

HEADQUARTERS
813TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. # 403 U. S. ARMY

OPD
etc

From: 0001 hrs 1 November 1944.
To : 2400 hrs 30 November 1944.

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

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

1 Nov/44-
10 Nov/44

1. Just prior to the beginning of the period of this report, the 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP) was attached to the 44th Division Artillery. As of 1000 hours, 1 Nov/44, the battalion was officially relieved from attachment to said division and attached to 5th T.D. Group. The period of this attachment was for about ten (10) days, and effective 110800A Nov 44, the battalion was relieved from attachment to 5th T.D. Group and attached to the 79th Infantry Division. The location of the Bn. C.P. and its elements as of this date were as follows:

- Bn CP - VITRIMONT
- Bn Rr - LUNEVILLE
- Co "A"- AUTHELUPT
- Co "B"- FLAMVAL
- Co "C"- HUDIVILLER
- Rcn Co- CHANTEHEUX

The battalion entered into a period of rest, performing general maintenance on all vehicles, indulging in various forms of recreation which included athletics, movies, showers, and short-term passes.

During this rest period it was necessary for some work to be done on vehicles as the battalion requisitioned and obtained thirty (30) Half-tracks (M3A1) and thirteen (13) Jeeps. This requisitioning involved the turning in of M-20s and other vehicles. Radios from the old vehicles had to be transferred to these new vehicles and some driving instruction was instituted to orient prospective drivers.

Just prior to attachment to the 79th Inf. Div., the Bn. O., Exec., S-3, and Company Commanders attended an AT-TD conference held at 79th Inf. Div. Hq. at 1400 hours, 9 November 44.

During this period, M-10 crew drill, Bazooka firing, and classes in communications and radio were held, very satisfactory results being obtained. Aiming circles in the battalion were declinated on 10-11 November.

The Bn CP departed VITRIMONT at 0830 hrs, closing at 1030 hrs in CHENEVIERES, coord 187917; Co. "B" from FLANVAL to MARAINVILLER, coord 165995; Co. "A" from AUTHELUPT to GLACOURT, coord 259874; Co. "C" from HUDIVILLER to BURIVILLE with its three platoons in general vicinity of coord 246930. On 11 Nov, one (1) gun of Co. "C", 2nd platoon, took up an indirect firing position and registered, using eighteen (18) rounds of Spotting Smoke. Rcn Co also moved, closing in vicinity of CHENEVIERES at approximately 1700 hours, 12 Nov. Later, Co. "B" and platoons moved to vicinity of HALLAINVILLE, coord 2592, in sup-

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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

Nov/44

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Serial #1

Action Against Enm Reports After/After Actio Reports (cont'd):

13 Nov/44

port of the 314th Inf. Regt. Co. "C" set up an FDC in BURI-VILLE, its platoons in indirect firing positions $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SE of BURIVILLE. After arriving in GELACOURT, coord 258874, Co. "A" was placed in support of the 315th Inf Regt. At 1700 hrs, 12 Nov, Co. "A" CP was set up in REHERRY, coord 288903. At the same time, Co. "A"'s third platoon moved out, marching five (5) miles NE and going into a firing position at coord 303903, overlooking the initial objective of the 315th Inf Regt. This objective was the high ground NE of MONTIGNY, and this platoon was to furnish supporting fire at H-Hour for the advance of the regiment. The 2nd platoon marched to the same general vicinity, mission being to protect the right flank of the regiment. The 1st platoon remained in reserve. Rcn Co sent its 1st platoon to join Co "A", and its 2nd platoon to join Co "B". The battle which followed for MONTIGNY resulted in Rcn Co's losing several men as a result of heavy artillery fire in the town itself. Two men were killed and several injured when an enemy artillery shell scored a direct hit on a Rcn Co Half-track. The shell set the Half-track on fire and the burning vehicle was removed from the area by Lt. Pettet and Capt Johnson of Rcn Co. Rcn Co also set up a communications section at MIGNEVILLE in the 314th Inf Regt sector.

At 1800 hrs, an advance CP was set up in the town of MES-NIL FLIN. The Bn CO, Col. Jeffries, and the Bn S-3 established CPs further forward, successively in HALLAINVILLE and HARBOUEY so as to maintain closer contact with the destroyer platoons. Rcn Co, after MONTIGNY was taken, set up a CP there. Prior to the attack, Co "A"'s 1st platoon, at 0600 hrs, left GELACOURT and traveled five (5) miles to a position of readiness near MONTIGNY. The 315th Inf Regt attacked at 0700 hrs, and at 0830 hrs, had taken the first objective, at which time, Co "A"'s 1st platoon moved out to assume firing positions on that objective, the high ground NE of MONTIGNY, but the platoon was delayed by a mine field at coord 317912 and a crossing at coord 317913, and didn't reach their positions until 1300 hrs. At that time, the 2nd Bn of the 315th Inf Regt began to attack ANCERVILLER. The 1st platoon furnished overwatching fire for the attack, and at 1500 hrs, fired 20 rounds of HE into some enemy strongpoints in the town. The Inf entered the town at 1700 hrs, at which time, the 1st platoon moved into position at coord 329928. The enemy, at that time, still held one-third of the town (NE). Co "A", 2nd platoon, earlier that morning, fired seven (7) rds of HE, 2 rds APC at a church steeple in STE POLE. At 1330 hrs in the afternoon, the 2nd platoon fired 8 rds of HE at a steeple in ST MAURICE and observed six (6) hits. The Co CO had operated a forward CP in MONTIGNY along with the Bn CO and S-3. Later in the day, the remainder of Co "A"'s CP moved into MONTIGNY. The town received heavy shelling throughout the night.

During the attack, Co "B" moved its CP to VAXAINVILLE, coord 2791, with the 1st platoon moving along with the attack on the road N of MONTIGNY. The 2nd and 3rd platoons of Co "B" moved up on the right side of the 1st platoon with the 2nd platoon firing 29 rds of HE at two (2) AT guns, receiving enemy mortar and artillery fire near their positions.

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

14 Nov/44

Co. "C" remained in indirect fire position $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SE of BURIVILLE, firing 1326 rds of HE on targets vicinity of 3703-9620, 28999738, 3135-9657. The tremendous amount of firing which Co "C" did just prior to and during the attack aided greatly the Infantry's advance towards its objectives.

Co "A"'s 1st platoon, at 0845 hrs, began moving through ANCERVILLER in support of the 2nd Bn, 315th Inf Regt. Frequent reports were received, both by Bn and Co Hq, that enemy snipers were very numerous and active. The platoon fired on several enemy strongpoints and foot troops at the eastern edge of ANCERVILLER. At 1200 hours, at coord 336929, S/Sgt Beck, commanding the platoon, was shot and instantly killed by an enemy sniper. One hour later, S/Sgt Brunjes was placed in command of the platoon. At 1500 hrs, the town was reported cleared of the enemy, and the platoon went into position at coord 337928 after having expended 20 rds of HE and 6 rds of APC. At 0940 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon moved into firing position W of STE POLE to support the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt who were attacking the town. At 1005 hrs, the platoon began firing at enemy strongpoints in the town. At 1020 hrs, the platoon began moving into the town, and at 1100 hrs, destroyed a road block at coord 326906. Enemy snipers continued to be very active. The platoon went into position at coord 328905 with the NE edge of the town still held by the enemy. During the day, the platoon expended a total of 50 rds HE. At 1325 hrs, Co "A"'s 3rd platoon moved into firing position at coord 355946, overlooking the town of HALLOVILLE to support the 1st Bn, 315th Inf Regt. At 1400 hrs, the platoon fired 4 rds HE into a group of enemy foot troops, killing and wounding several of them, exact number unknown.

Co "B"'s CP remained in the same position as the previous day, but the Co set up an advance CP in MONTIGNY. The 1st platoon moved to the position of the 2nd platoon and the 3rd platoon moved up NE of BARBAS. Enemy artillery and mortar shelled all three platoon positions and the 1st platoon employed one M-10 to haul rations and fuel for the platoons. One man was killed and several injured when an enemy airburst sprayed shrapnel directly into the turret of the M-10.

Co "C" still in indirect fire position SE of BURIVILLE, fired 529 rds HE at coord 31-95, 31-96. At 1500 hrs, the 3rd platoon moved out, taking up a defensive position S of STE POLE in support of the 313th Inf Regt. At 1800 hrs, 1st platoon moved to coord 322934, and the Co CP moved to MIGNEVILLE. Two sergeants from the Co were killed by enemy artillery.

Recon Co, 1st & 2nd platoons were with Cos "A" and "B" respectively, with the Pioneer platoon in reserve, and the 3rd platoon on reconnaissance and OP duty.

At 1300 hrs, 14 Nov, one of the M-10s of Co "A"'s 2nd platoon knocked out an enemy bunker at STE POLE, coord 324904, and also killed or wounded 50-100 enemy foot troops, using HE and 50 caliber MG ammunition.

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

15 Nov/44

The Bn CP left CHENEVILLER and MENIL FLIN closing in MIGNEVILLE, coord 295230 at approximately 1000 hrs. The Bn CO and Bn S-3 remained with Co "A"'s CP in vicinity of MONTIGNY.

At 0700 hrs, Co "A"'s 3rd platoon moved into firing position SE of HALLOVILLE, coord 354948, and the 1st platoon moved to coord 354946. Visibility was not good and at 0730 hrs, approximately twenty (20) enemy foot troops passed to within ten (10) yds of the four (4) M-10s of the 1st platoon. The M-10 crews killed one (1) and wounded several others with Carbine fire. Soon after, the two platoons engaged in the attack upon HALLOVILLE in support of the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt. During the attack, the 3rd platoon knocked out, assisted by the 1st platoon, a total of six (6) SP guns, two (2) Half-tracks, two (2) Staff Cars, two (2) trucks, one loaded with ammunition. The two platoons also accounted for one hundred (100) foot troops killed or wounded. The attack was successful and the third platoon moved into position at coord 354954. At 1000 hrs, the 2nd platoon, stationed at STE POLE, was relieved and started out for HALLOVILLE. At 1200 hrs, about 1000 yds W of Ancerviller, the enemy artillery shelled the road upon which the platoon was traveling, wounding one NCO. In the attack described above, the 1st platoon expended 41 rds of HE, 4 rds of APC, and the 3rd platoon, 18 rds of HE, and 16 rds APC.

Co "B" moved to ANCERVILLER, and the Co Rr Ech to MONTIGNY. The 2nd platoon remained in position of previous day, but the 1st platoon moved into direct fire positions NW of HALLOVILLE, and from these positions fired 12 rds of HE into a church steeple in the town; some damage done to the church. While moving into these positions, one (1) M-10 hit a Teller-mine which blew the track off. No one in the M-10 was injured. The 3rd platoon moved N of HALLOVILLE into direct fire positions and from there fired 18 rds of HE, 10 rds APC, and 2 rds of SMK, knocking out one (1) Half-track, one (1) Staff Car, and one (1) Pill Box. The Platoon later moved on into new positions NW of HARBOUEY. There was heavy enemy shelling and one man was injured by shrapnel.

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon moved to ANCERVILLER and the 1st platoon went into an assembly area in STE POLE. The two sergeants reported killed on 14 November were found to have been killed early in the morning of the 15th of November by enemy artillery fire, either an 88mm or 105mm gun.

At this time, Rcn Co's CP was located in MONTIGNY, the Pioneer and 3rd platoons being in bivouac at CRIVILLER. The 1st and 2nd platoons continued with Cos "A" and "B" respectively. Later in the day, one section of the 2nd platoon returned to the Co CP; one man was injured in the 1st platoon.

16 Nov/44

At 1530 hrs, all three platoons of Co "A" moved to positions in the vicinity of HARBOUEY, coord 374972. While enroute, the enemy threw several air-bursts and one man from the 2nd platoon was wounded by shell fragments. At 1700 hrs, the Co CP moved to HALLOVILLE. Co CO stayed with the advance CP at HARBOUEY, as did the Bn CO and Bn S-3. The platoons bedded down for the night, ready to jump off in the morning with the 315th Inf Regt in the attack on BLAMONT and CIREY-SUR-VEZOUSE.

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

As of 2400 hrs, 16 Nov/44, the disposition of the Bn and its elements was as follows:-

	Co "A"	Co "B"	Co "C"
CP-	HARBOUEY	HALLOVILLE	ANCERVILLER
1st pl-	355948	355957	327905
2nd pl-	375972	341960	340930
3rd pl-	361947	350970	sec- 332945 sec- 338955

Rcn CP - remained at MONTIGNY; Bn Rr Ech - at ANCERVILLER; Bn CP - MIGNEVILLE; Bn Fwd CP - first at HALLOVILLE, later moving to HARBOUEY with Co "A". At this forward CP at HARBOUEY, were the Bn CO, Bn S-3, and EM from the Bn CP Group.

17 Nov/44

At 0730 hrs, Co "A"'s 1st platoon moved into position at coord 380973, 2nd platoon to coord 375979, and the 3rd platoon to coord 374971. All three platoons received enemy artillery and small arms fire. The 2nd platoon, in support of the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt, and one platoon from the 749th Tk Bn, attempted to cross in front of their positions overlooking the town of FREMONVILLE but were driven back by heavy artillery and AT fire. One of our tanks was knocked out at this time. The second attempt was made at 1240 hrs and the platoon pulled up on the ridge overlooking FREMONVILLE and fired into the town at various targets, expending 96 rds of HE and 25 rds of APC in thirty (30) minutes. Immediately after the platoon had ceased firing, the enemy laid one of the heaviest concentrations of artillery fire which it has laid down to date. It was estimated that 122 rds fell in and around the platoon position. At 1345 hrs, an enemy AT gun at coord 376996 began firing at one of the M-10s of the platoon. The M-10 returned fire, expending 10 rds HE and 1 rd APC, silencing the enemy gun, and it is believed that it was destroyed. A few minutes later, firing ceased in that sector. At about 1400 hrs, Co "A"'s 3rd platoon fired 4 rds of APC at an enemy vehicle in vicinity of coord 410983; damage unknown.

Co "B"'s CP moved to HARBOUEY, coord 3797; the Co Rr Ech moved to HALLOVILLE. The 1st platoon moved back into HARBOUEY and while in the town, were shelled by enemy artillery. An air-burst hit very close to the M-10, damaging it slightly. Shell fragments, however, entered the open turret, killing one man, wounding four (4) others.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon moved from ANCERVILLER to MONTIGNY at 1400 hrs, taking up defensive positions NE of the town. The 2nd platoon moved to a defensive position NE of HARBOUEY, coord 3797, and the 3rd platoon took up defensive positions S of BARBAS, COORD 3496.

Rcn Cb was engaged in road and route reconnaissance and OP duty.

18 Nov/44

Co "A" reported no change in the position of its platoons. At 1150 hrs, the enemy layed a heavy concentration of direct fire on ~~the~~ HARBOUEY. Lt Potter, commander of the 3rd platoon, was wounded seriously by shell fragments. Throughout the day the town received heavy fire. At 1600 hrs, the 1st platoon of Co "A" fired 20 rds of HE at enemy foot troops approximately 100-150 in strength at coord 390002, killing or wounding several.

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

Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved out of HARBOUEY traveling N with two M-10s of the 3rd platoon, and going into position N of HARBOUEY, firing about 100 rds HE at enemy foot troops, killing or wounding several. The 2nd platoon went into position NW of the 1st platoon and knocked out one (1) AT gun, one (1) Pill-box, and also shot up several of the enemy infantry. The remaining two M-10s of the 3rd platoon were in reserve.

Co "C" had no action during the day; the first platoon in defensive position E of HARBOUEY, coord 3997; 2nd platoon coord 3897; 3rd platoon in an assembly area in BARBAS with one section taking up a defensive position N of BARBAS at coord 3398.

Rcn Co initiated road and route reconnaissance in general vicinity NW of BARBAS and FREMONVILLE. Several Rcn personnel accompanied the infantry on day and night patrols.

19 Nov/ 44

At 0720 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon moved into position at coord 382989, and at 0940 hrs, knocked out an enemy pill-box at coord 383999. At 1200 hrs, the 3rd platoon advanced with the 1st Bn, 315th Inf Regt to wards TANCONVILLE. At 1440 hrs, this platoon knocked out two (2) enemy pill-boxes at coord 414013 and proceeded on to TANCONVILLE; then the 1st & 2nd platoons plus the Co CP moved in the general vicinity of TANCONVILLE. Total ammunition expended by the platoons 27 rds HE and 9 rds APC.

Co "B"'s CP at this time was in HARBOUEY. The 2nd platoon remained in its positions until 1500 hrs, firing 25 rds HE and 6 rds APC into the town of FREMONVILLE while the 1st Bn, 314th Inf Regt moved into the town. They later moved back to HARBOUEY to prepare for the drive into RICHEVAL, and at 1530 hrs, began to move out. The two M-10s of the 1st platoon and two M-10s of the 3rd platoon fired 64 rds HE and 25 rds APC into FREMONVILLE. The Division suspected that the enemy were using the church steeple in FREMONVILLE as an CP and ordered it knocked down; the mission was accomplished. After this firing, the M-10s went NE of RICHEVAL, 1000 yds, into position. One M-10 of the 1st platoon was hit by an enemy artillery shell but no serious damage was caused and none of the crew was injured.

Co "C"'s 1st & 2nd platoon were in an assembly area in BARBAS while the 3rd platoon, at 1100 hrs, moved from BARBAS to GOGNEY where it took up defensive position on the northern edge of the town at coord 3502.

Rcn Co's CP departed from its old area at 1430 hrs, moving to CIREY-SUR-VEZOUSE with the 3rd platoon. The 1st & 2nd platoons remained at HARBOUEY and the Pioneer platoon at ANCERVILLER. The Co established liaison with the 2nd French Armored Division. Road and Route reconnaissance was made in connection with the drive towards TANCONVILLE and E of CIREY-SUR-VEZOUSE.

20 Nov/ 44

The Bn CP departed MIGNEVILLE in convoy with the 79th Inf Div at 0845 hrs, arriving in BERTRAMBOIS at 1335 hrs, where the column stayed on the road in convoy for approximately three (3) hrs. At 1635 hrs, the convoy resumed the march and the Bn CP arrived at WIDERHOFF where the Bn CP was set up and tied in by phone to the 315th Inf Regt. The CPs of Cos "C" &

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"A" also closed in NIDERHOFF, while the CP of Co "B" closed at LANEUVEVILLE. Rcn Co closed 2000 yds NE of NIDERHOFF. The Bn Rr Ech in BERTRAMBOIS. The route of march was as follows: MIGNEVILLE, DOMEVRE, BLAMONT, FREMONVILLE, TANCONVILLE, BERTRAMBOIS, NIDERHOFF. Heavy rains caused the roads to become very muddy. Considerable traffic along narrow lanes slowed the advance of the convoy materially. Fortunately, there was little, if any, enemy air activity. The 2nd French Armored Division had been given priority on the roads so that movement towards the objective was rendered even more difficult as the roads upon which the Bn had to travel were narrow with deep ditches on each side.

Rcn Co's 3rd platoon worked with the 79th Inf Div Rcn Troop during the march. Its 1st & 2nd platoons continued to work with Co's "A" & "B". Co "B"'s platoons took up positions in the general vicinity of NITTING and the Co Exec acted as liaison officer with the 314th Inf Regt.

21 Nov/44

Co "A", at 0845 hrs, left ~~XXXX~~ NIDERHOFF, closing in HARTZVILLE, coord 504156.

Co "B"'s CP moved to HOMMARTING, coord 5615. Along the way, they were slowed up three times by small enemy pockets which offered only light resistance, however. The 1st & 3rd platoons moved into direct fire positions in vicinity of ST JEAN; the 2nd platoon in LA POSTE DE HOMMARTING. Co expended no ammunition during the day.

Co "C" moved from NIDERHOFF, with its platoons closing at coord 508235, 525267, and 577285.

Rcn Co closed at coord 480136. Along the route of march, the 1st section of the 2nd platoon encountered the enemy in fox holes along the road near HESSE. These enemy infantry were equipped with rifles and Bazookas. The Rcn section killed five (5) of them and also wounded several others without casualty to itself. The rest of the platoon acted as advance guard for the combat team # 3, and the 3rd platoon continued to work with the 2nd French Armored Division.

The Bn CP left NIDERHOFF at 1525 hrs and closed in SCHNECKENBUSCH at 1700 hrs.

22 Nov/44

At 0645 hrs, Co "A" left HARTZVILLE with CT 5 (315th combat team) and marched to ST LOUIS, meeting enemy resistance at the western edge of town consisting of small arms and artillery fire. At 1000 hrs, the 1st platoon knocked out a large AA gun at coord 589145, and fired on a suspected tank position at coord 601133. One sergeant from the 2nd platoon was wounded in St LOUIS by enemy artillery fire and evacuated. The acting platoon leader of the 3rd platoon was also wounded but returned to duty after medical attention as did the platoon leader of the 2nd platoon who was also wounded. The enemy ceased shelling ST LOUIS about 1600 hrs and at 1625 hrs, the CP moved from ARZVILLERS to ST LOUIS with the 1st & 3rd platoons remaining in ST LOUIS and the 2nd platoon moving to ARZVILLER. During the day, the Co expended 15 rds HE and 2 rds APC. At 1600 hrs, the Bn CP left SCHNECKENBUSCH and closed in ST JEAN at 1830 hrs.

Co "B"'s 2nd platoon moved from LA POSTE DE HOMMARTING into direct fire positions in the town of MITTELBRONN. The 1st & 3rd platoons remained in ST JEAN.

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Co "C" moved a distance of 9 miles from BRUDERSDORFF to HOMMARTING, coord 5615.

During these moves, Rcn Co preceded the rest of the Bn elements through the SAVERNE GAP, moving from HARTZVILLER through BRUDERSDORFF, DAVO, ST GALL, HAGEN, closing in SAVERNE at coord 725155.

23 Nov/44

At 1530 hrs, Co "A" departed ST LOUIS and closed in LUTZELBOURG, coord 642153.

Co "B"'s CP moved to MONSWILLER, coord 7317 with the 1st & 3rd platoons going into direct fire positions there. Later in the evening, the 2nd platoon also closed in MONSWILLER. Two PWs were taken in vicinity of SAVERNE and turned over to PW authorities. Prior to moving to MONSWILLER, the 2nd platoon had moved into position near the SAVERNE GAP. During the afternoon, the 2nd platoon fired 10 rds APC, knocking out two (2) enemy trucks and blowing up an ammunition dump. Five (5) PWs were taken as a result of this action and turned over to the infantry.

There was no change in the position of Co "C".

Rcn Co's 3rd platoon worked near STRASBOURG with the 2nd French Armored Division the entire day. There was no change in the position or location of the Co CP.

24 Nov/ 44

The Bn CP moved twice on this day. At 0840 hrs, the Bn CP moved from ST JEAN to MITTELBRONN to PHALSBOURG, closing in SAVERNE where it stayed approximately 4-5 hours. At 1530 hours, it moved from SAVERNE through BRUMATH, closing in STEPHANSFELD, coord 980132. The Bn Rr Ech was at SAVERNE, coord 729152.

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon plus the 2nd sec of the 1st platoon and the Co CP group reconnoitered all routes E of grid line 73 to grid line 99, and S of grid line 16 to grid line 10. The following routes were also reconnoitered by Hq platoon: LANDERSHEIM, WILLGOSHEIM, NEVEARTHEIM, SCHMERSCHEIM, WINERSHEIM, OFFENHEIM, STUTZHEIM, to grid line 95. Here an estimated group of fifty (50) enemy troops were encountered near OBERHINSBERGEN. One (1) ME 109, which was strafing in the vicinity at this point, was shot down by Rcn Co's 50 cal machine gunners. The 3rd Rcn platoon reconnoitered from RUMERSHEIM, BERSTETT, WENDENHEIM, across the RR and straight down the STRASBOURG road and through the town to within one kilometer of the RHINE RIVER. Just before dark, the Co assembled in the vicinity of the Bn CP at STEPHANSFELD.

Co "A", at 1200 hrs, left LUTZELBOURG with the 315th CT to march to an assembly area in BRUMATH. At 1600 hrs, they ran into enemy resistance consisting of small arms fire and artillery fire which appeared to be coming from tanks or SP guns about 1100 yds NW of BERNOLSHEIM. The 3 platoons moved into direct fire positions as follows: 1st platoon at coord 981-190; 2nd platoon at coord 983173; 3rd platoon at coord 982177. The infantry took up positions in the same general vicinity that the threatened attack did not occur. The Co set up a CP at coord 965173 in BERNOLSHEIM.

Co "B", together with the 1st & 3rd platoons moved into GEUDERDHEIM, coord 0113. These two platoons took up direct fire positions in the town, and the 2nd platoon moved into direct fire positions in HORED. While on the move, enemy planes bombed near the column. Later in the day, the 2nd pla-

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atoon moved from HORDT into GEUDERTHIM with the rest of the Co.

Co "C" moved out from HOMMARTING at 1100 hrs. At 1130 hrs, the Co was ordered to take up defensive positions at VIEUX-LIXHEIM. The 1st & 3rd platoons went into position at coord 558198, and the 2nd platoon went into LIXHEIM, taking up a position at coord 567196. At 1300 hrs, the 645th TD Bn relieved the Co for movement to WEITBRUCH. The Co CP was set up in that town with the 1st & 3rd platoons in direct fire positions N of the town. The 3 M-10s of the 2nd platoon went into position NE of GRIES. No. 3 gun was in position NE of KURTZENHAUSEN.

25 Nov/44

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon established outpost at coord 903214, one section of the 3rd platoon in reserve with the other section operating with Co "C" in the attack against BISCHWILLER. A road block was established at coord 976132. 37 PWs were taken in the vicinity of the Co CP in STEPHANSFELD and turned over to Division PW enclosure.

At 1045 hrs, the 1st platoon of Co "A" fired 10 rds of HE at a steeple in BATZENDORF, coord 978204. At 1300 hrs, the 2nd platoon started out with the 3rd Bn, 315th Inf Regt, and a platoon of tanks from the 749th Tk Bn; mission: to take the town of KREIGSSHEIM. However, upon reaching the E edge of the town of ROTTELSHEIM, they received very heavy direct fire and artillery fire which destroyed two of the 749th tanks, forcing the rest of our elements, including our 4 destroyers, to withdraw into ROTTELSHEIM. At 1305 hrs, the 2nd platoon fired 7 rds HE at a church steeple in NIEDERSCHAEFFULSHEIM, coord 003192, receiving very heavy artillery fire in return. Ten minutes later, the 1st platoon reported that it was receiving direct fire from the vicinity of their right front. After investigation, the 1st platoon at 1420 hrs, fired 18 rds HE at a house in BATZENDORF, believed to be an enemy OP as three Germans had been observed in the house at various times.

There was no change in the position of Co "B". Reconnaissance for new positions on the Div left flank was made.

Co "C"'s 2nd platoon, in position on the N edge of KURTZENHAUSEN, engaged a Mk V tank about 1500 yds from their position. The German tank was partially defiladed and the crew of one M-10 fired 2 rds of APC at it; neither round hit the tank and the Mk V withdrew behind a hill, from which point it opened fire on one of our M-10s, knocking off one track but causing no further damage or injury. The crew then fired one more round of APC and two rds HE, results unknown. At 1330 hrs, Co "C"'s 1st platoon gave close support to the 313th Inf Regt in an attack on the town of GRIES, which town was captured at 1430 hrs.

26 Nov/44

Rcn Co CP moved from STEPHANSFELD NW to ALTECKENDOFF, coord 8922. The 1st platoon established an OP and outpost in vicinity of MINVERSHEIM; the 2nd platoon established an op 1000 yds E of RINGELDORF; both the 1st & 2nd platoons had two destroyers from Co "C" working with them. The 2nd platoon engaged two German patrols, killing one man, wounding one, and taking 4 PWs. The 3rd platoon established an OP 1000 yds NE of MORSCHWILLER. The Pioneer and Hq section worked with the 79th Div Rcn Troop as liaison.

At 0630 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd platoon left ROTTELSHEIM, taking up positions in KRIEGSSHEIM, covering roads to the N and to the E.

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

At 1145 hrs, the 1st sec of Co "A"'s 1st platoon moved into position N of HOCHSTETT. At 1245 hrs, the leader of the 1st platoon saw what appeared to be two (2) Mk V tanks that were either in dug-in positions or simply mired in the mud. Two (2) tanks were at coord 986200. The 1st section of the 1st platoon, from a range of 2600 yds, fired 18 rds of APC and one rd HE. Six (6) hits were observed on one (1) tank, but as the range was too great for close observation, the section could not determine whether the tanks were manned or not. At any rate, there was no return fire from the enemy tanks. From 1500-1540 hrs, enemy planes were very active over the positions of Co "A" and the Co expended 800 rds of Cal 50 ammunition, in firing at the planes. Hits were scored on one plane, and the plane crashed several seconds after having been hit. At 1630 hrs, the 1st platoon fired two rds HE at an enemy OP, coord 955215. At 1645 hrs, No. 2 gun of the 1st platoon silenced an enemy AT gun at coord 974203.

Co "B" had no contact with the enemy. During the day, the platoons moved as follows: 1st platoon to KIRTZENHAUSEN; 2nd platoon to GRIES; 3rd platoon to WEITBRUCH.

Co "C" moved its CP from WEYERSHEIM to BRUMATH, coord 978 152. The 1st & 2nd platoons of Co "C" were in Bn reserve at coord 982152. The 3rd platoon established a road block in vicinity of MINVERSHEIF and RINGELDORF.

Bn C.O.
killed
in action.

At approximately 1100 hrs, the Bn CO, Lt. Col. Clymer D. Jeffries, left the Bn CP with T/4 Gibbons, his radio operator and driver. At 1230 hrs, the Bn CP received a radio message from the Colonel, but thereafter, Col. Jeffries and his driver were never in communication or contact with the CP or its elements. Because it was customary for Col. Jeffries to keep constantly in touch with the Bn and apprise the CP of his movements, the Bn Exec, Major George McCutchen, began an investigation when the Colonel did not return for the evening meal. Upon contacting 79th Inf Div Hq, the Bn Executive picked up a fragmentary report from the 79th Ren Troop patrol. It appeared that this patrol had been heavily engaged by tank and S/A fire in the vicinity of the crossroads near HOCHSTETT, coord 955205. The patrol reported that they had seen a jeep which had been knocked out on the crossroads, apparently by AT or SP fire, and that at least one man had been killed. The patrol also identified the jeep as a vehicle belonging to the 813th TD Bn. The patrol was unable to perform closer investigation as it had been forced to withdraw from that area because of the intense direct fire that was being thrown at them. On the following day, at 0900 hrs, Major McCutchen left the Bn CP and proceeded to the crossroads at those coordinates. He found the two bodies, Col. Jeffries and T/4 Gibbons; apparently, they had been killed instantaneously. The jeep was not at the scene, and the Colonel's personal possessions had been removed from his clothing. The Colonel's insignia were also missing. The personal possessions of T/4 Gibbons had also been removed. The bodies were brought back to the Bn CP and later evacuated.

The Battalion Executive, Major George McCutchen, assumed command of the Battalion.

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

27 Nov/44

The Bn CP remained in STEPHANSELD.

Rcn Co's 2nd platoon, in RINGELDORF, was relieved by elements of the 45th Inf Div. The 1st section of the 2nd platoon then moved to and set up an OP and Listening Post in ETTENDORF; the 2nd section going to MORSCHWILLER to reinforce the 3rd platoon. The 1st platoon went into HUTTENDORF; a section of the Pioneer platoon going with the 79th Inf Div Rcn Troop into SCHWINDRATZHEIM.

There was no change in the position of the platoons of Co "A", or "B".

Co "C"'s 1st & 2nd platoons in assembly area in BRUMATH. One of the M-10s of the 1st platoon was slightly damaged when hit by an enemy artillery shell. Co "C"'s 3rd platoon moved from RINGELDORF to an assembly area in MOMMENHEIM, taking one (1) PW.

28 Nov/44

Rcn Co's 1st platoon was located as follows: 1st sec at RINGELDORF, coord 9225; 2nd sec at ETTENDORF, coord 8923; mission to watch E flank of the 79th Inf Div was given the 2nd platoon whose 1st section was located at KURTZENHAUSEN, coord 0515. The 2nd sec of the 2nd platoon was located at WEITBRUCH, coord 0317, and this section had the mission of watching the NE flank of the 79th Inf Div. One enemy patrol was fired upon in this vicinity. Rcn Co's 3rd platoon remained in reserve at the Co CP area in ALTECKENDORF, coord 9021.

At 1200 hrs, the 315th Inf Regt began an attack with the 1st platoon of Co "A" in support of the 2nd Bn; 2nd platoon in support of the 1st Bn; and the 3rd platoon in support of the 3rd Bn. The objective was the vicinity of BATZENDORF. At 1400 hrs, the 3rd platoon fired 5 rds HE at strongpoints in BATZENDORF, coord 978205. Some enemy artillery fire and direct fire fell in the platoon areas but there was no damage or casualties. At 1935 hrs, the 2nd platoon moved into position at UHLWILLER, taking one (1) PW. The 1st & 3rd platoon of Co "A" were ordered to remain in the vicinity of HOCHSTETT, near the Co CP, because the enemy was laying heavy direct fire and the roads leading to WINTERHAUSEN and BATZENDORF had not been swept for mines. However, both platoons moved out after dark with the 3rd platoon reaching BATZENDORF at 0030 hrs, and the 1st platoon reaching WINTERHAUSEN at 0125 hrs, 29 Nov.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved from KURTZENHAUSEN to WEITBRUCH with the 2nd platoon. Two platoons prepared for the infantry attack here and moved out of this position with two Bns of the 314th Inf Regt at 1200 hrs. They moved along in a northerly direction just in the rear of the infantry to BIRCKWALD. The 1st platoon stayed in BIRCKWALD for the night. While moving up to this position, the 1st platoon fired 34 rds HE. The 2nd platoon moved on 800 yds NE of BIRCKWALD, going into position there. This platoon fired 20 rds HE on the way to their positions. While NE of BIRCKWALD, all of the M-10s bogged down in the mud trying to get into position, but the T-2 pulled all the destroyers out of the mud and shortly before midnight, all the M-10s were in position.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon at 1930 hrs established a road block in vicinity SE of WALLENHEIM, coord 173978.

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

29 Nov/44

Co "A"'s 1st sec of the 1st platoon, at 0950 hrs, moved to coord 974234 and established a road block there. While establishing the road block, the section ran into an enemy Bazooka team and dispersed it with MG and carbine fire, killing some of the crew and taking one prisoner. At 1455 hrs, the 2nd section of the 1st platoon established a road block at coord 978236. In the afternoon, Co "A" moved its CP to BERSTHEIM, coord 957214. Just at dusk, the leader of the 1st platoon received light injuries as a result of an enemy mortar shell exploding near him in the town of OHLINGEN, coord 975234. After treatment, the platoon leader returned to duty. There was no change in the positions of the 2nd & 3rd platoons.

Co "B" moved its CP to KRIEGSHEIM, coord 9917; the Co Rr remaining in GEUDERTHEIM. The 1st platoon moved along with the attack going into position in the town of HARTHAUSEN. The 2nd platoon moved with the 1st Bn, 314th Inf Regt, on the road running NE of HARTHAUSEN. On this move, they were pushed back by an enemy counterattack. Two or more tanks were used by the enemy in this counterattack. The 3rd platoon moved to WEITBRUCH and later moved farther N of the town. The three platoons expended no ammo along the move but considerable enemy artillery and mortar fire harrassed them on the road.

Co "C"'s 3rd platoon was ordered attached to the 106th Cav Group at 1630 hrs, and at 1730 hrs, in accordance with XV Corps order, the platoon moved from MOMMENHEIM to INGEWILLER, traveling 25 miles. Co "C"'s 1st platoon moved from positions SE of WALLENHEIM to an assembly area in BRUMATH. The 2nd platoon moved from BRUMATH at 1400 hrs, taking up positions on the N edge of GRIES, and also NE of KURTZENHAUSEN from which positions it fired 7 rds HE and 3 rds APC at an enemy OP. There was no change in the location of Rcn Co or of the Bn CP.

30 Nov/44

Rcn Co's 1st sec of the 1st platoon maintained an OP on Hill 300, with the 2nd sec in reserve along with the 3rd platoon. The 2nd platoon was located at KURTZENHAUSEN, coord 0515. One squad of the Pioneer platoon acted as liaison with the 79th Rcn Troop.

At 1130 hrs, Co "A"'s 2nd & 3rd platoons supported the attack made by the 315th Inf Regt on the town of SCHWEIGHAUSEN. The 1st platoon was held in reserve in OHLINGEN near the Co CP. At 1700 hrs, the 3rd platoon was held up by a road jam at coord 986242, and forced to remain in that vicinity during the night. At 1730 hrs, the 2nd platoon was stopped by a road block at coord 990241. As this road block was covered by enemy artillery fire, the platoon was compelled to take another and much longer route into SCHWEIGHAUSEN, arriving there at 2330 hrs. The platoon took up positions at 0024.

Co "B"'s 1st platoon moved 1500 yds N of HARTHAUSEN into a position covering the woods to their right and the road to their front. While moving to this position, they fired 125 rds HE and 10 rds APC into the woods; target: enemy foot troops estimated to be of Co to Bn strength. The 2nd platoon moved to a point halfway between HARTHAUSEN and HAGUENAU, firing 40 rds of HE into the woods on their right and front; target: one (1) M4 tank and enemy foot troops. The tank got away but several of the enemy foot troops were killed or wounded. The 3rd platoon moved near the positions of the 2nd platoon but

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

did no firing. An enemy artillery shell hit a tree over one of the M-10s, fragmentation killing one sergeant and one private, and wounding the officer-platoon leader. All three platoons received very heavy mortar and artillery fire in their positions. Considerable S/A fire was also directed at their positions.

Co "C"'s 1st platoon took up defensive positions near WEITERBUCH, coord 178033.

The Bn CP remained at STEPHANSFELD.

During the month of November, the Bn knocked out, destroyed, or captured the following: 2 Mk IVs, 1 Mk V, 3 SP guns, 5 group and combat vehicles, 3 AT guns, 5 pillboxes, 80 PWs (and killing or wounding an estimated 150). Totals to date: 27 Mk IVs, 12 Mk Vs, 2 Mk VIs, 8 SP guns, 29 group and combat vehicles, 8 AT guns, 13 pillboxes, 3 MG nests, 668 PWs, and 6 enemy aircraft. The Bn also has since 28 June 1944, killed or wounded 500-600 of the enemy.

4 AGO
JAN 20 1945
received

ob-s-4
105 Pm

George McCutchen
GEORGE MC CUTCHEN,
Major, F.A.,
Commanding.