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


To : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

In compliance with change 3, par 10, AR 545-105, the following summary of action against the enemy by the 774th Tank Battalion for the period 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 inclusive, is submitted:

1. ORIGIONAL UNIT
   a. No change.

2. CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION
   a. The Battalion remained assigned to First United States Army and attached to VII Corps and the 33rd Infantry Division during the entire month of January.
   b. Company A
      Attached
      329th Inf. Reg. 3 Jan 45 14 Jan 45
      329th Inf. Reg. 15 Jan 45 22 Jan 45
   c. Company B
      Attached
      331st Inf. Reg. 3 Jan 45 14 Jan 45
      331st Inf. Reg. 15 Jan 45 19 Jan 45
   d. Company C
      Attached
      330th Inf. Reg. 8 Jan 45 21 Jan 45
      331st Inf. Reg. 18 Jan 45 22 Jan 45
(1) 1st and 2d Plat. Co. C

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e. Company D

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g. Hq. Co Assault Gun Plat.

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3. STRENGTH

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<td>b. Strength on 31 January 1945</td>
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<td>c. Net increase or decrease</td>
<td>2</td>
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4. CAPTIONS

r. A.D.O. 238, J. S. Army - In Belgium entire month.

5. (See Narrative Report - Appendix No. 1)

6. CAMPAIGN

a. Title - Campaign of Germany (1)
b. Duration - Engaged in above campaign entire month.
c. Purpose - To destroy Germans who had broken through Allied lines into Belgium and Luxembourg.
d. Authority ordering - Commanding Generals, First Army, VII Corps and 83 Infantry Division.

7. BATTLES
   a. (See Narrative Report - Appendix No. 1)

8. COMMANDING OFFICERS IN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS
   a. Engagement: Ardennes Forrest - Belgium
      (1) Bn. Comdr: Lt Col. N. K. Markle, Jr.
      (2) Co. A : Capt. Demetre Vignovich
      (3) Co. B : Capt. Robert E. Cain
      (4) Co. C : Capt. James W. Currier
      (5) Co. D : Capt. Ray J. Tower II
      (6) Hq. Rcn Plat. - 2nd Lt. Leon H. Gooch
      (7) Hq. Co. Assault Gun Plat. - 1st Lt. Edward L. Ferebee

9. LOSSES IN ACTION
   a. See Appendix No. 2.

10. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS
    a. See Inclosure No. 4

11. PHOTOGRAPHS
    a. None

For the Commanding Officer:

Roger D. Andrews
1st Lt, Inf, 774th Tank Bn., Adjutant

O-Incls.
Appendix #1 - Narrative
Appendix #2 - Losses in Action
Incl. #1 - S-3 Journal
Incl. #2 - S-2 Journal
Incl. #3 - S-4 Journal
Incl. #4 - Awards
Killed in Action

1st Lt Herbert J. Wohlferth
2d Lt William H. Ellis Jr
Tec 4 Matthew Gwiazdowski
Pvt James S. Jordan
Pvt Judge F. Perry
S/Sgt Lloyd L. Merritt
Sgt Daniel P. Lyttrap
Pfc Alfred Gillis
S/Sgt Robert E. Schwanger
Sgt William F. Landa
Tec 5 Henry W. Davis
Tec 5 Harry F. Williams
Pvt Emmett F. Desvers
Pvt James A. Mondy
Pvt Dominic R. Realmuto
Pvt William F. Hinard
Pvt Pablo Tapia
Pfc Joseph W. Stewart
Tec 5 William J. Menhart
Pfc Jessie L. Dorman

Missing in Action

Tec 4 Arnold A. Pfaff
Pfc Ralph L. Hammond
Pvt Hayford G. Spence
Pvt Valentine H. Ziaya

Wounded in Action

Sgt Eugene B. Lincicome
Cpl George B. Blais
Cpl Clifford J. Gaudinier
Sgt Stanley S. Dremsalski
Sgt John P. Gallagher
Tec 4 Merlin E. Du Bois
Tec 4 John D. Le Sage
Tec 4 Anthony J. Filkowski
Cpl Augustus J. Gallagher
Cpl George Hall
Cpl Gilbert F. Luberti
Cpl Benjamin E. Shields
Pfc Marvin W. Herman
Pfc Harold H. Rogstad
Pvt Jack L. Kramer
Pvt Tranquilliano Ortega
Pvt Paul R. Rinhart
Sgt Earl W. Jones
### Wounded in Action (Cont'd)

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<tr>
<td>2d Lt</td>
<td>Edward Nogay</td>
<td>01018368</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Rodney W. Lolman</td>
<td>34192511</td>
<td>Company A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
<td>Warren E. Beasley</td>
<td>33095109</td>
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<td>2d Lt</td>
<td>Richard W. Gardner</td>
<td>01015108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Henry J. Moore</td>
<td>32040304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ffc</td>
<td>George Yurko</td>
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<td>Pvt</td>
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<td>33630080</td>
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<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Gaylin A Stricker</td>
<td>37071602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fv</td>
<td>Sammie Marshman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>Jessie L. Perkinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>Ruel L. Rice</td>
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<td>Fv</td>
<td>Gustave J. S. Kowinski</td>
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### Injured in Action

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<tr>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Vincent L. Kattera</td>
<td>33139437</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt</td>
<td>J. L. Tucker</td>
<td>01017115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>Andy Sekulich</td>
<td>15104527</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt</td>
<td>John W. Bradley</td>
<td>01019001</td>
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<td>Cpl</td>
<td>Hubert Dumais</td>
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<td>Pvt</td>
<td>Edward D. Euer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpl</td>
<td>Eugene H. Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ffc</td>
<td>Frank A. Larray</td>
<td>33475141</td>
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### Battle Fatigue

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<td>Sgt</td>
<td>Emmett P. Canning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ffc</td>
<td>Anthony J. Riformato</td>
<td>32253362</td>
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NARRATIVE OF ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY BY THE
774TH TANK BATTALION FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1945

1 January, 1945

Battalion (- C Co) in Division Reserve at Petit-Han, Belgium. Company C in reserve at Juvaind Han, Belgium.

2 January, 1945

No change.

3 January, 1945

Battalion Headquarters (Forward) moved to Izier, closing at 1400. Balance of Battalion (- Battalion Headquarters) moved to Ferriers, closing at 1700. Company A, 1st platoon of Company D and Reconnaissance Platoon moved to Fays, Belgium, closing at 1130. Company B moved to Heyd, Belgium, closing at 1630. Company C moved to Heupet, Belgium, closing at 1900.

4 January, 1945

Headquarters Company (- Assault Gun platoon) moved from Ferriers, Belgium, to Battalion Headquarters (Forward) at Izier, Belgium. Balance of Battalion, no change.

5 January, 1945

Reconnaissance platoon made reconnaissance of routes in sector. Balance of Battalion, no change.

6 January, 1945

Battalion, no change. Preparing for missions against the Germans in their breakthrough in Belgium and Luxembourg. Plans call for attacking with the 83rd Infantry Division from the north flank of the German salient. Higher headquarters report any air activity tonight under 10,000 feet can be assumed to be hostile.

7 January, 1945

Battalion preparing for movement forward. Company A and D (- 2 platoons) moved from Fays to Trou-de-Bra, closing at 1400. Reconnaissance platoon reverted to Battalion control at Izier, closing at 1345. Third platoon of Company D left Ferriers and closed at Heyd, Belgium at 1745.

8 January, 1945

Battalion Headquarters (Forward) moved from Izier to Jevigne, closing at 1130. Battalion Headquarters (Rear) moved from Ferriers to Reumont, closing at 1145. 1st platoon, Company A moved from Trou-de-Bra closing at
9 January, 1945


10 January, 1945

Company A, 1st platoon left Joubieval at 1700 and proceeded toward objective Petite-Langlier. Cleared out woods with infantry and took up defensive positions for the night. 2d platoon left assembly area at 1815, advanced, and assisted infantry in taking strong points of farm buildings where 2 enemy tanks withdrew, 37 prisoners were taken. One of platoons' tanks disabled by mine while remainder of tanks set up defensive positions in assembly area.

Company B: 1st platoon in support of 3rd Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment at Ottre. 2d platoon with 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment moved from Hebronval to Ottre and advanced toward enemy, losing two tanks by enemy high velocity fire 4 EM MIA, 3 EM WIA. Destroyed one enemy tank (Mark IV), last seen smoking. Balance of company in reserve.

Company C: All three platoons coordinating attack with Infantry on town of Bihain. One tank bogged in mud, one tank knocked out by enemy action. 3 EM KIA, 1 EM MIA, 11 EM WIA.

Company D: 1st platoon with 2d Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment held in position; 2d and 3rd platoons in reserve.

(S-2 note: Elements of 9th SS Panzer Division identified in area. Still encountering mines. Snow hampers ready identification.)

11 January, 1945

Assault Gun and Mortar platoons left Battalion reserve and moved to Jevigne (Battalion Fwd Headquarters), closing at 1115.

Company A: 1st platoon with 3rd Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment. Lost four tanks from enemy action on attack against Petit Langlier. 2d platoon with 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment. 3rd platoon held in re-
serve at Bois de Ronce.

Company B: 1st platoon moved from Ottre to new position vicinity of Petite Langlier. 2d platoon in reserve. 3rd platoon jumped off from Ottre to RJ vicinity 1 mile SE of Bihain and lost one tank due to enemy action.

Company C: Relieved from attachment to 330th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control at 0800. CP moved from Lierneux enroute to Joubieval. 1st platoon attached 331st Infantry Regiment to assist 1st Battalion in taking town of Petit-Langlier. 2d platoon proceeding to Bihain. 3rd platoon in reserve enroute to Joubieval.

Company D: 2d platoon left Rearmment and closed at Lierneux and held in reserve. 3rd platoon attached 331st Infantry Regiment left Lierneux and closed in Hebronval.

(S-2 note: Road conditions, snow, and mines, stopped tanks progress and restricted fire and movement tactics. Thorough reconnaissance by fire employed.)

12 January, 1945

Company A: 1st platoon extinct through enemy action. 2d and 3rd Platoons proceeding toward objective, Petite Langlier.

Company B: One section 1st platoon proceeded to Petit Langlier. Other section remained in Ottre. 2d platoon in reserve at Hebronval. 3rd platoon with 2d Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment protecting west flank of Battalion south of Bihain.

Company C: 1st and 2d Platoons began operations with 331st Infantry Regiment in attack on Petite-Langlier with 10 tanks, had three remaining in action after reaching objective. Assisted infantry in mopping up.

Company D: 1st platoon relieved from attachment to 329th Infantry Regiment and went in reserve at Lierneux. 2d platoon relieving 1st platoon. 3rd platoon left Hebronval and returned to former position at Joubieval.

(S-2 Note: One of our tanks after being hit by 88mm fire was not stopped but continued to advance. Shortly thereafter it was rendered immobile by AF grenade fire, killing one of the crew. The remaining four crewmen after stripping the vehicle attempted an escape by foot. Their bodies were found 150 yards from the tank and as expected were completely searched and machine gunned. Each man was reported as being shot through the head with one shot.)

13 January, 1945

Company A: Moved CP from Lierneux to Joubieval. 1st platoon in company bivouac area. 2d platoon knocked out 1 Mark V tank, vicinity of 2 miles SE Langlier.
Company B: CP moved from Lierneux to Joubieval. 2d platoon enroute to Langlir to relieve elements of Company C, this Battalion. 3rd platoon destroyed one Mark V tank, 1/2 miles SE of Binhan.

Company C: 1st and 2d platoons continuing attack with 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment on Petite Langlir.

Company D: CP moved from Lierneux, closing at Joubieval at 1345. 1st platoon at Langlir to be employed in clearing and flushing Bois De Ronce. 2d platoon proceeded to patrol assigned area and maintain contact with 75th Infantry Division on left. 3rd platoon new attached to 329th Infantry Regiment for direct support in flushing enemy from Bois De Ronce.

All medium companies in process of relief and assembly at Joubieval for rehabilitation.

(S-2 Note: One tank commander in Company C reports two Germans came forward to his tank with upraised hands in a gesture of surrender. As they approached and upon closer inspection they were found to be shielding a bazooka team. The sergeant fired one round of HE into the group annihilating the bazookas, crew and all. The two decoys were unhurt but immediately thereafter they were killed by German artillery fire.)

14 January, 1945

Battalion contemplating movement and rehabilitation.

Company A: Company A relieved from attachment to 329th Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. Company B: relieved from attachment to 331st Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control. Company C: CP moved from Joubieval closing at Sart at 1800. 1st and 2d platoons returned to Company bivouac area. Destroyed five Mark V's during period. Company D: 1st platoon lost one tank by enemy action while attacking from Langlir thru Bois De Ronce. 2d platoon supporting infantry at edge of woods near Bois De Ronce. Missions of first, second and third platoons to flush enemy from Bois De Ronce.

15 January, 1945

Battalion Headquarters moved from Jevigne closing vicinity N of Joubieval at 1115. Company A: reorganising making three platoons of three tanks each. Three platoons left Company bivouac area proceeding toward objective. 1st and 2d platoons ready for jump off to attack Bovigny. 1st platoon lost one tank due to enemy action at eastern edge of Bois De Ronce. 3rd platoon to attack Bovigny from town of Honvales. Company B: 2d and third platoons proceeded to eastern edge of Bois De Ronce, contemplating a coordinated attack with infantry on Bovigny. Company C in Division reserve at Sart. Company D: Remained on mission of flushing out areas vicinity of Honvales, Bois de Ronce. Knocked out 4 enemy MG's during period, killed one officer and wounded 25, aided in capturing 35 EM, one Captain and one Lieutenant at CP.
16 January, 1945

Company A: 1st and 2d Platoons moved forward from assembly area. 3rd Platoon moved forward from Ronvel. Knocked out one enemy H/T and truck. Killed or wounded an unknown number of enemy personnel. Company B: All Platoons forward with reduced number of tanks in each platoon. Company C: in Division reserve at Sart, reorganizing and undergoing rehabilitation. Company D: All Platoons still in forward positions at eastern edge of Bois De Ronce with Infantry Battalions.

17 January, 1945

Company A: 1st Platoon returned to Company bivouac area. 2d and 3rd Platoons, no change. Company B: 1st Platoon with 1st Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment with 4 tanks preparing to establish a road block and to secure eastern edge of Bois De Ronce. 2d Platoon with 2d Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment preparing to support Infantry in an attack towards Courtill. 3rd Platoon with 3rd Battalion, continuing present mission of establishing road blocks. Company C: Division reserve, no change. Company D: 1st Platoon attached 3d Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment, 1st section supporting Infantry in advance of 500 yards to the N, took objective and returned to assembly area. 2d section preparing to support Infantry in attack. 2d and 3rd Platoons returned to Company bivouac area.

(S-2 Note: Units of 9th SS Ps Reconnaissance Battalion identified on front lines, fighting as Infantry).

18 January, 1945

Assault Gun Platoon attached to 331st Infantry Regiment proceeded to E edge of Bois De Ronce. Company A 2d Platoon relieved 1st Platoon in place. 1st Platoon returned to Company bivouac area. 3rd Platoon in regimental reserve. Company B: 1st and 2d Platoons assisted Infantry in flushing Bois de Ronce for enemy troops and defending their present positions. 3rd Platoon returned to Company bivouac area after relief by 1st Platoon Company C. Company C: In process of relieving Company B. Company D: 1st and 3rd Platoons in regimental reserve in Company bivouac area at Joubiaval. 2d Platoon relieved first Platoon in place at eastern edge of Bois De Ronce.

All tanks in battalion in process of being whitewashed for snow camouflage, 50% completed.

(S-2 report: Enemy tanks still remaining in front of our own lines, well camouflaged and hidden among buildings. Investigation of report of 12 January 1945 relative to 4 crewmen being shot in back of head revealed insufficient evidence to support the statement. No witnesses are now alive.

19 January, 1945

Assault Gun Platoon in defensive positions at the edge of Bois De Ronce. Company A: 1st Platoon in regimental reserve at Joubiaval. 2d Platoon in defensive position. 2d Platoon in defensive positions at Ronvel, with four tanks. Company B: in Division reserve under Battalion control, 12 tanks.
operational. Company G 1st platoon with 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment in defensive positions. 2d platoon of the 1st Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment in defensive positions. 3rd platoon in regimental reserve. Company B: 1st and 3rd platoons in regimental reserve in Company bivouac area. 2d platoon attached to 1st Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment.

20 January 1945

Assault Gun platoon relieved from attachment to 331st Infantry Regiment and reverted to Battalion control near Sart closing in area at 1430. Company A, 1st platoon in regimental reserve. 2d platoon occupied positions to defend town of Bovigny. 3rd platoon with 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment occupying positions to defend town of Honvales. Company B: in Division reserve preparing for movement to rear. Company C: 1st and 2d platoons with 2d and 1st Battalions, respectively of the 331st Infantry Regiment, in process of being relieved. Company D: All platoons reverted back to Battalion control.

21 January, 1945

Battalion (-A and C companies) moved from Joubieval at 1530 to vicinity of Longueville at 1945. Travelled 32 miles. Company A: 2d and third platoons defending towns of Bovigny and Honvales with Infantry. Company C: moved from Sart to Ferrières closing at 2130.

The following enemy vehicles were destroyed by this battalion during the period 10 January 45 and 16 January 1945: 2 Mark IV; 1 Halftrack; 8 machine guns; 6 Mark V, and 1 truck. This Battalion, in the operation in the Ardennes, assisted the 33rd Infantry Division in the capture of the following Belgium towns: Bihain, Petite-Langlir, Langlir, Honvales, Longchamps, Bovigny, Courtil and Cieurreux. During the stay on the line, the Battalion opposed elements of eight enemy division; the 2d, 9th, 130th and 116 Ps Divisions; 2d SS and 9th SS Ps Division, 12th and 560th Volksgrenadier divisions.

22 January, 1945

Battalion (-A and C companies) at Longueville, undergoing maintenance and rehabilitation. Company A reverted to Battalion control and moved to Oneux. Company C remained at Ferrières.

23 January, 1945

No change in locations of companies. Battalion performing maintenance, checking equipment, and reorganizing. Critique held with company commanders on past operations discussing misuses and proper use of tanks with infantry.

24 January, 1945

Battalion continued schedule of maintenance, checking equipment, weapons and training. Conducted conference with 329th Infantry Regiment on past operations to remedy misuses of tanks with Infantry.
25 January, 1945

Continued schedule of maintenance, firing of weapons and training with Infantry. Conference held with 330th Infantry Regiment on past operations and proper use of tanks with Infantry.

26 January, 1945

Conference held with 330th and 331st Infantry Regiments on past operations to coordinate operation of Tanks with Infantry. School held in evening for all officers and platoon sergeants covering problems of past operations.

Companies continued schedule of training, maintenance and inspections.

27 January, 1945

Completed individual small arms fire. Companies continued training.

28 January, 1945

No change.

29 January, 1945

Companies continued training.

30 January, 1945

Conference held in evening for all officers and platoon sergeants on Tank-Infantry tactics in past operations. Companies continued maintenance and training.

31 January, 1945

Companies continued training and firing individual weapons.