

[REDACTED]

AFTER ACTION - COMPANY A

During the early days of December to, and including, the 12th, Company A remained in indirect fire positions in the vicinity of Leithum, Luxembourg. During this period all firing was done in conjunction with 16th FA, 9th Armd Div. Almost all firing was done at night, and was harassing and interdictory fire. Towns, crossroads, and areas, where enemy troops were believed to be billeted, were the targets. Results of fire were almost entirely unobserved.

On the 13th Company A as a part of CCB, 9th Armd Div, was alerted and moved to vicinity of Faymonville, Belgium. CCB was to support an attack of the 2d Infantry Division, which ^{was} to take and prevent the enemy from blowing three dams on the Ouer River north of Dreiborn, Germany. Company A's mission was to take and hold crossroads, vicinity of Dreiborn, after leading elements had reached their first objectives.

Before this plan could be carried out, the 1st platoon was ordered to 106th Division Headquarters at St. Vith, mission unknown. The fate of this platoon is uncertain, for no word has been received since that time, concerning mission, action or any result.

At 0300 on the 17th the remainder of the company was ordered to St. Vith, arriving there at 0600. Almost immediately the 2d Platoon was ordered to, and took up positions approximately 1,000 yards east of St. Vith on the high ground, to destroy enemy armor. During the day friendly artillery fell on their position, and one man was killed and three wounded. No armor being sighted, the platoon in conjunction with the 3d Platoon, which had remained in St. Vith, moved to a position of readiness NE of St. Vith. At 1730 the company moved to a bivouac area one mile southeast of St. Vith where it spent the night.

In the following day the company was ordered to a vital crossroads, 845-809, with the mission of holding. Elements of the 7th Armd Div were relieved during the early hours of the evening, and Company A proceeded to bivouac S. of Balhausen, 835-855.

84

3

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On the 20th at 0600 the company proceeded to vicinity of crossroads at 852-842. With the 3d Platoon occupying the high ground just to the east of north and south road; the 2d Platoon took positions on the flank in the woods just east and south of the east and west road, approximately one mile from Neidingen. At 1500 hours enemy infantry moving west from Neidingen were met by security of 3d Platoon, the guns of which moved back to the woods bordering the road. The enemy appeared in the woods at 856-850. At 1600 HE and mortar were placed on this position and the enemy withdrew. At this time considerable artillery and mortar fire fell in the company position, continuing intermittently throughout the night. During the night hours enemy snipers and patrols infiltrated into the positions. At 2200 hours the reconnaissance platoon, which was connecting the two gun platoons was approached by a German patrol, estimated to be about 50-75 men. Upon being challenged the enemy replied with small arms fire. In the ensuing fire fight, it is estimated that two-thirds of the patrol were killed or wounded. At daylight the following morning a great number of bazookas were discovered abandoned, and it became apparent that the enemy intended to destroy our destroyers. Two prisoners were taken. At 0300 a patrol in force overran the positions of two destroyers of the 2d Platoon, but withdrew without causing any damage, due, no doubt, to the determined efforts of the personnel who continued to defend, although overrun. At 1000 hours heavy artillery and mortar fire began to fall on the positions and continued all day. During the night the enemy infiltrated into the positions, again, wearing American uniforms. It has been established that during this night direct fire from anti-tank weapons brought up under cover of darkness was directed into the positions by an enemy with bursts, long and short, from a Schmidtzer gun. At 1330 hours the enemy was seen approaching from Galhousen, and they were dispersed by machine gun and 76mm fire. At 1400 hours the company was ordered to withdraw to Grufflingen if possible, which was accomplished without loss. The company went into a position

85

of readiness at 810-830. At 1600 the 2d Platoon moved to a position at a crossroads in Brullingen, 820-821 to repel possible enemy armor. During this entire period the town was under heavy fire from an undetermined number of tanks in the woods at 832-813.

No tank attack developed through the night, but the positions were constantly harassed by sniper fire.

At 0300 on the following day the company marched to Jevigne, Belgium, arriving at 1600. On the morning of the 24th the 2d Platoon moved to protect a crossroads at 875-853 where it was subjected to heavy artillery fire. Two prisoners were taken here.

On the night of the 24th CCB retired to Les Baty, Belgium, and remained in reserve until the 29th, when all elements moved to Eozal, Belgium, still remaining in reserve. At the month's end Company A still remained in a position of readiness. Throughout the operation, enemy armor constantly reported, failed to appear, and Company A, during its contact with the enemy, fought an unnatural and difficult battle, being in close contact with enemy infantry with little or no protection, and surrounded at least twice, and in addition was confronted with almost continuous artillery and mortar fire.