AFTER ACTION RELOAT

No From: C10001 Dec 1944 To : 312400 Dec 1944

: ::: <u>5 2 0 R E T</u> : Auth: CO, 771 TD Bn. : Initials: : Date: 2 Jan 1945

(L)

Unit: 771 TD En 2 Jan 1945 Date:

Place: K91346022

4041, Sheets 488, 59N, Scale 1/25000 4414, Sheets 4902, 4903, 5002, 5003, Scale 1/25000 MAPS: GS35 GSGS

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No units positively identified by our troops, since they have not been in actual contact.

G-2, 102d US Infantry Division, reported following enemy units, or elements thereof, in the sector in which our troops operated.
(1) 59th Infanterie Division

183d Infanterie Division (Volksgrenadier) 340th Infanterie Division (Volksgrenadier) 363d Infanterie Division (Volksgrenadier) (2) (3) (4) 363d

(5) (6) GAF Regiment GAF Abteilung **22d**

Enemy activity during the period consisted of a Static defense, punctuated by small thrusts by patrols which failed to make contact with our elements, and increased aerial activity of a reconnaissance and harassing anture. Forward platoons were subjected to harassing fire throughout the period, while rear installations at PALENBERG (K3506CC)

reported bombs and heavy artillery falling in their vicinity.

d. Roads shown on maps Series GSGS 4414 - GERMANY - which do not appear on the ground have been found to exist under a cover of

6-18 inches of topsoil and have a bed of rock and/or brick.

2. OWN SITUATION

b.

C.

See overlay and par. d. below.
See overlay and par. d. below.
See overlay and par. d. below.
At beginning of period the Battalion was disposed as follow.
Co. C moved six (6) M-10's from vic. PUFFENDORF to N & W of d. WELZ at 964636 in direct support of the 405th Inf., with CP at 952619. 3d Plat. remained in indirect fire position at 901626.

Co. B was in direct support of 407th Inf. with one platcon in vic. of WEIZ, and two platoons at 953611 and 958630 resp; CP at 928611. One plat. remained on one (1) hour alert to move on call of co 406th.

At 010800 Dec. Co. A in direct support of 405th Inf. moved from position in vic. GEREONSWEILER (944639, 939638, 932643) with seven (7) M-10 destroyers, to support an attack whose objective was to take the high ground to the N & E of GEREONSWEILER in the GEREONSWEILER-LIN-DERN-LINNICH area. One M-10 was left at 940640 to hold. 3 of the 7 M-10's under Plat. Leader, 1st Lt. Duckwitz assisted Inf. in assault and taking of pillboxes and troopshelters. 3 m-10's under command of 1st Lt. Flamagan protected the left flank and the LINDERN-LINNICH road. Late in the afternoon, the Inf. began assault and Lt. Duckwitz assisted by direct fire on pillboxes, troopshelters, troop communication trenches and destroyed one (1) AT Gun. The direct fire from the M-10's forced embrasures of pillboxes to close up while Inf. moved in to take the boxes. After the assault the M-10's returned to prepare positions in and around GEREONSWEILER. No vehicles or personal casualties.

As of 021200 Dec the following change took place in troop

locations: Co. B placed two plat. in indirect fire position at 94706170 and 94806220. These positions were held until 030730 Dec., at which time they were relieved by 1st Plat. A Co. who took up position at MAK 1 4 1345 2/2 94706170.

Section 1

Co. C moved one (1) Plat. to LIMNICH; had one (1) plat. in GERECHSWEILER and one (1) plat. in indirect fire position in vic. LOYERICH, which was replaced at 030730 Dec. by one plat. A Co.

Co. B took over support in the northern position of 102d Div

on C3C73C Dec. Placed platoons in the following positions:

1st. 94136356 2nd. 93846378 3rd. 93466410

One the same day one (1) plat. C Co. moved to GEMECHSWEILER.

to join others in that area.

Oo. A took up indirect fire position in LOVERICH, sent one (1) plat. to mear area for maintenance and rest, and one platoon moved vic. EDEREN 952619.

On 4 Dac. all Co's continued to occupy above positions except

for and plat. Co. C which moved to LIMNICH.

As of C40930 Dec. the Bn. received Letter of Inst. #18 which ordered 771st TD to reconnoiter for possible fords and sites on the west bank of Roer river, in preparation for river crossing by Div., also received Letter of Inst. #19 which contained a request by Div. CG for CO's recommendations for any additional equipment desired for operation of crossing the Roer and establishing bridge head. It was recommended that a dozer (either Bull or Tank) be added to each Gun Co.

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As of meeting on 041300 Dec. CO's Co. A-B-C were assigned sectors for Ron. for gun positions in support of crossing Roer River. A Co. received South Soundary Div. Sector to FLOSSDORF incl. Co. B North Edge FLOSSDORF to ROERDORF incl. Co. C Morth Edge ROERDORF to LINNICH incl.

Co. C 814th (Co. to be attached to 771st in support of River crossing) was to Reconnciter area Morth of LIMMICH to Morth edge of Diverector.

From 4 Dec. to 7 Dec. all Co's remained in position, the only change being movement of 3rd Plat. Co. C to LINNICH.

Ron. Co. on order made reconnaissance of west bank of Roer

River for ford sites and bridges. See overlay #3.

On C71200 Dec. two (2) M-10's from Co. B located at 967630 took a Church Steeple CP in TETZ (006639) under fire. Expended 10 rds. HE and 10 rds. APC. No hits observed, but all rounds fell in built up area of TETZ. Co. B was ordered to fire at any targets of their own choosing at every opportunity possible.

choosing at every opportunity possible.

During period 071300 - 081610 Dec. 1944, Co. B fired another 40 rds of HE & APC. on Church Steeple OP in TETZ from approximate distance of 4500 yds. Observer was in OP in ROERDORF. Both Church Steeple and Church were consistently hit, but damage could not be ascertained.

AT 082300 Dec. order was given to alert one (1) plat. Co. B to support 1st Bn. 406th who was relieving a Bn. of 84th Inf. Div. on the high ground to the N & W of LIMNICH. Contact was made with CO 406th and arrangements made for plat. to go into position in early morning of 9 Dec. and relieve plat. of 638th TD Unit in that Sector.

On O81600 Dec. Co. A fired five (5) rds. shell illuminating 3" Mk 24, Mod 1 Navy with fuze TSQ M54 & MODS experimently.

following conclusions were drawn by airobserver:

(1) Shell not adaptable for marking targets for air strike.

(2) Using air burst would be of no material assistance in re-

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gistering.

(3) Further daylight experiments should be made to determine whether flare would explode on impact and to determine incendiary value.

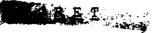
Observers at Guns state that it is excellent for night firing, makes target area easy to observe, shell had lighting effect up to 28

makes target area easy to observe, shell had lighting effect up to 20 seconds.

Up thru 100900 there were no changes in positions in any of the

Companies. The above relief of one (1) plat. 638th TD, which was to be effected was postponed until the morning of 11 Dec. 1944.

ECRET



han evolved on 11 Dec. and approved by Higher Hedquarters that while unit was in active preparation for future offensive, the following would take place:

A Co. was to move two (2) Platoons to LIMMICH and relieve Co. C and one (1) plat. to remain in vic. EDEREM in indirect fire position. 2 Platoons of Co. C were to return to rear areas for refitting; one (1) plat. was to remain in vic. GEREONSWEILER. B Co. CP and all platoons to take up positions in vic. EDEREM. Movement to take place between 0500-0700 12 Dec. 1944.

At 102000 Dec. 1944 Co. A fired five (5) Shell illuminating Ik24 for experimental purposes. Fired at one (1) minute intervals at heights ranging from 1100 ft. to 500 ft. Fired at two (2) known enemy Btry positions - one (1) in North and one (1) in South of GEVERICH; the remaining three (3) shells fired throughout the town of GEVENICH. The infantry was exceedingly well-placed with the result of firing became of the lighting effect on terrain.

Between hours of 0500-0700 on 12 Dec. the Battalion rotation plan went into effect. Co. C moved from LIMNICH, placed one (1) plate at 938657 to support 1st Bn 406th in MW Section of Div. Sector and sent two (2) plate to rear area for refitting.

Co. A moved two (2) Plate from EDEREN to LIMNICH and occupied

following positions: 96906558 and 96546546, assuming responsibility for center and eastern section of Div. Sector. 3rd Plat. went to Rear area for refitting.

Co. B moved all platoons from GEREONSWEILER to vic. EDEREN, 1st at 94476148, 2nd plat. at 94506160, 3rd plat. at 94646160. Sent

two (2) M-10's to the rear areas for maintenance.

No change in any position through 14 Dec. 1944. It was decided on 14 Dec. with approval from Higher command that battalion would adept a rotation plan allowing each Co. to send one (1) plat. to the rear for maintenance, and rest. Co. C was to return two (2) plats. to vic. GEREONSWEILER and send one (1) to rear areas.

No change thru 160600 Dec. 16 at 0600 Cavalry Gp. experienced small scale attack. A & C Co. were alerted. Co. B fired platoon volleys at six (6) minute intervals at following targets: 97586772, 97616788, 97406748, at 1800 all Companies were ordered to stand by prepared to deal with counterattack. Arrangements made to return all platoons from the rear areas on one (1) hr. notice. Co. B to consolidate plans with 405th Inf. who were to make the main stand against counterattack. Plan A - Co. B was to assemble vic. GERECNSWEILER and await orders from CO 405th, to occupy position to the N & E of GEREONSWEILER. Under Plan B - Co. B was to assemble vic. WELZ and await orders to occupy positions to the N & NW of LIMNICH. However as of 2400 there was no action on either side. No action or change in plans through 18 Dec. At 1200 CO Co. B requested the move of one (1) plat. to vic. 955629.

On 19 Dec. Plan made for defense of Div. Sector. All other plans and activities were held in abbeyance of German offensive, against 1st

Army.

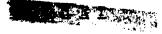
Plan of Employment of Tank Destroyers was as follows: All platoons in the line - Co. C to the N & NE of GEREONSWEILER, one (1) plat. to cover BEECK-LINDERN, one (1) plat. to cover LINDERH-BRACHELEN, one to cover East.

Co. B - one (1) plat. APWEILER to East, one (1) plat. GEREONSWEILER to West, one (1) plat. GEREONSWEILER to East N of EDEREN road.

Co. A - 1 Plat. to cover GEREONSWEILER-LINNICH road, one (1) plat. North edge LINNICH, one (1) plat. to cover NW road from LINNICH, Rcn. Co. to maintain attachment of one (1) Rcn. plat. to each Gun Co.

Per Div. order as of 191630 Dec. Division was on the defense and all positions were to be dug in; on primary line, on the RRL (PRUMMERUM-GEREONSWEILER), on second line of defense (FREIALDENHOVEN-PUFFENDORF-IMMENDORF-GEILENKIRCHEN).





On 20 Dec. 102d Inf Div. assumed responsibility for 84th Div. Sector, there changing former planned positions. All Companies reconnoitered and occupied new areas as follows: See overlay # 5 & $\underline{6}$.

Co. C CP 92686276 (AFWEILEM) C1 966654

C2 915634C3 937653

Co. B CP 95926188 (EDEREN)

B1 934674 B2 934675 B3 936655

Co. A CP 39806265 (INMEMDORF)

A1 909670 A2 91406660 A3 91206480

Co. Co received area to reconnoiter and prepare gun positions to be moved into on Corps call on one (1) hour alert. Line to be occupied by Co. Of an Corps mission

(1) SIRPENBUSCH#TEVEREN-FRELEMBURG.

(2) GROTENRATH-SCHERPENSEEL-MARIENBERG.
(3) MIEVENHOFF#SCHERPENSEEL-MARIENBERG.

See overlay #7. Each Co. was placed in direct support of an infantry remiment.

Co. C406th Inf. Co. B407th Inf. Co. A405th Inf.

One Ron. platoon still attached to each Gun company.

On 23 Dec. Co. C was placed in direct support of 11th Cavalry Group,

due to shifting of responsibility in Div. Sector.

During the period 25 Dec. to 31 Dec. all Co's continued to improve their positions in defense lines. 3rd and 4th defense lines have also been assigned. Reconnaissance has been made and tentative positions chosen.

During the entire period the Eattalian fired indirectly: 2851 missions expending 5807 HE Ch. N.

and 2327 REHE Red. Ch.
17 missions expending 41 rds. Shell ill.
2 missions expending 15 rds. Smoke

Fired directly

4 Missions expending 135 rds. HE N Ch. and 103 rds. APC

During the period the Pioneer plat. Ron. Co. assisted the Gun Co's in preparation of all positions; swept, reconnoitered gun positions for mines and cleared other obstacles.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE

Status of strength of Command and replacements needed:(1) Officers and Warrant Officers

·	<u>Authorized</u>	Assigned	<u>Shortage</u>
*Headquarters Co.	15	15	
Reconnaissance Co.	7	6	l (Officer)
A Co.	6	6	0
B Co.	6	6	0
C Co₊	6	6	0
Med. Det.	1	1	•
#Wodayontons Co 1s or			-1

*Hedquarters Co. is over one commissoned Officer and short one Warrant Officer.

(2) Enlisted Men

(-, -11-500	10 11			
	<u>Authori</u> zed	Assigned	Shortage	
Headquarters Co.	105	105		
Reconnaissance Co.	115	112	3	a I
A Co.	124	112	12	31
B Co.	124	110	14	
C Co. Med. Det.	124	110	14	
Med. Det.	15	15	Ö	
• •				

Casualties

(1) Officers and warrant Officers

		318K, u	asseo, aounae	2	
	Killed	<u> Tvac.</u>	Non-Ivae.	Ja stuncii	Licsing
Headquarters Co	. 0	C	C	C	C
Reconnaicsance	30 . O	l	2	С	С
A Co.	0	0	C	C	C
P Jo.	0	0	0	С	C
C 30.	C	O	A	C	C
·Iled . Det .	С	C.	C	O	C

(2) Enlisted Men

		Sick,	lassed, wounded		
<u>K1</u>	<u> 11ed</u>	Evac.	Mon-Evac.	<u>Jøtur∈č</u>	lissim
Headquarters Co.	0	2	15	C	C
Reconnaissance Co.	O	11	39	С	C
A Co.	C	15	22	С	С
E Co.	1	9	33	0	С
♂ ೨०•	C	1C	36	С	O
Mad. Det.	С	1	3	С	C

Prisoners captured: None

d. Evacuation of Casualties has been approximately divided as follows: Fifty rement through attalion Acdical Detachment and Fifty percent through Division Redical installastions.

(1)The following Officers have been assigned to the organization during the period 1-31 December 1944:

Headquarters Co.

Capt. Kenneth H. Van Tassel, Liaison Officer 2nd Lt. Charles T. Hedrick, Flat. Commander A Co.

3 Co. 2nd Lt. Frank A. Lindstadt, Company headquarters

C Co. 2nd Lt. John P. Futler, Company headquarters 2nd Lt. John A. Fertucci, Plat. Commander

Reconnaissance Jo. 2nd Lt. Thomas W. Cullen, Plat. Jommander

(2) The following Officer was lost to the organization during the period 1-31 December 1944.

Reconnaissance Co. 2nd Lt. Milton E. Meeples, Flat. Commander.

Decorations awarded during month of December 1944:

(1) Purple Heart

Officers

Enlisted len 3

(2)Fronze Star

Officers

Enlisted Fen 1

(3)Silver Star

Officers

Enlisted Men 3

Status of Supply:
The status of supply over-all has been good with the following exceptions which are critical.

1. Quartermaster:

Boots, combat service of EE widths. (a)

(b) Combat clothing

Overshoes sizes 12 and 13. (c)

- Mantles and generators for converted type, gaso-(d) line lanterns.
 - Stoves, cooking, 1-burner.
- (f) Heater, water, immersion type.

Ord nance: 2.

- (a) Binoculars, M-3.
- Circle, Aiming, N-1. (b)
- (c) M-36, Tank Destroyers
- 11-32, Tank Recovery Vehicles (d)
- M-20, Car, Armored Utility. (e)
- Trailer, Ammunition, I'-10.

Tires and tubes, 900 x 20.

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Due to chance of new T/O & E the destroyers, armored care, recovery vehicles and ammunition trailers are very slow in being released.

4. GENERAL

a. During this period the Battalion has had continuously a number of primary weapons, M-10 destroyers, unserviceable. This condition is not due to a lack of company and battalion maintenance, but is due to the poor condition of the destroyers received as replacements for battle losses.

b. During the period the battalion averaged 40 enlisted men under-strength due to lack of replacements. This has a direct bearing upon combat efficiency.

c. Lorale has remained excellent in spite of the remarally static situation, but it is believed that morale could be further improved by a larger allocation to rest center area.

Varie .

DAVID DEG SMITH, Lt. Col., FA. Commanding.