

ARR# 79 U

AFTER ACTION REPORT

51ST ARMED INF. BATTALION

4TH ARMORED DIVISION

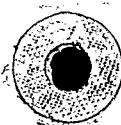
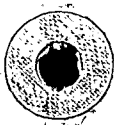
842-22

23 Aug
16 JULY 44 thru 9 MAY 45

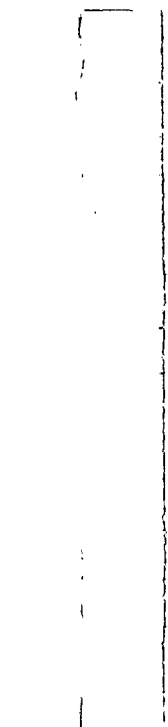
THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF, AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO,
THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT SECTION, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, S-2,
BUILDING T-5, (T-1782).

851 AIB 131

851 A1B 131



Mr. J. H. [unclear]



HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U.S. Army

AUTH: CG 4th A. Div.	
Initials	<i>JS</i>
Date	10 Nov 44

25 October 1944

SUBJECT: Operations.

TO: Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, APO 254, U.S. Army.

At 2330, on Sunday, 16 July 1944, word was received that this unit would be ready to move to the front lines by 0900 the next day to replace the Fourth Infantry Division.

Field Order #1, Headquarters Fourth Armored Division, was received to cover the movement. The Division was assigned to the VIII Corps, 1st Army. The battalion moved out at 1100, on 17 July 1944, as part of Combat Command "B" which was in the lead. And the 51st led the column, with the third platoon of Company "B" as the point. The unit moved through Stee Colombe, Orglandes, Etenville, Appeville, Boupte, and went into an assembly area one-half mile East of Blehou. The trip was approximately forty miles.

Late in the evening on 18 July 1944, word was received that the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion was being attacked in its positions in the front line, and the battalion was alerted to move to help them. At 2315, the unit moved out hastily and up to a position one mile west of Sainteny. There was a great deal of confusion and members of the 53rd were coming to the rear and telling stories about their unit being wiped out. Company "B" moved up to support the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, which was taking over the 53rd positions. Co "A" followed Co "B" but was later ordered to come back in reserve. Co "C" remained in position in reserve. Co "B" remained in support of the 10th. Casualties were evidently heavy in the 53rd and 10th, but this unit was in the rear and was not subjected to much fire. Still the men were frightened after hearing the weird tales from soldiers returning to the rear from the other two infantry battalions.

On 19 July 1944, Co "B" moved into a defensive position behind Co "A", 10th Arm'd Inf Bn, at 0530. Then they were ordered to move back to protect the left flank and rear. About noon, Co "B" returned to the original position. All this took place under heavy shelling. They remained in support of Co "A", 10th Arm'd Inf Bn. At 1830, Co "A" was alerted and moved up on foot at 1900 to take up a position behind Co "B".

At 0100, on Thursday, 20 July 1944, Co "B" relieved Co "A" of the 10th on the front line. There was continued shelling in their area. The enemy put down a heavy barrage about 1840 and continued it during the entire night. The enemy counter-attacked and, although Co "B" and Co "A" suffered heavy casualties, they held their positions, and the counter-attack was repulsed. The 1st platoon of Co "A" and one squad of the 2nd platoon moved forward to fill in Co "B's" area. At the battalion CP, there were wild rumors coming back, with exaggerated reports of casualties suffered. There was a great deal of confusion at the CP. Our artillery fired short, because the Artillery Commander had heard a report from a historical soldier that we

Ind 17

604-76.2
APR 17 1945
12706

had withdrawn. Thus, a barrage landed in our own front lines. There were many stragglers, too. One soldier returned to the Battalion CP and gave a clear picture of the situation. He reported that the companies were receiving heavy fire and suffering casualties, but the situation was not desperate, and the companies would remain in their positions despite everything. The assault guns and mortars fired for the first time, and the Reconnaissance Platoon moved forward and reinforced the front lines. The drivers and anti-tank platoon of Co "A" moved in to protect the rear and flanks of their company, and the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 704th Tank Destroyer Bn also went into the front. Every available man was established in defense around the CP. There was a total of 134 casualties in the battalion.

On Friday, 21 July 1944, the big concern of the early morning hours was to evacuate the casualties and to supply the front-line companies. There was a light shelling during the morning. Co "C" was alerted to relieve "A" and "B" and moved into position. Co "C" completed its relief by 2200. The 83rd Division was on the left flank and was contacted. The 90th Division was on the right flank of the 10th area.

On Saturday, 22 July 1944, Co "C" spent a comparatively quiet night at the front but used the time in improving positions prepared by "A" and "B". The latter companies had a chance to reorganize. Co "A" and Co "B" moved forward on foot to be able to support "C" in case of another attack. The Battalion CP changed position to one mile southwest of Sainteny at 1245. There was little enemy activity all day. Co "A" moved into position on the left of "C" and contacted the 329th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division. Patrols were sent out by "C". Salvage was gathered out of materiel left by units in position before us.

On Sunday, 23 July 1944, the men had their first view of air support attacking enemy installations to the immediate front. Positions remained static. There was slight intermittent shelling and sniper fire on "C" and patrols were sent out to deal with them and to maintain contact with units on the flanks.

Monday, 24 July 1944, was the quietest day since arrival in this sector. Co "A" was disturbed during the night and feared an attempted enemy counter-attack, but it did not develop. Out artillery was active.

At 0230, on Tuesday, 25 July 1944, there was sniper fire in Co "B's" area. The men were all thrilled by a spectacular array of bombers which passed overhead and bombed enemy installations to the front from 0930 to 1100. There were hundreds of planes that could be seen. News was received that a big push was about to begin. The first replacements, one officer and sixty-six enlisted men, were received. German propaganda leaflets were dropped in Co "C's" area.

On Wednesday, 26 July 1944, a terrific concentration of our artillery was laid down on the enemy. It was the biggest barrage seen by the unit up until this time. Co "C" reported hearing enemy vehicles moving between 0200 and 0300. Some enemy artillery was received, but it was light. At 1300, Co "A" discovered its left flank was exposed when a patrol failed to find the 329th Infantry there. The company established its own security there.

From 0001 to 0100, on Thursday, 27 July 1944, there was a heavy enemy barrage in the battalion area. It was believed that the enemy infantry was withdrawing along the entire Corps front. Orders were expected at any moment for the unit to

advance. Lt Col Maybach and a patrol from Co "C" were the first Allied troops to enter the town of Raids.

At 0300, on Friday, 28 July 1944, the Commanding Officer issued warning orders for the battalion to be ready to move at 0800 as part of CC"A". The battalion did not move. Thirty-three replacements were received during the day. At 1900, the unit was put under command of CC"B". The battalion finally moved out at 1900, after waiting for most of the day for other units of the Division to clear the IP. The unit was far back in column as part of CC"B", which followed CC"A". Battalion Headquarters passed through Raids at 1952, Periers at 2009, St Sauveur Lendelin at 2030, and halted on the road outside of Coutances from 2055 to 2130. The unit continued through Montuchon at 2155 and pulled into bivouac one mile North East of Coutances at 2205. Co "A" went into position in support of the 53rd Armd Inf Bn on the south side of the town. The distance of the march was fourteen miles.

On Saturday, 29 July 1944, the battalion moved forward at 1315, passed through Coutances at 1318 and proceeded southeast and moved into bivouac one mile north of Lengronne - a distance of fifteen miles. Many prisoners being sent to the rear were passed along the road. The battalion closed into bivouac at 2330.

On Sunday, 30 July 1944, Co "B" captured two officers and nineteen enlisted German prisoners early in the morning. They were members of the 942nd Grenadier Regiment. The battalion left the bivouac area at 1130, passed through Lengronne, Ver, and halted $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the town, where Co "B" ran into light enemy resistance at Loiretel. An enemy delaying action caught the company on a narrow road. Attempts of enemy tanks to move in were frustrated by fire from the anti-tank guns, which knocked out one tank. The enemy seemed to retire but opened fire on Co "B" with anti-tank guns and AP ammunition, inflicting heavy losses in personnel. There were two enemy tanks destroyed, with four or five more probably destroyed. Six battalion vehicles were damaged. The battalion went into bivouac near Ver. Twenty prisoners were taken during the day. The battalion lost fifty-two men.

On Monday, 31 July 1944, the battalion left the bivouac at 0900, with the objective of moving to an area south of Avranches. Movement was slow, with long halts in the column. Destroyed enemy vehicles all along the route showed the effectiveness of the Air Corps. The route of march was through La Blanchiere, La Meurdiquiere, Blanchamp, La Mouche, and Pte Coquerie. The battalion went into an assembly area three miles northeast of Avranches after a long wait along the road for orders. Many prisoners were captured - more than 150. At 1700, orders were received to move out to the vicinity of Tirepied and to contact the 8th Tank Battalion, which was being attacked. Co "C" sent a platoon to help the 22nd Armd FA Bn, which was also being attacked. The battalion reached its objective north of Tirepied at 2300, and contacted the tanks. A platoon of Co "A" outposted the tank area. So many prisoners were captured that many were sent to the rear by themselves.

On Tuesday, 1 August 1944, the third platoon of Co "A", outposting the tanks, spent most of the night engaged with small enemy forces, and captured one German officer and fifteen men. The battalion moved out at 1000, with Co "A" in the lead. The mission was to secure and hold the crossroads and bridge at Montviron. Upon reaching the objective, at 1430, Co "A" outposted the area, and the 3rd platoon was fired upon by enemy tanks. The AT squad knocked out the first tank. The 3rd platoon command half-track was set on fire. The attached platoon of TD's engaged the enemy

tanks, along with the Co "A" AT platoon. Meanwhile, Co "B", moving into a nearby assembly area on high ground off the road, lost three half-tracks from "88" fire, and moved into another area hastily. One enemy tank tried to outrun our guns and overran a Medical Detachment jeep as it rounded a corner. The tank was stopped later. By 1640, all enemy resistance was overcome. A total of four enemy tanks and two personnel carriers was destroyed - all by fire from the attached TD's, except for the one tank knocked out by an "A" Co AT gun.

The detail of the Reconnaissance Platoon, the Adjutant, and Battalion Sergeant-Major, which had been sent out the day before to evacuate prisoners, returned. They had been through Avranches, contacted the 53rd Arm Inf Bn, were cut off, couldn't find the battalion and started back this morning. On the way, the group, consisting of two officers and twenty-one men, captured more than two hundred enemy, comprising the remnants of the German 896th Field Artillery Battalion, in a strong-point at Tirepied. Three soldiers from the 3rd Armored Division, in the hands of the Germans, were recaptured, along with fifteen German prisoners, by Co "A" and Co "B" during the day. There were a few known enemy dead.

At 1700, three German planes flew overhead very close to the ground but did not attack. The battalion left at 1930 to move to Ducey to join the Reserve Command. Upon arrival at 2330, the head of the column halted at the town, pulled off to the side of the road, and waited further orders.

During the night of 2 August, there was a great deal of enemy air activity a short distance away. Planes were attacking another column, and the sky was lit up with flares and tracers. At 0230, the column moved into bivouac areas off the road while waiting for further orders. Early the next morning the battalion moved out, with Co "C" in the lead. The march was thirty-two miles from Ducey to an assembly area just south of St Aubin-d'Aubigne, arriving at 1400. The population along the way lined the streets, cheered, and passed out bottles of wine and cognac to the vehicles.

On 3 August 1944, the battalion reverted to CC"B", which was given the mission of blocking the Brittany Peninsula. The column moved along and was supposed to be divided into three task forces to take and defend the towns of Derval, St Vincent, and Chateaubriant. The column moved through St Germain, Vignac, Bedee, and reached Phelan-le-Grand at 1430, where a road block was encountered. Co "C", which was at the head of the column, reduced the block, and a small group of enemy armed with machine guns. We passed through Guer at 1700, after meeting resistance there, too. Evidently the enemy was attempting to delay our advance by establishing small strongpoints at each town along the route. We passed through Carentoir at 1825. Along the route, warning came back along the column by radio to beware of mines along the shoulders of the road. The battalion reached Derval by midnight. There was a change in orders at first but the orders were changed again to the originally-planned three task force set-up.

On Friday, 4 August 1944, a task force consisting of Co "B" and other units, under Major Alanis established a strong-point at Derval amid the excited populace, which suddenly became aware of its freedom as this unit came upon them in the middle of the morning. Church bells began to ring, as they had done all along the 81-mile march to this destination, and the people had to be quieted down. Co "A", as part of another task force, was supposed to drop out along the way at St Vincent

[REDACTED]

but got lost and continued on to Chateaubriant, with the task force consisting of Hq, Hq Co and Co "C", under the command of Lt Col Maybach. There was a great deal of confusion in Chateaubriant as it grew light. The 696th Armd FA Bn was also in town. But eventually things were straightened out, and units went to their correct assembly areas. Hq & Hq Co remained in Chateaubriant, looking for the remainder of the task force, which was south of town. Before getting out, the maintenance section of Hq Co shot up four enemy ammunition trucks which were coming into the town at first light and blew them up. Finally, the Hq Section rejoined the remainder of the force on a ridge south of the town. The men dug in and prepared to meet enemy coming from the front and rear. It was believed that enemy troops would be moving south from Rennes, which had been taken, and would thus fall into the hands of the column at one of the three points. During the morning, a few enemy vehicles and personnel started to come along the roads which were well covered by our men, and they were fired upon. Prisoners and enemy wounded were coming in, and various elements were in contact with enemy forces. At approximately 1300, an order came for the unit to move out at once and to assemble for a new mission. The other two task forces remained in position, but the one at Chateaubriant had to break contact and pulled out at 1345 and went into an assembly area one mile southwest of LeJarrier, where it remained overnight. Co "A" still remained at St Vincent with the 8th Tank Battalion, and Co "B" remained at Derval. The total number of prisoners captured today and yesterday was 72.

On 5 August 1944, the entire battalion moved in the morning to reassemble in the vicinity of Redon and to secure crossings of the river there. Bn Hq, Hq Co and Co "C" moved at 0825 through Derval, Guemene-Penfao, and went into an assembly area in the vicinity of Messac. Co "A" and Co "B" rejoined the battalion there. There was a change in mission at 2200, and word was received that CC"B", of which this battalion was a part, was to move west into the Brest Peninsula and to seize and secure the city of Lorient. The battalion remained in assembly overnight and prepared for a long march.

On 6 August 1944, Co "C" lead CC"B" and moved out at 0445. The route was le Grand Fougeray, Messac, Carentoir, Malestroit, St Jean-Brevelay, and Baud. The battalion and other companies bivouacked in the vicinity of Baud, while Co "C" went through the town and outposted the other side of it. Word was received that the commander of the garrison at Lorient was willing to surrender and that arrangements were being made with him. There was no contact with enemy troops during the day.

On Monday, 7 August 1944, the battalion pulled out at 0600. The column passed through Plouay, Arzano, and Pont-Scorff. Co "C" met heavy enemy resistance in moving toward Queven and was ordered to secure and hold the high ground overlooking Lorient and establish outposts. Co "B" and Co "C" moved out on foot to take up their positions one mile southeast of Queven.

Co "A" moved into an assembly area south of Pont-Scorff as local protection for CC"B". And shortly after moving into position, the entire field in which CC"B" and Co "A" were assembled was subjected to a terrific shelling by mortars and artillery from the east before they had a chance to dig in. Evidently, there was an OP overlooking the field because the fire was well directed. The barrage killed seven, one of whom was the company commander, wounded 31, and destroyed four half-tracks and two peeps. Finally, the OP and some of the enemy guns were knocked out. The company was completely disorganized, and the men had spread out in all directions.

The two remaining officers, attempted to reorganize the company in a field on the southern edge of town. The only part of the company left intact was the 1st platoon, which remained behind as rear guard for the combat command. The men from Co "A" were badly shaken up after their fierce shelling.

Co "A" moved in behind the battalion CP, which was located one mile north of Queven, for the night. Co "B" and Co "C", on the line, were receiving heavy shell fire and light small arms fire. Enemy patrols were active in the area. While digging in on the ridge, Co "B" watched two large German patrols pass by on the road to their front, but the Germans did not notice them.

There were estimates of large forces of enemy troops in and around Lorient, and evidently the Germans were prepared to hold out. They were firing heavy artillery, believed to be some coastal batteries, and continued to keep the entire area under shell fire. All personnel of Hq and Hq Co, except for a few to remain at the vehicles, were alerted to move on foot and occupy a position on the line that night, but it was later decided to remain there for the night.

A patrol from the 1st platoon of Co "C" was sent out at night to establish an outpost further to the front, where more of the terrain could be observed. Contact with them was lost. Hq Co lost two M-8 assault guns from shell fire.

On 8 August 1944, the CP personnel, minus the Adjutant and a group of men to furnish personnel for the radios and the defense of the area, moved up at 0700 to take up a position between Co "B" and Co "C" on the line as a forward CP. Co "A" remained in the rear as the battalion reserve.

A report was received that the Co "C" patrol had contacted Co "B" and had set up defensive positions near Co "B". All front-line elements continued to receive heavy shell fire during the day.

Several patrols were sent out by Co "B" to attempt to locate enemy gun emplacements. One of them ran into a three man German patrol and killed all three.

On 9 August 1944, the day was filled with the same type of activity; remaining in position under shell fire and patrolling to the front. A group of FFI men joined the battalion at the front. Orders were received to take the camouflage nets off after dark and to be ready to move early the next morning to positions northeast of Pont-Scorff. A total of 14 prisoners was taken.

On 10 August 1944, in the early morning, under cover of darkness, the battalion moved back beginning at approximately 0200. The battalion CP moved into an area 3/4 mile northeast of Pont-Scorff, with outposts ahead of the road. There was intermittent shelling, but things quieted down, and aside from normal patrolling by the line companies, things were quiet.

On 11 August 1944, the day was rather quiet. The men continued to clean up and to take care of their weapons and equipment. Our mission was to contain the troops in the vicinity of Lorient for the present. The 2nd and 3rd platoons of Co "A" were on outpost, and the 1st platoon was used as a roving patrol between them. Word was received that one of the outposts was being attacked by thirty Germans, and the remainder of the 2nd platoon was sent up to investigate, but it was only nine men who were walking up on the outpost without seeing it. A machine-

gunner had his gun trained on them and a man from behind fired his rifle, warning the Germans and they got away. The other companies also sent out patrols. All patrols were on a planned schedule so that activity was constant in patrolling, from our front lines to the vicinity of Queven. At 1845, friendly planes dropped propaganda leaflets on the enemy, but some dropped in the vicinity of the battalion CP. Twenty-three replacements were received.

On 12 August 1944, a Co "B" patrol was out all night on patrol, and returned at 0600. A Co "A" patrol, which went out next, was cut off by the enemy and had to fight its way back. Lt Plumley, in command, employed marching fire, and returned through the enemy with a minimum of casualties incurred. Evidently, both enemy and friendly forces were content to hold what they had, and most of the activity consisted of patrolling. Co "C's" patrol, sent out in the early afternoon, contacted the enemy, too, and returned at 1830. Casualties were twenty-three, and thirteen prisoners were captured.

On 13 August 1944, the enemy shelled Co "C's" area all during the early morning. Patrols encountered no enemy resistance. It was a very quiet day. There was only one casualty, but three prisoners were captured.

On 14 August 1944, word was received early in the morning that the entire division was to be relieved by the 6th Armd Div, which was on its way down from the Brest area. The day was spent in preparing for the move. A quartering party from the 44th Armd Inf Bn arrived about noon. They relieved our units by placing the equivalent of theirs in the same position. They also took over the telephone communication system, which consisted of a total of twenty-eight miles of wire, laid by our communication section.

The order for the relief stated that the 4th Armd Div was relieved from assignment to VIII Corps and reverted to Third Army in the vicinity of St Calais. As the organizations of the battalion were relieved, they moved towards assembly areas in the vicinity of Baud. The entire battalion went into bivouac in an area five miles east of Baud.

On Tuesday, 15 August 1944, the battalion closed into the area by early morning. Bn Hq left the bivouac area at 1007 at the head of the main body of CC"B". Co "B" was in the advance guard. The towns passed through en route were; Locmine 1045, Bignan 1102, St Jean Brevelay 1118, Plumelec 1137, Serent 1206, Malestroit 1342, Ruffiac 1351, La Gacilly 1411, Sixt 1418, Pipriac 1448, Guipry 1502, Messac 1509, Bain de Bretagne 1523, Teillac 1603, Chateaubriant 1640, Soudan 1658, Pouance 1719, Vergennes 1735. The column halted at 1830 for two hours for supper, gassing of vehicles, and rest. The column started moving again at 2030. The route was Segre 2050 and Andigne 2123. The Sarthe River could not be crossed, as originally planned, at Chateauneuf-sur-Sarthe, and the column swung north and crossed at Sable, at approximately midnight.

On 16 August 1944, the column continued to move through Villaines-sur-Malicorne, after a long halt near Sable because of a mix-up in the column. Some units had taken the wrong road as a result of the change in route. Verron was passed through at 0805, LaFleche at 0818, Clermont-Creans at 0830, Pringe at 0851, Luche at 0925, le Lude at 1003, Chateau-la-Valliere at 1053, Beaumont-la-Ronce at 1213, and Chateau-Renault at 1325. The battalion moved into assembly area at Villethiou at 1400. All units were bivouacked near a small stream, and the men had an opportunity to rest and clean up. Everybody was tired. The march had been approximately 230 miles.

[REDACTED]

On 17 August 1944, the battalion was prepared to move on call, but there were no definite orders for the future, and the men had the opportunity to take care of their personal things. Small guards were maintained, and there was a great deal of opportunity for rest. Sixty-seven replacements were received.

On 18 and 19 August 1944, the battalion remained in the same area.

On 20 August 1944, the battalion remained in the same area. Orders were received to be prepared to move out the next day.

On 21 August 1944, the battalion started to move as part of CC"B". Co "A" was in the advance guard and left at 0730. The route of march was Vendome at 0845, Coulommiers at 0905, Oucques at 1003, St Leonard at 1030, La Columbe at 1110, Binas at 1213, Ouzouer-le-Marche at 1226, Charsonville at 1405, Saran at 1703, Trainou at 2010, Sully at 2025, Ingranne at 2034, Nibella at 2056, Boissonm at 2110, Juranville at 2150, and Lorcy at 2330. The battalion pulled into bivouac one half mile northeast of Lorcy at 2350. The distance of march was ninety-eight miles, and no resistance was met.

On 22 August 1944, Co "A" was the advance guard for CC"B". The company was supported by a platoon of TD's, the assault gun and mortar platoons. The column's mission was to cross the Loing River at Souppes and to come down and take the town of Montargis. The route was: Sceaux at 1205, Chateau-Landon at 1308, Souppes at 1330, Fonteneilles at 1336, Chaintreaux at 1358, Egreville at 1421, Jorey at 1515, and Ervauville at 1615. At this point, the column split and the 51st, with the 179th FA Bn, a 155 howitzer battalion, Battery "A" of the 22nd FA Bn, and a platoon of TD's, Engineers, and Cavalry, attached, moved toward Montargis. The column passed through Merinville at 1635 and La Selle-sur-LeBied at 1730. Coming through the Forest of Montargis, Co "A", as advance guard, was fired on near Paucourt. All elements pulled off the road. Co "B" was sent to support Co "A". The situation seemed dangerous because the battalion was deep in a forest. There was some heavy fighting during the evening. Our artillery and the mortar platoon laid down a heavy barrage on the enemy. The column had travelled a total of forty-two miles for the day. Seventy-five replacements were received, including one officer. Twenty-eight prisoners were taken. Co "A" and Co "B" maneuvered into position to be prepared to attack in the morning.

On Wednesday, 23 August 1944, in the morning, elements of Co "B" cleaned out some houses in town, and Co "A" sent a patrol through the town. Prisoners captured were from the 338th Infantry Division, the 757th and 758th Grenadier Regiments and the 338th Artillery Regiment. Prisoners stated that they had marched 150 kilometers to reach the area. The column started moving at 1530, as soon as it had been determined that the town was clear. While on the road, word was received over the radio that Paris had fallen. Dead Germans were strewn all over the town of Paucourt. The column moved on to the vicinity of Montargis. Word was received that the 35th Infantry Division had entered the town from the other side and was now holding it. The enemy was withdrawing to the east and southeast. The battalion bivouacked north of Montargis and the battalion CP was established in the Montargis Stadium. A total of 250 prisoners were taken. Most of them were captured in the Forest of Montargis by a platoon of Co "C", which was rear guard for the column. They were assisted by the tanks. A great many enemy were killed, too. Orders were received for the battalion to be ready to move the next day.

On 24 August 1944, at 0900, the 51st and its attached units moved out with a mission of taking Ferrieres, cleaning up the town and continuing on to Bazoches. The 177th FA Gp, with the 253rd FA Bn, joined the column, and the 179th and A/22 were put under the group. Bn Hq left at 0930, passed through Paucourt at 0953, Griselles at 1030, and halted on the road outside of Ferrieres, where some enemy resistance was met and overcome by Co "B". At 1300, the column continued on, moving through Dignon at 1350. Bazoches-sur-leBetz was entered at 1418 without meeting any resistance. The 51st, minus Co "A", A/704, minus a platoon, and the 253rd minus a battery, remained in Bazoches. A task force consisting of Co "A", a platoon of A/704, and a battery of the 253rd moved to take and hold Cheroy. The enemy had withdrawn without fighting, and there was no encounter as this task force entered the town. The two towns were outposted for the night. No casualties were suffered. Twenty-seven prisoners were taken that day.

At 0824, on 25 August 1944, the battalion and attached units moved to take the town of St Florentin. Co "C" was detached to join a task force with the 8th Tank Battalion. The route of the Battalion was through Jouy at 0835, Cheroy at 0915, where the separate task forces merged, St Valerien at 0938, Sens at 1030, Maloy-le-Petit at 1110, Le Petit-Villiers at 1130, and Vaumont at 1145. At that point, it was learned that St Florentin had already been taken, and the new objective was Auxon. The column started moving again at 1230, passing through Cerisiere at 1235, Arces at 1328, Vachy at 1342, Champlost at 1412, Sommeville at 1457, and Eaux-Puiseaux at 1742. The column closed in bivouac area on the east edge of the town at 1745. Another column had already taken Auxon. Co "C" rode up on the tanks in their column. The battalion went into position around the town of Eaux-Puiseaux, and Co "A" and Co "B" outposted the town. Co "C" remained with the 8th Tank Bn, east of Auxon. The battalion dug in and awaited orders.

During the early morning of 26 August 1944, a German transport crashed in the vicinity. The 3rd platoon of Co "B" was sent out to establish an outpost south of Auxon. An urgent call was received at 0600 that a Cavalry Group screening to the south was being attacked. A task force was quickly gotten together from the tanks, Co "C", and including the 3rd platoon of Co "B", and went to their aid.

At 1000, 27 August 1944, the task force returned from Cerisey, reporting that the enemy had fallen back by the time they arrived. It was generally a quiet day. The battalion was prepared to move at a moment's notice, but there were still no definite orders.

On 28 August 1944, the battalion moved out as part of CC"B" at 1220. Co "C" was still attached to the 8th Tank Battalion. Our objective was Piney. The route was through Auxon at 1242, Chamoy at 1252, Le Cheminot at 1300, Villery at 1307, Revilly at 1315, Chevilelle at 1330, St Germain at 1335, St Andre at 1343, Troyes from 1344 to 1409, where we crossed the Seine River, Crenery at 1418, Belle-Epine at 1441, and Piney at 1512. We moved into bivouac south of Piney at 1545. The march was uneventful, but destroyed German vehicles were strewn all along the road. Co "C" continued to ride on the tanks and moved into an assembly area West of Piney. Intelligence information revealed great numbers of enemy in the vicinity. Co "A" and Co "B" established strong outposts around the town. There were no engagements with the enemy.

On 29 August 1944, the entire battalion was awakened at 0500 in case of an enemy attack, but nothing developed. It was reported that the 15th Panzer Division was moving towards us in two columns. Co "C" reverted to battalion control and

was placed on outpost South of Piney. All men at the Battalion CP were dug in to establish a line with the rifle companies. Evidently, the pressure of an enemy attack was off. The liaison planes and other sources of information reported an enemy in the immediate vicinity.

On 30 August 1944, the battalion was awakened at 0500 in preparation for movement. Our mission was to clear out the large woods to the south of Piney. An HQ pulled out at 0700 and arrived at Giraudot at 0820, where the battalion went into assembly. The line companies dismounted, and after an artillery barrage on the forest, moved through in an effort to drive out an enemy force of about six-hundred reported there. They met no opposition. By 1020, the battalion was reassembled and moved through the Forest d'Orient in column. On both sides of the road could be seen tremendous mounds for fuel and ammunition. Some had been destroyed by the Germans themselves, and the day before, the Engineers, accompanied by the 3rd platoon of Co "B", had set off some of the fuel. Still a great deal of it was untouched. The column passed through Vendevre at 1817, Amance at 1848, Dieuxville at 1915, Brienne-la-Vieille at 1928, and pulled into bivouac area two miles South of Brienne-le-Chateau at 1940. Distance of the march was twenty-nine miles. News was received that the enemy might attempt to run an armored train along the railroad nearby, and the tracks were mined.

On 31 August 1944, the battalion moved out at 0800 and passed through the following towns: La Rothiere at 0805, Petit-Mesnil at 0812, Chaumesnil at 0818, La Chaise at 0854, Soulaimes at 0916, Tremilly at 0930, Nully at 0935, Elumerly at 1000, Villieres-aux-Chenes at 1038, Doulevaint-le-Chateau at 1127, Charms-en-l'Angle at 1215, Brachay at 1225, Mathons at 1410, Nomecourt at 1422, where the column halted. The column was supposed to cross the Marne River, but it was reported that all bridges were out in the vicinity of Chatonrupt. Co "A" went ahead and secured a crossing while the engineers repaired the bridge. Co "B" moved to Magneax and outposted that town and the towns of Averanville and Villiers, with a platoon each. The remainder of the battalion halted along the road until 1745, when it went into an assembly area just northeast of Sommancourt. At this point, the battalion crossed the route of the 51st in the last war. There were no casualties, but twenty-one prisoners were captured along the way. The battalion remained in position waiting for the bridge to be built.

For the Battalion Commander,

Philip Dorf
PHILIP DORF,
1st Lt, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
Adjutant.

4 Incls:

- Incl # 1 - Memo re: Loss of S-2 Journals
- Incl # 2 - Memo re: Loss of S-3 Journals
- Incl # 3 - S-3 Journal, 23 Aug 1944 to 31 Aug 1944
- Incl # 4 - Work Sheet Journal, 19 Aug 1944 to 31 Aug 1944

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

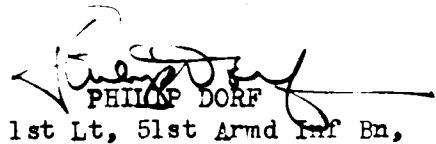
25 October 1944

MEMORANDUM;

TO : Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, APO 254, U. S. Army.

The S-2 Journal prior to 19 August 1944 was destroyed and is not submitted for that period of operations.

For the Battalion Commander,


PHILIP DORF
1st Lt, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
Adjutant.

INCL #1

SECRET

116

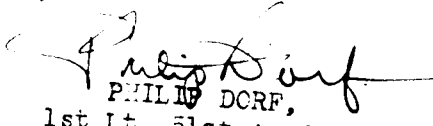
SECRET
HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

25 October 1944

MEMORANDUM:

- TO : Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, APO 254, U. S. Army.
1. S-3 Journal was completely destroyed in actual combat and is not available for the period until 23 August 1944.
 2. Message file was incomplete, and messages remaining gave no additional information for this phase of operations, therefore, none is submitted.

For the Battalion Commander:


PHILIP DORF,
1st Lt, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
Adjutant.

INCL #2

SECRET
117

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS, FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BALLALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

25 October 1944

SUBJECT: S-3 Journal of Operations, from 23 August 1944 to 31 August 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 4th Armored Division, APO 254, U. S. Army.

23 August; Mission-Accomplished-Montargis cleared of enemy. Bivouac 2 mi. N. of town G2947 at 1700- Moved on same route to new location G2847 at 2015.

24 August; Moved out at 2015 contacted 320th Inf at Montargis 1050. Moving N.E. on new mission. Objective Cheroy. In assembly area at Bayachis located G4759.

25 August; Moved out and crossed IP at 0900 moving on to objective St Florentin. Orders changed at check point (13) to move to Auxon. Bivouac at Eaux-Puiseaux Y13642.

26 August; En reported St Carisey. Task Force of Inf & Art to clear Carisey repts clear. Task Force returns to Y140545.

27 August; Remained in bivouac at Eaux-Puiseaux & waiting orders.

28 August; 1235 Left Bivouac Eaux-Puiseaux Y136542 1,100,000 Auxerre Map, at 1235. Arrived assembly area South of Piney Y483787 Map; Troyes 1,50,000 at 1630. Remained here until 0730 30 August 1944.

29 August; Remained in bivouac awaiting further orders. S. Piney Y483787 Map; Troyes 1,50,000.

30 August; Moved South toward Geroudot 0730 from Bivouac Piney Y483787 Map; Troyes 1,50,000. Mission of 51st AI Bn; Clear area and forest East of line Piney-Lusigny. Then move E. from Brienne with CC"B". At 0830 moved into assembly area 1/2 Km SW of Geroudot Y475734 Map; Troyes 1,50,000. En fired upon in woods 1 Km S. of Assembly Area by artillery. Left assembly Area 1630. Proceeded 1 1/2 Km S. of Piney turned S.E. toward Vendevre. Arrived bivouac area 1900 Y 545784 3 Km S.E. Brienne-la-Vielle. No enemy activity.

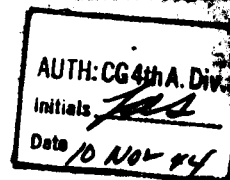
31 August; Left bivouac area 0800 crossed IP Y675785 0830. No enemy activity. 15 minute halt Y870781 Map; 13G 1,100,000.(1000B) Bridge blown at river crossing moved into bivouac area Z013937 Sheet 13G awaiting further orders.

Harry S. Rockefeller
HARRY S. ROCKAFELLER
Capt, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
S-3

INCL # 3

118

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army



28 October 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (through channels)

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after-action report is submitted for the month of September, 1944.

Friday 1 September 1944.

Company "B" lead the Battalion across the Marne, moving from its assembly area at 0315. The order of march for the Battalion was Company "B", "A", "HQ", "C". The route was Chatonrupt 0715, Autigny le Grand 0845, Autigny le Petit 0847, Carel 0852, LeVal D'Onse 0902, Effincourt 0932, Pancey 1005, Echenay 1036, Gillaine 1110, Cirfontaines 1200, Chassey 1214, Lumeville-en-Ornois 1220, Horville 1232, Gondrecourt 1246, Gerauvilliers 1326, Badonvilliers 1427, Epiez-sur-Meuse 1504, Burey-enVaux 1517, Meuse River 1535, Sepvigny 1545, bivouac area north of Sepvigny on the high ground (507976).

Little enemy resistance was encountered en route. At Chassey an enemy column was intercepted coming into town from the southwest. They immediately retreated on the main road going east from Chassey. A platoon from Company "B," plus the assault gun platoon, gave chase and succeeded in capturing twelve prisoners before the enemy escaped into the Bois d' Herville. These prisoners were part of an engineer-labor unit moving up from the south of France, and they were interested only in flight, not fight.

Our Reconnaissance elements reported seeing Germans on bicycles fleeing to the east at the point where the Battalion crossed the Meuse.

Upon arrival in the bivouac area, the Battalion took up a defensive position with Companies "A" and "B" abreast, "B" on the right, prepared to defend against any attack from the east. One platoon from "A" outposted the Battalion position at Uruffe. One platoon from "B" had the same mission at Pagny-la-Blanche-Cote.

Period 2-9 September 1944.

The Battalion remained in this location during this period. It was felt that we had "run away" from our supplies, as we could not obtain gasoline. Some gasoline was flown in by C-47's. Other than nightly aerial action, enemy contact during this time was non-existent. On September 9th, the Battalion received a warning order preparatory to movement.

Sunday 10 September 1944.

Company "C" rejoined the Battalion at 1500. The Battalion was alerted for movement that afternoon. A change in orders required movement the following morning. Another change stated movement would be at 1900, and shortly thereafter still another order to move the next morning. Finally orders were received after 1900 to move at 1900. The movement started at 2000, with Company "B" acting as advance guard for the Battalion. The normal attachment was made of a platoon of Tank Destroyers and assault guns to the leading Company. Our objective was to

64-70.2

93

18

SECRET

secure a bridgehead across the Moselle. The route of march was Sepvigny, Champougnny, Pagny-la-Blanche-Cote, Traveron, Sauvigny, Rumpes, Pumerot, Autreville, Harmonville, Saulxerotte, and Favieres, which was the location of the column at midnight. No contact with the enemy.

Monday 11 September 1944.

The column continued to move through the early morning hours, along the route Battigny, Mont-Curel, Thorey, Chaouilley, Praye-sous-Vaudemont, Xirocourt, Vaudeville, Bois. The Battalion moved into an assembly area (894834) at 0645. The bridge over the Moselle at Bainville was blown. Companies "A" and "C" moved forward to establish a bridgehead. The boundary between companies was the east bound road at Bainville. Their mission was to seize the high ground across the river while the engineers repaired the bridge. Company "C" on the left of the road, moved to the east bank of the Moselle, where it came under extremely heavy mortar and small arms fire. There was no opportunity to maneuver owing to the course of the river. Its leading elements were driven back into Bainville. Company "A", which had originally planned to use assault boats, found a ford and moved to the center of the river valley. There it halted and attempted to establish contact with "C" so that the advance could be resumed. Contact was impossible as "C" had withdrawn to Bainville. The Battalion Commander decided to cross Company "B" behind "A" and then have Company "A" slip to the left across the company boundary. This would then place "A" and "B" abreast, with "B" on the right.

This movement was practically completed before dark, under sporadic mortar and small arms fire. These two Companies remained in position all night. Company "C", which had suffered thirty-five casualties, was placed in reserve. A total of nine prisoners had been taken, and a patrol from Company "B" had found five enemy dead, indicating they had suffered rather heavily. The prisoners were from the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division and stated they had just arrived from Italy.

Tuesday 12 September 1944.

Meanwhile, the north column of Combat Command "B" had effected a crossing at Bayon, to the north. The Combat Command plan now called for the south column to move to the north and cross at Bayon. Accordingly, the Battalion, plus attachments moved north at 1450 along the route Lebeuville, Lemenil-Mitry, Roville, and crossed the Moselle River at Bayon. An assembly area was occupied in the vicinity of Villacourt. One platoon from "B" was placed on outpost duty at proville. The Battalion remained in this assembly area for the night. Enemy and friendly artillery was active throughout the night.

Wednesday 13 September 1944.

During the morning, the Battalion was alerted for movement to Vitrimont. This move started at 1355, and the route of march was Froville, Einvaux, Landecourt, Lanath, Mont. The bridge at Mont was out, but there was a ford which the tanks could use.

A platoon from "B" Company was sent to Luneville to investigate the bridge at that point. The platoon met resistance in the form of dismounted men, mortar, and small arms fire. At the approach of the platoon, the enemy withdrew back across the bridge and then set off prepared demolitions on the bridge.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the Battalion moved into an assembly area on the south bank of the Meurthe near Mont. A platoon of tanks, with a platoon of "C" Company mounted on them, forded the river. Protection to the engineers

94

engaged in building the bridge. Several had been captured, and the Battalion suffered two casualties.

SECRET

Thursday 14 September 1944.

During the early morning hours, the engineers completed an excellent pontoon bridge on which the column crossed at 0730. Company "A" moved forward to the North edge of the Forêt de Vitrimont. The remainder of the Battalion moved into an assembly area in the Forêt de Vitrimont. The high ground north and northeast of Vitrimont was the next objective of the Battalion. Two platoons of tanks and two platoons of "B" Company were given the right half of the objective. One platoon of tanks and "A" Company were given the left (west) half of the objective. A platoon of tank destroyers was attached to each attacking company. "B" Company's attack jumped off at 1530, preceded by a strong fifteen-minute artillery preparation on the woods east of the objective. The artillery concentration was designed to drive out any enemy occupying these woods, as it was felt that this position was the most dangerous in our path. As the mounted attack progressed across the intervening ground, it came under anti-tank fire from these woods.

This fire caused immediate loss of one tank and the eventual loss of two more. "B" Company suffered one casualty. The tanks halted, as planned, just short of the crest. "B" Company dismounted, crossed the crest, and dug in. Civilian reports indicated the enemy had withdrawn in great haste as the attack progressed towards them. According to plan, Company "A" jumped off at this point and proceeded to its objective without any difficulty. The enemy anti-tank weapons had been engaged and driven off by our tank destroyers. Company "C's" mission was to protect the Battalion's right flank from our objective back to the Meurthe. This necessitated a great deal of "stringing out" but the mission was accomplished.

The platoon from "B" Company at Luneville was returned to the Company prior to darkness. The remainder of the column grouped in behind the defensive positions of "B" and "C" companies and remained there for the night.

Friday 15 September 1944.

The column now received the mission of moving to Serres. Company "A" moved out at 0800, followed by the tank company and a battery of the 253rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Before the remainder of the column could move onto the road, Company "A" came under mortar, artillery, and machine-gun fire from the woods southeast of Maixe and from the high ground northeast of Einville. Company "A" dismounted and sent one platoon to the woods, meanwhile moving two platoons around to the southwest of Maixe. Company "B" was ordered forward to reinforce "A" Company's right. "B" Company moved into the woods, which was the "A" company's platoons objective. The Battalion now held the high ground south of Maixe. Meanwhile, the other column of Combat Command "B" had crossed the Marne Canal west of our position and was prepared to swing to the east and drive off the enemy holding us up. Twenty-four prisoners had been captured during the day and the Battalion had three casualties.

Saturday 16 September 1944.

A task force from the west column moved to positions across the canal from the Battalion and secured the high ground commanding Maixe. "A" Company forded the canal and held this high ground, relieving the task force. Our engineers laid two sections of trestle across the canal, and it was now possible for the Battalion and the remainder of the column to cross. The column began

SECRET

96

crossing at 1300, with Company [REDACTED] followed by the tank company, a battery of the 253rd and [REDACTED] of the Battalion. This advance guard composition, plus a platoon of tank destroyers, and the assault guns was proving the best possible combination for speedy deployment and employment.

The Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Serres. Hoeville to the north was held by the enemy and formations could be observed exiting from the town to the northeast. All of our column's long-range, direct and indirect weapons were engaged in hastening his exit. A platoon from "A" Company moved forward that night to clean out Hoeville. This platoon occupied the town, captured three enemy field pieces, two vehicles, and seven prisoners.

The remainder of the column remained in the vicinity of Serres for the night.

Sunday 17 September 1944.

Using the normal column composition, with "B" Company leading, preceded by a platoon of Cavalry, the Battalion moved out at 0730. The head of the column passed through Hoeville and entered the town of Sorneville. The Cavalry had passed through one half hour prior to the head of the column. Owing to poor visibility, however, there had been a failure to discover an enemy 20-MM gun in position in town. This gun opened fire on the leading vehicles of "B" Company. The leading elements dismounted and drove this gun off. Several of our vehicles were damaged but not inoperative. The civilians in this town started to give our troops information about the location of Germans, with the result that soon a house-to-house search was being conducted. Twenty-six prisoners were captured, and in many houses, German uniforms were found. An English-speaking civilian reported that a battalion of enemy paratroopers had left the town the night before in civilian clothes. When the town had been thoroughly searched, the column started to move out again at about 1330. Progress was made through Moncel-sur-Seille and then east towards Chambrey. The cavalry reported a road block at the road junction one half mile south of Chambrey. As the 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron investigated the block, the head of the column closed in to about four hundred yards of the Cavalry's rear. The force defending the road block opened fire on the Cavalry, causing one vehicle and one personnel casualty. The Cavalry withdrew, and the head of the column prepared to attack. A preparatory artillery barrage was placed on the "enemy" position, and a platoon from "B" company prepared to move forward on foot and seize the high ground commanding the road block.

Word was received from higher headquarters to be on the look-out for friendly troops in this vicinity. The platoon from "B" Company contacted the opposing force, and it was learned that they were friendly troops from Combat Command "A". The column was ordered to bivouac in place for the night.

Monday 18 September 1944.

The column received orders to move to Fresnes-en-Saulnois, via Chateau-Salins.

The last friendly outpost was passed at the cross-road two miles south of Chateau-Salins. They did not know if Chateau-Salins was occupied. Shortly after passing the outpost, the Cavalry reported road blocks on the edge of Chateau-Salins, and then artillery fire was received from the high ground east of the town. The enemy guns were located and taken under fire by our advance artillery battery. "B" Company dismounted with their vehicles off the road,

and prepared to move forward. The [redacted] the position and established a bridgehead around the road block [redacted] engineers could reduce them. "B" Company jumped off at 1430 from [redacted] ground south of town. A fifteen minute artillery preparation preceded their departure. The attack drove in the enemy's outpost line, and the company moved to a position abreast of the road block. Here the company halted and commenced digging in. Enemy artillery and mortar fire, at this time, became very heavy and then subsided. "B" Company was then ordered to move into town. Darkness had fallen when this move started, making control very difficult in this strange terrain. The Company moved to the road junction at the south edge of town before encountering any resistance. Here a great deal of remote-controlled explosives were apparently set off, causing considerable confusion among the men. It was considered inadvisable to try to enter the town, so the company was withdrawn to its dug in positions. Here it was ordered back to the vehicular assembly area so that heavy artillery could be placed on the town. This was accomplished.

Tuesday 19 September 1944.

Combat Command "B" issued orders to withdraw from the town and then changed them to have the Battalion attack the town. The attack plan called for "A" and "C" Company to move on the town, using the north-south road as the axis of advance and boundary between companies. Company "B" 35th Tank Battalion would support the attack. The attack started at 0730, but the enemy had occupied the line of departure during the night, and a platoon from "B" Company drove them off, allowing the attack to move forward. "C" Company, on the right, was moving across open terrain and was pinned down on several occasions. "A" Company's terrain lent itself to better use, and they were able to progress without a great deal of difficulty, to the southern edge of town. Here the attack halted, while considerable artillery fire was brought to bear on the town. At 1330, the attack continued, and "A" Company moved through the town working very closely and well with the tanks. The enemy withdrew to prepared positions in the agricultural college on the northeast edge of town. "C" Company had moved to positions abreast of the center of town and east of it. "B" Company was brought into town, and a perimeter defense of the town was established by nightfall. These positions were held throughout the night. The Battalion had thirty-three casualties and had taken thirteen prisoners. The prisoners claimed that they had been forced to fight by SS Troops. Sporadic enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire fell throughout the night.

Wednesday 20 September 1944.

The mortar platoon was brought into town during the morning. Mortar fire was placed on enemy positions in the vicinity of the school. Heavy artillery concentrations were also placed on the school and the woods adjacent thereto. The effect of the artillery fire was greatest in the wooded area, where half-naked Germans could be seen running madly about. The enemy could not be dislodged from the school, and late in the afternoon Combat Command "B" ordered our column to proceed to Fresnes-en-Saulnois. The original route given was decided against because it was under enemy observation and fire. The column took the following route; Moncel-sur-Seille, Pettoncourt, Gremecey, Fresnes-en-Saulnois. "A" Company, plus a platoon of tanks, covered the withdrawal from Chateau-Salins. The enemy shelled the town and road as "A" Company withdrew.

The head of the column reached Fresnes at 2100. The Battalion, plus attachments, was given an assembly area just south of the Fresnes-en-Saulnois-Jallaucourt road. "B" Company outpostted the position, with a platoon at Jallau-

court.

SECRET

Thursday 21 September 1944.

"E" Company's outpost captured two prisoners. These men were apparently part of a straggler unit trying to make its way back to Germany. Sporadic enemy artillery fell in the Battalion's area. Two platoons of "C" Company were moved out to Laneuveville-enSaulnois and Oriecourt.

Friday 22 September 1944.

It was a quiet day, except for a rather intense shelling at 0750. Our air was active whenever a slight break in the weather permitted.

Saturday 23 September 1944.

Company "A" moved to a position northeast of town to support the 8th Tank Battalion. The Company moved at 1800 and remained there for the night. Enemy artillery continued to fall in the area at frequent intervals. Our own artillery was very active with counter-battery.

Sunday 24 September 1944.

A heavy enemy artillery concentration fell near the Battalion Command Post at 0800. The aid station was hit hard by this fire. Three officers and thirteen aid men were hit and had to be evacuated. Combat Command "B" informed us that a relief by the 35th Division would be effected as soon as possible. The Battalion was informed that it could move back to the north edge of the Forest of Grenecey until the relief was made. The Battalion Commander elected to remain in the present location. There had been a total of thirty-three casualties during the day.

Monday 25 September 1944.

Enemy artillery continued to fall throughout the day. At 2130, the Battalion received orders to move at once to an assembly area south of Hoeville. Previously, the relief was scheduled on a platoon basis, with great deliberation. Now the order stated that the Battalion would move at once. Orders were issued to the company commanders, and preparations were made for the move.

Tuesday 26 September 1944.

The Battalion Commander's plan called for an infiltrating movement to the rear by platoons at ten-minute intervals. The order of march was "E", Headquarters, and Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment, "C", and "A". The route of march was Grenecey, Pettoncourt, Moncel-surSeille, Sorneville and Hoeville. It was an extremely dark night, and driving was very difficult.

"B" Company moved out at 0115, and the remainder of the Battalion moved as scheduled. The march lasted until dawn, when the column moved into an assembly area between Hoeville and Serres.

The Battalion had just closed into the assembly area when it was alerted to relieve two battalions of the 320th Infantry in the vicinity of Arracourt. Orders for this relief required clarification, and it was 1240 before the Battalion moved out in the order of "A," "C," "B," Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The route of march was Serres, Athionville, Arracourt, where guides from the I and R platoon met the company and put them out their positions.

SECRET

SECRET

The Battalion was moving on the left side of the road, with the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion on the left and the 2nd Cavalry Group screening on the right.

The Battalion Commander tentatively planned to defend with "A" and "C" abreast, "C" on the right and "B" in reserve. It was hoped that the gaps between units could be covered by fire. The terrain dictated that "A" and "C" defend with their platoons on line. "A" Company took up a frontage of one thousand yards with its left at the western edge of Rechicourt. The trace of its MLR followed the high ground south of Rechicourt. Company "C" covered a frontage of fifteen hundred yards, with its right on Hill "318." Its MLR followed the high ground running from Hill "318" north. "B", the reserve company, took up a position near the Riouville farm.

The 320th Infantry moved out before the relief had been completed. They stated this was a quiet sector. Subsequent events were to prove otherwise.

It could be readily seen that the Battalion was over-extended, and it became necessary to commit two platoons of "B" almost immediately. One platoon plugged the gap between "A" Company's left flank and the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion's right. The other platoon moved into position between "A" and "C" Company. There were still gaps in the line, and these had to be covered by patrols, as final protective lines were not strong enough owing to the rolling terrain.

The 8th Tank Battalion was in position immediately in rear of the MLR, prepared to cut off and drive back any break through.

The first shells to fall in the area came shortly after the relief was effected. It was a heavy concentration and indicated that the enemy was here in strength. Two prisoners were captured who gave their unit as the 11th Panzer Division. They stated that their mission was to attack.

It was obvious that the Battalions' present position must be held at all costs since the loss of any of the front would give the enemy a vantage point from which observed artillery fire could be placed on any position of Combat Command "B's" area.

Wednesday 27 September 1944.

"A" Company's position in Rechicourt became a focal point for enemy artillery. Concentrations consisted of 105's and heavier. The road through town became known as the "Bowling Alley," as it was obviously under enemy observation and more than one vehicle in any one spot immediately brought artillery fire.

Forward observers with our front line continually reported enemy activity, trucks, tank, and personnel. These became targets for our artillery, which was firing incessantly. Our attached tank destroyers knocked out one tank. Three enemy planes appeared over the defensive position at 1315 and were taken under fire by every small arm available. They did not return. Seven prisoners were captured during the day.

Thursday 28 September 1944.

At 0230, an enemy patrol was driven away from the Cannon Platoons Observation Post by machine gun fire and hand grenades. "C" Company's area was heavily shelled during the afternoon, and "A" Company continued to receive artillery on their positions.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

At dusk, an enemy smoke screen was laid down by Company "B" and on a large draw to its right. The Battalion was a guide to a German attack. It had been found that the Germans invariably attacked at dawn or dusk. Under cover of this smoke screen and making use of World War I trenches, the enemy infiltrated to the crest of hill "318," drove off the personnel manning our Observation Post and engaged Company "C's" right in a hand-grenade fight. "C" Company's right was withdrawn to the military crest on the reverse slope of Hill "318." Our artillery fired with great effect, as we were to find the next day.

Darkness had set in, and the situation was serious. The enemy now held ground which overlooked the entire combat command position. "A" Company of the 24th Armored Engineer Battalion which had been ordered to move to the Bois de Benamont and extend our right, had not been heard from. Instructions were issued to "C" Company to hold their present position at all costs.

Friday 29 September 1944.

The remaining platoon from Company "B" was alerted to move at daylight, prepared to counterattack Hill "318" and extend "C" Company's right to the Bois de Benamont. This platoon moved to the "C" Company's Command Post at daylight and contacted the tank company, which would support the attack. A dense fog prevented their movement, and plans were made to move up as soon as this lifted.

The company commanders concerned noticed that the fog was not dispersing and soon concluded that it was some form of generated smoke mixed in with the fog. Coupled with this was a report from an outpost that the Germans were moving over the hill in strength. It was decided to attack at once. Tanks and infantry moved across the ridge toward "318," while a platoon of tanks moved around below "318" and came up the large draw on its right.

The counterattack was a complete success, and here it might be pointed out that our air played a large part in this move. As the counter-attacking force reached the topographical crest of "318," a squadron of P-47's appeared overhead and proceeded to work over the enemy on the forward slope of the Hill. They strafed and bombed within three hundred yards of the leading elements in the counter-attack. To hit the forward slope, it was necessary for them to dive towards our forces, but their accuracy was such that we did not suffer a single casualty due to their work. Meanwhile, the 253rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion had a plane overhead and proceeded to fire on the enemy positions with telling effect.

This was the finest example of the cooperation possible by all arms that this unit had experienced to date. With this cooperation, our infantry, roughly seventy men, were able to drive off a force known to consist of at least one battalion. German dead on Hill "318" were too numerous to count, and a rough estimate was around 240. Twelve enemy tanks were knocked out. Forty four prisoners were captured. We suffered two casualties.

The engineer company, supported by a platoon of light tanks, moved up along the Bois de Benamont, contacted and extended our right to this woods. Mines and booby traps were placed in the large draw to the right of Hill "318," as this was the most likely avenue of enemy approach. The situation was eased somewhat. The enemy was not able to make a serious penetration any where in our line during the remainder of our stay here.

Saturday 30 September 1944.

At 0300, an enemy combat patrol was driven off in front of "C" Company by part of our normal barrage. Our forward observers continued to call for fire on located targets to the front. The town of Bures was made untenable by the intensity of this fire. For the first time, enemy artillery was practically silent throughout our sector. This may be attributed to a heavy attack which was launched at dusk against the unit on our left.

At night, the enemy continued to probe our positions with strong patrols but met with little success. Two prisoners were taken during the day.

Alfred A. Maybach
ALFRED A. MAYBACH,
Lt Col, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
Commanding.

5 Incls;

1. Carbon copy, unit diary, 1 Sep 44 to 15 Sep 44.
2. Carbon copy, unit diary, 16 Sep 44 to 30 Sep 44.
3. S-3 Journal (in duplicate).
4. S-2 Work Sheet Journal.
5. Eight Operational overlays.

Friday 1 September 1944

Left assembly area Z013937, 0450B. No enemy action. Crossed Marne River 20791, Map 13G, Bar-le-Duc-Wassy, Scale 1:100,000. Head of column halted at Chassey 23087 to encounter 100 enemy with horse drawn vehicles. Deployed one platoon of "B" Company and assault gun platoon. Before complete deployment, the platoon of infantry and platoon of assault guns were ordered to return to the column, and to proceed on the original mission. This small group of enemy was by-passed. Four prisoners were taken, examined, and sent to the rear. (1130B). Seven more prisoners taken at 1200B. Arrived assembly area Z498972 at 1630B after crossing Meuse River at Epiez-sur-Meuse. No enemy activity there. Companies "A" and "B", "A" on the right went into defensive position defending against an attack from the east. Platoon of Company "A" outposted Uruffe. One platoon of Company "B" outposted Pagney-La-Blanchi-Cote.

Saturday 2 September 1944

Remained in bivouac area Z498972. No enemy activity. Awaiting orders to move.

Sunday 3 September 1944

Received maps of Berlin and Paris sector. Remained in bivouac area Z498972. No enemy activity. Awaiting orders to move.

Monday 4 September 1944 thru Saturday 9 September 1944

Situation remained the same. Awaiting orders to move.

Sunday 10 September 1944

Moved from bivouac area on new mission at 2030B. New mission-Move southeast to Punerot, then east to assembly area Z880840. Enemy reported on east side of Moselle River at our point of crossing, Bainville Aux Miroirs. 25 Ron, "A" and "C" Companies leading our column. Our column consisted of 25 Ron, 51 Armd Inf Bn, "A" Company 24th Eng, Section of 997 Eng, "B" Company of 35th Tank Bn. Battery of 179 FA, and one company of 704 TD.

Monday 11 September 1944

Companies "A" and "C" went into position on west side of Moselle River east of assembly area Z880840 at 0700B, then at noon moved forward with mission of establishing bridge-head, and seizing high ground across the river, with "A" on the right, and "C" on the left of the Bainville east-bound road (bridge blown). Due to the course of the river Company "C" could not maneuver on the east bank while under heavy fire; consequently its leading elements were driven back into Bainville. Company "A" abandoned the plan of using assault boats, instead used a ford, over which "B" crossed behind "A", then "B" slipped to the right of "A" across the company boundary. Companies "A" and "B" remained in these positions for the night. Battalion ordered to cross Moselle River north of Bayon.

Tuesday 12 September 1944

Companies "A" and "B" withdrew during the morning and early afternoon. Moved from assembly area at 1450B, preceded by the 8th Tank in column to the assembly

INCL # 3.

102

SECRET
Area at Virecourt 2957507. Made cross-country march north of Bayen. Arrived assembly area at 1600. No enemy activity en route. "A" Company at Virecourt, one platoon of "B" Company at Froville, and the remainder of "B" Company at 29588, and "C" Company at Villacourt. bivouaced at assembly area for night with friendly and enemy artillery active.

Wednesday 13 September 1944

Artillery still active. Left assembly area at 1400B to proceed to Vitrimont. Head of the column halted at Mont at 1600B. Bridge blown there. Went into assembly area V048946. Infantry and tanks forded the Meurthe River at V044961 and held high ground to the north while the engineers worked on the ford. Enemy held up the engineers by heavy small arms fire and artillery fire. Remained in the assembly area overnight.

Thursday 14 September 1944

The companies began moving across the Meurthe River at daybreak. Headquarters left the assembly area V048946 at 0805B. Crossed the Meurthe River at 0830B. Moving on to Vitrimont (check point 71) our objective. Remained in the woods V055898 until 1500B. "A" and "C" companies deployed along woods 2051020. S-3 and his track moved to an Outpost V070095. Attack of the ground Q047021 to Q059016 at 1530B and attack of the ground Q039026 at 1630B with tanks, infantry, tank destroyers, artillery, and mortars. Enemy fire by tanks and infantry sighted on hill northeast of Vitrimont. Battle lasted till 1930B at which time we moved to our command post and assembly area at Q045016. Remained overnight. Enemy artillery active.

Friday 15 September 1944

Started to move to check point 81, Crevic, at 0800B. Ordered to move to check point 80, Maxie, at 0900B. Moved out at 1200B, but received fire from direct fire weapon north of cross road Q045016 and remained in position. Observed enemy artillery fire from Einville. Companies "A" and "B" deployed along high ground south of canal at Maxie. Enemy holding ground north of the canal along line-Einville, Crevic, and Maxie. Our position was held for the night.

Saturday 16 September 1944

Remained in the assembly area Q045016. Companies "A" and "B" pushed across the river and canal. We left our assembly-area to continue north to Serres. Remained at the bridge in Maxie till 1500B at which time Headquarters joined the column and proceeded to the assembly area Q053115, one-half mile north west of Serres. Our area was fired upon from high ground east of Hoeville and north of Hoeville. Small arms fire and fire from large guns in that vicinity. 1830B enemy column reported moving northwest. (Report should have read northeast). Our assault gun platoon attacked the column and effectively shot it up. At 0230B enemy column reported moving west, through Hoeville. Platoon of "A" Company was sent out to attack this column with small arms and bazookas. They did not contact the enemy column.

Sunday 17 September 1944

Remained in the assembly area till 0800B. Moved out to new assembly area Mailley-sur-Seille, U9035. At 1100B column stopped for change of orders. Enemy in Sorneville in civilian clothes. Much enemy equipment in Sorneville. 51st Armd Inf Bn, outposted Moncel with 51st Armd Cav. Companies "A" and

"C", platoon of 24 En. pers, 253rd pos. firing north, and 46 Medics (5 ambulances, were in and 8th Tank extended from Erbeviller to Sorneville in bivouac.

Monday 18 September 1944

Moved out at 0845B for new location, U9935. Route Sallonne, Chateau-Salins, and Puzieux. Taking main roads. Road blocks at entrance of Chateau-Salins encountered at 1230B. Road block was covered by all types of fire. Two hundred German SS Troops were reported to be in the town. "B" Company attempted to reduce road block and the enemy fire. One platoon of "B" Company ordered to push by road block and enter edge of town. Infantry and artillery used to reduce resistance by 1900. Remained in assembly area for the night (Q080216). "B" Company outposted our assembly area.

Tuesday 19 September 1944

Companies "A" and "C" attempted to drive into town in early morning. Town reduced by 1500B. Enemy still held high ground to the east. Moved command post into the town at 2330B. Received heavy artillery and mortar fire in the town. Infantry outposted town of Chateau-Salins.

Wednesday 20 September 1944

Remained in the town and pushed the infantry forward with supporting artillery and tanks. Enemy tanks contacted north of town. Task force from the 8th Tank was sent out to intercept them. Enemy artillery light. Enemy dug in on high ground to the north of the town. Enemy sniper activity. Ordered to move from town to new location (Q045275) and join in force with the remainder of CC"B" to push to the east. Moved to the assembly area via Moncel-Sur-Seille.

Thursday 21 September 1944

Remained in the assembly area Q045275. Received enemy artillery fire at 1700B. 8th Armored Division, and the 35th Infantry Division reported in our vicinity. Platoon of "B" Company outposted Jallucourt. 51st Armored Infantry Battalion troops extended from Jallucourt to Fresnes-en-Saulnois. Two platoons of Company "C" moved out to outpost Laneuveville-en-Saulnois and Oriecourt.

Friday 22 September 1944

Remained in our assembly area. Enemy artillery at 0700B. Awaiting orders to move. Company "B" of 35th Tank Bn left their assembly area to intercept reported enemy tanks to our north.

Saturday 23 September 1944

Company "A" attached to the 8th Tank. Remained in our assembly area. Received heavy artillery fire at undetermined intervals. Awaiting to be relieved by the 35th Infantry Division.

Sunday 24 September 1944

35th Infantry Division moving into area. Considerable enemy and friendly tank activity in our vicinity. Enemy concentrating to the east. Heavy artillery fire caused us to move our command post into the edge of Fresnes-en-Saulnois.

Monday 25 September 1944

Remained in assembly area awaiting orders to move. Heavy artillery fire continued. No change in the situation. At 2200B we received orders to move to a new location one-half mile southeast of Hoeville, Q056119.

Tuesday 26 September 1944

Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment, "G" and "A" in order moved out at 10 minute intervals beginning Q110. Headquarters followed the remainder of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion at 0225B. No enemy activity en route. Remained in assembly area Q056119, till 1130B at which time we moved to assembly area Q131146. Arrived 1430B. Two companies, "A" and "G", relieved two battalions of the 320th Infantry Division on a frontage of three kilometers extending from Q130122 to Q157137 with "A" Company on the left and "G" Company on the right, Company "B" in mobile reserve. We were being supported by the 253rd Armored Field Artillery. 10th and 53rd Armored Infantry Battalions on our left flank, and units of the 25th Cavalry on our right flank. Enemy artillery fire was reported in "A" Company area.

Wednesday 27 September 1944

Two platoons of Company "B" filled the gaps on both flanks of Company "A". Considerable friendly air activity. Heavy artillery reported landing in Company "C" area.

Thursday 28 September 1944

Our front line received heavy artillery fire. Company "A" repelled a stiff counter-attack by a company of German infantry. Close fighting, hand grenade distance. Counter-attack was successfully repulsed. Friendly units in Bauzemont. At 1900 Company "C" received heavy artillery barrage and counter-attack by infantry and tanks. Our troops fell back from Hill "318," to take up new position. Enemy patrol infiltrated our lines at night. Counter-attack was halted. Platoon of Company "B" extended Company "C's" right flank.

Friday 29 September 1944

Remained in area. 24th Engineers and 25th Cavalry extended our right flank. They were in position by 2200B. Hill "318," was retaken by Company "C", supported by tanks, artillery, and the air force, during early morning under cover of dense fog. Tanks, enemy and friendly, were active till noon. Air activity, bombing and strafing of enemy positions. Effect was great. 79th Infantry Division was reported to our south and as far east as the 16th N-S grid line. 24th Engineers laid mines and booby traps to their front.

Saturday 30 September 1944

Remained in position Q131146. Company "C" reported tanks and infantry to their front. Our artillery continued to fire. Our defensive line was thin, but positions were being held. Enemy and friendly artillery continued.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

7 November 1944

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (through channels)

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after-action report is submitted for the month of October, 1944.

Sunday 1 October 1944.

The battalion was still in a defensive position (see overlay). Shelling of the front lines was comparatively light, with shells of 105 calibre or larger being the chief type used. Higher headquarters had conceived a plan which called for the withdrawal of the Division to a new defensive position generally north and south through Valhey. Adoption of this plan hinged on our present position becoming untenable. The battalion S-3, S-2, and I & R platoon left at 0600 this morning to reconnoiter their new defensive line. The group returned at 0900, and overlays of the battalions' proposed defensive plan were submitted to Combat Command "B." The remainder of the day passed quietly.

Monday 2 October 1944.

Enemy activity consisted of an eleven man patrol, which appeared opposite the second platoon of Company "B" at 0500. The patrol was driven off, and the enemy immediately placed a heavy artillery barrage on the position. This indicated the patrol was working on a prearranged plan to have us disclose our positions by fire and then bring their artillery to bear on the positions thus disclosed. Intermittent shelling continued during the day. At about 2200, orders were received from Combat Command "B" to attack the next morning.

Tuesday 3 October 1944.

These orders were changed at 0500 to have three, platoon-strength patrols move out and seize three high points designated as "J," "K," and "L." (see overlay). These patrols moved out at 1200. "B" and "C" company's patrols reached "B's" objective, point "J." Here they were taken under direct fire from "C's" objective, point "L," and were unable to move forward. The platoon from Company "A" could not reach it's objective, point "K," because of heavy fire being delivered from that point. Every movement of all three patrols was visible to the enemy and brought immediate fire.

In view of the unfavorable positions of the patrols, they were ordered to hold their present positions until darkness and then withdraw to their original lines. This was accomplished by 2230. Total casualties were one dead, one missing and twenty-one evacuated. No estimation could be made of the losses inflicted on the enemy.

Wednesday 4 October 1944.

Enemy activity was confined to intermittent shelling of our front line positions. At 1715, a group of ten friendly planes carried out a bombing and strafing mission on an area east of our lines. Great clouds of black smoke arose

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

from their target area after the mission was completed. A platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars was assigned to support us, in addition to the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion on our left.

Thursday 5 October 1944.

During the early morning hours, an enemy patrol of approximately fifteen men attempted to infiltrate at the junction of Company "A," and the second platoon of "B" Company. The patrol was driven off with small arms and artillery fire. Two dead Germans were found at first light, and blood in the vicinity, indicated several enemy wounded had gotten away. One man in "B" Company had been killed. When the patrol withdrew, an artillery barrage was immediately placed on our positions.

About 0900, Company "A" reported a haystack to their front against which .50 calibre bullets were ineffective. The 4.2 mortar platoon bracketed the haystack with WP but could not set it afire. An M-10 was brought up and soon placed two rounds completely through the target. No enemy activity was observed during the fire.

Word was received that the 26th Infantry Division was on its way up to relieve our Division. At 1230, about one hundred rounds of 150-mm enemy counter battery fire fell on the field artillery battalion two hundred yards west of the battalion Command Post.

Friday 6 October 1944.

Plans were perfected during the morning for the expected relief. At 1100, the C.O. of the 2nd Bn, 104th Infantry Regiment, arrived at the Battalion Command Post. His company commanders arrived shortly thereafter. The C.O., staff, and company commanders were taken to our front line, and our defensive dispositions were pointed out on the ground. The relieving units then made their tentative dispositions, and while the heavy weapons company commander reconnoitered for fire positions, the remainder of the group returned to the battalion command post.

At 1830, company guides from our unit met the incoming troops at Arracourt and directed them forward. At the front line, our company commanders were waiting with platoon guides, and the relieving units were led into their positions. This was completed by 2000.

The plan now called for us to remain with the new unit for twenty-four hours. The 26th had not seen combat yet, and it was felt that our presence would aid in steadying the new troops. Moreover, by our own experience in Normandy, we knew the Germans invariably attacked when they knew a relief was in progress, hoping to hit a unit before it was fully organized defensively.

Saturday 7 October 1944.

At 0330, every man in the relieving unit had completely dug in. At 0800, all of our vehicles were withdrawn to a vehicular assembly area in the vicinity of the battalion command post. At 1600, the C.O. issued his withdrawal order to the assembled company commanders. It called for a retrograde movement by platoons to the vehicular assembly area when darkness was complete. Upon arrival at the vehicular assembly area platoon leaders would report to the Battalion Command Post for route instructions. The I & R Platoon moved out at 1800 to post the route and subdivide the new bivouac area in the vicinity of Serres.

89

Battalion Headquarters, minus the C.O., S-3, and Communications Section, moved out at 1850. The remainder of the battalion reported by platoons to the command post and was dispatched at ten-minute intervals until the entire battalion had left. At 2230, the C.O., S-3, and Communications Section closed out the old C.P. and moved to Serres.

The relief had worked smoothly and quietly.

8 to 31 October 1944.

During this period the battalion was at first in Corps Reserve and then in a "rest period." No contact or action with the enemy was made. On October 20th the battalion moved to Drouville and set up in and around the town. It remained here through October 31st. Nothing of tactical importance occurred during this period.

Alfred A. Maybach
ALFRED A. MAYBACH,
Lt Col, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
Commanding.

5 Incls;

1. Unit diary, 1 Oct 44 to 15 Oct 44.
2. Unit diary, 16 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44.
3. S-2 Journal, 1 Oct 44 to 7 Oct 44.
4. S-3 Journal, October, 1944.
5. Operational Overlay, 1 Oct 44 to 7 Oct 44.

S-S JOURNAL

Sunday 1 October 1944.

Positions remained the same. Enemy patrols were active during the night. Awaiting units to relieve us on our position. Friendly patrol from 24th Engineers reported Bois Defourasse clear of enemy. Enemy in Dures, and Moncourt. Artillery was brought on them.

Monday 2 October 1944.

Friendly units coming up on our south. 79th Infantry Division reported to our southwest. 106th Cavalry reported to be in Bausement. 2nd Cavalry reported to be in Bathelmont. 283rd Field Artillery actively supporting our positions. Enemy rockets reported in Company "C" area. Plans are being made up for an offensive operation against the enemy. 79th Infantry Division clearing the Forest de Parroy to our south.

Tuesday 3 October 1944.

2nd Cavalry pushed patrols forward of our front lines at 0800H. One platoon each of Companies "A," "B," and "C" assigned missions of high ground to their front. They are to move out at 1200H. Platoons moved out but were pinned down by artillery and small arms fire. Enemy observation from hill one and one-half kilometers southeast of Rehicourt was too good on our advancing platoons, and stopped them near their objectives by observed direct fire from 88's and long range machine gun fire, as well as artillery fire. Our patrols in force were ordered to remain in position until dark and return to their original positions. Rockets were reported in our area. Dures reported clear of enemy. 79th Infantry Division advanced to 18 N-S grid line. 181st Cavalry reported one-half kilometer east of Hemanville and holding their position. 106th Cavalry holding position in woods southeast of Hemanville with 79th Infantry Division to the south on their right flank, in the Forest de Parroy. Tanks reported in vicinity west of Hemanville.

Wednesday 4 October 1944.

Friendly air active--strafing and bombing of enemy installations. Rocket or ammunition dump hit east of hill 2717. No enemy advances. Enemy and friendly artillery continued.

Thursday 5 October 1944.

Remained in defensive position Q151146. Enemy and friendly artillery continued. Enemy barrage knocked out two artillery pieces and one ammunition train of the 690th Field Artillery 200 yards southwest of the 21st Armored Infantry Battalion command post. Company "C's" area was shelled, but shelling not as severe as usual. Friendly air active over enemy lines. 106th Cavalry and 181st Cavalry Squadrons clearing out northwest end of Forest de Parroy. 79th Infantry half way through Forest de Parroy. 2nd Cavalry reported on our right flank extending to 181st Cavalry Squadron on canal at the Marne River just north of Hemanville. 2nd Cavalry sending patrols as far east as Parroy. We are holding our defensive positions awaiting relief by 50th Infantry Division. Advance party of 50th Infantry Division arrived in early evening. Enemy artillery landed close to the command post during the night.

Friday 6 October 1944.

Units of 20th Infantry Division are coming in, and its unit leaders are being

Friday 20 October 1944 to Monday 30 October 1944.

Moved entire 51st Armored Infantry Battalion from Serres to Drouville Q022088 where the Battalion command post was located, and the companies went into bivouac. The Battalion remained in reserve in case of an enemy breakthrough on the front lines.

Harry J. Rockefeller
HARRY J. ROCKAFELLER,
Capt, 51st Arm Inf Bn,
S-3

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH CHANNELS).

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after action report is submitted for the month of November 1944.

1-8 November 1944.

During this period the battalion was in a rest period in Drouville. On 7 November 1944 orders were received for an advance to the east, with Morhange as the first objective and Bining as the final objective. (For troop list and order of march see attached CCB orders dated 2 and 3 November) The plan was to exploit an initial breakthrough by the 35th Division, which attacked 8 November 44.

9 Thursday November 1944.

Task Force Maybach moved out from Drouville at 0515 along the designated route (See overlay). First enemy resistance was encountered one and one-half miles northeast of Jallaucourt in the form of antitank and automatic weapons fire from woods west of the road, destroying an assault gun and a half-track. The advance guard opened fire with machine guns and assault guns. The tank platoon, followed by a dismounted platoon from "A" Company, attacked and destroyed the enemy antitank gun, and the column resumed its advance. In Oriecourt a road block was encountered and the head of the column came under artillery fire. The advance guard by-passed the road block and succeeded in pushing through the town under cover of its own vehicular machine gun fire directed at the windows. West of Laneuville-en-Saulnois the advance guard again came under fire from two enemy anti-tank guns, and a second assault gun was lost. Machine gun fire silenced one of the anti-tank guns and the Germans abandoned the other. The column pushed on into town and took many prisoners. Coming over the hill north of town the advance guard received both artillery and direct fire, but pushed on and captured two field pieces with their crews in the draw. As the head of the column came over the ridge south of Fonteny it came under severe mortar fire and also direct fire from several batteries of 88mm and 20mm antiaircraft artillery on the high ground northeast of that town, knocking out the third assault gun and eight half-tracks. "C" Company of the 37th Tank Battalion launched an attack on Fonteny at 1445, but bogged down in the soft ground and became an easy prey to the German dual purpose guns. The battalion went into position on the reverse slope for the night, after making an opposed advance that day of about four and a half miles, and capturing 9 guns, 4 vehicles, and 57 prisoners. Total casualties were 14 killed and 84 evacuated; three assault guns and ten half-tracks were lost. Troops of the 35th Division, following in our zone of advance, captured 450 prisoners, including a complete battery of field artillery.

64-10.7

10 Friday November 1944.

One enemy patrol was driven back during the night. Through the night and this day the forward positions received fire from enemy artillery, mortars, antiaircraft guns and rocket projectiles. The battalion was ordered to hold, while the north column was to swing to the enemy position. (The

18

78

north column, however, was held up that day by stiff opposition in the Bois de Serres.) Panther tanks appeared in the Fonteny area and on the ridge to the west. An infantry bazooka team was unsuccessful, but tank destroyers drove the enemy tanks back to cover. Infantry of the 35th Division came up to extend our flanks. Meanwhile the enemy infiltrated into Viviers, temporarily cutting off the north column. The 35th Division moved to attack Viviers on the left and the west edge of the Forest of Chateau Salins on the right. The battalion maintained the same positions for the night. During this day the supporting artillery fired on the suspected enemy antiaircraft positions from G-2 map data, since direct observation was impossible.

11 Saturday November 1944.

Sporadic artillery and mortar fire fell on our positions during the night and morning. CCB ordered the column to take Oron and secure its approaches while the north column passed through to the east. The battalion commander gave orders for the column to move out on the original route to Oron, this time with "C" Company in the lead, and "F" Troop (light tanks) of the 25th Cavalry replaced the attached medium tank company. The head of the column moved out at 1445; and, as it came over the ridge south of Fonteny it again came under intense fire. An enemy tank in Fonteny knocked out the leading half-track at the edge of town, and the forward part of the column, thus brought to a halt, was subjected to observed enemy mortar fire on the crest and north slope of the hill. The battalion commander and the commander of the supporting artillery battalion were mortally wounded, and many other casualties were suffered. "C" Company dismounted and, in conjunction with two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment, attacked Fonteny on foot. By dark they had cleared the southern half of town, and they went into position there.

12 Sunday November 1944.

"F" Troop, 25th Cavalry, was replaced by two light tank platoons of "D" Company, 35th Tank Battalion, and the 2nd Pn., 137th Infantry, joined the column. The three infantry companies in Fonteny cleared the town by 1000, and "C" Company's vehicles were brought forward. Meanwhile the Forest of Chateau Salins, from which much of our previous opposition had come, was reported cleared by the 35th Division on our right. The Fonteny bridge was found prepared for demolition, and our engineers cleared it. The column moved along the designated route to Oron without opposition. Orders were received to continue to Chateau-Brehain via the southern route; and, since this route was believed impassable, permission was asked and granted to use the northern route (see overlay). The column moved out without opposition, but was halted just before dark by a destroyed bridge north of Chateau Brehain. "C" Company outposted a line around the bridge, which was repaired by the engineers under cover of darkness. Some artillery and mortar fire was received, but the night was generally quiet.

13 Monday November 1944.

At 0715 the column moved out on the original route. A blown-out bridge southeast of Brehain was repaired by the engineers. The road from Brehain to Achain proved impassable because of mud. A new route was selected, leading back to Chateau-Brehain, south to the main Chateau-Salins-Baronville highway, and thence northeast to Baronville. The column moved out on the new route, but was

stopped just before dark by mines at the cross roads 2 miles southwest of Baronville. Some artillery fire fell on the column at this point, and artillery concentrations landed in nearby areas. The bad weather, which continually hampered our operations, was at its worst, with rain, cold, and snow. 24 men were evacuated with frostbite this day.

14 Tuesday 14 November 1944.

In the morning the vehicles were extricated from the mud with considerable difficulty, and the column had not moved very far before one of the leading light tanks hit a mine. While this new mine field was being cleared, a platoon of our attached light tanks, in a move to assist the 35th Division's attack on Baronville, moved on to the ridge overlooking the town and encountered more mines. The column was held up the rest of the day by mines, and was harassed by artillery and direct fire. The attached tank destroyers knocked out an enemy tank and a self-propelled gun. The battalion assembled for the night southeast of Baronville, which had been taken by the 35th Division.

15 Wednesday November 1944.

The column moved out through Baronville with "B" Company in the lead and proceeded east on the road passing north of Morhange, which was being attacked from the southeast by the 35th Division. As the column moved along the ridge north of Morhange it was slowed up by artillery and anti-tank fire from the direction of Harprich. "B" Company attacked and took Tie Lorraine (Bellevue), taking 18 prisoners, and found the roads across the railroad were blocked. "B" Company outposted this town along the railroad track, tying in on both flanks with elements of the 35th Division, which had taken Morhange. The rest of the battalion went into position along the ridge north of Morhange. Considerable artillery fire was received, and some of it which struck near the railroad was from the 35th Division artillery. Continuing bad weather raised the toll of frostbite cases to 45 this day.

16 Thursday November 1944.

Orders were received from CCB to remain in position in the Morhange area. "A" Company was moved to the east edge of Morhange. Artillery fire was received, chiefly in "B" Company's positions. Otherwise there was no enemy action, and casualties were light.

17 Friday November 1944.

Early in the afternoon the battalion was ordered back to Bezange-la-grande for regrouping. The battalion, less "B" Company, moved out at 1530 and arrived in assembly area at 2300. "B" Company moved out under cover of darkness and arrived at 0200.

18 Saturday November 1944.

The battalion was assigned to Reserve Command and spent the day in rehabilitation at Bezange-la-grande. "C" Company took over bridge guard in Vic-sur-Seille and Moyenvic.

19 Sunday November 1944.

The battalion was attached to the 26th Division. Leaving one platoon of "C" Company on bridge guard, the battalion moved out at 1300, was picked up at Moyenvic by a 26th Division liaison officer, and proceeded through the Forest of Bride and Koecking, assembling at 1630 about two miles north of Kerprich-les-Dieuze. The battalion was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 328th Infantry Regiment. "B" Company moved to the south edge of the woods to cover that unit's right flank. The battalion was to attack Dieuze in conjunction with 3/128 the next day (see S-3 Periodic Report, 328th Infantry, 200900 Nov 44, attached). The battalions were to attack abreast, 51st on the right, with the boundary following the road from Kerprich-les-Dieuze to Dieuze. The attack was to start at 1000, the line of departure running east and west through Kerprich-les-Dieuze. The order was issued at 2300.

20 Monday November 1944.

During the night considerable enemy traffic was reported on the Dieuze-Vergaville road, but the strength of the enemy in Dieuze was unknown. After a fifteen-minute artillery preparation on Dieuze, the battalion jumped off shortly after 1000 in column of companies, with "B" leading and "C" in reserve. The 2nd Cavalry's light tank troop moved east from Mulcey and delivered supporting fire on the approaches to Dieuze. As "B" Company moved into town abreast of the 328th, "A" Company swung right and moved into the south part of town. It was found that the enemy had withdrawn, and the town was completely occupied by 1200, with no opposition except for a few rounds of artillery, which was silenced by counterbattery. "A" and "B" Companies thoroughly searched the town; and, when the 3rd Battalion, 328th Infantry moved on to Vergaville, "A" and "B" companies outposted the entire town, with "C" in reserve at Kerprich-les-Dieuze. CCB moved through town heading northeast late in the afternoon, and halted just before dark.

21 Tuesday November 1944.

The battalion reverted to Reserve Command and remained in position all day.

22 Wednesday November 1944.

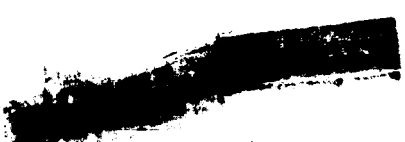
The battalion was attached to CCA, but received no orders to move.

23 Thursday November 1944.

The battalion remained in position awaiting orders. The platoon of "C" company which had been on bridge guard reverted to battalion control.

24 Friday November 1944.

"C" Company moved out at 1530 with orders to assist CCB in its Sarre River bridgehead. "C" company joined a company of the 35th Tank Battalion north of Zommange and proceeded east on the main road to outpost the woods west of Fene-trange for CCB. The rest of the battalion was alerted to move the next day, with "A" Company in the south column of CCA and the remainder of the battalion in the north column of CCB.



25 Saturday November 1944.

A change of orders at 0700 directed the battalion (less "C" Company) to move at once to the assistance of CC"B". The battalion proceeded to a vehicular assembly area west of Penetrance. Orders were received to dismount and go into position on the high ground east of Penetrance in rear of the 8th Tank Battalion as support for the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion. The battalion moved out with "B" Company leading, crossed the Sarre bridge under intermittent shellfire, and was moving toward the new position when another change of orders arrived. The battalion was reassigned to CC"B" as part of a task force under the commander of the 8th Tank Battalion. The 51st was to move on foot, supported by the tanks, east to Postroff and then north to Wolfskirchen. As the battalion moved to join the tanks, a new change of orders came, directing an attack on the Bois de L'Isch. The companies moved back behind the high ground; and, after a ten-minute artillery preparation, jumped off at 1520, with "B" Company leading. Enemy artillery fire was heavy all the way, and tree bursts in the Bois de L'Isch caused several casualties. At the edge of the woods "A" Company moved up on "B" Company's right flank. After advancing through the lower half of the woods, both companies dug in. Three German light antiaircraft guns were knocked out in the course of the attack. Meanwhile Company "C" commenced an attack on Niederstinzeln, encountering opposition at the south edge of town at 1000. They received heavy artillery fire, and, after bitter fighting in which 5 German machine guns were knocked out, the company received orders at 1400 to withdraw to the high ground southwest of town. They were to revert to battalion control next morning. A total of 22 prisoners was taken this day, and enemy dead were estimated at 17. The battalion lost 4 killed and 8 wounded.

26 Sunday November 1944.

At 0100 one of our ration parties was fired on without challenging by an outpost of the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion at the edge of the woods; one man was killed and one wounded. During the night the forward elements received small arms and artillery fire from the northeast. At 0800, "B" Company started to infiltrate to the north edge of the woods, the first elements reaching that point at 0830 without opposition. Both companies moved forward and dug in on the north edge of the woods. "C" Company reverted to battalion control and went into reserve in the southwest part of the Bois de L'Isch. A "C" Company patrol went to the bridge east of Niederstinzeln, found it was destroyed, and returned with 6 prisoners. Just after dark, an enemy demolition party tried to reach the bridge in front of "B" Company, but our outpost drove it away with hand grenades. Sporadic artillery fire fell in the woods during the day. An attack was ordered toward Wolfskirchen for the following day.

27 Monday November 1944.

After a quiet night, our artillery put down a preparation on Wolfskirchen at 0935, and at the same time smoked Diedendorf. The objective was the high ground northeast of Wolfskirchen, and the town itself was to be bypassed to the east, unless fire received from town interfered with the advance. The battalion was to attack in column of companies, in the order "B," "C," and "A," moving out from "B" company's position and across the bridge over the Isch River. "D" Company (light tanks), 8th Tank Battalion was to give supporting fire from the north edge of the woods, and the balance of the 8th Tank Battalion was in general support. The leading elements moved out at 1010, and soon came under small arms and machine gun fire from Wolfskirchen. "B" and "C" Companies were then committed abreast, with "B" on the right, to take the town, with a medium

82

tank company in suppo. . . By dark the town was taken, though not completely cleared, after stubborn resistance. The Germans followed their usual custom of shelling the town before their own troops had completely evacuated it. When the town was finally cleared, the companies outposted it for the night, with "C" to the northwest, "B" to the northeast, and "A" to the south and southeast. Evacuation of casualties that day was mostly by light tank. The battalion vehicles moved up to an area northwest of Kirrburg.

28 Tuesday November 1944.

The battalion was ordered to attack Burbach after the 71st Infantry Regiment had cleared the Bois de Wolsthof on the right. The woods being cleared out by noon, the attack began at 1215. Artillery preparation was omitted for the sake of secrecy. A platoon of "C" Company secured the high ground northeast of Wolfskirchen, while the main body moved in column of companies, in the order "A," "B," and "C." The axis of advance was east, then north, taking all possible advantage of woods for concealment. The leading elements entered Burbach without opposition, but the enemy commenced an almost continuous shelling of the town. The companies outposted the town, and the vehicles were moved to an area in and south of Wolfskirchen.

29 Wednesday November 1944.

The task force objective this day was Rimsdorf. A maneuvering force, consisting of "B" Company of the infantry mounted on "A" Company of the tanks and preceded by a platoon of light tanks, was to make a reconnaissance in force northwest along the east edge of the Geisbusch, then northeast through the Bannholz to determine the amount of opposition in Rimsdorf. If this was successful, the balance of the task force was to move east and then north on the main Eywiller-Rimsdorf road to take the objective. The reconnaissance in force moved out at first light; but when it topped the ridge south of Buscherhof, extremely heavy artillery fire drove it back into defilade. Finally this force was withdrawn, and the battalion went into position for the night, with "C" Company northeast of town, "B" Company to the northwest, and a company of tanks supporting each. The severe weather, ever-present mud, and the unprecedented volume of enemy artillery concentrations had brought the men near a state of exhaustion. Company strengths had dropped sharply, and antitank platoons were being put into the line to bring effective strengths up to seventy or eighty men per company.

30 Thursday November 1944.

Orders were received to hold in the existing positions until relieved by the 1st Battalion, 101st Infantry Regiment, and then to move into assembly area prepared to attack Rimsdorf. When the relief was completed in the afternoon, "A" Company moved east and then north to tie in on the left flank of the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion on the reverse slope of hill 357, southeast of Rimsdorf. "C" Company tied in to the left and rear of "A," and "B" Company went into reserve a mile to the south. The move was made without opposition before dark, and the men dug in. One tank company moved out to support us, and the other remained in position until the next morning's attack on Rimsdorf.

Incls:

- #1 Operational Overlays.
- #2 S-3 Journal-with inserts.
- #3 S-2 Journal.
- #4 Unit History.

Norman L. Hope
NORMAN L. HOPE,
Capt., 51st Arm Inf Bn,
S-3

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

S-3 JOURNAL

From: 1 Nov 44
 To : 30 Nov 44

NOV. TIME

1-8 Bn remained in Brouville (Q 082008) in Corps Rev.
 Insert #1 Bn Order of March.
 Insert #2 CG"B" Memo 3 Nov. 44.
 Insert #3 CG"B" Troop List 2 Nov. 44.

9 **0815** Adv Gd (A/51, AG Plt/51, PltC/37, Btry/253 Armd FA, Plt C/24, Sec C/489, Plt A/704, moved out of Brouville.
 0800 Adv Gd crossed IP at Heuville.
 0820 Bn Hqs moved out with main body (B/51, Mort Plt/51, C/37(-), Sec C/489, B1 & B1 Co/51, Med/51, C/24(-), Sec C/489, C/51(-), 253(-), Sec C/489, B/126, B/46, Plt C/51).
 0730 Bn Hqs crossed IP.
 0730 Adv Gd passed Manac-sur-Seille.
 0800 Adv Gd passed Abancourt-sur-Seille.
 0800 Adv Gd passed Jallancourt. Main body delayed 1 mi NE Manhoue while engs reinforced bridge.
 0915 Fired on by an AT gun & MGs 1 1/2 mi NE Jallancourt; lost 1 assault gun and 1 AT half-track. Plt A/51, & Plt C/37 destroyed 1 on 75-mm AT gun; cin moved on.
 1000 Encountered road block and arty fire in Orisancourt; by-passed road block to right.
 1045 Hevd AT fire west of Lamouville-en-Saulnois; lost 1 assault gun, 1 half-track; silenced 2 on 75-mm AT guns with MG fire.
 1130 Hevd arty fire SE of Lamouville; captured 2 on 105-mm field pieces.
 1145 Head of cin stopped S of Fouteny by AA and mortar fire; lost several half tracks, 1 assault gun.
 1540 Air support attacked on at Q0743320 and Q072512.
 1445 Tank attack by C/37 on Fouteny was unsuccessful.

10 **0800** Bn tanks rptd by A/51 in vic Viviers; basecra team made unsuccessful attack.
 1900 Tbs drove back 4 Panther tanks W of Fouteny.
 1100 38th Bdv moved up through Lamouville to extend our flanks. C/37 moved back to the area; replaced by F/25.

11 **1445** Cin moved out on original route, "C" Co. leading; stopped by mortar and direct fire S of Fouteny; 1 half-track lost.
 1800 "G" Co. dismounted and attacked Fouteny with "A" and "B" of 2/134.
 1850 Southern part of Fouteny cleared.

12 **0700** C/51 and AAB/137 started clearing out N part of Fouteny.
 1800 C/51 and AAB/137 rpt high ground NE of Fouteny cleared.
 1100 C/51 and AAB/137 rpt Fouteny cleared.
 1115 Engs rwd demolition charges from Fouteny bridge.
 1130 Cin moved out toward Faxe.
 1800 Stopped at Grem by bridge prepared for demolition; engs removed charges; C/51 outposted team.

Encl # 2 (copy)

84

NOV.	TIME	
	1430	Cln mv. out of Oren.
	1600	Stopped by destroyed bridge N of Chateau Brehain; C/51 outposted bridge while engs repaired it.
13	0718	Cln mvd out, "B" Co. loading; revd arty fire.
	0748	Stopped by blown bridge W of Brehain; engs repaired it.
	1048	Cln mvd E through Brehain; revd small arms fire.
	1130	Impassable road forced rerouting cln, back through Chateau Brehain.
	1300	Head of cln reached Chateau Brehain.
	1800	Cln stopped by mines and revd arty fire at Q 148561; engs cleared mines; bn assembled for night.
14	0830	Adv gd mvd out toward Baronville.
	0930	Cln held up by mines SW of Baronville. Lost 3 lt tks.
	1048	Rev'd direct fire from 2 on tanks Q196300.
	1100	Cln supported by fire 38 Div's attack on Baronville; cln held up by mines for balance of day.
15	0800	Cln moved out toward Baronville, "B" Co loading.
	1118	Head of cln passed N of Merchange, rev'd direct fire from direction of Harprich.
		Met resistance at Tie Lorraine (Bellevue), "B" Co cleared town.
		Cln stopped by blocked RR crossings on NE edge of town; 51 outposted Tie Lorraine and ridge N of Merchange.
16		Bn remained in posn in Merchange area.
17	1830	51(-B) moved out for Bezange-la-Grande, atch'd to Rsv Cmd.
	2300	51(-B) assembled vic Bezange-la-Grande. (B/51 mvd out after dark).
18	0230	B/51 rejoined bn.
	1600	C/51 mvd out to guard bridges at Vie-sur-Saïlle and Moyenvic.
19	1300	Bn as'd to 26th Div, moved out with "B" Co loading. (Plt C/51 remained).
	1438	Cln met by 26th Div ln off at Moyenvic.
	1518	Cln passed Salival.
	1540	Cln passed Wuisse.
	1630	Bn as'd to 2 mi N of Kerprich-les-Dieuze.
	2300	Order issued for attack on Dieuze in conjunction with 3/328 Inf.
Insert #4: S-3 Periodic Report 328th Inf 20 Nov 44.		
Insert #5: Bn Oral Order 191100 for 20 Nov 44.		
20	0945	16-min arty preparation on Dieuze began.
	1000	51 and 3/328 began attack on Dieuze; no resistance was encountered except artillery fire.
	1200	Dieuze rpt'd completely occupied.
21		Bn reverted to Rsv Cmd. Situation remained the same.
22		Situation remained the same. Bn reverted to CG"A."
23		Situation remained the same.
24	1300	Bn was alerted to move with CG"A."
	1530	C/51 moved out to assist 35th Tank Bn in attack on Niederstinsel.
Insert #6: Bn Oral Order For 25 Nov 44.		
25	0700	Bn was ordered to move at once to assist CG"B" via Penetrance.
	0900	C/51 started attack on Niederstinsel.
	1000	C/51 reached edge of Niederstinsel.
	1400	C/51 was ordered back to high ground SW of Niederstinsel.
	1520	Bn started attack on Bois de L'Isch.

NOV	TIME	
25	1830	"A" & "B" cos. dug in at Q 807295.
26	0100	Ration party accidentally fired on by 53 Inf outpost.
	0800	B/51 started infiltrating northwards.
	0830	Leading plns B/51 reached N edge of Bois de L'Isch; A/51 and B/51 moved to N edge of woods; C/51 rejoined him and went into rev at Q808295.
	1200	C/51 sent patrol to check bridge at Q484295.
	1430	C/51 patrol rptd bridge out, brought back 6 PWs.
	1900	Bn patrol driven away from bridge Q808304 by B/51.

Insert #7: Bn Oral Order for 27 Nov 44.

27	0935	Arty put down smoke on Diedendorf and HE on Welfskirchen.
	1010	51 supported by 8 Tank, began attack against high ground NE of Welfskirchen. "B" Co, leading followed by "C" Co.
	1120	Assault echelon was 300 yds E of Welfskirchen receiving fire from town; C and B/51 attacked Welfskirchen abreast.
	1225	B/51 rptd, moving through Welfskirchen, receiving hvy arty from N. C and B/51 were two thirds of way through town.
	1425	Stiff opposition from on MGs and bazookas was met near N edge of town.
	1800	Welfskirchen was rptd cleared; A, B, and C/51 outposted town.

Insert #8: Bn Oral Order For 28 Nov 44.

28	1215	A platoon of C/51 secured high ground NE of Welfskirchen.
	1230	Bn. moved in order A, B, and C to take Burbach.
	1530	A Co. entered Burbach without opposition, hvy on arty fire began on Burbach.

Insert #9: Bn Oral Order for 29 Nov 44.

29	0815	B/51 mounted on A/8, supported by plat D/8, plat/704, and AG plat/8, moved out on rem missn towards Rinsdorf.
	1400	Rem force, after meeting hvy arty fire, was ordered back; 51 and 8 took defensive position N of Burbach.
30	1400	Relief by 101 Inf started.
	1430	A/51 moved out for assembly area on Hill 357.
	1800	B/51 moved out for assembly area SW of Thal-pres-Drullingen.
	1830	C/51 moved out for assembly area on Hill 357.
	1730	All cos. in posn. prepared for attack on Rinsdorf.

Insert #10: CCB order For 30 Nov 44.

Insert #11: Bn Oral Order For 1 Dec 44.

8.6

ETO

1

1ST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION

AFTER ACTION REPORT - December 1944 w/supporting documents

1004-19012

15045

1004-19012

HEAD QUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
AFC 254, U. S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH CHANNELS).

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after-action report is submitted for the month of December 1944.

Friday 1 December 1944.

Supported by Company "C," 8th Tank Battalion, and in conjunction with a 10 minute artillery preparation, the battalion jumped off in attack on Rimsdorf at 0800 in column of companies according to plan (see Battalion Order for 1 Dec 44). The enemy threw heavy concentrations of artillery in our zone of advance. "B" Company, riding the tanks, moved in quickly under the barrage and entered Rimsdorf within 20 minutes without casualties, but "A" Company, following on foot, suffered considerable casualties from artillery during the advance, especially in crossing the road southeast from Rimsdorf. The town was then cleaned out from east to west, with "A" Company moving on the left, and "B" on the right. Only light opposition was met, but the enemy started pouring artillery concentrations into the town. The companies then moved out to secure the ground north and east of Rimsdorf, and by 1100 they had taken up a semicircular position around the town, in the order "A," "B," and "C" Companies from left to right, with the tanks concentrated principally behind "B" and "C" Companies. At 1225 a short and violent enemy artillery barrage on the town preceded a hail of direct fire and a tank attack from the east. The battalion commander was wounded by a shell at this time. The enemy tank attack was pushed forward boldly in estimated battalion strength. The excellent positions and alertness of our tank company, however, and the speedy adjustment of our artillery resulted in the complete repulse of the attack. 4 enemy tanks were knocked out, including the command tanks of two company commanders, who were captured. A "C" Company patrol, sent out to locate the enemy tanks, encountered severe artillery fire and returned without making enemy contact. A "B" Company patrol was sent out along the north west edge of the Faessbusch, and two "C" Company patrols were sent along the south edge of the same woods, all with the mission of contacting friendly troops supposed to be on our right (namely the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and 35th Tank Battalion.); but all three patrols returned without making friendly contact. That afternoon a German Scout Car ventured near "B" Company's position and was knocked out by machine gun fire. Heavy shelling continued on the town and our positions through the afternoon and night. Preparations were made to continue on the mission of securing the high ground in the vicinity of Schlosshof Farm the next day.

Saturday 2 December 1944.

An enemy patrol attempting to infiltrate "B" Company's lines early in the morning was repulsed with heavy enemy losses. At 0900, "A" and "C" Companies moved out abreast, with "A" on the left, through "B" Company's positions in the attack on Schlosshof Farm (See Battalion Order for 2 December 1944). Enemy machine gun and small arms fire was encountered almost immediately, but four light tanks from "D," Company, 8th Tank Battalion, came up along the edge of the woods and helped the companies to overcome the resistance and push on. Enemy artillery fire fell in the entire zone of advance, and almost every shell was a tree burst. Passing through the sparsely-wooded bottleneck between the Freywald and the Neuwald at 1015 was particularly costly due to the enemy's direct observation down the

east of the I. uhl. (A considerable pocket of enemy resistance in the I. uhl was being by-passed by our battalion on the right and the 101st Infantry on the left; this was not reduced by the 101st until the following day). The advance continued until the companies halted at noon near the north edge of the Neuwald to wait for our tanks to come up according to plan. An observer at the north edge of the woods saw 9 enemy tanks in the vicinity of Schlosshof Farm and the Burbusch. Air support was called for, and two air attacks drove the enemy tanks back into the Burbusch. During this time the right flank of "C" Company was under machine gun fire from the north slope of Schwilsberg Hill, and some direct fire was received from the south east. "A" Company, 8th Tank Battalion, came up along the west edge of the Neuwald and crossed the Sarre-Union Domfessel road. The two rifle companies jumped off at 1415 and followed the tanks in the assault on Schlosshof Farm, which was burning from our tank fire. Heavy caliber enemy shells fell on the advancing riflemen, but by 1442 the companies had taken the objective and started to dig in on the high ground. Several German prisoners were taken from the blazing farm and nearby positions. "B" Company was ordered up to positions along the east edge of the Neuwald, and by dark was tied in with "C" Company's right flank. That evening "A" Company established contact with the 101st Infantry on the left. Artillery fire continued to fall on all forward positions and on Kimsdorf. All supply and evacuation had to be handled by light tank, due to terrain conditions.

Sunday 3 December 1944.

During the night a "C" Company outpost of 4 men in the south westcorner of the Burbusch was captured by the enemy. Orders were issued for a projected movement to the high ground 1 Km south west of Voellerdingen; but this move being contingent on a further advance of the 101st Infantry on our left, the battalion remained in position all day. Attempts by enemy tanks to push out from the Burbusch were repulsed by our tanks. Enemy artillery continued active.

Monday 4 December 1944.

The battalion remained in position all day awaiting orders. The 10th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 8th Tank Battalion passed through our positions in an attack on Voellerdingen. "A" Company extended its left flank to tie in with the 1st Battalion, 101st Infantry, and "B" Company maintained contact by patrol with the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion on the right.

Tuesday 5 December 1944.

During the morning the vehicles were brought up in anticipation of the expected relief of the battalion. However, at noon the battalion was attached to "C" and ordered to mount up and move northeast through Domfessel to support the 37th Tank Battalion, which had broken through to a point southwest of Dehlingen. At 1.10 the battalion started moving, and passed through Domfessel, crossed the Rhine, by-passed Dehlingen (still enemy occupied) to the west, continued north and west to occupy Schmittviller without resistance. Only 3 rounds of artillery were received from the enemy. The battalion outposted Schmittviller for the night.

Wednesday 6 December 1944.

At 0700 the companies moved out with the tanks for the attack on Bining and Rehrbach according to plan (see Battalion Order for 6 December 1944). The mud was so bad that only full tracked vehicles could maneuver, even on trails. In spite of a heavy concentration of smoke on Singling, however, heavy enemy fire from that point caught our attacking forces in the left flank, and the tank commander decided to alter his plan to eliminate this resistance. Although Singling was out of our line of advance, Combat Command "B" was too far behind to deal with it. Therefore "B" Company of the 1st, mounted on the tanks of "B" of the 37th, was diverted to

take Singling. After artillery and smoke preparation these companies assaulted the town in the face of powerful and stubborn resistance at 1030. At least 3 enemy tanks and 5 assault guns were seen and enemy infantry was estimated at two companies. By 1300 the town was cleared except for the extreme western portion. Our tanks had destroyed one assault gun, and an infantry bazooka team had damaged another so badly it had to be towed out; over 60 prisoners were taken, and the enemy armor was driven out of town. Later in the afternoon Combat Command "B" arrived, and completed the relief of the two "B" companies between 1650 and 1730. During this action "A" Company of the 51st with "A" of the 37th, held their position west of Bining under heavy artillery and direct fire, until a battalion of the 328th Infantry came up from the south and entered Bining. At dark both "A" and "B" Companies were ordered back to Schmittviller, while "C" Company remained in position for the night northeast of Schmittviller. The three companies were gravely depleted in strength, and the men were nearly worn out.

Thursday 7 December 1944.

The battalion remained in position all day, waiting for relief by elements of the 12th Armored Division. After dark, "C" Company was ordered back to Schmittviller.

Friday 8 December 1944.

At 0130 the battalion moved out for an initial assembly area southwest of Rimsdorf, arriving there at 0430. The column moved out again at 0730 and reached a rear assembly area in Bidestroff at 1215.

Saturday 9 December to Monday 18 December 1944.

The battalion remained in rear assembly area for reorganization and rehabilitation. A move was made 11 December to Gueblange-les-Dieuze and Gelucourt. The battalion was alerted 18 December to patrol the area against enemy paratroopers who were reported to have been dropped in the woods west of Nancy, but this report proved to be unfounded. That night, however, the brief rehabilitation period was abruptly cut short by a warning order alerting the battalion for movement at one hour's notice.

Tuesday 19 December 1944.

At 0300 orders were received from Combat Command "A" to move to an assembly area south of Longwy, near the Belgian frontier in the 1st Army zone (see CC "A" March Order, 18 December 1944). At 0830 the battalion moved out according to plan (see Battalion March Order 19 December 1944) and reached Trieux at 1030 where it assembled and awaited further orders. On order from Combat Command "A" the battalion moved out at 1930 and assembled for the night at 0125 in Clemency, Luxembourg. The weather was bitter cold, and continued so throughout the ensuing operation.

Wednesday 20 December 1944.

Local police and civilian volunteers patrolled the streets of Clemency, due to reports of German Paratroopers in the area; but the night passed without incident. In the morning considerable refugee traffic flowed into town from the north. Shortly after noon orders were received to move to Honcelange, but a change of orders five minutes later altered the destination to Toernich. The battalion moved out at 1330 and was outposting Toernich by 1535. At 1600 orders were received to send a task force to block roads north and northeast of Arlon (see Battalion Order, 1015, 20 December 1944). "C" Company and a reconnaissance section moved out at once, under command of Captain Rockefeller, picked up the

35th Tank Battalion's ault gun platoon at Arlon, and pinned "D" Company of the 35th north of town. Roads to the north and northeast of Arlon were outposted and patrols were set up between them. Three double road blocks were prepared but not actually put in position, since troops of the 26th Division were known to be out in front of them. These dispositions were completed before midnight.

Thursday 21 December 1944.

Early in the afternoon orders were received to assemble a task force in Toernich under command of Major Alanis, and to move after dark to an assembly area north of Arlon, prepared to advance northward to the relief of the 101st Airborne Division and other elements cut off in Bastogne by the German counter-offensive. Task Force Alanis, consisting of the 51st (less "C" Company) reinforced by a tank company, tank destroyer company, and engineer company, with the 274th Armored Field Artillery Battalion in support, moved out at 1800 and went into assembly in Tattert at 2040.

Friday 22 December 1944.

At 0515 the column moved out of Tattert, and at 0745 Combat Command "A" broke radio silence. A heavy mist rendered visibility very poor even after daybreak. At 0800, when the advance guard was about a mile north of Heinstert, an unidentified aircraft, believed to be a "V-1," flew low over the column from the north. Progress was slow, due to close reconnaissance by the cavalry in front. At 0930 an impassable road crater was reported 2 km west of Perle, and the engineers started to bridge it. The cavalry, meanwhile reported Martelange occupied by the enemy. Combat Command "A" ordered Task Force Oden diverted to the route of the west column, and both columns halted just short of the crossroads four km south of Martelange. Shortly after noon the other column moved forward to occupy the high ground north of Perle without opposition, and took up positions to support the attack on Martelange by fire. At 1330 "A" Company, supported by a tank platoon, started the attack of Martelange on foot, and within half an hour had occupied the western portion of Martelange without resistance. "B" Company then moved forward on the left with another platoon of tanks, and was near the center of town when considerable small arms and bazooka fire was received from the buildings on the west side. Bitter street fighting continued all afternoon in the center of town, and one platoon of "B" Company was pinned down on the embankment just west of the highway by raking machine gun fire from a group of buildings above. Artillery fire was placed on the west side of town and some of the houses caught fire, but the resistance continued. Bright moonlight and new-fallen snow made any movement in the open an easy target for the enemy's automatic weapons. With the aid of two tanks, however, an attack was made at 1800 which wiped out the enemy pocket, by 0400 23 December. "A" and "B" Companies continued to fight their way toward the bank of the river Sure.

Saturday 23 December 1944.

By 0430 Martelange was cleared of enemy up to the river bank. The bridge on the main Bastogne Highway was found completely demolished, but the bridge on the Radelange road, although partially destroyed, proved to be passable for foot troops. At 0300 "A" Company started across the bridge and by 0500 had secured the high ground to the northwest without opposition, permitting corps engineers to begin bridging the river for vehicular traffic. At 1430 the bridge was completed, and Task Force Oden moved across the river and north on the Bastogne highway, with Task Force Alanis following in support. Part of "C" Company, riding the lead tanks of Task Force Oden, suffered several casualties from enemy 20mm fire a mile north of Martelange at 1600. This fire was silenced and the column continued on, but near Warnach stiffer opposition was encountered. While the tanks moved west off the road and advanced to the northwest, "C" Company moved along the highway and lost two half-tracks from enemy antitank fire southwest of Warnach. A platoon of "C" Company, supported by four light tanks, was sent into Warnach and suffered severe casualties before it was withdrawn. At 2030, "B" Company was mounted on the tanks of "B"

Company of the 35th and, moving west off the road a mile northwest of Martelange, followed in support of the tank battalion, advancing by bounds from ridge to ridge in a northwesterly direction. Resistance in Warnach continued active, and it was later revealed that the Germans had two battalions in the town at this time, one of which was being withdrawn.

Sunday 24 December 1944.

At 0530 "B" Company, mounted on tanks, moved east across the road to attack Warnach, and was met at the outskirts of town by a hail of direct and small arms fire. Several hours of bitter street fighting drove the enemy armor and infantry into the northern portion of town, where they defied efforts to dislodge them. At 0700 it was decided to withdraw our small tank-infantry team slightly to the rear of the church, in order to employ artillery fire safely. After this artillery softening, the attack was resumed and severe fighting continued through the day. In the course of this action our force took 135 prisoners; knocked out an assault gun, 2 armored cars, and a truck; captured 3 vehicles and an antitank gun; and rescued 3 men from "C" Company and an engineer unit, who had been held prisoners by the Germans. Much of the equipment used by the enemy was American. By 1715 the last Germans were cleared from Warnach, and an attempted enemy counterattack from the woods northeast of town was repulsed by artillery fire. Meanwhile "A" Company, with "C" Company of the 35th, had moved out at noon to clear the woods north of Warnach. After taking many prisoners, "A" Company reached the edge of the woods two kilometers northwest of Warnach by 1045, and moved on to a position just short of the Tintange-Strainchamps road for the night. During this time "C" Company, attached to "A" Company of the 35th, advanced on the other side of the highway, taking the Herrenberg, the woods to the north, and the Bois de Morienal, and went into position on "A" Company's left. "B" Company remained in Warnach, securing the town against persistent German attempts to infiltrate.

Monday 25 December 1944.

At 0800 the attack was resumed, with "C" Company on the left of the highway and "A" Company on the right, and "B" remaining in reserve at Warnach. While "A" Company of the 35th took supporting positions overlooking Strainchamps, "C" Company sent one platoon to clear that town. From Strainchamps it was possible to see Combat Command "B" attacking to the north on the Sarnon-Chaumont road, and it was also possible to see the dug in positions of an extensive enemy pocket by-passed by Combat Command "B" southwest of Hollange and outside of our left boundary. After Strainchamps was cleared without opposition, the companies moved forward abreast. "C" Company met light resistance in the patches of woods to the north, taking a few prisoners, and received mortar, rocket, and tank fire from the north. "A" Company met heavy small arms fire in the north edge of the Bois de Melch; and, in order to permit them to advance, the light tanks of the 35th moved up on the left and swept the area with fire. At 1315 our forward elements were attacked by American 47's, and the resulting confusion delayed the advance considerably. By 1630 "C" Company, still supported by "A" of the 35th, had advanced across difficult terrain the tanks skidding precariously on the snow-covered slopes to high ground about five hundred yards south of Hollange. A "C" Company patrol was sent toward Hollange to find out if the town was occupied by the enemy, and at 1700 the patrol returned safely and reported drawing enemy small arms fire from the town. During this operation the mortar platoon, assault gun platoon, and supporting artillery fired on the enemy rocket across the railroad tracks. "A" Company dug in on "C" Company's right, and "B" remained in Warnach. Since air reconnaissance indicated that Hollange was held by the enemy in strength, heavy artillery concentrations were fired on it during the night.

Tuesday 26 December 1944.

At 0800 one platoon of "C" Company supported by two platoons of tanks from "A" Company of the 35th Tank Battalion began the attack as planned (see insert #16) on Hill 490 northeast of Hollange and at 0945 were just south of the road running east from the town to the highway. This force met heavy resistance in the form of artillery fire from the northeast, direct fire from north and north west and small arms fire from the town of Hollange and requested air support on that town and air observation on the area around Hill 490. "A" Company continued the attack on the right of the highway moving north to a position 500 yards north of Strainchamps-Honville Road and received artillery fire. Tanks from "B" Company of the 35th Tank Battalion moved up at 1015 to support them. At 1100 "A" Company reached the reverse slope of Hill 400 with left flank on highway and right flank 1200 yards to the right. This movement brought "A" Company abreast of "C". "B" Company remained in Warnach in reserve. Air support searched areas north for reported enemy column but found no trace of it. They did however locate enemy gun positions 600 yards north of Hollange and attacked them at 1210. At 1400 one platoon of "C" Company and 2 platoon of tanks gained their objective. They continued to receive small arms fire from Hollange and our artillery preparation began on that town at 1425 lasting for about 10 minutes. As it lifted the remaining two platoons of "C" Company and a platoon of tanks from "A" Company 35th Tank Battalion moved in from the northeast to attack and at 1730 the town was taken along with 174 P. W.'s "C" and "A" company remained in this location for the night. "B" Company moved north and extended "A's" right flank to make contact with 3/318 Infantry which had taken Honville. Defensive fires were planned for areas north of 48 grid line. 35th Tank Battalion consolidated with "A" and "C" on position.

Wednesday 27 December 1944.

At 0800 "C" and "A" Companies moved north according to plan after an artillery preparation on Aux Bourchons and Sainlez and advanced 800 yards through woods meeting light resistance. At 0940 "C" Company was held up by small arms fire from buildings on main road 400 yards west of Sainlez and called for tank support. "A" Company halted in north edge of Aux Bourchons and awaited the artillery preparation on Sainlez. "B" Company moved at 1010 according to plan (see insert #17) to support "A's" attack on Sainlez. The tanks of the 35th Tank Battalion which supported "C" Company fired on the buildings from which fire had come and "C" Company moved in clearing the houses then moving north along this original axis of advance. At 1150 the artillery placed a large concentration on Sainlez and as it was lifted "A" Company using marching fire, moved in to attack the town. Several Germans in fox-holes on the south west edge of town gave up without a fight as "A" Company sprayed the area with all available fire and a total of 133 PW's were taken in the ensuing action in the town. There was some SA and mortar fire falling on "A" during the attack. The town was taken at 1350 and outposted immediately, "B" Company then moved through "A" and across open ground towards the woods to the north. Two squads from "B" Company were pinned down by MG and 20mm fire from the north east at 1455 but soon overcame the resistance with artillery fire and moved into the woods abreast of "C" Company. The attack proceeded slowly through thick forest and at 1630 "C" Company was held up by MG fire from the north as they were half through the Bois du Vicaire. "B" moved abreast and the two companies tied in on the highway and consolidated the position for the night. "A" remained in Sainlez. One platoon outposted A/35 north west of town.

Thursday 28 December 1944.

After the 5 minute artillery preparation on the woods north of their positions, "C" and "B" Companies moved out abreast at 0800 and met no resistance for a distance of about 400 yards. A road block, hastily built, and mines were discovered on the highway near cross roads between Bois du Vicaire and L'ardoisiere.

The engineers succeeded in clearing these obstacles at 1115. "A" Company remained at Sainlez to reorganize. At 1115 "B" Company on the right launched their attack on Chateau Losange which was reported to be a German Regimental CP. They met considerable resistance from small arms, but as the supporting tanks of B/35 Tank Battalion moved into the clearing, south of the Chateau and fired point blank at the buildings, resistance lessened and "B" Company moved in and cleared area at 1550. "C" Company on the left of the highway advanced without opposition through L'Ardoisiere Forest and sent patrols to investigate buildings at Rimifosse. "B" Company continued its advance northward after the battle at the Chateau meeting very light resistance through the woods, however, some mortar fire from their right flank harassed their movement. Enemy small arms fire from Hill 530 was directed upon "C" Company as they attempted to emerge from north edge of woods. At 1600 "A" Company, mounted in their vehicles, moved from Sainlez on main highway to an assembly area 400 yards south of Chateau Losange. There they dismounted and moved on foot to the east edge of the woods west of Lutrebois. Companies tied in at 1710 along the trail on the eastern edge of Chivresoux Forest, "C" on left with left flank on trail 200 yards west of main highway. "B" in the center and "A" on right with right flank on trail junction 300 yards east of Chateau. "B" and "C" Companies continued to receive small arms and MG fire from Hill 530 during the night.

Friday 29 December 1944.

The town of Lutrebois on the Battalion's right was a serious threat to the attack planned across open ground to the north and at 0500 supporting artillery fired concentrations on its east and west edge. "C" and "B" Company moved as planned (see Battalion Order, Insert #19) at 0800 and at 0830 "C" Company's left flank was pinned down by small arms and MG fire from Remifosse. "B" Company received small arms and machine gun fire from their front and called supporting tanks of "B" Company 35th Tank Battalion forward to move out on the resistance. This force moved forward at 0925, over coming resistance on Hill 530 and aiding "C" Company in clearing out houses at Remifosse. This action completed, the advance northward continued until 1025 at which time "B" Company was taken under fire by an SP gun from their right rear in vicinity of Lutrebois. Artillery and tank fire was brought to bear on it and "A" Company (-) 1 platoon was moved forward to give close support to "B" and "C." At 1100 the 3rd Battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division began their attack on Lutrebois relieving pressure on "B" Company's right flank and allowing them to continue the advance. Engineers removed mines and abatis on the highway through Remifosse during this action. At 1130 "C" Company made contact with outposts of the 101st Airborne Division 1000 yards southeast of Bastogne. Both "C" and "B" Companies set up a defensive line toward the east 500 yards Southwest of Marvie with "C" on left and "B" on the right. Tanks of "B" Company 35th Tank Battalion were incorporated in the defensive plan and "A" Company 51st moved into the Bois d' Hazy as the reserve. Neither "C" nor "B" were in contact with the enemy. One platoon A/51 outposted one platoon of "A" Company 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion at the trail junction in the southern portion of woods west of Lutrebois.

Saturday 30 December 1944.

At 0430 the 3rd Battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment which had attacked the town of Lutrebois on the previous day reported that they were receiving a stiff counter-attack from enemy troops in the eastern end of the town. "B" and "C" Companies were alerted and ordered to stand by while "A" Company was moved south along west side of highway to fill the gap between "B's" right flank and the 3rd Battalion 134th, when the report came in that enemy infantry was infiltrating in a bold attempt to sever the highway south of Remifosse. At 0845 enemy machine gun fire from the woods east of the Battalion CP opened an enemy attack and German infantry followed the withdrawing troops of the 134th down the slope towards the Chateau. It was very

difficult to fire on them since friendly infantry were emerging from the woods in the direct line of sight. The machine gun platoon which had outposted the Command Post with vehicles drew the first fire from both rifles and machine guns and one vehicle was abandoned for a short time as the fire became very intense and the half-track afforded little cover. About 15 rounds of mortar fire fell on and around the two buildings during the attack and tracers could be seen bouncing off vehicles and buildings. Men from Headquarters Company were placed at windows where observation on the attackers was good considering the denseness of the forest. Two tanks from "A" Company of 35th Tank Battalion took up a position 50 yards north of the Chateau and all available small arms, machine guns, and 75mm tank gun fire power was poured into the enemy positions for a period of 10 minutes, driving the attackers back through the woods. Enemy killed and wounded could be seen lying at the edge of the woods. At 1020 artillery liaison planes reported 20 to 25 Tiger Tanks moving Northwest from Lutremange to Lutrebois and shortly there after they were again reported nearing Remifosse. Tank and air support were called for and "B" Company of the 35th Tank Battalion took them under fire, knocking out 12. Fighter planes bombed and strafed and claimed a total of four. The total number destroyed by the combined fire of artillery, tanks and planes was 18 and the attempt to cut the highway was repulsed. Just before noon "A" (-), and "B" Companies were ordered to mop up the woods from which the early morning infantry attack had come. They moved out from the highway toward the southeast with "A's" left flank on the outer edge of the woods and "B's" right flank on the east edge of the clearing. "C" Company moved 400 yards wouth of their former position and the platoon from "A" Company, 51st outposting tanks on wouth en of Losange forest remained in that position. "A" and "B" moved out at 1500 and met stiff resistance from pocket still in woods about dark which split the companies and held "A" up throughout the night but they succeeded in taking 16 prisoners and "B" Company found 18 enemy dead and large amounts of weapons and ammunition along their route of advance. "C" Company moved into woods behind "A" Company at 2100 and "B" Company set up defense around the Command Post. "A" Company patrol met stubborn resistance and suffered some casualties.

Sunday 31 December 1944.

At 0355 "A" Company was still trying to clean up enemy pocket in the woods west of Lutrebois and their patrol located 1 enemy tank and 4 self propelled guns near trail at eastern edge of woods. These vehicles were later found to be knocked out. "B" Company swept the woods on west side of clearing from south to north at 0830 with two platoons abreast and 2 supporting tanks from "A" Company 35th Tank Battalion along trail to their right meeting no resistance. The remaining platoon of "B" Company relieved the platoon of "A" Company which was outposting the section of tanks on trail junction and the latter rejoined the other two platoons of "A" around pocket on north east edge of woods. "B" Company again swept down the south west edge of the woods and took up the same position that they had occupied the previous night (see Overlay #) At 1410 higher headquarters reported an enemy column moving from the north toward Vordin and large concentrations of German troops in woods east of Lutrebois; therefore "C" Company took up defensive position on "A's" left flank along north edge of Chivresoux going north. At 1830 the Bn was ordered to be on the alert for infiltration and for 3 crew members who had bailed out of a JU-88 near Remichampagne.

For the Battalion Commander:

3 Incls:

Incl # 1 - S-3 Journal

Incl # 2 - Messages

Incl # 3 - Overlays

Charles L. Kimsey
CHARLES L. KIMSEY,
Major, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
S-3

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army

S-3 JOURNAL

FROM: 1 Dec 44.
TO : 31 Dec 44.

DEC TIME

1 0800 Attack on Rimsdorf began.

(Insert #1: Bn order for 1 Dec 44)

0820 B/51 reached Rimsdorf; A/51 under heavy arty fire.
0900 A/51 and B/51 start to clear town.
1100 Rimsdorf cleared, cos in posn around town.
1225 Enemy tank attack from E on Rimsdorf repulsed; Bn C.O. wounded.
1330 En arty fire on Rimsdorf.

2 0130 "D" Co patrol reported failure to contact 10th Inf on right.
0430 "C" Co patrol reported failure to contact 35th Tk Bn on right.
0530 Command vehicle moved to Rimsdorf.
0730 Rocket fire received in Rimsdorf.
0850 22F.A. fired 10 min preparation on woods to north.
0900 Attack on Schlosshof Farm began against hvy small arms fire.

(Insert #2: Bn Order for 2 Dec 44).

0905 En arty fire fall on Rimsdorf.
1015 Assault echelon at Phase Line 1, receiving en arty fire.
1110 " " " " 2.
1120 " " " " 3.
1200 A and C/51 halted S of Phase Line 4, rptd 9 en tanks in Schlosshof Farm Area.
Air spt requested; 2 air atks dispersed en tanks.
1415 Assault echelon moved out behind A/8 to atk objective, receiving large cal
en arty fire.
1442 Objective taken.
1730 B/51 in position on right of C/51.

3 0400 C/51 outpost missing in Le Burbusch.
0745 Rocket fire fell on Rimsdorf. Situation remained the same.

4 Situation remained the same.

5 1100 Vehicles ordered moved up to Rimsdorf.
1200 Atchd to CC"A," ordered to move N through Domfessel.
1440 Bn Column moved out toward Domfessel, in the order B, A, Hq, C.
1530 Head of column passed Domfessel.
1700 B/51 entered Schmittviller without opposition.

6 0700 Cos moved into posn for atk on Bining.

(Insert #3 Bn Order for 6 Dec 44)

DEC TIME

6 0750 Arty and smoke preparation began.
0800 Assault echelons held up by flank fire from Singling; B/51 and B/37 ordered to atk Singling.
0900 A/51 and A/37 on 1st objective, immobilized by hvy en fire.
1030 B/51 and B/37 met heavy small arms and tank fire in Singling.
1300 B/51 and B/37 near Wedge of Singling; 1 en SP gun destroyed, 1 SP gun damaged, over 60 PW's taken.
1630 CC"B" began relief of B/51 and B/37.
Information received on projected relief by 12 A.D.
(Insert #4: CC"A" Instructions for Initial Withdrawal of Troops from Area.)

7 1630 C/51 ordered back to Schmittviller; Bn remained in posn.
8 0130 Bn moved out for initial assembly area, in the order A, Hq, B, C.
0430 Bn closed in assembly area 1 Km SW of Rimsdorf.
0730 Bn moved out for rear assembly area.

9 0015 Bn closed in rear assembly area in Bidestroff.

10 0730 Moved out to new assembly area in Gueblange and Gelucourt.
1030 Closed in new assembly area.

11-17 Situation unchanged.

18 0430 Rcvd warning of en paratroop activity from CC"A".
1000 Rcvd orders from CC"A," for anti-paratroop patrolling.

(Insert #5 CC"A," Order 18 Dec 44 for "Systematic Road Patrol.")

1200 CC"A" order cancelled.
1900 Bn alerted for 1-hr movement.
2230 Bn prepared for 1-hr movement.

19 0100 Warning ord rcvd from CC"A"; CC"A" mvs at 190900. IP is CR on main Dieuse-Kittersheim Rd, N of Rorbach, S of Cutting. Each Bn and Separate co. send an advance bicouac party to rpt to Col WITHERS at CC"A" hqs. at 0800. Radio nets remain open; radio silence. Map; Verdun-Wissembourg Sheet 57.
0300 Rcvd orders for movement to vic Longwy.

(Insert #6; CCA March Order 19 Dec 44)

0830 Bn moved out as ordered.

(Insert #7; Bn March Order 19 Dec 44)

Bn Hqs passed:
0910 Assenoncourt.
0925 Guermange.
1000 I.P.
1010 Domnom-les-Meuze.
1020 Marimont-les-Benestroff.
1030 Benestroff.
1040 Bermering.
1050 Morhange
1115 Baronville.
1120 Destry.

DEC	TIME	
19	1132	Brulange.
	1136	Arraincourt
	1145	Vatimont.
	1200	Han-sur-Nied.
	1210	Bechy.
	1220	Luppy.
	1227	Buchy.
	1230	Vigny.
	1250	Cheminot.
	1315	Lesmenils.
	1400	Pont A Mousson.
	1412	Vandieres.
	1420	Pagny-sur-Moselle.
	1430	Arnaville.
	1433	Bayonville.
	1437	Onville.
	1445	Chambley.
	1505	Puzieux.
	1520	Mars.
	1535	Jarny.
	1600	Briey.
	1610	Avril.
	1630	Bn assembled in Trieux, awaiting orders to move.
	1915	Bn moved out as ordered.

(Insert #8; Bn march Order 1800, 19 Dec 44)

Bn Hqs passed;

2030	Audun.
2045	Bouvillers.
2115	Aumetz.
2125	Crusnes.
2145	Brehain.
2205	Villers.
2215	Haucourt.
2240	Longwy.
2325	Aubange.
2400	Messancy.

20	0125	Bn Assembled in Clemency. Local police and volunteers were patrolling streets as a result of rpts of en paratroopers.
	1200	Many refugees moved into town.
	1215	Rcvd orders to move to Handelage.
	1220	Orders changed to move to Toernich.
	1330	Bn moved outas ordered.

(Insert #9; Bn march Order 1230, 20 Dec 44)

Bn Hqs passed;

1410	Selange.
1420	Hondelage.
1450	Wolkrange.
1535	Bn outposted Toernich.
1600	Rcvd orders for movement of task force.
1630	Task Force Rockefeller moved out as ordered.

(Insert #10; Bn Order 1615, 20 Dec 44).

DEC TIME

20 2400 TFR rptd in position; road blocks prepared, but not in place due to presence of friendly tps in front.

21 1315 Cos alerted for 30-minute movement.

(Insert #11; CC"A" Opns Overlay 21 Dec 44).

1500 Order issued for movement to north.

1800 Bn moved out of Toernich.

(Insert #12; Bn Order 1500, 21 Dec 44).

Bn Hqs passed;

1850 I.P.

1920 Stokem.

1925 Heinsch.

2040 Bn assembled in Tattert.

22 0515 Bn Moved out of Tattert.

0615 Bn Hqs passed Thiaumont.

0730 Bn Hqs passed Nobressart.

0745 CC"A" broke radio silence.

0755 Head of Clm 1 Km N of red phase line (Heinstert).

0800 Unid aircraft, believed V-1, flew low over clm from N.

0805 CC"A" directed rcn to investigate all towns on flanks; no enemy to be bypassed.

0840 25 Cav rptd bridge blown P 612333.

0900 Clm halted, waiting for A/25 to rcn route.

0930 A/25 rptd crater in road at P 563365. Engrs started bridging crater. TF Oden ordered to join TF Alanis route at RJ P 572335.

0940 Bn Hqs at Heinstert.

1135 25 Cav rptd unk no en at P 594396.

1200 Order issued for atk on Martelange.

(Insert #13; Bn Order 1200, 22 Dec 44).

1230 Rcn/51 rptd Perle clear.

1240 25 Cav rptd to CCB they rcvd 3 rds HE direct fire N of CR P 606357, driven back by en small arms fire vic P 606357; fwd elms 25 Cav vic P 625395; rptd hvy en vehicular traffic E of CR P 606357.

1330 A/51 began atk.

1400 A/51 entered Martelange.

1430 B/51 near center of town, rcvg hvy bazooka and small arms fire from buildings W of main road.

1600 A and B/51 meeting stiff resistance in center of town.

1700 Plat B/51 pinned down on slope W of Hwy by hvy MG fire from houses at P 56738 6

1800 Plat B/51 and section B/45 atk en pocket at P 567386 from S.

2000 Pocket reduced, W side of town cleared.

23 0130 A and B/51 rptd Martelange cleared up to river. Bridge on Radelange road rptd passable on foot only.

0300 A/51 crossed river on Radelange road bridge.

0500 A/51 in posn on high ground NW of Martelange without opposition. Corps engrs started to repair bridge. B/51 secured Martelange.

0530 Bn CP moved into Martelange.

1000 3 rds en arty rcvd Martelange.

DEC TIME

23 1330 1 rd AP rovd Martelange.
 1430 Bridge completed; TF Oden moved out; TF Alanis prepared to follow in support.
 1500 A/51 returned to vehicles.
 1515 7 rds en arty rovd Martelange.
 1600 TF Oden held up by direct fire from P 560410.
 1645 Resistance reduced, clm continued march.
 1815 CC"B" rptd to CC"A" that en vehicles were moving S on Bastogne-Martelange Rd.
 1930 Bn Hqs moved out of Martelange.
 2000 Ron/51 rptd TF Oden held up by 20mm and small arms fire S of Warnach. C/51 lost two half-tracks. Tanks moved NW to left of road. Plat of C/51 with a plat of light tanks suffered hvy casualties in atk on Warnach, and were withdrawn.
 2030 B/51 mounted on B/35 followed TF Oden W of highway.

24 0430 Head of T.F. Alanis Clm SW of Warnach.
 0630 B/51 and B/35 mvd E to atk Warnach.
 0605 B/51 held up at edge of Warnach by 2 en tanks.
 0735 B/51 and B/35 two thirds of way through Warnach.
 0745 B/51 rptd en in N edge of town est 1 tank and 30 inf.
 0900 B/51 withdrew behind church to permit arty fire on N part of town.
 1000 B/51 and B/35 resumed Warnach atk after arty preparation.
 1030 B/51 rptd steady progress.
 1200 A/51 and C/35 began atk on woods N of Warnach.
 1330 B/51 rptd driving en N; 1 en SP gun and 1 en M-8 Armd Car destroyed, and 1 en AT gun silenced.
 1430 A/51 rptd many PW being taken N of Warnach.
 1435 CC"A" rptd en had defended Warnach with 2 bns on 23 Dec.
 1440 B/51 rptd near end of Warnach.
 1450 B/51 rptd rescue of personnel from C/51 and friendly engr unit held by Germans in Warnach.
 1540 B/51 rptd rcng considerable fire in NE Warnach.
 1645 A/51 rptd at P. L. 3 (2 km NW of Warnach).
 1715 B/51 rptd Warnach cleared.
 1720 C/35 at P. L. 4; A/51 mvg toward P. L. 4 (Tintange-Strainchamps road).
 1800 B/51 rptd en atk from woods NE Warnach; arty concn on P 558432 repulsed on atk.
 1930 B/35 repulsed en infiltrating toward Warnach.

{Insert #14: CC"A" F.O. #2, 24 Dec 44).

25 0800 Plat C/51 mvd on Strainchamps.

(Insert #15: Bn Order 2200, 24 Dec 44).

0915 Ln O. rptd 1/318 at P 567435, 100 yds from LD, rcng small arms fire.
 0930 C/51 rptd Strainchamps cleared without opposition, continuing adv to N,
 A/51 rcng small arms fire. Rong mortar fire.
 1040 C.O. rptd minefield and trip wires at P 538450.
 1050 A/35 rptd locn P. L. 1 (Strainchamps-Honville rd).
 1140 C/51 rptd locn P. L. 1.
 1205 A/51 ordered to move fwd after D/35 swept area to N.
 1230 C/51 rptd mvg N from woods P 530450.

DEC TIME

25 1315 A/51 reorganized after strafing by P 47's.
 1410 A/51 rptd locn just S of P.L. 1.
 1430 Ln O. rptd 1/318 took many P.W.'s in Tintange, resistance light.
 1630 C/51 rptd locn 500 yds S of Hollange, reng mortar, rocket, and AT fire.
 1645 274 AFA Ln plane rptd concn en veh and personnel in Hollange.
 1700 C/51 patrol rptd drawing fire from Hollange.

(Insert #16, Bn Order, 25 Dec 44).

26 0800 Plat C/51 and 2 plats A/35 start atk on Hill 490.
 0945 Adv elms. C/51 and A/35 rptd locn P.L. 3 (Rd E from Hollange), rcvg arty from NE, direct fire from N and NW, small arms from Hollange.
 0950 Requested air spt from CC"A," also obsn of Hollange-Hill 490 area by arty en plane.
 1000 A/51 rptd locn P.L. 2 (500 yds N of Strainchamps-Honville rd). 318 Inf rptd 600 yd advance from last night's posns.
 1015 Plat B/35 mvd up to spt A/51.
 1100 A/51 rptd locn S of P. L. 3 (vic Hill 460) with left flank on hwy and right flank at P 545470, reng arty fire.
 1111 C. O. rptd mines at RJ P 539471.
 1130 CC"B" rptd locn vic P 525491.
 1145 A/51 rptd being strafed by planes from their rear.
 1150 CC"A," rptd en clm mvg S on Bastogne hwy last seen at P 545510 at 1130 hrs.
 1155 A/51 rptd 200 yds S of P. L. 3 in contact with C/51 on left. Plat B/35 rptd 200 yds S of A/51.
 1200 Requested air spt from CC"A" against en clm.
 1205 CC"A" rptd air spt already looking for en clm.
 1208 C/51 and A/35 rptd en rocket fire from N.
 1210 CC"A" rptd en clm no longer visible, but air spt would atk en gun posns 600 to 800 yds NE of Hollange.
 1215 C/51 rptd locn P. L. 3, reng small arms fire from woods to NE.
 1245 318 Inf rptd locn W of Honville.
 1400 Plat C/51 and 2 plats A/35 on Hill 490, reng fire from Hollange.
 1425 Arty preparation began on Hollange.
 1430 A.51 at P. L. 3, reng small arms fire from right front.
 1437 Arty lifted from Hollange; 2 plats C/51 and plat A/35 began atk on town.
 1500 C/51 rptd P. W. 's being taken in Hollange.
 1540 318 rptd reng considerable arty but little small arms fire in Hollange.
 1550 B/51 rptd mvg in on right of A/51 to make contact with 318.
 1605 CC"A" rptd en aircraft active.
 1700 C/51 rptd Hollange almost cleared of en.
 1710 3/318 rptd Honville taken.
 1730 C/51 rptd Hollange taken.

27 0755 Arty prep fired on Sainlez and Aux-Fourchons.
 0800 Attack began as planned.
 0900 C/51 on P.L. 4 A/51 & B/51 200 yds south of P. L. 4.
 0940 C/51 held up by fire on right (543488)
 0950 A/51 150 yds S P. L. 4.
 0955 Friendly air rpts 8 en tks vic 5551.
 1000 35 Tk Bn will fire on enemy at 543488.
 1010 B/51 ordered to move according to plan.
 1022 35Tk Bn moved to support C/51.
 1040 318 on high ground just N Liverchamps.
 1055 A/51 just N P.L 4, awaiting arty concentration on Sainlez. Will attack immediately after concentration.

DEC TIME

27 1130 C/51 preparing to take houses along main road at P. L. 4, supporting tank fire has stopped.
 1135 C/51 held up by MG fire from bldgs on road.
 1150 Arty prep placed on Sainlez.
 1155 A/51 receiving mortar fire.
 1220 A/51 ordered to move on Sainlez supported by fire from B/51.
 1240 CC"R" sector quiet.
 1245 A/51 moving into town, meeting some resistance, taking a few prisoners.
 1305 A/51 has reached church in center of town.
 1330 318 moved out on right.
 1350 C/51 & B/51 at P. L. 5, A/51 holds Sainlez. B/51 reports movement in woods on right flank.
 1400 3 AT guns rptd knocked out in Sainlez.
 1455 318 2 Km N of Sainlez.
 1455 B/51 rpts 2 sqds pinned down by MG & 20MM fire coming from NE of town.
 1530 C/51 & B/51 100 yds S of P. L. 6.
 1630 C/51 rptd 300 yds N of P. L. 6.
 1640 Vehicles moved to Hollange & vic.
 1642 C/51 held up by a tank.
 1730 C/51 rpts on P. L. 7 receiving MG fire.
 1900 B/51 " still pinned by fire.
 2100 C/51 & B/51 abreast on P. L. 7 & tied in on main highway. "B" receiving some SA and AW fire. A/51(-) remains in Sainlez. 1st Plt/A Co out posting A/35 on hill 510 east of Hwy.

(Insert #18 Bn Order).

28 0800 B & C/51 moved off as scheduled.
 0930 B & C/51 abreast on P. L. 8 meeting no resistance.
 1045 One road block & a few mines on highway 300 yds south of P. L. 8. Engrs examining for removal.
 1048 10th Armd Inf Bn reptd in contact with friendly forces at Bastogne. Bois Buhu & Bois d' Hazy cleared of enemy.
 1115 B/51 meeting some resistance at Chateau Losange, C/51 crossing P. L. 8. Engrs removing two road blocks & mines.
 1140 C & B/51 200 yds N of P. L. 8 & encountering small arms & 20 mm fire.
 1145 C/51 at P. L. 9 still moving.
 1207 C/51 reaches P. L. 10 receiving MG fire.
 1210 C/51 sends patrols to reconnoiter Bldg at 552540.
 1410 B/51 attacks Chateau supported by B/36 Tks receiving SA & MG fire.
 1500 B/51 receiving SA & mortar fire from right flank 318 moving to assist.
 1550 B/51 moving north along axis of advance after clearing Chateau. C/51 receiving SA fire from Hill 530.
 1600 A/51 mounts in vehicles & moves to Assy area 400 yds S of Chateau Losange 555516.
 1630 Bn Forwd CP moves to Chateau.
 1710 Companies tie in C on left, B center, A along trail in last edge of Chiversoux Forest.
 1710 MG's on Hill 530 continued to harass C/51.

(Insert #19)

DEC TIME

- 29 0500 Arty fires at coordinates 56305300 & 56705310(Lutrebois).
 0800 C/51 & B/51 move out as planned.
 0830 C/51 rpts left flank pinned down by SA fire & MG fire.
 0900 B/51 rpts receiving SA fire to front.
 0920 B/51 moves out.
 0925 B/51 rpts receiving heavy MG fire, tanks of B/35 move out on resistance.
 0950 B & C cos cleaning out houses on P. L. 10.
 1025 B/51 rpts one self propelled gun to their right rear in woods. B & C between
 P. L. 10 & 11 bringing arty to bear on SP gun & also moving tks into position
 to fire on it.
 1030 A/51 ordered to move forward to give close support to B & C.
 1045 10 Arm'd Inf Bn sending patrols to contact C/51.
 1100 B/51 receiving heavy fire from SP to right rear.
 1100 1/134 on right progressing toward objective which is Marnie. 3/134 attack-
 ing town of Lutrebois & receiving heavy mortar & arty fire from woods to NE.
 1105 C/51 contacted 101st AB Div in Bastogne pocket just N of P. L. 12.
 1430 B/51 at P. L. 12 receiving some SA fire from NE.
 1500 B/51 not in contact with enemy
 1530 A/51 in position Bois d' Hazy on P. L. 12 in reserve. B & C take defensive
 position joining east on line P 564553 - P 567545 C on left, B on right.
- 30 0530 Bn alerted for counter-attack for Vic Lutrebois.
 0700 3/134 Inf Bn rptd to hold only the west portion of Lutrebois.
 0800 Enemy rptd to be infiltrating Mortelange-Bastogne hwy west of Lutrebois.
 0830 A/51 ordered to move into woods west of Lutrebois.
 0845 51 CP attacked by enemy infantry. Mortar fire also fell around the Chateau.
 0900 Hq Co, MG Plat, section of tanks A/35 drove off enemy attack. Medical
 Detachment moved to Vic Hollange.
 1020 20 to 25 enemy tanks rptd moving NW from Lutrimange to Lutrebois.
 1030 A/51 rptd 9 enemy tks NW of Lutrebois.
 1045 Enemy tanks reported 800 yds NW of Lutrebois. Air support called for.
 1050 A/51 rpts friendly arty falling short on their positions 1 Km west of
 Lutrebois in woods.
 1055 A/51 reaches north edge of woods west of Lutrebois. A Co working on 2
 enemy tanks east of their position.
 1125 A/51 taking some prisoners, B/51 moving south to tie in on left of A/51
 1125 Mortar & arty fire falling near Bn CP (Chateau-Losange).
 1125 B/51 moved to west side of highway, west of A/51.
 1315 C/51 in woods P 563545.
 1350 2 enemy tks moved from Lutrebois west into woods P 560529.
 1420 2nd Plat A/51 & 2 tanks B/35 ordered to block trail at P 560517 against
 hostile attack from North.
 1500 A & B/51 sweeping woods to SE
 2100 A/51 unable to tie in on right with 134 Inf Regt meeting resistance from
 AW & SA fire in woods P 559529.
- 31 0355 A/51 separated from 134th by MG fire. Still attempting to make contact.
 0720 Patrols from A/51 rpt 1 enemy tk & 4 enemy SP guns in P 561529 near trail.
 0830 B/51 starts sweeping woods west of Chateau north from Chateau met no res-
 istance.

DEC TIME

31 1216 Enemy small arms fire & MG fire at P 559528.
1410 CC"A" rpts enemy column moving SW toward Wordin. Enemy concentration at
coordinates 572526. Verbal orders not to weaken itself of reserve strength.
Use atchd unit on right as reserve if necessary.
1820 G-2 rpts crew of JU-88 bailed out via Remi-Champagne. 3 Of 4 still at large.

William M. Crane
WILLIAM M. CRANE,
Capt., 51st Armd Inf Bn,
G-3

INSERT #1

Bn Order for 1 Dec 44:

Enemy holds east-west line through Rimsdorf.

53rd Armd Inf Bn is on our right; 1st Bn, 101st Inf on our left.

51 and C/8 attack north tomorrow at 0800, secure the high ground east of Rimsdorf, and be prepared to continue attack northward to vic Schlosshof Farm.

Artillery preparation on edge of woods west and east of Rimsdorf from 0800 to 0810.

Formation: column of companies--"B", "A", "C".

Line of departure: "A" Co present position.

Axis of advance and phase lines: (map).

B/51 mounts on tanks of C/8 by 0745, follow planned route and secure high ground east of Rimsdorf.

A/51 follows rapidly on foot, prepared to extend "B" Co's left or attack the southern half of Rimsdorf.

C/51 follows A/51 on foot, prepared to assist either "A" or "B" Co or protect right flank.

Aid station at Q558333; two lt tks of D/8 will evacuate casualties.

Supplies to companies tonight.

Hand-carry radios.

CO will be with "A" Co; command vehicle remains in Burbach.

INSERT #2

Bn Order for 2 Dec 44:

8th Tk Bn rpts en inf in woods N and NE of our present posn. 4 en tks rptd in NW edge of Bois d'Altenburg.

53rd Armd Inf Bn is on our right; 1st Bn, 101st Inf on our left.

51 atks at 0900 to secure the high ground N of Schlosshof Farm.

Arty preparation on woods N of Rimsdorf from 0850 to 0900.

Formations: A and C/51 abreast, C on right.

Line of departure: B/51 present posn.

Boundary, route, phase lines: (map).

A and C/51 to have front of approx 200 yds each, with C/51 rt flank guiding on E edge of Neuwald. Just S of Sarre Union-Domfessel road, A and C/51 halt, prepared to follow A/8 in assault on objective; then take up prescribed posn (map).

B/51 remain present posn until further orders.

Aid station: same location; axis of evacuation same as axis of advance.

Current SOI. Hand-carry radios.

CP - Rimsdorf.

INSERT # 3

Bn Order for 6 Dec 44:

Enemy occupies Singling, Bining, and Rohrbach; for pillboxes and Maginot Line defenses, see defense map.

On our right, 53 and 35 will attack N through Dehling and Rahling; on our left, 10 and 8 will attack Singling; a bn of 328th Inf will support our atk.

51 will support 37 in atk on Binning, Rohrbach, and high ground to NE at 0800.

Arty preparation and smoke on Singling 0750 to 0800; thereafter assault guns of 37 continue smoking Singling.

A/704 will maintain fire on pillboxes E of Singling.

B/51, mounted on B/37, move at 0700 to posn W of Bining, and then move on Bining at 0800.

A/51, in vehicles, follow A/37 at 0700, move on 1st objective (high ground 1 km W of Rohrbach) at 0800; then move on 2nd objective (Rohrbach), and then continue to 3rd objective (high ground 1 km NE of Rohrbach).

C/51 and C/37 move to vic Q607473 and remain in reserve.

Aid station: Schmittviller; casualties to be evacuated by tank where necessary.

Current SOI.

CO will accompany forward elements in tank; command vehicle will be at CP of 37 NE of Schmittviller.

INSERT #4

Hq CC"A"
Rimsdorf
Q553368
6 Dec 1944

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INITIAL WITHDRAWAL
OF TROOPS FROM AREA

1. 35 Tk Bn will move and take up a reserve position on high ground vic Hill 356 (594436), south of crossroads at 603451. Movement tonight will be completed by 070530. This bn will remain in reserve position until moved to assembly area on order CG CC"A", 4th Armd Div.
2. A medium tank bn from 12th Armd Div will leave its present position near Kirrberg (5125) about 070500 to take up a position west of the N-S road and in the vic of 606462. 35 Tk Bn will furnish an officer and non-commissioned officer as guides for this bn. Guides will report to G-3 4th Armd Div at 070600. Div Fwd CP is in west end of Domfessel. Route of March: Domfessel, Lorentzen, Rahling, CR at 603451, assembly area (606412).
3. Units will remove all trains and resupply vehicles from the area north and east of the L'eichel river which flows through Lorentzen and Voellerdingen. Movement will occur tonight and be completed so as to have all these vehicles closed in their trains areas by 070530. Thereafter there will be no forward movement of trains except by the 37 Tk Bn which may have a minimum of resupply vehicles only. Assembly area of trains: present area unless these areas are north of L'Eichel river in which case trains will move to vic of Thal (568348).

EARNEST
CG

MURLOCK
S-3

INSERT #5

HQ CC "A" LAD
Loudrefing, France
18 Dec 44.

TO: CO Div Arty, 35th Tk Bn, 53rd Inf, 51st Inf.

1. A systematic road patrol has been ordered by Division to guard against enemy paratroops which may be in the 4th Armd Div area or may be dropped in the area in the future.
2. CC "A" has responsibility for an area as shown on attached overlay. For the purpose of conducting this patrol, and only in this connection, CC "A" troops include the Artillery Command, 53rd Armd Inf Bn, 51st Armd Inf Bn, and 35th Tk Bn. Unit responsibility: See overlay. Patrols commence at daylight 18 December 1944 and continue until further orders.
3. Each battalion will maintain thorough coverage of its assigned area with a minimum of three patrols operating simultaneously and as many more as is necessary to accomplish its mission. Each patrol will consist of not less than 2 or more than 3 vehicles, one of which must be a light tank or a half track; each patrol will consist of at least 8 men. The remainder of the Battalion will be organized as a Reserve ready to reinforce a patrol in its area on call.
4. Units are cautioned against setting up a patrol on a road which has not been cleared on mines. Submit any request for mine sweeping through this Hq.
5.
 - a. Bns will open sufficient radio nets to provide for continuous communications with patrols.
 - b. CC "A" Command Net will open at 180700. 51, 53, 35 and Div Arty will remain in this net until further orders. Hourly reports will be made to this Hq by radio; any unusual report may be made by telephone.
 - c. Div Arty, 53, 51, and 35 will submit an overlay and plan for patrols to this hq by 181000.

EARNEST
CG

MURDOCK
S-3

In addition to original instructions (18 Dec 44): Patrols will be instructed to be suspicious of all civilians. No civilian movement outside of towns will be permitted, and civilians must remain indoors after dark.

EARNEST
CG

MURDOCK
S-3

AUTH: CG, CC "A"
Initial HCP
DATE 19 Dec

Hq CC "A", 4AD
Loudrefing, France
19 Dec 44

MARCH ORDER

Map: Europe Road map: 1:200,000 - Sheet 57.

1. CC "A" moves at 0900 19 Dec in one clm to assy area vic LONGWT. The Command may bivouac the night of 19-20 in the area BRIEY-AUDUN.

2. a. ORDER OF MARCH

CLM HIT I.P.

35	0900
Hq CC "A" and Plat B/489	0940
51	0955
A/24 and Plat/995	1030 (Join clm at CUTTING)
A/46	1045
Hq Div Arty)	
66	1055
94	
53	1210
A/& B/25	1245
Tns (Incl A/126	1300

b. Route Hwy D-126 - CG 131 - N 74 - N 399 N 410 - PONT-A-MOUSSON. N on hwy N 52 - N 52-B - N 400 - N 52 to destination. (Marked map atchd).

c. I.P.; RJ. Route D35 and D126.

d. Average rate of march - 12½ MPH.

e. Halts: First halt 1045, thereafter 10 minute halt every two hours ending on the hour.

3. a. There will be no movement from Bivouac areas until time necessary to hit IP.

b. Each unit establish ln with preceeding unit.

c. Limited MP traffic control by CC. Units will post own guides at critical points.

d. "A" Trains march with units. "B" Trains remain in unit Biv areas till ordered out by CCS-4. Service Co. Cmdrs report to CC S-4 at CP CC "A" at 0800 19 Dec.

e. Areas and billets will be policed prior to departure.

f. Advance parties for each bn and separate unit will be limited to one (1) ton truck. Report to IP at 0800 to Colonel Withers.

4. Radio - Nets silent.

EARNEST
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

MURDOCK
S-3

Bn march order 19 Dec 44:

Enemy has launched counter-offensive with at least eleven divisions in our 1st Army zone. (For details, see Ln O's Rpt for 17-18 Dec 44). Enemy air reported active.

CC"A" moves at 0900 to assy area vic LONGNY, but may bivouac for night in area Briey-Audun.

51 moves at 0830 to cross IP at 0955.

CC order of march: 35, Hq CC"A, Plat B/489, 51, A/24, Plat 995, A/40, Hq Div Arty, 60, 94, 53, A/25, B/25, Tns (incl A/126).

Bn Order of march: C, Hq & Hq Co, Med, B, A, Maint, A Tns.

Route: Gueblange- Gelucourt - Assenoucourt, Guermange - RJ 307200 - IP (thence, see CC"A" march order).

IP. RJ route D35 and D126.

Average rate of march: 12½ MPH. 70 yds between vehicles.

Halts: 1st halt 1045, thereafter 10 min halts every two hrs ending on the hour.

Staff establish ln with preceding unit and control traffic.

"B" tns remain in area. Serv Co Cmdr rpt to S-4, CC"A" at 0800.

Rcn plat ldr with one 4 ton truck rpt to Col Withers at IP at 0800.

Radios on listening silence.

INSERT #8

Bn march order 1800, 19 Dec 44:

Major unit moves to Arlon (Belgium) at 1930).

51 moves to Clemency (Luxembourg) at 1915.

Order of march: same.

Route: Audun, Aumetz, Longwy, Route N-18 to Aubange, Messancy, Clemency.

Rate of march: 8 MPH; use cat-eye lights.

Rcn plat move out at once to post guides, find billets in Clemency and rcn Messancy-Clemency road.

Radios on listening silence.

Bn march order 1230, 20 Dec 44:

40 to 60 enemy in civilian clothes are reported in this area. En rptd at Hedange. En is expected to atk at Norille. En tanks rptd at P587046, P435023, and Longvilly (P0460). 130th Pz Lehr Div rptd at Wardin (P6056). Large scale en atk expected at P5558. US tanks rcvd small arms fire at P558508. Pillbox at P608520. Atk is expected at P6347. Unidentified tanks rptd at P5605. En inf rptd at P605505. German forces rptd moving down from Aachen sector.

Div Hq is in Arlon. CC"B" at 0230 rptd no en contact N of Arlon.

51 will move to Toernich at 1330 to outpost town.

Order of march: same.

Route of march: Selange, Hondelange, Wolkrange, Toernich.

Rcn Plat place road guides and furnish billeting party.

Radios on listening silence.

Bn order 1615, 20 Dec 44:

Enemy information same.

D/35 is in posn N and NE of Arlon.

51 will send a task force at once under cmd of Capt Rockafeller, consisting of C/51, section Rcn Flat/51, D/35, assault gun plat/35, plat A/24, to establish road blocks N and NE of Arlon.

C/51, section rcn/51 and A/24 will move at once, picking up assault guns/35 at Arlon, to join D/35 N of Arlon, prepare 3 defended double road blocks N and NE of Arlon, and patrol between roads of the road net. Road blocks will be prepared but not actually put in position as long as friendly troops are known to be in front of them. TF/CP in vic junction of 3 roads.

Remainder of bn remain in posn prepared to move to reinforce TF Rockafeller. Radios on listening silence except in emergency.

Auth: CG, CC"A"
Initial HCP
Date 21 Dec 44

Hq CC"A" 4AD
Udange, Belgium
21 December 44.

FO #1

Maps: Virton, Tintigny, Arlon, Luxembourg, Duebuy, Vielsalm.

1. a. See Intelligence Overlay.
b. III Corps atks to the North with Divisions abreast from right to left 80th Div, 20th Div, 4th Armd Div. 4th Armd Div atks with CCs abreast, CC"A" on the right, with Res Comd following CC"A" by bounds on Div order. 25 Cav (-A & B) will screen to North of CC"B" and upon contact protect left flank of the Division. CC"B" will maintain contact with CC"A" and be prepared to screen the movements of CC"A" and artillery into their atk positions.

2. CC"A" will move to atk posns during night 21-22 Dec and atk to North at H-Hour (see overlay). Both Task Forces will cross Phase Line "RED" at H-Hour.

COMPOSITION OF FORCES

LEFT COLUMN (ALANIS)

51 Inf (-1 co)
Co/35 (B)
A/24 (-1 plat & 2 Br Trk)
A/704 (-1 plat)
274 FA Bn
Medical Support

RIGHT COLUMN (ODEN)

35th Tk Bn (-1co)
C2/51 (C)
Plat/A24 plus 2 Br trk
Plat/A/704
66 FA Bn
Medical Support

3. a. A/25 operate under CC control. Move at once and establish screen to North of CC"A" along Phase Line "RED" (See Opns overlay). Report when screen is established. Establish and maintain contact with 26 Div on our right. Move to North and screen CC"A" on CC order; upon contact with enemy, report and develop situation until main forces come up, then screen right flank of CC"A".

b. TF ALANIS assemble this afternoon vicinity TOERNICH; move to atk assembly area N of ARLON on CC order after dark; atk North crossing Phase Line "RED" at H-Hour. (See Opns overlay).

c. TF ODEN assemble this afternoon (less outpost forces) vicinity WOLKRANGE; move to atk assembly area N of ARLON on CC order after dark and consolidate outpost forces into Task Force there; atk North crossing Phase Line "RED" at H-Hour (See Opns overlay).

d. Arty will move to positions along route of respective columns West of ARLON afternoon 21 Dec. Be prepared to support movement of Task Forces during their assembly night of 21-22 Dec, and support the atk to the North. Registration not permitted.

(1) All units be especially alert for enemy air atks; local security will be constant and thorough.

(2) TF Cmdrs rcn routes as far North as Phase Line "RED" this afternoon; minimum number of vehicles.

4. a. "A" Trains with units; held to a minimum.

b. Task Force Cmdrs arrange with sub-ordinate unit cmdrs immediately for supply of same.

INSERT #12

Bn order, 15 O, 21 Dec 44:

101st Airborne Div and elements of 9th and 10th Armd Divs have been cut off in Bastogne by German counter-offensive. Nearest rptd en at Redange. 14 en tanks at Grosbous. 3 bridges out in Martelange. Road crate S of Martelange. (See also intelligence overlay).

CC"A" atks N at "H"-Hour in 2 clms: Task Force Alanis on the left and Task Force Oden on the right. CC"B" moves on the left of CC"A"; A/25 moves out today to secure CC"A" atk assy areas and rcn to N until en is contacted, then screens right flank of CC"A".

Task Force Alanis consists of 51(-C), B/35, A/704, A/24, with 274 in support.

Task Force Alanis assembles in Toernich and moves at 1800 to atk assy area vic Tattert; atks N at H-Hour, advances in zone of action to destroy the enemy, and effect contact with friendly forces surrounded in Bastogne.

Order of March:

Advance Guard (CO - Capt Rockafeller) Rcn/ 51 and Rcn/704, Plat A/51, Plat B/35, Plat A/704, Squad A/24 and bridge truck, 1 med $\frac{1}{4}$ ton.

Main Body: A/51 (-), B/35 (-), A/24 (-), Hq & Hq Co/51, Med/51, B/51, A/704 (-), 1 med $\frac{1}{4}$ ton, A Tns. (274 initially in posn vic Stockem, then follow rear of column.

Route, boundaries, phase lines: (see opns overlay).

Rcn/51, with plat rcn/704 atchd, moves at once to rcn assy area and set up outposts to N.

Radios silent until first enemy contact.

Bn order 12 O, 22 Dec 44:

Bn ret'd in and around Martelange; A/25 rec'd MG fire from W end of Haut Martelange.

TF Oden supports us by fire from high ground N of Perle.

TF Alanis atks immediately to clear Martelange, and secure a crossing over the river.

Formation: A/51 and B/51 abreast, A on the right.

Boundary between Cos: Arlon-Bastogne highway.

A/51 on foot, supported by plat B/35, clears Haut Martelange, outposts it, prepared to continue on to river abreast of B/51 and secure a bridgehead.

B/51, mounted on 2 plats B/35 and sec A/704, moves out when A/51 reaches Haut Martelange, and clears W side of town up to river, prepared to secure a bridgehead.

A/24 be prepared to repair Martelange bridge after bridgehead is secured.

CP initially at P504357, then follows axis of advance.

Hand-carry radios.

Hqs CC "A", 4 A.D.
Martelange, Belgium
24 December 1944

Auth: CG, CC "A".
Initials _____
Date: 24 Dec 44.

P.O. #2

MAPS: TINTIGNY, BASTOGNE (1/50,000)

1. a. See Intelligence Overlay.
b. 4th Armd Div. continues attach North with CCs abreast from left to right CC "B", CC "A". 26th Div zone extended West to include BIGONVILLE and will hold that town with 249th Engr Bn. 188 Engr Bn atchd to 4th Armd Div. will defend and block portion of Div zone from BIGONVILLE (Excl) to MARTELANGE (Incl). Res Command, 4th AD, upon relief by 188 and 249 Engrs will move during night 24-25 Dec to left of CC "B" and atk North, early 25th Dec. 2nd Bn/318 Inf atchd to CC "B".
2. CC "A" with 1st Bn 318 Inf atchd will atk North at 250800 in zone and link up with friendly troops South of BASTOGNE. Formation Inf Bns abreast, 51st on the left, with 35th Tk Bn in general support prepared to immediately exploit a breakthrough.
3. a. 51st Inf with Plat A/24 and Plat A/704 atchd atk N in zone at 0800, and gain contact with friendly troops vicinity BASTOGNE.
b. 1st Bn 318 with Plat A/24 and Plat A/704 atchd atk in zone at 0800, take town of TINTAGE and drive North and gain contact with friendly troops vicinity BASTOGNE. Bn will assemble vicinity 5642 during night 24-25 Dec. and move out in time to atk from LD at 0800. Arty preparation will be on call by Cbsr with 1st Bn. when it reaches LD.
c. 35th Tk Bn with A/24 (-2Plat) and A/704 (-2 Plat) atchd in general support of both Inf Bns and will coordinate atk with them. Be prepared to exploit a breakthrough at any point in CC zone. Send Ln 0 with 1st Bn/318 Inf with radio.
d. Arty: 66, 274 Armd F.A. Bns direct support; 177 F.A. Bn general support. Fire harassing fires during night 24-25 Dec., and preparation for atk as requested by Combat Commander and Inf Bn Cmdrs. Support the atk.
e. Engrs: Platoons with Inf Bns responsible for clearing mines from all roads within Inf zone of advance keeping well up to the forward elements. Platoon with 1st Bn 318 blow all bridges on right flank of zone. CC A/24 report to CC "A" CP for coordination.
f. A/25 continue patrols on both flanks of CC "A".
X (1) Ln from left to right. CC "A" will send Ln with radio to 1st Bn/318 Inf.
(2) Tk Co. and Inf Co. in WARNAC¹ will remain there for security reasons until released to their Bns by CC order.
(3) Units be especially alert against enemy air atk and ground infiltration.
4. a. S-4 1st Bn 318 Inf Contact S-4 CC "A" and arrange for supply.
b. PW evacuation to Bn CP by units; from Bn CP to CC "A" enclosures by CC, upon notification from units.
c. A/46 Med Co. in PERLE; Collecting Point, MARTELANGE.
5. a. CC axis advance: Main road MARTELANGE to BASTOGNE. Roving CC Cmd CP along same route.

Hq CC "A" 4th Armd Div. F.O. #2, 24 December 1944. (Cont'd)

b. Current SOI. Call sign for 1st Bn 318 Inf: 25 Dec HJX; 26 Dec IRH.

EARNEST
CMDG.

OFFICIAL:

MURDOCK
S-3

DISTRIBUTION:

CC "A" File
1st Bn/318 Inf
35th Tk Bn
51st Armd Inf Bn
A/704
A/24
66 Armd F.A. Bn
274 Armd F.A. Bn.
4th AD-G-3
CC "B"
Res Cmd
A/25
A/46

INSERT #15.

Bn. Order 2200, 24 Dec 44:

Concn on vehicles vic Sainles. 10 to 20 on tanks vic Chaumont. En rptd massing tanks S of BASTOGNE.

CC "A" continues atk North; 1/318 atchd to CC "A" and atks on right of 51; 35 in general support. CC "B" on left of CC "A", 26th Div on right.

51 atks at 0800 to adv in zone of action and contact friendly tps. S of Bastogne; plat A/24 and plat A/704 atchd to 51; arty and air on call.

Left bdry: RR; rt bdry: N-S grid line 55.

Axis of adv: Bastogne highway (also bdry. between co.).

LD: Strainchamps - Tintange rd.

Phase lines: See map.

C Co on left of hwy clear Strainchamps with 1 Plat, with A/35 in spt on high ground NE of town; then clean out woods and adv N., keeping contact with A Co.

A Co. on right of hwy adv Nabreast of C Co after Strainchamps is cleared.

B Co. remain present posn in rsv until further orders.

Plat A/704 spt A/51 and C/51 with 1 sec each.

Plat A/24 sweep rds in zone of adv., be prepared to blow bridges on exposed flanks on order.

Supply and evac: axis of adv.

Current SOI; C.O. will be on axis of adv., Ex. O. in E zone, S-3 in W zone. Capt. Lashinske en C to 1/318.

~~SECRET~~
INSERT #16

Bn Order for 25 Dec 44:

Large concn en vehicles and personnel rptd in Hollange; en dug in SW of Hollange and on Hill 490; en vehicles rptd in Sainleg.

CC "B" is on the left advancing NW of Lambay Chenet; 1/318 is on the right, moving NW from Tintange.

51 atks at 0800, mission the same.

Location, axis of adv., phase lines: same.

LD: A and C Co. present posns.

Plat C/51 with A/35 (-) and sec A/704 mvs N to secure Hill 490; then C/51 (-) with plat A/35 mvs NW and clears Hollange, prepared to continue adv to N.

A/51 secures Hill 400, obsvs Honville, prepared to continue adv abreast of C/51 after Hollange is cleared.

B/51 remain in present posn until further orders.

Mort and assault gun plats be prepared to fire on Hollange or Hill 490 on call.

Arty preparation on Hollange and Hill 490 until 0800, then on call.

Supply and evacuation: same.

Communication: same.

~~SECRET~~

INSERT #17

Hqs Cc "A" 4th AD
Warnach, Belgium
26 December 1944.

Auths CG, CC "A"
Initials
26 Dec 44

F.O. # 3

1. a. See Intelligence Overlay.
b. CC "B" and Res Cnd 4th Armd Div. continue atk to North night of 26-27 Dec. 6 Cav Squadron will continue its advance North along right Flank of CC "A". 35th Div. arrives in sector between 4th Armd Div and 26th Div and prepares to advance to the North, 27 Dec.
2. CC "A" continues atk in zone to join with friendly forces South of BASTOGNE at 0800, 27 Dec. Units will move to assembly and defensive areas, as given to Ln Officers this afternoon, when contact with friendly troops is attained. No change in zones of action.
3. a. 1st Bn 318th Inf and 51st Armd Inf will secure towns and objectives within their zones, supported by 35th Tk Bn. Each Bn initially hold out a minimum of one company minus one platoon as Bn reserve. Atk will be pushed vigorously and relentlessly.
b. 35th Tk Bn support both Inf Bns paying particular attention to assisting in securing key terrain features.
c. Arty, Air, and 4.2 Mortars missions on call. It is insisted that this be used to the maximum. Arty will fire 10 minute preparation from H-5 to H15.
d. A/25: Outpost road from MOLLANGE South to BODANGE and patrol road from CR at 539456 South to CR East of WARNACH 550425.
e. Tank Destroyers: Block roads within zone of attachment, especially roads to East of 1st Bn 318 Inf sector.
f. Engineers: Continue present mission. Be prepared to be used as an Inf Reserve in case of counterattack. Probable employment in present zone of action.
X. (1) Units will designate air targets as far in advance as possible. Target designation must be specific as to type and location.
4. a. CC "A" control Point and Water Point at HEINSCH (567241)
b. Axis evacuation - Main road BASTOGNE to MARTELANGE. Med Co. at MARTELANGE. Coll. Point at WARNACH.
5. a. Current SOI.
b. CP CC "A": Initially WARNACH, then axis of movement.

EARNEST
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

MURDOCK
S-3

SECRET

~~SECRET~~
INSERT #18

Bn Order 2000, 26 Dec 44:

1. a. Elements of 14th and 5th Paratroop Regts in contact enemy vehicles in Sainlez. No details known as to strength or disposition.
b. CC "B" on left will continue attack to north tonight. 1/318 on right vic Honville continues attack with like mission of relieving BASTOGNE.
2. 51 attack north at 0800 with mission of joining friendly forces south of Bastogne.
Boundaries: West - Strange river; East - 55 N-S brid line.
Axis of advance - Martelange-Bastogne highway.
Phase lines: Same (see overlay II 8)
LD: C and A Co present positions.
3. a. A and C/51 attack abreast with A on right and C on left. Highway is boundary between companies.
b. C/51 will clear woods to north.
c. A/51 attack Sainlez.
d. B/51 remain in present position and support A with fire to N and NE. After C clears woods, B moves to P549482 and fire on Sainlez from SE. Be prepared to move through A to north.
e. 35th Tk Bn supports attack.
f. Mortar Plat be in position to fire on call.
g. Assault Gun Plat fires smoke or HE on call.
h. 4.2 mortars fire on call.
i. Arty fires 0755 to 0805 on woods to N. thereafter on call.
4. Supply and Evac - no change.
5. Signal Com - radio.

SECRET
INSERT #19.

Auth: CG, CC "A".
Initials _____
27 Dec 1944 _____

Hqs CC "A" 4th AD
Warnach, Belgium
27 December 1944.

F.O. # 4 - MAPS: BASTOGNE 1/50,000.

1. a. En situation to our front unchanged other than we know the 5th Para Troop Div. has been reinforced by elements of 104 Regt Pz Gr. Div.
b. 4th Armd Div continues mission of driving North in Zone and establishing contact with friendly elements vicinity BASTOGNE. Order of units from left to right: CC "A" 9th Armd Div. (Atchd), Res Command, CC "B", CC "A" 4th Armd Div. CC "A" 9th Armd Div. continue atk tomorrow; Res. Command, now situated in BASTOGNE, will continue patrolling road from ASSENOLS to BASTOGNE and clear out zone; CC "B" continue atk tonight and join with friendly forces. 35th Inf Div., on our right, continue atk in zone.
2. CC "A" with Inf. Bns abreast, continues atk to North at ~~0800~~ to join with friendly forces, vicinity BASTOGNE. See opns overlay for new boundaries.
3. a. 51st Armd Inf Bn atk North in zone at ~~0800~~, clearing area from present lines to first road to North, then continue North in zone, join contact with friendly forces.
b. 1st Bn 318 Inf with Plat A/25 atchd, atk North in zone at ~~0900~~, take town of LUTREBOIS, continue North and make contact with friendly forces.
c. 35th Tk Bn continue present mission. Move D/35 (-) around left flank of 51st Inf on order Lt. Col. Oden to assist movement of 51st and reconnoiter in force.
d. Arty - Fire 5 minute preparations from H-5 to H for respective Inf Bns prior to their atk. Coordinate No-fire area with CC "B" arty. Fire harassing and interdiction fires during night 27-28 Dec.
e. Engrs - Continue present mission. Be prepared for employment as an Inf Reserve.
f. 4.2 Mortar Co: Continue present mission.
g. Tank Destroyers: Continue present mission. Guard carefully avenues of approach, especially tank avenues. Patrol main road from WARNACH to SAINTLEZ.
h. Cavalry: Atch one platoon to 1st Bn 318 Inf. Outpost West and East flank of CC "A" as per verbal orders of Combat Commander, this afternoon.
4. No change.
5. CC "A" CP WARNACH; forward CP along route of advance.

EARNEST
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

MURDOCK
S-3.

[REDACTED]

INSERT #20

Bn Order 2000, 27 Dec 44:

1. a. PW's indicate that 14th Paratroop Regt still in contact on North with mission of holding at all costs. 5th Paratroop Div has been reinforced by elements of 104 Regt Pz Gren Div.

b. Res command now in BASTOGNE and hold Assenois - Bastogne road. CC "B" on immediate left continues atk tonight to join with friendly forces. 35th Div on right continues atk in zone. 318th on immediate right now located 2 Km N Sainlez.

2. 51 attack north at 0800 with mission of breaking through to BASTOGNE and opening Martelange - Bastogne highway.

Boundaries: West - West edge L'Arloisiere, thence N along highway to Bastogne.

East - Trail (P558513) NE through woods to NW-SE road west of Lutrebois, thence generally along line Lutrebois-Maruis, not including these towns. (see overlay to accompany FO #4 CC "A")

Axis of advance - no change.

Phase lines - 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 added (see overlay #8)

3. a. C and B/51 move out abreast, B on right, C on left.
b. A/51 remain present position until ordered to move.
c. Arty fires 0755 to 0800 on woods north of present position.
d. 4.2 mortars fire on call.
4. Supply and evacuation - Martelange - Bastogne highway.
5. Signal Communication - Current SOI.


INSERT #21.

Bn Order 219~~9~~, 28 Dec 44.

1. a. Enemy holds Hill 530 and town of Lutrebois.
b. CC "B" on left in contact with BASTOGNE forces as objective. 1/134 on right attacks N tomorrow with Marais as objective. 3/134 attacks Lutrebois tomorrow. 318 now in CC "A" reserve.
2. 51 attacks north at ~~0800~~ to join Bastogne forces.
Boundaries - no change.
Phase lines - no change.
Axis of advance - no change.
LD: - north edge of woods now occupied.
3. a. C and B/51 move out abreast, C on left, B on right.
b. B/51 takes Hill 530 and continues advance.
c. A/51 remain in support until 3/134 moves up on right in atk on town.
d. Arty fires on call. Harassing fires on town of Lutrebois tonight.
4. Supply and evacuation - no change.
5. Signal Communication - Current SOI.

DATE	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TT SI	SUBJECT INF	FROM	TO
DEC 22			1	1145	825 rpts evidence 0800/en buildup for atck Vaux-Les-Rosieres P4448 with SA and At fire fr dir Bastogne 0920A/		
"	1500		4	1430	101 AB rpts en inf and armor massing P 587518 at 1400/sounds of hvy fighting to NE CP 44 about 5M away at 1415A/400 to 500 inf 40 to 50 trucks/40 to 50 trks P5064 inf conc at P475615/G-2	25	G-2 CCB 25 CCR CCA
"	2045		12	1630	Civ rpt 50 en with 20 capt U.S. soldiers including a Col A7 Boocange		
"	2115		14	2100	En inf rptd on all but SW side of Bastogne friendly trps there rec SA, mort/artty fire.		
23	1400		7	1229	3 U. S. trks and 45 EM at Remoiville P4948/20 en inf mvg fr Remoiville dir Nives P4748/en 6 man ptl and en O P vic 473472/ME 109 crashed vic P516444 at 1220.	CCA	CCB
"	1555		8	1325	En build up in Nives/Co Breville/Remoiv- ille area/approx 190 inf/4 AT guns obsvd in area/no indication of tks in area.	CCA	CCB
"	1650		15	1109	40 en and 4 AT guns on Hill vic P488489 rptd by object.	10	CCB
"	0007		18	2335	Rosieres P4448 now occupied by en	25	G-2
"	1730		19	1715	Strong en force attacking Chaumont approx 1700A.	CCB	25
"	1851		24	1830	Sit vic Chaumont under control and quiet en rptd to hold town.	25	CCB
24	0808		3	0820	En dismtd patrol mvg E to W fr P475475/no other en action.	25	CCB G-2
"	1000		5	0925	En tps on rd btn 54748970-to-559475	CCA	CCB
"	1218		7	1146	En ptrls active/SA fire rcvd/en bazooka teams infilt toward our posns/sit under control 1130A.	CCB	G-2
"	1222		8	1200	Civ rpts 4 en tks and 150 en white clothing in Rignonville.	35	CCB
"	1303		10	1250	1230/2 dismtd en obsvd in Sure P464473/no other en activity	25	G-2
"	1311		11	1300	53 and TD on our west Rpt 25 en in Vaux-les- Rosieres.	25	G-2

Incl #2

DATE	IN	OUT	MSG	TIME	SUBJECT INF	FROM	TO
DEC			No	SIGN			
24	1407		12	1330	40 En obsvd vic P490485/1305/6 men ptrl with Mvg W along rd vic P479430 routed by arty fire	25	G-2 CCB
"	1447		14	1400	Civ rpts approx 150 en mvd fr Strainchamps 526444 to Sainlez 548489 last night.	CCB	25
"	1705		17	1650	1645/4 en dug in vic P487482/no other en act obsvd	25	CCB
"	1900		18	1815	Sit 1800/en hold Sures/Nives/Corbeville/Remoiville/lgt traffio obsvd btn towns throughout day approx 15 en dug in vic P484477/approx 40 en in posn vic P490485 1 tk obsd in area vic P491489 at 1305/friendly unit rpts no en act obsvd in Vaux-les-Rosieres since 0800 Lgt arty vic P501472 at 1300/no other en act in area.	25	CCB
"	1955		21	1925	1910/3 man en ptl adv SE fr vic P473471 Contacted our OP and withdrew NW under fire no other en act.	25	G-2 CCB
25	1345		12	1230	1223/20 en mvg SE along rd vic P460476/some en wearing white hats.	"	"
"	1120		13	1110	Civ rpts lge no en para at Laneville 3950.	53	G-2
"	1410		15	1305	Re our 1230/20 en mvd back into Sures P463472 can we fire on sure	25	CCR
"	1455		17	1255	Have rpts that en are wearing white capes/previous tpts also said other portions of clothing was also white.	CCB	G-2 10&8
"	1230		12	1200	Fwd elms rec SA fire/Erandrws rptd clear of en/some en still being cleared fr Chaumont.	CCB	G-2
"	1410		17	1325	101 Inf Bn rpts en buildur still in w.		G-2 Net
"	1525		23	1430	Reliable source rpts 5 para div to atatk Resture all posn atk to be led by kit E Co 2 Bn 15 Para Regt.	CCB	G-2
26	1845		26	1636	Are you sending elms to our right flank if so what locln we are pushing all night.	CCB	25
27	1637		16	1620	Elms loc vic N Hompre rec hvy SA fire and some direct fire fr N and NE during afternoon.	CCB	G-2
"	1850		20	1805	1755/approx 100 en inf withdrew before 8th tk adv / entered woods vic P530505.		
28	0022		1	2300	Est 40 en infiltrated fr E to Hompre thought to be in town at present time.	CCB	25
"	0855		3	0840	0830/our posns no change/no en contact 1 ptrls Mvg on CP.	CCB	G-2

DATE DEC	IN OUT	MSG NO	TIME SIGN	SUBJECT INF	FROM	TO
28	0900	4	1925	1755/approx 100 en withdrawing before Inf advance entered woods vic P530505.	CCB	8
"	1122	6	1101	Woods at 542548 rptd being clear of last en/on light en resistance.	CCB	G-2
29	0330	1	0250	Poss en threat fr N or NE be on alert/ron rt in all direction.	CCR	53
30	1330	5	1300	Rpt indicate en in U.S. uniforms are infiltrating thru our lines unk pers in american uniforms will be required to ident themselves.	CCB	10
31	2350	13	2300	35 Inf Div rpts Buildup in woods P5753 J230A 2 cos G-2 Net Inf rptd mvg NE fr Tarchamps/unk no inf mvg SW Sainlez.		
<u>SUBJECT ARTY</u>						
22	2142	16	2125	1955/unident AP flying E to W burst into flames and fell vic Vaux-les-Rosieres P443480 amber cluster flare obsvd same vic at 2105.	25	G-2
23	1530	10	1215	Three SP guns rptd in CP 630 NE believed painted white.	CCB	G-2
"	1622	13	1615	Re our 0950/1-75mm AT gun Dest.	25	G-2 CCB
24	0812	2	0800	Our fwd elms rec direct fire fr NE unk wheather AT or tk are SA arty fire rec during night/other wise no change.	25	G-2 CCB
"	1445	13	1340	1230/en bazooka team dest vic 511478/1300 en arty fall ing vic 501473 size and dir of fire unk		"
25	0822	1	0750	En act during night consist arty and SA fire/red and white flares rpted.	CCB	G-2
"	1440	16	1414	1350/hvy con en arty fire falling in Remoinville P4931183 coming fr NE.	25	CCB CCR G-2
"	1920	22	1835	En rocket minnie firing fr 514443 to NW about 1630A	CCB	8 G-2
"	2110	24		8-88mm guns dest at Salvacourt/en arty posns strafed at Villegrox.	CCB	G-2 25
26	0825	3	0740	Ops rptd at Neuburg and Mettendorf 15 klm E Lus/ Ger border at oo ident had 9 81ba20 and some 60mm bazookas/no AT guns.	CCB	10 8 G-2
"	1500	20	1345	1428/20 rds arty fell vic P53458 fr SE/time of flight unk tdeo	25	G-2 CCB

DATE	IN	OUT	MSG	TIME	SUBJECT	ARTY	FROM	TO
DEC			NO	SIGN				
26		1512	21	1427	2 PW's capt'd vic Grandrue ident B Co 104 Pz Div	104 Pz Div	10	8
					the pw's came fr NE of Aachen via Weiler			
					104 Pz Div was in rest NE of Aachen for 2 weeks and left for this area about 5 days ago.			
"		1517	22	1430	1 PW capt'd vic Grandrue ident 3 Btry 33 Pz Arty Regt	33 Pz Arty Regt	10	8
					15 Pz Div Btry expected to be vic Hompre in woods/33			
					Pz Arty Regt left Aachen sector 20 Dec/arr this area 24 Dec/not committed as yet.			
27		0850	5	0820	Friendly units rec arty at 315584 which was partly CCR	CCR	10	8
					toxic 1 man evac rpt at once any use of toxic smoke or bases.			
"		1045	9	1010	Friendly air rpts 8 en gun posns 80mm at appr-CCA	CCA	G-2	
					ox 550515/air atckd them.			
"		1053	10	1023	Hompre rptd clear of en/fwd elms on high ground E	CCR	G-2	
					of that town rec some direct fire though coming from Nandne.			
28		1240	11	1115	Sector quiet no atks since direct fire at Clochimont	CCR	10	
					and our interdiction of rd south Mochet last night.			
28		1652	17	1630	SA and 1st arty intersection 4 km SW of CP 58/no other	CCR	G-2	
					act along rt.			
29		1440	8	1430	Photo inter/at P4656233 well camo AA guns mtd on veh dug in/at P454619-8 hvy AA posn believed 88's		G-2	Net
					P446628 1st and hvy AA posns 27 Dec/P387779 strong pt or hvy AA posn at P489978 str pt or hvy AA posn.			
30		0753	1	0706	0745/no en contact/hvy arty/en air/signal flares active		25	G-2
					through out night to N and NE.			
"		1035	3	1025	1U15/6 rds est 105mm fell vic 600 meters E Hompre		25	CCA
					P530515/dir of fire undetermined.			G-2
"		1430	4	1212	12 rds med arty fell vic/Assemois at approx 1000	CCR	G-2	
31		0402	2	0330	Barrage of approx 12 shells landed vic 563480/			
					believed to be rocket type.		25	G-2
"		1200	4	1157	En rocket and arty barrage fell on Sainlez/no further into		"	CCA
								G-2
"		1258	5	1250	1230/22 rds med arty fell vic P 569475 fr ne time in flight 5 sec.		"	G-2

SUBJECT TANKS AND VEHICLES

22			1	1145	1 tk rptd vic Bastogne 0920A		25	G-2
"		1225	2	1100	Civ rpt est en pz div Arrgiurolle P 4864 after dark last latter part of unit/35 vehs led by U S peeps mvd to Givry and Rouette.		25	G-2
								CCR

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TI S.	SUBJECT TANKS AND VEHICLES C ^o 'D	FROM	TO
22	1500		4	1430	IDIA B rpts armor massing at P587588 40 to 50 tanks and 40 to 50 trks at P 50641415A	G-2	CCB 25 CCR CCA
22	1745		7	1728	4 tiger tks atkg Vaux-Les-Rosieres P4548 fr SE 1720 A	G-2	25
22	210		13	2025	26 Inf Div rpts 30 en tks vic Arsdorf P 6442	G-2	Net
23	1525		9	1515	1 Bn pers carrier 1 en ambulance 1 armd car 1 US peep entered Remoiville P494482.	25	CCB
"	1535		9	1450	Unidentified scout car/2 peeps/5 dismted men mvg NE at 625356-	CCR	G-2
"	1622		13	1615	Re out 1209/1 US trk dest/BO tk knocked out by AG fire	25	CCB G-2
"	1659		16	1150	En armd olm mvg SU/HD olm at Lutrebois P5653 A71115-	CCB	10
"	1851		2 4	1830	Attack consisted 10 to 30 tks mvg S fr Grand Rue to E and W of town	25	CCB
24	0828		3	0820	0810/1 en armd car vic P488482	25	CCB
"	1000		5	0925	En trps and veh on rd BTN 547489 and to 559475	CCA	CCB
"	1222		8	1200	Civ rpts 4 en tks in Bigonville	35	CCA
"	1311		11	1300	53 Inf and TD on our west rpt 25 en in Vaux-Les-Rosieres/en olm of 5 tks/10 other veh mvg SW fr P 3554 AT1100 Berchdud P5237 clear	25	G-2
"	1407		12	1330	En mt cl and US peep entered Remoiville/en tk type unk at P4914891315/burning veh loc vic P458490	25	G-2
"	1445		13	1340	Friendly trp rpt 5 en tks vic 523482	25	CCB
"	1450		15	1410	TAC/R rpts 6 or more en tk on side of rd in field P4856 AT 1030A	25	CCB
25	0840		6	0805	En tks mvg rptd at 548488	CCB	25
"	0955		9	0920	Now clearing woods A5247 unk no tks rptd at 548488	"	"
"	1120		13	1110	Civ rpts 30 or 40 en tks at Remange 3955	53	G-2
"	2110		24	1950	Unk no en trks dest in Tintange trks Honville/Sainlez/Tu tks dest in Sainlez/4 in Hompre/Bn trks dest on hwy fr Sainlez to Bastogne large amount en train/NE Bastogne/tks dest by PB.	CCB	G-2 25

DATE	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TI SIGN	SUBJECT-TANKS AND VEHICLES	FROM	TO
DEC 26	1055		24	1005	Div rpts lge olm en armor going into Dalloeht P9249 fr E no olm at that pt/at 1000A more later	CCB	G-2
"	1140		8	1036	Lge olm en armor rptd going into Dahlhoeht P7349 fr E HD olm at that PT at 1000	9	CCB
"	1400		16	1322	1000 A TAC/R rpts cons Deralbe motor veh act obsvd mvg both dir btn Boulade P624470 Baschlesden P6246	CCA	CCB G-2
"	2200		30	2103	En olm with 15 tks mvg S fr Sibret to Clochimont direct fire last point olm mvg S fr Morhet areas on has track laying vehs	CCR	G-2 CCA
"	2300		31	2200	2 Armd olms rptd by 53rd Inf Bn olm mvg SE fr Sibert P4954 other fr Mornet P4553 mvg 1315 at 2145A	G-2	25 CCA CCB
27	0005		1	2110	En olm with 15 tks mvg S fr Sibert to Clochimont also en olm mvg S fr Morinet	CCB	25
"	0042		2	2200	En vehs capt'd w Bastogne containing many CP and other signs used by our trps particularly 101 A B Div. Be careful of such signs-	G-2	CCB
"	0938		7	0845	What is en sit/re armd olms rptd vic Morhet and Sibert last night	25	CCR
29	1326		7	1237	Armd olm mvg S fr Houralize air working unit	25	CCR
"	1440		8	1430	Photo inter/at P465623/3 well osmo AA guns mtd on vehs Dug in.	25	CCR
30	1430		4	1212	1 tiger royal/ 1 tiger/ 1 mk four dest by friendly fighter bombers vic Lutrebois 10 strafed same vic/some left burning	CCB	G-2
"	1515		6	1445	Air rpts 32 en tks mvg N Bastogne P5645 and P5652/1415A	CCB	G-2
"	1525		7	1430	En tk 1 rptd 561520/ 12 en tks rptd 572527 1 en tk and 1 co inf 576518/ 3 en tks 570502 2 en tks 560528/ total no en tks knocked out vic Lutrebois 18-	CCB	G-2
"	1650		10	1620	1615/1 en tk mvg NE fr P577504 towards Lutrebois	25	G-2 CCA
31	1200		6	1157	Fr inf rpts 6 en tks mvg N along rd fr Villers-La-Bonne-EAU/P570502	25	G-2 CCA
"	1335		7	1140	35/Inf Div rpts 6 tks P570503 J225A/ 5 tks P564528 1200A	G-2	Net

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIME SI	SUBJECT TANKS AND VEHICLES CONT'D	FROM	TO
31	1606		9	1543	Justice rpts rec counter atak vic Villers P573502 by 2 en tks and undetnd inf at 1500/ atak not strong often rpts 2 tks at 561529 at 1520 hrs	CCB	10 8
"	1714		10	1655	Add en cast for 30 Dec/2 tks type unk dest by friendly arty fire	CCB	10 8
"	1810		11	1755	35 I.D. rpts 6 en tks P573484 our arty hit them 1 small CT atk 1 tk and some inf P572499 at 1745	CCB	G-2 25
<u>SUBJECT RECONNAISSANCE</u>							
22	1251		3	1245	D of 25 Cav C P 49 mvg air CP 20/o of 25 Cav at 484345/CP same Luen/mvg slow no en contact	35	G-2
"	1520		5	1500	D of 25 Cav fwd olms AT CP 20 and mvg into Witry/all other dispositions unchanged	35	G-2
"	2003		11	1725	25 Cav CP at 496422/ D 35 CP at 470402 with plts at CP 3 and CP 20 and O P at 478440 C 25 Cav CP 508445	35	CCB
26			13	1215	25th Cav CP locn 489449	35	G-2
"	1340		15	1310	25th Cav fwd olms 464472/CP 42/475484 495474/ 507479/no en contact	35	Net
27	1940		22	1800	25th CP no change/ with OP at P494482 with OP at P52750/523495/526485/fwd 518459/ no en cas/no en contact today	35	Net
28	1134		7	430	25th Cav CP 75/CP 118 tr ooen no change	25	G-2 CCB
"	1200		8		Ptrl rpts CP 73 clear of en	25	G-2 CCB
"	1250		13		Morhet clear 271555 A cleared Marge Roste 280915A one one-half HRR olm traveling E from St Hubert to Moirey thru river	CCB	G-2
"	1750		17	1705	25th Cav CP at CP 118/D of 25 CP at 72 with OP at CP 73/533507/528495/E of 25 Cav CP at CP 118 with OP at 527444/520474 en cas today 2 PW/mvg no en contact	25	G-2
29	0830		2	0825	Quiet night/no en act rptd	CCB	G-2
"	1508		9	1450	25th Cav CP locn Hompre	CCB	G-2
"	2010		13	1920	1914/unident obj and streak of fire passed over CP 72 fr SE/obsd in air for approx 5-sec-	25	G-2
30	1600		9	1555	Re out 1445/ assault gun rpt no en act obsd. around that vic	G-2	Net 66

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIM ^W SIC	SUBJECT RECONNAISSANCE CONT'D.	FROM	TO
30	2237	14	2100		Special precautions will be taken that no light flares or visible signals will be shown Btn hours of 0100 and 0300 Dec 3	CCA	25
31	2015	17	2001		25 CP loon CP73/D of 2 5 CP loon CP 100 with fwd elms 568442/557510/554605/568446/570488/566478/559475/ 1 fr F of 25 loon 548519/ 1 fr F plus 1 sect 704 TD loon 555488/no cas today 2000 no en contact	25	G-2
"	2019	18	2001		2000/ 1 white para flare obed to NE	25	G-2
<u>SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION</u>							
22	2115	14	2100		PW 26 engr Bn 26 VG Div capt'd vic P 5057 at 1400 A state two atks planned 1 with tk/ 1 with Inf/had not materialized at 1720A	25	Net
23	0435	2	0320		Our men capt'd by en in town 3 km E of CP 49 passed info of operations for tonight 22 Dec/ password for next 4 days/map of yesterdays 22 Dec disp of units with symbols/probably had code names	35	Net
"	0940	4	0815		3 PW capt'd at Q515449/these men belong to the 8 Co of Schirmjager Regt No 14 their mission was to report the loon of our forces-	10	CCB
"	1045	6	1000		P564489/PW rpt/wood vic Chaumont Regt was in Nolland P 5347/yesterday and left in N dir/PW marched into area fr Ger 8 days ago-	25	CCB
"	1815	21	1730		6 PW capt'd vic P513470 ident 8 Co 14 Para Regt place of capt any MSG 1310 hrs should read 513470	CCB	Net
"	1905	25	1840		1740/2 PW capt'd vic P474466/ 1 PW fr Hq 1 Bn 408 VA Corps/Hq in Remoiville P 494484 at Chateau Aoruss at fr church 1 PW fr Hq 3 Bn 14 Para Regt/Bn CP in same Chateau 13 btrys 75 mm guns loc 300 meters W of Chateau were to move to alt posn N Remoiville after 1800/ 3rd Bn 14 Para Regt loc as follows 9 Co Nives P468481/ 10 Co not in area/ 11 Co at Remoiville/3 Plat 12 Co at Coverville P474485/other 3 plts at Remoiville have 80 mm mort 1 Bn 14 Para to W of 3Bn/2nd Bn committed on the W-	25	G-2 CCB
"	2015	26	1906		Re out 1840/PW states AM dp for 408 VA at Wiltz/ PW states an assault gun brig with 75mm med brl gun on mk 3 chassis supports 14 Para Regt 12 or 13 US med tks capt'd vic Wiltz during break through	25	G-2 CCB

DATE DEC	IN	MSG NO	TI SI	SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION CONT'	FROM	TO
23	2150	32	2045	5 PW capt'd in woods W of Hollange ident 7 Co 14 Para Regt	CCB	G-2
24	1210	6	1145	PW 7 Co 13 Regt states Regt str was 3,000 2 days ago now est to be 2,000	53	CCB
25	0837	3	0812	6 PW capt'd in Bdange 24 Dec ident as stragglers 6 Co 15 Reg/they had lost their way and believed town free of US trps.	CCB	G-2
"	0632	19	1604	Mined br at 551297/nw clear/ 5 PWs capt'd in woods 5248 ident 1/4/7/ 14 Cos 14 Para Regt	CCB	G-2
"	1905	21	1825	1 PW capt'd vic 568435 ident 11 Co 13 Regt str Co 50 to 60 men/mission was to Co D to Tintelange/no food or ammo rec for 5-days/morale/falling 15 Co dissolved 14 Dec-	CCB	G-2
26	6803	2	0740	15 PWs capt'd vic Chaumont ident HQ 1 Bn 11 Co Hq 3Bn 14 Para Regt/17PW ident 2 Co 5 AT Bn/rptd 1 Bn withdrew 70 to 50 supplies sufficient to Bn level/trans to Cos difficult because of our arty and air-	CCB	G-2
"	1165	6	1040	2 PW capt'd today said they were fr 104 Pl gr Regt 15 Div/says supplied were being brought fr Wesler for 3 Cos	10	CCB
"	1130	7	1024	PW capt'd 5150 ident 1 btry 408 VA Corps rptd their radios jammed btry of 6-guns was to go into posn vic Remichampagne/btry capt'd HE and AP ammo/PW fr 14 Para rpts hvy losses-	8	CCB
"	1332	14	1250	PW capt'd this AM rpts 27/ Ger 3 PP tks mvg W thru Cugerville 24 Dec/55 arty guns mvd W thru Remichampagne 23 Dec/civ rpts He saw /en Para vic P 530375 on 25 1200 and was fired upon by SA vic P502372.	25	Net
"	2330	32	2109	25 PW capt'd W of Grandue 3 Co 5 Bn/Co had 3/ 88mm guns which were dest	G-2	CCB 25
27	0829	3	2120	7 PWs capt'd Hompre/ident Hq 2Bn 5 Co. 8 Co/ 104 PGR/were in posn rear Bn since 24 Dec/5 Co 80 men arr this sector 23 Dec/Morale good/rumor was VG Div supposed to be ready to move S to reinforce 104 PGR	CCB	G-2
"	0957	6	0830	Approx half of PW coming in are fr 8 para div others fr 3 Co 5 Co 14 Co 104 Pz Gr Regt also Hq Btry 1 Bn 33 Arty Regt 15 Pz Gr Div and 1 Co 33 Engr Bn 15 PGR used as doughs/rptd mines not armed at 051553-	CCB	10 25
"	1530	12	1310	PW states 800 men 901 Pz Gr Regt at Lutrebois		

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TJ SI	SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION CONT'	FROM	TO
28	1415		12	1408	1130/2 PW stragglers fr 6 Co 104 PZ Gr Regt capt'd in Hemptre/Co was in def posns behind Para units/ morale low because of lack of food/gas supply low/2nd Bn 104 PGR mvd into area fr Arsbeck Ger BTM 21 and 23 Dec 1 ctm demobilized on rd for 5 hrs because of gas shortage PW evac to CCB	25	G-2
"	1520	1	14	1345	Ask PW if gas and food supplies sufficient and how and where is it coming-	CCB	G-2
"	1525		16	1620	26 Inf PW capt'd via Kavnare ident 2 bn 36 Inf Regt 9 VR via	CCB	G-2
29	1945		12	1755	Bn losses 26 to 28 Dec/ 92 kd two wd 40 PW 5 trks/3 cars/14 AT guns/2 arty pieces 750 rds over/ 1 personnel carrier 40 bazookas/ no act today	CCB	53
31	1000		3	3121	PWs capt'd via Lutrebois ident 2 SS Pz Regt 1 SS Div also PWs ident fr 167 Inf Div/Veh conc rptd by PW along rd thru woods P666538 to P 613558 to P 613558/ 1 SS Div rptd to have 60 to 80 tks-	CCB	8

SUBJECT MESSAGES OUT

22	0951	1	0900	Fwd elms one half km NE red phase line/mvg slowly-behind dismtd cav no en contact rptd-	S/2 51	CCA
"	1733	2	1720	Our fwd elms half way thru CP 8 rec SP and rocket or bazooka fire from W-	S/2 51	CCA
"	1843	3	1802	en S A and M G and rocket or bazooka fire coming fr via 566387/en force est at 30 to 50 not believed to S out off and presenting stiff opposition	S/2 51	CCA
"		4	2315	8 to 10 rds 105 mm arty fr due north fell on Martelange rt 2130 A en resistance consists of hvy m g fire fr windows of bldgs in town	S/2 51	CC
23	0420	1	0350	1 PW capt'd Martelange ident 12 Co 15 Para Regt evac med channels states co has 120 men moral high/ Co began atok 16 Dec moved to Martelange 2 days ago/mission to secure town/ rds blown but were holes to cross on debris on foot/PWs state Co well supplied food rovd yesterday mvg field post no L 21130-	S/2 51	CCA

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TD SI	SUBJECT MESSAGES OUT CONT'D	FROM	TO
23		1155	2	1100	3 vehs obs on rd vic 542417/ unk if fr or en look like US peeps/obs heard 3 tks mvg vic 560411 fr 0830 to 0930 at 15 min interval/ saw tk trks 2,000 to 3,000 yds W of that pt/ saw 3 en soldiers at SW edge of woods vic 549415 heard en SA fire coming fr vic 562413	S/2 51	CCA
"		1215	3	1109	1 PW capt'd this mng at Martelange ident 3rd Bn Hq 15 Para Regt was attached to 10 Co with 8 other men of whom he was in charge states 10 Co had 120 men and 4 tks in town/2 of the tks were US capt'd/states he came fr Bachlfiden 6246/yesterday on foot/ 10 Co was here night before last/came fr Tintange 5744	S/2 51	CCA
"		1240	4	1202	1 PW capt'd Martelange ident 10 Co 15 Para Regt/confirm info given by other PWs	S/2 51	CCA
"		1520	5	1216	Belgian Off at Martelange states vic woman coming fr Radelonge 550400 this mng rpts 2 en dressed in uniform of US soldier with US peep staying in house at N edge of town/off is willing to lead party to capture them.	S/2 51	CCA
"		1617	6	1520	Civ passing along rd fr Bigonville to Martelange says she saw en tks firing fr posn around farm just N of rd 1 km E Martelange	S/2 51	CCA
"		1640	7	1570	4 rds arty est 105 mm fell in Martelange approx 1520 A fr NE	S/2 51	CCA
"		1804	8	1700	En cas rpt 22 Dec neg/rpt 23 Dec 3 PWs 3 wd 1 kd/ 1 en car capt'd/ 2 US two and one half t/trks/ 3 peeps recapt'd fr en -	S/2 51	CCA
24		1448	1	1404	Ren plt rpts brs at 578403 and 578415 intact/ later not in good condition/ ford at 577429/ en OP edge of woods/at and crater-block rd at 574451/rovd sa and mort fire fr vic 580428-	S/2 51	CCA
"		1745	2	1655	133 PW capt'd Warnach ident 5/6/7/8/10/12/ 14 Cos 15 Para Regt and 2nd btry 11 Para Ar Brig	S/2 51	CCA
"		-	3	1740	En completely cleared fr Warnach at/715 est 80 to 100 en driven into "		

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIME SIG	SUBJECT MESSAGES OUT CONT'D	FROM	TO
					WOODS NE town still in vic/Tfr Mve rapidly rapidly toward P14/ No en opposition rptd/ will consol date at P1 4.	S2/51	CCA
24		2007	4	1900	2 pw capt woods NE Warmach Ident 14 co 15 Para Regt/ Arr Warmach 23 2400/ Rumor was they were cut off and they fled.	"	"
"			5		En cas rpt 135 pws 160 kd 140 wd/ sp 75mm ag/ 1 drmo car/ 1 lt mort/ 4 mr dest/ 1 2 1/2 ton trk us/ 1 US peep/ 1 US 3/4 tontrk/ 1 three inch gun/ approx 300 rd est 75 mm ammo/ 7000 rds US Cal 30. mg ammo 2000 rds US cal 50 mg ammo capt/ 1 2 1/2 ton trk US and 105 M 8 armd car dest req usable equipment be evac.	S2/51	CCA
"			6	2125	En at fire rovd at dusk fr edge of woods vic 581447/ est 88mm at least 1 and poss 3	"	"
25		0844	1	0800	En act consisted of samg fire early in evening/ neg rpt since then	"	"
"		1107	3	1105	Rd mind w camo teller mines armd with trip wires at 538450	"	"
"		1430	4	1145	En op at 563434/ hvy sa and mg fire coming fr woods vic 535456 and 542452	"	"
"		1425	5	1320	15 pw capt'd vic 533447 ident 4 co 5 Engr Bn 5 Para Div were 1 plt bro ught frw 1 Lt2 by trk/ were defending rd block at 540451 with 3 mg 12 fr 8 co 15 Para Regt previously in Warmach rpt cc now in woods N of town suffered hvy losses in wpons/ few left/ 2 pw 6 co were intintinge 2 days ago/ sent outds messenger to tell 8 co to provide own all around protection/ co str 80 med left fr original 130 120 other pw evac med channels	"	"
"		1300	6	1240	Reg immediate reply re your msg 0805A and 0920A more specific info on en tks at 508488/ who obsvd/ dir of movement/ est of no	"	"
"		1433	7	1345	unk no en inf dug in vic 527457 rd min'ed vic 537455	"	"
"		1432	8	1415	friendly inf on our rt rpts lge no en/ obsvd in tintange 5744	"	"

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TT SIG.	SUBJECT MESSAGES <u>ONT CONT'D</u>	FROM	TO
25		1650	9	1647	ln pl rpts bn pers and vehs in hollange(5347) at 1600	S2/51	CCA
"		1800	10	1734	rd mined at 512449/ consists of 6 or 7 teller mines on top of rd camo with manure	"	"
"		2010	11	1925	en cas rpt total 73 pw/ 27 of them evac through med channels/ 40 kd/ 50 wd/ 2 morts 81 mm deat/ US equip recapt'd 1 T trailer quartert trriler/ 2 half tracks/ 1 peep	"	"
"		1137	12	2300	pws capt vic 5445 ident 9 co 13 para regt 15 co 14 co 15 para regt evac thru med channels/ pw 15 co 15 para regt states co was org as td co employing bazooksa in lge quantities/ est 54 in co left tintange 1200 today states cp 13 para regt and 15 para regt and apprdx 10 sp and towed now 105 mm in baschleiden 6246 at 242200	"	"
26		0809	1	0750	en act rpt neg	"	"
"		1118	2	1050	2 pw capt'd NE Warmach ident 8 btry 408 va corps were fwd obs for btry/ 4 towed 105 how in posn 574446 until yesterday	"	"
"		1723	3	1651	req locn fwd elmts units on rt and left incl 80 and 26 divs.	"	"
"		2000	4	1935	92 pws capt hollange ident hq 5/6/7/8/ cos 14 para regt mission to hold at all cost Sand 6 cus had 70 men fa/ 8 and 8 cos 130 men fa	"	"
"		0823	5	2000	en cas rpt 174 capt'd/ 7 kd/ 12 wd	"	"
27		?	2	1500	9 pw capt'd NE Hollange ident 3 co 5 engr bn 5 para dev mission to hold at all cost until relief tonight then withdraw to assenus	"	"
"		"	3	1600	133 pw taken su far today ident 1-3-4 co 5 engr bn 5 para div 1 co 33 at bn 6/11/12 cos 13 para regt 5 para div/ 6 co 104 pgr 15 pgd 6 co bn nolte div r-1/3 co 5 bnattached 13 para regt all capt'd vic sainlex	"	"

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIME SEND	SUBJECT MESSAGES SENT OUT CONT'D	FROM	TO
27		2035	4	1605	pw states co 6 co 104 pgr lt selch bn comdr 5 engr bn capt martais co 3 co 5 engr bn lt ruepnak co 1 co 13 para regt lt sander co 12 co 13 para regt 1st lt stuemoel	82/51	00A
"		2040	5	1921	pw captid n sainles ident 2 co 5 engr bn 5 para div co comdr 11 hildrich pw fr 14 co 104 pgr captid same lucn rpts co comdr 1 lt huule 4 pw 7 co 13 para regt same lucn co lt stuemer	"	"
"		0035	6	2200	en cas rpt/ 141 pw/ 11 kd/ 21 wd/ 3 towd 75mm at gun 4 towd 20 mm aa guns/ 1 towd 50mm at gun/ 2 morts/ 80mm/ 7 mg/ 3 primemovers for lt at guns/ 2 tks/ 1 trk/ 1 us 3-4 t trk/ 2 us peeps/ 1 staff cardest 1 prime mover for hvy at gun captid	"	"
"		0100	7	2210	pw captid vic woods n sainles ident 7 co 104 pgr were polish conscripts state they were carrying mort mm mo fr dp in house at 547515 bn ep at castle at 555517 with posns dug in and well prepared 12 bn ep and at ledst2 co of bnathose 2 places 1 at 547515 also ep 7co/ 1 pw 5 co 104 pgr and 1 pw engr co 104 pgr all captid same vic/ engr coured as inf came fr chamont 2 days ago/ mission rptd by all to hold present posns	"	"
"		0103	8	2215	plane seen falling in flames vic chaumont ident as en by suund of motor only/ occured apprx 2130	"	"
28		2115	1	1722	20 pws captid vic woods n sainles/ ident 2 co 5 at bn states co retreated n 1 km at 0400 fighting str of co 8 men co comdr lt thomas rens of bn formed into 2 custocent fight had 4 sp 88mm guns dest 2 day ago bn comdr capt funk5 engr bn and 14 para regt 5 para div were in same locn/ pw states pw 6 co 14 para regt states co comdr lt thomann told mento save their lives everybody for himself 2 pw 15 brty 3 bn 12 arty regt 5 para div rpts remaining men co co7aur lt role bn comdr capt miller div comdr brig gen heilmann state must territiying exper- ience of war was atk by planes using burning gas- oline bombs pw 13 co 104 pgr/ states we captid last 150mm gun in co/ str 40 to 50 men co comor lt Korn 1- auer/ 8 pw 6 btry div arty pslehr div rpt unit left 22 Dec these menleft behind with-150 mm gun/ 2 pw 3 co 14 para regt rpts elms of regt redrg into fighting team equal to approx 16n pw 4 co 4 para regt states cohad 40 men co comdr capt hollionly 1 hvy wepns left in co/ 2 hvy mg/ pw ag co 14 para rpts mission of plat to hold us as long as	"	"

DATE IN OUT MSG TIME
DEC NO SGND

SUBJECT MESSAGES SENT OUT CONT'D

FROM TO

Poss while bn hq and 7 and 8 co retreated/ pw fr
10 co 14 para regt states this worse withdrawing
n twd remdifusse 5554 pw wd evac thru med channels/
rpts he could not req med air for 3 days/ 1 other
pw evac thru med channels not ident

28	1240	2	1222	7 pw capt'd vic 555536 ident eng plat 39 vr gegt 26 vg div left siegfried line 20 km w sitbourg 10 days ago suffered hvy cas since mission to delay our adv/ 1 straggler with the pw was ident 14 co 39vg gegt/ during last 10 days/ 2 rations ea con- sisting of 1 loaf bread half lb basuage some butter issued/ plat had 40 teller mines which were aboned 1 plat attached/ 2 comts gr regt/ ident unk but it had rcn cars with co/ str of 60 men	S2/51	CCA
28	2206	3	2209	en cas rpt 7 pw 26 kd4 wd 12 mg dest	"	"
29	0647	1	0630	en act rpt sporadic arty and sa fire ted during night	"	"
"	2350	2	1123	8 pw 1 co 5 engr bn 5 para div capt woods vic 553515 ppt they were with out food for 2 days/ issued of bread then 1 loaf per man rvd 1 day/ supply canned goods 3 days ago constr 60 men came by rr via cologne/ koblenz/trier	"	"
"	2352	3	1130	1 pw 14 co 14 para reg capt'd vic 553515 rpts hvy cas during last few days last warm food rvd 7 days ago single/ they only small amt of bread and canned rat issued/ no at guns left in co	"	"
"	2355	4	1135	en cas rpt total 33 pw 13 of them evac thru med channels/ 16 kd 27 wd 2 aa guns ea mnting/ 6 20 mm guns/ 1 towed gun approx 170mm/ 2 h/t/ 5 staff cars/ 1 mort 80mm/ 1 mg dest	"	"
30	1530	1	1440	1 pw evac thru med channels/ states his unit 5 co 2 regt 77 lah/ his unit 5/6/7/ co were supposed to atak at 0530 this morn/ co str 60 men/ co handsttu- rmors her sch reek/ food sit normal/ 2 mgist squad	"	"

74

DATE IN OUT MSG TIME
DEC NO SEND

SUBJECT MESSAGES SENT OUT CONT'D

FROM TO

30	1800	2	1715	<p>pw taken by friendly units/ ident as 7/8 cos 371 regt/52/51 167 vg div/ co co 7 co lt sander/ bw comdr capthatsennetter regt co lt col zellner/ div co maj genhofker 8 co co 1st lt froehlich 8 co of 335 regt has 4-75mm guns horse- drawn also 4 hvy mg and 4-50mm mortars/ 5 days no food/ Pws taken fr 77 lah/ states co 2nd bn 2 regt haptstmedeher/schnelle/ co 2 regt o bessturmabn fouher/ sand/ div co oberfuere monke trps reached villers-la-bonne-eau by trk/ short on gas/ mission to surround 2 amer div/ to take a supply dp/ lah and mvy cas in russia 1943 rec 300 repl out of every 77 div in aoc 43/ pw also states about 10-75 or 88mm anti-tk guns along rd btn villers-la-bonne-eau and lotrebois/ 1 pw taken fr 1 co 14 regt 5 para regt 5 para div 1 states co str approx 30 men/ completly wiped out today/ very short rations last 2 weeks</p>	CCA
"	0115	3	0045	<p>2 pw capt'd 560530 ident 8 co 2 regt lah rpts 1 tk 3 to 4 ag on rd vic 561529 along with 3 dest tics in same vic/ no hvy wans left in co/ elms of 6/7/8/ cos total 50 to 80 men/ obs'd for sec of the armor/ arriv- ed wilfrs la-bunnelfau 292 400a fr vic stavelot by trk/ bn comdr cas/ new comdr lt keil former co comdr 8 co/ allowance of gas per veh for trip here and mut fr here 40 liters/ 8 co has hvy moors 120mm med mortars 80mm/ and 1 at gun 75mm spin organic equip but all have been dest</p>	" "
31	0125	2	0050	<p>en cas rpt 30 Dec 44/ total 16 pw/ 12 evac thru med channels/ all fr inf 18 kd/ 30 wd/</p>	" "
"	1127	3	1125	<p>approx 20 rds est 105mm fell 556513 1120 dir fr ne</p>	" "
"	1255	4	1246	<p>fr inf rpts 6 en tks mvg n along rd fr villers- la- bonne-eau 1570502</p>	" "
"	1840	5	1335	<p>1300/ 1 en tk obs'd still in posn at 560529</p>	" "
"	1545	6	1454	<p>2 pw capt'd vic 559528 ident 5 co 331 vg regt 167 vg div rpts his co and 1 other comd into woods e lutrebuis yesterday fr adenau nr pruemud thru lutrebuis 0430 today saw 2 t tks and 1 plat 77 unit in center of town saw 3 other tks on rd at 562529 crews dismtd approx 35 men with mg dug in around tks/ tks were fr 77 unit co mud into posn 558528 withdrew approx at 1045 twd lutrebuis mission to secure and hold posns at all costs/ 5 co had 40 men 6 co dest/ 7 and 8 co had hvy cas also in posn woods e lutrebuis yesterday food rcvd regular rcvd hot meal fr field kitchen last night.</p>	" "

DATE IN OUT MSG TIME
DEC NO SGND

SUBJECT MESSAGES SENT OUT CONT'

FROM TO

DATE	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIME SGND	TEXT	FROM	TO
31		1832	9	1810	en cas rpt/ 14 kd/ 20 wd 4 pw total 2 evac thru med channels	S2/51	CCA
"		1920	10	1845	civ coming fr lutreduisa t dusk today rpts large no of fn pers and at least 2 tks in bldgs in town/ hvy cas suffered by en in town fr arty saw wd being treated	"	"
"		1130	11	2140	pw capt w lutrebuis was on way to join 5 co 329 regt 167 vg div was psd 901 pgr 4 days ago but couldn't find unit rptd to ep for stragglers in lutremange 5850 at 1400 today bn comdr 3 regt 339 regt picked up all inf stragglers and took them to regt cp in woods vic 563531 off in formed them our arty shelled rt of approach march two lutrebuis in flicted hvy cas only 30 men left in bn and stopped atk bn comdr org co at regt cp and mud thru lutrebuis at dusk with 70 to 80 men/ this pw left to treat wd on edge of town and became lost pw rpts bn cp lutrebuis/ 1 tk mk 5 parked on rd at 58165172 out of ras/ posn of niebelwerers vic 579534/ arty posn woods ne l utremange/ 20 to 20 tks of 77 unit and 77 lah regt conc vic villers 5750/ told mission to cut rd and surround 3 us div/ capt weber bn comdr eld repl bn 26 spoketo men and stated this is last big effort/ if it fails the war is lost	"	"
"		1135	12	2145	dod 1 pw to en cas rpt 31 Dec fur total of 5/ pw 5 co 339 regt 167 vg div rpts recvd no food for 3 days/ crew of nebelwfreers 579534 states they only had 200 rds ammo.	"	"

DATE DEC	IN	OUT	MSG NO	TIME S	SUBJECT MOVEMENTS	FROM	TO
22	1225		2	1150	civ rpt est en pz div ar giurville after dark last night/ later part of unit/ 35 vehs led by us peeps mud to givry and rouette	25	G-2
22	1659		16	1150	en armd elm mvg sw/ hd d m at lutrebuis is p5653 at 1115	CCB	10
26	1055		4	1005	div rpts lge elm en armdr going into dahluecht p749 fr e/lla elm at that pt at 1000a more later	"	G-2
29	1025		4	0940	rel source rpts 3 pg mugs fr houfee lize q6172	G-2	Net
31	1335		7	1140	35 inf div rpts/ 2 cos # rpts mug ne fr takchamps unk no inf mug sw gonlez	"	"
"	1420		8	1348	en clm rpts mug sw fr wa din to lutrebuis at 1230	CCB	8 10

SUBJECT OBSTACLES

23	0747		3	0300	officer fr crown rpts cmd pillboxes at p538563 field of fire sw/ p 537554 field of fire ne/ p556547 field of fire neall located sw of cp 44	CCB	25
"	0947		5	0920	cam pillboxes loc at p 3 8565 field of fire to sw/ another at p537554 field of fire to ne also at present field of fire fr ne/ all sw of cp44 oak relay msg to older	25 CCA	CCB
26	1100		5	1015	brs vic 465473/ 473480/465477 474470 out/ 0945 8pw captd in sure p463472	25	CCB
29	1300		6	1205	hasty friendly mine field loc 150 yds each side of rd at 514549 12 yds wide	G-2	Net

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. Army.

6 March 1945.

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THRU CHANNELS).

In compliance with Army Regulations 345-104, Change 3, the following after action report is submitted for the month of January 1945:

Monday, 1 January 1945.

The companies remained in their previously held defensive positions (see overlay #1) with C on left, A in center and B on the right. The small enemy pocket on the northeast edge of the forest held it's ground, aided by the perfect rows of trees which furnished good fire lanes. All personnel remained on the alert for expected counter attack from the east. Supporting artillery was active. Some mortar fire fell on "C" Company.

Tuesday, 2 January 1945.

Situation was unchanged during the morning. Patrols from "C" Company reported that the enemy pocket is apparently 25 yards in depth and 100 yards in width, containing 30 to 40 men and 10 to 12 machine guns. At 0930 the Battalion Commander issued an order to reduce the enemy pocket. (See Bn Order #1-S-3 Jr for 2 Jan 45). At 1058 the 2nd Battalion of the 134th Infantry on our right reported that they had captured 30 SS PWs in their resumed advance toward the northeast and it was believed that they might have come from the pocket. The plan began on schedule and at 1210 A Co had advanced to the edge of the woods. The report came at 1337 that the pocket had been reduced without opposition and all companies were in their assigned positions (see overlay #2) along trail in eastern edge of forest and in most instances had occupied fox holes and shelters which had been dug and built by the enemy. Intermittent mortar fire fell near Battalion CP and on B Company area.

Wednesday, 3 January 1945.

Light enemy artillery fire on B Company was the only enemy activity. Companies remained in present positions with exception that the left platoon of C Company was relieved of it's tank outpost duty and put into the defensive line of that company facing north. Bn remained tied in on left with 10th Arm'd Inf Bn and on the right with 28th Cavalry. One platoon of B Company remained on out post duty with section of tanks and platoon of TDs south of woods on rd. (See overlay #3) Mission remained the same to hold defensive line in east edge of woods and prevent enemy counterattacks from cutting Bastogne highway. (See insert #1)

Thursday, 4 January 1945.

Sporadic artillery fire fell vicinity Battalion CP. Companies remained in present position and were alerted at 0500 for possible counterattack. All companies received some artillery fire but suffered no casualties. Supporting artillery fired on tanks and infantry which was reported to be moving from Lutremange to Lutrebois.

Friday, 5 January 1945.

Battalion alerted at 0500 for possible counter attack from the hotly contested town of Lutrebois which the 134th was still attempting to capture. Companies received heavy mortar fire during night. C Company pulled one platoon out of the line and to the vicinity of the Battalion CP for a 12 hour rest. A and B Companies were to follow this procedure in that order. 6 rounds of approximately 75 mm arty fell in vicinity of Battalion CP at 0944.

Saturday, 6 January 1945.

Battalion again alerted at 0500 for possible counter attack for the Northeast. Mission still that of preventing Germans from cutting Bastogne highway, A Co of 35th Tank Bn and one platoon of A Co 704th TD Bn in direct support. TF Withers on left (North) and TF Oden on right. No change in situation (See insert #2)

Sunday, 7 January 1945.

Battalion was alerted at 0400 due to PW report that enemy attack from North east was scheduled at that hour. The attack was not forthcoming and situation remained the same. At 1020 "B" Company sent a patrol to their front and shortly after crossing the Lutrebois-Villers La Bonne Eau road it was fired upon by a MG from the east. It returned without casualties.

Monday, 8 January 1945.

At 0600 all personnel was awake and alert for any enemy action. No activity in Company areas during the day. At 1720 enemy artillery and mortar fire fell in the vicinity of the Battalion CP and again at 1940 a large concentration of artillery fire fell near the CP. One half track was hit squarely on the hood but no personnel casualties were suffered.

Tuesday, 9 January 1945.

Battalion was alerted at 0600. A warning order for movement came from CC "A" at 0830 following the information that 137th Infantry which relieved the 28th Cavalry on the right of the Bn was to attack southeast at 1000 while the 134th and 320th in the vicinity of Lutrebois were to attack east to the high ground. At 1215 the Bn was ordered to move on foot to vehicle assembly area thence to designated temporary assembly area (see insert #3) and revert to Reserve Command (see Bn order #2 in S-3 Journal for 9 Jan) The movement began at once and at 1500 B and C companies had closed in their assy areas. A closed at 1600 and all companies remained in this location (see overlay #6) during the night with all around defense against infiltration.

Wednesday, 10 Jan 1945.

At 1300 the Battalion was alerted for movement by Reserve Command and a billeting party was sent to Assenois, however, at 1830 another order was issued (see Bn order #3 in S-3 Journal) and companies remained in their present temporary assembly areas for the night preparatory to moving to vicinity Luxembourg city the following morning.

Thursday, 11 January 1945.

The head of the Bn column crossed the IP at 0920. All vehicular markings were obliterated for the march and the companies moved out in the order, B, Hq and Hq Co, A and C. Assembly area was reached at 1600 and the companies occupied towns as follows: B in Evange, Hq and Hq Co in Briestroff La Grande, A in Roussy la Bourg and C in Roussy le Village (see overlays #7 & 8) The Division was said to be in 3rd Army reserve but it was not officially a rest period.

Friday, 12 January 1945.

One platoon B Co moved to Boler. Maintenance and rehabilitation period begins. Plans discussed for defense against air borne landings.

Saturday, 13 January 1945.

Reconnaissance made of areas North and East of Luxembourg city for counter attack plans in those areas. Bn ordered to move vicinity Bittenburg for tactical reasons.

Sunday, 14 January 1945.

The Battalion moved out at 0830 and arrived in new assembly area at 0946. The companies were located as follows: A at Bugem, B at Noertang, C at Pont-Pierre, Hq and Service at Schiffange (see overlays #9 & 10).

Monday, 15 January 1945.

Rehabilitation period continued.

Tuesday, 16 January 1945, to Sunday, 21 January 1945.

One rifle company alerted at all times for possible immediate employment against enemy airborne landings. (see inserts #5, 6, & 7)

Monday, 22 January 1945.

At 1530 Battalion was alerted for movement to 4th or 5th Division areas north of Luxembourg City (see Bn order #4 s-3 Journal) but stayed in present location during the night.

Tuesday, 23 January 1945.

Reconnaissance made of areas occupied by 4th and 5th Infantry Divisions. Bn attached to CC"B", Companies moved out at 1615 in following order, B, Hq, A & C and arrived in assembly area vicinity Heisdorf at 1600 (See overlays #11 & 12 and Bn order #5 in S-3 Journal)

Wednesday, 24 January 1945.

Reconnaissance made of areas occupied by 22nd and 8th Inf Regts of 4th Inf Div. CC"B" ordered reconnaissance made of all assy areas for counter attacks (See insert #8)

Thursday, 25 January 1945 to Sunday 28 January 1945.

No change in the tactical situation.

Monday, 29 January 1945.

Reconnaissance was made of area occupied by 3rd Bn of the 319th Regt of the 80th Infantry Division east of Diekirch. 51st Armd Inf Bn was ordered to relieve the above named unit (see Bn order #4 in S-3 Journal) and at 1800 A Co left their area followed by B, Hq and C companies. The companies arrived at Gilsdorf which was the vehicular assembly area at about 1700 at which time the men dismounted, donned white camouflage suits to blend with the snow and moved on foot to effect the relief. A Co relieved I Co of the 319th on the left and took up their defensive position in the vicinity of Fouchren. This was the most exposed sector of the Battalion front and relief had to take place after dark to prevent drawing fire from the pill boxes of the Siegfried line which lay across the Our River to the east. B Company moved to Longsdorf and relieved the center company which was L. C Company marched through Bittersdorf and then relieved K Co on the forward slope of the Niederberg ridge. All reliefs were effected smoothly by through use of platoon guides and by 2200 all companies were in position (see overlays #13 and 14)

Tuesday, 30 January 1945.

No activity.

Wednesday, 31 January 1945.

The first activity that occurred since taking up the defensive position came at 0430 when B Co fired on an enemy patrol in front of their right flank platoon. A 17 man patrol was sent out by B Co at 2030 to reconnoiter in front of their position, locate enemy pillboxes, outposts, check the Our river for bridges, swiftness, of current, depth and cross it if possible. It was successful in locating two pill boxes but all attempts at getting to the river were stopped by German outposts. Flash signals were also observed. C Co also sent out a patrol to their front during the night.

For the Battalion Commander:

Charles L. Kimsey
CHARLES L. KIMSEY,
Major, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
S-3.

3 Incls:

Incl # 1 - S-3 Journal
Incl # 2 - Messages
Incl # 3 - Overlays

} Not Recd
in 5 June 45

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, 4 Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

5 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (THRU CHANNELS)

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after action report is submitted for the month of February 1945.

1 February 1945 to 6 February 1945 inclusive

During the first five (5) days of the period, activity was limited to routine patrolling. (See overlay #1). Reconnaissance and listening patrols were sent out nightly. These patrols moved as far forward as the road running parallel to the Cur River between Bettel (P9147) and Gentingen (P9245). Enemy activity was observed in the vicinity of the pillboxes in the Siegfried Line. Each night numerous flares were seen. These were yellow, red, white, and white star clusters. During the period five enemy infantrymen deserted and surrendered to our forward platoons. These men talked very freely, and gave information as to the location of their Company and Battalion Command Posts. Scattered artillery and mortar fire fell in our area during the period. There were no large concentrations, and no large calibre fire reported.

On 6 February at 0945 the Battalion was ordered to attack and ~~seize~~ the town of Bettel, to move our lines up to the river bank, and to protect the left flank of the 319th Infantry Regiment during their crossing of the river. The Battalion was specifically ordered to remain on the West bank of the river and not attempt to cross. The attack was to jump off at 0200, the 7th of February 1945. A forty (40) minute artillery preparation was to precede the attack. After occupying the forward positions, "C" and "B" Companies were to fire small arms in support of "A" Company's attack on the town of Bettel. Assault Guns and Mortars were to fire concentrations into the town of Bettel prior to "A" Company moving in, and then to be prepared to fire on call from any of the Companies.

669-169

7 February 1945

At 0220 the Battalion Mortar Platoon and Assault Guns began firing on targets given them in the fire plan. Enemy artillery began falling in the battalion area and a considerable amount of white flares were seen from the vicinity of Bettel. "A" Company, moving on their objective, did not contact the enemy, but received eleven (11) casualties from anti-personnel mines. They reached their objective and had consolidated the position at 0430. "C" Company, on their right, reached their objective without enemy contact, but received artillery, mortar and some small arms fire from Siegfried Line positions across the Cur River.

Total casualties for the attack were eighteen (18) - fifteen (15) from mines, three (3) from artillery fire.

18

14 JUL 1945
12045

10

8 February 1945

On 8 February 1945, engineers from Company "C", 305th Engineer Battalion, were called out to remove the mines in the vicinity of Bettel. These they piled against a building, total number being about forty (40). Later in the day during a shelling by enemy artillery, a round landed in the middle of the mines, detonating them. One (1) man was killed and five (5) wounded. It is felt that because of this danger, mines when removed should be destroyed as quickly as possible, and if this is impracticable, they should be stacked in small piles several yards apart.

9 February 1945 to 16 February 1945 inclusive

The period 9 February to 17 February was spent holding the positions along the west bank of the Our River, firing with Assault Guns and mortars at targets indicated by Division Artillery, 80th Division, and 319th Infantry Regiment.

17 February 1945

On 17 February 1945 the battalion was relieved by the 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and was ordered to move to the 4th Armored Division Assembly Area in the vicinity of Schiffflange.

18 February 1945 to 21 February 1945 inclusive

The period 18 February to 21 February inclusive was spent in rehabilitation, maintenance of vehicles, in preparation for further action which was known to be imminent. At 1700 on the 21st of February, the Battalion was attached to Combat Command "B", and alerted for movement.

22 February 1945

At 0710 the battalion moved from its assembly area to the Combat Command "B" assembly area in the vicinity of Obersiegen (P9349). The mission of the Combat Command was to attack and seize the town of Sinspelt (P9853), and the bridge over the Enz River. (See notes from Verbal Attack Order accompanying the S-3 Journal). At 1945 the entire attack was postponed until the first and second Battalions of the 319th Infantry Regiment could make contact in front of us. At 2330, this contact was reported to have been made, and the three infantry battalions were ordered to move on their attack immediately. This battalion was not committed during the night, and due to the slowness with which the assault companies moved, spent the entire night in their vehicles on the road.

23 February 1945

At 1220, "C" Company was ordered to take high ground, hill 405, coordinates P973543. They moved out at 1330. At 2030, one platoon leader returned and said the hill was strongly held and our troops could not get up. He was ordered to return and take the hill, which was done at 2300. Three (3) prisoners of war were taken and several enemy killed. "C" Company was relieved at 0300 by "G" Company, 319th Infantry Regiment, and returned to their company area in the vicinity of Weidergeckler. At 1630, "C" Company was ordered to send a platoon to Weidergeckler (P9753) to relieve "A" Company of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, and outpost the town. They moved out at 1700, and at 1730 were in position. A platoon of "C" Company, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion, was attached. At 1700 enemy infantry appeared on the ridge five hundred (500) yards

south of "B" Company. Artillery and Assault Gun fire was brought down on them. Twelve (12) prisoners of war were taken and several enemy wounded. At 2030, "A" Company was ordered to move to clear the road from F978537 to F980539. The road was reported to be blocked by trees felled across it, and to be defended by enemy riflemen and three (3) tanks. After cleaning out the road, they were to relieve "B" Company of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion of their outpost mission in Sinspelt at the road junction north of the town. Mission accomplished at 0320. Sixteen (16) prisoners of war taken, several enemy killed. No casualties. One (1) enemy tank encountered, fired several rounds and withdrew before infantry could bring fire on it.

24 February 1945

At 2100, 23 February 1945, Combat Command "B" ordered 51st Armored Infantry Battalion to attack and seize Otscheid (LO156) and high ground north and east of town. The battalion to move out as soon as possible after being relieved by "F" Company, 319th Infantry Regiment in Sinspelt.

It was determined that the earliest time that we could move would be 1230. Attached to 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, "B" Company, 8th Tank Battalion and "B" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion were given the mission of leading initially and seizing the high ground north and east of Otscheid, followed by "A" Company, who was ordered to seize high ground north of Otscheid. They were to be followed by "C" Company, who was to seize and outpost the town.

At 1245 the attack moved off, being delayed fifteen (15) minutes by an enemy artillery barrage. They moved approximately six hundred (600) yards when a crater blown in the road delayed the movement of the tanks. In the meantime, one tank hit a mine in trying to find a path around the crater. The infantry that had been riding on the tanks dismounted and entered the woods on the side of the crater, and reconnoitered route for the continued advance of the column.

The tanks located two (2) enemy tanks, opened fire and destroyed both of them. The column then moved on again. When "B" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and "B" Company, 8th Tank Battalion arrived on high ground overlooking Otscheid, three (3) enemy self-propelled guns and one (1) tank were seen to leave the town in the direction of Weidingen, (LO357). Tanks opened fire on them destroying one (1) self-propelled gun and one (1) enemy tank. All Companies reached their objectives and a total of One Hundred and Six (106) prisoners of war were taken in the afternoon's operations. Positions were consolidated and the men dug in. 37th Tank Battalion joined 51st Armored Infantry Battalion at 1730, and B Company, 8th Tank Battalion was relieved and moved to the rear to join their parent battalion.

At 2230 the Battalion was ordered to move in conjunction with 37th Tank Battalion at 250715 to seize towns of Neiderweidingen (LO357) and Altscheid, (LO358) and to seize high ground South and East of Altscheid in preparation for a move to force a crossing of the Prum River in vicinity of Weismendorf (LO755) or Hermesdorf (LO756).

25 February 1945.

At 0715 "B" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and "B" Company, 37th Tank Battalion attacked Niederweidingen and Weidingen. At 0855 "C" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and "C" Company, 37th Tank Battalion attacked and seized Altscheid. "A" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion and "A" Company, 37th Tank Battalion then moved to high ground North and West of town. Approximately sixty-seven (67) prisoners of war were taken, nine (9) enemy killed. Four (4) trucks, two (2) half-tracks, and one (1) 75mm anti-tank gun were destroyed. At 1150 "A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th moved from hill "472" attacked and seized Koosbusch (L0656) and high ground East of town and overlooking the Prum River. At 1251 "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th were then ordered to assault the town of Hermesdorf, seize the bridge over the Prum River, and move to high ground East of town. At 1440 the town was reported clear and the crossing secured. "C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th were then ordered to move to the high ground West of Rittersdorf (L1156) to support the assault of the town and river crossing by "A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th. At 1530 "C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th had reached their objective on hill "366", coordinates L103568. "A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th then moved and assaulted the town of Rittersdorf, seized the town and the bridge across the Nims River. Companies were then ordered to consolidate and hold from their positions. "A" Company, 51st on high ground East of Rittersdorf and the river extending from L1256 to L120566. "B" Company, 51st from positions East of the river extending from L080565 to L090565. "C" Company, 51st on high ground at hill "306" from cross road L101546 to road Rittersdorf-Liessem. (See overlay attached)

26 February 1945.

(See notes from verbal order 2030, 25 Feb/45 by CO 51st)

At 0800 "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th moved out and encountered Anti-Tank fire from woods at 134552, losing three (3) tanks and knocking out one (1) enemy tank. At 0900, "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th arrived on the initial objective but were driven back from the open ground by direct fire from across the river. Heavy small arms fire was encountered on their right flank.

Company "C", 51st and "C" Company, 37th meanwhile, moved on the left flank, destroyed one (1) 88mm gun, and one (1) half-track prime-mover, and reached their initial objective at 0910, where they encountered direct fire from across the river, and withdrew to a covered position after losing one (1) tank.

"A" Company, 37th and "A" Company, 51st were ordered forward, and occupied the ground at 150058. "B" Company, 51st was ordered to dismount and assault the town of Erdorf (L1056). As they moved down the steep sides of the hill into the town of Erdorf, enemy small arms, machine-gun, 20 mm gun and 88 mm fire pinned them down, and after seven (7) hours of unsuccessful attempts to advance against strongly held enemy positions, they were ordered to withdraw under cover of smoke and at 2230 they were able to withdraw the last of the Company.

On orders from Combat Command "B", "C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th moved from their positions to assault and clear the strip of woods at 123549—130552. At 1630, "C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th jumped off. The tanks giving support by firing over the heads of the assaulting infantry. The infantry moved in, cleared the woods, and reported their mission accomplished at 1700.

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

"C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th then moved to a defensive position extending from the highway at 138500 in an arc, to the east of hill "418" and tied in with "A" Company, 37th and "A" Company, 51st at 140573. "A" Company, 37th and "A" Company, 51st extended on from that point to 128577. "D" Company, 37th and "C" Company, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion extended from that point to the river at 115575. Combat Command "A" moved in on the south flank and covered the area tying in with "C" Company, 51st on "C" Company, 51st right flank. "D" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of 131505. At 2130, the battalion was ordered in conjunction with the 37th to attack at 0800 and seize the towns of Nattenheim and Fleissem, and high ground at hill "431", coordinates L132000.

27 February 1945

The attack moved off with "A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th attacking the town of Nattenheim (L1258) after a thorough artillery preparation. Resistance was slight, and the town was cleared at 0900. Enemy casualties were four (4) killed, five (5) wounded, eighty-five (85) prisoners of war taken. Two (2) trucks, one (1) motorcycle and one (1) staff car were destroyed. "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th moved to attack high ground at hill "431". At 1030, "C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th were ordered to move to the attack of Fleissem (L1159). At 1115 "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th had reached their objective. Heavy machine-gun and small arms fire was encountered, but was beaten down by tank fire from the tanks. At 1305 a patrol, consisting of one (1) platoon from "A" Company, 51st and one (1) platoon from "A" Company, 37th, moved out, on order from Task Force Commander, to reconnoiter a foot bridge reported to be intact at 109504. At 1500 the Task Force Commander ordered the companies to consolidate and hold in positions as follows:

"D" Company, 37th plus "C" Company, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion
from 115590 to 125595.

"B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th from that point to 135596.

"A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th from that point to 145594.

"C" Company, 51st and "C" Company, 37th from that point to 155578, where they tied in with 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion of Combat Command "A".

At 1300, "A" Company, 51st patrol returned to their area, after an unsuccessful attempt to find the reportedly intact bridge across the river.

28 February 1945

At 1100, Commanding Officer of Combat Command "B" ordered the Task Force to move north along main highway to clear woods and seize the towns of Sefferwich (1303) and Wilberweich (1502) and high ground at 127634, 145035 and 104628. At 1130 the attack moved off, "B" Company, 51st and "B" Company, 37th on the left encountered slight resistance, and reached the road running parallel to the river front at 135010, while "A" Company, 51st and "A" Company, 37th encountered heavy resistance at road junction 130010. Contact between companies was lost momentarily and Commanding Officer, "A" Company, 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, was killed in action. The attack halted for reorganization, and for the purpose of reestablishing contact between the assault companies. Three (3) tanks of "A" Company, 37th Tank Battalion ran over mines in minefield and were disabled. Engineers were brought forward, and cleared the minefield in face of heavy mortar and artillery fire on the cross roads. At 1700 the attack pushed off

again, and after encountering slight resistance, reached the edge of the woods at 1910 hours. The companies were ordered to consolidate and dig-in in their positions, and hold until morning, when the attack would be continued. Defensive positions as shown on attached overlay were taken by all units.

For the Battalion Commander:

Charles I. Kinsey
CHARLES L. KIMSEY,
Major, 51st Armd Inf Bn,
S-3.

2 Incls;

#1 Feb S-3 Journal (trip)

#2 Operational Overlays (trip)

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U.S. ARMY

31 MARCH 1945

MARCH
AFTER ACTION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION

CELE

THE ALIEN

John E. Thompson
15 APR

CONFIDENTIAL

INCL # 18

9 1945

12045

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U. S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH CHANNELS).

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after-action report is submitted for the month of March 1945.

1 March, 1945

Heavy Artillery and mortar fire began to fall in positions occupied by "A" and "B" companies of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalions and 37th Tank Battalion. At 0715 enemy tanks and infantry launched a counter-attack, directed at "A" and "B" company positions. The heaviest force of the counter-attack was aimed at A/51 and A/37 positions. In spite of many casualties, the positions were held. Four enemy tanks were destroyed, fifty-five enemy personnel killed, and approximately thirty-five others were pinned down by fire and later taken prisoners of war. The remainder of the counter-attacking force hastily withdrew. The effective strength of the assault companies was getting very low, and they were ordered to hold until their positions could be occupied by elements of the 25th Cavalry Recon. Squadron. At 1200, the relief of "A" and "B" Companies was completed, and the companies moved on foot to the vicinity of Mattenheim where they assembled for reorganization. The Battalion was relieved from attachment to Combat Command "B", and attached to Reserve Command.

2-6 March, 1945

The period 2-6 March 1945 inclusive was spent in the maintenance of vehicles and weapons, and rehabilitation of personnel. During this time, the Battalion was alerted for possible movement to relieve elements of the 317th Infantry Regiment, in the area Ehlenz-Scheid-Bickendorf; but due to a change in division boundaries the plan was not carried out. The Battalion was again alerted for movement to the area occupied by Combat Command "B", but that was cancelled also.

7 March, 1945

At 0715 the Battalion began to move as part of Reserve Command following the route taken by Combat Command "B". One platoon from "B" Company had been sent to Division Headquarters for the protection of the command post. The column halted in the vicinity of Seinsfeld and the Battalion C.P. was set up with the view of moving forward again as soon as Division Headquarters could catch up and move into place in the center of Reserve Command Column. At 1400, the column began to move again with Ulmen as the objective. Bad road conditions and heavy traffic caused the column to move very slowly. At 1700 the CC "R" Commander ordered the column to move off the road and take up defensive positions in the vicinity of Darscheid. No enemy activity was reported during the night.

8 March, 1945

The column was ordered to move out again at 1300, with Polch as the objective. The march was made without incident, and the companies were disposed on the high ground west, north, and northeast of town.

9 March, 1945

At 0730 the Battalion was attached to Combat Command "B", with the mission of

moving with the 35th Tank Battalion to seize and hold the bridge over the Mosel River between Karden and Treis. At 1100 the column moved out with "C" Company, mounted on the tanks of C/35th, leading the march. As the head of the column reached a point on the route at coordinates L-679, 772, enemy small-arms fire was encountered, and the lead tank struck a mine. The explosion started the tank burning. The infantry deployed, and began cleaning out fox-holes along the road while the tanks moved off to the right and left of the road to support the infantry. The terrain here was very difficult for maneuver. At the point where the lead tank hit the mine, the road dropped off very suddenly down a winding hill into the Mosel Valley. The tanks were completely road-bound, and the cliffs extending up on the right of the road, and down on the left of the road, made it nearly impossible for the infantry to maneuver and outflank the enemy machine-gun positions and bazooka-men dug in among the rocks. At 1600 the Company Commander of C/51 was seriously wounded, and the F.O. with him was killed by machine gun fire from the enemy positions to our right front. At 1620, the mine-field was cleared, and the tanks and infantry began moving up. The tanks laid down a heavy volume of machine-gun fire into the enemy positions, and the Infantry dismounted as they came to the positions and killed or captured the remaining enemy. At 1640, the head of the column reached the outskirts of Karden, where a 50MM. Anti-tank gun covered a road-block. This was mopped-up very quickly, and the job of cleaning out the buildings of the town began. At this point A/35 with A/51 mounted on the tanks was ordered to pass through "C" Company, and to move rapidly through the town and attempt to seize the bridge before it could be blown. The lead tank of this force reached the near end of the bridge just as it was blown. The companies were then ordered to clear the rest of the town, and then move back to the high ground from which the attack was launched. At 2030 the mission was accomplished, and the companies had occupied positions as follows. A/51 with A/35 in the vicinity of Coordinates L-675, 786; C/51 with C/35, coordinates L-675, 789. At 2100 the Company Commanders were called to the Battalion C.P. and given the mission for the next morning. That mission was to clear the towns of Wirfus, Illerich, Landkern, and Greimersburg, to be designated as objectives one, two, three, and four, respectively.

10 March, 1945

The attack moved off as planned and passed through the four objectives without meeting any resistance. The companies occupied positions as follows. "A" company one and one-half miles from Binningen coordinates L-6778; "B" and "C" companies two miles from Binningen at coordinates L-6777. At 1930 the Battalion was ordered by Combat Command "B" to move to the new Combat Command assembly area in the vicinity of Roes, Kaufenheim, and Gahlen. The Battalion was to be assembled in and around Roes. During the night, patrols were sent into Karden. They reported no enemy activity.

11 March, 1945

The move to the assembly area in the vicinity of Roes was completed at 1000, with the exception of "C" Company, which was relieved in their positions at 1300 by elements of the 11th Infantry Regiment. They closed in the Roes assembly area at 1330. Earlier in the day, information had been received relative to a proposed area for the Division, which indicated that the Battalion would move to Kehrig.

12 March, 1945

The day was spent with the companies engaged in maintenance of vehicles and weapons, and rehabilitation of personnel. At 2330, orders were received to move the Battalion to the new Combat Command Assembly area in the vicinity of Wollmerath. The movement was to begin at 0900, the following morning.

13 March, 1945

At 0915 the Battalion moved out, and at 1200 was closed in the new assembly area at Wollmerath.

14 March, 1945

No enemy activity was reported. The companies were occupied with maintenance of vehicles and weapons, and range firing for the newly assigned personnel. The Battalion was relieved from attachment to Combat Command "B", and attached to Reserve Command.

15 March, 1945

The Battalion was ordered to move to the Reserve Command Assembly Area in the vicinity of Dungenheim. At 0935 they moved out, and at 1130 closed in the new assembly area at Dungenheim. At 2045, orders were issued for the movement of Reserve Command to the area in the vicinity of Simmern. The column was to follow Combat Command "B" crossing the Mosel River in the vicinity of Karden.

16 March, 1945

The column moved out at 0800, and at 1740 had closed in an assembly area in the vicinity of Simmern. The companies had the mission of cutting the main roads leading out of Simmern. A squad of men was left on each of five bridges in and around the town. At 2115, an order was issued attaching the Battalion to Combat Command "B", which was then in the vicinity of Bad Kreuznach. At 2350 that attachment was cancelled on order from Reserve Command.

17-18 March, 1945

At 1230 the Reserve Command began to move east from Simmern, but was held up before reaching the I.P. by a column from the 11th Infantry Regiment cutting in front of them. As the head of the column reached Tiefenbach, sporadic mortar fire began to fall along the route of advance, but no casualties were caused by fire. On arrival of the head of the column at Winterbach, Reserve Command was informed that enemy infantry from the south, moving in the direction of Winterburg, was attempting to cut the main supply route on which we were traveling. A Task Force composed of D/35, and C/51 was sent forward to repel the attack and clear the route for the continued advance of the column. Maj. Charles L. Kinsey was placed in charge of this Task Force, which was later reinforced by a Medium Tank company, and a section of T.D.'s. The Attack was driven back by the Light Tank company, which was able, since the enemy had no anti-tank weapons with them, to cruise freely through the entire area, killing many of the enemy infantry, and causing many more to surrender to our infantry that had moved up dismounted with the Light Tanks. The Medium Tank company, and the Assault Gun platoon of the 35th Tank Battalion moved around the left flank of the Light Tank company, completing the rout of the enemy infantry and destroying three 40 MM. Anti-aircraft guns emplaced on the ridge east of Eckweiler. Heavy enemy artillery began to fall around the tanks and infantry. After determining that the enemy in the immediate area was cleaned out, the Light Tanks were withdrawn and the Medium Tanks and Infantry occupied the commanding ground overlooking the towns of Eckweiler, Rebbach, and Ippenscheid. Positions were occupied to cover and cut possible enemy approaches to the main supply route. Both the Assault Gun and Mortar platoons of the Battalion were ordered at 2000 to move from the Battalion assembly area at Weinsheim to join this Task Force, but due to the heavy traffic moving eastward over the route, they did not arrive until 0430 the following morning. They were then taken by guides to previously reconnoitered positions in support of the Task Force. The following morning, it was decided to send

patrols into the towns of Daubach and Eckweiler, to determine if the enemy held the town, and if so, in what strength. The Task Force Commander decided that if the enemy occupied these towns, it presented a direct threat to his positions, and they would have to be cleared. The patrol into Daubach found the town clear of enemy, and occupied by a forward patrol from the 5th Infantry Division. The patrol into Eckweiler found the town occupied in some strength by enemy infantry, with machine-gun positions overlooking the entrances to the town. No tanks or anti-tank guns were seen. It was decided to attack the town with a platoon of tanks and a platoon of infantry after a heavy shelling from the Medium Tanks and the Assault Gun Platoons of the 38th and the 51st, firing direct into the town. This was carried out, and by the time the infantry moved into the town, many of the buildings were burning. The enemy machine-gun positions at the entrance to the town through which the infantry moved, had been knocked out by the tank fire. The infantry moved in against very light opposition. Sixty-one P.W.'s were taken, and seven enemy were killed. The only casualty among the attacking forces was an infantryman who was slightly wounded by mortar fragments. It is thought that the ease with which the town was taken, was due to the intense fire placed on the town by the tanks and assault guns with their heavy weapons, and 30 and 50 caliber machine-guns. After clearing the town, the Tanks and Infantry withdrew to the high ground overlooking the town. At 16030, the Battalion Commander arrived at the C.P. with orders that the Task Force would be withdrawn since the area was being occupied by the First Battalion of the 11th Infantry Regiment. The companies moved out in the following order: D/35, platoon 104 P.W., A/35, C/51, and Assault Guns/51. They closed in the Reserve Command Assembly Area in the vicinity of Weinsheim at 182030. At 1745, A/51, and B/35 were attached to Combat Command "B", under the Command of Maj. Harry J. Rockefeller, to move to Furfeld to protect the right flank of C.C. "B". At 1945, orders were issued to move the remainder of the Battalion with Reserve Command at 0030.

19 March, 1945

The column moved out at 0030, and at 0845 closed in a temporary assembly area at Furfeld. At this same time A/51 and B/35 were returned to Reserve Command control during their attack to seize the high ground at coordinates M-131,305, and M-136,312, the road crossing at M-134,300, and the high ground at M-144,309. Maj. Harry J. Rockefeller was in command of this force. The Reserve Command plan was to attack Wonsheim and Stein Bockenheim from the northwest, depending on the successful completion of the attack by Maj. Rockefeller's force. Prior to the completion of his attack, Reserve Command received instructions from Combat Command "B" that they would take Wonsheim, and that Reserve Command should concentrate on Stein Bockenheim. Anti-tank fire from 8 A.T. guns at coordinates M-139,302, M-142,305, M-139,308, and mines at crossroads M-134,300 held up the advance of the force until it could be cleaned out. Two tanks crossed the mine-field without detonating any mines, but the third and fourth tanks struck mines and held up the advance of the column. Recovery vehicles were brought up immediately and engineers removed the mines under cover of the infantry deployed ahead of the mine-field. The attack moved on at 1430, all objectives were reported taken and positions consolidated. A/35 and C/51 were then passed through this objective to attack the town to Stein Bockenheim moving southeast from the main road between Furfeld and Wonsheim, with their left flank on the trail running southeast from the highway at coordinates M-154,312, to Stein Bockenheim. Anti-tank fire from the west edge of Wonsheim knocked out one of the tanks. The attack moved on over the crest of the hill into Stein Bockenheim, where they had defilade from the fire from Wonsheim. At 1525, Stein Bockenheim was reported clear, with the tanks and infantry occupying the high ground southeast of town. At this time, a force consisting of a platoon of tanks and a platoon of infantry was sent to knock out the anti-tank guns, dug-in infantry, and machine-gun nests in the vicinity of coordinates M-100,315. This was accomplished at 1545. B/51 and C/35 were then sent to clean out the towns of Winterborn and Weiderhausen in conjunction with an attack on Tieffenthal, with a platoon of A/51 and a platoon of B/35.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

These three objectives were taken without casualty to us. Eleven enemy were killed, and eight, -seven P.M.'s were taken. In the attack on Stein Bockenheim, fourteen enemy were killed, and forty P.M.'s were taken at an anti-tank position west of Wonsheim. The companies were ordered to consolidate in the positions that they held. During the night C/51 was attached to Combat Command "B", and moved out to join them with the 35th Tank Battalion. C/35 and D/35 were left under the command of the C.O./51.

20 March, 1945

Orders were issued to the companies, instructing them to regroup and hold dominating terrain features covering the right flank of town, and the main route of supply between Furfeld and Wendelsheim. At 1300, the companies moved out to occupy positions indicated on the attached overlay. At 1400, all companies were reported in position.

21 March, 1945

The Battalion remained in the same location, and was joined by C/51 at 1430. A billeting party left the Battalion to report to Reserve Command.

22 March, 1945

"B" and "C" companies moved to Wonsheim; the remainder of the Battalion remained in the same positions.

23 March, 1945

Company "A" attached to a Task Force commanded by Lt. Col. Oden, 35th Tank Battalion, and moved out with this force at 1200. No other activity was reported throughout the day.

24 March, 1945

At 1915 the Battalion moved with Reserve Command to cross the Rhine River in the vicinity of Hierstein, and at 2245 the Battalion Command Group crossed the pontoon bridge over the Rhine River.

25 March, 1945

The Battalion closed in an assembly area at Eschollbrücken at 0150, and the companies were dispersed to cover the roads and avenues of approach south and east of the town. At 0600, "B" company was given the mission of clearing out the town of Hünstadt, and at 1100 reported the town clear. "A" company moved with Task Force Oden at 1230 to take the town of Dornstadt. No opposition was encountered, and at 1400 "A" company returned and closed in their assembly area in the vicinity of Eschollbrücken. At 1500 the Reserve Command column began to move to the vicinity of Dieburg. By 1750 the Battalion was closed in the new assembly area, with the Battalion C.P. in Dieburg. At 2240 "B" company was attached to Combat Command "A", and moved out under the command of the C.O. of company A/35th Tank Battalion.

26 March, 1945

The day was spent holding the positions occupied the night before.

27 March, 1945

Capt. Daniel L. Beldon, the C.O. of /51 was seriously wounded in action, and Capt. William M. Crane, Battalion S-2 was sent to "B" company to take command. At 1000 the Battalion was ordered to Hausen, where it would be attached to Combat Command "A". At 1100 the Battalion was closed in the new assembly area, and the

Battalion C.P. was set up in the schoolhouse in Hausen. At 2330 the Battalion received orders to move out at 0000 with Combat Command "B", cross the Main River at Hannau, and seize the high ground east of Geissen. The Infantry and Tank companies were teamed, A, B, and C companies of the Tank Battalion working with the respective companies of the Infantry. The remainder of the Infantry that were not able to ride the tanks followed in their half-tracks, the empty tracks were sent back to trains to haul gas and ammunition.

28 March, 1945

At 0545 the column began moving out. A/35 with A/51 crossed the Main river at Hannau, and at 0645 passed through the 90th Infantry Division at Wilhelmsbad, where a road-block delayed the movement of the column for a few minutes. At Mittelbuchen light resistance was met, but was quickly overcome by tank-fire; the infantry dismounted and mopped-up the remaining enemy. The remainder of the march to the vicinity of Harbach was merely a series of skirmishes in which the enemy would offer a slight amount of resistance, but would quickly surrender. Many prisoners were taken, and many vehicles including three self-propelled guns were destroyed. Fifty enemy were killed, one hundred and fifty were wounded, and over a thousand were taken prisoners of war. Our infantry casualties for the day were two men killed. At 1735 the Battalion closed in an assembly area at Beltersham. One company of Infantry and one company of tanks was left to hold the road center of Lich, and guard approximately 2000 P.W.'s, taken by the Combat Command during the day.

29 March, 1945

At 0000 the column moved out again with Lauterbach as the objective. A blown bridge was encountered at Fluesengen, but an alternate route was found immediately, and the column moved on with just a few minutes' delay. Scattered groups of enemy were encountered along the way, most of them, trying to give themselves up, offered no resistance. At 1140 Lauterbach was taken without casualty to us. During the day, five hundred and sixty prisoners of war were taken, and fourteen trucks, seven scout cars, and three trailers were captured.

30 March, 1945

At 0920 instructions were received to be prepared to move on order after 1200. Our objective was the high ground east of Hersfeld and the town itself. The Infantry and Tank teams were to continue to move as they had, with the infantry mounted on the tanks. The column moved out at 1300, and the first contact was made at Niederaula, where two enemy troop trains were taken under fire. Approximately one hundred P.W.'s were taken here, and fifty-five American and British P.W.'s were liberated. A platoon each of Infantry and Tanks were dropped off to mop-up the town. As the Light Tank company which was leading the column at the time entered Asbach, enemy bazooka-men knocked out the leading tank. The leading Medium Tank company, A/35, with A/51 mounted on the tanks was brought up to the edge of the town, where the Infantry dismounted and the assault of the town began. Fanatical enemy resistance in the town, and fire from five enemy tanks from the north and west of the town, held up the advance until artillery could be brought into position. One enemy tank was destroyed, and the artillery made the job of our infantry in mopping up the town much easier. The other four enemy tanks withdrew behind the autobahn, about a mile north of the town. By the time the Infantry had moved through, nearly all the buildings in the town were on fire. This fact tended to discourage the enemy infantry from remaining in the buildings. At 1900 the town of Asbach was cleared, and the column moved on with B/51 and B/35 leading to take the town of Hersfeld. Near the autobahn two more enemy tanks were destroyed. The Task Force composed of B/51 and B/35 was placed under the command of Major Charles L. Kimsey. The plan for the attack was to move a platoon of Tanks and a platoon of infantry cross-country over hill 324 to the main road leading from the west into Hersfeld; then to swing east down that road mopping up to the center of the town. Two platoons of tanks, and two platoons of infantry were to move in from the south mopping up to the center of town, and then to clear out the part east of the road which runs north-

east through the center of town. C/51 and C/35 would then be sent in to clean up the north part of the town, and to assist in cutting all the roads leading out of the town. The attack moved off at 1930, and resistance was encountered on the route of advance at the entrance to the town. Darkness was beginning to fall, which made the job very difficult on the narrow winding streets of the town. The platoon which had been sent to move into the town from the west, became confused in the darkness, and came in on the wrong street. An enemy tank at the street intersection knocked out the leading tank, and enemy machine-guns emplaced on the high ground to the left held up the infantry. The street was too narrow to by-pass the burning tank, and an attempt was made to find a route around it. At this point, orders were received from Combat Command "B" to withdraw and take up positions along the autobahn astride our axis of advance. This was completed at 0030.

31 March, 1945

At 0100 the Battalion was ordered to continue the attack at 0500, using one of two plans. Plan "A" was to by-pass Hersfeld around the east and attack it from the north. Plan "B" was to by-pass the town entirely, and move on to the Terra River at Kreuzburg. If plan "A" was used, the two "C" teams would lead and the "A" teams would follow. The "C" teams to move to hill 335, coordinates M-385,555, and to attack and clean out the west side of town. The "A" teams to move on the east side of the "C" teams and clean out the east side of town. The route of march for plan "A" was Kersperhausen, Rosstach, Hilpenhausen, Oberhaun, Unterhaun; and then by way of the autobahn to Kathaus, Meckbach, Mecklar; across the Fulda River and south along the highway to the line of departure, which was the line running east and west through hill 335. At 0400, the Battalion was informed that plan "A" would be in effect, and the Task Force under the command of Major Charles L. Kelsey moved out. Bad roads and trails delayed the column in the vicinity of Hilperhausen. An alternate route was found and the column moved on. At Unterhaun, a road-block was encountered, and an enemy S.P. gun was destroyed while the road-block was being cleared. The column moved on, until an undefended road-block across the Autobahn at coordinates M-415,520 had to be removed. A road-block at M-440,540 forced the column to move across country to the town of Sarga, where an enemy supply installation was found, and three hundred P.W.'s were taken. The column moved on through Salzerhofe, and then back on the original route at Kathaus. The trail through the woods to Meckbach was a very poor logging trail, and many vehicles became mired in the soft mud. Many enemy P.W.'s were picked up in the woods while trying to escape. They did not offer any resistance, but the handling of them each time they were encountered delayed the advance. At 1000 the head of the column broke out of the woods and entered the village of Meckbach, where an enemy anti-aircraft position was discovered. In the sharp, brisk fight that followed, eight 88 M. Anti-aircraft guns, twelve 20 M. Anti-aircraft guns, one enemy tank, and numerous trucks and staff cars were destroyed, and 125 P.W.'s were taken. While one platoon of infantry, and one platoon of tanks were left in the town of Meckbach, the remainder of the two companies moved into Mecklar. They encountered dug-in enemy with bazookas along the way, and as they reached the bridge, it was blown. At this point, orders were received from Combat Command "B" to move back over the trail to our assembly area along the autobahn at Sarga. Here, orders were issued to move north and east on the autobahn on our original route to seize the bridge over the Terra River at Kreuzburg. At 1300 the column moved out. At coordinates M-530,510, the enemy blew an overpass so that the debris blocked the autobahn. Enemy infantry dug-in along the autobahn made it necessary for our infantry to dismount and move them up. A by-pass was found around the debris, and in the late evening, the column moved on. The "C" company Tank and Infantry team was given the mission of clearing Honselach, and of cutting the autobahn west of the town. The "A" company Tank and Infantry Team were to clear the towns of Grossensee, Rossdorf, and Moserode, cut east these towns, and cut the autobahn north of Rossdorf. The "B" company Tank and

Infantry Team was to clean out the town of Obersuhl, and to cut the autobahn at the road junction at coordinates H-6265. These positions were occupied at 2200. The Battalion C.P. moved to Basserode.

For the Battalion Commander:

Charles L. Kinsey
CHARLES L. KIMSEY
Major, 51st Armd Inf Bn.
S-3

Incls: #1 S-3 Journal with Annexes.
#2 Operational Overlays.
#3 S-2 Journal.

*not used
jpk*

RESTRICTED

**HEADQUARTERS
FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U.S. ARMY**

30 APRIL 1945

**APRIL
AFTER ACTION REPORT**

604-70.2

66

#18

RESTRICTED

SEP 11 1945

12045

3

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 254, U.S. ARMY

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH CH. MEMO).

In compliance with AR 345-105, Change 3, the following after-action report is submitted for the month of April 1945.

1-2 April 1945

On the morning of April 1, 1945, Combat Command "B" continued it's attack to the east. The composition of the column was the same as for the previous day. "C" Company of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion, riding on the tanks of "C" company, 35th Tank Battalion, followed by the Command Groups of the 51st and the 35th. A/51 riding on the tanks of A/35, both F.A. Battalion, A/24th Engineers, B/51 riding on the tanks of B/35. The remainder of the Combat Command followed. The column moved up the autobahn to the vicinity of Sallmannhausen (0070), when dismounted enemy troops were seen on the east side of the river. They were taken under fire, but they succeeded in blowing the bridge over the Werra River at that point. Combat Command "A", moving on our right took them under fire, and our column moved on. Small pockets of enemy riflemen were over-run in the vicinity of Wommen (072710, and at Herleshausen (7070) an enemy Panther-tank was knocked out, and it's crew taken prisoner before they could fire on our column. Several enemy vehicles, including two tanks, were seen to move south from Herleshausen on the road to Lauchroden, and CC "A"'s column moving up on our right, destroyed the two tanks and two other vehicles. The two columns, CC "A" and CC "B", now came together on the autobahn, with CC "A" intending to cross the Werra River on the railroad bridge at Horschel (749707). As the column neared that point, the railroad bridge was blown. Enemy machine-gunners and riflemen from the vicinity of Horschel began firing on the column, and several Infantrymen riding on the tanks were hit. Enemy riflemen from the high ground on the left of the road also fired on the Infantrymen, and several casualties were sustained. It was decided here, to hold up CC "A", and send CC "B" north along the road that runs parallel to the railroad, and in turn runs parallel to the Werra River. A burning enemy truck, at a turn in the road, delayed the column until it could be moved. Our Infantry, who was dismounted, moved forward alongside the tracks, but were subjected to fire from the high ground on the left, from the right rear, and from the right front. There was no cover available. The only thing possible, was to keep running with the tanks until defilade could be found. In the space of 500 yards, seven men were killed, and fourteen were wounded. As the tanks and Infantry reached a point where the Infantry had defilade, two enemy anti-tank guns in the vicinity of Spichar (755723) opened fire on the tanks, and before they could get the exact location of the guns, four tanks had been knocked out. The tanks following up, destroyed the two anti-tank guns and one self-propelled gun in the vicinity of the bridge. Fire from the tanks neutralized the enemy machine-gun fire that had been coming in on the Infantry. The Infantry deployed on the left of the road, and cleaned out the enemy that had fired on them from the high ground. At this point, the head of the column was ordered to hold up, and a short time later, was moved back to the autobahn, and back to the vicinity of Herleshausen. This crossing site was to be left to CC "A". In the meantime B/51 and B/35 were ordered to move north from Herleshausen to Ifta (711709), and then east to Creusberg (7676), to cross the Werra River at that point. A/51 and A/35

-1-RESTRICTED

4

were ordered to move to Wommen, Markershausen, and Luderbach, and assemble on the high ground north of Ifta. C/51 and C/35 were ordered to move by the same route, and assemble in the vicinity of coordinates 7470. The Battalion Headquarters, and Headquarters Company moved into Ifta. The "B" team ran into stiff opposition in Creuzberg. Enemy Infantrymen in the town were supported by two tanks and three anti-aircraft tanks from the high ground east of the river overlooking the town. Two of the anti-aircraft tanks mounted 37 MM guns, and one a 20 MM gun. The fire from the tanks of B/35 started many fires in the south part of town. A high wind was blowing from the south, and before morning, nearly all the houses in town had burned, with the exception of the castle which was situated on a high point in the center of town. This castle made an excellent observation post for Artillery Forward Observers, and during the time that we stayed in Creuzberg, accurate fire was placed on all enemy in the vicinity. Just as the final mopping up in the town was done, the bridge across the river was blown. As darkness fell, patrols were sent to reconnoiter a possible site for a bridge, and to inspect the damage done on the bridge by demolitions. The great fires burning in the town lit the whole countryside almost as bright as daylight. This made the work of the patrols slow, but by 2300 they had returned with the recommendation for the site, which was to be just south of the blown bridge. Engineers were brought up, and under the protection of a rail-road grade, they inflated a pontoon which after being taken to the river, served as a ferry to move the Infantry across. B/51 was moved over, and occupied a line running from the trail at 775745, southwest to the stream at 763735. C/51 was moved across, and occupied the high ground from 703757 to the point on the trail occupied by the left flank of B/51. Thirty-seven prisoners were taken in pushing out to this line. In the mean time, the Engineers began working on the bridge. The task of placing the treadway on the pontoons was made more difficult by the fact that the crane that had been sent to them had been lost, and did not arrive. As daylight came, the last ponton was being put into place, when three enemy bombers came over, circled the site, and dropped fragmentation bombs on the bridge, puncturing all the pontoons. At 0715, approximately 50 enemy aircraft came over, strafing the roads from the bridge west beyond the Battalion Command Post at Ifta. Seven enemy planes were shot down in our area. The re-building of the bridge was delayed until new pontoons could be brought up. No further enemy action was encountered, and at 1500 the bridge was completed, and the tanks of B/35 and C/35 leading, started moving across. With B/51 mounted back on the tanks of B/35, and leading, the attack was pushed on through Uetteroda, Neukirchen, and Berteroda. Here, the column halted for the night, and the Battalion Command Post was set up in Uetteroda 795738. A/51 with A/35 occupied the high ground south of Uetteroda in the vicinity of Hill 301. B/51 occupied the high ground north of Uetteroda, in the vicinity of Hill 278, and C/51 occupied the town of Neukirchen 8272.

3 April 1945

At 0700 the Combat Command moved out to continue the attack to the east. (See Operations Memo. CC "B", 2 April 1945, in S-3 Journal attached) The objective was the city of Gotha. The column moved out without serious resistance, and picked up many small groups of P.W.'s who came out of the woods and side roads to surrender. At Nordhofen, 0070, C/51 with C/35 was sent east to Goldbach, 0570, and B/51 with B/35 was sent through Metebach, 0267, with orders to move through the woods and attack Gotha from the west. A/51 with A/35 was sent to Aspach, 0135, then east to Trugleben. The main effort was to be made by the "B" Teams. Major Charles L. Kimsey was placed in command of the "B" Teams. As they moved through the wood east of Metebach,

enemy Infantrymen, Bazookamen, and 20 MM guns were encountered. The task of cleaning the woods out was slow because the tanks could not get off the trail. Enemy resistance was stiff, and few P.W.'s were taken. The majority of enemy riflemen had rifles equipped with telescopic sights. In cleaning the woods, 15 enemy were killed, 25 P.W.'s were taken and three 20 MM guns were destroyed. The attack moved on through the outskirts of the town, where much sniping from buildings was encountered. The houses on both sides of the streets were cleaned by the Infantrymen supported by the tanks. As the head of the column neared the square in the center of town, an 88 MM anti-tank gun knocked out one of the lead tanks. Enemy riflemen and bazooka-men began firing from all sides. An attempt was made to move one platoon of Infantry around the right flank, but they were halted by fire that came in on their right flank. The same situation resulted when a platoon was moved to the left flank. The Task Force Commander requested higher headquarters that a force be sent in on the right or left to ease some of the pressure. "C" Company, from the vicinity of Goldbach, then launched an attack down the main road into Gotha. This attack was moved very slowly due to the same type of resistance that had been encountered by the "B" Teams. In the meantime, the Company Commanders of both "B" Companies had been killed by sniper-fire. The Task Force Commander of the "B" Teams then ordered them to withdraw to the high ground on the edge of the town, from where they had launched the attack. On order from CC "B", all companies were ordered to occupy defensive positions for the night. "A" and "C" companies were to tie-in on the trail down which "B" Company had moved, and "B" Company was ordered to move to the town of Goldbach and re-organize.

4 April 1945

At 0800 information was received that the town of Gotha had offered to surrender. The majority of the troops had been withdrawn the night before. The surrender was arranged, and the Combat Command moved, with the forward elements assembled on Hill 424 at coordinates 130538. In preparation for the attack on the town of Ohrdruf 1150. (See notes on Company Commander's Meeting, 4 April 1945, in the S-3 Journal). The move was completed, and CC "A" took the town of Ohrdruf. The Battalion Command Post was set up in Muhlberg 1756.

5 April 1945

The day was spent in cleaning vehicles and weapons, and in preparation for movement to a new assembly area at Wechmar.

6 April 1945

On the 6th of April the Battalion Headquarters moved to Wechmar, A/51 with A/35 to Seeborgen, B/51 with B/35 to Schwabhausen, and C/51 with C/35 to Mleben.

7 April 1945

C/51 with C/35 was sent to the town of Neudeitendorf to attempt to rescue some Officers and Enlisted Men who had been ambushed in that town. They returned with three bodies, but did not find the remainder of the group.

8 April 1945

B/51 and C/51 were moved into the town of Wechmar. Range firing for newly assigned reinforcements, and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was carried out throughout the day.

9-10 April 1945

This period was spent in preparation for a new drive to the east..

11 April 1945

The Battalion moved out under CC "A" according to the order received the night before. (See F.O. #7 Hqs. CC "A", 11 April 1945, in S-3 Journal attached.) The Battalion did not get into any action this day because it was so far back in the column. However the Battalion Commander was given the job of bridging the Saale River in the vicinity of Maua 728590, the bridge having been blown by the enemy as the head of the column approached. The Battalion Command Post was set up in Bucha 655602.

12 April 1945

Enemy small-arms and 20 mm fire was encountered at the bridge site during the early hours of the morning. This was quickly neutralized by artillery fire, and the bridging went on un-interrupted. At 1300 the bridge was completed, and the forward elements began moving across. The Battalion minus "C" Company, with A/8th Tank Battalion attached, was ordered to move to the vicinity of Schongleina, and assemble there for the night. As the head of the column reached the crossroads at 725620, enemy small arms fire from the ridge north of the road was encountered. It was quickly cleaned up but the Company Commander of A/51 was seriously wounded and evacuated. The Battalion occupied its assigned objective without further contact with the enemy. The companies occupied defensive positions west, north, and north east of the town and tied-in with the 8th Tank Battalion on the right.

13 April 1945

The column moved out in the same order of march, moving east through Waldeck, Bobeck, and then east on the main highway. No enemy was encountered, and the column moved rapidly through Klosterlausnitz, 9005, and Tautenhain, but as it approached the town of Bad Kostritz, the bridge over the Weisse River was blown. However, the column on the right under the command of the Commanding Officer of the 8th Tank Battalion had found the bridge on the autobahn partially blown, but still in a usable condition. The Battalion was then ordered to move south from Bad Kostritz, along the river, and to cross the bridge on the autobahn, following the 8th Tank Battalion. At coordinates 015005, the head of the column ran into the trail-end of a horse-drawn enemy column, consisting of supply vehicles, and wagon-loads of enemy soldiers attempting to escape. It was taken under fire and destroyed. Seventy two P.W.'s were taken. The column then moved on to the autobahn and across the river. At the crossroads at 150019, the column was halted, and then ordered to move to the left and seize a crossing of the Zwick Mulde River at Waldenburg. The order was issued, and at 1400 the column moved out. Groups of enemy stragglers were picked up, and the column moved at about 15 miles an hour through Schmolin, then east to Gossnitz. After the tanks and Infantry had passed through this town, and had reached

RESTRICTED

Tettau, the remainder of the column was held up by small-arms and bazooka fire. The head of the column was held up at that point while the town of Gossnitz was being cleaned up. This required about an hour, and a platoon of Infantry plus the Assault Gun platoon was left to hold the bridge. When the tail of the column caught up with the tanks and Infantry, the column moved out through Ober Weira to the main road leading into Waldenburg. In the woods at 399645, enemy bazooka-men were encountered, but were quickly cleaned up by the Infantry. Tanks and Infantry then rolled into Waldenburg, seized the bridge, and occupied the high ground at Hill 318, coordinates 435625. In the town of Waldenburg, no rifle or machine gun fire was encountered. All P.W.'s that were picked up were armed with pistols and bazookas. In occupying the town, one half-track of the machine gun platoon was hit by bazooka-fire and four men were killed, and five wounded. A Task Force consisting of a platoon of Infantry, and a platoon of tanks under the command of Captain James J. Nally was sent to the southwest along the west bank of the Zwick Mulde River, to contact the 8th Tank Battalion at Remse. This was accomplished, and the force returned to the Battalion at 2330. One hundred and forty P.W.'s were taken in Waldenburg.

14 April 1945

At 0420 the Battalion was ordered to move at 0700 to seize and occupy the town of Limbach 5303. At 0700, the head of the column moved out, and moved rapidly until it reached the village of Russdorf 5061. There, enemy Infantry and bazookamen delayed the column. The job of cleaning out each house was begun, and after heavy artillery fire had fallen onto the town of Limbach, and the roads approaching the town, the resistance was overcome, and the companies moved to their objectives through the town to the high ground on Hill 409 and Hill 401. In the fight for the town, 25 enemy Infantry-men were killed and wounded and 280 P.W.'s were taken.

This completed the combat for the Battalion, the remainder of the time the 15th of April to the 9th of May, was spent on outpost duty where no enemy contact was made, in a rest area, and in the movement into Czechoslovakia, where no enemy was encountered until after the unconditional surrender had become effective at 0001, 9 May 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

Charles L. Kimsley
CHARLES L. KIMSLEY
Major, 51st Armd Inf Bn.
S-3

Incls: 1 S-3 Journal with Annexes.
2 Operational Overlays.
3 S-2 Journal.

RESTRICTED

1 APR - 9 MAY - 45

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APC 254, U. S. Army

31 May 1945.

1 May 45

MAY

AFTER ACTION REPORT

604-76.2

25

#18

RESTRICTED

NOV 21 1945

12045 1

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY FIRST ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 284, U. S. Army

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (THROUGH CHANNELS).

1-8 May 1945

Actual combat was completed by this battalion on 14 April 1945. During the period 1-8 May 1945 the battalion was in a rest area, and made a march into Czechoslovakia, where the battalion was on outpost duty. No enemy was encountered until after the unconditional surrender had become effective at 0001 9 May 45.

For the Battalion Commander:

Charles L. Kimsey
CHARLES L. KIMSEY,
Major, 51st Armored Inf Bn,
S-3

Incls: #1 S-3 Journal with Annexes.
#2 Operational Overlays.
#3 S-2 Journal.

RESERVED