

HISTORY - NARRATIVE FORM  
157TH INF REGT  
APRIL 1945

L-1036

Greyish, bespectacled Major von Lambert, commander of the German garrison defending the towns of Aschaffenburg and Schweinheim, was a soldier's soldier, a firm believer in the principles of Nazism and one of the most noteworthy adversaries the 157th Infantry Regiment ever had encountered. Acting under the direct orders of the National Socialist Party, the major was determined first that Aschaffenburg and Schweinheim would not fall; second, that if the towns were forced into surrender, the defeat would be a glorious one, to be viewed with pride by the entire Fatherland. Characteristically he issued the dictum:

"Soldiers, men of the Volksturm, Comrades!

"The fortress of Aschaffenburg will be defended to the last man. As long as the enemy gives us time we will prepare to employ our troops to our best possible advantage."

"This means: 1. Fight!  
2. Erect dugouts!  
3. And Barriers!  
4. Get supplies!  
5. WIN!!!

"As of today everyone is to give his last. I order that none will rest more than three hours out of twenty four. I forbid any sitting around and loafing."

"Our belief is that it is our mission to give the cursed enemy the greatest resistance and to send as many as possible of them to the devil."

To further instill the nationalistic spirit in the populace, Kreisleiter Wohlgemuth also issued a written proclamation:

"My Dear Brothers,

"For several days I have asked you to leave the city as there exists the danger that it will be the focal point of our nations's battle. Due to the latest developments there is no doubt that this has now become reality. We expect a fight for life and death. This afternoon and evening will be the last opportunity for women, children, the sick and the very old to leave the city. Those who do not leave cannot say they had not been warned in time.

"The women and men who remain must be prepared to give their lives for their children."

"Whoever is in the city tomorrow morning belongs to a battle group which will know no selfishness, but which will know only unlimited hatred against this cursed enemy of ours. They will only know complete sacrifice for the Fuhrer and for our nation."

"Day and night we will work. We will commit all our power to do the enemy the greatest damage because we know Germany will live if we are prepared to die."

On the morning of April 1, 1945 the 157th Infantry Regiment continued its assault on the fanatically defended city of Aschaffenburg and neighboring Hailbach. The First Battalion, driving toward Hailbach, encountered some resistance, the bulk of which was small arms fire. By nightfall the town had been cleared. Aschaffenburg itself, was attacked from the southwest by the Second Battalion. There the American troops met bitter resistance. Throughout the day, Air Corps pilots flying speedy fighter-bombers circled overhead and supported the infantry's attack with bombing and strafing missions. An M12 self-propelled was brought into the action to place direct fire upon enemy strong points. Progress was slow as the fighting moved from house to house. Company F was relieved by a 45th Division Recon Troop and sent to Schweinheim. The Third Battalion meanwhile had been assigned the task of clearing the barracks at the edge of Schweinheim. K Company led the attack when it jumped off in the morning at 0600. Crossing the two hundred yards of flat field before reaching the barracks made it haven for the German snipers. Many casualties were suffered before the first American soldier set foot in the buildings. They were stubbornly defended and it was necessary to clear them room by room. Several hundred PWs were taken during the day's action. The 179th Infantry Regiment attacked on the right and though it forced enemy artillery to withdraw the artillery continued to interdict the main supply routes until well out of range.

The First Battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment continued to attack to the north on April 2. It succeeded in cutting the Aschaffenburg-Laufach road. B Company then moved to the southwest to the town of Goldbach clearing small pockets of resistance while A Company, after moving northeast and reporting friendly troops in the town of Hosbach, backtracked to the southwest to join B Company in Goldbach. Large groups of enemy personnel were observed as they attempted to escape Aschaffenburg. By this time the only route of withdrawal was through woods, north of the city itself. A and B Companies engaged the fleeing Germans and a small arms battle raged toward the close of the period. The Second Battalion continued with its mission of clearing Aschaffenburg. The enemy was determined to make any advance costly and defended the city's street by street, house by house. After many buildings were demolished by direct fire from the M12 self-propelled they defended from cellar to cellar. By nightfall the companies reached the center of town. The Third Battalion skirted the eastern edge and cleared small pockets of resistance. K Company advanced through

Aschaffenburg's eastern end of town and met very little resistance. L Company moved along the southern edge of the Aschaffenburg railroad until it made contact with K Company. I Company left its position on a nearby hill and occupied the streets cleared by the other companies. Approximately 1000 prisoners had been captured that day. Enemy artillery and mortars were practically non-existent.

By 1300 it had moved to an assembly area in Goldbach. The Third Battalion continued its attack until work reached it later in the day of the surrender of the German forces. It then moved to an assembly area in Goldbach. The Second Battalion had received a message during the early morning hours that the German garwison in the city wished to surrender. AT about 0900 AM, an American soldier who had been a prisoner of war walked into the Battalion's lines bearing Major Von Lambert's offer to surrender. 1st Lt. Fritz Schnaittacher and 2nd Lt. Fred Kaufman, both regimental IPW officers, accompanied the soldier back to the Nazi Headquarters. They then accompanied vom Lambert as he toured segments of the city that were still holding out and called upon the troops to lay down their arms. He had done what he had killed others for suggesting; he had surrendered.

Evidence of Major von Lambert's fanaticism was revealed in a note that had been sent him by a Luftwaffe Captain. The contents of the note mentioned the fact that as a Luftwaffe officer he had no reason for being in town.

Enraged, von Lambert ordered the captain executed immediately.

Further evidence was noted in the body of a German lieutenant that had been hung. It was revealed later that this officer had neglected to attend a meeting called by Major von Lambert for the purpose of outlining a defense of the city. The lieutenant had been wounded and considered himself a convalescent but the Major thought otherwise. He was hing and his body lay in the street for all to see.

During the battle for Aschaffenburg the enemy had lost 3,200 men, 1500 of which were either killed in action or wounded.

The Second Battalion moved to an assembly area in Hosbach. The battle for Aschaffenburg was over.

The regiment was placed in division reserve on the 4th of April. During the day, the regimental CP moved from Hosbach to Phaffenhoffen. The First Battalion moved from Goldbach to Oberndorf. The Second Battalion moved from Hosbach to the vicinity of Florsbach. E Company occupied Wiessen, and G Company, Lettgunbrunn. G Co also placed a road block to the northeast of town. During the even hours the battalion sent patrols to contact the Third Battalion positions. F Company of the 114th Infantry Regiment contacted the G Company road block at about 1700. At 2300 a patrol from G Company reported that they had contacted F Company of the 114th Infantry. The Third Battalion moved from Goldbach to the vicinity of Burjos.

During the odd hours, it sent patrols to the 2nd Battalion position.

April 5th dawned cold and raining. The 157th Infantry continued in reserve and the First Battalion remained in Oberndorf. The 1277 Engineers reported contact with the enemy and one platoon of B Company was sent with tanks to go to their aid. They made no contact however and returned to the assembly area that day. The Second Battalion moved from Florsbach to the vicinity of Hutton. The Third Battalion moved from Burgjos to the vicinity of Eichenried. Both the Second and Third Battalions operated local patrols that night. The Regimental CP moved from Pfaffenhoffen to Gundheim.

The 6th Day of April found the 157th Infantry Regiment still following behind the 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments. Each of the Battalions moved forward, the First moving from Oberndorf to Dietershn, the Second from Hutton to Buchenburg and the Third from Echenried to Luter. The First and Third Battalions maintained physical contact with one another by means of patrols. The Regimental CP moved forward to Schmalnau.

On the 7th of April the Battalions again moved forward. The First moved to Mosbach, the Second moved to Buchenburg and the Third moved to the top of a mountain where there were barracks. A German glider school had formerly occupied the site. The Regimental CP moved to Gersfield.

On April 8th, the entire regiment remained in position. Colonel Walter P. O'Brien left the regiment on detached service and was replaced by Lt Colonel Laurence C. Brown, formerly the executive officer. Lt Colonel Ralph M. Krieger left the command of First Battalion to become regimental executive officer. Major Charles R. Edwards became commanding officer of the First Battalion.

The three battalions moved forward once again on April 9th. The First moved to Kl Eibstadt. The Second moved to Gr Eibstadt area. The Third moved to Gr Bardorf. The Regiment opened it's CP at Saal.

During the two day period of April 10 and 11 the entire regiment remained in position. Maintenance of vehicles, cleaning of equipment and personal hygiene was stressed during this period. The entire regiment was afforded the opportunity to shower and receive a change of clothing. Enemy stragglers continued to be rounded up and during these two days an undetermined number of PWs were accounted for.

On the 12th of April the 157th Infantry was once again ready to return to the line. The First Battalion loaded on dukws and at evening were awaiting orders to move on. The Second Battalion moved to an assembly area just south of Lauf. The Third Battalion crossed the Main River and was placed in position to the east and southeast of Lauf to protect the division's left flank. Once again the men of the 157th Infantry Regiment were ready for battle.

The 157th Infantry Regiment met little or no resistance as it moved to attack on the morning of April 13. The First Battalion moved from Kraisdorf pausing several times during the day to await further orders, clear road blocks and pick up enemy stragglers. It arrived at Starkenschwin where it stayed for the night. The Second Battalion met very little resistance as it cleared town after town in its surge forward. The Third Battalion moved forward with K Company leading. Enemy personnel were spotted in Scheslitz but were dispersed by artillery fire. A number of towns were cleared before the battalion set up for the night. The Third Battalion of the 179th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 157th Infantry at OSOBE and proceeded to join in the attack. The Battalion cleared a number of villages and towns before setting up for the night. At least twenty towns were cleared during the days activity.

The 157th Infantry Regiment continued to attack to the south toward Nurnberg on April 14. The First Battalion launched a twin pronged attack and was able to secure two bridges intact over the Wiesen River. Several times during the day in an attempt at delaying the speedy advance, the enemy launched countermeasures but each time the enemy resistance was broken. The Second Battalion cleared a number of towns and then moved by motor to an assembly area to the rear of the First Battalions right column. The Third Battalion cleared several towns and moved by motor to an assembly area behind the First Battalion's left column. Enemy patrols were unusually active throughout the night.

The drive toward the city of Nurnberg continued on April 15th. The First Battalion continued to spearhead the 157th Infantry's advance. The main effort of this twin pronged drive was exerted on the right column which was the side on which Nurnberg lay. The right column encountered a road block consisting of a Mark V tank, and many enemy personnel. It was quickly reduced and the advance continued. The left column encountered a battery of 4 88mm guns and their crews. The opposition was quickly cleared and the advance continued. Numerous prisoners of war were accounted for. The Second and Third Battalions followed the attacking columns closely ready to go to their aid should the need arise. A total of 787 prisoners were taken in the day's action.

On the 16th of April, the 157th Infantry Regiment continued its attack to the south. The plan called for the regiment to skirt the eastern part of the city and then cutback to the west and enter the city from the southeast. The Second Battalion led the attack, passing through the First Battalion's positions during the early morning hours. The surprise of the advance resulted in the capture of two four gun batteries of 88mm and their crews. The First Battalion launched an attack later in the day and after reaching its objective was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Diepersdorf. The Third Battalion launched an attack toward Feuch. Its path was blocked by enemy tanks, 88mm guns and many personnel. At the close of the period it had made substantial gains before stopping for the night. Enemy artillery was unusually active, interdicting the towns of Fischbach and Lauf throughout the day.

The First Battalion passed through the Second Battalion road block early on the morning of the 17th and began its attack toward the city of Nurnberg. Resistance was spotty but as the Companies advanced they received small arms and automatic weapons fire. Sniper fire harrassed the troops as they prepared to dig in for the night. The Third Battalion began its attack toward Feucht early in the morning and by 0900 the town was cleared. The troops continued wesward clearing several smaller villages on the road to Nurnberg. At 1600 the battalion was relieved by the First Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment and launched an attack to close the gap on the First Battalion's right flank. The Second Battalion moved forward behind the other two battalions and set up road blocks.

Nurnberg was the capital of Nazism in Germany. Heremany of the edicts proclaiming the members of the Jewish religion to be Non-Aryans and unfit for a part in the future glory of the Reich originated. It was here in the huge Nurnberg stadium that many of the Nazi festivals and pageants were held. It also was here that the 8th Air Force chose to bomb in 1943 and as a result it railroads and other installations of vital military value were totally destroyed. Mile after mile of the city were huge piles of rubble.

On the morning of April 18th, the First and Third Battalions attacked the city from the southeast. The progress made by the two battalions was slow but steady. Heavy machine gun and sniper fire was encountered to the front. Occasional artillery rounds harassed the troops. It was necessary to advance house by house while moving forward.

A picture of things to come was revealed when a captured German revealed the plan for the defense of the city. "The German plan," he said, "was to withdraw to the railroad running E-W through the city and make a stand. When this line of defense breaks they were to withdraw to the old part of the city.

By nightfall, as troops of the Second Battalion occupied a position on the left flank of the First Battalion, the line had moved 1500 yards into Nurnberg itself. A total of 1045 prisoners were taken.

The 157th Infantry Regiment continued with its mission to clear the southern portion of Nurnberg the next day, the 19th of April. The First Battalion met very stiff resistance. Baker Company led the attack through a railroad underpass and was met on the north side by heavy machine gun and sniper fire. The enemy also used bazooka and faustpatronen in their defense of the northern side of the railroad. Charlie Company attempted to cross the railroad embankment but met the same type of resistance. Baker Company passed through the Second Battalion's sector and launched an attack through the warehouse district. Able Company followed to offer close support. The German defenders offered stiff resistance and progress was slow. Charlie Company broke contact at

the embankment and followed the other companies through the warehouse district. By nightfall the Battalion had reached the highway connecting Feurth and the main part of the city. The Second Battalion met very stiff resistance. After three hours of house to house fighting against the same opposition that had held the First Battalion in check, E and F Companies were able to gain but 100 yards. The battalion moved to the southeast along the Ludwig Canal while elements of the 179th Infantry Regiment relieved it at its former positions. The troops succeeded in cutting the Feurth-Nurnberg highway at another point and pushed on to reach their objective. The Third Battalion met sporadic resistance as it advanced that day. All Companies of the battalion reached their objectives and were slowly squeezed out by advancing troops of the 180th Infantry Regiment. By nightfall our sector of town had been cleared except for a small party of the old city. Contact with the 7th Infantry on the northern flank had also been established.

The 157th Infantry Regiment continued to clear small pockets of resistance throughout the day, April 20. The First Battalion's Able Company encountered heavy rifle fire in its attempt to clear the Rosenau woods. However by aggressively attacking the woods, the enemy was routed and a large number of prisoners were taken. Charlie Company contacted the 7th Infantry and outposted the south side of the Pognite River Line. The battalion maintained motorized patrols in its sector until the close of the period. The Second Battalion moved forward until it contacted King Company and then returned to an assembly area. The Third Battalion's King Company advanced until it contacted elements of the Second Battalion whereupon it returned to an assembly area. Love Company was given the mission of clearing the marshalling yards and warehouses south of Rothenburger Str. Though some small arms and machine gun fire was met, the yards and warehouses were cleared by 1210. The battalion also started patrols in its own sector. Throughout the day, all the battalions reported picking up stragglers. By nightfall all organized resistance in the regimental sector had ceased.

Action on the 21st of April was limited to skirmishes with groups of German soldiers attempting to infiltrate to the south. The First Battalion maintained motor patrols throughout the period and it was one of these that engaged an enemy group in a fire fight. The resistance was shortlived and some PWs were taken. Toward the close of the period the battalion moved to Katzwang. The Third Battalion picked up enemy troops attempting to infiltrate after engaging them in a short firefight. The battalion moved to an assembly area with the exception of Company K which participated in ceremonies of Army. The Second Battalion patrolled its sector hourly with no contacts reported. It moved to the vicinity of Worseldorf as the period came to a close.

During the fighting in and around Nurnberg other German troops ~~sk~~ had ample time to destroy bridges, build road blocks and in general plant numerous obstacles in the way of any troops movement to the south. As a result, when the 157th Infantry Regiment resumed its attack to the south on April 22 the main difficulty encountered were these prepared obstacles. The Third Battalion mounted on tanks and at this time launched a twin pronged assault to the south. Company K on the left flank met a column of horse drawn and motorized vehicles. These were brought under fire and many casualties were inflicted. Company I led the right flank column. The Second and First Battalions remained in reserve and followed behind the attacking Third. Thirty towns were occupied during the days activity and though the roads were poor, the progress was very satisfactory.

On the 23 of April, advancing troops of the 157th Infantry's Third Battalion found their road strewn with huge mudholes, road blocks and dead-ends. The twin pronged armored column crossed the Altmuhl River though every bridge in their assigned areas had been blown. By nightfall the battalion had crossed the river and seized the high ground to the south. The First and Second Battalions continued in reserve and after crossing the Altmuhl River took positions on the high ground to the south.

The Third Battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment continued its attack southward on the 24th. After an early morning delay due to tanks being unable to cross a bridge, the columns moved on. Item Company led the right column's attack. So quick and surprising were these armored thrusts that a German artillery and tank convoy was forced to stand and fight in Monheim. After a battle that lasted for nearly six hours, the town was cleared. Love Company pushed through Item and secured Warehing. The First and Second Battalions remained in reserve and closely followed the Third.

That night Colonel Walter P. O'Brien returned to his post as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

The 157th Infantry Regiment opened the 25th of April by continuing its attack southward. At the opening of the period the First and Second Battalions passed through both columns of the Third. At 0800 the Third Battalion resumed its offensive to the south and in turn passed through the First and Second. Love Company cleared Blasnau and Gansheim. A bridge crossing a stream just south of Gansheim was blown when the infantry was but two hundred yards from it. The column forded the stream and continued forward. King Company pushed forward and cleared several small towns and woods. In the late afternoon it had reached Rohrbach whereupon the Second Battalion pushed through again. The First Battalion pushed through Love Company.



The plan was for the two battalions to seize the north side of the river and cross in assault boats. They were to then continue forward and establish a bridgehead. However, the river was anything but the beautiful blue Danube. A swift current made crossing the river extremely dangerous and it was decided to wait until the next day. By the close of the period the regiment had seized and controlled the northern bank of the Danube in its sector.

The First and Second Battalions crossed the Danube on April 26. Prior to the crossings some casualties were caused by artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. Apparently the enemy was determined to make the crossing a costly one. Engineers began working on a bridge at 2030 after elements of the two battalions had seized the far shore. Enemy artillery occasionally harassed the working engineers. The Battalions reached their objectives by dusk and held their positions for the night. The Third Battalion remained in an assembly area during the entire period.

Contact with the enemy was extremely light as troops of the 157th Infantry Regiment continued southward on April 27. In the early hours of this period, the First Battalion received a small counter-attack. It was easily repelled. The First and Second Battalions continued to attack toward the bridgehead line and successfully cleared several towns. The Third Battalion meanwhile had crossed the Danube and had assembled with elements of the 191 Tank Battalion. By 1800 they were ready and the Third once again moved forward. By the close of the period, the Third Battalion had cleared numerous towns and had reached the bridgehead line, in the towns of Walda, Schron and Pottmes.

On the 28th of April the Third Battalion continued its twin pronged armored attack toward Munchen. Resistance was spotty throughout the day although two enemy columns were spotted and mauled during the resulting fights. During the morning hours, blown bridges slowed the attack but it continued with excellent results. The First and Second Battalions continued to follow behind the two columns.

The Third Battalion launched a triple pronged armored attack toward Munchen on April 29th. Love Company occupied and cleared the town of Prittlbach, approximately two miles from the large town of Dachau. Advancing toward a canal which ran E-W through Dachau, the doughboys discovered that all bridges crossing this canal in their sector had been blown. A check via radio revealed that a similar condition existed in the entire battalion sector.

The situation looked anything but good. A German woman cycling northward on the road was stopped and questioned by the American troops. She revealed that she had just come from Munchen and had crossed a bridge in the town of Dachau itself. Love Company swung quickly into action, mounted the tanks and raced for Dachau.

German soldiers scattered to the four winds as the armored column tore into the town spitting lead from its guns to all sides. This unorthodox approach caused much confusion among the enemy personnel. The lead tank had reached a point just twenty yards from the bridge when the structure blew up, raining debris upon all those riding the tank.

The company commander, 1st Lieutenant L. R. Stewart and the first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Robert Wilson made a personal reconnaissance of the canal in town and found a nearby foot bridge intact. They radioed the message to the rear and were ordered to protect the bridge at all costs. The men took their posts and waited.

They didn't wait long for Item Company, after clearing the by-passed houses in town passed over the bridge and made for the Dachau concentration camp.

The concentration camp at Dachau was the most infamous of all the German horror camps. Originally created to purge those members of the Reich who spoke against National Socialism it became a place to house and exterminate many Poles, French, Russians, Czechs, Greeks, Italians and Serbs. Throughout Germany, the name Dachau struck horror into the hearts of the people.

As the Thunderbird Infantrymen made their way into the camp, evidence of Nazi handiwork stared them in the face. Boxcars on a railroad siding contained human beings, each starved to thinness, each starved to death. They had been waiting on the siding until they could be removed on to the crematorium to be burned to ashes. American armor had halted them. Even from this stench of death, the advancing infantrymen had pulled several who were still alive. They were nothing more than skin and bones.

Many of the doughboys were veterans of Sicily, Italy, Anzio and France. Here they saw reason enough for their long and bitter struggle against Nazism. The bodies were unidentifiable. They could have been Americans.

Some turned their heads, white-faced and sick. Others with horrible fascination looked at the pile of dead. All clutched their guns a bit tighter, squared their jaws and walked forward with a grimmer purpose in mind. As one infantryman said. "I've been in the army for 39 months. I've been overseas in combat for 23. I'd gladly go through it all again if I knew that things like this would be stopped."

Advancing into camp, the leading elements of the company were met by three prisoners. They were walking skeletons.

Enraged and shocked by this display of wanton brutality, the Americans swept into camp. SS troopers and prison guards fleeing the Americans were shot and killed. Some prisoners while attempting to break out of their enclosure were electrocuted by the electrically charged barbed wire fence. Other more fortunate succeeded in

making their escape. They turned on their guards and beat them with sticks and their fists. The jailers were kicked, gouged and beaten by the avenging inmates as if with every blow they were being repayed.

A Pole volunteered to point out several of the more 'notable' sights in the camp. The first was the dog-pen enclosure. "The guards used dogs to help them track down anybody that might have succeeded in escaping," said the Pole. The dogs had their own kitchen and received better food than the prisoners.

"The SS troopers would stand a prisoner against the wall, nude, and tap at his testicles with a stick," continued the Pole. "The huge dogs would snap and rip the organs from the body."

He led the way to the adjacent crematorium.

"Here, about 100-150 men were put to death each day," he said. "They were stripped of their clothing and taken to a room which closely resembled a shower room."

What looked like shower-heads were evenly spaced on the ceiling and the floor gently sloped as if to provide proper drainage. The only ominous feature was that it lacked windows.

"They were handed a clean towel and soap and told to wash good because they were going on a trip. They were! They went right into the gas chamber for that's what the 'shower-room' really was. Within ten minutes after their entry they were dead. Workers with grappling hooks dragged them into a waiting room next to the furnaces. There they waited to be cremated. "During February", he said, "about 1,300 bodies were cremated."

He led them way to the gravel pits behind the building pointing to huge piles of discarded clothing as he passed them. "Live men once wore these," he said. Reaching the pits he told of how men had been forced to kneel in the pits to be shot. He pointed to an embankment, at the foot of which was a ditch covered by a wooden grating.

"The men were forced to kneel like this," he continued as he knelt to demonstrate the position, "and then be shot. Their blood drained into the ditch."

He pointed to a small crucifix on a nearby tree. "That's to commemorate the one hundred some odd Russian officers who were killed here."

Brown stains were everywhere.

A Russian, thin and emaciated from his starvation diet told of the food the prisoners were given.

"One loaf of bread for eight men each day," he told. "For dinner one liter of water. For supper some tea. Twice a week they were treated to a bowl of soup. Hundreds died from starvation daily."

A former prisoner, clutching a piece of white bread to his bosom was mbbbed by the other prisoners as they sought a piece. His clothing was torn from his body and the bread lay upon the ground in crumbs.

The prison camp itself was barb wired and electrically charged. To touch it meant certain death. Just inside the fence was a huge ditch. Just outside a fast running stream, its far side lined with pill boxes. The main gate bore the inscription, "Arbeit Macht Frei", "Work makes free."

Within the camp was another enclosure. In here were the quarantine cases, those with typhus and tuberculosis. In here were the walking dead.

Those confined at Dachau were so overcome at the appearance of the Americans that some sang songs of their homeland, others danced and others wept tears of joy. Others whose spirits had so been broken by the long years of imprisonment stood petrified and stinefaced as the Americans went about the job of cleaning house. When the camp was cleared it was turned over to the Allied Military Government.

The First and Second Battalion pushed through the Third Battalion and continued the attack toward Munchen. Resistance was scattered and light. The troops made excellent gains to the city limits of Munchen before stopping for the night.

The First Battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment resumed the attack toward the center of town on April 30. It met little resistance and captured a concentration camp with 8,000 prisoners. Able Company was left to guard the camp until relieved by King Company. The other two companies pressed forward and contacted elements of the 42nd Division. As the period drew to a close they had crossed a river and were in Munchen proper. The Second Battalion moved forward. Scattered resistance was encountered and some pockets had to be cleared but by late afternoon the battalion was moving in Munich with little or no opposition. The Third Battalion had its Item and Love Companies remain in position guarding the Dachau concentration camp until relieved by Corps troops. At that time the companies moved to the southeastern edge of Dachau and remained there. King Company relieved Able Company at the other concentration camp.