

There was some reward for the exploit. At 0700 the last of the vehicles had been camouflaged, when into the field came the mayor of Sameon and his two daughters, followed by a sizeable crowd. The girls presented the dentist with large bouquets and kissed him, while the mayor made a speech. (It was just that Captain Freedman happened to be the first officer of the American Army that the mayor spied, so he got the credit for liberating the town...) The radio that morning announced that the krauts had made a counterattack into CAMBRAI!



The main body of the convoy had had its adventures, too. At a town called Rosy, Major Munch, the S-3, radioed back that the lead vehicles of the battalion had passed through a column of Germans. Flares up forward indicated that the Germans were perhaps attempting to assemble some strength in the area. The convoy was alerted to the possibility of ambush along the route. Within a half hour, a column of 30 to 40 krauts, moving parallel to the road, was observed about fifty yards away. All they wanted was to give up, but we were too busy going places to bother, so we passed them without firing a shot or saying a word. We got helpful advice from the FFI on this trip. They told us where the usable bridges were, and the best routes to follow. They did a swell job for the swiftly-advancing Allied army.

A new Corps order then placed us in support of the 30th Division. All possible haste was to be made to the east, but everybody was out of gas. The 113th Cavalry Group and the Second Armored Division had the highest priorities on the supply available so that we had to stay put for awhile. We welcomed the breathing spell. We guarded the critical bridges in the area, got caught up on vehicle maintenance, and washed our clothes.



"A" COMPANY'S BRIDGE AT HOUGAERDE, BELGIUM. SEPTEMBER 1944