



THIRTY-SIXTH ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

"Spearhead Doughboys"

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

HISTORY OF THE

The 36th Armored Infantry Regiment was originally organized at Brownsville, Texas, in June 1916, as the 36th Infantry, 2nd Division. The Regiment was the individual transfer of men from the 4th, 26th and 28th Infantry Regiments. It did not see active service and was made inactive at Camp Pickett, Virginia, in 1921. Pursuant to instructions contained in a letter from the War Department dated 16 December 1940 and amended by letter dated 13 January 1941, the Regiment was made active as an Armored Regiment, which on 1 June 1942 was redesignated the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment. At the time of its reactivation the Regiment was entitled to no Battle Honors.

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36th ARMORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

DESCRIPTION OF COAT OF ARMS

The Regimental Coat of Arms is in three parts as follows:

1. SHIELD. The official blazonry is azure, a sword bayonet in fess, or within a border of the like. On a canton argent a cross of the field, over all a cactus proper (for the 4th, 26th and 28th Infantry), which means in simple English, A horizontal gold sword bayonet on a blue shield with a gold border. On a silver quartered insert in the upper left-hand corner (canton) is a blue cross, and superimposed on top is a cactus in natural colors.

The field of the shield is blue, the Infantry color. The sword bayonet and border are taken from the unofficial insignia adopted by the 12th Division. The three parent organizations are shown on the canton. The 4th and 28th Infantry took part in the Vera Cruz expedition, the name suggesting the cross in blue for Infantry. The cactus represents the border service of all three Regiments from February 1913, until the organization of the 36th Infantry.

2. CREST. The official blazonry of the crest is "On a wreath of the colors a six-bastioned fort vert charged with a Milllet argent," which means in G. I. language "a silver star mounted on a green six-bastion resting on a wreath of gold and blue."



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The crest symbolizes the birthplace of the Regiment. The origin of Brownsville was the fort built by General Taylor in 1846, at first known as Fort Texas, later as Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown, who was killed in its defense while commanding the 4th Infantry. The 36th Infantry is therefore doubly associated with Brownsville, as its birthplace and through the 4th Infantry, which was connected with the birth of Brownsville. The battles of Pala Alto and Risaca di la Palma were fought for the defense of Fort Texas. This is shown by a six-bastioned fort in green, an allusion to the Mexican color, charged with the silver lone star of Texas.

3. MOTTO. "Deeds Not Words" needs no explanation.

B. On 22 April 1942, the War Department redesignated the Coat of Arms, 36th Infantry, as the Coat of Arms, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

C. On 16 May 1941, information was received from the War Department that the distinctive insignia of the 36th Infantry consisted of the crest only of the Coat of Arms, and on 22 April 1942, the distinctive insignia of the 36th Infantry was redesignated the distinctive insignia of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.



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Brown was instructed to move his force northeast from Dambreich and begin the attack at 0600.

The 78th Inf Div had cooperated to the utmost with the Combat Command, and due to a shortage of Infantry of the Combat Command, the 78th had sent a battalion to attack the ground and wooded area in the vicinity of 6540. This assisted materially in the plan for TF Brown and after 2100 when a route across the creek had been found, the TF moved up. The close of the period found patrols out attempting to locate routes and enemy resistance.

There was no change in status of the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 36th Armd Inf Regt.

3-22-45

TF Richardson continued operations in Busidorf and by 0500 that place was reported secured. Co G 36th AIR proceeded to the east and took the town of Stossdorf.

Time of attack for TF Brown was changed to 0400. The tanks met considerable difficulty from terrain and the enemy offered moderate opposition. The leading elements entered Hennef at 1000, but fighting continued until late afternoon when the town was reported secure. TF Brown was relieved by the 2nd Bn 309th Inf at 2100 and the Task Force began movement to assembly area at Olinghoven.

The 3rd Bn 414th Inf was attached to CCR and moved to the vicinity of Hovel. Orders were received to move the Combat Command on the morning of 23 Mar 45 to the vicinity of Hovel and rejoin the 3rd Armd Div. The Combat Command was relieved from 78th Inf Div effective 2200.

There was no change in status or dispositions of the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR.

3-23-45

At 0925 movement to assembly area in the vicinity of Hovel commenced and by 1058 all units had closed.

The 1st and 2nd Bns 36th Armd Inf, as components of CCA and CCB respectively, moved across the Rhine during the day and assembled in the division area (7030)

3-24-45

All units of CCR remained in the assembly area at Hovel. CO and staff studied plans for an extensive



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operation which would carry the Combat Command to Altenkirchen.

There was no change in the 1st and 2nd Bns 36th AIR.

3-25-45

At 0400 the 3rd Armd Division attacked with CCA and CCB abreast, with CCR following on the two center routes. Altenkirchen was the initial objective, but orders were issued that the advance would not be halted out of contact with the enemy.

TF Richardson used the right center route in the Division zone and maintained close contact with TF Kane of CCA. TF Hogan used the left center route and maintained close contact with CCB. Composition of task forces was the same as before, except that entire 3rd Bn 36th AIR, was attached to TF Hogan. Lt Col Hogan had returned from leave and assumed command of the Task Force. Movement began from the assembly area at Hovel at 1450 and by 2030 all units had closed in an assembly area near Krautshaid, Germany.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR attacked at 0400 as part of TF Dean and advanced on Route 4, the southern route. TF Doan ran into a minefield at 753293 and 20-mm and SP fire slowed the advance. After overcoming the resistance, the advance was rapid until more resistance consisting of nine 20-mm flak guns and tow tanks was met at Schoneberg (806287). Artillery fire knocked out the flak positions and one tank and the advance toward Flammersfeld (8527) was resumed. Between Schoneberg and Flammersfeld two road blocks and heavy small arms fire were encountered and the close of the period found the force short of Flammersfeld.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to TF Welborn. CCB attacked through the 1st Inf Div and advanced to and secured the town of Kerweiss by the end of the period. The line of attack was along a main road on a ridge line, always under observation of the enemy from the front and flank. A strong enemy position was met initially, but it was overcome by use of artillery. After that, chief difficulty was from terrain.



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3-26-45

Contact was maintained with CCA and CCB throughout the morning. At 1430 orders were received to employ TF Richardson in the zone between TF Lovelady of CCB and TF Kane of CCA for the purpose of aiding the advance of CCB and to clear the enemy from his assembly area at 1500, but the progress was slow due to the condition of the roads and traffic congestion. However, Altenkirchen was reached by 1700 without opposition and mopping-up operations against remaining enemy there were taking place. At 1805 orders were received to continue the advance to the east on Routes 1 and 2 of the Division, taking over the mission of CCB. TF Hogan was moved forward and advanced on Route 1. TF Richardson continued to advance on Route 2. By the close of the period both columns were proceeding slowly due to the visibility and the terrain.

1st Bn 36th AIR: At 0630 TD's with the 1st Bn 36th knocked out a Mark V tank at Flammersfeld and the attack moved on to Ober Wambach, they were met by heavy AT and artillery fire. After overcoming this resistance with artillery, the advance continued to Hachenburg (0629) without difficulty. During the night heavy mortar fire fell on the north edge of the town.

2nd Bn 36th AIR: By 0200 the road which had caused delay of the battalion on the day before was repaired and the advance continued to the high ground east of Rettersen. The high ground was secured by 0345 and the attack for Hasselbruch was continued at 0730. Tank and AT fire blocked advance, inflicted losses and the force was ordered back to reorganize. A dismounted attack, scheduled for 1300, was also delayed by observed artillery fire, and it was not until 1430 that the attack was launched. This time it was successful and the town was secured by 1545. A road block held up the advance on Oberoth, but was overcome and the town secured by 2400. Enemy resistance consisted of small arms fire and harassing artillery fire.

3-27-45

TF Hogan continued to advance throughout the night and morning. At Weitefeld (1336) some resistance was met, but was quickly overcome and the advance continued. TF Richardson maintained a rapid advance



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throughout the day. Enemy resistance was light but there was difficulty from terrain. By the close of the period, TF Richardson was continuing the advance on Dillenburg and TF Hogan halted for refueling northeast of Hof.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR continued a rapid advance with TF Doan and by close of the period had captured and secured Herborn and had secured a crossing over the Dill River. Contact was made with the 7th Armd Div on the right flank. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR with TF Welborn moved in reserve on Route 2 and closed at Holn at 2200.

3-28-45 TF Hogan, after refueling, continued a rapid advance and by 0730 had entered Dillenberg with little opposition and had secured the town by 0930. TF Richardson advanced rapidly with light resistance and by 1015 was on the objective in the area south of Dillenberg at Niederscheld. Both TF's secured the objective throughout the day and plans were made for a long thrust northward with Paderborn as the objective.

The 1st Bn conducted maintenance of equipment pending receipt of new orders as CCB passed through CCA.

3-29-45 Both columns moved from Dillenburg at 0600 with TF Hogan on route 1, the left route. TF Richardson's advance was very rapid and in one instance advanced 50 miles in five hours and 13 minutes. TF Hogan's advance proceeded rapidly at first but was held up by heavy resistance during the late morning. By 1200 TF Hogan was out of communication. TF Richardson reached Brilon at 1800 and cleared and secured the town. A relay station was sent back over the route to contact TF Hogan. The force coiled in the vicinity of Thulen for the night. The advance of 87 miles from Dillenburg to Thulen was made in 16 hours.

The 2nd Bn followed the 83rd Rcn Bn and at the end of the period was at Ober Marsburg, less than 30 kilometers from the final objective.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR was in CCA and followed TF Lovelady on route 3.



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3-30-45

TF Richardson jumped off at 0700 on Route 2 and advanced initially with no opposition. Later small pockets of resistance were met and quickly overrun.

Upon reaching 683392, heavy resistance from enemy panzerfausts and tanks were encountered. Close air support from dive-bombers was given and aided the advance of the column to (682415) Nordberchen, where at the close of the period the force was engaged in clearing the town of very stubborn SS troops. TF Hogan continued the advance throughout the night and at 0345 was ordered to move by a lateral route to route 2 and to follow route 2 to Brilon where it would resume the advance on Route 1, the left route. The column advanced rapidly to Wewer (668436) where they were stopped by panzerfaust and small arms fire.

In the case of both TF Richardson and TF Hogan the resistance proved to be the strongest that had been met on the drive. The defenders were troops from an army school center north of Paderborn, who were first class troops and who knew how to defend with what they had. The panzerfaust was used effectively as an anti-personnel weapon.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to CCB, passed through the 83rd Rcn Bn at 1200. Stiff resistance was encountered in the vicinity of Etteln (710373) and Hamborn (718410). In the vicinity of Hamborn the enemy attacked the center of the column by careful choice of terrain, and lack of armor in the column permitted him to destroy a large number of half-track vehicles. The battalion was disorganized to a certain extent and CCA sent a force to clean out the enemy.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR fought SS troops south of Etteln and in the Baddeken Forest. Small arms fights continued throughout the night.

3-31-45

TF Hogan spent the entire day in clearing stubborn resistance from Wewer. At 1953 the town was reported cleared and secured. Resistance of the same type as the day before made it an extremely difficult task to rid the town of the enemy. TF Richardson also fought a stubborn enemy all day. At 2330 Task



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Force Richardson reported Nordborchen secured and a force moved north as far as the road at 690425. TF Hogan sent a small force to Salzkotten to seize that place, and by 2230 the force had reached the Road Junction at 630409 and received panzerfaust and small arms fire. It was delayed in moving further by a burning enemy vehicle. However, the high ground northwest of Wewer was secured and the task force buttoned up.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR spent the day in clearing the Baddeken Forest.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR of TF Welborn, CCB, attacked to seize the high ground three kilometers south of Paderborn. The ground was secured without opposition, but the enemy counter-attacked with five tanks at 1830 and drove them back to the vicinity of Hamborn. The battalion assault guns accounted for three of the five enemy tanks and after the force was reorganized, the high ground was taken and secured.

The account of the drive made by the Third Armored Division, as reported in this document, does not tell the complete story of the enormous amount of enemy equipment overrun, the vast supplies taken, the staggering number of prisoners captured, the communication lines disrupted, the road nets cut, or the great morale effect it had on the German civilian and military population. This account is more of a factual record of how it was done.

4-1-45

Task Force Richardson continued his operation begun the day previous to seize the high ground northeast of Nordborchen (0355) to improve his position and cover the attack of TF Boles. At 0355 hours this objective was reached after overcoming resistance from entrenched infantry and some anti-tank fire. They secured their positions and started patrol contact with TF Boles at 693448. TF Hogan attacked southwest from Wewer, seizing Salzkotten. The TF entered Salzkotten at 0110 against comparatively light resistance. By 0440 the town was cleared and secured, and tanks pushed out to the high ground north of the town. Task Force



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Hogan left a small blocking force on the main road at the northeast edge of Wewer and another small infantry force at 658446 in position to fire on the Salzkotten-Paderborn road. Salzkotten was secured during the day and patrol contact maintained with TF Boles at 671442. The combat command CP moved to Nordborchen (683417) at 0900 hours.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, attacked through TF Richardson at Nordborchen at 0626 and advanced north to Paderborn. Dug-in enemy tanks, anti-tank fire and small arms fire were encountered, but they proceeded across the railroad and helped clear and secure their sector.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attached to CCB as part of TF Welborn, attacked Paderborn in the northeast part of the town and helped clear this sector.

4-2-45

TF Richardson moved into Alfen at 1000 and continued to secure the town of Kirkborchen and Alfen and maintain patrol contacts with TF Boles on the north, 83rd AFA Bn on the east, and both forces of TF Hogan. Some prisoners of War were brought in. TF Hogan continued to secure Salzkotten and Wewer and maintained contact by patrols with TF Boles to the east and TF Richardson. During the night 1-2 April, the route of TF Boles' patrol was cut by enemy infiltration on the road, vicinity 660450, and at 0730 a force from TF Hogan moved out to sweep this area and the woods, vicinity 658453. The enemy forces had withdrawn, and no contact was made. Beginning at 2000 elements of TF Hogan in Salzkotten were being contacted by patrols from the 2nd Bn 16th Inf in Gesche.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, and continued to secure the western part of Paderborn and maintain patrol contact with CCB and CCR.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Welborn (CCB) continued to secure the northeast part of Paderborn and conducted security patrols.

4-3-45

CCR continued to defend, patrol and maintain road blocks throughout the period. TF Hogan sent a patrol north from Salzkotten which made contact with elements of the 8th Armd Div at 597432 at 1555. Another



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patrol was sent to Upsprunge during the day, without opposition. TF Richardson continued to patrol and defend throughout the day and night. Some Prisoners of war were brought in.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR remained attached to CCA as part of TF Boles, and sent patrols to Delbruck to contact the 8th Armd Div. Patrols were maintained throughout the period.

The 2nd Battalion 36th AIR remained attached to CCB as part of TF Welborn, and continued to patrol and defend its sector.

4-4-45

TF Hogan continued its patrols and the security of its position throughout the day and night. At about 0700 TF Richardson sent a battle group of one tank company and one infantry company to relieve elements of TF Lovelady with the mission of securing Lichtenau. At 1210 the town was cleared and secured. The battle group remained in town, securing it. Another force was sent to sweep the Boddeken Forest, vicinity Neuboddeken. Other elements remained in place and secured and patrolled their sector throughout the period.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, remained in position securing its assigned sector in Paderborn and doing maintenance on vehicles and weapons.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, moved at 2000 to Herbram (8142) and secured it against very light resistance--.

4-5-45

At 0815 the CO went to Division to get plan of attack and at 0900 had a meeting of the TF Comdrs. The division plan placed CCA and CCB in the assault, with CCR in Division Reserve. The Division was to jump off at 1200 hours. CCA A was in two columns on the left, and CCB in two columns on the right of the Division zone. CCR was to follow TF Hogan on Route 2 and TF Richardson on Route 3. CCR's CP was to follow TF Hogan on Route 2. That portion of TF Richardson which was in Lichtenau, was to move directly from there and join the column on Route 3, while the force at Alfen was to move to the southeast, leaving the east road to TF Hogan. TF Hogan was to move via Alfen and Nordborchen and stay off the Kirchborchen road. The Combat Command, CCR, was



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put on a one hour alert at 1300 and started moving at 1915 on the routes assigned. At the close of the period, TF Richardson was continuing to move to an assembly area position in the vicinity of Dringenburg and TF Hogan to an assembly area in vicinity of Schmechten. CCR's CP moved into an assembly position just south of Bad Driburg at the close of the period.

The 1st Bn, TF Boles of CCA, which attacked east from vicinity of Paderborn at 1220, was enroute to specified intermediate objectives and final objective on the River Weser.

The 2nd Bn, CCB's TF Welborn, which attacked east from the vicinity of Dall at 1200 to secure certain intermediate objectives, after which orders were issued for the Task Force to continue on to objectives on the Weser River, was going well as the period closed.

4-6-45

TF Richardson moved over Route 3 into an assembly area in vicinity of Doringenburg at 0400 and awaited developments. One platoon of 3rd Bn 36th AIR, went to Bad Driburg to guard the hospital there. TF Hogan coiled in assembly area at 0200 in vicinity of Schmechten and spent the day there, refueling and doing necessary maintenance. The CP of CCR moved to the new CP location in vicinity of Schmechten at about 1000. The Division Commander visited the Command CP at 1500. It was not expected that CCR would move before Saturday or Sunday, 7th or 8th of April 1945, depending on developments in front of CCA and CCB.

CCA's TF Boles, with 1st Bn 36th AIR as part, was advancing east on route 1. A road block was encountered just west of Ottbergen and the infantry moved forward to establish a by-pass. At Amelunxen the enemy destroyed the bridge and the infantry again pushed across and into the town against strong resistance. Along most of the route, small arms, panzerfaust and some artillery fire was encountered. At the end of the period part of the 1st Bn 36th AIR and some tanks were engaged with the enemy infantry about 1200 yards north of Drinke, while another battle



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group of tanks and infantry were advancing slowly against stubborn resistance toward Wehaden. The 2nd Bn, 36th AIR with CCB as part of TF Welborn, advanced to the east on route 3. Heavy panzerfaust fire was encountered near Hainholtz. Small arms fire was met at Borgholtz but the attack continued. The 2nd Bn cleared the Eichhagen woods southwest of Haarbruck and the task force consolidated and moved on to Haarbruck, where it was ordered to secure the town for the night.

Service Company, 36th AIR, moved into Siebenstern at 2100 hours.

4-7-45

A Polish Prisoner of War reported that a force of Germans was in Altenheerse, and at 1030 hours orders were issued to send a force from TF Richardson into the town. At 1530 the force returned and reported that no enemy troops were found in the town. For the remainder of the period TF Richardson and TF Hogan remained in their bivouac areas.

At 1600 the CO went to Division CP to receive orders for movement the following day. At 1900 hours group commanders met at the CP for the order. The plan was, briefly, to move out Sunday, 8 Apr 45, at about 1910 south via Dringenburg, Folsen, Wille-gassen, Buehne, Hofgusman, across the Weser River Hemeln, to an assembly area vicinity of Varlosen. The following morning at first light CCR was to attack and take and secure Uslar. For the operation, in addition to present components of CCR, the following units were attached: The 83rd Rcn Bn.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn, attacked at 0630, and after overcoming a road block, entered Herstele about 1100. Here direct fire from both sides of the river; artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire were encountered. At 1115 part of the TF was sent to secure Calshaven. Here, also, artillery panzerfaust and small arms fire were met. After considerable fighting, both towns were secured at about 1800.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn, ^{Bales}CCA, continued to attack with Battle Group Orr to secure Wehrden and entered the town against slight resistance. The Bridge had been blown earlier by the enemy. Wehrden



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was secured by 1445. Numerous barricades had been erected in the town.

4-8-45

At 1100 the 83rd AFA Bn and Co D 83rd Rcn Bn were attached to CCR and along with the 54th AFA Bn, joined the column at Buehne. CCR, TF Richardson leading, started moving at 1100 over the route detailed above. TF Richardson closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of Guntarn at about 2000. CCR CP closed at Imbsen about 2240. At the end of the period, TF Hogan was still moving in. The plan outlined the day previous to capture Uslar was cancelled by the Division Commander at about 1600, because of the fact that troops of another unit were closing in on Uslar. A new objective was assigned. At 2200 FO No 6 was issued by the CO, CCR, par 3 of which said in part:

(a) TF "R" on the right (east) route, will capture Barterode prior to daylight 9 Apr 45; at 0600 they will continue the attack via the east route, cut the road SE of Hardeggen, and protect the east flank of the Combat Command. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim, via route 2, on order.

(b) TF "H", on the left (west) route, will capture the crossroads in the ravine, 1200 yards east of Eberhsn prior to daylight 9 Apr 45; continue the attack at 0600, via west route and capture Hardeggen, and protect the west flank of the CC. Be prepared to continue the attack to Northeim via route 1, on order.

(c) Co D 83rd Rcn Bn will make reconnaissance to line CR at 408271 - Hill 394 (402308)-(373302); assemble vicinity Imbsen by daylight 9 Apr 45 in CC Reserve. Upon capture of Hardeggen, immediately initiate reconnaissance to Northeim (the Division objective) via routes 1 and 2.

(d) 54th FA Bn will be in direct support of TF "R", 83rd AFA Bn direct support of TF "H".

(e) Co "C" 23rd Armd Eng Bn (-) and Co C 703rd TD Bn., initially in reserve.

(f) CP initially Imbsen, will displace along west route.



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TF Richardson attacked at 2400. At 2135 Co D 83rd Rcn Bn reported they were in Eberhsn and also the control point 22 (ravine and CR 1200 yards east), and both were clear of the enemy.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles CCA, remained in its location throughout the period, maintaining road blocks and conducting maintenance.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Melborn of CCB, sent dismounted patrols from Carlshaven at 1530 hours east along the river road to Wahmbeck. This patrol met no opposition and had completed its mission of opening the road by 2045. At the close of the period the whole of CCB was being relieved in present position by elements of the 1st Inf Div to participate in a new operation on the River Weser.

4-9-45

At 0250 TF Richardson reported on the objective they were to take prior to day-light (Barterode). No resistance was met and the tanks moved in. At 0600 the attack jumped off, they hit a road block just beyond Barterode at 0635. This took some time to clear. At 0800 TF Richardson took Eseheck and proceeded to Emmerhsn. At 1050 they had reached Harste and sighted two enemy tanks 800 yards northeast of Harste. At 1030 the 83rd Rcn Bn reported anti-tank fire and other enemy activity from west of Hevensen. TF Richardson ran into some SS troops with panzer-fasusts at Harste. Later they spotted 5 more tanks, one of which they knocked out. In all, 9 Tiger tanks were reported in the woods just southwest of Parensen, and these held TF Richardson up until 1600 or thereabouts. The 83rd Recon Bn earlier reported that Lutterhausen was clear of any enemy. TF Hogan was at Hettensen at 0730 hours after having cleared Eberhausen at 0635. By 0930 they were on the objective (Hardeggen. At Hettensen 22 prisoners were taken. The CP of the Combat Command moved into Hardeggen at 1100 hours. At 1440 the CG, 3rd Armd Div, visited the CP. A new objective was assigned TF Hogan. TF Hogan was to move over route 1 immediately and take and secure Northeim. Enough force would be left in Hardeggen to secure it. At 1430 the 83rd Rcn Bn was up to the Leine River west of Northeim. They reported the



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bridge intact but it had been mined for demolition. At 1525 the 83rd Rcn Bn reported an enemy column of vehicles, bumper to bumper, going into Northeim from the northwest. Air support was requested. At 1615 TF Hogan was at Blankenhoven and had met no resistance. When they reached the Leine River the bridge had been blown. A new plan was put into operation. TF Richardson was pulled out of Harst, leaving that sector to CCB which had come up along both flanks. TF Richardson was re-routed over routes 1 and 2 again in order to by-pass the enemy tanks. The head of the column reached Hardeggen at 1730 and proceeded on. The CC CP followed TF Richardson on routes 1 and 2. When TF Hogan found the bridge destroyed across the Leine, the 83rd Rcn Bn went south to look for another passage. A bridge was found intact between Hillerde and Sudheim. TF Hogan sent his infantry across the stream dismounted, took his armor down via the newly discovered bridge, crossed the river, turned north again and entered the town of Northeim from the southwest. By midnight the tanks and infantry had joined and half the town was secure.

TF Richardson crossed the river via the same bridge, captured Sudheim after a fierce fight and proceeded east. They were held up by a road block at 585639, but cleared it and at the end of the period were 600 yards west of Suterde. At the end of the period the Combat Command CP was still moving toward a new CP location in Sudheim.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles (CCA), crossed the Weser river at Beverungen beginning at 1540 and proceeded to secure Vernawahlshousen.

The 2nd Bn, as part of TF Welborn (CCB), moved on Route 3. They encountered dug-in infantry and tanks near Harst. With the aid of air, called by TF Richardson, and a maneuver by TF Lovelady, they were able to advance to the stream crossing at 518388. Here the bridge was covered by a strongly defended road block at each end. At the close of the period, they were still engaged with the enemy there.

4-10-45

On account of their forces being scattered, having



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been engaged most of the previous night, the attack did not jump off at 0600. TF Hogan started moving at 0800 after clearing debris and rubble from the route and at 0825 ran into a road block just outside of the city. Just north of Bilshausen, they encountered a fire fight, and shot up two buildings. At 1240 they spotted three enemy tanks in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and were told that 5 enemy tanks left the city at about 1100. Air was requested, which came and knocked out 3 tanks and reported seeing 10 more. More air support was requested. At 1340 a PW stated that 13 artillery pieces were located in the woods along the road between Ostermunde and Herzburg. One enemy Mark IV tank and 2 large planes were destroyed at 147121. At 142513 TF Hogan put Infantry in the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and started trying to work up the heavier equipment. By 1530 leading elements were in the forward edge of the woods NE of Gieboldehausen and had encountered about 50 infantry, 3 half-tracks and some tanks. Pushing ahead, they found one Tiger Tank abandoned at Pochlde. Two tanks were destroyed and some Pw's taken, and at 1855 TF Hogan was 1800 yards south of Scharzfeld, where they ran into felled trees, craters and debris. At Silkerode and Bockelnhagen enemy infantry were met and cleared out. Both towns were occupied and secured for the night by 2235. The 83rd AFA Bn was detached from CCR and attached to CCA.

TF Richardson started moving at 0715 hours and moved along well until they reached a road block on the western edge of Gieboldehausen. At 1240 they were still held up by the road block and some enemy tanks north of the town. Finally, shaking loose, they were stopped again at Rudershaven by SP guns. Knocking out the resistance, they moved forward until 1815 when a bridge was blown in front of them between Rudershaven and Hilerode. They reconnoitered for another route to by-pass the bridge while the engineers started to build a bridge. Going cross country to Hilkerode they hit the route again and at 2331 had occupied and secured Zwinge for the night.

The Combat Command CP moved behind TF Richardson most of the way and at 2000 closed into bivouac at Brochthausen.



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At 2250 the CO issued the order for the attack for the next day. Briefly, the CC was to continue the attack at 0600, seize and secure the network of roads in the vicinity of Tettenborn and Neuhoef (TF Richardson), and Bartoldelde and Osterhagen (TF Hogan). The 54th AFA Bn was to be in general support and be prepared to displace forward to Limlingerode. Co D 83rd Rcn Bn was to revert to Bn Control upon the occupation of the objectives by the Combat Command. At 2220 the engineers reported the bridge in Brochthausen would be ready for traffic in 15 minutes. Several vehicles of the Combat Command bogged down and got stuck on the cross country by-pass. Most of them were pulled out but some few coiled for the night there and planned to move at first light.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Boles followed the Advance route 1, protecting the north flank. At 1900 the Task Force was ordered to seize and secure Osterode and Herzberg. At the close of the period they were moving forward on their mission.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn CCB, continued clearing the road blocks on both sides of the bridge 518388. At 0730 the advance was resumed. They were delayed for a short time by a blown bridge at 693326, but soon resumed the march and at 1230 entered Duderstadt, which had been cleared on 9 Apr 45 by elements of 2nd Inf Div. At 1500 they encountered enemy infantry and SP guns in vicinity of 890276. This resistance was quickly overcome and the advance continued to Epschenrode where stubborn resistance by enemy Infantry and panzerfaust men halted the column. Large numbers of snipers halted and delayed the clearing of the town, but by 1845 all resistance was overcome and numerous prisoners taken. At the close of the period they were at Klein Werther (085250), prepared to continue the advance to the east.

4-11-45

At 0600 TF Hogan jumped off in the attack on route 1, 600 yards from Bockelnhagen. They met small arms fire, which they shortly wiped out. About 800 yards further in the woods they were delayed again by small arms and machine gun fire. Clearing this, they preceded about 800 yards further in the direct fire from either an SP gun or tank. Air was called for and little after 1200 the town was secured. By 1300 Osterhagen was also buttoned up. TF Richardson moved at 0600 and met no resistance until they reached Limlingerode at 0930. There they met



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tank and small arms fire. They called for air support. By 1000 they were traveling again and at 1115 were at Tettenborn where they met no resistance. The CC Cp moved forward to Tetterborn at 1310. Enemy tanks, short of Neuhof, about 1200, stopped the advance of TF Richardson. Air was again asked for. Knocking out an enemy SP gun and losing one tank, they occupied Neuhof. In the afternoon, orders for the attack for the next day were received. Combat Command R in the left (north) flank. At 1535 Co D 83rd Rcn Bn reverted to Bn control. For the next day's Operation CCR was to get another Rcn Co. The 1st Bn 313th Inf, relieved TF Richardson late in the evening and TF Richardson moved to a forward assembly area at Guedersleben, and TF Hogan moved to a forward assembly area at Hochstedt; while the 3rd Bn 414th Inf remained at Osterhagen. The Combat Command CP moved forward to an assembly area at Gunzerode at 2000. For the attack the next day, the 3rd Bn 47th Inf was attached to TF Hogan and joined at Gunzerode. The 83rd AFA Bn was attached to CCR and placed in direct support of TF Hogan.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Boles CCA, resumed the attack against Herzburg at first light against strong opposition of tanks, SP fire and small arms fire. The TF continued to push against strong opposition throughout the day and after entering the town, a strong enemy road block had to be removed before the town fell. By 2300 Herzburg was secure and arrangements were completed for the relief of TF Boles by elements of the 104th Inf Div at first light 12 Apr 45.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, CCB, and part of TF Welborn, resumed the attack east at 0530 to seize Nordhausen. By 0650 elements were in the northwest edge of town and by 1135 the north part of the town was secured. CCB was relieved in Nordhausen by the 3rd Bn 415th Inf at the close of the period.

4-12-45

TF Hogan was delayed in jumping off in the attack due to the fact that the 3rd Bn 47th Inf reported to them the night before until after dark, and the breakdown of men to tanks was not completed in time. However, TF Hogan crossed the LD at 0744. TF Richardson jumped



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off at 0700. East of Nordhausen SS Troops with panzerfaust were encountered. By 1010 the enemy had been reduced and TF Richardson was moving again. Progress was uninterrupted until 1212 when bad roads slowed them down. At 1530 they were held up by enemy between Weetelrode and Gonna. Two tanks, or AT guns, were reported and air support was requested. One of the guns was destroyed and the other captured intact. A PW reported a large concentration of tanks at Wippra. By 1725 TF Richardson was in the Gonna-Obersdorf area. The towns were occupied and secured. TF Hogan crossed the LD at C744 and by 1318 was to Leinungen. At 1530 they were held up by a road block at the western edge of Blankenheim. Airplanes strafed the road block and by 1600 they were in the town where they bivouaced for the night. The Rcn drew fire when they attempted to go beyond the city. By 1835 the woods in the vicinity of Enseloh and Blankenheim had been cleared and the CC Cp moved into town for the night.

Co A 83rd Rcn Bn attached for operations, suffered heavy casualties. 3 Half-tracks, 2 armored cars and 2 1-4 tons were lost. 35 men were reported missing, including the platoon leader, but most of these showed up later. The Company reported back to Battalion control at 1900. TF Richardson moved up to the woods and crossroad vicinity 529325 at 2000. Dismounted personnel with panzerfausts were encountered, but they were beaten off, and TF Richardson started patrols in its area. At 2210 the CO, CCR, sent the following message to TF Richardson: "Be prepared to attack with Inf at 0400 14 Apr 45 to secure town of Annarode, 545345, and continue attack with tanks at 0700. This will be confirmed as soon as definite." During the evening, orders came from the CG, 3rd Armd Div, for resuming the attack the following day to advance and secure bridgeheads over the River Elbe.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, after being relieved from previous positions, followed CCR on route 1 and occupied and secured the CC objective by 2050.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn (CCB), attacked at 0700 and advanced rapidly on Route 3 without encountering resistance until reaching coordinates 520256 where panzerfaust fire was encountered. AT fire from



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540255 was overcome, and the TF seized and secured Holdenstedt.

4-13-45

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR of TF Richardson moved at 0400 to secure the LD. By 0610 this had been accomplished. At 0645 they reported enemy tanks in the woods at 548335 and at 536346; also some small arms and 2 AT guns 500 yards east of the town of Annarode. At 0715 they were at the LD and were receiving small arms fire, tank and AT fire. At 1000 they were still unable to advance. Air was requested and promised for 1115 hours. Finally over coming the resistance without the help of air support, they reached Siebelgerode at 1110. The TF advanced rapidly to Gerbstedt by 1320, from where 2 enemy hospitals were reported. An enemy column was observed trying to escape. Quite a bit of horse drawn equipment was in the column. Here also around 1000 prisoners of war were liberated. At 1600, going into Alsleben, the TF ran into direct fire. Air was put on the resistance and TF Richardson moved into the town at 1730. However, it was still receiving 20-mm flak and some HE. Slow progress was made by the infantry and the advance elements tried to get to the bridge into town. They were unable to get to the bridge. At 1630 the bridge was blown up, practically in the face of the infantry, and the TF was ordered to cross the river over the bridge that was being constructed at Brucke. It, therefore, pulled back to Sanersleben for the night, prepared to cross when the bridge was completed. Inf elements of TF Hogan moved out at 0400 to secure the LD and by 0600 had done so. TF Hogan jumped off at 0700 and ran into tank and antitank fire just after crossing the LD. Overcoming this, they continued. CC CP followed TF Hogan out and at 0850 a dual purpose gun started shooting at the tail of the column. 3 half-tracks of the 83rd AFA Bn were knocked out immediately. Later the TD's found the abandoned gun in the woods. At the same time the head of Hogan's column drew fire upon leaving Ahlsdorf. Overcoming this resistance and moving on, the head of the column reached Helbra at 1050. The Combat Command CP coiled in the woods 1800 yards north of Blankenheim. At 1145 TF Hogan overran a



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German Prisoner of War Camp containing a large number of British and Russians, and also took 30 German prisoners. By 1200 the leading elements were at Siersleben. Approaching Nelben on the Assle River at 1430, they had the bridge literally blown up in the face of the leading elements by the retreating Germans. The railroad bridge, at first, appeared to be intact, but later investigation after it was captured, revealed a locomotive and some cars derailed on it. The infantry were still running into trouble at the river. However, a patrol crossed the river. At the bridge, small arms fire continued to come in. About this time air reconnaissance reported the bridge farther south in CCB's sector was out. Preparations were made to build two bridges, one at Brucke and one in the sector in which CCB was operating at 778436. Two companies of Infantry crossed the CCB bridge at 778436 and attacked north to clear Mon during the night. At the end of the period they were advancing north toward Mon. The CP of CCR moved into bivouac at 1830 in Zuckeritz. The rest of TF Hogan bivouaced at Nelben for the night. During the day the Combat Command liberated 13 paratroopers and two other American soldiers who had been prisoners since D-Day.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, continued to follow the advance of Division, protecting the north flank against an enemy threat. The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, attacked at 0700 and advanced against moderate resistance to 609274 where direct fire from 88-mm dual purpose guns halted them. After overcoming the resistance they continued the advance, knocking out numerous 88's. Eisleben was declared open and no resistance encountered there. The advance continued and Pölleben was entered at 1300 against moderate resistance. Here a PW camp was overrun and 430 British prisoners of war, including 300 Officers, were liberated. At 1515 they entered Friedenburg and cleared it.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR established a bridgehead and the engineers started building a bridge at 778436 for CCB to cross.



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4-14-45

The Engineers worked overnight constructing the bridge over the Saale River, and when the one in CCB sector was sufficiently finished, late in the evening of 13 Apr 45, two companies of Infantry of TF Hogan were sent across on foot. They attacked north and advanced to secure Mon. Due to the lack of necessary bridging material and boats, the bridge in CCR sector was not completed until 1035. The plan for crossing was for TF Hogan and one battery of his artillery to cross, followed by TF Richardson and one artillery battery. Then the rest of Hogan's artillery and Richardson's artillery in that order, followed by the Combat Command Cp.

TF Hogan crossed the river, beginning at 1035 and moved on to Konnern, where it was stopped on the eastern edge of town by small arms fire. After this resistance was overcome, the tank force moved rapidly until it reached the outskirts of Kothen. There it met dug-in Infantry armed with small arms and panzerfausts. There were about two battalions of Germans, one of the Wehrmacht and one Volkssturm mixed together. Some bitter fighting ensued, and by moving in from several directions the task force had about half the town cleared by 2030. Upon orders from the CO they did not by-pass the resistance, but started to clear the town, while at the same time giving TF Richardson an opportunity to catch up on the left route. An airfield was captured in the vicinity at which several plans were destroyed. The south part of town cleared was secured and some elements continued to move toward the main part of town.

TF Richardson followed TF Hogan across the Saale River, and by 1410 was in Konnern. From here it moved to Phase Line F I, where small arms and panzerfausts fire held it up until 1610. At 1640 it was approaching Preussnitz. Just beyond Preussnitz at Biendorf, it was stopped by dug-in Infantry, reported to be SS troops armed with small arms and panzerfausts. Despite hard fighting it was unable to advance beyond this point, and at 2030 Col Richardson was directed by the CO, CCR, to button up in that vicinity and be ready to move out at first



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light. At the end of the period they were attacking Frenz some 2000 yards forward, and planned to spend the night in Biendorf and Frenz. The CP crossed the river about 1430 and followed TF Hogan on Route 2. About 1600 the Combat Command coiled in a field just south of Lobnitz. While there, 66 enemy infantry were flushed from the woods just north of Worzig by Service units, and 22 others in Lobnitz by 2 Liaison officers. Both groups were very close to the CP location. At 2030 the CP moved into the western edge of Kothern for the night. On the way, an 88mm gun fired at the column, but very little damage was done. Earlier in the day the Luftwaffe strafed the left column of CCB and also the Division CP Column. P-51's chased them away and shot down 1 FW 190.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, TF Boles of CCA, crossed the Saale River on Bridge 1, immediately in rear of CCR and at the close of the period was assembled in vicinity of Trebitz, prepared to follow TF Richardson the next day.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR in TF Welborn of CCB, crossed the Saale river on Bridge 2 immediately upon completion at 0700. After assembling in the vicinity of Garsena they were prepared to resume the attack upon order. At 0915 the attack was renewed to the east against slight opposition. Spotted resistance was encountered all the way to the west bank of the Mulde River. Resistance then stiffened, and at the close of the period the Task Force was coiled in the vicinity of 600 yards southeast of Torten, and pushing infantry patrols to the Mulde River in an effort to secure the bridge intact at 134653.

4-15-45

Early in the morning, around 0100, two groups sent by TF Hogan to objectives in Kothern ran into trouble. G Co 33rd AR and K Co 47th Inf ran into road blocks and tried three times to advance but could not. I co 47th Inf and H co 33rd AR did reach their objectives. After daylight, progress was made in getting by the road blocks and by 0800 troops were nearly to the town's main intersection. Engineers were moved up to clear away the road blocks and tanks moved up. Around 1200 the left flank of TF Hogan ran into more Volkssturm short of the intersection. They were armed with small



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arms, shotguns and panzerfausts. Tanks were moved up to blast the houses. Troops of TF Richardson had reached the western edge of Frenz by 0415, and the town was cleared by 0730. Moving a short distance, they again met more dug-in Infantry and received automatic fire from both flanks. Gross Paschleben was defended all the way by enemy.

About 1100 the TF of CCA which had been trailing behind TF Richardson was side-slipped to the south, passed TF Richardson and went into position south and south-east of Kothen. At 1300 the mission of both TF Hogan and TF Richardson was changed. TF Hogan was ordered to clear Kothen immediately, and then send force west to meet TF Richardson. When the two Task Forces met, TF Hogan was to occupy both Kothen and Frenz. TF Richardson was to pull back and occupy defensive positions in the vicinity of the crossroad east of Plommetz and the crossroad just north of Bebiz. From the latter point a strong battle group was to be sent north to Bernburg, see what was there, and if possible, occupy and secure it. At 1615 TF Richardson and TF Hogan met in the western part of Kothen and TF Richardson started to its assigned objective. They reached Bebiz without opposition. The Battle group sent north ran into sniper fire at Unterpeissen and had to start house-cleaning again. Progress was slow, and at 2030, the CO CCR directed the tank force to button up where they were, and be prepared to continue at 0600. During the evening TF Hogan was ordered to send two patrols to contact CCA in their new position, one east of route 2 to Lausigk, then south to meet a patrol from TF Orr at Quellendorf; the other south to meet a TF Boles patrol and Badegast. The one to Badegast made contact at 1920. The other one, however, ran into a road block covered by small arms and panzerfaust fire at the railroad underpass at the eastern edge of town. At the end of the period contact had not been made with CCA by this patrol.

At 1020 CCA was ordered to move to Prossdick and Arensdorf, and to send a force to clear the enemy from the Meilendorf and Kornetz area where enemy small arms and panzerfaust fire was harassing supply and other vehicles moving along the Division route 3. 1st Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Orr, was sent to occupy Prossdick, which was secured by 1200. When TF Boles moved to Quellendorf, TF Orr occupied and secured Prossdick, Fernsdorf, Meilendorf and Frassdorf.



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The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welborn of CCB, sent a patrol at 0445, after artillery fire was lifted to investigate the bridge. They found the bridge blown, and the site strongly defended. One company of Infantry and a company of tanks moved into position to force a crossing, the infantry going across on the wreckage of the blown bridge. By 2007 one company plus two platoons of the 2nd Bn had crossed and most of the enemy fire was taken off the site. Bridging operations were expected to start by 2400.

During the afternoon the 83rd AFA Bn was detached from the Combat Command.

4-16-45

TF Richardson at 0645 reported everything quiet. At 0700 a Battle Group moved north toward Bernburg. No resistance was met until they reached the outskirts of Bernburg at 0853. They received reports which indicated that the enemy forces which had held them up the night before in Unterpeissen had moved out, and probably move to Bernburg. On the edge of Bernburg they ran into small arms and panzerfaust fire. The Task Force Commander split his group into two columns and sent one around to the left. The left force ran into anti-tank fire and small arms. At 1150 the TF Commander notified the CC CO that it would take most of the day to clean up the town, due to the snipers and house-to-house fighting. Some of the panzerfaust fighting was reported done by civilians. He was told to take the rest of the day if necessary to clear the town. At 1530 half the town was cleared, and by 1900 the force reached the river Saale. The bridges, both road and railway, were out. They buttoned up there for the night. Several prisoners were liberated, including 8 Americans and some Canadians at Bernburg. At 0645 TF Hogan reported all quiet. There was not as yet any contact with TF Orr. At 0700 elements of the TF moved out east, but had gone only a short distance when they hit enemy small arms fire. Again it was house-to-house cleaning. By 1050 Klepzig was reached. The road was blocked and defended by small arms and an anti-tank gun. The Task Force was told to by-pass it and keep going. Leaving a force to contain the enemy, they sent a force southeast, east and northwest to Merzien



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which was reached at 1900 by both forces. It required considerable time to clean out Merzien, and they then proceeded toward Lausigk. On the way they hit some mines. Lausigk was buttoned up at 2200. Many prisoners of war were taken.

At 1500 TF Orr was ordered to send the 1st Bn 36th AIR, with Co A 83rd Rcn Bn to sweep the woods west of route 3 in the Haideburg Forest. At 1730 they jumped off. The Infantry had very little trouble, but the 83rd met automatic weapons and panzerfausts. At the close of the period, they were still engaged in their mission.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn, continued mopping-up operations north of Gridline 60. They held their bridgehead over the Mulde River and continued bridging operations in the vicinity of 134653. Constructed was impeded by difficult terrain at the southern approach and harassing enemy artillery fire. At the close of the period the bridging was still going on, and the Infantry were holding in their positions astride the Autobahn east of the river crossing west of Kleutsch.

During the day the 991st FA Bn which had been giving CCR supporting fire under division control, were given other missions and moved from the Combat Command area.

4-17-45

For the 17th April the mission originally was as follows: TF Richardson leave one company in Bernburg and send the remainder on a "clean up" route, viz: Mukrene-Bebitz-Leau-Plomnitz-Vaalberge-Drubard-Klien Paschleben-Drosa-Wulfen-Micheln-Maxdorf-Fr Paschleben. TF Hogan send a "Clean up" force to Porst-Sibbendorf-Osternienburg-Trebbicheau-Aken (Leave a force at the river)-Kl. Zerbst-Elsnigk-Wurflau-Zehringer-Porst. At 0700 TF Hogan moved out and hit a road block and some mines at Porst. By 0930 the town was cleared, and the engineers moved in to clear the road block and mines. At Porst the group divided with one force going to Aken via Sibbeldorf-Osternienburg-Trebbicheau-Micheln-Wulfen-Drosa-Kl. Paschleben-Trinun-Gr. Paschleben, and the other, the original route as planned. By 1348 one column was in Sibbelsdorf, and



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the other in Elsnick. Moving steadily against light opposition most of the day, both columns converged on Aken at 1715. On the way a Chemical plant, air field and electrical fixture plant were captured, and a hospital was discovered. Several PW's were liberated; some of them troops of VII Corps wire team, captured the night before. In Aken, small arms, panzerfausts and considerable artillery were encountered, but by the end of the period it was about three-fourths buttoned up. It was expected that the cleaning up would require most of the night and a greater part of the next day. The forces that turned east met opposition, lost one tank and had some casualties. At about 2100 they buttoned up Gr. Pachtben for the night to continue the next day.

TF Richardson moved out at 0700 and moved speedily with no opposition until it reached Konnern at 1000. Here the mission was changed, and it moved to Route 3 and proceeded east to come under Division control for a mission in the vicinity of Hinsdorf. From this position it attacked to seize Bobbau-Steinfurth and Jessnitz. As the Task Force got under way for the attack at 1400, an enemy task force launched a counter-attack northwest from vicinity Bobbau-Steinfurth. This attacking force was quickly turned back by heavy artillery and air cooperation of fighter-bombers which knocked out an estimated eight tanks. After overcoming stubborn resistance the task force reached Bobbau-Steinfurth, and at the close of the period held the west edge of the town.

After sweeping the woods in the Haideburg Forest, the 1st Bn 36th AIR in TF Orr, reached the eastern edge near the railroad tracks west of Torten, and remained in position throughout the period, keeping pressure on the enemy holding the RJ at 107649. Close contact was kept with TF Lovelady, operating in the east against Torten, in an effort to establish physical contact at the first opportunity.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR as part of TF Welborn, continued to secure the bridgehead over the Mulde River at 133653 and construction was continued on a treadway bridge at that point until 1845 when orders were issued to discontinue construction on the bridge and withdraw the bridgehead. At 0900 part of the



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Task Force was dispatched to aid elements of Task Force Lovelady to secure Torten, and RJ at 107649 just west of the town. Patrolling was conducted during the day. At the close of the period they were disposed in the woods southeast of Torten.

4-18-45

At 0600 TF Hogan resumed cleaning up Aken. By 1040 the right of the town was cleared. In the left portion there were 88's in buildings and were covering the road blocks. There was firing down cross streets. The task force commander threw artillery at the enemy infantry in the vicinity of North Church. The patrol from TF Richardson at Bernburg made contact with the 113th Cavalry at Pobzig at 1000. At 1210 contact was also made with them at the blown bridge in Bernburg. At 1800 the Group left in Bernburg was relieved by a combat engineer battalion and rejoined TF Richardson in vicinity of Bobbau-Steinfurth. TF Hogan was attempting to get a patrol out of Aken east to proceed toward Kl. Kuhnau, but was unable to get them out of town until 1400, due to sniper fire from the vicinity of the church. Considerable enemy artillery was thrown into the town. About 1500 the Combat Command CP moved to Aken, but shortly after arrival was ordered to move to Loberitz. When this was accomplished TF Hogan was placed under Div control, and TF Richardson, which included the 3rd Bn 36th AIR, reverted to CCR control. By 1900 TF Hogan had Aken cleared, and contact was made with the 83rd Division. TF Richardson received a counter-attack from 3 tanks and 100 infantry at about 0520 in Bobbai-Steinfurth. This attack was defeated without loss of ground. During the day they encountered heavy enemy defense of Infantry, supported by tanks, mortars and artillery fire. At night they secured their position, ready to continue the attack at 0600.

During the day TF Bradley attacked through Zechepkau and Thalheim to Reuden. While Reuden was being cleared the enemy counter-attacked from the south - east with 3 tanks and 25 to 50 infantry. This attack was defeated and the town was secured by 1915.

CCR Hqs were moved to Loberitz to take over the operations of TF Richardson, TF Miller and TF Bradley, after



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Lt Col Yeomans, CO, 83rd Rcn Bn, was killed. Composition of the troops at this time was as follows:

TF Richardson: 3rd Bn 32 AR; 3rd Bn 36th AIR; 2nd Plat Co C 703rd TD Bn; 1st Plat Co C 23rd Engrs Bn;

TF Miller: Co E 32nd AR; Co A 36th AIR; Sec Co A 703rd TD Bn; Cos A & B 83rd Rcn Bn.

TF Bradley: 83rd Rcn Bn (less cos A and B and 1 plat each of Cos C and D); Sec Co A 703 TD Bn.

The Battle Group secured Reuden for the night.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Orr CCA, continued to maintain their security during the period.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, TF Welbron of CCB, withdrew the bridgehead forces (E and F Cos) to the west side of the Mulde River under cover of darkness. They continued to clear the enemy from Torten, beginning at 0800 and by 1720 it was reported cleared. Combat Patrols moving from Torten to contact elements of Combat Command Doan received heavy anti-tank and small arms fire from the vicinity of RJ 107649, and were unable to effect the contact.

4-19-45

TF Miller moved from Thalheim towards Wolfen via Reuden at 0400 and began an attack from the northern side, advancing southeast. By 1100 it had reached the main north-south road. It reported finding "plenty of Krauts, and destroying same". The force met strong resistance, running into Infantry, automatic weapons, panzerfaust, snipers and artillery. Late in the afternoon the task force began to move faster and by the close of the period had cleared four-fifths of Wolfen. This was secured and preparations were made to move on at 0600. TF Richardson attacked at 0400 in Bobbai-Steinfurth. The advance was very slow as it was a matter of house-to-house fighting. They met panzerfaust, small arms, small caliber A-P, mortars and considerable direct fire. Air support was requested and by 0945 plans arrived. At 1600 the task force was still in the vicinity of the church in the northern part of town, and the TF Commander reported the pressure was increasing. The task force tried to send a battle group around to the left and attack the enemy from the flank and rear. This force also met resistance but by the close of the period it had advanced to the point at



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which the main road branches east to Jessnitz. A patrol was sent out this road to go to Jessnitz, reconnoiter and report on the condition of the bridge, but at the end of the period no report had been received. Orders had been issued for TF Hogan (Less security detachment at Aken) to join Combat Command at Loberitz. TF Hogan at 0700 left Aken, leaving one platoon of Infantry, one platoon of light tanks and one section of tank destroyers to secure the town. They arrived at 1100, and were immediately given the mission of securing a film factory west of Wolfen. By 1315 the task force was moving and met very little resistance initially. Two-thirds of the way through enemy infantry was encountered, and at 1645, fire and smoke impeded progress. 45 prisoners of war were taken. When the factory had been practically cleared, and also almost destroyed by fire, a battle group consisting of a company of tanks and one Infantry company moved out to the left and north of Wolfen with the mission of advancing left and north to Bobbau-Steinfurth to relieve the pressure in front of TF Richardson. However, by the time this force had moved one-fourth of the way, TF Richardson had cleared the situation in Bobbau-Steinfurth to the extent that the battle group was not needed. It was ordered to halt and secure its position between the built up sections of Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth. The Combat Command CP moved from Loberitz to the northeast edge of Wolfen at 1800.

During the day Air support was requested several times and did considerable strafing. The 54th AFA Bn, from positions in Wadendorf, supported all three task forces with fire.

The 1st Bn (less Co A) 36th AIR, part of TF Orr, at 1800 attacked north from vicinity 108633 in conjunction with TF Welborn with the mission of securing road 100648-106648. The attack moved initially against light resistance and at 2100 the left element had secured its objective. Resistance consisting of small arms, panzerfausts and artillery fire slowed the advance of the right element and at the end of the period it had not advanced all the way to its objective.



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The mission of TF Welborn, of which 2nd Bn 36th AIR was part, was to secure the road 106650-113646 and establish road blocks at 106649 and 106648. Moderate to heavy resistance from artillery, small arms and panzerfaust fire was encountered, and at the close of the period they were engaged in house-to-house fighting along the road southeast of Torten.

4-20-45

At 0600 Battle Group Miller continued his attack south toward Greppin. At 0650 they encountered dug in infantry and snipers who delayed the advance. By 1315, the southern part of Greppin was practically clear, and the 83rd Rec Bn began to take over. Battle Group Miller reverted to control of CCA during the afternoon.

At 0600 TF Richardson resumed the attack on Jessnitz. One battle group was sent to the left flank, while another attempted to press straight forward, but neither was able to advance due to intense automatic weapons fire, dug in infantry and direct fire. A patrol had been dispatched prior to dawn to investigate the condition of the bridge across the creek west of Jessnitz but had been unable to reach it so another patrol was sent out. At 0910 this patrol likewise reported that enemy resistance was too heavy for it to reach the bridge. In the meantime, both battle groups were attempting to move but progress was negligible. At 1300 leading elements heard an explosion which they believed to be the bridge being blown and by 1330 visibility had improved sufficiently for airplanes to verify this belief. However, strong enemy resistance continued and by dark TF Richardson had been unable to advance further than 400 yards beyond the railroad just east of Bobbau-Steinfurth. At the close of the period, the TF was secured in this position.

At 0600 TF Hogan resumed the attack in the factory area and meeting only slight resistance completed mopping up operations by mid morning. The battle group that had been sent north for possible use with TF Richardson remained in place between Wolfen and Bobbau-Steinfurth.

During the morning the Commanding General 3rd Armd



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Division had discussed with the CO CCR his plans for assembly positions for this Combat Command when the Bobbau-Steinfurth-Jessnitz-Wolfen-Greppin mission had been completed. These plans called for the 83rd Rcn Bn to relieve Battle Group Miller and revert to Division control. Upon relief, the Battle Group, Battle Group Miller, was to revert to CC control and CCR consisting of TF Hogan and TF Richardson was to be assembled in Reppichau and Chorau, prepared to attack Dessau on Division order. Therefore, realizing that TF Hogan could not be further used in its present position, TF Hogan was ordered to move at 1300 to Chorau and from there to patrol the Chorau-Kl Kuhnau road. Upon reaching Chorua, TF Hogan sent a patrol north to the Kuhnau woods and then east toward Kl Kuhnau. In spite of some small arms fire progress was good and the patrol was reinforced to battle group size. By 1630 the eastern edge of the woods had been reached and the battle group continued to the western edge of Kl Kuhnau where a road block, defended by an assault gun and small arms was encountered. By 2030 the resistance had been overcome, the road block removed, and the battle group secured itself for the night approximately half way through the town. Patrols were sent on during the night to determine road conditions toward Dessau.

At 1730 the CP of the Combat Command began movement to new location at Reppichau. Upon orders of CG. 3rd Armd Div, TF Richardson reverted to Division control and was to continue his attack toward Jessnitz, but was not to advance further than the blown bridge except on order.

1st Bn 36th AIR part of CCA remained in position during the day, and continued to secure its sector in the vicinity of 106648.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Welborn of CCB, continued the attack throughout the night and early morning against small arms, artillery and mortar fire. By 1000 they had secured the critical enemy strong point at RJ 106649. A combat patrol swept towns in the southern part of the division sector which had not been cleared during the initial advance of the Division to this area. Little resis-



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tance was encountered, and numerous prisoners of war were taken.

4-21-44

TF Hogan resumed the attack toward Dessau at 0600. One force attacked east through Kl Kuhnau, and another attacked north to Gr Kuhnau to take that town and then proceed against Dessau. By 0630 the right column was just about half way through Kl Kuhnau, but the force sent north was held up by a road block defended by small arms and panzerfaust fire on the road leading out of Kl Kuhnau. At 0730 the right column was also held up by a road block and artillery fire. By 0830 the road block to the north had been cleared and the left column started moving slowly. By 1045 the road block on the east was removed, the right column started moving, and by 1430 was in the western edge of Dessau. The left column proceeded to Gr Kuhnau and by 1430 had cleared the town but another road block on the eastern edge of the town was encountered. Overcoming this obstacle, the force moved on, and by 1530 was two thirds of the way from Gr Kuhnau to Dessau. The right column was inside the city and moving. At this time, the CG, 3rd Armd Div, directed that both columns be held in place until CCA, coming in from the south, could come abreast. When this was accomplished, both columns were to resume the attack on order. At 1730 CCA came abreast and the CG, 3rd Armd Div, ordered resumption of the attack. After advancing 400 yards in Dessau the Combat Command was ordered to secure its position for the night. Due to the layout of the city, the left column was somewhat forward of the right column. Orders were issued for the attack to be resumed at first light with the left column remaining in place until the right column came abreast and for both then to continue together.

Combat Command CP moved to Kl Kuhnau at 1415.

TF Richardson (operation under 3rd Armd Div control) started the attack toward Jessnitz at 0530. Attempts to cross the Spittel Wasser Creek were met with very heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire. Reconnaissance for a suitable crossing was started both to the north and south. A bridge was found intact at 148533, and a battle group attacked Jessnitz from the north supported by the remainder of the



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Task Force from the east and southeast edge of town. Enemy mortar, artillery and small arms fire continued to be heavy, but by 1700 the town was cleared. TF Richardson secured its position in Jessnitz for the night. Company D 83rd Rcn Bn which had been attached to TF Richardson reverted to the 83rd Rcn Bn at 1730 and moved to Wolfen.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, as part of TF Orr, attacked on the right in Combat Command A toward Dessau, at 0515, and advanced steadily against stubborn resistance throughout the day. The resistance consisted of small arms, panzerfaust, mortar and artillery fire. At last light the main intersection in center of Dessau was reached, and the task force secured itself for the night, prepared to move on at 0600.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR attacked in its zone at 0530 and advanced against small arms, artillery and mortar fire, encountering one enemy light flak battery. By 1300 the task force objective was secured and contact was established with CCA on the left.

4-22-45

The right column of TF Hogan jumped off at 0600. It moved east to the main intersection in town, then turned north. The left force in the meantime had circled north, and CCA still further on the right (east) flank, circled north and northeast, so that once the movement started in the morning, the point of direction of all forces had changed to almost due north, to finish clearing Dessau. The left column met no resistance initially, and that met by the right column was negligible. Contact was made with CCA by the right column at 0830. Further in the city resistance stiffened, small arms mortar and artillery being encountered, but by 0930 both main intersections near the river had been reached.

Getting to within a few hundred yards of the final objective on the edge of town, the force advanced on two roads. Again, stubborn enemy resistance held up the advance and mines were reported. Inability to get past these obstacles and the necessity



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of having to dig out the enemy infantry one by one, delayed further advance the rest of the day. At 1830 a battle group of one platoon of tanks and one platoon of infantry moved around to the right flank to try to uproot the force holding up the advance, but this group was unable to accomplish its mission. CCA on the right flank was also held up about 200 yards short of the objective.

Late at night a platoon of Infantry, reinforced later to a company, worked through the mine field and the engineers went up and removed the mines. The infantry moved forward but at the end of the period they were still some distance from the objective.

The Combat Command CP moved to the western edge of Dessau at 1030. In the afternoon a patrol from TF Hogan was sent out to sweep the woods between Dessau and Aken. At 1630 the patrol reported 35 prisoners of war had been taken from the woods.

TF Richardson was relieved at Jessnitz by elements of the 60th Infantry, the relief being completed at 1600. At 1615 TF Richardson reverted to the control of CCR, and at 1625 moved out to the new assembly area in Kothen. By 1845 all elements had closed in Kothen.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of TF Orr, CCA, resumed the attack at 0800 to complete its mission of seizing and securing that portion of Dessau in its zone. Initially resistance was light, but as the advance continued, resistance increased. However, by 1300 the objective had been reached and secured.

The 2nd Bn, part of TF Welborn CCB, continued to secure the left sector of CCB southeast of Dessau.

4-23-44

At first light TF Hogan continued the attack, making good progress against light opposition. At 1000, however, strong enemy positions were encountered and the TF stopped to reorganize and to plan a coordinated attack. At 1130 the attack was begun again with infantry leading due to the possi-



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bility of mines and due to intense panzerfaust fire on the tanks if the tanks broke defilade. Although some progress was made it was slight. This was due to an intense crossfire from automatic weapons and the fire from panzerfaust being used indirectly as mortars. The right column encountered a wire obstacle at 1430 and attempts to clear it of fire so that engineers could remove mines were unsuccessful.

The Combat Commander then ordered both columns to attack at 1630 with tanks leading, accepting losses due to panzerfaust and mines. At 1630, after an intense artillery preparation, the attack began and by 1645 the objective was reached. CC A in the meantime had taken and secured their objective. This marked the complete occupation of Dessau. Road blocks and patrols were set up.

At 0700 a force consisting of Co H, 36th Armd Inf Regt, and Co C 32nd AR, was sent by TF Richardson to Aken to relieve the force of TF Hogan in that town.

At 0755 TF Hogan dispatched a force of one company of tanks and one platoon of infantry to continue sweeping the woods west of Dessau. They returned at 1100 and reported finding no resistance.

At 1515 TF Richardson left the security force at Aken and the remainder of the task force started moving from Kothen to the new billeting area. The units closed in their respective areas at 1910, and the 3rd Bn 32nd AR reverted to 32nd Armd Regt control. Hqs 3rd Bn 36th AIR was located in Grillenburg and the battalion was billeted in towns in that vicinity.

At 1640 the artillery air OP reported that the bridge at 098743 had just been blown.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR part of TF Weibern of CCA, continued to secure its sector through the period. It was anticipated that the 2nd Bn would move to the new assembly area sometime during the next day.

4-24-45

TF Hogan remained in position, securing its sector throughout the day. During the morning, prior to daylight, and after after dark, regular patrols



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were made to contact CCA on the right.

The Combat Command was attached to the 9th Inf Division at 1630.

Patrol a detail to contact divisions

The 1st Bn 36th AIR, part of CCA, continued to defend its sector. They were attached to the 9th Inf Division, effective at 1545, and remained under control of the 9th Inf Div until they started to move to the new assembly area.

The 2nd Bn 36th AIR, moved to new assembly area vicinity Vatterode during the day and reverted to Regimental control - 36th Armored Infantry Regiment.

The 3rd Bn 36th AIR, less Co H, still in Aken, arrived in their new assembly area, started reorganizing, cleaning up and making necessary maintenance.

4-25-45

All attached troops of other units of the Division were released during the day, and reverted to their respective commands. On completion of the relief of the Combat Command by the 9th Infantry Division at 1630, the Combat Command reverted to control of 3rd Armd Division. Combat Command CP moved at 1725 to new area in the vicinity of Rammelburg and closed at 2130.

The 1st Bn 36th AIR continued to occupy their sector under CCA until late in the afternoon when relief was effected by the 9th Inf Division. The 3rd Armd Division planned to move the Battalion the following morning to the 36th AIR assembly area, at which time it would revert to regimental control.

The 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn 36th AIR remained in their sector and proceeded with cleaning up, recreation and maintenance.

H Co 36th AIR, was relieved at Aken during the day, and joined the 3rd Bn in their assembly area.

4-26-45

to
4-30-45

On 26th April, the 1st Bn 36th AIR, moved into its assigned bivouac area, vicinity of Wippra, and began maintenance, cleaning up and recreation. The 2nd and 3rd Bns continued with maintenance and recreation through 28 Apr 1945. On 29 Apr 45 the Regiment moved south to new assembly areas with Head-



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quarters and Service Company vicinity Greussen, 1st Battalion in the vicinity of Weissensee, 2nd Bn vicinity Kolleda, and 3rd Bn vicinity of Grossenehrich.

At the end of the period the companies were paid off, began anew on their maintenance and clean-up and prepared to start on a training and recreation schedule on the 1st of May.

5-1-45
to
5-31-45

At the beginning of the period all units of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment were directly under Regimental control, being billeted in several towns in assembly areas almost in the heart of Germany, immediately south and southeast of Sangerhausen. Regimental CP was in Greussen, 1st Bn CP in Weissensee, 2nd Bn CP in Kolleda and 3rd Bn CP in Grossenehrich. Hq Co and Service Co were in Greussen.

Recreation, maintenance of vehicles and weapons, and clean up in general were carried on for the first several days of May. On 2 May 45 the 1st Bn was presented a Presidential Citation by the Division Commander for outstanding performances of duty in action against the enemy in Germany during period 12th to 22nd of September 1944. At the same time the 3rd Bn Med Section was presented a similar citation by the Division Commander for outstanding performance of duty in action in Germany during the period from 17 to 21 September 1944.

On 8 May 1945 a Regimental Parade was held on the parade field in the vicinity of Weissensee, in which all units of the Regiment took part. Present for the parade was Colonel John Smith, Chief of Staff of the Division. May the 8th was announced as official V-E day.

On 11 May 1945 the 7th Corps Commander spoke to all the Regiment on the Parade Ground near Gunstedt. He told the Regiment that the Division was being transferred to the 19th Corps and in his speech he lauded the deeds of the Division, as being among the best Divisions in the present conflict.

On May 12th the Regiment moved to new bivouac area in vicinity of Frankfurt-on-Main, The Regimental



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CP was located at Muhlheim, and the Battalions located in the towns nearby. 1st Bn CP was in Seligenstadt, 2nd Bn at Hausen and 3rd Bn at Jugeheim. Maintenance of vehicles and weapons was resumed as well as a training schedule which included several hours of recreation and athletics, and the beginning of the Education Program.

On 18 May 1945 a formation was held in the vicinity of Darmstadt at which time awards and decorations were presented to men of the Regiment, who had not previously received them but for whom they had been authorized, by the Division Commander General Hickey. Regular training schedule, including maintenance of weapons and vehicles, recreation, swimming, shows and games were carried on through the 20th of May. Work was being done towards getting the Education Program started. A questionnaire was circulated through the Regiment to determine the educational needs of the men, and textbooks and materials requisitioned on the basis of the answers received therefrom.

Effective 20 May 1945 Lt Col Wm R Orr was appointed Executive Officer, succeeding Lt Col Carlton P. Russell who was relieved to return to the United States. Major Curlee was assigned to the 2nd Bn and Major Owen assumed command of the 1st Battalion. Captain Bryan Gruver was assigned to Regimental S-3.

The period 20 May 45 to the end of the month was taken up with training, maintenance of weapons and equipment, recreation and final planning for the Education Program. Schools for instructors in the program started 28 May 45 with Major Gordon F. Thomas in charge.

6-1-45

At the beginning of the period all units of the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment were under Regimental control in the area east and southeast of Frank-on-Main. Regimental CP was still at Muhlheim, First Battalion in vicinity of towns near Seligenstadt, Second Battalion in vicinity of Hausen and Third Battalion area vicinity of Jugeheim. Service co was located at Muhlheim.



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During the entire month training, recreation and maintenance were carried on. Special entertainment was provided and some leaves and furloughs granted. Lt Col Orr assumed command of the Regiment from the 4th and the 8th in absence of Col Howze, and again from the 11th to 17th. Lt Col Thomas assumed command from the 8th to the 10th in the absence of Col Orr. Colonel Howze assumed command again 18 June 1945.

A Regimental Parade was held in the vicinity of the Zellhausen Airport, June 19 1945, at which General Hickey presented the Legion of Merit to Colonel Howze and the Distinguished Service Cross to Pfc Roland Pomerleau and Silver and Bronze Stars and Clusters to other Officers and enlisted men of the Regiment.

On 29 June 1945 a Review and Inspection were held at the Zellhausen Airport, at which time the Division and Regimental Commanders said farewell to the men who were to leave the Regiment within the next few days.

7-1-45
to
7-31-45

Throughout the period the Regiment remained in occupational areas in the eastern half of the Offenbach Kreis. CP's of all units were the same as for the June Period.

On 6 July 1945 the Regiment transferred most of its 85-point officers and enlisted men (44 Officers and 798 enlisted men) to the 6th Armd Division. Major Paul C Root assumed command of the 1st Battalion., Lt Col Charles E. Brown assumed command of the 2nd Battalion., and Major Gillman E. Morse assumed command of the Third Battalion. The new personnel from the 6th Armd Division coming to the Regiment in transfers in exchange for personnel transferred out of the regiment, were rapidly acquainted with existing policies and became part of the Regiment in short time.

A Regimental retreat parade was held in the vicinity of the Zellhausen Airport on 19 July 1945. Col Howze decorated all of the guidons of the Regiment with the Combat Infantry Company Streamer.

On 21-22 July 1945, Operation "Tallyho" was held in the Regimental area. The plan was well thought out and numerous civilian arrests were made. Many



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suggestions were received for any such future operations.

On Thursday 26 July 1945, President Harry S. Truman and party reviewed the Third Armored (Spearhead) Division. The Regiment assembled on the Darmstadt-Frankfurt road near spremlingen for the review. The guard of honor was the First Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment and was commanded by Colonel Howze. Present with the President were Secretary of State James W. Byrnes, General Dwight Eisenhower, General Wade Haislip and other dignitaries.

During the entire month, training and recreation were carried on. Marksmanship and small unit tactics were stressed. Athletic programs were supervised by the Athletic Officer, and baseball and softball competition started.