

**APPENDIX I**  
**602<sup>nd</sup>**  
**TANK DESTROYER**  
**BATTALION**



**DAY TO DAY UNIT JOURNAL**  
**29 MARCH 1944**  
**TO**  
**8 MAY 1945**

## BATTALION JOURNAL

29 March 44 Battalion, consisting of two serials, departed by rail for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

31 March 44 Battalion arrived Camp Kilmer, New Jersey at 0230.

1 April 44 to 3 April Battalion was processed for overseas shipment.

5 May 44 Battalion moved by rail from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to Fort Dix, New Jersey. Battalion was assigned to XVIII Corps for training and administration.

13-14-15 June 44 All officers and platoon sergeants of gun companies fired indirect firing problems.

17 June 44 A Battalion Parade and Review was held during which the Battalion Standard was presented to Lt. Col. KOPCSAK by his daughter, Gay. Colonel LARDER, Commanding Officer of the 8th Tank Destroyer Group, was present as reviewing officer.

26 June 44 Battalion moved by rail from Fort Dix, New Jersey to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

18 July 44 Battalion left New York, New York aboard the SS BERGENSFJORD for overseas duty.

29 July 44 Battalion disembarked at GLASGOW, Scotland and proceeded by rail to MORETON-IN-MARSH, England.

30 July 44 Battalion arrived MORETON-IN-MARSH, and was assigned to THIRD U. S. Army and subsequently attached to XX Corps.

20 August 44 Battalion moved from MORETON-IN-MARSH, England to Marshalling Area, vicinity of DORCHESTER, England.

21 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from Marshalling Area, DORCHESTER, England, to Portland, England and boarded LST for movement to France.

23-23-24 August 44 Unit aboard LST.

25 August 44 Unit disembarked at OMAHA BEACH, France and moved into bivouac area in vicinity of FORMIGNY, France.

26 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from FORMIGNY, France to bivouac area in vicinity of ST. HELLAIRE, France.

27 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from ST. HELLAIRE, France to vicinity of COURTELAIN, France.

29 August 44 Battalion moved by motor convoy from COURTELAIN, France to vicinity of RIGNY-LE-FERROW, France. Unit attached to XII Corps and further attached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group.

30 August 44 Battalion, held in Corps Reserve, participated in attack on enemy in vicinity of TROYES, BRIENNE and DOLENCOURT. Unit was not committed to action. A platoon of Company C, commanded by 1st Lt. ROBERT E. GRAHAM, was sent to XII Corps to provide security for Corps Headquarters. Reconnaissance Company, made reconnaissance of prospective assembly area in vicinity of BLACY.

31 August 44 Unit moved by motor convoy to vicinity of BLACY, France. Reconnaissance Company assigned mission of reconnoitering area bounded by HAROUVILLE, CHANTOURPT, MONTIER-en-DER. Gun companies assigned mission of reconnoitering areas of approach to VITRY from ST. DIZIER (Plan A), WASSEY (Plan B) and MONTIER-en-DER (Plan C), and also selecting gun positions.

1 September 44 One platoon Reconnaissance Company and one platoon Company A sent out to guard bridge over MARNE River at VITRY LE FRANCOIS. Platoons returned at approximately 1400 hours. At about 1500 hours B and Reconnaissance Companies began attack to eliminate an estimated 70 Germans in a forest in the CHAMP DE TIR DE MAILLY area. Two companies engaged in attack returned to bivouac area at 2030. No casualties were sustained. No enemy were known to have been killed and none were captured.

2 September 44 Battalion moved from vicinity of BLACY to bivouac area in vicinity of VITRY EN PERTHOIS. Two sections of Reconnaissance Company are patrolling the CHAMP DE TIR DE MAILLY area for possible Germans reported in forest.

3 September 44 Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of VITRY EN PERTHOIS. Red Cross visited unit and served doughnuts and coffee. No unusual incidents.

4 September 44 Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of VITRY EN PERTHOIS.

5 September 44 Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of VITRY EN PERTHOIS. A Total of 14 prisoners captured and evacuated, one by Company B and 13 by Reconnaissance Company.

6 September 44 Battalion moved to new bivouac area vicinity of OEY.

7 September 44 Reconnaissance Company and A Company attached to 2nd Cavalry Group and left present bivouac area about 1330. Company B attached to 4th Armored Division but remained in present bivouac area. Remainder of Battalion remained in bivouac vicinity of OEY.

8 September 44 Company B left Battalion bivouac area vicinity of OEY at 0800 to join 4th Armored Division. One platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached to Company B. Battalion, less Company B, one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, and one platoon of Company C, attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, and moved from vicinity of OEY to vicinity of GOVILLER.

9 September 44 Company C, less one platoon, assigned mission of covering and holding bridge across MADON River in vicinity of HAROU. Company A assigned mission of covering and holding bridge across MADON River at XIROCOURT. Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon, made reconnaissance to the south and east around SOCOURT and BRALLEVILLE. Company C contacted enemy vicinity of ROVILLE. Losses: two enlisted men killed, one enlisted man wounded seriously, one ¼ ton truck and M-18. Damage inflicted on enemy: one battery of field artillery knocked out. Pvt. WINNEY of Reconnaissance Company credited with destroying a machine gun nest with an M-1 rifle. Losses of Reconnaissance Company: one motorcycle. Reconnaissance Company and Company C both subjected to frequent artillery shellings and forced to withdraw.

10 September 44 Companies continued on missions assigned on 9 September pending arrival of supporting units. Command Post moved at 1800 hours from vicinity of GOVILLER to vicinity of CHAOUILLEY. Rear echelon remained in vicinity of GOVILLER. Company B, plus second platoon of Reconnaissance Company relieved from attachment to 4th Armored Division and returned to bivouac area at about 2100 hours. Platoon of Company C, used as security for XII Corps Headquarters since 30 August, relieved by 691st Tank Destroyer Battalion and returned to bivouac area at about 1500. Company C and Reconnaissance Company subjected to periodic artillery and mortar fire. One prisoner captured and evacuated by Reconnaissance Company.

11 September 44 Allied units passed through battalion area moving toward MOSELLE River and this Battalion assigned mission of protecting south flank of XII Corps generally along the east west line of MT. SION, XIROCOURT and GRIPPORT as other units attempted to cross the MOSELLE River. The Battalion was relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group and reattached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group effective at 0500. However, unit was to remain under control of Corps and 2nd Cavalry Group until crossing of MOSELLE River is completed. A Company, plus 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company attached, was assigned the east west sector between MT. SION and XIROCOURT to include the MADON River. Company C, plus 3rd platoon Reconnaissance Company, was assigned the east west sector between XIROCOURT and GRIPPORT. Company B, plus 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company, held in reserve. Company A captured and evacuated one prisoner. Battalion Commander received verbal recommendation from Colonel READ, C.O., 2nd Cavalry Group, for work of this Battalion during the period 8 September 44 to 10 September 44, inclusive.

12 September 44 Battalion, less rear echelon and Company C, moved from vicinity of CHAOUILLEY across the MOSELLE River to VIRECOURT. Battalion is now with leading elements of the bridgehead around BAYON.

13 September 44 Company A, plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company, assigned mission of covering routes of approach and selecting gun positions in the sector of FROVILLE, BREMONCOURT, DOMPTAIL and ST. WARD. Company B, plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company, assigned same mission in the sector FROVILLE, VILLACOURT and southwest to the MOSELLE River. French reported our Reconnaissance outposts as being first American troops in EINVALIX. Battalion Command Post moved at about 2000 hours from vicinity of VIRECOURT to vicinity of MEHONCOURT. Missions were assigned as follows: Company A plus one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, to proceed to CHAMOIS and provide guard for supply trains moving north and northeast.



13 September 44 (Cont'd) One platoon Company B to guard bridge at LAMATH. Remainder of B Company with one platoon Reconnaissance attached to proceed to MONT and provide guard for supply trains moving northeast. Company C to proceed to BAYON and guard bridge across MOSELLE and cover roads leading into BAYON.

14 September 44 Battalion Command Post remained in vicinity of MEHONCOURT. Company A continued on mission assigned on 13 September. Company B moved from vicinity of BAYON to vicinity of MONT to protect the supply trains of WITHERS Column. Rear echelon moved from vicinity of GOVILLER to vicinity of BAYON.

15 September 44 All companies continued on missions. Company C lost one  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton truck and three enlisted men were slightly wounded in action in vicinity of LUNEVILLE. Vehicle believed to have been hit by German 88mm. gun. Gun position later located, reported to artillery command, and later believed to have been silenced by artillery fire.

16 September 44 All companies continued on missions, moving to the north and northwest. Company C assisted in knocking out enemy mortar position and capturing fourteen prisoners. Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity of VIRECOURT to vicinity of HUDIVILLER.

17 September 44 All companies continued on missions. Third platoon of Reconnaissance Company engaged with enemy, suffering one casualty, IANNI, slightly wounded. Two anti-tank guns knocked out by 3rd platoon Reconnaissance Company. Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity of HUDIVILLER to COURBESSEAU. Company A knocked out six tanks, six anti-tank guns, and killed 100 of the enemy.

18 September 44 All companies continued on missions. Company C knocked out two anti-tank guns and three loaded gasoline trucks. Company B knocked out machine gun emplacement and killed eight enemy. Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity of COURBESSEAU to vicinity of SORENVILLE.

19 September 44 Battalion, less one platoon B Company which was guarding bridge at MAIXE, returned to an assembly point in vicinity of VIRECOURT to neutralize a threatened tank attack developing to the east and south of LUNEVILLE. Battalion attached to 2nd Cavalry Group.

24 September 44 Companies continued on missions. Company B entered COINCOURT but later withdrew to high ground surrounding the town when enemy began shelling town about dusk. Reinforcements for Company B failed to arrive as soon as needed.

25 September 44 Battalion Command Post moved from vicinity LEZEY to vicinity of ARRACOURT. Company C occupied positions vicinity of SUVELIZE. Company B remained in positions vicinity of BURES and one platoon Reconnaissance Company remained attached to each company.

26 September 44 A, B and C Companies continued on previously assigned missions. Company B forced to withdraw in face of heavy counterattacks.

27 September 44 Battalion Command Post and rear echelon moved from vicinity ARRACOURT to vicinity of DROUVILLE. Gun companies continued on previously assigned missions. Seven counterattacks in CCB sector in which Company B worked were repelled. Company A captured 11 prisoners, lost one  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ton truck. Reconnaissance platoon attached to Company A lost one  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton truck.

28 September 44 Gun companies continued on missions. B Company knocked out one MARK IV Tank, captured eight prisoners, lost one M-18 and one mortar. Company C relieved and moved to vicinity of SERRES for a rest period. Company A, plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company, attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. Headquarters Company lost one motorcycle.

29 September 44 Battalion Command Post, rear echelon, and Company C moved to vicinity of LANEUVELOTTE. Company B knocked out one tank. Company A knocked out eight tiger tanks, three armored cars and unknown number of personnel. Battalion, less Company A, which is attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, attached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group. Thirty personnel killed by Company B.

30 September 44 Company B remained in positions around ARRACOURT, still in contact and engaged with enemy infantry and tanks. No change in Company A's position. No other changes.

1 October 44 Reconnaissance Company made reconnaissance of routes leading to tentative gun position in a defensive sector prescribed by 9th Tank Destroyer Group generally in the sector MAIXE, north to ARRACOURT, east to LEYRE. This is known as Plan A. Overlays of plans submitted to 9th Tank Destroyer Group, 501st Ordinance Battalion made technical inspection of C Companies M-18's. Companies in rest area worked on motor maintenance. Company B returned to assembly area vicinity of LANEUVELOTTE for a rest period. Reconnaissance had two M-18's damaged. Company B lost one  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton truck.

2 October 44 Reconnaissance Company made reconnaissance of routes leading to, and selected tentative positions in a defensive sector prescribed by 9th Tank Destroyer Group generally in the sector DOMBASLE north to REMEREVILLE and northeast to CUSTINES. This is known as Plan B. Overlays of plans submitted to 9th Tank Destroyer Group. Companies in rest area continued work on maintenance. Personnel from C, Reconnaissance, and Headquarters Companies taken to NANCY for showers. General ERNST visited Battalion Command Post at about 1500 hours.

3 October 44 Companies B and C continued work on motor maintenance. Company A still in position.

4 October 44 Company B continued motor maintenance work, also had inspection of small arms. Convoys from Reconnaissance, Headquarters and B Companies taken to NANCY for showers and movies. Company C, plus one platoon Reconnaissance attached, moved from bivouac area vicinity LANEUVELOTTE to vicinity of LOISY in Corps reserve to support 80th Infantry Division. Moved out of bivouac area at 1545 hours. Lt. KING, Reconnaissance Company, reported to 80th Infantry Division as liaison officer. A Company remained attached to 2nd Cavalry Group.



5 October 44 Company C made reconnaissance of possible gun positions in 80th Infantry Division sector and submitted overlay to this headquarters, which was forwarded to 9th Tank Destroyer Group. Company B continued work on motor maintenance. No other changes. All personnel were paid for the month of September.

6 October 44 One platoon Reconnaissance Company ordered to make reconnaissance in vicinity of MONCEL SUR SEILLE at 0530. Company B alerted for possible movement to this area to meet a threatened tank attack. At 1000 hours, Company B taken off the alert. Reconnaissance platoon returned to the area at about 1030. Tank attack did not develop. Movie "This Is The Life", shown in CHAMPENOUX for B and Reconnaissance Company. Company B had one motorcycle damaged in an accident. No one injured.

7 October 44 No change in tactical disposition of gun companies. Company C is to support 80th Infantry Division in attack scheduled for tomorrow and has mission of repelling armored counterattacks in 80th Infantry Division sector until new MLR is established. One M-18 was drawn as replacement and issued to Company C. Red Cross visited Headquarters Company, B and Reconnaissance Companies, serving doughnuts and coffee. Movie "This Is The Life" shown for Headquarters Company.

8 October 44 One section Reconnaissance Company alerted and sent to area CHATEAU SALINS and MONCEL, with mission of road screen. Left assembly area vicinity LANEUVELOTTE at 0755. Company C supported 80th Infantry Division in attack. Knocked out one observation post, one truck captured 16 prisoners. Authority has been received for this unit to reorganize under T/O and T/E dated 15 March 44. However, no action toward reorganization is to be taken until so directed by higher headquarters.

9 October 44 Company A relieved from attachment 2nd Cavalry Group and returned to assembly area vicinity LANEUVELOTTE. Company C supported 80th Infantry Division in attack, knocking out one machine gun and number of buildings destroyed at NOMENY.

10 October 44 Reconnaissance Company made reconnaissance of Plans A-6, A-7, and B-6, and reports of Reconnaissance submitted to Battalion S3. A Company worked on motor maintenance and small arms. Company C continued mission of supporting 80th Infantry Division.

11 October 44 Company C continued on mission of supporting 80th Infantry Division. One platoon B Company attached to 4th Armored Division to work with 2nd Cavalry Group. Platoon reported to 2nd Cavalry Group at 1110 hours. B Company had one M-18 damaged by land mine. One M-18 drawn and issued to B Company.

12 October 44 Company C and one platoon Company B continued on missions. No other changes. Company C knocked out one observation post. Physical inspection of all enlisted personnel made by Battalion Surgeon. Movie shown for Battalion.

13 October 44 Company B knocked out one MARK IV Tank. No other changes.

14 October 44 One platoon Reconnaissance Company, A Company, B Company, less one platoon, moved into positions vicinity MAZERULLES and ERBEVILLER, respectively, at about 1800 hours, prepared to meet a possible tank attack from vicinity of CHATEAU-SALINS and CHAMBREY. Company C moved from front lines to assembly position in vicinity of LANDREMONT.

15 October 44 Company A and Company B, less one platoon, received missions of supporting field artillery units in firing missions. Liaison made with field artillery as to administrative and supply details and also selected gun positions. No other changes.

16 October 44 Company A, working with 738th Field Artillery Battalion, occupied firing positions vicinity of MAZERULLES. Company B, working with 273rd Field Artillery Battalion, occupied positions vicinity ATHIENVILLE. Both companies registered on check points and were prepared to fire concentrations by 1700 hours. No other changes. Colonel BERRY visited Battalion Command Post from 1500 to 1530 hours.

17 October 44 No Changes.

18 October 44 B Company knocked out one observation post. No other changes. Eleven replacements and one casual received.

19 October 44 A and B Companies continued on missions, registering in on base points, firing harassing and interdiction fire vicinity CHATEAU-SALINS. No other changes.

20 October 44 A and B companies continued on missions. Same type firing as previous day. No other changes. Major General EDDY visited Battalion Command Post at 1530 hours, making presentations as follows: Silver Stars to Captain WALTER D. HART, S/Sgt. OTHA H. SHANNON, Sgt. PHILIP BONELLI and Pvt. MAX ROBOTNICK; the Bronze Star Medal to Sgt. JAMES WINNEY; and the Soldier's Medal to Sgt. JAMES B. MCCARTHY.

21 October 44 A and B Companies continued on missions, firing at same type targets. No other changes.

22 October 44 A and B Companies continued on missions. Company A knocked out one anti-tank gun, and battery (4) of enemy guns.

23 October 44 A and B Companies continued on missions. Message of commendation received from Corps and Group Commanders.

24 October 44 No changes.

25 October 44 No changes in tactical dispositions or missions. Tentative plans made to withdraw C Company on 26 October 44 to assembly area vicinity of LANEUVELOTTE.

26 October 44 C Company moved from vicinity of LANDREMONT to vicinity of LANEUVELOTTE. Battalion made plans to move to vicinity of ANTHIENVILLE.



27 October 44 Battalion, less Headquarters Company, one platoon of Company B, and two platoons Reconnaissance Company, moved to vicinity of ATHIENVEILLE. Battalion, less one platoon of Company B, which is attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, attached to 26th Infantry Division. Company C, in support of Division Artillery, surveyed in preparation to fire at 1400. Harrassing and interditory firing missions assigned C Company. Effect unknown. Company A, in support of Division Artillery, did no firing. One platoon Company B, plus one section Reconnaissance Company, attached to 104th Infantry Regiment and 101st Infantry Regiment, respectively.

28 October 44 Company C continued on missions of harrassing and interditory firing. Company A surveyed in and fired first mission at 1830 hours. Company A destroyed one ammunition dump. Company C destroyed one operations post and three trucks.

29 October 44 Companies continued on missions. Company A knocked out one machine gun.

30 October 44 Company A relieved of field artillery mission at 1400 hours and will be held in reserve. No other changes. Major General PAUL, 26th Infantry Division Commander, visited Battalion Command Post at 1500 hours.

31 October 44 Company C lost one ¼ ton truck and one enlisted man slightly wounded by artillery fire. Company A and two platoons Reconnaissance Company alerted at 0530 hours. Taken off the alert at 0830. No other changes. Brigadier General ERNST, Colonel BERRY and Lt. Col. DARLING visited Battalion Command Post.

1 November 44 No changes.

2 November 44 Company C relieved from indirect fire missions with 101st FA Battalion and is in support of 104th Infantry Regiment. One platoon of Company B supporting 104th Infantry Regiment relieved and reverted to company control. All troops paid today for month of October, 1944.

3 November 44 Company A remained under Battalion control. One platoon Company B attached to 101st Infantry Regiment, remainder of Company attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. Company C, less one section, attached to 104th Infantry Regiment. One section Company C attached to Headquarters Company, 26th Infantry Division.

4 November 44 Plans made for future operations. Contact made with following attached units: 761st Tank Battalion, Company K, 101st Infantry Regiment, and one platoon Company C, 101st Engineer Battalion. Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon attached to Company B, moved from vicinity of LANEUVELLOTTE, France to vicinity of ATHIENVEILLE, France.

5 November 44 No changes in disposition of companies. Continued in making plans for future operations.

6 November 44 No changes in disposition of companies. Unit attached to 26th Infantry Division for administration. Plans made to move personnel section to division rear echelon.

8 November 44 Commanders rebriefed on future operations. Company C relieved from attachment to 6th Cavalry Group and reverted to Battalion control. One platoon of Company B and one platoon of Company A supporting 104th Infantry Regiment and 1700 hours.

9 November 44 Task Force A, commanded by Lt. Col. KOPCSAK, and consisting of 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, less Company B and one platoon of Company A, plus 761st Tank Battalion, less Company A, plus Company K, 101st Infantry Regiment, and one platoon of Company C, 101st Engineer Battalion, moved from vicinity of ATHIENVILLE, France at 0630 hours and advanced to just west of MORVILLE, France, encountering heavy resistance, particularly artillery and mortar fire. Lt. Col. KOPCSAK wounded at about 1500 hours and Lt. Col. HUNT assumed command of Task Force. Major CONLIN assumed command of 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. The Task Force withdrew to the vicinity of VIC SUR SEILLE, France at 1700 hours. Reconnaissance Company captured seven prisoners and lost one ¼ ton truck.

10 November 44 CCA, composed of 761st Tank Battalion (less) and Company A, 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion remained in division reserve. CCB, composed of Company C, 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, plus Company C 761st Tank Battalion, attached to 101st Infantry Regiment. Company A knocked out two machine guns and captured eight prisoners.

11 November 44 No changes.

12 November 44 One platoon Company A attached to 328th Infantry Regiment. Remainder of Company A attached to CCB. Two platoons Company B remained attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. One platoon Company B remained attached to 104th Infantry Regiment. Two platoons Company C attached to CCA. One platoon Company C attached to 328th Infantry Regiment.

13 November 44 Company A attached to 101st FA Battalion for indirect fire. Registered in and prepared to fire at 1630 hours. Knocked out one observation post. Company B knocked out one MARK V and one MARK VI tank, one 88mm gun, one personnel carrier and killed 25 personnel. Company B lost one M-18.

14 November 44 Task Force A, 26th Infantry Division, dissolved. Company B knocked out one armored car. Company C knocked out two pillboxes and killed 20 personnel.

15 November 44 Battalion Command Post, Reconnaissance Company, less two platoons, and Company C moved to vicinity of OBRECK, France. Company A, less one platoon, remained in vicinity of VIC SUR SEILLE, France attached to 101st FA Battalion.

16 November 44 No changes.

17 November 44 One platoon Company A attached to 2nd Cavalry Group, one section attached to 26th Infantry Division Headquarters, one section attached to 26th Infantry Division Reconnaissance Troop, one platoon in reserve. Company B attached to 101st Infantry Regiment. Company C attached to 104th Infantry Regiment. Battalion reorganized under T/O & E 18-25, dated 15 March 1944, with two changes.

18 November 44 Company B lost one half track by a mine. No other changes.



19 November 44 Company A knocked out two observation posts, one anti-tank gun and captured three prisoners. Company B fired at two tanks at range of 2300 yards. Results ineffective. Brigadier General ERNST visited Command Post at 1600 hours.

20 November 44 No changes. All companies continued supporting advancing infantry elements.

21 November 44 Company B relieved from attachment to 101st Infantry Regiment and attached to 328th Infantry Regiment. Preliminary plans made to move Battalion Command Post to MARIMONT, France.

22 November 44 Battalion Command Post, Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon, and one platoon Company A, moved from OBRECK, France to MARIMONT, France. One platoon Company A relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group and reverted to Battalion control.

23 November 44 No changes. Tentative plans made to assemble Battalion under control of 9th Tank Destroyer Group upon release from attachment to 26th Infantry.

24 November 44 No changes.

25 November 44 Battalion Command Post plus Reconnaissance Company, less two platoons, moved from MARIMONT, France to ZURBELING, France. Company C relieved from attachment to 101st Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. Company A less one platoon, attached to 104th Infantry Regiment.

26 November 24 Company A knocked out one anti-tank gun, one observation post, two machine guns and one half track, captured one prisoner and killed three personnel. Company C moved to LIDREZING, France.

27 November 44 Company C attached to 6th Cavalry Group and moved to vicinity of NANCY, France. Company B, plus one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, attached to 2nd Cavalry Group. Remainder of Battalion attached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group.

28 November 44 Battalion Command Post plus Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon, moved from ZARBELLING, France to FRANCAITROFF, France. Company A moved to VIRMING, France. Instructions received from 9th Tank Destroyer Group to make reconnaissance of areas to the north northeast, and northwest of FRANCAITROFF, France for possible Tank Destroyer defensive positions.

29 November 44 Reconnaissance made of gun positions for defense of Corps Sector and plans submitted to 9th Tank Destroyer Group.

30 November 44 Battalion, less Company C, Company B, and one platoon of Reconnaissance Company, relieved from attachment to 9th Tank Destroyer Group and attached to 26th Infantry Division.

1 December 44 Battalion Command Post and Reconnaissance Company, less one platoon, moved from FRANCAITROFF, France to LOHR, France. Company A plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company attached to 101st Infantry Regiment and moved to vicinity of BURBACH, France. Company A, plus one platoon Reconnaissance Company, relieved from attachment to 2nd Cavalry Group and reverted to Battalion control. All troops paid for month of November, 1944.

2 December 44 Company B attached to 104th Infantry Regiment. No changes in rest of the Battalion.

3 December 44 Company A lost one M-18, and knocked out two mortars and one observation post. One platoon of Company B attached to 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Infantry Division.

4 December 44 No changes. Company A and B continued to support 101st, 104th, and 328th Infantry Regiments.

5 December 44 Companies A and B continued to support Infantry Regiments. Captain THARP visited Company C, now attached to 6th Cavalry Group, and working on right flank of XX Corps. Company C has knocked out two mortars and two observation posts. Company A lost an M-18 to a mine.

6 December 44 Battalion Command Post, Reconnaissance Company, moved from LOHR, France to VIOLIENEUEVE, France. The 3rd platoon of Reconnaissance Company relieved and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company in attachment to Company B. Company B killed one sniper. Company A lost one M-18 by mine.

7 December 44 Company A relieved from attachment to 101st Infantry Regiment and attached to 328th Infantry Regiment. One platoon Company B relieved from attachment 328th Infantry Regiment and attached to 104th Infantry Regiment. Reconnaissance Company lost  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton truck. Company B neutralized one pillbox. Battalion less Company C, attached to 9th Tank Destroyer Group and Group attached to 26th Infantry Division. No changes made in tactical disposition of Companies A and B.

8 December 44 Company A and B continued to support attacking Infantry Regiments. Company B fired at pillboxes and knocked out two, vicinity of ACHEN, France. Rear echelon moved from OBRECK, France to ALTWILLER, France.

9 December 44 One section Company A attached to Division Headquarters to guard Division Command Post. One platoon Company B attached to 26th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troops. Remainder of Companies A and B continued in direct support of advancing infantry.

10 December 44 Companies A and B engaged in tank battle north east of ACHEN, France. Companies A and B each knocked out one tank. Company B lost one M-18 by 88mm gun at estimated range of 5000 yards.

11 December 44 Company B, less one platoon attached to 26th Reconnaissance Troop, relieved from attachment to 104th Infantry Regiment and supporting 346th Infantry Regiment of 87th Infantry Division. Company B neutralized one pillbox and knocked out one tank and damaged one tank.

12 December 44 No changes. Companies A and B continued to support advance of infantry. Companies A and B fired at tanks at ranges of about 3000 yards and hits were scored, but not effective.

13 December 44 Company A knocked out two tanks. Company B continued in support of Infantry Regiments. Battalion Command Post moved from VILLENEUEVE, France to KALHAUSEN, France.



14 December 44 Company B relieved from attachment to 346th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. No other changes in tactical positions of companies. Lt. CHESTER J. H. RANGES and Lt. CARL E. McPROUD, Headquarters Company, were transferred to Companies A and C respectively, and assumed primary duties as executive officers.

15 December 44 Company A relieved from attachment to 345th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. Company B and Reconnaissance Company moved to CONTHILL, France and ZARBELLING, France, respectively.

16 December 44 Battalion Command Post, plus Company A moved to ZARBELLING, France and LIDREZING, France, respectively. Company Commanders meeting held at 1400 hours. Importance of motor maintenance was stressed. Captain THARP visited Company C and reported that they had destroyed two locomotives 15 December 1944 and one on 16 December, 1944.

17 December 44 All companies, except Company C, in rest area. Companies worked on maintenance of vehicles and arms. Picture show held at Battalion Command Post for 100 men.

18 December 44 Companies completed major items of maintenance. Three truckloads of men sent to NANCY, France on eight hour pass. Battalion surgeon reported completion of typhus booster shots in Headquarters, Reconnaissance, B and C Companies. Captain MOTLEY left on detached service to assume duties of Assistant A.T.O., XII Corps. Lt. CAGE assumed duties of Battalion S-1, Lt. CROUCH assumed duties of Battalion Communications Officer, in addition to his other duties. One quarter ton truck and half-tracks issued by ordnance in accordance with new T/E.

19 December 44 Companies continued maintenance. Three more truckloads of men sent on eight hour pass to NANCY, France. Catholic Services held at 1600 hours in CONTHILL, France.

20 December 44 Companies continued maintenance. Three more truckloads of men sent on eight hour pass to Nancy, France. At 1800 hours, Battalion received warning order for immediate movement. Battalion (less C) attached to VIII Corps upon arrival in new zone. Left ZARBELLING, France at 2300 hours.

21 December 44 Battalion (less C) arrived NEUFCHATEAU, Belgium (Map of Belgium-Arlons-P 3440) at 1300 hours. Total distance traveled 150 miles. Four Tank Destroyers damaged through accidents enroute. Company A arrived with eight effective destroyers; Company B with six. Companies were immediately committed to assist engineers in covering road blocks. Company A and Reconnaissance Company set up Command Post at NEUFCHATEAU, Belgium, Company B at RECOGNE, Belgium P 2949. First platoon Reconnaissance Company went with Company A; 2nd and 3rd platoons performed reconnaissance missions for Corps. Second platoon Reconnaissance Company attached to Company B. All positions held through the night.

22 December 44 Corps Headquarters withdrew and left Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division, in charge of sector. Many stragglers were hastily thrown into defensive positions, but the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion was the only intact combat organization on the entire Corps front. First platoon Company A knocked out two trucks, one half-track and one tank. American equipment manned by Germans. Estimated 30 Germans killed. Two men wounded in 1st platoon. Captain HART took control of an abandoned U S Supply Dump - equipment estimated value at \$200,000 was still in good condition. Company A withdrew to vicinity NEUFCHATEAU, Belgium when balance of 28th Infantry Division defense elements moved back. Stragglers moved through our positions all night.

24 December 44 Contact reestablished with 4th Armored Division. Battalion (less B and C) attached to 28th Infantry Division. Company B attached to 7th Tank Destroyer Group. However, our Battalion continued to handle administrative and supply for all units. Third platoon Reconnaissance Company encountered eight man enemy patrol in STE. MARIE, Belgium. Killed and wounded several, dispersed the rest. Second platoon Reconnaissance Company encountered two ¼ ton trucks manned by six Germans. Killed one German, captured the ¼ ton truck at VAUX LES ROSIERS, Belgium and kept them under observation till dark. Battalion motor officer secured four M-18s to aid in defense of the area.

25 December 44 Vigorous reconnaissance continued. Second platoon, Reconnaissance, killed five Germans, wounded five, and dispersed 10 others at road block near HATRIVAL. Company C (still with 6th Cavalry Group) passed through our area and set up Command Post near B Company. Two planes over Company B position at 2255 dropped one bomb - no damage.

26 December 44 Reconnaissances continued. Considerable enemy air activity noted during day. At 1610 hours, four enemy planes dropped one bomb each on B Company. Killed 1st Lt. WHEATON, S/Sgt. WILLIAMS, Pfc. KISNER; wounded and evacuated to Battalion aid station Sgt. KOVITCH, Tec. 5 BYERS, Pylts. COX and HELLEBRAND. Friendly troops 9th Armored moved up through our positions during the night. Company B captured one prisoner of war.

27 December 44 NEUFCHATEAU bombed at 0830 and 1205. Eight bombs in all. Command Post moved to cellar. Reconnaissance Command Post moved to HAMPIRE. Company A Command Post moved to OFFAIGN. Lt. HUTCHINSON, Company C, got one armored car, two machine guns, one truck, five prisoners of war and killed 60 enemy personnel.

28 December 44 All elements continued defenses of NEUFCHATEAU and LIBRAMONT.

29 December 44 Battalion (less C Company) attached to 11th Armored Division. Company A and 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company to work with CCB. Company B and 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company to work with CCA.

30 December 44 Eleventh Armored Division attacked at 0730 and met stiff resistance. Our companies received some shelling; four men in Company A were wounded, one seriously; three men from Company B sent to Battalion Aid Station to be treated for shell shock.

31 December 44 Attack continued. It became apparent that our attack had run into a German thrust to cut off BASTOGNE again. Bombs from enemy planes fell on NEUFCHATEAU exactly at midnight as the new year began.

1 January 45 Company A with 1st platoon Reconnaissance Company continued support of CCB of 11th Armored Division; Company B with 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company continued support of CCA. No ground lost but gains were small.

2nd January 45 No changes in missions. Enemy resistance was heavy. Lt. KING replaced Lt. CROUCH as Liaison Officer at Division.

3 January 45 CCB pulled back to re-group; CCA held positions with no attempt to resume attack. Tank Destroyer companies remained in positions.

4 January 45 Company A with 1st platoon Reconnaissance Company was sent to aid 101st Airborne in BASTOGNE to meet counter-attack; however, the situation was under control and the destroyers were held in reserve. The 101st Commander allowed Company A to withdraw one destroyer per platoon to put on new tracks. Battalion Command Post moved to VAUX-LES-ROSIERES.



5 January 45 Company A with 1st platoon Reconnaissance Company sent to aid 17th Airborne Division. No change in attachment to 11th Armored Division. Use of Company A authorized by VCG of VIII Corps.

6 January 45 No change in disposition. Personnel section moved to ETALLE with 11th Armored Division Administrative Echelon. Lts. BUSH and HEARN joined Battalion and were assigned to B and A Company respectively. However, they are being put in the opposite companies for their indoctrination.

7 January 45 No change in Company B. Company A supported 513th Regiment of 17th Airborne Division in an attack to the northeast. Lost one destroyer, damaged by artillery; five men wounded and evacuated; one man sent to Battalion aid station. One jeep received direct hit from artillery and was destroyed. One tank destroyer was sent to company rear echelon for lack of a crew to man it.

8 January 45 Company A knocked out one tank definitely; two probables awaiting confirmation. 513th Regiment was taken out of line and replaced by the 507th. Company A was "loaned" to the new regiment and continued in the line with no rest. Company B was moved from its position in reserve alert status and was committed with CCA, 11th Armored Division in support of attack by 17th Airborne Division.

9 January 45 First platoon of Reconnaissance Company was relieved by 3rd platoon. The two platoons made a 100% exchange of radios in order that the 3rd platoon could work on the Company A channel. Company A got one more tank and one of the probables was confirmed, making three in two days. Written order was not received, but at 1400 hours word was received from Corps A.T.C. that the Battalion (less Company C) was attached to the 17th Airborne Division. Company A remained with the 507th; Company B went to 193rd Regiment. Regimental missions were defensive.

10 January 45 Company A knocked out one tank. All missions continued to be defensive. Personnel section moved back to IZEL. Battalion attached to Corps for administration.

11 January 45 Missions continued defensive. Company A moved from front lines positions to mobile reserve a few hundred yards back. Two crews from Company A relieved two M-10 crews of 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The 17th Airborne Division relieved crews on the 14 towed guns of 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Composite company from 811th Battalion closed at 1800 hours vicinity JUSERET. Company to be under control of 602nd Battalion Commander. Strength of company, including attached Reconnaissance platoon; Seven officers, 96 enlisted men. Five M-18s closed on time, three more fall-outs expected to close later. Lt. Col. BROWN of 7th Tank Destroyer Group conferred with 17th Airborne Division Chief of Staff and arranged for the Tank Destroyer elements to operate under Battalion control rather than under the infantry commanders. Plans for the anti-tank defense of the 17th Airborne Division's zone were submitted to Division at 1900 hours.

12 January 45 Six enlisted men returned to duty; 19 reinforcements received from 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Word was received at noon that the Battalion was attached to the 11th Armored again. Three hours later, the order was countermanded. Company B had four guns with 513th and six with 193rd; Company A had six guns with 507th. Company from 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion detached and sent to 11th Armored Division. All elements prepared to attack the following morning.

13 January 45 Nineteen enlisted reinforcements received on previous day were dropped from strength and turned over to 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Attack jumped off with 507th and 194th abreast. Company A used second platoon to fill up first and third and furnished one platoon to each Regiment. Company B remained in reserve, prepared to operate with 193rd and 513th who followed the attacking elements. Five RTDs received.

14 January 45 At 0200 hours, Company B was ordered to move from left flank to right flank of Division, to arrive before 0800. Enroute, two destroyers were lost to American mines which had been removed from the road but were left on the shoulders with the fuses installed. One man was evacuated to Battalion Aid Station. One more destroyer from Company B was lost when a track broke from excessive wear and age. One Company A man was killed in a grenade accident. Battalion assembled on Corps order at 1400 hours and again was attached to the 11th Armored. Company A attached to CCB and Company B attached to CCA.

15 January 45 Companies continued close support of combat commands of 11th Armored Division in attack toward HOUFFALIZE. Company B knocked out two anti-tank guns and took three prisoners.

16 January 45 Attack continued successfully and reached HOUFFALIZE. At 2000 hours, Liaison Officer reported with Division plan. CCA and CCB are to be withdrawn for rest and maintenance. CCR is to be put on the line and our two companies are to be attached to CCR without rest and without maintenance. Three men from A Company were evacuated for battle fatigue and one man was injured and evacuated.

17 January 45 Company A and Company B moved into position with CCR between BOURCY and HARDIGNY. Company B took eight prisoners. Lt. WHITMAN and Lt. KING left for VITRY-LE-FRANCOIS to pick up duffel bags for casualties. Companies were ordered by CCR to dig in their destroyers. Battalion CO and Company Commanders objected but complied.

18 January 45 Defensive mission continued, Billeting party sent to select new Command Post location.

19 January 45 Battalion Command Post moved to vicinity BASTOGNE, P5459. Reconnaissance Command Post, 1st platoon, and Pioneer platoon moved to vicinity MAGEROTTE, P4555.

20 January 45 Defensive mission continued. Companies were notified that they would revert to control of CCA and CCB when they attacked the next day.

21 January 45 Division attack met little resistance. Objective was reached. Companies moved forward with Combat Commands.

22 January 45 The 11th Armored Division was pinched off and pulled out of line. Companies reverted to Battalion control and assembled. Company A vicinity MORHET, Company B vicinity BASTOGNE. Division refused quotas for passes to PARIS for all units until tactical situation was cleared up.

23 January 45 On Division order, Company A was moved to HEMROULLE and Reconnaissance to SAVY, the two nearest towns to Battalion Command Post. All Battalion elements except Headquarters and C are now in same general area. The 7th Tank Destroyer Group gave its pass quota to this unit. Division Chief of Staff approved and two officers and five enlisted men were sent to PARIS on three day pass.



24 January 45 Companies rested troops and continued maintenance. Twenty enlisted men from each Gun Company and 10 from Reconnaissance Company were sent to Headquarters Company for 24 hour rest and recreation. Picture shows and entertainment were arranged by Captain James.

25 January 45 Rest and maintenance continued. More men sent to Headquarters Company for show and entertainment.

26 January 45 No change. Rest period continued. Six men returned to duty.

27 January 45 Lt. SCHOTTMAN assigned and joined and was sent to Company B. Contrary to original plan, Lt. HEARNE was assigned to Company B and Lt. BUSH assigned to Company A, since both officers had proved entirely satisfactory in all respects and both were pleased with their current assignments. Captain COULSTON visited Company C and brought back an impressive report of their operations, including three tanks, one SP 77mm gun, and approximately 100 personnel killed. Battalion (less C) attached to 87th Infantry Division at 1800.

28 January 45 Battalion Command Post moved to MALDANGE, Company A to MALDANGE, Company B to BEHO, and Reconnaissance Company to OURTHE. Company B put in support of 345th Infantry Regiment, leading assault wave of attack the next day. Headquarters Company reconnoitered for new area near HOUFFALIZE.

29 January 45 345th Infantry Regiment with Company B in support made progress east of ST. VITH. Company A moved up near ST. VITH, prepared to operate on call. At 2000 hours, plans were made by Division to send a Combat Team north into zone of 84th Division in order to outflank opposition in front of the 87th Division. Company A, without Reconnaissance platoon, was made part of this Combat Team and moved to assembly area north of ST. VITH at midnight. Company B lost one jeep to a mine, no men were hurt.

30 January 45 Companies continued movement with 345th and 346th Regiments. Progress was extremely slow since no roads could be used until cleared of snow and mines by engineers. S/Sgt. BROWN, Company A, was killed by enemy artillery fire.

31 January 45 Movement of companies was still restricted by snow, mines, and lack of bridges across the OUR River.

1 February 45 Battalion Tactical Command Post moved forward to ATZERATH. Companies made minor changes in position but still were unable to cross the OUR River. Both companies were operating inside the German border.

2 February 45 No change in disposition. Battalion was notified that upon physical relief by 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion, we would revert to control of 11th Armored Division.

3 February 45 Company B relieved by one company of 607th Tank Destroyer Battalion and assembled vicinity ST. VITH. Company A, Rear Echelon and Company B, Rear Echelon, moved to new assembly area vicinity of HULDANGE, Luxembourg.

4 February 45 Battalion Command Post moved to DEYFELDT, Belgium. Company B closed in HULDANGE, Luxembourg at 1000 hours. At noon, Company B was alerted for movement with CCR of 11th Armored Division. Company B moved out at 1500 hours. At 1600, Company A closed in HULDANGE. Second platoon of Reconnaissance continues to operate with Company B; 1st platoon of Reconnaissance Company with Company A. Company B moved out with CCR at 1500 to vicinity of HECKHUSCHEID, Germany.

5 February 45 CCR attacked and took objective, the high ground on the rear edge of the SEIGFRED line. Company B received heavy artillery and rocket fire, but suffered no casualties.

6 February 45 New objective was assigned to CCR, but no advance was attempted because adjacent units had not advanced sufficiently.

7 February 45 No change in disposition.

8 February 45 Lt. ARNOLD returned to duty with Reconnaissance Company. Lt. MENARD, a new officer, joined the Battalion and was assigned to Company A. Three men returned to duty. Third platoon Reconnaissance Company replaced 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Company with Company B.

9 February 45 Captain THARP left to visit Company C. No change in disposition. Company B still receiving artillery fire but suffered no casualties.

10 February 45 Upon request of 7th Tank Destroyer Group, Lt. ARNOLD reconnoitered positions along the OUR River in the zone of the 11th Armored Division. Captain THARP reported Company C was in good shape, but had had no action recently.

11 February 45 No change in disposition. Two men from Company B slightly wounded by artillery fire.

12 February 45 No change in disposition.

13 February 45 Tec. 5 SHERDEL received a furlough of 30 days in U.S. The case was one of compassionate nature approved by Red Cross. VIII Corps G-1 made a special exception for this man and counted him in on the Corps Troops quota. Company A replaced Company B in the line with CCR. Company B with 3rd platoon Reconnaissance Company was alerted for movement but did not move out with Company A.

14 February 45 Red Cross girls with coffee and donuts visited Headquarters, Reconnaissance and Company B. "MUST" film on fraternization shown to Headquarters and Reconnaissance Company. One section of 1st platoon Reconnaissance Company went to Company A. With approval of CCR, Lt. OLIVER is keeping two platoons on the line and one in reserve at the Company Command Post.

15 February 45 No change in disposition.

16 February 45 No change in disposition.

17 February 45 No change in disposition.

18 February 45 Limited objective attack by CCR jumped off at 0900 hours. Advance positions were selected for destroyers, but attack moved so slowly that the platoons did not move at all. Catholic and Protestant Services held for Headquarters, Reconnaissance, and B Companies.



12 March 45 Battalion (less Companies B and C) left vicinity of BLEIALF at 0600 hours and arrived vicinity of DUELDORF at 1000. Total distance traveled, 45 miles. Battalion Command Post and Headquarters located in GINDORF, Reconnaissance at PICKLISSEIM, Company A at ORDORF. Companies B and C left their areas vicinity of KELBERG and closed in DUELDORF at 1400. Battalion attached to 89th Infantry Division upon arrival. Company A is to be attached to 353rd Infantry Regiment, Company B to 354th Infantry Regiment.

13 March 45 Company A moved with Regiment to BAD BERTRICH, 1st and 2nd Reconnaissance platoons went with Company A and B respectively. The rest of the Battalion moved to IMMERATH. Companies in the line met little resistance. Lt. WHITMAN and four enlisted men went on pass to PARIS.

14 March 45 No change in dispositions.

15 March 45 Battalion (less Company C) attached to 353rd Infantry Regiment; Company C attached to 354th Infantry Regiment. Plans made for crossing MOSELLE River. Main effort to be made by 353rd Infantry Regiment. Headquarters Company moved to DRIESCH.

16 March 45 Battalion Command Post moved to BUEREN. Also Reconnaissance Command Post, with Pioneer platoon, moved to BUEREN. Company A, with 1st platoon Reconnaissance Company, crossed MOSELLE to MERL. Company B, with 2nd platoon Reconnaissance, crossed MOSELLE to NEEF, and captured six prisoners. Company C, with 3rd platoon Reconnaissance Company, was attached to 355th Infantry Regiment, prepared to move with 11th Armored Division through zone of 89th Infantry Division.

17 March 45 Battalion Command Post moved to MERL. Company A moved out to the east, with 353rd, to MORITZHEIM. Battalion, less Companies A and C, was attached to 354th Infantry Regiment. Company C with 355th Infantry Regiment followed 11th Armored Division to attack to the east.

18 March 45 Battalion Command Post moved to RAVERSBUEREN (L6351), Company A to PANZWEILER (L6958), Company B, to GOSENROTH (L7043), Company C, to KERCHBURG (L7649). Resistance was negligible, weather was clear, roads were good, and progress was excellent.

19 March 45 Battalion, less Company C, attached to Division again with mission of protecting Division and Corps right flank. Headquarters Company moved to RAVERSBUEREN. Reconnaissance and Battalion moved to BUCHENBUREN (L6747), Company A to IMMENACH (L6147), Company B stayed in GOSENROTH, Company C moved to KIRN (L800). Total prisoners taken - 42. Company A took the two towns of BUEREN and IMMENACH. Pioneer platoon reduced two road blocks. At 2100 hours, Battalion received additional mission of protecting flank after crossing NAHE River.

20 March 45 Company B, with 2nd platoon Reconnaissance Platoon and Pioneer Platoon moved out at 0730 and by 1030 had crossed the river at FISCHBACH. Company A, with 1st and 3rd Reconnaissance platoons, moved out along a northern route parallel to Company B. Battalion, less Company C, by nightfall was in vicinity of MITTELREIDENBACH (WL7925). By 0800, Company C had crossed river at KIRN and by nightfall had reached LAUTERSHEIM (WM2610). This particular day proved to be the most successful in the history of the Battalion. No complete reports on Company C could be obtained but their progress carried them almost to the RHINE River. Company C took over 200 prisoners, Company B over 400 prisoners. The two companies cleared a half-dozen towns on the Division flank and made contact with the 16th Cavalry Squadron from the XX Corps, near FISCHBACH on the NAHE River.

20 March 45 (Cont'd) The Battalion suffered no casualties. Company B knocked out or overran one tank, four artillery pieces, four mortars, and 13 anti-tank guns.

21 March 45 Company C moved on to HORCHHEIN (WM4212), was detached from 355th Infantry Regiment, and assembled in place. Companies A and B took six more small towns in the area, but did not change their command posts. There were 133 more prisoners taken by Companies A, B and Reconnaissance, including seven officers. Headquarters Company moved from RAVERSBUREN to OBEREIDENBACH (WM8023). Company B captured three anti-tank guns and one mortar, Company C took 389 prisoners.

22 March 45 Companies performed maintenance and remained in place.

23 March 45 No change.

24 March 45 Battalion Command Post moved to BELTHEIM (L8067) and Companies A, B, and C, along with Reconnaissance, assembled in the same vicinity.

25 March 45 Company A attached to Task Force INGELL. Companies B and C attached to Task Force JOHNSON, prepared to exploit bridgehead across RHINE to be made at 260200.

26 March 45 Division crossings were successful but no bridge was put in. Both task forces went up through the 87th Infantry Division Area and crossed the RHINE at BOPPARD. They then cut south in rear of the 89th Division bridgehead and eased the pressure sufficiently that a bridge could be started. Task Force JOHNSON then headed east and went approximately 10 kilometers to STRUTH. Task Force INGELL ran into some opposition and rugged terrain and remained in the vicinity of KAUB.

27 March 45 Task Force JOHNSON moved to KEMEL, another 10 kilometers east, against only scattered resistance. Task Force INGELL was unable to advance beyond PRESBERG, some 8 kilometers east of the river. Captain HART was wounded and evacuated. Lt. BARTHOLD took over command of Company B. Company A killed 14 enemy enlisted men and one officer on a river boat and knocked out four flak guns.

28 March 45 Battalion Command Post, Reconnaissance Command Post, and Headquarters Company crossed RHINE and moved to DÖRSCHIED. B and C Companies, with Task Force Johnson advanced to BAD SCHWALBACH, some 25 kilometers east of the RHINE. Company A did not advance. Company C got one self-propelled MARK IV Tank. Company B got 5 flak guns, 11 trucks, four trailers, and took 107 enlisted prisoners and eight officer prisoners, including two Colonels. At 2000 hours, the two task forces, having completed their missions, were disbanded. A Company was attached to the 355th Infantry Regiment, B to the 354th Infantry Regiment, and Company C to the 353rd Infantry Regiment for the next day's operations.

29 March 45 Companies worked with their respective regiments in cleaning up the remaining pockets in the zone. Company C got six flak guns. Small groups of prisoners continued to surrender without a fight.

30 March 45 Battalion Command Post, Headquarters and Reconnaissance Companies, moved to KEMEL (M2074). Captain HART returned to duty. Mopping up operations continued satisfactorily.



31 March 45 Company B manned road blocks in 354th Infantry Regiment sector, but the area was quiet. All companies performed maintenance.

1 April 45 Companies continued maintenance as Division remained in Corps Reserve. A film was obtained from Division Special Service Officer and was shown in KEMEL for Headquarters, Reconnaissance and C Companies.

2 April 45 During the day the companies continued maintenance. At dark, Company A, with the 353rd Regiment and Company C with the 355th Infantry Regiment, moved out to concentration area vicinity of HERSFELD (H3955), road distance about 130 miles.

3 April 45 Company B with the 354th Regiment, moved up to concentration area. Division began relief of 90th and 65th Division elements. Battalion Command Post Reconnaissance, and Headquarters Companies, also moved up to vicinity of HERSFELD.

4 April 45 Company C, with 355th Regiment, moved to GOTHA (J0965) and was placed under operational control of the 4th Armored Division. Company B moved to ARCHFELD (H6974), Company A moved to UNTERELLEN (H7066), Battalion Command Post moved to WOLFTERODE (H5971).

5 April 45 Headquarters Company and Reconnaissance Company moved to WOLFTERODE. Captain GRAHAM, Lt. KING and 10 enlisted men left on 72 hour pass to PARIS. The Division encountered unexpected resistance in EISENACH and no appreciable gains were made. Company B took 10 prisoners, Reconnaissance Company took seven prisoners. Company A took 86 prisoners, knocked out one truck and nine machine guns. Company C took 50 prisoners and knocked out one anti-tank gun.

6 April 45 Company C with 355th Infantry Regiment were put back under control of 89th Division, but no substantial change in position occurred. Company A moved into and through EISENACH with the 353rd Regiment. Company B, with the 354th Regiment, made good progress on Division north flank, holding ground until relieved by XX Corps elements.

7 April 45 All division elements moved generally south to prepare for advance to southeast. Battalion Command Post did not move, but was prepared to move on Division order.

8 April 45 Headquarters, Reconnaissance and Battalion Command Post moved to WAHLWINKEL (J0159). A and B Companies moved with their respective Regiments to the general area of FRIEDRICHRODA. Company A over-ran and destroyed a MARK IV tank. Company C continued to screen the front lines around OHRDRUF.

9 April 45 All elements of the Division continued mopping up in Zone and prepared for resumption of the attack to the East.

10 April 45 Company A, with 353rd Regiment, remained in Division Reserve. C Company, with 355th Regiment, made excellent progress and occupied ARNSTADT (J2653). B Company, with 354th Regiment, on Division right, met moderate resistance and was several kilometers back of the 355th Regiment line. B Company Command Post in OHRDRUF (J1152). B Company had one tank destroyer and one jeep damaged by artillery.

11 April 45 C Company advanced as far as TONNDORF (J4460) against light opposition. B Company moved up to MARLISHAUSEN (J3152). 354th Infantry Regiment continued to meet the heavier opposition in its sector. Reconnaissance and Battalion Command Post moved to HOLZHAUSEN (J2155). Captain ALDREDGE and four enlisted men received seven day furloughs to RIVIERA. Task Force Crater was formed, made up of Company A of the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company A of the 707th Tank Battalion, a Battalion of Infantry and a company of the 314th Engineers. Battalion captured a total of 28 prisoners. Task Force assembled about 2200 in the vicinity of REICHHEIM (J3859), prepared to advance on Division order to seize bridges over the SALLE River.

12 April 45 C Company, with 355th Infantry Regiment, occupied BAD BERKA (J4961). The 353rd Infantry Regiment (less one battalion) relieved the 354th Infantry Regiment in its sector. Company B was relieved from 354th Regiment and was attached to the 353rd. Company A, attached to Task Force Crater, continued in Division Reserve.

13 April 45 Task Force Crater was committed and by 0800, A Company was up to the SAALE River. Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance, and Battalion Command Post moved to GUTENDORF (J4464). Company C reached GUMPERDA (J6752). B Company reached NECKERODA (J5352). No serious opposition encountered. McPEEK dies of wounds received in action same day. Battalion completed first month with 89th Infantry Division and sustained only 10 battle casualties, including one killed.

14 April 45 Task Force Crater was dissolved, and A Company remained in place. B Company advanced to EICHENBERG (J6750). Company C moved up to TROBNITZ (J8156). At 1700, a field order was received from Division, directing the commitment of all three regiments. Companies reverted to normal attachments. A Company with 353rd on the right flank, B Company with the 354th in the center, and C Company with the 355th on the left.

15 April 45 Battalion Command Post and Reconnaissance Company moved to GROSS-BAKEDRA (J7656). Company A stopped at TRIPTIS (J9145). B and C Companies both located their Command Posts in MÜNCHEN-BERNSDORF (J9555), which was near enough to the regimental boundaries to be utilized by both companies.

16 April 45 Battalion Command Post, Headquarters and Reconnaissance Companies moved to KOFELN (K0353). The companies continued their advance against very light resistance. A Company to LANGEN (K0840), B Company to WEIDA (K0450), C Company to LINDA (K1455). Picture show was held for Headquarters and Reconnaissance Companies.

17 April 45 C Company, with 355th Infantry Regiment, attacked ZWICKAU (K3646), which had refused terms of surrender. Lt. KILBORN's Reconnaissance platoon with the aid of an escaped British prisoner of war, made a bold dash through the streets of the town. Although all avenues of approach were defended by German riflemen and bazooka teams, the platoon's speed enabled them to reach and secure a vital bridge over the MULDE River. While the platoon was dismounted, trying to cut demolition wires and secure the bridge, they were subjected to rifle and machine gun fire. One man was wounded and Pfc. EARL STEVENS was killed. Stevens, only three days earlier, had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic action in saving two of his wounded comrades shortly after the RHINE crossing. B Company also secured bridges across the MULDE River farther south in the zone of the 354th Infantry Regiment. A Company, with the 353rd, advanced to the Corps restraining line in the south of Division's Sector.



18 April 45 Reconnaissance Company was assembled and placed directly under Corps control to perform such missions as Corps might assign. Headquarters and Reconnaissance Command Post moved to ZWICKAU (K3644). C Company also in ZWICKAU, was at K3646. B Company at EBERSBRUNN (K3238). A Company was at OBERHEINSDORF (K2835). Higher headquarters indicated that a brief breathing spell could be expected, so all companies began maintenance periods.

19 April 45 Reconnaissance Company received a mission of protecting the Corps Command Post near ZEULENRODA (K0036). Other companies continued maintenance. More than two dozen Bronze Star Medals were awarded to officers and men of the Battalion. In almost every instance, the ribbons and citations had been previously presented, but the actual medals had not been available until recently. Picture show was held in Battalion Command Post building for Headquarters and C Companies.

20 April 45 Maintenance continued. Picture show was repeated in the afternoon for members of A and B Companies. Lt. Colonel CONLIN attended Unit Commanders meeting at Division Headquarters. (Report of meeting included in Historical Report).

21 April 45 Companies continued maintenance. C Company had two platoons on the line and one in reserve. Company B also had two on the line and one in reserve. A picture show was held in the Company C area in the afternoon and again at night at Battalion Command Post. A report came in during the afternoon that Russian prisoners in Zwickau had been fired on by SS men in civilian clothes. Three destroyers which were at Battalion Motor Shop, and several armored cars were sent out to find the trouble. It proved to be a case of the armed German civilian guards firing on the Russians. Nothing serious developed. Company B moved to VIELAU (K3942).

22 April 45 Maintenance was continued. Picture shows were held for members of all companies. B Company reported one AT gun knocked out, three trucks destroyed, 22 enemy killed, and 70 prisoners taken during the week.

23 April 45 Maintenance continued. Good progress was noted in appearance of men and equipment. Virtually all the men had been able to take showers and most men had been able to get their clothes laundered. Eleven men returned to duty from hospitals and enlisted strength once again exceeded the 600 mark. VIII Corps passed to control of First Army, but no immediate effect was felt in Battalion affairs. Captain THARP and one enlisted man left on temporary duty with the Military Government. Lt. RANGES and Lt. PARNELL and eleven men left on pass to PARIS.

24 April 45 Reconnaissance Company continued its mission of guarding the Corps Command Post and was also able to perform maintenance on vehicles. Other companies also continued maintenance. Captain ALDREDGE and four enlisted men returned from RIVIERA. Captain HART assumed duties of Battalion S-2 and Lt. BARTHOLD assumed command of B Company. Battalion received official instructions on recognition of Soviet ground forces, but there were no reports of any contact.

25 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. A picture show was held in the afternoon. One platoon of B Company was part of a small task force which made an armored patrol to the east to locate and break up a suspected enemy troop concentration. Small groups of enemy were found but no important concentration was discovered. Our troops suffered no casualties, estimated five enemy killed, and knocked out one observation post.

26 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Picture show was held in the evening at Battalion Command Post.

27 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Battalion received quota of four Coca Colas per individual, except for a few men it was the first taste of Coca Cola since our arrival on the continent. Although only a small item, it added considerably to the morale of the men. A picture show was held at 1000 in the morning for B and C Companies and at 1400 for Company A. Another showing at 1900 was held for Headquarters Company. Troops assignment list was received, assigning 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion to First Army as of 22 April 1945.

28 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt. MILLS assumed duties of B Company executive. Company C moved to LICHTENSTEIN (K4541); the platoons, however, made no appreciable change in positions. Shows were held at Battalion Command Post in the afternoon and evening.

29 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Shows were held at Battalion Command Post in the afternoon and evening. Twenty-two prisoners of war surrendered to a messenger who was on a routine trip.

30 April 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Troops were paid, the stable situation permitting virtually all men to be paid promptly.

1 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt. RANGES and PARNELL, and eleven enlisted men returned from PARIS. Lt. MENARD returned from trip to VITRY to check on guards there. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

2 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

3 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. One platoon of Company B was put in a small task force with mission of breaking up enemy concentration in front of the 354th Regiment. Knocked out or neutralized one observation post. Estimated three enemy killed. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

4 May 45 Rest and maintenance continued. Lt. SABELLA and 15 men left on pass to BRUSSELS. Another Company B platoon was sent out in a small task force with substantially the same mission as on the previous day. Knocked out one machine gun, one observation post, killed or wounded approximately 20 enemy. Shows were held in the afternoon and evening.

5 May 45 News of the large scale German surrenders was received with pleasure but there was no tendency toward celebrations of any sort. It was apparent that the men would attach little significance to any such news unless they were convinced that the Germans in front of them had actually quit. This was regarded as a desirable reaction. Rest and maintenance continued and shows were held in the afternoon and evening.