

The last week of February, 1945, was spent at Klummen, Holland, where we were housed with the liberated Dutch. The front lines were only about six air miles to the east, and though the sounds of the heavy guns were absorbed by the distance, we could watch the orange and red flashes and the pyrotechnic displays that filled the skies from dusk till dawn.

The Canadian 1st Army was hammering at Goch far to the north of us, while our 1st and 3rd Armies were to the south putting the squeeze to Julich and Düren. The snows we had encountered in our race through France, Belgium, and Holland were fast disappearing from the incessant spring rains. The whitewash coat which camouflaged our vehicles had to be removed, and that task combined with other little chores which comprise maintenance occupied our time as we awaited orders.

Two enemy planes appeared at different times over our area - hop-scotching the flak bursts and warily circling over the choice morsels that lay below. The first was driven into a protecting cloud from which he emerged going in the opposite direction. The second was less fortunate. He came in too close and too low over an outpost of .50 calibers and when he slanted downward and away from us his starboard motor was aflame.

On 25 Feb E Troop left Klummen and moved for Laak, Holland, attached to the 398th FA. Troop headquarters remained at Laak while the balance of the troop

set up an eight gun battery southeast of Linne which was a battered and beat-up town just below Roermond, occupied by infantry and the 405th FA.

Captain Hardy needed a better spot from which to direct the fire mission than the low countryside could afford - so he chose the attic of a three-story house in Linne - one that still had a roof, and by removing a couple of tiles was enabled to clearly view the target area. With his OP established, his communication system consisted of a field phone from the attic to Lt. Haflich's 2nd platoon half-track where a 528 radio and operator relayed subsequent fire orders.

The first target was a small neck of woods in which an enemy machine gun nest had been observed the previous day. After that area had been satisfactorily shelled, the 2nd concentration was another patch of woods which was still sheltering enemy opposition. During this mission Colonel Harrington appeared at the OP and witnessed the effect of our accurate indirect fire. In the same town to our right the infantry was pouring lead into another wooded sector from which a small band of Germans was trying to surrender. Each time they appeared in the open they were pinned down or driven back by the trigger-happy GIs.

That night the troop returned to Laak.

The following day we became attached to the 405 FA and returned to our battery positions at Linne. The woods near Roermond was reported occupied by enemy troops and our mission was to clear them out. We fired completely by aerial observation - performing the mission satisfactorily and thoroughly. Later reports informed us we had inflicted known casualties to the enemy to the extent of atleast six killed.

27 Feb we pulled out of Laak for ~~Susteren~~^{and} Holland, where Tr HQ joined us for Chow along the road. Immediately after we rolled toward Germany to support D troop of our squadron in a crossing of the Roer. We entered Germany for the first time at 0400 on the following morning and pulled up to our next stop-over - Galkrath- at 1115 after a road march of 38 miles. On 1 March we rolled into this crumpled town on the heels of an outfit that had slugged it out of existence. The place was in state of hasty evacuation and almost utter ruin. Still it wasn't as bad as any one of the crippled villages of France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. In us the death and destruction wrought upon the tenants of this foreign soil invoked no sympathy. If at any time we were moved to pity it was at the sight of the maimed and dying cattle - stanchioned and untended when the Big Stuff rolled in.

Persistent drizzles seemed to follow us and thwart our meager comforts. But the mild-mannered, rough-looking GIs with their inborn self-sufficiency can be comfortable anywhere. The billeting parties always provided us with roofed

quarters - and a little ingenuity produced stoves and fuel. Saddle horses and all the gear were available after duty hours to anyone who wanted to ride. Well groomed mounts were gathered from the fields, given 1st eschelon maintenance and test-run until the next H-hour. Among those who forsook the steel turret for the sweat and leather was Pvt. D.D.(Peel) Hicks of DuBois, Wyoming. Hicks, former bronc-buster and one time rodeo contestant at the Madison Square Gardens staged a twilight round-up with fellow E Troopers Sgt. Andrew Larson of Friends, Neb., T/4 Robert Atkinson of Chester, S.C., Cpl. Nick Verona, of Cleveland Ohio., Pfc. Gerard Raymond of Brunswick, Me., Pvt Woodrow Webb of El Dorado Springs, Mo., T/5 Ranvil Barker of Charleston, W.V. and Pvt. John Clark of Kansas City, Mo. These tank punchers clattered into town at the heels of a fine riata of saddle stock. Local feed bins were bursting with oats so the feed problem was nil.

When Colonel Harrington threaded his way through the rubble surveying his troops from the back of a handsome gelding he found that E Troop was back in the saddle again. Captain Hardy, like a true cavalry officer, paced a smooth gaited chestnut among his ranks. Beating his fellow officers to the punch, Lt Haflich appeared on a spirited little polo-bred mare he had found already saddled and bridled.

Improvised saddles and bridles and lack of proper gear did not quell the enthusiasm of 1st Sgt Morgan who made the chow line on time with a long-legged black between his knees. With no leather to grab he still managed to keep his steel helmet in place, his carbine slung correctly across his shoul-

ders and his messkit going jingle-jangle-jingle in lieu of spurs.

The Wild West episode ended soon, however. On 1 March Lt. Barker and Lt. Spore were sent forward with four half-tracks, four howitzers, and 38 men to support D Troop in clearing out a strip of woods at Klinkum, Germany. The rest of the troop pushed out for Amern St. George at 2300, being joined enroute by Lt. Barker and his 3rd platoon who were not needed on the Klinkum mission. St. George was actually the first civilian occupied town in which we had the pleasure of dispossessing families so we could house our troops. The unhappy tenants were given time to gather up their most portable possessions including bedding and utensils and herded off to impose upon friends and neighbors. At a certain hour they were allowed to return to feed and care for their stock and chickens. Each platoon had quarters of ^{it} their own, usually the upper or lower floor of a large house or an entire small house. Ample fuel and big kitchen stoves had a cheering effect after a cold, wet march. Lightning raids on the hen houses produced fresh eggs, which, together with hoarded canned meats and tid-bits from home, tasted like chow never tasted before.

On 3rd March at 1230 the troop left St. George on a twenty mile march to Stenden. Lt. Haverilla with six men of the 1st platoon was sent to register a battery base point at Schaep-Huysen which he accomplished at 1815 with one round. An hour later, Lt. Haflich, who, with Cpl Gallagher and Sgt Fischer had comprised the Stenden billeting party, took his 2nd platoon on a mission to a hill overlooking

Rheudt in support of D troop which had encountered 88 AT resistance. The remainder of the troop remained at Stenden and fired a mission for D troop at D's observation. After 86 rounds had been expended and reports asserted there were large explosions in the impact area, it was assumed an ammo dump had been hit and the mission was declared successful. Eight rounds of counter-battery were thrown back at us, but it was apparently unobserved and exploded harmlessly at a safe distance.

Meanwhile, Lt Haflich and his 19 men were perched on their outpost, occupying the hill at RAL19209 with D Troop. Rolled in sleeping bags and blankets sodden with a cold, penetrating rain they sweated out the daylight while the town below them sputtered and glowed. Sgt. Edward Wright of Bloomfield, Mo., and T/5 Lowell Bennett of Springfield, Mo., escaped the discomforture of the long night when they were sent back to Tr Hq with seven German PWS who had been weeded from a group of fifteen or twenty assorted foreigners found huddled in one room of a little stone house within the bivouac area.

The next morning, 4 March, the troop without the second platoon moved out of Stenden five miles to support a tank and infantry attack with elements of the 35th Infantry Division. On a town called Freiderick-Heindrich our howitzers laid an eight gun battery and lobbed 280 rounds over the heads of our infantry. The mission was declared successful when it was reported that the target, a factory, was badly damaged and the town was on fire. The battery returned to Stenden at

1915 and awaited further orders.

The same morning of the 4th Lt. Haflich and his men stowed their soggy gear long before dawn - fully expecting to be the first to storm Rheudt - and anxious to enter a place that had not been already pawed over and pilfered by a half dozen other outfits. However, our anticipation was rudely jarred. Along the road that led to the town came the Infantry- emerging from the blackness of pre-dawn in a long staggered column of twos armed to the teeth- purposeful and silent.

By the time we rolled into Rheudt with our caravan of steel the doughfeet had the situation well in hand with mortars set up in all the backyards and with communication systems nearly complete. Hours later the Infantry was still trudging into the narrow streets.

From every window fluttered a makeshift white flag of some description. The narrow, twisting lanes were crawling with olive-drab and the steel convoys that bristled with armed men. German women stood in doorways wringing their hands and weeping as their men were herded away in small groups under guard. In many cases the white flag of surrender was only a symbol. Civilian men protested vehemently and denounced the swastika. They were Poles, they said, - or Czechs - or slave laborers imported from Holland. But the imperturbable yanks kept dragging ^{THEM} from their cellars and lofts and drove them rearward to the PW enclosure for questioning.

Here, the 2nd Platoon was joined by the balance of the troop, the mission was fired on Freiderick-Heindrich,

and we all returned to Stenden.

The next day we slept until noon. During the night we had been called out on a mission to a nearby place called Schule, but it turned out to be a dry run. During the afternoon we prepared ourselves for missions ahead.

The next two days, 6 and 7 March, the troop was used, mis-used and re-used in so many places and so many times that a chronological report of events would be impossible and if attempted would result in consternation on the part of the reader. Therefore, this record will show what part each of the individual elements of E Troop played when they supported other units of the Squadron, when we drove to the west bank of the Rhine.

On the morning of the 6 March at 0600 the Squadron was placed under operational control of the 35th Infantry. The Squadron mission was to move to and start from Lintfort, working northeast to the Rhine, and taking all ground between Orsoy and Rheinberg to the west bank of the Rhine. This was to be undertaken by A, C, D, and E Troops, F Company, and one platoon of the 18th Tank Battalion.

Lt. Haverilla went forward as FO for A Troop. He took with him our one M/24, and the crew, Pfc. Burkemeier, Cpl. Woodburn, and T/4 Keiser.

Lt. Spore with an M/8 and T/4 Cannavo, Pfc. Poor, and Sgt. Byrnes went up as FO in support of D Troop.

Lt. Haflich, with his half-track, S/Sgt. Shirk, T/5 Costigan, Pfc. Thompson, Pfc. Skirvin, Pvt. Sousa, and Pfc. Neumyer was sent out as FO in support of C Troop.

Lt. Spore, leader of the 4th Platoon took his men in support of D troop. His remarks are as follows:

" As we passed through Lintfort the damage observed was largely due to the battery fire of E Troop and F company. Our squadron replaced the infantry there and was to clean out enemy resistance from Linfort to the Rhine in a northwesterly direction. Linfort was strafed and bombed just after we left by the German.

" On the first day (6 March) we were at times out of our zone because of bad roads. C Troop was on our left and A Troop on our right. There was no opposition. One prisoner was taken who informed us there were three more in a nearby farm house wanting to surrender. Machine gun fire from us helped to make up their minds and they gave up and came out. " Entering Budberg our mission was to clean out all enemy elements by a house to house campaign. In this manner fifteen more PWs were taken. T/4 Cannavo acquired the second German pistol in the troop- a P38. (Lt. Barker acquired a Luger on 4 March).

"With us at the time were two peeps, an armored car and three tanks. We saw four Nazi planes when they flew over. During that day there was no mission for E Troop's guns. "

"The next day (7 March) two miles from Budberg, Lt. Woods of D Troop and his men went dismounted to the river, leaving me as FO at a farmhouse OP. Mortar fire was drawn at which D troop requested supporting fire from E Troop.

"A patrol was sent forward with a 300 radio to relay the sensings, but the system proved entirely inadequate. Relay should be avoided if possible.

" Our first target was a building housing enemy personnel across the river. The second target was a gun emplacement, and the third was dug-in infantry. Since these target areas were successfully covered and it was getting too dark for further observation of concentrations two or three more salvos were fired into the town across the river and the mission ended."

Lt. Barker, who remained with the tanks back at the battery position asked that "----if the proper ammo is not specified in the fire orders, it would be more helpful if the type of target and mission were given the battery, and also the progress of the firing." Many times the eight gun battery fired for long periods with no knowledge of their results. To the chiefs of sections Lt. Barker said: "Keep sufficient amounts of all types of ammunition on hand at all times."

Captain Hardy, in command of the battery still at Budberg on the second day (7 March) fired all the numerous missions in and around Mehrung on the East side of the Rhine. In all 1280 rounds were expended, the results of which is included in the preceeding reports of the E Troop officers.

On 8 March the troop was called by squadron to Hinsbeck, the Division assembly area, for maintenace of vehicles and equipment and training.

Captain Hardy took the balance of E Troop on a thirteen mile jaunt from Stenden to a spot near Lintfort to set up, his battery, Tr HQ and a PW enclosure. At 1100 Lt. Barker took four howitzers and moved to an alternate position, RA 23302508.

At 1300 the other four guns at HQ received one round of counterbattery which burst 75 yards from the CP. Anticipating further observed fire Captain Hardy promptly moved out his men and vehicles, but not before 1st Sgt. Morgan, bent on making a shell report, rushed the smoking crater with compass in hand.

At 1330, while attempting a push to the Rhine to support elements of A Troop in a direct fire mission, the lead half-track struck a road mine just outside of Budberg. Other than slight concussion of the eardrums suffered by Captain Hardy and section-chief Sgt. Maxwell no casualties were inflicted, except, perhaps, a rude blow to the pride of T/5 Bliss, Staten Island, N.Y., the driver. His vehicle was rendered helpless by the loss of 1 wheel and part of the suspension system.

Two of our 88th Medics } *Sgt Bob Goodman*
 } *1/3*
 } roared up in a peep looking for business. They had heard the fireworks from nearby with D Troop who knew of the mine field and who had unsuccessfully attempted to reach us by radio. The equipment of an officer who had earlier been killed at the same spot was strewn about untouched. Civilians who had stood in their doorways calmly watching us roll into the mined area promptly

disappeared under the shelter of their roofs with assumed indifference when they heard the explosion.

Certain that these people were of pro-Nazi inclinations, Captain Hardy drafted them on the spot and made them rake and spade a driveway area suitable for the column to turn about. In this manner he was able to momentarily insure the lives of his men against immediate danger.

Pvt. John Clark, Kansas City, Mo., spotted a fine pair of Combat trousers lying out of his reach in the danger area. With his M1 as interpreter he expressed his desire for this piece of GI equipment, which was brought and delivered without delay.

Sgt. Wright, Cpl. Laverty, and Sgt. Fischer were nosing around the wood sheds at the halt. Their curiosity was rewarded when they found three Italian PWs, one wounded, who were apparently slave-labor hiding out from the Krauts. Sgt. Wright loaded them on the hood of his H/T and hustled them back to the enclosure.

Without further mishap the troop left that area and set up a four gun battery near Budberg. Half an hour later, at 1330, Lt Barker and his battery at the alternate position fired four salvos at enemy barges crossing the Rhine. Upon completion of this mission, Lt. Barker and his men joined the troop at RA2326.

Let us digress for a moment from the Troop and battery activities so we can catch up with the activities of the platoon leaders who were forward with the recon troops

as FOs. Below is the essence of a report made by Lt. Haverilla, 1st Platoon, in support of A Troop, covering his movements on 6 March.

"The Squadron mission was to clear the Rhine bulge of enemy troops. With C Troop on the Left flank, D Troop in the center, and A Troop on the right we moved towards Rheinberg where the 36th tank Battalion had been hearily massacred the night before, and where there was still heavy fighting going on in the streets.

"On the way up we took 10 Jerries and several civilians who were hiding in a coal mine. A small arsenal was in the take, including 40 rifles, several pistols, and an adequate supply of ammo.

"Orsoy was A Troop's objective. Roads were good; opposition was light since the 5th Armored Division had already gone through. One platoon of F Company and our M/24 went under a barrage of artillery fire, but other than a near miss on a buttoned up F Co. vehicle no damage was inflicted.

"A 5th Division Captain reported the Jerries were digging in across the river. We hid our vehicles, crossed the dike and used a mill-roof as an OP. Enemy activity was evident but no soldiers were observed. Before E Troop could be called upon Major Castles ordered firing suspended.

"At this time a machine gun that had been chattering intermittently across the river was silenced by mortar fire laid by Lt. Godwin's men of A Troop.

"A uniformed Jerry who could have easily been knocked off was preserved for questioning. Letting him live

proved to be a shrewd move when, by sign language and our meager knowledge of his tongue he explained there were nine other Krauts who wanted to surrender. Shortly after being released he returned with that number of his brothers, one of whom was in possession of a set of barber tools made in Racine, Wisconsin. At this point more artillery was thrown at us. Immediately the Colonel ordered us to move to a new position two miles out of Orsoy.

"By the next morning, 7 March, we had taken 21 prisoners. Lt. Godwins A troop men ran into a patrol of five Jerries on the Rhine, so they promptly killed two, captured one, while the other two got away. At this time Captain Chapman's OP reported enemy activity across the river. We ran our M/24 with no protection over about 1,000 yards of open ground, dismounted, crawled up on the dike and observed a bunch of Heinies digging in 300 yards away. Major Castles believed the situation called for something heavier than E Troop's 75s so he brought in Corps Artillery. A ~~very~~ short time later enemy ambulances were observed to be very active in the enemy held position.

"An observer for the 240mm. battalion finally gave up and quit after failing to register with 43 rounds. A call from A Troop, who wanted fire on enemy infantry, was received. With three rounds to register, an area occupied by those infantry and AT guns was covered with fire. Two AT guns were destroyed with direct hits, and one possibly destroyed. On the second concentration, 37 Jerries took off and for some unknown reason all took refuge in a stone garage.

The battery was shifted to the garage and the results of the ensuing two concentrations were devastating to the occupants. Only two enemy soldiers were seen to leave what was left of the structure.

"Since it was getting dark we directed one more concentration on that area where the AT guns had been observed. We had accomplished our part of the mission and so it ended, except that at night, after the entire troop had joined for billeting, 240 rounds were laid on the same area."

In a few additional remarks made by Lt. Haverilla at the conclusion of this informal critique he said that he thought the recon troops were inclined to be a little forgetful of the presence of FOs from another troop. Inadequate protection was afforded, and the unjudicious use of an attached element might have been disastrous had we not been blessed with a bit of luck. To which Major Castles, who was present, agreed.

Lt. Haflich, leader of the second platoon, was sent out as FO in support of C Troop. His report follows in part.

" On the first day (6 March) C troop was to operate as infantry supported by five tanks (M/24s) of F Company and the E Troop half-track and crew. There was no point peep. C Troopers carried their machine guns, draped themselves with belts of ammo and legged it. Disaster was narrowly averted early in the mission when elements ahead and to the right were unidentified but later turned out to be the 5th armored Division who was having map trouble and who had

oozed out of their zone. Many of the vehicles in our unit were massed in an open area without an attempt at dispersion. Mortar shells and time-fire from an unidentified source made the situation warmish for a while but none of it struck closer than fifty yards. Enemy observation balloons could be seen hanging in the air across the river. At times they were obscured by the columns of smoke that were belched from the shelled city. Enemy fire could be seen falling on Rheinberg nearby."

At this point Lt. Haflich and his men picked up three hollow eyed survivors of the 36th Tank Battalion whose vehicles had been burned out from under them the night before. Without infantry, they said, they had attempted to enter the city after pouring a few rounds of direct fire. Enemy bazooka teams spaced five yards apart turned their column into a row of blazing death traps. Ground mounted 88s were zeroed on every inch of the road and burp-gunners whittled at crews attempting to escape through the turrets. Later it was established it cost 29 tanks and 139 enlisted men and officers to learn the city was still in unfriendly hands.

Reports by radio said the Germans were evacuating Rheinberg by barge and boat. Other FOs on the various channels were calling for fire and the air was constantly full of artillery shells from both sides.

"At a group of farm houses," Lt. Haflich continued, "we took four prisoners which C troop sent back under guard. At a small chateau C Troop was using as a CP the chow truck was waiting for us, and our noon meal was eaten in three

phases,- from standing to kneeling to prone, because of the enemy mortar shells that punctuated our mid-day conversations. For once, no one had to be reminded to dig in. All had slit trenches, inspite of which three men suffered slight shrapnel wounds. A scant hundred yards from the messkit line a dying cow lay kicking."

That afternoon Lt. Haflich moved out again with C troop and ran into more enemy mortar fire which was also apparently unobserved. "A little later the platoon on the right flank reported they had observed dug-in emplacements and two AT guns up ahead on the dike. F company's tanks, as they moved forward, were covering the dismounted men. They crawled forward under excellent control in a wedge formation that afforded all around protection. As we progressed, the forward elements always managed to extract a few PWs from lofts and haystacks. Two of these prisoners presented an insolent manner which was in contrast to the sorry-looking majority. The arrogant ones were mere boys - with the peachfuzz in full bloom on their faces, while their eyes held an exulted look. It was over for them. As they marched by under guard they grinned derisively at the GIs who still had the whole war ahead of them. They will never know how close they came to dying on the spot - even as they smiled.

"We pushed on, while Lt Gordon and his F Company tanks deployed to engage the gun positions with direct fire. Coming to a sharp bend in the road by a small cluster of farm buildings, members of the various vehicles simultaneously noticed a Jerry at about 1000 yards coiling a cable or

rope in front of a ground mounted AT gun in plain view on top of the dike..As yet we were unobserved. Our lead tank opened fire, at which the Jerry scuttled over the dike like a rabbit, while another one a hundred yards to the left dove into a bomb shelter. The third round from F Company's tank was a direct hit which lifted the enemy gun and turned it half way around. Suddenly we were in the midst of a counter battery barrage from an undetermined source. We tucked our half-track under the shelter of the nearby buildings, while mortar and AT shells pounded the road and field. Because of the failing light and inability to pin point the source of the opposition Lt. Gordon decided to withdraw.

"Not clearly realizing his intention as his tanks roared by we remained momentarily in our sheltered position still expecting to fire a mission. Suddenly finding ourselves alone and without adequate protection we set out under fire for C Troop's CP - arriving unscathed. Pfc. Thompson, *Rockway,* *PENNA,* .50 Cal. gunner later exhibited a shiny streak on his steel helmet where the paint had been removed by an inconsiderate chunk of enemy ordnance.

"At evening chow we again drew enemy fire and during the night our billeting area rumbled and shook. Still, no casualties were ~~suffered and no casualties were~~ inflicted.

"The second day (7March) we returned to the area of the night before and called upon our battery to fire two concentrations. The dugouts and the AT installations where the activity had been observed were thoroughly shelled.

"That same morning we were ordered to support the second platoon of C Troop which was led by LT. Carr. Observers reported there were AT guns and personnel active across the Rhine in our zone. Since the distance from our new CP to the dike was only about 1500 yards we made for it on foot, taking two C Troop men as guides and their 510 for relaying fire orders. The dike was smooth, grassy, and its outline was unbroken. There was no ideal spot from which to safely observe ~~serve~~ without being seen. By slowly raising our heads we could see the flat expanse of marshy ground that led to the river. The Rhine was about 500 yards wide at the point nearest us. On the far bank, oblivious to all but their task, were mixed groups of laborers and soldiers working on emplacements, dugouts, and shelters. Nearby was a castle-like structure about which the activity seemed centered. Two hundred yards to the right was a giant conveyor of some sort and to the left of the castle was the edge of the town."

Choosing as a target that area which appeared most vital to the enemy, Lt. Haflich at this point directed the fire of E Troop's waiting battery on the entrenchments and personnel. The fire was accurate and deadly. Activity ceased after a few moments of scurrying confusion. A scant hundred yards to the right of the OP and on the east side of the dike was a concrete tower 75 feet high with a ring of windows at the top. The Jerries, knowing they were victims of indirect fire, sought to erase the source of the fire orders, namely, the FO. They put three quick rounds through the center of the tower near the top.

Moving downstream a few yards to avoid a chance mortar barrage, two more concentrations were fired in which a portion of the town was destroyed and the area surrounding the conveyor was pulverized. The accuracy obtained by the men firing the 75s was beautiful to watch. This finished another phase of ~~our~~^{THE} mission. We returned to the CP for noon chow.

Later in the afternoon we caught up with C Troop who had gone forward to join our other units operating on our left flank. In the morning we had watched them from our position on the dike and had seen them pinned down by enemy machine gun fire. The dismounted men had hugged the dirt while the point peep sprayed streams of .50s from behind a little hillock. The machine gun nest was around a bend in the dike out of our line of vision.

By the time we reached the farthest forward elements they had taken some thirty prisoners after storming a great stone house and barn on a hill. Two wounded Krauts, unable to move, lay on the straw in the cellar, while their brothers were lined up outside, hands on heads, being stripped of their equipment.

Around the corner of the house sniper fire was sizzling up the road. A and C Troopers were creeping and crawling in strictly basic fashion, until one unidentified lad, exhibiting a combination of rashness and courage, wormed to within twenty-five yards of the stove-like sniper's nest and neutralized it with hand grenades.

Colonel Harrington and Major Castles had joined this forward party and were cooking up the mission for Corps Artillery mentioned by Lt. Haverilla in his report. Under their direction big stuff was laid across the river on a factory and a string of oil cars.

Squadron aid men had pulled their peep into a crevice between two buildings. They swiftly and efficiently patched up the punctures in the hides of the few who were wounded. Only six men in the entire squadron were touched by enemy fire. On this day Death chose to wear the green uniform exclusively. From Budberg to the Rhine there were clods of that color; Inert divots of sprawling flesh embraced by the warm spring earth and tender grasses and already becoming part of them.

Before the Germans surrendered they tossed aside their rifles and flung their sidearms into a knee-deep pond. Members of A and C Troops, first on the scene, were soon the proud owners of Lugers, P38s, and the basket of every peep was bristling with the homely butts of Mauser Karbiners. While the sniper fire was at its peak T/5 Elmer Costigan, Independence, Mo., and Pfc. Arthur Skirvin of MADISON, IND., represented E Troop in the souvenir hunt and shake-down which accompanies every pitched battle. Oblivious to the singing lead that bored through the barn and hen-house they appeared from time to time dodging from door to door cradling between them a steel helmet full of fresh eggs.

Lt. Haflich and his men spaced themselves

at twenty-five yard intervals from the OP to his H/T which he had hidden in a stone barn. The object was to relay fire orders to his radio operator but the fire mission never jelled because Major Castles suspended firing at this time to call in heavier weapons.

The afternoon was on the wane and the mission of the squadron was unsuccessful. individual units were

Lt. Haflich ended his report by stating that the troop returned that day to their new CP at Linffort. He was of the same opinion as Lt. Haverilla in that he believed the recon officers of other troops seemed to be a little forgetful of the FO officers sent in their support. However, that portion of the Rhine we were assigned to-"Harrington's Pocket", as Captain Hardy called it, was taken and held.