

C O N F I D E N T I A L

H E A D Q U A R T E R S
630TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION (TOWED)
APO 340

14 January 1945

OPERATIONS OF 630TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
PERIOD 16 DECEMBER 1944 to 4 JANUARY 1945

On 16 December 1944, the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) was attached to the 28th Infantry Division, VIII Corps, First United States Army. The division sector was from vicinity SEVENIG, GERMANY, on the North (with 106th Infantry Div. on left (N) flank) to vicinity ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBOURG, on the South (with 9th Armored Division on right (S) flank). Division front was generally along OUR RIVER on LUXEMBOURG - GERMANY border. The companies were supporting infantry regiments and were in assembly areas as follows: Company "A" at ERFELDANGE (supporting 109th Infantry RCT); Company "B" at ENSCHERANGE (supporting 110th Infantry RCT); Company "C" at WEISWAMPACH (supporting 112th Infantry RCT). The Battalion Command Post, Rear Echelon and Second Reconnaissance Platoon were at KNAPOSCHIED. The First Reconnaissance Platoon was supporting the 110th Infantry RCT on a contact patrol mission, operating from MARNACH. All companies had prepared positions to be occupied in event of a tank attack and platoons had occupied these in simulated attacks.

At 0500, 16 December, Germans began shelling main highway from WEISWAMPACH to DIEKIRCH, with particular concentration in the MARNACH - HOSINGEN area. During early morning enemy infantry and tanks began attacking DORSCHIED, NEIDHOUSEN and MARNACH. At 0900 enemy was moving on BOCKHOLTZ, HOSINGEN and HOLZTHUM.

On morning of 16 December guns of Company "B" (-2 guns of 2B held in reserve) were moved to previously prepared direct fire positions. First platoon placed 3 guns at SIEBNALER and one in BOCKHOLTZ, supporting Battery "C", 109th F.A.. Two guns of 2B attempted to get to MARNACH and with Second Reconnaissance Platoon as support moved toward that area. However, these were intercepted by 100 - 150 Germans on road from MUNSHAUSEN to MARNACH. Two enemy killed, 5 wounded and 1 captured. Section of 2B then took up positions with Cannon Company, 110th Infantry, at MUNSHAUSEN (P783609). Section of 3B moved to previously prepared positions at HUPPERDANGE and URSPFELT.

During day 16 December, guns of Company "A" were initially held in reserve and then committed. First Platoon moved toward BASTENDORF, and Third Platoon toward BRANDENBOURG, both with 109th Infantry. Second Platoon, Company "A", occupied previously prepared positions at GILSDORF and EPELDORF.

During day 16 December Company "C" occupied direct fire positions, two guns moving to vicinity C.P., 112th Infantry at OBERHAUSEN. Elements of Company "C" engaged enemy patrol in small arms fight. Enemy machine gun nest destroyed with 3 known enemy killed.

During night 16-17 December enemy tanks and infantry continued movement West. Enemy tanks and infantry overran MARNACH, position of the First Reconnaissance Platoon and Company "B", 110th Infantry. Two tanks and one halftrack known destroyed by reconnaissance platoon. (The two tanks were knocked out by Cpl. DANIELS with a rocket launcher). Two guns of second platoon, Company "B", with second reconnaissance platoon as security, started at 0100 toward position near REVLER, on the high ground just above CLERF. However, upon arrival in that area, foot reconnaissance showed this ground to be in enemy hands, and guns were placed

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in position near WEICHERDANCE on high ground overlooking CLERF.

At 170200 one gun of 3B was overrun by German infantry and five men captured. Second gun of the section held enemy off until 0500 when enemy foot troops forced them to abandon gun.

On 17 December enemy continued move West. First Platoon, Company "B", continued to hold position vicinity BOCKOLTZ with Battery "C", 109th F.A., and holding their own against enemy infantry. Third platoon, Company "B", fired with two remaining guns on enemy tanks and vehicles attacking the 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry. One gun (3B) knocked out by direct fire. With the aid of four U.S. tanks one gun, captured the night before by the Germans, was taken from the enemy at HUPPENDANCE and placed in position vicinity URSPFELT to fire on tanks attacking REULER. Two guns, second platoon, Company "B", in MUNSHAUSEN continued to hold their position with enemy foot troops attempting to cut road behind them. The other section, 2B, was put in position near ESELBORN, overlooking CLERF. During day 1B forced to withdraw from BOCKHOLTZ with artillery battery and fought way out as German infantry commanded road leading to WILWERILTZ. One section went into position on high ground behind WILWERWILTZ; the other on the high ground above DRAUFFEL. Company "B" C.P. remained at ENSCHERANGE until it had no friendly units and moved to KNAFOSCHEID.

During morning 17 December one gun, 2A, overrun by enemy infantry vicinity EFFELDORF, and three remaining guns moved North to protect road net at KAUTENBACK, taking up positions at F765516. No friendly units contacted in area. First Platoon, Company "A", occupied positions near EASTENDORF and third platoon occupied positions vicinity BRANDENBURG.

Company "C" occupied positions in sector of 112th Infantry. Contact with Company lost.

During night 17-18 December one section 1A and one section 3A moved North to strengthen defenses of WILTZ. Section of 1A took up position at F727555. Section of 3A occupied positions vicinity F744525.

At 170400 the first platoon, Company "B", was forced by enemy foot troops to withdraw and were ordered to high ground vicinity ESCHWEILER to defend WILTZ. The two guns of the second platoon were ordered to move to road junction near HAMVILLE after being forced out of position at ESELBORN by enemy infantry. No word from other section of 2B but reported to be holding out at MUNSHAUSEN.

At 180500 infantry support of 3B was gone and at 0530 the remaining two guns were attacked and overrun. During days 16-17 December this platoon knocked out 14 German tanks, 1 88m/m SP gun, several general purpose vehicles and about 300 enemy infantry.

During morning 18 December section of 3A vicinity MERKOLS improved position. 2A moved to NOCHER to defend roads leading to East and South. Approximately 100 infantry-men of 3rd Battalion, 110th Infantry, contacted and group coordinated activities.

At 180830, Battalion C.O. was called to 28th Infantry Division C.P. at WILTZ and given duty of coordinating anti-tank defense of that area.

At 180900 one section of 1B moved to position vicinity DERENBACH; the other section remaining in position vicinity ESCHWEILER. At 1200 section of 2B moved from HAMVILLE into WILTZ, taking up positions there.

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During morning 18 December battalion CP and rear echelon defended KNAPOSCHIED. Enemy patrol fired on, one wounded. Later, enemy machine gun in village knocked out. At 1330 C.F. Group withdrew, but encountered enemy armored vehicles at BRACKENBACK, and C.F. Group moved toward HAMIVILLE. Due to enemy encirclement vehicles had to be abandoned and C.F. Group moved on foot to LONGVILLY, contacting elements of 9th Armored Division there.

During afternoon of 18 December, section of 3A moved into WILTZ taking up position at F703532, guarding approaches from SW.

One section, 1A, and one section, 3A supported 109th Infantry during day. The section of 1A NW of WILTZ was overrun during day by enemy infantry.

At 181400 the two guns of 1B near ESCHWEILER were attacked by German infantry, but, determined to hold their positions, the guns took the enemy under direct HE and machine gun fire and succeeded in breaking up first attack by killing over 100 enemy. At 1500 this section was forced by flanking fire to destroy their guns and drop back on foot as they had no infantry support. At 1700 the section of 1B at DERENBACH was attacked by tanks with infantry riding on them, and, by surprise fire at a range of 400 yards destroyed 1 Mark V tank and the infantry riding on it. This forced the others to drop back, but dismounted enemy overran the first gun and the second was attempting to change its direction of fire when a tank knocked out its prime mover. The second gun was then overrun.

The section of 2B at MUNSHAUSEN was overrun about 181800. One gun was knocked out and the other still firing. No results known.

During days 17-18 December the second reconnaissance platoon performed reconnaissance and contact missions.

On the morning of 19 December 3rd platoon, Company "A", working with elements of 3rd Battalion, 110th Infantry, sent out scouting parties, and then moved to RJ at F730512. At 1200 group moved to vicinity ROULLINGEN (2 guns at F700522 and 1 gun at F705528). Gun positions dug by 1330 and defense coordinated with infantry. During afternoon enemy tanks and infantry attacked WILTZ from NOCHER. Enemy was allowed to approach position and point of enemy killed by small arms fire. Three inch guns opened fire when enemy tanks, halftracks and personnel were in open nearing positions. Six enemy tanks and four halftracks were known to be knocked out, with number of infantry killed. Enemy infantry attacking from woods fired upon with direct HE fire. After the guns of Sgt. LUZAR had expended all its ammunition, Sgt. LUZAR and two members of his crew went to the next gun section and, although they were under direct small arms and machine gun fire during the operation, carried three inch ammunition from the other section to their own gun. These guns continued firing (much of which was at infantry at close range) until they had expended all their ammunition. One gun knocked out. The members of the gun crew then fought with their small arms and machine guns. Pvt. HERBERT WILLIAMS, noticing enemy foot troops nearing the positions from an unprotected area, removed a cal. .30 machine gun from its mount and holding it in his arms, and while in an exposed position, fired on the enemy, breaking up their attack. Pvt. WILLIAMS then moved from place to place in the village, firing from each - sometimes a building, at other times a position of little cover. By his moving the gun from place to place, the enemy was led to believe the force in the village was much larger than it was.

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The gun of 3A located at F705528 moved out around 1700 with elements of 687th F.A. (according to plan), and, when the artillery again went into position the gun took up an anti-tank position. However, around 2300 enemy tanks and infantry overran the area and the crew had to abandon the gun. The sergeant, firing a machine gun he held in his hands, killed a large number of infantry before leaving the position.

The crews of the two guns of 3A at ROULLINGEN remained in position until infantry was notified to withdraw (around 192030). The remaining gun (one had been knocked out) was exposed to direct fire of the enemy. However, rather than leave it, the halftrack was pulled up to a protected position and Pvt. WILLIAMS volunteered to take the winch cable and attach it to the gun. He did this while exposed to fire. By this means the gun was removed. During this time the enemy was surrounding the position and established a road block at CR at P669513. The platoon commander took a halftrack and attempted to break through the block. The halftrack was hit but continued on the road toward BASTOGNE. However, it soon ran into an enemy tank which knocked out the vehicle and the crew proceeded on foot. The remainder of the group seeing what had happened to the lead vehicle, remained at the RJ. Enemy tanks and infantry later overran the position and the crews started out on foot.

The section of 3A at WILTZ and other guns there were ordered to leave the area at 192100 and crews left on foot after destroying guns.

One section, 1A, and one section 3A, supporting 109th Infantry displaced with Infantry to south.

On 19 December Company "C" destroyed three enemy Mk V tanks and 1 SP 88m/m gun. High explosive shells fired on enemy foottroops and 71 rounds APC fired on enemy armored elements.

During day 19 December, elements of Bn C.P. and rear echelon and Company "B" Headquarters, 1st and 3rd platoons assembled at F467520, 1 mile South of MORHET. Company "B" short all guns. 28th Division C.P. contacted at SIBRET. Second Reconnaissance Platoon reported in at 1400 to get ammunition for guns in WILTZ. At 2200 platoon led column of 28th Division toward WILTZ but encountered enemy vicinity HOLLANGE. Column returned to Division at 201100, reconnaissance platoon returning to battalion.

On 19 December Company "C" destroyed three enemy Mk V tanks and 1 SP 88m/m gun.

During day 20 December defense organized around RJ at F473514 with elements of battalion.

On 20 December platoons of Company "C" displaced and formed perimeter defense of HULDANGE. Fire directed on enemy foot troops.

At 210400 enemy attacked CR held by Bn C.P. and Company "B" using infantry and tanks. Elements at CR forced to withdraw. One AA gun on a Mk III tank chassis knocked out by bazooka and one cargo truck knocked out by mines. Elements of Battalion gathered together during morning 21 December and, by VIII Corps order, placed under operational control of 7th TD Group to defend RECOGNE - LIBRAMONT road net. Positions dug-in East of LIBRAMONT but at 2100 all elements moved to temporary area West of RECOGNE. At 221000 7th TD Group plus battalion elements moved to CR at P252465 and prepared defense positions. Groups sent to RECOGNE and LIBRAMONT as security for Company "B", 602nd TD En. Defense continued until 241200, Patrols sent out to MAISSIN - LUBINE- WELLIN.

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On 21 December Company "C" captured one enemy staff car and destroyed one enemy supply truck and one motorcycle. Two enemy officers and two men killed. Platoons held positions in perimeter defense of BEILER.

On 22 December Company "C" engaged enemy in small arms fight. Losses inflicted unknown. Company fired four rounds unobserved fire on enemy tanks reported in woods. Platoon continued defense of BEILER.

On 23 December Company "C" displaced and set up perimeter defense of ROGERY.

On 23 December Company "A" C.P. was at VICHTEM (P756349). Four remaining guns were in direct fire position vicinity MERZIG (P727368). 41 rounds HE fired direct at personnel, 145 enemy estimated killed. At 231900 Company (-) moved to assembly area at SCHRONWEILER (863350).

At 241230 7th T.D. Group plus 630th TD Bn elements moved back to LIBRAMONT and set up security for night. Patrols of second reconnaissance platoon sent to Northwest. Six towed guns received.

Company "A" C.P. on 24 December was at STEGEN (874378). Guns were moved into direct fire positions protecting right flank of 109th RCT along line STEGEN - MUESTROF.

On 24 December Company "C" C.P. located at VAUXHAVANNE (P549912).

At 251200 Company "B" with six towed guns and personnel of the Headquarters Company and stragglers from Companies "A" and "C" moved to RECOGNE and established defense of that road intersection. Second reconnaissance platoon continued contact mission to Northwest.

Guns of Company "A" were placed in indirect fire positions 25 December vicinity STEGEN (868272), supporting 107th F.A. Bn.. Sixty-five rounds HE expended.

Company "C" C.P. located at HARRE (P522967).

Position of Company "B" improved 26 December 1944. Reconnaissance continued. At 1515 enemy aircraft bombed 7th T.D. Group injuring 2 officers and eight men of this unit.

Guns of Company "A", tied in with 107th F.A. Bn, 26 December 1944, expended 284 rounds HE.

Company "C" C.P. located at LANDRECY (P484035) on 26 December.

At 271300 Company "B" received four M10's tank destroyers and these were placed in reserve at RECOGNE. At 1000 7th T.D. Group (plus elements of 630th TD Bn) placed under operational control of 28th Infantry Division. At 1230 630th TD elements given mission of forming screen to North and Northwest of RECOGNE, as well as defense of road intersection itself.

On 27 December Company "A" continued indirect fire with four guns in action. 162 rounds expended. Credit for all indirect fire was 1 battery of HD artillery, 2 cargo trucks, 1 C.P., 1 O.P.. At 1000 moved from STEGEN to assembly area at COLMAR (820355); and then to WARMIFONTAINE (315392) with 109th Infantry RCT, arriving at 2200.

On 27 December Company "C" located vicinity LANDERLY (484035) reorganizing and reequipping. Company "C" credited with four other tanks during period.

At 281400 7th TD Group (plus 630th TD elements) placed under operational control of 109th Infantry, which had mission of defending LIBRAMONT - RECOGNE road intersection. Regiment began arriving in area at 1500.

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On 28 December Company "A" supported 28th Infantry Division in TD defense of NEUFCHATEAU. Guns placed in position covering roads from North, East and Northwest. Replacement guns received.

At 281730 Company "C" displaced to IXIER (vP467005) at 1730, and took up T.D. defense in support of 112th Infantry RCT.

On 29 December positions of guns of Company "B" improved and coordinated with infantry. At 2100 hours two MLC's moved to LIBRAMONT; 2 to PRESSEY. Field Orders received attaching 630th T.D. Bn. to 28th Infantry Division; mission unchanged.

Company "A" continued defense of NEUFCHATEAU.

On 29 December Company "C" displaced to MORMONT (vP355940) and took up TD defense in support of 112th RCT.

On 30 December Company "C" continued TD defense of MORMONT with RCT.

At 301000 two MLC's moved to roadblock of 109th Infantry NW of RECOGNE. Reconnaissance patrols contacted 87th Infantry Division.

At 311200 units were continuing on missions given above.

During 1-2 January units continued on mission above. Battalion detached from 28th Infantry Division and attached to 17th Airborne Division. Plans made for movement into line with Company "A" supporting 513th Par Regt and Company "B" supporting 194th Glider Infantry Regt.

Total damage inflicted on enemy during period 16-31 December, as far as can be obtained (results of some guns unknown) was as follows:

a. Destroyed:

Tanks	36
AA gun in Mk III chassis	1
SP 88m/m gun	2
Halftrack	5
General purpose vehicles	10
Btry. H/D artillery	1
motorcycle	1
Machine gun nests	6
C.P.	1
O.P.	1

b. Captured:

Staff car	1
Prisoners	15

c. Enemy killed:

Estimated over 1000

For the Commanding Officer:



PATRICK G. EMMANUEL
Major, F.A.,
S-3.

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