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776TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
U.S. ARMY

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Operations 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945

1 February - No firing done during period. Companies continue to improve defensive positions and maintenance of vehicles.

2 February - Company "B" - from 1500 to 1600 hours one gun in position at 669504 fired 29 rounds HE and one round APC harassing fire into GUTENBERGFRANKE (6659). Fire was observed by OP in BETTVILHER (6753) which reported good harassing effect. Company "C" - On report from friendly Infantry of 40 enemy personnel in basement of Bellevue Farm (614548) one gun in position at 623508, between the hours of 1130 and 1330 expended 43 rounds HE and 6 rounds APC into farm. Approximately 30 hits were scored on farm and some of the walls collapsed. Reconnaissance Company - manning OP's along Division front and providing security for TD's. Pioneer Platoon guarding 2 bridges in Division rear area.

3 February - Company "A" closed into position at DIEDER (5861) at 2000 hours. "B" Company - 2 guns of Second Platoon moved from ROEBACH to 639324 at 1905 hours, relieving 2 guns of "C" Company at that location. "C" Company - 3 guns of 1st Platoon and 2 guns of 2nd Platoon from vicinity of Ores Retrenching relieved "A" Company guns at 569539 and 584555 at 1935 hours. Two guns of 2nd Platoon at 639324 relieved by "B" Company.

4 February - Company "A" assembled in Diding (582815) in mobile reserve. "B" and "C" Company continue to improve defensive positions and maintenance of vehicles and TD's.

5 February - No change.

6 February - Pioneer Platoon relieved of Diding at 1810 hours;

platoon moved to WEIDENSHIM and will be engaged in improving TD positions.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGING FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO
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7 February - No change.

8 February - Between 1545 and 1630 hours one gun of 2nd Platoon at WIERHOFF, FRANCE, (62550) fired 20 rounds HE into SINGLING, FRANCE. Good results were observed from CP in Bettviller, France.

9 February - "A" Company with Reconnaissance Platoon attached took over gun position of "C" Company and 2 gun positions of "B" Company, relief completed at 1800 hours. Company CP moved to Gros Redersching (621500) closing at 1830 hours. "C" CO. - upon relief by guns from "A" Company, Company assembled in Diding(532515) closing at 1900 hours. "C" Company in mobile reserve.

10 February - "A", "B" and "C" Company continued improvement of defensive positions. Reconnaissance Company - Pioneer Platoon checked and cleared the following roads of mines in compliance with Operations Instructions #4 Hq 44th Infantry Division 8 February 1945: Road leading SE from SINGLING to GROS REDERSCHING, road leading N from SINGLING to pillbox (625506), road leading E from GROS REDERSCHING to OLFERDINGERSHOFF Farm.

11 February - "A" Company continued to improve defensive positions throughout period. "B" Company - One gun from a position at 625504 fired 33 rounds HE into Singling at 1000 hours. The church steeple in the town was hit several times but did not completely collapse. Company "C" mobile reserve. Reconnaissance Company - completed sweeping road of mines from pillbox at 625506 to Gros Redersching

12 February - "A" Company - At approximately 1600 hours one gun of 1st Platoon in position vicinity 625506 fired 20 rounds HE direct fire at enemy half-truck vicinity 625506. Two direct hits and several near hits were observed. Smoke was seen twice from vehicle after hits were made.

13 February - "A" Company - At 0800 hours one gun from a position at 625506 fired 25 rounds HE and 2 rounds APG at enemy truck and personnel at 625506. Truck was damaged but did not burn. Several casualties caused among

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enemy personnel. At 1700 hours the same gun fired 43 rounds at two enemy combat vehicles and personnel at 623557. One enemy vehicle was hit.

14 February - "A" Company at 1600 hours one gun from position at 615576 fired 6 rounds APC at culvert at 627537 as requested by 44th Division artillery. Smoke was seen rising from N end of culvert. Same gun also fired 12 rounds at two knocked out enemy tanks at 622544 and 624542, believed to have been used as OP's and strongpoints. Direct hits were scored on knocked out enemy tanks. No enemy movement noted at either tank location during or after firing. First and 2nd Platoons moved to Hoelling (5954) closing at 1900 hours. First Platoon moved to 612539 closing at 2000 hours. "B" Company - Second Platoon - Three guns moved from vicinity Guising, France to vicinity of Bettvil, France at 1930 hours. "C" Company - First Platoon 2 guns moved to 627503, one gun moved to 642508. Second Platoon 3 guns moved to vicinity 618515. Reconnaissance Company - One platoon and one section of liaison 1 to 1 attached to each firing Company for security and reconnaissance of routes.

15 February - Battalion supported limited objective attack of 114th Infantry Division at 0645 hours. "A" Company direct support of 114th Infantry. Advance impeded by heavy mine fields located in the vicinity of Heilweg and Barchelingerhoff farms. Small arms and mortar fire delayed mine sweeping. After route was cleared the 1st and 3rd Platoons advanced to vicinity of 614557 at 1630 hours where they remained in position. "B" Company (1st 114th Infantry) section of 1st Platoon under cover of fire from 3rd Platoon guns located west of Hoelling advanced to 683563 at approximately 0600 hours. No gun received direct fire from enemy gun located in vicinity of Heilweg while en route to their objective. Second Section of 1st Platoon moved to join 1st section at 2000 hours. First Section of 2nd Platoon moved to join the section of 1st

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Platoon at 623563 after finding the road leading into killing from Bettviller heavily mined. "C" Company d/s 71st Infantry - 2nd Platoon moved into BELLEG at 0900 hours and took up positions to cover Gudankirch and draw. Third Platoon moved into killing at 09030 hours and thence to BEL VIERE Farm. The platoon will be in position at 634560 when minefields are cleared tonight. First Platoon fired at enemy personnel observed in vicinity East of Brandelfingerhoff farm. Results could not be observed. Reconnaissance Company maintained liaison with Infantry Regiments and established an OP at 653525. Platoons will furnish security for TB's. Pioneer Platoon assisted in removing mines in vicinity of Bellevue farm.

16 February - "A" Company direct support 114th Infantry. "B" Company direct support 324th Infantry. "C" Company direct support 71st Infantry. Reconnaissance Company maintaining OP's at 684565 and 686545. Providing security for gun companies. Maintaining liaison with Regimental OP's. One destroyer "B" Company destroyed by enemy mine at 674562 at 0600 hours.

17 February - "A" Company continued improvement of defensive positions. "B" Company at 0825 hours considerable enemy tank and infantry activity was heard to the W and E of 1st Platoon positions at 682563, but visibility was too poor for observation. "C" Company at approximately 0830 hours one gun of 1st Platoon from a position on S slope of hill 391 (6456) destroyed 2 enemy tanks identified as Mk IV's. A total of 4 rounds APG were fired. The enemy tanks were attacking from the N slope of hill 391 and as they advanced to the top of the hill they began to fire HE and AP followed by enemy Infantry firing small arms. The gun of the 1st Platoon immediately maneuvered into position and fired one round APG hitting and burning one enemy tank. Two more rounds APG were fired by the same gun knocking out another and hitting a third with one more round before it got

CONFIDENTIAL

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away. Reconnaissance Company maintaining C's along division front and providing security for gun companies.

18 February - "C" Company - at approximately 0200 hours guns in position at 644563 heard tank movement NE of their position. After two rounds of illuminating shell were fired by friendly mortars tanks were heard moving away. On report of enemy tank moving toward Guderskirch, France, at 1300 hours one gun of 2nd Platoon in Rimling fired 4 rounds NE into NE end of Guderskirch, France, results of firing unknown due to very poor visibility. No tanks were heard moving in vicinity after firing.

19 February - "A" Company - at 1200 hours one gun of 1st Platoon moved to 600584 and fired at a knocked out Sherman tank (618570) believed used as an OP by the enemy. Four direct hits were scored and vehicle burned. "B" Company continued improvement of defensive positions throughout period. "C" Company continued improvement of defensive positions throughout period. One section of 1st Platoon at 644562, one section of 3rd Platoon at 636558 and one gun at 658548 relieved in place by "A" Company at 1900 hours. The guns have assembled in Guising (6508).

20 February - Company "C" made reconnaissance of "B" Company positions in preparation for relief.

21 February - "A" Company continued improvement of gun emplacements throughout period. "B" Company - mobile reserve at Rehrbach. "C" Company relieved elements of "F" Company during early part of period without incident. Reconnaissance Company - Pioneer Platoon assisting "C" Company in improvements of gun emplacements.

22 February - No change.

CONFIDENTIAL

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23 February - No changes.

24 February - "B" Company - at 1500 to 1630 hours one gun in position vicinity 655511 expended 36 rounds HE indirect fire on enemy tank vicinity 655532. One direct hit was scored. Fire observed and adjusted by air fl.

25 February - "B" Company relieved "C" Company in place without incident. Relief completed at 2130 hours. "C" Company assembled in vicinity 655511, FRANCE. Reconnaissance Company assisted "B" Companies in the improvement of gun emplacements, maintained OP's along division front.

26 February - "C" Company relieved "A" Company in position without incident. "A" Company - On completion of relief by "C" Company, "A" Company moved two platoons to indirect fire position at 655507 and 655535, supporting fires of 156th and 220th FA Battalions. "B" Company improving successive positions of TO's. Reconnaissance Company checked and cleared trails of mine in "A" Company sector.

27 February - "A" Company fired 33 rounds HE registration fire in preparation to support the fires of the 156th and 220th FA Battalions. "B" Company at the request of the 2nd Battalion 71st Infantry, one gun of 1st Platoon from a position vicinity Hiding, France, fired 12 rounds HE at a concealed enemy OP in Gaderkirch at approximately 1130 hours. (Note: This OP destroyed by one gun of 1st Platoon "B" Company in vicinity of 647504 (east of Hiding) on January 1945, has been identified as a Mark VI (Jeep) Tiger tank with a 150mm gun. An American Sherman tank being used by the enemy was also knocked out by the same gun.)

28 February - "A" Company platoons in indirect firing position supporting fires of 156th and 220th FA Battalions, fired 69 rounds HE in rapid traction, 27 rounds HE harassing fire and 60 rounds HE on targets of opportunity.

CONFIDENTIAL

"B" and "C" Company continued improvement of defensive position. "A" Company opened new CP at 597503, also making CP's at 614543, 614544, 614545. Pioneer Platoon built com. oroy road at 614503. Company continues maintenance of 63rd and 44th Division road net.

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Commanding