

HEADQUARTERS
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 758 US Army

4 March 1945



SUBJECT: Report of Operations for Period
1 - 28 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division, APO #3, U. S. Army.

a. SUMMARY OF OUR OPERATIONS:

At the beginning of the period the Battalion, attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, held direct fire positions in support of the Division which had established a bridge-head south of the COLMAR CANAL. Each company was in general support of its respective regiment: "A" Company with the 7th Infantry Regiment; "B" Company with the 15th Infantry Regiment; "C" Company with the 30th Infantry Regiment.

During the first half of the period the Battalion operated in support of the Infantry in cutting off COLMAR to the East, seizing NEUF-BRISACH, and capturing the approaches to the BRISACH Bridge. Throughout this operation the guns of the Battalion placed direct assault fire on enemy strong points, pillboxes, machine gun emplacements, and groups of enemy. Few enemy tanks or armored vehicles were seen during this time.

The first week of the period was characterized principally by the adoption of pursuit tactics against enemy troops withdrawing in good order from the COLMAR POCKET. At intervals the enemy attempted to impede our progress by leaving behind relatively large detachments of infantry and armor in towns and villages in the path of our advance. The guns of the Battalion assisted the Division assault by demolishing, with direct fire, enemy held houses, pillboxes, and gun emplacements. Since the enemy's armored force had been either destroyed or badly mauled in the last period, no armored engagement of any consequence developed. When the Division encircled NEUF-BRISACH and captured the approaches to the BRISACH Bridge all enemy resistance in the area collapsed.

Following the cleanup of the COLMAR POCKET, the Division was placed on the defensive along the RHINE River in the vicinity of BRISACH. The Battalion at this time placed its guns either in direct fire positions in support of the Infantry or in mobile reserve where they could be used against any enemy action. At the same time the Battalion began changing over from M-10's tank destroyers to M-36 tank destroyers, and Companies of the Battalion in reserve were able to bring their new weapons into operational condition and to carry on limited scale training.



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The last half of the period saw the Battalion move with the Division to an assembly area in the vicinity of PONT-à-MOUSSON (U-765357) to carry on a program of rest, rehabilitation, and training. With a complete change-over in its basic weapon the Battalion began a training period to make all crew members proficient in the operation of the new tank destroyers.

b. ENEMY OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD:

At the outset of the period the enemy continued to resist stubbornly the Division's advance South from the COLMAR CANAL and East toward the RHINE-RHONE CANAL and RHINE River. On the 2nd of February the Battalion had one M-10 destroyed by enemy tank fired while supporting the advance of the 30th Infantry near MARGKOLSHEIM and two others were knocked out by enemy bazooka fire in the course of the 7th Infantry's attack South of BIESHEIM on the 5th of February. The enemy, during this part of the period, was attempting to withdraw the battered remnants of his forces across the RHINE, covering the movement with scattered pockets of foot troops supported by a very few tanks and SP's and by artillery emplaced East of the River. By the night of 6-7 February, all organized enemy resistance West of the RHINE River had ceased.

During the period 7-19 February, while the Battalion remained in a defensive role in the area between the RHINE-RHONE CANAL and the RHINE River, enemy activity consisted almost entirely of light caliber and sporadic artillery fire.

On the 19th of February the Battalion, with the Division, was withdrawn from the sector and out of contact with the enemy.

c. SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

At the end of the period the Battalion was assembled in the Division area carrying on a program of training and rehabilitation and several modifications were being made on the destroyers. For the first time in 185 days the Battalion was completely relieved from the line and the utmost effort was being made to bring the men up to top physical and mental condition in anticipation of future operations.

d. STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL:

By the end of the period the Battalion had completed the exchange of M-10 tank destroyers for the M-36 tank destroyers and was completely up to strength in its basic weapon.

Insofar as personnel was concerned, the Battalion began the period twenty men understrength, had approximately the same number of battle casualties, and received fifteen new men, ending the period twenty-five men understrength.

The reinforcements received were Armored Force Trainees who had left the United States approximately one month previously. Although they had not yet seen action, these men appeared to be potentially good tank crew men. At the close of the period both old and new men were being trained in the use of their new destroyers.

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c. COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED:

1. The use of artificial moonlight helped a great deal to facilitate a smooth flow of night vehicular traffic. It is felt that the employment of searchlights has proven worthwhile from the standpoint of reducing traffic accidents alone.

2. Comments on the M-36 tank destroyer are reserved until the time they have undergone a thorough test.

WALTER E. TARDY
Lt Col, F.A.,
Commanding



OPERATIONS REPORT

ANNEX No. 1

1 March 1945

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE INFLICTED ON ENEMY

PERIOD: 1 Feb - 28 Feb 1945



	: A Co	: B Co	: C Co	: Rcn Co	: Total
Tanks and SP's	:	: 1 Mk IV	:	:	: 1 Mk IV
Probables	:	:	:	:	:
Arm'd Cars & Half Tracks	:	:	:	:	:
Machine Guns	:	:	:	:	:
Artillery and AT Guns	:	:	:	:	:
Prisoners of War	: 61 *60	:	:	:	: 61 *60
Infantry Killed	:	:	:	:	:
Pill Boxes (RB)	:	:	:	:	:
Trucks and Cars	:	:	:	:	:
Miscellaneous	: Reduced and neutralized ey held strong points and ey occupied houses. Killed and wounded unknown number of ey by direct fire. * Assisted Inf in the Capture.				

GASUALTIES INCURRED BY 601ST TD BN
PERIOD: 1 - 28 February 1945

	: A Co	: B Co	: C Co	: Rcn Co	: Hq Co	: Total
Officers ----KIA	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 0
WIA	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 1	: 0	: 1
Enlisted Men ----KIA	: 2	: 0	: 1	: 0	: 0	: 3
WIA	: 9	: 3	: 4	: 3	: 0	: 19
M-10's KO'd--Burnt or not repairable	: 4	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 4

FOR THE BATTALION COMMANDER:

FREDERICK C. MINER
Captain, F.A.,
Bn S-3

SUMMARY OF EVENTS
1 - 28 February 1945



ANNEX # 2

FEBRUARY 1

Recon Co in sup of 254th Inf ran motorized contact patrols on Div left flank; A Co in sup of 7th Inf in reserve; B Co in sup of 15th Inf supported Inf attacking to RHINE - RHONE CANAL; C Co in sup of 254th Inf occupied defensive position vic JEBSHEIM (V-811477).

FEBRUARY 2

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized patrols between 7th Inf and RHINE RIVER; A Co in sup of 7th Inf supported attack of Inf on KUNHEIM (V-850420) captured 50 PW and assisted Inf in capture of 60 PW; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied defensive fire positions along RHINE - RHONE CANAL KO'd one ey Mk V tank; C Co in sup of 254th Inf occupied defensive fire positions along RHINE RIVER.

FEBRUARY 3

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized patrols on bank of RHINE RIVER; A Co in sup of 7th Inf supported Inf on attack of BIESHEIM (V-855379), 1 M-10 KO'd by ey bazooka; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied defensive positions along RHINE - RHONE CANAL; C Co in sup of 254th Inf occupied defensive positions on bank of RHINE RIVER.

FEBRUARY 4

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized patrols on bank of RHINE RIVER; A Co in sup of 7th Inf support Inf in cleaning out and consolidating BIESHEIM, fired 25 rds HE and 25 rds APC at ey strong points and captured 11 PW; B Co in sup of 15th Inf sup Inf on attack of strong point N & E of BIESHEIM; C Co in sup of 254th Inf supported Inf on attack through BOIS BOULAY.

FEBRUARY 5

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf formed road blocks around BIESHEIM and ran motorized patrols through town; A Co in sup of 7th Inf on attack S of BIESHEIM to a position W of NEUF BRISACH; B Co in sup of 15th Inf supported Inf on attack S & E of BIESHEIM fired 20 rds APC, 15 rds HE at ey strong points; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied defensive fire positions NW of NEUF BRISACH.

FEBRUARY 6

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf ran recon to find supply routes for Inf; A Co in sup of 7th Inf set up defensive fire positions vic VOGELSHEIM (V-865350); B Co in sup of 15th Inf supported attack of Inf on FORT MORTIER (V872368) and of capture of approaches to BRISACH BRIDGE; C Co in sup of 30th Inf supported attack on VOGELGRUN (V-877350) and ALGOLSHEIM (V-867339).

FEBRUARY 7

Recon Co in sup of 7th Inf moved to mobile reserve position vic KUNHEIM (V-850416); A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied defensive fire positions vic VOGELSHEIM; B Co in sup

of 15th Inf occupied defensive fire positions on the bank of RHINE RIVER vic BRISACH BRIDGE; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied defensive fire positions vic of ALGOLSHEIM and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 8

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf running motorized patrols between the RHINE RIVER and the RHINE - RHONE CANAL in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied defensive fire positions vic VOLGELSHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied defensive fire positions on the bank of RHINE RIVER vic BRISACH BRIDGE; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied defensive fire positions vic of ALGOLSHEIM and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 9

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf running motorized patrols between the RHINE RIVER and the RHINE - RHONE CANAL in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf moved to reserve positions in KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM (V-856463); B Co in sup of 15th Inf moved to reserve position vic KUNHEIM (V-843423); C Co in sup of 30th Inf moved to defensive positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 10

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE RIVER and RHINE - RHONE CANAL in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions in KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 11

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE RIVER and RHINE - RHONE CANAL in Div Sector: A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions in KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN, fired 14 rds HE at pillboxes on E bank of RHINE.

FEBRUARY 12

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 13

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM in process of changing over from M-10 TD's to M-36 TD's; C Co in support of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 14

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions



vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf in reserve vic KUNHEIM carrying on program of maint of new destroyers; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 15

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf in reserve vic KUNHEIM carrying on program of maint of new destroyers; C Co in sup of 30th Inf occupied direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 16

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf in reserve vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf in direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN fired 31 rds APC at ey pillboxes.

FEBRUARY 17

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf in reserve vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf in direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 18

Rcn Co in sup of 7th Inf ran motorized and foot patrols between RHINE - RHONE CANAL and RHINE RIVER in Div Sector; A Co in sup of 7th Inf occupied reserve positions vic KUNHEIM and ARTZENHEIM; B Co in sup of 15th Inf in reserve vic KUNHEIM; C Co in sup of 30th Inf in direct fire positions vic BRISACH BRIDGE and VOGELGRUN.

FEBRUARY 19

Rcn Co released 7th Inf assembled in KUNHEIM in preparation for move to new area; A, B and C Co released of sup of respective Regt and assembled in JEBSHEIM (V-805448) in preparation for move to new area.

FEBRUARY 20

Entire Bn moved from vic JEBSHEIM to PONT-A-MOUSSON (U-765357) into assembly area.

FEBRUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 28

Entire Bn carried on a program of training, rehabilitation and maint. All M-36 TD's were drawn to replace M-10's.

