	35
Died of Wounds	5
Battle Casualties	323
Non-Battle Casualties	156
Casualties Returned to Duty	143
Missing In Action	26

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

The Silver Star

Pfc Leon L. Evans 36 335 216, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec II, General Order 1, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 1 January 1945.

Pfc Daniel D. DeMee 51 210 290, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec II, General Orders 1, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 1 January 1945.

S/Sgt Blanehard S. Losey 21 033 937, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec II, GO 9, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 19 January 1945.

The Bronze Star

Lt Col LOUIS L. INGRAM 019 429 Inf, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 9, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 19 January 1945.

S/Sgt Ernest R. Hinderliner 56 394 234, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 9, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 19 January 1945.

Sgt Anthony F. Brsesicki 0 718 425, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 9, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 19 January 1945.

Capt BURRELL B. BEACH 01 290 264 Inf, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

Capt WILLIAM F. ZIMMERMAN 0 320 956 MD, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

1st Lt WILLIAM W CARLIN 011 360 128 Inf, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

Sgt Jack Begley 55 065 830, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

Pfc Stephen Chew 39 261 062, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IV, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

The Silver Star, Posthumous

2d Lt NEVILLE L DILLON 01 017 386 Inf, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec I, GO 9, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 19 January 1945.

The Bronze Star, Posthumous

Pvt Stephen Novak 31 193 725, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec III, GO 11, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 26 January 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to 414 Officers and Enlisted Men. Auth: Sections II, III, IV, General Order 5, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to 386 Officers and Enlisted Men. Auth: Sections I, II, General Order 8, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 18 January 1945.

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

1 January 1945

OFFICERS ROSTER

HEADQUARTERS

Ingram, Lewis L	Lt Col	Battalion Commander
Zapita, Joseph J	Major	Battalion Executive Officer
Livendais, Edward S	Major	Battalion Operations Officer
Withers, James R Jr	Captain	Battalion Supply Officer
Bright, Elmer F	Captain	Battalion Intelligence Officer
Harness, Conrad P	Captain	Battalion Communications Officer
		Assistant S-3 for AIR
Smith, Edward D	1 st Lt	Battalion Adjutant
Bloodworth, James N	2 nd Lt	Battalion Liaison Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Maddox, Clyde K	Captain	Company Commander
Cavanaugh, Andrew J III	1 st Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Jacobs, John L	2 nd Lt	Reconnaissance Platoon Officer
Gadmer, John Jr	2 nd Lt	Assault Gun Platoon Officer
Mulligan, Lee	2 nd Lt	Mortar Platoon Officer
Pagina, Rudolph F	2 nd Lt	Machine Gun Platoon Officer

SERVICE COMPANY

Gagliardi, Salver G	Captain	Company Commander
Snydstrap, George L	1 st Lt	Battalion Maintenance Officer
Reed, Dale Y	1 st Lt	Supply and Transportation Officer
Sneed, Kenneth C	2 nd Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Brennan, Daniel J	WO JG	Personnel Officer
Johnson, Clyde E	WO JG	Asst Battalion Maintenance Officer
Parks, David L	WO JG	Asst Battalion Supply Officer

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Thomas, Andrew E	Captain	Battalion Medical Officer
Zimmerman, William F	Captain	Asst Battalion Medical Officer
Knapp, Lloyd E	Captain	Battalion Dental Surgeon

HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

FEBRUARY 1945

HEADQUARTERS 56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

10 March 1945

Table of Contents

	PAGE
A. Index	11
B. Letter of Transmittal	12
C. Narrative	13-14
D. Casualty Report	15
E. Awards and Decorations Report	16-17
F. Officers' Roster	19-20
G. Gains and Losses of Officers	21
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56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 262, U.S. ARMY

10 March 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division, APO 262, U.S. Army

In compliance with memorandum Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945, transmitted herewith is Unit History of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion for the month of February 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DANIEL J. BRENNAN
WO (JG) USA
Asst Adjutant

56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 262 US ARMY

OPERATIONS HISTORY – FEBRUARY 1945

1 Feb. The Battalion, stationed in TRUCHTERSHEIM, continued training stressing tank-infantry problems. Alert order to move on 3 hours' notice was received 020001. 12 AD Operation Instruction No 16, received 020800, order to move to assembly area vicinity SELESTAT prepared for operations in that area. Order received from CCOB 021250 to move at 1500. Companies were alerted. Upon receipt of route from CC-B overlays were distributed to companies. Battalion moved out at 021500 as ordered. Battalion closed in at DAMBACH-LA-VILLE and CP opened at that location 021800. Operations Instruction CCOB dated 022100 ordered move to attack position vicinity HOUSSEN to attack south through COLMAR. TF Norton through COLMAR by way of railroad to HERRLISHEIM. 56 (- A & C) + B/714 Tank Battalion comprised TF Norton. C/56 to TF Field. A/56 to TF Boone. TF Norton to move when ready. On arrival of tanks TF Norton moved out, 030130. TF was met by guides and guided into position (HOBSEN) 030330. Exec Officer CC-B gives Battalion S-3 verbal change in plan 030645. TF Norton to follow Hq CC-B to COLMAR there to await further order. Move to COLMAR delayed by French vehicles moving south into COLMAR. TF arrived and set up temporary CP in COLMAR 031000. TF Commander received verbal order from CC-B to reconnoiter bridges (741410, 735400) southeast of COLMAR. Reconnaissance Platoon reported these bridges in. TF Norton was then ordered to attack south toward SUNDHOFFEN. Force moved into attack 031430 to cross THUR RIVER east of COLMAR. On arrival at bridge (941410) it was found to be blown. TF Commander ordered the TF to cross river at (735400) and continue to objective. Enemy had attempted to blow this bridge but failed. Enemy on south bank of stream retreated south, abandoning one AT gun and SA. Attack continued to CR (745395) where SA and AT fire was encountered, resulting in the loss of one tank. Due to coming darkness, CC-B at 031535 ordered withdrawal to dig in and hold bridge (735400) across THUR RIVER. Bridge held night 3-4 Feb 45. Verbal order received approx. 031830 as follows: TF Boone to attack south at daylight to SUNDHOFFEN through TF Norton. TF Norton to follow TF Boone prepared to assist TF Field in attack on ST CROIX (see operations instruction CC-B dated 032000). 041100 CC-B orders TF Norton to clear enemy from BOIS DE COLMAR upon TF Boone troops clearing CR (745395). TF Norton unable to execute plan until 041250 due to TF Boone held up by enemy fire from position (743392). Attack was launched and south edge of BOIS DE COLMAR was reached prior to darkness. TF Commander ordered troops to dig in and hold south edge of woods. 041905 B/56 reported enemy dug in within our positions. Received verbal order from CC-B to withdraw troops to COLMAR. Company commanders given this order 042320. A/56 and C/56 reverted to Battalion Control. B/714 released to 714 Tank Battalion. CC-B FO #6 ordered Battalion to advance south bypassing enemy strong points. Mission of 12 AD to effect junction with French Army vicinity ROUFFACH. The Battalion moved out 050556. At 050724 the Battalion was halted on the NS road northeast of PFAFFENHEIM. One platoon A/56 was ordered into PFAFFENHEIM and one platoon B/56 ordered into GUEBERSCHWIHR to protect our flank and to mop up. The Battalion was moved into PFAFFENHEIM 051440. Orders were received to alert one company to move. A/56 was alerted 051510

and later ordered to TF Boone. TF Boone was ordered to attack OBERHERGHEIR with 56 AIB (- A) to follow TF Boone and dig in in position 722310 – 729306 to protect TF Boone on the north. The Battalion (- A) moved from PFAFFENHEIM 051655. At 051825 orders were received to move into OBERHERGHEIM in support of TF Boone on defense of the town. The Battalion closed in the town 052150. TF Boone was dissolved. A/56 reverted to Battalion control and Battalion Commander Norton was given command of all troops (56 AIB and C/714 Tank Battalion). Elements of 28th Division and French troops held portion of the river line, positions on the river line were consolidated and held night of 5-6 Feb. Morning of 6 Feb elements 28th Division crossed I'LLI RIVER. Battalion continued on mission of holding river line. Received message from CC-B dated 070017 to be prepared to move after 070830A Feb. Operations Instructions Hq CC-B dated 070600A Feb 45 ordered move of Battalion to area vicinity GUEBERSCHWIHR and HATTSTATT to establish close surveillance over roads and trails in Battalion area of responsibility, to establish roadblocks, and to operate patrols as planned by Battalion S-2. CP in OBERHERGHEIM was closed 071130 enroute to new location. Battalion closed in new area 071325. A and B/56 located GUEBERSCHWIHR. 56 (- A and B) located HATTSTATT. Battalion continued with mission as ordered. Received order from CC-B to move on two hours' notice after daylight 10 Feb 45 to vicinity DIEUZE to operate in XV Corps Sector (see operations instructions Hq CC-B dated 092000A Feb 45). These orders rescinded and operations instructions Hq CC-B dated 101200A Feb 45 ordered move 1730 10 Feb to vicinity BEONY to operate in IV Corps Sector. Battalion moved out as ordered closing in new location 11 Feb as follows: A/56 ZONDRANGE, B/56 MALLERING, C/56 FOURNEY, 56 (-) MARANGE-KOMMRANGE. 111240 CC-B ordered one company of 56 alerted to establish counter-reconnaissance screen. A/56 alerted and with Reconnaissance/56 and Reconnaissance/714 established counter-reconnaissance screen (see corrected copy operations instructions Hq CC-B dated 111800A Feb 45). Morning 12 Feb was spent in preparation and move of Battalion (- A and Reconnaissance Platoon) to CITES DNS CHARBONNAGERS. 12-28 Feb Battalion conducted training (under supervision of CC-B). Training stressed range firing, maintenance, chemical warfare training, attack of a pillbox. Companies were restated on counter-reconnaissance mission in order A B and C/56. Companies relieved on 5 day period cycle.

CASUALTY REPORT

Killed In Action	13
Died of Wounds	7
Battle Casualties	69
Non-Battle Casualties	144
Casualties Returned to Duty	244
Missing In Action	10

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

The Silver Star

Pfc Ray Rice, 38 325 465, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec VII, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Pfc Robert L Scott, 19 118 272, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec VIII, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

The Bronze Star

Pvt John A Robertson, 5 576 831, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec VII, General Order Number 18, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 12 February 1945.

Pfc Everett L Emery, 32 576 831, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec XI, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Sgt Andrew A Keller, 55 422 362, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec XI, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Sgt Troy B Criss, 55 730 368, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec X, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

S/Sgt Frank H Deeds Jr, 37 505 915, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec X, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Pfc Clarence B Hall, 30 335 246, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec X, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

2nd Lt Charles M Willis, 01 304 475, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec X, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Pfc George C Dumas, 37 235 754, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IX, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Pfc George E Turnbull, 35 598 611, awarded "The Bronze Star." Auth: Sec IX, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

The Silver Star Posthumous

Pfc Maurice Matteram, (SN illegible), awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec I, General Order Number 18, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 12 February 1945.

S/Sgt Joseph Schmeatana, 35 616 300, awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec I, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 26 February 1945.

The Silver Star, Posthumous (continued)

Tec 5 Joe M Garcia, (SN illegible), awarded "The Silver Star." Auth: Sec I, General Order Number 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 26 February 1945.

The Certificate of Merit

S/Sgt Francis T Argulewicz, 32 576 921, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec VIII, GO 18, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 12 February 1945.

S/Sgt William E Lieser, 35 232 920, awarded "The Certificate of Merit.: Auth: Sec VIII, GO 18, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 12 February 1945.

T/Sgt William C Amason, 35 666 368, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVII, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Pfc Donald E Curbeau, 32 839 292, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVII, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

T/Sgt John R Willard, 6 943 977, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVII, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Capt Francis B Drass, 01 287 495, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVIII, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

T/Sgt Herman N Power, 37 080 362, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVIII, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

S/Sgt George L DeWitt, 36 618 381, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVI, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

2nd Lt Frank E Plough, 02 006 847, awarded "The Certificate of Merit." Auth: Sec XVI, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Enlisted Man. Auth: Sec III, GO 20, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 28 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to three Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec IV, GO 20, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 28 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to three Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec I, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge (continued)

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Enlisted Man. Auth: Sec II, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to two Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec III, GO 19, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 24 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Officer and 105 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec IV, GO 17, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 10 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one officer and one Enlisted Man. Auth: Sec VI, GO 17, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 10 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Officer and 108 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec VII, GO 17, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 10 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to three Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec III, GO 17, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 10 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to 14 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec VI, GO 14, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 2 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to 32 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec II, GO 13, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 1 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Officer and 12 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec III, GO 12, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 1 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to one Officer and 12 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec V, GO 13, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 1 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to two Officers and 11 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec VI, GO 13, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 1 February 1945.

Combat Infantryman's Badge, awarded to 105 Enlisted Men. Auth: Sec V, GO 17, Hq, 12th Armored Division, 10 February 1945.

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

1 February 1945

OFFICERS ROSTER

HEADQUARTERS

Norton, Jean G	Major	Battalion Commander
Zapita, Joseph J	Major	Battalion Executive Officer
Livendais, Edward S	Major	Battalion Operations Officer
Withers, James R Jr	Captain	Battalion Supply Officer
Bright, Elmer F	Captain	Battalion Intelligence Officer
Harness, Conrad P	Captain	Battalion Communications Officer
		Assistant S-3 for AIR
Smith, Edward D	1 st Lt	Battalion Adjutant
Bloodworth, James N	2 nd Lt	Battalion Liaison Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Maddox, Clyde K	Captain	Company Commander
Pagina, Rudolph F	2nd Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Jacobs, John L	2 nd Lt	Reconnaissance Platoon Officer
Mulligan, Lee	2 nd Lt	Mortar Platoon Officer
Benham, Wilmer E	2 nd Lt	Assault Gun Platoon Officer

SERVICE COMPANY

Reed, Dale Y	1 st Lt	Company Commander
Snydstrap, George L	1 st Lt	Battalion Maintenance Officer
Green, William J	1st Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Brennan, Daniel J	WO JG	Personnel Officer
Johnson, Clyde E	WO JG	Asst Battalion Maintenance Officer
Parks, David L	WO JG	Asst Battalion Supply Officer

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Thomas, Andrew E	Captain	Battalion Medical Officer
Zimmerman, William F	Captain	Asst Battalion Medical Officer
Knapp, Lloyd E	Captain	Battalion Dental Surgeon

OFFICERS ROSTER (continued)

COMPANY A

Blair, Clyde J	1 st Lt	Company Commander
Willis, Charles E	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Officer

COMPANY B

Gagliardi, Salver G	Captain	Company Commander
Carlin, William W	1 st Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Fesley, Dominic J	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Officer
O'Brien, Donald J	2 nd Lt	Anti-Tank Platoon Officer

COMPANY C

Young, Arnold R	1 st Lt	Company Commander
Snead, Kenneth C	2 nd Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Ferchielli, Gine A	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Officer

OFFICERS REPORT

Transferred

MAJOR	EDWARD S LIVAUDAIS	0 332 555
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Assigned

CWO	WILLIAM P HELTON	W2 119 907
1 ST LT	ANDREW J CAVANAUGH III	0 528 554
1 ST LT	WALLACE A RUSSELL	0 547 325
1 ST LT	MATT R BUKOVINAC	01 016 977
2 ND LT	WILLIAM R FERENCH	01 304 364
1 ST LT	JOHN E TRUSLEY	01 303 800
CAPT	DAVID S FARRBAIRN	01 290 400
1 ST LT	FLOYD C VANDERHOEF	01 300 108
2 ND LT	JOHN PATTERSON JR	0 538 914

Battlefield Appointments

2 ND LT	HARRY J CARTER	02 006 349
2 ND LT	FRANK E FLAUGH	02 006 347
2 ND LT	EUGENE B MUNKWITZ	02 010 525
2 ND LT	CHARLES F PEISCHL	02 007 157
2 ND LT	EARL O SOHL	02 007 183
2 ND LT	HENRY H WARNER	02 007 168

HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

MARCH 1945

HEADQUARTERS 56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

10 April 1945

Table of Contents

	PAGE
A. Index	23
B. Letter of Transmittal	24
C. Narrative	25-26
D. Casualty Report	27
E. Awards and Decorations Report	28
F. Officers' Roster	29-30
G. Gains and Losses of Officers	31
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A.P.O. 262, U.S. ARMY

10 April 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division, APO 262, U.S. Army

In compliance with memorandum Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945, transmitted herewith is Unit History of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion for the month of March 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DANIEL J. BRENNAN
WO (JG) USA
Asst Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 262 US ARMY

OPERATIONS HISTORY

MARCH 1945

1-15 March the Battalion billeted in Cites des Charbonnages, France (Q 1552), conducted all types of range firing and tactical training consisting of problems up to and including a combat command exercise. During this period the 1st Infantry Company Prov, 7th Army (Negro Company) was attached to the Battalion. On 15 March the Battalion received a two-hour alert order and remained alerted until 17 March. On 17 March the Battalion, with remainder of the Division transferred from XXI Corps 7th Army to XX Corps 3rd Army. The Battalion moved out 0630 on Route "W" to assembly area (see overlay). Temporary halt was made 1150 at ELZANCK (Q9586). At this halt task forces were organized. TF Norton was constituted and consisted of 56 AIB (-C) + B/714. (C/56 to TF Fields.) Continued movement 2245 along route to assembly area as per overlay. Refueling halt was made 1150, 18 March in REINSFELD (L3820). Overlay and orders were received for drive east, formation in drive east was as follows: Advance guard of one Armored Infantry Co + one platoon tank, Tank Co (-) Hq & Co Co, Armored Inf Co, 1st Prov Inf Co (-), Trains + one platoon 1st Prov Inf Co. Advance continued 0300, 19 March. Wiping out pockets of resistance and sending to the rear PWs in large numbers (figures unknown), the Force continued its drive east. At 1815 a temporary and refueling halt was made at WINAGEILER (R0807). The Force continued 2330 south to the AUTOBAHN and thence east to the RHINE RIVER (see overlay). Pockets of resistance were met until the Force reached the AUTOBAHN. The RHINE was reached 2315, 20 March and patrols were sent to reconnoiter bridges at R491059 & R495049. The first was non-existing, the second was found to be blown, and orders were received to withdraw to CRUNSTADT (M3007). Withdrawal was made 0400, 21 March at 1740; the Force was alerted to move immediately. Movement to GROSSKARLBACH (M 3504) executed 1805, arriving 1832. At 0130 22 March Force was alerted and executed move 0300 as per orders and overlay. Reached MUTTERSTADT (R4493) 0800 where further orders were to be issued. These orders were received (see OI Hq CC-B 221400A Mar 45) and the Force executed plan 1615. Forward elements of the Force upon reaching R 4990 were given orders to hold for the night. The advance was continued approx 0700 23 March. The infantry was dismounted 1000 meters north of SPEYER to attack as the Infantry team. At 1502 leading elements of the Force had reached the edge of town. Meeting with TF Fields was made and a northern sector of town was secured for the night. The attack continued at 0700 and the town taken 24 March. On 25 March the Division reverted back to XXI Corps 7th Army control. At 1210 25 March the Force was alerted to move and executed at 1400. Force moved to BOHL (R4087) as per orders and overlay. The Force in OHL established outposts and operated patrols (see OI Hq CC-B 251800A Mar 45) and serviced vehicles. At 1330 27 March alert orders were received to move on two hours' notice. Force moved out approx 2400 along route (see overlay) to ROBERHEIM (M4510) where MPs met and guided the Force across the RHINE south of WORMS to HUFFENFELD (M6111). Force crossed the RHINE 0234 28 March closing in at

HUFFENFELD 0502. Verbal orders were received to drive east on route LAUDENBACH, WORLENBACH, MICHELBACH, SCHOMMATTERAG, UNTER-BBEERFELDEN, SCHOLLEN-BACH, RAILBACH, BREITENBACH, KIRCHZELL, SCHNERBERG. Drive along axis of advance, executed 1026, continued to OBER-SCHOMMATTERAG (M8104) where a temporary halt was made until 0300, 29 March when attack was continued. Night halt was made at 2000, 29 March in KAILBACH (M9705). At 0600 30 March the advance was continued. At 1740 30 March the column was in AMORBACH (N 0717) continuing on mission. At 2400 31 March the force was located in HOTTINGEN (N5714).

CASUALTY REPORT

56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

Killed In Action	16 *
Missing in Action	2 **
Died of Wounds	3 #
Battle Casualties	103
Non-Battle Casualties	108
Casualties Returned to Duty	129

* Includes 10 previously reported at MIA

** Includes 1 previously reported at MIA

Includes 1 NBC (Accidental)

7th ARMY 1ST INFANTRY COMPANY (Provisional)

Killed In Action	3
Battle Casualties	13
Non-Battle Casualties	?
Casualties Returned to Duty	?

? = figures indecipherable

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

MARCH 1945

Combat Infantry Streamer

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Service Company, Company A, Company B, and Company C, 56th Armored Infantry Battalion were awarded "Combat Infantry Streamer" per Section I, General Order Number 94, Headquarters, 12th Armored Division dated 18 March 1945.

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded to CAPT DAVID S FAIRBAIRN 01 290 400 per Section VII, General Order Number 95, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 19 March 1945.

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

1 March 1945

OFFICERS ROSTER

HEADQUARTERS

Norton, Jean G 0 336 169	Major	Battalion Commander
Zapita, Joseph J 0 282 525	Major	Battalion Executive Officer
Withers, James R Jr 0 327 669	Captain	Battalion Supply Officer
Bright, Elmer F 0 418 316	Captain	Battalion Intelligence Officer
Harness, Conrad P 01 010 970	Captain	Battalion Communications Officer
Smith, Edward D 01 311 336	1 st Lt	Battalion Liaison Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Maddox, Clyde K 01 290 448	Captain	Company Commander
Cavanaugh, Andrew J III 0 526 554	1 st Lt	Machine Gun Platoon Leader
Jacobs, John L 01 011 790	2 nd Lt	Maintenance Officer
Carter, Harry J 02 006 549	2 nd Lt	Reconnaissance Platoon Leader
Ranken, Vilmer N 02 006 361	2 nd Lt	Assault Gun Platoon Leader
Mulligan, Lee 0 526 302	2 nd Lt	Mortar Platoon Leader

SERVICE COMPANY

Snydstrap, George L 01 300 101	Captain	Battalion Maintenance Officer
Reed, Dale Y 01 316 089	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Green, William J 01 500 025	1st Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Snead, William J 0 524 033	2 nd Lt	Bn Supply & Transportation Officer
Fugina, Rudolph F 01 290 929	2 nd Lt	Assistant Transportation Officer
Brennan, Daniel J W2 131 805	WO (JG)	Battalion Personnel Officer
Johnson, Clyde E W2 119 831	WO (JG)	Asst Battalion Maintenance Officer
Parks, David L W2 135 370	WO (JG)	Asst Battalion Supply Officer

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Thomas, Andrew H 0 469 725	Captain	Battalion Surgeon
Zimmerman, William F 0 329 936	Captain	Asst Battalion Surgeon
Knapp, Lloyd R 01 726 216	Captain	Battalion Dental Officer

OFFICERS ROSTER (continued)

COMPANY A

VanDerhoef 01 300 106	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Blair, Clyde J 01 015 774	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Willis, Charles E 01 304 475	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Flaugh, Frank E 02 006 347	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Patterson, John Jr 0 538 914	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Helton, William P W2 110 907	CWO	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader

COMPANY B

Gagliardi, Salver G 01 290 407	Captain	Commanding Officer
Carlin, William W 01 300 126	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Fesley, Dominic J 0 325 602	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Officer
Bloodworth, James N 0 538 813	1 st Lt	Acting Battalion Adjutant
Peischl, Charles F 02 067 187	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Mankwitz, Eugene B 02 010 525	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Ference, William R 01 304 364	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
O'Brien, Donald J 01 011 643	2 nd Lt	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader

COMPANY C

Fairbairn, David S 01 290 400	Captain	Commanding Officer
Truclay, John E 01 303 800	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Young, Arnold R 01 295 614	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Bukovinac, Matt R 01 016 977	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Russell, Wallace R 0 547 326	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Warner, Henry M 02 007 146	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Sehl, Earl O 02 007 187	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Ferchielli, Gine A 01 314 736	2 nd Lt	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader

OFFICERS REPORT – MARCH 1946

Transferred

MAJOR	JOSEPH J ZAPITZ	0 282 525
1 ST LT	ANDREW J CAVANAUGH III	0 528 554
1 ST LT	WILLIAM J GREEN	01 300 025
2D LT	FRANK F FLAUGH	02 006 347
CAPT	FRANCIS B DRASS	01 257 495
2 ND LT	FRANK H DEEDS JR	02 010 906

Assigned

MAJOR	EDWARD S LIVAUDAIS	0 332 555
CAPT	FRANCIS B DRASS	01 287 495
CAPT	BURNETT B BEACH	01 290 364
1ST LT	GEORGE G OLEWINE	0 523 494
1 ST LT	JAMES C McCORMICK JR	0 307 102
1 ST LT	RUSSELL T BLAIR	01 311 366
1 ST LT	RICHARD T WHATTON	01 321 947
2 ND LT	WILLIAM E STOWE JR	0 351 318

Appointed 2nd Lt from Enlisted Status

2 ND LT	KENT B BAUERSFELD	(Asgd to 17 th Armd Inf Bn)
2 ND LT	DELOS C FORCE	02 011 303
2 ND LT	BLANCHARD B LEACY	01 010 523
2 ND LT	CHESTER W FORSYTHE	(Asgd to 17 th Armd Inf Bn)
2 ND LT	FRANK H DEEDS JR	02 010 906
2 ND LT	GEORGE L DEWITT	02 010 822
2 ND LT	THOMAS W WILLIAMS JR	(Asgn to 17 th Armd Inf Bn)
2 ND LT	STANLEY M FOLKMAN	(Asgn to 17 th Armd Inf Bn)

Appointed 2nd Lt from CWO

2 ND LT	WILLIAM R HELTON	02 011 507
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HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

APRIL 1945

HEADQUARTERS 56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

10 May 1945

Table of Contents

	PAGE
A. Index	33
B. Letter of Transmittal	34
C. Narrative	35-41
D. Casualty Report	42
E. Awards and Decorations Report	43
F. Officers' Roster	44-45
G. Journals with Supporting Documents	Exhibit A *
H. Orders and Overlays	*

(administrative note: the page numbers shown above have been altered

From the original source document to correctly reflect paging of this electronic document.)

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 262, U.S. ARMY

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division, APO 262, U.S. Army

In compliance with memorandum Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945,
transmitted herewith is Unit History of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion for the month of April 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DANIEL J. BRENNAN
WO (JG) USA
Asst Adjutant

OPERATIONS HISTORY – APRIL 1945

(admin note: town names and site designation numbers in this narrative may not be correct, as the source document is very blurred and difficult to decipher...)

1 April 1945: The Battalion (-C/56) plus B/714 Tank Battalion, comprising TF Norton, continued its drive northeast from Hettingen (N5614) 0225. The mission of this drive was to reconnoiter and secure a bridge across the Main River. In the advance the TF took the Gisbelstadt Airfield. Upon reaching the CR (N5021) advance elements received AT fire and the TF deployed at this position. Orders were received to attack the woods (N5023) and continue to Fuchstadt (N6124). A/56 was ordered to seize the bridge at Winterhausen (N6425). The Co upon reaching this bridge reported it blown. B/56 was ordered to seize Rottenhauer (N6027). They seized this town at 1210. A patrol from A/56 was ordered to reconnoiter the bridge at (N6131). The patrol reported the bridge intact. A/56 was immediately ordered to seize this bridge but the enemy blew it before it could be secured. Receiving fire from across the river, A/56 was ordered to hold the high ground northwest of Heidingsfeld (N5031) overlooking Wursburg. B/56 was ordered to the high ground west of Wursburg to contact CCA, CCA having this ground secured. B/56 was pulled back to Rottenbauer. The TF (-) held up for the night in Fuchstadt. A/56 held the high ground overlooking Wursburg.

2 April 1945: The TF moved to Ashelshausen (N6318) approx. 2300, reaching new location 2330.

3 April 1945: OI Hq CCB 031630B April 45 ordered the TF to be prepared to advance on south side of the river to seize Martbreit (N7321) on order. At 2352 A/56 was attached to TF Fields who had seized the bridge at Segnitsmarktbreit.

4 April 1945: At 1206 A/56 reverted back to TF Norton and the TF reverted to CCR command. At 1210 the companies were alerted to move and at 1430 the TF moved to assembly area vicinity Lehlshheim (N7514) prepared to attack as per OI No. 56 HQ CCR. At 1800 the TF reached Smetzheim (N7615) and the woods northeast of this town where orders were received to hold up for the night. At 2100 orders and overlays were given to company commanders to continue the attack 0715, 5 April. B/56 dismounted plus one platoon B/714 to lead the attack with the mission of cutting the Wurtzburg-Nuremberg highway.

5 April 1945: The attack continued 0725 along route as per overlay. Sniper fire in Wasserndorf (N7818), tank fire from vicinity Seinsheim (N7915) and dug in positions along the creek slowed the advance. The TF held up for the night in Iffigmeim (N7819).

6 April 1945: A/56 plus one platoon tanks led the attack which continued 0730, reaching Williamsheim (N9625); the TF due to bad roads continued to Ophefen (N8836) instead of to Nizersheim (N9424) as previously planned. The highway was cut off as ordered in OI No 51 Hq CCR. This objective was taken 1300. This position was held for the night. The TF reverted to CCB control.

7 April 1945: At 0915 the TF moved from Ophefen to Sistershausen (N7627), closing in 1100. Outposts and patrols were operated as per OI Hq CCB dated 7 Apr 45. All available time was spent on maintenance of equipment and personal hygiene.

9 April 1945: In compliance with OI Hq CCB 091000B April 45 one platoon B/56 plus one section of tanks initiated reconnaissance in area assigned to the Battalion. Resistance was met on the north edge of the Elester Forest and the patrol was called back. At 1810 the command was alerted for immediate movement. TF Norton to follow TF Fields in attack southwest. The TF tied in behind TF Fields in Mainbersheim (N7926) and continued west through Reselee. TF Fields received AT and mortar fire in Wiscombrenn (N6530). B/56 and 1st Infantry Co Prov was ordered to hold Reselee. The TF (-) continued north to Grose-Langheim (N8051). Patrols from A/56 were ordered to patrol northwest to Herzblach (N7855) and northeast to the edge of woods (N625657). These patrols reported no enemy activity. B/56 maintained patrols from Reselee to Groselangheim.

10 April 1945: At 0635 company commanders were given attack order. The mission of the TF was to attack Klein-Langheim (N8335) from the west. A/56 dismounted plus one platoon of tanks led the attack jumping off at 0730. The TF attacked northwest to Stadtechwarsach. The advance elements met light resistance in the woods northwest of Grosslangheim. At 0945 advance elements had advanced through Hormblach continuing to Stadtachwarsach. The attack continued from Stadtechwarsach 1323. Resistance met in Haidt slowed up the advance. At 1445 advance elements had reached the objective. Resistance was met in the south sector of town. The TF reorganized in Klein Langheim and continued southeast to next objective, Gastell (N8860). Advance elements reached the objective 1745 meeting no resistance. The town was secured for the night. At 2130 company commanders were given attack order for the following day. Mission was to continue southeast to Stierhofstetten (N9238) then northwest to objective Ziegenbach (N9025).

11 April 1945: B/56 _____ plus one platoon of tanks led the attack jumping off at 0730. Advance elements reached Greuth 0735 and Stierhofstatten at 1006 with no resistance. Fire was received from Herrnberg (N9125) where an enemy battalion CP was found to be located. The resistance was wiped out and the TF continued the advance. Resistance was met at the objective. Contact was made with the 93rd Cav Reconnaissance and at 1632 the positions were consolidated. The TF reorganized prepared to continue the advance. Orders were received to seize and secure the town of Enslar (N9065). A/56 entered the town at 1855 and took the town against SA fire. The TF (-) was to continue southwest to Feesenheim (N8523), then southeast along the highway to contact TF Fields in Markt-Bibart. The advance was continued 1810. Resistance in the woods southwest of Ziegenbach slowed up the advance. Reaching Feesenheim the TF turned south again meeting resistance. Due to darkness the TF pulled back to Feesenheim holding there for the night. A/56 held Enslar.

12 April 1945: The attack southeast was continued 0630. One tank in our advance guard hit a mine slowing up our advance temporarily. At 0730 our advance elements contacted A/56 in Enslar. At 0820 advance elements contacted TF Fields in Markt-Bibart and the attack was continued to the southeast.

Advance elements passed through Neundorf with no resistance. At this point the TF split and continued south seizing the town of Ingolstadt and Eselheim with no resistance. A/56, 1st Infantry Co Prov and B/714 secured Eselheim for the night. The TF (-) secured Ingolstadt. Patrols were sent to the woods west of these towns and reported contacting the 93rd Cav Reconnaissance.

13 April 1945: OI Hq CCB 131030B Apr 45 ordered the TF to seize Lembach, Ullstadt, Langenfeld and Nesselbach if the towns were not strongly defended. 1st Inf Co Prov plus 31 MM mortar platoon plus one platoon of tanks were ordered to seize Lembach (N9819) and Nesselbach (O0012). This force moved out at 1355. The TF (-) moved to Sugenheim (N9515). The four objectives were taken with no resistance and secured for the night.

14 April 1945: At 0600 orders were received to move the TF to Nesselbach (O0012) immediately. The TF moved out to that assembly area 1105. OI Hq CCB 141100B Apr 45 ordered the TF moved to Ipsheim (N9896) to secure the bridge intact if possible or to secure a bridgehead on the north bank of the Aisch River. The TF arrived in Nesselbach 1215. B/56 plus one platoon tanks jumped off for Ipsheim at 1346. Advance elements reached Nesenlshe (O2211) at 1419. The bridge in Ipsheim was found to be blown. At 1532 orders were received from CCB to cross the bridge at Distershaim (O0210) which TF Fields secured intact. The TF was to bypass Dettenheim in moving to Distershaim. The TF moved back to Nesselbach closing in at 1730. OI Hq CCB 142230B Apr 45 ordered this TF to cross the bridge at Distershaim and advance southeast.

15 April 1945: TF Fields advanced slowly because of sniper fire. A/56 plus one platoon tanks as advance guard reached west Distershaim 1056. The advance guard continued against light resistance to Netsemaurach (O1107) and held up for the night in that town.

16 April 1945: The TF continued the advance 0630 through the town of Enschenhof (O1105) and continuing southeast to Wilberhadorf (O1503). At 1800 advance elements were 1500 yards from Wilberhadorf. The bridge in Wilberhadorf was found to be blown and had to be closed in before the advance could be continued. The TF then continued to Meiersberg (O1588) where the force was to await further orders. The TF closed in in Meiersberg at 1940 holding up in that town for the night.

17 April 1945: At 0730 A/56 plus one platoon tanks led the TF in the advance to the south. Advance elements reached Eetchenbach (T1997) at 0837. At 1025 orders were received to assemble the TF in Schleuerstach (T1904). The TF was to follow the TF Fields over the bridge in Schonighausen (T2192). TF Fields was held up by enemy resistance and this TF continued to Grose Habersdorf and thence to Fernabrunst (T2485) reaching this town at 1330 with no resistance. The advance continued to Clarsbach thence south to the highway southwest down the highway to attack Heilstrenn (T8136). Advance elements reached the objective at 1557 meeting little resistance. The town was cleared and secured for the night.

18 April 1945: Orders were received at 1000 to move out at 1100 over main highway to seize Ansbach (T8581). B/56 plus one platoon tanks led the attack. Advance elements reached Wieklesgrouth

(T1504) and Walhingen (T1205) with no resistance. Resistance was met on the west edge of Hatterbach (T1205). Several enemy were killed and 16 prisoners taken. The roads had been mined with oil bombs. These were removed. Ober Bishertach (T9095) was taken without resistance. The bridge in this town was mined with 6,000 pound time bombs which the force removed. Advance elements reached Ansbach at 1600 and found no evidence of friendly or enemy troops. The advance guard received heavy enemy shelling at 1900. Approx 40 PWs were taken. The town was secured for the night.

19 April 1945: A patrol from 1st Infantry Co Prov plus one section tanks was sent to reconnoiter the woods north of Ansbach at 0900. This patrol destroyed five 75s, four 88s and captured five PWs. Patrols from A and B/56 flushed the town of Ansbach. The TF left Ansbach 1200 with Feuchtwangen (S8966) as the objective (see OI Hq CCB 1911130B Apr 45). Blown bridge at Neumstetter (S9877) forced the TF to take an alternate route to Stegbrach (S9974). Mines and roadblocks located at S964728 were removed with no loss of vehicles or personnel. The advance was continued to Bittelhof where the enemy was seen running toward the woods to the northeast. SA and artillery were directed at the enemy. The TF continued the advance to Birbach (S9369) where the force held up for the night.

20 April 1945: At 0726 B/56 plus one platoon tanks as advance guard continued to axis of advance to Feuchtwangen. TF Fields attacked from the south and TF Norton attacked from the west, fired artillery and 76s at the enemy in positions west of the objective. This TF moved into town approx. 1100 without further resistance. The south sector of town east of the creek was assigned to this TF to secure for the night.

21 April 1945: OI Hq CCB 212100B Apr 45 was received and orders and overlays were given to the company commanders at 2200. At 2320 Liaison Officer brought the following orders: The TF to continue to Bopfingen (S9132) moving into an assembly area prepared to aid the 92nd Cav Reconnaissance at Kirchheim (S9532) where 1000 enemy were reported. The TF was then to cross on over the river at Bopfingen or Aifhausen or both, then to be prepared to attack south and southeast to seize crossings at T0703, Y1004, Y1305.

22 April 1945: A/56 plus one platoon tanks as advance guard crossed IP 0730 following TF Fields as per OI Hq CCB and continued enroute to bypass Bopfingen continuing to Ohmepheim (S9223). At 1400 orders were received to continue advance along route (see overlay) to Hochstadt (T0805). Advance elements received no resistance and reached the objective at 1630. A foot p-atrol from A/56 was sent to reconnoiter the bridge at T103045. This patrol reported the bridge blown. A mounted patrol from B/56 plus one platoon tanks was sent to reconnoiter bridge (T1407) at Grenheim (T1408). The patrol received SA fire and found the bridge blown and mines located in town. The TF secured and held up in Hochstadt for the night.

23 April 1945: The TF was to be prepared to assist on orders from CCA in attack of Westingen (Y1799). At 0900 a patrol from B/56 was ordered to patrol hourly from Hochstadt to Lutzingen. A patrol from A/56 was ordered to patrol hourly to CR plus 1200. The Reconnaissance Platoon/56 maintained liaison with CCA CP at Dillingen, reporting hourly CCA's progress. At 1400 the patrol from A/56 discontinued

And A and B/56 alternated on an hourly patrol along route Hochstadt-Lutzingen-Ober Gleuheim-Blindheim-Sonderheim-Hochstadt. Mission of this patrol was to report enemy activity if any. The initial patrol consisted of one platoon B/56 plus one section tanks to investigate a PW report of 40 enemy in Ober Glauheim guarding prisoner. This patrol captured 23 enemy in the town. The 1500 patrol from A/56 captured 19 enemy moving southeast from Ober Glindheim. Patrols discontinued at 2100 to be continued at daylight. At 1600 1st Inf Co Prov plus one platoon tanks was ordered to secure Steinheim and prevent any possible enemy infiltration. The TF (-) spent the night in Hochstadt.

24 April 1945: Orders were received at 0820 to discontinue the patrols ordered 23 Apr 45. At 0830 the TF was alerted to move to Aislingen (Y0195) prepared to attack on axis to secure a bridge over the Danube (see OI Hq CCB 241100B Apr 45). B/119 Engineers Battalion (minus one platoon) was attached to the TF. At 1200 orders were received to continue the advance guard to reconnoiter bridges in Offingen (X9490), holding the main body in Aislingen. B/56 plus one platoon tanks and two squads Engineers as the advance guard moved out at 1300. The advance guard reached Offingen at 1635 and reported the bridges intact and a roadblock and SA fire west of the bridge at X948901. Orders were received at 1900 to move the TF south turning south at X956011 to the Autobann, west on the Autobann to the objective (bridge at X990845). B/56 plus attachments were called back to RJ X980811 to fall in behind Hq Co. At 1945 A/56 plus one platoon tanks and two squads Engineers as advance guard led the advance south through Schmuttenbach, Mindelatheim, Burgau, Ober Kneringen to the creek west of Unt Kneringen (X953852); at this point, which the advance elements reached approx. 2300, the advance guard received Panzer Faust fire from dug in enemy positions. The TF held up in Unt Kneringen prepared to continue the attack 25 April to mop up this resistance. The column received approx 50 rounds of large caliber enemy fire, believed to be rockets, between Mindelatheim and Burgau. No casualties were suffered.

25 April 1945: B/56 plus one platoon tanks continued the attack 0700; 400 yards west of Unt Kneringen advance elements received AT, mortar and SA fire from the woods southwest of their position. The advance guard mopped up the resistance and continued to the Autobann then west to attack Linbach. B/714 (-) supported the tank infantry team. Reaching the high ground 500 yards east of Linbach, AT artillery and mortar fire was received knocking out four tanks, two of which were recovered. The tanks were withdrawn and the advance elements were held up for four hours. The resistance was softened up with artillery, AG and mortar fire and the advance guard took the town of Linbach. The town was secured at 1300. A patrol from B/56 was sent to Marthausen. Within sight of this town the patrol received heavy fire and was forced to withdraw. At 1540 orders were received to continue attack east to Ober Kneringen, south to road west of Remstart, then west to objective of Marthausen (X9596). A/56 plus one platoon tanks led the attack, moving out at 1700. 1st Inf Co Prov was attached to TF Fields and moved out to join that force 1630. Advance elements reached the objective at 1802 meeting no resistance. As advance guard reached the far side of town, they received 5-6 rounds of enemy artillery fire. The TF remained in this town for the night.

26 April 1945: At 0700 a patrol from A/56 was sent south to the Autobann then west to Boffingen (X8985). This patrol received no fire, picked up five PWs and reported approx. 10 enemy retreating to the southwest. A patrol from B/56 at 0700 was sent west to Neusheim (X9086), southeast to the Autobann then north returning to Marthausen. The patrol reported no enemy activity. At 0945 orders were received to move the TF as soon as possible south to the Autobann, west down the Autobann, then north to assist in repelling a counterattack by five enemy companies and five tanks against elements of the 65 Infantry Division at Leipheim (X3385). The advance guard (A/56 plus one platoon tanks, AG platoon and two squads Engineers) moved out as ordered at 1000. At 1105 the advance elements reached a point on the Autobann approx. ½ mile west of Boffingen where they received heavy artillery and SA fire. This fire was observed fire. At 1300 friendly troops in Leipheim informed S-3 the counterattack in Leipheim had been repulsed. Infiltrating vehicles past the point of observed fire, the advance guard reached Bubesheim at 1330. The main body was turned north off the Autobann to Boffingen then west at Bensingen to Wasserburg where orders were issued to assemble the TF in Boffingen. Orders received 1415 were to assemble in the southeast sector of Leipheim with an alternate assembly area in Boffingen. The main body captured approx. 150 enemy in Wasserburg. Orders were changed to assemble the TF in Unt and Ober Kneringen. The TF was moved as ordered. 1st Inf Co Prov reverted to TF Norton. B/56, one platoon tanks and 1 ½ platoons 1st Inf Co Prov secured and held up in Unt Kneringen (X9585). The TF (-) secured Ober Kneringen for the night. A total of 364 PWs were taken. An hourly patrol from A/56 starting at 2000 kept contact with B/56. Security was tied in TF Fields on the left.

27 April 1945: Orders received 0200 to be prepared to move to assembly area vicinity Ober Nuefnach (Y1254) any time after 271000B Apr. Details received 0900 (see OI Hq CCB 270830B Apr 45). Formation for the move was as follows: B/56, B/714, Hq Co, Hq, Med Det, A/56, 1st Inf Co Prov and Sv Co/56. B/56 crossed the IP 1252. Change as follows was received enroute and OI: Continue south to Thennhausen then east to continue on prescribed route. Continue west through Mittelnoufnach to Langerringen (Y8455). TF Norton secured the north sector of Langerringen and TF Fields the south sector.

28 April 1945: The TF remained in Langerringen. OI Hq CCB 281430B Apr 45 received 1700. OI TF Norton 281730 Apr 45 given to company commanders 2000.

29 April 1945L TF on two hour alert at 0300. Message was received 0625 from CCB: "The bridge will be available to us at 0830. Alert your command to be ready to be at the bridge at that time." The TF moved out at 0800 following route White. (See OI TF Norton 281730 Apr 45.) On reaching Diessen (Y5132) orders were received to continue south on the main route to Weilheim then southeast through Durnham to objective (Sindelsdorf – Y6909). The advance guard met resistance in Deutenhausen (Y5720), SA and artillery fire coming from Marmbach. Civilians reported an 88 in the west edge of Marmbach and one in the woods east of that town. The 88 in town was knocked out. Two dismounted patrols from A/56 were sent to locate the 88 reported in the woods. The 88 could not be located. Due to darkness the operation was held up for the night. A/56, B/714 and Sv/56 were held up in Marmbach. The TF (-) held up in Deutenhausen.

30 April 1945: B/56 plus one platoon tanks and AG platoon as advance guard continued the advance at 0615. The objective (Sindelsdorf – Y8909) was reached and secured approx. 1015. Orders were received to continue south to Schlehdorf (Y6801). This objective was reached at 1400 with no resistance. The TF was then ordered to seize Keshel. Patrols from B/56 were sent to reconnoiter bridges enroute to objective. Bridges at Y685013, 709025, 7108 and 729055 were reported blown. The TF secured and held up in Schlehdorf for the night. In the day's operation 16 officers (one Brig Gen, one Colonel, three Lt Colonels, 7 Majors, one Captain and three Lieutenants) and 167 enlisted men were taken prisoners.

CASUALTY REPORT

APRIL 1945

Killed in Action	37
Died of Wounds	6
Missing in Action	0
Battle Casualties	206
Non-Battle Casualties	123
Returned to Duty	132

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

APRIL 1945

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded Sergeant Millard Mikes 37 036 956 per Section V, GO 28, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 1 April 1945.

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded Pfc Francis T Tasoy 31 199 107 per Section V, GO 28, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 1 April 1945.

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded 2nd Lt Blanehard S Leasey 02 010 533 per Section VI, GO 28, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 1 April 1945.

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded 1st Lt Dominic J Feeley 0 523 602 per Section VIII, GO 31, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 14 April 1945.

"The Bronze Star Medal" was awarded Major Jean G Norton 0 336 169 per Section VIII, GO 31, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 14 April 1945.

"The Silver Star" was awarded Captain David S Fairbairn 01 290 400 per Section V, GO 33, Hq, 12th Armored Division, dated 19 April 1945.

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

1 April 1945

OFFICERS ROSTER

HEADQUARTERS

Norton, Jean G 0 336 169	Major	Battalion Commander
Livaudais, Edward S 0 332 555	Major	Battalion Executive Officer
Gagliardi, Salver G 01 290 407	Captain	Battalion Operations Officer
Bright, Elmer F 0 418 316	Captain	Battalion Intelligence Officer
Harness, Conrad P 01 010 970	Captain	Battalion Communications Officer
Withers, James R Jr 0 327 669	Captain	Battalion Supply Officer
Bloodworth, James B 0 538 815	1 st Lt	Battalion Adjutant
Smith, Edward D 01 311 336	1 st Lt	Battalion Liaison Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Maddox, Clyde K 01 290 448	Captain	Company Commander
Jacobs, John L 01 011 790	2 nd Lt	Maintenance Officer
Carter, Harry J 02 006 549	2 nd Lt	Reconnaissance Platoon Leader
Ranken, Wilmer N 02 006 361	2 nd Lt	Assault Gun Platoon Leader
Mulligan, Lee 0 526 302	2 nd Lt	Mortar Platoon Leader

SERVICE COMPANY

Snydstrap, George L 01 300 101	Captain	Battalion Maintenance Officer
Reed, Dale Y 01 316 089	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Snead, William J 0 524 033	2 nd Lt	Company Maintenance Officer
Force, Delos C 02 011 505	2 nd Lt	Bn Supply and Transportation Officer
Fugina, Rudolph F 01 290 929	2 nd Lt	Assistant Company Maintenance Officer

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Thomas, Andrew H 0 469 725	Captain	Battalion Surgeon
Zimmerman, William F 0 329 936	Captain	Asst Battalion Surgeon
Knapp, Lloyd R 01 726 216	Captain	Battalion Dental Officer

OFFICERS ROSTER (continued)

ATTACHED PROVISIONAL INFANTRY COMPANY # 1

VanDerhoef 01 300 106	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Blair, Clyde J 01 015 774	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
McCormick, James C Jr 0 307 102	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Whatton, Richard T 01 521 974	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Leasy, Blanehard S 02 726 216	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Stowe, William B Jr 0 561 816	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

COMPANY A

Blair, Clyde J 01 015 774	1 st Lt	Company Commander
Bukovinac, Matt R 01 016 977	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Patterson, John Jr 0 538 914	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Helton, William P W2 110 907	CWO	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader

COMPANY B

Beach, Burnett 01 290 364	Captain	Company Commander
Feeley, Dominic J 0 325 602	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Peischl, Charles F 02 067 187	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Mankwitz, Eugene B 02 010 525	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Dewitt, George L 02 010 322	2 nd Lt	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader
O'Brien, Donald J 01 011 643	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

COMPANY C

Fairbairn, David S 01 290 400	Captain	Company Commander
Young, Arnold R 01 295 614	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Trusley, John E 01 303 800	1 st Lt	Anti-Tank Platoon Leader
Russell, Wallace R 0 547 326	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Sehl, Earl O 02 007 187	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Forchielli, Gine A 01 314 736	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Warner, Henry H 02 007 166	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

HEADQUARTERS 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

1 – 10 MAY 1945

HEADQUARTERS 56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

APO 262, U. S. ARMY

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

25 May 1945

Table of Contents

	PAGE
A. Index	47
B. Letter of Transmittal	48
C. Narrative	49-50
D. Casualty Report	51
E. Awards and Decorations Report	52
F. Officers' Roster	53-54
G. Journals with Supporting Documents	Exhibit A *
H. Orders and Overlays	*

*(administrative note: the page numbers shown above have been altered
from the original source document to correctly reflect paging of this electronic document.)*

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 262, U.S. ARMY

24 May 1945

SUBJECT: Unit History

TO : Commanding General, 12th Armored Division, APO 262, U.S. Army

In compliance with memorandum Headquarters, 12th Armored Division, 7 January 1945, transmitted herewith is Unit History of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion for the month of (1-10) May 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

DANIEL J. BRENNAN
WO (JG) USA
Asst Adjutant

OPERATIONS HISTORY – MAY 1945

(admin note: town names and site designation numbers in this narrative may not be correct, as the source document is very blurred and difficult to decipher...)

1 May: The Battalion (-) + B/714 Tank Battalion constituted TF Norton. The TF was located in SCHLENDORF (Y6891) on this date. Orders from CCB (see OI Hq CCB 301605B Apr 45) were received and given to company commanders 2230 30 Apr. One Platoon A/56 crossed the LOISAGN RIVER, west of RICHL, in assault boats 0542. A/56 completed crossing 0610 without meeting resistance. 1st Inf Co Prov followed A/56 and completed crossing 0724. The two companies set up bridgehead positions approx. 1000 yards east of the river. A patrol from A/56 was sent to RICHL (Y7309) and reported no resistance. 1st Inf Co Prov sent a patrol to RENIBIKTSCHHEIM (Y7507). This patrol reported meeting no resistance. These patrols remained in the towns and were reinforced. Engineers completed a bridge across the river and vehicles were moved forward. Hq (-Forward CP), B/56, B/714, and Serv Co/56 at 1430 were ordered to move forward from SCHLENDORF to cross the river behind TF Fields. The TF moved forward to RICHL where security was posted and the TF held up. A/56 was instructed to send a patrol at 0930 on 2 May north along main road to Y789260 then east to contact elements of the 36 Infantry Division in vicinity of Y842130. These patrols were to report condition of roads and bridges. 1st Inf Co Prov was attached to TF Fields for the night.

2 May: The patrol from A/56 contacted the 2nd Battalion 114 Infantry Regiment of the 36 Infantry Division at Y 839144. This infantry battalion was moving east into PAD TOLZ which was being held by elements of the 114 Infantry Regiment. The patrol reported no resistance. The patrol from B/56 contacted the 114 Cav in BAD MEILEBRUNN (Y7812). Moving east through the Cavalry the patrol met resistance from the north edge of woods approx. two kilometers east of town. The patrol received enemy mortar fire and fired on the position with 50 cal MGs. The patrol captured one enemy and from the PW received information that a company of SS and one platoon Volkstrum were in position in the east edge of the woods. The patrol returned 0745. At 1100 the Reconnaissance Platoon/56 was sent to reconnoiter the main route north to Y 802190 then southeast to select an assembly area in the west side of PAD TOLZ. The TF was to be prepared to move to this assembly area. Upon completion of the bridge in PAD TOLZ, the TF was to continue east to WAAKIRCHEN (Y9415). The main body was to remain in this town and a flying column sent forward to seize intact if possible the bridge at Z032174. If the bridge was seized intact the TF was to continue to objective (MIESBACH Z0618). This operation was rescinded when at 1330 the battalion commander received instructions that the French CC-V was to pass through us to advance on our objective of MIESBACH (it being probable that on 5 May we would go into Army Reserve to protect rear areas). At 1400 A/56 was ordered to move as soon as possible to LAWSBURG (Y3444), there to report to the military government. At 1500 3-1 squad patrols from B/56 were sent to reconnoiter the woods east of BICHL. The patrols captured four enlisted men and two officers from the German Air Corps. No other activity reported. The 1st Inf Co Prov reverted back to the TF and at 1600 the company was ordered to post security at bridge (X726095) across the LOISACH RIVER.

3 May: The TF (-A/56 and 1st Inf Co Prov) spent the day on maintenance of vehicles. The TF outposted the town and in addition local security was posted during hours of darkness.

4 May: At 0630 orders were received to have a billeting party on one-hour alert at 0700. At 1400 the liaison NCO brought a two-hour alert order to move to the vicinity of ULM (X6580).

5 May: At 0030 TF Commander received from liaison officer OI Hq CC-B 042400B May 45. Company commanders were given the march order. The TF (-A/56) moved out at 0400. Order of march: B/714, B/56, Med Det, Hq, Hq Co, 1st Inf Co Prov, Serv/56. A/56 remained in LAWSBURG. The TF reached SUPRINGEN (X4686) at 1430. At this point the TF Commander assigned companies to towns within the TF sector (see overlay) as follows: B/56 COPPINGEN (S4013); 1st Inf Co Prov WIESENSTEIG (X3997); TF (-) KIRCHHEIM (S2506). No mission had as yet been assigned to the TF.

6 May: The day was spent on maintenance and personnel hygiene. At CC-B Hq the battalion S-3 received OI, Hq CC-B 061200B May 45 and overlay of the TF area of responsibility. Detailed information to be received 7 May 45.

7 May: The TF received orders to secure installations, relieving elements now guarding these installations. (For location of installations see OI TF Norton 071930B May 45.) Installations to be taken over on 8 May 45. These instructions were given to all companies. A/56 to revert to TF Norton 8 May. Hq Co/56 was ordered to send a guide to A/56 to guide the company to GMUND (S5124).

8 May: B/714 moved to GO indecipherable . A/56 moved to GRUND. All installations (less those assigned to A/56) were taken over by the TF (see letter, deployment statement dated 8 May). A/56 spent the day in moving and billeting in new area prepared to take over installations 9 May 45.

9 May: A/56 took over assigned installations (see letter, deployment statement dated 9 May 45).

10 May: Word was received from CC-B that the battalion would be relieved by the 100th Infantry Division and Division artillery and the battalion would take over installations guarded by the 92nd Rcn. The battalion S-3 contacted Hq 92nd Rcn and obtained an overlay of installations in their area. The battalion S-2 was sent forward to remain at Hq 92nd Rcn in Wertingen (Y1790) where company commanders would be sent to take over installations.

CASUALTY REPORT

MAY 1945

Died of Wounds	1
Battle Casualties	6
Non-Battle Casualties	34
Returned to Duty	41

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS REPORT

MAY 1945

NEGATIVE.

HEADQUARTERS
56TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A. P. O. 262, U.S.ARMY

1 May 1945

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS

Norton, Jean G	Lt Colonel	Commanding Officer
Beach, Burnett	Captain	Operations Officer
Bright, Elmer F	Captain	Intelligence Officer
Harness, Conrad P	Captain	Communications Officer
Withers, James R Jr	Captain	Supply Officer
Bloodworth, James B	1 st Lt	Adjutant
Smith, Edward D	1 st Lt	Liaison Officer

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Maddox, Clyde K	Captain	Commanding Officer
Jacobs, John L	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Mulligan, Leo	1 st Lt	Mortar Platoon Leader
Ranken, Wilmer R	2 nd Lt	Assault Gun Platoon Leader
Carter, Harry J	2 nd Lt	Reconnaissance Platoon Leader

SERVICE COMPANY

Snydstrap, George L	Captain	Battalion Maintenance Officer
Reed, Dale Y	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Force, Delos C	2 nd Lt	Supply and Transportation Platoon Ldr
Brennan, Daniel J	WO (jg)	Personnel Officer
Parks, David L	WO (jg)	Assistant Supply Officer

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Jenkins, Edward M	Captain	Battalion Surgeon
Zimmerman, William F	Captain	Asst Battalion Surgeon
Halpern, Leonard E	Captain	Battalion Dental Officer

OFFICERS ROSTER (continued)

COMPANY A

VanDerhoef, Floyd C	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Sneed, Kenneth C	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Fugina, Rudolph F	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Klausman, Nat P	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Robinson, Richard R	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

COMPANY B

Feeley, Dominic J	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Carlin, William	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Peischl, Charles F	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Measley, Wilbur P Jr	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Dewitt, George L	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

COMPANY C

Trusley, John E	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
Young, Arnold R	1 st Lt	Maintenance Officer
Sehl, Earl O	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Forchielli, Gine A	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Warner, Henry H	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader

COMPANY D

Blair, Clyde J	1 st Lt	Commanding Officer
McCormick, James C Jr	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Whatton, Richard T 01 521 974	1 st Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader
Stowe, William B Jr 0 561 816	2 nd Lt	Rifle Platoon Leader