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5 January 1945

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

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (through  
channels).

AFTER ACTION REPORT

1. The 893d Tank Destroyer Battalion was operational from 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 inclusive. The Battalion was assigned to the First U. S. Army and attached to V Corps and 3rd Tank Destroyer Group from 1 December to 18 December 1944. From 19 December to 21 December 1944, inclusive, the Battalion was attached to VII Corps.

From 0001 22 December to 31 December, inclusive, the Battalion minus two platoons of Company "C" was assigned to the Ninth U. S. Army and attached to the XIX Corps. On 27 December Company "C" Headquarters and two platoons returned to Battalion control.

The Battalion less Company "A" with 1 Recon. platoon attached was further attached to the 8th Infantry Division from 1 December to 11 December inclusive. Companies were further attached as follows: "B" Company with 2nd Recon. platoon attached was attached to the 28th Infantry Regiment and "C" Company with attached 3rd Recon. platoon was attached to Company "C" of the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion for operations only. Company "A" was attached during this period to the 102nd Cavalry Group.

On 11 December 1944 the Battalion, less Company "C", moved to the sector of 78th Infantry Division and were attached to 78th Division Artillery. Companies "A" and "B" with attached Recon. platoon were further attached to the 309th and 310th Infantry Regiments respectively. They remained attached until 231000 at which time they reverted to Battalion control and took up direct support mission in the division sector and remained in this status for the remainder of the month.

Company "C" plus attached Recon. platoon was attached to 102nd Cavalry Group from 11 December to 22 December 1944 inclusive and was further attached to 38th Cavalry Squadron. On 22 December one platoon reverted to Battalion control in XIX Corps. The remainder of the Company was relieved from attachment and reverted to Battalion control on 27 December 1944.

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2. a. Nine guns of "C" Company were in indirect fire action from 1 December to 6 December 1944 inclusive.

b. Total number of concentrations was 128.

c. Total number of rounds fired was 2690.

d. Types of missions fired:

Registration - 5 concentrations.

Harrassing fire - 124 concentrations.

Interdiction fire - 1 concentration.

e. Results of indirect fire: All firing was unobserved.

f. On 19 December 1944 the Battalion was issued 50 rounds of 3" illuminating Star shell. One gun of "A" Company was placed in indirect fire position to fire this shell on call from the Artillery or the Infantry. A total of 33 rounds of this type shell were fired with good results reported.

3. Throughout the entire month of December the line companies were supporting the infantry either from indirect firing positions or by close-in anti-tank support in direct fire positions. The first ten days of the month was spent in the Hurtgen Forest in the vicinity of Vossenack, Hurtgen and Bergstein, Germany, in support of the 8th Infantry Division. On 11 December the Battalion moved to vicinity of Lammersdorf, Germany and supported the 78th Infantry Division in its attack to the East and Southeast on Rollesbroich and Simmerath. The attack of the 78th Division was vigorously opposed by the enemy and the ground gained during the attack was taken at high cost. The vigorous opposition was believed to have been due to the large number of troops and amount of materiel assembled in the area to the Southeast which was used in the enemy breakthrough on 16 December 1944.

During the month the following vehicles were lost due to enemy action:

4 M-10's lost (1 recoverable dependent upon our front line pushing forward).

3 M-10's damaged; repaired by Ordnance.

1 M-10 damaged; repaired by Battalion Maintenance.

1 M-20 damaged; repaired by Ordnance.

The following are casualties among our personnel for the month:

40 Lightly wounded in action.

5 Seriously wounded in action

7 Lightly injured in action.

1 Killed in action.

1 Died of wounds.

1 Seriously injured in action.

During the entire month a total of 651 rounds of HE, 118 rounds APC and 26 rounds AP were fired in direct fire. The results of this direct fire are as follows:

- 77 Prisoners taken.
- 125 Enemy killed
  - 1 AA gun destroyed
  - 1 Mark III tank destroyed
  - 2 Mark IV tanks destroyed
  - 1 Mark V tank destroyed
  - 1 Mark VI tank destroyed
  - 2 Tanks unknown type destroyed
  - 2 88MM SP guns destroyed
- 14 M/G nests destroyed
- 19 Houses burned
  - 1 Church steeple destroyed
  - 1 Chimney OP destroyed
  - 1 Supply dump destroyed
  - 4 Pillboxes neutralized
  - 1 Mortar section destroyed

For the Battalion Commander:

*Sidney P. Cole*  
SIDNEY P. COLE  
Capt. 893d T.D. Bn.  
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OFFICIAL:

*William E. Nash*  
WILLIAM E. NASH  
Capt. 893d T.D. Bn.  
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