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HEADQUARTERS  
737th Tank Battalion  
APO 436

OP19  
Etc

1 Dec 44

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Report, After After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D, C. (Thru: Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division, APO 35, US Army.)

1. General Situation:

During the first week of November the immediate front of this battalion remained stabilized. Operations during this period consisted of elements of the battalion remaining alerted, prepared to repel counterattacks, while other elements performed secondary tank mission of indirect fire. Since 8 November the battalion has been actively engaged in the drive of the Third United States Army to the East. Fighting against adverse weather, mud, flood, unfavorable terrain and prepared enemy defenses, the tanks have made steady progress toward the ultimate objective.

2. Assignments, Attachments, Support and Reinforcing Fires.

6. Battalion remained assigned to XII Corps (Ltr Hq TUSA, File No. 322 GNMCC, Subject: Troop Assignment A-23, dtd 13 Aug 44) and attached to 35th Infantry Division (Ltr Hq XII Corps, File No. AG 322(G-3), Subject: Troop Assignment A-2, dtd 15 Aug 44) until 22 Nov 44, when attached to the 6th Armored Division (par 3 Operational Directive No. 41, Hq XII Corps, dtd 22 Nov 44) and reverted to the 35th Infantry Division at 1430, 27 Nov 44 (par 6 Operational Directive No. 43, Hq XII Corps, dtd 27 Nov 44).

1. 1-7 Nov. Co A supported 219th FA Bn, Cos. B&C supported 161 FA Bn
2. 8-15 Nov. Bn (-Co C) attached 137th Inf.
3. 8-111520 Nov. Co. C attached 320th Inf.
4. 111520-15 Nov. Co. C attached 134th Inf.
5. 22-27 Nov. Bn. attached CCB, 6th Armored Div.

3. Our operations:

a. Period 1-7 Nov. One or two platoons of each A, B and C Companies performed secondary tank mission of indirect fire. Each platoon firing averaged about 250 rounds per day. One platoon of each of the above companies remained in mobile reserve prepared to repulse enemy counterattack. All secondary missions designated by Artillery. No vehicle casualties. 1 EM wounded in action.

b. Period 8-15 November. During this period this battalion fought from MANHOU (U975260) to MORHANGE (Q195365). On 8 November 44 the entire 3rd U. S. Army jumped off in attack. All units of this battalion jumped off at 0600. A Co supporting the 1st Bn., 137th Inf. advanced to a position S of JALLAUCOURT (Q014276) where neutralizing fire was placed upon the town and areas to the N and lifted as the infantry moved in. Subsequently 3 tanks moved into the town, destroying enemy strong points and supporting the infantry in mopping up and consolidating the positions, while the balance of the company attacked JUREE WOODS (Q028277). B Co supported 2d Bn., 137 Inf. in mopping up and consolidating positions vicinity MALLAUCOURT (U990277) and in destroying enemy strong points within the town. C Co spearheaded the attack of the 3rd Bn., 320th Inf. into FRESNES (Q048275), seizing the town by 0722 hours. The company remained in and about the town for the balance of the day supporting the infantry in mopping up and in consolidating their positions. Assault Gun Platoon (reinforced-6 M4 tanks w/105mm How) fired supporting fire on call for A & B Cos. The attack was launched against prepared enemy positions, under unfavorable weather conditions. Opposition moderate, but extensive minefields encountered.

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Jan 27 1945  
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3. b. (contd)

The following day A Co. advanced with the infantry from ridge at (Q024291) against continuing moderate resistance through ORIOUCOURT (Q030305) to LANEUVEVILLE (Q047307). B Co. with 2d Bn., 137 Inf. advanced through LEMONCOURT (Q016306) to DELME (Q015329). C Co. engaged the enemy for a period of over 12 hours in a co-ordinated tank-infantry attack against strong resistance on FORET DE CHATEAU SALINS (Q090300). The Assault Gun Platoon 9reinforced) fired 256 rounds supporting fire on call for A and B Cos.

On 20 November A Co. attacked toward FONTENY (Q088321), while B Co advanced from DELME TO VIVIERS (Q048330) against heavy resistance and engaged in a fire fight with 6 enemy tanks (probably Mk IV or Mk V). The enemy succeeded in isolating an Armored FA Bn NE of the town and 3 ambulances were ambushed in the town, friendly infantry were pinned down by mortar and small arms fire and the only available road into VIVIERS contained a road block. B Co massed its fire on the road block, while one tank commanded by a platoon leader advanced to the obstruction, fired 2 rounds 75mm HE and 1 round 75mm AP into it, causing it to loosen. The tank then crashed through the obstacle, advanced into the town and shot up enemy strong points. When the road block was opened, 2 of the ambulances got out of the town, the 3rd having been shot up by the enemy, the pressure on the FA Bn. was relieved and the infantry were able to advance and seize the town. C Co took up defensive positions N of FRESNES. The Assault Gun Platoon, tied in with the 219 FA Bn., fired with the artillery supporting fire for A & B Cos. as well as on targets designated by the artillery.

The next day A Co continued the attack on FONTENY, engaging in a fire fight with enemy tanks and at the close of the day the enemy had withdrawn so that he had only the N portion of the town. B Co went into BOIS DE SERRES (Q040340) with infantry riding the rear decks. The tanks completely cleared half of the woods and flushed the balance, while infantry advanced and the Air Corps strafed and bombed the Germans as they attempted to withdraw to FAXE (Q064328). Infantry held the positions gained and the tanks withdrew to VIVIERS. B Co then, with a company of infantry riding the rear decks, advanced toward FAXE to assist A Co at FONTENY, but were stopped by an anti-tank ditch. C Co took up defensive positions N of BOIS DE AMELIUCOURT (Q093272). This company was released from attachment to the 320th Inf., attached to 134th Inf. (1520), moved to AMELIUCOURT (Q093272) and one platoon supported the 1st Bn., 134th Inf. in capturing and securing GERBECOURT (Q104288). Assault Gun Platoon (reinforced) continued to support 219 FA Bn., firing 156 rounds.

12 November saw A & B Cos. go into regimental reserve, while Co C supported the advance of 1st Bn., 134 Inf. through DALHAIN (Q139329) and the clearing of HABOUDANGE (Q177330), of the enemy and the attack continued to the N against stiffening resistance at the close of the day. Assault Gun Platoon 9reinforced) continued to support 219th FA Bn., firing 96 rounds.

On the succeeding day, A Co remained in regimental reserve, while B Co. advanced through ORON (Q080349), CHICOURT (Q098361) to MARTHEVILLE (Q138367), against moderate resistance. C Co., after very heavy fighting, captured and secured PEVANGE (Q181349) and continued the attack to the NE to ridge (Q143376). Assault Gun Platoon 9reinforced) fired 125 rounds.

On 14 November A Co attacked BARONVILLE (Q174379), meeting extremely heavy opposition. After several unsuccessful assaults by the infantry, the tanks succeeded in occupying the town and the infantry secured it. B Company advanced to the E and after severe fighting, seized and held DESTRY (Q158389). C Company continued the attack on MORHANGE RIDGE over open terrain in full enemy observation and was subjected to intense direct anti-tank fire and severe artillery, mortar and small arms fire, which held up the advance. Assault Gun Platoon fired 203 rounds.

On 15 November A Co, supporting the 3rd Bn., 137 Inf. attacked LE GRAND BOIS (Q191391). The tanks fired neutralizing fire into the woods and lifted fire as infantry advanced into the woods, then took up defensive positions along SW edge of woods. B Co supported infantry in establishing positions along railroad NE of MORHANGE. C Co, with infantry, flanked MORHANGE (Q195365) and entered the city from E with light opposition. Assault Gun Platoon (reinforced) remained in regimental reserve. A Co supported 1st Bn., 137th Inf. throughout period except on 15 November when the Co supported the 3rd Bn. B Co supported 2d Bn., 137 Inf. throughout period. D Co remained in reserve throughout period.

Result of Operations for Period: Fighting against prepared enemy defenses, extensive mine fields, unfavorable weather, mud soaked terrain and moderate to heavy resistance, the tanks of this battalion supported the infantry in advancing more than 30 kilometers. 3 Mk IV tanks, 1 Mk V tank, 7 75mm AT guns and 3 20mm AA guns were definitely destroyed and probably 3 Mk IV tanks and an undetermined number of artillery and small arms weapons destroyed. All PW's turned over to infantry. 18 of our tanks were disabled, including 2 M4A3E2 tanks, 4 of which are not repairable. 8 EM were killed in action; 2 Officers and 19 EM wounded in action.

c. Period 16-21 November 44:

During this period the battalion reassembled, remained in division reserve, and performed maintenance and prepared to support 35th Inf Div. in attack. No vehicle casualties, 1 EM wounded in action.

d. Period 22-28 November 44:

During this period the battalion was attached to the 6th Armored Division and formed the nucleus for a task force attached to Combat Command B and commanded by the commanding officer of this battalion, known as Task Force 1 (KROSCHER). Task Force 1 (KROSCHER) consisted of the following units:

737th Tank Bn.  
1st Bn., 134th Inf.  
Co B, 603rd Tank Destroyer Bn.  
2d Platoon, Co B, 777th AAA Battery.  
Platoon, 60th Engr. Bn. (c)  
Platoon, 25th Armd Engr. Bn.  
161st FA Bn.

At 1300, 24 November, after a 30 minute artillery preparation, Task Force Kroschel attacked from ST. JEAN-ROHRBACH (Q381481) with mission of capturing and securing HILSPRICH (Q400463). Resistance was moderate but artillery and mortar fire very heavy during early stages of advance and numerous minefields were encountered. Terrain was muddy and flooded. Mission accomplished by 1600. Assembly area was outposted for the night and the Task Force prepared to attack to the NE, objective REMERING (Q419489) 251000 Nov 44.

On 25 Nov. the attack commenced at 1000 on schedule and the force moved NE through LE STANGENWALD (Q405471) where it encountered road blocks and mine fields protected by heavy small arms fire. The attack moved forward under continuous artillery fire, both direct and indirect, from pill boxes in the vicinity of DIDERING (Q435466), BETTERING (Q438467), BALLERING (Q440473), GRUNDEVILLER (Q442498) and FORET de PUTTELANGE, E of PUTTELANGE (Q380510). The mud and flooded condition of the terrain caused many of the tanks to bog down. The leading elements entered the town at 1220 from the S, after an artillery preparation reinforced by support fire of the tanks. The town was cleared of enemy and 2 companies of infantry with a platoon of tanks and 2 tank destroyers held the town. THE town of RICHELING (Q433481) and its northern approaches were fired upon during the operation from a

position 500-600 yards SW of REMERING.

On the 26th November the Task Force improved its defensive positions within its zone, and continued evacuation and repair of disabled and bogged down vehicles. The Task Force continued to hold its defensive positions until it was physically relieved by elements of the 6th Armored Division on 28 Nov.

Result of Operations: Despite the heavy mud, which greatly reduced and impeded the mobility of the tanks, the extensive mine fields, the road blocks, the pillboxes and the intense enemy artillery, the Task Force gained each of its objectives. 4 Mk IV or Mk V Tanks were definitely knocked out, 1 probably knocked out, 3 AT guns destroyed, 5 pillboxes breached and 16 PW's captured during the operation. 4 of our tanks were disabled by mines, 1 tank destroyer was disabled by artillery fire, 3 -2½ ton 6x6 GMC trucks of this Bn were disabled by enemy fire, and 1 - ½ ton truck of the 1st Bn, 134 Inf was disabled by a mine. 1 EM was killed, 1 Officer and 2 EM of this Bn were wounded. The total personnel casualties of all other units attached to this Task Force was as follows: Killed - 2, Wounded - 38.

e. Period 24-30 November 44:

Battalion reassembled and performed maintenance on vehicles. No material or personnel losses.

4. Miscellaneous:

a. Flotation connectors were attached to the tank tracks. Two types were installed, a prefabricated type and a type welded on to the connectors by a supporting ordnance unit. About 40% of those installed by ordnance were knocked off as against a loss of about 15% of the prefabricated type. Operation disclosed that the flotation connectors substantially aided in tank operation over soft ground, especially on light tanks, although some mobility was lost in that the turning radius was enlarged and great care had to be taken in driving because of the fragility of the connectors. Rocks, trees, stumps and curbs in towns were common causes of loss of the flotation connectors.

b. This battalion had in operation for the first time 5 M4A3E2 tanks, one of which was disabled by enemy mines, and the turret of another was penetrated at a range of about 600 yards, by 75mm AT fire. The additional weight of the vehicle makes it harder to handle, decreases its mobility and decreases its flotation.

*James I. Wickens*  
JAMES I. WICKENS  
Captain, Cavalry  
S-3

1 Incl  
Unit Journal

**SECRET**

*737th Tank Bn.*

TASK FORCE 1 (KROSCHER)  
737th Tank Bn

On 22 November 1944 the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 35th Infantry Division and attached to the 6th Armored Division (par 3, Operational Directive No. 41, Hq XII Corps, dtd 22 Nov 44) and attached to CCB 6th Armored Division (VOCG) to form the nucleus of a task force. This task force known as Task Force 1 (Kroschel) was commanded by Lt Colonel KROSCHER and consisted of the following units:

- 737th Tank Battalion
- 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment
- Company "B", 603 Tank Destroyer Battalion
- One platoon, 60th Engineer Battalion (C)
- One platoon, 25th Armored Engineer Battalion
- 161st Field Artillery Battalion

The Battalion reverted to the 35th Infantry Division on ~~27~~ 28 Nov 44 (par 6, Operational Directive No. 43, Hq XII Corps, dtd 27 Nov 44). However, the Tank Force held its gains until physically completely relieved by elements of the 6th Armored Division on the evening of 28 November 1944.

*22-28 Nov 44*

*97-69.2*

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
**CANCELLED**  
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*Fred M. Stowell, Lt Col AGD*  
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE ..... 7 Mar 44.....

FEB 27 1948

*20748*

G-3 Report

~~SECRET~~  
TF KROSCHER  
c/o 737 Tk Bn  
APO 430  
Period 241000 Nov to 251000 Nov.

1.

1. Location of Troops: Command CP at Hillsprich (400463), CP at St. Jean Kohrbach (31191). Troops dispersed in and about each of the towns.

2. Operations:

a. Arm Forces and Inf: Kroschel attacked 1300 w/mission of capturing and securing Hillsprich. Co. A, 737 Tk Bn w/1st Platoon Co. B, 737 Tk Bn; Co. A, 1st Bn., 134 Inf; 1 platoon <sup>2 destroyers</sup> Co. B, 603 TD w/attached light. Co. B, 737th Tk Bn w/2d Platoon Co. D., 737 Tk Bn; Co. C, 1st Bn., 134 Inf and 2 platoons (7 destroyers), Co. B, 603 TD Bn attacked in center. Co C, 737 Tk Bn, w/3rd Platoon Co. B, 737 Tk Bn attacked on left. Inf. rode rear decks of tanks w/ 1st Bn. Co. C, 1st Bn., 134 Inf. remained in reserve. Inf. advanced since town and after capturing same, tanks secured it. Mission accomplished 1600. 50% of force of attack throughout night. Infantrymen w/each tank. Heavy operations negative throughout night except for scattered artillery about 0600. Prior to jump-off tanks and troops subjected to heavy artillery and mortar barrage vicinity St. Jean Kohrbach.

b. Artillery:

- (1) Assault platoon reinforced (6 tanks) 737 Tk Bn fired 30 minute preparation prior to attack and fired supporting fire on call.
- (2) Mortar platoon, 737 Tk Bn. fired supporting fire on call.
- (3) 1st Bn. fired 30 minute preparation prior to attack, fired supporting fire on call and interdiction fire throughout night.

c. Engineers:

- (1) 1st Plat., Co. A, 2d and 3rd. cleared road block west edge of St. Jean Kohrbach...3000 lb. dynamite charge, cleared and filled culvert w/3rd Hillsprich (399401).
- (2) 1 platoon 60 Eng. swept road for mines from St. Jean Kohrbach to Hillsprich rd (402403).

d. Sections 777 AAA Bn provided security for trains.

3. Casualties:

a. Losses:

- (1) 1 Co., 737 Tk Bn, 1 Tk disabled by mines.
- (2) 1 Co., 737 Tk Bn, 1 Tk disabled by mines. 1 2 1/2 ton GMC disabled by mines.
- (3) 1 Co., 1st Bn., 134 Inf., 1/2 ton truck, disabled by mine.
- (4) 1 Co., 603 TD Bn., 1 destroyer disabled by arty fire.

b. Personnel:

- (1) 737th Tk Bn., 1 P, 1 IA, 1 Officer LIA.
- (2) 1st Bn., 134 Inf.
- (3) Other units - none.

4. Enemy Losses:

Estimated enemy killed ~~unknown~~ wounded ~~unknown~~ 7 captured. 1 1/2 ton destroyed by 1 Co, 737 Tk Bn.

5. Civilians:

All civilians evacuated from Hillsprich. Civilians corralled for night in St. Jean Kohrbach.

[REDACTED]

... 737 ... 21000 Nov 21000 ...

C. ...

... Hills (30701), captured ...  
... resistance over muddy and ...

JAN N. I. EVANS  
Captain, Cavalry  
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TF KROSCHER  
 3 737th Tank Bn.  
 APO 436  
 Period 251000 Nov to 261000 Nov.

NO. 2.

1. LOCATION OF TROOPS: CP locations - no change. Troops dispersed generally in arc running from REMERING Les STANGENWALD (418488) to CASTVILLER (415465).
2. OUR OPERATIONS:
  - a. Armored Forces: TF Kroschel attacked 1000 from assembly area vicinity HILLSPRICH (400463) with mission of capturing ~~and securing~~ REMERING and RJ (420489). Co. A, 737 Tk Bn., w/1st Platoon Co. D, 737 Tk Bn., and 1st platoon (2 destroyers) Co. B, 603 TD Bn., advanced to the S and E of Le STANGENWALD (4047); Co. B, 737 Tk Bn., w/2d Platoon Co. D, 737 Tk Bn. and 2d platoon (2 destroyers) Co. B, 603 TD Bn., supported advance of Cos. A and B, 1st Bn., 134 Inf. through Le STANGENWALD. 5 Tanks and 2 Destroyers entered REMERING 1945. Co. C, 737 Tk Bn., w/3rd Platoon Co. D, 737 Tk Bn. and 3rd Platoon (3 destroyers) Co. B, 603 TD Bn., advanced to the N and E of Le STANGENWALD. Resistance light but tanks lost their mobility due to excessive mud and became bogged down. Area through Le STANGENWALD heavily mined and booby-trapped. Bridge out 416480.
  - b. Infantry: Cos. A and B, 134 Inf. attacked 1000 through Le STANGENWALD, entered REMERING 1220. C Co. in reserve, moved into REMERING then over to S and E of A Co., 737 Tk Bn. and outposted positions during night.
  - c. Artillery: (1) Assault Gun Platoon reinforced (6 tanks), 737 Tk Bn. fired on call 4 missions and a total of 156 rounds. (2) Mortar Platoon, 737 Tk Bn. - no missions. (3) 161 FA Bn. fired supporting on call and interdiction fire through night. Fired 16 missions, expended 487 rounds.
  - d. Engineers: (1) Platoon, Co. A, 25 Armd. Eng.; Swept road from HILLSPRICH to REMERING for mines. Construction on 36 ft. trestle bridge CL 40 (419484) completed 0130. (2) Platoon, 60 Eng. swept road from HILLSPRICH to REMERING for mines. 36 Riegel and 4 Teller mines removed. Cleared road block (413476).  
 2d Platoon, Co. B, 777 AAA provided security for trains and administration Hq.
3. OUR LOSSES:
  - a. Material: (1) B. Co., 737 Tk Bn., 2 tanks disabled by mines.
  - b. Personnel: (1) 737 Tk Bn., 2 EM, LWA. (2) Co. B, 603 TD Bn., 3 EM, LWA. (3) 1st Bn., 134 Inf., 19 WIA. (4) Other Units none. (5) 161 FA BN 1 LWA
4. ENEMY LOSSES: Estimated enemy killed: Unknown, Wounded: Unknown, PW's captured.
5. RESULT OF OPERATIONS: TF Kroschel attacked 1000, objective REMERING (418480) captured 1220. Objective RJ (420489) not reached. Advance against light resistance through mined woods and over muddy and bogged terrain. Mud caused tanks to bog down and stopped their advance.



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S. 2:

1737 Wagon, 251000 Nov to 201000 Nov 41. Cont'd.

JAMES I. WICKENS  
Captain, Cavalry  
S-3

TF KROSCHTEL  
737 Tank Bn.  
APO 436  
Period 261000 to 271000 Nov.

NO. 3.

1. LOCATION OF TROOPS: CP locations - no change. Troops dispersed generally in arc running from Remering Lea Püttelange (418458) to Castviller (415465).
2. OUR OPERATIONS:
  - (a) Armored Forces: Evacuated damaged and bogged down vehicles and assembled companies at following locations:
    - A Co / 1st Plat. B Co., 603 TD Bn. - 396460.
    - B Co / 2d Plat. B Co., 603 TD Bn. - 401468.
    - C Co / 3rd Plat. B Co., 603 TD Bn. - 410465.
    - D Co - one platoon attached to each medium Co.  
One platoon B Co. remained in Remering.
  - (b) Infantry: Cos. A and B, 134th Inf. remained in Remering. C Co. outposted S and E of Task Force sector.
  - (c) Artillery: (1) Assault Gun Platoon, 737 Tank Bn. reinforced 161 FA Bn. (2) Mortar Platoon, 737 Tank Bn. - no missions. (3) 161 FA Bn. supported Task Force Miltonberger.
  - (d) Engineers: Platoon of Co. A, 60th Eng. and Platoon of Co. A, 25 Armd. Eng. continued repair, maintenance and mine sweeping of roads in Task Force sector.
  - (e) 2d Platoon, Co. B, 777 AAA, provided security for trains and administration Hq.
3. OUR LOSSES:
  - (a) Material - None.
  - (b) Personnel - (1) 737 Tk Bn: 1 EM, SYA (2) Co. B, 603 TD Bn: 1 Off KIA, 1 Off. LVA, 1 EM LWA (3) 1st Bn., 134 Inf: None. (4) Other units: None.
4. ENEMY LOSSES:
  - (a) Estimated enemy killed: Unknown, Wounded: Unknown, PWs Captured: None.
  - (b) Enemy Material destroyed: 3 German Tanks knocked out and 1 AT Gun knocked out vicinity 423492.
5. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Task Force Kroschel continued to improve defensive positions within sector. Continued evacuation and repair of disabled and bogged down vehicles.

JAMES I. WICKENS  
Captain, Cavalry  
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HEADQUARTERS  
737th Tank Battalion  
APO 430

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*etc*

*Oct - Nov + Dec 44*

1 January 1945

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Report, After After Action.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division, APC 5, US Army.).

Transmitted herewith, pursuant to the provisions of par 10, Change 3, 9 March 44 to AR 345-105, 18 Nov 43, and Ltr file 319.1 (AG-C), Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, Subject: Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports, dtd 26 Oct 44, report of this headquarters for month of Dec 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Leonard M. Smeal*  
LEONARD M. SMEAL  
1st Lt., Inf. (Armed)  
Adjutant

335-69.2

2 Incls:

- 1 - Action Against Enemy Report, After/After Action.
- 2 - Unit Journal.

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*Incl 10*