

AFTER, AFTER BATTLE REPORT

NO. VII

FROM: 010001 DECEMBER 44
TO: 312400 DECEMBER 44

UNIT : 823rd TANK DESTR.BN
PLACE: BELGIUM, 695120 (SE SPA)
TIME : 031200 JANUARY 1945

MAPS: CENTRAL EUROPE, 1/100,000.
FRANCE & BELGIUM, 1/25,000.

01 DECEMBER 44

At the start of the period "C" Company was on its primary mission covering the Division sector with Battalion CP, "A" and "B" Companies in assembly positions in rear areas. A-3 from an indirect fire position fired 3 concentrations of 157 rounds HE and a special experimental firing test as made using the 3" illuminating star shell. On A-3 gun fired 10 rounds with a 963rd FA Bn and other gun fired 12 rounds with the 230th FA Bn. The 3" gun fired at the same time as the FA Battalions but the faster TD shell arrived before the HE's, burst about 1100 ft in the air and the flare started burning at about 900 ft illuminating an area 200 yards square. Only one 3 mil adjustment was required and that was made to better illuminate the target from the position of the forward observer. The light was sufficient for the observer to pick up bursts and spot enemy targets. The firing was believed quiet satisfactory. All units in assembly position and "C" Company, to the extent possible, contacted maintenance, had baths, and took medical shots. Hq Co had 2 NBI with "B" and "C" having 1 NBI each.

02 DECEMBER 44

Unit received 4 M-10s in the first positive indication that this unit would be converted from a towed to a self-propelled unit. These M-10s were assigned to A-2 who immediately began training. Old towed 3" guns of A-2 were used to replace Company shortages with the balance being delivered to "B" Co. A-3 in indirect fire positions fired 3 concentrations of 150 rounds HE. S/Sgt JACOBSON received a battlefield commission and was assigned to "A" Co. "A" Co had 1 NBI, "B" Co 1 NBI and "C" Co 1 NBI; while "B" Co had 1 replacement and "C" Co had 3 replacements. "A" Co captured 3 PWs.

03 DECEMBER 44

A Battalion school conducted by Captain CURTIS was started for Company Executive Officers on Company Fire Direction Center. All units conducted maintenance, took baths, were paid, and conducted minor training while A-2 continued with its M-10 practice. "A" Co had one man return to duty from the Hospital, "C" Company 1 and Hq Co 1; while "B" Co had 1 WIA.

04 DECEMBER 44

4 EM graduated from 2nd TD Group Drivers and Mechanics School and additional personnel were sent to the next session. A-3 fired one concentration for a total of 135 rounds HE normal, was relieved

of its secondary mission and at 1000 moved to an assembly position at their Co CP. "B" Co Fire Direction Center at 1330 moved to 955541 and at the same time C-3 entered upon its secondary mission taking indirect fire positions at 971549. "B" Co had a 1/4 ton and a 3" gun replaced, "A" Co had a 1/4 ton replaced and an "A" Co 1/2 ton was damaged in an accident. "A" and "C" Companies each had 1 NBI while "B" and Hq Companies each had 1 man return to duty from the hospital.

05 DECEMBER 44

Unit had its second honors formation at which time one Oak Leaf Cluster to a Silver Star, nine Silver Stars and eight Bronze Stars were awarded while Lt JACOBSON had his gold bars pinned on by General HOBBS. C-3 in indirect fire positions fired 3 concentrations for a total of 90 rounds HE normal upon harassing missions and fired 1 concentration of 45 rounds precision fire on a water tower scoring 10 hits. All units except "C" Co (in direct and indirect firing positions) continued maintenance, took baths, went through M-10 training and continued preparation for future operations. A Clubmobile was enjoyed by "B" Co. "B" and Hq Co each had 1 NBI.

06 DECEMBER 44

Period was quiet with no activity of any tactical importance. Minor training, baths, maintenance and church services was conducted, taken or held. C-3 fired 3 concentrations for a total of 218 rounds HE normal. "C" Co had 1 battle injury, "A", "C" and Hq Co had 1 NBI each and "C" Co had 1 EM return to duty from the hospital.

07 DECEMBER 44

The Battalion School for Company Executive Officers on Co FDC's was completed while personnel from the 702nd TD Bn conducted school on 3" gun in the M-10 and M-10 tactics and tricks of employment. All units continued maintenance, minor training, took baths, and saw a movie. 5 replacements were received - 3 going to "A" Co and 2 to "C" while "C" Co had 1 NBI.

08 DECEMBER 44

S/Sgt Pesak, Christ and Rohatsch received battle field commissions with the first two being assigned to "B" Co and the last one to "C" Co. C-1 moved 2 guns to the vicinity of 996531 for indirect fire missions on SHOPHOVEN in support of the 104th Infantry Division. Reconnaissance was completed for direct fire positions for two of C-2 guns for support roles on the same attack. "B" Co received a 3" gun and the "A" Co 1 1/1 ton damaged in an accident was replaced. M-10 training was continued by "A" Co which also had 1 NBI during the period.

09 DECEMBER 44

1st Lt NEEL under the category of twice decorated and Ted 5 Wright from "C" Co under the category of twice wounded were placed on DS and left this unit for a 30 day leave and furlough recuperation period in the United States. C-1 had 1 registration of 8 rds reduced charge and the Company kitchen truck gave up the ghost

until major repairs were made. "A" and "B" Companies continued M-10 driving, maintenance and tactical training. A fairly heavy snow fell during part of the period.

10 DECEMBER 44

C-1 with 2 guns in indirect firing positions at 996532 fired 79 rounds reduced charge on an area in the sector of the 104th Infantry Division, while 2 guns of C-2 were put in alternate for primary mission coverage of the 104th's attack. 4 M-10s were received and assigned to "B" Co, while "A" Co test fired their M-10s expending a total of 21 rounds AP. "A" Co had 1 NBI and "C" Co had 2 NBI.

11 DECEMBER 44

C-1 with its two guns in indirect fire positions fired 79 rounds reduced charge in support of the attack of the 104th Infantry Division. At 1400 personnel from A-3 took over the 3" guns C-1 had in position at which time C-1 moved to an assembly area near the Company CP where it took over 4 M-10s. "B" Co had special M-10 training with instructors from the 702nd Td Bn. "B" Co delivered 1 towed 3" gun to "C" Co and "A" Co sent 1 M-10 to ordnance for repairs. "A" and "C" Companies had 1 NBI each. Under GO 116, 30th Infantry Division, 11 December 44, 1 Silver Star and 1 Bronze Star were awarded.

12 DECEMBER 44

Ten EM and two Officers returned from Paris passes; all units continued maintenance and M-10 training. "A" and "B" Companies each had 2 NBI while "A" and "C" Companies each had 1 man return to duty from the hospital.

13 DECEMBER 44

At 1120 A-1 relieved A-3 upon the C-1 guns in indirect and direct fire positions. B-2 fired 9 rounds AP test firing their M-10s while Lt JACKSON received a battlefield commission and was assigned to "C" Co. Companies received back to duty from the hospital men as follows: "A" Co 1, "B" Co 1 and "C" Co 2. "A" Co received 1 replacement and "B" and "C" Companies each had 1 NBI.

14 DECEMBER 44

C-3 fired 1 registration of 6 rounds normal charge. With the exception of M-10 training and maintenance no other training took place. 1 man reported WIA 22 November 44 is reported to have died of wounds. "A" Co had 1 NBI, "B" Co 2 NBI and "C" Co 1 NBI.

15 DECEMBER 44

Pursuant to GO 69, Ninth US Army, 15 December 1944, the 823d TD Battalion (T) was converted and changed to the 823d TD Battalion (SP) effective 18 December 1944. Permission was received to withdraw all units from front line positions so C-2 at 1710 and A-1 at 1820 withdrew from their old locations and closed into assembly positions near the Company CP which makes the first since 18 August 1944 that all units have been out of the front lines. Lt ROHATSCH

was transferred from "C" Co to HQ Co and official notice was received that 9 "B" Co EM MIA since MORTAIN are PWs. "A", "B" and HQ Cos received 1, 5 and 1 replacements; "A" Co had 1 NBI and "B" and HQ Companies each had 1 man return from the hospital. Under GO 125, 30th Infantry Division, 15 December 1944, 2 Silver Stars and 3 Bronze Stars were awarded.

16 DECEMBER 44

Official notice was received that Battalion would be converted 100% to M-10s so plans were completed to start full Company training at once. C-1 test fired its M-10s using 12 rounds AP. 2 rounds shell 36 M 88 (Smoke) were also fired to determine the characteristics of this ammunition. One round was fired at a range elevation of 1600 ft and the other at 2800 ft. Without any smoke trace from gun to point of impact the first shell went out a distance of 500 yards and the second 600 yards. In both cases a very dense smoke cloud resulted lasting 4 minutes which should be very satisfactory for screening purposes. "B" Co had 1 NBI and 1 EM returned from the hospital to duty.

17 DECEMBER 44

To reinforce the V Corps and help seal the gap in the US lines made by German's large scale attack the 30th Infantry Division and the 823rd TD Battalion were relieved from attachment to the XIX Corps, Ninth Army, and attached to the V Corps, First US Army, although their assignment to the Ninth US Army remained in effect. To accomplish this emergency transfer after 5 hours notice all units, under Battalion control, left their areas at 1650 and moved by motor march through AACHEN South towards EUPEN. Bn CP at 1845 was established in BELFON in a summer cottage with Bn Rear in immediate vicinity. Upon arrival in the CP area by VO General HARRISON the entire Battalion was attached to the 2nd Bn, 119th Inf Regt. After taking up a temporary assembly position near 823312 on the completion of the motor march, at the close of the period A-1 and A-3 were moving into direct fire positions while A-2 closed at 2316 at 830291. From an assembly position near 833339 which the Company entered upon completion of the motor march at 2000 "B" Co CP was established at 833339; B-1 at 2130 in direct fire position at 843319; B-2 at 2215 at 852320 and B-3 at 2230 at 849322 and 843315. At the close of the period B-1 and B-3 were moving to new direct fire positions. After "C" Co CP was set up at 809321 at 2000 but before reconnoitered positions could be occupied "C" Co was attached to the 117th RCT and at the close of the period was moving with the 117th RCT to MALMEDY.

18 DECEMBER 44

The 1st and 3rd platoons, "A" Co, moving at the close of the preceding period at 0200 and 0118 closed at 816292 to 827296 and 818300 respectively; while B-1 at 0425 and B-3 at 0515 closed at 856322, 861312, 857300 and 846296 respectively. At 1100 "A" Co was attached to the 119th RCT and under its control moved on STOU MONT. After an extremely slow march at 1200 C-3 closed into positions on the South East side of MALMEDY, C-2 at 1230 to 735021 and 744026 and C-1 at 1300 to 717031. At 1800 "A" Co CP closed at 605038, A-1

and A-3 at 1800 took up direct fire positions in STOUMONT (633026) while A-2 at 1900 closed at 560001. At 1800 Bn CP, Rear Echelon and "B" Co closed into MALMEDY, with Battalion CP being set up at 785042, after having moved through EUPEN and having crossed the snow covered HERLOGENWALD Forest and Mountains through territory infested with German paratroopers. Upon arrival in MALMEDY "B" Co was immediately attached to the 120th RCT with positions being occupied as follows; "B" Co CP at 1800 at 788051, B-2 at 1818 to 810055, B-1 at 2015 to 783042 and 791041 and B-3 at 2100 to 766044. B-1 (minus an M-10 stuck in the mud at 717030 that covered all approaches to the town from the Northern side) at 1800 took up positions on the South outskirts of STAVELOT (717010) while at 2140 C-3 made the final move for the period taking up positions in the vicinity of 756025. During the afternoon when enemy armor attacks were launched West and East of STAVELOT C-1 destroyed 1 Mk V and 1 personnel carrier while C-2 destroyed 2 Mk Vs and 1 personnel carrier with 1 additional Mk V being listed as probable and hit and probably destroyed a total of 8 to 10 additional tanks all believed to be Mk VIs. At 2200 C-1 destroyed a 1/4 ton and a German half-track. "C" Co took 1 German paratrooper PW and had their kitchen truck damaged in a concy accident.

19 DECEMBER 44

In an attempt to utilize all means available unit assumed control over 2 M-4 tanks, 1 M 5 tank, 1 light tank, 2 M-36 wreckers and 2 10 wreckers belonging to the 31st Tank Battalion and the 87th Recon (7th Armored Division). The M 5 was put in direct fire position at 800037, the light tank assisted Third Recon on its patrols and outposts, the wreckers helped in the recovery of M-10s while the balance constituted a mobile reserve of employment in the MALMEDY sector. At 1000 B-1 and B-2 exchanged positions in order to have towed guns in fixed positions and SPs in centrally located mobile reserve. After hearing enemy tanks maneuvering outside of STOUMONT and after failing to obtain permission from the Infantry to fire flares so that the tanks could be fired upon about 0600, before daylight and with fog limiting visibility to 25 to 50 yards, enemy tanks were found within the outskirts of town. Upon the withdrawal of friendly Infantry, TD guns were one by one flanked by enemy tanks and personnel driven from the guns by small arms and machine guns fire although 1 Mk VI was destroyed by an "A" Co gun and the German Infantry held off for sometime. All guns were finally neutralized at which time personnel infiltrated out and North of STOUMONT with the Lt SPRINGFIELD being the last man to leave the town. Personnel losses for A-1 and A-3 were reported as 9 WIA and 15 MIA (corrected figures 25 December 1944) while material losses were 1 half-track destroyed and 5 in enemy hands, one 3" gun destroyed and 7 in enemy hands, 1 German 75mm AT gun in enemy hands and 3 1/4 tons and one 1 1/2 ton and trailer in enemy hands. From a reserve at Battalion maintenance created by this units conversion to SP four 3" guns, half-tracks and necessary equipment with 2 German 75mm guns were issued to "A" Co to partially replace losses of both platoons. A-2 after destroying one German half-track at 1400 took up positions North of STOUMONT (600039) while at the same time "A" Co CP, A-1 and A-3 withdrew to RAMOUCHAMPS (565108) for reorganization. At 1200 C-1 destroyed two 1/4 tons and killed 12 Germans and later during the period when tanks came into sight East of STAVELOT destroyed 5 Mk VIs

and one half-track SP 75.C-2 during the period destroyed 1 weapon carrier. 1 2 1/2 ton replacement was received by "C" Co for the kitchen truck damaged in the preceding period. Second Recon established an OP at 786028 while 3rd Recon conducted hourly patrols on the Highway between 750055 to FRANCOCHAMPS to 716052. "C" Co had 3 NBI including Lt. BARRON.

20 DECEMBER 44

Although scheduled to receive ten M-10s during the period plus 4 additional the following period Ninth US Army cancelled all allocations because the Battalion was outside Ninth Army's jurisdiction. At 1300 the 30th Infantry Division and 823rd TD Battalion were released from assignment to V Corps and assigned to XVIII Corps (AB). Also at 1300 the 1st Tank Battalion Officer, personnel and equipment working with this unit were released to return to their organization. After being partially reconstituted by replacements 1 section of A-1 took up positions at 610038 while A-2 at 1600 moved to the outskirts of STOMONT (628032). B-1 at 1600 and 1700 put sections at 810036 and 823024. Friendly artillery damaged the traversing column of one of C-1's M-10s. "C" and Hq each had 1 battle injury; "A" Co had 1 NBI; "A" Co received 4 replacements and "B" Co 1 while "A", "B" and "C" Companies each had 1 EM return to duty.

21 DECEMBER 44

Between 0130 and 0400 a light German counter-attack on B-1 positions resulted in the destruction of 1 M VI, 1 M-8 and 1 1/4 ton both being then occupied by German troops. German Infantry attempting to make off in a B-1 1/4 ton required that unit to destroy the vehicle by Cal.50 machine gun fire. Launching an attack about 0600, before daylight and in fog which greatly limited visibility, German Infantry attacking ahead of German tanks hit the front on the boundary between the 117th and 120th Infantry Regts. When friendly Infantry decided they were not in sufficient strength to hold the attack personnel of B-2 because of poor visibility, because small arms fire drove them from their guns, and because of the withdrawing of the Infantry put all their guns out of action by removing or destroying firing pins and sight. After taking positions in a building and fighting off the enemy with small arms fire for a long time they then withdrew by infiltration assembling as soon as possible at the Company CP. Later in the period it was found possible to reoccupy the two most Northern guns and both went back into action although one was minus a sight. Total losses for this unit were 1 WIA, 6 MIA, 2 3" guns, 2 half-tracks, 4 1/4 tons and 1 1/2 ton with trailer in enemy hands or in territory under German fire. "A" Co CP at 1100 moved to STOMONT STATION (605038). When the penetration was made West of MALMEDY and a breakthrough was feared unit was given the mission of planning and putting into position 2 AAA Battalions (110th and 143rd) consisting of 32 90mm and innumerable 40mm boffers, quadruple and multiple Cal..50 machine guns. By 1800 all these units had been placed establishing AT defenses throughout the sector of the 117th and 120th Inf Regts as far back as Division CP. When it was feared German tanks and Infantry might enter MALMEDY Bn CP and Rear Echelon manned all defensive weapons and in addition to reinforcing Infantry positions maintained complete all around defenses during the entire period. At 1100 and 1530 sections of B-1 reorganized and bettered their positions by moves of 200 to 300 yards. After fear of encirclement by the enemy penetration caused C-3 to withdraw 200 yards taking up new positions necessitated by the penetration C-3

moved 1 towed 3" gun into a forward exposed position and that gun effectively blunted the German's striking power by destroying 1 Mk VI, 1 Sherman tank, 1 M-10 (in disguise) being manned by German personnel and 2 additional tanks which were either Mk Vs or Mk VIs. About 1600 2 M-10s of B-2, under the supervision of Lt ROHATSCH, moved through the underpass Southwest of MALMEDY and fired upon 2 German tanks concealed in buildings South of their positions. After first knocking off a corner of the building to expose the tank hiding behind it 3rds of AP set the tank up in flames. Another tank in the vicinity was also destroyed but it is believed that this tank might have been previously damaged by friendly artillery. This firing put 1 M-10 temporarily out of commission with a damaged traversing worm gear. "A" Co fired 9 rounds HE support fire on the attack on STOU MONT. Second Recon working with "B" Co captured a German FA observer in civilian clothes and turned him over to Military Police. Hq Co had 1 NBI and "B" Co had 2 NBI. Under GO 130, 30th Infantry Division, 21 December 1944, 2 Silver Stars and 2 Bronze Stars were awarded.

22 DECEMBER 44

Under Troop Assignment No. 133, Hq, 12th Army Group, 24 December 1944, verbal orders 22 December 1944 were confirmed which relieved the 30th Infantry Division and 823rd TD Battalion from attachment to First US Army and assignment to Ninth US Army and assigned these units to the First US Army. Battalion Staff Officers completed the placing of AAA guns, made some minor adjustments in positions and checked all locations to determine local security, camouflage and AT techniques. At 1345 Bn CP closed into a new location in the North section of MALMEDY (788054) where it set up in tiled vats in basement of a paper mill while at 1430 Bn Rear closed into an area East of SPA (664119). Upon the recapture of STOU MONT A-1, A-2 and A-3 at 1600 took up direct fire positions at 632030, 632025 and 634025. Equipment lost in the withdrawal from STOU MONT was found to be in bad shape with only parts being of any value. Salvage efforts were started at once. C-3 destroyed one German Half-track, After receiving Considerable shelling and suffering several casualties the section of B-2 on the West side of MALMEDY withdrew from their firing positions into their covered positions. Enemy artillery fire falling upon "C" Co CP caused extensive damage to the building while 2 "C" Co men and the Bn Medic with "C" Co received extensive cuts from flying glass. Enemy artillery fire falling on Bn CP destroyed the 3/4 ton message center vehicle and 1 motorcycle with slight damage to another. 2 1/4 tons lost by B-3 during the previous period were recovered and a corrected personnel loss list for B-3 during the previous period is ~~xxxx~~ 2 WIA and 1 MIA. Lt BRANDON was transferred from "B" Co to Hq Co and made Asst Recon Officer while Lt ROHATSCH went from Hq Co to "B" Co. (During the early morning hours in a snow storm with enemy artillery falling in a heavy barrage Cpt. BARANOV and his maternity Task Force delivered a 7 lbs bouncing boy which he promptly named ANZAC BUZZ 2. Although upon delivery the baby did not say "Heil Hitler" Dr BARANOV has his suspicions.) "B" Co had 2 battle injuries, "C" Co 2, Hq Co 2 NBI and 1 "C" Co EM returned to duty from the hospital. 2 M-10s were delivered to "A" Co

and assigned to A-1 but they were not immediately operational.

23 DECEMBER 44

When friendly Airforce bombed MALMEDY by mistake Cpt. BARANOV was instrumental in organising relief facilities and then he and his Medical Detachment rendered aid to the injured taken to the local Hospital. During the night 2 towed guns of "A" Co were used to form a road-block East of STOU MONT beyond all Infantry front-lines and a protective Infantry force of only 8 doughboys was furnished. During the period 1 section of A-1 and 1 section of A-2 took up positions North of the STOU MONT LA GLEIZE highway West of LA GLEIZE while the other section of A-2 took up corresponding positions South of the STOU MONT LA GLEIZE highway behind Task Force HARRISON while A-3 occupied defensive positions 500 yds East of STOU MONT. At 1500 Cpt. CRISSINGER and Lt CUNNINGHAM while making a reconnaissance for M-10 positions in advance of Infantry front lines were pinned down by enemy machine gun fire. Lt CUNNINGHAM suffered a bullet wound in the arm and after crawling some distance toward the rear was evacuated by the Infantry. Cpt. CRISSINGER remaining pinned down by fire was taken prisoner by two German paratroopers.

24 DECEMBER 44

Battalion OP in order to operate from a more centrally located position about 1100 closed at 707102 (East of SPA) and 1 section of C-1 at about 1100 took up positions at 711004. A-1 and A-2 at 1200 put parts of their sections at 657029 and 657033 while A-3 established a road-block at 640028. Upon the capture of LA GLEIZE by Task Force HARRISON, Cpt. CRISSINGER and 8 "A" Co EM were liberated. In addition to the 1 3" gun previously listed as being recovered in STOU MONT two other 3" guns, 2 half-tracks, one 1/4 ton and one 1 1/2 ton were also taken from that town, and repair operations on this equipment was started at once. During the afternoon when the AAP attempted to perform tactical bombing upon the German Armies making this great push four runs of bombers hit MALMEDY, causing tremendous casualties. Although straddled by very near misses "B" Co was extremely fortunate in sustaining only 1 KIA and 2 WIA, including a 2nd Recon man, had 2 "B" Co 1/4 ton and 2nd Recon 1/4 ton destroyed, one half-track destroyed by a direct hit and slight damage to 2 others buried under debris while a 2nd Recon M-8 suffered extensive damages. Pvt. KING, 705th TD Bn, working with 2nd Recon also received wounds requiring evacuation. As a result of this bombing "C" Co had 2 MIA. "B" Co had 1 man return to duty from the hospital. Lt. BRANDON was assigned to "A" Co to replace Lt CUNNINGHAM lost through battle injury. 1 M-10 was received.

25 DECEMBER 44

CHRISTMAS ON THE WESTERN FRONT!!! The period was quiet; the day clear but cold. Although unexpected considering the tactical situation an excellent turkey-dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all units. A-3 at 1500 put one section at 643023 and the other section at 643026. The final corrective casualties list for "A" Co for 19-12-44 is: 1 KIA and 9 WIA. Allied bombing destroyed 1 "A" Co 1/4 ton and trailer and damaged a 1st Recon 1/4 ton. "B" Co had 2 battle injuries, "C" Co had 1 MIA and 1 "C" Co man returned

to duty from the hospital. 4 M-10s were received from Ninth US Army.

26 DECEMBER 44

The period was quiet with the only excitement being furnished by allied planes which created several exciting moments with near misses and strafing. At 1430 "A" Co CP and their Fwd CP were consolidated at 630027; at 1500 A-3 withdrew to 613032; at 0100 one section of A-2 moved to 671022; and the one SP section of A-1 at 1800 moved to 680994. "C" Co had 2 battle injuries; "A" Co had 1 NBI, "B" Co had 2 NBI and "C" Co 1 NBI and "B" Co had 1 EM return from the hospital.

27 DECEMBER 44

Battalion CB at 0930 moved to SPA (678119) and after establishing itself in a summer cottage it was decided that the quarters were not spacious enough so a move of 200 yds was made to other buildings. Although the town of MALMEDY and all "B" Co positions were heavily shelled during the period no losses or casualties were suffered. In a reorganization of TD defenses plans were completed to have A-3 and C-3 exchange positions and for A-1 and A-2 to take up indirect fire positions in the sector of the 120th Inf Reg, where they would constitute a mobile reserve available for employment in all sectors. Plans were also completed to establish a 2 or 3 gun indirect battery from excess pieces using "B" Co PDC personnel. "C" Co had 2 battle injuries, 2 NBI and 1 man returned to duty from the Hospital while "A" Co had 2 NBI. Under PO 58, 271500 December 44, all units reverted to Battalion control and the 110th AAA Bn together with 8 guns of the 143 AAA Bn attached to the 110th AAA Bn, were attached to this unit to assist in providing AT defense in the Div zone.

28 DECEMBER 44

Battalion CB at 0950 moved from SPA where it set up in a large Chateau (695120) a couple of miles East of SPA. Upon the completion of re-grouping of defensive positions by all Inf units A-1 at 1500 put one section in indirect fire position at 792069 and the other section went to Battalion Maintenance for operational maintenance; A-2 at 1815 put one section in indirect fire position at 793069 and the other section in mobile reserve at 794059; At 1530 "A" Co established a forward CP at 795059 and a rear CP in MALMEDY (792042); at 1800 A-3 closed at 756025 and C-3 at 1920 closed at 679994. Hq 2 gun Battery set up at 696053 and between 1900 and 2400 fired 1 harassing fire concentration of 100 rds HE Normal. "A" Co received 3 replacements and "B" Co 1.

29 DECEMBER 44

Unit received 6 M-10s during the period which immediately went to Battalion Maintenance for mechanical checks and combat loading. 2 M-10s became operational after repairs making A-1 completely SP. Hq 2 gun Battery fired 1 registration and 1 concentration of 42 rds HE, 1 concentration of 120 rds and 3 concentrations of 225 rds HE for a total of 387 rds HE normal. The sections of A-1 and A-2 in indirect fire positions fired 2 registrations of 26 rds

Reduced Charge and 11 rds HE normal and between 1800 and 2400 fired 1 concentration of 56 rds reduced Charge and 2 concentrations of 100 rds HE normal. Hq Co received 1 old man as a replacement, "A" Co 5 men, "B" Co 1 man and "C" Co 2; Hq Co had 2 NBI, "A" Co 2 NBI and "B" Co 1 NBI and "B" Co had 1 man return from the Hospital to duty. Hq was notified that the Recon men wounded 26-12-44 died of wounds. Ice on the road caused one "C" Co automobile accident with minor damages to one 1/4 Ton.

30 DECEMBER 44

1st Recon Platoon conducted route and firing position, reconnaissance for support positions in the event A-1 and A-2 had to employ and "A" Co continued to prepare plans for the employment of their SPs in the event of a German counter-attack. Hq indirect Battery fired 3 concentrations of 285 rds HE normal, while the sections of A-1 and A-2 in indirect fire positions had 1 registration of 12 rds and 2 concentrations of 54 rds reduced charge and 2 concentrations of 256 rounds HE normal. "A" and "B" companies each had 1 NBI and replacements were received as follows: "A" Co 1, "B" Co 2 and "C" Co 2.

31 DECEMBER 44

Although not officially released from attachment until 010800 January, 1945, at 1300 the 143rd AAA Battalion started withdrawing from position and by 1800 had completed this removal. During the same period the 110th AAA Bn made such changes in position as the loss of the 143rd AAA Bn required. Hq Battery fired 2 concentrations for a total of 150 rds HE normal and "A" Co fired 3 concentrations for a total of 158 rds HE normal, 1 concentration of 80 rds reduced charge and expended 12 rds reduced charge on one registration. 2nd Lt GOSBARD joined the unit and was assigned to "C" Co. "A" and "C" Co each had one NBI. 1944 closed in a very quiet and uneventful manner with no activity of any importance occurring in any sector.

DETTMER
Lt. Col

Official:

LOHSE
S-3