

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion

APO 230, US Army
3 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of January 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (Through Channels).

1. On 1 January 1945 the 814th TD Bn was attached to the 75th Inf Div in mobile reserve, vicinity Harze, Deux-Rys, and Fays, with Bn Hq, Hq Co, and Rcn Co. (-) in billets in Harze, Belgium. Companies reconnoitered for firing positions and routes in Division zone preparing to reinforce Division AT defense on order. There was no change in Bn status until 5 January at about 1100 when Bn reverted to the 7th Armored Division in Corps Reserve and advanced Bn C.P. moved from Fays to Harze, Belgium.

2. Beginning on 6 January the Bn started performing maintenance, training and rehabilitation. On 11 January the companies were attached to combat commands (7th Armored Division) for future operations as follows: A Co. to CCA; B Co. to CCR; C Co. to CCB. 814th TD Bn (-) moved from Harze to Oneux, closing in new area at 1305. On this movement, C.O. 814th TD Bn co-ordinated movement of Division Troops consisting of 33rd Engineers (-) and 203 AAA (-) to vicinity of Theux. On 22 January 814th TD Bn (-) moved to Cockalfagne, closing in areas at 1630, and then moved to Onderval on 24 January where it remained until 28 January at which time 814th TD Bn (-) moved to billets in Limbourg, Belgium, as the 7th Armored Division was being relieved on the front by elements of 82nd A/B Division and 87th Inf Div. This move of Division Troops consisting of 33rd Engineers (-), 203 AAA (-), and 87th Rcn to billets in vicinity Limbourg was co-ordinated by C.O., 814th TD Bn.

3. At the end of the month the Bn remained in billets performing training, maintenance, and rehabilitation in the following locations: Hq, Hq Co, and Rcn Co. in Limbourg, Belgium; A Co. in LaBruyere, Belgium; B Co. in Membach, Belgium; C Co. in Heggen, Belgium, the firing companies remaining attached.

Reconnaissance Company

1. Company remained under Bn control during the entire period. On 5 January 2nd platoon moved from Fays and rejoined company at Harze. At 0800 on 7 January 1st platoon was relieved from duty of guarding XVIII Corps (AB) Arty FDC and rejoined company at Harze. From Harze the company moved to Oneux with Bn on 13 January where it remained in billets until 22 January at which time company moved under Bn control to Sart, closing in area at 1630. From Sart the company moved on 24 January to Remonval and on 28 January to Limbourg, Belgium, where the company remained in billets as the period ended.

2. Due to the shortage of men and equipment, resulting from previous action, this company spent most of the month in training, maintenance, and rehabilitation; however, on 27 January the Pioneer Platoon did clear a mine field between Onderval and Remonval.

S E C R E T

(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, Month of Jan 1945, cont'd)

Company "A"

1. On 1 January "A" Company was in billets in Deux-Rys, Belgium, under Bn control, in mobile reserve, attached to 75th Inf Div. Reconnaissance made in Division Zone for firing positions and routes. Bn reverted to 7th Armored Div in Corps reserve on 5 Jan but company remained in place to perform maintenance, training and rehabilitation.

2. On 11 January the company was attached to CCA, 7th Armored Division, and the platoons were attached and moved as follows: 1st platoon attached to T/F RHEA, departed Deux-Rys 1400 and arrived Ster 0200, 12 January; 2nd platoon attached to T/F WEMPLE, departed 1600 and arrived Arzelier 0400; 3rd platoon attached T/F Parachute, departed 1800 and arrived Halt 0600. Co. Hq. closed in area at Khoris 1630 and moved on 12 January to Polleur, arriving at 1300.

3. The company remained in assembly positions vicinity Polleur prepared to move with CCA until 19 January when the platoons moved as follows: 1st platoon, vicinity Ondenval; 2nd platoon, vicinity Ebertange; 3rd platoon, vicinity Walk. On the 20th the 1st and 2nd platoons moved to vicinity of Diedenisberg where the 2nd platoon fired on and destroyed a house occupied by enemy troops.

4. On 21 January Co. CP located in Diedenisberg with platoons in vicinity of Diedenisberg. During the day the 1st platoon fired on a suspected tank position in a haystack and also knocked out an enemy O.P. in a church steeple. The only other action during the day was an attempted infiltration of 1st platoon position by a 10 man patrol with a result of 9 killed and 1 wounded and taken prisoner. This platoon also fired one round at a MK V tank with results unknown.

5. The action on the 22nd North of St. Vith resulted in the 1st platoon knocking out a MK V tank at about 900 yards and also a house containing enemy troops while the 2nd platoon destroyed one MK IV and two MK V tanks as well as two horses and six carts. Next day the 1st platoon fired supporting fire on St. Vith during the attack and knocked out two horsedrawn artillery pieces. The platoons were subsequently attached as follows: 1st platoon to T/F RHEA; 2nd platoon to T/F GRIFFIN; 3rd platoon to T/F WEMPLE.

6. The company continued in action in support of CCA but the only mission was that carried out by the 3rd platoon in furnishing overwatching fire during attack on Wallerode on the 25th.

7. At 0815 on 28 January CCA relieved by elements of 82nd A/B Division, therefore company moved under CCA to new assembly area at LaBruyere, closing in at 1430, where the company remained in billets as the month ended.

Company "B"

1. Company B was in billets in Harre, Belgium on 1 January under Bn control in mobile reserve, attached to 75th Inf Div. Reconnaissance made in Div zone for firing positions and routes. When the Battalion reverted to 7th Armored Div in Corps reserve on 5 January the company remained in Harre to perform Maintenance, training, and rehabilitation.

S E C R E T

(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, Month of Jan 1945, cont'd)

Company "B"

2. The company was attached to CCR, 7th Armored Division on 11 Jan at 0900.

3. Company arrived new assembly area vicinity Lambermont at 1530 on 13 Jan and remained in billets preparing to support CCR on future operations until 20 Jan at which time it moved to vicinity Waines.

4. On 21 Jan company moved to vicinity Diedenberg, closing in area at 1500. Then on the 22nd the company supported the 508 PIR. The 2nd platoon knocked out an enemy O.P. in Ambleve. The support of the 508 PIR continued on the 23rd as the 3rd platoon knocked out three enemy O.P.'s with 20 enemy EM known killed from positions in vicinity Diedenberg.

5. When 508 PIR relieved by 424 RCT, the company remained in positions and supported the 424 RCT until relieved at 1730 on the 25th. Then the company occupied assembly positions in vicinity of Diedenberg until 28 Jan when the company moved under CCR to assembly area and billets in Membach, closing in area at 1700. The company remained in this location as the month ended.

Company "C"

1. Company C was in billets in Fays, Belgium on 1st January under Bn control in mobile reserve, attached to 75th Inf Div. Reconnaissance made in Div zone for firing positions and routes. When the Bn reverted to 7th Armored Division in Corps reserve on 5 January, the company remained in Fays to perform maintenance, training, and rehabilitation.

2. The company was attached to CCB, 7th Armored Division on 11 Jan at 0900.

3. On 12 Jan company moved under CCB to new assembly area in the vicinity of Spa, Belgium, where it remained until 19 January, preparing to move with and support CCB in future operations.

4. 2nd platoon moved with 509 Pcht. Inf. Bn. the night of 19 January via Malmedy and Ligneuville to firing positions on south edge of woods NW of Born, Belgium. The balance of the company made a night move to an assembly area in vicinity Holleux the same night. During the early morning of 20 January 1st platoon moved with T/F ERLLENBUSCH to firing positions north of Montenau, Belgium, but fired no missions. 2nd platoon, during afternoon of the 20th, knocked out 1 SP gun and 1 tank (probably MK V) in vicinity of Born. 3rd platoon was assigned a road block mission west of Born with T/F CHAPPUIS and later moved to high ground overlooking west side of Born to fire on targets of opportunity in Born for 48. AIB. This mission continued during attack next day and platoon destroyed two AT guns and a number of houses occupied by Germans. On the 21st the 2nd platoon moved south of Born on a road block mission. On 22 Jan 1st platoon moved with T/F BEATTY attacking Hunnange while 2nd and 3rd platoons maintained road block north of Nieder Emmels and provided overwatching fire for the attack on Hunnange. 2nd platoon destroyed one SP gun vicinity Nieder Emmels.

S E C R E T



(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, Month of Jan 1945, cont'd)

Company "C"

5. The attack by CCB on St. Vith, Belgium, was made on 23 Jan. Shortly after noon all platoons of Company C moved to high ground north of St. Vith to provide overwatching fire into town during the attack. The 2nd platoon remained in position but just at dark 1st and 3rd platoons moved to north edge of St. Vith to meet an enemy column moving toward the town. The column didn't materialize, however, an enemy patrol of 20 men supported by two SP guns entered the town along the railroad tracks from the south. The patrol was driven back; one SP gun was destroyed and one PW taken.

6. The company CP was established in St. Vith on the 24th and all platoons were in positions in vicinity of the town. These positions were maintained until company was relieved of its mission at 0500 on 29 Jan. At 0730 movement began to new assembly area in Heggen, Belgium, and company closed in area at 1400. The company remained in billets in Heggen as the month ended.

For the Commanding Officer:

Perley C. Brainerd
PERLEY C. BRAINERD
1st Lt, Cav
Adjutant

1 Incl:
Unit Journal, Month of January 1945.

S E C R E T