

HEADQUARTERS  
7034D TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230

2 April 1945

Action of "A" Company, 26 February - 7 March 1945.

During operations of the 3rd Armored Division in its attack from the ROER River to COLOGNE, Germany, "A" Company was attached to C Comd "A". The following narrative covers its action during this attack.

1st Platoon

The First Platoon was attached to TF KANE, and on February 25, assembled in the vicinity of DUREN (F1247) in preparation for the attack the following morning. During the first several days of the attack the platoon remained in TF Reserve, maintaining defensive road blocks, and had no offensive role. On 26 February, the platoon moved to BUIR (F192517), on 27 February, to HIPPHENDORF (F230578), and on 28 February to ZIEVERICH (F218518) where it remained until 2 March, for a bridgehead to be established across the KRFT Canal into BEROHEIM (F231622).

On 2 March, the task force attacked toward OBERHAUSEN (F259645), where the platoon maintained road blocks, and on 3 March, secured BUSDORF (F281665), by-passed Fleisteden (F302665), took MANSTEDTEN (F320659), and PULHEIM (F345670). During the attack on BUSDORF the TD's covered the tanks from the high ground to the south of the town, and fired two rounds of APCRDY, range 2000 yards, at a tank alongside the railroad track just south of REHIDT (F265685). Only one of the TD's was in position to fire at the tank, and this TD was in such a position that, although the TD Commander could see the tank over the crest of the hill, the gunner could not see the tank through the sights. The Commander directed the fire by observation, and the tank withdrew through an underpass, after the second round had been fired.

Late in the afternoon the platoon reached PULHEIM, and remained there for two days. On 5 Mar the task force attacked east through ORR (F364682) and AUWILER (F381675), and then moved south into COLOGNE, where it reached the RHINE River on 6 March 1945.

This ended the operation for the task force, other than the maintenance of road blocks and road patrols, until they were relieved on 16 Mar. At this time the platoon reverted to Company control and moved to an assembly area in vicinity of KNAPBACK (F376507).

2nd Platoon

The Second Platoon remained with the Company OP in C Comd "A" reserve throughout the operation, and saw no action whatsoever. On 26 February they remained in DUREN (F1247), on 27 February at BIERHORN (F148487), on 28 February at MANNHORN (F202398), and on 1 March and 2 March at BERRENDORF (F-199994). While at this location the town was bombed and strafed on the night of 1 March by enemy aircraft, but the platoon received no casualties.

On 3 March it moved to EINTEN (F239618), 4 March to OBERHAUSEN (F259645), 5 March to PULHEIM (F345670), 6 March to BROCKLEBERG (F390642), and on 7 March into COLOGNE, when the operation ended.

**3rd Platoon**

The Third Platoon was attached to TF "I" (Battle Group ORR) and on 26 February took positions just south of WERZENICH (F148487), covering the attack on GOLZHEIM (F187495). When GOLZHEIM was secured, the task force attacked BLATZHEIM (F224515) and the TD's moved into the town and went into road block positions overnight. On 27 February the Task Force attacked BERGERHAUSEN (F235522), the TD's covering the attack from the east end of BLATZHEIM. After dark they moved into BERGERHAUSEN taking up positions covering the right flank of the task force, and remained there the rest of the night. The following afternoon they moved to THOR (F225605), and went into a rest position until 2 March.

On 2 March the platoon crossed the ERFT Canal under heavy artillery fire, arriving at OBERHAUSEN (F239645) at dusk, and they remained there that night. The following morning the task force continued the attack, and at PEISTEDEN (F302665), moved into positions covering the attack on the towns of GYEN (F335652), SINTHERN (F328645), and MANSTEDTEN (F320659). From this position the platoon fired 3 rounds of HE, range 800 yards, knocking out a machine gun nest in the sector of the 104th Infantry Division to the south, and 9 rounds of HE and 4 rounds of AP at possible anti-tank positions in MANSTEDTEN. The range was 3200 yards, results unobserved. At 1430 hours, they moved into GYEN, and fired 3 rounds of HE at 300 yards range, into a barn suspected of housing enemy.

On 4 March the platoon moved to PUMHEIM (F345670), and relieved some tanks on road block at a factory at F365658 for the night. The following morning they moved to BROCKELMUND (F390642), protecting the right flank of the task force, and in the afternoon moved again to BICKENBORN F-415628 for the night.

On 6 March the platoon split into sections, each section moving with a Combat Team into COLOGNE. During the attack the 1st section fired 7 rounds of HE, one of the rounds having a 2-105 fuse, at two enemy strong points behind a railroad trestle, and a short distance further on, fired 9 rounds of HE into buildings from which snipers had been firing. The 2nd section fired 3 rounds of HE at a machine gun nest, and knocked it out.

The task force reached the RHINE River that night, and the platoon remained on road block positions vicinity of COLOGNE, until they were relieved on 16 March 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

*E.H. Swift*  
E.H. SWIFT  
Capt, 703d TD Bn  
S-2

HEADQUARTERS  
703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230

2 April 1945

Action of "B" Company, 26 February - 7 March 1945.

During operations of the 3rd Armored Division in its attack from the ROER River to COLOGNE, Germany, "B" Company was attached to C Comd "B". The following narrative covers its action.

1st Platoon

The First Platoon remained in C Comd "B" reserve during the entire attack and was not committed during the operation. However, on 7 March, they joined TF LOVELAIN, relieving the 3rd Platoon, and moved on 8 March to KOTTINGEN F340482, where they remained until the next operation.

2nd Platoon

The Second Platoon was attached to TF WELBORN and moved in task force reserve to ETZWEILER (F172570), where it maintained road blocks that night. Until 5 March the platoon saw no action, and moved successively to EISDORF (F180605), GLESSCH (F197645), NIEDERHAUSSEN (F251-658), BUSDORF (F881665), PUIHEIM (F345670), SINNERSDORF (F357699).

On 5 March the task force attacked toward RSCH (F385690) and when it had been secured the destroyers took up covering positions for the tanks, moving toward LONGERICH (F417668). One destroyer sighted a German tank just west of the railroad track at LONGERICH, and fired two rounds of APC. At almost the same time the artillery placed smoke on the town and the results of the firing were unobserved.

This was the only action in which the platoon took part during the operation. On 6 March the destroyers took positions in the vicinity of the Ford Motor Plant (F455660), and on 7 March returned to LONGERICH with the Company CP.

3rd Platoon

The 3rd Platoon was attached to TF LOVELAIN and moved out on 26 February as far as H.S. TANNEK (F182569), taking positions covering toward the East. At this location they captured 14 PW's from a Chateau. On 27 February the platoon moved to BERRENDORF (F193594) and remained there until the morning of 1 March 1945.

On 1 March the TD's moved to PAPPENDORF F208634 remaining there for two days. On the morning of 3 March the task force crossed the HEFT Canal, moved through NIEDERHAUSSEN F251658 into BUSDORF F881-665. The destroyers protected the left flank of the task force, and from their positions in BUSDORF fired 4 rounds of APC at a suspected AG gun in NHEIDE F265685. The results were unobserved. Late in the afternoon the platoon moved into STOMMELN F315645, and set up road blocks for the night.

On 4 March they continued the attack toward the east, and the platoon moved into positions south of ROSENHOF F375725 to protect the east flank of the task force. Sgt Gore's destroyer fired into ROSENHOF at enemy movement and immediately drew return fire. The destroyer was hit and the entire crew were killed with the exception of Sgt Gore who was thrown clear of the vehicle. The casualties were, Sgts Shiliff, Opl Janowicz, Pfc Hall, and Pvt Shields. In the afternoon the platoon moved into WOHRENNEN F390745, and that night pulled

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back into the area.

The next morning the attack swung south toward BINH BINH F417-712, and the platoon fired several rounds of HE into BINH BINH in support of the attack. The targets were houses in which enemy infantry were employed.

On 3 March the task force attacked BINH BINH F-438721, and the tanks covered the tanks from the vicinity of TACHAU F-438688. The next morning, the task force as ended at BINH BINH F397599, and the operation ended.

For the Commanding Officer:

E.H. BERTT,  
Capt., 703d TD Bn,  
A-2

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HEADQUARTERS

703RD TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
APO 230

2 April 1945

Action of "C" Company, 26 February - 7 March 1945.

During operations of the 3rd Armored Division in its attack from the ROER River to COLOGNE, "C" Co (minus the 1st Platoon) was attached to G Comd Reserve, and the 1st Platoon was attached to Task Force YEOMANS, under division control. The following narrative covers its action.

1st Platoon

TF YEOMANS moved out at 0400 hours, 26 February, from DUREN, and by 1700 hours had reached MANNHEIM (F202542), where the TD's established road blocks for the night. At 0600 hours the next morning they moved toward BERRENDORF F193594 where they received heavy artillery fire. One round struck the house in which the Platoon CP was located, killing Pvt Papinou and wounding Pvt Davis. From BERRENDORF the task force attacked GROUVEN F205603, and was unable to take the town. After regrouping they attacked again and seized the town. The 1st section remained in GROUVEN while the 2nd section continued with part of the task force to attack LJEVERICH F218618 that night. The following morning the 2nd section returned to GROUVEN and rejoined the platoon.

On 1 March, at 0030 hours, the TD's crossed the WEST Canal at BUNGENIM F231622, and moved into positions northeast of BERCHER to support the attack on HOEHN. Shortly after daylight they fired several rounds of AP at enemy tanks to the northeast. The range was 4000 yards and results were unobserved. At 1800 hours the platoon moved into HOEHN and established road blocks for the night.

On 2 March the task force moved to an assembly area at F275-656, and at 1700 hours started on a night attack, moving across country, passing between STORFEN F315695 and HUIFEN F345670, bypassing SIMMERDORF F357699 and ROGGENDORF F375725 to the north, and by morning reached HACHENBURG F357735. At HACHENBURG a destroyer was hit by a bazooka round, which struck the counterweight and was deflected into the engine compartment. No one was injured.

At 1700 hours the TD's moved into HOEHN F397741 and took up road block positions while the task force organized for a new attack to the south. For this attack the task force was split into battle groups and one TD was attached to each of three reconnaissance companies.

Number 1 gun moved with "B" Co 3rd Arm'd Recon Bn, down the main road from HOEHN to HACHENBURG F417712, turning east just before reaching HACHENBURG and as it moved toward SAHLEN F425729, spotted an enemy tank and the 20mm gun on the outskirts of the town, which it knocked out with AP fire. No further targets were encountered and the combat team entered the town at 0730 hours, 4 March.

Number 3 gun moved with "C" Co 3rd Arm'd Recon Bn, along the east flank toward SAHLEN, and as it approached tank Y tank at F425710, as the column moved south. Seven rounds of AP were fired, range 1200 yards,

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were fired at this tank, and it was disabled with a round through the underside of the front plate. When LANGEL was reached the destroyer remained in position covering the advance of the tanks on RHEIN-KASSEL F438719. It then moved into RHEIN-KASSEL.

Number 4 gun moved with "D" Co 83rd Armored Recon Bn, through the woods south of WORRINGEN, and while the combat team moved south, spotted a Mk V tank just south of the woods at F598717. It had flanking shot at 150 yard range, and fired 5 rounds. One of the rounds went clear through the enemy tank. From this point the combat team moved to the road junction at F414720, and in the morning, Number 4 gun moved to RHEIN-KASSEL to rejoin Number 3.

On 5 March, Number 2 gun which had previously been damaged by the bazooka, rejoined Number 1 at RHEIN-KASSEL, and the platoon remained on road blocks in RHEIN-KASSEL and RHEIN-KASSEL until the operation was completed.

2nd Platoon

The 2nd Platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion, and remained in an assembly area at RHEIN-KASSEL F103481 until 27 February when the task force moved to RHEIN-KASSEL F199613. In the morning of 28 February the platoon moved to RHEIN-KASSEL F208654, and crossed the RHEIN canal in the afternoon, taking up positions in the woods east of the canal until the morning of 2 March 1945.

At 0430 hours, the platoon moved to RHEIN-KASSEL F201653, supporting the attack on that town. As one of the tanks was crossing a railroad bridge, the bridge collapsed, and the gun was forced into recoil, pinning the turreter to the rear of the turret. The turreter was under direct observation at the time, and the turreter could back on foot to get the recovery vehicle. It was not possible for the recovery vehicle to move up, however, as any moving vehicles were receiving direct AT fire from the enemy. The turreter worked for over two hours inside the tank, and the turreter was finally recovered the operation, and the turreter was recovered. The turreter was recovered, and the turreter was recovered.

In the morning the task force moved to RHEIN-KASSEL F201653 and RHEIN-KASSEL F201653 and set up road blocks. The turreter was recovered, and the turreter was recovered. The turreter was recovered, and the turreter was recovered. The turreter was recovered, and the turreter was recovered.

As soon as the turreter was recovered, the platoon remained on road block until the end of the operation.

3rd Platoon

The 3rd Platoon was attached to the 1st Battalion, and the platoon remained until it reached the RHEIN River on 6 March 1945.

From its assembly area at RHEIN-KASSEL F103481, the platoon moved on 27 February to RHEIN-KASSEL, on 28 February crossed the canal, and moved to RHEIN-KASSEL F245653, on 3 March to RHEIN-KASSEL, and on 4 March moved with the task force in support of its attack on RHEIN-KASSEL. It moved to RHEIN-KASSEL, placing its first destroyer in position on road block in RHEIN-KASSEL, and a light tank was moving into position on the opposite side of the road, a civilian was ahead of the two vehicles, motioning them on, and as soon as both were halted, motioned down the road. The SP gun on an M17 chassis moved from behind a building and fired at the light tank. The destroyer

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immediately countered it, was fired, and destroyed the vehicle. Unfortunately, the civilian who operated the gun could not be found. Had the gun worked but the driver could have had several light tanks in the column at his mercy, as the other destroyers were further back in the column.

After the other destroyers were placed in position one of them was confronted with a Volkswagon which almost ran into it, and the destroyer's crew riddled it with .50 caliber machine gun fire.

The platoon remained on road block until the end of the operation.

For the Commanding Officer:

U.S. ARMY  
U.S. ARMY  
Capt., 703d En Bn  
S-2