

Charles J. Askegaard, Capt
S-2 99th Division (Separate)(Norwegian)

Task Force Hansen at Malmedy

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The following is a report of the action taken by TASK FORCE HANSEN in the vicinity of Malmedy.

Sunday, December 17 at 1800 hours the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) less "A" Company moved to Malmedy from Tilff for the propose of blocking the further advance of the Germans in that sector. Attached to this Battalion was the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion and "B" Company of the 825th Tank Destroyer Battalion to form Task Force Hansen.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold D. Hansen and Major Bjornstad proceeded ahead of the Battalion and arrived in Malmedy at 2130 hours. By that time the town had been evacuated by all military personnel with the exception of approximately sixty men of the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel David Pergrin. The Engineers had established road block consisting of mines and were prepared to dynamite bridges and trees to further block the approaches to the town.

Because of the congested roads caused by the great quantity of personnel and material being evacuated from the threatened areas the progress of both these battalions toward Malmedy was slow. "B" Company, 99th Infantry Battalion, took a separate route and arrived at the destination at approximately 2400 hours. "B" Company immediately took up positions to the southwest of the town to block the roads and occupy the high ground commanding the approach to the town from the South.

At 0300 hours December 18, the remainder of Task Force less "A" Company arrived at destination. "C" Company 99th Infantry Battalion (Sep) took positions to the Northeast to block the road from Eupen. A" Company 526th and one platoon Tank Destroyer was detached and proceeded to Stavelot. "B" Company of 526th Armored Infantry Battalion and TD Guns blocked the approaches to the town from the Southwest.

"A" Company 99th Infantry Battalion (Sep) which had been occupied on Guard duty around St Hubert was assembled when alerted and at 0530 hours the 18th December proceeded to Malmedy. The column arrived outside of Stavelot at 1030 hour and was unable to proceed through Stavelot so continued around the town and back into Spa and then proceeded to Malmedy arriving there at 1130 hours.

On the 18th at 1645 hours, three Germans with two American prisoners riding on the hood of an American jeep taken from the **106th Infantry Division** approached a road block maintained by "B" Company 99th Infantry Battalion. One of the Germans was

Battalion was moved to comb the woods and the area West of Malmedy. No enemy was located in the area searched. By 1800 hours that evening the disposition of the 99th Infantry Battalion was as follow:

"B" Company 99th Infantry Battalion in the same position it had originally occupied Southwest of Malmedy.

"A" Company in Burnenville, HQ Company and "C" Company, "D" Company in the vicinity of 786046. Two 90mm Guns, one 40mm AAA gun and two Quad 50 caliber AAA guns, all from the 110th AAA Battalion were also in this area. At this time one company less one platoon, of the 740th Medium Tank Battalion were attached to Task Force Hansen and remained in the Battalion area. At 2110 hours Custer reported the possibility of an enemy airborne attack during the night and all personnel were alerted.

On 27 December at 1600 "C" Company 99th Infantry Battalion supported by artillery from the 230th Field Artillery Battalion raided the town of Hédomont. One PW was taken from the 193 Regiment of 18. Volksgrenadierdivision. An estimate of thirty enemy were killed during the raid.

On 28 December at 1630, "B" Company 99th Infantry Battalion supported by artillery and our 81mm Mortars attacked the town of Otaimont. No PW were taken.

On 29 December "A" Company took over "B" Company's position on the front line and "C" Company took over the sector on "B" Company left formerly occupied by "L" Company 120th Infantry Regiment. "B" Company was moved in to Malmedy in mobile reserve.

During the period, patrolling was conducted and front line positions were improved by continued digging in and laying of mines.

For the Commanding Officer
Charles J. Askegaard
Captain Infantry
S-299th Infantry Battalion (Sep)

Source: Documents N.A.R.A.

*<http://www.battleofthebulgememories.be/stories26/us-army25/587-task-force-hansen-at-malmedy.html>
Henri ROGISTER, webmaster*