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HEADQUARTERS 893d TD BN
APO 230

12 September 44

**SUBJECT : Meritorious Combat Action of "C" Company,
893d TD BN (SP).**

TO : G-3, 4th U.S. Infantry Division Artillery.

1. The ensuing account of distinguished action in combat by Company "C" 893d TD Bn is called to your attention:

2. On 10 September 44, the 22d RCT of the 4th Inf Div jumped off from St. Hubert, Belgium with the objective of seizing and occupying the town of Maldange (786829) and adjacent terrain.

In the absence of tanks, "C" Company of the 893d TD BN (SP), plus its attached reconnaissance platoon, mounted infantrymen on its M-10 Destroyers and M-8 armored cars and led the assault of the RCT throughout the entire operation.

Throughout the operation the M-10's and M-8's encountered heavy enemy rearguard resistance, consisting of fortified towns, ambushes, road blocks, machine gun nests and strongpoints. Each of these was neutralized with 3-inch, 37-mm and small arms fire from "C" Company's guns.

While spearheading the advance, Capt. Pugh and Lt. Fuller overtook and surprised a German half-track. They captured the vehicle intact, together with its crew of four.

Further on, our leading elements overtook and captured one U.S. Army jeep, which had previously been taken by the Germans and was being used by them at the time. This jeep netted two German officer PW's and one German EM PW.

As our assault TD-Infantry team arrived in the vicinity of the town of Houffalize (6272), it encountered extensive road blocks on the main approaches to the town, which was itself fortified by a German garrison.

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Owing to the necessity for rapid advance, our leading elements proceeded to outflank these extensive roadblocks and arrived at a position on the high ground overlooking the town from the southwest. The town itself was the scene of intense activity by the Germans then occupying it, and the terrain on the far side of the town was dotted here and there with German vehicles and columns in the process of withdrawing to the East.

Capt. Pugh immediately moved his 1st and 3d platoons into positions covering the town and the ground immediately beyond it. The seven guns of the two platoons that were operational, took the town under fire in an attempt to neutralize the defenses. Two consequences ensued: the enemy replied with intense counter-battery artillery and mortar fire; while at the same time he attempted to extricate himself from the town. *one destroyer was disabled when it ran over a tall mine, while moving into position in the heavily mined and busy ground area*

All guns were ordered to fire on any movement beyond the town in order to rout the retreating enemy and inflict as much damage as possible. The range was extreme (3500 yds), and it was impossible for the gunners to use their sights at this range. To circumvent this deficiency, our gun commanders exercised extreme ingenuity in quickly placing their quadrants on the 3-inch guns to zero them in on their targets. All the while the M-10's continued to be subjected to heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire; but the gunners carried on towards the prosecution of their mission without regard to the immediate danger and death to which they were subject.

A direct hit was obtained on a Mark IV tank, which ~~may~~ continued to move for about 600 yds and then burst into flames. At this point, what appeared to be a Belgium haywagon suddenly opened fire on our destroyers. We returned the fire, destroying the "haywagon", which upon later examination was discovered to be a German SP gun well camouflaged. The fire fight continued for about two hours, with "C" Company destroying two more German half-tracks, completely routing the enemy, neutralizing the defenses of the town and permitting the TD-Infantry team to continue on its mission.

For the Battalion Commander:

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