

## AFTER AFTER BATTLE REPORT

NO. VI

FROM: OI0001 NOVEMBER 44  
 TO : 302400 NOVEMBER 44

UNIT : 823rd TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
 PLACE : GERMANY, 923535  
 TIME : 021200 DECEMBER 44

MAPS: CENTRAL EUROPE, 1/100,000  
 GERMANY, 1/25,000

01 NOVEMBER 44

the month opened on the Battalion occupying defensive positions with "C" Co in the sector of the 117th Infantry, "B" Co in the sector of the 120th Infantry and "A" Co in the sector of the 119th Infantry. B-2 from its indirect fire position West of KOHLSCHIED between 1800 and 2400 fired 3 concentrations for a total of 150 rounds HE (fuse delay) upon Division assigned targets. Enemy artillery and mortar shelling lessened with the entire period being spent manning gun positions and allowing limited personnel short passes and attending movies. "C" Co had 1 battle casualty, "A" Co had an old battle casualty return to Hospital and "B" Co had a hospital casualty return to duty.

02 NOVEMBER 44

The Battalion continued on its defensive mission with no changes in position. B-2 on indirect fire fired 3 concentrations for a total of 120 rounds HE (fuse delay) upon Division assigned targets and one concentration of 50 rounds Reduced Charge was expended in a continuation of the units experimental firing of this new ammunition. "A" Co had 1 1/4 ton damaged in an automobile accident and "A" and "C" Companies each had one non-battle casualty.

03 NOVEMBER 44

Between 1800 and 2030 B-2 fired 3 concentrations of 172 rounds HE upon indirect fire missions. One "C" Co 1/4 ton was damaged when enemy shell action collapsed a building upon it. "B" and Hq Companies had 1 non battle casualty each while "A" and "B" Companies each had 1 former casualty return to duty.

04 NOVEMBER 44

B-2 continuing indirect fire positions fired 2 concentrations of 120 rounds HE and 1 concentration of 30 rounds reduced charge. 40 rounds using M-54 Fuse were fired upon German trenches. Through the use of forward observers fire was converged above the trenches and the results of the firing were extremely satisfactory. Limited passes were granted, maintenance continued and all gun positions manned. German shelling showed a marked decrease from previous periods.

05 NOVEMBER 44

Between 1200 and 2000 B-2 fired 2 concentrations for a total of 120 rounds HE. All units continued in their defensive positions while limited personnel enjoyed short passes or movies. 10 replacements were received.

06 NOVEMBER 44

During the early morning hours spasmodic shelling of "A" Co CP caused extensive minor damage to most CP vehicles. B-2 between 1200 and 2400 fired 4 concentrations of 172 rounds HE upon crossroad and harrassing fire missions. Hq Co had 2 and "B" and "C" Companies each had 1 non battle casualty. First Recon platoon captured 1 German soldier while the Medic 1/4 ton with "B" Co was in an accident and seriously damaged.

07 NOVEMBER 44

Between 1200 and 2400 the "B" Co platoon in indirect fire position fired 4 concentrations totaling 120 rounds HE. At 1615 an exchange of personnel was effective whereby B-1 took over the indirect fire position and B-2 manned B-1's direct fire position. A "C" Co motore cycle was in an accident and badly damaged. Non battle casualties were as follows: Hq 1; "B" Co 1, and "C" Co 2.

08 NOVEMBER 44

To effect the withdrawal of B-1, B-2 took over their own guns in indirect fire position and B-1 returned to their direct fire locations. At 1835 B-1 and the 1 unit of B-3 in the area of B-1 withdrew from the direct fire positions, B-1 entering at an assembly position at 878528 while the 1 unit of B-3 returned to the Company CP. At 2100 the 1 unit of B-3 took up a position at 890522. B-2 fired 1 concentration for a total of 50 rounds HE upon one of Hitler's PHA projects and as a result of this firing created a new post-war employment project. Selected personnel continued to receive short passes while all others manned gun positions. "B" Co had 1 man return from hospital while "A" Co received 1 replacement and had 2 non battle casualties.

09 NOVEMBER 44

At 1145 the first snow fell upon the sector within which this unit was operating but not in sufficient quantity to remain on the ground. Between 1200 and 2400 145 rounds HE were fired upon Division assigned harrassing targets by B-2. Ground, map and Photo reconnaissance of positions and routes for and to future positions, both assault and direct fire, were completed. "B" Co received 2 replacements and "C" Co had 1 non battle casualty.

10 NOVEMBER 44

All units continued in defensive fire positions and the only activity for the period were 3 concentrations for a total of 146 rounds HE and 1 concentration of 25 rounds reduced charge fired by B-2. An "A" Co 1/4 ton was damaged in an automobile accident. "A" Co had 2 non battle casualties and "B" Co 1. "C" Co had 2 men return from hospital, Hq had 1 and "A" Co had 1, while "B" Co received 2 men from the replacement center.

11 NOVEMBER 44

At 0200 A-1 and A-2 reorganised their positions by moving 4 guns into assault positions within their platoon sectors. B-2 from its indirect fire position fired 5 concentrations for a total of 145 rounds HE and 1 concentration of 25 rounds reduced charge. During

16 NOVEMBER 44

6 men were put on detached service with 2nd TD Group for the purpose of a specialist course on M-10 driving, maintenance and repair. Because of the start of the 30th Division push toward the RUR River it was necessary to discontinue the driver's school conducted by the 702 TD Battalion, although the maintenance school of the 814th was continued. B-1 fired 1 concentration of 50 rounds Reduced Charge upon EUCHEM, destroying several buildings. With the start of the general allied drive "C" Co was attached to the 117th Inf., "B" Co, less B-2 attached to Division Artillery, was attached to the 120th Inf, and "A" Co was attached to the 119th Inf, for assault and TD defensive roles. "A" Co guns from the direct fire assault positions fired 155 rounds HE at 2 pill-boxes and 1 OP, completely destroying or neutralising them. Upon taking of their objective by the 120th, B-1 at 1600 moved to 891502 where it set up in the SE section of EUCHEM. C-2 at 1720 withdrew from their positions in the sector of the 120th and took up a temporary assembly location at "C" Co CP. At 1800 one section of C-3 moved to 905540 where it reinforced the guns of C-1; at 1830 the other section of C-3 moved to 912529 setting up in the NW section of MARIADORF, while at 2010 one section closed at 915525 taking up location in the SE section of MARIADORF, all positions being occupied under small arms fire. B-2 between 1430 and 2400 fired 3 concentrations of 400 rounds HE normal and 1 concentration of 231 rounds Reduced Charge. Enemy artillery fire knocked the trail off of one C-1 3" gun and destroyed a "C" Co 1/4 ton, the "B" Co 1 1/2 ton previously damaged was repaired and returned. "A" Co had a 1/4 ton replaced. "C" Co had 2 KIA and 1 WIA while C-3 captured 17 German enlisted men and 2 officers with B-1 taking 8 PWs. Under G.O. 102, 30th Inf Div., 16-Nov-44, 1 Oak-Leaf-Cluster to a Silver Star, 9 Silver Stars and 8 Bronze Stars were awarded.

17 NOVEMBER 44

B-1 fired 8 concentrations of 670 rounds HE normal charge. Units continuing the close support of the advancing Infantry moved as follows: 1 section of B-3 at 1045 to 901506; 1 section of B-2 at 1215 to reinforce the guns in MARIADORF by moving to 913524; 1 section of B-2 at 1515 entered indirect fire positions at 884559; "B" Co CP at 1600 closed at 875528; 1 section of A-2 at 1615 to direct fire positions East of WURSELEN at 875486; 1 section of B-3 at 1615 to NEUSEM (910502) C-2 at 1800 to South side of MARIADORF (918525); C-3 at 1445 to East side of HONGEN (928535) and A-1 upon being released from attachment to 119th Inf at 1800 moved to an assembly position at 877527 at 2400. "A" Co guns from their assault positions fired 237 rounds HE, 30 rounds GPA and 9 rounds German 75mm Pak 40, upon German pill-boxes, homes and Infantry for the support of the 119th Inf. A B-3 gun received slight damage requiring temporary withdrawal for repairs while an "A" Co 1/4 ton on reconnaissance ran over a box-mine, destroying the jeep and seriously injuring Lt CONNORS and his driver. An "A" Co sergeant also stepped on a box-mine, losing both his feet. "B" Co took 4 PWs and "C" Co 2 PWs. "B" Co had 1 non battle injury and "C" Co 3. Lt. CUNNINGHAM assumed command of A-2 upon the evacuation of Lt. CONNORS.

18 NOVEMBER 44

Moves for the period were as follows: "C" Co CP at 1115 to 905541 A-1 to an assembly position at 0800 at 903505; A-3 at 1515 to the South East side of WEIDEN at 886474; 1 section of C-2 at 1750 to 928514. C-1 at 1745 to WARDEN (835524) B-1 at 1700 to the South side of BROEICH where they took up an assembly position pending occupation of direct fire positions at 806499; 1 section of A-1 occupied the same position as B-1 at 1800 pending occupation of positions at 904496 with the

other section moving into the South section of EUCHEM (892502) B-2 from its old location with 2 guns fired 13 concentrations for a total of 1135 rounds HE, C-2 and C-3 by assault, supporting and harrasing fire, fired 100 rounds HE, 37 rounds APC and 2 rounds AP upon pill-boxes, German natural defenses, machine gun positions and Infantry. 10 Germans retreating in the sector of the 29th Division were fired upon by C-3 and killed. An A-2 half track was damaged and put out of action by German box-mines, wounding 2, "C" Co had 1 battle injury and received 1 replacement and "B" Co had 1 non battle casualty.

19 NOVEMBER 44

Between 0530 and 0730 B-2 fired 1 concentration for 250 rounds HE upon KINZWEILER. Moved for the day started as follows: 1 section of A-1 closed into an assembly position at 904495; while the other section at 0730 took B-1's old positions at 892905; B-1 entered direct fire positions on the South side of LANDEN (909499) at 0800; A-3 at 1230 made adjustments in their positions near 982473; A-1 at 1330 put 3 guns at 896484 and 1 gun at 902494. At 1100 B-2 was released from attachment to Division Artillery, reverted to Battalion control, and was directed to occupy positions at ST JORIS. At 1130 A-2 was released from attachment from the 119th Inf, was attached to Division Artillery, and at 1515 closed into an indirect fire position at 884549. C-2 took up positions at 1645 in KINZWEILER (937505) while between 1700 and 1730 B-2 established a section at 925521 and 927496. At 1800 all units less A-2, attached to Div Arty, reverted to Battalion control. "C" Co in support of the morning attack fired 17 rounds HE upon pill-boxes and enemy Infantry, had one 1/4 ton damaged by direct AT fire and captured 1 PW. Between 2000 and 2200 A-2 fired 1 concentration of 90 rounds HE. "Q" Co had 1 battle casualty, "A" and "C" Co had 1 non-battle casualty each, "A" and "B" Companies had 1 man each return from the hospital to duty, while "C" Co had 2 men return to duty and received 1 replacement. Because of assault fire of B-1 (30 rds HE and 5 rds APC) 58 prisoners were taken by the 120th Inf, who gave this unit credit for their capture.

20 NOVEMBER 44

A-2 continued on its indirect fire mission firing 4 concentrations for a total of 215 rds HE. Battalion CP at 1520 moved to MARIADORF (911528). To reinforce "C" Co, establish depth and occupy jump-off positions, A-3 at 1645 occupied 927114; B-1 at 1730 occupied 925524; C-3 at 1745 took up an assembly position at 966542 and "B" Co CP at 1730 set up at 917525. Battalion CP Group and "A" Co each took 1 PW while "A" Co had 1 non-battle casualty.

21 NOVEMBER 44

The 823rd TD Battalion, having the mission of supporting the 120th Inf, assigned "A" Co the South sector of the Division zone while "B" Co was given the North part. Little difficulty was experienced from enemy action in the occupation of LANGWEILER, and LAURENSBERG by "B" Co and LURKEN, LANGENDORF and FRONHOVEN by "A" Co but considerable trouble was experienced because poor roads, at worse weather and the taking of the final objective after dark thereby preventing reconnaissance for positions. Upon the launching of the initial attack B-1 fired 2 rds AP and 8 rds HE while "C" Co fired 11 rds APC and 118 rds HE assault fire upon Division initial objectives. A summary of the unit moves are: "A" Co CP at 0930 to

910501 ; "A" Co CP at 1130 to 924526; B-2 at 1015 to 936522; B-1 at 1156 to 948529; A-3 at 1135 to 938507; A-1 at 1200 to 948501; 1 section of C-2 at 1230 to the South side of KINZWEILER; B-2 at 1315 to 956542; B-1 at 1330 to 959530; B-3 at 1330 to 950532; "B" Co CP at 1415 to 947530; "C" Co forward CP at 1430 to 926537; "A" Co CP at 1430 to KINZWEILER(940508); B-3 at 1925 to 971521; A-4 at 2030 to 975523; and A-3 at 2054 to 973523. At the close of the period A-1 and A-3 upon Div. orders were moving to FRONHOVEN to unrecceitered positions; "B" and "C" Companies each took 1 PW. HQ and "C" Co each received 2 replacements, while "A" Co got 1. "A" Co had 1 battle injury and "C" Co 2, 1 being Lt. WRIGHT, whose injuries were slight and did not require evacuation.

22 NOVEMBER 44

An enemy bombing mission during the early morning hours created 16 flat tyres out of 19 in "A" Co CP Group. A-1 at 0130 closed at 986522 (FRONHOVEN); A-3 at 0700 reinforced A-1 at 985525; C-1 at 0900 entered an assembly position at 986523 but when the German counter-attack was launched against FRONHOVEN took up direct fire positions at that location; C-3 at 0945 took an assembly position at 956529; C-2 at 1000 moved to 957533 and made adjustments in position at 1600; Battalion CP at 1200 was established at LANGENDORF(971521) while the Battalion CO spent the entire period with forward elements at 982523; "C" Co CP at 1100 was established at 928532; After repeated attempts at 1300 B-1 established 2 guns at 987537 with the other gun at 977528; B-3 at 1440 shifted 2 guns to 977524; B-2 at 1700 took up an assembly position at 977527; and at 2200 B-2 withdrew to an assembly position at 946530 to complete the moves for the period. Although ENGINEERS were furnished 2nd Recon Platoon to sweep the mines from the road all attempts to locate a passable route from ALDENHOVEN to ERBERICH for B-2 to use an attempt to reinforce B-1 failed. When 1 unit of B-2 at 1600 got stuck in the mud South of ERBERICH it took up a position at 984534 where it covered the South East side of town. Upon a gun and a half-track of B-1 becoming bogged in the mud South of ERBERICH enemy direct fire set the half-track on fire and so destroyed the gun that only a few small parts were salvageable. 1 B-3 half-track was slightly damaged by mortar fire. Between 0800 and 0810 30 rds HE were fired by "A" Co in assault missions upon LOHN and ERBERICH. In the stopping of the counter-attack launched from LOHN A-1 had 1 3" gun knocked out but A-3 destroyed 2 Mk II radio-control Robot-Tanks and 2 MK Vs, one of which the Germans succeeded in evacuating; C-1 also got a Robot-Radio-Control Mk II for the first Arm'd vehicle, destroyed by "C" Co. This doodle-bug when destroyed about 400 yds away from the gun went up with a tremendous explosion the concussion of which caused damage within our lines. A-3 from a flanking and C-1 from a frontal position fired numerous rounds APC at a Mk VI, all of which were believed to have bounced from the hull. C-1 then fired 4 rds HVAP, one being a miss, one hitting the turret and 2 hitting the front glacis plate. Although the tank stopped and was believed knocked out it later moved away on its own power, so the extent of the damage is unknown. As a result of action Lt. CHASTEN was first listed as WIA later MIA and it was finally determined that he was KIA. "A" Co had 8 battle casualties and 1 non battle casualty, while "B" Co had 1 battle and 1 non battle casualty. A-2 fired 7 concentrations of 912 rds. Under letter of Instruction No: 101, 2217000, Nov 44, "C" Co, less C-1 was attached to the 119th Inf Reg.

23 NOVEMBER 44

Thanksgiving - Day - Real Eggs and hot cakes for Breakfast, spam for dinner, Turkey and all the trimmings for supper. Although most units were in the front lines, some actually engaged with the enemy

Hot Chow was served twice during the day. At 0830 A-1 made some adjustments in position, taking over to C-1 position but later a friendly tank drove over the trails of one of our guns putting it out of commission. In support of the 119th Inf at 0815, 0830 and 0845 C-3, "C" Co forward CP and C-2 moved to 952549, 952549 and 953549. At 1002 C-1 took up positions at LOHN (996526) and when casualties cut down the size of the gun-crew, 3rd Recon Platoon assisted in getting the guns into action. At 1500 "A" Co CP was established at 974523 and at the same time A-3 took up positions in LOHN. At 1500 B-2 moved forward to an assembly position at 076528. At 1630 C-3 set up in PETERN (005544), 3rd Recon at 1700 at 004542 and C-2 at 1700 took up direct fire positions at ALDENHOVEN. During the period A-2 fired 650 rounds HE for a total of 9 concentrations and at 1600 displaced forward to 931533. C-1 from its location in LOHN got their first Tank's destroying 3 Mk IVs at ranges between 1000 and 1500 yds when German armored attacks were launched from INDEN. For "A" Co Lt KUSTER and his platoon Sergeant were seriously injured by mortar fire while "C" Co had 2 battle casualties 2 partially offset the 3 replacements received.

24 NOVEMBER 44

The period was relatively quiet after the intense activity of the 2 preceding periods with little German activity being evidenced. A-2 from their new indirect fire positions fired 6 concentrations of 300 rounds HE normal. At 1430 B-2 was given the mission of reinforcing C-3 at PETERN and at 1900 closed into that town for the only move of the period. 1 C-2 half-track at ALDENHOVEN was destroyed when a large caliber enemy shell landed on its hood. "A" Co having lost 3 officers in the past few days had Lt. BRUTON take temporary command of A-3 which made the first time Lt. BRUTON had ever been assigned to a Company other than Headquarters since this unit has been activated. "A" Co had 1 battle casualty and because of complications arising from his previous injury Lt. WRIGHT was evacuated. "A" Co had 2 EM return to duty and "C" Co 1 A, "B", and "C" Companies each received 3 replacements.

25 NOVEMBER 44

At 0945 C-2 moved out of the sector of the 29th Div. to an assembly position at HONGEN (928534) while at 1130 the forward CP returned to the main CP location in HONGEN. At 1400 "C" Co, minus C-1, was detached from the 119th Inf and reverted to Battalion control. A-2 had 1 registration and fired 3 concentrations for a total of 285 rds HE. No other changes were made during the period with all units remaining on defensive missions. "A" Co had 2 NBI, "B" Co 1 NBI and "C" Co had 2 men returned to duty from the Hospital.

26 NOVEMBER 44

The only tactical activity conducted on the part of this unit was 4 concentrations of 150 rounds HE fired by A-2. Under the supervision of the 120th Inf an experiment was conducted by the 823rd TD Battalion and 743rd Tank Battalion to determine the trafficability of M-3 half-tracks, light tanks and medium tanks pulling a 3" gun cross country. It was determined that all could operate on good unplowed sod but that none could travel on plowed ground. The half-track had a little better maneuverability, but it was thought that with better pintles light tanks would prove superior. "A" Co, "B" Co and HQ each had 1 NBI

27 NOVEMBER 44

B-3 at 0630 put one section at 011533 and the other section at 005537 "C" Co fired 40 rds HE and 3 rds APC on support missions to assist the morning attacks of the 120th Inf. A-2 from their indirect fire positions fired 9 concentrations for a total of 504 rds HE. 1 3" gun of C-3 received a direct hit from enemy artillery which damaged the gun sight, barrel and right wheel leaving it in such condition that only a few parts could be salvaged. Lts MARTIN and FARLEY joined the unit being assigned to "A" and "C" Companies, respectively. "A" Co had 1 EM return to duty and received 3 replacements.

28 NOVEMBER 44

B-3 at 0001 moved a section to 015539 and at 2115 withdrew to an assembly position at HONGEN(947530). At 0800 C-2 took up positions at ALTENDORF(032537) where 3 guns succeeded in being set up by 1200 while the fourth gun stuck in the mud outside of town did not succeed in entering ALTENDORF during the period. To rotate duties, further training and provide a rest from actual battle conditions A-3 personnel were put on the direct guns of A-2 while A-2's personnel took over A-3 direct fire positions and in the new capacity A-3 fired 4 concentrations for a total of 140 rds HE. With the taking of ALTENDORF and the start of the relief of the 120th Infantry by the 17th Cavalry Squadron unit was given permission to cover Division zone with 1 Company while the other 2 organizations took up assembly positions in rear areas. It was planned that initially "C" Company would defend in position with units at ALTENDORF, PATTERN and LOHN. "A" Company had 1 and "B" Company 2 non-battle casualties while "A" and "C" Companies had 1 EM each return from hospital.

29 NOVEMBER 44

In keeping with the relief of the 30th Division, Bn CP at 1100 made its first withdrawal since landing in FRANCE, setting up at a new location in the outskirts of HONGEN(923535). "B" Co CP at 0815 withdrew to HONGEN(921534) where it was joined at 1215 by B-1 and B-2. At 1345 "A" Co CP, A-1 and A-2 entered assembly areas at VORWEIDEN(896487), C-1 in LOHN and C-3 in PATTERN made adjustments in position to cover areas exposed by withdrawal of A & B while A-3 continued on secondary mission firing 240 rds HE on 6 different concentrations. C-2 had a gun damaged by mortar fire but it was able to remain on its mission. C" CO had 1 KIA and 3 BG; "B" Co and HQ Co had 1 NBI each; HQ had 1 EM return to duty from Hospital and "A" Co received 2 and "B" Co 1 replacements.

30 NOVEMBER 44

"A" Co, minus A-3 at 0940 moved to a new assembly area at 907503. A-2 moved 1 gun to FRONHOVEN and 1 gun to LANGENDORF where they were surveyed into Batteries of the 963 FA and 230 FA 155 and 105 howitzers respectively, where they were prepared to fire a special mission with these organizations using illuminating shells. A-3 fired 5 concentrations for a total of 165 rds HE. "A" Co received 2 replacements, "B" 6, "C" Co 4 and HQ CO 2. "C" CO had 1 BG while "B" and HQ Co each had 1 EM return from the hospital. Lt OWENS joined the unit and was assigned to "A" Co.

DETTMER  
LT. Col

OFFICIAL:

LORSE  
S- 3