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AFTER ACTION REPORT

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**HEADQUARTERS 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

A. P. O. 407, U. S. Army  
3 November 1944

**SUBJECT: History of Organization. (After Battle Report)**

**TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C., (Thru Channels)**

In compliance with AR 345-105, par 13, dated 15 November, 1929, and changes thereto, the following report for the month of August and September is submitted.

1. Original Unit.
  - (a) Designation: 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
  - (b) Date of Organization: 10 April 1942.
  - (c) Place of Organization: Camp Berkeley, Texas.
  - (d) Authority for Organization: Special Order #88, Headquarters, 48th Infantry Division, dated 10 April 1942.
  - (e) Source from which personnel was obtained: Cadre of five (5) Officers and seventy seven (77) EM from 845th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Fillers from Infantry Replacement Center, Camp Wolters, Texas; Replacement Reception center, Ft. Devens, Mass. and Replacement Reception Center, Fort Dix, New Jersey.
2. Changes in Organization: None during period.
3. Strength, commissioned and enlisted.
  - (a) At beginning of period: August 1944, 32 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 725 Enlisted men.
  - (b) Net decrease for the months of August and September, 1944: 5 Officers, 76 Enlisted men.
  - (c) Net increase for the months of August and September, 1944: 6 Officers, 78 Enlisted men.
  - (d) At end of period - September 1944: 33 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 727 Enlisted men.
4. Stations of unit or parts thereof.
  - (a) Unit landed Utah Beach, France at 0200 hours 1 August 1944.
  - (b) Unit departed Weymouth, England 0600 hours 31 July 1944.
5. Marches.
  - (1) Unit made administrative move from Utah Beach, France to vicinity Le VALDREUIL, France, to assembly area pending assignment and commitment, 2 August 1944.
    - (a) Length of March: 31 miles.
    - (b) Weather: Clear and warm.
    - (c) No incidents.

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(2) Unit made administrative move from vicinity DIEULOUARD, France to bivouac area 4 miles East of TOUL pending reorganization. 27 Sept. 1944.

- (a) Length of March: 21 miles.
- (b) Weather: Cloudy and cool.
- (c) No incidents.

6. Campaigns.

- (a) Name of: Western Europe
- (b) Duration: Not completed
- (c) Purpose: Liberation of France

7. Battles:

Battalion received orders delivered by Major WALKER, XII Corps, to move from vicinity Le VALDEGIE to vicinity NAFTAL to help repel attack launched by a reported two panzer divisions in vicinity MORTAIN. Battalion alerted for move and crossed IP at 2030 hours, 7 August. Route of March was changed by MP's and CP group of Battalion was caught in air bombardment and strafing at AVRANCHES at 0030 hours, 8 August. Suffered one death and three casualties with loss of one (1) 1/4 ton and one (1) motorcycle, first combat losses of unit.

Battalion was attached to XX Corps and immediately upon arrival at NAFTAL were ordered to proceed to an area 3 miles South of VITRE. Arrived at that point at 1145 hours after a trip of 130 miles from original bivouac area. At 1440 hours, 8 August received orders to proceed to area vicinity CRAON and report to CG, 80th Infantry Division at CRAON. Battalion moved out at 1930 hours and closed in new bivouac area at 2200 hours.

On 9th August at 0745 hours, Battalion received orders to proceed to area of BEAU SOLSIL, 15 miles East of LAVAL, and also informed that we were now attached to XV Corps. Battalion cleared IP at 1210 hours and closed in new bivouac at 1742 hours and staff reported to 80th Infantry Division. At 2145 hours that evening three German prisoners of the 17th Reserve Panzer Division were brought into CP by French civilians. They were Lt. ERICH HUTT, Sgt. Helst Harms, and Pvt. Paul Melser. Prisoners were picked up by French at 2000 hours at farm 4 km. east of HAZOUGES.

At 2245 hours, B Company was ordered to report to 318th combat team with purpose of seizing BIRON and C Company ordered to 317th combat team with objective of seizing St. SUZANNE. Both towns liberated. B Company was then ordered to move to vicinity SILLE LE GUILLIAME.

At 2040 hours, 10 August Battalion-minus left with 319th combat team for assembly area in vicinity CHASSEVILLE. Closed in new area at 0210 hours, 11 August. Companies were all attached to respective combat teams. Forward CP moved to area 1/2 mile east of ROUEZ, closed in area 1725 hours. "A" Company took up indirect fire positions vicinity TENAIL-ROUEZ, tie in with Division Artillery survey.

2000 hours, 12 August, B and C Companies were relieved from assignment to 318th and 317th combat teams respectively.

August 13, at 0700 hours orders were received from CG, 80th Inf. Division, to move in three columns north, destroying hostile forces encountered to an area vicinity of SEES.

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Company A took middle route with Division Command group. B and C Companies advanced on the Eastern route. B, C and Battalion CP group made excellent progress. Just west of ALENCON, the 2nd French Armored Division and the 90th Infantry Division crossed in front of column. Column was ordered to give priority to other two units and Battalion assembled in an area just NW of ALENCON. At 1145, 14 August received orders to go to an assembly area 1.5 km. west of St. MORS DU DESERTES.

At 0200 hours, 15 August, received word of attachment to 8th Corps. Order also alerted Battalion for movement to area south of JUHLAINS at 0630 hours. Crossed IP at 0848, arrived at 80th Division CP south of JUHLAINS at 1148 hours. Commendation received from Division G-3 on Battalion movement. At 1750 hours received word of attachment to 3rd Army reserve from 8th Corps. Battalion alerted for movement to new assembly area at 1840 hours. Cleared IP at 2040 hours, arrived in assembly area north of EVRON at 2228 hours. Companies received Infantry units of 80th Division who are to ride on our transportation. Battalion placed on 4 hour alert status, 16 August for movement to assembly area SW of ORLEANS.

Received amendment to orders of August 16 at 0345 hours, 17 August. Battalion to move to area 5 miles NW of SEES, H hour at 0300 hours. Battalion closed at 1130 hours. At 1700 hours received oral orders from CG, 80th Infantry Division, to attack with 318th combat team to seize high ground East of ARGENTAN, then high ground to NE. 610th attached to 318th. Two Companies to protect artillery and take care of tank attack thru ARGENTAN to SE and from NE into our positions. Direct fire possibilities to east of town. Orders confirmed by FO #6, 80th Division, and at 1950 hours companies moved out on their mission. CP group moved out and closed in new bivouac area with 80th Division CP, one mile west of ALMECHES at 2330 hours. "A" Company given mission of supporting Division Artillery by indirect fire. "C" Company attached to 318th combat team for attack. "B" Company supporting 318th combat team in Corps Reserve. Division is attached to 1st Provisional Corps for the attack.

Enemy forces are trapped in a pocket between British forces breaking out of CAEN, 2nd French Armored and 1st Army on our left, and 90th Division on our right. Escape route is narrow gap existing between FALAISE and ARGENTAN. Poles fighting with the British were reported at TRUN at 1400 hours, 18 August.

Attacking forces of 80th Division received heavy automatic weapons fire and tank thrusts. Advance limited to main road leading east from ARGENTAN.

On 19th August, 318th combat team launched attack on Division objective NE of ARGENTAN. Objective was not reached and 2nd and 3rd Battalion dug in. At 1735 hours, 317th with "C" Company, 610th TD Battalion attached, passed through 318th and launched attack. At 2300 hours it was stopped and dug in and ordered to resume attack at 0700 hours, 20 August. At 0900 hours, 19 August, forward CP of Battalion advanced to position in vicinity of Hill #171. Battalion commander concerned with getting elements of B Company across river at unimproved ford. Some elements succeeded in getting across without much trouble. Reported knocking out 3 MK VI tanks while elements of C Company knocked out 2- 88mm SP guns. The forward CP was taken under fire by enemy and Lt. Col. Herold, Major Greenhaw, T/Sgt. Senger, S/Sgt. Dreissel, Tec/5 Linge were injured by enemy fire at 2030 hrs.

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All casualties were evacuated. Word was received that Lt. Col. Herold died of wounds received at 0130 hours, 20 August.

Major Arthur E. Jeffrey assumed command of Battalion, 20 August 1944. During the night of 19th, 20th August, "A" Company registered on house occupied by Germans and subsequently fired approximately 700 rounds, HE in indirect fire mission--harassing fires. At 0835 hours, 20 August, 3rd platoon "C" Company reported engaging tanks on their front. At that time, they had accounted for four (4) unidentified enemy tanks. "C" Company moved forward with 317th combat team occupying objective north of ARGENTAN and disposed company commanding all roads leading into town. Little activity was reported except Infantry patrols containing small pockets of enemy remaining in area. "B" Company with 318th combat team occupied town of CAENNES and also holding ARGENTAN. Some confusion occurred in our command by passage of lines of 317th and 318th combat teams. Our Companies were not sure at all times just who they were supporting.

21st of August was relatively quiet with mopping up operations and Division organizing into an assembly area assigned to V Corps units. The V Corps took over from the 1st Provisional Corps during the battle and Division plus attached troops fought engagement as 1st Army troops. At 1800 hours, 21 August, the command over the area of the 80th Division north of ARGENTAN-CAENNES road passed to the British. Battle was over and Division began assembling, completing operation at 0130 hours, 22 August.

On the 24th August, Battalion in conjunction with combat teams of the Division went through a re-enactment of phases of the battle to coordinate the actions of tanks, TD'S and Infantry, illustrating the limitations and capabilities of each to the other arms.

Battalion was relieved from attachment to V Corps, 1st Army and attached to VII Corps, 3rd Army. At 1445 hours, 26 August, Battalion departed from assembly area in vicinity of ALLENBACHES enroute to new assembly area in vicinity ST FLAVY. Battalion closed in new area two miles east of ST FLAVY at 1900 hours, 27 August. Distance traveled: 347 miles. No accidents, no casualties, no loss of equipment.

PO #9, 80th Infantry Division received at 2245 hours, 27 August. Battalion in general support of 80th Infantry Division. "A" Company with 318th combat team on left of Division zone, "C" Company in support of 317th combat team on right of Division zone. Remainder of Battalion in reserve. "A" and C Companies to pay particular attention to Division left flank. Early the morning of the 28th, the Companies moved to join respective combat teams. All bridges up to MERY-SUR-SEINE have been reported blown, but fords are passable. Many of the roads are reported mined. At 1850 hours, the 28th August, the Battalion CP moved to new area 1-1/4 miles NE of VILLESERREUS, arriving there at 2200 hours. Fords immediately behind the column were attacked by air. As of midnight the 28th, the Battalion was disposed as follows: "A" Company with 318th combat team in vicinity of MATOUGES, "C" Company with 317th combat team in position in vicinity of ECURY-SUR-COHLIS, and "B" Company continued in reserve with positions in vicinity 2 miles SE of highway from MATOUGES. Rear echelon 6-1/4 mile SW of Battalion CP.

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On August 29, at 0745, "C" Company reported they were to attack JALON at 0800 hours. "A" Company reported they were advancing 5,000 yards north of MATOUGES. "B" Company has been assigned new mission of direct support of 319th combat team to establish a bridgehead across MARNE River at CHALONS. At 1300 hours, report was received that CHALON-SUR-MARNE had been taken at 0800 hours that morning. Companies were ordered to continue support of their combat teams. Results of day, no casualties, no loss of equipment, 9 prisoners captured, 10 rounds HE fired, 2 MG nests destroyed by "A" Company.

August 30, 1944: "A" Company continued in direct support of the 318th combat team with positions as follows: CP and one platoon at LIVRY, one platoon at BOUY, one platoon at LES GRANDES LOGUES. "C" Company to continue same mission with 318th combat team. Company CP and two platoons were 1-1/2 miles north of ST ETIENNE. One platoon at L'EPINE. Battalion CP moved to vicinity of LO VELUVE. "B" Company established road blocks as follows: One section at AUZERIVE, one section at SOLEPPES, one section at AUVE, one section at LA PRESNE, and one platoon was in reserve with 319th combat team. Results of day: Ten prisoners captured by "A" Company.

At 0400 hours, 31 August FO #10 was received from 80th Infantry Division. Division to advance east on three routes at 0700 hours to seize BAR-LE-DUC, COMMERCEY, and prepare for action toward ST MIHIEL or to the east. "C" Company with 317th combat team on Route #2, "A" Company with 318th combat team on Route #3, "B" Company under Battalion control to follow route of 317th combat team. Companies moved out at 0700 hours as planned and joined respective combat teams. At 1500 hours, "B" Company reported that they were being held up by 88mm fire in vicinity of NOI DISLEVAL. The Battalion CP left with rear CP of Division at 2200 hours. At 2400 hours all Companies were in position. "B" Company in vicinity of RAMONT, "A" Company in vicinity of JENISE, "C" Company in vicinity of MEMILAU. The 1st Section, 2nd platoon (Com. plt.) reported fire 6 rounds 87mm HE at enemy gun positions. Battalion CP closed in new position in vicinity LAHEY COURT at 0400 hours, 1st September after passing through two villages sacked by SS troops.

At 0925, 1 September, "B" Company reported its objective as PE DELIONVILLE, while "A" Company was one mile SW of COMMERCEY. "C" Company was 1/2 mile north of HUMONT. At 1630 hours, the CP left LAHEY COURT for new location in vicinity COMMERCEY. "A" Company was proceeding on Route #3 with 318th combat team. "B" Company had 2nd platoon and CP in vicinity COURCELLE and one platoon with 3rd Battalion, 317th combat team across MEUSE River. "C" Company with two platoons and CP one mile east of MEMIL, one platoon with 1st Battalion, 317th combat team in vicinity MEXIMIAN. The Battalion CP closed in bivouac area in vicinity COMMERCEY at 2130 hours. Disposition of Battalion as of 2400, 1 September was: "A" Company in vicinity CHIONVILLE, "B" Company in vicinity MAR BOTTE, "C" Company minus one platoon in vicinity ST AGNASSY, Hq. Company in vicinity MATOUMONT.

During the 2nd of September, there was little change in assignments of the Companies. "A" Company moved to vicinity GIRANCIS to continue support of 318th combat team. "B" Company furnished Division support to 319th combat team. At 1900 hours, one platoon, "C" Company, was at ST MIHIEL, one platoon at NORMANVILLE, one platoon at ROUCONVILLE, all elements establishing road blocks.

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"H" Company had one platoon in vicinity of RAGNY-SUR-REUSE, one platoon in vicinity of WID establishing road blocks. "C" Company was located at APREMONT. During the day, eleven (11) prisoners were captured by B Company, one PW by Company G, and nineteen (19) PWs by "A" Company. No casualties or losses of equipment.

Battalion CP moved to vicinity of GIRAUDVILLE at 1115 hours, 3 Sept. One platoon of C Company was in support of one company of 317 combat team. Seized town of ESSAY against slight opposition. One platoon of C Company with 317th combat team set up defense of APREMONT.

On Sept 4, one platoon of C Company reconnoitered for river crossing and gun positions along MOSELLE River between FORT-A-MOUSSEUR and GIRAUDVILLE. "H" Company had a gun disposed at road 1-1/2 mile east of WID, a gun at 1-1/2 miles south RAGNY-SUR-REUSE and another one mile south of RAGNY. The Battalion CP moved with 80th Division CP to vicinity LIGNEVILLE. Field Message #5, 80th Infantry Division assigned Battalion missions as follows: Two platoons, C Company attached to 1st Battalion, 317th Infantry in position 1 mile east of LIGNEVILLE and 3rd platoon attached to 3rd Battalion, 317th Infantry 1/2 mile east of LIGNEVILLE. "A" Company in direct support 318th combat team in vicinity GIRAUDVILLE. "H" Company in direct support 319th combat team vicinity BOURBON. Objective of attack to capture RAGNY. 1st Sect. Recon. Platoon encountered German patrol vicinity GIRAUDVILLE, retired after exchange of small arms fire. ---no casualties.

Enemy artillery destroyed one gun of "H" Company and inflicted three casualties on Sept 5. Company was in position vicinity GIRAUDVILLE. One platoon, "H" Company was in position vicinity FORT-A-MOUSSEUR, one platoon in vicinity of TOUL. "A" Company was in position vicinity BOURBON with 318th combat team. "C" Company had one platoon at RAGNY, one platoon at MAJONVILLE, one platoon at GIRAUDVILLE.

2nd Sect, 2nd platoon B Company in direct support of 2nd Battalion, 319th combat team, received a direct hit by enemy artillery; losses, 7 casualties, 2 deaths, one gun and one half-track destroyed at 0830 hours, 6 October. Mr. Harry B. Watkins, platoon leader was one of those killed. "H" Company had one platoon at GIRAUDVILLE, one section vicinity FORT-A-MOUSSEUR and one platoon and CP vicinity GIRAUDVILLE. Other dispositions unchanged.

On Sept 7, "A" Company moved to vicinity GIRAUDVILLE in direct support 318th combat team. They fired 55 rounds of HE accounting for 6 machine gun positions and one enemy CP.

Early in the morning of Sept 8, the enemy launched a counter-attack on positions occupied by 3rd platoon, "A" Company, 1-1/2 miles SE of GIRAUDVILLE. The supporting Infantry fell back without warning the platoon, and heavy mortar and machine gun fire forced the platoon to fall back abandoning three 3inch guns, three half-tracks, and three 1/4 tons. The attack was halted about 1000 meters to the rear of the original positions by the reorganized Infantry. The enemy turned the 3inch guns on our friendly units and one gun was destroyed by artillery fire and it was later determined that the other two guns were destroyed by 702nd Tank Battalion. One entire gun crew has been reported missing. One platoon of "H" Company established a road block 1/2 mile south of GIRAUDVILLE. The 2nd platoon, "A" Company, in position 2-1/2 miles SE of GIRAUDVILLE observed activity in vicinity of enemy CP. They held their fire until maximum number of personnel including a number of Officers retired into a tent. The platoon opened fire on the position with 3inch BR.



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Many casualties straggled out of the tent whereupon they fired 10 more rounds of HE silencing the position. Estimated enemy casualties as 40. No further change in Battalion position. It was later discovered that two of the three half-tracks previously reported as lost were recovered and repaired. The 3rd half-track was destroyed by artillery fire.

During September 9th and 10th, there was little change in our position. 1st Section, 3rd platoon, "F" Company was in position at FT DE JONDRE VILLE. The 2nd Section in direct support of 3rd Battalion, 319th combat team, fired upon FT VILLET LE SEC with very poor results against the fortification.

During the past week, the Battalion had succeeded in changing the tracks on all 36 of our half-tracks without loss of combat efficiency of any unit.

September 11, 1944: Battalion continued in direct support of the 80th Infantry Division with "A", "F", and "G" Companies supporting the 318th, 319th, and 317th Regiments respectively in the attack to establish a bridgehead across the MOSELLE River from PONT-A-MOUSSEON to MILLERY. "C" Company spent the day preparing gun positions on high ground one mile SE of BEZAINVILLE, to cover the Infantry crossing. Companies received replacements for the three guns and one half-track destroyed the previous day.

The attack to cross the MOSELLE River succeeded on the 12th of Sept and "A" and "C" Companies shuttled by platoons across the river taking up positions at STE GENEVIEVE, BEAUMONT, LANDREMONT, and MILLERY. "F" Company remained in the same position. Battalion CP moved to new position three miles south of NAMEY.

At about 0400 hrs, 13 September, the enemy launched a counter-attack against positions held by the 3rd platoon, "C" Company, in the town of STE GENEVIEVE. The Infantry support fell back but the platoon maintained their position against the Infantry and tank assault accounting for two of the enemy tanks. 1st Lt. Richard Merrill, the platoon leader, was wounded in the action.

In the same counter-attack, tanks advanced at 0415 hours, upon the road block established by 1st platoon, A Company. It was too dark to identify the tanks so the platoon leader withheld his fire. The tanks at this junction, shot flares at our positions, blinding the TD crews and opened up with small arms. The platoon destroyed one enemy tank but were forced to withdraw as they were then without Infantry support. The enemy tanks continued down the road south of LOISY where they were taken under fire by the 3rd platoon, "A" Company, in position two miles south of LOISY. They accounted for two (2) of the tanks. Our losses were three (3) killed, fourteen (14) wounded, one 1-1/2 ton and one 1/4 ton destroyed. Enemy losses five (5) MK IV tanks and four (4) machine guns. Company "B" had no change in position.

The action of "C" in maintaining their position in vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE against the Infantry and tank assault was credited with helping to a large extent the securing of the bridgehead over the MOSELLE River by the 80th Infantry Division.

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On 15th September, the enemy again launched a counter-attack at MOUNSON HILL in vicinity of 3rd platoon, "A" Company. The platoon was subjected to a terrific barrage of machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire. The 1st Section of the platoon advanced to the top of the hill with the Infantry, but the 2nd Section's route was blocked and personnel surrounded. They destroyed two of the guns while the two half-tracks made a dash for the top of the hill. Some of the crew members who were blocked succeeded in escaping by swimming the river. They succeeded in securing some boats and evacuated some of the wounded across the river.

Another counter-attack was launched at 0400 in the vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE where Hq. Section and 3rd platoon, "C" Company were located. They knocked out two tanks with Bazooka fire and two with 3 inch guns. Capt. Duchossais was wounded in this action.

Another tank attack was launched against this position at 1800 hrs. The 1st platoon, "C" Company moved to a position covering this attack and knocked out eight (8) enemy tanks from their position. The Division artillery took the tank column under fire and dispersed the attack, although, Company was in position to take care of all tanks in the column. Later in the day, B Company moved to position in vicinity of LOISY.

Casualties were one man killed, three wounded, two guns lost and twelve (12) enemy tanks knocked out.

The enemy launched an attack supported by tanks against 1st platoon, "B" Company, position north of LOISY on the 16th September. Five (5) enemy tanks were destroyed, while five of our men were wounded and the trail of one gun was damaged. No change in Battalion disposition.

On 17 September, 1st platoon, "B" Company, moved to vicinity of MONVILLE-SUR-SKILLS, 2nd platoon to LESSEMILS. No further change in disposition.

Battalion disposition on the 16th of September were as follows: "A" Company had 1st and 3rd platoons in vicinity of LOISY, and 2nd platoon north of LAUDRE-MONT. "B" Company had 1st platoon west of POUL-SUR-SKILLS, 2nd platoon west of MONVILLE-SUR-SKILLS, and 3rd platoon in vicinity of ANTON. "C" Company had 1st platoon at LIXIERES, 2nd platoon NE of AUTREVILLE, and 3rd platoon at VILLE-AU-VAL. Battalion CP had moved with Division to area north of DISLOUARD.

The 3rd platoon, "A" Company which had been cut off and isolated by the enemy for three days atop MOUNSON HILL with the 3rd Battalion, 318th Infantry, made a full report of their action. They had been supplied by air using Cub-planes and withstood many hostile counter-attacks including a continual barrage of mortar, artillery, and small arms fire.

On September 19th, Battalion CP moved with Division to location SE of JEZAINVILLE. The 1st platoon, "C" Company, supported the advance of the 3rd Battalion, 318th Infantry, from positions in vicinity of AUTREVILLE by knocking out at least three mortars and unknown number of personnel. 3rd platoon, "A" Company, moved in vicinity of VILLE-AU-VAL. The 2nd platoon, "A" Company, received artillery fire in vicinity of LOISY.

The 1st platoon, "C" Company, fired 65 rounds of HE at targets of opportunity, supporting the advance of the 3rd Battalion, 318th Infantry on September 20. 3rd platoon, "C" Company, established a road block SE of LAUDRE-MONT. "A" Company had the 1st and 3rd platoons in the vicinity of STE GENEVIEVE

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On the 21st of September, 2nd and 3rd platoons, Company "C", moved to vicinity of BELLEFONT in reserve ready to reinforce fires of Division against tank thrusts.

22nd of September; 1st and 3rd platoons, "A" Company, moved to vicinity of MILLENT, 2nd platoon, "C" Company moved NW of LALBERMONT and fired 18 rounds of HE on BELLEAU. Results were unobserved owing to poor visibility.

On September 24th, the 3rd platoon, "C" Company, moved to PAMA to reinforce the flank defenses of the 517th Infantry.

On September 25th, the 808th T. D. Battalion, relieved the 610th T. D. Battalion. The 610th T. D. Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 80th Infantry Division, and at 2100 hours, all companies had assembled into a bivouac area two miles west of DIAULOUARD. While exchanging positions with the 808th T. D. Battalion, the 3rd platoon, "C" Company received enemy mortar fire and suffered two casualties.

The Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 80th Infantry Division for the purpose of conversion to a self-propelled Tank Destroyer Battalion, being equipped with the new M-36 destroyer. (The first in the SPO).

The following is a summary of our operations as a towed T. D. Bn.

	<u>MARCH</u>					
	<u>Tanks</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>M. d.'s</u>	<u>Art'y Co's</u>	<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>S.P.'s</u>
"A" Company	5	0	9	0	54	2
"B" Company	3	3	2	2	15	0
"C" Company	20	2	10	3	6	5
Hq. Company	0	0	0	0	10	0
TOTAL	<u>31</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>7</u>

	<u>ON LOSS</u>					
	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Axis</u>	<u>Half-tracks</u>	<u>1 - 1/2 ton</u>	<u>1/4 ton</u>
"A" Company	4	10	4	3	1	2
"B" Company	6	14	2	1	0	0
"C" Company	4	15	0	1	0	1
Hq. Company	3	8	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	<u>16</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

3inch Ammunition fired

HE----1,341 rounds  
 APC---- 245 rounds  
 Smoke---- 16 rounds

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8. Commanding Officers in Important Engagements.

(a) Western Europe

(b) Major Arthur B. Jeffrey, O-405 491, assumed command at 2030, 19 August, 1944, vice Lt. Colonel William L. Herald, O-19 916, killed in action.

9. Losses in action: (Officers and Enlisted men.)

(a) Engagement: Western Europe

(b) Names.

KILLED

Lt. Col. William L. Herald, O-19919	Tec 5 Donald Vetrome	32601884
1st Lt. Harry B. Watkins O-1822087	Pfc Edward A. Strain	32609380
Sgt. Ralph I. Darr 36272870	Pfc. Albert M. Luciani	32601323
Tec 5 Edgar M. Bird 32601533	Pvt. Clifford L. Hook	32485735
Tec 5 Wilbur R. Darsey 39101453	Pvt. Matthew Hurta	31277473
Tec 5 James E. Jones 37141403	Pvt. Angelo V. Vencie	32081264
Tec 5 Joseph J. Palmieri 32687639	Pvt. William R. Sorenson	33481480
Tec 5 Rudolph E. Pisani 32691107	Pvt. Albert J. Vercellin	31258020

WOUNDED

Maj. Herman H. Greenhaw O-305720	Pfc. Walter E. Breuerd	31278851
Capt. Richard L. Dichossois O-439969	Pfc. Michael Lamont	32601466
1st Lt. Richard J. Merrill O-1169249	Pfc. George Eiker	32601641
T/Sgt. Robert V. Genger 33032326	Pfc. Richard P. Smith	32601239
S/Sgt. Loyd A. Chipman 38082548	Pvt. Floyd S. Allison	37141614
S/Sgt. Sylvester A. Dralsael 36239558	Pvt. George Andre	32601266
S/Sgt. John C. Hall 35263314	Pvt. John P. Dancule	31218229
Sgt. John J. Koen 14004900	Pvt. Timothy J. Harten	32081470
Sgt. Walter R. Lemart 16052369	Pvt. Leon F. Hawkins	20833513
Sgt. Ray R. Nichols 34259214	Pvt. James J. Holland	36312410
Sgt. Cooper S. Nichols 34300159	Pvt. Eugene E. Jackson	36748389
Sgt. Royal A. Samuelson 39181702	Pvt. Jack Kleinfeld	32601315
Sgt. Woodrow P. Wheeler 32044645	Pvt. John J. Larkin	32687784
Tec 4 James J. Bradshaw 38017878	Pvt. Delbert W. McConnell	18160822
Tec 4 Arthur J. Plathe 37112102	Pvt. Herbert McKinney	33163241
Cpl. David M. Garrison 32601242	Pvt. Bert Nickelsberg	32691116
Cpl. Robert Light 35261627	Pvt. Irvin A. Revis	37132161
Cpl. Marshall W. Marcus 31241177	Pvt. Lewis M. Schrimacher	38018081
Cpl. Walter J. Montini 32690151	Pvt. Charles J. Volkamp	37015034
Tec 5 Stephen Reles 32081236	Pvt. Cecil C. White	38105146
Tec 5 Emil Krak 32800831	Pvt. Bernard Zaleski	31275789
Tec 5 Mursi C. Lattensia 33163189		
Tec 5 Frank J. Lamo 32060790		
Tec 5 Hubert C. Linco 32597351		
Tec 5 Donald Raybuck 33017503		
Tec 5 Charles E. Webb 35537397		

(Continued)

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in actions:

- (a) Lt. Colonel William L. Herold awarded the Silver Star (posthumously) for gallantry in action and courageous leadership.
- (b) The following members of this unit have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in action against the enemy.

S/Sgt. Woodford C. Eabers,	34045708
Sgt. John E. Ryan	32692248
Tec 5 Jess W. Duncan	35263240
Pvt. Lawrence Kenyon	36321225
Pvt. Charles H. Winn	37132252

- (c) The following Officers and enlisted men have been awarded the Purple Heart:

Maj Herman H. Greenhaw	O-303720	Capt Richard L. Lachessels	O-482989
Sgt Walter R. Lemart,	16052369	Pvt. Lewis H. Schrimsher,	36016081
Tec 5 Hubert G. Linge	32597351	Tec 5 Emil Krak	32800631
S/Sgt. John C. Hall	35283314	Pvt. James J. Holland	36312410
S/Sgt. Lloyd A. Chipman	38082548	S/Sgt. Sylvester C. Priessol	36239638
T/Sgt Robert V. Senger	33032328	Pfc Richard C. Butler	31282541
Pvt John P. Demeule	31216229	Cpl Marshall E. Marcus	31241177
Pvt John J. Larkin	32587784	Pfc George Riker	32601641
Sgt Ray R. Nichols	34259214	Pvt Bernard Zaloski	31275789
Pvt Cecil G. White	38105146	Pfc. Owen P. Gwertfelder	35837856
Pvt George Andre	32601266	Pvt. Eugene L. Jackson	36746389
Cpl Walter J. Montini	32690151	Pvt. Floyd S. Allison	37141514
Sgt. Cooper S. Nichols	34300159	Pvt. Leon F. Hawkins	20833513
Cpl. Robert Light	35261627	Pvt Bert Dickelberg	32691116
Pvt Irwin A. Reeves	37132161	Pfc. Walter R. Girouard	31275851
Sgt Woodrow P. Wheeler	32044648	Cpl. David M. Garrison	32601242
Pvt Michael Lasenica	32601466	Tec 5 Muzi C. Lettausia	33163189
Pvt Timothy J. Hartes	32081470	Sgt Royal A. Samuelson	39181702
Sgt John D. Koon	14004900	Pvt Charles J. Keltkamp	37015054
Pvt Jack Kleinfeld	32601515	Tec 4 James W. Bradshaw	36017878
Tec 4 Arthur J. Plathe	37112102	Tec 5 Frank J. Lemme	32080790
1st Lt. Richard J. Merrill,	O-1169249	Tec 5 Charles E. Webb	35537397
Tec 5 Stephen Sales	32081236	Tec 5 Donald Raybuck	33017503
Pfc Richard F. Smith	32601239	Pvt Herbert McKimney	33163241
Pvt Delbert W. McConnell	18160322		

*Ray T. McGrath*  
RAY T. McGRATH  
Capt. 610th TD Bn  
Historian

*Arthur B. Jeffery*  
ARTHUR B. JEFFERY  
Lt. Col. 610th TD Bn  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

A. P. O. 403, U. S. Army  
3 November 1944

SUBJECT: History of Organization. (After Battle Report)

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C.  
(Thru Channels)

In compliance with AR 345 - 105, par 13, dated 18 November 1929 and changes thereto, the following report for the month of October is submitted:

1. Original Unit
  - (a) Designation: 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion.
  - (b) Date of Organization: 10 April 1942.
  - (c) Place of Organization: Camp Berkeley, Texas.
  - (d) Authority for Organization: Special Order #88, Headquarters, 45th Infantry Division, dated 10 April 1942.
  - (e) Source from which personnel was obtained: Cadre of 5 Officers and 77 Enlisted men from 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Infantry Replacement Center, Camp Walters, Texas; Replacement Reception Center, Ft. Devens, Massachusetts; Replacement Reception Center, Ft. Dix, New Jersey.
2. Changes in organization due to changes in Tables of Organization: Battalion under T/O 18-35, 36, 37 dated 7 May 1943 (Towed Tank Destroyer Battalion) was reorganized under T/O 18-25, 26, 27, 28, (self propelled) dated 15 March 1944 on 11 October 1944. Authority: Verbal orders, Commanding General, 3rd Army. Basic privates were reduced from 15% of total strength to 5% total strength per Ltr. Hq. 3rd Army, subject as above, dated 7 July 1944.
3. Strength, Commissioned and Enlisted.
  - (a) At beginning of period of October 1944: 33 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 727 Enlisted men.
  - (b) Net decrease for the month of October, 1944: 1 Officer, 1 Warrant Officer, 29 Enlisted men.
  - (c) Net increase for the month of October, 1944: 3 Officers, 16 Enlisted men.
  - (d) At the end of month of October, 1944: 35 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 714 Enlisted men.
4. Stations, (Permanent and temporary). of unit or parts thereof. Unit stationed in France.
5. Marches;  
Battalion made administrative move from bivouac 4 miles east of Toul to position south of LEHR.  
Date: 25 October 1944.
6. Campaigns.
  - (a) Name of: Western Europe
  - (b) Not completed
  - (c) Purpose: Liberation of France
  - (d) Authority: War Department

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

RESTRICTED

AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
COMMITTEES 3 16 Jan 46

(Continued)

7. Battles.

The greater part of the month was spent in reorganizing personnel and vehicles of the battalion and drawing the new M-36 (90mm) destroyers. On 21st of October a test fire was conducted against an old fort just north of TOUL. Results are tabulated in appended report.

The Battalion came under control of 9th Tank Destroyer Group on the 24th October. On the 28th of October the Battalion was given the mission of supporting the fires of the 775th F. A. Battalion, with one (1) Tank Destroyer platoon in the vicinity of BELLEAU and the fires of the 738th F.A. Battalion with two T.D. platoons in the vicinity of MAZEHULLES. Platoons of the Battalion rotated on the above missions for the remainder of the month.

8. Commanding Officer in Engagement.

Lt. Col. ARTHUR B. JEFFREY, O-405 491

9. Losses in action: (Officers and Enlisted men) None

10. Former and present members who have distinguished themselves in action: None.

*Arthur B. Jeffrey*  
ARTHUR B. JEFFREY  
Lt. Col. 610th TD Bn  
Commanding

*Roy T. McGrann*  
ROY T. McGRANN  
Capt. 610th TD Bn  
Historian

HEADQUARTERS, 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

WAK/r1

ARO 403, U. S. Army  
10 January 1945

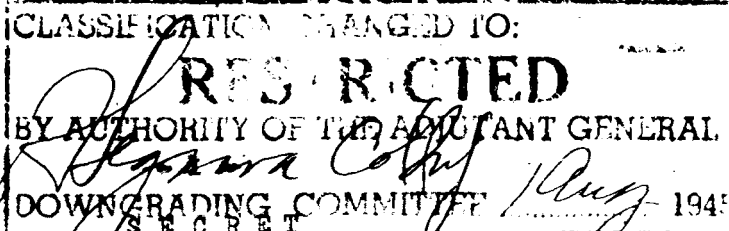
SUBJECT: After Action Report for Month of December, 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25 DC.  
(Thru Channels)

1. Attached is the After Action Report of the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion for December, 1944.

*Walter A. Kantola*  
WALTER A. KANTOLA  
Major, 610th TD Bn  
Commanding

*Roy T. McGrann*  
ROY T. MCGRANN  
Capt., 610 TD Bn  
Historian



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HEADQUARTERS, 610TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

DAS/r1

APO 403, U.S. Army

4 January 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report (Month of December, 1944).

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.  
(Through Channels).

SECTION I Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

The 610th Tank Destroyer Bn was still attached to the 80th Inf Division on the 1st December, 1944. The Bn CP was located in German barracks on the northern outskirts of ST AVOLD. A Company in direct support of the 317th Inf were in position vicinity of GUENVILLER, conducting maintenance of vehicles. B Company in direct support of the 319th Inf, had 1 Platoon located vic of BETTING, 2nd Plt at HOMBURG HAUT and the 3rd Plt at SEINGBOUSE. C Company in direct support of the 318th Inf had the 1st Plt located in HENRIVILLE, 2nd and 3rd Plts had positions on ridge W of FAREBERSVILLER. Hq Co was located 1 mile NE of FOLSCHVILLER, with a forward ammunition dump located at FOLSCHVILLER. A Company during the course of the day moved to assembly positions vicinity of LACHAMORE.

In compliance with Field Order #19, Headquarters, 80th Inf Div, dated 2nd December 1944, the Bn was to support the attack to the East with one Company attached to the 318th Inf and 2 Companies in mobile reserve. A and B Co's were in mobile reserve vicinity of LACHAMBRE and HOMBURG HAUT respectively. The Companies reconnoitered for positions in preparation to support the attack of the 80th Inf Div. The 1st Plt, Co B, vicinity of BENING was relieved by the 808th TD Bn. The 3rd of December gave no change in Bn assignments, 3rd Plt, A Company, moved to positions W of FAREBERSVILLER, to cover the advance of C Company supporting the attack of the 318th Inf., E and NE of FAREBERSVILLER. 2nd and 3rd Plts Co A and B Co remained in former location in readiness to support the attack if necessary. A Company completed the alteration of moving the machine gun mount from the rear to the forward position on the turret, to enable the gunner to more easily fire at ground targets.

On 4th December, A and C Companies supported the 318th Regt's attack N and E of PFARREHESWEILLER, with A Company covering C Co's advance, with the attack. The 1st Plt of C Company was taken under fire by 3 anti-tank guns located in the woods 1000 meters E of THEEDINGEN. One destroyer was damaged by the first shot but due to alertness and quick firing of its crew, and the remainder of the Platoon, they destroyed 2 enemy towed AT guns and 1 assault gun, mounted on a MK IV chassis, expending 7 rds APC. The 2nd and 3rd Plts fired 56 rds HE and 3500 rds .50 Cal ammo at buildings, enemy personnel, and installations. 4 prisoners were captured at close of period. All Plts of A Company returned to SENGHUSCH. 1st Plt C Company located at cross roads 1000 meters S of THEEDINGEN, and 2nd and 3rd Plts vic E of KOCHERN.

SECRET

After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued).  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

Company B received orders to attack one Plt to 2nd Cav Sqd at OBERHOMBURG. All Plts remained in vic OBERHOMBURG, in mobile reserve. The destroyer hit by AT fire, will need replacement. At 2300 hrs, on 4 December, a German time bomb completely destroyed a barracks similar to that in which the Bn CP was located, about 75 yds E of the CP. The CP immediately evacuated the building in which the CP was located and the personnel of the CP aided the Pioneer Plt of Reconnaissance Company in removing dead and injured from the demolished building.

On the 5th December, the 3rd Plt B Co, attached to 2nd Cav Sqd, moved to FREYING. No other changes in dispositions. The 1st Plt Co C, in support of 2nd Bn, 318th Inf Regt, fired 20 rds HE at enemy OP's and personnel located NE of THEEDINGEN.

On the 6th of December, the Bn was relieved of attachment to the 80th Inf Div by Operational Memorandum #49, Headquarters XII Corps and given the new mission of supporting the attack of the XII Corps. A Company was attached to the 26th Inf Div, B Company attached to the 35th Inf Div and the Bn minus attached to the 9th TD Group. At the close of the day, the Bn occupied positions as follows; A Company at BISSELT, B Co at HAMBACH, Hq Co at SAARALHE, and Bn minus at WILLERWALD.

A Company moved to ETTING on 7th of December to support the attack of the 26th Inf Div as they pass through the MAGINOT fortifications. B Company was attached to the 35th Inf Div and in turn attached to the 654th TD Bn, with 1 Plt supporting each of the 654th's Gun companies. C Company reconnoitered routes to support the 26th and 35th Inf Div's in their attack.

On 8th December, A Co in vicinity of ETTING had 1st Plt supporting the 328th Inf of the 26th Div and the 2nd Plt in support of the 104th Regt. The third Plt was in reserve. A Company fired 22 rds APC, 62 rds HE (including 5 T-105 fuses) neutralizing 8 pillboxes including 5 forts. B Co reported no change in positions. The Bn minus moved to HARSKIRCHEN, in preparation to support attack of 26th Inf Div.

On 9th December, the 1st and 2nd Plts of A Company were in position vicinity of ACHEN. The 3rd Plt from positions N of ACHEN, fired 18 rds of HE at enemy personnel at road net vic of GHOS RIEDERCHING. The 1st Plt, B Company moved to vic NEUFGRANGE, the 3rd Plt to positions E of BOIS DE SETTING. C Company was in support of the 328th Inf Regt, with 1st Platoon in position, 1000 meters S of WITTING, 2nd Plt in reserve vic of KALHAUSEN, and 3rd Plt vic of WIESVILLER.

The 1st Plt of A Company on 10th December, moved their positions, 700 meters NW of SINGLING and destroyed 1 MK V tank vic of BRANDELINGERHOFF FME, at a range of approximately 4200 meters. The 3rd Plt moved to positions 1000 meters SE of WOELFLING and destroyed 3 tanks (2 MK VI's and 1 unknown), located S of ELIESBRUCKENWALD. The 3rd Plt remained in reserve 300 meters

B  
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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued).  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

S of 3rd Plts position. 1st Plt of B Company located 800 meters S of REMELFING, 3rd Plt vic WITTRING, 2nd Plt at HAMBACH. C Company moved all Plts to vicinity of WIESVILLER, in support of 328th Regt. Reported one enemy tank destroyed. The tanks destroyed during the day were well concealed and camouflaged. In one instance a MK VI was completely concealed in a hay barn. The barn was first knocked down with HE ammunition and then the tank destroyed.

On the 11th December, the Bn, attached to the 9th TD Group, was supporting the 87th Inf Div. The Bn CP moved to HERBITZHEIM. A Company in support of the 346th Inf, had 1st Plt in position 1000 yards W of GROS REDERCHING. 2nd Plt in reserve in GROS REDERCHING. The 3rd Plt moved to positions on hill, 1000 yards N of GROS REDERCHING, where they took 4 enemy tanks under fire. They destroyed 2 tanks and reported 2 as probables. The 3rd Plt also neutralized 1 pillbox vicinity E of RIMLING. B Company was still attached to the 654th TD Bn and the 35th Inf Div. The 1st and 3rd Plts were in the vicinity of SAARINSMING, in support of the 134th and 320th Inf Regt's. The 2nd Plt remained in reserve in the vic of HAMBACH. C Company was in support of the 328th Inf Regt. The 1st Plt moved to positions on the hill, 1000 meters W of WOELFLING and at 1530, took under fire, one enemy tk. The tank went up in flames. As the destroyer moved back from its firing position, it received a direct hit from an enemy 88mm, killing the driver of the TD and wounding 3 others. The 2nd Plt moved to positions E of WIESVILLER and the 3rd Plt was in position E of WOELFLING. The Plts withdrew to vicinity of WIESVILLER for the night.

The Bn CP moved to KETING on the 12th of December. A Co's 1st Plt moved to positions on hill 370, 1000 meters S of RIMLING. The 2nd Plt was at BRANDELFINGERHOFF FME, and 3rd Plt S of MORONVILLE FME. C Co's 1st Plt was in position S of FOLPERSVILLER, the 2nd Plt in NEUNKIRCH and the 3rd Plt S of BLIESBRUCK. The 3 Plts moved to the vic of WOELFLING, covering the road nets and routes thereto and at 1700 hrs, withdrew to WIESVILLER. At the close of the day, the 2nd and 3rd Plts moved to vic N and E of BLIESBRUCKNER WALD in support of a new attack. The 1st Plt followed in reserve.

B Company was relieved of attachment to the 35th Inf Div and reverted to Bn control, moving to the vic of WITTRING, on 13th December. 2nd Plt of C Co moved to positions at BELLEVUE FME and the 2nd Hon Plt of C Co moved to high ground, 2000 meters S of OBERGAILBACH, manning an OP.

On the 14th of December, the 2nd and 3rd Plts of A Co moved to hill LE SCHLIETZEN, just W of RIMLING. B Co reconnoitered for possible assembly areas at WIESVILLER, WOELFLING, GROS REDERCHING and ACHEN. 2nd and 3rd Plts of C Co moved to the general vicinity of OBERGAILBACH.

REF

The Bn CP moved to GROS REDERCHING on the 15th of December. The 3rd Plt position of A Company is covered by the 1st and 2nd Plts from the high ground to the rear. B Company closed in WOELFLING at 0900 hrs. The 2nd Plt B Company occupied positions on the high ground 1000 meters SW of RIMLING, covering the road net N and E of the town. C Co's 1st and 3rd Plts in vic of crossroads, 2000 meters S of OBERGAILBACH, destroyed 1 MK VI tank and an unknown number of enemy personnel in woods, 1500 meters NW of ERCHINGEN. The 2nd Plt fired at 3 tanks in woods 1000 meters NW of OBERGAILBACH, destroying two, one of which was a MK VI.

There was no change in the Bn's mission on the 16th of December. Initially A Co was disposed as follows; 1st Plt at ERCHINGEN, 2nd Plt at GUIDERKIRCH, and 3rd Plt W of RIMLING. The 3rd Plt fired at two tanks 1000 meters W of EPPINGEN, one of which was destroyed. A Company was relieved of its mission of supporting the 345th Inf and withdrew for a maintenance check having 1st Section of 2nd Plt with 87th Rcn Tp in vic RIMLING. At 1800 hrs, the 1st and 3rd Plt B Co in vic WIESVILLER and the 2nd Plt SW of RIMLING, moved to an assembly area at ERCHINGEN in preparation to sup the 345th Inf Regt. The 1st Plt of C Co moved from ~~position~~ position in eastern edge of woods, 1200 meters SW of OBERGAILBACH, moved at 1400 hrs, 1000 meters SE to fire at three enemy vehicles located E of PEPPERNUM. Poor visibility prevented observation of the results. The 2nd Plt took up road block 800 meters E of OBERGAILBACH and the 3rd Plt moved to the high ground, 1000 meters N of OBERGAILBACH.

On the 17th, 1st Plt A Co and 2nd Plt minus 1 Section, moved to ERCHINGEN. The 3rd Plt was in GUIDERKIRCH. B Company in direct support of the 345th Inf had all Plts in ERCHINGEN, with mission of protecting the right flank of the Regt. C Company was in direct support of the 347th Inf, with Plts leapfrogging forward in support of the attack. The 1st and 2nd Plts were on road blks vic WALSHEIM, and the 3rd Plt on high ground, 1500 meters S of WALSHEIM. The 3rd Plt destroyed 1 tank (MK IV) and 1 enemy machine gun in WALSHEIM.

On the 18th of December, A Co was still in mobile reserve vic of GUIDERKIRCH, conducting maintenance. B Co in direct support of 345th Inf, had 1st and 2nd Plts vic of ERCHINGEN, with the 3rd Plt, 1000 yds W of MEDERSHEIM. The 2nd Plt of C Co fired 4 rounds at an enemy tank, with unknown results. On the 19th, all Plts Co C moved to high ground vic of WALSHEIM, affording better fields of fire.

On the 20th, A Company moved at 1430 hrs to relieve C Company. The 1st and 2nd Plts were in vic of WALSHEIM, with the 3rd Plt SE of GERSHEIM. At close of day, Bn relieved of mission of supporting the 87th Inf Div and prepared to move to new area vic of LEUDELANGE, DUCHY of LUXEMBOURG. A and C Co assembled in area NE of BRANDERFINGERHOFF FME, B Co assembled in area BELLEVUE FME. Two tanks previously reported as probables on the 15th were confirmed as destroyed. (MK IV's).

The Bn was relieved of attachment to the 9th TD Gp on the 21st of December and the Bn CP was established in DOMMELDINGEN, closing at 1700 hrs. A Co given the mission of supporting the 317th Inf and closed in area vic HEDMSANG at 220130.

REF

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After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued)  
Section 1, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

B Co supporting the 318th Inf closed in MERSCH at 212400. C Company in sup of the 319th Inf moved to KEHLEN, closing at 220100. Ren Co moved to DOMMELDINGEN and Hq Co moved to EERTANGE.

A Company was relieved of attachment to the 317th Inf and replaced Co C with the 319th Inf. 1st Section 1st Plt was in MICHELBUCH, 2nd Section in FEULEN, 2nd Plt at HEIDERSCHEID and the 3rd Plt on road blocks vic VICHTEN. B Co moved all three Plts to the highground SW of ETTLEBRUCK and fired 61 rds HE, causing unknown losses to enemy personnel. Co C initially attached to the 319th Inf, with 1st Plt S of MERZIG. 2nd Plt vic FEULEN and 3rd Plt vic MICHELBUCH, fired 75 rds HE and 55 rds APC, knocking out 1 Arty piece and destroyed 2 building housing enemy installations. C Company was relieved at 2000 hrs by A Company and moved to BOEVANGE to conduct maintenance. Hq Co moved to BOFFERDANGE and the Bn CP moved to MERSCH.

On the 23rd December, the 1st Section, 1st Plt A Co moved to HEIDERSCHEID AND SUPPORTED THE ATTACK OF THE 2ND BN, 319th Inf, on TADLER. The 2nd Plt from positions on N side of HEIDERSCHEID, destroyed 7 enemy tanks (2 MK VI), 3 halftracks, 1 AT gun, 1 MG nest and 1 ammunition dump. The 3rd Plt and 2nd section of 1st Plt, moved in support of the 1st Bn's attack on KEHMEN, then withdrew during night to edge of woods 1500 meters SW of KEHMEN. The 1st Plt B Company moved 1500 meters NW of ETTLEBRUCK and then moved in support of 319th Inf vic NIEDERFEULEN. 2nd Plt moved in support of 317th Inf, covering road nets NW and NE of NIEDERFEULEN. The 3rd Plt, SW of ETTLEBRUCK, fired 39 rds HE and 7 rds APC, destroying 1 horsedrawn large calibre arty piece and an unknown number of enemy personnel. C Company initially in mobile reserve, was attached to 317th Inf at 1500 hrs and moved to NIEDERFEULEN.

On the 24th December, A Co's 1st Section, 1st Plt and 2nd Plt vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID, destroyed 1 enemy cargo vehicle and 1 halftrack. 2nd Section, 1st Plt and 3rd Plt located 1500 meters SW of KEHMEN. The 1st Plt of B Company reverted to attachment to the 318th Inf and moved to GRENZINGEN. The 1st and 2nd Plts C Company destroyed 3 enemy tanks (1 MK VI). At 1700 hrs, all Plts withdrew to high ground 700 meters SE of NIEDERFEULEN. C Co lost 3 EM killed and 14 EM wounded.

On the 25th of December found A Company attached to the 319th Inf and B Co attached to the 317th Inf, with C Company in reserve conducting maintenance. The 1st Plt A Co, in position vic TADLER, destroyed one MK IV tank located 1200 meters S of GOESDORF, and 1 enemy CP, with approximately 30 enemy personnel. The 2nd Plt in vic RINGEL, destroyed one enemy tank (MK IV), 1 halftrack, 1 cargo truck, N of RINGEL. B Co had 1st and 3rd Plt vic KEHMEN, while the 2nd Plt withdrew to NIEDERFEULEN. B Company reported one tank possibly destroyed, 1 MG nest and an unknown number of personnel, including bicycle troops.

On the 26th, A Companies 2nd Plt replaced the 3rd Plt in vic TADLER and the 3rd Plt returned to HEIDERSCHEID. 1 EM was killed. The 3rd Plt of B Co destroyed 1 tank, 2 AT guns and at least 1 Plt Inf in the vicinity of KEHMEN. 1

**SECRET**

After Action Report (Month of December 1944, Continued)  
Section I, Summary of Daily Operations and Actions.

M36 was damaged by direct hit from enemy artillery fire. The 2nd Plt, B Co, replaced the 3rd Plt, which returned to NEIDERFEULEN. 1 Officer and 3 EM were wounded.

A Co's 1st Plt was replaced by the 3rd Plt on 27th December and returned to HIEDERSCHEID. They fired 42 rds APC and 10 rds HE, causing an unknown loss in enemy personnel and equipment. Two EM wounded by artillery fire. B Co's 1st Plt was replaced by 3rd Plt and returned to NEIDERFEULEN.

A Company rotated its 2nd and 1st Plts while B Co rotated the 2nd and 1st Plt. C Co was attached to the 318th Inf on 282030 and moved with 1st Plt vic GRENTZINGEN, 2nd Plt W of ETTTELBRUCK and the 3rd Plt N of ETTTELBRUCK.

On the 29th, 1st Plt A Co fired 7 rds HE in helping the Inf repulse a counterattack. The 1st Section of 3rd Plt moved to positions NE of HEIDERSCHEID, to cover the road to the E during the counterattack.

Two EM of A Company were wounded by artillery fire on the 30th of Dec, C Co's first Plt moved to SCHIEREN. The Pioneer Plt of Rcn Co was given the mission of totally destroying any enemy tanks knocked out, to prevent reuse by the enemy.

On the 31st, B Co's 1st Plt was relieved by the 3rd Plt. The company fired 3 rds HE and 4 rds APC, destroying an enemy OP. The 1st Plt of C Co moved to SCHIEREN.

The results of casualties inflicted on the enemy are tabulated below:

Tanks --- MK IV	22	Other Vehicles ----	7
MK V	3	Anti Tank Guns ----	5
MK VI	7	Artillery Pieces----	2
Pill Boxes ----	9	GP's -----	1
OP's -----	1	MG's -----	4
Ammunition Dps-	1		

From the experience gained by the battalion, it has been found that the tank destroyers can better employ their weapons when they are in a support role. It has been found that in many instances when we have been attached to a regiment, there are tendencies for junior Officers to order our guns into positions with only a vague knowledge of tank destroyer tactics. When the Co's are in a support role and given a mission, the trained tank destroyer Officers and men can employ their weapons more advantageously and in conformity with established tank destroyer doctrine.

*Donald A. Stewart*  
DONALD A. STEWART  
Major, 616 TD Bn  
S - 3

HEADQUARTERS  
610th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
APO 403

7 January, 1945.

SUBJECT: After action report for month of December, 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D.C. (Thru Channels).

At the beginning of the month of December, the enemy forces had been forced out of his defensive positions in the MAGINOT line fortifications and was fighting a series of delaying actions N and E of ST AVOLD from some hastily constructed field fortifications and some prepared tank traps. Harassing our forward elements with with slight to medium artillery fire and manning strong points in towns, edges of woods and easily defended natural obstacles. Enemy patrols were active and enemy activity was reported in the rear areas caused by troops coming out of the deep MAGINOT fortifications where they had remained hidden when our forces moved through. Small numbers of tanks were reported at various places throughout the Division zone. On the 1st of December one (1) tank was observed in the vicinity FREYMING and PW's reported that there were six (6) or seven (7) Tiger tanks in the vicinity FAREBERSVILLER on the 29th of November.

On the 2nd December the enemy continued his defensive organization. The 1st Battalion, 37th Regiment of the 36th Division was reported by the 5th Infantry Division to have withdrawn to prepared positions S of FORBACH and MARIENAU while the trains were reported in woods S of STIRING WENDEL. Enemy artillery fire slightly decreased during the period.

Artillery fire increased in Division sector during the 3rd of December. The 3rd Combat School Troops of the 36th Infantry Division were contacted in vicinity MERLEBACH. They were reported to have relieved elements of the 89th Regiment on the 2nd December. Five (5) enemy tanks were reported at LAUTERBACH and PW's stated there were 4 Tanks and 4 AG at EBRINGEN kept in barns. The CP of the 1st Bn 3855 Regiment is reported to be at EBRINGEN.

The enemy resisted the Division attack on the 4th December from positions on the east bank of RR tracks at PFARREBERSWEILLER but were encircled and cut off. The enemy resisted with small arms and AT fire in THEDINGEN AND KOCHERN. THEDINGEN, KOCHERN and PFARREBSWEILER were cleared of enemy troops. The 3rd and 4th Companies of 17th SS Rcn Battalion were identified vicinity FAREBERSVILLER supposedly equipped with assorted guns. The 10th and 11th Companies of the 38th SS Regiment and the 17th SS TD Bn were identified at THEDINGEN. The enemy placed interdictionary artillery fire on PFARREBERSWEILER. After we had seized the town. (8) eight tanks were reported at LOUPERSHOUSE and one (1) observed entering FORBACH. Higher Headquarters reports a tank column at WITTRING.

(After action report / month of Dec 44, Hq 610t TD Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45 cont'd):

The harrassing artillery fire lessened somewhat after midnight 4th and 5th December and 2nd Cavalry Group chased enemy from FREYING, MERLEBACH, NANWEILER, and ROSSBRUCKEN. A map captured by 6th Armored Division reveals the enemy establishing a defensive line along high ground from GROSBLIEDERSTROFF- LIXINGEN-KERBACH-DETING. The 17th SS Division Bdry on N is (QB631) to (Q4963). New identifications on the front included the 7th company of 118th Regiment, 36th Division and the 14th Company of 118th Regiment. The Battalion CP located N of ST AVOLD had been under intermittent artillery fire ever since it had been at that location. Fire was 150MM coming from due north. At 2300 hours the building 75 yards east of the Battalion CP was completely destroyed by a German delayed action bomb. The Bn CP immediately evacuating the building in which they were located and the personnel of the CP assisted the Pioneer platoon of Reconnaissance company in evacuating the injured and had from the demolished building. The building was occupied by CP of the 633rd AAA Bn and some personnel of the 10th Infantry of the 5th Division. During the day "C" company destroyed three (3) enemy anti-tank guns 1000 yards east of THEDINGEN.

The following is a summary of units identified during the preceeding week and the strength of the units on the Division sector:

NEW UNITS:

37th SS Pz Group Regiment)	
38th SS Pz Group Regiment)	
17th SS Pz Rcn Battalion )	-(17th SS Pz Gr Division
17th SS Pz Engr Battalion )	
17th SS Pz Sec Company )	

ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF UNITS ON DIVISION FRONT:

2 Bns 87th Gr Regt 36th VG Div.....	300
2 Bn 118th Gr Regt " " " .....	400
2 Bns 165th Gr Regt " " " 1.....	350
36 Div Fues Co " " " .....	50
*17 SS Pz Rcn Bn 17th SS Pz Ber Div.....	300
*3rd Bn 38 SS Pz Gren Regt 17th SS Pz Div...	500
*1st Bn 38 SS Pz Gren Regt " " " "...	500
*1st Bn 37th SS Pz Gr Regt " " " "...	400
*2nd Bn 37th SS Pz Gr Regt " " " "...	350
17th SS Sec Co " " " ".....	70
Total estimated strength.....	3220

\*Above units have a combined total of 25 tanks or assault Guns.

ARTILLERY UNITS:

288th Arty Regt 36 VG Div	22 X 105MM Hows
	12 X 150MM Hows
	18 X 75MM AT Guns
17th SS Pz Arty Regt 117th SS PGd	18 X 150MM Hows
	24 X 105MM Hows
	12 X 150MM Hows
17th SS AT Bn 17th SS PGD	6 X 88MM AT Guns
	7 X 75MM AT Guns



(After action report for month of Dec 44, Hq 610th TD Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45 cont'd):

On the 5th of December, the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 80th Infantry Division and ordered to support the attack of the XII Corps with "A" Company attached to the 26th Infantry Division. "B" Co attached to the 35th Infantry Division and the Battalion minus attached to the 9th TD Group.

The enemy front lines on the SII Corps front on the 6th December ran roughly from FORBACH (Q3965)-FOLCKLING (Q3861)-Q4461)-(Q4860)-WELFERDING (Q4957)- along SAAR River to WITTRING (Q5640)-ACHEN (Q5949) SINGLING (Q6249)-BINING (Q6448). The enemy was offering stiffening resistance against the advancing troops of the Corps north of SARR-GUEMINES the 4th Armd Div met increasing Artillery and 20MM fire. The 35th Infantry Division was meeting very light resistance in mopping up remnants of the 37th and 38th SS Regts. The 26th Division was meeting small arms fire from pillboxes and light Artillery fire. The 4th Armored Division on the right was engaged in house to house fighting in SINGLINE and street fighting in BINING. An armored engagement developed 3000 meters north of ROHRBACH les BITCHE during the day and lasted from 0900 to 1400. The enemy was forced to withdraw.

From prisoners captured during the 6th and 7th of December the larger units in contact on the Corps front are the 559th Division, the 188th Regiment, 111th PG Regt, Arty of 11 Pz Division. It is believed that the enemy Divisions have displaced slightly south about 5 Km. This Battalion turned into higher Headquarters a shoulder strap identified as the 709th Artillery Battalion (GHQ) found in a house in WILLERWALD. The enemy continued to improve his defense during the 7th December. Some enemy activity on the east bank of SARRE River. North of WITTRING was reported by the 35th Division. Enemy forces withdrew from ETTING during the day but harrassed advance elements of 26th Division with mortar, Machine Gun and Artillery fire south of LE GRAND BOIS vicinity WEIDESHEIM. Enemy was reported moving north through ACHEN and he continued to fight in SINGLING but was forced out of BINING. The estimated troops opposing the advance of XII Corps is as follows:

35th Div.....	1000
17th SS Pz Div....	3000
11 Pz Div.....	4000
25 Pz Gr Div.....	2500
130 Pz Div.....	4000
Misc .....	2000
Total....	16500

Tanks and assault guns.....100

The enemy was not aggressive on the 8th December, but attempted to improve his defensive positions in areas not under direct attack.

RESTRICTED

(After action report for month of Dec 44, Hq 610th TD Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45 sent'd):

No counterattacks were launched during the period. A Company supporting the attack of the 26th Infantry Division was credited with neutralizing 8 enemy pillboxes including 2 forts.

Enemy forces continue fighting a delaying action covering their withdrawal behind the SIEGFREID fortifications. Sniping by SS troops in civilian clothing was encountered in SAARGUEMINES while the enemy practically broke off contact in front of the 26th Infantry Division with WOELFLING and WEISVILLER clear of enemy. Corps estimated 2 enemy Divisions now opposing our advance into Germany. The 36th Division on the north with an estimated 3,000 men. South of that is the 17th SS Division with an estimated 3,000 men and in the southern sector of the Corps the 11th Pz Division with a mixture of CT's and miscellaneous units totaling 8,000 men. Tanks and assault guns estimated at 65.

The enemy continued his delaying tactics on the 10th of December using dug in Infantry and small numbers of tanks. The Battalion destroyed 5 enemy tanks during the day, one at a range of 4,200 meters.

The major unit in contact on the 11th of December was the 11th Pz Division. Elements of the 107th LEHMAN Battalion were located in HELLEVUE Fm and it was reported that there were 100 SS men in BOIS DE BLIES BRUCKEN with mission of seeing that German troops fought. The Battalion was credited with 3 tanks destroyed, 2 probably destroyed, and 1 pillbox neutralized. In the 35th Division sector the enemy was driven back to the BLIES R. where he increased his artillery, mortar, and small arms fire.

On the 12th and 13th of December very little activity was reported. There was very little activity in the North of the sector and harassing fire continued in sector of the 87th Infantry Division which had relieved the 26th Infantry Division. On the 13th December B Company was relieved of its attachment to the 35th Infantry Division and reverted to Battalion control.

Enemy withdrew in right half of sector during the 14th of December and were forced back in the left of the sector. Tanks in small numbers are reported on front firing from roving positions. The unit in contact on the 87th Infantry Division front was the 110 Pz Gren. Regt with an average company strength of 40 - 50 men. 1 Company of the EINHEIT HELDMAN Battalion which consisted of remnants of all Companies of the Battalion.

The enemy launched a counterattack at 0900 hours the 15th December from KERTZENWALD WOODS with 3 tanks and an undetermined number of Infantry. The attack was dispersed without loss of ground. PW's report the line of retreat is to the SIEGFREID LINE with the 110th PGR general line of retreat towards MEDELSHEIM, and the 111th PGR toward HORNBACH.

During the day the Battalion destroyed 5 enemy tanks, 2 of which were MKV tanks.

RESTRICTED

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(After action report for month of Dec 44, Hq 610th TD Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45. Cont'd):

The delaying action continued during the 16th and 17th of December. Enemy defended in small numbers from strong points and harassed forward elements with artillery and mortar fire. The Battalion at 2 tanks on the 16th of December, destroying one and also fired at enemy vehicles with unknown results. Company "C" destroyed MK IV tank and an enemy machine gun in the vicinity of Walsheim on the 17th of December.

During the 18th to the 20th of December enemy activity remained much the same. No new identifications were noted, and no great change in character of resistance. The sporadic artillery and mortar fire continued and some slight resistance from small arms around dominant terrain features. Enemy air activity has increased from zero to a few strafing attacks by ME 109's and reports were received of some Focke-Wolf's over the area. On the 20th of December the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 87th Infantry Division.

The 610th TD Bn traveled to Luxemburg on the 21st of December, and upon arrival, were again attached to the 80th Infantry Division.

On the 22nd December the Division shoved off in the attack. Rapid progress was made by our troops. An estimated 300 enemy in vic ETTLEBRUCK initially opposed our advance with severe small arm fire. In the central sector of the Division Zone the surprise which the attack achieved was evidenced by PW statements that the 352nd Infantry Division (with 915 Regt. on right, 916 on left and 914 in reserve were attacking SW in the direction of ARLON with mission of enveloping city of LUXEMBURG from the NE when hit. The 352nd Infantry Division was ordered to face left and dig in when hit by our attack. Co C destroyed one artillery piece and destroyed 2 buildings housing enemy installations.

The attack continued on the 23rd December. The enemy had reinforced his troops in MERZIG with some assault guns but the town was cleared. Troops advanced during the night to HEIDERSCHEID and cleared it during the day. A counterattack supported by 17 tanks was received here at 231200 but was repulsed. Enemy resisted our attack on ETTLEBRUCK and reinforced his troops there. An armored column attacked our forces SW of KEHMEN but were driven off. During the various activities of the day, "A" Co destroyed 7 enemy tanks, 3 half-tracks, 1 AT gun, 1 MG nest and an ammo dump while "B" Co destroyed a large calibre HD artillery piece.

The enemy front lines on 24th December ran from ETTLEBRUCK-KEHMEN-(P756476)- W along SURE RIVER. Elements of the 79th VG Division were contacted on the front, the 226th Gr. Regt., the 79th Fus Co., 79th VG Regt. as well as some miscellaneous units such as Hq units of 13th Para Regt of 5 Para Div, 18th Nebelwerfer Brigade and 3 Co Fus Bn, Fuehrer Brigade, Gros Deutschland Div. The enemy aggressively resisted the attack in the Div zone. Two counterattacks W of ETTLEBRUCK were repulsed. Two counterattacks at KEHMEN at 240800 and 241240 were launched. Tanks and Infantry C/Attd HEIDERSCHEID from W, NW, and SW at 240820 but was repulsed. During these attacks "A" Co destroyed 1 cargo vehicle and 1 half-track. C Co destroyed 3 enemy tanks (1 Mk VI).

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(After action report for month of Dec 44, Hq 610th TD Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45. Cont'd):

The enemy continued his heavy defense action on the 26th of December. Artillery fire was heavy and an estimated battalion of infantry defended Kehmen. And aggressive defense of Ringel with the enemy launching an infantry counter-attack from the high ground to the south east. The attack was repulsed and our troops cleared the town. During the day we destroyed 2 enemy tanks and possibly destroyed another as well as 1 CP, 1 half track, 1 cargo truck and 1 machine gun nest. Enemy air activity had become increasingly active in this area.

The enemy continued his defense of Kehmen on the 26th of December. Our troops were opposed by heavy small arms, machine gun and artillery fire. The enemy laid time fire on the town and high ground to the west. Our troops drove the enemy from Scheidel. Company "B" was credited with destroying 1 tank, 2 anti-tank guns and numerous infantry.

The enemy front line on the 27th of December ran through Welscheid-Scheidel-Kehmen- (P765A78)-Northeast of Ringel- West bank of Sure River- along North bank of Sure River. The enemy was trying to secure the high ground North of Ringel to improve his defensive line but his counter-attack broke down under the pressure of our troops. Heavy artillery and harassing fire continued. The 352nd Infantry Division, badly chewed up by the Division attack has withdrawn from contact apparently being replaced by the 79th V.G. Division.

During the early phases of the enemy break-through against the VII and VIII U.S. Corps the morale of the enemy troops was understandably high. As the attack progressed and reverses were met in most sectors the morale dropped sharply. PW's complained of the lack of warm food and clothing. Our heavy air activity prevented the use of the enemy's few supply lines and the lack of gas was being felt in armored units and motor transportation. The enemy counted on using gas secured from American dumps he had captured and his failure to secure this gas was a serious blow to the attack.

Front lines on the 28th of December were roughly Erpeldange-Welscheid-Kehmen- East of Ringel- North East of Ringel- along North bank of Sure River. The enemy again attempted to retake Ringel, preceding his attack with a heavy artillery barrage. An estimated 150 Infantry attacked up the draw North East of Ringel at 281440 but was repulsed. Our troops occupied Ettelbruck and the high ground to the north.

Two companies of enemy troops were observed forming for a counter-attack at 291215 but were taken under fire by artillery and the attack dispersed. The enemy continues to fire harassing and interdiction fire usually on towns within the Division zone. During the past week there have been several instances of strafing by planes identified as P 47's. In all instances so far it has been attributed to misidentification of terrain or troops.

(After action report for month of Dec 44, Hq 610th T.D. Bn., dtd 7 Jan 45. Cont'd):

The last two days of the month saw little change in the disposition of troops. Both sides remained on the defensive and improved their positions while heavy patrol activity was conducted by both sides. Enemy continued to harass our positions with Arty and mortar fire. On the 31st Dec 1st platoon C Company fired upon a R R tunnel vicinity BURDEN reported to contain enemy reserves. A large explosion was observed at the tunnel entrance.

Casualties inflicted upon the enemy during the month of December by the Battalion with the exception of personnel are as follows:

TANKS

MK IV	22
MK V	3
MK VI	7
Total	<u>32</u>

OTHER VEHICLES	7
A T Guns	5
Art'y Pieces	2
PillBoxes	9
M G's	4
C P's	1
O P's	1
Ammo Dps.	1

During the month of December the Reconnaissance platoons of Reconnaissance Company have been broken down to each Gun Company giving them a task force set up. The platoons remain attached to the same companies throughout the operation. This has been found advisable where our employment has been in an attached role rather than in a support mission and on the occasion, as during the past month, when we had Gun Companies attached to different Divisions of the Corps. In this manner each Gun Company is always assured of its own reconnaissance element always being with it and a greater coordination of effort is secured by attaching the same reconnaissance platoon to the Gun Company.

*Roy T. McGrann*  
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