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HEADQUARTERS
628th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)
APO 339, U. S. Army

: Auth: Ltr. 5th Armd. Div.
: Date: 1 March 1945.
: Init:

1 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy - Month of February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Hq. 5th Armored Division, APO 255, U. S. Army.

- 1. Campaign of Northern France.
Campaign of Germany.

2. Commanding Officers were:

- a. Battalion Commander: William J. Gallagher, Lt. Col., F.A., O-384952, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- b. Hq. Company Commander: Daniel L. Thomas, Capt., F.A., O-422582, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- c. Company "A" Commander: James H. Lloyd, Captain, F.A., O-409317, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- d. Company "B" Commander: Frank E. Hurt, Jr., 1st Lt., AUS-TD, O-1822008, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- e. Company "C" Commander: Robert C. Jones, Captain, AUS-TD, O-1822013, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- f. Rcn. Company Commander: David (NMI) Goerr, 1st Lt., AUS-TD, O-1821835, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.
- g. Medical Detachment: Francis T. England, Captain, M.C., O-1683058, from 0001 hours 1 February 1945 to 2400 hours 28 February 1945.

3. Losses in action were as follows:

- a. Killed in Action - None.
- b. Wounded and Injured Men in Action - None.
- c. Missing in Action - None.
- d. Captured - None.

4. Battles:

- a. The enemy.

(1) During the month of February, no units were in actual contact with or engaged against enemy armor.

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(2) Company "A" of this Battalion was employed in indirect fire against the enemy forces across the Roer River. This Unit received sporadic enemy counter-battery fire of small and medium caliber artillery which fell within 500 yards of our guns. However it was apparently unobserved and was ineffective. No mines or demolitions were encountered, except on 26 February, 1945 when one destroyer hit a mine and a bogie was knocked off, but destroyer was repaired during night.

(3) Enemy air was active over the "A" Company gun positions and occasionally strafed and bombed the road net in that vicinity, with no effect on our troops. Enemy air was light during the crossing of the Roer by elements of this Battalion. No armor was encountered. Artillery interdiction and harrassing fire were scattered and ineffective.

(4) Only one confirmed enemy loss was inflicted on 26 February, 1945 when Company "B" knocked out one 88 mm Anti-tank Gun. However, the fires of Company "A" were observed to do great damage in Hottorf and along road net east of the Roer. No Prisoners of War were taken.

b. Elements affecting action:

(1) Enemy information was inaccurate and enemy reconnaissance was nil as regards our Units.

(2) Civilian population in Germany was cooperative, but little contact with civilians was made.

(3) Terrain - Flat Roer plain, muddy, but roads passable.

c. Action.

(1) The entire Battalion was attached to 5th Armored Division during the month of February. During the first part of the month, the Battalion was in Reserve. At the beginning of the period, the Battalion was located in Welkenraedt, Belgium. On 5 February 1945, the Battalion moved to the vicinity of Voerendaal, Holland. Company "A" moved to indirect fire position in the vicinity of Puffendorf, Germany, prepared to reinforce fires for attack across Roer River. Company "A" fired 3 Registrations of 15 rounds, 21 Interdiction concentrations totalling 718 rounds and 108 Harrassing concentrations totalling 2122 rounds in support of XVI Corps attack. Remainder of Battalion less Company "A", performed maintenance and training until 26 February, 1945. Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Company, Company "C", Reconnaissance Company, Headquarters and Medical Detachment moved to vicinity of Beggendorf, Germany. Company "B" plus Rcn. Plat. attached to CCB, 5th Armored Division moved to assembly position in vicinity of Hottorf, Germany. Company "B" supported CCB in mission of seizing roads east of Friedenz, Germany. Mission accomplished and progress continued north. Company "A" plus Rcn. Plat. moved with CCA to vicinity Hottorf, Germany. Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Company Rcn. Company Headquarters and Medical Detachment moved across Roer River to vicinity of Rath, Germany, (WF 0280). Company "C" plus Rcn. Plat. attached to CCB in vicinity of Hottorf, Germany. Not committed as yet.

(2) No special weapons were used. The M-36 Tank Destroyer was the primary weapon.

(3) Radio and wire were used supplemented by messenger and liaison.

(4) No supporting units.

(5) No bayonets, flame throwers, were used by this unit.

(6) Supply operations for the month of February, 1945 were normal. Supplies from the various service branches were stable. Ordnance replacements, and the issuance of initial T/O and P equipment has brought this unit practically up to T/O and P strength. Shortages, which still exist, as of this date are as follows, seven (7) each, Company, B;

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thirteen (13) each Trailer, Ammunition, M10; one (1) each, Tool Set, Battalion Crew, M10M1 and ten (10) each Tool Set, General Mechanics. Under changeover from T/O and F 18-25 dated 15 March 1944 to T/O and F 18-25, Change 2, dated 29 August 1944, further paper work was accomplished and some additional equipment drawn.

(7) During the month of February 1945, all casualties were evacuated through this Aid Station. Supplies of this Battalion Aid Station were obtained by submitting requisitions through Battalion S-4 or drawn directly from the 75th Medical In. Supply. Supplies were adequate and no shortage of any specific items were noted.

(8) Casualties: Types of casualties handled by Company Aid Men for the month of February 1945 were as follows:

Battle Casualties


None

Non-Battle Casualties

Disease	16
Injuries	0
CE	0

5. Summary:

a. The month of February, 1945, was probably the most inactive for this Unit since coming to combat. Back again with its parent Division, the 5th Armored, this Unit supported the attack of CC/ on Ficherscheid, Germany, with one Platoon of Company "A" reinforcing the fires of the 47th Armored Field Artillery, and the remainder of Company "A" joining in on the assault of the objective with TF Cabisus. This operation was completed 1 February 1945. Preparatory to the crossing of the Roer River on 23 February, Company "A" fired, under Division Artillery control, some 1600 rounds to support the Infantry jump-off. Upon reaching the east side of the Roer River, the Firing Companies were attached to the three Divisional Combat Commands, this being necessitated by the fact that each of the Combat Commands were given separate missions. This attachment was logical, too, in that at this writing, at least, there has been no massing of German armor in sufficient strength to warrant the employment of an entire Tank Destroyer Bn. Missions given to the Firing Companies by the Combat Commands included the flank protection of the advance of the Combat Commands, and road blocks. Tank Destroyers were in all cases kept close enough to the assault groups of the Combat Commands in the advance marches to enable them (the Tank Destroyers) to be rapidly employed should the situation warrant it. No special problems arose during the month, and this unit, after extensive operations in the Belgium Bulge, entered the current operation at full strength with regard to personnel, and with all thirty-six destroyers operational.


WILLIAM J. GALT
Lt. Col., P. A.,
Commanding.

1-Incl:
Unit Journal.

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