

DIRECTORY
of
143RD ARM'D SIGNAL CO.
3rd Armored “Spearhead” Division

This WAS It

The 143rd Arm'd Signal Company
was activated at Camp Beauregard,
La., 15 April 1941...

June 6, 1941 moved to Camp Polk,
La., with its basic and specialist
training swamps, mud, Leesville
and De Ridder and Port Arthur...

The move to Fort Benning on 13
April 1942, Camp Sawdust, Eufala,
swimming in the Chattahoochee
stream, poison ivy...

The trip back to Polk via Panama
City, Mobile, New Orleans, the yel-
low jaundice scourge...

Leaving Polk in mid-July 1942
for Desert Training Center, the ter-
rific heat, the salt tablets, the man-
euvers in the Mojave Desert, those
cans of sardines, tomatoes and the
fig newtons, the passes to Holly-
wood...

The long train ride on 2 Nov.

1942 to Camp Pickett, Va., Blackstone, 170 mile taxi rides to Washington, the overseas rumors but instead...

Early in January, 1943, Indian-town Gap, a paradise of army camps. Passes to Lebanon, Reading (Are you from the Gap?) New York City, "Commando" Calisthenics, the 25 mile hike with full field pack, Moonshine Hill, showdown inspections, 2190-D, Goodbye mom...

August 27, 1943, Camp Kilmer, the processing, the physical, the train ride to the boat and the poster which read "Is your trip necessary?," the ferry to Staten Island and the band playing "There'll Be Some Changes Made"...

The good ship "John Ericsson," sailing in convoy on 5 Sept. 1943; the overcrowded holds, the long chow lines, the intolerable conditions of the mess hall, seasickness, gambling, submarine scare, ten days of crossing...

Sept 16, 1943; debarkation at
Liverpool, England; Cucklington,
Camp Mushroom, the new men,
dances with WRENS, ATS, and
civilian girls in the "Carnegie Hall,"
Hunters Lodge, the Rising Sun,
Wincanton Wells, London and
Scotland, the damnable weather,
The mud, Salisbury plains, water-
proofing, combat loading.

COMBAT

The Forward Echelon left Cuck-
lington on June 20; the Rear on
July 1; the 8 days the Forward
spent on their Liberty ship in
Southampton harbor; the landings:
Forward at Utah Beach on June 29
and 30, the rear at Omaha Beach
on July 4.

The line laid to CCB across the
Vire River on July 7: the first of
many rough jobs the wire section
performed...

The 3,000 plane raid on July 25...
Closing the Falaise Gap on Aug-
ust, 13-18: the division's first "Spear-
head" Drive.

The drive across France; crossing
The Seine on August 26, the long
days and sleepless nights, the Ger-
man column that attempted to
crack the Forward CP on August
28, changing direction on the 31st,
The cheering crowds and lovely
mademoiselles...

Belgium; the Mons Battle and
the Distinguished Unit Badge, the
wild greetings at Charleroi, Namur,
Liege, and Verviers, the white flags
at Eupen...

The first Signal Company men in
Germany: CCA's wire team; the stay
in Stolberg from Sept. 22 to Dec.
19; the air raids and the whine of
shells coming in, the elaborate fox-
holes and radio remote cables, the
wire section's M.G. line...

The snow, ice, wind, and bitter
cold of the Bulge, the "Hotton
deal," the friendly people of Bar-
vaux, the wonderful job the wire
and mess sections did at Hebronval,
the "Nut-House"...

Back to Germany on Feb. 7;
across the Roer on the 26th, Cologne
on March 7, across the Rhine on the
21st with the Rear in Bonn...

The Ruhr pocket; the 96 mile
drive on March 29, linkup with the
2nd Arm'd on April 1...

The final drive beginning April 6;
the terror of Nordhausen, the liber-
ated British prisoners at Eisleben,
the last incoming shells on April 23.
V-E Day at Sangerhausen and the
memory of those who could not be there.