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4 April 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
THROUGH: Commanding General, 71st Infantry Division, APO 360, U. S. Army.
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

CLASSIFIED
CANCELLED
REPORT SUBMITTED FOR MARCH 1945
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William D. Tofa 1st Lt AGD
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 22 March 45

- a. Original Unit: No change.
- b. Changes in organization:

Released from attachment to VII Corps and 4th Cavalry Group, Mezc, and attached to Seventh Army, XIV Corps, and 71st Infantry Division per TOP SECRET message from Commanding General, VII Corps to 4th Cavalry Group, Mezc, 10 March 1945.

DOWNGRADED TO:

BY AUTHORITY OF TAG _____

Released from attachment to XV Corps and attached to XXI Corps per Field Order #7, Hq. 71st Infantry Division dated 21 March - remained attached to 71st Infantry Division.

Released from attachment to XXI Corps and attached to VI Corps per VCOG Seventh Army 25 March - remained attached to 71st Infantry Division.

Released from attachment to Seventh Army and VI Corps and attached to Third Army and XX Corps per letter AG 370.5-C, Hq. Seventh Army dated 28 March - remained attached to 71st Infantry Division.

Released from attachment XX Corps and attached to XII Corps as of 31 March per VCOG Third Army - remained attached to 71st Infantry Division.

<u>c. Strength:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
	1 Mar 45	34	2	727
	31 Mar 45	33	2	726
Increase or Decrease		-1	0	-1

- d. Stations: Germany: Arrived 4 Feb 45 - left 14 March 45.
France : Arrived 14 Mar 45 - left 23 Mar 45.
Germany: Arrived 23 Mar 45 (Gun Company in Germany 20 Mar 45)

- e. Marches: All marches and moves by Battalion CP and Line Companies noted in narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

Handwritten notes on right margin: #100, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

After Action Report for Mar. 1945, Hq. 635th TD Bn., Towed, 4 Apr 45, cont'd.

f. Campaign: Western Europe.

g. Battles: See narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Smith, Wint (N), 0123028, F. A.

i. Losses in Action: Name Date
Wounded-Evacuated: Officers: 2nd Lt Woodrow C Larson 23 March
Enlisted Men:
Wounded-Evacuated: Pfc Clifford G. Allstot 2 March
Cpl Carthel H. Richardson 2 March
Pvt Roger C. Henry 16 March
Died of Wounds: Pfc Leonardo G. Soto 1 March

(In March 5 EM were wounded in action and not evacuated; 9 EM were evacuated as non-battle casualties)

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

<u>Name and Rank/Grade</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Authority</u>
<u>Bronze Star</u> :		
Lt. Col. Wint Smith	Bn Hq	Hq VII Corps GO 11, 19 Mar 45
Cpl Paul DiMaio	B	Hq VII Corps GO 8, 8 Mar 45
<u>Croix de Guerre with Silver Star(French)</u>		
1st Lt Joe K. LaCroix	C	Decision #334, The President of the Provisional Republic of France; Chief of Armies, Paris, 25 January 45.
<u>Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star(French)</u>		
1st Sgt Benjamin C. Coleman	A	Decision #332, The President of the Provisional Republic of France; Chief of Armies, Paris, 25 January 1945.
1st Sgt Michael P. Sarras	Hq	Decision #332 - as above.
Pvt Miles Robinson, Jr.	Med Det	Decision #332 - as above.

k. Photographs: None.

l. Inclosure: Appendix No. 1 as Inclosure #1.

Wint Smith
WINT SMITH
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding

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**HEADQUARTERS 635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY**

APPENDIX NO. 1

NARRATIVE
Excerpts from Unit Journal
Incidents

March 1945

- 1 Received Field Order #8, Hq 4th Cavalry Group Mecz dated 282200A Feb 45: VII Corps continues the attack 1 March to secure Cologne. 3rd Armored Division with the 395th Inf Regt and the 4th Cavalry Group Mecz Reinforced attached attacks on Corps order to seize assembly area on the other side of the Erft River generally opposite the town of Glesch, Germany. Preparatory to moving southeast on Cologne 395th Inf Regt attacks 010300A Mar 45 to seize high ground vic F2265 and town of Bergheim. Elements 104th US Inf Div and 8th US Inf Div attack northeast in zone 010300 Mar 45 to secure crossing of the Erft River, turn right and continue the attack southeast. 99th Inf Div will follow 3rd Armored Division over River and extend a long eastside of Erft Canal to junction with River Rhine to protect right flank of 9th U. S. Army. 4th Cavalry Group Mecz Reinforced attached to 3rd Armored Division effective 281800A Feb 45, will from the left flank protect the crossing of 3rd Armored Division. Company "C", 635th TD Bn T attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq will move via Elsdorf-Paffendorf, Glesch, commencing 011200A March by echelon to secure high ground vic F2066 and protect the crossing of the 3rd Armored Division. Company "A" 635th TD Bn T attached to 24th Cav Rcn Sq remain in present assembly area in group reserve, prepared to cross Erft River on Group order. 635th TD Bn T less Cos A and C will move 010830 A March to assembly area vic Esch-Angelsdorf. Hq Co to infiltrate in groups of 5 units via Neiderzier-Steinstrass. Company "B" to infiltrate in groups of 5 units via Duren-Gelzheim-Buir-Elsdorf - from new assembly area will be prepared to displace across Erft River on Group order.

Bn CP moved - left coord 092515 Huchen Stammeln, Germany at 0745 hrs 1 Mar and arrived at coord 165611, Esch, Germany 0830 hrs 1 Mar - distance traveled 11 miles - crossed Roer River at Hoven, Germany.

Company "B" moved - left coord 094516 Huchen Stammeln, Germany at 0830 hrs 1 Mar and arrived at coord 165612 Esch, Germany 1030 hrs 1 Mar 45 - distance traveled 19 miles - crossed Roer River at Hoven, Germany.

Enroute to assembly area Esch, Germany, 300 to 400 yards on road south of Buir, an enemy ME-109 was sighted strafing the town of Buir. Tec 4 Malcolm Watson, radio operator and machine gunner in Hq platoon 120, opened fire on plane with 50 cal MG. 76 rds were expended and his tracers were seen hitting plane which started smoking and crashed about two miles southeast of Buir. Witnesses certified that they followed Watson's tracers and that he definitely destroyed this enemy plane. ATO VII Corps bulletin credited Tec 4 Watson with this kill.

Company "C" moved - left coord 165611 Esch, Germany at 1225 hrs 1 Mar and arrived coord 198643 Glesch, Germany 1330 hrs 1 Mar - distance traveled 5 miles. 1st platoon crossed Erft Canal night of 1 Mar and took position on high ground in bridgehead area.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

- 2 Company "C" reported: Pfc. Clifford G. Allstot SWA 1000 hrs 2 Mar in Glesch Germany by enemy shell fragments in right leg and back and 2nd finger left hand cut off. Evacuated by 4th Cav Rcn Medics.

At 1030 hrs 2 Mar Sgt Fender's Gun Section took 5 German prisoners in Bedburg, Germany.

During road march from Esch, Germany to Glesch, Germany, Company "C" convoy heavily shelled by enemy artillery.

Received Operations Memo #7, Hq 4th Cavalry Group Mecz, 2 Mar: 3rd Armored Division attacks early 2 Mar to seize Wiedenfeld and objectives as formerly planned. 99th US Inf Div reinforced attacks 2 March to seize Neurath and protect the right flank of Ninth US Army. 4th Cavalry Group Mecz Reinforced with present attachments relieved from attachment to 3rd Armored Division and attached to 99th US Inf Div effective 011800A Mar 45; attacks within zone at 020700 Mar 45 to seize Bedburg, continue to advance within zone, assist in the capture of Neurath and establish and maintain contact with elements of the 30th US Inf Div. Company "C", 635th TD Bn T supporting 4th Cav Rcn Sq will attack 020700A March to secure Bedburg and continue to advance within zone until passed through by 24th Cav Rcn Sq reinforced by Company "A" 635th TD Bn T on group order. Upon being passed through, will mount in vehicles and follow 24th Cav Rcn Sq attack prepared for commitment on group order. Company "A", 635th TD Bn T, supporting 24th Cav Rcn Sq will move following 393 RCT via Esch-Niederemb-Glesch-Bedburg to pass through 4th Cav Rcn Sq on group order, and continue attack to end of zone, will assist in attack on Neurath as directed by Group CO. 635th TD Bn T with Company "B" will remain in Group reserve in present location.

Company "A" picked up enemy soldier in civilian clothes found in their area - turned in to PW cage.

- 3 Received Operations Memo #8 dated 2 Mar 45, Hq 4th Cavalry Group Mecz: 99th US Inf Div with 4th Cavalry Group Mecz Reinforced attached continues attack in zone 030700A Mar 45, 394 Inf Regt on right, 393 Inf Regt in center and Group on left. Group Reinforced continues attack at 030700A Mar 45 to seize that part of objective "C" in zone (generally in area Wevelinghoven). Maintain contact with elements 30th US Inf Div on left and 393 Inf Regt on right. Company "A" 635th TD Bn T supporting 24th Cav Rcn Sq will attack in zone at 030700A Mar 45 to seize and occupy that part of Objective "C" (generally in area Wevelinghoven) will maintain contact with elements of 30th US Inf Div on left and 393 Inf Regt on right. Company "C" 635th TD Bn T supporting 4th Cav Rcn Sq Reinf will be prepared to assist in capture of Grevenbroich. Will be prepared to pass through 24th Cav Rcn Sq and continue attack within group zone to secure Objective "X" on group order (generally in area Rockrath) establish and maintain contact with elements of 30th US Inf Div on left and 393 Inf Regt on right.

Bn Comdr appointed 1st Lt Tremmer Rcn Officer and assigned him to Forward CP.

1st Lt Zalmen A. Dunn, DC, transferred to 104th US Infantry Division per Par 4 SO 57, Hq. First US Army.

Bn Rear Echelon moved from Aachen, Germany, to coord 1460 Eschereval Farm, Germany. (1200 yards East of Steinstrass) 4

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq. 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

Company "A" reported: Left coord 1460 Eschereval Farm 1200 yards East of Steinstrass, Germany, 1345 hrs 2 Mar and arrived coord 189672 Bedburg, Germany 1630 hrs 2 Mar - distance traveled 11 miles.

Company "C" reported: on 2 Mar Sgt Cipra's gun section captured 3 enemy prisoners, and 3rd platoon 4 prisoners in Broich, Germany.

Sgt. Marintzer's gun section fired 3 rds HE 2 Mar at fortified enemy dugout in coal mine in Broich 800 yards east of their position. Dugout was demolished and 3 prisoners taken - enemy personnel casualties unknown.

Cpl Carthel Richardson LWA 2 Mar in Broich and evacuated by 4th Cav Rcn Sq Medics: LWA pen wd right leg GSW.

Pfc Robert E. Sutherland, 3rd platoon LWA 2 Mar lac head glass and shell fragment forehead and right thumb - iodine and sulphur dressing, our own Medics and remained duty status. 3rd platoon's CP in Bucholz was under direct fire from AT gun. 3rd platoon positions in and around Bucholz, Germany heavily shelled by the enemy during 2 Mar 45.

Company "C" moved - left coord 198643 Glesch, Germany 1145 hrs 3 Mar and arrived Bedburg, Germany coord 191674 1330 hrs 3 Mar - distance traveled 3 miles.

2nd Lt Silk, Hq Co, replaced 1st Lt. Fommett, Sen Officer, as Group Ln C with 30th US Inf Div.

- 4 Received Field Order #9, Hq 4th Cavalry Group Kecz dated 040400A Mar: VII Corps attacks commencing 5 Mar to seize Cologne. TFY, 3rd Armd Div continues the attack 4 Mar to secure Boggendorf and Moringen. 4th Cavalry Group Kecz reinforced attached to 3rd Armd Div effective 031600A Mar moves in one column from present locations 040700A Mar to forward assembly area vic Stommeln, from which it attacks to clear enemy from assigned zone, Stommeln assembly area generally northeast to river Rhine between Sturzelberg and Moringen and regroup and prepare for future operations to southeast. Company "C" 635th TD Bn T supporting 4th Cav Rcn Sq will move 040700A Mar via Bedburg, Bergheim, Niederaussen, Bisdorf to Stommeln assembly area from which it attacks to clear enemy within zone; to clear woods south, to secure Dormagen, Heckenbroich and patrol within zone to Rhine river. Company "A" 635th TD Bn T supporting 4th Cav Rcn Sq will move at 040915A Mar via Bedburg, Bergheim, Niederaussen, Bisdorf to Stommeln assembly area to attack within zone to clear woods, to secure Dellhoven, Straberg, Moring, Sturzelberg, Zons and patrol within zone to Rhine river. 635th TD Bn T less Cos "A" and "C" remain in group reserve and rdn routes and forward assembly areas in group zone.

Company "A" reported: on 2 Mar 4th platoon positions vic Neurath heavily shelled by enemy artillery. 4 shells hit wall protecting halftrack, one shell landed into vehicle and damaged radio and considerable personal equipment. 4th platoon captured one prisoner Neurath and 3 prisoners at Winkelhoven.

Received report of death from 108th Evacuation Hospital of Pfc Richard G. Soto, 38591655, Co C, SAA 27 Feb 45 and DOW 0915 hrs 1 Mar.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq. 635th TD Bn, Toward, cont'd.

S-3 captured enemy soldier in civilian clothes - turned in to CIC Detachment in Angelsdorf - prisoner had Army soldier's book.

Company "A" moved - left coord 189672 Ledburg, Germany 1155 hrs 3 Mar and arrived coord 202773 Grevenbroich, Germany 1530 hrs 3 Mar - distance traveled 10.3 miles.

Company "A" moved - left coord 202773 Grevenbroich, Germany 0930 hrs 4 Mar and arrived coord 324761 Delhoven, Germany 2000 hrs 4 Mar, distance traveled 20 miles.

Following message delivered 2215 hrs 4 Mar to Bn Comdr by Capt Smith, Lt Col at Group Hq from CC 4th Cavalry Group Lecz: "Company "B", 635th TD Bn T attached to 759th Lt Tank Bn effective 042400A Mar 45. 759th Lt Tank Bn reinforced with Company "B" will move beginning at 050600 to assembly area vic 330725 route Elsdorf-Bergheim-Niederaussen-Busdorf-Stommel 3307250. Hq, 635th TD Bn will move to vic Group CP by infiltration in groups of less than 5 vehicles commencing at 0800 (included in message was following from Group S-3 "HE only for direct fire")".

5 Bn CP moved - left coord 164611 Esch, Germany 0800 hrs 5 Mar and arrived coord 256657 Niederhausen, Germany - distance traveled 10 miles.

Company "B" moved - left coordinate 165612 Esch, Germany 0630 hrs 5 Mar and arrived coord 330728 Hahnendorf, Germany 0830 hrs 5 Mar - distance traveled 20 miles.

Company "A" reported: 3rd platoon captured one (1) prisoner in Delhoven on 4 Mar. On 2 Mar at 1400 hrs Tec 5 Floyd Fishli MIA but remained duty status - shell fragment in buttocks - care and dressing by 24th Cav Hcn Medics. 4 shells estimated at 75mm fell into the 4th platoon area.

Company A CP at Delhoven shelled by enemy artillery during night of 4 Mar. At 2115 hrs 9 fast rds, doubtlessly from tanks directed into area but no damage inflicted.

Company "C" reported: 2nd platoon CP house in woods southwest of Hackenbroich hit three times by enemy artillery night of 4 Mar and twice morning of 5 Mar. House was demolished but personnel in cellar not injured.

On 4 Mar Sgt Goodspeed took prisoner in field directly in front of his gun position. At the same time the enemy started shelling the field. The prisoner started running and failed to heed the request for halt - it was necessary to kill him.

At 1600 hrs 4 Mar in Hackenbroich, Germany, a Company "C" 1/4 ton had its radiator punctured by shell fragmentation - repaired by company maintenance.

Company "B" reported: Lt Long's platoon captured an enemy Officer Candidate in Straberg - turned in to Bn CP for Group questioning and evacuation.

Company "A" reported: Company CP at Delhoven mortared heavily by the enemy during 5 Mar. 4th Platoon took 2 prisoners at CP southwest of Lons 6 Mar. 3rd platoon took 6 prisoners in Horrem; one started running and when he failed

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq. 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

to heed the halt signal, it was necessary to shoot him.

On 5 Mar 2 guns of 3rd platoon, 3 guns of 2nd platoon and 2 guns of 4th platoon fired 39 rds 3" HE from three angles from vic Delhoven into woods coord 340764 to support an attack by B Troop of 24th Cav Rcn Sq to clear woods of enemy. Our fire destroyed many shelters and 60 of the enemy surrendered to B Troop.

1st platoon, at 1500 hrs on 5 Mar fired 3" from vic Straberg at factory coord 341801 from which position antitank guns and enemy were harassing our troops. Firing was in support of A Troop's attack on this position and two antitank guns were silenced enabling A troop to take position successfully.

3rd and 4th platoon positions at Horrem were fired upon by enemy artillery intermittently throughout night of Mar 5th and 6th - a German 1st Sgt was taken prisoner.

Bn CP moved - left coord 256657 Niederaussem 1205 hrs 6 Mar and arrived at coord 378725 Roggendorf, Germany 1300 hrs 6 Mar - distance traveled 10.7 miles.

Company "B" reported: Elements of 3rd platoon in position in Worringen were shelled by direct artillery fire during night of 5 Mar and mortar fire during 6 Mar. 4th platoon took one (1) prisoner in Hackenbroich night of 5 Mar. Company CP shelled at 0400 6 Mar. 12 to 15 enemy artillery shells fell into area.

Company "C" reported: Left coord 191674 Bedburg, Germany at 0750 hrs 4 Mar and arrived coord 355747 Hackenbroich, Germany 1200 hrs 4 Mar - distance traveled 15 miles. On 2 Mar at 1300 hrs, Sgt Hoffman's 3" gun fired 3 rds HVAP at an enemy tank firing in defilade from vic Bucholz. Tank fire was holding up elements of 99th US Inf Div from going forward. Enemy gun position silenced. On 5 Mar Sgt Goodspeed killed one enemy soldier in the vic of his CP house. On 5 Mar Tec 5 Williams and Pfc Grim captured one enemy armed with pistol and machine gun. Prisoner started running and failed to heed call to halt - he was shot.

7 Company "C" reported: Cpl Grabish took one prisoner in Domagen at 2300 hrs 6 Mar. On 4 Mar Lts. Pritchard and Standfield took 4 enemy prisoners in dugout at Stommelerbusch.

Capt Page supervised firing illuminating mission by 2 guns of Company "B" at Straberg for 87th AFA Bn. Guns in position at coord 320774. AFA Observer called for two rds over Rhine River - mission accomplished.

Company "A" reported: At 1800 hrs 5 Mar in Horrem Pfc Dominik Gyr, 1st platoon LWA shell fragment cheek. Our own medic applied first aid and EM remained on duty.

At 1530 hrs 6 Mar Cpl Clair E. Brown LWA shell fragment right leg approx 5" below knee. Medicine and dressing applied by our own medic - EM remained duty status.

WO Reilly took 4 enemy prisoners back to rear for PW cage; S/Sgt Wineland captured two at Straberg and 2 were turned in to Lt Sands by Burgermeister at Roggendorf.

Bn CP moved - left coord 378725 Roggendorf, Germany 1415 hrs 7 Mar and arrived coord 318775 Straberg, Germany 1800 hrs 7 Mar - distance traveled 34 miles.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Par 45, Rq. 635th TD Bn, Toward cont'd.

Received Field Order #10, 072200Z Mar, Rq 4th Cavalry Group, AOCZ: 3rd and 4th Div reorganize and continue defense of sector on our right flank. 83rd US Inf Div continues defense of sector on our left flank. 4th Cavalry Group will be reinforced continues to guard Rhine River in present sector and assumes responsibility for guarding river in sector now occupied by 99th US Inf Div to prevent any crossings on Rhine. Relief to commence at 080630Z Mar (area line generally from Grimlinghausen on Rhine southwest to vic of Neudorf, then via Dornau boundary southeast to south eastern edge of Schorbusch wood and generally northeast to northern edge of Harrington on the Rhine River). Company "C" 635th TD Bn reinforcing 4th Cavalry Recon Sq will relieve elements 99th US Inf Div within assigned sector commencing 080630Z Mar - will be observation and vigorous patrolling watch river front day and night, and from selected defensive positions prevent enemy crossings to west side of Rhine River. Will maintain contact with units on right and left. Company "A" reinforcing 24th Cav Recon Sq will relieve elements 4th Cav Recon Sq within assigned sector commencing 080630Z Mar - will by observation and vigorous patrolling, watch river front day and night and from selected defensive positions prevent any crossings to west side of Rhine River - will maintain contact with units on right and left. Company "B" less 2nd platoon reverts back to Battalion control. 2nd platoon, Company B, attached operationally to 87th AFA Bn fires on group order. 635th TD Bn T less Cos A, C, and 2nd platoon Company B, will coordinate antitank defenses within group sector and submit recommendations for emplacement of reserve company to provide antitank defenses in depth.

Bn Comdr approved the following promotions in Company "C": Cpl William F. Shows, 20759311 to Sgt, duty 745 - Section Sgt. Pfc Joseph Seminario, 39683530 to Cpl, duty 610 - gunner. Pfc Willis B. Jacobs, 20759279 to Cpl, duty 610 gunner.

Capt Page emplaced 3" guns 2nd platoon and 1 gun 3rd platoon Company B at coord 318797 vic Uckerath supporting indirect fire to 87th AFA Bn on Group order.

Company A reported their CP area in Horrem shelled by enemy artillery at 0400 hrs.

Company B reported: Left coord 330728 Hahnenhof, Germany 0945 hrs 8 Mar and arrived coord 318775 Straberg, Germany 1045 hrs 8 Mar - distance traveled 7 miles.

Company "C" reported: 1st platoon captured 2 enemy prisoners in Dormagen. 1st and 3rd platoons were heavily shelled by enemy artillery night of 7 Mar in Dormagen.

Company C moved, left coord 355747 Huckenbroich, Germany 0645 hrs 8 Mar and arrived coord 2925 Dorf, Germany at 1030 hrs - distance traveled 11 miles.

Bn Comdr approved the following promotions in Company A: Cpl Nicholas F. Thill, 37005529 to Sgt, duty 610 Gun Commander. Pfc Lloyd G. Michie, 39092294 to Cpl, duty 610 - Gunner. Pvt Merle A. Traxler, 39093345 to Tec 5, duty 734, Driver.

2nd platoon Company A captured 4 civilians who crossed Rhine River in a small boat during early morning 9 Mar and turned them over to 24th Cav Recon Sq for handling.

Enemy time fire reported over 1st platoon, Company C, positions in Grimlinghausen - 20 rds burst overhead.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

2nd platoon, Company B, under direction Capt Page fired 3 rds illuminating shells for 87th AFA Bn - mission accomplished.

- 10 Capt Page reported to the Bn Comdr - 2nd platoon Company "B" fired 125 rds 3" HERC on 9 Mar in support of the 87th AFA Bn. Fired 10 rds registration, 3 missions general support with 40 rds and 75 rds were expended on interdiction missions. 4 illuminating missions were fired over the Rhine River expending 11 rds - missions accomplished.

Sgt Fender, Company C, took two enemy prisoners in Grimlinghausen, Germany on 9 Mar.

Capt Smith, Bn Ln O, to Group Hq delivered the following message (copy) to the Bn Comdr: "Top Secret - 10 Mar 45 - to Commanding Officer, 4th Cavalry Group Alert 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Towed, for movement to Seventh Army. Advance detachment will proceed without delay to Luneville, France, reporting to Commanding General, Seventh Army. Unit must close 15th March. Notify VII Corps Traffic of present locations and composition of march columns. Complete secrecy will be maintained to include radio silence until committed, removal of vehicle markings, no use of unit identifications or customary code names for road signs. Maximum security will be observed in telephone conversation. (signed) O. C. Traxel, Jr, G-3 - time signed 0930 hrs". Bn Comdr assigned Capt Page, Capt Smith and 4 men to advance detail.

Bn CP moved from Straberg, Germany coord 318775 1500 hrs 10 Mar and arrived in assembly area coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany 1545 hrs 10 Mar - distance traveled 12 miles.

Company B moved - left Straberg, Germany coord 318775 1445 hrs 10 Mar and arrived coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany 1545 hrs 10 Mar - distance traveled 12 miles.

Company A moved - left Horrem, Germany coord 353733 at 1015 hrs 10 Mar and arrived coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany 1945 hrs - distance traveled 33 miles.

Company C moved - left Norf, Germany coord 294245 at 1300 hrs 10 Mar and arrived coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany 1445 hrs 10 Mar - distance traveled 18 miles.

- 11 20 EM in charge of Capt L. H. Williams, CC Company A, to Cologne, Germany to witness the raising of the American flag in that city.

15 EM and 7 ambulances on temporary duty from 4th Cavalry Group Mezz to 12d Det this battalion, return to duty parent organizations 491st and 492nd Collecting Companies per VCCC, 4th Cavalry Group, Mezz.

- 14 Bn Comdr advised that 635th TD Bn T detached from VII Corps and 4th Cavalry Group Mezz as of 0600 hrs 14 Mar per VCCG VII Corps.

Bn CP, joined by Rear Echelon train, left assembly area coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany at 0641 hrs 14 Mar and arrived in bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 1855 hrs 14 Mar - distance traveled 210 miles.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq. 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

Company A left assembly area coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany at 0600 hrs 14 Mar and arrived bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 1800 hrs 14 Mar - distance traveled 210 miles.

Company B left assembly area coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany at 0630 hrs 14 Mar and arrived in bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 1830 hrs 14 Mar - distance traveled 210 miles.

Company C left assembly area coord 258626 Fortuna Mine, Oberaussem, Germany at 0615 hrs 14 Mar and arrived bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 1815 hrs 14 Mar - distance traveled 210 miles.

15 Bn CP left bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 0730 hrs 15 Mar and arrived assembly area coord 435395 Hingsingen, Alsace, France 1435 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 101 miles (Rear Echelon established in Kerviller, Lorraine, France.

Company C left bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 0715 hrs 15 Mar and arrived assembly area Hingsingen, Alsace, France coord 435395 1410 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 101 miles.

Company A left bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun, France 0700 hrs 15 Mar and arrived assembly area coord 435395 Hingsingen, Alsace, France 1400 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 101 miles.

Company B left bivouac area coord 300650 Verdun France 0721 hrs 15 Mar and arrived assembly area coord 435395 Hingsingen, Alsace, France 1420 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 101 miles.

Advance party, Cpts Page and Smith, reported to the Bn Comdr - visited Hq. Seventh Army and 71st US Inf Div to whom this battalion attached, also CO, 5th TD Group assigned to assist this battalion.

Received Field Order #3, Hq. 71st US Inf Div dated 140900 Mar: 71st Inf Div Reinforced by 635th TD Bn T - upon arrival 1435 hrs 15 Mar - continues its present defensive mission, supporting the attack of the 100th Inf Div on D Day in hour to the limit of the range of all available weapons. On Corps order after D Day, Division will be prepared to relieve elements of 100th Inf Div in an area to be designated in the vic of Bitche. 635th TD Bn T (1) upon arrival, complete maintenance in Div rear area and relieve front line TD guns (824th TD Bn) now attached from 100th Inf Div (2) be prepared to reinforce infantry elements on division order.

Bn Comdr appointed Acting Division Antitank Officer. 1st Lt Tommett, Hq ACU Officer, appointed Ln O to Division Hq.

16 Bn S-3, Major Burt A. Scott, to Division to represent Bn Comdr as Acting Division Antitank Officer.

Capt Dale H. Page appointed acting S-3 in the absence of Major Scott with Div.

Company B moved - left assembly area Hingsingen, Alsace, France coord 435395 1600 hrs 15 Mar and arrived coord 624415 Batten, Alsace, France 1930 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 24 miles.

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Narrative, Appendix No. 1, Mar 45, Hq. 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

Company A reported: Company A moved - left assembly area coord 300650 Hingsingen, Alsace, France 1400 hrs 15 Mar and arrived coord 721432 St Louis le Bitche, Alsace, France 1600 hrs 15 Mar - distance traveled 29.7 miles. 3rd and 4th platoon areas vic Lemburg sustained mortar fire estimated 81mm during night of 15 Mar.

Bn CP moved - left assembly area coord 300650 Hingsingen, Alsace, France 1430 hrs 16 Mar and arrived coord 618365 Waldhambach, Alsace, France 1540 hrs 16 Mar - distance traveled 13 miles.

17 Rear Echelon moved from Kerviller, Lorraine, France to Waldhambach, Alsace, France.

Received Field Order #4 dated 161400A Mar 45, Hq, 71st Inf Div - 71st Inf Div Reinforced continues its present defensive mission prepared to relieve elements of the 100th Div in the vic of Bitche (Q7750). Company B 635th TD Bn T attached to the 5th Inf Regt continues present mission (FO #2) - establish OPs to secure Lemburg (Q7345) Mbuterhouse (Q7942 road within zone. Company A, 635th TD Bn T, attached to 66th Inf Regt continues present mission (FO #2) - establish OPs to secure Lemburg-Bitche road within zone. Company C, 635th TD Bn T, attached to 14th Inf Regt moves without delay to the vic of Reysersviller and will occupy, organize the MIR. Will execute intensive patrolling by day and night to north tip of lake coord O-785490.

Company B moved - left Butten, Alsace, France coord 624415 1700 hrs 16 Mar and arrived at St Louis les Bitche, Alsace, France coord 721432 - distance traveled 7 miles.

Company C reported - Company C moved, left assembly area Hingsingen, Alsace, France coord 435395 1305 hrs 16 Mar and arrived new assembly position Siensthal, Alsace, France coordinate 718493 2330 hrs 16 Mar - distance traveled 35 miles. Company C left assembly position coord 718493 Siensthal, Alsace, France 1045 hrs 17 Mar and arrived at Bitche, Alsace, France coord 778500 1130 hrs 17 Mar - distance traveled 4 miles. 3rd platoon positions in Bitche received intermittent enemy artillery fire during night of 16 Mar.

Received unnumbered Attachment Order (secret) Hq Seventh Army dated 15 Mar "635th TD Bn T attached to XV Corps for operations."

18 On 17 Mar Commanding General, 71st Inf Div, inspected 3rd platoon, Company C gun positions and commended Platoon Commander, 1st Lt Walter E. Standfield, on his choice of positions, camouflage and fields of fire. Particular mention was made of 2nd Lt McClellan's 90mm towed gun.

Bn CP moved - left coord 618365 Waldhambach 1545 hrs 18 Mar and arrived coord 719431 St Louis les Bitche, Alsace, France 1700 hrs 18 Mar - distance traveled 11 miles.

Rear Echelon established in St Louis les Bitche, Alsace, France.

19 Company B moved - left coord 721432 St Louis les Bitche, Alsace, France 1400 hrs 18 Mar and arrived area coord 837576 600 meters southeast of Liederscheid, Alsace, France 1830 hrs 18 Mar - distance traveled 15 miles.

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Narrative, Appendix No 1, Mar 45, Hq 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd.

Received Field Order #5, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 181045 A Mar: Division, with Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt, Company C attached to 14th Inf Regt, and Company A to 66th Inf Regt, continues defensive mission of protecting the right or east flank of XV Corps within its zone.

Bn CP moved - left coord 719431 St Louis les Bitche, Alsace, France 1450 hrs 19 Mar and arrived coord 775494 Bitche, Alsace, France at 1515 hrs 19 Mar - distance traveled 6.2 miles.

On order Commanding General, 71st Inf Div, all Division antitank officers inspected 3rd platoon, Company C gun position visited by him on 17 Mar.

20 Received Field Order #6, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 201430A Mar: 71st Inf Div reinforced continues defensive position - protects right or east flank and rear of XV Corps within its zone. Company A attached to 66th Inf Regt moves with that unit via Breidenbach to occupy, organize and defend area; to maintain contact with 3rd Inf Div on left. Company C attached to 14th Inf Regt will occupy, organize and defend MLR (Dietrichengen-Klein Steinhausen-Bottenbach-Walschbronn) relieving elements of the 5th Inf Regt now occupying part of the assigned MLR. Will maintain contact with 42nd Inf Div on right vic Eppenbrunn. Daylight 21 Mar will adjust MLR (Walschbronn to area west of Eppenbrunn) to include point of contact with 42nd Inf Div. Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt upon being relieved by the 14th Inf Regt will assemble initially in Div Reserve in areas northwest, south and southwest of Leiderscheid.

21 Company A reported: left coord 721432 St Louis les Bitche at 1715 hrs 20 Mar and arrived coord 770596 Breidenbach, Alsace, France 1815 hrs 20 Mar - distance traveled 16 miles. 1st and 2nd platoons established AT positions once again on German soil 20 Mar, with 1st platoon in Riedelberg, Germany and 2nd platoon between Gr. and Kl. Kleinhausen, Germany.

In Comdr advised that 71st Inf Div and this battalion attached to XXI Corps this date for operations.

Company B reported: left coord 837576 area 600 meters southeast of Liederscheid 1910 hrs 20 Mar and arrived coord 810595 area 500 meters southwest of Waldhausen, Alsace, France 1930 hrs 20 Mar - distance traveled 4 miles. During shelling of 3rd platoon area on night of 16 Mar Pvt Roger Henry received a gliver of steel in his right eye. He was evacuated to the 112th Evac Hosp through 560 Medical Clearing station on 17 Mar when it was decided only surgical operation would remove steel from cornea - EM awarded Purple Heart on 112 Evac Hosp GO 10 of 20 Mar.

Company C reported; left coord 778500 Bitche, Alsace, France at 0630 hrs 21 Mar and arrived coord 837558 Roppweiler, Alsace, France 0730 hrs - distance traveled 7.5 miles.

2nd Platoon in position Schweix heavily shelled by mortar night of 20 Mar and received heavy concentrations of enemy artillery estimated at 105mm at 0730 hrs 21 Mar.

22 Received Field Order #7, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 212000A Mar - 71st Inf Div reinforced by 635th TD Bn, Towed attached to XXI Corps. XXI Corps attacks 22 Mar, 2

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Narrative, Appendix No 1, Mar 45, Hq 635th TD Bn Towed, cont'd.

divisions abreast, 71st Inf Div on the right, 100th Inf Div on the left - advance to the Rhine River - be prepared to assist VI Corps on right or south. 71st Inf Div reinforced attacks at 220800A Mar, seizing Pirmasens and continues in its zone of action to the Rhine River. Company A 635th TD Bn Towed attached to 66th Inf Regt will support that unit in its advance at 220800A Mar in the extreme left-northern- part of the Div zone of action, seizing and capturing Pirmasens. Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt initially in Div reserve will support that unit and with them will be prepared to proceed to civ of Munchweiler as a first objective and further to the east along the main axis of advance on Div order. Company C 635th TD Bn Towed attached to the 14th Inf Regt will continue to support that unit in its present defensive mission protecting the Div right flank - be prepared to assemble on Div order as Div reserve - will support on order the initiation of vigorous patrolling on Div right flank.

Company A reported that their 1st platoon in position vic of Gr. Kleinhausen heavily mortared by enemy during afternoon of 21 Mar.

Company C reported that their 2nd Platoon in position in Schweix shelled by enemy during night of 21 Mar.

- 23 Received Field Order #8, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 222330A Mar - XXI Corps continues its advance to Rhine River, Divs abreast, 71st Inf Div on right and 100th Inf Div on left - prepared to assist VI Corps on the right (south). 71st Inf Div reinforced advances by motor 230600A Mar seizing west bank of Rhine River in its zone. Company B 635th TD Bn Towed attached to 5th Inf Regt will move with that unit 230600A Mar with the infantry motorized and will assist and support regt outposts west bank Rhine River in Div zone of action. Company A 635th TD Bn Towed attached to 66th Inf Regt will move toward Rhine River when regimental move initiated. Company C 635th TD Bn Towed attached to 14th Inf Regt will move toward Rhine River when regimental move initiated. 66th Inf Regt moves when trucks moving 5th Inf Regt return and 14th Inf Regt moves when trucks return from moving 66th Inf Regt toward concentration area on way to Rhine west bank. 635th TD Bn Towed Advance CP will move with Div Forward Echelon.

Battalion Advance CP moved - left coord 775494 Wiche, Alsace, France 1030 hrs 23 Mar and arrived at coord 908658 Pirmasens, Germany - assembly area - 1330 hrs 23 Mar - crossed into Germany again at 1130 hrs at coord 7464 one km southeast of Hornbach - distance traveled 29.2 mi.

Bn Advance CP moved - left assembly area coord 908658 Pirmasens, Germany 1605 hrs 23 Mar and arrived coord 138689 Rinnthal, Germany 1800 hrs 23 Mar - distance traveled 18.5 mi.

Enroute with Bn CP to Rinnthal, Tec 5 Spackman took 3 enemy prisoners - turned in to PW cage enroute.

Company A reported: On 22 Mar at 1600 hrs at coord 905696, 4th Platoon captured 16 enemy and at 1800 hrs at coord 905698 7 enemy - total for 4th Platoon 23 prisoners. 1st Platoon captured 4 enemy at 1145 hrs and 2 enemy at 1500 hrs near their position - total for 1st Platoon 6 prisoners. 3rd Platoon captured 51 enemy and 1 Italian fighting with German army - total for 3rd Platoon - 52 prisoners. Total bag for A company for 22 Mar - 81 Prisoners of War.

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Narrative, Appendix No 1, Mar 45, Hq 635th TD Bn, Towed, cont'd

24. Bn CP moved from coord 138689 Rinthal, Germany at 0810 hrs 21 Mar and arrived at assembly area Landau, Germany coord 270676 1000 hrs 24 Mar - distance traveled 9.3 mi.

Pvt Calcagno, Hq Co, took 3 PWs; Italians fighting with the German army.

Bn CP moved from assembly area Landau, Germany coord 270676 1440 hrs 24 Mar and arrived coord 292763 Edenkoben, Germany 1540 hrs 24 Mar - distance traveled 7.2 miles.

Company A reported: Left coord 770596 Breidenbach, Alsace, France 0800 hrs 22 Mar and arrived coord 902667 Pirmasens, Germany 1500 hrs 22 Mar - distance traveled 27.2 mi.

Company A moved - left coord 902667 Pirmasens, Germany 1015 hrs 23 Mar and arrived coord 337807 Lachen, Germany 1600 hrs 23 Mar - distance traveled 45 mi. Lts Proctor, Harrington and Thompson, searching for billets in Lachen for their platoons, captured 4 enemy - turned over to FW Cage.

Company B reported: Left coord 810595 area 500 meters southwest of Waldhausen, Alsace, France 0830 hrs 23 Mar and arrived Edenkoben, Germany coord 302766 2100 hrs 23 Mar - distance traveled 60 mi.

Company B moved - left coord 302766 Edenkoben, Germany 0800 hrs 24 Mar and arrived Schwegenheim, Germany, coord 425746 1300 hrs 24 Mar - distance traveled 16 mi.

Enroute to Edenkoben 23 Mar on road at approximate coord 288695 south of Knoringen, the column was subjected to enemy time fire; one gun placing air bursts down the entire length of column. 2nd Lt Woodrow C Larson was LWA, shell fragment flesh wound right arm - evacuated through 81st Clearing Company.

Company D picked up 15 enemy prisoners enroute to Edenkoben. PWs were picked up south of Edesheim, Germany and turned over to MPs - capture made at 1930 hrs on 23 Mar. Third Platoon took 2 enemy prisoners at 0600 hrs 24 Mar in field outside of Edenkoben.

Received Troop Assignment #68 (secret) 19 Mar, Hq, 12th Army Group, Par 4 "VOCG of 15 Mar directing the following changes in status of troops, 635th TD Bn - Towed remains assigned First US Army and attached Sixth Army Group.

25. Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt given change in mission according to change of plan given to 5th Inf Regt at 232330 Mar. Mission ordered 5th Inf Regt supported by Company B to move to Weingarten and to attack along axis Weingarten Westheim Germersheim, to seize bridges of the Rhine at Germersheim. This attack was launched at 240500 Mar in conjunction with CCR of 12th Arm Div moving on Germersheim from direction of Speyer. Attack was to cease if enemy blew bridges prior to execution of mission (auth G-3 periodic Report Hq 71st Inf Div 24 Mar).

Received Secret Unit Assignment Order #52 of 20 Mar, Hq, Sixth Army Group, Par 8 "635th TD Bn Towed assigned to Twelfth Army Group, having been attached to Sixth Army Group on 15 Mar is eff sd attached to Seventh Army". Par 9 "The above change in assignment and/or attachment will become eff upon arrival at

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new station". (Paragraph #9 rescinded per Secret letter 22 Mar, Sixth Army Group, subject "Unit Assignment Order #52).

Company B reported: 12 enemy prisoners taken on 24 Mar in Schwegenheim (2 by 4th P Platoon, 7 by 3rd Platoon and 3 by 2nd Platoon). 2 were SS Troopers. 5 taken by 3rd Platoon were proceeding along RR tracks when ordered to halt by Pvt Anderson. Enemy hit ground and when Anderson opened fire they surrendered.

B Company positions received light and intermittent enemy shelling throughout night 24-25 Mar.

Cpl Paul DiMaio LMA shrapnel wound left index finger during enemy shelling while Company on road at coordinate 288695 south of Khoringen - 1830 hrs 23 Mar - care and dressing by our own medics and returned to duty.

Capt Leland H Williams, commanding Company A reported the following to the Bn Comdr: When Company A left Bridenbach, Alsace, France on 22 Mar, the 1st platoon was attached to the 3rd Bn of the 66th Inf Regt which was the lead Bn in a regimental plan to attack in a column of battalions and occupy the town of Pirmasens, Germany. The town was taken without resistance; however, prior to entry, the regimental advance was stopped because of a large group of civilians sighted outside of the town. 1st Platoon comdr, 1st Lt Proctor, with two 1/4 tons advanced to the head of the column and broke up the gathering and took 3 enemy prisoners and then selected hasty gun positions for his platoon. Then Capt Williams entered Pirmasens with the tanks assigned to the 66th Inf Regt and brought his other gun platoons into town and established a company CP in Pirmasens. Our 3rd Platoon sighted a group of enemy in woods and sent out a small patrol and a number of prisoners were taken. Another A Company patrol took 40 prisoners and the 4th Platoon shook down buildings in their immediate area and took 10 more in all. A Company took 81 prisoners. On the next advance to Lachen, Germany on 23 Mar at 1000 hrs the tanks left with a company of infantry mounted. At 1030 hrs Capt Williams left and had 90 infantry mounted on a number of Company A halftracks and went forward until they were roadblocked by vehicles of the 5th Inf Regt on the highway parked two to three vehicles abreast near Landau. Capt Williams then had his 1/4 ton go to the head of the column where he met a Lt of the 66th I & R platoon and proceeded to Edenkoben as he wanted to get Company A off the highway. He led his company into Edenkoben and with the Lt of the I & R platoon and all of Company A moved to Lachen via Neustadt. Company A took over Lachen as the infantry refused to move in still being under the impression the town had not yet been cleared. While looking for billets in Lachen, our officers took 4 prisoners who were turned into the PW cage in Neustadt. Company A transported 60 infantry to Geinsheimer and found a number of 12th AFnd vehicles there. The Regimental S-X (66th Inf Regt) learned from a PW that the enemy planned a counterattack and called on Capt Williams for assistance stating that the regiment was split with no control in effect also that he intended to set up a CP to pick up stragglers. Capt Williams organized the defense of Lachen utilizing the 4 gun platoons. A Major Spencer of the 3rd Bn 66th Inf Regt reported that he and a party of 30 LMA were ambushed in the woods east of Geisenheim and the Regimental S-X requested Capt Williams to take action. A combat patrol was promptly organized by Capt Williams consisting of three halftracks of his 3rd platoon and three 1/4 tons. The 3" guns were not taken. Lt Proctor remained in Lachen and took charge of the defense of that

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town. At 2200 hrs, Capt Williams led his patrol to Geisenheim. He went forward on foot with 1st Lt Thompson, 3rd platoon commander, to see if the town was cleared of enemy and brought all vehicles in, less one 1/4 ton which was left on the RJ southeast of town as a roadblock. At the edge of town, the party met 21 men of Major Spencer's party who claimed that all but 5 men were accounted for and that they believed the 5 were either wounded or dead. The patrol proceeded and the halftracks remained in a group of buildings approximately one kilometer from the edge of the woods while Capt Williams in a 1/4 ton went forward to the edge of woods to make a reconnaissance for positions for the vehicles to start the attack if necessary. While he remained in the woods alone, his 1/4 ton returned to the troops and directed the vehicles into the positions chosen by Capt Williams, which were behind the dismounted troops. Flanking guards were posted. An infantry Lt remained with the vehicles. Capt Williams led the patrol and was closely followed by 1st Lt Thompson. Major Spencer remained at the tail end of the patrol. The woods were thoroughly searched and the patrol failed to find any traces of the 5 missing men, nor of any enemy - in fact, no traces of any combat were noticed. At the east end of the woods, the patrol assembled and returned to the rear while 100 rds 45 cal were expended in an effort to draw fire and considerable noise was made as well, but desired results were not forthcoming. The patrol reached the east edge of woods at 0200 hrs and returned to Lachen at 0400 hrs.

Bn Ln C with Division advised that 71st Inf Div with this battalion attached relieved of attachment XXI Corps and attached to VI Corps effective 1200 hrs 25 Mar per VCG 71st Inf Div.

Received Operations Instructions #4, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 251200 Mar: Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt will move with that unit to concentration vic Neuhausen. Company A attached to 66th Inf Regt will move with that unit to concentration area vic Ludwigshaven. Company C attached to 14th Inf Regt will close in vic Speyer and support regiment's vigorous patrolling activities across the Rhine River during hours of darkness. Assist in execution of demonstration vic Speyer R-5180 that feint there be made to look like real crossing.

Company C reported: Left coord 837558 Roppweiler, Alsace, France 1930 hrs 22 Mar and arrived coord 862601 Trulben, Germany 2015 hrs 22 Mar - distance traveled 4 miles (crossed into Germany at coord WQ848558). Company C left coord 862601 Trulben, Germany 2015 hrs 23 Mar and arrived coord 445771 Harthausen, Germany 1830 hrs 24 Mar - distance traveled 50 miles. 2nd platoon heavily shelled by enemy in Otterstadt during 24 Mar. On 24 Mar 3rd platoon captured 4 prisoners in Speyer, 2nd platoon 3 prisoners in Otterstadt and 4th platoon 4 prisoners in Harthausen. Left coord 445771 Harthausen, Germany 1630 hrs 25 Mar and arrived coord 502813 Speyer, Germany 1715 hrs - distance traveled 5 miles.

26 Company A reported: Left Lachen, Germany coord 337807 2030 hrs 25 Mar and arrived coord 456855 area 1-1/2 miles south of Schifferstadt, Germany 2115 hrs 25 Mar - distance traveled 17.5 miles. 1st platoon took 5 prisoners at Lachen 1200 hrs 25 Mar and 3 prisoners in Schifferstadt 2100 hrs 25 Mar. 2nd platoon took 1 prisoner in Schifferstadt 2100 hrs 25 Mar.

Bn CP left coord 292763 Edenkoben, Germany 1330 hrs 26 Mar and arrived Schifferstadt, Germany coord 465863 at 1435 hrs 26 Mar - distance traveled 18.4 miles.

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Received Operations Instructions #5, 261400A Mar; Hq 71st Inf Div - Company B supporting 5th Inf Regt will move with that unit to Neuhofen area to relieve elements 100th Inf Div by 262400A Mar. Company A supporting 66th Inf Regt will move with that unit to area northwest of Ludwigshafen to relieve elements of 100th Inf Div by 262400A Mar. 635th TD Bn T will continue present supporting mission, reconnoiter and select alternate positions for 90mm gun; employ gun against targets east of Rhine River in Division zone.

Company C reported: two 3" guns of Lt McClellan's platoon moved to river bank to support patrol of 14th Inf Regt Rhine River crossing at 2300 hrs 25 Mar and 0230 hrs 26 Mar at Speyer. Crossing to East bank at 2300 hrs uneventful; however, at 0230 the enemy fired considerable artillery at the buildings around our gun positions - no targets available for our guns. 2nd platoon in position at Otterstadt heavily shelled through night 25-26 Mar. Pfc Zieders, Medic attached to Co C, captured two enemy on 25 Mar at Speyer.

Company "B" reported: Left Schwegenheim, Germany coord 425746 1600 hrs 25 Mar and arrived coord 440798 Hanhofen, Germany 1700 hrs 26 Mar - distance traveled 3 miles. Left coord 440798 Hanhofen, Germany 1030 hrs 26 Mar and arrived coord 498917 Neuhofen, Germany - distance traveled 14 miles. Company B halftracks transported 5th Inf Regt forward on 25 and 26 Mar. Six vehicles carried approximately 150 infantry and equipment in addition to our own crew and equipment. Cpl Headley, Security Cpl, 1st platoon, took 4 prisoners at Rheingonheim on 26 Mar.

27 Company A reported: Left coord 456855 area 1-1/2 miles south of Schifferstadt, Germany at 1400 hrs 26 Mar and arrived coord 465994 Oggersheim, Germany 1450 hrs 26 Mar - distance traveled 11.5 miles. 1st Lt Proctor took 3 prisoners in Mandach at 1300 hrs 26 Mar.

Company C reported: 2nd platoon at Otterstadt received intermittent shelling through night 26-27 Mar. 1st platoon in position Kinkenberghof woods received intermittent shelling through night 26-27 Mar.

Company B reported: 1st platoon took 2 prisoners at Reingonheim 27 Mar. 3rd platoon took one prisoner 26 Mar at Waldsee.

Received Secret letter dated 24 Mar 45, AG 370.5-C, Hq Seventh Army, subject: "Assignment and Attachment Order" - par 3(d) "635th TD Bn Towed assigned to Twelfth Army Group is attached to Seventh Army effective 15 March 1945".

28 Company C reported: Sgt Marintzer's gun, on regimental order, went into position at 2100 hrs 27 Mar to fire illuminating missions over Rhine on call - no firing - gun withdrawn at daylight.

Bn Comdr approved the following promotion in Company A: Sgt James A. Nelson, 19079097, to S/Sgt, duty S21, Supply Sgt.

Bn CP moved - left coord 465863 Schifferstadt, Germany at 1050 hrs 28 Mar and arrived Oggersheim, Germany coord 465995 at 1120 hrs 28 Mar - distance traveled 9.4 miles.

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Bn Comdr advised that pending Field Order from Div Hq now in preparation 635th TD Bn T with 71st Inf Div relieved attachment Seventh Army and further attached to Third Army - that 103rd Div relieves 71st Inf Div this date and complete relief by noon 29 Mar. Company B attached to 5th Inf Regt will assemble in vic Schifferstadt, Company C attached to 14th Inf Regt will assemble vic Speyer and Company A attached to 66th Inf Regt will assemble vic Ludwigshafen, 635th TD Bn T (-) will assemble present location Oggersheim and prepare for departure by noon 29 Mar. Bn CC made arrangements for Rear Echelon to depart present location Landau and assemble vic Oggersheim by morning 29 Mar (Confirmed by Field Order #9, Hq 71st Inf Div 281345A Mar excepting last sentence concerning movement of Rear Echelon).

2nd platoon, Recon section, Hq Co, joined Bn CP for new mission.

Received Secret letter, Hq First US Army, 21 Mar 45, subject: Troop Assignment #29, par 3 "VOOG 15 Mar 45 635th TD Bn T relieved attachment VII Corps, attached Sixth Army Group but remains assigned First U. S. Army".

Received Secret letter, Hq Seventh Army 24 Mar 45 subject: Attachment Order. "Effective 1200A 25 Mar 45, 635th TD Bn T relieved from present attachment to XXI Corps and are attached to VI Corps for operations.

29 Company B reported - left coord 498917 Neutofen 1730 hrs 28 Mar and arrived coord 459868 Schifferstadt, Germany at 1830 hrs 28 Mar - distance traveled 6 miles.

Capt Williams, Company A, reported recovery of abandoned 1/4 ton #2077050-S, motor 148509-237635 at coord 45008 vic Studernheim by 3rd platoon. Report submitted to CG, 71st Inf Div.

Received revised Field Order #10, Hq 71st Inf Div dated 291000A Mar - 71st Inf Div with attachments, moves at 291430A Mar 45 to assembly area vic Rothenhausen by motor prepared for further action--Company C 635th TD Bn T attached to 14th Inf Regt will depart their present location Speyer and arrive at IF #1 at Mutterstadt 1409 hours 29 Mar. Company A 635th TD Bn T attached to 66th Inf Regt will depart their present location Oggersheim and arrive at IF #1 Mutterstadt 1926 hrs 29 Mar. Company B 635th TD Bn T attached to 5th Inf Regt will depart their present location Schifferstadt and arrive at IF #1 Mutterstadt at 2256 hrs 29 Mar. 635th TD Bn T (-) will depart their present location Oggersheim (with Rear Echelon from Landau) and arrive IF #1 Mutterstadt by 0026 hrs 30 Mar.

Bn Comdr advised by Asst Div Comdr, Brig. Gen. Wolfe, that Div and this Bn attached to XX Corps upon arrival new area.

Received Secret movement order dated 28 Mar, Hq Seventh Army, instructions to CG, VI Corps to move 635th TD Bn T to Rothenhausen, effective upon departure Seventh Army area, 635th TD Bn T relieved from attachment to VI Corps and control of Seventh Army and pass to control of Twelfth Army Group.

30 Bn CP left Oggersheim, Germany coord 465995 at 0415 hrs 30 Mar and arrived at assembly area coord 042131 Dornbach, Germany 1035 hrs 30 Mar, distance

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traveled 56.5 miles (Rear Echelon joined column at Neustadt from Landau)

Bn CP (including rear echelon) left assembly area Dornbach, Germany coord 042131 at 1830 hrs 30 Mar and arrived coord 766629 Heusenstamm, Germany 0220 hrs 31 Mar - distance traveled 80 miles (Bn CP crossed Rhine River at 2320 hrs 30 Mar at Nierstein. Rear Echelon in same column - last vehicle crossed 2340 hrs.)

31 Bn Ln O 1st Lt Fommett advised that 635th TD Bn T attached to 71st Inf Div further attached to XII Corps.

Company C reported: Left coord 502813 Speyer, Germany 1435 hrs 29 Mar and arrived Dielkirchen, Germany coord 0618 2100 hrs 29 Mar - distance traveled 64 miles. Left coord 0618 Dielkirchen, Germany 0950 hrs 30 Mar and arrived coord 796643 Oberthausen, Germany 1600 hrs 30 Mar - distance traveled 72 miles. Crossed Rhine River at Nierstein at 1300 hrs 30 Mar.

Company B reported: Left coord 459868 Schifferstadt, Germany 0100 hrs 30 Mar and arrived Niedermoschel, Germany coord 039259 at 0630 hrs 30 Mar - distance traveled 67 miles. Left coord 039259 Niedermoschel, Germany at 2330 hrs 30 Mar and arrived coord 691625 Neu-Isenberg, Germany 0645 hrs 31 Mar - distance traveled 62 miles - crossed Rhine River at 0315 hrs 31 Mar at Nierstein.

Company A reported: Left Oggersheim, Germany coord 465994 at 1705 hrs 29 Mar and arrived Gangloff, Germany coordinate 977185 at 2330 hrs 29 Mar - distance traveled 79.6 miles. Left coord 977185 Gangloff, Germany 1430 hrs 30 Mar and arrived coord 753572 Dietzenbach, Germany 2125 hrs 30 Mar - distance traveled 83.4 miles - crossed Rhine River 1500 hrs 30 Mar at Nierstein.

Received Field Order #12 Hq 71st Inf Div 311800A Mar - XII Corps continues attack in its zone. 11th Armd Div on right followed by 26th Inf Div, 4th Armd Div on left followed by 90th Inf Div. 71st Inf Div continues missions protecting right - south - flank XII Corps. Company A 635th TD Bn T attached to 66th Inf Regt will move with that unit 10700 Apr to area vic Gelnhausen. Will support the CT 66 in occupying, organizing and defending along line Hailer, Gelnhausen and protect XII Corps right flank. Company B, 635th TD Bn T, attached to 5th Inf Regt will move with that unit 1 Apr to assembly area generally between Hanau and Rinkngen. Company C 635th TD Bn T attached to 14th Inf Regt continues present mission.

Summary

The Battalion continued to reinforce the 4th Cavalry Group, Mecz in its contested advance to Cologne with the VII Corps until Group Reinforced was pinched out at the western bank of the Rhine River north of Cologne. Battalion continued to guard the Rhine River in the sector we occupied until 10 Mar when we were advised the Battalion was relieved of attachment to VII Corps and 4th Cavalry Group Mecz to which organization we were attached since 1 September 1944, through France, Belgium and Germany and back to Belgium for the Battle of the Bulge; and further attached to Seventh Army upon arrival their area.

Prior to departure for France and the Seventh Army, the Battalion Commander,

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in his capacity as Provost Marshal of 4th Cavalry Group Lecz and attached units sent small groups of officer and enlisted personnel to register the civilian population of the towns in group zone - to pick up arms, etc., arranged for screening by CIC of population and transported displaced persons to authorized CP camps.

Our attachment to the 71st Infantry Division became effective with our arrival, and attachment to Seventh Army. Our line companies are under the control of the Division's Regimental antitank officers and generally are being used to reinforce organic regimental antitank defenses. Because of the nature of the operations, and the apparent disappearance of enemy armor, we have not fired at any enemy tanks since our arrival for campaign Southern France. We have employed our troops as infantry in patrolling activities and have captured 152 prisoners between March 15th and 31st. We were responsible for the regiments capturing many more.

The 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Towed, crossed the Rhine River on 30 and 31 March 1945.

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