

Few members of our present company can tell the following story complete, for it was through the effort and bravery of these men that our motto "Battle - B - Co", Boldest, Bravest, Best, was established.

The original cadre of Company B, 275th Inf Regt arrived at Camp Adair, Oregon on May 13, 1943. The elements consisted of men from the 91st Infantry Division. On June 15, 1943, Company B, 275th Inf Regt was activated as a unit of the 70th Inf Division, at Camp Adair, Oregon; and received most of its training there. 1st Lt Sinclair was Commanding Officer, and Larry Land was First Sergeant.

The first cadre included our present Supply Sergeant Richard M. Spratt, Catalina Island, California as Armored Artificer. Sergeant Stack, now in 275th Inf Regt Hq, was Company Clerk. Fillers for the Company arrived about the middle of August to September 1943. These included Sgt Willie New, Sgt Glendon Longworth, Cpl Marion Thomas, and Pfc Donald Storlie.

"The Trailblazer" was the Division magazine, and the weekly post newspaper was "Camp Adair Sentry".

The 70th Inf Division was moved from Camp Adair, Oregon to Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri July 20, 1944. Captain William Schmied was Commanding Officer, and Clarence L. Ramos First Sergeant.

Fillers for the POE were taken January 1944 to September 1944. Original Company "B" Riflemen that came overseas in this unit were mostly obtained in August and September 1944.

On the 15th December 1944 Company "B" 275th Inf Regt debarked at Marseilles, France, after a journey by ship from Boston Port of Embarkation. At that time our Division was termed a "green outfit", a unit of the Seventh Army. Soon that status was to be changed. Christmas Morning 1944 found a very tired, and cold outfit at a railhead at Brumath, France (Alsace-Lorraine).

December 26, 1944 the Company was officially entered as "on the line". The first mission was along the east side of the Rhine River in a defensive position. Upon being relieved, the Company proceeded to Riechovan, France. From Riechovan, France Company "B" went on into the attack at Phillipsbourg, France on January 1, 1945.

A reconnaissance was made by Captain Schmied of the Phillipsbourg, France area the night of December 31, 1944. There had been a battle in the vicinity the night before. The Company moved through Phillipsburg where signs of the previous battle were noticeable. Dead and wounded lay along the road that led out of the town. As "A" Company turned off to the road to the right toward its objective and "B" Company continued on the road to the left, the first shots were fired and the first prisoners taken. The Company advanced up the high ground that was the first objective and were immediately pinned down by 88 fire. Company "B" took its first objective that day (Hill A) and moved on to take its second objective (Hill B) before nightfall. It was here the Company was cut off and stayed for five days without food, water, or shelter until Captain Schmied gave the order to surrender. The few men who escaped the enemy pincer move fought in defense of the town of Phillipsburg, France which the enemy counterattacked the following day.

Among those killed in this engagement were ~~W. Bergman~~, Cpl Dupuy, and Pfc Hynes. Those known to have been seriously wounded at the time were Captain Schmied, Commanding Officer, Lt Groffie, Lt Smith, S/Sgt Gallagher, and Private Talbot. Further details in behalf of this Company are not yet clearly known.

Several days later a small, weary and bewhiskered group, headed by S/Sgt Glendon Longworth arrived at the Rear Area and related their escape and the plight of the Company. It was this group that confirmed the reports of the heroic stand the Company was making; although surrounded.

Company "B" was reorganized a few weeks later at Nousseweiler, France under the capable guidance of Captain Donald C. Pence, a West Pointer. Assigned as First Sergeant was Luther Carlson. A nucleus was made by the transfer of men throughout the 275th Regiment into Company B. Shortly thereafter fillers arrived; the majority of whom were formerly basically trained in other branches of the Service. These men were immediately given more Infantry training and coordinated into what was soon to be a winning team. These were the men who were to successfully attack and outfight the enemy. These were to be the men on whom the spearhead of a Regiment would depend; upon which the "fighting spirit" of a Company was to carry on.

Many successful reconnaissance and combat patrols were made at dusk probing the defenses of Lixing, France; which was holding up the advance of the 1st Bn 275th Inf. The obstacles of snow and sheet held no barrier; for the new slogan of 1st Lt John H. Morrison "We're here to Kill Krauts!" had become the byword of the Company.

Captain Donald C. Pence was seriously wounded while gallantly leading a combat patrol in fulfilling its mission near Lixing, France. He was later recommended for the Medal of Honor.

*from Seattle, Washington*

On February 7, 1945 Captain Willard W. Hawke (then 1st Lt) was assigned as Commanding Officer. During the course of the week several patrols were made and road blocks were maintained in the vicinity.

A week later the Company moved to Hundlington, France; where vigorous training was endorsed and instituted. This was in preparation for the attack that was to follow shortly thereafter. This was the training that was to later prove its worth in combat and uphold a spirit that was to be known as "Battlin -B- Co". A Company that could do its job in combat as a winning team, under the capable supervision of Captain Willard W Hawke and his staff of leaders. This had become a Company with an element within a unit. A dependable squad leader with dependable men. A determination to carry out all orders. A determination and will to "Kill Krauts". This was the new "Battlin - B- Co"!

On February 17, 1945 the new "Battlin -B- Co" jumped off from Ruling, France on what was to be their greatest achievement; and advanced toward the Siegfried Line! A swift advance over hilly terrain brought the outfit to Alstingen, France; approximately two kilometers from the Main Defenses of the Siegfried Line. After a night of incessant shelling by 88s the attack continued into the Stiftswald Forest, France.

Heavy resistance on the left flank near Forbach, France continued after Company B took an important hill. On February 22, 1945, Pvt Arthur H. Mower, Portland, Oregon, skillfully placing his machine gun in an effective position, courageously covered the advance of a comrade through hazardous territory to eliminate successfully an enemy tank which was spearheading a ~~severe~~ forceful counterattack. The tank neutralized, he then bravely poured a continuous stream of fire into hostile riflemen, contributing immeasurably to the scattering of the enemy counterattack.

On 22 February 1945 T/Sgt Glendon C. Longworth, St Louis, Mo, and his men of the 1st platoon were subject to heavy enemy artillery fire. The intensive shelling netted eighteen casualties. Cut off from the remainder of the Company by the enemy fire, T/Sgt Longworth disregarded his own safety, moved among his men, caring for the wounded and skillfully directing the platoon's operations through the night and the following day. During the entire operation he kept his Company Commander informed of the developments of the engagement. His superb leadership and skill in holding the almost untenable position with only twelve men enabled the company to advance to its important objective. T/Sgt Longworth received the Silver Star for this action. During this action Captain Willard W Hawke was wounded in the left leg; but refused to be evacuated.

When the attack of the first platoon was halted by heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, Private Dwight C. Strickler, a mortarman, noticed that the platoon's medical aid man was among the several casualties. Disregarding the hostile fire, he picked up the wounded medical aid man's first aid kit and carried the wounded to cover, where he gave them first aid. His courageous initiative probably saved the lives of several men. In a subsequent engagement Private Strickler lost his life in the performance of his duties. His home is Grottoes, Virginia.

Throughout two strong enemy counterattacks, which threatened the company's position, Sergeant Harold L. Blehm, Madisonville, Ky, refused to yield, kept his machinegun crew in action. When his first gunner was wounded, he personally manned the gun. Although endangered by heavy small arms fire and tree bursts from mortar shells, he fired on the enemy with such effectiveness that both counterattacks were broken with many casualties inflicted on the hostile troops. His courageous action in face of great odds enabled Company "B" to hold hard won ground and exemplifies the highest standards of courage in the Armed Forces of the United States. In a subsequent action Sergeant Blehm was killed in the performance of his duties.

On February 23, 1945 a skirmish with the enemy S/Sgt Earl Collins (then Pvt) Knoxville, Tennessee, when surrounded twice by hostile forces, fought his way free with the use of his rifle and hand grenades. Locating an unmanned machine gun, he turned it loose on the enemy, then when the ammunition was expended, he picked up a BAR and continued his assault killing several of the enemy. Three days later, when the enemy again infiltrated within fifty feet of his position, S/Sgt Collins forced them to flee, with the use of his rifle and hand grenades.

On this day the enemy attacked the right flank of Company "B" with a tank and Infantry. During the attack Pfc Charles Garland (then Pvt) Lakeview, Oregon, moved from tree to tree, through heavy small arms fire repeatedly firing on the attacking troops. He deceived the enemy as to the number of men in action on that flank, thus causing them to deploy; slowing the counterattack which was later repelled. This was an important factor in enabling the company to hold its position.

It was this same early morning, near Saarbrücken, Germany that Pvt Thomas Green, Brewton, Alabama observed a tank supported by infantry attempting to outflank the Company's positions. Recognizing the critical situation he volubly left his foxhole and crossed open terrain to a position from which he could fire on the enemy riflemen. Then, moving from tree to tree, Private Green fired with such accuracy and volume that hostile forces withdrew.

Pvt Robert W. Mault, Chippewa County, Michigan, in Stiftswald Forest, France on 23 February 1945 exposed himself to aimed hostile fire for the purpose of locating the enemy gun positions. The company was under a heavy artillery concentration during this period. Pvt Mault was reinforced by rocket launchers and machine guns. While remaining exposed and firing his rifle, he deliberately adjusted mortar fire to within 35 yards of his own position.

A heroic achievement was made by Pfc Morris Rubin, Chicago, Illinois on 23 February 1945 near Saarbrücken, Germany. When his comrades were being forced back during a strong hostile counterattack, Pfc Rubin remained at his machine gun and continued to fire at the oncoming enemy. As a result of his courageous devotion to duty, the enemy was delayed and subsequently repelled. Pfc Rubin's heroic action was inspiring to his fellow soldiers and was instrumental in enabling his company to hold its position.

On the high ground overlooking Saarbrücken, Germany, "A" and "C" Companies withdrew because of a tank attack. Company "B" held its ground and stopped the counterattack; thereby saving the 1st Bn position. In this period of seven days there were eight officers of this company listed as casualties. Before replacements were received one officer and 35 men were left. This high ground was Hitler's Holy Ground; blessed by Adolph Hitler when he came into France.

*And evacuated.*

At the forward point position Captain Willard Hawke, Lt Peter Carroll, and Lt Nils Ramstedt were wounded. The command of the company was thereby given to 2d Lt Guy E. Stone Jr, Big Stone Gap, Virginia. During the discourse of the next several weeks this high ground was held. A volunteer patrol was organized to prong the dragon's teeth defenses of the Siegfried line. The reconnaissance of this patrol proved successful in obtaining information. It was later disbanded due to the danger of Schu mines.

Captain Wilard Hawke returned and resumed his command of "Battlin -B- Co" on 13 March 1945.

Because of the stalward efforts along the Siegfried Line Company "B" was given the honor of occupying Saarbrucken after its capture. Our first CP and billets were set-up in a dilapidated section of Saarbrucken, Germany. A few days later we moved to more spacious and luxurious quarters. The missions assigned were Military Control of the Civilian Population under the guidance of the Military Government; Road Blocks, and guard duty at a Displaced Persons Camp. The results of the efficiency of our unit were so satisfactory that the Military Government requested our continued presence. However, a few weeks thereafter Company "B" was relieved and proceeded to Springingen, Germany for further training.

From Springingen, Germany we proceeded to Frankfort AM, Germany. Our mission was to guard vital installations and maintain security in the assigned area. The CP and billets were located in an exclusive section of the city. Every enlisted man and Officer had his individual bed; many of the men had their individual rooms. A few weeks later saw SHAEF Headquarters designating our locality as a section of their new headquarters to be made in Frankfort AM, Germany.

A move was then made to Fechenhieg, Germany. Our mission was to guard a Russian Displaced Persons Camp.

A short time thereafter Company B was assigned to guard installations in Frankfort AM, Germany. Among these the outstanding was the German Reichbank. This was a central collecting point of gold and art treasures accumulated by the Nazi Regime.

The Official Company Newspaper was the "BAKER BULLETIN", and was printed daily. Distribution was made to all men; and mailed to several former members of the Company.

A luxurious and spacious Beer Garden was obtained and designated as the "Battlin -B-Co" Country Club. Here units from far and near gathered to drink beer and listen to the music of Erhardt Bushke and his orchestra. Here the reputation of "Battlin -B- Co" became known far and near through the conversation and gathering of Soldiers and Wacs. Here the productions and antics of Pfc Henry and Pfc McDonald were held.

Our instalations were gradually relieved until the mission solely became to guard Prisoners of War on work details. For the outstanding work done in this respect a commendation by SHAEF Headquarters was bestowed on the Second Platoon of this Company. Lt Fenosiff is Platoon Leader and Sgt Komoroske Platoon Sergeant.

A few weeks later a three day march was made to our new area; the small village of Eschbach, Germany. Here a vigorous training schedule is now under

WAY, Yes, this is a "FIGHTING OUTFIT". -5-