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HEADQUARTERS, 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION WAN/r1

APO 403, U. S. Army  
10 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of December, 1944.  
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25 DC.  
(Thru Channels)

1. Attached is the After Action Report of the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion for December, 1944.

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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**RESTRICTED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *Aug* 1945  
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HEADQUARTERS, 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

DAS/r1

APO 403, U.S. Army

4 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report (Month of December, 1944).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.  
(Through Channels).

SECTION I Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

The 610th Tank Destroyer Bn was still attached to the 80th Inf Division on the 1st December, 1944. The Bn CP was located in German barracks on the northern outskirts of ST AVOLD. A Company in direct support of the 317th Inf were in position vicinity of GUENVILLER, conducting maintenance of vehicles. B Company in direct support of the 319th Inf, had 1 Platoon located vic of BETTING, 2nd Plt at HOMBURG HAUT and the 3rd Plt at SEINGBOUSE. C Company in direct support of the 318th Inf had the 1st Plt located in HENRIVILLE, 2nd and 3rd Plts had positions on ridge W of FAREBERSVILLER. Hq Co was located 1 mile NE of FOLSCHVILLER, with a forward ammunition dump located at FOLSCHVILLER. A Company during the course of the day moved to assembly positions vicinity of LACHAMORE.

In compliance with Field Order #19, Headquarters, 80th Inf Div, dated 2nd December 1944, the Bn was to support the attack to the East with one Company attached to the 318th Inf and 2 Companies in mobile reserve. A and B Co's were in mobile reserve vicinity of LACHAMBRE and HOMBURG HAUT respectively. The Companies reconnoitered for positions in preparation to support the attack of the 80th Inf Div. The 1st Plt, Co B, vicinity of BENING was relieved by the 808th TD Bn. The 3rd of December gave no change in Bn assignments, 3rd Plt, A Company, moved to positions W of FAREBERSVILLER, to cover the advance of C Company supporting the attack of the 318th Inf., E and NE of FAREBERSVILLER. 2nd and 3rd Plts Co A and B Co remained in former location in readiness to support the attack if necessary. A Company completed the alteration of moving the machine gun mount from the rear to the forward position on the turret, to enable the gunner to more easily fire at ground targets.

On 4th December, A and C Companies supported the 318th Regt's attack N and E of PFARREHESWEILLER, with A Company covering C Co's advance, with the attack. The 1st Plt of C Company was taken under fire by 3 anti-tk guns located in the woods 1000 meters E of THEEDINGEN. One destroyer was damaged by the first shot but due to alertness and quick firing of its crew, and the remainder of the Platoon, they destroyed 2 enemy towed AT guns and 1 assault gun, mounted on a MK IV chassis, expending 7 rds APC. The 2nd and 3rd Plts fired 56 rds HE and 3500 rds .50 Cal ammo at buildings, enemy personnel, and installations. 4 prisoners were captured at close of period. All Plts of A Company returned to SENGHUSCH. 1st Plt C Company located at cross roads 1000 meters S of THEEDINGEN, and 2nd and 3rd Plts vic E of KOCHEN.

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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued).  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

Company B received orders to attack one Plt to 2nd Cav Sqd at OBERHOMBURG. All Plts remained in vic OBERHOMBURG, in mobile reserve. The destroyer hit by AT fire, will need replacement. At 2300 hrs, on 4 December, a German time bomb completely destroyed a barracks similar to that in which the Bn CP was located, about 75 yds E of the CP. The CP immediately evacuated the building in which the CP was located and the personnel of the CP aided the Pioneer Plt of Reconnaissance Company in removing dead and injured from the demolished building.

On the 5th December, the 3rd Plt B Co, attached to 2nd Cav Sqd, moved to FREYMING. No other changes in dispositions. The 1st Plt Co C, in support of 2nd Bn, 318th Inf Regt, fired 20 rds HE at enemy OP's and personnel located NE of THEEDINGEN.

On the 6th of December, the Bn was relieved of attachment to the 80th Inf Div by Operational Memorandum #49, Headquarters XII Corps and given the new mission of supporting the attack of the XII Corps. A Company was attached to the 26th Inf Div, B Company attached to the 35th Inf Div and the Bn minus attached to the 9th TD Group. At the close of the day, the Bn occupied positions as follows; A Company at BISSERT, B Co at HAMBACH, Hq Co at SAARALBE, and Bn minus at WILLEBWALD.

A Company moved to ETTING on 7th of December to support the attack of the 26th Inf Div as they pass through the MAGINOT fortifications. B Company was attached to the 35th Inf Div and in turn attached to the 654th TD Bn, with 1 Plt supporting each of the 654th's Gun companies. C Company reconnoitered routes to support the 26th and 35th Inf Div's in their attack.

On 8th December, A Co in vicinity of ETTING had 1st Plt supporting the 328th Inf of the 26th Div and the 2nd Plt in support of the 104th Regt. The third Plt was in reserve. A Company fired 22 rds APC, 62 rds HE (including 5 T-105 fuses) neutralizing 8 pillboxes including 5 forts. B Co reported no change in positions. The Bn minus moved to HARSKIRCHEN, in preparation to support attack of 26th Inf Div.

On 9th December, the 1st and 2nd Plts of A Company were in position vicinity of ACHEN. The 3rd Plt from positions N of ACHEN, fired 18 rds of HE at enemy personnel at road net vic of GROS REDERCHING. The 1st Plt, B Company moved to vic NEUFGRANGE, the 3rd Plt to positions E of BOIS DE SETTING. C Company was in support of the 328th Inf Regt, with 1st Platoon in position, 1000 meters S of WITTING, 2nd Plt in reserve vic of KALHAUSEN, and 3rd Plt vic of WIESVILLER.

The 1st Plt of A Company on 10th December, moved their positions, 700 meters NW of SINGLING and destroyed 1 MK V tank vic of BRANDELFINGERHOFF FME, at a range of approximately 4200 meters. The 3rd Plt moved to positions 1000 meters SE of WOELFLING and destroyed 3 tanks (2 MK VI's and 1 unknown), located S of ELIESBRUCKENWALD. The 3rd Plt remained in reserve 300 meters

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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued).  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

S of 3rd Plts position. 1st Plt of B Company located 800 meters S of REMELFING, 3rd Plt vic WITTRING, 2nd Plt at HAMBACH. C Company moved all Plts to vicinity of WIESVILLER, in support of 328th Regt. Reported one enemy tank destroyed. The tanks destroyed during the day were well concealed and camouflaged. In one instance a MK VI was completely concealed in a hay barn. The barn was first knocked down with HE ammunition and then the tank destroyed.

On the 11th December, the Bn, attached to the 9th TD Group, was supporting the 87th Inf Div. The Bn CP moved to HERBITZHEIM. A Company in support of the 346th Inf, had 1st Plt in position 1000 yards W of WEOS REDECHING. 2nd Plt in reserve in GROS REDECHING. The 3rd Plt moved to positions on hill, 1000 yards N of GROS REDECHING, where they took 4 enemy tanks under fire. They destroyed 2 tanks and reported 2 as probables. The 3rd Plt also neutralized 1 pillbox vicinity E of RIMLING. B Company was still attached to the 654th TD Bn and the 35th Inf Div. The 1st and 3rd Plts were in the vicinity of SAARINSMING, in support of the 134th and 320th Inf Regt's. The 2nd Plt remained in reserve in the vic of HAMBACH. C Company was in support of the 328th Inf Regt. The 1st Plt moved to positions on the hill, 1000 meters W of WOELFLING and at 1530, took under fire, one enemy tk. The tank went up in flames. As the destroyer moved back from its firing position, it received a direct hit from an enemy 88mm, killing the driver of the TD and wounding 3 others. The 2nd Plt moved to positions E of WIESVILLER and the 3rd Plt was in position E of WOELFLING. The Plts withdrew to vicinity of WIESVILLER for the night.

The Bn CP moved to KITTING on the 12th of December. A Co's 1st Plt moved to positions on hill 370, 1000 meters S of RIMLING. The 2nd Plt was at BRANDELFINGERHOFF FME, and 3rd Plt S of MOHONVILLE FME. C Co's 1st Plt was in position S of FOLPERSVILLER, the 2nd Plt in NEUNKIRCH and the 3rd Plt S of ELIESBUCK. The 3 Plts moved to the vic of WOELFLING, covering the road nets and routes thereto and at 1700 hrs, withdrew to WIESVILLER. At the close of the day, the 2nd and 3rd Plts moved to vic N and E of ELIESBUCKNER WALD in support of a new attack. The 1st Plt followed in reserve.

B Company was relieved of attachment to the 35th Inf Div and reverted to Bn control, moving to the vic of WITTRING, on 13th December. 2nd Plt of C Co moved to positions at BELLEVUE FME and the 2nd Hon Plt of C Co moved to high ground, 2000 meters S of OBERGAILBACH, manning an OP.

On the 14th of December, the 2nd and 3rd Plts of A Co moved to hill LE SCHLIETZEN, just W of RIMLING. B Co reconnoitered for possible assembly areas at WIESVILLER, WOELFLING, GROS REDECHING and ACHEN. 2nd and 3rd Plts of C Co moved to the general vicinity of OBERGAILBACH.

The Bn CP moved to GROS REDERCHING on the 15th of December. The 3rd Plt position of A Company is covered by the 1st and 2nd Plts from the high ground to the rear. B Company closed in WOELFLING at 0900 hrs. The 2nd Plt B Company occupied positions on the high ground 1000 meters SW of RIMLING, covering the road net N and E of the town. C Co's 1st and 3rd Plts in vic of crossroads, 2000 meters S of OBERGAILBACH, destroyed 1 MK VI tank and an unknown number of enemy personnel in woods, 1500 meters NW of ERCHINGEN. The 2nd Plt fired at 3 tanks in woods 1000 meters NW of OBERGAILBACH, destroying two, one of which was a MK VI.

There was no change in the Bn's mission on the 16th of December. Initially A Co was disposed as follows; 1st Plt at ERCHINGEN, 2nd Plt at GUIDERKIRCH, and 3rd Plt W of RIMLING. The 3rd Plt fired at two tanks 1000 meters W of EPPINGEN, one of which was destroyed. A Company was relieved of its mission of supporting the 345th Inf and withdrew for a maintenance check having 1st Section of 2nd Plt with 87th Rcn Tp in vic RIMLING. At 1800 hrs, the 1st and 3rd Plt B Co in vic WIESVILLER and the 2nd Plt SW of RIMLING, moved to an assembly area at ERCHINGEN in preparation to sup the 345th Inf Regt. The 1st Plt of C Co moved from ~~position~~ position in eastern edge of woods, 1200 meters SW of OBERGAILBACH, moved at 1400 hrs, 1000 meters SE to fire at three enemy vehicles located E of PEPPERNUM. Poor visibility prevented observation of the results. The 2nd Plt took up road block 800 meters E of OBERGAILBACH and the 3rd Plt moved to the high ground, 1000 meters N of OBERGAILBACH.

On the 17th, 1st Plt A Co and 2nd Plt minus 1 Section, moved to ERCHINGEN. The 3rd Plt was in GUIDERKIRCH. B Company in direct support of the 345th Inf had all Plts in ERCHINGEN, with mission of protecting the right flank of the Regt. C Company was in direct support of the 347th Inf, with Plts leapfrogging forward in support of the attack. The 1st and 2nd Plts were on road blks vic WALSHEIM, and the 3rd Plt on high ground, 1500 meters S of WALSHEIM. The 3rd Plt destroyed 1 tank (MK IV) and 1 enemy machine gun in WALSHEIM.

On the 18th of December, A Co was still in mobile reserve vic of GUIDERKIRCH, conducting maintenance. B Co in direct support of 345th Inf, had 1st and 2nd Plts vic of ERCHINGEN, with the 3rd Plt, 1000 yds W of MEDERSHEIM. The 2nd Plt of C Co fired 4 rounds at an enemy tank, with unknown results. On the 19th, all Plts Co C moved to high ground vic of WALSHEIM, affording better fields of fire.

On the 20th, A Company moved at 1430 hrs to relieve C Company. The 1st and 2nd Plts were in vic of WALSHEIM, with the 3rd Plt SE of GERSHEIM. At close of day, Bn relieved of mission of supporting the 87th Inf Div and prepared to move to new area vic of LEUDELANGE, DUCHY of LUXEMBOURG. A and C Co assembled in area NE of BRANDERFINGERHOFF FME, B Co assembled in area BELLEVUE FME. Two tanks previously reported as probables on the 15th were confirmed as destroyed. (MK IV's).

The Bn was relieved of attachment to the 9th TD Gp on the 21st of December and the Bn Cp was established in DOMMELDINGEN, closing at 1700 hrs. A Co given the mission of supporting the 317th Inf and closed in area vic HELMSANG at 220130.

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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued)  
Section 1, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

B Co supporting the 318th Inf closed in MERSCH at 212400. C Company in sup of the 319th Inf moved to KEHLEN, closing at 220100. Ren Co moved to DOMMELDINGEN and Hq Co moved to BERTRANGE.

A Company was relieved of attachment to the 317th Inf and replaced Co C with the 319th Inf. 1st Section 1st Plt was in MICHELBUCH, 2nd Section in FEULEN, 2nd Plt at HEIDERSCHEID and the 3rd Plt on road blocks vic VICHTEN. B Co moved all three Plts to the highground SW of ETTELBRUCK and fired 61 rds HE, causing unknown losses to enemy personnel. Co C initially attached to the 319th Inf, with 1st Plt S of MERZIG. 2nd Plt vic FEULEN and 3rd Plt vic MICHELBUCH, fired 75 rds HE and 55 rds APC, knocking out 1 Arty piece and destroyed 2 building housing enemy installations. C Company was relieved at 2000 hrs by A Company and moved to BOEVANGE to conduct maintenance. Hq Co moved to BOPFERDANGE and the Bn CP moved to MERSCH.

On the 23rd December, the 1st Section, 1st Plt A Co moved to HEIDERSCHEID AND SUPPORTED THE ATTACK OF THE 2ND BN, 319th Inf, on TADLER. The 2nd Plt from positions on N side of HEIDERSCHEID, destroyed 7 enemy tanks (2 MK VI), 3 halftracks, 1 AT gun, 1 MG nest and 1 ammunition dump. The 3rd Plt and 2nd section of 1st Plt, moved in support of the 1st Bn's attack on KEHMEN, then withdrew during night to edge of woods 1500 meters SW of KEHMEN. The 1st Plt B Company moved 1500 meters NW of ETTELBRUCK and then moved in support of 319th Inf vic NIEDERFEULEN. 2nd Plt moved in support of 317th Inf, covering road nets NW and NE of NIEDERFEULEN. The 3rd Plt, SW of ETTELBRUCK, fired 39 rds HE and 7 rds APC, destroying 1 horsedrawn large calibre arty piece and an unknown number of enemy personnel. C Company initially in mobile reserve, was attached to 317th Inf at 1500 hrs and moved to NIEDERFEULEN.

On the 24th December, A Co's 1st Section, 1st Plt and 2nd Plt vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID, destroyed 1 enemy cargo vehicle and 1 halftrack. 2nd Section, 1st Plt and 3rd Plt located 1500 meters SW of KEHMEN. The 1st Plt of B Company reverted to attachment to the 318th Inf and moved to GRENZINGEN. The 1st and 2nd Plts C Company destroyed 3 enemy tanks (1 MK VI). At 1700 hrs, all Plts withdrew to high ground 700 meters SE of NIEDERFEULEN. C Co lost 3 EM killed and 14 EM wounded.

On the 25th of December found A Company attached to the 319th Inf and B Co attached to the 317th Inf, with C Company in reserve conducting maintenance. The 1st Plt A Co, in position vic TADLER, destroyed one MK IV tank located 1200 meters S of GOESDORF, and 1 enemy CP, with approximately 30 enemy personnel. The 2nd Plt in vic RINGEL, destroyed one enemy tank (MK IV), 1 halftrack, 1 cargo truck, N of RINGEL. B Co had 1st and 3rd Plt vic KEHMEN, while the 2nd Plt withdrew to NIEDERFEULEN. B Company reported one tank possibly destroyed, 1 MG nest and an unknown number of personnel, including bicycle troops.

On the 26th, A Companies 2nd Plt replaced the 3rd Plt in vic TADLER and the 3rd Plt returned to HEIDERSCHEID. 1 EM was killed. The 3rd Plt of B Co destroyed 1 tank, 2 AT guns and at least 1 Plt Inf in the vicinity of KEHMEN. 1

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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued)  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

M36 was damaged by direct hit from enemy artillery fire. The 2nd Plt, B Co, replaced the 3rd Plt, which returned to NEIDERFEULEN. 1 Officer and 3 EM were wounded.

A Co's 1st Plt was replaced by the 3rd Plt on 27th December and returned to HIEDERSCHIED. They fired 42 rds APC and 10 rds HE, causing an unknown loss in enemy personnel and equipment. Two EM wounded by artillery fire. B Co's 1st Plt was replaced by 3rd Plt and returned to NEIDERFEULEN.

A Company rotated its 2nd and 1st Plts while B Co rotated the 2nd and 1st Plt. C Co was attached to the 318th Inf on 282030 and moved with 1st Plt vic GRENTZINGEN, 2nd Plt W of ETTTELBRUCK and the 3rd Plt N of ETTTELBRUCK.

On the 29th, 1st Plt A Co fired 7 rds HE in helping the Inf repulse a counterattack. The 1st Section of 3rd Plt moved to positions NE of HEIDERSCHIED, to cover the road to the E during the counterattack.

Two EM of A Company were wounded by artillery fire on the 30th of Dec, C Co's first Plt moved to SCHIEREN. The Pioneer Plt of Rcn Co was given the mission of totally destroying any enemy tanks knocked out, to prevent reuse by the enemy.

On the 31st, B Co's 1st Plt was relieved by the 3rd Plt. The company fired 3 rds HE and 4 rds APC, destroying an enemy OP. The 1st Plt of C Co moved to SCHIEREN.

The results of casualties inflicted on the enemy are tabulated below:

Tanks --- MK IV	22	Other Vehicles ----	7
MK V	3	Anti Tank Guns ----	5
MK VI	7	Artillery Pieces----	2
Pill Boxes ----	9	CP's -----	1
OP's -----	1	MG's -----	4
Ammunition Dps-	1		

From the experience gained by the battalion, it has been found that the tank destroyers can better employ their weapons when they are in a support role. It has been found that in many instances when we have been attached to a regiment, there are tendencies for junior Officers to order our guns into positions with only a vague knowledge of tank destroyer tactics. When the Co's are in a support role and given a mission, the trained tank destroyer Officers and men can employ their weapons more advantageously and in conformity with established tank destroyer doctrine.

*Donald A. Stewart*  
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Major, 610 TD Bn  
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