

HEADQUARTERS 695TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION 1944
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

DATE: 1/6/45

6 January 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
THROUGH: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army.
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.

OPJ
Eto-1

VII CORPS

REPORT SUBMITTED FOR DECEMBER 1944

- a. Original Unit: No change.
- b. Changes in organization: Attached to 4th Cavalry Group-Mech.
- c. Strength:

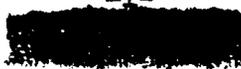
Date	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted men
1 Dec 44	32	2	726
31 Dec 44	33	2	684
Increase or Decrease	+1	0	-42
- d. Stations: Germany; arrived 3 Oct 44 (Firing Companies were in action in Germany 15 Sept 44). Left Germany 22 Dec 44.
Belgium: Arrived 23 Dec. 44.
- e. Marches: All marches and moves by bn CP and Line Companies noted in narrative listed as Appendix No. 1)
- f. Campaigns: Western Europe.
- g. Battles: (See Narrative Report, Appendix No. 1)
- h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Wint Smith, O123028, FA, has been, and still is in command of this battalion.

i. Losses in action:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
	<u>Officers:</u>	
<u>Killed in Action:</u>	1st Lt. William R. Von Ende	12 Dec 44
<u>Wounded-Evacuated:</u>	Capt. Harold L. Pellegrino	16 Dec 44
	<u>Enlisted men:</u>	
<u>Killed in Action:</u>	Pvt. George T. Loop	20 Dec 44
	Sgt. William E. Koenig	20 Dec 44
	Pvt. Francis R. Ryan	20 Dec 44
	Cpl. Larry E. Wessel	23 Dec 44
<u>Missing in Action:</u>	Pvt. James J. Manser	12 Dec 44
<u>Wounded-Evacuated:</u>	Cpl. Walter R. Anthony	5 Dec 44
	Pvt. Louis E. Saki	5 Dec 44
	Sgt. Joseph M. Stalpes	11 Dec 44
	Sgt. Harold D. Brown	11 Dec 44
	Pfc. Albert D. Speaker	11 Dec 44
	Pfc. Frank M. Nitschke	11 Dec 44

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After Action Report, 65th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

<u>Wounded-Evacuated:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
	Pvt. Andrea J. Amato	11 Dec 44
	Pvt. Clyde D. Ridgeway	11 Dec 44
	Pfc. James C. Woodward	11 Dec 44
	Pvt. John D. Roper	12 Dec 44
	Pvt. Edward E. Walker	12 Dec 44
	Pvt. Randall G. Schaub	12 Dec 44
	Pfc. Arthur E. Weller	12 Dec 44
	Sgt. John S. Cwikla	13 Dec 44
	Pvt. John R. Carpenter	13 Dec 44
	Tec 4 George T. Ruenhall	13 Dec 44
	Pvt. George W. Webb, Jr.	16 Dec 44
	Pvt. Francis R. Ryan	16 Dec 44
	Pvt. Charles C. Frost	16 Dec 44
	Sgt. George T. Garvie	17 Dec 44
	Pvt. Thomas J. Hale	17 Dec 44
	Pfc. Frank E. Brewer, Jr.	17 Dec 44
	Pvt. Arthur Hood	20 Dec 44
	Pvt. Melvin R. Gilbert	20 Dec 44
	Tec 5 Claude E. Dunigan	20 Dec 44
	Pfc. Howard A. Degen, Jr.	21 Dec 44
	Tec 5 Lionel E. Moore	23 Dec 44
	Pfc. Thomas W. Whalen	23 Dec 44
	Pvt. Emil Reich	23 Dec 44
	Pfc. Van E. Bagwell	23 Dec 44
	Cpl. Everett Beneda	23 Dec 44
	Pfc. Elton R. Sebaugh	23 Dec 44
	Sgt. Kenneth F. Baxter	25 Dec 44
	Cpl. Stanley W. Strong	25 Dec 44
	Pfc. William E. Lang	25 Dec 44
	Pfc. Lloyd O. Beard	25 Dec 44
	Pvt. Peter T. Valerio	25 Dec 44
	Pvt. John E. Keesee	25 Dec 44
	Sgt. Robert L. Van Buskirk	26 Dec 44
	Pvt. Harold R. Duarte	26 Dec 44

<u>Died of Wounds:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
	Sgt. John S. Cwikla	14 Dec 44
	Tec 5 Lionel E. Moore	23 Dec 44

(In December 1 Officer and 31 Enlisted Men were wounded in action and not evacuated, and 1 Officer and 24 Enlisted Men were evacuated as non-battle casualties. During December we received reinforcements consisting of 4 Officers and 34 Enlisted Men)

j. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:

<u>Name and Rank/Grade</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Authority</u>
<u>Silver Star</u>		
1st Lt. Paul W. Whelchon	B	Hq VII Corps GO 76, 15 Nov 44
Sgt. Donal W. Dever	B	Hq 1st US Inf Div GO 130 26 Nov 44
Pvt. Luther B. Johnson	Med	Hq VII Corps GO 74, 12 Nov 44
S/Sgt William E. Lewis	Hq	Hq VII Corps GO 79, 22 Nov 44
Sgt. James A. Lackey	B	Hq 1st US Inf Div GO 121, 12 Nov 44 4/6

After Action Report, 6, 1st TB Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

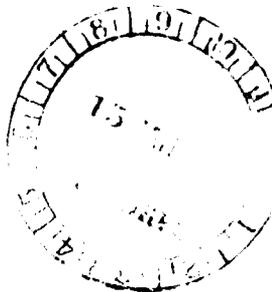
<u>Silver Star</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Authority</u>
Sgt. William G. Stubbs	B	Hq 1st US Inf Div GO 123, 17 Nov 44
Pfc. Floyd L. Hicks	B	Hq 1st US Inf Div GO 123, 17 Nov 44

<u>Bronze Stars</u>		
Sgt. Lawrence J. Peterson	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Cpl. Kelly (n) Savoy	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Sgt. Charles E. Mead	B	Hq VII Corps GO 80, 28 Nov 44
Sgt. Joseph M. Stalpes	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Cpl. Richard C. Patchett	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Pfc. Henry P. Bender	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Pfc. James O. Busman	B	Hq VII Corps GO 77, 17 Nov 44
Pvt. Henry V. Ellis	B	Hq 1st US Inf Div GO 121, 12 Nov 44
Pfc. Frank L. Farmer	Med	Hq VII Corps GO 82, 6 Dec 44
Cpl. Kenneth E. Way	C	Hq VII Corps GO 93, 9 Dec 44
Pfc. Vinson D. Davis	C	Hq VII Corps GO 83, 9 Dec 44

<u>Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal</u>		
Cpl. Kelly (n) Savoy	B	Hq VII Corps GO 80, 28 Nov 44

k. Photographs: None.

l. Inclosure: Appendix no. 1 only.



Wint Smith
WINT SMITH
Lt. Col., FA
Commanding
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HEADQUARTERS 635TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION TOWED
APO 230, U. S. ARMY

APPENDIX NO. 1

6 January 1945

NARRATIVE
Excerpts from Unit Journal
Incidents

December 1944

- 1 Made rcn South Aachen for security positions against airborne attacks.
- 2 Personnel Section moved from 1st US Inf. Div. Base and joined our rear Echelon at Eyenatten, Belgium. 6 EM on DS with 1st US Inf Div Arty forward CP to alleviate their shortage of personnel returned to Bn for duty.

3rd Platoon C Co moved to Eyenatten in preparation of movement with 4th Cav Rcn Sqdn returned to Aachen assy area due to limited room and billets in Eyenatten, Belgium.

Advance billeting guard of 7 EM returned from Eschweiler, Germany, due to change in mission.

- 3 Following report submitted by Co C: 3rd platoon which displaced an A Co platoon in the Schevenhutte, Germany, area was heavily shelled by the enemy between 0630 and 0730 hrs 2 Dec. A 1/4 ton vehicle hit by shell fragments with no repairs necessary. S/Sgt McClellan sustained Lac Wd left arm; treated by our own medics and remained on duty...at 1030 hrs 1 Dec Cpl Shows entered an unmarked enemy mine field to rescue an engineer who had his foot blown off by an exploding mine. Cpl Shows has been recommended for the Silver Star award for his brave deed.

Following officer and enlisted men decorated by the VII Corps Commander for bravery in action against the enemy: 1st Lt Wheelon, Co B, Silver Star; Sgts Mead and Stalpes, Co B, Bronze Stars; Cpl Kelly Savoy, Co B, Bronze Star and Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star; Pfc's Bender and Bussman, Co B, Bronze Stars.

Following report received from Co A for 2 Dec: 2nd Section, 3rd Platoon moved from Co CP to new antitank positions vic coord 040410...entire company alerted for movement.

- 4 Following report received from Co A for 3 Dec: Moved CP from coord 994385 and established new CP at coord 028417 - at 1405 hrs 4 enemy planes strafed CP area. Sgt Matthews was hit by a bullet which penetrated his field jacket, sweater, shirt and bible in shirt pocket causing slight scratch and considerable bruise left side of body below heart - remained on duty. At 1432 one enemy plane strafed area again, but no damage caused. Following is the report for 4 Dec for Co A: Between 0100 and 0525 hrs approximately 30 rds enemy artillery from 1800 mils hit in and around SP area. At 0525 hrs 3 enemy shells hit the CP. One rd hit our ammunition trailer causing severe fire damaging 2 1-ton trailers exploding 72 rds 3" APC and 24 rds HE shells and destroyed beyond use approximately 125 duffle bags belonging to EM, A Co officers' duffle bags and personal luggage, 2 platoon 3" spare parts kits and 2 aiming circles. Pvt Phipps, driver of loaded ammunition cargo truck, braved the exploding shells and drove the cargo out of the area and Pvt Vogan drove a 1-1/2 truck and a 1/4 ton from the exploding trailers. Both men recommended for the Silver Star award for their bravery...2nd platoon moved from coord 016405 to coord 029418 in reserve position in vic of Co CP.

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Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

5 Following report received from Co A for 5 Dec: Between 0240 and 0500 hrs the enemy shelled CP area from 1700 mils; estimated 75mm or 88mm. A total of 78 rds hit the area with 49 rds falling during the first hour. One (1) halftrack sustained a direct hit putting it out of action (replaced). Cpl Walter Anthony wounded and evacuated for possible fracture pen wd left leg, shell frag. Pvt Louis E. Saki wounded and evacuated for pen wd left arm shell frag. Sgt James Nelson wounded not evacuated lac wd shell frag right side face. Pvt Lloyd Callwell wounded not evacuated slight lac wd left buttocks shell frag. Pvt Russell K. Sites wounded not evacuated lac wd right arm shell frag.

6 Co A established new CP at coord 995404. Moved from coord 028417. New location approximately south of Gressenich, Germany.

Med Det reported: On 4 Dec Pfc James Frey, Co A, 2° burn left hand from exploding 3" shell when enemy shells hit ammo trailer - remained on duty.

7 Retl Op Memo #11 Hq 4th Cav Group dated 6 Dec. This Bn less Co A tactically attached to 83rd US Inf Div effective 080600A Dec 44. Co A will be attached effective the time 83rd Inf Div assumes control of the 4th Inf Div Zone.

Sgts Dever and Lackey presented with the Silver Star Award for bravery in action.

Following report received from Co A for 6 Dec: Lt Gotham reentered for and found suitable indirect fire gun positions in vic coord 990367. At 2050 hrs 21 rds enemy artillery estimated at 75mm fell in 3rd platoon area vic coord 040410 from 1400m.

8 8 EM; 6 from Co B and 2 from Co C, left Bn for 92nd Repl Bn of 3rd Repl Depot to be returned to the U. S. on furlough per confidential letter 29 Nov 44, Hq ECUTSA, "Return of Personnel to the US on Temporary Duty for Rehabilitation, Recuperation and Recovery." (Auth Hq VII Corps S/O 169 7 Dec 44)

CP group left assy area in SW Aachen, Germany, at 1045 hrs and established new CP 1150 hrs in the town of Vicht, Germany, coord 963388.

Following report received from Co A for 7 Dec: 1st platoon started indirect fire with Lt Silki as forward observer; guns in position coord 989365. 73 rds 3" HE expended. Platoon ceased firing 1600 hrs as unable to register without smoke. 5 harassing missions were fired on towns of Derichsweller and Gurzenich, Germany.

9 B Co reported: Co CP left assy area SW Aachen, Germany, coord 827411 at 1245 hrs 8 Dec and arrived coord 032416 2 miles east of Schevenhutte, Germany at 1445 hrs. Co B attached to 331st Inf Regt of 83rd US Inf Div tactically.

Following report received from Co A for 8 Dec: 1300 hrs 1st platoon fired 116 rds HE - 7 harassing missions into towns of Derichsweller and Gurzenich, Germany. 1830 hrs 3rd platoon reported unidentified plane flying from E to W, circled to south and dropped three anti-personnel bombs - no damage. 2000 hrs 7 artillery airbursts to be from our own artillery into Co CP - no damage.

Co C reported: Left assy area SW Aachen, Germany, and established new CP 8 Dec coord 007408 near Schevenhutte, Germany.

Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

Received Ops Memo #12 9 Dec 44 Hq 4th Cav Group: This Bn less Cos A, B and 3rd Platoon Co C attached to 4th Cav Group effective 091500A Dec 44. Co B, this Bn, attached to 759th Tank Bn Lt.

Capt Page, Ln O, on order from CG 83rd Div Arty placed Co C in position for indirect firing; 1st platoon 00605-40295, 2nd platoon 00675-40500, 3rd platoon 00540-40355. Fired 432 rds 3" HE - 14 interdiction and harassing missions with no known effect. 2 registrations fired on 2nd mission. Firing from 0500 8th Dec to 0600 9th Dec.

- 10 B Co reported: Moved from coord 032416 to coord 300376 approx 2 miles west of Kleinbau, Germany, and established new CP 1700 hrs 9 Dec.
- 11 Bn Comdr, S-3, Ln O and 15 EM left CP to establish Advance Forward CP at coord 033377 vic Kleinbau in the Hurtgen Forest to permit closer operation and Ln with Cos B and C nearby and Group Hq also removed to the forest.

Following report received from Co A for 10 Dec: 1st platoon moved from coord 989365 to reserve position coord 995404. 2000 hrs: 3rd platoon shelled from 2000 m. by 2 enemy guns estimated at 75mm - no damage.

Co C reported: CP moved from coord 007408 and established new CP in town of Vicht, Germany, 1230 hrs 10 Dec. Moved again 11 Dec from Vicht to vic Kleinbau in Hurtgen Forest coord 036375 and established new CP at 1300 hrs. Attached to 85th Rcn Sq of 5th Armd Div less 3rd Platoon which remains with the 4th Cav Rcn Sq. Advised that since departure from assy area SW Aachen, Germany, Co C, on VO were attached to the following organizations prior to their attachment to the 85th Rcn Sq of 5th Armd Div; 83rd Div Arty, 330th Inf Regt, 326th FA Bn, and 329th Inf Regt - all for tactical purposes, but changes in missions caused detachments.

- 12 Advance Forward CP augmented with additional personnel; 1 officer and 10 EM and 1 ambulance and 3 medics.

Co C reported they established Ln with 85th Rcn Sq and were awaiting orders to support the Sq in screening the south flank of an extended drive to the east contemplated by the 5th Armored Div.

Co B reported: 10th Dec: Between 1730 and 1800 hrs an estimated 4 enemy planes bombed CP area. One 100# bomb fell 25 yards from CP and several anti-personnel bombs fell in 3rd platoon area. S/ Sgt Demanett hit in finger left hand and remained on duty. Tec 4 Ruth hit by bomb fragment and remained on duty. One 12-V battery was damaged, one 610 radio knocked out and 1 rifle damaged; 6 tires and one 2-1/2 ton cargo damaged superficially. Co. maintenance section took all damaged materiel to rear echelon for repair or replacement. 11th Dec: 1st and 2nd platoons committed forward to hold approx 300 to 400 yds high ground vic 070375, East of Kleinbau, Ger. Our troops went forward at 1300 hrs 11 Dec dismounted and to take place of infantry. The area they were assigned to hold was under enemy observation at all times and was heavily raked by enemy mortar and artillery fire; over 200 shells dropped in approx one hour, and not all the men were able to reach their positions. Shell fire came from the northeast. By 1706 hrs the following EM were wounded and evacuated by tank due to the constant enemy fire and muddy terrain: Sgt Stalpes shell frag r arm, Sgt. Harold Brown shell frags arm and leg; Pfc Albert Speaker shell frag r side of face and forehead, Pvt Amato WIA, Pfc Frank Nitschke WIA, Pfc James O Woodward BE. 44
Following EM wounded but not evacuated: Pfc Carl M. Larsen grazing wound r side of

Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 639th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

head and shell frag thru lobe of left ear; Pvt Chester L. Gilkison shell frag r shoulder and r hip; Pfc Thomas Garver shell frag r arm. 1100 hrs: Pvt Ridgeway WIA grenade frags-evacuated. 1st Sgt Moore, while contacting radio detail in Kleinbau, Germany, WIA by HE shell frag, contusion, abrasing r upper arm, triceps region - remained on duty.

1 officer and 11 EM additional moved to Advance Forward CP in Hurtgen Forest.

Following report received from Co A for 11 Dec: 2nd platoon moved into indirect firing positions coord 001418 at 1100 hrs. 1400 hrs: 3rd platoon moved from position coord 035413 to reserve in CP area coord 995404. 1430 to 1600 hrs; 2nd platoon fired 37 rds 3" HE harassing fire at town of Gurzenich, Germany, at company of infantry dug in vic coord 074440. Company Survey Crew utilized and A Co officer used for forward observation.

Co C reported: 3rd platoon, in vic of Jaegerhaus, Germany, subjected to heavy enemy artillery concentrations throughout the night with 60 shells falling in area in one hour.

Rec'd SO 338 9 Dec 44 Par #2 Hq FUSA promoting 2nd Lt Lawrence J. Stewart, 01824933, to 1st Lt.

- 13 Following report received from Co A for 12 Dec: 1410-1730 hrs: 2nd platoon fired 20 rds 3" HE unobserved fire in support of 24th Cav Rcn Sq and 331st Inf harassing fire on road junctions coord 08384273-09114253-19414264-08954226; all in town of Birgel, Germany, and vic.

Co C reported: 3rd platoon in vic of Schevenhutte, Germany, subjected to intermittent heavy artillery fire throughout the night, averaging three to four rds per hour through the hours of darkness.

9 additional Hq Co EM from forward CP transferred to Advance Forward CP.

At 1530 hrs 12 Dec four enemy artillery shells fell in CP area; one shell fell 25 yds from where Bn Comdr was standing but proved to be a dud.

Co B reported: Following EM wounded and evacuated on high ground coord 070375 E of Kleinbau, Germany, holding as infantry 12 Dec: Pvt Edward Walker shell frags buttocks and legs; Pvt Randall Schaub frag in leg; Pvt John Roper frags right shoulder and face, Pvt Walter Henry, WIA, Pfc Arthur Weller shell frags arm. 1st Lt. William R. Von Ende KIA same action. Following EM S/WA and evacuated 13 Dec: Sgt John Cwikla double fracture spinal cord and DOW 14 Dec. Enemy continued to rake area Co B holding with artillery and mortar fire all day and night. Bn Comdr committed forward to assist Co B to hold high ground one officer and 20 EM of Rcn Plats Hq Co.

- 14 Following report from Co A: 13 Dec: 1320-1630 hrs; 2nd platoon fired 20 rds HE harassing fire in support of the continued attack on Birgel, Germany by 24th Cav Rcn Sq and 31st Inf Regt.

Co B reported: 3rd platoon committed forward to aid 1st and 2nd platoons to hold high ground vic coord 070375. Position heavily shelled with artillery and mortar fire throughout day. Hq Rcn Plats were able to get into position during a lull in the enemy firing. Reported that Pvt Stredonsky LWA 11 Dec shell frag left wrist and left thumb - remained on duty. On 14 Dec 1st Lt Paul W. Whelehan WIA by shell frag

Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

pen wd left shoulder - remained on duty. Pfc Ernest Meador LWA shell frag hip - remained duty.

- 15 Following report received from Co A for 14 Dec: Lt Brant on rcn for Op to fire indirect on Birgel, Germany, reported enemy tanks and approx 100 infantry moving SW thru town - unable to fire as friendly troops working toward town.

Co B reported: Sgt Emery Smith LWA shell frag finger right hand - duty.

Bn Comdr reported - Mission of Co B plus Rcn Plat of Hq Co was to occupy and hold as infantry defense positions for 3/4 mile SE of Kleinbau, Germany, and engaged in protecting the right flank of the 4th Cav Group reinforced with patrols south and east for distances of approx 500 yds. That 1st platoon of Co C attached to 759th Tank Bn Lt to occupy positions one mile NE of Kleinbau, Germany. That 2nd platoon Co C attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq to take up antitank positions 1-1/2 miles north of Kleinbau.

- 16 Pfc Edsel Cedar, Co B, WIA shell frag in left knee - remained on duty. Pfc Ralph Miller, Medic attached to Co B, WIA shell frag left thumb - duty.

Rec'd Ops Memo #14 dated 15 Dec 44 Hq 4th Cav Group; Co B and 1st platoon Co C and 1 Rcn platoon Hq Co attached to 759th Tk Bn Lt; 3rd platoon Co C reld attached 4th Cav Rcn Sq and attached to group in reserve effective 151300 Dec 44. 2nd platoon Co C Attached 4th Cav Rcn Sq for mission - from selective positions protect right (s) flank of 5th Armd Div and prevent enemy movement north of the line CR F-084381 (excl)-RJ F-100389 (incl), maintain contact with elements of CCV on left (east flank). Hq. 635th TD Bn less gun companies and 1 Rcn platoon under group control.

Co B reported sporadic shelling throughout day and night on high ground vic 070375.

Med Det reported: Capt Harold L. Pellegrino, CO Co C, WIA mortar frag right hand and head 1100 hrs 16 Dec - evacuated. Pvt Amadee Reulet (A) WIA shrapnel right hand and thumb - remained on duty.

Following report received from Co A for 15 Dec: Lt Brant on route rcn from CP to coord 064427 and at 1300 hrs 1st platoon moved into position vic 063427.

Forward CO in the town of Vicht, Germany, bombed by enemy aircraft. Enemy planes overhead from darkness to dawn of 17th Dec.

- 17 Following radio msg rec'd from Bn Comdr in Advance Forward CP "Enemy paratroopers were seen coord 995480 and many other places. More were expected. Also rumored in rear echelon areas. Notify our rear echelon". We immediately notified our Rear Echelon in Eyenatten, Belgium who organized Paratroop Alert Patrols and while paratroopers were not apprehended, at least 20 one-shot Panzerfaust bazookas were found and taken in.

Co B reported: Pvt Francis Ryan WIA shell frag in buttocks - evacuated.

Following report received from Co A for 16 Dec: 2nd platoon moved to CP area in reserve from 001418. 1130 hrs: 3rd platoon went into position coord 068406. 1630 hrs: 4 rds enemy artillery estimated 75mm fell into 3rd platoon's area coord 06840646 from 1800 m. and Pvt Webb was hit by fragment in stomach and evacuated. Two enemy

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Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1945, cont'd.

guns were doing firing and were shelling Gey, Germany. After the 4 rds fell into the 3rd platoon area, several rds fell north of the platoon's gun positions and then the shelling of Gey was resumed. Enemy planes were over Co CP hourly from 1715 to 0615 hrs, but no damage reported.

Co C reported: Pvt Frost WIA and evac. EM in foxhole covered by logs. Enemy plane dropped anti-personnel bombs. 1 bomb dropped on logs and spread them and a dud followed and hit EM on small of back necessitating evacuation. Two guns of 2nd platoon went into position at coord 087387 at 1900 hrs 16 Dec. Coord center point of 2 guns with guns 200 yds NW and SE of that point.

- 18 Enemy planes over forward CP area in Vicht throughout night 17th-18th. Number of bombs dropped but other than broken glass no damage sustained to personnel or materiel. Enemy plane activity continued during the daylight hours of 18th, AA guns in area knocked down one enemy plane.

8 more EM from Hq CP displaced to Advance Forward CP.

1300 hrs: 1st and 3rd platoons Co A moved to reserve positions town of Vicht, Germany.

Co B reported enemy shelling on high ground coord 070375 lighter than usual throughout day and night, but that movement on our part resulted in concentrated enemy mortar and artillery. Position continued under enemy observation.

Advance Forward CP reported the following EM of Co C wounded 17 Dec; and evacuated: Sgt Garvie frag right buttocks, Pvt Hale frag spine; Pfc Brewer frag left upper arm. Following EM wounded but not evacuated: Pfc Ring bomb frag ear; Tec 5 Cockrell bomb frag. One Co C halftrack completely knocked out (replaced).

Co B reported: Bet 2200 and 2300 hrs 17 Dec Sgt Emery Smith and 3 other EM captured two enemy paratroopers and killed one in front of their outpost position one mile west of Bogheim, Germany. Kept paratroopers all night prisoners in a foxhole and turned them into Group CP the morning of the 18th.

Co C reported: 1st platoon bombed twice on 16 Dec: anti-personnel and 500# bombs dropped and twice by anti-personnel bombs during the night of 17 Dec. Platoon put two guns in position at coord 082378 on 15 Dec and one gun in on 16 Dec. 1 gun remained in reserve. As the 3rd gun was put into position under the supervision of the Co Comdr, a concentration of artillery fell near the vic of the gun position. Co CO ordered every man to take cover and remain there as the position was obviously under observation and the halftrack was drawing fire. Everyone took cover except Pfc Ring, who said "Hell no, that halftrack will get hit unless I get it out". He climbed into the vehicle amidst the falling shells and drove the vehicle to safety. The enemy then dropped their barrage in the spot where our vehicle had previously been located. 2nd platoon went into position 16 Dec vic coord 087387 and were heavily shelled by enemy artillery and mortar; at least 250 rds falling in and around their positions the first night. They were also bombed 3 times during the night of 16 Dec by enemy planes.

- 19 Co B reported: Following EM wounded and evacuated 13 Dec: Tec 4 Ruenhall of Hq Rcn Plat shrapnel in stomach; Pvt Carpenter (B) shrapnel leg and back. Only sporadic shelling reported on high ground positions.

Appendix No. 1, Narrative, 635th TD Bn. Towed, 6 Jan. 1947, cont'd.

1 officer and 19 EM of Hq Co in reserve at Advance Forward CP were sent to high ground vic coord 070375 to hold while Co B and Hq Rcn men were committed forward to advance and take selected positions.

20 6 more EM transferred from Forward CP to Advance Forward CP.

Co C reported: 1 gun 2nd platoon moved vic coord 037387 1700 hrs 19 Dec. Entire platoon sustained heavy fire from mortar and artillery. Co C CP shelled on night of 19th with 12 rds artillery falling into area.

Co B reported: One platoon of Co B supported by Rcn platoon of Hq Co attacked at 0700 hrs in support of the 759th Tk Bn Lt, dismounted to take nose of hill vic coord 0737 - objective taken by 0900 hrs. Pvt Sheppard took 6 enemy paratroopers prisoner by pillbox halfway up to the high ground where Co B entrenched. Prisoners turned over to an unidentified Colonel. Bn Comdr verified claim. Sgt William Koenig, Rcn Sgt Co B, KIA by enemy sniper's bullet through head while leading his section and directing tanks in dismounted attack half mile west of Bogheim.

21 Rear Echelon moved from Eyenatten, Belgium, to Vicht, Germany and became part of Forward CP.

Following report received from Co A for 20 Dec: Moved from coord 995404 at 1400 hrs established new CP 1500 hrs at coord 029377 vic Kleinbau, Germany, in Hurtgen Forest. Company alerted from time of arrival for dismounted attack 21 Dec.

Co C reported for 20 Dec: 2 guns 3rd platoon placed into position on high ground in support of Co B action at 1730 hrs. Sgt Marintzer LWA frag in buttocks - remained on duty. Pfc Clark's M1 rifle destroyed by enemy mortar fire at the same time requiring replacement. Pfc Sites had direct hit on foxhole by mortar shell suffering concussion resulting in stiffened jaw BC - remained on duty.

Following report received from Adv Fwd CP: Pvt Loop, Hq Rcn Plat KIA by mortar frags 1/2 miles west of Bogheim, Germany. Pvt Hood, Hq Rcn Plat SWA shrapnel left thigh and right arm - evacuated by tank. Pvt Gilbert, Hq Rcn WIA shrapnel upper right arm - evacuated. Pvts Rood and Gilbert were sharing the same foxhole when wounded. Gilbert immediately applied first aid to Rood, bandaging his wounds and applying a tourniquet to his arm and another on his leg, definitely saving Rood's life and disregarding his own wounds. Tec 5 Dunigan Hq Co WIA mortar frags right leg - evacuated. S/Sgt Allen LWA mortar frags face and hands - remained on duty. Pfc Lauffenberger Hq Co WIA mortar frags right side of neck - remained on duty. Pvt Francis R. Ryan, Co B, KIA by small arms fire. Pfc Degen, Co B, WIA 21 Dec two fingers blown off booby trap - evacuated.

Rec'd FO #23 of 191800A Dec 44 Hq 4th Cav Gp: Group reinforced has mission to aid CCA and CCB 5th Armd Div to secure west bank of Roer River in zone of action - Bogheim - Untermaubach - Obermaubach area. One platoon Co C will support 4th Cav Rcn Sq and attack dismounted 200700A Dec to take high ground vic coord 090378. Co A will support 24th Cav Rcn Sq and attack dismounted 210730A Dec to take high ground vic coord 093368. Co B and 2 Rcn Plat will support 759th Tk Bn Lt will attack 200800A Dec to secure nose of hill vic 0737.

CO Hq Co, Lt Sands, reported from Advance Forward CP that 4th Cav Group with this

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Bn reld of present mission and were preparing to join VII Corps in their move into Belgium to combat new enemy offensive. Preparations made for certain personnel and vehicles to accompany the Bn Comdr in advance column.

- 22 S-3 alerted Rcn party to join 4th Cav Group advance billeting detail into Belgium.

Med Det reported: Pvt Glazebrook, Co B, LWA contusion r arm - duty. Tec 5 Leese Hq Co, LWA shrapnel right arm - remained duty.

Bn Comdr returned to Fwd CP and advised that on the new mission into Belgium, Co B would remain under Bn control, Co C would be attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq and that Co A would be attached to 24th Rcn Sq and that one platoon and Co Hq 238th Eng would travel into Belgium with the Bn Comdr's convoy and would be attached for administration and rations. Reported that Pvt Manser, Co B, MIA since 12 Dec. That neither Co A nor 1 Plat of Co C attacked dismounted in accordance with FO #23 due to change of plans, but that Co C had 8 guns in supporting positions on high ground. Co B 3rd platoon with Rcn Flats headed by 1st Lt Carlson took nose of hill coord 0737 to their east dismounted as infantry and that the action was supported by 3 tanks of the 759th Tk Bn Lt. Our troops encountered considerable small arms fire and that we killed at least 30 enemy troops which was a conservative estimate.

Bn Comdr aptd 1st Lt LaCroix, Co C, as Co Comdr vice Capt Pellegrino wounded and evac.

Bn Comdr and Adv CP with elements of 238th Eng left Vicht, Germany, at 1700 hrs for Belgium - destination assy area Baillonville, Belgium and then to area between Ciney and Marche - ready to fight.

- 23 Remainder of Fwd CP and the Rear Echelon combined as the Rear Echelon departed Vicht, Germany, for rear echelon assy area vic Baillonville, Belgium, 0900 hrs. Rear Ech of 4th Cav Group in our convoy. Party detoured at Bomel by MPs to west side of Ourthe River. Prior to arrival at Durbuy, Belgium, convoy turned around at crossroads coord 41986 as bridge would not take vehicles heavier than 1/4 tons. Proceeded west by north and arrived at Rj coord 319986 where information received enemy had crossed the main road between Hogue and Marche. Proceeded north and west to an assy area south of Havelange coord 216006 and bivouaced for night - distance traveled 75 miles.

- 24 Rear Ech left bivouac area coord 216006 proceeded to Huy, Belgium, and established CP in outer building of Chateau d'Ahin - distance traveled 13 3/4 miles, coord 211167.

Bn CP reported for 23 Dec: Fwd CP arrived coord 235892 at SinSin, Belgium at 0330 hrs 23 Dec - distance traveled 76 miles. Due to enemy situation original route to the assy area at Baillonville. Having very little knowledge of the enemy situation, the line companies reconnoitered the area of SinSin and put in a number of 3" guns for local security.

Co A left coord 029377 1 mile west of Grosshau, Germany, at 1715 hrs 22 Dec and arrived at coord 204888 1 1/2 miles NE of Haversin, Belgium, at 0330 hrs 23 Dec, distance traveled 76 miles. Enroute a halftrack crashed into a 3" gun in the darkness and due to the condition of the road. Pvt Nichols fell out of the vehicle and hurt his shoulder but remained on duty. One halftrack, one 3" gun, one 1 1/2 ton truck and two trailers were put out of action. A guard was placed on the wrecked equipment until the Bn wrecker and maintenance crew arrived from the newly established rear

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echelon. At 0300 hrs 23 Dec the 2nd platoon went into position vic coord 180903. 1130 hrs: 1st platoon went into position vic coord 212884 and at 1700 hrs the 3rd platoon went into position in vic 252864. Co CP location 206886 at Bois de L'Abime near Trou des Chiens, Belgium.

Co B left coord 030376, 2 miles W of Kleinbau, Germany at 1730 hrs 22 Dec and arrived coord 224887 at Sin Sin, Belgium, at 0345 hrs 23 Dec - distance traveled 77 miles.

Co C left 031375 vic Kleinbau, Germany, at 1700 hrs 22 Dec and arrived at Haversin, Belgium, coord 235893 at approx 0330 hrs 23 Dec and at daylight put in 2 guns of the 1st platoon 500 yds south of the CP. One gun was in position and as the second gun was being maneuvered into position between 1200 and 1300 hrs, enemy mortar fire started. When mortar fire ceased, small arms fire continued along steadily for at least 30 minutes. Intermittent 81mm mortar fire continued along with the small arms fire. Enemy 20mm and 40mm weapons from enemy light armored vehicles also joined in the attack. Co C was attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq. Co C withdrew in orderly fashion. Prior to withdrawal, Co C was able to fire one rd 3" HE at 2 enemy carrying a mortar across the railroad tracks and made direct hit. After being forced to withdraw, Lt LaCroix got 4 light tanks to come up and fire at enemy and break up small arms fire. Tanks fired 25 to 30 rds 37mm and some MG fire. After this action at Haversin, Co C went into position at coord 218891. A PW taken in the vic indicated that he was sent to area to direct enemy tanks in and around Haversin, but obviously the enemy's plans had to be changed as they heard our antitank fire and bypassed Haversin. Following casualties resulted from this action: Cpl Larry E Wessel KIA. Tec 5 Lionel E. Moore WIA compound fracture upper right arm mortar frag - evacuated (Tec 5 Moore died of wounds the same day in a field hospital). Pfc Thomas Whalen gun shot wd r arm twice - evacuated, Pvt Emil Reich pen wd r upper leg mortar frag - evacuated. Pfc Van Bagwell compound fracture left thumb and slight wound face by mortar frags - evacuated. Cpl Everett Beneda pen wd top of left shoulder mortar frag - evacuated. Pfc Elton Gebaugh compound fracture left hand left index finger and light wound left hand mortar frag - evacuated.

- 25 Following reports rec'd from Fwd CP: Fwd CP left coord 235892 at Sin Sin at 1600 hrs 23 Dec and set up new CP at coord 200901 at Janne, Belgium 1615 hrs 23 Dec distance traveled 4 miles. Rcn platoons with CP assigned to Co B and used for CPs and to man 3" guns if necessary. Tec 5 Stoney of Co C WIA lac wd left hand - remained on duty. Cpl Pitts of Co C WIA lac wd rt hand - remained on duty.

Rec'd FO #25 Hq 4th Cav Group dated 240200 Dec 44: 4th Cav Group reinf with Co C attached to 4th Cav Rcn Sq and Co A to 24th Cav Rcn Sq will push reconnaissance and establish screen line on the Liege and L'Homme Rivers between junction of the Lesse and Meuse Rivers and Rochefort (incl) to deny any movement north of the River lines. Action in support of CCA, 2nd Armd Div attkng SE to clear Leignon and Buissonville and thence NE to destroy emy rptd in the woods with elmts of British Armor holding crossings of Neuse on our right flank and elmts of 84th Inf Div on our left flank maintaining outpost line thru Marche to Rochefort.

At 1130 hrs 24 Dec at or slightly south of crossroads coord 073880 near Liroux, Belgium, Co C lost one halftrack, one 3" gun and one 1/4 ton in action. Co was on march south in convoy with 4th Cav Rcn Sq when the forward elements received enemy small arms fire and convoy halted. Cpl Ring's halftrack was on crest of high ground; he unhooked gun in road and put it into action turning halftrack into field. Vehicle was hit as driver stepped out. Halftrack was hit 7 times and burned. Ring

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fired one rd 3" APC at gun flashes and as the Cav reported 3 tanks in the vicinity, it is assumed that tanks in defilade was firing at us. We fired at 600 yd range, but results unobserved. Pfc Ring was LWA pen wd rt side of neck but remained on duty throughout the action. Sgt Morgan endeavored to back his gun into field across road from Ring's gun and put his gun into action but gun jack-knifed and trails were bent. Sgt. Corbett's 1/4 ton was hit 3 times by APC and put out of action. Ring's gun was hit on the trails and it had to be turned into Ordnance for exchange. Sgt. Morgan's halftrack recovered Ring's gun and later he recovered his own gun which is now being repaired. During the time Ring's halftrack was hit, Pfc Skolfield went to the half track under fire for ammunition for the 3" gun. Co C reorganized promptly and went into position as planned.

Following report received from Co A for 25 Dec: 0035 hrs 3rd platoon in command of 1st Lt John B Thompson left Jamodine to attack and hold Humain, Belgium, in support of Troop A of the 24th Cav Rcn Sq. Arriving in Humain at approx 0130 hrs, Lt Thompson noted three enemy vehicles in streets. He sent a patrol to investigate and learned that a Mark V tank, a halftrack and a utility truck out of gas and abandoned. He unhooked 3" gun and fired and destroyed the three vehicles before he went into positions of defense which was completed at approx 0330 hrs. Lt Thompson reported to the Troop Comdr at this time that the defense was set up with one Rcn section in support of each of the 3" antitank guns. At 0400 hrs, Lt Thompson was notified by one of his gun squads that they heard tanks to their front. Lt Thompson joined that squad, heard the movement and noted about 30 enemy infantry with a number of flashlights occupy a house to their front. At the same time one German tank came into view and was promptly fired upon and destroyed. Lt Thompson ordered one gun to fire HE at the house and Sgts Senne and Urkevich fired bazooka rockets into the same house. Considerable screaming came from the house and it is reasonable to assume that none in the house escaped death or serious injury. Cpl Roones fired at the tanks and another tank was knocked out making it a total of 3 Mark Vs which was later confirmed. Cpl Roones was wounded but continued to fire the 30 cal machine gun when his 3" ammunition was exhausted. Pvt Stomper, cannoneer, carried ammunition from #1 gun to #2 when all the crew were wounded, loaded, sighted and fired the 3" gun by himself. Cpl Strong was shot through the right arm by enemy MG fire while he knocked out one of the Mark Vs but continued to fire 3" gun until his ammunition was exhausted and then rested his carbine on a tire of gun carriage and fired at the enemy until his carbine ammunition was expended. Pfc Lang was wounded in the back and arm but refused to be evacuated, hung on to the trails as best he could and continued to pull the lanyard of the 3" gun till the ammunition was expended. The enemy returned our fire with small arms, automatic weapons, bazooka and tank guns and when all our ammunition was expended, Lt Thompson decided to withdraw with his 7 wounded and 2 wounded men from the Cav. It was believed that the guns could be gotten out later, but when the enemy fire increased in intensity, Lt Thompson personally went back to the two guns and removed the firing mechanisms and brought them back. It was not possible to reach the 3rd gun. Pfc Beard, although wounded himself, carried a wounded man of the Cav with him. The 3rd platoon withdrew to Aye. In submitting a personal report of this action, Lt Thompson pointed out that the Bn Comdr's teachings insofar as picking suitable gun positions definitely paid "dividends in lives" - he was not satisfied with the positions chosen by his Sgts and had them man-handle the two guns into a depressed spot. When the enemy tank fired their first rds at them, their fire went over the heads of the gun sections. Lt Thompson further stated that all he needed was an opportunity to exercise his primary mission of fighting and knocking out tanks and he would accomplish it instead of doing road reconaissance with 3" guns, finding the enemy and fighting

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The enemy as infantry. His 3rd platoon knocked out 3 enemy tanks in this fire fight. The following casualties resulted: Pvt Keesee shell frag belly - evacuated. Sgt Baxter shell frag wd head slight - evacuated. Cpl Strong gunshot wd arm - evacuated. Pfc Lang, SWF back and arm - evacuated. Pfc Beard, shell frag wd right hand and sprained ankle - evacuated. Cpl Roones shell frag head - duty. Pvt Valeric shell frag wd head and run over by 1/4 ton - evacuated. Pfc Fraaten shell frag wd cheek - duty. At 0830 hrs the 2nd platoon moved to Hogen, Belgium, and at 1030 hrs the 2nd platoon augmented by the 1st platoon moved into position in the vic of Jamodine, Belgium. Received two 3" guns from Co B and one from Co C to make up for the loss of the three 3" guns lost in the Humain action. Closed CP at 206886 and moved to coord 263834, Aye, Belgium, and established new CP at 1705 hrs.

- 26 Rec'd copy of FO #26 Hq 4th Cav Gp dated 241630A Dec 44: Group reinforced attached to 2nd Armd Div will maintain contact between 84th US Inf Div and with CCA and CCB of 2nd Armd Div. Rcn actively toward L'Homme - Lesse and Meuse River, maintain contact with the enemy and screen the assy areas from the south and west. Co C supporting the 4th Cav Rcn Sq will cover the gap between the CCA and CCB assy areas. Co A supporting 24th Rcn Sq will maintain contact between CCA and 84th US Inf Div on left. Bn less Cos A and C will, from selected positions, reinforce AT defenses of the 4th and 24th Rcn Sqs and will be prepared to move res elm to threatened areas.
- 27 Following report received from Co A for 26 Dec: 0930 hrs: Lt Norman on rcn for gun positions and tank approaches vic 240835-234838-222848. 1100: Bn Comdr and S-3 to Co C and with Co Comdr to CP and from there to vic coord 255819 to rcn for gun positions. Party shelled by the enemy three separate times at 5 minute intervals; approx 14 rds HE estimated at 75mm or 88mm. One piece shrapnel went past the Bn Comdr's foot just as he lifted it from the ground. A piece of rock or shrapnel grazed front of the Bn CO's upper left leg but did not break skin nor tear clothing. Party took refuge by stone wall until firing over. No damage other than S-3 suffered scratched and bruised knees when he went to the ground along stone wall for protection - no medical aid necessary - firing evidently from observed positions. 1400: 2 guns 2nd platoon and one gun 3rd platoon moved into position vic 255869.

Co C left 195864 at Haversin at 2000 hrs 23 Dec and arrived at 166968 at Hamois at 2230 hrs 23 Dec - distance traveled 10 miles. Co C left 166968 at Hamois at 1145 hrs 27 Dec and arrived at 138868 at Ychippe at 1230 hrs 27 Dec, distance traveled 10 miles.

Following reports for 26-27 Dec received from Co C: 3rd platoon had one gun in position in an orchard at Custinne coord 088828, supported by elements of the 4th Cav Rcn Sq. When the fog lifted (26 Dec) Cav security was not in evidence and it was decided to withdraw the one 3" gun. Prior to taking gun out of action and as they started moving around to get out of the orchard, enemy artillery fire came in; evidently direct observed tank fire from defilade positions. Sgt Van Buskirk and Pvt Duarte, while still under fire, went ahead closing trails of their 3" gun as they could not locate the enemy positions and their first thought was the saving of their gun. 1 rd enemy HE hit the trail of the gun breaking it off and wounding both men. Sgt Van Buskirk shell frag wd pen left heel - evacuated. Pvt Harold Duarte - shell frag wd back - evacuated. The second gun of Sgt Van Buskirk's section then moved into position at coord 093834. At approx 0200 hrs 27 Dec disml'd men were seen approaching along the road some 250 yds-from their position. A Lt of the Sq instructed our troops not to fire as he thought the approaching foot troops were American.

[REDACTED]

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We ordered them to halt, but instead they scattered or dropped to the ground. As a Cav outpost of 3 men were not in evidence, our men promptly opened fire on the enemy, 3 of whom came forward and surrendered. Pvt Goldstein ordered the 3 prisoners to call to their comrades to lay down their arms and come forward with their hands in the air. Four more came forward and gave themselves up. The remainder of the enemy retreated to the woods. Gunner Cpls Fogarty and Dickson promptly placed their men in advantageous positions around the gun in preparation for a counterattack as it could not at that time be determined how many of the enemy were in the area. As quickly as the men went into their selected positions, a German lieutenant and a group of men started forward toward our position. Cpl Dickson ordered them to halt and surrender. Instead they dropped to the ground and opened fire. Cpls Dickson and Fogarty opened fire with their 30 cal machine guns, killing two and the officer and six more men surrendered to us. In all we killed two men and 1 officer and 13 men surrendered. The prisoners wore US combat boots, combat jackets and one man had a pair of combat trousers, but none were completely equipped with American uniforms. Cpl Dickson then spotted approx 150 enemy foot troops on a nearby ridge but the Sq officer would not permit our men to fire, stating they might be friendly. It was later determined the troops were enemy and if the outpost herein mentioned was in position as planned, this could have been established and we would have easily inflicted heavy casualties with HE fire. This situation indicates in part the difficulties of this particular phase of this campaign against the enemy; the enemy wearing all or part of American uniforms such as overcoats, short coats, field and combat jackets, etc., making sure of the identity of approaching troops difficult. If a hesitancy to shoot our own troops did not exist, many more enemy would have been killed or put out of action during this particular fire fight.

29 Fwd CP shelled during night of 28-29 Dec - no damage.

Fwd CP moved - left 209901 at Jannee at 1045 hrs 28 Dec and arrived and set up new CP at 157793 at LaLoux at 1545 hrs 28 Dec - distance traveled 11 miles.

Co B left 224887 at Sin Sin at 1045 hrs 29 Dec and arrived at 161788 one mile south of LaLoux at 1545 hrs 28 Dec - distance traveled 12 miles. Due to icy condition of roads, one halftrack wrecked badly damaging frame of vehicle, necessitating replacement.

Co C departed 138868 Ychippe at 1030 hrs 28 Dec and arrived at 131779, one mile east of Ciernon at 1500 hrs 28 Dec - distance traveled 18 miles.

Rec'd FO #27 dated 262200 Dec 44 Hq 4th Cav Gp: Group reinf maintains present outposts and road blocks; protects the assy area of CCR (2nd Armd Div); holds present front line as LD for CCR. After being passed through by CCR, will protect left (E) flank of CCA, will be prepared to counterattack on order any enemy armor breakthrough from east, southeast or south, and maintain contact with the 84th US Inf Div on left (E) and CCR on the right (W). Co A will support 24th Cav Rcn Sq reinf from present positions, will block any enemy movement to the north or northeast in zone of action.

Rec'd FO #28 dated 271800 Dec 44 Hq 4th Cav Gp: Group reinf, attached to CCA 2nd Armd Div effective 271800 Dec 44 will move beginning 280900 Dec 44 to establish screen along line Lesce and L'Homme Rivers in Group Zone of action - supporting CCA 2nd Armd Div while they continue to clean out enemy in CC zone of action as far south as the Lesce and L'Homme Rivers. 4th Cav Rcn Sq reinf (Co C attached) will move at 280900

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Dec from present position to establish screen along Lesse River within squad zone of action and prevent enemy movement north of the river. 24th Cav Rcn Sq reinf (Co A attached) will move from present position at 28100 D c to establish screen along the Lesse-L'Homme River and prevent enemy movement north of rivers. Bn, less Cos A and C will move to forward assy area.

Following report received from Co A - for 27 Dec: 0800 hrs - CCR 2nd Armd Div jumped off on their attack on Humain; LD Co A 3" guns.

Following report received from Co A for 28 Dec: 0100 hrs: Rec'd FO #37 dated 272100 Dec 44 Hq 24th Rcn Sq: Sq reinf by Co A will move to Bbis de Famenne, rcn south in assigned zone to line of Lesse and L'Homme Rivers to establish a counter rcn screen. After counter rcn screen established, Co A will place guns in position to provide AT defense within Sq zone. 1050: moved CP at coord 263834 and arrived and set up new CP at coord 160772 Fm de L'Esperance at 1535 hrs - distance traveled 22.7 miles. 1730 hrs: 2nd platoon in position at coord 162744 and 163753. 1735 hrs: Pvt Callwell and Couture, 2nd platoon, captured German Lt at coord 158757. 1740 hrs: 1st platoon in position coord 145775 and 3rd platoon in position at coord 175775.

30 8 of our 11 motorcycles turned in to Ordnance due to operational conditions.

Fwd CP moved - left coord 157793 at LaLux at 0910 30 Dec and arrived and established new CP at coord 200927 at Scy, Belgium, at 1030 hrs in abandoned chateau now occupied by a small order of Benedictine monks - distance traveled 14 miles.

31 Following report received from Co A for 29 Dec: 1700 hrs - 1st platoon moved into positions vic 158753 from 145775. Utilized British bulldozer to dig in guns. Four 3" guns were dug in under supervision of our gun sergeants in less than two hours.

Following report received from Co A for 30 Dec: 1500 hrs - 2nd platoon, 2 guns, moved from 162744 to a reserve position coord 161746.

Following report received from Co A for 31 Dec: moved 1005 hrs from coord 160772 and established new CP 1330 hrs at 217892 Troudes Chiens near Sin Sin - distance traveled 11.4 miles.

Co C moved - left 131779 at 1230 hrs 30 Dec and arrived at 201928 at Scy, Belgium, 1545 hrs 30 Dec - distance traveled 27 miles.

Co B moved - left 161288 at Laloux at 0915 hrs 30 Dec and arrived 199928 at Scy at 1100 hrs on 30 Dec - distance traveled 15 miles.

Group detached from 2nd Armd Div 31 Dec and reverted to Corps control.

SUMMARY

The 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion Towed has been in the field since D plus 2 with no specified rest period other than in assembly areas, and a small percentage of officers and enlisted men on 48 hour and 72 hour passes to Paris, France, and Verviers, Belgium. During our attachment to the 1st US Infantry Division Artillery through 31 August 1944, our firing companies have been under the control of the Division's Regimental Antitank Officers and generally were used to reinforce the

the organic regimental antitank defense. Because of the nature of the operations, and the disorganization of enemy armor, we did not fire at any tanks. In many instances, our gun platoons found themselves either on the infantry front line or in position in front of the infantry. Our support of the 1st US Infantry Division entailed many fire fights with the enemy and we were subjected to considerable artillery shelling and bombing and strafing by enemy planes. We received favorable commendation for our services with the 1st US Infantry Division from CG, 1st US Infantry Division Artillery dated 24 October 44 with comparable indorsements by CG, 1st US Infantry Division, and CG, VII Corps.

Our attachment to the 4th Cavalry Group, Mecz, became effective 1 Sept 44 and we are currently attached to the same organization. Our firing companies have been employed by the Squadron Commanders on their screening missions, against enemy patrol activity, combat patrols, observation patrols, outposts, road blocks, and dismounted as infantry. Only during December in action against the enemy in Belgium were we able to prove our ability to perform our primary mission of destroying tanks. In the fire fight which ensued at Humain, Belgium, on 25 December, the 3rd platoon of Company A destroyed three (3) enemy Mark V tanks. We were responsible for killing and/or putting out of action against our troops many of the enemy, and in previous reports have taken credit only for those of the enemy we were actually able to verify ourselves. We are, however, positive we killed many more, particularly with our 3" gun fire. In one instance along during an indirect fire mission against enemy foot troops on the road to Schmid, Germany, ACP reported that dead and wounded enemy were hauled away for five hours. We took 116 prisoners up to 31 December and took credit only for those of the enemy we captured independently of assistance. Our 3" guns neutralized many enemy pillboxes and mortar batteries in action against our troops, destroyed machine gun nests, enemy armored and utility and horse-drawn vehicles, CPs, CPs, and houses occupied by the enemy. Our mission to destroy the enemy and his means of fighting our troops was effectively accomplished, and we enter the new year with the same purpose in view and with even greater determination to do our share and more to gain victory against the Germans. Battle casualties through 31st Dec. were as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed in Action	1	23	24
Missing in Action	0	1	1
Wounded in Action-Evacuated	3	105	108
Wounded in Action-Not Evacuated	3	68	71
Died of Wounds	1	7	8

Our officers and men distinguished themselves in action against the enemy and through 31 Dec 7 Silver Stars and 13 Bronze Stars have been awarded. Additional recommendations are at present being processed through channels.

The combat efficiency of this command is excellent and on 31 December had all it's equipment excepting three (3) 3" guns which are reported not to be available in the First U. S. Army, two (2) halftracks which will be delivered to us as quickly as the 3" guns become available, and two (2) 1/4 tons. We have two officers and 44 enlisted men on requisition and as soon as these reinforcements are made available to us, we will be up to T/O strength.

Pertinent Data of Value for Study:

- (1) 3" sights with plastic lens have given us considerable trouble, parallax, condensation in them, too heavy, our runners would sooner have the old sight they can carry in their pockets.
- (2) Brake handles are too long, (3" towed gun).
- (3) It was necessary to take our wheel segments off for more efficient operation.
- (4) Recommend halftracks or full tracks to replace the M20 which is road-bound. Prefer full tracked vehicles to tow the 3" gun in place of the halftracks. Speed is not as essential as getting in and out of the positions tactics demand.
- (5) Furnish 2-1/2 ton trucks in place of the 1-1/2 ton ammunition trucks for platoons.
- (6) Substitute 1/4 ton vehicles for motorcycles.
- (7) Recommend a light tank be designed to tow the 3" gun for better protection.
- (8) Recommend wider tires for 3" gun carriage.
- (9) recommend radio equipment of greater range for platoons. When on screening missions, guns are too far apart and platoon too far from Company CP for receiving and transmission with available equipment.