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HEADQUARTERS
628th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)
APO 230, U. S. Army

1 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy - Month of November 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Hq. 5th Armd. Division, APO 255, U.S. Army.

1. Campaign of Western Europe.

2. Commanding Officers were:

a. Battalion Commander: William J. Gallagher, Lt. Col., FA, O-384952, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.b. Hq. Company Commander: Daniel L. Thomas, Captain, F.A., O-422582, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.c. Company "A" Commander: James H. Lloyd, Capt., FA, O-409317, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.d. Company "B" Commander: Paul L. McPherran, Captain, F.A., O-317786, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.e. Company "C" Commander: Robert C. Jones, Capt., FA, O-1822013 from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.f. Res. Company Commander: David (NMI) Doerr, 1st Lt., AUS-TD, O-1821835, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.g. Medical Detachment: Francis T. England, Captain, M.C., O-1683058, from 0001 hours 1 Nov. 44 to 2400 hours 30 Nov. 44.

3. Losses in action were as follows;

a. Killed in action:

(1) Stanley J. Lada, Sergeant, FA, Co. "A", SWA in vicinity of Kalterherberg, Germany 3 Nov. 44, evacuated to hospital and subsequently DOW on 4 Nov. 44.

(2) Casimer Wydrezenski, Cpl. FA, 33161329, Co. "C", KIA in vicinity of Hurtgen, Ger. 26 Nov. 44.

(3) Herman (NMI) Barth, Cpl., FA, 20315041, Co. "C", KIA in vicinity of Hurtgen, Germany, 30 Nov. 44.

b. Wounded and Injured Men in Action:

(1) William J. Kane, Sergeant, FA, Co. "C", 13058696, LWA in vic. of Hurtgen, Ger. 26 Nov. 44. Ret. to Duty.

(2) Samuel Angello, Sgt., FA, Co. "C", 32108285, LWA in vic. of Hurtgen, Ger. 30 Nov. 44. Evacuated.



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4. Battles:

a. This organization was not in contact during the month of November, however, it was employed on artillery missions constantly throughout this time.

- (1) No contact.
- (2) No contact.
- (3) No contact.
- (4) No contact.
- (5) No contact.

b. Enemy pilotless aircraft were numerous over the Bn. area and one crashed near Co. "B" bivouac area near Kalterherberg, Ger. but no damage resulted.

- (1) No contact.
- (2) Practically no enemy counter-battery fire was received which could be positively identified as such. On several occasions enemy artillery fire was received in the vicinity of our guns but was always 600 to 1000 yds distant. One shell fell approximately 500 yds from the Battalion Hq. area in Kalterherberg, Ger. which was identified as of about 75 mm.

c. Tabulation of enemy losses inflicted by this organization: Although 6464 rounds were fired on artillery missions by this unit, the actual losses inflicted on the enemy remains unknown.

d. Prisoners of war: None.

e. No contact.

f. Action:

(1) Bn. remained attached to 5th Armd. Div. during the entire month of November.

(2) The mission of the Battalion was primarily to provide AT defense and secondly indirect fire. Companies were assigned to combat teams. They were used mainly to perform their secondary mission of indirect fire. One Plat. of Co. "B" and one Plat. of Co. "C" set up AT road blocks in the Division Sector, but did not have any action. The Companies reinforced the fires of Div. Arty. including so they fired 206 interdiction concentrations totalling 5060 rounds and 104 TO's totalling 1222 rounds. Some of the fires that could be observed were deemed very effective. Towns were set on fire and personnel and equipment hit. During the first week of the month Battalion changed to M-36s (90 mm). Due to their greater range they were able to reach targets where organic Div. Arty. could not. Co. "C", attached to CCR, supported them in mission of capturing Hurtgen and Kleinhau. Co. "A" was atchd. to CCA and Co. "B" to CCB. Bn. Hq. remained under Div. Arty. control.

(3) No special weapons were used. M-36s were the primary weapon.

(4) Radio communication was supplemented by wire communication due to character of mission.

(5) No supporting units.

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These units were largely supplied.

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(6) No bayonets, flame throwers or grenades were used by

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this unit.

(7) During the month of November 1944, supply operations were largely spent in drawing normal supplies from the various services of supply. Some equipment authorized this unit under T/O and E 18-25 dated 15 March 1944 were obtained. Supplies throughout the month were stable with the exception of Ordnance Materiel, although some ordnance supplies were drawn. However, this unit is still critically short various ordnance vehicles.

(8) During the month of November 1944, evacuation was made partly through the Battalion Aid Station and through the 75th Med. Collecting Co. Supplies were obtained by requisitions submitted through the Bn. S-4. Medical Supplies were adequate; no shortage of any specific items noted.

(9) Casualties: Types of casualties handled by Medical Detachment for the month of Nov. are as follows:

Battle Casualties.

- 1 KIA - Head
- 2 KIA - Abdominal wounds.
- 1 LWA - Extremities.
- 1 LWA - Head and Neck.

Non-Battle Casualties

- 1 GSW, self inflicted.

5. Summation:

a. As in the previous months of combat, operations as a Bn., or under Bn. control, were not performed at any time. The Companies were attached to the separate Combat Commands, but performed many missions under Div. Arty. Control. During the month, the Companies fired a total of 6282 rounds in harrassing and interdiction fire, and counter-battery fires. In the performance of this volume of indirect fire, the companies ran their own FDC but were assigned missions and targets by the Bn's of Div. Arty. to which they were attached. Survey was performed for the Firing companies by the survey sections of the PA Battalions. The PA Bn. Commanders and their Staffs were most cooperative in giving technical advice to the Firing Company Commanders in survey work, FDC procedure and the handling of the metro messages. By the tenth of the month, the Bn. had completed its change-over to the new Tank Destroyer, the M-36. So far, this new weapon has proved more desirable than the M-10 in that it has a stronger motor, heavier gun, and a power-operated turret. Great enthusiasm was evidenced by the officers and men when the Bn. received the new Destroyers. From a field artillery aspect, the new weapons are far superior to the M-10, in that the M-36 has a maximum range of 19,600 yds. thus giving to Div. Arty. an organic longer range counter-battery weapon. No direct fire missions were given the Companies during the month of Nov. with the exception of Co. "C" which, when attached to CCR, fired, on the 30th, at some houses in the Hurtgen-Kleinbau area which had been reinforced to serve as pillboxes. The effect of the firing was good in that the enemy fire coming from the houses was silenced after one or two rounds in each case. Also, for the latter half of the month, one Plat. of Co. "B" provided AT defense on the Monschau-Eupen road, with one Ren. Plat. being used as an AT warning net. Conclusion is that in a month of comparative inactivity in the 5th Armd. Div. sector, the Div. Arty. Command made sound use of this unit in assigning it the numerous indirect missions. This

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accomplished the dual result of bettering the ability of the Bn. to accomplish its secondary mission--indirect fire, and kept the morale of the unit high by shooting.

William S. Gallagher
WILLIAM S. GALLAGHER,
Lt. Col., F.A.,
Commanding.

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