

APO 76

US ARMY

31 May 1945

SUBJECT: Information for Third Anniversary Edition of "ONAWAY".

TO : Division Public Relations Officer, (Attn: Editor, ONWAY)

The 302nd FA Bn. received its first actual combat experience when it moved into position in the vicinity of Berbourg, Luxembourg. [\[Today part of Manternach, 20 km NE of Lux. City\]](#) For twenty-seven days the battalion fired on Nazi defenses on the opposite bank of the Sauer [\[or Sûre\]](#) River . Highlights of the firing during this period consisted of defensive and covering fires for numerous patrols sent out by the 304th Infantry, preparation fire in support of the 417th Infantry's crossing of the Sauer River, as the Third Army started its attack of the Siegfried Line [\[known in German as Westwall\]](#), and also preparation fire for the 385th Infantry when they crossed the Sauer River and attacked the town of Irrel, Germany.

As the 76th Division completed crossing of the Sauer River and continued the attack to batter the vaunted Westwall, the 302d FA Bn. was required to make numerous displacement to keep within effective supporting range of the 304th Infantry. This drive to the East and Southeast brought the Battalion into position just east of Welschbillig, [\[S of Bitburg, E of Luxembourg border, W of Moselle\]](#) Germany. From this position the 302d, with three other artillery battalions attacked, fired preparations for the 304th Infantry as they forced a crossing and established a bridgehead across the Kyll River. While in position at Welschbillig, the battalion received its first call for fire against an enemy counterattack.

After crossing the Kyll, the 76th Division started attacking toward the Rhine. During the fast moving situations that followed the battalion had to displace from one to three times daily; with missions of direct support of the 304th Infantry and reinforcing the fires of the 901st FA Bn. whenever the 304th Infantry was in reserve.

After a brief period of firing on targets of opportunity across the Rhine River, the battalion crossed the Rhine and started attacking across Central Germany. In this move across Germany, the 76th Division was in conjunction with the 6th Armored Division and the movement was so fast that artillery fire was used mainly to knock out roadblocks and enemy strongpoints and AT [\[anti-tank\]](#) Guns. One highlight during this period was an approximate 1000 round preparation on the city of Zeitz [\[SSW of Leipzig, Saxony\]](#), as the 304th Infantry moved in to take that city.

Again the 76th Division moved on to the east, and the 302d still in direct support of the 304th moved into position to bring artillery fire on the city of Altenburg [\[S of Leipzig, NW of Chemnitz\]](#). However the Infantry moved into the city with very little opposition. Again we moved on, this time the battalion went into position at Altmittweida [\[about 20 km N of Chemnitz\]](#), Germany, and prepared defensive fires for the 304th Infantry who had received orders to defend and await a junction with the Russians. The list of towns that follow, is of all towns that the 302d FA Bn. was billeted in or was used as Battalion

Headquarters from the time the Division committed to the Sauer River crossing up to and including V-E Day.

Town	Date
Berbourg, Luxembourg	24 January
Dickweiler, Luxembourg	17 February
Ferschweiler, Germany	22 February
Alsdorf	26 February
Mickel	27 February
Hellenberg	28 February
Welschbillig	1 March
Preist [small village near Speicher between Bitburg & Wittlich]	7 March
Herforst [W of Speicher, between Bitburg & Wittlich]	8 March
Arenrath	9 March
Landscheid	10 March
Wittlich [NE of Trier]	11 March
Platten	12 March
Dichtelbach [about 10 km SW of Bacharach on Rhine]	21 March
Breithardt	29 March
Eetrich and Wustems	30 March
Dorfweil	31 March
Leuderode	3 April
Schwartzenborn [ca 20 km NW of Wittlich]	4 April
<i>[Omitted here is the crossing of Rhine, then transfer from Third US Army to First]</i>	
Hess Lichtenau [about 30 km SW of Kassel] and Germerode	5 April
Schonstedt	6 April
Nagelstedt	8 April
Herbsleben [E of Langensalza, N of Gotha]	10 April
Kranichborn and Grossbrenbach [NE of Erfurt, NW of Apolda]	11 April
Gebstedt [ca 10km N of Apolda] and Tultewitz	12 April
Kretzschau [barely of Zeitz which is NE of Jena]	13 April
Drossdorf [6 km S of Zeitz*]	14 April
Rositz [slightly NE of Altenburg which is NE of Gera]	15 April
Weiderau and Altmittweida	16 April
Mittweida [about 20 km N of Chemnitz] and Garnsdorf	24 April
V-E Day, still in Garnsdorf [An estimated 20 km W of Halle, just S of today's Autobahn]	9 May

EDWARD F. BIEBINSHEIMER
Major, 302d FA Bn.
Commanding

* [\[Additions in brackets added during retyping March 2004, thus the reminder that Zeitz is mentioned toward the end of the narrative, and there was in fact a serious fire fight, the last one of the campaign. Editing help from George Arnstein and Jay Hamilton \(Strassen und Reisen 1977/78 and Germany Road Atlas 1/30000, Atlasco, Kartographischer Verlag GmbH 6000 Frankfurt am Main\), March 2004\].](#)