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HEADQUARTERS
8834 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 238, U. S. ARMY

SECRET

AUTH: CG 5 Inf Div.

INIT: SPF

DATE: 2 Feb 45

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21 January 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.

Forwarded herewith, Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports, for this command, covering the period 1 - 31 January 1945.

Charles W. Goodwin
CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

- 5 Incls: 1 Appendix No. 1 to Action Against
Enemy, Reports After/After Report.
2 S-1, S-2, S-3 Journal
3 S-1 Journal File
4 S-2 Journal File
5 S-3 Journal File

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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion

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AUTH: CG, XII CORPS.

Period: 1 - 31 January 1945

INT: GLL ~~APP~~

DATE: 2 Feb 45

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1. Original Unit: 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
3. Strength:
 - A. 1 January 1945, 36 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 589 Enlisted Men.
 - B. 31 January 1945, 39 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 544 Enlisted Men.
 - C. Net Change: Increase of 3 Officers. Decrease of 45 Enlisted Men. Forty (40) transferred to other organizations.
4. Station: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
5. Marches: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
6. Campaigns: Operations covering period 1st - 31st January 1945.
7. Battles: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
8. Commanding Officers:
 - A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. C. W. Goodwin, Inf.
 - Headquarters Company - Captain R. S. Wagenhals, Inf.
 - Reconnaissance Company - Captain W. A. Burke, Cav.,
 - Company "A" - Captain J. R. Kruszewski, FA.,
 - Company "B" - Captain C. H. Brittain, Cav.,
 - Company "C" - 1st Lt. E. J. Kruszewski, FA.,
9. Losses in action. (Battle Casualties).
 - A. Officers: None.
 - B. Enlisted Men:
 - Ralph R. Baldwin, 37152987, PFC, FA.,
 - Shelby F. Hurley, 38151536, Pvt. FA.,
 - Elmer J. Wyzbicki, 36129121, S/Sgt., FA.,
 - Vernon E. Wilcox, 37622624, Cpl., FA.,
 - John J. Martell, 37156428, PFC, FA.,
 - Elmer J. Wyzbicki, 36129121, S/Sgt., FA.,

Fr MIA 17 Dec 44 to KIA	
27 Dec 44 - 5 Jan. 45.	
SWA	14 January 1945
SWA	19 January 1945
LWA	23 January 1945
LWA	23 January 1945
DOA	25 January 1945
Fr STA	18 Jan. 45.
10. Awards:
 - Bronze Star - Capt. Clarence H. Brittain, 01821671, Sec III, GO #1, Hq. 4th Inf. Div., 1 Jan 45.
 - Bronze Star - Below EM, per Sec. III, GO #1, Hq. 4th Inf. Div., 1 Jan. 1945.
 - Staff Sergeant James HMI Barton, Jr., 36128123
 - Sergeant Wesley H. Bettencourt, 39006632
 - Sergeant Earl I. Hansen, 37152794
 - Sergeant GEORGE H. Rhodes, 37153334
 - Bronze Star - Posthumously to Below EM, per Sec. I, GO #2, Hq. 4th Inf. Div, 3 Jan. 45
 - Sergeant Melvin C. Anderson, 37153333
 - Sergeant Perry A. McEver, 39378543
 - Corporal Joseph Akers, 35432212
 - Corporal Bill W. Berkowski, 36503260
 - Private First Class Stanley Ataman, 36128820
 - Bronze Star - Below named O., per Sec. IV, GO #6, Hq. 4th Inf. Div., 12 Jan. 1945.
 - Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Goodwin, 0204424

10. Awards: (Cont'd)

Bronze Star - Below named O. and M., per Sec IV, CO #8, Hq 4th Inf Div, 15 Jan 1945.
Captain Rupert J. Wagnhals, 3612158

Staff Sergeant George W. Boushard, 36128826
Staff Sergeant Clyde E. Duke, 39302316
Staff Sergeant Iver Rostad, 39601865
Staff Sergeant Harvey B. Spirluck, 39165170
Staff Sergeant Elmer J. Rybinski, 36129121
Sergeant John D. Fruoni, 36121075
Sergeant Bernard G. McKeeney, 37153177
Sergeant Thomas L. Hengeman, 39165355
Sergeant Charles J. Peterek, 38034443
Sergeant Edward D. Pillsbury, 39079063
Sergeant Walter J. Ward, 36023506
Technician Fourth Grade Robert E. Green, 37152312
Technician Fourth Grade Vernon J. Kennedy, 37152885
Technician Fourth Grade Milton S. Wiser, 20938775
Technician Fourth Grade Bud L. Nelson, 20939984
Technician Fourth Grade Andrew E. Olson, 2094004
Technician Fourth Grade Milton S. Williams, 37151549
Technician Fourth Grade Richard E. Pappert, 37075182

11. Photographs: None.

CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding.

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Appendix No. 1 to

Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report
HEADQUARTERS, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion
January 1945

010001 January 1945
Junglinster, Luxembourg

- 1 January 1945 Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Zone. One platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment. 1st platoon of Rcn Co. supporting "C" Company. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co supporting "B" Company. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 9 rounds H.E. indirect, but were unable to get registration. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 15 rounds H.E. and 2 rounds smoke indirect getting registration. Rcn. Company contacted units on our left and right getting the positions of TD guns in these sectors. Battalion expended 24 rounds of H.E. and 2 rounds of smoke from guns in indirect firing positions. No enemy encountered during the period. 32 - MLO's operational.
- 2 January 1945 Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Zone. One platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Companies "B" and "C" company continued direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. 1st platoon of Rcn Co supporting "C" Company. One (1) section of 3rd platoon supporting "B" Company. Pioneer platoon making preparations to assist the Engineers and TD companies dig-in the destroyers. Companies made a reconnaissance along the regimental reserve line for positions in which dig-in the destroyers. 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 3 rounds of H.E. with time fuze from indirect firing positions. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 15 rounds H.E., one with time fuze, from indirect firing positions. Companies have been notified to have time fuze available at all times. Rcn Company continuing to contact units on our right and left. Battalion expended 18 rounds H.E. of which 4 rounds were with time fuze. No enemy encountered during period. 32 - MLO's operational.
- 3 January 1945 Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Zone. One platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Companies "B" and "C" continued direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. All companies remained in their same positions during the period. The Engineers with a bull dozer, assisted by the pioneer platoon of Rcn Co, dug-in destroyers for companies "A" and "B" today. "C" Company selected positions for destroyers to be dug-in. All companies are conducting maintenance on vehicles and equipment. No enemy encountered during period. 32 - MLO's operational.
- 4 January 1945 Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one platoon in general support of Division Zone. One platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Companies "B" and "C" continued direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" and "B" companies have their guns dug-in. Companies continued reconnaissance and improvement of gun positions in their sectors. Also continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. 1st platoon of Rcn Co was released from support of "C" Company. The pioneer platoon has been assisting the Engineers in digging in destroyers. No enemy encountered during period. No ammunition expended. 33 - MLO's operational.
- 5 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery. "A" Company less one (1) platoon in general support of Division area. One platoon of "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Companies "B" and "C" continued direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co continued to support "B" Company. Officers of "A" Company made a reconnaissance of gun positions on their left flank into which they may move to-morrow. 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired ~~18~~ 18 rounds of H. E., one with time fuze,

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- 5 January 1945 (Cont'd) from indirect firing position getting registration by air OP. Because of mechanical difficulties with the bulldozer "C" Company's gun positions were not dug-in today. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. No enemy encountered during period. Battalion had no casualties. 33 - MIO's operational.
- 6 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. All companies continued in direct and general support of Division and of regiments remained the same as the previous day. The 2nd platoon of "A" Company moved into preselected gun positions on the left flank of 2nd Inf Regiment. All companies made a reconnaissance of gun positions for supporting fire within their respective regimental sectors. Rcn Co continued to contact units on our left and right getting information and positions in those sectors as well as keeping us informed of changes within our regimental sectors. The Battalion Commander called a meeting, as of 0900 hours, to brief all company commanders and special staff on PLAN "B"; operations to take place in the near future. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 7 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. All companies continued in direct and general support of Division and of regiments, remained the same as previous day. Companies have begun to winter camouflage destroyers and vehicles with a white substance making them blend in with the snow. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment during the period. No enemy encountered. No ammunition expended. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 8 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD Defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. Two (2) guns of "A" Company were moved over to their left flank to strengthen that part of the Div. area. Companies continued reconnaissance for gun positions within their sectors. Reconnaissance Company continued to contact units on our left and right getting the latest situation. 24 destroyers have been completely painted with winter camouflage paint. Also, some of the other vehicles are being painted. No enemy encountered. Battalion has no casualties. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 9 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect registered by air OP today, expending 37 rounds for registration making a total of 232 rounds expended during the period. Platoons are firing indirect (harassing) fire missions. Two (2) star shells were fired over Bettendorf (P918428). All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. Battalion has 30 destroyers completely winter camouflaged with white paint. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 10 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. The section of the 3rd platoon that is firing indirect registered today expending 14 rounds HE. Registration was by air OP. During the night the section expended 44 rounds H.E. indirect harassing fire. 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 87 rounds H.E. indirect harassing fire during the period. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 48 rounds H.E. indirect harassing fire during the period. This platoon moved to new firing positions at coor. P943388. Rcn Co. continued to contact units on our left and right. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. Battalion has 31 destroyers completely painted with winter camouflage paint. Battalion expended 193 rounds H.E. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 35 MIO's operational.

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- 11 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 305 rounds H.E. indirect harassing fire missions. Results of fire unknown. One star shell was fired at 2000 hours which was reported as giving good results. All was rather quiet on the front. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 35 - M10's operational.
- 12 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 261 rounds H.E. during the period. Companies continued reconnaissance and improvement of gun positions. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 35 - M10's operational.
- 13 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of 3rd platoon continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 266 rounds H.E. during the period. One (1) gun of the 3rd platoon of "C" Co., maneuvered into a position where the crew was able to pump 17 rounds of AP direct fire into a Mark V Tank and a 40mm AAA gun mounted on a 4 wheeled chassis. The enemy tank and AA gun were sighted in the vicinity of Wallendorf, Luxembourg at coor. P96154280, and both were knocked-out on the spot. Continued reconnaissance and improvement of gun positions. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 35 - M10's operational.
- 14 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of the 3rd platoon Rcn continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 281 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on indirect fire missions during the period. 1st platoon of "B" Company fired direct fire into two enemy CP's with good results and a machine gun nest, knocking-out the M/G nest. 8 rounds of H.E. was expended on this mission. Continued reconnaissance and improvement of gun positions. All companies continued maintenance on vehicles and equipment. No enemy encountered. Several enemy planes were over the area today strafing units and convoys on the roads. One man in "C" Company was hit and seriously wounded while riding in a jeep when the planes were strafing. Two (2) dentists reported to the Battalion and are now busy fixing the teeth of the men in the various companies. Battalion has 34 M10's operational.
- 15 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of the 3rd platoon Rcn continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 289 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on indirect fire missions during the period. Headquarters Company is test firing all of their .50 caliber machine guns. No enemy encountered during the period. Battalion had no casualties. 35 - M10's operational.
- 16 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A", "B" and "C" direct support of 2nd, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. One (1) section of the 3rd platoon Rcn continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 286 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on indirect fire missions during the period. No enemy encountered. Battalion had no casualties. 35 - M10's operational.
- 17 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A" and "B" direct support of 2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments. "C" Company in general support. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "B" Company. Platoons firing indirect expended 129 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on indirect fire missions during the period. 3rd platoon of "B" Company moved to the vicinity of Company CP. Rcn Co. continued to contact units on our left & right getting information and positions of other TD units.

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- 17 January 1945 (Cont'd). Battalion had no casualties during the period. no enemy encountered. 36 M10's operational.
- 18 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery in TD defense of Division Zone. Companies "A" and "B" direct support of 2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments. "C" Company in general support. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "B" Company. 2nd platoon of "C" Company firing indirect expended 198 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on harassing fire missions during the period. One gun (3P) of 3rd platoon of "A" Company, in the vicinity of ERPELDANGE (P834416), pushed its gun through a window of a house and flushed out 27 PW's, without firing. 1st platoon of "B" Company fired 20 rounds H.E. N/C direct fire at enemy personnel in the town of Diekirch from positions south of the Sauer river. Two (2) platoons of "A" Company and two (2) platoons of "B" Company crossed the Sauer river today in support of the attack launched by their respective regiments. Rcn Company preparing to move to Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. Battalion took 27 Prisoners of War. One (1) personnel casualty reported. 36 - M10's operational.
- 19 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division Area. Companies "A" and "B" direct support of 2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments respectively. "C" Company in general support. One (1) section of 2nd platoon of Rcn Co. supporting "A" Company. One (1) company fired 45 rounds reduced charge on indirect harassing fire missions during the period. At 1000 hours Rcn Co. began their move, from vicinity of Neesern, Luxembourg, P876338 to new assembly area vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, P824398 last elements arriving at about 1200 hours. At 1315 hours the Battalion CP left area vicinity of Larechette (Pels) Luxembourg P910329 enroute to new location vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxem. P824398 arriving at about 1400 hours. No casualties reported during the period. 36 M10's operational.
- 20 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "A" and "B" direct support of 2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments respectively. "C" Company in general support of Division area. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "B" company. One (1) section of 2nd platoon of Rcn. Co. continued to support "A" Company. 3rd platoon of "A" Company took one (1) PW and at the same time found, in a freshly evacuated foxhole, an overlay and other documents which were immediately turned into S-2 and thence to G-2. One $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of "B" Company was damaged by mortar fire. Battalion expended no ammunition during the period. No personnel casualties reported. 36 - M10's operational.
- 21 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defenses of the Division area. Companies "A" and "B" direct support of 2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments respectively. "C" Company in general support of ~~2nd and 10th Infantry Regiments~~ Division area. One (1) section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "B" Company. One (1) section of 2nd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "A" Company. The jeep damaged in yesterday's operations has been repaired and returned to duty. No ammunition expended during the period. No casualties reported. 35 - M10's operational.
- 22 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Rcn Co. continued to support "A" Company. "A" Company was relieved on the line by "C" Company at 0800 A hours. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 4 rounds AP and 15 rounds H.E. knocking out two (2) enemy trucks with trailers in the vicinity of P875495. Also 20 Prisoners of War were taken in the vicinity of P865476. 1st platoon of "C" Company moved into position giving supporting fire to the 11th Inf. Regt., firing into the town of Granlingen, before the attack. 60 rounds H. E. direct fire was expended on this mission. 3rd platoon of "C" Company fired 58 rounds of H.E. and 32 rounds AP in

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- 22 January 1945 (Cont'd). support of attacking infantry and at enemy tank vicinity P813503. One (1) destroyer was hit and burned from enemy direct fire. Battalion expended 133 rounds H.E. and 36 rounds AP during the period. One (1) personnel casualty (LWA). 33 - MLO's operational.
- 23 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "B" Company. One section of 2nd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "C" Company. The 2nd platoon of "B" Company fired 51 rounds H.E. and 39 rounds AP at enemy equipment and personnel knocking out two (2) SP's at P852518 and P852517; one (1) towed 75mm at P835515; two (2) half-tracks vicinity P859512; also in the vicinity of P859512, 40 enemy personnel were killed. 2nd platoon of "C" Company fired 12 rounds H.E. direct fire into the town of Hoescheid with good results. Reconnaissance Company continued to contact units on our left and right getting information and positions of other TD units. Battalion had no casualties. 33 - MLO's operational.
- 24 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "B" company. One section of 2nd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "C" Company. 1st platoon of "B" Company fired 14 rounds AP and 24 rounds H.E. direct fired knocking out 1 Mark V Tank via P855524, one (1) armored car at P846527, and fired at a house vicinity of P844527 killing an estimated 15 enemy. 2nd Platoon of B Company fired 11 rounds H.E. and 1 round AP direct fire knocking out either a Mark IV or V tank at P842528. Also killing an estimated 30 enemy personnel. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 205 rounds H.E. and 45 rounds AP direct fire knocking-out 2 Mark V tanks at P810502 and P815520. Also in the same vicinity 3 half-tracks and 2 Anti-tank guns were knocked-out. An estimated 90 enemy personnel killed. 45 rounds H.E. and 35 rounds AP direct fire was fired into the town of Hoescheid (P813509) at dug-in tanks and machine gun nests. Ron Co. continued to contact units on our left and right getting information and positions of other TD units. 1st platoon of "C" Company vicinity of Gralingen, Luxembourg (P813509) (P827499) observed a platoon of enemy personnel on foot, approximately 2000 yards away, moving down a road, North from Hoescheid. 4 guns 3-inch H.E. opened upon them killing some and dispersing the rest. What was left of the platoon tried to get away by one man moving out at a time, but each time a man would get up to run, one more round would be fired at him. None got away. Battalion expended 285 rounds H.E. and 95 rounds AP during the period. 6 Prisoners of War taken. No casualties reported. 33 - MLO's operational.
- 25 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "B" Company. One section of 2nd platoon of Ron Co. continued to support "C" Company. "A" Company remained in the same positions during the period. No ammo expended. 1st platoon of "B" Company fired 33 rounds H.E. direct fire at a long distance at enemy personnel and its not known at this time what the results are. 6 rounds of this ammo was fired at an SP gun and is not known whether or not it was knocked-out. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 4 rounds of the Star Shell from P826501 to P831519. Shells lighted up area where forward observer could site column of enemy vehicles moving down road. 3rd platoon of "C" Company fired 34 rounds H. E. and 3 rounds AP vicinity of Hoescheid P813509 where 9 enemy personnel were killed. Battalion expended 73 rounds H.E. 3 rounds AP and 4 rounds Star Shell during the period. 6 Prisoners of War were taken. No casualties reported. 34 - MLO's operational.

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- 26 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with Companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Ren Co. continued to support "B" Company. One section of 2nd platoon of Ren Co. which was supporting "C" Company has been released and returned to the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg P824398. All platoons of "A" Company remained the same except the 2nd platoon which moved into TD positions at P879487 and P894471. All platoons of "B" Company remained in the same positions during the period. A late report on yesterday's operations from "B" company reveals that one (1) SP and an estimated 60 enemy personnel were knocked-out. 1st platoon of "C" Company was relieved by the 2nd platoon as of 1430 hours at P831519. 3rd platoon fired 6 rounds AP and 5 rounds H. E. direct fire at an SP. Its not known whether or not it was knocked out. A late report on yesterday's operations from "C" Company reveals that 18 rounds AP same was expended knocking out one (1) Mark V tank vicinity of P843527. Battalion expended 5 rounds H. E. and 6 rounds AP during the period. Battalion had no casualties. 33 - MIO's operational.
- 27 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. One section of 3rd platoon of Ren Co. which was supporting "B" company has been released and returned to vicinity of Company CP. All platoons of "B" Company remained in the same positions during the period. 1st platoon fired 35 rounds H.E. direct fire into the village of Putscheid P857525. The platoon also fired 10 rounds AP into the barn hiding an SP or a tank, at P856525, but its not known at this time the extent of the damage. 2nd platoon fired 6 rounds H.E. direct fire at hay stack P843531 knocking out three (3) machine guns and killing 9. 3rd platoon of "C" Company fired 110 rounds H.E. and 40 rounds AP direct fire of which 10 rounds was used in knocking-out a Mark IV or Mark V Tank, the balance fired in support of the infantry. 2nd platoon fired 111 rounds H.E. direct fire in support of the infantry vicinity of P838543. Battalion expended 262 rounds H.E. and 50 rounds AP during the period. Battalion had no casualties. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 28 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "B" and "C" direct support of 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "A" Company in general support of Division area. "A" Company is in the process of relieving "B" Company. "B" Company will be in general support of the Division Area. Infantry with the support of the TD's are cleaning up pockets of resistance along the OUR River. Companies are preparing to go into a defensive position. Plans are being made now. Battalion expended no ammunition. No casualties reported. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 29 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "A" and "C" direct support of 2nd and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively. "B" Company in general support of Division area. All platoon leaders are reconnoitering areas along the various phase lines for gun positions into which they can move in the event of an enemy attack. Everything is comparatively quiet along the front. Troops are digging in. Battalion expended no ammunition. No casualties reported. 34 - MIO's operational.
- 30 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "A" and "C" direct support of 2nd and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively in a defensive role. "B" Company in general support of Division area. Two (2) platoons have moved into indirect firing positions. 1 sec of 1st platoon of "A" company fired 96 rounds of HS (normal charge) indirect interdiction and harassing fires during the period. 1st platoon of "C" Company fired 106 rounds H.E. (normal charge) indirect interdiction and harassing fires during the period.

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30 January 1945 (Cont'd). Battalion expended 202 rounds H.E. during the period. No casualties reported. 33 - MIO's operational.

31 January 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery with companies continuing to support their respective regiments and maintain TD defense of the Division area. Companies "A" and "C" direct support of 2nd and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively in a defensive role. "B" Company in general support of Division area. 1st platoon of "A" Company fired 108 rounds H. E. (normal charge) and 100 rounds H.E. (reduced charge) on indirect interdiction and harassing fire missions. 1st platoon of "C" company fired 106 rounds H.E. (normal charge) on indirect interdiction and harassing fire missions. The 2nd platoon of "C" Company moved to different positions in order to get better coverage of an like approach of the enemy. Companies remained in defensive positions during the period. Battalion expended 314 rounds H.E. during the period. No casualties reported. 35 - MIO's operational.

SUMMARY

- A The forward platoons have fired the Star Shell at night to illuminate towns, roads and enemy night attacks. The lighting up of roads for the Artillery forward observer has proven the most successful. Whenever possible wire is laid from the TD platoon to the Infantry Battalion.
- B In defensive positions we have employed a revolving gun against the enemy. The gun must be moved into position at night preferably with a small amount of artillery fire in the sector to hide the noise. It is necessary to stray from normal tactics in this type of employment, therefore the rewards must be great. After finding a target and destroying it, the gun must be immediately pulled out and sent to another part of the sector the next night.
- C We keep a TD air Liaison Officer at the air strip at all times. At the first sign of tank attack he immediately takes to the air. Battalion net control notifies the company, whose sector the attack is in, to switch to A.G.L. frequency. The "B" channel of all 610 Radios in the destroyers are set up on this net. It is then possible for the air officer to direct single guns to positions to cover the attack.
- D In the final stages of the recent attack on "The Bulge" the First Platoon, Company "B", 803d TD Bn., occupied an OP in the vicinity of FUHL with good observation to the north where the Germans were moving occasional vehicles outside the sight range of the tank destroyer gun. 1st Lt. Clifford Olson, Platoon Leader, therefore employed what his men call "indirect-direct fire". Firing at approximately 4500 yards, Lt. Olson, from his OP, directed the firing of his direct fire weapon by observation and correction as if he were firing indirect, resulting in the destruction of a German half-track, a horse drawn train and an unknown number of enemy personnel.
- E The First Section of the Second Platoon, Co. "B", 803d TD Bn, discovered another "secondary mission" lately. Advancing on a direct support mission, toward Nachtmanderschied, the second destroyer was loaded with rations and ammunition for an infantry Unit already in the town, but which could receive no supplies except over the high open ground leading to them; which was under observation and covered by heavy enemy fire. The TDs advanced under this fire, halting on the way to fire upon the houses where the enemy was holding out, which were designated by the infantry with H/G ammunition "barrowed" from the TD platoon.
- F Distances ever known are deceptive, however Sergeant Thomas L. Mongeon, Destroyer Commander of the Second Platoon, Co. "B", 803d TD Bn, proved something can be made out of an underestimate. Firing at a German self-propelled weapon estimated to be at 2400 yards, the shell hit a haystack exploding the ammunition dump it concealed. Sergeant Mongeon immediately raised his sights another 400 yards and placed an HE round on the left front of the SP.
- G While in Putschied, Luxembourg, on a direct support mission, the First Section of the Second Platoon, under Lt. Orrin R. Larsen, assisted in the

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SUMMARY

- G (Cont'd). evacuation of wounded. Four medics had a total of ten (10) wounded, including three stretcher cases, and one exhaustion case, who had to be evacuated over high open terrain which was under constant enemy observation and covered by their fires. The patients were loaded on the destroyer commanded by Sergeant Willard W. Olsen, who, with Corporal Alfred C. Kulp and Tec 5 Albert J. De Hate, evacuated the patients. (Total of eighteen persons on the destroyer).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. One 300 series radio per TD Platoon.
This is essential for good liaison between the infantry battalion and the TD Platoon. Direct fire missions can be accomplished many times faster with this type of communication.
2. Auxiliary Generators for all destroyers.
The battery pack (BA40) is not suitable for operating the 610 Radio when the radio is operated 24 hours a day. The M10 engine cannot be used to charge the battery because the smoke and noise brings enemy fire in on your position. It is felt that an auxiliary Generator Ordnance #D80491, should be installed in each M10 and M20. We have had to replace engines in M20s because it was necessary to run engine to keep battery charged while operating the 600 Radio. It is impossible to keep batteries up in front line positions.

CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

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