

WAR REPORT

No. 10

Unit: 690th Tank Destroyer Bn.
 From: 01001 April 1945
 To : 302409 April 1945

MAPS Sheets: U1 NEUNKIRCHEN 1:100,000 V1 SAARBRUCKEN 1:100,000
 U2 KAISERLAUTERN 1:100,000 V2 WISSEMBOURG 1:100,000

1. SUMMARY:

a. Units in Contact: Not in contact with enemy at close of period. This battalion is performing occupational duties in an assigned area.

b. Enemy reserves: No Contact.

c. Enemy activity during period: From 1 April to 12 April the unit was out of contact with the enemy due to movement and being in assembly areas awaiting orders. From 13 April to 18 April this unit was attached to XVIII Airborne Corps and sub-attached to the 13th Armored Division.

TD companies were attached to combat teams of the division which drove southward on the West flank of the NUNER pocket. The order of battle of the enemy was somewhat confused as they were squeezed in the pocket. The enemy resorted to the policy of splitting up and shifting remaining fragments of this divisions to the threatened areas. Our rapid advance and pressure from other divisions caused a collapse of his replacement system. At no place was the enemy willing to establish a definite HLR. The enemy fought a continuous delaying action by employing road blocks, small arms, mortar and AA/AT guns in well prepared positions along main road net and in villages. The resistance was sporadic, with small groups holding out fanatically. There was considerable sniping and some harassing artillery fire on our supply line.

The enemy's rear was disrupted and although there were quantities of supplies including gasoline and munitions in the NUNER pocket, transportation and communications were so disorganized that they could not be gotten to the places needed. For the most part the troops were supplied food by the people of the towns and villages.

The NUNER had been strongly defended against air attack and consequently there were numerous Flak troops. Personnel who were no longer needed to man A.A. weapons were given French and Danish rifles and employed as infantry. Their standard rifles were taken up and issued to regular infantry troops.

For the most part the enemy troops knew they were hopelessly cut off in the pocket and readily gave up in groups. The enemy armor showed little inclination to stand and fight and only few mines were encountered.

Although elements of numerous organizations were encountered in the drive our advance was opposed principally by the following:

- 3rd Par Div
- 12 VG Div
- 33rd PZ Regt (9 PZ Div)
- 363rd VG Div
- 7th Flak Div
- Various Volksturm troops

At the end of the period all organized resistance had ceased with the surrender of NUSSELDORF.

From 19 April to 30 April the unit was not in contact with the enemy as such, but was moving or doing occupational duty.

Wire communications near ENNEBRUCKEN have been disrupted on two occasions, as the result of suspected sabotage.

d. Enemy Strength, Material means, Morale and his probable knowledge of our Situation: No contact with enemy.



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e. Conclusions: No contact with enemy.

2. OUR SITUATION

a. Does not apply.

b. See overlay attached as Inclosure No. 1.

c. Assigned to Fifteenth United States Army, attached to XXIII Corps, 28th Infantry Division, sub-attached to 28th Infantry Division Artillery.

d. GENERAL OPERATIONS:

At the beginning of the period the 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to Seventh Army and directly under their control. The battalion was in process of completing conversion from a towed (three inch gun) battalion to a self-propelled (M-36 destroyer with 90mm gun) battalion. This was in assembly area vic TROIS-FONTAINES, FRANCE (WQ550089).

On 2 April battalion (minus M-36 destroyers) began move by motor to First Army area vicinity WESTERBURG, GERMANY (Q170184) closing at 032000. Destroyers moved by train. On arrival battalion attached to 28th Infantry Division and began conducting maintenance and preparation for future operations.

At 081730 April battalion was attached to 8th Tank Destroyer Group, and at 090800 was attached to XVIII Airborne Corps.

At 101200 battalion (-destroyers) moved to assembly area vic HENFELZEN, GERMANY (F918363). Destroyers rejoined battalion during period, trains having been routed by mistake through BORDEAUX, FRANCE.

At 111615 battalion moved to assembly area vic BROL, GERMANY (F711437).

At 121200 battalion attached to 13th Armored Division.

During period 12 April to 18 April battalion operated with 13 Armored Division in attack into ROHR POCKET from SIEG, RIVER, NORTH along East bank of RHINE. Companies of the battalion were generally attached to combat teams, Company A (plus 1st Ren Plat) attached to CGA, Company B (plus 2d Ren Plat) attached to CGB and Company C attached to CCR.

During operation with 13th Armored Division, enemy resistance was generally of a delaying nature and advance was rapid. Following is total of damage inflicted upon enemy by 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion:

Knocked out:

Mark V tank	-	5
Mark IV tank	-	1
88mm SF guns		2
88mm guns (AT)		3
AT guns (type unknown)		2
20mm guns		2
S.P. vehicles		3
Fillboxes		2
OP		2
Roadblocks		21

Captured:

Staff Cars	5
20mm guns	2
Prisoners of War	1874

Total expenditures during operations in ROHR POCKET were 278 rounds HE and 98 rounds APC.

During day 18 April 1945 battalion assembled vic METTMAN, GERMANY (F470948) and at 181800 battalion detached from 13th Armored Division and attached to 97th Infantry Division. At 190900 battalion moved to area vic KUPPERDIEH, GERMANY (A558-



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113) and engaged in "occupation" mission.

At 200600 this organization reverted to control of XVIII Airborne Corps and at 201000 began move to assembly area via DIERINGHAUSEN, GERMANY (F854654) and began conducting maintenance and preparing for future operations.

At 220700 battalion began move to area via WOLFSTEIN, GERMANY, (1991095) passing to control of 28th Infantry Division on arrival.

On 24 April battalion (-) moved to area of WORMS and relieved elements of 141st Infantry Regiment of occupation duties.

On 26 April battalion relieved by 112th Infantry Regiment, and moved to ZWIEBRUCKEN, relieving 447th AAA Bn. From that date until end of period battalion engaged in maintaining law and order in area and controlling displaced persons camp.

f. DAILY OPERATIONS:

See attached daily operations report.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- a. Actual: Officers - 36, Warrant officers - 1, Enlisted Men - 619.
Replacements Needed: Officers - 2, Warrant Officers 1.
- b. Battle Casualties: KIA - 2 EM, MIA - 1 EM; LWA - 7 EM.
Non-Battle Casualties: Sk - 2 Off; Sk - 12 EM; Inj - 4 EM; Wounded - 1 EM.
- c. Prisoners Captured: 1674
- d. Evacuation: Normal.
- e. Location of Battalion Supply Points: wq 735732, NIEDER-MIERBACH.
- f. Status of Supply: 2 days rations; 2 days gas; 15 days oil; basic load ammunition.
- g. Road net good. Circulation Good.

4. GENERAL:

The majority of orders given by this command for employment of guns are verbal over radio or through personal contact by Staff Officer with Company Commanders, therefore, orders as inclosures are few.

Albert W. Jones
ALBERT W. JONES
Lt. Col., Infantry
Commanding.

