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HEADQUARTERS
38TH CAVALRY TROOPMAISS JUNE 1944
APO AND U. S. ARMY

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT
PERIOD
1-31 OCTOBER 1944

UNCLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY
OF *DA [unclear]* ON *5/12/92*
BY *[unclear]*
Robert E. O'Brien, Jr.
ROBERT E. O'BRIEN, JR.,
Lt Col, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech),
Commanding.

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TOP SECRET

1 October: Under continuous rain the Squadron devoted the morning to maintenance and preparation for forthcoming operations. Beginning at 1300A all units proceeded to a new assembly area at ELSENBORN, BELGIUM (924077) closing in at 1600A. Squadron command post was set up in an unused hotel and Troops A, B, and C and Company F outposted the town while one platoon of Troop B secured the MSR between ELSENBORN and KALTENBERGERS (928118). Troop E moved into battery position on the eastern outskirts of town and set up a Fire Direction Center to control the firing of that troop and proposed attachments.

Headquarters and Service Troop (rear echelon) closed in bivouac using sheds at the eastern edge of CAMP ELSENBORN (892083) which had been a well established German firing range, the buildings alone covering several acres.

Commanding Officers of Troop A and Company F made liaison with the units they were to relieve the following day.

One platoon each of 873rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 146th Engineer Battalion reported as attachments.

2 October: The Squadron took up the mission of screening the assembly of V Corps in an assigned zone along the SIEGFRIED LINE with the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on its left (North) and the 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on its right (South).

The entire area ran to the east from an open, rolling, firing range similar to English moors into densely cultivated pine forests in varying stages of growth, broken by occasional open draws, fields and straight fire breaks. Due to the boggy condition of the ground caused by innumerable creeks, vehicular traffic was generally limited to the use of established roads, some of which were also impassable due to deep fords and mud. Naturally short visibility in the woods was in many places further reduced to only 5 or 3 feet because of saplings, undergrowth, and windfalls.

Under command of its executive officer, 1st Lt. Hedger, Troop A proceeded to vicinity of ROCHERATH, BELGIUM to begin relief of Troop A, 4th Cavalry Squadron, thereby outposting the right portion of the Squadron sector. Captain Buentzle and his platoon leaders preceded the troop to make personal reconnaissance of the area to be occupied. By 1400A the relief was completed and Troop A was in position with its first and second platoons on the screenline and outposts out 400 to 500 yards forward. The command post, third platoon and the first platoon of light tanks from Company F, attached, formed a strong point on the high ground one mile north of ROCHERATH, astride the main road running northeast into the SIEGFRIED LINE. Security patrols were sent east without enemy contact.

The Squadron commander assigned the balance of the sector to Troops B and C which were to maintain strong dismounted combat patrols of platoon strength fully equipped to include SCR 300 and 536 and machine guns. They were to operate for 24 hour periods and to be relieved at approximately 1400A daily at designated places along the screen-line. Proceeding along assigned routes by daylight and moving into ambush positions during darkness, their mission was reconnaissance and the capture or destruction of all enemy encountered with particular emphasis placed on the taking of prisoners of war.

At 1100A the first platoon of Troop B moved into its sector and with 9 men and one SCR # 300 set up an outpost at (928108) from which a party consisting of Lt. Porterfield and 15 men with two 30 cal. Light Machine Guns and radios advanced at 1200A to patrol deeper toward the east. By 1930A they reported that no enemy whatsoever had been contacted as far as (934103) and that they were going into ambush at (967204) for the night. Their reports also included conditions of terrain along their route.

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The first platoon of Troop C under Lt. Summers, proceeded mounted at 0300A to reconnoiter vehicular routes from ELSENBOERN to ROCHERATH, thence past Troop A, 4th Cavalry Squadron, turning west through woods in the Troop "C" sector, returning to command post. They found a friendly road block of abatis just above Troop A and returned via route taken, reporting all roads to that point in good condition but no passable roads leading through woods to the west.

At 1415A Lt Bolen's platoon of Troop C went out as a combat patrol to operate for 24 hours. All reports were negative except for the discovery of an undefended road block of abatis at (982030).

In addition to supporting the Squadron on call, Troop E took up positions in battery at (932072) and reported into a Group Fire Direction Center controlled by the commanding officer, 400th Field Artillery Battalion, a liaison officer from which remained at the Squadron command post. It had no fire missions.

Company F prepared to relieve the 759th Tank Destroyer Battalion by participating in their mounted patrols to the north and east.

The attached engineer platoon under 1st Lt William Trescher reconnoitered the woods for suitable areas to lay anti-personnel mines and for likely places to start forest fires as a possible offensive or defensive measure.

The Tank Destroyer platoon remained in anti-mechanization positions vicinity of ELSENBOERN.

3-11 October: By patrols and outposts the Squadron continued to maintain a screen on a 9,000 yard front while the 28th U. S. Infantry Division assembled in Camp Elsenborn. Aggressive patrolling was continued, revealing that the enemy was not active in the sector until about 5 October when elements of the Squadron began to meet his patrols. No enemy armor or aircraft were detected nor did any artillery fall in the Squadron zone during the period. Enemy obstacles overprinted on the 1/25,000 map from (967134) to (970135) were found to be non-existent.

The attached Tank Destroyer platoon remained in anti-mechanization positions until 8 October when they went into battery under control of Troop E.

Lt. Trescher's engineer platoon was utilized during the period for clearing three enemy abatis and one iron gate road blocks; improving road to (933102), making it passable for heavy traffic; and constructing a culvert over a road crater at (982105). They were further occupied in conducting a road survey, reconnoitering for possible bridge locations and searching for enemy anti-personnel mines.

Troop A continued its mission on the right of the sector by maintaining static outposts and daylight combat patrols to the east and north. Unreported friendly antipersonnel mines rigged with trip-wires slowed down the progress of the patrols for the first few days and in one case seriously wounded Sergeant Kolbenheyer. In many instances patrols met small groups of enemy who upon receiving fire fled and were lost in the dense forest. On the 4th of October a strong German force of 70 men attacked the first platoon outpost at (985074) taking two A Troopers prisoner and wounding another before they were driven off. A combat patrol was quickly formed and gave chase, taking one prisoner of war and causing several casualties. Sergeant Brzostowski's reconnaissance patrol, on 5 October reconnoitered a hunting lodge at (003102) suspected of housing an enemy outpost. As they came close to the position a German sentry spotted them and was shot and killed by a member of the patrol. The patrol heard a large number of men approaching from the lodge, and withdrew. On the 7th a patrol led by Sergeant Schulze succeeded in working its way to a place behind the lodge and found telephone wire running into it. The following day another patrol observed 15 Germans digging-in in the same area

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and brought down accurate shell fire from Troop B causing several known casualties. The entire first platoon under Lt. Tully was then given the mission of attempting to destroy the lodge and all the enemy there. During the fire fight which inflicted several casualties upon the Germans it was apparent that the position was well dug-in and fortified and too strongly held by fifty enemy to be assaulted with half the number. On the 11th of October a squad patrol led by Sergeant Turner met two parties, one of two men and one of three, and was successful in killing all five Germans.

The 109th Infantry moved in on the right of Troop A on 6 October taking over from the 102nd Cavalry Squadron. Continual liaison was maintained between the two units by contact patrols.

During this period Troop B continued operating in the northern part of the sector, maintaining 24 hour patrols and ambush stations, with two platoons in strong points. Daily contacts were affected with Company D, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on its left. On the 8th of October the "B" Troop command post, with one platoon, set up at (929119). On five occasions Troop B's patrols ran across enemy parties of from two to twelve men which immediately dispersed and fled into the woods when fired upon. An armored car escort service was initiated between the outskirts of EISENBORN and KALTERHERBERG along the MSR for the purpose of protecting lone vehicles while passing through a dense patch of woods in which two vehicles of other units had already been ambushed. On 4 October the 2nd platoon suffered one casualty resulting from a brush with unknown numbers of enemy in darkness. A good dirt road was found between (940113) and (983122) and a footbridge and ford at (949128).

Reporting negative results a pill box at (974137) was kept under observation for two hours. On the 10th a four man enemy party was stalked and fired upon by Lt. Shehab's third platoon but they fled carrying one casualty and were lost. After a fire fight the following day Lt. Porterfield and his first platoon brought in one wounded prisoner of war.

With their command post in EISENBORN Troop C continued strong 24 hour patrols in the central portion of the sector maintaining outposts and ambush stations. At 061730A October the 1st Battalion, 109th Infantry took over the Troop C outposts and remained in position in preparation to assist, with a demonstration, a proposed attack to be launched in the 109th Infantry sector by the balance of the 28th Division. One section from Troop C was dispatched to Battalion Headquarters for liaison. On the same day S/Sgt Engel's patrol surprised and captured a lone German who had been one of a small party. On the 8th a combat patrol under Lt. Bolen came upon three Germans at (968096). They took flight but two were captured, one of which was wounded. A 38 tree abatis was discovered at (936116) and another road block at (990101), the latter being defended by 6 men with a machine gun who fled after a brief exchange of shots. Without being observed, on the 5th of October the first platoon discovered enemy strong-points at (987100) and (937105). The same day the 2nd platoon ran across a 14 man patrol at (987104) but, although there ensued an exchange of fire the enemy was lost in the woods. The area (938099) was found to be thickly sown with German AP mines most of which were removed.

Captain M. L. Rogers, C Troop Commander, was temporarily confined to the Squadron aid station with a severe cold during period 4-6 October. In his absence 2nd Lt. James J. O'Brien, executive officer, commanded the troop.

Troop B remained in battery position with the attached Tank Destroyer platoon under its control. In addition to supporting the Squadron it stood in readiness to lend support to the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the left. At the call of Troops A, B, and C several successful fire missions were completed. On the 7th

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of October 5 rounds were fired for registration into the woods northeast of ELSAUBORN in preparation for marking a proposed experimental air mission that never came off.

Company F continued mounted patrols behind the screen-line until 061200A October when they moved into a defensive position on the northern boundary between the 38th Cavalry Squadron and the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at (929122). On the 9th an enemy combat patrol armed with bazookas, AP mines and hand grenades attempted to attack an outposted tank of the third platoon. Pvt Spencer fired one round of 37MM canister as soon as he saw them in the midst of first light, instantly killing one and chasing the balance who left 2 bazookas, 3 rifles and a number of AP rockets and hand grenades.

12 October: With its sector now reduced to 5500 yards the Squadron was given the mission of establishing a line of resistance from 28th Infantry Division on the right and the 85th Reconnaissance Squadron on the left (north). Operating generally with one platoon dug-in on the MLR, one in support supplying the patrols and the third in reserve training, the troops were assigned portions of the defensive line from left to right C, B, A, and Company F. Squadron headquarters with the platoon of engineers and a newly attached platoon of Company A, 898rd Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP), proceeded to (952066) vicinity of WITZFIELD, PENNIPPA and set up the command post along hedgerows. Troop B, with its attached Tank Destroyer platoon; the Medical Detachment; and Headquarters and Service Troop (rear echelon) remained in previously occupied locations.

Commencing movement at 1330A Troop A secured new positions further north with its command post in the woods at (807098). A patrol which had been operating since early morning reported about 40 enemy digging a ditch or entrenchments in vicinity of the lodge (023101). They found a 4 ft high, 8 strand rolled wire fence on three sides around this construction with a single strand of barbed wire 10 feet to the outside. In the same area the patrol contacted another party of 12 Germans and killed one without suffering any casualties to themselves.

Relieved by the 47th Infantry of the 6th Armored Division at 1100A, Troop B secured its new positions by 1800A with its command post in the woods at (966088).

Troop C now became the left flank unit with its command post also in the woods at (958090). The 1st Battalion of the 110th Infantry evacuated the area. Contact with the 85th Reconnaissance Squadron on the left was established as soon as that unit had taken up its position.

After having been relieved by Company M, 103rd Cavalry Squadron, Company F proceeded to take up positions in the area previously occupied by Troop A closing in by 1300A. The command post was set up in an abandoned house at (984039). The platoon attached to Troop A reverted to company control. Now operating almost entirely dismounted except for three light tanks used to strengthen the outposts, the balance of the tanks were assembled in the vicinity protecting the company command post.

13-31 October: The Squadron continued in its holding mission by maintaining a thin defensive line with aggressive patrolling forward of the line. A defensive fire plan was organized using registered mortar and artillery concen-

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trations to augment and support automatic weapons and riflemen on the final protective line. Most of the concentrations in the defensive fire plan were eventually zeroed-in by artillery forward observers and the patrol leaders.

The system of patrolling afforded maximum coverage of the front with routes frequently crossing so that patrols made contact and provided additional support to each other.

Squadron headquarters with the attached platoon of engineers and the headquarters and one platoon of Co. A, TDs on the 27th of October set up a command post in the building previously occupied by Company F on the main road one mile north of ROCHERATH, BELGIUM (983068).

Supplementing the normal guard and armored car outposts three squads composed of the command post personnel were organized and assigned to positions and duties for local security. The engineer platoon was included in this plan and participated in several stand-to exercises.

On 23 October the Squadron front was reduced to 3300 yards as a result of Captain Lake's Troop A, 102nd Cavalry Squadron relieving Troop C and taking over a portion of the Troop B sector. The remaining sector was then reassigned to Troop B on the left (North), Company F in the center, and Troop A (33th) on the right (South).

The commanding officer was thus enabled to strengthen the line and at the same time pull out units for training and rehabilitation. The whole of Troop C and, by rotation of platoons, the reserve platoons of Troops A and B were placed on an intensive training schedule. For complete rest and rehabilitation a Group Rest Center was established at BUTGENBACH, BELGIUM, accommodating one officer and 35 to 45 enlisted men every two days.

On the 25th the three units advanced the MLR by pivoting on Troop A, 102nd Cavalry Squadron on the left and moving Troop A (38th) approximately 2000 yards forward on the right (south) coming abreast of the forward positions of the 4th Division. The indentation in the line was thus straightened out. The 4th Division had relieved the 28th Division on 24 October.

Under the direction of the Squadron Communications Officer, Captain Weickel, an efficient telephone net was maintained linking all units in the chain of command plus the attachments. It included lines to outpost positions. The system was supported by SOP radio nets which were opened immediately upon failure of the telephone. SCRs 300, 306 or 509 were carried by the patrols which were in constant communication with the SCR 308 in their troop headquarters.

Lt. Trescher's engineer platoon continued to maintain squadron and troop MSRs. It constructed a bridge for medium loads at (965080); completed a shell-proof dugout of logs for the Squadron command post; laid down 65 yards of corduroy road for Troop C and drained their area; installed barbed wire in front of the MLR; installed AT mines across main road at (984087); and reconstructed culvert at (982104) which had been blown by the Germans.

M10 tank destroyers attached Troop A continued on its mission in the central zone until 25 October when it was again assigned to the right portion of the Squadron sector and in moving into position advanced the MLR so that it was abreast of the forward positions of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry on its right (south). The tank destroyer section was attached to Troop B. The

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troop command post was set up in a house next door to the one it previously occupied on the main road 1/2 mile north of ROCHERATH.

With comparatively few enemy contacts Troop A combat and ambush patrols penetrated deep into the east. On the 29th Lt. Dickson's patrol supported by another led by Sergeant Schulze observed a number of enemy with a MG covering a draw to the SW at (013086). Accurate fire from Troop E was brought down on them inflicting several known casualties. On the 31st Corporal Corrigan's patrol again saw a MG and four riflemen at this location. The coordinates were included in that night's fire missions of Troop E. On the same day two German deserters made their way to an A Troop outpost and surrendered using American "Safe Conduct" leaflets. They offered much valuable information. During this period all personnel of the troop practice fired all weapons except the armored car 37MM gun.

Troop B, commanded by Lt. Sain, continued in its mission in the same location with Troop C on the left (North) and Company F on the right (South) until 23 October when Troop A, 102nd Cavalry Squadron took over all of Troop C's and part of Troop B's sector to the north. On the 25th when the MLP was moved forward the troop was given a section of tank destroyers and assigned a larger portion of the remaining Squadron front with Troop A now on its right. (South). Combat patrols operated continually penetrating deeply into the east. On the 15th Lt. Shehab's platoon discovered that the fencing around the lodge (003102) reported by Troop A was now completed. In obtaining this information one German of a 12 man patrol was wounded in an exchange of fire. On the 18th another patrol went to the lodge to check the results of artillery fire put down by the 28th Division artillery but it was prevented from reaching its objective by two enemy forces of which they accounted for one German killed without casualties to themselves. The following day the first platoon under Lt. Porterfield encountered a 25 man patrol in the same area and in the ensuing fire fight which caused four enemy casualties, Privates Martin and Tabor were wounded. After an exchange of fire with a small enemy force on the 23rd, Lt Yontz's platoon captured two Germans at (986096) and, without success, left an ambush at that location to trap anyone who might return to look for them. A patrol again went to the lodge two days later and the F.O., Lt. Jezo of the 76th FA Bn., observed while Troop E fired 32 rounds into the area. On the 29th the third platoon again observed while artillery was put on the lodge then rushed the position only to find that the former strongpoint had been evacuated and that it had been completely demolished by the shelling. Several blood stains and evidence of recent casualties were found. It is of interest to note that American K Ration containers were found there. After searching the area for 200 yards around and removing booby traps that had been fixed on some of the dugouts, the patrol proceeded south 600 yards where a German party was observed and artillery was placed upon it causing casualties. Weapons training, practice firing and exercises in dismounted patrols were conducted by reserve platoons.

Troop C remained in its sector on the left flank (north) and continued in a defensive roll maintaining physical contact with Company B, 85th Cavalry Squadron, on its left until 231200A October when the troop was relieved by Troop A 102nd Cavalry Squadron and assembled at (952060) near the Squadron command post vicinity WITZFELD. Before being relieved aggressive patrols were active, gaining information and directing artillery fire. While seeking to capture a prisoner on the 14th the third platoon under Lt. Coleman passed an

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undefended road block at (936113) and proceeded to (993111) where two road blocks were discovered defended by an AT gun, one MG and a mortar in addition to dug-in personnel. Two lone Germans were surprised just south of the road blocks and in an effort to capture them the patrol killed one and the other escaped. Artillery fire was then called for and placed on the woods containing the road block positions. During the night of the 16th the culvert which had been built by the engineers at (982104) was blown by the enemy. The following day reconstruction was begun. On the 19th the second platoon under Lt. Bolen was out-posting crossroads at (968096) and providing security for an engineer work detail when an enemy patrol of 5 men was seen approaching with a man in civilian clothes whom they were apparently guiding. An ambush was prepared and opened fire. The civilian was captured but the soldiers escaped. He seemed very pleased to have been apprehended by Americans and requested to see the secret police saying that he had valuable information to impart to them regarding the activities of the German anti-Nazi underground. He was very well dressed and carried considerable sums of American, Belgian and German currency.

At 221500A October Staff Sergeant Brown's third platoon at (983104) ambushed a 15 man enemy patrol inflicting 7 known casualties. The third platoon remained there for the night receiving artillery fire without damage and when the troop was relieved on the following day it split into two groups and returned via separate routes bringing in terrain and enemy information.

Stressing maintenance of ordnance, vehicles and radios and personal hygiene on the 24th, the balance of the month was devoted to an intensive training schedule. This included the processing of all personnel through a LMG 1000" range and the firing of all weapons, stressing practice with the 60MM mortar. Exercises were conducted in (a) the dismounted platoon in the attack of a position using live mortar and rifle grenade ammunition (b) patrolling supported by mortar emphasizing teamwork, control and formations (c) occupying dug-in defensive positions on a MIR stressing the selection and preparation of positions and the full use of grazing bands of fire with maximum coverage on a final protective line.

On the 30th Troop C moved to a new location at (984062) just south of the Squadron command post vicinity of ROCHERATH.

Troop E remained in battery in EISENBORN prior to 27 October when it moved to (953059) vicinity of WIRTZFELD, BELGIUM and again went into battery position occupying the dug-in command post recently vacated by Squadron headquarters. During the period the troop fired 314 rounds of ammunition on support missions, registration of offensive and defensive concentrations, and night harrassing interdiction fire missions.

The 78th FA Bn and the 62nd Armored Artillery Bn, which relieved the 76th on the 30th, were in support of the 102nd Cavalry Group. Their fire plan was closely coordinated with that of Troop E and their F.O. officers, one of which was attached to each line troop, went out daily with patrols and performed excellent work in observing for Troop E as well as for their own guns bringing down quick and effective fire on enemy units and installations. This close support greatly increased the efficiency of the patrols by the confidence it instilled in the men. Their air O.P. was also made available to Troop E and was used to good advantage on several fire missions. Artillery missions during the period increased the number of German casualties and undoubtedly made it quite difficult for him to set up his defensive positions.

Troop E also carried on a schedule of training which included plotting.

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recording, laying of battery, use of graphical firing table, fire orders for direct fire and gun drill.

Company F remained on the right until 25 October when Troop A took over that area. With a section of S.P. tank destroyers attached it was then assigned the sector above Troop A with Troop B on its left (North). The command post was set up in lodge at (967075) approximately 600 yards of its former location. The MLP moved forward 1200 yards in this sector and aligned with adjacent units. All the tanks were immobilized in vicinity of the command post and the company operated by use of normal infantry methods remaining in this new location through the end of the month. Patrols and ambush parties were in continual operation.

On the morning that the company established its new defensive line Lt. Cullinan, of the third platoon, was placing his men on temporary outposts to screen the activities of the first platoon digging-in when a German force of about 30 men opened up with machine guns, rifles and machine pistols from an ambush position 50 to 100 yards away. Tec 4 Schandelmier was instantly killed, Sgt Paepfer was wounded and captured by the enemy and Tec 4 Soyez and Pvt Qualey were wounded. Tec 5 Bravata distinguished himself by rescuing Pvt Qualey under direct machine gun fire.

On two occasions prior to the 25th enemy patrols attempted to enter outposts under cover of darkness and each time they were driven off. On the 29th Lt. Pepper, Company Executive Officer, was badly cut about the face and arms and evacuated as a result of the accidental explosion of a tetryl blasting cap while he was preparing an anti-personnel mine with trip wire.

During the month of October the Squadron Medical Detachment under command of Captain Cantor and assisted by Captain Grosboll, in addition to normal sick call, attended to a total of 59 non-battle casualties and 16 battle casualties comprised of one killed in action, 10 wounded in action and 5 battle injuries. By the use of unoccupied houses the aid station, combined with a well organized infirmary which accommodated sick-in-quarters patients, was maintained throughout, moving from EISENBORN to (979050) in ROCHERATH on the 27th. Immunization against smallpox and the monthly physical inspection commenced on the 20th was completed on the 25th. Provision was made for eye inspections and the procurement of glasses. Those in need of dental attention were transported to the Group dentist at BUTGENBACH, BELGIUM where facilities included the repair and procurement of dentures and plates.

Headquarters and Service Troop (Rear Echelon) continued to service the Squadron from CAMP EISENBORN until the 27th when it moved to WIRTZFELD where it occupied several buildings including the school house and recreation hall. All premises taken over for use were registered with the Civil Military Police at BUTGENBACH. In this new location the various sections operated much more efficiently due to the shelter and housing. While there all personnel of the troop were organized into a Mobile Reserve commanded by the Troop Commander, Captain Marvel. It consisted of a Reserve headquarters and two platoons, one commanded by the S-4 officer, Captain Crooks, and the other by the Squadron Motor Officer, Lt. Burrow. All personnel were to carry on with their normal duties and be ready upon immediate order to proceed to a designated alert area from where they were to be dispatched on order of the Squadron Commander to whatever line unit needed their support. The Mobile Reserve Commander and the platoon leaders made a personal reconnaissance of the alert and troop areas after which a practice

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exercise was conducted.

Weekly PX rations and the usual gratuitous tobacco issue were procured and distributed to the units by the SSG, Lt. Weber. On two occasions the American Red Cross donated 1500 doughnuts to the Squadron. Movies were shown in the town recreation hall used by the troop for mess and were scheduled so that a maximum number of men from all units were able to attend.

OCTOBER-GENERAL

Very little enemy artillery was reported to have fallen in the zone and that inflicted no damage or casualties upon the squadron. On the 19th 30 to 40 rounds estimated to be 150MM fell 200 yards north of (982105). ELSENBORN was subjected to a shelling on the night of the 21st. Thirty rounds fell in and about the 85th Field Hospital killing Lt. Frances Slanger. She was first American nurse to die in action in the ETO.

Beginning 22 October robot bombs were seen and heard daily at frequent intervals by day and night, traveling west and northwest.

Unidentified aircraft were heard 17 nights out of the month but none were reported seen or heard by day. On the night of the 16th a JU88 crashed into a First U. S. Army Engineer Dump 500 yards from the Rear Echelon bivouac at CAMP ELSENBORN killing its four occupants and setting fire to a small gasoline dump.

Rain fell almost daily and frequent heavy fogs further decreased visibility in the woods. The muddy condition of the ground made some roads and fords impassable.

Enlisted personnel from the 41st Replacement Depot were temporarily assigned to the Squadron for training and were equally distributed among the line troops where they proved to be helpful and received front line experience and in some cases battle inoculation. 30 men were received on the 19th. When they were returned on the 24th 60 more were sent in.

All kitchens continued to serve hot meals to units at or near the command posts. Elements on outpost were issued 10 in 1 rations and those on patrol ate K rations.

Lts. Coleman, Dickson and Jack returned from hospital to duty. The latter two had been wounded in action and Lt. Coleman had been sick in hospital.

The Group Commander, Col. Cyrus A. Dolph, III, presented awards to members of the Squadron at two formal ceremonies. These were accompanied by music of the V Corps band, formerly the 102nd Cavalry Group band, under direction of Band Leader CWO Rech. Those decorated were as follows:

Vicinity of ELSENBORN, BELGIE - 6 October 1944

Captain Robert L. Marvel, Hq & Sv Troop Commander - Soldiers Medal
1st Lt Oliver A. P. Pepper Jr., Executive Officer, Company F - Bronze Star
1st Lt George R. Barrow, Squadron Motor Officer - Bronze Star
WOJG Carroll L. Barnett, Asst Squadron Motor Officer - Bronze Star
Sergeant Warren J. Hamilton, Hq & Sv Troop - Bronze Star

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- Tec 4 Peter R. Zamprognio, Hq & Sv Troop - Bronze Star
- Tec 5 Denver Stone, Hq & Sv Troop - Bronze Star

Vicinity of WIRTSFELD, BELGIUM - 30 October 1944

Lt Col Robert E. O'Brien Jr., Squadron Commander - Bronze Star
Captain Charles E. Rice, Troop E Commander - Silver Star
2nd Lt. Warren F. McCray, Platoon Leader, Troop A - Bronze Star
1st Sgt Eldon A. Moak, Troop E - Bronze Star
Sgt Fred Briglio, Troop A - Bronze Star
Sgt Walter L. McTague, Troop B - Bronze Star
Tec 5 Kingman K. Knapp, Med Det - Bronze Star

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