

RESTRICTED

APC 210
US Army
3 Jan 45

SUBJECT: Report of Action Against the Enemy, January 1945

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76-1

TO: The Adjutant General,
War Department,
Washington 25, DC
(THIS CHANNEL)

In accordance with War 10, AI 345-105, 13 November 1939, as changed by Changes 1 to 3, and in accordance with instructions, First United States Army, included in written report of action against the enemy for the month of January 1945. Below is a complete list of documents being forwarded.

- 1 - Record of Operations, January 1945
- 2 - Unit Journal, 644th TD Bn, for the month of January 1945.
- 3 - Overlay of Tank Approaches, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 01 Jan 45
- 4 - Overlay of Friendly Minefields, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 01 Jan 45
- 5 - Situation Overlay, Hq 38th Inf Div, dtd 011500 Jan 45
- 6 - Anti-tank Defense Overlay, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 01 Jan 45
- 7 - FC No 12, Hq 38th Inf Regt, dtd 021500 Jan 45 (w/overlay)
- 8 - Letter of Instructions, Hq 28 Inf Div, dtd 021945A Jan 45
- 9 - Letter of Instruction, Hq V Corps, dtd 031100A Jan 45
- 10 - IPV Report, Hq 38th Inf Regt, dtd 03 Jan 45
- 11 - Overlay of 9th Inf Div Front Lines, Hq 9th Inf Div, dtd 5 Jan 45
- 12 - Overlay of Route Reconnaissance, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 5 Jan 45
- 13 - Addendum to Minefield Overlay, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 07 Jan 45
- 14 - Situation Overlay, Hq 38th Inf Regt, dtd 072000 Jan 45
- 15 - Overlay, AT Positions, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 9 Jan 45
- 16 - Overlay, AT Positions, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 14 Jan 45
- 17 - Overlay, Friendly AT Mines, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 14 Jan 45
- 18 - Overlay, Annex 1 to Accompany G-2 Report 2215, Hq, 1st Inf Div, dtd 20 Jan 45
- 19 - Overlay, AT Positions, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 202400 Jan 45
- 20 - Letter of Instructions, Hq 28 Inf Div, dtd 211030 Jan (w/overlay)
- 21 - Letter of Instructions, Hq 9th Inf Regt, dtd 21 Jan 45 (w/overlay)
- 22 - Letter of Instructions, Hq V Corps, dtd 211800A Jan 45
- 23 - Situation Overlay, Hq 38th Inf Regt, dtd 231600 Jan 45
- 24 - Situation Overlay, Hq 28 Inf Div, dtd 23 Jan 45
- 25 - FC #4, Hq 99th ID, dtd 262000A Jan 45 (w/overlay)
- 26 - Overlay to Accompany G-3 Periodic Report 273, Hq 99th Inf Div
- 27 - Letter of Instructions, Hq 99th Inf Div, dtd 271200A Jan 45
- 28 - Chg #1 to FC #4, Hq 99th Inf Div, dtd 271500A Jan 45
- 29 - FC #14, Hq 28 Inf Div, dtd 271200A Jan 45 (w/overlay)
- 30 - FC #11, Hq 38th Inf Regt, dtd 281200 Jan 45 (w/overlay)
- 31 - Overlay, AT Positions, Hq 644 TD Bn, dtd 28 Jan 45
- 32 - Overlay, Company Positions at End of Period, Hq 644 TD Bn
- 33 - Casualty List, Med Det, 644 TD Bn, 31 Jan 45
- 34 - Ordnance Items Affecting Operations, Hq, 644 TD Bn, 31 Jan 45

97-63.2

For the Commanding Officer:

Leslie P. McDougal
LESLIE P. MCDUGAL
Captain, FA

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William C. ...
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 11 Feb 1945

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RECORD OF OPERATIONS - 1 January 45

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644th Tank Destroyer Battalion (- Company B) attached to 2d Infantry Division. Company B attached to 1st Infantry Division. Forward CP in ELSENBOHN; Rear CP in SOURBRODT.

1st Reconnaissance Platoon (- 2d Section) and 2d Section, Pioneer Platoon, attached to Company A. 2d Reconnaissance Platoon attached to Company B. 2d Section, 1st Reconnaissance Platoon and Pioneer Platoon (- 2d Section) attached to Co C.

Company A supporting 38th Infantry Regiment with 2d and 3d Platoons; 1st Platoon at Rear CP for maintenance.

Company B supporting 16th Infantry Regiment.

Company C, 1st Platoon, at Company CP in ELSENBOHN. 2d Platoon near NIDRUM, firing indirect fire missions assigned by 37th Field Artillery Battalion. 3d Platoon in firing positions in NIDRUM.

Reconnaissance Company (- 1st and 2d Reconnaissance Platoons and Pioneer Platoon), mission of securing Forward CP.

Headquarters Company (- Forward CP elements) with Rear CP at SOURBRODT.

Colonel STOKES, Assistant Division Commander, 2d Infantry Division, visited Forward CP, wishing organization a Happy New Year and complimenting it on its performance during the German counterattack.

Company C ordered to prepare to meet armored attack in 1st Division Sector. Commanding Officer, Company C, ordered to report to Major LORD, 1st Division CP, 020900 January, to formulate plans for operation in 1st Division Sector.

Commanding Officer ordered to submit to 2d Infantry Division, prior to 021200 January, a recommendation for new minefields in 23d Infantry Regiment Sector. Commanding Officer, Reconnaissance Company, ordered to make minefield reconnaissance of 23d Infantry Regiment Sector beginning at daylight, 02 January.

Company A CP hit by 105mm shell. Commanding Officer, Company A, slightly wounded in head while sleeping.

02 January 1945

Commanding Officer and S-3 visited 23d Infantry Regiment CP and discussed anti-tank defenses.

Commanding Officer, Reconnaissance Company accomplished mission for employment of available mines (1500) and submitted overlay which formed basis for Commanding Officer's recommendation to 2d Infantry Division.

Fourteen enemy planes over area - did not attack.

Company C moved to BUTGENBACH as a counter-armor measure - returned to CP area same day.

Commanding Officer attended conference with Commanding Officer, 28th Infantry Regiment. Received Regimental Order for attack. H Hour is 0930.

Company Commanders (Less Hq and Company B) attended meeting called by Commanding Officer at 1410 hours. Plans for tomorrow's attack by Third Army and VII Corps, 1st Army, given to Commanding Officers. 2d Platoon, Company C, will support 2d Division attack by firing interdiction on ROCHERATH-KRINKELT. Company C drew 400 rounds HENC for this purpose.

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Record of Operations (cont'd)

Forward CP sandbagged and reinforced in anticipation of retaliatory artillery fire by enemy.

3d Platoon, Company C, goes to Rear CP for maintenance.

3 January 1945

644 Tank Destroyer Battalion (-Companies B and C) attached to 2d Infantry Division. Company B attached to 1st Infantry Division and Company C attached to 9th Infantry Division.

Company A 1st and 3d Platoons in 38th Infantry Regiment Sector. 2d Platoon at Company CP. (1st Platoon relieved 2d Platoon during night of 02-03 January.

Company B supporting 15th Infantry Regiment.

Company C moved 1st and 2d Platoons to 9th Division Sector

Company CP in MUTLENICH. 3d Platoon at Rear CP for maintenance; will join company when maintenance is complete. Reconnaissance attachments moved with Company C.

Companies will clear ammunition requests through this Headquarters (83). Ammunition allowance for 03 to 07 January 45 is 620 HERG, 400 HMC. This ammunition cannot be drawn until Battalion is down to basic load.

All M-10s of 3rd Platoon, Company C have new tracks.

Reserve Platoon Company A constitute entire Division Tank Destroyer Reserve.

Pvt. Meehan, Company A, hit by shrapnel and evacuated. Wound reported to be not serious. 1/4 ton of Company Commander of Company C, was involved in an accident. Vehicle damaged, Company Commander of Company C uninjured.

All 81mm mortars of Battalion will be turned over to 99 Infantry Division.

Organization has asked for and will receive an additional quota of maps in future.

All supplies for Company C, (less clothing) will be issued through 899 Tank Destroyer Battalion during Company C present attachment.

Change in Assignments and duties:

Capt CARPENTER - CO Hq Co - to S-2
Lt ENNEKING - S-2 to S-4
Lt BAER - S-4 to CO Hq Co

Some results of today's attack (38th Inf Regt)

Patrols killed approximately 39 enemy

Approximately 40 enemy wounded.

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PWs - 11 infantry and 6 medics.

Patrols dispersed small German counter-attacks attempting to flank them.

Heavy small arms fire on road NE of WIRTZFELD; also from house at West end of WIRTZFELD.

Strong resistance along road running South from WIRTZFELD.

Enemy artillery fire during period was very light.

From PW Report, 5th Company, 105th Regiment (enemy) held the WIRTZFELD area, having moved in less than 24 hours ago.

Patrols destroyed 3 LMGs, 1 radio and 20 rifles. Demonstration was a success.

4 January 1945

With one exception all elements remained in their previous positions. The 3d Platoon of Company C moved from the rear CP, where its vehicles had been undergoing maintenance and modification, to MUTZENICH, in the 9th Infantry Division Sector.

Captain JAMES M CAMPBELL arrived in area to take over duties as S-2. 1st Lt JOSEPH J ENNEKING left to take over duties as S-1 and 1st Lt JOHN A BAHR became Headquarters Company Commanding Officer.

Company C, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, will turn over its guns in position to Company B, 301st Tank Destroyer Battalion, by daylight of 6 January 1945. When the relief is completed Company B, 301st Tank Destroyer Battalion, will be attached to the 9th Infantry Regiment. The 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion is being converted to M-18 Tank Destroyers.

All livestock in this area is being housed, fed and watered by military personnel.

Letter, Headquarters V Corps, subject: Letter of Instructions, dated 031100A January confirms attachment of Company C to the 9th Infantry Division. Company C will be held available for employment in a mobile Tank Destroyer role.

Major General ROBERTSON, 2d Infantry Division Commander, visited the Forward CP this afternoon and highly praised the Battalion on its participation in combat with the 2d Infantry Division. He highly complimented Captain LENON, Commanding Officer of Company C, and said that he was the most discussed man in the Division. General ROBERTSON spent approximately one half hour in this office.

HVAP Charts are being painted on Company C destroyers' turrets.

At 1735 information was received that approximately one battalion of men, apparently infantry and/or horse-drawn artillery, was moving on the road from DREIBORN to KRINKELT. Artillery fired interdiction fire on the road. Results unknown.

5 January 1945

The 2d Platoon, Company A, relieved the 1st Platoon, Company A,

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which went into reserve at Company A CP.

The Monthly After Action Report for December 1944, The Battalion History of December 1944 and the Weekly Report to Corps (as of 24 December 1944) were completed and sent to higher Headquarters.

Reconnaissance Company continued reconnaissance of this and adjacent sectors, made reconnaissance for proposed minefields and barriers, and made a route reconnaissance of this and adjacent sectors, including the 9th Infantry Division area in vicinity of Company C installations.

Area strafed by a plane reported to be a P-47. The amber star, indicating friendly troops on ground, was sent up, but the plane continued to strafe.

At 1611 area received heavy enemy artillery concentration.

Battalion Motor Officer, 1st Lt GERALD L HOFFER, was promoted to the grade of Captain.

Commanding Officer, Company C, instructed to take orders from 9th Division only.

The 193 Radios of the Battalion were assigned new frequency by order of 2d Division Communications Officer.

No activity in Sector.

6 January 1945

All Company B destroyers now have HVAP charts painted in turrets.

Corporals Nuth and Kenna of Company C, have been recommended for the Silver Star for their heroic actions during the German counter-attack.

Reconnaissance Company continued reconnaissance of routes North of CAMP ELSENBOERN.

All monthly tube and mileage reports have reached this headquarters and are completed.

Company B fired 14 harassing missions on enemy installations. Targets were assigned by 7th FA Battalion. 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, continued to patrol for 16th Infantry Regiment.

This organization ordered to check communications with 2d Division Artillery by radio each day at 0700 hours.

The Commanding General, 2d Infantry Division Artillery, the G-2 of the 2d Infantry Division, the Assistant Corps Anti-tank Officer and the Assistant Assistant Anti-tank Officer of Corps, all visited the Forward CP. Later the Commanding General and the Commanding Officer of the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion looked over positions of the 2d Platoon, Company A and 1st Platoon, Company A.

~~SECRET~~

Platoon Leader, 1st Platoon, Company A, sent to Rear CP for recuperation from slight illness.

Company A has established a traffic control point at ELSENBORN. All vehicles are being halted and personnel identified.

7 January 1945

2d Section, 3d Platoon, Company A, moved to the Rear CP for new tracks.

The 99th Division is now operating independently of the 2d Division. During and after the German counter-attack the 99th Division had been attached to the 2d Division.

New radio SOP, effective 071800 December 1944:

At 1800 daily the Battalion radio will check into the Division Artillery Command Net; at 1800 hours the Liaison Officer #1 radio will check out of the Battalion Command Net and will not be used until 0700 the next morning, when it will check into the net. All calls during the period 1300 hours to 0700 hours (minor transmissions) will be handled by the Battalion on the Division Artillery Command Net. In the event of an emergency the Liaison #1 radio will immediately check into the net and all traffic will be handled over same.

8 January 1945

Company A retracking completed in 2d Section, 3d Platoon. 3d Platoon, Company A, relieved 1st Platoon.

After 1800 hours one destroyer of Company A was in position and data computed to fire star shells.

New radio SOP went into effect with all stations except Company C checking into the net at 0800.

3d Platoon, Company B, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, reconnoitered positions for occupation in case reinforcement is necessary.

Lt MOORE joined the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion as Platoon Leader, 3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company.

1st Lt J C BAIN was relieved from Liaison Officer #1 and assigned Executive Officer, Headquarters Company.

1st Lt STERLING L BEATH, relieved from Platoon Leader, Reconnaissance Company, was assigned Liaison Officer #2.

Major WALLACE (British), Hq 21st Army Group, visited CP and discussed recent action of this Battalion, to aid in determining whether or not to maintain a tank destroyer battalion as Corps Reserve.

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S E C R E T

Statement by Division Anti-tank Officers: "The mission of 57mm guns in this area is to cover tank approaches not covered by the destroyers, protect the destroyers and drive enemy tanks into tank destroyer lines of fire."

9 January 1945

2d Section, 1st Platoon, Company A, at Rear CP for re-tracking.

3d Platoon, Company B, attached to 26th Infantry Regiment. One section of the 1st Platoon, Company B, fired six observed, harassing missions from vicinity of Champagne. Results good.

Company C fired six unobserved harassing missions - results unknown.

Radio and switchboard operator overheard a conversation in foreign language over the telephone. Incident reported. No further information.

Reports indicate Germans in American uniforms are using our countersigns. Countersign had to be changed today.

Captain NELSON C WORKS, JR, transferred from the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion and assigned to V Corps Artillery.

Small arms fire reported behind position of 1st Platoon, Company A. Investigation revealed that the 1st Battalion of the 23d Infantry Regiment was having target practice.

Division Artillery will move its positions forward and to the South of present area.

10 January 1945

2d Section, 1st Platoon, Company A returned to ELSENBORN from the Rear CP at SOURBRODT. No other changes in dispositions.

Nightly flare report, submitted by Reconnaissance Company, listing flares seen by guards was begun during the period.

No new tracks available at present for retracking vehicles.

Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, will remain attached to the 1st Infantry Division and will not return to Battalion control as planned.

The 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, will not relieve the 26th Infantry Regiment as planned.

CP vicinity strafed by enemy plane - no damage in this immediate area.

Company C authorized by 9th Infantry Division to send one destroyer at a time to the Rear CP for retracking as soon as

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tracks are available.

The destroyer of Company B which was bogged down in a shell crater has been extricated.

11 January 1945

1st Platoon, Company A, relieved by 2d Platoon. 1st Platoon in reserve.

Company C fired 29 rounds HENC and 7 rounds HERC in registration, 30 rounds HENC, 70 rounds HERC in six harassing missions.

All destroyers, one M-20 and 1/4 ton per tank destroyer platoon, plus Company Executive Officers' 1/4 tons and the Commanding Officers' (less Headquarters Company Commanding Officer) and Operations 1/4 ton are set up with one channel on the air-ground net.

Technical Sergeant Vincent C Bristol was commissioned a 2d Lt and is assigned duties of Adjutant in the Battalion.

The two enlisted men of Company C who have been instructing personnel of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion on the use of the azimuth indicator have returned to this unit. The Adjutant of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion highly praised their work.

This Battalion will furnish welders to help the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion when they are available.

Received an extra 100 rounds of Star Shell from the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Battalion total is now 383 rounds.

Small arms fire was heard in the distance late in the period. No further information.

12 January 1945

Recommendations for British Award have been submitted by this Battalion.

Strength of Company C (including Reconnaissance Company elements attached) is 158. Company C will draw rations through this headquarters.

Planes will be fired at only (a) If definitely identified as German, (b) by gun protecting attacked unit, installation, or motor column, (c) If no friendly planes are in vicinity.

3d Tank Destroyer Group dentist attached to Battalion.

This area received no enemy shells today. KALTENBERG vicinity (approximately 4 miles north of ELSENBORN) received enemy barrage during the afternoon.

No activity by any of the elements of this Battalion. 7-

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S E C R E T

13 January 1945

Small arms fire was heard in 99th Infantry Division area but appeared to be friendly, Cal .50 machine guns.

Enemy artillery fell in the ELSENBORN area at approximately 0330 hours but none fell in immediate vicinity of CP.

A plane, believed to be enemy, flew over the area twice. No bombs were dropped nor strafing received.

The 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion will be converted into a self-propelled unit.

644th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)(- Co's B and C) remains attached to 2d Infantry Division. To provide protection against hostile armored attack (as directed by Commanding General, 2d Division Artillery).

1st Lt WILLIAM M KEESLING was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

All enlisted men and officers who received medals for service or deeds have had official pictures taken.

The S-3, S-2 and Adjutant of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion were at the Forward CP today to observe this organization's method of operation with a view to incorporating the same procedures into their organization.

All Companies received map phrase code.

One platoon of Company A is always in reserve. Relief of platoons is accomplished every three days. Each platoon thus remains in the line for six days and in reserve for three days.

Motors reported running to the left front by 3d Platoon, Company A. Investigated and found to be friendly tanks accomplishing relief.

Installations in rear areas will not use colored panels to identify themselves to friendly aircraft but will use the prescribed colored smoke. Armored vehicles will display panels when on the front; color will be ordered.

Light enemy artillery fire fell throughout the night. Burp guns were heard continuously from 0200 to 0330 hours. No activity in immediate sector.

Photographs of members of this Battalion who received awards were taken at Rear CP.

Personnel attended a movie at the Rear CP.

Work on Report of Action in the BREIT Campaign was started

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today in connection with the award of a French unit citation.

Enemy activity observed in woods between ELBENBORN and ELBORN.

The armored vehicles of this unit will be gas treated with a salt and lime mixture.

Liaison Officer #2 sent to hospital with sinus trouble.

All radios of this unit were lined up on new frequencies by Communications Officer.

The 2d Platoon of Company A relieved the 3d Platoon of Company A in position.

Private Knight of Reconnaissance Company and Private Murray of Company A, both reinforcements, were cited by a medical Detachment for their work as litter bearers prior to their joining this organization. Commanding Officer recommended their promotion to Privates First Class.

15 January 1945

The 23d and 16th Infantry Regiments of 1st Infantry Division had progressed to FAYMONVILLE at 0923 hours and it was later reported that the town had been taken by them.

The ammunition allotment for this unit includes Company B of the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion, but not Company B of the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The Commanding Officer, Company A, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, reconnoitered for positions for two destroyers, located them about 800 yards Northwest of ELBENBORN, moved the destroyers and fired 212 rounds harassing fire during the night of 15-16 January 1945. The two guns involved returned to their CP at 0645 hours on the 16th of January 1945. Firing positions taken over by the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. With CP radio on the Division Artillery Channel, the radio operators have been able to pick up items of interest, such as the reporting of enemy vehicles in the general vicinity.

Report of this unit's participation in the Reduction of BREST was submitted to higher headquarters.

The use of "GC" grease or #90 oil will aid in the operation of M-10 turrets during cold weather. Company C uses "GC" grease at present.

16 January 1945

The 1st Platoon, Company C, relieved 3d Platoon, Company C, in indirect firing positions. The 2d Platoon moved to the direct fire positions of the 1st Platoon and the 3d Platoon moved into the

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direct fire positions of the 2d Platoon.

One destroyer of 3d Platoon of Company A, was sent to the Rear CP for a 50 hour check. Balance of 3d Platoon remained in reserve at Company A CP in ELDENBORN.

1st Section, 1st Platoon, Company B, fired one mission harassing fire (24 rounds HRC). Fired indirect at enemy tanks in the vicinity of SCHOPPEN.

Four guns of Company C fired six harassing missions (25 rounds HRC and 75 rounds HRC). No other activity; no other changes.

17 January 1945

1st Platoon, Company A, relieved 3d Platoon of Company A. 3d Platoon is now in reserve.

Company C fired two missions (10 rounds HRC) registration and 5 missions harassing fire (32 rounds HRC; 105 rounds HRC).

Company A received 100 rounds HRC and 75 rounds HRC as an additional allotment. Will fire 1st Section of 1st Platoon tomorrow from selected positions, indirect fire; missions to be assigned by 38th Field Artillery Battalion.

A 2½ ton truck, stolen from this organization, was recovered from the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

Small allotments of 72 hour passes for enlisted men and officers have again been received by this unit.

Battalion Executive Officer will go to PARIS for approximately 9 days to attend an instruction conference on Army Educational Program.

Any vehicles of Company C in need of repair, will be sent to the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 2d Echelon, and not to the unit to which Company C is attached.

S/Sgt Beckstrom, Reconnaissance Company, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. Assigned to Platoon Leader, Pioneer Platoon, Reconnaissance Company.

18 January 1945

1 Section of 3d Platoon, Company A, fired two harassing missions, a total of 163 rounds. Balance of Platoon in reserve.

1 Section of 1st Platoon, Company B, fired 8 harassing missions, 416 rounds.

2d Platoon of Company C fired 5 indirect harassing missions.

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80 rounds.

Due to the shortage of many items of equipment in this theater, drivers of the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion have been instructed to recover any American equipment found along the roads.

Since beginning operations this unit has had eight enlisted men commissioned Second Lieutenants.

150mm air bursts exploded in the vicinity. No damage or casualties.

One set of new tracks was received by the Battalion; will be put on a destroyer as soon as possible.

19 January 1945

1st Section, 1st Platoon, Company A, fired 163 rounds harassing fire (unobserved). One vehicle got stuck at the indirect fire position, the other later being used to extricate it. During the process one M-10 burned out both clutches and damaged the gears. This vehicle, when fixed, was taken to the Rear CP and Company A received a replacement.

The 3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, will relieve the elements of the 1st Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, which are attached to Companies A and C, sometime tomorrow. The radios will all be exchanged so that it will not be necessary to change the frequencies.

There is a small arms range available to this unit at CAMP ELSENBERN.

Due to the heavy snowfall all vehicular traffic was stopped behind the Rear CP area. Traffic was later resumed but with only certain routes authorized for travel.

S/Sgt D'Arminio of Company C was transferred to the 2d Clearing Station, preparatory to an operation on his left foot.

All dental work of the Battalion has been completed.

The CP of the C Company of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion is located in ELSENBERN, near the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Company C, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion, now has six M-10s in position in NIDREY and ELSENBERN. During the current 1st Division attack, South into the German salient, the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion has been firing indirect into the towns of JONSFELD and MURRENGEN. The new M-18s in their battalion have operated very satisfactorily; this vehicle has as much horsepower as the M-10 Tank Destroyer, but weighs considerably less.

Some of the new US tanks with 105mm guns have been observed

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in this area.

20 January 1945

During the night of 19-20 January 1945, three Germans in an American 1/4 ton and American uniforms broke through the 1st Division lines. They were observed cutting telephone lines in the 26th Regiment sector.

Company C in the MONSCHAU area, is attempting to check in with the battalion radio net each morning at 0800 hours. Unsuccessful so far.

Company A was assigned an indirect fire mission to continue until daylight 23 January. 500 rounds HERC and 235 rounds HENC will be expended, most at night. Firing will be coordinated by the 38th Field Artillery Battalion.

3d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, relieved the 1st Platoon. The 1st Platoon is now at the Reconnaissance Company CP providing security for the Forward CP. 1st Section of 3d Platoon is attached to Company A, the 2d Section, 3d Platoon, to Company C.

Overlays of minefields will no longer be reproduced for the Companies. 2d Division orders that such overlays not be sent forward as far as Company CPs.

Sergeant Chapman of Reconnaissance Company was hurt when his leg was caught between an M-8 and a tree.

The 26th Infantry Regiment will relieve the 9th Infantry Regiment at a time to be announced later.

Commanding Officer, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, will attend a Tank Destroyer Conference at 1st Army Headquarters in near future.

21 January 1945

The Battalion Motor Officer was confined to quarters with a bad cold by order of Commanding Officer.

The 9th Infantry Regiment is now relieving the 26th Infantry Regiment. At the completion of the relief Company B (- 3d Platoon) will return to Battalion control.

The boundary line between the 1st and 2d Divisions has been changed. 2d Division will be responsible for area which, previously was the responsibility of 1st Division.

Authority received for use of small arms range at CAMP ELSENBERG on 27 January.

Elements of 23d Infantry are reported five miles from ST VITH.

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2d Platoon, Company A, fired 60 rounds of harassing fire, plus registration, and moved back to original area.

Two rounds of enemy artillery were received in the immediate area, no casualties; two telephone lines out.

Lt DODDS assumed command of Company A in absence of Captain GODDHALL.

22 January 1945

1 Section reserve platoon Company A continued indirect fire mission from positions near NIDRUM. Most firing is done at night. This is not a permanent location; when the section finishes firing it moves back to the platoon CP.

Rear CP instructed to locate billets for the 1st and 2d Platoons of Company B which revert to Battalion control on completion of relief of the 26th Infantry Regiment by the 9th Infantry Regiment. The 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, which is still attached to Company B, will also be billeted at SOURBRODT. The 3d Platoon will remain in position at SOU BUTGENBACH until released by Commanding General, 26 Infantry Division.

Enemy artillery increased slightly in the area; several large caliber rounds fell in the vicinity. No known damage.

Private Dewrow returned to this unit after being acquitted by a General Court Martial; has been transferred to 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

A German broadcast indicated that at least some of the Reconnaissance Company personnel captured in BULLINGEN on 17 December 1944 are Prisoners of War in Germany.

23 January 1945

One section of 2d Platoon, Company A, fired indirect from positions near NIDRUM. When firing was completed this section and the other section of 2d Platoon moved to relieve the 3d Platoon on the line; after relief the 3d Platoon closed at HILDESBORN, in reserve.

Company B (- 3d Platoon) released from attachment to 1st Division as of 222400 January 1945, closed at SOURBRODT in Corps Reserve.

The Commanding Officer inspected knocked out German vehicles, particularly Tiger Royal Tanks, in LA GUILLET and vicinity.

Light shelling received during the day and evening. Shellreps sent in.

S E C R E T

Photographer delivered pictures of personnel who were cited for actions during the recent German breakthrough.

An artillery observer's plane force landed in the road near this CP and was recovered by the T-2 of Company A.

Received favorable Sanitary Report from Battalion Surgeon.

All companies notified to turn in dynamite on hand at once. In cold weather dynamite becomes too sensitive to carry with facilities of this organization.

The Battalion is authorized to wear service stripes on service coats, CD shirts, combat jackets.

Company B assumes indirect fire mission vice Company A upon authorization from Division Anti-tank Officer.

2d Lieutenant PHILIP A DiCARLO and 2d Lieutenant OWEN R McDERMOTT promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

Web 50 caliber machine gun belts are unsatisfactory. Will be replaced by ammunition with steel clips.

24 January 1945

Company B in position near MUTZENICH in 9th Infantry Division Reserve. Fired 5 harassing missions and 2 registration missions.

Company A continued firing indirect harassing missions with one section firing from positions between ELSENBORN and NIDRUM.

Hostile aircraft were in vicinity but did not attack this area.

Small arms range at CAMP ELSENBORN has been reserved for organization on 29 January 1945.

Intercepted report of enemy tanks in vicinity of ST VITH. Nothing further heard..

S-3 inspected knocked out tanks (German) in LA GLIEZE. Area was mined by enemy. One civilian killed.

One M-10, Company A, was inoperative part of the period due to defective flame primers. Repaired before end of period.

25 January 1945

Company A relieved in indirect fire positions near NIDRUM by 1st Platoon, Company B. Company B assumes indirect fire mission. Company B (- 1st Platoon) in Corps Reserve in SOURBRODT.

3d Platoon, Company B, at DOM BUTGENBACH was relieved by elements of the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

S E C R E T

Maintenance of vehicles of Company B, 2d Platoon, was completed during the period.

Four 1/2 ton trailers, authorized by new T/D were received by S-4.

This Battalion has constructed a small arms range near BERG and all enlisted men will zero in new weapons during the next three days.

Battalion Adjutant has been ordered to assist the Historical and Awards Officer.

26 January 1945

The 1st Platoon, Company A, relieved the 3d Platoon in place. No activity.

The 2d Platoon of Company B relieved 1st Platoon at indirect fire positions near NIDRUM.

Indirect missions were fired from this position during period. Balance of Company B is at SOHRERODT in reserve.

Company C fired indirect missions near HUELEWODT in the 9th Infantry Division Sector.

Ammunition allowance from 270600 to 310600 is 500 rounds of MERC and 500 rounds MENC.

The anticipated return of Company C to Battalion control at CAMP EISENBORN has been postponed. Company C moved its platoons to vicinity of MONSCHAU and North. Company C remains attached to 9th Infantry Division.

27 January 1945

The Battalion less Companies A and C relieved from attachment to 2d Infantry Division and attached to 99th Infantry Division. Co A attached to 38th Infantry Regiment and Company C remained attached to 9th Infantry Division, further attached to 102d Cavalry Group. Reconnaissance elements remained attached to Companies A, B and C.

2d Platoon, Company B, fired 254 rounds indirect fire. 20 rounds were registration, balance harassing. 10 rounds MERC with M/54 fuze were also used (time fuze). Company B, 2d Platoon assumed star shell mission of the Battalion but did not receive any orders to fire.

Company B and Reconnaissance Company reconnoitered for routes to 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion positions where the 2d Platoon, Company B, will take over tomorrow.

S-4 was ordered to contact the G-4 of the 99th Infantry Division to discuss details of supply.

Liaison Officer #1 left 2d Infantry Division and reported to 99th Infantry Division for purpose of liaison between 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion and 99th Infantry Division.

Company B (- 2d Platoon) ordered to occupy 612 Tank Destroyer Battalion positions in ELSENBORN prior to 280700 January 1945 and to be prepared to meet any armored attack in 99th Division Sector.

Company A ordered to work directly with the 38th Infantry Regiment on indirect fire missions.

All minefields in the area will be marked with barbed wire.

Received all intelligence and administrative data from 99th Division in order to coordinate our procedure with theirs.

Received authority for 2d Platoon, Company B, to move against traffic on one way road in order to occupy new positions without enemy observation.

28 January 1945

Company B (- 2d Platoon) moved from SOURERODT to ELSENBORN (925076) and relieved 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion in place ready to counter any enemy armor threats in the 99th Division Sector. ✓ 2d Platoon, Company B, moved from indirect fire positions near NIDRUM to area North of ELSENBORN into positions of readiness. 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, remained attached to Company B and moved to ELSENBORN.

This organization has been fully instructed on the use of panels and of smoke (orange) to identify units to friendly planes.

New map distribution was given to companies.

One of Company A destroyers threw track near CAMP ELSENBORN but was operative before end of period.

The 3-3 reconnoitered the area around Company B positions and made anti-tank defense recommendations.

A disposition overlay of anti-tank guns in the sector was compiled by this Headquarters.

29 January 1945

Commanding Officer, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, has been designated Commanding Officer of Task Force King, composed of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Reconnaissance Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company D, 750 Tank Battalion and 99th Reconnaissance Troop, which will be formed and prepared for possible missions. When Task Force is given a mission, the Battalion Communications Officer will

join Forward CP personnel.

Reconnaissance Company fired machine guns in practice at CAMP ELSENBORN range.

Company B will support the 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, in attack 30 January.

The 2d, 99th and 9th Divisions will attack at H-Hour tomorrow.

The 750 Tank Battalion has arrived in vicinity of SOUREBRODT, having been released from attachment to the 104th Division near VIELSALM.

801st Tank Destroyer Battalion CP in ELSENBORN will have a new light tank, M-24, on display 01 January.

No firing on range will take place tomorrow due to planned attack.

The 18th Airborne Corps has reached positions near HERRES and HOLTZHEIM, approximately 10 to 12 thousand yards south of KRINKELT.

30 January 1945

The town of ELSENBORN was shelled during the night of 29-30 January and two 1/4 ton vehicles parked at Company B CP were slightly damaged. During the night the 1st Platoon, Company B, moved North from ELSENBORN and took up positions in the 99th Division Sector, prepared to support the 395th Infantry Regiment in its current drive. Company B did not fire during the period.

1st Platoon, Company A, relieved 2d Platoon, Company A, in place. 2d Platoon moved to BERG.

At approximately 0745 the 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2d Infantry Division had advanced to a line just outside KRINKELT-ROCHERATH, having taken WIRTZFELD with no opposition. The 38th took one prisoner. The 38th Advanced this morning without a previous artillery barrage.

Elements of the Task Force, commanded by Commanding Officer, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, have checked into the radio net.

Heavy concentrations of artillery fire were fired from the vicinity of ELSENBORN during the day. One concentration consisted of 3200 rounds fired in 20 minutes on KRINKELT.

During the period the 18th Airborne Corps gained ground south of the 1st Division Sector and took several towns with little resistance.

In the 9th Division attack minefields held up some elements but the attack progressed favorably. ROHREN was taken.

Late in the period the attack had reached ROCHERATH, MURRINGEN, 86 HONSFELD and HUNNINGEN.

SECRET

31 January 1945

Lt SHEA arrived in the area and was assigned to Company A.

During the period all three platoons of Company A, in connection with the 38th Regiment's drive, moved into anti-armor positions in KRINKELT which had just been taken by our forces. One mine was hit by a Company A destroyer but there was no damage nor casualties.

Confirmation of Company C attachment to 102d Cavalry Group received.

Company B, ordered to support the 395th Regiment with indirect fire on pillboxes in 99th Division Sector, did not fire because the pillboxes were found to be unoccupied.

At the end of the period the attack was progressing favorably. Company C, attached to the 9th Infantry Division and further to the 102d Cavalry Group, Company A attached to the 38th Infantry Regiment and with guns in position in KRINKELT, Company B in the 99th Division Sector with destroyers in readiness to repel an armor attack by the enemy. The Battalion (less Cos A and C) is attached to the 99th Infantry Division.

For the Commanding Officer:

LESLIE P McDOUGAL
Captain, FA
S-3

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SECRET

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