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HEADQUARTERS
8014 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

ST. C. H. 1
VIA COMB
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31 October 1944

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

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

Forwarded herewith, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After
Action Reports, for this command, covering the period 1 - 31 October 1944.

Oct
44

Charles A. Godwin
CHARLES A. GODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

- 2 Incls - 1 Action Against Enemy, Reports
After/After Action Report.
2 Appendix No. 1, to Action Against
Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report.

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HEADQUARTERS
803D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U. S. Army.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

No. 5

From: 010001A, October, 1944.
To : 312400A, October, 1944.

Unit: 803rd T. D. Bn.
Date: 3 November, 1944.
Place: Kettenis, Belgium.
(K805290)

MAPS: 5102 - 5103 - 5104 - 5202 - 5203 and 5204 - - 1:25,000.

I. ENEMY.

1. Enemy Situation at end of Period.

a. Front Lines - K8747 - 29244 - K950435 - K970425 - K000425 - K015415 - K015390.

b. Defensive Organization: Enemy is using both prepared concrete pillboxes and bunkers (those of long established Siegfried Line) and hastily prepared dug-in positions.

c. Units in Contact: Elements of 3rd Pz Gren Div; 12th Inf Div; 275th Inf Div, and 16th Pz Engr Bn. In addition there are miscellaneous units, including Fortress Machine Gun Battalions, Fusilier Battalions, and Engineer outfits.

d. Artillery: A heavy concentration of artillery units is reported, located in this and adjacent sector to the North. It is believed that a minimum of 13 battalions of artillery are capable of firing into this zone. This includes calibers from 75mm up to 210mm railway guns. Also Nebelwerfer units are in the vicinity.

e. Reserves: 1st SS Pz Div is believed in close reserve. On 14 October, Combat Team Ring was in contact with 30th Division in XIX Corps sector. This is a 1st SS unit. Elements of 2nd Pz Div (304th Pz Gren Regt) were contacted in this sector, 19 October. In addition, it is reported that Cologne is being used as a regrouping and training center for other divisions.

2. Operations.

a. From 1 October to 25 October, incl., this unit was engaged in XIX sector. Enemy operations consisted of defending from pre-arranged positions, and making local counter-attacks, to reduce our gains, and to try to restore their positions.

b. (1) Artillery - The heaviest concentration of artillery were used, that this unit has been subjected to. Enemy used defensive, observed, interdiction and harassing fires. All calibers were reported, including a high percentage of medium and heavy - 15cm - 17cm and 21cm.

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(2) Armor - Tanks and SP's were active during period, and while varying estimates as to the number available, ranging from 50 to 150, the armor was committed in group of from two (2) to ten (10). These were used in supporting infantry in defensive positions, and in counter-attacks. Armor was also used as mobile artillery.

(3) Air Activity - Use of aircraft, in sporadic sorties, increased during period. 500 and 1000 pound bombs were dropped, and anti-personnel bombs. Majority of sorties were flown after dark, but occasionally a raid was made in daylight.

c. From 26 October to end of period, it was noted that during hours of darkness, Robot bombs frequently passed over this area, from apparently East to West.

3. Miscellaneous.

a. This unit was used in support of infantry, during period, but reported 64 enemy killed and 70 PW's taken.

b. Morale: Most units encountered had been reformed, and had been previously badly mauled, hence morale was not too high. Also, many replacements were men discharged from hospitals, average men, and poorly trained troops. However, the stimulus of fighting on home soil seemed to increase their will to fight.

c. Supply and Equipment: Shortened supply lines tended to decrease the enemies transport problem, and where artillery ammunition was concerned there seemed to be no shortage.

d. Terrain: Ground to our immediate East is heavily wooded and between front lines and Rhine River. There are two (2) small rivers running North to South. The Erft and the Roer. To the Northeast the country is rolling, and ideally suited to armored maneuver, except for those two (2) small rivers mentioned above.

e. Enemy's Probable Knowledge of our Situation: As we are now operating on either German soil, or territory controlled by Germany for years, it is no doubt easy for the enemy to gain a complete, accurate picture of our situation, through espionage sources.

f. Weather: As winter approaches the weather continues to deteriorate, making the ground unsuitable for use of armor. Visibility is frequently obscured by heavy mists.

4. Capabilities.

Several courses are open to the enemy -

a. Retire across the Rhine.

b. Launch a spoiling attack.

c. Continue to defend his present position, while preparing further defenses to the immediate East. Of the above, c seems the most probable. Enemy's reserves are to our East, and he can hold them in abeyance to counter-attack any threatened break-through.

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II. OWN SITUATION.

1.
 - a. Front Line: See attached situation overlay.
 - b. Location of Troops: See attached situation overlay.
 - c. Adjacent Units: See attached situation overlay.
 - d. Battalion (less "A" Company and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company) attached to 30th Infantry Division from beginning of period to 252400A October 1944. "B" Company operated in direct support of 119th Infantry Regiment and "C" Company in direct support of 117th Infantry Regiment. Both companies assigned primary mission and targets of opportunity. From 151530A to 222200A October 1944 "B" company was in support of both 119th Infantry Regiment and 116th Infantry Regiment. Both companies supported respective regiments in the break-through of the Siegfried Line. "C" Company obtained very good results by coordinating the fire plan of the company with the fire of the Infantry companies while holding positions East of Siegfried Line against enemy counter-attacks. Platoon leader acted as forward observer and by telephone communication to artillery through infantry battalion C.P. was able to knock-out one (1) enemy tank, an AA emplacement and a 75mm gun. A plan was also developed to fire illuminating mortar shells at night so as to illuminate enemy tanks and personnel at night in case of an enemy night attack. "A" Company and 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached to 1st Belgium Brigade for entire period. Two (2) platoons on secondary mission and one (1) platoon and Reconnaissance platoon on primary mission and targets of opportunity. One (1) platoon of Company "B", 747th Tank Battalion, supplemented fire of "A" Company and fires through "A" company's F.D.C. "A" Company, 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion initiated training of an F.D.C. in Company "B" of the 747th Tank Battalion. All air observation for 1st Belgium Brigade, Company "B", 747th Tank Battalion and for own unit was done by "A" Company, 803rd T. D. Bn. From 252400A to end of period battalion (less "A" company and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company) attached to VII Corps. Unit in Corps Reserve undergoing Class A Ordnance Inspection.
 - e. Combat efficiency of this unit is excellent. Casualties for period totaled 3% enlisted men and 17% officers of which the majority were in "B" Company and consisted of a large percentage of key personnel. About half of the trained F.D.C. personnel in "B" company were lost during the month and additional training is underway to correct this situation.
 - f. Results of Operations.
 - (1) All missions accomplished. Units attached to 30th Infantry Division advanced through Siegfried Line to a depth of about four (4) miles on an eight (8) mile front.
 - (2) Enemy material destroyed during month is as follows: Bridge - 1; Mark V tanks - 3; Mark VI tanks - 1; Machine guns - 8; Mortars - 2; Enemy OP's - 19; Pillboxes - 11; 75mm S/P guns - 2; 88mm gun - 1; Enemy personnel killed - 64; Prisoners taken - 70.

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After Action Report Cont'd.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE.

1. a. Tank Destroyer replacements are no longer stocked at replacement battalions serving Corps. This unit has been served directly by the 3rd Replacement Depot. Requisitions have not been completely filled because of a scarcity of gunners (610), Cannoneers (531) and basics (521). Our present authorized effective strength is thirty-five (35) officers, Two (2) Warrant Officers and six hundred seven (607) enlisted men. Our present effective strength is thirty-three (33) officers, one (1) warrant officer and six hundred one (601) enlisted men. Difference in strength has been requisitioned.

b. Casualties.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action - - - - -	2 - - - - -	9
Wounded - - - - -	3 - - - - -	9
Sick - - - - -	2 - - - - -	15
Captured - - - - -	0 - - - - -	0
Missing - - - - -	0 - - - - -	0

c. Prisoners captured - - - - - 70.

d. Status of Supply.

- (1) Rations - Two (2) days reserve.
- (2) Ammunition - 3"inch - 2 units of fire.
37mm - 2 units of fire.
- (3) Gasoline - One (1) days supply at fifty (50) miles per day.
(Excluding vehicular tanks)
- (4) Diesel Fuel - One-half (1/2) days supply at fifty (50)
miles per day. (Excluding vehicular tanks)

2. Two (2) items of Class II Quartermaster supply critical during entire period, namely suits, working, MHT, one-piece and jackets, combat, winter.

IV. SUMMARY.

1. When working in direct support of infantry the TD platoon leader must be highly aggressive and alert. It is his responsibility to coordinate his fire plan with that of the infantry, artillery and mortar platoon. The infantry commander needs and should have this cooperation. The TD platoon leader can give it to him. If the platoon leader can accomplish the following he can consider himself highly aggressive and alert:

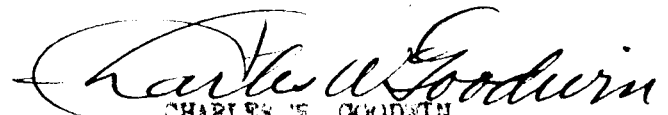
- a. Establishment of OP's.
- b. Communication from OP to infantry.
- c. Coordination of fire plan with mortar platoon, i.e., arrange with mortar platoon to fire illuminating shell in case of night tank attack.
- d. P.O. for supporting artillery (there are too few artillery forward observers with the infantry). You can train, in combat, two or more of your sergeants to help in accomplishing this task.
- e. Your gun positions must be such so as to bring fire on the enemy tank in front of the M.L.R.

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The above points were accomplished by platoon leaders of this battalion while in defensive positions with the 30th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Alsdorf and Murselen Germany. Cooperation such as this will gain and deserve the highest praise from the infantry. It is the platoon leaders job to gain their respect and confidence.


CHARLES W. GOODWIN,
Lt. Col., 803rd T. D. Bn.,
Commanding.

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Period: 1 - 31 October 1944

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AUTH: CG, VII CORPS
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DATE: 14 Nov 44
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1. Original Unit: 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
3. Strengths
 - A. 1 October 1944, 38 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 593 Enlisted Men.
 - B. 31 October 1944, 33 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 601 Enlisted Men.
 - C. Net Change: Decrease of 5 Officers; Increase of 8 Enlisted Men.
4. Station. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
5. Marches. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
6. Campaigns: Operations covering period 1st - 31st October 1944.
7. Battles. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
8. Commanding Officers:
 - A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. G. W. Goodwin, Inf.
Headquarters Company - Captain R. S. Sagenhals, Inf.
Reconnaissance Company - Captain W. A. Burke, Cav.,
Company "A" - Captain R. T. Glove, Cav., (Capt. J. R. Krulzenga, FA)
Company "B" - 1st Lt. C. H. Brittain, Cav.,
Company "C" - Captain R. F. Sinclair, Inf.,
 - B. Captain R. T. Glove, relieved of command of Company "A", 1400 hours, 14 October 1944, Captain J. R. Krulzenga assigned as commanding Officer, Company "A", 1400 hours, 14 October 1944.



9. Losses in action. (Battle Casualties).

A. Officers:

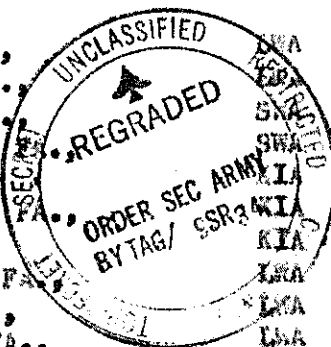
Stephen (NMI) Wolfe, O-1821737, 2nd Lt., FA.,	SWA	2 October 1944
Howard T. Brown, O-1821544, 1st Lt., Inf.,	KIA	6 October 1944
Woodrow G. Howell, O-1821721, 1st Lt., FA.,	SWA	10 October 1944
Joseph A. Marcotte, O-1017530, 1st Lt., Inf.,	KIA	12 October 1944
George W. Therrien, O-2040763, 1st Lt., Inf.,	LWA	22 October 1944

B. Enlisted Men:

Virgil B. Newton, 37152239, Sgt., FA.,	SWA	3 October 1944
Louis F. Merluzzo, 31179395, PFC., FA.,	KIA	4 October 1944
Eli C. McKinley, 34353814, Tec. 4, FA.,	SWA	6 October 1944
Clarence B. Mulneaux, 37153431, Cpl., FA.,	SWA	6 October 1944
Earl G. Snell, 39079053, Sgt., FA.,	KIA	6 October 1944
Michael S. Warzniec, 36128511, PFC., FA.,	KIA	6 October 1944
Jim S. Clark, 37498096, Pvt., FA.,	LWA	6 October 1944
Glyde H. Scharpf, 20956916, Tec. 4., FA.,	LWA	7 October 1944
George R. Irvine, 35807153, Pvt., FA.,	LWA	9 October 1944
William J. Gwinner, 37153460, Sgt., FA.,	LWA	10 October 1944
Everett A. Scharpf, 20956929, Cpl., FA.,	SWA	10 October 1944
Lowell L. Shields, 37151527, Tec. 4., FA.,	KIA	10 October 1944
Joseph S. Schneider, 37276556, Pvt., FA.,	KIA	11 October 1944
Harvey H. Pittenger, 32384573, Cpl., FA.,	LIA	11 October 1944
Melvin V. Johnson, 37152544, Sgt., FA.,	SIA	13 October 1944
Floyd B. Tolman, 39164915, Sgt., FA.,	KIA	15 October 1944
Loyd S. Carter, 18135971, Pvt., FA.,	KIA	15 October 1944
John P. Scott, 39302306, Tec. 5, FA.,	LWA	15 October 1944
John (NMI) Navone, 39079106, Pvt., FA.,	LWA	15 October 1944
Stephen A. Matta, 33361714, Cpl., FA.,	SIA	21 October 1944
Andrew S. Morgan, 37152778, Cpl., FA.,	KIA	22 October 1944
William P. Ellis, 35707174, Pvt., FA.,	KIA	22 October 1944
Clarence B. Mulneaux, 37153431, Cpl., FA., fr	SWA	6 October 1944
to	DOW	17 October 1944

per ltr fr HQ First United States Army, dtd 27 October 1944.

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Action Against Enemy, reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd).

10. Awards: None.

11. Photographs: None.

Charles W. Goodwin

CHARLES W. GOODWIN

1st. Col., Inf.,
Commanding



1. Incl: - Appendix No. 1, to Action Against Enemy,
Reports After/after Action Report

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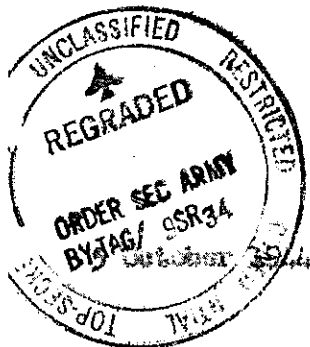


Annex No. 1 to

Action against Enemy, Report After/after Action Report
Headquarters, 503d Tank Destroyer Battalion
October 1944

010001 October 1944
Siepleveld, Holland

- 1 October 1944 Battalion (less "A" Co. reinf.) attached to the 30th Infantry Division vicinity of Belsberg coor. 769507. "A" Co. attached to 1st Belgium Brigade. "A" Co. has been firing at enemy OP's of which several have been destroyed. Also, one platoon has been firing indirect with good results. Overlays, information and etc., came down from higher headquarters regarding the attack, tomorrow.
- 2 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments, remained the same as previous day, with "A" Company reinf. attached to the 1st Belgium Brigade. "A" company has been firing indirect on various targets of opportunity. On this day they destroyed 3 machine gun nests by observed fire. 143 rounds of HE was expended. On Division front of which "B" and "C" companies are a part, being support of, "B" Company the 119th Inf Regt, "C" Company in support of 117th Inf. Regt, jumped off to try to pierce the Siegfried Line. Reports came in that vehicles were bogging down, which slowed advance considerably. However, the Infantry crossed river without very much difficulty. Vehicles were waiting for a bridge to be completed on which to cross. Heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire was encountered. When opportunity arose destroyers fired on OP's, knocking out 5 OP's during the period. Recon. Co. contacted front line regiment for latest situation.
- 3 October 1944 Battalion, No change in attachments. Attack continued at 0700 hours. Some units have reached their objectives. Heavy artillery fire has slowed advance. Platoons have fired on a number of pillboxes with good results, from which considerable enemy artillery fire has been coming. Quite often bunkers have been found. Pillboxes are well camouflaged and make them hard to locate. Recon. Co. still contacting front line regiments for latest situation.
- 4 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments. Attack continued, commencing 0700 hours, on Siegfried line. Companies "B" and "C" are in amongst the very heaviest artillery fire. "B" Co neutralized 3 pillboxes one OP and fired 75 rounds HE, 13 rounds of APC. "C" Company fired on 3 pillboxes and one OP. Fire from pillboxes ceased after 3" inch shelling. "A" company still firing indirect and reported to have knocked-out one (1) S/P by indirect fire, killed approximately 20 enemy personnel while they were swimming a canal. Also caused serious damage on an enemy motor park. Recon. Co. contacted front line units for latest situation.
- 5 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. Division and attachments are fighting a hard battle to crack the prepared installations of the Siegfried line. Enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire is very heavy. In fact some say it is heavier than any ever encountered before.
- 6 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. The platoons of "A" Co. have been firing indirect fire mission on targets of opportunity and harassing fire at night. The other platoon is held in reserve for primary mission. "A" Co. also destroyed a pontoon bridge. "B" Co. has been operating in close support of the 119th Inf. Regt., firing at OP's and destroying machine gun nests as they advance. "C" Co. has been operating with the 117th Inf. Regt., in close support, firing on OP's and destroying machine gun nests as they advance. Two M10's were knocked-out for "B" Company, by the enemy, both burned. The crew of one destroyer got out without injury, but only 2 survived from the other crew. Recon. Co. has been contacting front line regiments for latest situation.



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- 7 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachment. 1st Platoon of "B" company destroyed two enemy mortars, one OP, one bazooka team and two enemy machine gun positions. 2nd platoon of "B" Co. destroyed an OP and some pillboxes. About 30 enemy personnel were killed. Company captured 10 PW's. No report sent in on operations of other companies. Rcn. Co. contacted front line regiments for latest situation.
- 8 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments. Not very much info available today. Headquarters and Headquarters company are doing everything possible to help the companies in the front lines.
- 9 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments. "A" Company still firing indirect mission with the 1st Belgian Brigade. "B" and "C" companies are in direct support of infantry regiments. Rcn Co. contacted front line regiments for latest situation, which they report into the C.P. Balance of the battalion is keeping in close touch with the line companies.
- 10 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments. "B" Co. fired 2 two enemy half-trucks, blowing away the 20mm cannon on one. "C" Co. captured 4 PW's.
- 11 October 1944 Battalion, no change in attachments. "A" Co. firing on targets of opportunity and indirect fire (harassing) at night. No other operations reported.
- 12 October 1944 Battalion (less "A" Co. reinf) attached to the 30th Infantry Division. "A" Co. and one platoon of Rcn Co. is attached to the 1st Belgian Brigade. They have been firing indirect (harassing) fire at night with very good results. Some of the targets on which they fired were i.e., dug-in enemy infantry, artillery battery in town of Heel, fired on Ferry crossing, damaging dock installations. 257 rounds of He was expended. Evening of this day "B" Co. fired two (2) rounds of AP at a enemy tank, which they believed they had knocked-out, but couldn't tell at that time. Next morning further investigation was made and report came in that the tank was an enemy Mark V, and that it was knocked-out. Lt. Bruszewski and Cpl of "C" Co., through some type of telephone system, managed to adjust fire for an artillery battalion so that a Mark V tank was knocked out. It seems that the Cpl acted as an observer, in the top of a tall building, with a telephone and sent the needed data to Lt. Bruszewski, who had two (2) telephones at hand, and relayed the data to the artillery battalion.
- 13 October 1944 Platoons of "B" and "C" Companies were still under continual artillery fire, making it very hard to visit the different gun positions. Here's what Captain Sinclair says about the "Effect of artillery fire on IDO's", six (6) of my IDO's have been hit direct by enemy artillery fire and not one of them was knocked out. The crews were a bit shaken-up when hit but this experience has actually given the men considerably more confidence in the protection offered by their ID than they realized. In C.P. moved from Simpleveld to Herzogenrath.
- 14 October 1944 Companies "B" & "C" are in gun positions giving anti-tank protection to the regiments to which they are supporting which is the 119th and 117th Inf. Regt. "A" Co. is firing indirect mission with the 1st Belgian Brigade. Part of Headquarters Company moved from Simpleveld to our present location near Herzogenrath, leaving the maintenance section in Simpleveld.
- 15 October 1944 Battalion OP, at this time is located in a bomb shelter, near Herzogenrath, which is a part of a button factory. "B" Co. is in support of the 119th Inf. Regt. "C" Co. is in support of the 117th Inf. Regt. "B" Co. lost 4 men of a destroyer crew, 2 of which were IAW and 2 that were KIA. This leaves them with nine (9) operational destroyers, but only crews for 7 of them. "C" Co. has 11 destroyers on the line, 2nd platoon of "B" Co. is moving up, in the morning to support the 3rd Bn. of the 120th Inf. Regt.

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- 16 October 1944 No change in attachments and companies are still supporting the same regiments. "B" Co. is more or less in mobile reserve. "C" Co. is still in anti-tank positions. "A" Co. fired indirectly on a small supply boat crossing canal and an enemy anti-aircraft gun position. Results of this firing is unknown. Balance of battalion continued their normal duties. Received some officers and EM replacements.
- 17 October 1944 The Line Companies continued their aggressive missions as has been the case the last few days. Besides "A" Co. fir-indirect at targets at night, there were no other operations. Balance of Battalion continued at their normal duties.
- 18 October 1944 En. CP located in the bomb shelter near Herzogenrath, keeping abreast with the war situation. "A" Co. fired 168 rounds of HE indirect (harassing) fire at night. Also computed F.D.C. for one platoon of the 717th Tank battalion. Report came in that the 1st platoon of "B" Co. had knocked out a Mark VI "Tiger" tank at 0845 hours. Sgt. Rohat is commander of the M10 that knocked it out. 4 rounds of AP was fired. "B" Company is in Mobile reserve of the 116th and 119th Inf. Regts. "C" Co. is in anti-tank positions supporting the 117th Inf. Regt. All was quiet on this front as no rounds of ammunition were fired. Hon. Co. is contacting front line regiments for latest situation and reporting it to the Battalion CP.
- 19 October 1944 Attachments, no change. The companies are more or less in a defensive position to combat any counter-attack that might arise. No ammunition was fired, except "A" Company who is firing an indirect mission with the 1st Belgian Brigade. The effect of their firing is unknown. During the night both "B" and Hon Companies were bombed with anti-personnel bombs. Very little damage.
- 20 October 1944 Battalion attached to 30th Inf. Div., (less "A" Company reinf). "A" Co. is attached to the 1st Belgian Brigade and the 2nd Platoon of Hon. Co. "B" Co. is in Mobile reserve supporting the 116th and 119th Inf. Regts. "C" Co. occupies anti-tank positions supporting the 117th Inf. Regt. Balance of the battalion is located in and around the battalion CP. Everything seems very quiet during the period. Some of the front line troops improved their defensive positions and are now waiting the hour to attack. About 2000 hours "B" Co. sent in word that one of the platoons had fired one round of HE killing six (6) Jerries. No other unusual operations for the rest of the battalion.
- 21 October 1944 Attachments, no change. "A" Company moved about one (1) mile into a new bivouac area. 2 platoons of the company are still firing indirect fire missions at night. The other platoon and the 2nd platoon of Hon. Co. have a mission. The one platoon of "A" Co. is securing and road blocking town of Geystingen over. K652835. The 2nd platoon of Hon Co., which reinforces "A" Co. is patrolling road from Geystingen to Haasyck. "B" Company fired 4 rounds of ammunition into a pillbox. Results is unknown. Also one casualty reported and 1/4 ton jeep damaged. No other operations reported.
- 22 October 1944 Attachments, no change. 2nd Platoon of Co. "B" was fortunate enough to knock-out a 75mm S/P gun. About 1800 hours friendly tanks of a tank unit moved out of positions in which they were located in front of "B" Co. leaving space open for an attack by the enemy. The Commanding General of this Division requested that "B" Co. move six (6) destroyers into positions covering the road between the coors K660472 and 873500. This operation began at about 2300 hours and was completed at approximately 0330 hours. During the movement two (2) destroyers met with an accident. One (1) was hit by enemy artillery and burned. The other ran on to a mine, which exploded, breaking the track. The destroyer that has the broken track is being repaired. One man was lightly wounded, but returned to duty. Two men are unaccounted for or missing in action. However, they are believed to have burned in the destroyer. All is quiet in the "C" Co. sector. "A" Co. is still firing indirect. They no doubt will need some new gun tubes over the next days. Balance of battalion continued with their normal duties.

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- 23 October 1944 Attachments, no change. "C" Co. was given OK by Customs to pull as much as two sections of destroyers off the line to rear areas for maintenance. It has been confirmed now regarding the two men that were reported missing in action, were burned in the destroyer. "B" Co. shifted their positions a little, at dawn, after the movement during the hours of darkness. Everything comparatively quiet on the front. Balance of battalion at normal duties.
- 24 October 1944 Attachments, no change. Everything was comparatively quiet along front today. Some units are in process of being relieved under the cover of darkness. Captain Hayes, S-3, made an official trip over in the VII Corps area, contacting the various officials of Higher Headquarters. In the letter of instructions sent down from the 30th Inf. Div., we note that we are to be relieved of attachment as of 2400 hours the 25th, under cover of darkness by the 823 TD Bn.
- 25 October 1944 Attachments, no change. All is reasonably quiet on the front. Units are patiently waiting to be relieved. "B" and "C" companies are to be relieved under the cover of darkness and was completed at approximately 2100 hours. Battalion was relieved of attachment to 30th Inf. Div., as of 2400 hours the 25th of October 1944.
- 26 October 1944 Battalion (less "A" Co) attached to VII Corps by authority WOC, 1st U.S. Army. "A" Co. attached to 1st Belgian Brigade. Also the 2nd platoon of Rcn. Co. Battalion and companies making preparation for the move to VII Corps area. At 1200 hours the first elements left area near Herzogenrath KM4545 for new location at Ketteris over K 805289. Last of the elements arrived in new location at approximately 1550 hours. VII Corps informed us we would have an Ordnance check and rest for seven days. This was the most important and welcomed news since D plus seven. (Day of our landing).
- 27 October 1944 Battalion (less "A" Co. reinf.) attached to VII Corps. "A" Co. and the 2nd Platoon of Rcn Co. attached to the 1st Belgian Brigade. All companies, excepting "A" company reinf. are busily engaged at maintenance on all vehicles in preparation for an Ordnance check. Vehicles are quite badly in need of maintenance as it has been some time since the battalion has had a chance to give them a complete maintenance check. In fact, the battalion has never had an Ordnance check since before landing on the Continent. "A" Co. still firing indirect (harassing fire at night. Effect of indirect fire unknown. However a PW reported that shells are landing in exact point where enemy ferry supplies across canal.
- 28 October 1944 Attachments, no change. All companies except "A" Co. still busily engaged at maintenance on vehicles in preparation for Class A Ordnance Inspection. A report was ask for from each of the companies, showing the deficiencies within each vehicle. "A" Co. fired 60 rounds of ammunition indirectly during the hours of darkness. 2nd platoon securing the town of Geystingen by road blocks during the day and outposts at night. A movie was acquired for the men in the battalion. The name of the show was "Just a Guy Named Joe". Two shows were shown during the day.
- 29 October 1944 Attachments, no change. All companies, except "A" Co. still busily engaged at maintenance on vehicles in preparation for Class A Ordnance Inspection.
- 30 October 1944 Attachments, no change. Class A Ordnance inspection started today with "C" moving all vehicles to Ordnance Depot, a distance of 20 miles. The inspection is being done by the 557th Heavy Maintenance. Battalion will remain in its present position and send vehicles from the companies in the following order: "C", "B", Rcn and Hq. Ordnance also sent a small arms maintenance team to the battalion area to inspect small arms of the personnel that are left here.

SECRET



31 October 1944. Battalion (less "A" Co. reinf) attached to VII Corps. "A" Co. and the 2nd platoon of Bn Co. attached to 1st Belgian Brigade. All track vehicles that were available at the battalion area moved out enroute to the 557th Ordnance. The Ordnance people are doing a fine job inspecting the vehicles, however, progress is slow due to the fact that parts are not available and are hard to get. The small arms inspection team completed their inspection of small arms in the battalion. A movie was shown to the men, the name of the show being "Blonde Trouble", with the Barry family.

SUMMARY

A. Battalion (less "A" Company and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company) attached to 30th Infantry Division from beginning of period to 252400A October 1944. "B" Company operated in direct support of 119th Infantry Regiment and "C" Company in direct support of 117th Infantry Regiment. Both companies assigned primary mission and targets of opportunity. From 151530A to 222200A October 1944 "B" company was in support of both 119th Infantry Regiment and 116th Infantry Regiment. Both companies supported respective regiments in the break-through of the Siegfried Line. "C" Company obtained very good results by coordinating the fire plan of the company with the fire of the infantry companies while holding positions East of Siegfried Line against enemy counter-attacks. Platoon leader acted as forward observer and by telephone communication to artillery through infantry battalion CP was able to knock-out one (1) enemy tank, an 88mm gun and a 75mm gun. A plan was also developed to fire illuminating mortar shells at night so as to illuminate enemy tanks and personnel in case of an enemy night attack. "A" Company and 2nd platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached to 1st Belgian Brigade for entire period. Two (2) platoons on secondary mission and one (1) platoon and Reconnaissance platoon on primary mission and targets of opportunity. One (1) platoon of Company "B", 747th Tank Battalion supplemented fire of "A" Company and fires through "A" Company's F.D.C. "A" Company, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion initiated training of an F.D.C. in Company "B" of the 747th Tank Battalion. All air observation for 1st Belgian Brigade, Company "B", 747th Tank Battalion and for own unit was done by "A" Company, 803d T. D. Bn. From 252400A to end of period battalion (less "A" Company and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company) attached to VII Corps. Unit in Corps Reserve undergoing Class "A" Ordnance Inspection.

B. Combat efficiency of this unit is excellent. Casualties for period totaled 3% enlisted men and 17% officers of which the majority were in "B" Company and consisted of a large percentage of key personnel. About half of the trained F.D.C. personnel in "B" Company were lost during the month and additional training is underway to correct the situation.

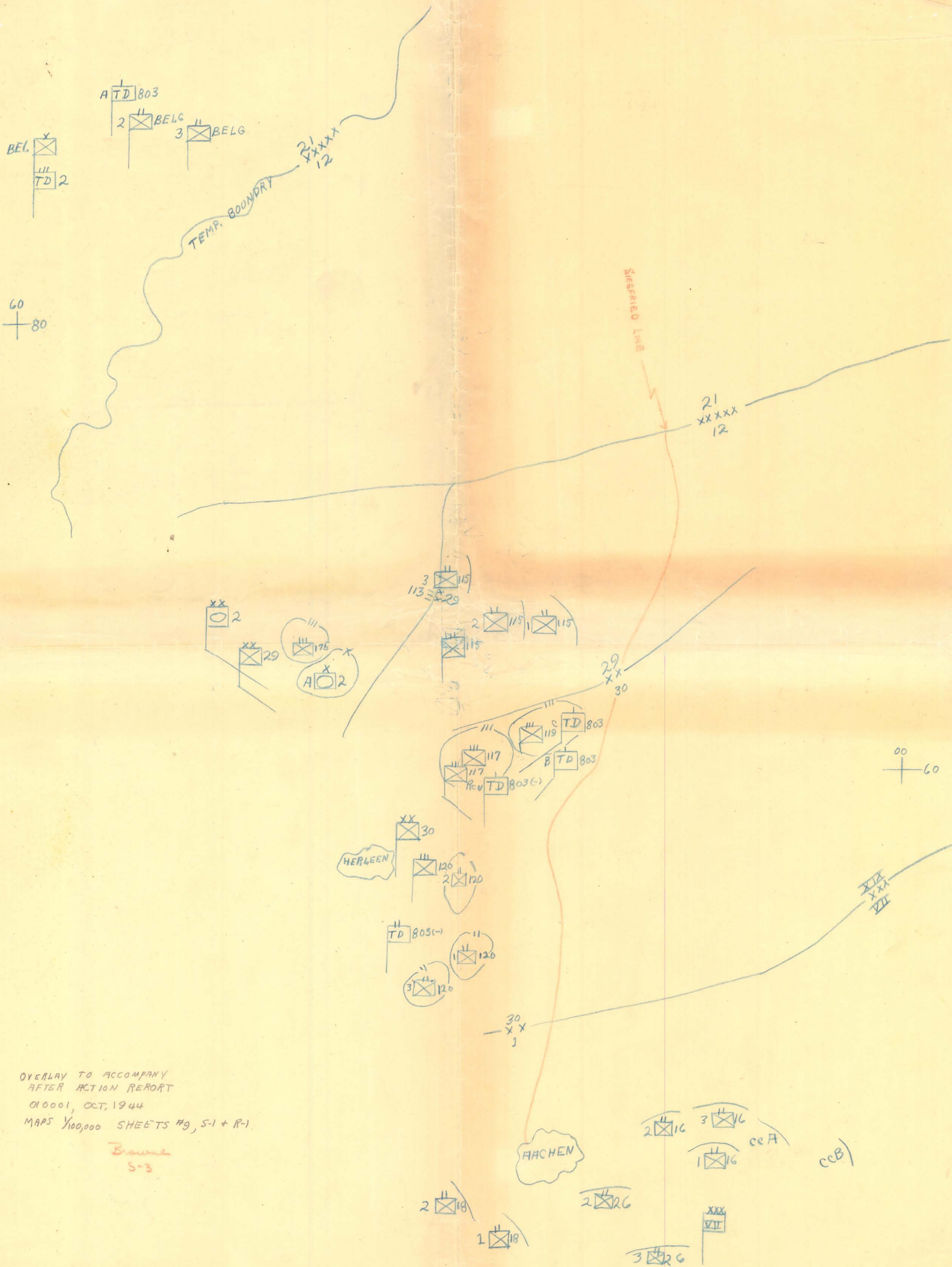
C. Enemy material destroyed during month is as follows: Bridge - 1; Mark V tanks - 3; Mark VI tanks - 1; Machine guns - 8; Mortars - 2; Enemy OP's - 19; Pillboxes - 11; 75mm S/P guns - 2; 88mm gun - 1; Enemy personnel killed - 60; Prisoners taken - 70.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The battery pack (B440) is not suitable for operating the 610 Radio when the radio is operated 24 hours a day. The M10 engine cannot be used to charge the battery because the smoke and noise brings enemy fire in on your position. It is felt that an auxiliary generator, Ordnance #180491, should be installed in each M10 and M20. We have had to replace engines in M20s because it was necessary to run engine to keep battery charged while operating the 608 Radio.

CHARLES W. GARDNER
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

SECRET



OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
 AFTER ACTION REPORT
 010001, OCT, 1944

MAPS 1:100,000 SHEETS #9, S-1 + R-1

Brown
 S-3