

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

SECRET
AUTH: CG VII AC
Initials: [redacted]
Date: 1 Oct 44

File 319.1/1
Hq. VII Corps.

6 October 1944

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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.

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 September 1944.

2. On 1 September this Battalion was detached from the 1st U. S. Infantry Division Artillery and attached to the 4th Cavalry Group, Mezc., for the purpose of assisting the Group to fulfill their mission of securing the right flank and rear of the VII Corps in their advance from the Aisne River, and a comparable mission in the Corps' advance through southeast Belgium to Germany. The Commanding General, VII Corps, commended the Battalion for it's part in this screening assignment in his letter of 14 September to the Commanding Officer, 4th Cavalry Group, Mezc.

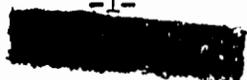
Firing Companies "A" and "B" were attached to the 24th and 4th Cav. Rcn. Squadrons respectively, and Firing Company "C" was placed in reserve attached to Group Headquarters for disposition. Company "C" was assigned the mission of guarding Corps CP from 11th September to 21 September. Employment of the firing companies was coordinated between Group, Squadron Commanders and Company Commanders, and they have been successfully used in repelling enemy counter-attacks and enemy patrol activity, combat patrols, OPs, road patrols, creating and protecting road blocks, and in general assisted in the elimination of German resistance in designated areas. Combat efficiency of this command is very satisfactory, has all its equipment except one (1) M8.

a. During the month the number of battle casualties suffered by this Battalion are 2 enlisted men killed, 5 enlisted men wounded and evacuated, and 1 officer and 1 enlisted man wounded and not evacuated.

b. The Battalion captured, independently of assistance, 21 prisoners, and we know we were responsible for the squadrons capturing many more.

c. We have positive proof of killing 22 of the enemy, and are confident we were responsible for the death of a great many more, and many who were wounded and put out of future action against our troops; however, the nature of our mission eliminated the advisability of close investigation for supported results.

d. We suffered no serious vehicular casualties during the month. Two (2) 1/4 ton vehicles were damaged but we were able to repair them ourselves.



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Report, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Oct. 1944, cont'd.

e. Incidents: On 1 Sept. "A" Co. contacted enemy at Aubenton. On 3 Sept. Ren. party neutralized two strong points. On 4 Sept. "B" Co. fired at strongpoint. "B" Co. made enemy contact. On 5 Sept. "A" Co. fired at enemy from hill and destroyed 3 halftracks and two GP vehicles. On 9 Sept. "C" Co. fired harassing fire at enemy. On 13th Sept. we recovered two members of a B-17 Fortress who had baled out due to mechanical difficulty, evacuated to rear. On 15 Sept. "B" Co. reported six incidents of contact with enemy not previously reported - enemy personnel and equipment knocked out. On 17 Sept. recovered BM taken prisoner by enemy - evacuated to rear. On 21st Co. "B" aided Cav. Squadron to repel attempted enemy infiltration. "B" Co. position attacked and this attack was repelled. On 24 Sept. "A" Co. aided Squadron repel infiltration of enemy behind squadron's elements. On 25th and 26th "B" Co. aided in repelling patrol attacks. On 30 Sept. "B" Co. reported action of their 3rd platoon not previously reported. Platoon contacted the enemy on four different occasions and sent out six combat patrols. (Refer to Excerpts from September Unit Journal attached for complete details)

f. Our firing platoons were subjected to considerable enemy shelling of heavy caliber.

g. Indirect fire, observed and unobserved proved most successful from reports of the 87th F. A. Bn. we supported. It is their belief we stopped a large scale counterattack.

h. On 13 Sept., the Commanding Officer was appointed Group Provost Marshal. From that date through the 30th, the following was accomplished:

- (1) Controlled the movements of civilian population.
- (2) 33 towns contacted by Provost Marshal Patrols, organized from forward CP personnel of this Battalion for the purpose of posting official proclamations, and outlining the rules to govern the future behavior of the populace.
- (3) Closed telephone exchanges and prohibited the use of telegraph in all towns visited.
- (4) Collected in all towns visited all available weapons, ammunition, explosives, flashlights, and cameras and turned these into the Civil Affairs authority in Malmedy.
- (5) Incarcerated eight (8) Nazi collaborators and four enemy soldiers in civilian clothes, believed to be spies.
- (6) Investigated and took action on looting complaints, loss of rations by our troops to civilians, and one case of rape.



Wint Smith
WINT SMITH
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding

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