

DESTROYER

APD 230  
US Army  
5 Mar 45

SUBJECT: Report of Action Against the Enemy, February 1945

TO : The Adjutant General,  
War Department,  
Washington 25, DC (THRU CHANNELS)

In accordance with Par 10, AR 345-105, 18 November 1929, as changed by Changes No 3, and in accordance with instructions. First United States Army, inclosed is written report of action against the enemy for the month of February 1945. Below is a complete list of documents being forwarded.

- 1 - Record of Operations, February 1945
- 2 - Unit Journal, 644 TD Bn, for the month of February 1945
- 3 - Ltr of Instructions, 99th Div, dtd 010800A Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 4 - Ltr of Instructions, 99th Div, dtd 011200A Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 5 - FO #5, 99th Div, dtd 032100A Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 6 - Annex 2 to FO #5, 99th Div, dtd 032100A
- 7 - Battle Participation Credit, Germany Campaign, dtd 5 Feb 45
- 8 - Overlay of 57mm Guns in Sector, dtd 5 Feb 45
- 9 - Ltr of Instructions, 99th Div, dtd 051400 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 10 - Ltr of Instructions, 99th Div, dtd 071500 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 11 - FO #14, Hq 394th Inf Regt, dtd 071730 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 12 - Troop Assignment No 13, Hq 1st US Army, dtd 7 Feb 45
- 13 - FO #25, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 091300 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 14 - Troop Assignment No 9 (Administrative), Hq VII Corps, dtd 10 Feb 45
- 15 - Tentative Fire Plan, Hq 8th Inf Div Arty, dtd 112000 Feb 45
- 16 - Overlay of Friendly Minefields in Sector (See: 329th Engr C Bn)
- 17 - AT Defense Overlay, Hq 8th Inf Div Arty, dtd 14 Feb 45
- 18 - Supplement #1 to FO #25, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 161500 Feb 45
- 19 - Part I, Arty Annex, Hq 8th Inf Div Arty, dtd 210800 Feb 45
- 20 - Msg to All Units, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 241700 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 21 - FO #26, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 251900 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 22 - Fragmentary Order, Hq 121st Inf, dtd 252200 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 23 - Fragmentary Order, Hq 28th Inf, dtd 252200 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 24 - Msg to All Units, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 261330 Feb 45
- 25 - Fragmentary Order, Hq 121st Inf, dtd 261500 Feb 45 (w/overlay)
- 26 - Msg to All Units, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 271700 Feb 45
- 27 - Msg to All Units, Hq 8th Inf Div, dtd 272300 Feb 45
- 28 - Overlay of 644th TD Bn Platoon Locations, dtd 282400 Feb 45
- 29 - Casualty List, Med Det, 644th TD Bn, February 1945
- 30 - Ordnance Items Affecting Operations, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 28 Feb 45

For the Commanding Officer:

*Carl H. Wiggernhorn*  
CARL H WIGGENHORN  
Captain, FA,  
S-3

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1 FEBRUARY 1945

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The air-ground liaison group for use with the 2d Div will be in effect with the 99th Div, to which this organization is attached, February 19 45.

395th Regiment, Co B 644 TD Bn attached, was alerted for movement on six hours notice.

Co A reverted to Bn control and moved from KIMMELT into ELSENBOHN.

A 2 1/2 ton truck is fully loaded with diesel fuel and rations, and standing by to assist Co B if and when movement takes place.

2d Plat, Rem Co, continues attachment to Co B and will move with them.

1st Lt DOWNEY reported <sup>to</sup> this organization for duty, having been transferred from 634th TD Bn. He was assigned to Co B.

1st Lt KARDASH released from Executive Officer, Co B, and assigned Executive officer, Rem Co.

1st Lt ARCANGEL, relieved from Executive Officer, Rem Co and assigned Ln O #2.

All personnel of the Bn saw the M-24 light tank which was on display in ELSENBOHN.

2 FEBRUARY 1945

Co A, with entire Co assembled in ELSENBOHN, engaged in maintenance of material.

The 2d and 9th Inf Divs, currently attacking, have been in contact with the enemy since yesterday.

99th Div requested this orgn to have a quartering party ready on one hours notice.

Co C remained attached to 9th Inf Div, and further, to 108d Cavalry Group.

Capt GODSHALL, CO of Co A, was promoted to grade of Major, effective 1 Feb 45.

Co B prepared for movement.

3 FEBRUARY 1945

Bn Cdr ordered Cdr of Cos A and B to report to CPs of 393d and 394th Inf Regts respectively, prepared to leave Regtl CPs to go on reconnaissance of areas in which 99th Div will be operating. Both Cos will probably move to new areas on 4 Feb 45. Radio silence will be observed. (Possibly to vicinity of BULLINGEN).

99th Div will complete relief of 82d A/B Div and 1st Inf Div on 6 Feb 45.

Rem Co atchmts will remain with Cos A and B.

Ln O #1 instructed to get maps of new area from 99th Div.

The future location of 99th Div will probably be in BULLINGEN.

99th Div closed down radio station at 1100 hours.

Rem Co reconnoitered and located site for elements of this orgn in new area. Fwd CP will be in BULLINGEN with Rem Co CP and 1st Plat, Rem Co. 1st Plat, Rem Co moved to BULLINGEN to secure area.

During the period Co A was atchd to 394th Regt and Co B to 395th Regt.

Late in period the 1st and 2d Plats of Co B moved into positions in vicinity of ROCHERATH.

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3 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

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Company ready for move to new location in BULLINGEN.

4 FEBRUARY 1945

Company moved to new location in BULLINGEN. Rcn Co CP and 1st Plat, Rcn Co CP, providing security for Fwd CP.

Co A assigned to area of 394th Regt and platoons will assume firing positions during the hours of darkness (4-5 Feb).

Co B moved CP to BUCHHEIM-ROOHRATH.

Radio silence is being observed.

Enemy order that no vehicle will move on WIDRUM-BULLINGEN-ROOHRATH road between 2300 and 2000 hrs.

5 FEBRUARY 1945

Reconnaissance Company made a reconnaissance and reserved billets for Co C in BULLINGEN if they are released to Bn control from attachment to 9th Div.

Radio silence is lifted.

The 2d Platoon of Co B moved to HELLENTHAL in support of 394th Inf Regt.

Co A is in direct support of 394th Regt, under Bn control, and Co B is in direct support of 393d and 395th Inf Regts.

Enemy armor was reported in vicinity of HELLENTHAL, but no contact was made.

Due to the amount of JHC and HERC on hand the S-4 will not draw any for the period 4-8 Feb.

This Bn is now in the XVIII Corps but will revert to V Corps tomorrow.

The area south of UDENBRETH is being covered by the destroyers of 2d Plat, Co A.

On the move to HELLENTHAL one of Co B destroyers has mechanical trouble but it was repaired with no time or operative value lost.

6 FEBRUARY 1945

Cos A, B and Rcn were ordered to submit cumulative reports to this Hq with regard to dragons' teeth, gaps in dragons' teeth, road conditions, etc.

Co A found one of Rcn Co trailers in their area. It was a trailer necessarily left when the enemy broke through our lines on 16-17 Dec 44. Co A has one platoon in reserve.

Co B now has liaison with the 395th Inf Regt which they still support.

Authority given for employment of this Bn (-) in general support of 99th Inf was given.

As of this date the Bn is again in the V Corps.

The 1st Div is now moving to a new sector.

The Fwd CP and Rcn Co CP (plus 1st Plat) continued to make a suitable living and working area out of the warehouse in BULLINGEN where they moved 4 Feb. The building was badly damaged by shells and neglect.

Co C was further attached to the 38th Cavalry Squadron (less 3d Plat). The 3d Plat was further attached to 102d Cav Sq.

The section of the Pioneer Plat of Rcn Co which is with Co A is helping them to build huts for the personnel.

6 FEB 45 (Cont'd)

**RESTRICTED**

S-3 reconnoitered for possible tank approaches in the general area.

Small arms fire was heard to our rear but was found to be an AA outfit testing their guns.

This Bn sent to the 324 Engr Bn for an overlay of friendly minefields but it was found that there are none laid in this area.

Co A needed 100 rds BDF ammo and a rush call was put through to our S-4 late in the period. This ammo was delivered at 2230 hrs.

An enemy 14" gun was located near Co A positions and found to have been destroyed by the enemy before they retreated.

7 FEBRUARY 1945

The current OPL was sent (overlay) to Co B.

Co A participated in an assault on an enemy pillbox, fired HVAP ammo at metal roof and fired at concrete sides. The pillbox was not taken at end of period.

A small arms inspection was held in the Fwd CP area and all weapons were found to be in excellent condition.

Our telephone communication has been supplemented by the addition of an emergency line to 99th Div.

No enemy artillery has been rec'd in the Fwd CP area at BULLINGEN since arrival.

A model turret cover for M-10 TDs was shown in Fwd CP area by Bn Motor Co.

This organization is now 99% complete on all T/E Signal Equipment.

The 814th TD Bn (90mm Guns) is in V Corps reserve.

This Bn will change places with the 817th TD Bn and will proceed to the 8th Div area when authorization comes through. The Bn will be relieved from atchmt to 99th Div and will be atchd to 8th Inf Div.

Co C was relieved from atchmt to 9th Inf Div and began movement to assembly area in MUTLENICH.

Slidex for TFK was received.

The CO left BULLINGEN for Hq 8th Inf Div to get details on atchmt of this Bn to that Div. An advance detail for the new area was also alerted for movement tomorrow.

The 99th Div ATO is forwarding all information regarding the move to this Hq.

During the period Recon Co continued to make reconnaissance and make overlays of road conditions, possible tank approaches, etc.

8 FEBRUARY 1945

COs of Cos A and B ordered to have guards report to Fwd CP to lead elements of unit relieving this Bn to their locations.

At 1020 hrs officers of the 814th TD Bn arrived at Fwd CP area. The 814 TD Bn will relieve this Bn in place in lieu of the 817th TD Bn. This relief was accomplished throughout the period. The CP of the 814th moved into the BULLINGEN CP of this orgn.

It was necessary to produce written orders to the 393d Inf Regt before they would concur with relief. 29

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8 FEB 45 (Cont'd)

Cos A and B moved directly from their positions in the 99th Div sector to the assembly area in SOURBRODT.

The Bn was released from atchmt to 99th Div as of 081500A Feb 45 and atchd to 8th Inf Div, under 1st Army control.

The Fwd CP closed in the assembly area at SOURBRODT. Beginning at 1940 hrs and continuing throughout the period the Fwd CP was enroute to new position in the 8th Div area.

Co C was ordered to move directly from ass'y area in MUTZENICH to new locations in 8th Div sector.

The Bn Ex O reported to the CG of the 99th Div at 1800 hrs for instructions.

During the period Cos A and B were under Bn control, having been officially released from atchmt to Regts of the 99th Div.

9 FEBRUARY 1945

At 0635 the Fwd CP closed in new area at SCHLICH, GERMANY after an approximate 70 mile trip from SOURBRODT. The trip was made without incident except that some of the roads were nearly impassable and several of our vehicles were temporarily stuck in the mud.

The new area had been reconnoitered by Plat Ldr of 1st Plat, Rcn Co, and he had set up a position for the Fwd CP. At 0655 hrs he left for the assembly area to lead the Rcn Co personnel to their locations. Closed with (-) Co at 1045 hrs.

At 1005 hrs the CO of the Bn arrived at the new CP in SCHLICH.

Co B was atchd to the 13th Inf Regt and Co C to the 28th Inf Regt. Co C will fire all 12 guns from coord 073406 (indirect).

The 8th Inf Div CP is located at STOLBERG. This orgn will submit reports daily to that Hq.

During the period the S-4 was in the company areas, checking on rations, etc.

The Bn has both a Rear & Fwd supply dump planned.

Co A moved into positions to fire indirect into city of DUREN. Will register by firing into woods south of GEY.

Map distribution was received from the 8th Div through the Bn Ln O located now at the Div AT Office.

One destroyer of Co A was stuck in a shell crater while enroute to new position but was extricated through good work on the part of Sgt Pashkewich.

Co B was ordered to have 1000 rds of ammo on position initially. The Co is now in ass'y area near town of GURZENICH, GERMANY.

The 28th Inf CP is at BIRGEL and Co C will assemble near that town and move to positions during the night.

Contrary to expectations this unit remains in the First Army and not the Ninth Army.

General WEAVER of the 8th Inf Div visited Fwd CP with his Aide and was given present and planned dispositions of the Bn.

The Roer River has been rising and it is now too deep to be forded in the coming attack.

The Rear CP of the Bn closed in their new location in STOLBERG at (941411).

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9 FEB 45 (Cont'd)

The Bn will receive all the ammo it requires while in this area. There is no daily allotment. This includes star shells.

Telephone communication with the Rear CP has been established.

10 FEBRUARY 1945

The Bn remained atchd to the 8th Inf Div and had 35 M-10's operational. One M-10 has an oil leak and is repairable.

All 12 guns of Co A fired one mission registration. Fired indirect from GEY, GERMANY. Co A is considered mobile reserve.

All three platoons of Co B moved to an assembly area southwest of GURZENICH, GERMANY. No activity.

Elements of Rcn Co remained atchd to Co's B and C. The 1st Plat of Rcn Co and the Rcn Co CP remained at SCHLICH, providing security for the Fwd CP in that town. Continued road reconnaissance.

The rear CP was at STOLBERG.

The River Roer is still rising but it is believed that the enemy will be unable to blow up any of the three Ruhr - Erft Dams and that the water will not go much higher.

One EM of Rcn Co took a  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton vehicle and left the area. He is considered AWOL and efforts to apprehend him are being made.

An abandoned German 88mm gun was found near one of Co C positions. The S-3 left to fire the gun at some German barracks but it was decided not to do so because of possible retaliation fire.

Radio silence is still being maintained by all elements of the Bn.

The 2d Plat of Rcn Co plus one section of the Pioneer Plat, Rcn Co, is atchd to Co B. The 3d Plat, Rcn Co is atchd to Co C plus 1 section of the Rcn Pioneer Plat.

A new motor is being installed in a Co B M-10.

All communications have been put into excellent condition.

It has been ordered that all destroyers of this Bn will cross the Roer River with complete basic load plus additional ammunition.

Aerial photographs of surrounding areas have been received.

The attack was postponed.

The citation recommendation submitted for Co C has been approved by CO, 38th Inf Regt.

Friendly minefield overlays have been received, transferred to our maps and copies sent to all Co's.

The Forward Supply Dump has been established for operation at LANGERWEHE.

The general condition of vehicles of the Bn is good. A 6000 mile check will soon be started on the vehicles.

11 FEBRUARY 1945

Members of this organization were presented with medals for performance against the enemy. The Bn CO rec'd an oak Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star. Photographer took pictures. 31

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11 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

The Roer River is still rising but it is believed to be impossible for the Germans to totally flood the area.

The firing platoons of Company B remained in an assembly area southwest of GURZENICH.

The Ron Co kitchen truck is being repaired at the Rear CP as is one of Co B destroyers. The destroyer had a new motor installed and was complete before end of period.

The organization carried out a program of camouflaging installations, clearing roads and policing areas where troops are billeted. Sanitation was stressed.

Ron Co learned that the CO of the 385th FA Bn is the ranking officer in this town of SCHLICH.

Ammunition was stocked at the Fwd Supply Dump for use of the Co's.

This entire sector is subject to enemy observation, but the only enemy shelling seems to be of a harassing nature. Only light shelling has been received.

Co B's maintenance truck hit a mine on a road in the vicinity but there were no casualties.

Pvt Goddard, AWOL from Ron Co, was apprehended and placed under arrest.

This orgn has been ordered to maintain radio silence until after contact with the enemy has been made.

Two enemy planes strafed the general vicinity. No casualties in this immediate area.

The Cp of Co A moved to GURZENICH, but the FDC remained at GEY.

12 FEBRUARY 1945

The Bn has 35 M-10's operational; one Co C destroyer was inoperative due to an oil leak.

There were no changes in disposition nor any action.

No ammunition was expended.

The shortage of W-130 wire has been brought to the attention of all Companies and all were ordered to be conservative with its use.

Pvt Cullinane of Hq Co was awarded the bronze Star Medal for heroism in action against the enemy at ROCHERATH-KRINKELT on Dec 17 - 18, 1944.

CO of the 13th Inf Regt complimented Co B on its general fine spirit and its work on the repair of roads in its vicinity.

The entire Bn continued in the program of clearing roads, policing debris and generally improving the vicinities in which they are located. Sanitation and camouflage were stressed.

13 FEBRUARY 1945

There were no changes in disposition. The Bn continued to improve the roads and general repairs of the area carried on. Special stress was put on camouflage and sanitation. No activity. No rounds fired.

This orgn will be authorized 3 ton and a half (1½) vehicles in lieu of 3 M-10's, in a new T/E change.

13 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

Interchanged friendly information with Ln O of 692d TD Bn.

Received town print map of DUREN.

Lt Owen asgd as Ln O #1 replacing Lt Parker.

Lt Parker asgd as Ex O, Rcn Co.

An Army Officer, put on a demonstration on POZIT fuses.

14 FEBRUARY 1945

There were no changes in position of any element during the period and no ammunition was fired by this organization.

Twice during the period at about 1930 and 2330 hrs, the general area was bombed after having been lighted by flares and smoke markers. There were no casualties in this orgn and the nearest bomb landed about 2000 yards to the west and slightly north of the Fwd CP in SCHLICH.

One EM was wounded by enemy mortar fire and was evacuated.

1st Lt ROBERT A PARKER was released from asgmt as Ln O #1 and asgd to Rcn Co as Ex O.

1st Lt JOSEPH M OWEN was asgd Ln O #1.

Major HARRY L GODSHALL, JR was released from asgmt as S-3 (Prim Duty) and CO, Co A (Add Duty); asgd CO, Co A (Prim Duty).

Capt CARL H WIGGENHORN was released from asgmt to CO, Co B and was asgd S-3, (Prim Duty) and CO Co B (Add Duty).

15 FEBRUARY 1945

During the period the Bn continued to operate with a shortage of one M-10, deadlined due to a mechanical failure.

Co had 12 guns fire 56 rds of HERC on one indirect, observed, registration mission. Elements of Rcn Co manned an OP during the daylight hours (this group remained attached to Co B and are located adjacent to them in the town of GURZENICH).

Sgt Hartzog of Co C was wounded by enemy, harassing mortar fire and evacuated.

Ln O #1 has been afforded closer liaison with the 8th Division and is now attached directly to the G-3 office of the division.

CO, Co A, is working out plans of traffic control to be put in operation at the outset of the attack.

Co B was ordered to go forward with the 3d Armored Division after the beginning of the attack and Co A was ordered to take over the Co B mission.

A task force has been formed by the 8th Division. (Task Force Crawford).

16 FEBRUARY 1945

All units continue to prepare for coming operation which was again postponed.

Co A ordered to move to town nearest bridge they will cross upon notification from Ln O #1.

Certain individuals of the orgn are in the process of testing, by wear, the new blouse-jacket issued to this orgn. After wearing for a time these will be laundered and a report of results made to higher Hq.

During the afternoon friendly fire fell on friendly troops in the sector. Investigation revealed that no units of this orgn had fired any weapons.

A replacement M-10 was received by Co C and all companies now have T/E authorization of M-10's operational.

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16 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

Cpl Ruth of Co C was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in action against the enemy in the KRINKELT-ROCHERATH-WIRTZFELD battle.

The Rear River level has decreased three to four feet in the past 24 hours.

1st Plat, Rcn Co, ordered to report to CO, Co A, preceding the attack, for the purpose of sweeping mines along the Co A route. Platoon will remain atchd to Rcn Co CP group and will consider the above an additional mission.

Four rounds (one was a dud) fell to the east of Fwd CP, approximately 1000 yards. They appeared to be 8" shells. Shell - rep sent to 8th Div.

Late in the period flares appeared over the river while a friendly patrol was in operation. An investigation revealed that none of the Bn's units had fired any star shells or flares.

17 FEBRUARY 1945

One destroyer of Co B (1st Plat) moved in a direct fire position in GURZENICH but did not fire due to poor visibility.

There was no other change, nor was there any activity in the vicinity of unit locations.

18 FEBRUARY 1945

No change in Bn dispositions.

Co A CP at 085440 FDC at 072400  
 Co B CP at 095452  
 Co C CP at Birgel (089423) Guns in direct fire positions of readiness.  
 Rcn Co elements securing Fwd CP at SCHLICH (061453).

Co A will fire 1000 rds on road, woods and high ground shifting to STOCKHEIM for last ten minutes of fire.

36 M-10s operational.

Strength: 40 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 618 Enlisted Men.

19 FEBRUARY 1945

No change in Bn dispositions.

Co A CP at 085440 FDC at 072400 - Fired 1 rd star shell to identify sector at 2115.

Co B CP at 095452 - One M-10 Co B fired 15 rds HE, 7 ABC and 26 APC BDF at enemy tank - results - turret blown off.

Co C CP in Birgel (089423) in positions of readiness.

Co C suffered two casualties due to enemy artillery fire - One seriously wounded and one returned to duty.

CO visited FUSA Hq.

We are informed that officers from DEVILFISH will visit us to learn our SOP and operations.

M-10's will be limited to width of 10' 3" for river crossing.

Area received shelling today from back azimuth of 140 degrees - 5 rds between 1250 and 1305 hrs - single gun, 4 minute intervals, cal 105, high angle, long range. Coord of shelling (113415).

36 M-10's operational.

Strength: (1 Casualty), 40 Officers - 1 Warrant Officer, 617 Unlisted Men.

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20 FEBRUARY 1945

No change in Bn dispositions

Co A CP at 085440 - FDC at 072400 - Platoons at 072400

Co B - No change - CP at 095452

Co C - No change - Platoons in position of readiness at BIRGEL, CP at BIRGEL.  
Rcn Co providing security for Fwd CP 061454 (SCHLICH),

Width of M-10's for river crossing are now limited to 11' 6" with 6" clearance on either side.

U SO show tomorrow - 8 men per Co - S-1

36 M-10's operational.

Strength - 40 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 617 Enlisted Men.

21 FEBRUARY 1945

Bn CP located in SCHLICH 061454. Co A CP located at 085440. First Plat Co A moved to indirect fire positions at 062426 for purpose of interdicting DUREN - GOLSHRIM road from H-Hour until dawn on 23 Feb 45. 1st Plat was to register today but registration was cancelled. Air strike by our air caused cub plane to return to base. Plat of Co A will tie in with Gunshot to supply metro messages by wire only. Co A will register tomorrow morning. 2d and 3d platoons will be registered by Goldenrod.

Co B no change. CP at 095425.

Co C CP located at BIRGEL, two platoons located in LENDERSDORF, one plat in BERZBUIR.

Rcn Co at SCHLICH guarding Fwd CP.

100 enemy tanks reported by tact air Rcn at 188495 believed to be elements of 130 Pz LEHR DIV.

75 rds of T 4 are available to Bn.

22 FEBRUARY 1945

Bn CP (F.D) remained in SCHLICH (061454) with Rcn Co CP and 1st Plat of Rcn Co providing security.

Co A remained in support of current attack fired a total of 876 rds of 3" ammo, 830 rds of this were harassing fire w/HERC 24 rds harassing with HENC and 22 rds registration with HE NC. Two guns Co A pulled back. Continued on present mission.

Co B CP 095452, firing platoons moved into position to give direct support to infantry, first platoon at 105436 and 106444; 2d platoon at 108443; 3d platoon at 104439.

Co C No change - Firing platoons remained in direct fire positions.

Rear CP continued operations in STOLBERG (941411).

Fwd Supply Dump in LANGERWEHE.

Fwd CP area under air attack three (3) times during day. No casualties. ME 262s (Jet propelled planes were used)

Fire plan rescinded during today's operation. Missions other than those already planned will clear through Goldenrod direct.

23 FEBRUARY 1945

At 0245 the artillery began a forty-five minute preparation barrage for the attack in this sector which began at 1330 hours.

At 0245 Co B firing platoons moved into direct fire positions by infiltration and prepared to be in direct support of the infantry.

Radio silence was broken when the attack began and this Fwd CP was in contact with Cos A and B and with the CO of Rcn Co through Co B. The CO of Rcn Co is with the Rcn elements attached to Co B. Rcn Co was in contact by radio at 0800 hours.

Due to poor visibility Co B did not fire during the period.

**RESTRICTED****SECRET**

23 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

At 0508 hours Co A completed the firing of three volleys at an enemy position. No known results.

At 0520 hrs the 28th and 13th Regts were across the river in strength and although no foot bridges had been established, progress was considered satisfactory.

In interdicting the road running NE out of DUREN in support of the attack Co A expended 830 rds HERO and 46 rds HENC up to 0910 hrs, this date.

At 1039 hours it was reported that the 104th Div to our north has two bridges across the river and are progressing satisfactorily.

Above the 104th Div, the 30th Div is reported doing well in their attack.

At 1203 hrs two enemy planes flew over this CP and dropped two or three small bombs in the general vicinity. No damage or casualties in immediate area.

At 1315 hours the 30th Div was reported to have a bridge across the river and the 29th Div is reported to have surrounded JULICH.

At about 1400 hrs it was learned that there were about two battalions of 8th Div Inf across the river, but that all boats were destroyed by enemy fire and the situation was not good. Small arms fire was being received in addition to artillery and the big problem was to get more men and supplies over the river.

At 1415 hrs, Co B was ordered by CO, 644, to continue to be aggressive with his guns, but up to this time the visibility has been too poor to fire at all.

At about 1455 hrs it was reported that one of the ferry boats had been repaired and that the 2d Bn of the 13th Regt had been taken across. Also, the 3d Bn, 28th Regt, previously across the river, had jumped off for STOCKHEIM. At about this time the visibility improved and Co B began to fire direct at enemy strong points and SP guns located across the river. Counter-battery was received by the 2d Platoon of Co B.

At 1555 hrs the Fwd Cp had contact with the Rear CP on the 193 radio in addition to regular telephone channels.

Lt Col WILHELM, the CO of the 3d Bn, 13th Regt was reported to have been KIA at 1730 hrs.

At 1800 hours three enemy tanks were reported at STOCKHEIM. This report was never confirmed.

It was learned at 1820 hours that the XIX Corps to our north has three bridges across the river and a fourth nearly completed. Armor has started to move across over the bridges.

The S-4 was ordered to dump 400 rds of HENC at positions of 2d and 3d plats of Co A. The order was given at 1830 hrs and the ammo was delivered prior to 2400 hrs.

A 2 ton vehicle of Co C was hit and damaged by enemy fire but there were no casualties.

Co A began interdicting the DUREN-GOLZHEIM road at 1900 hrs and fired evenly spaced rounds throughout the balance of the period.

At about 2005 hrs it was reported that the footbridge, which had been put across the river in the 8th Div sector, was again out.

An enemy tank or SP gun was reported SE of KREUZAU at 2100 hours. No further information.

24 FEBRUARY 1945

The Fwd and Rear CP's remained in SCHLICH and STOLBERG respectively. Hq Co also remained at STOLBERG.

Co A firing platoons moved across the ROER River and are located in DUREN at (115452). During the period two M-10s were in action and fired 247 rds of HENC in one mission indirect fire. This firing was done by 1st plat and was completed prior to movement. The CP remained at 085440.

Co B moved all firing platoons across the River by 1115 hours and moved into positions in direct support of the infantry. The 2d plat fired into the old barracks (DUREN) and with infantry riding on the destroyers, they occupied positions at the barracks. Later in the period this platoon moved into positions in NIEDERAU. The 1st & 3d plats are located at coordinates 121457 (Approx) and 126449, respectively.

**RESTRICTED**

24 FEBRUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

Co C also crossed the river during the period and are located at the following positions: 1st platoon at 123423; 2d platoon at 125415; 3d platoon at 132418 (Approx). The Fwd CP is at 113417. The Rear CP remained at 089423.

Rcn Co elements remained atchd to the firing companies and are located at approximately the same coordinates. The CP remained at 061454.

25 FEBRUARY 1945

Company B was released from attachment to 13th Regt. The Bn (less Co A) was attached to 28th Inf Regt. Co A remained atchd to 121 Inf Regt.

3d Plat, Co A, lost one destroyer to enemy AT fire at 153447 at 0800, 25 Feb 45. 2d Plat, Co A, lost one M-10 and had one damaged while attacking DISTELRATH (142468). Hit by enemy AT fire at 1715 hours.

1st Plat, Co B, relieved 2d Plat, Co A at 2230 hrs. 1st Plat, Co B, atchd to Co A. 2d Plat, Co A atchd to Co B, effective upon relief.

3d Platoon, Co C, moved into STOCKHEIM at 1300. 2d Plat, Co B, moved to reinforce 1st Plat, Co C, and engaged in a fire fight.

1st Plat, Co B and 3d Plat, Co A in GIRBELSRATH at 2400 hrs. 1st Plat, Co A at BINSFELD.

2d Plat of Co C moved to BINSFELD at 2200 hours and started attack on FRAUWULLESHEIM. (at 2400 hrs).

3d Plat, Co B, was atchd to 3d Bn, 28th Regt at 1900 hours and was in mobile reserve at 129444.

26 FEBRUARY 1945

During the previous period the following enemy material was destroyed by Company A, but received too late for yesterday's report:

1 Tank (Type not known); 1 Towed 88; 1 Truck; Took one PW.

The Bn (less Co A) remained attached to 28th Regt and moved to positions of mobile reserve, assembling in the general vicinity of GIRBELSRATH. Co A remained atchd to 121st Regt.

The 2d Plat, Co A, was returned to Co A and the 1st Plat, Co B was ret'd to Co B.

Late in the period one platoon was ordered to support the 3d Bn of the 28th and platoons of Cos B and C were shifted accordingly. The following locations are as of 0800 hours, this date.

1st Sec, 1st Plat, Co B at ROMMELSHEIM; 2d Sec, 1st Plat, Co B at BURG RUBENHEIM. 2d Plat, Co B at FRAUWULLESHEIM. 1st Sec, 3d Plat, Co B at ESCHWEILER BIED FELD; 2d Sec, 3d Plat, Co B, at OLLESHEIM. The CP of Co B is in BINSFELD.

At the end of the period the CP of Co C closed at BINSFELD. 1st Plat, Co C, at BINSFELD. 2d and 3d Platoons of Co C at GIRBELSRATH.

Co A CP at DISTELRATH. 1st Plat at ESCHWEILER; 2d Plat of Co A at SCHOLLERHOF; 3d Plat of Co A at ESCHWEILER.

Co A expended 41 rds HLNC and 15 Rds APCBDF in supporting the 121 Regt in direct fire.

27 FEBRUARY 1945

All Cos returned to Bn control.

The Bn was given the mission of securing the right flank of the Division against an armored threat. This was accomplished by leapfrogging companies, keeping two companies displaced in threatened areas and one company in reserve.

Final dispositions of the Bn are as follows:

Forward CP - 223514  
 Rear CP - 122443  
 Co A CP - 222513  
 1st Plat, Co A - 220485  
 2d Plat, Co A - 237520

