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Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Report
Headquarters, 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion

Period: 1 - 28 February 1945

AUTH:	[REDACTED]
INIT:	[REDACTED]
DATE:	[REDACTED]

1. Original Unit: 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion. (No change)
2. Changes in organization. (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
3. Strength:
 - A. 1 February 1945, 39 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 543 Enlisted Men.
 - B. 28 February 1945, 37 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 575 Enlisted Men.
 - C. Net Change: Decrease of 2 Officers. Increase of 32 Enlisted Men.
4. Station: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
5. Marches: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1)
6. Campaigns: Operations covering period 1st - 28th February 1945.
7. Battles: (See narrative report, Appendix No. 1).
8. Commanding Officers:
 - A. Battalion Commander - Lt. Col. C. W. Goodwin, Inf.
 - Headquarters Company - Captain R. S. Magenbals, Inf.
 - Reconnaissance Company - Captain W. A. Burke, Cav.,
 - Company "A" - Captain J. R. Kruszewski, FA.
 - Company "B" - Captain C. H. Brittain, Cav.,
 - Company "C" - 1st Lt. E. J. Kruszewski, FA.
9. Losses in action. (Battle Casualties).
 - A. Officers:

Clifford A. Olson, O-887474, 1st Lt., FA LWA 8 February 1945
 - B. Enlisted Men:

George R. Harris, 19186590, Sgt., FA Fr SMA 30 Jul 44 to MIA 30 Jul 44 per Ltr Third US Army dtd 4 Feb 45, rec'd this HQ, 11 Feb 45.

Samuel D. Shertzer, 33233500, PFC., FA LWA 24 February 1945
10. Awards:

Bronze Star - Posthumously to Below EM, per Sec IV, GO No 13, Hq 4th Inf Div, 25 Jan

Sergeant Robert W. Palmer, 37152335

Bronze Star - Below named O's and EM, per Sec VI, GO No 13, Hq 4th Inf Div, 25 Jan 4

Major Donald J. Browne, O-411612

Major Charles R. Hayes, Jr., O-378993

Captain William A. Burke, O-426946

Captain George L. Lange, O-437953

Captain James R. Skewis, O-415894

1st Lt. Charles F. AuBuchon, O-1822594

Staff Sergeant Alfred G. Elias, 37152136

Staff Sergeant Louis T. Knox, 37152123

Staff Sergeant David E. Swanson, 20956884

Sergeant James Liverman, 35457321

Sergeant Robert C. Hinrichs, 37153054

Sergeant Harold B. Jacobson, 20956815

Sergeant Jack J. Randall, 36021412

Sergeant Earl S. McComb, 39378302

Sergeant Willard P. Olson, 39079004

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10. Awards (cont'd).

Sergeant Lawrence F. Reichert, 39006630
Sergeant JOHN G. SNYDER, 36300653
Sergeant Marle W. Wallace, 37151535
Corporal Philip F. Hein, 37152979

Bronze Star - Below named O's, per Sec III, GO III, Hq 5th Inf Div, 8 February 1945.

1st Lt. Pete Bove, O-1821540

1st Lt. James H. Bowman, O-1821541

11. Photographs: None.

Charles W. Goodwin
CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding

Action Against Enemy, Report After/After Action Report
HEADQUARTERS, 308d Tank Destroyer Battalion
February 1945

010001 February 1945
Ettelbruck, Luxembourg

- 1 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P824398). Company "A" in direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment vicinity of Brandenburg (P854471). Company "B" in general support of Division area vicinity of Dickirch (P862424). "C" Company direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment vicinity of Moscheid. Recon Company and Headquarters Company under battalion control located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P824398). Companies "A" and "B" continued to maintain and improve their defensive positions. Company "B" at the present time are resting and taking advantage of shower facilities, shows and other recreation. 1st platoon of "A" firing indirect expended 312 rounds during the period. 1st platoon of "C" Company firing indirect expended 145 rounds during the period. One man of "A" Company, while carrying ammunition, slipped and fell injuring his shoulder. Battalion expended 457 rounds H.E. ammunition during the period. No enemy encountered. 35 - M10's operational.
- 2 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P824398). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. 1st platoon of "A" Company firing indirect expended 445 rounds H.E. on interdiction and harassing fire missions. "B" Company which has been in general support of Division area relieved "C" Company as of 1515 hours moving platoons into position with the 1st platoon in indirect firing positions. Platoon expended 194 rounds H.E. on interdiction and harassing fire missions. "C" Company was relieved by "B" Company and immediately went into general support of Division area. Company moved to vicinity of Dickirch, Luxembourg (P862424) into billets formerly occupied by "B" Company. Arrangements have been made so that the men have the opportunity of seeing shows, taking showers and etc. Companies continued to improve their defensive positions and maintain TD defense of Division sector. Battalion expended 639 rounds H.E. during the period. No casualties reported. 34 - M10's operational.
- 3 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P824398). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. 1st platoon of "A" Company firing indirect expended 451 rounds H.E. on interdiction and harassing fire missions. 1st platoon of "B" Company remained in general support of Division Area. Recon Co. was given the mission of checking all bridges in the sector, since the thaw and high water, to see whether or not they are suitable for crossing by heavy vehicles. All companies have been informed of the fact regarding the changing of the Army Designation from "LA" to "3A" on all vehicles as soon as possible. Companies continued to improve their defensive positions and maintain TD defense of Division sector. Battalion expended 786 rounds H.E. during the period. No casualties reported. 34 - M10's operational.
- 4 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P824398). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. 1st platoon of "B" Company firing indirect expended 589 rounds H.E. ammunition on interdiction and harassing fire missions. All companies remained in their respective positions during the period. No casualties reported. 34 - M10's operational.

5 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P324398). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. Battalion CP moved from vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg and established a new CP vicinity of Gonderange, Luxembourg. All companies moved from their respective areas to new area taken over by division. Companies were in position by 1630 hours. No ammunition expended during the period. No casualties reported. 33 - M10's operational.

6 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Gonderange, Luxembourg (P928227). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. "A" Company in general support of Division area conducting maintenance on vehicles and at the present time are putting "duck bills" on tracks. Also made a route reconnaissance from their present position to the SAUER River. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. Officers of the company made a reconnaissance for gun positions, along the high ground this side of the river, into which they can move to give supporting fire to the infantry while crossing the river. "C" Company direct support of the 11th Infantry Regiment did the same as "B" Company. Rcn Company was given mission of cutting down trees in front of these newly selected gun positions so that destroyers would have firing clearance. Battalion expended no ammunition during the period. No casualties reported. 33 - M10's operational.

7 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. Battalion CP moved from vicinity of Gonderange, Luxembourg leaving at 0900 hours and arriving in vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg by 1000 hours where new CP was set-up. After a very successful campaign of last month, the 803 TD Bn has been moved back roughly into the positions that it held on just coming to Luxembourg. At that time the battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division Artillery, in position in this sector when on Dec 16 helped to hold the left shoulder of the enemy thrust into this country. This morning the 5th Division jumped off under the protection of darkness attempting to cross the SAUER River in boats and charge the enemy on the opposite bank of the river. Upon crossing the river troops met with machine gun fire grazing the water which made the crossing almost impossible. However a few troops got across. The enemy lines are heavily fortified with pillboxes and very heavy machine gun fire coming from them. Companies moved into position in support of the attack and fired on these pillboxes. "A" Co. fired 60 AP and 60 H.E. at 14 pillboxes. Also destroyed a house which they thought was an OP. "C" Company fired 161 AP and 100 H.E. at pillboxes. Rcn groups established liaison between this organization and the battalions of the Infantry regiments within this sector as well as contacting units on our left and right. No casualties reported. 32 - M10's operational.

8 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. "A" Company in general support fired 180 H.E. and 180 AP direct fire at and around enemy fortifications along the opposite bank of the Sauer River. "B" Company fired 8 AP and 9 H.E. at 2 pillboxes. One (1) of the M10's of "D" Company hit a mine breaking a track which was repaired but the vehicle was evacuated to Ordnance to have a gun tube replaced. "E" Company is in direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "C" Company direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment fired 100 AP and 100 H.E. direct fire at and around pillboxes and other fortifications. 2nd platoon also fired .50 caliber tracer at night to indicate directions for the infantry. Rcn groups continued to establish liaison between this organization and the battalions of the Infantry regiments within this sector as well as contacting units on our left and right. Heavy machine gun fire is still making the crossing of the river very hard. No casualties reported. 32 - M10's operational.

- 9 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. "A" Company in general support of Division Area fired on pillboxes, knocked-out an MG and one (1) 32 gun expending 104 H.E. and 107 AP. A total of 14 fire missions completed. "B" Company continued to support the 10th Infantry Regiment. Company remained in its respective positions during period keeping in close contact with the situation. "C" Company continued to support 11th Infantry Regiment firing on pillboxes and other strong points, also knocked-out three machine guns and killing three enemy personnel expending 126 H.E. and 100 AP. A total of 5 fire mission completed. Company "B" of the 691st TD Bn has been attached to this organization to help maintain anti-mechanized defense of the Division Area. Troops are continuing to move across the swift flowing Sauer River in boats and are having better luck getting across in the day-light than at night time. Battalion expended 207 AP and 230 H.E. ammo during the period. 30 - M10's operational.
- 10 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (*986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. 1st platoon of "A" Company moved into indirect firing positions expending 100 rds H.E. R/C during the period. Balance of platoons remained in their respective positions. "B" Company continued direct support of 10th Inf Regt with one platoon in indirect firing positions which expended 90 rds H.E. R/C during the period. "3B" fired 16 rds H.E. direct fire into a tunnel. 10 direct hits were observed. The extent of the damage not known. "C" Company continued direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment with 2nd platoon in indirect firing positions expending 24 rds H.E. R/C during the period. Progress is quite slow on the front as the crossing of the river continues to be hard. However troops are getting across the river now and the front should move along faster now. No casualties reported. 31 - M10's operational.
- 11 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. One (1) platoon of each of the companies "A", "B", and "C" firing indirect expended 990 rounds H.E. (reduced charge during the period). "B" Co. also fired 44 rounds H.E. and 29 rounds AP into the town of Bollendorf at probable CP's and other strong points. "D" Co. of the 691st TD Bn was released of attachment, this organization, as of 1200 hours. New Division boundary lines went into effect as of 1200A hours which makes the division front, at this point, somewhat narrower. More troops continued to move across the river. TD's are all set to move across when the signal is given. 31 - M10's operational.
- 12 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. "A" Company in general support of Division Area with all platoons firing indirect interdiction and harassing fire missions. Company expended 848 rds H.E. R/C during the period. Two (2) platoons of "B" Company moved across River Sauer. Platoon leaders reconnoitered for gun positions prior to moving. Platoon leaders of "C" Company went across river and reconnoitered areas of gun positions prior to moving. 3rd platoon of "C" Company knocked-out a pillbox (No. 3). A physical inspection of pillbox No. 3 in the 11th Inf Regt sector revealed that enemy MG's were put out of action by TD fire because the AP shots hit the aperture so it was impossible for enemy to close port holes. Infantry battalions are enlarging their bridgeheads supported by the TD's firing on pillboxes and strongpoints. 31 - M10's operational.

13 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support. 1st and 3rd platoons of "A" Company firing indirect expended 351 rds H.E. R/C on interdiction and harassing fire missions during the period. All platoons of "B" Company are across the river now and are keeping in close contact with the infantry as they enlarge their bridgehead in the attack to the North and East. All platoons of "C" Company are across the river now and are keeping in close contact with the infantry as they enlarge their bridgehead in the attack to the North and East. 2nd platoon fired 11 AP and 51 H.E. knocking out one (1) pillbox, two (2) mortars and one (1) house containing an unknown number of enemy personnel. One (1) section of 1st platoon of "B" Company 808 TD Bn moved across river into watch-over positions for 2nd and 3rd platoons of "C" Company. No casualties reported. 33 - M10's operational. 4 - M36's operational. Battalion CP moved from vic of Hersberg, Luxembourg (P986297) to new location vic Berdorf, Luxembourg (L010360) leaving at 1500 hours and arriving at 1600 hours.

14 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg (L010360). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division area. "A" Company in general support of Division area with 1st and 3rd platoons firing indirect expended 603 rds H.E. R/C interdiction and harassing fire during the period. All platoons of "B" Company moved short distances in close support of the infantry. No targets of opportunity were sighted, therefore, no ammunition was expended, during the period. All platoons of "C" Company moved in close support of the infantry paying particular attention to targets of opportunity. 2nd platoon fired 22 H.E. and 5 AP at enemy activity in Prumzurley. One (1) PW was taken during the period. 1st platoon Company "D" 808 TD Bn attached to this organization. 1 sec expended 14 H.E. and 1 AP 90mm ammunition at church steeple in town of Prumzurley with good effect. The Pioneer platoon of Ren Company was given the mission of assisting the destroyers up the roads by removing mines, filling in road craters and etc. 22 destroyers are across the river. 32 - M10's operational.

15 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf Luxembourg (L010360). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company in general support of Division Area with "1A" firing indirect expending 175 rds H.E. R/C on interdiction and harassing fire missions. "A" Company CP moved to the vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany. "B" Company continued direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment since the 2nd relieved the 10th Inf Regt during the night. "A" Company was to relieve "B" Company at the same time, but road conditions prevented this and as it stands now relief will not be effected until a later date. "C" Company continued direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment with all platoons remaining in the same positions. "2C" in the vicinity of Ferschweiler, Germany, fired 11 H.E. and 1 AP knocking-out one (1) pillbox and captured 13 PW's. Also fired into a house and took six (6) PW's. A determined enemy has been defending the area North and East of the River SAUER from a system of mutually supporting bunkers, pillboxes and dug-in positions erected in depth. He takes advantage of dominating heights and prepared fields of fire that enable him to defend his positions by well placed fire on attacking forces. 31 - M10's operational.

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16 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company in general support of Division area with platoons in indirect firing positions. Company moved across river into preselected positions near the front so that reduced charge ammunition can be fired to a good advantage. "B" Company direct support of 2nd Inf Regt in close contact with the infantry moved short distances into better cover positions. 1st and 3rd platoons Company "A" fired expending 412 rds H.E. R/C during the period. "C" Company continued direct support of 11th Inf Regt with all platoons remaining in the same positions during the period. 2nd platoon fired 150 rds H.E. at enemy personnel. Results unknown. The rear CP of Rcn Company moved up near the forward CP. 33 - M10's operational.

17 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment moved into position relieving "B" Company by 1230 hours. "B" Company in general support of Division Area after being relieved by "A" Company, moved from their positions to the rear somewhat of the regimental sector with two platoons firing indirect. 336 rounds of H.E. R/C ammunition was expended during the period, on interdiction and harassing fire missions. "C" Company direct support of 11th Inf Regt remained in the same positions during the period. Company remained quiet in this sector, keeping a sharp watch for enemy tanks and other vehicles. Troops are occupying positions on the high ground along the Prum River. Rcn Company continued to establish liaison between this organization and the battalions of the regiments within this sector as well as contact units on our left and right. Also one section each of the pioneer platoon is assisting destroyer crews of the companies on the front line. 32 - M10's operational.

18 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company continued direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Company remained very quiet during the period. At approximately 1830 hours "B" Company moved out of indirect firing positions to an area near Breitweiler, Luxembourg where they assembled during which time, in the next 1 to 3 days, they will exchange their M10's for M36's the new 90 mm gun. Crews are busy cleaning and preparing M10's to be turned in. "C" Company continued direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment. Company remained very quiet during the period. Platoon leaders made a reconnaissance of areas for positions into which they can move as the plan progresses. No change in Reconnaissance Company Headquarters company located in the vicinity of Breitweiler, Luxembourg. 33 - M10's operational.

19 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. The 2nd platoon of "A" Company was fortunate enough to knock-out and destroy two (2) Mark V tanks and one SP gun. The platoon was located with the further most elements of the 2nd Infantry Regiment when two (2) enemy tanks and one (1) SP gun were sighted coming down a road toward them. At about 2000 yards away an infantry officer wanted platoon leader to open fire on them, but he didn't, allowing them to advance to within about 900 yards of him. He then proceeded to knock out the last tank, which blocked the road. In the meantime the other tank and SP were trying to get turned around and were cross-ways of the road when knocked-out. "B" Company continued to clean and prepare M10's to be converted to M36's. Balance of the battalion remained very quiet during the period. 33 - M10's operational.

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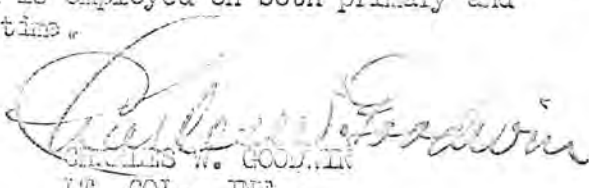
- [REDACTED]
- 20 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf, Luxembourg (LO10360). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company continued direct support of 2nd Inf Regt with all platoons remaining in approximately the same positions during the period. "B" Company continued to clean-up M10's in preparation for exchange to M36's. "C" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment with one platoon moving into positions covering a road which was a likely approach of enemy tanks. Balance of battalion remained very quiet during the period. No ammunition expended during the period. 33 - M10's operational.
- 21 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment keeping in close contact with the infantry. 2nd platoon fired 28 H.E. 4 AP and 6 HVAP at distance of 1200 yards knocking out an enemy SP gun. "B" Company have all of their M10's cleaned and are patiently waiting for word telling them to move to Luxembourg City and exchange for M36's. "C" Company continued to support the 10th Inf Regt. All platoons remained very quiet during the period. 32 - M10's operational.
- 22 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Berdorf Luxembourg (LO10380). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. Platoons remained in the positions during the period. Company fired no ammunition. "B" Company left area near Breitweiler enroute to 501st Ordnance located in Luxembourg City where M10's are to be exchanged for M36's. 11 vehicles were received, with one remaining in Ordnance, and returned to area near Breitweiler closing in at 1800 hours. "C" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment in TD positions in that sector. Company fired no ammunition during the period. Recon Co. moved from vicinity of Bollendorf LO12401 to a pillbox at LO19428. Rear CP moved with company. At 1000 hours battalion CP moved from vicinity of Berdorf Luxembourg (LO10380) to vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany, (LO12401) arriving by 1045 hours. All platoons remained in defensive positions during the period. 21 - M10's operational. 11 - M36's operational.
- 23 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany (LO12401). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. Platoons of "A" Company moved out of TD positions at approximately 1900 hours to an assembly area vicinity of Breitweiler (P973319). Platoons will move enroute to 501st Ordnance located in Luxembourg City where they are to arrive by 241200 hours to change M10's for M36's. "B" Company less "1B" direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "1B" direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment under control of "C" Company Commander. At 1730 hours platoons moved from vic of Breitweiler to "A" Company sector relieving them. Platoons were in position by 2000 hours. Company less "1C" direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "1C" direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment under control of "B" Company Commander. Battalion expended no ammunition during the period. 21 - M10's operational. 12 - M36's operational.

- [REDACTED]
- 24 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany (LO12401). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. The platoons of "A" Company moved enroute to the 501st Ordnance to exchange M10's for M36's. Six (6) vehicles were received and returned to area vicinity of Breitweiler (P973319). The following day is to be spent on maintenance of the vehicles. "B" Company less "1B" direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "1B" direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment under control of "C" Company Commander. All platoons remained in their respective positions during the period. "3B" fired 10 rds H.E. and 5 rds AP at two (2) houses vicinity of PEFFINGEN, Germany. "C" Company less "1C" direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "1C" direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment under control of "B" Company Commander. Platoons shifted a little during the period in order that better cover positions could be had. Results of direct fire unknown. 12 - M36's operational. 10 - M10's operational.
- 25 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany (LO12401). Companies continued to support their respective regiments with one company in general support of Division Area. "A" Company direct support of 2nd Inf Regt with "2C" and "3C" working with "A" Company. Company with 6 90mm destroyers moved from assembly area near Breitweiler and in position by 1900 hours. "B" Company direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment with 1 sec of "1C" working with "B" Company. "2B" and "3B" crossed the Prum River in support of the attack to the East. "C" Company less 3 platoons assisting in the attack in the 2nd and 10th regimental areas. Battalion expended no ammunition during the period. 18 - M36's operational. 10 - M10's operational.
- 26 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Dockendorf, Germany (LO84482). All three (3) line companies direct support of their respective regiments. Battalion CP moved from vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany to vicinity of Dockendorf, Germany leaving old area at 1500 hours and closing in new area at 1640 hours. Headquarters Company and Medical Detachment moved from vicinity of Breitweiler, Luxembourg, to vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany. The front lines are moving steadily ahead with the enemy fighting a delaying action in an effort to slow our advance. All three (3) TD Companies are keeping in close contact with the infantry in the attack to the East. "3B" fired 30 H.E. and 3 AP 90mm ammunition during the period, knocking-out 1 AT gun, 1 truck, and killed 66 enemy personnel. The Pioneer platoon of Rcn Co. built a corduroy road for "A" Company. 18 - M36's operational. 10 - M10's operational.
- 27 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located vicinity of Dockendorf Germany (LO84482). All three (3) line companies direct support of their respective regiments. "A" Company continued direct support of 2nd Infantry Regiment. "1A" and "2A" are now located in an assembly area and will remain there until morning when they will advance in close support of the 2nd Regiment. "B" Co. less 1st platoon continued direct support of 10th Infantry Regiment. "1B" direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment under control of "C" Company Commander. "C" Co. plus "1B" in direct support of 11th Infantry Regiment. "1B" fired 28 H.E. and 1 AP into the city of Bitburg with good effect. "2C" fired 33 H.E. and 5 AP consisting of 2 missions at 2 pillboxes. Platoon also fired at an SP which they think is a probable knock-out. Hq. Co. and Med. Det. moved from the vicinity of Bollendorf, Germany to an area southwest of Dockendorf, Germany at coordinates (Lo58474). Rcn Co. continued to establish liaison between this organization and the battalions of the infantry regiments as well as contacting the units on our left and right. 20 - M36's operational. 10 - M10's operational.

23 February 1945 Battalion attached to the 5th Infantry Division Artillery located in vicinity of Dochenort, Germany (1084482). All three (3) line companies direct support of their respective regiments. Companies "A", "B", and "C" continued to support the 2nd, 10th and 13th Infantry Regiments in their attack to the East and to the Kyll River. 4 - M36's are located in the rear at motor maintenance being prepared to go into the line as quickly as possible. "C" Company is turning in 4 M10's in exchange for them. As the attack on Bitburg, Germany progressed the 1st platoon and the Pioneer platoon of Men Company followed them into town and after it being cleared made a foot reconnaissance of the town. Also picked two (2) main routes leading out of the place. Pioneers were not needed. 1st platoon of "A" Company repulsed an enemy counter-attack which attempted to infiltrate back through their positions. 20 - M36's operational. 8 - M10's operational.

SUMMARY

- A. Operations for the period covered the crossing of three rivers, Sauer, Prum and Nims. Tank Destroyers are ideally suited for direct support of infantry in assaults of this type. Properly coordinated, Tank Destroyer fire will make the enemy button-up in pillboxes allowing infantry to move to the flanks. Direct radio or wire communication to, at least, the Infantry Battalion Commander is necessary so that fire may be lifted at proper time. Contrary to most beliefs 3 inch fire will not knock out pillboxes found in this sector.
- B. An old trick, often forgotten by gunners, came to light again during month. The second platoon "A" Company while providing overwatching fire for the infantry sighted two Mark V tanks and one SP moving down a road. The vehicles were approximately one hundred (100) yards apart and at about 2400 yards range. The gunner proceeded to knock out the rear tank, blocking the road, thus giving him ample time to take care of the other two before they could bypass the knocked-out tank and move to safe positions.
- C. The battalion expended 1,163 rounds H.E. and 830 rounds APB on direct fire missions and 6,916 rounds on indirect fire missions. Equipment destroyed is as follows: Mark V's - 2, S/P's - 3, Halftracks - 2, A.T. Guns (towed) - 1, Mortars - 2, I/G's - 5. Knocked out 3 CP's, Pillboxes (damaged) - 5, killed 119 enemy personnel and captured 20 PW's.
- D. RECOMMENDATIONS:
 1. One 300 series radio per Tank Destroyer platoon for close liaison with infantry.
 2. Three (3) additional Trucks, Cargo, 2½ ton L.W. B. For units changing from M10's to M36's. Only 50% of 90mm ammunition can be hauled in comparison with the old 3 inch. Transportation is put at a critical point when battalion is employed on both primary and secondary missions at the same time.


CHARLES W. GOODWIN
LT. COL., INF.,
Commanding