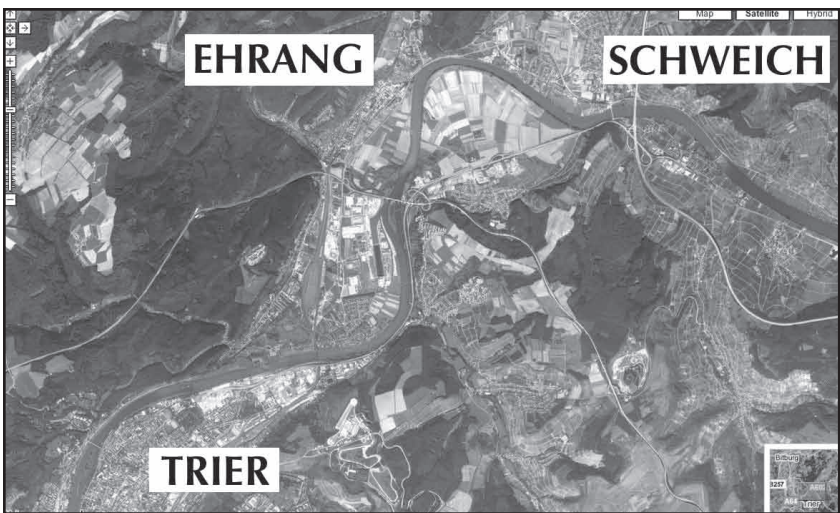
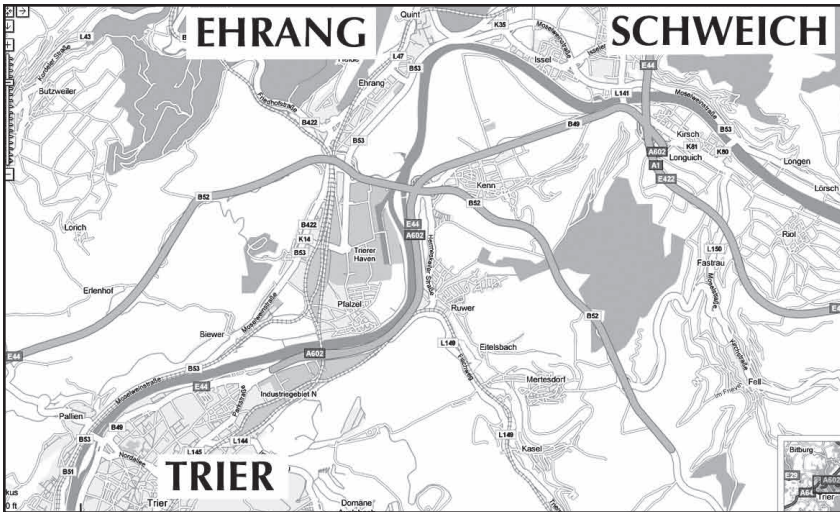


# SCHWEICH, GERMANY

day 15

On Saturday, March 10, large gasoline trucks made their rounds to each tank. Five-gallon cans of gasoline were distributed to the crew members to be poured into the large 175-gallon capacity tanks. Although they'd not been given orders to move out yet, this was an obvious sign. As usual, the only question on everyone's mind was, "When?"

Most of the day came and went still without the command to form up and move out. Finally, in the late evening, just as the men had decided the order would wait until morning and were beginning to have thoughts of settling in for the night, it came. Engines roared to life. Squeaking treads could be heard in Trier long before the column of tanks became visible. The 10th Armored Division was moving again. The many night moves of the division was what would eventually lead to the Germans nicknaming them the "Ghost Division." Their moves were kept secret, often done at night over distances longer than considered average. They still traveled with no identifying marks on their vehicles or persons. They were somehow able to show up in loca-



tions and at times when the enemy thought it impossible.

The order was given by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Chamberlain to move north, cross the Moselle at Trier, and continue north through Ehrang, located just three miles north on the opposite bank of the river. They would then move ahead to Schweich just

four miles north beyond Ehrang.

Trier was devastated. Heavy bombing and shelling of the industrial center prior to its capture left hardly a building undamaged. The streets were nearly deserted of citizens, and the German POW's had all been moved to the Lager camps for confinement. The column moved through the town and over the Romerbrucker bridge with Melvin's tank in lead. At the western end of the Romerbrucker, the column turned north and headed to Ehrang on the bank of the Mosel as ordered (the Moselle spelling changes to Mosel at this point on the river).

Due to the northern route being cut off through Ruwer, the remaining German troops who managed to escape before Trier's capture had only this avenue of escape to follow and had regrouped in the Ehrang forest and hills.

As the column moved north along the bank of the Moselle, the remaining German artillery prepared for a surprise attack. Ehrang was surrounded by the thick old growth of the Ehrang Wald (Ehrang Forest) which made extremely convenient cover for the enemy attackers.

Mounting a bridgehead crossing at the Kyle River, a small tributary feeding into the Mosel just south of Ehrang, allowed the Germans the perfect opportunity to stage a light attack from the surrounding hills. This attack was quashed with little effort as elements of the 10th Armored made their way up the

hills toward the attackers.

The remainder of the 10th Armored Division continued to Schweich unopposed beyond the forest. German personnel had sent a message to the 3rd Army that Schweich was to be considered an “open city,” undefended and harboring 3000 wounded German soldiers. Upon entering the city, the 10th Armored found just the opposite to be true. The streets were mined, and there was an array of unmanned 88mm artillery. Only two wounded were to be found.

In a last futile attempt, the Germans again shelled the 10th Armored from outside the city of Schweich. This time the heavy shelling took a toll on the division and caused many casualties. Reserves were quickly called for from Trier. Later that same day on March 11, the reserves arrived behind the German offenders, catching them off guard. They eliminated the threat to the 10th Armored and to Schweich.

The city of Schweich in Allied control, the 10th Armored returned to Trier. Their return trip took them on a reverse trip. Back through Ehrang. Then up the Moselle to Trier for a four-day period of rest and resupply and to await their next orders.