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HEAD OFFICE
603d THE CENTRAL MAILING
APO 330, U. S. ARMY

SECRET
TO: COL. VII (C) (S)
FROM: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

30 November 1944

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

1. Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

Forwarded herewith, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, for this command, covering the period 1 - 30 November 1944.

Charles C. [illegible]
CHARLES C. [illegible]
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

- 5 Encls: - 1 Appendix No. 1 to Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Report.
2 C-1, C-2, C-3 Journal
3 C-1 and C-3 Journal File
4 Part I, C-2 Journal File
5 Part II, C-2 Journal File

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 503d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Period: 1 - 30 November 1944

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REF: G.I. 312
DATE: 1 Dec 44
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1. Original units: 503d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
3. Strength:
 - A. 1 November 1944, 25 Officers, 1 Harvest Officer, 604 Enlisted Men.
 - B. 30 November 1944, 25 Officers, 1 Harvest Officer, 601 Enlisted Men.
 - C. Net Change: Reduction of 3 Enlisted Men.
4. Station. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
5. Missions. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
6. Campaign Operations covering period 1st - 30th November 1944.
7. Battles. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
8. Commanding Officers:
 - A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. C. H. Goodwin, Inf.
Headquarters Company - Captain H. B. Wagoner, Inf.
Communications Company - Captain H. A. Davis, Gnr.
Company "A" - Captain J. E. Krulwange, Pfc.
Company "B" - Captain E. H. Wristain, Capt.
Company "C" - Captain R. F. Sinclair, Inf., (1st Lt. R. J. Krusowski, Pfc.)
 - B. Captain R. F. Sinclair, relieved of command of Company "C", 1530 hours, 15 November 1944, 1st Lt. R. J. Krusowski assigned as Company Officer, Company "C", 1530 hours, 26 November 1944.
9. Men in Action. (Battle Casualties).
 - A. Officers:

Edward (M1) Jurisdiction, 0-1220351, 2nd Lt., Pfc.	72A	28 November 1944
Major T. Brown, 0-1220351, 1st Lt., Pfc.	72A	28 November 1944
 - B. Enlisted Men:

Joe H. Griffin, 3720377, Private, Pfc.	72A	12 November 1944
John (M1) Parns, 3720377, Private, Pfc.	72A	18 November 1944
Joseph G. Sumner, 3720377, Private, Pfc.	72A	18 November 1944
Harvey L. Hollenborn, 3720377, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	21 November 1944
Ben (M1) Adams, 3720377, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	21 November 1944
Vernon W. Waters, 37156637, Private, Pfc.	72A	21 November 1944
Henry A. Rogers, 3727854, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	22 November 1944
Salvatore J. Rogers, 3727854, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	23 November 1944
Alvin E. Rogers, 3727854, Private, Pfc.	72A	23 November 1944
Bill E. Baranski, 3630376, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Stanley (M1) Adams, 3612376, Pfc., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Scotty A. Walker, 3937854, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Richard R. Palmer, 3937854, Dec. 5, Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Arrest D. Greenough, 3720377, Pvt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Arnold L. Smith, 420376, Pvt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Robert H. Palmer, 3715663, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Edwin D. Durbin, 3727854, Pvt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Alvin G. Anderson, 3715663, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Joseph (M1) Adams, 3612376, Pvt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944
Alvin H. Roberts, 3715663, Sgt., Pfc.	72A	26 November 1944

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Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Report (Cont'd).

10. Bronze Star - Stanley E. Ward, 39378580, S/Sgt., P.M., per Sec. IV, CO #49,
Hq. XII Corps, 1 November 1944.

Bronze Star - Carl G. Lette, 36129073, Sgt., P.M., per Sec. IV, CO #49,
Hq. XII Corps, 1 November 1944.

11. Photographer's Honor.

CHARLES W. GARDNER
LT. COL., P.M.,
Commanding

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Action Against Enemy, Report After/after Action Report
HAWKOUTIN, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion
November 1944

010001 November 1944,
Kattenis, Belgium

- 1 November 1944 Battalion (less "A" Co. reinf.) attached to VII Corps. "A" company and 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached to 1st Belgian Brigade. The show for today was quite good. The name being "Standing Room Only". A large number of the men were in attendance for both shows.
- 2 November 1944 All of the battalion is now attached to VII Corps. "A" company plus 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company have been released from the 1st Belgian Brigade and will revert to battalion control as soon as relieved. Arrangements have been made so that 48 men and 2 officers could attend a U. S. O. show, in Japan, each day. These shows are being staged in the Capital Theatre there. Also arrangements have been made, by borrowing a shower unit, for the men of the battalion to take a shower when they wish. 44th ID in get (knocked-out) 16 tanks (Riger).
- 3 November 1944 Battalion so far in attachment, no change. "A" company reports that they have been relieved by another unit at 1300 hours and are preparing to move to battalion area. Maintenance is continuing at the Ordnance Depot. The name of the movie shown to the men today was "The Hero Private McGroove".
- 4 November 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. "A" company and the 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company arrived in the battalion area at approximately 1030 hours after leaving their old area at about 0630 in the morning. About 1100 hours "A" Company sent all their vehicles to the Ordnance Depot for inspection and parts. The name of the show for today was "The Song of the Road". Headquarters Company sent some men to the U. S. O. show in Japan.
- 5 November 1944 Battalion attached to VII Corps in rear area near Kattenis going through a period of rest. "A" Company has their vehicles at the Ordnance Depot for a Class A Ordnance Inspection. A movie was shown to the men. A group also attended the U. S. O. show in Japan.
- 6 November 1944 Battalion attached to VII Corps in rear area near Kattenis going through a period of rest. Not all of the vehicles have returned from the Ordnance Depot. We are in receipt of a circular stating that 24 of our men and leave on pass, during the day, to the town near Paris. Also we are allowed to let 4 enlisted men leave on a 48 hour pass to Paris, beginning the 8th of November. A movie was shown to the men.
- 7 November 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. Received a call at about 0900h stating that the unit would be attached as of 0900h hours on the 9th of November. This was just a warning order and doesn't require any action on our part.
- 8 November 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. Everything is quiet within the battalion. The men are taking advantage of all the recreation available while in this rest period. A message came down from the G-3 office, VII Corps, stating that "contemplating our attachment to the 4th Inf Div have our Battalion Commander report to the Commanding General, 4th Inf Div.
- 9 November 1944 At 090000h hours the battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division. The companies were alerted to prepare to move sometime in the afternoon. The first elements of the battalion left the area vicinity of Kattenis (005000) for a new location vicinity Bouffall court. 804327. Most of the battalion arrived in their respective areas at about 1900 hours.

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- November 1944. Battalion is now attached to the 4th Infantry Division located in the vicinity of Miesbach (2906334). Three of the line companies have been attached as follows: 3rd platoon of "A" Co. is attached to the 5th Inf. Regt. and further attached to the 2nd Battalion. "B" Co. less one platoon is attached to the 12th Inf. Regt. Balance of battalion to be held initially in readiness.
- 11 November 1944. Battalion, no change in attachment. Considerable rain and snow has fallen in the past 24 hours, making it very hard to carry on the normal duties within the battalion. 10 enlisted men and one officer left, this morning, for Verdiers, Haguenau, for a 18 hour rest period. Verdiers is the location of the VII Corps Rest Center. One MIO of the 2nd platoon of "B" Co. fired 4 rounds of H.E. at an OP. Range of fire was approximately 4200 yards. Hits were observed on the target. Company Commanders have contacted the Regimental Commanders of the respective regiments to which they are attached.
- 12 November 1944. Battalion, no change in attachment. More snow and rain fell during the past 24 hours. Four enlisted men returned to the battalion, from pass, where they had spent 48 hours in Paris. They report a very good time. "B" Co. moved their forward G.P. to cover 2902333. Balance of battalion remained in its present positions doing regular camp duties.
- 13 November 1944. Battalion, no change in attachment. Still raining and periodic through the day and night snow has fallen. The 1st platoon of "A" Company moved into a position for indirect firing with 20th Ft. Bn. They are to register by 1200 hours. The firing, during the night, was harassing and interdiction fires. 497 rounds of H.E. was expended. Results of fire unknown. All very quiet with the rest of the battalion.
- 14 November 1944. Battalion attached to the 4th Infantry Division. Platoons of the line companies are further attached to the Infantry regiments of the division. All is comparative quiet within the battalion. 1st platoon of "A" Co. firing indirect through the 20th Field Artillery FDC. The weather was somewhat colder during the period. Has been trying to snow. Very slowly and foggy.
- 15 November 1944. All attachments remained the same as the previous day. It froze a little last night. Still very cloudy and foggy. 1st platoon of "A" Company expended 400 rounds of H.E. ammunition firing indirectly at night (harassing and interdiction fires). Results unknown. Received word that "A" Co. will fire 1000 rounds by the 19th of November. At the rate it is being fired they will have it all fired before that time.
- 16 November 1944. Battalion, no change in attachment. The weather cleared considerably by about 1000 hours during the forenoon. Today the big attack started. At about 1115 hours, a large number of heavy bombers began to roar over head to bomb tactical targets preceding the jumpoff of the infantry, which began at 1215 hours. Reports are that progress is slow due to encountering heavy artillery barrage, wire entanglements, dug-in emplacements of all types. The platoons that are attached to the different regiments haven't, as yet, come in contact with the enemy. The reason is because of the heavily wooded area through which they are going and the lack of road net. Vehicles can't maneuver very well under these conditions. Part of "B" Co. sent to "A" Co. to assist them in a little reconnaissance work. Commanding officers of the companies were called to the G.P. for a meeting at 1000 hours. 1st platoon of "A" Co. firing indirect have fired their allotted quantity by this date. However, they have been allocated another 1000 rounds to fire. Representatives of "B" Co. have been contacting first line Infantry regiments getting the latest situation. Balance of battalion doing regular camp duties.

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- 17 November 1944 Battalion attached to the 4th Infantry Division. The Line companies are further attached as follows: "A" Co. less one platoon attached to 8th Infantry Regiment. "B" Co. less one platoon attached to 12th Infantry Regiment. "C" Co. attached to 22nd Infantry Regiment. 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 475 rounds H.E. ammunition indirect at targets. 3rd platoon of "B" Co fired 41 rounds of H.E. at an enemy OP. 15 rounds were direct hits, starting a large fire in the vicinity of the OP. They also fired into an concertina wire entanglement opening up a hole so the infantry could advance. Recon Co. has been contacting front line regiments getting the latest situation.
- 18 November 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. Fair weather has prevailed during the period giving our planes a chance to operate. The 1st platoon of "A" Co. fired indirect, expending 445 rounds of H.E., harassing and at targets during the period. Progress at the front is very slow because of so many mine fields, booby traps, and other obstacles are in the way. The line companies report enemy artillery fire quite heavy at times. Trees are very thick consequently every artillery shell thrown back at us is a tree burst. "A" Co. reports that they fired at a towed anti-tank gun and enemy personnel killing two enemy company commanders and 45 men. Also knocked-out the gun.
- 19 November 1944 No change in attachments. The weather is fair, however, slightly overcast, but our dive bombers were operating very effectively. Progress is still very slow on the front. 1st platoon of "A" company fired 1273 rounds of H.E. indirect at targets. Results of fire unknown. "B" Co. fired 63 rounds of H.E. at OP's in the vicinity of some houses. Range of fire at approximately 7,000 yards. The 2nd Infantry battalion reported good results from that firing. "C" Co. keeping in close contact with the regiment to which they are attached. Recon Co. is contacting front line regiments getting the latest situation. Balance of battalion doing regular camp duties.
- 20 November 1944 No change in attachments. During the period the sky became quite heavily overcast and a heavy drizzling rain is falling. Not much air activity today. A 1 1/2 ton truck of "B" Co. was hit by shell fragments. They report little damage was done. 1st platoon of "A" company expended 820 rounds H.E. during the period. This is an indirect fire mission. To date, from the same position, this platoon has fired 4,634 rounds. During their period of firing counter battery has been very light, in fact, so little that it is not known whether it was intended for them or not. Two men of "A" company had a narrow escape from tree bursts with pieces of shell fragment tearing their clothing and not scratching the men. Progress at the front continued to be very slow with mines and the terrain being the main factors making it hard to advance.
- 21 November 1944 No change in attachments. The weather continued to be heavily overcast with rain falling intermittently during the period. The 1st platoon of "A" company fired 830 rounds of H.E. on indirect fire mission during the period. The line companies are edging forward very slowly. Recon company is contacting the front line infantry regiments for the latest situation.
- 22 November 1944 No change in attachments. The weather is the same as the previous day. The 1st platoon of "A" company fired 560 rounds of H.E. indirect at targets during the period. 4th Division Artillery reports that they are very proud of our 1st platoon of "A" Co. which has been firing indirect fire mission. Aerial photos show that the platoon has really been hitting the targets. The 2nd platoon of "C" reports that they expended 2400 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition at enemy infantry. Friendly troops were then able to advance considerable distance. Good results was obtained. Also, during this skirmish one of the M10's rolled up to a pillbox strongpoint, fired 3 rounds of H.E., killing 5 enemy personnel and causing 2 others to surrender to the friendly infantry. ~~They got away.~~

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- 19 November 1944. No change in attachment. The sky is still heavily overcast and light rain is falling during the period. 1st platoon of "A" Co. fired 640 rounds of H.E. indirect at targets, during the period. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company captured two (2) Panzer 43 anti tank. The Pioneer platoon of 8th company, which has been preparing a new site, in which the balance of the battalion will move any day now, reports that the work is going quite well. They are building a corrugated road into this area to facilitate getting in and out with our heavy vehicles. Balance of 8th company is doing some reconnaissance work and regular camp duties. Very little air activity during the period. "C" Co. captured 15 prisoners of war.
- 21 November 1944. No change in attachment. The weather broke from a heavily overcast sky to lightly overcast during the end of the period. However, a little rain fell during the night. The 1st platoon of "A" Co. fired 1440 rounds of H.E. indirect, at targets, during the period. This platoon is also alerted to move to vicinity of the 8th Infantry Regiment where the balance of the company is located, at anytime. They are to continue firing indirect missions until further notice. Received orders from Commanding General 4th Infantry Division through Commanding General 4th Division Artillery to attach 3rd platoon of "B" Company, which is now in division reserve, to "C" Company. The 3rd platoon was given the mission of bolstering the anti-tank defenses of the 8th Infantry Regiment, reports are that the platoon had considerable trouble getting into position. The enemy had some anti-tank guns holding them up. No reports from the other line companies. Balance of battalion remained in their respective positions and doing regular routine duties.
- 25 November 1944. No change in attachment. The sky cleared during the day somewhat, but during the evening it clouded over and some rain fell. 1st platoon of "A" Company firing indirect (hurricane) missions expended 560 rounds of H.E. ammunition. "C" Company and the 3rd platoon of "B" Co. were engaged as tanks with supporting infantry in an assault on the town of Grenchen. The obstacles they hit were dug-in anti-tank guns and the result was two (2) destroyers lost and six (6) tanks. Last night two (2) destroyers were knocked out, one by direct fire and the other by indirect fire. Artillery concentrations from the enemy were very heavy, both direct and indirect. No report from the other two line companies.
- 26 November 1944. No change in attachment. The weather was fairly clear. Our air planes are in operation. The 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 548 rounds of H.E. indirect. After the assault on Grenchen the company (reinf.) was pulled back and regrouped. They are now attached to the 70th Tank Bn as a Task Force for tomorrow's operations. The battalion has the line companies plan on moving to a new location tomorrow. Has moved out this morning for the new area.
- 27 November 1944. No change in attachment. Battalion (-) at about 0900 hours moved from the vicinity of Isenfall, Germany (K966333) to a new bivouac area vicinity of Isenfall, Germany (K994385) where the battalion C.P. was set-up. 1st platoon of "A" Co. fired 540 rounds of H.E. indirect during the period. Progress on the front is very slow due to such heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire, mortar and mines. A report came in from "B" Company that, during the assault on Grenchen while a part of the Task Force, the 3rd platoon knocked-out a tank. When anti-tank gun and during the advance the 3rd platoon of "B" Co., which is attached to "C" Company, knocked-out a pillbox. While attached as a Task Force no destroyers were lost, no personnel lost, and missions accomplished.
- 28 November 1944. No change in attachment. 1st platoon of "A" Co. fired 530 rounds of H.E. indirect (hurricane) fire during the period. Results of firing unknown. The 1st platoon of "B" Co. was harassed by an enemy 150mm gun. The platoon was dug-in good consequently stayed put. Also, this platoon of "A" Company lost fired the 7 inch Recoilless Shell. Firing was conducted by one gun of the 1st platoon.

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- 28 November 1944. (Cont'd). - near Gey, Germany, on the night of 27 November 1944. The nomenclature of the shell is Finnish Navy star shell MKXIV modified, with fuse M54. Six (6) rounds were fired at a range of approximately 5,100 yards. Fuse setting at 1000 feet is S-4. Firing observed by commanding officer "A" company and by Corps sound and flash Battalion. The burst at 1000 feet would light up an area fire 300 to 500 yards and would burn up to 20 seconds. Experiment took place at a proximately 1500 yards from the front lines. Results were very satisfactory. No destroyers were lost during the period. No casualties reported.
- 29 November 1944. All attachments remained the same as the previous day, except the 3rd platoon of "B" Co. which was released from attachment to "C" Company and the 22nd Inf Regt at 1950 hours. During the period "C" Company (2nd platoon) more or less successfully led an attack on a town. The plan was for the infantry to go on ahead of our destroyers, but as they jumped off they encountered heavy enemy fire and were immediately pinned-down. The Tank destroyers followed by two tanks moved out ahead of the infantry and were the first to enter the town of Grosschau, Germany, located at over. FO54383. On the way in and after entering the town our destroyers expended 27 rounds H.S., 2 rounds AP, 1000 rounds .50 caliber and 120 rounds .45 caliber ammunition. They neutralized two (2) pill boxes and two (2) machine gun nests, killing about 50 enemy personnel and took 45 PW's. They were passed on to the infantry since the destroyers were too busy to handle them. The tanks that were following came into the town quite some time after the skirmish. The 3rd platoon of "C" Company fired from FO52379. Expended 98 rounds of H.S., 2 rounds AP and 1100 rounds of .50 caliber. They fired on town and defence positions. Approximately 30 enemy personnel were killed, two PW's taken and turned over to the infantry. One of the destroyers ran out of ammunition and fuel and had to pull out to refuel and reload. There were no casualties and no destroyers lost, during the battle.
- 30 November 1944. No change in attachments. Two platoons of "C" Company are supporting the attack of the 3rd battalion, 22nd Inf Regt, to secure high ground at FO63288 and high ground at FO50394. These coordinates cover the vicinity of Grosschau, Germany. 1st platoon of "C" Company is continuing to fire indirect fire mission. Balance of the line companies are in anti-tank positions.
- SECRET
- Battalion attached to VII Corps and 4th Infantry Division during period. During the greater part of the operation "A" Company (less one platoon) was attached to 8th Inf. Regt. "B" Company was attached to 12th Inf. Regt. and "C" Company attached to 22nd Inf. Regt. The companies were then re-attached back to the Infantry Battalions on the basis of one (1) Tank destroyer platoon per battalion. These units were employed as immediate direct fire support for the attacking infantry. First platoon, Company "A" supplemented the fires of the 20th FA Battalion during period. They fired a total of 11,647 rounds of H.S. as harassing and interdiction missions. All operations were characterized by heavy enemy resistance extremely poor road nets, bad weather and the heavily mined and booty-trapped area through which we passed. This caused the advance to be very slow.
 - Combat efficiency is excellent. Casualties for period totaled thirty (30) enlisted men and two (2) officers. The majority of casualties were in "C" Company because of their heavy action in the vicinity of Grosschau.
 - Heavy material destroyed during month is as follows: 88mm S/P Gun - 2; Machine Guns - 3; 8.8cm Rocket Launcher - 2; O.P.'s - 3; A.F. Gun tower - 1; Pillboxes (neutralized) - 3. Personnel Killed - 132 (Estimate) PW's taken - 69.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The policy of attaching Tank Destroyers to Infantry Commanders has again proven very unsatisfactory. Lower Infantry Commanders have no knowledge of the proper use of Tank Destroyers. In one action during this period our destroyers were ordered to charge a tank abreast with the tanks, resulting in two (2) Tank Destroyers being destroyed. This in my opinion, was drastic misuse of valuable men and equipment. Sacrifice is a poor substitute for leadership. It is my recommendation that Tank Destroyers be left under control of the trained and experienced Tank Destroyer officers. The job in the past and in the future is better done under these conditions.

Charles E. Hadden
CHARLES E. HADDEN
LT. COL., 87th
Commanding