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HEADQUARTERS
38TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECZ)
APO 230 U. S. ARMY

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT
PERIOD
1-30 SEPTEMBER 1944

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Commanding.

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1 September: At 1300B the Squadron, less Troop B, left its bivouac in rear of the Petit Palais, in the Champs Elysees, PARIS, FRANCE to join the Corps in the drive to the GERMAN border. Troop B remained temporarily attached to T-Force, in PARIS, for the completion of security missions assigned by that headquarters. The balance of the Squadron marched to a group assembly area in the vicinity of VILLENEUVE (342867) and remained in position awaiting orders.

2 September: The Squadron remained in assembly area until 1900B, during which period training was conducted by Troops A and C in river crossing, using 1/4 ton trucks and 2 1/2 ton 6x6 truck tarpaulins. Also Squadron Headquarters sent two officer patrols to forward areas to keep abreast of the road and bridge situation. At 1700B movement orders were issued by Group Headquarters and the Squadron displaced forward, clearing the I. P. at RARAY at 1900B. Troop B was released from its attachment to T-FORCE, PARIS, and rejoined the Squadron en-route at FONTAINE. All Troops and the command post closed in the new bivouac area one mile north of CUTTS (650130) at 2320B.

3 September: The Squadron remained in bivouac one mile north of CUTTS until 1820B. Catholic and Protestant church services were conducted at 1400B. At 1600B the Squadron was alerted and moved to the vicinity of SUZY (883173), closing in the new area at 2200B.

4 September: The Squadron was assigned the mission of reconnoitering and securing the bridges across the MEUSE RIVER between VIREUX and FUMAY inclusive. Orders were issued at 040200B September 1944 (See FO # 10 w/overlay) and at 0530B the Squadron moved to accomplish the mission. The command post displaced initially to the vicinity of AUBENTON (460426) and then crossed the border into FRANCE again and located about 2 miles north east of ROCROI, where it remained until after dark. At 1600B, a company of infantry, a platoon of medium tanks and a platoon of tank destroyers were attached to the Squadron to assist in securing crossings and defending positions on the east side of the MEUSE.

Troop A found the bridge at VIREUX and GIVET destroyed by the enemy, but managed to cross the MEUSE with their 2nd platoon, using a ford three miles south of VIREUX. All platoons were across by nightfall and forward patrols immediately contacted enemy outposts between VIREUX and HARGNIES. The troop took two prisoners during the period.

Troop B reported the bridge at FUMAY blown at 1020B and the second platoon crossed the MEUSE RIVER at a ford one mile south of VIREUX and continued reconnaissance south east to HARGNIES. The platoon was stopped by a road block one mile east of HARGNIES which was defended by an undetermined number of enemy riflemen, machine guns and tanks. All available weapons and flanking parties were employed in an attempt to neutralize the block without success. The enemy attempted a counterattack by sending tanks through the road block which was halted by the concentrated fire of the platoon weapons. The situation reached a stalemate with darkness, and the platoon remained in observation. The first platoon supported by a platoon of assault guns attempted to cross the MEUSE RIVER at HAYBES, using a ferry-barge. Prior to crossing, enemy bicycle troops were observed in the vicinity of some buildings on the far shore. The platoon fired upon these with cannon and machine guns while dismounted men crossed the river in assault boats. The enemy withdrew and the platoon with all its vehicles ferried across the river and secured the crossing, having inflicted eleven casualties and taken 28 prisoners. Elements of the first battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment relieved the first platoon, by protecting the river crossing, and the platoon advanced northeast to HARGNIES until halted by a road block one mile south of that town at dusk. A dismounted reconnaissance reported the block defended by an anti tank gun and an undetermined number of infantry.

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Troop C reconnoitered the rear road net in the Squadron zone during the period and remained in Squadron reserve with Troop E and Company F.

At about 2345B all remaining elements of the Squadron crossed the MEUSE, via the newly completed engineer pontoon bridge and bivouaced at HAYBES for the night, with Troop B maintaining defensive positions to the east in the vicinity of HARGNIES.

5 September: The Squadron attacked strong enemy forces defending HARGNIES. Troop B advanced east from its position of the previous night, supported by Troop E, one platoon of medium tanks and infantry 81MM mortars. Their attack met with stubborn resistance from enemy machine gun and tank fire, supported by artillery. Troop A moved via VIREUX, to attack HARGNIES from the north. The command post remained initially in HAYBES, with an advance command post on the high ground overlooking HARGNIES.

As the attack developed it became apparent that a force of from 300 to 500 German infantry troops occupied HARGNIES, supported by at least 4 tanks and some self propelled guns. The surrounding terrain was heavily wooded, making it impractical to make a mounted approach and Troop C was dismounted to reinforce the Troop B attack. Troop C deployed, with two platoons abreast, to the right of Troop B, and closed on the town from the south.

Approximately 300 Germans, forced from the town by the Troop E bombardment, broke from the eastern edge of the town, coming into full view of the supporting elements of the attacking troops at a range of about 2500 yards. Intense artillery and .50 caliber machine gun fire was brought to bear on these enemy troops, causing a complete rout and inflicting innumerable casualties.

Following this debacle, the enemy was reinforced by SS troops, accompanied by 4 tanks and self propelled artillery, to defend the town actively and thus cover the retreat of the others. The tank fire delivered by this covering force, although inflicting some casualties, was unsuccessful. Aggressive enemy tank action at this time was halted through the efforts of Captain Rice, commanding Troop E, who--by personally observing and directing the fire of his assault guns--forced the enemy tanks to withdraw. Tanks of Company F were brought up at this time, and together with elements of Troops E and C, they broke up the counter-attack and a tank patrol broke into the town itself, finding it clear. Simultaneously, Troop A, whose attack from the north had been suspended during the artillery bombardment of the town, was ordered to close on the objective. The town, which had been set on fire by the Germans before their retreat was secured and the command post brought forward.

Troop A was assigned the mission of regaining contact with the enemy, and pushed on to the east, in spite of approaching darkness. Within fifteen minutes of receiving this order, the first section of the first platoon, commanded by S/Sgt Briglio, had made contact and was held up by a tank outpost in a thick wood two miles east of the town and was engaged with dismounted enemy on either side of the tank. After a fire fight with machine guns and hand grenades, 82 prisoners were taken, including two officers. Due to darkness and the fact that the enemy tank was still in position, the advance was halted for the night.

A number of atrocities had been committed by the Germans in HARGNIES, in addition to the burning of the town; a number of civilians had been murdered. A total of 86 prisoners were taken by the Squadron during the period. During the

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night the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Infantry took over the defenses of HARGNIES, thereby relieving the troops outposting the town.

6 September: At day light the Squadron advanced in two columns to screen the attack of the 12th Infantry (See letter of instruction). The south (White) column reached the FRANCO-BELGIAN border at 0741B and found the bridge at (909 599) destroyed by the enemy. A ford was located and all elements of this column, including the command post, crossed into BELGIUM.

The north (Red) column, commanded by Captain Robert E. Meyer, consisted of Troop C, Company F (less two platoons), and one platoon of Troop E. This task force found all crossings of LE HOUILLE RIVER between FELENNE and TILLENZIE destroyed except for a foot bridge in the vicinity of (925650). The infantry (left flank column of the 4th Infantry Division) crossed at this point and proceeded to FELENNE while the task force were forced to pass through the south sector, crossing into BELGIUM at (909599), and continued on their mission. During the early hours of the morning the first platoon of Troop C captured fifteen German infantrymen in the vicinity of (912617), and were left to protect the construction of a treadway bridge at (931645) by the engineers. The balance of the force proceeded to BOURSIGNES and BOIS CHAMPAY without meeting enemy action.

South (White) column consisting of Troop A, with one platoon of Troop B and one platoon of Company F attached, gained contact at (928584) near TILLENZIE at 0920B, the enemy force consisting of approximately 200 to 300 infantry and an undetermined number of tanks. As the first platoon was nearing TILLENZIE, its leading armored car received direct fire from a high velocity gun (75 or 88) and was stopped. S/Sgt Briglio had dismounted to investigate a road block just ahead, and upon being fired upon, the remaining car crew got out, but Pvt. Warady, who remained in the car to cover S/Sgt Briglio, was killed by the second shot. A half-track, in backing up to get under cover, hit a Tellermine and was disabled, with two casualties resulting. It was then discovered that the armored car and several point bantams had passed over six of these mines without touching them. A Tiger tank was spotted on high ground east of TILLENZIE, and the F.O. delivered fire on that area within ten minutes. The enemy tank then fired two more rounds and retreated into the town of RIENNE with its infantry. The attached B Troop platoon was sent around on the north flank of the town, and Troop A entered the town. After re-organization, the B Troop platoon led out toward RIENNE, a short distance to the east, on a straight road which was under observation from RIENNE. This platoon was stopped by tank and small arms fire. Self-propelled tank destroyers were brought up and fired on the spot where the tank had been seen, but with no effect. A company of the 12th Infantry was sent into RIENNE from the north, the third platoon Troop A advanced dismounted directly into the town, and the tank platoon, with the second platoon Troop A, attacked from the south. The first platoon, with two self-propelled tank destroyers, was to take southern route and proceed to GEDINNE, with a mission of setting up a defense there, and with the hope of trapping the enemy force, particularly the tank or tanks which were holding up the advance. RIENNE was found to be clear of enemy, but, when the platoon of Troop B attempted to advance toward GEDINNE, it was immediately pinned down. Civilians reported numerous enemy tanks in woods to east of RIENNE, and all available anti-tank guns and artillery were brought to bear on the indicated area. The first platoon, Troop A, and attached tank destroyers, had by this time set up to cover the main escape route of enemy which might have been trapped. However, the enemy had withdrawn east through GEDINNE before the force was able to complete its flanking mission. The balance of Troop A (tank platoon reverted to its parent unit at this point) proceeded to

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GEDINNE at 2300B, using the south route, and arriving there at 0200B. Outposting of that town was completed about 0400B. One Mark IV tank had been abandoned here, burned by its crew.

Troop B remained in Squadron reserve, executing lateral reconnaissance of roads along the main axis.

The Squadron command post was advanced to RIENNE for the night. Twenty one prisoners were taken during the period.

7 September: Troop A continued on mission at 0730 toward HAUT FAYS, advancing on three roads. One platoon of Troop B was still attached, plus one platoon of towed anti-tank guns. The first platoon advanced on main axis, third to the north, and the second to the south. The second was unable to continue because the road net was very poor. The third was stopped by a heavy road block (tree) and the first platoon encountered a defended block (same type) about three miles east of GEDINNE. The first was unable to locate the source of fire in the heavily wooded terrain. One round of tank fire came over their position and later a loud explosion was heard. At this time a company of infantry was deployed to attack with the first platoon, but as soon as the attack started the Germans withdrew from HAUT FAYS leaving a Mark IV tank which they had blown. The Troop assembled at that point, and continued on mission toward REDU. The Troop B platoon was sent up main road to North, first platoon took a southern route, with the third leading the second on main axis. After considerable difficulty, due to narrow roads, and the infantry already moving, the troop got ahead of column again. The road from HAUT FAYS to REDU was almost impassible, being little more than a trail through a heavy forest. The Troop commander and commanding officer of the infantry decided, at REDU, that infantry would stop at TRANSINNE and the troop would move on to SMUID and outpost that village for the night. No resistance was met until the cavalry column was approaching SMUID, where a road block was encountered, covered by rifle fire. A dismounted patrol determined that enemy had fled after firing, and SMUID was clear. Troop A moved into SMUID at 2000B and proceeded to outpost the town. A patrol was ordered out to secure a bridge about 1 1/2 miles to the east against demolitions.

Troop C with attachments, continued to precede the advance of the 1st Battalion, meeting numerous road blocks defended by small arms fire. Belgian Maquis rendered valuable assistance to the Troop throughout the day, giving timely and accurate information concerning the retreating Germans. At VONECHE, the third platoon employed an armored car to destroy a German half track and personnel carrier which approached that town from the north as the platoon entered it from the west. Both enemy vehicles were set on fire by 37MM high explosive shells, and three enemy killed. Immediately following this action, while the third platoon was proceeding to LOMPRES, the enemy ambushed and captured one of the Troop's armored cars, using an armored car (M-8), captured from the 102nd Cavalry Squadron some days previously, as a decoy. The second platoon then took the lead and advanced towards WELLIN, where the Maquis reported German vehicles and personnel to be in force. As the Troop approached that town they were met with artillery fire and a plan was made to attack in conjunction with the supporting infantry. The enemy withdrew, however, and the Troop pursued to the vicinity of BUR3, where contact was regained at a road block at (210860). The obstacle consisted of a minefield covered by enemy fire of a heavy calibre. A section of Assault Guns was brought up to form a base of fire, and Lt Hopkins dismounted his platoon and flank-

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ed the enemy position. One enemy vehicle was destroyed which proved to be the armored car captured from the third platoon earlier in the day. Two 1/4 ton trucks were destroyed by enemy fire. Proceeding on to WAVREILLE, the first platoon encountered a large road block of twenty five trees at (210690), defended by small arms fire. Using their mortars as a base of fire, the platoon dislodged the enemy by flanking the position, and then removed the obstacle. Following this action the troop moved on into WAVREILLE and outposted that town for the night.

Troop B completed a reconnaissance of road nets to the south in the vicinity of WILBERLIE, outposting that town for the night.

The Squadron command post displaced forward to TRANSINNE, closing in this position with Company F and Troop E (less detachments) at 2130B. The 102nd Cavalry Group command post also located in TRANSINNE for the night, under the protection of the Squadron.

8 September: The Squadron continued on the mission of screening the advance of the 12th Infantry (See FO # 11) until ordered to suspend forward movement at approximately 1400B.

Troop A advanced east from SMUID and drew heavy enemy small arms fire from the high ground at (245812) and movement of enemy tanks was detected. The infantry passed through the troop, taking a northern route and moving cross country into ST HUBERT. In the mean while, the first platoon, Troop A, found an undefended route into that town and the entire Troop proceeded to it. The enemy withdrew at 0930B and the Troop patrolled to NAVETS and to the vicinity of (291640).

Troop B proceeded to the east through GRUPONT to AWEENNE. Two enemy half tracks and a volkswagon were observed in the vicinity of AWEENNE at 1120B. Patrols discovered two Tiger tanks in AWEENNE and unable to obtain tank destroyer supports before darkness, the Troop remained in observation for the night.

Troop C advanced through FORRIERES and encountered a small force of enemy infantry who took cover in the forest, leaving a wagon load of supplies, and were bypassed. As the Troop reached NASSOGNE, the third platoon, commanded by Staff Sergeant Engel, surprised another small German infantry force in the act of constructing a road block. A dismounted flanking party was sent out but the enemy withdrew hurriedly and without casualties. The Troop reached WARSIN at 1400B, and outposted the RJ at (306773) and NASSOGNE; also patrolling the north-south road between these two points. A first platoon armored car, outposting the main highway leading to MARCHE, ambushed and destroyed a German staff car in the vicinity of (306773). Later the first platoon was ordered to seize the cross roads at (384697). An extensive road block was encountered 300 yards west of this objective after dark. The platoon worked all night on the removal of this obstacle by towing the trees out of the road with an attached platoon of Assault Guns.

Squadron Headquarters, together with Troops E, F and Hq., remained in TRANSINNE during the period.

9 September: The Squadron continued to screen the advance of the 12th Infantry to the east.

Troop A reconnoitered roads leading out of ST HUBERT to C.R. (383699); RJ (285686); and to GRUPONT (245687). The Troop established an observation point at CR (268654) and relieved elements of Troop B holding CR (383699). The 1st platoon was attached to Troop B and balance of the Troop remained in Squadron reserve.

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Troop B advanced with the mission of securing the crossing of the L'OURTHE RIVER at LA ROCHE. The first and third platoons were halted by heavy small arms and machine gun fire. Supported by heavy tanks, at the western edge of that town. Both platoons remained in contact, placing direct fire on enemy positions in the town, until supporting infantry arrived. The 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, deployed to attack LA ROCHE, but were stopped at the river by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from prepared positions in the cellars and on the roofs of the buildings in the town. The third platoon of Company F, led by Captain Lewis, in his command tank, had come up to reinforce Troop B. Seeing that the infantry had stopped, Captain Lewis decided to clean out the town with his tanks. After securing a large scale, detail map of the city from a civilian, he led his platoon through a ford on the flank of the enemy centre of resistance and, proceeding swiftly through the city streets, enveloped and overran the enemy positions. He then swept through the town, persuing the main German body, and took eight prisoners after killing approximately fifteen of the enemy at the outer edges of the town. The infantry then followed the tanks into LA ROCHE and cleaned out all scattered resistance and snipers. During this attack, the second platoon had proceeded to secure a bridge east of NISSAMONT at (525734). Four hundred yards north of the bridge, they came under fire from enemy light automatic weapons which was neutralized by a flanking party commanded by Sgt Phipps and Sgt Oxenham, using their armored car as a base of fire. The platoon then closed in on their objective only to meet with more machine gun fire. Lt Yontz set up his armored cars as a base of fire directed at the enemy positions, and himself led a dismounted flanking party which dislodged the enemy, destroying the machine guns and killing their crews. They were unable, however, to prevent the enemy from destroying the bridge as they retreated. One enemy personnel carrier was destroyed, as it withdrew, by Tec 5 Piatek, who took it under fire with his 37MM gun. While this action was taking place, an enemy force was discovered to be pocketed in the vicinity of BEAULIEU, to the rear of the troop, and the attached platoon from Troop A, with a platoon of tanks in support, was dispatched to clean up this resistance. The enemy force turned out to be vastly superior, including an undetermined number of heavy tanks and self propelled guns, and one of the Company F tanks was lost to the action of an 88MM gun as contact was made. The reconnaissance platoon called for artillery support from Troop E, in battery position at CHAMPLON, which effectively broke up the concentration of enemy armor and destroyed several enemy soft vehicles. Lt. Hysick, Company F, was seriously wounded and captured during the action.

After a night spent in removing booby trapped road blocks (felled trees), Troop C advanced to the east; the first platoon engaging German infantry delaying forces, of about company strength, in a sharp action at (383698). Lt. O'Brien sent dismounted parties to both flanks and ordered his attached assault gun platoon to fire on the enemy position. Daylight revealed the enemy to be located in and about several buildings along the roadside and direct assault gun fire was employed to destroy these positions, supplemented by 37MM and 50 cal machine gun fire from the armored cars. After suffering some twenty casualties, the enemy withdrew to the southeast, and all platoons of the Troop proceeded on the new mission of reconnoitering and securing the crossings of the L'OURTHE RIVER between LA ROCHE and HOTTON. Late in the afternoon the first platoon was ordered to proceed into LA ROCHE where it was reported that the Squadron executive officer had been captured. The platoon arrived at its objective to find LA ROACHE strongly defended by enemy infantry and tanks, but the report of the executive officer's capture had been exaggerated. All bridges across the L'OURTHE RIVER were found to have been destroy-

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ed and the villages of MARCOURT and MARCOURAY burned by the Germans, but the Troop secured a successful crossing at a ford (416840). At the end of the period the Troop was securing this ford and reconnoitering across the river to the east.

The Squadron command post moved forward to the CR (384-699) in the vicinity of CHAMPLON, and remained there for the night, with Troop E and Company F, less detachments.

10 September: The 12th Infantry cleaned up LA ROCHE and large road blocks were encountered to the east. All forward movement was retarded while bridges were repaired and road blocks cleared, when Troop B passed through the infantry and advanced without contact to a point on the main highway northeast of SAMREE at (560842) where they outposted for the night. Troop C crossed the L'OURTHE RIVER by fording at (560842) and advanced through MARCOURT to DOCHAMPS capturing two prisoners and a 1938 German Ford V-8 sedan (booby trapped) in MARCOURAY. At 2230H the Squadron command post, Troop E, and Company F closed in SAMREE. Troop A followed the command post and outposted SAMREE for the night. During the period the Squadron was contacted by Major Fraser, of the British Special Air Service. Major Fraser requested permission to accompany our units to AMONINES and ODEIGNE; permission was granted and the major proceeded with the third platoon, Troop C, to ODEIGNE, where he continued on foot to his destination.

11 September: The 12th Infantry Regiment continued the attack to the east followed by Troop B, who had the mission of passing through the infantry should contact with the enemy be lost. The infantry did lose contact early in the period and Troop B proceeded their advance to the SALM RIVER.

Troops A and C protected the left flank of the Corps by patrolling road nets to the north and constructing road blocks. Cpl T. I. Clark and Pvt West of Troop C, accompanied by several Maquis, made a dismounted patrol from BOEAL to PONT BOMAL. At the latter village they discovered a small German force and reported this fact to their Troop Headquarters. The first platoon, Troop C, was dispatched to their aid and returned with the report that they had encountered twelve Germans in PONT BOMAL and killed ten of the enemy; two escaped.

The Squadron command post displaced forward at 1400H with Troop E and Company F, locating in the vicinity of GRAND SART (688883). Acting upon instructions from 102nd Cavalry Group Headquarters, the British Major Fraser was again contacted and taken to the Group command post. As a result of this Corporal Garson and Tec 5 Benedict, both of Troop C, were placed on detached service with "TASK FORCE FRASER" until further orders. This Task Force was endeavoring to contact, organize and equip large bodies of the Belgian Maquis.

Enemy resistance estimated to be two companies of infantry supported by an unknown number of tanks, was encountered at VIELSAIN and all bridges were found destroyed. Unable to make a crossing and successfully engage this superior force the first platoon of Troop B set up a fire line on the high ground west of the river and succeeded in harassing the enemy and maintaining contact while the infantry forced a crossing. The second platoon attacked to occupy SAIMCHATEAU and, with the assistance of attached tank destroyers, knocked out an anti tank gun in the cemetery. Armored car 37MM guns and mortars of the platoon reduced several enemy machine gun positions at the bridge, and the town was taken late in the afternoon. The Troop forded the river and outposted the crossing that night.

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12 September: The Squadron, with Troop B 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, one platoon of tank destroyers and one platoon of medium tanks attached, continued to screen the advance of the 12th Infantry Regiment and protect the north flank of the Corps (See FO # 12). Troops B of the 33th Squadron and B of the 102nd Squadron (atchd), both reinforced, performed the Squadron mission of screening to the front on three routes, with Troop E supporting their advance from battery positions.

The 1st platoon Troop B 38th Squadron, plus 2 M-10 tank destroyers and 1 platoon of light tanks, were combined into a small task force commanded by Captain Meyer. This force moved east to PETITE THIER without contact and proceeded to SCHONBURG, bypassing that town on the North, in the direction of MANDERFELD. One mile south of MANDERFELD, the Force ran into small arms fire. A base of fire was laid down with armored cars and machine guns while the tank destroyers and tanks then rushed the town, led by 1st Lt. Farmer. This column assembled and returned through the town slowly. At the same time the armored cars and dismounted men moved in from the west. The enemy in the town was trapped by the two forces and all strong points were eliminated by direct fire of armored cars and tanks, while dismounted parties flanked them with small arms and grenades. Control was effected by Lt. Farmer, who moved from one force to the other coordinating the attack. Three prisoners were taken and the town secured for the night. The 2nd platoon Troop B spearheaded a Task Force consisting of one reconnaissance platoon, one infantry platoon and one platoon of medium tanks, commanded by Lt. Yontz. Their mission was to proceed to VIELSALM and on to PETITE THIER, REPT and BORN. No contact was made until patrols of the reconnaissance platoon discovered strong enemy positions in BORN. The patrols maintained contact and the infantry platoon supported by two medium tanks deployed to make the assault. The three remaining tanks took up positions on the high ground in support of the attack. The infantry platoon and patrols from reconnaissance platoon advanced through the town with armored cars in immediate support. Several strong points were reduced by armored cars, and snipers were cleaned out by grenade attacks. Two strong points in the center of the town were effectively silenced by direct fire of 75MM guns of tanks. All actions were successful, and the enemy was forced to retire with heavy casualties. The entire Task Force occupied town for the night. The 3rd platoon Troop B was assigned mission of guarding the Troop B flank and bivouaced tactically that night, between HOLZEIM and MANDERFELD, without having made enemy contact.

Troop A continued defense of road blocks on the left flank of the Corps in the vicinity of GRAND HAYLEAUX.

Troop C was relieved of its mission of defending road blocks on the Corps flank by Troop C, 102nd Cavalry Squadron, and was assembled at POTEAU in Squadron reserve.

The Squadron command post, Troop E (less detachments) and Company F (less detachments) moved to the vicinity of POTEAU for the night.

13 September: Troop B, 38th Squadron and Troop B 102nd Squadron atchd continued to perform the Squadron mission of screening the advance of the 4th Infantry Division; and Troops A and C protected the left flank of the Corps in assigned zones. (See FO # 13). Enemy delaying action stiffened as Troops approached the German border.

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Troop B, 102nd Squadron found the bridge at SCHONBERG destroyed but was able to ford the OUR RIVER at this point. The Troop crossed the German border at 1330B and advanced to the vicinity of WISCHEID by 1800B, when they were halted by enemy machine gun and mortar fire from the high ground in the vicinity of ATT. Troop outposted this position for the night, maintaining their spearhead formation in readiness for a forward move the following day.

Troop B, 38th Squadron encountered numerous road blocks defended by enemy small arms fire at (845900) (865904) (936915) and (984945). Patrols to the east encountered heavy machine gun fire from pill boxes of the SIEGFRIED LINE east of MANDERFELD, and the Troop was ordered to patrol lateral road net from LANZERATH to MANDERFELD. The Troop advanced to (016934) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD and established a counter reconnaissance screen along the line LANZERATH-MANDERFELD.

Troop C reconnoitered roads to the north and east, along the Corps left flank. No enemy contacts were made, but Lt. Hopkins was wounded by a sniper, dressed in civilian clothes, in WERETH. A thorough search and investigation of this town failed to bring the assailant to capture. The Troop maintained outpost positions of the Corps flank for the night.

Troop A continued to secure the road net on the Corps left flank in the vicinity of RECHT, without enemy contact.

Troop E supported the advance and Company F reinforced Troop B, 102nd Squadron, Troop B, 38th Squadron, and provided command post security. The Squadron command post moved to (975895) at 2030B, in the vicinity of LANDESFELD, GERMANY.

14 September: The Squadron resumed the mission of reconnoitering to the north-east in advance of the advancing infantry columns, and of protecting the left flank (north) of the Corps (See FO # 15).

Troop B, 102nd Squadron proceeded to ROTH under enemy mortar and artillery fire. As the Troop advanced to the east on the three existing routes out of ROTH, they were met with strong enemy resistance consisting of road blocks and concrete pillboxes at (053914) (055912) (053906). Each critical point was defended by enemy infantry of about company strength and nine (9) tanks appeared in support of the infantry. Artillery and mortar fire increased, destroying one armored car, and the Troop was unable to advance.

Troop B, 38th Squadron, advanced to a distance of two miles to the east of MANDERFELD, when its advance was halted by enemy machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. A patrol from the 3rd platoon went to investigate KREWINKEL. They patrolled to and into the town, where they were fired upon by strong enemy positions. Patrol was led by Cpl Long who was killed in action and his second in command, Cpl McDonald, was wounded. The 2nd platoon and a section of the 3rd platoon supported by F Company, then attacked KREWINKEL. The attack moved north east through the town, meeting stubborn resistance. Strong points were reduced by overrunning them with light tanks. The enemy had moved through the town to the north-east but a quick reorganization enabled all forces to meet and repulse the new enemy threat from the south. Strong enemy positions, including concrete pill boxes and dragon teeth (anti-tank obstacles) had been observed on the high ground along the road from LOSHEIM to ROTH. The Troop secured the towns of KREWINKEL and BERTERATH and remained in observation.

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Troop C supported the Squadron advance and, after the seizure of VERTENKEL, outposted a line from that town to the village of AFST for the night.

Troop A was ordered into GROUP reserve and assembled at HERRSPACK with the 102nd Cavalry Squadron. Troop E supported the advance of the Squadron from battery position. Company F reinforced the leading troops. Squadron command post remained at (975896) in the vicinity of LANDESFEID, GERMANY.

The Squadron had made its first contact with the SIEGFRIED LINE in locations as indicated by advance intelligence.

15 September: Troop B, 102nd Squadron was relieved of attachment to the 38th Squadron. Troops A, B, and C reconnoitered road nets north and east of MANDERFELD and KREWINKEL before being passed through by the 8th Infantry. Late in the day all infantry elements withdrew and the Squadron established a cavalry screen along the line LANZERATH, KREWINKEL, ROTH.

Troop A was ordered to screen the 8th Infantry's advance along main road, MANDERFELD to SHIED which lay on the far side of the SIEGFRIED LINE. A platoon of tanks were attached to the first platoon which advanced along main route, while second and third platoons moved to the north flank. Second and third platoons met no opposition initially, but the first received heavy artillery and small arms fire from vicinity of cross-roads south-west of LOSHEIM. Artillery support proved ineffective, as enemy countered with smoke shells and artillery could not be registered. Meanwhile the second and third platoons had met resistance, and came under heavy artillery fire. The first platoon stayed in observation until the infantry column arrived. The infantry deployed and probed the line, and the first platoon withdrew under cover of a steep slope to escape the heavy enemy artillery. The infantry was ordered to withdraw and go into line to South and Troop A was directed to screen and hold certain strategic road nets. Mines were set out and the defense was strengthened by tank destroyers and the Troop established a counter reconnaissance screen from KREWINKEL to ROTH.

Troop B was ordered to establish a counter reconnaissance screen from LANZERATH south east to HULLSCHEID. The first platoon was on the left with outpost 400 yards north of LANZERATH and maintained MLR 200 yards north of LANZERATH. Area surrounding LANZERATH on the east was extensively booby trapped. Mine fields were put down on main road and field to west of main road. Road block of fallen trees was laid down on main road between south west of HULLSCHEID. This platoon was reinforced with a platoon of light tanks. The first platoon maintained patrol contact with the 24th Cavalry Squadron to our north. The second platoon contacted Company F on our right.

Troop C proceeded to ROTH, and set up observation posts. Troop remained on this mission all day, and was relieved at 1900H by the 4th Division Recon Troop, who requested that the first platoon remain in their observation and outpost positions until the next day. No enemy contact was made during the period.

16 September: The Squadron was attached directly to the 4th U. S. Infantry Division and the 4th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the Squadron. The Squadron thus reinforced, was assigned the mission of protecting the left flank of the

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Division from the left flank of the 12th Infantry to the Corps boundary (See FO # 16 and FO # 17). Troops B, C, and the 4th Reconnaissance Troop were employed to screen the line, with Troop A in Squadron reserve. Company F reinforced Troop B with one platoon of tanks and Troop C with two platoons. A platoon of Company C, 801st T. Co. was attached to the Squadron and positioned in support of the reconnaissance troops on the line. Troop E supported initially from battery position in the vicinity of LANZBRATH but was forced to displace because of counter-battery fire at 1430B. The Squadron command post moved to (995937) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD, BELGIUM, where it was to remain until 30 September 1944. The high ground in this immediate vicinity afforded excellent observation of a portion of the SIEGFRIED LINE itself, from the vicinity of LOSHEIM to BOTH, embracing a major portion of the Squadron sector. Physical contact was made and maintained with the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the north and with the 12th Infantry Regiment on the south.

17-30 September: The Squadron continued the mission of protecting the left flank of the Corps by maintaining a counter reconnaissance screen on the left of the 4th U. S. Infantry Division between the 12th Infantry Regiment and the Corps left flank. Contact was maintained with the 12th Infantry on the south and the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the north. Troops B, C, and the 4th Reconnaissance Troop continued to perform this mission on a 12,000 yard front.

Troop A was assigned the separate mission at 180900B September of protecting the south flank of the 4th Infantry Division by filling the gap between the 8th Infantry and the 5th Armored Division. The Troop command post located at WINTERSCHIED with platoons generally along the line BLIEHALF, CROSS-BLANGENFEL, WINTERSPELT. The front assigned to the Troop, nearly five miles in length, was outposted and communication established with Headquarters 4th Infantry Division. This front was in direct contact with the SIEGFRIED LINE, with excellent observation on both sides. Liason was established and maintained on the right flank with Troop A, 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron which was protecting the left flank of the 28th Infantry Division. Patrol activity was constant on both sides. The Troop took nineteen prisoners during the period. On 30 September it was relieved by Company F, 22nd Regimental Combat Team, and assembled on Squadron Order, in the vicinity of NEIDER ETTELS.

Troop E continued to support the counter reconnaissance screen and the squadron mission on the left flank of the Division from battery position at (990937) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD. ON 19 September 1944 the Troop moved to (980928) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD. During the period Troop E fired some 1700 rounds in direct support of the Squadron mission.

Company F reinforced Troops A, B, and C, with one tank platoon each during the period. Troop headquarters remained with the Squadron command post.

Provisional Assault Gun Battery, 70th Tank Battalion (six 105MM howitzers, mounted in Sherman tanks) was attached to the Squadron and joined at 201200B September; battery position at (992926) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD; fired some 1600 rounds during the period in direct support of the Squadron mission, including 40 rounds of propaganda ammunition ("Safe Conduct Pass"). Battery released from attachment and attached to the 12th Infantry Regiment on 30 September 1944.

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Tank Destroyer platoon, Company C, 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to Squadron on 17 September 1944, remained in supporting positions in the vicinity of MANDERFELD and LAZBRATH during the period. The platoon was released and attached to the 12th Infantry Regiment on 30 September 1944.

The Squadron command post remained at (995937) in the vicinity of MANDERFELD, BELGIUM, during the period. The Squadron rear echelon remained at (975895) in the vicinity of LANDESFEID, GERMANY, during the period.

On 27 September 1944, a 26 man platoon from the BELGIAN ARMY was attached to the Squadron and was attached to Troop B. On 28 September 1944, 166 additional men and officers were attached from the BELGIAN ARMY; one platoon was attached to the 4th Reconnaissance Troop, one company to Troop C, and 31 additional men were attached to Troop B. This attachment continued until the Squadron was relieved of its mission on 30 September 1944, when the detachment was released and reverted to their own command.

On 23 September 1944 a Troop C patrol placed artillery fire on a German OP at (047945) and later took over the position.

At 300900A the Squadron was relieved by the 12th Infantry Regiment and Troop A was relieved by Company F, 22nd Infantry Regiment at 1100A. All attachments were released in accordance with orders of the 102nd Cavalry Group and the Squadron moved to bivouac area at (839925) about two miles north of ST VITH, BELGIUM, closing in the new area at 1330A. A Band Concert and Red Cross Service Truck were afforded in the Squadron area, and the Troops relaxed during the balance of the period.

Mechanized cavalry was designed and created to perform the type missions which were assigned the Squadron during this month of September, and the Squadron was eager to prove that the cavalry could produce, when called upon, to perform missions for which its armament and training qualified it. The Squadron was determined to give the 4th Division an efficient and fast moving screen which would enable the infantry to advance as rapidly as they could march, while protecting their exposed north flank. By fording and securing bridgeheads over the MEUSE and the OURTHE, and by like actions at PUMAY, HAYBES, HARGNIES, WILLEBRATE, SMID, WELLEN, TAVERVILLE, NASSOENE, CR 383698 (vicinity CHAMPLON), BEAULIEU, MANDERFELD, and BORN the platoons and Troops of the Squadron, reinforced by infantry and medium tanks in the last named instance, had pushed back delaying forces which enabled the infantry to march without interruption. By the action at RIENNE, HAUT-PAYS, ST. HUBERT, ADETTE, LA ROCHE ROCHE, VIELSALM, SALM-CHATEAU, and LOSHEM, the aggressive action of the small unit leaders on the spot had developed the enemy forces so precisely that the infantry was able to march into the attack without hesitation or delay. Finally at KRE-JINKEL Troop B determined, by their gallant fight in that town, that the SIEGFRIED LINE, was very much occupied and that the long march was over. Then in screening the north flank of the 4th Division before the SIEGFRIED LINE, the Squadron found that the training of the men in acting by small units, the large number of machine guns, and the excellent radio equipment, all combined to qualify the Squadron particularly well for performing this type of mission. The Squadron completed September's activities grateful that it had been granted the opportunity to function in the manner for which it had been trained and equipped.

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