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HEADQUARTERS 614th TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

APO #758, U. S. A. /
20 February 19

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Narrative Report, Unit History.

TO : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO #758, U. S. Army
(Attention: Historian)

1. Inclosed is Narrative Report of Unit History for this Battalion during the month of January, 1945, which was omitted from the original submission of journal and supporting documents.

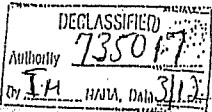
For the Commanding Officer:

[Signature]
G. J. RICHARD,
Capt., F.A.,
Adjutant.

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NARRATIVE REPORT, JANUARY 1945, 614th T. D. Bn.

On the 1 January 1945, the battalion CP was located in Farschviller, France. During the early part of the morning, a thirteen (13) man outpost, Co. "A", at Welferding, France, was attacked by a patrol of Germans. The outpost was isolated for about an hour, during which time heavy small arms fire was dominate. After the action was over, the outpost inflicted severe casualties on the enemy, killing nine (9), capturing (2), without suffering any losses to themselves.

The 2d Platoon of Co. "A", participated in a raid with the 410th Inf., firing on Lixing, France. This was direct fire in support of the infantry, furnishing a base of fire in raiding Lixing. Mission successfully accomplished. Co. "B" was attached to the 776th TD Bn., and went into position around Sarreguemines, France. This company did not see any enemy opposition while getting into position. Co. "C" fired some star shells, lighting enemy positions for observation of the 411th Inf. patrol which was operating in the area. It was reported that excellent results were obtained by the infantry patrol with the aid of the light from the star shell fired. The above was on 2 Jan.

On 3 Jan 1945, Co. "A" reld from 410th Inf., and held in battalion reserve, in vicinity of Puttelange, France. 2d Plat, Co. "C", attached to 410th Inf., fired two stars shells for an infantry patrol.

During the day of 4 Jan, Co. "A" moved into indirect firing positions, in support of the 928th FA Bn. No further action in sector was reported.

Co. "A" fired 1080 rounds of reinforcing fire which attached to the 928th FA Bn., being relieved 11 Jan 1945. Performance of the 3" TD guns in the role of indirect fire missions, proved very satisfactory, and in addition relieved the critical shortage of howitzer ammunition, and allowed our artillery observers to take under fire targets at a greater effective range.

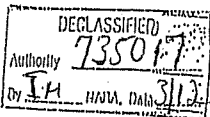
The 2d Rcn Platoon, on 7 Jan, captured two prisoners of war in the vicinity of Folkling, Fr. No outstanding action from other companies.

On the 11 Jan, Co. "B" was relieved from attachment to the 44th Inf. Div., and attached to the 106th Cav. Group. Set up Co. CP in Lauterbach, Germany.

At 1100 hrs, 12 Jan, the 1st Section, 1st Plat., Co. "C", moved into position and rendered direct fire on enemy OP in Forbach, Fr. Fired 143 rounds, scoring 139 direct hits, destroying enemy OP. Withdrew at 1410 hrs.

On 13 Jan, the 3d Plat., Co. "C", fired seventy-eight (78) rounds in vicinity of Gaubiving, Fr., in support of a limited objective attack by 411th Inf Regt, destroying one pill box. Bn. Received orders relieving it from attachment to XV Corps, and attached to XXI Corps.

During the day of 14 Jan, Co. "A" was attached to 409th Inf. for move to VI Corps sector; Co. "C" to 410th Inf., and Co. "B" to 411th Inf.



Narrative Report, Jan 45, 614th TD Bn. cont'd).

On the 15 Jan, the Bn., less attached units, received orders to be prepared to move to Reichshoffen, France, by 0800 hrs, 16 Jan. 1st and 2d Rcn Platoons pulled out of position and moved to Farschviller, France.

Bn. CP, Hq. Co., and Rcn Platoons, moved to Reichshoffen, France. Billeted in factory area. 2d Plat, Co. "C" reld 645th TD Bn. Platoon in our sector. 16 Jan 1945.

In the early morning hours of 17 Jan, heavy caliber enemy artillery shell fell 300 yards from Bn. CP. This was investigated and found to be what was believed to be a railroad gun shell. This was reported to Div. Artillery, and they conducted investigation of the shell crater and damaged inflicted to building, to determine direction of fire and caliber.

On the 19 Jan, Co. "B", was reld from 106th Cav., moved to Reichshoffen, France. Did not go into position and made reconnaissance for positions on right flank of Div.'s sector. This arrangement put one Platoon on our front, and two companies plus two platoons on our right, the reason for which was the large enemy armor concentration in vicinity of Hatten.

Bn. recd orders from Div., on the 20 Jan, to make a night withdrawal to a new defensive line West of Haguenau. Bn. CP, Hq. Co., and Co. "B" began infiltrating during the late afternoon for new positions, completing move without loss of materiel. Cos. "A" & "C" remained in position to make the withdrawal under cover of darkness. These two companies encountered serious difficulties of unusually dark night, snow and ice-coated roads, which resulted in loss of guns, vehicles and materiel. Both Co. Comdrs remained behind the infantry covering force for some hours, in an effort to salvage all equipment possible. Co. "A" CO and 18 EMM returned to friendly lines 16 hours after the covering force had withdrawn. Despite their efforts, three 3" guns and six (6) half-tracks, and miscellaneous equipment had to be destroyed to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. Bn. CP opened at Pritzheim, France at 1830 hours.

On 21 Jan, the battalion occupied positions providing anti-tank defense in division's sector.

In accordance with orders received from higher headquarters, 23 Jan, a security defense of the town of Pritzheim, France, was assigned to all units billeted in town. Guards placed at every entrance and machine guns emplaced.

On 24 Jan, Co. "B" fired 19 rounds on enemy OP at Q9106289, knocking it out. 2d Rcn Plat on mission into ~~Ung~~willer, France, was fired on by the enemy and returned the fire, killing two enemy soldiers and withdrew without suffering casualties.

At 0430 hours, 25 Jan, a battalion of enemy infantry, reinforced, attacked the town of Schillersdorf, France, in which the CP of the 3d Plat., Co. "C" was located. The attack was without warning until enemy soldiers were actually within the town. All of our troops in the town, with the exception of one officer and thirteen EMM fought their way out of town with elements of the 410th Inf. On retaking the town the following day, two EMM of the platoon were found who had escaped the Germans by hiding in a barn. On the final count, one officer and 11 EMM were missing, and no trace of these men has been found. All materiel was recovered with

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with the exception of two jeeps, and large amount of individual equipment. The town of Zutzendorf, France, which was occupied by 2d Plt of "C" Co., was shelled by enemy artillery at 1400 hours. One EM was killed and two wounded, and three vehicles damaged.

The remainder of the period was ^{quiet} ~~quite~~. Very little enemy mortar and artillery fire was observed in battalions' sector. Co. Commanders made continuous reconnaissances for new gun positions, and improved old one.



FRANK S. PRITCHARD,
Lt. Col., Inf.
Commanding, 614th TD Bn.