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HEADQUARTERS  
629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

1 January 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of After Action Report

THRU : Commanding General, 83rd Infantry Division, APO 83, U. S. Army

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

1. Transmitted herewith is the After Action Report of this Battalion for the month of December 1944.



GLENN COLE  
Lt. Col., Inf (TD)  
Commanding

1 Incl.  
After Action Report

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944

RESUME OF OPERATIONS

For the period 1 and 2 December 1944 the battalion was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. The destroyer companies were supporting the infantry regiments and light artillery battalions of the Division in the area of Kobescheid, Bliealf and Winterspelt, Germany. 1259 rounds of 3" HE ammunition were fired on 36 missions. On 3rd and 4th of December 1944 the battalion was in assembly position in vicinity of Hauset, Belgium, all units except Company B getting an Ordnance check.

From 5 to 24 December 1944 the battalion was attached to the 83rd Infantry Division. Each destroyer company with the attached Reconnaissance Platoon was attached to the respective Infantry Regiments. These unit aided materially in the successful attacks by the Infantry Regiments on the towns of Grasshau, Strass, Gey, Lendersdorf, Gurzenich, Rolldorf and Birgel, Germany. By 19 December 1944 all units had reached the Roer River from Gurzenich to a point just north of Winden, Germany

The battalion was relieved of attachment to the 83rd Infantry Division on 23 December 1944 and was immediately attached to the 75th Infantry Division. On 24 December the battalion moved into the 75th Infantry Division area in vicinity of Ocquier, Belgium. The destroyer companies with the attached Reconnaissance Platoon were attached to the Infantry Regiments as on previous occasions.

Damage inflicted on the enemy consisted of the destruction of 12 MG nests, 1 mortar, 14 OPs, 22 strongpoints, 8 Mk VI Tiger Tanks, 1 motorcycle, 1 Mk V Tank, 1 half-track vehicle, 1 scout car and 1 SP gun, of the capture of 124 prisoners and the killing and wounding of an unknown number of enemy personnel.

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944

## 1. ENEMY SITUATION:

### a. Units in Contact; December 4 to December 24.

North to South, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th companies of 1st battalion of 942nd Infantry Regiment. 1st company of 8th Paratroop Regiment, 2nd battalion of combat team ABEL. 1st and 3rd Fusilier companies of 353rd Fusilier battalion, 5th company of 942nd Regiment, 2nd, 6th, and 7th companies of 943rd Regiment and 13th, 14th companies of 1st battalion of 981st Regiment. 1st and 2nd battalions of 941st Infantry Regiment. These units are in the 353rd Infantry Division except for the 1st company of 8th Paratroop Regiment. Remnants of the 1st battalion, 1057th Regiment and 2nd battalion of the 1058th Regiment, 3rd company 191st Field Replacement battalion, 217th battalion of assault guns, 5th, 6th, and 7th companies of 2nd battalion of the 6th Paratroop Regiment and the 3rd Paratroop Division were also present on the front.

New identifications during period; 56th and 14th companies, 942nd Infantry Regiment. Headquarters, 3rd, 4th and 5th companies of 943rd Regiment, 12th company of 6th Paratroop Regiment. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th companies of 115th Volks Grenadier Regiment and 47th Infantry Division. 1st and alarm company of 943rd Infantry Regiment, 47th Fusilier battalion, 3rd and 4th companies of 8th Regiment, 3rd Paratroop Division. 3rd company, 682nd A.T. battalion, 2nd company of 501st Fortress A.T. battalion of 104th Infantry Regiment of 47th Infantry Division.

b. Reserves; Most any division of the 6th Panzer Army could be committed as an attacking force in our sector east of the Roer River. The 1st SS in the Zulpich area (F2333) and the 12th SS Hitler Jugend area of Euskirchen (F3229) are both likely counterattacking forces.

c. Enemy Activity; Numerous night patrols, many of platoon size, infiltrated through our lines especially in the vicinity of Gey. A counterattack of company size launched at Strass was successful in over-running our positions and cutting off our forces. The attack was composed of infantry supported by 3 tanks and succeeded in the destruction of three tank destroyers and inflicted casualties on all personnel except for the platoon leader and two enlisted men. The enemy continually placed harassing and interdiction fire on roads used by us for hauling supplies and laid down concentrated fire in Gey, Strass, Gurzenich, and Schafberg. Enemy opposition resisting our advances consisted of small arms, SP guns and mortar fire. He fought from previously dug-in positions, bunkers and houses until we over-ran his defensive positions.

d. Estimate of Enemy Strength and Morale; Three different divisions were in front of our sector and all line units strength was depleted. Some units composition being exhausted to such an extent that merely remnants remained. New units being committed to continue the strong defensive action often absorbed these remnants.

e. Conclusions; The enemy is capable of continuing the defense of his present frontline positions and any plan of attack is open to the enemy. In our sector he can counterattack with air, infantry, and armor at any selected spot and at a time of his own choosing. Our frontline positions were known to the enemy throughout the period and as soon as we had taken and mopped up an area, enemy artillery concentrations were laid upon our positions.

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944.

1. ENEMY SITUATION (Cont'd)

a. Units in Contact; December 24 to December 31st.

Enemy front lines - P4586, P4886, P5087, P5288, P5458895. Units, 5th and 6th companies of 2nd SS Pz Division, 25th and 26th Pz Grenadier Regiments and 3rd SS Regiment of 2nd SS Panzer Division. Elements of the 560th Volks Grenadier Division, 60th and 156th Panzer Grenadier Regiments and the 16th Panzer Division.

b. Reserves; The known reserves available for immediate commitment in our sector are the remaining elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Regt and the 9th and 12th Tank Regiments of the 2nd SS Panzer Division. Any of the elements of the Panzer Divisions (not committed) located in the present area of the breakthrough could be committed on our front.

c. Enemy Activity; Attacks by infantry and tanks of battalion strength in the vicinity of Grandmenil and Manhay have been exercised by the enemy. In the vicinity of Sadzot, the enemy took advantage of a 1000 yard gap left in our lines and infiltrated 300 to 400 troops. These troops launched an attack against "A" company C.P. and utilized small arms, machine gun and mortar fire in pressing their attack. The amount of artillery fire encountered in this sector has been slight.

d. Enemy Capabilities and Morale; Enemy morale is good and very little knowledge of our situation is known. Their plan of attack will probably materialize along the road net of Manhay and Grandmenil. Infantry, armor, air or any combination can be employed in any force and at any time the enemy may choose with his ultimate goal being the Meuse River.

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944

## 2. OWN SITUATION:

a. Period 1 December 1944 to 2 December 1944; front lines generally Kobescheid (L029899), Bliealf (P967832), Winterspelt (P915903) Germany. Period 3 December 1944 to 4 December 1944; unit in assembly position vicinity Hauset, Belgium (K825356). Period 5 December 1944 to 24 December 1944, Gurzenich (F086440) to Bogheim (F085377) along Roer River, Germany. Period 24 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, Hotton (P3788), Soy (P416898), Grandmenil (P5290), Manhay (P533902), Tri-le-Cheslaing (P546915), Belgium. During period 4 December 1944 to 24 December 1944 unit moved forward with the 83rd Infantry Division units from the Hurtgen Forest to the Roer River.

b. During period 1 December 1944 to 2 December 1944 this unit was attached to 2d Infantry Division by VIII Corps with Company A supporting 9th Infantry Regiment and 15th FA Battalion. Company B was supporting 23rd Infantry Regiment and 37th FA Bn. Company C was supporting 38th Infantry Regiment and 38th FA Battalion. During the period 3 December 1944 to 4 December 1944 units under battalion control awaiting arrival of 83rd Infantry Division in that area. Period 5 December 1944 to 24 December 1944 unit was attached to VII Corps and further attached to the 83rd Infantry Division with companies attached to infantry units as follows: Company A with the 1st Rcn Platoon attached to the 329th Infantry Regiment, Company B with the 2d Rcn Platoon attached to the 330th Infantry Regiment, Company C with the 3rd Rcn Platoon attached to the 331st Infantry Regiment. Period 25 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 unit was attached to the 75th Infantry Division. Company A and 1st Rcn Platoon attached to the 289th Infantry Regiment, Company B with 2nd Rcn Platoon attached to the 290th Infantry Regiment, Company C with 3rd Rcn Platoon attached to the 291st Infantry Regiment. On 28 December 1944 1st Platoon of Company A was attached to the 509th Paratroop Battalion.

c. Not applicable.

d. During the period 1 December 1944 to 2 December 1944 Companies A, B and C supported the 2d Infantry Division, reinforcing the fires of the light artillery battalions. Period 3 December 1944 to 4 December 1944 unit was in assembly position getting an ordnance check. Period 5 December 1944 to 24 December 1944 unit began operation with 83rd Infantry Division with Company B attached to the 330th Infantry Regiment moving on the 5th to firing positions vicinity F025384. Company moved in close coordination through Grasshau to line East of Strass. A vigorous German counterattack on Strass was repulsed. On the 9th December, Companies A and C moved to assembly positions at K986412 and K989392 respectively. Company B fired on SP guns with no visible damage. Companies A and C attached to the 329th and 331st Infantry Regiments respectively. Company C supported 331st attack on Gey with direct fire, following along with infantry through Gey to Kufferath (K104399), Berzbuir (K102410) and Lendersdorf (K113415). On 12 December 1944, Company A moved with 329th Infantry Regiment towards Gursenich (K090446) and

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2. OWN SITUATION: (Cont'd)

Rolsdorf (K105442) and Birgel (K090425). By 19 December 1944 all units were along Roer River with all enemy forces on the East bank of the river from Gurzenich (K090441) to just North of Winden (K113388). Unit relieved by units of 772nd T. D. Bn. (T) on 241200 and prepared to move to VII Corps sector vicinity Marche (P296836). Unit moved 250230 from vicinity Gressenich (K990427) to vicinity Ocquier (P345035) and was attached to the 75th Inf Div. Company A was attached to 289th Infantry Regiment, Company B to the 290th Infantry Regiment and Company C to the 291st Infantry Regiment; the 289th and 290th Infantry Regiments being attached to CCB of the 3rd Armored Division. 1st Platoon, Company A was attached to the 509th Paratroop Battalion to support mop up action around Sadzot (P475895) on 28 December 1944

e. During period 1 December 1944 to 2 December 1944 a total of 1259 rounds of 3" HE ammunition were expended on harassing fire in support of the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, totaling 34 harassing missions and 2 counterbattery missions. No missions observed so damage inflicted on enemy was not known. During 3rd and 4th December 1944 unit was not in contact with enemy. During period 5 December 1944 to 24 December 1944 the following damage and casualties were inflicted on the enemy: On 11 December 1944 Company C destroyed one (1) Machine Gun nest, and one (1) mortar, one (1) OP, and two (2) strongpoints, wounding 12 Germans and killing unknown number; on 12 December 1944 3rd platoon, Company B, assisted in stopping strong enemy counterattack on Strauss, knocking out two (2) Mk VI Tiger Tanks and killing and wounding an unknown number of enemy. The 3rd Rcn Platoon fired into a house, wounding and killing an unknown number of Germans and taking 12 prisoners. The 2nd platoon, Company A, on 14 December 1944 fired on pillboxes and hedgerows, killing three (3) and taking prisoner 40 Germans. Company A and C fired on MG nests and strongpoints, destroying two (2) MG's and neutralized 20 strongpoints. One PW taken in this action on 15 December 1944. During 16th December 1944, Company A destroyed one (1) OP in steeple and one (1) MG, killed fifteen (15) enemy and captured twenty-eight (28) prisoners. Companies A and C on 17 December 1944 destroyed six (6) MG nests and ten (10) suspected OP's and captured twenty-eight (28) prisoners and one (1) 88mm AT Gun. On 18 December 1944 Companies A and C destroyed two (2) OP's, one (1) motorcycle, and two (2) buildings, burned a haystack with snipers in it, captured fourteen (14) prisoners and killed or wounded an estimated two hundred (200) Germans. Two hundred and ninety (290) rounds of 3" HE, reduced charge were fired by 3rd Platoon of Company B on harassing fire missions for the 322nd FA Bn. During period 25 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 the following actions occurred: On 27 December 1944, 1st Platoon of Company A destroyed one (1) Mk V Tank and one (1) half-track with enemy personnel. In addition, eleven (11) enemy infantry were killed. On 28 December 1944, 3rd platoon, Company B, destroyed one (1) enemy scout car and personnel. Company A CP group and 1st platoon engaged in fire fight with enemy who had moved through a gap of 1000 yards in the infantry lines from 0230 to 1100, killing a known twenty-five (25) enemy, destroyed two (2) MG's, and preventing a further penetration until 509th Paratroop Battalion were sent in as foot troops. Six (6) Mk VI King Tiger tanks and one (1) SP gun and many

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944

2. OWN SITUATION: (Cont'd)

small arms were abandoned in Grandmenil by enemy and were destroyed by 2nd and 3rd platoons, Company A. On 29 December 1944 one (1) prisoner was taken by 3rd platoon, Company B.

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3. SUPPLY:

All supplies with the exception of Ordnance items were drawn through the 83rd Infantry Division through the 24th of December at which time this unit was attached to the 75th Infantry Division and drew supplies through that organization. Ordnance items were drawn through the VII Corps and the 599th Ordnance Company.

This organization was given a 100% Ordnance overhaul with the exception of Company B which was committed and therefore **unable** to take advantage of this service.

Two (2) Cars, Armored, Utility, M20 and three (3) Trailers, Ammunition, M10 were drawn on army allocation due to change in T/E.

Seven (7) Carriage, Motor, 3" gun, M10 were drawn on Corps allocation to replace combat losses.

The gas, oil and ammunition supply was replenished daily as the situation required.

Roads were generally good.

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4. ADMINISTRATION.

During the period covered by this report administration was processed through the following higher headquarters to which this battalion has been attached:

2d Infantry Division - 1 to 2 December 1944  
83d Infantry Division - 3 to 22 December 1944  
75th Infantry Division - 23 to 31 December 1944

Authorized strength and status at beginning and end of period are as follows:

	Authorized Strength	Strength as of 1 Dec 1944	Strength as of 31 Dec 1944
Officers	39	36	34
Warrant Officers	2	1	1
Enlisted Men	<u>607</u>	<u>607</u>	<u>584</u>
Total	648	644	619

(Gains and losses of personnel during period are noted in Casualty, Replacement and Prisoner Annex.)

Requisitions dated 12 December 1944 for seven (7) enlisted men, 13 December 1944 for one (1) officer (2d Lt. Lester R. Smith(only)), 17 December 1944 for twenty-one (21) enlisted men, 20 December 1944 for one (1) officer, and 21 December 1944 for four (4) enlisted men were submitted to 1st U. S. Army. The following replacements were received through Third Replacement Depot:

Officers - 1 (Requisition No. 21, 20 December 1944)  
Enlisted Men - 10 casuals, former members of this battalion, one (1) of whom was applied against Battalion Requisition No. 18, 12 December 1944; 9 returned VOGG, GFRS.  
Enlisted Men - 5 new replacements applied against Battalion Requisition No. 18, 12 December 1944.

The following Battalion Requisitions have not yet been filled:

No. 19 (13 Dec 1944) for one (1) officer  
No. 20 (17 Dec 1944) for twenty-one (21) enlisted men  
No. 22 (21 Dec 1944) for four (4) enlisted men

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4. ADMINISTRATION. (cont'd)

Three recommendations for battlefield appointment of enlisted men to 2d Lieutenant submitted during the previous period were returned without action from 2d Infantry Division upon relief from attachment to that organization, and subsequently resubmitted through 83d Infantry Division.

Master Sergeant Carl J. DePanicis	33041502
Staff Sergeant Chester T. Yachna	33023476
Staff Sergeant John J. Barsic	20321554

Commanding Officers during period covered by report:

Bn. Cmdr	- Lt. Col. Glenn Cole
OO Hq. Co.	- Capt. Francis H. Dobbins
OO Rcn Co.	- Capt. Harry L. Harris
OO Co. A	- Capt. Charles L. Grimshaw
OO Co. B	- Capt. Edwin H. Stewart
OO Co. C	- Capt. Edward A. Ryan (1 Dec 1944 - 311200 Dec 1944)
OO Co. C	- 1st Lt. Anthony G. Covatta (311200 Dec 1944 - 312400 Dec 1944)

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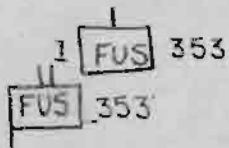
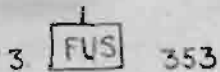
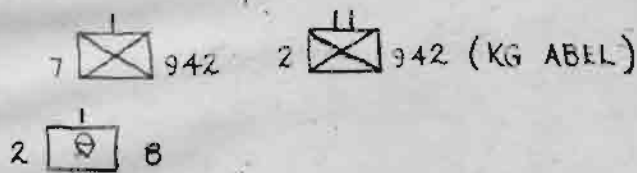
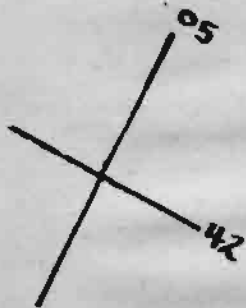
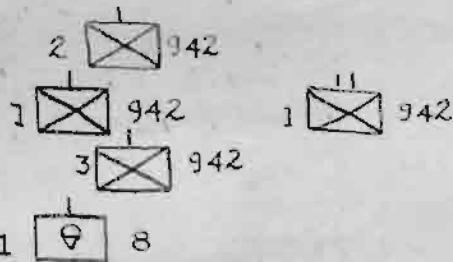
After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, December 1944

4. ADMINISTRATION: (cont'd)

Casualty, Replacement and Prisoner Annex, 1-31 December 1944

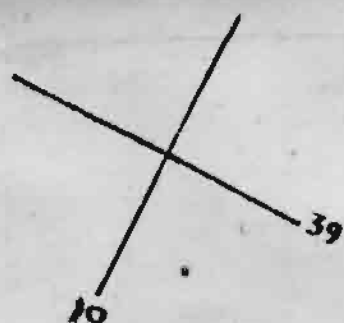
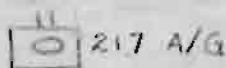
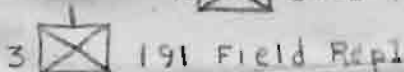
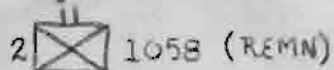
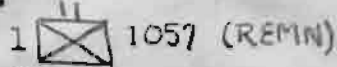
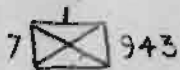
Day of Month	WIA	KIA	MIA	N-B	Captured	Replacements
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	3 EM
6	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	3 EM, 1 Off	1 EM	0	0	0	0
11	1 Off	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	2 EM	0	0
13	5 EM	7 EM	0	0	0	0
14	1 EM	0	0	4 EM	0	0
15	3 EM	0	0	0	0	0
16	3 EM	0	0	0	0	0
17	1 EM, 1 Off	0	0	0	0	0
18	3 EM	0	0	0	0	6 EM
19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	1 EM
21	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0	1 Off
24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1 EM	0	0	0	0	0
26	3 EM	2 EM	0	1 EM	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	0	1 EM	0	0	0	0
29	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	0	0	0	0	0	5 EM
31	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23 EM, 3 Off	11 EM	0	7 EM	0	15 EM, 1 Off

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OVERLAY  
City  
ENEMY SITUATION

Map 1/25,000  
Sheet 5204  
Period: Dec 4-24



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