

THE HISTORY OF COMPANY "A" 275TH INFANTRY

On the 15th of June, 1943 when the 70th Division was formed, company "A" of the 275th Infantry Regiment became active as a part of the Trailblazer Division at Camp Adair, Oregon.

Lt. Christensen was the first Company Commander of the "Able" Company. The Platoon Leaders were: For the First Platoon: Lt. Vogel. The Second Platoon: Lt. Huber. The third Platoon: Lt. Zink, and the Weapons Platoon had Lt. Dickey. Later on Lt. Allen D. Vogel became Company Commander and still later Captain Ross R. Millhiser became the "A" Company commander and remained so until the time of his capture in the Vosges Mountains, in Northern France. The 70th Division Headquarters drew a Cadre non-commissioned Officers from the 91st Pine Tree Division which was also an Oregon Division. The Recruits, or "Fillers" started arriving at Company "A" in August and by the first of September the Company was at full strength. Filler training was carried on while they were in the process of building the company to full strength. Their Basic Training Program started on the ninth day of September 1943. Their first taste of outdoor life consisted of a 3 day Administrative Bivouac in the hills west of Camp Adair, Oregon. The Basic Training Program was intensive, complete, and well planned. This period of training was completed on December 15, 1943. Furloughs were then granted to all the men. In the latter part of January 1944 all of the Privates and Privates First Class were shipped out on P.O.R. The enlisted men who were promoted to non-commissioned Officers in the company, and the Original Cadre were kept there to train the new men that were to be shipped into the Organization. The second group of men to join "A" Company were mostly from the Army Air Forces. There were also men shipped in from other branches of the service. These men went through an 8 week P.R.T.C. course at Camp Adair prior to joining Company "A". Training of these men started about April 15, 1944. They were specially trained for combat duty. This training completed, "Able" Company, along with the 70th Division left for Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. in July, 1944. The men were given furloughs and then were alerted for P.O.R., shipment. This order was later cancelled. They then started a training program on Mechanized warfare. They worked on Platoon Problems with the coordinated support of Tanks.

In November, Company "A" along with the 70th Division was alerted for P.O.E. shipment. They then went through a Period of Processing and left Fort Wood on November 17th for Camp Miles Standish, Mass. At this Camp they had more processing, Clothing and Equipment Inspections, Attended classes and lectures, and also attended a demonstration on Embarkation and Debarkation of a ship.

On the 6th day of December, 1945 "A" Company left Camp Miles Standish and proceeded to the Port of Boston. They Boarded the U.S.S. West Point, formerly the Luxury Liner "America" and left port that evening. "A" Company had a pleasant and uneventful voyage to the Port of Marseille, France, arriving there on December 15, 1944. They then were transported in trucks to the C.P. 2 Staging Area, about 15 miles from Marseille, where they set up an Administrative Camp. They stayed there about one week and then started on their trip to Northern France in the Famous Forty and Eights. On December 26th, "A" Company arrived in the town of Geudertheim, France where they were billeted. On December 28th they moved to Hoerd, France. The next 3 days were devoted mostly to traveling. On January 1st "A" Company arrived at Neiderbraun, France.

On the morning of January 2, 1945, "A" Company marched into Phillipsburg, France. They then were ordered to take the hill beyond Phillipsburg. This they did and took in a few prisoners. The following morning Company "A" was attacked by a Superior German Force. (Numerically) The Germans were beaten off with heavy losses. They also took a few more prisoners. They then withdrew to Phillipsburg where they dug in Defensive Positions. They stayed in this position about 3 days and then they moved back into the hills to fill in a gap on the M.L.R. On the night of January 9th Company "A" was relieved and they withdrew to Neiderbraun, France. The company C.P. was then moved to Noussweiler, France. On January 12th, the Company made an attack through Barrenthahl, France and proceeded on to the hills beyond that town where they dug in for a defensive stand. While there they were ordered to attack the hill to their right. The company was all set and had just started the attack when the Germans laid down a terrific Artillery Barrage on them which forced them to cancel the attack and hold their position.

The following day the Company was relieved by the 36th Engineers. They then proceeded on to the Maginot Line where they dug in at that Point. On the 20th day of January Company "A" was moved to Rouhling, France where they took up defensive positions. They sent out patrols each night during their stay there. The Company was relieved on February 9th and was moved to Hundlingen, France. While there they took up an Intensive Training Course to shape up the new replacements that had joined the Company. This training period lasted for 1 week.

On the 17th of February "A" Company received orders to attack the town of Lexington, France. They attacked at 0610 hours and captured the town by 1300 hours. "A" Company's sector of the town was captured by 1000 hours that morning. They then stayed in Lexington about two days. On the night of the second day they received orders to move out of this town and to move into the hills overlooking Alsting, France. Six hours later they moved into the town. They stayed there for about 6 hours and then moved out to make an attack on the hills between Alsting, France and Saarbrucken, Germany. They took this ground and then dug in just across the German border. This happened on February 21st. The following morning they had to withdraw on account of an attack by enemy tanks. There was heavy fighting in this area for about 10 days. This battle having been won, they moved their C.P. up to Stiffs Maulds Annual, Germany and there remained on the defensive until March 20th.

The 21st day of March "A" Company crossed the Saar River and took over the City of Saarbrucken. They stayed in this town and pulled guard duty at the Russian Prison Camp in that town.

"C" Company then relieved "A" Company who then moved on to Oberanback where they liberated Slave Laborers from a Prison Camp in that town. They stayed in this town until the first of April.

"A" Company then moved to Aspisheim, Germany, At this place they carried on a regular training schedule, besides pulling guard. On April 11th they moved to Bingen, Germany to protect a bridge. On the 12th of April they moved to Frankfurt on Main, Germany where they stayed until May 23rd, carrying on their training program and pulling guard duties.

"A" Company left Frankfurt on the 23rd day of May on a conditioning march. They arrived at Rod A.D. Weil, Germany on May 26th where they are at the present time. They are carrying on an Extensive training program and also are pulling guard duty. Company "A" have jurisdiction over 16 towns and villages in this area.