

**HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION**  
**A.P.O. 280, 5 Postmaster,**

**RESTRICTED**

**2 January 1945**

314.7

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

**TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.**

**THRU : Channels.**

In compliance with change 3, par 10, AR 345-105, the following summary of Action Against the Enemy by the 774th Tank Battalion for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 inclusive is submitted:

**1. ORIGINAL UNIT:**

a. The Battalion's personnel losses during the month were nine officers and 154 enlisted men, all having had at least two years tank experience, who were replaced by 15 inexperienced officers and 85 enlisted men who had only seventeen weeks basic training.

b. No other changes.

**2. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION:**

a. Battalion.

(1) At the beginning of the month, the Battalion remained assigned to the First United States Army and attached to VIII Corps and the 83rd Infantry Division. On 7th December, the Battalion was relieved from attachment to VIII Corps and attached to VII Corps, remaining attached to the 83rd Infantry Division. On 22nd December, the Battalion was relieved from assignment to the First United States Army and assigned to Ninth United States Army, attached to XIX Corps and the 83rd Infantry Division. On 24 December 1944, the Battalion (less Company B) was relieved from attachment to the 83rd Infantry Division and attached to the 104th Infantry Division. On 26th December, 1944, the Battalion was reassigned to First United States Army, attached to VII Corps and the 83rd Infantry Division.

b. Company A

(1) Company (less 2d platoon) attached 331st Infantry Regiment at 1100, December 11, 1944. Second platoon attached 330th Infantry at 2000 December 11, 1944.

(2) Entire company returned to Battalion control 18 December 1944 at 1600.

(3) Attached 329th Infantry Regiment 27 December 1944.

**RESTRICTED**

**c. Company B**

- (1) Attached 331st Infantry Regiment, 83 Infantry Division 12~~th~~ December 6, 1944.
- (2) First platoon attached 329 Infantry Regiment, 83 Infantry Division, 13 December 1944.
- (3) Company (less 2d platoon) attached to 329 Infantry Regiment 15 December 1944. Second platoon attached to 331st Infantry Regiment.
- (4) Entire company relieved of attachment 19 December 1944.
- (5) First platoon attached 329 Infantry Regiment 28 December 1944.

**d. Company C**

- (1) Attached to 330 Infantry Regiment, 83 Infantry Division 1 December 1944.
- (2) Relieved of attachment 15 December 1944.
- (3) First platoon attached 329 Infantry Regiment 17 December 1944 and relieved from attachment 19 December 1944.
- (4) Attached 330th Infantry Regiment 27 December 1944.

**e. Hq. Co. Assault Gun Platoon.**

- (1) Remained attached to 83 Division Artillery at beginning of month.
- (2) Relieved from attachment 3 December 1944.
- (3) Attached to Company C, this Battalion 10 December 1944.
- (4) Attached to Company A, this Battalion 17 December 1944.
- (5) Relieved of attachment 19 December 1944.
- (6) Attached 329 Infantry Regiment 28 December 1944.

**f. Hq Co. Mortar Platoon.**

- (1) Attached to Company B this Battalion 10 December 1944.
- (2) Attached to Company A, this Battalion 16 December 1944.
- (3) Relieved of attachment 19 December 1944.

**g. Company D**

- (1) First platoon attached 329 Infantry Regiment 11 December 1944.

**RESTRICTED**

(2) First platoon relieved from attachment 18 December 1944.

3. STRENGTH

	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
a. December 1, 1944	40	3	674
b. December 31, 1944	45	3	607
c. Net increase or decrease	+ 4		- 67

4. STATIONS

- a. Battalion remained in vicinity of Moutfort, Luxembourg at the beginning of the month.
- b. Departed Moutfort, Luxembourg 4 December 1944.
- c. Arrived Vicht, Germany 5 December 1944.
- d. Battalion (less S-1, S-4, Personnel sections and Service Company) moved vicinity of Gey, Germany, 17 December 1944, with rear echelon remaining in Vicht, Germany.
- e. Battalion moved to vicinity Brandt, Germany 26 December 1944.
- f. Battalion (less rear echelon) moved to Jeneffe, Belgium 27 December 1944. S-1, S-4, Personnel Section and Service Company remaining in Brandt, Germany and moved to Jeneffe, Belgium 28 December 1944.
- g. Battalion forward echelon moved to Remont, Belgium on 29 December with the rear echelon remaining at Jeneffe.
- h. On 31 December 1944, the entire Battalion moved vicinity of Petit Han, Belgium.

5. MARCHES

- a. See Appendix No. 1.

6. CAMPAIGNS

- a. Name
  - (1) Campaign of Western Germany.
- b. Duration.
  - (2) Battalion engaged in above campaign for entire month.
- c. Purpose
  - (1) From 1 to 3 December 1944 to hold the west side of the Moselle river; support infantry, and fire secondary mission into Germany.

**RESTRICTED**

(2) From 6 December to 26 December 1944 to support Infantry in capturing ground from Hurtgen forest to the Roer river southwest of Duren, Germany.

(3) From 27 December 1944 to 1 Jan 1945 to hold defensive positions.

d. Authority ordering.

(1) From 1 to 22 December 1944 - U.G., First United States Army.

(2) From 22 to 26 December 1944 - C.G., Ninth United States Army.

(3) From 26 to 31 December 1944 - U.G., First United States Army.

7. BATTLES.

a. See Narrative report, Appendix 1.

8. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS

a. Engagement: Southwest of Duren, Germany.

(1) Bn. Comdr: Lt Col. N. K. Markle, Jr.

(2) Company A: Capt. Demetre Vignovich.

(3) Company B: Capt. Robert E. Gain.

(4) Company C: Capt. William C. McGutcheon to 14<sup>th</sup> December 14, 1944; then 1st Lt Hanssen Schenker.

(5) Company D: Capt. Ray J. Tower, II

(6) Assault Gun Platoon: 1st Lt Lee E. Henderson to 17<sup>th</sup> December 16, 1944; then S/Sgt Floyd E. LaPan to 25 December 1944; then 2d Lt Edward L. Ferebee.

(7) Mortar Platoon: 2d Lt Carlton F. Fleet.

b. Engagement: Forty miles south of Leige, Belgium.

(1) Bn. Comdr: Lt Col. N. K. Markle, Jr.

(2) Company A: Capt. Demetre Vignovich

(3) Company B: Capt. Robert E. Gain.

(4) Company C: 1st Lt Hanssen Schenker

(5) Company D: Capt. Ray J. Tower, II

(6) Assault Gun Platoon: 2d Lt Edward L. Ferebee.

(7) Mortar Platoon: 2d Lt Carlton F. Fleet.

**RESTRICTED**

9. LOSSES IN ACTION: See Appendix No. 2

10. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

a. Unit Citations

- (1) Company C, Letter of Commendation from Colonel Russell F. Walthour, C.O., 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division for fine work, cooperation and coordination as part of the 330th Infantry Combat Team in offensive operations west of the Boer river from 4 December 1944 to 15 December 1944.
- (2) Companies B and C, Letter of Commendation from Major Norman A. Campbell, C.O., 1st Bn., 330th Infantry Regiment for appreciation of cooperation, tactical support and manner in which companies conducted themselves in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Winden, Germany from 24 to 27 December 1944, while in support of Infantry.

b. Individual Citations.

- (1) Capt. William C. McCutcheon - Letter of Commendation from Lt Col. George M. Shuster, C.O., 3rd Bn., 330th Infantry Regiment with indorsement from Colonel R. F. Walthour, C.O., 330th Infantry Regiment, for tank support of Infantry in holding town of Strass, Germany.
- (2) 1st Lt Hanssen Schenker - Letter of Commendation from Lt Col. George M. Shuster, C.O., 3rd Bn., 330th Infantry Regiment with indorsement from Col R. F. Walthour, C.O., 330th Infantry Regiment for tank support of Infantry in holding town of Strass, Germany.

11. PHOTOGRAPHS

a. None.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Roger D. Andrews*

ROGER D. ANDREWS  
1st Lt Inf 774th Tank Bn  
Adjutant

5 - Incls.

- #1 - S-3 Journal
- #2 - S-2 Journal
- #3 - S-4 Journal
- #4 - Awards
- #5 - Appendixs
  - #1 - Narrative
  - #2 - Losses in action

**RESTRICTED**

**NARRATIVE OF ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY BY THE  
774TH TANK BATTALION FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944**

**1 December, 1944**

Companies, A, B, C, and D complying with training schedule. Assault Gun Platoon fired indirectly on enemy towns of Krazen, Germany; also at the following targets: enemy CP, enemy guns, and an attempted river crossing. Fifty per cent of the officers attended a school on tank-infantry tactics at Bn. Hq.

**2 December 1944**

Second platoon of Company A fired indirectly on enemy towns of Kons Karthaus, Igel and Zewen. Second platoon of Company B fired indirectly on enemy positions east of Moselle river. Company C firing secondary mission of harassing fire on enemy towns of Kruesweiler, Dilmar, Beuren, Sins, Kaingen and enemy crossroads. Company C crossed IP at Hesperange at 1445 enroute to Gressenich, Germany. Company D: No change. Assault Gun platoon carrying out secondary mission fired at targets of opportunity vicinity of Echternach, Luxembourg.

**3 December 1944**

Second platoon, Company A, firing secondary mission under control of 322 FA Battalion expended 200 rounds of harassing fire on enemy targets vicinity of Kons Karthaus, Igel and Zewen, Germany. Second platoon of Company B under control of 908th FA Battalion firing secondary mission expended 200 rounds of harassing fire on enemy targets vicinity of Onsdorf, Fisch, Kollig and Wincheringen, Germany. Company C, closed in staging area North of Houfalize, 1st platoon of Company D departed Dickweiler, Luxembourg and closed in Moutfort, Luxembourg at 1105. Assault Gun platoon departed vicinity of Gayershof and closed in Moutfort, Luxembourg at 0930.

**4 December 1944**

Battalion (less Company C) departed Moutfort, Luxembourg 0730, closed in bivouac area, Les Tailles, Belgium at 1630. Traveled 67.5 miles. Roads good. Weather rainy and cold. Company C closed in area vicinity of Shevenhutte, Germany with third platoon vicinity of Grosshau, Germany.

**5 December 1944**

Battalion (less Company C) moved from bivouac area vicinity of Les Tailles, Belgium at 1025. Entered Germany at 1520 south of Aachen. Closed in area vicinity of Vicht, Germany at 1605. Traveled 63.5 miles. Weather cloudy and cold. Two vehicles dropped out due to mechanical trouble. Company C, no change.

**RESTRICTED**

6 December 1944

Company B vicinity of Gressenich, Germany. Company C, no change. Eight hospitalized men returned to duty with the Battalion at 1700. Battalion preparing for an attack in support of the 83rd Infantry Division in sector west of the Roer river.

7 December 1944

First platoon, Company B moved from Gressenich to Schevenhutte, Germany. Company B received 14 rounds of enemy mortar fire around area. No casualties or damage. Company C: second platoon moved to vicinity of Grosshau from Schevenhutte, Germany. Battalion assumed responsibility for sector at 071600: Auth., Commanding General, 83rd Infantry Division.

8 December 1944

Battalion (less detachments) in Division Reserve, vicinity of Vicht, Germany. Company B reconnoitering for an attack on Gey, Germany. Company C: Headquarters section and 1st platoon moved vicinity of Kleinbau, Germany.

9 December 1944

Company A moved from Vicht to vicinity of Grosshau, Germany, closing at 1715. Company B preparing for an attack on Gey, Germany. Company C preparing for an attack on Strass, Germany, moved company CP to Grosshau, Germany.

10 December 1944

Assault Gun Platoon moved to support C Company. Mortar platoon moved to support Company B. Company A: Tank dozer and supporting tank went to repair crater in road under fire. Company B: 1st platoon commenced attack on Gey in support of Infantry at 1520. Knocked out 3 German anti-tank guns and returned to bivouac area at 1710. Second platoon of Company B, left bivouac area in support of Infantry to attack Gey; three tanks run over mines. Third platoon of Company B with assault tanks moved up to support E and F companies, 331st Infantry Regiment and occupied Gey. Company B killed approximately 40 enemy personnel.

Company C Assault Gun Platoon Leader wounded by stray bullet in leg. Bullet believed to be from friendly infantry troops behind the lines. Occurred at night while he was riding in rear of a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck. First, second and third platoons of Company C moved at 0900 in support of 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry Regiment, attacking Strass, Germany. Occupied town at 0930. One tank from 3rd platoon threw a track and was later knocked out by enemy 88mm fire, killing two MM. Second and third platoons upon arriving in Strass, went into position to support possible counter attack and drew heavy artillery and flat trajectory weapons fire. Third platoon knocked out enemy AT gun which was moving into firing position; also destroyed German MG nest. 1st platoon remained in position south of Strass, at Schafberg in support of second and third platoons in

**RESTRICTED**

**SECRET**

**RESTRICTED**

10 December 1944 (cont'd)

Strass. Two tanks from third platoon returned to Company CP for ammunition and supplies and returned. In general, tanks and infantry ran into minefields, AT guns and defensive positions, offering stubborn resistance.

Company D: One enlisted man killed in ammunition truck when it overturned down a hill near the road at night.

11 December 1944

Company A: Harassing fire received in bivouac area commencing at 2300. First and third platoon moved to vicinity of Grosshau. Second platoon left company bivouac area at 1945 proceeding toward support of C Company; two tanks knocked out of action by enemy mines, seriously injuring three enlisted men. One tank returned to company bivouac area with wounded personnel. Remaining two tanks continued on mission and arrived Strass, Germany to support company C. Second platoon knocked out two enemy Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun. Unknown number of enemy killed, wounded and taken prisoner by infantry.

Company B: Continuing attack in Gey, Germany.

Company C: Assisting 330th Infantry Regiment in repulsing counter attacks of enemy infantry and tanks in Strass, Germany. Continued to draw heavy artillery and flat trajectory weapons fire. Commanding Officer, Company C, unable to contact 1st platoon.

Company D: Second platoon moved from Vicht, Germany with supplies for company C in Strass, arrived company C rear CP near Grosshau at 1600.

Elements in Strass, Germany successfully occupied the town under heavy artillery and mortar fire. Two of our tanks hit mines and one tank's gun hit by mortar fire.

12 December 1944

Company A: 1st and third platoons in reserve. Two tanks of second platoon in Strass, Germany, supporting company C. Counter-battery fire received in company bivouac area at 1800, killing one EM and seriously wounded another.

Company B: First platoon moved at 0700 to attack Gey from southwest and to destroy MG nests holding up infantry. Reported nearing Gey and held up by mines and artillery fire. Third platoon in Gey with four tanks; one tank having thrown a track. Three EM were killed by artillery fire while repairing tank track that night.

Company C: Second and third platoons in Strass preparing positions for suspected enemy counterattacks. Still no contact or word from first platoon since initial engagement.

-3-

**RESTRICTED**



SECRET

RESTRICTED

12 December 1944 (Cont'd)

Company D: Second platoon at C company CP, loaded with supplies waiting for opportunity to move into Strass.

13 December 1944

Company A: Tank recovery vehicle and crew left bivouac area at 2300 last night to clear a road for advancing armor, of knocked out tanks and tank destroyer vehicles blocking the road. The vehicles had been knocked out by mines and artillery fire. Completed mission and returned to bivouac area at 0430 with one light tank of the 5th Armored Division. First and third platoons left assembly area at daybreak and entered town of Gey, the objective. Lost two tanks, one by enemy bazooka and one by 88mm fire. One EM KIA, one EM SWA and four EM LIA.

Company B: First platoon destroyed three AT guns, two scout cars, three MG's, four Mark IV tanks and 35 enemy personnel killed, on 10 December, 1944. First platoon left bivouac area to assist 329th Infantry Regiment in attacking town of Gurzenich, Germany, ran into mines southwest of Gurzenich and was forced to draw back, one tank destroyed by mines, reported to be burning. One EM SWA and three EM LIA. Second platoon moved to attack Gey, and complete mopping up with three mobile tanks.

Company C: Second and third platoons still supporting Infantry in holding the town of Strass, Germany. Enemy vehicles and weapons destroyed in the past three days: One Mark V tank, three self-propelled guns, and two others (Unknown). Destroyed two AT guns, two MG's, one pillbox and one bazooka team, Losses sustained: Three Officers and three EM WIA; one officer and 26 men MIA. Lost eight tanks by enemy action. Recovered two company A tanks and have five tanks still in operation. An attempt to bring additional supplies by the Assault Gun Platoon, resulted in destroying One Mark IV tank which was left burning. Second platoon in Strass: One tank disabled by heavy enemy artillery fire. Third platoon: One tank knocked out by enemy flat trajectory weapon resulting in one EM KIA and one EM LIA. Still no information of 1st platoon missing since initial attack on Strass.

Company D: First platoon executed reconnaissance in forward areas; received constant artillery and shelling. Second platoon at C company CP, moved out and proceeded to Strass to deliver supplies; was fired on by direct high velocity weapons, mortar and artillery. (Only method of delivering supplies to troops in Strass was by tanks.). Platoon remained in Strass overnight as heavy artillery fire blocked all routes out. Third platoon managed to get into Strass with more supplies during the cover of darkness.

14 December 1944

Company A: First and third platoon securing town of Gey. Enemy artillery fire continued to land in company CP west of Grosshau. Tanks operational, 11, recoverable, 1, and not recoverable, three.

**RESTRICTED**

14 December 1944 (cont'd)

Company B: First platoon in support of 329th Infantry Regiment moved in to attack Gursenich, Germany from the north with four tanks, fired point blank at enemy occupied buildings and assisted in capture of 150 enemy personnel. Second platoon moved to attack high ground northeast of Gey. Third platoon still in Gey: no change. Tanks operational 13, recoverable three and not recoverable one.

Company C: Remaining tanks from second and third platoons in Strass to support advance of company I, 330th Infantry Regiment on Hocharbach. One tank hit with enemy flat trajectory weapon and burned; another tank hit with flat trajectory weapon and temporarily disabled. Company Commander killed in Strass by mortar fire approximately 1400. Heavy intermittent mortar fire received all day by elements in Strass.

Company D: Second platoon with company C in Strass returned to rear areas, running over mine enroute, resulting in one officer and one enlisted man SIA. Third platoon remained in Strass after attempting to return via Gey with second platoon. Tanks operational 13, and tanks recoverable, five.

S-2 Note: Enemy continued stubborn resistance with extensive and strategic employment of mines. Terrain on front lines affords enemy use of direct fire weapons to canalize approaches to Roer river. Light artillery positions on west bank of Roer river bringing fire on all front positions. Heavy artillery reported moving to east of Roer river. Bridges still intact and possibilities of blowing Schmidt Dam exists, bringing Roer river to flood stage and inundating valley on both sides. Elements of company C in Strass, Germany together with Infantry are in isolated positions. All approaches of assistance fiercely defended and under observed artillery and mortar fire. Radio contact still available but reinforcements still difficult. All roads mined or remined. One platoon of company D moved under cover of darkness of Strass with badly needed supplies for isolated garrison. Ammunition, water, food and medical supplies received successfully by elements in Strass enabling them to retain positions despite heavy attacks. First platoon of company C remained missing.

15 December 1944

Company A: Second platoon's two tanks in Strass knocked out by enemy bazooka and 88mm fire, resulting in five EM casualties. Three EM returned to company bivouac area bringing 100 prisoners to the 330th Infantry Regiment on way back. Third platoon took objective six, high ground E of Gey and remained with four tanks in operation on the high ground supporting Infantry. One tank left company bivouac area and delivered supplies and ammunition to first and third platoons in Gey. Company: eight tanks remained operational, five not recoverable and two recoverable.

Company B: First platoon continued to support Infantry in clearing town of Gurzenich, knocking out two enemy Mark VI (Tiger Tanks) during a counterattack. Second platoon, supporting Infantry on attack on high ground northeast of Gey and proceeded to take Bersbuir, meeting heavy resistance. Company expended 100 rounds of AP and 400 rounds of HE during operation.

15 December 1944 (Cont'd)

NOTED

Company C: Remainder of company returned to GP area from Strass for reorganization. Company D; First platoon supported infantry in occupation of Gurzenich, receiving small arms and artillery fire. Aided infantry in reduction of 88mm AT gun. Remained in position for possible counter-attack, receiving continuous artillery, mortar and 105mm fire. One EM KIA, two EM SMA, and one EM LMA by enemy mortar fire in Strass while searching German prisoners at 1230.

16 December 1944

Company A: 1st platoon with two tanks of third platoon departed Gay and proceeded to vicinity of Birgal to support attack of 329th Infantry Regiment. Attack called off at 1400. Third platoon moved from Gay and proceeded to Bersbair. Did not reach objective due to muddy terrain and returned to Gay. Tank recovery vehicle and crew evacuated two of second platoon's tanks in Strass and returned to company bivouac area. Seven tanks remained operational.

Company B: First platoon continued to support 329th Infantry Regiment and repelled enemy counter attack in Gurzenich resulting in loss of two tanks. Two assault gun vehicles, one from company A and another from company C by anti-tank fire while supporting 329th Infantry in its attack on Birgal. One tank recoverable. Casualties sustained: One officer and six killed; six EM LMA.

Company C: Rehabilitation and reorganization of company in own area.

Company D: First platoon aided infantry in reducing buildings in Gurzenich and in the capture of 28 enemy EM and 4 Officers. Counterattack repulsed at 1200 and platoon returned to defensive positions. At 1500 enemy again counterattacked from the south. Platoon aided infantry in holding off enemy advance. Received heavy artillery fire. Counterattack repulsed and stopped by 1700.

S-2 note: All our units reported running down enemy Pusppechen (bazooka on wheels) in all encounters. Prisoners taken, turned over to Infantry, reported averaging 17 years of age, poorly clothed and obviously suffering from the elements. Search for 1st platoon, company G: negative. Officer PW captured by Infantry had in his possession American cigarettes and Christmas card belonging to EM of first platoon, company G, bearing his name, rank ASN and unit. When questioned PW stated EM was wounded and gave him the cigarettes when evacuated through German medical channels. How he acquired Christmas card was not revealed—but assumed. PW further states number of American tankers were taken prisoners. Searching party directed to appropriate area divulged by PW were unable to approach section due to heavy artillery fire. Enemy aircraft dropped flares throughout periods of darkness.

17 December 1944

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company (less S-1 and S-4 sections) moved vicinity of west of Gay establishing forward GP. S-1, S-4, Personnel sections remained in Vicht with Service Company as a rear GP.

Company A: Platoon previously attached to company C destroyed during initial attack. T-2 and crew recovered Tanks in Gay area.

[REDACTED]

RESTRICTED

**SECRET**

17 December 1944 (cont'd)

Company B: First platoon continued to support 329th Infantry Regiment destroying one enemy Mark VI and six MG nests, killing 150 enemy personnel while 125 surrendered to Infantry in Gurzenich. Third platoon: Lost three tanks while moving toward Rolsdorf, supporting Infantry. One tank in Anti-tank ditch, one tank hit by 88mm fire, and one tank hit by anti-tank gun. Anti-tank gun was destroyed.

Company C: 1st platoon moved to Hof Hardt early in morning and committed in action in Gurzenich.

Company D: Third platoon patrolled rear areas for enemy paratroopers. Negative report. First and Second platoons in reserve for possible counter-attacks.

All elements alerted for anti-airborne defense due to enemy counter-offensive and increase of enemy air activity.

18 December 1944

Battalion making plans for reorganization and rehabilitation.

Company A: First platoon and assault gun platoon left bivouac area and proceeded to high ground west of Berzbuir. Assault gun platoon remained in position on high ground and first platoon proceeded forward toward Berzbuir and secured town. One tank disabled by 88mm fire and one EM LIA. One EM KIA by enemy artillery fire when platoon and assault guns shelled town of Lendersdorf. Assault guns destroyed enemy mortar section and three enemy trucks.

Company B: First platoon standing by for possible counterattack. Shot down one enemy paratrooper vicinity of Gurzenich. Second platoon moved into Lendersdorf and bazooka fire knocked out two tanks, killing two EM and seriously wounding another. Third platoon moving into Rolsdorf; one tank hit by enemy 88mm fire. Remaining tanks supported Infantry and cleared Rolsdorf. Company destroyed one enemy Anti-tank gun and 12 MG's, two mortar emplacements and strafed slit trenches, using MP grenades on enemy personnel.

Company C: Moved to new bivouac area west of Gey.

Company D: Moved to new bivouac area west of Gey. Third platoon patrolled rear areas for paratroopers. Negative report.

First semi-large scale appearance of Luftwaffe started at 0800. Forward areas strafed and one bomb (600 yard miss) dropped on a MSR. Friendly aircraft engaged enemy planes as well as local AA units. Entire front re-established for possible attack in this area.

19 December 1944

Company A: Moved to new bivouac area west of Gey, Germany. Assault and mortar platoons returned to headquarters company west of Gey.

**SECRET**

RESTRICTED

19 December 1944 (cont'd)

Company B: Reverted to Battalion control and moved to vicinity of west of Gey. Second section of third platoon moved to Gursenich to support 329th Infantry Regiment in case of counter attack.

Company C: Undergoing reorganization. First platoon returned to company area 1045.

Company D: Third platoon patrolled for enemy paratroopers. Negative report and returned to company bivouac area vicinity of Gey, Germany.

Battalion blocked critical road points by fire and all suspicious individuals are challenged beyond doubt.

Battalion behind the lines undergoing reorganization and maintenance.

20 December 1944

Battalion Division Reserve.

Company A: Maintenance section recovered two tanks vicinity of Bersbuir and returned to company bivouac area.

Company B: Second section of third platoon returned from Gursenich to support 329th Infantry in enemy counterattack. Completed mission and returned to company area at 1145. Maintenance section removed two disabled tanks vicinity of Lendersdorf.

Company C: No change.

Company D: One section light tanks sent out on reconnaissance mission in an attempt to locate missing platoon of company C unaccounted for since offensive 10 December. Report negative as sector where tanks were reported by 5th Armored Division is still under heavy artillery fire.

Battalion doubled its night guard.

21 December 1944

Company A: Reconnoitered positions for indirect firing under control of 322 FA Battalion. Company performing maintenance, reorganization and repair of equipment.

Company B: Two platoons on alert for use with Division Reserve. Company performing maintenance and recheck of equipment.

Company C: Reconnoitering positions for secondary mission under control of 323 FA battalion. Company continued reorganization and maintenance.

Company D: Second platoon patrolled assigned sector for enemy paratroopers. Negative report.

RESTRICTED

**SECRET**

**RESTRICTED**

22 December 1944

Battalion remained in Division reserve. Assault Gun platoon placed under control of 324th FA Battalion for employment in secondary mission. Company A: made reconnaissance for prepared dug-in defense positions behind RRL in 329th Infantry Sector. Company moved to new position for employment in secondary mission under control of 322th FA Battalion. Company B: made reconnaissance for prepared dug-in defense positions in 331st Infantry Regiment Sector. Company C: made reconnaissance for prepared dug-in defense positions behind RRL in 330th Infantry Sector. Company closed in new area for employment of secondary mission under control of 323rd FA Battalion. Company D: Third platoon patrolled assigned sector for paratroopers. Negative report and returned to company bivouac area.

Extra measures against air-borne attack continued. Positive identification by all possible means was used in challenging.

Graves registration burial list carried name of platoon leader of Company C, who, with his first platoon, had been missing since operations.

23 December 1944

Battalion in Division reserve vicinity of Gey, Germany. Assault Gun platoon began registrations for indirect firing, which was halted due to fog. Mortar platoon reconnoitered positions to assist company C in coordinated attack with Infantry on Winden, Germany. Company A: four tanks of first platoon moved vicinity of Birgel preparing dug-in positions for possible enemy counter-attacks. Four tanks of second platoon closed in position SW of Derichweiler to fire secondary mission under control of 322th FA Battalion. Remainder of Company A closed in new bivouac area vicinity of Derichweiler. Company B made reconnaissance for dug-in positions in woods west of Berzbuir. Company C preparing to fire indirectly under control of 323th FA Battalion. First and second platoon moved to assist 330th Infantry Regiment in an attack on Winden. Company D: first platoon patrolled assigned area for suspected paratroopers. Negative report.

24 December 1944

Battalion (less Company B) attached to 104th Infantry Division. Company B attached to 744th Light Tank Battalion, in Corps Reserve. Assault Gun platoon fired indirectly on enemy towns of Karthaus, Kreuzau and southeast of Kreuzau. Second platoon of Company A firing secondary mission of 150 rounds harassing fire on Duren and Merzenich. Company B: No change. Company C: Attack still in progress in town of Winden. Two tanks known to be immobilized. Third platoon of Company D patrolled assigned sector for enemy paratroopers. Report: Negative.

25 December 1944

Battalion, still attached to 104th Infantry Division made reconnaissance for new area. Assault Gun Platoon fired registrations for secondary mission.

25 December 1944 (cont'd)

**RESTRICTED**

Company A: Second platoon expended 150 rounds of harassing fire on targets vicinity of Duren and Mersenich.

Second platoon of company B left bivouac area to assist company C in attack on Winden. Company C: continued attack of town of Winden. Second platoon of company D patrolled assigned sector for enemy paratroopers. Negative report. All of company D moved to new bivouac area vicinity of Weisweiler. Battalion received nine officers replacements.

26 December 1944

Battalion moved from vicinity of Gay and closed in new area Weisweiler at 1300. Relieved from attachment to 104th Infantry Division and attached to 83rd Infantry Division, VII Corps and reassigned to First Army. Before moving, company A expended 150 rounds of harassing fire on towns of Duren and Mersenich. At 1300, battalion moved from Weisweiler to Brand, Germany closing in area at 1735. Company B second platoon moved to Winden to assist company C in clearing town of enemy; destroyed one 88mm gun and two self-propelled weapons. Enemy personnel killed, 20; enemy personnel surrendering, 150. Enemy destroyed bridge in Winden after retreating over it. Company B reverted back to battalion control and moved to Brand, Germany. Company C: Completed occupation of town of Winden at 1900, 25 December. During attack one enemy self-propelled gun, one anti-tank gun, three MG's, one CP and one ammunition dump were destroyed. Enemy personnel killed--40. Company sustained the following losses: 2 EM killed, three EM LWA and one tank knocked out. Company closed in new bivouac area vicinity of Brand at 1630. Company D: moved from Weisweiler to Brand. Battalion received six officers and 45 enlisted replacements.

27 December 1944

Battalion (less rear echelon) moved from Brand, Germany to new area vicinity of Jeneffe, Belgium, closing in at 1150. Route, Brand, Aachen, Herve, Ehine, Abey Sary, Mondave Pont Du Bonne, Pailhe, Havelange and Jeneffe. Traveled 62 miles. Weather clear and cold. Rear echelon composed of Service company, S-1, S-4 and Personnel sections remained vicinity of Brand. Company A attached to 329th Infantry Regiment upon arrival moved to bivouac area vicinity of Trombois. Company B closed in bivouac area vicinity of Porcheresse, Belgium. Company C attached to 330th Infantry Regiment upon arrival, moved to bivouac area vicinity of Petite Somme, Belgium. Company D closed in bivouac area vicinity of Porcheresse, Belgium.

-10-

S E C R E T

**SECRET**

28 December 1944

Company A: No change.

Company B: First platoon attached 329 Infantry Regiment and moved to vicinity of Buissonville. Second platoon moved to Jamodin to contact enemy but mission was suspended and platoon returned to Porcheresse. Third platoon reconnoitered positions forward.

Company C: Performing maintenance and preparing for combat.

Company D: Reconnoitering new positions forward. Assault Gun platoon attached to 329th Infantry Regiment and moved to their area.

Battalion rear echelon moved from Brand, Germany to Jeneffe, Belgium. Traveled 73 miles - Weather foggy.

29 December 1944

Battalion forward echelon moved from Jeneffe to Ramont, Belgium. Rear echelon remained at Jeneffe.

Company A: Second platoon committed with company G, 2d battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment. Entered town of Rochefort, encountered Tiger Tank in building and maneuvering to destroy it. No casualties sustained. Company B: First platoon operating with Company C, 1st battalion 329 Infantry Regiment in attack on Rochefort. Destroyed enemy MG nest. Second and third platoon reconnoitered positions forward. Company C: Performing reconnaissance, maintenance and rehabilitation.

30 December 1944

Company A: First platoon took up defensive positions. Second platoon in support of 2d battalion, 329 Infantry Regiment. First section coordinated attack on town of Rochefort with company D, 329 Infantry Regiment. Fire fight with enemy tank resulted in loss of one tank by 88mm shell and burned, 2 EM KIA and 2 EM SMA. Enemy tank was hit but due to intervening building shielding tank, it could not be destroyed. Second section in support of company A, 329 Infantry Regiment took up defensive positions on high ground. Company B: First platoon in position for an attack with 329 Infantry Regiment. Third platoon left Porcheresse to support first platoon. Both platoons relieved of mission enroute to Infantry Regiment. Company C: attached to 330th Inf Regiment. No change.

Assault gun platoon received mission to move in direct support of company A, 329 Infantry Regiment. Encountered mines on road supposed to have been "cleared". Made foot reconnaissance for alternate route. Route proved too steep and covered with ice for movement. Assault guns drew back and prepared for supporting fire. Assault gun platoon relieved of mission enroute to A company CP.

31 December 1944

Battalion moved from vicinity Ramont and Jeneffe, Belgium to vicinity of Petit Han, Belgium. Traveled 12 miles - roads icy. - Weather cloudy. Traffic heavy. No mishaps.

-11-  
**SECRET**



**SECRET**

31 December 1944 (cont'd)

Company A: Relieved attachment 329th Infantry Regiment. Closed in Petit Han, Belgium. Company B first platoon supporting 1st Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment in coordinated attack cleared town of Rochefort destroying two enemy MG nests and killing 30 enemy personnel on 30 December 1944. All platoons relieved of attachment on 31 December and moved to Petit Han.

Company C: No change. Remained in vicinity 3 miles north of Petit Han. Company D: moved to Petit Han. Assault Gun platoon relieved of attachment to 329th Infantry Regiment and reverted back to Battalion control; moved to Petit-Han.

-12-

**SECRET**