

Due to heavy forests on either side of the road, maneuvering around was impossible. Ruben Rivers, Staff Sergeant in the

Armored Units

Platoon: a unit of four tanks

Company: a unit of three tank platoons

Battalion: a unit of three tank companies and a headquarters

Division: a large unit made up of several smaller units

761st Tank **Battalion**, an

African-American tank

battalion, watched as Ger-

mans behind the blockade

cut down American infan-

trymen stranded in open

ditches along the road.

And still the tanks could not move.

Ruben was sick and tired of waiting. Sick and tired of having to prove that he was ready to fight. Sick and tired of waiting for the Army to see that his **company** of African-American soldiers was fit and able to serve on an equal footing with their white counterparts. Sick and tired of the overt racism expressed by his general, George S. Patton, who had written, “A colored soldier cannot think fast enough to fight in armor.”

They were headed for Vic-sur-Seille, and had been chosen to join with the 104th Infantry **Division** by General Patton. They would take part in his Saar Campaign in an ef-