DECLASSIFIED Authority 735017

UNIT REPORT
(After Action Report)

CLASSIFICATION CHANGES TO:

No.

CA: CEL From: 302400A November 1944

BY AUTHOR! Y OF THE ADJIDITING STATES ADJIDITING December 1944

Detwoodading Committee Unit: 702nd Tank Destroyer Bn Date: 31 December 1944

Place: Gramptinne, Belgium

Maps: Sheets 5003, 5102, 1/25,000; Sheet 13, 1/100,000; Sheet 91; 1/50,000; Sheet 79, 1/50,000.

I: ENEMY: 1 - 10 Dec 44. During this period the enemy's front line remained just west of the ROER RIVER, on the narrow strip that they still held and defended stubbornly while trying to withdraw to the East bank. Artillery along our front was increasingly active and groups of FW 190, up to eight in number, bombed and strated the area intermittenly throughout this period. On the 3rd of December the 363 Engineer Battalion was identified near KOSLAR, GERMANY. On December 5th the identification of the 219th Engineer Bh on our front indicated that the 186th Division like the 246th might be returning to the line.

Fairly neavy traffic was observed during the night hours in the enemies rear areas. PW's reported that at least part of the 6th Pz Army had been moved to the South, out of the reserves that the enemy had held against our bridgehead of the ROER.

10-20 Dec 44. With the elimination of two enemy pockets, HASENFIELD GUT and the SPORTPLATZE, GERMANY the enemy's front was now the East bank of the ROER RIVER from LINNICH, GERMANY to the INDE RIVER, South of JULICH, GERMANY.

The enemy used what time he had building and improving defenses East of the ROER. Barbed wire was emplaced in conjunction with trenches in the most stragetic points and as far as could be determined, weapons (AT guns, tanks) were dug in so as to be more effective against our attack East of the Roer when it was launched.

Artillery was limited to harassing fire on front line troops and small concentrations on our centers of communications. Due to our limited patrols across the ROER ont many prisoners were taken and little could be determined about the enemy's moral but indications pointed to a strong defense of the ROER District by soldiers who either had to hold against our advance or have one of their greatest industrial centers invaded.

When we were removed from the front line and moved back there was no reaction from the enemy and no further movement was reported concerning the elements of the 6 Pz Army still held in reserve East of the ROER.

20-31 Dec 14. Due to the enemys penetration and break through on the First Army front and our units subsequent move to the south to an area in the vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM, the enemy now consisted of an entirely different force. Whereas we had been facing a defensive enemy, we now faced one that had achieved a major penetration and break through of our lines on a large scale.

The enemy troops had been told that finally the time had come to break the Allied threat to Germany and at the beginning the troops evidently believed it. Some of the best of Nazi troops were used as well as several divisions which were not nearly so good as units usually assigned to such a role.

good as units usually assigned to such a role.

The Pz Divisions having made the initial breakthrough, kept moving wind NW in an attempt to capture as much rear area installations as possible before they were stopped or their supply line failed. In conjunction with the major attack the enemy employed many tricks. The most threatning one was their infiltration of troops equipped to pass

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as Americans into our rear areas. Captured material was used including our venicles, clothing, weapons, and even identifications. These special troops had the assignment or capturing small forces, blocking roads, and generally creating disorder in our midst. Venicles, Allied and German, were marked with Allied markings and various Divisional numbers.

One of the major objectives of the enemy was MARCHE, BELGIUM and the high ground and roadnet of that area. The 2nd Pz Division and elements of the 116th Pz Division proke through south of MARCHE and moving further west attempted to move North to encircle MARCHE.

Starting about December 25th the supply lines of the enemy in this area began to show signs of breaking. Gas was the most critical item and as the enemy met our armor at this time, their up to then, perfect advance begin to break and the enemy at once began to show signs of confusion, abandoning vehicles that had no fuel or had minor mechanical difficulties.

In the ensuing conflict the greater part of the 2nd Pz Division was either destroyed or captured. Tanks knocked out were for the greater part Mk VI and Mk V's Small groups of the enemy with as little as one tank or one AT gun were given orders to hold a named point in conjunction with other troops in the area. The men were usually surprised to find that they had been left alone and that no other troops were in their area.

Prisoners taken at this time seemed to believe that their great gamble might have railed, in part at least. They had been told by their propaganda scheme that various other fronts had been pierced in other attacks launched simultaneously with the attack in which they had participated.

The enemy having been stopped turned his main efforts into reorganization of units and the problem of how short supplies. A continuation of the massing of troops back of the forward elements indicates that the enemy may still endeaver to continue the attack to gain important positions and to regain the much needed moral of their troops. The greater part of the 6th Pz Army has now been commutted and now it no longer represents the formidable reserve that it formerly did.

II. OUR OPERATIONS: The Battalion C.P. remained in the vicinity of ALSEORF, GERMANY (K888549) from the 1st of December to the 22nd of December, establishing forward C.P.'s and radio relay stations during periods of activity by the line companies. On the 22nd of December 1944 the Battalion less Companies "A", "B", and "C" moved to the vicinity of ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049) under Division control. Staff Officers were attached to each line company during the Division counterattack against the German drive in vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM (K125918). The Battalion C.P. moved to GETONT, BELGIUM (217948) on the 25th of December. Elements of Reconnaissance Company remaining under Battalion control placed outposts and patrolled throughout the sector as an enemy paratroop defense. On the 28th of December the forward C.P. was moved to COLINYAUX, BELGIUM (K106894) and on the 29th of December to GRAIPTINNE, BELGIUM (K133012) remaining in that location for the remainder of the period.

Company "A" under Battalion control, remained in BABS EILER, GERLANY (K906582) trom the 1st to the 21st of December. One platoon was placed on indirect firing mission near FREIALDENHOVEN, GERLANY (K964539), firing harassing and interdictory fires on JULICH, GERLANY (K034590) and the main road leading East, until projects FPD the 5th of December by Company "B".

Company "A" was placed under control of CC"A" and arcomplished 12 interance and training of replacements, preparing for future operations of the Division until 21st of December 1944. During this period Company "A" fired direct fire on target range and took part in Tank-Infantry-TD demonstration of the 2nd Armored Division. Tactical employment of the Tank Destroyer platoon was stressed throughout period.

On the 22nd of December 1944, Company "A" made a might march to the vicinity of ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049). The 1st Platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon to the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd Platoon to the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Platoon to the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd Platoons) remained under COMA" control. Road blocks

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were placed at important installations and on main supply routes on the night of the 22nd of December 1944.

Company "A", under attachments, moved to vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM (KL25918) to outpost the town and to prepare for an attack south toward BUSSONVILLE, BELGIUM (P190830) on the 24th of December. During the attack in which Company "A" had elements in both Task Forces the tank destroyers were credited with one Mk III; one Mk V; two 150mm guns; two 88mm guns; one SP 75mm gun; eight cargo trucks; one armored car; and a personnel nali track. Approximately thirty-two Germans were killed and two prisoners were taken. The enemy was throughly disorganized during the attack and withdrew.

Company "A" placed road blocks in BUSSONVILLE and West of FORZEE, BELGIUM (P1/0535) on the 25th of December. A Mk IV placed fire on BUSSONVIIIE from woods nearby and was destroyed by the ist Platoon or Company "A". The 3rd Platoon was placed in dug in positions to overwaten the town of HUMAIN, HELGIUM (P231814) during the attack by CCURU. Late on the 27th of December, Company MAR under attachments to the three task forces assisted in the attack toward the high ground north of ROCHEFORT, RELGIUM (P205765) overwatching and guarding the flanks of the tanks. The objective was reached after dark on that date and guns were placed to fire into town and to prevent an enemy counterattack. One enemy nall track and two Mk V's were destroyed and fourteen prisoners taken.

On the 29th of December 1944, Company "A" was withdrawn with CO"A" units to assembly areas in MONT-GAUTHIER (K134820); ABBEY-ST MARTIN (K143831) and FRANDEUX (K175800) and on the 30th of December moved to the Division assembly are NE of CINEY, BELGIUM (125918)

to prepare for future operations.

Company "B" was detailed on outpost duty along Division front line sector from the let to the 10th of December holding two platoons in readiness in area BARNEN - MERZEN-HAUSEN and one Platoon in reserve in FRIEALDENPOVEN, CETMANY (K957600). Company "B" relieved Company "A" on indirect fire mission on the 5th of December 1944, rotating the three platoons on that mission until relieved by Company "C" on the 10th or December, firing under control of Division Artillery. Some maintenance and training of gunners and drivers was accomplished during this period.

Company "B" under Sattalion Control assembled in ALSDORF, GERKANY (K388519) on the 10th of December for maintenance, firing, and reorganization for coming operations. Driving, tracking, and physical training was stressed. Tactical training was accomp-

lished by platoon problems.

On the 19th of December 1944, Company "B" relieved Company "C" along Division front line sector placing one platoon in indirect firing positions at (K954507), remaining in this location until relieved on the 20th and 21st of December and placed under control

of CC"R" for operations to the South by the 2nd Armored Division.

Company "B" moved with CC"R" to the vicinity of ATRIN, PELGIUM (K324049) and placed road blocks to derend the Division area on the 22nd of December, remaining in these positions on alert through the 24th of December. Company "B" under control of CC"R" moved to HOGNE, BELGIUM (K252862) on alert to assist either Combat Command in event of enemy counterattack. On road blocks company "B" destroyed two Mk V's; one enemy tank, type unknown, and one half-track. Approximately thirty Germans were killed.

On the 2/th of December 1944, elements of Company "B" supported CC"R" in the attack

on HURIMAIN, BELGIUM (K232813) by protecting the flanks and securing the nigh ground south of HURMAIN. On the 28th of December Company "B" took part in the attack on ROCHEFORT, BELGIUM (P20,765). During this action Company "B" killed thirty-eight enemy.

Two M-36's were lost during times action.

Company "B" moved to FLOSTON, BELGIUM (K186020) under control of CC"R" on the 29th of December, for maintenance and reorganization, remaining in that assembly area through the 31st of December 1944.



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Company """ remained on BARMEN - MERZENHAUSEN, GERMANY line in the Division sector until the 2nd of December 1944 when relieved by Company "B". Company "C" destroyed two '/bmm AT guns; and captured 11 prisoners. Company "C" reverted to Battalion control and was assembled in ALSDORF, GERMANY for maintenance and training. No contact was made with the enemy during this period. Training for gunners by practice firing and small tactical problems were stressed.

On the 11th of December 1944 Company "C" relieved Company "B" along the ROER RIVER sector, also assuming the indirect fire mission with their reserve platoon near FRICD DENHOVEN, CERMANY. Approximately 180 rounds fired each night on Division Artillery orders. Firing platoon rotated during the period. Driving and gunner's instructions continuea.

Company "C" was relieved on the 19th or December by Company "B" and assembled under

Battalion control in ALSDORF, GERMANY to prepare for future operations.

On the 22nd of December Company "C", under control of CC"B" moved to the vicinity or ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049) to assist in the Divisional operations against the German thrust toward CIMEY, BELGIUM: Company "C" was placed on road blocks to protect CO"E" area and remained in that location through the 23rd of December, moving under CC"B"

control to the vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM (K125918) on the 24th of December 1944.

Company "O" assisted in the drive of CC"B" on the 25th of December on CHLES, and CUSTINIE, BALGIUM by protecting the flanks and securing the objectives against counterattacks. One Mk V was destroyed and 12 enemy balled. On the 2oth or December Company "O" was used in mopping-up operations in the CC"B" sector and placed road blocks on all main avenues and the high ground. Company "C" destroyed three armored personnel carriers and one Mk IV from the 26th to the 28th of December 1944.

On the 29th of December Company "C" was relieved of outpost duty and assembled for reorganization at (KLA0990) in the vicinity of JENALTIN, BELGIUM remaining in this location for remainder of period.

Reconnaissance Company remained under Battalion control throughout the period accomplishing maintenance and training. Necessity for drawing replacements for the TD Companies left the company very short in personnel. Reconnaissance operations were confined to assistance to the line companies in location of OP's and gun positions. On the 23rd of December 1944 one platoon was attached to each of the three line companies to assist as security. Remainder of Reconnaissance Company was used as internal. security and placed at disposal of Division for paratroop patrols throughout sector.

## III. TOTAL EMENY MATERIAL DESTROYED:

a. 🖰	y Date and Compar	î.			
Date 1 Ded	⊼uVn. Qo		"B" Co.	2 11	"C" Co  75mm AT Gun  Enemy Captured
24 Dec 1 1 2 1 2 1 8 32 32 25 Dec 2	Mk III Mk V 88mm AT Guns SP 75mm Gun 150mm Arty Pcs Armd Car Pers Carrier Trucks (Misc) Enemy Killed Enemy Captured Mk V	2 1 1 30	Lik V Tank (type unknown) Half Track Enemy Killed	1 12	l≟k V



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		A.		( )	
Date		Co "A"	Co "B"	prilato	Co acu
26 Dec 27 Ded	1	Wk IV	•	Ţ	Pers Carrier Mk IV
28 Dec	Τ	Hali Track	38 Enemy Killed	2	Pers Carriers

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b. Total by Types

6	XK A	2	150mm Arty Pieces
2	Mk IV	ı	Armored Car
1	Mk III	3	Personnel Carriers
1	Enemy Tank, type Unknown	8	Trucks (Misc)
2	85mm AT Guns	3	Hali Tracks
2	75mm AT Guns	14	Enemy Captured
1	75mm SP Guns	112	Enemy Killed

## IV. ADMINISTRATIVE:

a. T/O Strength : 34 Officers, 2 WO, 607 Enlisted Men Effective Strength: 30 Officers, 1 WO, 523 Enlisted Men

b. Casualties

		Hg	Meu	1lui	н Ди	n.Bn	nCn	Total
	Killed Sick, gassed &	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	U & U	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0
(3)	wounded Evacuated Non Evacuated Captured	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 4 0 & 0 0 & 0	0 & 8	1 & 0	0 & 17 0 & 0 0 & 0	0 & 46 1 & 0 0 & 0
(4)	Missing	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 0	0 & 5	0 & 0	0 & 5

- c. Prisoners captured: 14d. Evacuation: Normale. Does Not Apply

- f. Status of Supply: 150 operational mules of gasoline and oil carried by Bn at all times. 1-1/3 units or fire carried by Bn at all times.
- g. Conditions of roads and circulation: Movements made by this unit operating with the 2nd Arma Div normally carried out on primary and secondary road net. Some cross country movements made during present operations.

  n. Replacements Received: 2 Officers, 47 Enlisted Men.

JOHN A. BEALL, Lt Col., Int., Commanding.

