

HEADQUARTERS
643D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 339 c/o POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, N. Y.

1 March 1945

314.7

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Reports, After,/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C. (Thru channels).

1. In compliance with the provisions of AR 345-105, the following information on activities of this unit for the days in action against the enemy during February 1945, is submitted.

a. Original Unit: 643d Tank Destroyer Battalion. No change.

b. Unit reorganized from a Towed Battalion to a Self-Propelled Battalion on 22 February 1945 per General Order Number 2, this headquarters. Actual conversion to be made piecemeal as equipment was made available by Ninth U. S. Army.

Assigned to European Theater of Operations, United States Army, attached to XVIII Corps, Airborne, part of First United States Army at start of the period. Attached to Ninth United States Army, XIX Corps and 83d Infantry Division 3 February 1945 per WOCG 21st Army Group. Relieved from assigned to European Theater of Operations, United States Army, attached Ninth Army and assigned Ninth Army 9 February 1945 per Troop Assignment Number 34, Headquarters 12th Army Group. Attachments to XIX Corps and 83d Infantry Division remained unchanged.

c. Strength 31 January 1945: 32 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 636 Enlisted Men. Strength 28 February 1945: 34 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 702 Enlisted Men. Net increase, 2 Officers and 66 Enlisted Men.

d. No permanent station designated. See Appendix I for bivouacs and billets.

e. Marches: See Appendix I.

f. Campaigns: (1) Battle of Germany #2
(2) Duration not announced by War Department.
(3) Destroy German Army west of Rhine.
(4) Orders, Commanding General, Ninth United States Army.

g. Battles: First part of period final action to clear German forces from Ardennes. Last of month engaged in assault of Germany.

h. Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Burre R. Farr.

i. Losses: See Appendix II.

j. No citations received.

k. None

l. Copies of Unit Journals for days in action attached as

Appendix III.

Burre R. Farr
BURRE R. FARR
Lt. Colonel, Cavalry
Commanding.

4 Incls:

Incl # 1-Appendix I.

Incl # 2-Appendix II.

Incl # 3-Appendix III.

Incl # 4- GO#2, 643d TD Bn.

Incl 13

97-18.2

SECRET

319.1/401

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 83D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 83, U.S. Army 9 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, XIX Corps, APO 270, U. S. Army
(Attn: Adjutant General)

Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

N. P. COWDEN,
Major AGD
Asst Adj General

4 Incls: n/c

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Narrative 1 - 28 February 1945

The period opened with the Battalion supporting the advance of the 82nd Division, Airborne. Firing companies were in position to support the advance, Company A in Wereth Belgium, Company B and C in Medell, Belgium, Advance CP in Medell, Belgium and rear CP in Walmedy, Belgium.

On 2 February 1945 the unit was relieved from its mission. Forward CP moved to Ligneauxville, Belgium in the morning and the entire unit moved from their locations to Deux-Rys, Belgium and was attached to Ninth U. S. Army, XIX Corps and 83rd Infantry Division. Instructions for maintaining secrecy were issued and the unit was placed on an alert for movement to a secret destination.

On the night of 6 - 7 February 1945 the unit moved from Deux-Rys, Belgium to Neufchateau, Belgium in a concentration area. Here they cleaned up equipment and trained. On 22 February 1945 they were converted to a self-propelled battalion from a towed, but only one platoon each of A, B and C companies were actually equipped. Reconnaissance Company was organized and started to receive their equipment.

On 22 February 1945 alert instructions and the order to move forward was received. Company A was attached to 329th Infantry, Company B attached to 330th Infantry and Company C attached to 331st Infantry.

Company B (- one platoon) moved out 23 February 1945 with 330th Infantry ACT, the 3rd platoon that was converted to self-propelled joined them 24 February 1945 at Schleiden, Germany.

Lt. Colonel Farr with advance CP established headquarters in Alsdorf, Germany 24 February 1945.

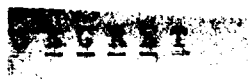
Company C (- one platoon) moved to Hongen, Germany 24 February 1945 where the 3rd platoon joined them the next day after completing their conversion to self-propelled.

Rear CP, Headquarters Company, Company A and Reconnaissance Company moved to Alsdorf, Germany 26 February 1945.

Company B made contact with the enemy at Hasselsweiler, Germany and knocked out two Mark IV tanks on 26 February 1945 with no casualties to themselves. In rest area at Luntz, Germany 27 - 28 February 1945.

Company A moved to vicinity Custin, Germany 28 February in assembly area. Company C to Garzweiler and the Hq, Hq Co, and Rcn Company moved to Hasselsweiler, Germany to support the action of the 83d Infantry Division.

Period closed with all units either engaged with enemy or ready to move forward to meet the enemy.



Appendix I, (Narrative 1 Feb - 28 Feb 45) to Ltr, Hq 643d TD Bn, sub: "Action
Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action reports dtd, 1 Mar 45 (Cont'd)

EIVOUACS OF BATTALION HEADQUARTERS PLUS UNITS NOT ENGAGED IN MISSIONS

1 Feb	Hq and Hq Co in Malmedy, Belgium, other units in action.
2- 6 Feb	Billetted in Deux-Rys, Belgium.
7-25 Feb	Billetted in Neufchateau, Belgium.
26-27 Feb	Hq and Hq Co, Co A, Rcn Co billetted in Alsdorf, Germany, Companies A, B and C in action
28 Feb	Hq and Hq Co, Rcn Co billetted in Hasselsweiler, Germany, Companies A, B, and C in action.

Losses inflicted on the enemy during period 1 - 28 February 1945 were:

2 Mark IV Tanks
8 Enemy Killed (Estimated).

S E C R E T

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BATTLE CASUALTIES FOR PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 1945 to 28 FEBRUARY 1945, INCL

KILLED IN ACTION

DeFoster, Anthony J. Tec 5 32 038 173 24 Dec 44
(Previously reported as Missing in Action on 24 December 1944)

MISSING IN ACTION

None

WOUNDED IN ACTION (HOSPITALIZED)

1st Lt Watkins, Edwin 01 168 970 1 Feb 45
Calderone, John L. Pvt 32 613 720 14 Jan 45
(Previously reported not hospitalized)

RETURNED TO DUTY

FROM HOSPITAL

1st Lt Watkins, Edwin 01 168 970 16 Feb 45
Kowalski, Joseph S. Sgt 31 042 716 24 Feb 45
Vandal, Robert J. Sgt 20 132 193 24 Feb 45
Tierney, Michael V. Pfc 35 537 343 24 Feb 45

APPENDIX II

S E C R E T

INCL 2

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