

AFTER, AFTER BATTLE REPORT
NO:V

FROM : 010001 OCTOBER 44
TO : 312400 OCTOBER 44

UNIT : 823rd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
PLACE : GERMANY, 849537(N HERZOGENRATH)
TIME : 021200 NOVEMBER 44

MAPS: CENTRAL EUROPE, 1/100,000.
GERMANY, 1/25,000

1 OCTOBER 44

A-1 at 0035 moved to its old location at 211578. During the day A-1 fired 10 rounds APC and 20 rounds HE at two enemy pill-boxes. Result of firing was uncertain, but both pill-boxes were believed to have been destroyed. A-1 at 1900 moved to indirect fire positions at 774539, where they fired 200 rounds HE between 2030 and 2300 hours. "C" Co had one (1) battle casualty.

2 OCTOBER 44

Upon completing of indirect firing A-1 at 0100 returned to its old direct fire location at 820577. At 1200 "A" Co was released from the 258th FA Bn and attached to 30th Division artillery while C-3 at 1200 was attached to Company F of the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry, and moved to 818568 where it took up positions where any enemy counter attack aimed at cutting off Division troops in their drive through the SIEGFRIED LINE could be stopped. One gun from each "A" Co platoon withdrew to indirect fire positions used by "A" Co the last four nights and attempted to register with no success. At dark all "A" Co platoons withdrew from the direct fire positions and closed into indirect fire positions as follows: A-2 at 2000 to 772537; A-3 at 2030 to 774538; and A-1 at 2100 to 774528. 2nd Recon platoon at 2115 moved 773544 which completed all moves for the period. In support of the penetration of the SIEGFRIED LINE by the 119th Infantry, "A" Co fired 850 rounds HE and 12 rounds AP direct harrassing fire upon targets selected by the gunners. In support of the feint attacks of the 120th Infantry, C-2 fired 15 rounds HE at buildings in Germany and C-1 fired 41 rounds HE at ranges between 3000 and 4000 yards at a German pill-box and several houses, being given credit by the Infantry for very effective anti-personnel fire upon the enemy. Between 2100 and 2200 A-2 fired 100 rounds HE indirect fire upon Division assigned targets. Although "A" Co was under heavy Artillery fire during the greater part of the period they suffered only one battle-casualty, while "C" Co had one non-battle casualty.

3 OCTOBER 44

"A" Co fired indirect as follows: Between 0400 and 1000 5 concentrations of 750 rounds. Between 1500 and 2030 4 concentrations of 400 rounds, while 13 rounds were expended in an unsuccessful attempted registration.

4 OCTOBER 44

2nd Recon platoon moved to 786525 at 1100; "C" Co CP moved to 860565 at 1520 and C-1 put a section at 825547 and a section at 825544 at 1710 to complete all the moves of the period. "A" Co from indirect fire positions had one registration and fired 8 concentrations for a total of 991 rounds HE at targets within Germany. Under G.O. 69, 30th Inf Reg Div. 4 October, 16 Silver stars and 3 Bronze stars were awarded.

5 OCTOBER 44

Moves for the period found C-2 at 0645 at 826543 and 829546; C-1 at 0930 at 829457 and 828550; 1st Recon platoon establishing 2 OP's at 823553 and 821557 with the platoon CP at the first coordinate. Battalion CP at 1330 being established in a theatre at TERWINSELEN (798537); "B" Co at 1545 at 800530; 1st Recon platoon at 1500 moving its CP to 822558; B-3 at 1640 at 829529; "B" Co CP at 1700 at 814562; 1 section of C-3 at 1700 at 824562; B-3 at 1707 at 829522; B-2 at 2030 at 851885; and B-1 at 2155 at 847578 while at 2000 C-1 made some adjustments in position. During the period "A" Co from their indirect fire positions fired three concentrations for a total of 1149 rounds. At 1300 the 3rd Battalion, 120th Inf, was attached to 119th Inf and with it was attached "B" Co, minus B-1. The movement of this unit into GERMANY through the gap being established in the SIEGFRIED LINE made "B" Co the Battalion's first unit to go through the SIEGFRIED LINE. "B" Co had one non-battle casualty. 1st Lt. BRUTON rejoined the unit.

6 OCTOBER 44

"A" Co fired 1 concentration of 200 rounds at 0600. No further firing was accomplished during the period due to the critical shortage of ammunition. At 1200 "C" Co was attached to 116th Inf Reg, 29th Infantry Division. 3rd Recon platoon at 1225 moved to 845588, Battalion CP at 2010 moved to 816588 (City Hall in WAUBACH) and B-3 at 1920 moved to 817581. During the period "C" Co fired upon three pill-boxes and a haystack from which their shells bounced and "B" Co fired upon 5 machine gun nests and two fortified houses all being destroyed. "B" Co suffered one battle casualty while an enlisted man previously evacuated from his unit rejoined "C" Co. C-2 captured one prisoner, bringing the Battalion to a total of 314.

7 OCTOBER 44

During the period "A" Co fired 8 concentrations for 1028 rds HE. Moves for the day were as follows: B-3 at 0030 to 817851; B-3 at 1030 to 819585 and 821590; B-1 at 1345 to 852567; B-3 at 1600 to 876570; "B" Co CP at 1550 to 852567; Battalion CP at 1620 crossed the German border crossed the WURM River, entered the SIEGFRIED LINE and established itself in the basement of a school building in UBACH (867592); B-1 at 1900 to 867539; B-2 at 1900 to 864540 and "B" Co CP at 2015 to 865549. "C" Co from its defensive positions with the 116th Inf Reg, 29th Inf Division, fired 32 rounds APC and 42 rounds HE destroying 4 pill-boxes. Because of this firing each pill-box put up white flags and all remained inactive under "C" Co's guns until such time as the advancing 119th walked up and took into actual physical custody 62 prisoners. This firing killed six Germans and an estimated additional 25 were believed killed. One (1) round HE fired at three Germans on top of the pill-box hit one German in the place he used most and all three disappeared. At 2000 this unit was detached from the 120th Inf and "C" Co was relieved from attachment to the 116th Inf, which left the Battalion (less "A" Co attached to Div. Art.) attached to the 30th Inf Div. Ten replacements were received and "A" Co had one (1) non-battle casualty.

8 OCTOBER 44

During the early morning hours "A" Co fired two concentrations for a total of 100 rounds HE. Although unit started at dawn "C" Co did not cross into Germany and closed into position in the area of the 117th Infantry until 1030 at which time units began closing as follows: At 1030 C-2 to 893549; at 1205 C-3 to 887572; and 885567; at 1300 C-1 to 886557; and at 1315 "C" Co CP at 875571. At 1230 B-3 moved to 877535 at 1645 "A" Co crossed into GERMANY and took up indirect fire positions at 858537; at 1730 B-1 established one section at 878555 and at 1745 a section at 871532 and at 2115 C-3 completed the moves for the period taking up positions with one section at 891536 and the other section at 893541. One (1) M-8 belonging to 1st Recon platoon was badly damaged by a land mine and a "C" Co jeep was destroyed in a night automobile accident. Casualties were as follows: "C" Co 2; Headquarters Co 1; and "B" Co one battle casualty, while "C" Co had 2 non battle casualties, including Lt. KIMBALL who was injured in an automobile accident. Because of the injury of Lt. KIMBALL and the return of Lt. BRUTON the following assignments were made: Lt. BRUTON commanding the 1st Recon platoon, Lt. RANEY moved to 3rd Recon platoon and Lt. DE ROSA was made executive officer of "C" Co.

9 OCTOBER 44

During the night "A" Co fired 8 concentrations for a total of 520 rounds of HE upon the road between SCHLEIDEN and ALDENHOFEN. Moves were made as follows: B-1 at 0930 to 872518; Battalion CP at 1600 to 865560 (1500 yards East of MERKSTEIN); B-2 at 1735 to 878524 and 879528; B-3 at 1800 to 875530 and 872530; C-1 at 1830 to 805541; one section of B-1 at 0930 to 873515 and 876517 and one section of B-2 at 1935 to 884518. Extremely heavy shelling was experienced by all of "B" and "C" Co units but a quarter ton of C-3 was the only vehicle destroyed. "C" Co took two prisoners and "B" Co had one battle casualty.

10 OCTOBER 44

During the night "A" Co fired 8 concentrations for a total of 750 rounds upon the same targets as preceding period. For the moves of the unit the following changes were made: at 0945 one section B-1 moved to 873504 and at 1100 set up at 872504; Rear Echelon at 1000 moved to 854563; at 1550 one section B-3 moved to 891521 and 891522; at 1800 one section of C-3 moved to 893538 and the other section to 887534; at 1800 one gun of B-1 set up at 875505 while B-3 at 2045 moved one gun to 869504. During the morning "B" Co fired 34 rounds HE and 2 rounds AP at pill-boxes, houses and OP's used by the Germans, with results being undetermined. During a strong German counter-attack at 1300 one gun of B-1 destroyed 1 MK IV Tank, at 1430 it destroyed 2 MK IV's and 1 MK V and at 1800 an additional Mk V. Another "B" Co gun at 1430 destroyed one Mk IV. All tanks were destroyed at ranges varying between 1300 and 2300 yards and required an average ammunition expenditure of 3 rounds per tank. In addition to the six positive tanks B-1 was also given credit for the assist with the 230th FA Battalion for three additional tanks. Preparing for further counter-attacks and a possible break through, "A" Co reconnoitered for positions reinforcing and deepening the anti-tank defenses in the sector of the 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments. "A" Co had one battle casualty, "B" Co four battle casualties and two non-battle casualties and "C" Co captured two German prisoners.

11 OCTOBER 44

During the night "A" Co fired 13 concentrations for a total of 669 rounds. Moves for the day were as follows: B-3 at 0300 moved 1 gun to 873500; "C" Co CP at 1100 moved to 890546; A-2 at 1930 moved to 864517; A-1 at 2200 moved to 854519; A-3 at 2030 moved to 784516 and 885525 while at the closing of the period A-1 was again moving to positions near 874504 where it planned to occupy positions re-inforcing B-1's positions. Because of the danger to an enemy tank break through, at 1430 "A" Co was relieved of their indirect firing and reverted to Battalion control whereupon they were directed to occupy re-inforcing positions as covered above in the sections of the 119th and 120th Inf. Regiments. The German counter-attack to keep a route open to AACHEN continued throughout the daylight hours of the period and between 1600 and 1700 B-1 destroyed 1 Mk IV and B-3 1 MK IV while B-1 hit two additional tanks with results being undetermined. Seven rounds of ammunition were required for the destruction of the two tanks. For the period "B" Co had one KIA and 8 battle casualties while Headquarters had 1 non battle casualty. "C" Co captured 9 German prisoners and B-1 and B-3 both had one 3 inch gun put out of action by enemy tank direct fire.

12 OCTOBER 44

"A" Co units on the move at the end of the preceding period closed as follows: A-1 at 0200 to 875517, 875507, 874501 and A-3 at 0630 at 875516 and 885525. Moving at dawn A-2 at 1000 put a section at 857503 and a section at 862503 while the 1st Recon platoon moved to 887526 where its M-8's and 50 cal MG could cover the ground to the South-East. At 1600 one section of A-2 moved to 853506, at 1700 "B" Co CP moved to 869535; At 1900 A-3 moved to 888523 and 881511 while 1 gun of B-2 at 2200 moved to 876517. During the night Pfc. REVIS of "B" Co and 1 enlist - ed man of 120th Inf. manning a "B" Co machine gun fired 250 rounds of cal. 30 ammunition at a German patrol that infiltrated into their position, killing 10 Germans. With the resumption of the German counter-attacks upon "A" and "B" Co's positions extremely heavy and indirect fire was experienced. From areas near 782488 and 892504 German tank attacks preceeding North and West ran directly into frontal and flank - ing fire of "A" and "B" Co guns. Although direct fire knocked out 1 B-2 and 1 A-1 3 inch gun, destroyed 2 B-2 halftracks with damage to a third that was buried under a building, collapsed by reason of enemy fire, and damaged a "B" Co 1/4 ton, B-2 destroyed 2 Mk V's 1 MK VI and 1 German 1/4 ton and A-1 1 Mk V and 2 Mk VI's. All guns engaged in the fire fight fired at and hit numerous other tanks but the extent of the damage done was impossible to determine. Firing was done at ranges varying between 400 and 1600 yards with an average of 5 rounds APC and HE per tank being expended. Little is known concerning the tank crews although the personnel of one crew attempting to abandon its tank set afire, were destroyed by HE and it is believed that all crews suffered extensively as HE was employed freely as anti-personnel measures on destroyed vehicles. While the cannon Co, 120th Infantry, fired a diversionary barrage, B-2 guns took under fire church steeples in (BUCHEN) being used as German OPs, but because of the extreme range and haze, results are unknown though several hits upon targets are claimed. Although many received battle injuries, the only evacuated casualties were from "B" Co, which lost four EM and 1 Officer (Lt. RADY) as battle casualties and two EM as non-battle casualties. Loss of Lt. RADY required the Liaison officer Lt. BRANDON being moved to platoon leader of B-3 and transportation Officer Lt. LUFT being shifted to Liaison Officer No: 2 "A" Co took 4 PWs. Under Co 11, 30th Inf Div. 1 Silver Star was awarded.

13 OCTOBER 44

The Battalions CP at 0945 moved to the basement of a school-building North of HERZOGENRATH (849537) and 1 gun of B-1 at 2000 moved to 871504. Although shelling remained heavy on all positions it was not as hot as the previous two days and no enemy activity of any importance was encountered. A-2 reconnoitered for new positions for 1 section in the event displacement behind the slowly advancing 116th was necessary and possible. All half-tracks lost by "B" Co were repaired or replaced and the B-2 3 inch gun knocked out in previous action was repaired and returned to action. "C" Co had one non-battle casualty.

14 OCTOBER 44

Though enemy fire continued to be heavy the period was relatively quiet with the 1 B-2 gun previously knocked out returning to action at 1815 going into position at 873516. C-1 by direct indirect methods had one gun fire 18 rounds HE and 2 rounds AP in an attempt to destroy German vehicles and personnel moving on the road between HONGEN and ALDENHOFEN but results were not satisfactory. "C" Co took 1 German prisoner. "A" Co had 2 battle casualties, "B" Co 2 non-battle casualties and Headquarters 1 non-battle casualty. 4 3rd platoon "A" Co men missing since MORTAIN returned to the unit as replacements after having hidden MORTAIN for five days, being captured and marched to TRUN, escaping and turning themselves over to Canadians and returning to their unit after going through the usual processing.

15 OCTOBER 44

"B" Co's forward CP at 1500 moved back to the main CP location and under a plan to shift all of "A" Co to the sector of the 120th Inf the North-West section of A-2 at 2300 took position at 863500 from which the entire platoon was capable of following up the attack of the 3rd Battalion, 120th Inf. Enemy artillery fire lessened but continued to be fairly heavy with no other enemy activity disturbing the units. "A" Co had 1 non-battle casualty.

16 OCTOBER 44

Although all units continued to receive extremely heavy artillery and mortar barrages, the launching of the diversionary attack of the 117th Inf brought upon "C" Co, 3rd Recon platoon and northern units of "A" and "B" Companies the heaviest artillery and mortar concentrations they have yet experienced. At 1500 B-2's gun at 876518 was hit by artillery fire damaging the indirect sight and slight mount. The gun remained in position of its primary mission and repairs on indirect sight were made during the evening hours. "A" Co had 1 battle and 1 non-battle casualty and a "B" Co battle casualty died in a field Hospital.

17 OCTOBER 44

"A" Co put a captured German 75mm anti-tank gun in position at 874504 manning it with the A-1 crew that had their 3 inch gun destroyed pending receipt of a replacement. One 3 inch gun of C-3 previously located at 886535 at 2100 was moved to 935534 where it had a field of fire to the East and South East. No other changes were made during the period and all units continued to receive fairly heavy artillery and mortar fire. "A" Co had 1 battle casualty and C-1 captured 1 German prisoner.

18 OCTOBER 44

Enemy fire damaged a "B" Co half-track the vehicle was repairable. There were no units moved during the period with all positions

18 OCTOBER 44

(CONTIN'D)

continuing to be manned. "A" and "B" Companies had one battle casualty while Headquarters had 1 and "A" Co had 2 non battle casualties. One of the Dutch men fighting with "A" Co was killed in action.

19 OCTOBER 44

No change. "C" Co had 1 battle casualty while non battle casualties were distributed 1 to "A" Co, 1 to "B" Co and 2 to "O" Co.

20 OCTOBER 44

No change. "A" Co had 1 1/4 ton damaged in an automobile accident. "A" and "B" Companies had 1 non-battle casualty each. Headquarters and "B" Co each had 1 man returned who had been previously evacuated as casualties.

21 OCTOBER 44

Continued heavy artillery fire damaged sights and sight-mounts of 2 "B" Co guns but with improvisations, i.e., a forked stick for a sight, both guns remained in action. "C" Co had 3 battle casualties and "B" Co had 1 non-battle casualty.

22 OCTOBER 44

At 1200 XIX Corps together with 30th Infantry Division and the 823rd TD Battalion was transferred from the First United States Army to the Ninth United States Army. At 1230 B-2 from its direct fire positions fired 30 rounds HE, fuse delay, and 8 rounds APC at 3 German OPs in EUCHEN. While not destroyed completely the OPs were made untenable. This firing drew a tremendous counter battery barrage. To take advantage to TD firing and ammunition allocations B-2 at 1600 and C-2 at 1700 took up indirect fire positions at 824488 and 823498. Lt. JEFFERSON and "B" Co fire direction center provided fire-control personnel and prior to 2000 60 rounds HE were fired into parts of the town of ST JORIS. Because of the inability to observe rounds fired there was no registration before firing. "B" Co had 1 battle casualty and Headquarters 1 non-battle casualty.

23 OCTOBER 44

although hampered by poor observation both B-1 and C-2 completed 3 registrations for a total of 30 rounds of HE fired. Between 1900 and 2155 362 rounds HE were fired in 3 concentrations on vehicle parks and road junctions. "B" Co had 1 battle casualty and Headquarters 1 non-battle casualty during the period.

24 OCTOBER 44

Enemy direct fire destroyed the sight of an "A-1" gun but replacements and repairs were made in position. 2 concentrations for a total of 192 rounds were fired by B-2 and C-2 upon a tank park at HONGEN and on a highway between VORWEIDEN and ESCHWEILER. "B" Co had 1 killed in action, 2 wounded in action and Headquarters had 1 non-battle casualty. 10 men previously evacuated as casualties were returned to their units as replacements.

25 OCTOBER 44

221 rounds of HE were fired indirect during the early morning hours at German vehicles and installations at MARIAGRUBE BF. After full reconnaissance and preparations to effect the release of the 803 TD Battalion and take over anti-tank defense in the entire Division sector the following moves were made: "A" Co OP at 1515 to 859505; C-2 at 1815 to an assembly position at 887537; A-2 at 1845 to 865489; 1 section of C-2 at 1900 to 887523; A-3 at 2020 to 861478 and the other section of C-2 at 2230 to 881513. B-2 remaining in indirect fire positions fired 3 concentrations for a total of 300 rounds of HE. "B" Co had 1 non-battle casualty.

26 OCTOBER 44

Between 0630 and 0830 B-2 fired 2 concentrations for a total of 202 rounds of HE upon a cross road and a road detour. Again during the evening hours 2 concentrations for a total of 118 rounds of HE were fired to complete all activity for the period. Chaplain (Lt) BONHOEFF joined unit being assigned to us for temporary duty from 2nd TD Group.

27 OCTOBER 44

B-2 fired 100 rounds of HE indirect in 3 concentrations and B-1 captured 2 German prisoners. With the exception of the continuation of manning all direct fire positions no other activity took place.

28 OCTOBER 44

During the early morning hours B-2 fired 72 rounds HE on 2 concentrations. Members of this unit received their first awards for meritorious service, General HOBBS presenting 17 silver stars and 3 Bronze Stars. 46 rounds HE were fired in this unit's first test of the new 3" reduced charge. The conclusion was reached that: Deflection, dispersion was negligible, but the range dispersion was very large varying up to a one hundred yard for six rounds. B-2 continued in indirect fire positions firing 3 concentrations for a total of 172 rounds. "A" Co had 2 wounded in action and "B" Co took 2 soldiers in a civilian uniform.

29 OCTOBER 44

The 3 inch gun replacement of B-1 was put into action at 873516 with a field of fire to the South and South West. 50 rounds of reduced charge were fired in further experimental tests and between 1730 and 2400 100 rounds of HE were fired in 2 concentrations. All guns continued to be manned but a limited number of personnel were allowed on 12 and 48 hours passes while others had the benefit of a moving picture. "C" Co had 1 battle casualty and "B" Co 1 non-battle casualty.

30 OCTOBER 44

No moves or firing were made or was done during the period. Headquarters Co had 2 non-battle casualties. Selected personnel had short passes or attended movies while all others manned firing positions.

31 OCTOBER 44

B-2 from indirect fire positions between 1800 and 2200 fired 3 concentrations for a total of 150 rounds HE, fuse delay, upon houses being used by German soldiers as barracks. With the exception of a few on pass or attending a moving picture all units continued to man gun positions. 16 replacements were received, twelve of which were former members of this unit. "B" Co had 3 battle casualties 1 being a replacement injured before he got to his gun positions. "C" Co had 1 1/4 ton badly damaged in an automobile accident.

German artillery and mortar fire continued extremely heavy during all this period.

DETTNER
Lt. Col

OFFICIAL:

LOHSE
S-3