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The
ARMORED SCHOOL

T A C T I C S D E P A R T M E N T



FORT KNOX KENTUCKY

AFTER ACTION REPORTS #45

83rd. Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

1
2
3
4

5
6
7
8

HEADQUARTERS
85d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

11 August 44

REPORT OF ACTION AGAINST ENEMY

Elements of this unit saw their first action against the enemy on the evening of 7 July 44, when Company "D" was attached to CC"B", Third Armored Division, to perform reconnaissance for that unit to enable them to exploit a break through made by 30th Infantry Division in vicinity of ARIEL. This company was also attached to CC"B" in the area of PONT HEBERT until 14 July 44 when it reverted to battalion control for replacements and refitting. During the night of 7 July 44 the company commander, Capt. TOM BOHANNON, was wounded, and Lt. ROBERT D. HAVENS was given command of the company. During the PONT HEBERT engagement one platoon of light tanks from Company "C" was attached to Company "D". The company fought well in face of strong local opposition.

On the morning of 8 July 44 Company "B" was attached to CC"A", Third Armored Division, to perform reconnaissance to the west into the enemy zone from 478748 to a line generally 429719 to 426745. A platoon of tanks from Company "C" was attached to Company "B", and the company proceeded in their zone to vicinity LE DESERT where the tank platoon leader, Lt. E. R. MCKINSTRY was wounded, when his tank was knocked out by anti-tank fire. The company met stiff resistance at that point, and was pulled back to a line generally 471746 to 461739. At this position the company commander, Capt. JOHN B. GAGE, was wounded. Company "B" was relieved, and reverted to battalion control at approximately 092000B July 44.

At 091800B July 44, Company "A" less one platoon, plus one platoon of tanks from Company "C" was attached to 125th Cavalry Squadron for an attack south of ST JEAN DE DAYE. The company was engaged for about six (6) hours, and reverted to battalion control at 100600B July 44.

The battalion moved from vicinity ST JEAN DE DAYE to vicinity LE DESERT (446 734) 170800. Company "B" was detached to guard the Division Command Post in same general vicinity.

The battalion remained in this area until 281630B performing maintenance and refitting until Company "D" moved out on operations "COBRA" at 270605 attached to CC"A", Third Armored Division, with area in vicinity COUTANCES as objective. The battalion (less Company "D") moved to vicinity south of CARANTILLY at 281630. Battalion (less Company "D") moved to vicinity ST DENIS LE VETU 292300. Companies "A" and "B" moved out from that point at 300530 to push reconnaissance south to vicinity of the bridges over the SIENNE for the division. Opposition was light and approximately 500 prisoners were taken. The friendly Infantry moved up, and the battalion moved into a bivouac in vicinity of ST DENIS LE GAST. At 311700B July 44, the battalion was attached to Task Force #5 of CC"B" under the command of Lt. Col. COCKEFAIR with objective high ground north VILLADIEU LES POLES. Company "D" reverted to battalion control 300530

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Task Force #3 moved to vicinity LA BOUTIERE, where they were shelled heavily but succeeded in pushing across the River SIENNE with Company "B" spearheading the attack in face of strong enemy resistance.

As a whole, and as detached companies, the unit has fought well against all sorts of enemy troops including paratroops and SS troops. We have had approximately 100 enlisted men casualties, and 11 officer casualties. Capt. JOHN B. GAGE, Company "B", and Staff Sergeant NORBERT C. LENZ, Company "D", have been awarded the Silver Star, and many Bronze Stars have been awarded.

Probably the saddest experience of the period was the fatal wounding of Capt. MARVIN C. COOKE, M.C. while he was attempting to rescue wounded men from an armored car south of ST JEAN DE DAYE. Capt. COOKE had not been with the battalion long, but by his wonderful medical support to Company "B", he had endeared himself to that company as well as the whole battalion.

J. M. Robertson
J. M. ROBERTSON
1st Lt, 83d Armd Rec Bn,
S - 2

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

5 September 1944

REPORT OF ACTION AGAINST ENEMY

First: Company "B", attached to a Task Force from "CCB" commanded by Lt. Col. COCKEFAIR, crossed the Sienne River north east of La BOUTIERE, and fought until 1600 1st August at which time they pulled back south of the river under a heavy artillery preparation. During the engagement there, Lts. DAVID B. LEAVANSON, and WALTER E. GRIMME were wounded. Company "A" was attached to a Task Force commanded by Col. CORNOG, and was fighting just north of VILLEDIEU POILS, where they fought stubborn resistance all day. Companies "C" and "D" were in battalion reserve during this engagement.

Second and Third: All three Reconnaissance Companies, "A", "B", and "D" were attached to Task Forces of "CCB", and moved under cover of darkness to vicinity of COULOUVRAY to secure the high ground north of ST POILS. Our companies fought with the Task Force in this area until relieved by 4th Infantry Division. During this fight Lts. GEO. MERRKOWITZ and F. S. RICCA were wounded. At approximately 1600 4 August Companies "B", "C", and Battalion Headquarters were attached to the Task Force commanded by Col. CORNOG, and at 1730 moved to vicinity of LE MESNIL TOVE. At this time Company "A" was working with Col. COCKEFAIR'S Task Force and Company "D" with Col. ROYSDON'S Task Force.

Fourth and Fifth: Companies "A" and "D" remained with their Task Forces, and worked generally north and west of Hill 211 toward ST POILS, but Company "B" with Task Force under Col. CORNOG saw most of the action in the LE MESNIL TOVE area, where the enemy resistance was particularly stubborn. The attack began at daylight 5 August 44, and progressed very well. The Task Force Command Post was shelled, and Lt. MONROE J. POLENSKY was mortally wounded, one man from Rcn Platoon 23d Engineers was killed, and Sgt. THOMAS and Cpl. VAMBERG of Battalion Headquarters were wounded. Capt. PUGH lost his second jeep "HEROIC II". The Task Force was relieved by the 30th Infantry Division the afternoon of 5 August. During the 5th the Task Force was strafed and bombed by the Luftwaffe.

Sixth and Seventh: Battalion was assembled near RUEFFVILLE at approximately 1600 6 August in "CCB" area for a proposed rest period. The men spent the afternoon and evening of 6 August cleaning their arms, vehicles, and clothes. Early on the morning of 7 August the enemy counterattacked in the MORTAIN area, and "CCB" was moved out attached to 30th Infantry Division to stop the attack. Company "A" was again attached to Col. CORNOG's Task Force and Company was attached to Col. HOGAN's Task Force. These units moved back into an area near LE MESNIL TOVE to fight again. Company "C" with dismounted men

were sent on a Rec. mission toward MONTIGNY, and MORTAIN to ascertain whether or not the enemy was using the roads in that area for a break through. They returned late in the evening of 7th August having contacted no enemy.

Eighth: Battalion minus Companies "A" and "B" moved at 0530 to vicinity LA BOCAGE just south of JUVIGNY. Company "A" was attached to Col. CORNOG's Task Force, and Company "B" to Col. HOGAN's Task Force. Company "D" was outposting area east and southeast of LA BOCAGE. Company "C" was in reserve.

Ninth: Battalion command post remained in same location, and companies were attached to same units. Lt. Col. CARANISS and party went to Division C.P. near MAYENNE to meet the new division commander, Brigadier General MAURICE ROSE. General ROSE stated that he intended to use the battalion under division control rather than detaching companies to the combat commands, and Task Forces. The Luftwaffe bombed in the general area of the battalion C.P. and wounded Lt JOHN T. RESLER when a bomb landed about ten (10) feet from his tank.

Tenth, Eleventh, & Twelfth: Battalion and companies remained in same area attached to same units. During this period of stiff fighting Lt. KINDLER, and Lt. LAMPREY of Company "A" were wounded, together with Lt. STIMSON of Company "B" and several enlisted men from both companies. Lt. KINDLER later died of wounds. The battalion moved from the JUVIGNY section to GARRAN just east of MAYENNE, and closed in the new area at approximately 0600 13th August. Everyone was anticipating a rest and msinzrnsnvr prtof, but we received orders to reconnoiter in front of the division in an attack west of MAYENNE with the ultimate object of going west and northwest to pin the Germans in against the Orne River.

Thirteenth: Battalion jumped off at 0600 with Company "A" on the south, and Company "D" on the north. Moved along to vicinity PRE EN PAIL, where the C.P. with "B" and "C" Companies leaguered for the night. Company "B" was ordered to vicinity of RANNES, where they were to perform reconnaissance for "CCA" at 1130 13th August.

Fourteenth: Battalion moved to area south of RANNES, and leaguered for the night. Companies "A" and "D" were given mission of screening east flank of division as division moved on FROMENTAL and ECOUCHE. They ran into considerable artillery, and tank fire. Two platoons of "C" Company were attached, and continued pressure throughout night of 15th.

Fifteenth: Battalion C.P. moved near division C.P. southwest of RANNES and remained there two days with Company "B" screening left flank of "CCA" on their drive to FROMENTAL, and Companies "B" and "D" screening right flank of "CCB" as they pushed north toward ECOUCHE.

Seventeenth: Battalion C.P. moved to 168242, Southwest of ECOUCHE. Company "D" was maintaining contact with French Armored Division at ECOUCHE. Company "A" was outposting to west of ECOUCHE. Company "B" remained working with "CCA" southwest of FROMENTAL.

Eighteenth: Battalion closed in on area northwest of RANMES at 1700 for maintenance, and refitting. Company "A" established liaison with French Armored Division at ECHOUCHE, and the battalion was directed to establish roving patrols to west and north of division area in vicinity of RANMES.

Nineteenth thru Twentysecond: Battalion remained in area of 18th, doing maintenance, laundry, bathing, and refitting generally until 1800 20th August, when Capt. THOMAS took a billeting detail to new area south of CHATEAUNEUF. Returned 1300 21 August, and Companies "B" and "D" moved out at 1800. At 1845 they were ordered to coil in place, and whole unit moved out at 0700 22 August for new area. Closed in area at 1700 22 August, and put out nine outposts to northeast of division area.

Twentythird and Twentyfourth: Battalion remained in CHATEAUNEUF vicinity doing additional maintenance, and reorganization until noon 24 August, when Company "D" sent out reconnaissance parties to vicinity of MENECY to select routes for moving the division to that area. Battalion began moving to MENECY area at 0100 25th August.

Twentyfifth: Companies were sent on missions of locating friendly troops in the area, and at approximately 2000 25th August received order to follow 4th Cavalry Group across the Seine River at TILLY (southeast of PARIS).

Twentysixth: Crossed Seine at 0800 26th August and moved to division assembly area. Company "A" worked eastern section of division zone with "CCA" and Company "D" worked western section with "CCB". Companies "B" and "C", and Battalion Headquarters moved into an area south of PONT CARRE, where they bivouaced for night near 4th Cavalry Group HQ.

Twentyseventh: Companies "A" and "D" continued to push northeast in their respective zones. Companies "B" and "C" cleaned up pockets of resistance in area around the battalion C.P. Battalion moved C.P. with Companies "B" and "C" to outskirts of PONT CARRE, and Major TUCKER was instructed by General ROSE to take command of battalion for a few days.

Twentyeighth: Battalion moved out to perform reconnaissance for the division to the division objective at SOISSONS. Battalion C.P. with Companies "C" and "D" closed in an assembly area just south of SOISSONS. Company "D" outflanked roads west of the city and Company "A" was with "CCA" to east of the division zone.

Twenty ninth: Companies "B" and "D" spent the day reconnoitering the River at SOISSONS for a crossing, and finally crossed the river in the city at 1745. Battalion Headquarters with one tank platoon moved near the division C.P. at an area just east of SOISSONS. Companies "B" and "D" reconnoitered north toward LAON.

Thirtieth: Col. CABANISS was relieved of command, and Major TUCKER took command. Companies "A", "B", "C" and "D" worked on toward LAON and outpost area north and east of that town. Battalion spent night just south of LAON.

Thirtyfirst: Began reconnaissance in front of division to division objective at VERDUN, and area northwest thereof. At about 1100 we were ordered to coil, and wait for orders. Received orders at 1435 changing division objective to VERVINS and HIRSON and ordering the battalion to reconnoiter to front of division advance to those points until stopped, and then to secure division flanks. C.P. followed companies to an area just south of VERVINS, where they coiled for the night.

SUMMARY: The summary of the operations for the month included all types of operations including reconnaissance, mopping up, and front line fighting. The operations around RANMES was very bitter with fierce enemy resistance around the pocket before it was finally closed. The battalions suffered many casualties during this period and accomplished many feats of unusual accomplishment and bravery for which many medals were awarded. After leaving RANMES the battalion encountered stiff enemy rearguard action in some places, but for the most part the enemy retreat was disorganized and in some cases chaotic. Units of the battalion accounted for many enemy casualties in vehicles and men. Prisoners of War often hindered our operations as they were captured in such large numbers.

JIM ROBERTSON
1st Lt, 83d Armd Rcn Bn,
S-2

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
A-0 253, U. S. Army

5 October 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

First: On the morning of 1st September 1944 the Bn was given the order to send "D" Company with the Right Column (T.F. MILLS), "A" Company with T.F. HICKEY on Center Route, and "B" Company with T.F. BUDINOT on Left Column to Rcn in front of their respective columns to MONS, the Div. objective. One platoon "C" Company attached to each company. "D" Company encountered heavy enemy resistance and was by passed by T.F. MILLS in afternoon. By nightfall the other two companies had reached north on a line with LA CAPELLE and were by passed. Several enemy AT guns and enemy tanks were encountered here by the T.F.s. "B" Company was in contact with the enemy throughout the night. Forward Echelon and "C" Company (-) bivouaced east of LA CAPELLE for the night.

Second: Companies continued toward their objective (MONS) with their T.F. Many enemy columns moving east toward Germany were intercepted and destroyed. The highlight of the morning was a German officer in a staff car that came down the main road past several unit C.P.s. The officer waved to the U.S. troops as he went by. "B" Company captured some important maps and documents which showed proposed routes of the enemy's escape to Germany. The Forward Echelon with "C" Company crossed the Belgium Border at 1500 shortly after the advance elements. Lt. JOHN REILLY was killed in action on this date. All units fought running battles with the retreating enemy. Many prisoners were taken. All companies bivouaced at night just south of MONS. "D" Company with T.F. MILLS by passed stiff resistance in their sector and continued on center route.

Third: The companies were released back to Bn during day and Bn assembled on southern outskirts of MONS. MONS was cleaned up during day. An enemy column was caught about 500 yards to our right flank. Many of the vehicles were destroyed and personnel dispersed.

Fourth: "A" and "B" companies with two platoons of tanks were given the mission of assisting the 1st Division in reestablishing contact with their arty which had been cut off by the enemy. This force took prisoners and mopped up in the area of Div. Hq. At 1300 "D" Company started to carry out the Bn mission of screening the north flank of Division which was advancing on NAMUR. The remainder of the Bn joined at dark on Division's north route. They experienced difficulty in crossing the river N.E. of MONS since the Engineers bridge was taken up before "A", "B", and "C" Companies reached there, having been delayed on previous mission. Bn spent night west of FLEURUS. The reception of the liberated civilians was most enthusiastic. Enemy tanks reported in immediate vicinity throughout night. "A" Company sent at 2000 to assist "D" Company.

Fifth: Advance towards NAMUR continued with "A" and "B" Companies with tank platoons attached screening N. flank abreast of Division advance. One disabled light tank captured a bycycle platoon complete. The Bn assembled north of NAMUR for the night after encountering considerable artillery and small arms there in afternoon. Gas became a critical item.

Sixth: Bn was to jump at daylight to cover four routes of Division advance on LIEGE. "D" on N, "A" Company on two center routes either side of MEUSE River, "B" Company on south. "D" Company encountered severe AT fire with mortar and small arms. "B" Company encountered difficulty in crossing into their zone for the bridge was out. "A" Company reconnoitered on the north of river, but was unable to get south of the river. All companies had their mission changed at 1500 and proceeded toward HUY to seige bridges there. The Bn (- "D" Company) assembled for night west of HUY

Seventh:

After bridges at HUY were found secure, Bn was given the mission of getting to LIEGE by fastest route to seize bridges. "D" Company had patrols in LIEGE at 1500 from N.W., "B" Company got just south of LIEGE by 1600. Bridges in town found out. "A" (-) and "D" Companies spent night NW of LIEGE with Task Force. One platoon "A" Company, "C" Company (-), Forward Echelon and "B" Company spent night SW LIEGE. Enemy tank columns were in area throughout night.

Eighth:

A bridge was found in south of LIEGE. CC BOUDINOT and "B" Company crossed in the early morning. Forward Echelon and "C" Company ~~met~~ and one platoon "A" Company crossed at 1400 and bivouaced near Division C.P. SE of LIEGE for remainder of day until "B" Company was sent to seize and secure the town of VERVIERS at 1600. They reached a point half way to VERVIERS with little enemy resistance coiling in that position for the night. "B" and "D" Companies remained NW of LIEGE during the night.

Nineth:

At 0500 "A" and "D" Companies were ordered to seize and secure the town of VERVIERS and "B" Company was diverted to the north through DISON with the mission of setting and securing the dam SE of LIMBOURG. After encountering some enemy resistance "A" and "D" Companies arrived at their objective at 1500. They outpost the town and secured the high ground east thereof with "D" Company on the north and "A" Company on the south. The town was so occupied for 24 hours, when the task force arrived on the scene. "B" Company arrived NW of LIMBOURG by nightfall after encountering stiff enemy resistance during the day. Forward Echelon and "C" Company (-) bivouaced for the night near DISON.

Tenth:

"A" and "D" Companies continued to outpost VERVIERS. "B" Company encountered enemy small arms, mortar, and arty fire and were stopped in the town of GOE. They directed air and arty on many very profitable targets. Many enemy vehicles were destroyed. Bn C.P. moved N part of VERVIERS.

Eleventh:

The Bn was to rcn ahead of the Division's three columns with EUPEN as objective. All these companies met stiff resistance and were soon bypassed by the task forces. They then screened their columns to the north. The Bn assembled in area just west of EUPEN for the night.

Twelfth:

The Bn was given the mission of reconnoitering route to German Border through the wood SE of EUPEN. All companies were sent on mission with "D" Company on south, "A" Company on north, and "B" Company and two platoons of tanks acting as general support in center. The terrain proved impassable. The enemy had constructed very strong Rd blocks in the close wooded area. Some of the Rd blocks were defended. At 1900 the Bn was called off of their mission to follow TF LOVELADY bivouaced in vicinity of the TF and prepared to carry out rcn mission at first light. All companies (- "A" Company) and Forward Echelon bivouaced NW ROETGEN for night.

Thirteenth:

"A" Company closed in assembly area at 0600. "B" and "A" Companies began a rcn west and NW of ROETGEN at 0630. The Bn mission of outposting ROETGEN to S and SW. The Bn assembled south of ROETGEN. The Bn occupied the town. This was the first German town occupied by the Allied Forces. The proclamation was reported to be the first proclamation ever to be issued by an Allied Army to any German civilian population.

Fourteenth:

The Bn continued their outposting of ROETGEN. Units relieved by the 9th Infantry Division at 1300. The Bn then moved vicinity Division C.P. at RAERAM.

Fifteenth:

"A", "B", and "D" companies mopped up behind CCA and CCB as far NE as KORNELMUNSTER. "A" Company outposted the town of KORNELMUNSTER after mopping up. The Bn (- "A" Company) bivouaced for the night just west of KORNELMUNSTER. "D" Company had out night patrol in BUSBACH and met bazooka and small arms fire.

Sixteenth:

The Bn moved to assembly area east of KORNELMUNSTER at 0800. "D" Company and two squads of Engineers and two platoons of tanks and two scout sections from "B" Company were sent to push through that sector of the line around BUSBACH. Here they met heavy enemy resistance and were passed through by Division reserve TF with one Bn of 16th Infantry attached at 1530. Upon being passed "D" Company shored up W flank of TF. Lt. Col. P. E. YOEMANS assumed command of the battalion.

Seventeenth:

"A" Company attached to CCA at 1530. "B" Company was sent to maintain liaison between elements of CCB and 47th Infantry in BUSBACH area. Both companies to remain under Bn control. Capt. SIMON was given command of "D" Company.

Eighteenth and Nineteenth:

All Companies remained on same mission. TF was pulled out of BUSBACH at 0630 on the 19th at which time Lt. Col. YOEMANS was instructed to conduct vigorous patrolling toward dragons teeth north of BUSBACH. At 0630 on the 19th a heavy concentration of arty fire landed in "B" Company's position and they were forced to withdraw a short distance. Since the enemy was present in some strength reinforcements were sent to hold position for the night and defensive mine fields were laid. "A" and "B" Companies continued on mission with combat commands.

Twentieth:

Lt. Col. YOEMANS was given command of a Task Force consisting of one company infantry, one platoon medium tanks in addition to "D" and "C" Companies with the mission of cleaning up BUSBACH and the area east thereof. TF regained 19th positions by 1330. At cross roads at 928412 the attack went east against particularly heavy bazooka, AT, and small arms fire. TF coiled for night at 934413.

Twenty-First:

Attack of TF YOEMANS resumed at 1500 area assigned was cleaned out with many prisoners and dead. Received 150mm arty on position at 1300.

Twenty-Second:

Received orders from Division at 0900 to hold positions and make recn of area east of BUSBACH. Completed by 1200, no enemy encountered on mission. Given BUSBACH area as assembly position for reorganization and refitting battalion. Battalion Trains and "B" Company rejoined Bn by 1500.

Twenty-Third:

"D" Company assigned as Castle Guard, Division Headquarters. "A" Company closed in assembly area at 1100. Bn given mission of conducting recn and securing patrols in Division area. "A" and "B" companies will conduct 2-5 hour patrols each day, during reorganization period to prevent enemy infiltration.

Twenty-Fourth through Thirtieth:

Battalion assembled in and around BUSBACH. Recn and security patrols continued during the period. Battalion was reequipped, remanned and reorganized. A thorough inspection was made of all companies. Sporadic enemy arty fire was received during period with some casualties resulting.

Gordon F. Thomas
GORDON F. THOMAS
Capt., 83d Armd. Rec. Bn.
Assistant S - 3

HEADQUARTERS
334 Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

4 November 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

First through Sixth.

Battalion remained in assembly position at Büsbach where it had closed 23rd September 44. During this period "D" Company was guarding the Division Command Post, and "A" and "B" Companies conducted two (2) patrols each daily throughout the Division area. During the period the battalion was refitted, and the men had a great many recreational facilities at their disposal - movies, baths, U.S.O. shows, etc. The Command Post was moved once due to a heavy shelling while located in the Büsbach school.

Seventh.

At 1630 Lt. Col. Yeomans was called by Col. Smith C/S, and informed that the battalion would go into defensive position in the Stolberg sector of the division zone on the following day. Capt. Robertson reported to General Hickey at his headquarters at 1830 to get the defensive arrangement at Stolberg, and was informed that the General desired that Lt. Col. Yeomans meet him at TFX Headquarters in Büsbach at 08000044. Company Commanders and battalion staff met at 07210044 to make plans for the move.

Eighth.

Lt. Col. Yeomans and Capt. Robertson met General Hickey at TFX Headquarters at 080000. General Hickey, Col. Doan (TFX Commander), Col. Yeomans, and Capt. Robertson visited 1st Bn., 36th AIR (Col. OMR) at Stolberg, and get the disposition of his troops. At 081030 the Company Commanders, Capts. Smith, Simon, Stapp made personal reconnaissance of the area with the Infantry Company Commanders. The move was completed at 082000 with "D" Company in the left sector, "B" Company in the center, and "A" Company on the right under command of Col. Kane. A medium tank company from Col. Kane's battalion, 32nd A.K. was attached to the battalion as was an 81mm mortar platoon. The battalion assault guns were formed in battery just south of Büsbach, under command of Capt. Thomas, and Lt. Staples, to give light artillery support to the battalion. Everything was quiet through out the night of Oct. 8th - 9th.

Nineth.

Everything quiet until 0915 when the "B" Company C.P. was shelled and Capt. S.L. Wilson of Arlington, Va., was slightly wounded. He was not evacuated. General Hickey visited the C.P., and plans were made to strengthen the gap between "A" and "B" Companies by attaching "C" Company to T.F. Kane. Lt. Meyer, Company "B", was sent to TFX Headquarters as liaison officer. Artillery, and mortar fire fell in the battalion zone throughout the day. Patrols from "B" and "D" Companies were sent to probe the enemy immediately to their front. Lt Zimmerman, Company "D" patrol leader, did an excellent job of patrol, and secured quite a bit of enemy information without suffering any casualties.

Tenth.

At 0200 "D" Company's 3rd platoon was awakened very suddenly when a German crept under one of their windows, and tossed in a hand grenade. No casualties, but every man became more alert. Lt. Banowitz, 391st Arm F.A. Bn. fired eight inch guns on school house which was a suspected Nazi Headquarters. Lts. Fleming and Horn, and Capt. Thomas reported that the results were excellent. General Hickey visited C.P. Companies "B" and "D" received sporadic artillery and mortar fire all day. In the afternoon Lts. Sherrill ("D" Co), and Gasvoda ("B" Co) reported to the C.P. for patrol instructions for the night. Everything was quiet for the day.

Eleventh.

Lt. Casveda returned with his patrol at 0130 after having received mortar and machine gun fire. Lt Sherrill reported to Bn. C.P. at 0830 to give a detailed report on his patrol. One man was lost when booby traps were exploded in a German road block - could have been hand grenades. His body was returned some 3-4 hundred yards by the enemy during the night, and was placed directly across the street from a "D" Company outpost. Trains were shelled during the early morning hours, and two (2) men were killed, and two (2) wounded as a result.

Twelfth.

Patrols were sent out from "B", "D", and Engineers with specific instructions to capture a prisoner. No prisoners were taken; however "B" and "D" Companies' patrols did succeed in burning a house each. The Engineer patrol, and a second patrol left at 0700. Engineer patrol reaching vicinity of school house in Stolberg where they observed enemy preparing breakfast. "D" Company's patrol led by Lt. Sherrill reached the vicinity of the road block by Schmidt Street where they were fired on from east of the canal, and had one man killed. Remainder of day quiet except for shelling of battalion C.P. Ten (10) men were wounded, and a civilian killed. "B" Company's C.P. was demolished by heavy (150mm) artillery fire. C.P. was moved to a new location.

Thirteenth.

Three (3) patrols went out the night 12-13. One from "D" Company, and Lt. Zimmerman went to castle west of Schmidt Street. No casualties. Lt. Kubelius, Engineer Patrol, returned at 0800, and "B" Company patrol returned at 0400. Task Force Kane was relieved by TF Miller during the day, and considerable artillery was received. Enemy planes were overhead all evening dropping flares. Bombs landed near "B" and "D" Companies area.

Fourteenth.

Lt. Col. Yeomans assumed command of whole sector in Stolberg area, and unit began working directly under command of "CCA". C.P. was shelled during the day, and one (1) direct hit was scored. No casualties suffered. Patrols were conducted during night of 14-15. Enemy aircraft was very active dropping bombs, and flares throughout area.

Fifteenth.

During the night of 14th-15th the area received intermittent shelling, and the Luftwaffe dropped A.P. bombs on our flanks. Sergeant Shannen, Company "B" was killed by mortar fire during the night, and "D" Company had a man pinned in the basement of one of their outpost houses when enemy aircraft dropped a bomb nearby. Usual patrol activity was conducted during the night 14th-15th October 44. No prisoners captured.

Sixteenth.

Quiet throughout day. Plans were made to relieve this unit with one battalion 36th AIR. During the night of 16th-17th area in vicinity of the road blocks were subjected to enemy mortar and artillery fire. Routine patrolling was conducted throughout the night without suffering casualties.

Seventeenth.

Day was spent in changing positions from Stolberg to Mausbach. Closed in Mausbach area at 2100. Were instructed that we would relieve 23rd Engineer Bn., on Mausbach road blocks, and suggested merging of the 18th. Unit in Division Reserve under command of Col. Houize, 36th AIR.

Eighteenth.

Road blocks were taken over from Engineer Bn., at 0830. Col. Yeomans inspected road blocks, and suggested certain changes which were made. Schedules were prepared on shows, showers, and other recreational activities. Increased enemy artillery in Mausbach during the day.

Eighteenth.

Col. Houize, commanding Division Reserve, and Col. Yeomans inspected billets in Mausbach. Capt. Pugh was transferred to Company "D", and Capt. Rabinovitz appointed Battalion Surgeon. Capt. Rabinovitz came to Headquarters from Company "D". Capt. Stapp was relieved of command of Company "B", and Capt. Heriot placed in command.

Nineteenth.

Today's activity consisted mainly of Lt. Nugent's patrol of four (4) men attempting to go to Eschweiler to secure information of enemy troop concentration, and installations there. Patrol left 36th AIR Headquarters at 1935. Capt. Simon was evacuated, and Lt M.J. Stinson took command of Company "D". Mausbach received usual amount of shelling during period, and some shells whistled dangerously close to the battalion C.P.

Twenty-First.

Lt. Nugent's Eschweiler patrol advanced about 500 yards east of 36th AIR forward positions, and became bogged down by difficulty with enemy booby traps, or hand grenades. Lt. Nugent and three (3) of his four men were wounded. Patrol returned to friendly positions where they remained until daylight, when they were evacuated by way of battalion headquarters. Remainder of day was quiet, and was spent in making plans for move to "CCB" defensive area. Move to be made tomorrow.

Twenty-Second.

Battalion (dismounted) moved to "CCB" defensive sector. Closed in new area at 2100. Night was quiet, and was spent in settling down in our new area.

Twenty-Third.

Spent day in watchful waiting, and conducted normal patrolling at night. Nothing unusual.

Twenty-Fourth.

Chief activity of day was the firing of the 8 inch guns at a house southwest of Gressnich where Lt. Latkevic's platoon had seen enemy bicycle activity in the early morning. Good results. Normal patrols conducted, and much enemy cart movement was heard during the night. Several mortar concentrations were employed in breaking up the movement.

Twenty-Fifth.

Day was spent as usual - waiting, and watching. General Boudinot visited battalion headquarters. Col. Yeomans visited division headquarters in afternoon, and was told that he would be relieved by dark in the Diepenlichen-Duffenter area (CCB), and would assemble in vicinity of Vicht for the night. Move completed at 2230.

Twenty-Sixth.

Reconnaissance Companies (- 1 platoon) plus one tank platoon each closed in new area vicinity of K-988368 at 1400. Battalion headquarters and Company "C" (reserve) remained in vicinity Vicht. Very little activity during the day, and personnel spent day in making reconnaissance of areas around new locations, and in organizing contact patrols to 294th Engineer roadblocks.

Twenty-Seventh-Thirty-First (inclusive).

Routine patrols to Engineer roadblocks were continued throughout period. Men spent quite a lot of time on first echelon maintenance, and general refitting. Very quiet during period except for occasional artillery shell landing in area.

Summary.

During the past month this unit has performed infantry missions on three occasions: Defending Stolberg, occupying dismounted defensive positions in the Gressnich-Buffenter area, and manning road blocks in Mausbach sector. Casualties for the period have been light, and the officers, and men have enjoyed living in billets a good portion of the time.

During this period the assault gun crews have had their most extensive experience in operating all the guns of the battalion as a battery in support of ground troops.

For the Battalion Commander:

Hal C. Blanton

ROE C. BLANTON
2nd Lt., 83d Armd. Rcn. Bn.,
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

3 December 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT

In compliance with Administrative Memorandum Number 3, Headquarters VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army, dated 30 July 1944, as amended, the following report is submitted for period 1 November 1944 to 1 December 1944.

Original Unit:- No change.

Change in Organization:- None.

Strength:-

At Beginning of Period: Officers - 50
W. O. J. G. 1
E. M. - 824

At End of Period: Officers - 50
W. O. J. G. - 1
E. M. - 822

Stations:- None.

Marches:- (See narrative)

Campaigns:- None announced.

Battles:- (See narrative)

Commanding Officers in Important Engagements:- Lt. Col. P. E. YEOMANS - 016454.

Losses in Action:- (See attached compilation)

Former and Present Members who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action:- (See attached compilation)

603-72.2

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

3 December 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT
November 1944

First:

Battalion remained in defensive position vicinity MAUSBACH - ZWEIFALL. Mission was to destroy any enemy which might infiltrate through, or between the road blocks which were manned by 294th Engineer (C) Battalion in that area.

Second:

When the 294th Engineer (C) Battalion moved up to establish proposed road blocks just southeast of MAUSBACH in HUNGEN Forest, they ran into trouble, and we moved troops to centrally located positions, and to the remaining blocks to prevent the enemy's coming through into the division area. During this shifting of troops, and establishing of the proposed road blocks, 1st Lt. JOHN H. SHERILL with four (4) officers from the 294th Engineer (C) Battalion were captured (?) beyond the line of blocks in the forest east of ZWEIFALL.

Third:

Engineers were to establish road blocks under the supervision of Lt. Col. PRENTICE E. YEOMANS, Commanding Officer, 83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion at 1200. Col. YEOMANS was directed by General ROSE to liquidate enemy resistance so that the engineers (294th) could establish the road blocks. Attack began at 1320, but progress was slow, and objective was not reached. Encountered enemy mortar, artillery, and small arms fire. Many friendly and enemy booby traps were encountered, and four (4) casualties resulted.

Fourth to Eighth:

Unit held defensive positions east of ZWEIFALL until 8 November 44 when they moved to rear assembly position, and prepared to bathe, and re-clothe men who had been on line.

Ninth:

Battalion replaced 2nd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment in DUFFENTER-DIEFENLICHEN-STOLBERG area under the control of Combat Command "B" until the Battalion was passed through by Combat Command "B".

Tenth:

Nothing new for the day. Units remained in positions as taken up on 9 November 44. 4.2mm mortars, and assault guns were in position to fire on call from the Battalion. Capt. McPIKE was in charge of them all. Company officers and staff were briefed on situation.

Eleventh:

A German loudspeaker was heard in STOLBERG, giving us a propaganda broadcast. Little or no activity was reported by the companies other than the routine artillery, mortar, and an occasional burst of enemy machine gun quite far out.

twelfth & Thirteenth:

No startling activity, enemy tank movement was reported in front, and there was an apparent increase in enemy artillery fire received during the period. Broadcast was heard in ALBACH again on the night of 12 November 1944.

Fourteenth & Fifteenth:

No activity. Lt. Kuslik, Company "C", hit by enemy mortar on 14th and was evacuated on 15th.

Sixteenth:

D Day - Attack jumped off at 1245 after an intense artillery, and air preparation. Our assault guns, 4.2 mortars, and 60mm mortars participated in the preparation. Battalion headquarters moved to vicinity of DUFFENLICHEN. Remainder of personnel remained in position and passed through by the attacking forces.

Seventeenth:

Battalion (less Company "A" which was still in position vicinity DUFFENLICHEN - Hill 287) began mopping up area on either side of the road from DUFFENLICHEN to ALBACH. Units arrived in ALBACH about 1700, and went into position for night. Major TUCKER went to ALBACH at about 1800 to take charge of our units there. During the night of the 18th November 1944 an armored car was sent to ALBACH to relay from TF 47th to Combat Command "B".

Eighteenth:

Day was spent in consolidating forces at ALBACH. Additional men, and vehicles were sent to "B" and "D" Companies. A tank platoon from "C" Company was attached to both "B" and "D" Companies. "B" Company was attached to TF LOVELACE, and C/S, Col. SMITH, informed us that "A" Company would be prepared to assist Combat Command "B" on short notice.

Nineteenth:

"A" Company moved from DUFFENLICHEN area to vicinity of DUFFENLICHEN closing in new area at 1500. At 2000 General order called, and directed that we send contact patrols north of SCHWENZEL to contact a similar patrol from 47th Infantry Regiment.

Twentieth:

Patrols to contact 47th never made contact during period. Remainder of day was spent in reconnoitering ALBACH - Hill 287 - DUFFENLICHEN area for stuck vehicles.

Twenty-first:

Made another reconnaissance of same area as yesterday in search of vehicles, clearing roads of mines, and destroying German equipment. Lt. Gershaw was evacuated because of concussion received by explosion of an artillery shell. "A" Company attached to division reserve. "B" Company relieved from Combat Command "B".

Twenty-second:

Day was spent in shifting troops around in battalion area. Everything was moved into billets in vicinity of DUFFENLICHEN except "B" Company, which remained at ALBACH with an attached tank platoon, and squad of engineers.

Twenty-third to twenty-ninth:

Nothing of unusual interest occurred during period. Capt. C. F. THOMAS was transferred to 3d Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment as Executive Officer, Capt. F. W. SMITH, and Capt. E. E. FUGH, Jr. were evacuated. Lt. CHARLES J. FITZ was given command of "A" Company.

Thirtieth:

Day was quiet. General HQ visited the C.P. The men enjoyed the afternoon by seeing the movies, and having a Red Cross Clubmobile serve coffee and doughnuts.

General Summary:

The battalion spent the period holding defensive positions in the division area. They operated strictly as infantrymen, and did a good job. Casualties were light for the period, but the unit lost several good men because of trench foot.

Joe M. Robertson
JOE M. ROBERTSON,
Capt., Cav, 83d Armd Cav Bn,
S - 2

Awards for the Month of November

M/Sgt	Charles P. Misevich	36118548	Bronze Star
S/Sgt	George A. Danger	37112096	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
S/Sgt	Emil C. Goeden	37120310	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
Sgt	Julius C. Gardocky	13057606	Bronze Star
Sgt	William D. Nolan	38064414	Bronze Star
Sgt	John E. Springer	39086358	Bronze Star
Cpl	William J. Sweeney	36167843	Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star
Cpl	Thomas J. Donal	37016236	Bronze Star
Tec 5	Richard P. Brighton	36106852	Bronze Star
Pfc	Joseph C. Walker	39840697	Silver Star
Pfc	George G. Goblaskas	31261258	Bronze Star
Pfc	Kenneth G. Kott	36118519	Bronze Star
Pfc	Merle J. Reinelt	36117991	Bronze Star
Pfc	Charles E. Tincher	36038214	Bronze Star
Pvt	Gay Mitchell, Jr.	37536599	Bronze Star
Pvt	Zsigmond Nowak	32548127	Bronze Star

1st Lt John R. Kelly 01012244 Bronze Star

21

HEADQUARTERS
83d ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION
ARV 253, U. S. ARMY

14 January 1945

POST ACTION REPORT

The following report is submitted for period 1 December 1944 to 1 January 1945.

Original unit:- No change.

Change in organization:- None.

Strength:- At beginning of period: Officers - 50
N. U. S. U. - 1
E. M. - 822

At end of period: Officers - 48
N. U. S. U. - 1
E. M. - 730

Stations:- None.

Marches:- (See narrative)

Campaigns:- None announced.

Battles:- (See narrative)

Commanding officers in important engagements:- Lt. Col. J. B. THOMAS - 016454.

Losses in action:- (See attached compilation)

Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action:- (See attached compilation)

201 - 807

HEADQUARTERS
83d ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION
APO 253, U. S. ARMY

14 January 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

First

Battalion C.P. at Diepenlinchen with "A" and "D" Companies. "B" Company located at Werth. Battalion conducted training in driving, firing and tank-infantry work. At 1700 "B" Company, and Battalion C.P. moved to Busbach.

Second to Sixth

Everything was quiet throughout the period. Road reconnaissance was conducted through the area. Tank-infantry training, firing, driving instructions, and lectures were conducted during period. Sergeant RANDALL, Company "A", was given the battalion's first battlefield promotion on 3 December 44.

Seventh

Company "B", and mortar platoon attached to CCR. Everything else negative for period.

Eighth-ninth

Everything was quiet throughout the period. Regular training as initiated earlier in the period was conducted by "A", "D" and "C" Companies.

Tenth

"B" Company, and mortar platoon attached to CCR (nowhere) jumped off on Rachtz attack. Mortars participated in preparation fires, and elements of "B" Company were called upon to establish road blocks on the right flank of CCR at Rothaus.

Eleventh

Second platoon "B" Company was relieved from road blocks at Rothaus, and joined remainder of Company vic Langerwehe. Late in the afternoon "B" Company joined Col CCR at Rachtz. Mortars moved to Weich and continued their supporting fires from there.

Twelfth

"A", "D", and "C" Companies continued their scheduled training. "B" Company, and mortars remained attached to CCR, and at 2205, G-3 instructed Col. LEOMANS to send "D" Company plus a squad of Engineers to CCR. "B" Company picked up the CCR guide at Mausbach, and were guided into their area at Rachtz.

Thirteenth

"A" Company spent the day moving from Diepenlinchen to their new billets in Stolberg. "D" Company's billets in the Stolberg area are being held by them for a part of their headquarters platoon. The remainder of the day was spent in routine training duties.

Fourteenth

"B" and "D" Companies reverted to battalion control and returned to Stolberg from Hoven and Kohtz. They both seemed very happy to be back in their billet area. Remainder of day negative, except the battalion was placed on a four hour alert instead on a two hour alert.

Fifteenth-Sixteenth

Negative throughout period. Regular training was conducted throughout period.

Seventeenth

Enemy paratroopers seem to have been dropped in our area. Enemy air was active throughout period and paratroopers were reported down in the Walheim-Weisweiler area. Battalion was placed on a one hour alert to cope with any airborne operation. Battalion was instructed to send patrols throughout the division zone on secondary roads to search out paratroopers. At 1800 hours battalion was instructed to establish check points between the road blocks maintained by the Combat Commanders within the division zone.

Eighteenth

Not much activity during the day other than patrol activity, and maintaining listening posts in the division area. The German threat in the south is of great interest to all concerned. We weren't expecting such a threat.

Nineteenth

CCA was attached to V Corps, and forward elements moved out at 1730 18 December 1944. This unit took over their sector of the division zone. Remainder of division was placed on a three hour alert. At 1430 the battalion was placed on a one hour alert, and told that they would be responsible for guiding the division into the new area. Battalion closed in Hotten area at 0300 20 December 1944.

Twentieth

As soon as unit closed in Hotten area the Companies established roadblocks, and the staff began making plans for employing a force under the command of Col. YOUNG. The composition of the forces were as follows:

Lt. Col. KANE

1st Bn., 32nd Armd Regt. (-)

"D" Co, 83rd Armd Rec Sn.

"A" Btry, 54th Armd F.A. Bn. and AA Section from 486th AA (AA) Bn.

3rd Plat., Co "C" 83rd Armd Rec Sn.

1 Squad Engrs, Rec Plat, 23rd Armd Engr Sn.

Lt. Col. HOGAN

3rd Bn., 33rd Armd Regt. (-)

"A" Co, 83d Armd Rec Sn.

1st Plat., Co C, 83rd Armd Rec Sn.

"A" Btry, 54th Armd F.A. Bn. and AA Section from 486th AA (AA) Bn.

Major TUCKER

"B" Co, 83d Armd Rec Sn.

2nd Plat., Co "C", 83d Armd Rec Sn.

1 Co medium tanks from 3rd Sn, 33rd Armd Regt.

"B" Btry, 54th Armd F.A. Bn. and AA Section from 486th AA (AA) Bn.

The task force were given the mission of attacking from vicinity Hotton (3788) - La Grande Pre (4390) to east and South east, and destroying all enemy resistance in zone of action and secure the road Manhay (535-902) - K.J. 576852 - Houffalize (610720). All forces moved forward rapidly in their zone until in the afternoon when TF TUCKER was held up at Dochamps by artillery, tanks, and mortar fire. He moved one rec platoon forward to Samree, and another one to the east of his objective. TF KANE reached his objective at 1615, and TF HOGAN, who had made contact vic 500773, was ordered to hold there until TF TUCKER had cleaned out Samree (504813). The battalion C.P. displaced forward to Amonines (448874). To TUCKER's position at Samree and Dochamps were infiltrated by enemy infantry, and tanks. He went into position for the night in the vicinity of 471845 for the night.

Twenty First

Task Force UNK (replaced Major TUCKER), HOGAN, and KANE resumed the attack at first light. UNK and HOGAN met heavy resistance, and it soon became apparent that we had met an enemy drive head on. UNK took up strong defensive positions in the vicinity of Amonines, HOGAN took up positions at Beffe, and KANE ran contact patrols to 82nd A/B on his left flank. Battalion C.P. moved to vic Erezee (450904). Trains located just N.E. Hotton received a tank-infantry counter attack at 0600, and evacuated to Marvaux vicinity.

Twenty Second

Most activity during period centered around TF UNK's position. He received numerous tank-infantry counter-attacks, and withstood them successfully with the aid of tank destroyers, and infantry reinforcements. KANE was ordered to take Dochamps, and his attack got under way and he advanced to within a 1000 yards of his objective. HOGAN surrounded, and his supplies are being dropped to him. He was attached to CCh (HOGAN).

Twenty Third

UNK's position seems to be fairly well stabilized. KANE's position seem to have become stabilized vicinity Manhay (533902), Le Batty (520 882), La Fosse (510883), Freyneux (515864), Lamormenil (505862).

Twenty Fourth

Unk continued to hold, KANE received counter-attack after counter-attack, but continued to hold. Lt. Col. RICHARDSON took over cross roads vic 576853 on 23rd December. CCA moved into area, and took over command of sector. He moved his C.P. to Heyd, and 83d Armd Rec Bn was attached to him. Col. YEOMANS, and Capt. ROBERTSON attended a meeting at his C.P. with Col. SMITH, C.O. 289th I.R., 75th I.D. They are to attack at 0800, and secure a defensive line S of the Erezee-Manhay road.

My, what a Christmas eve! The enemy broke through at Manhay, and Grand menil. The whole C.P. was thrown into high gear. Col. ROBERTSON, Div. Arty., C.O. 628th T.D., and quite a number of other persons were there doing their best to hold the enemy attack.

Twenty Fifth

Christmas Day! The enemy seems to have been halted in his on rush. The 289th I.R. moved forward, and stabilized the line.

Twenty Sixth

Everything fairly quiet at Erezee, and a billeting detail was sent to vicinity Durbuy to billet battalion. "A" Company and "D" Company moved to that area. Everything else quiet.

Twenty Seventh

Battalion C.P. moved to Durbuy, "A" Company in Durbuy, "D" Company in Septon, and "B" Company was located at Amonines. Everything was geared for a couple of day's rehabilitation.

Twenty Eighth

"B" Company moved from Amonines to Septon area. At 1000 hours battalion was alerted to move back to Erezee to go into reserve position to assist in case the enemy broke through the paratroopers pushed through the woods south of Manhay-Erezee road. No casualties suffered and little opposition received.

Twenty Ninth

Day was quiet in Erezee sector. Billeting party sent to Havelange to billet battalion.

Thirtieth - Thirty First

Battalion closed in Havelange area, and seems to be fairly well situated.

Resume'

From the beginning of the action around the Motton-Erezee-Manhay sector this battalion was in constant contact with Hitler's best. They fought well against great odds, and gave a good account of themselves. This action was probably the toughest assignment that men of this battalion have been given yet.

Robertson
ROBERTSON
Capt. S-2

Page 1
Original unit-

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

2 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The following report is submitted for period 1 January 1945
to 1 February 1945.

Original Unit:- No change.

Change in Organization:- None.

Strength:- At Beginning of Period: Officers 48
W. O. J. G. - 1
E. M. - 730

At End of Period: Officers - 55
W. O. J. G. - 1
E. M. - 853

Stations:- None.

Marches:- (See narrative)

Campaigns:- None announced.

Battles:- (See narrative)

Commanding Officer in Important Engagements:- Lt. Col. F.E.
YEOMANS - 016454.

Losses in Action:- (See attached compilation)

Former and Present members who Have Distinguished Themselves
in Action:- (See attached compilation)

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

2 February 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

First

The battalion plus attached engineers remained in assembly area in Mavelange, Belgium resting, and refitting for future operations.

At 1500 this date the battalion received Field Order No. 20, Hq. 3rd Armored Division. The battalion was to provide guards for the division command post initially. "A" Company plus one platoon from "B" and "D" Companies, who had lost all of their vehicles with T.F. HOGAN, was to be mounted in trucks and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Ocquier, Belgium (P335023) with the Battalion Trains.

Second

Battalion minus "A" Company, and Battalion Trains moved out at 1430 for an assembly area in the vicinity of Fagne (P525977). The road was jammed with elements of the 2nd Armored Division and the 75th Inf. Division, and the march to the assembly area was very slow. At 0530 on 3 January 45 the last elements of the unit closed in the Basson (P538 014) area. The Division C.P. had actually gone into position in the vicinity of Werbomont (P540000), and from the battalion's position at Basson we were able to secure the area.

Third

At 1000 the unit moved to the vicinity of Chene-al-Pierre (P537945) with the Division C.P., and established road blocks in that area to secure the Division Command Group against infiltrating Germans. At about 2200 Col. YEOMANS was called to Division Headquarters, and given the mission of cleaning out the area south of Bois de Gremont, and Bois de Houby (vic P590875) behind Combat Command "B". Most of the area was heavily wooded and had not been touched by the armored columns of the Combat Command which operated on the roads. At 2230 Capt. S. L. WILSON, Company Commander of "C" Company, was ordered to the C.P. to take command of the Battle Group which was to clean the area described above. The Battle Group was composed of "B" Company plus the attached light tank platoon from "C" Company, and a squad of engineers on the right, and "D" Company plus attached light tank platoon, and squad of engineers. All elements were dismounted.

Fourth

Battle Group under the command of Capt. S. L. WILSON with Lt. J. H. STAPLES as second in command jumped off from a line of departure along Manhay - Tri-le-Cheslaing road at 1215, and moved to open area vicinity Khout-si-Ploux - Malempre where they closed for the night.

Fifth and Sixth

All units pushed south to their objectives against rather heavy mortar and artillery fire which was particularly bad due to the wooded terrain.

Seventh

All positions were improved, and the battalion C.P. was moved to Jevigne (P595903).

Eighth

Battalion (- "A" Company) moved into Lierneux (P615890) at 1100. "A" Company remained in a defensive position at Bois-de-Houby. The companies at Lierneux cleaned their equipment, refitted and organized for future operations.

Ninth

Arrangements were completed to relieve elements of "A" Company at Bois-de-Houby by having a defensive force composed of a platoon from each of the three (3) reconnaissance companies. "A" Company minus the platoon at Bois-de-Houby moved into Fraiture, and closed there at 1645.

Tenth

Companies began moving to assembly area at Fraiture at 0815, and whole unit closed there at 1500. Col. YEOMANS returned to the C.P. at 1530 from a meeting with General ROSE where he had received orders to attack in the western sector of the division zone, and cut the main road running west from Mont-le-Bon (P645785). He had a company commander's meeting at 2100, and issued a warning order to them. At 2200 we received F.O. No. 22, and made plans to move to a forward assembly area at Bihain (P626842).

Eleventh

Battalion made plans to move into Bihain, but was instructed by division not to move until darkness. However, at 1430 General ROSE directed that we move into town, and secure it. T.F. HOGAN was attacking south of town to relieve the pressure on it. All companies closed in Bihain at 2100. They received constant artillery and mortar fire throughout night. Battalion C.P. remained at Hebronval (P632858).

Twelfth

C.P. moved to Bihain, and companies attacked to the south at first light. They received heavy mortar and artillery fire as well as sporadic small arms fire. By night fall they were located as follows: "D" Company and attachments vic P626817 to 620816. "A" and "B" Companies P630 799.

Thirteenth

All units moved forward against harrassing mortar and artillery fire and at approximately 1430 were on the high ground at P635766 where they organized for an attack on Sommeraine. At 1700 the attack got off but was stopped by heavy tank, and A.T. fire from the town, and a strong road block was established at P638762 cutting the last main escape route for the fleeing Germans in the Bulge. At this time this battalion was farther forward than any other unit in the First United States Army, and were battling all types of fleeing Germans.

It was during this day's operation that "A" Company captured the C.P. of the 54 Wefer Kegt, and the commanding officer together with a complete divisional field order.

Fourteenth

Battalion organized, and improved positions in the vicinity of the roadblock, and in the woods north thereof. In the late afternoon of 14th we were directed to establish a road block vic P640752. "A" Company of infantry and a company of medium tanks from T.F. HOWZE was attached to the battalion at 1800, and joined at approximately 2100.

Fifteenth

Road was cut vic P640752 by mines and fire during night of 14-15 January 45. The whole area now resembled a wild west rodeo with Germans going in all directions in a wild attempt to extricate themselves from the trap. Our forces received mortar, artillery, tank, and S.P. fire all day as well as small arms fire. During the night of 15-16 January a patrol was sent into Sommeraine, and the trail south of the block at P640752 was cut.

Sixteenth

Battalion captured Sommeraine this morning at 1030! The remainder of the day was spent in organizing the town, and preparing for its defense in case of a counterattack. Units from T.F.K. reverted to their control.

Seventeenth

Battalion remained in position in Sommeraine, and an advance billeting party reconnoitered Bihain as an assembly area. Col. YEOMANS was told that we would be relieved tomorrow by the 4th Cav Group. "B" Company was alerted to be attached to C.C. "B".

Eighteenth

"B" Company moved out at 0800 attached to C.C. "B" (T.F. WEIBORN), and joined them at Cherain (P665775). The remainder of the battalion moved to rear assembly areas. Battalion C.P. and "D" Company moved to Bihain, "A" Company to Hebronval, and "C" Company to Regne. When the battalion closed in that area at 1700 the Sommeraine Campaign ended for this battalion. During this battle under the most adverse conditions and in the face of determined enemy resistance this unit moved forward, took its objective, destroyed fifty (50) vehicles of all types - tanks, trucks, motorcycles, staff cars, American TD (captured), and towed artillery pieces, and played a major role in closing the Bulge north of Houffalize.

Nineteenth

Battalion remained in assembly area refitting. At 1300 "B" Company reverted to battalion control, and moved into an assembly area at Regne at 1745.

Twentieth

Battalion remained in assembly areas at Regne, Hebronval, and Bihain. Billeting parties were sent to Barvaux to arrange for billeting the battalion there.

Twenty-first to Thirty-first

Battalion closed in Barvaux area at 1800 21st January. During the remainder of the month it remained in that area resting and refitting.

Quite a number of men were given recreational passes to Paris and Verviers. An orientation course was given for all of the recent reinforcements, and on 31 January General ROSE visited the battalion. He presented six (6) Silver Stars, Six (6) Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Stars, and thirty-three (33) Bronze Stars to members of this command.

Robertson
ROBERTSON
Capt., S-2

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

10 March 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The following report is submitted for period 1 February 1945
to 1 March 1945.

Original Unit:- No change.

Change In Organization:- None.

Strength:- At Beginning of Period: Officers - 55
W. O. J. G. - 1
E. M. - 853

At End of Period: Officers - 61
W. O. J. G. - 1
E. M. - 885

Stations: None

Marches:- (See narrative)

Campaigns: None announced

Battles:- (See narrative)

Commanding Officers in important Engagements:- Lt. Col. P. E.
YEOMANS - 016454.

Losses in Action:- (See attached compilation)

Former and Present members who have Distinguished Themselves
in Action:- (See attached compilation)

6871

601-72-1

67

HEADQUARTERS
83d Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APO 253, U. S. Army

10 March 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

NARRATIVE

First to Third

Battalion remained in Barvaux area where they conducted rest, rehabilitation, maintenance, and training. A large amount of gunnery training was conducted, and all weapons were fired for familiarization, and training.

Fourth

4.2 Mortar firing was conducted during the morning, and a great deal of value was derived from it.

Lt. Long brought down P.O. No. 24 which gave us Werth, Hostenrath, Seerpenseel as assembly areas. The company commanders were called into conference, and plans were begun to organize for the move to the Stolberg Area.

Fifth and Sixth

Captain Robertson left early for the new area with a billeting party from each company, plans were completed, and all necessary arrangements were made to move back to Werth area. During this period C Company fired their new M-24 light tanks.

Seventh

The Battalion crossed the I.P. at Barvaux at 0700. Order of March: "A" Company, Hq. Group, "D" Company, "C" Company, and Mortars, trains, and "B" Company. The whole battalion closed in Werth area at 1520.

The remainder of the day was spent in organizing, and policing of the new area.

Eighth and Ninth

Battalion remained in Werth, Hostenrath, and Volkenrath assembly areas during the period. Routine training in gunnery, and police of area was conducted throughout all companies during this period.

Staff planning was conducted in anticipation of an action east of the Roer River in the vicinity of Duron. The 83d Armd. F. A. Bn. was placed in direct support of the battalion on the operation. Capt. Shipp, liaison Officer from 83d F. A. Bn. reported to the C.P. with three (3) observers one of which was attached to each company for the coming operation.

Tenth

Range firing of bazookas, rifles, pistols, submachine guns, and machine guns was conducted during the day. Staff continued to plan for coming operation.

Eleventh

C Company fired 75mm tank guns. Remaider of battalion conducted maintenance, and platoon training.

Twelfth to Twenty-fifth

Battalion remained in assembly position in Werth, Hostenrath, Volkenrath area throughout the period. Training of all types, i.e. firing, maintenance, physical conditioning, night problems, map reading, and river crossing in assault boats was carried out. No extraordinary incidents occurred during the period.

Twenty-fifth

Battalion P.O. No. 2 based on P.O. No. 25, Hq., 3rd A.D. was executed. At 0900 Capt. Robertson left for Duron with billeting details for all companies of this battalion, and the 83d Armd F.A. Bn to reconnoiter for assembly positions for the night.

The battalion crossed the I.P. in Volkenrath at 1200. Order

Onset of March "B", "D", "A" group, 534 F.A. Reg., 800, and trains. Units closed in now around Buren (157473) at 1715. They were quiet in the area, and were taken from documents of buildings in our vicinity area.

At 2000 meeting of all commanders was held. We were to cross line of departure at Mannheim at 0600 tomorrow with Combat Group Bradley composed of "B" and "D" companies (dismtd), plus 2 engineer squads, 2 Tk. platoons, and a section of T.D's. on the north, and Combat Group Wilson, composed of "A" Company, plus a tank platoon, a squad of engineers, and a T.D. section on the South.

Friday - 24th

Combat Groups crossed LD at 0600, and moved rapidly to area just North West of Mannheim where they received heavy mortar, and artillery fire. The C.P. followed closely behind the left column to a point 1 1/2 miles West of Mannheim where it halted due to the heavy fire being received on their left front.

At 1400 a change of orders were received from division to coordinate with Combat Command "A", and take Mannheim. At 1600 "A" and "D" companies attacked Mannheim from the West while the Lane moved in from the South. The attack was preceded by a heavy artillery preparation. At 1725, "A" and "D" Companies were in Mannheim mopping up the town. "D" Company passed through them, and pushed 1 1/2 miles to the North where they stalled for the night. C.P. moved to Mannheim at 1815.

Col. Yeomans had a meeting of commanders at 2100, and issued instructions for tomorrow's attack on Berrendorf. Mannheim was shelled heavily through the night and Captain S.L. Wilson, Company Commander of "D" Company, was injured when the C.P. received a direct hit. Captain Gappellis assumed command of "Battle Group Wilson".

Friday - seventh

All units attacked at 0600. Lt. Charles J. Pite, Company Commander, "A" Company, was killed on the outskirts of Mannheim when his 1/4 ton truck ran over a mine. Sgt. Vaughn assumed command of "A" Company.

All units pushed North to vicinity of Berrendorf where "A" Company, and "D" Company attacked to the west to take Grouven preparatory to taking Sieperich. They received heavy mortar, Artillery A.P., and small arms fire. At 1700 our troops were in Grouven cleaning out the town, by 1900 all our elements were closed in the town. The force which took Grouven was under the command of Major Dammeniller.

At 2100 "D" and "B" Companies attacked the North east from Grouven to take Sieperich, and the bridge over the Rur Canal there. The troops had occupied the town against heavy opposition by 2300, and were secured there.

Friday - eighth

All units held and improved their positions which were receiving heavy direct, and indirect fire from across the Rur Canal.

Remarks

During the period this battalion with the 534 Field Artillery in direct support captured 496 men, 1000 horses, 1000 mules, 100000 lbs of gear, 4-120 MM Mortars, 2 assault guns, and 10 tanks. They advanced on foot, and fought like commandos. The Germans suffered heavy casualties, but they inflicted a heavy toll on our enemy, and they were never given an objective to hold in their own.


Robert S. Gappellis
Captain, S-2

HEADQUARTERS
63rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
APC 253, U. S. Army

5 April 1945

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The following report is submitted for period 1 March 1945 to 1 April 1945.

Original Unit: - No change.

Change in Organization: - None

Strength: - At Beginning of Period: Officers - 61
S. C. J. G. - 1
E. N. - 885

At End of Period : Officers - 52
S. C. J. G. - 1
E. N. - 824

Stations: - None.

Marches: - (See narrative)

Campaigns: - None announced.

Battles: - (See narrative)

Commanding Officers in important engagements: - Lt. Col. P. E. YEGMAK - 016454.

Losses in Action: - (See attached compilation)

Former and Present numbers who have distinguished themselves in action: - (See attached compilation)

J. L. Sauer
J. L. Sauer
1 April 1945
10871

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the original.

HEADQUARTERS
83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
ATO 253, U. S. Army

6 April 1943

ANNUAL REPORT

R. H. A. IV. 5

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2 Battalion remained assembled in Berrendorf area, and began moving west mid-night to the Bergheim sector to expand the bridgehead over the Rhine for "CC House".

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1st Battalion attached at 0300 to push out to railroad tracks east of Niederhausen, and Oberhausen. Major Bradley on left (North) with A and B companies; Major Dusenmiller (South) with C Company. Opposition was moderate, but the enemy placed heavy concentrations of artillery on our troops. Major Dusenmiller was wounded and evacuated. The battalion ~~had~~ crossed through by elements of "3d Rovas" at approximately 0745. Our troops continued to hold their positions after they were passed through.

THE END

Battalion moved out at 1000, and drove to an area just west of Paderborn where it remained until 1600 at which time it moved to Bielefeld. At 1900 the three (3) teams jumped off with Lichhausen as an objective. The attack progressed rather well with small packets of enemy infantry offering the chief resistance together with the terrain.

KOURTB

Continued to push attack on Hochbausen. Reached objective there at 0415, and captured a large amount of equipment together with 196 prisoners. The enemy was taken completely by surprise, so much so, in fact, that the assault troops captured a 4 gun battery of 105's "as before they could be unhitched from their prime movers.

From Hochhausen Lt. Conne, and Lt. Patrone had patrols to the Rhine. Their patrols were the first units from the first United States Army to reach the Rhine.

8 troops remained in defense of Muchhausen while 1, and 2 troops were moved into Simmersdorf where they launched an attack at 1400 and, at 1440 with 2nd battalion 3rd R.R. (TF Level 4) on the "ender", and "Lichten". Those two towns were secured against small arms, P.T., tank fire, and Artillery. At 1700 8 troops moved from Muchhausen to Wurzburg to assist in defending the town, and to be in position for future operations.

1478

Companies attached at 0400. B team to move south of the line to the Angel, A team to move south of the line to cross the line, C team to the west. D team to move east of the road and reduce 1100-1200 in the

ded area east of town, and so cover in addition just 1000 feet (1000') and 8 acres.

SIXTH

All units continue to hold their defensive positions on the west of the Rhine. D team moved into Warringen to defend that sector of the Rhine.

Activity for the day was static. All units received all types of artillery, and direct fire from east of the Rhine. Three river crossers came into B team's area during night.

SEVENTH to SIXTEENTH

Battalion remained in defensive positions on west bank of Rhine throughout the period. During the period roving river crossers were picked up, and sporadic artillery fire was received throughout the sector.

On 16 March 1945 the battalion was relieved in the Warringen sector, and moved to Konigsdorf.

SIXTEENTH to TWENTY-SECOND

Battalion remained in an assembly position in Kleim Koenigsdorf where it conducted training, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Nothing unusual importance occurred during the period.

Captain Vaughn, C.O. "A" Company, left for a leave in England, and Lt. McKone was given command of the company during Captain Vaughn's absence.

TWENTY-SECOND

Battalion moved from Kleim Koenigsdorf to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of Bellinghausen (661358). Closed there at 1515.

TWENTY-THIRD to TWENTY-FOURTH

Battalion remained in assembly area in vicinity of Bellinghausen planning for attack which the division was to launch on 24 March 1945. Lt. McKinstry reported to TF Welborne as liaison officer.

TWENTY-FIFTH

The battalion C.P. moved to vicinity of 731352 in the afternoon, and the companies were to the north, and east keeping contact with the tail of "CCB" on the northern most route in the division zone.

TWENTY-SIXTH

Battalion headquarters moved about noon to the vicinity of 811342. The companies remained North, and east of command group keeping contact with the elements of "CCB" on route 1 (Northern most route in zone).

TWENTY-SEVENTH

Battalion followed "CCR" on in northern portion of division zone keeping contact with rear of "CCR". Coiled for the night in the vicinity of Katzenroth.

TWENTY-EIGHTH

Unit followed "CCR" initially, and passed through them at 1230 to perform reconnaissance to the east on routes 1 and 2 to the northwest of Marburg.

Battalion C.P. closed in vicinity of 525443 with B, and B company to the north, and east of that position. A company remained coiled in the same locality with the battalion C.P.

Col. Yeomans returned from division headquarters with division field order assigning Paderborn as the objective for 3rd Armored Division. Battalion's mission was to reconnoiter on the center of the division zone (routes 2 and 3) to the objective.

B company with an attached tank platoon from C company, and two (2) AA guns (S.P.) from 486AA (AVSP) Bn were to move out at 0500 on route 2. D company with an attached platoon of tanks from C company, and two (2) AA guns from 486 AA (AVSP) Bn plus A team and the command group were to move at 0500 on route 3.

Everything progressed well during the period. The battalion moved approximately ninety (90) miles during the period. 1, and 2 teams plus battalion sailed for the night in the vicinity of Nieder Werburg. B Co sailed on route 2 southwest of the remainder of the day.

This day was one of the finest, if not the finest, in the history of this battalion in distance covered, prisoners captured, and equipment captured and destroyed.

Speeding reconnaissance columns slashing communications lines, and rear areas installations to pieces all day long.

MISSIONS

Column on route 3 (B, and 1 teams plus combat group) continued on mission at 0600 against stiffening resistance offered by panzer element who were fighting as infantrymen. The enemy employed stay bazookas in his roadside defense of the area.

The battalion was passed through at 1130 by task force "Elberne", and "Loen". Moved just north of Tieln to protect the division C.P.

MISSIONS

Remained in defensive positions around division C.P. until 1400 when units moved out, and took Lollar, Haibach, and Brembogen against light opposition and pushed patrols to north and east.

During the period 1 March 1945 to 1 April 1945 this unit performed practically all types of missions, and scored two (2) firsts: the first flight of the First United States Army to reach the Rhine River, and the first ground force unit of that Army to sink a boat on the Rhine River. During that period, the battalion captured 4,594 prisoners of war, and captured or destroyed the following enemy equipment:

40 medical vehicles and hospital equipment.

24 staff cars

2 82mm迫击炮 guns

4 150mm howitzers

15 82mm mortars

1 armored car

8 Ar. planes

5 anti-aircraft

41 AT guns

12 tanks

40 horses, 40 mules

8 planes

4 locomotives.

Roberstan

DATA SHEET

Page. 4-2