

HEADQUARTERS
629TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of After Action Report

THRU : Commanding General, 83rd Infantry Division, APO 83, U. S. Army

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

1. Transmitted herewith is the After Action Report of this Battalion for the month of November 1944.

Glenn Cole
GIENN COLE
Lt. Col., Inf (TD)
Commanding

- Incls:
- Resume of Operations
 - Enemy situation
 - Own Situation
 - Supply
 - Administration with Annex
 - Overlay of Enemy Situation

REF. 1/101 1st Ind.
HEAD QUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army, 20 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. Cowden
N. P. COWDEN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

6 Incls. n/c

CLASSIFICATION
CA CANCELED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
William D. [unclear] at [unclear] [unclear]
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

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Paul

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After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, November 1944

RESUME OF OPERATIONS

Throughout the month of November this battalion was attached to the 2d Infantry Division and operated against the Siegfried Line between Winterspelt and Auw, Germany. The tank destroyer companies reinforced the 2d Infantry Division Artillery with indirect fire. The majority of these fires were harassing and interdictory beyond the range of division artillery weapons. Company "A" fired from positions in the vicinity of Auw, Germany, Company "B" fired from the vicinity of Winterspelt, Germany and Company "C" fired from the vicinity of Oberlascheid, Germany.

On several occasions tank destroyer platoons of companies A and C were moved into positions along the line held by the infantry and direct fires were placed on pillboxes, observation posts and machine gun nests. Detailed reconnaissance was made by platoon leaders and gun commanders for these missions. The firing was coordinated with the infantry and artillery in the respective sectors.

During the period the activity of Reconnaissance Company was confined to pioneer work, strengthening and improvement of bridges and improvement of roads to the company installations.

After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, November 1944

1. ENEMY SITUATION:

a. Units in Contact:

Enemy forces on our northern flank (left) consisted of the 7th Fortress Battalion and the 454th Replacement and Training Battalion. These units are part of the 347th Infantry Division. On our immediate front are the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 295th VG Regt, the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 294th VG Regt, 3rd Fortress Battalion, 1st and 2nd battalions of the 293rd VG Regt and one battalion of Engineers with the 3rd battalion of the 293rd VG Regt in reserve. The above units are part of the 18th VG Division.

Enemy units located on our southern flank (right) were the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 1057th Infantry Regt, the 1st and 3rd battalions of the 1058th Infantry Regt. The 1818th Engineer Battalion and the 2nd battalion of the 1058th Infantry Regt. were stationed immediately behind these front line forces. All southern flank units were part of the 91st Infantry Division.

b. The majority of the enemy reserves consisted of small units of squad or platoon size. These units covered all good routes which would be utilized by our TD's in the event of a breakthrough on their front line forces.

c. Enemy activity was confined to patrolling during hours of poor visibility. Artillery fire of a harassing and interdictory nature was placed on routes being used by our vehicles. Observed 75mm and 105mm fire was placed on the route from Schonberg to Oberscheid, Company "C" of this organization being located at the latter town.

d. A small number of replacements were being received by the enemy forces on our front. Morale among most units was poor due to food and water shortages and improper treatment from their officers and NCO's. The enemy controlled some high ground to our front permitting observation on our front line movements during clear weather. A few of our front line positions were known to the enemy.

e. Plans open to the enemy for attack and counterattack were limited to night patrols. They defended their high ground positions from defiladed positions and dug-in entrenchments on the southern flank. On the immediate front and northern flank pillboxes and forts were in suitable condition to be manned for defense. The routes of approach to these positions were covered by direct fire or by prepared artillery concentrations.

After Action Report, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion, November 1944

2. OWN SITUATION:

a. During the period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944 the unit was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division who were holding a line running from P955815 to P910745 to L030340 to L060900. Companies A, B, & C reinforced the fire of the 15th FA, 37th FA, and 38th FA respectively.

b. The battalion C.P. was located at Andler, Belgium, coordinates P96659067. Reconnaissance Company was located at P97149130 and Headquarters Company at P96209105, both in Belgium. Company A was located at L00359005, Company B at P90758025 and Company C at P98188574, all in Germany.

c. The 15th FA Battalion was located at P993885, the 38th FA Battalion at P973865 and the 37th FA Battalion at P904709. Other divisional troops and attached troops in vicinity.

d. The unit was generally employed in secondary mission reinforcing the fires of division artillery, harassing and interdiction fires being the primary employment of the weapons. Targets assigned the unit were for the most part well beyond the range of the divisional artillery. Direct fire was also placed on enemy pillboxes, OP's and machine guns. The employment of A and C Companies in this role was quite extensive, excellent results being obtained against the targets fired upon in their respective areas.

e. All combat vehicle losses have been replaced. All key personnel losses were replaced. Morale was excellent. Combat efficiency was considered excellent.

f. During this period 1,669 harassing and interdiction missions were fired, expending a total of 20,101 rounds of ammunition. Fifty-three Corps and Division TOF missions resulted in ammunition expenditure of 629 rounds of ammunition. Nineteen targets of opportunity were taken under fire with an ammunition expenditure of 327 rounds of ammunition. Fifty-three registrations were fired requiring 579 rounds of ammunition. 2368 rounds of HE and APC ammunition were fired on direct fire targets which comprised 2 machine Gun nests, 2 wooded areas, occupied by over 2 companies of infantry, 68 concrete pillboxes, and 79 houses. One town was fired upon by 8 guns of one unit with such affect that the enemy supposed a counterattack was being made and laid down mortar, artillery and machinegun fire, revealing his defensive FPL. Excellent results were obtained in almost all direct fire missions.

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3. SUPPLY.

All supplies with the exception of ordnance items were drawn through the 2d Infantry Division Supply Officer. Major items of ordnance equipment were handled through VIII Corps Ordnance Officer.

One car, half-track, M2 was turned in to the 526th Ordnance Company as excess. Five (5) cars, armored, utility M20 were drawn on 1st U.S. Army allocation due to change in T/O & E.

To date this battalion has received approximately half of the anti-freeze compound it will require to meet 1st U. S. Army specifications.

The gas, oil and ammunition supply was replenished daily as required by the situation.

Roads over which the battalion operated during the period were generally good. During the early part of the period approximately two inches of snow fell throughout the area in which the battalion operated, making transportation difficult for a three-day period.

Supply routes west of Company "C" (between battalion command post and company C command post) NW of Bleialf, Germany were covered by enemy harassing and interdiction fires. No other routes to Company "C" installations were available. However, supplies were transported without injury to personnel or materiel.

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4. ADMINISTRATION.

During the period covered by this report all administration was processed through 2d Infantry Division to which this battalion was attached on VIII Corps order.

At the beginning of the period the battalion was seven (7) enlisted men understrength due to evacuation of battle and non-battle casualties. During the period one (1) enlisted man was injured in battle; one (1) officer and seven (7) enlisted non-battle casualties were evacuated. Of these, one (1) officer and two (2) enlisted men returned to duty through medical channels.

One (1) officer and ten (10) enlisted replacements were received during the period from sources as follows:

2d Infantry Division - 5 enlisted men
3rd Replacement Depot - 5 enlisted men, 1 officer

Pursuant to letter, Headquarters, First U. S. Army, subject; Advance Issue of Officer Replacement Personnel, file 200.3/Replacement (AGCL) dated 15 November 1944 this organization was authorized to acquire four (4) officers above Table of Organization strength. On verbal authorization of 2d Infantry Division and in accordance with the policy recommended by letter, Headquarters, Twelfth Army Group, subject; Battlefield Appointments, file 210.1 (AG-P) dated 9 October 1944, three (3) direct appointments to grade of second lieutenant from among the enlisted personnel were recommended in lieu of requisitioning additional officers.

Commanding Officers during period covered by report;
(no changes during period)

Bn. Cmdr. - Lt. Col. Glenn Cole
CO Bq. Co. - Capt. Francis H. Dobbins
CO Ren Co. - Capt. Harry L. Harris
CO Co. A - Capt. Charles M. Grimshaw
CO Co. B - Capt. Edwin H. Stewart
CO Co. C - Capt. Edward A. Ryan

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4. ADMINISTRATIVE: (cont.)

Casualty, Replacement and Prisoner Annex, 1-30 November 1944

Day of Month					PWs	
	WIA	KIA	MIA	N-B	Captured	Replacements
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	2
8	0	0	0	1	0	0
9	0	0	0	1 Off	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	2 EM, 1 Off
15	0	0	0	0	0	2
16	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	5
18	1	0	0	1	0	0
19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	1 Off
21	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	1	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	1	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	0	0	0	3	0	0
29	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	7 EM, 1 Off	0	12 EM, 2 Off

OVERLAY SHOWING ENEMY SITUATION
 MAP: GERMANY, 1:100,000
 SHEETS No. ST 6 T 1
 FROM 010001 A Nov 1944 to 302400 A Nov 1944
 Hqs, 629th T.O. Bn.

