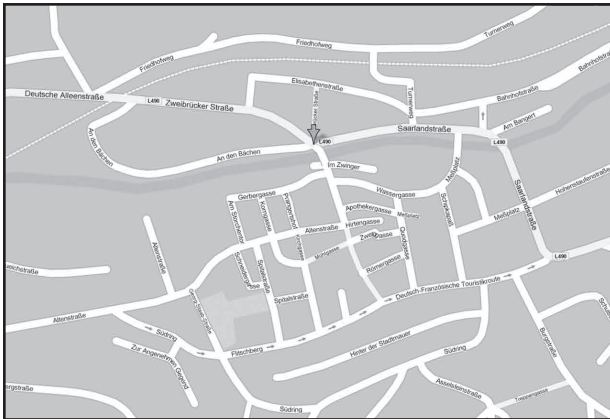


ANNWEILER, GERMANY

day 26

The early morning of Wednesday, March 21, brought sun and a warm late-winter breeze. By 7:00 a.m. Combat Command B was moving 20 miles to the south-



east of Kaiserslautern to the small village of Annweiler. CC A split from CC B at Kaiserslautern and continued east to Neustadt, while CC B moved directly to Annweiler.



The narrow lane to Annweiler snaked between seemingly endless rolling hills.

This area must

Present day Annweiler

have reminded Melvin of the Knobs in Southern Indiana. The 10th Armored Tigers were moving farther and much more quickly than the mail trucks could keep up with. At that point, the soldiers were neither receiving mail nor send mail home. On the rare occasion that there would be outgoing mail, it was so heavily censored by the army that little information was left intact to offer comfort to the families back home.

Late in the afternoon, still miles outside of Annweiler, the column of tanks rounded one of the hilly outcrops to catch a glimpse of a small German supply column a short distance ahead. The column of Shermans took aim on the enemy supply column. Within minutes the full force and fire of the Sherman main guns eliminated the supply line. Smoke and fire were visible for miles above the hills before settling like fog into the many valleys and low ground.

By evening Combat Command B had captured yet another city in one single day.