

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 85 U. S. Army.
2 August 1944.

NARRATIVE 1 JULY to 31 JULY 1944

The company completed a very nice rest period at Castel Porziano, Italy on 9 July 1944. During this rest passes were given to Rome and many recreational activities took place in the rest area. The Division Special Service had several live shows during the period. The company preformed its normal duties and a training program was carried out.

On 10 July 1944, the company moved by motor to an area in the vicinity of Roccastrada, Italy. This was not a blackout move. The move began at 2105 and ended at 0545 on 11 July 1944.

The seven day period at Roccastrada (11-18 July) was spent in further training to bring the unit up to top combat proficiency. Regular company duties were preformed. The company crossed the I.P. at 1500 hours, 18 July 1944 and closed in its overnight dispersion area north east of Vada at 2115 hours.

The C.P. split into the Forward and Rear Echelons at this dispersion area. At 0800 hours on 19 July the Forward Echelon moved to its C.P. in the vicinity of Rosignano Marittimo, Italy. The Rear Echelon moved to its C.P. 5 miles east of Vada at 1300 hours.

The Forward and Rear Echelons remained in their respective C.P. areas from 19 July to 30 July 1944. During this period the company preformed its normal duties and continued training. Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York, Military Vicar of the armed forces held a field mass on 26 July 1944 for all catholic men of the Fifth Army. Approximately 90 men from the company attended this mass. At about 2300 hours, 26 July 1944, German planes were over the bivouac area. No bombs dropped in the C.P. area but several fell in nearby installations causing casualties.

On 30 July the Forward Echelon moved to a bivouac area located approximately 4 miles north of Pignano, Italy.

During the month there were no absences without leave. The morale of the company was excellent and great attention was given by the enlisted men on the general war picture.

There was no difficulties encountered in operations except that supplies were difficult to secure due to the low priority basis.

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By JGNARA Date 8-13-10

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

FEB 28 1950

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Sept. to 30 Sept 1944

APD 85 U. S. Army.
3 September 1944.

NARRATIVE 1 AUGUST to 31 AUGUST 1944

Beginning the month of August, the Forward Echelon, consisting of the O.G., A.C.G., C/S, G-1, 2, 3, 4, C.W.O., Division Surgeon, Special Troops Hq., Defense Platoon and half of the Special and Transportation Platoons, were located approximately four miles north of Pignano, Italy. The Rear Echelon, consisting of the A.G., Finance, I.G., J.A., Surgeon, Attached Medics, Chaplain, Special Troops Chaplain, Special Service, Band, Co. Hq., and one half of the Special and Transportation Platoons were located approximately five miles east of Vada, Italy. However the Rear Echelon moved from this location at 1045 on the 1 August to a C.P. located about one mile north of Pignano, Italy.

During the period 1 to 13 August 1944, the company performed normal duties and conducted usual training. On the 5th of August, a Division Headquarters Platoon morning report was started. Heretofore this report was included in the Headquarters Company report.

The Forward Echelon moved 14 August from its bivouac area four miles south east of Castelfiorentino, Italy. This move was made at 2100 hours under blackout conditions. The Rear Echelon moved to the same location on the 15 August at 1955 hours. This move was also made blackout. Normal duties were performed in this area.

On the 22nd of August at 2345 hours, the Rear Echelon moved to a C.P. located three miles east of Certaldo, Italy. The Red Cross clubmobile organization moved to the 310 Medical Battalion. This unit consisting of three women and one man had been operating from the Rear Echelon. The Forward Echelon moved on the 24th of August to a C.P. in the vicinity of S. Donata, Italy. The company performed its normal duties and continued training.

About 2200 hours on the 28 August, German planes were over both echelons. Strafing was done in the vicinity but no damage was reported. Private Millett, of the Military Police Platoon, was lightly wounded in the attack while on duty in Certaldo, Italy.

No difficult problems were encountered during the month. All the unit personnel sections in the Division reported to the Rear Echelon for rations and quarters. This group is operating in the Rear Echelon under the supervision of the Adjutant General. The unit personnel sections have 13 officers and 181 enlisted men. Arrangements have been made for a separate kitchen with the mess sergeant and mess officer being furnished by Headquarters Company. The cooks were taken from the various units. This system has been used before and it seems to work very smoothly.

Morale of the men has been excellent.

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Authority NND 735017

By JGNARA Date 8-13-10

THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry

FEB 28 1950

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385-HQ-6.3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Sept. to 30 Sept 1944

On 1 September the Division Forward Echelon was located in the vicinity of S. Donato, Italy. The Rear Echelon was bivouaced approximately three miles North-east of Certaldo, Italy.

A heavy rain storm during the night of 2 September caused some property damage and loss of equipment in the Rear Echelon. The weather continued to be warm with scattered showers from 2-7 September. During the night of 7 September, heavy rains caused ditches and stream beds to overflow in the Rear Echelon area. The area was literally flooded causing loss and damage to individual clothing and equipment. Although there were heavy rains, normal duties continued to be performed.

Salerno Day was observed by Fifth Army on 9 September. Volley ball and horse shoe pitching were played between the Forward and Rear Echelons.

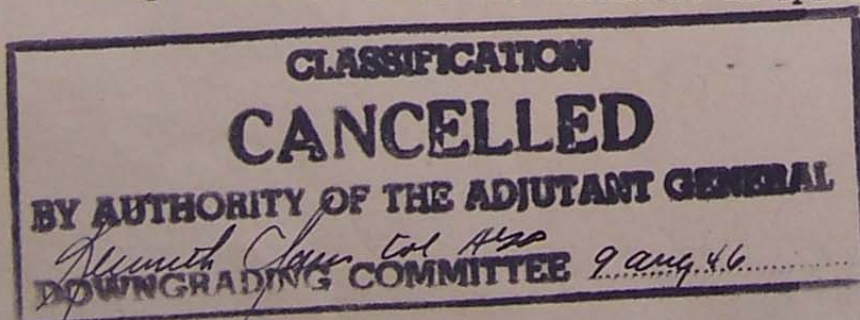
The Forward CP moved on 12 September to a bivouac area in vicinity of Vaglia, Italy. The Rear Echelon and Administrative Center moved on the 13 September to a bivouac area located approximately two miles North-east of Fontesecca, Italy. The CP opened at 1530. The Forward Echelon also moved on the same date to the vicinity of Petrona, Italy.

From 14 to 18 September both echelons remained stationary and performed their normal duties.

The Forward Echelon moved to Paretaio, Italy on 19 September and from there to Rifredo, Italy on the 21 September. The Rear Echelon remained stationary and performed its normal duties. The Forward Echelon moved to Bargo, Italy on 24 September 1944. From 25 to 30 September both echelons remained stationary and performed their normal duties.

There were ten Bronz Stars, two Legion of Merits, one Soldiers Medal, and one Purple Heart awarded during September.

There was considerable rain during the month, which caused difficulty in operations. Moral was excellent in spite of the bad weather.



Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Authority NND 735017
By JGNARA Date 8-13-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Oct. to 31 Oct. 1944

On 1 October the Division Rear Echelon and Personnel Sections moved from a bivouac area two miles northeast of Fontesecca, Italy (Demidoff Park) to Palasaccio, Italy. This move was made by 2½ ton trucks from the 900 AAA group. The Division Forward Echelon moved from Bargo, Italy to the vicinity of Pietramola, Italy but had to return because a bridge near the proposed bivouac area was damaged by a tank. The Defense Platoon of the Forward Echelon had moved into the area during the morning of the 1st. The area at Pietramola was shelled at about 1600 on the first killing four and wounding four enlisted men, all from the Defense Platoon.

The Division Forward Echelon moved on the 3rd to the new area in the vicinity of Pietramola, Italy. The Rear Echelon remained in Palasaccio, Italy. On the 6th of October the Forward Echelon moved from Pietramola to La Pozza, Italy.

During the period 8 October through 31 October the two echelons remained stationary doing their normal duties. The Forward C.P. was located at La Pozza and the Rear C.P. at Palasaccio, Italy.

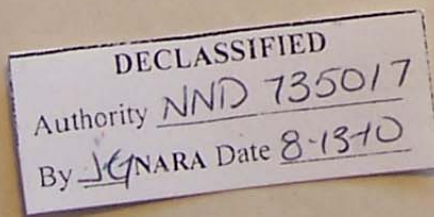
The company was paid on the last day of the month.

There were ten bronze stars and one Soldier's Medal awarded during the month.

Personnel received the new type field jackets, shoe pacs, and high neck sweaters.

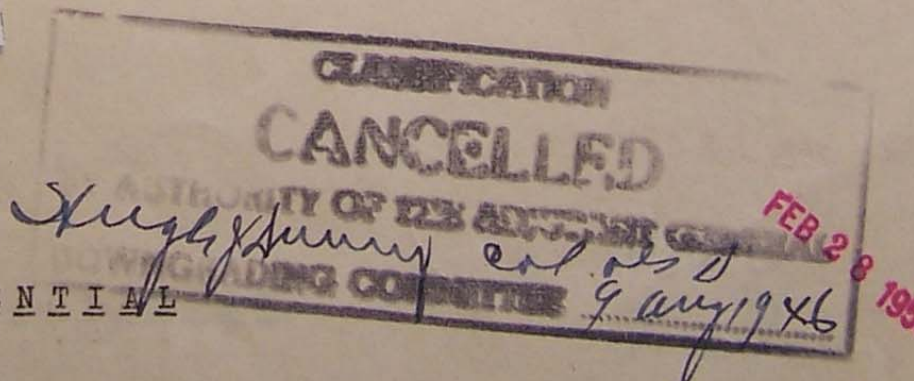
Adverse weather conditions prevailed all month. The rain and mud made transportation problems extremely difficult.

Morale was excellent despite the weather conditions and there was practically no sickness.



Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

C O N F I D E N T I A L



C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Nov. to 30 Nov. 1944

The Division forward echelon was located in La Pozza, Italy on 1 Nov. 1944. The Division rear echelon was located at Palasaccio, Italy. During the period 1 Nov to 8 Nov both echelons carried on normal duties in their respective areas.

On 9 November the rear echelon moved to Gagliano, Italy. This was made in two convoys during day light hours. All sections were located in buildings. From 10 November to 19 November both echelons performed their normal duties. Practically all personnel in the rear echelon were moved into buildings for sleeping quarters.

On 20 November the forward echelon sent an advanced party of 100 officers and enlisted men to their new bivouac area in vicinity of Gagliano, Italy. The forward echelon moved to Gagliano on 22 November. The entire CP was located in a building. The forward and rear echelons were only 3/4 of a mile apart.

From 23 November to 30 November both echelons remained in Gagliano, Italy and performed their regular duties. Four day passes to Montecatini, Italy were granted to a large percentage of the company. Four day passes to Rome and Florence, and one day passes to Florence were given during this period. The company furnished a mess for the command group of the Montecatini Rest Center.

The weather conditions for November were adverse with plenty of rain and mud. Transportation problems were improved the latter part of November because of better roads and short distances to installations of the Division. The morale and health of the men were excellent.

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Capt, Infantry,
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735017
By JG/NARA Date 8-13-10

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FEB 28 1950

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Dec. to 31 Jan. 1945

The Division Forward and Rear Echelons and the Division Personnel Sections were located in Gagliano, Italy on 1 December 1944. The Forward echelon was approximately one mile outside of town and bivouaced in an Italian estate while the Rear echelon and Personnel sections were established in buildings throughout the town. This was a rest area for the division where rest, normal duties and training were carried out. During the month of December show down inspections, replacement of losses and thorough motor maintenance were accomplished.

On 15 December Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark was present at a ceremony held in the Forward C.P. At this ceremony General Clark presented awards and decorations and gave a short talk praising the combat efficiency of the division. On 19 December Major General Coulter, the Division Commander, was present in the Rear echelon for a ceremony in which he presented one Soldier's Medal and twelve Bronze Stars to officers and enlisted men of the Rear C.P.

Christmas day was celebrated by a party followed by a delicious turkey dinner. At approximately 1700 hours the Forward echelon was alerted to move to the vicinity of Lucca, Italy. This move was made during the early hours of 26 December 1944.

On 1 January 1945 the Forward C.P. was located in the vicinity of Lucca, Italy and the Division Rear C.P. plus the Personnel sections remained in Gagliano, Italy. The Forward C.P. performed its normal duties and on 7 January moved to its former location in Gagliano. On 16 January the Forward C.P. moved to Villa de Sassonero, Italy and at this time the division was again engaged in combat.

The weather during the month of December was generally dry and cold while January was cold with snow falling frequently. Morale and health of the men were excellent. Since the division was out of combat during practically all of this period transportation difficulties were comparatively small.

**CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED**
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Quartermaster Col Hqs
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 7 Aug 46

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

FEB 28 1950

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Master

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Authority NND 735017
By JCNARA Date 8-13-10

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Feb. to 28 Feb. 1945

The Division Forward echelon was located in bivouac area at Villa de Sassonero, Italy on 1 February 1945. The Division Rear Echelon and Division Personnel Sections were located in Gagliano, Italy. Throughout February there was no change in the location of either Echelon, both remained stationary and performed normal duties.

Because of the distance between the Rear echelon and the Division Supply Depots, all Class I and III supplies were drawn by Rear echelon from 5th Army railheads located in Florence, Italy. The Forward echelon obtained all supplies through normal Division channels.

On 21 February the 85th Division Band moved from Gagliano, Italy to Montecatini, Italy to provide entertainment for the 85th Infantry Rest Center.

The weather during the month of February was generally dry and warm. There was a decided improvement in the condition of all roads which minimized transportation difficulties.

Morale and health of the men were excellent.

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding



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Master

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 1 Mar. to 31 Mar. 1945

The Division Forward Echelon was located in bivouac area at Villa de Sassonero, Italy on 1 March 1945. The Division Rear echelon and Division Personnel sections were located in Gagliano, Italy. On 13 March 1945 the Division forward echelon moved to the Gagliano bivouac area. Throughout the rest of March there was no change in the location of either echelon and normal functions were performed.

Because of the distance between the rear echelon and the Division Supply Depots during period 1 March to 7 March, all class I and III supplies were drawn by rear echelon, from 5th Army railheads located in Florence, Italy. During balance of month all supplies were obtained through normal Division channels.

On 26 March the 85th Division Band returned to the Gagliano area from Montecatini, Italy where they had been playing for the 85th Division Rest Center since 21 February.

Showdown inspections of all individual and organizational equipment were held and all excess items turned in. Some winter clothing was also turned in.

The weather during March was generally dry and warm. Transportation difficulties were minimized.

Passes were continued and most members of the command had an opportunity to spend four days at 85th Infantry Division Rest Center in Montecatini, Italy.

Morale and health of the men were excellent.

Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding

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Authority NND 735017

By JCNARA Date 8-13-10

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Col. F. L. 9 Aug 46

BY *[Signature]*
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

FEB 28 1946

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 16 April to 2 May 1945

On 16 April the Division forward echelon was located at Lugnano, Italy and the Division rear echelon at Buti, Italy.

During the period 17 April through 2 May the Division forward echelon made thirteen moves and on 2 May was located in Feltre, Italy. During this period the Division rear echelon moved twice. The first move being from Buti to Pracchia, Italy on 17 April, a distance of 45 miles and the second from Pracchia to Nogara, Italy, on 30 April, a distance of 125 miles. Both were shuttle movements. On 2 May the rear echelon was remaining at Nogara, Italy.

From 20 April through 2 May the rear echelon drew all Class I and III supplies from 5 Army truckheads due to the long distance between the rear and division supply installations.

Because of the great distance between rear and forward echelons and congested traffic conditions during this period many problems arose. However by careful planning and coordinating of available transportation most of the difficulties were overcome. Daily communication and delivery of mail was maintained throughout period.

Morale and health of the men were excellent. A high degree of initiative and cooperative spirit was displayed by all personnel.

Thomas A. Roberts

THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

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Authority NNID 735017

By JGNARA Date 8-13-10

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FEB 28 1950

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HEADQUARTERD COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Narrative 3 May 45 to 31 May 45

On 3 May the Division Forward echelon was located in Feltre, Italy and the Division Rear echelon at Nogera, Italy.

On 5 - 6 May the Division Rear echelon moved to Feltre, Italy and went into bivouac about one block from the Forward echelon C. P.

On 11 May the Division Unit Personnel Sections which had been attached to the Rear echelon for several months were returned to their individual units.

Both echelons remained in Feltre and performed normal duties until 14 May when Forward echelon moved to Misurina, Italy a distance of about 80 miles. On 16 May the Rear echelon also moved to Misurina. Both Echelons remained in Misurina until 27 May. While in Misurina most of command was given a Medical Profile Examination. The weather during period was generally cold and wet and the place did not prove very suitable for a bivouac sight for this reason.

On 27 May the Rear echelon returned to Feltre, Italy and on May 29 the Forward echelon also returned to Feltre where both were still located on 31 May.

Morale and health of Command throughout month were excellent. A number of One and Five day pass quotas were obtained to 5th Army Rest Centers and the usual duties and training within command carried on.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By JG NARA Date 8-13-10

Thomas A. Roberts

THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

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FEB 28 1950

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85th INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO #85

4 Aug 1945

Narrative 1 June to 30 June 1945

The Division Forward and Rear Echelons moved from Feltre, Italy, to the Volturno Redeployment Training Area, located near Caserta, Italy, and consolidated.

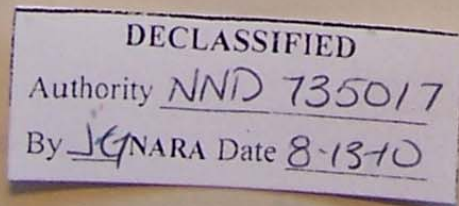
An extensive redeployment program was carried out during the month and exchanges of personnel were continued with Hq Fifth Army, Hq II Corps, and the 34th Inf Div. Practically all attached personell were relieved from DS with this organization and sent back to their parent organizations. Despite the many and varied problems presented by this large turnover of personnel, events moved along smoothly, due to the splendid cooperation of all concerned and to the excellent performance of the officers and enlisted men in charge of operations.

All personnel were given an opportunity to enroll in the courses offered under the Army Educational Program. Several training films were shown during the month which were attended by all EM except those absent on pass.

Morale and health of the Command Were excellent. Passes were continued to the various Fifth Army Rest Centers and seven day tours. All available recreational facilities were utilized to the maximum.

Thomas A Roberts

THOMAS A. ROBERTS
Capt, Inf
Comdg



FEB 28 1950

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85
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 85, U.S. ARMY
5 July 1945

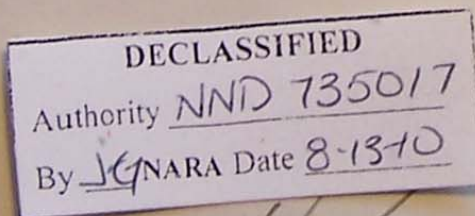
July *July*
Narrative 1 June to 30 June '45

The Division Forward and Rear echelons remained in Feltre, Italy, throughout the month of June.

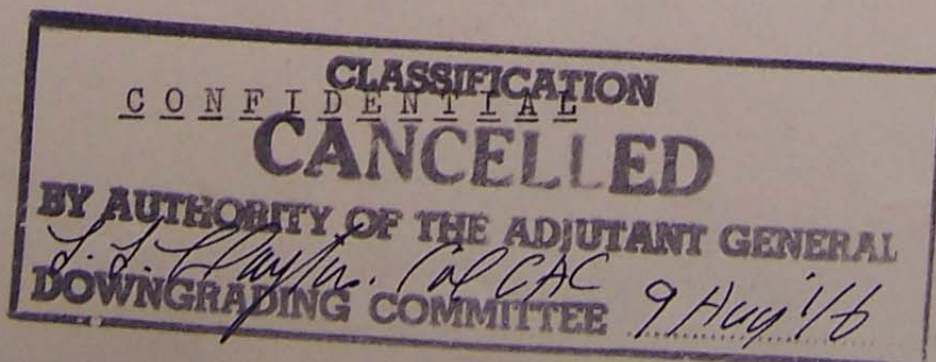
During this period an extensive redeployment program was carried out. Exchanges of personnel were made with Hq 5 Army, Hq II Corps, and the 34th Infantry Division. Many of the original members of the organization were redeployed to smaller units where no exchanges were made. The large turnover in personnel presented many problems. However, by advance planning all difficulties were held to a minimum and the new personnel adjusted in their new positions.

All personnel were given an opportunity to enroll in the courses offered under the Army Educational Program. Several educational and training films were shown during the month and discussion classes held each week.

Morale and health of the Command were excellent. Passes were continued to the various 5 Army Rest Centers and all available recreational facilities utilized.



Thomas A. Roberts
THOMAS A. ROBERTS,
Captain, Infantry
Commanding



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