

#9874

For "P" file

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
G-2, STRATEGIC SERVICES SECTION
APO 758 US ARMY

12 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Report on Sequoia Mission.

TO : Commanding Officer, G-2, SSS.

1. Capt Charlie, Lt Pat, and Dede left Station X at 1950, 10 Feb 45. We stopped off at Saargemines to purchase two loaves of black bread, and continued to Felpersviller, the battalion CP of the 255th Regt, 63rd Div. There we were given a guide to show us the way to Bliesebersing. At night one could drive to the RR station of this town, but the road could not be used in the daytime as it was under observation of the Germans on the other side of the river.
2. We arrived at the CP of G Co at 2030, and spent the night there. Capt Charlie spoke to a Lt Brown, who had led a patrol over the exact route that the Sequoia mission was to travel. Lt Brown had returned from this patrol at 0315 hrs 11 Feb and reported that he and his patrol had passed over this terrain completely unmolested.
3. The plan for the mission was to cross the river just before the break of day. The Germans were supposed to leave their holes on the side of the hill at approx 0600, and take up observation positions in the town of Habkirchen. The mission was to proceed to the hard road which parallels the river, and turn north on this road. He would skirt the town of Habkirchen and take the road to BliesKastel.
4. At 0635 hrs, two engineer enlisted men, Lt Pat, Dede, and Capt Charlie crossed the Blies river in a six man rubber boat, and the mission continued as per schedule; south of the town of Bliesebersing.
5. At approx 0650 hrs small arms fire was heard, both machine gun and rifle. No. 5 outpost reported that two men were seen running over the hill to his direct front. At 0700 this same outpost reported that they heard someone shouting intermittently across the river.
6. Lt Pat and Capt Charlie went to the site of the original crossing and drew some enemy fire. At the other end of the town Dede was seen crawling along the bank of the river.
7. Covered by the BAR at outpost No 5, the crew as in paragraph 4, manned the boat dropped down the river and picked up Dede. The foot of this man had been completely blown off by a personnel mine.
8. First aid was administered at 0735 hrs by the medical man of G Co. He was immediately taken to the Medical Station outside of Saargemines.

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From there he was taken in an ambulance to Siltzheim, checked, and sent to Saaralbe. Capt Charlie went along as far as this point. Having been assured that Dede would be taken to an Army hospital, and not to a civilian hospital, Capt Charlie left in order to give the details to the second battalion which had scheduled to take place that evening and were anxious to find out the exact position of the mine.

91 At 1700 hrs, 11 Feb 45, it was learned that something had gone wrong with the hospitalization arrangements, and that Dede had been taken to the St Nicolas Hospital - civilian.

Charles M. Bernuth

CHARLES M. BERNUTH
Captain, CAV.