

770th ORDNANCE COMPANY (LM)  
70th Infantry Division  
APO 461 US ARMY

On 1 February 1945 the 770th Ordnance Company (LM) was at CP #2, DBS, near Marseille, France, having arrived there on 18 January from the USA. The T/E impedimenta was still arriving and as rapidly as possible was being mounted in the shop and supply trucks. The Division Ordnance Supply Section of the Company was kept very busy supplying the Division Units with their vehicles and other Ordnance items that they were still short. At the same time they were loading the supplies on company vehicles.

The Company departed 2 February 1945, for Morhange, France. It was one man understrength upon arrival in France and Pfc Charles G. Leigh was left at Marseilles, sick in hospital. Tec-4 Nathan Richman remained at Marseilles to complete various Division Ordnance Supply matters and rejoined the unit at Morhange, France, a few days later. Lt. Harry Klynn who proceeded the unit to France by several weeks rejoined at CP#2. The Company marched in two units of a five unit-serial. Four men and two wreckers were separated from the Company to trail the succeeding two days' serial.

The first night's bivouac was in an airfield near St. Rambert, France. The second night's stop was in Dijon and the third in Epinal. At Epinal the Company was met by Lt. Col. Sorensen and T-Sgt Hintermeister who had been in France for several weeks. Tec-5 McInerney, the only remaining man of the advance detachments, was with the Division Rear Echelon at Morhange.

The Company arrived at Morhange 5 February 1945, and began setting up for operation. Operation of the Ordnance Company officially began 0600, 8 February 1945, with orders to support the organic units of the 70th Division. The Division Ammunition Office set up at St. Jean-Rohrbach, France, separate from the Company.

The Division was on the offensive during the latter part of the month and a large volume of work came into the Ordnance Company. The buildings and area in Morhange were quickly converted to give the most efficient and comfortable working and living conditions. The service sections of the Company-Automotive, Supply and Armament-modified their procedures to meet the situation at it developed here. Salvage trailers and enemy vehicles were converted into office trailers for the Company CP, the Supply Office, Automotive Office and Armament Office. The Armament section built a one-ton trailer into a very practical instrument shop. The Division Ammunition Office moved to Puttelange, France.

A forward echelon of Company repair was established, headed by Lt. Humm. It consisted of a wrecker and two-man crew, a 3/4-ton emergency repair truck and a 1/4-ton C&R with a small arms and an artillery mechanic. These men made on-the-spot repairs of equipment insofar as they were able and evacuated unrepairable equipment to the Ordnance Company. They also handled the physical issuing of critically-needed replacement items from the Ordnance Company to the front-line troops.

The 10-ton wrecker and crew was sent to Puttelange to keep roads cleared of wrecks. This crew had headquarters at the Division Ammunition Office.

Tec-3 Ernest Burdge and Tec-4 Lewis E. Brentlinger were lost to the hospital. Burdge was injured in the hand during shop operations. An experienced welder was assigned to the Company, Pvt. Frederick B. Burkholder. The Company can at present use one more armaments parts clerk to good advantage.