

SECTION I

- A. Headquarters to which assigned or attached:
 a. 80th Infantry Division.
 b. Attached 318th Infantry Regiment from 28 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44.

B. Location of Command Posts:

- 1 Dec 44 - LaChambre, Marienthal, 2 mi SW Marienthal, France.
 7 Dec 44 - Merlebach, France.
 7 Dec 44 - Guising, France.
 19 Dec 44 - Etting, France.
 20 Dec 44 - Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
 21 Dec 44 - Hunsdorf, Luxembourg.
 23 Dec 44 - Bissen, Luxembourg.
 28 Dec 44 - Schieren, Luxembourg.
 31 Dec 44 - Bissen, Luxembourg.

DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED
 BY AUTHORITY OF USG

Date

Initials

Supporting or attached units:

- a. Company D, 702nd Tank Bn from 27 Nov 44 to 2 Dec 44.

Missions, general description of general plan of action and discussion of details of execution; communications:

As the period opened the Troop was still engaged in an assigned mission of reconnaissance of the Division's right flank. Only one Platoon, the 2nd, was committed to action since the zone was not extensive enough to warrant more. Plan of the Platoon was to reconnoiter mounted as far as possible, then dismount, establish OP's and patrol aggressively to the east, leaving the Platoon vehicles and attached tanks in mobile reserve. The Platoon advanced with vehicles to a road junction just east of HOSTE BAS and was forced to dismount by heavy enemy fire from the east and northeast. As planned, the Platoon withdrew to CAPPEL, set up an OP north of that village and operated three dismounted patrols into the area from which they had received fire. Strong patrols of eight to ten men were used, the men being armed with submachine guns, 60mm mortars and light machine guns. Each patrol took different routes to the northeast, east and southeast and developed many enemy installations. Communications was carried on by messenger to the Platoon CP and by 506 radio from that point to Troop Headquarters at Marienthal.

The Platoons rotated on 2 December 1944 with the 1st Platoon, previously in reserve at LaChambre, relieving the 2nd. Site of the OP, however, was changed and the 1st set up at Henriville in order to avoid heavy artillery that had been landing in the 2nd Platoon's vicinity throughout 1 December 1944. Communication from the OP was direct by 506 radio since the Platoon was able to successfully move their Armored Car near the observation post. A secondary mission of maintaining liaison with the 5th Infantry Division was given the Troop at 1300 2 December 1944 and one section of the 3rd Platoon was assigned the task. Information was relayed direct by radio into Troop Headquarters two miles west of Marienthal.

Relieved of the reconnaissance and liaison mission at 1200, 3 December 1944, the Troop was immediately ordered to maintain contact with the 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry and elements of the 6th Armored Division driving

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north just east of the Division boundary which swung sharply northward from Putteltange toward Morstbach. Plan was to use three sections of the 1st Platoon, one with the advance elements of both Infantry and Armor and one section at 6th Armored Division Headquarters. Radio contact was maintained and very satisfactory results obtained through the use of voice. Advance of both elements was so rapid by 5 December 1944 that another Platoon was committed to the mission, the six sections being divided through elements of infantry and armor nearing each other in the vicinity of the Division boundary. Flow of information to all headquarters concerned was facilitated.

As resistance in the immediate zone broke on 4 December 1944 the Troop was ordered to reconnoiter in the northeast sector of the Division zone which came to a point at Merlebach. Known to have been held strongly, two Platoons were used in the mission, one to work due north from Farbersviller and another eastward from the same village. One Platoon remained in contact with the 6th Armored Division and our Infantry elements. The 3rd Platoon was ordered to move mounted toward the north, set up a Platoon CP in Betting les St Avoild and send out dismounted patrols into the high ground to the northeast. This plan was feasible since vehicle movement above Betting brought immediate observed enemy artillery from batteries evidently located farther north in the 5th Division zone of advance. Foot patrols, depending largely on stealth, worked their way into the high ground and developed enemy positions. The 2nd Platoon, working in vehicles, moved eastward rapidly without contact and reached Kerbach. The 1st Platoon, meanwhile, continued to report dispositions of friendly armor and infantry. All communications was carried on by radio.

The Troop was relieved of all missions on 7 December 1944 and went into Division reserve at Merlebach. Operations from the period 7 December 1944 to 16 December 1944 were confined to rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance of motors, weapons and signal equipment and, in addition, technical training regarding signal security was conducted.

With the Division moving into the 3rd Army's right flank on 17 December 1944, the Troop moved by administrative convoy to Guising on that date, the 60 mile trip taking five hours to complete. Upon arrival in the sector, the Troop received a mission of contacting elements of both flanks and outposting the Division zone in the assigned sector. One Platoon was used on each flank to develop the friendly situation and one Platoon held in reserve at Rohrbach. By 18 December 1944 the 1st Platoon, operating near Petit Redering, had established contact with the 44th Division, dispatching sections with forward elements of that unit. The 2nd Platoon contacted elements of the 87th Division on the left flank and obtained complete reports of their dispositions. Radio silence, in compliance with Division order, was maintained and consequently communication was carried on by messenger-jeep to the Troop CP at Guising and similarly from the CP to Division Headquarters.

Before the mission, however, could be completed, the 80th Division was ordered to the Luxembourg front where the German counter-offensive had penetrated threatenly close of the capitol city, Luxembourg. Assembled at Etting on the 19th, the Troop moved by administrative convoy to Luxembourg using the following route: Rohrbach, Sarre Union, Sarrelbe, Putteltange, St Avoild, Fuligny, Metz, Uckange, Fontoy, Rumelange, Esch, Bascharge and Luxembourg. The 120 mile trip was made in less than 15 hours. Essential

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speed in the movement was possible by the use of headlights through the rear areas despite the threat of enemy air which had been reported active since the enemy offensive had opened.

The Troop, immediately after completion of the movement, was ordered to reconnoiter east of Luxembourg to the Moselle River and a secondary task of contacting any friendly elements in that sector. All three Platoons were used, the area being divided into three zones, one extending south of Grevenmacher, known to be held by enemy forces, to Wormeldange, another from the latter town southward five miles and another from that point to Remich. With enemy information lacking, it was planned to move the Platoons cautiously eastward to their area, set up Platoon CP and outpost the river from the west bank during the night. The mission was completed, all three Platoons contacting friendly elements and determining enemy advances without actual physical contact. Communication, with radio silence still imposed, brought in at 0700, 21 December 1944.

With Division infantry elements moving northward from Luxembourg to meet the enemy offensive on 22 December 1944, the Troop was assigned the mission of supplementing signal communication between Division and the three Regimental Combat Teams, and a secondary task of establishing contact with elements of the 90th Reconnaissance Squadron on the Division right flank. One Platoon was used to supplement communication by dispatching a section at each Regimental Headquarters. An entire Platoon, the 1st, was ordered to contact the 90th Reconnaissance Squadron, 10th Armored Division. The plan was effective with communication being carried on through radio contact, the NCS being at Troop Headquarters in Hunsdorf. One Platoon, the 2nd, remained in reserve at the Troop CP.

A third mission was given the Troop of security on the right flank in the vicinity of Ettlebruck where known large enemy forces were set up. On 23 December 1944 the 2nd Platoon took over the mission, setting up an OP south of the town and emplacing two 50-cal machine guns on the approaches outside the town. The three missions were carried out until 26 December 1944.

The advance of the 319th Infantry on the Division left flank apparently caught and trapped a group of 200 enemy behind our lines on 26 December 1944 and the Troop was ordered to patrol the area to prevent a break-out. The Platoons set up in Kerzig, Niederfeulen and Oberfeulen, operating road patrols through the sector but reported no contact. On 27 December 1944 the 2nd Platoon sent a dismounted patrol into the woods of their sector but was unsuccessful in locating elements of the reported enemy.

As the Division temporarily went into the defensive on the 28th the Troop was attached to the 318th Infantry and assigned a sector on the right flank, south of Ettlebruck, to defend. Two Platoons prepared positions on high ground in that vicinity and dug in machine guns and mortars. Armored cars were placed at defilade along the line for support and the 3rd Platoon, in reserve, operated a road patrol through the sector. Communication was carried out through telephone from the front line positions to the Troop CP in Schieren. As the 318th closed in the area on 31 December 1944, the Troop was relieved and all Platoons assembled in Merzig with the CP moving back to Bissen.

Monte Sme
[REDACTED] Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

2. 

20

1. $\square (+)$

MLR

{ 1ST DELAYING POS
2ND

☒ 80

80 x 5

3 \square (-)
(RGS)

3RD DELAYING POS

37

81

S3 OVERLAY

MAPS: 1:25,000 DIEKIRCH
SHEET 6102

FROM: 0700A 29 DEC 44

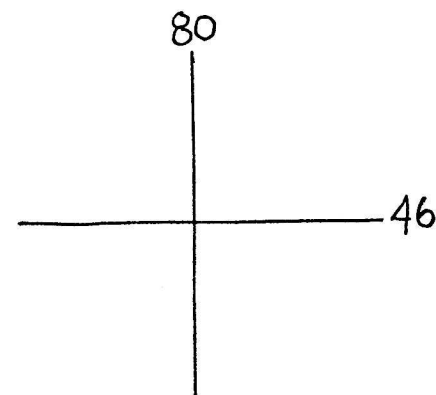
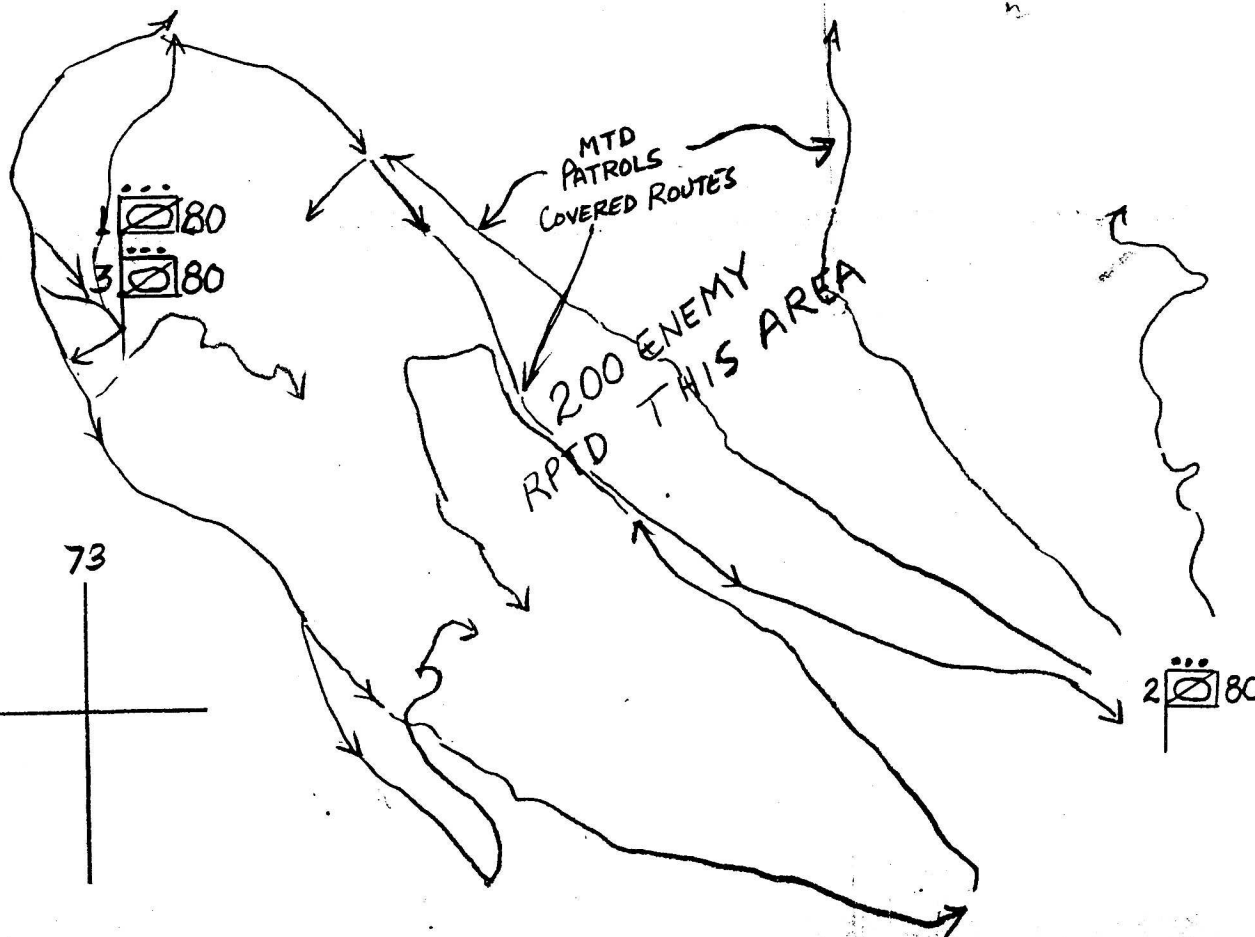
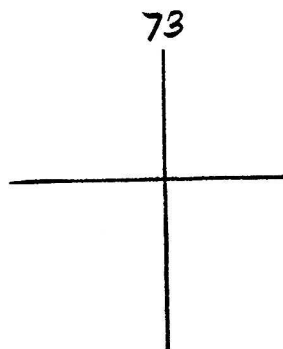
TO: 0700A 31 DEC 44

SHOWING DISPOSITIONS OF
BORCN TR IN DEFENSE DIV

— RIGHT FLANK

(NOTE: TO ACCOMPANY SEC I
AFTER ACTION REPORT
DEC 1944)

86



G3 OVERLAY-
MAPS: FRANCE-BELGIUM 1:25K
SHEETS: 6102, 122 SOUTH
FROM: 1100A 26 DEC 44
TO: 1100A 28 DEC 44
SHOWING ROADS COVERED
BY 80RGN TROOP MTD PAT

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SECTION II

Period 1 December 1944 - 6 December 1944

Maps: France 1:50,000 Sheets XXXV 12-13, XXXVI 12-13

As the period opened on 1 December 1944 the enemy was entrenched in strength along a general line CARLING - L'HOPITAL - FREYMING - SE to BENING LES ST AVOLD - SOUTH to FARBERSVILLER - FARSHVILLER - LOUPERSHOUSE - FUTTELANGE. Continued assaults by our infantry elements at the close of the period previous had shoved them back to this line but the enemy held the advantage in terrain, especially in the north sector where high ground commanded most of the Division sector. Remnants of the 17th Panzer SS Division were known to have been opposing the Division along with miscellaneous elements brought up to reinforce the faltering 17th. Fierce resistance was encountered along the entire front and heavy enemy artillery fell throughout our forward areas. Most of the enemy activity, however, was confined to harrassing artillery fire. Prepared positions, apparently dug for the Germans by forced labor, were occupied by infantry elements. Enemy patrol activity was practically nil.

By 4 December 1944 enemy resistance reached its peak and heavy artillery barrages fell in Henriville, Cappel and all roads leading into those towns. Cratered roads, road blocks and mines slowed friendly vehicle movement considerably.

Continued pressure by our Infantry elements and the 6th Armored Division, moving north along the Division's right flank, pushed the enemy back by 1600 4 December 1944 to a line MERLEBACH-ROSEBRUCK-REMSINGERHOF. But the enemy clung to their high ground near FORBACH as the Division and Troop went into reserve at Merlebach on 7 December 1944.

Period 7 December 1944 - 16 December 1944

Maps: France 1:50,000 Sheet XXXV 13

Enemy lines ran N and S through W FORBACH. Troop remained in Division reserve at Merlebach. Enemy activity in sector was confined to sporadic harrassing artillery fire.

Period 17 December 1944 - 19 December 1944

Maps: France 1:100,000 Sheet 15G

Enemy information was negligible during the period as the Division moved into a new sector and was ordered to the Luxembourg front before the enemy situation could be established.

Period 20 December 1944 - 21 December 1944

Maps: Central Europe 1:100,000 Sheet U-1

Enemy lines in assigned zones apparently ran from BETZDORF-GREVENMACHER - S along MOSELLE RIVER. Tanks were known to have been operating

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in vicinity of Betzdorf and enemy infantry elements firmly entrenched at Grevenmacher. No positive enemy activity except harrassing enemy artillery along the road running parallel to the W bank of the Moselle River.

Period 21 December 1944 - 31 December 1944
Maps: Map of Luxembourg 1:50,000

Enemy front lines from ETTLEBRUCK-N NIEDER-N OBERFEULEN- to MERZIG. Division attack on Ettlebruck was opposed fiercely by an estimated force of 300 enemy infantry. Elements of the 352nd Infantry Division opposed the Division in the center zone but was hit hard by our attacks and forced to withdraw to the North. Air was active throughout the front as was enemy artillery, believed to be the heaviest encountered by our Troops to date. The Troop's three Platoons, on liaison and contact missions, made no physical contact with enemy forces but their positions were shelled.

By 23 December 1944 the enemy had been forced to withdraw to a line running ETTLEBRUCK-WELSCHEID-KEHMEN-NW TADLER and SURE RIVER. Heaviest resistance met in the Ettlebruck vicinity where a lone AT gun, covering a blown bridge, commanded the approaches to the town. On the Division left flank the enemy held a distinct terrain advantage, holding important heights that commanded views over a great portion of the Division sector. Continued pressure, however, moved the enemy back on 26 December 1944 to a line WARKEN-WELSCHEID-KEHMEN-W bank of SURE RIVER N of RINGEL-and W along Sure River. The line remained stable until 31 December 1944 as the Division went on the defensive. At least 200 troops were reported cut off behind our lines in the NW corner of the sector but they were mopped up by Division troops. Enemy along the entire front started wearing white snow capes as snow started covering the terrain. Considerable enemy artillery fell throughout the area, consisting mostly of interdiction and harrassing fire. Enemy hebelwerfer units were displaced along the entire front, fire being received from N of Ettlebruck, Goesdorf and other points along the line. Enemy tanks were employed in front of the Division as artillery, moving into position at night and shelling our troops. Patrolling by the enemy was active and near Ettlebruck and one patrol, believed to be dressed in US uniforms and english-speaking, infiltrated through our lines.

At the close of the period the enemy was apparently massing in the vicinity of Goesdorf with infantry and panzer units.

Max E. Mo
MAX E. MOE
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

SECTION III

CLASS I - The supply of Class I has offered no particular problem to this organization. The general practice of this organization is to requisition 10-in-one, C and B rations on successive days thus varying the ration as much as possible. The Holiday rations were adequate and were excellently prepared. By rotation of the tactical elements, all personnel received the meal in good condition.

CLASS II - Generally the supply and resupply of Class II items of equipment has been efficient. No particular difficulty was encountered in the slavage of unserviceable personal equipment. The time element required between the turning in of unserviceable equipment by the individual and returning serviceable items to him was generally four or five days. The supply of handkerchiefs, combat boots in off sizes, however, was critical inasmuch as replacement and resupply was nil for a comparatively lengthy period and in some cases replacements have not been received.

CLASS III - The supply of gasoline and oil has offered no particular problem. An adequate reserve is maintained and since vehicular movement has been comparatively restricted the maintenance of proper fuel levels has been simple. Fuel is generally drawn and supplied to Platoons every other day. No difficulty was encountered in drawing required amounts from Class III dumps.

CLASS IV - Ordnance: This organization lost two 60mm mortars as a result of enemy action on 31 August 1944. To date one mortar has been replaced. The demand for replacement of small arms has offered no difficulty inasmuch as such requirements have been at a minimum.

Signal: Other than replacement of Tubes VT 165 for SCR 508, the resupply of Signal supplies is good.

Engineer: Articles of Engineer equipment do not offer a major supply problem. When such supplies are needed, replacement is accomplished satisfactorily and with a minimum delay. All unissued and unreplaced equipment has been requisitioned and with the exception of critical items have been replaced. The issue of Cavalry Demolition Set No. 5 has thus far not been accomplished but sufficient supplies of TNT, Prima cord, time fuse, blasting caps and ~~demolition~~ have been issued to offset the absence of this set.

CLASS V - During the present period ammunition expenditures have been negligible. The resupply of expended ammunition has not, during the present period or prior to this period, offered a problem. A small reserve supply of all types of ammunition is carried to offset immediate demands of using unit.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EVACUATION: Three aid men attached to this organization are supplied through the Troop S-4. Casualties are evacuated by Platoon vehicle to the nearest aid station. Medical supplies for the aid men have been obtained with minimum delay.

Max E. MoE
MAX E. MOE
1st Lt., Cavalry
Executive Officer.

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SECTION IV

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Battle casualties during the period were extremely light, only four men being wounded and one of them only slightly. Due to the limited time actually spent in action (the Troop was given a 10-day rest period) no prisoners of war were taken by the Troop although several enemy were known to have been killed by our Platoons in the vicinity of Henriville and Farbersviller. Replacements continued to be of high calibre, all of them with specialized Cavalry Reconnaissance training. Only three men, however, were assigned to the Troop since casualties during the previous period had been light.

Fifteen Bronze Star Medals were presented personnel of the organization for heroic and outstanding services during the period. The number brought the Troop total to 25, a high percentage of the Troop total strength.

Special Service function during the period was highly satisfactory. During the rest period the Troop enjoyed movies nightly and an ample supply of literature, comics and other reading material was distributed to personnel through Special Services. In addition the weekly free PX ration continued to be passed out to the enjoyment of all. Despite the apparent critical shortage elsewhere, no cigarette shortage was experienced by members of the Troop.

Max E. Moe
MAX E. MOE
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

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TABLE NUMBER 1

BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY

(Figures taken from Morning Report up to and including 31
December 44 for the period 1 December 44 to 31 December 44)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>IIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RTD's</u>
1 Dec 44	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
7 Dec 44	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
19 Dec 44	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
31 Dec 44	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
TOTAL	0	0	4	0	2	6	1

Max E. Mo

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1st Lt., Cavalry,
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TABLE NUMBER 2

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PI's</u>
None	None
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>0</u>

Max E. Moe
MAX E. MOE
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

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TABLE NUMBER 3

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED
(Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
2 Dec 44	2
19 Dec 44	1
<hr/>	
TOTAL	3

Max E. MoE
MAX E. MOE
1st Lt., Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

RECEIVED

TABLE NUMBER 4

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
Decorations awarded from 1 December 44 to 31 December 44
inclusive.

<u>NO.</u>	
<u>0</u>	Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
<u>0</u>	Distinguished Service Cross
<u>6</u>	Silver Star Medal (Posthumously)
<u>0</u>	Silver Star Medal
<u>0</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
<u>0</u>	Bronze Star (Posthumously)
<u>14</u>	Bronze Star
<u>0</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal
<u>0</u>	Air Medal
<u>0</u>	Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
<u>0</u>	Soldier's Medal
<u>2</u>	Purple Heart Award
<u>0</u>	(1st) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award
<u>0</u>	(2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Award

Max E. Moe

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