

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS, 691st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 403, U.S. Army

31 January 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Unit Historical Report for the period 1 Jan '45 to
31 Jan '45 inclusive.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, 76th Inf Division, APO 76, U.S. Army.
(Attn: G-3 Historical Section.)

The Battalion was in support of the 87th Inf Division in the vicinity of BERGEX, BELGIUM with the Companies and platoons attached and in direct support of the various Inf Regiments of the Division. The Battalion Recon platoons were attached to units of our own command as the tactical situation required. Due to a constant shifting of Regimental areas it was finally decided to put the companies under Battalion control and to assign them sectors rather than to place them in direct support of the various Battalions and Regiments of the Division Zone of advance, all guns being on their primary mission. The 3rd January the Battalion was attached to the VIII Corps, authority: Letter, Hq 3rd Army, dated 30 Dec 1944.

On the 6th January the 3rd platoon Company "B" destroyed 3 enemy tanks in the vicinity of GERIMONT. On the 7th January the 3rd platoon Company "C" engaged 4 enemy tanks in a fire fight which destroyed 1 enemy tank and drove the other 3 off. In the above actions T/5 DAVID P. HOLSHOUSER, Company "C", was killed and Cpl ALFRED L. VERBA, Pfc WILLIAMS J. DePIETRESS, Pvt RALPH R. DAVIS, Sgt JOHN J. POWER and Cpl SERAFIO T. RAMIREZ was wounded.

8th January '45 the Battalion received letter, AG 200.6 OpGA, Hq., ETCUSA, Subject: "Battle Participation Awards Germany Campaign (No. 1)," dated 24 Dec '44 which awarded the Battalion battle credit for participation in campaign "Germany".

The 3rd platoon Company "C" captured a total of 14 enemy prisoners while in the vicinity of REMANGE, BELGIUM. Numerous direct fire missions were carried out by all platoons which resulted in the destruction of enemy mortar positions, MG positions and OP's.

On the 13th January the 1st Recon platoon and 2nd platoon Company "A" moved to ST HUBERT to provide AT defense of the town in support of an element of the 87th Inf Division. The Battalion C.P. moved to the town of LIBRAMONT in conjunction with a move by the Division C.P. On 15th January the Battalion moved from LIBRAMONT, BELGIUM in Division convoy to CONTERN, LUXEMBOURG where it assembled to await further orders.

On 16th January the Battalion relieved and moved into positions occupied by the 802 T.D. Battalion, with the Battalion C.P. located in MENSORF. 1 platoon of each company was in indirect fire position the other platoons were in direct fire position. Immediate recon was started for secondary positions and liaison was effected with adjacent Tank Destroyer Units. Until 22 January the platoons in indirect fire positions reenforced the fires of the 87th Div Artillery, on that date these platoons

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were moved to direct fire positions. Secondary positions were, by this time, being developed not only as to gun positions but as to tenability for the gun crew.

Brig General JULLIN, Commanding General, 87th Inf Division, presented Silver and Bronze Star Medals, which had been awarded by Major General EDDY, Commanding General, XII Corps, to the men named below on 21 January '45. Silver Stars to 1st Lt DOUGLAS W. JACOBINE, O-1822358, and Sgt JUSTUS H. SANDERIDGE, Jr., 37036269. Cross leaf Cluster to Bronze Star to Cpl FRANK T. HUIZINGA, 36153446. Bronze stars Medals to Sgt CARL C. FARROW, 38045127, Sgt COLLIN R. ZILKE, 36105963, S/Sgt ROY L. DRIGGS, 38007401, Pvt EDWIN E. URQUIGO, 38002102, Pfc EDWARD F. HOBGOOD, 34456684, Sgt WALTER A. DELACROIX, 36153466. All the awards were for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the U.S. Capt. ROBERT C. MILLER, O-1822057, was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in connection with operations against an armed enemy of the United States.

On the 25th January the Battalion was released from attachment to 87th Inf Division by WOOD XII Corps and attached to the 76th Inf Division by the same authority. The Battalion remained in the same positions in support of the 76th Inf Division. The Regiments and the Division Artillery were contacted and a complete description of our capability to deliver direct fire, indirect fire and the use of the 5" illuminating shell was made to all.

On the 30th January arrangement was completed to move 2 platoons into indirect fire position, 1 platoon to be controlled by the FDC of the 901st F.A. Battalion, the other to be controlled by the FDC of the 502 F.A. Battalion. The platoons were in position and ready to fire the following day.

The Battalion went under the new T/O and T/E 16-35, dated 1 September 1944, by authority of letter, Hq 3rd Army, AG 320.2 TD 3300, dated 25 January '45, subject: "Reorganization of Tank Destroyer Battalion (towed)". No change in authorized officers (51) and Warrant Officers (2), loss of 1 enlisted man, from 723 to 727. Battalion is now under strength 100 enlisted men.

Combat Eff: 80%. Morale - Excellent.

Charles H. Love
CHARLES H. LOVE
Major, Cavalry
Executive Officer.