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

3 December 1944.

Battalion History Period 1 November-30 November 1944:

The Division, during the first ten days of the month was not committed in battle. All companies of the Battalion took advantage of passes to nearby communities and partook of all recreational opportunities. Supply and motor maintenance was stressed, both functions being brought to high standards.

Company A, in support of Combat Command A, and Company B, in support of Combat Command B, were committed on 10th November, when the Division attacked in a northeasterly direction from St. Nicolas, France toward Saar Union, France. Progress was slow because of two main counteracting factors, namely, the well dug in positions held by the enemy and the adverse weather conditions. Rain and snow turned fields into a sea of mud, slowing all advances to practically a stand still.

During the last twenty days of operations, the Clearing Stations of both A and B Companies, have encountered and evacuated numerous cases of Trench Feet, 458 in number, brought about by inclement weather conditions. Facilities for preventing the disease have been presented by Higher Headquarters. Issuance of clean socks, arctics, shoes and the publication of rules for the care of the feet has shown that during the latter part of the period, better care has been taken of the feet by personnel, consequently, a decline in cases of Trench Feet.

During this same twenty day period, 684 Battle Casualties were evacuated. Evacuation hospitals remained in Nancy, causing a long ambulance haul from forward installations. An ambulance relay point was established at the Headquarters of the Battalion, shortening the distance for those Army Ambulances attached to A and B Companies. All other evacuation procedures were normal.

Company C and Headquarters, 46th remained in the general vicinity of Trains, Fourth Armored Division. C/46 operated a convalescent station, treating combat exhaustion, minor Trench Foot and slightly wounded patients. Buildings have been acquired in each bivouac, aiding considerably in sheltering these individuals. Moving pictures were shown daily to the patients, boosting morale and aiding materially in curing combat exhaustion cases.

At Hampont, France, on 12 November 1944, enemy artillery falling within the village, killed one member of Company A, as the vehicle in which he was riding attempted to pass through the town. This was the only serious casualty of the Battalion for the entire month.

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Vehicular casualties encountered were the destruction of four Battalion ambulances by enemy fire and necessitated evacuation to fourth Echelon maintenance. Replacement was made without delay. All other supply functions were normal and no problems arose.

Communications for the period presented no great problem of consequence. All sets within the Battalion have been serviced and are operating with peak performance.

Six awards of Purple Hearts were made to members of the command for slight wounds received. Five Bronze Stars were awarded for meritorious service and one certificate of merit for conspicuous meritorious and outstanding performance of military duty.

Morale for this period has been excellent. Billets in houses and entertainment with the addition of passes to nearby towns have materially aided morale.

For the Battalion Commander:

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