

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 654TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Office of the Commanding Officer

APO 403, US ARMY,
1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy.

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

1. In compliance with the provisions of Par 10 C3, AR 345-105, submitted below is report after action against the enemy for the 654th T. D. Bn. covering the period 1-31 January 1945.

January 1, 1945

Command Post at Arsdorf, Luxembourg, coord 639419, 1:50,000. Battalion remained assigned to the Third U. S. Army, and attached to the III Army Corps and 35th Infantry Division. Battalion supporting the 35th Infantry Division, who held battle lines on the southern flank of the Ardennes salient, in the vicinity of Lutrebois-Harlange, Belgium. Company "A", supporting the 134th Infantry, destroyed several enemy vehicles and inflicted an undetermined number of casualties upon enemy personnel. Battalion suffered one officer and two enlisted men wounded and two one-quarter ton vehicles destroyed.

January 2, 1945

Command Post remained at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. No change in assignment or attachment. German Air Force bombed command post area at 1300 and 1800 hours. No casualties. Battalion rear echelon established in Arlon, Belgium, was bombed and strafed by enemy planes at 1400 hours without casualties. Company "A", in support of the 134th Infantry, destroyed one enemy animal-drawn ammunition cart, one motorcycle, killing 50 enemy soldiers and inflicting other undetermined casualties upon the enemy. Company "B", in support of the 137th Infantry, fired 23 rounds HE into woods at coord 570502, 1:50,000, with unknown results. The command posts of Headquarters and Reconnaissance companies established at Holtz and Bigonville, Luxembourg, were bombed and strafed by the German Air Force at 1300 hours. No casualties were suffered.

January 3, 1945

Command Post remained at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. Enemy was ^{reported} over the command post area during the night on reconnaissance, using captured American cub planes. Company "B", in support of the 137th Infantry, fired 8 rounds HE into woods at coord 570502, 1:50,000, inflicting 20 casualties upon enemy personnel. Two M-10's, Company "B", disabled when they struck enemy mine field at coord 571489, 1:50,000. No casualties. No change in assignment or attachment.

January 4, 1945

S E C R E T

The command post remained at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. No change in assignment or attachment. Company "B", in support of the 137th Infantry, fired 50 rounds of HE and 250 rounds .50 caliber ammunition into enemy strong-point, destroying 6 MG's and killing 20 enemy soldiers. Company "A", and Company "C", in support of the 134th and 320 Infantry regiments, respectively, maintained anti-tank positions without enemy contact.

January 5, 1945

The command post remained at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. No change in assignment or attachment. Three enlisted men granted furloughs to the United States. Gun companies maintained anti-tank positions in support of respective infantry regiments. Company "A" captured 4 prisoners. Company "B" had one M-10 hit by enemy artillery fire, without damage or casualties. Two enlisted men of Company "C" wounded as a result of enemy artillery fire.

January 6, 1945

The command post remained at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. No change in assignment or attachment. Company "A", in support of the 134th Infantry, fired 159 rounds of 3" HE and 5500 rounds .50 caliber ammunition and 3,000 rounds .30 caliber ammunition into enemy troop concentration with unknown results. One enlisted man wounded. Company "C", in support of the 320th Infantry, fired 25 rounds of 3" HE and APC ammunition into enemy strong-points and destroyed one enemy tank.

January 7, 1945

The command post closed in Arsdorf, Luxembourg, and established at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in assignment or attachment. Gun companies maintained anti-tank positions in support of respective infantry regiments. No enemy contact during the period.

January 8, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in assignment or attachment. Company "A", in support of the 134th Infantry, fired 5 rounds of 3" HE and 1,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition into enemy strong-point with unknown results. Company "C" relieved from support of 320th Infantry and placed in reserve. One platoon placed in support of Company "B".

January 9, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in assignment or attachment. Company "A", in support of the 134th Infantry, fired 230 rounds of 3" HE and APC and 2,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition into enemy strong-points and woods in the vicinity of coord 580535, 1:50,000, with unknown results but causing 30 enemy soldiers to surrender to the 134th Infantry. Company "B", in support of the 137th Infantry, fired on enemy MG positions at coord 573515 and into woods at coord 575508, 1:50,000, destroying one enemy MG and crew. Other casualties unknown. One enlisted man wounded in action. Company "C" formed into tank force with 60th Engr Bn and 35 Rcn Troop for commitment as situation may demand.

SECRET

January 10, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in assignment or attachment. One M-10 of Company "A" hit enemy mine, disabling vehicle and wounding one enlisted man. Company "B" fired 57 rounds indirect fire during period. Company "C" remained attached to task force Walton.

January 11, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in assignment or attachment. Gun companies maintained anti-tank positions in support of respective infantry regiments except for Company "C" which remained attached to task force Walton in division reserve.

January 12, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. Battalion relieved on front lines and reverted to division reserve, except for one platoon of Company "A", which remained in support of the 134th Infantry, in Lutrebois, Belgium. Remainder of battalion closed in assembly areas in vicinity of respective command posts. Company "C" relieved from attachment to task force Walton and reverted to battalion control.

January 13, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. Battalion relieved from attachment to 35th Infantry Division and attached to 8th Tank Destroyer Group, but further attached to the 35th Infantry Division Artillery for secondary mission, except for one platoon of Company "A" which remained in support of the 134th Infantry. Company "A" (-one platoon) supported fires of the 161st Field Artillery Battalion; Company "B" 219th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "C" 127th Field Artillery Battalion.

January 14, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in attachment. Battalion (- one platoon of Company "A") in assembly area under battalion control. Gun companies supported 35th Infantry Division Artillery in indirect fire missions. One platoon Company "A" remained in direct support of 134th Infantry.

January 15, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in attachment. Battalion (- one platoon of Company "A") in assembly area performing motor maintenance. One platoon of Company "A" supporting 134th Infantry. Gun companies reinforced fires of 35th Infantry Division Artillery.

January 16, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. No change in attachment. Battalion (- one platoon of Company "A") in assembly areas. Reinforced fires of 35th Infantry Division Artillery.

January 17, 1945

The command post remained at Menufontaine, Belgium. Companies in assembly areas performing motor maintenance and range firing. Reinforced fires of the 35th Infantry Division Artillery during the period. One platoon Company "A" continued to support 134th Infantry in vicinity of Lutrebois, Belgium. Battalion relieved from attachment to 8th Tank Destroyer Group and reverted to reattachment to 35th Infantry Division. Battalion ordered to prepare for secret move.

January 18, 1945

Battalion departed from Menufontaine, Belgium, and established ^{G.P.} in assembly area at Metz, France. Passed from control of III Army Corps and attached to XX Army Corps. Remained assigned to Third U. S. Army. The platoon of Company "A", supporting 134th Infantry was relieved and reverted to battalion control.

January 19-22, 1945

Remained in assembly area in Metz, France, under XX Corps control engaged in rehabilitation, recreation and training.

January 23, 1945

Battalion (- Company "A") departed from Metz, France, for unknown destination, at 231145. Passed from control of Third U. S. Army and XX Corps, and attached to Seventh U. S. Army XV Corps. At end of period enroute to Seventh U. S. Army sector. Company "A" remained under control of XX Corps in Metz, France, engaged in rehabilitation, recreation and training.

January 24, 1945

Command post established at Tieffenbach, France. Attached to Seventh U. S. Army and XV Corps. Companies "B" and "C" placed in direct support of 137th and 320th Infantry Regiments, respectively. Company "A" remained in assembly area in Metz, France, under XX Corps control, awaiting arrival of CT 134 which remains attached to 6th Armored Division, in Ardennes salient.

January 25, 1945

Command post remained at Tieffenbach, France. No change in attachment. Companies entered front lines in support of respective infantry regiments. Company "A" remained in Metz, France, under XX Corps control.

January 26, 1945

Command post remained at Tieffenbach, France. No change in attachment. Gun companies reinforced fires of the 35th Infantry Division Artillery. Company "A" remained in Metz, France, under XX Corps control.

January 27-28, 1945

Command post remained at Tieffenbach, France. No change in attachment. Reinforced fires of 35th Infantry Division Artillery. Company "A" remained in Metz, France, under XX Corps control.

January 29, 1945

S E C R E T

Command post remained at Tieffenbach, France. No change in attachment. Battalion alerted for movement to Ninth U. S. Army sector in Belgium and Holland. Relieved in front lines and gun companies reverted to battalion control. Company "A", in Metz, France, alerted for movement to join battalion in Ninth U. S. Army sector.

January 30, 1945

Battalion relieved from attachment to Seventh U. S. Army and XV Corps and assigned to Ninth U. S. Army and XVI Corps. Departed from Tieffenbach, France at 1400 hours and established command post and overnight bivouac in St. Mihiel, France at 2300 hours, traveling a total distance of 123 miles in zero weather. No casualties in personnel or vehicles. Destroyers shipped by rail from Sarrebourg, France.

January 31, 1945

Battalion (-Company "A" and destroyers plus crews) departed from St. Mihiel, France, beginning at 1400 hours, enroute to Dalhem, Belgium. Company "A" joined wheel column at Verdun, France at which time it passed from control of XX Corps to battalion control. Forward elements of battalion reached Dalhem, Belgium beginning at 2330 hours, but at end of period main elements of battalion were still enroute. No contact with rail serial made since departure from Seventh U. S. Army sector. Distance traveled from St. Mihiel, France to Dalhem, Belgium: 179 miles. One casualty was suffered.

Casualties

Killed in Action :	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Missing in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Wounded in Action:	Officers: 1	Enlisted Men: 6
Injured in Action:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 11
Non-battle Death :	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 1

Awards and Decorations

Silver Star :	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 2
Oak-leaf cluster to Silver Star:	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men: 0
Bronze Star Medal :	Officers: 3	Enlisted Men : 0
Oak-leaf cluster to Bronze Star:	Officers: 2	Enlisted Men : 0
Purple Heart :	Officers: 0	Enlisted Men : 9
Oak-leaf cluster to Purple Heart:	Officers: 1	Enlisted Men : 1

Total number of enemy prisoners captured: None.

For the Commanding Officer:

2 Incls:

- S-2 and Sup Documents.
- S-3 and Sup Documents

James M Woodruff
 JAMES M WOODRUFF,
 WO JG USA,
 Ass't Adjutant.

S E C R E T

18