

602nd Tank Destroyer Bn

COMMANDING OFFICERS: Peter J. Kopcsak  
from: ACTIVATION-Dec 15, 1941 (FSHT)  
to 1500 hours, 9 Nov 1944-vic  
Morville France. (WIA-hospitalized)  
Thomas J. Conlin: From 9 Nov 1944 through  
deactivation-Cp Miles Standish-Oct 45.

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Somewhere in France and Germany the American Flag  
files proudly for the 602rders who gave their lives  
in the Fight for Freedom.  
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## IN MEMORIAM

### Killed in Action:-

Two (Names Unknown)  
One (Name Unknown)  
Cpl. K.P.Scherier  
Lt. Wheaton  
S/Sgt. Williams  
P.F.C. Kisner  
S/ Sgt. Brown  
Two (Names Unknown)  
Pvt. McPeck  
P.F.C. Earl Stevens

France	9 Sept.	44
France	15 Sept.	44
France	17 Sept.	44
Belgium	26 Dec.	44
Belgium	26 Dec.	44
Belgium	26 Dec.	44
Germany	30 Jan.	45
Germany	30 Jan.	45
Germany	13 April	45
Germany	17 April	45

### Wounded in Action:-

Lt. Col. Peter J Kopcsak  
Lt. H. W. Arnold  
Sgt. Paul Hummer  
Pvt. Ianni  
Pvt. Ihrcke  
Pvt. Kopaunik  
Pvt. Stachowiak  
Sgt. Kovitch  
Pvt. Cox  
Sgt. Scurlock

Pvt. Spiker  
Cpl. Barton  
Pvt. Stickenbault  
Pvt. Shiley  
Pvt. Hartley  
T/4 Byers  
Pvt. Hellebrand  
Pvt. R.L. Hill

(Unkown number wounded but no names)

### Dedication

To those Officers and men of the 602 Tank Destroyer Battalion who have made the supreme sacrifice and have laid down their lives in the defense of those ideals that we hold most dear so that we may live in peace, we dedicate this short history with a deep respect and a truly humble spirit.

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29 March 44 Battalion, consisting of two serials, departed by rail for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

31 March 44 Battalion arrived Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, at 0230.

1 April 44 to 3 April 44 Battalion was processed for overseas shipment.

5 May 44 Battalion moved by rail from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, to Fort Dix, New Jersey. Battalion was assigned to XVIII Corps for training and administration.

13-14-15th June 44 All officers and platoon sergeants of gun companies fired indirect firing problems.

17 June 44 A Battalion Parade and Review was held during which the Battalion Standard was presented to Lt. Col. KOPCSAK by his daughter, Carol. Colonel LARDER, Commanding Officer of the 8th Tank Destroyer Group, was present as reviewing officer.

26 June 44 Battalion moved by rail from Fort Dix, New Jersey to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

18 July 44 Battalion left New York, New York aboard the SS Bergensfjord for overseas duty.

29 July 44 Battalion disembarked at Glasgow, Scotland, and proceeded by rail to Moreton-in-Marsh, England.

30 July 44 Battalion arrived Moreton-in-Marsh and was assigned to Third U.S. Army and subsequently attached to XX Corps.

20 August 44 Battalion moved from Moreton-in-Marsh, England to Marshalling Area, vicinity of Dorchester, England.

21 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from Marshalling Area, Dorchester, England to Portland, England and boarded LST for movement to France.

22, 23, 24 Aug 44 Unit aboard LST.

25 August 44 Unit disembarked at Omaha Beach, France and moved into bivouac area in vicinity of Formigny, France.

26 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from Formigny, France to bivouac area vicinity of St. Hellaire, France.

27 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from St. Hellaire, France to vicinity of Courtelain, France.

25 August 44 - Landed - Omaha Beach.

29 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from Courtelain, France to vicinity of Rigny-Le-Ferrou, France. Unit attached to XII Corps and further attached to 9th T.D. Group.

30 August 44 Battalion, held in Corps Reserve, participated in attack on enemy in vicinity of Troyes, Brienne and Dolencourt. Unit was not committed to action. A Platoon of Company C, commanded by 1st Lt. Robert E. Graham, was sent to XII Corps to provide security for Corps Headquarters. Rec Co made reconnaissance of assembly area in vicinity of Blacy.

31 August 44 Unit moved by motor convoy to vicinity of Blacy, France. Rcn. Co. assigned mission of reconnoitering area bounded by Harouville, Chantourrupt, Montier-en-Der. Gun companies assigned mission of reconnoitering areas of approach to Vitry from St. Dizier (Plan A) Wassey (Plan B) and Montier-en-Der (Plan C) and also selecting gun positions.

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1 Sept 44 One platoon Rcn. Co. and one platoons Co. A sent out to guard bridge over Marne River at Vitry Le Francois. Platoons returned at approximately 1400 hours. At about 1500 hours B and Rcn. Companies began attack to eliminate an estimated 70 Germans in a forest in the Camp De Tir De Mailly Area. Two companies were engaged in attack returned to bivouac area at 2030. No casualties were sustained. No enemy were known to have been killed and none were captured.

2 Sept 44 Battalion moved from vicinity of Blacy to bivouac area in vicinity of Vitry En Perthois. Two sections of Reconnaissance Company are patrolling the Champ De Tir De Mailly area for possible Germans reported in forest.

3 Sept 44 Battalion/~~XXXX/XXXX~~ remained in bivouac vicinity of Vitry En Perthois. ~~XX~~ Red Cross visited unit and served doughnuts and coffee. No unusual incidents.

4 Sept 44 Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of Vitry En Perthois.

5 Sept 44 Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of Vitry En Perthois. Total of fourteen prisoners captured and evacuated, 1 by Company and thirteen by Rcn. Company. 3"

6 Sept 44 Battalion moved to new bivouac area vicinity of Oey.

7 Sept 44 Rcn. Company and A Company attached to 2nd Cavalry Group and left present bivouac area about 1330. Company B attached to 4th Armored Division but remained in present bivouac area. Remainder of battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of Oey.

8 Sept 44 Company B left battalion bivouac area vicinity of Oey at 0800 to join 4th Armored Division. One Platoon of Rcn. Co. attached to Company B. Battalion, less Company B, one platoon of Rcn. Co. and one platoon of Company C, attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, and moved from vicinity of Oey to vicinity of Goviller.

9 Sept 44 Company C less one platoon, assigned mission of covering and holding bridge across Madon River in vicinity of Haroue. Company A assigned mission of covering and holding bridge across Madon River at Xirocourt. Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon, made reconnaissance to the south and around Socourt and Braliville. Company C contacted enemy vicinity of Roville. Losses; 2 enlisted men killed; one enlisted man seriously wounded, one 4 ton truck and M-18. Damage inflicted on enemy: One battery of field artillery knocked out. Pvt. Winnery of Rcn. Company credited with destroying a machine gun nest with an M-1 rifle. Losses of Rcn. Company: One motorcycle. Rcn. Co. and Company C both subjected to frequent artillery shellings and forced to withdraw.

10 Sept 44 Companies continued on missions assigned on 9th Sept. pending arrival of supporting units. Command Post at 1800 hours from vicinity of Goviller. Company B, plus second platoon of Rcn. Company relieved from attachment to 4th Armored Division and returned to bivouac area at about 2100. Platoon of company C, used as security for XII Corps Headquarters since 30 August relieved by 691st TD Rn and returned to bivouac area at about 1500. Company C and Reconnaissance Company subjected to periodic artillery and mortar fire. One prisoner captured and evacuated by Rcn Co.

11 Sept 44 Allied units passed through battalion area moving toward Moselle River and the battalion assigned mission of protecting south flank of XII Corps generally along the east west line of Mt. Sion, Xirocourt and Gripport as other units attempted to cross the Moselle River. The battalion was relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group and reattached to 9th TD Group effective at 0500. However ~~that~~ unit was to remain under control of Corps and 2nd Cavalry Group until crossing of Moselle River is completed. A Company plus 1st platoon Rcn. Company attached was assigned the east west sector between Mt. Sion and Xirocourt to include the Madon River. Company C plus 3rd platoon Rcn Company was assigned the east west sector between Xirocourt and Gripport. Company B plus 2nd platoon Rcn Company held in reserve. Company A captured and evacuated one prisoner. Battalion Commander received verbal recommendation from Colonel Read, Co, 2nd Cavalry Group, for work of this battalion during the period 8 Sept. to 10th Sept. 44 inclusive.

12 Sept 44 Battalion, less rear echelon and Company C, moved from vicinity of Chaouilley across the Moselle River to Birecourt. Battalion is now with leading elements of the bridgehead around Bayon.

13 Sept 44 Company A plus one platoon Rcn Co. assigned mission of covering routes of approach and selecting gun positions in the sector of Freville, Bremoncourt, Domptail and St. Ward. Company B, plus one platoon Rcn Co. assigned same mission in the Freville, Willacourt and southwest to the Moselle River. French reported our Rcn. outposts as being first American troops in Einvalix. Battalion CP moved at 2000 hours from vicinity of Virecourt to vicinity Mehoncourt. Missions were assigned as follows: Co A plus one platoon of Rcn Co. to proceed to Chamois and provide guard for supply trains moving north and northeast.

13 Sept 44 Count'd One platoon Company B to guard bridge at Lamath. Remainder of B Company with one platoon Rcn attached to proceed to Mont and provide guard for supply trains moving northeast. C Company to proceed to Bayon and guard bridge across Moselle and cover roads leading into Bayon.

14 Sept 44 Battalion CP remained in vicinity of Mehoncourt. Company A continued on mission assigned on 13 Sept. Company B returned to vicinity of Bayon to guard bridgehead established there. Company C moved from vicinity of Bayon to vicinity of Mont to protect the supply trains of Withers Column. Rear echelon moved from vicinity of Goviller to vicinity of Bayon.

15 Sept 44 ALL COMPANIES ON MISSIONS. Company C lost one  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton truck and 3 enlisted men slightly wounded in action in vicinity of Luneville. Vehicle believed to have been hit by German 88mm gun. Gun position later located, reported to artillery command, and later believed to have been silenced by artillery fire.

16 Sept 44 All companies continued on missions, moving to the north and northwest. C Company assisted in knocking out enemy mortar position and capturing fourteen prisoners. Rcn CP moved from vicinity of Virecourt to vicinity of Mudiviller.

17 Sept 44 All companies continued on missions. 3rd platoon Rcn. Company engaged with enemy, suffering one casualty, Ianni, slightly wounded. Two anti-tank guns knocked out by 3rd platoon Rcn Company. Battalion CP moved from vicinity of Hudiviller to Courresseaux. Company A knocked out six tanks, six anti-tanks guns and killed 100 of the enemy.

18 Sept 44 All companies continued on missions. C company knocked out two anti-tank guns and three loaded gasoline trucks. B Company knocked out machine gun emplacement and killed eight enemy. Battalion CP moved from vicinity of Courbesseaux to vicinity of Sorenvillie.

19 Sept 44 Battalion, less one platoon B Company which was guarding bridge at Maixe, returned to an assembly point in vicinity of Virecourt to neutralize a threatened tank attack, developing to the east and south of Luneville. Battalion attached to 2nd Cavalry Group.

24 Sept 44 Companies continued on missions. B COMPANY ENTERED Coincourt but later withdrew to high ground surrounding the town when enemy began shelling town about dusk. Reinforcements for Company B failed to arrive as soon as needed.

25 Sept 44 Battalion CP moved from vicinity Lezey to vicinity of Arracourt. C Company occupied positions vicinity of Suvelime. B Company remained in positions vicinity of Sures, and one platoon Reconnaissance Company remained attached to each company.

26 Sept 44 A, B, and C Companies continued on previously assigned missions. B Company forced to withdraw in face of heavy counterattacks.

27 Sept 44 Battalion CP and rear echelon moved from vicinity ARRACOURT to vicinity of DROUVILLE. Gun companies continued on previously assigned missions. Seven counterattacks in CCB sector in which Company B worked were repelled. A Company captured 11 prisoners, lost one 1½ ton truck. Reconnaissance platoon attached to A Company lost one ½ ton truck.

28 Sept 44 Gun companies continued on missions. B Company knocked out one Mark IV tank, captured 8 prisoners, lost one M-18 and one mortar. C Company relieved and moved to vicinity of Serres for a rest period. A Company plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. Headquarters Company lost one motorcycle.

29 Sept 44 Battalion CP, rear echelon and C Company moved to vicinity of LANEUVELOTTÉ. B Company knocked out one tank. Company knocked out 8 tiger tanks, 3 armored cars and unknown number of personnel. Battalion, less Company A, which is attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, attached to 9th TD Group. 30 personnel killed by B Company.

30 Sept 44 B Company remained in positions around ARRACOURT, still in contact and engaged with enemy infantry and tanks. No change in A Company's position. No other changes.

1 Oct 44 Rcn Company made reconnaissance of routes leading to tentative gun positions in a defensive sector prescribed by 9th TD Group generally in the sector MAILLE North to ARRACOURT, east to LEYRE. This is known as plan A. Overlays of plans submitted to 9th TD Group, 501st Ord Bn made technical inspection of C Company's M-18's. Companies in rest area worked on motor maintenance. B Company returned to Assembly Area vicinity of LANEUVELOTTÉ for a rest period. Rcn had 2 M-8's damaged. "B" Co lost one ½ ton truck.

2 Oct 44 Rcn Company made reconnaissance of routes leading to, and selected tentative positions in a defensive sector prescribed by 9th TD Group generally in the sector DOMBASLE North to REMEREVILLE and northeast to CUSTINES. This is known as Plan B. Overlays of plans submitted to 9th TD Group. Companies in rest area continued work on maintenance. Personnel from C, Rcn and Hq Companies taken to NANCY for showers. General Ernst visited Battalion DP at about 1500 hours.

3 Oct 44 B Company and C Company continued work on motor maintenance. A Company still in position.

4 Oct 44 Company B continued motor maintenance work, also had inspection of small arms. Convoys from Rcn, Hqs and B Companies taken to NANCY for showers and movies. Company C, plus one platoon Rcn attached, moved from bivouac area vicinity LANEU-velotte to vicinity of LOISY in Corps reserve to support 80th Infantry Division. Moved out of bivouac area at 1545 hours. Lt. King, Rcn Company reported to 80th Infantry Division as liaison officer. A Company remained attached to 2nd Cavalry Group.

5 Oct 44 C Company made reconnaissance of possible gun positions in 80th Infantry Division Sector and submitted overlay to this headquarters which was forwarded to 9th TD Group. B Company continued work of motor maintenance. No other changes. All personnel were paid for the month of September.

6 Oct 44 One platoon Rcn Company ordered to make reconnaissance in vicinity of MONCEL SUR SEILLE at 0530. B Company alerted for possible movement to this area to meet a threatened tank attack. At 1000 hours B Company taken off the alert. Rcn platoon returned to the area at about 1030. Tank attack did not develop. Movie "This Is The Life", shown in CHAMPENOUX for B and Rcn Companies. B Company had one motorcycle damaged in an accident. No one injured.

7 Oct 44 No change in tactical disposition of gun companies. C Company is to support 80th Infantry Division sector until new MLR is established. One M-18 was drawn as replacement and issued to C Company. Red Cross visited Hq Company, B and Rcn Companies, serving doughnuts and coffee. Movie "This Is The Life" shown for Hq Company.

8 Oct 44 One section Rcn Company alerted and sent to area CHATEAU SALINS and MONCEL with mission of road screen. Left assembly area vicinity LANEUVELOTTE at 0755. Company C supported 80th Infantry Division in attack. Knocked out one observation post, one truck captured 16 prisoners. Authority has been received for this unit to reorganize under I/O and I/E dated 15 March 44. However, no action toward reorganization is to be taken until so directed by high headquarters.

9 Oct 44 A Company relieved from attachment 2nd Cavalry Group and returned to assembly area vicinity LANEUVELOTTE. C Company supported 80th Infantry Division in attack, knocking out one machine gun and number of buildings destroyed at NOMENY.

10 Oct 44 Rcn Company made reconnaissance of Plans A-6, A-7 and B-6 and reports of Rcn submitted to BnS-3. A Company worked on motor maintenance and small arms. C Company continued mission of supporting 80th Infantry Division.



11 Oct 44 C Company continued on mission of supporting 80th Infantry Division. One platoon B Company attached to 4th Armored Division to work with 2nd Cavalry Group. Platoon reported to 2nd Cavalry Group at 1110 hours. B Company had one M618 damaged by land mine. One M-18 drawn and issued to B Company.

12 Oct 44 C Company and one platoon B Company continued on missions. No other changes. C Company knocked out one observation post. Physecal inspection of all inlisted personnel made by Bn Surgeon. Movie shown for Battalion.

13 Oct 44 B Company knocked out one Mark IV Tank. No other changes.

14 Oct 44 One platoon Rcn Company, A Company, B Company less one platoon, moved into positions vicinity MAZERULLES and ERBE\* VILLER, respectively, at about 1800 hours, prepared to meet a possible tank attack from vicinity of CHATEAU-SALINS and CHAN-BREY. C Company moved from front lines to assembly position in vicinity of LANDREMONT.

15 Oct 44 A Company and B Company, less one platoon, recieved missions of supportiong field artillery units in firing missions. Liaison made with field artillery as to administrative and supply details and also selected gun positions. No other changes.

16 Oct 44 A Company, working with 738th Field Artillery Bn, occupied foring positions vicinity of MAZERULLES. B Company, working with 273rd Field Artillery Bn, occupied positions vicinity ATHIENVILLE. Both companies registered on check points and were prepared to fire concentrations by 1700 hours. No other changes. Colonel Berry visited Battalion Command Post from 1500 to 1530 hours.

17 Oct 44 No changes.

18 Oct 44 B Company knocked out one observation post. No other changes. Eleven replacements and one casual recieved.

19 Oct 44 A and B Companies continued on missions, registering in on base points, firing harrassing and intordictory fire vicinity CHATEAU-ASLINS. No other changes.

20 Oct 44 A and B Companies continued on missions. Same type firing as previous day. No other changes. Major General EDDY visited Battalion CP at 1530 hours, making presentations as follows: Silver Stars to Capt. Walter D. Hart, S/Sgt Otha H. Shannon, Sgt Philip Bonelli and Pvt Max Robotnick; the Bronze Star Medal to Sgt James Winney and the Soldier's Medal to Sgt James B. McCarthy/

21 Oct 44 A and B Companies continued on missions, firing at same type targets. No other changes.

22 Oct 44 A and B Companies continued on missions. A Company knocked out one anti-tank gun, and battery (4) of enemy guns.

23 Oct 44 A and B Companies continued on missions. Message of commendation received from Corps and Group Commanders.

24 Oct 44 No changes.

25 Oct 44 No changes in tactical dispositions or missions. Tentative plans made to withdraw C Company on 26 Oct 44 to assembly area vicinity of LANEUELOTTE.

26 Oct 44 C Company moved from vicinity of LANDREMONT to vicinity of LANEUELOTTE. Battalion made plans to move to vicinity of ATHIENVILLE.

27 Oct 44 Battalion, less Hqs Company, 1 platoon of B Company and two platoons Rcn Company moved to vicinity of ATHIENVILLE. Battalion, less one platoon of Company B which is attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, attached to 26th Infantry Division. C Company, in support of Division Artillery surveyed in preparation to fire at 1400. Harrassing and interdiction firing missions assigned C Company. Effect unknown. A Company, in support of Division Artillery did no firing. One platoon Company B plus one section Rcn Company attached to 104 Infantry Regiment and 101 Infantry Regiment respectively.

28 Oct 44 C Company continued on missions of harrassing and interdiction firing. A Company surveyed in and fired first mission at 1830 hours. A Company destroyed one ammunition dump. C Company destroyed one OP and three trucks.

29 Oct 44 Companies continued on missions. A Company knocked out one machine gun.

30 Oct 44 A Company relieved on field artillery mission at 1400 hours and will be held in reserve. No other changes. Major General PAUL, 26th Infantry Division Commander visited Battalion Command Post at 1500 hours.

31 Oct 44 C Company lost one  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton truck and one enlisted man slightly wounded by artillery fire. Company A and two platoons Rcn Company alerted at 0530 hours. Taken off the alert at 0830. No other changes. Brigadier General Ernst, Colonel Berry and Lt Col Darling visited Battalion Command Post.

1 Nov 44 No Changes.

2 Nov 44 Co C relieved from indirect fire missions with 101 FA Battalion and is in support of 104 Infantry Regiment. One platoon of Co B supporting 104 Infantry Regiment relieved and reverted to company control. All troops paid today for month of October 1944.

3 Nov 44 Co A remained under battalion control. One platoon Co B attached to 101 Inf Regt, remainder of Co attached to 2nd Cav Group. Co. C, less one section, attached to 104 Inf Regt. One section Co C attached to Hqs Co, 26th Infantry Division.

4 Nov 44 Plans made for future operations. Contact made with following attached units: 761 Tank Battalion, Co K, 101 Inf Regiment, and one platoon Co C, 101 Engineer Battalion. Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon attached to Co B, moved from vicinity of LANEUVELOTTE, FRANCE to vicinity of ATHIENVILLE, FRANCE.

5 Nov 44 No changes in disposition of companies. Continued in making plans for future operations.

6 Nov 44 No changes in disposition of companies. Unit attached to 26th Infantry Division for administration. Plans made to move personnel section to division rear echelon.

8 Nov 44 Commanders rebriefed on future operations. Company C relieved from attachment to 6th Cavalry group and reverted to battalion control. One platoon of Co B and one platoon of Co A support 104 Infantry Regiment and 1700 hours.

9 Nov 44 Task Force A, commanded by Lt. Col. Kopcsak, and consisting of 602nd TD Bn., less Co B and one platoon of Co A, plus 761 Tank Battalion, less Co A, plus Co K 101st Infantry Regiment and one platoon of Co C, 101 Engineer Battalion, moved from vicinity of ATHIENVILLE, FRANCE at 0630 hours and advanced to just west of MORVILLE, FRANCE, encountering heavy resistance particularly artillery and mortar fire. Lt. Col. Kopcsak, wounded at about 1500 hours and Lt. Col. Hunt assumed command of Task Force. Major Conlis assumed command of 602nd TD Battalion. The Task Force withdrew to the vicinity of VIC SUR SEILLIE, FRANCE at 1700 hours. Rn Co captured 7 prisoners and lost one  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton truck.

10 Nov 44 CCA, composed of 761 Tank Battalion (less) and Co A, 602nd TD Bn remained in division reserve. CCB, composed of Co C, 602nd TD Bn plus Co C 761st Tank Bn attached to 101 Infantry Regiment. A Company knocked out two machine guns and captured eight prisoners.

11 Nov 44 No Changes.

12 Nov 44 One platoon Co A attached to 328 Infantry Regiment. Remainder of Co A Attached to CCB. Two platoons Co B remained attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. One platoon Co B remained attached to 104 Infantry Regiment. Two platoons Co C attached to CCA. One platoon Co C attached to 328 Infantry Regiment.

13 Nov 44 Co A attached to 101 FA Battalion for indirect fire. Registered in and prepared to fire at 1630 hours. Knocked out one observation post. Co B knocked out one Mark V and one Mark VI tank, one 88mm gun, one personnel carrier and killed twenty-five personnel. Co B lost one M-18.

14 Nov 44 Task Force A, 26th Infantry Division, dissolved  
Co B knocked out one armored car. Co C knocked out two  
pillboxes and killed twenty personnel.

15 Nov 44 Battalion CP, Rcn Co, less two platoons and  
Co C moved to vicinity of OBERECK, FRANCE. Co A, less  
one platoon, remained in vicinity of VIC SUR SEILLE, FRANCE  
Attached to 101 FA Battalion.

16 Nov 44 No Changes.

17 Nov 44 One platoon Co A attached to 2nd Cavalry Group  
one section attached to 26th Infantry Division Headquarters,  
one section attached to 26th Infantry Division Rcn Troop,  
one platoon in reserve. Co B attached to 101 Infantry  
Regiment. Co C attached to 104 Infantry Regiment.

Battalion reorganized under T/O & E 18-25,  
dated 15 March 1944, with two changes.

18 Nov 44 Co B lost one half track by a mine. No other changes.

19 Nov 44 Co A knocked out two observation posts, one anti-tank gun and  
captured three prisoners. Co B fired at two tanks at range of 2300 yards.  
Results ineffective. Brigadier General Ernst visited Command Post at 1600  
hours.

20 Nov 44 No changes. All Companies continued supporting  
advancing infantry elements.

21 Nov 44 Co B relieved from attachment to 101 Infantry Regiment and  
attached to 328 Infantry Regiment. Preliminary plans made to move  
battalion CP to MARIMONT, FRANCE.

22 Nov 44 Battalion CP, Rcn Co., less one platoon, and  
one platoon Co A moved from OBERECK, FRANCE to MARIMONT, FRANCE.  
One platoon Co A relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group  
and reverted to Battalion control.

23 Nov 44 No Changes. Tentative plans made to assemble battalion under  
control of 9th TD Group upon release from attachment to 26th Infantry  
Division.

24 Nov 44 No Changes.

25 Nov 44 Battalion CP plus Rcn Co, less two platoons moved from  
MARIMONT, FRANCE to ZARBELING, FRANCE. Co C relieved from attachment to 101  
Infantry Regiment and reverted to battalion control. Co A less one platoon,  
attached to 104 Infantry Regiment.

26 Nov 44 Co A knocked out one anti-tank gun, one observation post, two machine guns and one half track, captured one prisoner and killed three personal. Co C moved to LIDREZING, FRANCE.

27 Nov 44 Co C attached to 6th Cavalry Group and moved to vicinity of NANCY, FRANCE. Co B plus one platoon of Rcn Co attached to 2nd Cavalry Group/ Remainder of battalion attached to 9th TD Group.

28 Nov 44 Battalion CP plus Rcn Co., less one platoon, moved from Zerbelling, France. to Francaltroff, France. Co A moved to Virming, France. Instructions received from 9th TD Group to make reconnaissance of areas to the north northeast, and north west of Francaltroff, France for possible TD defensive positions.

29 Nov 44 Reconnaissance made of gunpositions for defense of Corps Sector and plans submitted to 9th TD Group. ~~Added~~

30 Nov 44 Battalion, less Co C, Co B, and one platoon of Rcn Co relieved from attachment to 9th TD Group and attached to 26th Infantry Division.

1 Dec 44 Battalion DP and Rcn Co., less one platoon moved from Francaltroff, France to Lohr, France. Co A plus one platoon Rcn Co attached to 101 Infantry Regiment and moved to vicinity of Burbach, France. Company B, plus one platoon Rcn Co relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group and reverted to Battalion control. All troops paid for month of November 1944.

2 Dec 44 Company B attached to 104th Infantry. Regiment. No changes in rest of the Battalion.

3 Dec 44 Company A lost one M-18, and knocked out two mortars and one observation post. One platoon of Company B attached to 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division.

4 Dec 44 No changes. Company A and B continued to support 101, 104, and 328 Infantry Regiments.

5 Dec 44 Companies A and B continued to support Infantry Regiments. Captain Tharp visited Company C, now attached to 6th Cavalry Group, and working on right flank of XX Corps. Co C has knocked out 2 Mortars and 2 observation posts. Company A lost an M-18 by a mine.

6 Dec 44 Bn CP, Rcn Co, (less) moved from Lohr, France to Violienouve, France. 3rd platoon of Rcn Co relieved 2nd sniper. Co A lost one M-18 by mine.

7 Dec 44 Co A relieved from attachment to 101 Infantry Regiment and attached to 328 Infantry Regiment. One platoon Co B relieved from attachment 328 Infantry Regiment and attached to 104 Infantry Regiment. Rcn Co lost 4 ton truck. Co B neutralized one pillbox. Battalion less Co C, attached to 9th TD Group and Group attached to 26th Infantry Division. No changes made in tactical disposition if Companies A and B.

8 Dec 44 Co A and B continued to support attacking Infantry Regiments. Co B fired at pillboxes and knocked out two, vicinity of Achen, France. Rear Echelon moved from Obreck, France to Altwiller, France.

9 Dec 44 One section Co A attached to Division Headquarters to guard Division CP. One platoon Co B attached to 26th Cavalry Rcn Troops. Remainder of Companies A and B continued in direct support of advancing infantry.

10 Dec 44 Companies A and B engaged in tank battle north east of Achen, France. Companies A and B each knocked out one tank. Co B lost one M-18 by 88mm gun at estimated range of 5000 yards.

11 Dec 44 Co B, less one platoon attached to 26th Rcn Troop, relieved from attachment to 104 Infantry Regiment Division and supporting 346 Infantry Regiment of 87th Infantry Division. Co B neutralized one pillbox and knocked out one tank and damaged one tank.

12 Dec 44 No changes. Companies A and B continued to support advance of infantry. Companies A and B fired at tanks at ranges of about 3000 yards and hits were scored, but not effective.

13 Dec 44 Company A knocked out two tanks. Company B continued in support of Infantry Regiments. Bn CP moved from villeneuve, France to Kalhausen, France.

14 Dec 44 Co B relieved from attachment to 346th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Bn control. No other changes in tactical positions of companies. Lt. Chester J. H. Range and Lt. Carl E. McProud, Headquarters Company, were transferred to Companies A and C, respectively and assumed primary duties as executive officers.

15 Dec 44 Co A relieved from attachment to 345 Infantry Regiment and reverted to Bn control. Co B and Rcn Co. moved to Donthill, France and Zarbelling, France, respectively.

15 December 1944 and 1 on 16 December 1944.

picture show held at Bn CP for 100 men.

accordance with new T/E.

Catholic Services held at 1600 in Conthill, France.

At 1800 hours Bn recieved warning order for immediate movement.

B. All positions held through the night.

\$200,000 was still in good condition. (Cont'd)

22 Dec 44 (Cont'd) Co A withdrew to vicinity Neufchateau, Belgium when balance of 28th Infantry Division defense elements moved back. Stragglers moved through our positions all night.

23 Dec 44 Third platoon Rcn Co out on Corps mission to report status of St. Hubert, Belgium. Four destroyers brought up to Neufchateau, Belgium. Captain Hart reported that personnel had returned to control supply dump. Lt. Kilborn, 3rd Platoon, Rcn Co reported enemy paratroops in St. Hubert, Belgium. Upon order 28th Infantry Division, 1st platoon, Rcn Company (less) pushed out along two roads. One section contacted enemy in Aux Les Rosiers, Belgium; the other section contacted elements of 4th Armored Division at Witry, Belgium. Division ordered all out Reconnaissance to patrol the main roads all night. One enemy plane strafed Company B positions at 2300 hours.

24 Dec 44 Contact re-established with 4th Armored Division. Bn (less B and C) attached to 28th Infantry Division. Co B attached to 7th TD Group. However, our battalion continued to handle administrative and supply for all units. 3rd platoon Rcn Co encountered 8 man enemy patrol in Sto Mari o, Belgium. Killed and wounded several, dispersed the rest. 2nd platoon Rcn Co encountered two ~~4 1/2~~ ~~ton~~ ton trucks manned by six Germans. Killed one German, captured the ~~1/2~~ ton truck and the rest escaped. 1st platoon Rcn Co contacted enemy at Vaux Les Resiers, Belgium and kept them under observation till dark, Bn. motor officer secured 4 m-18's to aid in defense of the area.

25 Dec 44 Vigorous reconnaissances continued. 2nd platoon, Rcn killed 5 Germans, wounded 5, and dispersed 10 others at road block near Matrival. Company C (still with 6th Cavalry Group) passed through our area and set up CP near B Company. Two planes over Company B position at 2255 dropped one bomb no damage.

26 Dec 44 Reconnaissances continued. Considerable enemy air activity noted during day. At 1610 hours 4 enemy planes dropped one bomb each on B Company. Killed 1st Lt. Wheaton, S/Sgt Williams, Pfc Kisner, wounded and evacuated to Bn aid station Sgt Kovitch, Tec 5 Byers, Pvts Cox and Hellebrand. Friendly troops 9 armed moved up through our positions during the night. Company B captured 1 prisoner of War.

27 Dec 44 Neufchateau bombed at 0830 and 1205. Eight bombs in all. CP moved to cellar. Rcn CP moved to Hampshire. Co A CP moved to Offaing. Lt Hutchinson, Co C, got 1 armored car, 2 machine guns, 1 truck, 5 prisoners of war and killed 60 enemy personnel.

28 Dec 44 All elements continued defenses of Neufchateau and Libramont.



29 Dec 44 Bn (less C Co) attached to 11th Armored Division. Co A and 1st platoon of Rcn Co to work with CCB. Co B with 2nd platoon Rcn Co to work with CCA.

30 Dec 44 Attack continued. It became apparent that our attack had run into a German thrust to cut off Bastogne again. Bombs from enemy planes fell on Neufchateau exactly at midnight as the new year began.

30 Dec 44 11th Armored Division attacked at 0730 and met stiff resistance. Our companies received some shelling; four men in Co A were wounded, one seriously wounded; 3 men from Co B sent to Bn Aid Station to be treated for shell shock.

1 Jan 45 Co A with 1st platoon Rcn Co continued support of CCB of 11th Armored Division; Co B with 2nd platoon Rcn Co continued support of CCA. No ground lost, but gains were small.

2 Jan 45 No change in missions. Enemy resistance was heavy. Lt King replaced Lt Crouch as Liaison Officer at Division.

3 Jan 45 CCB pulled back to re-group; CCA held positions with no attempt to resume attack. Tank Destroyer companies remained in positions.

4 Jan 45 Co A with 1st Platoon Rcn Company was sent to aid 101st Airborne in Bastogne to meet counter-attack; however, the situation was under control and the destroyers were held in reserve. 101st Commander allowed Co A to withdraw one destroyer per platoon to put on new tracks. Bn CP moved to Aux-Les-Rosieres.

5 Jan 45 Co A with 1st Platoon sent to aid 17th Airborne Division ~~in an attack to the northeast~~ No change in attachment to 11th Armored Division. Use of Co A authorized by VOGG of VIII Corps.

6 Jan 45 No change in disposition. Personnel section moved to Etalle with 11th Armored Division Administrative Echelon. Lts. Bush and Hearn joined Battalion and were assigned to B and A Company respectively. However, they are being put in the opposite companies for their indoctrination.

7 Jan 45 No change in Co B. Co A supported 513 Regiment of 17th Airborne Division in an attack to the northeast. Lost 1 destroyer damaged by artillery; 5 men wounded and evacuated; 1 man sent to Bn aid station. One jeep received direct hit from artillery and was destroyed. One tank destroyer was sent to company rear echelon for lack of a crew to man it.

8 Jan 45 Company A knocked out one tank definitely; two probables awaiting confirmation. 513th Regiment was taken out of line and replaced by the 507th. Co A was "loaned" to the new regiment and continued in the line with no rest. CoB was moved from its position in reserve alert status and was committed with CCA, 11th Armored Division in support of attack by 17th Airborne Division.

9 Jan 45 1st Platoon of Rcn Co was relieved by 3rd Platoon. The two platoons made a 100% exchange of radios in order that the 3rd platoon could work on the Co A channel, ~~making~~ Co A got 1 more tank and one of the probables was confirmed, making 3 in two days. Written order was not received, but at 1400 hours word was received from Corps A. T. O. that the Bn (less Co C) was attached to the 17th Airborne Division. Co A remained with 507th; Co B went to 193rd Regimental missions were Defensive.

10 Jan 45 Co A knocked out one tank. All missions continued to be defensive. Personnel section moved back to Izel. Bn attached to Corps for administrations.

11 Jan 45 Missions continued defensive. Co A moved from front lines positions to mobile reserve a few hundred yards back. Two crews from Co A relieved 2 M-10 crews of 603th Tank Destroyer Bn. 17th Airborne Div relieved crews on the 14 towed guns of 603th TD Bn. Composite company from 811th Bn closed at 1800 vicinity Juseret. Company to be under control of 602nd Bn Commander. Strength of company, including attached Rcn platoon, 7 officers. 96 Enlisted men. Five M-18's closed on time, 3 more fall outs expected to close later. Lt. Col. Brown of 7th TD Group conferred with 17th Airborne Division Chief of Staff and arranged for the TD elements to operate under battalion control rather than under the infantry commanders. Plans for the anti-tank defense of the 17th Airborne Division's. All elements prepared to attack the following morning.

12 Jan 45 Six enlisted men returned to duty; 19 reinforcements received from 607th TD Bn. Word was received at noon that the Bn was attached to the 11th Armored again. Three hours later the order was countermanded. Co B had four guns with 513th and six with 193rd; Co A had 6 guns with 507th. Company from 811th TD Bn. detached and sent to 11th Armored Division. All elements prepared to attack the following morning.

13 Jan 45 Nineteen enlisted reinforcements received on previous day were dropped from strength and turned over to 630th TD Bn. Attack jumped off with 507th and 194th abreast. Co A used second platoon to fill up first and third and furnished one platoon to each Regiment. Co B remained in reserve, prepared to operate with 193rd and 513th who followed the attacking elements. Five RTD's received.

14 Jan 45 At 0200 hours B Company was ordered to move from left flank to right flank of division, to arrive before 0800. Enroute two destroyers were lost to American mines which had been removed from the road but were left on the shoulders with the fuzes installed. One man was evacuated to Bn Aid Station. One more destroyer from Co A man was killed in a frenzied accident. Bn assembled ~~at 0800 and attached to 11th Armored~~ on Corps order at 1400 and again was attached to 11th Armored. Co A attached to CCB and Co B attached to CCA.

15 Jan 45 Companies continued close support of combat commands of 11th Armored Division in attack toward Houffalize, Co B knocked out two anti-tank guns and took 3 prisoners.

16 Jan 45 Attack continued successfully and reached Houffalize. At 2000 hours Liaison Officer reported with Division plan. CCA and CCB are to be withdrawn for rest and maintenance. CCR is to be put on the line and our two companies are to be attached to CCR without rest and without maintenance. Three men from A Co were evacuated for battle fatigue and one man was injured and evacuated.

17 Jan 45 Co A and Co B moved into position with CCR between Bourey and Hardigny. Co B took 8 prisoners. Lt. Whitman and Lt. King left for Vitry-Le-Francois to pick up duffel bags for casualties. Companies were ordered by CCR to dig in their destroyers. Bn Co and company commanders objected but complied.

18 Jan 45 Defensive mission continued Billeting party sent to select new CP location.

19 Jan 45 Bn CP moved to vicinity Bastogne, P5459. Rcn CP, 1st platoon and Pioneer Platoon moved to vicinity Magerotte, P4555.

20 Jan 45 Defensive mission continued. Companies were notified that they would revert to control of CCA and CCB when they attacked the next day.

21 Jan 45 Division attack met little resistance. Objective was reached Companies moved forward with Combat Commands.

22 Jan 45 11th Armored Division was pinched off and pulled out of line. Companies reverted to Bn Control, and assembled, Co A vicinity Morhet, Co B, vicinity Bastogne. Division refused quotas for passes to Paris for all units until tactical situation was cleared up.

23 Jan 45 On Division order, Co A was moved to Homroulle and Rcn to Savy, the two nearest towns to Bn CP. All Bn elements except Hq. and C are now in same general area. The 7th TD Group gave its pass quota to this unit. Division chief of Staff approved and 2 officers and 5 enlisted men were sent to Paris on 3 day pass.

24 Jan 45 ~~Rest/and/~~ Companies rested troops and continued maintenance. Twenty enlisted men from each Gun Company and 10 from Rcn Co were sent to Hq Co for 24 hour rest and recreation. Picture shows and entertainment were arranged by Captain James.

25 Jan 45 Rest and maintenance continued. More men sent to Hq Co for show and entertainment.

26 Jan 45 No change. Rest period continue. Six men returned to duty.

27 Jan 45 Lt Schottman assigned and joined and was sent to Co B. Contrary to original plan Lt Hearne was assigned to Co B and Lt Bush assigned to Co A since both officers had proved entirely satisfactory. in all respects and both were pleased with their current assignments. Captain Coulston visited Co C and brought back an impressive report of their operations including 3 tanks 3 AP 75mm gun, and approximately 100 personnel killed. Bn (less C) attached to 87th Infantry Division at 1800.

28 Jan 45 Bn CP moved to Maldange, Co A to Maldange, Co B to Beho, and Rcn Co to Ourthe. Co B put in support of 345 Infantry Regiment. Leading assault wave of attack the next day. Hq Co reconnoitered for new area near Houffalize.

29 Jan 45 345th Inf Regt with Co B in support made progress east of St Vith. Co A moved up near St Vith prepared to operate call. At 2000 plans were made by Division to send a Combat Team north into zone of 84th Division in order to outflank opposition in front of the 87th Division. Co A, without Rcn platoon, was made part of this Combat team and moved to assembly area, north of St Vith at midnight. Co B lost one jeep to a mine, no men were hurt.

30 Jan 45 Companies continued movement with 346th and 345th Regiments. Progress was extremely slow since no roads could be used until cleared of snow and mines by engineers. S/Sgt Brown, Co A, was killed by enemy artillery fire.

31 Jan 45 Movement of companies was still restricted by snow, mines, and lack of bridges across the Our River.

1 Feb 45 Battalion Tactical CP moved forward to Atzerath. Companies made minor changes in position but still were unable to cross the Our River. Both companies were operating inside the German border.

2 Feb 45 No change in disposition. Bn was notified that upon physical relief by 607th T.D. Battalion we would revert to control of 11th Armored Division.

3 Feb 45 Co B relieved by one company of 607th TD Bn and assembled vicinity St. Vith. Co A, Rear Echelon and Co B rear echelon moved to new assembly area vicinity of Huldange, Luxembourg.

4 Feb 45 Bn CP moved to Deyfeldt, Belgium. Co B closed in Huldange, Luxembourg at 1000. At noon Co B was alerted for movement with CCR of 11th Armored Division. Co B moved out at 1500 hours. At 1600 Co A closed in Huldange. Second platoon of Rcn continued to operate with Co B; 1st platoon of Rcn Co with Co A. Co B moved out with CCR at 1500 to vicinity Heckhuscheid, Germany.

5 Feb 45 CCR attacked and took objective, the high ground on the rear edge of the Seigfred line. Co B received heavy artillery and rocket fire, but suffered no casualties.

6 Feb 45 New objective was assigned to CCR, but <sup>no</sup> advance was attempted because adjacent units had not advanced sufficiently.

7 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

8 Feb 45 Lt Arnold returned to duty with Rcn Co. Lt Menard, a new officer, joined the battalion and was assigned to Co A. Three men returned to duty. Third platoon Rcn Co replaced 2nd platoon Rcn Co with Co B.

9 Feb 45 Captain Tharp left to visit Co C. No change in disposition. Co B still was receiving artillery fire but suffered no casualties.

10 Feb 45 Upon request of 7th TD Group, Lt Arnold reconnoitered positions along the Our River in the zone of the 11th Armored Division. Captain Tharp reported Co C was in good shape, but had had no action recently.

11 Feb 45 No change in disposition. Two men from Co B slightly wounded by artillery fire.

12 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

13 Feb 45 Tec 5 Sherdel received a furlough of 30 days in U.S. The case was one of compassionate nature approved by Red Cross. VIII Corps G-1 made a special exception for this man and counted him in on the Corps Troops quota. Co A replaced Co B in the line with CCR. Co B with 3rd platoon Rcn Co was alerted for movement but did not move out with Co A.

14 Feb 45 Red Cross girls with coffee and donuts visited Hq, Rcn and Co B "Must" film on fraternization shown to Hq, and Rcn Co. One section of 1st platoon Rcn Co went to Co A. With approval of CCR Lt Oliver is keeping two platoons on the line and one in reserve at the Company CP.

15 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

16 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

17 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

18 Feb 45 Limited objective attack by CCR jumped off at 0900 hours. Advance positions were selected for destroyers, but attack moved so slowly that the platoons did not move at all. Catholic and Protestant Services were held for Hq, Rcn and Co B.

19 Feb 45 No change in disposition.

20 Feb 45 2nd and 3rd platoons of Co A moved into positions inside the first defenses of the Seigfried Line. Captain Cotter and Captain Curry promoted to Major; Lt Oliver and Lt Graham, D. F. promoted to Captain.

21 Feb 45 Co A CP moved to Lutzkampen as platoons continued advance. Red Cross girls with donuts and coffee visited Hq, Rcn and B Co. In the late afternoon two heavy explosions occurred in the Co B area. Investigation showed they were caused by mines. Two men were killed outright and one seriously wounded. It was possible that the mines may have been booby trapped, but nothing definite could be determined.

22 Feb 45 The man wounded in the mine explosion died of wounds. The 11th Armored Division reached their final objective and was pinched out. By Corps order Co A was attached to the 90th Infantry Division.

23 Feb 45 Co A moved deeper into Germany with Task Force commanded by C.O. of 773rd TD Battalion attached to the 90th Inf. Division. The rest of the 1st platoon of Rcn Co joined Co A in the new position.

24 Feb 45 In operations with the 90th Inf. Div. Co A knocked out 1 Anti-tank gun, 1 pill box, 1 staff car, 1 150mm gun with prime mover; killed 5 enemy and took 31 prisoners. Expended 95 rounds of HE. In operations with 6th Cavalry Group, Co C knocked out 16 pillboxes, killed 25 enemy, and captured 41 enemy, including one officer. Expended 200 rounds of HE, 50 rounds of APC

25 Feb 45 1st Bn was detached from 11th Armored Division and put under 7th TD Bn control. Co A was attached to 6th CAV Gp and moved to vicinity of Arzfeld, Germany.

26 Feb 45 3rd platoon Rcn Co relieved elements of 705 TD Bn Guarding two RR Bridges near Ettelbruck, No other changes in disposition.

27 Feb 45 Co B, with 2nd platoon Rcn Co, moved out at 0800 and replaced Co A and 1st Rcn Co platoon. Exchange completed at 1800. Co A moved to Huldange. Co A reported on action to the day: Knocked out 1 truck 1 machine gun, one mortar, 1 observation post; captured 7 prisoners; killed 20 enemy; expended 40 rounds of HE, 10 rounds of APC.

28 Feb 45 Co B and C continued advance to east under 6th Cav Gp. Bn was notified to expect remaining personnel to be assigned to guard vital bridges and tunnels in Corps Zone.

1 March 45 Co A furnished 90 men, Recon Co furnished 21 men from 1st platoon (in addition to 21 men from 3rd platoon who were already detailed) to guard vital railroad bridges and tunnels.

2 March 45 Co B knocked out one tank, one observation post and took four prisoners. Co C and Co B continued advance with the 6th Cavalry Group and reported 400 rounds HE in current drive. Hq Co sent 12 men out on bridge guard and Recon Co sent 18 more. One officer was received and sent to Co C.

3 March 45 Captain Coulston and 4 enlisted men went on pass to Paris. Three men returned to duty and 27 new men were received. All new men were from Armored Force training Center, had 6 months in the army, and had no combat experience. The additions brought the Battalion to full T/O strength except for one officer and one warrant officer.

Co B knocked out 3 OP's, 2 machine guns, 2 pillboxes, destroyed a road block, took 57 prisoners, and killed 22 enemy.

4 March 45 Co Band C reached Kyll River with Cavalry. Second Platoon Rcn Co reverted to control of Rcn Co and returned to Ourth, Belgium. All replacements received day before were assigned to Co A and Capt. Oliver began a course of instruction to acquaint them with TD equipment and tactics.

5 March 45 2nd Platoon Rcn Co replaced some of the Co A men of bridge guard in order to make available more instructors for the new men. Word was received that B and C Companies were moving with the 6th Cavalry Group to the Corps north flank. Billeting party went out to select new location for Bn CP.

6 March 45 B and C Companies took up positions with the Cavalry on the Corps north flank. Word was received that our men would be relieved from bridge guards the next day.

6 March 45 Bn CP moved to Winterspelt, Germany, VP 9180, setting up the CP on German soil for the first time. Capt. Oliver and 4 enlisted men left for 72 hours pass in Paris. Major Conlin left for 3 day leave in London. Report on Co C's operations for 3rd and 4th March; Knocked out 6 machine guns and one OP, killed 46 enemy, and captured 50 enemy.

8 March 45 All men were relieved from bridge guard. Hq, Rcn and A prepared to move on Bn order to vicinity of Bleialf, Germany.

9 March 45 B and C Companies under control of the 6th Cavalry advanced toward the Rhine. The extent of their progress could not be determined. Hq, Rcn and Co A moved to vicinity of Bleialf, Germany.

10 March 45 Co B knocked out one truck, took 462 prisoners. All other elements remained in position in Corps Reserve.

11 March 45 Bn received warning order to expect a long move. At 1915 word was received that the Bn complete was attached to XII Corps. Lt. Cage and Lt. Crouch left immediately to contact XII Corps at Birburg.

12 March 45 Bn (less B and C) left vicinity of Bleialf at 0600 and arrived vicinity of Dudeldorf at 1000. Total distance traveled 45 miles. Bn CP and Hq located in Gindorf, Rcn at Picklisseim, Co A at Ordorf. B and C Companies left their areas vicinity Kilberg and closed in Dudeldorf at 1400. Bn attached to 89th Infantry Division upon arrival. Co A is to be attached to 353 Inf Regiment, B Co to 354th Inf Regiment.

13 March 45 Co A moved with Regiment to Bad Bertrich; 1st and 2nd Rcn platoons went with Co A and Co B respectively; The rest of the Bn moved to Immerath. Companies in the live met little resistance. Lt. Whitman and 4 enlisted men went on pass to Paris.

14 March 45 No change in dispositions.

15 March 45 Bn less C attached to 353 Inf Regiment; Co C attached to 354th Inf Regiment. Plans made for crossing Moselle River, Main effort to be made by 353rd Inf Regt. Hq Co moved to Driesch.

16 March 45 Bn CP moved to Burren. Also Rcn Cp, with Pion. Platoon, moved to Bueren. "A" Co with 1st plat Rcn Co crossed Moselle to Merl. Co B with 2nd Plat Rcn, crossed Moselle to Neef, and captured 6 PW's. Co C with 3rd Plat Rcn Co was attached to 355 Inf Regt, prepared to move with 11th Armored Division through zone of 89th Inf Division.

17 March 45 Bn CP moved to Merl. Co A moved out to the east with the 353rd, to Moritzheim. Bn less Co A and C was attached to 354th Inf Regt. Co C with 355th Inf Regt followed 11th Armored Division in their attack to the east.

18 March 45 Bn CP moved to Raversbueren (L6351), Co A to Panzweiler (L6958). B Co to Gosenroth (L7043), Co C to Kerchburg (L7649). Resistance was negligible, the weather was clear, the roads were good, and progress was excellent.

19 March 45 Bn less Co C attached to Division again with mission of protecting Division and Corps right flank. Hq Co moved to Raversbueren. Rcn and Bn moved to Buchenburen (L6747), Co A to Immenach (L6147), Co B stayed in Gosenroth, Co C ~~moved to the zone of the pl/Bueren and Immenach~~ moved to Kirn (L8032). Total prisoners taken 42. Co A took the two towns of Bueren and Immenach. Pioneer platoon reduced two road blocks. At 2100 Bn received additional mission of protecting flank after crossing Nahe River.



20 March 45 B Co with 2nd Rcn Platoon and Pioneer Platoon moved out at 0730 and by 1030 had crossed the river at / Fischbach. Co A with 1st and 3rd Rcon platoons moved out along a northern route parallel to B Co. Bn less C by nightfall was in vicinity of Mittelreidenbach (WL 7925). By 0800 Co C had crossed the river at Kirn and by nightfall had reached Lautersheim (WM 2610). This particular day proved to be the most successful in the history of the battalion. No complete reports on Co C could be obtained, but their progress carried them almost to the Rhine River. Co A took over 200 prisoners, B Co took over 400 prisoners. The two companies cleared a half-dozen towns on the Division flank and made contact with the 16th Cavalry Squadron from the XX Corps, near Fischbach on the Nahe River. The Battalion suffered no casualties. B Co knocked out or overran 1 tank, 4 artillery pieces, 4 mortars, and 13 anti-tank guns.

21 March 45 Co C moved on to Horschheim (WM 4212) was detached from 355th Inf Regt, and assembled in place. A and B took six more small towns in the area, but did not change their CP's. 133 more prisoners were taken by A, B, and Rcn, including 7 officers. Hq Co moved from Raversburen to Obereidenbach (WL 8023) B captured 3 Anti tank guns and one mortar. C Co took 389 PW's.

22 March 45 Companies performed maintenance and remained in place.

23 March 45 No Change.

24 March 45 Bn CP moved to Beltheim (L 8067) and A, B, and C and Rcn assembled in the same vicinity.

25 March 45 Co A attached to Task Force Ingell. B and C Companies attached to Task Force Johnson prepared to exploit bridgehead across Rhine to be made at 260200.

26 March 45 Division crossings were successful, but no bridge was put in. Both task forces went up through the 87th Inf Div Area and crossed the Rhine at Boppard. They then cut south in rear of the 89th Division Bridgehead and eased the pressure sufficiently that a bridge could be started. Task Force Johnson then headed east and went approximately 10 kilometers to Struth. Task Force Ingell ran into some opposition and rugged terrain and remained in the vicinity of Kaub.

27 March 45 Task Force Johnson moved on to Kemel, another 10 kilometers east against only scattered resistance. Task Force Ingell was unable to advance beyond Presberg, some 8 kilometers east of the river. Capt. Hart was wounded and evacuated. Lt Barthold took over command of Co B. Co A killed 14 enemy enlisted men and 1 officer on a river boat and knocked out 4 flak guns.

28 March 45 Bn CP, Rcn CP and Hq Co crossed Rhine and moved to Dorscheid. B and C with Task Force Johnson advanced to Bad Schwalbach, some 25 kilometers east of the Rhine. A Co did not advance. Co C got 1 self propelled Mark IV tank. Co B got 5 flak guns, 11 trucks, 4 trailers, and took 107 enlisted PW's and 8 officer PW's including 2 Colonels. At 2000 hrs the two task forces, having completed their missions were disbanded. A was attached to 355 Inf Regt, B to 354th Inf Regt and C to 353rd Inf Regt for the next day's operations.

29 March 45 Companies worked with their respective regiments in cleaning up the remaining pockets in the zone. Co C got 6 flak guns. Small groups of prisoners continued to surrender without a fight.

30 March 45 Bn CP, Hq, and Rcn moved to Kemel (M2074). Capt Hart returned to duty. Mopping up operations continued satisfactorily.

31 March 45 Co B manned road blocks in 354 Inf Regt sector, but the area was quiet. All companies performed maintenance.

1 April 45 Companies continued maintenance as Division remained in Corps Reserve. A film was obtained from Division Special Service Officer and was shown in Kemel for Hq, Rcn and C Companies.

2 April 45 During the day the companies continued maintenance. At dark A Co with the 353rd Regt and C Co with the 355 Inf Regt moved out to concentration area vicinity of Hersfeld (H3955), road distance about 130 miles.

3 April 45 B Co with the 354th Regt, moved up to concentration area. Division began relief of 90th and 65th Division elements. Bn CP, Rcn and Hq Co, also moved up to vicinity of Hersfeld.

4 April 45 C Co, with 355 Regt, moved to Gotha (J0965) and was placed under operational control of the 4th Armored Division. Co B moved to Archfeld (H6974), A Co moved to Unterellen (H7066) Bn CP moved to Wolfterode (H5971).

5 April 45 Hq Co and Rcn Co moved to Wolfterode. Capt Graham, Lt King and 10 enlisted men left on 72 hour pass to Paris. The Division encountered unexpected resistance in Eisenach and no appreciable gains were made; B Co took 10 prisoners, ~~knocked out~~ Rcn Co took 7 prisoners. A Co took 86 prisoners, knocked out 1 truck and 9 machine guns. C Co took 50 prisoners and knocked out 1 anti-tank gun.

6 April 45 C Co with 355th Inf Regt were put back under control of 89th Division, but no substantial changes in position occurred. A Co moved into and through Eisenach with the 353rd Regt. B Co, with 354th Regt made good progress on Division north flank, holding ground until relieved by XX Corps elements.

7 April 45 All division elements moved generally south to prepare for advance to southeast. Bn Cp did not move, but was prepared to move on Division order.

8 April 45 Hq, Rcn and Bn CP moved to Wahlwinkel (J0159). A and B Companies moved with their respective Regiments to the general area of Friedrichroda. A Co over-ran and destroyed a Mark IV tank. C Co continued to screen the front lines around Ohrdruf.

9 April 45 All elements of the Division continued mopping up in Zone and prepared for resumption of the attack to the East.

10 April 45 A Co with 353rd Regt remained in Division Reserve. Co C with 355th Regt made excellent progress and occupied Arnstadt (J2653). B Co with 354 Regt on Division right met moderate resistance and was several kilometers back of the 355th Regt line. B Co CP in Ohrdruf (J1152). B Co had 1 tank destroyer and 1 jeep damaged by artillery.

11 April 45 C Co advanced as far as Tonndorf (J4460) against light opposition. B Co moved up to Marlishausen (J3152). 354th Inf Regt continued to meet the heavier opposition in its sector. Rcn and Bn CP moved to Hockhausen (J2155). Capt Aldred and 4 enlisted men received 7 day furloughs to Riviera. Task Force Crater was formed, made up of A Co of the 602nd TD Bn, Co A of the 707th Tank Bn, a Battalion of Infantry and a company of the 314th Engineers. Bn captured a total of 28 prisoners. Task Force assembled on Division order to seize bridges over the Saale River.

12 April 45 C Co with 355th Inf Regt occupied Bad Berka (J4961). The 353rd Inf Regt (less one battalion) relieved the 354th Inf Regt in its sector. B Co was relieved from 354th Regt and was attached to the 353. A Co, attached to Task Force Crater continued in Division Reserve.

13 April 45 Task Force Crater was committed and by 0800 A Co was up to the Saale River. Hq Co, Rcn and Bn CP moved to Gutendorf (J5352). No serious opposition encountered. McPeck died of wounds received in action same day. Bn completed first month with 89th Inf Division and sustained only 10 battle casualties, including one killed.

14 April 45 Task Force Crater was dissolved, and A Co remained in place. B Co advanced to Eichenberg (J6750). Co C moved up to Trobnitz (J8156). At 1700 a field order was received from Division directing the commitment of all three regiments. Companies reverted to normal attachments, A Co with 353rd on the right flank, B Co with the 354th in the center and C Co with the 355th on the left.

15 April 45 Bn CP and Rcn Co moved to Grossbackedra (J7656). A Co stopped at Triptis (J9145). B and C Companies both located their CP's in Munchen-Bersderf (J9555), which was near enough to the regimental boundaries to be utilized by companies.

16 April 45 Bn CP, Hq and Rcn Companies moved to Kofeln (K0353), ~~which~~ The companies continued their advance against very light resistance. A Co to Langen (K0840), B Co to Weida (K0450), C Co to Linda (K1455). Picture show was held for Hq and Rcn Companies.

17 April 45 C Co with 355th Inf Regt attacked Zwickau (K3646) which had refused terms of surrender. Lt Kilborn's Rcn platoon with the aid of an escaped British P.W. made a bold dash through the streets of the town. Although all avenues of approach were defended by German rifle-men and bazooka teams, the platoon's speed enabled them to reach and secure a vital bridge over the Mulde River. While the platoon was dis-mounted, trying to cut demolition wires and secure the bridge they were subjected to rifle and machine gun fire. One man was wounded and Pfc Earl Stevens was killed. Stevens, only three days earlier, had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic action in saving two of his wounded comrades shortly after the Rhine crossing. B Co also secured bridges across the Mulde River farther south in the zone of the 354th Inf Regt. A Co with the 353rd advanced to the Corps restraining line in the south of Division's Sector.

18 April 45 Rcn Co was assembled and placed directly under Corps control to perform such missions as Corps might assign. Hq and Bn CP moved to Zwickau (K3644). C Co also in Zwickau was at (K3446). B Co at Eversvrunn (K3238). A Co was at Oberheinsdorf (K2835). Higher headquarters indicated that that a brief breathing spell could be expected, so all companies began maintenance periods.

19 April 45 Rcn Co received a mission of protecting the Corps CP near Zeulenroda (K0036). Other companies continued maintenance. More than two dozen Bronze Star Medals were awarded to officers and men of the battalion. In almost every instance the ribbons and citations had been previously presented, but the actual medals had not been available until recently. Picture show was held in Bn CP building for Hq and C Companies.

20 April 45 Maintenance continued. Picture show was repeated in the afternoon for members of A and B Companies. Lt Colonel Conlin attended Unit Commanders meeting at Div Hqs. (Report of meeting included in Historical Report).

21 April 45 Companies continued maintenance. C Co had two platoons on the line and one in reserve. B Co also had two on ~~the line~~ and one in reserve. A picture show was held in the C Company area in the afternoon and again at night at Bn CP. A report came in during the afternoon that Russian prisoners in Zwickau had been fired on by SS men in civilian clothes. Three destroyers which were at Bn Motor Shop, and several armed cars were sent out to find the trouble. It proved to be a case of the armed German civilian guards firing on the Russians. Nothing serious developed. B Co moved to Vielau (K3942).

22 April 45 Maintenance was continued. Picture shows were held for members of all companies. B Co reported 1 AT gun knocked out, 3 trucks destroyed, 22 enemy killed, and 70 PW's taken during the week.

23 April 45 Maintenance continued. Good progress was noted in appearance of men and equipment. Virtually all the men had been able to take showers and most men had been able to get their clothes laundered. Eleven men returned to duty from hospitals and enlisted strength once again exceeded the 600 mark. VIII Corps passed to control of First Army, but no immediate affect was felt in battalion affairs. Capt. Tharp and one enlisted man left on temporary duty with the Military Government. Lt. Ranges and Lt Parnell and eleven men left on pass to Paris.

24 April 45 Rcn Co continued its mission of guarding the Corps CP and was also able to perform maintenance of vehicles. Other companies also continued maintenance. Capt. Aldredge and 4 EM returned from Piviera. Capt Hart assumed duties of Bn S-2 and Ot Barthold assumed command of B Co. Bn received official instructions on recognition of Soviet ground forces; but there were no reports of any contact.

25 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. A picture show was held in the afternoon. One platoon of B Co was part of a small task force which made an armored patrol to the east to locate and break up a suspected enemy troop concentration. Small groups of enemy were found, but no important concentration was discovered. Our troops suffered no casualties, estimated 5 enemy killed, and knocked out one observation post.

26 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Picture show was held in the evening at Bn CP.

27 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Battalion received quota of 4 Coca-cola ~~sinks/six~~ per individual; except for a few men it was the first taste of Coca-Colas since our arrival on the continent. Although only a small item, it added considerably ~~the~~ to the morale of the men. A picture show was held at 1000 in the morning for B and C Companies and at 1400 for Company A. Another showing at 1900 was held for Hq Co. Troops assignment list was received, assigning 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion to First Army as of 22 April 1945.

28 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt Mills assumed duties of B Co executive. Co C moved to Lichtenstein (K4541); the platoons, however, made no appreciable change in positions. Shows were held at Bn CP in the afternoon and evening.

29 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Shows were held at Bn CP in the afternoon and evening. 22 PW's surrendered to a messenger who was on a routine trip.

30 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Troops were paid, the stable situation permitting virtually all men to be paid promptly.

1 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt Ranges and Parnell and 11 EM returned from Paris. Lt Menard returned from ~~the~~ trip to VITRY to check on guards there. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

2 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

3 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. One platoon of Company B was up in a small task force with mission of breaking up enemy concentration in front of the 354 Regt. Knocked out or neutralized one observation post. Estimated 3 enemy killed. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

4 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt Sabella and 15 men left on pass to Brussels. Another Company B platoon was sent out in a small task force with substantially the same mission as on the previous day. Knocked out one machine gun, one OP, killed or wounded approximately 20 enemy. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

5 May 45 News of the large scale German surrenders was received with pleasure, but there was no tendency toward celebrations of any sort. It was apparent that the men would attach little significance to any such news unless they were convinced that the Germans in front of them had actually quit. This was regarded as a desirable reaction. Rest and maintenance continued and shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

6 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Field order received from Division called for preparation of plans for resumption of attack to the ~~the~~ east if the enemy in front of us did not surrender. Shows were held in the afternoon evening.

7 May 45 Word was received of the unconditional surrender of all German forces. There was jubilation, but no celebration. Most evident was the speculation as to future disposition of the battalion. The arrival of the first mail in over a week caused as much excitement as the surrender news.

602nd Tank Destroyer Bn--I think these are the total number of units we were attached to during our days in the ETO. Information came from a search of the old Unit Journal as prepared by Jim Culp and an old list I made up during the war account I needed to know higher Hqs.

This list is important as we must somehow check unit journals, after action reports, etc of each for the periods we were with them. They received credit for actions of attached units but usually mentioned those units in the reports as mentioned above. I will send copies of these to Ed Cage and Jim Culp for verification along with the other material I have already checked.

30 July 1944--England--attached to XX Corps

29 August 1944--Attached to 3rd Army who attached us to X11 Corps who attached us to 9th TD Grp

7 Sept 44--Rcn and A Co-- attached 2nd Cav

B Co--attached 4th Armor

8 Sept 44--602nd attached to 2nd Cav (less B)

10 Sept 44--Co B & 2nd Pltn Rcn detached 4th Armor--returned to 602

11 Sept 44--Bn relieved from 2nd Cav--attached to 9th TD Grp but under control of 2nd Cav and X11 Corps until we cross the Moselle. (we received a verbal commendation from Col Reade of the 2nd Cav.)

19 Sept 44--Re-attached 2nd Cav

29 Sept 44--Bn less A attached 9th TD Grp (A with 2nd Cav)

4 Oct 44--Co C & 1 pltn Rcn attached 80th Inf Div; A Co attached 2nd Cav. Bn still with 9th

11 Oct 44-- One Pltn B Co to 4th Armor to work with 2 Cav

16 Oct 44-- A Co--738th FA

B Co--273rd FA

>I haven't the slightest idea who these people were

23 Oct 44-- Bn received message of commendation from X11 Corp and 9th TD Group

26 Oct 44--C Co returns to Bn control

27 Oct 44--attached 26th Inf Div

NOTE-- A very confused period. We will have to study each of these unit's records for each day of the month. My records only mention the 4th with various Combat Commands--and the 2nd Cav. (This was the period of Arracourt which my notes say was the biggest tank battle of the war so far (Sept 18 thru Sept 28th))

I mention that Oct was spent straightening the line--holding--etc and that we were at times with Corps Arty for indirect firing. I also mentioned the 35th Inf Div. (I do remember seeing an Inf attack up a poppy cushioned hill at terrific cost--and seem to remember that one of our companies supported them with direct fire)

3 Nov 44-- Co C to support of 104th Inf Rgt (26th Div)

Co B--1 pltn 101 Inf

4 Nov 44-- Contact made with 761st Tank Bn, Co K 101st Inf, Pltn 101 Eng etc.

7 Nov 44--Co C attached to 6th Cav Gp

8 Nov 44-- Co C back with 602.

9 Nov 44--Task Force Kopsak (My notes show that the Colonel was wounded on ~~that day~~ on Nov 6th--also date of TF--but I am undoubtedly wrong--does not matter anyway as far as our search is concerned.)

12 Nov 44--Co A to 328th Inf (1 pltn)--remainder of Co A with CCB of 4th Armor  
Co B--1 pltn with 104th--remainder with CCA

13 Nov 44--Co A to 101 FA (26th Div)

17 Nov 44--Bn divided between 2nd Cav, 26th Rcn, 101st Inf and 104th Inf

23 Nov 44-- Bn to 9th TD Grp

27 Nov 44 Co C to 6th Cav, Co B to 2nd Cav--Bn to 9th Gp

11 Dec 44-- Fuzzy--but the 87th Inf Div came into line and we started to work with their Inf Rgts. (346th--345th, are mentioned--incidentally, the 87th was about the only Div to mention much about us in the reports I have read so far at the Suitland MD Archives)

21 Dec 44--Attached VIII Corps--28th Inf Div (602Bn less C Co)

24 Dec 44-- Co B attached 7th TD Gp

29 Dec 44-- Bn attached 11th Armor

4 Jan 45-- Co A with 1st pltn Rcn attached 101st A/B. (Note, check dates Presidential citation for 101st A/B covered--check their history for that day)

5 Jan 45-- Co A and 1 pltn Rcn to 17th A/B--Remainder of Bn to 11 Armor

9 Jan 45-- Bn attached to 17th A/B (( 507th and 193rd Inf))

11 Jan 45--2 Crews of A Co relieved 2 M-10 crews from 630 TD Bn

17th A/B relieved 14 ctes (630) on towed guns

Composite Co from 811th TD closed at 1800 vis Juseret--under control of 602nd. then

PAGE TWO ---602nd TD Bn--ATTACHMENTS

Colonel Brown of the 7th T.D, Group conferred with the C/S of the 17th A/B and arranged for all TDs would be under the 602nd Bn control rather than operate under the Infantry.

- 12 Jan 45-- Composite Co of 811th detached and sent to the 11th Armored
- 1 Jan 44-- Bn(less C)) attached to the 11th
- 17 Jan 44-- Bn attached to the 87th Inf Div(345 and 346 Inf Rgts)
- 3 Feb 45--Bn back to the 11th Armored
- 22 Feb 45-- Co A to 90th Inf Div-put under control of 773rd TD Bn.
- 25 Feb 45-- Bn attached to 7th TD Group. Co A to 6th Cav( Co C still with the 6th)
- 11 March 45--All Companies return to Bn controll.Bn attached to X11 Corps
- 12 March 45-- Bn attached to 89th In Div.Co A to 353 Rgt )  
Co B to 354 Rgt ) New Division from the States  
Co C to 355 Rgt )
- 4 April 45-Co C and 355th Inf under operational control of 4th Armor
- 11 April 45---Task Force Crater( 89th Div).
- 27 April 45-- Assigned to First Army as of 22 April.

This is a big job.I will try to reorganize it by units-and by Months as we will undoubtedly have to study each of the units account overlapping.The various histories I have read indicate that Regimental histories are far more detailed which is the reason I mention them above.I also have found the address of MG Oden who had TF Oden(37th Tk Bn I think) at about the time of TF Kopcsak.The Historical Section history of the Lorraine Campaign details his TF operations but they sure sound like the places we ere in(perhaps his was the 35th-doesnt matter as I will write him anyway.I tried to contact Col Hayden Sears as he was an old friend of our Colonel-his wife gave me the General's address but Col Sears is in the hospital-