

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

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: S E C R E T :
: Per Auth: CO, 701 TD Bn. :
: Initials: _____ :
: Date : 1 April 1945 :
:.....

1-30 April



1 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Operations Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington 25, D.C. (Thru Channels)

1. Submitted herewith Operations Report of the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion for the period 1 - 31 March 1945, inclusive, in compliance with paragraph 10, AR 345-105, dated 10 March 1943.

2. This operations report is taken from the Unit Journal and Unit Diary and supporting documentary evidence is attached thereto.

3. Operations report covering period through 28 February 1945 submitted previously.

31 Mar

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl
Opns Rpt w/allied papers.

JOHN E. DOOLEY,
1st Lt., 701st T.D. Bn.,
Adjutant.

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OPERATIONS OF THE 701ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Period: 1 March - 31 March 1945.



Location of 701st TD Bn. beginning of period:

	MAPS: 1/50,000, Sheets 97 I, 98 III, 98 IV, GCSG, Italy.	
Bn CP	1582-120	Bn Trains - 1581-118
A Co CP	1517-126	1st Flat - 539-183 - 2 guns 585-184 - 1 gun
B Co CP	15574-1495	2nd Flat - 539-183, 541-183, 544-184, 543-185 6 guns at 5553-1474, 4 guns at 555-150 2 guns at 561-155
C Co CP	15570-1260	6 guns at 5580-1225, 6 guns at 6116-1510
Recn Co CP	L 678-196	1st Flat, 1st Section at 674-207, 2nd Section at 676-206 2nd Flat, 680-208 3rd Flat 681-197 Pioneer Flat (3 mortars) 681-194

The period opened with the formation of two (2) Armored Forces made necessary by nature of the terrain and mission to be accomplished. Force Redding composed of A Co (-1st Flat) 701 TD Bn; B and C Companies 751 Tank Bn (- 2 Flats) and D Co, 751 Tank Bn as Corps Troops took up defensive positions in support of the B.F. Force Madden composed of A Co, 760 Tank Bn, B and C Companies, 701 TD Bn., and 1 Flat, A Co., 701 TD Bn as Corps Troops prepared to provide direct support to the attack of the 10 MT Div and elements of the B.F. C Company 701 TD Bn remained initially in arty positions under the operational control of the 34th Div Arty prepared to move to their primary mission on 2 hour notice.

1 - 2 March - A Co (-1st Flat) carried out normal direct fire harassing missions. 1st Flat supported 751 Tank Bn. B Co preparing for movement to 577-188. C Co remaining temporarily in arty posns under 34 Div arty. Recn Co., no change.

3 - March - At 030700H War Force Redding supported 10 MT Div attack by direct fire from defensive positions in the B.F. sector. Fire was placed

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on targets of opportunity and probable ey locations. Ridge lines and draws were well covered. This fire is believed to be largely responsible for ey personnel of approximate company strength to surrender to our forces. Force Madden provided direct fire support while accompanying the attack. A Co CP at 516-129; 2d Plat, 1st Sect - 1 gun at 535-181, and 1 gun at 544-185; 2d Sect at 505-154; 3d Plat, 1st Sect at 489-151, 2d Sect at 492-141. B Co, 701 CP at 573-200. B Co, 751 Tank Bn CP at 517-177, 3 gun at 504-152, 1 Sect at 507-166, 1 Sect at 520-171, 1 gun at 517-177, and 1 gun at 518-183. C Co, 751 Tank Bn CP at 548-168, 4 guns at 526-177, 2 guns at 542-186, 1 plat at 545-187. 3 tanks bogged down at 550-189, 1 tank at 545-185. D Co, 751 Tank Bn CP at 559-161, 1st Plat at 540-185, 2d Plat, 1st Sect at 537-183, 2d Sect at 537-180, 3d Plat vic 541-183. C Co, 701 TD Bn detchd 34 Div Arty at 031134A March and atchd operational control Force Madden and moved to assembly area vic 571-176.

4 March - A Co (-1st Plat) and B and C Cos, 751 Tank Bn (-2 Plats) and D Co, 751 Tank Bn remained in position supporting attack by direct fire at targets of opportunity and probable ey locations. B Co, 701 in direct support of 10 Mt Div attack. C Co, 701 atchd operational control Force Madden. B Co, 701 knocked out a German 75cm self propelled at 593-237.

5 March - A Co (-1st Plat) fired normal harassing missions by request of the BEF. B and C Companies, 701 continued in direct support of 10 Mt Div attack.

6 March - Rcn Co relieved at 052000A Mar and closed at 668-133 at 060100A Mar. Remaining atchd II Corps and further atchd 81st Rcn Sq. 3d Plat, D Co, 751 Tank Bn moved from vic 542-184 closing at 510-157 at 060930A Mar.



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3d Plat, A Co, 751 Tank Bn moved from vic Riola to Lizzano closing at 060115A Mar. Both platoons atchd to B Co, 701 TD Bn.

7 - March - A Co, 701, moved 2 guns to 492-141 and 2 guns to 4890-1509. 2d Plat, A Co in direct fire posns fired on ey houses, probable ey CPs, OPs, mortars, and M/G posns. 3d Plat in indirect fire posns. B Co, 701, occupied direct fire posns at: 1st Plat 564-226, 2d Plat 569-232, 3d Plat 581-238. C Co, 701, CP at 606-252, 1st Plat at 609-252, 2d Plat at 608-255, 3d Plat at 606-254, rear CP at 598-242 and occupied direct fire posns vic Castel d' Aiano with the mission of establishing road blocks against possible ey armored counterattack. Rcn Co, still detchd, atchd 4 Tank Bn at 071400A Mar. Moving at 071630A Mar to Stanco (713-217) to relieve "F" Troop, 91 Rcn Sq as Bn reserve. 3d Plat, A Co, 751 Tank Bn moved from vic Lizzano to 518-167 closing at 062000A Mar. 3d Plat, D Co 751 Tank Bn moved from vic 510-157 closing at 507-165 at 062000A. Both platoons remained atchd to B Co, Both platoons remained atchd to B Co, 751 Tank Bn for operations.

8- March - 1st Plat A Co departed from 585-184 closing at 568-216 at 072000A Mar and is atchd to B Co, 701. B and C Cos, 701 continued in direct support of 10 MT Div under operational control Force Madden. 3d Plat, C Co, 751 Tank Bn closed at 519-168 at 080430A. 3d Plat, A Co, 751 Tank Bn closed vic Riola at 081600A Mar reverting to parent unit control. B and C Companies, 751 continue under operational control 701 TD Bn in defensive direct fire roles.

9 - March - A Co (-1st Plat) carried out normal harassing missions. 1st Plat, A Co, 701 relieved a plat of A Co, 760 at 610-238 and 600-237, 2 guns at each point, closed at 2100A. C Co, 701 (-2nd Plat) continued in direct support of 10 MT Div. 2d Plat, C Co, 701, closed at 601-244 for maintenance work.



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10 - March - No change during the period. Normal arty missions carried out.

11 - March - A Co, 701 carried out usual harassing missions. No change in attachments. 3d Plat, D Co, 751 Tank Bn moved to: 1st Sect at 505-172, 2d Sect at 513-163 closing at 102230A Mar and remained atchd to B Co, 751 Tank Bn. 1st Plat, A Co, 701, atchd to B Co, 701, moving to new posns at: 1st Sect 505-153 and 2d Sect 543-186.

12 - March - No change in attachments or locations during the period. Normal arty missions carried out.

13 - March - Rcn Co, still detchd, engaged in security patrolling of forward posns for 4th Tank Bn, and to make combat patrols as ordered. Map study during the day for officers and plat sgts of the Vergato area for raid upon Vergato when ordered by the Combat Command. Mortars in Bn support. Concentration area is Vergato.

14 - March - A Co, 701, carried out normal harassing missions during the period. B and C Cos, 701 continue in direct support of 10 MT Div under operational control Force Madden. C and D Cos, 751 Tank Bn - No activity. B Co, 751 Tank Bn carried out normal harassing missions.

15 - 16 March - 3d Plat, C Co, 701, relieved their 1st Plat at 152030A Mar without incident. 1st Plat getting maintenance check and oil change. B and C Cos, 751 Tank Bn carried out direct fire missions. A Co, 701 fired on approximately 20 ey personnel at 462-214. Several persons obsd helping others away from area, indicating some had been wounded. B Co, 701 fired on ey tower (OP) at 558-244 knocking corner off.

17 - March - 2d Plat, B Co, 701, moved from 567-234 closing at 1900A. 1st Plat, A Co, 701, relieved from atchd B Co, 701 and reverted control of parent unit

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and moved to vic Iola (568-211) closing at 171800A Mar. No other changes during the Period.

18 - March - 2d Flat, A Co, 701, moved from 5426-1866 to 5068-1370; 3d Flat, A Co, moved from vic Iola (5680-2204) to: 2 guns at 5068-1370 and 2 guns at 505-153. 1st Flat, B Co, 701, moved from 585-225 to 587-243 and 591-243 closing at 2000A. 2d Flat, B Co, 701 closed at 591-235 at 2000A. No other changes for this period.

19 - March - Normal harassing missions carried out during the Period. No change in locations or attachments.

20 - March - B Co, 701, moved 1st Flat plus one gun 2d Flat to 6031-2369 closing at 1500A. 3d Flat, plus one gun of 2d Flat closed at 6047-2360 at 1500A. 2d Flat - 2 guns closed at 593-235 at 1500A. 1st Sect, 2d Flat, C Co, 701 closed at 601-244 and 2d Sect at 606-254 at 2000A Mar. B Co, 751, carried out obsd fire missions on houses and ey personnel with good results. C Co, 751, no activity.

21 - March - B Co, 701, detachd Force Madden and is under operational control 424 FA Gp. Able and Dog btrys of B Co, 701, fired registration on road junction. C Co continued under operational control Force Madden. No change in locations.

22 - March - A Co, 701 test fired German 75cm Pak How and found gun operating correctly. B Co, under operational control 424 FA Gp fired harassing, registrations, and illuminating missions during period. D Co, 3d Flat, 751, fired 1 mission on ey personnel.

23 - March - In redistribution of armor B Co, 751 Tank Bn took up the following positions: 1st Flat, 1st Sect at 493-140 - 2 tanks, 2d Sect at 488-143 - 1 tank and 488-145 - 1 tank, 2d Flat, 1st Sect 520-170 - 3 tanks, 2d Sect at 516-176 - 2 tanks, 3d Flat, 1st Sect 507-165 - 3 tanks, 2d Sect 499-166 - 2 tanks, closing at 2145A Mar. Moving from Corona 1 tank hit a mine at 5175-1745 and was completely



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destroyed. 3d Plat, D Co, 751 Tank Bn. moved to: 1 Sect 527-177 and 2d Sect 531-178.

24 March - A Co, 701 test fired German 7.5cm rifle, gun fired very well, no malfunctions. B Co, 701 remains under operational control 424 FA Gp and C Co, 701 remains under operational control Force Madden.

25 - March - B Co, 701, moved 5 guns from 603-236 to 592-237 closing at 242000A Mar. No incidents occurred during movement. A Co, 701, fired German 75cm Pac How with good results. Rcn Co, still detchd, relieved at 242100A Mar by B Co, 1st Tank Bn and closed at Stance (710-219) Pioneer plat in position at 706-231 (3 mortars) atchd to 1st Tank Bn.

26 March - A Co, 6 TDs in anti-tank role pull back to indirect fire positions at 507-137 and 505-138 for special missions. B Co, 701, carried out arty missions. C Co - No change. B, C, and D Companies, 751 Tank Bn - No activity.

27 - March - 1 Sect, 3d Plat, B Co, 751 Tank Bn returned to positions at 507-166 after slight move to avoid ey arty fire. Usual arty missions carried out by A and B Cos, 701. B, C, and D Cos, 751 Tank Bn - No activity.

28 - March - C Co, 701, 1st Plat (Able btry) at 5918-2367, 2d Plat (Dog btry) at 6047-2359, 3d Plat (Star btry) at 5926-2348), Rear CP at 583-233 and is under operational control 424 FA Gp. B Co, 701 CP closed at 607-252, 1st Plat 606-254 - 2 guns, 2 guns at 601-244, 2d Plat at 566-219, 3d Plat at 609-253, Rear CP at 572-223 closing at 281125A Mar and is under operational control Force Madden.

29 - 31 March - No change in locations or attachments during this period. Normal harassing missions carried out.

Positions at close of Period:

Bn CP	L557-150	Bn Trains	L581-118
A Co CP	L516-129	1st Plat, 1st Sect	489-151 - 2 TDs

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2d Sect 507-137 - 2 TDs - Indirect fire

		2d Plat	505-138 - 4 TDs - Indirect fire
		3d Plat	553-195 - 4 TDs
B Co CP	1607-252	1st Plat	606-254 - 2 TDs
			601-244 - 2 TDs
		2nd Plat	566-219 - 4 TDs
		3rd Plat	609-252 - 2 TDs
			609-253 - 2 TDs
C Co CP	1593-235	1st Plt (Able btry)	5918-2367
		2nd Plt (Dog btry)	6047-2359
		3d Plt (Star btry)	5926-2348
Hon Co CP	1710-219	Pioneer platoon	706-231 (3 mortars)

Positions at close of Period (751 Tank Bn)

B Co CP	1517-129	1st Plt, 1st Sect	493-140 - 2 tanks
		2nd Sect	488-143 - 1 tank
		2nd Plt, 1st Sect	530-170 - 3 tanks
		2nd Sect	516-176 - 2 tanks
		3rd Plt, 1st Sect	507-165 - 3 tanks
		2nd Sect	499-166 - 2 tanks
C Co CP	1548-168	1st Plt	565-227 - 5 tanks
		2nd Plt	572-207 - 5 tanks
		3rd Plt	553-195 - 5 tanks
D Co CP	1558-161	1st Plt, 1st Sect	535-180 - 3 tanks, light
		2nd Sect	537-182 - 2 tanks, light
		2nd Plt, 1st Sect	527-176 - 3 tanks, light
		2nd Sect	531-177 - 2 tanks, light
		3rd Plt, 1st Sect	539-185 - 3 tanks, light
		2nd Sect	540-183 - 2 tanks, light

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ANNEX

Ammunition Expenditure during periods:

3", High Explosive - - - - -	4,982
3", High Explosive (Reduced Charge) -	2,236
3", Smoke - - - - -	125
3", Time - - - - -	58
3", Star - - - - -	94
3", APC - - - - -	78
3", T-105 - - - - -	4

Total 7,577

7.5cm High Explosive (German) - -Rifle 44

7.5cm High Explosive(German) - -How 110

S-1 ANNEX TO OPERATIONS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 - 31 MARCH 1945



I. a. CASUALTIES:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>					
Sgt	Richard Wehrley	15042970	C	5 Mar 45	LWA	
Pfc	Charles W. Keith	32033603	C	5 Mar 45	LWA	
Cpl	Dalco L Zeigler	34071660	C	6 Mar 45	LWA	
Pvt	Lester M. Phillips	6985182	B	6 Mar 45	LWA	
Tec 5	William C. King	14004817	C	7 Mar 45	LWA	
Pvt	Dale P. Holybee	39833207	C	7 Mar 45	LWA	
Pvt	John T. Smith	34442336	C	8 Mar 45	KIA	
*S/Sgt	Sterling K. Smith	15042538	C	9 Mar 45	LWA	
Sgt	Donald J. Blank	33246805	A	29 Mar 45	LIA	
Cpl	Earl E. Gipson	15077722	Rcn	29 Mar 45	KIA	
*S/Sgt	Jim W. Hooten	34147207	Rcn	29 Mar 45	LWA	

* Indicates personnel not hospitalized.

b. Changes in Status of Personnel Previously Reported as Casualties:

Pfc	Clyde Morton	38029256	B	LWA 9 Feb 45	RTD 24 Mar 45
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II. AWARDS

a. Legion Of Merit:

T/Sgt	Henry D. Kirsher	37098831	Co B, per GO #51 Hq MTOUSA cs
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b. Bronze Star Medal:

T/Sgt	Howard J. Spaulding	35155475	Hq & Hq Co, per GO #24 1st Armd
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c. Purple Heart:

Tec 5	William C. King	14004817	Co C per GO #18 Hq 1st Armd Div cs
Pfc	Lorenzo P. Ford	13087071	Co C per GO #19 Hq 1st Armd Div cs
Pvt	William J. Novak	35320783	Co C per GO #20 Hq 1st Armd Div cs

III. REPLACEMENTS:

During the period the Battalion received one officer and sixteen enlisted men as replacements,

IV. ROTATION AND TEMPORARY DUTY:

Seven enlisted men departed for the U. S. on temporary duty and seven departed on rotation.