

Germans retook it that night but we did not know it. We went riding in. An Infantry Joe stopped us and said, "You better not go in there, they are shelling it." We thought he meant the Germans were shelling it. Said we had to go. Got in and found the Germans there. Hell it was the Americans doing the shelling. Got in the ditch in a hurry. *Varner* was under the truck, said we'd run over him if he didn't get out from under it. When he got in he was looking back. The Germans were like we were they were getting the hell out of there.

We heard that we were going back to the company and everybody was very unhappy. Then word came that we were going to run the German cemetery at Orglandes. Just before we left the General Staff of the 82nd Airborne came down to hold a memorial service. *General Ridgeway* told *Lt. Miller* to get all of the platoon together, for he wanted to thank them for the work they had done. He talked to the platoon and said he was glad to see us wearing the 82nd patch and he hoped that we would continue to wear it.

When we got to Orglandes there were some 40 Germans buried and no work had been done on the records. The 607 were still working on the forms from their last cemetery. They had just put the PE's in bags and left them. *Raker's Raiders* were supposed to help us but we got more work done by working by ourselves. We were getting around 400 bodies a day when Cherbourg fell. German PW's were doing the digging, the wrapping of the German bodies and the lowering. The Frenchmen came each day to bring us fresh butter, meat and cognac. Had our own kitchen with *Conley* doing the cooking. We ate good. *Sciarra* learned while here that he was the father of a son.

Out picking up bodies one day when some American soldiers on motorcycles came along. They went into the woods. Our sergeant did not see them and fired into the woods. The GI's came crawling out of the woods. They were pretty pale when they said, "You sure do have it rough up here."

The 4th platoon then rejoined the company at Ste. Mere Eglise No. 2.

Chapter IX

6 JUNE TO 24 JULY 1944

The 3rd Platoon opened Ste. Mere Eglise No. 1 on D5. Started laying out Plot B and started 8 German PW's to digging graves. The first thing that the men did when they got to the cemetery was dig in. The new men were told to take off their stripes for snipers shooting at them. There were parachutes in the trees. Bodies lying in long rows waiting to be buried. The stench was overpowering. Everybody went to work immediately. Lived and worked right in the cemetery. *Mann* and *Knowlton* kept records of burials. The mess hall was just over the hedgerow. We got a negro service company to help dig. *Lt. O'Brien* came with another platoon of service troops. Everybody worked from early morning until night. When it got