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HEADQUARTERS
46TH MEDICAL BATTALION ARMORED
A.P.O. 254, U.S. Army

BATTALION HISTORY 1 August - 14 August 1944

On 1 August Company B under the command of Capt JOSEPH C. MAUCERI, was in support of Combat Command "A" and Company A under the command of Capt BROOKS H. BISHOP, was in support of Combat Command "B". Hq & Hq Co., and Company C were in 4th Armored Division Trains area near LA ROCHELLE.

The Combat Commands were moving Southward and the two Medical Companies shuttled forward on the route of advance. This movement continued until 7 August. On that date Combat Command "A" was located just North of VANNES and Combat Command "B" was located North of LORIENT. Company B was located 3 miles North of VANNES and Company "A" was located 6 miles Northwest of LORAINNE. The positions remained static until 14 August.

During this 14 day period approximately 950 casualties from the Fourth Armored Division and attached Units passed through our clearing platoons. In addition to these there were numerous German prisoners of War treated in our stations.

On 7 August sixteen Medical Department enlisted men were assigned to the Battalion for interview by Major EARL MERICLE, Division Psychiatrist, who reassigned them to Medical Detachments in the Division. On 12 August ten more Medical Department enlisted men were assigned and later reassigned by Major MERICLE.

On 12 August Tec 5 Theodor Bartol, 33138332, Company "A" was accidentally shot by a member of the Free French of the Interior and died almost immediately. 1st Lieut FRANCIS B. ROSER, 01533663, MAC, was wounded in action on 7 August and evacuated to the 35th Evacuation Hospital. These were the only serious battle casualties to-date. Two men, Tec 5 Virgil Farlee and Pvt George C. Regan were lightly wounded in action and received the Purple Heart during this period.

Prisoners captured to date: Three Germans surrendered to Capt HERMAN R. COHN, Bn S-3, who turned them over to the 24th Armd Eng.

For the Battalion Commander:

Francis G. Hodge
FRANCIS G. HODGE
1st Lieut, MAC
Adjutant.



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DOD Dir. 6200.9, Sept. 27, 1958
NWD by *BZ* date *June 6/*

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HEADQUARTERS
46TH MEDICAL BATTALION ARMORED
A.P.O. 254, U.S. Army

BATTALION HISTORY PERIOD 15 - 31 AUGUST 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Headquarters under the command of Lt Colonel ROBERT E. MAILLIARD, and Headquarters Company under the command of Capt FREDERICK B. LEA, plus one reserve company remained in the general location of TRAINS, 4TH ARMORED DIVISION for the entire period.

Ambulances from forward installations returning with patients for the reserve company submitted consolidated requisitions from the Detachments and supporting Medical Company for supplies. These requisitions were filled immediately and returned by the same vehicle. The supplies destined for the Detachments were taken to the collecting point established by the Ambulance platoon, for distribution from that installation. In some instances, Detachments called upon the supporting Company to replenish their depleted or captured supplies. This situation was met by increasing the supplies of the attached medical support. Other items of issue have been supplied through the S-4 of the Combat Commands; a system that has proven satisfactory, due to the fact that during some operations, it is impracticable for the Ration and Supply section of Headquarters Company to reach forward installations.

Captured enemy medical equipment has increased the efficiency and the scope of work that can be accomplished in the clearing stations. This is especially true with dental work. In the near future, repairs will be made to dentures; an operation heretofore impossible because of the lack of equipment.

A high priority has been established for the repair of broken glasses. The efficiency is so great that only one day is necessary to complete the repair and return of the glasses to the individual.

First echelon and company maintenance has been excellent throughout the command. This is evident by the small number of major repair jobs diverted to the attention of Battalion maintenance. During operations that are slow in progressing, the Battalion has sent maintenance sections to the companies supporting combat commands for a general check up. This procedure has prohibited the development of major breakdowns.

Communications within the organization and with other units of the Division has been excellent. All radios are open twenty-four hours daily, with orders to the effect that all stations will report to the Net Control Station on the hour. This procedure insured contact at all times. Enemy "jamming" has caused interference and in some instances prevented

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the receipt of messages. When radio failed, messages sent via returning ambulances were proven to be of extreme value. At no time during this period was headquarters been out of communication with either Company in support.

Medical treatment offered slightly wounded and combat exhaustion cases in the reserve company has proven to be of great benefit in conserving the trained manpower of the Division. Transportable patients are retained in this installation rather than evacuated to the rear and becoming a total loss to the Division. During this 16 day period 85 patients were discharged from the reserve company and sent to their respective units for duty.

COMPANY "A":

On 15 August, Company "A", under the command of Capt BROOKS H. BISHOP and in support of Combat Command "B", moved out of bivouac 1.5 miles east of Daud, France at 1420 on an extended march east. The company travelled 248 miles to reach their new bivouac area at 1800 on 16 August, 1 mile west of Pruney. Locmine, Guer, Bain-D-Bretagne, Chateau Briant, Le Lion-D-Angers, Sable, La Fleche and Chateaufrenault were some of the larger towns and cities on the route travelled. No casualties occurred within the company. Orders were received on the 17th that company "A" was to be placed in reserve and company "C" was to assume the responsibility for medical support of CC "B". The company moved out at 1615 and reached its destination 1.6 miles north of SASNIERES at 1645. This location was previously selected by Headquarters 46, also bivouaced in the immediate area. From the 18th to 21st of August, the company remained in this area treating convalescent patients that were returned by Companies "B" & "C" from their respective combat commands. On the 22nd, headquarters and company "A" moved to a new bivouac 0.6 miles north of Bucy St. Liphard, a distance of about 50 miles; closing into the area at 1645 with no casualties. The 23rd was spent treating the convalescent patients and accomplishing motor maintenance. From this area, the two units moved on the 24th, 81 miles east to a new location 3.2 miles northeast of Courtenay, arriving at 1855 with no casualties. The next day was spent treating those patients whose conditions did not permit a return to duty. The following day, the units moved 30 miles to a new bivouac 3.2 miles west of Villeneuve on highway GC 46, closing into the area at 1130.

Orders were received on the 27th to relieve company "B", then in support of CC "A" and located 0.6 miles north of Vailly, France. Company "A" marched to this area bivouacing at a previously selected site. The distance travelled was 60 miles. The following day, the company moved out to the east in support of CC "A" to a new bivouac 0.5 miles north of Longevas, France, closing in at approximately 2140. This day the company covered some 70 miles of newly liberated country. The combat command remained in this same location on the 29th to perform its maintenance and await the arrival of supplies for the operation to follow on the 30th. This operation necessitated the movement of the Medical Company to a new location 1.2 miles north of Parthes, France on Highway N4. The unit closed into this area at 1430 with 35 miles of liberated France to its rear. The 31st brought more orders for movement to support the fast moving CC. A new area was selected 0.5 miles

east of Commercy, France and the company closed into bivouac at 1730.

During the period of 15-31 August, the Company suffered no losses due to Battle or Non-Battle casualties. The unit treated 37 Battle and 106 Non-Battle casualties of other units.

COMPANY "B":

Company "B", under the command of Capt JOSEPH C. MAUGERI, was in support of CC "A" on the 15th of August. The CC was on an extended march which started from an area 9.5 miles south of Nozay at 0945 on the 14th to a bivouac some 175 miles east. The journey terminated at 0630 on the 15th with the company in location 3.5 miles east of St. Calais. Later in the morning orders were received that the CC was to move for an attack, necessitating a new bivouac for the supporting medical unit. A site 0.5 miles west of Coulmeers was selected and the company closed in for the night at approximately 1845, a total distance of 200 miles from Nozay. A collecting point, consisting of 4 ambulances was established 2 miles north of Ormes to shorten the haul from the Battalion Aid Stations. Usual evacuation proceeded on the 16th with no difficulties in the accomplishment. One officer, 32 EM and 15 ambulances from the 583rd Ambulance Company relieved the same composition from the 580th Ambulance Company at 1200. This organization was used in the evacuation of casualties to Corps installations. On the 17th the company moved from Coulmeers to 1 mile northwest of Ormes and established a collecting point 2 miles east of Saran to insure evacuation from the second column which was attacking Orleans from a northwesterly direction. The situation remained static for the next three days. Normal evacuation was carried out and all the spare time was utilized for personal hygiene and motor maintenance in preparation for the next movement. On the 21st, the company left its bivouac at 0900 and was enroute the remainder of the day and part of the night. At 2200, the unit closed into bivouac about 0.8 miles south of Fontain Le Gaillard after travelling a distance of approximately 100 miles. The situation again remained static for three days. During this period casualties from the combat elements were few, allowing for the usual maintenance and personal hygiene after a long march.

During the evening of the 24th, orders were received to be prepared to move the following morning. The operation consisted of two columns moving on Troyes, France from the west. This maneuver necessitated the splitting of the medical support into two sections. Supplies and ambulances were sent with the south column; the remainder of the company following the northerly advance. More opposition was encountered in the southern column and it became necessary to send a medical detachment with a Surgical Truck and ambulances to offer more medical support. This unit moved at 2000 and reached the southern column about 2100. The advance was slow and a final bivouac was reached on the 26th at 1145, 0.8 miles southeast of Vailly.

Orders were received the following day that Company "A" of the Battalion was to assume the medical support of the CC. Company "B"

moved on the 28th to 0.5 miles north of Creney where the treatment of convalescent patients and extensive motor maintenance was performed. Company "B" remained in this location for the remainder of the month along with Headquarters, 46.

During this period, Captain JOSEPH C. MAUCERI, MC, was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy, 28 July 1944 - 28 August 1944, France. Captain MAUCERI entered military service from New York.

The Silver Star was awarded to 1st Lieut JOSEPH A. CONWAY, MAC, for gallantry in action against the enemy during the period of 20 July 1944 at Raids, France. 1st Lieut CONWAY entered military service from New York.

The unit suffered no casualties during these operations. One hundred and seventy-seven (177) Non-Battle casualties and one hundred eighty-five (185) Battle casualties of which one hundred and three (103) were prisoners of war, were admitted to the Clearing Station.

COMPANY "C":

Company "C" commanded by Capt FRANK P. SMITH, and Headquarters on 15 August were located 3 miles northeast of Vannes. In this area Company "C" maintained a treatment section for convalescent patients. These units moved out on the 17th passing through Rochefort, Bain de Bretagne and St. Clais to a new bivouac area 1.5 miles north of Sasnières on highway GC 8.

Orders were issued on the 17th committing Company "C" to support CC "B". The march was only six miles to a site 0.9 miles west of Prunay from which the Medical service was established. Company "A" then rejoined Headquarters as the reserve company to administer treatment for the convalescent cases.

CC "B" was given the mission by XX Corps to keep the enemy in the "Falaise Pocket" from driving south of Paris. This mission necessitated moving 130 miles through Vibraye, La Ferte Bernard, Nogent-Le-Rotrou, to a small hamlet of La Loupe where treatment station was established 2 miles east of town on highway N 820. The situation remained the same on the 19th with few casualties resulting from the operation. On the 20th the orders were given to return via the same route to a small town of La Jouannière, where the Treatment Station was opened 1 mile south of the town. This order resulted in CC "B" reverting to XII Corps control and the movement was necessary to return to the division area. The 21st was spent on motor maintenance and personal hygiene since no movement was contemplated until the 22nd when CC "B" was given the mission of taking and holding Montargis and Courtenay. The company marched 103 miles to the bivouac area 0.6 miles south of Ervauville. The next two days the combat elements completed their mission and casualties were few for the type of operation. In this particular phase more enemy casualties were admitted than our own. On the 25th the unit moved through Courtenay, Villechétive, and Dille to an area 1 mile north of Eaux Puiseaux to support the CC taking St. Florentine which was accomplished

before nightfall. Action was static on the 26th and 27th except for the heroic and meritorious services of Lieut EMIL POLLAK and his platoon who received orders to evacuate wounded from the city of Troyes. 1st Lieut EMIL POLLAK was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action against the enemy during the period 26-27 August at Troyes, France. Lieut POLLAK entered military service from New York.

CC "B" was given the mission of protecting the right flank of XII Corps on the 28th of August. The company was forced to move during this operation, which lasted three days, to the area 1.4 miles northwest of Poney and later to the area 1 mile west of Brienne-Le-Chat. On the 31st, CC "B" was given the mission of taking and holding Vancouleurs necessitating the movement of the Medical Company to 1 mile east of Faye. During this operation the movement of the Combat Elements was hampered by the blowing of a bridge by the enemy. 154 casualties of which 63 were prisoners of war were admitted to the Clearing Station during this phase. No casualties resulted within the company.

The following commentary on the operations of Company "B" while in support of the Combat Command is applicable to all Medical Companies of this unit:

PERIOD 15-31 AUGUST:

In this period several large marches were made and, though our casualties were less numerous, the wounds received were more serious in extent and a grave problem arose. A number of these men were classified as non-transportable, however because of the rapidity of the advance and the necessity of seeking protection from our combat units, many of these non-transportables were carried forward until such time as they could be prepared for evacuation.

On several occasions we were unable to evacuate because of enemy patrols in our rear. On two such occasions we were forced to do abdominal surgery for gunshot wounds which were penetrating. The first one was a French civilian found to have a perforated mesenteric artery. Because of a march order, it was necessary to evacuate the following day. His condition was fair on entrance to the hospital. The second case was done on an American soldier because of a similar situation. A resection of the small intestine was done and an exteriorization of the colon. Likewise we were forced to evacuate him in twenty four hours after surgery.

There were several instances of perforating chest and abdominal wounds, the majority in German prisoners, we were unable to operate upon and unable to evacuate for several hours. Two such cases expired in our station.

During this period there was a noticeable decrease in exhaustion cases and a minimum of disease.

In general, it was found that in this type of operation, casualties whether transportable or not, had to be carried forward. Consequently the most expedient measures for the control of shock had to be given. It was necessary to keep in mind, at all times, the combat units ahead and to supply them with the necessary medical support.

Collecting Platoon Operation During Period 15-31 August 1944:

During the operation there was no specific plan used. Whatever means seemed most expeditious at the time were used. However some general statements can be made. The unit never camouflaged an installation. All halts and bivouacs found the company deployed in open fields adjacent to good road networks but always far enough away from them for maximum passive air defense. On the march medical treatment was provided by pulling an operating body to one side. After treatment, the patients were carried forward. Ambulances were detached riding near higher headquarters convenient to radio vehicles. Casualties were immediately evacuated to treatment vehicles in the rear. At times tactical situations demanded dividing the medical company in equal parts to provide adequate medical support for each tactical command. This plan worked favorably and evacuation and treatment were carried out efficiently. The question of providing sufficient support to each column is a difficult one. Even when separate tactical columns have the bulk of the combat elements that column has had the least number of casualties. Such circumstances should be anticipated and the medical unit made ready at a moment's notice for proper medical attention. On several long thrusts into enemy lines the evacuation hospitals were too far behind for efficient evacuation from our treatment station. In this situation civilian hospitals were employed using our own personnel and supplies until such time as roads to the rear were cleared.

The collecting platoon on the march functioned as follows; 2 Ambulances were placed at the disposal of the combat command surgeon near a radio vehicle of command headquarters. These were convenient to the forward elements and served immediate evacuation for the detachments forward. The bulk of the platoon and ambulances (8) rode in the rear with the company and served to care for casualties throughout the column. Once the units were engaged the collecting platoon set up a collecting point with 4-6 ambulances. This point was chosen on road networks common to all units. The detachments were evacuated directly by these ambulances. This served the prompt and efficient evacuation between medical detachments and the treatment platoon. In most operations both collecting platoon and treatment platoon were within artillery range. This situation seems inevitable for medical installations that mean to serve armor efficiently. In many cases it was necessary to locate our installations within a "ring of safety" provided by the combat command. On one occasion several medical vehicles were detained by enemy elements crossing the column in the rear. On subsequent operations support was provided at our rear and no difficulties were encountered, again. It is the opinion of this unit that the Germans respect the Red Cross. The opportunity to attack from the ground as well as the air has often been presented to the German. However, we have no evidence to feel that the Red Cross is meaningless.

In spite of our rapid and long advances we have not been lacking in supplies of any kind. Medical supplies were anticipated by all medical elements of the Division. These supplies were brought forward to the Treatment Platoon by the Headquarters Section of the Medical Company. Ambulances returning to the Collecting Point then delivered the supplies directly to the Detachments. However, it may be said that had the unit not been carrying additional medical supplies over and above normal overages it may have proved embarrassing in several instances.

The successful operation could not have been achieved had it not been for the spirit of co-operation on the part of all personnel. Kitchen help often found themselves administering aid when the station was overrun with casualties. Emphasis in basic training to enable individuals to perform several jobs proficiently saved the day for us.

Since the Medical Company has been forced to carry patients forward it is recommended that the unit be given more transportation. The question of carrying sufficient supplies forward also requires additional vehicles.

For the Battalion Commander:

Raymond E. Hamlin
RAYMOND E. HAMLIN
1st Lieut, MAC
Adjutant.