

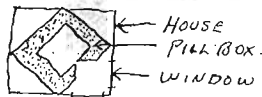
HEADQUARTERS
607TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
APO 230

Battle Experiences and Suggestions

F-322

The following is information reported by Destroyer crews and hints of value therefrom:

1. We found that Jerry pillboxes in the towns are camouflaged as houses and garages. Some pillboxes are built inside the houses.



We first had to knock the house down with HE and then find a flat surface of the pillbox and fire with APC and HE T105 fused. We fired until penetrations were assured and then threw in several rounds of HE. (Sgt Starginski, 2nd platoon, Co A)

2. Destroyer crews need C rations in their destroyer at all times. Many times we found that the men could not get out of their destroyer to prepare IO in 1's, but could warm up and eat a C ration while still in the vehicle. (Lt Killeen, 2nd Plt, Co A).

3. In street fighting my gun commanders always make a feet reconnaissance of the route and firing position prior to moving and shooting. This assures the proper employment and accomplishing of mission. (Lt Killeen, 2nd platoon, Co A).

4. Effect of 90mm fire on pillboxes:-

a. PW's taken from pillboxes, which have been fired on by 90mm guns, invariably have a nose bleed and many have eye injuries.

b. All PW's remark that the dust and smoke of the penetrating shells cause an acrid dust that is almost unbearable. (All gun commanders).

c. Penetration of walls is dependent on many factors, ie - thickness of wall, angle of impact, type of ammunition, range, type of concrete, place where fired on as to the internal arrangement of walls - as each pillbox fired on presents a different combination of these factors, it is difficult to prescribe the number of rounds required for penetration. Penetration of pillboxes has been obtained with 2 rounds but others have received as high as 30 rounds without penetration.

d. Best results are obtained when fire is maintained at one point until penetration is assured then to fire a couple of HE fuse delay to clean out the box.

e. C.P. T105 fuse is not effective when fired by 90mm gun at ranges less than 800 yards. This is due to a disintegration or breaking up of the HE shell before penetrating and before fuse acts. We have found that APC gives the best results at close range and use T105 to clean the hole and loosen the concrete.

5. Target designation by Infantry to the TDs is a difficult problem, especially in street fighting. One method used successfully is for the Infantry to designate a building or other target with tracer fire, either from MG or rifle. (Lt Arrison, Co B)

6. In firing into buildings it is best to fire at the upper stories first with the 50 cal MG and then into the basement with 90mm HE. This method will usually account for many "Jerries" and discourage the rest. (Lt Arrison, Co B).

(Battle Experiences and Suggestions, 607th TD Bn)

7. We have used our security half-tracks to carry the Infantry across areas swept with small arms fire. (Co B)

8. Self-propelled TDs need a lap gun for the assistant driver in street fighting. We have found that machine gun fire from a destroyer gives material aid to the Infantry and is indispensable for protection of the destroyer. Both my driver and assistant driver once spotted a "Jerry" with a bazooka in a doorway ahead of us. They tried to point him out to me, but I could not see him. I fired my 50 cal MG in the general area and as I fired a bazooka rocket went over the destroyer and the bazooka gunner fell into the street. It was a lucky hit. If the assistant driver had a lap gun he could have handled the bazooka sniper.

Note: (The destroyers in this Battalion have the AA 50 cal MG mounted on the left front of the turret and it is manned by the gun commander).

9. Jerry fires mortar fire on own pillboxes to protect them from ground assault.