

S E C R E T

H E A D Q U A R T E R S
813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. # 403 U. S. ARMY

L-1145

Just See

From: 0001 hrs 1 December 1944
To : 2400 hrs 31 December 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THRU: Channels).

Foreword

At the beginning of the period of this report, the 813th TD Bn (SF) was attached to the 79th Inf. Div. which in turn was attached to XV Corps of the Seventh U.S. Army. As of 1200 hrs, 5 Dec/44, the 79th Inf Div w/attached units was released from attachment to XV Corps and attached to VI Corps of the Seventh U.S. Army. During the first few days of December, the 3rd platoon of Co "C" of this battalion was attached to the 106th Cav Group, but was released from said attachment as of 1030 hrs, 6 Dec/44 and reattached to 79th Inf Div.

1 Dec/44

The Bn CP located in STEPHANSFELD, coord 977133, Map: GSGS 4249, STRASSBOURG, sheet W-2. All map coordinates given in the following pages can be found in GSGS 4249, sheets W-2, STRASSBOURG, and V-2, WISSEMBOURG; scale, 1/100,000. The location of Co. CPs and platoons on this day were as follows:

CO CP	1st Pl.	2nd Pl.	3rd Pl.
"A" - 977236 (OHLUNGEN)	972234	003253	999214
"B" - 995178 (KRIEGSHEIM)	995219	021222	009217
"C" - 975149 (BRUMATH)	034177	058175 & 057160	w/106th Cav Gp
Rcn - 901210 (ALTECKENDORF)	977236	064156	901210
Rr - 975149 (BRUMATH)			

The Bn continued in support of the attack made by the 79th Inf Div in the SCHWEIGHAUSEN, coord 000245, area. All of our elements advanced although they encountered stiff resistance and considerable mortar and arty fire.

At 0725 hrs, Co "A"'s 3rd platoon entered SCHWEIGHAUSEN taking up positions at coord 999244. Slightly to the E of the 3rd platoon, the 2nd platoon went into position at coord 001240. At 0930 hrs, one M-10 of the 2nd platoon received 5 hits from enemy mortars. None of the crew was injured and the M-10 was put back into action very quickly after minor repairs had been made on it. At 1700 hrs, the 3rd platoon moved to coord 008232 into direct fire positions.

Early in the morning, one M-10 of Co "B" was hit by an artillery shell, the fragmentation killing the crew chief and one other member of the crew. The platoon officer was wounded. Actually, the shell hit a tree which was close to the M-10, the fragments entering the open turret of the destroyer. The dead and the wounded were evacuated; the was back in action twenty-four hours later.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

TD Bn - 813 - 013

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Master

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd)

After the death in action of the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col JEFFRIES on 26 November 1944, the Battalion Executive, Major George assumed command of the Battalion. Roster of field officers follows;

Captain F. E. PARKINBN EXECUTIVE
Captain H. MEETING, JR.....BN S-3.
Captain W.I. NUDSONBN S-2.
Captain S.W. STEVENSON.....BN S-4.
Captain W.H. BARNWELLBN MCTORS.
1st Lt. W.E. CHRISTENSENBN S-1.

2 Dec 44 During the day, the 2nd platoon of Co A fired at a tower N of the town of SCHWEIGHAUSEN at Coord 003255. This tower was used as an enemy OP and our friendly infantry patrols had received small arms fire from the tower and vicinity of the tower. Seventeen rds of HE and one rd of APC were expended and enemy foot troops could be observed evacuating the tower.

Co B's 1st platoon in position near the outskirts of the great supply town of the enemy, HAGENAU, fired 65 rds of APC and 60 rds of HE at enemy armor and foot troops with good results. The 2nd and 3rd platoons did not change position and all three platoons received heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. One M-10 in the 3rd platoon received a direct hit from enemy artillery fire causing some damage and injuring one member of the crew.

Co C's 2nd platoon fired 21 rds of APC and 7 rds of HE at an enemy OP but otherwise there was no other activity by the company.

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon at HOERDT established liaison with the 94th Cav Sqdn, other elements of the company maintaining liaison with the various infantry regiments of the 79th Inf Div.

3 Dec 44 Co A's 3rd platoon scored four hits on a Mk IV tank knocking it out at Coord 022252 and also destroyed an enemy SP gun on a half track at Coord 027249 and also damaged an enemy AA (at 023247) gun. One E.M. from the 3rd platoon was wounded by an enemy artillery shell and evacuated. The platoon received rather heavy shelling during the rest of the day. The 2nd platoon fired 12 rds of HE and 1 rd of APC at the same tower at which they had fired the previous day. The total number of rds fired by the company during the day was 46 rds of HE and 14 rds of APC.

Co B's commanding officer and one sergeant were wounded in action, but not seriously. The 1st platoon fired 25 rds of HE into woods in front of their positions, the 2nd platoon moving back for a twenty four hour rest and the 3rd platoon moving into the vacated positions. Otherwise there was little change in either the position of the situation of the company's elements.

There was no change in the situation as regards Co C but their areas all received very heavy shelling from the enemy from guns believed to be at least 155 mm guns.

Rcn Co continued with elements mentioned above maintaining liaison for the battalion.

One man, Sgt Vertula of Co A was sent home on thirty day furlough to the United States. The Battalion's quota for the furlough program being only one.

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- 4 Dec/44 During this day, there was no change in either the location or situation of this Bn.
- 5 Dec/44 At 1000 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon fired 13 rds HE and 4 rds APC at three towers, coord 024248. These towers were being used by the enemy as CP's.
- 5-6 Dec/44 The only change in the situation as regards Co "B" took place when the 3rd platoon relieved the 1st platoon on the front. As of 1030 hrs, Co "C"'s 3rd platoon was relieved of attachment to the 106th Cav Gp and returned to the Bn at 1600 hrs whereupon it was attached to the 79th Inf Div. At 1300 hrs, the Bn Exec contacted the 94th Cav Sqdn in connection with plans for two guns of Co "C"'s 2nd platoon to render supporting fire on the town of GAMBSHEIM. At 1900 hrs, Co "C"'s 2nd platoon had accomplished its mission in support of the Cavalry's attack upon GAMBSHEIM, expending 29 rds HE and 15 rds APC. After returning to their original position, this platoon was called upon again by the Cavalry for additional fire into the town at approx 2330 hrs.
- 7 Dec/44 Rcn Co remained in bivouac in ALTECKENDORF engaged in the maintenance of vehicles. At 1400 hrs, the Co had a foot inspection by the Bn Surgeon. No cases of trenchfoot were reported.
- 7 Dec/44 Co "A"'s 1st platoon relieved Co "C"'s 1st platoon in the town of WEITBRUCH. There was no other change.
- 7 Dec/44 Co "B"'s positions received heavy enemy artillery fire and one man was wounded and evacuated to the hospital.
- 7 Dec/44 Co "C"'s 2nd platoon fired 19 rds HE and 1 rd APC at a church steeple in GAMBSHEIM, used as an CP by the enemy.
- 7 Dec/44 One section of Rcn Co's 3rd platoon, which had been on liaison duty with the 94th Cav Sqdn, returned to the Co.
- 7 Dec/44 Previously mentioned in this report and also in the After Enemy Action Report of Nov/44 was the death in action of the previous Bn Cmdr, Lt Col Jeffries (26 Nov). When the bodies of Lt Col Jeffries and his driver were found on 27 Nov by Major McCutchen of this Bn (now Bn Cmdr), the jeep and the 608 Radio in the jeep had apparently been taken by the enemy, and it was not until this date, 7 Dec/44, that the ~~jeep/radio~~ radio, still in good condition, were found by the 315th Inf Regt of the 79th Inf Div, but the jeep as yet has not been found.
- 8 Dec/44 At 1000 hrs, Co "A" moved to WEITBRUCH. At 1230 hrs, its 2nd platoon moved to NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM. The 1st & 3rd platoons did not move, the 1st ~~platoon~~ platoon remaining in support of the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt, and the 3rd platoon in support of the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt. The 2nd platoon took up positions in NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM in support of the 3rd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt.
- 8 Dec/44 There was no change in the position of Co "B".
- 8 Dec/44 Co "C" moved its CP to WEYERSHEIM. Co "C"'s 1st & 2nd platoons moved into an assembly area in KURTZENHAUSEN.
- 8 Dec/44 Rcn Co sent its 3rd platoon and a section of the Pioneer platoon to join Co "C", its 2nd platoon and the remaining section of the Pioneer platoon to join Co "B", and its 1st platoon to join Co "A". The Co CP remained at ALTECKENDORF.
- 9 Dec/44 At 0715 hrs, the 315th Inf Regt began to attack in the BISCHWILLER-MARIENTHAL sector. The 1st platoon of Co "A", in support of the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt, aided in cutting

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the roads at Coord 055185 and 059190. The 2nd platoon supported the 3rd Bn of the 315th in their attack on the of MARI* ENTHAL. At 1200 hrs, the 1st platoon was held up by mines at Coord 044191 but at 1330 hrs, the mines were and the first section of the platoon proceeded on to Coord 049195 where they were held up by a road block. The road block was cleared away by 1630 hrs and the section went on the objective going into position at Coord 060197, and the 2nd section at Coord at Coord 035178. The 2nd platoon which was in support of the 3rd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt. was prevented from reaching its objective because of a very difficult road block at Coord 022191, and an unswept road stretch which was known to be mined. The platoon remained in the town of NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM for the night. At 1530 hrs, the 3rd platoon which was supporting the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt. moved into an assembly area in the town of WEITBRUCH, Coord 030170.

Co B moved its CP to NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM Coord 0019 and the company rear echelon moved to KRIEGSHEIM. The section of Rcn Co did not move with the CP but remained in KRIEGSHEIM. The 3rd plat did not move, but the 2nd platoon moved into direct fire positions at Coord 017226, covering the roads and also the tanks (friendly) on the attack towards HAGENAU. The platoon later moved to cover the road junction at Coord 025226. This road and the road to the right of it led into the objective namely, HAGENAU itself. The 1st platoon constantly shifted positions to cover better existing road nets and possible avenues of approach of enemy armor. This platoon also fired 35 rds of HE and 4 rds of APF into the woods of HAGENAU at Coord 0220 and after cease firing was ordered the platoon remained in that vicinity for the night. During the night, the plat received considerable fire from enemy 20mm and 40mm guns. Some enemy artillery and mortar fire also fell in the area but there were no casualties.

Co C moved its CP from WEYERSHEIM to KURTZENHAUSEN with the 1st plat giving supporting fire and then while in support of the 3rd Bn of the 313th Inf Regt, the 1st plat knocked out one enemy SP gun (88mm). The 2nd and 3rd platoons supported the 2nd and 3rd Bns of the same regt. during the attack on BISCHWILLER. This attack by our elements upon BISCHWILLER met heavy and determined resistance but by nightfall all friendly elements held commanding positions in the vicinity of the town.

Rcn Co continued as usual maintaining liaison for the companies and engaged in road and route reconnaissance. One section found one of the then new TOPF of plastic mines and all Bn personnel were instructed and lectured in their use by the enemy and the impossibility of their being detected by the common mine detector.

During the night, considerable enemy armor was heard N of the town of BISCHWILLER MOVING first NE and then NW. All companies were alerted for a possible thrust by enemy tanks but no threat developed into an actual attack. Co C knocked out a MG nest and later saw the SP gun it knocked out at Coord 220305. During the day the company commander of Co B was sent to the hospital and 1st Lt. HULL assumed command (vice Capt. MAURER).

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10 Dec 44 At 0030 hrs, the 1st section of the 2nd platoon of Co A moved to the SE edge of MARIENTHAL at Coord 060197 followed by the 2nd section of the 1st platoon at 0600 hrs, and at 0900 hrs, by the 2nd section of the 2nd platoon.. At 1030 hrs, the 2nd platoon moved one section to Coord 065205, which is about halfway between MARIENTHAL and KALTENHOUSE and SE of HAGENAU. One section was left in reserve at Coord 062200. The 1st platoon moved to Coord 064203 and at 1200 hrs, the platoon fired 3 rds of HE into a church steeple believed to be used as an OP by the enemy. This church was in the town of KALTENHOUSE, Coord 072213. Nine rds of HE were fired into the woods just beyond as overwatching fire for friendly tanks. At 1100 hrs, the 3rd platoon moved to MARIENTHAL followed by the company CP at 1200 hrs cloaing at Coord 058202. In support of the infantry attack on KALTENHOUSE Coord 073212, the 1st and 3rd platoons of Co A followed friendly tanks into the town. At 1800 hrs, the 2nd platoon with infantry from the 3rd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt riding on their M-10s moved to positions 1000 yds NE of OBERHOFFEN Coord 095205. All platoons received moderate enemy mortar and artillery fire.

Co B moved its CP to the SW outskirts of HAGENAU at Coord 027229, and the company rear echelon moved to NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM. The 1st platoon moved along in support of the attack by the 1st Bn of the 314th Inf Regt firing 22 rds of HE and 4 rds of APC at foot troops and one vehicle with satisfactory results. At 1730 hrs, the platoon went into position on the SW side of HAGENAU covering two roads, one leading into the town and the other the road to their right flank. After acting as covering fire for the friendly tanks, the 2nd platoon moved into positions adjacent to those of the 1st platoon. The 2nd platoon also covered two rds leading into the town, and then the 3rd platoon moved to the crossroads at Coord 025231, covering one road leading into HAGENAU and another road leading N.

Co C's platoons after supporting the infantry Bns of the 313th Inf Regt, on the previous day's action in the vic of BISCHWILLER, Coord 090190, and having set up a road block at Coord 083206 (OBERHOFFEN) took 2 PWs in BISCHWILLER. Later in the day, the company moved its CP from KURTZENHAUSEN TO BISCHWILLER. On the previous day one company half track received a hit from enemy artillery but there were no casualties, and one M-10 also received a hit from an enemy shell but fortunately for the crew and the M-10 the shell hit the sandbags and very slight damage only was caused. But for the presence of the sandbagging, undoubtedly there would have been far more damage resulting and possibly casualties as well.

Rcn Co and its elements continued to operate in the same manner as on the previous day, the company CP remaining in WEYERSHEEM.

The Bn CP prepared to move from STEPHANSFELD to BISCHWILLER on the following morning so as to maintain contact and communications with all destroyer platoons and company CPs.

In the majority of these moves the Bn Med Det traveled with the Bn CP with each company having a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicle and two Medics assigned to it.

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11 Dec 44 Co A's 3rd platoon moved from KALTENHOUSE through BISCHWILLER to CAMP d' OBERHOFFEN, Coord 084217, and the 1st platoon moved to an assembly area in SCHIRRHEIN at Coord 126223. The company CP moved to OBERHOFFEN, Coord 095204. There was no change in the position of the 2nd platoon.

On this date, the great town of HAGENAU held so tenaciously by the enemy, was entered by elements of the 79th Inf Div and Co B of this Bn. There was only scattered enemy resistance as the main body of the enemy had withdrawn from the city into the great forest of HAGENAU. Constant pressure on the left flank and a threatened encircling by adjacent American divisions forced the enemy to abandon HAGENAU. Shortly thereafter, the added threat of being encircled in the forest itself caused the enemy to retreat slowly but steadily to the SIEGFRIED LINE defenses,-- beyond WISSEMBOURG and LAUTERBOURG. After one platoon of Co B had entered the city, the rest of the company soon followed and the CP was set up in the center of the town.

Co C with elements of the 313th Inf Regt entered and occupied the town of SCUFFLENHEIM, Coord 165255. Prior to entering the town, the 3rd platoon at 1600 hrs, was but a short distance from SCUFFLENHEIM when a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fire fell near their positions. The platoon entered the town under this heavy concentration taking up defensive positions there. Two hours later the 1st platoon entered the town also. There was no change in the position of the 2nd platoon which remained in their area in OBERHOFFEN. The company CP moved from BISCHWILLER to the town of SCHIRRHEIN Coord 120220.

Rcn Co moved from WEYERSHEIM to BISCHWILLER.

The Bn CP moved from STEPHANSFELD to BISCHWILLER also, moving through WEYERSHEIM and KURTZENHAUSEN and closing at approximately 1430 hrs.

12 Dec 44 Co A's platoon moved out at 1630 hrs marching to positions at Coord 220305 where they were compelled to stop for the night because of blown bridges. Later the company moved its CP near the platoon positions about 1000 yds SW of KESSELDORF Coord 220305.

Co B moved to SCUFFLENHEIM. All three platoons took up positions in or near the town.

During the day elements of the 313th Inf Regt with one platoon of Co C (1st platoon) entered and occupied SELTZ Coord 270330, about two kilometres from the Rhine River. The 2nd and 3rd platoons remained in and occupied defensive positions in KESSELDORF.

Rcn Co maintained liaison with the 117th Cav Sq, 79th Rcn Tr worked with the leading elements of the 313th Inf Regt in the entry into SELTZ, with Co C, and also with sections from the pioneer platoon worked with each company of the Bn sweeping and clearing roads and reconnoitering routes.

13 Dec 44 In the forenoon of 13 Dec 44 the Bn CP left BISCHWILLER and closed in SCUFFLENHEIM at Coord 164257.

The Rcn platoon working with Co A was given the mission of checking the bridges at HATTEN Coord 180349 and 189348. Upon entering HATTEN, they saw several German soldiers running away from near the bridges. The platoon fired killing one and capturing three. The bridge at Coord 180349 had been completely blown, but the bridge at Coord 189348 although with a large crater in the center of it was not demolished beyond repair. The elements of Co A remained in the same positions as previous day.

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Co B moved from SCUFFLENHEIM with the 314th Inf Regt in the general direction of SELTZ Coord 270525, but a blown bridge in the vic of KAUFFENHEIM AND LEUTENHEIM compelled the company to spend the night in the latter town, as the enemy was laying fire in and around the bridge making repair very difficult.

Co C's 1st platoon fired 26 rds of HE on enemy strong points on the NW edge of SELTZ, and the 3rd platoon moved from KESSELDORF to the vic of SELTZ. The 2nd platoon remained in the assembly area in KESSELDORF. Rcn's 1st platoon together with elements of the 14th Armored Div secured the bridge at NIEDERROEDERN Coord 2234 and the aggressive manner in which they accomplished their mission brought commendation from the 315th Regt's 1st Commander. The remainder of Rcn Co except those platoons working with the companies, remained in RUNTZENHEIM.

14 Dec 44

At 1345 hrs, the Bn CP moved to NIEDERROEDERN Coord 230340.

At 0830 hrs, Co A's 3rd platoon with tanks and the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt crossed the bridge and started toward the town of SCHEIBENHARDZ (Alsace). At 1000 hrs, while following the Inf along a trail, the 3rd platoon ran into soft ground and one M-10 got stuck in the mud, at Coord 253380, and two more at Coord 262-393 one of them breaking a track when it attempted to extricate itself. The 1st platoon got one M-10 stuck at Coord 260390. The other three M-10s went on to occupy a position at Coord 260378. The remaining M-10s of the 3rd platoon joined the 2nd platoon at 1030 hrs, 2nd platoon then taking another route through WINTZENBACH Coord 2737 and NEEWILLER Coord 2839 and reached a position at Coord 288412 by 1630 hrs, about one kilometre from the town of SCHEIBENHARD Coord 2942. At 1630 hrs, the company CP closed in EBERBACH coord 243366.

Co B and all its platoons moved from LEUTENHEIM to the town of SCHAFFHOUSE Coord 265345 moving along with the advance of the 314th Inf Regt. The 2nd platoon then moved NE to MOTHEREN Coord 305370 in support of the 117th Cav as an anti-tank defense in that sector.

Co C moved its CP from KESSELDORF to SELTZ at 1000 hrs, and then later moved it to WINTZENBACH Coord 2737. The 1st and 3rd platoons moved into defensive positions in NEEWILLER in support of the 313th Inf Regt. On the previous day the 1st platoon had knocked out an enemy machine gun nest on the NW edge of SELTZ.

Rcn Co moved its CP to HATTEN Coord 175335, its 1st platoon to EBERBACH, its 2nd platoon in two sections to SELTZ, and its 3rd platoon to WINTZENBACH, with its pioneer platoon maintaining liaison with the 79th Inf Div Rcn Troop.

15 Dec 44.

At 0730 hrs, Co A's 2nd platoon began receiving heavy enemy artillery fire and one man was injured returning to duty, however, after treatment. The attack by the 315th Inf Regt on NIEDERLAUTERBACH Coord 265415, commenced early in the morning, and at 1130 hrs, the 1st platoon moved into the town with elements of the 79th Inf Div. At 1055 hrs, the company CP moved to NEEWILLER, and at 1530 hrs, moved to NIEDERLAUTERBACH. While this movement was going on, the 2nd platoon entered the town of SCHEIBENHARD at about 1115 hrs, with the 315th Inf Regt. The 3rd platoon spent most of the day in attempting to extricate the M-10s stuck in the mud on the previous day, and did succeed in getting them out of the soft ground.

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Co B's 2nd platoon in support of the 117th Cav entered the town of LAUTERBOURG Coord 325420, moving into direct firing positions and also receiving heavy enemy artillery fire and fire from 40mm flak guns for approximately two hours. The remainder of the company remained in SCHAFFHOUSE.

Co C's 1st and 3rd platoons moved out at 0700 hrs from the town of NEEWILLER with the 191st Tank Bn and met the 313th Inf elements on the SW side of LAUTERBOURG. The platoons moved into the town supporting the infantry and the tanks and then took up a defensive position line along the LAUTER RIVER. The 2nd platoon remained in NEEWILLER. During the day the 3rd platoon fired 5 rds of HE at a church steeple used as an enemy OP. Both platoons received heavy enemy artillery fire during the day.

The CP of Rcn Co moved from HATTEN to EBERBACH and its platoons continued on the same missions as on the previous day.

16 Dec 44 At 1300 hrs, the commander of Co A and the leader of the 2nd platoon crossed the LAUTER River into Germany at Coord 293413 and made reconnaissance for gun positions. At 1350 hrs, the 2nd platoon led by Lt OREN crossed the river and took up positions at Coord 298417 and 299416.

During the day the CP and all three platoons of Co B moved from SCHAFFHOUSE to NIEDERLAUTERBACH coord 2741.

Likewise, The elements of Co C moved on this day. The CP moved to NEEWILLER from WINTZENBACH, the first and third platoons to the NW edge of LAUTERBOURG and the 2nd platoon to an assembly area in the town.

The 1st platoon of Rcn Co worked with the 79th Inf Div on the border town of NIEDERLAUTERBOURG otherwise there was no change in the positions or the situation.

17 Dec 44 There was no change in the position or the situation as regards Co A during this day.

The CP of Co B followed by its three platoons crossed the LAUTER RIVER into Germany and entered and occupied the town of SCHEIBENHARDT Coord 296426, the 1st platoon taking up positions at Coord 336440, the 2nd platoon at 314445 and the 3rd platoon near the company CP. The 3rd platoon fired 7 rds of APC at a tracked vehicle heard moving in the woods, but because of the darkness could not ascertain the damage done if any.

At 0730 hrs, Co C's 2nd and 3rd platoons in support of the 3rd Bn of the 313th Inf Regt. moved from LAUTERBOURG across the river to BERG, Coord 344428. They encountered heavy fire from artillery, mortar, MGs, and small arms. At 0800 hrs, the company CP moved to LAUTERBOURG. At 1000 hrs, the 2nd platoon advanced to the outer defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE and in the advance, it knocked out a concrete pillbox by firing 21 rds APC at it. No HE was used in destroying the pillbox which was located at Coord 356457, about one mile SW of HAGENBACH. At 1430 hrs, the 3rd platoon moved in support of the 2nd Bn of the 313th Inf Regt and took up

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in the vic of BERG and later knocked out an enemy concrete pillbox at Coord 344448, about one mile N of BERG. While in this vicinity, the leader of the 3rd platoon (1st Lt. TUCK) was shot by a sniper and evacuated to the hospital. The NCO (S/Sgt Partlow) assumed command of the platoon and in the absence of the Officer is still in command of the third platoon and doing a most commendable job.

Rcn Co's three reconnaissance platoons patrolled the left flank of the 314th Inf Regt sector in the drive N through the forest N of SCHEIBENHARDT (Germany) and reached a point about two miles SW of BUCHELBERG (Germany) Coord 320470. At this point, they encountered strong enemy road blocks, S mines, one tank believed to be a Mk IV, and considerable MG fire. When fired upon by the tank, the platoons withdrew slightly to the S and set up a road block at Coord 296 438 remaining in that vicinity for the night. During the late afternoon, the 2nd platoon fired on an enemy patrol killing one of the enemy and dispersing the remainder. The company CP moved from the old area to the town of NIEDERLAUTERBACH and the company commander established liaison with the 314th Inf Regt. and the pioneer platoon leader with the 14th Armored Div.

18 Dec 44

At 0730 hrs, the 1st platoon of Co A moved out in support of the 1st Bn of the 315th Inf Regt with a mission of establishing a base at Coord 269468, a road junction in the middle of the BIEN WALD about 2½ miles W of BUCHELBERG. As can be seen on the map BUCHELBERG was almost directly in the center of the forest and was a much bombed target of American air forces. The outer defenses, however, were very difficult to penetrate on the ground. Many attempts to take the town were frustrated by the enemy.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved several hundred yards NE of their former position and fired 20 rds APC at pillboxes vic 3346 destroying one and damaging several others. While at this position, they received heavy enemy artillery, mortar and S/A fire so intense that the men could not get out of their M-10s. One man peered out of the turret of the M-10 and his helmet was pierced clean through by a rifle shot. The platoon pulled back under cover of darkness and went into its former position. The NCO leader of the 2nd platoon observed fire from his own M-10 for our arty firing on enemy foot troops approx 1000 yds in front of the M-10. The enemy suffered considerable number of casualties and the threat to our M-10 positions was frustrated.

At 0730 hrs, Co "C"'s 3rd platoon jumped off with the 2nd Bn of the 313th Inf Regt attacking enemy strong points in the SIEGFRIED LINE. 54 rds HE and 21 rds APC were poured into barbed wire entanglements, foxholes, and concrete pillboxes. One pillbox at coord 334458 was destroyed at 1200 hrs. There was no AT fire encountered during this engagement. When our M-10s fired at the foxholes the resulting concussion covered the enemy with the sandy soil around the foxholes, and when he attempted to arise to extricate himself, he became an easy target for our infantry and TDs. Throughout the day, the platoon encountered heavy mortar and considerable sniper fire. One M-10 was employed in a somewhat unusual manner. The M-10 pushed over trees across AT ditches to make foot paths for our infantry to cross, and gave

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covering fire for the infantry advancing on pillbox positions. Co "C"'s 1st platoon went into an assembly area in LAUTERBURG, coord 325420. There was no change in the locations of the 2nd platoon or Co CP.

Rcn Co's 1st and 2nd platoons made intense reconnaissance and did much patrol work in the general vicinity of coord 3045. The platoons contacted a 50-man enemy patrol at coord 310452 and engaged them in a fire fight. The platoons fired 20 rds HE, 5 rds APC, 660 rds Cal 50 ammo and 500 rds of Cal 30. The enemy suffered many casualties and the platoons took two prisoners.

19 Dec/44

At 0800 hrs, Co "A"'s 1st platoon moved to coord 287465, a position in the center of the BIENWALD (forest). At 1600 hrs, the platoon moved back to coord 269467 so as to be able to tie in with the 315th Inf for the night. S/Sgt Brunjes, who had acted as officer platoon leader for several months, received notice of his commission as 2nd Lieut.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon remained in or near position of the previous day, moving forward slightly to fire 44 rds HE and 22 rds APC at enemy foot troops near the same pillbox which they had fired on on 18 Dec. While engaged in this firing, the platoon received the heaviest concentration of artillery, mortar, and S/A fire that it had ever received. The platoon was also fired upon by enemy bazookas. One section of the 2nd platoon moved to coord 309451 into a position covering N & W. This placed the section about 2 miles SW of BUCHELBERG. The other section moved N to coord 314449 and fired 28 rds HE at enemy foot troops and at a concrete building (not a pillbox) which was occupied by the enemy. The 3rd platoon moved two M-10s to coord 298462 and the other two M-10s to coord 299449.

At 0830 hrs, the 2nd platoon of Co "C" moved off behind the 191st Tank Bn in support of the attack of the 3rd Bn of the 313th Inf. The platoon went into position near a point vic coord 348443. At 0900 hrs, the 3rd platoon crossed an AT ditch trampling down wire to enable the infantry to cross. This was accomplished after two friendly tanks had been knocked out by enemy artillery fire and a direct fire weapon. At 0945 hrs, an enemy bazooka shell pierced the high side of the turret making a half-inch hole in the M-10, damaging the elevating mechanism. One man was slightly wounded but returned to duty after treatment. At 1030 hrs Co "C"'s 2nd platoon fired 160 rds HE and APC at firing trenches and at a cable of a Churchill Tank Bridge. Good results were obtained on the firing trenches but the platoon was unsuccessful in severing the cable. The 3rd platoon fired 90 rds HE and APC at enemy foot troops located in the woods near the sector of the 2nd Bn of the 313th Inf Regt. At 1235 hrs, Co "C"'s 2nd platoon moved in to support the 2nd Bn of the 313th Inf who was being counterattacked by enemy tanks, and later, the 1st platoon moved in to support the 3rd Bn of the 313th. At 1630 hrs, the 2nd Bn of the 313th had to withdraw to their original line behind the AT ditch and our platoons withdrew with them after covering their withdrawal.

During the day, the 1st & 3rd platoons of Rcn Co went on patrol missions through the forest to NIEDERLAUTERBACH, coord 265415. The 2nd platoon remained in SCHEIBENHARD. The Co CP remained in NIEDERLAUTERBACH.

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd).

20 Dec/44

At 1000 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon and one section of the 3rd platoon (a total of six guns) moved into indirect fire positions at coord 265404. At 1200 hrs, the 1st platoon was placed in reserve with the 315th Inf Regt, and its platoon leader was ordered to make reconnaissance of the Div area and to be prepared to move with the infantry and the tanks after receiving notice of any enemy armor threat. One M-10 of the 1st platoon joined one M-10 of the 3rd platoon at coord 2943. At approx 1600 hrs, the 6 guns, in indirect fire position, registered on a base point at coord 3246, expending 18 rds HE. From 1745-2315 hrs, the six M-10s fired 463 rds HE on harrassing missions vic coord 318469, 320467, 338473, 346476, 346490 and also fired at the town of BUCHELBERG.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon fired 8 rds HE into the enemy front lines vic coord 3346. After being relieved by the 3rd platoon at coord 298461, the 1st platoon moved back to the Co CP area for maintenance. Fifteen rds of enemy arty fell in the CP area during the afternoon.

All three platoons of Co "C" were in positions in BERG, GERMANY overlooking the RHINE RIVER. At 1130 hrs, an enemy arty barrage on the town caused two casualties, both of whom were evacuated to the hospital. S/Sgt Graham, leader of the 1st platoon received notice of his commission as 2nd Lieut.

The Pioneer platoon of Rcn Co acted as liaison for the Bn with the 14th Armd Div. The 2nd platoon contacted the 117th Cav obtaining the situation in their sector, also information on roads and bridges on the W side of the RHINE RIVER. The rest of the Co remained in the CP area.

The Bn CP remained in NIEDERROEDERN and the Bn Rr Ech in SOUFFLENHEIM.

21 Dec/44

Between 0735 and 1558 hrs, the six guns of Co "A", in indirect fire position, expended 600 rds HE on harrassing missions on the area bounded by coords 275533, 340506, 342481, 324474, 306487, and 273517 cutting the roads and blasting the towns in that area. Again, between 2000 and 2400 hrs, the six guns fired 168 rds HE in approx the same area. There was no change in the positions of the rest of the Co.

There was no change in the locations of Co "B" and Rcn Co. The situation was quiet in the areas of both Cos.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon fired harrassing missions on the town of NEUBERG, coord 375435 and also fired HE on trenches used by the enemy in the vic of coord 350425. All firing was coordinated with the 3rd Bn of the 313th Inf. There was no change in the positions of the 2nd & 3rd platoons.

22 Dec/44

For over 10 hrs, from 0001 to 1020 hrs, the 6 M-10s of Co "A", in indirect fire position, continued to fire harrassing missions, target being the same area as on the previous day. 544 rds HE were expended. The Co CO and all platoon leaders made reconnaissance in the vic of SCHWEIGEN, RECHTENBACH, SCHWEIGHOFEN, and KAPSWEYER. At 1630 hrs, the 2nd platoon and the 1st section of the 3rd platoon moved from their indirect fire positions and assembled in the town of NIEDERLAUTERBACH.

Co "B" was alerted to move to a new position.

Co "C" moved its CP from LAUTERBURG to OBERSEEBACH, coord 183414. The 1st platoon went into an assembly area in SCHLEI-THAL, coord 215435. The 2nd platoon later moved to the same position. The 3rd platoon went into position in BERG, GERMANY.

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (con'td)

23 Dec/44

At 0745hrs, Co A's 3rd Platoon moved out in support of the 2nd Battalion of the 315th Inf Regt., two guns going into position in the town of KAPSWEYER, with one gun in mobile reserve in the town of SCHWEIGHOFEN. At 0800hrs the Co CP moved to STEINSELTZ, Coords 1445. At 0850hrs, the 2nd Plat moved out in support of the 3rd Battalion of the 315th Inf going into mobile reserve in the town of RECHTENBACH coords 1650. At 0930hrs, the 1st Platoon moved into indirect fire positions 700 yds SW of STEINSELTZ at coords 137454 in support of the 1st Battalion of the 315th Inf.

Co B moved its CP back to WINTZENBACK, on W side of town to Coords 2637. The 1st Platoon moved back into Ind fire pos. a half mile NW of NEEWILLER at coords 273401, the Arty outfit with whom the platoon was working, was unable to survey in the four guns of the 1st Platoon during that day but did survey in the guns on the following morning. The 2nd Platoon pulled back into SCHEIBENHARDT (Germany) and took up direct firing pos on the N side of town covering four roads leading N out of the town. The 3rd Platoon moved back into direct firing pos. in LAUTERBOURG with two M-10's on the N side of the LAUTER River and two on the S side.

Under heavy Arty and MG fire the Motor Maint Section of Co C retrieved a damaged M-10 from the forest N of the town of BERG. Co C's 1st and 2nd Plats remained in an assembly area in SCHLEITHAL with the 3rd Plat in an assembly area in SAIMBACH. The Co CP remained in OBERSEEBACH at coords 188414.

All Elements of Rcn Co moved from NEIDERLAUTERBACH to a new area at OBERSEEBACH. The Co did not have any missions, during the day.

24 Dec/44

Co A 2nd Plat moved one section to coords 164505. The other section to Coords 161510. The first Plat dug in their M-10's with the aide of a Bulldozer from the engineers. At 1645hrs, the 3rd Plat moved 2 M-10's to coords 177488 with one M-10 in reserve in the town of WISSEMBOURG, coords 1548. From 2000 to 2400hrs, the 1st plat fired 120 rds HE on harrassing missions on roads in vic of coords 205514, 206526, 217528, 211521, 215514, 217507, 218501, 226527, 235527, 240526.

Second Plat of Co B dug in its M-10's with the aide of a bulldozer from the 36th Engineers. Several rds of enemy aery fell in the area of the 3rd plat and an enemy foot patrol was observed in front of their positions but withdrew without fire being placed upon it.

On the previous day, 23 Dec/44, after the Motor Maint Section of Co C had retrieved one damaged M-10 under heavy enemy fire, the C.O. of the 191st Tank Bn ordered one of our M-10's to destroy and burn-up 2 Sherman tanks which could not be retrieved. The same was done. On the 24th Dec 44 Co C's first plat stayed in the assembly area in SAIMBACH 2nd Platoon in OBERLAUTERBACH. 3rd Plat from its indirect firing pos one mile N of OBERLAUTERBACH fired 40 Rds HE at enemy strongpoints in the forest, BIENWALD. The firing was directed thru the FDC in OBERLAUTERBACH.

There was no change in the situation as regards Rcn Co.

S E C R E T

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd)

25 Dec/44

Co A's 1st Plat from between 0001 and 0600 hrs fired 80 rds of HE on harrassing missions in the same vic as on the previous day. During the early part of the afternoon the platoon registered on a base point at coord 209489 expending 20 rds HE in doing so. It will be noted here most of the M-10's in the Bn. were placed in dug-in positions. Strong enemy patrol activities in the sector of the 79th Div indicated the possibility of an enemy attack in strength and the definite probability of considerable armor being used to support this attk.

Co B's 1st Plat fired 84 rds of HE into the towns of BUCHELBERG, HAGENBACH, WORTHARHINE, and MINFELD. The 2nd Plat already in dug in pos then prepared another set of positions S of NIEDERLAUTERBACH at coords 2740. These secondary dug-in pos were to be used in the event of a withdrawl.

Co "C"'s 3rd platoon, from its indirect firing position one mile N of OBERLAUTERBACH, fired 40 rds HE in the vic of FRECHENFELD and MINFELD. The 1st platoon remained in reserve in SCHEITHAL and the 2nd platoon in OBERLAUTERBACH.

All elements of Rcn Co remained in OBERSEEBACH.

On this day, the Bn CO received FO # 26 and accompanying overlay from 79th Inf Div Hq. Reference to this FO and overlay, which will be found in the supporting documents of this After Action Report, will show clearly the Div entering into a purely defensive phase. Subsequent overlays from Div show the establishment of a Primary OPL and MLR and a secondary OPL and MLR on the MAGINOT LINE. As a result of this FO, each Co of the 813th TD Bn was put in direct support of each Inf Regt. The dug-in positions previously referred to were subsequently occupied by the M-10s of the Bn. Full details may be gained from studying the FO and overlay, and since the overlay was taken from a set of maps, the scale 1/25,000, a set of these maps has been included in the supporting documents. See also Operations Overlay, Hq 79th Inf Div, 28 Dec 44, Map 1/25,000.

26 Dec/44

Co "A"'s 2nd platoon dug in its M-10s during the day. During the early morning hours, the 1st platoon fired 200 rds HE on harrassing missions, concentrating on roads, at coord 211521, 206526, 197522, 217505.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon fired 88 rds HE from indirect fire positions. Target area was in the vic of coord 3746, 3347, 3548, and 3147. One M-10 of the 2nd platoon developed motor trouble and had to be evacuated from its dug-in position. During the hours of darkness, the 3rd platoon fired 2 Star Shells for experimental purposes. Results of the experiment: one shell burned 15 seconds and the other 45 seconds. In keeping with the policy previously mentioned of protecting crews against Air-bursts, two more M-10s were sent to Bn Mtr Maint to have Armor Plate fitted on the open turret.

Co "C"'s 3rd platoon continued its harrassing fire missions upon the towns of FRECHENFELD and MENFELD. The CO of Co "C" selected 12 positions for his M-10s on a 3-5 mile front on the 1st MLR and bulldozers from the 36th Engrs dug in 8 of these positions. These positions extended from coord 253406 NW 3 miles to coord 220419, Map Ref: WISSEMBOURG Sheet, scale 1/50,000. Full details may be gained by referring to the overlay submitted by Co "C" of this date.

S E C R E T

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/ After Action Reports (Cont'd)

27 Dec/44

No Change in situation as regards Co A

Co B's 1st Plat continued to fire harassing missions and expended 128 rds of HE at the area in and around BUCHELBERG coords 3347. The 3rd. Plat recieved moderate enemy arty fire but suffered no casualties. No change in loc.of Co CP or of 2nd. Plat.

Co C's 3rd Plat together with 2 guns from the 2nd Plat. fired 204 rds of HE into the area around the towns of FRECHENFELD and MINFELD.

All 3 Plats of Rcn Co checked all the anti-tank pos in in the Div sector.

The 79th Div called frequently for the Bn to keep a close check upon the appearance of any enemy armor in the sector as there were several indications that the enemy was probing our lines to determine our strength after we had made slight withdrawls. The enemy continued to patrol vigorously at night and there were many instances of German soldiers dressing in civilian attire and also in American Uniform and infiltrating thru our lines. Many of these were apprehended and turned over to the proper Military Authorities.

28 Dec/44

Co A's First Plat from Midnite to 0300hrs continued its harassing fire missions and expended 200 rds of HE in the general vic of STEINFELD coords 2250 and OTTERBACH coords 228515. No change in situation as regards remainder of the Co.

Co B's 1st Plat fired 90 rds of HE into the forest BIENWALD NE of BUCHELBERG coords 3450 with excellent results. Further Reconnaissance was made by Co officers for gun positions to the rear in accordance with the policy or plan of defense, of the 79th Division.

Co C's six guns in indirect fire position fired 24Ords of HE at enemy strongpoints in general vic of MINFELD, FRECKENFELD, SCHAIDT, VOLLMERSWEILER, and DIERBACH. The 3rd Plat of Rcn Co went on Route Rcn for Co. C selecting defiladed routes and new gun positions.

29 Dec/44

The Commander of Co A and platoon officers reconnoitered for alternate gun positions in the rear of present positions held by the plats to be used and occupied should a withdrawl become necessary.

Co B's 1st Plat fired 100 rds of HE in harrassing missions targets being the same as those shelled on the previous day. The 2nd Plat of Co B in the early morning hours of 29 Dec/44 heard 2 or 3 tanks moving in SCHEIBENHARDT. Enemy armor had been very quiet up until this particular time but the enemies strong patrolling offered good basis for suspecting an atk in the near future.

Co C continued to fire harassing missions into the same general area as on previous days. There was no change in the location or situation of Co C or Rcn Co.

The Bn CP remained at BETSCHDORF.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports (Cont'd)

30 Dec 45

Co A's C.O. and platoon leaders made reconnaissance of alternate MLR positions (see overlay). The 1st platoon fired 200 rds of HE harrassing fire on roads in vic of coord 211521, 205514, 214519 206526, 217528, 197522, 215514, 198533, 218501, ~~21~~ and 217507.

Co B fired 80 rds of HE at coord 3347, 3246, 3146, and 3147. There was no change in the rest of the company elements.

Six M-los of Co C in indirect fire position (3rd platoon and 2 guns of 2nd platoon) fired 120 rds harrassing fire with satisfactory results.

At 1000 hrs, the Bn Rear Echelon left NIEDERROEDERN, and closed in SOULTZ-SOUS-FORET coord 107375 shortly before noon. At 1210-1215 hrs, 12 to 18 ~~Planes~~ believed to be enemy piloted bombed SURBOURG and SOULTZ-SOUS-FORET killing one member of Company C and five other enlisted men of the rear echelon were wounded. The planes also did other damage to adjacent units.

31 Dec 45

Co A's 1st platoon continued to fire harrassing missions during the night, expending 250 rds of HE on targets of the previous day's firing and also fired one star shell and 3 rds of HE at Coord 206514.

Co B's 1st platoon also continued to fire harrassing missions at the same targets as on the previous day. The security section camouflaged gun positions at the primary MLR and platoon leaders prepared other positions on the secondary MLR with the aid of a bulldozer. Because of the seepage of water, results were not good. Lt APPLEBURY of the 3rd platoon reconnoitered positions at the 2nd MLR also. At 1515 hrs, an M-10 from the 3rd platoon moved from LAUTERBOURG to BERG-- where it went into direct fire position with the mission of testing a new incendiary shell. The target was a house believed to be an en CP. Six rds of APC were fired for range adjustment after which 4 rds of the new shell were fired. The shell explodeds giving a great amount of smoke but the incendiary effect was not satisfactory.

Co C's six guns fired ~~###/###~~ 120 rds of HE at the same targets as on the two previous days. Otherwise there was no change in the situation as regards the company.

The Bn CP remained in BENSCHDORF. Four men left the Bn to go on 30 day furlough in the United States, one officer and 3 EM.

Included in the supporting documents of this report is a set of overlays showing the dispositions of the various elements of the Bn during the entire period of this report. The overlays are taken from a map, scale 1/50,000 and a set of appropriate maps accompany these overlays. Also included in the supporting documents are complete sets of all 1/25,000 and 1/100,000 maps used by this Bn during operations for the period. As can be deduced from a study of this report, there were no large concentrations of enemy armor in the 79th Inf Div sector, and consequently the amount of destroyed and captured enemy armor must be necessarily small. There were strong indications of the enemy's building up N of WISSEMBOURG, BIFCHE, and LAUTERBOURG for a threatened attack soon after the first of the New Year. Strong and vigorous patrolling by the enemy gave further credence to the reports received from various sources that an attack supported by armor would be forthcoming.

S E C R E T

Attich Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports(Cont'd)

The following statistics are presented for your information and records:

As of 1 Dec 44 En strength was as follows: 610 EM, 34 Off, 1 WO
" "31 Dec 44 " " " " " " : 582 EM, 33 Off, 1 WO

No. of Casualties:

- a. Killed: EM 1 .
- b. Wounded: EM 11.
- c. Hospitalized for other reasons: EM 35; Off 1 .
- d. Returned to Bn: EM 32; Off 1 .

Replacements : EM 20.

No. of Promotions : 2nd Lt. McKEE to 1st Lt.
No of Men sent home during December: 1, Sgt. Vertula, Co A.

No of men killed since arrival in France to 31 Dec 44: 24 EM and 3 OFF.
" " " wounded " " " " " " " " : 109 EM and 6 OFF.

The awards in this Bn:

PURPLE HEARTS: 200
BRONZE STARS : 24
SILVER STARS : 4

These awards cover the period between 27 June-31 December 1944 inc.

ENEMY ARMOR AND OTHER MATERIEL DESTROYED TO DATE: (Since 27 June 44 to 31 Dec. 44 inc)

Mk IV Tanks:	24	
Mk V "	15	
Mk VI "	2	
SP guns	9	
Combat veh	3	
Group veh	28	
Towed AT	8	
Pillboxes	18	
MG nests	5	
PWs taken	674	(with an estimated 600-700 more killed and wounded).

For the Commanding Officer:

Herbert M. ...
HERBERT M. ...
Captain, F.A. 613th T.D. Bn
S-3.