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31b.1 1st Ind 29, U.S. ARMY, 4 November 1944. /hk

The Commanding General, 39th Infantry Division, A.S. 29, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

629-606

HARRY D. WENTERS,
Colonel, 39th Division Artillery,
Commanding.

31b.1 3d Ind 29, U.S. ARMY, 4 November 1944. /hk

The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, 25, D. C.

The Commanding General, XIX Corps, A.S. 270, U.S. Army.

Subject report is forwarded in compliance with letter, Headquarters, XIX Corps, file 31b.1, subject: "Action against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports", dated 19 July 1944.

For the Commanding General:

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.,
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

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C O N T E N T S

NARRATIVE REPORT

- I - Summary of Operations
- II - Awards and Decorations
- III - Commanding Officers

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Enclosure No. 1, S-1 Journal
- Enclosure No. 2, S-2 Journal
- Enclosure No. 3, S-3 Journal

} Not rec'd
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MAPS AND OVERLAYS
(IN ATTACHED DEVELOP)

- Europe 1/100,000 GSCS 4336 - sheets 4 and 9
- Europe 1/100,000 GSCS 4416 - sheet R1
- overlay no. 1

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HEADQUARTERS
821st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)
APO 230

1 November 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

1. PHASE IV: Attack on the Siegfried Line.

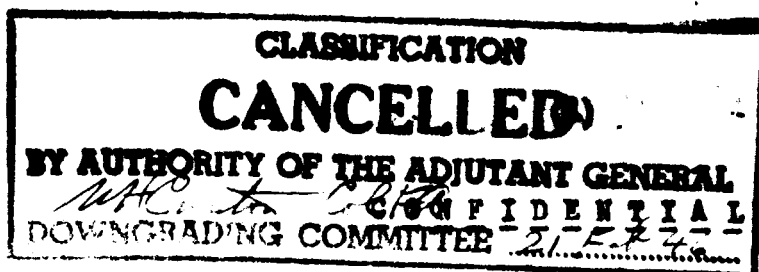
a. During the period, 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion, less Company "B", remained attached to the 29th Division Artillery. Company "B" was attached to the 30th Infantry Division for operations against the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Aachen, map coordinates 835430. Company "B" was relieved of attachment to the 30th Infantry Division and reverted to battalion control on 22 October 1944. On 22 October 1944 the 821st was relieved of assignment to the First United States Army and was assigned to the Ninth United States Army.

b. On 1 October 1944 the 29th Infantry Division continued to protect the XIX Corps' left flank and to apply pressure to the Siegfried line. Company "A", 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion was in Division reserve in the vicinity of Brunssum, map coordinates 765626. Company "B" was in direct support of the 1st Battalion of the 116th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Banerheid, map coordinates 760480. Co "C" was in direct support of the 113th Cavalry Group in the vicinity of Tuddern, map coordinates 710700.

c. Company "A", less the 3rd Platoon, was held in Division reserve the entire month of October. As the reserve company for anti-mechanized defense, Company "A" was employed in their secondary mission of indirect fire. Indirect fire was unobserved harassing and interdictionary, directed behind enemy lines. Firing was done during the hours of darkness. During the daylight hours the company was held in a position of readiness for their primary mission.

(1) Company "A", less the 3rd Platoon, fired 2,719 indirect fire missions, a total of 12,542 rounds of HE were expended. In addition to indirect fire missions, Company "A" was called upon to fire direct at enemy observation posts. Observation posts fired upon were wind mills, church steeples, houses, and enemy flak towers. To accomplish the missions of destroying enemy observation posts, one or two guns were moved into position under observation of the enemy. Thirty or forty rounds were rapidly directed at the target, then the guns would be moved out before the enemy had time to return the fire. As a result the enemy counterbattery fell harmlessly in unoccupied positions.

(2) The 3rd Platoon of Co "A" was in direct support of the 175th Infantry Regiment. Guns were employed as anti-mechanized defense in the vicinity of Gillrath, map coordinates 828662. The 3rd Platoon remained on this mission until relieved by the 1st Platoon of Company "B" on 22 October 1944.



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1. The 1st Infantry Division was in the vicinity of Gumbach, map coordinates 722602, from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944.

a. Company "B" was in direct support of the 113th Infantry Regiment from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944. Company "B" was in direct support of the 113th Infantry Regiment. During this period, Company "B" was employed as anti-mechanized defenses in the sector of the supported unit, as shown by the attached map. On 1 October 1944, Company "B" was relieved from its assignment to the 113th Infantry Regiment and returned to battalion control. On 2 October 1944, Company "B" moved into an assembly position in the vicinity of Gumbach, map coordinates 722602, and was held in a position of readiness as a reserve.

(1) On the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th of October 1944, as a result of the intense mortar and artillery pressure on the city of Sacken, Company "B", in coordination with the encirclement of the city by the 113th Infantry Regiment (detached from the 117th AF, attached to the 113th Infantry Division) and the 1st Infantry Division, Company "B"'s guns, in addition to anti-mechanized defenses, were called upon for the reduction of the enemy strategic strong points in that sector. Direct fire ammunition was fired direct at concrete emplacements. HE was used to destroy the sides of the AF and AF-105. As a result of this action, Company "B" was credited with the destruction of twelve enemy bunkers. Thirty-four enemy soldiers surrendered to Company "B" and 103 enemy soldiers surrendered to the 117th Infantry Regiment, who was in the immediate vicinity of the pill boxes. As a result of this action eight enemy soldiers were killed.

(2) On 22 October 1944 the 1st Platoon of Company "B" relieved the 3rd Platoon of Company "B" in their direct fire positions in support of the 113th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Gumbach, map coordinates 722602. The 1st Platoon remained on this mission through 31 October 1944.

c. Company "B" remained in direct support of the 113th Cavalry Regiment from 1 October to 31 October. Guns were employed as anti-mechanized defenses in the sector of the supported unit, as shown by the attached map.

(1) In addition to anti-mechanized defenses, Company "B"'s guns were called upon to fire direct at enemy observation posts. Company "B" used the same tactics in firing on enemy observation posts as those used by Company "B".

f. A total of 1442 rounds of 3" ammunition were expended, by the battalion, on direct fire missions.

g. The 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon maintained an observation post in the vicinity of Millensberg, map coordinates 722602, from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944. On 5 October 1944 the 1st Reconnaissance Platoon was assigned the mission to provide additional security for Co "C" in the vicinity of Gumbach, map coordinates 722602. The 1st Reconnaissance Platoon remained on this mission until 11 October 1944, when they were relieved by the 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon. The 2nd Reconnaissance Platoon remained on this mission through 31 October 1944.

(1) During the entire period, 5 October 1944 to 31 October, enemy patrols were active, during the hours of darkness, in the area delineated by the Reconnaissance Platoons. The enemy patrols ranged in numbers from 5 to 20 men. The enemy patrols, in every case, were detected by small arms fire.

h. As a result of enemy action the following casualties were suffered.

(1) Four enlisted men were killed in action by shell fragments from enemy artillery fire.

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cont'd; after action report for the month of October 1944.

(2) One officer and eleven enlisted men were wounded by enemy artillery fire.

(3) Three enlisted men were wounded by anti-personnel bombs from enemy air craft.

B. Training.

A. Due to the static nature of the operations during the month of October it was possible to carry on the following training.

(1) All personnel of the battalion fired their basic weapon weekly. Those who failed to meet the prescribed qualifications were given additional training and were required to fire over.

(2) A basic training refresher course on a progressive basis was completed by all personnel. The course covered sketching, triangulation, preparing field expedients for protection, field sanitation, compass course, individual field cooking, map reading, combat firing and a road march.

(3) Battle drills were conducted to train personnel in the coordination of Infantry, Tank and Tank Destroyer Units.

(4) Medical and battle drill demonstrations, given by other units, were attended by members of this organization for the purpose of training.

II AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. For heroic achievement in military operations against the enemy, on the 10th and 11th of September 1944, the following named officer and enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Star Medal; 1st Lt John M. Hille Jr O-522745, 1st Sgt John B. Laird 20956910, S/Sgt Helden H. Nelson 37252045, Sgt Clinton B. Nelson 37203678, Cpl Albert R. Ferguson 17041859, Cpl Martin Garcia 37692271, Cpl Donald C. McClellan 39552951, PFC Bernard L. Dorothy 39236570, PFC Clifford L. Sawyer 39553112 and PFC Donald E. Rice 39119525.

2. The Purple Heart was awarded the following named enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy on the dates following their names: PFC Herbert C. Hull 39553755, 3 October 1944; PFC Laurence Carlson 39119721, 4 October 1944.

III COMMANDING OFFICERS

1. Lt Col Howard H. Arbury was in command of the battalion for the period from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944.

2. Company Commanders for the period from 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944 were as listed below.

Company "A" - Capt Edward A. Burke

Company "B" - 1st Lt Newton G. Shady

Company "C" - Capt Dock A. Stuart

HQ Company - Capt Carl L. Miller

Howard H. Arbury
HOWARD H. ARBURY

1st Colonel

SEP 20 1944