

HEADQUARTERS 654TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Office of the Commanding Officer

OPB
Gto-1

APO 403, US ARMY,
3 January 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington, D.C.

1. Submitted herewith After Action Report for 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion for period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944.

For the Battalion Commander:

James M. Woodruff
JAMES M. WOODRUFF
WO JG USA
Asst. Adjutant.

7 Incls:

1. After Action Report--(1-31 December 1944).
2. G-1 Periodic Report--Special Orders.
3. S-2 Journal.
4. S-2 Supporting Documents (Messages and Overlays).
5. S-3 Journal.
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HEADQUARTERS 654TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
Office of the Commanding Officer

31 December 1944.

AFTER ACTION REPORT
(1--31 December 1944)

301200 November 1944--011200 December 1944.

CP : At Lemning, France, coordinates 322402, map 1/50,000 since 261300 Nov 44.
Co A : In reserve in assembly area performing motor maintenance.
Co B : In reserve in assembly area performing motor maintenance.
Co C : In reserve in assembly area performing motor maintenance.
Rcn Co: CP at Lemning, France, coordinates 322402, map 1/50,000 since 261300 Nov 44. One Rcn Platoon and one Pioneer Section attached to each Gun Co.

011200-021200 Dec 44.

CP : No change.
Co A : Placed in support of 134th Infantry as of 021000 hours.
Co B : In Division Reserve.
Co C : In direct support of 320th Infantry as of 021000 hours.
Rcn Co: No change.

021200-031200 Dec 44.

CP : Remained at Lemning, France. Weather: Overcast with snow.
Co A : In direct support 134th Infantry at 021000 Dec 44.
Co B : In Division Reserve under Battalion control at 021000 Dec 44.
Co C : In support of 320th Infantry at 021000 Dec 44.
Rcn Co: No change.
No enemy contact during period.

031200-041200 Dec 44.

CP : At Lemning. No contact.
Co A : Continued in support 134th Infantry. No contact.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve.
Co C : Continued in support 320th Infantry. One EM wounded in action.

041200-051200 Dec 44.

CP : No change.
Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. Second platoon destroyed one 20mm AA gun. Platoon moved over difficult terrain and after the hours of darkness to Puttelange, France.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve.
Co C : Continued in support of 320th Infantry. Third platoon knocked out two MGs, one pillbox, and two strong points. At 050500 Dec, the second platoon moved to positions at coordinates 445441 and at 0730 fired 20 rounds APC at a pillbox believed to be an Artillery control point at coordinates 462449. Also destroyed one vehicle, type unknown, during firing. Upon completion of firing platoon moved back to original position. No casualties.
Rcn Co: No change.

051200-061200 Dec 44.

CP : Closed at Lemning and established in St. Jean Rohrbach, France, at 051430 Dec. Buildings searched for delayed explosives.

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Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. One broke through bridge across AT ditch at coord 421526 at 051100 Dec. Recovered.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve. Making reconnaissance of entire Division sector and maintaining liaison between Companies A and C.
Co C : Continued in support of 320th Infantry.
Rcn Co: No change.
Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached to Battalion as of 051800 Dec. Now preparing to move from St. Avold to Harbach.

061200-071200 Dec 44.

CP : No change.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry. No contact.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve. Maintained contact with Companies A and C.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. No contact.
Rcn Co: No change.
Company B, 610th TD Battalion: Continued attached to Battalion. In reserve. Maintained contact with Companies A, B, and C. No contact.

071200-081200 Dec 44.

CP : Closed at St. Jean Rohrbach at 080845 Dec and established at Woustviller, coordinates 471533 at 080925 Dec. No enemy contact during move.
Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. No contact.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve. No contact.
Co C : Continued in support of 320th Infantry. No contact.
Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one Pioneer section attached to each Gun Company.
Company B, 610th TD Battalion: One platoon attached to each gun company. Making reconnaissance of Division sector for gun positions.

081200-091200 Dec 44.

CP : Violent artillery barrages laid on enemy positions across Saar River throughout period.
Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. First and Second platoons fired 138 rounds of 3" and 1300 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition in support of 134th Infantry river crossing.
Co B : Continued in Division Reserve. Maintained contact with Companies A, and C.
Co C : Continued in support of 320th Infantry. First and Second platoons fired 116 rounds 3" ammunition. Knocked out three enemy strong points, one pillbox, and one enemy tank, type unknown. Two M10s stuck in mud. Retrieved.
Rcn Co: No change.
Company B, 610th TD Battalion: One platoon attached to each gun company. Third platoon, attached to Company C, fired 9 rounds 90mm at two MK V tanks with unknown results.

091200-101200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Woustviller, France.
Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. Company crossed Saar River on night 9-10 Dec 44 on bridge after attempting to float M10s across. First platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion, continued attached to Company. Two EM wounded in action. One M10 struck a mine at coordinates 542558 while enroute to AT positions with advanced Infantry elements.
Co B : Now in direct support of 137th Infantry. First and Second platoons during darkness on the night of 9-10 Dec 44, moved to positions vicinity coordinates 507565 and 516557 to cover surprise attack of 2d and 3d Battalions with overwatching fire. Third platoon crossed Saar River closely following the Infantry. Second platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion, continued attached to Company.

Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. First and Second platoons crossed Saar River at Saarable and reached the advanced elements of the Infantry. Third platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion, continued attached to Co.
Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one Pioneer Section remained attached to each Gun Co. Company B, 610th TD Battalion: One platoon attached to each Gun Company. Organic Rcn platoon maintained contact with 26th Infantry Division and 6th Armored Division and supplied information of adjacent AT weapons and positions to Gun Companies.

101200-111200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Woustviller during period.
Hq Co : Remained at St. Jean Rohrbach, France during period.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry with 1st platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry with 2nd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry with 3rd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached.
Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one Pioneer Section attached to each Gun Company. Company B, 610th TD Battalion: One platoon attached to each Gun Company. Rcn platoon maintained contact with 26th Infantry and 6th Armored Division.

111200-121200 Dec 44.

CP : Remained at Woustviller, France.
Co A : Continued in direct support 134th Infantry with 1st platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. Second platoon destroyed one AT gun in the vicinity of Felpersviller, France.
Co B : Continued in direct support of 137th Infantry with 2nd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. No action.
Co C : Continued in direct support 320th Infantry with 3rd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. Third platoon and pioneer section aided in clearing enemy mine field at coordinates 580564, so platoon could move forward.
Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one pioneer section attached to each Gun Company.

121200-131200 Dec 44.

CP : No change.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry with 1st platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. Fired 10 rounds 3" and 250 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. First platoon destroyed one German jeep at coordinates 575594.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry with 2nd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. Fired 26 rounds 3" ammunition. First platoon destroyed one pillbox and one blockhouse during period. One EM wounded in action.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry with 3rd platoon, Company B, 610th TD Battalion attached. Second platoon fired 80 rounds of 3" ammunition and destroyed one OP, two bunkers, and killed 35 Germans vicinity of coordinates 557609 and 589577.
Rcn Co: No change.

131200-141200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Woustviller. Hq Co CP remained at St. Jean Rohrbach, France.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry. No action.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. Third platoon fired 10 rounds 3" ammunition and destroyed two MGs. One EM wounded in action and one M10 hit by shrapnel.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. Second platoon fired 37 rounds 3"

ammunition a locked out enemy OP at coord 584536.

Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one pioneer section attached to each Gun Company. Third Rcn platoon attached to Company B had one EM killed in action and one wounded in action at 2300 hours due to enemy artillery fire.

141200-151200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. At Woustviller. Hq Co CP at St. Jean Rohrbach.
Co A : Continued to support the 134th Infantry. First platoon fired 199 rounds 3" ammunition and destroyed 5 strong points in town of Habkirchen, Germany and killed 75 enemy soldiers.
Co B : Continued to support the 137th Infantry. First platoon fired 52 rounds 3" ammunition into houses at coordinates 550609 and killed 20 Germans and captured 54. The platoon under First Lieutenant David R. McNaught and Staff Sergeant Bill Brock were the first members of the Battalion to lay fire into Germany proper.
Co C : Continued to support the 320th Infantry. No contact.
Rcn Co: No change.
Company B, 610th TD Battalion relieved of attachment to this Battalion.

151200-161200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Woustviller. Hq Co CP at St. Jean Rohrbach.
Co A : Continued in direct support 134th Infantry. One 1½ ton truck hit in radiator by enemy artillery burst. One EM wounded in action.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. First platoon fired 106 rounds 3" ammunition at three enemy tanks supporting enemy Infantry counterattack in 3rd Battalion sector. One enemy tank believed destroyed and two hit at coordinates 555611 and 50 enemy soldiers killed, remaining enemy forces forced to retreat. One M10 hit by artillery fire.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. First platoon moved N through 134th Infantry sector to bridges at coord 558599 in order to cross Bleis River and join 1st Battalion, 320th Infantry.
Rcn Co: CP at Hambach. No change.

161200-171200 Dec 44.

CP : Closed Woustviller, France at 171020 and established at Sarreinsming, France, coordinates 541546, 1/50,000, 171052 Dec 44.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry. No contact.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. Third platoon fired 50 rounds 3" ammunition at Battalion enemy Infantry and one AT (SP) gun in woods at coordinates 557625, forcing gun to withdraw and killing approximately 60 German soldiers.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. First platoon fired 67 rounds 3" ammunition at Reicheim in support of 1st Battalion attack. Third platoon destroyed one AA gun vicinity of Reicheim on 15 Dec 44.
Rcn Co: No change.

171200-181200 Dec 44.

CP : Remained at Sarreinsming, France. One FW 190 strafed area at 1500. No casualties.
Co A : Continued in support of 134th Infantry. Third platoon fired 4 rounds 3" and 350 rounds .50 caliber ammunition at strong points at coordinates 572601. One ½ ton truck hit by shrapnel vicinity of CP.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. First platoon supporting 2d Battalion, 137th Infantry. Fired 19 rounds 3" and 1250 rounds .30 caliber ammunition into woods at 559612. Two EM wounded in action.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. Third platoon fired 64 rounds 3" ammunition at enemy Infantry and strong point at 635617, and second platoon fired 9 rounds at strong point at coordinate 635617.

Rcn Co: No change in attachments. One EM killed in action and two wounded in action due to enemy artillery fire.

181200-191200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Sarreinsming, France.
Co A : All platoons in Germany. Remained in support of the 134th Infantry.
Co B : All platoons in Germany. Continued to support 137th Infantry. First platoon fired 97 rounds 3" ammunition at enemy Infantry in houses at coordinates 548610 and 559615, inflicting 50 casualties upon the enemy. Second platoon fired 39 rounds of 3" at 3 Tanks and Infantry. Destroyed one enemy tank, type unknown, and inflicted 45 casualties upon enemy.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. Second platoon fired 17 rounds 3" ammunition in support of 2d Battalion.
Hq and Rcn Cos: While checking for mines and booby traps in building which they had occupied for four days at coordinate 523578, discovered 2100 pounds of dynamite with time fuse attached, hidden in potatoe bin. Time fuse had three days to go before detonating.

191200-201200 Dec 44.

CP : Remained at Sarreinsming, France.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. First platoon fired 25 rounds of 3" ammunition into houses in Bleismengen, Germany. One EM wounded.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. No contact.
Rcn Co: No change.
Hq Co : No change.

201200-211200 Dec 44.

CP : No change. Remained at Sarreinsming, France.
Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry. First platoon fired 4 rounds of HE ammunition at enemy troops at coordinate 585618. Third platoon fired 58 rounds 3" ammunition at enemy tank and MG nest and Infantry at coordinate 585618. During hours of darkness, 20-21 Dec 44, the Third platoon moved to coordinate 585611. Two EM wounded in action due to enemy mine.
Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. Third platoon fired 16 rounds 3" ammunition at enemy automatic weapons firing from woods at coordinate 569616, 1/50,000, after which enemy fire ceased. Second platoon was prepared to support 2d Cavalry Group in event of counterattack. Four EM wounded in action and 1½ ton truck hit by enemy artillery fire.
Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. No contact.
Rcn Co: No change in attachments. CP moved to Witting.
Hq Co : Moved to Witting, France during period.

211200-222400 Dec 44.

CP : Relieved on present sector by 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion and closed CP in Sarreinsming, France, 220900 Dec 44, and established CP in Battalion assembly area at Leyviller, France, 221000 Dec 44. CP closed in Leyviller, France, 221400 Dec and departed for Luxembourg, Luxembourg. Relieved from attachment to 35th Infantry Division 221100 Dec and attached to 5th Infantry Division. At end of period Battalion was enroute to new sector. Convoy strafed from Metz to destination by German Air Force. Weather: Clear with snow on the ground and bright moonlight.
Co A : Relieved from direct support 134th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division at 211900 Dec 44 and reverted to Battalion control. Assembled in Battalion assembly area 221000 Dec 44. Departed. Began motor march to Luxembourg 221400 Dec and at end of period was enroute to new front. Column strafed

upon several occasions by German Air Force. casualties.

- Co B : Relieved from direct support 137th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division 211900 Dec and reverted to Battalion control. Closed in assembly area vicinity Leyviller, France 221000 and began motor march to Luxembourg 221400 Dec. At end of period Company was enroute to new front. Strafed by German Air Force several times after the hours of darkness. No casualties.
- Co C : Relieved from direct support 320th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division at 211900 Dec and reverted to Battalion control. Closed in assembly area vicinity of Leyviller, France 221100 Dec 44. Departed from Leyviller, France enroute to Luxembourg 221400 Dec. At end of period Company was enroute to new station. Company strafed by German Air Force after the hours of darkness. No casualties.
- Rcn Co: One Rcn platoon and one pioneer section remained attached to each Gun Company. Established CP in Leyviller, France, 211600 Dec. Departed from Leyviller, France, 221300 Dec for Luxembourg sector. At end of period, CP group was enroute to new destination. Strafed by German Air Force on road after the hours of darkness.
- Hq Co : Established CP in Leyviller, France, 211500 Dec. Departed from Leyviller, France, enroute to Luxembourg sector 221600 Dec and at end of period were enroute. Column strafed by German Air Force after darkness. No casualties.

222400-232400 Dec 44.

- CP : ~~CP~~ in vicinity of Luxembourg, Luxembourg at 230130 Dec. Total distance traveled: 110 miles. Weather: Excellent. Battalion attached to 5th Infantry Division 221635 Dec 44. No casualties enroute.
- Co A : Closed in Ganderange, Luxembourg at 231330 Dec 44. Placed in direct support of 2d Infantry Regiment. No enemy contact.
- Co B : Closed in Eschweiler, Luxembourg at 231900 Dec 44. Placed in direct support 10th Infantry. No enemy contact.
- Co C : Closed in the vicinity of Baurglinster, Luxembourg at 232100 Dec 44. Placed in direct support 11th Infantry. No enemy contact.
- Rcn Co: Closed in vicinity of Luxembourg, Luxembourg at 230130 Dec 44. No change in attachments. No contact.

232400-242400 Dec 44.

- CP : Closed in Luxembourg, Luxembourg at 240840 and established in Junglinster, Luxembourg at 240920, coordinate 932246. S-1 Section remained in Luxembourg until 1600 when it joined the other part of the CP.
- Co A : In support of 2d Infantry. No contact.
- Co B : In support of 10th Infantry. No contact.
- Co C : In support of 11th Infantry. No contact.
- Rcn Co: CP closed in Junglinster, Luxembourg at 240940. No change in attachments.
- Hq Co : CP remained in the City of Luxembourg during period.

242400-252400 Dec 44.

- CP : Remained in Junglinster, Luxembourg. Weather: Excellent. Turkey served to Battalion for dinner. Morale: Excellent. Commanding Officer directed to have Liaison Officer report to III Corps at Arlen, Belgium. Captain Carson departed from CP at 2200 hours with Orders to report to Commanding General, III Corps, US Army, for instructions.
- Co A : Continued to support 2d Infantry. No contact.
- Co B : Continued to support 10th Infantry. No contact.
- Co C : Continued to support 11th Infantry. No contact.
- Rcn Co: No change in CP or attachments.
- Hq Co : Closed in Luxembourg, Luxembourg and established CP in Junglinster, Luxembourg at 0940.

Company C, 80 Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to this Battalion
24 Dec and is now protecting left flank of Division.

252400-262400 Dec 44.

- CP : Battalion relieved from attachment to XII Corps and 5th Infantry Division and attached to III Corps, 35th Infantry Division, 26 Dec 44. Closed in Junglinster, Luxembourg at 261400 and established in Tontelange, Belgium at 261630 Dec, coordinate 612268, 1/50,000. Joined 35th Infantry Division CP at this village. Total distance traveled: 29 miles. No enemy contact.
- Co A : Relieved of direct support of 2d Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, at 261600 Dec and proceeded to Lischart, Belgium, coordinate 575265, 1/50,000, where it was placed in direct support of 35th Division under Battalion control, in reserve.
- Co B : Relieved from direct support of 10th Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, at 260600 and proceeded to Roodt - Les - Ell, Luxembourg, coordinate 623345, 1/50,000, and upon arrival, placed in direct support of 137th Infantry, 35th Division.
- Co C : Relieved from direct support of 11th Infantry, 5th Infantry Division, at 261600 Dec and proceeded to Lannen, Luxembourg, coordinate 625338, 1/50,000, and upon arrival was placed in direct support of 320th Infantry, 35th Division.
- Rcn Co: Same as Battalion CP. No change in attachments of platoons.
- Med Det: Same as Battalion CP.

262400-281200 Dec 44.

- CP : Closed in Tontelange, Belgium at 271055 Dec, and established in Perle, Luxembourg, coordinate 583365, 1/50,000 at 271130 Dec 44. No enemy contact.
- Co A : Continued in Division Reserve. Prepared to cover any armored threat. Done motor maintenance.
- Co B : Continued in support of the 137th Infantry. Fired 65 rounds of 3" ammunition at enemy foot troops and machine gun positions. One M10 struck mine at coordinate 588461, 1/50,000. No other contact.
- Co C : Continued in support of the 320th Infantry. No contact.
- Rcn Co: No change in attachments. CP in Perle, Luxembourg.

281200-291200 Dec 44.

- CP : Continued established in Perle, Luxembourg. One enemy aircraft over CP during night.
- Co A : Continued to support 134th Infantry. No contact.
- Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. Fired 20 rounds HE destroying one machine gun, two pillboxes, and inflicting 30 casualties on enemy. M10 of 1st platoon struck an enemy mine at coordinate 570495. One officer wounded in action.
- Co C : Continued to support 320th Infantry. Fired 40 rounds 3" ammunition at enemy machine guns and foot troops with unknown results.
- Rcn Co: CP in Perle, Luxembourg. No change in attachments.

291200-301200 Dec 44.

- CP : Closed at Perle, Luxembourg and established at Arsdorf, Luxembourg, coordinate 639419, at 291420, a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
- Co A : Continued in support 134th Infantry. Two M10s hit by direct tank fire at coordinate 565525, 1/50,000. One German killed. M10s continued operational.
- Co B : Continued in support 137th Infantry. Two M10s were destroyed by direct enemy tank fire at coordinate 570495, 1/50,000. Seven (7) enlisted men killed in action, one EM seriously wounded in action, and one EM lightly wounded in action. Third platoon destroyed one tank, type unknown, at coordinate 578498 with 8 rounds of APC ammunition.

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Co C : Continued in support 320th Infantry. Third platoon fired 46 rounds of 3" ammunition into a house at coordinate 608h90, causing approximately 80 casualties.

Rcn Co: CP remained at Perle, Luxembourg. No change in attachments.

301200-311200 Dec 44.

CP : In Arsderf, Luxembourg. Enemy air craft over CP during night.

Co A : Continued in support 134th Infantry. First and Second platoons fired 44 rounds 3" ammunition and 1000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition at enemy Infantry in American uniforms and 15 enemy tanks vicinity of Lutrebois, Belgium. Second platoon definitely destroyed 4 MK IV tanks and aided by second platoon from CCA, 4th Armored Division, destroyed 11 other tanks and 9 other miscellaneous vehicles. Killed 100 enemy Infantry and captured one prisoner. One enlisted man lightly wounded in action. No losses in equipment other than one .50 caliber machine gun damaged.

Co B : Continued to support 137th Infantry. Fired 20 rounds of 3" ammunition into woods at coordinate 571502 with unknown results.

Co C : Continued in support of 320th Infantry. One M10 hit by enemy artillery fire and one enlisted man wounded in action.

Rcn Co: No change.

THE FOLLOWING DECORATIONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED IN THIS BATTALION TO DATE:

SILVER STAR	6
SILVER STAR (OAK LEAF CLUSTER)	2
BRONZE STAR	90
BRONZE STAR (OAK LEAF CLUSTER)	3
PURPLE HEART	170
PURPLE HEART (OAK LEAF CLUSTER)	4

CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 DECEMBER 44 TO 31 DECEMBER 44

MIA	OFFICERS	0	EN	9
SWA	"	0	"	3
LWA	"	0	"	10
LTA	"	0	"	5
TOTAL				33

ATTENDERS OF THE UNIT DURING THE PERIOD OF 1 DECEMBER 44 TO 31 DECEMBER 44