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**HEADQUARTERS
818TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

/c

AFPO 436, US Army
31 December 1944

UNIT HISTORY

23 October 44 to 31 December 44

1. Origin of Unit.

- a. Designation: 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Self Propelled).
- b. Date of organization: 15 December 1941.
- c. Place of organization: Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- d. Authority for organization: The 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less Co's "B" and "C") was activated by authority of General Order Number 13, Headquarters, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and in compliance with letter, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, file AG 330.2 (11-17-41) MM-M-G. On 6 March 1942, Companies "B" and "C" were activated.
- e. Sources of Personnel: 142nd, 77th and 349th Field Artillery Regiments and Selective Service. On 7 March 1942, 327 enlisted replacements were received making a total of approximately 750 enlisted men and 15 officers for the battalion.

2. Changes in Organization: Unit designation has not changed. Tables of Organization, however, have changed from T/O 18-25, dated 8 June 1942 to T/O and N 18-25, dtd 27 June 1943 and on 5 November 1944 to T/O and N 18-25, dtd 15 March 1944.

3. Strength. Commissioned and enlisted.

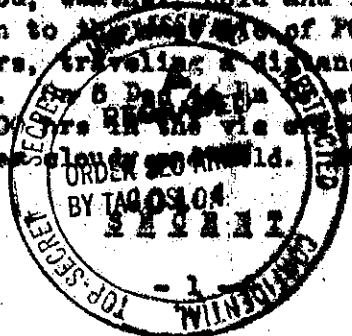
- a. At beginning of period: 38 O 1 WO 614 EM.
- b. Net increase: None.
- c. Net decrease: 3 Per cent.
- d. At end of period: 41 O 1 WO 590 EM.

4. Station (permanent or temporary) of unit.

- a. Arrived STOWELL PARK, WILTSHIRE, England, 14 May 1944.
- b. Departed from STOWELL PARK, WILTSHIRE, England, 11 July 1944 and arrived UTAH BEACH, vicinity ST MERE EGLISE, France, 14 July 1944.
- c. At end of period, Battalion CP and Headquarters Company in vicinity of GREVELS-BRESIL, Luxembourg. Company CP's in LUXEMBOURG as follows: Company "A", at BONNAL; Company "B", at NSCH-SUR-LA-SURE; Company "C", at BEVIGNER; Reconnaissance Company at NUISPILT-L-KAHL.

5. Marches.

a. On 2 Nov 44 Bn started march from the vic of JOPPECOURT to the vic of FAGNY-SUR-NOUVELLE, France, arriving there at 1550 hrs traveling 65 miles. Roads good, weather cloudy and cold. Bn moved from FAGNY across the NOUVELLE RIVER to the vic of ARRY on the 2nd of Nov 44, leaving at 1400 and arrived at ARRY at 1500 hrs. Roads poor, weather cloudy and cold. On 3 Nov 44 at 0900 CP moved from the vic of ARRY to DOUXINNES arriving there at 0930 hrs, traveling a distance of 5 miles. Roads poor. On 11 Nov 44 at 1000 hrs the Bn started moving to new area in the vic of LOUVIGNY arriving there at 1200 hrs, traveling a distance of 12 miles. Roads poor, weather cold and cloudy. At 1430 hrs on 11 Nov 44 CP party and Co's moved farther east, arriving vic BUCHY at 1530 hrs, traveling a distance of 5 miles; roads fair, weather cold. At 1120 hrs 15 Nov 44 Bn started march moving forward to vic of GHERISNY arriving there at 1200 hrs, traveling a distance of 3 miles; roads fair, covered with snow. At 1415 hrs on 19 Nov 44 Bn CP started march forward to new area in the vic of FELTRE arriving there at 1500 hrs, traveling a distance of 8 miles; roads good, weather cold, cloudy and rainy. At 1000 hrs 20 Nov 44 Bn CP moved to new location in vic of FELTRE arriving there at 1035 hrs, traveling a distance of 2 miles; roads good, weather cold and rainy. On 4 Dec 44 at 1230 hrs the Bn started motor march to the vic of FORCELETTE, France arriving in the vic of VARSBERG at 1555 hrs, traveling a distance of 35 miles; roads fair to good, weather cloudy and cold. On 5 Dec 44 Bn started movement to new area at 1415 hrs arriving there at 1500 hrs in the vic of NEUTEWALD, traveling a distance of 8 miles; roads fair, weather cloudy and cold. At 1310 hrs 9 Dec 44 Bn CP started



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march to vic of UBERMEREEN, Germany, crossing the international border between FRANCE and GERMANY at 1318 hrs on 9 Dec 44. Arrived at UBERMEREEN at 1330 hrs traveling a distance of 4 miles; roads good, weather cloudy with snow. On 19 Dec 44 at 1305 hrs Bn CP started march forward to new location in vic of BEAUMARAIS Germany, arriving there at 1330 hrs, traveling a distance of 8 miles; roads poor, weather cloudy, cold and rainy. On 20 Dec 44 the Bn CP started movement to an assembly area in vic of VALMESTROFF, France, arriving there at 1550 hrs, traveling a distance of 30 miles; roads poor, weather cold and cloudy. At 1830 hrs on 20 Dec 44 Bn CP with Co's B, Rcn and Hq resumed the march northward toward LUXEMBOURG. From city of LUXEMBOURG the battalion proceeded on its march to the west to an assembly area in vic of KLIMMERTIGEM, Luxembourg closing there at 0730 21 Dec 44, traveling a distance of 34 miles. Roads good, weather cold. At 1600 hrs 22 Dec 44, Bn CP started march northward to vic of RENDANON, Luxembourg, arriving there at 1750 hrs, traveling a distance of 15 miles. Roads fair to good, weather cloudy and cold with snow. At 1400 hrs on 26 Dec 44, Bn CP started march forward to new area in vic of MERZIG, Luxembourg, traveling a distance of 8 and one half miles; roads good, weather cold and fair. Bn CP arrived at MERZIG at 1430 hrs. At 1355 hrs 30 Dec 44 Bn CP started movement towards vic of GENEVILS-BRESSIL, Luxembourg, arriving there at 1420 hrs traveling a distance of 5 and one half miles; roads good, weather cold and cloudy. Battalion CP remained in this location at close of period.

6. Campaigns.

- (1) a. Name of campaign: Eastern France Campaign.
b. Duration: From 23 October 1944 to 21 December 1944.
c. Purpose: To drive the enemy from the country of France.
d. Authority ordering: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.
- (2) a. Name of campaign: Luxembourg-Belgium German counter offensive.
b. Duration: 21 December 1944 to date.
c. Purpose: To seal off enemy counter offensive.
d. Authority ordering: Commanding General, 26th Infantry Division.

7. Battles.

(a) The Enemy.

- (1) The 3-2 estimate of the opposing forces.

a. Metz sector - 23 Oct - 4 Dec 44.

The opposing force consisted of large numbers, however the enemy was from widely varied units, and for the first time consisted of the German Volkstrum. The enemy's state of preparedness did not prove to be very effective, even though he had a long time in which to prepare, due to our previous defensive situation. As soon as our attacks started, the enemy, while putting up reasonable resistance, did not hinder our troops greatly in obtaining their objectives. Even in the city of Metz, where it was believed that the enemy would make a house to house stand, our troops cleared their sector of the town without too much trouble. There was one exception to this however. The forts surrounding the city of METZ proved to be very formidable in their defense. For this reason Fort Driant, Fort St. Quentin, Fort Jeanne D'Arc, and Fort Flappeville held out until about 10 Dec. Some of the small forts were evacuated by the enemy, and others capitulated with surrender of all inhabitants after being surrounded. Enemy made no known use of special weapons. Enemy morale was very low, due to lack of food, lack of proper clothing, etc. This determined from PW's captured.

b. Saarlautern sector - 4 Dec - 20 Dec 44.

Resistance during the first part of this period was scattered and varied from heavy to none at all. In general it consisted of a series of delaying actions combined with a maximum use of road blocks and demolitions but few mines. A few tanks were used but they were committed in small numbers. Artillery fire was scattered. The enemy had had ample time to prepare but the quality of his troops and organization was poor. No special weapons were used. Morale was fair to poor.

In the SAARLAUTERN area the enemy resistance stiffened until in the city of SAARLAUTERN it developed into a house by house fight. Many houses were fortified and there were numerous pill boxes of the SIGFRIED Line. Artillery fire was the heaviest encountered. While enemy troops were inferior, maximum use

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was made of the fortifications and existing favorable terrain. A few tanks were used as assault guns or to dominate main roads or streets. There were several minor counter attacks by small groups of selected troops held out for this purpose. Positions were well prepared, pill boxes were connected and surrounded by numerous trenches and emplacements. No special weapons were used. Morale was generally fair to poor.

In the LUXEMBOURG sector enemy resistance was first very light N of ARLON where contact with enemy was first made. Heavier resistance was met at RAMBOUCH and GROSBOUS and heavy resistance at ESCHDORF, then remained moderate to just south of WILTZ where very heavy resistance was encountered from dug-in infantry and a few tanks, which are holding at end of period. In this sector enemy troops were of better quality and there were increased numbers of tanks and armored vehicles, committed in groups of 3 to 6 tanks. These were used mostly in defense and delaying action and local counter attacks. There were no large counter attacks.

(2) Nature and effectiveness of enemy defenses.

a. METZ area.

Enemy defenses did not prove very effective, with the exception of the forts as stated above. Enemy made little use of mines, however he demolished all bridges crossing the MOSELLE river in our sector.

b. SAARLAUTERN area.

In the approach to SAARLAUTERN the enemy made maximum use of successive delaying positions, road blocks and demolitions which slowed our advance greatly because vehicles could not move off of highways without getting stuck. Terrain was unsuitable for tank action due to weather.

In SAARLAUTERN maximum use was made of the SAAR river as an obstacle, of houses and pill boxes of the SIKORFID line and favorable terrain for defense. The pill boxes slowed our advance but did not greatly strengthen the defense as a whole because most of the enemy troops found that it was more successful to defend from outside the pill box.

c. LUXEMBOURG area.

The infantry was of better quality and more tanks were used with some success against our infantry. Mines and demolitions were not used extensively.

(3) Disposition of enemy units.

a. METZ area.

The following units were committed during this period, and relief and displacement was frequent:

- 53 Fort MG Bn
- 2d Bn, 37 SS Pz Gr Regt
- 45 Fort MG Bn
- 17 SS Arty Regt
- 17 SS Pz Gr Div (elements)
- II Stellung Bn
- III Stellung Bn
- XVI/I Stellung Bn
- XVII/I Stellung Bn
- 761 Arty Regt
- Polizei Landesschuetsen

- 462 Volks Grenadier Div
- Pz Brig Feldherrnhalle
- Assault Bn AOK
- 48 Fort MG Bn
- 811 Super Fort Hv MG Bn
- 55 Fort Engr Bn
- 1419 Fort Inf Bn
- 673 AA Bn
- 976 AA Bn
- 1519 Fort Arty Bn
- Volksstrum METZ



The above units were not full strength, and in many instances were used as infantry.

Enemy made no use of air during the period. He had numerous counter attacks which were preceded by artillery preparations. However, all of his attacks proved to be futile. Three particularly heavy counter attacks were made in vicinity of SANRY-SUR-NEID. It is estimated that each consisted of a strength of about two companies of the 38 SS Pz Gr Regt. All counter attacks were repulsed with no loss of ground.

b. SAARLAUTERN area - units in contact.

- 118 Inf Regt
- 813 Flak Bn
- 1151 Arty Bn
- 860 Inf Regt
- 347 Fusilier Bn
- Landesschuetsen Bn 1020

- 861 Inf Regt
- 817 Flak Bn
- 347 Inf Div (rewards)
- Bn Starke
- Volksstrum SAARLAUTERN
- 1126 V. G. Regt

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Kampfgruppe Liehr
 21 Pz Div (elements)
 148 Feld Ersatz Bn
 Kampfgruppe Wendorf
 c. LUXEMBOURG sector.
 36 Regt)
 9 V. G. Div
 116 Regt)
 408 Volks Arty Corps

719 Inf Div (elements)
 48 Inf Div (elements)
 Many other small misc groups
 of company strength or less.

5 Para Div
 31 of 130 Pz Lehr Div
 31 of 2d Pz Div
 79 V. G. Div (on our rt)

d. In the Luxembourg sector there was increased use of enemy armor and air power, but artillery fire was light.

This unit destroyed the following (confirmed):

Mk IV tanks	6	Occupied houses	14
Mk V tanks	4	Enemy OP's	3
Mk VI tanks	1	MG's	11
SP guns	3	Other vehicles	5
Towed guns	5	Fuel dumps	1
Half tracks	3	Mortars	1
Pill boxes	1	Tn casualties (est)	300

(4) Prisoners of war captured - 30.

(b) Elements effecting action.

(1) Effectiveness of enemy information, reconnaissance. Limited in all sectors because of allied air superiority and lack of transport in the German army.

(2) Attitude of civilians. In METZ area civilians were not especially happy at being 'liberated' but cooperated with Allies as a whole. In SAARLAUTERN area there were few civilians not evacuated. Those that remained minded their own business. In Luxembourg civilians were friendly. In all sectors there was little difficulty with civilians and while they were of no assistance they did not create any military problem.

(3) Nature of terrain.

a. Terrain in METZ area was varied, dominated by high hills on which forts were located. The MOSELLE & SEILLE rivers were obstacles. Floods created an additional problem and vehicles could not go off highways because of mud.

b. The SAARLAUTERN area was similar to METZ, with the high ground of the SIEGFRIED line W of the SAAR river dominating the city. Vehicles were road bound.

c. In LUXEMBOURG area, terrain was rough and varied but except where hills were very steep or there were woods, vehicles could go across country because ground was frozen. Excellent TD firing positions are available in most places.

(c) Action:

(1) The 818th TD Bn was assigned to XX Corps and attached to 5th Inf from 23rd Oct '44 to 21 Dec '44. From 21 Dec 44 to close of period the Bn was assigned to III Corps and attached to the 26th Inf Div. Location of Unit CP's: VIE JOFFECOURT 23 Oct to 2 Nov 44; via AMBY 2 Nov 44; BOUXIERES 3 Nov to 11 Nov; BUCHY 11 Nov to 15 Nov 44; CHERISSEY 15 Nov to 19 Nov 44; PELTRE 19 Nov 44; via PELTRE coord UB91549, 20 Nov to 4 Dec 44; VAESBURG 4 Dec 44; ORNUTZWALD 5 Dec to 9 Dec 44; UBERHEIM, Germany 9 Dec to 19 Dec 44; BRAUMANIS 19 Dec 44; KLEINWITTINGEN Luxembourg 20 Dec to 22 Dec 44; RENANGE 22 Dec to 25 Dec 44; MERZIG 26 Dec to 30 Dec 44; GREVELS-BRESIL 30 Dec to 1 Jan 45. Supporting units: The 774th TD Bn (towed) was attached to the 5th Div and operated in the sector of the 11th Inf Regt during most of the action up until METZ was occupied. From 20 Nov to 23 Nov 44, Co A, 774th TD Bn, was in direct support of the 818th TD Bn. From 17 Dec to 21 Dec the 807th TD Bn (towed) was attached to 5th Div to give additional protection to the bridgehead in SAARLAUTERN. The organic 57mm AT units plus the organic and attached artillery of the 5th and 26th Divisions; and the 735th Tank Bn, all provided additional AT protection.

(2) Mission: The mission of the 818th TD Bn during the entire period was to provide anti-mechanized protection for both the 5th and 26th Divisions while working with those units. Additional secondary missions were: supporting field artillery Bns with indirect fire, and supporting infantry with direct fire against enemy pockets, houses, and fortifications.



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Operations: The 818th TD Bn was engaged in training, reorganization, and maintenance vicinity JOFFECOURT from 23 Oct to 2 Nov 44 on which day the Bn moved with the 5th Div back into the bridgehead across the MOSELLE river S of METZ, relieving the 774th and 705th TD Bns. Co A moved 2 pls N and E of ARRY, one to LES MENILS; Co B N and E of LOREY and Co C on indirect fire S of ARRY; Bn CP to BOUX-IRRES. On 2, 3, 4, and 5, there was no action except indirect fire, Co C firing 803 rds indirect. On 5 Nov the 774th TD Bn relieved elements of Co A, B, and C in sector of the 11th Inf, the 818th then supported the 10th and 2nd Inf Regts.

On 6 Nov Co B was atchd to the 10th Inf Regt and the 818th TD Bn (-Co B) was attached to the 2nd Inf. There was no action except indirect fire until 9 Nov Co C firing 1063 rds indirect. On 9 Nov XX Corps attacked to the E, the 5th Div crossing the SEILLE R. Co B fired 43 rds HE in support of crossing the MIED FRANCAISE R in that vicinity. Co B supported attack of 10th Inf and the Bn (-Co B) supported attack of 2d Inf, providing anti-mechanized protection at all times to the E and N. Ron Co manned OP's throughout sector. No tanks were encountered and there was no action. On 13 Nov all companies reverted to Bn control. Bn CP moved to BUCHY on 11 Nov.

On 14 Nov 5th Div attacked N toward METZ with Co B in direct support of 10th Inf, Co A in direct support of 2nd Inf and Co C in general support. Bn CP moved to CHERISSEY on 15 Nov. Two 1 ton trailers, one M10, and one 1 1/2 ton truck and other equipment were damaged or destroyed by enemy artillery fire during this period. On 16 Nov Co B fired 22 rds HE, 4 rds APC at enemy buildings and MG positions. Co C fired 8 rds HE, 8 rds APC, destroyed one enemy armored car and captured 8 PW's. On 17 Nov Co C fired 84 rds HE and 5 APC at forts in support of 2nd Inf. On 18 Nov, bridgehead across MIED was withdrawn, 1st and 3d pls of Co A moved to indirect fire positions at AUBN, reinforcing the 50th FA Bn. Co B 3d pl fired 16 rds APC and 6 rds HE, knocking out 2 en tanks and one towed gun via GREY. 2nd pl fired 2 APC, 25 HE and 300 rds 50 cal in support of displacement of 3d pl. Co C fired 56 rds indirect fire and 70 rds direct fire in support of 2nd Inf. On 19 Nov Co A fired 500 rds indirect fire, Co B knocked out a MG position with 6 rds HE, Co C fired 3 HE and 250 rds 50 cal knocking out an enemy truck and trailer and fired 27 rds HE in support of Inf attack. Bn CP moved to hospital in PELTRE.

On 20 Nov Bn CP moved to BENOYE SEMINARY SE of METZ, coord U891549. Co A, 774th TD Bn was placed in support of 818th and defended a sector vic SOUBEY until 22 Nov when relieved. Co A moved from indirect fire positions to vic OGY, Co B in METZ, Co C to just N of METZ. On 22 Nov Co A to 2nd Inf, Co B to 10th Inf and Co C to 11th Inf for attack on METZ proper and forts surrounding. 7 PW's were captured, 6 by Hq Co, 1 by Ron Co. From 22 Nov to 30 Nov, Co's remained atchd to Inf Regts. There was no action except occasional firing at enemy occupied forts or buildings. Co A fired 30 rds 81mm mortar harassing fire on a fort. During this period, maintenance was stressed. On 25 Nov Co A fired 43 rds HE and 5 APC. On 27 Nov Co B fired 14 rds HE and 500 rds 50 cal silencing one MG, probably knocking out one 28 mm gun and captured 1 PW in civilian clothes. On 30 Nov Co B attached to 10th Inf, moved to vic CARLINS near German border in Corps reserve.

From 1 Dec - 4 Dec 44 Bn (less Co B) in vic of METZ, securing the city and keeping watch on Forts Driant and Jean D'Arc. Co B was atchd to 10th Inf Regt and at the start of the period was in vic NEEDERVISSE Q150628 then moved to VARSBERG. On 4 Dec 44 Co B platoons moved east protecting approaches across German border from FORST DER KARLSBRUNN WARNT. Co C in general support 11th Inf Regt moved to vic VARSBERG Q192642. Ron Co under Bn control moved to assembly area vic GREUTZWALD. Bn CP moved to VARSBERG Q192643. Co A remained in vic METZ attached to 2nd Inf Regt. On 5 Dec 44 Bn CP moved to GREUTZWALD Q241678. Co C attached to 11th Inf Regt and moved to positions vic DIESSEN Q229648. Ron Co established OP's providing AT warning net in Div Zone. Pic pl assisted in clearing obstacles from road running NE Q281657 through STAAT FORST. On 6 Dec 44 Co B moved in support of 10th Inf Regt attack towards SAAR R to DIFFERTEN Q303717 and 2nd pl fired 77 rds HE and 9 rds APC at enemy troops and a building, obtaining good effect. Co C continued with advance of 11th Regt to east. Co A in vic METZ fired 159 rds HE indirect at Forts Jean D'Arc and Driant. On 7 Dec 44 Co B fired 13 rds HE in direct support of 2nd Bn, 10th Inf Regt. Pic Pl cleared obstacles from road between VERBELN and LUD-WEILER. Co A fired 168 rds HE indirect on Forts Jean D'Arc and Driant. Other companies no change.

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On 8 Dec Co's A, B, & C relieved from attachment to combat teams, and under Bn. control to provide anti-mechanized defense of Div. zone. Recon Co Pl's at DIFFERTEN Q307717; SCHAFFHAUSEN Q326738, Q333718, and Q338686 providing an AT warning net and directing artillery fire on enemy. On 9 Dec Bn CP moved to UBERHERRN, Germany Q246717 and Co A moved to Q254659 and placed in reserve to do maintenance. All other Co's no change. From 10 Dec to 16 Dec 44 the 5th Div front lines were along SAAR river in its zone and action was limited to patrol work. All Co's remained in same positions providing anti-mechanized defense of Div Zone. Recon Co manned OP's and directed artillery fire on enemy targets. On 17 Dec 44 Co A was attached to 2nd Inf Regt and Co C was attached to 11th Inf Regt. On 17 Dec 44 5th Div less 10th Inf Regt relieved 95th Div in SAARLAUTERN bridgehead. Co A and C moved to vic SAARLAUTERN crossed river and relieved platoons of 607th TD Bn. Platoon in direct support of Inf Bns in house to house attack on the enemy. Co B in direct support of 10th Inf Regt in vic of DIFFERTEN Q305718. 2d pl Co B fired 18 rds HE and 6 rds APC direct at enemy OP in tower 3600 yds distant and OP was destroyed. On 18 Dec Co A & C in direct support of Inf Bns on assault in house to house fighting - no action. One platoon Co A held in reserve. On 19 Dec 3d pl Co A fired 18 rds APC and 6 rds HE at a pillbox in support of infantry. Pillbox was not neutralized. 1st pl Co C fired 14 rds APC and 10 rds HE at enemy pillbox. The pillbox was neutralized, obtaining penetration with 2nd rd of APC; 7 en killed & 5 taken prisoners. 2d pl Co C destroyed house and MG being used by en, with 13 rds HE & 4 rds APC. 1st pl Co C fired at enemy tk which was part of small counter-attack. Visibility was very poor and gun crew unable to tell results but believe tank was hit. This pl later fired 8 rds APC & 10 rds HE into house held by enemy and house was demolished. Recon Co established OP's in SAARLAUTERN providing AT warning net. During morning of 20 Dec 2nd pl Co C fired 37 rds HE and 25 rds APC at en MGs placed in and around houses in SAARLAUTERN and in all destroyed 6 MG nests.

Bn alerted to move to vic LUXEMBURG on afternoon 20 Dec 1944 to assist in repelling the large scale German counter offensive. Bn moved to assembly area vic KLEINBETTINGEN, LUXEMBURG and as of 2300 hours 20 Dec 1944. Bn was relieved from 5th Div and attached to 26th Inf Div, 111 Corps. On 21 Dec Co B (less 2nd Pl) was attached to 104th Inf Regt and moved positions vic P684248. 2nd Pl attached to 26th Div Arty. Co C (less 3rd Pl) was attached to 328th Inf Regt and moved to vic FISCHBOUR (P660232). 3rd Pl attached to 26th Div Hq and moved to vic BISCHEM (P663226) to set up positions for defense of Div CP. Co A (less 1st and 2nd Pl's) placed in Div Res under Bn control and remained in KLEINBETTINGEN. 1st pl attached to TF A and moved to vic P647236. 2d pl attached to 26th Div Recon Tr and moved to vic HEINSH P667241. Recon Co remained in assembly area at KLEINBETTINGEN under Bn control. On 22 Dec 44 the 104th and 328th Inf Regts attacked to the N meeting only slight resistance, mainly s/a fire. Bn CP moved to REDANGON P674310. Co A 1st pl with 26th Recon Tr moved to HOSTERT LES FOLSCHETTE P655363. 2d pl attached to TF A moved to HAGEM. 3d pl moved to REDANGON to aid in covering roads around Div CP. Co B 1st pl fired 13 rds HE and broke up small enemy counterattack at P710380. Co C 1st pl 2d pls moved to ESCHETTE P670376. 1st pl fired 5 rds APC and 2 rds HE and destroyed one enemy SP gun and later fired 9 rds APC at enemy tanks but poor visibility prevented seeing results.

On 23 Dec 44, Co A 1st pl relieved from TF A and attached to TF HAMILTON and moved to WEIERHOF at P704424. 3d pl destroyed an enemy tank Mk IV and one half track at P645387 with 3 rds APC and 6 rds HE. Co A (less 1st pl) was attached to 101st Inf Regt. Co B 1st pl fired 75 rds HE at enemy pockets N and NE of PRATZ inflicting many casualties. 2nd pl attached to 26th Recon Tr and moved to vic ROODT P623345. 3d pl moved N in support of Inf attack and fired 9 rds HE destroying an enemy full track light armored vehicle at P710420. 5 en troops were killed and 3 taken prisoner. Later pl fired 15 rds APC and 2 rds HE and destroyed 1 en tk Mk IV. Co C moved in support of 328th Inf attack to WAHL P685390. Recon Co placed on 24 hr road and bridge patrol within Div Zone, and also manned OP at GROSBOUS P728382. On 24 Dec Co A 1st pl in support TF HAMILTON attacked to the north and moved vic HIRRECK P702423; 2d pl moved to KOTSCHETTE P636396; 3d pl to vic HOSTERT LES FOLSCHETTE P655360. Co B 1st and 3d pl moved to vic HEIDERSCHMID P737445. 2d pl with 26th Recon which was protecting W flank moved to ROODT P623345. 3d pl fired 6 rds HE and destroyed one en vehicle. Co C 2d pl fired 7 rds APC and 2 rds HE at en Mk IV and left it burning, and from position at P685426 fired 7 rds HE causing 12 en casualties. Recon Co continued on road and bridge patrol & manning OP. On 25 Dec Co A supported 101 Inf Regt in attack on ESCHIDORF. TF HAMILTON dissolved and 1st pl relieved, 3d pl

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Co C in protection of Div CP under Div control. Co B supported 104th Regt attack to north on ESCHENDORF. Co C 1st pl from position near ANSDORF fired 32 rds HE into house and barn in ARSDORF. House was a fuel dump, as it exploded. Estimated 30 men trapped in building. Co C placed in Corps Reserve and moved to vic GRASSBOUS P728380. On 26th Dec Co A 3d pl fired 22 rds HE at an infantry at P425418 and destroyed 1 MG nest & killed, and later knocked out an mortar, killing 4 of its crew. 1st pl moved to GRASSBOUS P728379. Co B moved to vic MERKSCHNID L REIBERSCH P730428 in support of 104th Inf Regt.

On 27 Dec 1944, Co A moved in support of 101st Inf Regt on town of MUCKEN DUKENOFF P668487 and fired 22 rds HE, 3 rds APC & 500 rds SO cal, destroying one Mk V tank and one 88mm AT gun. Co A in vic LIEFRANGE P668472. Co B supported crossing of SURE river by 104th Inf Regt, pls remaining vic ESCHENDORF P707450. Rem Co maintained security patrol of roads and bridges and manned CP's at P734446 and P690487. On 28 Dec Co A in support of 101st Regt moved to KAUNDEMY P668483 and fired 60 rds HE, destroying one half track armored vehicle, one self propelled gun and one Mk V tank and killing an estimated 40 enemy foot troops. On attack toward NOTHUM 3d pl in support of attack destroyed one Mk V tank, killed 13 and took 7 PW. Co B in support of attack of 104th Regt E of KAUNDEMY fired 10 rds HE, 500 rds SO cal and 500 rds SO cal at an foot troops inflicting many casualties. Co C still in position in and around GRASSBOUS. Rem continued on road and bridge security patrols in Div zone. On night of 28 Dec, Bn alerted for expected enemy counter attack from NE which never materialized. 3d pl Co A destroyed one on tk Mk IV and one Mk V tank in vic of NOTHUM. 1st pl Co A moved to vic SAVINGNE P646485. 3d pl destroyed one Mk IV tank NE of NOTHUM. On 29 Dec Div remained in defensive, dug-in positions expecting heavy enemy counter attack with TD Co's in positions. Co C 1st pl attached to 328th Inf Regt and moved to ESCHENDORF P706443. 2d & 3d pl's took up positions on N and S of MERKIS to cover road net to NE & N. Rem Co CP's maintained close observation for enemy armor. On 30 Dec 44, Co A remained in same positions. Co B 3d pl in support of attack of 104th Inf took up positions on hill overlooking MUCKENINGEN at P697880. One section of 3d pl with 26th Rem Tr moved to SAVINGNE P646485; 2d & 3d pl's moved to ESCHENDORF. Rem Co continued manning CP's and securing roads and bridges in Div sector. On 31 Dec remainder of Co C (2d & 3d pl's attached to 328th Inf Regt at 0925 hrs and moved to vic SAVINGNE P646485. 1st pl moved to KAUNDEMY P668483. Co A 3d pl moved to position at P691804. Remainder of Co A no change, no action. Co B remained in same positions. No action. Enemy counterattack during morning 29th was repulsed. No armor was encountered. Rem Co 1st pl relieved from road and bridge patrol at 1700 hrs. 3d pl continued on road security patrol between Div & Regt'l CP's. 2nd pl manning CP's vic MERKSCHNID, REIBERSCH, and NOTHUM.

(3) Special weapons used. A small number of concrete piercing fuse for 3" HE was used for the first time during the assault on fortifications via MUK. Results are not conclusive.

(4) Assistance from supporting Artillery and Engineers. Both the 5th and 26th Div Artillery supported the Bn with the secondary mission of anti-tank defense by both direct and indirect fire. Engineers provided bridges, cleared roads of mines, and maintained roads which were especially difficult because of mud, high water, snow, and ice.

(5) Use of Bayonet, Grenades, Flame-throwers, etc. None.

(6) Supply and evacuation.

a. During the time covered by this report the Bn was attached to the 5th Infantry Division from the 21st of October to the 20th of December inclusive. The remainder of the period the Bn was attached to the 26th Inf Div. Both Divisions supplied their attached units similarly. All supplies were handled through normal channels of the Divisions. Their supply branches serviced the Battalion with the exception of Class V and Class II ordnance, which was drawn from the assigned Corps or Army installations. The assigned units and time periods were as follows: 580th Ordnance Heavy Tank Company of the 193rd Ordnance Battalion from the 22d of Oct to the 20th of December; 531st Ordnance Heavy Tank Company of the 16th Ordnance Battalion from the 21st to the 26th of December; and the 522nd Heavy Tank Company of the 24th Ordnance Battalion from the 26th of December to the end of this period.

b. Rations and PX rations have been very satisfactory for the period. Each unit consuming 3 rations as the situation warranted. Hq Co set up two kitchens, one traveling with the Bn CP; transportation made possible by exchanging a 3/4 ton

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Weapons Carrier from the Communications platoon for the GMC originally in the personnel section. Hq Co and one-half of Reconnaissance Co feeds "B" rations constantly. The other companies prefer the 10-in-1 rations, since each crew has a stove, 1 burner. Maximum amount of hot meals have been served to all individuals.

c. Winter clothing have been drawn and issued to the Bn including four blankets for each individual in lieu of sleeping bags, overshoes, sweaters and scarfs.

d. Sufficient prestens and alcohol have been drawn to prepare the radiator solutions of all vehicles for 30 degree below freezing.

e. The new Ordnance fixture, track extensions, have been mounted on all M10 tracks to increase flotation over soft terrain.

f. The Battalion devised a mount enabling the 50 caliber on the M10 to fire forward.

g. Tires 6:00 x 16 for the 1 ton truck 4 x 4 and 7:50 x 20 for the GMC 2 1/2 ton 6 x 6 cargo has been very critical items. Recently, however, the Bn has received sufficient GMC tires to be equipped 100%. The Jeep tire is still critically the Battalion is 21 each of this type short.

h. The Battalion on the 5th of November 1944 changed T/A 18-25 dtd 27 June 1943 to T/A 18-25 dtd 15 March 1944. However the Battalion will only be equipped as material becomes available in this theater. Up to date the items received are truck 1/2 ton 4x4 to replace motorcycles and Liaison vehicles; and M10 ammunition trailers.

i. Ammunition. Basic load was maintained by replacement at assigned ASP's. The Bn tried the new GP T-108 fuse on pill boxes in the SIEGFRIED defenses which proved very satisfactory. The Bn carries approximately 3 rds per destroyer now above basic load.

j. Status of supply at close of period:

BRANCH	ON HAND
Ordnance	92%
Quartermaster	96%
Medical	100%
Chemical Warfare	100%
Engineer	100%
Signal	94%

k. Evacuation of personnel was through Bn aid station and medical units attached to combat teams.

(7) Casualties (see par 9).

8. Commanding Officers in important engagements.

Lt Col G. L. HAIL, Battalion Commander

Capt EARL J. NICHOL, Co A

Capt JAMES R. MCKINICK, Co B

Capt LAFAYETTE F. SAUNDERS, Co C from 23 Oct to 2 Dec 44. Maj ROBERT T. ALEXANDER, JR, from 2 Dec 44 to 17 Dec 44. 1 Lt JOHN A. HAUGH from 17 Dec 44 to date.

Capt JOHN V. WHIRLAN, JR, Recon Co from 23 Oct 44 to 17 Dec 44. Capt LOUIS G.

D'AMICO from 17 Dec 44 to date.

Capt ROBERT T. CHRISTIANSON, Hq Co

Capt HERMAN J. WILLIAMS, Med Det.

9. Losses in action. Officers and men.

(1) a. Engagement. Campaign of Eastern France.

b. Killed. Six.

1. Allgood, Clarence W., 14039063, Recon Co

2. Simpson, Lawrence R., 36524697, Co A

3. Hail, Alphon A., 36098291, Co B

4. Lusk, Raymond W., 36183355, Co B

5. Seaks, Frank J., 38102068, Co C

6. Davis, Lewis E., 34141133, Co C

c. Wounded. Thirteen.

1. Gambino, Salvatore, 33026056, Co A

2. Fiorentino, Joseph A., 33780537, Co A

3. Dapsis, William F., 31328572, Co A

4. Mitchell, John D., 6989910, Co A

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- 5. Jackson, Odell J., 37063001, Co A.
- 6. Bergeon, Gerard O., 31384548, Co A.
- 7. Borchers, Stanley H., 36388888, Co A.
- 8. Carstensen, D. M., 39318999, Co B.
- 9. Sheldon, Donald F., 16047826, Co B.
- 10. Farris, Lee M., 6911290, Co B.
- 11. Logan, Jesse G., 38088513, Co B.
- 12. Spellman, Edward J., 37032169, Co B.
- 13. Hawthorne, Edward W., 6270363, Co C.
- 4. Missing: None.
- (2) a. Engagement: Luxembourg-Belgium-German Counter-Offensive.
- b. Killed: One.
 - 1. Patrik, William 36318514, Co C.
- c. Wounded: Four.
 - 1. Thel, Louis T., 23031288, Co A.
 - 2. Turner, Lloyd W. G., 6250741, Co A.
 - 3. Grovans, Pete, Jr., 23018518, Co A.
 - 4. Ragdale, Elmer W., 38088554, Co C.
- d. Missing: None.
- 10. Members who have distinguished themselves in action.
 - a. Awarded the Bronze Star:
 - 1. Harriet, Joe H., S/Sgt., 6266829, Co A.
 - 2. Riggs, Louis S., Tec 4., 38098110 Co C.
 - 3. Ragdale, Elmer W., Cpl, 38088554 Co C.
 - 4. Brown, Jesse L., Pvt 1st 37513585 Co C.
 - 5. Spears, Robert Jr., Pvt, 35686285 Co C.
 - b. Awarded the Croix De Guerre:
 - 1. 1 Lt ROBERT H. HARRIMAN, 01824180, Res Co.
 - 2. S/Sgt Clayton D. Cornelius, ~~38088554~~, ResCo.
 - c. Co B, 81st TD Bn received unit citation by General Order Number 41, Headquarters, 5th Infantry Division, dated 12 Nov 44.
- 11. Photographs of personnel, important scenes and events: None.
- 12. Miscellaneous: None.

C L Nail

G. L. NAIL,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
COMMANDING.

