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OPERATIONS 776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
January 1 to January, 31 1945.

776

January 1 - "A" Company - 2 guns of Second Platoon at 609581 withdrew at 0100 hours on order of 71st Infantry CO to 601546. "B" Company - 1st Platoon captured 3 PWs when enemy attempted crossing of river in vicinity of Habkirchen. Second Platoon in artillery position fired 50 rounds HE harassing fire at targets designated by 220 Field Artillery Battalion until 0800 hours. "C" Company - Second Platoon from position at 510572 fired 7 rounds HE at enemy truck (506582) destroying it. Reconnaissance Company maintaining OP's along Division front.

January 2 - "A" Company - 1st Platoon was forced to withdraw from position at Moronville Farm 635552 at 0115. Enemy infantry attacked on 3 sides and Platoon fired 48 rounds HE at close range inflicting heavy casualties. During action of January 1, Second Platoon captured 2 PWs and destroyed 3 MG nests at 606580. "C" Company - 1st and 2nd Platoons supporting "A" Company in 71st Infantry Sector.

944-632

January 3 - "A" Company - 1st and 2nd Platoons at 608545. Second Platoon at 604545. Due to mechanical difficulty only 3 M-50's were available and for more efficient operation the 2nd Platoon was absorbed into the 1st and 2nd Platoons to form two-four gun Platoons. "B" Company - 1st Platoon moved into vicinity of Weisviller (510926) in reserve. Third Platoon 1 gun from a position at 509565 fired 26 rounds HE and 4 APC at enemy infantry digging in vicinity of railroad overpass at 591861. "C" Company - 1st Platoon returned from position at 608586 to Weisviller at darkness. Moved from Weisviller to Weisviller <sup>016</sup>

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO UNCLASSIFIED BY *[Signature]* ON *[Date]* FROM WEISVILLER TO 608581 AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 HOURS. **CANCELLED** 608586 AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 HOURS, COVERED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*[Signature]*  
DECLASSIFYING COMMITTEE

9853

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attack of Second Battalion 114th Infantry and moved forward with attack to position at 616536. One destroyer fired one round APB at a tank at approximately 614543 during afternoon, our tanks also fired at the tank. Tank reported knocked out. Reconnaissance Company maintaining CP's at 603531 and 588536. Contact and liaison is established with 100th Division at Etting (584480).

January 4 - "A" Company supporting 71st Infantry - 9 guns consolidated into two platoons. Platoons are at 587526. "B" Company 2nd and 3rd Platoons supporting 324th Infantry. 1st Platoon is in support of 255th Infantry at Etting, France (584482).

January 5 - "A" Company 1st platoon moved from Wiesviller to positions in vicinity 601530 and then to 604527. Second platoon moved from road block at 606505 to vicinity of 617515 in support of Infantry and tanks, units making attack on Gros Rederching. "B" Company 1st Platoon in road block position at Achen. "C" Company 1st platoon one gun maintained night road block at 606550 during hours of darkness in support of 2nd Battalion 114th Infantry.

January 6 - "A" Company 2nd and 3rd Platoons from position at 619507 fired 216 rounds HE at areas in vicinity of Moreville Farm (6365) and 624547). "B" Company 1st Platoon moved from road block position to 5756. "C" Company 1st Platoon moved from Weelfling to position in Gros Rederching at 0800 hours. Platoon took up position with one gun at 620525 and 2 guns at 622521. On request from Infantry guns moved on forward slope at 611541 and fired 8 rounds HE at Bellevue Farm. Results observed were smoke from buildings. Headquarters Company maintaining two man guard on bridge at 489465. Guard will be maintained indefinitely.

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January 7 - "A" Company 2nd and 3rd Platoons from position in vicinity of 620808 fired at targets of opportunity when visibility improved during morning and throughout period. Targets were enemy personnel and vehicles W of Morenville Farm, Morenville Farm, Bellevue Farm, Brandelfingerhoff Farm. These targets were fired upon at different times when activity was noted. Ammunition expended on all targets as of 1800 hours 840 rounds HE. "B" Company 1st Platoon in assembly position at 567554 and preparing to support 1st Battalion 324th Infantry. "C" Company 1st Platoon 2 guns at 621526 covering draw to NE and N and road running to NW. "C" Company CP at Wiesviller 583537. Reconnaissance Company maintaining OPs at 626508, 653226. Contact is established with 397th Infantry Regiment and 100th Division.

January 8 - 1st Platoon "A" Company attached to 100th Division, 2 guns moved to 657554, 2 guns in position at 653554. The two guns at 653524 knocked out one enemy half-track at 651536 at 1230 hours. Casualties inflicted on enemy personnel estimated to be 20 killed. Company CP at Singling, France, 625498. "B" Company alerted to move 1st and 2nd Platoons at 1530 hours to 100th Division Sector.

January 9 - "A" Company - one gun of 1st Platoon in vicinity of Rimling knocked out a Mark VI tank and one probable in the vicinity of 647554 at 1100 hours. One gun bogged down at 664550 en way to Rimling, will be retrieved tonight. "B" Company - 1st and 2nd Platoons supporting 397th Infantry in 100th Division Sector. "C" Company - 1st Platoon no change in position. Platoon fired 14 rounds HE and 9 rounds APC at enemy personnel half-track. No further movement observed after firing.

January 10 - "A" Company 1st Platoon two guns in vicinity of Guising

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(654525) relieved by 2 guns of 3rd Platoon "B" Company 2 guns of 1st Platoon "A" Company in vicinity of Rimling were abandoned and destroyed by their crews when attempts made to retrieve them failed. One gun was bogged down in a creek at 664550 and the other encountered mechanical difficulty at Rimling. When friendly Infantry withdrew from the town, both TD's had to be abandoned. Second Platoon 2 guns in position at 584554. Third Platoon attached to "C" Company in position at 618509. One gun of this Platoon to relieve one gun of 3rd Platoon "B" Company at 571581 at dark. (Note: 2 Mark V's were knocked out by one gun of 1st Platoon "A" Company instead of 1 Mark VI and one probable as reported 9 January 1945). "B" Company supporting 397th Infantry in 100th Division sector--1st Platoon in position vicinity of Guising fired at enemy tanks and SP guns in general area of 643547. Second Platoon in position in vicinity of Bettviller fired at a Mark V Tank 645557 at a range of 3000 yards. After several direct hits the enemy tank was destroyed.

January 11 - "A" Company continues improvement of defensive position in 824th Infantry sector. "B" Company attached to 398th Infantry 110th Division is improving defensive position in vicinity of Guising and Bettviller. Reconnaissance Company OP at 655526 adjusted artillery fire on enemy infantry at 645525 with good effect. Company "B" 614th TD Battalion relieved from attachment to this Battalion and Company "A" 824th TD Battalion attached. Company "A" will occupy same defensive position in 253 Infantry sector.

January 12 - "B" Company attached 398th Infantry 100th Division improving defensive position. Two guns of 3rd Platoon moved into defensive position at 655524. "C" Company one gun of 1st Platoon moved from position at 655524 to 655521.

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January 13 - Reconnaissance Company maintaining OP's at 625508, 583572, 653527. First and 3rd Platoons providing security for "B" and "C" Company.

January 14 - "A" Company 3rd Platoon 2 guns moved to reserve position at 568559. "B" Company (attached to 398th Infantry 100th Division). One gun of 1st Platoon to be used for harassing fire on Rinsing from a position at 688519. "C" Company 1st Platoon moved 2 guns to 613503 from 620524 and remain there at night. During daylight hours one gun moved to 626508. One gun moved from 622521 to 623518 for more suitable field of fire on Brandol-fingerhoff Farm and road running to the East and woods to the North of the road.

January 15 - "B" Company attached to 398th Infantry 100th Division. One gun from position at 688519 fired 28 rounds HE harassing fire into Rinsing at a range of 2400 yards. One gun of 1st Platoon fired 15 rounds HE on a target identified by Infantry as an enemy SP gun at 646547, several hits were observed and the Infantry OP reported destroyed.

January 16 - "A" Company - one gun of 2nd Platoon fired harassing fires into Habkirchen from a position at 577565 during the afternoon. "B" Company (attached 398th Infantry, 100th Division). "C" Company improving defensive positions along the 114th Infantry sector. One GMC 2<sup>1</sup> ton truck of Headquarters Company was demolished by friendly mine at 605549 at 2000 hours. Note Two guns of Company "A" and one gun of Company "B" will remain in the rear position for the purpose of training personnel of the 824th ID Battalion in the operation and maintenance.

January 17 - No Change.

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January 18 - "A" Company one gun moved to 577565 and fired 5 rounds HE harassing fire at Habkirchen. "B" Company (attached to 398th Infantry 100th Division). "C" Company one gun of 1st Platoon at 1550 hours 18 January fired 6 rounds HE at enemy personnel observed around Brandelfingerhoff Farm from a position at 626508. Results of fire could not be observed.

January 19 - "A" Company - one gun moved to position vicinity 577565 at 2500 hours 18 January and fired 4 rounds HE harassing fire into Habkirchen. "B" Company reverts to Battalion control night of 19 January. "C" Company one gun of 1st Platoon in position at 623508 fired 15 rounds into Brandelfingerhoff and Meronville Farms results unobserved due to poor visibility. Same gun fired 6 rounds HE at enemy command car vicinity 621556 direct hits were observed and vehicle burned.

January 20 - "A" Company (General support). "B" Company (direct support 71st Infantry). One gun of 2nd Platoon at 673535 fired into SW edge of Rimling at 1145 hours, 20 January. A flash from an enemy gun was observed in that vicinity. Twelve rounds were observed striking into the target area and the enemy gun ceased fire. "C" Company (direct support 114th Infantry. Battalion CP moved to Kalhausen 576470 closing at 1030 hours. Rear Echelon moved to 555485 closing at 1100 hours.

January 21 - "A" Company direct support of 255th Infantry - 2nd Platoon relieved "C" Company platoon in vicinity of Woelfling at 1730 hours. "B" Company direct support of 71st Infantry. "C" Company direct support 114th Infantry

January 22 - "A" Company at 1500 hours one gun of 1st platoon moved to 577565 and fired at small concrete building reported being used as an enemy MG nest at 560601. Five rounds were fired and one direct hit scored.

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"B" Company from 1400 to 1500 hours one gun of 3rd platoon from a position at 688510 fired 38 rounds HE harassing fire at woods NE of Rimling.

January 25 - "B" Company - 2 guns of 3rd platoon at 1345 hours in position vicinity 688504 fired 27 rounds HE indirect, harassing fire into Guderkirch, France.

January 24 - "A" Company - one gun moved to 577565 at 2000 hours 23 January and fired 15 rounds HE harassing fire into Habkirchen, France.

January 25 - "B" Company - 1st Platoon moved to vicinity Rehrbach (688495). Third Platoon took over 1st Platoon gun position vicinity of Guising, France.

January 26 - "B" Company between 1500 - 1615 hours 26 January one gun from a position at 688508 fired harassing mission on area around Guderkirch.

January 27 - "A" Company at 2100 hours one gun moved to 577565 and fired 10 rounds HE harassing fire into Habkirchen. "C" Company - at 1430 hours one gun of 1st Platoon at 688508 fired 12 rounds HE at enemy truck (627558). Direct hits were observed and truck destroyed.

January 28 - No change.

January 29 - "A", "B" and "C" Company improving defensive positions and maintenance of vehicles. Reconnaissance Company - one platoon attached to each Company, providing security for TDs and maintaining OP's along Division front. Pioneer Platoon guarding bridge in Division Rear area. Company "A" 824th TD Bn relieved from attachment to 776th TD Bn at 1530 hours 29 January by verbal order 44th Division.

January 30 - Companies continue to improve defensive positions and maintenance of vehicles. Two guns of 3rd Platoon "C" Company moved at 1900

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hours to position vacated by 2 towed 3" guns of Company "A" 824th TD Battalion at 620625.

January 31 - "C" Company - Upon receiving report from friendly Infantry of enemy armored vehicle seen in woods North of Meronville Farm (633558), one gun of 1st Platoon at 1150 hours in position at 625508 fired 6 rounds HE harassing fire into woods. Results of fire could not be determined due to poor visibility.

*D. E. MOOREHEAD*  
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Commanding