

HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION
A.P.O. 230, U. S. Army

1 February 1945

319.1

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

THRU : Channels.

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

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 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 inclusive, is submitted:

1. ORIGINAL 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

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
329th Inf. Reg.	3 Jan 45	14 Jan 45
329th Inf. Reg.	15 Jan 45	22 Jan 45

c. Company B

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
331st Inf. Reg.	3 Jan 45	14 Jan 45
331st Inf. Reg.	15 Jan 45	19 Jan 45

(1) 1st Plat. Co. B

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
329th Inf. Reg.	11 Jan 45	12 Jan 45

d. Company C

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of attachment</u>
330th Inf. Reg.	8 Jan 45	11 Jan 45
331st Inf. Reg.	18 Jan 45	21 Jan 45

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(1) 1st and 2d Plat. Co. C

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of Attachment</u>
331st Inf Reg	12 Jan 45	14 Jan 45

e. Company D

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of Attachment</u>
329th Inf Reg	7 Jan 45	20 Jan 45

(1) 1st Plat.

329th Inf Reg	3 Jan 45	12 Jan 45
331st Inf Reg	13 Jan 45	20 Jan 45

(2) 2d Plat.

329th Inf Reg	12 Jan 45	18 Jan 45
331st Inf Reg	18 Jan 45	20 Jan 45

(3) 3rd Plat.

331st Inf Reg	7 Jan 45	13 Jan 45
329th Inf Reg	13 Jan 45	20 Jan 45

f. Hq. Acn. Plat.

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of Attachment</u>
329th Inf Reg.	3 Jan 45	7 Jan 45

g. Hq. Co Assault Gun Plat.

<u>Attached</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Relieved of Attachment</u>
331st Inf Reg	18 Jan 45	20 Jan 45

3. STRENGTH

	Officers	WO	EM
a. strength on 1 January 1945	45	3	606
b. strength on 31 January 1945	<u>47</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>592</u>
c. net increase or decrease	<u>+2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-14</u>

4. STATIONS

a. A.P.O. 230, U. S. Army - In Belgium entire month.

5. MISSIONS

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

6. CAMPAIGN

a. Name - 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.

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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

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

CASUALTY REPORT 774TH TANK BATTALION
MONTH JANUARY 1945

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Killed in Action

1st Lt	Herbert J. Wohlfarth	01011161	Company B	10	Jan	45
2d Lt	William H. Ellis Jr	01014568	Company C	10	Jan	45
Tec 4	Matthew Gwiazdowski	32223086	Company C	10	Jan	45
Pvt	James S. Jordan	33615268	Company C	10	Jan	45
Pvt	Judge F. Ferry	34932722	Company C	10	Jan	45
S/Sgt	Lloyd H. Merritt	35162053	Company B	11	Jan	45
Sgt	Daniel P. Liptrap	6994527	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pfc	Alfred Gillis	32252616	Company B	12	Jan	45
S/Sgt	Robert E. Schwanger	13053268	Company A	14	Jan	45
Sgt	William F. Landa	36053370	Company C	14	Jan	45
Tec 5	Henry W. Davis	34186739	Company A	14	Jan	45
Tec 5	Harry F. Williams	36042978	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pvt	Emmert F. Deavers	33843916	Company C	14	Jan	45
Pvt	James A. Monday	35245642	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pvt	Dominic R. Realmuto	32225295	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pvt	William F. Kinard	38547644	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pvt	Pablo Tapia	38095211	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pfc	Joseph W. Stewart	33143847	Company D	15	Jan	45
Tec 5	William J. Menhart	33291315	Company D	16	Jan	45
Pfc	Jessie L. Dorman	34264038	Company D	16	Jan	45

Missing in Action

Tec 4	Arnold A. Pfaff	37323733	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pfc	Ralph M. Hammond	34889389	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pvt	Rayford G. Spence	38533262	Company A	14	Jan	45
Pvt	Valentine H. Ziaya	36951217	Company A	14	Jan	45

Wounded in Action

Sgt	Eugene E. Lincicome	35264954	Company B	10	Jan	45
Cpl	George B. Blais	32927138	Company C	10	Jan	45
Cpl	Clifford J. Gaudinier	32214795	Company C	10	Jan	45
Sgt	Stanley S. Dremalski	33149032	Company C	11	Jan	45
Sgt	John P. Gallagher	33169657	Company C	11	Jan	45
Tec 4	Merlin E. Du Bois	32214360	Company C	11	Jan	45
Tec 4	John D. Le Sage	36169867	Company C	11	Jan	45
Tec 4	Anthony J. Pilkowski	36169681	Company C	11	Jan	45
Cpl	Augustus J. Gallagher	33154599	Company C	11	Jan	45
Cpl	George Hall	32214559	Company C	11	Jan	45
Cpl	Gilbert F. Luberti	32209408	Company C	11	Jan	45
Cpl	Benjamin N. Shields	33148442	Company C	11	Jan	45
Pfc	Marvin W. Herman	6994597	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pfc	Harold H. Rogstad	37018169	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pvt	Jack L. Kramer	33751302	Company C	11	Jan	45
Pvt	Franquiliano Ortega	38072330	Company A	11	Jan	45
Pvt	Paul R. Rinhart	35892809	Company B	11	Jan	45
Pvt	Jack	Company C	11	Jan	45

Wounded in Action (Cont'd)**RESTRICTED**

2d Lt	Edward Nogay	01018368	Company A	12 Jan 45
Sgt	Rodney W. Holman	34192511	Company A	12 Jan 45
Cpl	Warren E. Beasley	38095109	Company A	12 Jan 45
2d Lt	Richard W. Gardner	01015108	Company C	14 Jan 45
S/Cgt	Henry J. Moore	32040304	Company C	14 Jan 45
Pfc	George Yurko	33440790	Company C	14 Jan 45
Pvt	Roy B. Cole	38630080	Company C	14 Jan 45
Sgt	James B. Jones	34173958	Company C	15 Jan 45
Sgt	Gaylin A. Stricker	37071602	Company D	15 Jan 45
PV	Sammy Marchman	34263362	Company D	15 Jan 45
Pvt	Jessie L. Perkinson	34885438	Company A	15 Jan 45
Pvt	Ruel L. Nice	33141975	Company D	15 Jan 45
PV	Gustave J. Sadowski	42019932	Company C	15 Jan 45

Injured in Action

Sgt	Vincent L. Mattera	33139487	Company C	10 Jan 45
2d Lt	J. L. Tucker	01017115	Company B	14 Jan 45
Pvt	Rudy Sekulich	15104527	Company A	16 Jan 45
2d Lt	John W. Bradley	01019001	Company B	18 Jan 45
Cpl	Hubert Dumas	31114937	Company C	19 Jan 45
Pvt	Edward E. Saer	37180412	Company B	19 Jan 45
Cpl	Eugene H. Thompson	7032071	Company C	22 Jan 45
Pfc	Frank R. Murray	38475141	Company C	24 Jan 45

Battle Fatigue

Sgt	Emmett P. Canning	37032668	Company D	16 Jan 45
Pfc	Anthony J. Riforgiato	32253302	Company B	18 Jan 45

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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 Grand 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 1800. Company B moved to Heyd, Belgium, closing at 1630. Company C moved to Houyet, 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 Faye 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 1100. 1st platoon, Company A moved from Trou-de-Bra closing at

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Verlieumont at 1115. 2d platoon Company A and 1st platoon, Company D moved from Trou-de-Bra to Lierneux, closing at 1230. Company B and 3d platoon of Company D moved from Hoyd to Lierneux, closing at 1900. Third platoon of Company B left area to join 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment in preparation of attack on Langlir. Company C moved from Houpet and closed at Reumont at 2130.

9 January, 1945

1st platoon, Company A moved from Verlieumont and attacked the town of Petite-Langlir in support of the 3rd Battalion 329th Infantry Regiment. Second platoon, Company A and 1st platoon Company D left Lierneux enroute to assembly area. 1st platoon Company B in support of 3rd Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment enroute to Ottre. Second platoon Company B at Hebronval. Third platoon Company B with 3rd Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment at Ottre. First platoon, Company C coordinated with 330th Infantry Regiment in taking the town of Bihain. Third platoon Company D, attached 331st Infantry Regiment waiting orders at Lierneux.

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 1015, 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 SWA. 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 ~~1830~~. 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 Rearmont 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 AT 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, 2 1/2 miles SE of Binian.

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 now 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 bazooka, 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 1110. Company A: reorganizing 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 Honveles. 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 Honveles, Bois de Ronce. Knocked out 4 enemy MG's during period, killed one officer and 10 soldiers, wounded 25, aided in capturing 35 EM, one Captain and one Lieutenant at CP.

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16 January, 1945

Company A: 1st and 2d platoons moved forward from assembly area. 3rd platoon moved forward from Honveles. 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, reorganising 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 Pz 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 Joubieval. 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 Joubieval. 2d platoon in defensive position. 3rd platoon in defensive positions at Honvelez, with four tanks. Company B: in Division reserve under Battalion control, 12 tanks

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operational. Company G 1st platoon with 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry Regiment in defensive positions. 2d platoon of the 1st Battalion 331st Infantry Regiment in defensive positions. 3rd platoon in regimental reserve. Company H: 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 Honveles. 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 1500 to vicinity of Longueville at 1845. Travelled 32 miles. Company A: 2d and third platoons defending towns of Bovigny and Honveles with Infantry. Company C: moved from Sart to Ferrieres 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 83rd Infantry Division in the capture of the following Belgium towns: Bihain, Petite-Langlir, Langlir, Honveles, Longchamps, Bovigny, Courtil and Cieurreux. During the stay on the line, the Battalion opposed elements of eight enemy divisions; the 2d, 9th, 130th and 116 Pz Divisions; 2d SS and 9th SS Pz 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 Ferriers.

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.

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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.

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