

HEADQUARTERS
607TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

8 April 1945

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - TASK FORCE SUNDT

(period - 27 Mar to 1 Apr 1945, incl)

A. Operations for Period:

27 Mar 1945:

1. A Task Force under command of LT COL HARALD S. SUNDT was organized by order of CG, 87th Inf Div.
2. Purpose: Employment East of Rhine River.
3. Composition: 607th TD Bn (SP) (-Co A & Co C), 87th Rcn Trs, CoK 346th Inf, Co A 735th TK Bn, 335th FA Bn in D/S upon commitment of Task Force.
4. O.I. #40 270100 -
 - a. Attack during night 26-27 and seize and hold NASTATTEN.
 - b. Cont atk 270600 Mar and seize HOLZHAUSEN, POHL, SINGHOFEN and BERGNASSAU-SCHEUERN until relieved by TF BODNER.
 - c. Upon completion of mission assemble in BERGNASSAU-SCHEUERN and await orders. Plan: Attack along high ground axis DACHSENHAUSE to RUPPERTSHOFEN thence to NASTATTEN.
5. TF left DACHSENHAUSEN at 270545. Arrived WINTERWERB at 0615; GERMERICK 0700; HIMMIGHOFEN 0730; RUPPERTSHOFEN 0830. Assembled and regrouped at RUPPERTSHOFEN.
 - a. 1st Co sent to high ground vic (0777) and 2nd co to high ground vic (060778) with mission to overwatch NASTATTEN and high ground to East covering advance of 34d co into NASTATTEN. 3rd TD Rcn plat established OP vic (055780). 3rd co left RUPPERTSHOFEN at 0925, arrived W edge of NASTATTEN 0935. All bridges over MUHL R vic NASTATTEN blown by En. 1st and 2nd cos fired on En Trs observed on high ground vic (088788) and (094772). En dispersed. Fr 0945 to 1320 hrs occupied with reconnaissance for and construction of temporary crossing of R and in searching town by Inf patrols. Ford was constructed by Pion plat and vehicles of TF crossed at 1230 to 1315 hrs.
 - b. 2nd co left NASTATTEN for HOLZHAUSEN at 1320. Received heavy 20mm AA gun fire at point E of BUCH. Also some heavy artillery fire, small arms fire and direct AT fire from high ground N of road vic HOLZHAUSEN. Arty OP plane fired on by 20mm AA.
 - c. 3rd co directed to attempt to by-pass to North. Darkness and En fire slowed movement. TF assembled in BUCH for night with all round security.
6. Message from LO in 87th Div: "Continue on to HAHNSTATTEN (Coord 238897)" at 1550. Message from Div by officer messenger: "TFS mission changed. Proceed to KATZENELBOGEN."
7. Result of days operations: - Advanced 11 miles, captured 47 PW's.

28 Mar 1945:

1. 2nd plat co c, 312th Eng atchd, 335th FA relieved D/S TF.
2. 2nd and 3rd Cos (in order named) renewed attack directly to HOLZHAUSEN. At 0830 1st co, to by-pass to S through (110772) and enter town from S on order after covering advance of 2nd co. 2nd co entered HOLZHAUSEN at 1030 and 1st co at 1100. No resistance. Proceeded E in order - 3rd co, 2nd co and 1st co. Arrived RETTERT 0915, FISCHBACH 1000. 3rd TD Rcn plat searched BERNDROTH. Roadblock (abatis) by-passed by column vic (1583), cleared by Pion Plat. 3rd co received small arms and Arty fire at point 1500 yds W of KATZENELBOGEN (suffered 1 killed, 2 wounded), previously reported occupied by friendly trs. Pw claimed Inf was dug in along Ry and

Summary of Operations, TAORCE SUNDT, period 27 Mar to 30 Mar 1945, incl.

28 Mar 1945, cont'd

high ground to N and S of road. 2nd Co directed to envelop to N and 1st Co to envelop to S, covering attack of 2nd Co. At 1315 elements of 6th Cav attacked from NW sptd by Arty we coordinated by direct fire spt. Cav did not enter town but by-passed to N. TF contd with atk according to plan and entered at 1540. 2 88 mm AA-AT guns destroyed after exchange of fire. 1st Co by-passed to S and cleared BERGHAUSEN and ALTENDORF. Requested further mission. At 1600 received message - "Push on to HAHNSTATTEN, KIRBERG, and NIEDERSELTERS."

3. Column proceeded in order - 2nd Co, 1st Co, 3rd Co - to ZOLLHAUS. Slight delay to remove several abatis rd blocks. Arrived ZOLLHAUS at 1735, HAHNSTATTEN 1800. 2nd Co ordered to occupy high ground vic 2589 to defend and hold objective. TF proceeded to KIRBERG. Arrived 1900 hrs, established CP and trains there. Town defended by 3rd Co. 1st Co proceeded to DAUBON-EUFINGEN. Occupied all round security position there and cut AUTOBAHN by patrols to E. Requested next mission. Received instructions: "Continue adv in Div Z to seize and hold GROSSEN-LINDEN."

4. Results of days operations: - Advanced 18 miles, destroyed 2 88mm AA-AT guns, 1 prime mover, captured 99 PW's.

29 Mar 1945:

1. Started to objective GROSSEN-LINDEN at 0930. Order of march - 1st, 3rd and 2nd Cos. Planned route via NIEDERSELTERS, HAINTOCHEN, WOLFENHAUSEN. Met 345th Inf in column vic NIEDERSELTERS who were engaged in fire fight with En Trs. The CO of 345th Inf declined to allow TF to pass through his elements on the planned route. The 1st Co was directed to go N on AUTOBAHN to OBERBRUCHEN thence to objective via KRAFTSHOLMS. Arrived MUNSTER 1125; WOLFENHAUSEN 1137; LAUBUSCHBATH 1150; WEILMUNSTER 1230; NOTTAU 1242; KRAFTSHOLMS 1255; At this point met elms of 9th Armd Div and CG of that Div who said his Div had this road and was going to GIESSEN and the TF objective of GROSSEN-LINDEN and directed TF to use some other road. (Msg to 87th Div requesting instructions). Pending receipt of instructions, 1st and 3rd Cos were turned SE at OBERWETZ, went through OBERKLEEN, NIEDERKLEEN, LANG GONS and arrived HOLZHEIM at 1500 hrs. Defensive posns taken up N and S of town on high ground. Received instructions to defend line GROSSEN-LINDEN, LANG GONS and POHL GONS.

2. 1st Co directed to clear woods from coord (6812) to (6706) and then occupy LANG GONS and send patrol to contact 9th Armd Div in GROSSEN-LINDEN. 2nd Co was turned S from KRAFTSHOLMS at same time head of column turned off at OBERWETZ. This Co proceeded via KROFFELBACH, BRANDOBERNDORF, WEIPERFELDEN, ESPA, KLEEBERG, OBERKLEEN to POHL-GONS where they took up defensive posns and sent out patrols to search woods to SW. Some slight resistance was met (6 bazooka rds and scattered small arms). PW interrogation and captured map and order indicated larger force of En Trs were retreating from vic EISENBACH to BUTZBACH along line parallel to our advance. Our formations were faced to W and SW to screen Div objective and to prevent escape of contained En Trs.

3. Results of days operations: - Advanced 40 miles, captured 240 PW's.

30 Mar 1945:

1. Received orders to secure and defend HOCH-WEISEL. 3rd Co moved to HOCH-WEISEL at 0800. TD Rcn plat and Pion plat occupied posn between BUTZBACH and roads to West. Day spent in sending combat patrols through woods with particular emphasis on high wooded area in vic coord (635952) and (625020).

2. Results of days operations: - Destroyed 9 20mm AA guns, 8 37mm AA guns (on 2 1/2 ton trucks, 1 40mm AA gun (captured), 3 105mm guns, 17 75mm AT guns, 4 88mm AA-AT guns, 23 vehicles (including 6 approx 1 1/2 ton trucks and 8 approx 2 1/2 ton trucks) and 2 staff cars. Captured 1 40mm AA gun. PW's taken - 519.

Summary of Operations, FORCE SUNDT, period 27 Mar to Apr 1945, incl.

31 Mar 1945:

1. TF directed to clear area to W to line approximately (5705) to (5800). Each Co given line of advance within zone and directed to proceed on TD order with strong show of armor to destination and then send out combat patrols with tanks and TDs to clear area.

a. 1st Co route - BUTZBACH to coord (625043) to KLEEBERG, to OBERKLEEN, to destination of EBERGONS.

b. 2nd Co route - BUTZBACH, to coord (652032) to HAUSEN, to ESPA.

c. 3rd Co route - HOCH WEISEL, MUNSTER-BUDENROD (on arrival at BODENROD found elms of 345th Inf). Mission changed to return to HOCH WEISEL and clear area between. TF CP to KLEEBERG.

2. Results of days operations: - Advanced 7 miles, captured 481 PW'S.

1 Apr 1945:

1. Contd patrols and captured PW'S.

2. TF SUNDT dissolved at 020800. Elements assembled at EBERGONS and released to parent Units from that point.

3. Results of days operations: - Captured 167 PW's.

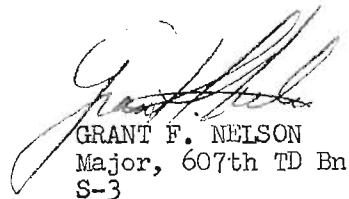
B. Results of Operations for Period of TF SUNDT:

1. Enemy equipment destroyed or captured:-

9 - 20mm AA guns
8 - 37mm AA guns (on 2-1/2 ton trucks)
1 - Prime mover
1 - 40mm gun (captured)
17 - 75mm guns (AT)
6 - 88mm AA-AT guns
3 - 105mm guns
23 - vehicles (incl 6 1½ ton trucks, 8 2½ ton trucks)
2 - staff cars.

2. PW's captured - 1485 (incl 2 Majors, 5 Capts, 22 Lts)

3. Advanced 76 miles.


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Major, 607th TD Bn
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