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AFTER ACTION REPORT

712th Tank Bn

July 44 - Mar 45

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HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

AFB 308, U. S. Army
20 August 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

July 4

1. Transmitted herewith, After Action Report and supporting Journal submitted in compliance with Letter (file: 319.1/401 (c)), Headquarters First United States Army, 13 July 1944.

2. Delay in submission due to tactical situation.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Shelby
STANLEY W. SHELBY
2d Lt., Cavalry
Adjutant

2 Insl:

- 4*
1. War Diary (copies)
2. Operations Journal

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AFRICAN REPORT OF
TANK BATTALION
3 July 1944.

The Tank Battalion was committed to combat 3 July 1944. The Battalion, which was attached to the 90th Infantry Division and remained in Division until 5 July. Company A was attached to 82d Airborne Division.

3 July 1944

Assault Gun Platoon Company:

Assault Gun Platoon supported Company I, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division in attack on St. Jores. Its Second Section was knocked out of action by enemy fire. Its First Section engaged enemy Assault Gun and destroyed same after receiving direct hit on left track. The Third Section continued supporting Company I by laying down machine gun fire on enemy machine gun nests and mortar emplacements.

The Marder Platoon attacked with Company B, 712th Tank Battalion, supporting 1st Battalion 358th Infantry Regiment of 90th Infantry Division in its attack on suspected targets at La Feuverie (266-859). The cross roads (266-855) St. Jores (267-832) and rail road crossing (267-847). It took up position first near Fort Amy and awaited orders from Company B for time to engage targets. It laid smoke screens on cross roads (267-847) for three minutes, and later that day smoke was laid on St. Jores (267-852) for a period of three minutes.

Company A:

Company supporting 82d Airborne Division, contacted enemy near Les Meillers on Benfrais (258-918). 1st and 2d platoons on line, 3rd platoon in reserve. 1st platoon worked with 507th Infantry in close support, the infantry protecting its flanks and pointing out targets by signs and tracers. Each infantry soldier had 3 tracers for directing fire. Tanks over-ran many hedgerows and machine gun positions. HE and WP very effective.

2d platoon in support of 325th Infantry Regiment (Glider) moved 1800 yards beyond objective first day, the infantry protecting its flanks. It over-ran hedgerows and numerous machine gun positions, knocking out an 88 mm gun at range of 1800 yards. One tank lost through road mine.

Company B:

The Company supported the 358th Infantry Regiment in an attack on St. Jores, the 1st and 3rd platoons participating and the 2d platoon in reserve. The terrain was very bad for the maneuvering of tanks but the attack was successful and St. Jores was taken. Two tanks and seven men were lost due to enemy action.

Company C:

Company attached to 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. It supported the infantry in hedgerow fighting at St. Suzanne. Company maintenance half track knocked out by HE shell. All of crew, excepting two, evacuated. 105 mm Assault Gun slipped off road and threw a track. Assault Gun was used as 6th tank

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of 3rd platoon. Company Commander wounded by booby-trapped gate. Platoon Sergeant, 2d platoon, killed by sniper.

Company D:

The company, less the company rear echelon, moved with the Battalion, at 0545, to an area 300 yards Southwest of Franquetot, France and arrived at 0635. The company was in 90th Infantry Division Reserve. The 1st Platoon under 1st Lt. Eugene T. Godfrey moved to the vicinity 1000 yards Southeast of Pont Aunoy, France to support the 3rd Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment. This platoon with the Battalion assault gun platoon attacked with the Infantry during the afternoon. Two assault guns were lost and one enemy tank (Mark IV) was destroyed, and members of crews reported hits on enemy personnel. The Platoon rejoined the company at 2300. Approximately 100 rounds of 37 mm and 800 rounds of .30 cal. ammunition were fired. There were no casualties.

Service Company:

One recovery unit and crew, went forward to right a Company B tank that had that had turned over while riding parallel to a hedgerow. Mortar barrage damaged two 1/4 ton vehicles, one man received shrapnel wound in the leg, and was evacuated to the hospital. Vehicles which could be put into action against the enemy that were not in small arms fire, regardless of how close to front lines, were to be recovered at the earliest possible moment. It was decided that recovery of vehicles destroyed by fire was not worth the risk in lives involved.

4 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

3rd Section of Assault Gun Platoon supported Company B, 712th Tank Battalion in attack on St. Jores.

Company A:

1st Platoon in close support of final objective, held by infantry. Night attack launched past final objective following artillery and air bombardment.

2d Platoon in reserve; 3rd Platoon, with 325th Infantry Regiment, engaged in limited action, remaining generally in reserve.

Company B:

Company supported 358th Infantry Regiment in attack on, and capture of, La Belle Croix.

Company C:

2d Platoon supported infantry in attack on St. Jores and Pretot. 3rd Platoon supported infantry (2d Battalion, 359th), advancing two miles to within 1000 yards of Forêt du Mont Castre. 1st Platoon supported advance of 1st Infantry Battalion, (359th).

Company D:

The 1st Platoon returned to the area occupied the day before at 0530. This

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platoon attacked during the day with Infantry and was under heavy enemy artillery fire most of the day. It returned to the company assembly area at 2100 after firing a comparatively small amount of ammunition. One tank was towed in for maintenance, but there were no casualties.

5 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Third Section of the Assault Gun Platoon continued to support Company B. Mortar Platoon attached to an Infantry Mortar Platoon with an additional section of German 81 mm, which had been captured and was being put to use. The mortars were set in position 500 yards east of cross roads (266-855). One mission was carried out by firing on a cross road west of Le Belles Croix (261-844).

Company A:

Company moved to La Dauderie (231-873) 1/2 mile Southeast. 1st platoon knocked out one Anti-tank gun of approximately 40 mm HV. Close fighting in support of Infantry in heavy woods. Lay fire on enemy mortars and silenced same. Took up defensive position at night to protect against enemy counter-attack. Still with 507th (2d Battalion). Tanks set forward pace on that of the Infantry. Final objective Hill 121. Took hill by 1400. Went into defensive position. 1st section on left flank and 2d section on right flank. 2nd platoon in reserve.

3rd platoon supported Infantry North of Poterie. Poor liaison between tanks and Infantry. Area was heavily wooded. Fighting was at point blank range. Shelled town of Poterie. Knocked out church steeple used as OP. One tank temporarily immobilized by enemy 75 mm Anti-tank gun. Gun knocked out together with enemy bazooka man and machine gun nest. Tank later repaired and put back into action by crew. Silenced one or two 88 mm guns. Over-ran four or five machine gun nests. Enemy well dug in with network of tunnels and area stubbornly defended. Shelled heavy enemy pill-box and silenced same at 800 yards. Machine gun and 75 mm fire took heavy toll of enemy.

Company B:

Company supported the 357th Infantry Regiment in an attack on Beau Coudray. Three tanks lost due to bad terrain and one to enemy action. The tank-infantry tactics in hedgerow country completely changed.

Company C:

1st platoon supported advance of infantry toward Foret Du Mont Castre. 2d and 3rd platoon continued joint advance, reaching cross roads northwest of Foret Du Mont Castre. Two tanks were knocked out by enemy Anti-tank and bazooka fire. Both platoons withdrew 400 yards. One tank bogged down between the lines.

Company D:

The company, attached to the 359th Infantry Regiment, moved to an assembly area at (270-859). The company commander and platoon leaders spent most of the afternoon at the 3rd Battalion OP awaiting orders. The company remained in the assembly area during the night.

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6 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Company moved to new location in vicinity of La Febuerie. Mortar Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division and took up a position at (269-836). It received three missions to fire on a bridge and road in vicinity (265-821).

Company A:

1st platoon engaged in mopping up. It cleaned out three machine gun nests designated by Infantry. In evening F Company, 508th Infantry Regiment came up on flank of 507th and one section tanks plus 105 mm assault gun made night attack on enemy. Tanks later bogged down, but were retrieved. Platoon returned to assembly area late and re-fueled. Thought to have knocked out one 88 mm gun.

2nd platoon no activity.

3rd platoon no activity.

Company B:

Company engaged the enemy and drove three-quarters of a mile south of Beau Coudray, but due to the heavy action of the enemy the infantry was unable to hold the ground the tanks had secured.

Company C:

1st platoon attempted, without success, to carry supplies, including ammunition, on decks of its tanks to isolated infantry.

Company D:

The 3rd Platoon moved into an intermediate position at (267-850) and stood by until it was withdrawn to the company assembly area about 2000.

The 2d Platoon was attached to the 2d Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment and moved to an intermediate position at (250-840). It made no attack and withdrew to the company assembly area about 2200. The platoon leader's gunner was lightly wounded by enemy artillery and was evacuated.

The 3rd Platoon moved to the vicinity of (263-854) to post security for the 90th Division CP and remained there during the night.

7 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Mortar Platoon attached to 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division. It took up position at (265-835) to fire on enemy positions at Beau Coudray (264-826) along road and other targets of opportunity. During afternoon of 7th and night of 7th several rounds were fired.

Company B:

Remained with 90th Infantry Division supporting 357th Infantry Regiment's advance toward Le Plessis. Practically no resistance encountered.

Company G:

Remained with 90th Infantry Division. 3rd platoon supported infantry in resisting an enemy counter-attack west of Hill 122.

8 July 1944

Company D:

Company attached to 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. The Company, less the company rear echelon, moved to a company assembly area at 0400, (185-869), distance traveled 10 miles, arrived at 0515. It remained in the assembly area awaiting further orders. The 3rd Platoon moved out to protect the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment CP. This platoon returned after about two hours. Company moved at 1800 to (190-855) and took up position to support infantry against enemy counter-attack. The terrain was unsuitable for close tank support. Many snipers were encountered in this area.

9 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Held in reserve 8th Infantry Division. Mortar platoon rejoined company.

Company A:

Remained in reserve with 82d Airborne Division.

Company B:

One section of tanks each from 1st platoon and 3rd platoon with 357th Infantry Regiment attacked the enemy at Salmonnerie.

Company C:

1st and 3rd platoons held positions.

Company D:

The company pulled out of the area occupied during previous night and made a wide left hook to vicinity of (210-838) to support the 2d Battalion of 121st Infantry Regiment. The 3rd Platoon cleared up many enemy machine gun positions and several tank periscopes were shot out by enemy fire. The company returned at 2200 to an assembly area in the vicinity of (218-844).

10 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Company moved to new bivouac area (193-842) southeast of La Haye Du Puits.

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Company A:

Remained in reserve with 82d Airborne Division.

Company B:

Company used a bulldozer tank in cleaning out small enemy pockets. The Germans were dug in so deeply they were in some instances buried alive.

Company C:

1st and 3rd platoons continued to hold former positions.

Company D:

The 2d Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment continued to attack in the direction of Hill 112, and was supported by the 1st Platoon, while the 2d and 3rd Platoons were in reserve. 100 rounds of 37 mm and 4000 rounds of cal. .30 ammunition were expended. All platoons returned to assembly area at 2245.

11 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Remained in bivouac area in reserve.

Company A:

Released from 82d Airborne Division and assigned to 8th Infantry Division. Company moved 300 yards southeast of La Haye Du Puits. 3rd platoon caused enemy to withdraw over one mile, enabling infantry to advance without opposition. Hedge-rows were beat with HE and machine gun fire. 2d and 3rd platoons in reserve.

Company B:

Attacked with 359th Infantry Regiment, and drove to Seves River with little resistance.

Company C:

3rd platoon, holding former position, captured three German paratroopers.

1st platoon supported advance of 358th Infantry down forward slope of Hill 122. Entire platoon of four tanks was wiped out by enemy Anti-tank and bazooka fire. Platoon leader and four members of crews seriously wounded, six members killed, and six unaccounted for.

Company D:

The 3rd Platoon moved out early to support the 2d Battalion. The Platoon supported the Battalion's open right flank while the Battalion Commander requested the whole company to move up for support. While the company officers were at the Battalion CP, enemy artillery fell in the vicinity of two company peeps, injuring both drivers slightly. All platoons moved to vicinity of (205-835), but could give little

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support due to hedgerows. The 1st Battalion moved to attack Hill 112 around the left flank of the 2d Battalion. All platoons were withdrawn from the 2d Battalion to support the 1st, while moving on Hill 112. The 3rd Platoon was attached to the 2d Battalion, and supported its move to the crest of Hill 112 by close fire support. The 1st and 2d Platoons moved up to the position of the 3rd Platoon, and fired some .30 caliber ammunition. The company stood by in this position to support against enemy counter-attack. One tank of the 3rd Platoon damaged a sprocket during the day. The company withdrew to the company assembly area Southwest of Lithaire, France.

12 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

1st platoon in heavily wooded area. One tank knocked out by bazooka fire. Crew evacuated. 2d section was executing a right hook when tank was hit, practically no flank protection by infantry. Platoon fell back and made left hook, mopping up hedgerows and houses with 75 mm and machine gun fire. It moved 1/2 mile with infantry close behind. Stayed in orchard at night under heavy enemy fire.

2d platoon in direct support of 1st platoon.

3rd platoon in direct support fire on targets of opportunity.

Company B:

Relieved from 90th Infantry Division and rejoined Battalion.

Company C:

Rejoined Battalion reserve. Time devoted to maintenance and practice with infantry.

Company D:

The 1st and 3rd Platoons with a platoon of S.P.T.D's. moved to an area of (208-820), and stood by to support 1st Battalion as it moved toward Hill 92. About the middle of the afternoon the entire company moved forward to an assembly area at (225-815), and Hill 92 had been taken. The company spent the night in this area.

13 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Company moved to new bivouac area (244-833) west of Belle St. Croix.

Company A:

2d platoon relieved 1st platoon and supported 13th Regiment of 8th Division. Knocked out bazooka and machine nests. Knocked snipers out of trees with 75 mm fire. 105 mm Assault Gun active in support firing at targets of opportunity. Abandoned

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one tank mired down and under heavy fire. It was hit by bazooka, but not burned. It was later retrieved and back in use.

3rd platoon penetrated enemy lines without infantry support for a depth of over three miles. Found infantry wasn't following up so withdrew. On way back ran into enemy who had hooked in behind and planted mines. One tank knocked out by mines; another accounted for one Mark IV tank, one Renault tank, three motorcycles, knocked out or silenced one or two 75 mm Anti-tank guns, and killed from 50 to 100 enemy troops. One Mark IV tank got away but may have been hit. Platoon fought its way back to own lines safely, even though crippled by loss of one tank and one crippled.

1st platoon relieved 3rd platoon at night.

Company B:

Company in reserve.

Company C:

Company in reserve.

Company D:

The 2d Platoon moved to Hill 92 to support the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, and cleared several fields. The platoon stayed in this vicinity all afternoon. The 3rd Platoon supported the 2d and 3rd Battalions on the West slope of Hill 92. This platoon lost the Platoon Leader's tank and Gunner through artillery fire. The Gunner was evacuated. All platoons returned to the company assembly area. At about 2100, the company was instructed to clear the Regiment sector as another unit was moving in. The company moved to old area Southwest of Lithaire where instructions were received to join the Battalion at (243-835). The company closed into this area about 2400. The 3rd Platoon Leader's tank was evacuated by the company maintenance section. One tank, previously lost by the 2d platoon had, by this time, been recovered and returned to the company. The company was up to T/O strength on vehicles at this time.

14 July 1944

Battalion relieved from assignment to 8th Infantry Division and assigned to 90th Infantry Division.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

1st platoon knocked out two ammunition dumps of small arms. Close fighting early in morning with 8th Division. Returned to bivouac area before noon. Company in reserve with 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division.

Company B:

Company devoted time in practical work with 358th Infantry Regiment.

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Company C:

Company devoted time to practical work with infantry.

Company D:

The company was attached to the 2d Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division to help clear the Peninsula near Gorges, France. The company moved into intermediate position and awaited orders. No enemy resistance was encountered, but many prisoners were taken. One ^{Sgt} was accidentally killed when preparing to return to the Battalion area. The Battalion moved to an assembly area at (298-803).

15 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In Battalion reserve.

Company A:

Company moved to Vindefontaine (268-885). Company engaged in maintenance.

Company B:

Tactics of previous day again practiced with 357th Infantry Regiment.

Company C:

Tactics practiced with Infantry Regiment.

Company D:

Spent the day on maintenance and care of equipment.

Service Company:

One truck each from fuel and lube, and ammunition sections attached to the respective companies.

16-21 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

In reserve. Time devoted to maintenance.

Company B:

In reserve. Company reorganized.

Company C:

In reserve.

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Company D:

In reserve.

22 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Assault Gun Platoon fired indirect fire on targets in vicinity of Perriers.

Company A:

1st 2d and 3rd platoons in direct fire support on targets of opportunity in support of infantry attempt to take an island in vicinity of Bonfreville. One tank knocked out and burned by hit from 75 mm Anti-tank gun of high velocity.

2d platoon attempted to make crossing, but too much mud and too much concentrated enemy fire. Platoons spent night in position under all kinds and calibers of heavy enemy fire.

Company B:

Company used for indirect fire in support of 358th Infantry Regiment and 915th Field Artillery. Performed own surveying and operated fire direction center. Fired 5560 rounds of HE ammunition into Perriers and vicinity during period 22-26 July.

Company C:

In reserve.

Company D:

In reserve.

23 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

Support fire as on previous day. Enemy strongly entrenched and dug in. Much enemy artillery concentrated on tanks and infantry.

Company B:

Company used for indirect fire in support of 358th Infantry Regiment and 915th Field Artillery. Performed own surveying and operated fire direction center. Fired 5560 rounds of HE ammunition into Perriers and vicinity during period 22-26 July.

Company C:

In reserve.

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Company D:

In reserve.

24 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

In reserve with 358th Infantry Regiment.

Company B:

Company used for indirect fire in support of 358th Infantry Regiment and 915th Field Artillery. Performed own surveying and operated fire direction center. Fired 5560 rounds of HE ammunition into Perriers and vicinity during period 22-26 July.

Company C:

In reserve.

Company D:

In reserve.

25 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

Company moved to Perriers (271-731). In reserve as before.

Company B:

Company used for indirect fire in support of 358th Infantry Regiment and 915th Field Artillery. Performed own surveying and operated fire direction center. Fired 5560 rounds of HE ammunition into Perriers and vicinity during period 22-26 July.

Company C:

In reserve.

Company D:

In reserve. Company officers made reconnaissance for company assembly area at (275-775) at 0630 and stood by during the day.

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26 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

In reserve.

Company B:

Company used for indirect fire in support of 358th Infantry Regiment and 915th Field Artillery. Performed own surveying and operated fire direction center. Fired 5560 rounds of HE ammunition into Ferriers and vicinity during period 22-26 July.

Company C:

Attached to 357th Infantry Regiment at assembly area in vicinity of St. Eny.

Company D:

Company moved to new company assembly area at (275-775) at 0630 and stood by during the day.

27 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

In reserve.

Company B:

Company in support of 359th Infantry Regiment by direct fire on enemy positions along the Seves River but due to the low swampy ground and heavily mined positions the tanks withdrew to high ground. Four men and one tank were lost due to box type mine containing approximately 400 pounds of TNT.

Company C:

Attached to 357th Infantry Regiment at assembly area in vicinity of St. Eny.

Company D:

The company attached to 359th Infantry Regiment. Company moved to (270-746) at 1600. 1st platoon in support of 3rd Battalion, and 3rd platoon in support of 1st Battalion. The 1st platoon moved into Ferriers as the first armored units into the town. When five enemy tanks were seen one mile south of the town, the platoon stood by while a medium tank platoon in Company B placed fire on the enemy tanks. The 3rd platoon moved through Ferriers to (282-715). One section of this platoon with a section of medium tanks from Company B, and an infantry platoon made a left hook on the

enemy tank position. On this move, one tank leading the column struck a series of enemy mines and the tank was totally destroyed. The driver and the bow gunner were killed and the tank commander and the gunner were injured and evacuated. The 3rd platoon spent the night at (282-715). After the enemy tanks were destroyed, the 1st platoon withdrew to (275-725) and spent the night.

28 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

Company moved to St. Saveur L'Endlin (290-652) 3-3/4 miles Southeast. Reserve.

Company B:

Company supported the 359th Infantry Regiment in attack on Perriers. During the night the Germans withdrew. The second platoon engaged the enemy in a tank battle and was credited with destroying two German Mark V tanks.

Company C:

Company supported advance of 357th Infantry Regiment. One tank knocked out by enemy mine. Company returned to Battalion in vicinity of Perriers.

Company D:

The Infantry Battalions to which the Platoons were attached moved forward quickly, meeting no enemy resistance. The 1st Platoon moved to Perriers but could not rejoin the Infantry Battalion due to road restrictions. The 3rd Platoon moved to (269-640) to support the Infantry Battalion which had reached this point. The entire company and Tank Battalion assembled at (287-650) about 2200.

29-31 July 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

In reserve.

Company A:

In reserve. Maintenance of vehicles.

Company B:

On 29 July company attacked with 359th Infantry Regiment and enemy withdrew from Perriers to St. Saveur L'Endlin. Balance of period in reserve.

Company C:

In reserve. Maintenance of vehicles.

Company D:

In reserve. Maintenance of vehicles.

HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

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APD 308, U. S. Army
13 September 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

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

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report and supporting Journal submitted in compliance with letter (file: 319.1/401 (c)), Headquarters First United States Army, 13 July 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seeley
STANLEY W. SEELEY
2d Lt., Cavalry
Adjutant

- 3 Incl:
1-War Diary, Battalion (quadruplicate)
2-War Diary, Companies (quadruplicate)
3-Operations Journal

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HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

AGO 308, U. S. Army
1 September 1944

History of 712th Tank Battalion

The 712th Tank Battalion landed in France on 29 and 30 June 1944 and immediately after assembling was attached to the 90th Infantry Division (less Company A which initially was attached to the 82d Airborne Division). The battalion was committed on 2 July 1944 in the vicinity of St. Jores, with the two medium companies and the mortar platoon attached to infantry regiments, and the light tank company and assault gun platoon in reserve.

The battalion fought at St. Jores, Beau Coudray and Foret de Mont Castre, attached as indicated. On 8 July 1944 the battalion less Company B, was attached to the 8th Infantry Division for the attack on La Haye du Puits and South. Company B remained with the 90th Infantry Division, continuing the attack on Foret de Mont Castre. One platoon of Company C 712th Tank Battalion (Lt. Flower's platoon) was in such a position that they could not be relieved when the battalion went to the 8th Infantry Division, and eventually the platoon was lost through enemy action.

On 13 July 1944 the battalion was again assembled and reattached to the 90th Infantry Division, since that date the entire battalion has been attached and acted as a part of the 90th Infantry Division.

On the night of 1 August 1944 a task force composed of the 90th Reconnaissance Troop, Company D 712th Tank Battalion, and Assault Gun Platoon 712th Tank Battalion was organized, under the command of Lt. Col. George B. Randolph, Commanding Officer 712th Tank Battalion, and proceeded from St. Saviour de Lendelin, through Coutances and Avranches, to the vicinity of St. Hilaire to block the roads to the North and Northwest of St. Hilaire du Harcourt. This mission was accomplished by daylight, 2 August 1944 and the assembly area of the Division secured.

On 5 August 1944 the 712th Tank Battalion with 90th Reconnaissance Troop attached, spearheaded the move from St. Hilaire du Harcourt to Mayenne as part of Task Force Weaver. The move was made with great speed and allowed the Division to take Mayenne before the enemy had time to complete his demolition. This rapid and successful move was the beginning of the turning movement which formed the pocket in the vicinity of Chambois.

After holding Mayenne overnight orders were received to proceed through Aron to Le Mans. While the officers of the battalion were assembled and being briefed for the move, very destructive artillery and high velocity fire was received in the battalion area, and the report received of an infantry and tank attack moving toward that area from Aron. In spite of this the column was formed and moved out to meet the attack. The attack was stopped initially by the tanks of Company A 712th Tank Battalion, and Maj. Mason's Battalion, 357th Infantry proceeded to push the enemy back to the vicinity of Aron.

After developing the situation and pushing the enemy back the decision was made to move to Le Mans by way of Vaiges. This move was begun before dawn the next day, and by early afternoon the part of Task Force Weaver had reached Chammes.

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At this time the column was being led by Lt. Godfrey's platoon Company D, 712th Tank Battalion, with infantry mounted on the tanks. As the column was about to enter CHAMMES the leading tank was fired upon by machine guns and what appeared to be 20 mm anti-aircraft guns used as anti-tank weapons. The situation was developed by this platoon, and again Maj. Mason's battalion supported by tanks of 712th Tank Battalion, attacked and took the town and the column was formed up to continue on its mission but stray enemy resistance past the town was encountered and the decision was made to by pass this resistance and continue to Le Mans by another route. During this day three minor engagements were fought, in all cases the tanks of Company D, 712th Tank Battalion hit the resistance, developed it and finally pushed the enemy back. By this time the move had become a pursuit and a column of enemy vehicles several miles long was destroyed or caused to be abandoned. Just before dark Chalfour de Notre Dame was reached where the column was to join with another column of Task Force Weaver. At this point the leading element quickly took possession of the town and the column was closed up in the area. Patrols later contacted the other column of Task Force Weaver - the position was consolidated, and the next day Le Mans fell without resistance.

At Le Mans the entire division was assembled and moved on through Alencon and Sees to the vicinity of Nonant le Pin to complete the pocket. On this move the battalion moved to Division reserve, without fighting, except for Company D, which assisted in mop-up operations and reconnaissance.

After reaching the vicinity of Nonant le Pin the companies of the 712th Tank Battalion were attached to the infantry regiments of the Division. Company A was engaged with elements of the 359th and 358th Infantry in the attack on Le Bourg St. Leonard. In this engagement Company A suffered heavy losses but assisted very materially in stopping an enemy tank-infantry attack, and after the attack was stopped, in taking the town, thereby sealing a main route of escape from the pocket. After the pocket was sealed Company B and Company C participated in a very important manner in the reduction of the enemy in the pocket. On this action the 712th Tank Battalion was credited with the destruction of 620 vehicles including 50 tanks.

In the advance from St. Hilaire to Le Mans the aggressive action of the armor which was leading the column had a tremendous effect on the action and on the war. In the reduction of the pocket near Chambois the fire of the battalion had a very important part in the destruction of the enemy there, and in preventing his efforts to break out of the pocket.

George B. Randolph
GEORGE B. RANDOLPH
Lt. Col., Cavalry
Commanding

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AFTER ACTION REPORT OF
712TH TANK BATTALION
for August 1944

1 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Company in bivouac area 3-3/4 miles Southeast of St. Saveur Lendelin (290-652). Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered three routes from St. Saveur Lendelin to Gavry. Returned to area 2200. At 2300 platoon was given mission of setting up road blocks in vicinity of St. Hilaire. Assault Gun Platoon was attached to Company D and given mission of setting up road blocks in vicinity of Vanhecas. Mortar Platoon remained with Company.

COMPANY A:

Company in bivouac 3-3/4 miles Southeast of St. Saveur Lendelin.

COMPANY B:

Company in bivouac 3-3/4 miles Southeast of St. Saveur Lendelin. Maintenance of vehicles and rest.

COMPANY C:

Company in bivouac 3-3/4 miles Southeast of St. Saveur Lendelin.

COMPANY D:

Company in bivouac 3-3/4 miles Southeast of St. Saveur Lendelin. At 2330 alerted to move.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

In bivouac in vicinity of St. Saveur Lendelin.

2-3 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Company less Assault Gun Platoon and Reconnaissance Platoon moved from bivouac to Le Bourget, distance of 52 miles at 0100, 3 August, column attacked by enemy aircraft at Avranches. No casualties.

Reconnaissance Platoon attached to Task Force Randolph. No contact with enemy on 2 August. On 3 August it was given mission to maintain control with 1st Infantry Division along route St. Hilaire-Mortain. It captured 17 prisoners and killed two of enemy along route. Its second mission, with one platoon of light tanks, was to reconnoitre route from St. Hilaire to Buais. No enemy opposition encountered.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assault Gun Platoon on 2 August attached to Task Force Randolph. Supported 359th Infantry Regiment in attack on St. Hilaire which was captured at 1600. It remained attached 3 August.

COMPANY A:

2 August Company left bivouac area on march to Avranches. Bombed by enemy at latter place. No casualties. 3 August Company bivouaced at (425-076), GSGC France, 1/50,000.

COMPANY B:

3 August at 1030 left St. Saviour Lendelin, arriving at Le Bourget (59 miles). Encountered very little enemy opposition.

COMPANY C:

Marched to Avranches. Bombed enroute. No damage.

COMPANY D:

2 August the Company moved with the Battalion Reconnaissance Platoon and the Command half-track via Coutance and Avranches and arrived at 0500 in the vicinity three miles NE of St. Hilaire, France. Several halts were made on this 55 mile trip. Three points initially were seized and held. The 3rd Platoon under Lt. Coe held a cross-road about two miles N of Naftel. The 2d Platoon under Lt. O'Brien held the cross-roads at Naftel. The 1st Platoon under Lt. Godfrey held the river crossing NE of St. Hilaire until about 1500 when, with Infantry, the town of St. Hilaire was taken. About 2100, the Platoon was attached to an Infantry force and started a move on Louvigne du Desert. The 2d Platoon with the Division Reconnaissance Troop reconnoitered to the East via Lemons taking several prisoners. The 3rd Platoon was withdrawn to the Company assembly area at Naftel about 1700.

3 August the 1st Platoon arrived at Louvigne du Desert about 0300 and established necessary road blocks. About 1800 this Platoon, with about two squads of Infantry, occupied the town of Landivy and set up security for the night. The 2d and 3rd Platoons with platoons from the Division Reconnaissance Troop reconnoitered roads in the vicinity of Mortain and Bouis during the day. The Company CP remained at Naftel.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Road march to vicinity of Le Mesnil Ozenne. Detachment split in two sections; first section followed line companies, second section followed trains. Both sections of column were strafed and bombed with incendiaries at Avranches. There were no casualties in the Battalion due to enemy action.

Bivouaced vicinity of Le Mesnil Ozenne. Light snelling incurred. Maintenance of vehicles.

4 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Reconnaissance Platoon given mission of directing engineers on clearance of road at St. Symphorien. Captured 2 prisoners at road block. Given mission of mopping up

St. Symphorien, Bivas, Savigny, Landivy, and Tougerolles-du-Plessis.

Assault Gun Platoon remained with Task Force Randolph. No contact with enemy.

COMPANY A:

In bivouac at (425-076) GSGS France, 1/50,000.

COMPANY B:

Consolidated position at Le Bourget.

COMPANY C:

In bivouac at Grand Chemin. Strafed by 3 of a flight of 37 enemy planes.

COMPANY D:

The 1st Platoon was withdrawn from Landivy about 0800 to the assembly area at Naftel. The Company as a whole spent the day on maintenance. Two sections, one from the 2d Platoon and one from the 3rd Platoon, with the Battalion Reconnaissance Platoon made a reconnaissance in the vicinity SE of St. Hilaire. All men and vehicles had returned by 2100.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Bivouaced in vicinity of Le Mesnil Ozenne. Light shelling. Maintenance.

5 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Mortar Platoon attached to Task Force *Randolph Weaver*

Company less Reconnaissance Platoon, Mortar Platoon, and Assault Gun Platoon, moved to 1/2 mile East of Mayenne.

Reconnaissance Platoon attached to Task Force, participated in advance along route to Landivy, Ernee, and Mayenne. At Mayenne Reconnaissance Platoon sent out patrols to reconnoitre river crossing South of Mayenne and railroad bridge at Mayenne.

Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons remained in main body of Task Force.

COMPANY A:

From bivouac in vicinity of Le Mesnil Ozenne to St. Hilaire du Harcouet to Landivy to Ernee to Mayenne as part of Task Force Weaver enroute to objective. Bivouaced at (775-717) GSGS France, 1/50,000 Mayenne Sheet (East of Mayenne) Company moved as unit with main body of Task Force. Leading elements of Task Force pushed back light opposition. All platoons remained on the road.

COMPANY B:

Company left Le Bourget 0530 in a South and South-easterly direction in pursuit of the enemy which was retreating to the high ground in the vicinity of the Seine River. Arrived at Mayenne 2200 covering a distance of 41 miles. Very little opposition

was met.

COMPANY C:

Company marched to Mayenne as part of Task Force Weaver. Crossed river and set up bivouac. Slight artillery opposition.

COMPANY D:

The entire Battalion with the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop moved at 0600 through Landivy, spearheading a drive by the Division on Mayenne, France. The Company followed the Reconnaissance Troop. On the outskirts of the town, the force met enemy resistance about 1500. The Company was used for Division CP security and column flank security. About 2200 the town was taken and the Battalion moved through Mayenne to an assembly area about one mile E.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of main body of Task Force Weaver, moved via St. Hilaire, Landivy, and Ernee, toward Mayenne. As the task force encountered Mayenne, the Detachment moved into an assembly area two miles west of Mayenne, for several hours with the Battalion, awaiting clearing of Mayenne by a small detachment. Shelled by enemy high velocity weapons before leaving this area, and on the highway west of Mayenne. Moved into assembly area just east of Mayenne.

6 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEAD-QUARTERS COMPANY:

Company in assembly area 1/2 mile east Mayenne. One half-track from Mortar Platoon lost from enemy artillery fire.

Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered routes to bridge sites south of Mayenne. Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons moved with Task Force Weaver to new assembly area in vicinity of Aron.

COMPANY A:

Company moved from bivouac to Aron and back to Mayenne as stiff opposition was encountered.

1st Platoon relieved 2d Platoon after supporting 3rd Platoon as opposition was encountered. No support by the Infantry on the flanks. Platoon fired at anti-tank guns of all calibers. After running out of ammunition, pulled back into former area and reloaded and refueled.

2d Platoon started out as point and hit the enemy at Aron, at approximately 1800. Deployed through fields and over hedgerows after the enemy. Blasted enemy until 88mm fire forced it to withdraw. Possibility of one 88mm gun being knocked out. Lt. Lund's tank knocked out, possibly by 88mm. Tank burned. Crew evacuated; but Lt. Lund wounded as he ran across field. Tank driver killed by enemy machine gun fire. Remainder of crew badly burned. Platoon returned to former area and refueled and reloaded with ammunition.

[REDACTED]

3rd Platoon started out as Rear Guard but was pulled up to the line. One tank hit by enemy bazooka at Aron. Crew evacuated tank under heavy anti-tank fire. Driver burned and hurt about face. Tank later recovered. No Infantry support. Returned to area to refuel and restow ammunition. Moved out again as support for Infantry.

COMPANY B:

Consolidated position above Mayenne.

COMPANY C:

1st and 3rd Platoon left Mayenne, attached to Company C of the 357th Regiment with Group B of task force Weaver. They were to act as an advance-flank guard. Left at 1400 and bivouaced 4 miles east of St. Suzanne. 4 enemy vehicles destroyed en-route.

Company less 1st and 3rd Platoons assigned to 3rd Battalion, 357th. as rear guard of task force Weaver.

COMPANY D:

The 2d Section of the 2d Platoon under S/Sgt Murphy, set up a road block at 0200 on a road leading N from Mayenne. During the night this section destroyed two enemy wheeled vehicles and several of the enemy. It returned to the Company assembly area about 0800. At 1330, the Battalion was ordered to move on Le Mans. Just before moving out, enemy artillery fire held up this move for about two hours. The column moved about 1500, but met strong enemy counter-attacks after moving E about one mile. The Battalion assembled in this vicinity for the night.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Alert at 0400 for possible enemy counter-attack. Prepared to move out all day. About 1420, heavy concentration of enemy artillery in area and also some small arms fire. Aid station established. Throughout the night of 6-7 August evacuation of infantry and tanker casualties from Mayenne-Aron, to aid station in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters.

7 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Company, less Reconnaissance, Assault Gun, and Mortar Platoons, moved with Battalion trains to new assembly area one mile east of Mayenne. Reconnaissance Platoon had mission of screening force as attack moved south to Mont sens Vargis. Two men wounded by enemy artillery fire. Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons moved in main body of Task Force.

COMPANY A:

Company moved from Mayenne to Mont Suisto Waiges to Chammes (Near St. Suzanne) 1st Platoon with Main Body. Two enemy vehicles knocked out. Infantry rode on the back of the tanks. At about 2100 pulled into an assembly area and refueled and pulled out again. Company on move all day as part of Task Force and had no bivouac area.

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2d Platoon preceded the company. Very light opposition.

3rd Platoon moved out with company and at times furnished flank protection. Used side roads to provide protection.

COMPANY B:

Left Mayenne 1530 in pursuit of the German forces. Arrived St. Suzanne 2200 a distance of 50 miles. Morale excellent. Enemy opposition increasing.

COMPANY C:

1st and 3rd Platoon aided in repulsing enemy counter attack at 0230.

0600 returned to St. Suzanne to clear the town of an enemy break through. Continued earlier mission, and bivouaced for the night at Bernay. 3 enemy vehicles destroyed enroute.

Rest of Company continued as rear guard and destroyed two machine gun positions and captured more than 200 enemy prisoners.

COMPANY D:

The Company, as part of the Battalion, moved back through Mayenne at 0500 and halted S of the river for the purpose of reorganizing the force. The 2d Platoon under Lt. O'Brient moved with the Reconnaissance Troop SE out of Vaiges, France, to reconnoiter a new route to encircle the enemy troops at St. Jean. This unit reached its objective overlooking St. Jean about 1600. The remainder of the company, led by the 1st Platoon, was ordered to move through Chammes and then S to St. Jean. Before reaching Chammes, the Company came under enemy fire of all kinds and S/Sgt Prasek was injured slightly. Sgt. Lutcavish took his own tank, the three remaining members of Sgt. Prasek's crew, and joined the platoon almost immediately. The 1st and 3rd Platoons established a base of fire and the medium tanks and Infantry took the town about 2100. When the force started to move E of it about 2200, enemy fire caused it to withdraw.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

In support of Task Force Weaver through Vaiges to vicinity of Chammes. Aid station established 1000 yards South West of Chammes near Task Force Headquarters, and infantry and tanker casualties evacuated by jeep from vicinity of Chammes.

8 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Reconnaissance Platoon continued on mission as screening force along route Vaiges, St. Jean, St. Dennis-Conlaus and Notre Dame. Met scattered enemy resistance.

COMPANY A:

Chammes to Vaiges to St. Jean sur Erve to Chauffour Notre Dame (430-335) CGSGS France 1/100,000 Sheet 7H. Company met large enemy force outside Chammes.

1st Platoon fired on tanks and supply vehicles. Took a few prisoners. Sgt Greener's tank knocked out. Recovered later. Mortar fire wounded two of crew.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

St.

Anti-tank guns not over 100 yards from 1st Platoon vehicles at times. Enemy fire often wild. Enemy used anti-aircraft weapons as direct fire weapons.

2d Platoon with Advance Party. Moved from the roads to deploy on several occasions, but enemy withdrew. Ran into light opposition all the way to Chauffour.

3rd Platoon formed Rear Guard and on several occasions formed road blocks on side roads. Platoon covered road net to the rear at night.

COMPANY B:

Left St. Suzanne, 1 mile South, at 0530 in pursuit of enemy forces which were retreating steadily towards Le Mans. Arrived Le Mans 1400, distance travelled 27 miles. Morale excellent. German resistance increasing but still withdrawing towards the Seine River.

COMPANY C:

1st and 3rd Platoons advanced to within 2 miles west of Le Mans. Encountered 3 enemy Assault Guns. Exchanged fire and destroyed the guns. Also destroyed enemy convoy. 1st and 3rd Platoons bivouaced for the night in Regimental area. Rest of Company proceeded with main body of Task Force Weaver and bivouaced west of Le Mans.

COMPANY D:

The Company moved into an assembly area about 0200, two miles W of Chamnes. At 0500, the force started its move on Le Mans back through Vaiges and straight E to Le Mans. The Company was following the Division and Battalion Reconnaissance units. In the vicinity of Chassile, the 2d Platoon under Lt O'Brient moved ahead as the point. The Platoon was ordered to move quickly until it was stopped by enemy resistance. After running through many enemy positions held by bazookas and small arms fire, the platoon was fired on by anti-tank guns near Longnes. S/Sgt Murphy's tank was hit and the crew was badly shaken, though none were believed to be seriously injured. Pfc Bourgeois and Pvt Sczmasek were evacuated. The Platoon established a base of fire and Lt O'Brient, Lt Warfield, and Sgt Ziebarth slipped back to the disabled tank and put fire on two enemy towed 20mm guns. Both guns were destroyed and hits were scored on other enemy vehicles. The force then moved on with the 3rd Platoon under Lt Coe as the point. Many destroyed enemy vehicles were encountered and some were fired on. Near Coulans, France, strong enemy forces were encountered. Medium tanks, infantry, artillery, and air corps were called on. The column continued to move on though two tanks of the 3rd Platoon had been abandoned due to their being inoperative. These two crews moved ahead on foot. Upon approaching Chaffour-Notre Dame, the three remaining tanks were fired on by anti-tank guns. This was believed to be a friendly gun that had come into the town with another force. The driver, Tec 5 Bockhorn, was killed when dismounting from his already disabled and burning tank. Pvt Hancock, the bow gunner, suffered a serious foot injury when the tank was hit. He was evacuated. Contact with the friendly troops in town was made and several prisoners taken by Sgt Shortall and his two dismounted tank crews.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

In support of Task Force Weaver, returned through Vaiges, continuing on to Le Mans. Sporadically occurring casualties evacuated by peep from head of columns, and treated on the move. Having completed mission, Battalion moved into bivouac west of Le Mans.

CONFIDENTIAL

9 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

Company less Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons moved with Battalion trains to 1.7 miles North of Chauffour Notre Dame. Total distance traveled, 72 miles. In this area the Mortar, Assault Gun and Reconnaissance Platoon rejoined Company.

COMPANY A:

Company spent most of day on maintenance of vehicles. Moved out through Le Mans to 2-3/4 miles NE Couaines (vicinity Le Mans) Le Mans Sheet GSGS No. 4238 1/200,000 No coordinates on map. Remainder of day spent on maintenance.

COMPANY B:

Rest and maintenance of vehicles.

COMPANY C:

Company bivouaced outside of town of Chauffour. Maintenance. At 1800 Company moved through Le Mans and bivouaced on its Eastern outskirts.

COMPANY D:

The Company moved into an assembly area on the W edge of Chaffour-Notre Dame at 0300, and was instructed to be ready to move if necessary at 0500. Two of the four lost tanks had been recovered by the company maintenance and made ready for use. Upon awakening 12 Germans found asleep in hedgerows. During the day three final drives were pulled by the maintenance section. At 1830, the Company moved with the Battalion to an assembly area 2 miles NE of Le Mans.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Moved to assembly area North of Le Mans.

10 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

In bivouac area 1.7 miles North of Le Mans.

COMPANY A:

In bivouac area 1.7 miles North of Le Mans.

COMPANY B:

In bivouac area 1.7 miles North of Le Mans.

COMPANY C:

In bivouac area, performing maintenance.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMPANY D:

The Company remained in the assembly area all day and performed maintenance. The 1st Platoon was alerted to move at 0430 the following day to support the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop on a movement N of Le Mans, along the river, and on the 90th Division's left flank.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Remained in location, maintenance of vehicles, rest period, preparation of medical records.

11 August 1944

Battalion, less one platoon D Company, moved to area 1/2 mile North of Luce-Sous-Ballon (423-853). Distance - 14 miles.

COMPANY D:

The 1st Platoon under Lt Godfrey moved at 0430, joined the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop, and moved as the Division's left flank Reconnaissance to vicinity of St. Germain-de-la-Coudre. The roads were outposted on this move along the river. No enemy contact was made. The Company moved at approximately 1700 to the vicinity of Luce, France, into an assembly area.

12 August 1944

Battalion, less platoon D Company, moved to Oisseau Le Petit. Distance - 14 miles.

13 August 1944

Battalion, less 1 platoon D Company, moved 3/4 mile northwest of Alencon (318-856W) Distance 8 miles.

COMPANY D:

The 1st Platoon moved North through Alencon with the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop, moved through the French 2d Armored Division, and met enemy resistance at a crossroad South of Les Ragolieres. Sgt McNulty's tank was hit by a shot from a German Mark V tank. Tec 5 Ezerskis, the driver, was killed, and the remaining members of the crew, Sgt McNulty, Pfc Rosselle, and Pfc Jezuit were seriously burned and evacuated. Sgt Lutcavish's tank, which was leading the column, immediately opened fire on the enemy tank and destroyed it by placing about eight rounds of AP into its' side. Sgt Lutcavish's tank had meanwhile been set afire by an enemy bazooka charge in its' rear. This tank was salvaged, but the gunner, Cpl. O'Farrell, had injured his ankle when jumping from the tank, and was evacuated. Sgt Lutcavish's tank and the remaining three crew members were brought back to the Company during the morning. The tank had been patched to a running condition by Tec 4 Godfrey the night before by salvaging parts from Sgt McNulty's knocked-out tank. Lt Godfrey and his remaining section of tanks moved into the vicinity of Damigni to await orders.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
14 August 1944

Headquarters Company, Service Company, Company A, and Medical Detachment in bivouac area.

Company B plus 2d Platoon of D Company attached to 359th Regiment.

COMPANY C:

1st Platoon joined C Company, 357th whose mission was to capture La Savette. Jumped off at 1530 and took town. No opposition. Released at 2100 and returned to Company area.

2d Platoon joined 2d Battalion, 357th. Mission was to clear high ground in vicinity of Longueoe. Captured 40 prisoners and bivouaced in area gained.

3rd Platoon joined 3rd Battalion, 357th. Mission was to secure crossroad 1 mile east of Carouges. Held crossroad for the night.

COMPANY D:

The Company performed maintenance during the morning. At 1200, the 2d Platoon under Lt O'Brient joined "B" Company to support the 359th Infantry Regiment in mopping up the East half of Foret Decouves. The Platoon returned to the assembly area about 1800 without any action. The 3rd Platoon under Lt. Coe joined "C" Company to support the 357th Infantry Regiment in mopping up the West half of Foret Decouves. This group remained in an assembly area for the night in the vicinity of (290-100).

15 August 1944

Headquarters Company, Companies A, C, and Service, and Medical Detachment moved north of Sees (435-3130) - distance of 18.5 miles.

COMPANY B:

Arrived north of Sees 2030, taking up outpost with 359th Infantry Regiment.

COMPANY D:

The 3rd Platoon returned to the Company assembly area about 0800. Maintenance was performed until about 1400 when the entire Company was alerted to move to Gesnes le Gondelin to secure the town and to protect the movements of the 90th Division Infantry troops through Alencon. The Company moved at 1500 and was in position by 1630, reinforced by a platoon of Infantry from the 358th Infantry Regiment.

16 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMPANY C, SERVICE AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

In bivouac area 1-1/2 miles north of Sees.

COMPANY A:

One platoon joins "B" Company attached to 359th Regiment. Remainder of Company later in day joined "B" Company. Enemy counter-attacking.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMPANY B:

The Company left for outpost duty to try and make contact with elements of the Canadian Army which were advancing from the coast, in an effort to close the gap on the retreating German forces. Resistance was stiffening with every indication that the enemy was intending to make a stand. Enemy forces were believed to be in considerable force between Falaise and St. Leonard.

COMPANY D:

The Company continued to outpost Gesnes le Gondelin until it was ordered to return to the Battalion assembly area North of Sees at Boisville, France. The Infantry Platoon and three Italian prisoners, picked up by the Infantry, were brought up on the tanks. The distance traveled was 22.6 miles and the Company into this area at 2030.

17 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY AND SERVICE COMPANY:

In bivouac area 1-1/2 miles north of Sees.

COMPANY A:

Company moved to le Bourge St Leonard to support the Infantry in push to close pincers on German 7th Army.

1st Platoon moved in to relieve one platoon of "B" Company so they could refuel etc. After moving into position 1 Company of Infantry plus the 1st Platoon launched an attack to take the town. The eastern edge of the town was held during the night during which time the enemy Infantry infiltrated to the east flank of the tank platoon and to the rear. Tanks were also moved down the highway. One enemy tank (Mk V) was knocked out and left burning. This broke up the threat of tanks advancing. Fire of all calibers from the tanks (Ours) broke up the Infantry attack of the enemy's. (Tank knocked out approximately 0400. Enemy attack between 0400-0600)

2d and 3rd platoons were in support position during evening of 17 August and early morning of 18 August.

COMPANY B:

Le Bourg St. Leonard. German 7th Army launched strong counter-attacks to try and drive the American forces from the town in an effort to establish an escape route making it possible for them to join the main German forces along the Seine River.

COMPANY C:

Joined 358th Regiment and remained in reserve all day.

COMPANY D:

The Company remained in the assembly area all day. Two sets of tracks were replaced and odd maintenance jobs were performed. Four replacements were received, making the Company still 12 men short of authorized strength.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of Battalion minus detachment, and sections aided the infantry medics. Practically all work done was on prisoners of war.

18 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANIES:

Moved 1.5 miles NW Nonant Le Pin (456-405W). Distance - 11 miles.

COMPANY A:

3rd platoon moved to the SW of Le Bourg St. Leonard early on the morning of the 18th. Met heavy enemy fire but their return fire silenced the threat.

2d Platoon moved to the immediate left of the 1st platoon early on the 18th to relieve pressure on the 2d section 1st platoon. During this time the Infantry Company which had been on the NE of the town withdrew and an enemy tank flanked the 1st platoon to their right. 1st platoon withdrew to better firing positions and protected this flank with fire. TD's moved in and with the combined fire several enemy tanks on the right flank and in the town were knocked out. The combined forces of tanks, TD's and Infantry held the town the night during which time the town was under enemy artillery and mortar fire. Two tanks in 1st platoon disabled by enemy fire. Company Headquarters moved to Nonant le Pin 1-1/2 mile NW (456-405W) GSGS France, 1/50,000 Secs Sheet on the 18 August.

COMPANY B:

The German counter-attacks were successfully repulsed and they withdrew into the valley after suffering considerable losses in personnel and equipment.

COMPANY C:

2d and 3rd platoons attached to the 1st Battalion of 358. Mission was town of St. Eugenie. Jumped off at 2100. Stopped at Sillyen Gouffern for the night. Lost 2d Platoon Leader's tank. 4 men evacuated and Lt. Hellman took over another tank from his platoon.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of Battalion minus detachment, and sections aided the infantry medics. Practically all work done was on prisoners of war.

19 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANIES:

In bivouac area NW of Nonant Le Pin.

COMPANY A:

Company moved into St Leonard to the commanding positions overlooking the valley after the Infantry had secured the high ground. About noon the company was relieved and returned to the bivouac area.

3rd Platoon called out to work with the Infantry in the vicinity of Chambois to cut the last escape road of the German 7th Army and to take the town as soon as possible.

One section of tanks moved out to destroy a farmhouse sheltering enemy forces. Haystack also hit which was concealing enemy half-track. Vehicle destroyed. Tanks returned to CP for orders and on return trip one tank fired on enemy infantry and took 50-60 prisoners. Tanks then relieved pressure on our infantry by firing on enemy vehicles on the road from Chambois and then withdrew to a holding position for the night.

COMPANY B:

Company consolidated its position while awaiting reinforcements. The escape gap was firmly closed on the German 7th Army with an estimated 50,000 in the trap.

COMPANY C:

3rd Platoon and rest of 2d Platoon jumped off at 0800. Reached town and took enemy vehicles in valley under fire.

1st Platoon joined Company E, 358. Moved up on line east of town and fired on enemy vehicles in the valley. Remained on line all night.

COMPANY D:

The Company, held in Division Reserve at (465-402) stood by during the day. Maintenance was performed and close contact with the developments on the East flank was maintained.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of Battalion minus detachment, and sections aided the infantry medics. Practically all work done was on prisoners of war.

20 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANIES:

In bivouac area NW of Nonant Le Pin.

COMPANY D:

The Company held in Division Reserve at (465-402), stood by during the day. Maintenance was performed and close contact with the developments on the East flank was maintained.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of Battalion minus detachment, and sections aided the infantry medics. Practically all work done was on prisoners of war.

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CONFIDENTIAL

COMPANY A:

Nonant le Pin. 3rd Platoon at Chambois. Platoon under enemy artillery and mortar fire. Platoon remained in the holding position all day and that night. Polish Armored Division joined the platoon and remained there during the day mopping up enemy elements that would infiltrate through.

COMPANY B:

The Company destroyed 18 German tanks, 15 half-tracks, and 30 wheeled vehicles. Prisoners were noted to be the Waffen SS and Panzer troops with many from horse-drawn artillery units.

COMPANY C:

3rd Platoon moved to Bon Menil and took enemy vehicles in the valley under fire.

21 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY:

In bivouac area NW of Nonant Le Pin.

COMPANY D:

The Company held in Division Reserve at (465-402), stood by during the day. Maintenance was performed and close contact with the developments on the East flank was maintained.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Detachment in support of Battalion minus detachment, and sections aided the infantry medics. Practically all work done was on prisoners of war.

COMPANY A:

3rd Platoon still at Chambois. Platoon moved out to the NE of Chambois to protect the flank and look for reported Tiger tanks. Platoon remained on the flank the rest of the day.

COMPANY B:

Continued operation of previous day.
~~The Company destroyed 18 German tanks, 15 half-tracks, and 30 wheeled vehicles. Prisoners were noted to be the Waffen SS and Panzer troops with many from horse drawn artillery units.~~

COMPANY C:

Continued firing on vehicles in the valley. Destroyed in two days approximately 385 vehicles and several hundred enemy personnel. Company lost its maintenance half-track and two men were evacuated.

COMPANY D:

The Company held in Division Reserve at (465-402), stood by during the day. Maintenance was performed and close contact with the developments on the East flank was maintained.

CONFIDENTIAL

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22 August 1944

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY:

In bivouac area NW of Nonant Le Pin.

COMPANY A:

3rd Platoon still in position NE of Chambois. About 1500 platoon relieved and returned to company area.

COMPANY B:

Rest Period.

COMPANY C:

Released at 1000 and went to Battalion bivouac area at Nonant Le Pin.

COMPANY D:

The Company, held in Division Reserve at (465-402), stood by during the day. Maintenance was performed and close contact with the developments on the East flank was maintained.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Rest Period.

22-25 August 1944

Battalion remained in bivouac 1.5 miles NW of Nonant le Pin (450-405W). Maintenance and cleanup of personnel stressed.

26 August 1944

Battalion moved to new bivouac area .6 miles east of Mont Mirail (855-084) distance: 63.1 miles.

27 August 1944

Battalion moved to new bivouac area 1-1/2 miles west of Maison Rouge (0°8'E-53°95'W) Distance: 127.1 miles.

28 August 1944

Battalion moved to new bivouac area 23 kilometers south of La Chapelle. Distance: 36.1 miles.

29 August 1944

Battalion moved to new bivouac area 1 mile west of Hermonville. Distance 46 miles.

30-31 August 1944

Battalion remained in bivouac area. Maintenance

CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/eds

AFG 308, U.S. Army
1 October 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division,
AFG 90, U. S. Army.

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in compliance
with par 10, change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seely
STANLEY W. SEELY
1st Lt., Cavalry
Adjutant

2 Incl.
1-War Diary, Companies (quadruplicate)
2-Operations Journal

~~SECRET~~

Incl 12

NOV 30 1944

[REDACTED]

AFTER ACTION REPORT OF
712TH TANK BATTALION
for September 1944

1 September 1944

Battalion moved from one mile NW of Hermonville (205-897) to 1-5/10 miles east of Berru (428-813). Total distance traveled - 19.5 miles. In Division reserve.

2-5 September 1944

Battalion remained in bivouac area, performing maintenance and cleaning up personnel. In Division reserve.

6 September 1944

Battalion, less Company C, moved to new area 1.5 miles North of Etain (476-728). Total distance traveled - 82.5 miles. In Division reserve.

Company C joined 2d Battalion, 357th Infantry, proceeding to Argonne Forest to destroy ammunition dump.

7 September 1944

Battalion, less Company C, moved to new area 1.2 miles South of Landres (603-798). Total distance traveled - 13.5 miles.

Company C continued mission preceding day. Rejoined Battalion evening.

8 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company remained in bivouac area 1.2 miles South of Landres. On same day at 0600 Tank Section fired on enemy columns moving southwest and approximately 800 yards from bivouac area. Enemy vehicles destroyed or damaged was unknown, but it was believed several vehicles were hit due to this fire. In the afternoon of same day the Assault Gun Platoon and Tank Section fired on two enemy Mark V Tanks which were approximately 600 yards from bivouac area and moving in a northwest direction. The first section of Assault Gun Platoon destroyed one, and Tank Section assisted other Organizations in destroying the second tank. Of enemy personnel of these two tanks, five were captured, two were killed and three escaped into surrounding woods.

Company A:

3rd Platoon given the mission of protecting the company left flank. They were attacked in the night at 0200 by enemy armored column. 1st section lost 2 tanks-knocked out 2 tanks, disabled 2 tanks & 1 half-track.

At 1800 the company was attached to the 2d Battalion 358th Infantry. Moved to the vicinity of Tacquegnieux with the mission of taking Le Grand Bois. No enemy action.

Company B:

Germans counterattacked with an estimated force of 35 tanks. 2d platoon pulled out and went into firing position, Lt. Vuteck, the platoon leader knocked out one German tank. The 1st platoon opened fire and destroyed one German Mark IV tank.

[REDACTED]

DEC 5 1944

Company C:

3d platoon, supporting 3d Battalion of 357th Captured Avril. 1st and 2d platoons engaged in tank battle in and around 90th Division C.P. These platoons supported infantry in taking Mont. Knocked out 10 enemy tanks, 4 half-tracks.

Company D:

At about 0300, an enemy column, consisting of about 5 Panther Tanks and 6 half-tracks, moved down a road between the Companies, circled the Battalion area, and was believed totally destroyed. The presence of this column was known, but to fire on it in the darkness would endanger our own troops. At about 1000, two enemy Panther Tanks broke through our defenses and moved at full speed toward the Company and Battalion Headquarters Company area. Guns from several directions opened up on them and destroyed both tanks before they had done any harm. Five P.W.'s were taken, one of which stated that they were trying to get out instead of in.

Service Company:

Germans attacked during night and well into day. At about noon 2 tanks came into our vicinity and started for Service Company area. Battalion Maintenance officer mounted a medium tank and fired on leading tank, making a direct hit and changing course of tanks.

Medical Detachment:

During the early morning the Battalion was attacked by enemy Panzer Battalion, Panzer Grenadier Battalion, and Pioneer Battalion. Two Panther tanks were destroyed in the vicinity of the Aid Station and six of their crews were treated at the Aid Station and evacuated.

9 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Remained in bivouac.

Company A:

1st Platoon attached to the 1st Battalion 358th Infantry for a left hook from Mairy to Anderney to Sancey to Havanges. Company minus 1 platoon in Regiment reserve. On the evening of the 9 September the 2d & 3rd platoons attached to the 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry with a mission of supporting an attack on Fontoy. Returned to Company bivouac area at 2300.

Company B:

One platoon attached to 359th Infantry Regiment. Company reached Andon with two platoons with one in reserve.

Company C:

3rd platoon moved into Rangareux. 2d platoon moved into Briey. 1st platoon and Headquarters section bivouaced vicinity of Hayingen.

Company D:

Performed maintenance.

-2- [REDACTED]

Service Company - Medical Detachment

No change.

10 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company left bivouac area 1.2 miles south of Landres 1530; arrived in bivouac area 1 mile north of Avril (214-966) 1645. Total distance traveled 8.7 miles.

Company A:

Fontoy $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S (730-840)

1st platoon attached to 1st Battalion 358th Infantry joined by the 3rd platoon at Sanzy. Advanced with the Infantry to Havanges.

2d platoon Regiment reserve.

Company B:

Lommerange, Coordinates (714-796), Verdun Sheet. Left Landres 1500 arrived Lommerange 1645, distance traveled 10 miles. Company joined 359th Infantry Regiment and went into position for an attack.

Company C:

1st platoon assisted infantry in taking Hayingen. 3rd platoon took Beaudange. Headquarters section remained in bivouac vicinity of Hayingen. 2d platoon remained at Briey.

Company D:

Remained in assembly area, performing maintenance.

Service Company - Medical Detachment:

No change.

11 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Assault Gun Platoon attached to Company A, in support of 1st Battalion, 350th Infantry Regiment in attack on Thionville. Reached Blange, 3 miles west of Thionville and set up position at 2300.

Company A:

Fontoy $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S (730-840)

1st platoon remained attached to the 1st Battalion 350th Infantry.
2d and 3rd platoons attached to the 3rd Battalion 350th Infantry.
1st Battalion mission attacking East to secure high ground east of Angevillers.
3rd Battalion mission attacking East to secure high ground west of Thionville.

~~SECRET~~

At 1400 the 2d platoon was relieved of its attachment to the 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry and attached to the 1st Battalion 358th Infantry with mission of supporting the advance of the Battalion to secure high ground west of Thionville.

Company B:

Company on outpost with 359th Infantry Regiment.

Company C:

1st platoon - no change.
2d platoon took Richmond.
3rd platoon assisted infantry in taking Vekrange.
Headquarters Section - no change.

Company D:

Remained in same area, as all round protection for Battalion C.P. and Service Company.

Service Company - Medical Detachment:

No change.

12 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company moved $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Angevillers. Total distance traveled - 12 miles. Assault Gun Platoon continued to support 1st Battalion Infantry attack on Thionville. Fired 32 rounds on enemy forces. Destroyed one enemy tank at 1800.

Company A:

Company moved to join the 2d Battalion 358th Infantry with mission of supporting the attack on Thionville. At 1200 1st and 3rd platoons attacked in line of platoon columns down adjacent streets in Thionville with close in Infantry support, with mission of securing crossing of the Moselle River. At 1600 the 2d platoon was attached to 1st Battalion 358th Infantry with mission of cleaning out the north end of Thionville. All platoons were relieved at 2000.

Company B:

Company moved to Angevillers, Coordinates (788-893), in pursuit of the Germans who had been driven from their fortified positions, and who appeared to be retreating towards the Moselle River. The enemy was abandoning their fortified positions along the fringe of the Maginot Line.

Company C:

Positions the same as preceding day.

Company D:

The Company with the Battalion Headquarters moved at 0730 to a new assembly area at Angevillers, arriving at 0930. The Company sat up all around security for the Battalion C.P., Headquarters Company, and Service Company. Necessary maintenance was performed. Map Ref: GS/GS, 1/100,000, Neunkirshen, (788-893).

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Service Company - Medical Detachment:

Moved to Angevillers.

13 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company minus Assault Gun Platoon remained in same bivouac area. Assault Gun Platoon released from attached to 1st and 2d Battalion 358 Infantry moved to area 3 miles southwest of Thionville.

Company A:

Thionville 1 mile W
Company moved into bivouac area. Company in Regiment reserve.

Company B:

Angevillers. Germans fighting delaying action, slight resistance. One platoon detached to Thionville.

Company C:

Positions the same as preceding day.

Company D - Service Company - Medical Detachment:

No Change.

14 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company moved in tact to new bivouac area 1.8 miles east of Briey. Assault Gun Platoon rejoined Company before moving. Assault gun, Mortar and Rcn Platoon moved with Task Force Randolph 2200 same day to St Marie aux Chens and set up defensive positions in outskirts of town.

Company A:

Co. minus 1st platoon relieved of its attachment to the 358th Inf Regt. and returned to Bn control. 1st platoon remained in its location as Regt Reserve. At 1800 the Co. minus the 1st platoon moved to the Bn area in vicinity of Angevillers. At 1500 Co. minus 1st platoon moved with Bn to assembly area 2 mi east of Briey. At 2130 Co. minus 1st platoon moved with Bn to vicinity of St Marie Aux Chenes as part of Task Force with mission of holding road net.

Company B:

Briey, Coordinates 723-745. Company left Angevillers 1600 arrived Briey 1800, distance travelled 11 miles.

Company C:

1st platoon moved into assembly area near Homcourt. 2nd platoon moved into Pierrevillers. 3rd platoon returned to bivouac area & Co Hqs section.

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

Company D:

The 1st Platoon was attached to the 358th Infantry and the Company with the Bn. was alerted to move. This move started at 1530 and the unit closed into an assembly area 1 mile E. of Briey about 1700. The unit was moved again at 2130 to set up a defensive position E. of Marie aux Chenes, and to relieve troops already there. The Company arrived about 2300.

Service Company:

Moved to Briey.

Medical Detachment:

Detachment left bivouac area with the Battalion and arrived at St. Marie aux Chenes early the next morning.

15 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company less three platoons remained in bivouac area 1.8 miles east of Briey. Assault Gun Rcn and Mortar Platoons, attached to Task Force Randolph remained in defensive positions and St Marie aux Chenes.

Company A:

Co. less 1st platoon, remained part of Task Force Randolph at St Marie aux Chenes. 1st platoon continued to support the infantry west of Thionville.

Company B:

Briey: German resistance increasing around Metz.

Company C:

1st platoon moved into reserve position east of St Privat. Balance of Co, No Change.

Company D - Service Company - Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

16 September 1944

Headquarters Company:

Remainder of Company joined Task Force Randolph at St Marie aux Chemes.

Company A:

Same as preceding day.

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Company B:

Briey. Fierce resistance met in the vicinity of Doncourt.

Company C:

1st & 2d platoons - no change. Hqs section & 3rd platoon moved into bivouac north of Malancourt.

Company D, Service Company - Medical Detachment.

Same as preceding day.

17 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

Company B:

Briey. Company with 359th Infantry have been held up by strongly fortified pill-boxes. Action quieted down to local skirmishes between enemy and American patrols and artillery duels.

Company C; D, Service & Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

18 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

Company B;

St. Marie aux Chenes, Coordinates (735-673), Verdun Sheet. Left Briey 1100 arrived St. Marie aux Chenes 1200, distance traveled 7 miles.

Company C; D, Service & Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

19 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

Company B:

Local German counterattacks stopped by the 3rd platoon and the 3rd Battalion of the 359th Infantry.

C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

20 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day. Assault Gun Platoon moved to Company B area and fired 100 rounds at enemy positions. Returned in afternoon.

Company B:

All three platoons firing indirect artillery fire, operating as an artillery battalion in support of the 359th Infantry Regiment.

C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

21 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

Company B:

The 3rd platoon and 3rd Battalion of the 359th Infantry launched a small attack to try and capture fortified gravel pit held by approximately three companies of Germans.

C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

22 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

Company B:

The 3rd platoon of company and 3rd battalion of 359th Infantry consolidated around gravel pit in attempt to hold position.

C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

23 September 1944

Headquarters, Company A:

Same as preceding day.

~~SECRET~~

Company B:

The 3rd platoon of company and two battalions of the 359th Infantry attacked under heavy artillery barrage and drove the enemy out of the town of Gravelotte, advancing approximately 400 yards beyond the town. Germans entrenched in seven foot thick reinforced pill-boxes with troops estimated at twelve companies of Officer Candidates. Artillery and direct tank fire had no effect whatsoever on the fortifications. The enemy appears to have plenty of ammunition, being supplied by a system of underground tunnels from the city of Metz. The Air Corps has been grounded for several days due to bad weather.

Company C:

1st and 3rd platoons, and Headquarters Section joined Task Force Randolph, taking up positions east of St. Marie Aux Chenes.

D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

24 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, ^D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

25 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day. B Company engaged indirect firing.

26 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, Companies:

Same as preceding day. 1st Platoon A Company relieved at Thionville and returned to Company control.

Company C:

1st and 3rd platoons relieved from Task Force Randolph. 1st platoon moved to Uckange. 3rd platoon moved into Voussange.
Headquarters Section moved into Rombas.
2d platoon - no change.

D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

27 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day.

28 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

Same as preceding day. Small German counter-attack against 2d platoon, B Company, and 2d Battalion of Infantry. Resulted in destruction of 3 companies of Germans.

29 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

Same as preceding day. Enemy counter-attack against 3rd platoon of Company B and 3rd Battalion of 359th Infantry resulted in two enemy companies being wiped out.

30 September 1944

Headquarters, A, B, C, D, Service Companies, Medical Detachment:

No change.

OPD
ETO-1

HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/rem


AFPO 308, U. S. Army
4 November 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 98, U.S. Army).

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in compliance with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:


STANLEY W. SEELEY
1st Lt., Cavalry
Adjutant

2 Incl:
1-War Diary, Companies (triplicate)
2- Operations Journal

90-69.2

Incl #1

[REDACTED]

AFTER ACTION REPORT OF
712TH TANK BATTALION
for October 1944

1-10 October 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company remained in reserve at St. Marie Aux Chenes.

Reconnaissance Platoon acted as liaison between 357th and 358th Regiments of the 90th Division, companies in the Battalion and Battalion Headquarters.

The Mortar Platoon on 2 October was attached to TFS and remained in the alert at positions in St. Marie Aux Chenes.

During the period 2 to 10 October the Assault Gun Platoon was attached to TFS and fired a total of 271 rounds at enemy personnel, buildings and O.P.'s in vicinity of Ammerwillers. One assault gun participated in a demonstration of an attack on a fortified position.

On 6, 7, 8 October the bull dozer tank of the Tank Section, with one Platoon of "C" Company tanks supported the 2d Battalion of 357 Infantry Regiment in attack on Maiziers la Metz. The bull dozer tank cleared road blocks in the town and fired direct fire at enemy installations and personnel in the town. It is believed from this fire an enemy anti-tank gun protecting a road block was knocked out.

Company A:

One platoon in holding position on road net at St. Marie Aux Chenes.

Two platoons in reserve.

During this period platoons participated in two demonstrations on attack of a fortified position. Also firing was done on pillboxes to determine the effectiveness of various types of ammunition.

The company brushed up considerably on indirect firing methods, and devoted a great deal of time to a study of the situation confronting it in future operations.

Two heavy pillboxes of the Maginot Line in vicinity of Thionville were used in the above demonstration. The firing was done at about 250 yards. The walls of the pill boxes were about 4 feet thick heavily reinforced and of an apparently high grade cement. Inside of the walls was a heavy stamped steel mesh about 1/4 inch from the surface; and in the compartment having a gun aperture the walls were lined with 1/8 inch steel sheeting. The doors, approximately 3 by 7 feet, were made of 1-1/4 inch armor plate, and locked by 8 shafts 1-1/2 inches in diameter. The following results observed:

[REDACTED]

The 75mm tank gun is effective at this range. The APC shell is more effective than the CPT-105. Five rounds were sufficient to penetrate the wall in both cases, but the result on the inside was considerably greater from the APC.

The 76mm tank gun was slightly more effective than the 75mm, it is believed that at greater ranges the 76mm would be considerably more effective than the 75mm. Again the observed results were that the APC ammunition was more effective than the CPT-105. In this case the areas hit by the two kinds of ammunition varied considerably, so that there was not a true comparison.

The 105mm assault gun, firing HEAT ammunition proved entirely ineffective due to the erratic flight of the projectile. The 105mm firing CPT-105 proved effective at this range, however the dispersion was greater than that of the tank guns.

It was determined that the best place to hit these forts was about 12 inches from the door casing, the line where the door joins the concrete is the weakest spot. Under the conditions existing today, it is believed that 10 rounds delivered from the 75mm, 76,,. or 3 inch gun will reduce the fort to the extent that a demolition charge can be easily inserted as a hole large enough for a man to go through is developed. The dust and concussion within the fort will be such that no one inside can fire effectively during that time. The suffocating dust will last for ten minutes before a man can go inside without a breathing aid. Two tanks should work on the fort at the same time - one keep the gun and turret inoperative, and the other reducing the fort to the extent that a charge can blow open the door. One exactly placed round should ruin the gun on the particular fort where we were firing. Gun turrets and apertures should be knocked out first. Then the tank that maintains the neutralization should, when possible, not fire cannon while the other tank is effecting a breach as so much dust is raised that fire has to be suspended for a few moments. If not protected by defilade the closest a man can get to the point of impact of the APC shell is about 30-40 yards and some fragmentation of the concrete must be expected.

Company B:

One platoon of tanks was at Travellotte on outpost duty in support of the 3rd battalion of the 359th Infantry Regiment. A second platoon was at Verneville with the 2d battalion of the 359th Infantry, firing indirect fire.

Company C:

Headquarters section moved on 1 October to Rhombes. The 2d platoon was attached to 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment at Pierrevillers; 1st platoon with 2d Battalion at Uckange; and 3rd platoon with 2d battalion, same regiment, at Boussauge. On 2 October the 1st platoon moved to Hagondange. On 4 October 3rd platoon moved into Richmond following its capture by conjunction with 315th Engineers.

6 October 3rd platoon moved to Hagondange in preparation for assault on Raizieres Les Metz in conjunction with 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment.

SECRET

7-10 October. A bulldozer tank was borrowed from Battalion Headquarters Company and used to clear a roadblock into Maizieres. This was done under fire. 3rd platoon then moved into the town. The dozer tank was taken to another part of the town under cover of two accompanying tanks. One tank was knocked out, but crew remained in it and used it as a pill box. Platoon was under heavy enemy artillery fire. An additional tank was taken into the town and the engineers blew a hole in a house to permit it to fire on buildings across the street. The tanks remained in town at night, not withdrawing.

Company D:

One platoon in defensive position outside St. Privat le Montagne as part of Task Force Sundt. Every 3rd day the platoon was relieved by platoon from reserve.

Medical Detachment:

Remained in St. Marie Aux Chenes where it has an aid station set up. Typhoid and paratyphoid shots were given to Battalion personnel.

SECRET

11 - 20 October inclusive

Headquarters Company:

Company remained in defensive position at St. Marie aux Chenes, France.

On 11, 12, 13 and 14 October the Assault Gun Platoon fired a total of 65 rounds on enemy positions in the vicinity of Amanvillers.

During the period the Reconnaissance Platoon acted as liaison between units of the 90th Infantry Division, Companies in the Battalion and Battalion Headquarters.

Company A:

From 12th to 16th October, 1st platoon was in vicinity of Caulre Farm (U7160 Guerre Zone GS/GS 1/25,000 Chambley Sheet 4411) as mobile reserve. It fired an average of 250 rounds per day as auxiliary artillery. The 2nd platoon had one section of tanks in position in Verneville for direct support, another section in position outside the town as mobile reserve. The latter, from defilade, fired on PI targets during the night. It fired about 200 rounds per night. The 3rd platoon had one section in reserve outside Gravelotte while the other section was in the town.

During this period the indirect firing was conducted through the Company's fire direction center. The limited number of trained FDC personnel in the Company Hq made it difficult to conduct extensive artillery firing, also the absence of a survey detail made it necessary to use a substitute method for establishing the base line. The following method was used: Locate by resection the position or center gun; establish a base line thru some known point on the map; with the aiming circle lay guns parallel to this line. Each gun set out an aiming stake to mark its individual base line with luminous markers. Azimuth indicators are set on zero. Mass clearance is set off on the gunners quadrant. (No elevation stops are available in the company).

During the period 16 - 20 October, the Company was held in reserve to repel any attack in the Division sector. It was assigned an auxiliary artillery mission, one platoon firing in 359th Infantry Regiment sector through the 915th Field Artillery, the balance of the Company firing in the 358th Infantry Regiment sector through the 344th Field Artillery. The Field Artillery established survey lines and set up the FDC. All battery positions were connected by phone, one which the platoon leaders received fire missions. Voice was used to relay to each gun position. First platoon fired about 1500 rounds, the 2nd platoon about 1000 rounds, and the 3rd platoon about 800 rounds.

Company B:

10 - 12 October Company C.P. established at Doncourt, with one platoon at Gravelotte and another at Verneville on 13 October the Company returned to St. Marie aux Chenes. One platoon placed on outpost duty, balance of company resting. From the 16 to 20 October two platoons fired indirect fire.

[REDACTED]

Company C:

On 11 October one platoon was in Maizieres Les Metz, under heavy artillery fire. The Command Tank was taken into the town and fired on buildings with the warning of red cross flags by the enemy, our fire was held to permit enemy to recover wounded (afterwards one of our infantry medics stepped out in the open and was mortally shot by the enemy). On 12 October the 105mm A.G. was taken into the town, firing into and setting afire many buildings. The tanks continued firing the following days. The A.G. was shelled by the enemy and the building it was using for cover was destroyed.

On 15 October two platoons moved into position at Hagodange and set up as artillery batteries under the 343 Field Artillery. They continued this mission for balance of period.

On 20 October the personnel of the platoon in Maizieres were relieved with crews from the other platoons.

Company D:

Company continued throughout the period with one platoon in defensive position at St. Privat-la-Montagne and rest of company in an assembly area at St. Marie aux Chenes.

Service Company:

A special recovery vehicle attachment was constructed by the company for the purpose of launching a 45 foot span of treadway bridging over moats around enemy forts.

The attachment consists of a pair of braces welded to the front of the tank recovery vehicle to prevent the bridge from swinging sideways. Utilizing the boom and winch, the bridge can be raised and carried on the front of the vehicle to the spot to be crossed. The bridge can be launched without the necessity of any one dismounting from the vehicle. The 315th Engineer Bn. constructed a special foot bridge for foot troops to be launched by the attachment which is about one third the weight of the issued treadway of the same length. A test revealed the following: Two spans of issue tread way can be handled with comparative ease for short distances. Three spans can be laid if there is a straight run to the objective and not to much cross country running before hand. The special bridge for foot troops can be carried for quite a distance without too much difficulty and can be launched with little trouble. With two recovery vehicles each laying units of the issue treadway bridge it is possible to lay bridge that a tank can cross provided there is ample footing on each end of the bridge.

Medical Detachment:

Detachment continued the operation of aid station in St. Marie aux Chenes.

[REDACTED]

20-31 October 1944

Headquarters Company:

Company remained in defensive position at St. Marie Aux Chenes.

Company A:

From 20th to 28th October 1944, inclusive, 1st platoon remained in vicinity of Caulre Farm, Vionville (VU 6956) in artillery firing position through 915 Field Artillery Battalion. 2d and 3rd platoons were in artillery firing positions in vicinity of Regenville through 344th Field Artillery Battalion.

On 29 October Company moved to vicinity St. Marie Aux Chenes. One platoon held defensive position covering road net east of the town. Another platoon was in artillery firing position from vicinity of Mine St. Marie. Last platoon remained in reserve.

Company B:

From 20th to 28th October Company was at St. Marie Aux Chenes, two platoons firing indirect fire and the other in outpost position vicinity St. Marie. On 29 October Company changed positions with Company A at Vionville.

Company C:

One platoon continued in Maiziere under constant enemy shelling and firing at 50-70 yard ranges. The other two platoons continued indirect fire support mission from positions in Hagendange. On 28th October a sandbag emplacement was erected for the command tank. Ammunition was moved into the town in preparation for an attack the following day.

On 29 October 3 tanks in Maizieres fired on enemy position (50-70 yard ranges) from 0715 to 0730 to neutralize two positions for friendly infantry to assault. Enemy fire was heavy. Opposition fair. By 1600 90% of town was taken. At that time the attack stopped to permit consolidation for the night. By 0900 30 October the remainder of the town was taken.

Company D:

The situation remained the same as during preceding period. On 26 October the 2d Platoon relieved the 1st Platoon at its defensive position at St. Privat-la-Montagne. A meeting was held by the officers and vehicle commanders whereby a plan of alert and defense was set up. A practise Battalion alert was given at 1745. Another defensive position was assigned to the Company at Malancourt, France. A temporary change was suggested by the Company Commander and approved for use. A temporary 4th Platoon was formed under the command of S/Sgt Murphy with tanks 15, 24, 35, and the CP tank. This change enabled each line platoon to spend three days in the assembly area for each three days spent at a defensive position. Tank 24 was withdrawn from the 2d Platoon position at St. Privat-la-Montagne.

Service Company - Medical Detachment:

No change.

-6-
SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/rem

APC 308, U. S. Army
4 December 1944.

ofk

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APC 90, U. S. Army)

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in accordance
with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seeley

STANLEY W. SEELEY
1st Lt., Cavalry
Adjutant

2 Incl:
1-War Diary, Companies (triplicate)
2-Operations Journal

21-69.2

Incl 7

[REDACTED]

**AFTER ACTION REPORT OF
712TH TANK BATTALION
for November 1944**

1-6 November 1944

Headquarters Company:

On 1 November the Assault Gun Platoon was released from attachment to Task Force [REDACTED]. Company moved on that date from St. Marie aux Chenes to training center Joudreville. Remained there through 6 November stressing maintenance and re-stowage of vehicles.

Company A:

On 1 November one platoon was engaged in indirect firing from positions at mine in St. Marie aux Chenes, while a second platoon was in holding position on road net east of the town. The remaining platoon was held in reserve.

On 2 November Company moved to Joudreville, arriving at 1200. Distance traveled 17 miles. Thru 6 November Company following Battalion Headquarters training schedule, emphasis on maintenance and restowage of vehicles. On 3 November Company designated as alert Company for 24 hours.

Company B:

Company located at Vienville on 1 November, 1 platoon was at Dencourt, another at Risonville firing indirect fire.

On 3 November Company moved to Joudreville for training, remaining there through 6 November.

Company C:

On 1 November Company C.P. located at Hagondange, two platoons firing indirect, the other platoon in Maizieres-les-Metz. On 2 November Company moved to Joudreville for training, remaining there through 6 November.

Company D:

On 1 November, platoons in defensive position at St. Privat-la-Montagne and at Malancourt were relieved. Company on that date moved to training area at Joudreville, arriving at 1700. Through 6 November, maintenance and restowage of vehicles, personal clean-up stressed.

Medical Detachment:

1 November detachment moved from St. Marie aux Chenes to training area at Joudreville where dispensary was set.

7 November 1944

Headquarters Company: Medical Detachment:

Company moved from Joudreville to assembly area at Rochenvillers. Route of march, I.P. = R.J. 597816, Baines, Landres, Murville, Malavillers, Audun, Beauvillers, Bourange, Trenange, Rochenvillers. Distance traveled, 18.5 miles.

Company A:

Company moved to Ronchevillers. Company on alert for further orders. Rain and mud caused vehicles to bog down in low areas.

COMPANY B:

Company moved to Evange for indirect firing.

Company C:

Company left Joudreville with Battalion at 0800. After brief halt at Rochonvillers, it continued to Boust, where it employed its 3 platoons in indirect firing.

Company D:

The Company moved at 0845 to Rochonvillers, France, and arrived at the new area at 1145. The distance traveled was 19 miles.

8 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company - Medical Detachment:

At 1805 Company moved from Rochonvillers to a new assembly area at Roussy-le-Bourg. Closed bivouac at 2130. Total distance traveled, 11.2 miles.

Company A:

Company left Ronchevillers at 1600 enroute to Moselle crossing. Rain and very slippery roads made progress very slow. Night very dark. One tank and one half-track slipped off road. Later retrieved. Spent night on road in vicinity of Boust. Trains moved into Boust and tanks moved about a mile and one half SE of the town to await orders to cross river.

Company B:

No change from preceding day.

Company C:

No change over preceding day. Company CP shelled by enemy - no damage.

Company D:

The Company was alerted and moved from the area at Rochonvillers, France at 1800. Traveling conditions were bad due to the darkness, rain, and a narrow, curving roads with soft mud shoulders. The Company arrived at Roussy-le-Bourg, France at 2145. Distance traveled was 11 miles.

9-10 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Remained in assembly area at Roussy-le-Bourg.

Company A:

No change over preceding day. Company awaited orders to cross river. New web attachments were put on the tank tracks to increase flotation.

Company B:

No change over preceding day.

Company C:

No change over preceding day. New flotation attachment put on tank tracks.

Company D:

No change over preceding day.

11-12 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Remained in bivouac area at Roussy le Bourg. On 12 November the Assault Gun Platoon moved to Roeching and fired 60 rounds direct fire at enemy at Haute Horn and returned to Company area at 1500.

Company A:

No change. Still awaiting orders to cross river.

Company B:

On 12 November Company went into final assembly area to prepare for river crossing in support of 359th Infantry Regiment.

Company C:

11 November Company Headquarters section cross Moselle River at Savisse. 2 platoons moved up to river but enemy fire destroyed bridges. The 3rd platoon remained at Boust as its new heavy tanks unable to cross. On 12 November Company CP set up at Koenigsacker. Balance of Company still waiting to cross river.

Company D:

No change.

13 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Moved from Roussy-le-Bourg across the Moselle River from ^{CATTENOM} Cattenom to Metrich total distance traveled 11.4 miles.

Company A:

Company Headquarters left Boust at 2000 enroute to new destination. Spent night on road waiting to cross pontoon bridge vicinity Cattenom. Tank platoons still in vicinity Fixem waiting to cross river.

Company B:

Company crossed the Moselle River (the tanks being ferried across on rafts) to support the attack of 359th Infantry Regiment.

Company C:

Two platoons crossed river by ferry and joined Company in German barracks south of Koenigsmacker.

Company D:

The Company was alerted to move and the 18 tanks, the C.O. peep, and the maintenance peep cleared the area at 1800. The balance of the Companies' vehicles, - the kitchen truck, half-track, platoon peep, and the C.P. peep joined the Battalion trains and left at 1845. It was raining, was a bit foggy, and the roads were narrow with curves and muddy shoulders that would bog down any vehicles that got off the hard surface. Progress was necessarily slow. The Moselle River was reached at 1955 and the crossing was completed by the 18 tanks and 2 1/4 ton peeps by 2015. These vehicles closed into Basse-Ham, France around 2330. Distance traveled was 11 miles.

14 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment.

No change.

Company A:

Company Headquarters crossed river vicinity Cattenom at 0330. Spent remainder of night on road outside of Koenigsmacker, Company Headquarters moved into town early in the morning and set up CP. Tank platoons crossed river vicinity Fixem, or Walling, later in P.M. and moved into assembly positions to support 358th Infantry Regiment.

Company B:

Company attacked with 359th Infantry. 3 tanks damaged and put out of action by mines. Minefields very heavy.

Company C:

No change.

Company D:

The trains were held up by priorities of other units and didn't cross the Moselle River until 0515. They arrived in Basse-Ham, France at 1015. Orders were received the night of the 13th to combine our Company and the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop to reconnoiter to the S of Basse-Ham and to establish contact with the 95th Infantry Division bridgehead at Thionville, France. The 1st, 2d, and 3rd Platoons were attached to the respective Platoons of the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop. At 0700 the 1st group started reconnaissance toward Thionville. The 2d group started reconnaissance on the left via Valmestroff toward Kuntzig. The 3rd group

[REDACTED]

started reconnaissance toward Haute-Ham. The 1st group made contact with the 95th Division bridgehead in the vicinity of Basse-Yutz at 0820, thus clearing a route for the 10th Armored Division to come through after the completion of the bridge at Thionville. The 3rd group found Haute-Ham cleared of the enemy and continued SE towards Kuntzig. This group and the 2d group went through the woods just S of Basse-Ham, through mine fields and both groups arrived in the vicinity of Kuntzig and took the village around 1400. The 2d group established contact with the 358th Infantry Regiment approximately 2 kilometers E of Kuntzig. The town was outposted by the 2d group and about 1900 a PW was taken at a bridge in Kuntzig. The 1st group set up a reconnaissance screen along the railroad from Basse-Yutz to the vicinity of Kuntzig. The 3rd group was ordered to push on through Kuntzig towards Stuckange. On the southern outskirts of Kuntzig heavy mine fields were encountered. This group attempted to swing west and then south and again encountered mine fields. While trying to get through this field the Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant stepped on an AP mine and lost a foot. The Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, while trying to evacuate him stepped on another AP mine and lost his foot. At this time, Lt. Coe, the tank platoon leader, and a Reconnaissance Platoon driver reached the two men and started back with the platoon Sergeant. The driver set off another AP mine, received a serious leg injury, further injured the Sergeant they were carrying, and injured Lt. Coe's left hand. Lt. Coe's wound was severe but did not appear to be serious, He was evacuated. This accident happened about 1630 so this group was pulled back to the railroad for the night. At this time our mission for maintaining contact with the 95th Infantry Regiment on our right and the 358th Infantry Regiment on our left was being carried out and a close reconnaissance screen between these two units which was the Division's right flank was established. No enemy activity other than enemy artillery was reported during the night. The headquarters platoon had, in the meantime, become comfortably situated in the town of Basse-Ham.

15 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

No change.

Company A:

All platoons moved out with 358th Infantry. Platoon leader's tank knocked out vicinity of Distroff. He moved to another tank in platoon and was later killed in action by tree burst from enemy 88mm shell. Our tank knocked out the Mk IV SP that hit the lead tank. Also accounted for another gun of the same type. 1st & 3rd platoons accounted for 9 half-tracks and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -track motorcycle. 3rd platoon knocked out Mk V tank with another of same type a probable. Heavy toll of enemy Infantry. The combination of our tanks, infantry, and the TDs took the town of Distroff. TDs fired from high ground to support tanks and infantry. Tanks fired from high ground initially while infantry walked under the fire and into the town while the tank fire kept the enemy down. Sharp counter-attack repelled. Town held during the night. One of our tanks was hit in the town on top of turret by either large mortar or large artillery shell. Turret ring blown off and gun elevation knocked out. Crew o.k. Another tank was hit on rear left sponson over gas tank by large artillery shell. Motor lost power. Returned to area, worked on and fixed temporarily. Maintenance tank substituted for one of ours knocked out.

Company B:

Company pursuing retreating enemy.

[REDACTED]

Company C:

No change. Platoon of heavy tanks crossed Moselle River and joined Company.

Company D:

The 2d and 3rd groups maintained the reconnaissance screen while the 1st group attempted to move S to Stuckange. Again heavy mine fields were encountered everywhere they went. Due to these mines and enemy artillery, Stuckange had still not been entered by sundown by our troops after attempting to do so from five different routes. The 1st and 3rd Platoons were withdrawn to Basse-Ham and into Division reserve at 1600, while the 2d group continued to outpost Kuntzig. The 3rd Platoon had been placed under the command of Tec Sergeant Dale S. Albee, S/Sergeant Reynolds, injured July 27, returned to duty with the Company.

16 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

No change.

Company A:

One tank knocked out of action, being hit on final drive housing by large artillery shell. All bolts sheared off housing. Crew O.K. Could have been a shell from enemy 150mm Howitzer. 1st & 3rd platoons pushed off from Distroff in PM to support Infantry in taking Metzervisse. Not too much activity with enemy in area where 2d platoon was operating except intense artillery fire. Quite a bit of radio trouble during the day. Another tank hit by enemy bazooka.

Company B:

No change.

Company C:

2d platoon liberated Buding, destroying one AT gun. Heavy shelling by enemy. 1st platoon liberated Budling.

Company D:

The Company less the 2d Platoon moved at 1145 from Basse-Ham and closed in at the new bivouac area near Illange, France at 1215. The distance traveled was 5 miles. The 2d Platoon of the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop went to Rurange. The tanks supported the Reconnaissance on the road from Rurange to Metzeresche while the Reconnaissance investigated a road block and dug-in position at (929-769). They then turned back and the town of Rurange was outposted for the balance of the day and that night. The 1st section of tanks and a section of Reconnaissance went to Flevy, France and contacted the 95th Division Reconnaissance. During the day and night they received enemy shelling. A prisoner was captured and the information received from him was turned over to the 95th Division Reconnaissance. A map and overlay of the area was found and turned over to the 90th Division Reconnaissance. The town of Flevy was outposted for the night.

17 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Moved from Metrich to a new area 3 kilometers north of Englange.

Company A:

Company Headquarters left Koenigsmacker and moved into Metzervisse. The infantry and tanks were just shoving off and a lot of heavy artillery was flying around endangering the ammunition and gas and kitchen trucks. Company Headquarters holed up and within a few hours the town of Metzeresche was taken. All platoons participated in push, 1st and 3rd in town and 2d working around the town. Two tanks fell back with mechanical difficulties, but were repaired and returned to action. One tank fell out with gun trouble, but soon rejoined the platoon. 1st platoon operated with 3 tanks - 2d with 5 tanks - 3rd with 3 tanks. One tank again developed gun trouble, necessitating a new breech block which the artillery mechanic salvaged from a knocked out tank. Our TDs fired on our infantry and tanks. One of our Sergeants returned to the area where the TDs were to stop the firing. Platoons mopped up the town with the infantry and stayed over night.

Company B:

No change.

Company C:

Company Headquarters moved to Buding. 2d platoon moved into Kedange, capturing 31 PWs. One tank hit by bazooka, but was not knocked out. The three platoons liberated Ebersvillers.

Company D:

The Company less the 2d Platoon remained in Division reserve at Basse-Ham. The 2d Platoon outposted Kuntzig until early afternoon when it moved through Imeldange, Geunange, into Haute-Geunange. Later in the afternoon a six man patrol went to Heinge, about 2 kilometers S from Haute-Geunange, and captured 47 prisoners. Haute-Geunange was outposted for that night.

18 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Company moved to a new area at Betlainville. Total distance traveled 4.6 miles.

Company A:

Tanks left Metzeres. Met heavy delaying action. 1st platoon entered town of Luttange with mine-sweeper. No enemy in the town. Several large caliber guns on the high ground outside of Metzeresche which delayed the advance until our artillery knocked them out. All platoons stopped in Luttange. Company Headquarters moved into Luttange late in the day. 3 tanks went back to maintenance, 2 with bad transmissions, 1 with bad throw out bearings. Another tank was sent back to maintenance as gas tanks sprang leaks after being hit on left rear sponson on the 15 November by exceedingly large artillery shell.

Company B:

No change.

Company C:

1st and 2d platoons at Ebersvillers. 2d platoon moved into Piblange and fired on enemy horse drawn convoy, leaving enemy east of Bockange, and destroying the vehicles and capturing 40 PWs, 17 enemy known killed.

Company D:

Early in the morning the group outposting Flevy captured a prisoner and turned him over to the 90th Division. The 2d section of the 2d Platoon and the attached section of the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop moved from Rurange and joined the balance of the 2d group at Flevy. The mission was to continue reconnaissance to Nancy, through Hessange, to Vigy. On the road to Nancy a road block was cleared by tying cables around the trees and towing them off of the road with tanks. Near Chelaincourt Chateau a German officer and private were captured. Replenishments were made in gas, water, and rations, and more prisoners were picked up at Chelaincourt Chateau. At Vigy more prisoners were picked up. While outposting Vigy orders were received to proceed into Avancy. In doing so, an enemy horse drawn vehicular column was intercepted and shot up. A considerable number of prisoners were taken. The wounded Germans were evacuated. The town was outposted and at 1800 two German trucks came down the road and were knocked out. Two prisoners were taken and two were killed. At 2400 a German vehicle was knocked out at the crossroads while trying to escape. This vehicle had an American Medic from the 95th Infantry Division a PW of the Germans as of 1900 that day. The four Germans in the vehicle were wounded and captured. The American Medic was unharmed. The balance of the Company made a blackout march from the bivouac area near Illange to Bettelainville, France, a distance of 11 miles.

19 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Moved to new area at Vry. Total distance traveled, 5 miles. The Assault Gun Platoon and Reconnaissance Platoon established road blocks in the vicinity of Avancy. Reconnaissance Platoon captured 8 German prisoners. Both Platoons returned to Company area at 1700. The Tank Section, on outpost in vicinity of Vry intercepted an enemy patrol trying to return to Germany from Metz. Three of an estimated number of six men were wounded by machine gun fire and taken prisoner. Prisoners were evacuated through medical channels.

Company A:

Luttange: Company spent day on maintenance of vehicles and weapons. Received one tank from maintenance. Took maintenance crew from the company most of day to get it into battle condition. Crews spent the day getting the tanks into shape after the previous several days battles. Re-stowed new ammunition and checked over the old.

Company B:

No change.

Company C:

One platoon moved into Gurnkirchen under shelling. It captured several prisoners and destroyed one AT gun. Another platoon liberated Hincange and captured 17 prisoners. Company Headquarters moved to German garrison east of Bockange.

Company D:

At 0130 a coupe and an ammunition truck were knocked out by the 2d Platoon. The ammunition truck was towing a 20mm anti-tank gun. The truck was set on fire. Eighteen EM and a Captain were captured and five others were killed. At 0630 an approaching convoy was heard and a flare was used to provide enough light to spot the vehicles. The convoy of 5 trucks were knocked out. The personnel scattered and escaped; two were killed. The captured anti-tank gun was set up and fired at the trucks to further destroy them. Bazookas were captured in one of the trucks. At 0930 the 2d group moved out to the crossroads approximately 1000 yards NE of Rentonfey and joined with the 735th Tank Battalion, thus closing the Metz Gap. The 2d group then moved into Rentonfey and outposted it for the rest of the day and that night. The 1st Platoon moved at 0830 and set up road blocks at Avancy. The balance of the Company moved to Vry. The 3rd Platoon set up road blocks at Vry. In the afternoon the 1st Platoon was returned to Company control. Around 2330 machine gun fire from another company in the Battalion wounded and captured 3 out of 6 Germans while trying to escape.

20 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Company remained in bivouac area at Vry. Tank section on same outpost captured three Germans trying to get back into Germany from Metz.

Company A:

No change.

Company B:

No change.

Company C:

The three platoons assembled with Company Headquarters at German garrison.

Company D:

At 1100 the 2d Platoon rejoined the Company. During the period from 14 November 1944 to 20 November 1944 the 2d Platoon knocked out 8 trucks, 5 horse-drawn vehicles, captured an anti-tank gun, and took 79 prisoners. Around 2100 a group of 6 Germans were intercepted on the road while trying to escape and were fired upon. One PW was taken and 2 more were taken by another company in the Battalion. The road is the main route of escape from Metz to Saarlautern.

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20-25 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company: Medical Detachment:

Remained in bivouac area.

Company A:

On 21 November Company moved from Luttange to Dalstein at about 1300. Held in Division reserve and performed maintenance through 25 November. On that date its bulldozer tank detailed to Company D.

Company B:

No change. On 23-25 November Company was in holding positions along line Les Estains Coudre Nothern Poignthy.

Company C:

Company in German barracks south of Piblange. On 22 November one platoon moved to field north of Dalstein as outpost. On 25 November company moved to Beckerholy.

Company D:

Company moved 21 November with Battalion to Dalstein (037797). Cleared Bettel-ainville at 1200, arrived Dalstein at 1340. Distance traveled 11 miles.

No change until 25 November. On that date one platoon (with dozer from Company A) marched blackout to Halstroff, picked up Regimental infantry and reconnaissance platoon. It went south to Flastroff, crossed the Heltenbach and made a reconnaissance to outskirts of Schwerdorff. Upon reaching this point, the force was subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire. This fire took place while the members of both the tank platoon and the Infantry and Reconnaissance Platoon were trying to get their vehicles out of the mud. Upon finding this route blocked and impassible to both armor and 1/4 tons, it was decided to go bak across the stream and gain another crossing farther North. Reconnaissance was made of all possible crossings and finally the force had moved as far North as Waldwiese. At this point contact was made with elements of the 10th Armored Division and the disposition of their immediate defense was learned. Patrols were sent out to try and find ways to get over to Beringen. All attempts proved unsuccessful as the roads were no good and the bridges and under-passes and been blown. They remained in the vicinity of Waldwiese until ordered to report back to the Regimental CP. They arrived at the CP at 1730 and received orders to report to the 2d Battalion CP in Zeurange. The A Company dozer was left at the Regimental CP. A black-out march was made and the force arrived at the 2d Battalion CP at 1930. Here they received orders to proceed to Bourg-Esch-Chateau (149878), where the Battalion CO was set up in an OP. This was accomplished and the Battalion CO decided to hold the tanks and Infantry and Reconnaissance Platoon at the Chateau, but have the tanks set up outposts on the road coming into the Chateau. Artillery fell close all through the night. The balance of the Company remained in Dalstein. Orders to move out the next morning at 1000 were received around 2000.

26-28 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

26 November Company moved from Dalstein to Waldwerstroff. Total distance traveled 7.8 miles.

Company A:

26 November Company moved from Dalstein to Waldweistroff. Bulldozer returned from Company D. Retriever laid bridge over AT ditch in Germany.

Company B:

On 26 November Company placed in Division reserve. On 27 November Company attacked with 359th Regiment, the 1st platoon entering Germany. Took high ground overlooking Saar River.

Company C:

2d platoon captured Schwerdorff with 31 PWs 26 November after heavy shelling. 1st platoon captured Furweiler (Germany) on same day, taking 70 PWs. Balance of Company on that date was in Backerholz.

On 27 November 2d platoon captured Otzwiller balance of Company moving to Colmen.

Company D:

The Company moved with Battalion at 1000 26 November to Waldweistroff, France, (099852), and remained there for the balance of the day awaiting further orders. The 1st Platoon and the Regiment Infantry and Reconnaissance Platoon moved at 0730 into Germany to the town of Oberesch, (152893). About five check points were given to be reported on as to enemy disposition. Four of the five points were found to be clear of the enemy, but at one point a section of the tanks were brought into action and placed fire on some German dug-in positions. The other section went South to make contact with the 357th Infantry Regiment to get their disposition. After this was accomplished, the Platoon was reverted to Company control and arrived back with the Company about 1500.

The Company the following days remained at Waldweistroff cleaning the vehicles and performing maintenance.

29-30 November 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment: Companies A & D.

Moved on 29 November to Neunkirchen, arriving at 1745. Distance traveled 3.7 miles

Company B:

Company held high ground overlooking Saar River as our infantry moved down into the Saar River basin.

Company C:

1st Platoon captured Guerfanger 29 November, while 2d platoon took the high ground east of that town. One tank knocked out enroute by enemy artillery. 3rd platoon captured Gross Hemmersdorf. One tank knocked out by bazooka the tank commander being fatally machine gunned by the enemy as he got out the tank. On 30 November 1st platoon with our infantry moved across the Nied River and outflanked town of Buren, closing trap on enemy facing Regimental advances. 3rd platoon moved to Guerlfanger, 2d platoon on outpost.

██████████
HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/rsm

AP0 403, U. S. Army
6 January 1945

①
SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 90, U. S. Army)

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in accordance
with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seely
STANLEY W. SEELY
1st Lt., Cav., (Armd)
Adjutant

2 Incls:
1-War Diary, Companies (triplicate)
2-Operations Journal

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AFTER ACTION REPORT OF
712TH TANK BATTALION
for December 1944

1-10 December 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company - Medical Detachment:

Remained in bivouac at Neunkirchen (Les Buzonville). On 5 December Mortar Platoon with one section of Reconnaissance Platoon were attached to "M" Company, 3rd Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment. That night the platoon placed six .50 calibre machine guns in positions near Mechern, Germany, preparatory to a fire mission to commence at daylight. The following day, before dawn the platoon went into its positions and given the mission of firing on enemy positions across the Saar River. All during the day the platoon received heavy fire from enemy small arms, mortar, and artillery. One of our machine guns was knocked out of action by enemy artillery and two enlisted men received minor injuries. The following days the platoon continued the mission. Enemy artillery and small arms fire became so intense that movement around the machine gun emplacements was impossible.

On 9 December crews of the Assault Gun and Reconnaissance Platoons were detailed as a carrying party to carry supplies across the Saar River up to the Infantry CP's vicinity of Fachten, Germany. The supplies were carried under cover of darkness via assault boats, the party being under constant enemy small arms and artillery fire. One officer and 10 enlisted men volunteered to remain across the river to evacuate wounded to aid stations. The following night the officer was seriously wounded.

Company A:

The Company remained at Neunkirchen-les-Bouzenville (WQ1484) through 4 December, performing maintenance and restowage of vehicles. 5 December it moved to Guisingen (WQ2182). Two platoons joined battalions of 358th Infantry Regiment to support by direct fire a possible crossing of the Saar River. Other platoon remained in reserve. The next day (6 December) the latter platoon stood by for orders to cross the river.

8 December the bulldozer tank dug gun positions for 344th Field Artillery. One platoon fired direct at pillboxes across the river in Fachten. The 3rd platoon awaited crossing orders in Nieder Limberg. On 9 December this platoon started to cross river by ferry at 1630, but it was 1900 before the first tank left the ferry on the far side of the river. All tanks in platoon, except the platoon leader's, bogged down on the opposite river bank close to the ferry site and were subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire. They were bellied up to the hulls. It was not until 0230 the next morning after continuous work by the crews, that the tanks were finally towed out. Shortly after 0300 10 December the platoon reached Fachten. During the day the platoon fired on pillboxes with very good results. 34 enemy were taken from several in a dazed condition. Until 12 December this platoon's tanks were the only tanks in Fachten. They were placed in strategic positions so as to defend the entire town.

Company B:

On 1 December the company was employed in direct support of 359th Infantry Regiment. One platoon was in reserve at Zeurange with the company headquarters; another platoon was at Sonnehof, covering the road net to the east and at the same

time acting as mobile reserve for one of the Regimental Battalions; the third platoon moved into Monsdorf, which it outposted to the east and northeast. At 0800, 3 December, the company reverted to Battalion control. It assembled at Zeurange and moved out at 1000, closing at Neunkirchen at 1100. 4 and 5 December was devoted to maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

At 0630, 6 December, company moved to direct fire positions one mile due east of Sonnenhof. Targets and target areas across the Saar were assigned each tank. The first mission was fired at 1100, consisting of 160 rounds. Many direct hits on pillboxes and bunkers could be observed despite the mist and smoke. There was no counter-battery. At 1230, with the clearing of the mist, a second mission was fired on same target. After the first five rounds heavy return fire including machine gun was received. We delivered fire into the pillboxes and at the flashes of the enemy gun firing at us. Many direct hits were observed, although the range (1500 yards) made it impossible to determine the exact damage. The third and last mission was fired beginning at 1400. A total of 790 rounds (HE, WP, and AP) were fired. The tanks withdrew at 1600 to Sonnenhof for restowage of ammunition.

The following morning (7 December) the tanks returned to same positions as day before. Again, three missions were fired and hits observed on forty pillboxes. 449 rounds (HE, AP, and WP) were fired, and two enemy rounds of smoke received in return fire. The tanks withdrew at 1400. The following day (8, 9, 10 December) one platoon fired from same position, and 450 rounds of AP and HE on 8 December, 201 rounds of HE 9 December and 342 rounds HE and AP on 10 December. Another platoon moved into indirect fire position west of Gerlfangen. One hundred rounds of WP were expended 8 December in laying down smoke screen at river crossing west of Dillingen. 15 rounds were expended on 9 December and two rounds 10 December. On last date a platoon moved to Buren preparatory to crossing Saar river.

Company C:

On 1 December 1st platoon captured town of Buren. The platoon leader's tank was hit 5 times and knocked out. 2d platoon held woods east of Gerlfangen, and the 3rd platoon remained in Nemersdorf. Company headquarters located at Furweiler. On 2d December 1st platoon remained in Buren. 2d platoon captured Biersdorf. 3rd platoon and headquarters remained in Gerlfangen and Furweiler, respectively.

3 December headquarters and 3rd platoon remained in Biersdorf, and 1st platoon moved north of Buren. One tank knocked out by mine and one member of crew killed. On 4 December all except 2d platoon moved to Buren. The latter remained in Biersdorf until 5 December when it joined balance of company in Buren. It shelled throughout the day.

On 6 December 1st platoon attempted to cross Saar River, but did not succeed because enemy artillery hit the ferry. On 9 December Company Headquarters personnel was used as boat paddlers and to carry supplies and litters. On 10 December 3rd platoon fired smoke mission on Saar River. 1st platoon again prevented from crossing due to ferry being knocked out by enemy artillery.

Company D:

Company remained at Neunkirchen. On 5 December company furnished two .50 calibre machine guns and crews for a shoot across the Saar River from vicinity Premersdorf, Germany. The targets were selected pillboxes and a general harassment of the enemy in aid of the crossing at Lachten. The firing was in bursts and at prescribed times. Rations and supplies were taken to crews under cover of darkness due to enemy observation.

On 10 December the company furnished 10 men and one officer for a carrying party to carry supplies across the Saar to 357th Infantry Regiment.

SERVICE COMPANY:

On 1 December Company moved to Veckring. Following day maintenance platoon moved to Hemmersdorf, Germany. On 3 December company furnished 6 men and 3 .50 cal. machine guns for shoot across Saar.

11-20 December 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company:

Company less Mortar and Assault Gun Platoon remained in Division reserve during this period.

On 10 December the Mortar Platoon was relieved from attachment to the 3rd Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division and attached to the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 90th Infantry Division. During this period the Platoon continued to fire from dug in machine gun positions on west bank of Saar River near Kerchem, Germany. Their fire was directed on enemy pillboxes and trench work on the opposite side of river and to the mortar platoon's immediate front. During this entire period enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire was extremely heavy.

On 15 December the Assault Gun Platoon Sergeant (acting Platoon Leader) received orders to move his platoon to Traffic Control Point Number 3. The Platoon left Neunkirchen at 1330 and arrived at the Control Point Number 3 at 1600. At 2230 the platoon was ferried across the Saar River and reported to the forward CP (consisting of Battalion Commander, B-2, B-3) of the 712th Tank Battalion at Pachten, which had preceded it by a few hours. Each gun towed a 1/4 ton truck through the mud on the east bank. The Platoon was then ordered to remain in immediate vicinity of the CP until the following morning. On 16 December, 0730, the Platoon was ordered to support the 3d Battalion of the 358th Infantry Regiment in an attack on Dillingen, Germany. During this attack their mission was to lay down covering fire for the Infantry and to assist in knocking out enemy pillboxes and strongpoints within the town. The attack ended at 1700 and the platoon returned to the forward CP. On 17 December the platoon continued to support the Infantry in an attack on the same town. In this fighting the 1st, 2d, and 3rd sections attacked on streets running parallel within the town. Their mission to neutralize enemy resistance in second and third stories of buildings along the streets. At 1800 the attack ended and the platoon returned to forward CP again.

The Assault Gun Platoon remained in immediate vicinity of the forward CP of 712 Tank Battalion. On 20 December the Assault Gun Platoon recrossed the Saar and returned to Company area at Neunkirchen-les-bouzonville. On 21 December, the Battalion Forward CP withdrew from Pachten and returned to Neunkirchen.

During period 10-20 December the Reconnaissance Platoon acted as liaison between units of 90th Infantry Division and 712th Tank Battalion.

Company A:

The 3rd platoon in Pachten, other two platoons on 11 December were still on west bank of Saar. One tank fired across river and registered two hits on a Mark V tank which despite damage observed withdrawing. On 11 December the 3rd platoon knocked out a Mark V tank that was being towed by a Mark IV, which it also knocked out. (The towed tank was possibly the one hit the preceding day). At 1600 the

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the 3rd platoon moved to the 357th Infantry sector in north part of Pachten. Movement was impeded by craters, fallen trees, low underpass, and heavy enemy artillery fire. This necessitated the platoon leaders guiding the platoon on foot.

The 1st platoon, at 1400, 12 December moved to the ferry site but was returned because ferry operations had ceased. 2d platoon was ferried across Saar at 1400. It remained on east bank balance of day due to a TD being bogged down in front of it.

On 13 December the 1st platoon was ferried across river, arriving in Pachten at 1100. It was attached to 3rd Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment. At 1200 it moved to RR tracks northeast of Pachten and fired on four pillboxes which enabled the infantry to capture them. 2d platoon was attached to 1st Battalion, 358th Infantry, while 3rd platoon remained in position defending OPs of 357 and 359th Infantry Regiments.

On 14 December 1st platoon attacked with the infantry, knocking out 3 pillboxes. 57 prisoners were taken and many enemy killed. After the infantry consolidated position the tanks withdrew back into town. 3rd platoon moved back into Pachten at 1800, and was attached to 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry Regiment. It was necessary to repair the road for the return trip.

On 15 December 1st platoon supported infantry attack at 0715 on center of Dillingen. Reached objective at 1600 after fighting through a series of pillboxes and two city blocks. A few prisoners were taken; a large amount of ammunition expended and many buildings and enemy positions destroyed. One tank hit a mine which tore off the track, and wrecked a boggie wheel. The tank was retrieved. 2d platoon moved out at 0530 in support of infantry attack on right flank of Dillingen. Very little resistance was met. It captured two city blocks.

On 16 December^{1st} attacked in Dillingen with infantry at 1100. It reached the objective at 1500.

On 18 December 1st platoon advanced to east outskirts of Dillingen.

On 19 December at 2000 orders were received to withdraw to west bank of Saar. At 0230, 20 December, first elements of company were ferried across river. The last elements arrived in the area of 712th Tank Battalion at Neunkirchen at 0800. All vehicles were withdrawn successfully, the company reverting to Battalion control at full strength.

During the period personnel of Company Headquarters operated as carrying parties of critically needed supplies to the infantry across the river.

Company B:

11 December one platoon fired a direct mission across the Saar from position 1/2 mile east of Sonnenhof. It then moved to new positions. It fired 159 mixed rounds of AP, and HE, receiving heavy return fire. On the following day the platoon fired 60 rounds of AP and HE, mixed.

13 December one platoon moved to Wallerfangen at 1130 and was ferried across the Saar River at 1330. The two other platoons, with ammunition atop the tank decks, was ferried across river at 1800.

15 December 1st platoon attacked two pillboxes at 1430, resulting in capture of 60 PzW. 3rd platoon attacked with 359th Infantry Regiment to join the flank of the 358th Regiment. Considerable difficulty was encountered with steel turreted pillboxes. There was no penetration at distances as short as 100 yards. The pillbox was finally buttoned down by machine gun fire at 10 yard distance. Penetration was achieved after several rounds at point blank fire. A demolition man was then dropped from the tank onto the pillbox. A C-2 charge was placed by him at the door and blown. Nine PzW were taken. Two enemy were wounded and one

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killed. An enemy OP was destroyed by tank fire, which also covered right flank of infantry in their attack. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire was encountered.

16 December 7 bazooka rounds were fired at the 2d platoon from a 300 yard range. The enemy bazooka squad was located and killed by tank machine gun fire.

17 December a tank of 2d platoon knocked in the wall of a pillbox with 32 rounds of 76 AP and 6 rounds of 76 HE, rendering the box untenable. Other strong points were fired on by the platoon.

18 December 1st and 3rd platoons attacked with the infantry at 0800 into Dillingen proper. By 1000 both platoons reached their objectives without firing a shot. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was extremely frequent and heavy, considered to be the heaviest since Normandy. All corners and intersections appeared to be zeroed in by the enemy.

19 December platoons maintained positions of preceding day. 3rd platoon protected 155mm (self propelled) gun which fired at pillboxes at ranges as close as 200 yards.

20 December, at 2200, orders were received alerting one platoon for withdrawal across the Saar River, which was accomplished by ferry during the night.

The foregoing period developed many new angles in pillbox fighting. The unusual success achieved in destroying the boxes was due mainly to our ability to button up the boxes without harassment from anti-tank guns, although enemy artillery and mortar fire was heavy and constant.

The 76mm proved to be superior to the 75mm. It frequently gained penetration at points other than apertures. APC ammunition was used until the wall caved in, and was then followed by a few rounds of HE which invariably flushed out what enemy remained in the box. The 75mm was effective when fired into the aperture and at close range. In one instance a tank was used to carry a demolition man who was dropped atop the pillbox. No box was encountered that was able to withstand a C-2 demolition charge.

Company C:

11 December 1st platoon moved by ferry across the Saar River under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. The following day (12 December) the 2d platoon crossed.

13 December 3rd platoon fired indirect fire from Gerlfangen across river at enemy positions.

14 December 1st platoon fired on pillboxes in Dillingen, while 3rd platoon continued indirect from west side of the Saar. One tank of 1st platoon disabled by enemy fire, but repaired by company maintenance section. On 15 December the bulldozer tank and maintenance section moved across the river and joined the company.

20 December 1st and 2d platoons withdrew across the river pursuant to orders. Recovery vehicle remained at the crossing to tow tanks up the steep bank.

Company D:

12 December a platoon was detailed to outpost Division OP at KERPICH*HEMMERS-DORF. Another carrying party was furnished to carry supplies across the river to the infantry each night from 12-15 December inclusive.

17 December one light tank was ferried across the Saar for use at Battalion forward OP in Pachten.

20 December two tanks were detailed to river crossing control point to cover the crossing of the Battalion vehicles from Pachten.

21-31 December 1944

Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Medical Detachment:

Mortar Platoon remained attached to Reconnaissance Troop, 90th Division and continued to fire from dug-in .50 calibre machine gun positions at Machern, Germany. 22 December Company and Detachment moved from Leunkirchen at 1200, arriving at Kirchraumen at 1300. Defensive positions against enemy attacks were taken up. On the same day the Mortar platoon was relieved and returned to the company. The Reconnaissance Platoon conducted daily reconnaissance of routes of attack throughout Division sector. While on such a mission on 24 December one of its peeps was demolished by a German box mine vicinity Haute Tierch. Three enlisted men were killed and one seriously wounded.

Vehicle anti-aircraft weapons of company were employed on frequent occasions against low flying enemy aircraft.

Company A:

On 22 December Company moved to Reuling (# 0990) and was attached to 358th Infantry Regiment.

23 December 1st platoon moved to Scheuerwald (# 0995) with 2d Battalion of 358th. 3rd Platoon moved to Flatten (# 1192) with 3rd Infantry Battalion, and 2d platoon remained in reserve in Reuling. During the period local reconnaissance was conducted by the platoon leaders and tank commanders.

On 31 December 2 tanks of 1st platoon with elements of Infantry Battalion captured 2 machine gun nests on enemy outpost line vicinity Kohn (# 1299). 13 Pz and 6 civilians were taken without casualty on our part. Air and ground reconnaissance was made by company commander and platoon leader for similar raid the following day.

Company B:

Evening 21 December one platoon plus 105 Assault Gun and recovery vehicle began withdrawal from Pachten across the Saar. It completed the crossing at 0130 following morning. The last platoon withdrew from Pachten at 0400, 23 December. The company assembled at Oberesch. The 2d platoon moved to Silwingen and took up firing positions. The following day (24 December) 1st platoon took up position in Guerlfangen.

In withdrawing across the Saar, it was necessary to destroy one of the company's tanks on the east bank which was disabled and could not be ferried across the river. Destruction was necessary to avoid enemy use of the tank.

26 December 3rd platoon moved to Beringen. On 30 December at 1400 3rd platoon fired 20 rounds into Benninger without return fire. The 2d platoon, after dark, moved to Filten and then returned, making a showing of armored strength in the area.

Company C:

20-21 December 1st and 2d platoons withdrew across the Saar from Pachten. One of the company's disabled tanks was destroyed by us in Pachten to avoid its use by the enemy. It was impossible to ferry it across the river. 22 December German fighter plane strafed area. No casualties.

26 December one platoon went through a tank problem with a platoon of D Company. 30 December 3rd platoon fired on pillboxes vicinity Veckering in problem with 357th Infantry Regiment. The following day the platoon repeated firing in connection with 358th Infantry Regiment.

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Company D:

22 December the platoon guarding the 90th Division CP was relieved. The Company moved from Neunkirchen at 1215 to Kirchmaunem (056-896). The crews of the .50 calibre machine guns were returned to the company. During the 17 days in position vicinity Fremersdorf, they fired over 25,000 rounds across the Saar at enemy positions.

23 December a V-1 buzz bomb passed over area at 1930, going SW. It cut out and landed 5 miles from CP.

24 and 25 December 3 tanks were used to demonstrate the method of attacking pillboxes as part of tank-infantry team. Demonstration was staged at Veckring (015-830). Two tanks used for road reconnaissance in Battalion area. 27, 28 and 30 December one platoon engaged in a tactical problem. Several enemy aircraft passed over area and were fired on by our .50 calibre machine guns.

Service Company:

Beginning 14 December trucks with supplies were ferried across Saar river to our troops in Fachton. The ration truck was hit by artillery on 15 December on west bank and the ration Sergeant was killed and two other enlisted men wounded.

On 18 December Battalion Maintenance officer crossed river to forward Battalion CP with crew to perform tank maintenance. He supervised the recovery of bogged tanks and trucks on east side of river.

While Battalion was across the Saar, supply and ammunition dumps were set up at the forward CP.

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HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/rsm

APO 403, U. S. Army
3 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 90, US Army.)

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in accordance with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seely
STANLEY W. SEELY
1st Lt., Cav., (Armd)
Adjutant

- 2 Incls:
- 1-War Diary, Companies (triplicate)
- 2- Operations Journal

990-110

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~~Stanley W. Seely~~
Stanley W. Seely

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After Action Report
712th Tank Battalion
January 1945

1-10 January

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

In defensive position at Kirchnaumen. Enemy aircraft over area 1 January. 2 January the S-3 half-track while on a test run vicinity Kirchnaumen was bombed and strafed by enemy plane. One **EM** suffered slight wound.

On 7 January, at 1400, company with Battalion left Kirchnaumen on secret move to Luxembourg to participate in Ardennes fight. Arrived at Rippweiler, Luxembourg at 2400, after traveling 49 miles through snow blanketed roads. The following day (8 January) company left Rippweiler at 1500, arrived at Boulaide, Luxembourg at 1735 - 16 miles.

On 9 January Lt. Col. George B. Randolph, Battalion Commanding Officer was killed in an artillery barrage at Nothum, Luxembourg. He joined the Battalion 6 June 1944.

COMPANY A:

Company located at Remeling (WQ0990).

On January 1 the 2d Platoon in support of 1st Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment, engaged in limited action to secure prisoners. 4 Pw were captured. The ground was extremely hilly and slippery. Two tanks of 1st Platoon on same day were in position at Nohn (WQ-1399), remaining section at Scheverwald (WQ0995); the 3rd Platoon in position at Platten (WQ1192).

5 January company retriever was sent to Veckring for demonstration of bridge-laying apparatus.

On 6 January at 1530 company left Remeling with Battalion on the march to Luxembourg. It arrived following morning (7 January) 0330 at Noerdange (VP 6929) - distance 63 miles. At 1500, 8 January company moved to Boulaide, Luxembourg, arriving at 1700 - distance traveled - 18 miles. Move was made in heavy snowfall. The balance of the period the company remained in reserve at Boulaide.

COMPANY B:

Company located at Oberesch. 5 January the 1st Platoon moved to Selwinger, relieving the 2d Platoon which moved to Beringen.

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6 January the company moved with the Battalion to Luxembourg. It moved into assembly area at Rippweiler, Luxembourg, awaiting orders to attack north-northeast with III Corps. The following day (8 January) company moved at 0600 under cover of darkness from Rippweiler to Grasbaus, Luxembourg, where it joined the 359th Infantry Regiment preparatory to attack on Berle, Luxembourg. The platoons joined their respective infantry battalions. On 9 January at 2200 the assault units, the other two platoons (and infantry battalions) attacked to seize the high ground around Berle. Enemy opposition was severe and losses were heavy. Company Commander and a platoon leader were casualties. During the night a Mark V tank fired a flare which had a short fuse. Instead of lighting up the area, it lighted up the German tank. The first platoon leader opened up with his 76mm at 20 yards and destroyed the tank. The second platoon was given mission of protecting Division right flank.

COMPANY C:

Company at Kirschnaumen, France, until 6 January. At 1530 on that date it moved under Battalion control to Rippweiler, Luxembourg, arriving at 2400. Roads were icy, visibility poor. On 8 January at 1300, Company moved to Bovigne, Luxembourg, arriving at 1630. It joined the 357th Infantry Regiment. 9 January the company jumped off at 0900 from Bovigne. The 2d platoon reached its objective - high ground near Bovigne - at 1400. 1st Platoon reached its objective - Berle, Luxembourg - at 1600, capturing one officer and 23 KM. The 3rd Platoon remained in reserve. The 2d Platoon moved into Berle. On 10 January one enlisted man evacuated due to shell fragments. Two tanks of 3rd platoon were sent 1.5 miles north of Bovigne to wipe out enemy machine gun nest. One tank disabled by enemy fire - caliber unknown - and had to be destroyed to prevent its use by the enemy. Platoon leader was evacuated.

COMPANY D:

On 1 January numerous enemy aircraft flew over the area at Kirschnaumen and drew fire from our guns. Several bombs were dropped in the vicinity.

2 January the 1st and 2d Platoons plus the tanks from Headquarters Platoon went on a road march to warm up the engines and lubricate all the working parts. The 3rd Platoon went out on a tactical problem.

6 January the Company with Battalion left the area at Kirschnaumen at 1530 and made a march of 51 miles to Rippweiler, Luxembourg, (719-225). The roads were icy and snow packed, but a rate of march was maintained at about 7 miles per hour. The Company arrived in the new area at 2320.

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8 January the Battalion moved from Rippweiler, Luxembourg at 1500, and made a march of 17 miles to Boulaide, Luxembourg- (618-448). Due to increased snowfall, snow packed and icy roads, about 10 grousers were put on each tank track. They were found to work very well. The rate of march averaged about 6 miles per hour, and the Company arrived at the new area at 1815.

9 January the 3rd Platoon left the area at 0900 and reported to the 90th Division CP for further orders. They contacted the 359th Infantry Regiment CP at Mecner-Dunkrodt, waited until 1130, and were ordered to take the tanks through Nothum (670-506). Here they encountered intense artillery fire. About 1 mile NW of Nothum a concentration of enemy machine gun fire was met. The CO of the 2d Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment and the CO of B Company, 712th Tank Battalion, were contacted and the Platoon was assigned to guard the Battalion advanced CP. Around 1730 two columns of German Infantry approached the CP, one column on each side. They were halted and when they started running for cover, the platoon leader directed fire on them. During the firing a voice was heard calling on one side,

"Stop firing, for God's sake stop firing! We're Americans, we're G.I's. returning from a patrol! Please stop firing!"

After the firing had ceased, the voice was heard again, "We're Germans. We want to give up and be taken as P.W's." Twenty-seven prisoners were taken and an undetermined number killed. Throughout the night the area was subjected to artillery and rocket fire.

10 January at 0800 the 3rd Platoon moved out as right flank guard for the 1st Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment and the 2d Platoon "B" Company in their advance through the enemy lines. Intense artillery and rocket fire was drawn immediately upon moving out. The advance led through fields flanking dense woods, the enemy having commanding observation. Conditions were such that it took approximately 3 1/2 hours to go 500 yards, as the ground had to be chosen very carefully. Every time the tanks were in an open area they drew intense fire. It was found advantageous to remove the red panels from the tanks as they provided an outstanding target for enemy guns and observation. Cover was sought in the woods, but the density of the trees and the tendency of the duckbills to pull the tracks off made the advance practically impossible. Tracks were thrown on 4 of the 5 tanks. Work was started replacing the tracks at around 1130 and ended about 1715. Tracks were replaced on two of the tanks, but tanks 31 and 33 had to be abandoned due to position, the need for a heavier towing vehicle, and maintenance trouble. During the working time the men were subjected to intense artillery and rocket barrages. Four of the five tanks were penetrated at various places by shrapnel. Tree and air bursts were very numerous. The three operative tanks were withdrawn and set up as right flank guard for the Battalion CP that night.

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The balance of the Company remained at Boulaide, Luxembourg.

SERVICE COMPANY:

Company in bivouac area at Elzange (VU9487). 6 January 1 wrecker was attached to Battalion to accompany it on march to Luxembourg. On 8 January Company moved to Rippweiler (VP7129).

11-20 January

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

13 January moved from Boulaide to Surre, Luxembourg, closing at 0900. On 17 January moved to new area at Soulez, Luxembourg, closing at 1200. During this period, company and detachment remained in division reserve. The Reconnaissance platoon acted as liaison between Battalion and its companies on the line.

COMPANY A:

On 11 January the three platoons moved to an assembly area N of Harlange. 13 January 2d platoon moved at 1730 to join 1st Battalion 358th Infantry Regiment. Two tanks of 1st Platoon were disabled by enemy HV fire vicinity of Bras, one being hit in the motor compartment and on the tube, the other on the tracks and suspension system. On 14 January the platoons continued the attack. A platoon leader's tank was hit and he and two members of the crew were killed, in vicinity of the railroad tracks North of Bras. The platoons moved on to Neiderwampach, where the following day the 2d Platoon knocked out a Mark IV SP gun and was instrumental in taking 380 PsW in a flanking movement on the Town.

16 January 2d and 3rd platoons moved against Oberwampach, the 1st platoon on the left of Neiderwampach. The former took up defensive positions, one platoon to the Northeast of the town to sweep the hills and slopes to the Northwest, North and Northeast; the other platoon to the southeast of the town to protect the flank. It also had good fields of fire to the east and northeast. On 17 January the 2d platoon knocked out five Mark V tanks and one half-track, while the 3rd platoon knocked out three Mark V tanks and crippled one Mark VI tank. The enemy tanks came from North and Northwest of Oberwampach in a sweeping flanking movement. The fighting was especially bitter and a heavy toll was taken of enemy personnel as well as armor. On the following day the 3rd platoon knocked out an additional Mark V tank. The enemy constantly counter-attacked our forces in the town, heavy enemy fire of all calibers coming in continually.

19 January the 1st platoon moved to Sonlez (VP6353) for maintenance and rest. The 3rd platoon moved to Neiderwampach, while the 2d platoon remained at Oberwampach. The latter repulsed 3 counter-attacks in 4 preceding days, the 3rd platoon

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7 counter-attacks. An enemy battalion CO was among the prisoners taken.

20 January two tanks of 2d platoon made a limited attack on the high ground North and Northeast of Oberwampach.

During the foregoing operations the 2d platoon employed a "300" radio for communicating with the infantry. It was informed through this means of the enemy counter-attacks and enabled the platoon leader to dispose his tanks on high ground long enough to fire (with heavy toll of enemy armor) and withdraw to defensive positions. One heavy enemy counter-attack was broken up in this manner.

COMPANY B:

11 January 3rd platoon attacked with an infantry battalion to capture Bohony. One Mark V tank and one self-propelled were knocked out and the objective taken. The platoon leader of 2d platoon was injured, the platoon accounting for two Mark V's and two self-propelled guns. Camouflaging our tanks with white paint to blend with the snow proved very effective. On 12 January the 2d platoon repulsed four enemy counter-attacks, knocking out six German tanks and six self-propelled guns, taking 150 PsW. The following day (13 Jan) the same platoon knocked out three Mark V tanks and three self-propelled guns. 14 January the company was relieved for necessary maintenance, reorganization, and rest. On 16 January company moved to Wardin. 1st and 2d platoons joined their respective infantry battalions preparatory to attack on Longvilly and adjacent high ground. The town was taken late the same day. The next two days were devoted to consolidating and outposting. 20 January the company and infantry took the high ground east and north of Longvilly.

COMPANY C:

11 January 1st platoon jumped off from Berle at 1100 attacking toward Doncols. It reached the outskirts at 1530, taking eight PsW. The 2d platoon left Berle at 1230, passed through the 1st platoon at 1630 and liberated Doncols. It captured two officers and 8 enlisted men; also an enemy regimental CP. 13 January 2d platoon set up a roadblock at 1330 in woods northeast of Doncols, covering the main road between Doncols and Bras. The 3rd platoon set up a roadblock 200 yards east of Doncols. Company headquarters moved from Bovigne to Doncols.

14 January Doncols was bombed and strafed by planes of Allied markings. 7 bombs were dropped within an hour.

15 January 2d platoon moved to secure additional high ground northeast of Doncols. The following day the company assembled at

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Doncols. On 17 January 2d platoon was attached to 359th Infantry Regiment and moved to Benonchamps, Belgium at 1700. The next day this platoon took up defensive position on high ground 1800 yards east of Longvilly, Belgium. On 20 January at 1100 Company moved from Doncols to Sonlez where the 2d platoon rejoined Company.

COMPANY D:

11 January the 3rd Platoon was relieved by the 2d Platoon around 1100 and reported to the 359th Infantry Regiment. It took up right flank guard along with tanks from "B" Company and vehicles from the 773rd TD's. Immediately an enemy artillery and rocket barrage was laid on the area. Under cover of darkness the Platoon and a platoon from "B" Company were withdrawn to Nothum and set up all around security for the night.

The balance of the Company remained at Boulaide.

12 January the 2d Platoon was relieved from the 1st Battalion, and reassigned to the 3rd Battalion. It received the mission of providing right flank security for the OP. The area was reconnoit-ered with a peep.

A platoon of tanks from "B" Company had taken crossroad (649-545) and held it with the help of some Infantry. The Germans launched a strong counter-attack that threatened the position. A heavy concentration of artillery and rockets were landing around the crossroad and the 2d Platoon area. The tanks from "B" Company were running low in ammunition and the 2d Platoon was called to reinforce them. On the way up they were notified that the situation was well in hand and that they had been resupplied with ammunition. The 2d Platoon then turned back to provide security for the OP for the day. Under the cover of darkness the Platoon carried gas, water, and rations on the tanks to the assault guns and tanks of "B" Company, and took up defensive positions at the 359th OP for the night. The position was so close to enemy observation that the sound of the engines drew enemy fire. Harrassing fire was laid down throughout the night.

13 January in the early morning enemy SP guns fired into the area held by the 2d Platoon and several Infantry men were injured. At 1300 word was received that they were relieved by the 26th Infantry Division, but because of the direct observation of about 1 mile of the road by the enemy holding the high ground the Platoon stayed in position until after darkness. During the day barrages were laid down on the area by the Germans and a group of our own planes bombed and strafed the area occupied by attached Infantry by mistake. At nighttime the Platoon moved out. A flat trajectory weapon opened up on them immediately. They ran a gauntlet of fire back to Nothum with enemy artillery so close that the muzzle blasts could be observed on the hill sides. It was an exciting ride back

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for the Platoon and quite a few grousers were lost due to excessive speed. It was later discovered that the Germans had slipped in to the area separating the defensive position of the Platoon from the positions held by the "B" Company tanks, a distance of about 500 yards, and placed mines on the road. The Platoon returned to the Company area which was now Surre, Luxembourg.

Around 0830 the Company moved to Surre (595-466) a distance of about 3 miles.

Company maintenance section with the aid of a retriever from "B" Company spent seven hours recovering tanks 31 and 33 abandoned on 10 January. Artillery and rocket barrages were still falling in the area.

14 January the day was spent in the maintenance of all vehicles.

15 January the weather became very cold and made the starting of all engines very difficult. The tanks were cleaned on the outside and prepared for painting white as a camouflage with the snow. All the 1st Platoon tanks were painted.

16 January all vehicles had their engines started after 2400 of the 15th as a protection against the freezing weather.

The line platoons were alerted and moved out around 1500. The 1st Platoon was assigned to the 359th Infantry Regiment as a mobile reserve and moved to Wardin, Belgium (590-565).

The 2d Platoon was held in reserve at Sonlez, Luxembourg (633-532), with the 358th Infantry Regiment.

The 3rd Platoon was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 357 Infantry Regiment as a mobile reserve and moved to Bras, Belgium (627-558).

17 January the Company Headquarters section moved with Battalion at 1015 to Sonlez, a distance of 5 miles. They arrived at 1145.

The 1st Platoon remained in control of the 3rd Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment as a mobile reserve. They moved to Benonchamps, Belgium and took up defensive positions, (620-574).

The 2d Platoon was relieved from the 358th and reverted to Company control.

The 3rd Platoon remained attached to the 357th, 3rd Battalion at Bras, Belgium, and held as mobile reserve.

18 January the tanks from the 2d Platoon and the vehicles from Headquarters Platoon changed from 30 oil to 10 oil because of the coldness.

19 January the 1st Platoon remained in reserve at Benonchamps.

The 2d Platoon relieved the 3rd Platoon at Bras around 1130, the 3rd Platoon returned to the Company area at Sonlez, Luxembourg, performed maintenance, and changed from 30 to 10 grade oil because of the extreme coldness.

Quite a bit of snow had fallen during the early morning and drifts were encountered 2 and 3 feet deep in the area near Bras, Belgium. At some places the roads were temporarily blocked.

SERVICE COMPANY:

The company 11-13 January was located at Rippweiler. An experiment of camouflaging vehicles to blend with the snow, made up of a lime mixture, was made and found very successful. All Tanks are now whitewashed before leaving Battalion maintenance. On 14 January the company moved to Hostert Les Folschette, and on 17 January the Headquarters and Transportation platoons moved to Surre, the Maintenance platoon to Boulaide.

All replacement tanks are checked by Battalion Maintenance before being released to the Companies.

21-31 January 1945

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Units moved from Sonlez to Dierenbach on 22 January, closing at 1430. Moved again 23 January to Runlange, closing at 1330. Movement made in snow-storm. Sporadic enemy artillery fire fell near CP. 26 January units moved to Massen. During this period they remained in division reserve.

COMPANY A:

21 January Company CP moved to Benonchamps. 1st platoon at Benonchamps with Company Headquarters. 2d Platoon pushed to Hamville with Infantry with very little opposition from the enemy. 3d platoon attached to Infantry Battalion at Dierenbach.

22 January Company Headquarters and 1st platoon moved to Dierenbach where they were joined by the 2d and 3d platoons. Day spent painting tanks white (snow camouflage) and performing necessary maintenance.

23 January entire company moved with the Battalion to Runlange; placed in Division Reserve.

24 January spent day on painting remainder of vehicles and maintenance.

25 January company still in reserve. Spent day on vehicles, weapons and rest.

26 January company headquarters and 2d platoon moved to Biwisch. 1st and 3d platoons vicinity Weiswampach with 2d Battalion 358 Infantry Regiment.

27 January 1st platoon at Leithum (VP 8475). Close support of Infantry to this objective. Light enemy opposition. 2d platoon still at Biwisch. 3d platoon at Beiler (VP8275). Closely supported the infantry to this objective. Little enemy opposition. Terrain and weather conditions made good tank support impossible. Tanks were called on by the Infantry for support fire on automatic weapons positions when necessary.

28 January 1st platoon still at Leithum. 2d platoon at Beiler in reserve. 3d platoon at Lascheid. Was called on by the infantry to give close support fire to this objective. Terrain very hilly and slippery. 105 tank to Utopia to facilitate communications.

29 January 1st platoon at Leithum. 2d platoon at Beiler. 3d platoon limited action vicinity Weweler (VP 8778). Tank maneuverability poor. 3d platoon did some support fire on enemy automatic weapons, but found the terrain bad for too much movement.

30 January 1st, 2d and 3d platoons all vicinity Stupbach on the Our River. Late in the afternoon all the platoons crossed the river. 1st platoon pushed out with the infantry about 1 kilometer E of the town. 2d and 3d platoons remained across the river in the vicinity of the town.

31 January 1st platoon moved another kilometer E to holding position. 2d platoon remained in the position of previous day in reserve, 3d platoon moved to the E about three kilometers with the infantry giving them support fire to knock out automatic weapons. The snowy condition of the roads and fields, plus the character of the terrain (very hilly) made tank cooperation difficult. Enemy left plenty of mines along route of retreat. Especially along logical routes of pursuit.

COMPANY B:

On 21 January the three platoons jumped off at 0800 and advanced to Hammi-ville before meeting any enemy resistance. The following day (22 January) the platoons advanced to Boxhome, capturing the high ground. The company CP moved to Deifelt. The 1st platoon went into firing position in woods north of town to support the infantry crossing the Loraine River. The 2d platoon set up a roadblock 75 yards out of the town.

24 January 1st platoon supported infantry in seizing nearby high ground. On 25 January company was relieved from attachment to 359th Infantry Regiment and moved to Troisverges for reorganization and maintenance after about 26 days of continuous fighting. It remained until 31 January, when it rejoined the 359th Infantry Regiment at Burg Reuland (858787).

COMPANY C:

21 January 3rd platoon joined 3rd Battalion, 359th Infantry at 1600, moving up to high ground NW of Lullange into defensive positions. 1st and 2d

[REDACTED]

platoons remained in Wincrange in support. Company Headquarters left Sonlez at 1330 and arrived at Longvilly, Belgium at 1500, marching 8 miles.

On 22 January Company Headquarters left Longvilly, Belgium at 1430 and set up CP in Wincrange at 1600, after marching 7 miles. 1st and 3d platoons reassigned to 1st Battalion 357th Infantry and left Wincrange at 1100, marched to Asselborn, Luxembourg with no opposition. At 1600 both platoons moved into position NE of town. 2d platoon, reassigned to 2d Battalion, 357th Infantry, marched on Boxhorn. While topping high ground before entering town one tank hit a mine. On entering the town the 2d platoon knocked out 2 machine gun nests expending 7 rds of HE.

23 January 1st platoon moved out with 1st Battalion, objective Binsfeld. It supported the attack from the high ground N of Sassel. While attempting to cross a creek in this operation the entire platoon was bogged down. 2d and 3d platoons moved on to Sassel.

24 January at 0200 2d and 3d platoons pulled back to Asselborn, picked up a platoon of infantry and a squad of Engineers, then advanced to Binsfeld by way of Troisverges, arriving in the middle of a fierce counter attack. It knocked out 1 anti-tank gun and the enemy retired. 3d platoon took 4 EM prisoner in this operation.

1st platoon got 3 tanks out of bog and proceeded to Binsfeld. The next day the 4th tank of 1st platoon was pulled out of the bog. 3rd platoon left Binsfeld at 0830 26 January with infantry mounted on tanks and arrived at town of Hupperdange at 1200. Left Hupperdange at 1230 with infantry both mounted and dismounted, arriving at Heinerscheid 1330.

2d platoon advanced with 2d Battalion onto high ground, cutting road N of Lausdorn.

On 27 January 1st platoon moved up with 1st Battalion to Weiswampach. 2d platoon was relieved and returned to Battalion control in Troisverges.

3rd platoon left Heinerscheid at 1700 and moved into Defensive position on high ground 1 mile NW of Heinerscheid. At 2000 3rd platoon moved to Weiswampach, arriving at 2400.

On 28 January 3rd platoon left Weiswampach at 0900 and crossed Belgium border at 1100 in support of the infantry. One tank was disabled by enemy mine. 3rd platoon was fired on point blank by enemy tanks at 1000 yards. 2 tanks were hit twice, each by 2 AP and 2 HE without penetration or becoming disabled. Platoon then retired to woods to their rear and took up defensive position. 1st platoon moved to Lielen and took 1 prisoner. 2d platoon left Troisverges at 2030 and arrived in Leithum at 0030. The next day it left Lithum at 1400 and arrived at Oberhausen, Belgium at 1500 firing 10 HE and 2 AP at several houses full of enemy personnel, causing 1 officer and 74 EM to surrender to the accompanying infantry. 2d platoon captured 3 prisoners in this operation.

On 30 January the 3rd platoon returned to Weiswampach. 3 tanks of 2d platoon crossed Our River, by fording at 0500 covered by 2d section, 2d section remaining in Oberhausen.

[REDACTED]

21 January all platoons returned to Company control. The next day a V-1 buzz bomb flew over the area at 0715 and others passed over the area around 1600.

The Company moved with Battalion from Senlez to Derenback, Luxembourg, (674-590), a distance of about 7 miles. The area was cleared at 1200 and the new area reached at 1400. Progress was slow due to a heavy traffic of convoys and moving equipment.

23 January the company moved with Battalion to Rumlange, Luxembourg (740-660). At this place there was a bit of artillery that fell in the vicinity, small arms fire was heard, and two of our planes were shot down in the vicinity.

At around 1900 the 3rd Platoon was assigned a mission to move to Asselborn, Luxembourg (740-877), and serve as a mobile reserve for the 357th Infantry Regiment, along with tanks from Co. "C".

26 January the Company prepared to move with Battalion at 1200 and cleared the area at 1415. The 3rd Platoon joined the convoy at Asselborn, having been relieved of their assignment. Roads again were jammed with moving equipment and convoys. The new area at Trois Vierges, Luxembourg was reached around 1550.

27 and 28 January the painting white of vehicles was resumed but work had to be discontinued on account of snow.

31 January at around 1700 the 1st and 2d Platoons with the CP and CO tanks moved to Lieler, Luxembourg, (837-709), and set up an outguard and a CP for the night. The two Platoons relieved the 90th Division Reconnaissance of its' outguard. The balance of the Company remained at Trois Vierges.

SERVICE COMPANY:

Company moved to Benonchamps 25 January, and the next day to Hamiville. 29 January the Battalion Maintenance Officer took two tanks each with a driver and tank commander and a half-track with 3 men of the Battalion Maintenance Platoon to a hill still under enemy observation to try and recover a M4A3E2 that had been knocked out by enemy mines. By hooking the two tanks together and putting them in their lowest gear the tanks moved up to the position of the M4A3E2 with very little noise, hooked up and pulled it several hundred yards back down into the Valley where it could be worked on without being under enemy observation. When the M4A3E2 was moved the tracks came off. The half-track crew moved up with the half-track to a position near enough to the tracks where they could unwind the winch and hook onto the tracks without getting stuck, and winched the tracks out and dragged them back with the M4A3E2. After checking the vehicle it had to be listed as battle loss. The explosion of the mine had bulged the bottom plate in, and torn it loose; also the ammunition boxes and accessories were torn loose.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon accomplished the following jobs during the period 20th to 30th January inclusive.

3 Continental engines installed, 1 GMC motor installed; Clutch installed in 1/4 ton; 1 Ford engine replaced; Ford engine taken out but could not be replaced because of damage done to compartment and accessories, Linkages, Oil

[REDACTED]

filters, gas lines etc; 2 suspension systems installed; Rear idler and final drive hub installed. After a tank had been dropped as battle loss the welder repaired it by welding a gouge between the final drive and differential. Welders also welded other gouges on tanks that had been hit and did not penetrate, making them ready for action again.

HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

SWS/rsm

APO 403, U. S. Army
7 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 90,
U. S. Army).

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in
accordance with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seeley
STANLEY W. SEELEY
1st Lt., Cav., (Armd)
Adjutant

3 Incls:
1-war Diary, Companies (triplicate)
2-operations Journal

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69*

5712

Stanley W. Seeley

SECRET

[REDACTED]

After Action Report
712th Tank Battalion
February 1945

1-10 February 1945

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Remained at MASSON, Luxembourg to 5 February, as Division reserve. On the latter date, it moved to Gruffangin, Belgium, arriving at 1130 - distance 11 miles. On 7 February at 0900, moved in three serials via St. Vith because of bad roads to Groblangefeld, Germany, arriving at 1130. Distance traveled 16 miles. Sporadic enemy artillery fire received from Siegfried positions.

During this period the Reconnaissance platoon maintained contact between Battalion Headquarters and the several companies. It also assisted in billeting and acted as road guides.

COMPANY A:

Company CP located at Biwisch (VP7470), all platoons in support of infantry. Across the Our River in terrain unfavorable to track vehicles. On 2 February the CP moved to Beiler (VP8275), while the 1st and 3d platoons gave close support to the infantry in vicinity (8875 and 888755). The 3d platoon at one time lost contact with the supporting infantry and became surrounded by enemy bazooka men. The platoon opened fire and dispersed the enemy who ran into our infantry coming up on the left. The enemy was captured. The platoon itself captured 15 PsW later in the day. Mortar fire was received during the day (3 February) the platoons were on line in a holding position.

Note:

The companies of the Battalion reorganized their platoons so as to make four platoons, of four tanks each, in order that there might be one platoon in reserve. It was found desirable to do this because of the constant employment of the former 3 platoons, which resulted in long periods without rest and necessary maintenance.

On 4 - 5 February the company was relieved for necessary maintenance and rest. On 6 February the 1st and 2d platoons moved to support the infantry at Winterscheid, the 3d platoon at Bleialf. The following day they assaulted pillboxes of the Siegfried Line at close range, thus keeping them buttoned up in order for our infantry to attack them. One tank hit a mine, without casualty to personnel. The assault continued the next day (8 February). One tank bogged down among the pillboxes. Tank fire is proving very effective in the capture of the boxes. Two 3d platoon tanks were knocked out in a night attack, one of which is retrievable. The tanks are being supplied by withdrawing one per platoon at a time to a prearranged area.

On 9 February the platoons mopped up the area taken and assaulted new positions. The pillboxes are spaced more thinly. The company has managed to keep at least 3 tanks in operation per platoon. On 10 February the assault continued. One tank was immobilized by enemy fire. No casualty.

[REDACTED]

The company maintenance section was able to return a repaired tank to the line for each one knocked out or otherwise disabled.

Approximately 30 pillboxes were captured during the above period with the assistance of the company.

COMPANY B:

On 1 February the company attacked along the Our River to capture Winterspelt. The enemy withdrew a number of self propelled guns after a delaying action. The company lost 2 men to artillery fire. The CP moved into the town. The following day the company outposted the town and performed maintenance.

3 February the 2d platoon joined the 1st Battalion, 359th Infantry in attack on Buscheid. The roads were mined and booby trapped. The 1st platoon attacked with the 2d Infantry Battalion, capturing Brandscheid. 1. 35 PsW were taken.

6 February the 2d platoon attacked to secure the high ground vicinity of Echibied. Mines and roadblocks found to be plentiful. 2d platoon knocked out 12 pillboxes in Halshied and took 20 PsW. The 3d platoon supported by fire, flushing 125 PsW. The following day (7 February) the 2d platoon knocked out 8 pillboxes and 1 AT gun. The 3d platoon knocked out 9 pillboxes.

On 10 February the 1st platoon sent to Branschied to support by fire and outpost the town.

COMPANY C:

On 6 February at 0130 1st and 3d platoons left Elcherath and arrived in Habscheid at 0400 meeting no opposition. 1st Platoon took 5 prisoners.

2d Platoon left Ihorn at 2200 and marched to Winterspelt arriving at 0200 on the 7th. 1 tank of 1st Platoon was disabled by enemy mine at Habscheid while Platoon was covering the withdrawal of the infantry to better positions. No casualties.

3d Platoon left Habscheid at 1900 to take high ground NE of Habscheid, reached objective 0600 on the 8th supporting the infantry. On 8 February 3d Platoon pushed off at 0800 to take the forward slope of high ground previously captured. At 0925 one tank was disabled by a direct hit on boggy assembly by enemy HE. 2 tanks were completely destroyed and burned by enemy AP firing direct, in this action. 1 man was LWA, 1 SWA and 3 men were LIA in this action. The one remaining tank returned to Habscheid. The next day 1 section of 1st Platoon left Habscheid at 0545 and marched to Hollnick arriving at 0630. 2d section left Habscheid and arrived at Hollnick at 1200.

2d Platoon left Grossrlangenfeld at 1200 and arrived at Habscheid at 1300.

1 tank of 1st Platoon joined 1 tank of Company B and supported the infantry in capturing two pillboxes.

10 February 2d section of 1st Platoon took up defensive position on slope of hill NE of Hollnick.

COMPANY D:

~~SECRET~~

1 February the portion of the Company remaining at Trois Vierges, Luxembourg, moved at 1130 to join the rest of the Company at Lieler, Luxembourg (837-709). They arrived in the new area at 1330, distance traveled about 6 miles.

The three line platoons were temporarily broken down to four platoons. All around security was maintained by means of outposts. At various places the enemy was so close that they could be seen by using glasses. Observation was very good at these points and many times direct observation could be made of our artillery falling.

The maintenance tank was returned from Ordnance where it had new engines installed and other repairs made. It had been gone for over three weeks.

2 February around 0400, a German light bomber flew over the area at house top level. At various times German artillery landed within 300 to 400 yards of the area. No damage was done.

5 February the company moved from the area at Lieler, Luxembourg at 1330 and arrived at the new area in Thommen, Belgium (815-814) at 1430. The distance traveled was about 12 miles. The housing facilities at this area were rather bad and crowded conditions existed. The melting snows converted the roads and fields into muddy messes.

6 February the company minus the kitchen and maintenance sections moved from the area at Thommen, Belgium at 1315, and proceeded to the new area at Winterscheid, Germany (937-825) around 1600. The distance traveled was about 19 miles. Once again the housing facilities were very bad, and the only portion of building available was an old blacksmith shop. The CP was set up in this space. The balance of the company had to seek shelter in barns and hay lofts.

7 February the kitchen and the maintenance section left the area at Thommen, Belgium and rejoined the company at Winterscheid, Germany. The 1st Platoon had a mission to make contact with the 4th Infantry Division and get the disposition of the 22d Infantry Regiment. The 1st Platoon was accompanied by a portion of the 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop. Contact was made at the towns of Sellerich and Herscheid, Germany. A flat trajectory weapon fired several rounds over the Platoon, but they were high and did no damage. The Platoon then returned to the Company area.

8 February the company was called on about 1700 to send two Platoons in the vicinity of Brandscheid, Germany to outpost all roads S and E of the town. Four tanks of the 2d Platoon and the 1st section of the 3d Platoon moved out at 1730. Due to the darkness and muddy roads they did not get in position until about 2000. All communications from the outposts reported no enemy action up to 2400.

9 February the two platoons continued to outpost the roads for the day at Brandscheid, Germany. They were relieved and returned to company control around 1730. While moving into the company area at Winterscheid, a tank hit and set off several seconds later what was believed to be a hand grenade.

SERVICE COMPANY:

From the 1st to 3d of February the company was located at Troisvierges, Luxembourg. On the 4th of February the company moved from Troisvierges to Grurlange, Belgium, where it remained through the period covering the report.

[REDACTED]

The Transportation platoon accomplished the following work during the period 1st to 10th February, inclusive:

Moved the battalion durrel bags from Elsange, France, VU-9487, to Troisvierges, VP-7570. Drew 300 rounds of 75mm HE, 200 rounds of 76mm HE and 22 rounds of 76mm APC ammunition from the dump. 12,600 gallons of gasoline was drawn from the gasoline dump.

One (1) gasoline and two (2) ammunition trucks were attached to A, B, and C Companies and one (1) gasoline and one (1) ammunition trucks were attached to Hq and D Companies. The water truck was attached to Headquarters Company. Transportation was furnished for rest camp and other necessary runs.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon accomplished the following work during the period from 1st February to 10th February inclusive:

Changed one (1) Ford engine.

Changed one (1) Half-track engine.

Changed four (4) Radial engines.

Installed one (1) Tank clutch.

Installed two (2) $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton clutches.

Installed three (3) GMC $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton motors.

With two ten-ton wreckers and one M32 Tank Recovery vehicle four (4) tanks and one (1) M32 were evacuated from this unit to 553d Ordnance. Wreckers pulled a tank from a creek after the bridge had broken while tank was making a crossing.

The section also retrieved a 155mm Howitzer mounted on a four-wheel chassis, after the Howitzer with its prime mover, a ten-ton truck, had turned over and rolled down a fifty-foot embankment. The Howitzer was a First Army, VIII Corps artillery piece.

11-20 February 1945

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY-MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

10 - 12 February company remained in Division reserve at Grosslangenfeld, Germany. The latter date the company moved from Grosslangenfeld, arrived at Heckalenfeld, Germany 1100. After arriving at Heckalenfeld the platoons took up defensive positions and out-posted town. Assault Gun Platoon was alerted to move forward to Division M.L.R. in case of enemy counterattack. For balance of period company remained in Division reserve.

17 February ten replacements were assigned for three days battle orientation. Orientation was conducted for three days by the Platoon Leaders after which time they were transferred to line companies within the Battalion. During the period the Reconnaissance Platoon reconnoitered routes of march for the Battalion, and acted as liaison between units of the 90th Infantry Division and 712th Tank Battalion.

COMPANY A:

On 11 February a tank hit a prepared crater-type charge, resulting in complete loss of tank but without injury to the crew.

[REDACTED]

The charge was strung across the road and rilled with iron rails, etc, in addition to the explosives.

12 February the company moved to Grosslangenfeld. The following day the 2d platoon took up indirect firing positions in vicinity of Brandscheid. Remainder of company spent the following days through 17 February on maintenance. "300" radios were installed in the tanks.

18 February 1st, 2d, and 3d platoons secured limited objectives. Two tanks were mired down. The 1st platoon spent balance of period in holding position.

COMPANY B:

11 February the 1st platoon outposted Brandscheid. 2d and 3d platoons Habscheid. The following day the company was relieved. It moved to Winterscheid (distance: 9 miles) where it remained through 15 February, performing maintenance. Floaters were in bad shape.

16 February company was alerted to move out. Platoon Leaders made contact with the Battalion Commander. The 1st platoon moved out at 1730 hours to crossroads in Habshied, where it was gassed and ten rounds of ammunition stored on back of the tanks. The 2d platoon moved at 1800 to the crossroads for gas and ammunition, followed by the 3d platoon.

On 17 February 3d platoon moved out with 3d Battalion, 359th Infantry to take Kelfeld and high ground. The tanks moved out as soon as the mines had been cleared from the road. The platoon moved into town. Small arms fire very heavy and all Germans had bazookas. One tank was lost to bazooka fire, one man being killed and two wounded. No enemy tanks were met. 2d platoon moved into position with 1st Battalion which was to attack south, bypass the 3d battalion, and take the high ground.

18 February the platoon leader, 1st platoon while making a PR to bring his tanks up to help the assault company of the infantry which was pinned down by fire from the pillbox, found the tanks could not be brought up through the woods because of the terrain. He asked an infantryman where the OP was and the soldier pointed out a pillbox on top of the hill. The day was foggy and misty and as he started up to where the infantry OP was he made a wrong turn and went into a pillbox which he supposed to be the OP. As he entered a German Captain came through the door. The German too was surprised, and before he could recover the Lieutenant covered him with his pistol. The German Officer raised his hands over his head and the Lieutenant brought him out, followed by a German Lieutenant, a non com and 15 men in all. The platoon leader called back for two of his tank men to come up and disarm the PsW and then turned them over to the infantry and proceeded to the next pillbox. In the meantime a route for the tanks had been found. He took one prisoner over to a pillbox and told the Germans in it to surrender or be blown up by tank fire from 20 yards. The German Officer saw the tanks coming and surrendered, followed by seven others, all of whom had been awarded the Iron Cross.

COMPANY C:

11 February 3d platoon left Habscheid at 2400 and arrived in Heckscheid at 1330. On 14 February 1st section of 1st platoon with one tank of 3d platoon attached continued to fire indirect. Headquarters

[REDACTED]

1st Platoon left Habscheid at 1515 16 February, and arrived in Winterscheid at 1700. 2d platoon left Heckuscheid at 2300 and marched to Winterscheid arriving at 2400. 1st Platoon with remainder of 3d Platoon left Habscheid at 0800, 17 February and arrived in Winterscheid at 0900.

18 February platoon supported 2d Battalion 357th Infantry in taking Ndr. Utfield, leaving Winterscheid at 0900. 1st platoon with two tanks of 3d platoon attached left Winterscheid at 1300 to take up defensive position 2 miles NW of Obr. Utfield. The following day the 2d platoon in support of the infantry continued to advance on outskirts of Ndr. Utfield.

COMPANY B:

12 February the 1st and 2d Platoons moved at 1700 to the new area at Elcherath, Germany. The next day the 3d and Headquarters Platoons moved from Winterscheid, Germany at 0930 and arrived in the new area at Elcherath, Germany (896-816) at 1000, distance 3.6 miles. The day was spent in maintenance and cleaning up of the vehicles.

16 February all the white paint was removed from the vehicles. During the period spent in this area a platoon of tanks is alerted for each 24 hours to act as part of a task force to counter-attack in case of an enemy break through. The alert is operated on a 20 minute notice, and for any area in the Division Zone. A reconnaissance was made of the center of the zone, the right flank, and other sectors to familiarize themselves with the roads and general terrain. This reconnaissance was made by Platoon leaders and Platoon Sergeants.

19 February two platoon leaders proceeded on foot with a platoon of tanks from A Company and attached Infantry, and took the town of Masthorn with little resistance. The Platoon was held in reserve the balance of the day screening the open right flank of the 358th Infantry Regiment's sector in the vicinity of Masthorn. They reverted to Company control and returned to the Company area around 1900.

The 2d and 3d Platoons were alerted and moved out around 1300. Tank 34 was left behind due to a shortage of crews. The two platoons were working with units of the 90th Division Reconnaissance and attached to the 357th Infantry Regiment operating in the vicinity 1 kilometer N of Benscheid, Germany.

20 February radio sets 300-A were installed in tanks 11, 14, and the CO tank. Operating instructions were given to the bow gunners of these tanks.

The 2d Platoon held the high ground NW of Benscheid for the purpose of giving fire support to the troops entering the town from the East.

The 3d Platoon advanced to the crossroads N of Benscheid and met stiff opposition and road blocks. Two enemy machine gun positions were knocked out, several Germans killed, and two prisoners taken. At a point several hundred yards from Benscheid heavy enemy automatic fire was encountered. The Infantry being unable to advance, the platoon leader's tank pushed through them in an attempt to knock out the automatic weapons. At a point 300 yards NE of the town his tank was disabled by mines. He called for his next tank to come up alongside of him.

[REDACTED]

Doing so, this tank hit mines in the same tracks the 1st tank had taken. The driver was killed and two of the crew suffered broken legs and other leg injuries, and were injured around the face. The two tanks were road-blocked to such an extent that the remaining tanks could not maneuver around them or bring effective fire on the enemy guns. At this time the Infantry was subjected to artillery fire and withdrew about 600-700 yards. The tankers evacuated their wounded assisted by their two Psw, and helped in the evacuation of the Infantry wounded. The tanks withdrew on order. Tank 34 was taken out to replace the Platoon Leader's tank. The Platoon as of 2400 consisted of 3 tanks. During this period efforts were being made to send combat patrols into the town, and for the Engineers to clear the mine fields. While the two tanks were left somewhat in No-Man's land, the Infantry CO advised not further destroying the tanks then inasmuch as he expected to push back past them.

SERVICE COMPANY:

12 February Company less Battalion Maintenance Platoon moved from Gruflange to Breitfeld, Belgium. Battalion Maintenance Platoon moved the next day.

The following work was accomplished by the Transportation and Battalion Maintenance Platoons covering period of above report.

Transportation Platoon

Drew 1800 rounds of 75 HE, 200 rounds 75 AP, and 200 rounds of 76 HE ammunition from the ammunition dump. 9700 gallons gasoline from gas dump.

During the period (1) gas and (2) ammunition trucks was attached to A, B, and C Companies. Headquarters Company and D Companies had (1) gas and (1) ammunition trucks attached to them. The water truck was attached to Headquarters Company during this period.

Transportation was furnished to haul personnel of the Battalion to the rest camp, shower points and to draw equipment for the BSO.

Men were furnished to act as tank commanders to draw replacement tanks. (1) gasoline truck was sent to refuel tanks enroute from ordnance.

Battalion Maintenance Platoon

Installed two new motors in GMC 2 1/2 ton trucks 6x6.

Adjusted brakes and installed new spark plugs on GMC 2 1/2 ton 6x6.

Moved bed back in normal position on truck 2 1/2 ton GMC truck 6x6 after it had shifted 2" forward.

Installed new motor in half-track.

Installed new motor in 1/2 ton 4x4.

Installed new clutch in 1/2 ton 4x4.

Repaired homelite and muffler on M4 W/105.

Put floats on tracks of M4 W/75.

Replaced clutch pull back spring, readjusted clutch and cleaned fuel filter on M4 W/75.

Fixed transmission on M4A3 W/76.

Wreckers were dispatched out to companies of the Battalion and to other points when called for in addition to being used to pull motors on vehicles.

[REDACTED]

The Artillery Mechanic, Radio Electrician and Battalion Armorer checked guns and radio equipment on all replacement tanks before turning them over to the companies.

21-28 February

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY-MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

On 23 February one section of Reconnaissance Platoon was to carry gasoline to Company A tanks vicinity Sinscheid. The L1 ton weasle was employed on this mission and operated over open terrain under cover of darkness.

February 26 through balance of period the company, with the Battalion, was placed in SNAEF Reserve.

COMPANY A:

The CP on 21 February was located at Grosslangenfeld. The 3d platoon was only one committed, taking a limited objective with the 3d Battalion 358th Infantry. The following day all the platoons jumped, the 1st at 939661, 2d platoon at 981659, and 3d platoon at 958668.

23 February company moved to Sinscheid. The 1st and 3d platoons moved along with the infantry against medium to light opposition. Enemy tanks were sighted in the early hours of the morning, but our tanks could not engage them because friendly infantry with bazookas were in the line of fire. The latter drove the tanks off. One tank was returned to the CP with bad transmission. Present strength of company, 1st and 2d platoons have 3 tanks each, 3d platoon has 4 tanks. One Mark III tank and one Mark IV SP were destroyed. The following day an enemy truck was knocked out.

Until afternoon 25 February all platoons were in holding positions. At that time they returned to the CP at Heckhalenfeld. The balance of the period was devoted to maintenance.

COMPANY B:

21 February 1st platoon attacked and by-passed the 3d platoon and the 3d Battalion and took high ground north of Welsfeld. The Infantry destroyed ten (10) pillboxes. Due to direct fire on main road from Welsfeld to Urfeld supply had to move at night. 3d platoon reorganized and was given a new tank and crew. 2d platoon had not moved as the day closed.

22 February 1st platoon was in reserve at Welfeld. 2d platoon jumped off at 0330 hours to move up; to take high ground overlooking Strakshied, with 3d platoon in support and to establish road blocks in woods. 2d platoon moved up behind the mine sweepers to woods overlooking the town. The woods and road were under heavy artillery fire. Tanks could not help the infantry materially because if they moved out of the woods to fire a tank or SP fired direct at them. 3d platoon to the left of the second platoon received time fire. Food could not be sent up but once to the 2d and 3d platoons as artillery

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

fire was heavy and all vehicles were stopped from using the road. The Company Commander went up to see the platoon on foot.

23 February 3d platoon maintained road block. 2d platoon assembled at the CP. The assault company of the infantry was pinned down by machine gun fire from a house across the valley about 100 yards to the front. A 76 fired 6 rounds and the house was destroyed enabling the infantry to advance.

24 February the 2d platoon has been relieved and moved back to Kesfeld. A radio team installed the infantry 300 radios in the tanks. 1st platoon moved out to relieve the 3d at Strictshire and outpost the town. 2d platoon moved up to Masthorn to outpost the town and relieve the 358th Infantry. Artillery was heavy. The company CP was moved to a pillbox in Kesfeld.

25 February the company left Utfeld at 1300 hours enroute to Battalion Headquarters at Hackhalenfeld. Move was accomplished with the trains and 2d platoon. Kitchen was set up for hot chow for the 1st and 3d platoons which will move at 1900 from the assembly. CO has wire and telephone communication with Battalion. Lt. Gagat and S/Sgt Diehl closed into the Battalion Area at 2230 where a guide picked them up and moved the platoon to the new quarters. Hot food was served. The men and platoon were bedded down for the night.

26 February company performed maintenance and 50% of the men went for hot showers.

27 February company performed maintenance and changed floaters. It was alerted to join the 6th Cavalry Group and left at 1520 for Krautshied. The guide took the tanks into the wrong town where they drew direct fire from a German tank on the high ground. One man was killed and one man badly injured. The company then went to Krautshied. No action as period closed.

28 February Lt. Gagat moved to Bellshied and went into position along side of the TD. Kitchen was set up and hot food was served the men. Battalion Commander up to see how the company was getting along. No action as the period closed.

COMPANY C:

21 February 2d platoon took up outpost duties .5 miles NE of Ndr Uttfeld at 2100. 1st platoon arrived in Stalback 2000, left Stalback at 2200 and arrived in Lichtenborn at 0730 on 22d.

22 February 1st platoon left Lichtenborn at 2000 arrived at Kopscheid at 0930 on 23d. At 2330 the first tank was hit and destroyed by enemy shell fire. 1 EM was KIA, 1 SWA and 2 LWA. 2d platoon left Uttfeld 0900 and reached high ground 1 mile S of Stalback at 0100 on 23d.

23 February 2d platoon took up defensive position 1 mile SE of Lichtenborn at 0600. Took up outpost positions, 1 mile SE of Waxweiler at 1600. Left there at 1800 and went to Lauperath.

24 February at 0600 2d platoon pulled back to point 1.5 miles E of Lichtenborn.

25 February company assembled and moved to Hackhalenfeld under Battalion control. Balance of period was devoted to maintenance and cleaning of weapons.

[REDACTED]

19 February the 2d and 3d platoons moved out around 1300 and were attached to platoons from the 90th Division Reconnaissance, and a portion of the 357th Infantry Regiment. The first mission was to combine forces and take Binscheid. The 2d platoon of the company and a platoon of Reconnaissance were to attack the town from the right, while the 3d platoon and a platoon of Reconnaissance were to go to the left. About 700 yards on the other side of Ndr. Uttfeld, the 2d platoon had a fire fight at a cross roads and took 4 PsW. These prisoners pointed out 13 mines across the road that the vehicles of the Reconnaissance Troop had just passed over, but fortunately had not detonated them. A patrol moved within 300 yards of Binscheid on the right flank and noticed enemy infantry in foxholes on the edge of town. Three PsW were taken coming across the field. High ground was held by the platoon until 2100 when they withdrew to the crossroads and outposted them. Six more PsW were taken from a nearby house and pill-box.

20 February the combination team of the 3d platoon tanks and the 3d platoon of the 90th Division Reconnaissance moved out from their position at 1100. While proceeding towards their mission a staggered mine field was discovered across the road by the Reconnaissance Troop. Being guided by a dismounted man from each vehicle, and skillful maneuvering, all vehicles cleared the mines without loss. Contact was made with the enemy at 1200, but being without infantry support the force was ordered to wait. At 1400 the infantry joined and a small group went forward to view the situation. The plan was as follows: One squad of infantry was to precede the tanks, the rest of the Platoon was to follow, with the balance of the infantry bringing up the rear. This assemblage moved to the crest of a hill; the tanks made a bold dash down the road, stopped, and placed a heavy concentration of fire on machine gun emplacements and dug in troops. At least three machine gun nests were silenced, and the advance continued. The group moved up to the crest of another small hill and close by the road a dug-in position was spotted containing several Germans, and displaying a Red Cross flag. The lead tank respected the flag and passed without firing, intending for the following infantry to take them prisoners. The tank had just passed the position when a rifleman in the trench took a shot at him. The bullet missed its target and the gunner in a tank following, placed two shots in the position and blew two men out of the hole. Just beyond the crest heavy automatic fire was encountered that stopped the advance of the infantry. A tank pushed through the infantry in an attempt to silence the guns, and at a point about 500 yards NE of Binscheid, the objective, hit a series of mines and was disabled. The following tank, while attempting to pull up to the first tank, hit a series of mines in the same tracks the 1st tank had passed over, and was disabled. The driver was killed and the rest of the crew injured.

The two disabled tanks prevented the remaining tanks from maneuvering around them or to bring effective fire on the enemy guns. At this time the infantry was subjected to artillery fire and withdrew about 600-700 yards. The tanks withdrew to their former position for the night while efforts were being made to send combat patrols into the town that night, and for the Engineers to clear the mine fields. While the two tanks were left somewhat in No-Man's Land, the Infantry

Reconnaissance

[REDACTED]

CO advised not further destroying the tanks then, inasmuch as he expected to push back past them.

The 2d platoon held the high ground NW of Binscheid for the purpose of giving fire support to the troops entering the town from the East.

21 February the 2d platoon plus the platoon of Reconnaissance and the infantry continued to hold the high ground around Binscheid. Plans were made to Assault the town. At 1200 the 3d platoon moved to an CP and picked firing positions. An artillery barrage opened up on the town followed by harassing fire from the 3d platoon while the infantry moved into the town on the right flank. A machine gun nest was knocked out and fire was brought on several dug-in positions. On word that the town was cleared, the three tanks of the 3d platoon moved cross-country to within 50 yards of town when bazooka, machine gun, and small arms fire was encountered. Four bazookas just missed one tank, which backed up firing, setting several houses on fire, and drove out and captured 35 Psw. Platoon stayed in position firing, contacted the 2d section of the 2d platoon by radio, and together they fired on the targets and moved into town firing. One Sergeant of the 2d platoon jumped out of his tank to take 2 prisoners and was fired upon 8 times from a distance of 75 yards. All shots missed him. By this time the two platoons had made contact and the platoon leader went on foot to a nearby hill, picked up about 15 prisoners, and cleared the hill. All tanks of the 2d and 3d platoons had now entered Binscheid and had outposted it. In the assault against the town each platoon took about 60 prisoners, and the 3d platoon shot up 3 enemy cars. In the center of town a German tank pulled within a 1000 yards and placed about 15 rounds in the town. It was driven off, but not captured. At 2100 the 3d platoon rejoined its attached Reconnaissance Platoon, moved around to the position previously held by the 2d Platoon on the right flank, and went into a holding position for the night. The 2d Platoon continued to outpost Binscheid for the night. Heavy artillery barrages fell in town around dusk.

The 1st platoon performed maintenance on its tanks and remained with the Headquarters section of the company at Elcherath, Germany. The Platoon was put on a short notice alert.

The following morning just after daybreak the 3d platoon noticed smoke coming from two pillboxes just a short distance away. Four men from the Reconnaissance went around on the right while the platoon covered them from the front with machine gun fire. Both pillboxes were taken along with 7 prisoners. The platoon continued to hold the high ground for the day.

The 2d platoon went to objective "B", which was high ground, and took it with 1 platoon of Reconnaissance. This high ground was subjected to high velocity shelling all day, and during their stay there a shell punctured the bogie wheels and adapter of one tank. The Platoon outposted and held this ground for the day.

The 1st platoon was alerted at 0330, and moved from the company area at Elcherath, Germany at 0430 and proceeded to the 90th Division Reconnaissance CP, joined forces with the 1st platoon Reconnaissance, and moved to a hill SE of Binscheid. This hill was held until relieved by the 358th Infantry Regiment at 1900. The Platoon plus the attached platoon of Reconnaissance moved to Arzfeld and set up positions for the

derense of the Division flank and rear.

Headquarters Platoon was alerted at 0530 and moved from Elchenath to (927-413), where they set up their CP.

At 1900 the 3d Platoon was assigned to Task Force Sepps with new missions, namely to be the right flank task force, and to capture the towns on that flank. At 2100 the platoon moved to Arzfeld, contacted the 1st platoon there, and remained the balance of the night.

23 February at 0500, the 1st and 3d Platoons, plus the attached Reconnaissance received orders to roll at 0600, at which time they went forward and joined 2 TD's of the 773 TD Battalion. This force started for objective "E", which was high ground, and took it together with 2 PsW and a pillbox. At 1100 Heilbach was assaulted by the forces and attachments. On the outskirts of the town they ranned out, fired into it, and captured it. The force then moved on to the next town of Alrurnor, and the 1st Platoon held and covered the advance of the 3d Platoon while it captured the town and high ground around it. Contact was again made between the two Platoons and both forces were joined in the assault on Plascheid. The ground around Plascheid was reconnoitered and plans made for the assault. The 3d Platoon plus the 2d section of the 1st Platoon would move in and take the ground while the 1st section of the 1st Platoon would cover the advance from the rear, and the TD's cover it from the high ground. The attack was started and the assault force went in firing in line formation. The town was captured without loss. During the operation, the 3d Platoon captured 2-155 mm towed guns intact, 7 ammunition carts, 1 motorcycle, 28 PsW, and a bazooka team of 8 men. The 1st Platoon took 1-155mm towed gun and 15 prisoners. In the taking of this town, the force was without infantry support, so one man from each tank dismounted and acted as infantry in clearing the houses. The TD's, being located on high ground, knocked out a Mark IV tank that had direct fire on the tanks. About 20 minutes after the taking of the town direct fire was placed on it by a battery of enemy artillery pieces. The TD's moved into position and silenced the battery with several well placed shots. The town of Plascheid was outposted by the 3d Platoon, while the 1st Platoon outposted Heilbach for the night.

The 2d Platoon moved to Arzfeld and awaited further orders. Plans were made to take the towns of Emmelbaum and Ammeldingen with a platoon of tanks, a platoon of Reconnaissance and 2 TD's. The town of Emmelbaum was taken without resistance, and 6 prisoners captured. The TD's remained on the high ground around Emmelbaum and shelled Ammeldingen while the rest of the force moved in with guns blazing. The lead tank came to a curve and upon a gun that appeared to be an anti-tank gun. After firing on it several times the platoon Sergeant dismounted, crept up on foot on the flank of the position while covered from the rear, and threw a hand grenade into it. When the smoke cleared it was found to be a 120mm mortar. While trying to by-pass the knocked out mortar which extended half way across the road, the lead tank threw a track. In trying to by-pass the disabled tank, the next tank mired down in a draw and had to be towed out by another tank. A bit further up the narrow road another tank threw a track at a place which it was practically impossible to by-pass. The driver of the tank realized his tank prevented the advance of the rest of the column, and decided to run the tank over a gully in order to clear the way. By skillful maneuvering, he managed to keep the tank upright, got the track back on, and made the precarious descent

without injuring himself or the tank. The forces were then split, two tanks moved in on a frontal attack, and the town fell to their hands. A half track, a coupe, and 18 prisoners were taken. One section of tanks, with attachments consisting of 1 platoon of Reconnaissance, and four TD's, assaulted and took Uppershausen. The other section with 1/2 of a platoon of Reconnaissance plus 2 TD's cut the main road leading into Krautscheid, and at a cross-road shot up a small column containing 3-105mm towed guns. In going up a hill, the leading M-8 Reconnaissance car spotted a motorcycle and fired on it. Contained on the motorcycle were complete plans of the enemies withdrawal across the Frum River. It was later learned that our P-47's took good advantage of these plans the next day. In the actual assault on the town, the section of tanks made a right hook into town while the Reconnaissance and TD's moved in from the front. The town was cleared at dusk and 33 prisoners were taken. The high ground was outposted.

One force started for Heinschseifen, and about 800 yards from Krautscheid, some resistance was noticed and fire was placed on several buildings. A white flag appeared and 12 prisoners were taken, most of them being first aid men. The rest of the buildings were searched and the force again moved on. At the edge of Heinschseifen it fanned out in a line formation and fired on the town. It was now dark and the visibility was very poor. A house was set on fire and the visibility was improved. The town was searched and three prisoners were taken. The TD's pulled into town and covered the advance of the rest of the force in their assault on Berkath 1500 yards away. Another building was set on fire in this town to improve visibility, and the town was taken without any trouble. Defenses were being set up for the night when a German half-track towing a 155mm gun pulled into town. It was fired at with a tommy gun and the crew abandoned the vehicle. The gun and half-track were captured intact and later used as a road block. 5 prisoners were also taken.

The company moved the CP to Neurath so communications could be maintained with the line platoons. During the operations of these platoons they had run very low in fuel, ammunition, water and rations. The Maintenance Liaison Officer took out these replenishments under very adverse conditions. All vehicles of all platoons were contacted by him and refueled.

24 February at 1100 the 1st Platoon pulled out with a Reconnaissance Platoon and a platoon of TD's and outposted roads while the 358th Infantry Regiment took Philippsweiler.

The 2d Platoon continued to outpost their towns.

The 3d Platoon received orders to move to Ammeldingen to await further orders. At 1700 it was relieved from Task Force Spees and reverted to company control. It joined the company at Krautscheid at 1800.

In the total operations from 19th to the 24 February, the 3d Platoon had taken:

PW's	132	Ammunition carts	7
Pill boxes	3	Motorcycles	1
Cars	3	M/G nests	7
155mm towed guns	2		

[REDACTED]

25 February the 1st platoon continued to outpost the positions around the roads. During the day enemy tanks were reported moving in their vicinity. Artillery fire was laid in on them. The Platoon was relieved at 2000 by the 6th Cavalry Regiment, and reverted to company control at Krautscheid.

During the total operations of this period the 1st Platoon accounted for:

PsW	65
Pill Box	1
155mm guns	2
Ammunition carts	9
Trucks	2

The 2d Platoon continued to outpost its towns. At daybreak, while on guard at Upperhausen, one of the Sergeants served a friendly task force assembling on the high ground and getting organized to pull out. As it came down the narrow road leading into town, he became suspicious and started walking towards it in an attempt to determine its actions. He found it to be a force of the 26th Cavalry Regiment, with a mission to take the towns of Upperhausen and Berkath by storm. The task force consisted of one company of light tanks, one company of M-24 TD's, several 75mm assault guns, and 2 platoons of Reconnaissance. If it had not been for the timely action of the Sergeant in contacting them, our entire force might have been accidentally wiped out. The platoon was relieved and returned to the company around 1200. During the period of operation they reported taking the following:

PsW	115
75mm AT Gun	1
155mm towed Gun	1
120mm mortar	1
Half-tracks	2
Coupe	1
Motorcycle	1

During most of the operations the Platoons were operating without infantry support, and whenever necessary, one man from each tank dismounted and acted as such.

26 February at 0930 the company moved back to Heckhalenfeld, Germany in SHAEF Reserve, and arrived there at 1145. Maintenance was performed on all vehicles during balance of period.

SERVICE COMPANY:

From 21-28th February the company was located at Breitfeld, Germany.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon: Installed new motor in $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4x4 and completely overhauled it for Service Company. Replaced head gasket on GMC $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6x6 for Service Company. Replaced head gasket on GMC $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6x6 for Service Company. Replaced clutch

[REDACTED]

assembly and overhauled engine on M4 Medium Tank for A Company. Installed new motor in 4 ton 4x4 and made other needed repairs for B Co. Replaced steel tracks with rubber tracks on M4 Medium Tank and put floats on for B Company. Installed new motor in 4 ton 4x4 and made other necessary repairs for Headquarters Company.

Installed new engine in Recovery vehicle for Service Company. Both wreckers were dispatched out to the companies during this period to pull engines, etc., where work was being done at the companies. One (1) wrecker was used to pull a G.C 2 1/2 ton 6x6 and 4 ton 4x4 back to ordnance.

The Transportation Platoon: Had one (1) gasoline and two (2) ammunition trucks attached to A, B and C Companies; one (1) gasoline and one ammunition truck attached to Headquarters and D Companies. The water truck was attached to Headquarters Company.

Transportation was furnished by the platoon in order to transport personnel to the rest camp and other routine runs.

Fourteen thousand (14,000) gallons of gasoline were drawn from the gasoline dump during this period.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS 712TH TANK BATTALION

APO 403, U. S. Army
7 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.
(Thru: Commanding General, 90th Infantry Division, APO 90,
US Army).

Transmitted herewith, After Action Report submitted in accordance
with Paragraph 10, Change 3, AR 345-105, 9 March 1943.

For the Commanding Officer:

Stanley W. Seeley
STANLEY W. SEELEY
1st Lt., Cav., (Armd)
Adjutant

- 2 Incls:
- 1 - War Diary, Companies (triplicate)
- 2 - Operations Journal

Handwritten notes:
100
100
100

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

9 AUG 1945

8713

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AFTER ACTION REPORTS

712th Tank Battalion

JULY 1944 - MARCH 1945

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**After Action Report
712th Tank Battalion
March 1945**

1-10 March 1945

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

During 1st and 2nd March, Company less one section Reconnaissance Platoon, remained in Heckhalenfeld, Germany in Division Reserve stressing maintenance. One section Reconnaissance Platoon was still attached to 6th Cavalry Group for liaison between their Headquarters and our "B" Company.

On 3 March at 1300, Company less Reconnaissance, Assault Gun, and Mortar Platoons left Heckhalenfeld; arrived at Leidenborn (L9172) at 1415. Assault Gun, Reconnaissance, and Mortar Platoons attached to Task Force Kedrovsky, moved with Task Force to Euscheid (L975714), arriving at 1400. Continued to march to assembly area at Heisdorf (L066715), arriving at 2340. One section of Reconnaissance Platoon was relieved from attachment to 6th Cavalry Group and joined Task Force at Euscheid at 2000.

On 4 March at 0630, Assault Gun Platoon attacked with southern arm of Task Force, Sub-Task Force Dyes. The platoon was used as self-propelled and supporting artillery. At 1900, the attack ended and the platoon moved back to Neustrassburg, buttoned up and remained there for the night. At 1300, Reconnaissance and Mortar Platoons moved with Task Force Headquarters from Heisdorf to Schonecken, arriving at 1305. At 1200, Company less Assault Gun and Mortar Platoon moved from Leidenborn, joined remainder of Company and Task Force Headquarters at Schonecken at 1530.

On 5 March at 0700, Assault Gun Platoon jumped off from Neustrassburg, attacked with Sub-Task Force Dyes along road north from Neustrassburg to Burback, East to Road Junction 121, South to Road Junction approximately northeast of Neustrassburg. Scattered enemy resistance was met along route of attack. At 1200, Company less Assault Gun Platoon moved from Schonecken with Task Force Headquarters to assembly area at Wallersheim (M1478), arriving at 1510. At 1100 Assault Gun Platoon was relieved from Sub-Task Force Dyes and rejoined Task Force Headquarters at Wallersheim at 1630. At 1800, Mortar Platoon Leader reconnoitered positions in vicinity of Hinterhausen (M195798). Platoon was alerted to move into these positions the following day.

On 6 March, Reconnaissance, Assault Gun and Mortar Platoons marched with Task Force Headquarters to Hinterhausen (M195798), arriving at 0830. At 1430, the platoons marched with Task Force Headquarters to Lissingen (M218803), arriving at 1500. During the afternoon enemy artillery landed in and near the town. At 1800, Company less three platoons, left Wallersheim, joined remainder of Company and Task Force Headquarters at Lissingen at 1930.

Remained in Lissingen the 7th through 9th March, while 11th Armored Division passed through our zone. Moved to Dreis on 10 March.

Medical Detachment moved with company during the period and sent out litter vehicles as needed.

COMPANY "A":

Remained at Heckhalenfeld, Germany until 3rd March and then moved to Leidenborn. Moved again the next day to Pronsfeld and the day following to Wettle-dorf. During this period maintenance was performed, as Company was in reserve. On 6 March, tank platoons moved out to their respective Infantry Battalions.

[REDACTED]

All platoons crossed Kyll River 7 March with 2nd and 3rd Platoons going to Pelm and the 1st Platoon staying with Company CP at Gerolstein.

The last three days of period were spent mopping up behind the 11th Armored Division. At end of period the 1st Platoon was at Arft, 2nd Platoon at Volkeswald, and 3rd Platoon at Wafern.

COMPANY "B":

1 March (Krautshied): Company still attached to 6th Cavalry Group. S/Sgt Diehl attacking Hargarten with T/F Larsen. No resistance in that village. Second platoon still at Bellshied in mobile reserve. Company CP set up in Krautshied. Kitchen feeding hot chow twice daily. Reconnaissance platoon and Capt. Dixon liaison between 6th Cavalry Group Headquarters and Company CP.

2 March (Hargarten): Company moved into Hargarten and established CP. Entire company joined CP in Hargarten. S/Sgt Diehl's work with the Cavalry Group was praised highly. Platoons closed into bivouac and gassed up. Hot chow and ice cream was served to the men. Capt. Simms came up to let the CO know that we were back under Battalion control. Company needs maintenance badly. CO set up an outpost with the field artillery for support. No action by Germans during night.

3 March (Hargarten): Company has been alerted to move since 0600 hours but no orders received as yet. Ammunition resupplied the platoons. No action as period closed.

4 March (Waxweiler): Company assembled at Waxweiler, Germany. Company Commander returned from Paris, France. Billets all established in town. Platoons gassed up and alerted to move out in half hour notice. Company Commander and platoon leaders to meeting at Regimental Headquarters at 2000. Major Caffrey and Battalion Commander came to the CP. Platoon alerted to move out at 0300, 5 March. Company bedded down for the night. Guard set up and platoon leaders and sergeants issued maps.

5 March (Wettledorf): Company alerted to move out at 0300. Platoon Leaders moved out at 0300. First platoon moved out first followed by the second platoon. First platoon took a gas truck with them to gas up all platoons. Company Commander moved out at 0500 with 105. Company left Waxweiler at 1300 for new area at Wettledorf. Battalion Headquarters moved to Wettledorf. Company Commander and 1st Sergeant up to see Lt. Gagat and S/Sgt Diehl. Neither platoon has been committed as yet. Battalion Commander stopped by to see the Company Commander. S/Sgt Diehl moved up to join Battalion Commander. No action as period closed.

6 March (Wettledorf): Company still attached in support of the Infantry. No tank action as yet, only small arms and mortar fire. Enemy still retreating. Lt. Gagat crossed the river by fording and continued the attack with the infantry. Lt Vinks platoon at the Kyll River outpost. Third platoon in mobile reserve. Company CP alerted to move out to Berresbom for closer contact with the platoon. Company Commander and 105 at Berresbom. No action as regiment takes over from 357 Infantry at Berresbom.

7 March (Berresbom): Company CP moved into Berresbom. Regimental Headquarters at Memoth. Company alerted to follow. Hot chow still going out to the platoons. The platoons and infantry have been relieved of the attack by the 11th Armored Division. The 90th Division to follow up as a mopping up force behind the 11th Armored Division. No action. The platoons still attached to third battalion to support infantry against any strong pocket of Germans bypassed by the 11th Armored Division.

8 March (Memoth): Company Headquarters moved to Memoth. Left Berresbom at 1300. Arrived in Memoth at 1700. Distance travelled - 10 miles. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

established for company by Company Commander. Lt. Hainey paid the company off. No action by platoons as period closed.

9 March (Boxhorn): Company still attached to the 90th Infantry Division. Platoons still attached to the 359 Infantry Regiment. Platoons carrying Infantry on the back of tanks. Company Commander at Boxhorn. Company Headquarters at Salmonges. First Sergeant went to the village and took 25 German Prisoners. The Burgmeister said the first sergeant was the first American he had ever seen. Kitchen set up and hot chow served. The Company Commander and First Sergeant with the bulldozer moved a tiger tank off the road which was left by the Germans as a road block. No action by tanks. Still in support of the 11th Armored Division.

10 March (Wieler): Left Boxhorn at 0900 enroute to Wieler. Arrived at Wieler at 1200. Distance travelled - 10 miles. Platoons still carrying infantry on tanks and still in support of the 11th Armored Division as a mopping up unit. Hot chow sent out to the platoons. No action at all by infantry or tanks, merely a road march.

COMPANY "C":

Remained in Heckhalenfeld until 021330 and joined the 357 Infantry at Matzerath at 1530. The three Tank Platoons moved to Oberhersdorf 4 March.

On 5 March Headquarters Platoon left Matzerath at 1300 and arrived in Oberhersdorf at 1500, marching 10 miles. Third Platoon attached to Task Force Kedrovsky.

On 6 March, 1st section of 1st Platoon attached to 1st Battalion 357 Infantry. Forded the Kyll River at 0600 meeting light opposition. 2nd section of 1st Platoon joined 1st section at 1600. 2nd Platoon attached to 2nd Battalion 357 Infantry. Forded Kyll River at 0600, meeting no opposition. 3rd Platoon attached to 3rd Battalion 357 Infantry. Forded Kyll River at 1330. 3rd Platoon assisted 3rd Battalion in the capture of Bischeid, Germany. Headquarters Platoon moved to Birresborn, arriving at 1700.

On 7 March, 2nd Platoon returned to Birresborn. 1st Platoon marched to Minerahbrunnen, arriving there at 1500.

No change on 8 March.

On 9 March, three platoons moved out at 0630 with their respective Battalions of the 357 Infantry on march to Mayen, Germany, in support of the 11th Armored Division. Arrived in Mayen at 1740. Headquarters Platoon marched with 90th Division Trains. Enroute, 2nd Platoon took 4 prisoners and 3rd Platoon captured 1 officer and 64 enlisted men.

On 10 March, entire company at Mayen.

COMPANY "D":

On 1 March, the day was spent in performing maintenance on all vehicles. The Company remained in Heckhalenfeld, Germany.

On 2 March, Pfc Watkins transferred from Service Company to the Company. No other changes. No change on 3 March.

On 4 March, the Company was alerted and moved from Heckhalenfeld around 1300, through Waxweiler. It was raining, the roads were narrow and muddy, and travelling was slow. By 2400, the Company was still on the road.

On 5 March at 0045, the Company was halted in the vicinity of Heisdorf, and spent the balance of the night awaiting orders for a further movement.

The 2nd and 3rd Platoons were attached to Task Force Kelley at 0130. An early move of the Task Force was planned, but a delay of the Infantry, who were to ride the tanks, delayed the movement to 0630.

The 2nd Platoon moved to Seiwerath where they contacted the Task Force. The Force moved in the woods around Seiwerath, flushed out 25 prisoners, and fired on several dug-in positions. They came across a road block still being erected by German soldiers. Lt. O'Brien fired on them with his turret-mounted .50 caliber machine gun and completely dispersed them. An assault gun and a T.D. gun fired on the road block and cleared it. The force moved into Neustrassburg and was met by small arms fire. The tanks moved in firing and a flat trajectory weapon, believed to be a tank, fired on them. A combination of fire from the tanks and the T.D.s chased the enemy weapon out. The force was then subjected to an artillery and mortar barrage. The direction of firing was noticed and our own artillery was directed on the estimated positions, resulting in the silencing of the enemy guns. The town was then taken along with 15 prisoners. On the other side of town another road block was encountered which was 200 yards long, and consisted of fallen trees with unused shells dispersed between them. It was impossible to break through the block at that time or pass by it, so they returned to Neustrassburg and outposted it. At 2000 they were called to secure crossroads in nearby woods so the Infantry could move through.

The 3rd Platoon moved to the vicinity of Niederhershendorf at 0630, and encountered direct fire from a mobile gun firing from the ridge. The Force had to keep moving in order to keep from being hit. The 3rd Platoon supported the attached Reconnaissance in the assault of Niederhershendorf, and it was captured along with 19 prisoners. About 4 miles on the other side of town they encountered a road block with a 150 mm. gun in the middle of the block. The T.D.s fired into it and destroyed the gun and wrecked the block. The tanks bypassed the road block and ran into machine gun fire. Upon firing in the direction of the enemy fire, 2 Germans came out of the woods and gave up. In rounding the curve in the woods, they discovered an S.P. gun in position. The T.D.s fired 2 shots at the position and got 3 shots in return. They made attempts to outflank the gun and destroy it, but every attempt failed because of the bad terrain and coverage by the enemy gun. They detoured around by Seiwarath and were again held up by 2 Mark V tanks concealed in the woods. The Group could not get in a suitable condition to fire on the enemy tanks, so they remained in the woods for the night and had artillery barrages laid on the enemy tanks during the night. By morning they had withdrawn.

The balance of the Company moved with Battalion to Schonecken and set up a C.P. there.

On 6 March, the 2nd Platoon returned to Seiwerath at 0100 after the Infantry had cleared the cross-roads they were securing. At 0700, the Engineers still had not cleared the 200 yard roadblock that held them up, so the Force secured the cross-roads on the high ground in Forst Gerolstein, and held that until the Infantry passed. It was impossible for further advances for the tanks because of the road blocks and impassible bomb craters in the road. They were relieved of their mission around 1100, and rejoined the Company convoy at Wallersheim where they got replenishments in fuel and ammunition.

The 3rd Platoon portion of Task Force Kelley moved out towards the objective Murlenbach. At the crossroads that had been covered by the 2 Mark V tanks the night before, was a very large crater blown in the road by the enemy in an attempt to forestall the advance of the Group. It was so placed that all the roads constituting the cross-roads were just about cut off by the crater, but there was a rim just big enough so our vehicles could get around the crater and continue on the designated route. The Group continued on the road until they encountered a double road block that was impassible. Due to existing conditions the Force was relieved of their mission to take Murlenbach, and returned to Niederhershendorf. Here they received a new mission to clear the way to the Kyll

[REDACTED]

River for the advance of the 11th Armored Division. The Platoon joined the Company at Wallersheim to refuel and renew their ammunition before fulfilling their assignment. The new Task Force, consisting of a portion of Reconnaissance Troop from the 773 T.D. Battalion, and the 3rd Platoon moved into Budesheim and to the hills in the vicinity of Hinterhausen. Here they relieved the 11th Armored Division Reconnaissance. The Task Force took the town of Hinterhausen and two 150 mm. guns intact. The Task Force moved into Lissingen to reinforce the Infantry who had gone into the town by mistake and held about 1/3 of it. The Task Force took the balance of the town around 2400.

The Company moved from the area at Schonecken at 1200 into an assembly area at Piersdorf, and replenished the supplies of gas and ammunition in the 2nd Platoon. The combined forces went on to Wallersheim and joined the 3rd Platoon at 1630. They were also supplied with fuel and ammunition before they moved on to their new mission. The Company C. P. was set up at Wallersheim.

On 7 March, the 3rd Platoon made a reconnaissance of the Kyll River crossings at Lissingen and found all bridges to be blown. They returned to Lissingen and relieved the holding Infantry. This left 37 men to hold the town. Twenty-five prisoners were picked up during this time. They held the town until 1030 when the 359 Infantry Regiment moved in and relieved them, while Reconnaissance and the 3rd Platoon took Gerolstein. The tanks held and gave fire support, one platoon of Reconnaissance dismounted and cleaned up the town while supported from the other platoon of Reconnaissance. After the town had fallen, The Group reassembled and returned to Lissingen while the 11th Armored Division rolled by. The Company moved to Lissingen at 1500 and rejoined the 3rd Platoon.

On 8 March the Company remained in Lissingen on a short notice alert while the 11th Armored Division rolled by.

On 9 March the 1st Platoon was alerted and moved out from the Company area at 0700. Their mission was to set up road securities at Jammelsnoven and Herresbach. The Company left Lissingen at 0700 and moved to Dreis. The kitchen truck and crew were left behind to join the Battalion trains which came later.

On 10 March, the 1st Platoon continued on its mission to take towns and clean up isolated groups of enemy and enemy equipment by-passed and left behind by the 11th Armored Division as they pushed by. They were assigned a sector leading up to the Moselle River.

The 2nd Platoon was alerted, and moved out at 0500. They joined the I. & R. Platoon of the 90th Infantry Division at Kelberg, and moved on through Wanderath, where they took 10 prisoners. At Engeln another prisoner was taken. The town of Siebenbach was taken and 58 prisoners captured, along with 5 trucks, 1 half-track, and 1 medical trailer. From Virneburg, the Force proceeded to Ober Welschenbach where a stretch of bad trail was met. A tank slipped on the slippery and sloping surface, threw a track, and mired down. All efforts to recover the tank were in vain, and at present it must be considered as battle lost. The Platoon rejoined the Company at Herresbach.

The 3rd Platoon was alerted and moved out at 0645 from Dreis to Boxscheid, where they contacted Col. Bell of the 359 Infantry Regiment for further orders. The Platoon was split in three sections, each section working with a Company of Infantry with mopping up as the chief mission. The 1st group, under command of Lt. Albee moved at 0830 to Hunnerbach, took Reimrath and 1 truck, assaulted Welcherath and took it along with 20 prisoners, 2 staff cars, 1 truck, and 1 motorcycle. They assisted in taking the town of Kirsbach, and took Drees with 16 prisoners, 5 88mm. ack-ack guns, 2 staff cars, 1 motorcycle, 1 coupe, and 1

[REDACTED]

half-track. They returned to Welcherath, cleaned out the surrounding woods, and took the small town of Krebslacherhef along with 4 prisoners. They returned to Welcherath, moved on a different route through the woods and released after the reconnaissance was completed. They joined the Company at 1530.

The other two sections operated in the same manner, taking a few towns and gathering up the weapons held by the civilians in the towns. One 150 mm. gun was captured intact and 18 P. W.s.

The Headquarters section moved from the area at Dreis to Herresbach with Battalion. During the day, while Captain Wagnon was in the vicinity of the 1st Platoon at Jammelshofen, a German soldier walked up and gave up to him. Later in the day, while T/4 Freeberg, T/5 Mills and Horn were out to refuel and perform maintenance for the 2nd Platoon, they followed the wrong directions and passed through towns that had apparently not been captured as yet. During their trip they captured 3 prisoners.

SERVICE COMPANY:

From 1 March to 4 March, Company was bivouaced at Breitfeld, Belgium. On 5 March, Company moved from Breitfeld to Schonecken, Germany and moved on 9 March (less Battalion Maintenance Platoon) to Lissinger, Germany. On 10 March, Company (less Battalion Maintenance Platoon) moved to Dreis, Germany.

Transportation Platoon - Due to the shortage in transportation in the Platoon three (3) trucks were borrowed from the 90th Division Quartermaster to transport ammunition and gasoline from the dumps to the company. During the moves, the Platoon shuttled ammunition and gas daily to the Battalion C.P. to have available for use. 200 Rounds of 105 H.E., 200 Rounds of 81 mm Mortar, 200 Rounds of 37 mm H.E. and 28200 Gallons of gasoline were drawn from the dumps. One extra ammunition truck was attached to Battalion Headquarters and one extra gasoline truck was attached to "B" & "C" Companies in addition to regular attached trucks. All other companies had the usual trucks attached.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon accomplished the following work during the period:

For A Company - Installed new engine in M4 tank; Checked completely, fueled and stowed 76MM M 4A3 tank before turning it over to company; Checked replacement $\frac{1}{4}$ ton 4x4 before turning it over to the company; turned tank into 562 Ordnance for repair;

For B Company - Replaced transmission and transfer case on half-track; Replaced 6 bogie wheels, 4 sprockets, adjusted clutch and changed tracks on tank; installed new engine in M4 tank; checked completely 76MM M 4A3 tank and fueled and stowed it before turning it over to the company.

For C Company - Installed two new engines in M4 tanks; checked replacement $\frac{1}{4}$ ton before turning it over to the company; checked 76MM M 4A3 completely, fueled and stowed before turning it over to the company.

For Hq Company - Wreckers retrieved an M29 and one ton trailer.

For Sv Company - Installed new master cylinder in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6x6 truck; 6000 mile checked and made minor repairs on 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck; installed new gears and parts in boom box of wrecker.

11-20 March 1945

HEAD QUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

From 10 - 12 March, Company remained in bivouac area at Herresbach, Germany. On 11 March, one section of Reconnaissance Platoon captured 11 prisoners at Jammelschhofen and 8 prisoners and 1 officer at Engelen.

Company was given mission of clearing wooded area 5 miles N.E. of Herresbach of enemy stragglers or small enemy isolated groups. At 0800, an 8 man patrol entered woods, returning back to Company C.P. 1100 reporting area clear of enemy personnel.

On 13 March, Company left Herresbach at 0935, arriving at Naunheim at 1300, and remaining at Naunheim until 17 March.

On 16 March, the Assault Gun Platoon was attached to Task Force Spiess. At 0600, the Platoon moved with Sub Task Force Wagnon, crossing the Moselle River at 0900. Arrived in assembly area at Ehr at 1100. At 1900, the Platoon jumped off, attacking with elements of Task Force Wagnon. Platoon advanced through Dorth to Hungenrath. These towns were taken against light enemy resistance, capturing 16 prisoners. Attack ended at 2200 and platoon went into defensive position at Heingurath.

On 17 March, Company minus Assault Gun Platoon left Naunheim at 0930, arriving at Mdr. Gondershausen at 1245.

At 0600, the Assault Gun Platoon attacked with Sub Task Force Wagnon along road running east to St. Goar on Rhein River. At 1100, the Platoon assisted in capturing St. Goar. The town was taken against light resistance. 16 prisoners were captured. After town was taken, the platoon took up defensive positions and was ordered to defend and hold the town against possible enemy counter-attack. At 1700, the platoon pulled out of defensive positions at St. Goar and returned to Wagnon Hq at Ehr. At 2000, the platoon moved South to Leibshausen with Task Force Wagnon, arriving at 2400. Platoon stayed in Leibshausen for the remainder of the night.

On 18 March, Company less Assault Gun Platoon left Mdr. Gondershausen at 1000, arriving at Morschbach at 1200.

At 0600, the Assault Gun Platoon moved with Sub Task Force Wagnon thru Rheimballen contacting enemy one mile East of woods. Platoon assisted in capturing 8 prisoners. At 1000, the platoon continued to advance through Manubach to Ober Deibach. These towns were taken against light enemy resistance. At 1700, the Platoon advanced from Ober Deibach approximately 3,000 yards to Lorch. After capturing Lorch, the Platoon went into defensive positions and remained there until 1100 the following day.

On 19 March, Company less Assault Gun Platoon left Morschbach at 1415, arriving at Schweppenhausen at 1530. At 1100, the Assault Gun Platoon pulled out of defensive positions at Lorch, returned to Task Force Wagnon Hq at Leibshausen. At 1700, the Platoon moved South with Sub Task Force Wagnon, crossed the Nahe River at 1900; arrived in assembly area at St. Johann at 2200. Platoon stayed there for the remainder of the night.

On 20 March, Company, less Assault Gun Platoon left Schweppenhausen at 1430; arrived at Seebelsheim at 1545.

At 0600, the Assault Gun Platoon attacked with Sub Task Force Wagnon. They advanced through Wolfsheim, Partenheim, and Ober Saulheim. No enemy resistance was encountered when capturing these towns. At 1100 the Platoon continued to advance to the outskirts of Ndr Alm. At 1200, the Platoon went into firing positions 300 yards South of Ndr. Alm. From these positions, the Platoon could cover roads running North from Ndr. Alm with direct fire. After getting into these positions the Platoon fired direct fire on enemy gun positions located within the town. At

1400, the 1st and 2nd Sections destroyed two enemy half-tracks and one truck on road that ran North from Ndr. Alm. At 1600, the Platoon pulled back with Task Force to Ndr. Saulheim. At 1700, the Platoon received orders to attack and capture Hahnheim. At 1705, the Platoon attacked and advanced with other elements of the Task Force to Selzen, Approximately 800 yards East of Hahnheim. At Selzen, the Task Force received information that the town of Hahnheim was heavily defended by the enemy. After this information was obtained, the Platoon was ordered into defensive positions in Selzen. These positions were so located that all roads and likely avenues of escape leading from Hahnheim were covered by machine gun and 105 mm. fire. At 2400, the Platoon from these positions repulsed an enemy counter-attack consisting of approximately 100 men supported by bazookas, 38 mm and 20 mm anti-aircraft fire. It was estimated that the enemy had approximately 6 men killed and several wounded before the counter-attack was stopped.

Medical Detachment traveled with Headquarters throughout entire period and set up an aid station in each area. One half-track ambulance was sent to support "C" Company 11 March and returned 19 March. Another half-track ambulance was sent to support "D" Company and the Assault Gun Platoon, which were a part of Task Force Spiess 15 March.

OPERATION "A":

On 11-12 March, Company Headquarters in Langenfeld with Platoons in nearby towns with their Inf Bns.

On 13 March, Company Headquarters moved to Kehrig. All platoons made the march with their respective Bns. CP and HQ plat followed 2d Bn 358th Inf. 1st at Gering-2d at Kollig-3d at Eining. Preparing for a crossing of the Mosell R.

Entire company at Nauheim. Platoons left in the evening to cross the river on pontoon bridge, 14 March.

On 15 March, all platoons over the river. Gas, ammo trucks and 105 tank crossed the river at approximately 1000.

On 16 March, platoons pushing out with their Inf Bns. Report is they haven't fired a round as yet.

On 17 March, CP & HQ plat crossed the river and travelled 38 miles to Morschbach. 1st Plat at Rheinbollen. 2d moving up with it's Inf Bn. 3d Plat at Daxweiler. 1st & 3d platoons serviced.

On 18 March, 1st platoon in reserve with 2d Bn 358th. 2d & 3d platoons on line in holding position with their Bns. 1st at Rheinbollen-2d at Laubenheim-3d at Einingbruck. One tank 2d platoon with broken sprocket, repaired by Co. Maint and rejoined platoon.

1st & 2d platoons across the Nahe R. with their elements of the 358th Inf. 3d platoon at Heddesheim. All platoons pushed with the Inf in developing and exploiting the bridgehead. 2d platoon did a little AA firing at a few enemy planes. Company headquarters moved to Waldhilsbusheim, 19 March.

On 20 March, Company Headquarters moved to Partenheim. All platoons pushed with their Inf Bns to new objectives. 2d platoon ran into some SS men and had a hard fight. Lt Schneider killed by enemy sniper while in his tank turret. 3d platoon at road intersection receiving arty and mortar fire. 1st Platoon at an airport which was on fire. 1st and one-half of 3d platoons serviced, but had to leave with the trucks due to direct enemy fire. Will service 2d and remainder of 3d in early morning. 1st Plat at 295525. 2d platoon at Nieder Ingelheim. 3d platoon at 294428. Pfc Pegg hit enemy plane with 50 cal AA fire. Two bright orange flashes were observed on plane. Arty men say plane crashed behind hill. T/4 O'Connor hit enemy plane with 50 cal. from recovery vehicle. Also a close hit or burst from AA on same plane. Heavy smoke trailed from plane after T/4 O'Connor hit same. Could not determine whether plane crashed or not. 1st Platoon

definitely claims plane that Pfc Pegg shot down.

COMPANY "B":

11 March (Wieler): Company assembled at Wieler for maintenance and oil change. Platoons released from their respective Battalions at 1330 hours. Billets set up for men. 105 remained at Regiment. Company Commander over to see platoon leaders. Oil changed and bogie wheels greased. Clean clothing issued to men. Hot food served and Company Commander held a meeting of all platoon leaders and sergeants at 1900 hours. No tank action as period closed.

12 March (Wieler): Platoons left to join their respective Battalions at 0930. Company Commander and First Sergeant up to Regiment for billeting party. Orders were changed and Company Commander and First Sergeant returned to Wieler. Platoons remained with their respective Battalions. Hot food was served. No further orders on move as yet. Company on hour alert to move out. Company bedded for night. Company Commander has not as yet returned with orders to move to new area.

13 March (Munstermafeld): Company alerted to move at 0930 to new area on administrative march. Kitchen truck broke down enroute. All of the company to assemble around that vicinity but the platoons to stay with their respective Battalions. One tank stuck enroute and pulled out by "Recovery". Kitchen truck towed in. Platoons gassed up and the Company Commander went around to see the platoon leaders. Hot food served the platoons at the new area. Maintenance Sergeant checked all tanks. No tank action as period closed.

14 March (Munstermafeld): Platoons resting and performing maintenance. Latrines dug. Company Commander and platoon leaders on reconnaissance to Moselle. Hot chow sent to men at breakfast and supper time. Battalion Executive Officer with Reconnaissance Platoon up to Company CP. Battalion Commander around to see the Company Commander. No tank action but company on alert to move out and to cross the river. Kitchen truck at Battalion Maintenance for new clutch.

15 March (Burgen): Second platoon crossed the Moselle by ferrying behind the Infantry which had secured the bridgehead. The bridge was built by the 183 Engineers. No enemy resistance. Third platoon crossed the bridge which had, by this time, been built by the Engineers. First Platoon in reserve. Company Commander crossed bridge with 105 and established CP in Burgen. Division Headquarters moved into Munstermafeld and forced kitchen to leave house. Kitchen moved into Wiergen until truck was repaired. Enemy resistance across the river very slight. Everyone, including maintenance, across the river by 1800 hours. No action by tanks as period closed.

16 March (Simmen): The 4th Armored Division passed through the 90th Infantry Division as soon as the bridgehead was secured. Enemy resistance was very weak. The Infantry was motorized and rode all the way mopping up small pockets of Germans bypassed by the 4th Armored Division. No action by tanks as period closed, only a road march. Kitchen came in at 1500 hours and set up for a hot meal. Company Commander alerted the company for a 2 hour notice to move out. Platoons all set up in surrounding towns with their Battalion Commanders.

17 March (Boxheim): Company Commander up to Regiment for a meeting. Returned at 1700 and sent First Sergeant out to Boxheim on billeting party with Regiment. Area had not been cleaned out so Company Commander sent along two tanks as security. Move was made without mishap. All billets secured for the men awaiting the main body which was supposed to close in at 2000. As the period closed, the company had not closed into the town and the billeting party bedded down for the night.

18 March (Roxheim): Company closed into bivouac area at 0500 hours. A guide picked up the Company Commander at road junction and brought the main

body to the billets. Company bedded down for some rest. Kitchen set up for hot chow. Company Commander out to see the platoon leaders. First Sergeant started back to Battalion Headquarters at 0900. Encountered six Germans enroute who surrendered and were taken by first sergeant to Battalion Headquarters. Informed Battalion Commander of the whereabouts of company. Battalion Commander down to see Company Commander. Company resting and performing maintenance for rest of day.

19 March (Roxheim): Platoons alerted to move out at 0400 to take Kresnough. Company Commander up to Regimental Headquarters for orders. Hot chow served platoons prior to jumping off. First Sergeant up to Bosenheim for a billeting party where the platoons were to assemble after taking the town which the 4th Armored Division had bypassed. Town taken without a shot being fired. Only four prisoners taken. Platoons closed in at 1800 and bedded down for the night. Hot chow served. Third Platoon alerted to move up to Wolfheim. Town taken without much resistance. Gas truck up to third platoon.

20 March (Bosenheim): First platoon attacking in support of third platoon. Enemy resistance weak at time. Second platoon in reserve. Hot chow and 50 cal. ammunition brought platoons at dark. Task Force operating in this area has cleaned out all enemy opposition. No action by tanks as period closed. Infantry motorized on back of tanks. Kitchen still serving hot chow to platoons.

COMPANY "C":

On 12 March Company attached to 357 Inf. Left Mayen at 1200. 1st and 3rd Platoons moved into an assembly area in Kelt at 1400. 2d Platoon moved into an assembly area in Vorz at 1400.

On 14 March, 1st Platoon crossed Moselle River on pontoon bridge at 2030. 2d Platoon crossed Moselle at 2130; arrived in Alkim at 2230. 3rd Platoon left Lof at 2230 and crossed Moselle at 2400; entered Oppenheim at 0030.

2d Platoon left Alkim at 2300 14 March; arrived in Eidenhausen at 0230 15 March. Took 3 Officers and 27 EM prisoner and knocked out 4 dual-purpose 20 mm AA guns and 1 anti-tank gun. 3rd Platoon left Oppenheim with Inf at 0800 to attack Winthausen. Took 4 prisoners and destroyed 1 Artillery piece. Moved out of Winthausen at 1600 and advanced toward Bueholz; knocked out 1 40 mm dual-purpose gun and 2 20 mm dual-purpose guns enroute. Arrived in Bueholz at 1700 and took up defensive posts for the night.

On 16 March, 1st Platoon went to Bueholz. While assisting in taking this town, 1st tank was hit by fire from enemy SP gun. 1 man was LWA and evacuated. The other four were LWA but remained at duty. Tank was disabled. Following this action, the remainder of the 1st Platoon was combined with the 3rd Platoon for further operations.

3rd Platoon pulled up on hill 500 yards east of Bueholz and took up firing positions and knocked out 1 artillery piece and 2 20 mm AA guns. Also destroyed 1 truck loaded with petroleum. At 1400, 3rd platoon continued to move east and destroyed 6 more 20 mm. AA guns. Continued the attack and ran into heavy bazooka fire in wooded area. Platoon backed up out of bazooka range and fired into woods until bazooka was neutralized. Continued the attack and knocked out 1 enemy half-track; then took up defensive position on main crossroad of Coblenz highway.

2nd Platoon left Eidenhausen at 0640 and arrived at Pfaffenheck at 0700. 1st Sec was fired on and disabled at 0830 by anti-tank guns. 4 men were KIA and 3 men LWA and evacuated in this action. 2nd sec of 2nd Platoon took up defensive position in town and destroyed 3 towed, anti-tank guns.

On 17 March, 1st and 3rd platoons assembled at Herschweisen at 2200. 2d Platoon returned to Obbenhausen at 1800. On 19 March, 3rd Platoon Lemingen at 1300 and joined the 3rd Bn of the 357 Inf and went to Waldwebanheim; arrived at 1700. On 20 March, 3rd Platoon left Waldwebanheim 1000; arrived in Partenheim at 1300.

COMPANY "D":

On 11 March, the 1st Platoon continued on its mission to clear their sector of enemy resistance. Tank 12 was withdrawn to the Company area at Herresbach for maintenance on a blown bogie wheel. The balance of the 1st section of the platoon outposted Rieden for the night, while the 2d Section outposted Kirchesch. The balance of the Company remained in Herresbach for the night. Tank 31 had a .50 cal. Machine Gun mounted on top of the turret. T/4 Chicklon and T/5 Williamson reported back from the hospital to duty.

On 12 March, the 1st Platoon assembled in Ruber and outposted it. The balance of the Company remained at Herresbach and performed maintenance on their vehicles.

On 13 March, the 1st section of the 1st Platoon took Lehmen and outposted it while the 2nd section took and outposted Moselsurch. The balance of the Company was alerted at 0930 and moved from Herresbach at 1145 to Naunheim, where work was started on changing the track blocks. Sgt. Ziebarth was evacuated for yellow jaundice.

On 14 March, the 1st Platoon continued to outpost Lehmen and Moselsurch, while the balance of the Company remained at Naunheim and continued work on changing the track blocks. Tank 12 rejoined the 1st Platoon at Lehmen.

On 15 March, the 1st section of the 1st Platoon took Kettenes and outposted it for the night. The 2nd section remained at Moselsurch. The balance of the Company remained at Naunheim.

On 16 March, the 1st Platoon moved across the Moselle River and joined the Company in an assembly area at Ehr, where they were assigned to Task Force Spiess. The 1st section, while trying to go around a road block encountered the enemy in woods about 2 miles N.E. of Ehr, and flushed them out. They aided the Infantry in attacking Boppard. A Major was badly wounded and subjected to intense small arms and artillery fire. Sgt. Cudie dismounted from his tank and helped the Major to safety in the midst of heavy fire. During the assault one T.D. was lost by mines and one by an AT gun. The 1st section outposted the road about 2 miles N.E. of Ehr, while the second section outposted Weller. The balance of the Company was alerted and moved from Naunheim at 0730, crossed the Moselle River at Hatzenport, and arrived at an assembly area at Ehr around 1225.

The 2d Platoon was alerted from Ehr and joined Task Force Kelley. They moved through woods and took Fleckershohed and two trucks. Mdr. Kirzenach was taken next and here an S.S. Trooper attempted to stop a tank by shooting at it with a pistol. They proceeded on to the banks of the Rhine River in the vicinity of Holzfeld. An enemy ammunition truck approaching from the North was knocked out and 1 prisoner taken. In the town a motor cycle and truck were knocked out, 3 Captains and 1 Naval Officer surrendered, and 39 more prisoners were taken. The position held by the Platoon was on high ground overlooking the Rhine River with full observation on both sides to the vicinity of Kestert. Five Red Cross trucks were observed passing on the other side of the River, but they were not fired upon because of their markings. At night 2 more Red Cross trucks approached and were halted. 32 prisoners were taken. The trucks were loaded with ammunition and had two of our .50 cal. machine guns in them. The trucks were set on fire. Later on a Captain walked up and surrendered.

The 3rd Platoon joined Task Force Kelley at 1245. The assigned platoon of Reconnaissance from the 773 T.D. Bn, 2 T.Ds, and 1 pioneer peep had the mission of going to the Rhine River to Werlau and cut the main road on both sides of the River. They moved out and took Kerbach, Holzfeld, and at Werlau captured 5 prisoners. They had the civilians turn in all weapons and military equipment. The 2d section stayed at Werlau and outposted it, while the 1st section moved back to Holzfeld and outposted the high ground overlooking the Rhine River.

On 17 March, during the early morning the 1st section of the 3rd Platoon destroyed 3 enemy trucks and one car moving along the road on the far side of the Rhine River. At dawn the tanks of the section withdrew from the forward position and were concealed in the brush. A .50 and .30 caliber machine gun were mounted on high ground overlooking the main road on both sides of the Rhine, and a sniper position was set up with an M-1 rifle. At 1000, Lt. Albee, T/4 Forden, Pfc. Galbraith and Wallak went down to reconnoiter Frinzstein, and while in town observed enemy soldiers setting up a road block across the River about 2,00 yards away. Fire was brought on them with the M-1 rifle and the group dispersed. Later a force of about 40 enemy soldiers was observed working their way to a high point overlooking the sector held by the 2d Platoon. They were preparing to set up a mortar position. The distance was too great for the tank gun, so artillery was called for. The 1st round of artillery blew their two scouts out of their observation point. The ensuing barrage completely dispersed the group. The 2d Cavalry relieved the 3rd Platoon which then joined the Company at Ehr.

The 1st section of the 1st Platoon held the high ground around Poppert while the 2d section outposted Salzig. The platoon was relieved and returned to the Company. The 2d Platoon continued to outpost its position. T/4 Schiffler stopped 2 suspicious looking civilians, and upon further investigation found them to be wearing German uniforms under their civilian clothing. One was a Master Sgt. and the other a Cpl. At night the Platoon was relieved and returned to the Company area at Ehr. At 2100 the Company moved from Ehr to Liebshausen.

On 18 March, at 0600 the three Platoons moved out on missions. The 1st Platoon assaulted Ferscheid with 2 platoons of Rcn and took it. The next town that fell was Dellhausen. They spent the night outposting Langschied and Henschhausen. The 2d Platoon moved through Ehrbach, through the woods to Breitscheid and over hilly and bad terrain to Steg. The 1st Platoon was contacted at Henschhausen and they aided in outposting the area. The 3rd Platoon rejoined T.F. Malloy with a platoon of Rcn, and moved through Rheinbollen. A detour had to be made around Ehrbach because of a big crater in the road. The 1st section moved down the main road and took Bacharach. The town was outposted for the night and several shots were fired at the enemy across the River. The 2nd section took Neurath and outposted it for the night. The 1st Platoon took 17 prisoners. The Company C.P. remained at Liebshausen.

On 19 March, the 1st Platoon outposted its area for the day and returned to the company area that evening at Liebshausen. The 2d Platoon was relieved of its positions and returned to the Company area. The 3rd Platoon remained in position until 1400 and was then relieved by the 2d Cavalry. They returned to the Company area. At 1645 the Platoon moved to Partenheim ahead of the Company and later joined it again. Tank 32 was sent back to Ordinance with Cpl. Bonds and Pfc. Wallak. The Company made a 40 mile march to St. Johann.

On 20 March, the 3 Platoons left St. Johann at 0500 to join T.F. Spiess. The 1st Platoon moved with the Task Force to Nersheim, Partenheim, Ugenheim, Ober Saulheim, Ndr. Saulheim, up to the general direction of Ndr. Clm. As they approached Ndr. Clm they shot at trucks going over the hill. Tank obstacles were encountered here. The T.Ds and assault guns were called on to fire on the town. They flushed out and destroyed trucks leaving the town. Our air copps bombed and strafed the town leaving many vehicles in flames. Two tanks of the 1st section, the platoon of Rcn, and 1 T.D. went in to flank the town from the North and ran into the enemy on the crest of the hill. 12 machine gun nests were knocked out and 3 prisoners taken. A white flag was raised in a portion of town and the Force thought the town was cleared. The Force moved up led by 2 T.Ds and got to the crest of the hill. The two T.Ds were immediately knocked out by dual-purpose 88's well concealed. Sgts. Logan and Cudio went in under fire to admin-

ister first aid to the wounded men and help them to a point of cover. The Force withdrew from the crest of the hill and called for Infantry and Artillery help. The Platoon split up, one section staying in Kangerheim for the night, the other section in Selzen.

The number of prisoners taken by the Task Force accompanying the 1st Platoon during the period covered in this report was approximately 500.

The 2d Platoon moved through Wonsheim to Vendersheim and joined the Task Force. They went to Worrstadt to Schornsheim, and in line formation to Undenheim, where the people cleared the road block for them. Artillery fell just beyond town, the artillery observer picked up the position and directed our own fire and silenced the guns. At Kangerheim they encountered another road block and 3 bazookas just missed the tanks. The T.Bs fired on the block and cleared it. 5 prisoners were taken. They then moved to Selzen and on to Mommenheim, where they stayed for the night.

The 3rd Platoon moved to Obr. Hilbersheim, joined Kelley's Task Force, took Ndr. Hilbersheim, Engestadt, Bubenheim, Schwabenheim, 20 prisoners and shot up a motorcycle, and Elsheim where they were stopped by the civilians and informed that the road block there was mined. They detoured around the town, took it and proceeded on to Essenheim where they took 17 prisoners. The advance was stopped because the road was heavily mined for the next mile. Some dug in positions were encountered near a crossroad and they were fired upon. 13 prisoners were captured and they were used to clear the road of mines. The Platoon moved on to within $4\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers of their objective - Mainz, and met heavy direct fire. They moved back to the crossroads and set up defensive positions until reinforcements came. Two more prisoners were taken there. The roads were outposted until 1700 when another mission was given them to take Ober Olm and Kl Winterheim. They rejoined the Company at Ndr. Saulheim for gas, ammunition and water.

The Company C.P. moved from St. Johann at 1015 to Ndr. Saulheim. While lining up on the road ready to move out, a group of enemy planes came over and were fired upon. A stray 20 mm. shell hit the half-track seared the right track nearly off. Several bombs were dropped in the distance.

SERVICE COMPANY:

On 11 March, the Company was bivouaced at Dreis, Germany. On 12 March moved to Siebenbach. Moved on 14 March to Naunheim and on 18 March to Gondershausen. Company moved on 19 March to Morschbach and on 20 March to Schewppenham.

Transportation Platoon had (2) ammunition and (1) gasoline trucks attached to "A", "B", and "C" Companies. (1) ammunition and (1) gasoline truck attached to Hqs. and "D" Companies. The Battalion water Truck operated from Battalion Hqs. The shortage of transportation in the platoon made moving very difficult, but to keep the necessary supplies near the Companies, the a platoon shuttled supplies to the location of the Bn. Hqs. preceeding the movement of the Company to the area the next day. 6,000 rounds of 30 Cal. 600 rounds of 50 cal. 300 rounds of 75 H.E. 360 rounds of 76 H.E. ammunition and 23,700 gallons of gasoline were drawn from dump during this period.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon accomplished the following work during the period:

For A Company - replaced clutch and boggie wheel on tank Medium M 4.

For B Company - installed new clutch on $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6 x 6.

For C Company - Installed new engine and clutch assembly on Med M 4 tank.

For Hq Company - Installed new clutch and pressure plate on $\frac{1}{4}$ ton 4 x 4.

For Sv Company - Replaced rear wheel drums, tuned engine, replaced all wheel bearings and tightened transmission on GMC $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6 x 6. Replaced engine on GMC $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton 6 x 6.

21-31 March 1945

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY - MEDICAL DETACHMENT:

Company less Assault Gun Platoon remained in Division reserve at Ober Saulheim. On 21 March at 0700, the Assault Gun Platoon attacked with Sub Task Force Wagon from Selzen, East to Dexheim. They captured Dexheim at 1100 against light enemy resistance and two prisoners were taken. After Dexheim was captured, the platoon went into defensive positions inside the town and remained there until 1900. At 1930, the Platoon moved with elements of Task Force to a new defensive position which the Platoon was ordered to hold and defend against possible enemy counter-attacks. Platoon remained in these positions until 1500 the following day.

On 22 March, the Assault Gun Platoon was ordered to move approximately 2000 yards to the East and take up new positions on high ground overlooking the Rhein River. From these positions they were to prevent any enemy attempts to cross the Rhein at this point. Platoon stayed in these positions until 0700 the following day. On 23 March, the Platoon was relieved from Task Force Speiss and rejoined company at Ober Saulheim at 1300.

On 24 March, Company less Assault Gun Platoon left Ober Saulheim, crossed the Rhein River at 2200 and arrived in Geinsheim at 2245.

On 25 March, Company less Assault Gun Platoon remained in Division reserve at Geinsheim. At 1000, the Assault Gun Platoon moved with Sub Task Force Wagon from Geinsheim, arriving in assembly area at Greensheim at 1100. At 1300, the Platoon attacked with elements of Task Force Wagon thru Darmstadt, capturing town against light enemy resistance. Attack continued to outskirts of town where the Platoon set up a road block 1 kilometer N.E. of Darmstadt. At 1400, during the attack on Darmstadt, the Platoon assisted in capturing a convalescent hospital which contained approximately 200 enemy patients. At 2200, at the road block, first section captured an enemy patrol consisting of 3 men. At 2400, the Platoon was relieved by Units of the 26th Inf Div and pulled back to positions inside Darmstadt.

On 26 March 1945, Company less Assault Gun Platoon left Geinsheim and moved to Erzhausen. At 0600, the Assault Gun Platoon moved from Darmstadt with Task Force Kelley, arriving in assembly area at Bayers Etch at 0730. At 0800, Platoon attacked with Task Force Kelley from assembly area at Bayers Etch, attack moved N.E. thru woods, capturing Offenthal at 1000.

On 27 March, Company less Assault Gun Platoon moved from Erzhausen to new area at Obertshausen at 1900. Assault Gun Platoon, after being relieved from Task Force Kelley, rejoined Company at Obershausen.

On 28 March, company moved from Obershausen to Hochstadt and remained there in reserve until 30 March when company moved to Glauberg. On 31 March, Company moved from area at Glauberg to Iislbeshausen.

Medical Detachment set up aid station with Headquarters throughout entire period. William H. Reiff, Captain, MC, was transferred from the 712th Tank Bn Med Det to the 315 Med Bn. During this period, one ambulance half-track was with Task Force Spiess and one litter peep crew was with Company "A".

COMPANY "A":

On 21 March, all platoons pushed with their Inf Bns to new objectives in vicinity of Mainz. 1st at Mambach - 2d at 357566 - 3d at Bretzenheim - Hq at Obr Olm. 1st Platoon responsible for the capture of many Germans. Sgt Martin SWA. Left arm almost blown off by blast of hand grenade shoved down tube of 75 mm tank gun by infiltrating SS men; Sgt Pacienes tank hit twice by enemy artillery shells. Armor plate seams on left sponson parted. One man LWA and evacuated. Another LWA and

remained on duty.

On 22 March, 3rd platoon moved into Mainz from the N.W. with 3rd Bn 358 Inf. 1st and 2d platoons moved to Gonsenheim.

On 23 March, entire company at Finthen for preparation to cross Rhine River.

On 24 March left Finthen 1030 to cross Rhine. At approximately 1800 first elements of company crossed pontoon bridge at Nierstein. Moved on into Leeheim and arrived at 1900. Distance traveled - 22 miles. 1st and 2d platoons joined their infantry Bns. 3d platoon in reserve at Leeheim. Some enemy air activity near bridge site. 2-3 planes shot down.

On 25 March, all platoons moved with their Inf Bns in pursuit of the enemy. Resistance was light to scattered. At last report all platoons in general vicinity Erzhausen - Egelsbach. Progress was in a general NE direction. Co Hq at Weiterstadt.

On 26 March, all platoons pushed to new objectives. Enemy resistance light. 2-3 platoons vicinity Dieteshelm. 1st in reserve vicinity Hausen. Platoons preparing to cross Mainz River. Co Hq at Dietzenbach.

On 27 March, all platoons preparing to cross Mainz River. 1-2 platoons in vicinity Dieteshelm. 3d platoon vicinity Lammerspiel. Co Hq at Hausen.

On 28 March, all platoons crossed the Mainz River in the morning.

On 29 March, all platoons serviced as Hq Platoon crossed the river. Platoons preparing to push off in mobile task force. Co Hq at Mittelbuchen.

On 30 March, all platoons moved far out with their Inf Bns. 1st Platoon met scattered resistance. Other platoons no enemy opposition. Distance traveled - 30 miles. Co Hq at Gedera.

On 31 March, platoons again moved out and travelled about 29 miles without meeting enemy opposition. 1st at Uffershausen - 2d at Grosseemoor - 3d at Schlitz. Schlitz first city of considerable size taken by our task forces. The routes being followed are mostly over secondary roads and trails. The run of towns and villages are very small to average. Co Hq at Schlitz.

COMPANY "B":

On 21 March, the tanks were with the infantry in the attack on Mainz. One section of tanks with 2 platoons of infantry captured a German Hq and took the CO of the town garrison prisoner. The battle continued until the following morning at which time the tanks moved to Dexheim in preparation for crossing of the Rhine River.

On 23 March, the tanks crossed the Rhine River attached to the 357 Infantry. The following day the remainder of the Company crossed. The tanks had not fired a shell at close of 24 March.

On 25 March the company was relieved from attachment to the 357 and attached to the 359 Inf. Scattered small-arms fire was met. The infantry was motorized in preparation for following the 4th Armored Division.

On 26 March, the company went into an assembly area at Bieffer in preparation for a crossing of the Main River. Maintenance had priority until company crossed the river 28 March at 1240. The tanks joined the infantry and pushed out to Gaullburg 29 March, still following the 4th Armored Division. Lt. Gagat lost 2 tanks by bazooka fire at Selters during a stiff engagement with German SS soldiers.

On 30 March, the tanks reached Hertzdorf and on the 31 March reached Kischeim, still following the 4th Armored Division. No enemy opposition met the last 2 days.

COMPANY "C":

On 21 and 22 March the tanks continued to mop up with the Infantry.

On 23 March the company moved to Depheim in preparation to crossing Rhine River that night.

On 24 March 3rd Platoon left Gainsheim at 1100; joined 359th Inf and arrived at Nesterlau at 1400 assisting the Infantry in taking the town.

On 25 March, 3rd Platoon left Nesterlau at 0600 and assisted the Infantry in taking 3 small towns and the surrounding high ground. At 1700, the 3rd Platoon was relieved from the 359th Infantry and joined the 357 Inf in Wixhausen and set up road block at 2230. 1st Section of 3rd Platoon working with the 2d Bn and the 2d Section working with the 1st Bn were given the mission of cleaning out woods. In this action 3rd Platoon knocked out 2 40 mm AA guns and 1 88 mm gun. Took 9 prisoners. 2nd Platoon left Erfeldam at 0430 and arrived in Griesheim at 0450 and took up defensive position. Moved at 1115 to protect an airport and a nearby supply highway.

On 26 March, 2d Platoon left their position at 1015 and went to Elgnbach. Left Elgnbach at 1700 and arrived in Gretzheim at 1815 and set up defensive position. 3rd Platoon left their road block positions at 1800 and arrived in Deitzelbach at 2100.

On 27 March, 2d Platoon left Gretzheim at 0800 and arrived in Bieber at 1115. 3rd Platoon arrived in Bieber at 1430.

On 28 March, 2d Platoon left Bieber at 0930 and arrived in Mellheim at 1015, crossed the Main River 1230, stopping in Hockstadt. 3rd Platoon left Bieber at 0900 and arrived in Lutheim at 1000, crossed the Main River at 12 00 and arrived in Hockstadt at 1300.

On 29 March, 2d Platoon left Hockstadt at 1000 and arrived in Gross-Korbach at 1530. 2d Section took up outpost positions. 1st Section was sent to areas east and west of town to mop up. Took 7 prisoners. Platoon returned to Gross-Korbach at 1730. 3rd Platoon arrived in Berg Grand Lau at 1500.

On 30 March, 2d Platoon left Gross-Korbach at 0530 to contact 1st Bn 357 Inf at Kretchen arriving at 0600. Left Kretchen at 0715 on tactical road march to town of Breungeshaus, checking wooded areas enroute. 3rd Platoon left Berg Grand Lau at 0700 and at 1400 assisted the Infantry in taking 162 prisoners. Arrived in Radingsheim at 1130.

On 31 March, 2d Platoon left Breungeshaus at 0700 and marched to Krustin arriving there at 1500 capturing 4 prisoners.

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On 21 March, the 1st Platoon continued its advance through Friesenheim, Dexheim, Dalheim, and outposted Lommenheim for the night. The 2d Platoon moved at 1400 to Lorweiler and knocked out a truck going into town. Another truck was spotted going towards Harxheim. Sgt Kwiatkowski pursued it and finally knocked it out after chasing it for a mile. In Lorweiler 13 prisoners and 4 trucks were taken. The Platoon was ordered back to Lommenheim, reorganized, and at 2000 took Neckenheim with 15 prisoners. At 0900 the 3d Platoon reinforced the 1st Platoon and contacted them at Dexheim where they went into position. Their mission was to push up to the River and take Diezheim, but in the meantime the 4th Armored Division had pushed through and took it. The Platoon moved with Rom and took and outposted Schwabsburg. At 2300 they were returned to the Company area at Ndr. Dalheim. At 2330, they were ordered to reinforce Capt. Dye at Lorweiler and moved into position there for the night.

On 22 March, company joined the 1st Platoon at Lommenheim and stayed for the night. The 2d Platoon continued to outpost Neckenheim. The 3rd Platoon moved at 1200 to the defensive position on the River at Neckenheim with the 2d Platoon. They had to go into position after darkness because of direct observation.

On 23 March, at 0400 the area of the 2d and 3d Platoons were shelled by our own artillery, falling short. At dawn they moved back from their positions and later rejoined the Company at Lommenheim. The Company moved from Lommenheim and

set up a CP at Obr. Saulheim.

On 24 March, the Company rested for the day and at 1730 moved out to cross the Rhine River. The road was heavily traveled and there were numerous planes (enemy) that flew over and drew a large amount of fire. The convoy itself was not molested by the planes. As the Company crossed the Rhine, a large column of German prisoners were marching across the bridge in the opposite direction. The Company set up a CP and remained at Ginsheim for the balance of the night.

On 25 March, the Platoons left Ginsheim at 0700 and with the mission of taking Darmstadt, a city of a prewar population of 89,000. Little information was available as to the troop strength and the general situation within the city. The outskirts were approached after about a 12 mile march and the forces split. The 3rd Platoon with a platoon of Rcm, constituting Task Force Kelley, moved in on the main road approaching the city. At the edge of the woods just on the outskirts of the city 88 prisoners were taken. In the town itself a bit of small arms fire was encountered, and later 28 prisoners taken. Contact was then made with the 4th Armored Division who had pushed in from the left flank, and the town was cleared with little resistance. The 1st and 2d Platoons with a platoon of Rcm supported the 3rd Platoon's operations from the left flank, this force was Task Force Wagon. The 3rd Platoon outposted the city in the vicinity of the Railroad Station and Sgt Holmes took 21 prisoners. The 1st Platoon outposted the road NE of the town. While there 2 Rcm peeps pushed through reconnoitering the road and several hundred yards ahead were knocked out by enemy action. The Force was notified by the civilians that there were 3 companies of enemy Infantry ahead in the woods. Several civilians were ordered to contact the enemy forces and give them a chance to surrender. The enemy group had apparently moved out in the meantime as only a small group of about 20 soldiers were contacted. Members of Headquarters Platoon took 8 prisoners from the woods in that area. The night was spent in the NE section of town.

On 26 March, at 0600 the 1st Platoon left Darmstadt screening the woods, roads, and trail NE of town. They took the towns of Langea, Sprendlingen, and stopped for awhile at Buegel. At 1800 they pushed off again with portions of the 359 Infantry riding the tanks and took the town of Oppenback. They encountered some machine gun and sniper fire. A total of 55 prisoners were taken by the Platoon during the day. The balance of the Company moved out from Darmstadt at 0700 with Rcm and screened the wooded areas, trails and roads, and worked towards the Main River. The night was spent at Jugesheim which was reached at 1600. While he was sitting in town in his jeep, a German soldier came out of a house and walked up to Lt. Hiatt and gave himself up. He said he had been on a leave, had overstayed his leave by one day, and we came in very unexpectedly. He shook hands with his people, climbed on the truck, and everybody was happy. The 3rd Platoon took 3 more prisoners in that vicinity.

On 27 March, the Company moved a few miles to Rembrucken and were later joined by the 1st Platoon. The day was spent in maintenance and resting.

On 28 March, most of the day was spent in maintenance and resting. Pfc Parker accidentally shot himself in his left hand while cleaning his Tommie gun and was evacuated. Pfc Muziz was evacuated for an eye irritation. The Company moved from Rembrucken at 1915 and crossed the Main River at 2010. They arrived at Kesselstadt at 2115 and remained there for the balance of the night.

On 29 March, All Platoons were alerted and moved from Kesselstadt at 0615. The 1st and 2d Platoons were attached to Task Force Wagon along with 1 platoon of Rcm from the 773 TDs. They moved into several towns, cleared them of isolated enemy troops, and took in the arms and military equipment of the civilians. In the one town outposted by 2 tanks of the 1st Platoon, enemy troops were observed going across the crest of a distant hill. Fire was placed on them with the 37 mm. and two machine guns from the one tank. Lt. Hiatt, T/5 Horn and Tucci went up after them in a jeep and marched back 11 prisoners.

[REDACTED]

The Company minus the 3rd Platoon marched on to Bomstadt. Tanks of the 1st Platoon stopped on the hill just N. of town and chased down 4 prisoners. The Headquarters section, led by the kitchen truck, spearheaded into town and cleared it by taking 28 more prisoners. The 2d Platoon set up road blocks in the surrounding area and picked up 18 more prisoners. A Total of 86 prisoners were captured in the town and surrounding area that evening and night. The 3rd Platoon working with Task Force Kelley continued on similar missions of clearing towns and woods of enemy. During their operations for the day they captured well over 100 prisoners, and took a camouflaged air strip in woods containing 1 shotup plane and 3 operative ME 190's.

On 30 March, the 1st Platoon plus an I & R Platoon joined forces at Stammheim at 0635. They took Steden with 1 prisoner, Hdr. Mockstadt with 30 prisoners, Mockstadt, Rimstadt, Nidda, Rudingsheim, to Schotten. 25 more P.W.'s were taken there. The Hq Platoon trains followed the 1st Platoon at 30 minute intervals and captured 10 prisoners in the woods N. of Nidda, seriously wounded one and killed two at the bottom of a steep drey. They joined the 1st Platoon at Schotten where they rounded up 51 more prisoners including high ranking officers. The 2d Platoon followed the 1st Platoon to Schotten and set up a road block on the East end of town at 1300, taking 19 more prisoners.

The 3rd Platoon jumped off with Task Force Kelley at Oberau at 0625 and proceeded to Lindheim, Gleuberg, Stockenheim, Ortengerg to Lissberg. - In this vicinity they encountered sniper and machine gun fire. Two tanks and 2 M-8s continued on and the 2nd M-8 was knocked out by bazooka fire. After the area was cleared in that area the Force continued on to Merkenfritz, Godern, Hartmanshain, and at 1410 returned to Company control. The Company moved to Schotten, arriving at 1830.

The 2d Platoon was alerted at 0015 31 March to set up a road block about 25 miles from Schotten. They returned to the Company area at 0700, and the Company, minus Hq Section moved out at 0720 to investigate the towns and roads leading NE. They found them to be all cleared and for the most part occupied by our troops. The 4th Armored Division moved through the sector during the day. A CP was set up at Bdd. Jossa after a 40 mile march. The trains joined the Company later in the day. The Company was reverted back to Battalion control at 2200.

In summarizing the events of this period, the purpose of Task Force Kelley and Task Force Wagon was to investigate and clear the trails, woods, roads, and towns of all enemy troops cut off by the advances of larger units that preceded the Task Forces, to report the towns occupied by our troops, and to make use of these roads and towns safe for the trains and troops that might follow. These towns were to be placed under military law, and all military equipment such as small arms, ammunition, etc., to be confiscated from the civilian population. In some cases the Task Forces were the first US Troops to enter the towns. Many prisoners were taken, most of them with no resistance, just waiting in back streets for our troops to come by so they could surrender. They seemed glad the war was over for them. On one occasion a German Captain stepped out on a road in front of the advancing task force and fired his Luger at the windows. It was only after their leader was killed that the men gave up and that their officers made them fight at the point of a gun.

SERVICE COMPANY:

On 21 March, company was bivouaced at Biebelshain, Germany. Moved on to Wolfsheim. Company moved again on 28 March to Erbshausen and Erbshausen. On 30 and 31 March Company was bivouaced at Giesberg.

Transportation Platoon - During the above period had (1) gasoline and ammunition trucks attached to Companies A, B, C. Headquarters section each had (1) gasoline and (1) ammunition truck attached. The 3rd Platoon

truck operated from Battalion Headquarters. Fifty (50) rounds of 105 HE, 10,800 rounds 50 cal., 500 rounds 75 HE, 200 rounds 75 WP, 45,000 rounds 30 cal., 300 rounds 76 APC, 100 rounds 37 FF ammunition and 27,200 gallons of gaso line were drawn from the dumps during the period covering the report.

The Battalion Maintenance Platoon accomplished the following work during the period:

For A Company - replaced oil line and engine studs on $\frac{1}{4}$ ton 4 x 4.

For B Company - installed new engine in Medium Tank, M4 w/75 mm gun. Installed new engine in Medium Tank, M4 w/105 mm Howitzer. Installed new engine in Recovery Vehicle M32.

For C Company - installed new engine in Medium Tank M4 w/105 mm Howitzer. Pulled engine, replaced clutch, installed ammunition racks and radio racks on Medium Tank M4 w/75 mm Gun. Repaired 75 mm Gun on Medium Tank.

For Hq Company - replaced clutch on $\frac{1}{4}$ ton 4 x 4.

For Medics - replaced left front spring and cleaned carburetor on half-track.

For Sv Company - installed new engine in GMC truck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 6 x 6.

Received from ordnance six new replacement tanks and four old ones that had been repaired. Minor repairs and welding was done on them. All tanks were checked for mechanical functions, small arms, radios and artillery before turning them over to the companies of the battalion.