

NARRATIVE REPORT OF  
882<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion  
1-31 March 1945

31 March 1945

On March 1 the Battalion was located at Buschbach, France and activity was limited to harassing and defensive fires with the ammunition allotment of 20 rounds per gun per day. On the 2d the allotment was cut to 13 rounds per gun. Division OI received on this date directed an attack for D-day, and the 274<sup>th</sup> Infantry was assigned the mission of clearing Stiring-Wendel and seizing the high ground northeast. We were in direct support, reinforced by 725<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion and 494 FA Battalion.

On March 3, 2d Lt. Vincent Downer joined the Battalion as Liaison Pilot. On this day the attack began and we fired several 7 round TOT missions. The Battalion Commander received a commendation from the Commanding Officer 274<sup>th</sup> Infantry commending the 882 for the support rendered during recent fighting. Lt Howard F. Peck, "C" Battery, acting as forward observer, was wounded on March 5 while directing fire from his OP and was evacuated by the Medical Corps.

A preparation was fired at 0630 on March 6 for 10 minutes prior to the infantry attack, which was directed principally at the large factory northwest of Stiring-Wendel. Later in the day, Division Artillery delivered TOT on the factory, with little visible effect. On the 7<sup>th</sup> the 494<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion was attached to the 882d, and for several days there was not much activity. The 494<sup>th</sup> got a direct hit on a locomotive on March 9 with air OP observation. During this quiet period experiments were made with projectiles filled with flame thrower fluid, but no ignition was obtained.

On March 11 2d Lt. Gustave Suffin joined the Battalion and was assigned to "B" Battery. The 494<sup>th</sup> was relieved from its mission of reinforcing us on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> the enemy raised the white flag over the factory. At about the same time, the enemy was withdrawing across the Saar River. On March 14 Division FO No. 2 was received directing the reduction of Saarbrucken and the establishment of a bridgehead, we were reinforced by the 495<sup>th</sup> FA and the 725<sup>th</sup> FA, for our support of the 274<sup>th</sup>. On this day the battalion moved position to the north edge of Forbach prepared to support the attack. On this day we received notice that 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. G.W. Thompson, Service Battery, had been awarded the Purple Heart for a wound received in action as a Forward Observer. 2d Lts. Robert Smith and John Trimmer received notice of their promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Effective 1 march.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we and our two reinforcing battalions fired approximately 350 rounds each in preparation for the infantry assault of the Siegfried Line, but the assault was unsuccessful and our infantry pulled back. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the 495<sup>th</sup> was relieved and the 686<sup>th</sup> assigned as reinforcing our fires. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the 725 was relieved from reinforcing. "C" Battery received a good bit of enemy fire from 88s and 150s on this day and at noon 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John J. Kemp, "C" Battery, acting as forward observer, was killed in action while manning his OP at coordinates (437688) by a direct hit from from a German 88.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> our firing increased and we placed concentration on all known enemy installations in our zone. We fired a preparation for the crossing of the Saar River by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 274<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which penetrated the Siegfried Line and established a bridgehead. The Battalion prepared to displace forward and "A" Battery was attached to the third battalion 274<sup>th</sup> Infantry which was motorized with the mission of pursuing the enemy in the direction of Neunkirchen. The Battalion established a new CP in Ottenhausen, Germany at 1954 hours. Information was received that the division had been pinched off by the Third Army and that we now has a mopping up mission.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Battalion began maintenance of equipment and personal maintenance which continued for several days. On the 22d Capt. Lilley was transferred from the command of "B" Battery to assignment as Liaison officer No. 3, and Capt. Scott, Liaison Officer 3, assigned command of Battery "B". On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March the Battalion moved from Ottenhausen to Mackenbach, Germany, a distance of 45 miles. Col. Arnbrecht as Town Commander caused a thorough search of the town and gave Fritz Schneider, burgermeister, instructions for control and conduct of civilians. A German Signal Supply dump was discovered, secured, and turned over to Division Signal Officer. From the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> the Battalion was engaged in maintenance and in police and patrol activities. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, in compliance with orders, the Battalion moved to an area just south of the Rhine with a mission of police and patrol, disposed as follows: Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, and "C: Battery in Munster-Sarmsheim; "A" battery, Burlayen, "B" Battery, Dorsheim; and Service Battery, Rummelsheim.

BATTERY "B"  
882d FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
31 Mar 1945

OFFICERS ASSIGNED

Capt. Scott, Allen B. 0351439  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gemradt, Lester R. 01166268  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. White, George R. 01183792

2d Lt. Nicholson, Elmer O. Jr. 0540537  
2d Lt. Suffin, Gustave D. 01179635

ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Clark, William C. 6577766  
S/Sgt Carnes, William G. 20757928  
S/Sgt Clifford, John R. 19109264  
S/Sgt Schipull, Lyle W. 37435814  
S/Sgt Witzke, Harold S. 39005638  
Sgt. Cronin, Daniel R. 36536544  
Sgt Ford, Noble L. 36763405  
Sgt Hanley, Jack 39337077  
Sgt Horstick, George R. 33109079  
Sgt Hunt, Lester W. 37484334  
Sgt Mellen, Vernon R. 36207830  
T/4 Bennett, Hartrel B. Jr. 20947617  
T/4 Inselberger, Henry E. 36763827  
T/4 Pyatt, Norman E. 39155968  
T/4 Trapp, Orval C. 37536626  
T/4 Winton, Alphaeus G. 34360423  
Cpl Daugherty, Howard C. 38001713  
Cpl Davidson, Claude A. Jr. 38563860  
Cpl Davis, Earl F. 38672745  
Cpl Dewing, Fred A. 39620021  
Sgt Dorociak, John S. 36373244  
Cpl Fetzer, Lester D. 37356388  
Cpl Goodwin, Claude J. Jr. 38407355  
Cpl Gutzeit, Lothar A. 32692484  
Cpl Mckenzie, James R. 38541509  
Cpl Olson, Albert W. 32773438  
S/Sgt Stewart, Daniel F. 37571978  
Cpl Stuebing, Wilbur E. 37621026  
Cpl Wagoner, Cecil R. 376754908

T/5 Albrecht, Lester J. 37574610  
T/5 Carpenter, Alvin M. 39337224  
T/5 Cool, Howard 32854964  
T/5 Cummings, Lawrence C. 34717587  
T/5 Giese, Wilbur L. 35559371  
T/5 Holmes, Charles L. 39418244  
T/5 Judy, Virgil R. Jr. 35797646  
T/5 Lockhart, William E. 38555161  
T/5 Myers, Frank E. 37484123  
T/5 Roessing, Harry C. 33763862

Pfc Childers, Ennis U. 35762349  
Pfc Clupp, John W. 1302452  
Pfc Crocker, Kenneth W. 35918883  
Pfc Culp, Bernice C. 36010648  
Pfc Dock, Howard 39078406  
Pfc Donaldson, Calvin L. 35076663  
Pfc Donnan, Thomas C. 33871927  
Pfc DuMond, Melvin R. 36871317  
Pfc Ford, Vernie C. 38143333  
Pfc Gaede, Harvey E. 36303546  
Pfc Galiz, Christian G. 39926790  
Pfc Ginnan, Andrew T. III 35762246  
Pfc Hobbs, Archie C. 38537946  
Pfc Hollingsworth, Grover E. 6543836  
Pfc Horton, Howard H. 36956888  
Pfc Hughes, Hon J. M. 33731594  
Pfc Kingman, Wilbur H. 37361426  
Pfc Kyle, Herman W. 35732973  
Pvt Lawson, John D. 38588163  
Pfc Lucas, Joseph Sr. 36885835  
Pfc McKnight, Dale C. 37680119  
Pfc Messer, Franklin E. 34258752  
Pfc Minor, Mack C. Jr. 34975812  
Pfc Morgan, Franklin B. 32211446  
Pfc Morris, John T. Jr. 33927305  
Pfc Peipon, Frank J. 33461038  
Pfc Piotrowski, Sarver L. 35897122  
Pfc Ray, Marvin C. 38517756  
Pfc Rosenberry, Orville J. 36965805  
Pfc Sabala, Charles 35760866  
Pfc Schultz, Robert H. 33697184  
Pfc Smith, Charles 38511148  
Pfc Smith, Charles R. 35617803  
Pfc Snyder, Russell J. 33927285  
Pfc Swatzell, Ted L. 34985897  
Pfc Taylor, Lester C. 33927245  
Pfc Torres, Cruz C. 38515730  
Pfc Van Meter, Joseph R. 35245185  
Pfc Vetter, Robert E. 36282751  
Pfc Waite, Arthur C. 33927285  
Pfc Watson, Herbert A. 36546917

T/5 Stratton, Vernal F. 39466620  
T/5 Walker, Lee J. 33850117

Pfc Adair, Charles E. 36010832  
Pfc Adkins, Edward G. 35449771  
Pfc Bahde, Robert E. 37482671  
Pfc Ballor, Edward C. 36953264

Pfc Weakly, Marlin E. 37615682  
Pfc Williams, Merritt A. 34976243  
Pfc Williams, Russell S. 37115917  
Cpl Worley, Maurice C. 37478950  
Pfc Zimmerschied, Jack R. 37603955

Pvt Buckmaster, Robert A. 17048066  
Pvt Jarvis, Jack A. 34997280  
Pvt Webb, Bob M. 20953815