

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE FOR APRIL

The 274th Inf began the month of April by moving deeper into the heart of Germany. It was learned early in the morning of the 1st of April that the 70th Div was attached to the 3d Army for tactical purposes.

The Regtl CP was at KAISERLAUTERN, GERMANY and at 0200 April 1st, Field Order 12, including strip map, march table, assignment of motor transport for personnel, administrative order and overlay was issued by Capt. John J. Morgan, Acting Regtl S-3. The mission assigned to all units by F.O. 12 was to move to new areas, as described below, and to guard bridges with particular attention to the RHINE RIVER bridges at OP. KNHEIM and MAINZ, as well as to regulate and control traffic on the MSR, maintain law and order - both civil and military, guard all public utility and military government installations, protect army supply points and installations, and be prepared to move on 24 hour notice. The 1st Bn was to be responsible for the bridges in MAINZ while the 3d Bn was to take over the bridges in OPPENHEIM.

The 1st Bn moved to GONSENHEIM, crossing the IP at 1106, and closed into new area at 1400 opening their CP at that time. The C.O. 1st Bn, Major Fred H. Cantrell, and his staff, immediately contacted military government officials in MAINZ and planned police and control of the Bn area. The 1st Bn started search and mop up of their area. An eight (8) man guard from Co. C was posted at 1500 on the RHINE RIVER treadway bridge (4 men on each bank), a two (2) man guard from Co. C was posted at warehouse in MAINZ at 1830, a guard of ten (10) men from Co. B was posted at 1800 at railroad freight yard - 3 freight trains containing miscellaneous material of which three carloads were enemy guns and ammunition.

The 2d Bn moved to OBR-OLM, crossing the IP at 1116 and closed into new area at 1310, opening their CP at that time. The 2d Bn immediately started search and mop up of their area. Motor patrols were operated every two hours between platoon positions after the hour of darkness.

Our 3d Bn moved to OPPENHEIM, crossing the IP at 0816 and closing into new area at 1130 at which time the Bn CP was set up. The 3d Bn companies contacted the burgemeisters in the occupied towns in the Bn area and issued instruction as of civilian population and also motor patrols were started.

Co. A, 370th Medical Bn, attached to 274th Inf, moved to WINTERHEIM crossing the IP at 0850 and closed into new area at 1020. The AT Company crossed the IP at 1800 and closed into BUDENHEIM opening their CP at 2100. Cannon Company moved to WIESENAU crossing the IP at 1830 and opening new CP in new area at 2130.

AN underground war plant, which until recently was turning out launching tubes for V-2 robot bombs and wheels for Nazi Tiger

tanks, was used to furnish electricity for Capt. Roy Meiners' Cannon Co. of the 274th Inf. When the company moved into WIESEN-AU, above MAINZ on the RHINE RIVER, there was no electric power. But there was a Diesel-powered generator in a machine shop, they were told, if fuel could be furnished. Several drums of Diesel oil were located in a captured Nazi supply dump. When directed to the generator, Capt. Meiners and his men discovered it was in an underground plant, built in the side of a quarry. The Superintendent, who said he deliberately disobeyed Nazi orders to destroy the machinery three days before the Americans reached the town, was glad to cooperate. He also acted as guide on a number of sightseeing tours through the plant.

Constructed under 150 feet of rock, the underground caverns were started last July. Tunneling operations were continued until the Nazis fled, with six 120-yard tunnels leading directly into the rock and three 250-yard crosswise connecting tunnels having been completed.

Included in the underground space are living quarters for officials and workers, dining room, kitchen, drafting rooms, offices, infirmary, and heating and power plants. It is complete even to a small railroad for hauling the heavy equipment.

On the evening of April 1st at 1900, Regt issued O.I. 33 giving the following instructions to all units: "Continue present mission, complete thorough search and mop up expeditiously. Support and coordinate with Military Government officials. Units to submit each day a troop activity schedule. Upon completion of search and mop up, unit immediately will conduct a minimum of four hours instruction daily".

Regt received O.I. 31 from Division Hq, dated 2 April 1945, assigning six bridges across the RHINE RIVER to be guarded - three in OPPENHEIM, one in NIERSTEIN, and two in MAINZ. We were to relieve elements of the 270th P. A. Bn.

The orders received from Division were immediately passed on to the Bns in the form of O.I. 34 with the following instructions:

1. Establish outposts on each side of all RHINE RIVER bridges in sector. An officer to be in charge, 24 hours daily, of each bridge. Organic AT guns to be placed in position so they may be employed on targets in the RHINE RIVER.
2. Establish motor patrols on both sides of the river.
3. Establish traffic control points for displaced personnel. Transport displaced personnel to Reception Camps expeditiously. Coordinate with local military officials.
4. Contact all troops within respective areas to determine organization, name of commanding officer, and nature of troop activity. Maintain liaison concerning activity.

5. Comply and enforce all existing regulations and proclamations applying to both military and civil conduct.
6. Bns will assign Town Commanders in every town in area.
7. 1st Bn to provide detail and establish wire communication with MAINZ Reception Center to support military government officials.
8. I & R Platoon to reconnoiter N, NE and E to determine condition of roads, bridges, and traffic with particular emphasis on direction of FRANKFURT and DARMSTADT. Contact all troops in adjacent areas to determine organization, name of commanding officer, and as much information of their activities as possible. Determine extent of mop up and search by friendly troops in adjacent areas. Determine location of any enemy pockets in close proximity of our area.

During the day the 1st Bn continued their mission in position in MAINZ and vicinity. They had bridge guards and motorized patrols in effect. The 2d Bn cleared all towns occupied and also had motorized patrols in effect. The 3d Bn established outposts with an officer incharge at each bridge. They, like the other Bns, had motorized patrols operating east of the RHINE RIVER.

The I & R Platoon, led by Lt. John W. Gordon, Jr. reconnoitered an area covering a radius of 20 miles from MAINZ and reported that the condition of all roads was good and they were hard-surfaced. They reported no evidence of enemy pockets and the various town burgemeisters reported everything under control except for very few cases where there were no troops in the town. The I & R Platoon contacted all adjacent friendly troops and reported the extent of their activities.

The Regt in general continued in search, mop up, guard bridges and installations, patrol areas, enforce existing military and civil regulations and support and coordinate with Military Government Officials. Regt was notified by Ln Officer with Division, Lt. Herbert W. Funk, that Co. A, 270th Engr (C) Bn was in direct support of the Regiment.

Early on April 3d, Colonel S. G. CONLEY, CO 274th Inf, presided over a meeting in his CP of members of the Allied Military Government, Major Joseph A. Walker, Regtl S-2, Major Fred A. Cantrell, CO 1st Bn and Town Commander of MAINZ, Capt. B. A. Narre, Regtl S-1 and Capt John J. Morgan, Acting Regtl S-3. The problems of handling displaced personnel and the supervision of the Displaced Persons Center was placed before the group. Colonel Conley as Commander of the Regimental area, had the responsibility of coordinating the AMG and the Regiment into a smooth functioning group to keep the displaced persons in the Regtl area under control. The AMG representative, Major Martin, was to find out

definitely if the Regt was to maintain a permanent camp for displaced persons. (Major Martin later found out that the Camp in the vicinity of GONSENHEIM was to be maintained for the French and other Western Europeans and a Camp in WIESBADEN to be maintained for Russians and Polish refugees. Both Camps to be maintained as long as they are needed).

The Immediate needs of the Camp in GONSENHEIM were discussed and it was found that the following things were necessary in order to keep the Camp running:

1. Barbed wire fence for the rear area of the camp.
2. Telephone communication.
3. Constant flow of food.
4. Field kitchens.
5. Locks to keep food and supplies secured.
6. Lighting system needed repair.
7. 5,000 mattresses and covers.

Major Centrell was given the responsibility of investigating the necessity for the barbed wire fence as well as installing telephone communication. The remaining needs of the camp were to be worked out between the members of the Allied Military Government running the camp and the Regiment. The question of what to do with displaced personnel then roaming the streets was to be investigated by Major Martin immediately so that the troops could place these people and keep them under control. (These people were later sent to the GONSENHEIM Camp.

On the 3d of April Regt received the message from the CG 70th Div to conduct reconnaissance of roads along RHINE RIVER to determine extent of motor patrol surveillance of activities along the RHINE RIVER. This instruction was disseminated by phone to the various units. Throughout the day the Regt had difficulty keeping the refugees on the east bank of the RHINE RIVER. These displaced people would try to cross the river in boats, also by jumping on the back end of trucks crossing the bridge and by any other means they could find. Patrols traveled up and down the river by motor launch to keep refugees on the east bank. The Acting CO 3d Bn, Major Paul J. Durbin, reported at 1830 that an estimated 1,000 refugees were gathered on the east bank of the RHINE RIVER. All Bns were notified to take displaced personnel who managed somehow to cross the river to the Displaced Persons Center in vicinity of GONSENHEIM.

The Regt maintained bridge guards, motor patrols along the RHINE RIVER protecting bridge sites, and motor contact patrols throughout the area. A Red Alert (enemy aircraft) was received at 0055 and was cleared at 0112 via information received from the 24th AA Group Warning Net through the 3d Bn. No attack developed. The Regt continued on mission and supported and coordinated activities with the military government officials.

At 2100, Regt published O.I. 35 with the following instructions for all units:

1. Establish military zone around bridge sites and other guarded installations within sector without delay. Enforce restriction of civilians by guards, restriction signs, and other means.
2. Establish necessary measures to prevent sabotage of bridges with particular attention to upstream.
3. Clear RHINE RIVER of all floating debris, boats, and other materials that endanger bridges. Coordinate with the Engrs.
4. Take necessary measures to insure that river boats are secured and not a menace to the security of the bridges.
5. Maintain motor patrols along both sides of RHINE RIVER to protect bridge sites, prevent sabotage and maintain surveillance of any activities along RHINE RIVER. Coordinate with adjacent Bns.
6. I & R Platoon placed in direct support of the 1st Bn.

All units spent the 4th of April reconnoitering all roads for possible supply routes and supplemental road nets. Roads on both sides of the RHINE RIVER and parallel thereto were reconnoitered and motorized patrols established. Collecting points and traffic control points for displaced personnel were established. Regt continued in 3d Army reserve - guarding bridges, and motorized patrols were increased to include patrols on both sides of the RHINE RIVER. Bn AT guns protected possible routes of enemy approach. Regtl AT and Cannon Company guns were in position to engage targets on the river. Town Commanders were assigned by Bn COs for towns in their Bn area.

The following instruction was received from Division Hq.:

"The railroad from BAD KREUZNACH to MAINZ is operating. All overpasses, underpasses and bridges will be guarded. Bns will have guards at BUDENHEIM and HEIDESHEIM when the train passes through those towns to guard against snipers and sabotage. Allow no hand or animal drawn carts or unauthorized vehicles on the MSR. Cannon and AT guns do not have to be placed in area now occupied by AAA units if Regtl CO feels that the area occupied by AAA is sufficiently protected. The Cannon and AT guns may be placed on other positions along the river with the same mission."

Regt immediately issued O.I. 36 assigning the following additional missions:

1st Bn - "Place guards on all overpasses, underpasses and bridges in sector on railroad from BAD KREUZNACH to MAINZ. Guard against sabotage and sniping and maintain 24 hours daily. Have guards at

BUDENHEIM and HEIDESHEIM when train passes through those towns. Have adequate guards at MAINZ destination point."

2d Bn - "Contact 1st Bn for location and information of military zone at bridge sites and along RHINE RIVER. Place AT guns in position upstream so that they may be employed on targets in the RHINE RIVER."

3d Bn - "No change."

I & R Platoon - "Detached from 1st Bn. Patrol far (east) bank of RHINE RIVER."

Cannon Co. - "Detached from 1st Bn and attached to 2d Bn for tactical purposes only."

The next day, April 5, the Regt continued mopping up area, maintaining guards on all bridges and railroad overpasses and underpasses. The I & R Platoon operated motorized patrols on both sides of the RHINE RIVER. Military zone was established along the river to keep civilians away. A Displaced Personnel Collecting point was established on the north bank of the river to facilitate handling of civilian personnel. 1st and 3d Bns relieved units of 785th M.P. Bn in their areas and took over mission of guarding military installations and directing traffic. The Regiment continued in Army reserve. Late that night Regt received O.I. 34 from Division instructing this Regt to furnish necessary guard personnel for the Displaced Personnel Center at GONSENHEIM. 1st Bn was immediately notified and they reported one platoon already was guarding the DPC.

The Regt acting S-3, Capt Morgan, received orders from Division on 6 April to establish a tactical guard at tunnel on BUDENHEIM - MAINZ railroad. The 1st Bn was immediately instructed to post guard as Division had ordered. The 1st Bn continued mission in MAINZ and vicinity. Each company continued to man its assigned guard posts. Guard was placed on railroad tunnel as requested by Division and was increased to one rifle squad. Motorized patrols covered rear areas regularly during 24 hour period. Each company used all available manpower to complete clearing of assigned areas.

The 2d Bn continued mission of guarding MSR and mopping up. All bridges in Bn sector leading to RHINE RIVER bridge being guarded 24 hours daily. Our 3d Bn was relieved of traffic control duties in OPPENHEIM by attachment of 70th Div M.P. Platoon at 0730 and Co. M moved to WOKRSTADT to take over traffic control, mopping up, and guarding railroad overpasses in vicinity. Co. L moved one platoon to JANDODERNHEIM to mop up town, guard R.R. overpasses, and collect salvage.

In the evening Regt issued O.I. 37 instructing all units to enforce curfew for all Army troops in area (2030-0700) and to enforce regulations regarding looting and unlawful entry of buildings.

The 1st Bn (confirming telephone order) was to establish tactical guard (not less than one rifle squad) at railroad tunnel on main line BUDENHEIM - MAINZ. Guard against sabotage and subversive activities. The Bn boundaries were adjusted in order to better accomplish the regimental mission.

A reserve position in Mainz and vicinity was continued by 1st Bn during April 7th. Mopping up operations and clearing of assigned area was also the order of the day. Companies C, B, and AT Co. reported assigned areas all cleared. Co. D had GOMSENHEIM clear and Co. A had rural area cleared, and 20% of MOMBACH was cleared.

The 2d Bn continued mopping up operations and guarding the MSR in Bn sector. The Bn Co. moved from OBER-SIM to MAINZ. Curfew laws were enforced as ordered by Regiment.

Our 3d Bn continued mopping up also and worked on salvage operations. Two AT guns were placed in position south of OBERHEIM to cover river above booms.

Information was received from the CIC at 1800 that enemy agents were holding meetings in MAINZ on HALL PLATZ. The 1st Bn investigated and turned the man who lived in the house over to the CIC and the German gave names of all the conspirators and many of them were arrested, thus effectively breaking up the meetings.

The 1st Bn had all of their area cleared on April 8 except one-third of MOMBACH. Military zones along RHINE RIVER in the Bn areas had been posted with signs indicating in German that all civilians were forbidden in area unless they had a military government pass. Only persons living in area were issued passes. A gathering of several hundred displaced persons looting a wine cellar was broken up by the Bn riot squad.

Our 2d Bn cleared all of their area except the town of WIES-ENAU which was cleared by Cannon Co. Guards continued to control MSR as maintained in Bn sector. The 3d Bn continued mission of protecting bridges in OBERHEIM area and protection of railroad bridges and overpasses in area. Coordination with 433d AAA Bn was made for protection of bridges against waterborne objects. 3d Bn set up two AT guns to protect bridges and established communication between AT guns and searchlights operated by 433d AAA Bn and between the searchlights and Bn HQ.

Also during the day, Cannon Co. set up a small arms range for training purposes.

The 1st Bn completed at 1700 April 9th the search of their Bn area. One platoon from Co. C moved to HEIDENHEIM to protect a large Class 1 supply point established there.

New guards were posted by AT Co. on bridge in their area which is under construction. The 2d Bn, due to change in Bn boundary, gave companies E and F the responsibility of guarding two additional bridges in the 2d Bn area. The 2d Bn still guarded

the MSE in their area as well as the RHINE RIVER bridges. Cooperation with the AMG was also carried out. Our 3d Bn continued mission and their bridge defense was revised and reinforced during the afternoon.

Regt was notified at 1600 by Division to post guard at the tank farm south of MAINZ and also furnish guard on pipe line to east bank of RHINE RIVER. New bridges being built were to be guarded as if they were completed projects.

At 2000 the following instructions were disseminated to the various units in the form of O.I. 38:

A. "The following is specified for the protection of all RHINE RIVER bridges:

1. Guard of two men at end of bridges.
2. Detachment of 1/2 squad posted both upstream and downstream to observe for waterborne and ground subversive activities.
3. Patrols of two men between bridge guards and detachment along bank of river.
4. A reserve of force available in the immediate vicinity of bridge for emergency.
5. Military zones will be wired. Until wire is available, employ field expedients. Inform troops in vicinity of purpose of military zones.
6. The above measures apply to both sides of bridge. The bridge protective force will be commanded by an officer at all times. Employment of searchlights and radar will be coordinated with local AA commander.
7. Boats should be available for investigation purposes.
8. All unit commanders will inspect the bridge protection of their commands daily.

B. All men will be instructed in the proper method of reporting.

C. Promiscuous firing of weapons is prohibited. Unit commanders are responsible for enforcement in their area.

D. Unit commanders are responsible for enforcement of law and order in their areas, and are to employ any measures necessary.

E. Road restriction of carts will not interfere with farming activities.

F. Enemy weapons, ammunition, explosives, and equipment will be disposed of without delay with particular attention to mines along roadsides.

G. Billeting for units arriving in town in the Regimental areas will be secured through local AMG section or Town Major. In the event there is no AMG or Town Major in the town concerned, billets will be secured through the Town Major, MAINZ.

H. All money abandoned by or captured from the enemy is to be turned into the Division Finance Officer without delay, with a brief account of the surrounding circumstances. All unit commanders will inform their troops hereof and warn them that non-compliance is a court-martial offense punishable under AW 79. German paper money dated prior to 30 August 1924 is of no value and need not be turned in. German paper money may be turned in to Regtl S-1 together with brief account of surrounding circumstances.

I. Regtl I & R Platoon to continue to patrol far bank of RHINE RIVER in Regtl sector 24 hours daily, coordinate with Bns, and make contact with CO of each bridge protective force."

All units spent the 10th of April complying with the O.I. 38 issued the previous night and the Regt continued mission of guarding bridges, railroad overpasses and underpasses and other military installations in the area. Defense of bridge areas were strengthened and improved. Thirty-five men were taken from the regiment by Division to be attached to the Division MIS for approximately one week's duty.

On April 11th Regt continued mission of 3d Army reserve throughout the day and at 2000 published O.I. 39 containing the following instructions:

1. "Liberated PWs will be evacuated through Displaced Persons Camp at GONSENHEIM. Exception, German PWs will be evacuated through medical channels. Any liberated PWs or Displaced Personnel whose conduct is a menace to law and order will be evacuated through channels immediately."
2. "Report to the next higher headquarters whenever a higher Hq CO or member of his staff inspects or visits a unit."
3. "All commanders will initiate action to have company property books corrected and brought up to date. In addition, company commanders will check Form 32 for correct entries. Items no longer in KMs possession will be credited on Form 32."
4. "3d Bn will establish a traffic control point at WORBSTADT for the purpose of providing traffic information and directing traffic to OPPENHEIM and MAINZ bridges."

The next day the 1st Bn continued in reserve in MAINZ and vicinity. Three new guard posts were added to 1st Bn responsibility and two men were assigned to each post from Co. D. The 2d Bn companies continued to guard MSR and bridges across the RHINE RIVER. Cannon Co., attached to 2d Bn, continued to mop up uncleared area in its sector. AT platoon assisted Cos E and F in placing protective wire around ends of bridges. 2d Bn was guarding bridges, overpasses, underpasses, critical points,

gas tank, pump station on pipe line in MAINZ and MSR. Our 3d Bn continued mission of guarding bridges and military installations. Their companies continued training schedules, emphasizing technical and tactical training of reinforcements. Motor patrols continued operating on both sides of river in unoccupied towns in area.

A message was received from Division late in the day reading:

"CG desires units to move unexpectedly into unoccupied towns to try to break up the German habit, if any, of troops coming into unoccupied towns for food and to harass."

Regt immediately complied with the Division order and issued O.I. 40 with the following instructions to all Bns:

1. "Bns will move one platoon with organic transportation to the following towns by 131200 April 1945.

1st Bn - FINTHEN
2d Bn - NIEDER-SAULHEIM
3d Bn - BECHTOLSHEIM

- a. Mission of platoon is to screen all civilians, enforce law and order, investigate practice of German troops coming into unoccupied towns for food and to harass.
- b. These platoons will be moved frequently to prevent enemy knowledge of what towns are actually occupied.
- c. Bn S-3s will recommend to Regt S-3 the towns that their respective platoons will occupy and when they will move."

April 13th was spent by all units in continuation of mission and the Bns shifted several platoons to different towns in compliance with O.I. 40. A Bailey Bridge was opened in BUDENHEIM at 0900 and in the afternoon at GONSENHEIM, Colonel S. G. Conley, CO 274th Inf, made a presentation of six Bronze Star Medals and one Silver Star Medal. The Regimental Band played for the ceremonies.

All units continued mission throughout the next day, April 14th, of guarding bridges, overpasses and underpasses and military installations. Motor patrols continued operating on both sides of the river and in unoccupied towns in areas. Platoons moved quickly into towns not occupied by our troops for purposes of screening civilians and breaking up any detrimental routine the Nazis may have had. Additional guard posts were established to strengthen security in area.

Also on the 14th of April there was the grand opening of the 2,215-foot railroad bridge over the RHINE RIVER in MAINZ. This

bridge was the sole rail link over the RHINE RIVER for the Third Army and the second span over the river completed by the U. S. Army. General George S. Patton, Commander of the Third Army, cut the tape, for the test run---when he called for a bayonet with which to cut the tape, it was that of Tee 5 Francis Dean, Co. F, 274th Inf guard, that he used. Sgt. Fred C. Hallett, Cpl Jake Lye and Pfc Samuel Gantz, all of Co. H, were given rides across the bridge on the first train. Major General C. R. Moore, Chief Engineer, ETO, and Brig. General E. W. Plank, ASCZ Commander, were also at the opening. The bridge was named the Franklin D. Roosevelt Bridge in honor of the late President and Commander in Chief, who had died the day before. The 274th Inf had guarded this bridge while under construction.

A message originating at Third Army Hq was received by Regt from Division warning of a Bn of enemy whose mission was to attack isolated allied soldiers or small units for identification papers, passes and insignia. Members of this Bn were trained by Skorzeny, a Nazi famous because of his teaching of subversive activities. This warning was immediately passed on to all units of the Regt.

April 5th was used to train reinforcements, emphasizing technical and tactical training, concurrently with the continuation of the mission of Third Army reserve. Fifty men from the Regiment were detailed to assist the 13th PRO in handling an overwhelming load of mail.

Another bridge was opened on the 15th day of April by Brig. General Conklin, Third Army Engineer Commander, who drove his vehicle through the tape of the highway bridge at OPPENHEIM. This was the first permanent highway bridge opened over the RHINE RIVER. Second vehicle over the bridge was a Co. I jeep driven by Pfc John Bills and also occupied by Lt. Chester Westfall. This bridge had been guarded by 274th Inf personnel during construction.

Early in the morning of April 16, Regt received Division O.I. 38 containing instructions as follows:

- a. "Relieve 2d Bn, 275th Inf in WIESSBADEN with one Bn by 171900 April 1945."
- b. "Guard pipe line from MAINZ to HICHHHEIM."
- c. "Place necessary guards on Switching Central Main Class I at MAINZ (switchboard)."
- d. "Continue present mission in present area."
- e. "Place necessary guards on MSR in new area."
- f. "Be prepared to place necessary guards on R.R. and southern MSR in new area upon order from this Hq."

The above instructions were immediately given to the Bn S-3s and preparations were made during the remainder of the day to

carry out the orders. However, at 1930, Lt. Herbert W. Funk, an Officer with Division Hq notified Regtl S-3 that O.I. 38 had been rescinded. All preparations were immediately stopped but at 2130 word was again received from Division that O.I. 38 would take effect and Capt. John J. Morgan, Acting Regtl S-3 immediately prepared F.O. 13 which was published 170115 April giving the missions to the various units as follows:

- 3d Bn - "Move one company by motor and relieve 2d Bn guard on bridge 315 by 170400 April. Move by motor and relieve 1st Bn and assume responsibility for area at 171200 April 1945."
- 2d Bn - "Move one company by motor and relieve 3d Bn guard on bridge 316 by 170700 April 1945. This relief to include one organic AT squad and 57mm gun. Assume responsibility of area at 171200 April 1945. Guard pipe line from MAINZ to RICHHEIM. Place necessary guards on switching control Main Class I at MAINZ. Place necessary guards on R.R. and southern MSR in new area upon order from this Hq. Move one platoon by organic transportation to GR GERAU by 171300 April 1945. Platoon mission is to maintain law and order, and support military government authorities in GR GERAU."
- 1st Bn - "Relieve 2d Bn 275th Inf in WIESBADEN by 171700 April 1945."
- AT Co. - "Attached to 3d Bn for tactical purposes only."
- Cn Co. - "Attached to 2d Bn for tactical purposes only."

All units carried out the above instructions and 1st Bn was relieved in old area at 1200 and closed WIESBADEN at 1500, 17 April, opening new CP. 2d Bn 275th Inf, was relieved at 1700 by our 1st Bn. Bn mission was to police, mop up, and guard strategic locations in WIESBADEN area. Our 2d Bn reported Co. H completed move at 1100, 17 April 1945, relieving remainder of 3d Bn. One platoon of Co. H moved to GR GERAU to assist enforcement of AMG but was relieved of duties there by order of Regt. 3d Bn closed into new area at 1200, relieving 1st Bn. Bn continued mission of guarding and patrolling.

The Strasse Bridge between MAINZ and KASTEL on the East side of the RHINE RIVER was opened on April 17 and was advertised as the highest, longest and widest fixed military bridge in the world. During construction stages, this bridge had been guarded by the personnel of the 274th Inf.

It was learned from Capt. John F. Hickman, Regtl Military Government Officer, that the Displaced Persons Camp near MAINZ was shipping French refugees out of the Camp by the trainload. 6500 French refugees were in the process of being sent to their homes after being prisoners of the Nazis for as long as six years.

Capt Hickman also stated that the civilian curfew had been shortened and now was (2000 to 0700) thus giving the civilians more time to be used in food production. One of the primary needs of both civilians and refugees was salt of which there was a definite shortage. The AMG was having considerable difficulty controlling the civilians trying to cross the river without passes but the situation was rapidly clearing up.

Regt received a warning order on the night of April 17, to have all troops across the RHINE RIVER before the night of April 21. The 16th Armored Division was to move into the area and relieve this Regt. They were to occupy principally NOMBACH, NORTH MAINZ, ZOHLBACH, and GONSENHEIM.

At 0145 on the morning of April 18, Regt published O.I. 41 with the following instructions:

1st Bn - "No change".

2d Bn - "Cannon Co. detached 180900 April. Patrol both sides of RHINE RIVER in present area effective 180900 April. Attach 10 men to Cannon Co. at 2d Bn effective 181000 April 1945. Platoon at GR GERAU relieved of mission."

3d Bn - "Patrol both sides of RHINE RIVER in present area effective 180900 April 1945."

Cn Co. - "Relieved of attachment to 2d Bn 180900 April. Relieved of responsibility in area by 2d Bn. Moved by organic transportation and relieve Divarty bridge guard at BINGEN by 181400 April."

AT Co. - "No change."

I & R Platoon - "Relieved of RHINE RIVER patrol at 180900 April. Reconnoiter both sides of RHINE RIVER from BUDENHEIM to LAHNSTEIN. Report extent of surveillance of RHINE RIVER by motorized patrol and also report condition of roads and bridges."

Regt received O.I. 40 at 1200 from Division confirming verbal orders to Regt 1 S-3:

a. "Relieve 70th Divarty on guarding RHINE RIVER bridge at BINGEN by 181400 April 1945."

b. "Move remainder of Regt to new area when relieved by XXIII Corps. Close in new area not later than 211900 April."

c. "Continue present mission in old area until relieved by XXIII Corps."

d. In new area:

1. "Guard bridges, overpasses and underpasses on railroad and MSRs in area."
2. "Maintain law and order, both civil and military."
3. "Guard the oil tank farm, pipe line, and truck dispensing point. Also all public utility, military government, army supply points and installations indicated."
4. "Guard RHINE RIVER bridges in area. Screen and patrol both banks of the river in area."
5. "Be prepared to move on 12 hours notice."

Regt published a two-page Training Memorandum setting up a revised SOP for guarding bridges, and at 1530 April 18th Regt I S-3 issued O.I. 42 as follows:

3d Bn - "Establish a guard at communication cable terminal in FINTHEN without delay."

2d Bn - "Bridge guard at bridge 316 to be relieved by 276th Inf by 191200 April 1945. Be prepared to place necessary guards on pipe line installations vicinity of GUSTAVSBURG."

Other units - "No change."

During the day the Regt continued mission in area of guarding RHINE RIVER bridges, railroad overpasses and MSRs and patrolling area. Cannon Co. was relieved of duties in 2d Bn area by Co. F at 1000 18 April 1945 and relieved Divarty at BINGEN bridge at 1400. Co. E was relieved of bridge guard at 1630 by Co. G, 276th Inf and one platoon of Co. K made house to house search of ELTVILLE.

FO.14 was released by Regt at 2130 on April 18 with the following missions assigned to the various units:

1st Bn - "Continue on present mission. Patrol and screen North side of RHINE RIVER in area effective 201200 April 1945."

2d Bn - "Continue present mission until relieved by IXIII Corps. Move by organic transportation to new area when relieved. Close in new area not later than 211900 April 1945. Immediately upon relief in present area, relieve 3d Bn on guarding bridges. Continue to guard RHINE RIVER railroad bridge. Guard bridges, under and overpasses on railroad and MSR in area. Guard ASPs and installations in area. Guard oil tank farm, pipe line and truck dispensing point. Support military government authorities. Maintain law and order. Patrol south side of RHINE

RIVER from Regtl southern boundary to LAHN-STEIN effective 201200 April 1945."

3d Bn "Cannon Co. and AT Co. attached for tactical purposes only. Continue present mission until relieved by elements of XXIII Corps. Move by motor to new area when relieved. Close in new area and assume responsibility not later than 211900 April 1945. 2d Bn relieves 3d Bn on guarding bridges. Guard ASs and installations in area. Guard bridges, underpasses and overpasses on MSR in area. Support AMG authorities."

I & R Platoon-"Patrol north side of RHINE RIVER from NIEBERWALLUF to NIEDE effective 191200 April. Coordinate with Bns."

The night of April 18th was spent by all units making preparations for reliefs to be made in the next couple days and in following orders received on FO 14.

The next day the Regt continued mission of protecting RHINE RIVER bridges, railroad overpasses and underpasses and pipeline in area. Units of the 1280th Engr Bn in area were preparing to relieve our units at 1200, 20 April 1945. Patrolling continued throughout the area. The 23d Belgian Busilier Bn took over guarding of the railroad up to OFFENHEIM.

April 20th found the Regiment continuing its mission of guarding bridges and patrolling the RHINE RIVER. The 2d Platoon Co. D moved to BIEBRICH to occupy the town and patrol and screen north bank of the RHINE RIVER. Co. E cleared into their new area at 1000 and posted guards on the pipe line to the tank farm. Co. F relieved 3d Bn on bridge at 1145. Co. G was relieved by 1280th Engr Bn at 1245 and completed relief of 3d Bn on bridges at 1510. Co. H cleared into ERBENHEIM at 1045 and patrolled all towns in Co. H area. 2d Bn CP opened in HOCHHEIM at 1140. Co. M was relieved and cleared area at 0800. Co. L was relieved and cleared area at 1330. Co. K was relieved and cleared area at 1615. Co. I was relieved at 1645 and both 3d Bn Hq Co. and Co. I decided to wait until the next day before moving to new area.

The Regtl CP moved to outskirts of SCHIERSTEIN, GERMANY opening at 1500, April 20, 1945.

The 274th Inf spent April 21st continuing their mission of guarding, patrolling and clearing houses in assigned area. Co. A cleared the town of ERBENHEIM. Co. H continued patrol of towns in their area and south bank of RHINE to LAHNSTEIN. 3d Bn Hq and Hq Co. cleared old area at 0845 and moved to BAD SCHWALBACH opening their new C. at 0930. Co. I cleared old area at 0730 and closed into new area at 1115. Co. I posted guard on three hospitals at 2000 located at BAD SCHWALBACH. Co. L put guards on hospitals at LIMBURG. 3d Bn took over Allied Prisoner of War Camp No. 2 at 1700 in LIMBURG, relieving 558th P.A. Bn. Service Co. reported closed in ELTVILLE at 1300.

Regt continued its security mission in assigned area by guard posts, motor patrols and screening and patrolling RHINE RIVER. All elements of the Regt closed in new area by 1300. In the morning of April 21st Major General Barnett, CG 70th Div. together with Colonel S. G. Conley, CO 274th Inf, awarded two Silver Star Medals and 27 Purple Heart Medals to members of this Regt in WIESBADEN. The Regimental Band played for the ceremony.

On April 22d The 1st Bn continued in reserve in WIESBADEN and vicinity. The companies of the 1st Bn continued their guard posts and motorized patrols and continued clearing houses in assigned area. Our 2d Bn continued mission of guarding bridges, military installations etc. Co. F guarded railroad bridge in MAINZ. Co. E guarded tank farm and pump stations in MAINZ. The other companies were deployed in guarding military installations, warehouses etc. Our 3d Bn also continued to carry out its mission of guarding military installations, bridges and railroad underpasses, assisting and supporting the AMG, mopping up remaining enemy personnel and salvaging material. Co. I less three platoons and Bn Hq Co. were located at BAD SCHWALBACH.

At 0930 Regt received a message from Major Paul J. Durbin, Camp Commandant of the APW Camp in LIMBURG. It read:

"Allied PW Camp No. 2 now being organized down to squads. Request Engr Officer come on 23 April 1945 to assist in obtaining water and planning additional sanitary facilities. Have at least 500 American Steel helmets for salvage. Large clean up campaign now on. 450 Russians arrived today. Total: 2553 Russians, 43 Poles, 116 Yugoslavs, 91 Indians, and 102 German PWs. Request removal of 45 Typhus cases and 112 TB cases to better equipped hospital. Refuse to accept 400 additional Russians who arrived after 2100 April 22d. There were no barracks or delousing material available. Wrote letter to CO WIESBADEN DFC stating could take 600 more on 23 April. Need M type latrines. Request Medical Officer be attached here at least for present."

Capt. John F. Hickman, AMG representative with the Regt, reported that work was being started on cleaning up the APW Camp and all of Major Durbin's requests were being filled as rapidly as possible.

The message received from Major Durbin was referred to Division with request for Engr Officer to contact him.

The Regt was now guarding 39 installations including:

- 1 railroad station
- 5 military buildings
- 1 electric plant
- 1 museum
- 3 food warehouses
- 1 distillery
- 1 bakery
- 1 DP collecting point

3 DrCs
5 hospitals
6 bridges
1 gas tank and pump station

Besides guarding the above installations, the Regt had 1,000 square miles in its sector to patrol and secure.

Regt continued mission throughout April 23rd and 24th of Third Army reserve. The above list of installations were guarded continually day and night. Companies continued mopping up, guarding bridges, MSRs etc. One bridge was dismantled and therefore the guard was relieved of the responsibility of this post. Motorized patrols as well as foot patrols were maintained. The I & R Platoon patrolled the North side of the RHINE RIVER from NIEDERWALLUF to NIEDER! The Regt in general continued to patrol, guard and maintain law and order in assigned area.

It was reported on April 25th that beside the routine duties of the Regiment that work was well under way at the Allied Prisoner of War Camp No. 2 in LIMBURG. There had been cleared 91 British Indians and 240 Russians had been accepted on April 25th. The total APWs in the camp now was 3195. The ~~UN~~ type latrines were under construction and the general condition of the camp had been greatly improved.

During the 26th of April the Regiment continued its mission as previously described. 1st Bn was relieved of guarding the 9th TAC Hq and took over guarding of Third Army No. 10 Wireless Station. The APW Camp at LIMBURG was greatly improved. Showers were put into operation and delousing of clothing and bedding was under way. The Regiment received a verbal order from Division that at certain key posts, as designated by Ln and Special Unit Commanders, guard duty would be informal -- performed as set forth in the manual on Interior Guard Duty. Guards were to do 24 hours of duty (2 hours on and 4 off) and have the following day off.

In the afternoon Major Walter W. Greenhalgh, Regtl 9-5 issued an order to the CO 1st Bn, Lt Col Fred H. Cantrell, to move the 1st Bn less one company out of WIESBADEN.

The next morning April 27, Co. A moved to BIERSTADT to occupy the town, police and maintain order. Co. B moved to POTZHEIM and Co. C remained in WIESBADEN. Co. D had one platoon in SONNENBERG, one in RAMBACH and one in WIESBADEN.

Our 2d Bn continued mission as previously described. 3d Bn also continued mission and Co. M relieved AT Co. guarding the RHINE RIVER bridge at BUDENHEIM. AT Co. opened CP at GOARHAUSEN at 1100.

General Herren, Assistant Division Commander, visited the Regtl CP and gave the following instructions:

1. There will be a definite cussow established by unit commanders 2000 to 0700.

2. Unit Commanders transact all business through AMG and become involved in problems of a permanent nature as little as possible. Report all transactions between town commanders and burgo-meisters to the AMG.
3. Take no liquor, champagne, wine etc. from civilians. No objection to buying it. There is a definite difference between Military and Civilian weapons, cameras, watches, etc. Only military type may be picked up. Civilian type must be picked up - tagged - and immediately turned into burgo-meister to hold and guard items until relieved by MG of responsibility.

Regt received word at 1550 from Division via Lt. Funk, to relieve 270th Engr (C) Bn in their area by 2000 tonight. A meeting was held at the Regtl CP at 1815 and orders were issued for relief of 270th Engrs and for a general move of all Bns.

That evening regtl S-3 received O.I. 43 from Division confirming verbal orders and containing the following instructions:

1. "Relieve 270th Engr (C) Bn in area by 272000 April".
2. "Relieve 276th Inf in area by 281200 April"
3. "Relieve all except one rifle company from guard duty in city of WIESBAKEN."
4. Co. A to remain on duty at APW Camp at LIMBURG until relieved by 270th Engr (C) Bn 291200 April 1945."
5. "Continue on present mission".

Regt immediately issued O.I. 44 containing the instructions necessary for the move.

- 1st Bn - "To relieve 2d Bn of guarding mission on bridges 315 and 268 and on pipe line commencing at NE bank of the RHINE RIVER by 281200 April 1945."
- 2d Bn - "Relieve 276th Inf guarding mission on bridge at OPPENHEIM. Assume responsibility for and continue present mission in new area by 281200 April (exclusive of DIEBURG which is still retained by the 276th Inf). Continue mission of guarding R.R. bridge at MAINZ and pipe line. Responsibility for pipe line ceases at NE bank of the RHINE RIVER."
- 3d Bn - "270th Engr (C) Bn relieves 3d Bn (exclusive of Co. L) in its area prior to 280800 April. Co. A will continue present mission in LIMBURG and will be relieved by 291200 April. Relieve 276th Inf, assume responsibility for, and continue present mission in, new area by 281200 April 1945."

AT Co. - "Reverts to Regtl control upon receipt of this order. Relieve Co. M of guarding mission on bridge in BUDENHEIM prior to 260800 April 1945."

Cn Co. 3 "Reverts to Regtl control upon receipt of this order. Assume responsibility for, and continue present mission in, new area by 281200 April 1945."

On April 28th the 1st Bn assumed responsibility of new area and all companies were closed in to new positions by 0930. The mission was to mop up, clear, establish necessary guard posts and patrols to protect military property and installations within boundaries. Our 2d Bn assumed responsibility for their new area and guard posts at 1300 at which time the Bn CQ was opened in DARMSTADT. The mission was to screen civilians, enforce military curfew and maintain law and order. The 3d Bn cleared area at 0945 and relieved elements of 276th Inf at 1200. The Bn CQ opened in BUCHSCHLAG at 1000. AT Co. relieved Co. M of bridge guard at BUDENHEIM at 0800.

April 29th found the 1st Bn continuing their mission in assigned area, along the RHINE RIVER and MAIN RIVER. All companies of the 1st Bn had established the necessary guards and guard posts within their areas to properly protect military installations and equipment. Motorized patrols within their company boundaries were also established, for additional protection. Co. E of our 2d Bn maintained both bridge/guards plus gas tank guard in MAINZ with assistance of 60 men attached from Co. F. Co. F mopped up and maintained guards on MSR and sugar factory in GÖRGERU. Co. G wired in the Displaced Persons Center in DARMSTADT plus placing guard on the camp. Co. H patrolled the MSR and all towns in their area plus maintaining MSR bridge guards in their area. Our 3d Bn continued mission in assigned area and Co. L was relieved at 1200 by 270th Engr (C) Bn at LIMBURG and the APW Camp was turned over to the Engrs. Co. L closed into new area at 1500 opening their company CP at BIEBER. One platoon went to BUDENHEFEN and one platoon to DIETESHEIM. All companies continued to maintain the guards on essential installations, and send motorized patrols throughout their area to enforce law and order and to locate salvage of military value.

AT Co. continued to guard the bridge at BUDENHEIM until 1300 when the guard was removed because of the bridge being dismantled.

The last day of the month, April 30th, 1st Bn continued the same mission in the vicinity of the RHINE RIVER and the MAIN RIVER and WIESBADEN. Co. A relieved the 2d Bn guard at railroad bridge over the RHINE RIVER at 1830. Cannon Company was attached to the 1st Bn and relieved Co. D in area south of the MAIN RIVER at 1730. There was no change in the disposition of the other companies in the 1st Bn. Motorized patrols were continued throughout the day. In our 2d Bn Co. E was relieved of guarding the gas installations and railroad bridge

at 1830 by elements of the 1st Bn. Co. E moved to GR GERAU and also maintained guard posts on bridge over the RHINE at OPPENHEIM, and relieved Co. F of posts in old area. Co. F moved to DARMSTADT. There was no change in the disposition of the other companies. The 3d Bn continued same mission as previously assigned and continued to patrol for purposes of maintaining law and order and locating salvage. Considerable salvage had been located within the area, including large quantities of bombs and artillery shells in storage houses near MUNSTER. Our AT Co. relieved Cannon Co. at 0900 on bridge at BINGEN.

Reports from the I & R Platoon showed that efficient work had been done during the month in the guarding of bridges and military installations as well as keeping law and order in the Regtl Sector.

As V-E Day seemed imminent, preparation for the Army Education Program, Phase II, was the primary mission of the Regtl I and E Section. Plans for Unit Schools down to Bn level were discussed with the newly-appointed I and E Officers and enlisted personnel. Initially the biggest problem was to determine the educational and vocational preferences of all personnel within the organization. Toward this end, an Educational Survey Form was distributed to each individual, which when consolidated, would give the I and E Section a clear insight to the requirements of the 274th Infantry.

Preliminary selection of instructor personnel who would be charged with the responsibility of conducting courses in the Unit Schools was accomplished. It was anticipated that many of these men would receive further training at the Army Information Education Staff School in Paris when quotas allowed.

Outstanding activity during the month was the presentation by the I and E Section of the news at Allied PW Camp No. 2 in LIMBURG where newly freed PWs were given a summary of rapidly moving world events. The above report was submitted by I and E Section.

Captain Jay C. Underwood, Regtl S-4, reported that during the month of April the S-4 section moved the Regiment twice, to GONSENHEIM from KAISERLAUTERN and to SCHIERSTEIN from GONSENHEIM. In addition to the displacement of the Regiment as a whole battalions and companies were moved from one location to another to meet the requirements of the mission assigned to the Regiment. The munitions section concentrated their efforts on the salvaging of German ordnance equipment and the destruction of German ordnance equipment and ammunition not desired by higher headquarters, or which would not be moved because of danger of explosion. All companies and the Regimental Supply Officer were inspected by the Division Inspector General during the period 22 April to 28 April with very satisfactory results. Action was instituted to correct deficiencies as noted by the Inspector General.

Captain B. A. Nurre, Regtl Adjutant, reported that the work accomplished by the S-1 section during the month of April included much more of the garrison-type administration than had

previously occupied their time. Due to strict compliance with the non-fraternizing policy, several courts-martials had been instituted during the month.

The Regimental Special Service Officer, Lt. Leonard E. Stolz, had efficiently supplied entertainment and recreation for the Regiment during this month. The Special Service activities and services included:

- Movies
- Shows
- Printing and developing pictures.
- News service for Army publication and home-town papers.
- Regimental Newspaper
- Schedule of baseball tournament and other athletic activities.
- Distribution of reading matter.
- Mail order service for holiday and anniversary gifts.
- Handled special ration supplies
- The Regimental Band (which was used most frequently throughout the month.)

The Special Service Officer was given two officers to assist him. Lt. George W. Krumme, was made Assistant Special Service Officer and planned tours of interest to historical spots in the Regimental area. Lt. John L. Fry was made Athletic Officer and took over all the athletic activities and planned tournaments of various kinds.

As April 1945 slipped into the past the 274th Inf was continuing its mission of Third Army reserve and patrolling, guarding and maintaining law and order in its assigned area.