

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS 635TH TD BATTALION TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

ADJ. GEN. VII CORPS
Initials *DLA*
DATE: *12 Dec 44*

9 December 1944

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

THROUGH: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army

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

File 319.1
VII Corps

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in letter, file 319.1/401 (C) Hq. First U. S. Army, subject as indicated above, dated 13 July 1944, and paragraph 10 (C3) AR 345-105, the following report and copy of Unit Journal is submitted for the month of November 1944.

2. Our attachment to the 4th Cavalry Group, Mezc, continued throughout the month, with Company "A" in support of the 24th Cav. Rcn. Sqdn. Until 11 November, on which day we moved from Roetgen to SW Aachen, Germany, to an assembly position, Company "C" remained in support of the 4th Cav. Rcn. Sqdn. and the 1st Platoon of Company "B" had the mission of defending Roetgen; while the 2nd and 3rd Platoons of Company "B" were in indirect firing positions in general support. We continued our primary mission under Group control insofar as supporting the south flank of the VII Corps, and our operational attachment to V Corps effective 25 October was terminated as of 1320 hours 11 November, and we passed back to control of VII Corps on closing in assembly area in SW Aachen, Germany. After closing in on a new assembly area in Lupen, Belgium, Company "A" established a new CP in vicinity of Zweifel, Germany, coord 994385, and with the 24th Cav. Rcn. Sqdn. established a moving counter reconnaissance screen to cover the gap between the 8th and 22nd Infantry Regiments, and to cover road blocks already established. On 221000 November 1944 this Battalion, less Company "A" committed to the 4th Division area, as an integral part of the 4th Cavalry Group Mezc, was attached to the 1st U. S. Infantry Division for the purpose of filling or plugging the gap between the 8th and the 26th Infantry Regiments, advancing to the east in conjunction with the advance of both of these regiments; paying particular attention to the protection of the 1st Division's right flank. The 3rd Platoon of Company "C" moved forward to protect crossroads in vicinity of Schevenhutte, Germany, coord 007441 with the remainder of Company "C" and all of Company "B" remaining in the assembly area in SW Aachen.

3. Employment of the firing companies was as heretofore coordinated between Group, Squadron Commanders and Company Commanders and they have been used successfully against enemy patrol activity, for observation patrols, CPs and roadblocks. Our platoons were dismounted and utilized as infantry. The combat efficiency of this command is excellent and has all its equipment. Our patrols effected 12 contacts with the enemy before closing in on the assembly area, and our patrols on harassing missions to draw enemy fire to disclose positions were responsible for the neutralization of machine gun nests and two pillboxes. 3" gun firing by our Company "C", exclusive of Company "B" guns in indirect firing positions, proved satisfactory with:

After Action Report, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 9 Dec. 1944, cont'd.

- 4 pillboxes neutralized
- 1 machine gun with personnel destroyed
- 1 OP building destroyed
- 1 CP building destroyed

Fire was also directed at enemy tanks with unknown effects. The following is a resume of the indirect firing mission of the 2nd and 3rd platoons of Company "B" through 1830 hours 10 November 1944 - firing was controlled by our own Fire Direction Center - fire was observed by the 87th F. A. Battalion, and by our own officers and enlisted personnel:

- a. 3564 rounds 3" HE ammunition expended
- b. 155 missions fired, of which 110 were interdiction; the remainder general support and harassing. 3 Registrations were fired with one registration made by FOB.
- c. 1 harassing mission was fired on the town of Binruhr, Germany, with no observed effects; the same applying to the town at coord 0218-2634.
- d. 15 missions were fired on enemy foot troops with good results with many known dead and wounded; however, since observers could not determine the exact number of dead and/or wounded, we are not taking credit for same. On one mission observers reported two squads foot troops completely wiped out, and on a mission against foot troops on the road to Schmid, the effect was observed by AOP who reported that dead and wounded hauled away for five hours.
- e. Two CP houses were destroyed.
- f. One vehicle destroyed.
- g. 6 counter battery missions S&F were fired. While results unknown, enemy batteries were stilled.
- h. 2 pillboxes were neutralized.
- i. 2 missions were fired on mortar emplacements with very good and excellent reported by observers.
- j. 4 missions were fired on CP houses; one house destroyed - unable observe 3 others due to heavy snow fall.

4. a. During the month the number of battle casualties suffered by this Battalion were five enlisted men wounded-evacuated, and three enlisted men wounded and not evacuated. Non-battle casualties for the month's operation were five enlisted men evacuated.

b. The battalion captured, independently of assistance, 3 enemy prisoners, but we know we were responsible for the Group capturing more.

c. We have positive proof of killing five of the enemy, however, we know we were responsible for the death of a great many more due to our patrol and indirect fire activity as noted herein; however, we were not in position to check for definite results.

d. We suffered no vehicular casualties during the month.

e. Incidents: All incidents pertaining to action with or against the enemy are outlined and broken down by days in the attached "Excerpts from Unit Jour-

After Action Report, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 9 Dec. 1944, cont'd.

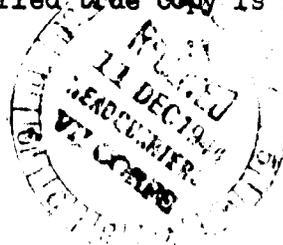
nal."

f. Our firing platoon and firing company CP positions were subjected to heavy mortar fire and enemy artillery shelling during their commitment forward.

g. The Battalion Commander, continuing as Group Provost Marshall, appointed two officers who had enlisted personnel at their disposal to assist Military Government and Civil Affairs groups in towns and communities not under their jurisdiction but in the Group control area. During our stay in the assembly area, civilians in military areas were processed through Military Government in Aachen, and one (1) enemy spy in American uniform was turned over.

h. The Battalion Commander was placed in charge of Anti-Airborne Defense Plans for the southern part of Aachen and environs. Defensive positions were set up and the plan coordinated with all organizations in our defense area.

i. We received through channels, with favorable indorsements from Commanding General, 1st U. S. Infantry Division, Commanding General, VII Corps, and Commanding Officer 4th Cavalry Group Mecz, commendation for service during this Battalion's attachment between 8 June 1944 and 31 August 1944, from Commanding General, 1st U. S. Infantry Division Artillery. The commendation was dated 24 October 1944, and a certified true copy is attached. ?



Wint Smith
WINT SMITH
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding

100CL
1944

- 2 Incls. ?
- 1-Excerpts from Unit Journal
- 2-Certified True Copy of Commendation