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HEADQUARTERS 48TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 257, U. S. Army

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of January 1945

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.  
Thru Commanding General, 7th Armd Div, APO 257, U. S. Army

Following is a summary of events contained in the 48th Armored Infantry Battalion Unit Journal for the month of January 1945:

1 January 1945. Location - Ferrieres, Belgium. Map Reference - Aywaille No 80, 1:50,000. Grid coordinates 485 - 022. Battalion in billets where a continuation of re-organization and maintenance of vehicles and weapons is carried on. Assault teams within each letter company were organized and were issued demolitions by A/33. A demonstration in use of demolitions was conducted by a squad of A/33 for the selected personnel. At 1600 the battalion less Service and A Companies moved to new billets at Ferrieres. Unit closed in new billets at 1800. Distance traveled 7.4 miles. Weather - Cold.

2 January 1945. Location - Ferrieres, Belgium. Map Reference - Aywaille No. 80, 1:50,000. Grid Coordinates 485 - 022. Re - organization of companies was continued. There was also a continuation of issuance of equipment and clothing to the entire battalion. The battalion less A and Service Companies were alerted to move but was unable to do so, difficulty in obtaining billets in CCB area. Weather - Cold.

3 January 1945. Location - Rouge Miniere, Belgium. Map Reference - Aywaille No. 80, 1:50,000. Grid Coordinates 502 - 036. At 0900, Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company less the Machine Gun and Mortar platoons, Medical Detachment and B Company moved from Ferrieres to the above location. Unit closed in at 1030. Distance traveled was 2.2 miles. The Machine Gun and Mortar platoons were billeted at Grimonster. Companies A and C remained at their billets. A/48, 1 platoon of A/31 and first platoon of A/33 conducted training exercises involving close mutual support and teamwork of tanks, infantry and engineers. A similar type problem involving C/48, 1 platoon of C/31 and the second platoon of A/33 were conducted. Headquarters and B Companies continued reorganization. All company and Battalion staff officers attended a critique and conference conducted by the Commanding General of CCB at CCB CP at 1900. Plans were made for problems involving B/48 and 1 platoon of B/31 and the third platoon of A/33 to be conducted 4 January 1945 under the supervision of the CO of 31 Tank Battalion. All Company Commanders assembled at the Battalion CP at 2130 and the following points were brought up: I. The proper wearing of the uniform. II. The wearing of the insignia by officers and non-commissioned officers. III. Military courtesy. IV. Mental alertness of all personnel. V. Close inspection of messes by company commanders and Battalion Medical Officers. Weather - Cold and snow.

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4 January 1945. Location - Same as for 13 January 1945. B/48, B/31 and 3rd platoon of A/99 conducted a problem involving the penetration of a small force using secondary trails to penetrate simulated enemy positions. Problem showed a necessity for further infantry small unit training with emphasis on aggressiveness and control. The condition of roads in the area that this unit will probably operate, will greatly limit the use and maneuverability of tanks, thereby necessitating a greater proportion of infantry. The usual tank-infantry did not properly use the terrain for cover and concealment. In view of the foregoing, this problem for rifle platoons of this battalion, was drawn up and would be executed by each company. Weather - Melting.

5 January 1945. Location - Same as above. All platoons of A/48 ran short advance guard problem. (See S-3 file for problem and overlay) Enthusiasm displayed was good but further training is necessary. AT platoon, Company B, conducted test firing of its 57 MM guns. Bn Commander conducted a meeting at 1630 and covered the following points: I. Vital necessity for conservation of all equipment. II. Brief orientation on the tactical situation. III. Necessity for greater alertness on behalf of all personnel towards infiltrating Germans. IV. Read message from the Division Commander on the stand at St. Vith and explained the probable future employment and the necessity for all personnel being prepared. Weather - Clouded.

6 January 1945. Location - Same as above. Companies B and C ran platoon problems of an infantry platoon in Advance Guard. The spirit and enthusiasm was good and good training resulted. The AT platoon of Company A test-fired their 57 MM AT guns. Company A also test-fired a number of small-arms weapons. A school on the BAR was conducted for the BAR men of the Battalion by Lt. Steinberg. A sector of the front was reconnoitered by reconnaissance parties from each company. A report on the findings were rendered by the patrol members direct to CCB and posted on the S-2 - S-3 map. Weather - Clouded.

7 January 1945. Location - Same as above. Entire command was furnished the opportunity to take baths at Shower Point. No training scheduled. Religious services were conducted during the day. The Red Cross Clubmobile visited the Battalion to dispense coffee and donuts. An officers school was conducted by S-2 on Gammin and sticky grenades. Weather - Cold.

8 January 1945. Location - Same as above. Training was resumed by all companies in accordance with published schedule. (See Schedule) The Battalion Commander and the S-3 accompanied the CG of CCB on a reconnaissance of the area in the vicinity of Malmedy and Stavelot, Belgium. Contacted CG of the 30th Inf Div and the CO of 120th Inf Regt, 30th Inf Div as to the situation on their front and on possible use of armored elements on the terrain south of their position. All of the roads traveled were covered with approximately six inches of snow and the road net in this area generally inadequate. Terrain very rugged in character with steep hills covered with forest and few trails negotiable for tanks. Some training scheduled for today was postponed due to inclement weather. Fifteen officers and non-commissioned officers attended a forward observers school for artillery at CCB CP. Weather - Snow and high winds.

9 January 1945. Location - Same as above. Training schedule followed by all units. Units continued training of small unit tactics. Firing of weapons was accomplished. A/48 conducted company problem involving the use of tanks and engineers. Tanks negotiated trails chosen for axis of advance with

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great difficulty due to snow and ice. <sup>14</sup> ~~Problems~~ <sup>14</sup> ~~Problems~~ demonstrated that progress in this terrain will be very slow. CG of CCB spoke to all officers at a meeting held at 1600. Numerous SOP procedures were mentioned. This was deemed necessary since so many new officers had joined this unit. Officers were told of the treatment afforded United States Prisoners of War by certain German troops. Weather - Cold.

10 January 1945. Same as above. Training schedule was not followed today as units were placed on a two-hour alert. Companies prepared for movement and checked vehicles, radios and other equipment for preparedness. Billeting detail under S-1 reported to CCB for instructions at 1300. Headquarters was notified at 1600 by Workshop (Mr. Bachman) that the unit would not move tonight as planned. Billeting detail returned to CP at 1830 and reported that the area allotted to this Battalion was filled with other troops. This headquarters was notified by CCB that further instructions as to billeting area, time of movement etc. would be forthcoming. Weather - Cold and clear.

11 January 1945. Same as above. Billeting party led by S-1 met at CP of CCB at 0830 for reconnaissance of new billeting area. On order of CCB, all companies were placed on a thirty-minute alert after 1200. Billeting party returned at 1300 and reported new area already occupied by other troops. This fact was reported to CCB for action and this Headquarters was ordered to conduct further reconnaissance within CCB area for billets. The alert was called off on order of CCB and the move was postponed until 12 January 1945. At 1430, the CO, S-3, S-2, S-1 and a reconnaissance squad left the CP for a search of a new area for billets. Possible billets were located at Marteau, Belgium. Tentative plans were made for moving the entire Battalion within this vicinity 12 January 1945. Entire party less the reconnaissance squad ~~was~~ returned to the CP at 1730. The area was cleared with CCB. Permission was granted for C Company to billet in the area of the 31st Tank Battalion. A meeting of all Company Commanders was called at the CP at 1930. The order of March and time of march together with the route of march were given to all companies. Weather - Cold.

12 January 1945. Location - Marteau, Belgium. Map Reference - Malmedy Sheet No. 81, 1:50,000. The battalion moved from Rouge Miniere, Belgium as scheduled: 0800 - A company; 0900 - Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Medical Detachment; 1000 - C company and 1100 - B and Service Companies. Route of march for A company, Bn Hqs, Hqs Company and Medical Detachment was Aywaille, Remouchamps, Houtregard, LaReid and Marteau. Route of march for C, B and Service Companies was Aywaille, Louvigne, Theaux and Marteau. Battalion closed in at 1340. Distance traveled was 15 miles. There were no stragglers. The coordinates of companies and detachments of their present location using the above map reference is as follows: Bn Hqs - 648-117; Hqs Company 649-118; A 647-138; B 722-130; C 689-124; Medical Detachment 647-119 and Service Company 644-116. S-3 and S-2 visited CCB to obtain latest information and instructions. They received a brief outline on the proposed operation. The S-2 obtained a road reconnaissance ~~over~~ <sup>lay</sup> from the S-2 of CCB. The CG of CCB ordered further reconnaissance in the Bn area for billeting one company of the 509 Parachute Infantry. Further search found no billets available for this company and such a report was forwarded to CCB. A telephone call from CCB at 2340 ordered CO to CP of CCB for a meeting at 0830 13 January 1945. Weather - Cold.

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13 January 1945. Location - Same as for 12 January 1945.

At 0815 the CO reported at the CP of CCB for a meeting with the CG. Various phases of the proposed attack were discussed and plans were made of all tactical compositions of all forces within CCB. Forces within CCB to be as follows:

Task Force C	Task Force A	Task Force B
(Lt. Col. ERLBUSH)	(Lt. Col. CHAPUIS)	(Maj Thomasick)
Hq/31	Hq/48	509 Par. Bn.
C/48	A/48	B/31
C/31	B/48	3/A/33
2/A/33	A/31	
C/509	1/A/33	

434 FA Bn to be in direct support of CCB. Four other battalions available on call. Other details as outlined in CCB field order to be issued. At a meeting at 1300 of company commanders and staff, the general plan of attack and the employment of Task Force A was discussed. The communications officer was directed to see that the channels on the radios of the organizations other than 48th, be netted into the command net. S-2 was given the mission of contacting any friendly troops within the proposed zone of action, relative mines, strong-points, enemy positions etc. S-4 was directed to obtain rifle grenade flares - if available. A distribution of a pre-arranged map code was made to the company commanders and the use of it explained. Beginning at 1300, B/48 conducted an assault fire problem over terrain near their billets. Companies A and C conducted training under the company's supervision. Companies also conducted thorough checks to assure that all vehicles were fully combat loaded and that both troops and vehicles were prepared to move on a moment's notice. Weather - Cold.

14 January 1945. Location - Same as above. S-3 reported to CCB at 0830 and was directed to reconnoiter for assembly positions in the vicinity of Waimes, Belgium. Upon actual reconnaissance, it was found that the area allotted TFA was on the forward slope of a hill with no concealment and in full view of the present enemy positions. At the time of the visit to Waimes, the village was outposted by dug-in elements of the 2nd Bn of the 23rd Inf Regt, 2nd Inf Div. A report was submitted to CCB and the undesirability of the assigned assembly area was made known. S-3 was advised by CCB that approximately 400 snow capes would be available for the forthcoming operation and as many vehicles as possible were to be calcumined. At 1830 the CO had a brief ceremony and presented awards to a group of officers and men of the battalion. Map studies of proposed operations to be conducted and tentative plans were made for TFA. Further reconnaissance was ordered and the CO directed further visits to friendly troops to secure information. An outline plan and an overlay for operations was received from CCB. Weather - Cold.

15 January 1945. Location - Same as above. At 0330 S-3 was informed by the liaison officer to report to CCB at 0715 for the purpose of conducting a reconnaissance of the forward assembly areas in the vicinity of Waimes, Belgium. The area was reconnoitered for the suitability of vehicle parks, concealment and location of mines, friendly and enemy. Only part of the area could be reconnoitered since the southern part of this area was under small arms fire. Mines were definitely located in the southern part of the assembly area. Suitable cover and concealment were available within the area. S-3 returned to the CP at 1300. A representative from each company within TFA was sent to the assembly area to select a company assembly area. The CO reported at the CCB CP at 1400 for a meeting with the CG. The CO returned at 1600. The CO and S-3 prepared an attack order (Field Order No. 1). Billeting parties from the companies returned at 1800 and reported to Co that areas within

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the forward assembly area had been selected. Plans were made for instruction in First Aid Measures with Captain LINDEN to be conducted by the Medical Detachment personnel on 16 January 1945. All company Commanders of TFA were notified to report at Worse CP at 0900 16 January 1945 for Field Orders. Weather - Cold.

16 January 1945. Location - Same as above. CCB called to discuss the use of defensive grenades or half-pound blocks of T. N. T. for blowing holes in frozen ground. Demonstration at Worse CP clearly showed that half-pound blocks of T. N. T. were most satisfactory for this purpose. CCB was requested to send 800 half-pound blocks of T. N. T. prepared with caps and igniters for use in this Battalion. Blocks were to be prepared by A/33. At 1300 S-2 and S-3 left CP to visit CPs of 120th RCT and 23rd RCT. Visit to 120th RCT disclosed that in accordance with plans all elements were on their assigned objectives. Visit to 23rd RCT disclosed elements of this unit were just short of their objective and expected to be on their assigned objective at 2400. Elements of the 1st Inf Div were not yet abreast of the 23rd RCT but were moving up. CO of 23rd RCT stated that he had been given the mission at 1200 to push beyond his original objective and taking the towns of Ivelingen and Monteneau, Belgium. The objectives had formerly been assigned to TFA, 7AD. S-2 and S-3 returned to CP at 1600. CCB informed unit that it would move to forward assembly area at approximately 2200. Company representatives were sent to check their respective assembly areas at 1800. The reconnaissance platoon was given the mission of posting the road to the forward assembly area. At 1900 CCB notified the unit that there would be no movement tonight and billeting representatives were recalled. No alternate plan was given this Headquarters and no indication of new developments were divulged. At 2030 the liaison officer of Worse guided truck with demolitions to Service Company. Weather - Cold.

17 January 1945. Location - Same as above. CCB called at 1330 for a representative to reconnoiter the forward assembly area. Reconnaissance platoon was given the mission of inspecting new area for suitability as to entrance and exit and as to mine fields. At 1500 CG of CCB visited the CP and disseminated latest enemy information. At 1530 the CG CCB and CO Worse left CP to visit Company B to inspect the use of one-half pound blocks of T. N. T. for purposes of blowing foxholes in frozen ground. The low temperature caused some blocks to fail to explode, but the addition of another cap solved this problem. The offensive grenades that were available at the other ASPs were reported not available to us by the ammunition sergeant. Unit was advised at 1845 that there would be no movement tonight. CO and S-3 planned a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Waimes, Belgium beginning at 0820 18 January 1945. Company Commanders of TFA were told to report at 0900 18 January 1945 for the purpose of conducting a reconnaissance in this same area. Weather - Warmer with snow.

18 January 1945. Location - Same as above. At 0900 CO, S-3 and Company representatives of TFA left CP for a reconnaissance of Waimes, Belgium and routes south of Waimes. New assembly positions were selected on order of CCB and routes leading out of the area were being swept by A/33. After a careful reconnaissance of the forward assembly positions, the company commanders returned to their billets. CO and S-3 visited the CP of R&T,

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2nd Inf Div. Information gathered here indicated that there would be no opportunity tonight to put CCB plan of attack into effect. CO and S-3 returned to CP at 1545. CO notified by liaison officer of the cancellation of all previous plans. The CO was ordered at 1730 to report to the CCB CP at 1900 for a meeting and for a discussion of a new plan of employment. Bn was notified that there would be no movement tonight. An Officer representative from each company, the reconnaissance officer and platoon and S-2 were ordered to meet at Worse CP at 0800 19 January 1945, for the purpose of reconnoitering new routes within new zone to LD. Weather - Clouded and misty.

19 January 1945. Location: Waimes, Belgium - Grid Coordinates 840-028. Map Reference Sheet No. 81, Malmedy 1:50,000. S-2 and Reconnaissance Officer left CP at 0830 to check possible routes of forward assembly area in the vicinity of Lingueville. Executive Officer and S-1 met with CG of CCB at Macadems Headquarters at 1400 and received instructions to reconnoiter forward assembly area in the vicinity of RJ 822-949. This reconnaissance was made together with Ex. Co. of 509 Par. Inf Bn Ex. Co. and S-1 returned to CP at 1845. CO went to CCB CP for a unit commanders meeting at 1500 to receive movement orders to Waimes and to receive a tentative time for crossing the IP which was 2015. A meeting of Company Commanders of TFA was held at CP at 1700 at which time company commanders were given final instructions and order of march. CO and S-3 left CP at 1900. ~~X~~TFA left Marteau at 2015. March order was Reconnaissance section, Bn Hqs, A Company and A/31. C/48 was assigned to TFC at 1700 and B/48 (-AT platoon) was assigned to TFB at same time. Route of march was Marteau, Spa, Malchamps, Franchorchamps, Burneville, Malmedy, Bangez and Waimes. Unit was still moving at midnight. There was a heavy snowfall.

20 January 1945. Location: 1½ miles East of Recht, Belgium. Grid Coordinates 820-949. Map Reference: Sheet No. 5602, 1:25,000. Still on the move at the beginning of the day. Unit closed in at 0215. Due to the heavy snowfall, several vehicles were ditched and later recovered. At 0500 CO received orders to report to CCB and received the order to be prepared to move at any time after 0800 to new assembly area in the vicinity of RJ 822-949. TFA moved from Wimes at 0800 and closed in new area at above location at 1030. Order of march was A/48, BnHqs, Hqs Co, 1/A/33, Medical Detachment, AT platoon of B/48 and A/31. At 1100, C - (2nd Platoon) of 814 TD Bn and D/31 was attached to TFA. B- (AT platoon) 48 reverted to TFA at 1700. CG CCB gave TFA the mission to attack in conjunction with TFB, the village of Born. The east-west railroad was the left boundary of TFA. At 1715 TFA attacking in conjunction with TFB on the right, had reached a general north-south line approximately 1100 yards west of Born. They had captured 15 PWS in their attack toward village and were receiving small-arms and AG fire from the high ground just west of Born. At about 1730, the right company of TFB (B/509 Par.) had actually entered the outskirts of Born but had been forced to withdraw to the same general line on which TFA had been stopped. Due to lack of control and communication, S-3 was sent to contact the assaulting elements of TFA and TFB with the mission of coordinating the attack into Born. At 2000 the assaulting companies were ordered to reorganize, consolidate their present positions and prepare to attack. At 2130 a ten-minute preparation of artillery was to be placed on the town with the 434 FA in direct support and as many other battalions of artillery as were available. The 81 MM and AG platoons were given the mission of firing

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~~mixed~~ concentration of HE and WP on the section of Born east of the RR tracks. At 2330 a heavy snowfall limited the visibility to 50 yards. At 2345 the attack began with TFA on the left and TFB on the right. TFB was supported by four medium tanks which moved out following the Infantry. During this action B/48, 81 M<sup>pl</sup>/48, AG<sup>pl</sup>/48 were committed. Remainder of TFA was held in CCB reserve in the vehicular assembly area near the CP from 2300 to 0130 (21 Jan 45). Casualties: 1 killed and 13 wounded; 1 Half-track was destroyed. Weather - Cold

21 January 1945. Location: Same as 20 January 1945.

At 0200 B/48 had entered Born and was occupying the part of the village assigned as their objective. No contact was made with TFC. At 0500, it was learned that TFC would not be able to reach Born by daylight. A/48 was ordered to pass thru B/48 and secure that portion of the town east of the railroad. At 0800 A/48 passed thru B/48 and attacked the portion of town east of the railroad. This company met very stiff resistance from MG, rifle and AG fire. Due to the exceptional leadership of the company commander of A/48, the resistance was overcome. This portion of the town was cleared by 1500. A/48 outposted their portion of the town and prepared to repel a counter-attack from the south and east. B/48 in conjunction with TFB resumed the attack on the western half of Born at 0800 and also met very heavy sniper and MG fire. The western part of Born was cleared of enemy by 1600. This information was late in getting back to the 48th CP with the result that S-3 was sent at 1600 with A/31 and A/38 to assist them in clearing the town. At 1730, contact was made by this force with B/48. The situation was cleared up. A/38 was used to bolster the defenses of B/48 while 1/A/31 was sent to A/48 and the remainder of A/31 supported B/48. At this time A/38 reverted to its battalion but with the mission of supporting B/48 until 0800 22 January 1945. Some artillery and nebelwerfer fire was received in Born from 1800 until 2400. No counter-attacks were received. At 1700 the CP of A/33 reported that road from CP (820-949) to Born was cleared. C/48 reverted to Battalion control at 1800. Total casualties sustained during this action were as follows: 1 killed and 12 wounded. There were no vehicular losses. Weather: Cold and clear.

22 January 1945. Location: Born, Belgium. Grid coordinates 852-943. Map Reference: Sheet No. 5602, 1:25,000. At 0230, CO received orders from CG CCB to have one rifle company prepared to move out at 0900. Further instructions were to be given later. In compliance with this order B/48 was alerted. No enemy counter-attack materialized during this period. Further coordination of defensive sectors accomplished during morning daylight hours. At 0900 B/48 was detached and was attached to 31 Tk Bn with mission of attacking Hunningen. C/48 was ordered to take over defensive position held by B/48. At 1700 A/31 was detached from 48th AIB and reverted to 31 Tk Bn. At 1400, 2 supply trucks were hit by artillery and partially destroyed in the village of Born. (Grid coordinates 848-939) At 2000 one kitchen truck was partially destroyed by mines at coordinates 835-945. One officer and three enlisted men were injured. Occasional artillery fire fell in Born from 1400 to 2400. CP was moved from near Recht, Belgium to above location leaving at 1230 and arriving at 1300. Distance traveled was four miles. Map reference for above coordinates is Sheet No 5602, 1:25,000. Casualties: one officer and 7 EM killed, 10 missing in action and one officer and 34 EM wounded. Weather: Cold and clear.

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23 January 1945. Location: Same as for 22 January 1945. At 0400 this headquarters was notified that the Bn was assigned to CCR. This came from S-3 CCB. The CO was ordered to report to CCR Hqs at once. The CO returned to the CP at 0715. The S-3 and liaison officer went to the CCR CP with the CO. All companies were alerted to be prepared for early movement. The company commanders of, A, C, Hq/48 and B/40 together with S-3 went on a reconnaissance to locate forward assembly areas for vehicles and a reconnaissance as far forward as possible in the zone of action. The CCR objective was to attack and seize St Vith using east-west road thru Hunnigen as LD with 87 Ren Sq plus one tank company to seize the ground immediately east of St. Vith. The 48th AIB less B company plus B/40 made up one task force - objective being St. Vith. At 1000 CO, S-3 and company commanders returned to the CP. The CO received orders that this battalion minus B/48 would revert to CCB control. Plan of attack was changed ~~x~~ as follows: TF BEATTY to attack from the vicinity of Hunnigen astride the leading road into St Vith, to seize and hold RJ 853-883. TF RHEA to attack from NE and seize RJ 855-886. TF CHAPPUIS would attack from vicinity of Hunnigen objective, to seize all roads leading to St. Vith from the West, South and East. Attack schedule was set at 1300. TF CHAPPUIS consisted of 48 AIB (-B) and A/31. ~~x~~ Companies moved out in vehicles to vehicle assembly area at Nede r Emmels. Due to change in plan, time of attack was postponed until 1415. Artillery preparations commenced at H-20, to be lifted on call, was fired by Division Artillery. TF CHAPPUIS crossed LD at 1415 in a column of companies, C/48 followed by A/48 and MG platoon. One platoon of A/31 was attached to C/48. A/31 (-1platoon) was held in reserve until road leading to St. Vith could be swept for mines. AG and mortar platoons went into position in the vicinity of 840-900 prepared to fire on targets of opportunity. Considerable enemy artillery fire was received in the vicinity of Hunnigen. The attack progressed steadily but slowly due to heavy snow. The enemy opposition was slight. The objective was taken at 1745. C/48 held the sector to the South of St Vith. A/48 covered sector SW and W of St. Vith. A/48 contacted TF BEATTY at 1800. At 2000 enemy tanks and infantry were reported moving SW along the road in the vicinity 864-903. Artillery concentrations were fired at this location and results did not become known. No further reports were received of this force. At 2100 CG CCB ordered CO of 48th AIB to coordinate all forces in St. Vith and set up the defense of the town. C/48 was in contact with 40 enemy infantry supported by 2 AG and lost contact with them at 2100. Interrogation of prisoners showed that those AG were lost and had come into our lines by mistake. One AG was destroyed and 8 prisoners taken. Occasional nebelwerfer and mortar fire was received in the town after 1800. The forward CP was located at 845 - 898. Weather - Cold.

24 January 1945. Location: Hunnigen, Belgium. Grid coordinates 845-896. Map reference: Sheet No. 5602, 1;25,000. S-3 visited companies A, B, C/48 and CP of TF RHEA. Plan of defense of St. Vith was checked and plans were made for bringing tanks and TDs into the town to establish road blocks. Occasional nebelwerfer artillery and mortar fire was received on our positions in St. Vith. Due to the bomb craters and debris within the town, tanks were unable to directly support the all-around defense. Engineers were unable to immediately clear a route thru the town for use as a supply and evacuation route. At 1130 C/17 was relieved from TF SEIKES (517 Par Inf Bn) and attached to TF CHAPPUIS. CO was ordered to report to CG CCB at 1330 for orders. COs of A and C/48 were ordered to conduct a personal visual reconnaissance for contemplative objectives. At 1600 CO returned

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to CP with orders to attack 25 January 1945, to seize objective at 865-873 to 875-885. TF ERENBUSH was ordered to attack at 1730 and seize the objective which was the high ground approximately 1500 yards south of St. Vith. At 1600 D/87 was attached to TF CHAPPUIS with the mission of protecting the north flank of CCB. D/87 was ordered to outpost the northern sector of St. Vith and remain there until ordered to move forward. Company Commanders were assembled at CP at 1700 for attack orders. A/48 was to move south at 0600 25 January 1945, to pass thru TF ERENBUSH and attack objective from the South. B/48 was to cross LD at 0600, move east along road from St Vith and attack their position of the objective from the West. C/48 was to be in Bn Reserve and be prepared to help in the attack of either companies A or B. A/33 was given the mission to clean the route thru St. Vith for vehicles. Work was to be completed by 1500. C/914 TD Bn was to support the attack by direct fire from position area in direction of St. Vith. 1/A/31 was to support B/48 attack. Remainder of A/31 placed in reserve. At 1830 CG CCB arrived at CP and furnished this Hqs with additional aerial photos. At 1900 the AG and 81 MM platoons of 31 Tk Bn were attached to TF CHAPPUIS. 81 MM platoon of 31 Tk Bn was given the mission of reinforcing the fire of A/48. AG platoon of 31 Tk Bn to be prepared to fire on targets of opportunities from position east of St. Vith. Organic mortar and AG platoons to support attack by fire on call of observers. At 2000 C/48 repelled a counter-attack of about 12 men by small arms and artillery fire. Harrassing fires were planned of artillery during the night. At 1600 nebelwerfer fire caused 13 casualties, namely 4 killed and 9 wounded of C/48. Total casualties for the day was 14. Prisoners taken - 3. Estimated enemy killed - 10 and enemy wounded - 20. Weather - Cold.

25 January 1945. Location: Same as above. At 0600, A and B/48 crossed LD as per scheduled. A/48 attacked south for about 1200 yards then turning northeast entering the woods at about daylight. A/48 met little resistance and at 0900 had seized its part of the objective and began to dig in. During the day they received some artillery and nebelwerfer fire from an undetermined direction. Some small-arms fire was received from the woods about 400 yards to the front. B/48 advanced due east after crossing LD and reached a position about 600 yards from the objective when they received small-arms, automatic and direct SF gun fire from the ground designated as their objective. Tanks which supported B/48 were in defilade from this fire and were road-bound due to shell craters and mines. The tanks were unable to support B/48 due to the presence of roadblocks which were combined with mine fields. The engineers supporting B/48 had become separated from the assault echelon with the result that it was 1400 before the road was cleared and the platoon of tanks could move forward. B/48 and tanks advanced and contacted A/48. It was again stopped because of small-arms and AT fire. One tank was hit but not destroyed. B/48 had suffered heavy casualties and was forced to dig in short of their objective. The HMG platoon was displaced forward to support B/48 position. Plans were made at 1800 for the commitment at 0700 26 January of C/48 which was to pass thru B/48, seize the objective and to make contact on the North with CCA. Some artillery fire fell on the Bn front lines during the night 25-26 January 1945. One platoon of A/31 was sent forward to reinforce the positions of A and B/48 and were in position by 1900. A/33 had opened the road from St. Vith to the objective by 1900. At 1900 a contact patrol was sent to the South to establish between our right flank and the left flank of TF ERENBUSH. This contact was made at 2000.

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Contact was maintained thruout the night. Weather: Cold.

26 January 1945. Location: Same as above. At 0700 C/48 crossed LD and contacted B/48 at about 0730. After a planned artillery concentration had fallen on the objective, C/48 moved in supported by three tanks of A/31 and seized the objective at 0810. At 1100 positions were consolidated and contact was established on the right and with CCA on the left. C/48 had in addition combed out the heavy woods to their left rear. The HMG platoon was ordered to support the defenses of C/48. Approximately 8 tanks from A/31 supported the Bn front in positions which they could cover any tank approaches to our left. B/48 was ordered to revert to Bn Reserve and had begun leaving their positions at 1200. At 1400 B/48 was ordered to establish road blocks covering the approaches into St. Vith from the East, South and West. In addition it was ordered to send one squad as a contact point between 48th AIB and TF ERLNBUSH on the right. Some nebelwerfer and artillery fire fell on the 48th defensive position during the afternoon and night. At 1930 CO 48th AIB was ordered by S-3, CCB to continue the attack to the East and seize the high ground at 985-877. It was suggested that a combat patrol be utilized to accomplish this mission and that this patrol after reaching its objective, was to dig in for all-around defense, holding the high ground at 895-877. CO 48th AIB objected to this plan and recommended that a coordinated attack be made on 27 January 1945 to full-fill this mission. It was pointed out that the troops had sustained heavy casualties and had had no rest and little sleep in six days. The heavy snow and cold weather had decidedly lowered the fighting efficiency of the troops then on the line. This was conveyed to CG CCB by S-3 CCB. As a result unit commanders were ordered to meet at CP 48th AIB at 2200 to receive attack orders. At this time the following plan was prepared: At 1000 27 January 1945, C/48, A/33, 1/A/31 and TF THOMASICK (509 Par Inf Bn) with an effective strength of 4 officers and 60 enlisted men were to attack east to secure the high ground at 895-877. Concentrations were prepared by 434 FA Bn. Harassing fires were to be placed to C/48's front during the night. A/48 was to defend in place, swinging its left flank to the NE to tie in with the new line to be established by the attack. TF THOMASICK was to advance abreast A/48 and protect its left flank. A/33 was to protect right flank initially and tie in the defensive position between A/48 and C/48 once the objective had been seized. Mission of attack was to seize high ground which would protect the right flank of the 82nd Airborne Division in its attack to the East. Meeting was still in progress at close of period. Weather: Cold and heavy snow.

27 January 1945. Location: Same as above. At 0400, C.O returned from meeting with CG CCB. At 0500, company commanders and the platoon leader of 1/A/31 were assembled and were issued orders as previously outlined. For the attack C/48 reported an effective strength of 5 officers and 96 enlisted men and A/33, 5 officers and 128 enlisted men. TF THOMASICK had an effective strength of 4 officers and 60 enlisted men. The mortar and MG platoons of Hqs Co and the mortar platoon of 31 Tr Bn were to support the attack. At 1000, C/48 jumped off and reported crossing LD at 1007. TF THOMASICK crossed LD at 1025. By 1130, C/48 had reached a general line 885875 - 885883 and were pinned down by heavy small-arms fire coming from edge of clearing 300 yards to their front. TF THOMASICK

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was held up at 878 -884 and was receiving fire from AG, mortars and small-arms. A heavy enemy concentration of artillery had fallen along the advance of C/48 and A/33. This artillery caused elements of A/33 to become disorganized, thereby opening the right flank of C/48. A heavy concentration of artillery fire was placed on the enemy positions and every effort of C/48 to advance to their objective was met with strong MG, mortar, artillery and rifle fire. CO C/48 requested permission to dig in at their position. This permission was granted at 1600. A/33 tied in on the southern flank and TF THOMASICK tied in at the northern flank of C/48. At 1800, CO reported to CG of GCB and was told that 38th AIB was to attack the night of 27 January 1945, pass thru the line held by 48th AIB and seize the objective. Troops of 38th AIB were moving into position at the close of the period. Weather: Cold with light snow.

28 January 1945/ Location - Same as above. At 0100 A and C/38 passed thru line held by 48th AIB and seized objective at 0300. No enemy resistance was encountered. At 0730 B/38 was ordered to build up line built by A and C/38 and in attempting to pass thru our lines, was pinned down by small-arms fire coming from area thru which A and C/38 had passed at 0100. At 1400 tanks were brought up and they fired Small-arms fire into this area. A coordinated attack of B/38 supported by four tanks at 1730 was successful and B/38 joined the line held by A and C/38. At 1800 commanders of the 2nd Bn, 345 Inf Regt, 87 Inf Div met with commanders of the 38th and 48th AIB and details of relief were planned. Relief began at 2100 and was completed at 0130. Weather - Cold.

29 January 1945. Location: Welkenraedt, Belgium. Grid coordinates 755 - 805. Map reference: Verviers No 70, 1:50,000. Upon relief by elements of the 87 Inf Div, 48th AIB assembled at Neder Emmels (841 -905). Company commanders reported at Bn CP at 0300 to receive march order to new area. Order of March was Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment, A, B, C and Service Companies. Route of march was: Dienenburg, Monteneau, Elvange, Waimes, Robertsville, Jalhay, Limbourg and Welkenraedt. Unit crossed Division IP at Monteneau at 1100 and closed in at new area at 1545. Troops were billeted and a program of rest, recreation, personnel and vehicular maintenance was initiated. Hot food was served to troops beginning with evening meal. Total casualties since commitment 20 January 1945 are as follows:

	Officers	En listed Men	Casualties %
Killed	2	35	13 %
Wounded	4	(including) 152 (frost - bite)	56 %
Non - battle	0	(including) 74 (trench- foot)	26 %
Missing	0	13	5 %
Total	6	274	100 %

Distance traveled during route of march was 38 miles. Weather - Cold and frosty.

30 January 1945. Location - Same as for 29 January 1945. Entire Battalion in billets. This headquarters was informed that Seventh Armored Division was in Corps Reserve, V Corps and First United States Army and that the division may be called upon to furnish one combat command at any time to exploit the penetration of the enemy lines in the corps sector. No training was conducted and the day devoted to rest and rehabilitation.

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A meeting of the staff officers and company commanders was held at the CP at 1600 to discuss matters pertaining to administration, supply and training. All companies reported adequate billets and a large percentage of men were provided with beds. Training for the next seven days was discussed by the S-3 with the company commanders and a general outline of subjects to be covered was taken up. There was no contact with the enemy. No Casualties were reported except some cases of suspected trench foot and frost bite. Men were given the opportunity to see movies. Plans were made for additional recreation such as passes to near-by towns, Red Cross Clubmobiles and U. S. O. shows. Weather: Cold with light snow.

31 January 1945. Location: Same as above. Troops continued rehabilitation and rest. Entire Battalion was given the opportunity to take showers and obtain clean clothes at the Shower Point. S-3 attended a meeting at CCB and passed this information received there to the Battalion staff and Company Commanders. Weather: Rainy with much snow melting.

*Lynn M. Carlson*  
LYNN M CARLSON  
Maj Infantry  
Commanding

## ENCLOSURES:

1. Field Order Number One
2. Training Schedule (8 - 10 January 1945)
3. Operations Instructions On Aircraft
4. Messages
5. Overlays
6. ENEMY PERSONNEL AND VEHICLE CASUALTIES

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HEADQUARTERS 40TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 257 U, S. Army

1 February 1945

SUMMARY OF ENEMY PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES CASUALTIES:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>P. W. Taken</u>	<u>Enemy Dead</u>	<u>Enemy dead and buried</u>	<u>Enemy Wounded</u>
20 Jan 45	0	0	0	0
21 Jan 45	52	30	10	0
22 Jan 45	1	1	0	0
23 Jan 45	6	0	0	0
24 Jan 45	0	0	0	0
25 Jan 45	9	3	0	10
26 Jan 45	10	10	0	3
27 Jan 45	12	12	0	6
28 Jan 45	8	3	0	0
Total	98	59	10	19

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Tanks Destroyed</u>	<u>Other Type Veh. Destroyed</u>	<u>AT or Artillery Des t.</u>
20 Jan 45	0	0	0
21 Jan 45	0	0	0
22 Jan 45	0	6	1
23 Jan 45	0	0	0
24 Jan 45	0	0	0
25 Jan 45	0	0	0
26 Jan 45	0	0	0
27 Jan 45	1	0	0
28 Jan 45	0	0	0
Total	1	6	1

Inclosure No VI

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