

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403 U. S. ARMY



1 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Period 1 to 31 Dec 44 Inclusive.

TO : Commanding General, 10th Armored Division
(Att'n: AC of S, G-3)

1. (a) Unit Strength 1 Dec 1944: 39 Off, 2 WO, 620 EM.
Unit Strength 31 Dec 44: 39 Off, 2 WO, 587 EM.
(b) Casualties: 7 EM killed, 18 EM wounded, 0 Missing.
2. Disposition of Bn at beginning of period was as follows:

Bn CP - RUSTROFF (Q012946)
Co "A" plus one plat of Rcn and one Sec Pion plat, one gasoline truck, and two ammunition trucks, atchd CCA - LAUNSTROFF (Q103940)
Co "B" plus one plat Rcn and one Sec Pion plat, one gasoline truck and two ammunition trucks, atchd CCR - RUSTROFF (Q012946)
Co "C" plus one plat Rcn, one gasoline truck and two ammunition trucks, atchd CCB - EVENDORF (Q045913)
Rcn Co (-) - RUSTROFF (Q012946)
Hq. Co (-) - MAIMUHLE (Q013976)

Summary of Operations

1 Dec 1944 : 1st and 3rd Plats of Co "A" (✓) fired 130 rds 76mm HE in secondary mission from positions at (Q108910) and (Q105915).

2 Dec 1944 : Having been rld fr atchmt CCR andatchd to TF/POLK at Q11630, Co "B" (✓) moved to PERL (Q023980) at Q20800. 1st Plat went into defensive positions at TETTINGEN (L045026) and WOCHERN (L038013) and 3rd Plat went to Sgd Reserve, 43rd Cav Sqd at BUSHDORF (Q088978)

3 Dec 1944: 1st and 3rd Plats, Co "A" (✓) in indirect fire positions moved to new positions at (Q148922) and (Q146920)

4 Dec 1944: 67 rds unobserved harassing and interdiction fire delivered by Co "A" (✓).

5 Dec 1944: 2nd Plat Co "A" reld 3rd Plat 0700 and fired 94 rds counterbattery which was reported effective by liaison plane. 1st Plat Co "A" fired 43 rds (TOT) on a German barracks and harassing fire into MERZIG (Q205945). All elements of Company assembled at LAUNSTROFF (Q103940) at 1730.

Co CP and 2nd Plat, Co "B", moved to EFT (Q065983) at 1100. Rcn and Pion Plats took up positions to defend BESCH (L013016).

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6 December 44 Co "A" (✓) withdrawn to STE. MARGUERITE (Q031855) at 1330 to conduct maintenance and rehabilitation.

3rd Platoon Co "B", moved to WELLINGEN (Q123947) at 1035. Plat Commander reconnoitered positions along the SAAR River suitable for TD guns to fire direct fire into DRIESBACH (Q154993), PONTEN (Q178984), BESSERINGEN (Q188975), SANAT (Q200960) and MERZIG (Q205945).

7 and 8th Dec 1944. No change.

9 Dec 1944: Two guns of 3rd Plat, Co "B", one at SILWINGEN (Q156923) and one at HILLBRINGEN (Q188942), fired 28 rds HE and 23 rds APC at several pillboxes around BESSERINGEN (Q188942) and M MERZIG (Q 205945). Extent of damage is not known. Germans retaliated with a heavy concentration of artillery fire so the destroyers went under cover.

10 Dec 1944: Co "B" destroyers at TETTINGEN (Q 045026) and HILLBRINGEN (Q188942) fired 7 rds HE and 3 rds APC, causing the enemy to retaliate with a heavy mortar and artillery concentration. Destroyers at TETTINGEN silenced a MG in a house at BUTSDORF (LO47030) with 8 rds HE.

11 Dec 1944: Bn less Co "B" (✓) started observance of a 10 hr per day training schedule.

12 Dec 1944: One 1st Plat, Co "B" destroyer knocked out by enemy mortar fire at TETTINGEN (LO45026) at 1100. 2nd Plat rel'd 3rd Plat at 1700 and abandoned all but one M-20 post in TETTINGEN. 3rd Plat moved gun at HILLBRINGEN (Q188942) to SILWINGEN (Q156923).

13 Dec 1944: Sec of 3rd Plat, Co "B", at SILWINGEN (Q156923) fired 14 rds HE and 16 rds APC at pillboxes vic MERZIG (Q205945). Hits were observed but range was too great to determine extent of damage.

14 Dec 1944: Cp "B" guns at SILWINGEN (Q156923) fired 13 rds into MERZIG (Q205945).

15 Dec 1944: No change.

16 Dec 1944: No change.

17 Dec 1944: Co "A" (✓) moved out with CCA and closed at BLASCHETTE (P870237) at 1400.

Co "C" (-) moved out with CCB and closed MERLE (P815130) at 1400.

Bn CP and Hq Cp (-) joined CCR column at 1610. 1st Plat Co "B" rel'd 2nd Plat at WOCHERN (LO38013) at 1500; 2nd Plat then left for BORG (LO60006) and took up defensive positions in E end of town at 1630. 3rd Plat assembled at EFT (LO698) at 1630.

18 Dec 1944: Co "C", minus 1st Destroyer Plat moved with CCB to BASTOGNE (P555578) at 1000. 1st Plat was attached to CCR.

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19 Dec 1944: 3rd Plat Co "A" joined TF/Riley in ALTTIER (985288) at 1930 prepared to repel tank attacks from ECHTERNACH (L050355).

20 Dec 1944: 3rd Plat Co "B" rel'd 1st Plat in WOCHERN (L038013) at 0830
1st Plat Co "C" attach'd to GCR, departed from MERLE (P815830) at 0830 and reported to Co "A", 20th Inf at BERT-RANGE (P785138)

21 Dec 1944: Bn (-) moved to BERINGEN (P835289) at 2030.
1st Plat Co "C" with Team Holhouse outposted the MERSCH (P820285) ARLON (P515225) road.

22 Dec 1944: No change.

23 Dec 1944: 1st Plat, Co "C" moved to OBERGLABACH (P858-328) attach'd to Co "C", 3rd Tank Bn, 10th Armd Div.
Co "B" (✓) rel'd from attachmt TF/Polk and closed in BERINGEN (P835289) at 1700. Attach'd to 90th Cav Sqd effective 1700.
Co "A" (✓) rel'd for assembly at SCHOOS (P872-290) at 1300.

24 Dec 1944: Co "A" (✓) moved to STEGEN (P874378) at 1000. The two sections of the 3rd Plat along with one sec pion. Plat took up positions for direct fire at (P876404) and (P889940) from where they could observe the German main supply route parrallel-ing the SAUER River. 3 Volkswagons; 1 Ammo Carrier; 2 Personnel Trucks; 1 Cargo Truck and 3 Bicycles and an unestimated number of enemy personnel were destroyed.

Co "B" moved to STEGEN at 0730. Platbns took up positions at (P868414) and (P837397) overlooking supply routes to towns of ETTLEBRUCK (P824399) and DIEKIRCH (P865420); 1 Tiger Tank; 1 Btry 105mm Guns; 4 AA units; 2 88mm Guns and an enemy CP at DIEKIRCH were destroyed.

25 Dec 1944: 2nd and 3rd Plats of Co "A" moved to direct fier positions at (P887417), continuing the blockade of the enemy's main supply routes to the North of the SAUER River. 1 Mk IV tank; 1 Personnel Carrier; 1 Motorcycle; 4 Cargo trucks; 1 Volkswagon and 15 bicycles were destroyed, along with 1 Command Car; 1 half track and an unestimated number of enemy personnel.

Co "B" did not change positions but maintained the ones they had. 1 Enemy-liaison plane (as it landed and came to a stop) at (P838407); 1 MkIV tank; 2 Mortar emplacemnets; 1 Enemy CP at DIEKIRCK; 1 Command Car; 1 Half track; 1 MG emplacement; 5 Bicycles and an estimated 20 enemy personnel were destroyed.

1st Plat Co "C" moved to SCHRONDETEILLER (P865-352).

26 Dec 1944: Co "B" (✓) rel'd from attachmt and reverted back to Bn control. Assembled at BERINGEN (P835289) at 0900.
1st Plat, Co "C" also reverted back to Bn control. Assembled Beringen at 1300.
Co "A" reverted back to Bn control and closed at SCHIEREN (P825380) at 1700.

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27 Dec 1944: Bn (-) placed under control XII Corps. Rcn was made of TP Reed zone for routes and positions to support fire of the 309th T. D. Bn.

28 Dec 1944: Rcn made or rest of XII Corps zone for routes, AT positions and assembly areas.

Co "C" (-) was contacted for the first time since their departure for BASTOGNE (P555578) pocket on Dec 18 1944. 15 Mk V tanks and 1 Mk VI tank, as well as 3 AT guns (SP) were known to be destroyed. 14 of these tanks were known to be destroyed during the period 20- 21 Dec by the 3rd Plat under the command of 1st Lt David K Hagens in the vic of NOVILLE (P538646). The attacking enemy tanks were engaged as they emerged from the fog at ranges of 200-300 yards. One destroyer knocked out 5 Mk V's with 6 rds. Lt Hagens employed two destroyers in static positions and used the buildings in NOVILLE for cover. The other two destroyers of his Plat roved about the village and were prepared to move into numerous positions on call. The 2nd Plat, cmd by Lt Edward Gladden, was successfully employed to direct fire on an infantry to repel counter-attacks. It was while breaking up one of the enemy attacks that Lt Gladdens Plat destroyed a Mk V tank with an M-10 manned by personnel recruited from Co Hq. The Rcn Plat operated directly with elements of the 101st AB Div and were outposting the BASTOGNE-ARLON highway. Casualties sustained in the BASTOGNE pocket were 13 men and 8 vehicles, (2 M-18's, 2 M-20's, 3 1/2 tons, and 1 2 1/2 ton truck*) These losses were principally the result of intensive nightly enemy bombing. The M-18's to an AT action. The Co accounted for 43 POW and estimated 150 enemy killed.

29 and 30 Dec: No change.

31 Dec 1944: At 0700 Co "C" moved to (P557572). Four destroyers moved to (P523580) and two to HEMROULLE (P534600) to give direct support to 327th AB Div.

The enemy sustained the following losses due to action of this Battalion in December.

- 43 Prisoners of War.
- 290 Personnel killed.
- 15 Mk V tanks
- 2 Mk VI tanks
- 2 Mk IV tanks
- 4 105mm Guns
- 4 AA units on tracked vehicles
- 3 SP AT guns
- 2 88mm AT Guns
- 2 Machine guns
- 2 Mortars
- 1 Liaison Plane
- 5 Cargo trucks
- 4 Volkswagons
- 1 Arm'd Ammo Carrier
- 1 Ammo Carrier
- 1 Personnel Carrier
- 2 Command cars
- 2 Half tracks
- 1 Motorcycle
- 15 Bicycles
- 2 Command Posts.

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Recommendation:

- a. It is recommended that a covered turret be incorporated in the design of TD's to prevent losses incurred due to air bursts in action.
- b. It should be reemphasized that TD's should not be used as tanks as it will only result in the premature loss of TD's and failure in their primary mission.

For the Battalion Commander:

William H. Hatina
Major, FA (TD)
S-3



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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U.S. Army

Dec.
4 Nov 1944

SUBJECT: S-3 Report, 030800 - 040800.

TO : All Companies, 609th TD Bn.

1. Co "A" (Q103940) atchd to CCA. First & third destroyer Plats at (Q148922) and (Q146920) participating in secondary mission with 419th FA Bn. Platoons are doing little firing. 130 rds were expended 1 Dec 44. Second Platoon outpostng LAUNSTROFF (Q103940). Rcn Platoon reconnoitering possible AT positions and usable road net in CCA area.

2. Co "B" (Q023980): Atchd to Task Force Polk. Second Plat, Rcn Plat, and Pion Station held in reserve on 30 minute alert. First Plat has two destroyers in defensive positions at TETTINGEN (L045026) and two destroyers in reserve at WACHERN (L038013). Spasmodic enemy MG, arty, and Mortar fire being received in TETTINGEN from BUTZDORF and general vicinity. Third Plat atchd to 43rd Cav Sq and in Sq reserve at BUSCHDORFF (Q088976).

3. Co "C" (Q045913) atchd to CCB; rehabilitating and conducting maintenance.

4. Hq Co (Q013978) - No change.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. HATINA
Major, 609th TD Bn,
S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U.S. Army

5 Dec 44.

SUBJECT: S-3 Report, ~~040800~~ - ~~050800~~.

TO : All Companies, 609th TD Bn.

1. Co "A" (†) (Q103940), Atchd to CCA: 1st Plat (Lt. Townsend) and 3rd Plat (Lt. Figg) still in indirect fire positions. 2nd Plat (Lt. Harris) preparing to relieve 3rd Plat today.

1st Plat fired 3 rds registration and 24 rds unobserved harassing and interdiction fire.

3rd Plat fired 4 rds registration and 36 rds unobserved harassing and interdiction fire.

2. Remainder of Bn: - No change.

WILLIAM H. HATINA
Major, 609th TD Bn,
S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S Army

7 December 44.

SUBJECT: S-3 Report - 060800 to 070800.

TO : All Companies.

1. Co "B" atchd to TF/Polk. 3rd Plat departed BUSHDORFF 0930 with units of 43rd Cav Sqdn to occupy new location asgd that organization. Closed at WELLINGEN 1035. Plat Comdr given asgmt of reconnoitering positions W of Saar river along road networks so that TD guns may be used for roving Arty. Firing direct fire into vic DREISBACH, PONTEN, BESSERINGEN, SANAT and MERZIG. Rcn & Pion Sec at BESCH rec'd a few rds of En Arty during period. 1st Plat Sec at TETTINGEN subjected to several rds Arty & Mortar fire during period. Positions of 2nd Plat and Hq Plat unchanged.

2. Co "C" - "No change".

3. Co "A" at St MARGUERITE (Q034855) for rehabilitation and maintenance.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. HATINA
Major, 609th TD Bn,
S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S Army

11 December 1944

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 101000 to 111000.

TO : G-3, 10th Armd Division
(ATTN: Mr. Dean)



1. Co "B" (4) (Q065983) atchd TF/POIK: Destroyer positions at TETTINGEN (L045026) and HILBRINGEN (Q188942) received heavy enemy Arty and Mortar Concentrations. Two destroyers of 1st Plat at TETTINGEN fired 8 rds APC and HE at MG in house at BUTSDORF (L047030). MG was silenced. 3rd Plat fired 7 rds HE and 3 rds APC in role of roving arty.

2. Remainder of Bn engaged in training.

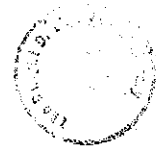
For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. HATINA
Major, FA (TD)
S-3.

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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S ARMY

13 December 1944

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 121~~000~~ to 131~~000~~.TO : G-3, 10th Armored Division.
(ATTN: Mr. Dean).

1. Co "B" (+) (066883) atchd TF/Folk: One 3rd Plat destroyer knocked out by enemy mortar fire at TERTINGEN (1745/27). 2nd Plat relieved 3rd Plat at 17~~00~~. Positions in TERTINGEN abandoned.

2. Remainder of Battalion: - No Change.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. MATINA
Major, 609th T. D. Bn.,
S-3.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S Army

14 December 1944

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 131000 to 141000.

TO : G-3, 10th Armored Division.
(ATTN: Mr. Dean).



1. Co "B" (+) (Q065984) atchd TP/Polk. 1st Plat working as roving Arty to harrass the enemy and deceive him as to strength of holding force fired 14 rds HE and 16 rds APC at Pillboxes vic MERZIG (Q205945). Hits were observed on targets but range was too great to determine damage.

2. Remainder of Battalion - "No change".

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. SATINA
Major, 609th T. D. Bn.,
S-3.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

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HEADQUARTERS, 600TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S Army

15 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 141000 to 151000.

TO : G-3, 10th Armored Division.
(ATTN: Mr. Dean).

1. Co "B" (+) (A065983) Atchd TF/Polk. 3rd Platoon fired
13 rds HE into MERZIG from position vic SCHWEMLINGEN (Q170973).

2. Remainder of Battalion: "No Change".

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM R. HATINA
Major, 600th T. D. Bn.,
S-3.



S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

HEADQUARTERS, 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U S Army

18 December 1944

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 171000 to 181000.

TO : G-3, 10th Armored Division.
(ATTN: Mr. Dean).

1. Battalion (-) closed at GARNICH (P710145) at 180230.
2. Co "A" (+), atchd CCB now located at MERL (P815133).
3. No information on remainder of Battalion.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. MATINA
Major, 609th TD Bri,
S-3

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HEADQUARTERS 609TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U. S. Army

18 December 1944

SUBJECT: Periodic Report - 181000 to 182300.

TO : G-3, 10 Armored Division
(ATTN: Mr. Dean)



1. Co "C" (+) atchd to CCB. 1st Plat relieved atchmt to CCB and atchd to CCR.

2. Bn (-) (P815130) atchd to CCR. Departed GARNICH (P710145) at 181430 ; closed MERL (P815130) at 181520.

3. Remainder Bn - no information.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. HAFINA
Major, FA (TD)
S-3.