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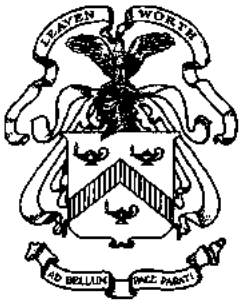

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THE ELEVENTH CAVALRY

FROM

THE ROER TO THE ELBE

U.S. ARMY. 11TH CAVALRY.

1944 - 1945

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HEADQUARTERS
ELEVENTH CAVALRY GROUP (MECZ)
APO 403, U. S. Army

22 June 1945

Officers and Men of the 11th Cavalry:

This little pamphlet, the story of your participation in World War II written so as to highlight and personalize some of those engagements in which you acquitted yourselves so well, may serve to remind you in years to come of the campaigns from the Roer to the Elbe during which you added another glorious chapter to the history of our famous old regiment.

As this booklet goes to press we know that redeployment is disintegrating this fine organization which so well upheld the standards and honor of the 11th Cavalry.

It is a bitter disappointment that our two splendid squadrons, the 36th and 44th, which have acquitted themselves with such distinction in the E. T. O., cannot continue together while there is a war still to be fought.

In saying goodbye I can only repeat that which I have said so often before, "I am proud to be one of you."

A. A. PRIERSON
Colonel, 11th Cavalry
Commanding

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I.	EARLY HISTORY	11
II.	THE REBIRTH OF THE 11TH CAVALRY	17
III.	FROM GEORGIA TO THE ROER	25
IV.	THE BATTLE OF THE ROER	31
V.	FROM THE ROER TO THE RHINE	43
VI.	FROM THE RHINE TO THE ELBE	57
VII.	THE COMMANDING OFFICER - A BRIEF HISTORY	77
VIII.	COMMENDATIONS, AWARDS, AND CASUALTIES	81

Chapter I

EARLY HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY

The original 11th Cavalry was born a horse regiment through [redacted] Act of Congress, February 2, 1901. Fort Meyer, Virginia, became the scene of activation with the organization of Headquarters and the 3rd Squadron culminating in the signing of the first morning report on 11 March 1901. The 1st and 2nd Squadrons were organized at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and Fort Ethan Allen, Vt, respectively.

The Commanding Officer was Colonel Francis Moore, a distinguished veteran of the Civil, Indian, and Spanish American Wars, the first of a long line of colorful and outstanding commanders which ultimately included such men as Leon B. Kromer, later Chief of Cavalry, Homer M. Groninger (now Major General), Ben Lear (now Lt General), and James G. Harbord, later Major General and Chief of Staff to General Pershing during World War I.

Evidently the 1st Squadron's organization was attended with certain difficulties which prompted the Commander to include the following woeful statement in a War Department telegram asking for more officer personnel: "I have four hundred horses that have never seen a soldier. four hundred recruits that have never seen a horse, and four second lieutenants that have never seen either a soldier or a horse."

However, all obstacles must have been successfully overcome, for nine short months later found the 11th Cavalry bound for the Phillipine Islands, the 1st Squadron via San Francisco and the Pacific, and the rest of the regiment via New York and the Suez Canal. The 1st Squadron was stationed in Samar, the 2nd in Batangas and the 3rd in Northern Luzon. All saw subsequent action during the insurrection, the most important of which was the campaign against General Malvar in Samar. The 1st Squadron

so distinguished itself in this operation that battle honors were awarded the 11th Cavalry for which it now carries a streamer on the ferrule of its regimental standard marked "SAMAR 1901".

In April, 1904, the regiment returned to the United States where it remained until the summer of 1906, when, minus the 1st Squadron, it was sent to Cuba as part of the Army of Pacification. Here the 11th continued to distinguish itself, this time by setting a marching record which it is believed has never been equaled with such good results. Under the broiling Cuban sun, Troops "F" and "G" marched 110 miles in 29 and 30 hours respectively, and came into camp without so much as a sore back.

After its return to the United States in February, 1909, the regiment was stationed at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, until May, 1914, except for a short period at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, during the Mexican Border trouble of 1911. The Colorado coal strike of May 1914 afforded the next job for the 11th where it assisted in quelling upheavals caused by the strikers, receiving official commendation for its effectiveness. January, 1915, found the regiment again at its Fort Oglethorpe Station.

While celebrating its 15th birthday on 11 March 1916, the 11th Cavalry was forcibly reminded of the reason for its existence with the arrival of War Department warning orders for a move to the Mexican Border. The 16th and 17th found the regiment detraining at Columbus, N. M., where a few days earlier Pancho Villa had staged the infamous raid which brought down Uncle Sam's wrath in the form of General Pershing's Punitive Expedition. The next eleven months of the Mexican Campaign brought severe test to the mettle of man and beast alike. More trying than the frequent engagements with Villa's bandits were the blistering dusty days, the freezing nights, and probably the cruelest terrain any Cavalry in the world has operated over. Several exploits during this period enhanced the military reputation of the 11th Cavalry and received the acclaim of the press as well.

Probably the most notable achievement during this period was that of a provisional Squadron of the regiment under the command

of Major Robert L. Howze, who years later died a Major General. Acting under special instructions of General Pershing on 24 March 1916, the Squadron left Colonia Dublan for the south. The subsequent march to Parral occasioned the publication of the following remarks in the New York World: "Among many instances of achievements since troops entered Mexico one to the lasting credit of the men stands out among the rest, at the time when two hundred eighty men of the Eleventh Cavalry, cut loose from all communication on the desert march. On an issue of five days rations the column marched in twenty one days, five hundred and seventy one miles, only one hundred miles less than the distance from Paris to Berlin. The country through which they marched a desert waste. It afforded no fodder, and only at long intervals water for the horses. There were no roads, at best only untraveled trails. During the entire march they were beyond the reach of relief. They fought several engagements and had only one man killed. It is to be doubted if there are Cavalrymen in the Armies of Europe capable of equaling this feat."

The action upon which the 11the Cavalry's Organization Day is based occurred 5 May 1916. Major Howze led six troops of the regiment on a night march to Ojo Azules where at daylight he surprised one of Villa's band. A two-hour running fight resulted in the complete dispersement of the Villista's and 42 of the enemy killed without an American casualty. Major Jenkins' Squadron distinguished itself in a like manner by hard marching and by its rescue of two troops of the 10th Cavalry which had become engaged at Carrozal.

The regiment was with drawn from Mexico on 5 February1917, along with the other Expeditionary forces, and proceeded to Camp Stewart, El Paso, Texas, where it remained until 23 May 1917.

During World War I the regiment was stationed at Chickamauga Park, near Fort Oglethorpe. Two-thirds of the regiment was cadred to form the 22nd and 23rd Cavalry, which later became the 80th and 81st Field Artillery. Many of the officers and enlisted men were assigned important duties in France and

served whith distinction and gallantry. Several enlisted men rose to the rank of Major during the war and one to Lt Colonel.

Following the war the regiment was stationed briefly at Fort Meyer,Va., and thence proceeded to the Presidio of Monterey, California, where it remained until May 1940. Camp Lockett, at Campo California, became the last station of this proud old horse regiment and during the ensuing period witnessed the death throes of American horse cavalry as regiment after regiment reluctantly relinquished their faithful mounts in favor of the new-fangled tanks and amored cars. The day of reckoning for the 11th Cavalry arrived 11 July 1942, when the regiment was inactivated and its personnel, "sans chevaux",was absorbed in the 9th and 10th Amored Divisions. Colonel Frierson, the present CO, was at this time the Regimental Executive.

Let us not pass up such a long and illustrious history so lightly without first inquiring into the origin and significance of the 11th Cavalry insignia which we wear today with justifiable pride. On 12 December 1934, general orders were published at the Presidio of Monterey indicating the Secretary of War's approval of a Coat of Arms for the regiment of the following blazonry and description:

BLAZONRY

Arms: Or, within an orle sable in chief two bolos saltire wise gules hilted azure and in base a cactus proper.
Crest: Upon a wreath of the colors a horse's head erased sable.
Motto: Allons.

DESCRIPTION

"The regiment was organized in 1901 and saw service in the Phillipines. This is indicated by the crossed bolos with red blades

and blue hilts. The regiment rendered very good service on the Mexican Border in 1916 and this is indicated by the cactus. The regimental colors; black and yellow, are shown by the black border within the edge and by the colors of the rest which shows against the yellow regimental flag."

So, with a greater understanding and appreciation of the high traditions of the 11th Cavalry, let us pass on to pick up again its thread of history to determine if these traditions have been upheld by those destined to be the heirs in this great contemporary emergency know to us as World War II.

Chapter II

THE REBIRTH OF THE 11TH CAVALRY

THE REBIRTH OF THE 11TH CAVALRY

The ardent horse advocates, accused of fighting with their hearts rather than their heads, did not meekly retire from the controversial field of battle, but rather bitterly contested every inch of ground. Even today they still point knowingly at Russian successes in the employment of large masses of horse cavalry. However, although the adherents were inevitably overpowered by the surge to mechanization, they did not abandon old cavalry tradition, dash, and color, and ultimately infused it as the spark which has made the American Armored Force the most feared in the world.

Even in face of this encouraging fact the picture was to become brighter. Although the great bulk of American Cavalry lost its horses and was absorbed into the Armored Force, the cavalry did not completely lose its identity as in other armies, particularly the British. The War Department organized all cavalry into mechanized reconnaissance units, some separate groups and some attached to armored and infantry divisions, thus preserving and exploiting the cavalry "esprit" and the changeless principles of cavalry use, namely, battlefield mobility and shock action. The wisdom of this decision has been since clearly evidenced by the enviable record established by Cavalry Groups during the present war.

Thus we may be able to attach more than just ordinary significance to a certain event which took place on 5 May 1943, and which was destined to furnish the medium of our contribution to the great cause of human liberty for which we now fight. The event referred to was the rebirth of the 11th Cavalry, this time, in accord with a new era, as a Mechanized Cavalry Group, the first of its kind in the American Army.

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Cavalry Group Mechanized, was organized at Camp Young, California, drawing its officer cadre mainly from the Cavalry School, Fort Riley, Kansas, and its enlisted cadre from the 107th Cavalry Regiment, Santa Rosa, California. The initial strength was 13 officers and 53 enlisted men which has since been increased to an authorized strength of 19 officers and 64 enlisted men.

Colonel William H. W. Reinburg, Chief of the Tactics Department at the Cavalry School, was given command of the Group, bringing with him several officers of the school. Four of the original officers have served continously and outstandingly to the present time, Major Thomas J. Brett, Major Jack R. Todd, Major Charles E. Hermanek, and Captain Donald A. Soll.

Early in June 1943, Group Headquarters took station at Camp Hyder, Arizona, where it was ultimately joined by the 6th Reconnaissance Squadron from San Luis Obispo, California, the 8th Reconnaissance Squadron from Camp Laguna, Arizona, and the 90th Reconnaissance Squadron from Camp Barkley, Texas. The 6th Squadron was soon transferred to another assigment, never to return to the Group. The brief sojourn at Camp Hyder was marked by intense desert heat, furious dust storms, and sudden violent rain storms resulting in frequent floods which swept through the camp. Here the 8th Squadron suffered the loss of a promising officer when Lt. Young of Hq & Sv Troop was instantly killed by a bolt of lightning during one of the storms.

The 8th and 90th Squadrons, later to be redesignated as the 44th and 36th Squadrons respectively, were destined to become permanent fixtures in the Group. The 90th Squadron was activated at Camp Barkley, Texas, on 15 September 1942, when the 90th Division was motorized. The new table of organization required a reconnaissance squadron instead of a troop. Consequently the 90th Reconnaissance Troop provided the necessary cadre. The Squadron was rapidly brought up to strength drawing the majority of its personnel from the various units of the 90th Motorized Division. Two members of the original officer cadre

are still with the Squadron, Captain Roy L. Huckabee, and Captain Donald K. Winter, squadron surgeon.

During the period 2 February to 30 March 1943, the Squadron participated in the Louisiana Manuevers, returning to Camp Barkley where it was relieved from assignment to the 80th Infantry Division, which had again been reorganized. Troop A of the Squadron was relieved and assigned to the division as the 90th Reconnaissance Troop. Soon thereafter the Squadron made preparations for a move to the Desert Training Center and on 15 June detrained at Hyder, Arizona, where four days later it was attached to the 11th Cavalry Group.

The history of the 8th Reconnaissance Squadron is very similar to that of the 90th, differing only as to geographical location and time. The 8th Squadron sprang from the 8th Reconnaissance Troop when the 8th Infantry Division was motorized at Fort Jackson, S. C., on 20 June 1942. Captain (now Colonel) Brainard S. Cook, was the first commanding officer and soon rose to Major and Lt Colonel. He became a recognized authority on reconnaissance and ultimately left the Squadron to be assigned to the Cavalry School at Fort Riley in July 1943. Soon after its activation the Squadron participated in the Tennessee Manuevers from September to December 1942. Following the manuevers the 8th Motorized Division moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where it remained until it was alerted for desert training. The 8th Squadron preceeded the Division to the Desert Training Center, detrained at Yuma, Arizona, on 21 March 1943, and immediately marched to its station at Camp Laguna 25 miles away. After a few weeks of acclimatizion, training began in earnest for the coming maneuvers of June and July.

Late in June the Squadron moved to the California-Arizona Maneuver Area in blazing desert heat, and for the next three weeks was subjected to a severe physical test as it engaged in the maneuver exercises. The tank troop suffered especially during this period, but the men showed remarkable physical stamina even when their tanks had to be buttoned up.

The 8th returned to Camp Laguna in July to find itself an orphan as a consequence of the reorganization of the 8th Motorized Division into an Infantry Division. Troop B was assigned to the division as the 8th Reconnaissance Troop, and a new troop was formed in its place under Captain Herman W. Fowler. After Lt Col Cook was reassigned, Major William C. Rountree took command and the Squadron moved to Camp Hyder, Arizona, on 1 August 1943, to take its place in the 11th Cavalry Group.

Two men of the original 8th Reconnaissance Troop cadre from the 7th and 8th Cavalry of Ft Bliss, Texas, are still in the Squadron, battlefield-appointed 2nd Lt James R. Paul of Troop B, and Tec 4 Lawrence Guillory of Hq Troop. Two officers, Major Millard R. Seaton, Exec O, and CWO Robert L. Groover, Adjutant, were members of the cadre which activated the 8th Squadron.

The Group, thus intact with the 8th and 90th Squadrons, was moved to Camp Pilot Knob, California, on 15 August 1943, where an intensive period of training was undertaken which culminated in the maneuvers of late November and early December 1943. It was during this period that the Group first became acquainted with the Army Ground Force tests designed to determine its proficiency for combat service. On 22 December 1943, the 8th and 90th Squadrons were reorganized and redesignated as the 44th and 36th Squadrons, respectively, under the new table of organization which resulted in the addition of the assault gun troops. Soon after came the long-awaited news of the projected move to the Eastern seaboard and consequent relief from the grueling desert training. The 44th Squadron, claiming the dubious honor of the longest desert period spent by any combat unit in the Army, (over 10 months), had yet another unpleasant, if not humorous, experience to face. With tents struck and turned in, and equipment packed and loaded for the trip, they were informed at the last minute that passenger cars were not available for the personnel. There in

the midst of the sandy desert waste the 44th, without overcoats and only two blankets per man, weathered rain, sand storms, and the freezing winter nights until transportation was available about a week later.

Early February 1944, found the Group under the control of the Eastern Defense Command, at Fort Bragg, N. C., undergoing an intensive schedule of range firing in preparation for its first tactical mission of the current war. On 15 March 1944, the 11th Cavalry took over the defense of the Eastern Coastline of the United States from the Santee River in South Carolina (on the north), to the southern tip of Key West, Florida. The 44th Squadron was stationed at Camp Stoney Field, Charleston, South Carolina, with Troop A outposted at Brunswick, Georgia. Group Headquarters and the 36th Squadron took station at Atlantic Beach, Florida, with Troops A and C outposted at St. Augustine and Miami, respectively. Intensive patroling was carried out and close liasion maintained with the Coast Guard, Harbor Defense, and FBI authorities. Communications were perhaps the most important phase of this mission, and in recognition of the outstandingly efficient manner in which he discharged his duties, Captain Donald A. Soll, Group Communications Officer, was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Commanding General of the Southeastern Sector, Eastern Defense Command.

During this period Colonel Reinburg left the Group for another assigment and Lt Col Harry W. Candler was left in temporary command.

Chapter III

FROM GEORGIA TO THE ROER

FROM GEORGIA TO THE ROER

On 1 June 1944, the 11th Cavalry reverted to the control of the Army Ground Forces and assembled at Camp Gordon, Georgia, for what everyone correctly sensed to be the final tune-up for overseas combat duty. Four days later on 5 June 1944, our present commander, Colonel Andrew A. Frierson, assumed command of the Group.

A West Pointer with long years of valuable experience behind him and realizing what lay in the future, Colonel Frierson set high standards of discipline and proficiency for the 11th and did not rest until he saw them reflected in every subordinate unit of the Group. During the ensuing period of intense training all personnel responded whole-heartedly and great proficiency was shown as the units successfully passed the rigid tests for combat service.

Troops of the 11th Cavalry will not soon forget the POE preparations involving the tedious ordeals of the innumerable showdowns, manicuring vehicles for ordnance approval, and packing and crating of impedimenta for shipment, to enumerate only a few. However, the big day arrived at long last and 22 September 1944 became remarkable in our history as POE-Day at Camp Kilmer, N. J., the last stop before embarkation. Final processing and inspection was accomplished in six short days and on 28 September 1944, via train and harbor ferry, the Group moved to Pier 48 in New York, to board ship. This marked the second time in the history of the 11th Cavalry that it was to leave for overseas service from New York.

Colonel Frierson, in remarks made later in England, stated in effect that any doubts which he might have entertained concerning the Group's future vanished completely when personnel of the

11th Cavalry broke up the gangplank with a spontaneous cheer, unprecedented in his experience. Before midnight of 28 September 1944, the entire group was aboard US Transport NY 398 and at 0500 on the 29th she weighed anchor and passed quietly out of the harbor and in to the open sea. In private life the NY 398 is known as the SS "Cilicia", a good Scottish ship which had seen extensive service as a passenger liner before being refitted at Mobile, Alabama, as an auxilliary cruiser for the British Navy. A fast ship and heavily armed, she had done escort duty prior to her conversion to a troop carrier; the 11th Cavalry, an AAA Bn, and a small IPW unit made up her first troop contingent. As the "Cilicia" passed out to sea she was joined by other ships until approximately 40 assembled to make up the convoy.

As the convoy neared Europe orders were received to proceed to the River Clyde rather than Cherbourg, our original destination; and after 12 long days at sea, the morning of 10 October 1944 found the "Cilicia" anchored in the River Clyde near Greenock, Scotland. All U.S. Army Personnel abpard ship were soon made to feel somewhat at home by the visit and warm welcome of a Major General of the British Army, a former Commandant of Sandhurst, Great Britian's West Point. On October 11th the Group debarked at Greenock, Scotland, and boarded trains to the martial strains of a Scottish band. Swanage, England, a southcoast channel resort, proved to be the immediate destination where, for the next six weeks, emphasis was placed on a final schedule of physical conditioning and last minute gathering of equipment.

The period culminated in a Group review at which Colonel Frierson addressed the command, briefly reviewing the history and traditions inherited from the old 11th Cavalry Regiment and pronouncing the new 11th well-trained, fully equipped, and with magnificent espirit, ready for the great adventure.

The first unit of the 11th Cavalry Group to cross the Channel was a platoon of Troop "B" 44th Squadron, under the command of Lt. Leonard D. Holder. This platoon was attached to

SHAEF for CP security and escort duty, where it remained until after VE-Day when it rejoined the Squadron.

On 23 November 1944 the Group marched to an assembly area near Weymouth, England, prior to loading on a small fleet of LST's for the final sea leg of its journey to the Continent and combat. With this accomplished, they threaded their way through mine fields along the English Coast until opposite Southhampton and thence across the channel to Le Harve, where the 36th Squadron debarked. The ships carrying Group Headquarters and the 44th Squadron proceeded on up the winding Seine River to the bomb-torn river port of Rouen.

After debarkation all units of the Group marched to the "Block B", Red Horse Assembly Area near Forges Les Eaux, France. Here the Group camped for ten long days in ankle-deep mud and incessant rain, and had good occasion to break in its new "puptents" which were pitched alongside the narrow road jammed with vehicles, bumper to tail gate.

The next hop was made to Soissons, France, of World War I fame, on 6 December 1944, where the basic load of ammunition was picked up. After a brief over-night stop the 11th marched through Belgium to the southern tip of Holland, via Laon, Mons, Charleroi, and St. Trond on the 7th and 8th, experiencing a brief but furious snow flurry in Holland. Group Headquarters and the 36th Squadron took billets at Arens Genhout and the 44th was quartered in Hulsburg, near Valkenburg. It is quite safe to say that personnel of the 11th Cavalry will never forget the unparalleled hospitality and good will of the Dutch people as they imposed great inconvience upon themselves in taking in every man their houses would hold. The morale boost was immeasurable as the men were able to escape the nasty weather and to enjoy the genuine friendship of these grateful people.

Chapter IV

THE BATTLE OF THE ROER

But now the stark reality of combat lay just ahead, and taking leave of its new-found friends on 11 December 1944, the Group undertook the short march out of Holland and into the front lines of Germany. Assigned to Ninth U. S. Army and attached to the XIII Corps, the 11th Cavalry's initial combat mission consisted generally of relieving the 406th Infantry Regiment of the 102nd Division of the defense of a sector between Linnich and Lindern, Germany, near the Roer River. Naturally everyone hoped for a true cavalry mission but since the front was static at all points, none was available. Organized and trained for war of movement, the troopers of the 11th disliked being separated from their vehicles. However, with traditional cavalry adaptability, the 11th turned to the doughboy role with a determination which drew nothing but praise from both Division and Corps Commanders.

On 12 December 1944, Group Headquarters and the Squadrons established CP's in Gereonsweiler, the scene on 17 November of a violent tank battle which the German radio termed "the most terrible and ferocious battle in the history of all wars." The reconnaissance and tank units parked their vehicles in the rear areas and went into the line; the assault guns were attached to the 102nd Division Artillery for fire missions in direct support of the sector.

At this point there occurred a change in command as Lt Col Stoker of the 36th Squadron was succeeded by Lt Col Candler, formerly Gp Ex Officer.

The events of the next few days will not soon be dimmed in the memory of the men of the 11th Cavalry. Now, with all the veneer of military glamor torn away, men became acquainted at first hand with the true ugliness of war. There was the intense cold, the everpresent semi-frozen mud, the deadly whine and

sickening crunch of the 88's, the stacatto reverberation of the burp guns, the characteristic ripping of the MG 34's and 42's, and the crack of the sniping K98's. But more trying than even these were the incessant mortar shells, which plummeted down without warning, and the endless patrols where "Joe" crawled out of his foxhole to come to close grips with "Jerry".

The 11th took its casualties, to be sure, but though green and untried during this initial combat period, statistics reveal 2 casualties inflicted on the enemy for every one received.

Troops on the line during this period also came into intimate contact with that most notorious Nazi weapon of war, propaganda. The medium was loud speaker and musical recordings, and the programs were intended to lower morale by making the Yanks long for home. On Christmas Eve our troops were treated to a special serenade with the theme "Wouldn't you rather spend Christmas at Home?" Propaganda leaflets, sent over in base-ejection artillery shells, had the same intent and bore themes which revealed the depraved, unscrupulous Nazi character.

On 22 December the Group was relieved by the 406th Infantry and reassigned a sector just south of Linnich on the Roer River. The Group established its CP at Setterich and directed the 36th to defend the assigned sector and placed the 44th in mobile division reserve. The assualt gun troops were shifted to Ederen and attached to the 252nd FA Bn for fire missions. On 23 December the Group moved its CP to Ederen and the 44th Squadron relieved elements of the 406th Infantry of the sector in the vicinity of Linnich.

Intensive patrolling was again resumed, this time with the added difficulty of crossing the Roer River each time. On 25 December Troop B of the 44th Squadron presented the Group with a Christmas present in the form of its first PW, a radio operator on a JU 88 from which he had bailed out when it ran out of gas behind our lines.

An outstanding patrolling activity took place the night of 26-27 December when a patrol, consisting of 18 enlisted men

of Troop A, 36th Squadron, and led by Lt Col Candler, Squadron CO, crossed the Roer in the vicinity of Tetz on a foot bridge constructed for that purpose by engineers. Aided by Major Krampitz, Sq Exec Officer, and Lt Sullivan, Lt Col Candler led the patrol toward Tetz until stopped by barbed wire, rifle and burp gun fire. Major Krampitz promptly liquidated the burp gunners by two well-placed grenades, and the patrol then proceeded until broken up by heavy mortar concentrations. By 2350 the patrol had returned in small groups except for the 3 officers and 3 enlisted men. The two field officers, now alone, continued on the mission, running a nine-mile gauntlet of sentries and groups of Germans and capturing a prisoner. While the officers were endeavoring to return, the prisoner fell into the river and drew fire from the Germans by his shouts. Major Krampitz received a flesh wound and the prisoner escaped. The officers returned at 0150, but at 0245 Lt Col Candler again led a platoon across the Roer to rescue Lt Sullivan and the missing members. The force met heavy fire, and after Lt Col Candler was wounded in the calf of the leg, returned at 0530 without success. According to information received since, Lt Sullivan was taken prisoner and was later released when the Allies drove into the Reich. For their leadership and gallantry in this action, Lt Col Candler and Major Krampitz were subsequently awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star Medals, respectively. Both were evacuated and Major Carter assumed command of the 36th.

At this time the great German counter-offensive into Belgium and Luxembourg was now nearly two weeks old, and with fanatical fury the Nazis had pushed a bulge almost to the French border. Many combat units were pulled out of the line in static sectors and had been thrown into the battle to halt the Nazi offensive. This resulted in considerable thinning of the line in the XIII Corps sector, and eventually the 11th found itself occupying the same front originally held by the 102nd Division when the Group was committed.

Added to the increased sector, the new year, 1945, brought a new directive for harrassing the enemy, and plans were immediately instituted to carry out these instructions as effectively as possible. A "Commando" platoon was organized consisting of volunteers drawn from all units of the Group, to operate as a combat patrol under the personal direction of the Group Commander. Dummy tanks were constructed, provisional weapons units were formed, and a scheduled firing of pyrotechnics were all coordinated with other activity of the reserve tank company and demonstration by front line units as harrassing agencies. The program got under way the early morning of 2 January 1945, when Co F of the 36th ran their tanks along the roads of the front, and the provisional cal..50 MG's opened up on the enemy position. As expected, this activity drew heavy artillery fire from the Germans, which was promptly neutralized by our counter-battery fire. The dummy tank positions also drew enemy fire.

The program was effectively climaxed 6 January 1945, by the "Commando" platoon in an elaborately-planned raid designated as operation "Cleaver". The objective was the destruction of a troublesome troop shelter which the enemy used as a base from which to launch harrassing operations into our sector. Led by Lt Rodney P Lukens of the 36th and Lt Roger S. Maddocks of the 44th, the patrol moved to its forward assembly area after hundreds of rounds of artillery and mortar shells had been poured into the adjacent enemy positions. Covered by a smoke screen the "Commandos" jumped off at 1630, quickly achieving their objective before the surprised enemy could open up. Lt Lukens and Sgt Tony Castelli of Co F, 44th Squadron, entered the shelter under cover of the rest of the patrol and placed a 40-pound charge of TNT which completely destroyed it. After eliminating all enemy resistance near the objective, the patrol withdrew under heavy fire of all types, narrowly escaping being cut off by enemy who had infiltrated behind them.

No detail had been neglected in the planning of this operation.

One which possibly saved the lives of many members of the patrol was the foresight which had caused a wire line to be run from the 102nd Division Artillery Fire Direction Center to the Colonel's OP, the attic of a house on the outskirts of Linnich and immediately adjacent to the terrain over which the combat patrol operated. The attack of our combat patrol was the signal for the enemy to cut loose on the town of Linnich with all their artillery within range. The artillery FO was heard to tell the Fire Direction Center that his OP was getting too hot and that he was withdrawing. Shells were now falling on all sides of the Colonel's OP, one shell going through the attic in which his party was located. Realizing that to withdraw would leave the patrol without artillery support, the Colonel ordered the enlisted men to the basement below; and with Captain (now Major) Brett, Captain (now Major) Todd, and Captain E. C. Jones, 44th Squadron, who refused to retire, the Colonel personally acted as FO and directed the fire of the Division Artillery until completion of the action. The officers with the patrol later stated that without the help of our artillery it is extremely doubtful if any of the members of the patrol would have returned alive. Two members of the patrol where killed and several wounded, the latter being evacuated by litter bearers who were led back under intense fire by Lt Lukens.

The Group Commander, after witnessing the dauntless courage of the patrol, stated that "if all our soldiers were of their caliber, the war wouldn't last long". Their gallantry did not go unrecognized. Every member of the patrol was subsequently awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Major General A. C. Gillem Jr., XIII Corps Commander. A complete list of their names may be found in the STATISTICS SECTION of this history. The patrol leaders and Lt (now Captain) Robert C. Hess, Group Asst S-2, who had participated in the raid as forward observer, were personally decorated by Major General Gillem. Lt Lukens received the Silver Star for his heroism in returning for the wounded.

At this same time Colonel Frierson was awarded the Silver

Star Medal by the CG, 102d Infantry Division, for his outstanding leadership and gallantry in action extending over the period 13 December to 7 January 1945. General Gillem made the presentation. Captain Brett, Group S-3, came in for a lion's share of the credit for the outstanding performance of the Group over this same period, when he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

On 13 January 1945 the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron was attached to the Group and was sent into the Linnich sector to relieve the 44th Squadron, which was sent back to a rest camp near Kerkrade, Holland, for a program of maintenance and orientation.

The 36th Squadron, still on the line, continued to conduct patrolling over the Roer River in an aggressive manner. On the night of 16-17 January 1945, a volunteer patrol of Troop "C" led by Lt Ferdinand A. Dostal, Lt William W. Waddell, and Sgt. Kingdon J. Gould, crossed over the Roer; assaulted a strongly defended troop shelter, captured a prisoner; and after blowing up the shelter, successfully returned with the prisoner in face of heavy enemy fire, although Lt Waddell was wounded. The outstanding succes of this operation was due to careful planning and reconnaissance carried out for 72 hours beforehand, under the skilled direction of Captain John E. Newlin Jr., Troop "C" Commander. The three patrol leaders were all awarded the Silver Star Medal for their gallantry in this action.

During this period the British were attacking steadily in the 21st Army Group Sector immediately to the north in order to extend their lines to the Roer River in preparation for the great spring offensive. From Linnich to the northern boundry of the American XIII Corps sector, the battle line had not been extended to the River. Consequently, it was necessary for the Corps to coordinate an attack with the British drive which would clear the western side of the Roer for use as a springboard in the big drive to come. This attack was designated as operation "Swift" and certain supplementary missions were assigned the 11th Cavalry Group.

Regrouping of the forces in the line for the coming operation resulted in the 36th Squadron being relieved by elements of the 277th Engr C Bn on 17 January 45. The Squadron moved back to Ederen for rehabilitation and began preparations to go back into the line. On 25 January the 36th relieved elements of the 17th Squadron and the 406th Infantry in the sector just north of Linnich, and the 44th Squadron moved into position near Lindern. The 36th Squadron was to attack and gain objective "Poplar", and then to consolidate the MLR, in order to control the west bank of the Roer. To the north the 44th was to be passed through by the 406th Infantry attacking Brachelen. The 17th Squadron was to move out and occupy all ground to the river in its sector. D-Day and H-Hour were to be announced.

A deserter was picked up by the 36th at 2300 on 25 January 45, who volunteered the information that the Germans had pulled the bulk of their forces back across the river. Immediately the Group Commander directed that the 44th Squadron send out 3 patrols to verify this vital information. One of the patrols, ably led by Lt. Neal R. Kemp who personally reconnoitered a route across a mine field, pushed into the outskirts of Brachelen in face of sporadic enemy fire to ascertain the fact that the town was only lightly held by a delaying force. Lt Kemp led the patrol back without a casualty and was subsequently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his outstanding leadership and disregard for personal safety.

As a result of the information that the enemy was withdrawing, H-Hour was advanced from 1000 to 0630 26 January 1945, and the lavish artillery preparation which had been planned was cancelled on the information of the withdrawal of the German forces, in order that the dawn attack might be a suprise. Troop B spearheaded the 36th attack with A and C in support, and soon occupied objective "Poplar". Immediately heavy fire was received from Gut Rischmuhle and, although it was an infantry objective, Troop "C," moving around the left flank, captured it and flushed

23 Germans into the arms of Troop "B." The 17th Squadron moved out to occupy its objective and at 0853 Division announced that all objectives had been taken. At 0920 Corps announced that operation "Swift" had been completely successful. The price paid by the 11th in casualties was extremely light, two officers and six enlisted men being wounded and only one man killed.

For the 11th Cavalry, the Battle of the Roer was all but over. The 44th Squadron relieved the 277 Engineer Combat Battalion on the line and the 17th Squadron was relieved and detached from the Group on 29 January 45. The Group continued actively to defend its sector until relieved on 2 February 1945, by the 3rd Battalion, 405th Infantry. Reverting to Corps control, the 11th moved back to Heerlen, Holland, to be placed in mobile reserve. Immediately the Group Commander instituted a vigorous training program to bring the command up to its highest state of efficiency in preparation for a true cavalry mission in the proposed drive to the Rhine.

With over 50 days of active combat of the bitterest kind under its belt, men of the 11th Cavalry had won commendation from both Division and Corps Headquarters in terms of unqualified praise and admiration for the superior manner which all units had accomplished their missions. Now they looked forward eagerly to the opportunity of demonstrating their ability and prowess as mechanized cavalry for which long arduous training had prepared them.

Looking back to the period just completed, the 11th Cavalry could point with pride to 8 officers and 28 enlisted men of the Group whose battlefield valor had won them official decorations. Of these, 5 officers and 3 enlisted men won the Silver Star Medal, the remainder receiving the Bronze Star Medal.

The long-anticipated crossing of the Roer was now imminent, but in a sense it was to prove as ticklish a feat as the future crossing of the Rhine. The flow of the Roer was controlled by the huge Schwammeneseul Dam at its head waters, which had been constructed primarily as a weapon of defense by the Nazis shortly

before the war broke out. To cross before American Forces, which were driving hard to gain control of the dam, had attained their objective would be to risk being cut off by the blowing of the dam, and the subsequent flooding of the Roer Valley. As the Americans approached the dam and with the Ninth Army poised to make the crossing, the Germans, rather than release the total reservoir contents at once by completely blowing the dam, craftily blew only the flood gates which resulted in an excessive flow which delayed the attack from 10 February to 23 February 1945.

The 11th Cavalry meanwhile made good use of the time, getting vehicles into top notch condition and studying maps of the terrain over which they expected to operate when the Corps Commander saw fit to commit the Group. When the time came, the 11th was ready and its subsequent performance more than bore out the bold prediction of its Commanding Officer in England.

Chapter V

FROM THE ROER TO THE RHINE

FROM THE ROER TO THE RHINE

The lightning-like stab of the American forces from the Roer to the Rhine may be better appreciated and understood by a brief examination of the assigned mission of the Ninth Army. The Ninth, freshest and potentially most powerful of all the American Armies, was watched like a hawk by the Germans, whose superlative intelligence correctly predicted that the Ninth would spearhead the drive and that the focal point of the crossing would be in the vicinity of Linnich.

In general the mission of the Ninth was to cross the Roer, feint toward Cologne, wheel north to meet the Canadians, and then wheel right to the Rhine between Neuss and Moers. The XIII Corps was to spearhead the drive, making the initial crossing of the Roer, and then driving along the path outlined above, with the XVI Corps moving on its left. Corps attacked with divisions abreast, the 84th Division on the left. The mission of the 11th consisted of screening the Corps left flank as the 84th Division pushed out ahead of XVI Corps.

After a tremendous 45 minute artillery preparation, the 84th and 102nd Divisions broke across the Roer at 0330 on 23 February and Operation "Grenade" had exploded. Smashing the crust of the German resistance on the east bank of the River, the XIII Corps drove several miles toward Cologne and then suddenly wheeled directly north. Before the bewildered Germans realized what was taking place, Task Force Church (84th Division) was knocking at the gates of Wegberg and on 26 February, Major General Gillem called for the 11th Cavalry to screen the exposed left flank of the 84th.

The 44th Squadron, under command of Major (now Lt Col) Ralph L. Foster, was alerted for movement at 0305 on 28 February

to Brachelen, Germany. The 36th was to follow on Group order. Group Headquarters opened its CP in Brachelen at 0500 and ordered the 44th to screen the Corps left flank from Golkrath to the north, maintaining contact with the 35th Division, XVI Corps, on the left and the 84th Division on the right. The 44th moved to Golkrath, established roadblocks along the flank and aggressively contained all enemy forces on the flank.

This first day of action cost the 44th Squadron considerable losses. At the break of day in Brachelen the explosion of a large shell or mine resulted in 3 enlisted men killed and 3 officers wounded, not to mention the loss and damage of several vehicles. At Golkrath a small task force under Captain Eldred C. Jones, CO Troop "B", with the mission of establishing a road block, encountered an enemy roadblock, covered by small arms and antitank fire. Captain Jones' force, due to the heroism of several of its officers and men and its cool vigourous fighting, extricated itself with the loss of only 2 killed and several wounded. 1st Lt Jimmie S. Knight was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Staff Sergeant Andrew Clements received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in this action. Lt Knight, who died later from a mortal wound, gallantly continued to direct his platoon until he lost consciousness. Sgt Clements, with utter disregard for his life, was responsible for saving the platoon leader's vehicle and crew which had become mired.

With the 44th Squadron containing the enemy to Waldniel, Group Headquarters opened its CP in Wegberg on 28 February and ordered the 36th Squadron to screen and mop up the Corps boundary ahead of the 44th from Waldniel to Boisheim after the latter had been captured by Task Force Church. On this mission the Squadron was without Troop "A", which had previously been diverted and assigned interior guard duty at the XIII Corps CP.

Troop "B", 36th Squadron, while performing a supplementary Squadron mission near Waldniel, suffered the serious loss of four of its officers who were on dismounted reconnaissance. One of the officers, Lt Marshall, was killed and the other three, Lts An-

derson, Lukens, and Williams were wounded and captured but were later liberated from a German hospital by advancing troops.

By 1 March, CCA of the 8th Armored Division of the XVI Corps had advanced sufficiently along the Corps boundary for the Group Commander to withdraw the 44th Squadron, and assign it a new mission of leap-froging the 36th and seizing bridges on the Dyek-Rennekoven Road northeast of Boisheim. The 44th encountered spirited enemy resistance in the accomplishment of this mission which resulted in 25 enemy killed and wounded and 40 captured.

With the Corps now wheeling east to drive to the Rhine and with contact made with the 8th Armored Division near Boisheim, the Group Commander ordered the 36th Squadron to screen the exposed flank from Rennekoven to Oedt and to seize the Niers Canal Bridge in the area. The screen was complete by 1600 1 March and the following day the 36th pushed aggressively across the Niers Canal and initiated reconnaissance into Kempen, which was found to be unoccupied. At this time the Squadron reverted to the command of Lt Col Candler, who had returned to duty from hospitalization during the morning of 2 March 45.

The push of the 36th into Kempen on 2 March 45 was marked by the heroism of Sgt Benjamin A. Waer and 2nd Lt Kingdon J. Gould of Troop "C," who ignored heavy small arms fire delivered at close range to evacuate wounded comrades from a disabled vehicle. Lt Gould and Sgt Waer were awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal, respectively. This was the second to be won by battlefield-appointed Lt Gould, who also distinguished himself the following day near Kapellen, Germany, when disregarding intense enemy fire, he helped extricate two men trapped in a burning tank.

At 0700 on 2 March the Group was reinforced by the attachment of the 605th TD Bn. One company was attached to each of the Squadrons, the remainder of the Bn being placed in Group reserve.

Forces of the XVI Corps had by now advanced sufficiently to cover that portion of the flank which had been screened by the 44th Squadron. On Group order the 44th marched all night of 2-3 March and closed in Huls at 1100 to receive a new mission of screening to the Niepkuhlen River and reconnoitering for crossing sites. The 36th was withdrawn from its screen and assigned the mission of crossing the river, establishing the screen to Moers and pushing on to the Rhine.

As the Squadrons pushed on against stiffening enemy resistance, the veteran 5th Armored Division, which had now replaced the 8th, rolled past the 44th Squadron screen. Therefore on the afternoon of 3 March, the 44th was directed to assemble in the vicinity of Kapellen and await further orders.

Heretofore both Squadrons had accomplished their missions in face of only ordinary resistance, while capturing many prisoners. Now as the Group pushed its screen nearer the Rhine, German resistance progressively stiffened. The 36th, driving hard on Moers, bore the brunt of the fury of this enemy now fighting with his back to the wall. As Troop "C," spearheading the Squdron's advance, approached the town of Kapellen, the column was stopped by fierce, accurate, antitank fire which quickly knocked out the two lead tanks. Sgt Dale W. Riser and Tec 4 Stanley L. Grunke risked their lives to extricate the wounded from these tanks for which action both received Silver Star Medals.

Captain Newlin, the Troop Commander, cooly withdrew his force a short distance, organized a dismounted party to flank the town; disposed his attached TDs and assault guns for support, and led his troops into the town under heavy shell fire, forcing the withdrawal of the enemy garrison which included two tanks. Driving on to Moers in the darkness, he vigorously engaged the enemy on the outskirts and greatly facilitated the advance and occupation of the town by his Squadron the next morning. For his aggressive and inspirational leadership in this action, Captain Newlin was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The drive to Moers was marked by many outstanding deeds

of personal valor and sacrifice. With its Squadron pushing north from Huls to establish its screen to the Rhine, a platoon of Troop "B", 36th Squadron, was proceeding along its route approaching the town of Brusterhafe, Germany. A three-man patrol, including Cpl Earl R. Sheler and Tec 5 Grady B. Tharpe, with the mission of reconnoitering the route in advance of its platoon, suddenly encountered strong enemy positions. Tharpe immediately started back on foot to warn his platoon and had advanced about 100 yards when he was painfully wounded in the leg by enemy machine gun fire. He fell but struggled to his feet and continued with the message. Cpl Sheler, realizing the runner would not be able to get through unaided, left his covered position, manned the machine gun mounted on the jeep, and fired on the enemy positions until killed at his post. Tharpe, covered by Sheler's fire, was able to get through and warn his platoon in time to prevent it from being ambushed. Cpl Sheler was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for his valor and Tharpe received the Bronze Star Medal.

The 44th Squadron, moving into Kapellen on the heels of the 36th, repelled a determined German counter-attack on the town during the early hours of 4 March 1945, which was supported by heavy artillery and rocket fire.

Group Headquarters moved into Moers while it was still being mopped up, and the 36th was ordered to extend its screen on to the Rhine. This was accomplished early on 5 March and Colonel Frierson, seeing his forces being pinched out by the advance of the 5th Armored and 84th Infantry Divisions, requested Major General Bolling, Commanding General of the 84th Infantry Division, to relieve the Group of its screening mission, which request was granted.

Thus closed the second brilliant chapter in the combat history of the 11th Cavalry Group. In six days of the most difficult of battlefield operations, the Group had effectively screened 32 miles of exposed XIII Corps flank. The 11th had capured 288 prisoners and killed 199 of the enemy compared with its own

losses of only 11 killed and 45 wounded. Vehicular loses were extremely light, totaling only 20 of all types, although units of the Group were constantly facing the deadly German 88.

Although the primary mission of the Group in this operation was security of the left flank and counter reconnaissance, the traditional Cavalry role of reconnaissance was not neglected. Liaison officers were kept moving continuously between the Group CP and XIII Corps, the 84th Division, 5th Armored Division, 8th Armored Division, XVI Corps, the 102d Division, and smaller units. These officers, using the Group CP as a clearing house for information, were able to give commanders valuable information not only of the enemy, derived from reports from our Squadrons, but were also able to keep commanders informed of the disposition of adjacent friendly units and in many cases were able to give commanders important information of the dispositions of their own subordinate units.

Immediately upon being relieved of its combat screening mission, the Group was assigned a new mission of screening the civilian population for military personnel and of locating and reporting all military supplies and equipment in the 84th Division area. The 44th Squadron was assigned this mission, and on the first day picked up 500 suspects in the area from Krefeld north to Kapellen. On 6 March 372 more were picked up with many supply dumps located and reported. The third day, 7 March, netted 130 more making a total of 1000.

Meanwhile the 36th was given the task of locating, assembling, and guarding all railroad locomotives and cars in the vicinity of Viersen. This resulted in a haul of 12 locomotives and 143 cars which were turned over to the Military RR Service.

In addition to these missions, the urgency of adequate provisions for the control of the civilian population in this area also

weighed heavily upon the Group, and the Group Commander delegated the supervision of this matter to Major Jack R. Todd, Group S-2.

On 7 March the 11th Cavalry was detached from the 84th Division and reverted to control of the XIII Corps. Upon the release of the Group, Major General Bolling, 84th Infantry Division Commander, presented Colonel Frierson with the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service in recognition of the superior manner in which he had directed the 11th's brilliant performance of its mission from the Roer to the Rhine. In addition to Colonel Frierson's award, Major General Bolling on 8 March forwarded a letter of commendation for the splendid performance of the Group through the XIII Corps Headquarters to which Major General Gillem added his own commendation. The full text of this letter and indorsement may be found in the STATISTICS SECTION of this history.

In recognition of the meritorious service and devotion to duty displayed by various members of the Group and Squadron Staffs during this same period, Colonel Frierson recommended that especially deserving officers and men receive appropriate awards for their outstanding contribution to the success of the 11th's operations. Lt Col Candler was presented with the Bronze Star Medal for his sound tactical decisions, continual presence at scenes of the hottest fighting, and his aggressive leadership of the 36th Squadron. Major Brett, Group S-3, received the Oak Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star for the superior manner in which he discharged his duty as Operations Officer. Major Todd, Group S-2, Major Charles E. Hermanek, Group S-4, and Master Sergeant Victor J. Sayre and Tec 4 Robert F. Johnson, both of the Group Staff, were all awarded Certificates of Merit for outstanding performance of duty during this campaign. In a

letter of commendation on 7 March, Colonel Frierson expressed his "pride and admiration for the superior manner in which all members of the Eleventh Cavalry performed their combat duties during the advance from the Roer to the Rhine".

On 7 March the 11th Cavalry, "jack-of-all-trades" troops of XIII Corps, received the mission of searching and providing security in the Corps rear areas in the vicinity of Dulken and Viersen. From 8 March to 12 March the Squadrons patrolled and searched the area, reporting great quantities of valuable supplies and rounding up all potentially dangerous German civilians.

A new mission was received on 11 March, directing the Group to defend a front line sector on the Rhine. On 12 March Group Headquarters closed its CP in Suchteln and reopened in Osterrath on the Rhine near Dusseldorf. The 44th Squadron was ordered to defend the six-mile river line and to patrol and search one-third of the Group sector.

The 36th established its CP in Willich, and received the mission of patrolling and searching two-thirds of the Group sector and of conducting nightly combat and reconnaissance patrols across the Rhine beginning the night of 15-16 March. As at the Roer the assault gun troops were attached to division artillery for fire missions, this time to the 5th Armored Division Artillery, which was in direct support of the Group.

The period which followed was anything but dull. The American and German artillery lost no time in probing into the other's defenses, and engaged in fierce counter-battery duels as flash and sound sections located hostile gun positions. Patrolling was conducted determinedly in the face of defenses manned by alert paratroopers, on edge with the constant expectancy of of the imminent American crossing. To cross the Rhine, gain any kind of information, and return with a whole skin came to

be regarded as a remarkable feat. Yet the men of the 11th went over night after night, many times to be met on the eastern bank by withering fire which sometimes forced them to return by swimming when their boats were riddled and sunk. It is impossible within the short space afforded by this publication to do justice to this phase of operations when men of the 11th took their lives into their hands and dauntlessly carried out this mission of harrassing the jittery enemy. Only the more outstanding instances may be recorded.

The 36th Squadron sent its first patrols over the night of 15-16 March. One of these, led by Lt David H. Shenk of Troop "A," was particularly successful due to the heroism of two of its members, Tec 5 Frank J. Stefonick and Sgt Sidney Fischer. These two men, while acting as the point of the patrol, silenced an enemy strong point, which had pinned the patrol down by its fire, by boldly charging the position and hand-grenading it. As the patrol sought to return, these men cut a path through a barbed wire entanglement and then voluntarily covered the withdrawal of the patrol, killing and wounding several of the enemy. Both were awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

On 21 March the 36th and 44th Squadrons were interchanged in the Group sector, and the 44th took up the Rhine Patrols. As a result of the constant patrolling and other harrassing action in the Group sector, the enemy had become increasingly sensitive to our operations, and all indications supported the belief that the enemy strongly expected a major crossing to be launched from our sector. First, the Group sector lay immediately north of the important industrial city of Dusseldorf and was a logical point from which to springboard an encircling spearhead. Second, and most important, the enemy replaced his isolated Volksgrenadier outposts, which the patrols had first encountered, with alert and

well-organized defenses manned by paratroopers, the Nazi's best troops. The enemy came to react violently to our patrols with intense fire of all types, by flood-lighting the area with flares, and strong aerial reconnaissance.

Under these conditions the 44th Squadron sent 11 reconnaissance and combat patrols across the Rhine during the period 21-28 March. Speaking eloquently of the hazards faced, and also of the effective manner in which the Group harrassing mission was accomplished, is the fact that 7 of these patrols were met by heavy fire at the river's bank. The others were able to penetrate the defenses only a short distance, encountering newly installed minefields, some of which had not yet been activated. To this fact at least one of the Troop "B" patrol members owes his life, when he became entangled in a trip wire and unearthed a "Bouncing Betty" (S-Mine) while freeing himself.

Since the Ninth Army had crossed the Rhine in the XVI Corps sector just south of Wesel, the 11th Cavalry was now marking time until it was committed in Operation "Plunder". Following an hour artillery preparation unprecedented in the history of warfare, troops of the XVI Corps swarmed across the Rhine at 0200 24 March, accomplishing the first phase of the Ninth's mission of crossing the Rhine, driving through the Westphalian Plain, isolating the Rhur by link-up with the First Army, and then on to meet the Red Army.

The 17th Airborne Division, which had been dropped behind the Rhine defenses on D-Day, had teamed up with the British 6th Guards Armored Brigade and had driven to the shadow of Munster by 30 March 1945. This sector was given to the XIII Corps which alerted the 11th Cavalry on 28 March for movement to this area. For this operation the 771st TD Battalion (SP) was attached to the Group.

The remaining days of the month of March were spent on final tune-up for the last big push by a tried and proven 11th Cavalry enjoying the confidence and admiration of all units with which it had been associated. The Group closed its Osterath CP late on 31 March and, following in the wake of the 5th Armored Division, began the march to its forward assembly area across the Rhine.

Chapter VI

FROM THE RHINE TO THE ELBE

FROM THE RHINE TO THE ELBE

The 11th Cavalry crossed the Rhine at Wesel, which was now practically leveled in the fierce battle which had passed over it. At 0230 on Easter Sunday, 1 April 45, Group Headquarters, followed by the 36th and 44th, and 771st TD Bn, crossed over the pontoon bridge which lay between the twisted wreckage of the great highway and railroad bridges blown by the Germans as they retreated. Already the Engineers were driving piling for the railway bridge which was to carry supplies to the racing Allied forces.

At 1600 the column closed in its forward assembly area in the vicinity of Rorup, about 15 miles west of Munster. The mission of the Group was to protect the north flank of the XIII Corps from Coesfeld east, maintaining contact with the Second British Army on the left and the 17th AB Division, which was now driving on Munster, on the right. Major General Gillem and Colonel George B. Peploe, XIII Corps G-3, visited the CP and discussed the Group's mission with the CO and S-3. Liasion Officers were dispatched to the VIII British Corps, XIII Corps, 17th AB Division, 5th Armored Division, and the 84th Infantry Division.

The 36th Squadron was given the initial mission and at 2035 1 April began the move to the flank, with Co "A", 771st TD Bn, attached. The screen was quickly established from Coesfeld to the Dortmund - Ems Canal, which runs through Munster. Here the situation become complicated. As Munster was still in the hands of the enemy and the only bridge still intact over the canal was south of Munster and for the exclusive use of the 5th Armored Division, the 11th found itself faced with the difficult problem of moving screening forces to the east side of the canal without a bridge.

It was known that the British on our north held a bridge over the Canal at Greven. Reconnaissance dispatched to observe the situation at the bridge reported that the British were not making full use of it. As the British had on several occasions, when it was to their advantage, seen fit to consider the boundry as "elastic", we decided to turn the "elastic" boundry to our advantage and succeeded in infiltrating the bulk of our forces across the bridge before the British discovered what was happening, and objected. Those small units which had not yet crossed succeeded in crossing under cover of darkness.

The 11th Cavalry was now facing the greatest job in its long history. From the time the Group was committed in this operation to its termination it was continually operating in virgin enemy territory faced with a hard fight to accomplish every mission. As the screening wedge was driven deeper and deeper into Hitler's Reich, the superiority of the 11th's quality of training, discipline, battle proficiency and courage began to manifest itself as the toll of enemy casualties and prisoners began to mount. This fact will become more apparent as we continue to follow the exploits of the Group as it swept to the banks of the Elbe.

The first brush with the enemy in this particular phase came on 2 April when the 36th encountered 88mm AT guns, losing one of its M-24 tanks, but reducing the guns and capturing 35 prisoners. The 44th Squadron was now directed to extend the screen to Melle. On 3 April, as Troop "B" was pushing toward Isum, the column was fired on from ambush which knocked out the point jeep and armored car behind it. The crew of the jeep dismounted and took cover in the ditch. Behind the armored car, the crew of the mortar jeep, Pfc Charles O. Fink and Tec 5 Charles F. Garlitz, quickly surveyed the situation and unhesitatingly drove their vehicle 200 yards through the hail of bullets to pick up the beleagured men and successfully return them to safety. Both Fink and Garlitz received the Silver Star Medal for this gallant action.

On 3 April 1945, the Group found itself in a tight spot.

Group Headquarters and the 36th Squadron established CP's in the town of Ostbevern, 10 miles NE of Munster, which was directly on the escape route of German forces being driven out of Munster, now under attack by the 17th Airborne Division and the British 6th Guards Armored Brigade. The 36th had already defeated the enemy in a stiff fight to take the town, killing approximately 100 Nazis. Now the Group faced the prospect of a fight to hold the town as civilians and PW's reported sizable enemy forces moving up from Munster. Every available man was alerted for perimeter defense of the town. As expected, at 0300 4 April, the enemy attacked from the west with a force of 200 infantry and six assualt guns. Hq & Sv Troop, 36th Squadron, with a platoon of Troop "A" and attached TD's, bore the brunt of the attack. The battle continued until 0700 and resulted in the completed destruction of the German force. All six enemy assualt guns were knocked out with about 50 of the infantry force killed and the remainder captured. One of the assualt guns was knocked out only a block away from the Group CP where Colonel Frierson was personally directing the defending forces. In this fight the 36th lost 2 men killed, 8 men wounded and 8 vehicles destroyed.

Something of the magnitude of the task which the Group was accomplishing in order to extend its screen is indicated by the fact that on 3 April 45, the Squadrons captured 509 prisoners and killed 150, not counting those eliminated in the Ostbevern battle early on 4 April. This bag of the enemy was to be duplicated time and again in the operations of the days following.

During 4 April the screen was pushed to Melle and the Squadrons continued to eliminate all enemy resistance encountered. The PW count was skyrocketing as 781 prisoners poured into the Group cage during the day with 76 enemy killed. Cut off as the Group was at this time from all friendly forces, the PW problem was becoming serious with only a small IPW section to take care of the large number of prisoners being accumulated. Under the capable supervision of Major Todd, Group S-2, and

Lt Ottenbacher, IPW Officer, the situation was well handled. Several men of Hq Troop of the Group under 1st Sgt John H. Erion deserve great credit for their efficient guarding and transporting of the prisoners, at times through enemy-held territory.

It was here at Ostbevern that one of the Group Liaison officers, Lt Frank D. Osborne of the 36th Squadron, was reported missing in action when he failed to return from a trip to the 84th Division.

On 5 April the 36th Squadron withdrew its screen from the Dortmund-Ems Canal to Ostbevern, moved past the 44th and extended the screen from Melle toward the Weser River. Group Headquarters opened its CP in Melle where a large enemy medical supply depot was taken over and placed under guard. During the day the Squadrons took 666 prisoners and killed 10 of the enemy.

The 44th was now ordered to move past the 36th and establish the screen from Lubbecke, exclusive, to the Weser River at Minden. To accomplish this mission the 44th was obliged to move its column blacked-out through inky darkness as well as to overcome enemy ambushes. Troop "C"'s column was pushing north along the bank of the Weser toward Minden when the point jeep hit a mine, wounding the occupants. The explosion served as a signal for the enemy to loose on the column heavy concentrations of artillery and anti-tank gun fire which had been previously registered on the road. A jeep carryng two medics suffered a direct hit resulting in the instant death of both. Several other vehicles were destroyed and five men were wounded. Many casualties were doubtlessly averted by the high courage and devotion to duty of Acting 1st Sgt Clair R. Miller, who continously exposed himself to the intense barrage while he personally aided every vehicle in the column to reverse its direction in the blackness and withdraw from danger. This heroic action was officially recognized when S/Sgt Miller subsequently received the Silver Star Medal. Sgt Melvin E. Stouffer, MD, 44th Sq, prob-

ably saved the lives of two of the wounded when he remained with them in an exposed position during the barrage and then removed them to safety. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The 36th received a supplementary mission during 6 April of mopping up a wooded area just south of Lubbecke. This and other actions by the Squadrons during the day resulted in the capture of 501 prisoners and 5 enemy killed.

On 7 April the Group was ordered to cover the left flank of the Corps from the Weser to the Leine Rivers. The 36th Squadron began to cross the Weser during the early hours of the morning and pushed the screen along the Weser-Elbe Canal to Sachsenhagen. Group Headquarters followed the 36th and opened its CP in Meerbeck near Stadthagen, ordering the 44th to push past the 36th, establish the screen to the Leine River, and to seize a bridge intact over the river if one existed.

The action resulting from this mission deserves a high place in the annals of 11th Cavalry history. The 44th moved along the Weser-Elbe Canal, establishing its screen, seizing 4 bridges intact and thence on to the Leine through Wunstorf, facing strong enemy artillery fire all the way. Major Foster, CO 44th, distinguished himself in this action by a hazardous and extensive personal reconnaissance for a crossing over the river which greatly assisted his Squadron and facilitated the seizure of the only intact bridge in that sector. He was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal for this achievement.

Meanwhile Colonel Frierson, particulary desirous of obtaining a bridge intact over the river which would facilitate the advance of the 84th Division, ordered the 36th Squadron to proceed north, cross the river over the bridge at Bordenau in the British sector, and seize the Ricklingen and autobahn bridges in our sector from the rear, a plan which had been prearranged with the British. However, the Squadron had not proceeded far when the 44th reported the seizure of the bridge at Ricklingen, which it could hold only lightly since most of its strength was committed on the flank. The 36th Squadron had already moved out toward

the Bordenau Bridge. They were directed by radio to change their direction of march, cross the Liene on the Ricklingen Bridge, assist the 44th Cavalry in holding the bridgehead and push reconnaissance to the east. The move to the bridge was made during the late hours on 8 April, against heavy mortar and artillery fire from the opposite bank. During this day's action, the Group captured 583 prisoners and killed 29 of the enemy.

Heavy shelling greeted the 36th Squadron as it pushed its troops across the bridge to secure the eastern approach. Hq & Sv Troop suffered heavy casualties in this barrage. The tenacity of "A" and "B" Troops of the 36th which routed the enemy on the eastern bank deserves special commendation. These troops accounted for eleven 88mm guns and one 75mm SP gun while securing this bridgehead. For exceptional leadership in this action and a subsequent one near Lagenhagen the following day, Captain Raymond H. Reed, CO of Troop "A", received the Bronze Star Medal. Captain Herbert S. Tinstman, CO of Troop "B", also distinguished himself by exemplary leadership during this action.

Great individual sacrifice and devotion to duty by Pvt (later Sgt) Robert H. Heddleston of Troop "C", 36th Squadron, marked this action as the bridgehead received intense shelling during the night, resulting in 5 men killed and 27 wounded. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Heddleston continously exposed himself to the hail of fire as he tirelessly searched the area for the wounded, personally evacuating six men and administering first aid to 15 more. He was later killed in another action and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Brilliant though the collective tactical and battle achievements of the 11th Cavalry Group are, one cannot search the individual and unit action citations and reports without reaching the conclusion that the combat record of the Group is highlighted by the recurring instances of unstinting self-sacrifice and devotion of the many officers and enlisted men who counted their lives of no value in order to assist their comrades. Men

like Sheler, Gould, Heddleston, Garlits, Fink, Utz, Miller, and Brown, to name only a few, deserve the highest tribute and acclaim of their comrades of the 11th Cavalry. The exceptionally low casualty rate of the Group would have been much higher but for the heroic action of these men.

Another example of this same spirit occurred when the 3rd Platoon, Troop "E", 44th Cavalry, was guarding an approach to the town of Wunstorf on 8-9 April. During the night the outpost was attacked by a platoon of enemy commanded by a captain, who managed to knock out one of the assault guns with a panzerfaust, wounding the two men on duty. Sgt Charles M. Huntington, commander of the gun, was awakened by the firing and immediately took part in the fight. Seeing the tank afire and grenades already exploding from the heat, he unhesitatingly mounted the deck of the tank, retreived the fire extinguisher from the burning tank, and put out the fire before the ammunition could explode. This accomplished, he dismounted and aided his platoon in routing the Germans, of which two were killed and 5 captured, including the captain. Huntington has been recommended for the DSC, action on which is now pending.

Still another outstanding example of heroic devotion occurred on 10 April when Tec 4 Charles J. Coleman, Hq & Sv Troop, 44th Squadron, drove through an artillery barrage to rescue a badly wounded comrade, for which he was later awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The 84th Division, moving across the bridge at Ricklingen, relieved the pressure on the 36th Squadron which immediately took advantage of the opportunity to extend its screen to Heitlingen, eliminating pockets of enemy resistance enroute. Major General Bolling, CG of the 84th Division, was highly appreciative of the seizure of the Ricklingen Bridge and commented that he fully expected to be delayed in crossing the river while a pontoon bridge was built. The British having made their principal crossing of the Liene River at Neustadt some ten miles to the north, a considerable enemy occupied sector between our

forces and the British was created. General Bolling at this time expressed his confidence in the ability of the 11th Cavalry to protect his flank and rear as he disposed his division for the assault on Hannover. In his own words to our Liaison Officer, "I'm not going to worry a bit about it, for I know Frierson is out there and will take care of it."

Colonel Frierson immediately disposed his Squadrons to most effectively cover this area with the 44th extending its screen from Heitlingen to Bissendorf, which was accomplished against stern enemy resistance late on 9 April. Action on this day resulted in 232 enemy captured and 47 killed.

Meanwhile, Major John M. Aylor, Group Executive Officer, had left the Wunstorf CP with a reconnaissance team of Troop "B", 36th Squadron, to reconnoiter the area north of Hannover for a new Group CP. Proceeding toward the town of Langenhagen, Major Aylor's team ran into an ambush. An antitank gun not 20 yards away blasted his vehicle throwing Major Aylor out. Taking cover behind the hedge he opened fire with his pistol. Pfc Thomas R. Billings, the machine gunner, was killed at his gun but not until he had taken severe toll of the enemy in killed and wounded. Billings was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal. After wounding several of the enemy, and running out of pistol ammunition, Major Aylor was captured.

Group Headquarters, moving into Langenhagen shortly thereafter, learned from PWs of the action and were informed of the direction in which the enemy had withdrawn with Major Aylor. As they were withdrawing along the projected axis of advance of the Group, a vigorous pursuit was initiated employing the whole of the 36th Squadron. Numerous dual purpose 88mm pedestal mounted guns were emplaced along the route of advance and had to be reduced as they were encountered which limited the speed of the pursuit somewhat. The following day, having pushed a slender column into enemy territory twenty miles in advance of other friendly troops, the Colonel felt that to continue the pursuit farther would leave the left flank of the Corps unprotected.

With the Group CP at Langenhagen, north of Hannover, a lull now occurred in the operations while waiting for the infantry to come up, providing a welcome breathing spell for the troops to clean up, rest, and perform much needed maintenance on the vehicles. On 12 April Major Aylor walked into the CP to everyone's astonishment, after two days in the hands of the enemy. The Major had induced his interrogator, a German Naval Captain, to return with him to the American lines after promising him safe conduct.

The advance was resumed 13 April as the 36th pushed its screen to Celle where heavy resistance was met. This was reported and bypassed. The 44th was then directed to screen the Corps flank from Eldingen to Hankensbuttel.

The back of the enemy resistance now appeared to be broken as XIII Corps forces were moving swiftly toward the Elbe. This fact necessitated accelerated speed by the 11th and the Squadrons were pushed along as fast as possible. This was made doubly urgent by the fact that the British were again diverging from the boundry, leaving a considerable pocket of enemy-held territory on the exposed Corps flank.

The 36th continued to cover the flank from Hankensbuttel to Dahre and the 44th extended it to Salzwedel by 1600 14 April. Here Company "F", 44th Squadron, liberated 1,000 American prisoners of war, many of whom had been captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Several thousand slave laborers, including many Jews, were freed to their unbounded joy.

Still taking advantage of the fluid situation, the Group Commander directed the 36th to bypass the 44th at Salzwedel and push the screen to the Elbe River without delay. Driving hard, the 36th reached the river at a point slightly north of Wittenberg at 0210 15 April. This marked the high tide of the Group's advance eastward as orders were received that the Allies would advance no farther than the Elbe. During 14 April, the 11th had covered an exposed flank of over 50 miles.

But the job was not over. Behind lay extensive wooded areas

which had not been mopped up and from which soon were to debouch bands of determined, diehard Nazis, some of which were to cause serious trouble However, of greater urgency at the present was the large enemy pocket facing the Group on the north which had been formed when the British had swung north to drive on Hamburg.

On 15 April, therefore, with the Group CP at Arendsee, the 44th was ordered to withdraw its forces west of Salzwedel and relieve the 36th of one-third its screen, thus strengthening the entire Group sector. At the same time strong patrolling was initiated north into the enemy-held territory to feel out their strength and to keep them off balance by constant thrusts.

Liberated American prisoners reported another concentration of 200 of their comrades held by the Nazis in Seeben, 5 miles northwest of Salzwedel. The Group Commander immediately directed the 44th Squadron to raid the town, liquidate the captors, and liberate the prisoners. This was accomplished in an expeditious manner. Large enemy ordnance dumps and many railway ammunition cars were located, reported, and placed under guard. During the day, 15 April, the Squadrons captured 340 and killed 42 of the enemy.

During this period the Luftwaffe began to put in its appearance in considerable strength, making reconnaissance, strafing, and bombing sorties in the area. Group personnel took advantage of this to limber up their anti-aircraft guns and help the AAA outfits repel this threat. The 44th Squadron shot down three of the enemy planes over Salzwedel.

Interrogation of the 340 prisoners captured 15 April 45 strongly indicated that an enemy panzer division was operating in the pocket to the north. To prevent a surprise attack on this vulnerable flank the Squadrons were alerted and instructed to intensify their patrolling. Numerous mounted patrols from both Squadrons were sent deep into enemy territory, many of them encountering enemy pockets of resistance which were eliminated.

One of these actions involving a patrol of Troop "A", 44th

Squadron, was highlighted by the dauntless fighting spirit of Pfc Walter Farley, a machine gunner. Approaching the enemy town of Winklestedt from the west, Farley, riding in the point jeep, captured two enemy soldiers riding bicycles. At this point an enemy machine gun opened fire from a nearby house and Farley remounted his jeep and returned the fire with his machine gun. Under cover of this fire the platoon leader was able to dispose his platoon to attack the enemy positions. During the fight a panzerfaust landed near Farley's jeep and knocked him senseless to the ground, slightly wounded. Recovering consciousness, he saw enemy soldiers fleeing from their position and, mounting an armored car, he took over the machine gun and joined in the rout of the enemy. With a spirit of having just begun to fight, Farley now volunteered to replace a wounded jeep driver and made a thorough search of the rest of the village, before his platoon proceeded on its mission. For this action Farley received the Silver Star Medal as well as the Purple Heart.

Another action worthy of note during this period occurred on 17 April when a patrol of Troop "A", 36th Squadron, shelled the town of Gartow, Germany, and moved in to mop it up. The dismounted force under an officer received machine gun fire from hedges close by. The officer was badly wounded, and ordered the men to take cover. Sgt. Wallace E. Brown, a member of the patrol, refused to leave the officer and instead charged the position single-handed, which was about 50 yards away, killing two and dispersing the rest, making it possible for the officer to be quickly evacuated. Sgt Brown has been recommended for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Reports, confirming previous indications that enemy panzer forces were operating in the pocket to the north, now were received that substantial panzer elements were working south toward the Corps flank and west of the Group screen which extended west only as far as Salzwedel. On 18 April the 11th Cavalry patrols encountered various small mechanized forces north of the screen which were knocked out, with the 44th accounting for a

Mark IV tank with "bazooka" fire near Glatenbach. Cpl Charles R. Pitts, Troop "A", 44th Squadron, was individually credited with its destruction when he penetrated enemy-held woods to blast the tank as it rolled up. This action won Pitts the Silver Star Medal.

Enemy action from the north in the Corps rear areas to the west of the 11th Cavalry's screen had now reached such proportions that newspapers published reports that an enemy counter-attack had driven 15 miles into the Ninth Army's rear areas. Although not as bad as it appeared from these stories, the situation was becoming serious as a large panzer force had shot up the towns of Jubar, Brome, Voitze, and others as it moved south, hiding out in wooded areas and striking suddenly and unexpectedly at the break of day. This force, which later was identified as part of the "Von Clausewitz" Division, had succeeded in severing the main supply routes in the XIII Corps sector, necessitating the rerouting of all convoys on a southern route.

Although elements of an armored division had been endeavoring to run them down, the Nazis had succeeded in eluding them and had moved on south into the Klotze Forest which bordered on the town of Klotze, in which was located the XIII Corps CP. General Gillem immediately organized a task force to destroy this last enemy threat.

On 19 April the Group Commander arrived at the CP, XIII Corps, at 0700 to coordinate the movement of the Group to a new sector and was informed that a large enemy force estimated at approximately eight hundred men, thirty-six halftracks, eight 75mm assault guns, four MIV tanks, some towed artillery, and various German and captured American thin-skinned vehicles were reported to be entering the Klotze forest, which forest practically surrounded the town of Klotze on the northeast and southeast. It was also reported that the force had captured some American vehicles and personnel on the MSR approximately five miles from the Corps CP in Klotze during the night.

The Group was directed to take steps to patrol the forest to

determine the strength, composition, and movement of the enemy force and to contain the force in the Klotze forest until steps could be taken to eliminate it. The Commanding Officer of the 44th Squadron was immediately directed to employ his Squadron, which was at that time moving from the vicinity of Salzwedel to the assembly area, by establishing road blocks on all approaches to the Klotze forest and by sending patrols into the forest to obtain enemy information. Due to the fact that this enemy was in the immediate vicinity of the Corps CP and the Group CP was still at Arendsee, a temporary Group CP was established at the Corps CP and Group CP at Arendsee was directed to displace to Neuferchau, opening there at 1615.

Reconnaissance patrols of the 44th Squadron indicated that the enemy was concentrating in the southern section of the woods, apparently engaged in reconnoitering and preparing for subsequent movement to the south. The patrols destroyed three enemy halftracks, killed approximately 50 of the enemy, and captured 64 prisoners on this date.

On 20 April the Corps Commander directed that the entire Cavalry Group, the 175th Infantry, and the Corps Artillery would coordinate plans to liquidate the enemy in the Klotze woods. The 654th TD Bn (less one company) and the 771st TD Bn (less 1 company) were attached to the 11th Cavalry Group. One company of the 771st TDs was already with the Group, but it was expected that the other company would not arrive in the vicinity until the following morning. The 654th TD Bn could not arrive in the vicinity until late that evening. The commanders of the Corps Artillery, the 175th Infantry, the 11th Cavalry Group and attached TD Bns met in the office of the Corps Security Officer in the afternoon to coordinate the plan. The bulk of the 44th Squadron and attached TDs had been positioned around the east and southeast portion of Klotze as this was deemed to be the natural route of withdrawal of the Germans in their effort to reach the Hartz Mountains. The 36th Cavalry, being relieved of the mission in the vicinity of

Arendsee at first light, was directed to take position around the northwest, west and southwest sides of the Klotze forest.

The plan for clearing the forest was for the 11th Cavalry Group to contain the enemy in the forest, having the bulk of its strength along the southern perimeter. The 175th Infantry was to sweep through the forest from northeast to southwest, driving the enemy before it and into the open country to the south were they could be picked up by the 11th Cavalry Group upon their debouchment from the forest. The 175th Infantry attack was to be supported by Corps Artillery. The attack was to jump off at 1000. It was pointed out at the conference that the falacy in the plan was that if the enemy took the initiative before daylight of the 21st and attempted to break out of the forest in force, it would undoubtedly be successful in getting the majority of their forces out due to the fact that the Cavalry Group, encircling the entire forest, was spread too thin to prevent the debouchment in strength. The patrols of both Squadrons, working through the woods, killed 5 of the enemy, captured 95 and liberated 7 American soldiers and 20 Allied PW throughout the day.

During the night of 21 April there were many attempts by small parties of the enemy to leave the forest and most of these were picked up by our outfits. Major Wallenberg, the German commander of the battle group, was captured when an effort was made to evacuate him from the forest because of severe wounds. At about 0300 the 36th Cavalry reported sounds of vehicles in the southwest portion of the forest, whereupon a prearranged artillery concentration was requested and placed in the vicinity. It was later determined that the concentration had been very effective. About 0500 an enemy M-IV tank moved out from the southwest edge of the woods and was taken under fire by our outpost. The tank moved to the southeast and burned on the road leading from Kusey to Rowitz. All crew members had been wounded. Shortly thereafter the entire enemy battle group moved out of the western half of the forest in close column, crossing the Kusey–Klotze road. They were fired upon by our outpost and

several German vehicles were destroyed. However, the German group moved across the road speedily and it was not possible for our small outpost to prevent their movement into the woods to the west of the road.

At this time a wire crew from Group headquarters, composed of Privates George J. Eck and Nick R. Gunn, was in the vicinity looking for a break in the wire line. They had the presence of mind to tap their telephone into the wire and reported the engagement to the Group CP. Captain Herbert S. Tinstman, in whose sector this action was taking place, was directed to maintain contact with the German Force. Colonel Frierson proceeded to the 36th Cavalry CP and took command of the situation, causing a task force to be immediately organized which was dispatched to the vicinity of Immekath with instructions to outpost the Kusey-Immekath and Immekath-Klotze road to prevent debouchment of the enemy from the woods and to maintain contact with them if efforts to prevent their egress from the woods failed. The Commanding Officer, 654th TD Bn, was directed to post TDs at various points along the southwest and northwest edges of the small woods which now contained the enemy force. The battalion commander of the 771st TD Bn was directed to emplace TDs at positions along the Immekath-Klotze road, the northern and northeastern edges of the forest, and also to position TDs on the three roads entering the town of Klotze from the west.

When our task force and TDs were in position, Corps Artillery was requested to place a heavy concentration in the woods in the vicinity known to be occupied by the enemy, and within a short time the entire German force streamed out of the woods with their hands up. The artillery concentration continued for 30 minutes, after which a task force from the 36th Cavalry was directed to mop up the woods. It was found upon mopping up that the Germans had left the following vehicles in the woods: twenty-three halftrack personnel carriers, six halftracks with multi-barrel 20mm AA guns, three M-IV tanks, two 75mm SP assault guns, four 20mm towed AA guns, six Volkswagen and various

other thin-skinned vehicles. The 175th Infantry moved as planned through the Klotze forest, flushing out various stragglers which were picked up by the 44th Cavalry. At 1745 the Infantry completed their mopping up of the large woods without having found any groups of the enemy, indicating that the force which was destroyed in the small woods in the morning was the main enemy force. This completed the destruction of the Clausewitz Division. General Gillem visited the Group CP during the afternoon and was extremely complimentary of the manner in which the situation had been handled that morning.

Recapitulation of the Group's movement from the Rhine to its present location proves the proficiency with which it operated. Our own casualties were 14 killed and 102 wounded, with none captured; the enemy killed and wounded numbered 632 with 6,128 captured. The Group traveled 378 miles in 21 days on the north flank of the XIII Corps and always into virgin enemy territory. Our vehicular losses were fairly high due to various ambushes which had to be accepted as a calculated risk due to the rapidity of the advance, the counterattack on Ostbevern and the enemy artillery action at the Ricklingen bridgehead. Total vehicular losses for the Group were: two half-tracks, five M-24 tanks, two M5A1 tanks, six armored cars M-8, twenty-three $^1/_4$ tons, one $^3/_4$ ton, three $2^1/_2$ tons, four 1-ton trailers, and three armored trailers.

At this time the Corps Comander added another mission to the repertoire of the 11th Cavalry when he ordered the Group to escort all Corps supply convoys moving between Gilhorn and Kusey as small enemy battle groups were still at large in the area to the west. This measure proved effective and no additional losses were incurred from this source. 24-hour patrolling was conducted through the Corps area resulting in numerous brushes with these groups with many enemy killed and wounded. On 24 April a task force was made up in the 44th Cavalry with 1st Lt Chester H. Huff in command to search the woods at Liesen where a small band of the enemy was reported to have been

hiding and firing on friendly ammuntion convoys. One enemy was captured and 5 killed during this search while the total for the day added up to 28 captured and 16 killed, due mostly to patrol activities. By 26 April the Group was relieved of the convoy escorting mission as it was felt that mopping up had eliminated the danger. Small numbers of PW's continued to be picked up until 2 May when the last 3 prisoners were processed through the Group cage.

With contact made with the Russians on the Elbe, it was now merely a question of time until the rest of Germany collapsed and was occupied. The 11th continued to patrol and screen the Corps area and to provide security for the Corps CP. On 4 May, Troop "A", 44th Squadron, 1st Lt (now Captain) Chester H. Huff commanding, escorted General Gillem to the Elbe where the official meeting with the Red Army III Cavalry Corps took place.

On 6 May the Group was host to five officers of the Red Army 6th Cavalry Division. On this same day Co "F", 44th Squadron, commanded by Captain Marx Rosenzweig, escorted Staff Officiers of the Red Army LXXXIX Corps from the Elbe to the XIII Corps CP for a visit.

It is interesting to note the opinion expressed by a Russian officer at an inspection of Troop "B", 36th Cavalry. He said, "If all the American forces are like this troop, the United States has nothing to worry about in their war with Japan."

With the last mopping up of the Rhine-Elbe campaign completed, recapitulation may be made of the achievements of the of the 11th Cavalry during this period. In 21 days, including halts, the 11th had covered the exposed north flank of the XIII Corps for 378 miles, an average of 18 miles per day. The Group captured 5,927 prisoners of war, 222 of which were taken by Group Headqurters, and 655 of the enemy were killed and wounded.

V-E Day found the 11th Cavalry in Kunrau, Germany, faced with a projected move to the vicinity of Hannover as the

area currently occupied was in Russian territory. With the combat period now definitely over, Colonel Frierson again recommended that certain outstanding members of the Group and Squadron Staffs be awarded decorations for meritorious service. Of Group Headquarters, Major Jack R. Todd, S-2, Major Charles E. Hermanek, S-4, and Captain Kenneth L. Allen Jr., S-1, were awarded Bronze Star Medals and action is now pending on recommendation for the award of the second oak leaf cluster to the Bronze Star Medal to Major Thomas J. Brett, S-3.

In the 44th Squadron, Major Millard R. Seaton, Exec Officer, and Captain Harold W. Hopper, S-4, both received the Bronze Star Medal for their outstanding contribution to the success of the operation. Captain Samuel F. Legato, 44th Squadron Surgeon, was presented the Bronze Star Medal for the outstanding manner with which he expedited the care and evacuation of the wounded, many times working under heavy fire. Other deserving officers and men received Certificates of Merit, a complete list of whom may be found in the STATISTICS SECTION.

Thus ended our participation in the European phase of World War II. Each member of the Group can look back upon these campaigns with a feeling of accomplishment and the assurance that we of the 11th have kept faith with those who bequeathed to us the heritage and high traditions of the American Cavalry.

Chapter VII

THE COMMANDING OFFICER A BRIEF HISTORY

THE COMMANDING OFFICER - A BRIEF HISTORY.

Colonel Andrew Allison Frierson was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, June 23, 1902.

He was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas and was graduated on June 12, 1924.

Commissioned a 2d Lieutenant of cavalry in the days when all cavalry was horse cavalry he specialized in mounted sports, riding in international competition and serving four years at West Point as a riding instructor.

Prior to assuming command of the 11th Cavalry Group (Mecz) at Camp Gordon, Ga., on June 4, 1944, all of Colonel Frierson's service had been with horse cavalry, having served in the 2d Cavalry, 7th Cavalry, the 8th cavalry, the 10th Cavalry, and the 11th Cavalry when it was a horse regiment.

During the combat period just completed in Germany, Colonel Frierson was twice decorated. While the Group was participating in the battle of the Roer he was awarded the Silver Star Medal by the Commanding General of the 102d Infantry Division for "outstanding leadership and gallantry in action". Following the dash to the Rhine, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by the Commanding General, 84th Infantry Division, "for heroic service in connection with military operations against the enemy in Germany". Action is at present pending on the recommendation of the Commanding General, XIII Corps, for the award of the Legion of Merit.

ROUTE of the ELEVENTH CAVALRY ACROSS EUROPE

North Sea
Baltic Sea
English Channel
ENGLAND
GRIMSBY
LONDON
DOVER
BRIGHTON
CALAIS
BRUGGE
ANTWERP
BRUSSELS
LILLE
MONS
ROTTERDAM
NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM
FRANCE
LE HAVRE
FORGES LES EAUX
ROUEN
SOISSONS
PARIS
ORLEANS
SEINE
MEUSE
HEERLEN
AACHEN
LINNICH
COLOGNE
BASTOGNE
LUXEMBOURG
MÖRS
ESSEN
DÜSSELDORF
WESEL
COESFELD
MÜNSTER
GREVEN
OSNABRÜCK
LÜBBECKE
MINDEN
MELLE
OST-BEVERN
PADERBORN
EMS
WESER
LEINE
RHINE
KOBLENZ
FRANKFURT
MAIN
ERLANGEN
NÜRNBERG
HAMBURG
BREMEN
UELZEN
SALZWEDEL
WITTENBERGE
CELLE
HANKENSBÜTTEL
KLÖTZE
WUNSTORF
LANGENHAGEN
HANNOVER
BRAUNSCHWEIG
STENDAL
MAGDEBURG
BERLIN
ELBE
HALLE
LEIPZIG
ERFURT
CHEMNITZ
GERMANY
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

0 25 50 100
MILES

Chapter VIII

COMMENDATIONS, AWARDS, AND CASUALTIES

HEADQUARTERS 11TH CAVALRY GROUP MECZ
APO 339 U. S. Army

12 January 1945

Officers and Men of the 11th Cavalry:

Today marks the end of the first month of combat for the 11th Cavalry Group.

Our mission has not been that which we expected or that for which you were trained. However, the soldierly manner in which you have accepted a situation forced upon us by the enemy, the courage and fortitude with which you have faced hardships without complaint, the skill and determination with which you have adjusted yourself to an unfamiliar type of warfare and your aggressive carrying of the fight to the enemy, even in a defensive situation, have won for you the admiration both of the Infantry who fight beside you and of your higher commanders.

With an army made up of such soldiers as you have shown yourselves to be, there can be no question of our ultimate victory.

Again I say that I am proud to be one of you.

/s/ A. A. Frierson
A. A. FRIERSON,
Colonel, Cavalry,
Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS 11TH CAVALRY GROUP MECZ
APO 339 U. S. Army

7 March 1945

Officers and Men of the 11th Cavalry:

I take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration for the superior manner in which all members of the Eleventh Cavalry performed their combat duties during the advance from the Roer to the Rhine.

Your fine aggressive fighting, splendid cooperation and professional ability were the subject of many compliments from commanders and staff officers, both of higher headquarters and units which were associated with you.

Your accomplishment is worthy of the best tradition of the Eleventh Cavalry.

/s/ A. A. Frierson
A. A. FRIERSON
Colonel, Cavalry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 84TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Commanding General

APO 84, United States Army,
8 March 1945.

SUBJECT : Letter of Commendation.

THROUGH: Commanding General, XIII Corps, APO 463, United States Army.

TO : Commanding Officer, 11th Cavalry Group, APO 339, United States Army.

1. In recognition of the splendid performance of the 11th Cavalry Group while attached to the 84th Infantry Division, 27 February 1945 — 7 March 1945, I wish to commend you, your staff and all personnel of your unit.

2. During the Division's advance from the Roer River to the Rhine River, the 11th Cavalry Group was charged with the responsibility of protecting the left flank of the Corps and the Division. This mission was accomplished well under extremely adverse conditions due to the distance involved, the rapidity of the advance and enemy action. The aggressive manner in which your unit was employed is indicative of the inherent will of your unit to destroy the enemy.

3. On several occasions it was necessary to alter the mission of the Cavalry Group to conform to the advance of the Division. On each occasion you recommended that your command undertake the task which could best support the division plan, regardless of the obstacles and danger the task presented.

4. It was through your tactical knowledge and willingness to employ your command to the limit of its capability that I had the full satisfaction of knowing that your mission would be accomplished sucessfully.

5. I should welcome again the opportunity of working with you and your command in future operations.

/s/ A. R. Bolling
A. R. BOLLING
Major General, United States Army,
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS XIII CORPS, APO 463, U. S. Army, 12 March 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 11th Cavalry Group, APO 339, U. S. Army.

In adding my commendation, I wish to state that the manner of performance of the above described duty is symbolic of the manner of performance of all other missions assigned your command by this headquarters.

/s/ A. C. Gillem, Jr.
A. C. GILLEM, Jr.
Major General, United States Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS XIII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General
APO 463, U. S. Army

5 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 11th Cavalry Group, APO 339, U. S. Army.

1. With the last of the visits with the Russian Army behind us, I want to extend my commendation to you and your troops for the assistance rendered in the various functions. The appearance and discipline of the units was always of the highest standard usual in the 11th Cavalry Group. The three Russian commanders, Lieutenant General Oslikovsky, 3d Cavalry Corps; Major General Seyasov, 89th Infantry Corps; and Lieutenant General Kuznetzov, 40th Infantry Corps, were always most complimentary and I assured them that your troops were examples of the highest standard of the U. S. Army.

2. It has always been a pleasure and privilege to count on your troops to carry out various missions; you have at all times excelled. I wish you would express to all concerned the sincere appreciation I feel for their efforts and the best wishes from this Headquarters for any future duties.

/s/ A. C. Gillem, Jr.
A. C. GILLEM, JR.
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

SILVER STAR MEDAL

HQ & HQ TROOP

Andrew A. Frierson

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Harry W. Candler
John E. Newlin
Ferdinand A. Dostal
Rodney P. Lukens
William W. Waddell
*Kingdon J. Gould
Robert H. Heddleston
Stanley L. Grunke
Earl R. Sheler
Thomas R. Billings
Dale W. Riser

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Andrew Clements
Claire R. Miller
Melvin E. Stouffer
Charles J. Coleman
Charles R. Pitts
Charles F. Garlitz
Charles O. Fink
Walter Farley
William Dimitrakis
Russell G. Utz

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

HQ & HQ TROOP

Andrew A. Frierson
*Thomas J. Brett
Charles E. Hermanek
Jack R. Todd
Kenneth L. Allen Jr.
Robert C. Hess
Henry N. Cheever
Nick R. Gunn
George J. Eck
John M. Aylor
Chester B. Sypulski

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Harry W. Candler
Charles T. Krempitz
Raymond H. Reed
Benjamin A. Waer
John C. Valkenburgh
Arthur J. Carney
Sidney Fischer
Gerard G. Krug
Angelo P. Carriero
Pearl J. Little
Frank J. Stefonick
Harold J. Martin
Romeo G. Beaulieau
Albert J. Bardin
Joseph P. Krajewski
Levi A. Arnold
Doyle G. Hudson
John D. Donovan
George O. Jorgenson
Calvin E. Benson

* Oak Leaf Cluster

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Ralph L. Foster
Millard R. Seaton
Samuel F. Legato
Harold W. Hopper
Roger S. Maddocks
Jimmie S. Knight
Neal R. Kemp
George A. Powers
Earl J. Reinbolt
Eldred C. Jones
Anthony T. Castelli
Daniel P. Hyne
John B. Lawler
Steven G. Zabala
L. Z. Smith
Gordon L. Pierce
Stanley A. Enebo
John M. Kehoe
Edward E. Friedman
Onofio P. Rocca

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

HQ & HQ TROOP

Charles E. Hermanek
Jack R. Todd
+Donald A. Soll
Victor J. Sayre
+Laurence J. Guilbert
John H. Erion
James H. Newcomb Jr.
Stanley J. Skrabski
Robert F. Johnson
John W. McMahon
Gordon R. Shryock
Armando D. Delucia
Warren N. Morris
Nick R. Gunn
Cyril S. Fraker
William R. Mumma

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Hugh E. Russell Jr.
Ferman E. Goad
John A. Babich
Lawerence M. Davis
Harold J. Koehne
George A. Koskinen
Joseph H. George
Samuel W. Cowan
Richard W. Patelunas
Calvin G. Nelson, Jr.
Reaves H. Heim
Virgil L. Blair
Charles B. Michael
Andrew J. Cloyde
Willard H. Salmo
William L. Rust
Juel O. Salveson
Sheldon L. Watts

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Joseph S. Galizia
Ralph Buonocore
Joseph C. Czarw
Joseph H. Lavallee
Albert Yost
Leonard E. Baker
Ferdinand T. Gehrs
Herman E. Keller
Raymond Majerus
Nicholas Swistowicz
John C. Becker
Glenn L. Densmore
Maynard E. Hanson
Leo E. Pekkanen
Harland H. Smith
Albert S. Ginn
Robert R. Reynolds
Harry M. Helder
Darley O. Stewart

+Twice awarded.

DECORATION RECOMMENDED BUT UPON WHICH FINAL ACTION IS PENDING

HQ & HQ TROOP

Andrew A. Frierson (Legion of Merit)
Thomas J. Brett (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster to BSM)

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Herbert S. Tinstman (Bronze Star Medal)
Lauren D. White (Bronze Star Medal)
Wallace E. Brown (Distinguished Service Cross)

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Charles M. Huntington (Distinguished Service Cross)

HONOR ROLL

KILLED IN ACTION

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Frank D. Osborne
Leslie E. Cook
Carl A. Fosgrau
Gerard G. Krug
Clyde R. Hardesty
Lewis Redditt
Paul D. George
Lemon T. Marshall
Arthur J. Carney
Harold J. Martin
Earl R. Sheler
Robert Kotalik
Ralph R. Reed
Thomas R. Billings
Harry B. Leopold
Dale H. Saggerman
Jack W. Tomberger
Grover R. Bailey
Harry R. Horn
Robert H. Heddleston
Reinhold H. Klemke
Marvin E. Sanders
Leonard B. Kjelland
Sherrod C. Simpson
Gaston P. Picard
Warren E. Sams
Roy H. Curry Jr.
Lloyd E. Price
Richard O. Anderson
Donald S. Rice
Paul O. Alen
Walter J. Stinson
George Rucker
Clell E. Perry
John K. Wynne
Levi A. Arnold
Joe S. Esquibel

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Wayne Hensley
Russel G. Utz
Homer B. Wooleyhan
Rudolph Zellner
Clarence Dreesman
Edgar F. Knight
Edward P. Norlock
Henry J. Bauer
Ira T. Richards, Jr.
Robert T. Reynolds
Steven P. Zabala
Jimmie S. Knight
Robert Mathewson
Carl W. Mauta
Leo M. Pastula
Earl H. Jessop
Daniel P. Hyne
Bradley L. Baker, Jr.
*Charles O. Frinks

WOUNDED IN ACTION
AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

HQ & HQ TROOP

John M. Aylor

36TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

William H. Moore
Norman S. Thompson
Victor Nemee
Michael Berenzansky
Leo A. Landry
Henry Caccavo
Nathan W. Smith
Jack J. Hall
John J. Kurz
Robert O. Axford
Floyd O. Brown
Mashall H. Bivins
John F. Lindley
*Kingdon J. Gould
William W. Waddell
Benjamin A. Waer
John F. Tandy
Alexander J. Malinovsky
James K. Williams Jr.
John C. Van Valkenburgh
John K. Kincaid
Glen W. Turner
Romeo G. Beaulieau
Herbert R. Taisey
Gant T. Wallace
Howard M. Cutler
Russel J. Pascucci
*Orrin P. Toftoy
Arthur E. Bass
Christian Kinzelt
Peter Aberle
Kenneth E. Moran
Willard C. Zook
Irvin Goldberg

Verron C. H. Carroll
Fred W. Baxter
Anthony F. Sok
Walter F. Huber
Carmino R. Rinaldi
Samuel K. Ihrig
Archie B. Weaver
Wendell D. Collie
Roland F. Martin
Francis E. Nichols
Richard E. Williams
Ralph M. More
Buck Golson
Bernard A. Hupert
Joseph W. Lunnin Jr.
Doyle G. Hudson
Robert R. Rice
Louis L. D'Andrea
Bradley Gibson
Ben O. Howell
Charles E. Selbert
Paul J. Hilst
John R. Walsh
Joseph F. Reske
James H. Walsh
Joseph P. Krajewski
John C. Kerr
John M. Smith
Howard B. Johnson
Harry W. Candler
Charles T. Krampitz
Dan B. Ellis
Vernon W. Johnson
Fidel R. Estidillo
Cecil H. Smith
Maurice McGuigan
Perry B. Knowlton
Wilbur D. Betts
Allen J. Rodacker
Harold G. Harris
David H. Shenk
Clyde F. Posey
Adolph J. Hendrych
Herchel G. Spears

Everett B. Whitesell
William W. Goodwin
Lewis Waldron
Montie C. Canaday
William V. Busco
Walter W. Huey
Raymond E. Huffman
Eldor W. Buschmann
Frank A. Butt
Joseph M. Dunn
Leslie G. Frye
Morris V. Matson
Donald D. Yarnell
Benjamin C. Allen
John B. Elberth
Clinton Maness
Walter Griwicki
Earl L. Mayberry
Frank A. Stockland
Donald E. Anderson
Michael F. Cahill
John R. Smith
Charles H. Milbourn
Herbert S. Tinstman
Robert A. Burg
Raymund E. Anderson
Rodney P. Lukens
Charles G. Williams
Ralph G. Deusl
John D. Cronin
Luis Pompi
Henry J. Tholke
Charles W. Clark
Howard W. Rome
Paul B. Klase
George Zaffree
Lawrence H. Bobo
Grady B. Tharpe
Henry E. Nichols
Raymund Rigolet
James E. Rector
Richard W. Sawyer
Sylvester L. Struble
Pasquale D'Ambrosio

Michael J. McKenna
Willard G. Meyers
Elmer E. Phillips
Samuel Seymour
Alden F. Brown
Anthony T. Giammarese
Willie H. Gibson
Merwin P. Magnin
Ralph A. Hanno
Elwin W. Niles
Herbert J. Bausch
Elbert E. Eckert
Stanley L. Grunke
James B. Arciniega
William H. Dyer
Robert J. Coleman
Frank Sole
Daniel J. Stein
George H. Marks
Richard H. Doolittle
Edwin L. Duncan
Morgan L. Hodges
Raymund W. Pederson
Crobin Caldwell
Norman P. Beattie
Andrew Koleno
Percy W. English

44TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON MECZ

Walter J. Teffer
Onofio P. Rocca
Maurice G. Thibault
Joseph C. K. Mahon
Patrick M. Steele
Soli Furman
Fred R. Allen
Richard O. Barnes
Norman C. Bidleman
Thomas G. Galladay
Andrew L. Hauss
Benjamin S. Norlock
Earl D. Bowen
Anthony J. Marasco
Joseph H. Negley
Charles M Shelton, Jr.
Robert F. Robinson
Keith W. Johnson
Raymond Acker
Gerald R. Kephart
Henry E. Gardner
Howard A. Conar
Frank J. Vandrell Jr.
Gaylon O. Lanier
Clifford F. Salisbury
Louie J. Skender
Arben G. Standefer
Lilbern Wilhelm
David Banton
Walter A. Farley
Raymond B. Sinclair
Eloy Serna
Charles D. Suggs
Ernest C. Trimper
Delmer W. Carroll
Floyd A. Riley
Harry R. Parker
Charles M. Crouch
Earl J. Reinbolt
Gaetano N. Anile
Thomas L. Crum
Harold V. Haanan
*William S. Marriott
Nino Passalacqua
William Dimitrakis
John Geleta
Leopold Holzmueller
John H. Lennox Jr.

* Oak Leaf Cluster

Andrew Mikita
Lawrence Palmer
James H. Ellis
Ira O. Felts
Paul S. Harrold
William R. Lee
George A. Miller
Richmon Morgan
Howard C. Alford
William E. Souder
William B. Hiller
Archie L. Largent
Grant S. Thompson
James H. Walker
Willie E. Brock
Raymond E. Olson
*George A. Powers
Uly O. Thompson Jr.
Bennie Valdez
Colby S. Weaver
William A. Barr

Charles A. Cavender
Henry Harjo
Nelson S. Thompson
Virgil Brister
Clement Morel
Jennings P. Haddox
Anthony J. Paulmenō
Emmett H. Brannon
Carroll V. Ries
Enrique R. Romero
Gordon L. Pierce
Billie C. Bumgarner
*Anthony T. Castelli
Henry Sutman
Woodrow H. Hauser
Clemit L. Monson
Allen Royval
Lewis Howard
Ernest J. Vargas
Richard Wilson
Julian J. Luzak

* Oak Leaf Cluster

ENEMY CASUALTIES

THE BATTLE OF THE ROER

Killed	107
Captured	30

THE ROER TO THE RHINE

Killed	199
Captured	237

THE RHINE TO THE ELBE

Killed	639
Captured	5,927

Total enemy killed	945
Total enemy captured	6,194

VOLUNTEER "COMMANDO" PLATOON

Linnich, Germany . . . . 6 January 1945

NAME	UNIT	AWARD
Lt Rodney P. Lukens	36th Squadron	Silver Star Medal
Lt Roger S. Maddocks	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt Gerard G. Krug (Killed in Action)	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Sgt Henry N. Cheever	11th Cav Gp	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt George A. Powers	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Sgt Anthony T. Castelli	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Sgt Earl J. Reinbolt	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Tec 4 Pearl J. Little	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 4 Chester B. Sypulski	11th Cav Gp	Bronze Star Medal
Cpl Daniel P. Hyne (Killed in Action)	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Tec 5 John B. Lawler	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Tec 5 Romeo B. Beaulieau	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pfc Steven G. Zabala	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pfc L. Z. Smith	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pfc Joseph P. Krajewski	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Pfc Calvin E. Benson	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart
Pfc Albert J. Bardin	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pvt Stanley A. Enebo	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pvt Levi A. Arnold	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pvt Dayle G. Hudson	36th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pvt John M. Kehoe	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal
Pvt Gordon L. Pierce	44th Squadron	Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart

DATE I [illegible] (D[illegible] 28-3(
FEB 19 AMSD

This booklet has been prepared by the Information - Education Officer of the 11th Cavalry Group, 1st Lt George L. Haynes Jr., and his assistant, Tec 5 James C. Williams. It was printed in Nürnberg, Germany.

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ERLANGEN, Germany, June 1945.

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