

501

HEADQUARTERS  
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 512 US Army

2 January 1945

**SUBJECT:** Report of Operations for the  
Period 1 -- 31 December 1944

**TO :** Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division,  
APO 3, US Army

**a. SUMMARY OF OUR OPERATIONS:**

At the beginning of the period the Battalion, minus "B" and "C" Companies, was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division supporting the infantry in its defense of the city of STRASBOURG. "A" Company, in support of the 7th Infantry Regiment, occupied direct fire positions overlooking the RHINE RIVER, and Reconnaissance Company, also in support of the 7th Infantry, ran armored and jeep patrols through the streets of STRASBOURG. "B" and "C" Companies were attached to the 103rd Infantry Division supporting the infantry in its attacks toward BARR (V-790785) and SELESTAT (V-785623). The majority of the month was one of relatively light activity for the Battalion. During the first half of the period active operations were carried out when elements of the Battalion were attached to the 103rd Infantry Division for its mission of clearing a portion of the VOSGES MOUNTAINS and seizing the ground NORTH of SELESTAT. When the 103rd Infantry Division moved NORTH to the HAGUENAU area (R-0424), "A" Company only was attached to it for the attacks on DURENBACH (R-023330) and SUNDRERSHOFFEN (Q-945342).

When the 3rd Infantry Division was ordered to relieve the 36th Infantry Division on position in the vicinity of RIBEAUVILLE (V-6955), all elements of the Battalion returned to the parent unit and moved to relieve the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The normal distribution was effected with "A" Company in support of the 7th Infantry, "B" Company in support of the 15th Infantry, and "C" Company in support of the 30th Infantry. Reconnaissance Company relieved the 36th Reconnaissance Troop on outposts, OP's, and road blocks on the Division right flank.

During the latter half of the period the 3rd Infantry Division's mission was to consolidate the ground taken over from the 36th Division and to improve these positions by limited objective attacks. The Battalion supported the infantry on its limited objective attacks with direct assault fire. For the most part the Battalion occupied

3613  
20

defensive fire positions and assisted division artillery by firing interdictory and harassing missions.

**b. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD:**

Enemy operations during the first half of the period, while the Battalion occupied defensive positions in STRASBOURG, consisted in the main of light and sporadic artillery fire. While elements of the Battalion were attached to the 103rd Infantry Division in the vicinity of SELESTAT (V-7962) and HAGUENAU (R-0424), enemy operations to halt the advance of friendly armor consisted of blowing bridges, establishing road blocks, and laying mines on the main roads.

When the Battalion moved with the 3rd Infantry Division to RIBBAUVILLE (V-6955), enemy artillery fire increased considerably and ranged from moderate to intense. Most of the fire fell on surrounding towns and villages which the tank destroyers were using for defensive fire positions. Two destroyers received direct hits but neither was destroyed and the casualty rate was low.

During the entire period only a few enemy tanks were observed. All of them were forced to withdraw by friendly artillery fire before they could get within range of our tank destroyers.

**c. SITUATION AT END OF THE PERIOD:**

At the end of the period the Battalion occupied defensive fire positions in support of the 3rd Infantry Division, which held a line from SELESTAT (V-775615) Southwest to the 48 EASTING and then West to ORBEY (V-575475). "A" Company had one platoon in support of the 7th Infantry Regiment, one platoon in support of the 15th Infantry Regiment, and the remaining platoon in Division Reserve; "B" Company was in support of the 15th Infantry with two platoons in direct fire positions and one platoon in Regimental Reserve; "C" Company was in support of the 30th Infantry with two platoons in direct fire positions and one platoon in Regimental Reserve; and Reconnaissance Company, in support of the 30th Infantry, occupied outpost, OP's, and road blocks between the 7th Infantry and the 30th Infantry.

**d. STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL:**

At the end of the period the Battalion was only a few men under strength and battle casualties during the month were very light--consequently, personnel problems were few.

No M-10's were lost during the period due to enemy action but a number of the destroyers had serious maintenance troubles that required that they be sent to Ordnance. Repairs were slow and, consequently, the Battalion was without a number of destroyers for long periods of time. At the end of the period the Battalion had only 31 tank destroyers operationally fit with 5 destroyers in Ordnance awaiting repairs.

g. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED:

1. While in defensive positions this Battalion has used the destroyers to deceive the enemy as to the extent of friendly armor and artillery by the means of roving guns. Several guns in each platoon moved constantly during the night, taking up positions and firing several volleys of harassing fire from each position. Once a tank has been properly laid the most forward point of the tank and the right and left track marks are marked with string. By leaving the aiming stake in position the tank destroyer is able to return to the same position and resume firing without being relaid.

2. A sudden cold spell came before the oil in the traversing mechanism could be changed. In this Battalion, to prevent the traversing mechanism from "freezing up", a system was instituted whereby the guards on duty at night turn the traversing gear at least one knotch each hour.

WALTER E. TARDY  
Lt Col, FA  
Commanding

22

ANNEX No. 1

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE INCURRED ON 1 BY

PERIOD: 1 Dec - 31 Dec 1944

	A Co	B Co	C Co	Recn Co	TOTAL
Tanks & SP's					
Probables					
Arm'd Cars & Half Tracks					
Machine Guns		1	1		2
Artillery and M Gun					
Prisoners of War	7		21		28
Infantry Killed		1			1
Pill Boxes (M)					
Trucks and Cars					
Miscellaneous	1 OP	1 OP	1 OP		3 OP's
		1 Mortar			1 Mortar

Innumerable ey personnel, many penetrations on pill boxes, ey held houses, and strong points

CASE LIES INCURRED BY 601st TD Bn  
PERIOD: 1 - 31 December 1944

	A Co	B Co	C Co	Recn Co	Hq Co	Total
Officers --- KIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIA	0	0	1	0	0	1
Enlisted Men --- KIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIA	1	5	5	0	0	11
M-10's KO'd not repair-able in 24 hrs	0	0	0	0	0	0

For the BATTALION COMMANDER:

*Frederick C. Miner*  
**FREDERICK C. MINER**  
 Capt, FA  
 Bn S-3

**ANNEX No. 2.**

**December 1**

Reconnaissance Co in process of patrolling streets of STRASBOURG; "A" Company in sup 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions on edge of STRASBOURG; "B" Company atchd 103rd Inf Div placed in Division Reserve at VILLE (V-680715); "C" Company atchd to 103rd Inf Div in support of Regiments on attack of DAMBACH (V-695710) and EBERSHEIM (V-775739).

**December 2**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; "B" Co atchd 103rd Inf Div remained in Division Reserve at VILLE (680715); C Co atchd 103rd Inf Div in support of regts on attacks EAST of DAMBACH and EBERSHEIM, fired 54 rds HE—KO'd 1 MG, 1 OP and captured 11 PWs.

**December 3**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co atchd to 103rd Inf Div, 2nd plat in Div reserve at DAMBACH (V-773692), 1 plat on road blocks at EPPIG (V-799734); C Co atchd 103rd Inf Div occupied direct fire positions in SCHERWILLER (V-772653) in support of Infantry—captured 10 ey during period

**December 4**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co atchd 103rd Inf Div, entire company assembled at EBERSHEIM in reserve; C Co atchd 103rd Inf Div occupying defensive fire positions EAST of SCHERWILLER.

**December 5**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co atchd 103rd Inf Div—entire company assembled at EBERSHEIM in reserve; C Co atchd 103rd Inf Div occupying defensive fire positions EAST of SCHERWILLER.

**December 6**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co relieved of attachment 103rd Inf Div, moved to DORLISHEIM (V-816918), carrying on program of tank and gun maintenance; C Co relieved of attachment 103rd Inf Div moved to MOLSHEIM (V-825931) carrying on program of tank and gun maintenance.

**DECEMBER 7**

Ren Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG, fired 69 rds HE, 9 rds smoke and 18 rds APC at ey strong points in GAMBESHEIM (R-111106); B Co in Bn reserve at DORLISHEIM continued program of tank and gun maintenance; C Co in Bn reserve at MOLSHEIM continued program of tank and gun maintenance.

December 8

Rcn Co continued jeep and armored patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co in Bn reserve at DORLISHEIM continued program of tank and gun maintenance; C Co in Bn reserve at MOLSHEIM continued program of tank and gun maintenance.

December 9

Rcn Co continued jeep and armored patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co relieved attachment 3rd Inf Div and atchd 103rd Inf Div moved to assembly area at LA BALCK (Q-907275) in preparation of supporting Inf on attack; B Co placed in sup of 7th Inf relieved A Co in positions in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co moved to new area on SOUTH edge of STRASBOURG continued program of tank and gun maintenance.

December 10

Rcn Co continued jeep and armored patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co atchd 103rd Inf Div, 1 plat in Div Reserve, 2 plats placed in sup of 410th Inf; B Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co placed in Div reserve carrying on program of tank and gun maintenance.

December 11

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co atchd 103rd Inf Div, 1 plat in Div Reserve, 2 plats in sup of 410th Inf; B Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co in Div reserve moved 1 gun into position to fire on pillboxes on EAST bank of the RHINE, firing 55 rds HE at 3 pillboxes.

December 12

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co atchd 103rd Inf Div, 1 plat in Div reserve, 2 plats in sup of 410th Inf; B Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co in Div reserve moved into position to fire on pillboxes on EAST bank of RHINE, firing 162 rds MPC and 45 rds HE at 5 pillboxes, results unknown.

December 13

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co atchd to 103rd Inf Div, 1 plat in Div Reserve at SUNDERHOFFEN (Q-945342) 2 plats in support of 410th Inf on attack EAST of DURNBACH (R-023330); B Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co assembled in Div reserve engaged in maintenance, rehabilitation, and training.

December 14

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; A Co atchd 103rd Inf Div entire company assembled in Div Reserve at DURNBACH (R-033372); B Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co assembled in Div reserve engaged in maintenance and training—, 1 plat moved to firing positions and fired 152 rds HE at ey pillboxes on EAST bank of RHINE.

December 15

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG; 1 plat fired 40 rds 37mm HE, 1 belt .30 cal and 1 belt .50 cal harassing fire at ey pillboxes on EAST bank of RHINE; A Co released attachment of 103rd Inf Div moved to NORTH edge of STRASBOURG and placed in Div Reserve;

B Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG fired 40 rds AP at pillboxes vic RHEIL Bridge (R-055974); C Co moved to assembly area vic RIBBAUVILLE in support 30th Inf.

December 16

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG, 1 plat fired 40 rds 37mm HE, 1 belt of .30 cal and 1 belt of .50 cal harassing fire at ey pillboxes on EAST Bank of RHINE; A Co in Div reserve carried on program of gun and tank maintenance; B Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; C Co in assembly area at RIBBAUVILLE in support of 30th Inf

December 17

Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG, 1 plat fired 40 rds 37mm HE, 1 belt of .30 cal and 1 belt of .50 cal harassing fire at ey pillboxes on EAST bank of RHINE; A Co relieved B Co in position in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co relieved of support 7th Inf, atchd to 117th Rcn Sqdn moved to defensive positions vic SELTZ (R-270327); C Co remained in assembly area at RIBBAUVILLE in support 30th Inf.

December 18

Two platoons Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG, 1 plat moved to RIBBAUVILLE and placed in sup of 30th Inf; A Co in sup 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG fired 113 rds HE at ey pillboxes and strong points on EAST side of RHINE River; B Co atchd to 117th Rcn Sqdn occupied defensive position vic SELTZ; C Co in sup of 30th Inf moved with Inf on attack of KAYSERSBERG (V-644500).

December 19

Two platoons Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG, 1 plat remained in assembly area vic RIBBAUVILLE in support of 30th; A Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co atchd 117th Rcn Sqdn occupied defensive positions vic SELTZ and SOUFFLEHEIM (R-165255), C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic KAYSERSBERG.

December 20

Two platoons Rcn Co continued armored and jeep patrols in STRASBOURG, 1 plat remained in assembly area vic RIBBAUVILLE in sup of 30th Inf; A Co in sup of 7th Inf in defense of STRASBOURG; B Co atchd 117th Rcn Sqdn occupied defensive positions vic SELTZ and SOUFFLEHEIM; C Co in support of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic KAYSERSBERG.

December 21

Rcn Co relieved of mission of patrolling STRASBOURG moved to positions N of ABBSPACH (V-629505) and relieved 36th Rcn Tr on position; A Co in sup of 7th Inf moved from STRASBOURG to RIBBAUVILLE in preparation of occupying new positions; B Co atchd 117th Rcn Sqdn occupied defensive positions vic LEUTENHEIM (R-210270) fired 185 rds HE harassing fire on known ey strong points; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM (V-668485) and AMMERSEHWIHR (V-665472).

December 22

Rcn Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied outpost position and OP North of ALSPACH; A Co in sup 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in OSTHEIM (V-727513) and BEBLENHEIM (V-698510); B Co released of atachment 117th Rcn Sqdn moved to RIBBAUVILLE (V-702554) to assembly area; C Co in sup

of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.

December 23

Reg Co in support of 30th Inf occupied outpost positions and OP's N North of ALSPACH; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in OSTHEIM and BEBLENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied direct fire positions via KRENTZHEIM (V-667485) and in MITTELWIHR (V-690500); C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.

December 24

Reg Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied outpost positions and OP's N of ALSPACH; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in OSTHEIM and BEBLENHEIM, fired 147 rds HE harassing fire via HAUSEN (V-735475) and 25 rds HE at ey personnel with good results; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and MITTELWIHR fired 130 rds HE at ey strong points in SIGOLSHHEIM (V-678486) and 71 rds HE into BENNWIHR (V-693496); C Co in support 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.

December 25

Reg Co in support 30th Inf occupied outpost positions and OP's N of ALSPACH; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in OSTHEIM and BEBLENHEIM, fired 25 rds HE at ILLHAUSERN (V-77538), 50 rds HE via HAUSEN, 25 rds HE at ROSENKRANTZ, 25 rds HE via HAUSEN and 32 rds HE direct fire at CHATEAU DE SCHOPPENWIHR; all firing at ey strong points with good results; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied direct fire positions in MITTELWIHR and BENNWIHR, fired 80 rds HE into ey held houses in SIGOLSHHEIM and 236 rds HE into ey held houses in BENNWIHR; C Co in sup 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.

December 26

Reg Co in support of 30th Inf established road blocks and occupied outposts and OP's N of ALSPACH; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in GUEMAR (V-747545), OSTHEIM and BEBLENHEIM, fired 100 rds HE harassing fire via ILLHAUSERN (V-760518), 100 rds HE interdictory fire North of ILLHAUSERN, 126 rds HE harassing fire via ROSENKRANTZ (V-724473) fired 41 rds HE direct fire at CHATEAU de SCHOPPENWIHR and 125 rds HE harassing fire via ROSENKRANTZ; B Co in sup 15th Inf occupied direct fire positions in MITTELWIHR and BENNWIHR, fired 14 rds HE at ey occupied houses in support of attacking inf; C Co in sup 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.

December 27

Reg Co in sup 30th Inf established road blocks and occupied outposts and OP's N of ALSPACH; A Co in support 7th Inf occupied direct fire positions in GUEMAR, OSTHEIM, and BEBLENHEIM, fired 150 rds HE harassing fire via ROSENKRANTZ, fired 125 rds HE harassing fire via HAUSEN, fired 15 rds APC, 1 smoke, 61 rds HE direct fire at and around CHATEAU de SCHOPPENWIHR; B Co in sup 15th Inf occupied direct fire positions in BENNWIHR and MITTELWIHR; C Co in sup 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions in KRENTZHEIM and AMMERSCHWIHR.