

HEADQUARTERS
773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion(SP)
APO 403, U. S. Army.

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Report After Operations Against the Enemy.

TO: The Adjutant General, Army War College, War Department,
Washington 25, D.C.

THRU: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 403, U.S. Army.

Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 90,
U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with Par 10, AR 343-105, as amended by Change 3 dated 9 March 1943, the following report is submitted:

2. The information contained herein has been extracted from the Unit Journal of the 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP).

3. Report After Operations Against the Enemy -- Perior 010001A January 1945 - 312359A January 1945.

On 1 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) located in ST. FRANCOIS, France. No change. Headquarters Co. located at EIRANGE. No change. Ron Co. - Company located at HALSTROFF. Pioneer pltn completed blowing in positions in accordance with Plan 1. Four holes completed in area in accordance with Plan 2. Twelve men from each reconnaissance pltn reported to firing companies for assistance in camouflage. A Co. - Co. located at HALSTROFF. At 0915, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns moved from their positions in Plan 1 to positions in Plan 2. The move was held up due to enemy planes strafing, but closed into positions by 1030 hours. The 1st pltn shot down one of the planes and it fell in the vicinity of WALDWISSE. 2nd and 3rd pltns on Plan 1 are dug-in, camouflaged and range cards complete. 1st pltn positions blown, but not cleared. On Plan 2, the 3rd pltn positions are blown but not cleared. Pltns returned to HALSTROFF at 1130 hours. B Co. - Co. moved out at 0900 and occupied positions in accordance with Plan 2. At 1100 hours, company returned to EVANDORF and remainder of day was spent on maintenance. All positions are now prepared for Plan 1. Enemy aircraft were fired on twice during the day; once at a flight of seven and again at a single plane. C Co. - Co. located at ST. FRANCOIS. The pltns in position in accordance with Plan 1 were called upon to execute Plan 2 which was done by 1100 hours at which time they moved to ST. FRANCOIS. Enemy fighter planes were extremely active in this area this morning. Sgt Hekele scored numerous hits on one plane causing it to smoke which was confirmed by neighboring AA gunners. In the afternoon, Lt. Beckman with one TD section went to the 90th Infantry Division Reinforcement Training Center and aided in a demonstration with Major General VAN FLEET attending. Weather, cold and clear.

(NOTE: Plan #1 - dug-in positions in general line Moselle River South and West to EVANDORF, HALSTROFF.
Plan #2 - Alternate positions South and West of Plan #1.
Plan #3 - Positions South and West of Plan #2.

On 2 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co., no change. Ron Co. - Co. remained in HALSTROFF and all pltns performed motor and weapons maintenance. A Co. - Co. remained in HALSTROFF and performed motor and weapons maintenance. B Co. - During the day the company performed motor and weapons maintenance. At 1000 hours, a low-flying enemy plane (fighter) was fired on, but due to speed and low flying, no hits recorded. Plane dropped two light bombs at 042912. No damage. C Co. - Motor maintenance performed by company. The capabilities of track (chevron and smooth) were tested on icy roads. Company alerted several times during the day, but no enemy aircraft observed. Weather, cold and clear.

R-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

On 3 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co., no change.
Rcn Co. - All pltns continued motor and weapons maintenance. At 1400 hours, the 2nd pltn reconnoitered woods south of HAUPE-SIERCK for possible demolition work and minefields and gun positions to cover minefields. At 1420 hours, the Pioneer pltn left company and reported to A Co. Completed alternate gun positions and removed 10 trees to improve field of fire. A Co. - Company continued maintenance of vehicles and weapons. Pltn leaders reconnoitered positions around ST. FRANCOIS for Plan 3. B Co. - Company continued maintenance of vehicles and weapons. At 1500 hours, pltn leaders and pltn sergeants reconnoitered positions for Plan 3. C Co. - Maintenance of vehicles and weapons continued. Pltn leaders continued to reconnoiter for positions to the South and SW. Weather, cold and overcast.

On 4 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs. Co., no change.
Rcn Co. - The company, less Pioneer pltn, continued on motor and weapons maintenance. The Pioneer pltn continued on demolition work on gun positions. Completed 10 holes for C Co. and 8 holes for B Co. A Co. - In the morning, the pltn leaders reconnoitered positions for Plan 3, routes in and out and fields of fire. 2nd and 3rd pltns test fired on gun each in the afternoon. No other changes. B Co. - Pltn leaders made a thorough reconnaissance of positions for Plan 3. At 1430 hours, Pioneer pltn arrived to blow in positions for 3rd pltn in Plan 2. 3rd pltn moved to this position and two TD's were blown in. C Co. - Reconnaissance for positions continued to the S and SW. No other changes. Weather, cold and overcast - snow.

On 5 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs. Co., no change.
Rcn Co. - Pioneer pltn continued blowing holes for hull-down positions of TD's for B Co. All other pltns continued on motor and weapons maintenance. A Co. - Company still located in HALSTROFF. Situation unchanged. Pltns continued on motor maintenance. B Co. - Company continued on maintenance of vehicles and weapons. No other changes. C Co. - Pltn leaders continued reconnaissance for positions. Pltns worked on and improved positions in Plan 2. Weather, cold, snow.

On 6 January, the Battalion was alerted by Division order to move to new location. At 1700 hours, Bn moved. C Co. was the last element in column and the IP at 2030 hours. At 2400 hours, Bn still enroute. route of march to be: WITTEMOM Bridge (IP), ROUSSEY-le-VILLAGE, FRISANGE, HEATFRANGE, LUXEMBOURG, TUNTINGEN, SAEUL. Bn transferred to III Corps by Troop Assignment No. A-86, effective 6 January 1945, TUSA. Weather, cold and cloudy.

On 7 January, the Bn enroute, moved to SAEUL, Luxembourg with last elements C Company closing in at 0430 hours. March was made without accident. Three T2's still out due to traction on icy roads. Total distance travelled 47-miles. All companies located at SAEUL (749268). Weather, cold with heavy snowfall.

On 8 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs. Co. remained at SAEUL. No change. Rcn Co. - 1st pltn left CP at 0845 and reconnoitered roads from SAEUL to DUNKROFF to NOTHUM to KAUNDORF. 2nd pltn at 0845 reconnoitered roads from SAEUL to ESCHDORF to KAUNDORF. 3rd pltn at 0845 reconnoitered roads from SAEUL to ESCHDORF to LULTZ-HAUSEN to ESCH-SUR-SURE to KAUNDORF. 1st and 2nd pltns returned to SAEUL at 1615. 3rd pltn remained at KAUNDORF. Reconnaissance was made under extreme adverse weather conditions. Swirling snow limited visibility in places to zero. High snow banks blocked roads and limited mobility. A Co. - Co. moved from SAEUL at 1500 hours enroute to new location at BOULAIDE. Roads very slippery. Co. attached to 357th Inf. Regt. B Co. - No operation during period. Co. alerted for move at 1100 hours, but remained in SAEUL. Remained in reserve under Bn control. C Co. - Co. still located in SAEUL. CO and pltn leaders reconnoitered to the North. Company attached to 359th Inf. Regiment. Weather, cold, snow and overcast.

On 9 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) moved from SAEUL at 1400 hours, closing in at BOULAIDE (620449) by 1500 hours. Distance travelled 20-miles. Hqs. Co. no change. Rcn Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns attached to A and C Companies, respectively. 2nd and Hqs pltns left SAEUL at 1400 hours and closed into BOULAIDE (623443) at 1600 hours. A Co. - Company closed into BOULAIDE at approximately 0800 hours. At 0715, the company moved from BOULAIDE closing in at BAVIGNE at 0900 hours. At 0950, the 1st pltn moved a few hundred yards North of BAVIGNE, and at 1630, they moved into BERLE with the 1st Bn, 357th Inf. The 2nd pltn moved alongside of the 1st pltn North of BAVIGNE going into BERLE. 3rd pltn in reserve took positions in and around BAVIGNE. Light artillery, mortar and small arms fire was encountered. B Co. - Co. in reserve under Bn control moved to BOULAIDE, closing in at 1610 hours. No other changes. C Co. - At 0625 hours, company moved from SAEUL to join 359th Inf. Regiment in its attack North from NOTHUM. 1st and 3rd pltns took up position in vicinity of FOLCH covering our advance. 2nd pltn in reserve at KAUNDORF. At 1715 pltn moved to following positions to protect regiment against counterattack. 1st pltn vicinity crossroads (659525), 2nd pltn 676505, 3rd pltn CR (669513). Mortar and artillery fire extremely heavy in pltn sectors. Weather, cold, snow.

On 10 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co., no change. Rcn Co. - CP remained in BOULAIDE. 1st pltn in position at BAVIGNE. At 1000 hours two M8's left position and escorted A Co Comdr. to BERLE. M8's were used because of heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. Upon completion of mission returned to BAVIGNE and found billets taken over by 26th Inf. Division, so they moved to Co. CP at BOULAIDE. 2nd pltn with B Co. remained inactive. 3rd pltn with C Co. at KAUNDORF maintained relay station between Co. CP and the pltns. A Co. - During the night a shell landed close to the CP knocking out one 1/4-ton vehicle and damaging two others. At 1100 hours, the 1st pltn fired 15 rounds HE at enemy infantry, killing and wounding many. 1st and 2nd pltns at 65955195, under heavy artillery fire during most of the night. 2nd pltn fired three rounds HE at enemy infantry. CP, 64504850, 1st and 2nd pltns 65955195, 3rd pltn 64504850, Rear CP, 62004495. One EM wounded in the right foot. B Co. - CP and pltns located at 619448. CO contacted the CO, 358th Infantry at 1000 hours, and found they had no plans for company at that time. At 1430 hours, 2nd pltn put two guns in position at 617447 and 1st pltn put one gun in position at 622447 to defend town against tank attack. C Co. - At 0830 hours, 1st pltn advanced to 660525. At 1130 hours, one TD, 1st pltn, moved into firing position (667525) and after firing 12 rounds into TRENTELHOF (656527) was hit and knocked out by 2 rounds APHV fire. Two men killed and three wounded. At 0930 hours, 3rd pltn advanced North to contact 3rd Bn; contact made at 1200 hours with pltn taking positions along road 666515 to 663521. At 1630 hours, one TD knocked out by enemy artillery fire vicinity of 663521. No casualties. At 1000 hours, 2nd pltn moved from 674503 to join 2nd Bn at 668514. One section placed at 672508. At 1830 hours, 3rd pltn moved to 672508; 1st section, 2nd pltn moved to 662524. 2nd section, 2nd pltn to 668514. Weather, cold, snow and overcast.

On 11 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP), no change. Hqs Co. - Moved from SAEUL to FOLSCHETTE closing in at 1300 hours. Rcn Co. - 3rd pltn maintained relay station at NOTHUM establishing contact between firing pltns and C Co. Hqs. for their supply needs. 2nd pltn remained inactive in BOULAIDE. 1st pltn left BOULAIDE at 1000 hours reporting to A Co. CP at BERLE. One section provided security for one TD in woods East of DONCOLS and returned to Co. CP at 1830 hours. A Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns moved forward in attack with 357th Infantry, firing on enemy infantry, killing and wounding many of them. The 1st pltn also KO'd two GP vehicles. Lt. Fielden, 1st pltn leader, was wounded but not evacuated until the following day. 1st pltn went into position 64905350 for the night. The 2nd pltn in support of 2nd Bn, 357th Inf. in position at 64905350 moved forward with 2nd pltn Co. C, 712th Tk Bn at 1230 hours, entering DONCOLS from the South edge of town. Pushing forward they reached the edge of SONLEZ. No friendly infantry was in sight. As the TD's and

tanks moved in to take the town, the 50 cal. machine guns fired at the windows of the houses. A few houses were taken and as they moved forward, enemy foot troops were seen running into other houses. 3" was fired into them driving the Germans into the cellars. More houses were taken and a total of 120 prisoners were counted up between the TD's and tankers. Sgt Stefanik saw some Germans trying to get away from town in a vehicle and knocked it out with a board of HF. It was getting dark and the infantry had not moved up to SOMMER to the TD's and tanks withdrew to the infantry line at DONCOLS for the night. Total casualties for the day - 1 man killed, 3 wounded and one man evacuated for shock. B Co. - 2nd and 3rd plns at 1300 hours moved to VAVIGNE with 358th Inf. 2nd pltn attached to 1st Bn and 3rd pltn to 2nd Bn. Regiment moved out in attack at 1500 hours advancing until 1730 hours when advance was stopped for the night. No opposition was encountered. 1st pltn moved to BAVIGNE at 1600 hours and was attached to 3rd Bn, 358th Inf. No other changes. C Co. 2nd pltn in support of 2nd Bn, 358th Inf, continued attack to the North on the 90th Div. right flank and advanced to 64905430. The pltn was engaged in a bitter firefight throughout the day in the course of which they completely destroyed 3 MKV, 3 Mk IV, 1 Armored Car, 1 Motorcycle, 5 GP vehicles and also completely surprised a company of infantry of which at least 100 were definitely killed. No prisoners were taken. No casualties for the pltn. One M10 was hit by HF but no serious damage resulted. 1st pltn in support of 1st Bn, 358th Inf, followed up the advance in a mopping up operation. They pushed on through and occupied the high ground (64705500) of the Regiment objective by 1200 hours. This pltn destroyed 1 MkIII tank, one halftrack and 2 GP vehicles. No casualties in this advance. 3rd pltn with Lt. Von Behren in charge moved up and relieved the 2nd pltn at (64905430) at 1700 hours. 2nd pltn returned to KAUNDORF for ammunition, rations and water. One EM evacuated for shrapnel wound received at 0400 hours during a shelling of KAUNDORF. 15 EM of Bn transferred to 729th Reinforcement Bn. per VOGG, TUSA. Weather, cold, snow and overcast.

On 12 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co., no change. Ren Co. - Hqs, 1st and 2nd plns remained inactive in BOULAIDE. 3rd pltn maintained relay station for C Co. A Co. - At 0030 hours, 2nd pltn moved forward with infantry going into positions of defense against enemy armor in SOMMER. No other action. The 3rd pltn moved from BAVIGNE to DONCOLS to replace the 1st pltn who had only one TD in fighting operation. This TD remained with the 3rd pltn. Company Forward CP moved to DONCOLS. No other changes. B Co. - At 1430 hours, the 1st pltn moved to DONCOLS with the 3rd Bn, 358th Inf. At 1500 hours, 3rd pltn moved with 2nd Bn in attack on BRAS. Road network very difficult to get through. At 2200 hours, infantry was not quite in BRAS and were trying to get 3rd pltn up to them. The 2nd pltn remained in BERLE for the day and reverted back to Co. control. C Co. - The infantry units that company is attached to did not advance - just holding and consolidating positions. At approximately 1730 hours, 2nd pltn relieved 3rd pltn which returned to KAUNDORF. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire continues to fall at pltn positions. Weather, cold.

On 13 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co., no change. Ren Co. - 1st pltn left BOULAIDE at 0730 hours followed by the 2nd and Hqs pltn at 1000 hours moving to SURRE. 3rd pltn left KAUNDORF at 1030 hours (relieved of attachment with C Co). Entire company complete in SURRE by 1130 hours. A Co. - 1st pltn remained in position 63105350 and 3rd pltn 64005400. One TD of 3rd pltn also returned from Bn maintenance. Company continued in support of 357th Infantry as it pushed further NE of DONCOLS. B Co. - At 0730 hours, 1st and 3rd pltns pushed off with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 358th Infantry, and continued with them as they took and consolidated BRAS and high ground to the NE. The objective was reached at 2100 hours. This ground was bitterly contested since it cut one of the main escape routes of the enemy. 2nd pltn remained in BERLE. CP - 646484, 1st pltn - 631561, 2nd pltn - 651519, 3rd pltn - 633559. One casualty. C Co. - 1st pltn left position vicinity of crossroad E of DONCOLS at 1730 hours and proceeded SW to TARCHAMPS. 2nd pltn also left their position from crossroad and returned to KAUNDORF. 2nd pltn and CP (Co) proceeded to TARCHAMPS. At 1630 hours, 3rd pltn moved to ISENBORN but at 1930 hours, continued march to TARCHAMPS.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Entire company closed in by 2000 hours, in a position of readiness because of a threat of an enemy armored attack from the NE. During the afternoon (approximately 1530 hours) the 2nd pltn called for artillery fire on enemy infantry approximately 3000 yards North of their position. Arrangements were made with the 102nd FA and by using the company radio at the artillery FDC, fire was successfully brought on the target. Weather, cold and cloudy.

On 14 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) moved from BOULAIDE to SURRE closing in at 0900 hours. Distance travelled 2-miles. Hq. Co. - and Ron Co., no change. A Co. - 2nd and 3rd pltns received heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. 1 casualty. 1 EM accidentally shot himself in leg while jumping out of M10. No other changes. CP 63005350; 1st pltn 64355439; 2nd pltn 63545319; 3rd pltn 64545480. B Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns remained in same position. At 1600 hours, 2nd pltn moved to 620556 and set up AT defense. CP, 645487; 1st pltn 632570; 2nd pltn 620556; 3rd pltn 627559. C Co. - Company moved from TARCHAMPS to SURRE at 1730 hours, remaining in reserve. The 1st pltn remained in TARCHAMPS to do some indirect firing from positions in that vicinity. No other change. CP, 59454680; 1st pltn 60955195; 2nd and 3rd pltns, SURRE. Weather, cold and clear.

On 15 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP), Ron Co. and Hq Co. No change. A Co. - Firing pltns moved short distance North and East of BRAS, where they remained in position. Enemy fire was received throughout the day. B Co. - 1st pltn with 3rd Bn, 358th Infantry, was unable to advance due to stubborn enemy resistance. During the day, pltn received heavy enemy mortar fire. 3rd pltn moved forward with forward elements of infantry, supporting them with 3", .50 and .30 caliber and small arms fire at very close range. The pltn spent the night within talking distance of the enemy, undergoing intense mortar, small arms and artillery fire. Lt. McMahon, pltn leader, was instrumental in keeping E Company of the infantry in line after all the company officers were killed or wounded. At 1500 hours, the 2nd pltn moved out to join 1st Bn, 358th Inf., in an attack on left flank. Pltn moved up behind the infantry into the town of NIEDERWAMPACH. Resistance comparatively light. At 1000 hours, CP moved from BAVIGNY to BRAS. 1st pltn 632565; 2nd pltn 644587; 3rd pltn 622575. C Co. - At 1345 hours, the 1st pltn went into indirect firing positions at 613554, firing a total of 384 rounds HE. At 2230 hours, the 2nd pltn left SURRE to proceed to WARDIN supporting the 2nd Bn, 359th Inf. No other changes. CP and 3rd pltn still located in SURRE. Weather, cold and clear.

On 16 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) Hq Co. and Ron Co. No change. A Co. - Firing pltns positions were fairly quiet and static. Very light enemy artillery received. Pltns were relieved and returned to SONLEZ (63005349) as follows: 1st pltn at 1500; 2nd pltn at 1230; 3rd pltn at 1800. 1 casualty from enemy artillery. B Co. - 1st pltn remained in position until 1600 hours when they moved about 200 yards to be in a mobile reserve and near the 3rd Bn CP. 2nd pltn located in town at 645585 moved to present location at 656592. Infantry met very little opposition but the 2nd pltn ran into minefields which stopped their progress until cleared. One destroyer became mired in mud going around the minefield. 2nd pltn in NIEDERWAMPACH received enemy counterattack consisting of seven tanks and infantry, but was repulsed. CP, BRAS; 1st pltn 63205699; 2nd pltn, 656592; 3rd pltn, 645585. 3rd pltn moved up to go into town with infantry, received heavy artillery fire. C Co. - At 0030, 2nd pltn arrived in WARDIN and contact was made with 2nd Bn, 359th Inf. At approximately 1000 hours, this pltn started to advance in support of that battalion. By 1800 hours had advanced to present location 633600 (West of Longvilly). No resistance was met. At 1430 hours the 1st pltn left their indirect fire positions and advanced to 631600 to support the 1st pltn. At the same time the 3rd pltn assembled in WARDIN. Weather, cold, snow.

On 17 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) moved from SURRE to WARDIN, Belgium (604565) closing in at 1600 hours. Distance travelled 10-miles. Hq Co. and Rcn Co., no change. A Co. - Fwd CP with 1st pltn moved to WARDIN (61505650) by 1600 hours. 2nd and 3rd pltns remained at SONLEZ doing maintenance and camouflage. No other changes.

B Co. - The 2nd pltn commanded by Lt. Wood in position at 657592; one gun at the crossroads in the Northeast edge of town and two guns in the Southeast edge of town just behind the infantry in position on the knoll there, repulsed a counterattack at 0400 hours. At 0900 hours, four enemy tanks advanced from the northeast toward town. Lt. Wood spotted them in the distance, ordered his guns to fire and dispersed the attack. At 1300 hours, the enemy attacked again from the Northeast in force with ten to twelve tanks and supporting infantry preceded by an artillery barrage. Lt. Wood advanced on foot through artillery, mortar and small arms fire and led one TD into position to fire on the oncoming tanks. He mounted the deck of the destroyer and directed its fire. Three enemy tanks were destroyed. He then ran to nearby infantry positions and directed and placed the infantrymen in better positions to repel the advancing German infantry. At approximately 1330 hours, three enemy tanks were reported at the TD's rear. Lt. Wood and S/Sgt Pitcher crawled up the bank on the East side of the road and spotted the German tank positions. Crawling back, they both led a TD forward and opened fire on these three tanks. Two tanks were destroyed but one TD was knocked out by the third tank which began to circle around and enter the town from the Southeast. The wounded men were helped back to the other TD in position next to the house. The enemy tank continued to fire at this TD, hitting the building and setting it on fire. Unable to knock out the remaining tank, surrounded on three sides by enemy infantry, Lt. Wood ordered the TD destroyed before withdrawing back to town. By this time a section of the 3rd pltn came to the aid of the 2nd pltn. Lt. Phillips placed his two TD's in position and knocked out the third enemy tank. 10 enemy tanks were knocked out and these were tentatively identified as four MkVI's and six Mk V's, also one halftrack and GP vehicle. The pltn lost three TD's in this action. Lt. Phillips, Sgt Tomazewski and Tec 5 Court moved down the ravine on south side of town under intense enemy fire to pick up the wounded. The wounded were placed on the deck of the TD of 3rd pltn, and as they moved back into town, Sgt Tomazewski was picked off by an enemy sniper who shot him through the head. Total casualties for this action - 1 KIA, 5 WIA and 5 MIA. 1st pltn moved up and took over 2nd pltn positions in OBERWAMPACH. C Co. - At 1100 hours, the 3rd pltn left WARDIN to relieve 2nd pltn (Longvilly), but before relief could be effected, a heavy enemy tank thrust was reported moving in on OBERWAMPACH and pltn was ordered to that town arriving at 1515 hours. At 2400 hours, all pltns reported no contact with enemy. At 1500 hours, the CP moved to BENONCHAMPS (62005800). Weather, cold, snow flurries.

On 18 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP), no change. Hq Co. - moved from FOISCHETTE to SURRE closing in by 1100 hours. Rcn Co. - Fwd CP consisting of one M20 (10 men) moved from SURRE to WARDIN. Rear CP remained at SURRE. At 0800, 1st pltn left SURRE to join C Company at BENONCOURT, contacting the 2nd pltn C Company at LONGVILLY. Returned to BENONCOURT at 1230 hours. At 1300 hours, received mission to protect Pioneer pltn who were blowing gun positions for 1st pltn C Co. on hill Southeast of LONGVILLY. The 1st section made dismounted reconnaissance on hilltop for possible security positions. Received sniper and artillery fire; no casualties. 2nd pltn left SURRE at 0800 hours to join A Co. at SONLEZ. Received orders to report to C Co. at BENONCOURT, but were sent back to WARDIN. A Co. - The 1st pltn moved at 1722200 January from SONLEZ to positions SW of NIEDERWAMPACH covering possible enemy approaches from the East and SE. At 1200 hours, the 1st and 3rd pltns moved to OBERWAMPACH. At approximately 1030 hours the 2nd pltn was called out and moved to 65105620 and 65585638. Mission accomplished after firing 22 rounds HE and 6 rounds APC. The pltn received direct enemy fire from the NE, one round clipping a tree which dropped in a M10 injuring Lt. Hagar and Cpl Smith. The 2nd pltn then moved into WARDIN. B Co. - At 0100, the 1st pltn assisted in repelling a counterattack at OBERWAMPACH. One enemy tank was hit but not destroyed. At 1200 hours, the 1st pltn moved to NIEDERWAMPACH with 3rd pltn. 2nd pltn having no

destroyers in operation was withdrawn to Company CP at BEAS. 2 casualties, not evacuated. C Co. Situation. Battle also unchanged. Enemy mortar and artillery fire falling in and around all unit positions. Lt. VonBehren was accounted for as of 1400 hours. No change in positions. 1 casualty. Weather, cold and snow.

On 19 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) and Hq Co., no change. Ren Co. - 2nd pltn remained inactive in WARDIN. 3rd pltn provided security for TD's in NIEDERWAMPACH. One 1/4-ton vehicle damaged by artillery fire during night of 18 January. 1st pltn sent patrols out to look for Lt. VonBehren; Lt. Mishaka and Captain Kelly, each taking five men covered area NW of OBERWAMPACH 646593 to 646592 to 656595 to 646598. Blizzard limited visibility to 25 yards. Extreme cold and snowdrifts handicapped patrol. Negative reports received from all patrol members. A Co. - 3rd pltn (64505860) received a counterattack starting at 2300, 18 January, and ending at 0400 hours. The attack was with infantry and one Tiger tank. One section received direct fire from the 88mm and Sgt Fester was killed. Their position underwent heavy artillery fire all day and they withdrew to NIEDERWAMPACH after being relieved by the 2nd pltn. 2nd pltn remained in WARDIN until 1700 hours when they relieved the 3rd pltn in OBERWAMPACH. 3rd pltn fired .50 caliber MG's against enemy infantry. 1st pltn remained in OBERWAMPACH. 1 EM wounded by artillery fire. B Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns remained in present positions. 2nd pltn in reserve. Tec 4 Tapulcci who was reported missing had returned and states that Sgt Sarafin was dead at scene of battle of 17 January, and believes that Tec 5 Jarrell, Pfc Picicco and Pvt Wagner were taken prisoners by the Germans. C Co. - At 1700 hours, the 3rd pltn was pulled out of OBERWAMPACH and assembled in BENONCHAMPS. 1st and 2nd pltn positions unchanged. Weather, cold, snow and rain.

On 20 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) and Hq Co., no change. Ren Co. - Company rear joined Company Fwd CP at WARDIN. 3rd pltn in NIEDERWAMPACH providing security for B Co. TD's. 2nd pltn remained inactive in WARDIN. A Co. - No change in positions, no activity. B Co. - At 1300 hours, the 1st pltn was ordered to move up to the high ground Southeast of NIEDERWAMPACH and was given only 45-minutes to get ready, although they had their guns stripped down for cleaning. Since the TD's were not ready to move with the infantry, a guide was left to lead them up. When the guide showed some hesitancy at a crossroads, Lt. Vargo found that the guide had never been up there before. Lt. Vargo then proceeded to his destination although the roads had not been swept as promised. Lt. Vargo and Lt. Napier went out on a foot reconnaissance into the underbrush on the East side and the South side of the hill. They continued their reconnaissance until enemy outposts were contacted. No friendly troops were found. Returning to his destroyer Lt. Vargo contacted his company commander over the radio and was advised to return to NIEDERWAMPACH. Upon arrival there, it was learned that the infantry commander whose battalion he was supporting had called off the attack and had failed to notify the TD's. Two TD's had reached the objective - the other two could not climb the hill due to the icy road. In the process of attempting to get the MG's up the hill four men were wounded by mortar fire. C Co. - At 0800 hours, the 1st and 2nd pltns reversed positions. By 2100 hours, 2nd pltn advanced and occupied positions in ALLERBORN. 3rd pltn remained in reserve at BENONCHAMPS. No other changes. Weather, cold and snow.

At 1600 hours, Colonel Spiess presented awards to members of the battalion. 9 Bronze Stars, 7 Purple Hearts and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart.

On 21 January, Bn Hq (Fwd CP) moved from WARDIN to BENONCHAMPS closing in by 1130 hours. Distance travelled 2-miles. Hq. Co. - No change. Ren Co. - 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltns were with G, A and B Companies, respectively, supplying loc 1 security for TD's. No other changes. A. Co. - All positions were fairly quiet all day. At 1530 hours, CP and 3rd pltn moved to DERENBACH followed by 1st and 2nd pltns. At 2100 hours, the 1st and 2nd pltns moved to BOLVANGES-CHEVAUX. No other changes.

B Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns moved from NIEDERWAMPACH to support the 3rd Bn, 359th Inf. in vicinity of J. BENNIGEN. At 1200 hours, Company CP moved from BRAS to NIEDERWAMPACH. C Co. - CP established at ALLERBORN by 1330 hours. 2nd pltn in support of 2nd Bn, 359th Inf. changed positions slightly to enable them to cover infantry's advance to their objective 2000 yards to the Northeast. 1st pltn in support of 1st Bn, passed through 2nd Battalion's objective at 1330 hours, and occupied positions in HAMVILLE. By 2130 hours, 1st pltn pushed on to LULLANGE. Infantry met little resistance in day's advance. Weather, cold and snow.

On 22 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) moved from BENONCHAMPS to STOCKEM closing in by 1600 hours. Distance travelled $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles. During this move Major Moore removed 6 enemy mines buried in the snow and pushed them off to the side, on the north edge of town. Hqs Co. - No change. Ren Co. - Co. CP moved from NIEDERWAMPACH to ALLERBORN then to LULLANGE. 1st pltn remained with 1st pltn C Co. at DONNANGE. 2nd pltn moved from OBERWAMPACH to DONNANGE by 1500 hours. Entered DONNANGE approximately 1030 hours behind Infantry patrol. 18 PW's were rounded up. 3rd pltn left NIEDERWAMPACH and joined Co. B in LULLANGE. A Co. - CP and 3rd pltn on orders moved from DERENBACH to DONNANGE closing in at 1515 hours. 1st and 2nd pltns remained in same positions. B Co. - CP and 2nd pltn moved to LULLANGE at 1530 hours. 1st and 3rd pltns moved from ALLERBORN to STOCKEM at 1300 hours. C Co. - CP moved to LULLANGE. 1st pltn moved to DONNANGE, 2nd pltn to LENZWEILER and 3rd pltn to LULLANGE. There was no action during the day; each pltn and each CP spent the day moving rapidly to keep up with the infantry which was meeting no resistance. Weather, cold, clear.

On 23 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) no change. Hqs Co. moved from SURRE to BASTOGNE closing in by 1100 hours. The ration truck was slightly damaged by a near burst at SASSEL when delivering rations to C Co. Ren Co. - CP remained in LULLANGE. 1st pltn reconnoitered positions at 755898 for 3rd pltn C Co., and closed in SASSEL at 1800 hours to provide security for 1st pltn C Company. 2nd pltn in BOXHORN maintained liaison between 1st Bn, 359th Inf and 357th Inf. Regiment. 3rd pltn in ALLERBORN performed maintenance. A Co. - CP moved to BOXHORN. 1st and 2nd pltns moved from 71006220 to 74006600. At 1300 hours 1st pltn moved to 76006650 overlooking the river and high ground. At 1330 hours, 2nd pltn moved to 75506870 and are in mobile reserve. At 1030 3rd pltn moved to 75506870 overlooking the river and high ground across it. The 1st and 3rd pltns received heavy artillery and mortar fire throughout the day. One casualty. B Co. - Company moved to ALLERBORN and remained in reserve. C Co. - Company in support of 357th Inf. in attack East of SASSEL. At 1315 hours, 1st pltn took up positions 747683 firing on enemy infantry and suspected positions. At 1415 hours, 1st pltn moved into positions at 758687 and 757782. At 1415 hours, 2nd pltn moved into position 747683 but visibility was very poor and pltn was unable to fire so returned to ASSELBORN. At 1445 hours, 3rd pltn in position at 748704 attacked hill 757698 and took it by 1515 hours capturing 15 PW's. At 1700 hours, 2nd and 3rd pltns moved out to cross river at 765690 but tanks were bogged down and TD's were forced to return to ASSELBORN at 2330 hours. 1st pltn remained in SASSEL. At approximately 1730 hours, one M10 was hit by Nebelwerfer fire, damaging gun and one member of crew receiving slight wound. Weather, cold, snow flurries.

On 24 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co. no change. Ren Co. - 1st pltn in ASSELBORN with C Co. 2nd pltn made foot reconnaissance for possible crossing of stream at 788675; also provided security for 2nd pltn A Co. Pltn heavily shelled at BOXHORN during the night. 3rd pltn continued maintenance at ALLERBORN. A Co. - At 0830 hours, 1st pltn moved to 76206650. At 0830 hours, 2nd pltn moved to position 75206640. At 1300, 3rd pltn moved to 75206640. All positions fairly quiet; some small arms fire exchanged in 2nd pltn position. B Co. - No change in position. Company performed maintenance on vehicles and weapons. C Co. - All pltns supporting 357th Inf. left ASSELBORN at 0315 hours and advanced to BINSFELD via TROISVIERGES arriving at 0530 hours. During the

morning the 1st pltn fired 15 rounds on enemy infantry and suspected positions. 3rd pltn fired 5 rounds APC at an enemy 88mm gun but were informed by our infantry that it had been knocked out by bazooka fire. Enemy artillery and mortar fire very heavy at pltn positions. Weather, cold, clear.

On 25 January, Bn Hqs (Fwd CP) and Hqs Co. - No change. Ron Co. - No change. A Co. - 1st and 3rd pltns moved to 80006780 and when road had been swept for mines continued to 80006620. At 1630 hours, 2nd pltn moved to 80306760 and went into firing positions covering main road that runs North and South from their position. Before moving all pltn leaders made a reconnaissance as road was very bad. Light shell fire was received throughout the day. B Co. - At 1545 hours on order the five operational M10's were attached to C Co., three from 1st pltn and 1 each from 2nd and 3rd pltns. All were placed under command of Lt. Napier. At 1700 hours joined C Co. and two M10's went into firing position at 80756930 while 3 remained in BINSFELD ready to move on order. C Co. - All pltns supporting 357th Inf., By 1630 hours, four M10's reached positions in vicinity of HEINERSCHIED leaving three in BINSFELD because of battery trouble and one with a broken socket. Approximately 1700 hours, five M10's from B Co. joined company; two went into position at 80756930 and three remained in BINSFELD ready to move on order. Weather, cold, clear.

On 26 January, Battalion moved and closed in complete in BIWISCH by 1800 hours. Distance travelled five miles. All companies performing motor maintenance. Weather, cold, snow flurries.

On 27 January, Battalion attached to VIII Corps per Troop Assignment No. A-98, dated 29 January 1945, Hq, TUSA. Hq Co. moved and closed into BIWISCH by 1300 hours. Bn Hq, Ron, A, B and C Companies remained in BIWISCH. All companies continued vehicle and weapons maintenance. Weather, cold, cloudy and snow flurries.

On 28 January, Bn Hqs and Hq Co., no change. Ron Co. - Ron pltns reconnoitered area of OUR River. They reconnoitered all roads and possible approaches to the river bank - the primary mission was to locate fords. No pltn was able to get close enough to the river to obtain information and they all returned to BIWISCH by 1830. A, B and C Companies continued on motor and weapons maintenance. No other changes. Weather, cold and snow.

On 29 January, Bn Hq and Hq Co., no change. Ron Co. - 1st, 2nd and 3rd pltn made another reconnaissance for possible ford across Our river. All pltns returned to BIWISCH by 1700 hours. One section Pioneer pltn attached and moved with Co. B, but returned to CP for the night. One section Pioneer pltn attached to Bn. Maintenance for purpose of removing mines possibly laid around bogged down M10. No mines encountered - no other changes. A Co. - At 0700 hours the three pltns plus forward CP moved from 75007050 to 81107210, location of Company CP. At 0800 hours the pltns continued on to 83907480. At 0900, pltn leaders went on a reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of 85007480 where they were fired on by small arms. All pltns are awaiting to cross river. B Co. - 1st pltn moved to LEUTHOM at 0900 behind the infantry. They occupied the high ground overlooking river to cover the infantry's advance. One M10 hit a mine knocking off the track but was repaired within a few hours. This pltn fired some HE across the river knocking out one AT gun and killing its crew. At 1600 hours, the pltn moved to STOUBACH. First section, 3rd pltn, arrived at BEILER at 1400 hours and were sent to LARCHHEID to support 3rd Bn, 358th Infantry. They were not needed so returned to BEILER and were put in support of 1st Bn, moving to STOUBACH. C Co. - Company remained at present location in BIWISCH. All TD's are prepared to move to OUDLER by 300800 January. They will be in support of 3rd Bn, 359th Infantry. Weather, cold and snow.

On 30 January, Bn Hq, Hq Co. and Ron Co., no change. A Co. - The 2nd pltn moved from 83807480 to position at 81207210 from which point they are to fire illuminating shells at a point (85507240)

At 2230 hours, one destroyer fired 12 rounds of illuminating shells to help the infantry in their plans. The 1st pltn moved into firing positions at 855007495, but returned to their old position by 1600. The 3rd pltn remained in present position 83307450. B Co. - At 0900 hours, the 1st pltn crossed the river and went into STOUBACH. Received some artillery fire, but no other activity. 3rd pltn remained in STOUBACH. No activity except for artillery fire. No other changes. C Co. - At approximately 0800 all M10's (five) left TROISVIERGES and proceeded to BERT-FEULAND, four of which arrived at 0800 hours. One M10 evacuated to Ordnance due to mechanical failure. This group of M10's were ordered to WEWELER; while enroute a roadbank collapsed and one M10 turned completely over (upside down) at 1145. No serious injury to crew. Balance of company (three M10's) proceeded to WEWELER without further trouble and took up positions in town covering to the East and Southeast. Prepared to move on order to STEFFESHAUSEN. No contact with enemy. Weather, slight rise in temperature, rain.

On 31 January, Bn Hq and Hq. Co., no change. Hqn Co. - Hq, 1st and 2nd pltns continued maintenance at BFWISCH. 3rd pltn left Company CP at 1000 hours and rejoined B Company at 838748. No other changes. A Co. - 1st pltn in position at 85207498 covering a road junction. This pltn returns to position at 86957480 as soon as it gets dark. S/Sgt Land, acting 2nd pltn leader, reconnoitered for positions to cover the vicinity of 87107350. Lt. Nudo, 3rd pltn leader, reconnoitered for positions across the river. At 2150 hours, 2nd pltn fired one round of illuminating shell at a point 87207350 at the request of the infantry who heard tanks moving. B Co. - On 29 January, 1st pltn knocked out three GF vehicles in addition to the AT gun previously reported. Confirmed by seeing the vehicles today. 1st pltn located at 86307640 and 2nd pltn at 87907550. Pltn leaders made reconnaissance for future positions. 3rd pltn remained in position at 86307640. C Co. - 1st pltn crossed OUR river at STEFFESHAUSEN at 0800 hours. At 1230 hours it was ordered to support 2nd Bn, 359th Infantry, in its advance to WINTERSPELT. At 1600 hours two M10's arrived at CP and were sent to AUHL and occupied positions to the Southeast. Enemy tanks reported in WINTERSPELT area. No contact made with the enemy. No other changes. Weather, cold and light rain.

This concludes operations for the period.

FRANK G. SPERSS
Lt. Colonel, FA,
Commanding.