

JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE



From: 0001 1 October 1944
To : 2400 8 November 1944
Place: France

4th Armored Division Office of Surgeon Journal, August 2
1944 - February 22, 1945

October 1 to 5 inclusive:

During this period the division remained in a defensive position. The number of exhaustion cases increased daily and reached alarming figures. This was due to two causes, first, the length of time the division has been in combat without a rest period and, secondly, to the unfavorable weather conditions. General Wood visited the Auxillary Treatment Station and discussed the problem with Major Mericle. Both officers and men of the division are in dire need of a rest.

Lieutenant Colonel Krucker, G-4, was evacuated because of Gastric Ulcers. He was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Knestrick.

The division received twelve more aid men replacements on 3 October 1944. This brings us almost up to T/O strength. Medical replacements have been difficult to get and some are of very poor quality and training.

Sergeant Hiatt visited the Surgeon's Office of Third Army and discussed reports. They had no complaints to offer. Everything which they said about the division's reports was most favorable.

Combat Command Surgeons and Medical Company Commands make daily visits to Battalion Aid Stations. This procedure has proven to be of great value as a morale factor and aids materially in the efficiency of the medical service of the division.

Two extra peeps were obtained for the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. This will solve their evacuation problems. Recommended T/O and T/E changes in Medical Service of the Armored Division to Third Army. (See attached letter).

The Field Hospital has been able to give excellent support while in a static position and has definitely contributed to the saving of lives.

October 7 to November 8 inclusive:

On October 7th the first elements of the 26th Infantry Division moved into line to replace the Infantry Battalions of the 4th Armored Division. The replacement was gradual and took place over a number of days giving the 26th Division an opportunity to become accustomed to battle. It was not until about the middle of the month that the Tank Battalions were relieved and the Artillery was relieved about October 22nd. As the units were relieved they fell back to positions a few miles behind the lines and were given the much needed rest.

On October 7th with the onset of cold weather there was an increased authorization of blankets from three to five per litter. This was urgently needed.

Men have been returning to the division after being evacuated two or three times for Combat Exhaustion. These men were unable to return to combat units and those who were returned proved totally unsatisfactory. All of the service units of the division became overloaded with these individuals and the situation became acute. Major Mericle and Major Frank contacted all of the Evacuation Hospitals serving the division and discussed these problems. Individuals, particularly infantrymen, could not be returned to combat duty after being evacuated twice for combat exhaustion.



The Neuropsychiatrist at the hospitals understood the problems and agreed not to send these people back to full duty but to reclassify them and put them in Class II. This has alleviated the situation.

Medical aid men replacements still remains a problem. Higher Headquarters apparently either does not understand or ignores our problems. Approximately 40% of the so called aid men which we receive are cooks, truck drivers, and administrative personnel who have had no previous training whatsoever in first aid. This has been brought to the attention of higher headquarters repeatedly. During the rest period a school in First Aid was conducted by the 46th Medical Battalion for all medical aid men replacements. The general calibre of the medical replacements can be judged by the fact that up to date 85% of the combat exhaustions occurring in aid men are replacements. Instruction was also given to all medical department personnel on the treatment and prevention of frost bite, trench foot, and all troops were again instructed in louse control and venereal disease prophylaxis.

On October 10th we received authorization from Third Army for two refrigerators to be used by the medical companies to store whole blood and Penicillin. This will solve our problems on the storage of biologicals and blood.

During the rest phase there was a marked increase in venereal disease. There was approximately a 270% increase over the previous month. The majority of cases were contracted in houses of prostitution in Nancy and surrounding towns. Corps and Army were contacted and a plea made to close them. Instruction in venereal disease prevention was emphasized. During the latter part of October penicillin therapy for Gonorrhoea was instituted within the division. All cases were evacuated to the medical company in reserve for treatment on a duty status. Results were encouraging and there was a tremendous saving of time and manpower.

During this same period Army Group issued an order removing red crosses from helmets of medical department personnel. It is the feeling of the medical personnel of this division that the red cross is a definite protection and should not be removed. A letter requesting this was sent to Army by the Division Surgeon.

The Division Neuropsychiatrist, Major Mericle, received a Bronze Star for his excellent work. Captain Iuppa, 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, received the Silver Star.

An additional command post tent was obtained for the Division Surgeon and Dental Surgeon with the Forward Echelon. The one authorized tent for the Surgeon's Office is used by the clerical staff and Assistant Division Surgeon at the Administrative Center. An additional ambulance was also secured for the Administrative Center.

During this same period the Auxillary Treatment Center was visited by Colonel Kenninger, Colonel Thompson, and Colonel Parsons who are Psychiatrists acting as advisors to Surgeon General and Theatre Surgeon. (See attached report for detailed Neuropsychiatric report).

Changes in Officer Personnel during the period 7 October to 7 November were:

Assigned:

Van Beber, J. A., O-464141, Captain, MC
Averill, John B., O-464097, Captain, MC
Erwin, Evan A Jr., O-1736214, 1st Lt, MC



Assigned: (Contd)

Archer, Donald E., O-1545796, 1st Lt, MAC
Carter, Woodus A., O-1546931, 2nd Lt, MAC

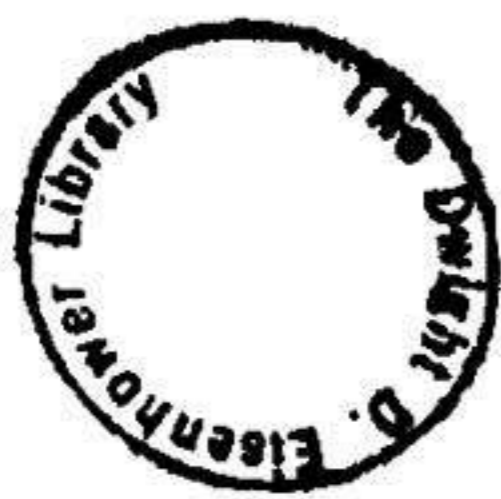
Transferred:

Levine, Julius (NMI), O-312534, Captain, MC
Gianni, Angelo R., O-491961, Captain, MC
Cheim, Erwin (NMI), O-526026, Captain, MC

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. KIPNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive





JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From: 0001 9 Nov 1944
To : 2400 15 Nov 1944
Place: France

9 November 1944 - Thursday.

The 4th Armored Division was again committed to action today. Combat Command B is in contact with the enemy at Bois De Serres and Southeast of Fonteny. Head of the column of Combat Command A was held up by bad roads North of Hampont. Forward elements of the 25th Cavalry are Southeast of Laneuveville. Combat Command B was subjected to heavy fire from artillery and mortars from the direction of Oron and Fremery. All roads are heavily mined and protected by small arms and machine gun fire. Casualties for today numbered 12 wounded and 4 exhaustion cases. We transferred to hospitals 12 wounded and 1 exhaustion case.

Two of our ambulances and four wounded were cut off in Viviers. The 35th Division recovered one ambulance and the four wounded, the other ambulance was destroyed by the enemy.

Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, remained in Dombasle.

Colonel Abrams has made arrangements with the Surgeons of the 35th Infantry Division and the 26th Infantry Division to leap frog all three of the Field Hospital Platoons, (one in each of the Divisions), whenever possible. During this phase we have secured permission to use the Field Hospital of the 35th Infantry Division at Bioncourt. We are keeping our Field Hospital Platoon intact and will wait until it is suitable for us to leap frog the other two Hospitals and provide medical care for the two other Divisions.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is located at Malancourt.

Major Frank returned to duty four men from the 12th Evacuation Hospital.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 2; 37th Tank Battalion - 3; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 16.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

10 November 1944 - Friday.

Combat Command A moved forward into Hampont. Leading elements encountered extremely heavy artillery fire. Combat Command B moved forward under heavy fire from artillery coming from Morhange and Fremery. The enemy infiltrated at Viviers. Casualties for today were 82 wounded and 19 exhaustion cases admitted. We transferred to hospitals 81 wounded and 17 combat exhaustion cases.

Lieutenant Colonel Maybach, Commander of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, was seriously wounded in action and evacuated to the 60th Field Hospital.

Captain Walker, MC, Captain Ezerman, DC, Captain Mitchelson, MC, were assigned to this division the 31 October, 8 November, and 6th November, respectively. Captain Allen, DC, was transferred out of the division effective 2 November 1944.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion was split into two sections and supporting two columns of Combat Command A, one section to each part of column.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 3; 8th Tank Battalion - 5; 37th Tank Battalion - 3; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 7; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 9; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 489th AAA, AW, Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated two prisoner of war casualties today.

11 November 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command A forward elements in contact with the enemy at Conthil. Combat Command B was in contact with the enemy North of Viviers and Southeast of Fonteny. Combat Command B underwent local tank attacks covering withdrawals of enemy vehicles. Combat Command A elements attacked by Anti-Tank weapons, artillery, and by groups of approximately four tanks West and Southwest of Haboudange. Casualties admitted today were 132 wounded and 76 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 3 wounded and transferred to hospitals 120 wounded and 52 exhaustion cases.

Combat Command B reported four aid men casualties today.

Colonel Abrams checked the 60th Field Hospital and received word that Colonel Maybach had died of wounds.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: Military Police - 1; 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 4; 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 3; 8th Tank Battalion - 10; 37th Tank Battalion - 8; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 7; 489th AAA, AW, Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

Major Frank contacted hospitals in surrounding areas and returned to duty six men.

12 November 1944 - Sunday.

The North Column of Combat Command A was in contact with the enemy Northeast of Rodalbe, South Column in contact Southwest of Lidrezing. Both columns of Combat Command B in contact East of Oron. Combat Command A encountered small arms fire and artillery in clearing Chateau Vous and engaged 10 tanks West of Wuisse. Combat Command B received mortar and small arms fire in Foret De Chateau Salins and small arms fire in the vicinity of Fonteny. Both Combat Commands received large amount of harassing artillery during night 11-12 November. Casualties for today were 59 wounded and 97 Exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 6 wounded and one exhaustion case and evacuated to hospitals 53 wounded and 79 exhaustion cases.

Five Army ambulances joined Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, this afternoon.

Our platoon of the 16th Field Hospital opened at 1500 at Chateau Salins today.



The 8th Tank Battalion and 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion were cut off for thirty-six hours. It was necessary for all casualties to be kept during this thirty-six hours; all casualties came through in good condition. Today we have had seven casualties among our aid men. We have one aid man missing from the 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. The aid men casualties are: 4 from 51st Armored Infantry Battalion; 2 from 46th Medical Battalion; and 1 from the 35th Tank Battalion.

Because of the long haul back to Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, we have set up a relay point at Mazurelles to evacuate slightly wounded.

The Surgeon's Office at Forward Echelon moved to Chateau Salins.

The incidence of Trench Foot is going up and education in the prevention and care of Trench Foot is being stressed by all unit surgeons. Number of Trench Foot cases admitted from 8 November 1944 through 12 November 1944 is forty-four. The breakdown is as follows: 8 November - 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 9 November - none; 10 November - 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 2, 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 11 November - 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 14, 35th Tank Battalion - 2, 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance - 1, 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 12 November - 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 17, Combat Command B - 3, 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1, 37th Tank Battalion - 1.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion is now at Lemoncourt and Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is North of Chateau Voue.

Corporal Rubin, recently returned by escaping from a German Prisoner of War Enclosure, gave the following account of Captain Silverman's death in Troyes:

"On August 25, 1944, Captain Silverman and a couple of peeps, (ambulances), were following the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion across the field leading into Troyes. After sending back a couple loads of wounded he picked up and treated a German casualty who was run over by one of our halftracks. With this one casualty who was on Captain Silverman's peep, we proceeded further looking for more wounded, (after we destroyed all arms which were left lying around because there were quite a few Germans still around who wanted to surrender but there wasn't anybody to turn them over to). We proceeded for about 25 yards with Captain Silverman's peep in the lead. All of a sudden, without any warning, a sniper opened up from the side of the road and the first cartridge struck Captain Silverman in the head which must have killed him instantly as he didn't move after being hit. The German casualty and the driver of Captain Silverman's vehicle were also killed immediately after, I believe it was by the same man.

When the sniper opened up on our vehicle, which was a few yards behind we took cover behind the peep and then ran for a foxhole. Shortly after, the Germans, about eight of them, came in with hand grenades and called on us to surrender.

When we saw the Captain in command of the Germans we told him that Captain Silverman and a couple of medical men were killed in plainly marked vehicles. He asked his men about this and they told him it must have been the Free French who opened fire at us because he had given his men implicit instructions not to fire at medical men. He seemed to be quite sincere about this.



The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 46th Medical Battalion - 1; 37th Tank Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

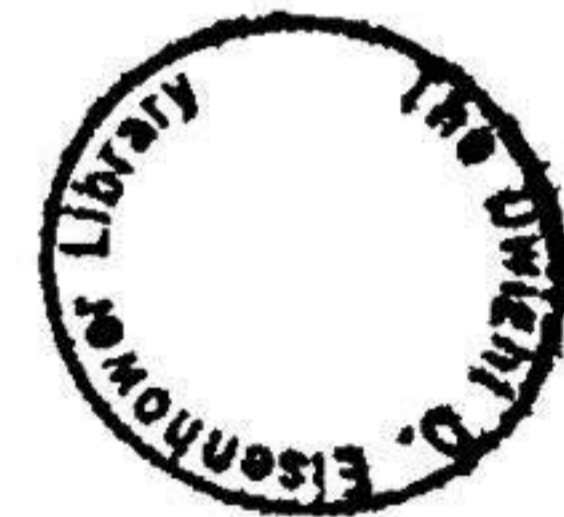
13 November 1944 - Monday.

The North Column of Combat Command B was moving through Marthville toward Destry and the South Column was moving to Baronvillie. Combat Command A North Column was in contact with the enemy in Rodalbe with South Column Southeast of Lidrezing. Combat Command A received considerable tank, artillery, and infantry attacks the night of 12 November. Enemy retook Rodalbe and Conthil during night but Conthil retaken morning 13 November and fighting continued for Rodalbe. Combat Command B was held up by road blocks and mines and artillery North of Marthville. Casualties admitted today were 47 wounded and 79 exhaustion cases. We returned 4 wounded to duty and transferred to hospitals 43 wounded and 67 exhaustion cases.

Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, closed bivouac six miles South of Chateau Salins.

The 37th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment has lost five aid men - one KIA, one WIA, and three exhaustions. Since the 9 November we have lost the following aid men:

	WIA	Combat exhaustion	KIA	MIA
37 Tk Bn	2	4	1	0
22nd Armd FA Bn	0	0	0	1
489th AAA Bn	1	0	0	0
51st Armd Inf Bn	8	0	0	0
53rd Armd Inf Bn	4	0	0	0
35th Tank Bn	1	0	0	0
46th Med Bn Armd	2	0	1	0



Colonel Abrams has decided that all Trench Foot cases will be transferred to hospitals soon as they come in. There are too many cases coming in and the response to treatment is poor. It would be impossible for Company C, 46th Medical Battalion to hold and treat all these cases due to the lack of space and personnel critically needed for care of wounded. Due to elements of our division working with the 35th and 26th Infantry Divisions we had 125 to 150 of our casualties evacuated through the medical channels of these divisions.

Combat Command B, working with the 35th Infantry Division, cleared their casualties through the clearing station of the 35th Infantry Division. Combat Command A worked their system of evacuation through the 26th Infantry Division clearing station. The Surgeons Offices of the 35th and 26th Infantry Divisions have promised to send EMT's and 324A's on our casualties to us.

Weekly Statistical Report 86ab was received from units, consolidated, and sent forward to higher headquarters today.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 3; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated two prisoner of war casualties today.

14 November 1944 - Tuesday.

Both columns of Combat Command A were in contact Southwest of Bourgaltroff. Combat Command B North column, advancing through Destry, was moving on Baronville, with South column Southwest Baronville. Combat Command A encountered enemy tanks and small arms fire and artillery in vicinity of Kutzeling Farm morning of 14 November. Combat Command A received heavy artillery fire during the night 13-14 November. Both columns Combat Command B encountered road blocks, and mines in vicinity of Marthville. Casualties today were 51 wounded and 75 exhaustion cases. 5 wounded and 3 exhaustion cases were returned to duty and 46 wounded and 53 exhaustion cases were transferred to hospitals.

Captain Kierscht, Dental Surgeon of Combat Command A, was replaced by a Medical Administrative Corps Officer; both Combat Commands now have MAC officers in place of Dental Officers who act as Liaison Officers and Assistant Combat Command Surgeons.

Combat Command A Surgeon reported three ambulances put out of action by artillery fire.

We are sending reports to the Surgeons of the 26th and 35th Infantry Divisions on the casualties we received in our medical installations from their units. We carefully check our 324A's for personnel of these divisions and send them reports immediately upon completion.

Our Field Hospital Platoon admitted 31 patients today, most of them from the 35th Infantry Division.

We are sending to Colonel Abrams a daily report of Trench Foot cases by unit.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 2; 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 6.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

15 November 1944 - Wednesday.

Combat Command A forward elements were in contact with the enemy Southeast of Lidrezing. Combat Command B in contact on North edge of Morhange. Combat Command A received very heavy artillery fire during the past 18 hours and the advance was stopped by enemy tanks, infantry, and artillery, and high ground in the vicinity of Guebling. Combat Command B encountered numerous mine fields and road blocks and received heavy anti-tank fire North of Morhange. Casualties admitted today were 102 wounded and 97 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 6 wounded and 11 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals 97 wounded and 77 combat exhaustion cases.

Major Mericle, Division Psychiatrist, is worried about the high rate of admission on combat exhaustion. 85% of the admissions in this category are from replacements, however, some of the older NCO's and men of the division are beginning to come in.



Colonel Abrams does not believe that the proper measures outlined in Circular 126, Trench Foot, are applicable to combat troops. It is impossible for troops in combat to practice the measures outlined by this circular. He believes that adequate footgear, something in the manner used by the Russians, would be the answer.

We lost another ambulance today by artillery fire, this makes a total of four ambulances destroyed and one missing.

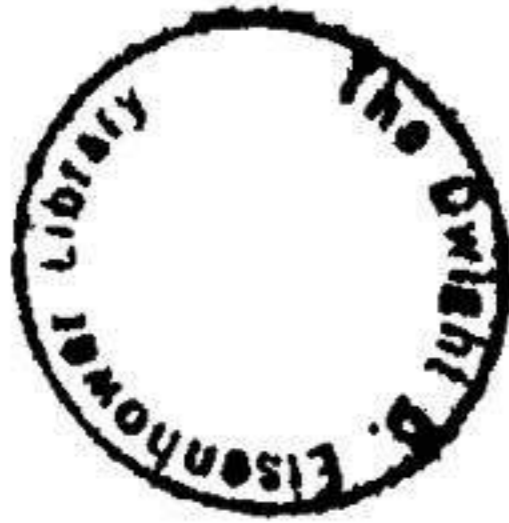
The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 5; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoners of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. KIFNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive





JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 16 Nov 1944
To : 2400 22 Nov 1944
Place: France

16 November 1944 - Thursday.

Forward combat elements of the division made slow but steady progress along the route of march. Heavy artillery fire, mines, some small arms fire attempted to halt the advance at sporadic intervals. Numerous mine fields had to be cleared from the path of the advancing elements. Casualties resulting from today's action were 54 wounded and 44 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 3 wounded and 16 combat exhaustion cases. We evacuated to hospitals 51 wounded and 42 combat exhaustion cases.

The Dental Officers of the Combat Commands have been replaced with Medical Administrative Corps Officers. This will permit the utilization of the dental officers in the rear area dental clinic.

Information received today stated that the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment is short ten men; one killed in action, six wounded in action, and three combat exhaustions.

The Division Surgeon of the 26th Infantry Division requested the use of our Field Hospital during the present phase of the operation. In keeping with our policy of close cooperation with all units we are admitting patients from all supporting units to our Field Hospital.

The situation on Trench Foot was discussed with Colonel Bixby by Colonel Abrams. All possible measures are being taken to reduce the rate of Trench Foot and the results are showing up satisfactory.

Aid men replacements were received and distributed to units.

Since the start of the present operations we have lost the following number of men and equipment: four aid men killed in action, one missing in action, fifteen wounded in action, and twenty-three through combat exhaustion or Trench Foot. We have had four ambulances completely destroyed, one ambulance missing in action, four peeps destroyed, and one peep missing in action.

Major Mericle, Division Psychiatrist, reports that almost 50% of the combat exhaustion cases being admitted have an associated Trench Foot. The latter is apparently the exciting factor for combat exhaustion.

We are still checking all hospitals to return all men possible to duty with the division.

Special Order No. 262, paragraph 8, Headquarters Third U. S. Army, 16 November 1944, promoted 2nd Lieutenant Francis E. Ridge to 1st Lieutenant, Medical Administrative Corps.

17 November 1944 - Friday.

Combat Command B reports no change in yesterday's situation. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron was in contact Northeast of Morhange, and Bernering. Our patrols drew small arms fire Northwest of Rodalbe and received

intermittent artillery fire from Landroff and Eincheville, also received sporadic artillery fire Northeast of Morhange. The units advance is slowed by numerous road blocks and mine fields. The mud is still a great problem. Our vehicles become stuck and it is impossible to move wheeled vehicles across open terrain with any measure of speed. Casualties admitted to our medical installations today numbered 12 wounded and 13 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 5 wounded and 11 exhaustion cases and evacuated to hospitals 6 wounded and 12 combat exhaustion cases.

The aid man situation is becoming serious. We lost three more aid men today due to combat exhaustion. This makes a total of forty-five aid men lost since 9 November 1944. We are especially watchful for aid men in hospitals. We desire to return all those possible to duty as quickly as we can since we need them badly.

Medical Officers recently assigned to the Infantry Battalions are doing very well.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, moved to new location at Drouville. Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, is in a new location at Gerbecourt.

The number of combat exhaustion cases associated with Trench Foot are on the rise. Major Mericle is quite worried about Trench Foot as the exciting factor in these cases. Education in the prevention of Trench Foot and the care of feet is emphasized daily in all units.

Troop list, effective 17 November 1944, is as follows:

<u>CC "A"</u>	<u>CC "B"</u>	<u>Res Comd</u>
37	8	35
10	53	704 (-A, B, & C)
A/24	C/25	489 (-A, C, D, & 2/B)
B/704 (-1 Plat)	24 (-A)	995 (-)
D/489	Sect/995	
Sect/995	A/704	
*Div Arty Hq	C/489	
*94	*177 Gp Hq	
*66	*22	
*191	*253	
A/46	*179	
A/126	B/46	
	B/126	

*Artillery remain present positions and support 26th and 35th Infantry Divisions initially.

Trains

126 (-A & B)
46 (-A & B)
144 (-)
3804
444
A/489
Play 16 F Hosp

Div Trns

25 (-C & D) Play B/704 atchd.
2/B/489

Atchd Other Units

C/704 atchd 6 Cav Gp.
D/25 atchd 26 Div.
51 atchd 26 Div.



The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases 16 November 1944: 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1. Killed in action cases for this date are as follows: 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations for the 16 or 17 November 1944.

18 November 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command A and B reported no contact with the enemy. The 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron received sporadic artillery fire, delayed by road blocks, mines and destroyed bridges, while in contact West of Rodalbe. Casualties reported today were 5 wounded and 11 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 2 wounded and 11 exhaustion cases and we evacuated to hospitals 3 wounded and 15 combat exhaustion cases.

Five aid men were available as replacements and were sent to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment today.

Captain Kifner made contact with the 16th Field Hospital, 35th Evacuation Hospital, 39th Evacuation Hospital and 12th Evacuation Hospital to check on division personnel in hospitals who could possibly be returned to duty.

Major Frank has been checking all replacements and all returnees from hospitals. He is extremely busy in this respect averaging 30 to 40 men examined on sick call.

Medical Companies are still at the locations previously reported.

There were no cases of men killed in action from 4th Armored Division units this date.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

19 November 1944 - Sunday.

North column of Combat Command A was in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Virming. The 25th Cavalry was in contact in the vicinity of Dieuze. The North column of Combat Command A and the 25th Cavalry moved at 0700 encountering little or no enemy action but being delayed by mines, road blocks, and sporadic artillery fire, both direct and indirect. Forward elements received moderate artillery fire in vicinity of Rodalbe, and sporadic artillery fire South St. Medard and Haraucourt. Casualties admitted were comparatively light - 9 wounded and 16 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 3 wounded and 15 exhaustion cases. We transferred to hospitals 8 wounded and 20 exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is now at Conthil.

We are still sending copies of our 324A's to the Surgeons of the 26th and 35th Infantry Divisions. They in turn are sending us their 324A's by message center through the Adjutant General.

The 8th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment lost two aid men today. They were evacuated with minor wounds and in conformity with our present policy we





will try to salvage these men from the hospitals as soon as possible.

Captain Kierscht is examining all replacements who are in need of dental work. In this way we hope to have all the replacements checked before they reach their unit thereby saving later difficulties in evacuating personnel for dental troubles to the reserve company of the medical battalion.

Captain Fisher of the 1st Auxillary Surgical Group is working with the Administrative Center. It is considered that his being situated with the Administrative Center is conducive to the greater output of work since it does away with the necessity of moving his dental laboratory whenever the reserve company of the medical battalion moves. The Dental Laboratory has completed in the vicinity of 350 cases during the last three months of attachment to the division. The Dental Laboratory, being situated with the Administrative Center, is afforded greater protection from the elements and during the oncoming winter will provide Captain Fisher with indoor working space.

During the present phase of operations the terrain and the weather have added to our difficulties. Mud is one of our great problems. The truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 4 X 4, cannot traverse stretches of muddy ground. They bog down in the mud and it is necessary for other vehicles to be used in evacuating. In the Tank Battalions it has been necessary to employ tanks to bring casualties from the field to a road where they were transferred to a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck. Chsins are of no use in mud that is twelve or more inches deep. To overcome this obstacle we bring our peeps mounted with litter racks only up to hard surfaced roads bordering open terrain. Forward of hard surfaced roads we have had to employ tanks and halftracks whenever possible. It is believed the "Weasel" might prove more satisfactory than the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton peep in evacuating from mud.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 37th Tank Battalion - 2; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

20 November 1944 - Monday.

Combat Command A was in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Francaltroff. The forward elements of Combat Command A encountered tanks and infantry and received heavy mortar and artillery fire Southwest of Francaltroff. Casualties today were 20 wounded and 28 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 2 wounded and 4 exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals 18 wounded and 30 combat exhaustion cases.

Interrogation of prisoner's of war reveals that the German Army does not issue any satisfactory waterproof footgear. Whenever available, in rest periods, German troops were issued a type of dubbing described as unsatisfactory by Prisoner of War. Prisoner further stated that footwear in the German Army is generally poor at the moment. In the early stages of the war whale oil preparation was issued for waterproofing boots but at present it is unobtainable. Interrogation of prisoner further shows that approximately 60% of the German troops are afflicted with Trench Foot. They receive little or no medical attention.

The Field Hospital Platoon of 26th Infantry Division is located at Dieuze.

The Field Hospital Platoon of the 35th Infantry Division is located at Morhange. Field Hospitals are in excellent position with good road nets. In keeping with the present policy of leap frogging the Platoons of the Field Hospitals, the next move will be ours. It is planned to move our Field Hospital Platoon from Chateau Salins to the vicinity of Cutting as soon as tactical situation permits.

Since the 9th of November we have admitted a total of 365 cases of Trench Foot. At the present time the incidence is decreasing. Education in the prevention of Trench Foot and proper prophylaxis is being stressed. Colonel Abrams believes that education is not of prime importance. He believes that adequate footgear should be provided for the soldier, something in the manner of the footgear worn by the Russians or our own air force personnel would be ideal.

Today we received ten medical department replacements. Three were sent to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, three to the 37th Tank Battalion, two to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, and two to the 35th Tank Battalion. We are still short twenty-four medical department enlisted men.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 3.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

21 November 1944 - Tuesday.

Combat Command A was in contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Lening. Combat Command B in contact with the enemy East of Loudrefing and South of Torcheville. Forward elements of Combat Command A received heavy enemy fire from artillery, mortars, anti-tank guns and small arms from high ground North-east and Southeast of Francaltroff. Combat Command B encountered road blocks, mines, and anti-tank ditches with light resistance. In General, our movement is held down due to all bridges being destroyed. The enemy is reported to be mining all gardens and open spaces to prevent the advance of foot troops. All bridge sites were under observation and direct fire. Casualties admitted today were 10 wounded and 26 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 5 exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 9 wounded and 19 combat exhaustion cases.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is now located at Dieuze and Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is located at Conthil.

Major Frank contacted hospitals in his vicinity and brought back to duty fourteen members of the division.

The Weekly Statistical Report, 86ab, was received from all units, consolidated and sent forward to higher headquarters.

Muddy terrain is still our biggest problem in evacuation. It is difficult to bring casualties from the line to the Battalion Aid Station unless track vehicles are employed or casualties are brought in by litter bearers. The latter is extremely difficult as these litter hauls are sometimes four or five hundred yards long.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated today.



22 November 1944 - Wednesday.

Combat Command B reported contact with the enemy at Mittersheim. The enemy continued to delay the advance of Combat Command B by blowing bridges, road blocks, mines, and some tanks South edge of Mittersheim. Our Infantry encountered enemy Infantry entrenched and supported by machine gun and 20 MM guns east of Torcheville. The 25th Cavalry received enemy machine gun fire in the vicinity of Lining and Southeast of Francaltroff. The enemy continued to blow all bridges, mine all roads, and construct road blocks and anti-tank ditches in our path of advance. Casualties for today were 3 wounded and 11 exhaustion cases, with 2 wounded and 1 combat exhaustion cases being returned to duty. We transferred to hospitals 3 wounded and 10 combat exhaustion cases.

The Surgeons of the two infantry divisions on our flanks have been notified that our Graves Registration Office has picked up thirty plus bodies from their units. They were requested to notify their Graves Registration Section of existing conditions.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is now located at Cutting.

We received two medical department replacements today.

Major Huguin is trying to make arrangements for a dental clinic to be set up with the Division Control Point. He plans to use the dental officers relieved from the Combat Commands and Infantry Battalions in this clinic. It is deemed that this arrangement would be highly satisfactory due to the accessibility of this location by all units. Also, this would place adequate dental care within short distance of the front line units.

We are maintaining contact with all evacuation hospitals and the 6th Convalescent Hospital in the matter of returning division personnel to duty as soon as possible.

Clearing Station of the 26th Infantry Division opened today at 1800 at Marincourt. Company A, 46th Medical Battalion went into buildings at Conthil today and Company B, 46th Medical Battalion is located in Dieuze. A Platoon of the 60th Field Hospital is also located in Dieuze.

We received six more Coleman double burner stoves and issued them to the remaining battalions. These stoves have grown in importance. They are very necessary for the warming of blood plasma in this cold weather and in many more ways at the Aid Station than previously thought of.

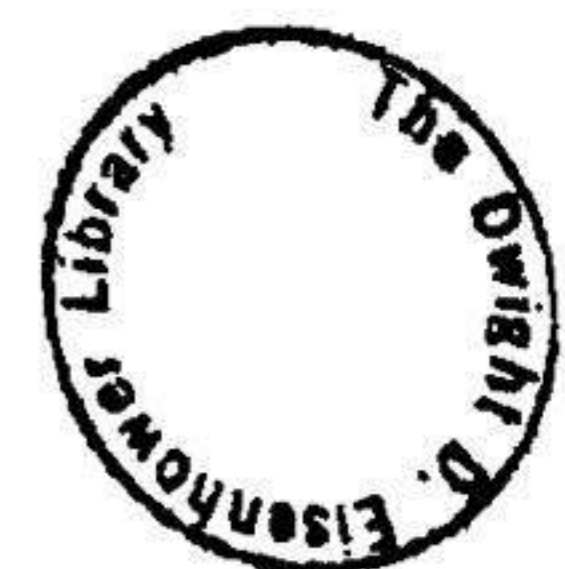
Report received from Medical Battalion Commander today stated that we have processed 9,330 cases through our Medical Battalion from the 16 July to the 15 November 1944. They are broken down as follows: 6,478 4th Armored Division; 1,862 other U. S. and Allied troops; and 888 plus prisoners of war, and 102 French Civilians.

There were no killed in action cases in the 4th Armored Division this date.

No prisoner of war casualties were treated or evacuated today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. KIFNER
Captain, MAD
Office Executive





JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0601 23 Nov 1944
To : 2400 29 Nov 1944
Place: France

23 November 1944 - Thursday.

Combat Command B reported contact with the enemy along the Sarre River in the vicinity of Fenetrage. Combat Command B encountered small arms, mortar, anti-tank, and artillery fire at Mittersheim in clearing the town by dark and occupied the town of Fenetrage morning 23 November against small arms and heavy artillery fire. The advance is still delayed by road blocks, blown bridges, and mine fields. We received in our medical installations 4 wounded and 8 combat exhaustion cases today. We returned 1 wounded man back to duty and transferred to hospitals 3 wounded and 7 combat exhaustion cases.

Two aid men replacements were received today. One was sent to the 35th Tank Battalion and one to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion.

We received information today that the French Red Cross has available medical personnel to provide medical service to civilians. It is necessary for us to notify the French Red Cross giving pertinent details and indicating what service is necessary in the locality.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

24 November 1944 - Friday.

Combat Command B moved in two columns, North column in contact in the vicinity of Postroff and the South column was in contact in the vicinity of Baerendorf. Combat Command B encountered blown bridges and artillery fire along the Sarre River. The North column received heavy direct fire from Postroff. Troop B, 26th Cavalry was in contact Northwest of Diedendorf. The South column of Combat Command B moved to Kirrberg meeting little resistance and sporadic artillery fire. Heavy enemy artillery concentration was laid on Fenetrage and Mittersheim. Casualties for today were 36 wounded and 25 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 2 wounded and 1 exhaustion case and we transferred to hospitals 35 wounded and 24 combat exhaustion cases.

Headquarters and C Company, 46th Medical Battalion, moved to new location in barracks in Southeast part of Dieuze in close proximity to the 101st Evacuation Hospital.

Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, is admitting 120 to 150 patients a day and is returning to duty 15 to 20 patients daily.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, has moved to the vicinity of Schalbach. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is located at Mittersheim.

Major Frank contacted evacuation hospitals today and returned to duty 12 men.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action

cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 2; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 8;
25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

25 November 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command B reported contact with the enemy at Niederstinzeln - Fostroff - and Baerendorf. The 25th Cavalry was in contact in the woods Northeast of Mittersheim. Generally, the advance of Combat Command B and the 25th Cavalry was opposed by infantry, artillery, anti-tank guns, and tank elements. Sporadic artillery fire fell along the front lines and the bridge site at Fenebrange. The enemy counterattacked the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion at Baerendorf but were repulsed. All units received heavy small arms fire and direct fire from tanks which appeared in pairs and then disappeared after firing a few rounds. Heavy artillery concentration was received by our elements in Fostroff and heavy fighting was in progress along the entire line of advance. Casualties admitted were 86 wounded and 112 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 3 wounded and 3 combat exhaustion cases and evacuated to hospitals 66 wounded and 76 combat exhaustion cases.

We received seven aid men replacements today. Five were sent to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion and two were held as reserve.

Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is still at Mittersheim. Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is moving, and our Field Hospital opened at 1200 at Cutting.

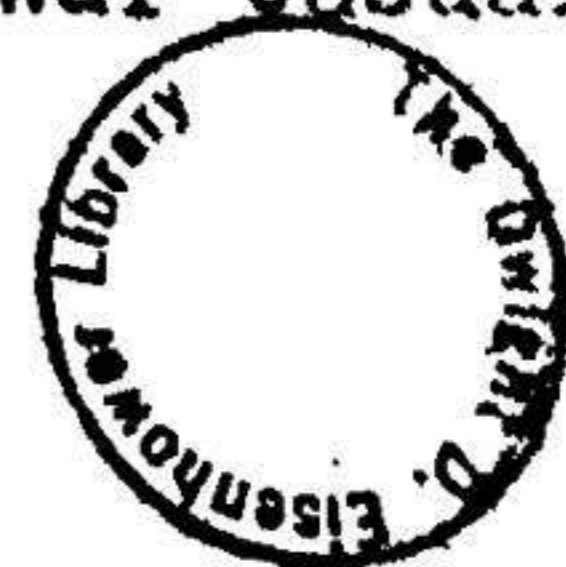
Colonel Abrams and Major Frank have been worried about sporadic cases of Diarrhea throughout the division for the last three to four weeks. The cases are mild and disappear in from 10 to 24 hours. Checking with Surgeons, it was found that most of the men afflicted are repeaters. This indicated that it is due to breach in sanitation. A memorandum prepared by Major Frank was submitted to the Adjutant General for distribution to all Unit Commanders. Another possible factor as a cause of the Diarrhea is the reporting of a number of spoiled C Rations. Since these rations are exposed to a great amount of banging and moving it is possible to expect a number of the rations resulting in "bulgers" and "springers". Personnel should be extremely careful and inspect all these cans before eating. It is also quite possible that the pouring spouts of the water cans are not clean and have accumulated dirt before they are used. Major Frank is conducting an extensive survey of all the possible causes of these sporadic cases of Diarrhea.

We are still in need of aid men and all efforts are being made to keep higher headquarters informed of our need.

The 39th Evacuation Hospital is now located in Morhange.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date; 8th Tank Battalion - 3; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 3.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated four prisoner of war casualties today.





26 November 1944 - Sunday.

Combat Command B continued a general but slow advance and reported contact with the enemy South of Wolfskirchen to Pisdorf - Diedendorf. Generally, elements of Combat Command B encountered enemy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. The 25th Cavalry encountered enemy infantry in Bois and Bonnefontaine. Our Infantry reached hill 307 and Eschwiller with no enemy opposition. 37 wounded and 84 combat exhaustion cases were admitted today. We returned to duty 1 wounded and 7 combat exhaustions and transferred to hospitals 36 wounded and 82 combat exhaustion cases.

Major Huguin contacted rearward General Hospitals in an attempt to return to duty several of our officers.

We lost six more aid men today, making a total of twelve in the last forty-eight hours. In turn, we received nine aid men replacements today. They were assigned as follows: two to the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion; four to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion; two to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion; and one to the 5th Tank Battalion. Most of our medical detachments are still short aid men. Approximately 30 more are needed to bring the division medical detachments up to strength.

Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, is still receiving approximately 120 patients a day with the ratio of 70 wounded to 50 combat exhaustion cases. Since a great number of these patients belong to other than divisional units our facilities are stretched to take care of these people.

The system of leap frogging Field Hospitals in conjunction with the Infantry Divisions in our sector is working out exceedingly well. Adequate attention is provided for the seriously wounded of the abdomen and chest cases.

Our system of evacuation has been severely bogged down due to the mud. It is extremely difficult for our "peeps" to evacuate cross country. Our ambulances and peeps must remain on hard surfaced roads and cannot possibly come closer than this point to the casualties. It has been necessary to rely on tanks for evacuation of casualties that have occurred in a muddy terrain. In one twenty-four hour period tanks and tanks only evacuated 70 plus casualties. Mud has been our greatest obstacle in the present phase of operations.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

27 November 1944 - Monday.

Combat Command A reported contact with the enemy at Durstel and Bettwiller. Combat Command B reported contact in vicinity of Eywiller and Wolfskirchen. The 25th Cavalry was driving the enemy from Bois De Bonnefontaine. Forward elements of Combat Command A and B received sporadic artillery fire. Heavy infantry resistance supported by tanks, artillery, anti-tank guns and mortar fire was encountered by Combat Command A and B during their advance to the North 27 November 1944. The enemy is still delaying our advance with mines, road blocks, anti-tank ditches and the flooding of all low areas. We admitted 64 wounded and

123 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 4 wounded and 5 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 60 wounded and 84 combat exhaustion cases.

Major Mericle, Division Neuropsychiatrist, is becoming worried about the sharp rise in combat exhaustion cases. He is making an intensive and all out effort to find the reasons for this rise. It is quite evident that the cold weather along with the mud and Trench Foot is one of the exciting factors for this increase.

All Surgeons have been notified that Typhus Serum is available at the Division Medical Supply Office. All personnel that have not received a Typhus shot since 15 September 1944 will be immunized. This program must be completed prior to 20 December 1944.

Captain Fisher, 1st Auxillary Surgical Group, is operating his mobile dental laboratory at the Administrative Center. All unit dental officers have been notified that Captain Fisher will accept their cases at the Administrative Center. Captain Kierecht also has his dental chair at the Administrative Center and is working on replacements, returnees, and members of the Administrative Center.

The new version of preparing the 324A is much simpler and should lead to fewer mistakes and greater efficiency.

We lost four more aid men today - one killed in action, two wounded in action, and one combat exhaustion. We also lost one ambulance and one medical peep. These losses were sustained by the 35th Tank Battalion.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion is enroute to Berthelming. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion, is at Fenetränge.

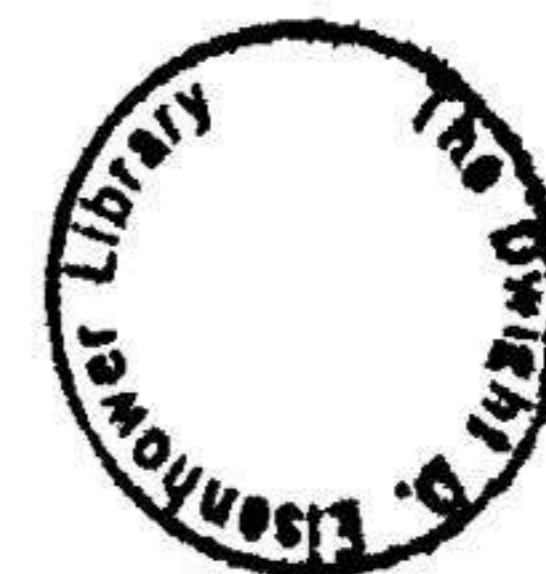
Notice was received that Third Army Surgeon will be notified of the initial admission of any casualties in division clearing stations or Field Hospital due to chemical warfare agents, excluding those due to white phosphorous unless presenting unusual feature or a history of improper treatment. The time and place where casualty was incurred and to what organization casualty belongs will also be reported.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 2; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 2.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated seven prisoner of war casualties today.

28 November 1944 - Tuesday.

Both Combat Commands were moving in two columns, North column of Combat Command A in the vicinity of Asswiller, South column North of Gungwiller. Combat Command B North column was in vicinity of Berg and the South column at Burbach. The 25th Cavalry reports no contact moving on Saarewerden. Heavy artillery concentration was received in the vicinity of Gungwiller and Durstel and Ottwiller. Casualties admitted today were 40 wounded and 51 Combat Exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 11 wounded and 10 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals 35 wounded and 43 combat exhaustion cases.



Replacements were sent out today as follows: Combat Command A Surgeon - one driver; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - one aid man; 35th Tank Battalion - two aid men; 25th Cavalry - one aid man.

The collecting point was set up at Siewiller by the Combat Command Surgeon.

Through the period of 9 - 28 November inclusive we had a total of 396 cases of Trench Foot. Although our incidence in Trench Foot rose to a high of 73 on the 15 November, it gradually receded for the rest of the period. The fact that proper footgear and occasional periods of rest and warmth were afforded our troops, coupled with our strict program of education, was responsible for this correspondent drop in cases of Trench Foot.

All Surgeons have been notified to classify exhaustion in two categories - simple physical exhaustion and true combat exhaustion. All EMT's will have differentiation on them. Major Mericle believes this will be a great aid to his work.

The Weekly Statistical Report, 86ab, was received from all units and consolidated and forwarded to higher headquarters.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 7; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated three prisoner of war casualties today.

29 November 1944 - Wednesday.

The 25th Cavalry Patrols have entered the outskirts of Sarre Union. Combat Command A North column moving through Adamswiller with South column at Rexingen. Combat Command B North column at Thal with South column Southeast of Sarrewerden. Generally, enemy activity consisted of heavy artillery fire on our forward units throughout period. Heavy machine gun, anti-tank, and small arms fire in the vicinity of Sarre Union and Sarrewerden. Combat Command B received heavy direct fire from high ground Northeast of Sarrewerden. Combat Command A's advance was held up by blown bridges, small arms, machine gun, and artillery fire. Casualties for today were 27 wounded and 70 combat exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 5 wounded and 16 combat exhaustions and transferred to hospitals 26 wounded and 57 combat exhaustion cases.

The situation on medical department replacements has not changed. We are still approximately 25 aid men short in the division. Our aid men casualties have been occurring by artillery and small arms fire. Generally, the Red Cross has been respected by the enemy. The vehicle losses are due to enemy artillery and mines. Some losses in ambulances and medical department vehicles have been sustained through capture by the enemy.

The Surgeon's Office in the Administrative Center moved to Chateau Salins today.

Medical supplies for the aid station in the Administrative Center were received today. Since this is not a T/O organization it has been difficult to obtain some of the necessary medical supplies and equipment. It is advocated that a possible change in T/O should be made to provide a medical officer, aid man, and dispensary with equipment and supplies necessary for the care of 500

plus personnel. Since the forming of the Administrative Center in France, the Division Medical Inspector, Major Frank, has acted as medical officer for the Administrative Center. However, it is deemed advisable, if possible, sufficient personnel should be allotted for the sole purpose of operating a T/O Aid Station. It is not practical to drain the Division Surgeon's Office of a medical officer and personnel to operate the improvised aid station we now have.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 2.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. KIPNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive





JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 30 November 1944
To : 2400 7 December 1944
Place: France.

30 November 1944 - Thursday.

Front line elements reported no change in the situation. Enemy activity throughout the period consisted mainly of sporadic medium and heavy artillery fire on all forward units and some patrol activity was noted during the night 29 - 30 November in Combat Command A Sector. In general, the advance was delayed by blown bridges, mines, and anti-tank ditches across the route of advance. Admissions to our medical installations were 28 wounded and 30 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 2 wounded and 10 combat exhaustion cases and we transferred to hospitals 27 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases.

Our platoon of the 16th Field Hospital moved from Cutting to Fenetrange and will open at 1100, 1 December.

We lost 2 more aid men today from the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment, one killed in action and one wounded in action.

Major Frank checked all surrounding hospitals for personnel ready to return to duty. The results of these actions in checking the hospitals are highly satisfactory. We are able to return to duty a great number of the personnel, 10 to 14 days earlier than they would ordinarily be returned through replacement channels. Also, we are able to bring back key personnel in this manner. A great number of specialists necessary in an Armored Division make this highly necessary. This system has been in operation ever since the start of operations.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

1 December 1944 - Friday.

Forward elements of Combat Command A encountered light machine gun, small arms, mortar and artillery fire in seizing high ground in the vicinity of Mackwiller. Intermittent artillery fire fell on forward elements and the advance of Combat Command A and B was opposed by very heavy artillery fire, also small arms, mortar, and machine gun fire, supported by tanks on 1 December. The enemy launched a counterattack in the vicinity of Rimsdorf which was repulsed and our elements moved on to their objectives. Casualties for today were 59 wounded and 48 exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 2 wounded and 24 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 57 wounded and 42 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion moved to Drulingen. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion moved to Wolfskirchen. Headquarters and Company C, 46th Medical Battalion remained at Dieuze. Our Field Hospital platoon remained at Penetrance.

One aid man replacement was received today and sent to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment. We are approximately 25 aid men short in the detachments within the division.

We lost in the 35th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment four men today and in the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment seven men. This makes a total of eleven aid men short in these two detachments alone.

Since the start of operations the casualty rate among medical department personnel has been very high. It is hard to take the loss of this trained personnel. Replacements are very often incapable of rendering even first aid. We have tried to keep our personnel with high IQ ratings and specialized knowledge from work as aid men, however, it is impossible to protect this personnel from casualty due to the fact that our casualties come mainly from artillery fire.

Monthly Statistical Report 86c was consolidated and sent forward to higher headquarters.

Our program of having detachments make out a "part" 51 MD Report of Sick and Wounded places greater burden of work on the staff of the Division Surgeon's Office but permits us greater accuracy in the rendition of this report, and most important, relieves the hard pressed medical detachments from this work. At best, conditions in the detachments in the field are not conducive to the rendition of satisfactory reports.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 5; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 9; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated two prisoner of war casualties today.

2 December 1944 - Saturday.

Combat Command B reported contact with the enemy Northwest of Rinsdorf and Northeast of Rinsdorf. Combat Command A reported contact West and Southwest of Diemeringen. The 25th Cavalry reported contact East of Harskirchen. Enemy patrols were active in all forward areas on night 1 - 2 December. Heavy sporadic artillery fire was received during the night. Enemy counterattacked with tanks and infantry in the vicinity of Mackwiller and Diemeringen and was repulsed. An enemy attack on Rinsdorf from direction of Domfessel with tanks and infantry was also repulsed. Approximately 30 to 40 tanks were very active during entire period and were encountered both in support of infantry elements and alone, which delayed the advance of both Combat Command A and B. Casualties for today were 68 wounded and 98 combat exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 1 wounded and 21 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals 64 wounded and 66 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, moved to the vicinity of Weyer.

Major Frank and Major Hugunin visited Forward Echelon. Major Hugunin re-joined Colonel Abrams at Forward Echelon.

Again we report the difficulty of evacuation during this period of inclement weather. It is impossible to use our $\frac{1}{2}$ ton peep ambulances in open terrain. They must stop on a hard surfaced road and casualties must be brought from the field to them at this point. We are still using tanks and half tracks for evacuation of casualties from the forward parts of the battalions.



The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 3.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated nine prisoner of war casualties today.

3 December 1944 - Sunday.

Combat Command A reported contact Southeast of Domfessel. Combat Command B reported contact Northeast Sarre Union and Southwest Domfessel. The 25th Cavalry patrols entered outskirts of Harskirchen. Enemy artillery continued active during the period with numerous concentrations of heavy and medium artillery on forward elements of both Combat Command A and B. Enemy patrols were active in Combat Command A sector during the night. Elements of Combat Command B encountered some infantry and tank opposition in their advance. Casualties today were 38 wounded and 54 exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 3 wounded and 8 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 34 wounded and 52 combat exhaustion cases.

Notice was received today to stop the issue and use of all blood plasma labeled Benvenue. The 46th Medical Battalion and all unit surgeons were notified of this stoppage.

The 51st Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment is now short four aid men and the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment is short two aid men.

No change was reported in the locations of our medical companies.

Battalion Surgeons are reporting that the replacements they are receiving are not of the calibre they desire. The men are not trained in aid work and find it extremely difficult to acclimate themselves to the work in the Battalion Aid Station.

The 35th Tank Battalion Medical Detachment is five men understrength and has been sent five men on temporary duty by the Combat Command A Surgeon.

The Monthly Sanitary Report was completed and forwarded to higher headquarters today.

Major Frank and Captain Kierscht began the immunization today of the Administrative Center with the stimulating dose of Typhus Vaccine.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 35th Tank Battalion - 1; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 3; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 2.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated three prisoner of war casualties today.



4 December 1944 - Monday.

Combat Command B counterattacked by undetermined number of tanks supported by heavy artillery West of Domfessel. The attack was repulsed without loss of ground. Sporadic artillery fire received by all forward elements and the enemy continued to delay the advance of Combat Command A and B with small arms, artillery,

mortar, and anti-tank fire. Enemy tanks continued to be very active in the entire sector and were encountered both in support of infantry and alone. The weather continued to be cloudy with intermittent rain, the maximum temperature being in the 40's and the minimum in the 30's. There were no improvements in traffic abilities. The mud is still very deep and makes our problems more complex. Casualties admitted today were 49 wounded and 115 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 5 wounded and 7 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 41 wounded and 98 combat exhaustion cases.

Reserve Company of the 46th Medical Battalion, (C Company), still carries approximately 125 patients daily. Approximately 20 to 30 men are returned to duty daily from this company. A total of thirteen Trench Foot cases are being treated here. Since these cases of Trench Foot are not severe we are trying to see if we can treat these men in our own medical installation and salvage them for early return to duty. During the period 9 November 30 November inclusive the Reserve Medical Company has returned a total of 522 men to duty.

Captain Buchanan, Battalion Surgeon of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was injured when his vehicle ran over a mine. He sustained a simple fracture of the right arm and contusions. Major Frank has made arrangements to return him to light duty as soon as possible.

Third Army directive has again given us permission to put the Red Cross on the helmets of medical department personnel. The following is an extract of paragraph 2, Section II, of the above mentioned directive:

- "2. When action is taken under authority contained in paragraph 1, Section II, Circular 85, Headquarters Third U. S. Army, dated 2 December 1944, the Red Cross will be painted on the helmets and liner of protected medical personnel possessing a certificate of identity (WD AGO Form No. 65-10). The cross will be painted on four (4) sides starting at the center of the front of the helmet and liner and spaced equidistant around the exterior. The dimensions of the cross will be four (4) inches long and one (1) inch wide in a white circle four (4) inches in diameter, the bottom of the circle to be one (1) inch above the brim. The Medical Department US Army number will be painted in white on the top of the helmet and liner. This number must agree with the identity card issued to the individual."

Our operations since crossing the Saar River have been extremely slow. Stubborn resistance by the enemy and muddy terrain has made all our problems so much more complex.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 46th Medical Battalion - 1; 35th Tank Battalion - 5; 37th Tank Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 4; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated one prisoner of war casualty today.

5 December 1944 - Tuesday.

The division's forward elements reported contact with the enemy in the vicinity

of Dehlingen. Combat Command B and A reported very little artillery fire. Enemy patrols were active in the vicinity of Voellerdingen and Domfessel. The advance of Combat Command A and B encountered no enemy resistance in the morning and early afternoon, however, some delaying forces resisted their advance later in the afternoon. The enemy executed a general withdrawal from our zone during the night of 4-5 December to undetermined positions. Casualties for today were 26 wounded and 85 combat exhaustion cases. We returned to duty 2 wounded and 8 combat exhaustions and transferred to hospitals 21 wounded and 69 combat exhaustion cases.

The 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment lost three more aid men, one killed in action, one missing in action, and one wounded in action. They are short fourteen aid men but are functioning with the aid of temporary replacements from the Medical Company.

Captain Ray, Dental Corps, was relieved from the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion Medical Detachment and went on temporary duty with the medical battalion. This is in keeping with our present policy of keeping our dentists with the Medical Battalion where they can do the most good. We have now removed Dental Surgeons from both Combat Commands, the three Infantry Battalions, and Division Artillery.

Major Frank and Captain Kierscht continued with the immunization of replacements who are still needing a stimulating dose of typhus Vaccine. Approximately 400 replacements were immunized. This necessitated a check of the Service Records of all replacements to determine whether they were eligible for the stimulating dose or not. In this way we alleviated the Battalion Surgeon's work and trouble.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 2; 37th Tank Battalion - 4; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 2; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 1.

Our clearing stations treated and evacuated five prisoner of war casualties today.

6 December 1944 - Wednesday.

Combat Command A reported contact with the enemy in vicinity of Bining. Combat Command B reported contact at Singling. The 37th Tank Battalion encountered heavy enemy tank opposition West of Bining late in the afternoon. Enemy artillery was very active on the forward elements and continued active during entire period. The 37th Tank Battalion engaged enemy tanks and also received heavy anti-tank fire. The Infantry reported heavy house to house fighting in Singling during the afternoon. The weather continued to be cloudy with intermittent rain, with possibility of snow or sleet. Trafficabilities continued to be poor. Casualties admitted today were 32 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases. Returned to duty were 5 wounded and 13 combat exhaustion cases and transferred to hospitals were 27 wounded and 29 combat exhaustion cases.

Company A, 46th Medical Battalion, is located at Burbach. Company B, 46th Medical Battalion is at Sarreweren.

The 37th Tank Battalion reported one aid man killed in action and one aid man wounded in action who was dead on arrival at Company A, 46th Medical Battalion. A 46th Medical Battalion ambulance working with the 37th Tank Battalion was knocked

out of action by artillery fire. Two aid men from the 46th Medical Battalion were put out of action, one killed in action and one wounded in action.

The following units of the 4th Armored Division sustained killed in action cases this date: 46th Medical Battalion - 2; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 1; 8th Tank Battalion - 1; 37th Tank Battalion - 3; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 1.

There were no prisoner of war casualties treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today. The following is a recapitulation of prisoner of war casualties treated since 9 November through 6 December, inclusive, day by day:

<u>November</u>	<u>POW's Treated</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>POW's Treated</u>
9	0	29	7
10	2	28	3
11	0	29	1
12	1	30	1
13	2		
14	0	<u>December</u>	
15	0	1	2
16	0	2	9
17	0	3	3
18	0	4	1
19	0	5	5
20	0	6	0
21	0		
22	0		
23	1		
24	0		
25	4		
26	0		

7 December 1944 - Thursday.

No change was reported in front lines by the forward elements. In general, considerable artillery fire fell on all forward units during the period 7 December. Tanks were active with small arms and mortar fire in the vicinity of Singling early 7 December. Slight enemy activity reported at close of day. Casualties for today were 38 wounded and 25 combat exhaustion cases. 4 wounded and 17 combat exhaustion cases were returned to duty and we transferred to hospitals 34 wounded and 19 combat exhaustions cases.

The total number of casualties being treated at Company C, 46th Medical Battalion, today, is as follows: 253rd Armored Field Artillery - 1; 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 33; 10th Armored Infantry Battalion - 27; 51st Armored Infantry Battalion - 33; 8th Tank Battalion - 7; 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion - 5; 179th Field Artillery - 1; 37th Tank Battalion - 4; 35th Tank Battalion - 8; 126th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion - 1; 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized - 2; 46th Medical Battalion - 1; 3804th QM Truck Company - 2; 456th Ambulance Company - 1; 4th Armored Division Trains - 1; 24th Armored Engineer Battalion - 1; 94th Armored Field Artillery Battalion - 2; Combat Command B - 1; and 1 Allied French attached to Combat Command A.

There were no killed in action cases within the 4th Armored Division today.

No prisoner of war casualties were treated or evacuated by our clearing stations today.

The Surgeon's Office in the Administrative Center moved to Dieuze today.

For the Surgeon:

DANIEL R. RITNER
Captain, M.C.
Office Executive

