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HEADQUARTERS  
ENGINEER BATTALION  
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

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INITIALS *Held*  
DATE *7 Jan 1945*  
S K 4 B 1 2

31 December 1944

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

To: Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

Forwarded herewith, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, for this command, covering the period 1 - 31 December 1944.

*Charles H. Godwin*  
CHARLES H. GODWIN  
LT. COL., INF.,  
Commanding

*De*  
*44*

- 5 Inlets - 1 Appendix No. 1 to Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Report.
- 2 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 Journals
- 3 3-1 and 4-3 Journals
- 4 Part I, 3-2 Journal
- 5 Part II, 3-2 Journal

**Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report  
Headquarters, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion**

**SECRET**  
AUTHORITY: XII Corps  
INITIALS: *[Handwritten]*  
DATE: *1 Jan 1945*  
**SECRET**

Period: 1 - 31 December 1944

1. Original Units: 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
3. Strength:
  - A. 1 December 1944, 36 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 375 Enlisted Men.
  - B. 31 December 1944, 36 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 309 Enlisted Men.
  - C. Net Change: Decrease of <sup>66</sup>66 Enlisted Men.
4. Station. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
5. Marches. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
6. Significant Operations occurring period 1st - 31st December 1944.
7. Discipline. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).

**8. Outstanding Killings:**

- A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. G. W. Gault, Inf.
- Headquarters Company - Captain R. B. Maguire, Inf.
- Reconnaissance Company - Captain W. A. Hunter, Cav.
- Company "A" - Captain G. R. Brinkman, FA.
- Company "B" - Captain G. H. Brinkman, Cav.
- Company "C" - Lt. Col. H. J. Brinkman, FA.

**9. Men in action. (Doubt Casualties).**

<b>A. Officers:</b>			
Charles F. Lattman, O-288113, 1st Lt., Inf.	SEA	3 December 1944	
	SEA	5 December 1944	
<b>B. Enlisted Men:</b>			
Wilbur W. Stolp, Jr., 3120224, Sergeant, FA.	SEA	1 December 1944	
Stanley A. Hines, 3120224, PFC, FA.	SEA	1 December 1944	
Stanley H. Ward, 3977000, Sgt., FA.	SEA	1 December 1944	
Clarence H. Fubini, 3120224, Sgt., FA.	SEA	4 December 1944	
Edward A. Dahlberg, 3120224, 1st Sgt., FA.	SEA	4 December 1944	
Russell E. Tronger, 3720000, PFC, FA.	SEA	4 December 1944	
Perry A. McEwen, 3977000, Sgt., FA.	SEA	26 Nov. 44 to 5 December 1944	
Robert W. Palmer, 3120224, Sgt., FA.	SEA	26 Nov. 44 to 5 December 1944	
Wain D. Darts, 3120224, Pvt., FA.	SEA	25 Nov. 44 to 5 December 1944	
Earvin C. Anderson, 3120224, Pfc., FA.	SEA	25 Nov. 44 to 5 December 1944	
Joseph (MIA) Albre, 3120224, Pfc., FA.	SEA	25 Nov. 44 to 5 December 1944	
Frank A. Carabini, 3120224, Pfc., FA.	SEA	24 December 1944	
Andre A. Alon, 3120224, Pvt., FA.	SEA	16 December 1944	
Ralph R. Baldwin, 3720000, PFC, FA.	SEA	17 December 1944	
Gerald B. Christensen, 3120224, Sgt., FA.	SEA	23 December 1944	
Charles H. Nash, 3720000, Pfc., FA.	SEA	23 December 1944	

10. Awarded Air Medal - Captain Jack H. Krainaga, O-117000, FA., para. Sec. IV, CO 7th, 1st XII Corps, 6 December 1944.

11. Outstanding Men.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
CLARENCE W. BRIDGES  
1st Lt., 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report  
 HEADQUARTERS, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion  
 December 1944

010001 December 1944  
 Zweifall, Germany

- 1 December 1944 Battalion is attached to the 4th Infantry Division. Three line companies further attached to Infantry Regiment within the Division as follows: "A" Company less 1st platoon attached to 8th Infantry Regiment; "B" Company attached to 12th Infantry Regiment; "C" Company attached to 22nd Infantry Regiment. Balance of Battalion held initially in reserve. The 1st platoon of "A" Company firing indirect through 20th Field Artillery FDC fired 630 rounds HE indirect (harassing). Balance of "A" Company remained in anti-tank positions during the period. The platoons of "B" Company remained in an assembly area until reconnaissance could be completed for new positions, which were occupied at dusk, in preparation for tomorrow's attack. "C" Company remained in position during the period. B-4 has been having considerable trouble getting supplies to "C" Company, because of heavy concentrations of enemy fire. Quite often the destroyers have to pull out of position several hundred yards to the rear to refuel and reload.
- 2 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. The 1st platoon of "A" Company, during the period, fired 720 rounds of HE indirect (harassing) fire. Balance of "A" Company remained in anti-tank positions during the period. "B" Company moved into better anti-tank positions during the period. No ammunition was expended. The maintenance truck of "B" Company, 2½ ton truck, hit a mine with the front wheel blowing the wheel clear of the truck. No one was hurt. This morning a counter-attack was launched by the enemy in the sector in which "C" Company is operation. The 1st platoon became aware of counter-attack just prior to the time it took place and moved into a position near some high ground to intercept the attack. The infantry was caught unaware of a counter-attack until the enemy was upon them, it was finally beat off. The 2nd platoon moved into positions during the night expecting an attack, but during the night the enemy infiltrated into these positions. This platoon withdrew to cover positions and continued to fire at enemy. The enemy was all around our destroyers, so close that the 3" inch gun could not be used. However, both platoons used considerable .50 caliber and an unknown number of enemy personnel were killed. Also 20 PWs were taken. The 3rd platoon moved from the rear CP to Grosshas, Germany, to reinforce the 1st and 2nd platoons if necessary. Remaining there entire day. Other platoons returned, toward evening, to positions in the rear to resupply and bivouac for the night. The counter-attack was under control by 1030 hours. The Chaplain visited the battalion at about 1130 hours to hold services for men. Both Protestant and Catholic services were held.
- 3 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day excepting "C" Company who have been released from attachment to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. The weather for the period has been heavily overcast with light rains falling intermittently. 1st Platoon of "A" Company fired 455 rounds of HE indirect (harassing) fire during the period. Balance of "A" Company remained in the same positions. Some of the platoons of "B" Company moved short distances to better their positions. During the morning 3 PW's were taken and that evening 1 more was taken by "B" Company. The company has 12 M10's operational. One section of Reconnaissance Company is with "B" Company assisting in route reconnaissance and selecting TD positions. "C" Company remained in positions supporting the 330th Infantry Regiment, at present, but were to let this headquarters know when they were to be relieved. At about 1400 hours two (2) of the destroyers fired .50 calibers at two enemy places, knocking-down one (1) ME 109 and one (1) probable. One section of Reconnaissance Company is with "C" Company assisting in route reconnaissance.

- 4 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. The weather has been quite heavily overcast at times, clearing somewhat in the afternoon. 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 473 rounds of HE indirect (harassing) fire during the period. The platoons of "A" Company remained in the same positions, but the company CP moved to a new location. At about 0505 hours the CP area was shelled, by the enemy, with very large shells. Fragments from the shells pierced the cooks log cabin, killing one man and two others wounded. Jerry, also, is firing AP shells into the front lines in hopes of hitting some of the log houses put up for protection against HE shelling. "B" company remained in TD positions during the period. No action was reported. "C" Company was relieved at 1100 hours and immediately moved enroute to the rear areas to bivouac for the night and prepare for the March Luxembourg. One section of Reconnaissance Company is with "C" Company to act as Guides during the March.
- 5 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. The weather continued heavily overcast. Companies "A" and "B" are remaining in positions to stem any break through of the enemy. These companies are to be released of attachment at a later date. "C" Company left the area near Zweifall, Germany, passing the IP at 0700 hours, enroute to vicinity of Luxembourg. Balance of the Battalion preparing for the move in a few days. 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 630 rounds of HE indirect (harassing) fire during the period.
- 6 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "C" Company is attached to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. The 1st Platoon of "A" Company is no longer in indirect firing positions as they have been relieved of their indirect fire missions. The platoon is now in an assembly area conducting maintenance on vehicles. During period of their indirect fire missions they expended 15,000 rounds of HE which started on 13 November, 1944. Two destroyers that were lost during a skirmish with the enemy in the "C" Company sector have been recovered. One is in good shape and the other, with a little maintenance will be ready for service. Both "A" and "B" Companies remained in position during the period. All is rather quiet in their sectors. "C" Company is now located in the vicinity of the 22nd Infantry Regiment somewhere in Luxembourg. Balance of the battalion busily engaged in preparing for the move Luxembourg.
- 7 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. Battalion less "A" and "B" and "C" companies moved from vicinity of Zweifall, Germany, by motor vehicle, starting at 070520 hours, to vicinity of Mondorf, Luxembourg, arriving at approximately 1530 hours. The head of the column infiltrated to this area. Troops are billeted in buildings, which is somewhat different than what they are used to.
- 8 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "B" Company left old area enroute to vicinity of somewhere in Luxembourg. Their exact location is not known at this time. They arrived late in the afternoon or early evening and will assemble in the vicinity of 12th Infantry Regiment area. "A" Company remained in position on the front lines. "C" Company busily engaged at maintenance work on their vehicles. Balance of battalion, after becoming straightened around in their billets, are beginning 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance on their vehicles.
- 9 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "A" Company still in position on the front lines and haven't as yet been relieved. "B" and "C" companies are in assembly areas conducting maintenance on vehicles and care and cleaning of equipment. Balance of battalion are also very busy doing 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance on vehicles.

- 10 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "A" Company is preparing to move to Luxembourg, doing what maintenance they can before the trip. Balance of the battalion very busy cleaning equipment, painting rust spots, and etc. The battalion is trying to complete their work as quickly as possible so that they can take advantage of the recreational program that is available.
- 11 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "A" Company advanced party arrived in the area and started making preparations for rest of the company which are moving tomorrow. Balance of the battalion continued maintenance duties and cleaning equipment. S-4 is busy resupplying the battalion of shortages wherever they exist.
- 12 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "A" Company moved from area vicinity of Zweifall, Germany, to a new area vicinity of Moutford, Luxembourg, arriving at approximately 1520 hours. They immediately began to straighten themselves around in their new billets. Balance of battalion continued to clean equipment.
- 13 December 1944 Battalion attached to the 4th Division Artillery. Companies "A", "B", and "C" are now under battalion control. All companies are very busy at maintenance on vehicles and cleaning of equipment. Passes or leaves of absence are now available for the enlisted men and officers of the battalion. Some are going to Paris, others are going to the rest camp at Arlen.
- 14 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. "C" Company had to move from their present position to new billets in the vicinity of Sandweiler, Luxembourg. Left the old area at 1000 hours, closed in vehicles in new motor pool by 1330 hours. The men couldn't enter the billets until about 0030 hours on 15 December, 1944, because the unit which occupied the billets at the time hadn't moved out as yet. Balance of battalion very busy at maintenance on vehicles and cleaning of equipment. A schedule has been set up for the men that will leave on pass, covering the day and time that they will depart and return.
- 15 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. A message came down from higher Headquarters stating that one platoon of each of the line companies are to move into indirect firing positions. Platoons are to reinforce fires of the light artillery battalions of the respective regiments. Companies continued maintenance work on vehicles and cleaning of equipment. Not much activity reported on these sectors.
- 16 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day. The 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion is now attached to the 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion. The 802nd has been attached to this unit for coordination of TD defense of the Division Zone. During the hours of darkness the enemy came across Sauer river and infiltrated through our lines, and in doing so cut off a few companies of infantry. Units are now attempting to reach these companies. "B" Company and Company "A" of the 802nd set-up TD defenses covering roads, in their sector, and to give flank protection against possible enemy armored attack. The platoons firing indirect expended 230 rounds of HE ammunition.
- 17 December 1944 All attachments, no change. "A" Company was alerted and moved to the vicinity of Graulinster, Luxembourg, to support Division Engineers in that vicinity. They immediately moved into TD defense positions. "B" Company CP was overrun by a determined enemy attack to capture the town in which they were located. Everyone got out safely. A Task Force has been organized to drive the enemy out of this area. "C" Company remained in their present positions, in initial readiness. Balance of battalion keeping in close touch with the 802nd and our line companies. The passes to Paris and rest camps have been cancelled. Platoons firing indirect expended 199 rounds HE ammunition.

- 18 December 1944 All attachments, no change. Reconnaissance company less the rear CP moved to the vicinity of the 12th Infantry Regiment along line coor. P-956310 to L-025315. Their mission was to patrol roads in the day time and act as security for the MIO's at night. "A" Company remained in their present positions during the period. The platoon firing indirect fired 60 rounds of HE harassing fire. "B" Company remained in TD defense positions during the period. One section of the 3rd platoon firing indirect harassing fires expended 105 rounds HE. "C" Company remained in their present position. One platoon firing indirect mission fired 112 rounds of HE, reduced charge, during the period.
- 19 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day except that "G" Company less one platoon was attached to the 8th Infantry Regiment as of 1215A hours. 2nd platoon of "C" Company fired 112 rounds of HE indirect harassing fire. 2nd platoon of "A" Company fired 60 rounds of HE indirect harassing fire. 3rd platoon of "B" Company fired 105 rounds of HE indirect harassing fire. Also, they fired 3 rounds HE direct and 250 rounds .50 caliber on enemy infantry. 5 Prisoners of War were taken. Reconnaissance Company (2 platoons) patrolling and acting as security. Balance of battalion keeping in close contact with the situation.
- 20 December 1944 1st platoon of "G" Company attached to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. Balance of battalion as attached and supporting remained the same for the period. TD Companies are covering roads in their respective sectors. Reconnaissance continued to act as security for the destroyers and patrolling roads.
- 21 December 1944 All attachments, no change. An order came down from higher headquarters that all troops will have their gas masks in their possession at all times. The 3rd platoon of "B" Company was attacked by approximately 150 enemy infantry at Michelshof. The enemy approached over open ground, this platoon fired one round HE and 450 rounds of .50 caliber. This with one tank and some Engineers firing .30 caliber machineguns accounted for 150 Germans. During the night all positions were heavily shelled. Reconnaissance Company continued daylight patrolling and securing MIO's at night. Also provided radio relay stations. One section of "A" Company returned to Scheidgen. During the period 3 enemy infantry crossed road in front of MIO position. One round HE was fired at range of 20 feet killing all 3.
- 22 December 1944 Battalion attached to the 4th Division Artillery. "C" Company was released from attachment to the 8th and 22nd Infantry Regiment and attached to the 10th Infantry Regiment. "B" Company held the same positions during the period, receiving heavy artillery, mortar, and Nebelwerfer concentrations. Reconnaissance Company continued patrolling roads in day time and acting as security at night. "A" company remained in the same positions. Balance of battalion keeping in close touch with the situation.
- 23 December 1944 All attachments remained the same as the previous day, except "A" company less one platoon was attached to the 8th Infantry Regiment. One platoon moved into indirect firing positions with the 4th FA Bn. This platoon expended 204 rounds of HE during the night. Rest of company moved to area in Mousdorf. 1st platoon of Company "B" took 3 Prisoners of War. All positions same. However, there was a small fire fight at Michelshof, but was easily beaten off. "C" company moved forward with the 10th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company carried out their missions, using majority of personnel, both night and day. Security missions were of vital importance, and rapid radio communication would have been impossible with-out their aid.



24 December 1944 Battalion (less "A" Company (-) and "C" Company) attached to the 4th Division Artillery. "A" Company (less one platoon) attached to 8th Infantry Regiment. One platoon in indirect firing position. "C" Company was released from attachment to the 10th Infantry Regiment and attached to the 22nd Infantry Regiment. Upon being released from GI 10 they relieved "B" Company on the line, this taking place 2030 hours. "B" Company pulled back in the vicinity of Gonderange, Luxembourg. The 3rd platoon of "A" Company fired 14 rounds of HE direct at 12 enemy infantry, killing all twelve of them. 1st platoon of "A" Company firing interdiction and harassing fires at night expended 204 rounds of HE.

25 December 1944 All attachments, no change. "B" Company after pulling out of the line to assembly area, began maintenance work on their vehicles. At about 1045 hours two (2) planes which looked very much like Thunderbolts strafed the area near our forward CP hitting two ambulances on the hi-way, killing several men and wounding some. Also, on another road near by they strafed a 3/4 ton vehicle, setting it on fire. These planes, as observed by several, say they looked very much like the P-47 with the spinner painted yellow and the cowling over the engine painted yellow. Companies were warned to be on the look-out for these planes. "C" Company moved into new gun positions located in Oweiler, Dickweiler and Harbern. The S-3 of the battalion called at Division Headquarters and received word that this organization has been attached to 5th Division artillery, as of 1845 hours.

26 December 1944 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company in direct support of the 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company in direct support of the 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company in direct support of the 11th Infantry Regiment. One (1) Platoon of Reconnaissance Company is in support of each of our TD Companies. Companies "A" and "C" were relieved by companies of the 802nd TD Bn (T) when with their relief they moved to the vicinity of the 2nd and 11th Infantry Regiment sectors where they relieved companies of the 654th TD Battalion. "B" Company was in an assembly area and upon receiving orders moved to the vicinity of the 10th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company moved one platoon with each of the TD Companies. All guns were in position by 1800 hours. Battalion forward CP and rear CP moved to Junglinster, Luxembourg.

27 December 1944 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery. The gun companies continued to be in direct support of the 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One platoon of Reconnaissance Company with and supporting each of the TD Companies. Reconnaissance platoons have also contacted TD units on our right and left and obtained overlays of their positions so defense could be coordinated better. No enemy was encountered during the period. No casualties during the period. 32 - M10's operational.

28 December 1944 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division of Artillery. The TD companies continued to be in direct support of the 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One platoon each of Reconnaissance company with and supporting each of the TD companies. Reconnaissance platoons also contacted TD units on our right and left and obtained overlays of their positions so defenses could be coordinated. Regimental boundaries changed somewhat making it necessary for new positions to be reconnoitered, which was made by company officers and upon word, at a later date, will move to these positions. "C" company of the 802nd TD Bn (T) was released from attachment to the 803d TD Battalion as of 1450 hours. Division Artillery wanted to know how many guns could be used for indirect firing. "C" Company reports no ammunition expended. No enemy was encountered during the period. No casualties during the period. 31 - M10's operational

29 December 1944. Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company in general support of Division area. 3rd platoon of "A" Company in direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" and "C" companies are in direct support of the 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments. Each CD company made a reconnaissance for indirect firing positions for one platoon of each of the companies to move into. These firing positions will be used by the platoon that is in the rear and may be called upon at any time to move into position to fire. They will register every day or so. One platoon of Reconnaissance Company is supporting "C" Company. One section of Reconnaissance is supporting "B" Company. Balance of company in area vicinity of CP. One jeep of "C" Company was hit by mortar fire, damaging the radiator. 3-1 with a quartermaster party made a reconnaissance for a new site for the battalion CP. No enemy encountered during the period. Battalion had no casualties. 21 - M10's operational.

30 December 1944. Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Area. 3rd platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment. 3rd platoon of "A" occupied indirect firing positions and registered by 1030 hours, expending 6 rounds of HE. 1st and 2nd platoons are in the vicinity of the company CP. 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired from indirect firing positions expending 7 rounds of HE, but unable to register. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired from indirect firing positions expending 8 rounds of HE but was unable to register. Reconnaissance Company made route reconnaissance and aided in moving M10's. Operations have been conducting maintenance on the vehicles of one platoon at a time, being pulled to the vicinity of the company CP for such work. Battalion CP sleeping in close touch with the situation. Also preparing for move to new CP location in the morning.

31 December 1944. Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Area. 3rd platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment. Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity of Langhuter, Luxembourg (7931245) to vicinity of Lanchette (7931245), Luxembourg (7931245) leaving old area at 0935 hours and arriving at new area by 1030 hours. Everything was comparatively quiet on the front today. No enemy encountered. No rounds fired. 22 - destroyers operational.

31 Dec 44

1. The battalion after participating in the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line south of Aachen and the epic fight with the 5th Infantry Division through the Hürtgen Forest was transferred to Luxembourg for an extended rest. The 5th Infantry Division took up positions in a quiet sector southeast of the city of Luxembourg. Casualties had been about 50% and the situation was holding a sector twenty-seven (27) miles wide. It was at this time the Germans started their winter offensive. The enemy easily broke through the thin infantry line. Every available man in the division was brought into the line up including this unit's Reconnaissance Company, security sections, and at times the cooks. The infantry dismantled the enemy company, anti-tank company, cooks and clerks. This force held the enemy for five days and was credited with saving the city of Luxembourg. Maintenance during the period was extremely difficult. Every destroyer was needed in the line making movement of vehicles for maintenance impossible. There was also a serious shortage of tires, brake lining, and anti-freeze. (Classified up during latter part of month).



REPORT (cont'd)

B. Combat efficiency is excellent. Casualties for period totaled one (1) Officer and eleven (11) enlisted men.

*James Goodwin*  
JAMES W. GOODWIN  
LT. COL., INF.,  
Commanding

Nov  
44