

**HISTORY  
of the  
36th ARMORED INFANTRY  
REGIMENT**

**3rd ARMORED DIVISION**

APR 23 1996

**HAYNES W. DUGAN, B.A., M.S.**  
LT COL USAF (RET)

686 ELMWOOD  
SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA  
71104 - USA

Tel. 866-3721  
Office 222-3721

**WORLD WAR II**

 LTC HAYNES W DUGAN  
686 ELMWOOD ST  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71104



## THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

*"Spearhead Doughboys"*

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:  
12-21 Cont.

vehicles south of Hotton, and a patrol from B Co 36th reported being fired on by what they believed to be Germans in American vehicles from the vicinity of Wy (420881). At 0800 CO Hq Co 36th reported that Hotton, the town where he was, was under attack by the Germans. At 0855 Col Howze reported to Div that a column of enemy tanks, fifteen minutes long, was moving north to Hotton-Soy road and then turning west toward Hotton. Div changed the mission of CCR until this could be cleared up. Throughout the morning Hotton was attacked by the enemy tanks and Infantry but the town was successfully held by trains and Hqs personnel there. By 0900 CCR had initiated action with force in Soy against the enemy column attacking Hotton, and by 1125 one platoon of med tanks, one platoon of infantry and one platoon of light tanks had worked their way from Soy north and into Hotton and were helping to stabilize the situation there. At 1310 Co CCR was informed by Div that elements of the 84th Inf Div would approach Hotton from the southwest and would relieve our forces there, but by the end of the period only one depleted platoon from that unit had made contact and it had instructions to stay south of the river and knew nothing about the rest of the unit. Continued progress was made but pressure increased throughout the day in Hotton and on the Hotton-Soy road and at the end of the period, one of the forces sent from Soy to Hotton along the road had made little progress. Plans were made for movement of CCR to Grundrenail (520900) when force in Hotton was relieved, but the mission of CCR was to hold Hotton and Soy at all costs until relieved.

CCA with the 3rd Bn 36th as part was now under control of 3rd Armd Div and moved to the vicinity of Herbronx, Belgium to assist in blocking further German penetration from the west and the north. 3rd Bn 32nd AR, with I Co under direct Div Control, took up defenses of the crossroads at P-576852 and the surrounding area. The balance of CCA moved to Marche.

CCB, of which 2nd Bn 36th was part, remained under the XVIII Corps (Airborne) with whom they were attached. TP McGeorge was held up short of Le Gleize. TF Jordan held his original position, while TF Lovelady attacked



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT  
"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:

12-21 Cont.

to the east and joined 117th Inf of the 30th Inf Division.

TF Orr, of which 1st Bn 36th less Co B was part, operated under the 83rd Recon Bn and attacked toward Samree.

12-22-44 At 0445 CO CCR returned from Div and issued orders for an attack at 0900, this date. Located in the vicinity of Beffe (424852) was TF Hogan who was assigned to CCR. Groupment of troops: TF Hogan - 3rd Bn 33rd AR less 2 Cos; 1 Co 83rd Recon Bn; 1 Btry 54th AVA Bn; TF Mize - located in Joy had Co G 32nd AR; Co C 33rd AR less 1 plat; 1 Plat Co B 36th AIR; 1 squad Co G 2nd Arm'd Engrs. TF Smithers, located in Hotton; 1 plat Co G 32nd AR; 1 plat Co B 36th AIR; 1 Plat Co C 33rd AR.

Mission of CCR in the attack was to clear Soy-Hotton Beffe area. TF Mize to attack southwest from Soy toward Hampten and drop off a road block at 405587; TF Hogan to attack northwest from Beffe and contact road block of TF Mize. TF Smithers to hold Hotton and to support attack by Mize. 83rd FA Bn was in direct support. 1st Bn 517th Para Inf Bn attached and CO reported to CP at 0730. CO CCR informed him he would commit his battalion as soon as it arrived. The attack of TF Mize jumped off at 0900 but progressed slowly throughout the day, due to small arms, anti-tank and artillery fire. TF Hogan at the south edge of Beffe met intense opposition. At 1130 TF Hogan began receiving serious counter-attacks and at 1250 was directed to hold where he was until Soy-Hotton Situation was cleared and he could be sent help. At 1230 Co B 643rd TD Bn was attached to CCR but had not arrived. At 1345 TF Hogan drew back to Marcourey (439818) for better defensive position. He reported his gas very low and continuous enemy pressure. CO issued orders to CO Para Inf - "Your objective is Hotton. You are to take Hotton, secure it, and then attack south. I will arrange PO's through artillery LO and I hope to be able to give you a company of medium tanks before you depart. Attack at 1700." 1st Bn 517th Para Inf Bn and Co B 743rd TD Bn arrived at 1615. Para Inf Bn launched attack at 1750 but progressed slowly due to strong enemy resistance and



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT  
*"Spearhead Doughboys"*

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ ENGLAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:  
 12-22-44

difficult terrain. By 2000 the attack had just about stopped and CC CCR sent for CO Para Inf Bn to meet him at CP. At 2100 reports were received that Hotton was being attacked by an estimated company of Infantry but force there believed they could hold if Para Inf would hurry. At 2255 CC stressed the importance of clearing up the Hotton-Soy situation during the night. Plat of medium tanks and 5 1/2 ton trucks were attached to CO Para Inf and plans drawn up to send one company Para Inf, the tanks and 1/2 ton trucks into Hotton by flanking to the north, while the remainder of the Para Inf Bn attacked down the Soy-Hotton road. The period ended with final preparations for this maneuver being made. 3rd Tn 36th AIR, less Co I, was attached to TP Dean CCA and during the day took part in an attack to cut the Marche-Bastogne road and established vital road blocks in that area. Co I 358th AIR was attached to TP Richardson, CCA, and moved to vicinity of Brees prepared to assist CCR in the event of enemy penetrations.

TP Jordan secured the town of Reuot. The bulk of the enemy armor was withdrawn to the east, but TP McGeorg out the enemy's routes of escape. The Infantry moved in and cleaned out Stoumont. (CCB)

TP Orr met heavy resistance during the day in an attempt to take Dochnamps (494838), was unsuccessful, and by the close of the period had fallen back to and secured Anonius (448874).

12-23-44

At 0455 the maneuvering force of tanks and Para Inf had worked their way from Soy and were in Hotton but met considerable opposition when attempting to move east toward Soy. The remainder of the Para Inf Bn attempting to attack west toward Hotton along the road, were held up by small arms anti-tank and artillery fire. One Plat from the 509th Para Inf Bn arrived at 1755 and was attached to the 517th Para Inf Bn to be used by the force attacking from Soy. At the close of the period, both the forces in Hotton and the force attacking from Soy were attempting to make contact, but neither attack was going well due to considerable enemy opposition. Throughout the period TP Hogan remained in Marcouray, badly in need of medical supplies and gasoline. During the morning, medical supplies were fired on by artillery but were ruined. An attempt in the afternoon to drop supplies by airplane failed



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT  
"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY    ★ NORTHERN FRANCE    ★ ARDENNES    ★ ENGLAND    ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:  
12-15-64.

when they missed the town. During the period Co B 36th AIR (less one platoon in Totton) was relieved from CCR and reverted to TF Orr, 1st Bn 36th AIR, who was heavily engaged throughout the day in the vicinity of Amelines. TF Doss, which included the 3rd Bn 36th AIR minus Co I, was relieved from the 3rd Arm Div and operated directly under the 84th Inf Div. TF Richardson, which included Co I 36th, remained in the vicinity of Egree throughout the period.

CCR, which the 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, continued to operate under V Corps. TF Jordan launched an attack east toward La Gleize with the 119th Inf REG. At 0900 TF McGeorge launched an attack but was unable to advance. TF Jordan made contact by patrols with TF McGeorge, however.

12-24-44

At 0200 instructions were received from 3rd Arm Div to discontinue attacks until 0815 and at that time attack with full force from Soy toward Hotton along the road, and from Hotton toward Soy. The attack jumped off at 0815 and by 1125 the two forces had made contact and began to outpost the Soy-Hotton road. At 1320 Co A 628th 2D Bn arrived in area as a part of CCR. At 1030 the CG 3rd Arm Div visited CCR's CP and issued an order for the 290th CT to relieve CCR in the Soy-Hotton area. Arrangements for this relief, to include reconnaissance of the area, by the CGs of CCR and 290th CT was completed, but due to a change in orders the relief was not made. At 1600 290th Inf CT was attached to CCR and CG CCR issued orders for 290th CT to attack south as soon as closed with mission of seizing high ground south of Soy-Hotton road (general line 400870) and establishing a strong defense position there. Arrangements made for attachments of TD's, Tanks and for necessary wire and mines for defenses. 290th Inf was directed to push out reconnaissance at once. Due to one Bn of the 290th Inf getting lost, the attack did not begin until 2330. At the close of the period the attack was still progressing slowly with two Bns of 290th Inf CT attacking abreast. Throughout the period TF Hogan remained in Marcouray still badly in need of gasoline and other supplies. An attempt to drop supplies in the aft noon again failed.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

*"Spearhead Doughboys"*

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:  
12-24-Cont.

TP Jordan in CCB with F Co 36th AIR secured La Gleize. Losses in enemy equipment were heavy. 26 Panther tanks, 35 half tracks and 4 SP artillery pieces had been destroyed. In addition, approximately 300 American soldiers were released from German captivity.

CCA's road block at Grandmenil was forced to withdraw under pressure of a strong enemy force, but prevented the enemy from penetrating to the north and west. The 3rd Bn 289th RCT succeeded in blocking the road leading northwest from Grandmenil. TP Doan (3rd Bn 36th less Co I) continued to hold positions against strong enemy pressure. TP Richardson (Co I 36th AIR) remained in position in vicinity of Eserey.

TP Orr (1st Bn 36th AIR) continued to hold his position in vicinity of Amenines against strong enemy pressure.

12-25-44

Throughout the early morning and on up to noon the two Bns of the 290th Inf continued to attack but progress was slow. Information was scarce due to poor communications and what information there was was frequently in error. At 1245 CO CCR called for CO Para Inf Bn and informed him he was to be committed on the right and that the objective must be taken, as we were facing a major German attack. At 1430 1st Bn 517th Para Bn launched attack in the right zone and at the same time Co I 290th Inf swung around from Hotton through Hamptean and approached high ground from the west. At 1700 the Hotton bridge was prepared for demolition and Capt Anderson instructed to blow bridge only on order of CG, 3rd Arm Div, or on his own initiative in case of emergency; the attack in both zones was continuing at the close of the period with some troops on both objectives but neither cleared completely nor organized. Plans to supply TP Hogan in Marcouray by air completed during the early part of the period, but at 1000 a message was received from CG TP Hogan that supplies not be dropped since it was impossible to get vehicles out of Marcouray. At 1630 TP Hogan sent a message that his force was out of communication with CCR. TP Orr, 1st Bn 36th AIR, continued to occupy Amenines, maintain road blocks and conduct patrols.



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT  
"Spearhead Doughboys"

★ NORMANDY ★ NORTHERN FRANCE ★ ARDENNES ★ RHINELAND ★ CENTRAL GERMANY

Date:  
12-25-Cont.

OCB was ordered to assemble at Gpc, Belgium and upon arrival became Reserve of the XVIII Corps. Reserve was short lived and orders were received to proceed at once to the Grandmenil area to reoccupy the lost ground. At 1430, just as the attack plan was completed the TF was bombed and strafed by friendly P-38's. 36 enlisted men and three Officers were killed.

12-26-44

By 0445 both objectives were reported as taken but defenses on neither were properly set up, and the two battalions of the 290th Inf were not tied in. The remainder of the period was spent in organizing defenses, laying wire and mines and establishing communications. Relief of the 1st Bn 517th Para Bn was begun late in the morning and at 1000 this Bn was relieved and detached from CCR. At 0905 one Officer and 18 enlisted men from TF Hogan arrived at our front lines and by 0920 the bulk of TF Hogan had arrived safely. Lt Col Hogan arrived himself at the CP CCR at 1420. TF Hogan was assembled in Barvaux. TF Orr (1st Bn 36th AIR) remained in Amonies out of contact with the enemy except for enemy patrols and artillery fire. Throughout the period plans were being worked on for the relief of elements of CCR less 290th Inf Regt who would remain in position by OCB.

During the night of the 26th Dec 44, one Battalion of the 25th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment with reinforcements of the 12th SS Panzer Division, infiltrated through the gap between the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 289th RCT (who were attached to CCA) in an attempt to capture Sadrot.

In the meantime, OCB (2nd Bn 36th AIR), temporarily under the command of CCA, regained the town of Grandmenil on the night of the 26th and the 3rd Bn 289th Inf RCT had taken up positions in and around the town to prevent enemy armored penetrations. Major Dunn, 2nd Bn 36th AIR became a casualty. Major Tousey assumed command.

12-27-44

Little enemy activity was reported during the morning. Plans were completed by 0900 for the relief of CCR in the Soy-Fotton area by OCB and at 1130 the Command Group, CCR, left Soy for Weris (430942) arriving there at 1150. By 1700 all elements of CC except 1st Bn 36th AIR, still in Amonies expecting to be relieved on 28