

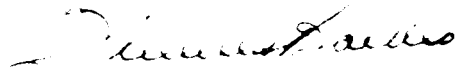
HEADQUARTERS, 017TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

arib/cef  
APO 359, c/o Postmaster  
New York, N. Y.  
3 January, 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO : Commanding General, 8th Infantry Division, APO 8, US Army  
(ATT: Adjutant General)

1. In compliance with letter AG 319.1, dated 9 November, 1944 and change thereto dated 31 December, 1944; transmitted herewith original and four copies of After Action Report for December, 1944. Annexes I, II, III and original Journal and messages covering same period.



WILLIAM H. BARDES  
Lt. Col., 017th T. D. Bn.  
Commanding

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S E C R E T

AFTER ACTION REPORT

UNIT: 817th T. D. Bn.  
DATE: 1 January, 1945  
PLACE: 029370 - Sheets  
5203, 5204, 5303  
5304 - Germany  
1/25,000

FROM: 100001

TO : 312400

MAPS: Germany 1/25,000 - Sheets No. 5203, 5204, 5303, 5304

1. ENEMY:

- a. No contact with armor during period (See overlay for other troops Annex I).
- b. Not applicable.
- c. No enemy armor appeared within our lines during the period. However, considerable tracked vehicle movement was heard on the SCHMIDT - MARSCHMIDT road - which possibly was armor. Our OP in vicinity of BERGSTEIN reported seven (?) tanks moving in vicinity of KORNERSCHMIDT on 10 December. Nothing more was heard of these tanks. The enemy attempted to move numerous small patrols into our lines but met with little known success. One enemy force estimated to consist of 100 men crossed the ROER in vicinity 090370 on 27 December but were met with heavy artillery and accurate small arms fire and driven back across river. A small attack made by infantry was made against the BERGSTEIN sector night of 31 December and after heavy enemy casualties the attack was stopped. Enemy artillery was moderate throughout the period. Fire was light in early part of period increasing in intensity during the period. Fire was directed namely to BERGSTEIN, BRANDENBURG, VOSSNACK, HURTGEN, KLEINHAU, and GEY and connecting roads. Enemy air activity was scarce early in period but late in period Luftwaffe was active throughout the sector, strafing our positions and areas. Our own platoon knocked down a ME 109 in vicinity of GEY on the 27 December. The enemy seemed content to dig-in positions and harass us with their artillery and air attacks.
- d. From all reports, the morale of PW's has improved since the German counter-attack, especially among the younger Nazi fanatics.
- e. The enemy capabilities are:
  - 1) Defend their sector and harass our sector with FA fire and enemy patrols.
  - 2) Attack with Infantry supported by small elements of tanks at any time from the SCHMIDT area into VOSSNACK, UNTERMAUBACK, BERGSTEIN sector or a combination of all three.

2. OWN SITUATION:

- a. Front line: See overlay attached (Annex I).
- b. Location of troops and Command Posts: See overlay (Annex II & III)

Dec 10 - 14      Dec 15 - 27      Dec 28 - 31

Battalion CP (Forward)	929343	000342	029378
Battalion Rear	929343	929343	988354
Company "A"	005310	005310	023335
1st Plt	038328	038328	027326
2nd Plt	002315	002315	017322
3rd Plt	002316	002316	017322
Company "B"	042356	042356	055375
1st Plt	073334	073334	085376
2nd Plt	042356	042356	052368
3rd Plt	078337	078337	078336
Company "C"	053372	053372	073397
1st Plt	055374	055374	097388
2nd Plt	080338	080338	088399
3rd Plt	054307	054307	097388
1st Rcn. Plt	929345	027350	052368
2nd Rcn. Plt	929345	929345	043370

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- c. adjacent troops & supporting troops: (See overlay attached, Annex II & III).
- d. Operations: Battalion moved into area attached to 6th Infantry Division on 9 December, 1944. Company A supported the 511th Infantry Regiment, Company B (plus one pit) supported the 13th Infantry Regiment and Company C (less one platoon) supported the 121st Infantry Regiment. On 11 December Company A placed 12 guns into position in the VOSSNAACK area - eight of which could place direct fire on SCHMIDT and KOMMERSCHIEDT. Company B (plus one platoon) placed sixteen guns in position in the BERGSTEIN area and Company C (less one platoon) had eight guns in position in the KLEINHAU area. Preparations were then made for an attack along the VOSSNAACK BERGSTEIN front. The planned attack was cancelled, the division sector enlarged, and preparations were later made for a defensive mission. Following the relocation of troops within the division on 28 December, Company A was placed in support of the 28th Infantry Regiment and the 121st Infantry Regiment, Company B supported the 13th Infantry Regiment and Company C supported the 113th Cavalry Group. Plans were placed into effect for a defensive mission. Three additional 3 inch guns and one 75mm PAK were received. Company C placed 13 guns into position in the GEY sector. Company B placed four guns in the BRANDENBERG - BERGSTEIN area, five in the KLEINHAU area, and four in the BOGHHEIM area. Company A left six guns in the VOSSNAACK area and placed seven guns in depth along the GERMETEN - HURTGEN road. All crew served weapons including Bazookas, Cal. 30 and 50 machine guns and M-8's were placed in position and dug-in. Complete all around defense plans of Command Posts and rear areas were put into effect. Communications have been established by telephone to each gun in position. No 3 inch ammunition, HE or AP, has been expended.
- e. results of operations: One enemy plane ME 109 destroyed by Rcn Plt. Our losses have been: EM; KIA-4, WIA- 9. Missing-1; Officers; WIA-1. One quarter ton, and one prime mover destroyed by mines. One quarter ton damaged by shell fragments. One 3 inch gun damaged by shell fragments.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- A. Strengths: 34 Officers, 2 W.O., 720 Enlisted men. Two enlisted men replacements needed.
- b. Casualties: 4 EM KIA, 1 officer and 9 EM WIA, one EM MIA, 1 officer and 19 EM non-battle casualties (evacuated).
- c. Prisoners captured - none.
- d. Battalion Supply, 929342, evacuation Installation 038372.
- e. Status of Supply on hand:
  - Class I - two day supply
  - Class III - two day supply
  - Class V - 100% basic load
- f. Material lost, damaged, or destroyed: One quarter ton and one prime mover destroyed by mines. One quarter ton damaged by shell fragments. One 3 inch gun damaged by shell fragments.
- g. Condition of roads and circulation in area of unit: Roads muddy from 1 December to 23 December 1944, circulation medium. 23 Dec 1944 to 31 Dec 1944 roads were frozen and slippery, circulation medium.

4. GENERAL:

- a. Thirty-nine (39) 3 inch guns, one (1) 75mm PAK anti-tank gun and thirty-five (35) prime movers operational.

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Commanding

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