

302nd FA Bn Pours Fire On Enemy Lines Onaway

For 27 days guns of the 302nd FA BN hammered the concrete pillboxes of the Siegfried Line from positions across the Sauer river in Echternach. The firing during this period consisted of defensive and covering fires for numerous patrols sent out by the 304th Inf. preparation fire in support of the 417th Infantry's crossing of the Sauer River, and preparation fire for the 385th Inf when it crossed the Sauer River and attacked Irrel.

The Bn was required to make numerous displacements to keep within effective supporting range of the infantry, and a drive to the east and southeast brought the unit into position near Welschbillig. From this position for 302nd FA, with three other arty Bns fired preparations for the 304th Inf as it force a crossing of the Kyll River. While at Welschbillig, the Bn received its first call for fire against an enemy counterattack.

After crossing the Kyll River, the Bn headed toward the Rhine. During the fast pace the artillerymen had to displace from one to three times daily. After a brief period of firing on targets of opportunity across the Rhine River, the Bn crossed the stream and attacked through central Germany. Artillery fire was used in many instances to knock out roadblocks and enemy strongpoints and AT guns. Approximately 1,000 rounds were fired in preparation at Zeitz as the 304th Inf moved in to take the city.

The 76th Division then moved on eastward, and the 302nd FA in direct support of the 304th Inf moved into position to bring artillery fire on Altenburg. The infantry seized the city with little opposition, however, and the Bn shifted to Altmittweida where it prepared defensive fires for the 304th Inf.