

**RESTRICTED**

Bn, 309th Inf whose CP was in the same town. The CO gave the platoon leader the details of his troops disposition and warned the platoon leader of the proximity of the enemy infantry. The town was heavily shelled at night but since the men had taken cover in the buildings no casualties were suffered. The 3rd Plat, Company B, followed the 1st and occupied high ground in a quarry to the S of ROTTBITZE (F696275). The reserve slope was occupied as the forward slope and the crest were under enemy observation and artillery fire. The 2nd Plat moved out with the company but dropped out of the column and went into a rendezvous at (F655282). The platoon leader established liaison with the CP of the 2nd Bn, 310th Inf, and was told to remain in that position until the Bn was committed. The platoon remained in the rendezvous for the remainder of the day.

Upon reaching RHEINBREITBACH the 2nd and 1st Platoons joined the 3rd Plat of C Company 150100A March 1945. The company moved out for HIMBURG (F695281) on the road running N to HONNEF (F6427) then E to HIMBURG. Instructions were received to move on the HONNEF - HIMBURG road until a road block consisting of mines covered by two tanks was reached. The company moved out in the following order 3rd, 2nd, 1st platoons. The Rcn Plat remained at the Company CP. At 150315A March 1945 the leading platoon reached the road block. The platoon leader could not contact the company commander in order to inform him that the road block had been reached. The mine field had been reported to be cleared. Nevertheless after failing to contact the company commander by radio, the platoon leader of the 3rd Plat drove to HONNEF and contacted the CO by phone. Upon his return to the road block the 3rd Plat leader and the platoon sergeant dismounted and inspected the mine field. No surface mines had been found and so the platoon leader after being assured that the mine field had been cleared led his platoon across. The leading quarter ton and the first destroyer crossed the mine field without detonating any mines. The second destroyer detonated two mines blowing both tracks off. None of the crew was injured. The crew dismounted from the immobilized destroyer to retrieve their helmets which were blown off by the explosion. At that time the Engineers at the road block motioned a quarter ton from another organization to pass through the mine field. As the 1/4 ton passed the destroyer another mine was detonated. Three of the crew members were injured by the blast and flying fragments. The Engineers swept the road and guaranteed that it was cleared.

In the confusion at the mine field one 1/4 ton was squeezed between two destroyers but no one was hurt. The remainder of the company passed through the mine field at 151000A March 1945 and proceeded to an assembly area in the vicinity of F684284. The platoons then split up in order to reach their specific objectives. The 1st and 3rd Platoons remained in position until their assigned areas had been cleared. The 2nd Plat moved into HIMBURG. The platoon leader reported to the Bn CO, 1st Bn, 309th Inf and was ordered to take up positions with fields of fire to the N and NE. The platoon remained in the position for the remainder of the day. The 3rd Plat was in support of the 2nd Bn, 309th Inf, and the 1st in support of the 3rd Bn, 309th Inf. Liaison was established with all CPs of the supported units.

The 1st and 3rd Platoons remained in the assembly area until the morning of 16 March 1945 when both platoons supported their respective battalions. During the stay in the assembly area the platoons were under constant artillery and mortar fire. No casualties were sustained in this position.

The Bn received information regarding the change in Corps boundaries. With the new boundary taking effect, the C Companies were operating out of the III Corps area. The Bn CO called the CO, 309th Inf Regt, in reference to the new Corps boundary. Upon the visit of C Company commander to the Bn CP the Bn CO oriented the company commander in regards to the new Corps boundary. C Company was given the warning order to prepare to displace to new positions upon order from this Hq. At 161049A March 1945 the Bn CO received a call from the CO, 309th Inf, in reference to the 2nd Plat position on the AUTOBAHN. A possible armored attack was imminent and the CO, 309th Inf, was gravely concerned with his position on the highway. A request was made to keep the 2nd Platoon, Company C, in that position until relieved by TDs of the 893rd TD Bn. The Bn CO concurred with the request. A request from the 310th Inf CO requested the 2nd Plat, Company B, remain in position and in support of the 2nd Bn, 310th Inf. The Bn CO concurred with this request also. In anticipation of moving out of the III Corps area a billeting party was sent to LINZ (F677186). B and C Companies were alerted to reconnoiter routes to position to the South in the III Corps area. The Bn S-3 with the 8th TD Group aid arranged to have a plane available for aerial reconnaissance. The pilot of the plane arrived at the CP at 1400A. The Plat leader of the 2nd Plat, Company B, was to fly the first mission. Ground haze set in and the flight had to be cancelled. In accordance with the plane was to be available for future flights under the control of 8th TD Group.

The 9th Inf Div advanced to the East. The 899 TD Bn was attached to the 9th Inf Div. As the Inf advanced TD Platoons of the 899 TD Bn moved to forward positions in close support. Since A Company, 656 TD Bn, was in support of Company B, 899 TD Bn, any positions vacated by Company B, 899 TD Bn became available for occupation for Company A. At 160001A March 1945 the 1st Plat, Company A, at HARGARTEN (F707205), 2nd Plat vicinity LINZ (F688198).

The 3rd Plat moved from ST KATHRINEN (F721211) to LORSCHIED (F730218). The 3rd Plat since it moved during daylight hours was under considerable artillery and shell fire. No casualties were suffered. The Company CP moved from OCHENFELS to LINZ.

At 160900A March 1945 the Bn CO of the supported Inf Bn requested the Plat leader of the 1st Plat, Company B, aid in repelling an expected enemy counter-attack by an estimated company of enemy infantrymen. The enemy was in a woods 500 yards to the East. The Inf Bn requested the TDs to fire on anything that moved. At approximately 1000A movement was noticed in the woods. The TD Plat immediately opened fire with shell set at fuze quick. Tree bursts were secured. A total of 52 rounds of HE were expended. In this action two enemy MGs were destroyed and an unknown number of enemy killed and wounded. The action ceased

**RESTRICTED**

at 1200A. The enemy counter-attack was stopped. At 1500A the platoon position was fired on several times by enemy snipers from the N section of the town. Observation placed the snipers in one or all of the houses. The Plat leader moved one destroyer in a position covering all three houses. Eight rounds were fired. Inf immediately followed the preparation and occupied the houses. Two snipers were found dead and 5 enemy taken prisoners. During the remainder of the day and at night the town of ROTTBITZE (F700275) was under enemy shell fire. The 2nd Plat remained in its assembly area in the woods. The expected commitment of the 2nd Bn, 310th Inf, did not take place. The 3rd Plat remained on the reverse slope of the high hill at F696275. Individual guns were removed to the crest several times but in each instance enemy artillery fire was drawn. The Plat however suffered no casualties. The Plat remained in that position for the remainder of the day. The Plat Sgt and driver of the 1st Plat upon making a reconnaissance along the road running to the East and the enemy became temporarily cut off from his unit when the Inf and TDs pulled back to town. In the evening fire fight each of the men killed one enemy infantryman and then covering one another, the two men fought back and rejoined their platoon.

At about 160930A March 1945 the 1st Bn, 309th Inf, attacked N from HIMBERG through a covered draw, then East by passing AGIDIENBERG (F694294), seized HOVEL (F693302) and cut the AUTO-BAHN Highway running West of HOVEL. The town of HOVEL was taken by the 1st Bn but not cleared. The 2nd Plat in its movement to positions in the vicinity of HOVEL was divided into two sections. The 1st section under the platoon leader moved by a cover route to a position in the woods (F686307) where it remained for the remainder of the day. Firing positions were reconnoitered giving fields of fire covering the AUTOBAHN highway but not occupied because of enemy observation, artillery and SP artillery fire. At 1200A the Plat Sgt began moving his guns towards his assigned position E of HOVEL. The Bn S-3 requested the Plat Leader to clear out some MG nests that were holding up the taking of HOVEL. Instructions were given to proceed down a road where a guide would meet him and lead him to the MG positions. On his way down with one destroyer the Plat Sgt passed two M-4 tanks on the side of the road waiting for the resistance to be cleared. Coming out from behind a building the destroyer was taken under fire by enemy bazookas, MGs and SP artillery fire. One bazooka hit the turret carrying away all of the equipment attached to it. The destroyer stopped and began backing up when another bazooka hit the front of the turret. A third bazooka hit the drive sprocket. There was no penetration from any of the hits. Three rounds were fired into the bazooka and MG position. The three bazooka teams, two MGs and a SP 75 were destroyed. In this action all of the enemy were killed. Moving down the road and making a sharp right turn the destroyer was taken under fire by a SP gun at a range of 50 yards. The blast carried away the driver's steel helmet but did not injure him. The crew fired two HE and one APC at the blast of the gun and then backed up behind the turn. The destroyer then pulled up again and fired 3 more rounds of HE. There was no return fire from the gun. 56

Twenty-five prisoners were taken and turned over to the Inf. The destroyer then proceeded to fire HE into the building of HOVEL until all ammunition was expended in the ready rack. The .50 caliber MGs were then employed. Some tanks and TDs appeared on the scene and the Platoon Sgt covered them as they went into position. The sergeant then rejoined the other gun in his section. In his absence the second gun fired on a machine gun in a chimney across the highway which was preventing the Inf from crossing the highway. HE and APC were fired into the house neutralizing the MG and forcing 15 to 20 enemy to leave the house. The section then took up positions covering the highway. This position subject to enemy observation, mortar and artillery fire was maintained for the remainder of the day.

The 3rd Plat jumped off to secure AGIDIENBERG (F694294) with three medium tanks and two M-10 destroyers from the 893rd TD Bn. When about 200 yards N of HIMBURG (F695281) the leading tank and an M-10 destroyer were knocked out. The road on which the vehicles were advancing ran along a high ridge open to the East and subject to enemy HV fire. The platoon leader of the 3rd Plat directed the Platoon Sgt of the 2nd Rcn Plat to reconnoiter for another route. At that time an M-18 driver dismounted from his destroyer and began extricating wire from his destroyer's suspension. An enemy shell hit about 25 yards away and wounded the man. The driver was evacuated to the aid station of the 1st Bn, 309th Inf. There were several buildings on the East side of the road on which the vehicles were stopped when taken under enemy HV fire. Each vehicle halted behind one of these buildings. The enemy apparently knew this and began firing through the buildings. One round penetrated a building and knocked off a road wheel of one of the destroyers. The Platoon leader located the gun which was firing on the road. Through his field glasses the Plat leader could see a tank parked against a building at F702290. One destroyer moved into a firing position and fired three rounds. The fire of this destroyer was coordinated with an Inf 57mm in order to distract the enemy attention from the M-18. The first round hit the tank and penetrated the armor, the second glanced off while the third penetrated and made a sizeable hole. A second destroyer pulled into a firing position and fired two rounds of HVAP at the corner of the house behind which the enemy tank was parked. The rounds hit the corner of the house penetrated the masonry and hit the tank. The first gun then fired three more rounds of APC. The position occupied by the guns was being shelled continually. Five men were injured slightly by shell fragments including the platoon leader and platoon sergeant. These men received treatment but were not evacuated. The Rcn Sgt returned from his mission and the platoon leader taking his two operational destroyers moved through AGIDIENBERG. Upon arriving at HOVEL the 3rd Platoon leader found one gun of the 2nd Platoon under the platoon sergeant's command engaged in a fight in support of Infantry. The 3rd Plat, medium tanks and M-10 destroyers joined in the fight. Upon clearing the town the 3rd Plat moved into position at F687295, a high dominating promitory 57

**RESTRICTED**

overlooking the AUTOBAHN Highway. The platoon moved into position at 161700A March 1945 and remained there for two days.

The attack of the 9th Inf Div slowed down to a slow march. Enemy opposition was stiff and the terrain difficult. With the establishment of the new Corps boundary two companies and the Bn CP were out of the Corps sector. Due to the slow advance of the attacking 9th Inf, desired positions selected for future gun positions could not be occupied. Permission was received to allow B and C Companies to occupy their respective positions until such time when the desired positions became available. The Bn CP was to have moved South on the 17th of March 1945 but due to the traffic conditions resulting from the crash of the LUDENDORF BRIDGE road clearance could not be secured. Company Commanders were directed to make reconnaissances for routes to the new positions. B and C Companies after attempting to occupy their assigned positions reported that new positions could not be reached as fighting was still in progress in that area. The companies were directed to maintain their positions until ordered to move by this Hq.

There were no changes in A Company's disposition or assignment during the period 170001A to 172400A March 1945. The Bn CP and the 2nd Plat were at LINZ (F654244), 1st Plat at HARGARTEN (F708205), and the 3rd Plat at LORSCHIED (F730218).

After the action of the previous day the 1st Plat, Company B, on 17 March 1945, remained in its position. Sporadic artillery fire was received. One quarter ton was sprayed by shrapnel but no casualties were suffered. The 2nd Plat remained in support of the 2nd Bn, 310th Inf. Since the 2nd Bn's expected commitment failed to materialize the platoon remained in its bivouac position expecting relief of a TD element of the 893rd TD Bn. The relief arrived at 170830A and the 2nd Plat reverted to company control. The platoon was then ordered to move to HIMBURG in expectation of movement to the South. The 2nd Plat arrived at HIMBURG (F695-281) at 1400A. The platoon remained in HIMBURG until the following day. The 3rd Plat of Company B remained in its position on the high ground at the quarry South of HIMBURG. There however was no artillery fire on the 17th of March 1945.

Besides receiving sporadic artillery and SP artillery fire the 1st Plat, Company C, remained inactive on the 17th of March 1945. After the action at HOVEL the 2nd section moved into positions covering the REICHAUTOBAHN highway. This position was maintained until 171100A March 1945. During the night and morning of the 17th the enemy counter-attacked the Inf holding the highway. Each counter-attack was broken up by the artillery. As night fell the 1st section of the 2nd Plat moved to positions on the AUTOBAHN. A detail of eight Infantrymen and the TD section were the only holding force in that vicinity. The section remained on the highway until 171100A March when relief by a platoon from the 893rd TD Bn arrived. The platoon leader then assembled his platoon at HOVEL and moved to an assembly area at F679289. The Plat leader left his platoon there and reported

58

**RESTRICTED**

to the Bn CO for instructions. The 2nd Plat remained in that position until the following day. The position occupied by the 3rd Plat at AGIDIENBERG (F687294) provided excellent fields of fire and observation deep into the enemy territory. Enemy Inf were observed digging in, MG emplacements were also observed. The platoon leader of the 3rd Plat made an overlay of his position and sent it to the Inf Bn CO. The Inf sent an artillery FO who established an OP in vicinity of the platoon CP. A suspected enemy tank position was discovered at 170800A. The tank was taken under fire by the 3rd Plat. Hits were made but since the range fired was about 1600 yards the APC projectile ricocheted off the frontal armor. A higher sight picture was used and it is believed that the turret was jammed as there was no reaction from the enemy tank. At 1700A the artillery observer pointed out an enemy tank and the 3rd Plat took it under fire. The 3rd and 4th round hit the tank and it was observed smoking. Another tank was taken under fire but since it was growing dark no hits were secured.

The Bn CP closed at RHEINBREITBACH (F630249) 180840A March 1945 and moved to LINZ (F684192). The movement of the Bn CP, Hq Co and the CPs of the Rcn and B Companies was the first of the necessary moves to get the elements of the 656 TD Bn into the III Corps sector. At 1150A the Bn CO in a conversation with the CO, 8th TD Group, asked for permission to move B and C Companies into the III Corps sector. Since the desired positions had been cleared of enemy forces, permission was granted. Companies B and C were notified to move their platoons into positions in the 78th and 9th Inf sector. Information was received that the Bn would have its M-18s replaced by M-36s, in the near future. The Bn S-4 was instructed to contact the Ordnance organization and coordinate the efforts of receiving and turning in of the vehicles. The Bn CO and staff officers made routine visits to companies and their positions.

The 1st and 3rd Platoons of A Company remained in the same positions on the 18th of March 1945. The 2nd Plat left the road block position at LINZ (F688198) and moved to an assembly position in the vicinity of LORSCHWEID (F730218). Since this position was subject to enemy observation and artillery fire the platoon remained in the assembly area until darkness. Firing positions were reconnoitered during the hours of daylight and were occupied during the hours of darkness.

Upon his visit to the Bn CP 20 March 1945 the CO Company B received instructions to move his company into an assembly area in the III Corps sector in the vicinity of SCHWEIFELD (F70426C). The three platoons assembled at ROTTBITZE (F711275) and moved down the road to their destination. On the march down to their assigned area the 2nd Plat fired on enemy aircraft. The platoons closed at SCHWEIFELD at 1645A. The positions occupied were shelled by the enemy but no materiel damaged or casualties were sustained by B Company. The company CP remained with the Bn CP and accompanied it on its movement from RHEINBREITBACH to LINZ.

RESTRICTED

Company C displaced its three platoons on the 18th of March in the general move of the battalion into the III Corps sector. The 1st Plat moved into positions at KALENBORN (F706248). The 1st Plat was in position by 1500A. C Company's 2nd and 3rd Platoons moved to NOTSCHEID (F718226); the 2nd and 3rd Platoons were in position by 1510A. For this move the 1st Rcn section was attached to the 1st Plat and the 2nd Rcn section attached to the 3rd Plat. The enemy fired some high AA bursts over the 2nd and 3rd Platoon's positions but the fire was ineffective.

In order to coordinate the exchange of the M-18 for the M-36 destroyers with the least amount of confusion the Bn S-4 visited the Corps G-4 on the 19th of March 1945. The Bn CO in conference with the 8th TD Group CO discussed the plan of moving B Company from the assembly position at SCHWEIFELD (F705260) into positions covering tank approaches in that area. Since the area in the vicinity of SCHWEIFELD is hilly with deep gorges it was decided to employ the company by sections. Upon the Bn CO's return to the Bn CP the details of the plan were given to the Bn S-3. The Bn S-3 visited the CP of B Company and gave the details of the plan to the Company CO. A request from the 899 TD Bn was received requesting a relief for a 899 TD Platoon at STOCKHAUSEN (F734289). The request was not complied with as B Company was in position covering critical tank approaches. The Bn CO and Motor Officer made routine visits to the companies on this day.

There was no change in A Company's position or disposition for the period 190001A to 192400A March 1945. Location of platoons as follows; 1st Plat at HARGARTEN (F715208), 2nd Plat at LORSCHHEID (F729219), 3rd Plat N of ST KATHARINEN (F723214). The mission and attachment of A Company: supporting Company B, 899 TD Bn.

B Company moved into an assembly area in preparation for movement to final positions 19 March 1945. Based on a conference between the CO, 8th TD Group, and the Bn CO, B Company was assigned an area of responsibility in the vicinity of the company assembly area. The Bn S-3 on the 19th of March 1945 visited the CP of Company B and discussed the detail of the plan. Based upon this discussion B Company was disposed as follows: 1st Plat moved the 1st section to REDERSCHHEID (F715-275), the 2nd section to WATTENBACH (F721269); the 2nd Plat moved to HAHN (F735253); the 3rd Plat moved one gun section to FROMEN (F729257) and another section to WILLSCHHEID (F719248). All guns were in position by 191540A March 1945. The AT defense in that area was then coordinated by liaison with TD elements of the 899 TD Bn. The company CO established his CP with the 39th Inf Regt. B Company positions received some ineffective artillery fire.

The enemy remained inactive in the area occupied by C Company. Routine company functions performed by the company. The attached 2nd Rcn Plat was sub-attached. The Plat Sgt and two 1/4-tons were assigned to the 3rd Plat; one section Sgt and one 1/4-ton attached to the 2nd Plat and the Rcn Plat leader and two 1/4-tons with the 1st Plat. No missions had been assigned to the Rcn Plat during the period 190001-192400A March 1945. 60

RESTRICTED

The request to furnish a relief for a platoon of the 899 TD Bn was repeated, 20 March 1945. The Bn CO conferred with the CO 8th TD Group and it was decided that B Company, 656 TD Bn, would furnish the relief platoon for the 899 TD Bn element at STOCKHAUSEN (F734289). Company B was alerted to move a platoon for STOCKHAUSEN.

At 201840A March 1945 a message was received alerting the Bn of a possible enemy paratrooper attack in the bridgehead area. This information received immediate attention and was disseminated to all companies. The Bn guard was doubled. No paratrooper attack developed that night or the following morning. The Liaison Officer with the 8th TD Group arrived at 2150A with the information that C Company, 656 TD Bn, was attached to CCB per verbal order of the CG, III Corps. C Company CO was notified of this change and told to report to the CP of CCB for further instructions. The Bn S-3 left with the C Company CO to visit the CCB CP. Both officers returned at 2400A. C Company was to attach one platoon of TDs to the 27th Armd Inf Bn and move to an assembly area at HONNINGEN (F7013) at 0800A the next morning.

Enemy artillery action in A Company's area was quite intense during the period 200001A to 202400A March 1945. Four rounds landed in the vicinity of the Platoon CP 1915A. No damage resulted. The 2nd Platoon's position received approximately 200 rounds of artillery. There again was no damage. Upon receiving the paratrooper attack alert, the security outposts were doubled. No paratrooper attack developed however. There was no change of positions by any of the platoons or the Company CP.

On the 20th of March 1945 B Company remained in the positions occupied the previous day. Some enemy artillery fell in the platoon positions but no damage resulted. Upon receiving the paratrooper attack warning, security was doubled and the MGs were set on ground mounts. The paratrooper attack failed to materialize.

C Company carried on normal company functions on the 20th of March 1945 until receipt of the attachment to CCB. The Company CO reported to CCB CP where he was told to attach one platoon to 27th Armd Inf Bn. The 1st Plat was attached to the 27th Armd Inf Bn. Upon his return to the company CP at 2400A the platoon was alerted for movement to HONNINGEN (F7013).

In anticipation of movement to the V Corps sector, the ATO V Corps and a 3rd TD Group representative arrived at the Bn CP, 21 March 1945. Future operations and the Corps AT SOPs were discussed. B Company was ordered to move a platoon of TDs to STOCKHAUSEN. This order was fulfilled. A representative for the 817 TD Bn visited the Bn CP in quest of information regarding the M-18 which his organization was to receive. All information available at the battalion was furnished including firing tables computed in part by members of the 656 TD Bn. Daily visits to companies were made by the Bn CO and staff officers 21 March 1945.

RESTRICTED

61

**RESTRICTED**

A Company moved the 1st Plat to NOTSCHEID 21 March 1945 to replace two platoons of C Company. The 2nd Plat dug in the left flank gun since its position was on forward slope. There was no other activity in A Company's positions.

The 1st and 2nd Platoons of B Company remained in the positions occupied the previous day. After receiving the order to furnish relief at STOCKHAUSEN, CO Company B, ordered the 3rd Plat to displace. At 211300A March 1945 the 3rd Plat assembled at WILLSCHIED (F716249) and proceeded to STOCKHAUSEN (F734289). When about one-half mile from the destination the platoon leader, 3rd Plat, directed the attached Rcn section to contact the 2nd Plat, Company C, 899 TD Bn, to see whether or not it was advisable to make the replacement during daylight hours. Since the town of STOCKHAUSEN was under enemy observation the movement to town and position was not attempted until about 1630A. The platoon moved into position at 1630A under cover of darkness. Despite the poor visibility enemy artillery began falling as soon as the movement was detected. Outposts with MGs were immediately posted. Liaison was completed with Company B, 1st Bn, 39th Inf, 9th Armd Div. Liaison was also established with an artillery FO operating in that sector.

Upon reporting to the CP of CCB, C Company received orders to attach one platoon to 27th Armd Inf Bn. The remaining two platoons were to be held in reserve under company control. The 1st Plat was attached to the 27th Armd Inf Bn. The company was ordered to move to HONNINGEN (F698130). C Company departed from the vicinity of NOTSCHEID (F718226) 210810A March 1945 and arrived at the assembly area at HONNINGEN 0900A. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons assembled there while the 1st Plat continued on to LEUTESDORF (F751059) where it went into an assembly position in preparation for the attack SE towards NEUWEID (F8003). All platoons remained in position the remainder of the day. The Company CP moved from LINZ (F678185) to HONNINGEN.

It was learned that 36 M-36s were definitely available for the 656th TD Bn at 221550A March 1945. The information was brought to the Bn CP by the Liaison Officer with the 9th Armd Div. Upon receipt of the M-36s the M-18s were to be returned over to the 817th TD Bn. At 2054A the Liaison Officer with the 9th Armd Div reported that the 656 TD Bn reverted from operational control of the 8th TD Group and attached to 9th Armd Div effective 212400A March 1945. It was now necessary to move the elements of the 656th TD Bn to the V Corps sector. Bn relieved from operational control of 8th TD Group effective 212400 March 1945.

There was nothing to report in A Company's sector for the 22nd of March 1945.

The 1st and 2nd Platoons of B Co remained in the previously occupied positions. The morning and afternoon of the 22nd March in the 3rd Plat position was quiet. At about 1800 the platoon leader of the 3rd Plat received word that the 104th Div was to replace the 9th Div in his sector. Elements of the 39th Inf Regt withdrew at 1815A from the 3rd Plat sector. At approximately 1845 the enemy launched an attack from the SE. First reports came in from the TD outposts of the 3rd Platoon. The attacking enemy Inf were immediately taken under fire by the .50 cal outposts. The platoon leader of the 3rd Plat requested the artillery FO to

67

bring fire upon the enemy. The artillery responded with immediate concentrations. The artillery fire lasted for 30 minutes. The 3rd Bn, 104th Inf took up positions at 1945A and joined the fight. At the cessation of the friendly artillery barrage enemy fire began falling in the 3rd Platoon sector. The attack was repulsed by 2400A. Hearing that tanks may be used in support of the attacking enemy the platoon leader of the 3rd Platoon requested the supporting Infantry to fire star shells. No tanks were observed. During the fire fight the 3rd Platoon leader requested the Commanding Officer to bring direct TD fire on the attacking enemy but the requests were turned down. It was felt that there was sufficient artillery fire available and that the TDs should not reveal their positions as there was the possibility of an enemy armored attack.

At 220700B March 1945 the 27th Armd Inf Bn launched an attack to the SE with NEUWEID (F805034) as the objective. The attack progressed against light opposition. IRLICH (F795048) was cleared by 1400 B. The attacking infantry continued across the partially destroyed bridge across the WEID RIVER to the objective. The 1st Platoon, Company C, attached to Company A, 27th Armored Inf Bn, departed from LEUDSDORF (F684165) at 1200B. Radio contact between the TD Platoon and the Infantry battalion was lost on the road march. The 1st Platoon continued to IRLICH and not being able to find a crossing across the WEID RIVER the platoon leader directed firing position be taken on the high ground to the North of town. Since the firing positions were under observation the guns were kept under cover and were only exposed when a target presented itself. The positions were under mortar and machine gun fire. The platoon leader located an enemy OP in a church steeple which evidently was directing the mortar fire. The OP was taken under fire and with the second round the church steeple toppled. The mortar fire ceased and was not resumed thereafter. A machine gun located across the river was taken under fire and destroyed. Eight prisoners were taken in and around the gun positions. The platoon expended two rounds of 76mm APC and 21 rounds of HE. Contact with the Infantry was established at about 1630A. Since the Platoon could not get across the river the positions were occupied until the bridge was completed the following day.

**RESTRICTED**

At 231200A March 1945 an order was received to move the elements of the battalion to the V Corps sector. The Bn CP, A and B Companies were to assemble at HONNINGEN (F696130). The information was immediately delivered to A and B Companies. The Bn CP, Hq Co, and the CP of B Company departed from LINZ (F677185) at 1300A and arrived at HONNINGEN 1410A. The new Bn CP opened at 1420A. A and B Companies followed the battalion to the assembly area. Since the M-36s were to be received shortly permission was requested to keep the two companies inactive until the conversion was completed.

A Company moved from positions at NOTSCHEID, LORSCHEID and ST KATHARNIN to the assembly position at HONNINGEN. The company closed at 1515A.

B Company upon receipt of the moving message alerted each platoon. The 1st and 2nd Platoons departed from their positions without any difficulty. The 3rd Platoon at STOCKHAUSEN had to withdraw one gun at a time since the withdrawal was being made during the daylight hours under enemy observation. The 3rd and last platoon closed at HONNINGEN at 1340B.

Upon completion of the bridge across the WEID RIVER the 1st Platoon crossed at 231500A March 1945 and moved to the East sector of NEUWEID (F807030). The platoon took up positions on the NEUWEID-HEINBACH road and remained there for the remainder of the day. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons and the Company CP moved from HONNINGEN to IRLICH at 1330B. The two platoons were under company control in CCA reserve.

Since the receipt of the M-36s was expected on 24th of March 1945, the following plan was drawn up: A Company would receive the first 12 destroyers. Upon completion of the conversion and with the concurrence of 9th Armored Division, A Company would relieve C Company of attachment to CCA. C Company then would come under Battalion control and convert. B Company would remain under battalion control and be available for commitment with any combat command of the 9th Armored Division if the need arose. The first

RESTRICTED

six M-36s were delivered to the 656 TD Bn 24 March 1945. The M-36s were turned over to Bn maintenance for a "TI" before issuance to the companies. The remaining destroyers were to be delivered to the battalion on the following day. Routine staff functions were carried on at the Bn CP. The Bn S-2 and S-3 made visits to Companies.

After arriving at the assembly area A Company CO was advised that his company was to receive the M-36s first. The entire day of the 24th of March 1945 was spent on preparing the M-18s for turning in.

B Company spent the entire day of the 24th in preparation of turning in the M-18s for M-36s.

At 240800A March 1945 the 1st Plat, Company C, reverted to company control. Company C remained in CCA reserve. In order to keep his three platoons as close together as possible, when possible, the CO Company C moved the 2nd and 3rd Platoons across the WEID R to an assembly area in NEUWEID. The platoons closed at the assembly area at 1350B. The company CP remained at IRLICH.

The remaining M-36s, 31 in number, arrived at the battalion location, 25 March 1945. One of the M-36s had to be returned to Ordnance for repairs. The first 12 M-36s were given to Company A, the 2nd 12 to B Company and the remaining 11 were reserved for Company C. Since the destroyers came combat loaded and equipped it was only necessary to perform the "TI". The receipt of 35 destroyers overburdened the battalion maintenance facilities so it was directed that companies would perform the "TI" under supervision of the battalion maintenance personnel. At 252300A March 1945 it was learned that one company would be attached to CCB. A Company was attached in place to CCB effective 2400B. Since a movement order was expected for A Company, preparation of the M-36s went on into the night. The Bn CO and the Bn Fwd CP were alerted for movement with the Div Fwd CP.

A Company received 12 M-36s 25 March 1945. The necessary technical inspections were performed by the company personnel under the supervision of battalion maintenance. The company worked on the M-36s without cessation after being alerted for attachment to a combat command. At 2305A the company commander was given the instructions to report to CCB CP for instructions in regards to his attachment and movement. The attachment of Company A to CCB became effective at 252400B March 1945.

C Company remained in reserve for CCA. CCA launched an attack to the SE at 250200B March 1945 and advanced against no opposition. In order to remain close to its Combat Command, Company C moved from NEUWEID (F806032) to ENGERS (F855033). The Company CP remained at IRLICH (F795049). C Company did not participate in any action this date.

Normal staff functions were carried on in the Bn CP on 26 March 1945. Information was received in reference to movement of the Bn CP to NEUWEID. Based on this information the Bn

RESTRICTED

65

**RESTRICTED**

Executive with a billeting party left the Bn CP at 1310B for NEUWEID to arrange for quarters. The Bn CO and the Bn Fwd CP Group left the battalion to join the Division CP.

Upon reporting to CCB CP the A Company CO was informed that his company would move to LEUTESDORF (F752057). The 1st Plat was attached to 52nd Armd Inf Bn, the 2nd Plat remained under company control and the 3rd Plat was attached to 19th Tank Bn. The company departed from HONNINGEN (F695128) 260400B March 1945 and arrived at ELZ 0600B. The 1st Plat continued to WIENTERBURG (F902016) where it arrived 0630B. Upon arrival at the CP 52nd Armd Inf Bn the 1st section was attached to A Company and the 2nd section as rear guard for the Armd Inf Bn. The platoon moved to the attack with LIMBURG (G205005) as the objective. The route of advance HOHR-GRENZHAUSEN, (F955040)-HILGERT (F977064)-BAUMBACH (F980065)-ESCHELBACH (F058054)-HEILIGENROTH (G093055)-KLEINHOLBACH (G120052)-GORGESHAUSEN (B158014). LIMBURG was taken at 2157B. In this advance the 1st Plat knocked out two MGs with .50 cal fire. Approximately 200 prisoners were taken. The 3rd Plat moved to LIMBURG without any opposition. The attached 3rd Rcn Plat executed reconnaissance missions throughout the day. At about 1300B while on a reconnaissance mission along the AUTOBAHN highway a reconnaissance section under the command of the Plat leader on approaching RUPPACH (G103069) noticed enemy soldiers around a bridge. The enemy was immediately taken under fire and driven away from the bridge. These men were later taken prisoners. Upon investigating the bridge it was found that demolition charges were in place set for demolition. The explosives were removed by the reconnaissance section. During the march to LIMBURG Rcn Co was acting as a connecting file between the 2nd and 3rd TD Platoons. At about 2000B in the vicinity of MONTABAUER (G065042) one of the quarter tons ran off a partially destroyed bridge over the AUTOBAHN highway. Two men from the Rcn Plat and one from A Company were injured. All men were evacuated by the 9th Armd Div medics. The Company CP continued to move in wake of CCB and arrived at ELZ (G213013) at 2345B.

Company B remained in HONNINGEN (F701125) 26 March 1945 and completed conversion from M-18s to M-36s.

C Company moved its CP from IRLICH (F793049) and joined three gun platoons at ENGERS (F865025). CCA jumped off at BENDORF (F888028) at 261500A March 1945 with DIEZ as the objective. The company CP remained at ENGERS while the three gun platoons accompanied the Combat Command. The mission of Company C was to constitute the AT defense of the Combat Command and to provide AT security on the march.

After having several changes in departure time the Bn CP closed at HONNINGEN (F649127) and departed for NEUWEID (F805-032) 270900A March 1945. The order of march was 1st Rcn Plat, Bn CP, Hq Co, B Co and C Company M-36 destroyers. The Bn S-3 preceded the column to NEUWEID in order to contact 9th Div G-3 for possible change in the unit's destination. The column arrived at NEUWEID at 1030A. The Bn S-3 met the column upon its 66

RESTRICTED

arrival at NEUWEID and gave instructions to proceed through the town towards WALLENDAR (F912002). Further instructions were received while on the road. The destination of the battalion (-A & C Cos) was designated as ALTENDIEZ (M179928). The battalion (-A & C) arrived at ALTENDIEZ 1520A after an uneventful road march. The billeting party under the command of the Bn Adjutant preceded the column by one-half hour. Upon arriving at ALTENDIEZ suitable buildings could not be found to house the personnel of the battalion. The billeting party after leaving a guide at ALTENDIEZ departed for a neighboring village of HIESTENBACH (M128978) one kilometer NE of ALTENDIEZ. Upon reaching ALTENDIEZ B Company detached itself from the battalion column and took up quarters in that village. The remainder of the column proceeded to HEISTENBACH where it arrived at 1535A. The Bn CO after conferring with the CG, 9th Armd Div, received permission to relieve C Company with B Company for the purpose of converting C Company M-18s to M-36s. At 271600A C Company was relieved from attachment to CCA and reverted to battalion control. B Company was attached to CCA effective 1600A. Since the 656 TD Bn was the senior unit present in HEISTENBACH and the Bn Executive Officer the senior officer present, the battalion assumed responsibility for the village's administration until such time when the village came under the jurisdiction of the AMG. Liaison was established with the local mayor and the restrictions as contained in official AMG publications proclaimed and enforced. The Bn CO made a visit to the Bn CP at 1600A.

A Company remained inactive during the period 270001A to 272400A March 1945. The 1st Plat remained in LIMBURG (G237983) attached to 27th Armd Inf Bn. Orders were received to move out with the 27th Armd Inf Bn but before the movement got under way counter-orders were received. The platoon remained in firing positions awaiting further orders. The Company CP and the 2nd Plat remained at ELZ (G213003). No change or action. Platoon under company control; while at LIMBURG the 3rd Plat suffered one casualty. One crew member received injuries around the eyes from an unknown source of fire. The 3rd Plat moved from LIMBURG to HADAMAR (G221155). The platoon, attached to the 19th Tank Bn, occupied positions at HADAMAR at 1430A. There was no enemy action in the 3rd Platoons' area.

B Company upon completion of conversion departed from HONNINGEN with the Bn column and arrived at ALTENDIEZ (M129928) 271530A March 1945. At 1600A B Company was attached to CCA thus relieving C Company. CCA, 9th Armd Div, was to launch an attack on GEISEN. This attack however was cancelled and B Company remained at ALTENDIEZ.

C Company reverted to battalion control at 271600A March 1945 when relieved by B Company. C Company's M-36s were driven to HEISTENBACH by battalion maintenance personnel. At HEISTENBACH C Company's personnel took over the M-36 destroyers. The day was spent in maintenance of the new destroyers.

During the morning of 28 March 1945 the Battalion Executive through an interpreter held a conference with the mayor of the village. Questions arising from the promulgation of AMG publi-

RESTRICTED

67

**RESTRICTED**

cations were discussed and settled. The Bn Executive Officer made a visit to A Company at ELZ (G214012). At 1945A the battalion (-A & B) received an alert for movement to VOLPERTS-HAUSEN (G577144). Plans were made for the movement. Since the movement was to be made in conjunction with the Division trains the Bn S-3 left for the CP of the Division Trains to coordinate the movements. The battalion (-A & B Cos) was relieved from Division control and attached to Division Trains effective 282400A March 1945. The Bn S-3 was appointed security officer of the Division Trains and attached units.

The 1st Plat of A Company moved from LIMBURG (M233987) to OFFHEIM (G232022). The 2nd Plat which was under company control was attached to 16th AFA Bn. The platoon moved into indirect fire positions in the vicinity of HASSENBACH (G134098) and tied into the 16th FA survey. The platoon did not register nor did it fire any missions. The 3rd Plat remained in HADAMAR (G222055). There was no enemy action in A Company's positions but the 1st and 3rd Platoons occupied direct fire positions. The 3rd Rcn Plat was given the mission of patrolling the AUTOBAHN between MONTABOUR (M065042) and MENTERHAUSEN (M144024). The mission was performed from 280300A to about 280900A March 1945. Nothing unusual occurred during this period. Upon completion of the mission the Rcn Plat on reporting to the A Company CP for further missions. No further missions were assigned to the Rcn Platoon for that day.

CCA moved from vicinity of ALTENDIEZ (M177968) to vicinity of GIESEN (G6621). B Company was given the mission of protection of the Combat Command trains. The 1st Plat performed the march guard mission for the Service Company, 14th Tank Bn, 2nd Plat performed the march guard mission for the Service Battery 3rd AFA Bn and the 3rd Plat performed the march guard mission for the 60th Armd Inf Bn. The column departed from ALTENDIEZ 281530A March 1945, and arrived at the destination without incident. B Company upon completion of the mission moved to DEHRN (G281830) and arrived there at 1800A. The platoons moved into direct fire positions on the perimeter of the town.

C Company remained at HIESTENBACH (M178978) completing conversion to M-36s. The Company CP moved from ENGERS to HIESTENBACH. The company CP arrived at HIESTENBACH at 280845A March 1945.

Information was received at the Bn CP that the Battalion (-A & B) would move to WEIDENHAUSEN (G577127). The battalion (-A & B) would act as the march guard for the Division Trains column. Coordination with the Division Trains Commander resulted in dispersion of C Company's three platoons throughout the trains column. Since the Bn S-3 was designated as the Train's Security Officer much of the S-3s time was spent at the CP of Division Trains. The Bn closed the CP at HIESTENBACH (M178978) at 291430A March 1945. The battalion column intercepted Division Trains at AUMENAU (G368007) and dispersed itself in the column. The march proceeded without incident and moved into an open field 1 1/2 miles NE of WEIDEN-

HAUSEN (G577127) at 2400A. A total of 35 miles was covered.

The Combat Commands of the 9th Armd Div advanced N against slight enemy resistance. In most cases the advance was only a road march. CCB to which A Company was attached, left the line of departure and pushed to the North. A Company accompanying its combat command departed from ELZ (G213015) at 290800A March 1945. One crew member of the company was injured when a fire-arm was accidentally discharged. The casualty was evacuated. Otherwise the march proceeded in an orderly manner. A Company arrived at SCHWEINBERG (G862418) at 2345A. The platoons took up defensive fire positions on the outskirts of town. A company covered a distance of 70 miles on the road march.

CCA kept abreast of the advance of CCB. Company B attached to CCA had the mission of providing march guard for the column in its advance North. Company B departed from DEHRN 280745A March and after an uneventful trip arrived at SCHWEINBERG (G862-418) at 2345A. The company moved the three gun platoons to direct firing positions providing security for the elements of CCA in the town of SCHWEINBERG.

Company C provided the march guard for the battalion and 9th Armd Div Trains 29 March 1945. The Company after intercepting the Division trains column at AUMENAU (G368007) was disposed in the following manner: 2nd Rcn Plat leading followed by a platoon of TDs. One platoon of TDs was in the center of the column and one at the tail end. Upon arriving at WEIDENHAUSEN (G585129) the platoon placed its guns giving an all around defense for the bivouac area. The Rcn Plat posted listening posts on the roads leading to and out of the bivouac area. Leading elements of C Company arrived at the bivouac area at 2345A.

The Battalion (-A & B) was alerted to move in one hours notice while in bivouac at WEIDENHAUSEN (G577127). The elements of the battalion moved into position for the continuation of the march but the column did not get under way until 301030A March 1945. The Division Trains column advanced to the North with no definite location as the terminus for the days march. During the road march halts were frequent lasting from a few minutes to over an hour. At 1820A the Division Train's Commander called for billeting officers to the head of the column. The column proceeded to its destination for the days march at FLORSHEIM (H983579). The Division Trains occupied the high ground South of the town. The Bn CP and Hq Co moved into the village and secured billets there. The Bn CP opened at FLOR-SHEIM 1835A. Some movement of enemy was noticed in woods 500 yards W of the bivouac area. At 2210A two prisoners were brought to the Bn CP. After questioning the prisoners were turned over to the Division Trains for disposition.

A Company continued the advance to the North with CCB. The Combat Command advanced North against very light resistance. Mission of A Company 30 March 1945 was to provide march guard for combat command on the march North. A Company departed from SCHWEINBERG (G862418) at 300700A March 1945 and arrived at BAD WILDUNGEN at 2200A of the same day. Upon arriving at the 69

**RESTRICTED**

destination the company moved into firing position with all around fields of fire. The Company moved a distance of 38 miles. No change in the company's or platoon's attachments.

Company B continued the road march to the North in support of CCA. The company was disposed as reported for the previous day. While on the march the column was stopped by enemy aircraft. No casualties or damage suffered by Company B. The column arrived at GROSSENGELIS (HO77765) at 301800A March 1945. At the completion of the march the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoons were relieved from attachments to Service, Company, 14th Tank Bn, Service Battery, and 60th Armd Inf Bn, respectively. Verbal orders were received for the company to move to ROTHHEIMSHAUSEN (HO45794) with the mission of protecting CCA's CP. B Company departed from GROSSENGELIS at 1830A and arrived at ROTHHEIMSHAUSEN at 1945A. Upon arrival at the destination the platoons took up positions covering all roads and tank approaches leading into town.

Sporadic MG fire was heard in woods 500 yards from the bivouac of Division Trains. Two destroyers moved into assist some Ordnance men who went in to investigate the cause of the shooting. Fourteen enemy prisoners were taken by the Ordnance elements. The destroyers did not fire any ammunition and returned to their formerly occupied positions. The action began at 0730A and ended about 310830A March 1945. At 1020A the Bn (-A & B) was alerted for movement to ZWESTEN. The Bn elements were assembled and moved out at 1040A. The march was marked by stops during the road march. A call for the quartering party was received at 1630A. The march was resumed at 1645A and the Bn elements moved into a bivouac position in an open field 500 yards N of NEUBERICH (B935113) at 1835A. C Company established perimeter defense by occupying positions on commanding ground surrounding the bivouac area. The 2nd Rcn Plat executed a reconnaissance of woods 800 yards E of the bivouac area. No trace of the enemy could be found. The Bn elements remained in this position for three days. A distance of 55 miles was covered 31 March 1945.

Company A continued to advance North with CCB against slight opposition. Company A departed from vicinity of BAD WILDUNGEN 310800A March 1945. In the advance on approaching of WETHEN the 1st Plat Company A attached to 52nd Armd Inf Bn was requested to destroy a suspected OP in the town of WETHEN (B930223). A total of 15 rounds of HE were fired. The suspected OP, a tower, was destroyed. The march continued without further incident. A Company arrived at WORMELN 1700A (B971204).

B Company continued to advance North with CCA against slight resistance. At the resumption of the march 31 March 1945 B Company was relieved from attachment to CCB. The mission during the march was to protect the Combat Command Trains. The 1st Plat was attached to the Service Company, 14th Tank Bn, 2nd Plat to the Service Battery, 3rd AFA, and the 3rd to 60th Armd Inf Bn. The company departed from ROTHHEIMSHAUSEN 310800A March. During

the march 20 prisoners were taken. The company arrived at WARBURG (B980220). Upon arriving at WARBURG the guns reverted to company control and were posted for the security of the Combat Command.

At about 310730A March 1945 MG fire was heard in woods 300 yards W of the 2nd Plat position in the Train's Bivouac at FLORSHEIM (H983579). One section moved to the vicinity of the woods. The action ceased shortly thereafter and the section returned to its original position. C Company departed from FLORSHEIM with Division Trains and after an uneventful march arrived at NEUBERICH (B935113) at 1835A.

The month of March 1945 marked the first month of action for the 656th TD Battalion. Although the personnel of this organization, with a few exceptions, had no battle experience, once committed, the men performed like veterans. It can be said that the 656 TD Bn went into action at the closing phases of the war in Europe against determined enemy but weak in reserves and materiel.

The participation of this organization can be broken down into two, somewhat distinct campaigns; the campaign East of the ROER RIVER and the campaign East of the RHINE RIVER. While supporting the action of the 9th Armored Division East of the ROER RIVER an enemy weak in materiel strength but fighting stubbornly and holding tenaciously was met and defeated. With the capture of the LUDENDORF BRIDGE the action was carried across the RHINE RIVER where the enemy attacked continually trying to eliminate and then contain the bridgehead. Elements of this organization were first troops of the TD arm to cross to the East banks of the RHINE RIVER and participated in action during a critical period.

With the crossing of the remainder of the battalion, the 656th TD Battalion functioned as an independent Battalion under operational control of the 8th TD Group. During this period the organization converted from M-18s to M-36s as their basic weapon. After the enemy spent his force on counter-attacks, the action turned into a pursuit. The 656th TD Battalion was again attached to the 9th Armored Division and participated in the pursuit.

In one month of action the 656th TD Battalion covered approximately 300 miles distance, took over 600 enemy prisoners and destroyed the following equipment: 2 tanks, 1 half-track, 1 SP Gun, 2 AT Guns, 1 Boat (Tug type), 18 MG emplacements, 5 AA Guns, 2 Bazooka emplacements and 4 enemy OPs. In addition 2 SP Guns were probably destroyed.

## SECTION IV

### T.D. Employment:

The Tank Destroyer arm was organized with the primary mission of destroying enemy armor. It was given a secondary mission of reinforcing artillery, and a third of destroying fixed fortifications.

During the period covered by this report, only a few tanks came into the platoon sectors of this organization. Only a few pillboxes were encountered. Finally because of a shortage of high-explosive ammunition (76-mm and 90-mm), the use of tank destroyers for indirect fire was discouraged. Consequently, our destroyer platoons have been given many assault missions. These missions were improper according to TD doctrine but they were proper for the situation.

Two very important fundamentals, however, have been violated in the employment of TDs during the period of this report. First was the principle of maintaining a reserve; second was the principle of maintaining the integrity of small units.

In the tank destroyer companies, it has been common practice for all three firing platoons to be committed. Had there been any sudden call for tank destroyers in their primary role, maneuver would have been slow. This would have been fatal--because tank destroyers were not designed to slug it out with enemy tanks. They were designed to beat enemy armor to the combat area, then wait there in concealed positions until the armor came within range. Tank destroyer tactics are the tactics of ambush.

Violation of the integrity of small units would have the same result. In at least one case, a firing platoon was split and sub-attached -- one section to each of two assault rifle companies. Had there been occasion for rapid antitank defense the platoon leader would have entered the action with his command at half strength.

### COMMUNICATION:

The problem of radio communication in a TD organization attached to an armored division was never fully solved. The radio problem was two fold: Communication between a tank organization and the attached TD elements and Communication between the TD Bn CP and the detached TD companies.

The first problem was partially solved by giving each company four SCR 510 radios. One radio was retained by the company commander and the other three were given, one each, to each platoon. The additional SCR 510 radios were then mounted either in the platoon leaders M-20 or in a platoon quarter ten. Both ways of mounting had their advantages and disadvantages.

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In the case of having both radios in an M-20, communication was centralized, providing the M-20 did not become immobilized. Due to its inherent characteristics of bogging down easily, using the M-20 in operations was and is a hazardous risk. The immobilization of the M-20 would not only disrupt but cancel communications between the platoon leader and the attached tanks and the platoon leader and the guns of his platoon. The other alternative was to mount the SCR 510 in a platoon quarter ton. The one disadvantage of this set up is that the platoon leader had to divide his time between two vehicles. At times this was not feasible, especially during a march or in an action involving a considerable amount of movement.

The SCR 508 provided for Command communications between the Battalion Command Group and Company Headquarters did not prove satisfactory in this organization. Due to the line of sight characteristics of the radio and the distances at which the companies operated, communication between the BN CP and the companies was difficult to maintain and in some cases impossible. Relay stations were set up but due to the shortage of vehicles and the extreme distances involved in a rapidly moving situation, communications with the companies could not be maintained. The SCR 506 would have been ideal for a situation of this nature but the four SCR 506 radios available in this organization were used on Division nets and therefore could not be spared.

*John C. Meador*  
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Commanding

**RESTRICTED**

73