

AFTER AFTER BATTLE REPORT
NO IV

FROM : 010001 SEPTEMBER 44
TO : 302400 SEPTEMBER 44

UNIT : 823rd TANK DESTROYER BN
PLACE: HOLLAND, 773534 (HEERLERBAAN)
TIME : 021200 OCTOBER 44

MAPS : N.E. FRANCE & BELGIUM, 1/100,000
GERMANY, 1/25,000.

1 SEPTEMBER 44

After B-1 at 0550 moved to 11588? no further activity took place during the morning hours. For the purpose of the move to BELGIUM, "A" Co was attached to Task Force HARRISON, "B" Co to the 120th Regimental combat Team and "C" Co to 119th Regimental Combat Team. Movement was started at 130 when "A" Co and 3rd Recon platoon moved out as a group behind the Infantry. No opposition was met until most of the unit had past through ROYE at which time a group of Germans travelling on a parallel road was seen. Recon personnel opened fire knocking out one motorcycle, capturing one truck, killing two Germans and taking 37 prisoners. "C" Co and the 1st Recon platoon crossed the IP at 1652 thereafter moving continuously the balance of the period. "B" Co and the 2nd Recon platoon crossed the IP at 2055 and moved continuously the balance of the period. At 2000 Bn CP and rear Echelon moved to LE TILLER where at 2130 they joined the Division CP Group on the move to BELGIUM and drove continuously the Balance of the period.

2 September 44

Slight resistance held up Task Force HARRISON for two hours during the night and again at 0700 at RUMMILLY. While halted waiting for resistance to be cleared enemy mortar fire fell on the column injuring one man and seriously damaging two 1/4 tons and one M-20 of the 3rd Recon platoon. Again the enemy was contacted in the middle of CAMBRAI where the Germans opened up with small arms and self-propelled 40mm Artillery fire which was returned with 50 and 30 cal fire, with unit suffering one casualty with small arms fire. During the engagement 5 rds HE were fired at the enemy in a church steeple. After this action "A" Co was ordered to cover all main approaches to the town of CAMBRAI and act as flank-protection for Div troupes moving through that area. During the early morning hours a German jeep infiltrated into "C" Co column but was later removed by M.P.'s. Between 0100 and 0900 a greater portion of the time was spent by "C" Co parked on the highway South of PERONNE, during that time one driver drove for 5 hours and moved a distance of 300 Yds. Spasmodic movements continued until 1500 at which time steady movement began which continued until "C" Co crossed the BELGIUM Border at 2300. "B" Co also experienced many stops during the period but nothing of any interest happened with the exception that because of the extreme gas-shortage B-1 was forced to stop just South of VALENCIENNES. After moving all night the daylight hours were spent by the Battalion CP and rear Echelon parked on the Highway South of PERONNE.

3 SEPTEMBER 44

"A" Co continued on its flank guard mission for the entire period. At 0100 "C" Co and the 1st Recon platoon moved into the assembly area at 988290. Later in the morning positions were taken as follows: C- near 913336; C-3 near 917280; with one section at 910319 and the other section at 915312; "B" Co and 2nd Recon platoon crossed the BELGIUM Border at 0630 and entered a Company assembly position at 947267. At 0728 Battalion CP and Rear Echelon crossed into BELGIUM and at 0800 closed into its Division assigned assembly area West of ST MAUR at 920278. Ten minutes later it was discovered that there were numerous Germans sharing the wood with the CP so the CP graciously withdrew giving the Germans temporary undisputed position, surrounded the place and gave battle. Artillery and Infantry put their oar in the pie and the final result was 91 Germans captured (this unit was given official credit for 46) and six killed with unit suffering one evacuated casualty, Sergeant Major LUDIKER, and by right of survivorship gained position of a very littered and battered woods. "C" Co took 12 prisoners and killed 2 Germans. After being refilled B-1 continued on its journey and at 2315 rejoined "B" Co, taking up direct fire positions at 950760.

4 SEPTEMBER 44

Although "A" Co reverted to Battalion control at 1200 a restriction was placed upon this unit that "A" Co could not be moved without Division order so "A" Co, ably supported by FFI troupes, remained at CAMBRAI. About 2030 A-2 captured three prisoners, turning them over to FFI. For better control and coverage of avenues of approach C-1 at 1300 moved to 920315; C-2 at 1300 to 910314; "C" Co CP at 1420 moved to 913293; "B" Co CP at 1400 moved to 963304 and B-2 at 1500 moved to 978288 and B-1 at 1600 moved to 954312, thus completing all moves for the period. A limited supply of Gasoline was received which removed immediate transportation difficulties. "B" Co took 1 and "C" Co took 7 prisoners, after killing 4 Germans.

5 SEPTEMBER 44

At 0900 unit was instructed to bring "A" Co from its position at CAMBRAI to an assembly position in the areas of the 117th Infantry Regiment. About 1500, by accident, rumour reached this headquarters that "A" Co was supposed to be attached to the 117th Infantry Regiment which rumor Division finally confirmed, but was unable to state the time it became effective, although Division indicated it was approximately at 1000 hours. After reconnaissance and contacting the 117th Infantry who at the time of the contact knew nothing about the attachment, "A" Co left CAMBRAI at 1800 hours closing at 2015 into an assembly position FRANCE at 993214 after having circled into BELGIUM and back to FRANCE to get into position. During the period "A" Co took three prisoners.

6 SEPTEMBER 44

No change. One man absent from unit for three days, is now listed as missing in action.

7 SEPTEMBER 44

"C" Co, attached to the 119th Regimental Combat Team, left its direct fire position at 0630, crossed the IP at 0655, proceeded along the division route No 3 to 707297, where it closed into a Company assembly area at 1300. "B" Co, attached to the 120th Regimental Combat

Team, which in turn attached the platoons to Infantry Battalions left their CP location at 0650, crossed the IP at 0835 and proceeded along Division route number one to 684395, where it closed at 1400. The platoons attached to Battalions closed and took up positions as follows: B-1 at 1445 to 687421; B-3 at 1500 at 695418 and B-2 at 1615 at 701382. "A" Co, attached to 117th Regimental Combat Team, left its position at 0725, crossed the IP at PEROWELZ at 0820 and followed Division route No two to 700348 where at 1330 it closed into a Company assembly position. Battalion CP, with no other units to worry about or control, and Rear Echelon moved in serial number seven by Division road number three, left their chateau headquarters at 0830, crossed the IP at VALENCIENNES at 0955, passed through MONS, LA LOUVIERE and NEVELLES and took up a bivouac near MARANSART at 704322, closing at 1628 after completing a move from BELGIUM to FRANCE to BELGIUM for a distance of seventy-nine miles.

8 SEPTEMBER 44

There was no change in assignments and no activity of any type during the night and morning. At 1300 "C" Co and 1st Recon platoon left their area for 889278 arriving at 1500 and again left at 1600, arriving at 1900 at 023355. "A" Co at 1400 left their location, crossed the IP at 1418, and at 1945 closed into a company assembly position at 034386. "B" Co, its platoon still attached to Battalions, left its old area at 1625, crossed the IP at 1655 and at 1900 closed into 027410, while the platoons closed as follows: B-2 at 2000 into 048430; B-3 at 2125 to 046407 and B-1 had one gun placed at 986407, one gun at 982398 and one gun at 975393, all closing about 2030. Scattered as the guns were it was not believed that B-1 could protect itself, far less furnish any protection to the Division and this matter was so reported to the Division. The 2nd Recon platoon spent the period on special missions assigned by the 120th Regimental Combat Team although this unit is under Battalion control. Battalion CP left its old location at 1600, made a 38 mile motor move, and at 1845 established a new CP in the Major's chateau at 033353 (North West of JAUCHE).

9 SEPTEMBER 44

"A" Co at 1605 left their old location and moved by motor march to 335427 closing at 1930. "C" Co left at 1500 closing into an assembly position at 235330 at 1630 and left that location at 1815, arriving at 341387 at 2030; while "B" Co CP left their old location at 1925 and closed into a new area at 321437 at 1930. The three "B" Co platoons continuing to be attached to Battalions, closed into new area as follows: B-3 at 1925 to 344429. B-2 at 2035 to 347447 and B-1 at 2100 to 346460; Battalion CP and Rear Echelon at 1600 left their old locations and at 1800 set up at OREYE (319390) in the recreation hall of a sugar refinery, after completing a motor march of approximately 23 miles. "A" and "C" Companies reverted to Battalion control upon closing into Company areas. B-1 personnel section at GUSTON rear sans weapons, steel helmets and other military equipment, captured 11 prisoners.

10 September 44

Moves for the period were as follows: C-3 at 1230 to 472460; C-2 at 1300 to 463480; C-1 at 1330 to 445475; "C" Co CP at 1400 to 461464. A-1 at 1400 to 483381; A-3 at 1510 to 463440; "A" Co CP at 1550 to 480426; "B" Co CP at 1550 to 438460; A-2 at 1600 to 473442; Battalion CP at 1600 to 450474 (GENOELS' ELDEREN). "B" Co CP at 2030 to 50461; B-2 at 2115 to 545465; B-1 at 2130 to 538456 and B-3 at

2215 to 509463, thereby covering parts of the ALBERT CANAL and all approaches West of the CANAL leading into the Division sector. 1st Recon platoon established one OP at 496478 and another at 489505. Only enemy activity encountered was a little Artillery fire on the 1st Recon platoon which caused no damages or casualties. Three prisoners were taken by unit motor messengers, while they were on messenger service. The gas shortage continued to be critical, and by the end of the period units could move only to the extent gasoline was supplied to them during the period.

11 SEPTEMBER 44

No change. Period was spent in maintenance.

12 SEPTEMBER 44

Effective at the start of the period "B" Co was released from its attachment to the 120th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. Although plans had been prepared for Battalion to cross the ALBERT CANAL and MEUSE RIVER in the vicinity of 545370 at 0800 hours, upon Division orders "A" Co was directed to cross at LIEGE and the 3rd Recon platoon at 545370 at 0400 hours, which they both did at 0445 hours arriving in an assembly position at 552363 at 0800. Movement orders for the rest of the Battalion were cancelled and all units remained in place all morning. During this time B-1 and B-2 received heavy artillery fire upon their positions near FORT EBEN' EMAEL which destroyed one 1/4 ton but caused no personal injuries. At 1500 "A" Co and 3rd Recon platoon moved to a unit assembly position at 585340. All units West of the ALBERT CANAL except Rear Echelon moved to unit assembly positions near the crossings as follows: "B" Co at 1511 to 497397; Battalion CP at 1615 to 514383 and "C" Co at 1615 to 514359. Reconnaissance platoons moved with the companies they were working with. After movement time had been set and cancelled several times "C" Co finally started about 1900 followed by "B" Co and Battalion CP, and after crossing the ALBERT CANAL and MEUSE RIVER units closed as follows: "B" Co CP at 2240 to 577378; B-1 at 2250 to 577374; B-3 at 2310 to 573370; B-2 at 2320 to 598370; C-1 at 2330 to 593385; "C" Co CP at 2330 to 593385; C-2 at 2400 to 611393 and C-3 at 2400 to 616393. Motorcyclist Tec 5 COURCHAINNE, previously reported missing in action, reported back to the unit, after having been captured by the Germans, liberated by the English and fighting with them three or four days.

13 SEPTEMBER 44

Units at the move at the end of previous period closed as follows: Battalion CP at 0030 to 568395 (German barracks East of WISE), A-2 at 0040 to 635430; A-1 at 0040 to 632433. Moves started and completed during the period were: B-1 at 0800 to 579425; O-1 at 1245 to 647455 and 652455; "B" Co CP at 1330 to 583415; B-3 at 1445 to 588427; "C" Co CP at 1450 to 641450; B-1 at 1515 to 612464; B-2 at 1645 to 583415 and 580420; B-3 at 1700 to 619465; O-2 at 1700 to an assembly position at 663457; O-3 at 1705 to 660467 and 667466; O-2 at 1900 to 687470; "B" Co CP at 1920 to 665437; A-2 and A-3 about 1930 to an assembly position at 661464; A-1 at 1930 to 667482; B-1 at 2000 to 674435; Battalion CP at 2010 crossed into HOLLAND and took up a location in an orchard East of BANHOLD (649452); "A" Co CP at 2030 to 664480; B-2 at 2030 to 662448; A-2 at 2115 to 654493 and A-3 at 2200 to 645487. In all 24 moves were made during the period and at the close of the period all units except the Rear Echelon were situated in HOLLAND. A motor accident during the night-march damaged one "B" Co gun, putting it out of action. Four prisoners were taken by A-1.

14 SEPTEMBER 44

Although informed by all sources that no movement was contemplated today, the movement of the 119th Inf Reg required the following adjustments: Battalion CP at 1915 to be set up in a Franciscan Monastery at 665435; B-3 at 2010 to 626489; C-1 at 2020 to 683488; A-2 at 2040 to 647500 and A-1 at 2100 to 650517. Forty replacements were received today, 5 of which were previous members of this unit who had been evacuated as casualties. Unit was informed by returning men that 4 "A" Co men reported missing by this unit after the battle of MORTAIN, were in the 40th replacement depot after having been injured in the MORTAIN battle, captured by the Germans and liberated by the English upon the taking of a German Field Hospital. "C" Co captured one prisoner and "B" Co captured seven prisoners and during a black-out drive Lt. WEBB and two 3rd Recon platoon personnel were severely injured in a collision with a 2 1/2 ton truck containing German prisoners.

15 SEPTEMBER 44

Because of the evacuation of Lt. WEBB, Lt. BRANDON was assigned 3rd Recon platoon and Lt. LUFT was made Liaison No 2. With the crossing of the MEUSE by the 803 TD Battalion, B-3 was released from its support position in the 117th Infantry Regiment sector and at 1700 moved to 666429; A-3 at 1713 moved to 631515 to fill a gap left by B-3; C-3 at 1800 moved to 665505 filling the gap left by A-3; "C" Co CP at 1910 moved to 664496 and B-3 at 2025 moved to 668459, thus filling the gap left by C-3. Six German prisoners were taken by C-1.

16 SEPTEMBER 44

Behind the slowly advancing Infantry, units moved as follows: B-1 at 1255 to 739469; B-3 at 1300 to 696475; C-1 at 1300 to 705502; "B" Co CP at 1315 to 714448; C-3 at 1540 to 705502; C-2 at 1700 to 697511; and B-3 at 1730 to 732589. At 1800, upon Division orders "A" and "C" Companies were released from their primary mission and for the purpose of filling their secondary mission moves were made as follows: Battalion CP at 2010 to 665496; C-2 at 2015 to 662492; C-1 at 2020 to 662494; C-3 at 2037 to 660490; A-1, A-2, and A-3 at 2030 to 660501, 650496 and 651495 and "A" Co CP at 2100 to 647498. "B" Co on its direct fire mission completed the day's move with B-1 at 2050 to 767479, "B" Co CP at 2200 to 745469, B-3 at 2020 to 743506 and B-2 at 2055 to 762483. A-1 took two prisoners and B-1 took one prisoner. Hq Co and "C" Co had one non-battle casualty each.

17 SEPTEMBER 44

Between 162300 and 170800 "A" and "C" Companies from indirect fire positions fired six concentrations on roads, cross roads and road-junctions for a total of 300 rounds per Company. Neither Co was able to register prior to firing. Moves during the period were as follows: B-3 at 0950 to 763509; B-3 at 1215 to 788518; Battalion CP at 1330 to a bar in EISERHELDE (731505); "C" Co CP at 1445 to 742513; "A" Co CP, A-2, A-1, and A-3 at 1445, 1445, and 1500 moved to 702519, 735519, 734520 and 737527; C-1, C-2 and C-3 at 1630 to 742508, 739509 and 738511; "B" Co CP at 1705 to 758495 and B-2 at 1800 to 791514. Although not registered "A" and "C" companies are ready for indirect fire missions and "B" Co guns now are within sight of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Troops of the 2nd Recon platoon and "B" Co were the first members of this organization, as a unit, to cross the German border. Direct fire from the SIEGFRIED LINE knocked out 1st Lt NEEL's 1/4 ton causing only slight injuries to his driver. Hq Co had one battle casualty.

18 SEPTEMBER 44

Between 172300 and 180700 "A" and "C" Companies fired twelve concentrations of 150 rounds per Co upon pill-boxes, hutments and road-junctions within Germany and the SIEGFRIED LINE. Upon verbal orders about 0900 "A" Co was attached to 258th FA Group, "C" Co to 230th FA Battalion and "B" Co remained under Battalion control to be employed for anti-tank defense in the sector of the 120th Infantry. Later, again by verbal orders "B" Co was attached to the 120th and finally at 1430 the 823rd TD Battalion, less "A" Co attached to the 258th FA Group, was attached to the 120th Inf Reg. The Battalion Commander immediately reported to the Headquarters of 120th Infantry and was informed that the Companies had been attached to Battalions. Later investigation disclosed that B-1 and B-3 were attached to the 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry; that B-2 and C-2 were attached to the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry; while the other two "C" Companies platoons took positions with C-3 in the sector of the 1st Battalion and C-1 in the sector of the 2nd Battalion, where they were subject to employment as and when directed by the C.O. of the 120th Inf. Reg. Moves for the period were as follows: "B" Co at 1745 to 783528; C-1 at 1800 to 783578; B-1 at 1815 to 806517; B-3 at 1815 to 784524; "C" Co CP at 1820 to 772532; C-2 at 1900 to 802544; A-3 at 1915 to 776556; B-2 at 1930 to 793553; "A" Co CP at 1945 to 779554; A-1 at 1945 to 773552; A-2 at 1945 to 774551 and B-3 at 2030 to 804529. Motorcycle messenger RUMBLE with Liaison officer at Division, while bringing order from Division to this Headquarters captured one prisoner.

19 SEPTEMBER 44

The period was extremely quiet with eight moves during the day: Rear Echelon at 0915 to a position in advance of Battalion CP at 758511; C-3 at 1000 to 776539; "A" Co CP at 1155 to 766557; C-2 at 1900 to 805535 and 805538; "A" Co CP at 2355 to 821576; A-1 at 2300 to 821577 and A-1 at 2300 to 821577 and A-2 at 2300 to 821579. Positions from which pill-boxes within the SIEGFRIED LINE could be fired upon were prepared. Although considerable enemy shelling were experienced by the most forward units, "C" Co was the only unit suffering any casualties with three men being evacuated.

20 SEPTEMBER 44

With the calling off of the attack on the SIEGFRIED LINE only two moves were made during the period: A-3 at 0600 moved to 823582 and Battalion CP at 1355 moved into a modern factory office building South West of HEERLEN (575555). "B" Co had one non-battle casualty.

21 SEPTEMBER 44

No moves were made during the period but "A" Co from their previously occupied positions did considerable firing. A-2 fired at distances between 2000 and 3000 yds, knocked out one vehicle, which was either a tank or a self-propelled gun and one pill-box concealed in a haystack from which a large caliber gun was firing, while A-1 destroyed a self-propelled gun at a range of 2700 yds, although 40 rounds were required to set it on fire.

All "A" Co Positions were under heavy shellfire during the period, with one shell landing in a fox-hole, killing one and seriously wounding another. "B" Co had one man wounded in action, "A" Co two non-battle casualties and Headquarters Co (a 3rd Recon platoon 1/4 ton truck was in an accident with a large cargo truck) three non battle casualties.

22 SEPTEMBER 44

"A" Co expended 24 rounds of AP, 15 rounds CPA and 18 rounds of HE to destroy one pill-box occupied by Germans. Upon orders of the Commanding Officer 120th Infantry, during the night of 21-22 September a motorised patrol from 3rd Recon platoon was sent on a mission of contacting a Cavalry Headquarters outpost which mission was accomplished by making contact at 2354. Enemy shell fire killed one and wounded one in "A" Co and one Headquarters man previously reported wounded in the motor accident, died. Notice was received by this organization, that two men reported missing in the Battle of ST BARTHELEMY were being sent as casualties to ENGLAND. No information was possessed by this unit concerning the actions of these men or their report on the action at ST BARTHELEMY.

23 SEPTEMBER 44

Battalion Rear Echelon was forced by enemy artillery fire to move to 733547 closing at 1465. This movement completed all activity for the day, and all units remaining in previously reported positions manning gun positions, conducting maintenance and enjoying a RED CROSS Clubmobile. Heavy shelling was experienced by "B" Co platoons but little other German activity was seen or experienced.

24 SEPTEMBER 44

At 0920 Battalion CP moved its CP to 781532 and then at 1130 it was established in a school-building at HEERLERBAAN (773534) where it was in close proximity to the CP of the 120th Inf. Reg. In a re-organisation, the purpose of which was to have Company Commanders regain full control of their units, "B" Co moved its CP to the neighbourhood of that of the 1st Battalion, 120th Inf, at 799522 at 1335, "C" Co established a Company Command Post at the 2nd Battalion, 120th Inf. CP at 792542, CP'S were established by the 1st and 3rd Recon platoons at 816564 and 804526, C-1 at 1810 took over B-2's position and B-2 at 1845 re-entered its former positions at 792511. Two motion pictures were shown at the CP theatre.

25 SEPTEMBER 44

In order to perform an indirect fire-mission "A" Co at 1906 moved to 774540 and at 2200 A-2 closed into the same area where it immediately went into an indirect fire position. This completed all activity for the day with the exception of several slight corrections in gun positions. "C" Co took two German prisoners and two replacements were received. A levy was made upon all Companies for personnel to bring 3rd Recon platoon back to operating strength. All units continued to enjoy several motion pictures.

26 SEPTEMBER 44

A-1 in indirect fire positions fired four concentrations of 50 rounds each for a total of 200 rounds and later completed a registration for future firing. No moves were made during the period but extensive re-adjustments of "B" Co guns and 1st Battalion, 120th Inf, 57mm were made. "C" Co had one killed and two wounded in action as a result of enemy artillery. All units continued maintenance, took baths and enjoyed moving picture shows.

27 SEPTEMBER 44

After firing four concentrations of 50 rounds each for a total of 200 rounds A-2 displaced at 0100 to a new indirect fire position at 774529. In the afternoon that platoon was registered, firing two rounds of Smoke and 29 rounds of HE. Enemy direct fire destroyed 1 half-track, belonging to "A" Co together with all the equipment and ammunition thereon. "A" Co had one battle casualty and "B" Co had 2 non-battle casualties. All units continued maintenance.

28 SEPTEMBER 44

Between 272320 and 280030 A-2 fired 3 concentrations of 75, 75, and 150 rounds for a total of 300 rounds HE. At 1200 Hours "A" Co was released from attachment to the 258th FA Group and was attached to the 258th FA Battalion. A-3 fired 12 rounds of HE at enemy Infantry and at a half-track and A-1 fired 20 rounds HE and 40 rounds AP at an enemy pill-box, all results being unknown. Prior to 2400 A-2 fired three concentrations for a total of 300 rounds HE. Upon Division order at 2000 C-3 was ordered to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of "A" Co, 803rd TD Battalion, and after reconnaissance at 2330 moved to 780510. Manning gun positions and maintenance was continued while available men attended movies.

29 SEPTEMBER 44

At 0050 A-2 displaced to a new indirect fire position at 771536 at 1215 C-3 made adjustments in its positions by moving to 777493 and during the afternoon A-2 re-registered in preparation for future missions. A-3 withdrew one gun from their prepared positions, moved approximately 1000 yards forth, in full view of German forces unlimbered their gun, fired 5 rounds AP and 17 rounds CPA at an enemy pill-box, destroyed it and withdrew from enemy observation, after being exposed for a period of 8 minutes. Between 2200 and 2400, A-2 fired 3 concentrations of 75, 75, and 150 rds HE upon Division assigned targets.

30 September 44

Poor visibility prevented A-1 from firing upon the only remaining pill-box in its sector, not destroyed. At 2035 notice was received that "B" Co 821 TD Bn, had relieved C-3 and permission was granted to move that platoon as soon as desired. That unit moved at once and at 2115 closed into 777547. Between 2000 and 2200 A-2 fired one concentration of 150 rds HE and then moved to its old location at 822578 closing at 010035 Oct. 44. "A" and "B" Co had one battle casualty each and "B" Co had one non-battle casualty. All units continued to enjoy moving pictures shows.

DETMER
Lt. Col

OFFICIAL: