

[redacted]

as Americans into our rear areas. Captured material was used including our vehicles, clothing, weapons, and even identifications. These special troops had the assignment of capturing small forces, blocking roads, and generally creating disorder in our midst. Vehicles, Allied and German, were marked with Allied markings and various Divisional numbers.

One of the major objectives of the enemy was MARCHE, BELGIUM and the high ground and roadnet of that area. The 2nd Pz Division and elements of the 116th Pz Division broke through south of MARCHE and moving further west attempted to move North to encircle MARCHE.

Starting about December 25th the supply lines of the enemy in this area began to show signs of breaking. Gas was the most critical item and as the enemy met our armor at this time, their up to then, perfect advance began to break and the enemy at once began to show signs of confusion, abandoning vehicles that had no fuel or had minor mechanical difficulties.

In the ensuing conflict the greater part of the 2nd Pz Division was either destroyed or captured. Tanks knocked out were for the greater part Mk VI and Mk V's. Small groups of the enemy with as little as one tank or one AT gun were given orders to hold a named point in conjunction with other troops in the area. The men were usually surprised to find that they had been left alone and that no other troops were in their area.

Prisoners taken at this time seemed to believe that their great gamble might have failed, in part at least. They had been told by their propaganda scheme that various other fronts had been pierced in other attacks launched simultaneously with the attack in which they had participated.

The enemy having been stopped turned his main efforts into reorganization of units and the problem of how short supplies. A continuation of the massing of troops back of the forward elements indicates that the enemy may still endeavor to continue the attack to gain important positions and to regain the much needed moral of their troops. The greater part of the 6th Pz Army has now been committed and now it no longer represents the formidable reserve that it formerly did.

II. OUR OPERATIONS: The Battalion C.P. remained in the vicinity of ALSBORG, GERMANY (K888549) from the 1st of December to the 22nd of December, establishing forward C.P.'s and radio relay stations during periods of activity by the line companies. On the 22nd of December 1944 the Battalion less Companies "A", "B", and "C" moved to the vicinity of ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049) under Division control. Staff Officers were attached to each line company during the Division counterattack against the German drive in vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM (K125918). The Battalion C.P. moved to REYONT, BELGIUM (217948) on the 25th of December. Elements of Reconnaissance Company remaining under Battalion control placed outposts and patrolled throughout the sector as an enemy paratroop defense. On the 28th of December the forward C.P. was moved to COLINVAUX, BELGIUM (K106894) and on the 29th of December to GRAUPTINNE, BELGIUM (K133012) remaining in that location for the remainder of the period.

Company "A" under Battalion control, remained in BAESMELER, GERMANY (K906582) from the 1st to the 21st of December. One platoon was placed on indirect firing mission near FRIALDENHOVEN, GERMANY (K964539), firing harassing and interdiction fires on JULICH, GERMANY (K034590) and the main road leading East, until ~~DECLASSIFIED~~ the 5th of December by Company "B".

Company "A" was placed under control of OC "A" and accomplished maintenance and training of replacements, preparing for future operations of the Division until 21st of December 1944. During this period Company "A" fired direct fire on target range and took part in Tank-Infantry-TD demonstration of the 2nd Armored Division. Tactical employment of the Tank Destroyer platoon was stressed throughout period.

On the 22nd of December 1944, Company "A" made a night march to the vicinity of ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049). The 1st Platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Platoon to the 2nd Battalion and the 3rd Platoon to the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment. Company "A" (less three platoons) remained under OC "A" control. Road blocks



Company "C" remained on BARMEN - MERZENHAUSEN, GERMANY line in the Division sector until the 2nd of December 1944 when relieved by Company "B". Company "C" destroyed two 75mm AT guns; and captured 11 prisoners. Company "C" reverted to Battalion control and was assembled in ALSDORF, GERMANY for maintenance and training. No contact was made with the enemy during this period. Training for gunners by practice firing and small tactical problems were stressed.

On the 11th of December 1944 Company "C" relieved Company "B" along the ROER RIVER sector, also assuming the indirect fire mission with their reserve platoon near FRIED-DENHOVEN, GERMANY. Approximately 180 rounds fired each night on Division Artillery orders. Firing platoon rotated during the period. Driving and gunner's instructions continued.

Company "C" was relieved on the 19th of December by Company "B" and assembled under Battalion control in ALSDORF, GERMANY to prepare for future operations.

On the 22nd of December Company "C", under control of CC"B" moved to the vicinity of ATRIN, BELGIUM (K324049) to assist in the Divisional operations against the German thrust toward CINEY, BELGIUM. Company "C" was placed on road blocks to protect CC"B" area and remained in that location through the 23rd of December, moving under CC"B" control to the vicinity of CINEY, BELGIUM (K125918) on the 24th of December 1944.

Company "C" assisted in the drive of CC"B" on the 25th of December on GELLES, and CUSTINNE, BELGIUM by protecting the flanks and securing the objectives against counter-attacks. One Mk V was destroyed and 12 enemy killed. On the 26th of December Company "C" was used in mopping-up operations in the CC"B" sector and placed road blocks on all main avenues and the high ground. Company "C" destroyed three armored personnel carriers and one Mk IV from the 26th to the 28th of December 1944.

On the 29th of December Company "C" was relieved of outpost duty and assembled for reorganization at (K140990) in the vicinity of JEMALIN, BELGIUM remaining in this location for remainder of period.

Reconnaissance Company remained under Battalion control throughout the period accomplishing maintenance and training. Necessity for drawing replacements for the TD Companies left the company very short in personnel. Reconnaissance operations were confined to assistance to the line companies in location of OP's and gun positions. On the 23rd of December 1944 one platoon was attached to each of the three line companies to assist as security. Remainder of Reconnaissance Company was used as internal security and placed at disposal of Division for paratroop patrols throughout sector.

III. TOTAL ENEMY MATERIAL DESTROYED:

a. By Date and Company

| Date | "A" Co | "B" Co. | "C" Co |
|--------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Dec | | | 2 75mm AT Gun 11 Enemy Captured |
| 24 Dec | 1 Mk III 1 Mk V 2 88mm AT Guns 1 SP 75mm Gun 2 150mm Arty Pcs 1 Armd Car 1 Pers Carrier 8 Trucks (Misc) 32 Enemy Killed 3 Enemy Captured | | |
| 25 Dec | 2 Mk V | 2 Mk V 1 Tank (type unknown) 1 Half Track 30 Enemy Killed | 1 Mk V 12 Enemy Killed |



| <u>Date</u> | <u>Co "A"</u> | <u>Co "B"</u> | <u>Co "C"</u> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 26 Dec | 1 Mk IV | | 1 Pers Carrier |
| 27 Dec | | | 1 Mk IV |
| 28 Dec | 1 Half Track | 38 Enemy Killed | 2 Pers Carriers |

b. Total by Types

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 6 Mk V | 2 150mm Arty Pieces |
| 2 Mk IV | 1 Armored Car |
| 1 Mk III | 3 Personnel Carriers |
| 1 Enemy Tank, type Unknown | 8 Trucks (Misc) |
| 2 88mm AT Guns | 3 Half Tracks |
| 2 75mm AT Guns | 14 Enemy Captured |
| 1 75mm SP Guns | 112 Enemy Killed |

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE:

a. T/O Strength : 34 Officers, 2 WO, 607 Enlisted Men
 Effective Strength: 30 Officers, 1 WO, 523 Enlisted Men

b. Casualties

| | Hq | Med | How | "A" | "B" | "C" | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| (1) Killed | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 |
| (2) Sick, gassed & wounded | | | | | | | |
| Evacuated | 0 & 7 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 4 | 0 & 8 | 0 & 10 | 0 & 17 | 0 & 46 |
| Non Evacuated | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 1 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 1 & 0 |
| (3) Captured | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 |
| (4) Missing | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 5 | 0 & 0 | 0 & 5 |

c. Prisoners captured: 14

d. Evacuation: Normal

e. Does Not Apply

f. Status of Supply: 150 operational mules of gasoline and oil carried by Bn at all times. 1-1/3 units of fire carried by Bn at all times.

g. Conditions of roads and circulation: Movements made by this unit operating with the 2nd Armd Div normally carried out on primary and secondary road net. Some cross country movements made during present operations.

n. Replacements Received: 2 Officers, 47 Enlisted Men.

John A. Beall
 JOHN A. BEALL,
 Lt Col., Inf.,
 Commanding.