

HEADQUARTERS 695TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

THROUGH: Commanding Officer, 4th Cavalry Group, APO 230, U. S. Army.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

REPORT SUBMITTED FOR FEBRUARY 1945

Handwritten: 44 Feb 45

a. Original Unit: No change.

b. Changes in organization: Attached to 4th Cavalry Group, Meuz.

<u>Strength:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
	1 Feb 45	35	2	726
	28 Feb 45	35	2	729
Increase or Decrease		0	0	3

d. Stations: Belgium: Arrived 23 Dec 44 - left Belgium 4 Feb 45.
Germany: Arrived 4 Feb 45.

e. Marches: All marches and moves by Battalion CP and Line Companies noted in narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

f. Campaign: Western Europe.

g. Battles: See narrative listed as Appendix No. 1.

h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Mint Smith, G123000, F. A.

<u>Losses in Action:</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Date</u>
	<u>Officers</u>	
	<u>None</u>	
	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	
Wounded-Evacuated	Pvt Russell J. Proyles	25 Feb 45
	Pvt Carl T. H. Mum	25 Feb 45
	Pfc Ray E. Maguire	27 Feb 45
	Pfc Leonardo G. Poto	27 Feb 45

(In February 3 enlisted men were evacuated as non-battle casualties)

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

None

k. Photographs: None.

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After Action Report, No. 635th TD Bn., Toward, 4 Mar 45, cont'd.

- 1. Inclosure: Appendix No. 1 as Inclosure 1.



Went Smith
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION, TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

APPENDIX NO. 1

NARRATIVE
Excerpts from Unit Journal
Incidents

February 1945

1 Rest Area Huy, Belgium.

2 Rest Area Huy, Belgium.

3 Alerted for movement from Rest Area back to Germany.

1st Lt Charles B. Smith, 0273009, promoted to Captain; authority First U. S. Army Special Order 32, 1 Feb. 45, paragraph 1.

4 Battalion Command Post left rest area located 3 miles west of Huy, Belgium, coordinate 212166 at 1115 hrs and arrived in new assembly area in Aachen, Germany, coordinate 821412 at 1620 hrs - distance traveled 60 miles.

Company "A" left rest area Haillot, Belgium, coordinate 164078 at 1045 hrs and arrived in new assembly area in Aachen, Germany, coordinate 821421 at 1600 hrs - distance traveled 63.3 miles.

Company "B" left rest area La Sarte, Belgium, coordinate 192147 at 1045 hrs and arrived in new assembly area in Aachen, Germany, coordinate 839408 at 1615 hrs - distance traveled 64 miles.

Company "C" left rest area Stienha, Belgium, coordinate 222134 at 1150 hrs and arrived in new assembly area in Aachen, Germany, coordinate 827414 at 1620 hrs - distance traveled 61 miles.

9 1 Officer and 8 Enlisted Men this command decorated for gallantry in action by Commanding General, VII Corps, at Corps Forward, Eschweiler, Germany.

10 All Pn personnel in assembly area attended showing of non-fraternization training film "Our Job in Germany".

Received Field Order 7 dated 101500A Feb 45 Ho 4th Cavalry Group Mecz: VII Corps with 104th U.S. Inf Div on left and 3th U.S. Inf Div on right will atk D-Day at H-Hour to seize a bridgehead over the Roer River and continue advance to the north east to the West River protecting the right flank of the 9th U.S. Army. 3rd Armored Division will attack on a broad front after seizure of Corps bridgehead, using bridges in sectors of 104th U.S. Inf Div and 3th U.S. Inf Div to seize the 3rd Arm Div objective. VII Corps, with 30th U.S. Inf Div on its right, will operate on left flank of VII Corps. 4th Cav Group Mecz will be ordered to cross the Roer River on Corps order in the sector of the 104th U.S. Inf Div from establishment of corps bridgehead - will be ordered to operate on the left flank of the Corps to maintain contact with

[REDACTED]

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The right flank of the XIX Corps and to clear the wooded area in its zone of operation (central point coordinate 1556). Company A 635th TD Bn supporting 24th Cav Rcn Sq will be prepared to relieve elements 415th Inf Regt, 104th U S Inf Div in the portion of the Corps bridgehead in zone of operations on order - will be prepared to clear the wooded area in the Group zone of operations on order - will establish and maintain contact with elements XIX Corps on its left. Company C 635th TD Bn reinforcing 4th Cav Rcn Sq will be prepared to operate in any part of the group zone of operations. 635th TD Bn less Cos A & C with Company G less 2 plats 298th Combat Eng Bn will be prepared to move forward assembly area on order.

- 13 255th Ordnance Inspection Team inspected 10% of our vehicles and Ordnance - all companies - were given superior rating.

All available personnel in assembly area attended lecture on "Counter-Sabotage".

- 14 1st Lt Francis A. Bonnett, Hq Rcn Officer, to 30th U S Infantry Division as In C.

- 17 Received Operations Memorandum #5 17 Feb 45, Hq 4th Cavalry Group Mecz: Co C 635th TD Bn attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq will be prepared to move to new assembly area vicinity Eschweiler, Germany, on group order. Company C, 298th Combat Eng Bn (less 3 plats) will be attached to 635th TD Bn effective H-Hour D-Day.

- 19 Battalion Rear Echelon moved to Aachen, Germany, from Huy, Belgium.

Received from Hq. First U S Army Organization Order No. 2 dated 15 Feb 45 (Confidential) ordering the reorganization of 635th TD Bn-T in accordance with T/O and T/E 18-35, of 1 September 1944 effective 15 February 1945.

- 24 Received Operations Memorandum #6 24 February 1945 Hq, 4th Cavalry Group Mecz Company A 635th TD Bn reinforcing 24th Cav Rcn Sq moves 242350A February 1945 from assembly area Aachen, Germany to Huchem-Stammeln, Germany. Upon closing in Huchem-Stammeln, initiate rcn to Oberzier prepared to relieve elements of the 415th Inf Regt in Oberzier. Be prepared to extend to include Ellen and advance within zone on group order. Company C 635th TD Bn reinforcing 4th Cav Rcn Sq will move from assembly area Aachen, Germany, at 250840A Feb 45 to close in assembly area vicinity Huchem-Stammeln. 635th TD Bn less A and C Companies continues in Group reserve assembly area Aachen, Germany.

- 25 Received from Ordnance 1 90mm Towed Gun and prime mover T-39; the first of the new equipment for the Battalion. Assigned to Company C.

Battlefield appointment to 2nd Lt approved by Hq First U S Army for S/Sgt Cleo H. McClellan, Company C. Bn Commander swore the new officer in.

- 26 Company A reported - Company A moved from assembly area in Aachen, Germany, at 0050 hrs 25 Feb 45 and arrived Huchem-Stammeln, Germany, coordinate 102514 at 0430 hrs 25 Feb - distance traveled 23 miles. Company A crossed Roer River at Hoven, Germany.

During the hours of the New Year between 01,00 and 01,30 hrs enemy planes dropped bombs on the area.

1st and 2nd platoons were in position in Oberzier by 0930 hrs. 3rd platoon was in position in Ellen, Germany, by 1500 hrs and 4th platoon remained in mobile reserve in vicinity of Company CP.

At approximately 1830 hrs 25 Feb Privates Russell Broyles and Carl Mumm in the 3rd platoon were WIA by shell fragments in buttocks and shoulder respectively and evacuated through 24th Cav Rcn Medics. Platoon was in position in Ellen, Germany, when enemy shelled their position heavily. Both EM were in basement of CP house and fragments entered thru windows and entrance to basement wounding them. One half-track tire was punctured by shell fragments and one rammerstaff was completely demolished.

27 Bn CP left assembly area Aachen and arrived and established new CP in Huchem Stammeln, Germany, coordinate 092515 - left 0805 hrs and arrived 1005 hrs - distance traveled 24 miles. Crossed the Roer River at Hoven, Germany.

Company B moved from assembly area Aachen, Germany, leaving 0805 hrs and established new CP 1005 hrs at coordinate 092515 Huchem Stammeln, Germany - distance traveled 24 miles.

Company C reported - Company CP moved from assembly area Aachen, Germany 0840 hrs 25 Feb 45 and arrived at Huchem Stammeln, Germany, coordinate 100511 1230 hrs - distance traveled 23 miles - crossed Roer River at Hoven, Germany.

Sgt Fender's section, 1st platoon, at 2030 hrs 26 Feb 45, on order, fired 2 rds 3" HE and 1 rd APC-T-105 at enemy CP coord 134602 from vicinity Steinstrass, Germany, destroying house - enemy personnel casualties unknown.

Company C CP moved from Huchem Stammeln at 1115 hrs 27 Feb 45 and arrived Steinstrass, Germany, coordinate 126597 1300 hrs 27 Feb 45 - distance traveled 8 mi.

Company A reported: At 1415 hrs, Sgt Carroll's gun section, 4th platoon, in position approximately 2800 yds southwest of Esch, Germany, fired at an enemy tank and CP house and observation point in Esch. Direct hits were observed on both tank and house obviously neutralizing the object as no additional fire was received from that point. Number of casualties unknown. (Upon arrival in Esch, Bn Commander checked position and found that tank sustained direct hit in right bogie, immobilizing the tank which was definitely identified as a Tiger VI. Crew unable move out, placed a charge of explosives inside tank, destroyed it for further use. 4th platoon credited with a Tiger VI.

Company B, in reserve in Huchem-Stammeln, assigned mission of perimeter defense of that town. Personnel, 3" guns and armored vehicles were promptly put in position.

28 Company C reported: While 2nd platoon enroute to Esch at 2100 hrs 27 Feb 45, 1/4 ton vehicle driven by Pfc Magines, accompanied by Pfc Soto, hit a land mine and was completely demolished. Both men SIA and evacuated thru 4th Cav Rcn

Medics. Magines - Sv Fracture compound right jaw, lsc wound right forehead, cerebral concussion. Soto - Sv fracture single upper and lower arm. lsc wound left cheek.

Company C reported: Company C moved 1000 hrs 28 Feb from vic Steinstrass, Germany, to Esch, Germany, coordinate 145411 arriving 1024 hrs - distance traveled 2-1/2 miles.

Company A reported - Company CP moved from Huchen-Storneln, Germany, leaving 1015 hrs 28 Feb 45 and arriving 1040 hrs coordinate 1460. Escherville Farm, approximately 1200 meters west of Steinstrass, Germany.

Bn Commander advised for record - Group reinforced by 635th TD Bn-T attached to 3rd Armored Division for operations effective 281800 February 1945.

Summary:

1. The Battalion continued its first rest, rehabilitation and refitting period since D-Day until 3 Feb. 1945, and on 4 Feb. 1945 moved to a new assembly area in Aachen, Germany. Due to the flood stage of the Roer River, our line companies did not depart Aachen until 26 February 45. During the 22 days in the assembly area, a high state of maintenance of vehicles and ordnance was continued. Personal equipment was once more cleaned and checked. Moving pictures and a stage show were attended by Battalion personnel. Paris, Brussels, and Verviers passes were continued and a quota of enlisted men for furlough to the United Kingdom was filled. In all, during the waiting period, the Battalion was advantageously occupied. A Company B gun platoon dug in its guns and security machine gun nests for Air Corps personnel on an inspection tour of the ground forces, and the platoon was repaid for its muddy task by the prizes received for their work - none of the visiting Air Corps officers and enlisted men could locate any of the gun positions, and confidently stated the positions were well enough camouflaged to evade detection from the air. A number of our officer personnel spent two days with Air Corps fighter-bomber groups to familiarize themselves with their operations and to create a better understanding between air and ground forces. On 25 February elements of the Battalion crossed the Roer River and immediately went into action against the enemy. Our Company A was credited with knocking out a Tiger VI tank in Esch, Germany.

2. The Battalion Commander, in his capacity of Provost Marshal of 4th Cavalry Group and attached units sent a small group of officer and enlisted personnel to register the civilian population of Esch, Germany - to pick up all arms - arranged for CIC personnel to screen the population; German and non-German for former members of the Wehrmacht and Party members.

3. The 635th TD Bn-Towed is on the way to the Rhine River -- and to cross it!