

3RD INDORSEMENT

VOL. I, NO. 1

SOMEWHERE DEEP IN GERMANY

MAY 1945

BATTALION BATTLE-RECORD TOPS

294 COMBAT DECORATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THIRD BATTALION OFFICERS AND MEN IN TEN-AND-A-HALF MONTHS OF FIGHTING

Extreme bravery and devotion to duty has earned for officers and men of the Third Battalion a grand total of 294 awards to date.

These recognitions for courageous soldiering for the men of companies I, K, L and Hq. Third Battalion, 117th Inf., are in the following classifications:

Distinguished Service Cross...4
Silver Stars, and clusters...67
Bronze Stars, and clusters...170
Certificates of Merit.....53

(The above list is not complete, as other decorations for the battalion are still pending.)

FIRST ISSUE OF "3RD INDORSEMENT" IS SOUVENIR COPY, RECOUNTING HISTORY OF UNIT ON CONTINENT

"3rd Indorsement" is in its mailing infancy, for this is the first issue off "the press", Vol I, No 1.

The Third Battalion's fight across France, from the confining hedgerows to the open stretches of the north, into Belgium, Holland, and Germany, are told in detail in this issue.

Four Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. S. T. McDowell wants each man to have a copy to keep; you've fought the good fight; you can well be proud of your job of soldiering. Vol I, No 1 has been passed by a censoring officer so you may send it home.

And Vol I, No 2 is now being planned.
(See Last Page)

BEACHHEAD TO
ELBE: 700 MI..
4 COUNTRIES.

"ROUGH IN THE ETO", UNANIMOUS VERDICT
OF NORMANDY VETERANS

In the Heart of Germany, May, 1945. With three battle stars on their ETO ribbons pointing to their ten-and-a-half months of rugged combat, men of the famous Third Battalion of the 117th Infantry Regiment paused this week for a little checking on their great record. Commanded ably and courageously by Lt. Col. Samuel T. McDowell, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, all the way from battle scarred Omaha Beach, the fighting Third has turned in a brilliant record of accomplishment.

Third Battalion landed on the shores of Normandy on D plus 8, and moved immediately into positions along the east banks of the Vire River. Third Battalion was holding four miles of vital ground, very flat, and under constant observation and harassing sniper fire of the enemy on the far banks of the river and the Vire et Taute Canal. Besides holding, the Third devoted many hours to active patrolling.

It was here that the Regimental and battalion staffs pored over maps, coordinated, studied, and planned; for the first serious time the 117th Infantry was to begin a long career of "Push! Push! Push!" and "Attack! Attack! Attack!" by driving across the Vire!

To the tune of a popular song, men of the Third sang, "From St Jean to St Lo; wherever the doughfoots go-o-o!"

(Please turn the page)

HEDGEROWS AND HELL-HOLES

And on July 7 the 117th Infantry Regiment began to live up to its World War I name, "Breakthrough". On that date, under one of the greatest concentrations of artillery seen in this war they crossed the Vire River, a few thousand yards to the north of the crossroad town at Airel. This was destined to be the first of many successful river crossings.

The Third Battalion passed through with several casualties, and turned right to take Hill 30. Orders were passed down for the battalion to drive on to St. Jean de Daye, another crossroad town.

The Third fought into town, and turned south to take the crossroads leading from Carentan, Airel, and St Jean de Daye, and going to St. Lo.

Again the Third Battalion pushed off for southern points, astride this road and early on the 13th met one of the greatest counterattacks ever suffered by this unit. Chateau Mare de Cavigny was the area of this battle. German Panzers and Infantry broke to within point-blank range in front of the battalion, and artillery poured in from three directions.

The companies held, fought, and took all the tough, battle-hardened enemy could dish out. Col. McDowell called for artillery support to within 100 yards of his own lines. Third Battalion held its ground; the German power broke.

That battle is now lost in the vagueness that history gives to such "little pictures." But to the survivors of that fight it will always register as one of the toughest days in their entire combat experience. Their comments regarding that day will amount to some-

things much rougher, but to be summed up as "Rough in the ETO!"

In fact, the entire fight through infamous bocage or hedgerow country is definitely considered one of the roughest possibly anyplace on earth. Those days when advances were measured in gains from one field to another were rugged teachers; a man was a veteran in one day.

On the heels of their brave stand during the counterattack, again the Third pushed on. From Heights Vents and Hill 90 the "Joes" of the Third Battalion stepped into another hell of flying steel, German panzers, and artillery coming from three directions.

It was another of those scraps that made the doughfoots wish for the wide open spaces. But it was more of those confining hedgerows, where these defense-minded Krauts were prepared to hold.

Several days of this living hell paved the way for the battalion to move on and they settled down to steady, grinding advances again. On July 25th the battalion pulled back from their farthest forward lines to prepare for the saturation bombing by our planes; they were to pave the way for the now-famed St. Lo breakthrough. A tragic error sent hundreds of pounds of bombs into the Battalion's positions, and the unit was caught in another hell-hole. And they snapped back again to push on!

There followed Le Mesnil Opac; another corner of the world where the Jerries had some "Liebensraum" which they had all intentions of holding. The St. Lo breakthrough had been affected, but this particular part of the German Army had not heard about it! It was another of those bitter, grinding, grudgingly-obtained advances; but again the heroic



TURNING POINT OF WAR

pressure of determined doughs told, and Third Battalion smashed through to Tessy.

Here the battalion enjoyed its first real rest since the start on June 14th when the men unloaded from Naval Craft at St. Laurent-sur-Mer. It was now 1 Aug.

A doughnut wagon arrived; a USO show, performed on an outdoor stage, was thrown together by the A & P. Pictures were shown in an old barn. All in all, it was a good, welcome rest.

stands in the history of this war. There were bitter hand-to-hand battles, artillery duels, and thundering tank fights. The highly-touted 1st SS Adolph Hitler Division, the monkey-man's own, led into the 30th's zone. When the fury of the battle had abated, the smoke had lifted, battered Shermans and Mark IV's and V's lined the highway--the leading elements of the latter were well within the regimental zone. But they had been stopped in the smoldering hulks of the



But on the 6th they moved out--for what was to be later called the turning-point in the war by Germany's leading analysts--MORTAIN.

It was a motor move, and all the elements of a breakthrough were in the road. Eyes were cocked skyward for the 'waffe, but it never did materialize.

Third Battalion moved into positions held by a support unit in a former American division; they dug in and got on. La Valle was the location of the battalion at that time. 30th Division was in position to keep the western flank of the Falaise pocket closer.

German commanders had other ideas about how the main highway running from Mortain to Bartholmey, and on to Avranches and the sea should be used. (It was incidental to them that the highway ran through the heart of the 117th Infantry sector!) The German intention was to cut the American armies in half, and provide themselves with an escape gap.

But the 117th Infantry held its positions in one of the most gallant

stands in the history of this war. There were bitter hand-to-hand battles, artillery duels, and thundering tank fights. The highly-touted 1st SS Adolph Hitler Division, the monkey-man's own, led into the 30th's zone. When the fury of the battle had abated, the smoke had lifted, battered Shermans and Mark IV's and V's lined the highway--the leading elements of the latter were well within the regimental zone. But they had been stopped in the smoldering hulks of the

panzers lay the fallen hopes of a Nazi counteroffensive. The Hitler Division had been smashed; it was pulled out; the push to Avranches never materialized. The 117th licked its wounds, reorganized, and was ready again. This time the move was to the neighborhood of Domfront, with the Third leading. Almost immediately after the troops had dismounted from the trucks and turned north in another "button" for the Falaise pocket, the enemy was contacted and he indignantly exchanged fragments of ground for his mortar, artillery and automatic weapons fire. Machinepistols were "bur-r-ping" on all sides.

St Claire de Halouze was the end of this drive, and the battalion again settled down to a holding policy. But the attack-minded U.S. Armies were not ready to rest on their laurels.

Another rapid move by motor took the regiment to the vicinity of Brezolles. Here things began to open up, and the unit, fresh from the tight, little hedge-lined fields of Normandy, struck

"VIVE LES LIBERATEURS"

out enthusiastically. The "Dirty third" moved out on the road, and the liberation of French towns by wholesale lots began. Advances were controlled by the speed the men could walk, as they cleared out pocket after pocket of fanatical Germans, and freed town-after-town of



deliriously-happy natives. This was more like it.

Names like Corneuil, Le Chateau and Thomer La Sogne were passed so rapidly that they have passed from the memory of most men--except as a part of that good picture of happy Frenchmen, women, and pretty girls; all waving hastily-made heart-filled Allied flags, and all offering kisses, flowers, fruit and cider to the dusty, grinning doughs. It was here that they met the first "Caput les Boches" signs in quantities; they also saw the shaved-heads of collaborating girls!

Third Battalion moves so enthusiastically and so rapidly that it was not unusual for them to find that they were 6000 yards ahead of all friendly troops and at one time, even ahead of friendly artillery support. So they drove on to Avreux, and a few days later to Verdun.

Here Third Battalion again dug in and settled back--only to be uprooted by division orders to move on and exploit the bridgehead over the Seine at Pont-Gassicourt. Another rapid advance began and again the Third Battalion found itself way ahead of all of its support-

ing units. Gargenville, Montalet Labois and Frouville were rapidly gained. And even before that, the pretty little town amazingly named "US".

There had been some grumbling by now that they always fought near the big places, but other people got to go into them and see them. Paris was the place in question this time. But on this latest tour of liberation the battalion one day crossed a gutted Nazi airfield, and from it had a glimpse of distant Paris. At least they'd seen what their fighting had helped to take!

At Frouville, the battalion prepared for the crossing of the Oise at Mello, and on August 31 made that move. Across the river the battalion moved at night, and by morning were several miles beyond. An investigation of their surroundings proved that this area, Rousseuoy, was a German supply point, and huge caves full of stores were located. The battalion was quite pleased with the find--at least those big guns wouldn't be shelling the Third again!

Again they holed-up, while other elements of the division headed for Belgium on the famed task force which was to make the 30th the first Allied unit in Belgium after an opposed move of 130 miles in 72 hours. This operation has been praised by Army leaders, newspapers, allies and commentators on all sides.



4th Sept. marked the Breakthrough Regiment's entry into Belgium. There followed a foot march across the country wherein Third Battalion averaged 25

SIEGFRIED LINE "KAFUT"

riles daily for three days, heading east! Stopping points along the way for Third Battalion were: Merlin, Rouillon, Couvrot, Mousty, Notre-Dame, Otrange, Flexhe, les Slins.

And then on Sept. 12th Third Battalion passed north of Liege, and crossed into Wise, Holland over the Albert Canal. Again Old Hickory was the first allied unit in the country.

Driving north against spotty, but determined resistance, the Third moved through Mosch, Terolift, and while the Second Battalion cleared Maantricht, the Third pushed on to the vicinity of Strought.

"ON TO HOLLAND"



Heerlen received the advancing Yanks into their midst on Sept. 17, and commemorated the event in beautiful pottery and other souvenirs which the Third Battalion men gathered up in later passes to the city.

There was no pause in Heerlen for the battalion, and the unit pushed on into Ubachsberg and Schaesberg, and there settled for the last night off German soil, Sept. 18.

In early afternoon of Sept. 19, Third Battalion forward elements entered Scherpenseel against light opposition. Here was the objective at last! But Berlin was a long, rough road ahead.

And that is why on Oct. 2 the Regiment jumped off for the first crack at the Siegfried line in this sector. First Battalion forced a bridgehead across the narrow Wurm River, and battled into Palenburg. On the 3rd Third Battalion passed through them, and against stiff and fantastically determined resistance--mostly from

pillboxes of the Siegfried line--the unit moved into Ubach and cleaned it out in bitter house-to-house fighting. The Third reached town at dusk, and there set up the defense. Beginning at 0400 on the 4th, and continuing until 1600, Third Battalion was subjected to a powerful counterattack. It was incessant, and all day long artillery poured into Ubach. One platoon of Company K was overrun, but kept fighting and regained the ground. It won the entire platoon Certificates of Merit.

The battalion did not give up any of its hard-earned ground, and on the morning of the 7th the unit drove on to Zu Ubach. By nightfall the town was firmly in their hands, and the Third was ordered to drive on to Alsdorf. It was a large industrial town about 1500 yards south, across wide open ground.



This was what the men had dreamed of and prayed for back in hedgerow country. But now, a few confided to each other that a good hedgerow with lots of cover might look mighty good on that open stretch.

Speed was the essential, so platoon leaders in companies on opposite sides of the road made a bet on which outfit would be on the objective first. With pep and skill they sped into Alsdorf, catching the defenders completely off-balance, and for proof they grabbed the enemy battalion commander's jeep. His radio was still barking out orders!

PERFECT INFANTRY ATTACK!

Again the Third set up for the night, and except for a stray German half-track which came in and was blown-up (by three separate claimants!) and the usual quantity of artillery, the night passed quietly.

Came the fateful morning of the 9th, and Third Battalion was ordered on to Mariadorf, the next town south. The American attack jumped off on schedule--but so did a German attack from Mariadorf, and the Yanks were caught in the opponent's trap. Casualties were heavy, and the opposition was many times more powerful than the Third Battalion force.



In the heat of the fight, Col. McDowell moved his OP well-forward--as was his practice all the way from the bloody beaches of Normandy. He selected a three-story schoolhouse in the forward edge of town, and set up shop. As the German attack caught the Battalion frontally, another group of enemy riflemen, estimated at a reinforced platoon supported by at least four assault guns (75's on Mark III chassis) came in.

The OP was directly in its line of attack. Col. McDowell ordered everyman of his small "force" to a post at a window, and they waited.

As the Colonel and his OP group picked off the riflemen, a supporting TD worked on the assault guns. The closest one was k.o'd only 200 yards from the OP!

It is a matter of battalion history now that the OP held, and that the CO personally accounted for 4 riflemen, and his group putting 20 out of the war--permanently. The action won for every member of the OP group a Bronze Star. It definitely saved the battalion flank.

And there in Alsdorf and Wilhelmshacht the battalion remained and trained and rested, while Aachen was being reduced to the south, and American armies were regrouping for further assaults on the Reich.

The capture of Alsdorf and other towns on the line officially closed the Aachen Gap.

A new chapter in Third Battalion battles was opened Nov. 16 when the unit drove for Mariadorf again. Fields were heavily mined, and there was lots of artillery, but the battalion moved to the objective at dark.

That greatly-desired title---very elusive and seldom obtained, "Perfect Infantry Attack" was finally pinned on Third Battalion's reduction of the fortress village of St. Joris.

"PERFECT!"



The perfect maneuver was made Nov. 19 with little opposition from the completely-baffled defenders. One-half hour after the jump-off, the town was in the hands of the Third! The entire German battalion staff was taken; the next day soldiers and civilians read of this perfect attack.

Terrain between Mariadorf and St.

SNOW, THE BULGE, AND THE 1ST SS

Joris was flat and open. As the Hq. Co. first sergeant put it, "You could see for three days." A jeep driver agreed. He said that riding across that field was "Like driving a vehicle that towed targets on the range--without the target!"

After their perfect attack, the battalion moved into Mariadorf's suburbs in "Paper Village." They named this workers' settlement that because of the thin-walled, hastily constructed nature of the tiny houses.

The quiet and reverie of this thoroughly-appreciated rest area was disrupted when on Dec. 17 came orders to load up on trucks and go south! Von Runstodt's winter offensive had begun!

Promptly at 1900 Third Battalion was loaded, and heading for Malmédy, Belgium. It was soon pitch black, and the unit had only sketchy reports of what lay ahead. They reached Malmédy, believed by many headquarters to be in enemy hands. Without benefit of reconnaissance, the Third Battalion set up a hasty defense of the town at daybreak of the 18th. They were ready.

On the 19th the Third was moved to Ruy by truck, and there given the mission of taking and holding all the villages in the sector. These included Moulin du Ruy, Roanne and La Gleize!

And they were all taken in turn, La Gleize alone furnishing real resistance. The total list of enemy equipment taken there is still cause for amazement and disbelief.

Next Col. McDowell's unit was ordered to cross the steep, snow-

covered hills into Parfondry, Ster, Stavelot and Trois-Ponts. The weather was bitterly cold, and the troops suffered as much from it as they did from enemy action.

It was at Stavelot that the Break-through regiment met, and again defeated the 1st SS Adolph Hitler Division in a head-on encounter. This feat earned the Nazi propaganda title "Roosevelt's Fanatically-Trained SS Division." Col. Walter M. Johnson's 117th Infantry was not so sure it liked the idea of being classed as anything as low as a Nazi SS type, but they realized that it was in the nature of a compliment when it came from this land of goose-steppers; so they rather fancied the title.

For that reason newspapers in the States mistakenly gained the impression that the division had adopted the change suggested by Axis Sally. But the Third Battalion was still too proud of that "Old Hickory." They were not willing to turn it in so quickly on a German choice.

Atrocities and tragedy were plainly visible to Third Battalion fighting men when they entered Parfondry and Ster. It made them angry within, and the members of the 1st SS who strayed into Third Battalion's wooded sector found it out. After a short rest and reorganization

behind the lines near Spa, the Regiment jumped off from Malmédy, thru Geromont, Five-Points and Ligneville, and on to Road Block 21. The fight was bitter here, and the cold was "Terrible," as far as the men were concerned.

At famous Road Block 2



RIVER CROSSERS DE-LUXE

the Germans contested every inch of ground as the Third Battalion pushed forward. Tanks and assault guns gave much trouble, but as always, the Third drove through and took their objective. Digging foxholes was a new problem in the Battle of the Bulge because the shovels would not penetrate the frozen ground. Dynamite had to be utilized for the operation.

There followed a short sojourn in Recht, then Arbrefontaine. And finally on 3rd Feb the battalion moved back into Germany, this time into Haren, battered suburb of Aachen. Fronhoven, followed as the unit's bivouac area.

Old Hickory jumped the Roer River in the toughest location, and after other units had gained their bridgehead, Third Battalion moved into Niederzier. They jumped off for the key crossroads town Steinstrass. But this was not a simple move of occupation.

The German defenders had no intention of letting this fortified settlement go without a fight. In the edge of the woods a few hundred yards out of Niederzier, the tank-riding infantrymen of the Third ran into heavy concentrations of mortar, artillery and automatic weapons fire. Enemy anti-aircraft gunners had depressed their weapons and were firing them on personnel with deadly effect.

It was another fight that can only be described as bitter, but Col. McDowell's men drove into the town, cleared it of all defenders, and set up their defense. This was accomplished just in time to meet an enemy attack head-on. The attack was from the southeast, but was effectively beaten off. Third battalion took Steinstrass Feb. 26.

On the 27th the "Dirty third" left Obrembt at dark and raced for Klein-

troisdorf. The latter village was thoroughly deloused by midnight, and the unit prepared for the night.

Bedburg was the next move for the Third, and 1st March found them there, cleaning out snipers and taking Lipp in the bargain.

A rapid truck move on 2 March took the Battalion to a right flank defensive position near Holsheir. And there the battalion remained until it was pulled back to the Maas River for training for another river crossing--RHINE!

And cross it the Regiment did in the early hours of the morning, 24 March, with the First Battalion assaulting. By 1100 that morning the Third was also completely across

the last great natural barrier to Berlin!

Spellen was the first stop east of the Rhine for the Third Battalion. From there the men attacked in a rapid advance to Bühren, and swept aside fierce resistance to the great, unfinished Autobahn. The attack progressed across this obstacle and up toward Besten. Again in the battalion's area the enemy used his depressed anti-aircraft guns on troops with vicious results. Again the resistance was contested and stubborn.

But Besten was taken. The crust had been broken! Third Battalion settled down to hot chow and rest again.

The rest was short-lived, 30th Division was sorely needed to follow up the now loosened armor, to hold flanks, exploit gains, clean out pockets, and to police towns.

It was a great change for a unit that had battled for days for a slight scrap of ground in hedgerow-land. This was what they had dreamed of, and had experienced before in Northern France,



PIERCE ROAD BLOCK 2

- CONCLUSIONS -

Belgium and Holland.

Roadblocks were established in Lemgo, but Hameln needed to be cleared of a goodly number of fanatics who were still there where the racing armor had left them.

117th moved in to the attack, with The Third Battalion leading, and these veterans of ten months made quick work of the rats in Hameln left by the original Pied Piper!

The heavily-wooded area at

Dorpe was the next clean-up campaign assigned to Col. McDowell's 3rd. The job was handled effectively, hundreds of prisoners were taken, and again the battalion moved on to greener pastures.

Brunswick! It was here that the German commander chose to fight rather than surrender to commander, Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs. And on the night of the 12th, the 117th had taken the great German city. The Third's zone was right through the heart of the city.

And on the 13th when the remainder of the regiment moved out, the third was retained to "Occupy and govern" the city until other troops could move in to take over the job. It was a job, but was unanimously commended as quite a welcome change after months of fighting.

As combination MPs and Burgomeisters the dirty third occupied Braunschweig until recalled to the regiment at Angern on 15 April.

One of the most gratifying features since the Battalion crossed the Rhine was the recovery of thousands of allied prisoners of war, and the visible joy of these men freed at last. Forced laborers were just as happy, and the hardened Normandy-Belgium--Holland-Siegfried line-Bulge-Rhin Rhine veterans felt mighty good inside! Liberated French, Belgians, and Hollanders had been happy but these were soldiers who

themselves; Third Battalion was moved and pleased.

And last came the orders to clean out Magdeburg, one of the largest German cities, and strategically situated on the Elbe River--the last line before Berlin! The regiment went about the job enthusiastically and well. On 20 April Magdeburg was theirs. Units were assigned sections of towns as in Brunswick to govern and control. The mission was carried out skillfully.

It's easy to put those ten and a half months of combat on paper. The soldiers know better 3rd Bn. 117th Inf. 30th Division is proud of its part in the story, and each one joins with the writer in dedicating this story of their brilliant record to all of those comrades who fell that it might be so.



INDORSEMENT

A REAL SOUVENIR

You read on the first page of this INDORSEMENT that this Vol I, No 1 is a souvenir issue entirely. It is, and that is why you will find only reference to your great record, and the little items along the way that made it so.

Being of a souvenir nature as it is, it seemed fitting to find some "Souvenir" materials from which to print it. And that is what we did.

Most of the equipment used in the micrographing process is captured German Army stuff, gathered from here and there, beginning with the first "deposit" which was picked up in France, just across the Seine River, when Jerry supplies were overrun.

And the Wehrmacht also "supplied" the stencils for the job. This time in the famous Bulge. It was on the Third Battalion's drive to Road Block 2 and beyond that some American stencils were overrun--material that the Krauts had themselves taken from Yank units in the initial push. So we are returning them to you.

WHAT! NO EDITORIAL?

Many of you will miss an editorial in this issue--if you are of that species of American who bothers to read them. But here's the way we felt about the subject: the history told here, history that you and other members of Colonel Walter M. Johnson's 117th Infantry have made, packs all the editorials needed. It shows what good training, good soldiering, good discipline, and fighting for a real cause can do. Your achievements have their own editorial punch!

MAP OF ITINERARY INCLUDED

So that you can check as you recall your "tour of the Continent" a little more easily, we have included in the features of this special issue, a map on which we have superimposed your route. The most important points along the way are recorded.

(Contd. middle col. 2)

COMMISSIONS

BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS FOR WORTHY MEN

Mine Battalion NCO's Given Gold Bars

Rewarded by their battalion for superior qualities of leadership displayed in combat, nine non-commissioned officers of the Third Battalion have been given battlefield commissions.

Listed below are the men who have received these battlefield promotions, dates of commission, and home town:

1st Lt. Arthur Vest, 12-13-44, Batavia, Illinois; 2nd Lt. Murray G. Kemp, 2-14-45, Dyersburg, Tennessee; 1st Lt. Walter S. Simmons, 2-14-45, Royal Oaks, Mich.; 2nd Lt. Ronald C. Johnson, 2-14-45, Pasadena, California; 2nd Lt. Jerome Barkett, 2-18-45, Beckman, West Virginia; 2nd Lt. James H. Waldrop, 3-13-45, Jackson, Tennessee; 2nd Lt. John S. Cash, 3-23-45, Jackson, Tennessee; 2nd Lt. Larry Taylor, 4-1-45, Friendship, Tenn.; 2nd Lt. George Vandell, 4-1-45, Jackson Tennessee.

MAP (Cont. from Col. 1)

If you want to make the map into one sheet--we had to put it on two so you could see the writing--here are the directions: Just be sure that the little black squares, on the right edge of sheet 1 are lined up with those of sheet 2; you've got it made!

NOW THE INEVITABLE

We have yet to see a paper which doesn't ask for reader-participation. And we won't be different. If you want 3RD INDORSEMENT to be truly representative of the Third Battalion; 117th Infantry, give us a hand!

Copy of all kinds--cartoons, stories, poems, features, ideas--anything to help the INDORSEMENT will be needed.

To get your copy started in the right direction, send it thru message center in an envelope--or on a scrap of paper--to Battalion Adjutant or to Capt. Wm. P. Buttler who will act as adviser when a staff has been assembled.

Okay? Then let's get behind it and P-U-S-H!

ITINERARY-3RD. BN.

BELGIUM

ENGLISH CHANNEL

MERLIN

CAMBRAI

Verdun

EVREUX

BREZOLLES

Neuilly en Thielle

MANT S- GASSICOURT

Am. PARIS

OMAHA D + 8

ST JEAN de D.VE

AIREL

ST LO

Lesnil Opac

ELSSY

MORTAIN

ST CLAIRE

OMAHA

ST JEAN de D.VE

AIREL

ST LO

Le LESNIL OPAC

On To MORTAIN!

*St. Raphael's Station
Ground "X" Co.
Aug. 18, 1944*

(Sheet 1)

LEGEND-

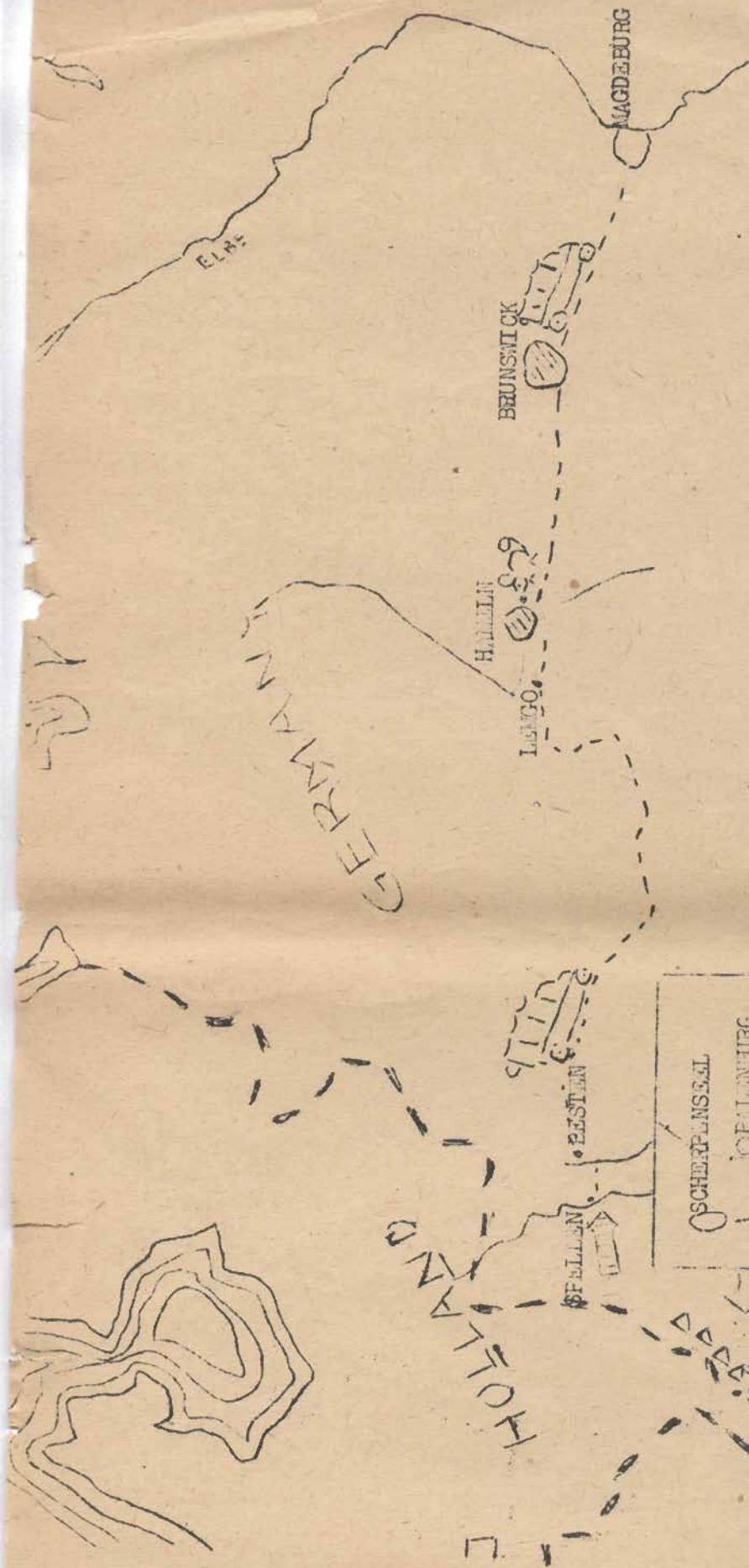
The entire area of the Hedgecrows experienced by Third Battalion, 117th Infantry is circled-the toughest of all!

Old Lan P. W. E. R. on 88 Boulevard.

Pre-ST LO Bombing

MOTOR MOVE

82 - FOOT MOVE



"TOUR OF CONTINENT"

June 14, 1944 to May 1945
14th 3rd Bn, 117th Infantry

(Sheet 2)