OFA-

HEADQUARTERS SILTH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION APO 403, U. S. ARMI



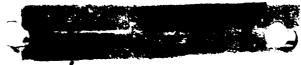
SUBJECT: After Action Report Against the Enemy, 1-31 January 1945.

TO: The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

THEU : Commanding General, 80th Infantry Division, APO 80, U. S. Army.

- 1. Submitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3 and Change 4, reports After Action Against the Enemy for the Silth Tank Destroyer Battalion, for the period 1-31 January 1945.
- 2. During the period covered by this report this command was attached to the 9th Armored Division, 7th Tank Destroyer Group, 17th Airborne Infantry Division, 87th Infantry Division, and 11th Armored Division. In addition portions of this Battalion were attached to the 4th Armored Division, through CCA of the 9th Armored Division, and also the 101st Airborne Infantry Division.
- 3. Even though, in the opinion of the commanding generals mentioned in paragraph 2 above, this Battalion operated efficiently while under their command, it is my belief that a tank destroyer battalion could operate much more efficiently if it were attached to one division permanently. This would enable the tank destroyer battalion and the division to work out standing operating procedures, to learn what to expect of each other, and what not to expect, thereby becoming familiar with how each other operated. The morale of both organizations would be greatly improved. Further, the knowledge that they would be relieved with the division to which they were attached would greatly increase the morale of the tank destroyer battalion.

A. R. BROWNFIED, Lt Col, FA, Commanding.



SECTION I

S-3 REPORT

1-3 January 1945

This battalion less company A, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, and Company C, and one platoon of Reconnaissance were attached to CCA, 9th Armored Division, and continued on it's mission of support with the 4th Armored Division in retaking the surrounding towns around Bastogne, Belgium, and direct support in the opening the Neufchateau and Bastogne highway. During the first few days of the month they were being held in reserve in position at Vaux-Les-Rosier, Belgium.

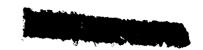
3-6 January 1945

At 1430 hours, 3 January 1945 CCA and attached units were ordered to a marshalling area at Traimorant, Belgium, and on 4 January units attached to CCA (-), Company B and one reconnaissance platoon, Sllth Tank Destroyer Battalion, made a motor march to Touteron, France, via Etalle, Belgium, Virton, monmedy and Sedan, France. Company B and one reconnaissance platoen were erdered to report to General Taylor, Belgium, Barracks, Bastogne, Belgium, en an independent mission. (A brief discourse of their activities follows at the end of narrative for the period of 3-17 January 1945) Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sllth Tank Destroyer Battalion, closed in at Touteron, France, and Reconnaissance Company (-) three platoons closed in at Cherbogne, France, where they remained until S January 1945.

6-8 Jamuary 1945

On 6 January 1945 the Ellth Tank Destroyer Battalion less Company A, B, C and three Reconnaissance Flatoons were relieved from attached CGA of the 9th Armsred Division and reverted to Division control, and Company C, Ellth Tank Destroyer Battalien, and one reconnaissance platoon of Reconnaissance Company,





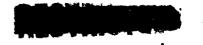
Bilth Tank Destroyer Bettalion, were relieved from attached to COR, 9th Armored Division, and reverted to Battalion control. They were billeted at Les Louches, France. On 7 January 1945 Company A and one reconnaissance platoon of Reconnaissance Company, Slith Tank Destroyer Battalion, were relieved from attached CCB, 9th Armored Division, and reverted to Battalion control.

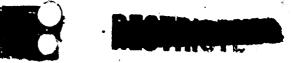
8-16 January 1945

On 8 January 1945 the Sllth Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from 9th Armored Division and attached to 7th Tank Destroyer Group, and were ordered to move to the vicinity of Bellefountains Belgium. Reconnaissance Company closed in at Bellefountaine, Belgium; Headquarters and Headquarters, and Company C closed in at St. Marie, Belgium, and Company A closed in at Fratin, Belgium. On 10 January 1945 Company C, which consisted of only two gun platoons, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was ordered to move to Vaux-Les-Rosiers, Belgium, and remain in reserve for an anticipated tank attack in front of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division. After a shift was made in the remaining equipment in the battalion. one platoon of Company A was ordered to move to the position of Company C, and Company C with one platoon of Company A were attached to the 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (A brief discourse of their activities follow at the end of this report.) During the period 10-16 January 1945 the remaining elements of the Battalion were busily engaged in getting reequipped and refitted for further possible action.

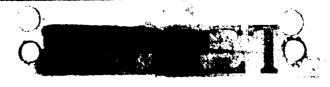
17-25 January 1945

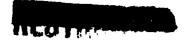
On 17 January 1945 the Silth Tank Destreyer Battalion was attached to 17th Airborne Infantry Division, and moved to the vicinity of Bertegne, Belgium





P(52-67). A forward command post was established at Compagne, Belgium P(550-671) where operations were carried on in conjunction with the different regiments of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division. The filth Tank Destroyer Battalion Rear closed in at Bertogne P(52-67); Reconnaissance Company at Edgreux, Belgium P(547-711); Company & less one platoon at Longohamp, Belging P(535-635), later moving to Gives, Belgium P(500-657); Company B who was supporting the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division at Wicourt, Belgium P(60-68) and Company C who was supporting the 507th Parachute Infantry of the 17th Airborne Infantry Division and closed in at Vissule, Belgium P(500-657). Little resistance was encountered throughout most of the period. On 19 January 1945 the second platoon of Company C moved to the vicinity of Houfalize, Belgium P(70-70), and fired eleven rounds of HE and one round of HVAP on a church steeple located at Vissule, Belgium. From information received this was being used as a German OP. On 20 January Company B moved to the vicinity of Steinbeck, Belgium P(644-694). Actual engagement with the enemy became more or less static and was confined mainly to patrolling with both Company B and C being held in readiness. The chief obstacle being the weather, terrain, occasional roadblocks, mines and destroyed bridges. On 22 January Company C's gun positions were moved to one-half mile east of Limerle, Belgium, and supported the 193d Glider Infantry Regiment. Gun positions were moved to P733-755) on the morning of 23 January 1945. Position of Company B remained the same. On 25 January 1945 Company C moved to vicinity of Hauthbellain, Luxembourg (745-749); Company B closed in at Wattermal, Belgium P(75-77) in support of 513th Glider Infantry Regiment, and forward CP closed in at Steinbeck, Belgium 1691-735).





26-28 January 1945

On 26 January 1945 Company C moved to Huldange, Luxembourg (771-745) and Battalion CP closed in at same location at 1900 hours the same day. Reconhaiseance Company (*) two platoons closed in at same location at 1600 hours. The Slith Tank Destroyer Bettalion relieved from attached to the 17th Airborne Infantry Division and attached to the 67th Infantry Division. Company B was used to support the 346th Infantry Regiment and Company C was supporting the 347th Infantry Regiment. The Beconnaissance Platoons with Companies B and C, Silth Tank Destroyer Battalion, were relieved and reverted back to Company control. With Reconnaissance Company under Battalion control the platoons were sent on reconnaissance missions on 27 January assisting in the support of both Companies B and C of the Slith Tank Destroyer Battalion. Two plateons of Company C advanced to Lengler, Luxembourg (800-776) and Company B advanced to Appeler, Luxembourg (800-795). One platoon of Reconnaissance Company received light enemy artillery fire in Gruflange, Luxembourg, but it did not delay their mission. Two prisoners of war were taken by the third platoon of Reconnaissance Company.

29-31 January 1945

On 29 January 1945 conditions remained practically the same as the previous day. Weather conditions were such that operation of the destroyers over the terrain was hindered. Late on 29 January 1945 orders were received from VIII Corps Headquarters that the Silth Tank Destroyer Battalion would be relieved from attached to the 87th Infantry Division and was attached to the 11th Armored Division, and would be held in Corps reserve. The 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved Companies B and C in the line.

All during the period of operation it was apparent that all along the Division sector the enemy was withdrawing to the Sigfried Line, and the only



contact being made was with enemy rear guard. A very weak defensive attitude was displayed by the enemy and during this period only three enemy tanks were sighted by Division Air Observation and were never sighted by either Company B or C.

The Battalion operated successfully under several different commands.

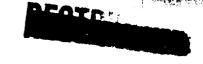
Although both Company B and C operated with a minimum of personnel and equipment, because of previous losses suffered in the imitial counter-attack, their efforts, initiative and skill were influential in assisting the clearance of the Ardennes Sector of the enemy and making possible a further advance through the enemy lines.

_ PART II

The activities of Company B, who were not under Battalion control, from 3-16 January 1945 were as follows:

Commanding Officer, Company B, reported to General Taylor, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, where he received orders to proceed to Savy, Belgium. One platoon of Company B worked in conjunction with the 327th Armored Infantry of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division. After accomplishment of mission they were relieved and Company B and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, 81lth Tank Destroyer Battalion, were attached to Combat Team Cherry, 4th Armored Division. The first platoon was attached to support the first Battalion, 501st Armored Infantry and moved to (57-60), and the third platoon was attached to support the second Battalion, 501st Armored Infantry. The second platoon was attached for support of the 506th Armored Infantry. The second platoen was attached for support of the 506th Armored Infantry. During this time no enemy tanks were sighted, but the entire Company worked in close cooperation with the 4th Armored Division in driving the enemy from the towns surrounding Bastegne, Belgium.



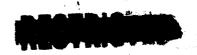


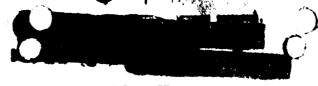
PART III

The activities of Company C, not under Battalion control, from 12-16
Jamary 1945:

The Commanding Officer, Company C, reported to the Commanding Officer of the 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion after closing his column at Juseret, Balgium P(435-133). On 12 January the Company was assigned to the 11th Armored Division and moved to Longchamps, Belgium. The Company was attached to CCA of the 11th Armored Division on 13 January and one platoon was attached to Task Force Stubbs of CCA and moved to Monaville, Belgium. On 16 January CCA ordered two platoons to move to vicinity of Mabompre, Belgium, and were in position at this point when the 311th Tank Destroyer Battalion was assigned to the 17th Airborne Division was the 11th Armored Division was relieved Affa the 17th Airborne Infantry Division.

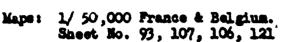
Blame E. Vaylor HLAINE C. TAYLOR, Major, TD, S-3.





SECTION II





a 122.

1-3. Jamary 1945



1/100,000 Belgium & MB France. Sheets 13, 16, 17 & S. 7.

The Ellth Tank Destroyer Mattalion, commanded by Lt Cel A. R. Brownfield, less Company A. with one reconnaissance platess attached and Company C. with one reconnaissance platoon remained attached to UCA, 9th Armered Division. The mission of UCA was to retake towns which were German strong points south and southwest of the encircled city of Bastogne, Belgium. Encay units in contact were the 130th Ps Lehr Division and Remer Brigade with elements of the 3d Ps Div in the Sibret-Sendchamps area southwest of Bestogne.

. Company B. Slith Tank Destroyer Battalion, was used in direct support during the reopening of the vital Heufchateau and Bastogae highway, thereby enabling supplies to roll into the lolst Airborne Infantry Division, as well as to allow the evacuation of wounded.

The Fioneer Platoen of Recennaissance Company under the leadership of it Paul W. Jones, 0-1823741, on 27 December 1944 removed wreaked vehicles and readblocks from the highway to permit the flow of traffic to and from the beseiged city.

The Battalion forward CP was located at Vanx-Les-Rosiers, Belgium P(445-480). 3-8 Jamary 1945

At 1430 hours, 3 January 1945, CGA and attached units were erdered to a marshalling area at Traimont, Belgium P(461-418), and on the 4th of January 1945 units attached to UCA (-), Company B and one reconnaissance platoon, Ellth Tank Destroyer Battalion, made a moter march to Touteron, France P(760-091), via stalle, Belgium, Virton, Belgium, Montmedy and Sedan, France. Headquarters and





Headquarters Company closed in at Touteren, France, at 1700 hours and Reconnaissance Company (-) three plateons closed in at Charbogne, France P(725-050), at 1700 hours where they remained until 8 January 1945.

8-18 January 1945

For the activities of the Battalion during the period 4 January 1945 to 18 January 1945 see the S-3 Summary.

18-25 January 1945

On 18 January 1945 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Recommaissance Company and Company A moved to Bastogne area. Headquarters and Headquarters Company located at Bertogne, Belgium P(522-671); forward CP at Company, Belgium P(550-672); Recommaissance Company at Engreux, Belgium P(547-712), and Company A at Longohamps, Belgium P(586-635).

The 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 17th Airborne Infantry Division 18 January 1945.

On 19 January 1945 the enemy was found to have dug in positions along the read P(628-708), P(626-704), P(629-704), and along railroad at P(620-689), P(616-668) and P(617-683). Unoccupied fewholes were located at P(620-677). Enemy units on our front have been identified as elements of 130th Pz Div, 26 Inf Div and CHQ Engr Units.

Company A, Silth Tank Destroyer Battalion moved to Gives P(500-657) 1600 hours, 19 January 1945.

On 20 January 1945 the enemy continued his defensive policy in the area Alhoument, Belgium P(629-703). Patrols to south of 17th Airborne Infantry Division area report negative. There is indications that the enemy is withdrawing from the Division sector in the direction of east and southeast.

There was continuous patrolling on 21 January by our forces in preparation for attack to the east. (See attack order FO No. 7, 17th Airborne Division,



dated 21 January 1945). Minefields found in woods on soth bank of the L'Ourthe River between P(522-735) and P(6505-7380).

Company B on the above date was operating with the 194th Glider Infantry.

Company C was in direct support of 507th Parachute Infantry. Patrolling revealed additional withdrawal of German forces.

Forward CP, Sllth Tank Destroyer Battalion, moved to Tavigny, Belgium P(644-964), at 1555 hours, 21 January 1945.

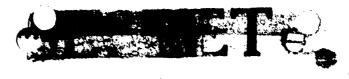
On 22 January our patrols received small arms fire at the Luxembourg border. Enemy outpost line is believed to follow Belgium-Luxembourg border from P(719-778), P(745-781), P(743-744), and P(747-753)). It is expected that the enemy will continue to withdraw to south and southeast.

The enemy dug in at Wattermal, Belgium P(745-771). Hautbellain, Belgium P(744-745) has been cleared of enemy. Four Germans killed, five PN's taken, and about forty driven from town by our patrols. The enemy is defending generally along a line P(744-700), P(750-760), P(753-747), and P(750-737).

Remarks of the 1128th, 1129th and 1130th VG Regiments of 560th Division (Approximately 250 men), 11th Ps Gr Regiment of the 9th Ps Div (95 men).

Elements of 104th Ps Gr Regiment, 15th Ps Gr Division have been identified in this sector. It is believed that this is the only enemy covering forces remaining.

On 25 January 1945 continued advance by our forces. A very weak defensive attitude has been displayed by the enemy. Three enemy tanks made appearance, fired, then retired to aspeller P(800-795). Air-Ground observation reports enemy traffic withdrawing behind southern line.



26-28 January 1945

The Slith Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved from attached to 17th Airborne Infantry Division and attached to 87th Infantry Division in direct support.

Company B with 346th Infantry Regiment. Company C with 347th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance platoons reverted to Battalion control at 1700 hours, 26 January 1945.

An agressive reconnaissance forward is being instituted by our Reconnaissance platoons, working all road nets in some of advance. Expected route to be taken is Thommen, Schirm, Neubruck and on. Tank Destroyers in full support of infantry.

Lt Lennart O. Sundstrom, Reconnaissance Company, took two PW's near Bieler P(823-752).

Heavy artillery fire received at Thommen and Espeler.

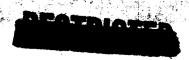
Forward CP moved to Huldange, Luxembourg P(771-754), Jamary 27, 1945; Company C at Durler P(813-781); Company B to Neubruck P(835-847). One plateon in reserve at Espeler P(800-795).

Roadblooks reported south of St. Vith 28 January 1945. Hoad from Grufflingen to Oudler P(830-794), and from Oudler to Burg-Reuland P(858-785) now being cleared.

Three enemy tanks reported at P(867-813). Heing investigated by Meconnaissance Executive Officer. This report was investigated personally by Battalion 5-2. His report on this was negative.

29-31 Jamary 1945

On 29 Jamesy 1945 the Silth Tank Destroyer Sattalian was religion from 87th Infastry Division and attached to 11th Armorel Division in symple. Then



as no contact with the enemy at this time, who is evidently withdrawing behind is defenses of the Siegfried Line.

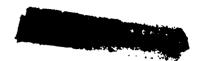
Melvin J. Broson, Captain, TD, S-2.



SECTION III

S-L REPORT

1-31 Jamary 1945



During the month of Jamary 1945 the greater portion of the time was spent in drawing personnel equipment, communications equipment and vehicular equipment lost during the previous month during the enemy counter-attack.

The personnel equipment as well as the vehicular equipment was delivered to the companies while in the line.

Working in close coordination with the Battalion Motor Officer, vehicular equipment was exchanged between the companies on the line, repaired in the field and replaced. No effective loss of fire power was sustained by the companies. Due to the previous loss Company C and Company B operated nine guns per company.

Communications equipment lost during the previous engagement was replaced in vehicles as soon as they were issued to the respective companies.

During the entire month constant communications was had with the two companies.

class III and Class IV supplies were easily accessable. Weather conditions and road conjections were the only factor to cause any delay, but neither one of the two companies suffered as a result of the unavoidable delay.

No vehicles were lost during the month as a result of vehicle accidents.

The following information is submitted showing the distribution of vehicular replacements and loss and the expenditure of ammunition:

Vehicular Losses:

Hq Ron A B C Total

1

Car, Armored, Utility, M-20 Car, Armored, Light, M-8 Carriage, Motor, 76mm, M-18 Trailer 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo Trailer, Ammo, M-10 Truck 1/4 Ton, 4x4 Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Cargo

2

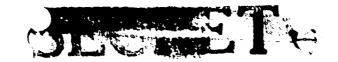
1



		_					
Vehicular Losses (cont'd)	Hq	Ren					Foto]
Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4, w/c, w/12 Volt System Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6		_			-		
Total	1	0	0	1	-	0	2
Vehicular Replacements:		Ho	Ron	<u> </u>	В	<u> </u>	Total
Car, Armored, Utility, M-20 Car, Armored, Light, M-8 Carriage, Motor, 76mm, M-18 Trailer, 1/4 Ton, 2 Wheel Carrialer, Ammo, M-10 Truck, 1/4 Ton, 4x4 Trailer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Carrialer, 1 Ton, 2 Wheel Carrialer, 1 Ton, 4x4 Truck, 3/4 Ton, 4x4 w/c, w/12 Volt System Truck 2 1/2 Ton, 6x6	argo	3. 1	1	1 2	1	6 5 9 3	8 1 7 5 4
Total		1	1	4	100	14	21/90
Assunition Expended:							

76mm, HE - 11
76mm, APC - 0
Cal. 50 MG - 0
Cal. 30 MG - 0
Cal. 30 Rifle - 0
Cal. 30 Carbine - 0
Cal. 45 Ball - 0
37mm, HE - 0
37mm, APC - 0
37mm, Canister - 0
Elmm, Mortar, HE - 0
Rockete, AT, M6A3 - 0
Grenade, AT - 0
Mine, AT, HE, MIA1 - 0
Grenade, Hand, Frag - 0

Carper . P.



SECTION IV

S-1 REPORT

1-31 January 1945

Slith TO BN

TABLE NUMBER 1.

EATTLE CASUALTY REPORT BY TYPE OF CASUALTY (Figures taken from Morning Reports up to and including 31 January 1945 for the period 1-31 January 1945.)

DATE	<u>KIA</u>	DOM	<u>NIA</u>	IIA	MIY	TOTAL	RTD'S
1 Jan * * *				1		1	
7 Jan * * *	-		7			7	
10 Jan			2		1	3	1
12 Jan			2		1	3	
13 Jan			8			8	1
14 Jan		3*	2			5	
15 Jan							2
16 Jan			1			ı	
18 Jan			1			. 1	
19 Jan				1		1	
20 Jan * * *							1
29 Jan							3
30 Jan							1
31 Jan		•				-	2
TOTAL		3	23	2	2	30	11

^{#2} DOW 19 Dec 44 - 1 DOW 25 Dec 44 reported on M/R of 14 Jan 45.





TABLE NUMBER 2.

PRISCHERS OF WAR CAPTURED

DATE	PWIS
28 Jan 45	2
TOTAL	2

TABLE NULBER 3.

REFLACIMENTS RECEIVED (Including Hospital Returnees)

<u>DATE</u>	NO.
15 Jan 45	77
16 Jan 45	11
23 Jan 45	_3_
TOTAL	91

TABLE NUMBER 4.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Decorations awarded from 1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45, incl.

NO.

Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously)
Distinguished Service cross
bilver Star (Fosthumously)
4 Silver Star
Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star
Bronze Star Medal (Fosthumously)
9 Bronze star Medal
Oak Leaf Cluster to pronze Star
Air Medal
Ouk Leaf Cluster to Air Medal
Soldier's Medal
12 Murple Heart Award
12 rurple Heart Award 2 (1st) Oak Lear bluster to rurple Heart
(2d) Oak Leaf Gluster to Purple Heart

