

637TH TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

LUZON CAMPAIGN

S-3

OPERATIONS NARRATIVE

INDEX

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| SECTION I | |
| Foreword - - - - - | 2 |
| SECTION II | |
| Organization of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion - - - - - | 3 |
| SECTION III | |
| Narrative - - - - - | 4 |
| SUMMARY - - - - - | 25 |
| COMMENDATIONS - - - - - | 28 |

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SECTION I

FOREWORD

The 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, after a training period of two years in the Fiji Islands moved to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, in July 1944 where the battalion was re-equipped with the latest Tank Destroyer Equipment, 76mm Gun Motor Carriage - M-18 and Armored Utility Car M-20.

A strenuous training program was immediately begun. Valuable assistance and advice in technical training was contributed by Captain Gerald E Ryerson, Ordnance Department, who had accompanied the equipment from the United States.

Having completed approximately 80 percent of the training program, the battalion was alerted on 10 October 1944 for immediate water movement to Bougainville, Solomon Islands for participation in the M-1 Operation. The battalion, less rear detachment and motor equipment, arrived Bougainville 19 October 1944. Motor Officer and thirty(30) enlisted men and all motor equipment arrived 11 November 1944. The preparation of all equipment for amphibious operations was immediately begun.

SECTION II

ORGANIZATION

The following units comprised the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion during the Luzon Campaign:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Reconnaissance Company
A, B, C Companies - Firing Companies
Medical Detachment

The battalion was organized under the following Tables of Organizations:

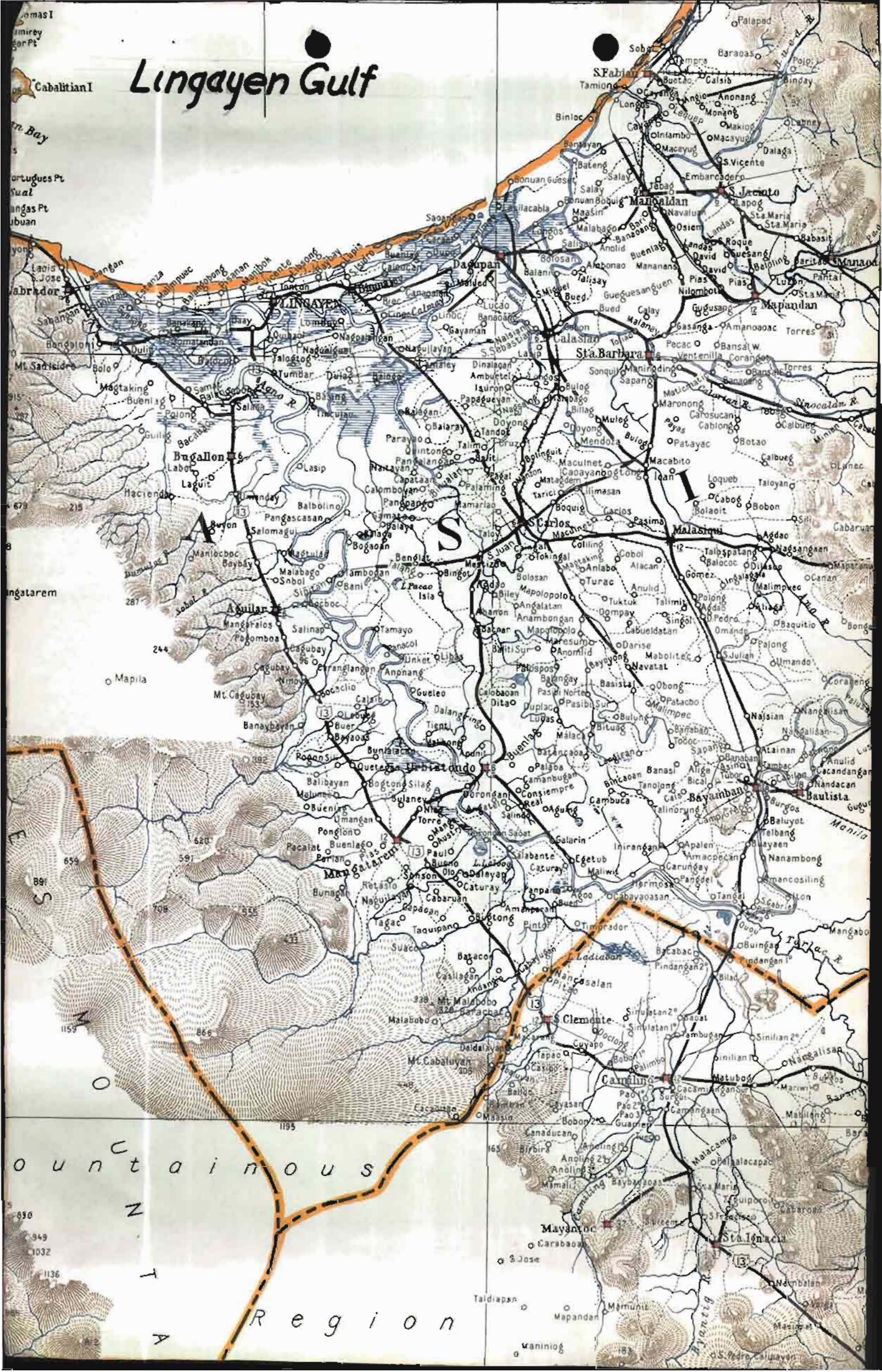
Tables of Organization & Equipment 18-25, 18-26, 18-27, and 18-28; all dated 15 March 1944.

One (1) Officer and thirteen (13) enlisted men from Reconnaissance Company were placed on temporary duty with 37th Amphibious Tank Company (Provisional). This necessitated eliminating one Reconnaissance Platoon, leaving two platoons equipped with M5A1 Light Tanks in lieu of Armored Car, M-8.

Due to men on furlough and unreplaced rotation personnel, the battalion entered this operation with a strength of thirty (30) Officers, two (2) Warrant Officers, 559 enlisted men and one (1) Officer and fourteen (14) enlisted men attached Medics.

Restrictions in shipping space for initial landings reduced the battalion vehicles to some extent, most of the materiel coming in after S-Day being wheeled rolling stock of a service and supply nature. For the first thirty (30) days of the operation, no ammunition trucks were present in the battalion; this was accomplished by shuttling, using company supply vehicles and provisional vehicles.

Lingayen Gulf



SECTION III

NARRATIVE

ADVANCE PHASE TO 8 JANUARY 1945

Pursuant to General Orders Number 120, Headquarters Sixth Army, dated 29 July 1944 and quoting USAFF letter FEGC 37045, dated 21 July 1944 (General Orders Number 120 received by Battalion at APO 708) 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion became assigned to Sixth Army upon departure from New Hebrides. This took effect 15 October 1944, date of Battalion's departure for Bougainville.

Verbal orders, Commanding General, XIV Corps, attached the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion to 37th Infantry Division. This order was later confirmed by letter, Headquarters XIV Corps, 25 January 1945, Subject, Assignment Order Number 3.

Actual loading for the M-1 Operation began 22 November 1944 and was completed on 14 December 1944, with the exception of the rear echelon. Approximately sixty-three percent of the battalion was loaded aboard landing craft, LST's and LSM's; the remainder aboard larger ships, AP's, AKA's and Liberty ships. All combat equipment with the exception of the entire Reconnaissance Company and one destroyer platoon from Company B was loaded on landing craft. The battalion embarked aboard nineteen ships, battalion headquarters being loaded aboard LSM 12.

Having received Field Order Number 19, 37th Infantry Division, the battalion issued Field Order Number 8, 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, dated 29 November 1944, which directed that units, immediately upon reaching the beach, proceed to an assembly area two hundred yards west of the town of BINMALEY, LUZON, P I, and be prepared to support the advance of the 37th Infantry Division to the Corps Beachhead Line (Journal File).

The bulk of the ships on which the battalion was loaded left BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, 15 December 1944 as part of LINGAYEN ATTACK FORCE, TASK FORCE 79. Landing operations were rehearsed in the HUON GULF, NEW GUINEA on 18 December 1944. The convoy arrived at SEADLER HARBOR, MANUS ISLAND, 22 December 1944, remained there over the Christmas Holidays, and departed for LINGAYEN GULF, LUZON, P I on 27 December 1944.

At 0915I, 3 January 1945 three enemy planes appeared at 8000 feet. One was shot down, the others withdrew to the West. Three enemy dive bombers attacked the convoy at 1830I, 7 January 1945. One was shot down. The convoy was again attacked by enemy planes at 0730I, 8 January 1945. One of our AKA's and one escort carrier were hit.

9 January 1945

The 37th Infantry Division (Reinforced) landed on CRIMSON and YELLOW BEACHES beginning at JIG HOUR, 0930I. The battalion headquarters, consisting of the Battalion Commanding Officer, S-3, S-2, Communications Officer and Battalion Surgeon, Company A and Company B (less one platoon) landed during the day on CRIMSON BEACH and assembled in the vicinity of BINMALEY. The Battalion Command Post opened on LUZON at 1730I, 100 yards west of BINMALEY Church.

Three air raids occurred during the day. The first, at 0800I and lasting thirty minutes, hit and damaged one of our cruisers. The second occurred at 1130I, a battleship being damaged. The third occurred at 2030I.

10 January 1945

Companies A and B moved to assembly area approximately one mile southeast of BINMALEY. Battalion Command Post remained at BINMALEY.

There was an air raid at 1905I, lasting fifteen minutes.

11 January 1945.

There were four air raids during the day. No damage to the Battalion.

The Battalion Command Post, Companies A and B moved South of the CALMAY RIVER to the vicinity of CAMLEY.

Two air raids occurred in the early morning. Two bombs dropped near the Battalion Command Post wounding one officer and four enlisted men at the 37th Infantry Division Command Post.

13 January to 20 January 1945.

The battalion moved into assembly areas in the vicinity of SAN CARLOS on 13 January 1945. During the period unloading of equipment continued. Company C and Reconnaissance Company joined the Battalion. Vigorous road reconnaissance was pressed to LUY* AMBANG, CAMILING, PANIQUI and MONCADA. Company B was moved to an area North of the AGNO RIVER approximately one mile West of WAWA, on 15 January 1945.

During the period several infiltrations from the East by the enemy were reported. Reconnaissance Company investigated one report on 16 January of one hundred enemy near DUMPAY. No enemy was contacted. On 18 January, Company C combed the road area from SAN CARLOS to MACABITO in an attempt to find twelve Japs reported in the area. Report was negative.

The battalion rear echelon remained at BINMALEY during the period.

On 19th and 20th January the battalion moved to PANIQUI (see verbal order to Company Commanders, 20 January 1945, Journal File).

On the evening of 19 January, Company C located at BAYAMBANG, having received 180 prisoners from the 129th Infantry, delivered the prisoners to Prisoner of War Stockade at BINMALEY.

One air raid occurred on 18 January and two on 19 January. No damage.

21 January 1945

The Battalion moved to VICTORIA; Battalion Command Post and Headquarters Company, Companies A and C and Reconnaissance Company.

Company B attached to 148th Infantry Regiment at LA PAZ. One platoon was committed but enemy withdrew to the east and no contact by the platoon was made.

Reconnaissance Company was assigned by Commanding General, 37th Infantry Division, the mission to establish a screen on the division's left (east) flank along the line LA PAZ - CHICO - PAMPANGA RIVER - SAN LUIZ - VICTORIA.

22 January 1945

Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Company, Reconnaissance Company and Company C moved to assembly areas in vicinity of SOUTH TARLAC. Company B remained attached to 149th Infantry Regiment near

LA PAZ. Reconnaissance Company continued screening the left (east) flank of the Division. Company A remained at VICTORIA with the mission to protect the east flank against hostile armored attack.

23 January 1945

Reconnaissance Company was attached to 148th Infantry Regiment, by Field Order No 22, 37th Infantry Division (See Journal File). The Company reinforced with motorized rifle platoon and one demolition team departed at 0700I on reconnaissance mission to CABANATUAN - route LA PAZ - VICTORIA - PURA - GUIMBA - CABANATUAN. See Operations Memorandum Number 7, 148th Infantry, 22 January (Journal File).

The First Platoon, Reconnaissance Company contacted the enemy at PUNTOD on the NATIONAL HIGHWAY. The enemy was caught by surprise and were very disorganized, initially. As the fire fight progressed the enemy assumed a stubborn defense, entrenching themselves in pillboxes and fox holes. This platoon was immediately reinforced by Second Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, the infantry platoon being employed as flank guard. Our forces destroyed; two 47mm Anti-tank Guns, one truck, several pillboxes, two ammunition dumps in buildings which burned, one building containing gasoline in storage, three other buildings (apparently barracks) were burned. Fifty-one (51) enemy were killed. Our casualties - one man shot in the leg. During the fight, twenty-five Filipinos which were held captive by the Japs were freed.

The remainder of the battalion remained in assembly areas.

24 January 1945

Reconnaissance Company (less Pioneer Platoon and 1st Reconnaissance Platoon) attached to 40th Infantry Division for operational control. 1st Reconnaissance Platoon was attached to 129th Infantry for operational control; both in vicinity of VICTORIA.

The remainder of the battalion moved to assembly areas in vicinity of MURCIA. See Field Order Number 9, Headquarters 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 24 January 1945 (Journal File).

Company B was dispatched to CONCEPCION after a request from Headquarters 37th Infantry Division for a Tank Destroyer Company in vicinity Division Command Post. In the early afternoon, 2d Platoon Company B was ordered by Battalion Commander to positions astride trail southwest of DAU. Positions were occupied vicinity (38.25-50.50).

An Infantry patrol with accompanying Engineers ran into a fire-fight with Jap infantry accompanied by 2 Japanese Tanks, just west of SAN ROQUE (40.9-46.4) at approximately 1600I and was forced to abandon wounded and dead in this area, having lost most of the detachment's $\frac{1}{2}$ ton Command and Reconnaissance cars. 1st Platoon, Company B was dispatched South along SANTIAGO - SAN ROQUE ROAD and was halted at OLD RIVER CHANNEL (40.25-48.85) to await reconnaissance. At dusk this platoon with its platoon leader and Commanding Officer Company B forded the channel, deployed around SAN ROQUE and rescued the wounded men and retrieved three of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton Command and Reconnaissance Cars. Men and equipment were brought back to CONCEPCION at approximately 2030I. 3rd Platoon Company B remained in reserve vicinity (40.3-52.8).

Company C dispatched from vicinity MURCIA to cover Eastern avenues of approach to CONCEPCION. Occupation of positions was completed in darkness.

25 January 1945

Company C was attached to GHQ and was employed as perimeter defense of HACIENDA LUCITA, GHQ, approximately five miles Southeast of TARLAC.

The Battalion Command Post and Reconnaissance Company moved to CONCEPCION,

26 January 1945

Company A joined the battalion in the vicinity of CONCEPCION.

During the day, the battalion conducted vigorous reconnaissance south and southeast of CONCEPCION to the limit of ground reconnaissance.

27 and 28 January 1945.

The battalion less Company C moved to assembly areas in vicinity of SANTO ROSARIO on 37th Infantry Division order and continued the conduct of route reconnaissance. Company A was attached to 129th Infantry and 3d Platoon, Company B to 145th Infantry, both attachments for support of the 37th Infantry Division attack in the CLARK FIELD - FORT STOTSENBERG area. See Field Order Number 35, 37th Infantry Division, 27th January 1945 (Journal File).

29 January 1945

The 2d and 3rd Platoon, Company A placed 76mm direct fire on enemy pillboxes and supply dumps in support of the 129th Infantry attack in CLARK FIELD - FORT STOTSENBERG area. Six pillboxes were destroyed and many other emplacements and entrenchments were neutralized by the 2d Platoon. Both platoons were in support of 2d Battalion 129th Infantry.

The 1st Platoon, Company A, in support of 3rd Battalion, 129th Infantry, moved into a position of readiness at 1600I and the platoon leader went forward to reconnoiter for positions from which destroyer fire could be placed upon enemy pillboxes in the sector. At 1700I, during the platoon leader's absence, the enemy attacked our Infantry positions with tanks. An order, thru the Infantry Chain of Command, was relayed to the Platoon Sergeant that the platoon move forward. While in column and enroute, enemy tanks approached the left flank of the platoon. In the ensuing engagement four (4) medium Jap tanks were destroyed. One (1) destroyer of this platoon was knocked out by mortar fire and one (1) destroyer burned completely as result of Jap Anti-Tank fire. Casualties: 5 Enlisted Men, Killed in action; 6 Enlisted Men, wounded in action.

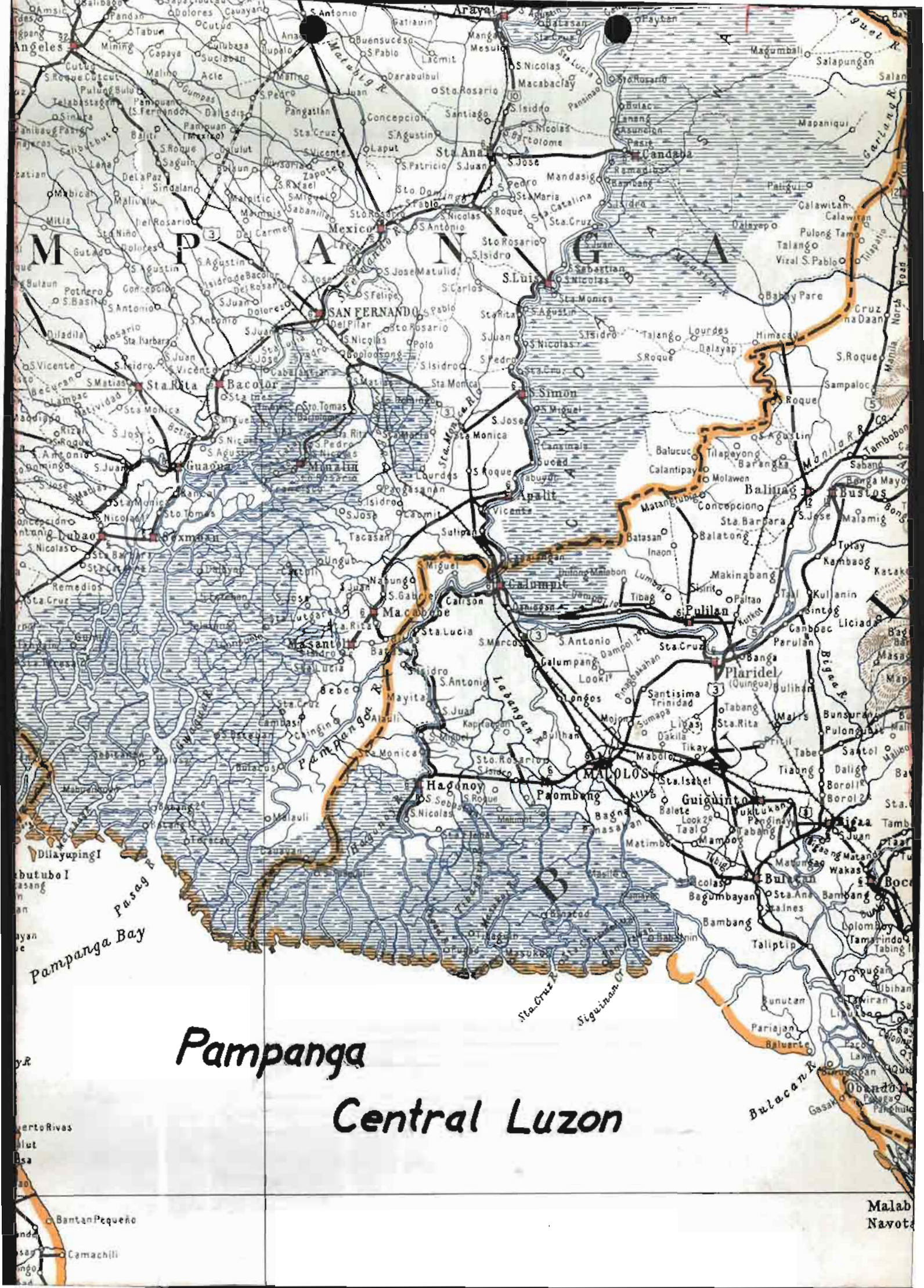
30 January 1945

The battalion less Company C closed on CULAYO and was assigned the mission to defend against hostile armor from the West and Southwest and from ANGELES.

Company B, employed in support of 129th Infantry in the FORT STOTSENBERG area, destroyed enemy pillboxes with 76mm fire.

Reconnaissance Company conducted vigorous reconnaissance in the area west of ANGELES. Two enemy snipers were encountered and were killed.

Enemy artillery fire fell near the Battalion Command Post at 2255I. No casualties resulted.



PAMPANGA

Pampanga Central Luzon

Malab
Navota

31 January 1945

The battalion remained in vicinity of CULAYO.

Company B, with two platoons in support of the 129th Infantry in the TOP OF THE WORLD area near FORT STOTSENBURG, destroyed eleven pillboxes, three ammunition dumps, one vehicle and many smaller emplacements with 76mm and Calibre 50 fire. Our forces suffered no casualties.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES - JANUARY 1945

The 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion landed with the 37th Infantry Division in the LINGAYEN GULF AREA, LUZON, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS and pushed inland (south) with the division to the CLARK FIELD - FORT STOTSENBURG AREA with only light opposition. The battalion experienced its first combat when Reconnaissance Company contacted the enemy at PUNTOD on 23 January. The first firing company to contact the enemy was Company A at FORT STOTSENBURG on 29 January where the company destroyed four enemy tanks and many installations. Company B had also tasted combat when they destroyed many enemy pillboxes and other emplacements in the FORT STOTSENBURG AREA on 30 and 31 January 1945.

1 February 1945

The battalion less Reconnaissance and C Companies moved to assembly areas in vicinity of North SAN FERNANDO.

Reconnaissance Company on 37th Infantry Division order, established a road block at MANGA and maintained contact with the 1st Cavalry Division.

2 February 1945

The battalion less Reconnaissance and C companies moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of SAN JUAN. Reconnaissance Company continued with its mission at MANGA.

3 - 4 February 1945

Reconnaissance Company was relieved of the Mission at MANGA on 3 February and joined the battalion, assembling in an area North of SAN FERNANDO.

The 37th Infantry Division troops pushed South from MALALOS; however, the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion could not advance because of weak or blown bridges and the lack of suitable fords for the heavy track vehicles.

5 February 1945

Reconnaissance Company was dispatched to the outskirts of MANILA on 37th Infantry Division order and employed for defense of the Division Command Post.

Pioneer Platoon reinforced was dispatched to PLARIDEL to relieve Company A, 148th Infantry and established a road block.

The remainder of the battalion was still unable to press South due to condition of bridges.

6 February 1945

During the early morning approximately thirty Japs with hand grenades, machine guns and rifles attacked our road block at PLARIDEL but the attack was repelled. Six Japs were killed. Our Casualties - One Officer and two Enlisted Men wounded. Our platoon was relieved by one company from 129th Infantry and returned to the battalion.

7 February 1945

The battalion less Company C which was still attached to GHQ near TARLAC moved South to MANILA and established bivouac in the GRACE PARK SUBDIVISION.

8 Thru 13 February 1945

On 37th Infantry Division order a Special Security Force commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. McNelly, consisting of the 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion less one company, 37th Reconnaissance Troop and Company A 754th Tank Battalion was formed and assigned the mission to defend the Division Sector from the North Bank of the PASIG RIVER, north to the TULIAHAN RIVER. All infantry units of the 37th Infantry Division were relieved by the force and prepared for movement south of the PASIG RIVER. The assigned section of the city was immediately divided into zones and continuous patrolling effected. Reconnaissance Company was assigned the defense of the TONDO - NICOLAS area where the Japs were attempting to swim the PASIG RIVER to the North Bank or reach the MANILA NORTH DOCKS by barges and small craft.

During this period many reports by Filipino Guerrillas of Jap snipers and small groups in the defense area were investigated. Most of these investigations resulted in negative reports.

Tank destroyers were employed on the North Side of the PASIG RIVER and placed 76mm fire on enemy Observation Posts in the CITY HALL TOWER and THE PORT TERMINAL TOWER. Enemy installations in FORT SAN TIAGO and on ENGINEER ISLAND were also fired upon by destroyers with good effects.

Effective use was made by Reconnaissance Company of its 37mm guns on the light tanks, as well as pressing into service the maintenance section 81mm mortars from firing companies. Bazookas were also used extensively; in one instance a bazooka was used to sink an enemy barge. An extensive system of Observation Posts was set up along PASIG RIVER and shore of MANILA BAY. Jap activity was followed thus with excellent results. Machine gun positions dug in along water's edge of the river were occupied after dark and evacuated at daybreak, thus making a defensive set-up which the Japs at no time were able to breach. Instances of night infiltrators attempting demolitions were numerous but none was able to pass the river defense of Reconnaissance Company and the destroyer support placed there.

14 February 1945

Company B was attached to the 11th Airborne Division for operational control to give that Division firepower to destroy enemy pillboxes, gun emplacements and other well organized defenses. The 1st Platoon initially was employed in support of the 511th Parachute Infantry and the 2d Platoon in support of the 188th Para-Glider Infantry in the advance from the West on NICHOLS FIELD. The 1st Platoon destroyed six enemy pillboxes and the 2d Platoon one five inch naval gun and neutralized many pillboxes. These installations were destroyed from hull-defilade positions in ridge-to-ridge fighting at ranges of 800-1000 yards.

Company A established three Caliber 50 machine gun positions in buildings in the BINONDO DISTRICT of MANILA on the North Bank of the PASIG RIVER. From these positions, fire could be placed on targets of opportunity in the POST OFFICE area and West to PORT SANTIAGO. The company also placed 76mm fire on pillboxes near the South End of QUEZON BRIDGE with good effect.

Reconnaissance Company destroyed a machine gun position and killed four enemy in FORT SANTIAGO.

15 February 1945

One M-18 Destroyer was employed in support of the 129th Infantry in the ERMITA DISTRICT south of the PASIG RIVER. This destroyer neutralized four pillboxes containing five machine guns located at the base of buildings. Seven enemy were counted dead. In pulling out of position the destroyer hit a small land mine. The crew was unhurt and the destroyer suffered moderate damage.

This destroyer was employed as a test case for support of infantry in street fighting at close ranges. The results were gratifying.

The 2d and 3rd Platoons of Company B were placed in support of the 188th Para-Glider Infantry and the 1st Platoon of Company B was placed in support of the 511th Parachute Infantry, all in the assault on FORT MCKINLEY. During the day's action the Company destroyed 39 pillboxes, 4 gun emplacements, 11 twin 20mm guns, 3 twin 40mm guns, 2 five inch naval guns, 1 ammunition dump, and 2 enemy Observation Posts.

Reconnaissance Company continued on the mission, defense of the NICOLAS-TONDO AREA.

16 February 1945

Company C, having been released from attachment to GHQ, arrived in MANILA at 1400I.

Company A was replaced on all missions by Company C and given a rest and opportunity for maintenance of all equipment.

The 1st Platoon Company C was assigned in support of the 148th Infantry, one section of 2d Platoon in support of 129th Infantry and the 3rd Platoon in support of Reconnaissance Company in the NICOLAS-TONDO AREA.

Headquarters Company established and manned a Caliber 50 machine gun on the third floor of the GREAT EASTERN HOTEL on the north side of the PASIG RIVER. From this position, fire could be placed on targets of opportunity in the vicinity of the POST OFFICE and the EAST WALL OF INTRAMUROS.

The 1st Platoon, Company B, in support of the 511th Parachute Infantry destroyed 2 dual purpose 20mm guns, one Caliber 50 machine gun and one 40mm gun in the vicinity of NORTH NICHOLS FIELD. The 2d and 3rd Platoons in support of the 188th Para-Glider Infantry in the FORT MCKINLEY AREA destroyed 4 pillboxes, and neutralized many other entrenchments. These pillboxes were very large (some 15 feet deep) and constructed of reinforced concrete. During the day the Company counted 185 Japs killed and suffered no casualties.

17 February 1945

One section, 2d Platoon, Company C in support of the 2d Battalion 148th Infantry placed 76mm fire on the SCIENCE and PHILIPPINE HOSPITAL BUILDINGS, opening large gaps in the walls so that 105mm High Explosive shells could be fired into the buildings with weapons of the Cannon Company. The 3rd Platoon, in support of Reconnaissance Company, destroyed 4 enemy machine gun nests and one pillbox in the area just east of FORT SANTIAGO.

Patrols by Company C north of the PASIG RIVER and the manning of Caliber 50 machine guns in buildings on the North Bank of the PASIG RIVER were continued.

Company D remained attached to the 11th Airborne Division in the FORT MCKINLEY AREA.

18 February 1945

In the advance through FORT MCKINLEY toward the PASIG RIVER the 2d and 3d Platoons, Company B, supporting the 188th Para-Glider Infantry destroyed one 5 inch naval gun and neutralized a hill mass occupied by the enemy. The hill was then occupied by friendly troops, but due to mutilation of the enemy bodies, it was impossible to count the dead. The 1st Platoon was sent to BAGUMBAYAN attached to the 511th Parachute Infantry.

Company C destroyed with 76mm fire two coastal defense guns on ENGINEER ISLAND which had previously been damaged by artillery fire. One pillbox and one emplacement in the same area were also destroyed. One section of Company C placed direct 76mm fire on partly sunken hulks in SOUTH MANILA HARBOR on which the enemy was manning guns and harrassing our troops. Another section in support of the 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry destroyed one 20mm gun, sand-bagged revetments, one pillbox and several other emplacements in the MEDICAL SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES. Routine patrols and manning of machine gun positions on the north bank of the PASIG RIVER were continued by the company.

Reconnaissance Company continued the defense of the NICOLAS - TONDO AREA, killing two enemy attempting to reach ENGINEER ISLAND from the mainland.

19 February 1945

Company C - The 1st Platoon was attached to the 145th Infantry. The 3rd Platoon destroyed an enemy Observation Post in a CHURCH TOWER on the south side of the PASIG RIVER.

Reconnaissance Company destroyed two enemy mortar positions on ENGINEER ISLAND with 81mm Mortar fire. Two 81mm mortars belonging to the maintenance sections of the firing companies were given to Reconnaissance Company as no use had been found for them in the firing companies in this campaign.

Company B - The 1st Platoon remained in support of the 511th Parachute Infantry at BAGUMBAYAN. The 2d and 3rd Platoons were released from the 188th Para-Glider Infantry and returned to Company assembly area for care and maintenance of equipment.

20 February 1945

The 1st Platoon of Company B in support of 511th Parachute Infantry at BAGUMBAYAN destroyed one 40mm twin dual purpose gun after one destroyer had received three hits from the gun killing two turret men and wounding one. The destroyer suffered damage inside the turret.

The 2d Platoon of Company C placed 76mm fire on the POLICE STATION, SAN PABLO CONVENT, GIRLS DORMITORY, NORMAL SCHOOL, CITY HALL, and the WATER BUILDING, expending 400 rounds. Results were very good and enabled infantry units to advance with a greatly reduced number of casualties.

Reconnaissance Company sank one enemy barge and damaged another in the mouth of the PASIG RIVER, killing 12 Japs.

21 February 1945

The 1st Platoon, Company B, in the BAGUMBAYAN AREA destroyed one twin 40mm gun, one pillbox containing two machine guns, one ammunition dump and eight enemy entrenchments.

Company C was attached to the 145th Infantry and placed 76mm fire on the MUNICIPAL BUILDING, destroying one enemy pillbox.

Reconnaissance Company, from positions in the NICOLAS AREA, hit and set afire an ammunition dump in the vicinity of FORT SANTIAGO.

22 February 1945

The 1st Platoon, Company A, firing from positions in the NICOLAS AREA, damaged an enemy barge killing 7 enemy and neutralized positions on sunken hulks in MANILA BAY killing 15 enemy. The hulks were fired upon at a range of 2000 yards.

Company C remained attached to the 145th Infantry. The company placed 315 rounds 76mm, and 6000 rounds caliber 50 fire on the MUNICIPAL BUILDING in preparation for assault. The assault was executed and the building secured.

Reconnaissance Company continued the defense of the NICOLAS - TONDO AREA, destroying one ammunition dump with 81mm fire and killing an estimated 30 enemy on the MANILA NORTH HARBOR BREAKWATER.

The 1st Platoon, Company B, was relieved at BAGUMBAYAN by the 3rd Platoon. That night while the 3rd Platoon was attached to the 3rd Battalion 511th Parachute Infantry, about 100 Japs infiltrated the joint Command Post. One member of the 3rd Platoon killed 31 Japs with the Caliber 50 machine gun on his destroyer before being wounded. Total Japs killed by the Platoon was 35. We suffered one officer and two enlisted men wounded. Remaining Japs were dispersed by the infantry.

The 1st and 2d Platoons of Company B took up positions 3000 yards northwest of CALAMBA as part of a special force to liberate prisoners from the LOS BANOS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Our platoons and elements of infantry provided security on the northwest while the prisoners were evacuated by water on LAGUNA DE BAY to safety behind our lines.

23 February 1945

A one-hour artillery preparation was placed on INTRAMUROS by both indirect and direct fire, missions being assigned by the Commanding General, 37th Division Artillery. Company C fired four destroyers from positions between the GENERAL POST OFFICE and the METROPOLITAN THEATER, at a rate of one round per two minutes per destroyer, platoons were alternated to allow continuous fire and supply of ammunition. Company C's fire was placed on the northeast corner of INTRAMUROS. Simultaneously, one platoon of Company A fired from the North Bank of the PASIG RIVER, opening gaps in the concrete river wall along INTRAMUROS, thereby providing entrances from water's edge for the 129th Infantry which assaulted the WALLED CITY using boats to cross the PASIG RIVER from the north.

The 3rd Platoon, Company B, remained at BAGUMBAYAN with the 511th Parachute Infantry and the 2d Platoon remained at CALAMBA with the 188th Para-Glider Infantry. During motorized patrol south of CALAMBA enemy sniper fire was received. While cleaning out this emplacement with 10 men, the Company Commander, Captain K A Dawson, was killed by enemy fire. The Company Command Post and the 1st Platoon retired to PARANAQUE.

24 February 1945

Reconnaissance Company, with 1st Platoon Company A attached, destroyed an armored barge carrying Japs attempting escape in MANILA NORTH HARBOR. The company also killed 11 enemy and captured one in the same area.

Status of other units was as follows:

Company A - Battalion Reserve.
Company B - Attached to 11th Airborne Division - no enemy contact.
Company C - Attached to 145th Infantry - no mission assigned.

25 February 1945

Company A was attached to the 148th Infantry but no missions were assigned for the day.

Company B, attached to 511th Parachute Infantry patrolled the highway on the west shore of LAGUNA DE BAY. The company displaced to ALABANG.

Company C was released from attachment to the 145th Infantry. The 3rd Platoon placed 433 rounds of 76mm on the AGRICULTURE BUILDING using half High Explosive and half Armor Piercing Cap. Much damage was caused to the building.

Reconnaissance Company killed one enemy and captured another attempting escape near the MANILA NORTH HARBOR DOCKS.

26 February 1945

The 3rd Platoon, Company C, fired 600 rounds, fifty per cent High Explosive and fifty per cent Armor Piercing Cap, into the AGRICULTURE BUILDING.

Reconnaissance Company killed six Japs and captured one in the MANILA NORTH HARBOR DOCK AREA.

Company B destroyed seven small buildings occupied by the enemy near CALAMBA.

27 February 1945

Company A, placed 76mm direct fire at close range on the LEGISLATIVE BUILDING with good effect. The 2d Platoon Company C placed 76mm direct fire on the AGRICULTURE BUILDING with good effect, enabling the 5th Cavalry Regiment to assault and secure the building.

Reconnaissance Company maintained Observation Posts in the NICOLAS - TONDO AREA but had no enemy contact.

28 February 1945

Company A remained in support of the 148th Infantry prepared to place direct fire on the LEGISLATIVE BUILDING on call.

Company C assembled in GRACE PARK, MANILA and Reconnaissance Company assembled in ROSARIO HEIGHTS, MANILA - both companies performing care and maintenance of all equipment.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES - FEBRUARY 1945

During the month of February 1945 the CITY OF MANILA was occupied by American Forces and enemy forces were destroyed or driven to the surrounding hills. The 637th Tank Destroyer Battalion provided much of the direct artillery fire which enabled friendly infantrymen to secure many of the large reinforced concrete buildings in ERMITA and INTRAMUROS DISTRICTS. It was found that the 76mm Armor Piercing Cap projectile fired from close ranges, which was dictated by the situation due to lack of fields of fire at