

-UNIT REPORT-  
No 9

From 01001A February 1945  
To 282400A February 1945

2nd TD Group  
051730A March 1945  
MUNCHEN-GLADBACH, GERMANY  
(F095900)

Maps 4507. Scale: 1/50,000 Sheets 18-19

1. ENEMY: An estimated enemy armored force of 110 tanks of SP guns operated against XIX Corps during the period. Our tanks destroyed at least twenty-five (25) and the TD's accounted for eleven (11). Infantry and bazookas claim five (5) while fighter bombers strafed, bombed and rocketted at least twenty-five (25) with excellent results reported. These results total some sixty-six (66) tanks or SP guns knocked out. In addition two (2) tanks were captured intact.

German armor was employed in close support of infantry in small groups from well concealed or dug-in positions. Depleted ranks, shortages of materiel or gas, and constant threat of air attack necessitated piecemeal use, and at no time during our rapid advance, was a coordinated Pz force committed against us.

Elements of the 9th Pz, 130th Pz Lehr, 11th Pz Divisions; 301st GHQ Tank Bn, 341st Assault Gun Brigade, were identified on our front. PW's from Pz units elaborated on the shortage of tanks since the ARDENNES offensive, and verified statements made concerning cannibalization of tanks from various units to enable at least one company to enter combat at full tank strength.

Except for a 14.5 inch mortar mounted on Mk VI chassis, knocked out by Tank Destroyers in the 30th Division sector, no new or unusual pieces of material were encountered. Mk IV's and V's made up the majority of tanks employed. An estimated fifteen (15) Tiger Tanks were reported. Most of the armor encountered took the form of 75mm or 88 mm high velocity SP guns on standard tank chassis.

2. OWN SITUATION:

a. Does not apply.

b. See overlay, XIX Corps.

(1) 2nd TD Group-K883543 (ALSDORF, GERMANY), atchd XIX Corps.

(2) 643rd TD Bn (SP)-F057663 (Hasselsweiler, GERMANY), atchd

83rd Inf Div.

(3) 702nd TD Bn (SP)-F035614, atchd 2nd ~~at~~ Armored Division

(4) 801st TD Bn (T)-F129628 (OBEREMBI, GERMANY), atchd 113th Cav Gp

(5) 821st TD Bn (SP)-F030745 (KUCKHOVEN? GERMANY), atchd 29th

Inf Div.

(6) 823rd TD Bn (SP)-F105635 (KODINGERN, GERMANY), atchd 30th Inf

Div

c. See overlay XIX Corps.

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S E C R E T



d. 2nd T.D. Group- February 1945 opened with Gp. CORNELIMUNSTER, (K904378) atchd to XIX Corps. Unit was in charge of Corps Reserve and had attached to it the 2nd Ranger Bn Inf and the 744th Tank Bn(L). Units were continually contacted, their training and maintenance inspected while defensive plans were made, and revised frequently to meet changes in the situation. Intensive work was done on plans for future operations. Feb 3rd the 823rd TD Bn came under Group supervision when it moved into an assembly position in AACHEN. By VOCC, 4th Feb 45, the 2d Ranger Inf Bn was released from attachment while on 5 Feb 45, after Group had displaced with XIX Corps to BARDENBERG (K856506), by Letter of Instructions No. 107, XIX Corps dated 041130, the 744th Tank Bn.(L) was released from attachment at 1200A hours. After a long period of research and planning the first antitank Annex to Field Order No 30 covering the attack on the ROER RIVER was submitted. At 1400, 7 Feb 45 Group moved to RAHE, GERMANY (K825456), where it completed the final plans for the defense of the Corps sector which the final plans for the defense of the Corps sector which were submitted to XIX Corps 14 Feb 45 Under FO no 30, XIX Corps, dated 062000A Feb 45, the 702nd TD Bn and the 801st TD Bn were atchd to the 2d TD Gp. During the period 11 Feb 45 to 22 Feb 45 Tank Destroyer Battalions maintenance, training and conversion were supervised and inspected. Intensive work was done on plans for the crossing of the ROER RIVER and after drafting and redrafting, and rearranging, final Antitank Annexes to FO No. 30, XIX Corps, were submitted February 22. By that time all units were in position, with ammunition stacked beside the guns, waiting D-day H-hou.

With the 801st TD Bn(3" towed) and one Company of the 702nd TD Bn (90MM SP) in indirect fire positions in the vicinity of ALDENHOVEN, preparation fires were fired as follows: The 702nd delivered long range infilade interdiction fire upon three (3) main highways, firing at the rate of 100 rounds per hour from H-45 to H-210 for the purpose of preventing enemy traffic from reaching the scene of the asualte crossing while one (1) company of the 801st TD Bn in the sector of the 30th Inf Div neutralized the STRAATSFORST, firing 300 rds per hour from H-45 to H-210 and the other two (2) Companies put neutralization fires on a trench system on the high ridge in the 29th Inf Div sector at the rate of 300 rds per company from H-45 to H-15 when the fire lifted to three (3) key towns 3000-4000 yards further E where the same rate of fire continued until H-210. This fire thickened and deepened the fires of the Division and Corps Arty units and the fires of the 821st TD Bn and the 823rd TD Bn which, firing within the sectors of the 28th 29th and 30th Infantry Divisions, expended 3174 and 6485 rounds BE N/C respectively from H-150 and H-15 to H.

2nd TD Gp Cont'd- 2609h a Group Fire Control Center which was established at the Corps Artillery Fire Direction Center upon the completion of the scheduled fire, both the 90mm and 3" guns were prepared to fire call missions from Corps Artillery FDC. Although an ammunition shortage stopped 3" fire after "D" Day, 90mm fire missions were handled for four (4) days. These guns were mainly used for long range targets beyond the range of other types of artillery, and the high rate of fire, low weight shell and high muzzle velocity proved of great value on harassing and interdiction missions.

Two (2) companies of the 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion occupied direct fire positions in the 29th & 30th Infantry Division sectors, where through the medium of direct -indirect methods controlled by Reconnaissance Officers of the 702nd and 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalions, who crossed with the assault infantry and acted as forward observers carrying 536 radios and linked to the guns by 609 relay stations, targets of opportunity were taken under fire or combat areas isolated by fire. One SP 88 was destroyed by this method. Although excess smoke at bridge site, great range and unfamiliarity on the part of the Infantry with this type of support fire interfered or cut down the maximum use of those guns it is believed that their fires were a success and that serious consideration should be given to this type of employment in the future.

At 230700A, Co "B", 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion was released from secondary missions and was attached to the 29th Infantry Division. They at once entered an assemble position where they remained pending completion of a bridge that would allow their 3" guns to cross the river. As Division Tank Destroyer units crossed the ROER RIVER, 24 February 1945, Battalion attached to Group conducted reconnaissance of support positions E of the ROER and made plans to cross when either Division flanks became exposed or the need for Tank Destroyer reinforcements became apparent.

24 February 1945, Group at 1100 displaced with XIX Corps to ALSDORF, GERMANY (K883543). By Letter of Instructions No. 116, XIX Corps, at 2100, 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 113th Cavalry Group (Mechs) while by same Letter 2130, "B" Co, 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion was relieved from attachment to 29th Infantry Division. At 241145, "B" Co 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion crossed the ROER RIVER taking up indirect fire positions in the vicinity of NIERDEZIER.

251200 A February 1945, "C" Co, 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to CO "B" of 2nd Armored Division and at 1300, "A" Co crossed ROER RIVER and entered an assembly position in NIERDEZIER preparatory to moving into indirect fire positions near LICH. By Letter of Instructions, No. 116, XIX Corps at 270700A, 702nd Tank Destroyer Battalion (-) was released from attachment to Second Tank Destroyer Group and attached to 2nd Armored Division so at the close of the Period no units were attached to this unit and the principal function of the Group was the close of supervision and inspection of the Corps Anti-Tank Defenses, study of terrain and routes for continuing the operations, and assisting in supply and replacements of both men and materiel.



e. Combat Efficiency --- Excellent

f. Results of Operations: Coordinated AT defense in Corps sector, Submitted plans for operation "GRENADE", as pertains to AT. Operated Fire Control Center to control indirect fires of TD Bns in Corps

3. ADMINISTRATIVE

a. Status of Strength:

- (1) Officers - Sixteen (16)
- (2) Enlisted Men - Fifty-seven (57)
- (3) Reinforcements needed - one (1) Officer  
- six (6) Enlisted Men

b. Casualties - None

c. Prisoners of War

d. Evacuation - Normal

e. Administrative Locations ; See Adm O No 15, XIX Corps

f. Status of Supply:

- (1) Rations - Three (3) days
- (2) Ammunition - Full B/L
- (3) Gasoline and Oil - Three (3) days.

g. Condition of roads and status of circulation: Satisfactory.

h. Remarks: Facilitated reinforcements of Combat Losses for all TD bns in Corps and facilitated conversion of 643rd TD Bn to self-propelled. Worked on plans for Operations "GRENADE" as pertains to all TD Bns in the Corps

OFFICIAL:

LOHSE  
S-3

BELL  
Cmdg

