

EXTRACTS OF
AFTER ACTION REPORTS, WORLD WAR II
COMPANY C, 609th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

8 October 1944

Co "C" given mission of supporting fire of XX Corps Arty. Company cleared bivouac E of MOUDIENS (U710710) at 1430 hrs and closed in positions for indirect fire vicinity U726616 at 1530 hrs. Five missions assigned to Co C by XX Corps Arty and 915 FA Bn. 6828 76mm HE expended on this mission as of 2400 hrs 31 Oct.

3 December 1944

Co C plus one Ren Plat attached to CCB rehabilitating and conducting maintenance at EVENDORFF (Q045913).

17 December 1944

Co "C" moved out with CCB and closed in MERLE (P815130) at 1600.

18 December 1944

Co "C" less 1st Destroyer Plat moved with CCB to BASTOGNE (P555578) at 1000. 1st Plat was atchd to CCR. *

20 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", atchd to CCR, departed from MERLE (P815130) at 0830 and reported to Co "A", 20th Inf at BERTRANGE (P735138).

21 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", with Team HOLHOUSE outposted the MERSCH (P820265) ARLON (P615225) road.

23 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C", moved to OBERGLARACH (P856328) atchd to Co "C", 3rd Tank Bn, 10 Armd Div.

25 December 1944

1st Plat Co "C" moved to SCHOUWEILER (P865352).

27 December 1944

1st Plat, Co "C" rlyd from CCX, 9th Armd Div, to Bn control. Plat assembled at BERLINGEN (P835298) 261300.

28 December 1944

Co "C" (-) was contacted for the first time since their departure to the BASTOGNE (P555578) pocket on 18 Dec 1944. Fifteen enemy MK V tanks and one MK VI tank as well as three AT SP guns were known to have been destroyed. Fourteen of these tanks were destroyed during the period 20 -21 Dec by the 3rd Plat under the command of 1st Lt DAVID K. HAGENS in the vicinity of NOVILLE (P588646). (The attacking enemy tanks were en-

won 500000

gaged as they emerged from the heavy fog at ranges of 200 - 300 yards. One destroyer knocked out five MK V tanks with six rounds. Lt Hagens employed two destroyers in static positions and took advantage of buildings in NOVILLE (P588646) for cover. The other two destroyers of his platoon roved about the village and were prepared to move into numerous positions upon call. The 2nd Plat, commanded by Lt EDWARD GLADDEN, was successfully employed in direct fire at enemy infantry to repel counterattacks. It was while breaking up one of the enemy's persistent counterattacks, that Lt Gladden's plat destroyed a MK V tank with an M-10 Destroyer which was manned by a makoshift crew composed of personnel from Co Hq. The M-10 had been recovered under fire, manned and successfully employed. The Ren Plat operated directly with elements of the 101st A/B Div and was outpostting 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 1/4-ton's and 1 2 1/2-ton truck). These losses were principally the result of intensive nightly enemy bombing. The M-18's were lost by enemy AT action. The Company accounted for 48 PSW and an estimated 150 enemy killed.

with Team Cherry

December 1944

At 0700 Co "C" CP moved to (P557572). Four destroyers moved to (P523580) and two to HEMROUILLE (P584600) to give direct support to the 327th A/B Infantry.

January 1945

At 0200 destroyer in FAY fired at enemy infantry. All during the night enemy tanks moved about FAY but did not enter the town.

Enemy tanks fired direct fire in support of enemy infantry. At about 0600 enemy tanks, number estimated between 6 and 11, attacked FAY. Destroyer was forced to pull behind a barn because of direct fire from enemy tanks. Friendly infantry began to withdraw. Small arms fire from nearby buildings directed at destroyer. Enemy tanks in FAY on East, West and North roads. Because of destroyer's position, they were forced to abandon it. Destroyer in reserve came down into town on road, fired at enemy tanks, one behind the other. Completely demolished lead tank. Second enemy tank was hit but was recovered. Town fell to enemy.

2 see next pg

At 0930, 11th Armored Infantry attacked FAY. Destroyer was recovered. At 0950 destroyer recovered had been hit by one round of AP. At 1300, Recovery vehicle, while towing destroyer back, hit a land mine at P578623.

At 1400, 3rd Plat plus one destroyer of 2nd Plat moved into area of 1st Bn, 506th Inf.

At 1400 2nd Plat moved into area (P5664) of 3rd Bn, 506th Inf.

Ren Plat in 1st Bn, 506th Inf Reserve.

Total Rounds fired: 25 HE, 10 AP.

Two tanks destroyed. Minimum 15 enemy killed.

15 January 1945

3rd Plat attached 1st Bn, 506th. Moved to woods (P5865) in support of infantry. Destroyed 1 tank: IV, damaged another, destroyed a machine gun nest, fired at infantry in a house, fired at enemy infantry digging in. Estimated 25 enemy killed. Rds fired: 30 HE, 5 AP.

2nd Plat moved with 3rd Bn, 506th and advanced with them to forward positions P5665.

Ren Plat moved with Co "C", 1st Bn, 506th and provided ren as they moved.

16 January 1945

Ren Plat moved forward in support of leading company in attack of woods at P5865 and objective to the northeast. Fired at haystacks and suspected terrain locations. Fired 22 rds HE.

2nd Plat moved forward in support of lead company of 3rd Bn 506th to P5666. Fired at enemy infantry in houses and suspected locations. Estimated 40 enemy killed. Fired 20 rds HE and 3 rds AP.

3rd Plat moved forward with leading company in attack on VAUX and continued with the attack to objectives to the northeast (P6067). Destroyed two 88mm AT guns with direct fire (1500 yds), damaged an enemy half-track, fired at enemy infantry, silenced a machine gun nest. Estimated 30 enemy killed. Fired 24 rds HE and 2 rds AP.

Plat moved beginning on the 14th from COERU to VAUX (P600675)

17 January 1945

Company released attached to 506th Inf Regt at 0100 and returned to BASTOGNE. At 1330 company moved south to RUMELANGE, closing at 2000 hrs. Billeted for the night.

18 January 1945

Company moved from RUMELANGE at 1000. Closed in ST. JUBIN at 1215 hrs.

19 January 1945

Co "C" (A) closed in LUFFY (U931434) with 6 off, 142 EN and 36 vehicles at 0940.

3 February 1945

Memorial services for men of Co "C" killed in action at BASTOGNE held at 0900.

Flat Leaders, Co "C", further perfected c/atk plans with Team Commanders, 3rd Tank Bn.

4 February 1945

Co "C", Hq & Hq Co, engaged in 10th Armored Division salvage drive.

5 February 1945

Co "C", Hq & Hq Co engaged in rehabilitation and training.

10 February 1945

Co "C", reinforced, closed in PONTY (U940475) at 1200 hours.

1 March 1945

Co "C" (1/4) less 3rd Plat, atchd 376 Inf. CP in AYL. 1st Plat destroyed 7 pillboxes, expending 17 rds AP and 64 rds HE in supporting assault of WILTINGEN (L174184) from pos on high ground W of SAAR R. Town fell to assault at 1100. 2nd Plat pos L166154 received heavy S/A and mortar fire. 3rd Plat, atchd CCR reserve, no change.

2 March 1945

Co "C" (1/4) less 3rd Plat, atchd 376 Inf Regt, supported attack N from WILTINGEN by firing on pillboxes via FILZEN (L155201) from pos vic (L165185), (L200178) and (L173183). 12 pillboxes destroyed, 2 en killed. Pos received some S/A and AW fire. Co CP at WILTINGEN. Ammunition expended: 242 AP, 153 Ho. 3rd Plat Co "C" in CCR reserve at DEURIG (L150127).

9 March 1945

Co "C", CP moved to SCHNEICH. Closed at 1530.

11 March 1945

Co "C", less 2nd Plat, attached 3rd Cav Sq, CP at KERN (L273330) 1st Plat atchd Troop "A" and 3rd Plat atchd Troop "C", report no action. 2nd Plat, atchd 43rd Cav Sq, enroute from MERMESDORF (L279309) to KASSEL (L276293) to establish road blocks, received direct enemy AT fire and arty fire vic (L293300) at approximately 1100. 4 Destroyers lost, 1 EM killed, 2 EM wounded, 3 EM missing. 2nd Plat returned to TRIER for re-equipping. One round HE expended.

March 1945

Co "C" CP remained in KERN (L274339). 1st Plat remained in pos vic (L233326). 2nd Plat in TRIER being re-equipped. 3rd Plat in pos, one section at (L333313) and one section at (L333315). Pos received intense arty fire during morning. At 0900 on C/A from E and SW with 3 tks and est 50 inf. Atk repulsed, one M IV destroyed. 40 rds HE and 5 APO expended. 19 en known killed, 3 POW taken. One off killed, 2 EM wounded.

29 March 1945

Co "C" - 3rd Plat moved w/CCR from QUEICHHEIM at 231845 and closed in SANDHOFFEN (15105) at 290230. 3rd Plat atchd T/F Thackston; 2nd Plat under Bn control; 1st Plat atchd 10th Armd Div.

30 March 1945

All elements advanced S and SE of MANNHEIM with 10th Armd Div.

10 April 1945

Co "C", atchd CCR. 1st Plat remained atchd 634 FA Bn vic CRAILSHEIM. 2nd Plat, atchd T/F Thackston, in ILSHOFFEN. In C/atk morning of 10 April, plat got one SP gun and fired on two others. Ammunition expenditure not reported. 3rd Plat, atchd CCR, remained vic CRAILSHEIM. No action report received. 2nd Ren Plat running patrol on roads between CGA and CCR, Liaison between T/F Roberts and ILSHOFFEN, keeping roads open. On 9 April one 1/4-Ton ambushed and lost. 2 EM wounded. At 101630 2nd Ren Plat on road patrol vic RUPPERSHOFFEN (S535383) was atkd by estimated 100 Bn Inf and 2 MK IV or MK V tks. One officer and two EM missing in action; 3 EM wounded, one half-track and one M-5 light tank lost to Bn AT fire.

*used m5,
not m88*

12 April 1945

"B" and "C" Companies advanced with Combat Commands across Kocher River.

23 April 1945

Co "C", atchd CCR, CP & 3rd Plat in EMMEN (1270668). 1st Plat atchd 634 FA, reported destruction of 1 88 mm gun, position unknown.

27 April 1945

Co "C", atchd CCR, CP and 2d Plat moved from MANNEN (Y045490) to BUC LOE at 1500. 3rd Plat, atchd T/F THACKSTON closed in BUC LOE at 1400. Enemy horse drawn column encountered vic BERNHAU (X975500) and plat fired 93 rds HE and 1 AP killing 25 on and destroying 4 vehicles.

30 April 1945

All elements engaged in rehabilitation and resupply. 1st Plat Co "C" held atchd 634 FA and rejoined company.

3 May 1945

All elements held attachments and reverted to Bn. Control 1300. Unit engaged in rehabilitation and training.

9 May 1945

Battalion participated in Division parade at 1300.